



CENTRALPARKS

3rd CNPA Conference: A new age for the CNPA network
Wednesday, September 29th 2021, 2 pm
MEETING MINUTES

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AGENDA

Time	Topic	Speaker
14:00 - 16:30	Welcome	Harald EGERER , Head of the UNEP Vienna Programme Office, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention Mircea VERGHELEȚ , Chair of the CNPA Steering Committee
	Presentation of the Centralparks project results relevant for the CNPA revitalization	Mircea VERGHELEȚ , Chair of the CNPA Steering Committee Hanna ÖLLÖS , European Wilderness Society
	Short interventions by the CNPA Steering Committee Members	<p>Czech Republic Martin STRNAD, Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic <i>- Protected Landscape Areas in the Czech Carpathians</i></p> <hr/> <p>Hungary Gyula TAR, Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary <i>General state of the Protected Areas in the Hungarian Carpathians</i></p> <hr/> <p>Poland (online) Gabriela SZUBA - Ministry of Climate and Environment of Poland <i>General state of the Protected Areas in the Polish Carpathians</i></p> <hr/> <p>Romania Mircea VERGHELEȚ, Piatra Craiului National Park Administration <i>General state of the Protected Areas in the Romanian Carpathians</i></p> <hr/> <p>Serbia Nenad RADA KOVIC, Djerdap National Park, Ivan SVETOZAREVIC, Manifesto NGO <i>General state of the Protected Areas in the Serbian Carpathians and best practices from the Djerdap NP</i></p>

<p>14:00 - 16:30</p>	<p>Short interventions by the CNPA Steering Committee Members</p>	<p>Slovakia Jan KADLECÍK - State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic General state of the Protected Areas in the Slovak Carpathians</p> <hr/> <p>Ukraine Eduard ARUSTAMIAN, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine General overview of the state of Protected Areas of the Ukrainian Carpathians, including protected areas development</p>
	<p>Presentations by the representatives of the CNPA from each Carpathian country on best practices of protected areas management and networking</p>	<p>Czech Republic Marie PETRU and BARBORA DUZI, Education and Information Centre of the White Carpathinas</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Environmental education, rising public awareness, and local guiding in Biele Karpaty Protected Landscape Area. 2) Cross-border cooperation between the Bílé Karpaty PLA Czech Republic and the Bílé Karpaty PLA Slovakia. <hr/> <p>Hungary Zoltán BIHARI, Aggteleki National Park <i>Best practices from the Protected Areas in Hungarian Carpathians</i></p> <p><i>BORBÁLA SZABÓ-MAJOR, Best practices from the Duna-Ipoly National Park</i></p> <hr/> <p>Romania Alin MOS, Apuseni Nature Park <i>Apuseni Nature Park - Reconnecting with nature</i></p>

16:30 - 17:00	Coffee break	
17:00 - 18:30	<p>Presentations by the representatives of the CNPA from each Carpathian country on best practices of protected areas management and networking - <i>continuation</i></p>	<p>Slovakia Ján KADLECÍK, Peter PUCHALA, Martina LUKANOVA, State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic <i>System and tools for protected areas management in Slovakia</i></p> <hr/> <p>Ukraine 1) Mykola TARASYUK, Carpathian Biosphere Reserve <i>Best practices of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve management.</i> 2) Mykola DERBAK, Fedir MATICHYN, National Nature Park “Synevyr” <i>Best practices of the National Nature Park “Synevyr” management.</i> 3) Taras YAMELYNETS, WWF Ukraine <i>“Support to Nature Protected Areas in Ukraine” project implemented in 7 Protected Areas of the Ukrainian Carpathians.</i></p>
	<p>Presentation of the Protected Area Management Effectiveness Tool</p>	<p>Cristian-Remus PAPP, WWF Romania</p>
	<p>Presentation of the CNPA status quo - Need for revisiting the strategic CNPA documents and discussing the way forward of the CNPA</p>	<p>Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention</p>
	<p>Interactive exercise - questions to the CPA Conference participants about the future activities of the CNPA and ensuing discussion</p>	<p>Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention</p>
	<p>Recommendations and next steps</p>	<p>Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and CNPA SC Chair</p>
	<p>Closing of the Carpathian Protected Areas Conference</p>	<p>Mircea VERGHELEȚ, Steering Committee Chair, Carpathian Network of Protected Areas</p>



PARTICIPANTS LIST

SURNAME NAME	NAME ABBREVIATION	INSTITUTION
Arustamian Eduard	ArE	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine
Bihari Zoltán	BiZ	Aggteleki National Park
Bisconti Silvia	BiS	Eurac Research
Bjedov Vladan	BjV	Institute for the Nature Conservation of Serbia
Brankov Borjan	BrB	IAUS
Corradini Philipp	CoP	Eurac Research
Dan Raluca	DaR	WWF Romania
De Bortoli Isidoro	Del	Eurac Research
Derbak Mykola	DeM	National Nature Park "Synevyr"
Duži Barbora	DuB	Education and Information Centre of the White Carpathians
Egerer Harald	EgH	UNEP-SCC
Favilli Filippo	FaF	Eurac Research
Fuchs Stefan	FuS	University of Vienna
Kadlecik Jan	KaJ	State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic

Kuras Klaudia	KuK	UNEP-SCC
Janz Christophe	JaC	WWF CEE
Lazarevic Aleksandar	LaA	Faculty of Applied Ecology Servia
Lukanova Martina	LuM	State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic
Mangaroska Viktorija	MaV	-
Matichyn Fedir	MaF	National Nature Park "Synevyr"
Meyer Hildegard	MeH	WWF CEE
Mos Alin	MoA	Apuseni Nature Park
Nenkovic-Riznic Marina	NeM	-
Okaniková Zuzana	OkZ	Pronatur NGO
Öllös Hanna	ÖIH	European Wilderness Society
Papp Cristian	PaC	Wildlife and Landscapes National Manager, WWF RO



Petru Marie	PeM	Education and Information Centre of the White Carpathians
Petruta Ana	PeA	MTI Romania
Pirga Bartosz	PiB	BdPN Poland
Popescu Oana	PoO	INCD Urban-Incerc Bucharest
Puchala Peter	PuP	State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic
Puscas Alexandra	PuA	WWF Romania
Radakovic Nenad	RaN	Djerdap NP, Serbia
Rolfová Eliška	RoE	MoE CZ
Siljic Tomic Alexandra	SiA	UNEP
Simonovic Sanja	SiS	IAUS Serbia
Strnad Martin	StM	Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic
Shchoka Iryna	ShI	EWS
Solakovic Kenan	SoK	WWF Adria
Svetozarevic Ivan	SvI	NGO Manifesto, Serbia
Szabó-Major Borbála	SzB	Danube-Ipoly National Park Directorate
Szuba Gabriela	SzG	Ministry of Climate and Environment of Poland
Szirányi András	SziA	NiF Ltd. Hungary
Tanaskovic Sofija	TaS	FUTURA Serbia



Tar Gyula	TaG	Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary
Tarasyuk Mykola	TaM	Carpathian Biosphere Reserve
Teleki Monika	TeM	-
Ulrych Libor	UIL	State Nature Conservancy of Slovak Republic
Varga Adam	VaA	CEEweb
Verghelet Mircea	VeM	Chair of the CNPA Steering Committee
Virtopeanu Liliana	ViL	Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forest of Romania.
Yamelynets Taras	YaT	WWF Ukraine
Yonash Iryna	YoI	CBR Ukraine



MEETING MINUTES

1. WELCOME

Speaker: EGERER HARALD

It's great to have very interesting people here and welcome all of you, in particular those from PAs. I am sure you will animate this discussion very soon, because today's topic is very interesting. Thanks to the Centralparks project, that will be presented now, for the direct benefit for PAs and networking. I don't need to emphasize PAs importance in connectivity now because several presentations will follow. I just hope that the future for PAs is bright and there will be more PAs in the future. What we experienced as challenging

is the lack of full direct involvement of the Carpathian Convention in the action with Carpathians PAs, in all the countries, at the same degree, so still more direct connections of PAs in the Carpathian Convention would be good. It would be great to really improve cooperation, meet each other, network more often, exchange our experiences at Carpathian scale. There are many good examples of this and networks that are actively promoting projects and activities together.

So, we really hope we will enhance cooperation and promotion of Carpathian PAs and start to see which aspects and areas can be improved and renewed. For example, we need to make a new action plan of what we would like to do together, to talk about ways we can improve the communication and so on. We are all very excited to hear from you your presentations from all the Carpathian countries about their PAs state. That is the main thing we would like to learn from you today.

2. Presentation of the Centralparks project results relevant for the CNPA

Speaker: Verghelet Mircea, Öllös Hanna

VeM: The CNPA was established according to article 4.5 of the Carpathian Convention (Conference of Kiev, May 2003)

Types of PAs included in the CNPA:

- PAs larger than 100 ha
- PAs with their own staff or a responsible administrative body
- Active - national and nature parks and biosphere reserves

The most active CNPA members are the PAs that have their own administrations in the Carpathian countries.

Objectives of CNPA:

- Support the relevant work and activities from the Biodiversity Protocol of the Carpathian Convention
- Development of a thematic network
- Support for the creation of an ecological network

- Creating and running a communication network

CNPA Structure - 3 bodies:

- CNPA Conference
- CNPA Steering Committee (1 person designed by ministry of environment for each Carpathian country)
- CNPA Unit

ALPARC Questionnaire results - Priorities in the cooperation:

- Forest management in the protected areas
- PA management including GIS as a tool

- Tourism (impact of tourism and regional benefits by sustainable tourism)
- Implementation of the EU legislation in nature protection (in particular the Natura 2000 network)
- Large carnivore management

Several meetings organised:

- Natura 2000 in Neukirchen (2004)
- Workshop for integrated management of PAs in Mala Fatra (2006)
- Management of tourism and sustainable development in PAs in Piatra Craiului (2006)
- 1st and 2nd CNPA conferences in Romania (2007) and Slovakia (2013)
- Sustainable financial management of PAs in Romania (2013)

Protocols:

- CNPA Unit - CC Secretariat - Romanian Association of PAs
- Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between 3 networks - CNPA, Alparc and DANUBEPARKS

CNPA unit is somehow functioning, but the Romanian Association of PAs doesn't have employees.

One still successful activity within the CNPA is the Education - Youth at the Top activity, many Romanian parks participated in it and the members of the SC became more active, evidences and more interesting information about it can be found on our social media pages.

After 2014:

- Activities slowed down
- Difficult to organise SC meetings
- Changes of members
- Interest in participation decreased
- Activities resumed within Centralparks project

ÖlH: Main Centralparks project objective is building management capacities of Carpathian PAs for the integration and harmonization of biodiversity protection and local socio-economic development.

3 are the project's specific objectives:

- Improving integrated environmental management capacities of PAs administrations and public sector dealing with the safeguarding and sustainable use of natural resources
- Reconciling and linking the conservation of biological and landscape diversity to sustainable local socio-economic development
- Promoting the CNPA as the framework and tool for transnational collaboration between the protected areas



Project partners:

Centralparks united 8 project partners from 7 European countries supported by 8 associated partners.

WPT1 is focused on the Integration of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in the Carpathian region through 3 main axes:

- the Carpathian strategy for enhancing biodiversity and landscape conservation outside and inside PAs
 - Objective: Raise capacities of PAs managers, integrate PAs into broader landscapes and improve ecological connectivity in surrounding areas
 - Development: by a Transnational Thematic Task Force involving 21 PPs representatives and external experts from 7 countries. 3 transnational meeting for the drafting process
 - Pilot workshops: 4 out of 5 workshops completed in Pieniny NP, Poland (June and September 2021), 5th taking place in these days in Kroscienko community
 - Implementation: Upon the endorsement of the draft Strategy by the CC, it will become publicly available on the official website of the CC, Centralparks PPs and on the CNPA website
- the Strategy for local sustainable tourism development based on natural and cultural heritage in the Carpathians
 - Objective: Mitigate tourism pressure, socio-economic disparities and ensure economic stability
 - Development: by a TTTF involving 20 PPs representatives and external experts from 7 countries. 5 transnational meeting for the drafting process
 - Pilot workshops: Preparatory workshop completed in Magura NP, Poland (June 2021), 4 additional workshops planned in October 2021
 - Implementation: Upon the endorsement of the draft Strategy by the CC, it will become publicly available on the official website of the CC, Centralparks PPs as well as will be considered by the CC WG on sustainable tourism and will be published on the CNPA website
- The Guidelines on communication between PAs and local communities in the Carpathians
 - Objective: Conciliate and integrate nature protection with local socio-economic development
 - Development: by a TTTF involving 17 PPs representatives and external experts from 6 countries. 4 transnational meeting for the drafting process
 - Pilot training: 3-day training completed for PA administration in Poland (September 2021)
 - Implementation: Guidelines will become publicly available on the official website of the CC, Centralparks PPs and CNPA website

WPT2 is focusing on building capacities of Carpathian PAs managers through:

- LiDAR light detection and ranging tool



- Testing on 2 habitats
 - Evaluation of LiDAR results
 - Pilot actions in Börzsöny Mountains, Hungary
 - Implementation of the habitat mapping
 - Forest state evaluation
 - Grassland state evaluation
 - Habitat mapping guidelines
 - Several good methods for mapping habitats
 - Better nature conservation management planning
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- Objective: Effective, integrated, science-based nature conservation management planning through innovative tools, methods and capacity building
 - Development: Joint strategic document on raising good PAs management capacities, Forest state evaluation protocol, Grassland state evaluation protocol, Evaluation of LiDAR results and feasibility study for external public authorities, Habitat mapping guidelines
 - Pilot actions in Börzsöny Mountains: implementation of the habitat mapping, forest fauna evaluation in Börzsöny Mountains and the testing of innovative methods
 - Implementation: The outputs Innovative habitat evaluation tool, Guidelines for proper integrated nature conservation planning and Integrated nature conservation management plan for Börzsöny will become publicly available on the website Centralparks PPs and CNPA website

WPT3 is based on the creation of a Carpathian ecosystem services toolkit (CEST):

- A supporting tool for completing and using ESS assessment for decision making for PAs managers and public authorities
 - A guide and resource for evidence-based decision making and management practices
- CEST is related to area-based planning, regulatory decision analysis, environmental damages assessment and management
- Objective: To provide comprehensive information regarding the costs and benefits in environmental management decisions through a useful tool for analysis and decisions adapted to Carpathian conditions
 - Development: with the support of a TTTF now the CEST to be layout, translations to CZ, SK, PL and HU in autumn. Step-by-step guide to use CEST finalised in autumn 2021
 - Pilot training: CEST training for stakeholders in Nova Lhota, CZ (September 2021), workshops for local/regional authorities on CEST in SK and HU in October and November 2021
 - Implementation: The CEST and step-by-step guide will become publicly available on the website Centralparks PPs and CNPA website

All these documents and outputs are already at a final stage.

Dissemination of the Centralparks project results

- Printed outreach materials: Youth poster, financial brochure, multimedia clips in autumn 2021
- Centralparks digital channels: Website and social media channels, Thematic newsletter to the CNPA SC
- Carpathian Convention website
- CNPA website to be revitalized, integrated knowledge hub

3. Short interventions by the CNPA Steering Committee Members

Speaker: Committee Members

Czech Republic: Strnad Martin - Protected Landscape Areas in the Czech Carpathians

24 PAs in total in CZ, 4 of them are under the Carpathian Convention

PLA Beskydy

- designated in 1973
- Area: 1205 km² = the biggest PLA in CZ
- 60 Small scale protected areas (Reserves/monuments)
- 1 NATURA2000 site Beskydy in same borders
- the only place where lynx, bear, wolf live together in CZ
- 2 Special protected areas (SPA's) - NATURA2000 - bird protection

LC monitoring Volunteers involvement:

- Monitoring of large carnivores in PLA Beskydy
 - organized by PLA Administration for 37 years since 1984 (PLA employees, volunteers from other nature conservation institutions) - started in recent years also in PLA Bílé Karpaty
 - coordinated with s Hnutí Duha (volunteers)
 - coordinated transboundary with PLA Kysuce (Slovakia)
 - transboundary expert statements/opinions to support migration corridors in PLA Kysuce (SVK)

Regional action plan:

- Regional action plan for Capercaillie, forest management in favour of species
- Agreement between forest owners and PLA Beskydy to protect Capercaillie area Trojačka (462 ha)
- Area after elimination of large old spruce trees. Beech and fir were planted. Support of berry-bearing plants and trees (blueberry).



Water retention:

- Building pits in old forest roads for water retention and slow water flow, the soil must be compacted to retain water even in heavy rains.

PLA Bílé Karpaty

- designated in 1981
- Area: 746,87 km²
- 52 Small scale protected areas (Reserves/monuments)
- 17 NATURA2000 sites

Activities:

- Cooperation with Academic institutions
 - MENDEL University in Brno, monitoring of localities after management interventions done during LIFE projekt
 - Academy of sciences of the Czech Republic - monitoring of streams drying
 - Museums (esp. Museum in Ostrava) - an extensive documentary collection of insects was established
- Cooperation with hundreds of management realisers: mosaic mowing, tree maintenance and planting, pools for amphibians, revitalisation of meanders/rivers
 - Regional action plan for Turquoise blue (*Polyommatus dorylas*) - in preparation
 - Action plan for Aesculapian snake (*Zamenis longissimus*) - in realisation (Vlářský průsmyk)

NATURA2000 site Vlárský průsmyk (pass) Forest management:

Agreement with state company Czech Forests valid from 2018

- All oak stands and stands with admixture of other broadleaved species older than 80 years are in non-intervention regime
- In selected vegetation groups should be done selective reduction of trees in order to lighten the forest, dead wood should be left on spot
- Increased number of solitary trees after cuttings in whole area, uprooted and broken trees should remain on spot
- It is forbidden to store logged trees in the whole Site of Community importance
- It is forbidden to use biocides in I. and II. Zone

This year case:

1200 m³ of logged beech wood should remain intact - *Rosalia longicorn* (*Rosalia alpina*) laid eggs into wood that foresters left stored for long time. In management plan the is written that wood should be transported out of forest immediately.

Other activities:

- Raise awareness - conceptual documents
- Public rise awareness (Planned House of Nature in PLA Bílé Karpaty)
- Work with stakeholders (Regular meetings PLA Bílé Karpaty with local mayors, farmers and implementers of management measures)
- Education (thematic educational programmes, excursions to the Carpathian nature, training of field guides in PLA Bílé Karpaty, PLA Beskydy, PLA Pálava)
- Networking: International Projects (LIFE for insects, LIFE Apollo, LIFE Butterflies)
- Elimination invasive plant
- Volunteers involvement

- Meadows management mosaic mowing
- Forest management - National Nature Monument Rendezvous
- Disturbance management
- Mobile Application PLA Poodří - travelling and local information
- Educational bicycle trail around PLA
- PLA Poodří House of the nature and animal rescue station in Bartošovice
- Round tables for stakeholders to the Carpathian Convention organized every year by the Ministry of environment

PLA Pálava

- designated in 1976
- Area: 85,35 km²
- 19 Small scale protected areas (Reserves/monuments)
- 9 NATURA2000 sites
- 1 Special protected areas (SPA)
- UNESCO - Biosphere reserve Pálava (1986)
- Zoning: Available online - ArcGIS web application

Activities:

- Pasture grazing by sheep and goats in National Nature Reserve Tabulová
- Elimination invasive plant with volunteers involvement
 - Elimination of invasive plant species from National Nature reserve Kotel-Děvín-Soutěska (from 2016)
 - Dyer's woad (*Isatis tinctoria*) is a yellow - flowering plant related to rape
 - In the past it was acquired a blue dye (false indigo) from it
 - used mainly for dyeing fabrics
 - That is why woad was grown, sometimes even industrially
 - Displace valuable steppe flora - such as pygmy iris (*Iris pumila*) or Feather grasses (*Stipa* spp.)
 - Volunteers involvement necessary/invaluable
- Meadows management mosaic mowing
- Forest management - National Nature Monument Rendezvous
 - Forest - steppe pannonic oak forest on sand and pannonic oak-hornbeam forests
 - Protected species of beetles:
 - Hermit beetle (*Osmoderma barnabita*), Great Capricorn beetle (*Cerambyx cerdo*), Golden-Green Oak Jewel beetle (*Eurythyrea quercus*)
 - Larvae develop in stems of dead or dying oak trees, beetles like stems lit by sun, or cavities with decay
 - Shaded forest stands with too many trees were brightened (selective tree cutting)
 - Trees near touristic trails were maintained not to be dangerous for tourists and remained uncutted - for this Forest service Židlochovice

got payed (payments for difficulties in management according to the law on Nature and Landscape protection 114/1992 Coll.)

- Disturbance management
 - Military vehicles help nature in Nature Monument Na cvičišti (On the training ground) near city Mikulov (declared in 2016)
 - former military training area, threatened by overgrowing by shrubs and trees
 - rides for public help to maintain open bare soil, which is than suitable for many protected plant species/invertebrates/insects (40 protected species has been documented there esp. insect species)

PLA Poodří

- designated in 1991
- Area: 81,52 km²
- 10 Small scale protected areas (Reserves/monuments)
- 2 NATURA2000 sites
- 1 Special protected areas (SPA) - NATURA2000 - bird protection
- Zoning: Available online - ArcGIS web application
- Mobile Application: PLA Poodří - travelling and local information

Educational bicycle trail around PLA:

Trail is available online on maps: <https://mapy.cz/s/2Z40i>

Activities:

- PLA Poodří House of the nature and animal rescue station in Bartošovice
- Round tables for stakeholders to the Carpathian Convention
 - Regular yearly meetings of stakeholders - each year different topic (forests, tourism, agriculture, ecosystem services etc.)
 - Organized by the Ministry of the Environment of the CR with cooperation Educational and Information Centre Bílé Karpaty (VIS Bílé Karpaty)

Hungary: Tar Gyula - General state of the Protected Areas in the Hungarian Carpathians

Protected natural areas of Hungary

- PAs of national importance: national parks, protected landscape areas, nature reserves, natural monuments
- Protected areas of local importance
- Type of cultivation in PAs: forest 46%, grasslands 27%, arable land 10%
- Protected + Natura2000 areas = 22,7% of country area

Nature park directorates

- Responsible for the management of PAs:
 - Guarding and protecting of areas and natural assets
 - Monitoring of protected species and the state of their habitats
 - Restoration of habitats
 - Ranger service
 - Sustainable cultivation of specific areas
 - Gene conservation activities, keeping of indigenous livestock
 - Preserving and management of more than 4150 caves
 - Preparing and monitoring of management plans for PAs of national importance
 - Action to prevent the spread of invasive alien species
- Other tasks in connection with PAs:
 - Review of management plans for PAs of local importance
 - Review and providing information for drafting and modification of local and regional spatial plans
 - Providing information for and taking part in several authorization procedures in relation to PAs

Table with management and cultivation of PAs in the Hungarian Carpathians showing main National Parks data.

Country-wide assessment of the state of ecosystems and green infrastructure:

- Ecosystem base map of Hungary
- Assessment and mapping of GI
- GI= 49% of country area
- Project funded by the Hungarian Operational Programme “Environment and Energy”

Synergies between areas that contribute to the conservation of landscape and natural heritage:

- UNESCO MAB - Biosphere Reserve
- UNESCO IGGP - Global Geopark
- International Dark Sky Parks
- Nature parks (17 in the area)
- National ecological network
- Unique landscape values

UNESCO MAB and National ecological network maps show the core area, ecological corridors and buffer areas.

Major risks threatening PAs relevant in Hungary:



- Climate change - changes in the living conditions of protected species, spread of invasive alien species
- Intensification of farming
- Increase in paved and built-up surfaces - fragmentation of habitats

Connection and dialogue between PAs and external Communities relevant practices:

- National Park Directorates
 - Regular programs and guided tours open for publics
 - In-school and field environmental education tasks
 - Several nature trails, exhibitions, visitors' centres, thematic heritage interpretation sites
 - National parks products, trademark for high quality local products/ sustainable farming
 - Ranger service
- Nature Parks and Global Geoparks
 - Visitors centres, thematic heritage interpretation sites, guided tours, nature trails, landscape walks for local communities
 - Guided geotours in Geoparks

Poland: Szuba Gabriela - General state of the Protected Areas in the Polish Carpathians

General overview of Carpathian region in Poland (ca. 6% of the land area of PL):

- 3 main regions, characterized by low level of urbanization and industrialisation, extensive forests, traditional farming. More than half of the area is covered by at least one area-related form of nature protection.
- 42% forests, 31% arable land, 11% meadows, 6% pastures, 0,8% orchards
- 6 national parks, 13 landscape parks, 7 protected landscape areas
- Almost 70% of the polish Carpathian area covered with one of those forms of nature protection

Description of each Carpathian PA in Poland

- Pieninsky National Park
- Babiogorski National Park, also a MaB
- Tatrzański National Park, also a MaB
- Bieszczadzki National Parks, also a MaB
- Gorceński National Park
- Magurski National Park

Selected major risks (to be eliminated through transnational cooperation):

1. Disappearance of populations of rare, endangered species, habitats
2. Individual PAs are too small to protect large predators that require large individual areas
3. Emergence of alien species
4. Increased anthropogenic pressure
5. Illegal use of forest roads and other violations of PA regulations
6. Loss of landscape and cultural values due to the new land use and the disappearance of traditional extensive farming

Romania: Verghetel Mircea - General state of the Protected Areas in the Romanian Carpathians

Romanian PA management history:

Until 1990 there was no administration or management plans, no designated nature reserves, so the RO protected area system was created from zero

Now: 13 national parks, 16 nature parks, Danube Delta

We have 4 parts that don't have an administration yet, formerly NGOs were sometimes managing small PAs

Now the custodians changed, the new National Agency for Nature Protected Areas created in 2017 is managing small protected areas

In the Carpathians there are 21 major PAs

PAs category system:

According to the IUCN categories:

- I Scientific reserves
- II National Parks
- III Nature monuments
- IV Nature reserves
- V Nature Parks

According to the international categories:

- UNESCO WH Beech forests: 24000 ha
- 20 Ramsar sites (3 in the Carpathians)
- 1 Geopark
- 2 Biosphere Reserves, one in the Carpathians

Administration: each part has a management authority, a scientific council (all activities inside the park are to be approved by this council and the management council), a consultative council and councils approved through MoE order

Romanian Carpathians: Solely National Parks occupy 0,85M ha

2,7 M ha are occupied by PAs in the Carpathians, so 39% of the Carpathian Ecoregion

Management:



- Contracts with MoE and NANPA
- Structures - legal person - 20 administrations - 360 employees
- Annual budget: 6.5 mil euro approved by ministerial order
- Average 10% from own income
- Since 2004: 70 projects with approximately 80 mil euro (management plans, monitoring, visitor infrastructure, capacity development)
- 3 PAs European Diploma Council of Europe, 2 from the Carpathians

Internal zoning management plans descriptions.

Challenges:

- National parks internal zoning: 75% aim
- Analysis of internal zoning including tourist interests and visible landscape impact
- Strong commitment for compensation for owners
- Improvements of harvesting technologies
- Non forest land management
- Land use planning tendencies
- Preserving local architecture style
- Climate change: review of guidelines for forest regeneration
- New development on various directions: green energy, transport, tourism, ski areas, off roaders
- Underdeveloped network, ecological corridors missing

Serbia: Radakovic Nenad, Svetozarevic Ivan - General state of the Protected Areas in the Serbian Carpathians and best practices from the Djerdap NP

General state:

- Everyday improvement towards Spatial plan for Djerdap National park area, period 2021 - 2030
- Challenges with management of newly established UNESCO Global Geopark Djerdap
- Challenges with Council of Stakeholders
- Empowerment of staff towards forming units for Geopark and Tourism
- International cooperation
- Exchange of experience

- Work with schools

Income:

- Key income: tax for land use and forestry
- Challenges with subsidies

Risks

- Public procurements and contractors

- Adaptation of international standards (forestry, management, fishing, hunting, land use etc.)

Designation in 2020:

- Ramsar site - 66.525,00 ha
- Geopark (under UNESCO) - 133.000,00 ha
- NP Djerdap - 63.768,00 ha

Looking forward:

- Revitalization of infrastructure
- Challenges with project development
- Networking with stakeholders

Slovakia: Kadlecik Jan - General state of the Protected Areas in the Slovak Carpathians

As of 31.12.2020:

- 9 National Parks (NPs)
- 14 Protected Landscape Areas (PLAs)
- 1089 small-scale PAs of different categories (including within NPs and PLAs)
- 585 outside NPs and PLAs
- dynamic process - designation of new / extension of existing / cancelation of incorporated PAs - Natura 2000 sites designated as PAs in national categories; zoning of NPs (PAs becoming parts of zones)
- 7 628 caves in the database (19 show caves)
- 443 protected trees, their groups, alleys (1251 individual trees, 65 taxa)

Synergies with the surrounding territories:

Territorial System of Ecological Stability (TSES)

(legally established - public interest)

- National level
- Regional documents of TSES
- Local documents of TSES

Need to work on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECM)

- delineation
- governance arrangements
- tenure - identifying statutory and customary ownership and use rights
- documentation of legal or other effective mechanisms
- Management required
- Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Identification of migratory corridors / barriers and assessment of benefit of protected areas in possible migration of wild animals in Slovakia (Černecký et al. 2019)

Further information regarding:

- Overview of PAs economic status with a view to the implementation of future strategies

- Overview of PAs status with a view to the implementation of future strategies
- Major risks threatening PAs
- Dialogue between PAs and external communities
- Steps taken: Environmental Strategy 2030, amendments to the Act on nature and landscape protection, to the Decree to the Act, Prioritised Action Framework 2021-2027, projects

Ukraine: Arustamian Eduard - General overview of the state of Protected Areas of the Ukrainian Carpathians, including protected areas development.

Protected Areas in 4 Administrative Regions (Oblasts)

- Zakarpatska Oblast: 478 sites with a total area of 193.3 thousand hectares - 15.16% of the oblast; consisting of: Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, national nature parks: "Synevyr", Uzhanyskyi and "Zacharovanyi Krai", 2 regional landscape parks, 75 zakaznyks, 12 protected stows, 347 natural monuments, 2 botanical gardens, 1 dendrological park, 35 parks-monuments of garden and park arts.
- Ivano-Frankivska Oblast: 560 sites with a total area of 222.4 thousand hectares - 15.97% of the oblast; consisting of: Gorgany Nature Reserve, national natural parks: Carpathian, Hutsulshchyna, Halytskyi, Verkhovynskyi and Synohora, 4 regional landscape parks, 72 zakaznyks, 207 protected stows, 253 natural monuments, 9 dendrological parks, 9 parks-monuments of garden and park arts.
- Lvivska Oblast: 399 sites with a total area of 177.9 thousand hectares - 8.15% of the oblast; consisting of: Roztochya Nature Reserve, national nature parks: Skolivski Beskydy, Yavorivskyi, Pivnichne Podillya, Boykivshchyna and Korolivski Beskydy, 5 regional landscape parks, 76 zakaznyks, 37 protected stows, 199 natural monuments, 5 dendrological parks, 67 parks-monuments of garden and park arts, 2 botanical gardens, 1 zoo.
- Chernivetska Oblast: 331 units with a total area of 103.6 thousand hectares - 12.8% of the oblast; consisting of: national natural parks: "Vyzhnytskyi", "Khotynskyi" and "Cheremoskyi", 2 regional landscape parks, 57 zakaznyks, 38 protected stows, 184 natural monuments, 6 dendrological parks, 40 parks-monuments of garden and park arts, 1 botanical garden.

International protected areas in Ukrainian Carpathians:

- There are 8 Ramsar sites: Lake Synevyr, Narcissi Valley, Romania-Friendship Cave, Ozirnyi Brebeneskul, Black Bog, Pogorilets River Headwaters, Prut River Headwaters, Nadsyannia Raised Bog
- 13 parts with an area of 28,986 thousand hectares - 29.5% of the area of 94 parts of the UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions in Europe" (18 European countries)
- 33 sites of the Emerald Network of Europe with a total area of 702.2 thousand hectares - 29% of the area of the Ukrainian Carpathians.

- Biosphere reserves: Carpathian, Ukrainian part of TBR "Eastern Carpathians". Now we are working on the creation of a transboundary Ukrainian-Romanian biosphere reserve in the Maramures branch of the Carpathians.

Possibility of synergies with the surrounding territories, outside PAs

- Activities within PAs involve local authorities and communities, other stakeholders from the time of designation, when they approve protection status of certain lands.
- PA-administrations pay land tax to territorial communities for land provided for permanent use and provide recommendations on the use of these funds to solve environmental problems of communities.
- Cooperation of PA-administrations institutions with the population is regulated by legislation, general and sectoral strategies/programs/action plans, separate cooperation agreements, due to national and local festivals/holidays/events and situations, in particular in case of floods, fires, etc.

Overview of PAs economic status with a view to the implementation of future strategies: The environmental sector (Environmental Ministry, State Forest Agency, State Water Agency, PAs) participates in the implementation of national strategies/programs, action plans for their implementation on the formation of a network of protected areas, recreation and tourism, reforestation, reduction of continuous felling, shore protection. Hydrotechnical, antakarst, avalanche measures, collection and recycling of household waste), including the following strategies and programs:

- State Strategy of Regional Development of Ukraine for 2021 - 2027;
- State Program for the Development of Cross-border Cooperation for 2021 - 2027;
- State Development Program of the Ukrainian Carpathians Region for 2020-2022.

Description of the major risks threatening protected areas in Ukraine

- As in other areas due to climate change, but more acute in mountainous areas are:
 - mass drying of trees as a result of snowless winters and droughts;
 - devastating floods due to heavy rains.

The last floods in the Ukrainian Carpathians took place in June 2020 and July 2021: roads, communications, buildings, etc. were destroyed, damaged and silted up;

- In the Ukrainian Carpathians, the problem of collecting and disposing of household waste is also acute, due to which we have numerous landfills, littering of rivers, especially the cross-border Tisza;
- In recent years, the amount of cars has grown significantly, roads are being repaired/ built at a rapid pace (this is gratifying!), but due to a significant increase in mobility, the recreational load on natural areas has increased significantly with all the negative consequences (increased number of dead animals, noise, illegal visits to protected areas, etc. (this is no longer pleasing!);

- There are risks associated with: development of recreational areas, especially ski resorts, construction of small hydropower plants, wind farms, etc.

Possible dialogue between PAs and external communities present in Ukraine

- Inter-sectoral cooperation in Ukraine is constantly evolving, including to execute its obligations under the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU.
- The laws of Ukraine “On Environmental Impact Assessment” (2017), “On Strategic Environmental Assessment” (2018), “On Basic Principles (Strategy) of the State Environmental Protection” adopted in recent years in accordance with the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU policy of Ukraine for the period up to 2030 “(2019). These laws are already at work, although we have a lot of complaints, especially about the need to pay for the development of reports on EIA and SEA.
- Interactions are facilitated by the rapid temps of digitalization of public authorities and self-government. Today, information on the state of the environment can be obtained, if not immediately, by visiting the relevant websites, then on request in a few days. At the same time, our time requires the necessary training, new knowledge and skills, access to better experience and best practice.

Conclusions:

- Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the project at the expense of the Government of Germany "Support to Nature Protected Areas in Ukraine", the Frankfurt Zoological Society and WWF Ukraine for their strong support of the development of the protected areas network in the Ukrainian Carpathians.
- However, I would like EU projects to be more accessible to us. Ukraine was one of the initiators of the Carpathian Convention, acceded to all five protocols to the convention and the new article of convention 12bis on climate change, but has not yet received adequate results from the implementation of the convention due to lack of cooperation.
- Let's interact better to have better results!

Good cooperation between EWS and Ukraine, for example in training activities.

4. Presentations by the representatives of the CNPA from each Carpathian country

Speaker: CNPA Representatives

Czech Republic: Petru Marie & DUŽÍ Barbora - Examples of best practices of protected areas management and networking

Key points:

1. Environmental education, raising of public awareness, and local guiding in the Bílé Karpaty PLA
2. Cross-border cooperation between the Bílé Karpaty PLA Czech Republic and the Biele Karpaty PLA Slovakia.

The main mission is to:

- Provide environmental education (schools, teachers, programs indoor, excursion outdoor...)
- Raise of public awareness in PLA Bílé Karpaty and south-east Moravia (public, tourists)
- Provide environmental counselling and information about nature protection
- Create and provide tourist information, tourist information materials, tourist infrastructure
- Provide and educate people in the field of tourism and local guiding,
- Cooperation and creation of various strategic materials in the field of sustainable tourism, nature protection and local development,
- Cooperation on local, regional, national and international level

Conditions for providing Environmental education, raising of public awareness, and local guiding in the Bílé Karpaty PLA

- Cooperation with experts, NOGs, and PLA Bílé Karpaty employees
- Respect of local conditions, local culture, interviews with locals
- Respect of nature and landscape protection conditions and legislation
- Respect of conditions in Visitor Communication and Management Strategy in the Bílé Karpaty PLA
 - it is a key instrument for presentation of the PLA and strategical document of tourism sustainable development in territory;
 - it summarises and recommends key methods of interpretation and sources of natural and cultural heritage in the area;
 - includes limits to visitor use (land use) and tourism related activities in PLA

Cross-border cooperation:

- Exchange of information
- Exchange of experiences, methods - through the Journal Bílé Karpaty for example
- Common Marketing

- Common cultural events
- Common projects, research, nature protection management (LIFE for insects, Centralparks)

Slovakia: Kadlecik Ján, Puchala Peter, Lukanova Martina - System and tools for protected areas management in Slovakia

Levels of protection and management of PAs in Slovakia:

- Managed by 24 branches of the State Nature Conservancy of the SR
- Headquarters - SNC Directorate in Banská Bystrica
- 1st level of protection (general - out of PAs network) - 76.6% of the SK territory
- 2nd level (various PA categories, NP buffer zones, NP zone D) - 15.14%
- 3rd level (various PA categories, PA buffer zones, NP zone C) - 5.92%
- 4th level (various PA categories, buffer zones, NP zone B) - 0.56%
- 5th level (various PA categories, NP zone A) - 1.78%
- Total 2.-5. level of protection - 23.4 % of SK territory

Supporting tools for PAs management:

- Order of the Ministry of Environment of the SR No. 170/2021 by which the Act No. 543/2002 on nature and landscape protection is executed
- Territorial System of Ecological Stability
- National Strategy for Biodiversity Protection and Action Plan
- Greener Slovakia - Strategy of Environmental Policy of the Slovak Republic until 2030 (2019)
- Updated Programme of Wetlands Management in Slovakia to 2024 and Action Plan for Wetlands 2019-2021 (2019)
- Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 in the Slovak Republic pursuant to Article 8 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive) for the Multiannual Financial Framework period 2021 - 2027 (2021)
- Catalogue of Ecosystem Services in Slovakia (2019), National Ecosystem Services Assessment in Slovakia (2020)
- Methodologies and guidelines, etc.

Best practice examples:

- Nature Reserve Primeval forests of Slovakia (76 sites; 6462.42 ha)
- Based on inventory of remnants of old-growth forests in Slovakia (OZ Prales)
- In cooperation with WWF Slovakia
- EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - key commitments - Strictly protect at least a third of the EU's protected areas, including all remaining EU primary and old-growth forests

Management of protected areas:

- Implementation of management plans and actions
- Project activities (LIFE, structural funds, INTERREG...)

- Restoration of habitats (hay meadows, dry grasslands, wetlands, old river arms and oxbows)
- Renewal of extensive pastures
- Actions for improving habitats, nesting possibilities, foraging habitats of species (birds of prey, European souslik)
- Partnership and cooperation

Hungary: Bihari Zoltán (Aggtelek National Park) - Experience in the control of invasive plants and the conservation of large carnivores in the Carpathian Basin

1. Invasive species control project

The project was implemented in the Aggtelek National Park between 2017-2020

The most important aspects of invasive plant control:

- 1) It is necessary to know the lifestyle of the species and it is necessary, to intervene when the plant is the most sensitive
- 2) Defence is a multi-step process. It's successful only then, if you went through every step of the defence
- 3) Primarily mechanical and only secondarily chemical control
- 4) Chemical control should be as targeted and limited as possible

Implementing of defence against Solidago

Mechanical control (986 ha):

- Straw crushing
- Grazing: the best are the sheep

Practice of chemical control (698 ha):

- 1st control in spring
- 2nd control against the survivals in autumn

Results

Solidago coverage in the last 10 years. More than half of the area became free of Solidago

2. Open borders for wildlife in the Carpathians HUSKROUA/1702/6.1/0010 with

international partners (Slovakia, Hungary, Ukraine, Romania) - Currently still going on
Targeting the CEE region populations of brown bears (ca. 8000), wolves (ca. 4000) and Eurasian lynx (ca. 3000)

Threats for large carnivores:

- Habitat loss and fragmentation
- Human disturbance

The aim of the project:

- Exploring ecological corridors (when they are wandering) bottle-necks
- Point out the most important Habitats (breeding, feeding)
- Metapopulation structure

Results:

- Suggestion for action and Sustainable Development (corridors, habitats, etc.)
- Reach better quality of life of people in harmony with the environment
- Sensitive point: Human-animal conflicts (animal keepers, hunters, tourists)

Hungary: Szabó-Major Borbála - Duna-Ipoly National Park

Responsibility:

- ca. 125 000 ha national protected areas
- ca. 258 000 ha Natura 2000 Sites (SAC+SPA)

Duna-Ipoly National Park:

- Establishment: 1997
- Territory: 60 314 ha
- No. of caves: 334
- Börzsöny mountains: 30.000 ha
- Highest peak: Csóványos - 938 m
- High International importance:

Main tasks:

- Habitat management and reconstruction
- Species protection programmes
- Site management plans
- Expertise support in regional planning schemes
- Environmental education and ecotourism
- Monitoring and research
- Land property management
- Ranger service

International cooperation:

- CNPA
- DANUBEPARKS
- Transboundary relationships with Slovakia:
 - Dunajské luhy CHKO
 - NGO: Ipoly Union, BROZ
- Twin National Park (Bicaz Gorges - Hasmás NP in Romania)

Zonation system (IUCN criteria) for Börzsöny Mountains is currently being developed, partly covered by the Centralparks project

- In consultation with the Forest Managers
- A zone: 80% already in consultation
- C zone: under discussion

Centralparks Interreg CE1359:

- WPT2 leader
- LiDAR: 3D scanning and sensory remote sensing
 - <https://centralparks.eu/how-centralparks-uses-lidar?fbclid=IwAR24CtpapkwjvscefzcvEbZN4uwilBVSCDZzsrOVxOR1o52xaZCqJTH5WVA>
- Forest and grassland state evaluation
- Nature conservation management plan: 1st for NP core area, based on the innovative methodologies and pilot actions, international cooperation

- Forest state evaluation: based on the methodology of a Swiss Found Project (SH4/13)
 - Methodology converted for monitoring purposes
 - Tested in the Börzsöny Mountains
 - The results are in an active use by the Forestry Authorities, to implement within the forestry management plans
 - <https://bit.ly/39Ly2SO>

LIFE4OAK Forests: Conservation management tools for increasing structural and compositional biodiversity in Natura2000 oak forests

(LIFE16-NAT/IT/000245, LIFE4OAK Forests)

- Coordinating Beneficiary: MAR
- Associated beneficiaries: BfNPD, BNPDP, DINPD, MTA Ecological RC, ETTE, WWF
- Co-financier: Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture
- The biodiversity of oak forests is declining as a result of intensive human use. The project aims to promote the regeneration of the forests and to restore the diversity of forest structure, native tree species composition and micro habitats. As a result, the protected forest mammals, birds, insects, plants and fungi will be preserved and their populations will increase.

LIFE endemic PANALP

To protect 5 endangered endemic plant species and improve their conservation status, such as the Hungarian Fennel (*Ferula sadleriana*)

For more information:

- <https://www.dunaipoly.hu/en/>
- <https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/Centralparks.html>
- <http://www.life4oakforests.eu/> Péter Koncz (konczp@dinpi.hu)

Romania: Mos Alin - Apuseni Nature Park - Reconnecting with nature

General information:

- The park is located in western Romania in the heart of Apuseni Mountains
- It's the third largest park in Romania, with an area of 75,784 ha
- The area of maximum tourist attraction in the Apuseni Mountains with over 500,000 visitors every year
- Geological, biological and cultural importance at national level
- The largest and most famous karst areas in Romania are located in the park.

- Park of high historic importance, pride of local people
- Sensitive forested karst areas are the most important to be preserved
- Natural ecosystems are predominant in the northern and central areas
- Covers land from 3 different counties

- One of the most populated park in Romania
- 1/3 of the surface is state owned, the rest is private

High natural and cultural capital:

- Diversity of species: Plants species are over 1550, Animal species are over 1380
- Diversity of natural habitats: 29 different habitats
- Underground habitats: over 1500 caves known in the park (Vartop cave, Coliboaia cave)

Tourist attractions:

- Bear's Cave - tourist honey pot
 - Best visitor infrastructure in Romania
- Scarisoara cave glacier
 - World largest underground fossil ice block
- Many other tourist attractions connected to beautiful scenery and permanently inhabited area

Year 2020 - Pandemic: New challenges for tourism and visitors

Idea: European Day of Parks 2020 - Europarc Federation theme "healthy Parks - Healthy People

Key message: Parks & protected areas have an important mission connecting people with nature!

Project: Reconnect with nature - Through Apuseni Nature Park Administration

- Started with online activities
- Development of a new tool for visitors - Interactive map of nature reconnection locations
- Access to the map - on the park website

Nature reconnection locations:

- Proposals of the rangers
- Easy access
- Unknown for general public
- Quiet places
- No risk for contamination for the visitors
- A place to escape and be safe
- Log benches
- Info boards with motivational messages for each locations
 - Let your thoughts flow down the valley with the ripples of the water and you will be left alone with nature

Used also very much by local people

Slovakia: Puchala Peter, - System and tools for protected areas management in Slovakia

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- Catalogue of Ecosystem Services in Slovakia (2019), National Ecosystem Services Assessment in Slovakia (2020)
- Methodologies and guidelines, etc.

Monitoring of habitats and species

- Ongoing projects for monitoring habitats and species
- Permanent monitoring sites, monitoring system
- KIMS - Complex information monitoring system
- www.biomonitoring.sk

Best practice examples:

- Nature Reserve Primeval forests of Slovakia (76 sites; 6462.42 ha)
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Migration corridors identification

- Online map viewer with data on migration habitats, corridors, barriers
- <http://maps.sopsr.sk>

Management of protected areas:

- Implementation of management plans and actions
- Project activities (LIFE, structural funds, INTERREG...)

- Restoration of habitats (hay meadows, dry grasslands, wetlands, old river arms and oxbows)
- Renewal of extensive pastures
- Actions for improving habitats, nesting possibilities, foraging habitats of species (birds of prey, European souslik)
- Partnership and cooperation

Management practices:

- Restoration of dry grassland habitats, sand steppes, such as Devinska Kobyla, etc.
- Extensive grazing, wood-pasture restoration

Wetland management:

- Restoration of hydrological system in wetlands
- Improving of water retention
- Restoration of old river arms and oxbows

Wildlife management:

- Intervention team for brown bear
- Monitoring of large carnivores

Networking of PAs and caves managers

- Regular meetings (SNC SR as a common platform)
- Exchange of knowledge
- Expert groups (botanists, zoologists, foresters, inorganic nature, water specialists, landscape management, environmental education, large carnivores, capercaillie)
- Protected Areas of Slovakia (Chránené územia Slovenska - online methodical and information magazine, newsletter, web site)
- Cooperation in field works, monitoring (large carnivores' census, water birds)
- Cooperation agreements with administrations of neighbour PAs (in HU, PL, UA) and the Czech Nature Conservation Agency, joint projects
- Transboundary Biosphere Reserves, Ramsar Sites, WH Caves of the Slovak and Aggtelek Karst, transnational World Heritage property (Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe)
- Other networks and initiatives (MaB, DANUBEPARKS, Trilateral Ramsar Platform, Carpathian Wetland Initiative, European Green Belt Initiative)
- International organizations membership (EUROPARC Federation, IUCN, International Rangers Federation, IENE, ISCA, UIS, FSE)

Ukraine: Tarasyuk Mykola - Best practices of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve management.

CBR was designated in 1968.

Status of UNESCO in 1993.

European Wilderness Network member since 2018.

Total area is 58035,8 ha.

Zonation: Core areas (41,3%), Buffer zone (26,9%) Zone of anthropogenic landscapes (30%) and zone of regulated protection regime (1,8%)

- Core zone: Europe's biggest primeval forests, pure beech, pure spruce, mixed, postglacial alpine lakes, karst limestone caves with endemic species and limestone cliffs
- Buffer zone: Old growth and natural forests
- Zone of anthropogenic landscapes: artificial forests, lowland grasslands with last population of highland species, highland alpine and subalpine landscapes
- Zone of regulated protection regime: separate PAs with a special protection regime

Management of Biodiversity:

- Programs for yew tree (*Taxus baccata*) and European cedar pine (*Pinus cembra*) conservation.
- A complex set of measures for mountain meadow ecosystems preservation.
- Monitoring of rare and endangered plant species populations, in particular myrtle rhododendron, Carpathian bellflowers and narcissus.
- Monitoring of the status of large predators' populations (bear, lynx, wolf) and implementation of the measures aimed at their protection.
- Creation of a digital database "Mammals of CBR".
- Creation of artificial breeding ponds to support populations of rare species of amphibians.
- Installation of protective metal structures at the entrances to underground shelters of hibernating bats.

Program for conservation of grassland ecosystems of the unique Valley of Narcissus, which suffers from changes in the hydrological regime (reduction of groundwater level) due to melioration (drainage, dehydration) and overgrowing with willows and other tree and shrub vegetation.

The program includes: installation of sluices and other hydro technical structures on the main melioration canals to increase the groundwater level; regular mowing of the Valley of Narcissus to support grassland vegetation; pasturing of water buffaloes and other landscape forming animals to prevent forest succession, in particular willows. Also, these animals increase the tourist attractiveness of the area.

The program of transformation felling for one-age spruce monocultures, which occupy in CBR an area of more than 10 thousand hectares, into different-aged multi-species plantations, close to natural ones. The program provides for the creation of ecological gaps of different sizes by conducting selective cuttings of various intensity.

Activities:

- Economic activities in the context of sustainable development:
 - About 30% is used for economic needs, most of it is for commercial timber and firewood by selective logging
 - The Carpathian Biosphere Reserve provides on average 6,000 m³ of commercial timber and firewood to supply more than 700 households in the area of its activity.

- Haymaking and animal grazing still remain one of the main types of traditional nature management in the Ukrainian Carpathians. In particular, hay is harvested on the total area of 240 hectares.
- Animal grazing within the reserve is carried out on highland pastures on an area of over 4.000 hectares. In total, about 400 individuals of cattle and 6,000 sheep are pastured within the protected area.
- Controlled harvesting of wild berries (blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, etc.) and mushrooms for the needs of the local population is allowed at CBR.
- Eco educational works:
 - Network of visitor centres: 3 ecological-education and 4 tourism information centres;
 - The Museum of Mountain Ecology and History of Nature Management in the Ukrainian Carpathians attended by more than 5,000 visitors each year;
 - About 50 ecological events every year: ecological lessons, competitions, quizzes, eco-demonstrations, eco-games, etc.;
 - More than 3,000 school pupils involved in eco-education activities and events;
 - Organization of ethnic festivals, thematic workshops, round-table meetings, etc.;
 - Publication of the scientific-popular magazine "Green Carpathians", the regional newspaper "Newsletter of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve", information booklets, leaflets, flyers, postcards, calendars and other printed materials;
 - Informing the public about the activities of the institution through its own website and social networks, as well as the mass media.
- Recreation and tourism
 - High attractiveness of the territory due to a big number of natural, historical and cultural values: the highest peak of Ukraine - Hoverla mountain, the biggest mountain massifs of the Carpathians: Chornohora, Svydovets, Marmarosh, a number of highland lakes, pure beech and mixed primeval forest sites, various karst formations, including caves, grottoes and rocks, UNESCO World Natural and Cultural Heritage Properties, the Geographical Center of Europe; unique Narcissi Valley, etc.
 - Network of 20 ecotourism trails with a total length over 200 kilometres.
 - Well-developed recreation infrastructure: checkpoints; places for rest, camping sites; information centres and boards; guest rooms, etc.;
 - About 40,000 visitors annually come to CBR, and this tendency is growing steadily;
 - Developed programs of various tourist activities and excursion tours.
- Cooperation with local communities:

- Carpathian Biosphere Reserve pays annually about 36.5 million UAH (over 1.15 million euros) land tax to the territorial communities, situated within the area of its activity.
- Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, together with local communities, develops programs for socio-economic and cultural development, which are based on land tax funds, and which are focused on solving problems that are a priority for both, local communities, and the biosphere reserve. In particular, they are:
 - Repair of existing roads;
 - Creation of tourist-recreational infrastructure;
 - Support to the Polonyna farming (economic complex for keeping small animals and cattle in the highlands) etc.
 - The Coordinating Board is functioning at the Biosphere Reserve first of all for solving conflict issues; it includes representatives of CBR administration, local authorities and self-administration bodies, leaders of local communities and wide public, NGOs, other key stakeholders;
 - Memorandums on cooperation with 5 state forestry enterprises were concluded to ensure forest management on the principles of sustainable development in the region;
 - Declarations on cooperation between the CBR and 17 town and village councils were concluded to ensure cooperation within the transition area;
 - Agreements and Memorandums on cooperation aiming at improvement of highland farms management, conservation of “polonynas” culture (highland farming) and development of recreation activities within the territory of CBR were concluded with 6 village councils.

On the way to the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve:

- Date of designation of the Biosphere Reserve: 26 November 1993
- Adoption of the Seville Strategy for Biosphere Reserves: 1995
- Launch of an initiative called “Exit strategy” within the MAB program: 2013
- Resolution of the International Coordinating Council of the UNESCO MAB Program about nonconformity of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve with the criteria of the Statutory Framework (Regulations) of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves: 2014
- Establishment of the transition area of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve of UNESCO type: 2017
- Decision of the International Coordinating Council of the UNESCO MAB Program about the complete compliance of the territorial structure of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve with the Charter Framework criteria (Provisions) of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves: 2017
- The next steps - to develop strategies for the implementation of the three main functions of the UNESCO BR and recommendations for operational planning to achieve short- and medium-term management results

Transition area of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve:

The Carpathian Biosphere Reserve has created in 2017 a full-fledged transit zone that meets all the criteria of the Statutory Framework (Regulations) of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

The transition area has about 140 thousand hectares and covers the territory of 5 state forestry enterprises and 17 local communities within Rakhiv and Tyachiv districts.

Due to the transition area, the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve is an integral object, devoid of fragmentation, with high ecological connectivity and integrity, which provides conditions for the existence of viable populations of large carnivorous mammals: bear, wolf and lynx.

The transition area includes a significant part of the ecological network of the Zakarpattia Region, in particular all the main latitudinal and meridional ecological corridors, which act as a bridge between the clusters of the biosphere reserve.

Ukraine: Derbak Mykola, Matichyn Fedir - Best practices of the National Nature Park “Synevyr” management.

National Nature Park “Synevyr”

- NNP "Synevyr" was established in 1989 in order to preserve, reproduce and rational use of natural resources, complexes and objects that have special aesthetic and educational value within the various altitude zones of the south-western macro slopes of the Gorgany Ridge. Total area of the park - 43,081.8 ha.
- Lake Synevyr (7 ha) is a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention (since 2005) and one of the seven natural wonders of Ukraine (in 2008).
- In the NNP “Synevyr” the forested areas cover 31,746.1 ha, of which 9,033.0 ha are natural, including 2,865.04 ha of true virgin forests. The buffer zone is 1,091 hectares. The ancient forests of the Synevyr National Nature Park in 2017 are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site “Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions in Europe”.
- In 2017 the territory of NNP "Synevyr" was included in the Emerald Network of Europe and in 2016 following a Wilderness Quality Standard and Audit Procedure, in the European Wilderness Network.

Functional zoning of the NNP “Synevyr”

Based on the purpose and objectives of the park is divided into functional zones according to its values.

- Protected zone - 14,88%, 6 414.8 ha - Growing: pure spruce, mixed spruce-beech, oppressed spruce and other natural forests, meadows; separate areas with a strict protection regime.
- Zone of Regulated Recreation - 54.51%, 23 484,3 ha. It includes: pure spruce and mixed, pure beech forests, groves, post-forest meadows, wetlands.

- Stationary Recreation Zone - 0.04%, 19 ha. It is characterized mainly by meadows and stationary recreational facilities
- Economic Zone - 30,57%, 13 163.7 ha - Includes: settlements, homesteads and urban areas.

Management of biodiversity:

- Programs and measures for management of biodiversity in the NNP "Synevyr"
 - Biodiversity Conservation Program for Rare Ecosystems and Species.
 - Carrying out measures to preserve and maintain forests and post-forest meadows.
 - Monitoring and reproduction of rare species of plants and animals.
 - Monitoring of the population of large predators (bear, lynx, wolf) and birds (capercaillie, black grouse).
- Main events:
 - forest plantations are constantly monitored
 - Monitoring of rare species of flora and fauna, their localities and stations has been established
 - Brown bear rehabilitation center: 2011
 - Rehabilitation center for Birds of Prey: 2017
 - High-altitude mating point for Carpathian bees: 2020

Economic activities in the context of sustainable development:

- Almost 20,000 people live within NNP "Synevyr", which is about 7,000 households. There is no gas in the region, so firewood is mainly used to heat the homes of the local population. NNP "Synevyr" carries out the extraction of fuel wood for the residents of the region through sanitary measures in the forests of the park.
- The national park is repairing mountain roads and overcoming the consequences of natural disasters.
- Restrictive measures to visit ecosystems during mating and emergence of offspring of fauna are introduced annually.
- The main economic activities in addition to harvesting firewood by the population are haymaking and grazing. Although in recent years their livestock has decreased significantly.
- Picking mushrooms and berries is a traditional use of the local population from year to year. This type of use is constantly monitored.

Eco educational works:

- NNP "Synevyr" carries out ecological and educational works with various target audiences, starting from youth, ending with locals and tourists.
- Students of 8 secondary schools of the region and student youth join the ecological and educational activities of NNP "Synevyr".
- With the participation of students from schools in the NNP "Synevyr" traditional regional children's drawing competitions are held in order to draw young people's attention to the problems of nature protection from household waste pollution and the formation of a conscious position on environmental protection.



- Forums of young naturalists are held annually - educational and practical events with the participation of local schoolchildren.
- Eco-educational meetings are held with local residents and community leaders.
- Environmental actions at NNP "Synevyr" are an effective way to draw public attention to the region's environmental problems.
- NNP "Synevyr" publishes a regional environmental and educational magazine "Synij Vyr", booklets, leaflets, books and so on.

Recreation:

- Typical and rare corners of wildlife and their biological diversity and historical and cultural heritage, attract the attention of many tourists from all over Ukraine and abroad. For the last 3 years the number of visitors to the park is approx. 200 thousand people a year.
- The most visited places are: Lake Synevyr and Wild Lake, Rehabilitation Center for Brown Bears, Rehabilitation Center for Birds of Prey "Sapsan", sphagnum oligotrophic swamp Hlukhania, waterfall White Spring.
- There is a visit center and two tourist information centres "Ostriki" and "Hlukhanya" in NNP "Synevyr". Excursions to natural sites and local museums are constantly available for visitors.
- A network of 8 tourist routes, 2 ecological and 2 scientific and educational trails with a total length of 138 km has been created.
- 328 information boards, stands, banners, signs and pointers were installed.
- There are more than 80 gazebos for temporary recreation.
- Today NNP "Synevyr" has the opportunity to accommodate 60 people in the rooms of their motels.
- NNP "Synevyr" annually participates in the organization of festivals "On Synevyr" trembits called "Farewell flocks to the meadows", which promote local folklore and recreational potential of the region.

Reconstruction of Timber Rafting Museum:

- It is a real monument of engineering thought, talent and diligence of mountaineers
- In the XIX century a dam was built to raft the forest from the mountains into the Tisza valley. In 1998 and 2001 the water level rose to historic levels and the museum was severely damaged
- Reconstruction of the destroyed dam will make it possible to restore the only timber rafting museum in Europe

Cooperation with local communities:

- Annually NNP "Synevyr" pays more than 1 million (UAH) land tax to the territorial communities, situated within the area of its activity.
- NNP "Synevyr" cooperates with three territorial communities. Measures to improve the infrastructure of the region (repair of local roads, construction of bridges, etc.), raising environmental awareness of the population are being implemented jointly.
- Joint projects are being implemented with Synevyr United Territorial Community, the project "Interpretive cultural and cognitive journey" Synevyr. Goryani».

- NNP "Synevyr" involved the heads of village councils and local people to actively participate in the discussion of the expansion of the park, which were considered at meetings, and in 2015 within the project "Preservation of Carpathian virgin forests" held a seminar "Exchange of experiences between local communities and national parks ". As a result of this work, village heads supported the issue of enlargement.
- Heads of territorial communities are regular participants in the meetings of scientific and technical councils of NNP "Synevyr".
- There are 15 Orthodox and Greek Catholic communities in the region of NNP "Synevyr", with which the institution cooperates in the field of environmental education, by informing parishioners through priests about the importance of caring for the environment, preventing pollution of water bodies with household waste.

International cooperation:

NNP "Synevyr" cooperates with foreign national parks "Krkonoshi" and "Šumava" (Czech Republic), "Gortobat" (Hungary), "Slovenian Paradise" (Slovakia), the environmental association "Machaon International", the Union for Nature Protection and Biodiversity - NABU (Germany) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

In recent years, NNP Synevyr, together with international partners, has participated in the implementation of the following projects:

- "Life of the great predators of Europe"
- "Preservation of Carpathian virgin forests";
- "Support of nature reserves in Ukraine";
- "Wooden architecture in the cultural landscape: challenges of modernity";
- "Territories of inspiration";
- "Interpretive cultural and cognitive journey" Synevyr. Goryany ».
- "Youth School of Sustainable Development of the Carpathians"
- "BAT4MAN -" Raising environmental awareness of the local population through the joint conservation of bats in the border areas of Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and Ukraine "
- "Churches and public organizations for environmental education in national parks"

Ukraine: Yamelynets Taras - "Support to Nature Protected Areas in Ukraine" project implemented in 7 Protected Areas of the Ukrainian Carpathians



The project “Support to Nature Protection Areas in Ukraine” is delivered in the framework of German Financial Cooperation (FC) and financed by KfW Development Bank.

The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR) of Ukraine is responsible for the implementation and operation of the project.

In preparation of the project a Feasibility Study has been carried out in 2012-2013

Contract award to successful bidder (AHT, WWF-DCP, FZS and USPB) - March 2016

Project duration 72 months (01.05.2016 to 30.04.2022)

Financial contribution is up to 14 Million Euro

Project Objective:

The management and effectiveness of selected protected areas in the Ukraine are improved and the acceptance of protected areas is increased

Description of the project implementation structure and its members.

Graphic shows how the budget of 14 mln euro will be spent according to the current plans.

The following activities have been undertaken among others:

- General assessment of the protected area sector
 - The modernization of the protected areas through the adaptation to EU legislation (currently under way).
 - The proposals for new protected areas shall achieve a higher biogeographical representative-ness of the protected areas network.
 - Aligning legal documents of the forestry sector with the conservation needs of an area.
 - Updating the law on the “red data book of Ukraine” and bringing it in-line with IUCN criteria but also featuring conservation recommendations for threatened species in the red data book.
- An overall assessment on land ownership and boundary delineation
 - For many PAs in Ukraine, boundary delineations and border designations need to be updated. The legal gaps in the land documentation scheme are mainly caused by lacking funds for the high costs and time intensive operations involved. But clear and legal boundary delineations are crucial, especially for state organizations such as PAs.
 - Project goal: A GIS-based and public “State Cadaster of Protected Areas” is established and functional to support management and land-ownership, boundary delineation matters and site management matters
- A GIS-based and public “State Cadaster of Protected Areas”
 - A functioning Cadaster strengthens the status of the protected areas, establishes their legal safety and is a condition to effective management, conducting research and biodiversity monitoring. It also provides local

authorities and other stakeholders with information needed for socio-economic development and the coordination of land use regulations.

- A new standard for the development of protected areas management plans (“Proekt Orhanisatsiyi Territoryii”)
 - Through the SNPA Project MENR upgrades the management plans of eight Protected Areas in accordance with international standards. MENR chose an integrated approach to cater for the justified interests of relevant stakeholders in conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.
- Modern biodiversity monitoring
 - Accurate and reliable monitoring systems are prerequisites for effective management of protected areas worldwide. In particular, data derived from biodiversity monitoring plays an important role for effective PA management as it provides essential information for guiding decision-making and allows for adaptive management as changes in biodiversity can be tracked over time.
 - The rationale behind this activity is to guide monitoring schemes of protected areas more towards goal-oriented conservation objectives of the individual areas. This will entail training of relevant protected area staff in applying modern (robust) monitoring methods and using up-to-date monitoring equipment.
 - SMART, <https://smartconservationtools.org/>.
- Reform of the state protection service
 - Development of a new rule-book for rangers
 - Specific training for rangers
 - Legal reforms to be initiated
 - Cars for rangers and park administrations (10 Dusters 4x4, 31 Toyota Hilux)
 - 23 motorbikes for rangers (43 motorbikes planned for next year)
 - Uniforms for rangers (approx. 700 items (winter/summer) in process)
 - IT and computer equipment for eight target PAs
- Training and capacity building
 - Practical trainings were conducted for the use of drones, filming and recording equipment, and video conferencing tools
 - GIS trainings (offline and online) provided
 - SMART trainings
 - the attendance of two Ukrainian civil servants (from the then MENR) and two Protected Areas staff at the European Parks Academy
 - Training of one Ukrainian civil servant (from the MENR) and one PA staff member through attendance of the renowned master’s programme “Management of Conservation Areas” (two years’ programme) at the University of Applied Science of Kärnten (Austria).
- Visitor centres, administrative buildings and ranger posts
- Cooperate design and websites for PAs
- Communities - mini grants Waste/Education/Infrastructure

- A targeted small-grants scheme for local communities is under preparation in the buffer zones to promote educational, social and economic activities linked to the protected areas located in the vicinity. Strategic investments in rural areas within or surrounding the target areas will be conducted to provide specific solutions such as waste management and infrastructure related to the protected areas (or linking communities with PAs).

Romania: Papp Cristian - Protected Area Management Effectiveness Evaluation in the Carpathians

1. Global perspective
2. CCPAMETT
3. METT 4

Why Management Effectiveness?

International context

- CBD Theme 8 says:
- „Protected Areas only work as conservation tools if they are managed effectively to maintain their values in perpetuity.”
- Three important steps
- identifying an agreed set of standard
- developing system of evaluation
- establish systems to monitor changes and trends

PA Management Effectiveness Assessment at the global level - Management Effectiveness (PAME)

Global assessments status vs. recommendations:

For Targets 11 and 12, noting that not all ecoregions of the world are adequately covered by protected areas, most protected areas are not well connected, and most Parties have not assessed the management effectiveness of the majority of their protected areas, and that global prevention of species loss should focus on specific regions of the world where most species diversity exists and/or where they are the most threatened, focus on the protection, management and conservation of the most significant areas for biodiversity, such as through the initiatives of the Alliance for Zero Extinction and others,11 through protected areas, other effective area-based conservation measures and specific species conservation measures;

E.g. Romania has a total of 1,574 PAs covering 24,52% of its territory (ANANP, 2020), out of which only 29 sites were assessed for their management effectiveness (UNEP-WCMC, 2020), accounting for only 4.95% (UNEP-WCMC, 2020).

From global to regional and country levels:

CCPAMETT - Carpathian Countries Protected Area Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool

- Component I - Protected Area Management Effectiveness Assessment

- Component II - Protected Area Database of the Carpathian Countries - contains all the necessary indicators and resources: capacity, financial resources, management plan preparation, etc.

CCPAMETT officially recognized by WCMC as a tool to assess effectiveness

Who should be involved?

- The assessment process should ideally involve a partnership between many players.
- Depending on circumstances they may include local / site managers, senior agency managers, government agencies of different sectors
- Local communities
- NGOs, donors, international convention staff
- Private sector representatives

CCPAMETT - How to use the tracking tool - guidelines developed

- Design/Planning - Adequacy/Appropriateness - Delivery

CCPAMETT - strengths

- Comprehensive tool, easy to handle
- Easy to analyse the results and to generate different types of reports
- The collected data is stored in a database; less paperwork has to be done
- Gives the opportunity to compare the results of a certain PA to other PAs from a country (at national level) or region (within the Carpathians of a specific country)
- Internationally embedded links to the CBD, WCMC and the WDPA

CCPAMETT - weaknesses

- It might be possible that only one person performs the evaluation (e.g. no internal discussion takes place). Depending on the PA staff, the evaluation can be subjective.
- If the internet connection is not reliable, it is recommended to use printed forms as well

METT 4 - The Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool Version 4 comprises:

- Scores per management element (absolute and percent)
- Threats
- Treat Extent
- Threat Severity
- Status and trend in key indicator species
- Status and trend in habitats

5. Presentation of the CNPA status quo - Need for revisiting the strategic CNPA documents and discussing the way forward of the CNPA

Speaker: Kuras Klaudia

Introduction with a brief history of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas.

Review of implementation of the CNPA Medium Term Strategy

- OBJECTIVE 1. Promotion of cooperation on protection, restoration of nature and sustainable use of natural resources, preservation and promotion of the cultural heritage of the Carpathians;
- OBJECTIVE 2. Promotion of sustainable livelihoods and sustainable development of the Carpathians;
- OBJECTIVE 3. Implementation of the relevant provisions of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity;
- OBJECTIVE 4. Implementation of decisions and recommendations undertaken by the bodies established under the Carpathian Convention as well as of other applicable relevant international legal instruments.

[Presentation of the CNPA status quo. Need for revisiting the strategic CNPA documents and discussing the way forward for the CNPA](#)

[Draft review of the implementation of the CNPA Medium Term Strategy](#)

6. Interactive exercise - questions to the CNPA Conference participants about the future activities of the CNPA and ensuing discussion

Speaker: CC Secretariat

Which activity do you perceive as the most urgent for the institutional development and operational capacity building of the CNPA?

- Development of a functional structure with dedicated people and resources
- Prevent and contrast illegal logging
- Meeting of the SC soon!
- Funding
- Paid coordinator
- Functional unit and SC
- Develop a platform for best practice share and thematic conferences to present
- Resources to support the secretariat
- More active SC

- Dedicated group working for salary
- Action plan
- Designated CNPA association and CNPA secretariat
- Monitoring
- Funding
- Project preparation on common topic
- Creating an online link
- Regular communication to the CNPA members
- Uniform working procedures at the park level, monitoring, communication
- Regular common activities

Which activity do you perceive as the most urgent for enhancing communication between the member areas of the CNPA?

- New website
- Facebook group
- Sending the list to SC members
- Commitment through a funded project

- Facebook group with CNPA members
- Communication platform
- Frequent contact towards PAs
- Mailing lists
- Database of main stakeholders
- Newsletter (good practices & info about the members)
- Day-to-day communication platform for members
- Offering engaging topics
- A joint project for a common identity
- Management of the contact list: emailing, meetings
- A revised website platform, mailings

Which activities do you perceive as the most urgent for common projects at the Carpathian scale?

- Large carnivores
- Common challenges like invasive species control
- Connectivity improvement between protected areas
- Implementation of the research
- Tours and exchange of tourism workers
- Sustainable practices in general
- Green businesses
- Waste management and tourism
- Sustainable practices in general, share experience between members
- Helping local communities
- Study tours of ranges to other PA
- Make an inventory among the members about what problems they encounter and need support in
- Local businesses, local products
- Joint advertisement and promotion

Which activity do you perceive as the most urgent for enhancing the exchange of information, experience, skills, knowledge and data between the CNPA?

- Symposiums
- Establishment of a knowledge hub for thematic topics
- Common network online platform
- Online webinars with PA professionals on interesting topics
- Identify a good coordinator able to keep communication among Countries long lasting
- Regular CNPA team building
- Regular webinars and online activities
- Exchanging employees and managers
- Study visits for employees

Which activity do you perceive as the most urgent for promoting PAs as model areas for sustainable local development and transboundary cooperation?

- Joint communication strategy for whole CNPA
- Press conference
- Promotion of PAs by other stakeholders, not only by PA people
- Common social media platforms

- Sharing successful stories
- Make them a model first
- Promoting good examples
- Workshops
- Branding and visibility strategy
- Select and promote best examples
- Identity and designate transboundary protected areas
- Areas for restoration a healthy planet
- Study visits for the stakeholders
- More communication and implementation of viable economical activities for the local communities
- Start working also outside PAs
- Access funding sourcing for successful communication

7. Recommendations and next steps

Speaker: Egerer Harald

Very good exercise. During this conference, we have been able to discover a lot of good examples within PAs. Communication will be increased as well as cooperation with Ukraine. Thanks to Mircea as well as the Centralparks project. And to all the participants.

8. Closing of the 3rd CNPA Conference

Speaker: Verghelet Mircea

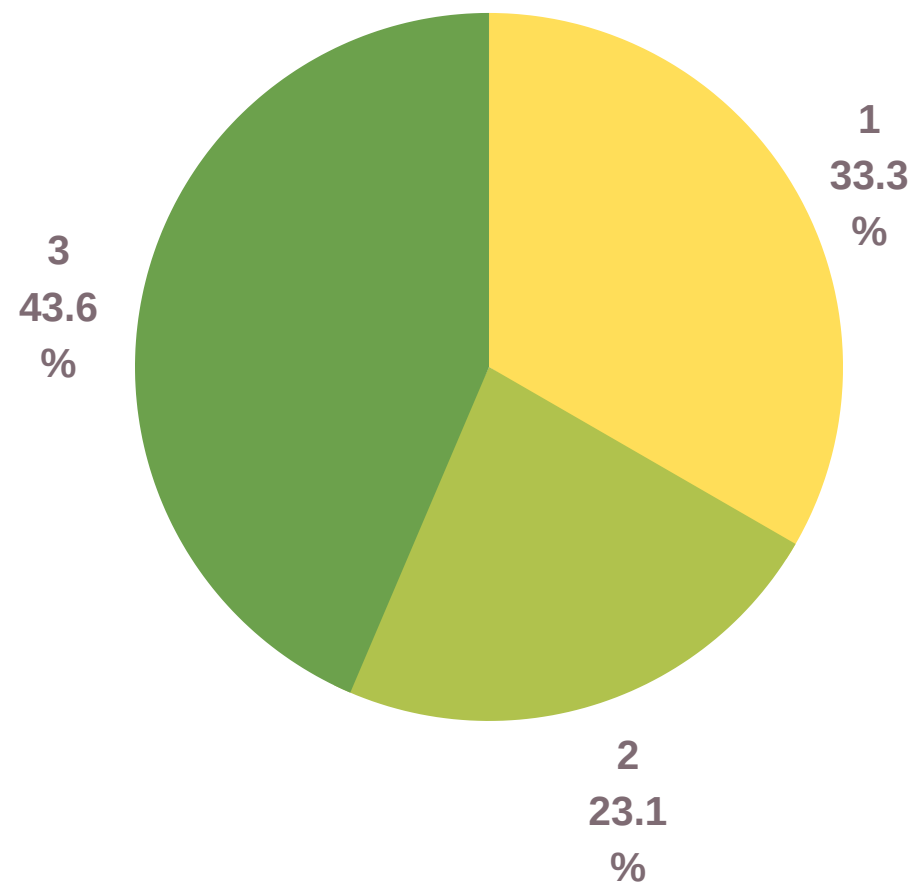


The 3rd CNPA conference was very successful. A special thanks to CEEWeb and the host of Hungary, as well as the ConnectGreen & Centralparks Projects. A big thanks to the volunteers who helped to organise the event.

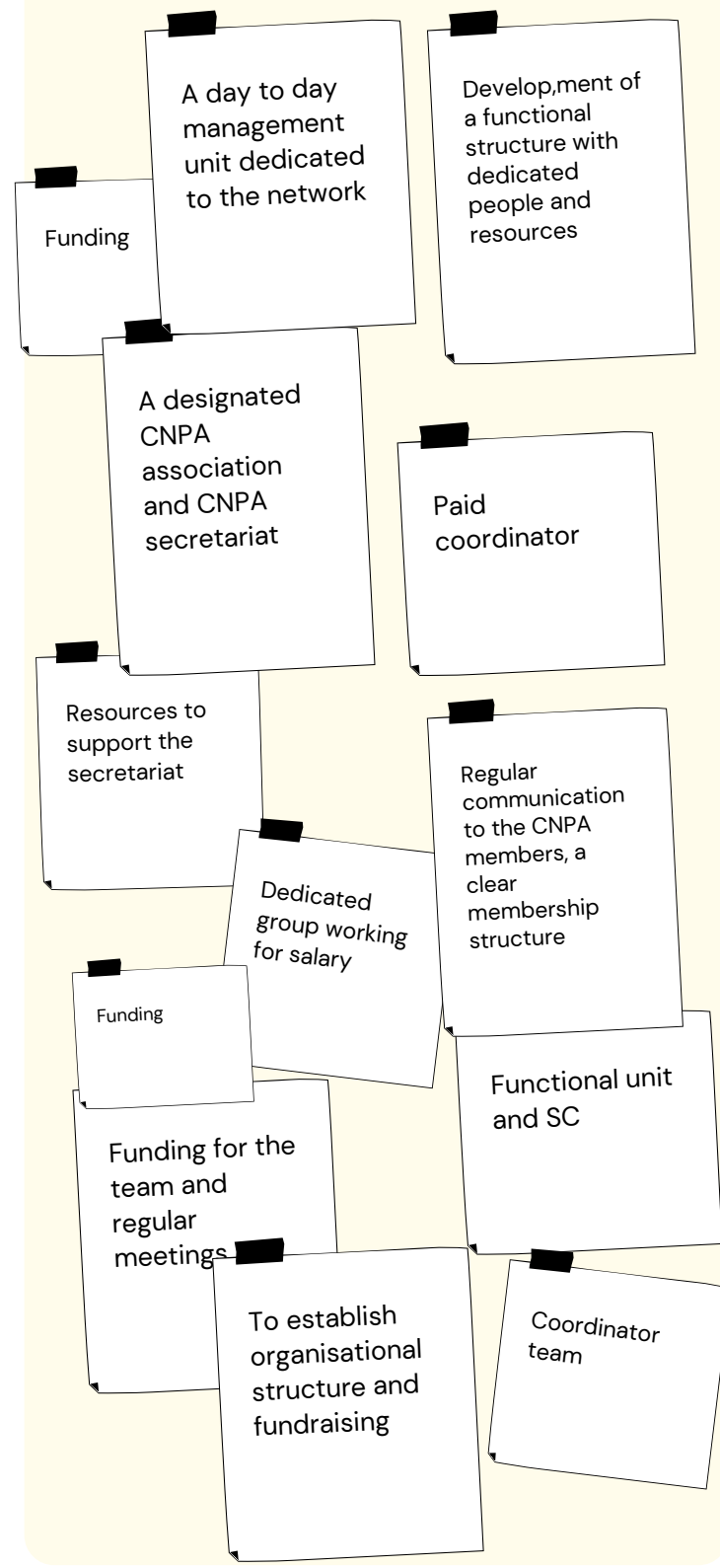
Presentations of 3 movies of wildlife, made possible by the cameras provided by ConnectGreen.

Del: Thanks to all the organisers and a kind invitation to the final conference of Centralparks, which will take place in March 2022.

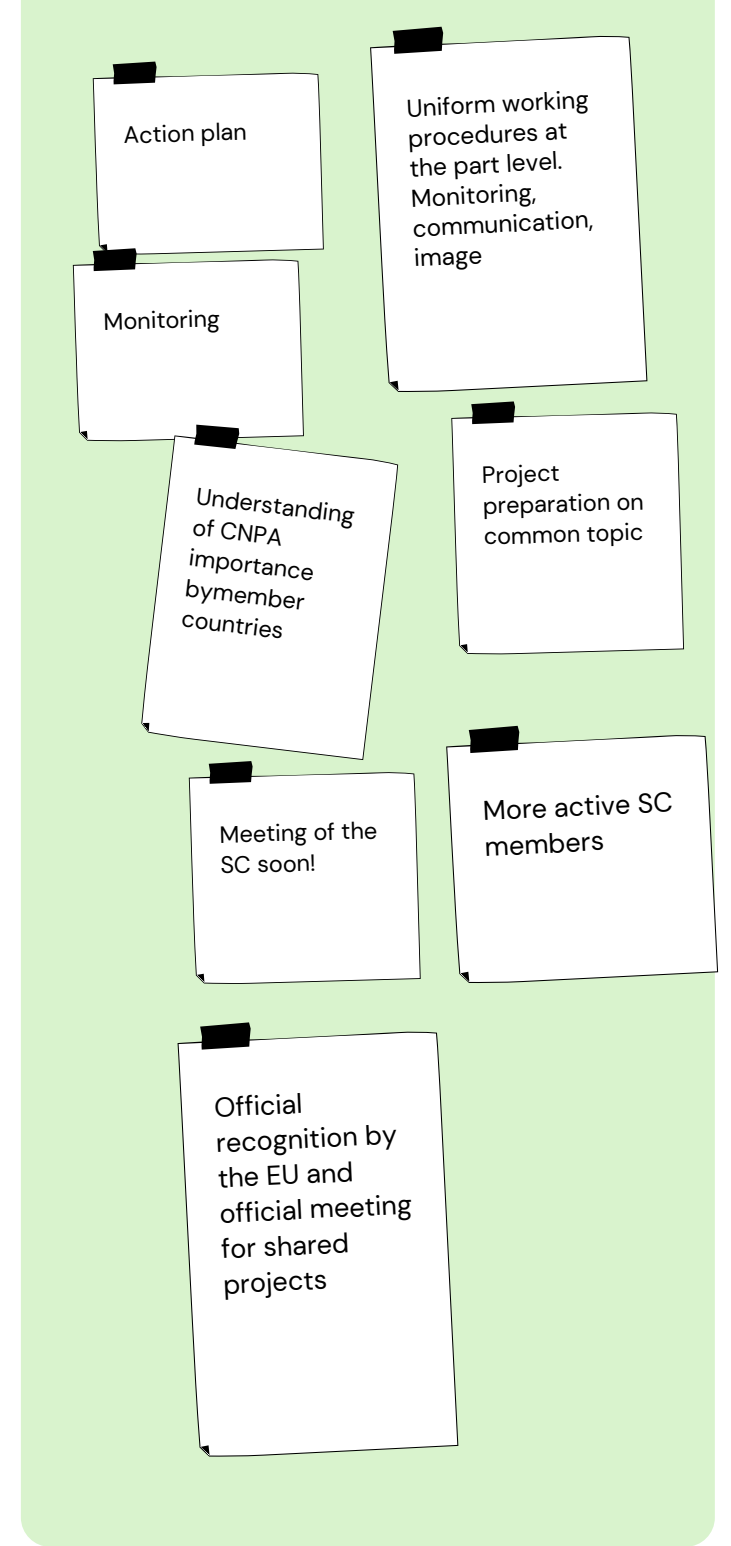
Which activity do you perceive as the most urgent for the institutional development and operational capacity building of the CNPA?



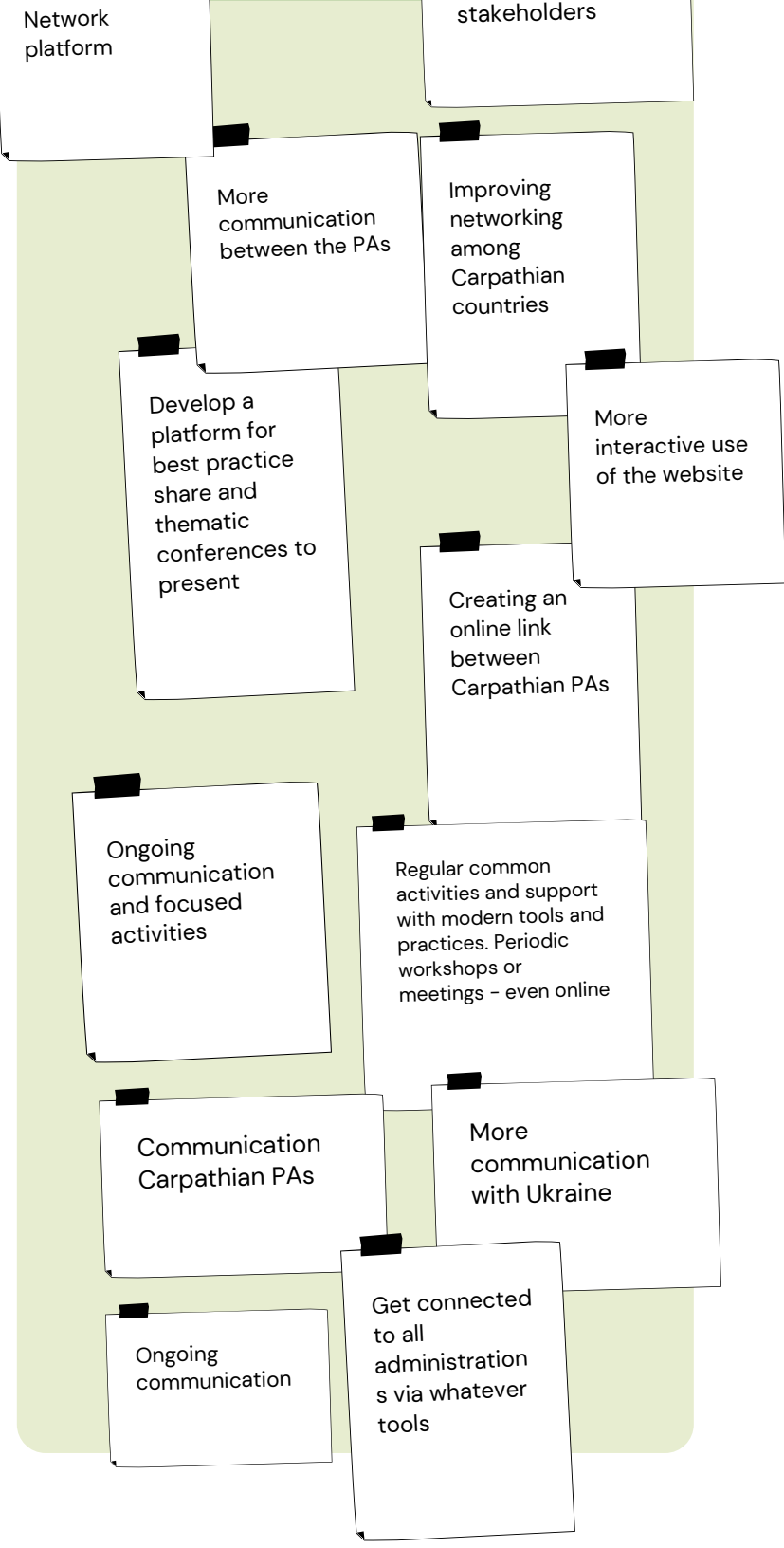
1 | Functional working unit and financial resources



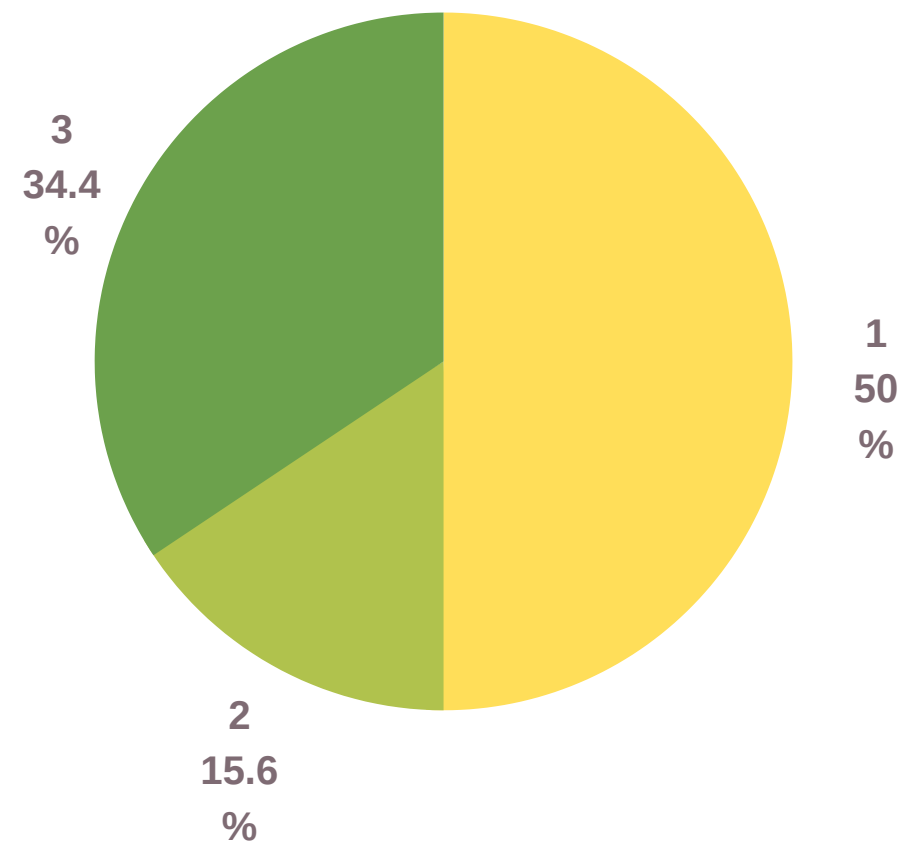
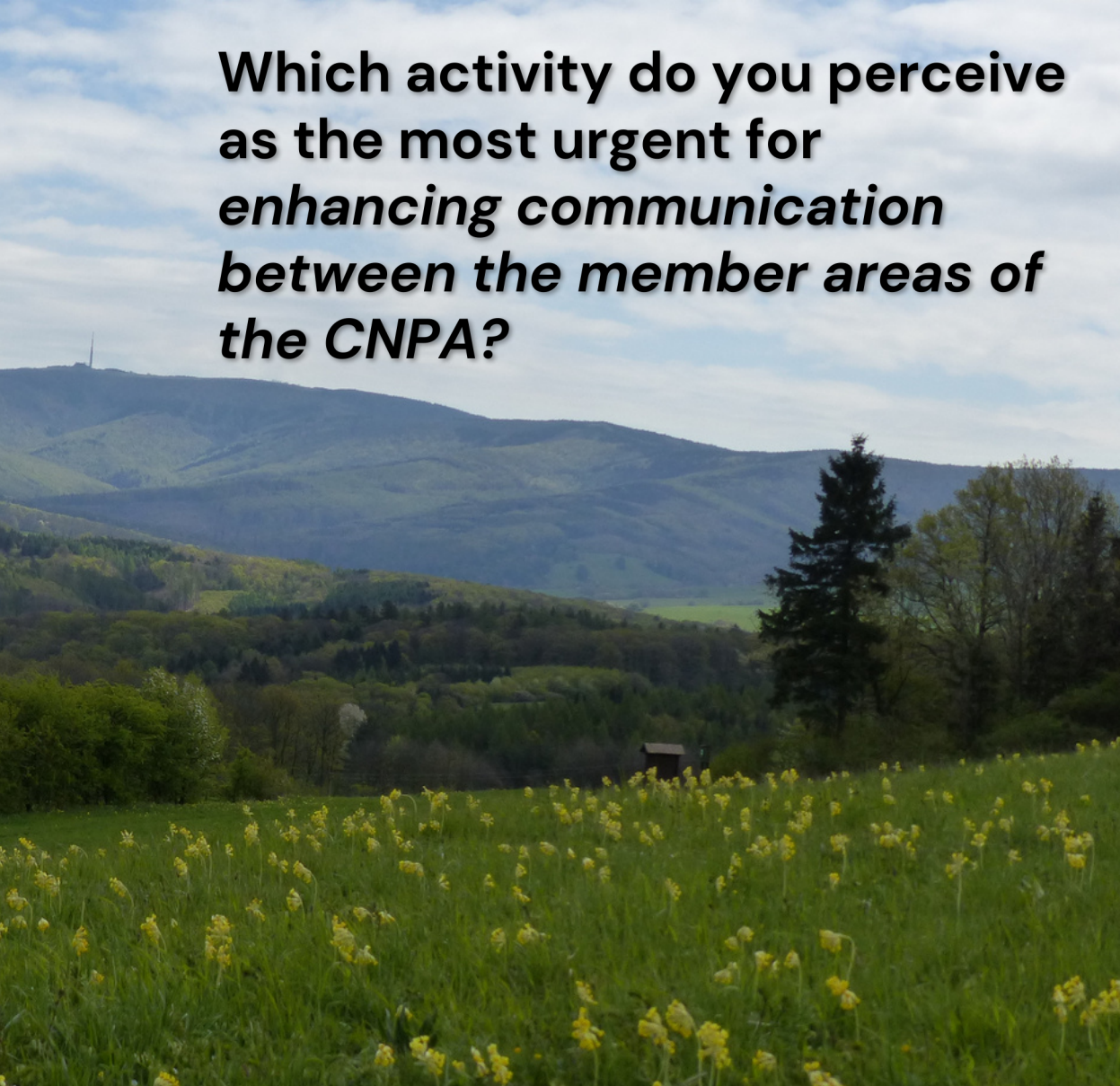
2 | Harmonisation of aims and working procedures



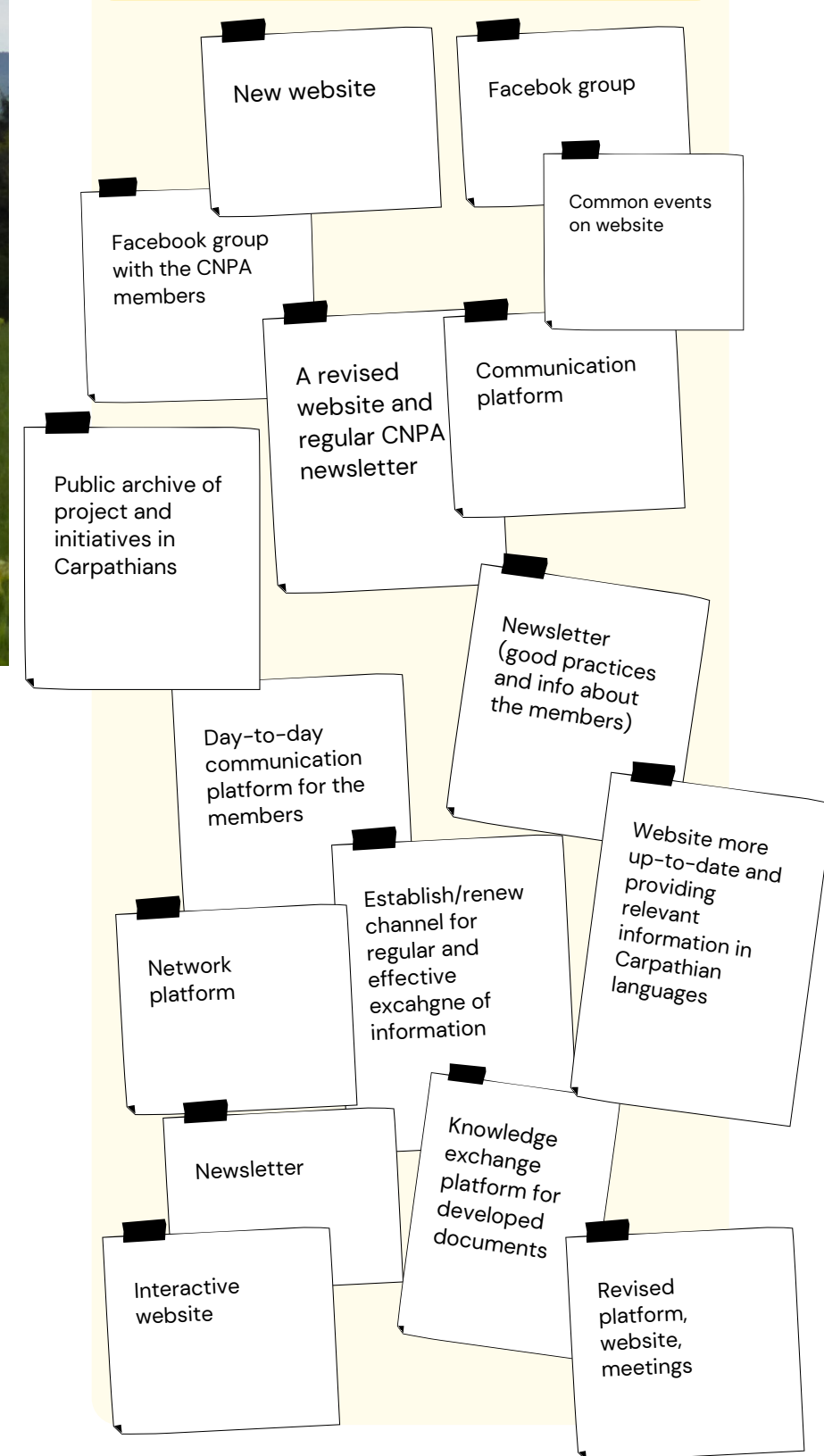
3 | Communication and networking



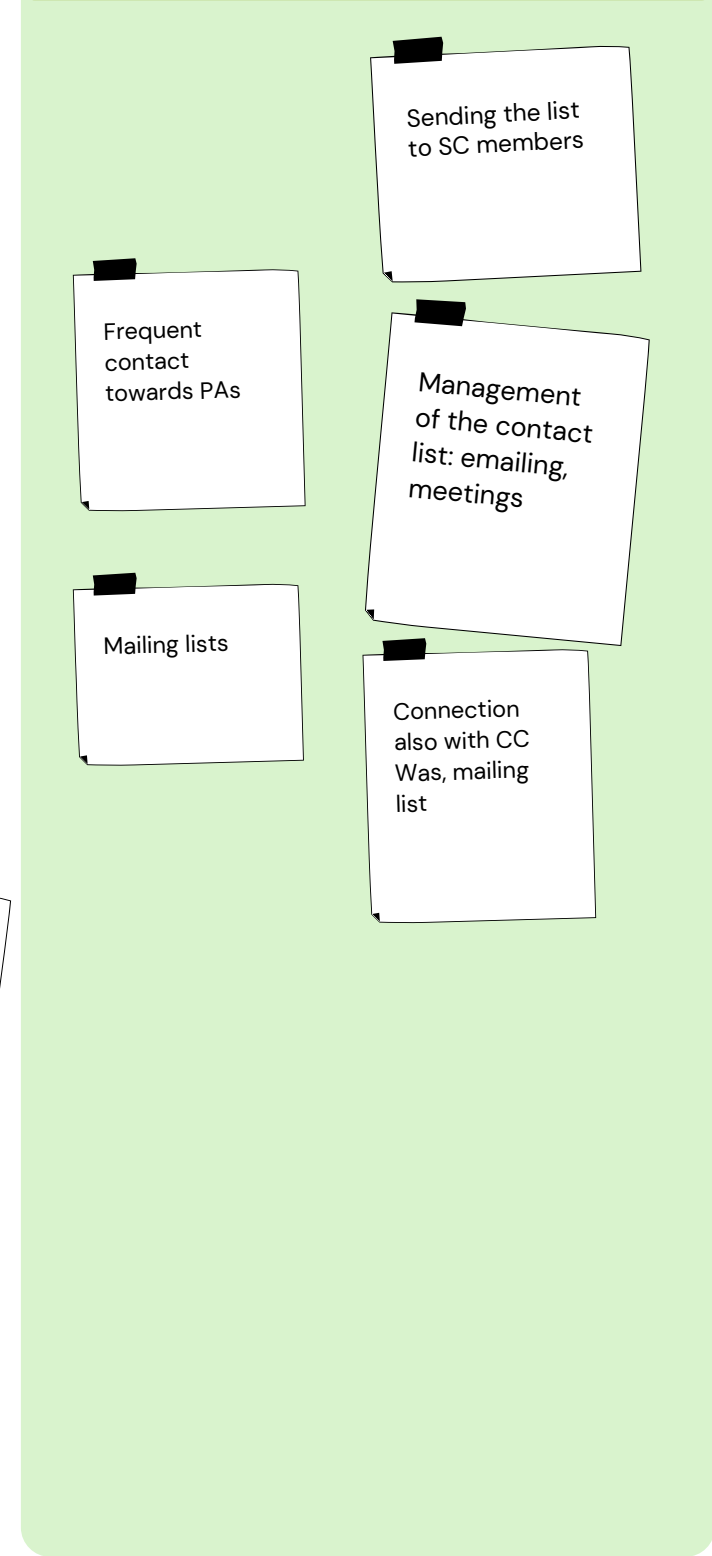
Which activity do you perceive as the most urgent for enhancing communication between the member areas of the CNPA?



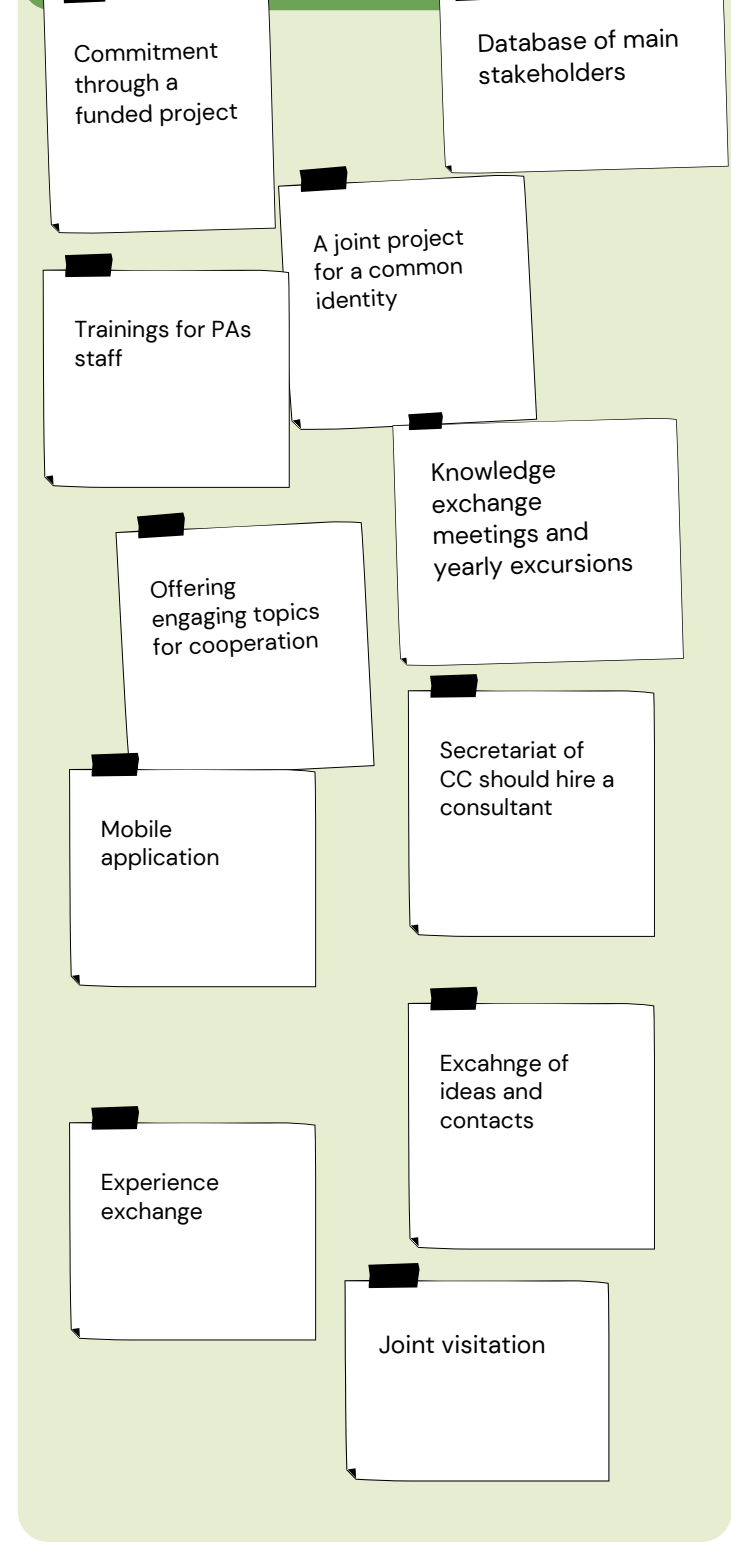
1 | Website, newsletter and social media



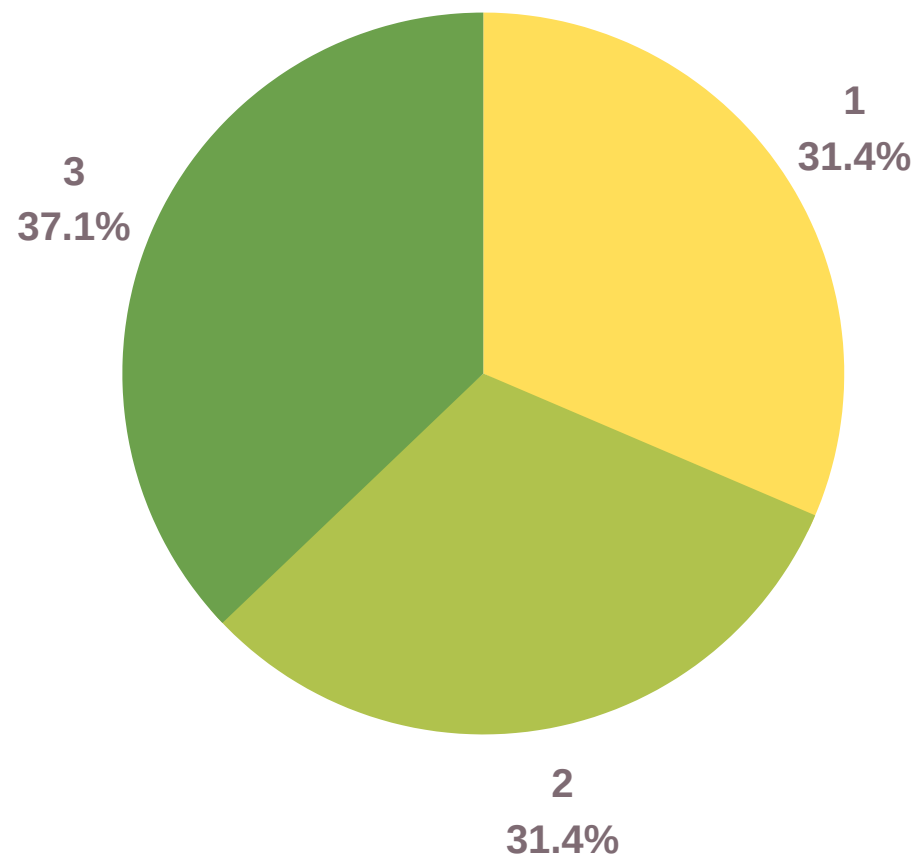
2 | E-mail communication



3 | Others



Which activity do you perceive as the most urgent for *common projects at the Carpathian scale*?



1 | Biodiversity conservation and management effectiveness

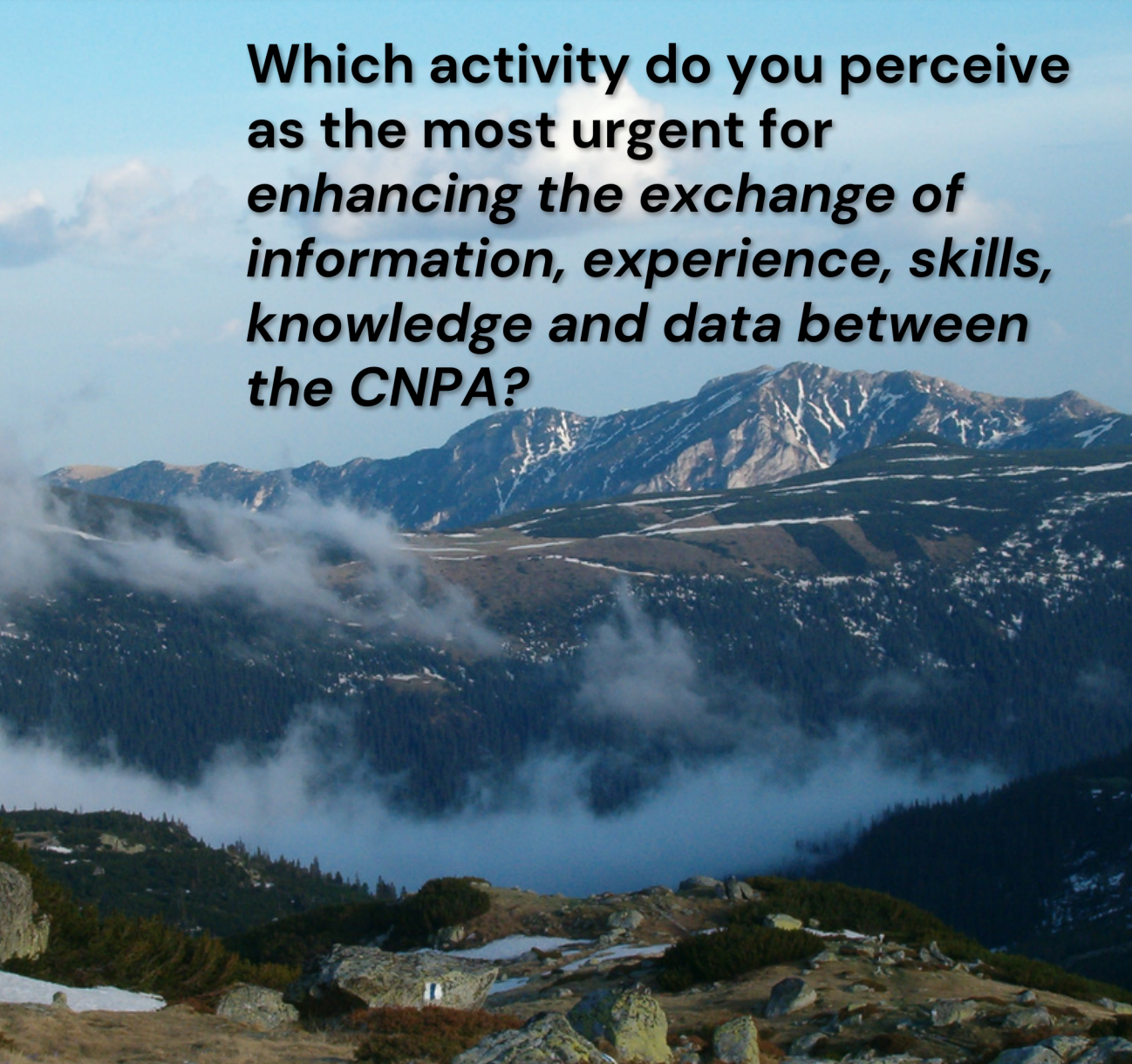
- Large carnivores
- Common monitoring of large carnivores
- Connectivity improvement between PAs
- Invasive species control
- Mapping the biodiversity hotspots
- Virgin forests
- Connectivity, monitoring, poaching, illegal logging
- Large carnivores
- Coordination and elimination of invasive species in the border regions
- Effectiveness
- Measuring management effectiveness

2 | Education and sustainable practices

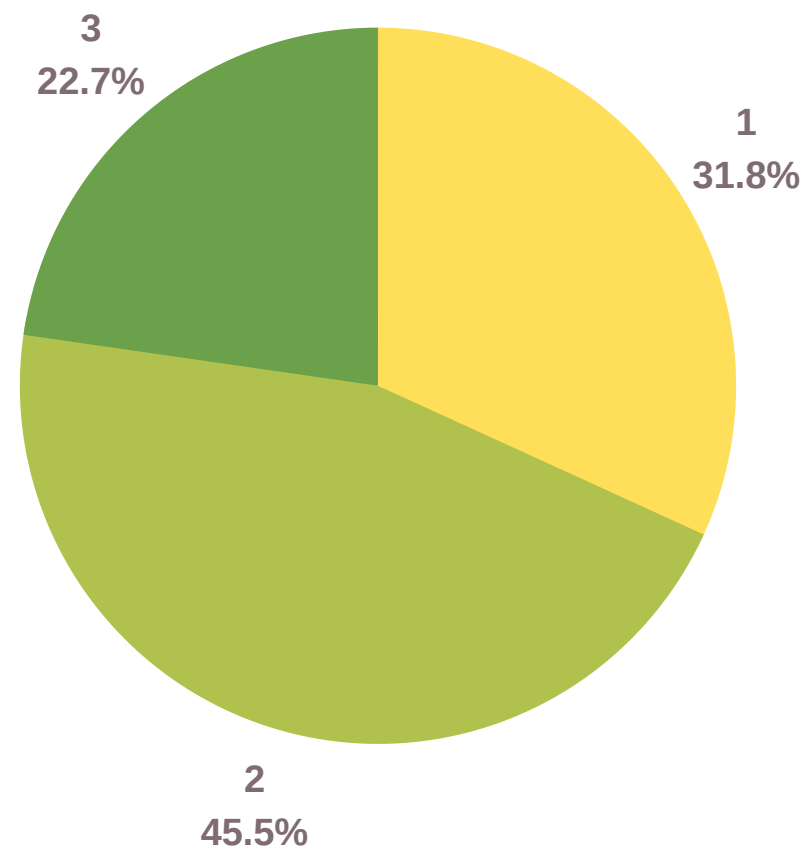
- Tourism
- Tourism and knowledge exchange between tourism workers
- Green businesses
- Sustainable tourism
- Sustainable practices in general, share experiences between members
- Waste management and tourism
- Proper waste management
- Helping local communities
- Ecological education
- Sustainable development of communities and tourism in the Carpathians
- Environmental education

3 | Experience exchange

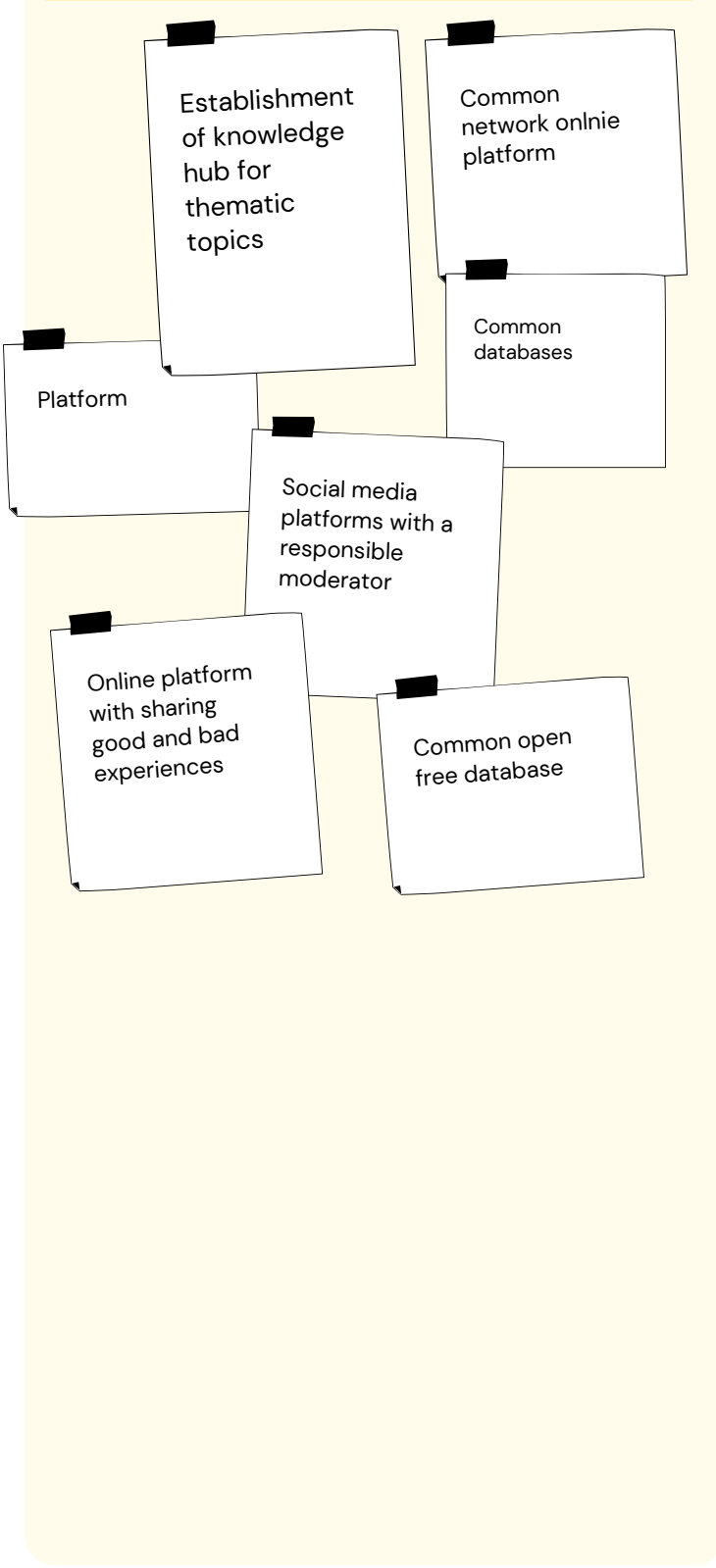
- Implementation of the research results we have seen these days (conference)
- Addressing threats to PAs - international support
- Study tours of rangers to other PAs
- Make inventory among members about what problems they encounter and need support in
- Share experience, working groups
- Trainings and experience sharing, regular online courses and webinars
- Synergies
- Networking, workshops, twinning activities
- Common databases
- Youth exchanges, summer schools for young professionals
- Thematic working groups, SC members closer to the parks
- Hiring a network manager is crucial
- Joint biodiversity database - incl. data collection and harmonisation



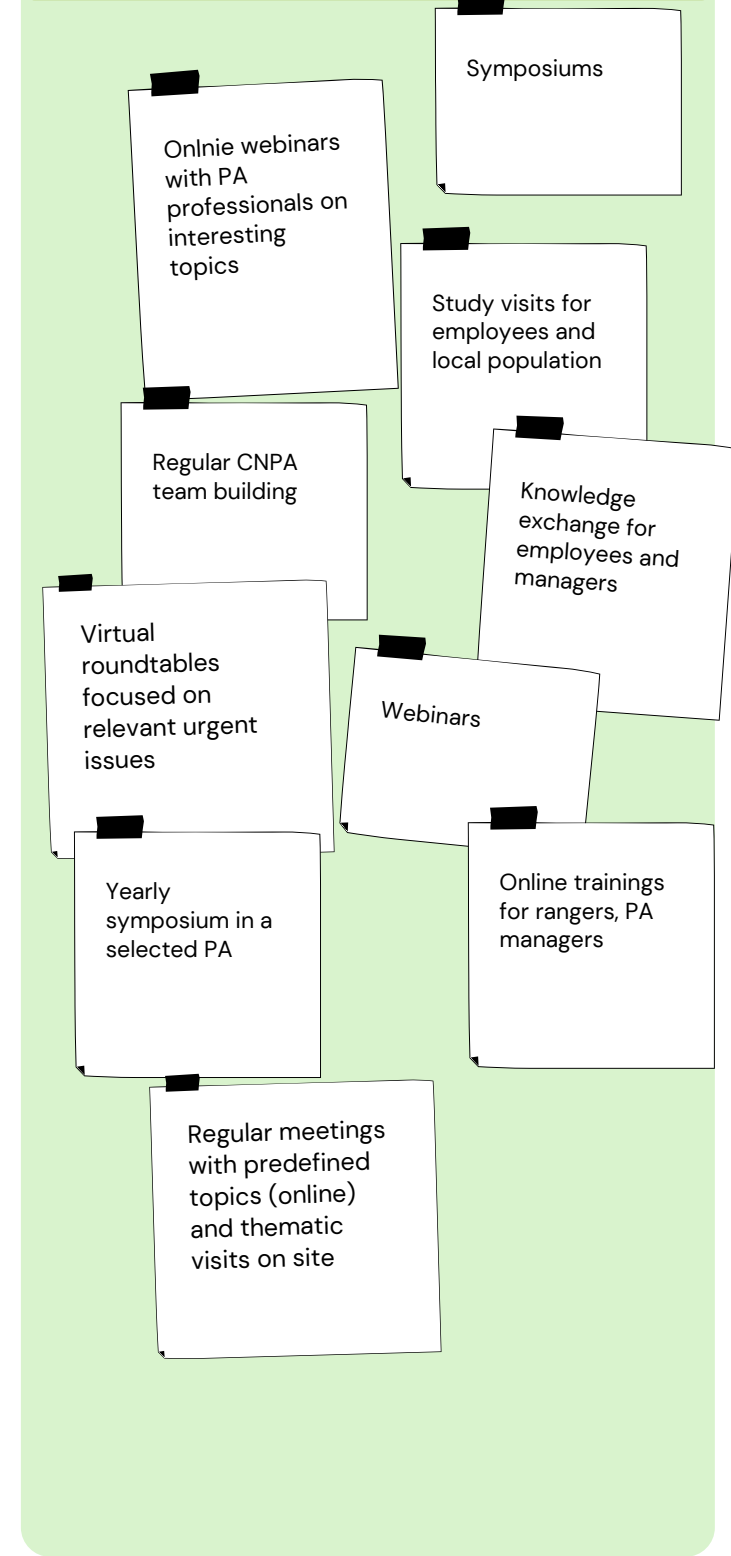
Which activity do you perceive as the most urgent for enhancing the exchange of information, experience, skills, knowledge and data between the CNPA?



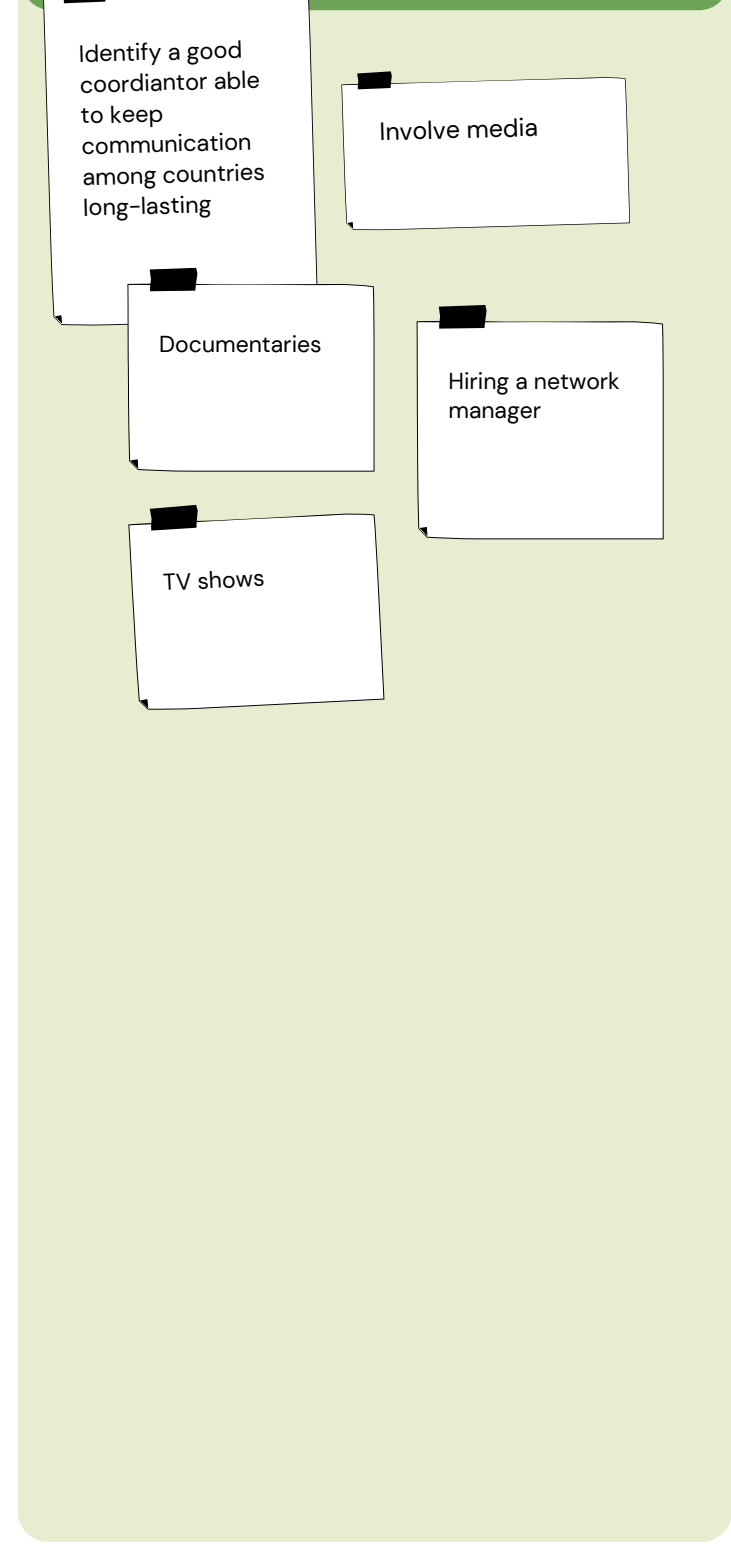
1 | Common platform



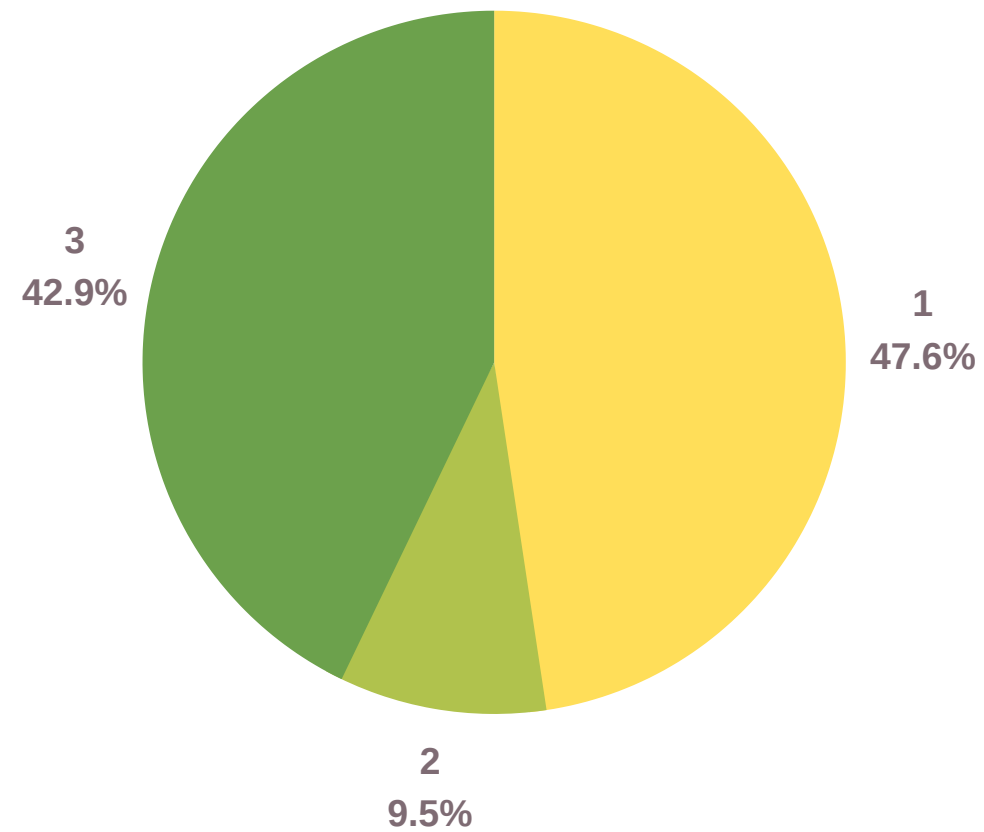
2 | Knowledge exchange, webinars, trainings



3 | Coordination and media involvement



Which activity do you perceive as the most urgent for promoting PAs as model areas for sustainable local development and transboundary cooperation?



1 | Communication strategy and online activities

- Joint communication strategy for whole CNPA
- Sharing successful stories
- Promoting good examples
- Common social media platforms
- Select and promote best examples
- Branding and visibility strategy
- More communication and implementation of viable economical activities for the local communities
- Access funding sources for effective promotion
- Telling successful stories
- Share success stories in a series online. Have a uniform approach on different subjects

2 | Study visits, workshops

- Study visits for the stakeholders, in order to see with their own eyes these models
- Workshops

3 | Others

- Make them a model first
- Identify and designate transborder protected areas
- Healthy CNPA healthy people
- Areas for restoration for a healthy planet
- Start working also outside PAs
- Press conference
- Media involvement : sharing best stories with media
- Joining PR programmes which already exist in many PAs
- Promotion of PAs by other stakeholders, not only by PA people