

Environmental Partnership



"Fast, flexible and non-bureaucratic support for building a more sustainable society from the grassroots."

Our Mission

"TO PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTALLY, SOCIALLY, AND ECONOMICALLY SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES BY EMPOWERING CIVIC INITIATIVES IN THE REGION"

"Despite numerous political agreements, legal regulations and established institutions, the environment continues to decline. Loss of biodiversity, climate change, polluted waters, damaged forests, and the unprecedented dependence of humankind on natural resources are some examples of problems. These problem are very closely related to other issues - well functioning public administration, access of communities to information, social responsibility of the business sector, and of course interest of common people to shape their own lives.

Through our grants and programs we strive to connect and support sincere efforts of those who care what's going on beyond the door of their households. We do our best to encourage the assets of our regions - people's talents, natural and cultural heritage - to work together toward more sustainable future."

*Peter Medved
Director
Ekopolis,
Slovak Environmental
Partnership Foundation*



Foreword



Some fifteen years ago, funding communities on both sides of the Atlantic began exploring ways in which to respond to the growing environmental concerns of Central and Eastern Europe. Who could have imagined then that today there would be six independent foundations operating in the region fully in charge of their own programming and related fundraising campaigns, all driven by a desire to work together as a consortium to make environmental improvement and democratic practice a daily reality in the entire region.

The Environmental Partnership was born in 1991 consisting of active grant making and technical support programs in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. In the early 1990s, teams of dedicated and creative citizens from these countries were put in charge of the foundations, and given the opportunity to work in close partnership with their mostly American funders. They had to develop and implement grant making programs aimed at enabling people to design and put into practice their own initiatives to improve environmental conditions. Within eight years, the local leaders succeeded in converting their grant making and technical support programs into indigenous foundations, but also to help establish new partner foundations, first in Romania in 1999 and then in Bulgaria in 2004.

The Environmental Partnership success story is grounded in the partnership and trust among local leaders in the region and between these local leaders and the funders who supported them. This brochure highlights past accomplishment, ongoing activities and a vision for the future for which financial stability is essential. Ongoing fundraising will always be required, but only an independent Reserve Fund - "an endowment" - can assure the Environmental Partnership the flexibility needed to respond effectively to local needs and circumstances over the long term. The Reserve Fund will provide the foundations with the means to respond imaginatively and quickly to the many new challenges, which will have to be faced by the people of Central and Eastern Europe as they seek to do their part to make sustainable development a reality across Europe.

As a representative of the American core funders who supported and worked with the Environmental Partnership from 1991 to 2003, I urge the private, public and individual funders to consider seriously this [international appeal for funds](#) to grow the Reserve Fund that each foundation has so far been able to establish.

Marianne Ginsburg, March 2004

(German Marshall Fund of the United States, retired 2003)

Who we are

The Environmental Partnership has been operating since 1991 and has been instrumental in creating 500 not-for-profit organizations in Central and Eastern Europe. Today, it is a consortium of six independent foundations in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia who are committed to helping people take action to improve the environmental challenges facing their communities.

In the 1990s, the aim of the core funders the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation; the German Marshall Fund of the United States; the Rockefeller Brothers Fund; Atlantic Philanthropies; and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation; was to pursue a bottom-up approach to environmental decision-making by empowering grassroots non-governmental organizations in key countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

"Decision makers in Central and Eastern Europe often think that solving environmental problems in the region just means more money. However, the Environmental Partnership's fifteen- years of experience shows that while adequate, focused, and timely financing are important, of greatest importance is people. Competent, responsible, and enthusiastic leaders, who are aware of the real needs of their communities, who understand the concept of sustainability, who see their community in the context of the global environment, and who are ready to experiment with technological and social innovations! Empowering such leaders lies at the core of our mission."

Miroslav Kundrata
Director
Nadace Partnerství,
Czech Environmental
Partnership Foundation



HOW WE OPERATE

THE SECRET TO OUR SUCCESS

The Foundations have developed a broad palette of instruments customized to meet local needs and circumstances such as:

- > Small-grants;
- > Training;
- > Technical assistance;
- > Study tours and fellowships;
- > Special programs.

Our approach is to consistently help our grantees to make the most of what they have already as a basis for mobilizing external support and resources.

By promoting practical action, we help to build bridges of cooperation between individuals, civic organizations, businesses and governments. The Environmental Partnership provides the opportunity for those at the local level to exchange practical knowledge and learning.

We view one of our roles as fostering the enthusiasm, ideas, innovation and commitment to working with others that is essential to bringing about long-term improvements in the environment, the economy and society.



Achievements to date

The most important achievement of the Environmental Partnership has been the contribution to the development of the strong environmental movement in Central and Eastern Europe. Since its beginning in 1991, through generous support from various funders, the Foundations have been able to invest nearly USD 17 million in more than 5,000 individual community-based projects and initiatives. The number, diversity, and effectiveness of the various groups and individuals that has been nurtured make them the strongest part of the non-profit sector.

The Environmental Partnership's grantees are often the only voices for prudent development that takes into account long-term sustainability and quality of life instead of the more common fixation on achieving short-term economic growth. As advocates they have campaigned to halt undesirable short-term solutions to problems concerning solid waste, traffic, industrial pollution, and urban development. A growing number of supported groups develop the capacity and sophistication to play an active role in policy-making.

This direct support has created a grassroots constituency for sustainable development across Central and Eastern Europe. As a result, local leaders have been able to establish and strengthen civic groups and build partnerships with government and business. We continue to work for long term change by linking people, places and ideas to work on the following issues:

- > Nature conservation;
- > Sustainable development;
- > Shaping and implementing national environmental policies;
- > Cross-border cooperation.

A FEW COMPELLING FACTS AND FIGURES:

Over the last decade, the Environmental Partnership Consortium has supported projects that have resulted in some impressive facts and figures.

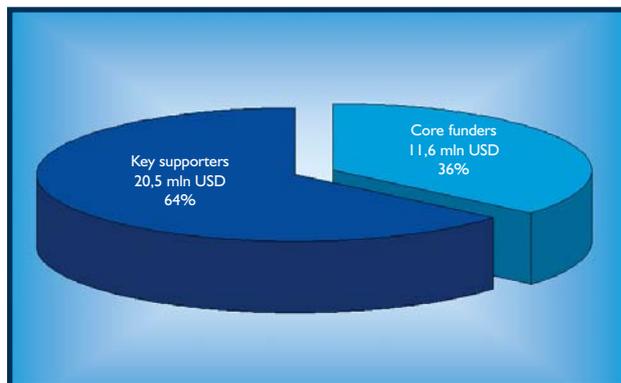
- > Mobilized more than 21,500 volunteers to donate their expertise and time to safeguard the cultural and natural heritage of their communities;
- > Created 500 not-for-profit organizations, which actively protect 160 endangered species, key wildlife habitats and have enabled citizens to plant more than 172,000 trees;
- > Created and maintained over 4000 km cycling, walking and nature trails that link people, places and their ideas
- > Educated over 15,000 school children and 2,000 adults alike on energy efficiency methods, and helped them insulate more than 800 homes and public buildings;
- > Supported a regional network of civic groups, which has created 2,350 full and part time community jobs linked to environmental protection and cultural heritage.



How our funding is distributed

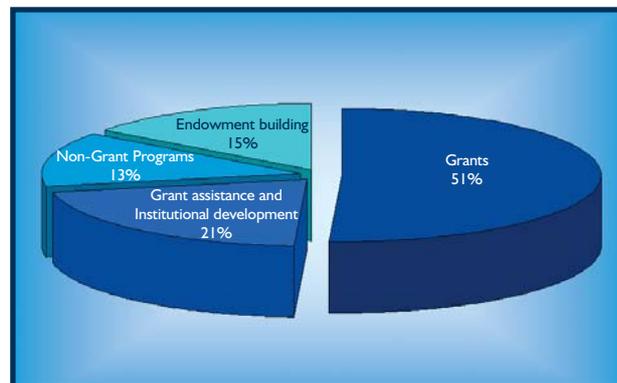
DONATIONS RECEIVED

1991-2003



PROPORTION OF EXPENDITURES IN PERIOD

1991-2003



"Since 1991, in many cases, the activities of the Environmental Partnership Foundations represented the most suitable responses to the challenges raised by transitional societies

Our programs and activities demonstrate that small funding support-combined with local communities involvement and multi-stakeholder partnership- can be the best recipe for

overcoming challenges and promoting sustainable development."

Laszlo Potozky

Director

Fundatia Pentru Parteneriat,

Romanian Environmental

Partnership Foundation



Joining hands across the region

Regional Programs

Though, in each of the six countries, the foundations of the Environmental Partnership work independently on issues that are unique to their national circumstances, there are issues that affect the region as a whole. Communication and cooperation require an ongoing investment of time and energy but yield valuable rewards.

To find out about all the national programs, please visit our websites!

There are four region-wide programs that connect each of the countries involved in the Partnership:

1. Small Grants: Seeds for the Future;
2. Rural Livelihoods: Capitalizing on Natural and Cultural Resources;
3. Energy Alternatives: Changing Lifestyles;
4. Greenways: Linking Nature and Culture Across Communities.

Small Grants

Seeds for the Future

This program is the hallmark of each Partnership foundation. The flexible seed money supports important civic initiatives and helps get started at the same time.

The micro-grants can be up to USD 8,000; generally they average around USD 2,400 have proven very effective in enabling non-profit organizations to mobilize local resources and so do much with little.

The Foundations particularly favor projects that yield concrete results, are community-based, involve some form of public participation and cross-sector cooperation, and are holistic in their approach to environmental issues within a broader social and economic context.

Issues that have been favored:

- > Landscape and nature conservation (bio-agriculture, eco-farming, village managers, sustainable rural communities);
- > Regional Co-operation (trans-boundary programs);
- > Environmental Education;
- > Urban Ecology (developing public spaces, traffic calming);
- > Reduction of Air Pollution;
- > Living Water (including flood protection);
- > Waste (wastewater treatment, waste disposal, recycling, waste management strategies);
- > Right-to-know (access to environmental information, ecological consumption patterns).

Another strength is the active approach to grantmaking. The Environmental Partnership foundations stay in close contact with the projects they support, often sending representatives to visit and consult with project managers. This enables the foundations to target their grantmaking more effectively and to assess and respond to additional needs at the local level.

The small grants of the Environmental Partnership have made it possible for local organizations to leverage additional funds enabling civic groups to fill gaps in their budgets, which other larger, more bureaucratic and inflexible funders are unwilling or unable to support.

Grants proposals are reviewed and selected by special grants committees comprised of experts from a variety of backgrounds.

"Our project addressed one of the most sensitive issues-lead pollution in Baia Mare-in a constructive way. Our main achievement was building real collaboration among ordinary citizens, local authorities and the mass media in the fight against pollution and the minimization of its effects on the health of the population."

*Edit Pop, Project Coordinator,
Improvement of Urban
Environmental Health
in Baia Mare, Romania*



Rural Livelihoods

Capitalizing on Natural and Cultural Resources

Economic and democratic reforms introduced to Central and Eastern Europe in the 1990s have largely bypassed rural communities. As a result, those living in rural areas have grown increasingly frustrated with the decline of both agriculture and social services. Unemployment, falling incomes, social exclusion, migration and poverty are all common struggles in day-to-day rural living.

Despite these hardships, some rural communities have succeeded in using their natural and cultural heritage as a basis for generating new economic opportunities and addressing these social problems.

Through the Rural Livelihoods Program, the Partnership Foundations identify and support civic initiatives (financially and technically) aimed at generating local economic benefits through:

- > Sustainable agriculture
- > Sustainable tourism
- > Energy savings
- > Renewable energy sources

"Seeing the enthusiasm of local people and the surprise of heritage interpretation specialists at the amount of information collected has made the whole project worthwhile. We now have a groundswell of public support and can plan more confidently for the future."

*Ján Pavlík,
Employee of A-Project NGO,
Grantee from Nižná Boca,
Slovakia*



Energy Alternatives

Changing Lifestyles

Public awareness regarding energy issues is much lower in Central and Eastern Europe than in Western European countries. While industry, in many cases, has made dramatic improvements in its energy efficiency, energy use in public buildings and households remains for the most part, unchanged. In some instances, the situation has gotten worse.

Yet, estimates are that 30% of energy in the region could be saved relatively easily with education and promotional efforts. This opportunity is the focus of the Environmental Partnership's Energy Alternatives program. It provides financial and technical support for innovative projects focused on energy savings and renewable energy sources (such as solar, wind, water and bio-mass).

Schools and other public buildings represent the greatest potential for energy savings. They are also obvious places to begin raising awareness of energy conservation. School children-and teachers- represent a link to the next generation. Children are more open to learning and pass on these teachings to parents, relatives, neighbors, and friends.

Many schools in the region, particularly those in rural villages and small towns, still serve as the centre of the community. Initiatives focused around these schools can bring together not only teachers, children and their parents, but also local government and business leaders, thus strengthening joint action for environmental improvement.

"Improving energy efficiency is an extremely complicated task requiring co-operation of all sectors of society for successful implementation.

During the course of our energy program we draw attention to how an environmentally conscious lifestyle can reduce the cost of living, while at the same time protecting the planet and creating a more pleasant and natural environment for all."

Nelli Toth,

*Program Co-ordinator,
Energy Club, Hungary*



Greenways

Linking Nature and Culture Across Communities

Greenways are quickly gaining popularity not only among the traditional conservationists, but also among leisure sport people, tourists and youths, who long to race around on wheels of all sizes in towns and the countryside. With the support of various groups such as hikers, cyclists, children and their parents, the traditional ideals of environmental protection can gain unprecedented support

Greenways are not only nature paths or environmental corridors that connect one interesting place or community with another, but they also conserve the natural and cultural heritage along the route. Within the larger and regional context, the Central European Greenways is a framework for linking civic initiatives aimed at conserving natural and cultural heritage.

The Central European Greenways, administered by the Environmental Partnership provide technical assistance, study tours and grant making. Assistance includes consultation in the area of information, methodology, fundraising, and international co-operation. To a community, our support can mean economic revitalisation and cultural preservation.

GREENWAYS HAVE MANY BENEFITS SUCH AS:

- > Improving the environment and quality of life in towns and the countryside;
- > Caring for both natural heritage and cultural values and strengthening the sense of identity and responsibility for these values;
- > Environmentally-friendly and safe transportation for citizens and tourists;
- > Developing products and services for sustainable tourism;
- > Active participation of local people in local planning and development;
- > Strengthening the co-operation between people across sectors and national borders;
- > Supporting active and healthy lifestyles.

"I am very pleased that Česká spořitelna a.s. became a general partner of the Czech Greenways program of the Czech Environmental Partnership Foundation. My excitement for this project comes from the realization that our company is significantly helping to restore community life and local cultural heritage."

*Jack Stack,
CEO, Česká spořitelna, a. s.
(ERSTE GROUP)*



Looking Ahead

The Future of the Environmental Partnership

While the challenges facing Central and Eastern Europe have changed over the years, the need to mobilize citizens and communities has remained.

Upon joining the European Union in May 2004, several Central and Eastern European countries must now operate within a new political and economic context. They must also respond more effectively to an increasingly global world.

For individual citizens and local communities, the key to addressing significant environmental, economic, and social challenges in the region - everything from environmental degradation and climate change to unemployment - lies now, more than ever, in creating active partnership networks. These partnerships begin with concerned citizens and span sectors, ethnic and national boundaries.

To meet these new challenges, the Environmental Partnership foundations aspire to:

- > Obtain corporate and community support to maintain the Environmental Partnership's core activity, which is providing citizen initiatives with an independent, fast, flexible and non-bureaucratic source of financial (and other) support;
- > Maintain its contribution as a partner in regional, environmental problem-solving and civil society development;
- > Continue to work together as an association of independent and self-governing foundations that promote, support and help implement activities that lead to sustainable development;
- > Raise funds for programs and projects of regional significance;
- > Undertake international education activities in order to strengthen environmental NGOs and civic organizations in Central and Eastern Europe;
- > Further develop the foundations so that they can continue to pursue the mission of the organization;

- > Find better ways of measuring what we do and sharing our experience with each other and with our partners;
- > Gain wider international recognition of our name and programs.

"It is challenging, but at the same time responsible to develop a civil society following a significant political change.

Nevertheless, the societal consciousness progresses slowly, no matter how politics try to urge it. Experts say that real reform of society, the economy and political life takes 30 years, nearly a lifetime.

To date, we have worked for more than a decade within one, very important segment of the civil society namely, the environmental movement. The message we have voted for is "Our Future".

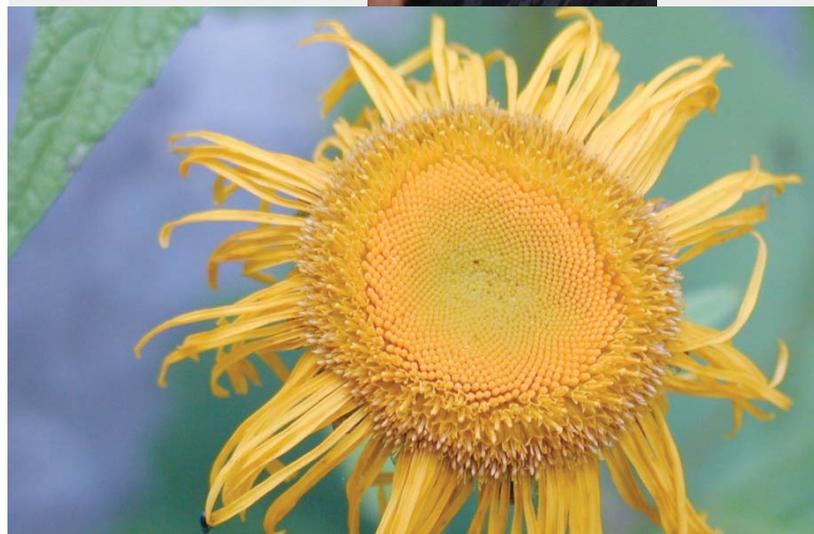
The most important result of our 13 years of work has been assisting in the creation of many wonderful organizations that have brought about the rise of a "green-movement", which thinks and works in a common way."

Zsuzsa Foltányi

Director

Ökotárs Alapítvány,

*Hungarian Environmental
Partnership Foundation*



The Environmental Partnership

A Smart Investment

After more than a decade of funding, most foreign donors are withdrawing from the Central-Eastern European region and shifting priorities to other parts of the world. The long-term sustainability of the Environmental Partnership depends on developing new and more diverse sources of support. Considerable strides have been made towards this aim; compared with a virtually 100% dependence on private U.S. funders a few years ago, the Foundations in recent years have managed to raise over half of their income from other, particularly Western European sources.

In 2004, the Environmental Partnership faces a new challenge: it must build financial resources in the form of a Reserve Fund that will enable each of the six Partnership Foundations to continue building grassroots constituencies for sustainable development. A Reserve Fund (an endowment) will provide a secure financial base, enabling each of the Environmental Partnership Foundations to maintain its role for nurturing new civic initiatives in response to changing needs, opportunities and circumstances. Donors who contribute to our work now are particularly unique in that they are providing a legacy and long-term future for the Environmental Partnership.

Investments of the Reserve Fund endowment are supervised by the board of trustees of each foundation. Financial statements are independently audited annually to ensure complete accountability.

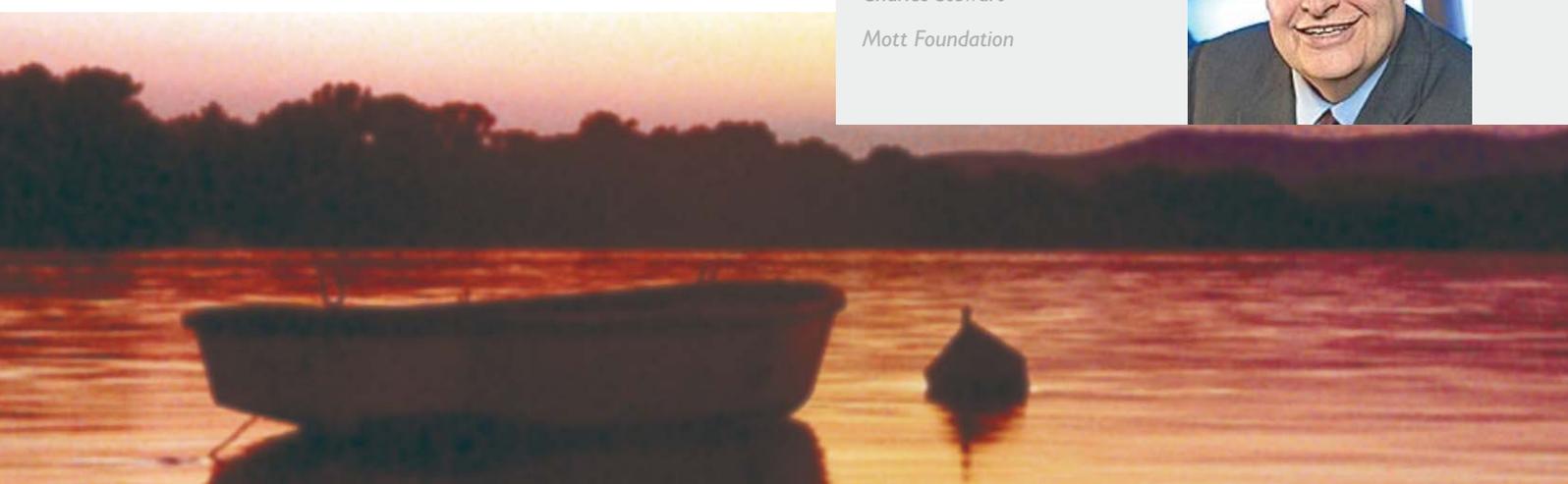
THE C. S. MOTT FOUNDATION MATCHING GRANT CHALLENGE

The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation has announced it will donate \$1 million as a "challenge grant" to encourage the national foundations of the Environmental Partnership to raise an additional \$1 million from private and public sources.

The challenge grant awarded by the C.S. Mott Foundation to the Environmental Partnership is significant in itself. It shows that one of the largest independent U.S. foundations recognizes that it is worth investing in strengthening the capacity of the Environmental Partnership as an independent grantmaker, committed to providing long term support for sustainable development at the local or community level across Central and Eastern Europe.

"The Mott Foundation has supported the Environmental Partnership for more than thirteen years to help local people improve their lives through their own actions and to take advantage of new opportunities such as those provided by the European Union. Over the years, the Environmental Partnership has become the biggest private supporter of the environmental movements in their respective countries. Contributing to its endowment will ensure that the foundations can continue their great work in the future."

*William S. White,
President,
Charles Stewart
Mott Foundation*



Recognition of Donors

Potential donors have many opportunities to make a difference in Central and Eastern Europe through the Environmental Partnership and its programs. They can contribute to specific projects within the regional programs and receive naming opportunities in return. Donors can pledge multi-year grants or single donations. Gifts of any size can be directed toward the program or country of your choice. Or they can be added to the endowment which will be matched dollar-for-dollar by C.S. Mott Foundation, if received before the end of 2006.

The Environmental Partnership Consortium will work in partnership with each funder to ensure that their needs are met, whether it be through recognition requirements, briefings on projects, site visits, or any other aspect of the project that a particular funder would like to be involved in. To find out more information, please contact our Regional Fundraiser.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP'S PARTNER BENEFITS

Individuals and organizations that join the Partnership family through their generous gift-giving can be assured of:

- > **Publicity** of donors and program partners
- > **Transparency** of finances and operations through regular reporting
- > **Professionalism** of our staff and partners
- > **Good relationships** based on mutual trust and respect
- > **Search for innovation and new trends** in the non-profit sector
- > **Stable and advanced financial management** of assets and cash flow
- > **Flexibility** in providing grants combined with technical assistance
- > **Non-bureaucratic** procedures and accessibility
- > **Credibility** based on long years of experience in evaluating feasible projects

TYPES OF GIFTS ACCEPTED

The Environmental Partnership welcomes gifts of various kinds, including:

- > **Cash grants**
- > **Securities**
- > **In-kind contributions**
- > **Wills and bequests**

CONTACT INFORMATION:

- > Via the internet at
fundraising@environmentalpartnership.org
- > By telephone: 0036-20-556-1975, 0036-1-411-3500,
Fax: 0036-1-411-3515

The directors of the respective foundations (in Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria and the Czech Republic) are also ready to assist you in your giving program. For contact details go to:
www.environmentalpartnership.org

The key to our work is Partnership - sharing resources, competencies and risks, as well as benefits. Partnership describes the way we work with our funders and supporters, as well with our grantees and beneficiaries. We believe that much more can be achieved by getting people from business, government and volunteer groups to work jointly on practical action initiatives and projects that bring tangible benefits to the community than could be achieved by them acting individually in isolation. In real partnerships, all have something to contribute - whether it be money, time, skills or work. Our job as the Environmental Partnership - is to help people and institutions build up a capability for partnership action.



*Rafal Serafin
Director
Partnerstwo Dla Srodowiska,
Polish Environmental
Partnership Foundation*

From the very beginning, the Environmental Partnership foundations have worked with many different types of funding partners from the private and public sectors, that have helped us design, develop and implement our programs of support for community-based sustainable development.

CORE FUNDERS

- > Atlantic Philanthropies
- > Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
- > German Marshall Fund of the United States
- > Rockefeller Brothers Fund
- > Sasakawa Peace Foundation
- > Stichting DOEN, the Netherlands
- > Trust for Mutual Understanding

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTERS:

GOVERNMENTS, MINISTRIES, EMBASSIES

- > European Union
- > Austrian Ministry for the Environment
- > UK Know How Fund
- > UK Department for International Development
- > Canadian Embassy
- > Czech Government (from Foundation Investment Fund)
- > Global Environmental Facility (GEF)
- > Polish Ministry of Economy, Labour and Social Policy
- > Hungarian Environmental Ministry (KKA)
- > International Visegrad Fund
- > Luxembourg Ministry of Environment
- > MATRA Funds - Dutch Government
- > Milieukontakt Oosteuropa
- > Netherlands Embassy
- > National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management, Poland
- > Malopolska Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management, Poland

- > City of Cracow, Poland
- > Dutch Energy Efficiency Agency
- > European Union, PHARE Program
- > Regional Environmental Center
- > USAID
- > US Embassy, Program for Democracy

PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS

- > Barbara Gaunlett Foundation, USA
- > Charities Aid Foundation, UK
- > Jenifer Altman Foundation, USA
- > Joyce Mertz-Gilmor Foundation, USA
- > Moriah Fund, USA
- > Open Society Fund, USA
- > Pew Charitable Trusts, USA
- > Sendzimir Foundation, USA
- > Soros Foundation, USA
- > Stefan Batory Foundation, Poland
- > Trust for Civil Society in Central and East Europe, USA
- > WWF Norway
- > Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt, Germany

CORPORATIONS

- > BP
- > Honeywell Foundation
- > DHL International s.r.o.
- > Ceska Sporitelna, a.s.(Erste Group)
- > Toyota Europe
- > IKEA CZ
- > SKANSKA Property CZ
- > Newton CZ
- > Economia CZ
- > Procter & Gamble, Poland
- > Ricoh, Poland

And many individuals, who contributed to our work either with donations or as volunteers.

Members of the Environmental Partnership

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