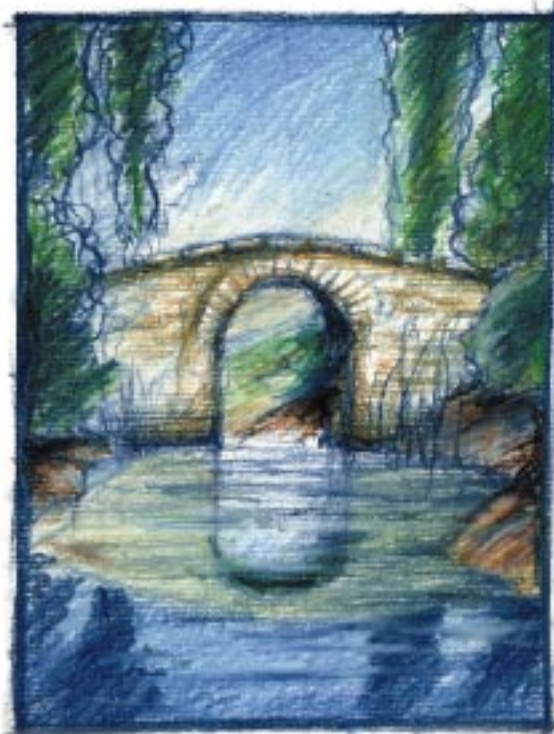


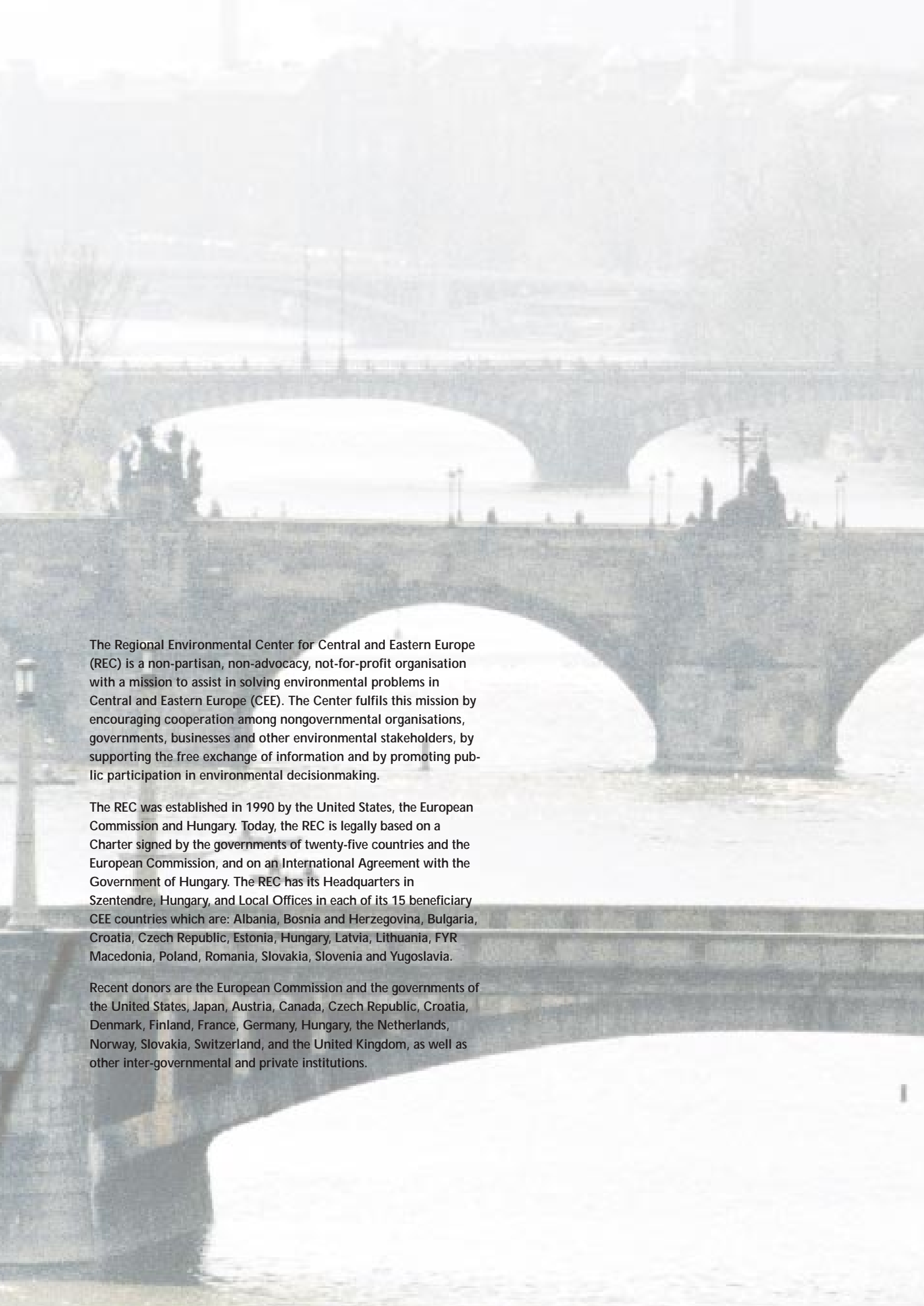
# ANNUAL REPORT 1997



## BUILDING BRIDGES



THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER  
*for Central and Eastern Europe*



The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) is a non-partisan, non-advocacy, not-for-profit organisation with a mission to assist in solving environmental problems in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). The Center fulfils this mission by encouraging cooperation among nongovernmental organisations, governments, businesses and other environmental stakeholders, by supporting the free exchange of information and by promoting public participation in environmental decisionmaking.

The REC was established in 1990 by the United States, the European Commission and Hungary. Today, the REC is legally based on a Charter signed by the governments of twenty-five countries and the European Commission, and on an International Agreement with the Government of Hungary. The REC has its Headquarters in Szentendre, Hungary, and Local Offices in each of its 15 beneficiary CEE countries which are: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, FYR Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Yugoslavia.

Recent donors are the European Commission and the governments of the United States, Japan, Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom, as well as other inter-governmental and private institutions.

## BUILDING BRIDGES



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**B**ridges, and their builders, have always been essential to humankind. When one thinks of a bridge, the immediate image is usually that of a magnificent structure spanning a lengthy divide between two isolated landmasses over a raging, or perhaps tranquil, but always majestic, river below.

The world is full of such bridges, built in different places, built at different times. Central and Eastern Europe has been home to many. From the Chain Bridge in Budapest to the Charles Bridge in Prague to the Mostar Bridge in Bosnia and Herzegovina, all were built to connect and bring together. Some were destroyed in order to separate.

There is something about bridges that demand our awe and admiration. We defend them against attack. We grieve at their loss. But where a bridge was once built, the void calls out to be filled once again, so we rebuild them.

Bridges have evolved to mean far more than structures crossing rivers. They have come to symbolise new connections not just between landmasses, but also between peoples, races, countries, and regions ... often where those connections did not exist before. And like physical bridges, these "political" and "social" bridges are themselves often tested, destroyed, fall and are built anew.

Relations among the countries and peoples of Central and Eastern Europe, and between them and other regions of the world, have constantly been influenced by the winds of human change. Before and during communism, the bridge between east and west was essentially closed. Transition and accession to the European Union is the renewal of these past fallen bridges.

Political and social bridges between different groups may rise and fall in CEE, but the natural environment does not share the same borders. They are only on maps or in the minds of people. To protect the environment, the boundaries of map and mind must be eliminated, or at least bridged, finding common objectives and solutions through mutual trust and cooperation.

In 1997, after seven years of existence and work in the region, the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) evolved into a bridge builder, connecting and supporting political and social groups so that they achieve common goals of environmental protection and long-term sustainable development.

It is true that the efforts and actions of diverse groups in the different countries of the region, and those of foreign origin, are accomplishing great environmental feats — from NGOs in Albania, to businesses in Romania, to governments in Estonia to foreign donors in the West. It has never been the goal of the REC to compete with these efforts. Again, the objective of bridge building lies elsewhere.

Be it the river's roar, the creek's gracious fall, or the silence of the valley, the bridge crosses and connects while that which lies underneath remains unharmed and preserved — in other words, sustainable connections are developed as is the creation of a common and united effort that is greater than the sum of all of the efforts working separately.

And so, in 1997, new bridges built with the help of the REC continued to ensure the long-term protection of the natural environment in Central and Eastern Europe.

**BEDRICH MOLDAN**  
CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**I**n the global arena, 1997 was the year for the UN General Assembly Special Session on the follow-up to the Rio Summit and for the Kyoto meeting on Climate Change. Both of these meetings, five years after hopeful commitments to sustainable development had been made in Rio de Janeiro, presented the global community with the reality that the translation of these commitments into practice would not be a simple task.

Where the merging of economy with ecology was hoped for, only a few threads managed to cross the great divide. Many became disappointed that a fully functional bridge had not been created while others praised the achievements made as the first steps of a long journey. Within this global context, the REC continued to work toward its own sustainability and that of the environment in Central and Eastern Europe.

1997 was an exciting year for the REC, filled with developments around and inside the organisation. The REC hosted the EAP Task Force's first meeting in Central and Eastern Europe in February, as well as the first informal cooperation meetings between the 10 countries acceding to the European Union. We also hosted conferences for NGOs and donors, municipal officials, environmental journalists, European business executives and more.

Our presence was established in the last two of our 15 beneficiary countries — Bosnia and Herzegovina and Yugoslavia, while we assisted in the creation of NewRECs in our neighbouring countries further east. We continued to promote the value of public participation in environmental decisionmaking, providing valuable input into the drafting of the Convention on Public Participation and monitoring the status of participation in the region's countries.

We promoted and provided free access to environmental information to all stakeholders, including NGOs, governments, businesses, media and the general public. Valuable publications continued to be produced, from directories of NGOs to environmental business surveys to the investigative reports of our magazine, *The Bulletin*, while the use of electronic communications skyrocketed, with 1.6 million visits to our very own Web Page in 1997.

Much-needed support to NGOs in the region continued through the giving of smaller grants at the local level to larger grants geared to solving environmental issues with regional importance. We also continued our education and training programs for adult environmental professionals, and feasibility studies in cooperation with the Government of Japan.

Within the REC, we also began to adapt to a future with less *untied* funding and more funding dedicated to specific projects. We introduced a new matrix organisational structure, with vertical departments dedicated to specific types of services, and horizontal projects combining resources inside and outside the organisation to meet specific objectives. In this way, we laid the foundations for the sustainability of the Center both in financial terms and in terms of fulfilling its mission.

It is not an easy task to raise funds for our activities from a variety of countries, organisations and private donors, each with their own objectives, while solving environmental problems and contributing to the global mosaic of sustainability. Nonetheless, we believe that we have begun to put the best structures into place ... testified by this report. The challenge ahead is to creatively and intelligently combine our numerous projects to create an elegant and robust bridge between the present and a sustainable future.

**JERNEJ STRITIH**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



*BRIDGING POLITICAL BOUNDARIES  
to protect a wetland complex at  
the Estonian - Latvian border, with  
the help of the Estonian Fund for  
Nature and the REC.*

# INTRODUCTION

Early in 1997, the REC's visionary *Strategy 1997-2000* paper was presented to the REC's General Assembly. Along with electing a new Board of Directors for the REC, the General Assembly endorsed the new directions proposed for the REC as it entered into the next millennium. The Strategy 1997-2000 paper explicitly stated that the REC's long-term goal was to become a viable organisation assisting the CEE region in transition, EU accession and sustainable development by developing and supporting partnerships between various stakeholders. The paper also presented the following key objectives for the REC:

- provide relevant services to all three groups of stakeholders (NGOs, governments and businesses)
- implement a multi-stakeholder approach to solving environmental problems
- maintain both local in-country presence and a regional perspective
- financial sustainability by diversifying funding sources and establishing a sound financial base
- continued internal organisational development

**INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS** A major advance in 1997 was the increased role and influence of the REC in the international arena and new milestones in REC's international activities.

*Accession* into the European Union and its effects on the environment came to demand much of the region's and the REC's attention. Ten CEE countries committed themselves to "approximating" the entire body of EU legislation into their own while the remaining five countries of CEE also expressed their commitment to harmonise their legislation with that of the EU.

In order to promote cooperation among the accession countries, and as a first for the region, the REC organised two *informal meetings* at REC headquarters for accession country representatives. The REC also hosted a dinner for environment Ministers and the EC Commissioner of Environment and Nuclear Safety as well as an informal *topic meeting* on climate change for the accession countries.

The REC began to play a more significant role in the *Environment for Europe* process, implementation of the *Environmental Action Plan for Central and Eastern Europe (EAP)* and in providing input into the next *Inter-Ministerial Conference* scheduled for Aarhus, Denmark in 1998. Involvement included:

- acting as Secretariat for the four Sofia Initiatives (Local Air Quality, Economic Instruments, Environmental Impact Assessment, Biodiversity)

- promoting progress in public participation
- giving grants for NGO participation at Aarhus
- creating a Local Environmental Action Program Network for the sharing of best practices
- assessing the implementation of global environmental conventions
- supporting the development of environmental management in CEE businesses

In recognition of this increasing role, the REC became an observer on the *Executive Committee* which is organising the preparations for the Aarhus conference. Also, the *EAP Task Force* met outside its OECD base in France for an unprecedented meeting at the REC in February. In November, the Task Force decided to continue as an umbrella for two differentiated programs after Aarhus — one for the CEE, supported by the REC, and one for the NIS, supported by the OECD which would continue to be responsible for the overall Task Force.

Activities with the NGO sector in CEE continued to be strong, from providing small local grants to region-wide and special grants for sub-regional projects aimed at improving the environment. Activities tailored to the business sector also increased dramatically, given this sector's increasing role in ensuring future sustainable development in the region.

**THE FINAL BRIDGES** The REC succeeded in building the last of its local bridges in the region by extending its network to Yugoslavia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, thereby attaining the capacity to reach constituents at the local level in all 15 countries served by the REC. Early in the year, REC representatives for both countries were hired and the first local grants were awarded.

Local Representatives have already begun to initiate specially focused programs to address local needs and for 1998, fully staffed Local Offices will be established to capitalise on the REC's potential future assistance for each country. Bosnia and Herzegovina also became a new signatory to the REC's Charter.



## PROGRAMS

As the REC's "think tank," the Programs Department is staffed by experts in diverse areas of environmental expertise, from public participation to environmental financing to biodiversity. With the help of REC staff in other departments and REC Local Offices, the Programs Department was again capable of assembling together quality project teams in order to take steps in assessing and solving some of the region's key environmental problems.

**EU ACCESSION** The program of informal cooperation among the accession countries, which started in 1997, established itself as the backbone for the REC's EU accession initiatives. Through facilitated meetings of accession country representatives, the REC provided a neutral forum where countries could develop proposals for solving common problems; strengthen their negotiating position in upcoming accession talks; secure adequate funding for environmental improvements; and adequately prepare for international meetings. Additionally, the Programs Department developed a set of *approximation indicators* for the European Commission's DG XI to assess the approximation process in the applicant countries, particularly in the area of implementation and enforcement. The results of this project will be used as input for developing a methodology on monitoring the progress of approximation, a project which will be carried out for the European Commission in 1998.

**SOFIA INITIATIVES** In the framework of the Environment for Europe process, the REC continued to provide Secretariat services for the four Sofia Initiatives, introduced at the third Inter-Ministerial Conference in Sofia, Bulgaria in 1995. A regional workshop on phasing out lead in gasoline was organised in Bulgaria as part of the *Local Air Pollution Initiative*. A regional workshop concerning the *Environmental Impact Assessment (ELA) Initiative* was held at REC headquarters for CEE and NIS representatives and international funding agencies. For the *Economic Instruments Initiative*, an informal network of CEE experts was established, a *Source Book on Economic Instruments for Environmental Policy* was launched, covering instruments such as environmental taxes and fines and water pricing, as was a comprehensive survey on energy pricing and taxation, and the first issue of the *Green Budget Reform Newsletter* was published. As for the *Biodiversity Initiative*, a conference was held in Albania and preparations began for a workshop in April 1998 concerning the effects of EU accession on biodiversity in CEE.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** In 1997, the REC provided direct input into the drafting of the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decisionmaking and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, to be adopted in June 1998 in Aarhus. To promote dialogue between NGOs and ministry officials, the REC organised round-table meetings about the content of the Convention in 21 CEE and NIS countries which led to positive changes in the position of several delegations. The REC also continued to monitor and evaluate the progress of public participation in environmental decision-making in CEE countries. Preparations began on a series of country, regional and Pan-European reports, which will provide a comparative assessment on existing legal frameworks and practices. The reports will also focus on the development of more efficient instruments and a set of "public participation indicators and standards," to be presented in Aarhus.

A public participation training module was also developed for Hungary and tested at a workshop in Szentendre to better enable different stakeholders to participate in community environmental decisionmaking. Similar projects are in progress in Bulgaria, Latvia, Poland and Romania.

**LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PROGRAMS (LEAP)** Recognising the growing role of local governments in the region, the Programs Department organised *Municipal Environmental Action Program Forums* in Bulgaria, Hungary and Latvia. The main goals were to share best practices in the preparation of comprehensive local action programs, identify the most urgent environmental needs of municipalities and propose future project ideas. A Manual for Municipalities in Environmental Action Planning is under development in Latvia, and the project "Development of Local Sustainable



**REC PROGRAMS STRIVE**  
to ensure that economic growth  
is coupled with environmental  
protection in the region.

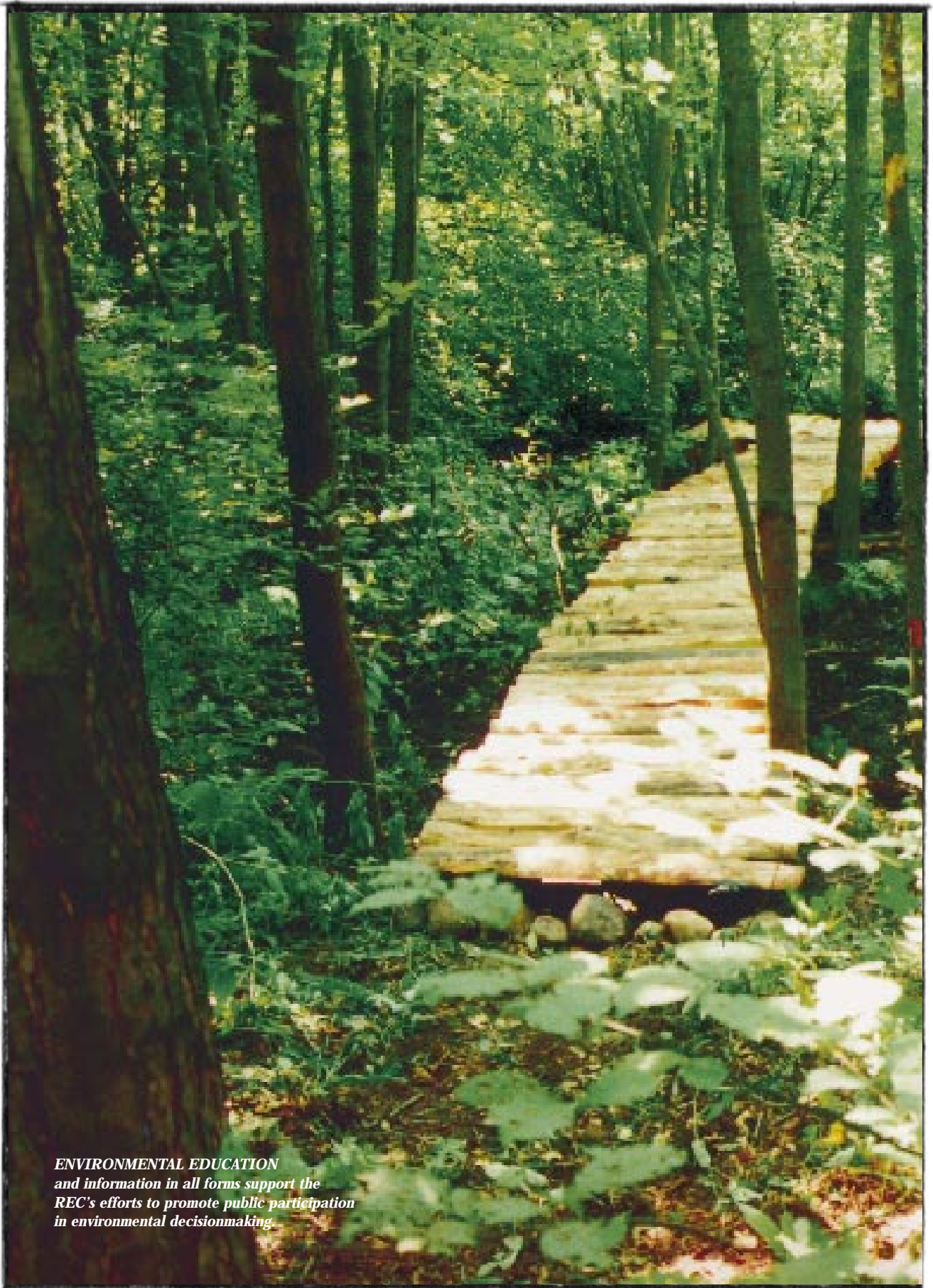
Development Programmes in Accordance with Agenda 21 Recommendations” was launched in Poland.

**BUSINESS PROGRAMS** With industrial production on the rise, cleaner and more sustainable practices must be implemented to avoid the negative experiences of the West. Thus, the private sector is increasingly becoming one of the key stakeholders in the region.

The second volume of the *Environmental Business Directory* was published in June, covering Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, and Slovenia, and over 400 companies providing environmental technologies and services, along with the *Emerging Environmental Market* survey, with an overview of the activities and needs of environmental businesses in those countries. Also, the *Environmental Technology Market* survey in CEE was published, covering the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, identifying the demand for environmental technology, gauging the perceptions of CEE firms toward foreign technologies and examining business opportunities.

The new *Cleaner Production (CP) Networking and Experience Transfer Project* began in September, geared to facilitating the exchange of information and experience among CP professionals from CP-advanced CEE countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland and Slovakia) with those from less advanced countries (Bulgaria, FYR Macedonia and Romania), enabling the latter to apply lessons learned in developing their own CP programs.





*ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION  
and information in all forms support the  
REC's efforts to promote public participation  
in environmental decisionmaking.*

# INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Since its establishment, the REC has been strongly committed to providing environmental information to all key environmental stakeholders — to empower and offer them a stronger opportunity to influence environmental decision-making within their countries and the region at large.

In 1997, the REC's Information Exchange Department (IED) provided ongoing informational services to its traditional users, which include in-house REC experts. IED also expanded its services to new target recipients and entered new fields of information dissemination and media.

**LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES** The REC's environmental library increased in volume, adding topics such as EU accession and climate change so that the library now boasts some 8,000 publications, periodicals, pamphlets, videos and reference guides covering environmental topics affecting all 15 countries of the region. With some 400 visitors in 1997, the REC library is the largest English-language environmental library within the region. The free information request service was popular in 1997, with some 776 requests answered, 85% within five days, covering requests from draft environmental legislation to examples of waste minimisation practices in CEE. REC databases and directories continued to be in high demand, including the Regional Environmental Experts Database (REED), with profiles of over 1,000 environmental professionals — accessed over 8,000 times in 1997 on the REC's Web site.

**ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS** As predicted in 1996, growth in interest in 1997 for the electronic information highway soared in Central and Eastern Europe. The REC's Home Page on the WorldWide Web became exponentially popular, attracting 1.6 million visits by the end of the year (compared to almost 500,000 in 1996). Visits concentrated on the *Daily Environmental News* and the REC's own online databases, directories and *Bulletin* magazine. The Web site also received international acclaim as being among the top five percent of all Internet sites worldwide.

IED's Webmaster successfully helped in the creation of training modules and the training of regional environmentalists. Collaboration with the International Institute for Sustainable Development based in Canada also flourished, leading to the creation of the SD Gateway — integrating the knowledge of a network of sustainable development organisations worldwide — and a program for IISD internships at REC headquarters. The seeds were also sown for IED's involvement in the growing field of *telematics* — using

sophisticated electronic communications technologies to disseminate EU environment and transport related information throughout the region.

**PUBLICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS** Publications continued to be a key product of the IED and of projects throughout the organisation. An updated *Government And Environment Directory* was released at year's end providing contact information for governmental organisations with environmental responsibilities for the whole region. The third edition of the *NGO Directory* was finalised, listing over 2,700 NGOs in the REC's 15 target countries, a major increase from 1,681 in the previous edition and proof of the major growth of civil society within the region. The REC essay series also continued with *Beyond Borders: East-East Cooperation Among NGOs in Central and Eastern Europe*. All REC publications are fully searchable on the REC's Website.

The REC's quarterly newsletter, *The Bulletin*, increasingly evolved into an environmental magazine for the region. A new "thematic" approach was implemented, including in-depth, investigative feature stories such as the summer floods in Central Europe and the rebirth of the environment in post-war Bosnia and Herzegovina. Subscriptions to *The Bulletin* grew, as did visits online via the REC Home Page, totalling some 120,000 for the year with a 90 percent average monthly growth rate.

**SERVICES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISTS** IED made major advances toward creating new services for environmental journalists, in order that their reporting lead to increased environmental awareness in the region. A major *Environmental Media Conference* was held at REC headquarters for Hungarian journalists to improve their environmental reporting skills. Preparations were also made to initiate a new *Media Information Service* for environmental journalists in all 15 countries of the region, providing concise information on environmental topics, experts and news ideas. IED also hosted an event on-site at the REC for the *International Federation of Environmental Journalists* which held their annual conference in Budapest in September.

**RESEARCH ACTIVITIES** In 1997, the REC became one of 22 collaborating centres in a UNEP worldwide network created to help produce UNEP's second *Global Environmental Outlook, GEO-2*. The REC became responsible for assessing and editing information on current policy responses and the impact of international conventions on CEE countries.



## GRANTS

A major priority of the REC in 1997 continued to be the financial support of projects managed by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in all of its constituent countries.

One major goal is the development of strong NGO projects which have high impact in solving priority environmental problems. Another is the creation of a strong NGO network within the framework of a civil society in order to promote public participation in environmental decision-making and to support NGO partnerships with governments and businesses.

**LOCAL GRANTS** Grant giving under the *Local Grants Program* (LGP) is coordinated by the REC's Local Office network, with offices in each of the REC's 15 beneficiary countries. Calls for NGO projects are usually made quarterly, with applications accepted in local languages. Each Local Office is assisted in proposal evaluation by an independent Local Advisory Board composed of local environmental experts.

The maximum amount of grant available varies from country to country, but does not exceed ECU 5,000 per NGO per year. In 1997, the REC awarded 279 grants worth a total of ECU 261,402.

NGOs are supported for their operating and equipment expenses, training and education activities and for local environmental projects and events. Examples of grant-winning projects included a campaign for the protection of Macedonian caves, recultivation of destroyed land in Bosnia and Herzegovina, coastal monitoring activities in Estonia, an initiative for the development of the "European Stork Village" eco-tourism initiative in Croatia, and radio broadcasting in Bulgaria to increase public awareness of environmental problems. The LGP is also seen as an educational tool for NGOs which are assisted by Local Offices to strengthen their organisations and project skills.

Financial support for local grants came from the EU Phare Multi-Country Programme for the Environment, the Finnish Ministry of Environment, USAID, the Croatian State Directorate for the Environment and the Royal Dutch Embassy.

**SPECIAL LOCAL GRANT PROGRAMS** The REC's Czech and Polish Local Offices administered the *Black Triangle Grants Program*, sponsored by the EU's Phare Multi-Country Programme for the Environment. Czech and Polish NGOs were awarded some ECU 50,000 for 31 projects in support of rehabilitating the highly polluted Black Triangle region, which stretches across areas of the Czech Republic, Germany and Poland.

Czech winners included a project aimed at mapping cycle paths throughout the Triangle while Polish winners included a project to produce a monthly, trilingual publication devoted to environmental problems in the Black Triangle.

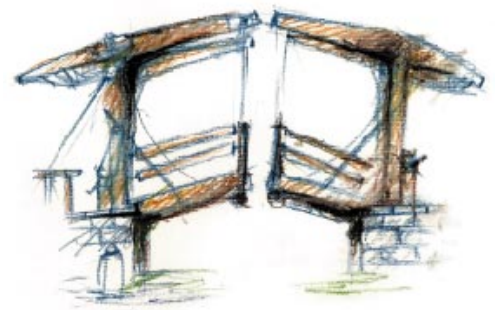
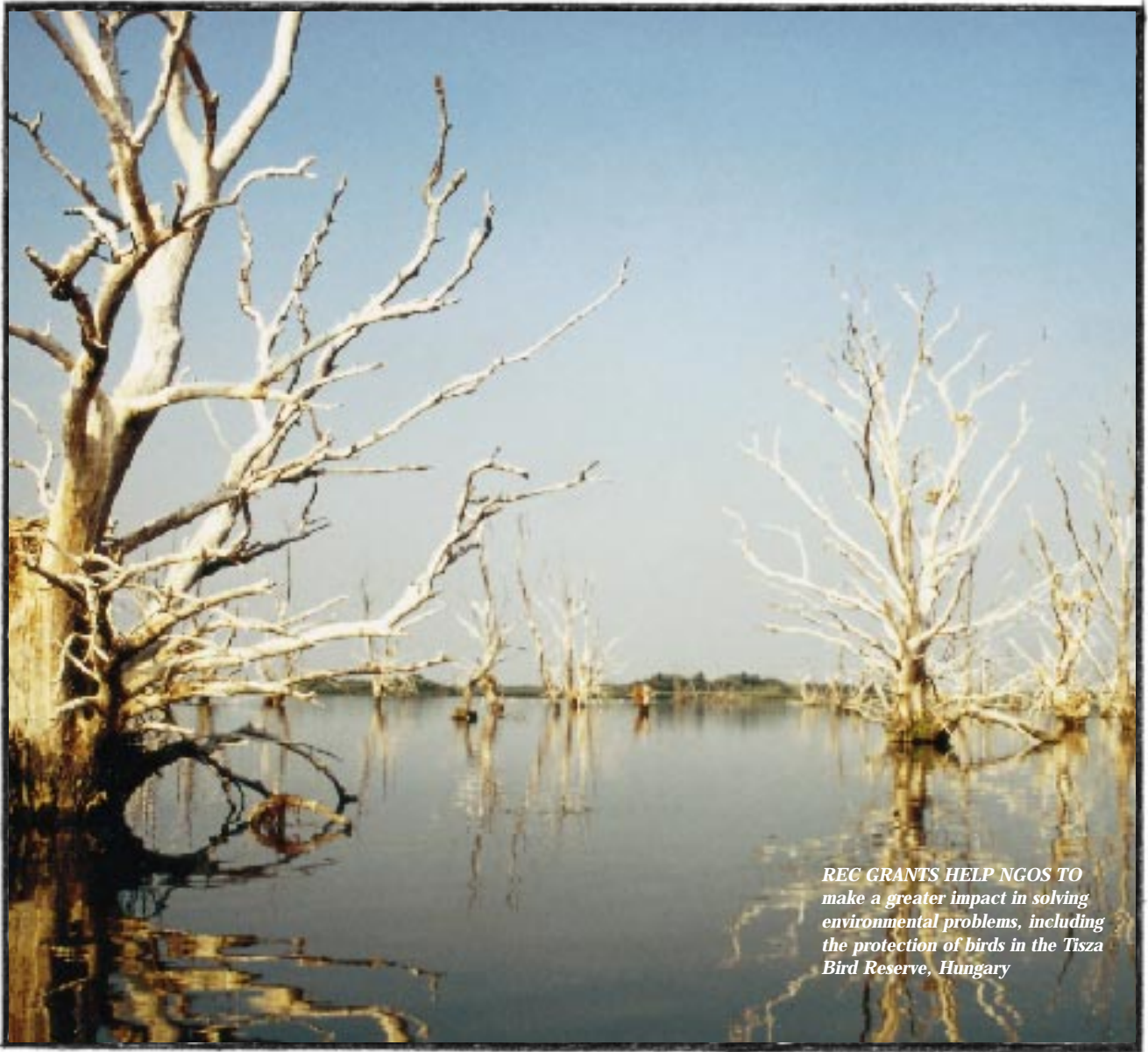
Another program was coordinated by the REC's Local Office in Slovenia — a special Small Project Fund to protect the beautiful caves and surroundings of the Kras region. Part of a Slovenian national program with support from *Phare's Cross-Border Cooperation Programme*, the small grants fund had ECU 121,000 available.

**REGION-WIDE ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS** These grants foster cooperation between stakeholders by requiring NGOs to reach beyond country borders to cooperate with partners from other countries, while seeking dialogue with local businesses, governments and schools.

The 1997 Call for Tender for *Cooperative Environmental Projects* offered a maximum of ECU 25,000 for NGO projects. From 61 brief concept proposals received, eight projects were selected by an expert panel with the result being that 31 NGOs from 15 different countries will work together to address a wide range of environmental issues. The total amount awarded for all cooperative projects in 1997 was ECU 122,273.

One award, a REC first, was granted for a cooperative project between Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Slovenia and Yugoslavia, with Scout groups from each country working together to forge a new curriculum on environmental education. Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian NGOs will develop a system to solve land-use conflicts through mediation and negotiation. And Czech and Slovakian NGOs will help municipalities reduce their solid waste.

The special *Road to Aarhus* grant program enabled CEE NGOs to prepare for and actively participate in the Environment for Europe process and the Fourth Environmental Ministerial Conference to be held in Aarhus, Denmark in June of 1998. The call was made possible through generous donations from the Danish Ministry of Environment and the European Commission's DG XI. Nine proposals — four from the NIS and five from CEE — were selected involving a network of NGOs in many countries focusing on topics from government-NGO cooperation to environmental management systems.





## CAPACITY BUILDING

Countries within the region of Central and Eastern Europe have some of the best school systems and highest education standards in the world, particularly in the fields of science and mathematics. To continue these high levels of education and training at the adult level, the REC's Capacity Building Department (CBD) offers budding and experienced professionals in the environmental sector opportunities to improve their skills and capacities, in order to train others in the field and lead environmental progress in the region. CBD achieves this by fostering development both at the individual level and at the institutional level.

**JUNIOR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM** The Junior Fellowship Program is one of the REC's most popular and effective programs for developing the capacity of young environmentalists, many of which go on to become influential leaders in the region. The program provides participants with valuable experience at an international environmental organisation, and encourages the development of new relationships and the exchange of experiences.

Fellows come to the REC's headquarters for one month of practical training on many aspects of NGO management, from fundraising and budgeting to proposal writing and computer applications. At the Center, fellows have the opportunity to use REC facilities and resources and to network with staff and other environmental experts from the region. In 1997, the program hosted 37 fellows from 17 countries in the CEE region and opened its doors to others outside the region, provided that they had secured their own funding.

### ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT TRAINING CENTER NETWORK (EMTC)

The EMTC Network aims to support leading environmental training institutions in the region by initiating and coordinating international environmental training projects and facilitating the exchange of experience and expertise among members. In 1997, two demand-driven projects on European environmental legislation were completed in five countries of the Danube basin. More than 200 individuals and institutions have joined the network, marking an increase of 65 percent from 1996. The network's quarterly newsletter *Insight* now delivered around the world developed into one of the only environmental training publications in the region, addressing global international debates such as climate change and its relation to capacity building in the region.

### IN-HOUSE CAPACITY BUILDING

A number of in-house training events took place at the REC in 1997, the most notable being the *High Performance Teams for Sustainable Development Training* workshop — the REC's first attempt to address issues of sustainable development through a training format. Other training included 37 hands-on sessions in computer literacy, delivered successfully to headquarters staff. A one-day introductory training session on *Project Management* was designed, delivered to and well-received by REC Local Offices as part of the Local Office Network Meeting. And one-day workshops on project management were developed and delivered in the REC headquarters for REC staff.

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

**JAPAN SPECIAL FUND** Established in 1993 and sponsored by the government of Japan, the Japan Special Fund (JSF) operates independently within the framework of the REC to help develop market-based solutions to environmental problems in CEE countries, generally in the form of technical assistance.

For 1997, in an area of the Ziar Valley in Slovakia, a JSF environmental assessment led to proposals for the remediation of contaminated soil and optimal land use. A major result was the securing of bilateral aid for extensive technical assistance from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for the entire Ziar Valley area. In Poland, the JSF completed a study of the Utrata River, a near-open sewage channel which bisects the city of Warsaw — leading to the identification of technically viable cleanup solutions. In FYR Macedonia, project cooperation between the national government, the REC's Local Office and the project's main beneficiary, MHK Zletovo, a major zinc smelter, led to the immediate implementation of projects suggested by a JSF study commissioned to solve Zletovo's wastewater problems. In Lithuania, a REC/JSF project received substantial co-financing from the Danish EPA for professional hazardous waste management training. And in Albania, although civil unrest delayed completion of a REC/JSF project to bring emergency assistance to rehabilitating water supply infrastructure in the town of Fier, the World Bank remained strongly committed to program implementation.

**NEW REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTERS (NEW RECS)** The process for setting up a "REC-like" organisation for the Newly Independent States (NIS) has been proceeding with the support of the REC since the last inter-ministerial conference in Sofia in 1995. Georgia, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine are the first four countries targeted for *NewRECS*, with implementation being carried out by an International Supervisory Body (ISB) consisting of host country governments and NGOs, partner countries and other international organisations.

The REC has assisted the ISB by attending its meetings and offering advice and support. Within the framework of an EU TACIS-sponsored project, REC staff assisted with the first phase of establishing a NewREC in the Moldovan capital city of Chisinau, including the elaboration of its first annual work plan and organisational structure.

**INTERNATIONAL BRIDGING INITIATIVES** The REC's Conference Department managed to bring a number of significant benefits to the organisation by providing a forum for unique initiatives, networking and the sharing of experiences among the region's diverse stakeholders and nationalities. Some 41 events occurred at the Conference Centre in 1997, organised by REC staff and external clients, including a CEE first in May sponsored by the Hungarian Parliament. During the event, Hungary presented its national environmental action plan (NEAP) to its neighbouring countries to inform them of its actions to satisfy international and transboundary obligations for protecting the environment. Also in May, the REC hosted the first ever regional forum where NGOs from CEE and the NIS could meet with the World Bank and other major world donors to discuss possible avenues of cooperation. And in April, the *Environmental Watchdog Group* of the *European Roundtable of Industrialists (ERI)*, a professional business association of major European companies, met with some 20 Hungarian business executives to discuss environmental problems faced by the Hungarian business community.





## REPORT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

We have audited the balance sheet of the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (the Organization) as at December 31, 1997 in accordance with International Standards on Auditing.

In our opinion, the balance sheet gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the Organization at December 31, 1997 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the period that ended in accordance with International Accounting Standards.

**ERNST & YOUNG**  
Budapest, Hungary  
February 12, 1998

### The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe BALANCE SHEETS (All amounts in ECU 000's)

	DECEMBER 31, 1997			DECEMBER 31, 1996	
	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Conference Center	Total Funds	1996* Total
<b>ASSETS</b>					
<b>Current Assets:</b>					
Cash	530	353	0	883	905
Term deposits	372	1,527	0	1,899	1,669
Prepaid expenses and accrued income	97	46	0	143	434
Receivables	0	2,718	0	2,718	802
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>4,644</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,643</b>	<b>3,810</b>
Fixed assets, net	627	72	12	711	496
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1626</b>	<b>4,716</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6,354</b>	<b>4,306</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>					
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>					
Advance payments	747	0	0	747	1444
Accounts payable and accruals	151	3119	7	3277	549
Grants payable	263	258		521	579
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>1161</b>	<b>3377</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4,545</b>	<b>2,572</b>
Interfund transfers	(1,046)	984	62	0	0
Fund balances	1,511	355	(57)	1,809	1,734
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>1,626</b>	<b>4,716</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6,354</b>	<b>4,306</b>

Note: This is a short form of the accounts. For the complete form please see the audited financial statement.

\* The accounting period for 1996 covered 14 months as accounts were transferred to the foundation under new legal identity.

The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe  
STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENSE AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (All amounts in ECU 000's)

	12 MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1997			14 MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1996	
	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Conference Center	Total Funds	1996 Total
<b>REVENUES</b>					
Cash contributions	686	3,276	0	3,962	4,446
Internal charges	1,027			1,027	
Interest income	44	62	0	106	121
Other	152	0	67	219	189
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>1,909</b>	<b>3,338</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>5,314</b>	<b>4,756</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Direct program expenses	1,031	1,597	124	2,752	2,655
Internal charges		1,027		1,027	
Grants awards	140	695	0	835	1,204
Administration	623	0		623	1,149
Depreciation	127	0		127	124
Foreign exchange gain/loss	(124)	(5)		(129)	(252)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,797</b>	<b>3,314</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>5,235</b>	<b>4,880</b>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses:	112	24	(57)	79	(124)
Fund Balances at the beginning of the year	1,378	356	0	1,734	1,858
Interfund equilibration	21	(25)	0	(4)	
<b>FUND BALANCES AT THE END OF YEAR</b>	<b>1,511</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>(57)</b>	<b>1,809</b>	<b>1,734</b>

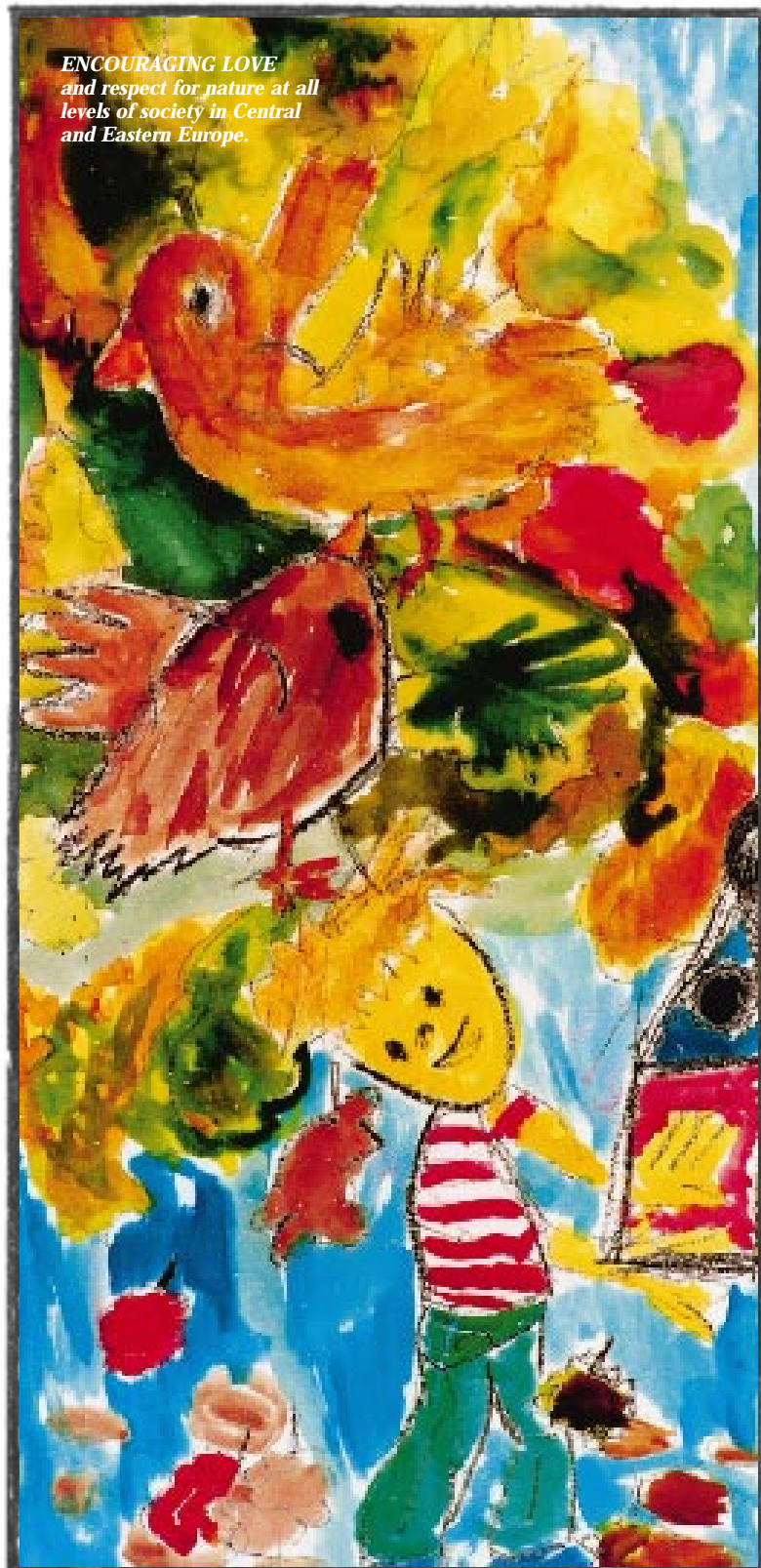


Charles Bridge, Prague, Czech Republic



# REGION-WIDE GRANTS

COOPERATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS			
COUNTRY	PROJECT TITLE	NGO	ECU
<i>(organized with leading NGO country first)</i>			
Slovenia Bosnia and Herzegovina Croatia	Certification of Ecological Farms in Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina	Institute For Sustainable Development Bosnian Environmental Technologies Association Croatian Environmental Education Center	20,000
Czech Republic Slovakia	Supporting Reduction and Recycling of Municipal Waste in the Czech Republic and Slovakia	Hnutí Duha Spolocnost Priatelov Zeme	10,000
Yugoslavia Bosnia and Herzegovina Bosnia and Herzegovina Croatia FYR Macedonia Slovenia	Environmental Activities for the Scout Program	Yugoslav Scout Association Scout Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina Scout Association of Republika Srpska Scout Association of Croatia Scout Association of Macedonia Scout Association of Slovenia	18,106
Hungary Croatia Slovenia Yugoslavia	Central European Salamander Year	Toad Action Group Society Of Nature Protection Croatia Slovenian Herpetological Society Wildlife Conservation Society "Mustela"	22,000
Bulgaria Bulgaria Bulgaria Yugoslavia Yugoslavia Yugoslavia Yugoslavia	Establishing a Transboundary Park in West Stara Plannina Mountain	Green Balkans Tchiprovtsi Regional Society ECO- Club 2000 Biological Society "Sara Petrovic" Eko-Center For Socio-Ecological Research and Documentation Young Researchers Of Serbia Wildlife Conservation Society "Mustela"	17,449
Slovakia Czech Republic Hungary	Communities in Action: Regional Watershed Revitalization Project	SOSNA Veronika Holocen Nature Protection Organization	21,000
Latvia Estonia Lithuania	Conflict Resolution and Mediation for Land-use and Property Rights in the Baltic Countries	University Of Latvia Ecological Centre Centre For Ecological Engineering Lithuanian Fund For Nature	13,718
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>122,273</b>
AARHUS GRANTS			
COUNTRY	PROJECT TITLE	NGO	ECU
Slovenia	Pan-European NGO Coalition Secretariat and Focal Point for Central Eastern Europe	Gaja Association For Sustainable Development of Society	24,726
Russia	Preparation of a Recommendation on the Topic: How to Improve International Cooperation	Coordination Center of the Citizens' Movement EcoCenter Dront	22,251
Hungary	Biodiversity NGOs Coalition for Aarhus	Central and Eastern European Working Group for the Enhancement of Biodiversity (CEEWEB)	20,804
Ukraine	Public Participation in the NIS: An Independent Assessment of the Current Status and Trends (Report)	Charitable Foundation Ecopravo	25,214
Ukraine	Sofia+3: The NGO Evaluation of the National Environmental Action Plans in NIS Countries	The Civil Initiative Organization	24,112
Poland	Working Out Proposals for Cooperation Between Environmental Authorities and NGOs	Polish Environmental Law Association	20,542
Russia	Preparation from NIS countries for the Biodiversity Report and its submission to the Aarhus Ministerial Conference	Biodiversity Conservation Center	15,841
Czech Republic	CEE Business Industry NGOs Contribution to Aarhus	Czech Environmental Management Center (CEMC)	5,000
Bulgaria	Independent Assessment with Regard to the Implementation of "UN/ECE Guidelines"	Borrowed Nature Association	25,000
Hungary	Providing Tools for Local Agenda 21 Programs in CEE	Center For Environmental Studies	20,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>203,490</b>



# LOCAL GRANTS

ALBANIA		
GROUP NAME	SHORT DESCRIPTION	USD
Association of Young Ecologists Tirana	"The best message that nature gives us"	1,250
Mass media and Environment Association Tirana	Environmental poster	240
Albanian Ecological Club - Tirana	Public awareness activity for June 5th	250
Aquarius - Tirana	We-You-Together	250
PPNEA Tirana	Public awareness for green areas in Tirana	163
PNL - Tirana	Support for public awareness	100
Association Transboundary Nature - Korca	Our Nature	1,000
Association of Biologists of Albania	Public awareness of pollution consequences in Kucova region	1,445
PPNEA - Tirana	Public awareness of Tirana inhabitants in the Kodra e Priftit district	1,500
Tourism and Environment - Pogradec	Water - Our Life	1,000
Hygienist Association of Albania	Survey of chemical weapons stolen from the Albanian military	1,500
Association of Gramshi Environmentalists	Assessing damage in Gramshi forests and suggestions for improvement	1,000
Bird and Mammal Protection Association - Tirana	Assessing situation in Divjaka Karavasta and raising public awareness for its protection	1,294
Geographers' Association of Shkodra	Shkodra urban environment - the basis of our lives	1,130
Kadmi and Harmonia - Pogradec	"Be careful, you are threatened - say STOP!"	837
Albanian Public Health Association	22 September - Day of Clean Cities	200
PPENA Tirana	Local event on 22 September	194
Youth Environmental Club Pearl - Tirana	Photo exhibition	1,614
PNL Club - Tirana	Tree planting during reforestation month	650
Albanian Ecological Club - Elbasan	Photo exhibition of virgin forests of Elbasan	900
Mass Media and Environment	Environmental Dictionary in Albanian	1,080
Albanian Biologists' Association	Endangered species booklet for students	1,737
Albanian Environmental Students' Club	Action to raise the awareness of construction engineers in Tirana	536
Association for Protection of Wild Birds, Animals and Pets	Educational campaign about problems arising from pets	600
Forestry Progress Association	Environmental education on flora and fauna	500
Ecological Club - Librazhd	Reforestation action	664
Environmental Club "Friends of the Environment"	Environmental education of students	460
Public Health Association	Introducing environmental education to middle school target groups	800
Math Association	Study: The environmental Movement from 1993-97	1,000
Pearl - Korca	Organisational development	646
PPNEA - Shkoder	"The Velipoja reserve needs to be protected" - Inventory of the reserve	1,950
Librazhdi's Environmentalists	Identifying the Shkumbini River's polluters	550
Ylber Association - Shkodra	Training of young NGO members	1,400
Crystal Association	Reforestation campaign	991
Young Ecologists' Association	"Our life needs to be more green" - campaign	700
Mass Media and Environment	"Natural monuments in the camera's focus"	1,000
Hygienist Association	Traffic pollution campaign	1,500
<b>TOTAL ALBANIA</b>		<b>32,631</b>
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA		
GROUP NAME	SHORT DESCRIPTION	USD
Unski Smaragdi	Exhibition of school children's paintings	2,550
Center for Civic Cooperation	T-shirts for school children	1,000
Bee Protection Association - Maglaj	Operational costs	1,800
BETA - Sarajevo	Promoting organic agriculture	1,000
Fondeko - Sarajevo	Operational costs	1,100
Narodna Tehnika - Sarajevo	Water monitoring program	1,000
Zeljeznicar- Mountaineers Association	2 Hours - 5 Children Excursion	500
Pedagogical Association of BiH	Recultivation of destroyed land	1,700
Pokret Gorana - Sarajevo	Operational costs	900
Speleo Dodo Association	Operational costs and equipment	3,000
Vidra - Visoko	Documentary film on lake protection	2,950
<b>TOTAL BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA</b>		<b>17,500</b>

**LOCAL GRANTS AWARDED IN 1997**

<b>BULGARIA</b>		
<b>GROUP NAME</b>	<b>SHORT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>USD</b>
Green Balkans - Sofia	Rebuilding destroyed stork nests	198
Youth Environmental Organisation Rhodopi	Organisational registration	108
Eco Clu 2000 - Sofia	Equipment	2,140
Ecoglasnost - Burgas	Equipment	3,700
Association for the Protection of Birds of Prey	Institutional development	1,248
Rousee Environmental Protection Association	Establishment of environmental protection and ecological center "Ecoforum"	1,750
Association for Free Development and Internet Services	Establishment of electronic information center for NGOs	2,320
Students' Club for Environmental Protection	Operational costs	1,100
Center for Independent Journalism Foundation	Public and media opinion concerning the security of nuclear power stations	1,175
Students' Environmental Association - Varna	Perso 97	382
Time Ecoprojects Foundation - Sofia	Radio broadcast for raising public interest on environmental problems	2,000
Foundation for Regional Development "Roma-Plovdiv"	Improvement of the environmental surroundings of the Stolipinovo district in the town of Plovdiv	1,500
Union for Nature Protection - Sofia	Main problems regarding, and contemporary methods for monitoring, atmospheric dust contamination	520
Bulgarian Scouts Organisation	Study trips for identification of places with rare, endangered and protected vegetation species in mountains of Strandza, West and Middle Rhodopi, Rila and Pirin	2,051
Business Woman Club "Eterna"	Example of partnership between NGOs, local governments and private businesses in support of municipal environmental policy	1,800
Bulgarian Ornithological Association - Sofia	Summer camp	1,900
LAMED Foundation	Organising environmental camps	1,100
Borrowed Nature Association	"Who is doing what for the environment in Bulgaria" - 2nd phase	2,850
Photographic Informational Center	Directory of Pirin mountain flora	3,000
Association for Nature Protection - Razgrad	Establishment of Natural Scientific Center	1,500
Green Balkans Sofia	East-East NGO Exchange Program	1,980
Borrowed Nature Association	"Who is doing what for the environment in Bulgaria"	500
EMTC Bulgaria	Training course for planning and fulfilment of projects by NGO representatives	1,500
Regional and Global Development Association - Sofia	Usage of social information in the management of environmental risk	500
Regional Center of the Bulgarian Association for the Protection of Birds	Equipment	1,500
Geo Eco Club Academica	Eco-urbanistic complex Yantra - promotion and public discussion of the problems	1,500
University Rescue Team	Mapping out specific environmental routes in Rila and Pirin Mountains with the participation of children from special schools	1,600
Alpine Club - Edelvais	The Unknown Earth II	1,485
Sustainable World Foundation	Chart for the sustainable development of the Bulgarian landscape	500
Youth Geology and Geography Association	Promotion and protection of environmental and geologic phenomena in the region of Shiroka Laka	1,200
Environmental Club - Codrich	Regional competition of children's drawings "The Earth - Our Home"	227
Students' Club for Nature Protection	Public discussion "Restitution, management and protection of green welfare in Bulgaria"	500
Youth Environmental Organisation - Rhodopi	Forest fires and their effect on biodiversity	500
Public Environmental Center for Sustainable Development	Operational costs	500
Nature Protection Society - Razgrad	Nature survey	500
Eco-Care Association - Varvara Village	Operational costs	350
Wilderness Fund	Computer upgrade	469
Club for the Protection of Flora and Vegetation	Operational costs	150
Ecological Movement "Clean Nature" - Pleven	Institutional strengthening of the ecological movement "Clean Nature"	1,000
Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds	Support for operational costs, youth section of the Bulgarian Bird Protection Society	1,360
Youth Ecological Organisation - Rhodopi	Institutional strengthening and development	1,000
Ecological Society "For the Earth"	Ecological problems from low-, average- and high-level radioactive waste in Bulgaria	860
Alpine Club "Edelweiss"	Unknown Earth - Part 3	1,515
Society for Biodiveristy Protection	Promotion of an informative nature protection route in Vitosha park	830
Foundation "Projects for Sustainable Development" - ETP	Elaboration of municipal programs for waste management activities	1,500
Balkan Scientific and Training Center for Ecology and Environmental Protection	Preliminary study for implementation of a sustainable development program for the borderland region	1,000
National Movement Ecoglasnost	Meeting between NGO representatives and governmental institutions with the MOE	1,000
Black Sea Club - Bourgas	The State of the World 1997	2,850
<b>TOTAL BULGARIA</b>		<b>60,718</b>
<b>CROATIA</b>		
<b>GROUP NAME</b>	<b>SHORT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>USD</b>
Zeleni - Osijek	"Save Jankovac" - brochure	484
Croatian Bio-speleological Society	Protection of bio-speleological objects in Croatia	452
Eko-Liburnia - Rijeka	Strategy for ecological food production in Rijeka County until the year 2015	484
Ecological Society - Slavonski Brod	Equipment	452
Green Action - Zagreb	Environmental protection in the cities of Zagreb County	645
Young Nature Keepers - City Branch - Zagreb	Little Ecology School	484

Croatian Center "Knowledge for Environment"	Initiative for development of eco-tourism in "European Stork Village-Cigoc"	398
Green Action - Zagreb	Legal education for local community	1,250
ES THAIS	Marine, ecological and educational summer camp in National Park "Mjet"	484
Croatian Ecological Society	Active approaches to education in nature protection and identification of freshwater animals	952
Ecological Society Natura - Zagreb	Dolphin Day	435
Mountaineering Society "Matka" - Zagreb	SOS for Velebit	571
Croatian Posavina Horse Breeders Association - Trebarjevo Desno	Promotional materials and catalogue - "Croatian Posavina Horse"	1,258
Ecovast - Krizevci	Sustainable development of rural areas in Croatia	726
<b>TOTAL CROATIA</b>		<b>9,075</b>
<b>ESTONIA</b>		
<b>GROUP NAME</b>	<b>SHORT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>USD</b>
Estonian Naturalists' Society	Creation of malacology section	1,600
Keep Estonian Sea Tidy	Coastal monitoring activities	500
Saaremaa Green Movement	Equipment - printer	400
Kablirand	Protection of Kabli Coast	750
Kotkas	Equipment - modem	206
Estonian Naturalists' Society	Publishing "Rukkilill"	1,000
Estonian Ornithological Society	Introductory course on birds for school children	809
Nature Protection Society of Students of Tartu	Conference on natural observation paths	270
Union of Forest Youth	"The forest is not only for timber"	1,500
Development Board	Mens Sana in Region Tapa Sana	1,200
Parnumaa Bird Club - Buteo	Establishing shelter for protected bird species in south-west Estonia	1,000
Estonian Youth Nature Protection Association	Campaign on recycling	600
<b>TOTAL ESTONIA</b>		<b>9,835</b>
<b>HUNGARY</b>		
<b>GROUP NAME</b>	<b>SHORT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>USD</b>
E-MISSZIO Nature Conservation Association	Equipment	211
Earth Day Foundation	Publication	422
Dunantul Environmental Alliance	Operational costs	264
Bokorliget Foundation	Operational costs	474
Salamandra Association	Annual meeting of Network of Living Waters	422
Friends of City Cycling Association	Monitor	237
Ecoservice Foundation	Operational costs	843
Environmental Association of Zemplen	Operational costs	379
Environmental Association of Hatvan	Operational costs	422
Juniper (Boroka) Foundation	Szilas River program	264
Herman Otto Nature Conservation Circle	Environmental Center	369
Csongrad Environmental and Nature Conservation Society	Operational costs	264
Blue Spring Environmental and Nature Conservation Society	Water World Day program	264
Del-Nyirseg-Bihari Landscape Protection Association	Publication	737
Esztergom Environmental Culture Association	Operational costs	264
Local Waste Re-Use and Management Association	Selective waste management	316
GATE Green Club	Annual meeting of green NGOs	1,579
Kiss Ferenc Csongrad County Nature Conservation Association	Local biodiversity program	527
Abauj Environmental and Nature Conservation Society	Operational costs	179
Kerekdomb Environmental Association	Training, operational costs	158
Alba Regia Youth and Leisure Association	Cycling program	264
Green-Tales Circle	Operational costs	264
Drying Well Movement	Environmental education	264
Zsambek Basin Landscape Protection Association	Operational costs	211
Today for Tomorrow Association	Collection of used frying fat	248
<b>TOTAL HUNGARY</b>		<b>9,844</b>
<b>LATVIA</b>		
<b>GROUP NAME</b>	<b>SHORT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>USD</b>
Liepaja Mazpulki Organisation, Liepaja Branch	Sand figures on Pavilosta seashore	700
Latvian Society of Biological Agriculture Organisations	Promoting environmentally-friendly agriculture patterns in international exhibition	512
DPU DIVIC Riga branch	Publication for Daugava River exhibition	697
Latvia Nature and Monument Protection Society - Kuldiga Branch	Seminar camp "My parish"	443
Latvian Ornithological Society	Ativiekste River floodplains near Laudona	612
Alazi Adults Training and Cultural Center	Alazi Parish natural inventory and clean-up campaigns	1,512
DPU Divic Limbazi Branch	Us and Nature Around Us	200

**LOCAL GRANTS AWARDED IN 1997**

<b>LATVIA CONTINUED</b>		
Arkadija Branch of Environmental Protection Club	Clean-up campaign of center district of Riga	684
Latvian Nature and Monument Protection Society	Raunas Starburgas conservation activities	700
Tervete Development Club	Development of nature research center within Tervete Development Fund	993
Latvian Ornithological Society	White storks in Latvia	1,591
DPU Divic	Children's ecological drawings exhibition "Nature fairy tale"	310
<b>TOTAL LATVIA</b>		<b>5,990</b>
<b>LITHUANIA</b>		
<b>GROUP NAME</b>	<b>SHORT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>USD</b>
"Liejepija" Ecological Club	Plunge District conference for young naturalists	1,400
Moletai Branch of the Society for a More Beautiful Lithuania	Children's Club	2,000
Lithuanian Association of Ecological Agriculture "Gaja"	Organisational development	240
Lithuanian Geological Society	Ecological fieldwork camp for young geologists	1,500
Rusne Fund for Nature	Land use and nature conservation on the Isle of Rusne	1,500
Lithuanian Ornithological Society	School of young bird and bat watchers	1,200
Siauliai Young Ecologists Club "Terra"	"The Way of a Water Drop" from Siauliai Town	220
Siauliai Club for the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage "Aukuras"	Cherishing nature and cultural heritage	2,182
Ekoagras Public Organisation	Organisational development	875
Lithuanian Geologists' Union	Seminar for ecological education and environmental protection	850
Coastal Region Environmental Protection Society	Attracting public involvement in nature conservation	900
Trakai Community of Lithuanian Nature Conservation Society	Exhibition of Christmas and New Year decorations	252
Inter-School Club of Environmental Studies - Viola	1997 report of scholars' research on biodiversity and ecosystems	1,400
Center of Environmental Education in Siauliai	Wells - What Kind of Water Do We Drink?	650
Lithuanian Society of Foresters - Forest House "Girios aidas"	Environmental education of adolescents	988
Lithuanian Ornithologist Society	Environmental education and conservation magazine "Baltasis Gandras"	3,000
Publishing Institution "Green Lithuania"	Publishing the newspaper of the Lithuanian Green Movement	1,612
<b>TOTAL LITHUANIA</b>		<b>20,769</b>
<b>FYR MACEDONIA</b>		
<b>GROUP NAME</b>	<b>SHORT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>USD</b>
Ecological Association - Lipa Kumanovo	Public campaign for the Kumanovo Spa	2,145
Ecological Association of Macedonia	Environmental musical composition	1,450
Speleological Association "Peoni"	Caves - Destroyed Treasures	2,220
Ecological Association - Zdravec	Environmental education in elementary and secondary schools	1,300
Research Association of Biology Students	Experiencing the natural beauty of Sar Planina	3,000
SID - Eureka	Environmental camp - Katlanovo Matka	2,800
Molika - Bitola	Eco Document	1,020
Association for the protection of nature in Macedonia	Publishing booklet about Sar Planina	1,750
Scout Association "Bran" - Ohrid	Establishment of Environmental Centre	1,000
Scout Association "Krstje Jon Struga"	Equipment	2,500
Scout Organisation "Dimitar Vlahov"	Environmental Scout Academy	1,895
Scout Union of Macedonia	Let's Clean Up Macedonia	2,300
Association for Bird Protection Strumica	Campaign for the protection of Monospitovo wetlands	2,180
Ecological Association - Lisec	Ecological Perspective of Vinica	320
Izgrez Ecological Association	Public involvement for protection of forest in St. Nikole	1,846
Javor Ecological Association	Environmental survey of Zirnovci Village	1,400
Ecological Association - Molika	Water monitoring	1,884
Journalist Environmental Center	Workshop on access to information	2,645
Ecological Association - Prilep	Small environmental talks	550
Ecological Association - Povisnica	Environmental floral photographs	890
Ecological Association - Zletovica	Anti-litter campaign	1,364
<b>TOTAL MACEDONIA</b>		<b>36,459</b>
<b>POLAND</b>		
<b>GROUP NAME</b>	<b>SHORT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>USD</b>
Biebrzanskie Society	Introducing the concept of sustainable farming in the Biebrza River Valley	1,345
Friends of Michow Society	Local projects and events to raise environmental awareness	1,093
Workshop for All Beings - Nowy Sacz Chapter	Operational costs	1,600
Gaia Club	Bajka of the Gaia Club	1,250
Polish Ecological Club - Lubusian Chapter	Computer	1,064
Green Federation - Warsaw	Environmental campaign "Bicycles on Their Own Path"	2,531
Foundation for the Support of Environmental Initiatives	Continuation of activities and development of "Green Brigades" Publishing House	3,324
Society for the Protection of the Bialowieza Forest	Information Center for the Campaign to Protect the Bialowieza Forest	1,194
<b>TOTAL POLAND</b>		<b>13,401</b>

ROMANIA		
GROUP NAME	SHORT DESCRIPTION	USD
Ecological Society of Maramures - Baia Mare	Tisa Superior - area of international importance for biodiversity protection	2,800
Ecosens '94 - Bucharest	"Better informed for a proper environment"	687
Silva	Pamantul si noi	410
Romanian Ornithological Society	Documentary film "Randunica"	2,220
Ecotop Foundation for Culture and Ecological Education	Earth Day - "Together for the park"	1,017
Tourism Club Concordia - Resita	Concordia '97	410
Protector 2010 - Bucharest	"SOS for the parks of Bucharest"	1,000
Romanian Society for Optimisation of Energy Consumption - Craiova	Urban transportation and its impact on the environment	1,350
Gnome's Land - Suceava Branch - Suceava	Operational costs	1,250
Wildlife Foundation - Focsani	Earth Day 1997	720
Speleological Association "Explorers" - Resita	Save the natural reserves	800
Friends of the Earth - Galati	Equipment	950
Banat-Ja Bergfreunde - Timisoara	Youth and Environment newsletter	670
Ecotour - Sibiu	Equipment for environmental education programs	2,750
Ecological Club Bios - Sibiu	Ecosat 1 - including environmental protection into the current activities of local rural area administrations	3,327
Ecosens '94 - Bucharest	Bucharest Recycling Guide	3,665
Banat-Ja Bergfreunde - Timisoara	Youth and Environment newsletter	1,830
Ecological Group for Cooperation - Oravita	Public awareness brochure, office equipment	1,100
Speleological Club Emil Racovita - Bucharest	Donation of environmental-related books to county libraries	195
Rhododendron - Tirgu Mures	EE-TIPs Network	805
Ecomond - Arad	Equipment - scanner	445
Carpatho-Danubian Geo-Ecological Center	National Park iron gates	2,215
Centras Bucharest	NGO Forum	2,350
The Regional Center for Ecological Surveillance - Oradea	Parks for Life	2,650
Ecological and Tourism Club "Moldavia" Pascani	NGO Network - Ecological protection of Siret River	410
Romanian Radiological Protection Society	Measurement of radiation in Craiova, Cernavoda and Bucharest	2,400
Wildlife Foundation - Focsani	Institutional development	1,800
Center for a New Education for Children	"Our friend, nature!"	2,640
Transylvanian Ecological Club - Cluj Napoca	Territorial arrangement and environmental protection - from principles to case studies	3,870
The Group for Underwater and Speleological Exploration	Computer upgrade	2,000
ECO ALPEX 024 - Braila	Environmental caricature	1,800
Tourism and Nature Protection Association - Miercurea Ciuc	Lunca Mare Project - The first ecological park initiated by an NGO	2,445
Romanian Village Foundation - Iasi	Rural Ecology Center	1,400
Albamont - Alba Iulia	East-East NGO Exchange Program	1,470
Romanian Radiological Protection Society	Measurement of radiation in Craiova, Cernavoda and Bucharest	300
Wildlife Foundation - Focsani	Equipment	2,045
Ecological Group for Cooperation	Editing of the 3rd issue of "Re-Mediu" magazine	4,950
Romanian Lepidopterological Society - Cluj	"The butterflies of Romania and their message"	1,990
Ecological Consultancy Center - Galati	Water quality education materials	1,450
AVES Foundation	Environmental education through posters	3,775
Romanian Environmental Journalist Association	"Perspective" - an environmental magazine	2,100
Romanian Association of Nature Lovers	Institutional development	2,625
Technical Foundation for Environmental Protection	Environmental information in the Iasi county	175
Friends of the Earth - Galati	Equipment	3,720
Philatelists' Association	Philatelic exhibition - Forest Month - 10th edition	600
Association for Local Development "Save the Danube Delta"	Determination of the most important pollution sources of lagoon waters	2,650
Association for Local Development "Save the Danube Delta"	Institutional development	1,223
Gestionnaires Sans Frontieres	Equipment	1,900
Speleological Club Emil Racovita - Bucharest	Equipment	1,470
<b>TOTAL ROMANIA</b>		<b>86,824</b>
SLOVAKIA		
GROUP NAME	SHORT DESCRIPTION	USD
For Mother Earth	European ecological park in Bratislava	500
Association KOZA	Summer work camp - Buckova Jama	500
Association of Environmental Businesses in Slovakia	Co-generation units, possibilities of energy savings in households and bio-fuels	500
Association KOZA Zvolen	Care of important natural areas	380
Energy 2000	Information campaign on alternative energy in Slovakia	1,000
Fauna and Flora	Ecological Village 1997	200
Association of Nature Protectors PCOLA	Campaign for energy savings	850
For Mother Earth	Eco-camp and energy-saving brigades 1997	1,800

LOCAL GRANTS AWARDED IN 1997

SLOVAKIA CONTINUED

Public Association Podhorie	Establishment of Water Group (society)	600
SZOPK Basic Group - Ekotrend	Conference and working meeting of CEC/IUCN for biodiversity and sustainable lifestyles	100
SZOPK - City Group	Activities in environmental education	850
Foundation SOSNA	"Find Your Farmer"	360
Society for Sustainable Living	Seminar, conference	1,210
<b>TOTAL SLOVAKIA</b>		<b>8,850</b>

SLOVENIA

GROUP NAME	SHORT DESCRIPTION	USD
The Institute for Sustainable Development	Presentation of NGO Activities during the event "NGOs in the Parliament"	319
LABECO - Center for Ecological Research	Presentation of NGO Activities during the event "NGOs in the Parliament"	220
VITRA - Center for Sustainable Development	Presentation of NGO Activities during the event "NGOs in the Parliament"	290
Ecological Group EKOS Zasavje	Presentation of NGO Activities during the event "NGOs in the Parliament"	230
Slovenian E-Forum	Presentation of NGO Activities during the event "NGOs in the Parliament"	370
Association of Environmental Protection Societies	Presentation of NGO Activities during the event "NGOs in the Parliament"	250
DOPPS, Society for Observing and Researching of Birds	Presentation of NGO Activities during the event "NGOs in the Parliament"	255
The Institute for Renewable Energy	Presentation of NGO Activities during the event "NGOs in the Parliament"	250
Society for Cultural and Ecological Research - Koper	Presentation of NGO Activities during the event "NGOs in the Parliament"	250
The Institute for Sustainable Development	Presentation of NGO Activities during the event "NGOs in the Parliament"	260
ICRO Domzale, The Institute for Integral Development and Environment	Presentation of NGO Activities during the event "NGOs in the Parliament"	250
Society Livingreen	Presentation of NGO Activities during the event "NGOs in the Parliament"	225
Naturalistic Society of Slovenia	Presentation of NGO Activities during the event "NGOs in the Parliament"	400
Herpetological Society of Slovenia	Presentation of NGO Activities during the event "NGOs in the Parliament"	266
GAJA, Society for Sustainable Development	Presentation of NGO Activities during the event "NGOs in the Parliament"	266
Society for Promotion and Education for Health in Slovenia	Establishment of new environmental groups in Slovenia	1,000
Retina	Information support for the event "NGOs in the Parliament"	350
Foundation for Better Road Safety	Influence of Traffic on Environment - round table of experts	500
Society for Quality of Work and Living in the City	Decentralisation and Democracy in Local Self-management	500
Tourist Society Kapele	Jovski - Natural monument	2,500
VITRA - Center for Sustainable Development	East-East NGO Exchange Program	2,000
Permacultural Society of Slovenia	European Permaculture Conference	317
Slovene Odonatological Society	Bloska planota - the Jewel of Notranjska	3,000
The Institute for Sustainable Development	Office rent	500
The Institute for Sustainable Development	Ecological agriculture system development	500
Retina	Preparation of action plan for Computer Environmental Net	500
<b>TOTAL SLOVENIA</b>		<b>15,768</b>

YUGOSLAVIA

GROUP NAME	SHORT DESCRIPTION	USD
Young Researchers of Belgrade	Monitoring of environmental promotion project	750
Leskovac Ecological Movement	Providing drinking water in Leskovac and Bojnik communities	400
Ecological Movement of Irig	"We live with nature as nature lives with us"	350
Community Center "The Family of Clean Streams"	Weekend soul renewal	500
Young Ecologists of Montenegro	Equipment	900
Vlasina Ecological Movement	Clean-up campaign of the banks of the Vlasina River	500
Vlasina Ecological Movement	Awareness-raising to preserve forests	500
Eko Center Razlicak	Equipment	900
Ekoman	Rural architecture workshop	400
Ekolibri-Bionet	Instruction seminar "Biodiversity - standards and criteria"	400
Vrelo Society	Bulletin	400
Society for the protection of wild animals "Mustela"	Equipment	900
Gyps Fulvus Foundation	Educational program on the importance of Griffon Vultures	400
Society for the Protection of Djetinja river	Paradise Islands - Ecological Oasis	800
<b>TOTAL YUGOSLAVIA</b>		<b>8,100</b>

# BLACK TRIANGLE GRANTS

CZECH REPUBLIC		
GROUP NAME	SHORT DESCRIPTION	USD
Environmental Center Meluzina RC AB	Operational costs	2,000
UESS-SPODEK-AB	Summer camp "Meluzina"	400
Foundation for the Research and Restoration of the Jizera Mountains	Increasing ecological stability of forests in the SE area of the regional biocenter "Jedlový důl"	2,000
CZ-Biom	Using plant biomass for energy in the Podkrusnohorský region	3,000
Foundation Biospheric Nature Reserve "Krkonoše" (BRK)	Technical equipment	462
Friends of Nature	"Ústecko - A Place to Live"	1,338
Civic Association - Our Region (Nas Kraj)	Mapping possibilities for agrotourism in the Jizera and Luzické Mountains	1,200
Lemberk Foundation	Preparation of an exhibition on the environment in the BTG region	2,700
Purposeful Association of Municipalities "Slavkovský les" for Renewal of Country	Bike paths in CHKO Slavkovský les	1,000
Vladar Association of Municipalities of Zluticko Region	Bike paths in Zluticko region	1,000
Agentura Koniklec	Children's parliament for environment	1,500
Center for Environmental Analyses	Operational costs and seminars	1,500
Fokus - Association for Care of Mental Patients	Building a playground with participation of patients	2,000
Brontosaurus Kronose	Creating a model regional system of environmental education	1,500
Deti Zeme	Environmental Pollution in West Bohemia and Health of Citizens	1,700
Civic Association for Rescue and Environmental Prosperity of Mlýnský and Lucní Brooks	Promoting alternative recreation in the Vesec Valley near Liberec	1,400
Deti Zeme-Liberec	Pilot project - Protection of damaged forests in the Jizera Mountains	800
Foundation Project "SEVER"	Comparison of citizen exposure to dust and sulphur dioxide in the Czech area of the Black Triangle	2,000
Rosnátka - ZC HB	Regional Environmental Center "Boží Dar"	1,500
Foundation - Rock Protection in the Czech Chalk Basin	Renewal of eroded ground and tourist paths in the Hrubá Skála region	1,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>30,000</b>
POLAND		
GROUP NAME	SHORT DESCRIPTION	USD
Foundation for the Support of Alternative and Ecological Culture	Wolimierz Station for the Green Triangle - a series of workshops and lectures	4,798
Association Civil Committee of the Klodzko Region	Environmental supplement to "Oficyna Pod Róża Klodzko" in the "Ziemia Klodzka" monthly	3,703
Polish Ecological Club Lower Silesian Branch Circle - Nowa Ruda	Educational session on the environmental risks in the municipality of Nowa Ruda	1,102
Foundation of Olawa and Nysa Klodzka - Wrocław	Article on cleaner production in "KROPLA" - a magazine for the Black Triangle	1,328
Foundation of Olawa and Nysa Klodzka - Wrocław	Clean trips - a cycling route in the Black Triangle	2,970
Association of Regional Development "The Pearl of Baroque"	Inventory and classification of illegal waste dumps in the municipality of Kamienna Góra	2,884
Association in Support of Man: Integration, Tolerance, Revival, Independence "ITON"	Improving the living environment in Swidnica	2,317
Karkonosze Foundation - The Office of Bilateral Biosphere Reserve	Comprehensive environmental education workshop series "Green Krkonoše"	2,214
Karkonosze Foundation - Regional Sustainable Development Center	Setting up an NGO editorial board	1,760
Karkonosze Foundation - Regional Sustainable Development Center	Equipment	344
Society of Stolowe Mountains Friends	Seminar - Role of protected areas in raising environmental awareness of local communities	1,365
Foundation for Ecological Culture	Sustainable methods of flood prevention - an international conference on flooding in south Poland, Czech Republic and Slovakia	4,470
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>29,246</b>

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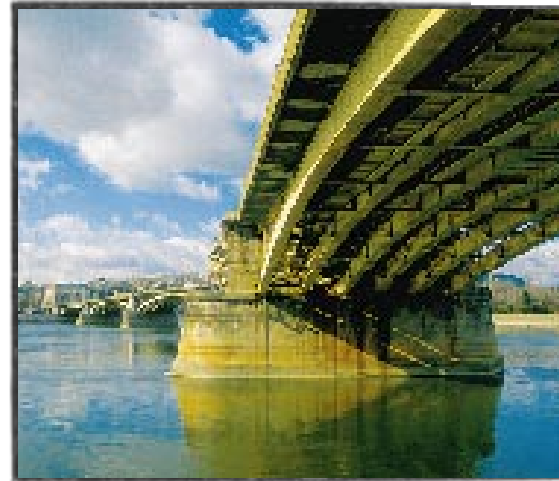
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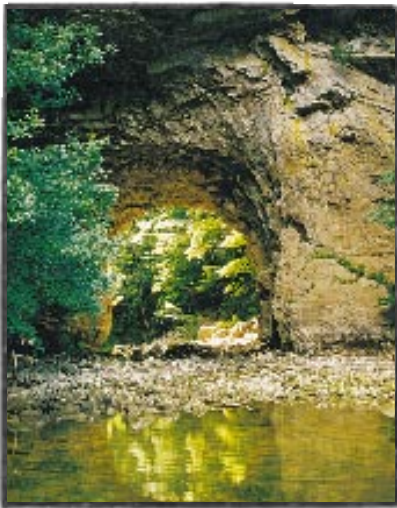
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FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS (AS OF 31 DECEMBER 1997, IN ECU)		
Country/Organization	1997 Contributions	Total Contributions 1990-97
Austria	60,293	488,218
Canada	6,596	710,168
Croatia	12,872	12,872
Czech Republic	3,408	22,164
Denmark	122,919	249,662
European Union	1,225,671	6,040,320
Finland	57,088	483,124
France		15,000
Germany	66,378	66,378
Hungary		733,297
Japan	1,317,407	8,135,655
The Netherlands	95,886	1,034,951
New Zealand		14,048
Norway	54,179	258,356
Switzerland	60,027	757,472
UNDP/UNEP	59,025	178,453
United Kingdom	36,039	36,039
United States	617,796	5,821,752
Other	124,539	289,109
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,920,123</b>	<b>25,347,038</b>

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS (IN ECU)	
Country/Organization	Total Contributions 1990-97
Croatia	6,350
Germany	261,610
Hungary	1,231,134
UNDP/UNEP	3,846
United States	50,081
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,553,021</b>

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