



Carpathian Ecoregion



Shepherd, Gradistea Muncelului Cioclovina Nature Park, Romania

Protected Area Networks – cornerstone of development:

Making it happen!

In April 2006 WWF invited governmental representatives, as well as experts and decision makers from civil society and protected areas, to review the implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) for the seven Carpathian countries. Based on priorities agreed for implementation in the following years, WWF-Danube Carpathian Programme (DCP) developed the 2012 PA4LP Carpathian Mountain Region Project.

KEY PROGRESS

■ Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA)

Officially established at COP-1 of the Carpathian Convention in December 2006, the CNPA has biannual Steering Committee Meetings supported by the PA4LP project. By 2011, the CNPA should be consolidated, with a secretariat established in one of the Carpathian countries and finances secured to coordinate networking activities between Carpathian protected areas. The first CNPA Conference in September 2008 brought together 85 protected area representatives from across the Carpathians.

■ Carpathian Protected Areas Clearing House Mechanism (CPA CHM)

The CPA CHM is an internet platform for information exchange and networking for protected area professionals, experts working on projects and research in the Carpathian protected areas, for the business sector and for the general public. The core of the CHM is an interactive map with spatial related information about protected areas, including threats, tourism information, legal frameworks and other. The launch of the CHM is planned for June 2010.

■ Carpathian Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (CPAMETT)

The CPAMETT, an internet based monitoring tool on protected area management effectiveness based on

WWF's and World Bank's Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool, aims to support individual protected area administrations to monitor their performance. Its overview of protected areas at the national levels will help governments report on CBD PoWPA implementation. The CPAMETT is in a testing phase and will be launched in summer 2010. Training seminars will be organized in the Carpathian countries. The UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre has adapted the tool for the use in Asia (Tiger Initiative).

■ Participatory management

Participatory management approaches for protected areas are used efficiently in very few protected areas in the Carpathians. WWF is developing recommendations for governments and guidelines for protected area managers that can help harmonize stakeholder interests with conservation goals. Norway supports an innovative approach for management planning in Ukraine by testing participatory management planning processes in two Carpathian protected areas.

■ Protected area values and benefits and integrated management

WWF is identifying the economic values of model protected areas in the Carpathians, aiming to support the development of sustainable financing schemes and integration of protected



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River and fir trees forest, Retezat National Park, Romania: River flowing through the fir trees forest in Retezat National Park, Carpathian Mountains, southeast Romania. Retezat is one of the first certified PAN parks and one of Romania's flagship protected areas. Project 9E0163 – PAN (Protected Area Network) Parks.

area objectives in local and regional development plans. This is a participatory process actively involving stakeholders.

■ **Capacity building for protected area practitioners**

Over the past two years about 40 protected area practitioners from all over the Carpathians were trained

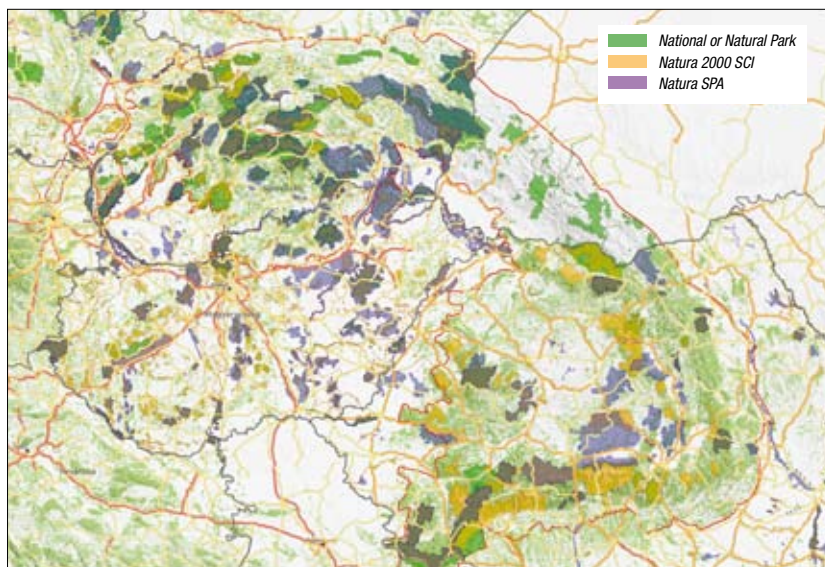
in the fields of management planning, sustainable tourism and community outreach. Train-the-trainer seminars are building capacity of 14 future trainers from the Carpathian region on topics of management planning, sustainable tourism and community outreach. The PA4LP Project is also supporting 8 people from Carpathian countries to attend the MSc Programme Management of Protected Areas at the Alpe-Adria University in Klagenfurt, Austria. These professionals will contribute in the future to improvements in governance, financing and management.

In 2008, WWF and Flora and Fauna International established ProPark Foundation as a long-term training programme for protected area practitioners in Romania, with the potential to be extended to other Carpathian countries.

■ **Carpathian Protected Area Campaign**

A Carpathian Protected Area campaign will be organized around the Day of Parks in May 2010, involving protected areas, local stakeholders and partners from the private sector.

National PA networks in the Carpathians



PARTNERS WHO ARE CONTRIBUTING TO PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

- UNEP Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention
- State authorities responsible for protected areas of Romania, Ukraine, Poland, Hungary, Serbia, Czech Republic and Slovakia
- The CNPA and protected area authorities
- Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative (CERI)
- EUROPARC Federation
- University of Klagenfurt, Austria

PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE WORK

1. **Promote sectoral integration of protected areas and recognition of their importance for securing ecosystem goods and services and sustainable development.**
2. **Promote initiatives to develop sustainable financing systems for protected areas in the Carpathian countries, including joint efforts for improved European Union financing.**
3. **Further develop capacity building programs to secure professional support for protected area management.**
4. **Support implementation of the Carpathian Convention by strengthening the CNPA as an important platform for networking in support of conservation and sustainable development initiatives.**
5. **Promote the establishment of a Carpathian Space Programme, based on the model of Alpine Space.**

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