

SUMMARY HUNGARIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP IN 1999

The last year of the nineties has been a period of turbulent changes and new challenges – both for the foundation itself and for the Hungarian environmental movement as a whole. The situation of environmental NGOs is becoming more and more difficult due to a number of external and internal factors. Advocating for sustainable development in an increasingly globalizing world, in the Hungarian society now firmly consolidated in market economy and consumerism is at times an „unpopular” task. NGOs working hard to become more professional and to influence public policy are losing their social basis and support. This brings about the need of increased cooperation with other sectors: municipalities, state institutions and other types of civic organizations. At the same time, environment has a low priority in the political agenda geared towards economic growth, which has the first and foremost importance in European Union accession as well. EU enlargement faces NGOs (and the whole society) with more specific and urgent challenges as well: infrastructure and rural development models, as well as the way the associated funds are distributed will decide about our country’s development direction for decades to come.

Environmental Partnership has made great efforts during the whole year to find appropriate answers

to these challenges – answers which harmonize with our original mission and goals. We realized that a mixture of continuity and new initiatives is probably the best way we have at our disposal to tackle these problems. There is a sustained need for our quick and non-bureaucratic, open small grants program: as Western funders are leaving the region, governmental and EU support replacing them often comes earmarked, with tight strings attached, making it inaccessible for a number of NGOs. During the year our board has decided to support 106 proposals with a total amount of 134.000 USD (for detailed statistical data see page 9-10).

As a part of our grants program we paid special attention to a number of themes, such as rural development or energy. Our Greenwork program, managed together with the Hungarian Foundation for Self-Reliance, aimed at enhancing cooperation among environmental NGOs and Roma communities to create local, sustainable income-generating activities is becoming more and more appreciated and gained considerable renown. The joint Polish-Slovakian-Hungarian Amber Trail Greenways program attempts to help the overall sustainable development of the region lying north to Budapest. In the field of energy we see networking and policy development as our main area of support, as the independence and critical voice of expert NGOs is becoming threatened by the conditions associated with state support.

General small grants

NATURE CONSERVATION, RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Bioculture Association Local Group, Szada, Central-Hungary, \$169

The group has been supported to organize an organic farming training for local farmers.

Bioculture Association Local Group, Szalafő, West-Hungary, \$435

This newly formed group consists mainly of local farmers. The grant has been used to organize lectures on organic farming group members and interested farmers.

Birdlife Komárom-Esztergom County, Tata, Mid-Hungary, \$487

The project seek to survey the natural heritage of Bársonyos region and to prepare for its protected status. The organization contacted local land users and involved them in the development of land trusts in order to harmonize the interests of nature protection with economic production.

Eastern Eco-region Association, Hajdúböszörmény, East-Hungary, \$1,304

This group, formed in 1999 encourages organic farmers to participate in designing local rural development plans and to promote organic farming in the region. The grant covered operational costs.

Eco-region Foundation, Zalaegerszeg, West Hungary, \$1,304

In county Zala there is significant hunting tourism endangering biodiversity. The grant supported the development of a sustainable hunting concept for the micro-regions of the area.

Eco-village Network, Visnyezéplak, South-Transdanubia, \$1,055

In the early '90s several groups initiated eco-villages, alternative rural living communities. The network coordinating these aimed at making a survey of them.

Environmental Association, Kalocsa, South-Hungary, \$652

Inhabitants of a beautiful suburb in the city of Kalocsa developed an initiative to revitalize a non-cultivated land near their houses, which is used for waste dumping now.

Foundation for Civil Society of Hajduság, Hajdúböszörmény, East-Hungary, \$626

The grant helped develop a biodiversity monitoring system and survey the city environs near the Hortobágy National Park. The organization prepared for the local protection status of the area.

Foundation for Otters, Budapest, \$1,304

The organization's goal is to protect otters living in Hungary. The grant supported a book on the history of the organization.

Foundation for the Protection of the Barn Owl, Budapest, \$924

The organization works to protect Barn Owls (habitually nesting in church towers) by raising awareness and taking concrete action. The grant helped run the organizations' advisory and watch service.

Göncöl Foundation, Vác, Central-Hungary, \$4,219

The Foundation works on the SAPARD plan for the Vác micro-region, with Ministry of Agriculture funding. They receive payment only after the completion of the project. Our loan helped the foundation to advance the costs.

WATER

Blue Spring Environmental Protection Association, Budapest, \$844

The Rákos stream connects several villages and North Pest. With the help of the grant, the organization hosted a Civil Forum on revitalization.

Danube Circle, Budapest, \$1,087

The Danube Circle is still active on monitoring the state's activities after the Hague Court's decision on the Gabčíkovo dam case. They received a grant to cover operational costs.

Gaja Environmental Association, Székesfehérvár, Central-Transdanubia, \$1,122

With the help of the grant they organized a public campaign around the underground oil pollution threatening the Middle-Transdanubian karst system.

Göncöl Foundation, Vác, Central-Hungary, \$1,266

The foundation organizes the Hungarian network of school river watch groups. They prepared a methodology guidebook for teachers working on river monitoring.

Tisza Club, Szolnok, Middle-Hungary, \$1,304

The grant helped run the organization's multiple environmental education and awareness raising activities. The long-term aim of this program is to change local people's attitude to the river.

ENERGY

Environmental Culture Association, Esztergom Central-Transdanubia, \$152

They work mainly the field of renewable energy. We funded their study tour to Germany to learn about local NGOs' work on renewables.

Hungarian Human Ecologist Association, Debrecen, East-Hungary \$652

The grant covered the organization of a four-day public program in the field of energy, including a public forum of suppliers and consumers, NGO lectures on renewables, energy efficiency, anti-nuclear, environmental education activity and media work.

VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Alba Circle, Budapest, \$316

The association works mainly on peace and environmental. Our loan helped to cover temporary operational costs.

„Benedek Endre” Cave Researcher Association, Dorog, Mid-Hungary, \$387

Grant to publish the 10-year report of the organization working on the protection of caves and geological values in the Amber Trail region.

„Beretzk Peter” Nature Conservation Club, Rösztke, South Hungary, \$392

The project seeks to increase public involvement in planning processes such as regional development. They surveyed the public opinion on local environmental issues/problems.

Birdlife Hungary, Budapest, \$679

The grant covered the printing costs of a manual on organizational guidelines and development, distributed among local chapters of the association. The content of the manual includes advice on managing a local group (recruitment, fundraising, etc.) and common image materials.

**Salamander Association,
Szentendre, Central-Hungary,
\$840**

They publish a quarterly newsletter for the entire city population to present the natural heritage of the area and point out the environmental problems of the city. Our support made the printing of one issue possible.

**University Green Club, Budapest,
\$284**

They provide a range of environment and animal friendly products for ethical consumers in their green shop and library. The grant helped develop their stock of books further.

**Waldorf Association, Gödöllő,
near Budapest, \$1,248**

The organization launched a community LETS (Local Exchange/Employment and Trading System) in their city. The local government supported the initiative. We funded publications and a computer.

**ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION**

**„Csokonai” Casino Association,
Dunaalmás, Northwest-Hungary,
\$609**

This new association organized a citywide game for citizens of

Dunaalmás. The game served as a preparation to the „Day of Birds and Trees” celebration.

**Foundation for the Development
for Ecological Culture, Budapest,
\$1,304**

They received a loan to publish the organization’s magazine „Cedar” targeting environmental educators. The foundation asked for support because its regular and committed state fund was delayed.

**Green Heart Association, Pomáz,
near Budapest, \$435**

The grant contributed to the costs of the 10th Annual Gathering of the association. „Green Heart” has numerous chapters all over the Carpathian basin working on environmental education and is especially successful in mobilizing children age five to ten.

**Kellart Station, Szentendre, near
Budapest, \$652**

The organization approaches global and local environmental problems through meteorology. They maintain an ecometeorology station, and with this grant they organized a school network on this theme in the Amber Trail region.

**Nature and Environmental
Protection Association in Abaúj,
Encs, North-Hungary, \$217**

The organization works along the river Hernád, in one of the least developed regions in Hungary. The grant supported their project to organize an out-of-class environmental education project encompassing several villages.

**Natural Lifestyle Foundation,
Tata, West-Hungary, \$1,270**

The organization operates a sustainable development model center in Tata region. The grant covered the salary of an employee working on the center’s environmental education programs.

ANIMAL WELFARE

Fauna Association, Budapest, \$1,266

This is an animal welfare organization focussing not only the protection of pets, but also deals with problems of animal husbandry and research and participates in the development of this field’s legislation. We contributed to the operational costs.

**„Hermann Ottó” National Animal
Protection Association, Budapest,
\$217**

The grant contributed to the cost of 1st National Conference of

**CSEMETE Association, Szeged,
South-Plain, \$1,646**

Together with Young Researchers Association of Vojvodina (Yugoslavia), the project aimed at a joint survey of the pollution sources of the biggest dead Tisa channel of the region (18,7 km), laying on the border.

**Eco-crisis Youth Association,
Zalau, Romania \$652**

The organization, run by very active high schools students, deals with river watch and natural heritage protection. We supported them with a laptop computer.

**Eco-crisis Youth Association,
Zalau, Romania \$261**

The received a grant to publish a booklet about the natural heritages of county Szilágy.

**Ecological Institute for
Sustainable Development,
Miskolc, North-Hungary, \$1,304**

The organization closely cooperates with the Sosna Association in Kosice (Slovakia). They have adapted several educational games of Sosna to Hungarian circumstances, to use these in Hungary and among minority groups in the surrounding countries.

**Forest School Foundation,
Central-Hungary, \$523**

They organized a study tour for Romanian teachers visiting Hungarian environmental educational centers.

**Göncöl Alliance, Vác, North-
Hungary, \$348**

The grant to supported the operational costs of the Danube project, to prepare an NGO standpoint on the Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros dam case.

**Holocén Association, Miskolc,
North Hungary, \$1,739**

The organization and its Slovakian partner (Sosna-Kosice) organized an environmental and socio-cultural survey in the border region. They surveyed more than 100 villages in Hungary and Slovakia and searched for cooperation opportunities, in order to recommend sustainable rural development alternatives.

**Ipoly Union, Balassagyarmat,
North-Hungary, \$637**

The grant helps design a water protection project along the Ipoly river. The project should answer local challenges of sustainable water management and involve citizens from both countries (Hungary and Slovakia) in problem analysis and solution.

**Local Governments' Association
of Homokhát microregion, South-
Plain, \$2,152**

The micro-region is situated in a predominantly agricultural area. They cooperate with the neighboring micro-region in Yugoslavia. Their project's aim is to develop and harmonize environmental regulations and programs of the local governments in the two micro-regions. They also aim at surveying the local natural heritage and propose protection measures.

**Nimfea Association, Túrkeve,
North-Plain, \$1,181**

The association cooperates with a nature conservation group in Ukraine. We funded the transport of educational materials to the Ukrainian group.

**Reflex Association, Győr, West-
Transdanubia, \$5,165**

They have developed an information chain to distribute environmental information to local governments, NGOs and citizens in their county by local TV and Internet. This project aimed at broadening the information chain to neighboring Slovakian and Austrian territories, cooperating with NGOs and governmental institutions in those counties.

Lungo Drom, Rinyaszentkirály, South-Transdanubia, \$1,477
Rinyaszentkirály is a beautiful small village in Somogy county. The local Roma organization aims at engaging in traditional gypsy hand-crafts, collecting herbs and mushrooms.

Southern-Somogy Gypsy Leaders Association, Barcs, South-Transdanubia, \$1,477
They develop an herb collecting and raising project in the Southern Somogy area. They plan to found a cooperative, which will deal with a variety of traditional crafts.

Organizational Development grants

FOR COSTS OF STRATEGY PLANNING MEETINGS

Forest School Foundation, Szentendre, Central-Hungary, \$831

They work on environmental teacher and student education since 1990. They wish to share the responsibility of the chair, and to improve the skills of the staff and volunteers.

Green Action Association, Miskolc, North-Hungary, \$633
The organization has been working on environmental issues for more than ten years. Since the founders have left the association, the new activists and the staff wish to develop a common vision and strategy for next years' operation.

Hungarian-Hindu Cultural Foundation, Pécs, South-Transdanubia, \$844
They spread Hindu culture in Hungary, and publish a monthly magazine on Hinduism. They wish to improve the strategic, common planning of the group and the skills of the volunteers.

Local Association of Big Families, Kaposvár, South-Transdanubia, \$616
The organization was established in 1988, and it has 300 member families. They wish to increase the number of their activists, and share the work of the overloaded chairman.

Mental Worker Association for People living along Tisa River, Tiszavasvári, North-Plain, \$711
They operate an office of mental help in their city, thus run an alternative civic social service, parallel to the local government's institu-

tions. They need a permanent financial source for their operation, and they wish to increase the number and capacity of volunteers.

„A Nostru” – The Ours – Association for Gypsies, Nagykanizsa, West-Transdanubia, \$841

They work on the problems of the local Roma community - unemployment, racism and lack of education. During the last years they have launched a number of valuable programs, and by participating they would like to find ways to ensure their sustainability.

Other-Mosaic Association, Debrecen, North-Plain, \$844

The organization works in the cultural, youth and social field since 1987. They wish to improve internal communication and responsibility sharing. They have no permanent sources to finance their staff.

Tele-house Foundation, Kismaros, Central-Hungary, \$844

Last year, the local community foundation has established a tele-house institution to develop the communication of the village. They wish to create a financial base to employ an organizer, and to improve the skills of volunteers.

Green Club, Pécs, South-Hungary, \$869

Grant for monitoring activities of authorities regarding radioactive sludge disposal near the city threatening the water base of the region.

Reflex Association, Győr, West-Hungary, \$3,478

Grant to support awareness raising activity of the organization on anti-nuclear issues. They held lectures, published several booklets and PR materials targeting young people.

Somogy Provincial Association for Nature Conservation, Somogyfajsz, South-West Hungary, \$1,652

The organization operates a nature conservation education and eco-tourism center in Somogy county where they own several forest fish-lakes. They seek to use hydro energy - as a supplementary source of energy - without changing the original characteristics of the water flow.

HONEYWELL FUND

Energy Club, Budapest, \$6,215

Grant to publish a special workbook for high schools on different energy issues containing work sheets on efficiency and renewable sources.

Today for Tomorrow Foundation, Pécs, South Hungary, \$11,000

Grant to equip a van with mobile energy efficiency and renewable energy exhibition. They cooperate with 19 environmental NGOs to hold street exhibitions in 20 cities on energy issues.

Leadership development (English courses as part of the Integrated Organizational Development Program)

Breuer, László

(Göncöl Alliance) \$448

Hidegkuti, Edit

(Green Club of Gödöllő Agricultural University) \$783

Hollósi, Sarolta

(„Pearl” Association) \$522

Insticej, Zoltán

(Tridea Association) \$632

Molnár, Róbert

(tree of Life Alliance) \$478

Pásztor, Éva

(Flóra Association) \$522

Priksz, Gábor

(E-Mission Association) \$386

Vargáné, Biharvári Gabriella

(Tisa Club) \$783

KÖNYVVIZSGÁLÓI JELENTÉS AZ ÖKOTÁRS ALAPÍTVÁNYRÓL

Az Alapítvány 1999. januárjában áttért az egyszerűsített könyvelésről a kettős könyvelésre. Az Alapítvány az 1999. évben szervezetek és magánszemélyek részére 44.379 eFt összegben nyújtott támogatást.

Véleményünk szerint a kiválasztott tranzakciók összhangban állnak a dokumentumokkal, megfelelően vannak kiállítva, és hűen tükrözik az Ökotárs Alapítvány törvényben meghatározott anyagi helyzetét.

Véleményünk szerint az 1999 december 31-i éves beszámoló, beleértve az összes készpénzt, a kötvények és a folyószámlán lévő 153.618 eFt-ot és a 122.145 eFt teljes bevételt, és az összes kiadást és egyéb költségeket 73.256 eFt értékben, összhangban állnak az 1991. évi (XVIII) számviteli törvényben, a 219/1998. (12.30.) Kormányrendeletben és az egyéb számviteli elvekben foglaltakkal.

Az 1999. december 31-i éves beszámoló megbízható és valós képet ad az Alapítvány gazdálkodásáról és működéséről.

2000. 03. 08.

Varga Mária (Varga Gáborné)
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REPORT OF THE AUDITOR TO THE FOUNDERS OF ÖKOTÁRS ALAPÍTVÁNY (Environmental Partnership Foundation)

The Foundation from January of 1999 has passed over from single entry bookkeeping on to double entry bookkeeping.

In the year 1999 donations were given by the Foundation to organisation and private persons in 44.379 Tsd HUF amount.

In our opinion the selected transactions are reconcilable with the supporting documentations, are properly authorised, and reflect fairly the financial matters in accordance with the legal conditions of the operation of the Ökotárs Alapítvány.

In our opinion the Annual Report as of December 31 1999 (Annual Financial Statements) including total cash, stocks and bank of 153.618 Tsd HUF, a total revenue of 122.145 Tsd HUF, and a total of expenses and other payments of 73.256 Tsd HUF has been compiled in accordance with Act on Accounting of 1991 (XVIII), 218/1998 (12.30.) Order in Council and the general accounting principles. The Annual Report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the Foundation and the results of its operation for the year 1999.

08th of March 2000.

Mária Varga (Varga Gáborné)
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