



Carpathians Unite – mechanism of consultation and cooperation for implementation of the Carpathian Convention

Brief presentation of the project by Monika Ochwat - Marcinkiewicz, Ekopsychologia Association

First Joint Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Groups on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity and on Spatial Development 22 - 24 October 2014, Kluszkowce, Poland

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Project Leader



Partners















"Carpathians Unite" project

implemented in the Polish part of the Carpathians by the consortium of six partner organizations coordinated by UNEP/GRID-Warsaw Centre in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment of Poland, nature conservation authorities, regional and local authorities, and NGOs. Project duration: 4 years (Jan. 2012 – Dec. 2015)





"Carpathians Unite" - Objectives:

- networking for the implementation of the Convention and its thematic Protocols in Poland
- biodiversity conservation and sustainable development of the Carpathians
- raising public awareness of the objectives of the Convention
- enhancing public support for the Convention implementation at the regional and local levels.











"Carpathians Unite" - Actions:

- Implementation of the Carpathian Convention
 - platform of consultation and cooperation
- Carpathian Informatorium
- Regional strategy of sustainable tourism development
- Traditional shepherding in the Carpathians





Action: Regional strategy of sustainable tourism development









Action: Regional strategy of sustainable tourism development

pilot action for the implementation of the CC Sustainable Tourism Protocol (Bratislava, 2011)

involving 37 local self-government authorities (from among 200 communities within the scope of CC application in PL)

in the elaboration and implementation of a regional sustainable tourism development strategy.





Action: Traditional shepherding in the Carpathians









Action: Traditional shepherding in the Carpathians

- pilot action for the implementation of the CC Biodiversity Protocol (Bucharest, 2008)
- promoting sustainable use of natural and seminatural habitats
- promoting the role of traditional sustainable pastoralism for the maintenance of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems
- maintaining the management of land traditionally cultivated in a sustainable manner.





Development of shepherding infrastructure







Cultural landscape protection







Promotion of local sheep products













Shepherding events





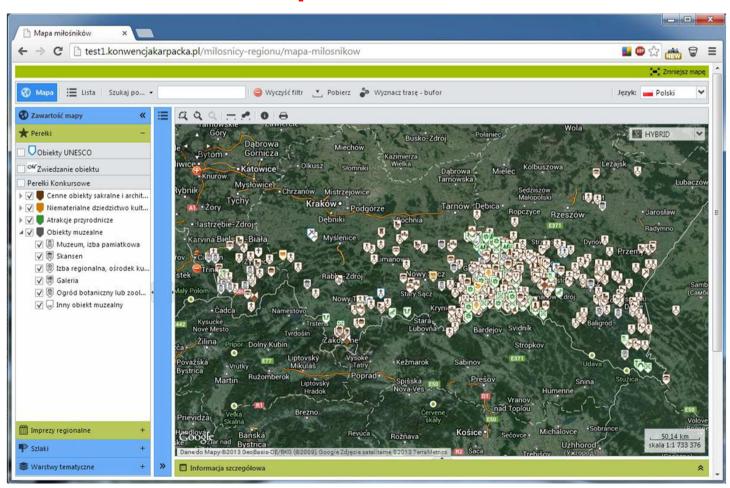








Action: Carpathian Informatorium







Action: Carpathian Informatorium

- web-portal fostering networking of institutions, authorities and organizations cooperating on the implementation of the Convention
- gathering, processing, and improving public access to information on the Carpathians
- seed for the national information system on the Carpathians.





Designed for three main target audiences: experts/scientists local communities, and tourists / general public









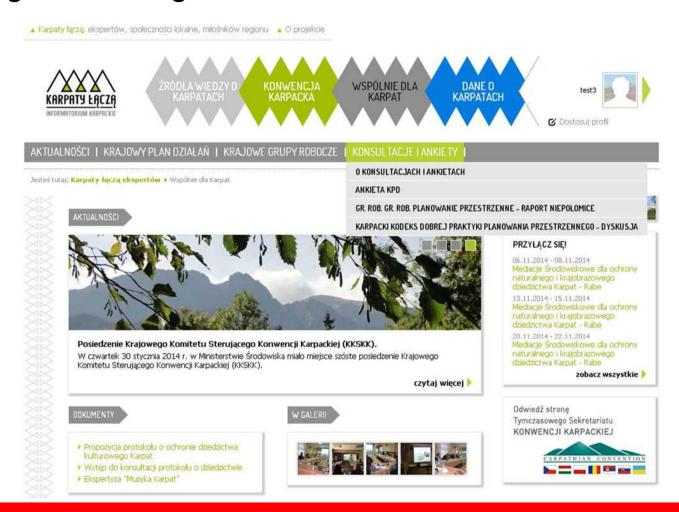
The main source of information on the Carpathian Convention in Polish language: www.konwencjakarpacka.pl







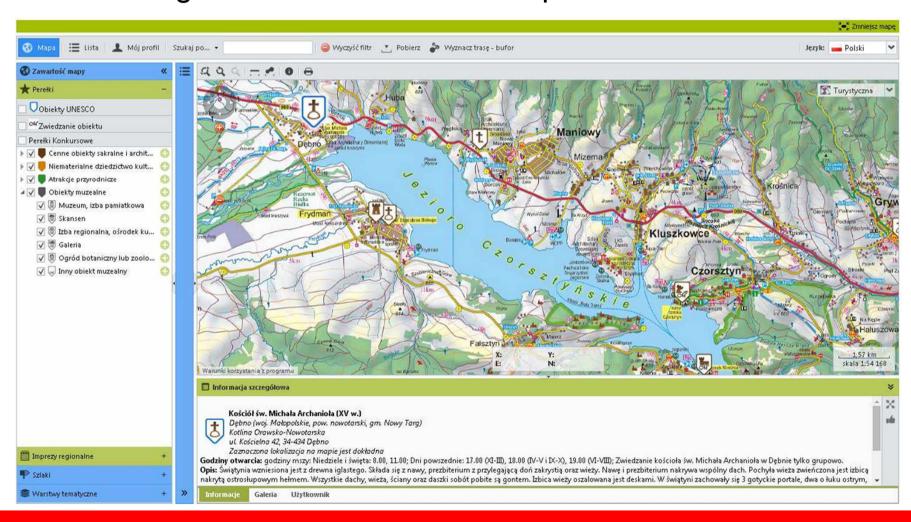
Allowing networking and online consultations between experts







Containing an interactive tourist map



















- promoting public participation in decision-making related to CC implementation
- facilitating the coordination, networking and cooperation between institutions, regional and local authorities
- carrying out regional consultations and raising public awareness on the Convention
- drafting the National Action Plan for the implementation of the CC Biodiversity Protocol.





One of the tools aimed at raising support for the implementation of the Carpathian Convention at the local level

is the "Forum of the Carpathian Communities", gathering representatives of self-governments / municipalities from the Polish part of the Carpathian region.





The First Forum (Sept. 2013) focused on the Convention, rural development issues, Regional Operational Plans, incorporating N2000 requirements into local land dev. plans.







One of the outcomes was the Statement of the Forum of the Carpathian Communities, declaring the will and readiness to cooperate on the implementation of the Carpathian Convention with the municipalities of other CC Parties, and addressing several issues related to the implementation of the Convention to the Government of Poland:

Stanowisko Forum Gmin Karpackich

My, mieszkańcy polskich Karpat, uczestnicy Forum Gmin Karpackich, zgromadzeni w dniach 26-27 września 2013 r. w Łukowem k. Zagórza (w powiecie sanockim województwa podkarpackiego)

Deklarujemy naszą gotowość do współpracy w ramach regionalnych koalicji, mających na celu realizację związanych z wdrażaniem Ramowej Konwencji o ochronie i zrównoważonym rozwoju Karpat (Konwencji Karpackiej) zadań publicznych oraz prowadzenie działalności pożytku publicznego w skali polskich Karpat, ukonstytuowanych w formie stowarzyszenia jednostek samorządu terytorialnego, celowego związku międzygminnego lub związku powiatów;

Deklarujemy naszą gotowość do współpracy z jednostkami samorządu terytorialnego pozostałych Stron Konwencji Karpackiej, na rzecz wdrażania jej postanowień, oraz do podejmowania wspólnych działań w skali całego regionu karpackiego;





The main topic of the next Forum of the Carpathian Communities, to be held in 2015

shall be local spatial planning for the implementation of the Convention.





Pursuant to Decision COP2/10 The Conference of the Parties

- 5. <u>reiterates</u> its recommendation to establish and develop national mechanisms to foster the implementation of the Carpathian Convention, including information, involvement and capacity building of relevant stakeholders and civil society related to the process and the future development of the Carpathian Convention;
- 6. <u>invites</u> Parties and other stakeholders to <u>carry out regional consultations</u> and to continue to <u>raise public awareness</u> in order to promote the Carpathian Convention implementation;

several thematic working groups have been established, involving experts and local stakeholders from the Polish part of the Carpathian region.





Results of the working group on cultural heritage (established under the "Carpathians Unite" project) were used for the development of the draft Protocol on cultural heritage to the Framework Carpathian Convention further discussed by the CC Working Group on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge at its three meetings held in 2013 and 2014:





two meetings hosted in PL by the "Carpathians Unite" project:

- in Krynica (Malopolskie Province) in May 2013
- in Orelec (Podkarpackie Province) in Sept. 2013

and the meeting hosted by the Govt. of SK in Bratislava in March 2014.

















Decision COP4/7 The Conference of the Parties

5. Expresses its gratitude to the Ekopsychologia Association and UNEP/GRID-Warsaw Centre within the project "Carpathians Unite – mechanism of consultation and cooperation for implementation of the Carpathian Convention", supported by Switzerland through the Swiss Contribution to the enlarged European Union, for their contribution to the development of the Protocol;





Another working group established under the project "Carpathians Unite" is focused on spatial planning issues The results of its recent meeting (Sanok, 6-7 Oct. 2014) shall briefly be reported tomorrow.







The working group on biological diversity established under the project "Carpathians Unite" is composed of experts representing nature conservation authorities from the Polish part of the Carpathians (Regional Directorates of Env. Protection, National Parks, Landscape Parks), State Forests, and research institutes.







The task of the "Carpathians Unite" working group on biodiversity

is to develop the proposal of the draft National Action Plan for the implementation of the CC Biodiversity Protocol in Poland

for approval by the Minister of Environment.

The meeting of this working group has been closed at lunch time today, here in Kluszkowce.





On behalf of the Ekopsychologia Association, responsible for this Action of the "Carpathians Unite" project and co-organizing this first ever joint meeting of the two Carpathian Convention Working Groups together with the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (UNEP Vienna) and the project leader (UNEP/GRID-Warsaw) I have the honour to welcome you to the Polish Carpathians!











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"Gazeta Wyborcza" (Cracow)





Thank you for attention.

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