



TAKING
COOPERATION
FORWARD

📍 10th Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Tourism, 15.04.2021.

💬 Centralparks - Towards Local Sustainable Tourism Development

👤 Centralparks | EURAC Research | Isidoro De Bortoli, Philipp Corradini

Centralparks Project



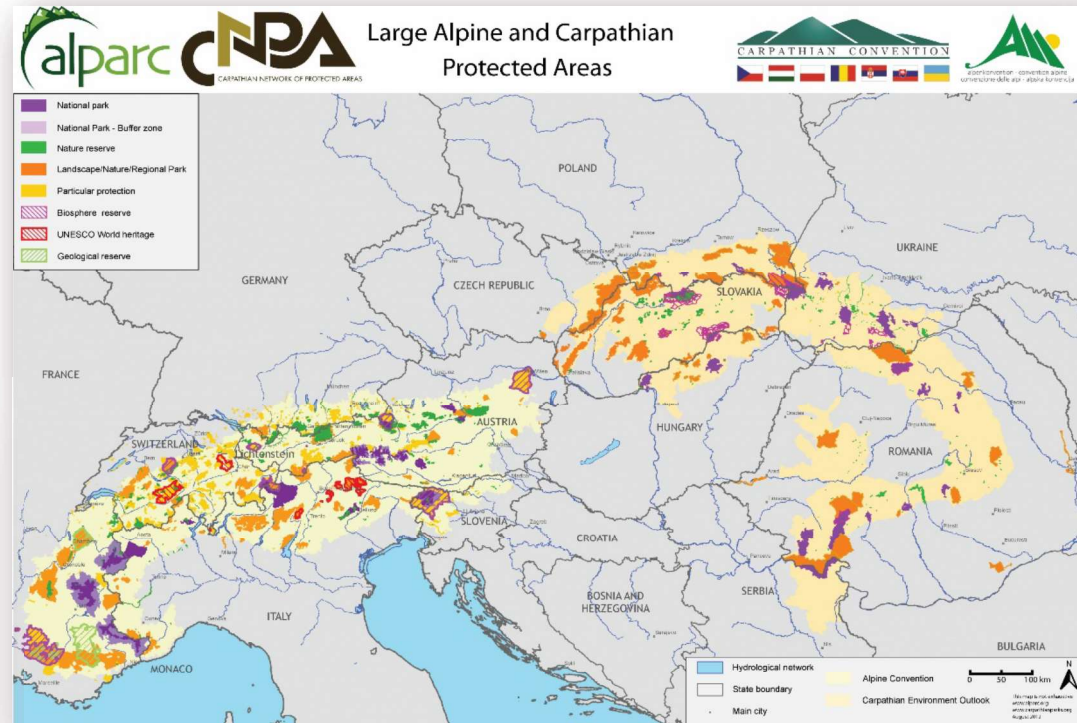
Building management capacities of Carpathian protected areas for the integration and harmonization of biodiversity protection and local socio-economic development

Partner	Abbreviation	Country
1. Accademia Europea di Bolzano	Eurac Research	Italy
2. Státna ochrana prírody Slovenskej republiky	SNC SR	Slovakia
3. RNP-Romsilva-Administratia Parcului National Piatra Craiului R.A.	APNPC	Romania
4. Stowarzyszenie Ekopsychologia	EKOPSYCHOLOGY	Poland
5. Duna-Ipoly Nemzeti Park Igazgatóság	DINPD	Hungary
6. Obcianske zdruzenie Pronatur	Pronatur	Slovakia
7. Verein zum Schutz der europäischen Wildnis	EWS	Austria
8. Vzdělávací a informacní středisko Bílé Karpaty, o.p.s.	VIS	Czech Republic



Centralparks Project

Bridging and strengthening the cooperation between Carpathian and Alpine Convention in fields of common interests and needs



WPM: Management

**WPT1: Integration of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development
in the Carpathian region**

WPT2: Building capacities of Carpathian PAs managers

WPT3: Carpathian Ecosystem Services Toolkit

WPC: Communication



WPT1 - Integration of Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Carpathian Region



Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Ukraine

Photo: Vian / Wikimedia Commons



WPT1 - Integration of Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Carpathian Region



WPT1 basic concept:

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 conservation objectives, and benefits arising from the above synergy are effectively communicated to the local stakeholders (⇒ TTF Communication)



WPT1 - Integration of Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Carpathian Region



WPT1 aims at facilitating the implementation of the Carpathian Convention and its two thematic protocols:

- Protocol on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity (Bucharest, 2008)
- Protocol on sustainable tourism (Bratislava, 2011)

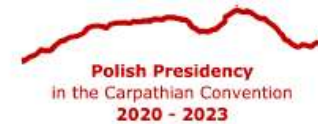
at the local and regional levels, in support of one of the priorities of the current Polish Presidency of the Carpathian Convention.



Centralparks ongoing mission



Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians



Implementing the priorities of the Polish Presidency of the Carpathian Convention to promote the EU accession to the Carpathian Convention and closer cooperation with the local and regional level



WPT1 - Transnational Cooperation and Networking



Photo: © Zbigniew Niewiadomski



WPT1 - Transnational Cooperation and Networking



3 multinational expert groups (Thematic Transnational Task Forces, TTTFs) were established under WPT1, allowing to:

- Pool the expertise of the Project Partners, protected area managers and experts from the Carpathian countries
- Capitalize on exchange of information, experience, best practices
- Involve different target groups (protected areas, universities / research institutions, NGOs) in project activities
- Develop 3 mutually reinforcing Outputs (\Rightarrow synergy of outputs)
- Experts from IT (2), PL (5), RO (2), HU (2), SK (5), UA (1), CZ (3)



TTTF: Local Sustainable Tourism Development (LSTD)



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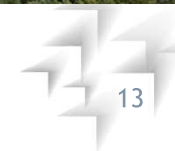
- **Meetings** throughout the project: 5 meetings (instead of 2 initially planned in the project Application Form)
- **Development of the Strategy:** Active inclusion of all the members of the TTTF during the development of the strategy at all work stages
- **Working drafts:** Preparation of 12 subsequent working drafts of the Strategy
- **Focus:** Local Sustainable Tourism Development based on natural and cultural heritage of the Carpathians.



Draft Strategy on Local Sustainable Tourism Development



Photo: © Zbigniew Niewiadomski



Draft Strategy on Local Sustainable Tourism Development



The WPT1 target audience are

- Local and regional stakeholders
- Managers of Carpathian protected areas
- Local communities and their authorities
- Local entrepreneurs in the tourism sector

The draft Strategy should be perceived as complementary to the Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development of the Carpathians adopted at CC COP4 in 2014, addressed to the Parties / their central Governments.



The main substantive focus of the draft Strategy:

- **Enhancing** the contribution of tourism to the sustainable development of the local economy in the Carpathians, to allow more equal sharing of benefits and revenues from the tourist services sector by Carpathian municipalities (ST Protocol, Article 11.4)
- **Mitigating** the impacts of tourism on fragile mountain ecosystems of the Carpathians, by dispersing, redirecting, and channelling part of the tourist traffic out of the most sensitive sites (such as PAs) to less ecologically sensitive areas (ST Protocol, Article 12.2)



Draft Strategy on Local Sustainable Tourism Development



And the implementation of ST Protocol Article 11.3, by:

- **Involving** the Carpathian local communities in the identification of the specific local competitive advantages for sustainable tourism development and strengthening the existing unique selling propositions (USPs) of the local tourism offer
- **Enhancing** the use of local products and skills as well as employment opportunities for the local labor force
- **Promoting** innovation and diversity in tourism, and the creation of new local and regional tourism products



Draft Strategy on Local Sustainable Tourism Development



The three strategic objectives (SOs) of the draft strategy correspond to the three dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (environmental, economic, and social dimension)

Each strategic objective is further divided into three more detailed operational objectives (OOs)



SO1 - Environmental dimension objective



Photo: © Marcin Niewiadomski



SO1 - Environmental dimension objective:

- OO 1.1. Well maintained and protected natural, landscape and cultural heritage assets for sustainable tourism development
- OO 1.2. Raising awareness and appreciation of the local natural and cultural heritage
- OO 1.3. Managing tourism impact on the fragile mountain ecosystems of the Carpathians



SO1 - Economic dimension objective



Draft Strategy on Local Sustainable Tourism Development



SO2 - Economic dimension objective:

- OO 2.1. Territorial brand of the tourism destination built on local resources
- OO 2.2. Ensuring economic stability of the local tourist services sector
- OO 2.3. Cooperation for the local sustainable tourism development



SO3 - Social dimension objective



Chotyniec (1615)

Photo: Paweł Mazurkiewicz / Wikimedia Commons



SO3 - Social dimension objective:

OO 3.1. Local identity as the social integration and activation factor

OO 3.2. Enhancing the potential of the local inhabitants for sustainable tourism development

OO 3.3. Participation in sustainable tourism development planning



Draft Strategy on Local Sustainable Tourism Development



The draft Strategy recommends the measures and activities which are feasible for implementation by the local stakeholders, are specific for, and remain within the scope of competencies and responsibilities of the regional and local authority level

But measures and activities are neither prioritized, nor numbered as the local stakeholders as the ‘end-users’ and ‘end beneficiaries’ shall select the most proper and feasible measures and activities, accordingly to their local priorities, most urgent needs and management challenges, as well as their financial and operational capacities.



Draft Strategy on Local Sustainable Tourism Development



The draft Strategy indicates some specific measures and activities which:

- Can simultaneously serve for the achievement of several objectives
- Are most relevant for application inside protected areas
- Can successfully be implemented also at the transboundary scale, in cooperation between the local and regional authorities, and other stakeholders from the two or more bordering countries (in line with ST Protocol, Article 20.3)



TTTF on Local Sustainable Tourism Development



TAKING COOPERATION FORWARD

Testing the efficiency of the draft LSTD strategy



The test implementation of the draft LSTD strategy is planned under 3 separate pilot actions, to be launched in spring 2021 in the Czech Republic, Poland, and the Slovak Republic

Each will involve Carpathian protected areas and local communities

The reports regarding the lessons learned from the test implementation will be submitted in early 2022 to the Carpathian Convention.



Draft Strategy on Local Sustainable Tourism Development



Why „draft” LSTD Strategy ?

The proposed draft, elaborated under the Centralparks project, will become a true Strategy only if accepted and formally endorsed by the Parties of the Convention

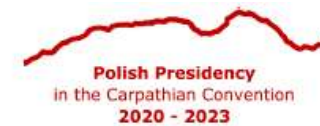
This shall not be expected prior to the 7th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP7) to be held in autumn 2023 in the Republic of Serbia



Centralparks - The direct support to the CC



Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians



DECISION COP6/15
Sustainable tourism
Article 9 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

7. Takes note of the activities of the Centralparks project, especially the “Strategy for local sustainable tourism development based on natural and cultural heritage of the Carpathians”.



WPT1: our climb was strenuous, but worth the view from the top!

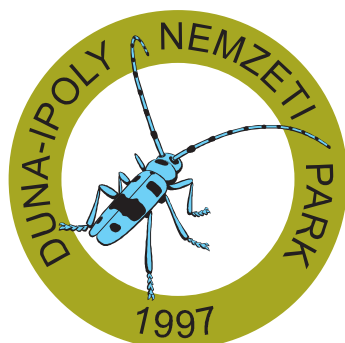


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Thank you very much for your attention!

**eurac
research**



Let's
Get
Wild!

