

Aarhus in Practice (Delibasino village, Banja Luka city)

Implemented by NGO Eco-Logic

Implementation period: Dec 2005-Nov 2006



Project background

Delibasino village has a protected forest within its geographic reach. However, current zoning practices enable some limited industrial activities within this area – activities which are governed by the larger Municipality (Banja Luka). Using public participation methods, a proposal is being developed regarding the boundaries and regime of management of these forested areas. During the implementation of the project a difficulty occurred: both Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Forestry have authority to decide and their interests are not the same.

Activities implemented

- The project was launched with a meeting of a the Working Group that took responsibility of defining and implementing the concrete actions in order to start the discussions with the several layers of authorities
- After dissemination of flyers that delivered information of the problem in its current phase, an Opinion Box was mounted to collect the views and opinions of the locals
- Following that, a public forum was held on including different stakeholders in the decision making process and focus on proclaiming of Delibasino Village forest for protected forest area – Forest park. The goal of this activity was to connect different stakeholders and beneficiaries from governmental and non-governmental sector and to give sign to the decision making bodies about the wish and needs of population of Delibasino.
- The project implementation team prepared an outline of a document that proposes a protection regime and management for the Delibasino forest area, document in which described the issues of interest for the locals with regard to conservation and use as well as the long term management plans of the local authority.
- During a public hearing this management proposal was shared with the public and their input was collected and after these have been incorporated a draft was distributed among locals and more than 100 signatures were collected for its support.
- The proposal was finalized with the contribution of the environmental department of the local government and was submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water management



Final result and outcomes

The project succeeded to reinitiate and make a step forward in the process of declaring and managing the Delibasino forest area as protected landscape. Through the open

approach where locals, the Banja Luka local authority, the forest management institution representatives engaged into the problem solving had common lessons learned of what and how on a concrete decision making process that involves several stakeholders, process which tackled contradictory interests with regard to the management of the forest. Their views, opinions and proposals were formalized in a document that was submitted by the local authority on behalf of all stakeholders involved to the higher level authority.