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ProPark – activity report for 2009 - 2010

September 2009 – September 2010

1. Developing and organising training seminars and other training events

Five training seminars were organised during the reporting period, with more than 90 participants.

A. Natura 2000 Management – differences between the management plans of national/nature parks and Natura 2000 sites, Protected Area Management Effectiveness

Partners: WWF Danube Carpathian Programme, Dutch Royal Society for Nature Conservation (KNNV)

Dates and location: 15 – 17 October 2009, Poiana Brașov

Participants: 22 PA managers from 19 national and nature parks and from NGOs

The agenda included several presentations and analysis/debates on the management of Natura 2000 sites that overlap with national and nature parks.

Participants expressed interest in more detailed courses on specific management measures for Natura 2000.

Agenda and list of participants: Annex 2a, 2b. Results of evaluation – Annex 1

B. Communication

B1. Basic elements and specifics of educational activities for children

Partners: Ecotourism Association Romania (AER)

Dates and location: 15 – 17 October 2009, Poiana Brașov

Organized as part of the Junior Ranger Project funded by the Environmental Partnership Foundation.

Participants: 23 PA staff responsible for education activities from 19 national and nature parks and from NGOs

The agenda included training sessions on internal communication in the teams and with visitors and on organizing Junior Ranger Camps and educational activities for children. Participants received Guidelines for Organizing Junior Ranger Camps

Agenda and list of participants: Annex 2a, 2b. Results of evaluation – Annex 1

B2. Preparation of the Communication module for PA practitioners – working group was established in May 2010 and 2 meetings were organized in July and September to prepare the module. Training session planned for December 2010.

C. Protected Area Management - basics for WWF staff

Dates and location: 13 – 15 April 2010, Braşov ProPark office

Participants: 13 WWF staff responsible or working for projects in PAs

Agenda - see Annex 3

Evaluation – see Annex 1

D. Integrated Protected Area Management – basics for MSc students from the Faculty of Biology and Geology Cluj-Napoca, “Babeş-Bolyai” University

Dates and location: 27 – 29 May 2010, Gheorgheni, „Babeş-Bolyai” University, Gheorgheni extension.

Participants: 10 students from the Faculty of Biology and Geologie Cluj-Napoca, “Babeş-Bolyai” University, some of them working in PA administrations or being engaged in PA related work.

Course details - see Annex 4

Evaluation – see Annex 1

E. Protected Area Management – basic elements

E1. *Dates and location:* 23 – 25 June 2010, Raşnov, Pensiunea Valea Cetatii

Participants: 16 people from newly establishes PA administrations and custodians (staff of county councils, environmental protection agencies, NGOs) – List of participants in Annex 5a

Draft Training Programme, including the agenda - see Annex 5.

Evaluation – see Annex 1

E2. *Dates and location:* 14 – 16 July 2010, Nucşoara (Retezat National Park)

Participants: 19 people from newly established PA administrations and custodians (staff of county councils, environmental protection agencies, NGOs). List of participants – Annex 5b

Training Programme, including the agenda – same as for see Annex 5.

Evaluation – see Annex

F. Climate Change and local communities

Date and location: 10 July, Nucșoara (Retezat National Park)

Participants: more than 25 people mainly from the local community and the Retezat Tourism Association, but also from the Retezat NP Administration, County Council, Rotary Club, private companies. List of participants – see Annex 7

There was no evaluation done for this event. The seminar was an experiment helpful to prepare information on this topic and to see what the information needs would be for communities and stakeholders of protected areas.

G. Technical support and expertise in the management of PAs - Coaching and training PA staff from Calimani National Park

As part of a contract with the Romanian Ecotourism Association, ProPark has committed to conduct training and professional coaching activities to improve the management effectiveness of the Calimani National Park. One session focused on internal communication was organized 6-7 May, with all 12 staff members present.

A second mission, carried out between the 5th and 9th of July, led to the development of detailed ToRs for all positions of the PA management team. These will serve as the basis for the occupational standards that have to be developed for the registration of the occupations.

2. Train the Trainer Programme

A. The first Train the Trainer Seminar was organized in May/June with the aim to improve training skills for future trainers and obtain the official accreditation as trainers. 17 people participated (Annex 6) and were accredited as trainers and evaluators according to the Romanian legislation.

Participants agreed to join efforts in working groups and start/continue develop the training modules on management and management planning, communication, education and animation, visitor management, rangers.

C. ToT for Management Planning

Planning seminar for the training modules on management planning and ToT seminar was organized between 8th and 12 of March. The coopted trainer is Michael Appelton.

The content of the module was agreed and a working group set up to develop the detailed programme and the presentations, formed of the future trainers. Three trainers are now available for this module and 3 assistants who need more experience to become trainers.

The Management Planning Manual will be updated based on the discussions from the training seminar and will also include recommendations for the management of Natura 2000 sites.

B. Train of Trainers for PA Animators

Charente Natur from France and Fundatia Potaissa from Cluj, Romania, offered support to organize a ToT seminar for Animators. Educational activities in Romanian PAs are organized more and more often, with a focus on camps for children. There are very few PA staff with knowledge and experience in animation, even though quite a few projects are being funded recently for such activities. The offer of the to organizations was very much welcome, especially considering the wealth of experience of the French organisation.

The seminar was organized between the 16 and 22 of June at Nucsoara, Retezat National Park. 15 participants will learn to become trainers for animators.

Evaluation – see Annex 1

3. Registration of the Protected Area Specialist and Ranger occupations and development of occupational standards

Meetings were organised with representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the National Council for Adult Training. The Ministry agreed to work with ProPark to submit the documents for registering the occupations and for the development of the occupational standards. Experts were identified to help the process.

The official agreement was received from the Ministry of Environment and Forests for cooperation in the registration process. The official request for the registration and a draft paper on the content of the occupational standards were submitted.

Development of the draft standards started with a small working group from ProPark. Working group will be later extended to include representatives from the above mentioned institutions and some PAs.

In order to accredit the capacity building programme, it is needed that the occupations related to the management of protected areas are officially registered on the List of Professional Activities from Romania. At present there are only two occupations recognised in this respect: ranger and custodian of protected area.

The registration of these occupations is a necessary condition for releasing certificates (otherwise there is no legal support to do that).

4. Projects (will be moved under fundraising in the next report)

Climate change and biodiversity in Țara Lăpușului

One project proposal was submitted to the UNDP Small Grants Programme. Project implementation started in January 2010. The project will provide a good example on community work for nature conservation / environmental protection and is being implemented in Grosii Tiblesului commune, in the Tibles Mountain, building on a previous consevation project implemented by WWF DCP. The project has a total value of 49.545 USD and will be implemented in 2 years.

Another project proposal was developed and submitted to the Sectorial Operational Programme at the end of January 2010. The idea of the proposal was to strengthen the institutional capacity for an

efficient management of the of PA network by developing a strategy and action plan for PAs, an awareness raising strategy and action plan for PAs of national interest and training the staff of the institutions and organisations directly or indirectly involved in the management of PAs. The project proposal was rejected without sound arguments.

5. Identity

A new identity package was developed and the webpage has been launched www.propark.ro

The intranet became functional. Presentations and seminar related materials are accessible on the intranet for participants to the training seminars.

6. Administration

The ProPark Foundation rented a new office space with very good working conditions and a nice meeting/seminar room.

Two part time consultants are working of financial and administrative issues and volunteers are supporting various activities.

7. Fundraising

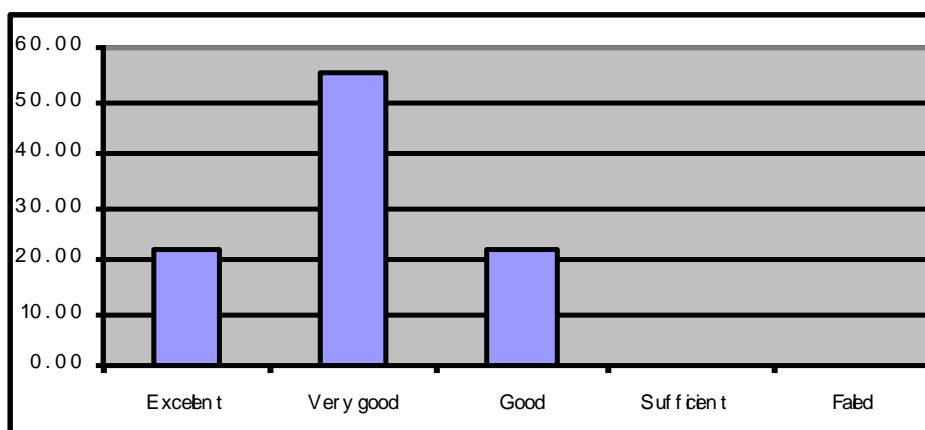
A large project proposal was developed for the Environmental Operational Funds (EU) in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the National Forest Administration, for 2,7 million Euros to support development of a National Strategy for PAs, a communication strategy and the capacity building programme planned by ProPark. Unfortunately the project was rejected.

The ARC Foundation from Cluj Napoca offered support for the development of a **Fundraising Strategy**. The first meeting, organized on the 22nd of June in Brasov, led to the development of a draft plan for corporate fundraising. Programmes will be developed in cooperation with protected area management teams for volunteers from corporations. A programme planning meeting was organized in Cluj on the 2nd of August, with participants from 8 PAs. Draft programmes were collected by mid-September and the calendar for events to be offered to companies is now being developed by a small working group.

Annex 1 – Evaluation results

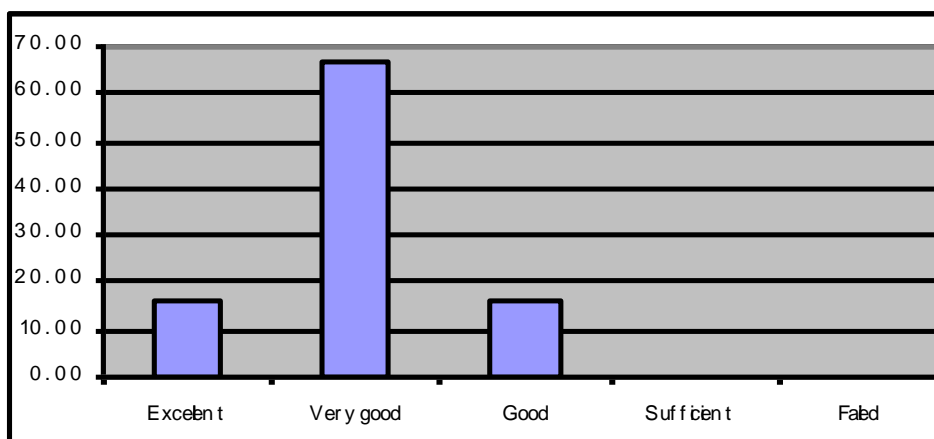
Results of the Evaluation for some of the courses is presented below

1.A. Natura 2000 Management – differences between the management plans of national/nature parks and Natura 2000 sites, Protected Area Management Effectiveness



1.B. Communication – Basic elements and specifics of educational activities for children

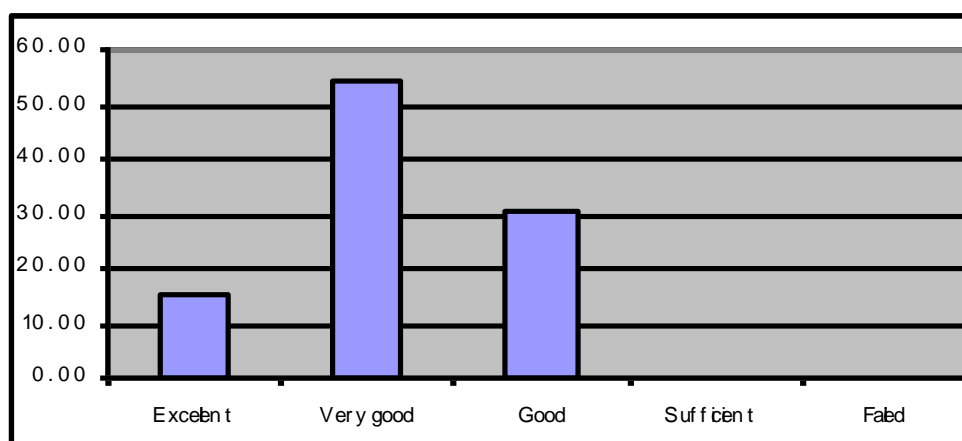
1.B1. Communication – Basic elements



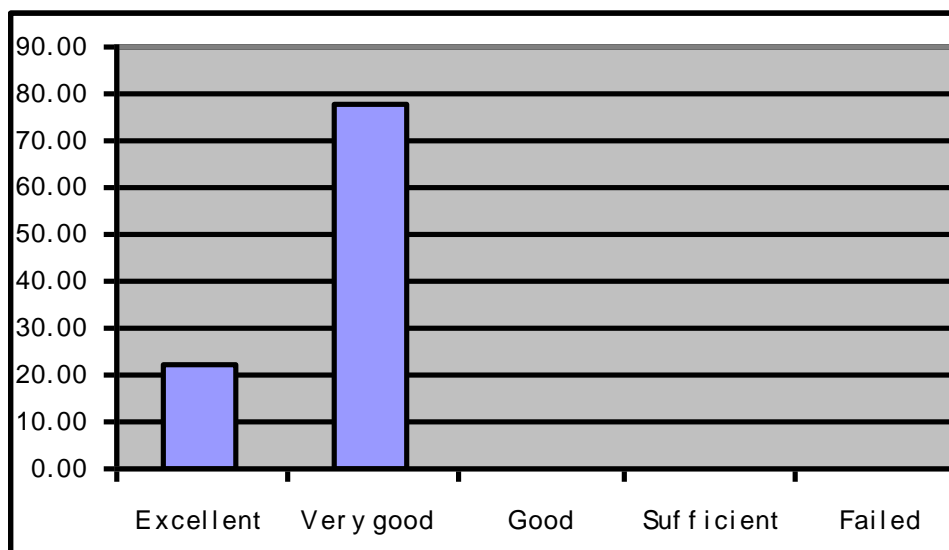
1.B2. Specifics of educational activities for children



1.C. Protected Area Management – basics for WWF staff



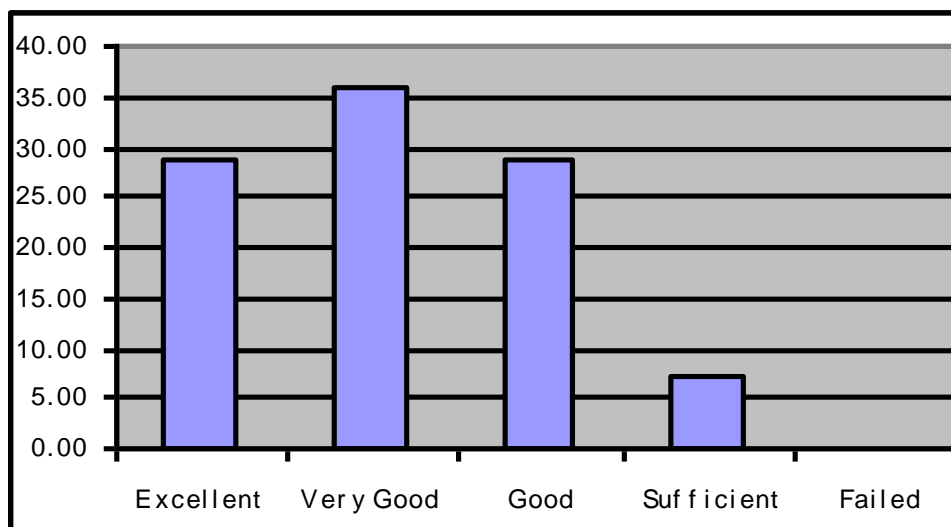
1.D. Integrated Protected Area Management



1.E1. Protected Area Management – basic elements (Rașnov)



1.E2. Protected Area Management – basic elements (Nucșoara)



2.B. Train of Trainers for PA Animators

