

## Project Update: May 2006

One of the activities achieved in the project “The wolves and local communities in Vrancea County” was elaboration of the leaflet named „Electric Fences – efficient method to defend the livestock” and the poster entitled “Poaching – illegal activity”. The leaflet was realised with the aim: to inform the people about the performances and efficiency of the electric fence systems, installation, and how-to-use procedures. It is structured as following: how to use the electrical system; components; assembling; advices; advantages; maintenance; the sheepfolds distribution throughout Vrancea County (map); a statistical report on the wolves attacks over sheepfolds from the Vrancea County mountainous area. The poster has an informative part about wolf poaching situation, accompanied by a warning message.



In order to explain the shepherds in what way work an electrical fence and which are its benefits, we organized this spring 3 meetings with shepherds from Vizantea, Campuri and Soveja localities where there were presented the following aspects: electrical fences – what it means?; what are the components of an electrical system?; are the electrical fences dangerous for livestock and humans?; is it cheap or expensive?

Having in view necessity to establish some conservation and protection actions of wolves populations from Vrancea area, beginning with February 2006 we started the elaboration of the action plan, the objectives focusing on the elimination of the negative consequences of the following risk factors: quality alteration of the habitats populated with large carnivores; conflicts between local inhabitants and wolf population; tourism and the development of the tourist infrastructure; domestic wastes management; transport infrastructure

development and the epidemiological risk. For these risk factors, actions related to the negative effects elimination/reduction is foreseen, actions based on the legal framework.

The plan was structured following the action plans established at the communitarian level for wolf and management plan for wolf populations in USA. The web page dedicated to wolf protection in Vrancea has the following structure: wolves in Vrancea ( what is the situation of wolves from Vrancea County?; what characteristics presents the wolves from mountain part of Vrancea?; why are the wolves important?), Conflicts reduction (from which cause has appeared the conflict between people and wolves?; what can we do to minimise the conflict people-wolf?), Threats (which are the factors who threat the wolf populations surviving?), Educational materials, Contact.