

ANNUAL REPORT



2001

ECOPRAVO – LVIV

ANNUAL REPORT



2001

C o n t e n t s

Ecopravo-Lviv in Brief	2
Message from the President	3
Public Interest Environmental Advocacy	
Cases	4
Consultations	5
Law drafting	5
Environmental Information and Awareness Raising	
Library	6
Publications	6
Networking	7
Environmental Education	
Trainings and workshops	8
Environmental law clinic	8
Conferences and Seminars	9
Staff of Ecopravo-Lviv	10
Financial statement of Ecopravo-Lviv	11
Donors of Ecopravo-Lviv	11
Annex. Projects of Ecopravo-Lviv	11

ECOPRAVO-LVIV IN BRIEF

Ecopravo-Lviv is a non-profit international organization, established in 1994 and reregistered with international status in 1999.

Mission of Ecopravo-Lviv:

Provision of assistance in environmental rights protection to individuals and legal persons, contribution to the protection of environment and to the development of environmental education, science and culture.

Activities:

○ *Public interest environmental advocacy*

Ecopravo-Lviv provides free of charge representation of citizens and NGOs in administrative and judicial proceedings on matters relating to violations of environmental rights and law. Ecopravo-Lviv also provides consultations to citizens and NGOs on issues relating to legal aspects of environmental protection and protection of environmental rights, as well as on environmental NGOs development (legal aspects of NGOs activity, accounting).

Ecopravo-Lviv contributes to the improvement of Ukrainian environmental legislation, participating in the process of law drafting.

○ *Environmental information and awareness raising*

Ecopravo-Lviv maintains and regularly updates environmental law library, publishes books and journals on environmental law matters, closely cooperates with local and national level mass media, maintains a web-page and is actively involved in national and international networking.

○ *Environmental education*

Ecopravo-Lviv contributes to the development of new generation of public interest environmental lawyers through its clinical program where law faculty students practice public interest environmental advocacy. Ecopravo-Lviv also organizes training programs and seminars for state authorities, judges, prosecutors and NGOs. Ecopravo-Lviv experts deliver lectures to educational institutions and summer schools on environmental law and advocacy.

Activity of Ecopravo-Lviv goes far beyond Ukraine's borders. Internationally it promotes the implementation of the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters worldwide, participates in international activities (working groups, task forces, conferences and meetings) on climate change, genetically modified organisms, pollutant release and transfer registers and other environmental issues of global and regional concern.

Address of Ecopravo-Lviv: Krushelnytska st., 2
Lviv, Ukraine — 79000
Tel.: +380 (322) 722746
Tel./Fax: +380 (322) 971446
e-mail: epac@mail.lviv.ua
[http:// www.ecopravo.lviv.ua](http://www.ecopravo.lviv.ua)



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ecopravo-Lviv (EPL) was founded in 1994 as one of the first public interest environmental law organizations in Ukraine and the former Soviet Union. Recently, it has become one of the most highly respected voices for citizen environmental rights in Europe and around the world.

At the beginning EPL consisted of just one professor and two aspirants (founders), who dreamed of better enforcement of environmental laws and especially protection of the environmental rights of citizens, including court defence. As of 2002, we have grown to 15 full and part-time staff members and have taken on significant international roles.

Environmental defence was and is a very pioneering and necessary job in Ukraine, which has become an independent state and started to create a Rule of Law society, respecting the court system as an independent branch of power. The environmental awareness of the population and of lawyers, including judges, remains very low. That is why trainings for judges and prosecutors became naturally one of the main directions of activity.

Representation of citizens has always been a central part of our mission. We supplement the direct work by lawyers for citizens with the creation of a clinical program for the students of the Law Faculty of Ivan Franko Lviv National University. This helps to involve law students in our activity and to develop a new generation of public interest environmental lawyers. Some of them come one time to the office, never leave it, and become permanent staff lawyers. Everybody admires the enthusiastic spirit of the organization and the friendly and supportive atmosphere of the office.

EPL is widely recognized also for its collaborative work at the local, national, and international levels. When regional department of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources cannot solve some environmental problem or needs consultation on environmental law issue, they call or visit Ecopravo-Lviv. EPL also works on the national level, preparing materials for the Ministry, and participating in law drafting of the Committee on Environmental Policy of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament of Ukraine).

On the international level, Ecopravo-Lviv is recognized as a valuable partner by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe due to the participation of our members in preparation, negotiation, signature, ratification and early implementation of the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. Our members also participate in different Task Forces and Intergovernmental Working groups under the Aarhus Convention and the Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in Transboundary Context.

Three senior staff members of EPL have been chosen to be members of the prestigious Commission of Environmental Law of the International Union of the Conservation of Nature (CEL-IUCN). Furthermore, Ecopravo-Lviv President has been elected as the Vice-Chair of the Steering Committee of CEL -IUCN for the East European region.

EPL has initiated and organized (with partners) a series of international conferences of environmental lawyers of CEE and NIS, including hosting the first, fifth, and seventh conferences. This led to the creation of the Environmental Law Association of CEE and NIS (Guta Association). In the year 2001 the headquarters of the Association moved to Ecopravo-Lviv.

EPL works on different projects with Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (E-LAW). EPL became its country office, E-LAW — Ukraine. In the year 2001 we had a successful joint West NIS project on Internet training and usage for environmental NGOs from Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine.

EPL has become a more sustainable organization because we pay attention to diversified fundraising. Our original sponsor and partner during eight years has been the Central and Eastern European Law Initiative of the American Bar Association. In recent years, EPL has broadened its financial support to include the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe, Milieukontakt Oost Europa, ISAR, Eurasia Foundation, MATRA KAP, USAID, US State Department, US Embassy, Open Society Institute — and donations from individual citizens in Ukraine and abroad.

EPL's office, located in the wonderful Ivan Franko Park in the centre of the city of Lviv, is easily accessible to its clients — citizens and NGOs who seek support and advise in solving problems using environmental law tools — and to others. Our regular visitors are also students of Lviv National University's Law Faculty and International Relations Faculty. They search for environmental information in our library and computer databases of environmental legislation of Ukraine and international law, and they come looking for practical experience in environmental law.

I am very happy to see Ecopravo-Lviv's continued professional growth and strengthening during the past year. Evaluating our work in the year 2001 and previous years, I hope that Ecopravo-Lviv will continue successfully and have eternal life.

*Professor Svitlana Kravchenko,
President of Ecopravo-Lviv*

PUBLIC INTEREST ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY

CASES

In the year 2001 Ecopravo-Lviv worked on 61 cases, initiated 41 new ones and won 14 cases.

Ecopravo-Lviv lawyers have cases only on environmental issues, such as pollution, illegal construction activities harmful to the environment, environmental human rights matters, access to environmental information and public participation in environmental decision-making, access to justice in environmental matters. Ecopravo-Lviv also initiates test cases to test certain provisions of Ukrainian legislation in court.

The following cases are examples of Ecopravo-Lviv activity in the year 2001 in the sphere of public interest environmental advocacy.

BRODYVODOKANAL — ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION THROUGH COURT

On November 9, 2001, the Lviv Oblast Commercial Court heard a case in which Ecopravo-Lviv sued Brodyvodokanal, a state-run water supplying company, for refusing to provide environmental information. In the case, Ecopravo-Lviv stressed the right to request and receive such information without any obligation to provide a justification for the request. Ecopravo-Lviv requested information from Brodyvodokanal regarding the condition of the sanitary zone of a water intake facility and the list of the measures needed to ensure the quality of water being supplied, and the condition of water supply sources.

An interesting aspect of the case was that the submissions of both Ecopravo-Lviv and Brodyvodokanal referred to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (the Aarhus Convention). The defendant relied upon Article 4 of the Aarhus Convention, which states that a request for environmental information may be refused if such request is manifestly unreasonable or formulated in too general manner.

In addition to references to the Constitution of Ukraine, the Law on Environmental Protection of Ukraine, the Law on Information, the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine Concerning Types of Information That Is Not Classified Commercial Information, Ecopravo-Lviv relied upon Article 2 of the Aarhus Convention. Article 2 of the Convention states that non-governmental organizations promoting environmental protection and meeting any requirements under national law are deemed to have an interest and can receive information. In addition, Ecopravo-Lviv relied upon Article 11 (6) of the Water Code of Ukraine, which provides the public with the right to receive information on the condition of water, pollutants, water usage, plans and measures related to water protection and usage, and the renewal of water resources, was cited to.

The court dismissed the defendant's statements and obliged Brodyvodokanal to provide the information and reimburse the court fee. In this suit the court's ruling was an important step on the pass of further realization of the right of non-governmental organizations to environmental information.

VILSHYNA CASE — HELPING PEOPLE TO SURVIVE

Ecopravo-Lviv developed and implemented a strategy to assist the local community living at Vilshyna khutir (a small settlement in Lviv Region). The khutir is located in the sanitary-protection zone of the Central Coal Enrichment Factory "Chervonogradska" and on the operational territory of the Vizeyska coal mine. The khutir is situated about 200 meters from a 60-meters high tailing (waste pile from coal enrichment activities).

Factory's industrial activities made the khutir's territory heavily polluted. The houses of the dwellers are underflooded, exposed to high moisture, the water in the wells is dirty red and is impossible to drink and even to use for laundry and other purposes. The soil and air are extremely polluted as well. According to the assessment of the Sanitary Epidemic Service, the pollution level exceeds the norm many times.



To solve this case Ecopravo-Lviv initiated a number of administrative and court actions as well as mass media campaign. As a short-term result the citizens are regularly supplied with drinking water.

Following Ecopravo-Lviv recommendations, the local Village Council submitted a request to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and to the President of Ukraine asking to declare the territory of khutir a Zone of Environmental Emergency. Therefore, with Ecopravo-Lviv legal assistance the problem was raised to a higher, national level.

With Ecopravo-Lviv help, the local community made a strong move to protect its environmental rights. Yet, future steps are needed to ensure environmental safety and state responsibility for human health protection and well-being of the local community.

ODESSA-RENI HIGHWAY CASE — PROTECTING NATURE FROM STATE'S IRRESPONSIBILITY

Ecopravo-Lviv provided legal assistance to the citizens and NGOs in Odessa region, southern Ukraine. The reason of citizen's concern was the construction of the highway Odessa-Reni.

The construction was started illegally without environmental impact assessment of the project, intending to replace existing route in Odessa region (which crossed Moldova and went back to Ukraine causing inconveniences to the drivers). The highway went through the Dnister river wetlands and nature reserves, with a unique nature, and its construction would have negative impact on the wetlands.

Due to the urgent measures of environmental NGOs from Ukraine and Moldova, the construction was suspended at its initial phase. Ukrainian NGOs, with legal support of Ecopravo-Lviv, filed a lawsuit against Odessa Road Construction Administration claiming their activities illegal and harmful to the environment.

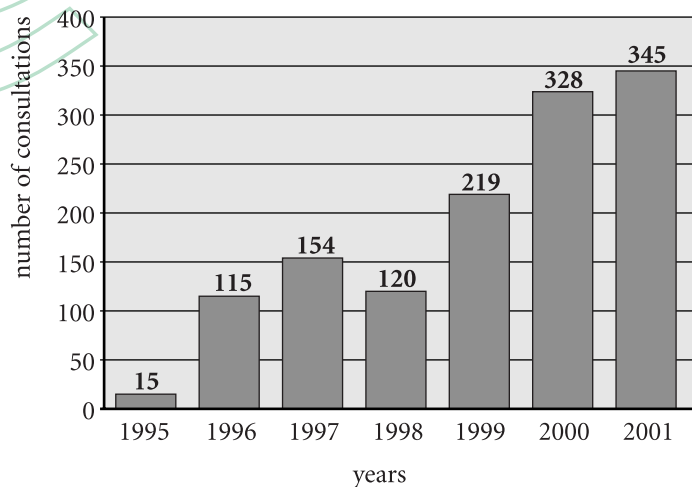
CONSULTATIONS

In the year 2001 Ecopravo-Lviv provided 345 consultations to citizens and NGOs on environmental law issues, protection of environmental rights and NGO development.

Chart 1 illustrates the growing number of consultations since the very beginning of this activity of Ecopravo-Lviv.

The visitors of Ecopravo-Lviv are individuals and groups of citizens whose environmental rights are violated or who are concerned with the state of environment in Ukraine. Ecopravo-Lviv lawyers provide free of charge professional assistance and support to the visitors. Some consultations of general concern are published in Ecopravo-Lviv Environmental Advocacy Journal, and become available to NGOs and citizens all over Ukraine.

Chart 1. Number of Consultations, 1995-2001



LAW DRAFTING

Ecopravo-Lviv experts took part in drafting of environmental laws/regulations of national and local authorities, participating in different working groups on the development and improvement of environmental legislation (comments on Environmental Protection Act, on Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Expertiza laws, on legal regulation of pesticides use and utilization, on Regulation on Access to Environmental Information, on Regulation on Public Ecological Inspectors, on implementation of Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers in Ukraine, on Regulation on Public Participation in Environmental Decision-Making, and on other legal aspects).

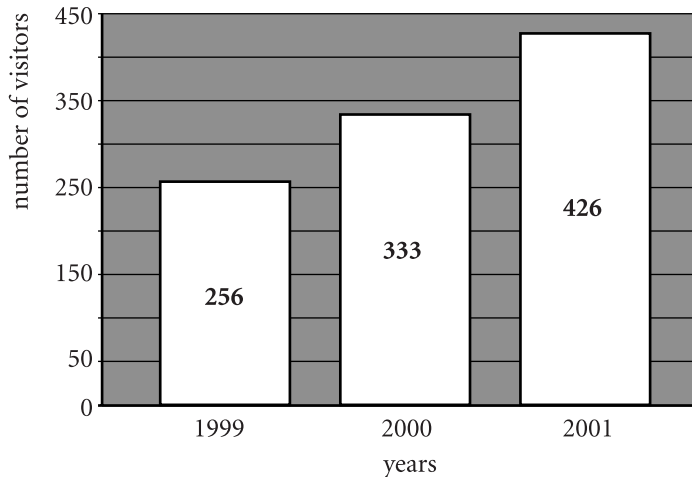
ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND AWARENESS-RAISING

LIBRARY

Ecopravo-Lviv maintains a library, which has about 5,000 environmental and environmental law books and other publications and sources. Our library is open to the public and, thus, attracts NGOs, environmentalists, scientists, students and others needing environmental information.

Chart 2 illustrates considerable increase in the number of visitors through the past years. In 2001, 426 persons used the library resources of Ecopravo-Lviv.

Chart 2. Number of Visitors of Ecopravo-Lviv Library, 1999-2001



PUBLICATIONS



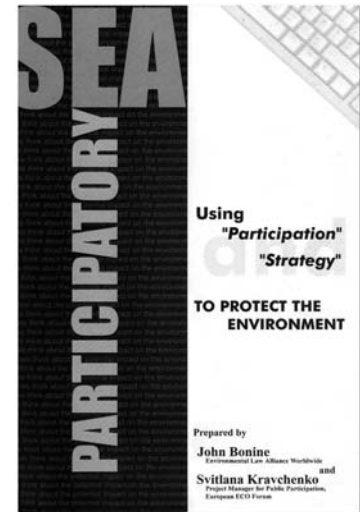
Environmental Advocacy Journal

In 2001 Ecopravo-Lviv published 5 issues of Environmental Advocacy Journal. The outlet of each issue was 1000 copies. Its largest part was disseminated to regular subscribers of the Journal — to NGOs, professionals and citizens. The electronic version of the Journal as well as a Subscription Information are available on the Web page of Ecopravo-Lviv (www.ecopravo.lviv.ua).

The Journal is disseminated for free upon subscription request.

Participatory SEA

Svitlana Kravchenko (President of Ecopravo-Lviv) and John Bonine (Member of Ecopravo-Lviv Advisory Board) wrote a Pamphlet on Strategic Environmental Assessment. It was published, in English, by European Environmental Bureau, available at www.participate.org. Ukrainian language version of the Pamphlet was published in the Environmental Advocacy Journal of Ecopravo-Lviv No. 12.



Public Action Against GMOs Spread in Ukraine

Iryna Tustanovska, Vice-President of Ecopravo-Lviv, prepared an analysis of Ukrainian and international legislation to the manual on genetically modified organisms.

The manual was published by EcoPravo-Kharkiv, with the financial support of Milieukontakt-Oost Europa.



NETWORKING

Ecopravo-Lviv was actively involved in different national and international NGO networks, disseminating information on its activity and sharing problems and experience with partner environmental organizations worldwide.

* Ecopravo-Lviv is the Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide office in Ukraine (E-LAW Ukraine). The heart of E-LAW's work is helping local advocates around the world to protect the environment through law. Ecopravo-Lviv implements projects with E-LAW (See project No.3), Ecopravo-Lviv lawyers perform exchange visits to E-LAW US, sharing their experience in advocacy. Ecopravo-Lviv is actively involved in electronic communication within E-LAW.

* For the years 2001-2003 Ecopravo-Lviv serves as the Headquarter of the Guta Association (Environmental Law Association of CEE & NIS). Ecopravo-Lviv coordinates the activity of Guta Association and regularly publishes and disseminates the Guta Newsletter as well as maintains the Web-page of the Association (www.ecopravo.lviv.ua/guta).

* Ecopravo-Lviv coordinated a network of environmental lawyers and environmentalists, called the West-NIS Environmental Networking Project (together with E-LAW US), consisting of NGO participants from Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova. (See project No.3).

* Ecopravo-Lviv was the lead organization for a project on Access to Justice involving environmental NGOs in Ukraine, Belarus and Poland. Through an electronic 'access to justice' network Ecopravo-Lviv helped exchanging information on problematic issues of access to justice in Ukraine, Poland and Belarus. (See project No.1).

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS

West NIS workshop

On June 1-2, 2001, Ecopravo-Lviv held a workshop on modern communication technologies for environmental NGOs. The workshop was held in frames of the project “Empowering Environmental Advocates in the West Newly Independent States to Use the Internet to Access and Share Environmental Information” (See project No.3). For the purpose of the workshop, Ecopravo-Lviv arranged a computer classroom with the high-speed Internet connection, enabling the participants to apply their knowledge in practice. The workshop mainly dealt with several, including technical, aspects of on-line communication such as:

- * Internet for environmental purposes;
- * web mastering;
- * e-mail;
- * electronic conferences;
- * viruses and how to fight them.

Training on fundraising and on-line efficiency

On July 12-14, 2001, Ecopravo-Lviv held a training on fundraising and on-line efficiency. About 15 NGOs from different regions of Ukraine participated in the training. The aim of the training was to help NGOs master essential fundraising skills, how to use electronic communications for fundraising and cooperation among NGOs. It was held with the organizational and financial support from Threshold Foundation and ABA CEELI.

The training covered the following topics:

Fundraising:

- * Efficient fundraising strategies
- * How to write applications, whom to contact, how to find fund-givers
- * On-line fundraising

On-line efficiency:

- * On-line tools for NGOs
- * Advanced search strategies
- * The web as work space — on-line storage and cyber cooperation
- * Virtual diplomacy
- * On-line public relations

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CLINIC

Ecopravo-Lviv has lasting traditions of maintaining environmental law clinical program, one of the first in CEE/NIS countries, which was established on the beginning of its activity. Every year Ecopravo-Lviv organizes a clinical program for the law students of Ivan Franko Lviv National University. Under supervision of Ecopravo-Lviv lawyers, students initiate and lead environmental cases, provide consultations to citizens and NGOs, make comments and analysis to law drafts and participate in international affairs and networking.

In September, 2001, Ecopravo-Lviv launched a clinical program with a new structure, involving participants of previous environmental law clinics (fifth year students) as supervisors for 30 third-year law students. Those students initiated about 14 new environmental cases, working in five groups with one supervisor for each group.

Ecopravo-Lviv developed a manual for clinical program, which includes abstracts from legislation of Ukraine on environment and environmental rights, lectures on advocacy (ethics, interviewing etc.) and sample documents.

CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

7th Annual International Environmental Public Interest Law Conference (GUTA-7) for public interest environmental lawyers from NIS and CEE countries

On June 3, 2001, Ecopravo-Lviv co-organized with the Regional Environmental Center for CEE the 7th Annual International Environmental Public Interest Law Conference (GUTA-7) for public interest environmental lawyers from NIS and CEE countries. The Conference was attended by 39 environmental lawyers from NIS/CEE countries, and the USA.

During the Conference, the following issues were discussed:

- * Implementation of the provisions of the Aarhus Convention
- * The situation with environmental legislation, its innovations and changes in terms of harmonization with the Aarhus Convention
- * Organizational issues of the Environmental Law Association of CEE and NIS

At the conference Dr. Svitlana Kravchenko (President of Ecopravo-Lviv) and Dmitry Skrylnikov (Executive Director of Ecopravo-Lviv) were elected as co-directors of the Guta Association (Environmental Law Association of CEE & NIS) for the years 2001-2003. The headquarters of the Guta Association moved to Ecopravo-Lviv. More information about the Guta Association and its annual conferences can be found on the Guta Association web-page, hosted on Ecopravo-Lviv web-site (www.ecopravo.lviv.ua/guta).

Sub-Regional Case Study Development Meeting

On June 4-5, 2001, Ecopravo-Lviv co-organized with UN ECE and the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe a Sub-Regional Case Study Development Meeting.

The meeting was aimed at:

- * Collection and discussion of the cases on access to justice in environmental issues from CEE/NIS countries;
- * Case analysis and preparation of recommendations for the Task Force on Access to Justice under the Aarhus Convention.

Seminar “Joining Our Efforts to Help Sosnivka Children”

On June 21, 2001, Ecopravo-Lviv held a seminar “Joining Our Efforts to Help Sosnivka Children”. The subject of the seminar was a disastrous environmental situation in Sosnivka town caused by coal mining and coal enriching industrial activity. The pollution was so high that about 70% of children from this region have bones and teeth diseases. The aim of the seminar was to attract the attention of the governmental officials, NGOs, and experts to the environmental problems in Sosnivka, to bring them together for a fruitful dialog to find common solutions to the problem.

The seminar consisted of the following discussions:

- * Results of geochemical research of the region
- * Medical aspects of the problem
- * Environmental situation in the region
- * Social aspects of the problem
- * Role of the public in the process of the improvement of the situation
- * Legal tools in protection of the population and environment in the region

Among the participants were the representatives of Ecopravo-Lviv, scientists and experts from the Lviv National University and other scientific institutions, NGOs, medical doctors from the dental clinic and regional hospital, a Member of the Parliament of Ukraine, the Head of the Lviv Regional Department of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and Mayors of the towns of Sosnivka and Chervonohrad.

Internationally

On the international level Ecopravo-Lviv members participated in numerous working groups and task forces under the Aarhus Convention (compliance mechanism and rules of procedure, pollutant release and transfer registers, electronic tools, GMOs), under the Espoo Convention (strategic environmental assessment), in preparatory committees for WSSD and Kyiv 2003 ‘Environment for Europe’ Ministerial Conference and other international events on global and regional environmental issues.

STAFF OF ECOPRAVO-LVIV

Dr. Svitlana Kravchenko President Attorney slana@mail.lviv.ua	Professor of International Law, Lviv National University East Europe Vice Chair, IUCN Commission of Environmental Law Project Manager for Public Participation, European ECO Forum (NGO Coalition) Executive Co-Director, Environmental Law Association of CEE and NIS
Iryna Tustanovska, Ph.D. Vice-President Attorney itustan@darkwing.uoregon.edu	Associate Professor, Lviv National University Law School
Dmitry Skrylnikov Executive Director Attorney dmitry@darkwing.uoregon.edu	Executive Co-Director, Environmental Law Association of CEE and NIS
Zoryana Kozak Lawyer zoryana@darkwing.uoregon.edu	Associate Professor, Lviv National University Law School
Yaryna Ostapyk Lawyer yaryna@darkwing.uoregon.edu	
Oksana Bilobran Legal assistant	student, Lviv National University Law School
Sofiya Vankovych Legal assistant	student, Lviv National University Law School
Nataliya Balushka Legal assistant	student, Lviv National University Law School
Olga Melen Legal assistant	student, Lviv National University Law School
Olga Moshchynska Legal assistant	student, Lviv National University Law School
Ostap Yednak Fundraiser/Administrative Assistant	
Iryna Vasylakj Accountant	
Irena Khmilyar Secretary	
Brian Bennett Intern, June-July, 2001	student, Law School, New York University
Dakia Anheluk Volunteer, November-December, 2001	student, University of Oregon

Advisory Board:

John Bonine, USA	Professor, Law School of the University of Oregon Co-Director, Oregon-Lviv University Partnership; Co-Founder, Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (E-LAW); Board Member, Environmental Law Association of CEE and NIS
Mykhailo Kostytsky, Ukraine	Constitutional Justice of Ukraine; Professor of Law, Academician of Academy of Legal Sciences of Ukraine;
Nadiya Kobetska, Ukraine	Associate Professor, Law School of Ivano-Frankivsk State University

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF ECOPRAVO-LVIV

REVENUE AND EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2001

	UAH	USD
REVENUE		
Grants	462 800	86 666
TOTAL	462 800	86 666
EXPENSES		
For charitable purposes	369 400	69 176
TOTAL	369 400	69 176
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR*	93 400	17 490

* The financial statement as required by and submitted to Ukrainian Tax Administration. Grant periods of some projects exceed the fiscal year, but the revenues reflect all grant amounts received during the fiscal year.

DONORS OF ECOPRAVO-LVIV

American Bar Association, Central and Eastern European Law Initiative

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe

Democracy Grants Program of the US Embassy

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State

Matra KAP program, Netherlands Embassy

Open Society Institute

Threshold Foundation

We want to express our thankfulness to the foundations that supported our activity in the year 2001. Their support was crucial for implementing our ideas into practice, assisting people and protecting the environment, contributing to the establishment of the Rule of Law and moving towards the development of democracy in Ukraine.

ANNEX. PROJECTS OF ECOPRAVO-LVIV

1. Implementation and Enforcement of the Aarhus principle on Access to Justice in Ukraine, Poland and Belarus

Project duration: August 2001 — May 2002.

Project leader: Ecopravo-Lviv, Ukraine

Partners: Ecopravo, Minsk, Belarus

Environmental Law Center, Wroclaw, Poland

Financial support: Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe.

The goal of the project:

* To improve access to justice on environmental and participatory matters in Ukraine, Poland and Belarus.

The objectives:

* To empower NGOs to use courts or other means of access to justice for cases when rights granted by the Aarhus Convention and national legislation are denied;

* To increase awareness among NGOs and NGO lawyers concerning cases and obstacles of access to justice in environmental matters, and to share ideas in a cooperative framework on how to overcome obstacles;

* To increase citizens' awareness of their right for access to justice granted to them by Aarhus Convention and national legislation, and to encourage them to seek legal help in exercising those rights.

Activities:

- * Creation of an “NGO Access to Justice Network” that complements the activities of two existing networks (West NIS and Guta);
- * Bringing test cases, using NGO Access to Justice Network to analyze obstacles to justice and ways to overcome those obstacles, and using media to increase citizen awareness of test cases;
- * Holding a workshop to discuss preliminary results, giving feedback to recommendations, preparation and publication of national Manuals for NGOs and citizens;
- * Dissemination of this information in Ukraine, Poland and Belarus.

2. Promotion of Environmental Rights and Public Participation in Uzbekistan (Cooperative project)

Project duration: 1 year

Project partners: Center “Armon”, Uzbekistan; Ecopravo-Lviv, Ukraine.

Financial support: Open Society Institute.

The goals of the project:

- * To promote of citizen environmental rights in Uzbekistan;
- * To enhance public participation in environmental decision making in Uzbekistan;
- * To exchange experience between environmental public advocacy centers of Ecopravo-Lviv and Center “Armon”.

Activities:

- * Preparation of a manual, “Citizen Environmental Rights”, for Uzbekistan;
- * Holding a series of seminars on environmental rights for NGOs and governmental authorities in different regions of Uzbekistan;
- * Conducting exchange visits between Ecopravo-Lviv and Center “Armon”;

3. Empowering Environmental Advocates in the West Newly Independent States to Use the Internet to Access and Share Environmental Information

Project duration: November 2000 — December 2001.

Project leader: E-LAW U.S.

Project partners: Ecopravo-Lviv — Regional and In-Country Coordinating Office (Ukraine)

BIOTICA (Moldova), Ecopravo, Minsk (Belarus) — In-Country Coordinating Offices

Financial support: Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State

The project was aimed at active involvement of 21 environmental and environmental law NGOs from Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus in networking and exchange of information, effectively implementing electronic communication tools.

Project goals:

- * To enhance the skills of participants to find and access environmental information on the Internet;
- * To establish and facilitate the use of electronic discussion groups through which participants can share environmental information;
- * To enable participants to use their own World Wide Web sites to publicize local issues, interact with constituent communities and strengthen relationships with donors;
- * To promote Internet-based collaborations on environmental projects by providing participants with demand-driven research on critical legal and scientific issues;
- * To remove language as a barrier to accessing and sharing environmental information on the Internet by providing translation for the network;

Activities:

- * Organization of the workshop on access and sharing Internet-based environmental content. Ecopravo-Lviv held a workshop for 30 leaders of environmental NGOs from Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus, which gave the participants a greater understanding of how to use Internet to access and share environmental information.
 - * Creation and coordination of the electronic conference at which participants shared environmental information.
 - * Appointing of the technology circuit rider. A computer technology expert from Ecopravo-Lviv traveled to the countries of the program participants to help to build skills to participate fully in the E-LAW network.
 - * Provision of language translation. Aiming to minimize the impact of language barriers, the summaries of the messages in the electronic conference were translated into Russian and English versions.
 - * Performing targeted research. Legal and scientific information and analysis was supplied in response to requests from participants.
-

