



Romania

United Nations Development Programme

Issue #8/7 July 2006

Newsletter

## With UNDP support, Romania's Protected Area System - one step closer to MDG Targets!

For its one year anniversary, on 6 July 2006, Maramures Natural Park Administration received a wonderful gift: it's new Park Administration Building in Viseul de Sus. The building will be the new home of the Park Administration personnel as well as the main visitor center for the Maramures Natural Park. The building was renovated and endowed with the financial support from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and National Forestry Administration (NFA) – Baia Mare Branch.



Ribbon cutting ceremony conducted by (from left to right): Ms. Gyongyike, Mr. Kovacs, Ms. Jung and Mr. Aldea

The ribbon cutting ceremony was conducted by Ms. Soknan Han Jung, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, together with Ms. Bondy Gyongyike, Maramures Prefect, Mr. Marinel Kovacs, Country Council President and Mr. Ioan Aldea, Director at National Forestry Administration. The ceremony was attended by other high level representative of local authorities as well as representative of the central authorities.

Present in great number at this event, local authorities (mayors, NGOs and other local personalities) demonstrated once again their involvement and interest for the sustainable development of the Maramures area and more specifically, for the development of the Maramures Natural Park. The event was well reflected in the local press.

The UNDP GEF Maramures Natural Park Project was launched one year ago. The project seeks to balance conservation priorities with socio-economic growth and it is implemented by a local Consortium, especially created for this projects. The strong local partnership was commended by Ms. Jung in her key note address. "In just one year, but with strong local involvement and support, the Park Administration team was able to clean some of the river banks, organize different training activities, involve children and teachers in environment protection activities, and raise funds for schools heating system refurbishment", said Ms. Jung.

The Government of Romania committed itself to ensure environmental sustainability and two of the national targets are linked with the protected area system: the growth of afforestation rate and surface of protected areas.



Keeping communities informed - Quarterly Park Administration Newsletter

UNDP - GEF project in Maramures is helping the government to achieve these targets by involving local communities in the sustainable natural resources management, by strengthening the institutional framework and by stimulating sustainable economic and social growth. Therefore, UNDP will remain fully committed to supporting Maramures region to achieve its short- and long-term development objective with a vision to be one step closer to Millennium Development Goals achievement at the national level.



Local communities involved in the sustainable management of Maramures rich natural capital

For more information about UNDP Romania and the project, please visit [www.undp.ro](http://www.undp.ro) or [www.muntiiaramuresului.ro](http://www.muntiiaramuresului.ro).