

For Office Use
Application Number: _____
Date Received: _____

Application Form Civil Society Fund FY08

Tirana Country Office, WORLD BANK

Executive Summary (Please type using no more than one page)

1. *Date:* 15/03/2008
2. *Name of organization:* Transborder Wildlife (TWA)
3. *Contact person and title:* Pirro Pojani, Project leader
4. *Address:* Rr. Pandeli Cane, nr 26, Lgj 2, Korce
5. *City, Country, Postal Code:* Korce, Albania
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1. **Mission statement of the applicant organization:** Protection and Improvement of Environment, working closely with local community to make possible the implementation of effective measures toward their quality of life improvement and sustainable development.
2. **Title of the project:** Establishment the Partnership among Local Actors and Preparation of Environment Plan in Voskopoja Commune.
3. **Purpose of funding request and how this activity relates to youth civic engagement or environment protection:** Development of an environment action plan for the commune through creation of partnerships, stakeholders and community's engagement, in order to influence the improvement of the environment, relates to environment protection. The presentation of Environmental issues during the classes in the school, link this Project with youth civic engagement.
4. **Target population and number benefiting from the proposed activities:** Community (600 inhabitants), 50 students (14-16 years old), Voskopoje Commune, NN
5. **Expected outcomes of the activity:** ► Establishing and functioning of four community work groups for environment protection and monitoring. ► Approving a clear vision and local environment strategy. ► Establishing the cooperation among stakeholders ► Environmental education of 50 students
6. **Plans for learning and knowledge sharing:** A partnership and experience exchange with another region is planned. The environmental action plan will be distributed to other communes.
7. **Period this funding request will cover:** 8 Months
8. **Amount of request (Details under Activity Income):**
9. **If your organization has received previous support from the World Bank, please list the year, amount, and describe for what purpose:** NO
10. **Authorizing signature of the applicant organization's executive director or board chair:**

Signature:

Name (print): Kristaq Shore

Title: Project Coordinator

Purpose of the Grant

11. Describe briefly the need or issue you will address. Include a description of the constituency served (including number participating) and how they will participate/benefit?

The changes of the system in Albania have influenced on the economic development, situation of public areas and services offered by local government. Because of these changes there are damaged roads, parks and green areas (lack of maintenance). In Voskopoja, last two decades have been destroyed not only natural and cultural values, but the environment is damaged too and a lot of cutted trees, very important for the community health. According to District Forest Services in Korca, every year fires in Voskopoja forestry burne 30-60 Ha; 800-1000 trees are illegally cutted, 520 Ha of land are not worked or refused.

In this attractive area, drinking water is not sufficient and there is a lack of se werage system. On the other hand, the environment is under degradation influencing on the community health. The forestry is multifunctional: offers wood materials, protects water quantities, and cleans the air, protects the agriculture products from the winds, offers recreation places, etc. Its destruction caused different problems for the life and health of the community, especially for the villages where are living marginalized groups. **Local Community should and could be organized toward improvement of their situation, but, they are not aware and responsible for the environment management. They have not experience and information for the possibilities and ways to organize them and to take ownership for their environment improvement. What is the most important: there is not an environmental action plan for implementation.** This situation conducts to the environment destruction having a negative impact on the tourism development and the quality of life of the community.

Based on the above described problems, Natyra Nderkufitare (Transborder Wildlife) took the initiative to develop a participatory process for creation and impelementation of an action plan, and to organize awareness campaigns in local level in order to increase the capability of the community for environment management.

During the first phase implementation of Green Agenda process, supported by Milieukontakt, a very good partnership among local Government and the community, was established, for the environment protection and development. Four work groups were set up to continue the work for creation of Green Agenda work plan.

This proposed project is result of the discussions in the work groups. During the project implementation will be involved all the community of Voskopoja Commune. Natyra Nderkufitare supported already for setting up of the four community work groups which will work to develop the Green Agenda, toward the protection, improvement and monitoring of the environment based on the values. These values are divided specifcilly in: natural values, cultural and historical values, agriculture and livestock values and tourism values. This project will impact for the prositive changes offering solutions to the environmental problems in Voskopoja Commune.

This project will serve to a community of 600 persons, 30 of which will be involved directly in the project for developing of Green Agenda action plan. The other part of the community will be involved through different meetings with the community or “Open Houses” for giving their input in the project improvement. The implementation of this project, will be done in effective way, in order to incourage the cooperation among Local Government, stakeholders and community.

12. How will the proposed activity promote youth civic engagement or environment protection?

The process of creation of Green Agenda by the community and increasing of the people’s responsibility, leads the community for taking the ownership of the environment where they are living. Through the encouragement of consensus of stakeholders, this project will involve different actors of Civil Society and interested groups (private sector, commune, livestock, farmers, women, community, youth, etc) to be active during the decision making process. Based on this purpose, there are four work groups working for Green Agenda development having direct impact in the citizens’ engagement for environment protection.

13. List the activity goal(s) and measurable objective(s).

1. Encourage the consensus of the community and take the ownership for developing the environment action plan process.(Green Agenda)
2. Improve the commune transparency and community responsibility for creation of development plans contributing for a good governance of the environment.
3. Encourage and improve the cooperation among Local Government, private sector, community and NGO-s, to create and implement sustainable development plans based on multistakeholders agreement.
4. Increase environmental education and citizens’engagement of the students (Voskopoja school)

Indicators:

- a. A common vision is created by the work groups. A qualitative environmental action plan is finalized.
- b. 10 workshops for the community awareness are developed, the partnership is established, the values are prioritized, and problem solutions are identified. A partnership with a community from another region is created.
- c. Improvement of the environment in the area close of the commune building (4 banchs, paivement of the 20m2 in the green area, grass, 4 metallic containers for garbages, restauration of stone wall surround the green area)
- d. 2 presentations on environmental issues in the village school.

14. Is the activity new or ongoing on the part of the applicant organization? If the activity is ongoing, how will your organization support this activity in the future?

This proposed project is implementation part of the process that Transborder Wildlife is developing for Green Agenda action plan. The first phase is over (supported by Milieukontakt) during that phase has been done a detailed preparatory work for:

► **Stakeholders analyse**

► **Data Collection**

► **Information collected from different sources that offer detailed information and have impact on Voskopoja and on the process for development of Green Agenda Action Plan:** Approved materials, 7 Strategies, 14 laws, 11 government decisions, 4 regulations, historical documents, 10 approved studime and projects, 5 publications, 10 websites, 30 existing promotion materials from organizations/tur operators/agencies in Albania.

A detailed analyse of existing materials has been done.

► **The first stakeholders meeting**

Results:

- It is created a good cooperation environment between stakeholders.
- It is created a database for Voskopoja which will be used for the process continuation and project implementation.
- Four community work groups are functioning. These will be trained on the environment development issues and they will be part of the monitoring activities of the proposed project and not only.
- Community awareness started and will continue with environmental education activities of the students and their involvement in the concrete work for environment improvement.
- A detailed work plan for the next steps is prepared by Natyra Nderkufitare. Its implementation for some activities will be supported mainly by Milieukontakt and the support for the other activities is requested from this program of the World Bank (according to the detailed budget)
- The second phase of the process is starting and the proposed project is implementation part of the process based on awareness and participation activities. Dutch Organization Milieukontakt, Commune and Natyra Nderkufitare will support this project financialy (Milieukontakt) and in kind (NN and Commune)

15. Provide a brief timetable for implementation of activity.

The activities related to Green Agenda Action Plan, above mentioned, will be supported by Milieukontat, and a part of them by Natyra Nderkufitare and other contributions (Community and Commune) and World Bank presented in the detailed budget.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Organizing the Work Groups

1.1. Work Groups Meeting

TWA started the implementation of Green Agenda in Voskopoja Commune, supported by Milieukontakt. Through this project, Transborder Wildlife will organize first meeting of work groups.

A workshop will be developed and after that the vision formulation exercise for each of groups. At the end a final vision will come up through a common agreement of the work groups.

2. Detailed analyses of values/problems

2.1 Analyse and tendency of environmental values

During these activities/workshops, the work groups members will define the qualitative and quantitative tendencies of the identified values, how they changed, relation between indicators and demographic movements, laws implementation, technology used, etc.

2.2. Analyse of the impact of environmental tendencies

The tendencies will be grouped in order to identify the main tendencies. The tendencies impact will be evaluated from two aspects: 1. Social and 2. Economical. A matrix of positive and negative impacts will be prepared, social risk of the tendencies, especially **the impact of environmental tendencies for vulnerable groups will be taken into consideration.**

2.3. Analyse of the main environmental problems and causes

The main problems will be identified based on the community perception. The beneficiaries of tendencies and others that suffer because of them, will be identified for all the problems. Per each identified problem, will be prepared a form where is described the location, itrested groups, responsible actors, the most urgent issue, basic tendencies and social risk.

2.4. Analysing and ranking the solutions, potentials and possibilities

During one of the workshops, through a voting process, the work groups will rank based on the importance and realisticity, the possibilities and potentials.

3. Public Participation

3.1. Organizing “Open house”

The “Open House” is a very important tool that will be used during the awareness campaign for getting public input. The flipcharts (A0) with the objectives/action plan, will be exposed in the commune building for a 2 weeks period. All the people will go there to take the necessary information and to give their input. Work groups members will assist the community during this process. The comments of the community will be included by the work groups in the final draft material.

3.2. Process planification through the community participation

The work group members have to be trained for increasing their knowledge for the continuation of the process: Objectives and how can be identified (SMART objectives for development of existing values), how the objectives could be developed in projects/activities, what are the action plans and their importance, etc.

3.3. Environmental education of the students of the school

Through this project 2 topics will be prepared by TWA staff for the students. Establishing a cooperation with the village school is necessary.

3.4. Establishing the partnership with another commune

The work groups will share their knowledges about the environment protection, process, methodology etc, with all the community of Voskopoja. After that, an experience exchange and partnership with another community will give them a cleare picture of the final product and of the participatory process of the communities in the environmental and socio-economic development strategies.

3.5. Implementation of the concrete activities.

Through this project proposal will be improved the environment sarround the commune building Nepermjet ketij projekt propozimi do te permiresohet mjedisi para zyrave te komunes (4 banchs, paivement of the 20m2 in the green area, grass, 4 metalic containers for garbages, restauration of stone wall surround the green area)

3.6. Green Agenda document

All the process of Green Agenda will be finalized with a written document, which will summarize all the collected ideas. On the other side in the document will be mentioned all them that contributed in the Green Agenda process including the donors. The improved plan will be presented to Council Commune for approval (including the community inputs)

4. Final evaluation and report

4.1. Preparation of the monitoring action plan

Setting up of the monitoring system consists in a action plan for monitoring of environmental indicators. The monitoring objectives and the necessary tools will be identified and the responsibilities and modalities of the community involvement during monitoring activities will be defined.

4.2. The process evaluation by the participants and TWA Staff.

A final evaluation meeting will be held for the process evaluation. The discussion session will be developed in order to identify the positive and negative aspects of the process and a questionnaire will be prepared. In the same time, TWA staff will have the meeting, during that, lessons learned will be discussed in order to improve the future activities.

4.3. Preparation of the final report

Based on the above described activities, a final report will be prepared with all the support materials attached (foto, minutes etj)

ACTIVITES								
1.Organizing the wroking groups of community								
2. Detailed annalyses of problems/values								
3. Public participation								
4. Evaluation								

16. What other organizations, if any, will be participating in the activity?

Describe their roles.

During the implementation of the project both TWA and Voskopoja Commune will be directly involved. The commune will give the contribution in this project proposal and will take part in all the project activities and will support them taking a supporter and collaborator role facilitating the process.

17. List the names and qualifications of key staff/volunteers responsible for activity implementation.

The Project Staff is composed by:

- Pirro Pojani, forestry engineer, project leader. He will coordinate all the activities of the project implementation. He will be directly responsible for all the activities of project implementation.
- Anxhelika Pllaha, economist, project administrator/finance. She will be responsible for finance management of the project.
- Koco Luadhi forestry engineer, working group. Coordinate the relationship with all actors. He is responsible for organizing the workshops
- Janaq Zguri, representative of Voskopoja Commune. He will keep contacts with commune representatives and other actors
- Pajo Bebli community representative, participate in working groups of community and disseminate all the materials and shares ideas to community related to local plan.
- Anton Fallo community representative, participate in working group of community and disseminate all the materials and shares ideas with community related to the local plan.
- Lida Remacka, teacher. She keeps contact with TWA and play important role for education of children related to environmental issues.

Evaluation

18. Please list the specific outcomes of your activity. What assessment methods/strategies will you use to track and measure outcomes? (e.g. interviews, surveys, focus groups, community feedback, etc.)

Specific results of the activities are:

The methods and strategy that will be used for result measurement will concentrate in *1.monitoring and 2.evaluation*

Monitoring purpose is data gathering on the activities development in order to see if the activities are progressing or some corrections needs to be taken. The monitoring will help our organization to develop its members' capacities.

How will monitor and how?

All the process revision, objectives and indicators, will be done by the community through taking their input. One TWA member will keep minutes during all the meetings and will prepare a summary of all meetings, opinions, and information, which will be analyzed by the TWA staff and will be sent to the work group members for review (minutes review)

The evaluation of the monitoring system, will be part of a periodical review, giving an overview on everything is done and learned during the project implementation.

Evaluation of the achievements. The evaluation will be done based on the listed results in the matrix. After first 4 months will be the first internal (staff members) and external (partners) result measurement. At the end of the project, a final result measurement will be done.

Indicators for: *1) process evaluation (output , 2) product evaluation (outcome).*

Process evaluation will be for activities, services, printed materials, and actions, based on the following indicators:

- a. An environmental action plan is finalized
- b. A common vision is created by the work groups.
- c. 10 workshops for the community awareness are developed, the partnership is established, the values are prioritized, problem solutions are identified. A partnership with a community from another region is created.
- d. Improvement of the environment in the area close of the commune building (4 benches, pavement of the 20m² in the green area, grass, 4 metallic containers for garbages, restauration of stone wall surround the green area)
- e. 2 presentations on environmental issues in the village school.
- f. Result measurement done every 4 months

Product evaluation

Indicators for the product will be identified based on the following objectives:

- The quality of green Agenda is verified by the commune and community, through their inputs.
- The community reacts positively for the transparency and public participation during the process
- Positive reaction of the community about the project
- Increased interest of the community to be involved in environmental activities.
- The comportation of students related to environmental issues. Increase their interest.
- Quality of presentation, evaluated by the teachers.

The product will be realized through meetings, interviews/questionnaires of the community and work group meetings giving their thoughts and opinions about the project.

19. Describe briefly what will be different at the end of the grant period.

The Grant will have an impact in Voskopoja commune. For the first time, the commune will have an environmental action plan and will start the implementation for the environment improvement.

The community, for the first time will take the ownership of the plan, taking the responsibilities. In order to measure the impact, TWA will prepare a long term program for impact evaluation. The Impact Evaluation is not an easy one. TWA will continue to evaluate the project impact for a long term period using as indicator the improvement of the environment and the quality of life all monitored by the community

20. How will the activity's results be used and/or disseminated?

Developing the Green Agenda Action Plan, result of Agenda 21 from UNCED Conference, Rio 1992, with strategic environmental. Voskopoja Plan will be one of the first action plans in Albania for implementation. Because of the importance and values, this plan will raise the interest of other communities, and for this, TWA will distribute this experience in other areas in Albania.

During this time, TWA will try to find other financial support from other donors, in order to continue the process.

Activity Income

Total applicant contribution.

In kind (describe):	<u>5600</u> \$ USD
In Cash:	\$ USD
Total:	<u>5600</u> \$ USD

27. Funding leveraged by applicant from other donors:
(List all sources and give estimated amounts)

<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
a. Milieukontakt	<u>US\$12580</u>
b.	US\$ _____
	Total: <u>US\$12580</u>

28. Total requested from the World Bank:	<u>US\$4580</u>
29. Total activity income from all sources:	<u>US\$22760</u>