






TAKING  
**COOPERATION**  
FORWARD

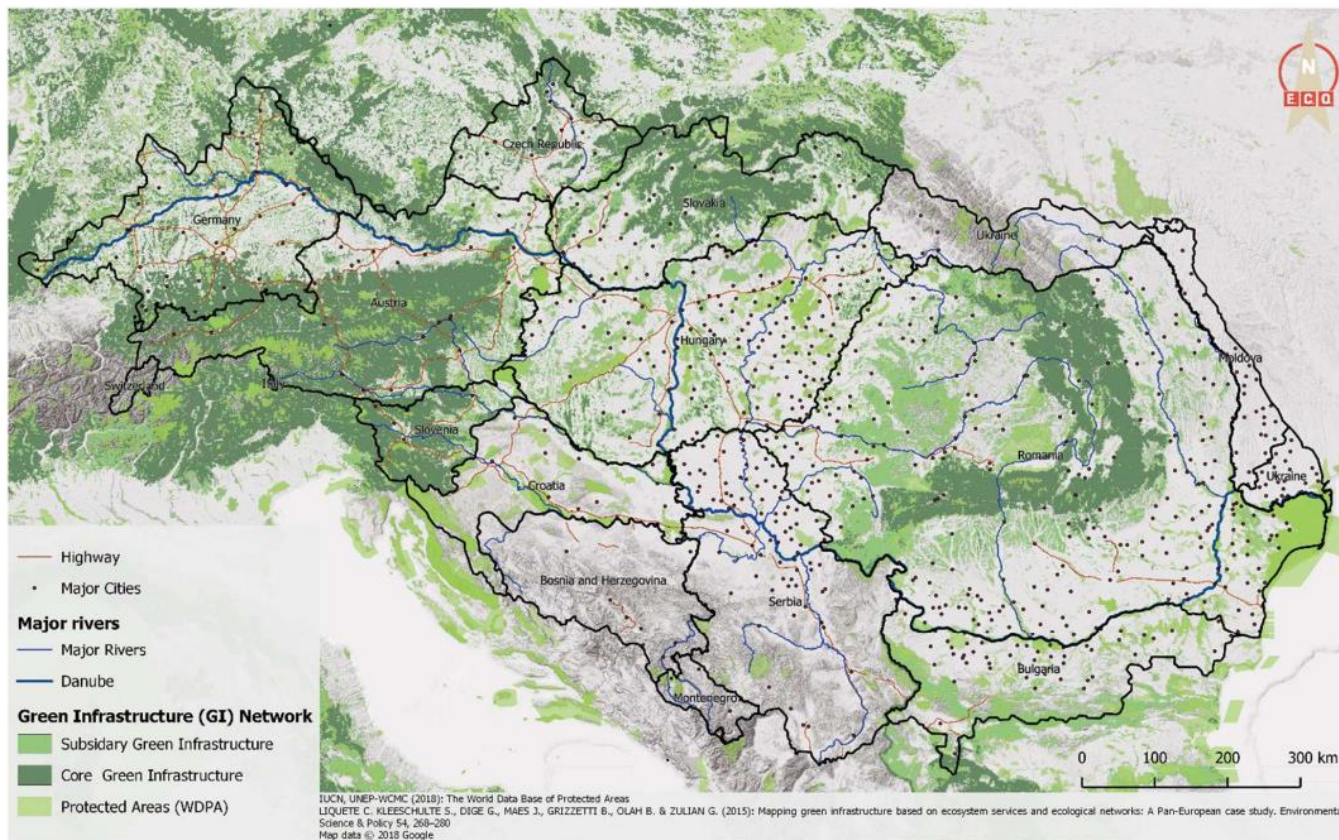
-  International Wilderness Week  
19-23 October 2020
-  **Centralparks**  
Building management capacities of Carpathian protected areas for the integration and harmonization of biodiversity protection and local socio-economic development
-  Hanna Öllös, European Wilderness Society

# THE CARPATHIANS

- One of the most important wildlife refuges: the region harbours many species and habitats that are either threatened or close to extinction in the rest of Europe
- Harbours some of the last primeval beech forests
- Supports vital populations of all large carnivores (brown bear, grey wolf, Eurasian lynx) and all big native herbivores (European bison)
- The Beluga sturgeon, now on the edge of extinction
- Of the main European ecological corridors allowing migrations of animal populations and genetic exchange



## Ecological Connectivity in the Danube Area



# THE CARPATHIANS

Close to 100,000 km<sup>2</sup> of natural or semi/natural forests

- 36,000 km<sup>2</sup> of protected areas
- 3,000 km<sup>2</sup> of virgin forests
- 481 endemic species of plants (One-third of all European endemic plant species)
- Central Europe's last Wilderness

Mountain ecosystems are particularly fragile and vulnerable to external pressures. However, we depend on them:

- They play a key role in the water cycle for lowland regions in Europe, influencing temperature
- They contribute to preventing and mitigating natural hazards such as landslides and avalanches
- Ecological backbones of the continent, harbouring a large portion its biodiversity







# THE DARK SIDE OF DEVELOPMENT

## Main threats

- high pressure on land usage
- **high destruction and fragmentation of habitats**
- loss of globally significant biodiversity
- **tourism pressure and waste**
- poaching and illegal logging
- pollution
- **climate change**
- over-harvesting and unsustainable agriculture
- **inappropriate natural resource management methods**

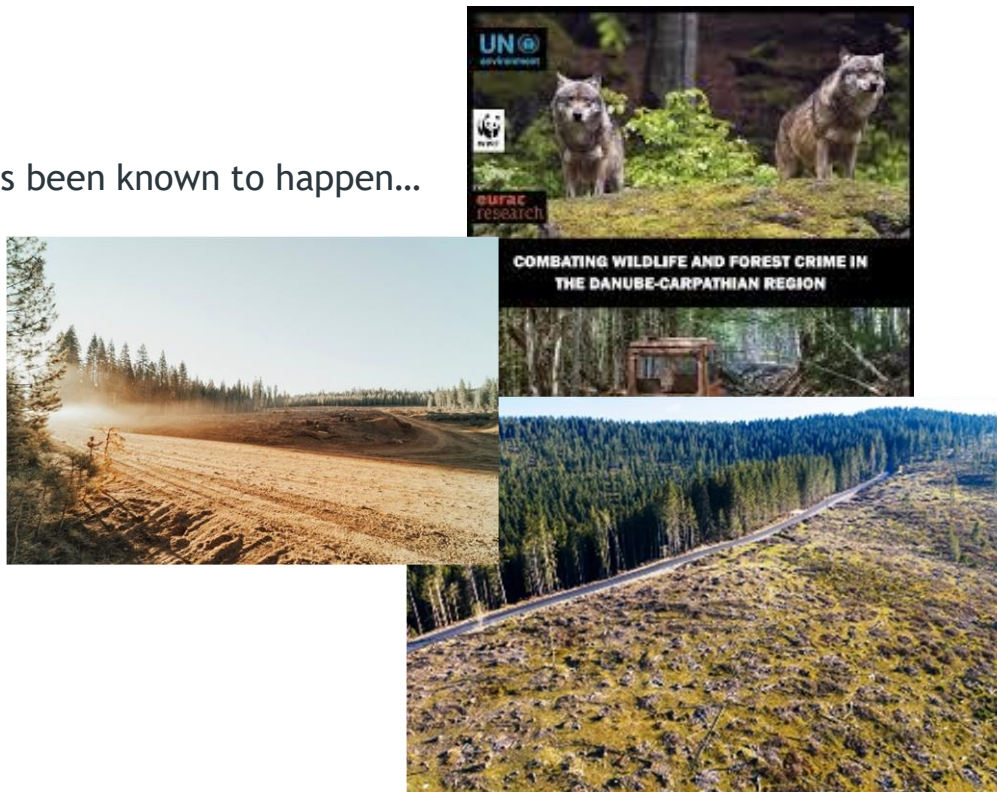
## Key challenges:

- provide accessibility without endangering sustainability
- investment in nature for improved sustainable socio-economic development and post Covid-19 recovery
- need for transnational, cross-sectoral cooperation



# INCREASING THREATS

It's been known to happen...



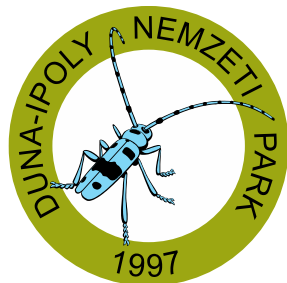
Nature conservation policies and management cultures vary among the Carpathian countries...

...Traditional approaches to natural resource management and biodiversity conservation will may no longer be sufficient to reach long-lasting economic benefits and provision of ecosystem services!



# PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

**eurac**  
research





# PROJECT IN NUMBERS

- Project duration: 3 years (April 2019 - May 2022)
- 8 partners
- 8 associated partners
- 1.6 mio €
- within 7 countries
- 13 outputs planned



# 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



# PROJECT AIMS AND OUTPUTS

- Raising support and involvement of local communities to reconcile nature conservation and local socio-economic development through strategies on biodiversity protection, sustainable tourism and communication between PAs and local communities
- Encouraging transnational networking, harmonizing approaches at the international level, and facilitating the harmonization of measures undertaken in border areas and transboundary protected areas



# PROJECT AIMS AND OUTPUTS

- Promoting joint actions for integrated management of biodiversity, including joint transnational thematic task forces, involving experts from Carpathian countries
- Developing and testing innovative environmental management tools
- Strengthening the role of the Carpathian Convention in implementing the cohesion among the member states





# THE ROLE OF CNPA

- Networking is a life skill, and it is in PAs managers' interest to acknowledge its importance and develop their own networking skills in the Carpathians area
- Developing and maintaining relationships with others for the purpose of mutual benefit can help PAs search for and secure awareness opportunities, gain access to needed environmental information or resources and obtain guidance, political and social support
- Revitalization of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas, through the restarting of the main communication mechanisms within the official decision-making board
- Activating specific round tables, involving the official members, endorsed by the Carpathian Convention, promoting all the Carpathians-related project contents, to pave the way for drafting new Carpathian projects ideas





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International Wilderness Week  
19-23 October 2020



**BEECH POWER**

World Heritage BEECH Forests: emPOWERing and catalyzing an ecosystem-based Sustainable Development



Hanna Öllös, European Wilderness Society

# ANCIENT AND PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS AND OTHER REGIONS OF EUROPE

- The European beech exists nowhere else in the world but in Europe
- Can form forests of pure stands, and a single tree can reach an age of 600 years
- Provides habitat to about 10000 species
- Outstanding history - one species recolonized a whole continent
- Large-scale disappearance due to human intervention
- Today: untouched, primeval beech forests are a rare phenomenon

UNESCO World Heritage site Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe (2017)

- Almost 80 component parts in all beech forest regions
- Spanning across 12 countries
- Extension process is ongoing





# MAIN CHALLENGES

- Increased usage conflicts between stakeholders as a result of the implementation of a strict PA and the establishment of an adequate buffer zone
- likely increase of visitors attracted by the WH status and the resulting pressure on ecosystem integrity
- difficulties to manage the effects of the WH inscription, due to inadequate equipment in terms of personnel resources and additional expertise to meet the international requirements of being part of a transnational serial WH site



# PROJECT SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

To cope with these challenges, it is necessary to

- develop relevant models and tools that support PA managers in the management of the component parts
- increase the active participation of all stakeholders in the wider management of the component parts and their surroundings
- integrate the component parts in regional environmental management to use their potential for socio-economic development
- increase the active exchange and cooperation between PA managers



# PROJECT PARTNERSHIP



**Eberswalde University  
for Sustainable  
Development**



**NATIONALPARK  
KALKALPEN**

STAATLICH  
ANERKANNTER  
ERHOLUNGSSORT

**Angermünde**  
echt.natürlich



**PAKLENICA**  
Nacionalni park  
National Park



Let's  
get  
Wild!



**ZAVOD za GOZDOVE  
SLOVENIJE**  
Slovenia Forest Service



# PROJECT IN NUMBERS

- Project duration: 3 years (April 2019 - May 2022)
- 7 partners
- 13 associated partners
- 1.8 mio €
- within 5 countries
- 15 outputs planned





# PROJECT AIMS

## Through

- Involvement of World Heritage Communities - integrating WH into regional development plans, participatory processes, local WH working groups, exchange programs, marketing concepts
- Buffer zone management - strategy for conflict management, visitor management, sustainable forestry
- Quality Standard - strategy for the improvement of the management quality, Code of best practice



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



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