

# **INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE SERIAL NOMINATION “BEECH PRIMEVAL FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS”**

## **I. Introduction**

The presented integrated management plan for the serial nomination “Beech primeval forests of the Carpathians” (hereinafter referred to as IMP) is not seen as a closed document. In the course of time it will be updated, adjusted and corrected if necessary in the process of its implementation so as to meet its pre-defined objectives. Additionally, we consider the IMP a tool for the transfer of the knowledge acquired by scientific methods into the real world of nature conservation and for both identification and implementation of steps and measures aimed at maintaining a long-term integrity of nominated localities. It is understood that the IMP quality and implementation efficiency depends on the support of the involved stakeholders and parties. Such support can be achieved by a combined approach based on explanatory work, identifications of potential benefits for the involved entities and ways how to materialise those benefits without compromising the natural values and their integrity but instead by drawing on them, and the legal instruments.

The management is based on scientific results from research on virgin forests and the various interactions between them and society with all their relevant components. Because a continuous improvement of primeval forests protection and management depends on a public support mobilisation, all inhabitants, opinion leaders and decision makers have to be sensitized over this issue through activities such as awareness rising, education and lobbying. An important role is played here by environmental ethics and justice. In this field also IMP has incorporated the experience and expertise of ACANAP<sup>1</sup> that has been promoting the adaptive management of primeval forests and biodiversity in the Carpathians as well as opportunities for exchange of management, research and monitoring experience and for creation of a harmonic relationship between people and nature in the Carpathians.

The integrated management plan is based on both existing and planned instruments and mechanisms supposed to ensure and promote the long-term conservation and extension of the Beech primeval forests of the Carpathians as a serial nomination proposed for inscription onto the List of World Natural Heritage. Parts of this IMP have therefore a legally binding character while others present recommendations negotiated and approved by all stakeholders. The IMP of the primeval forest series nominated by Ukraine and the Slovak Republic for

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<sup>1</sup> Association of the Carpathian National Parks and Reserves

inscription onto the UNESCO World Heritage List is organised on two mutually interlinked levels. Each series' property has a management plan based on a strict non-intervention policy. State parties guarantee the strictest level of protection for the series of nominated primeval forests (Ia management regime acc. to IUCN) and the monitoring aimed at preventing possible anthropogenic damage or disturbance on the legal premises given in 4 c). The main aim is to leave nominated properties to their spontaneous self-regulating development, free of anthropic intervention. Current buffer zones can be subject to regulatory management measures aimed to secure and enhance ecological stability of forest stands. On its second level, the IMP covers the serial nomination as a whole with objectives listed below.

## **II. General Objectives**

The clear identification of the serial nomination innate values for which it is proposed for inclusion in the world natural heritage, long-term research, monitoring and experience gathered from the international co-operation within the ACANAP framework and other fora has allowed for a clear definition of integrated management plan objectives:

- (i) To ensure the most effective conservation of the nominated properties with all their abiotic and biotic components, geo- and biodiversity and ecological processes; to secure a lasting homeostasis and self-reproduction of the respective ecosystems and their protection both against anthropic and anthropogenic factors
- (ii) To maintain and expand the existing, ecologically connected complex of primeval and natural beech forests that encompass and connect (link) the nominated properties on both the Slovak and the Ukrainian sides through the conservation of other remaining natural beech forests within the proposed corridors connecting the nominated properties and measures supporting the succession of managed beech semi-natural forests adjacent to and between the nominated properties, to convert the expanded area into a continuous buffer zone encompassing the nominated properties, in addition to the already existing ones; that will support the exchange of biological information between the properties.
- (iii) To use nominated series of primeval forests for scientific research in order to acquire knowledge transferable and applicable on the level of sustainable, close-to-nature and continuous-cover forestry through mimicking of selected primeval

forests patterns; at the same time also serve the call for enhancement of landscape ecological stability not only on national but also global level;

- (iv) To use natural heritage for enhancement of ecological and environmental education, awareness of primeval forests and their intrinsic, innate value in the local communities, nations and the global community; educational activities shall be carefully chosen to maintain integrity and conservation of the existing sites, to preserve their naturalness and uniqueness and to avoid both their devastation or degradation.
- (v) To allow for the sustainable use of natural resources in the broader region through the support of traditional crafts, products and ecotourism, the latter having the beech primeval forests as one of its attractors, as a source of income for the nearby communities, based on a proper sensitization of the local and foreign visitors over their value through multiple communication channels, including the internet page, provision of guided walks, educational trails, interactive learning, films, press articles and other forms.

### **III. Legal instruments**

This chapter lays out valid legal instruments applied to ensure meeting the above objectives in areas within and outside the serial nomination properties perimeter. An effective coordination of the legal instruments use and implementation represents one of the main tasks of the Joint Management Committee (hereinafter JMC). JMC itself has no legal enforcement powers, but they are sufficiently exercised by institutions represented in it, mainly the ministries of environment of both countries, national park and biosphere reserve administrations, State nature conservancy and municipal governments. The legal instruments are divided into two groups and several sub-groups in this chapter. The first group includes legal instruments that ensure in a thorough and consequent manner the conservation of the nominated properties and partly enable also their possible extension.

The second group establishes a legal instruments framework that enables the embedding of the integrated management plan objectives into a complex territorial planning and their implementation through the Landscape ecological planning, because the principal questions asked in the planning process is: What are the valuable elements in the landscape worth protection? Then the land use is adjusted according to this priority.

### Nature protection oriented legal instruments

*Legal instruments for the management of the nominated properties:* The nominated properties are subject to non-intervention management guaranteed by the state laws of Ukraine and the Slovak Republic. According to the Law of Ukraine “On Nature Protection Fund of Ukraine”, the beech virgin forests selected for the nomination are located within the core zones A of the CBR and thus under the strictest protection. The protection measures are enforced under a threat of severe penalties stipulated by the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 521, 21.04.1998.

Protection measures related to the nominated beech primeval forests on the Slovak territory are regulated by the provisions of Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection (hereinafter only Act). In the wording of § 16, section 1 of the Act, any interventions are prohibited in these strictly protected areas. **The cited protection regimes correspond to Ia management regime of IUCN classification.**

That principle is in turn projected in the elaboration of forest management plans. Every nominated property is individually covered by an approved forest management plan (FMP) for a 10-year period, which stipulates no-intervention policy within the nominated primeval forests. In the buffer zone, the FMP allows for measures aimed to support natural processes if necessary, using the close-to-nature forestry approach. Legal norms providing for the forest management plans are contained in the §1- 5 of the Act of the Slovak National Council No. č. 326/2005 Coll. on the forest management and state administration of forest management and in the wording of the pursuant regulations and Regulation of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic No. 5/1994 Coll. on forest management. Both of them provide specific provisions for the structure and design of forest management plans. Additionally, each cluster of nominated properties has its buffer zone supposed to reinforce desired protection effect. Protection measures are realized by the State Nature Conservancy.

*Legal instruments for the management of the nominated properties' buffer zones:* The management of the nominated properties buffer zones (zone B) is regulated by the state laws of Ukraine and the Slovak Republic (Ukraine: Law of Ukraine “On Nature Protection Fund of Ukraine”, Law of Ukraine “On the nature reserve fund of Ukraine” No. 2456-XII; Slovak Republic: Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection). Only measures in support of natural processes are allowed within a buffer zone. Such measures are planned, if necessary, in the management plans of national nature preserves, and projected into binding forest management plans.

*Legal instruments for the management of the connecting corridors and areas outside the serial nomination properties and buffer zone perimeter:* On the Ukrainian territory, the connecting corridors linking the properties are subject to the Law of Ukraine No. 1989-111 “On establishing of the Ukrainian national ecological network”. These forests are thus either under state protection and designated already for the future extension of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve or are they reserved for the establishment of new protected areas (See Map Annex No. 6), e. g. the Zhodymyr National Nature Park with a rather vast territory has been established.

On the Slovak territory, the largest part of the connecting corridors (about 85 % on the Slovak territory) is located within the boundaries of the Poloniny NP and VPLA. Thus, they are subject to forest management plans, in which the application of close-to-nature continuous-cover forestry toolbox is secured by the obligatory incorporation of “protected area maintenance programmes” (§54, sec.3-4 of the Act 543/2002), worked out by the respective authority (NP Poloniny, ECPLA) in compliance with §21 of the Regulation No. 24/2003 of the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic, and subject to the approval by the Government of the Slovak Republic. ECONET, NECONET – Ivan

The rest (about 15 % on the Slovak territory) is covered by forest management plans that respect principles of sustainable forestry acc. to the Act of the Slovak National Council No. 326/2005 Coll. In these sections of connecting corridors, the sole application of continuous-cover forestry toolbox must yet be negotiated within the Steering committee.

#### Complex territorial planning oriented legal instruments

The General scheme of territory planning in Ukraine (further on – “the General Scheme”) defines priorities and conceptual decisions on planning and use of Ukrainian territory in, improvement of settling system and provision of sustainable development of settlements, development of industrial, social and transport-engineering infrastructure, formation of ecological network. The General Scheme has its legal footing in Law of Ukraine “On the general scheme of territory planning in Ukraine” Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 7.02.2002, No. 3059-III and its fully respects the Law of Ukraine "On Nature-Protection Fund of Ukraine" 16.06.1992, No.2456-XII. Regulations provided in the General Scheme correspond to the principles of appropriate documents adopted at the UN Conference on the settlements' development (HABITAT - II) and to corresponding recommendations of the UN European Economic Commission and the Council of Europe. In order to create a sufficient environment

for living and favorable conditions for economic development, and also to provide efficient use of the territories' potential and conservation of their natural and cultural originality based upon the results of evaluation of anthropic pressures, the territory is determined basing upon the kinds and regimes of utilization: areas with intensive industry; territories with mostly agricultural industry located there; territories of the Nature Protection Fund of Ukraine that are important for biological and landscape diversity conservation; zones with expended radiation level and some other. In order to guarantee efficient utilization of territories that are of a special ecological, scientific, aesthetic value it is envisaged to elaborate the system of state (national) support for such territories. The General Scheme is implemented by the bodies of the state power and by local self-governing bodies in the order envisaged by Ukrainian Legislation.

The Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park are subordinated directly to the Ministry and their territory belongs to the Nature Protection Fund of Ukraine. But still, administrations of both establishments manage their territories in close co-operation with local bodies of state power and self-government. There operate Co-ordination Councils with the members representing both local authorities and representatives of the Reserve and the Park respectively.

The territorial planning in the Slovak Republic is regulated by Act No. 50/1976, 103/1990, 262/192, 136/1995, 199/1995, 222/1996, 229/1997, 175/199, 237/2000, 416/2002, 553/2001 Coll. This establishes a compulsory framework for the designation of functional zones based on the landscape-ecological planning (LANDEP) and allows for an organic incorporation of corridors connecting the nominated properties into the territorial plans for the respective region (The Prešov Self-Governing Region on the Slovak territory has had its binding Territorial Plan approved by the Government provision No. 216/1998 Coll.). The acts allow for the necessary changes in the territorial plans through territorial proceedings that result into issuing a territorial decision. In the case of issuing a decision on the landscape protection, decisions are based on § 39b, Act No. 50/1976 Coll.

#### Legal instruments stipulating and encouraging the participative processes

According to Ukrainian Legislation, some areas within the zone of anthropogenic landscapes of these nature protection establishments belong to stakeholders (not within the core and buffer zones), but any kind of activity performed by landusers is supervised by CBR

and UNNP respectively. More than that, Scientific Boards of the aforementioned establishment include not only scientists and specialists, but also representatives of local bodies of power and stakeholders.

On the Slovak territory, the acts that regulate the preparation of territorial plans also provide for the participation of municipal and regional governments, state administration, state nature conservancy, non-governmental organisations and other entities in that process. The creation and functioning of non-governmental organisations is regulated by the Act No 83/1990 Coll.

#### **IV. Management structure**

As it has been outlined above, **the conservation of the nominated properties can be ensured within the existing legal framework.** So, the sheer conservation of the nominated properties is not the sole objective of the integrated management plan. Much more it is oriented at the mobilization of the public resources in order to pursue a vision of a contiguous natural area over which the natural beech forests dynamics will be the governing force, and whose natural heritage is respected and recognized as a unique intrinsic value that can be utilized for people's benefit in a both sensitive and sensible manner. To proceed along these lines, the integrated management structure for the serial nomination must be kept simple, transparent and shaped according to project management standards.

IMP consists of two stages, in which two entities are supposed to play decisive roles. Currently, during its 1<sup>st</sup> top-down stage, the integrated management plan aims at the implementation of the objectives (i) and (iv), as well as for the preparatory steps towards the implementation of the objective (ii). An awareness rising campaign is continues so as to sensitize and inform a broad spectrum of stakeholders on the values of the beech primeval forests of the Carpathians, the need for their conservation, on their nomination for the world natural heritage, as well as on the opportunities opening up for the East Carpathian region in terms of ecotourism, cultural tourism, manufacturing of traditional products and provision of services, as well as shape and intensify the participative process by the initiation of a bottom-up process, which is currently rather limited. The main coordinator of these steps and processes is the Joint Management Committee for the Integrated Management of the Beech Primeval Forests of the Carpathians.

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage that too has already begun, an intense co-operation on the implementation of objectives (ii), (iii) and (v), as well as the expression of interests pertaining to these objectives is expected within a panel representing a broad spectrum of stakeholders.

#### ***IV. 1 Management co-ordination***

The territory of the serial nomination is embedded into a specific legal, executive and administrative system that in turn allows for the practical execution of steps and measures aimed at IMP implementation. For that reason, the management of the serial nomination requires superior structures that are locally, nation-wide and bilaterally supported on a political level. For that purpose, a Joint Management Committee for the Integrated Management of the Beech Primeval Forests of The Carpathians (JMC) was established by the ministries of environment of both countries. It has been entrusted with further development and adjustments of the integrated management plan, as well as its co-ordination. To be functional and effective, it does not need a special executive authority, because that is available to its members.

The top-down approach initiated by the ministries, state nature conservancies, as well as scientific circles is necessary during the 1<sup>st</sup> phase because the public awareness of the primeval forests and their potential for sustainable ecotourism has been found relatively low among inhabitants and organizations in the remote areas, where natural forests are still abundant and considered a standard part of people's environment<sup>2</sup>. The political support on both municipal and state levels is secured.

Its competences are delegated and its financing is secured by the ministries. JMC meets quarterly or when a need arises, and prepares reports on the state of the properties on a yearly basis. It coordinates the serial nomination monitoring based on unified methodology and reports the ministries and national UNESCO committees on emerging problems in the pursuit of integrated management goals. It initiates steps necessary to assure scientific research, monitors and supports, where possible and feasible, the extension of the heritage already declared by additional properties. Committee is responsible for the implementation of nominated series of primeval forests integrated management policy into practice, both in terms of the conservation management and the foreseen expansion of the buffer zone.

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<sup>2</sup> Pichler, V., Soroková, M., 2005: Utilisation of natural Forests for Ecotourism: Matching the goals and Reality. *Forest Snow and Landscape Research*, 79 (1/2), 185–194.

Currently, the committee pursues the goals sorted out for the 1<sup>st</sup> stage of the integrated management plan development and implementation, i. e. objectives (i) and (iv), as well as the preparation for the implementation of the objective (ii). An awareness rising campaign is continued so as to sensitize and inform a broader spectrum of stakeholders on the nomination proceedings and the respective criteria to be met, as well as on opportunities opening up for the East Carpathian region in terms of ecotourism, cultural tourism, manufacturing of traditional products and provision of services in connection with the possible awarding of the world natural heritage label. The ultimate goal is to shape and intensify the participative process in the bottom-up direction as the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage.

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage, a JMC-assisted creation of an Integrated Management Panel (IMP Panel) Panel as a non-governmental organisation is foreseen in order to achieve a balanced representation of all stakeholders' interests willing to participate in the pursuit of IMP objectives. The panel members will both co-operate with the JMC on the implementation of objectives (ii), (iii) and (v) and to voice their interests pertaining to these objectives. There will be an intense and fruitful communication between the JMC and the Panel. JMC will provide panel with the vital information on the opportunities for both sensitive and sensible utilisation of the world natural heritage lable as well as the goals and criteria to be met. The Panel will probably be active mainly in the fields of forestry, public relations and lobbying, ecotourism (transportation, services), for which it will set up dedicated working groups. Together, they will closely cooperate in all areas, in particular in the territorial planning aimed at the extension of corridors connecting the serial nomination properties and their sensible and differentiated utilisation.

## ***IV.2 Practical management***

As outlined in chapter IV. (Management structure), the practical management in the areas of nature conservation, science, awareness rising and territorial planning is coordinated by the JMC and carried out by the responsible organisations represented in it, through the available legal framework.

### ***IV.2.1 Specific objectives***

The following are the main inter-related **specific objectives**, derived from general objectives (Chapter II of IMP) and of this framework and integrated management plan, their outputs and activities<sup>3</sup>:

**Objective I: co-ordination of joint activities concerning serial property**

**Output I.1: Establishment of the Joint Management Committee of the serial property**

- Activity I.1.1\*: Establish the Joint Management Committee of the serial property
- Activity I.1.2\*\*: Elaborate and approve the statutes of the Joint Management Committee of the serial property

**Output I.2: Regular meetings of the Joint Management Committee of the serial property**

- Activity I.2.1\*: Organize regular meetings of working group to elaborate joint serial nomination “Beech primeval forests of the Carpathians” (Ukraine-Slovakia);
- Activity I.2.2\*: Develop Joint Integrated Management Plan (IMP);
- Activity I.2.3\*: Organize regular meetings concerning IMP implementation and agree the short-term action plans;
- Activity I.2.4\*\*: Organize public presentations to introduce preparation of transboundary serial nomination “Beech primeval forests of the Carpathians”, as well as objectives, outputs and activities of the Management Plan;
- Activity I.2.5\*\*: Found of working groups for the short-term action plans realization;
- Activity I.2.6\*\*: Make annual reports for IMP implementation and update the Plan;

**Output I.3: An operation management for realization of IMP**

- Activity I.3.1\*\*: Provide operation management for Management Plan by administrations of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (Ukraine) and Poloniny National Park including:

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<sup>3</sup> (remarks: \* - already achieved; \*\* - on-going activity; \*\*\* other activities are still to be implemented)

- prepare meetings of the JMC and agree with Committee members their agendas;
  - elaborate draft action plans, control realization of the IMP, work packages and action plans;
  - invite other interesting parties, especially the IMP Panel representatives to JMC meetings;
  - formally establish relations with regional authorities (in Ukraine: Department of Environment and Natural Resources in the Zakarpats'ka Oblast, Transcarpathian Regional State Administration; in Slovakia: governments of Prešov and Košice Self-governing Regions, municipal authorities;
  - implement other issues of the JMC or elaborate new proposals.
- Activity I.3.2\*\*: Conduct regularly together with local authorities and other interested parties, and those represented in the IMP Panel in particular, operation management concerning biodiversity conservation and sustainable development of the region, especially in buffer zones of the serial property.

**Output I.4: Realisation of separate points of the Management Plan and founding of special working groups**

- Activity I.4.1\*\*: Appoint Joint Steering Committee mechanisms for the Integrated Management Plan realization;
- Activity I.4.2\*\*: Develop special projects and found working groups for implementation of separate points of the Integrated Management Plan;
- Activity I.4.3\*\*: Estimate results of working groups output and elaborate new proposals for the IMP.

**Output I.5: Optimisation of borders of the property and its buffer zones**

- Activity I.5.1\*: Optimise borders of the property and its buffer zones;
- Activity I.5.2\*\*\*: Study possibilities for extension of the serial nomination by Romanian and Polish localities in cooperation with Romanian and Polish experts.

**Objective II: Ensuring the most effective nature conservation of the serial nomination properties**

**Output II.1: Improving conservation of beech primeval forests as an integral biological formation**

- Activity II.1.1\*: Analyze in detail existing information on virgin forests of the serial property;
- Activity II.1.2\*\*: Continue investigations of structure, functions and biogeochemical cycles in virgin forests;.
- Activity II.1.3\*\*: Develop GIS-maps of vegetation and habitats.

**Output II.2: Improvement of natural conditions for conservation of the most significant natural habitats and valuable biodiversity, especially globally threatened species**

- Activity II.2.1: Analyze existing information and experience concerning conservation of the most significant natural habitats, flora and fauna species globally threatened and identify the information gaps;
- Activity II.2.2\*\*: Analyze the existing and potential threats to the most significant natural habitats, flora and fauna species. Identify vulnerable zones such as upper timberline, ecotones, mires, spring areas and others and sensitive sites of high biodiversity value at risk;
- Activity II.2.3\*\*: Carry out additional investigations on species of flora and fauna, their habitats to fill up the information gaps in database of the serial property;
- Activity II.2.4\*\*: Compile the inventories, generalize and incorporate existing information and new data on the flora, fauna and habitats into database of the serial property and use it in long-term monitoring of biodiversity;
- Activity II.2.5\*\*: Elaborate special action plans for conservation of separate species of flora and fauna globally threatened;
- Activity II.2.6\*\*: Implement special measures and provide special regimes for conservation of rare and endangered species of flora and fauna.

**Output II.3: Development of detailed regulatory mechanisms and management guidelines for each individual area of the serial property**

- Activity II.4.1: Analyze existing management system and threats to each individual area;
- Activity II.4.2: Develop detailed regulatory mechanisms and management guidelines for controlling negative impacts to outstanding natural values.

**Output II4: Effective management checked by long-term monitoring**

- Activity II.4.1\*\*\*: Propose necessary changes in conservation of the most vulnerable ecosystems, rare and endangered species of flora and fauna and habitats;
- Activity II.4.2\*: Establish permanent plots for annual qualitative and quantitative recording of vegetation to detect early signs of changes.

**Objective III: Promoting sustainable land resources management in buffer zones and connecting ecological corridors of the serial property**

**Output III.1: Implementation of the buffer zoning and connecting corridors systems and long-term monitoring of their effectiveness**

- Activity III.1.1\*\*\*: Propose ecological corridors connecting the serial nomination properties based on the system of protective and special purposes forests, the National ECONET of the Slovak Republic, the system of **Natura 2000** areas in the Slovak Republic, as well as the Law of Ukraine “On establishing of the Ukrainian national ecological network” and the proposed principles of ECONET in Ukraine;
- Activity III.1.2\*\*\*: Area-designate the connecting corridors on individual forest stands level based on the Map Annex Nr. 6, forest maps and the information that will become available through the implementation of the PINMATRA project<sup>4</sup>, resulting into a polygon map of primeval forests in the Ukraine.
- Activity III.1.3\*\*\*: Leaning on national ECONETs, propose the optimal management for connecting corridors on forest stands level, most preferably non-intervention regime and close-to-nature forestry management in the other cases; **in limit cases**, initiate expropriation process offset by corresponding

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<sup>4</sup> The co-operative Dutch-Ukrainian project is due to start in 2006

government compensation, or purchasing of land within the framework of the LIFE scheme

- Activity III.1.4\*\*: Conduct meetings with regional and local leaders and other stakeholders to announce the designation of the buffer zoning and connecting corridors systems; explain in detail their objectives, implications and implementation of the system; obtain feedback from the participants;
- Activity III.1.5\*\*: Implement proposed ecological corridors into binding regional development plans, implement their management modes into forest management plans
- Activity III.1.6\*\*: Implement the long-term monitoring program; channel findings back to the serial property database to evaluate the effectiveness of the zoning system.

### **Output III.2: Extensive monitoring and mapping of social and economic factors on the terrestrial environment and natural resources**

- Activity III.2.1\*\*: Inventory and verify land-ownership and user rights, especially those constituting permanent ownership and grazing and cuttings rights. Channel the gathered information into the database of the serial property.
- Activity III.2.2\*\*: Document the traditional practices (e.g. forestry, agriculture, etc.) pertaining to sustainable use of natural resources.
- Activity III.2.3\*\*: Produce the guidelines for traditional land and water resources use and biodiversity conservation. This document will subsequently be used for promoting awareness at the local level, and also provide guidelines for the governments, planning and research institutions.

### **Output III.3: Income generating activities from traditional products and activities**

- Activity III.3.1: Develop legal measures and contractual framework to safeguard the serial property rights of the local inhabitants and to ensure that any economic benefits derived from the sustainable use of resources, including recreation will benefit them;

- Activity III.3.2: Provide vocational (technical and financial) training for the development and management of the above income generating activities, incorporating environmental awareness programs which explain the serial property conservation objectives behind these income generating activities.

**Output III.4: Supportive development activities launched to assist sustainable development and enhance public support**

- Activity III.4.1\*\*: Collaborate with development agencies to develop joint nature conservation and development activities.
- Activity III.4.2\*\*: Implement alternative to intensive forestry and agriculture technologies which are environmental friendly within the connecting corridors.

**Output III.5: Monitoring and documentation of ecological and socio-economic changes.**

- Activity III.5.1\*\*\*: Carry out ecological and socio-economic surveys in the serial nomination properties and adjacent areas; introduce environmental extension officers with the techniques of monitoring and recording changes in the parameters, and report findings on regular basis.
- Activity III.5.2\*\*\*: Input as much as possible data from the above mentioned surveys in the databases; integrate and analyze the data as appropriate; document the process of change and disseminate success stories and best practices; study and discuss with local inhabitants on the possible causes of failure and revise the intervention accordingly.

**Objective IV: Strengthening institutional and human resources capacities**

**Output IV.1: Supply with work offices and equipment of the serial property staff**

- Activity IV.1.1\*/\*\*: Construct new buildings and reconstruct existing offices for protected areas staff, meeting rooms, libraries, visit-centres (museum), research laboratories, sanitary facilities for staff and guests.
- Activity IV.1.2\*/\*\*: Supply protected areas staff within the serial property with hardware and software including Internet connection.

## **Output IV.2: Biodiversity database, use of natural resources and environmental monitoring in the serial property and its buffer zones**

- Activity IV.2.1\*/\*\*/: Create database of the serial property and update it regularly.
- Activity IV.2.2\*/\*\*/: Use of database for planning and management for biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resources use in areas of the serial property and its buffer zones.
- Activity IV.2.3\*/\*\*/: Provide national and international scientists and environmental officers with the serial property database access.

## **Output IV.3: Raising professional and technical skills**

- Activity IV.3.1\*\*/: Survey the current professional and technical capacity of the serial nomination staff and local inhabitants to identify the types and levels of training needed for the natural resources management in the long run. Suggested area for consideration includes: Heritage Convention mechanisms, study and management of biological and landscape diversity, forest management, water regimes in rivers and mires, education in the sphere of environment and traditional and progressive environmental friendly economic use, sustainable tourism management, computer's education;
- Activity IV.3.2\*\*\*/: Based on this survey, provide the appropriate professional and technical training to selected local inhabitants;
- Activity IV.3.3\*\*/\*\*/: Raise the level of expertise of the staff of the protected areas, forestry enterprises and others who are included into the Management Plan realization, namely: heads of research, forest observation, restoration of natural resources, monitoring, education, recreation, protection units and others;
- Activity IV.3.4\*\*/: increase the number and range of organisations involved in cross-border cooperation, including organisations not previously involved.

## **Output IV.4: Strengthening environmental awareness and knowledge base to incorporate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use objectives into development in the serial property and adjacent areas**

- Activity IV.4.1\*\*\*: Conduct regular meetings, seminars and workshops between the protected areas staff, representatives from interesting parties, NGOs and science teams for joint planning, co-ordinate and evaluate activities in the serial property and its buffer zones, as well as to enhance knowledge transfer;
- Activity IV.4.2\*\*\*: Use of databases from partner organizations, in particular of research and educational organizations in planning and developing decisions regarding biodiversity conservation and sustainable development of the serial property and its buffer zones.

**Output IV.5: Using legislative framework for the protection of the serial property and its buffers zones and a balanced use of the connecting corridors**

- Activity IV.5.1\*\*\*: Identify “gaps” in the present national legislations, and the Zakarpats’ka Oblast Parliament (Ukraine) and Presov Self-governing Region (Slovakia) acts whose existence could potentially allow for uncontrolled exploitation of natural resources in the buffer zones and connecting corridors (e.g. overgrazing, wood-cutting etc), violation of indigenous serial property rights, and habitat destruction (damaging of local people houses, quarrying, recreation overactivities, etc.); identify any contradictory regulations, overlaps of governments jurisdictions, gaps in treatment of issues and unrealistic enforcement of regulations;
- Activity IV.5.2\*\*\*: Propose revision of the present legislation to improve protection and management of the serial property and its buffer zones;
- Activity IV.5.3: Adjust the enforcement capacity to implement the above mentioned legislative and regulatory mechanisms.

**Objective V: to promote environmental education and awareness**

**Output V.1: Increase public awareness and organize conservation awareness campaigns**

- Activity V.1.1\*\*\*: Further develop communication skills of protected areas staff, who are responsible for education in the sphere of conservation, carry out ecological monitoring, develop methods for sustainable development and implement special protected measures in the Carpathian region;

- Activity V.1.2\*\*/\*\*: Organize meetings, seminars and workshops among environmental officers to exchange experience and expand activities, supervision of conservation of habitats of special interest, environmental monitoring and recreational measures involving local teachers, pupils and other social groups;
- Activity V.1.3\*\*: Implement special programs and campaigns for nature conservation and sustainable development awareness in the region;
- Activity V.1.4\*\*: Design and implement conservation awareness out-reach campaigns;
- Activity V.1.5\*\*\*: Organize public consultations on the issue connecting corridors management ; submit received comments and suggestions from the local authorities, NGOs, other institutions and inhabitants to the JMC for review and endorsement;
- Activity V.1.6\*\*: Support local communities' initiatives in culture, education and social spheres.

**Output V.2: Optimization of sustainable recreational and tourist activities in the adjacent region of the serial property.**

- Activity V.2.1\*\*: Develop co-operation between protected areas administrations with tourism and recreation establishments;
- Activity V.2.2\*\*\*: Determine optimal recreation regimes for different ecosystems of the serial property, buffer zones and connecting corridors, and implement special regimes for visitors in different seasons;
- Activity V.2.3\*\*: Support sustainable ecotourism activities and services in the broader region, develop visit-centres and educational paths within the framework of international cross-boundary schemes, such as the EU-funded INTERREG;
- Activity V.2.4\*\*\*: Determine special fees for recreational resources use and take into account the serial property rights of local inhabitants.
- Activity V.2.5\*\*\*: Sign agreements with local communities and protected areas administrations for co-operation.
- Activity V.2.6\*\*: Develop transboundary sustainable tourism in this serial property; improve area's attractiveness as a tourism and investment destination.

#### ***IV.2.2 Practical management mechanisms and measures framework***

Nominated properties management: Practical conservation management of the nominated series properties is realised by both the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve Administration and the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park Administration in the Ukraine, and by the organisational units of State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (Poloniny National Park, Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area). Results of their activities are quarterly reported to the JMC.

Management of the corridors connecting the nominated properties: The ecological corridors connecting those serial nomination properties, which are not yet connected by buffer zones or protected areas, **do exist de facto**. They coincide with the system of NATURA 2000 areas on the Slovak territory, National Ecological Network of Slovakia (Annex No. 4) and the proposed geographical directions of the ECONET of Ukraine, specifically with the elements of the Halitsko-Slobozhanski Eco-corridor that encompasses also sectors of virgin forests in the Carpathians. The practical management of the connecting corridors will alternatively consist of non-intervention, small-scale shelterwood and continuous forestry systems. According to Huston (1979), small to intermediate ecosystem perturbations do not interfere with the ecosystem integrity, but non-intervention is preferred wherever possible in the IMP.

The start-up situation for the establishment of the connecting corridors is favorable. Four clusters of Ukrainian part of nomination (Chornohora, Svydovets, Kuziy-Trybushany and Maramorosh) are situated on the distance of 1–5 km from one another. Forests under state protection are situated in between, reserved for the future extension of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve. Uhol'ka-Shyrokyi Luh is located on the distance of about 60 km from those mentioned above. It is also surrounded with natural forests. The territory of the National Nature Park “Synevi” is adjusted to this property on the northwest and the establishment of ecological corridors connecting it with the four aforementioned properties is planned. It is foreseen that in the nearest future some areas within the outlined ecological corridors will be given to the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve.

Stuzhytsia-Uzhok cluster is a constitutive part of the trilateral transboundary biosphere reserve “Eastern Carpathians” and is directly adjusted to the Stužica Reserve on the Slovak territory, which itself is an integral part of the Poloniny National Park, in which all but one nominated properties on the Slovak territory are embedded. It is the most distant of Ukrainian sites and it is naturally connected through continuous massifs of beech forests with the other Ukrainian sites. According to the Law of Ukraine “On establishing of the Ukrainian national ecological network” on territories connecting the sites new forest reserves will be established (See Map Annex No. 6). The first step has already been made – the Zhodymyr National Nature

Park with a rather vast territory has been established. On the Slovak territory, Vihorlat will be connected by a similar corridor to the cluster of three properties within the Poloniny National Park. That particular corridor will overlap with the Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area (approx. 300 ha of beech primeval forests). All these facts serve the basis for establishing an indivisible nature-territorial complex on the Ukrainian part and Slovak territories.

Given the current situation, the management of corridors management consists in:

- The placement of the buffer zone areas under the Ia conservation management regime to achieve the autoregulation of ecosystems
- The establishment of new forest reserves on territories connecting the sites (applies for natural forests that has not been managed yet)
- The application of specific measures within the designated corridors connecting the properties; these measures will include:
  - reclassification of concerned forests stands as protective forests subject to a low intensity management
  - extension of the rotation period from current 110 years to  $\geq 150$  years and the application small groups shelterwood system or its variations;
  - a gradual transition from shelterwood system to the selection system that features no rotation period but a continual regeneration period instead;
  - mimicking the natural forests patterns through the introduction of the continuous-cover forestry and its toolbox
- The entire abandonment of forestry operations and introduction of natural dynamics.

The best possible alternative for specific elements of connecting corridors will be determined by JMC, based on consultative proceedings including the stakeholders represented in the IMP Panel<sup>5</sup>; they will be embedded in the management programs of the respective

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<sup>5</sup> In the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage, the Panel will take over considerable responsibilities in the area of awareness rising, education, ecotourism, cultural aspects, territorial planning, development and establishment of the BEPFOC world natural heritage label and consequent lobbying for the benefit of the heritage and the network members. For this purpose, the network will establish dedicated working groups. As an example, the working group “sustainable transportation” will, in co-operation with the steering committee and the Centre for Scientific Tourism in Slovakia ([www.ecosystems.sk](http://www.ecosystems.sk)) investigate opportunities for the re-establishment of express trains connecting the cities of Snina (Slovakia) and Rachov (Ukraine) as gates to the BEPFOC world natural heritage. To give another example, the working group “Cultural aspects” will investigate the underlying connections between the natural and cultural heritage in the region and present it through documentaries or publications. They in turn may provide an additional incentive for ecotourism development. In case of a successful nomination and thus also the Panel creation, it will likely employ managerial staff equivalent to approximately 200 % personal capacity.

protected areas and through the territorial plans respecting the principles of the National ECONET of the Slovak Republic (finished and approved – Annex No. 4) and the ECONET of Ukraine (under preparation – Annex No. 7). In both cases, changes will be also reflected in the forest management plans elaborated and periodically renewed for the concerned areas beginning 2006 (see the Action plan).

The overall implementation of the above principles is guaranteed by the legal authority of organisations represented in the JMC and the ministries of environment or environmental protection of both Ukraine and Slovakia. In the limit cases and after a thorough analysis of viable alternatives, expropriation including a corresponding compensation and the implementation of proposed management will be proposed by the JMC, pursued and carried through by the national ministries represented in it (The Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine, The Ministry of Environment of The Slovak Republic).

The practical management also draws to a large extent on the experience of the JMC members and among them of the Association of the Carpathian National Parks and Reserves (ACANAP) in particular. Since its establishment in 1992 it has collected, exchanged and utilized information and knowledge of ecosystem research through workshops, conferences and symposiums with the purpose to help to solve conceptual problems of the nature protection, management and monitoring of Carpathian Mountains<sup>6</sup>.

## **V. Research and monitoring**

The research and monitoring of the serial nomination properties, the buffer zones and connecting ecological corridors will be coordinated by the Joint Management Committee.

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<sup>6</sup> The Proceedings from this International Scientific Conferences have been published :

- cc from the Conference „Topic Problems on Protection of Frontier National Parks“ held in Pieniny National Park, Slovakia, on July 1992
- from the Conference „Forest Protection in Protected Areas of Carpathians“ held in Bükk National Park, Hungary, on September 1993
- from the Conference „Research and Management of the Carpathian Natural and Primeval Forests“ held in Bieszczady National Park, Poland, on October 1994
- from the Conference „Methods of the Monitoring of Nature in Carpathian National Park and Reserves“ held in Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Rakhiv, Ukraine, on October 1995
- from the Conference „Rangers in Carpathian National Parks and Protected Areas“ held in Aggtelek National park, Hungary, on September 1996
- from the Conference „International Aspects of Study and Conservation of the Carpathians Biodiversity“ held in Rakhiv, Ukraine, on September 1997
- from the Conference „Issues of Sustainable Development in the Carpathian Region“ held in Rakhiv, Ukraine, on October 1998
- from the Conference „Mountains and People“ held in Rakhiv, Ukraine, on October 2002.

JMC will develop and maintain its own GIS-aided database containing all necessary layers pertaining to the world natural heritage status of the nominated properties. JMC and its activity in this field will lean on the existing and well proved research and monitoring activities performed by the scientific departments of the CBR, UNNP and the Poloniny National Park<sup>7</sup>. The results will be reported to the JMC in the form of published works and final reports. If a need arises, JMC can also initiate, through its scientific communication officers, a research on specific problems.

In Ukraine, approximately twenty scientists affiliated with the CBR and UNNP scientific departments, assisted by 11 technicians and equipment, available in zoological, botanical and phenological laboratories, GIS laboratory and the laboratory of forest and landscape research, will take part in the research and monitoring activities. In addition, officers of the State Forest Guard will continue conducting day-to-day field observation of botanic, zoological, climatic and other natural phenomena under supervision of the scientists. Results of these observations are registered in special cards, as well as in the data basis used for the Chronicles of Nature. Numerous scientific-research institutions also have valid agreements and contracts with administrations of CBR and UNNP and conduct their research and investigation here (Institute of botany, Institute of Zoology, Institute of Mountain Forestry, Ivano-Frankivsk, Uzhgorod National University and many others).

The scientific research and monitoring of the nominated series properties on the Slovak territory will continue to be carried out by the Faculty of Forestry (TU Zvolen), Faculty of Ecology and Environmental Sciences (TU Zvolen), Institute of Forest Ecology (Slovak Academy of Sciences, Zvolen) and the Faculty of Natural Sciences (Comenius University, Bratislava) for over 50 years. Currently, there are approximately 30 scientists engaged in this dedicated interdisciplinary primeval forests forest research whose results are regularly published.

New joint scientific projects aimed at the integrated ecological research of the serial nomination properties have been prepared and will be submitted after the opening of the 7<sup>th</sup> EU Framework program (see Annex 4)

The systematic monitoring of the nominated properties will be performed based on systematic scientific research, continual monitoring and risk assessment studies, carried out

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<sup>7</sup> There have been successful efforts to coordinate the research and monitoring methodology has been unified since the early works of Zlatník (1938) and the Korpel' (1995), Bublinec and Pichler (2001), Vološčuk (2003), Parpan (1994). It has been formulated in the proceedings from the ACANAP conferences „Research and Management of the Carpathian Natural and Primeval Forests“, held in Bieszczady National Park, Poland, in October 1994, and „Methods of the Monitoring of Nature in Carpathian National Park and Reserves“ held in Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Rakhiv, Ukraine, in October 1995.

by the CBR, UNNP and Poloniny National Park. Its results will be reported to and evaluated by the JMC, which will also assess the potential threats to the serial nomination as a whole. If necessary, JMC shall take action through the competent institutions represented in it and in co-operation with the IMP Panel. The on-site monitoring will consist in regular inspections of the sites by professional rangers. Currently, approximately 200 forestry officers are in charge of protection of the massifs on the Ukrainian territory. Forest beaters perform twenty-four-hour patrolling of the territory. Forestry beat points are situated on the edges beyond each of the clusters. Twice a year the authorities of the CBR and UNNP realize an inspection of their territory and use the necessary preventive measures. The State Forest Guard Service closely co-operates with the Police and other closer services. On the Slovak territory, regular inspections are carried out twice a month or more often if necessary by four Poloniny National Park rangers and twenty voluntary nature protection guards, whose competences are defined by the Act and Guards of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic according to § 72 of the Act No. 543/2003 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection. The guards are entitled to monitor, prevent and avoid illegal cuttings, illegal picking up of berries, poaching, bird criminality, nest robbery, illegal collection of animals and trespasses against the law related to the mass tourism.

## **VI. Management principles**

It is clear from the previous chapters that the integrated management plan is based on the combination of both the top-down, government-driven and bottom-up, local population-driven approach. The top-down approach with the JMC as its main channel focuses on the conservation issues and the maintenance of the nominated series overall integrity, as this basic principle shall not be compromised by any further deliberations.

However, the foreseen participation of selected big players, such as the State Forests of the Slovak Republic, state owned company, and others in the JMC sessions does not constitute the participatory principle to the desired degree. That's why JMC has the ambition to strengthen that principle by the initiation of bottom-up activities through a broad participation of stakeholders, organised in the IMP Panel. IMP Panel shall focus on benefiting the local population through activities that at the same time comply with the promotion of the BEPFOC (BEech Primeval FOrests of the Carpatians) and IMP objectives, mainly in the areas of forestry, ecotourism, BEPFOC label development and marketing, consequent lobbying etc.

So, the integrated management plan principles can be summarized in the following manner:

- uncompromised application of the conservation management based on scientific knowledge and monitoring through the available legal framework, enacted through the government-driven top-down approach;
- implementation of the broad participatory principle through the bottom-up approach aimed at voicing the stakeholders' interests and thereof translation into concrete results benefiting the local population, mostly in terms of ecotourism development, public relations and marketing and their spin-off effects;
- combined top-down and the bottom-up approach to enhance the BEPFOC integrity and value through the formal establishment of corridors connecting the nominated properties and their embedding into the regional territorial plans, where such formally acknowledged corridors do not yet exist.

## **VII. Promotion and educational activities**

During the 1<sup>st</sup> phase, JMC encourages promotional and educational activities related to BEPFOC through the respective departments of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, UNNP and Poloniny National Park. It provides them with the expertise reaching beyond the standard provision of information and educational activities such as the own internet sites of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Poloniny National Park (available at <http://cbr.nature.org.ua/main.htm>, [www.sopsr.sk](http://www.sopsr.sk)). JMC has already co-operated on setting-up a comprehensive and interactive internet site [www.virginforests.sk](http://www.virginforests.sk) dedicated to the research of temperate primeval forests. Currently it is preparing an interactive internet site containing dynamic animations of the primeval forests patterns and dynamics based on the format developed by the Centre for Scientific Tourism in Slovakia (CSTS, available at [www.poznajachran.sk](http://www.poznajachran.sk)). It also heavily leans on the use of modern technology in setting up pocket-PC and GPS-aided educational trails, whose concept and technical solutions were developed by CSTS (available at [www.poznajachran.sk/mojchodnik](http://www.poznajachran.sk/mojchodnik)). Further activities include video production, publishing and communication with the media outlets. JMC committee has initiated the elaboration of several diploma thesis by university students on the most effective communication of IMP objectives to various categories, such as children, pupils, students, parents and others. It has also begun a campaign called “Green Diplomacy” intended to raise the BEPFOC awareness among both national and international opinion leaders and decision makers. As a significant achievement in terms of PR, a visit of HRH The Prince of Wales to some of the nominated properties has highlighted their value among the

local and partly also international population through the intense media coverage (Pichler, Soroková 2005).

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase, the IMP Panel will participate strongly in the PR and educational activities on both national and international levels. Currently, works continue on a movie dealing with the underlying connection between the primeval forests and the architectural developments during the Middel Ages that will be offered to international TV-channels.

### **VIII. Mechanisms of Ukraine-Slovakia co-operation to implement the Management Plan**

The principal mechanism of the cooperation between Ukraine und the Slovak Republic in the management of the bilateral serial nomination will consist in the Action Plan and other working activities of the Joint Management Committee, including regular meetings and consultations, permanent E-mail contact among the JMC members, participation of the JMC members in the cross-border co-operation for socio-economic development 'Carpathian Euroregion', scientific cooperation, development and maintenance of serial nomination web page with database covering the property, annual plans and reports; joint working groups, development of special joint action plans, preparation of joint projects and programs, renewing of management plan. If a need arises, JMC can, according to its Statutes (under preparation, see Annex 2), bring outstanding issues to the attention of the Minister of Environmental Protection of Ukraine and the Minister of Environment of the Slovak Republic.

### **IX. Funding of the Joint Management Committee and the Integrated Management Plan**

The main financial resources for the functioning of the Joint Management Committee are the state budgets of Ukraine and the Slovak Republic. Both countries will yearly allocate 25 thousand EUR,- for covering the JMC activities. Additional resources for the implementation of the IMP, going beyond the normal tasks of organisations represented in the JMC, will also be allocated, according to state and regional budgets procedures, on a yearly basis and based on the Action Plan and the Plan of Main Tasks elaborated by the JMC as implied in the JMC Statutes. The estimated start-up allocation for 2007 will be 25 thousand EUR,- provided by the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine and the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic. If need arises, JMC can request special budgetary measures, e. g. for expropriation and corresponding compensation of ownership rights.

Besides state and regional budgets, JMC and IMP Panel working groups will prepare and submit projects for various schemes, in particular those supposed to promote international co-

operation, such as the EU-funded INTERREG (see Annex 3), LIFE and other schemes. These projects will aim at the elaboration of feasibility studies, management plans, reconstruction of habitats, ecotourism development and other activities.

Funds for scientific research will be aggregated from dedicated scientific projects, such as PRIMEFOR (see Annex 4), projects funded by Research and Development Agency of the Slovak Republic and Scientific and Grant Agency of the Slovak Republic.

**List of the members of the Joint Management Committee  
for the Integrated Management of the for the properties of the serial nomination  
“Beech Primeval Forests of the Carpathians”**

- 1) Mykola Stetsenko, First Deputy Head of the State Agency for Protected Areas of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine, co-chairman of the committee.
- 2) Dr. Jozef Kramárik, head of the Nature and Landscape Protection Section of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, co-chairman of the committee
- 3) Prof. Fedir Hamor, Director of Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (Ukraine), deputy chairman of the committee
- 4) Peter Repka, MSc., Director of Poloniny National Park (Slovakia), deputy chairman of the committee
- 5) Ambassador Tetiana Izhevskaja, deputy head of the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO
- 6) Prof. Dr. Vasyl' Parpan, director of the Institute of Mountain Forestry Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine
- 7) Prof. Dr. Ivan Vološčuk, deputy head of the Slovak National Committee for the UNESCO Programme MAB, Slovakia
- 8) Assoc. Prof. Dr. Viliam Pichler, Faculty of Forestry of the Technical University Zvolen, Slovakia
- 9) Mr. Mykola Andrus, head of the Deputies Council of Zakarpatska Oblast, Ukraine
- 10) Mr. Pavol Vočko, head of the Regional Environmental Protection Authority, Prešov, Slovakia
- 11) Mr. Jurij Smereka, deputy director of the State Department of Ecological Resources in Zakarpatska Oblast, of the Ministry of the Environmental Protection of Ukraine
- 12) Mr. Peter Chudík, head of the Prešov Self-governing Region, Slovakia

**Action plan for the implementation  
of the Integrated Management Plan for the properties of the serial nomination  
“Beech Primeval Forests of the Carpathians”**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible body</b>	<b>Time of implementation</b>	<b>Expected outcome</b>
1	To establish the Joint Management Committee with the Ukrainian and Slovakia representation	Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine, Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic	August 9–10, 2005, Ukraine	List of members of the Joint Management Committee from Ukraine and Slovakia approved
2	Elaborate the Statutes of the Joint Management Committee	Joint Management Committee, Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine, Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic	June 2006, Slovakia	Statutes of the Joint Management Committee approved
3	To elaborate and adopt Integrated Management Plan for the Serial Transboundary Natural Property “Beech Primeval Forests of the Carpathians”	Joint Management Committee	January 9–11, 2006, Ukraine	Integrated Management Plan adopted
4	To organize meetings of the Joint Steering Committee in Ukraine and Slovakia	Administration of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, State Nature Conservancy	June 2006, Slovakia	Action plan for implementation in 2005–06 of the Management Plan adopted
5	To complete nomination on the Serial Transboundary Natural Property “Beech Primeval Forests of the Carpathians”	Joint Management Committee	January 20, 2006, Slovakia	Nomination dossier completed
6	To area-designate the ecological connecting corridors on forest stands level	Joint Management Committee	September 2007	List of forests stands constituting the ecological corridors assembled
7	Determine management modes for connecting	Joint Management Committee	December 2007	Management regimes for

	ecological corridors on forest stands level			connecting ecological corridors on forest stands level approved
8	To begin the implementation of non-intervention or close-to-nature forestry management approaches in the connecting ecological corridors through the renewal of 10-year forest management plans	Joint Management Committee, Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine, Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic	2006–2015	Forest management plans stipulating non-intervention or close-to-nature forestry enacted
9	Continue the currently running and initiate new multilateral projects aimed at the elaboration of action plans for biodiversity conservation in the nominated properties, buffer zones and connecting corridors	State Agency for Protected Areas (Ukraine), State Nature Conservancy (Slovakia)	2006–	Action plans for conservation in the property of globally threatened species of flora and fauna
10	Feasibility study of opportunities for sustainable use of resources, including international ecotourism	State Agency for Protected Areas (Ukraine), State Nature Conservancy (Slovakia)	2006–2007	Recommendations and best practices as a basis for updating the plans of regional development and management plans
11	To prepare annual joint report on the action plan implementation	Joint Management Committee	Annually, beginning 2006	Annual report
12	To update action plan as of 2007	Joint Management Committee	January 2007	Action plan updated

– D R A F T –

# **Memorandum of Understanding concerning the Cooperation on the Protection of their Natural Beech Forests as an Object of Outstanding Universal Value**

**Between**

**the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine,  
the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic and  
the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear  
Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany  
(hereinafter referred to as the “Participants”)**

The Participants

consider the outstanding importance of natural beech forests as a key element of forest ecosystems of Europe;

are aware that the centre of the area of beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) is located in Germany, with its eastern border of the areal distribution in Ukraine and the Slovak Republic;

acknowledge the importance of the protection of the integrity of the natural beech forest areas of the Participants;

note the significant role of natural beech forests in supporting biodiversity and mitigating effects of climate change;

recall the objectives of

- the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972),
- the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992),
- the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (2003),
- the Agreement between the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine on Cooperation in Environmental Protection (1994),

- the Agreement between the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Government of the Slovak Republic on Cooperation in Environmental Protection (1997), and
- the Agreement between the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Government of Ukraine on Cooperation in Environmental Protection (1993);

recall the results of the first Trilateral Meeting on “Beech Forest Nomination for the UNESCO World Heritage List” on 7 to 8 May 2007 at the isle of Vilm in Germany, and the second Trilateral Meeting “Beech Forests as World Natural Heritage” on 28 November 2008 to 1 December 2008 at the isle of Vilm in Germany;

recognise the willingness to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as a basis for the trilateral cooperation on the protection of the natural beech forests in the three countries as an object of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV); and

note the support by Ukraine and the Slovak Republic for the proposed extension of the inscribed serial transnational World Heritage property “Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians” by additional component parts of German beech forests based on a shared understanding of a joint World Heritage property.

## **1. AIM OF THE COOPERATION**

The Participants express their intention of mutual support and cooperation concerning the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the natural heritage of beech forests.

## **2. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

- 2.1. The Participants share the view that a permanent trilateral working group on “Beech Forests of Outstanding Universal Value” should be set up to establish the cooperation for the purpose of and in accordance with this MoU.
- 2.2. Possible tasks of the trilateral working group include
  - to promote, steer and manage the implementation of this MoU,
  - to jointly establish and to further develop a programme of work and to oversee its implementation.

- 2.3. The Participants share the view that the permanent trilateral working group may establish by mutual consent further specific task groups to address, inter alia, topics of the different areas of cooperation as specified in section 3.
- 2.4. The permanent participants in the trilateral working group should be the representatives of the Ministries for Environment and/or Nature Conservation on national level, and in Germany on *Länder* level, and representatives of the relevant protected areas. By mutual consent of the Participants, experts and representatives of other institutions/ organisations may be invited to meetings.
- 2.5. Meetings:
  - Meeting frequency: One regular meeting per year (and additional extraordinary meetings if required and by prior consent of all Participants).
  - Meeting venue: Alternating in one of the three Participants.
  - Chair: Participant hosting the meeting.
  - Language: Meetings should be held in English unless consented otherwise.

### **3. AREAS OF COOPERATION**

The Participants intend to cooperate, inter alia, on the following topics:

- 3.1. the development and implementation of common principles and objectives based on the defined outstanding Universal Value,
- 3.2. a joint management approach (including legal issues),
- 3.3. a joint monitoring concept and implementation,
- 3.4. research concepts, programmes and projects (including inventories, research on natural forest ecosystems, anthropogenic impact assessments, response to climate change, etc.),
- 3.5. training and capacity building (including training institutions, exchange among specialists),
- 3.6. securing adequate resources and funding,
- 3.7. communication, education and public awareness,
- 3.8. sustainable tourism,
- 3.9. sustainable development in the wider context.

#### **4. DURATION**

The Participants share the view that the cooperation under this Memorandum of Understanding should start when it is signed by the respective representative of each Participant. The Participants intend to cooperate on the basis of this Memorandum of Understanding for a period of 10 years with the possibility of prolongation if the Participants express their intent to do so.

For the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine	For the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic	For the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany
Signature	Signature	Signature