

## PROJECT INFORMATION

As at end of the project April 2008

### Promoting sustainable use of structural funds in Poland



Windmill in a museum in Olsztyn, Poland.  
Picture: Domino/Pixelio

#### Background

In the course of the enlargement of the European Union the new member states received 22 billion Euros in cohesion support funds in the years 2004-2006.

With this payment, composed of approximately two thirds structural funds and one third cohesion funds, the European Union aimed at supporting especially projects which have least possible adverse impact on nature and the environment and strengthen sustainable regional development.

#### Project

The project initiated by WWF Germany aimed to promote cooperation between regional environmental organisations, ministries and Polish municipalities (województwo) to ensure that environmental and nature conservation concerns are taken into account and sufficient funds are made available for sustainable regional development, when support programmes are designed.

At the same time, the project was aimed to thoroughly inform decision-makers and staff of environmental organizations about possibilities for the use of structural funds.

Since the WWF has operated and networked in Poland since the year 2000 with an office in Warsaw, the main focus was on activities in Poland. With a view to structural fund reform, the project supported the environmental partners in Poland to participate in the discussion about the reform, especially in Brussels.

Within the project various events were carried out, dealing with overarching issues concerning the use of support funds as well as specific topics such as water management, nature conservation/Natura 2000, waste management and renewable energies. As a result, experiences gained in the utilization of structural funds were documented in a manual (published in a print run of 2.000 copies). The manual was sent to public authorities and representatives of organizations. Further publications resulting from the project are available at the website of WWF Poland.

The network of environmental organizations and authorities established in the project will continue to provide a platform for constructive cooperation in sustainable use of structural funds.

- Programme: Advising-assistance Programme of the German Federal Ministry for Environment
- Project number: 380 01 097
- Region: Polen
- Duration: 09/2004 – 12/2007
- Project Management: Federal Environment Agency (Umweltbundesamt)
- German Project Partner: WWF Deutschland  
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