



Joint Nature Park
Development,
Pomurje Region
Slovenia

Service Contract for European
Community External Aid
No. SI-00.08.01

Final Report (Draft)

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

CA	Contracting Authority
CEE	Central and Eastern Europe
DOF	Digital Ortho Photograph (Digitalna Ortofotografija)
EARS	Environmental Agency of the Republic of Slovenia
EU	European Union
FIP	First Interim Report
FR	Final Report
ICH	Important Habitat
IP	Inception Report
KPG	Krajinski Park Goricko –Landscape Park Goricko
MESP	Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
Phare	Programme for Technical Assistance in CEE by the EU
SC	Steering Committee
SIP	Second Interim Report
TOR	Terms of Reference
WBS	Work Breakdown Structure

1 Executive Summary

The Final Report (FR) gives an overview of the project activities carried out by the contractor, the achievements, constraints and the lessons learnt.

The overall objectives, to preserve the natural and cultural environment in Goricko and to improve the quality of life of the residents, were achieved as much as they could in a limited time frame of only 16 months.

The legal declaration of the Krajinski Park Goricko is a milestone to sustainable preservation of the natural and cultural environment. The task to create awareness and support for such endeavour among the municipalities and the citizens of Goricko was successfully fulfilled. The participatory process in presenting and discussing the draft decree showed strong support for the idea of the Nature Park among the participants.

Habitat Mapping of all non-forested areas, digitising of spatial plans of all 11 municipalities and the comprehensive inventory of the Park represented a thorough background for the declaration process of the Park. At the same time it will be the backbone for a sustainable documentation and will serve as a professional tool for future evaluations and survey. The results of the survey will be considered as a core piece of the draft management plan submitted.

The furnishing and equipping of the foreseen rooms in Grad Castle took place in the last phase of the project after rooms were made accessible to the contractor. The procurement was carried out in a way, which allowed installation of the purchased equipment and furniture in the remaining weeks of the project.

15 business plans and project fiches were submitted, at least 5 of them »ready-to-go«, elaborated by the respective work groups and their mentors and co-ordinators. Since within the frame of the project there was no provision to support any of these plans or finance pilot implementations, the contractor strongly recommends awarding attention to these groups. They need proper guidance in order to gain the support of national or European programs for financing their respective projects.

Workshops, trainings and seminars were held on all subjects relevant to the work groups and for the general audience in computer skills, marketing and languages.

A full range of labels, logo and corporate design was developed for the tourism destination Goricko, for Krajinski Park Goricko and for quality products and services from Goricko. A quality manual has been submitted, which identifies the necessary steps to be undertaken to use the quality label and enforce the rules and regulations.

11 excursions were organised to visit best practice examples for Nature Park Management as well as Regional Development. 3 pilot events were held on music, local gastronomy and bicycling. Nature park guides were trained and the respective Austrian curriculum adapted for use in Slovenia.

The KPG website was set up in the internet, the content being provided in four languages and fit for dynamic extensions. Comprehensive promotional material was produced on the Trilateral Nature Park in general and on specific attractions, products and services in the Slovene part of it. Most of the promotion material was produced in 4 languages, designed according to the new graphic manual and edited in a way that the future KPG Authority can make use of it for at least three or more years.

Professional quality photographs on Goricko were purchased including all rights and archived for future use on the website or in printed material.

Monthly newsletters in Slovene and Hungarian language were disseminated to all residents in Goricko and to municipalities, other stakeholders and NGOs. Three trilateral newsletters were produced and sent out also in the neighbouring Nature Parks in Austria and Hungary.

A draft of a Memorandum of Understanding was submitted for further discussion with Austrian and Hungarian counterparts, as the timeframe for the project did not allow a more comprehensive approach to install trilateral standards, institutions or authorities.

2 Introduction

This Final Report gives an overview of the work performed in the course of the project:

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Section 3 summarises the progress and achievements in the final reporting period (July - October 2003); Section 4 the overall progress and achievements according to the Logical Framework and the Tasks of the TOR (Terms of Reference); Section 5 presents the used inputs and Section 6 describes the lessons learnt and the recommendations.

The project started on June 16th with some delay caused by administrative reasons. Therefore, the total duration of the project was only 16 months instead of the originally planned 18 months. Thanks to the excellent co-operation with all members of the MESP staff involved in the project, the contractor was able to fulfil the vast majority of the tasks as given in the ToR's.

The bar chart of the activity plan is attached as Annex 2, indicating the status and time of implementation of the respective tasks.

The project has had numerous intensive contacts with the mayors of all eleven municipalities in the course of the work. In those meetings - several of them formal and many more informal - it was possible to discuss with the mayors and opinion leaders of the respective municipalities the issues relevant for the municipalities. It was probably also the result of those meetings, that hardly any considerable objections were raised during the Public Hearings in all eleven municipalities during the month of June and beginning of July. The objective to create awareness and receptiveness for the declaration of the Nature Park was achieved in these meetings and in numerous exchanges of ideas with local stakeholders and the general public.

The press was invited to cover several of the events in the aim to inform media and the general public about main goals of the project such as skills training and development of sellable products, the trilateral youth meeting at Grad, local Goricko cuisine, exhibits in the trilateral parks, at the Alpe Adria Fair in Ljubljana and at a regional fair in France. The overall response from the side of the municipalities was positive, a very constructive and target oriented approach to the project was experienced. We therefore expect a continuous support of the municipalities during the implementation of the KPG.

The trilateral character of the park was appreciated by all counterparts, several more meetings with the Austrian and Hungarian partners were convened and projects of mutual interest discussed. However some of the objectives of the Tri-national character of the Park given in the TOR seem to be too early for fulfilment, e.g. the introduction of a trilateral quality label was restricted to KPG. A broad consensus of choosing a new label for all three parks seemed impossible at this point and would have by far overstrained the yet tender relationship among the three partners. One must consider that the management structure of the three parks is very different. Most important, there is clear evidence that all three parties are beginning to realise now that all stand to gain from a common approach to creating the first Trilateral European Nature Park

All inhabitants of the project area were addressed by monthly newsletters disseminated to each household in Slovene language and additionally in Hungarian in the bilingual areas. Invitations were sent out for participation in the working groups and for the excursions organised by the project team to

study best practice example. Three trilateral newsletter including the first trilateral image brochure were sent to all households in Goricko and to all interested parties in the Raab and Örseg Parks through intermediaries.

The habitat mapping and the mapping and digitising of spatial plans was successfully completed and concluded. Maps were provided for the purpose of serving as informative tools during the participatory phase of the Park declaration, i.e. the public hearings and the presentations in the municipalities. Furthermore, a tourist map was produced for all natural and cultural attractions, hiking and bicycle routes, accommodation and restaurants and other useful information about Goricko.

The public hearings were conducted in June and July and the presentations in the municipalities, inviting all inhabitants of the area to express their concerns and/or approval to the park were concluded by the end of July. The response was overwhelmingly positive. This enabled MESP to proceed with the official declaration of the Landscape Park for legal establishment and to prepare a Landscape Park Management Plan, which is attached as Annex 4.

15 working groups held numerous meetings and went through a series of training in fields of marketing, product development, legal issues and project financing. Most of the working groups have already developed project fiches / business plans with the help of experienced mentors. Some groups (Guide Training, Youth Group, Info Centres) were not convinced that business plans would further their cause. Instead, some other business plans were commissioned (e.g. Bukovnica Jezero Information Centre). A main concern in the work groups is the financial viability of the proposed initiatives, as in most cases no commitment regarding the financing could be made.

Excursions on many of the subjects dealt with in the working groups were carried out to visit best practice examples hereof in Austria, Hungary and Slovenia. Participation was excellent and much supported by the mayors of the 11 municipalities.

Project fiches for counterpart funds from the three co-funding Ministries were submitted. The release of funds took place through agreements with Municipalities (Municipality of Dobrovnik for Agriculture, Municipality of Grad for Ministry of Economy) and the line agency (Employment Office in Murska Sobota for the Ministry of Social services). Funds will be used for beneficiaries from the project area and for the development and promotion of products of the region.

Promotional materials have been developed, printed and disseminated after a new corporate design for KPG was elaborated and approved.

The procurement of the equipment for the information centre in Grad castle was tendered in a late stage of the project, but finally all procured items could be successfully installed at the foreseen premises at Grad Castle, some finishing work still ongoing until October 15.

3 Project Progress in the Final Reporting Period

The following table gives an overview of the project progress related to the list of WBS as given in the IR; the numbers in the second column refer to the task numbers in the TOR.

Table 1. Project Progress Report

WBS	TOR	Task description	Progress report, remarks	Status
1	1	Nature Park Administrative and Information Centre in Grad Castle Established	In the final stages the Administrative centre was established and made operative.	In full progress/ completed
1.1	2	Preparation of detailed technical specifications for the equipment	The tender dossiers for the office equipment were prepared according to the contract addendum (March 2003).	completed
1.2	2	Tendering and purchasing procedure according to PRAG	Tender 2 (5 lots: office furniture, computers, office and optic equipment, lights and miscellaneous) and tender 3 (transport) were evaluated and contracted.	completed
1.3	2	Delivery and installation of the goods, acceptance	Achieved in the last project month	completed
1.4	1	Hiring the staff for the Administration and Information Centre	In addition to the one person employed already the Implementing Agency created budgetary provision for two additional posts from January 2004 onwards.	completed
1.5.	14	Provide the natural sciences workroom	Is included in the changed tender for Nature Park administration and information centre	completed
1.6	0	Goods accepted and Park Office operational	Goods were delivered, installed and taken into use.	completed
1.7	0	Nature Park product presentation facility is installed	Procurement of the equipment for the presentation facility was included in Tender No. 2.	completed
1.7.1	20	Prepare a tasting room for visitors	Procurement of the equipment for that facility was included in Tender No. 2.	completed
1.7.2	20	Nature Park Produce Presentation Facility / Room in Grad Castle	Procurement of the equipment for the presentation facility was included in Tender No. 2.	completed
1.7.3	20	Shop window for the organic and environmentally friendly produce	Procurement of the equipment for that facility was included in Tender No. 2.	completed
1.8	0	Work rooms in Grad Castle created and operating	Workrooms that require fire cannot be operational due to fire hazard in a building of cultural heritage value (i.e. Black Smith, distillery; the pottery will use a small electric oven for demonstration purposes). Final works take place in the second week of October after 2 remaining rooms are made accessible.	completed
1.8.1	14	Provide and install basic and specific equipment required for each craft	According to the approved derogation a contract was negotiated and concluded directly with the Regional Museum of Murska Sobota; it includes not only the equipment and installation, but also presentation facilities and media.	completed
1.8.2	5	Establishment of six workrooms / retail outlets (in Grad Castle)	Workroom outlets are part of the presentation room and the workrooms itself in Grad.	completed
1.8.3	14	Secure that each crafts person will work and	Participants from the working group on local craftsmanship and local craftsmen will operate the	Fully prepared

		demonstrate 10 hr/wk in castle Grad	workrooms in Grad Castle. Due to late installation it was not possible to have them operational within the lifetime of the project.	
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2	0	Nature Park Management Plan developed	The KPG Management Plan is a dynamic planning tool, the basis for it was delivered as Annex 4, but details will be further developed in the course of the implementation of the park.	started
2.1	0	Inventory conducted and proposals for management/use regimes elaborated	Habitat mapping, natural and cultural heritage inventories were conducted and municipal plans were digitalised.	completed
2.1.1	0	Prepare detailed work plan for inventory	Detailed work plan was submitted and approved in August 2002	completed
2.1.2	0	Approval of work plan		
2.1.3	4	Purchase/obtain aerial photographs/orthophotos	DOF (Digital Ortho Photographs) were obtained in August/September 2002 for the purpose of Habitat mapping.	completed
2.1.4	3	Obtain and digitise Spatial Physical Plans of the municipalities	Spatial Plans, digital cadastre data were obtained and consulted in November; digitalisation on the scale of 1:5,000 is completed.	completed
2.1.5	3	Obtain the digital cadastre	Digital cadastre was obtained in November 2002.	completed
2.1.6	0	Consult forest management plans	Forest management plans and agricultural spatial data were obtained in November 2002 and consulted in December 2002.	completed
2.1.7	3	Inventory of Goricko Nature Park	<p>Spatial plans for the communities within KPG have been digitized. Only a part of the spatial plans was in digital form, so the rest had to be transformed in a digital data base in GIS; maps were produced. Maps of European Important Species of plants and animals, found in Goričko area were digitized. New localities of rare plants were acquired throughout the habitat mapping and are presented in the attributive data base of the habitat types. Various digitized maps for ornitofauna were produced. The most important is distribution of qualification bird species for SPA (Special Protected Areas) – <i>Otus scops</i> and <i>Lullula arborea</i>. Distribution of some other bird species is also contributed.</p> <p>Two lakes – Hodoško and Ledavsko jezero were studied separately with detailed maps of bird distribution. The distribution of important bird species is a criteria for designating some more important zones within the protected area.</p>	completed
2.1.8	3	Detailed inventory of habitats	<p>Mappers scanned all the territory of Goricko Park, starting in August 2002 and finished in August 2003. (Autumn and Winter excluded). 8 mappers, guided by M. Kaligarić, mapped the non-forest habitat types according to <i>Physis</i> typology in details and produced manuscripts of maps of non-forest habitat types. Mappers marked the polygons on the printed aerial photographs and signed the habitat type. By the end of August all the territory of Goričko Park was mapped in the scale 1: 5000.</p> <p>Around 300 habitat types and combinations of two habitat types were identified.</p> <p>8 habitat types found in Goričko are FFH habitats –</p>	completed

			listed in Annex I on the »Habitat directive«.	
2.1.9	3	Install Database and GIS	GIS software and all the databases have been installed in the office of the Goričko Nature Park.	completed
2.1.10	3	Enter inventory data in the database	Digitalisation of the habitat mapping concluded, along with the digitalisation of spatial plans.	completed
2.1.11	4	Draw-up complete Zone Maps of the entire Goričko Nature Park; scale 1:25,000.	For the public presentations, maps in scales were prepared in: 1: 50.000 dimensions 100 x 80 cm and 1: 200.000 on A3, displaying: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Boundaries of Natural park, settlements and communes ▪ Land use (wood, settlements, arable land, water areas) ▪ Agricultural operations, military areas, water protected areas, ore areas) ▪ Natural heritage (protected areas) ▪ 5. Cultural heritage and tourist infrastructure (wine roads, tourism on the farm, inns) 	completed
2.1.12	4	Habitat Mapping will be produced on a scale of 1:5000	Digitalization process of the mapped polygons started immediately after field mapping. The digitalization is in the final stage, termination foreseen for Oct 15. Total number of the mapped polygons is estimated at 100.000 polygons, which is a high number for 465 km2 of Goričko Nature Park.	completed
2.1.13	4	Produce large scale display zone maps of the Goričko region	Only one zone will be established; a large display map for the announcements in the municipalities was prepared from the existing GIS data.	completed
2.1.14	5	Prepare a Management Plan with emphasis on Action Plan for the Nature Park	Sample management plans for comparable parks have been collected as best practise examples. The declaration decree includes guidelines for the Management Plan, but the action plan itself will include the different business plans and project fiches. The basis for high value habitat types in the park is the nature-conservancy evaluation. The nature conservancy evaluation is based on international (»Habitat directive«: FFH habitats, »Berne convention«) and national criteria and it consist of 6 categories. Therefore all the territory of Goričko is divided in these 6 categories. The concentrations of higher valuated areas will be a basis for the proposals for Natura 2000 sites. The most valuable habitat types, like oligotrophic wet meadows, dry meadows, mesotrophic wet hay meadows, need special management regime, wich is given as »management prescriptions« for each valuable habitat type. A draft for an overall Management Plan for KPG was prepared and is attached as Annex 4.	completed
2.1.15	0	Update zone maps and management plan maps	As described under 2.1.11 and 2.1.13	completed
2.2	12	Establishment of a Trilateral Nature Park information website	The new web portal was prepared and programmed and filled with data and information; the portal is fully operational by Oct 15.	completed
2.2.1	12	Coordinate with other two Nature Parks	Has been part of the regular meetings with the other parks.	completed
2.2.2	12	Set up internet server, permanent line, obtain website host (contract)	The proposal to rent server space instead of operating an own website host is operational.	concluded
2.2.3	12	Extensive programming	The programming and design work following the	completed

		and design work at the initial stage to set up the necessary interactive website	graphic manual for KPG was completed and the web portal is operational.	
2.2.4	0	Train staff, additional programming and updating the site	The staff was actively involved in preparing data and to upload it to the portal and thus received on-the-job training and experience.	completed
2.2.5	12	To register a domain (.si)	The active URL address is www.park-goricko.org and the temporary web page was moved there. Several further domains were duly registered in accordance with the CA.	completed
2.2.6	12	Provide accessibility of site via search systems	Implemented after completion of the programming (2.2.3).	completed
2.2.7	6	Additional links from Goricko Park portal	Part of the programming (2.2.3).	completed
2.2.8	12	To set up mailboxes	Part of the programming (2.2.3).	completed
2.2.9	12	Security and capability to access files in Slovene, Hungarian, German and English	Design and programming provided for multiple language-access by users to the web-portal; after completion of the Slovene text-editing (2.2.3) the other language texts were prepared.	completed
2.2.10	12	Set up online shop	Part of the programming (2.2.3).	started
2.2.11	0	information portal for Goricko Nature Park operational	Portal is operational by October 15, 2003.	completed
2.3	0	TRI-N trade mark and logo registered and promoted	The existing TRI-N logo will be used solely for tourism information and on the stationery of the Nature Park administration. A new trade mark/logo for authentic quality products originating from the project area was designed and adopted. National registration is under way, subject to final decision of CA as to which logo will be registered for what purpose.	completed
2.3.1	18	Obtain the TRI-N trade mark	Existing logo was obtained.	completed
2.3.2	18	Prepare an Image Handbook, Plan, Codex and Agreement for the use of TRI-N trade logo	The corporate design handbook was submitted on CD-ROM by February 2003. TRI-N-logo is integrated in the new KPG logo. New CD is used for all stationery, newsletter, posters and promotional material. The codex and handbook is prepared.	completed
2.3.3	18	Hold workshops in the municipalities to introduce the Manual and benefits of gaining the TRI-N trade mark	Three seminars and workshops for different target groups were held in August 2003 on the use of the Manual.	completed
2.3.4	18	Train the experts in quality control in seminars for duration of at least two weeks	Multipliers (i.e. mentors, coordinators, and future KPG staff) were trained in August 2003 by the quality assurance experts.	completed

3	0	Institutional framework and legal establishment of the Nature Park	In close cooperation with the Contracting Authority, the project team leader, the inventory team and the legal expert have been working in the requested framework in order to prepare the implementation of KPG.	In full progress
3.1	0	Nature Park legally established	The Government of the Republic of Slovenia is expected to decree the KPG within the first 2 weeks of October.	completed
3.1.1	7	Prepare draft of Nature Park Protection Regime	The draft passed the cabinet decision and was being presented to municipalities at public hearings	completed

			and permanent presentations.	
3.1.2	8	Prepare the presentations to the municipalities	Presentations were held during June and beginning of July	completed
3.1.3	8	Gain the support and approval of the 11 municipalities	An excursion with mayors, vice mayors and council members from part of municipalities to Kozjanski Park was conducted in cooperation with the Park Management and MESP, which gave an insight into the actual successful co-operation and interaction of municipalities with Park Management. Numerous questions were raised and answered during discussions regarding the (predominantly positive) implications of the park on the municipalities and their inhabitants. Two interviews on the Radio station Murski val on park management issues were sponsored. Mayors were invited to regular meetings with work group coordinators and mentors and to take part in the excursions, several of them honoured such invitations.	completed
3.1.4	8	Harmonise municipalities with MESP	A presentation of the draft decree was held with all eleven municipalities.	completed
3.1.5	4	Hold public meetings in the municipalities to involve and motivate population	Public hearings and permanent presentations in all municipalities were held in June - July. The response was generally positive and supportive.	completed
3.1.6	7	Prepare application form for the designation of Goricko Nature Park	Has been prepared by Contracting Authority and found consensus of the cabinet.	completed
3.1.7	9	Check the national legislation of all three countries	Comprehensive summary of the respective legislation in Austria was studied and submitted to Contracting Authority. Hungarian legislation was studied as well.	completed
3.1.8	7	Prepare documentation for designating the Nature Park	Documentation has led to the draft version of the decree and the public hearings and presentations in the eleven municipalities.	completed
3.1.9	7	Prepare draft of Protection Act	Submitted to Contracting Authority in March 2003	completed
3.1.10	7	Prepare draft for announcement of designation in Official Gazette	Announcement was prepared, submitted to the CA and published in the Official Gazette.	completed
3.1.11	9	Explore the possibility of establishing a Nature Park Authority	Establishment of the Nature Park Authority as a public institution was proposed in the decree.	completed
3.1.12	9	Training of park management skills for the various interested parties	Counterpart staff learned by doing in participating in various project activities and trainings; furthermore training for the workgroups included management skills.	completed
3.1.13	18	Take in account the Slovene, EU and international regulations	International habitat regimes and EU directives as well as respective clauses of IUCN rules were reviewed by the legal expert and taken into account for drafting the decree.	completed
3.2	5	Trilateral Strategy consultations and coordination	Six meetings with the respective counterparts were convened.	completed
3.2.1	6	Present the activities of Slovene Park in Austria and Hungary	The representative of Raab Nature Park (AT) in Jennersdorf was informed about the project in Goričko. Two presentations of the project in	completed

			Hungary took place. The Hungarian structures, aims and objectives as a National Park Authority seem to be considerably different from the Nature Parks in Austria and Slovenia. KPG participated in the trilateral exhibition in Hungarian and Austrian Park.	
3.2.2	5	Prepare the trilateral strategy, management plan and action plans	Trilateral communication and relations were established, but due to different stages in establishment and different orientations (see also 3.2.2), it is premature to prepare a common strategy, management plan and action plans.	started
3.2.3	3	Regional development strategy printed and submitted on CD-ROM	The regional development strategy is based on the management plan and on the business plans from the work groups (printed as annexes 4 and 6), CD-ROM submitted.	completed
3.2.4	18	Cross-border coordination and tie in the logo for the trilateral Nature Park, (see task 19)	Cross-border coordination was only initialised (see 3.2.2). TRI-N logo is already implemented in all project activities and the new KPG logo.	completed
3.2.5	9	Prepare proposals for a trilateral Nature Park Authority	The respective administrative frameworks in the neighbouring countries are still rather lean and inhomogeneous, and KPG just started. Therefore it is premature to create trilateral authority; sound proposals for such cooperation and a trilateral authority are presented in the report »Trilateral Nature Park Orseg-Raab-Goricko« (Czerny/Kroon, 1999)	Post-poning recommended
3.2.6	21	Prepare MoU between Slovenia, Hungary and Austria, for coordinated management	In view of 3.2.2 - 3.2.5 such a MOU could not be prepared; however a draft for further discussion with the international partners is attached as Annex 9	Post-poning recommended

4	6	Information, awareness and marketing campaigns organised and implemented	A communication and information strategy was elaborated and implemented throughout the project implementation through personal contacts, newsletters, press conferences, and numerous publications and announcements in various media. Marketing and promotion of the KPG and its products was gradually developed and implemented.	completed
4.1	0	Awareness on the Nature Park development	Approximately 200 inhabitants of all 11 Municipalities actively participated in the work groups, the excursions, the training programs and the numerous events that were taking place. Their positive attitude to the park and their believe in the future of the region is the strongest asset of KPG in the long run. The population at large was reached through the local media (Vestnik, radio, tv) and Newsletters. Several of the key events received broad coverage on local and national radio and television stations, such as the youth workshop, several of the training sessions and work groups, excursions for best practice, the authentic food festival on August 31 st and the trilateral bicycle tour on October 4 th . Three times the Sunday magazine »Nedeljska kuhinja« at radio Murski Val was focussing on KPG project.	completed
4.1.1	0	Prepare an information strategy for promoting	The strategy was presented in the FIP. Accordingly various dissemination of information, press releases,	completed

		the Nature Park	presentations at fairs, and information events took place.	
4.1.2	1	monthly "Park Goricko Newsletter", 10.000 copies, b/w, A4, print and distribute	From October 2002 to September 2003, eleven such newsletters were compiled, printed and disseminated to all Goričko households (appr. 9,800 households in Goričko; nearly 1800 households received a Hungarian version as well) and approximately 200 stakeholders outside the region	completed
4.1.3	1	Quarterly "Trilateral Newsletter" in three languages, colour print, A4, incl. Translations	<p>Three trilateral newsletters were produced:</p> <p>The first one was produced as a trilateral information brochure on Goricko and the two neighbouring parks Raab and Örség, in four languages (SLO, EN, HU, GE), and serves as an overall information brochure for the park.</p> <p>The second trilateral newsletter was kept very brief and informed the population of all three parks about the availability of three other brochures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Flora and Fauna brochure (4 languages; for cost reasons, this brochure was not mailed to every household) • The Goricko cookbook in Slovene language. • The Goricko Handicraft brochure <p>These publications are available free of cost to all persons within the park who desire to obtain copies.</p> <p>The third trilateral newsletter was published only at the very end of the project, containing interviews with artists and other personalities from the cultural and intellectual life of the three parks, discussing various aspects of the future park in the context of the soon to be enlarged European Union.</p>	completed
4.1.4	6	Prepare and disseminate information and promotion communications	Numerous informal conversations took place with local media representatives, particularly with the local TV and radio stations (both in Slovene and Hungarian language) and the most read weekly newspaper "Vestnik". The media provided a continuous update on developments concerning the future KPG.	completed
4.1.5	6	Press conferences	Three formal press conferences were held, which had an excellent nation-wide response. A list of the media which responded as well as copies of articles were submitted to the CA.	completed
4.1.6	6	Organise 3 bigger performances with artists from the trilateral area in castle Grad	The first event was a concert of the highly popular Slovenian singer Kreslin held in Kobilje on June 28. The second event was a presentation of Goricko traditional gastronomy in Grad castle on August 31. The third event was the trilateral bicycle marathon on October 4 th .	completed
4.2	0	Awareness and promotion of economic development opportunities	The main focus of the second round of the training programs within the 15 work groups was to find business opportunities, jointly or on individual basis, and to elaborate business plans/project fiches. Several of the work groups have formed membership co-operations or are thinking of creating businesses in Goricko. Several of the team members are living in the park area, some of them are already looking forward to a future employment with the park management. A total of over 100 volunteers worked for the project on a voluntary basis, receiving no honorarium for their work, but just per diems and out of pocket travel expenses.	completed

4.2.1	13	Prepare information and promotion strategy for products/services	The promotion strategy was covered in general by the aspects of the quality logo and by the quality assurance guidelines and trainings under 5.14-5.19. Furthermore leaflets were printed for producers of handicrafts being awarded in the respective competition; traditional cuisine was promoted in the food festival and through the recipe booklet.	completed
4.2.2	13	Prepare and disseminate joint information and marketing material for the trilateral Nature Park	The following information and marketing material have been produced during the project (language codes: Slovene, Hungarian, English, German): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ trilateral image brochure (SHEG) ▪ flora & fauna brochure (SHEG) ▪ traditional gastronomy, recipe booklet (SEG) ▪ tourist map scale 1 : 50.000 including information on cultural and natural sights, hiking & cycling routes, accommodation, restaurants, wine cellars, holidays on a farm, products and crafts, off-farm-sales (SHEG). ▪ Souvenirs and crafts brochure (SHEG) ▪ Leaflets for award winning participants at the competition conducted for the most tasteful souvenirs from local handicraft items produced by local artisans (S). ▪ Flyer for bicycle marathon (SHG) ▪ Postcards (16 types) ▪ Posters (3 types) ▪ Banners and flags with KPG logo 	completed
4.2.3	13	Presentation at two international fairs	It was confirmed by SC that a more regional approach should be followed. Therefore the participation of KPG at the trilateral exhibitions in Hungary and Austria replaced the participation at such fairs. Budget was used for this purpose instead, as well as for participation at an International Tourist Fair in the French Bretagne region, which was organised by the project on a short term basis and turned out to be a sounding success.	completed
4.2.4	13	Presence at the "Alpe-Adria" tourism fair in Ljubljana	KPG participated at Alpe-Adria-Fair in December 2002.	completed
4.2.5	16	Prepare printed promotional materials	Brochures on flora & fauna, a tourist map with hiking and cycling routes, a list of accommodation, posters, displays, brochures on handicrafts and off-farms-sales, recipe booklet and menus for traditional gastronomy and several more printed promotional materials were produced. The brochures and information material on flora, fauna, cooking, local handicraft, and postcards have been printed in quantities that should be sufficient for the next two to three years.	completed
4.2.6	16	Prepare electronic promotion material (CD-R, website)	A KPG website has been created and installed based on the new park logo and with "state of the art" possibilities for future extension. All contents were fully incorporated in the website.	completed
4.2.7	19	Introduce the TRI-N trade mark at the fare at Gornja Radgona (international fair)	The project participated in the trade fair at Gornja Radgona with their exhibit stand and selected products. The main purpose was again to raise awareness in Pomurje for KPG.	completed
4.2.8	19	Undertake a program of awareness raising about the logo and the	Subject to the decision on the labelling strategy currently under discussion.	started

		products		
5	0	Economic and Regional Development supported	It became obvious to the project team that this aspect of the proposed Nature Park development is considered to be of highest importance and interest for the local population.	started
5.1	15	Training and support in managerial matters to handicraft and work groups	Work group members all completed training courses on managerial matters	completed
5.2	6	Skill training for various interested groups	<p>Coordinators and mentors were assigned for each work group; specific training and excursions enabled the participants to produce a business plan or a project fiche.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organic Farm Products • Sustainable Fruit Production • Sustainable Wine Production • Management of Natura 2000 sites, nature view points and habitat watching (e.g. birds, otter) • Tourism on a Farm - accommodation in the region • Traditional Pannonian Houses, renovation and marketing as holiday homes • Local Gastronomy with authentic recipes • Straw Products & Forest and Wood Products • Bicycle Tourism, Walking and Hiking Tourism • Alternative Health Tourism • Municipal information centres in traditional houses combining museum, tourism information and sales of local products (wine, crafts) • Training for Guide and Ranger Services • Traditional crafts (including network for craft work room development in Grad Castle) • History & Cultural Tourism, including technical heritage (mills, blacksmith, etc.) • Youth Tourism <p>Some workgroups were re-arranged according to the specific needs.</p> <p>According to the ToR, language (English, German, and Hungarian) and computer courses with local trainers/teachers took place.</p>	completed
5.3	6	Study tours, exchange visits	<p>The following excursions were held, all with very good participation of work group members, mayors and representatives of the municipalities and other stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kozjanski Regional Park (3 excursions: one for mayors, one for holiday on a farm, one for NATURA 2000 and youth tourism, guide training and awardees of the handicrafts competition) ▪ Burgenland for visit of combined info-centres, ▪ Steiermark to study Mur-bicycle-route, ▪ Kőszeg, traditional handicrafts and straw & wood product, cultural heritage, ▪ Gaj Tunjice, wellness and energetic points, ▪ Kog/Ljuotmer for organic farming ▪ Güssing/Burgenland for Smalnica/Uhudler ▪ Puch/Steiermark for fruit production and processing ▪ Budapest, craftsmanship and cultural heritage 	completed

5.4	6	Series of 2-day workshops on CBC, fund raising, PCN	These were part of the trainings of to the work groups by their mentors, who are pointing out the various options and possibilities for financing and funding project fiches and business plans to the respective work group participants.	completed
5.5	5	Prepare 15 project fiches	The Steering Committee has decided to rename this »project fiches« into »business plans«. Nevertheless, two full project fiches were already submitted in the field of local gastronomy and renovation and transformation of old Pannonian houses into holiday homes. One was accepted and has started implementation. The other business plans were completed and are compiled as Annex 6.	completed
5.6	5	Detailed preparation (ready to go) for 3-5 projects	Two Project fiches have already been adopted for financing and are in the process of implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> »Traditional gastronomy« was successfully submitted to PHARE CBC program; »Wellness in rural Goricko« was adopted under the project co-operation budget of the Ministry for Labour, Family and Social Affairs. Project fiches for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> renovation and transformation of Panonian houses into holiday homes, straw/wood production and Bicycle route implementation and sign-posting are available and »ready-to-go«. 	completed
5.7	6	Organise at camping sites, incl. all necessary permissions; 1 + 2	A partner for this endeavour has been contacted to make it sustainable.	completed
5.8	14	Cooperate with MAFF on a strategy on marketing of bio products	No parallel label for products of organic farming was introduced during the project as practically no supply is available; good products can use the quality label to certify quality and origin, whereas the normal organic produce label can be used to certify organic production methods.	completed
5.9	17	Provide agricultural training and information workshops on alternative environmentally friendly farming	Integrated in the second round of skills training as described above.	completed
5.10	17	Provide training on traditional farm produce and traditional culinary specialities	The work group on gastronomy will receive special training on the product line of local farm produce. This group is also foreseen to act as a model case for the use of the trade mark/label for regional products	completed
5.11	16	Preparation of a joint data base on crafts, food, tourism offers, cultural events, sports, etc.	Will be integrated in the internet presentation, see 2.2.3. In addition the Regional Museum of Murska Sobota prepared a list of traditional craftsmen from the region.	completed
5.12	16	Build up a network of producers of traditional handicrafts in the trilateral Nature Park	The respective work group has submitted a proposal for training and production of samples to be offered to info centres and traditional gastronomy group. The local counterpart budget of the Ministry of Economy will be used to support handicrafts workshop in cooperation with the municipality of Grad, which will formally be the contractor for these tasks (see Annex 5), proposals of the KPG project team have been submitted to municipality of Grad.	operative

5.13	17	Elaborate a shot list of farms and enterprises with high potential for environmentally products	Will be part of the respective work group (see 5.2.). A small brochure (list) of such products already available will be produced in accordance with Ministry of Agriculture cooperation budget.	started
5.14	18	Elaborate a quality assurance system and a quality audit unit for trilateral Nature Park	A quality assurance system was established only in the Slovene part of the trilateral park for the time being. Within the given time frame it was not realistic to elaborate such a system on trilateral basis successfully. The system for KPG is part of the Quality Manual (see Annex 4)	completed
5.15	18	Prepare a quality management system operating manual (frequency of controls)	The quality experts have three times visited the KPG region and submitted this manual, which is part of the draft management plan (see Annex 4).	completed
5.16	18	Train a group of experts for quality control methodologies, parameters and expenses	Quality experts have trained multipliers (mentors, work group coordinators, future staff of KPG and participants of the work groups) on that during August 2003.	completed
5.17	19	Prepare a marketing strategy for the TRI-N trade mark	See Quality Manual (Annex 4)	completed
5.18	19	Register the logo in Slovenia and also register it internationally	Process of registration in Slovenia has been started, decision of CA which logo exactly should be registered for what purpose will be accepted till 15 th October. International registration for the time being can be omitted.	started
5.19	19	Promotion of the trilateral Nature Park quality logo/trade mark for organic and environmentally friendly products and services	Quality logo will be awarded among others to the participants in respective working groups, planning to produce products in line with the aims and objectives of the Quality Manual (e.g. local gastronomy, handicrafts)	started

6	10	Establish the guide service/office	Cooperation with the Pomurje Tourism Organisation has been established, which is running a regional guide training program and provides a licensing system for that. At Grad KPG info-centre such guide service/office will be made available under the authority of the proposed KPG administration.	started
6.1	10	Establish a network of educational institutions in all 3 countries for guide training	The Austrian curriculum for guide training in Nature Parks was studied, properly adjusted to KPG needs - training with participation of Austrian mentors and EARS was carried out in June 2003. No such initiative at the moment is feasible with the Hungarian park.	completed
6.2	10	Tailor the training program for park guides from Austria, chamber of commerce	The result of the tailored training program for park guides is attached as Annex 7.	completed
6.3	10	Provide audio-cassettes as support material for the training	Contractor proposed to omit this task as the approach of a curriculum jointly developed in cooperation between Austrian mentors and EARS and the training of future lecturers on these tasks will better serve this purpose. SC agreed.	Omitted
6.4	10	Prepare manuals	Submitted, see Annex 7.	completed
6.5	11	Invite suitable candidates to apply for	15 candidates participated in the training	completed

		training as park guides		
6.6	10	Quick training for basic skills (50 hrs = 1 week)	After the evaluation of the existing guide training module, offered by Pomurje Tourism Organisation and with consent of the client both tasks were combined into one extensive programme, totalling close to 70 training hours: A curriculum has been developed together with Mr. & Mrs. Handler, Managers of the Austrian Nature Park Association, who have been successfully conducting the respective training programmes for over 150 guides in Austria during the past 5 years. The generous help of staff of the EARS and National Nature Protection Institute to cover more than a quarter of the training is deeply appreciated. Slovenian trainers were chosen and took part in intensive "train the trainer" sessions. They received copies of the German course texts as basis for a tailor made Slovene version.	completed
6.7	10	Deeper course: visitors guidance, organisational skills, handling visitors groups, create program		
6.8	10	30 excursions into the park for each target group (children, adults, etc.)	The guides were trained rather late in the project period and also possible budgetary and time constraints prevented implementation.	omitted
6.9	10	Organise and implement a scientific youth camp (2 weeks, 60 participants)	SC agreed to substitute this task by a cultural event with approximately 100 participants from schools of all three countries, which was successfully held in June 23, 2003 at Grad.	completed

7	0	Inception activities		concluded
7.1	0	Project mobilisation		completed
7.2	0	Contact stakeholders and facilitate cooperation		completed
7.3	0	Consult on work plan preparation		completed
8	0	Reporting		completed
8.1.	0	Inception Report preparation	Submitted for approval	completed
8.2	0	Inception Report approval	Received from Steering Committee	completed
8.3	0	Interim Report		completed
8.3.1	0	Interim Report I (6 months)	Approved by Steering Committee	completed
8.3.2	0	Interim Report II (12 months)	Approved by Steering Committee	completed
8.3.3	0	Interim Report III (15 months)	In compliance with the IR this task will not be carried out since the final report has to be drafted by that time already.	suspended
8.4	0	Draft Final Report	Submitted to CA	completed
8.5	0	Final Report		completed
8.6	0	Monthly Reports	Monthly Reports submitted for the period between July 2002 and September 2003	completed

4 Overall report on the total project

Achievements are commented according to the logical framework and the original 21 tasks in the TOR.

4.1 Logical Framework and Project Achievements

The Logical Framework is attached as Annex 1.

Overall Objective

- 1 The natural and cultural environment is preserved in a sustainable manner
- 2 The quality of life of the residents in the area is improved

The Habitat Mapping Exercise gives excellent information on diversity and on the spatial extension of valuable habitats in the Park area and provides a sound basis to monitor changes in the future and thus the impact of spatial use (e.g. *Daphne cneorum*, *Lutra lutra*).

Within the project life time no direct impact of the project or the Nature park was effectuated on employment, but various initiatives for self employment, tourism and small business development and better appreciation of the environment were initiated.

Project Purpose

Trilateral Nature Park Goričko is developed and functional

In collaboration with the CA the project prepared a draft decree, supported public hearings and implemented a lot of legal and public relation steps to declare the "Krajinski Park Goričko", providing the legal status for the park, with full involvement of various stakeholders and respecting official public hearing requirements. The government of the Republic of Slovenia is expected to formally decree the KPG during the first two weeks of October. The establishment of the KPG Authority is prepared and shall be effective from 2004 onwards.

Project Results

1. Nature park centre in castle Grad is set up and operational

The Park Administration and Information Office, along with the workrooms for crafts were established at Grad Castle; MESP has made budget provisions for staffing, with one person already employed and budget foreseen for additional staff after project handing over, as well as budget for centre operations.

2. Nature park management plan developed

2.1 Inventory conducted and management plan developed

Inventory data, digitised habitat and zoning maps were collected and produced. They represent the core content of the draft management plan.

2.2 Tri-lateral Website developed

The trilateral website was developed and is operative.

2.3 Tri-N trademark & logo registered and promoted

Logos for the KPG (with the existing TRI-N-trademark integrated) and the region of Goricko were developed and promoted, registration process on behalf of MESP is under way.

3. Nature Park institutionally and legally established

3.1 Nature park legally established

Krajinski Park Goricko was legally established, government decree expected before October 15, KPG authority will be operative by beginning of 2004.

3.2 Trilateral strategy developed

6 meetings were held with counterparts of the parks in Austria and Hungary, various joint activities developed, carried out and planned for the future. A draft for a MoU was submitted for further negotiations.

4. Information, awareness and marketing campaigns organised and implemented

4.1 Awareness campaign on Nature Park implemented

11 regional newsletters and 3 international newsletters were produced in Slovene and Hungarian (for international NL also in German) language. Distribution was to every household in Goricko, to approximately 200 other stakeholders and to the population of the Nature Parks in Hungary and Austria. The newsletters were well received and created numerous positive reactions and activities.

4.2 Nature Park produces and services promoted

The communication strategy paper was submitted to and approved by the SC. Promotion of local produce was apart from participation at trade fairs also integrated in the working groups activities, such as traditional gastronomy, souvenirs & crafts, farm products.

5. Economic development options and alternative income opportunities developed

15 workgroups were established to develop business plans and project fiches in order to implement projects generating alternative income opportunities. 15 business plans/project fiches were submitted to CA, 5 of them ready-to-go, 2 of them already approved for financing and in the implementation phase.

6. Guide and ranger services and offices are established

Training of 15 nature guides was carried out in co-operation with Austrian experts. The Austrian training curriculum was adopted for Slovene purposes, translated and implemented by training Slovene trainers in using it for further training of guides.

4.2 Achievement of Project Tasks according to TOR

The Task numbers from the TOR are mentioned in the second column of the tabular report in the previous section. In order to have a concise overview of the achievements, the tasks and achievements are summarised below.

Task 1. Establishment of an *Administrative and Information Centre* for the Nature Park in Grad Castle.

In the final stage of the project the Administrative centre was established and made operative.

Task 2. Preparation of detailed *technical specifications for the equipment* set out in chapter 6.2

The tender dossiers for the office equipment were prepared according to the contract addendum.

Task 3. Completion of the *Inventory* of Goričko Nature Park, in accordance with the conditions of Slovene legislation which regulate the declaration of an area as a Nature Park with a legal status.

Inventory of KPG was completed in accordance with Slovene legislation.

Task 4. Draw-up complete *Zone Maps* of the entire Goričko Nature Park at the scale of not less than 1:25,000. Habitat Mapping will be produced on a scale of 1:5000.

Complete zone-maps of all municipalities were drawn and submitted in digital format; habitat mapping was carried out for all non-forest regions of KPG.

Task 5. Prepare a *Management Plan with emphasis on Action Plan for the Nature Park Goričko* in co-operation with Hungarian and Austrian counterparts on preparation of *Trilateral Nature Park Development Strategy*.

Drafts for the management plan and the MoU for future development strategy of the Trilateral Nature Park have been submitted.

Task 6. Undertake *awareness raising activities* (seminars and workshops on nature protection as well as overall development activities - tourism, sports, culture, business, etc. within Nature Park, the quality and standards.
Incl. Lectures and workshops

The population at large was reached through the local media (Vestnik, radio, tv) and Newsletters. Several of the key events received broad coverage on local and national radio and television stations. Approximately 200 inhabitants of all 11 Municipalities actively participated in the work groups, the excursions, the training programs & seminars and the numerous events that were taking place.

Task 7. *Preparation of the necessary documentation for the purpose of designating a Nature Park.* (Nature Protection Regimes, Draft Protection Act, application for the designation of Goričko Nature Park, draft for announcement of designation in Official Gazette, co-ordinate public hearing)

All necessary documentation and drafts for the protection act were submitted, the public hearings were announced and co-ordinated.

Task 8. *Gaining the support and approval of the 11 Municipalities*, involved in Nature Park.

Support of the 11 municipalities was fully gained in the process of establishing the park.

Task 9. Exploring the possibility of *establishing a Nature Park Authority*.

The Nature Park Authority is foreseen in the decree.

Park Management and Control and Trilateral actions

Task 10. Establishment of the *Guide/Service Office* including the preparation of a Guide Training Course and the Certification

Task 11. Suitable candidates will be invited to apply for **training as Park Guides** and the first batch will be trained under this programme.

A tailored guide training program was held with 15 participants using core parts of the respective Austrian curriculum and with the help of EARS. At Grad KPG info-centre the guide service/office will be made available under the authority of the proposed KPG administration.

Trilateral actions

Task 12. Establishment of a Trilateral Nature Park *information web-site* and linking with the information offices in both Austria and Hungary as well as with site of MESP.

KPG-website was established and linked to the respective information providers in the Austrian and Hungarian parks.

Task 13. Preparation and dissemination of *joint information and marketing material* for the Trilateral Nature Park.

The following information and marketing material have been produced during the project (language codes: Slovene, Hungarian, English, German):

- trilateral image brochure (SHEG)
- flora & fauna brochure (SHEG)
- traditional gastronomy, recipe booklet (SEG)
- tourist map scale 1 : 50.000 including information on cultural and natural sights, hiking & cycling routes, accommodation, restaurants, wine cellars, holidays on a farm, products and crafts, off-farm-sales (SHEG).
- Souvenirs and crafts brochure (SHEG)
- Leaflets for award winning participants at the competition conducted for the most tasteful souvenirs from local handicraft items produced by local artisans (S).
- Flyer for bicycle marathon (SHG)
- Postcards (16 types)
- Posters (3 types)
- Banners and flags with KPG logo

Revitalisation of traditional economic activities

Task 14. Establishment of **six workrooms / retail outlets** for such crafts as (1) weaving, (2) distillery for schnapps, (3) pottery, (4) herbal productions, (5) joinery/wheelwrights, (6) blacksmith's metal products.

Workrooms and retail outlets were established at Grad castle, taking into account amendments made in the approved derogation.

Workrooms that require fire cannot be operational due to fire hazard in a building of cultural heritage value.

Task 15. Providing *training and support in managerial matters* to the newly self-employed handicraft-persons.

Work group members all completed training courses on managerial matters

Task 16. Build-up of a *network of producers* of traditional handicrafts in the Trilateral Nature Park and preparation of a joint data-base.

The network and the database are part of the internet presentation, hard copy leaflets were produced to identify products and producers.

Introduce environmentally products

Task 17. Undertake a programme of *agricultural training and information workshops* on alternative environmentally friendly farm enterprises as well as the production of traditional farm produce and traditional culinary specialities from the region.

That training was integrated in the second round of trainings offered to the members of the respective work groups. In addition the work group on local gastronomy received special training on the product line of local farm produce. This group is also foreseen to act as a model case for the use of the trade mark/label for regional products.

Task 18. Elaboration of a *Quality Assurance System and a Quality Audit Unit* for Trilateral Nature Park products.

On the contractors proposal it was decided to establish such quality assurance system only in the Slovene part of the trilateral park for the time being. The system for KPG is part of the Quality Manual (see Annex 4).

Task 19. Promotion of the Trilateral Nature Park quality *Logo / Trade Mark* for organic and environmentally friendly products and services.

As there is no trilaterally used quality logo the decision was made to introduce such logo only for KPG. Design and regime for using the quality logo are part of the quality manual.

Task 20. Establish a *Nature Park Produce Presentation Facility / Room* in Grad Castle.

Such room was established and furnished at Grad castle.

Task 21. Prepare of a *MoU* between Slovenia, Hungary and Austria, facilitating co-ordinated management of the TRI-D Nature Park and border crossing.

The draft version of the MoU was submitted.

5 Project Inputs

In the following, a final list of input of personnel and a status of the procurement of equipment, services and promotion material is given. Please note that due to the delivery date of the Final report by end of September some of the calculations on man-days and incidental expenditure are projections only regarding the last weeks of the project. Final and exact figures will be subject to final accounting per October 15 only.

5.1 Personnel

In compliance with the amended list of experts given in the SIP it is understood that the input of manpower would be flexible and should respond to more detailed specifications of respective needs during the ongoing work on the project. In that context the consortium has proposed some more minor changes in the input of personnel, which were approved by CA. These are putting the total professional input to 2818 working days, which presumably will be used up to almost 100%. The proposed amendments were calibrated in a way to remain budget-neutral.

The largest need for extra time was for Dr. Kaligarić, leader of the Habitat Mapping team and Mrs. Petrinec, who also have to complete the compilation and the analysis of the habitat inventory data in addition to the field work and the data entry. Also some Mentors/external trainers needed more time to assist the working groups with preparing the business plans/project fiches.

Table 2 shows that the total amount of expert input is 4% higher than foreseen in the inception report, the additional days were mainly generated by a larger number of field workers and data entry experts in connection with the habitat mapping and digitisation task. However the adjustments proposed by the contractor and approved by CA from time to time allowed the project management to allocate additional manpower in fields where such action was requested, while savings in other fields enabled the changes to remain budget-neutral.

Compared to the original layout of personnel input the number of short time experts from the project region is now considerably higher, which contributed to a better understanding and acceptance of the project in the region.

Table 2. The project team

Pos t No.	Position in the team	Expert	Approved	Revised	Used	Balance
	<i>Team Leader</i>					
1	Team Leader	Uitz	151	151	151	0
	<i>Long term local senior</i>					
2	Senior Environmental Engineer	Rotar	256	249	249	0
	<i>Long term local senior</i>					
3	Computer programmer, System analyst	Vučak-Hribar	75	75	75	0
	Computer programmer, System analyst	Kostirc	75	75	75	0
	Journalist	Maučec	20	20	20	0
	Computer programmer, System analyst	Lehner	25	5	5	0
4	Assistant to Team Leader	Stojan-Dolar	300	300	300	0
5	Senior Planning Engineer	Habjanič	200	200	200	0
6	Senior Biologist, Environmental engineer	Kaligarič	141	157	157	0
	<i>Short term international senior</i>					
7	Rural development, farm enterprise	Nabuurs	90	93	93	0
8	Educationalist	Schmidt-Kallert	5	0	0	0
	Educationalist, guide trainer	Handler	14	6	6	0
	Educationalist, guide trainer	Asamer-Handler	14	8	8	0
9	Economist business Development	Czerny	100	100	100	0
	<i>Short term international junior</i>					
10	Quality control engineer	Roscher	25	25	25	0
	Quality control engineer	Eggert	15	15	15	0
	<i>Short term local senior</i>					
11	External Trainer	Sraka	20	20	20	0
	External Trainer	Šoster	5	5	5	0
	External Trainer	Šauperl	18	21	21	0
	External Trainer	Kreslin	32	36	36	0
	External Trainer	Hönigsfeld-Adamič	5	5	5	0
	External Trainer	NN	22	0	0	0
12	Trainer, marketing	Lebe	90	81	81	0
13	Geographer-senior, Env. technician	Drozg	134	137	137	0
	<i>Short term local junior</i>					
14	Documentation, promotion	Dobovišek	125	125	125	0
15	Biologist, Environmental technician	Škornik	133	110	110	0
16	Geographer-junior, Environmental technician	Šendlinger	107	107	107	0
	Geographer-junior, Environmental technician	Skobir	70	91	91	0
17	Legal Expert	Knez	35	35	35	0

18	Data Entry Technician	Škalič	175	175	175	0
	Data Entry Technician/ H. Mapper	Šajna	40	40	40	0
	Data Entry Technician/H. Mapper	Sedonja	40	40	40	0
19	Habitat Mapping Technician	Petrinec	127	146	146	0
20	Habitat Mapping Technician	Čerpnjak	65	65	65	0
	Habitat Mapping Technician	Bakan	20	25	25	0
	Habitat Mapping Technician	Mujdrica	20	30	30	0
21	Fauna Specialist	Štumberger	25	25	25	0
22	Fauna Specialist	Adamič	20	20	20	0
		Total	2834	2818	2818	0

5.2 Equipment / Material

Only in the last phase of the project the tenders, contracting and supply of the various goods and equipment for the Nature Park Centre in Grad were realised. In addition many expenditures were incurred on publications, excursions and training.

Table 3 gives an overview of the budgets for incidental expenditure and parts hereof being used and spent during the reporting time (as recorded by end of September 2003, some estimates for task yet unaccounted for are included).

Table 3. Budgets and expenditures for incidental expenditure (€)

Budget line		From TOR	Modified Budget ¹⁾	Expenditure	Balance
A/ Nature Park Headquarters					
1.	Nature Park Administration & Information Centre				
1.1	Offices	79,000	63,000	43,169	19,831
1.2	Toilettes	2,000	0	0	0
1.3	General Equipment, lights		25,000	24,895	105
2	Conference room	3,000	3,000	1,686	1,314
3	Research and Presentation Centre	48,000	41,000	35,875	5,125
4	Information / Presentation Office	3,000	3,000	2,331	669
B/ Nature Park Produce Presentation Facility					
1	1. Food exhibition and tasting facility	7,000	7,000	5,832	1,168
C/ Workrooms for Crafts					
1	1. General equipment	5,000	5,000	4,067	933
1.1	1.1 Weaving	37,000	37,000	20,351	16,649
1.2	1.2 Distillery	28,000	28,000	10,318	17,682
1.3	1.3 Pottery	21,000	21,000	20,719	281
1.4	1.4 Herbal Production	14,000	14,000	8,528	5,472
1.5	1.5 Joinery / Wheelwrights	30,000	30,000	26,430	3,570
1.6	1.6 Blacksmiths	56,000	56,000	28,085	27,915

D/ Others					
1	1. Transport	35,000	35,000	23,707	11,293
2	2. Display and Signposting	10,000	10,000	6,000	4,000
	Additional to TOR into the contract				
E /	Communication, training, excursions, newsletters, promotion material & others	195,650	195,650	189,095	6,555
	Total Incidental Cost	573,650	573,650	454,475	119,175

¹⁾ When preparing the detailed list of equipment based on the functional needs of the future Nature Park Administration and Information Centre we found the needs deviated from the equipment list mentioned in the TOR; hence an addendum to the contract was requested and approved in May 2003.

6 Lessons learnt and recommendations

6.1 Reflection on the five evaluation criteria

i. Relevance

The project design aimed from the very beginning at two main aspects (in line with the respective policy and legislation on nature protection of MESO):

- the protection of the unique mosaic-landscape and important habitat of flora & fauna and
- the aspect of regional development of economy and tourism.

The project combined both approaches, however it was sometimes difficult to explain to the local stakeholders that much of the regional development activities could be only triggered within the project and had to be left to future programmes and financing.

After all, most probably after a long term satisfactory economical development it will be gratefully remembered by many local beneficiaries that the initial step to declare KPG saved the region from losing its uniqueness and authenticity.

KPG and the aims and objectives identified in the course of the project represent a sound and sustainable background for an improved economical development to be expected in the region without the threat of such development destroying the natural and cultural environment of Goricko.

ii. Efficiency

The main task to survey and document the proposed park and raise awareness and support among the 11 municipalities and the population of Goricko was fulfilled in a very effective way. Within the first year of the project it became clear that no substantial criticism or resistance against the project of the Park was to be expected in the region, the project gained the support of all mayors and many stakeholders and the people of Goricko.

The task to furnish and equip the rooms at Grad Castle had to be postponed at the project start as the foreseen rooms in the castle were not ready for the proposed purpose yet.

The tasks related to regional development included a substantial amount of training, workshops, excursions and seminars, which were much accepted among the local population interested in the various subjects. However, it sometimes proved difficult for the project to explain to all participants that implementation of business plans or projects had to be left for future schemes and programmes. A recommendation in this concern would have been to include some budget provisions for pilot projects in the field of regional economical and tourism development, participants of the work groups would have shown even more enthusiasm, if such opportunity would have been available.

iii. Effectiveness

Concerning the declaration of the park, the work carried out concerning the inventory, the digital maps and the habitat mapping represented a sound background for the legal and political process including the participatory approach selected in the public hearings. With this background, KPG is probably currently one of the best surveyed and documented Nature Parks in Central Europe.

Regarding the creation of a Nature Park Information Centre and Workshop Rooms in Grad Castle, where the future Park Authority will also have their seat, an overall plan for the use of Grad Castle will have to be enforced to give good reasons for visitors to come there. It is foreseeable that such endeavour will take time, but nevertheless all activities bringing life into the location and creating

interest to visit Grad Castle should be supported. The KPG Information Centre will need a lot of attractions to create a sustainable use of the facilities now established at these premises.

The 15 business plans for regional development and job and/or self-employment creation will be as much effective, as the members and stakeholders of the working groups deem them to be. The recommendation is to offer continuous support for these groups from the side of the Nature Park Authority, as it is among the objectives of a nature park to support economical structures for the local population allowing them to live a decent life in the park.

iv. Impact

The declaration of the Nature Park will obviously have an enormous impact on the bio-diversity, the protection of the unique landscape, culture and tradition of Goricko. Furthermore, awareness for the value of these assets was raised among many local stakeholders and the citizens of Goricko in general.

The label "Nature Park" will further support the efforts to position Goricko as a tourism destination. It will also help the producers of nature-related products to use the quality label and market their produce more successfully – especially after the integration of Slovenia in the European Union, when visitors from abroad will be tempted to take some of these products home.

The impact on the employment situation in Goricko will have to be reviewed after KPG and the marketing of the park have been fully operative for some time.

v. Sustainability

Concerning the KPG sustainability will mainly depend on the determination of MESP to fully finance and empower the future Park Management, care for proper staffing and material expenses and also invest (jointly with stakeholders) in tourism promotion.

Although it was sometimes found difficult to identify joint goals and projections between the three Park administration on international level, it will be crucial for the success of KPG that its management continues to exchange ideas and develop joint activities on trilateral level. This aspect is one of the main assets of the Park in future marketing.

The work groups, which have invested so much time and enthusiasm in developing business plans and project fiches, will need all the attention and support from the Park Management but also from institutions dealing with regional development on the spot. It will be crucial to assist them identifying appropriate financing schemes and programs in order to implement as many of their projects as possible.

6.2 Various aspects and general remarks

Timeframe for the project

The project with its different components was already ambitious against the original timeframe. The pressure was further increased by the reduction of the overall project period by two months. In order to achieve the expected results the input per expert was reduced, but more experts were mobilised in parallel. Consequently the activities progressed under great pressure and coordination was sometimes difficult. The time pressure also did not allow much time for participatory processes, absorption by local beneficiaries of the different aspects of the Nature Park or to gradually build up local ownership.

It is recommended to allow a larger time frame for such Nature Park to come into existence. It will allow more participation and a better ownership of the various stakeholders and to lay a stronger foundation for the economic development initiatives. By now the project was only able to impart the

basic training and to have the working groups developing the business plans/project fiches. A longer project period would allow to also support such working groups with starting up implementation.

The very tight timetable due to the reduction of the total project time in connection with no possibility to extend the time frame for the project was already commented in the Inception Report and in the First Interim Report. However, some of the tasks given will simply need more time than 15 months from the start of work till visible results. That applies e.g. for many of the trilateral aims and objectives. It has become obvious that the counterparts in Austria and Hungary were not at all able to comply with time schedules proposed by the Slovenian project team.

The Trilateral Objective

It has become even more obvious that expectations and targets given in the ToR do not meet the respective vision and resources in the two other parts of the Park. This applies for instance for trademark and quality labelling, joint promotional material development, the planning for a trilateral Nature Park Authority and similar issues. Nevertheless, with the borders being open in the future and thus more formal and informal cross-border activities being carried out then, after some time it might make sense to reconsider the proposed trilateral institutions.

Regional development and the economic situation

We have no doubt that regional development with the background of the proposed Nature Park will be fruitful and sustainable. However, the fact that most initiatives (work groups) convened by the project team will be left without clear commitments concerning the future budgeting and financing possibilities for their projects by the end of this project's time frame, can lead to unsatisfactory situations. Provisions are recommended for the time gap between this project's end and the beginning of planning for national funding, EU-structural funds and EU-initiatives for sustaining the respective work groups. Several of the work groups will presumably only survive the project phase if they are given clear indications for realistic project funding of their respective visions and plans.

In addition to the remarks made in the First Interim Report we would now like to add that we found a surprisingly small number of candidates for entrepreneurship among the participants of our work groups. There seems to be quite a vacuum in that field, we recommend therefore to offer incentives to private entrepreneurs to start or extend their own business. A crucial point seems to be the general fear of bureaucracy and licensing systems. This might be sometimes used as an excuse, but the general impression is, that compared to other EU-countries there are bigger bureaucratic and administrative obstacles on the way to self-employment and small business development. This applies among others for off-the-farm-sales, for farm-related tourism services (compared to the Austrian "Buschenschank" system) and for self-employment of craftsmen.

Compared to the recent development in the Austrian border regions of Steiermark and Burgenland there are obvious disadvantages for the development of small business and side-incomes in the project area, which we recommend to dedicate additional attention.

The situation in Grad castle

The Nature Park will share the Grad Castle with the Municipal offices and foreseen other activities. It seems crucial for the attractiveness of the services of the KPG Information Centre that the overall situation at Grad Castle will improve within an updated masterplan. Obviously, further renovation of

large parts of the castle is ongoing and a strategy to attract permanent or temporary users complementing the ongoing activities is needed.

To allocate the Information Center of KPG at Grad Castle will not automatically lead to the perception among visitors that the castle is the logical centre of all KPG-related activities. Only if the castle is overall revived and provides many reasons to come and visit, also the KPG Information Centre will be successful in its operations.

7 Postscript

The contractor and the project team wish to express sincere gratitude to all counterparts, colleagues, partners and friends who they met in the course of the bygone 16 months.

This corresponds in the first place to the representatives of the Contracting Authority, all of them always willing to walk out of their way and co-operate with the team far beyond levels to be expected.

The mayors of the 11 municipalities supported the project team from the very first meeting and always explained their communities needs and wants in a trustful and benevolent atmosphere.

After all the team would like to say »thank you« to all people of Goricko who they met – their enthusiasm in participating in the project, but also their warm-hearted hospitality made the team feel very much at home in Goricko.

A very special »thank you« is expressed to Mrs. Stanka Desnik, who has supported the project and the team in every conceivable way.