



Challenging **Europe**, challenging **WWF**

# WWF and Structural Funds

Today and Tomorrow of the EU Funds  
NGO Seminar on Structural and Cohesion Funds  
Peter Torkler, WWF, Brussels 27.02.2004



## Challenging **Europe**, challenging **WWF**

### **Where we're at: WWF Target in Europe**

*The Natura 2000 network of protected areas in EU accession countries, potentially covering an area of 18 million ha, is successfully developed and implementation supported by the EU Structural Funds*



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### **What is happening when: review of events**

For Accession Countries -- a „triple whammy“:

1. 3x increase in funding in 2004-06 -- huge pressure to spend money while „learning the basics“
2. Planning for 2007-2013
3. Participation in discussion of 2007-2013 reforms



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### **What do we want:** opportunities and objectives

Influence the spending of funds – to ensure that they rather support than destroy WWF's conservation interests, including:

1. No Structural Funds go to environmentally damaging projects in WWF priority sites.
2. Structural Funds support WWF priority conservation objectives -- especially implementation of Natura 2000 and Water Framework Directive.



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### Activities:

1. influencing overall programme development and structure (measures for monitoring, decision making, public participation, etc.);
2. influencing decision making on allocation for specific projects.

### By...

- Advocacy and **lobbying** of decision makers
- Ensuring an environmental voice in decision making and monitoring through capacity building for and **networking** with NGOs
- **Capacity building** for regional authorities

.....on a national and regional level in Poland



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### **Where we're at: WWF Germany / Poland projects (1)**

- Transfer of experience between environmental ministries and NGO's in Poland and Germany - Financial instruments for sustainable development in an enlarged EU
  - Fostering NGO cooperation with Environmental Ministry
  - Secure that integration of environment becomes part of the new SF regulation for 2007 – 2013
  - Influence the programming in selected regions



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### **Where we're at: WWF Germany / Poland projects (2)**

- Enhancing NGO capacities to participate in EU policies
    - ✓ Promote awareness among NGO's of the role of EU institutions and decision-making processes
    - ✓ Promote understanding of the requirements for applying for EU-financed projects
    - ✓ Develop partnership between NGO's in accession countries and EU Member States
- = is focused on country and EU Level



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### **Where we're at: WWF Germany / Poland projects (3)**

- Transfer of know-how from Saxony how to use SF for environment in two regions of Poland

- ✓ influences project development on the regional level
- ✓ provides WWF expertise on regional level
- ✓ shows how cooperation between local NGO's and regional authorities can work

= is focused on regional and transboundary level

WWF is partner in this project realized by Saxsonian foundation for environment



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### Where we're at: WWF Germany / Poland projects (4)

- Sustainable regional development in the Oder catchment
  - ✓ shows best practice on a local level
  - ✓ builds partnerships between NGO's and local authorities
  - ✓ visualises what WWF wants to change on policy level
- = is focussed on local and practical level

! Scoping phase of project finalized, follow up proposal under development



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### **Conclusions:** How to influence more effectively

- Make sure that you have set clear and achievable targets
- Build on existing experience and take “lessons learned “ forward
- Get support from, and cooperate with environmental administration
- Build strong partnership and formulate joint positions
- Lobby EU and national level by using practical examples from the local level



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## How to make it happen on EU level: structure and organization

