Bridging Partners, Regions and Concepts...

The Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme for South Eastern Europe
Foundation for Integration
September 2007

Dr. Corrado Clini
Chairman of the Board

Bridging Stakeholders

- The REC is an international organisation with a mission to assist in solving environmental problems......
  - Legally based on a charter signed by the governments of 29 countries and the European Commission
  - Multi-stakeholder International Board
  - 190 staff (some 30 nationalities)
  - 100% project based organization (over 300 running projects)
  - 10 million Euro annual turnover
  - Offices in 17 countries
  - Population served ~ 200 million
  - Operations beyond Central and Eastern Europe

www.rec.org
REC: access to different frames

- New EU Members
- Accession Countries
- Pre-Accession Countries/ Stabilization and Association Programs

Projects in SEE (1)

- Offices in Banja Luka, Belgrade, Kosovo, Ljubljana, Podgorica, Sarajevo, Skopje, Tirana, Zagreb
- Projects on (and some key examples)
  - Capacity Building
    - Course for Sustainability
    - Training for Environmental Inspectors
    - Young Environmental Leaders
    - Capacity building in the field of greenhouse gas emission inventory
  - Climate Change
    - Kyoto Protocol
    - Vulnerability assessments and adaptation measures
    - Establishment of national scheme for CDM
Projects in SEE (2)

- Water Resources Management
  - International Sava Commission
  - Danube Regional Project
  - Non-conventional waste water treatment
- Energy Efficiency and Renewables
  - Renewable Energy Secretariat (REEEP)
  - Clean Fuels
- Natural Resources Protection
  - Cooperation on Shared Natural Resources (West Stara Planina, Skadar Lake)
  - Adriatic Sea Partnership

Major environmental Initiative under the Stability Pact for SEE – “REReP”

- Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme for South Eastern Europe
- Launched in 2000 in the frame of Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe
- Task Force comprising of ministers of Environment, EC, donors and NGOs guides its implementation
- Since the very beginning the REC plays a role of Secretariat of REReP
Major environmental Initiative under the Stability Pact for SEE – “REReP”

- Since launch of REReP growing efforts for
  - strengthening environmental institutions, policy reform and civil society building
  - transfer of best practices, exchange of experience, established networks
- Increasing
  - number of cross-border agreements and initiatives
  - mutual trust and long-term horizon for European integration
  - political support from the countries
- A great need for further environmental assistance

Cooperation

- **Biodiversity** – sharing benefits of conversation
  - Protected area at Shkodra Lake and its listing among the wetlands of global conservation importance of the Ramsar Convention
    - Partnership between Albania and Montenegro since 2001
    - 2006 decision of the Albanian Government to protect Shkodra Lake
  - Cross-border cooperation in West Stara Planina
    - Letter of intent for joint work signed by 11 municipalities from Serbia and Bulgaria, both sides of the border
    - Documents under preparation for putting under protection the Bulgarian part of the cross-border area
    - Specialisation in eco-tourism, organic agriculture, joint management of natural resources, joint promotional events
Enabling, Capacity Building

- **Course for Sustainability:** Strategies, Methodologies, Policies and Actions...
  - is an educational programme for key government officials responsible for the “three pillars” of sustainable development
  - is designed to give members of various ministries and agencies — not only environmental — from ten target countries a chance to examine the major approaches to sustainable development
  - target countries: Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, and Turkey - For members of various ministries and agencies
  - similar courses to be developed for EECCA (Moscow, Kiev, Thibilisi, Almaty) and under development for the Black Sea area

---

Donor contribution to REReP projects

- **2006:** 79 million Euro!
REC Strategy 2006-2010

(...). The assistance of the REC in South Eastern Europe would be needed for:

- integration of environmental considerations into the process of economic reform to promote stability and long-term sustainable development, particularly in sectors with significant impact on the environment and human health (e.g. industry, transport, agriculture);
- transposition and implementation of the Acquis Communautaire;
- institutional strengthening and policy reform;
- capacity building for efficiently addressing the problems of environmental hotspots and environmental infrastructure in general; environmental civil society building;
- promotion of cross-border cooperation and joint management of shared natural resources;
- development and implementation of "soft measures" promoting sustainable development: such as education on sustainable development, development and implementation of energy efficiency measures, etc.