

TAKING  
**COOPERATION**  
FORWARD



## CARPATHIAN CONVENTION MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON BIODIVERSITY

On-line meeting | 10th March 2020



## Centralparks - Interreg Central Europe Project

Building management capacities of Carpathian protected areas for the integration and harmonization of biodiversity protection and local socio-economic development



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# THE CARPATHIANS



# THE CARPATHIANS

- One of the most important European wildlife refuges
- harbours some of the last primeval beech forests
- one-third of European endemic and threatened plant species
- supports vital populations of all large carnivores (brown bear, grey wolf, Eurasian lynx) and all big native herbivores (European bison)
- Of the main European ecological corridors allowing migrations of animal populations and genetic exchange



# INCREASING THREATS

infrastructure development  
tourism pressure  
habitat destruction and fragmentation  
poaching  
illegal logging  
pollution  
climate change  
over-harvesting  
inappropriate natural resource  
management methods



Nature conservation policies and management cultures vary among the Carpathian countries...

...Traditional approaches to natural resource management and biodiversity conservation will may no longer be sufficient to reach long-lasting economic benefits and provision of ecosystem services!



# MAIN PROJECT OBJECTIVES

## An outlook on project assignments

LOOKING TOWARDS A RESPONSIBLE AND ACCOUNTABLE SOCIETY THAT CONSIDERS BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS ACROSS POLITICAL BORDERS...



# CENTRALPARKS

Aims at building management capacities of Carpathian protected areas for the integration and harmonization of biodiversity protection and local socio-economic development.



# PROJECT IN NUMBERS

## Project duration

1 April 2019 - 31 May 2022

## Project partners

8 project partners from 7 countries

## Associated partners

8 associated strategic partners

## Project budget

1.6 mio €, 1.3 mio € ERDF Funds

## Outputs

13 outputs planned



# PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

1. **Italy:** European Academy of Bolzano/Bozen - Eurac Research (Lead Partner)
2. **Austria:** European Wilderness Society
3. **Czech Republic:** Education and Information Centre of Bílé Karpaty Mountains
4. **Hungary:** Danube-Ipoly National Park Directorate
5. **Poland:** Ekopsychologia Society
6. **Romania:** NFA-Romsilva-Piatra Craiului National Park Administration R.A.
7. **Slovakia:** Pronatur NGO, The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovakia

**eurac**  
research





# ASSOCIATED PARTNERS

1. **Italy:** Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea - IMELS
2. **Austria:** DANUBEPARKS
3. **Germany:** European Beech Forest Network
4. **Hungary:** CEEweb for Biodiversity
5. **Ukraine:** Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine
6. **Poland:** Ministry of Environment of Poland
7. **Romania:** Ministry of Environment of Romania
8. **Slovakia:** Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic



## Programme priority

3. Cooperating on natural and cultural resources for sustainable growth in CENTRAL EUROPE

## Programme priority specific objective

3.1 To improve integrated environmental management capacities for the protection and sustainable use of natural heritage and resources



# SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. **Improving integrated environmental management capacities** of protected area administrations and other public sector entities dealing with the protection and sustainable use of natural resources
2. **Reconciling and linking the conservation of biological and landscape diversity** to sustainable local socio-economic development
3. **Promoting the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas** as the framework and tool for transnational collaboration between the protected areas of the Carpathian countries in the Central Europe cooperation area



# TARGET GROUPS

1. Protected area administrations in the Carpathians
2. Local public authorities
3. National public authorities
4. Interest groups including NGOs
5. Nature conservation authorities
6. Higher education and research institutions active in the Carpathian region
7. General public



# THEMATIC WORK PACKAGES

1. Integration of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in the Carpathian region
2. Building capacities of Carpathian Protected Areas managers
3. Carpathian Ecosystem Services Toolkit

## Expected work package results:

- establishing **five transnational thematic task forces** involving experts from Carpathian countries, addressing the main substantive socio-economic issues
- supporting a **long-term management of the Carpathian Protected Areas**
- raising awareness and **enhance livelihoods** of local communities
- enhancing Carpathian Protected Areas management models by developing **innovative management tools**
- strengthening pro-environmental attitudes



## WP T2: Building capacities of Carpathian Protected Areas managers

- Strategic document on raising good protected areas management capacities
- Innovative habitat evaluation tool (LIDAR) for forest and grassland state evaluation
- Guidelines for proper integrated nature conservation planning
- Integrated Nature Conservation Management Plan
- Pilot testing of the LiDAR laser scan study on mountainous and river valley in Hungary



# OUTPUTS

## WP T3: Carpathian Ecosystem Services Toolkit

- Carpathian Ecosystem Services Toolkit (CEST)
- Training programme for local/regional authorities for using the CEST



# COMMUNICATION OUTPUTS

- 2 Centralparks Leaflets
- Ecosystem Services Toolkit Study Book
- Guidelines for proper integrated nature conservation planning
- CNPA roundtable session
- Project Multimedia clips
- Cartoon illustrated game poster





# POLICY CONTEXT

- EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy
- Convention on Biological Diversity
- The Framework Carpathian Convention, and its thematic Protocols



# SYNERGIES

- **CEETO** - Central Europe Eco-Tourism (Central Europe, ongoing: 2017-2020) on sustainable tourism in protected areas: <https://www.interreg-central.eu/CEETO>
- **MaGICLandscapes** (CE, ongoing: 2017-2020) on managing green infrastructure manual on green infrastructure functionality assessment:  
<https://www.interreg-central.eu/MaGICLandscapes>
- **Green-Go! Carpathians** (LIFE, ongoing: 2017-2020) - Green-Go guidebook on formation of green infrastructure in N2000 sites:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n\\_proj\\_id=639&docType=pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=639&docType=pdf)
- **BEECH POWER** (CE, ongoing: 2019-2022) on empowering and catalyzing an ecosystem-based Sustainable Development of WH Beech forests: <https://www.interreg-central.eu/BEECH-POWER>



The project builds on results and experiences from:

- **Carpathian Project** (INTERREG IIIB CADSES Neighbourhood Prog, 2005-2008)
- **The Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians**
- **BIOREGIO Carpathians** (South East Europe - Transnational Cooperation Programme, 2011-2013)



# OFF TO A GOOD START



Kick-off Meeting, 16-17<sup>th</sup> April, Bolzano, Italy



## Centralparks WPT1 concept in brief:

Reconciling and linking the conservation of biological /landscape diversity to sustainable local socio-economic development, and raising the support of local communities for protected area operations is possible

- if well protected natural and landscape values (⇒ TTF Biodiversity)
- are properly used as the driver and asset for the local sustainable tourism development (⇒ TTF Local Sustainable Tourism Development)
- while the conservation objectives, and benefits arising from the above synergy are effectively communicated to the local stakeholders (⇒ TTF Communication)



WPT1 bases on the synergy of the above three thematic transnational task forces (TTTFs) established with the objective to:

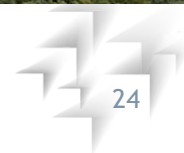
- pool the expertise of protected area managers and experts (nominated by PPs) from the Carpathian countries
- capitalize on the exchange of information, experience, and best practices available in particular countries
- involve several project target groups (protected area administrations, higher education and research institutions, NGOs) in project activities and development of project outputs.



# TTTF on biodiversity and landscape conservation



Photo: © Zbigniew Niewiadomski



## Output O.T1.1: Carpathian strategy for enhancing biodiversity and landscape conservation outside and inside protected areas

- supporting implementation of the CC "Biodiversity" Protocol e.g. by enhancing ecological continuity and connectivity (Art.9) and conservation and sustainable management outside PAs (Art.15)
- CC added value: translating Protocol into the language of practice at the local scale (e.g. biodiversity conservation in areas surrounding PAs), and filling the gap (landscape conservation not yet adequately covered)
- Delivery month: 01.2021





# TTTF on biodiversity and landscape conservation

Pursuant to the AF, the TTTF on biodiversity and landscape conservation was established under WPT1 in Period No 1 involving 15 experts from 6 Carpathian countries (CZ:3, HU:2, PL:3, RO:1, SK:5, UA:1) no experts nominated by RS (so far)



# TTTF on biodiversity and landscape conservation



# TTTF on biodiversity and landscape conservation

First TTTF meeting

in Banská Bystrica (the Slovak Republic), 17-18 June 2019

organized by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (PP2)

in cooperation with the Ekopsychology Society (PP4)

18 participants from 6 countries

(experts, representatives of Centralparks PPs, and SK Associated Partner)



# WPT1 Deliverables fully achieved in Period No 1:

**Deliverable D.T1.1.1** Thematic transnational task force (TTTF) formation and creation of common understanding for developing D.T1.1.3  
*(Carpathian strategy for enhancing biodiversity and landscape conservation outside and inside protected areas)*

**Deliverable D.T1.2.1** Thematic transnational task force (TTTF) formation and creation of common understanding for developing DT1.2.3  
*(Strategy for local sustainable tourism development based on natural and cultural heritage of the Carpathians)*

**Deliverable D.T1.3.1** Thematic transnational task force (TTTF) formation and creation of common understanding for developing DT1.3.3  
*(Guidelines on communication between protected areas and local communities in the Carpathians)*



# WPT1 TTTF meetings follow-up

After the first TTTF meetings in June 2019 = in the 2nd half of Period No 1 (incl. summer holiday period) TTTF experts were e.g.:

- getting acquainted with the Carpathian policy context by studying relevant Convention documents, CNPA, CWI, S4C, CCIBIS database
- reviewing national strategic documents and reports (e.g. to CBD)
- reviewing internationally adopted strategies (e.g. UNWTO, EU)
- reviewing outcomes of relevant other EU-funded projects
- gathering materials for national inputs to background documents
- updating inventories of target groups/stakeholders (PAs, DMOs) in preparation for further work under TTTFs



### Work in Progress - TTTF on biodiversity and landscape conservation:

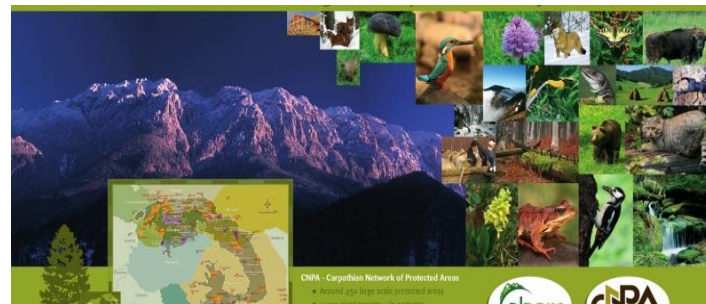
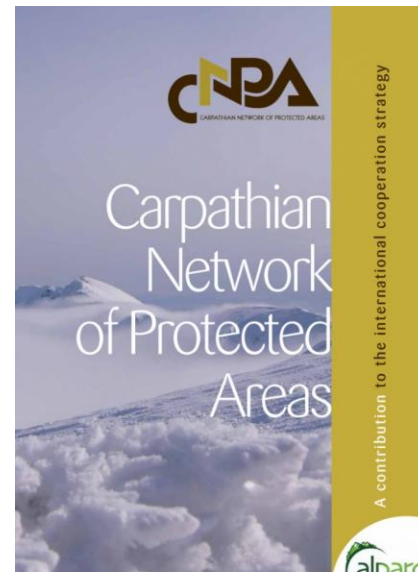
- providing national inputs (information/analyses concerning protected areas in the Carpathians, relevant national legislation, policy framework and strategies, institutional framework, databases on biological and landscape diversity, best/worst practice examples) *[by 30 November 2019]*
- providing suggestions on the contents and structure of the strategy *[by 30 November 2019]*
- consultations and common work on the structure and contents of the strategy *[from 1 December 2019 onwards]*



# A NEW PROJECT MISSION

## Breathe new life into the CNPA:

- Adding new working contents
- Focusing and working on the main Carpathians emergencies
- Bringing the CNPA within new EU/international projects
- Improving communication channels among PAs administrators



# WORK ORGANIZATION

## 1<sup>st</sup> CNPA Round Table - Steering Committee

- *The round table will be organized in November 2020, in Bile Karpaty (Veselí nad Moravou)*
- *All the PPs and new nominated members will be involved*
- *The Carpathian Convention will support us regarding the organization issues*
- *The ASG of Centralparks project will be involved*





# Thank you for your attention!



<https://www.interreg-central.eu/Centralparks>

Photos were provided by the European Wilderness Society

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