

## **Project Update: July 2005**

The first step towards the completion of the Semenic – Caras Gorges National Park herpetofauna list was to conduct an extensive inventory of the amphibian species and their distribution. The inventory activities started in March, in order to comprise the maximum activity period for the amphibian species – the mating and breeding periods, and they still continue. A preliminary species count indicates as many as 13 species of amphibians in this National Park, which added to the 12 species of reptiles indicates this region as a very rich and important area for herpetofauna. The collected data helped us elaborate an amphibian species and habitats monitoring program that will be forwarded to the Park Administration for approval.

During the project implementation period we received full support from the Park Administration staff; this led to the proposal in partnership of a new project on amphibians' conservation that aims to reduce the threats identified during this RSG project. The financing comes from the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Romania (MATRA /KNIP Grants for 2005 -2006) for the project entitled "Saving the amphibians in the Semenic-Caras Gorges National Park".

Currently, we are working in order to realise a multimedia CD-ROM, based on the materials that we gathered in the first and this second Rufford Small Grants that will contain a presentation of all the reptiles and amphibians to be found in this National Park, with photos and description, distribution and conservation threats, as well as measures that should be taken in order to ensure their survival.