



2013

## ANNUAL REPORT





2013





**PROPARK**  
PENTRU ARII PROTEJATE

## Annual report introduction

### *Dear colleagues, friends and supporters of ProPark,*

2013 proved to be yet another busy but successful year for the Propark team! ProPark's primary mission is to improve protected area management capacity in Romania and surrounding areas. To give you a flavour of our work, our team delivered a range of high quality, innovative and often fun learning and training and experience-exchange events. We also supported the development of management plans for the Tur River and Lower Ciuc Basin protected areas and entered into partnerships to deliver projects focused on promoting the better management of Natura 2000 sites, rural development and High Nature Value Farmland management. Through these, together with our work to develop occupational standards for protected area specialists, we have enhanced the professional quality and standard of protected area management in Romania and supported the conservation of some of our most beautiful and biodiversity rich landscapes.

ProPark remains a leader in protected area capacity building in the region and the quality of our staff, training events and other services are increasingly recognised and in demand from those seeking the highest quality of training and development for their teams. In this regard, we have the honour and pleasure of working with colleagues from eight other countries in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus; working together to develop capacity building programmes for their protected area practitioners. The education of children and young people, the conservationists of the future, remained a strong focus for ProPark in 2013 and we very much enjoyed supporting a range of Junior Ranger activities including Junior Ranger Camps in

Nature Park – Balta Mică a Brăilei and Piatra Craiului National Park.

ProPark's success is built entirely on the tireless work, creativity and energy of its team. This small team works incredibly hard and deserves our warmest congratulations for delivering an exciting and successful programme of work in 2013. The team is supported by the ProPark Board, which helps to ensure that the organisation is well governed and receiving support when and where required. There were a number of changes to the Board in 2013. Andreas Beckman and Christoph Hugentobler left the Board and we extend our sincere thanks to them for the excellent support they have given to ProPark. In their place, I would like to welcome Sorin Pop and Mugur Pop to the Board; we look forward to working together in the future.

Many individuals and organisations have given their time and support to ProPark, in so many ways, over the last year, too many in-fact to mention here. On behalf of the entire ProPark team I would like to extend our warmest thank you to you all for your continued support.

With this, I commend the 2013 Annual Report to you. I hope you enjoy reading the details of ProPark's activities over this last year and gain inspiration from their achievements.

With warmest regards,  
Paul Hotham



CONTENT

List of acronyms . . . . . 4

**I. Capacity building programme** . . . . . 5

    Project: Strengthening the management capacity of protected areas in Eastern Europe . . . . . 5

    Project: Natura 2000 and Rural Development in Romania . . . . . 8

    Project: Rural Development and High Nature Value Farmland in Romania . . . . . 10

    Project: Southwestern Carpathian Wilderness and Sustainable Development Initiatives . . . . . 11

    Project: Training event for Rangers . . . . . 13

    Contracts: Trainings on communication . . . . . 14

    Contract: Participatory management planning for the Tur River Protected areas - 2011 - 2013 . . . . . 14

    Contract: Participatory management planning for the Lower Ciuc Basin area - 2013 - 2014 . . . . . 15

    Contract: Conservation management training for the management team of the Lunca Muresului Nature Park . . . . . 16

    Green Entrepreneurship Program – Propark supporting the natural and cultural heritage of Romania . . . . . 16

**II. Model projects** . . . . . 18

    Project: “Efficient Managers for an efficient Natura 2000 network” – EME Natura 2000 . . . . . 18

**III. Education** . . . . . 19

    Project: “Junior Rangers involved from the Danube to the Carpathians” . . . . . 20

    Contract: Junior Ranger Camp in Cozia National Park . . . . . 22

**IV. Consultancy** . . . . . 23

    Guidelines for participatory forest management . . . . . 23

**V. Team Building** . . . . . 24

    Visiting the Tur River Natural Reserve –April . . . . . 24

    Retezat National Park – Traditional village gathering in Nucsoara – June . . . . . 24

    Retezat National Park – Christmas Carols and traditional village gathering – December . . . . . 24

**VI. Representation** . . . . . 27

**VII. Financial aspects** . . . . . 28

**VIII. Funding sources** . . . . . 30

**IX. Project partners** . . . . . 30

**X. Affiliations** . . . . . 30

**XI. Annexes** . . . . . 32

    Annex 1 - Training Events . . . . . 32

    Annex 2 - Consultancy Contracts . . . . . 33

    Annex 3 - Projects . . . . . 34

**Board of Directors | Consiliul director** . . . . . 36

**Team presentation | Prezentarea echipei** . . . . . 37

### List of acronyms

AER- Asociația de Ecoturism din România (Romanian Ecotourism Association)

BfN- Federal Agency for Nature Conservation in Germany

EME- Efficient Managers for an Efficient Natura 2000 network

FFI- Fauna and Flora International

MAVA- Fondation pour la Nature

NGO- Non-Governmental Organisation

PPK- ProPark

CBD-PoWPA - Conventi on on Biological Diversity – Programme of Work on Protected Areas

ECO Austria - Institut für Ökologie

PAC - Project Advisory Committee

TNA - Training Needs Assessment

PAs - Protected Areas

*The report presents the main activities performed by the ProPark team from January to December 2013. The Structure of the report reflects the main domains / objectives of ProPark Foundation for Protected Areas. Some of the activities are/were carried out as part of projects, ( see **Annex 3**) others as part of the consultancy contracts (see **Annex 2**) .*

## I. CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

ProPark's mission is to improve the management capacity of protected areas through capacity building and education programs and projects to help maintain the natural and cultural values and build working models of sustainable development in Romania.

Our main objective is to develop and implement programs to improve the protected area management capacity and effectiveness, programs having as target groups government staff, protected area management staff and stakeholders managing natural resources or having other interests in protected areas.

One of the main activities in 2013 was to develop the occupational standards for the Protected Area Specialist, registered by us last year in the National Register of Occupations. The standards were developed based on the information from an extensive training needs assessment conducted throughout the country and they were submitted for approval.

Last year we organized 13 training events for 164 people from protected areas, environmental protection agencies, NGOs, forest management units on the following topics: introduction in protected areas, operational management, communication, community outreach and stakeholder involvement, visitor management, GIS for protected areas, introduction into ranger services, conservation management, communication and education on the topic of brown bear conservation.

Important efforts were made to have the first certified training packages:

- Ranger services, a 11 days introductory course
- Community Outreach, a 5 days training event with the basics for activities linked to local communities.

The certification process will continue in 2014, as an important action that will help lobbying national authorities to support the process of professionalizing protected area management (see Annex 1).

### A

#### **Project: Strengthening the management capacity of protected areas in Eastern Europe**

The Federal Agency for Nature Protection in Germany (BfN) commissioned ProPark for the implementation of the "Capacity Building Plans for Efficient Protected Areas Management in Eastern Europe" project.



The **scope** of the project is to **support and coordinate the development of national and regional plans**, in 2 countries and one region in **Eastern Europe**, contributing to the development of long-term capacity building programs for protected area managers, as requested by by the **CBD-PoWPA<sup>1</sup>**.

### Project objectives

The project aims to:

- carry out a training and capacity needs assessment in all the 23 target countries;
- develop national capacity building plans and curricula for model approaches at least two countries and one region;
- identify and promote the existing centres for capacity building for protected area management, provide them with technical support and contribute to their capacity building in order to help them implement the capacity building plans (by e.g. developing a roster of trainers, identify the funding possibilities for their functioning);
- develop an online platform promoting the existing capacity building programmes, initiatives and linking the existing experts, etc.

**Implementation period:** October 2012 – November 2015

**Financing:** The Federal Agency for Nature Protection in Germany (BfN)

### Activities performed in 2013:

**1) Training needs assessments** were conducted in 23 countries, by national consultants, as follows:

1. Convention on Biological Diversity – Programme of Work on Protected Areas.



A detailed assessment in 10 countries<sup>2</sup> – consisting in: (1) skills questionnaires assessing the competencies of individual PA staff members and (2) general questionnaires assessing the overall training level and needs of most PA administrations in each country. The data was collected mainly through site visits.

A broad assessment in 13 countries<sup>3</sup> – based on general questionnaires, covering a representative

2. Estonia, Latvia (in the Baltic Region), Slovenia, Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia (in the Balkan and Dinaric Region), Slovakia, Ukraine, Romania (in the central-eastern Europe) and Georgia (in the Caucasus)

3. Lithuania, Montenegro, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Bulgaria, Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic and Moldova.



sample of the PA administration bodies / managers in the country. The data was collected mostly by e-mail, fax or phone interviews.

An overall report with the results of this assessment for Eastern Europe was prepared by Michael R. Appleton (our project expert) and will be submitted for consultation to stakeholders. Separate reports are currently under preparation for each of the countries selected for the second stage of the project (see point II below), while for the other countries a separate report will be compiled.

## II) The first *meeting of the Project Advisory Committee*

The 8 members of the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) from 8 countries – experts working in institutions and organizations involved in the fields of capacity building and protected area management in Europe – as well as the representatives of BfN took part at the first PAC meeting held in Brasov on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October.

At the meeting PAC members:

- discussed the final results of the training needs assessment (TNA);
- decided, based on the results of the TNA, which are the regions and/or countries for which model plans and curricula for capacity building will be developed in the second stage, and which is the most appropriate approach for each of them;
- agreed on the structure and functioning of the future communication platform.

Taking into consideration the results of the TNA and other strategic criteria (as, for example, already existing initiatives, potential partners, existing interests, etc), Croatia and Georgia or Lithuania will be selected for the development of national plans for capacity building, while Romania and the Republic of Moldova were selected for a regional level plan. The final choice between Georgia and Lithuania will be made after the inception visits that are going to be organized in both



countries in the first part of year 2014.

I was also agreed that EUROPARC will host the on-line platform that is going to be developed during the project.

### III) Participation to an *international workshop on capacity building*

Two of our colleagues participated at the international workshop “*Professionalizing protected area management: European input for the 6th World Parks Congress*”, that was organized by the E.C.O. Austria in Vilm, on the 3-6th on June. The preliminary results of the project, as well as ProPark’s training programme and the possibilities to promote and build on the results of the project were presented and discussed. The participants used this opportunity to formulate “*The Vilm Declaration*” – a document that underlines the capital importance of capacity building for protected area staff, expresses the commitment of participants for cooperation in this field and to bring an input to the World Park Congress that is going to be held on the 12 – 19th of November 2014 in Sidney, Australia.

## B

### Project: Natura 2000 and Rural Development in Romania

**Overall objective:** The project aims to improve the management of the EU Natura 2000 and national protected area network by promoting sustainable rural development in Romania and by demonstrating

local development opportunities related to protected areas, better integration of protected area and natural resource management in infrastructure planning and regional development and improving long-term financial support for protected area and natural resource management.

A consortium of 5 partners will implement the project activities: WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme (lead partner); WWF-Switzerland; Milvus Association for the Protection of Birds and Nature; NGO Ecotur Sibiu; and ProPark Foundation for Protected Areas.

ProPark has the responsibility for the capacity building component, aiming to set up training packages and organize training events for farmers to help improve the management of agricultural land by considering biodiversity conservation issues.

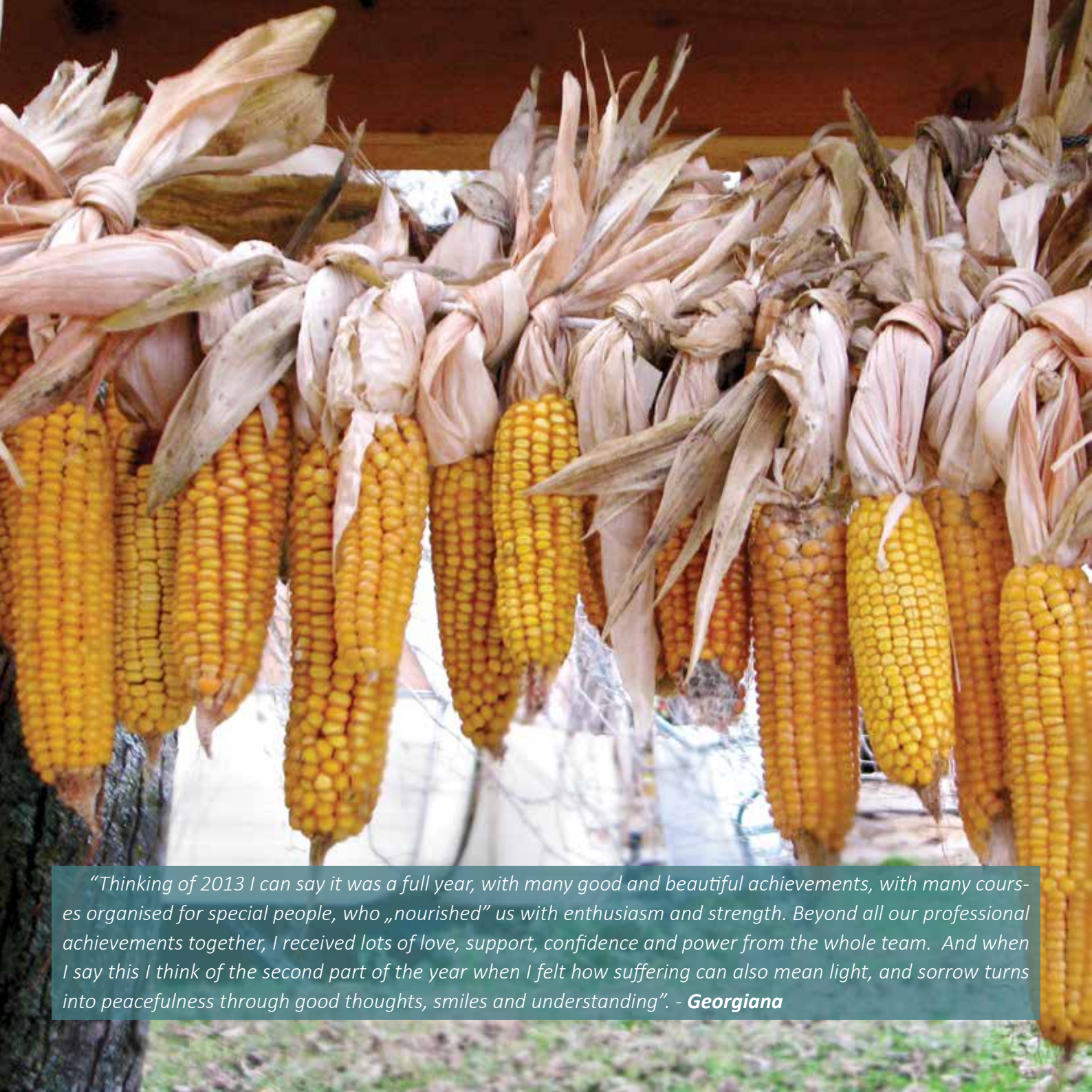
Expected results for the components implemented by ProPark:

**ProPark** will be responsible for developing and delivering all training and capacity building activities:

- 2 trainings (40 people) for natural resource owners, managers and users,
- 2 trainings (40 people) on project development and management for local people from the project area.
- 1 training (20 people) for NGOs and PA managers on environmental impact assessment and law enforcement.
- 2 trainings (40 people) for judges, NGOs and others on decision making processes and environmental legislation.

**Implementation period:** August 2013-February 2016





*"Thinking of 2013 I can say it was a full year, with many good and beautiful achievements, with many courses organised for special people, who „nourished“ us with enthusiasm and strength. Beyond all our professional achievements together, I received lots of love, support, confidence and power from the whole team. And when I say this I think of the second part of the year when I felt how suffering can also mean light, and sorrow turns into peacefulness through good thoughts, smiles and understanding”. - **Georgiana***

**Financing:** Swiss Romanian Cooperation Programme

**Activities performed in 2013:** The project is in its initial phases, with a planning meeting organized by the lead partner in September.



### Project: Rural Development and High Nature Value Farmland in Romania

Overall objective: improve economic viability of small-scale rural communities of High Nature Value farmlands in Romania while protecting the agro-environmental benefits.

A consortium of 5 partners will implement the project activities: I. AGRIDEA/ ADEPT Transilvania Foundation - leading partners, WWF Danube-Carpathian Program, ProPark Foundation for Protected Areas. Local partners from 5 model areas were selected and will implement activities developed in the project.

ProPark has the responsibility for the capacity building component, aiming to set up training packages and organize training events for farmers to help improve the management of High Nature Value Farmlands.

**ProPark** will be responsible for developing and delivering all capacity building activities:

- 2 "Train of the trainers" session (30 people)
- 6 training packages ( communication, marketing, legislation, association, funding, pasture management
- 15 people trained as community facilitators

- 435 farmers, farmer organizations from 6 pilot areas trained by community facilitators

**Implementation period:** March 2013 - February 2016

**Financing:** Swiss Romanian Cooperation Programme

### **Activities performed in 2013:**

- expert on responsible farming was hired by ProPark to coordinate the training needs assessment and the development of the training curricula and materials,
- a training needs assessment was carried out in the five pilot regions, indicating the following priority domains: management of high Nature Value agricultural land, funding, marketing, association, legislation.
- trainers and key resource persons were identified and the first working session organized in November 2013.

Target groups were analyzed and redefined and the approach defined for developing a long term capacity building programme on the five domains identified.







## D

### **Project: Southwestern Carpathian Wilderness and Sustainable Development Initiatives**

**Project objective:** The project aims to contribute significantly to the preservation of the Southwestern Carpathians as Europe's premier wilderness area, demonstrating opportunities for conservation and management of wilderness areas including the implementation of EU legislation and support of local and regional development.

A consortium of 5 partners will implement the project activities: WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme (lead partner); WWF-Switzerland; Ecotur Sibiu; Romanian Ecotourism Association and ProPark Foundation for Protected Areas.

ProPark has the responsibility for the capacity building component, aiming to develop training pack-

ages and organize training events for natural resource managers and protected area staff in order to enhance their capacity to implement wilderness management.

#### **Expected results for the components implemented by ProPark:**

- 4 training packages/modules (100 people) on wilderness management for Protected Area managers and related stakeholders.
- 2 training packages/modules (50 people) for local communities on funding opportunities related to wilderness and successful business models (examples from Switzerland included).
- 3 business concepts, plans or project applications demonstrating active application of training.

*"2013 - an intense year for me but also the first year when I was involved as a trainer in our training sessions. A special experience for me because I met people who work directly on site for protected areas. My dearest memory is a bicycle trip along the Danube and a visit to Veterani Cave, Danube Canyon, organised by the rangers of the Iron Gates Natural Park." - **Laura I.***





E

## Project: Training event for Rangers

Training curricula and materials were developed for a 15 day training event on introduction to ranger services. The first event was organized in May and June, for 15 trainees coming from various types of protected areas and different parts of the country; the event was very much appreciated by participants. Due to the relatively long session and quite few trainers needed, the costs of such an event are relatively high. Most of the costs were supported from the funding offered by the MAVA Foundation. The participants are now certified rangers, as this training package is officially approved and certified by the National Agency for Qualifications.



F

**Contracts: Trainings on communication**

Several contracts were signed in 2013 and 2014 for providing training on communication to protected area teams. Various training events were conducted in 3 protected areas, adapted to the requirements of the beneficiaries:

- Communication in PA, Community Outreach and Stakeholder Involvement, Visitor Management in PA – Piatra Craiului National Park Administration team;

- Communication in PA - Domogled-Valea Cernei National Park Administration team;
- Communication in PA- Porțile de Fier Natural Park – Rangers team.

G

**Contract: Participatory management planning for the Tur River Protected areas - 2011 - 2013**

The ProPark team provides technical support within the project „Participatory planning for the manage-





ment of natural protected areas on the lower course of the Tur river“, implemented by the NGO that is managing the protected areas, i.e. Societatea Carpatina Ardeleana in Satu Mare. The project supports the custodians in improving management conditions of protected areas for the lower floodplain of Tur river, as well as in increasing the level of information and awareness of local communities on the importance of natural protected areas. ProPark provides consultancy services for the development of the integrated management plan of the protected areas in the region and conducted stakeholder consultations. Throughout the process we were using a mentoring approach to contribute to capacity development for the protected area team.

**Implementation period:** January 2011 – December 2013

**Financing:** Sectorial Operational Programme Environment – Axis 4

**Activities performed in 2013:**

- A monitoring plan was developed and included in the management plan
- Stakeholder consultation meetings were facilitated
- Final draft of the management plan was developed and comments from the stakeholders included in the final version. A short version for stakeholder use is being developed.
- Documents were prepared for submitting the management plan for the approval of the Environmental Protection Agency
- Started the work on transposing the management plan into GIS.

**H**

**Contract: Participatory management planning for the Lower Ciuc Basin area - 2013 - 2014**

The ProPark team provides technical support within the project „Management Plan and information, education and awareness raising campaign for the Lower Ciuc Basin ROSCI0007 Natura 2000 site“, implemented by the NGO that is managing the protected areas, i.e. Geo-ecological Organisation ACCENT. The project supports the custodians in developing the management plan for Lower Ciuc Basin as well as in increasing the level of information and awareness of local communities on the importance of maintaining the protected areas. Within this project ProPark provides consultancy services for the development of the management plan and will conduct stakeholder consultations. The ProPark team provided mentorship throughout the implementation of the contract.

**Implementation period:** September 2012 – October 2013

**Financing:** Sectorial Operational Programme Environment – Axis 4

**Activities performed in 2013:**

- the first draft of the management plan was developed and submitted for consultation
- some initial stakeholder meetings were facilitated.



**Contract: Conservation management training for the management team of the Lunca Muresului Nature Park**

Within this contract ProPark committed to train the PA administration team to use specific equipments and softwares for assessing and monitoring the conservation status and to develop and implement of conservation measures for species and habitats of community interest.

**Implementation period:** January 2011 – June 2013

**Financing:** Sectorial Operational Programme Environment – Axis 4


**Activities performed in 2013:**

Two training events were organized on “Conservation management and monitoring- measuring and determining monitoring indicators”.



**Green Entrepreneurship Program - Propark supporting the natural and cultural heritage of Romania**

Description: Green Entrepreneurship” is a financing program aiming to promote a model of development for regions with untapped economic potential and a tradition of stewardship of natural and cultural



*“Year 2013 was an entertaining one, spent with a group of special people who turned the tasteless expression “to go to work every day” into taking pleasure in doing activities with a group of friends in the protected areas domain.” - Laura F.*



resources. This model is centered around clusters of social enterprises-commercial entities whose profits support environmental and local development NGOs which, in turn, serve their communities. Through this program, ProPark enterprise received financial support and know-how for developing and offering good quality services related to of protected areas. A continuation of this program offered additional support for promoting and selling ProPark services through a comprehensive marketing plan.

### **Objectives:**

- Obtain a minimum profit of 25.000 EUR in 5 years.
- Provide support for at least 20 protected areas from this profit.

In 5 years, ProPark staff is tripled and ProPark be-

comes a popular brand in Romania, in the field of protected areas.

ProPark services are constantly promoted online according to a marketing plan.

**Implementation period:** April 2013 –March2014

**Financing:** Romanian American Foundation, Partnership Foundation



## II. MODEL PROJECTS

The second objective is to promote protected areas as model areas for conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and aims to increase the acceptance of protected areas among communities and the general public.

### **Project: "Efficient Managers for an efficient Natura 2000 network" - EME Natura 2000**

The project was launched in 2012, within a partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, the Metropolitan Agency for Sustainable Development in Brasov and the Europarc Federation. This project initiated by ProPark is an important initiative both for the national as well as European level.

Through this project it is envisaged to:

- Offer communication guidelines and case studies from throughout the European Union to Natura 2000 site managers, presenting and demonstrating methods to efficiently communicate the importance of these protected areas, as well as preparing a manual and communication courses on this subject.
- Produce guidelines and raise awareness for the responsible management of the main natural resources within Natura 2000 sites and for reflecting in strategic plans the opportunities resulting from the responsible management of these natural resources.
- Contribute to the preparation of the strategic plan for sustainable development for Brasov County by testing the guidelines prepared within the project.





**Implementation period:** September 2012 – September 2015

**Financing:** European Union – Life+ Information and Communication Program

**Activities performed in 2013:**

Priority needs for capacity building on Natura 2000 communication were established by conducting a training needs assessment in protected areas in Romania.

The level of information and knowledge on biodiversity and Natura 2000 for key stakeholders was assessed both in Brasov county and at national level.

Experts from all relevant domains were identified for cooperation and involvement in the process of developing the Guidelines for responsible use of natural resources (water, forests, game, and agricultural land) and for strategic planning.

Five working groups were established for developing the guidelines with special emphasis on including biodiversity concerns into land and resource management and strategic plans, using participatory processes. The first drafts of the guidelines were developed by the end of the year.

A think tank meeting was organised in Regensburg to establish a communication task force with participants from several eu countries and with expert members of EUROPARC Federation.

A company was subcontracted for developing the content of the Natura 2000 communication toolkit.

A project website was developed [www.emenatura2000.ro](http://www.emenatura2000.ro)



### III. EDUCATION

The third objective of ProPark is to raise awareness and education of children and young people on the importance of protected areas, nature conservation in general, mainly by explaining and showing them what does it mean to work in these areas, and by support-

ing and encouraging them to get involved as volunteers or even as future staff members.

A

**Project: “Junior Rangers involved from the Danube to the Carpathians”**

The project was aiming to:

- Raise the level of acceptance of local communities surrounding “Piatra Craiului” National Park and “Balta Mica a Brailei” Nature Park by promoting Junior Ranger activities,
- Increase the awareness of the Brasov city residents on the importance of the protected areas of the county by organizing information campaigns and by creating the first Protected Area Information Point in Brasov County.

This project is a continuation of a project started in 2012 for setting up a Junior Ranger Club in the Vocational Secondary School for Wood Processing “Constantin Brancusi” in Braila, aiming to create a framework for increasing the involvement of young



people in the management of the “Balta Mica a Brailei” Nature Park by educational activities combined with volunteer work in the protected area.

Through this new project a Junior Ranger Club was established at the Natural Sciences College „Emil Racoviță” of Brasov. The Junior Rangers from Brasov were participating in a camp with the Junior Ranger Club from Braila and are currently developing and participating in volunteer activities in protected areas in Brasov County.

**Financing:** Partnership Foundation

**Implementation period:** May 2013 – September 2013

**Results:**

Junior Ranger Club of the Natural Sciences College „Emil Racoviță” established, with 20 Junior Rangers, motivated and dedicated to voluntary activities conducted in collaboration with protected areas managers from Brasov County.

Two educational camps organized in Piatra Craiului National Park and Balta Mica a Brailei Nature Park with the main purpose of education and experience exchange for 30 members of the two Junior Ranger teams.

Awareness raising activities implemented for the inhabitants of Brasov, on the the importance of the natural and touristic values of protected areas in the county by organizing a local event for the public in June 2013 and by establishing the first Information Point for Protected Areas in Brasov.





*"I kissed a frog in a trip on River Tur with the team. And no single prince appeared... but we had fun. I felt good.*

*I feel good with my colleagues everywhere, from the forest to a meeting, from the mountain to the office, from a course to an evening out, from Brasov to all the wonderful places we have the opportunity to see!*

*And we all like what we are doing, we get on well with one another and we work and we have fun and we make positive changes in the world we live in. Or at least we try to! While also having fun! " - **Ioana***

B

**Contract: Junior Ranger Camp in Cozia National Park**

In 2012 ProPark signed a contract with Cozia National Park Administration for organising two Junior Ranger camps for school students from the communities neighbouring the Cozia National Park.

The aim of these camps is to raise the level of information and awareness on the importance of nature conservation and to deliver knowledge on protected species and habitats in the Cozia National Park, on protected areas in Romania and the Natura 2000 network, on responsible tourism, on the national system of marked trails. The camp activities were organised

in the spirit of ranger activities, so that children would understand the complexity and beauty of this occupation.

**Implementation period:** August 2012 – August 2013

**Financing:** The project „Integrated management actions for understanding and protecting the values of Cozia National Park“, cofinanced by the Sectorial Operational Programme Environment.

**Results of activities performed in 2013:**

A Junior Ranger Camp was organized for 15 school students from the neighbouring communities, together with the Cozia National Park Administration. The children were delighted to participate in the camp activities, which were specially designed and implemented by 3 animators for nature and 2 rangers.





## IV. CONSULTANCY

The ProPark S.R.L. (Ltd) had a very intense activity in submitting offers for various consultancy work announced on the official webpage for tenders, as well as direct offers requested by organizations that would like to work with us.

Based on the structure of the requests for consultancies, considering the fact that most of the beneficiaries are asking for biodiversity inventories and mapping followed by management planning, strategic partnership was established with EPC Environmental Consultancy, a company specialized on biodiversity inventories, monitoring, impact assessments and with Zenith, a GIS mapping company.

ProPark Ltd participated in 17 tenders in 2013, with 9 of these won and contracted, as shown in Annex 2.

Details of the various consultancy activities are presented under the respective chapters, i.e. I. Capacity Building Programme and III. Education. The consultancy contract presented below is not included in the previous chapters, as it does not directly contribute to our capacity building work, neither to the model projects or educational activities.

### Guidelines for participatory forest management

**Description:** The task was commissioned by Harghita County Council, in the framework of the ROBINWOOD PLUS Project and its aim was to develop a guide for participatory forest management dedicated to practitioners working at the local level, including

best practice examples from the 4 countries participating in the project.

Integrated into the INTERREG IVC programme, the European cooperation mini-programme 'Robinwood Plus' associates five partner regions from four Member States: Liguria and Calabria in Italy, Harghita in Romania, Kainuu in Finland and Limousin in France. Launched in January 2010 for a 48-month period, ROBINWOOD PLUS has been financed by the ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) and the partner Regions.

More information about the project is available at: [www.robinwoodplus.eu](http://www.robinwoodplus.eu).

**Duration:** September – November 2013

**Financing:** provided by Harghita County Council

#### **Results:**

The Guidelines for participatory forest management developed by Alina IONIȚĂ, Erika STANCIU, Tiberiu CHIRICHEȘ, with comments and the case studies provided by the project partners will be soon available in English, Romanian and Hungarian;

The draft guideline was presented by Alina Ioniță at the international conference "Forest Management in Europe. Participation and Sustainability", 11<sup>th</sup> of October, Genova, Italy.

## V. TEAM BUILDING

ProPark staff considers the team building events as an opportunity to spend time on the field, to meet with people who are working for protected areas, to have a direct contact with local communities.

In 2013, ProPark organised 3 events:

A

### Visiting the Tur River Natural Reserve -April

Since ProPark developed the management plan for the protected areas alongside the Tur River in Satu Mare county, managed by the Carpatina Ardeleana Society, a very active and professional NGO, we grew attached to this area and we considered that ProPark staff should have a teambuilding in this area. It was an amazing experience to wander in the forests, to see some flora and fauna species and to spend time with some of the staff of the protected area management team.

B

### Retezat National Park - Traditional village gathering in Nucsoara - June

ProPark was involved in rearranging the Visitor Centre of Retezat National Park, an event followed by the revived traditional village gathering combined with handicraft workshop organized by the local community.

C

### Retezat National Park - Christmas Carols and traditional village gathering - December

Christmas is a special moment and since we enjoy being with the special people from Retezat, we decided to join the traditional gathering, this time organized mainly for the local people- not for visitors, with us as guests. It was an event full of joy, where the skilled women from Retezat taught us how to weave carpets and where our voices joined the men choir from Raul Alb and Coroiesti villages in singing beautiful Christmas carols.





*"One of the liveliest moments was the Sanziene Sunday spent in Nucșoara. In the morning the local people invited their guests to their old village church. Dressed in their traditional clothes, hosts and guests listen to the sermon, according to Christian tradition, with devoutness and joy. After the mass the harvest is hallowed, then the suite starts walking and singing towards the Park office, along the winding road between meadows with blossoming bedstraws, among old houses with tiles and well trimmed gardens. The guests - a folklore group of all ages from Rosia, Bihor county - lead the suite singing from all their hearts, accompanied by the special horn violin produced in Lazuri village, and dancing, proud of their costumes from Țara Beiușului region and of their music, despite the fuggy heat and the thick costumes they wear. We could feel a smell of grass and the valley sounded with joy and glittered with the beauty of their costumes sewn with their hearts and a red wire. I cannot take my eyes from their shirts with embroidered cuffs, their peasant sandals and skirts. It's such a joy only to look at them! I wish I could soak in their music which awakens my homesickness; I wish I could also wear the holy grandparents' costumes. I recharge with their cheerfulness, with their joy of singing their songs and expressing their identity. Our souls fly and fill with admiration for the worthiness and sensitivity of these people."* - **Alina**







*“During this trip we also had the chance to look into and feel the wonders of pottery making at the Casa olarului Pension in Baia Sprie. I often think fondly of my colleagues’ faces while they were moulding the clay helped by Dan Leș during our trip to Maramureș and to the River Tur Protected Areas. And of our guide from the Carpatina Ardeleana Society ranger Piti. And of us playing „Country, country, we want soldiers”. And to the magic atmosphere created by Georgiana in one evening when telling us the huck fish story.” - Erika*



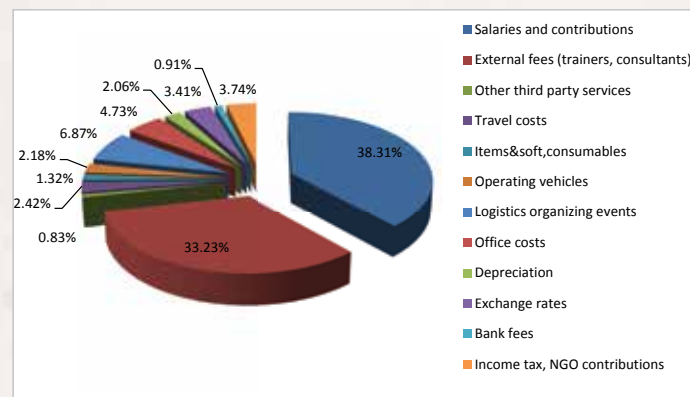
## VI. REPRESENTATION

The ProPark Foundation and its staff were invited to several national and international events and contributed to these with presentations and through active involvement in the events, as presented in the table below.

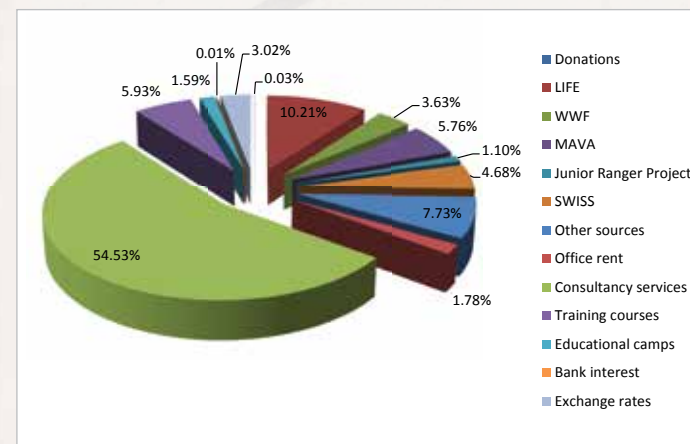
| No. | Event  | Location<br>Number of participants                                 | Role of ProPark representative  |
|-----|--|--|---|
| 1   | European Bird Census Conference 2013   | Cluj Napoca<br>About 500 participants                              | Presentation in the plenary session – <b>Erika Stanciu</b> : “Forest management for bird conservation in Romania”   |
| 2   | EUROPARC 2013 – Annual Conference of the EUROPARC Federation: 40 years of Working for Nature   | Hotobagyational Park – Debrecen, Hungary<br>About 350 participants | Moderator of the plenary session – <b>Erika Stanciu</b><br>Chair of the Wilderness workshop – <b>Erika Stanciu</b><br>Presenter at the communication workshop – <b>Laura Istrate</b>  |
| 3   | International Conference Forest Management in Europe. Participation and Sustainability<br>11 <sup>th</sup> of October  | Genova, Italy<br>About 30 participants                             | Presentations in the plenary session on (i) the Guidelines for participatory forest management elaborated by ProPark and of (ii) participatory approach to PA management in Romania – <b>Alina Ioniță</b>                                 |
| 4   | Workshop “Professionalizing PA management: European input for the 6th World Parks Congress”<br>4 – 6 <sup>th</sup> of June                                   | Vilm Island, Germany<br>About 15 participants                      | Presentation of the preliminary results of the Capacity Building for Protected Areas in Eastern Europe Project and of the ProPark Capacity Building Programme<br>Moderating sessions during the event: <b>Erika Stanciu, Alina Ioniță</b> |
| 5   | Second Conferenece of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas<br>23-26 <sup>th</sup> of April  | Tatranska Javorina, Slovakia<br>About 150 participants             | Poster presenting the results of the Protected Area Governance in Eastern Europe – <b>Alina Ioniță</b>  |
| 6   | International workshop on “In-depth assessment of vulnerability of eco-systems to climate change in the Carpathian region”<br>21 – 22 <sup>nd</sup> of March | Sovata, Romania<br>About 50 participants                           | Participation in the working groups – <b>Alina Ioniță</b>   |
| 7   | Swedish Embassy – event organized for the visit of the Agricultural Chamber of the Swedish Embassy to Romania  | Bucharest<br>About 25 participants                                 | Presentation on Respinsible Forest Management and its importance for biodiversity conservation – <b>Tiberiu Chiriches</b>   |
| 8   | WILD10, 10 <sup>th</sup> World Congress on Wilderness  | Salamanca, Spain<br>About 1500 participants                        | Charing the Resolution Committee – <b>Erika Stanciu</b>   |

## VII. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

| EXPENSES 2013                         | RON              | EURO           | %           |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Salaries and contributions            | 591,011          | 133,743        | 38.31%      |
| External fees (trainers, consultants) | 512,660          | 116,013        | 33.23%      |
| Other third party services            | 12,756           | 2,887          | 0.83%       |
| Travel costs                          | 37,262           | 8,432          | 2.42%       |
| Items&soft,consumables                | 20,347           | 4,604          | 1.32%       |
| Operating vehicles                    | 33,655           | 7,616          | 2.18%       |
| Logistics organizing events           | 105,939          | 23,974         | 6.87%       |
| Office costs                          | 72,985           | 16,516         | 4.73%       |
| Depreciation                          | 31,777           | 7,191          | 2.06%       |
| Exchange rates                        | 52,548           | 11,891         | 3.41%       |
| Bank fees                             | 14,014           | 3,171          | 0.91%       |
| Income tax, NGO contributions         | 57,642           | 13,044         | 3.74%       |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>1,542,597</b> | <b>349,082</b> | <b>100%</b> |

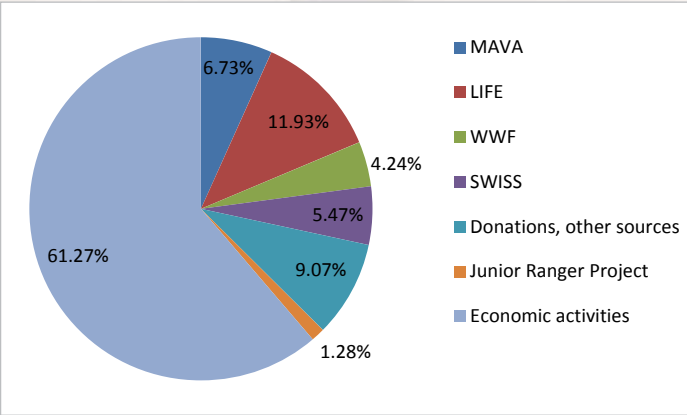


| INCOME                | RON              | EURO           | %           |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Donations             | 455              | 103            | 0.03%       |
| LIFE                  | 180,378          | 40,819         | 10.21%      |
| WWF                   | 64,108           | 14,507         | 3.63%       |
| MAVA                  | 101,743          | 23,024         | 5.76%       |
| Junior Ranger Project | 19,363           | 4,382          | 1.10%       |
| SWISS                 | 82,744           | 18,725         | 4.68%       |
| Other sources         | 136,609          | 30,914         | 7.73%       |
| Office rent           | 31,363           | 7,097          | 1.78%       |
| Consultancy services  | 963,224          | 217,973        | 54.53%      |
| Training courses      | 104,766          | 23,708         | 5.93%       |
| Educational camps     | 28,000           | 6,336          | 1.59%       |
| Bank interest         | 233              | 53             | 0.01%       |
| Exchange rates        | 53,296           | 12,061         | 3.02%       |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>1,766,282</b> | <b>399.702</b> | <b>100%</b> |

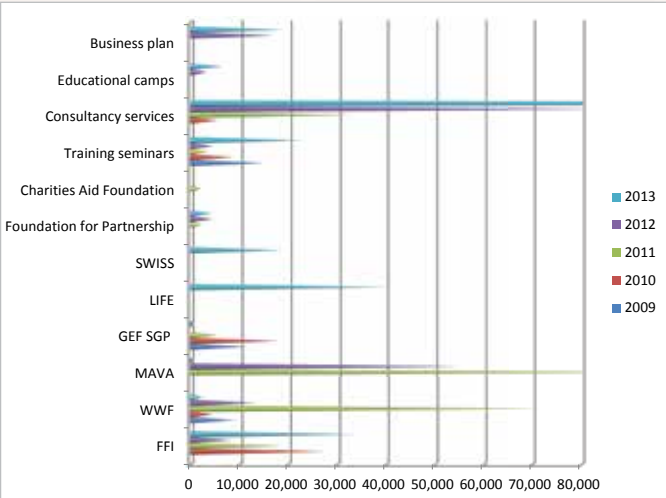




| EXPENSES BY INCOME SOURCE | RON       | EURO    | %      |
|---------------------------|-----------|---------|--------|
| MAVA                      | 101,743   | 23,024  | 6.73%  |
| LIFE                      | 180,378   | 40,819  | 11.93% |
| WWF                       | 64,108    | 14,507  | 4.24%  |
| SWISS                     | 82,744    | 18,725  | 5.47%  |
| Donations, other sources  | 137,064   | 31,017  | 9.07%  |
| Junior Ranger Project     | 19,363    | 4,382   | 1.28%  |
| Economic activities       | 926,140   | 209,581 | 61.27% |
| TOTAL                     | 1,511,540 | 342,055 | 100%   |



| INCOME SOURCES (€)         | 2009   | 2010   | 2011    | 2012    | 2013    |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| FFI                        |        | 27,372 | 18,415  | 8,258   | 34,500  |
| WWF                        | 9,360  | 4,513  | 71,418  | 13,397  | 2,488   |
| MAVA                       |        |        | 91,261  | 55,098  | 0       |
| GEF SGP                    | 11,441 | 17,825 | 5,501   |         | 0       |
| LIFE                       |        |        |         |         | 40,819  |
| SWISS                      |        |        |         |         | 18,725  |
| Foundation for Partnership |        |        | 2,184   | 4,416   | 4,382   |
| Charities Aid Foundation   |        |        | 2,024   |         |         |
| Training seminars          | 15,132 | 8,517  | 3,457   | 4,567   | 22,865  |
| Consultancy services       |        | 5,593  | 33,861  | 85,739  | 210,620 |
| Educational camps          |        |        |         | 3,154   | 6,336   |
| Business plan              |        |        |         | 16,897  | 18,810  |
| TOTAL                      | 35,933 | 63,819 | 228,121 | 191,526 | 359,545 |



## VIII. FUNDING SOURCES

- World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- Mava Fondation pour la Nature (Mava)
- Fauna and Flora International (FFI)
- Foundation for Partnership/ MOL Romania
- Romanian- American Foundation
- Charities Aid Foundation
- European Union by the Programme Life+ Information and Communication
- Swiss Romanian Cooperation Programme
- The Federal Agency for Nature Protection (BfN)

## IX. PROJECT PARTNERS

- World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- WWF-Switzerland;
- Municipal Agency for Sustainable Development in Brasov
- Romanian Ecotourism Association (AER)
- The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
- Europarc Federation
- Administration of the “Balta Mica a Brailei” Nature Park
- Vocational Secondary School for Wood Processing “Constantin Brancusi”
- Natural Sciences College „Emil Racoviță” of Brasov.
- Milvus Association for the Protection of Birds and Nature;
- NGO Sibiu;
- AGRIDEA- Switzerland
- ADEPT Transilvania Foundation
- Romanian Ecotourism Association
- Environmental Protection Agency Braşov

## X. AFFILIATIONS

- Europarc Federation- [www.europarc.org](http://www.europarc.org)
- Natura 2000 ONG Coalition Romania - [www.natura2000.ro](http://www.natura2000.ro)
- The Environmental Coalition - [www.coalitiademediului.ro](http://www.coalitiademediului.ro)





„It was a wonderful year and I was lucky to meet really beautiful and „delicious” people, from Croatia to Siberia” - **Andra**



”ProPark 2013 for me? This is exactly the image attached: planning, calculations, priorities, needs, colour, Europe, learning, choices, destinations. A full year, maybe too full at times, but for which I am extremely happy.” - **Ruxandra**

”One day, I arrived at my home around 2 pm., after 36 hours of working with ProPark team, in order to submit a project. I went to bed smiling: I love my work!” - **Tibi**

# XI. ANNEXES

## Annex 1 - Training Events

| No. | Course name   | Time                     | Number of participants | Participants   | Financed by  |                 |
|-----|---|--------------------------|------------------------|--|--|-----------------|
| 1   | Communication in PA, Community Outreach and Stakeholder Involvement, Visitor Management in PA | February 4-8             | 12                     | Piatra Craiului National Park Administration team  | Contract:tender procedure according to national legislation  |                 |
| 2   | Communication in PA   | April 16-19              | 15                     | Domogled-Valea Cernei National Park Administration team  | Contract: tender procedure according to national legislation |                 |
| 3   | Communication in PA (part 1)  | May 8-10                 | 13                     | Porțile de Fier Natural Park – Rangers team  | Contract:tender procedure according to national legislation  |                 |
| 4   | Ranger Programme – introductory course *- part 1  | May 20-24                | 15                     | Rangers from different PA's, individuals involved in efforts to use ranger services in protected areas                     | ProPark  | MAVA Foundation |
| 5   | Protected Areas GIS   | May 23-24                | 4                      | Domogled-Valea Cernei National Park Administration team  | Contract:tender procedure according to national legislation  |                 |
| 6   | Operational Management in PA  | May 27-29                | 12                     | Part of Piatra Craiului National Park Administration team, part of Domogled-Valea Cernei National Park Administration team | Contract:tender procedure according to national legislation  |                 |
| 7   | Ranger Programme – introductory course *- part 2  | June 17-22               |                        | Rangers from different PA's, individuals involved in efforts to use ranger services in protected areas                     | ProPark  | MAVA Foundation |
| 8   | Conservation Management   | September 25, October 21 | 10                     | Lunca Muresului Natural Park Administration team   | Contract   |                 |
| 9   | Communication in PA   | September-october        | 13                     | Porțile de Fier Natural Park – Rangers team, online session  | Contract   |                 |
| 10  | Communication in PA (part 2)  | November 5-7             | 13                     | Porțile de Fier Natural Park – Rangers team, online session  | Contract   |                 |



|              |   |                                  |            |   |          |  |
|--------------|---|----------------------------------|------------|---|----------|--|
| 11           | Communication in Pa and PA Management             | November 18-22<br>November 25-29 | 29         | Individuals involved in efforts to learn about protected areas management                               | Contract |  |
| 12           | PA Management                                     | November 9-12                    | 8          | Făgăraș Mountains Association administration team   | Contract |  |
| 13           | Communication and education on brown bear ecology | December 12-15                   | 20         | Stakeholders who will have to work together to implement management measures for bears and its habitats | Contract |  |
| <b>Total</b> |   |                                  | <b>164</b> |   |          |  |

## Annex 2 - Consultancy Contracts

| No.          | Contracts   | Beneficiary   | Value (€)        |
|--------------|---|---|------------------|
| 1            | Integrated Management Plan for Larion Site and for Crov Protected Area  | Valea Ilvei Forest Association  | 28,005.78        |
| 2            | Communication Training  | National Forest Administration ROMSILVA – “Portile de Fier” National Park Administration            | 4,393.08         |
| 3            | Communication Training, Protected Areas Management, GIS Introduction  | National Forest Administration ROMSILVA – Domogled – Valea Cernei R.A. National Park Administration | 7,562.84         |
| 4            | Communication Training , Relations with the communities, Visitors Management, Operational Management of Protected Areas | National Forest Administration ROMSILVA – Piatra Craiului R.A. National Park Administration         | 9,504.04         |
| 5            | Protected Area Management Training  | Agency of Environmental Protection Bacau  | 565.63           |
| 6            | Organize training sessions in order to rise the staff competence of the management line                                 | “Valea Nirajului” Micro region Association  | 2,356.37         |
| 7            | Monitoring Plan and support documentation   | RNP ROMSILVA – Administrația Parcului Natural Comana RA   | 13,288.89        |
| 8            | Training services   | Vinca Minor Association   | 8,577.78         |
| 9            | Developing a Toolkit for Participative Forest Management  | Harghita County Council   | 6,000.00         |
| 10           | Training services   | Făgăraș Mountains Association   | 4406             |
| 11           | Training services   | WWF Romania, Maramures branch   | 4350             |
| <b>Total</b> |   |   | <b>89,010.41</b> |

**Annex 3 - Projects**

| No. | Project Title  | Description  | Financing  | Total Budget (€) | Partners  | ProPark Budget |
|-----|--|--|--|------------------|---|----------------|
| 1   | Increasing education opportunities on sustainable development for protected area managers in Romania | Develop, implement and promote innovative mechanisms/tools and approaches to increase information and knowledge transfer to protected area professionals on nature conservation management and its importance and integration into sustainable development processes.  | Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (German Federal Foundation Environment) | 188.187 €        | Europarc  | 32.750 €       |
| 2   | Junior Rangers involved from the Danube all the way to the Carpathians                               | Raise the level of acceptance of local communities surrounding "Piatra Craiului" National Park and "Balta Mica a Brailei" Nature Park by promoting Junior Ranger activities, Increase the awareness of the Brasov city residents on the importance of the protected areas of the county by organizing information campaigns and by creating the first Protected Area Information Point in Brasov County.   | Partnership Foundation   | 5500 €           | "Piatra Craiului" National Park and "Balta Mica a Brailei" Nature Park<br>Natural Sciences College<br>„Emil Racoviță” of Brasov<br>Vocational Secondary School for Wood Processing<br>"Constantin Brancusi" in Braila<br>Agency for Environmental Protection Brasov<br>County Concil Brasov | 5500 €         |
| 3   | Rural Development and High Nature Value Farmland in Romania  | ImprovIncrease economic viability of small-scale rural communities of High Nature Value farmlands in Romania while protecting the agro-environmental benefits.   | Swiss-Romanian cooperation Programme                                   | 1.019.485 €      | I. AGRIDEA/ ADEPT Transilvania Foundation - leading partners, WWF Danube-Carpathian Program; ProPark Foundation for Protected Areas.  | 194.955 €      |
| 4   | Natura 2000 and Rural Development in Romania   | Overall The project aims to improve the management of the EU Natura 2000 and national protected area network by promoting sustainable rural development in Romania and by demonstrating local development opportunities related to protected areas, better integration of protected area and natural resource management in infrastructure planning and regional development and improving long-term financial support for protected area and natural resource management. | Swiss-Romanian cooperation Programme                                   | 904.789 €        | WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme (lead partner); WWF-Switzerland; Milvus Association for the Protection of Birds and Nature; NGO Ecotur Sibiu; and ProPark Foundation for Protected Areas.   | 83.000€        |



|   |  |   |                                      |             |   |           |
|---|--|---|--------------------------------------|-------------|---|-----------|
| 5 | Southwestern Carpathian Wilderness and Sustainable Development Initiatives | The project aims to contribute significantly to the preservation of the Southwestern Carpathians as Europe's premier wilderness area, demonstrating opportunities for conservation and management of wilderness areas including the implementation of EU legislation and support of local and regional development. | Swiss-Romanian cooperation Programme | 1.110.517 € | WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme (lead partner); WWF-Switzerland; NGO Ecotur Sibiu; Romanian Ecotourism Association and ProPark Foundation for Protected Areas | 89.213 €  |
| 6 | Efficient Managers for Efficient Natura2000 Network 2012                   | The project aims to contribute to the following overall goal:<br>Natura2000 sites in Romania are well managed by skilled professionals and their objectives for biodiversity conservation reflected in the regional territorial plans and in the activity of key economic sectors.                                  | Comisia Europeană Life+              | 514.000 €   | Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, The Metropolitan Agency for Sustainable Development in Brasov Europarc Federation.                                | 208.337 € |

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS | CONSILIUL DIRECTOR



**Paul Hotham**

Președinte  
*Chairman*



**Sorin POP**

Membru  
*Member*



**Mugur POP**

Membru  
*Member*



**Cristoph PROMBERGER**

Membru  
*Member*



**Luminița TĂNASIE**

Membru  
*Member*



**Petru BĂRZAN**

Membru  
*Member*



## TEAM PRESENTATION | PREZENTAREA ECHIPEI



**Erika STANCIU**

Director Executiv /Executive Director  
Fundatia pentru Aarii Protejate



**Tiberiu CHIRICHEȘ**

Director Executiv /Executive Director  
SC ProPark Aarii Protejate SRL



**Laura FLORESCU**

Director financiar  
Financial Manager



**Alina IONIȚĂ**

Manager proiect  
Project Manager



**Ioana BEJAN**

Manager proiect  
Project Manager



**Laura ISTRATE**

Manager proiecte/Responsabil comunicare  
Project manager/Communications responsible



**Georgiana ANDREI**

Coordonator programe  
Programme Coordinator



**Andra CROITORU**

Asistent proiect  
Project Assistant



**Ruxandra NIȚU**

Asistent proiect  
Project Assistant

2013

