

## Conclusions and recommendations from the panel discussion

### The roles of institutions and the civil society at the three stages of landscape protection (identification, designation and sustainable development)

#### Summary

The aim of the discussion was to identify the major roles of the institutions and the civil society at the three stages of landscape protection and, shall it be necessary, recommend measures to improve the mechanism for protection of areas and, in particular, of landscapes.

The workshop participants were split into three working groups to optimize the discussion. Each group had its own moderator, and each group had its internal discussion on one of the three stages of areas protection: identification, designation and sustainable management. The groups drafted conclusions and recommendations for the respective stage as a result of their internal discussions. Each group presented its recommendations for comments and adoption by all the participants at the end of the discussion.

The major recommendations adopted at the workshop are:

- i) Study the possibility to create an *independent from the Ministry of Environment and Water agency* that will be responsible for the identification, designation and management of protected areas.
- ii) Study the possibility to execute *Parliamentary influence* during the discussions of the national budget – a budget encouraging nature protection must be developed.
- iii) Fully implement the requirements of *the Aarhus Convention and the national legislation* related to access to information and public participation in decision making related to protected areas.
- iv) The establishment of a *forum or a co-ordination unit* is of extreme importance for the adoption and the implementation control of the Management Plan of a protected area. This forum or unit will be in charge of the creation and support of an active dialogue among the major participants in the development of the Management Plan and the subsequent control of its implementation.
- v) The identification of maximal number (if possible – all) of *stakeholders* that have a significant impact on a protected area's management, or may have in the future, must be a priority task in the course of development of a strategy for the sustainable management of the area.
- vi) The successful implementation of *demonstrational projects* is a vital part of any Management Plan development process. It can have a crucial importance during the public discussion of the developed Management Plan.