CARPATHIAN CONVENTION BIODIVERSITY WORKING GROUP

APRIL 2022

Centralparks - Interreg Central Europe Project - Updates on CNPA activities, 3rd-CNPA Conference

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

Mircea Verghelet - CNPA chair
1ST CNPA STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING - 1

Meeting held on the 02.12.20
Participants: CNPA SC, CC Presidency, SCC, WG Biodiversity Chair, Centralparks, CONNECTgreen partners

Main topics discussed:
- Renewed CNPA SC membership, introduction of each member
- Alparc message for cooperation
- WG Biodiversity linkages with CNPA
- CC COP 6 outcomes and CCS cooperation with CNPA
- Organization of CNPA upcoming activities
1ST CNPA STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING - 2

Meeting held on the 02.12.20
Participants: CNPA SC, CC Presidency, SCC, WG Biodiversity Chair, Centralparks, CONNECTgreen partners

Main topics discussed:
- Centralparks and CONNECTgreen projects presentation and linkages with CNPA
ORGANIZATION 2nd CNPA ROUND TABLE ACTIVITIES

Meeting held on the 22.03.21 and 26.03.2021
Participants: SCC, Centralparks, SAVEgreen and CONNECTgreen LPs

Main topics discussed:

- CNPA revitalization process
- PAs and Carpathian’s stakeholder involvement
- Organization of CNPA upcoming activities
- Next events organization - including the CNPA Conference in September 2021
ORGANIZATION 2nd CNPA ROUND TABLE ACTIVITIES

Online meeting held on the 17.06.21

Main topics discussed:

- Organization of CNPA upcoming activities
- Next events organization - CNPA Conference in September 2021
- CNPA Conference Agenda
2ND CNPA STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting held on the 19.07.21
Participants: CNPA SC, CC Presidency, SCC, Centralparks, CONNECTgreen partners

Main topics discussed:

- Renewed CNPA SC membership, introduction of each new member
- Organization of CNPA upcoming activities
- Update on work packages of the Centralparks project
  - Integration of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in the Carpathian region
  - Building capacities of Carpathian protected areas managers
  - Carpathian Ecosystem Services Toolkit
- Agenda and organisation of the 3rd CNPA Conference together with the ConnectGreen project Final Conference
2ND CNPA STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting held on the 19.07.21
Participants: CNPA SC, CC Presidency, SCC, Centralparks, CONNECTgreen partners

Main topics discussed:

- Agenda and organisation of the 3rd CNPA Conference together with the ConnectGreen project Final Conference

- Learn about recent developments in the Carpathians;
- Raise awareness on the need for cross sectoral approaches for the identification, conservation and restoration of ecological connectivity in Carpathians and beyond;
- Serve the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas members to get together, exchange knowledge and experience, hear about new methods and approaches to improve and safeguard ecological connectivity;
- Offer space for cross-sectoral discussion, as improvement of ecological connectivity needs more spatial planning, agriculture, forestry, transport etc.
- Foster collaboration between projects dealing with ecological connectivity.
International Conference

Protected Areas - Cornerstones of Ecological Connectivity in the Carpathians and Beyond

28-30 September 2021
3RD CNPA CONFERENCE AND CONNECT GREEN FINAL CONFERENCE

Visegrad - Participants: over 120

https://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/connectgreen/section/international-conference-materials
3RD CNPA CONFERENCE

The afternoon of the 2nd day was dedicated to the Carpathian Protected Areas Conference “A new age for the Carpathian Protected Areas Network”, which was opened by Harald Egerer, Head of the UNEP Vienna Programme Office, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, and Mircea Verghelet, Steering Committee Chair, Carpathian Network of Protected Areas.

The session opened with a presentation of the Interreg CentralParks project given by Hanna Öllös, European Wilderness Society, and Mircea Verghelet.
This was followed by Short Interventions by the CNPA Steering Committee Members:

- Presentation by Martin Strnad, Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic;
- Presentation by Gyula Tar, Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary;
- Presentation by Gabriela Szuba, Ministry of Climate and Environment of Poland;
- Presentation by Mircea Verghelet, Piatra Craiului National Park Administration, Romania;
- Presentation by Nenad Radaković, Djerdap National Park, and Ivan Svetozarević, Manifesto NGO, Serbia;
- Presentation by Ján Kadelčík, State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic,
- Presentation by Eduard Arustamian, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine.
Presentations by the Representatives of the Protected Areas from the Carpathian Countries on best practices of protected areas management and networking:

- **Presentation by Marie Petru, Barbora Duzi**, Education and Information Centre of the White Carpathians, Czech Republic;
- **Presentation by Zoltán Bihari**, Aggteleki National Park, Hungary;
- **Presentation by Alin Mos**, Apuseni Nature Park, Romania;
- **Presentation by Ján Kadelčík, Peter Puchala, Martina Lukanova**, State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic;
- **Presentation by Mykola Tarasyuk**, Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Ukraine;
- **Presentation by Mykola Derbak, Fedir Matiichyn**, National Nature Park “Synevyr”, Ukraine;
- **Presentation by Taras Yamelynets**, Expert, Ukraine.
In the following session, Cristian-Remus Papp, WWF Romania, gave a presentation on the Protected Area Management Effectiveness Tool.

Finally, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (Klaudia Kuras) gave a presentation on the "CNPA Status Quo - Need for Revision of the Strategic CNPA Documents and Discussing the Way Forward", after which ensued an interactive exercise.

Day two ended with a wrap-up and recommendations for next steps by Harald Egerer and Mircea Verghelet.
EXERCISE BY CC SECRETARIAT - KLAUDIA KURAS

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
   - A day to day management unit dedicated to the network
   - Development of a functional structure with dedicated people and resources
   - A designated CNPA association and CNPA coordinator
   - Funding for the team and related staff
   - To establish organisational structures and fundraising
   - Regular communication with the CNPA network, a common communication procedure

2. Harmonisation of aims and working procedures
   - Uniform working procedures at the EU level
   - More communication between the CNPA
   - Project preparation on common topics
   - Meeting of the SC team

3. Communication and networking
   - More interactive use of the websites
   - Ongoing communication and focused activities
   - Communication Carpathian PAs
   - More communication with libraries
   - Last commonopal ad
   - Ongoing communication
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
   - New website
   - Facebook group
   - Public archive of project and initiatives in Carpathians
   - Newsletter (generic pushes and info about the members)
   - Knowledge exchange platform for development discussion
   - Interactive website
   - E-mail communication
   - Management of the Carpathian list
   - Meetings
   - Commitment through a funded project

2. E-mail communication
   - Funding list to SC members
   - Frequent contact between PAs
   - Newsletter
   - Facebook group
   - Interactive website
   - Communication platform
   - Creative platform for development discussion
   - Newsletter
   - Knowledge exchange platform for development discussion
   - Interactive website

3. Others
   - Commitment through a funded project
   - A joint project for a common identity
   - Mobile application
   - Knowledge exchange meetings and yearly conferences
   - Experience exchange
   - Joint visitation
   - Database of main stakeholders
   - Trainings for PAs staff
   - Secretariat of MCC should hire a consultant
   - Exchanges of ideas and contents
Which activity do you perceive as the most urgent for common projects at the Carpathian scale?

1. Biodiversity conservation and management effectiveness
   - Large carnivores
   - Conservation and detection of invasive species
   - Measuring management effectiveness
   - Invasive species control
   - Large carnivores
   - Common monitoring of large carnivores
   - Coexistence improvement between PMAs
   - Coexistence between PMAs and tourism
   - Invasive species control

2. Education and sustainable practices
   - Tourism
   - Green tourism
   - Sustainable tourism
   - Tourism and sustainable exchange between tourism workers
   - Sustainable tourism
   - Sustainable practices in park areas
   - Environmental education
   - Environmental education
   - Tourist education
   - Park management
   - Tourism
   - Tourism

3. Experience exchange
   - Implementation of research results we have seen these days (conference)
   - Study tours of rangers to other PAs
   - Study tours of rangers to other PAs
   - Make inventory among coordinators about what problems they encounter and NGO support
   - Training and experience sharing regular online courses and workshops
   - Thematic working groups, SC members closer to the parks
   - Joint biodiversity databases - incl. data collection and harmonisation
   - Joint biodiversity databases - incl. data collection and harmonisation
   - Training and experience sharing regular online courses and workshops
   - Thematic working groups, SC members closer to the parks
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
   - Establishment of knowledge hub for thematic topics
   - Common network, online platform
   - Social media platforms with a responsible moderator
   - Online platform with sharing good and bad experiences
   - Common open science databases

2. Knowledge exchange, webinars, trainings
   - Online webinars with PA professionals on interesting topics
   - Common platform with sharing good and bad experiences
   - Regular CNPA team building
   - Virtual roundtables focused on relevant urgent issues
   - Yearly symposium in a selected PA

3. Coordination and media involvement
   - Identify a good coordinator able to keep communication among countries long-lasting
   - TV shows
   - Documentaries
   - Symposia
   - Study visits for employees and local population
   - Regular meetings with provincial topics (online) and thematic visits on-site
   - Knowledge exchange for employees and managers
   - Online trainings for employees, PA, management
Presentation of CNPA activities for the CCIC participants by the CNPA chair
Round table - analysis of the CNPA 3rd Conference outcomes
Recommendations for the CNPA SC in Wieliczka
CENTRAL PARKS FINAL CONFERENCE
WIELICZKA - MARCH 2022
PANEL DISCUSSION PAS NETWORKS

- Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (represented by Mircea Verghelet, Director of Piatra Craiului National Park and Chair of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas Steering Committee)
- Alpark (represented by Guido Plasmann, Director of Alparc, Alpine Network of Protected Areas)
- DANUBE PARKS (represented by Georg Frank, Secretary General of DANUBE PARKS, Danube Network of Protected Areas)
- Parks Dinarides (represented by Vladana Vojinović (Programme manager in Parks Dinarides)
- Carpathian Wetland Initiative (represented by Ján Kadlečík, Coordinator of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Alpine Network</th>
<th>Danube Parks</th>
<th>Dinaric Parks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governance</td>
<td>- from 2013 has the status of an association</td>
<td>- from 2014 has the status of an association</td>
<td>- from 2014 has the status of an association</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- around 50 members</td>
<td>- 18 members</td>
<td>- includes 95 protected areas, from 8 countries</td>
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<td>- a membership fee is paid based on the member’s financial availability (three</td>
<td>- fixed membership fee</td>
<td>- fixed membership fee is paid, 500 euro/year</td>
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<td></td>
<td>categories, up to 1500 euro/year)</td>
<td>- funds from projects</td>
<td>- funding from projects</td>
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<td>- funding from projects</td>
<td>- there is a Management Board</td>
<td>- it has a Steering Committee and an Expert Council</td>
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<td>- there is a Management Board and a Scientific Council</td>
<td>- two active offices, 3 employees</td>
<td>- one active office, 6 employees</td>
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<td>- there are 3 thematic working groups – biodiversity and connectivity,</td>
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<td>regional development and life quality, education for sustainable development</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- 2 active offices, 3 employees</td>
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<td>Communication</td>
<td>- Website, logo, clear definition</td>
<td>- different cultures, language barrier</td>
<td>Website, all possibilities are used based on the existing funding</td>
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<td>- importance on personal contacts as it is a small network</td>
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<td>Cooperation</td>
<td>- it is necessary to solve common issues, for example the ones concerning</td>
<td>- Ensures success on policy level</td>
<td>- With the support of WWF Adria and funding from the Swedish Development</td>
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<td>connectivity, representation etcetera.</td>
<td>- The involvement of members assures good results</td>
<td>Agency SIDA a grant programme was implemented-11 beneficiaries</td>
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<td>- Cooperation with Danube Parks and CNPA</td>
<td>- Interreg projects</td>
<td>It would be desirable a cooperation with Danube Parks</td>
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<td>- Dedicated persons are needed</td>
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<td>- Cooperation with Alparc and CNPA are necessary for common projects</td>
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<td>- There are parks which are members both in CNPA and Danube Parks</td>
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<td>- A new funding scheme is needed, with a more general nature</td>
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<td>Weaknesses</td>
<td>- Different goals on national level</td>
<td>- Reduced budgets</td>
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<td>- Difficulties in providing the basic expenses for day-to-day activities</td>
<td>- Low contacts on management level: specialists, rangers</td>
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<td>- Few personal contacts</td>
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<td>- There is no convention between the countries</td>
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<td>- Language barrier</td>
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CNPA STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

CC Secretariat
Participants from 5 countries
PL, RO, SK, SRB
HU - online

Opinions on the future organization of the CNPA
QUESTIONNAIRE PROPOSED BY THE SECRETARIAT TO BE ANALYSED BY THE SC AND SENT TO THE PAS

2 sets of questions

1. Fields of cooperation, interests
2. Possibility and willingness to create a new association for the CNPA.
YOUTH AT THE TOP
EVENT FOR 2021

Best participation since it started
2021 topic - mountain local traditional food

Romania - 7
Slovakia - 6
Poland - 1
CNPA WEBPAGE

Will be updated with the involvement of European Wilderness Society Partner in the Centralparks project
New design, new server, more interactive elements, maps
Updated members contact list recently updated