



TAKING
COOPERATION
FORWARD



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



Centralparks



Main topics discussed:

- Centralparks and CONNECTgreen projects presentation and linkages with CNPA

PROJECT 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

THIN 815

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Isidoro De Bortoli (Eurac Research)

Synergies

- TransGreen SaveGREEN
- CENTRALPARKS
- BioGOV
- OBWIC
- HARMON
- EuroLargeCarnivores, etc.

Project co-funded by European Union Funds (ERDF - IPA)

www.interreg-danube.eu/connectgreen

Cristian Papp - WWF RO



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.





3RD CNPA CONFERENCE AND CONNECT GREEN FINAL CONFERENCE

Visegrad - Participants: over 120

<https://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/connectgreen/section/international-conference-materials>



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3RD CNPA CONFERENCE

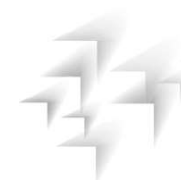


The afternoon of the 2nd day was dedicated to the Carpathian Protected Areas Conference “A new age for the Carpathian Protected Areas Network”, which was opened by **Harald Egerer**, Head of the UNEP Vienna Programme Office, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, and **Mircea Verghelet**, Steering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



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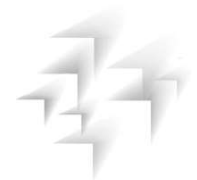
This was followed by Short Interventions by the CNPA Steering Committee Members:

- 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 Verghet**, 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.

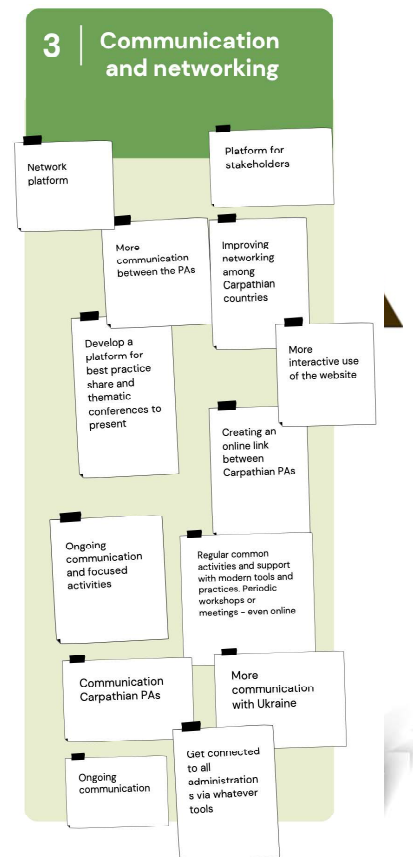
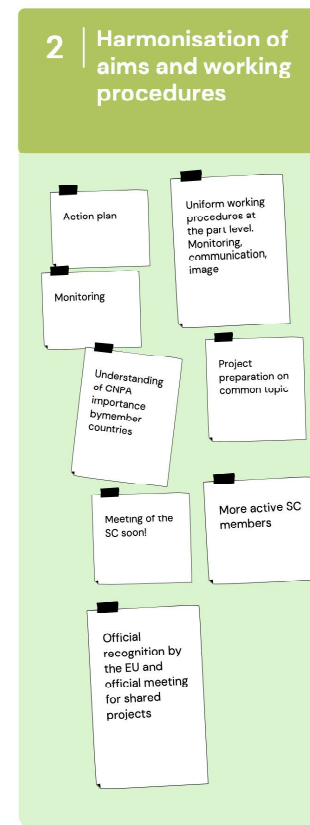
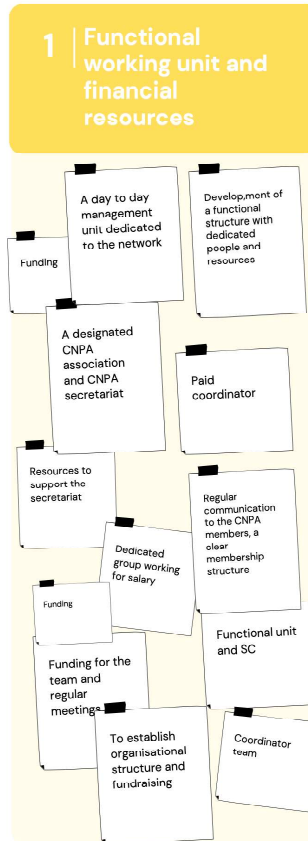
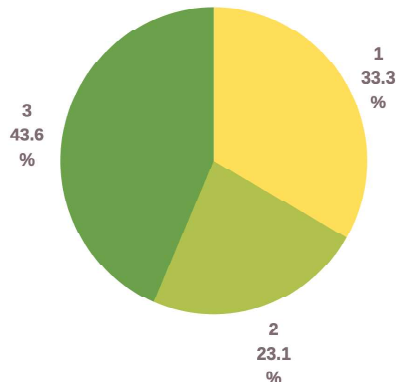
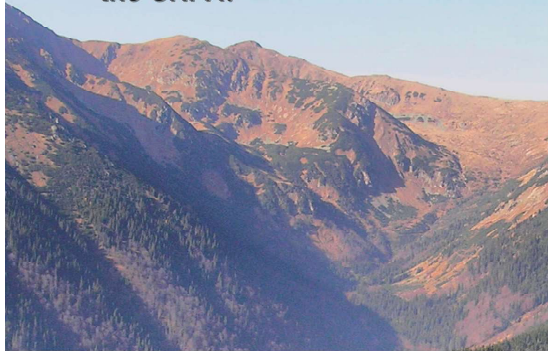
Finally, **Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention** (Klaudia Kuras) gave a presentation on the "CNPA Status Quo - Need for Revision of the Strategic CNPA Documents and Discussing the Way Forward", after which ensued an interactive exercise.

Day two ended with a wrap-up and recommendations for next steps by **Harald Egerer** and **Mircea Verghet.**

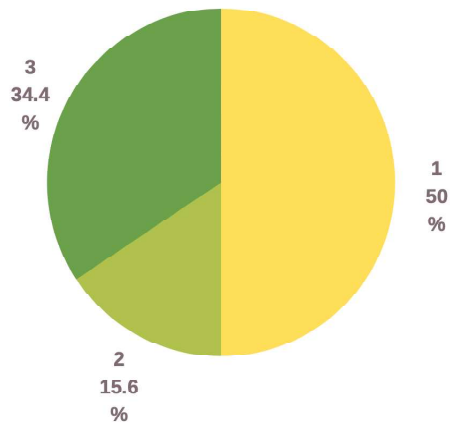
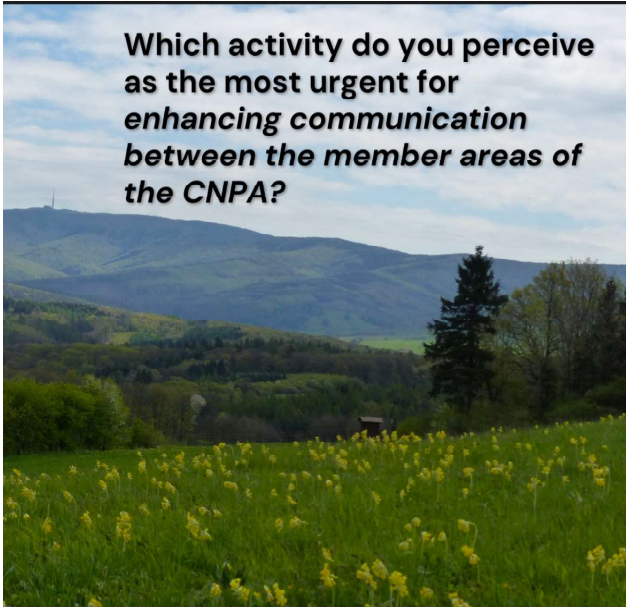


EXERCISE BY CC SECRETARIAT - KLAUDIA KURAS

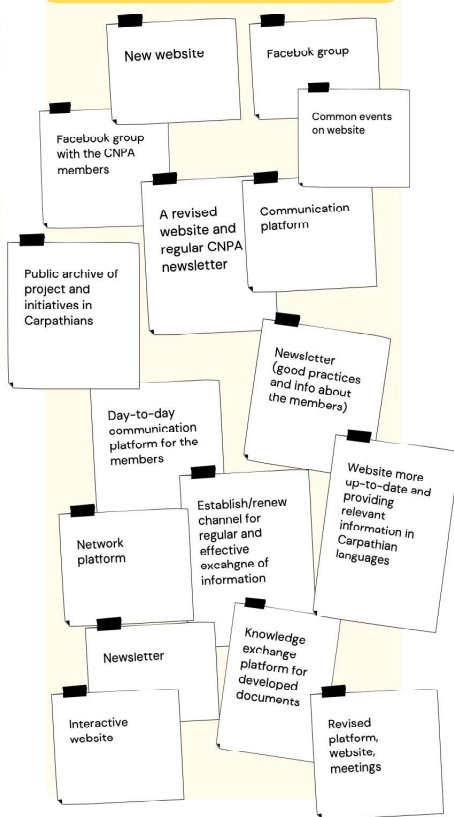
Which activity do you perceive as the most urgent for the institutional development and operational capacity building of the CNPA?



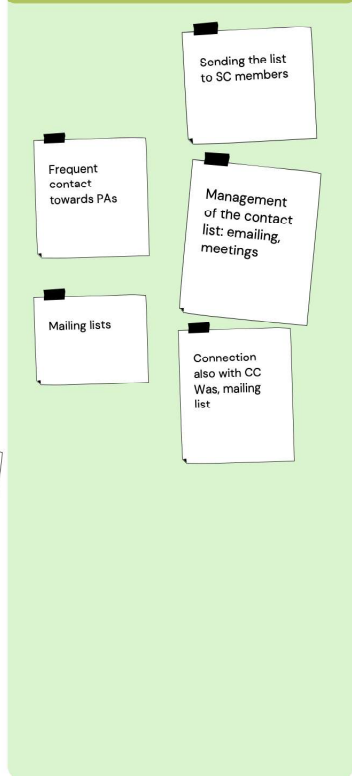
Which activity do you perceive as the most urgent for enhancing communication between the member areas of the CNPA?



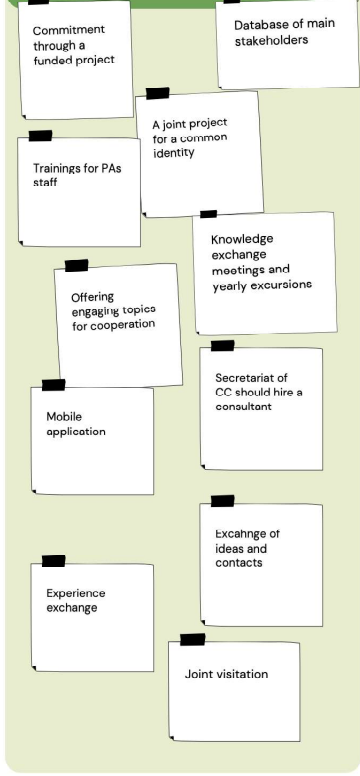
1 | Website, newsletter and social media



2 | E-mail communication

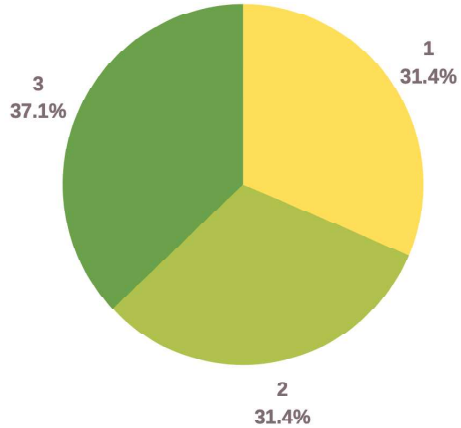


3 | Others





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
- Large carnivores
- Connectivity, monitoring, poaching, illegal logging
- Coordination and elimination of invasive species in the border regions
- Effectiveness
- Measuring management effectiveness

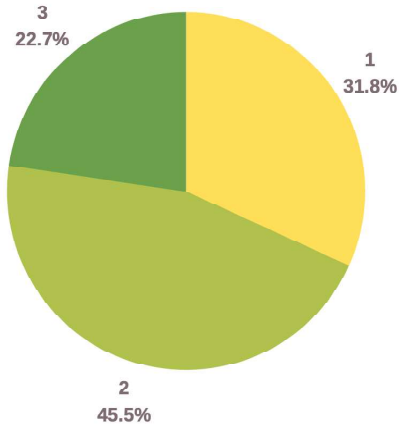
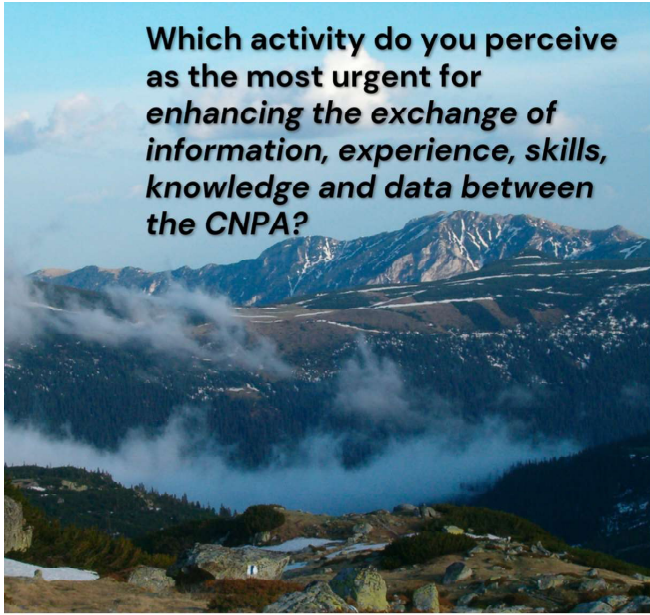
2 | Education and sustainable practices

- 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

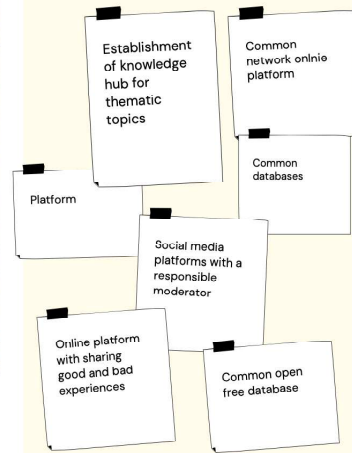
3 | Experience exchange

- 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
- Joint biodiversity database - incl. data collection and harmonisation
- Hiring a network manager is crucial

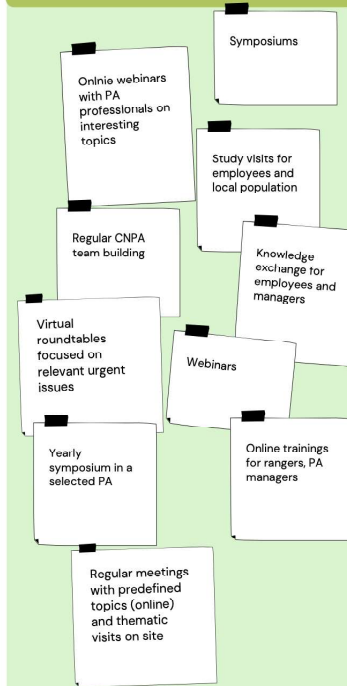
Which activity do you perceive as the most urgent for enhancing the exchange of information, experience, skills, knowledge and data between the CNPA?



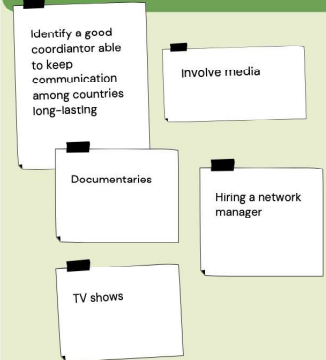
1 | Common platform



2 | Knowledge exchange, webinars, trainings



3 | Coordination and media involvement



CCIC MEETING IN KRAKOW - NOVEMBER 2021
CNPA ROUNDTABLE MEETING



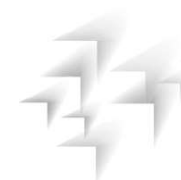
Presentation of CNPA activities for the CCIC participants by the CNPA chair

Round table - analysis of the CNPA 3rd Conference outcomes

Recommendations for the CNPA SC in Wieliczka



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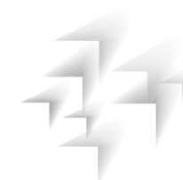


CENTRAL PARKS FINAL CONFERENCE WIELICZKA - MARCH 2022 PANEL DISCUSSION PAS NETWORKS

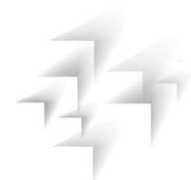
- Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (represented by Mircea Verghelet, Director of Piatra Craiului National Park and Chair of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas Steering Committee)
- Alpark (represented by Guido Plasmann, Director of Alparc, Alpine Network of Protected Areas)
- DANUBEPARKS (represented by Georg Frank, Secretary General of DANUBEPARKS, 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)



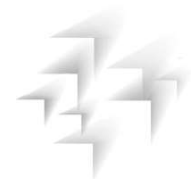
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Category	Alpine Network	Danube Parks	Dinaric Parks
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - from 2013 has the status of an association - around 50 members - a membership fee is paid based on the member's financial availability (three categories, up to 1500 euro/ year) - funding from projects - there is a Management Board and a Scientific Council - there are 3 thematic working groups – biodiversity and connectivity, regional development and life quality, education for sustainable development - 2 active offices, 3 employees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - from 2014 has the status of an association - 18 members - fixed membership fee - funds from projects - there is a Management Board - two active offices, 3 employees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - from 2014 has the status of an association - includes 95 protected areas, from 8 countries - fixed membership fee is paid, 500 euro/ year - funding from projects - it has a Steering Committee and an Expert Council - one active office, 6 employees
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Website, logo, clear definition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - different cultures, language barrier - importance on personal contacts as it is a small network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website, all possibilities are used based on the existing funding



Category	Alpine Network	Danube Parks	Dinaric Parks
Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it is necessary to solve common issues, for example the ones concerning connectivity, representation etcetera. -Cooperation with Danube Parks and CNPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensures success on policy level - The involvement of members assures good results - Interreg projects - Dedicated persons are needed - Cooperation with Alparc and CNPA are necessary for common projects - There are parks which are members both in CNPA and Danube Parks - A new funding scheme is needed, with a more general nature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With the support of WWF Adria and funding from the Swedish Development Agency SIDA a grant programme was implemented- 11 beneficiaries - It would be desirable a cooperation with Danube Parks and CNPA
Weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Different goals on national level - Difficulties in providing the basic expenses for day-to-day activities - Few personal contacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduced budgets - Low contacts on management level: specialists, rangers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is no convention between the countries - Language barrier



CNPA STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING



CC Secretariat

Participants from 5 countries

PL, RO, SK, SRB

HU - online

Opinions on the future
organization of the CNPA



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QUESTIONNAIRE PROPOSED BY THE SECRETARIAT
TO BE ANALYSED BY THE SC AND SENT TO THE PAS

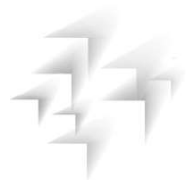


2 sets of questions

1. Fields of cooperation, interests
2. Possibility and willingness to create a new association for the CNPA.



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YOUTH AT THE TOP EVENT FOR 2021

Best participation since
it started

2021 topic - mountain
local traditional food

Romania - 7

Slovakia - 6

Poland - 1



ALPS

CARPATHIANS

PROJECT



Centralparks

Austria



France



Germany



Italy



Slovenia



Switzerland



Romania



Slovakia



Poland





with the financial support of





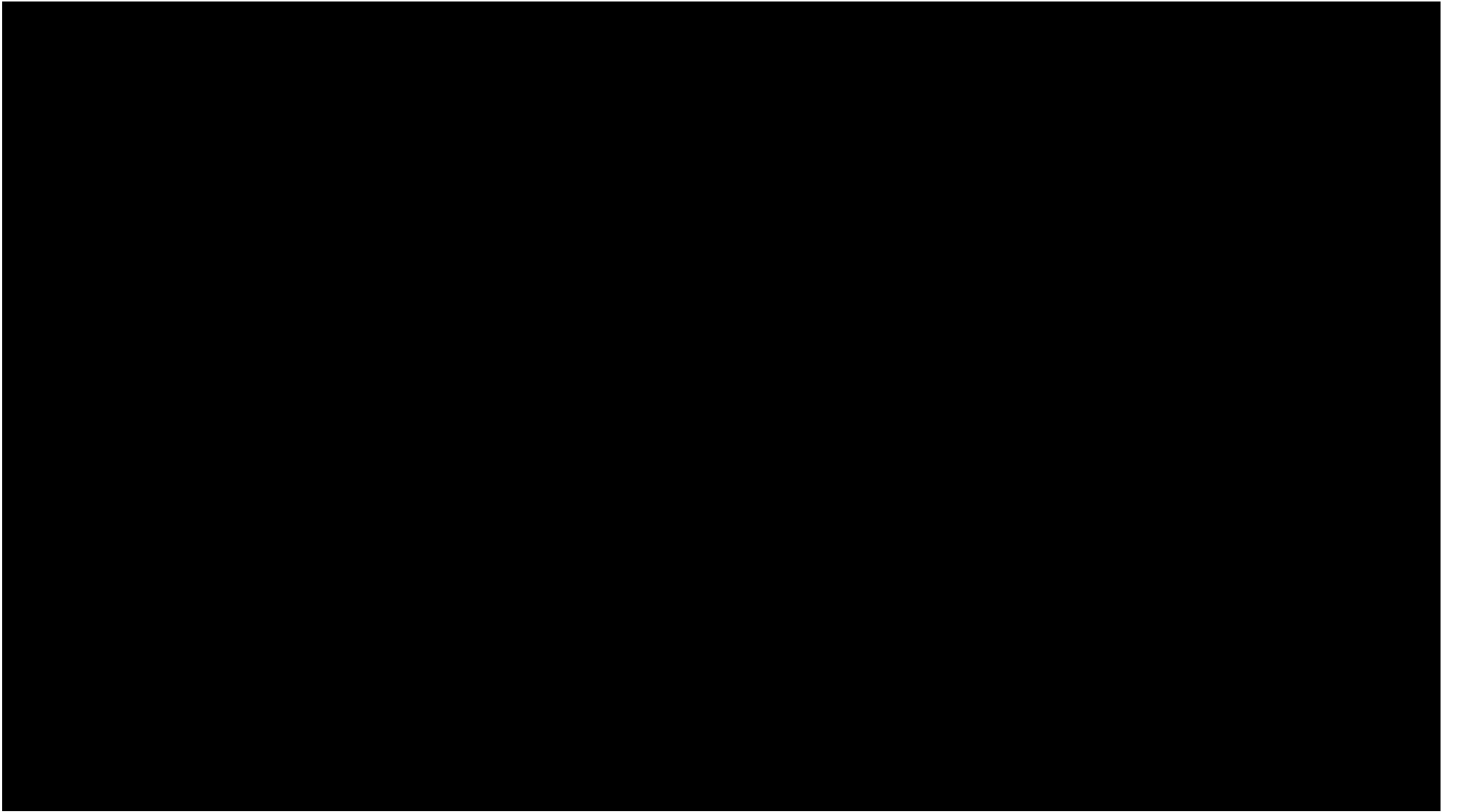







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CNPA WEBPAGE

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

