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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD  
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

CONVENTION CONCERNANT LA PROTECTION DU PATRIMOINE  
MONDIAL, CULTUREL ET NATUREL

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE / COMITE DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL

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**Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and/or on the List of World Heritage in Danger**

**Point 7 de l'Ordre du jour provisoire: Etat de conservation de biens inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial et/ou sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial en péril**

MISSION REPORT / RAPPORT DE MISSION

Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany  
(Germany, Slovakia, Ukraine) (1133bis)  
Forêts primaires de hêtres des Carpates et forêts anciennes de hêtres d'Allemagne  
(Allemagne, Slovaquie, Ukraine) (1133bis)

29 September – 3 October 2014

This mission report should be read in conjunction with Document:  
Ce rapport de mission doit être lu conjointement avec le document suivant:  
WHC-15/39.COM/ 7B.Add

# UNESCO World Heritage Centre – IUCN

## MISSION REPORT

### *Reactive Monitoring Mission*

***Slovak component sites of the World Heritage property Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (Ukraine, Germany, Slovakia)***

**Slovakia, 29 September – 3 October 2014**



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UNESCO / IUCN**

**October 2014**

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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The mission was organized by the Ministry of Environment, Division of Nature Protection and Landscape Development, and the State Nature Conservancy. Different meetings were organized in Bratislava with high level representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development, Ministry of Defence, the Ambassador to UNESCO and the Secretary of the National Commission for UNESCO. In Snina two meetings were organized with the local stakeholders, namely the state and private forest enterprises, as well as representatives from the local authorities and NGOs. Two excursions in the Poloniny National Park allowed to see three of the components; unfortunately the limited time did not allow to visit the Vihorlat Protected Landscape. Different points of view were presented and the meetings allowing to clarify numerous points. The mission expert would like to thank the State Nature Conservancy for the organization of the mission and the numerous people met at the meetings and in the field for their cooperation and their detailed explanations. Despite the limited time allocated for the mission and the widespread distribution of the components, it was possible to have a comprehensive overview of the Slovak components of the property and their state of conservation, to address the key current management issues and to identify the opportunities offered by the region for sustainable development.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

At its 38th session (Doha, 2014) the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party of Slovakia to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the component sites of the property in Slovakia and in particular Poloniny National Park, to assess the threats to the property, in particular issues related to its integrity and management and the implementation of the specific recommendations of Decision 37 COM 7B.26. The mission took place from 29 September to 3 October 2014, and held discussions in Bratislava with the Ministries of Environment, Defense, Agriculture and Rural Development, and the Ambassador to UNESCO. In the Poloniny area meetings and field visits were organized with representatives from local authorities, forest enterprises and NGOs.

From its short visit, the mission concluded that the values of the property as it was inscribed (criterion ix - beech forest biological processes) have been relatively well maintained. However, the areas of the truly primeval forest, with one exception, are probably too small to guarantee the long term conservation of the OUV without an effective management of the property and designation of functional buffer zones. The increasing pressure on the surrounding areas is a significant threat to the integrity of the property; it must be noted that the management is exactly the same whether an area has been formally designated as buffer zone or not. Some of the components, though they might not have been significantly modified since the inscription, never corresponded to the site description "Primeval Beech Forests".

Activities like hunting, intensive forest exploitation, etc. which occur on the large majority of the protected areas' territory do not guarantee the natural functioning of the ecosystems and severely affect the visual aspect of the region.

Finally the lack of acceptance of the different protection statuses (World Heritage, European Diploma, National Park) by the local population, largely due to insufficient communication, is not very encouraging in view of implementing an effective conservation of the property's values.

Very little has been undertaken in terms of follow-up to the Committee's decisions. There is still no conservation orientated integrated management plan. A new act on protected areas has brought some clarity in the protection regimes; however the currently applied protection regimes are not likely to fully guarantee the conservation of the property's values.

The Slovak part of the property is facing some serious conservation issues, most of them directly related to ambiguities and misunderstandings going back to the nomination in 2007. In summary the OUV as presented at the time of nomination is still present, though covering very limited surfaces; the potential for its conservation exists, provided that adequate management is implemented, in and around the property. However, the current area designation and the institutional problems do not offer the framework conditions for suitable management, and hence for the long-term conservation of the OUV, its integrity and the associated values.

Important communication effort is urgently needed in order to effectively integrate all local actors in the preparation of an Integrated Management Plan focused on conservation, as well as subordinated sectorial development plans (forest exploitation, sustainable use of water resources, agriculture, sustainable tourism, etc.).

In order to ensure long-term conservation of the Slovak components of the property and to resolve the boundary issues, the mission recommends the State Party of Slovakia to consider a significant modification of boundaries for its components to ensure that the site includes the areas of most significant conservation value related to Ancient/Primeval Beech Forests. It is important that this process be closely coordinated with other countries in the region, including Poland, which are currently preparing a significant extension to the property for 2016/2017.

The below recommendations are made in relation to actions of the State Party of Slovakia, and will also need to be integrated and communicated to the other two States Parties (Germany, Ukraine) who share responsibility for this transnational serial property.

The mission recommends that the State Party:

R1: In consultation with the States Parties of Germany and Ukraine who share responsibility for this serial transnational property, undertake a thorough scientific assessment of the conservation value of the Slovak components of the inscribed property and their buffer zones; and proceed with a proposal for a significant boundary modification in order to strengthen Outstanding Universal Value in line with the relevant provisions of the *Operational Guidelines* and consistent with the design of the whole transnational property. The proposal should take into account the property and user rights, and should include recalculated surfaces on the basis of accurate GIS maps;

R2: In consultation with the States Parties of Germany and Ukraine and consistent with the management provisions for the entire property, prepare an Integrated Management Plan for the Slovak components of the property, focused on nature conservation and taking into account all international designations, such as World Heritage Property, Biosphere Reserve and European Diploma. This Plan should as one specific objective, ensure that all current and future commercial activities in and around the WH property are regulated/adapted in order to be fully compatible with the conservation objectives of these areas, and the protection of OUV;

R3: Establish an effective institutional dialogue at national level among all the concerned Ministries, in particular the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in order to ensure that national priority tasks and commercial activities are fully compatible with the conservation objectives of the property;

R4: Start a comprehensive information and outreach campaign at national and local levels focused on communicating the World Heritage status of the area, and fully integrate the local actors in all steps of the management and boundary modification process;

R5: Undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment on the planned and potential sustainable development of the region surrounding the World Heritage property, in order to define how added value may be secured from the World Heritage and other international designations, and to explore alternative sources of income and benefits for local people;

R6: Establish a joint national scientific advisory committee in Slovakia for the World Heritage property, the whole Poloniny National Park (European Diploma) and the Slovak part of the East Carpathian Biosphere Reserve.

## **1 BACKGROUND TO THE MISSION**

The Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany is a serial property comprising fifteen components. 29,278 hectares of Slovak and Ukrainian primeval beech forests were inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2007. The extension of the property in 2011 added five components in Germany totaling 4,391 hectares.

At its 37th session (2013), the World Heritage Committee expressed its concern about the level of threats which might be affecting the Outstanding Universal Value and integrity of the property, notably in Slovakia, and about the lack of adequate management response to address those pressures. At its 38th session (Doha, 2014), the World Heritage Committee regretted that the State Party of Slovakia did not provide any information on the concerns raised in Decision 37 COM 7B.26 and reiterated its concern about the integrity and management of the component sites in Slovakia, and particularly about Poloniny National Park (PNP).

The Committee requested the State Party of Slovakia to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the component sites of the property in Slovakia and in particular Poloniny National Park, to assess the threats to the property, in particular issues related to its integrity and management and the implementation of the specific recommendations of Decision 37 COM 7B.26.

In accordance with these decisions, the primary objective of the mission was to review the state of conservation of all Slovak component sites of the property as well as to assess the status of all development projects within the Slovak component sites of the property and its surroundings, including the reported unsustainable logging activities, to meet with all relevant stakeholders, including NGOs, and to evaluate the possible impacts of the developments on the OUV of the property. Consistent with the Operational Guidelines (paragraph 173), the mission also considered other issues relevant to the state of conservation of the property.

The mission had discussions in Bratislava with the Ministries of Environment, Defense, Agriculture and Rural Development, and the Ambassador to UNESCO. In the Poloniny area meetings and field visits were organized with representatives from local authorities, forest enterprises and NGOs.

The terms of reference of the mission and the agenda with the full list of people met can be found in Annexes 2 and 3.

## **2 NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY**

### **2.1. Protected area/national legislation**

The protected area legislation in Slovakia adopted in 2002 foresees five levels of protection: from Strict nature reserves (5th level) to protected landscapes (2nd level) and settlements (1st level). The Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection has been amended several times in recent years. Important updating of the Act was adopted in 2013, and has been in effect since 1st January 2014. Another minor update was adopted in summer 2014 and it has been in effect since 1st September 2014.

The different components of the property in Slovakia have various protection statuses. The most valuable elements (the truly primeval beech forests) are under the 5th level of protection; the forested part of the Poloniny National Park (PNP) is at the 3rd level, while the agriculture part ("cultural landscape") is at the 2nd level. However not all forests within strict nature reserves are primeval; some have been exploited for long periods and have been only recently (30-40 years) protected.

The rationale behind the boundaries of the Vihorlat component is not very clear, and only a small part of it is strictly protected. The rest and the buffer zone are included in a protected Landscape (2nd level of protection). There is a significant overlap with the Military exercise zone according to a confidential map provided after the mission; the consequences on the protection need to be further analysed.

*Important note:* the WH property boundaries as presented in the nomination maps do only very partially correspond to the limits of the strict nature reserves; some parts of the reserves are not included, while "corridors" were artificially created to join strictly protected elements, and thus reduce the number of components. As a consequence the level of protection - and subsequently the management practices - are not consistent within the designated property. It is estimated that 5 - 10 % of the property itself ("core zone") can be considered as primeval, but precise mapping and calculation need to be completed. The situation of the buffer zone is even more complicated and does not correspond to any special protection regime; moreover it has a very complicated shape whose rationale is difficult to follow.

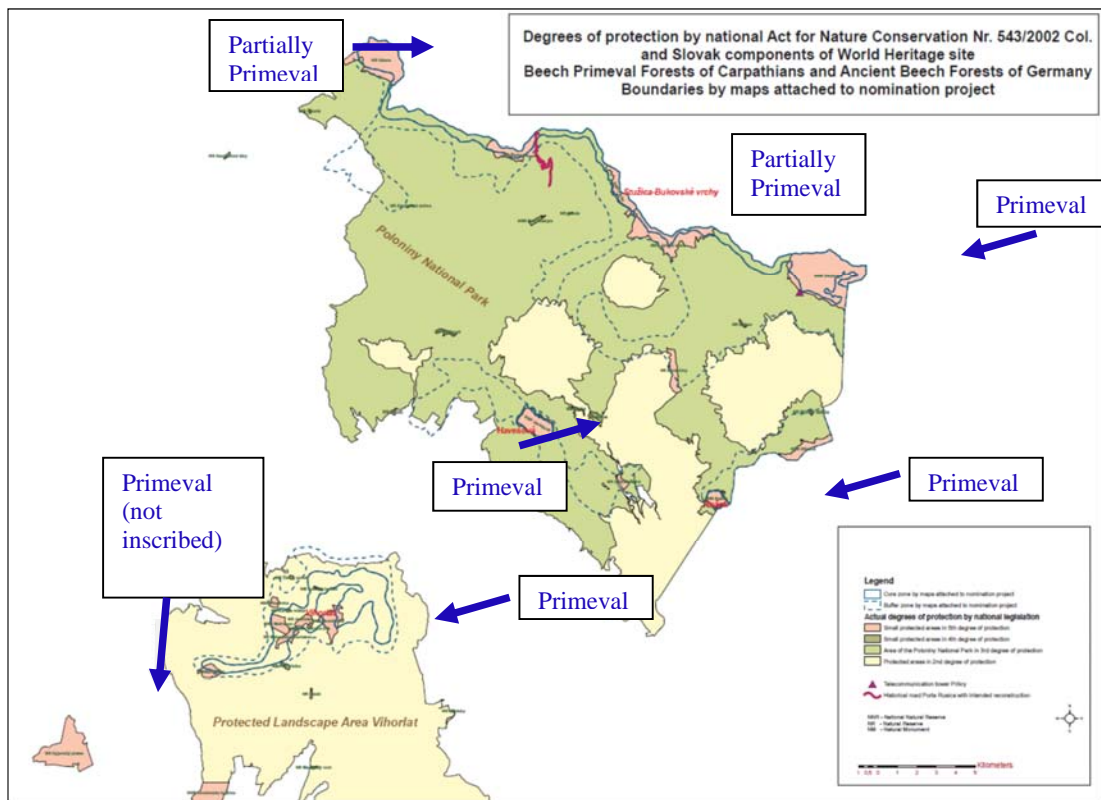


Figure 1.  
 Solid blue line: Limits of the property (nomination dossier)  
 Dotted blue line: Buffer zone  
 Pink: protected areas - 5th degree of protection  
 Green: Poloniny NP - 3rd degree of protection  
 Yellow: Agriculture zone and settlements of Poloniny NP; Vihorlat Protected Landscape  
 Pink line: historical road - border crossing to Poland



Finally it seems that other "primeval" forests, better protected, exist outside of the 2 protected territories (Vihorlat Landscape Protection and Poloniny NP); they could be considered as potential additions to the property in case of re-nomination (see below).

## 2.2. Institutional framework

The protection and the management of the property come under the Ministry of Environment, respectively the Division of Nature Protection and Landscape Development and the State Nature Conservancy. However the forest management falls completely under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development; several forest enterprises (state - including a military forest enterprise - and private ones) cover the whole territory of the Poloniny NP and Vihorlat PL. The "Forest Management Plans" hardly take into account the existence of the different levels of protection. The plans are submitted to the MoE, but their remarks and requests are rarely taken into consideration.

## 2.3. Management structure

The following information was provided by the State Conservancy after the mission:

### Regional (international) level:

*A **Joint Management Committee** (trilateral Slovak-German-Ukrainian) was established in 2012. One regular meeting is organized per year (first meeting 14-15 November 2012 in Bratislava, Slovakia; second meeting 21 September 2013 in Rakhiv, Ukraine; third meeting 14 May 2014 in Bonn, Germany). Additional extraordinary meetings can be organized if required (on consent of all partners).*

*A **Joint Declaration of Intent** was signed on May 14th, 2014, between the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic concerning the Cooperation on the Protection and Management of the Joint World Heritage property "Primeval Beech forests of the Carpathians (Slovak Republic and Ukraine) and the Ancient Beech forests of Germany (Germany)" - document in Annex 4*

***Aim of cooperation:** mutual support and cooperation concerning the protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the Joint World Heritage property "Primeval Beech forests of the Carpathians (Slovak Republic and Ukraine) and the Ancient Beech forests of Germany (Germany)"*

***Composition:** The permanent participants in the Joint Management Committee should be the representatives of the Ministries for Environment and/or Nature Conservation on national level, and in Germany on federal state level (Bundesländer), and/or representatives of the relevant protected areas and/or experts. By mutual consent of the Participants of the Joint Declaration of Intent, representatives of other institutions/organisations may be invited to the meetings.*

*In reality representatives of the Ministry of Environment SR and the State Conservancy SR took part in first and third meetings; the same and representatives of the Poloniny NP and Vihorlat PLA took part in second meeting.*

National level (Slovakia):

*A Joint Management Committee was established in 2013 by the Ministry of Environment SR. Frequency of meetings: minimally two meetings per year. Two meetings organized till now (first 27 September 2013, second 19 December 2013)*

*Aim of cooperation:*

- *one Management Committee for two international obligations: World Heritage Property and European diploma of Protected Areas*
- *implementation of international obligations arisen from two international Conventions - Bern Convention (European diploma of Protected Areas) and World Heritage Convention)*
- *improvement of the management effectiveness*
- *determination of a common vision of protection and development of the area*

*Composition: wide range of participants: ministries - Ministry of Environment SR, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of defence SR, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs SR, Ministry of Interior SR, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development SR, Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development SR and their selected professional organizations, Kosice Self-governing Region, Presov Self-governing Region, District Authorities in the field of nature protection and forestry, Technical University in Zvolen, Matej Bel University, Slovak Academy of Sciences, members of Parliament (Committee of Agriculture and Nature Protection)*

*Number of participants on meetings and their specific composition depend on discussed problems and topics of single meetings.*

There is currently no formal scientific committee.

The East Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (UKR, SK, PL) (see below) has a global action plan and a coordination committee with five representatives from each of the three countries. The main topics are borders matters and scientific research. A scientific seminar is organized every year. One example is the definition of primeval forests - criteria still need to be harmonized.

#### 2.4. International designations

Three of the Slovak components are included in the Poloniny NP, which holds the European Diploma of Protected Areas (Council of Europe); however the Diploma might be suspended due to management weaknesses, unless a rapid response is provided by the State Party, following an extraordinary monitoring mission in 2012. In addition, the whole PNP is included in a Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (East Carpathian BR, SK / UKR / PL). It appears that the BR main activities are focused on scientific research. On Slovak territory the BR external boundaries correspond to those of the Poloniny NP. The core area and the buffer zones are similar to those of the WH property - which partially explains the somewhat bizarre shape of some of the buffer zones of the component sites.

### 3 IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF ISSUES / THREATS

The Slovak part of the property, despite numerous weaknesses in its design and management, still hosts highly valuable "primeval" forests which are not really threatened, although these are limited to relatively small areas. However, due to their small size and absence of a real buffer zone with management practices compatible with a status of National Park, they do not guarantee a level of protection sufficient for preservation of the Outstanding Universal Value and conditions of integrity.

- Name of the property

The name "Primeval Beech Forests" is misleading, since only a very minor part of the property's components are primeval forest; the rest is composed of similar beech forests which had previously been exploited. The inclusion in the "core zone" of forest exploited in a recent past and now strictly protected is certainly interesting from the scientific point of view for comparison with truly primeval stands, providing that strict protection is applied and a comprehensive monitoring programme is implemented. However the primeval forests should constitute the majority of the designated property (currently probably less than 10 %).

Note: an extension of the property to include areas in several more countries is planned for 2016/17; this would be a good opportunity to revise the name of the property.

- Boundary issues

Significant discrepancies between the maps and the tables provided in the nomination file have been recently highlighted by the WH Centre. This is a very serious issue, since differences up to 50 % in the surface of some components (plus or minus) have been identified. Discussions are underway to consider if the rectification would be a minor or significant modification (depending if the total areas of the property or only the Slovak part is considered).

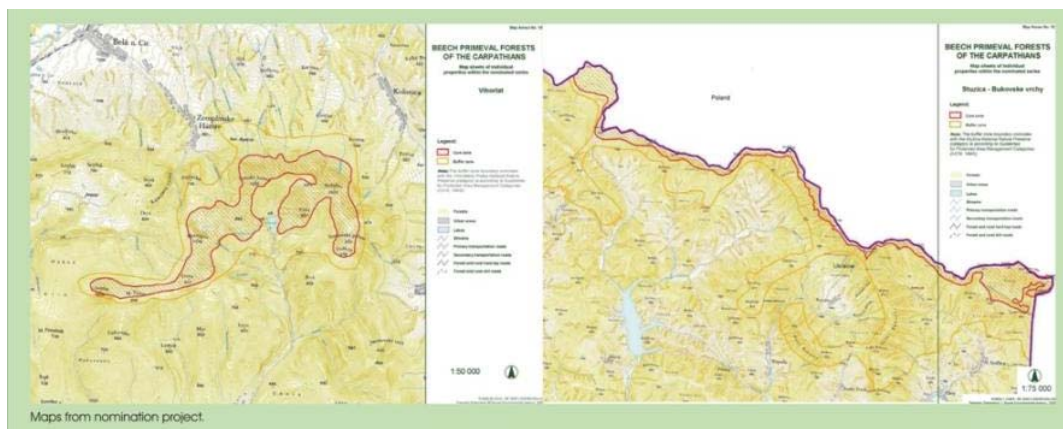


Figure 2.  
Vihorlat component (left) and Stuzica - Bukovske vrchy component (right) according to the nomination dossier  
Brown line: boundary of the property  
Yellow line: buffer zone  
(Document provided by WOLF - NGO)

The boundaries of the property do not follow the limits of the protected areas and their zoning; they do not follow either the limits of land ownership and forest management divisions. In consequence it would be almost impossible to develop a management plan in the current situation. The boundary of the Vihorlat component is very complicated and its rationale not easily understood.

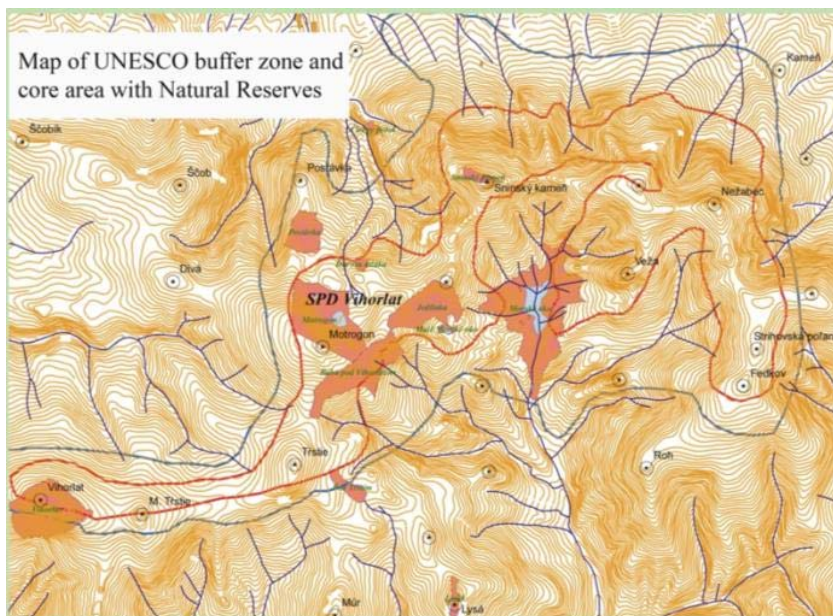


Figure 3.  
Vihorlat component; Red line: WH property ("core zone"); Blue line: Buffer zone  
Pink: Nature reserves

Moreover forest exploitation is planned even within the property (cf. doc below) and intensive forest exploitation (clear cuts) has been observed within the Protected Landscape territory, and maybe even within the WH property, over the last 10 years (see Annex 5). However it is difficult to be really sure because of the discrepancies in the maps mentioned above.

The boundaries of the buffer zones are even more difficult to understand. In some cases, e.g. Havesova component, there is no buffer zone on the N and S sides of the property ("core zone"), but very long and "twisted" corridors have been designated on eastern and western sides.

Finally there are well preserved "primeval" forests outside of the considered perimeter which might be worth being included in the property, as additional components (cf. Figure 1).

- Management effectiveness

There is no integrated management plan for all Slovak components of the property. The main management instruments are the forest management plans which hardly consider the boundaries of the property, and do not make any difference between the forest inside or outside of the buffer zones. There is no real difference in terms of management whether the forests areas are within or outside the National Park.

According to the Management Documents in the nomination dossier, the protection regime should correspond to the IUCN cat 1a.

*"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 the management regime of IUCN classification." (Integrated Management Plan)*

This is only the case for limited portions of the property. In some cases commercial forest exploitation is planned within the property. In Vihorlat comparative aerial photographs show a dramatic increase of clear cuts in or just around the property during the last 10 years (Annex 5).

The forest management plans are renewed every 10 years, but not all simultaneously. They are prepared under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development; they are submitted to the Ministry of Environment, but the mission was informed that comments from the latter are rarely taken into consideration.

Some examples extracted from the forest management plans were provided to the mission by the NGO WOLF; they show clearly the planned forest exploitation within the property itself ("core area"):

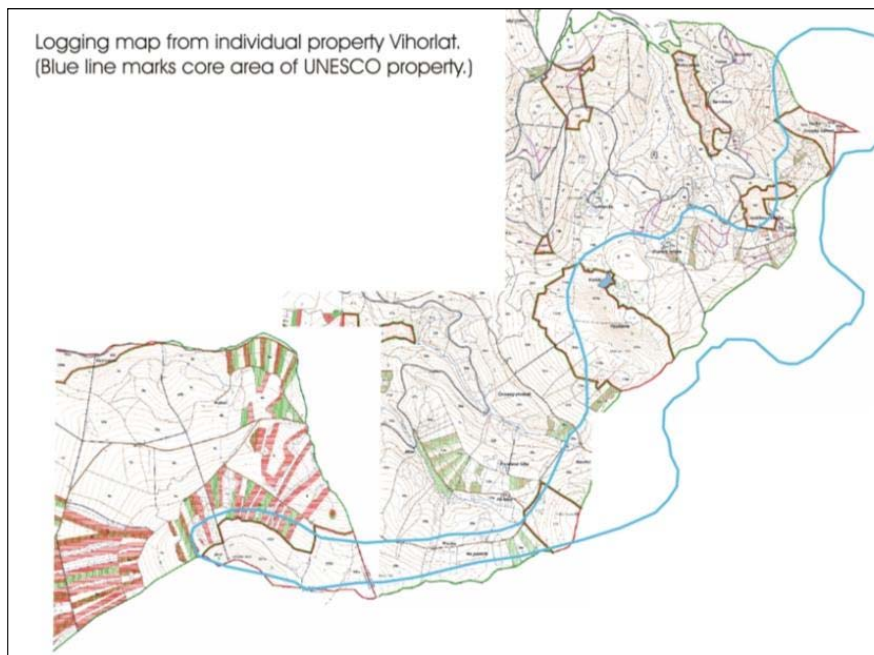


Figure 4.



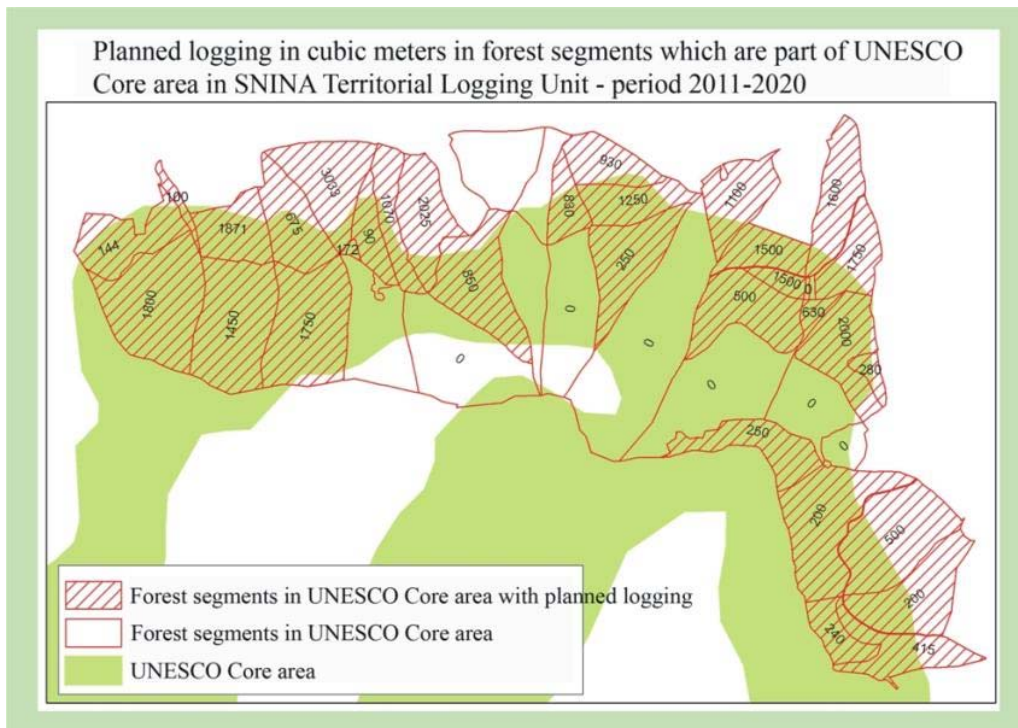


Figure 5.

A management plan for the property is urgently needed; the forest management plans should be subordinate to the WH property MP.

The management plan should establish clearly the management responsibilities of the different ministries. Coordination at the highest national level should be established in order to ensure coherent management in and around the property.

- Nature and extent of threats to the property

The property is inscribed under criterion (ix). The direct threats on the natural development of the Beech forest ecosystems are limited; however the small size of the components (with one exception) as well as the management in the zones around the property and in the corridor linking some of the elements do not fully guarantee the integrity of the ecosystems. Moreover the visual impact of the intensive forest exploitation around the property - and within the Poloniny National Park - is really dramatic and reduces seriously the credibility of the site and its attractiveness for potential visitors.

Specific threats have been mentioned in previous reports, namely to the Council of Europe for Poloniny NP, and during the discussions. The military training zone has to be seriously taken into consideration, while the other mentioned issues seem to have very limited impact:

- ✓ Military training zone: one of the three Slovak military training areas is partially overlapping with Vihorlat Protected Landscape and partially affecting the World Heritage property. A confidential map provided by the army shows clear overlap with the property boundaries; this map is deposited with the State Nature Conservancy. The impact can be positive - restricted access to the zone, but also negative; there is a need for careful further analysis and monitoring.

- ✓ One communication antenna is located on the border of the property, it has a limited visual impact and only negligible consequences on the conservation of the property. Construction of other similar antennas does not seem to be actually planned.
- ✓ Security corridors along the border: the representative of the border police explained the measures taken to secure the border (external Schengen border). There are many patrol units along the border in order to prevent smuggling and illegal immigration. There is also technical monitoring equipment on the border, but no physical obstacles that could restrain the wildlife movements. The vegetation is cleared along a narrow corridor (5 meters on each side); it is not foreseen to widen it.  
There is no official agreement between the park authority and the border police; however a good collaboration was mentioned by both sides.
- ✓ Tourism infrastructure: the region is suitable for eco-tourism, which does not require heavy infrastructure. A project for a skiing area in Vihorlat had been authorized in the past, but it was not constructed and the validity of the construction permit has largely expired. There is no intention to reactivate this project, which could have a significant negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including the conditions of integrity.

- Communication and public participation

Lack of communication has been observed from the very beginning of the nomination process. Inaccurate information has been circulated since the nomination until today. For example local representatives still mention the nominations as a "project" (though the area is listed since 2007) and apparently think that the government has the intention to declare the whole PNP as WH property.

The meetings during the mission allowed to some extent to address the misunderstandings, but a lot of work still has to be done if the support of the local population for the World Heritage status is expected. As an illustration of misunderstanding, the relocation of all the inhabitants of the valley surrounding an artificial lake - which happened largely before the WH designation - is always mentioned as a consequence of nature protection measures, though the real reason is the protection of the water quality of the reservoir which is intended for use as drinking water.

The participation of local people in the planning and management of the WH property, the National Park and the Landscape Protection area is currently extremely limited; it should become a priority in the immediate future.

- Implementation of the WH Committee Decisions

Previous WH Committee Decision 35 COM 8B.13 recommended the States Parties of Slovakia and Ukraine to:

**a) Enhance implementation of the existing Integrated Management Plan and establish a functional Joint Management Committee as proposed by the States Parties;**

There is no management plan for the Poloniny NP and the Vihorlat Protected Landscape areas, which encompass all the WH components, despite repeated requests. The reasons for the delay can be easily understood when looking at the above-mentioned issues regarding the designation and institutional frameworks. Actually it would be almost impossible to prepare an effective management plan until the boundaries and zoning issues have been resolved, and as long as the institutional relations between the MoE and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development are not clarified. Preparation and implementation of an integrated Conservation Management Plan is virtually impossible as long as the forest management is not clearly and officially subordinated to the conservation objectives.

**b) Include in the Integrated Management Plan provisions for input from local citizens, NGOs and other interest groups;**

There has been no integration of local citizens. The current management is almost exclusively forest management as generally practiced in the Slovak forest, exclusively under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the local forest enterprises. The general lack of clear communication had led to profound misunderstandings which will require significant efforts to overcome. One conservation NGO is very active in the region, but no arrangements are in place to include this NGO in the management of the property. The NGO considers that with the current governance it is impossible to achieve the conservation objectives as stated in the different designations.

**c) Give priority in the Integrated Management Plan to research and monitoring as this, considering the volume and relevance of existing baseline data and information for the sites included in this serial nomination, can provide a valuable contribution to understanding the potential impact of global climate change;**

A first prerequisite for a management plan is a map showing the actual value of the different forest units ("primeval", exploited in the past but in the process of recovering, etc.) as a "baseline" for efficient monitoring. Some of the best preserved elements have been monitored in the past, but similar monitoring in more recently protected adjacent forest would be just as important for comparison. The typology could for example follow the model established in Bieszczady NP (Poland - see Figure 6). This map would also be the base for an improved zoning and definition of conservations status and management regimes - see recommendations in chapter 5.



The evaluation criteria for the naturalness of forests in Bieszczady National Park.						
Terms according Peterken (1996)*	Ranks in the Bieszczady National Park	Species composition	Origin	Intensity of management	Structure	
Virgin forest	<b>A category</b> - the forests of primeval character	Complies with natural potential plant community	Natural processes of decomposition and regeneration	Without information about forest management.	Usually varied structure	
	<b>B category</b> - the forests of primeval character			Sporadically timber harvesting	Dwarf tree stands	
	<b>C category</b> - the forests of primeval character			Grazing pressure before 50 years		
Near-natural, ancient	<b>D category</b> - the natural forest		Seed tree method as a result of forest management	Intensive management	Limited management	Usually varied structure
Semi-natural, ancient	<b>E category</b> - the forests of natural character				Varied or simple structure	
Semi-natural, ancient	<b>F category</b> - the forests of natural character			Artificial origin (planting, sowing)	Simple structure	
Plantation, ancient	<b>G category</b> - the artificial forests	Doesn't comply with natural potential plant community	Secondary succession on non-forest grounds	Non-forest ground in the past.		
Semi-natural secondary	<b>H category</b> - the successional forest on former arable land					
Plantation, secondary	<b>I category</b> - the forest plantation on former arable land	Planting on non-forest grounds				

Figure 6.

d) **Explore options to provide additional funds to support the effective implementation of the Integrated Management Plan and the work of the Joint Management Committee;**

There is an urgent need for an international workshop bringing together the different actors at national level (essentially the two concerned main ministries) and, at international level, the two neighboring countries (UKR and PL) as well as the international organizations concerned (IUCN, UNESCO World Heritage Centre, UNESCO MAB Programme, Council of Europe).

Such a workshop could also provide a framework to explore the potential for regional development and tourism linked to the international designations (WH and BR). The possibility to mobilize some of the resources under the EU cohesion fund scheme should be explored.

e) **Clearly mark on the ground the boundaries of all the sites included in this serial nomination.**

This should be considered in a near future, once a more coherent zoning and management regime has been officially approved by all the relevant partners.

- Positive or negative developments in the conservation of the property since the last report to the World Heritage Committee

Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection has been slightly modified; it defines more precisely the 5 levels of protection and should provide for better implementation of the protection measures.

Forest exploitation is going on around the property and there is no intention or willingness from the responsible forest enterprises (neither state nor private) to adjust their management plans and practises to the conservation status of the property and / or to other protection statuses (such as National Park and Protected Landscape).

- Information on any specific threat or damage to or loss of Outstanding Universal Value and integrity for which the property was inscribed

Since no detailed map showing the conservation value of the forests within the designated property at time of inscription is currently available, it is difficult to estimate if specific damage has occurred. However the forest management around the property has a visual impact and also has an influence on the functioning of the respective ecosystems.

Due to the small size of the real "primeval" forests, the integrity of the very small really pristine area is potentially threatened.

#### **4 ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE PROPERTY**

As far as it can be concluded from a very short visit, the values of the property as it was inscribed (criterion ix - beech forest biological processes) have been relatively well maintained. However, the areas of the really primeval forest, with one exception, are probably too small to guarantee the long term conservation of the OUV without an effective management of the property and designation of functional buffer zones. The increasing pressure on the surrounding areas is a significant threat to the integrity of the property; it must be noted that the management is exactly the same whether an area has been formally designated as buffer zone or not. As previously mentioned, some of the components, though they might not have been significantly modified since the inscription, never corresponded to the site description "Primeval Beech Forests".

Activities like hunting, intensive forest exploitation, etc. which occur on the large majority of the protected areas' territory do not guarantee the natural functioning of the ecosystems and severely affect the visual aspect of the region.

Finally the lack of acceptance of the different protection statuses (World Heritage, European Diploma, National Park) by the local population, largely due to insufficient communication, is not very encouraging in view of implementing an effective conservation of the property's values.

Very little has been undertaken in terms of follow-up to the Committee's decisions. There is still no conservation orientated integrated management plan. A new act on protected areas has brought some clarity in the protection regimes; however the currently applied protection regimes are not likely to fully guarantee the conservation of the property's values.

#### **5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Slovak part of the property is facing some serious conservation issues, most of them directly related to ambiguities and misunderstandings going back to the nomination in 2007. In summary the OUV as presented at the time of nomination is still present, though covering very limited surfaces; the potential for its conservation exists, provided that adequate management is implemented, in and around the property.

However, the current area designation and the institutional problems do not offer the framework conditions for suitable management, and hence for the long-term conservation of the OUV, its integrity and the associated values.

Important communication effort is urgently needed in order to effectively integrate all local actors in the preparation of an Integrated Management Plan focused on conservation, as well as subordinated sectorial development plans (forest exploitation, sustainable use of water resources, agriculture, sustainable tourism, etc.).

In order to ensure long-term conservation of the Slovak components of the property and to resolve the boundary issues, the mission recommends the State Party of Slovakia to undertake a re-nomination process for its components.

Note: A significant extension of the property to include areas in several more countries is planned for 2016/17; Poland is now fully integrated in the process. This would be a good opportunity to also revise the boundaries of the Slovak components and define a suitable name for the property.

#### Recommendations for actions to be undertaken by the State Party of Slovakia:

R1: In consultation with the States Parties of Germany and Ukraine who share responsibility for this serial transnational property, undertake a thorough scientific assessment of the conservation value of the Slovak components of the inscribed property and their buffer zones; and proceed with a proposal for a significant boundary modification in order to strengthen Outstanding Universal Value in line with the relevant provisions of the *Operational Guidelines* and consistent with the design of the whole transnational property. The proposal should take into account the property and user rights, and should include recalculated surfaces on the basis of accurate GIS maps;

R2: In consultation with the States Parties of Germany and Ukraine and consistent with the management provisions for the entire property, prepare an Integrated Management Plan for the Slovak components of the property, focused on nature conservation and taking into account all international designations, such as World Heritage Property, Biosphere Reserve and European Diploma. This Plan should as one specific objective, ensure that all current and future commercial activities in and around the WH property are regulated/adapted in order to be fully compatible with the conservation objectives of these areas, and the protection of OUV;

R3: Establish an effective institutional dialogue at national level among all the concerned Ministries, in particular the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in order to ensure that national priority tasks and commercial activities are fully compatible with the conservation objectives of the property;

R4: Start a comprehensive information and outreach campaign at national and local levels focused on communicating the World Heritage status of the area, and fully integrate the local actors in all steps of the management and boundary modification process;

R5: Undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment on the planned and potential sustainable development of the region surrounding the World Heritage property, in order to define how added value may be secured from the World Heritage and other international designations, and to explore alternative sources of income and benefits for local people;

R6: Establish a joint national scientific advisory committee in Slovakia for the World Heritage property, the whole Poloniny National Park (European Diploma) and the Slovak part of the East Carpathian Biosphere Reserve.

In order to prepare the re-nomination, including in particular a comprehensive integrated management plan, the following documents (maps) need to be prepared as a preliminary step:

- ✓ Typology and mapping of the forests according to their conservation value (Primeval, old growth, recently protected, exploited, plantation, etc.). Typology used in Poland (Bieszczady NP) could be used as an example;
- ✓ Map of the different protected areas and definition of their respective conservation status and provisions;
- ✓ Map of the land ownership according to the users' groups (state and private forest enterprises, military zones, private property, etc.)
- ✓ Precise actual map of a) the WH property elements and their respective buffer zones, and b) the precise zoning of the East Carpathian Biosphere Reserve.
- ✓ The currently applicable national and sectorial legislative acts and policies in order to identify gaps and potential conflict areas.

*Note: the European Diploma given to the Poloniny NP is currently being re-evaluated and might be suspended due to the absence of a Management Plan, despite repeated request from the Council of Europe / Bern Convention.*

- When these documents have been prepared and analyzed, the State Party is recommended to invite an advisory mission and to convene a national conference with the key stakeholders (ministries, landowners and users, Municipalities, NGOs, etc.) as well as representatives from the two neighbouring countries and from the international organization directly concerned by the areas, such as IUCN, World Heritage Centre, UNESCO MaB Programme and Council of Europe. The objective would be to re-evaluate the current designation (borders) and status (protection regimes) of the property and to make proposals for amendments, respectively for a re-nomination if appropriate.

The maintaining of the Vihorlat component in the property, and / or its possible replacement by another component in the SW should be seriously investigated, namely because of the low level of protection, the planned forest exploitation, the potential conflict with the army and the not very coherent shape of the "core" zone.

*Note: this conference should be closely coordinated with the current preparation of the extension in Poland and different countries of South-eastern and Western Europe (horizon 2016/17); particular attention should be put on the potential offered by Poland on the other side of the border in order to reinforce the integrity of the Slovak and Ukrainian elements of the actual property.*



Presentation by Hervé Lethier - Vilm, 2011

- A second conference or workshop should be set up in order to identify opportunities for valuing the national and international designation as protected area for sustainable local development (environmentally friendly tourism, certification of local goods and services, etc.) and to address sectorial management issues as appropriate. This could include sectorial management plans such as plans for sustainable tourism, forestry and environmentally friendly agriculture, etc. Before or after the workshop study tours for key stakeholders could be organized in other countries with effective management and use for sustainable income generating activities of WH properties and Biosphere Reserves. Central and Eastern Slovakia offer a choice of natural and cultural values which could be combined to present an attractive offer for sustainable nature / culture tourism.
- In parallel a comprehensive information campaign should be launched in the region, including basic information on the regulations and implications of the respective international designations, emphasizing the potential they could offer to local populations as well as the legal obligation. The ultimate goal is to include well informed local representatives in the governance of the property.

## ANNEXES

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1. Background to the mission
  - Justification of the mission
  - Inscription history
  - Inscription criteria and World Heritage values
  - Integrity/authenticity issues raised in the IUCN/ICOMOS evaluation report at time of inscription
  - Examination of the State of Conservation by the World Heritage Committee and its Bureau (refer to previous State of Conservation reports etc.)
2. Terms of reference
3. Agenda, list of people met and Composition of mission team
4. Maps, photographs and other graphical material (showing issues of integrity and authenticity)

## ANNEX 1

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### BACKGROUND TO THE MISSION

#### Inscription History

The Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians (Slovakia and Ukraine) was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2007 on the basis of criterion (ix) at the 31st session of the World Heritage Committee. At its 35<sup>th</sup> session, the Committee approved the extension of the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians, Slovakia and Ukraine, to include the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany, Germany, and becomes the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany, Slovakia, Ukraine and Germany, on the basis of criterion (ix).

#### **Inscription criteria and World Heritage values**

**Statement of Outstanding Universal Value adopted by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007 (Decision 31 COM 8B.16):**

The Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians are a serial property comprising ten components. They represent an outstanding example of undisturbed, complex temperate forests and exhibit the most complete and comprehensive ecological patterns and processes of pure stands of European beech across a variety of environmental conditions. They contain an invaluable genetic reservoir of beech and many species associated and dependent on these forest habitats.

Criterion (ix): The Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians are indispensable to understanding the history and evolution of the genus *Fagus*, which, given its wide distribution in the Northern Hemisphere and its ecological importance, is globally significant. These undisturbed, complex temperate forests exhibit the most complete and comprehensive ecological patterns and processes of pure stands of European beech across a variety of environmental conditions. Beech is one of the most important elements of forests in the Temperate Broad-leaf Forest Biome and represents an outstanding example of the re-colonisation and development of terrestrial ecosystems and communities after the last ice age, a process which is still ongoing.

The individual components of this serial property are of sufficient size to maintain the natural processes necessary for the long-term ecological viability of the property's habitats and ecosystems. Effective implementation of the integrated management plan is required to guide the planning and management of this serial property. Key management issues include forest fire control and conservation of monumental old trees, conservation and management of mountain meadows, river corridors and freshwater ecosystems, tourism management, research, and monitoring.

**Statement of Outstanding Universal Value adopted by the Committee at its 36th session**  
(Decision 36 COM 8B.65)

Brief synthesis

The Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany are a serial property comprising fifteen components. They represent an outstanding example of undisturbed, complex temperate forests and exhibit the most complete and comprehensive ecological patterns and processes of pure stands of European beech across a variety of environmental conditions. They contain an invaluable genetic reservoir of beech and many species associated and dependent on these forest habitats.

Criterion (ix): The Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany are indispensable to understanding the history and evolution of the genus *Fagus*, which, given its wide distribution in the Northern Hemisphere and its ecological importance, is globally significant. These undisturbed, complex temperate forests exhibit the most complete and comprehensive ecological patterns and processes of pure stands of European beech across a variety of environmental conditions and represent all altitudinal zones from seashore up to the forest line in the mountains. Beech is one of the most important elements of forests in the Temperate Broadleaf Forest Biome and represents an outstanding example of the re-colonization and development of terrestrial ecosystems and communities after the last ice age, a process which is still ongoing. They represent key aspects of processes essential for the long term conservation of natural beech forests and illustrate how one single tree species came to absolute dominance across a variety of environmental parameters.

Integrity

The individual components of this serial property are of sufficient size to maintain the natural processes necessary for the long-term ecological viability of the property's habitats and ecosystems. Buffer zones including surrounding protected areas (national parks, nature parks, protected landscape areas, biosphere reserves) will be managed to protect the property and enhance integrity.

Protection and management requirements

Long-term protection and management is ensured through national legal protection as territories which belong to national parks or biosphere reserves. Effective implementation of the trilateral integrated management system is required to guide the planning and management of this serial property. A strict non-intervention management applies to all component parts of the serial property. In the framework of the general management objectives the key issues of the practical management include fostering coordination and communication between the individual component parts, risk management, conservation and management of mountain meadows, river corridors and freshwater ecosystems, tourism management, research and monitoring. The component parts are engaged in international activities of capacity building to share best practices from countries included in the series, and other countries with significant primeval and ancient beech forests.

In order to provide for local support to be available in the long run, specific public relations and educational work are crucial aspects of the management. Cooperative management agreements with local groups and tourism agencies are supposed to enhance the achievement of management goals and ensure local community engagement in the component parts.

**Integrity issues raised in the IUCN evaluation report at time of inscription**

**2007 IUCN TECHNICAL EVALUATION:**

(available at [http://whc.unesco.org/archive/advisory\\_body\\_evaluation/1133bis.pdf](http://whc.unesco.org/archive/advisory_body_evaluation/1133bis.pdf))

## **INTEGRITY**

### **Legal status**

The nominated properties in the Ukraine are all part of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, the Uzhanskiy National Park, or the trilateral (with Poland and Slovakia) East Carpathians Biosphere Reserve. They have had protection in some instances for over 100 years with increasing protection from legislation and national decrees since the 1920's. The situation is similar in the Slovakia with the nominated properties being part of either Polininy National Park or protected landscapes (Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area). In terms of their legal status and management regime all the nominated properties are equivalent to IUCN Category I or II protected areas. The surrounding buffer zones (not nominated, but considered as part of the Joint Management Plan) are a mixture of Category I, II and VI protected areas. The nomination also identifies ecological "connecting corridors" (not nominated, but considered essential as part of the Joint Management Plan) that are all within protected forests or existing national parks, biosphere reserves or other protected areas, with a minimum level of protection equivalent to IUCN Category VI protected areas. There are ongoing efforts to further protect these connecting corridors in the Ukraine (through national park designation). The nominated properties and surrounding buffer zones are also protected as NATURA 2000 sites.

All nominated properties are owned by the State and managed by their respective agencies but are also influenced by territorial governing authorities, the Prešov Self-Governing Region in Slovakia and the "General Scheme of Territory Planning" in the Ukraine. Territorial planning in Slovakia with respect to nature protection is similar to the European Ecological Network (ECONET).

### **Boundaries**

The boundaries of the ten individual properties are adequately mapped and described in the nomination. The

level of protection of the nominated sites is very high as the States Parties nominated only strictly protected areas.

All nominated properties are within the "A Zone" or core zone of other protected landscape designations. In those nominated properties visited by IUCN, boundaries where trails intersected were clearly marked by signs indicating the protected areas and the strict protection zones. It is suggested that the States Parties clearly mark on the ground the boundaries of all the nominated properties.

The individual components of this serial property are of sufficient size to maintain the natural processes necessary for the long-term ecological viability of the property's habitats and ecosystems. The serial property contains all the necessary environmental conditions (elevation, temperature and precipitation gradients, aspect and slope gradients, and a broad range of bedrock, soil types and soil depths) for the long-term conservation of the various beech forest types and their associated ecological processes. The nominated core zones, together with their buffer zones and the ecological "connecting corridors", are considered sufficient to support ecological linkages.

### **Management**

The World Heritage Convention is well-respected in both countries and inscription would likely significantly strengthen the current level of protection, enhance law enforcement regarding the nominated properties, and lead to more consistent management across the whole region.

The Integrated Management Plan prepared for this serial nomination proposes a Joint Management Committee comprised of representatives from both countries and existing management entities to coordinate management actions and jointly manage the nominated serial property to maintain its values and integrity. While there is some provision for input from local citizens, NGOs and other interest groups (proposed as "bottom up" input), the power of the Joint Management Committee clearly lies with governmental agencies and local and regional planning regimes.

The Slovak State Nature Conservancy, Polininy National Park, Uzhanskiy National Park and the Carpathians Biosphere Reserve now provide management and staff for the nominated properties. Staff in both countries is



professionally trained. Some sites (e.g. Vihorlat) do not have managers on-site but the other national park and biosphere reserve sites all have park or science staff in or near the properties including at visitor centres and museums at Nová Sedlica and Rakhiv. The Carpathian Biosphere Reserve has 310 staff, Uzhanskiy National Park has 110 staff, and Polininy National Park and the protected landscapes have 24 professional staff (including 8 rangers) between them and are supported by volunteer “nature guards”. Staff will be supported by State Nature Conservancy officials of both countries and will coordinate management of buffer zones, where necessary, with local forestry officials as outlined in the Integrated Management Plan.

In 2004, the Ukrainian budget for the Carpathians Biosphere Reserve and Uzhanskiy National Park was approximately US\$ 700,000, while the Slovak budget for Polininy National Park and the other protected areas was about US\$ 250,000 through the State Nature Conservancy. The overall management capacity appears to be sufficient at present, although not as strong in Slovakia as in the Ukraine, but both States Parties should be encouraged to provide additional dedicated funds to support effective implementation of the existing Integrated Management Plan.

The protection and management of the nominated core zones is enhanced by the size and breadth of the buffer zones as well as the proposed ecological “connecting corridors”. The present management scheme protects all these areas to some degree, or in the case of the connecting corridors, proposes to increase the level of protection upon inscription. The Integrated Management ID N° 1133 Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians, Slovakia and Ukraine 66 IUCN Evaluation Report May 2007 Plan, if implemented as proposed, could become a model for joint cooperative management of transnational serial properties with different levels of protection.

### **Threats and human use**

The individual properties are not threatened at present by developmental pressures as they enjoy strict protection and are part of local and regional territorial planning. Local forestry plans and operations respect the strict protection of the nominated properties and support the nomination. Some tourism is present but numbers are small. While air pollution, fire, wind-throw, and similar threats may be a concern they probably are not as significant as global climate change. Some forests at lower or higher elevation margins may change species composition as climate change occurs. Considering the long history of scientific research and established monitoring sites within the nominated properties, they offer much value for science in monitoring the potential effects of global climate change. One aspect of these properties’ value is the ability of the beech to adapt to so many different ecological regimes (and in a number of different and varying forest associations) throughout its range. Population in the regions are rural and unemployment is high. Out-migration appears to be prevalent as people seek jobs elsewhere. Because local forest use in buffer zones presently occurs with cutting for subsistence needs, it is assumed this practice will continue. Forestry is important to local people but is managed by State Forest agencies that are supportive of the nomination. The difference between natural forests and “primeval” forests – and perhaps even managed forests – is not well perceived by local populations, primarily because the forested landscape is so pervasive. The nominated properties have enjoyed strict protection for many years even as governments have changed. Management challenges with respect to illegal cutting are not new and will continue regardless of inscription. However, as a World Heritage property, jointly managed according to the goals of the Integrated Management Plan, the nominated properties will increase appreciation and support by local populations through environmental education which would contribute to addressing this and other conservation issues.

In conclusion, IUCN considers that the nominated property meets the conditions of integrity as required under the Operational Guidelines.

## **2011 IUCN TECHNICAL EVALUATION**

### **INTEGRITY, PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT**

#### **Protection**

The five nominated serial extension components are subject to national law and are also governed by the Länder that make up the Federal Republic of Germany.

Both governmental entities share responsibility for nature conservation protection. The component parts are protected by the Federal Nature Conservation Act (2002, amended 2008) that specifically incorporates by reference the World Heritage Convention. The Grumsin component is also a Biosphere Reserve. The Länder have laws and ordinances that incorporate both standards set by Federal law (such as for national parks) and the European Union (such as Birds and Habitats directives, etc.). Land in the four national park component parts are owned and managed by the Länder with varying percentages of land under private ownership. None of the five nominated components are subject to any forest exploitation or other development pressure and neither are the surrounding buffer zones, which are proposed for sympathetic management to protect the values of the nominated components.

IUCN considers the protection status of the nominated property meets the requirements set out in the Operational Guidelines

#### **Boundaries**

Boundaries of all proposed component parts are specified in the nomination and clearly demarcated on maps. Each of the nominated component parts lies within a larger national park, and, in turn, within larger nature parks, except for Grumsin which lies within the designated core zone of the larger Schorfheide-Chorin Biosphere Reserve. Each of the component parts also is surrounded by larger buffer zones, which are also areas of beech forest that will be managed to protect the proposed property but do not display the level of naturalness to warrant designation as component parts of the nomination. Buffer zones have the same level of legal protection as the component parts of the nominated extension. Boundaries of the nominated components have been designated with a view to ensuring retention of values and integrity, however, the small size and relative isolation of these remnant forests raises some concerns about their ecological resilience and viability. IUCN considers that the boundaries of the nominated property meet the requirements set out in the Operational Guidelines.

#### **Management**

All the nominated component parts have existing individual management plans developed in accordance with law and policy that meet national park (or biosphere reserve) goals for both management and monitoring. Plans incorporate monitoring of environmental parameters, visitor use impacts, and other resource issues such as managed control of wildlife impacts. Park management, biosphere maintenance and development plans are directly binding for existing programs and protection goals. In addition, there are management and spatial plans by the Länder for regional spatial development, State Development Plans, Landscape Framework Plans, and so on, that incorporate park and biosphere reserve protection values and goals. All plans were developed with public involvement. The nomination has been submitted by the Federal Republic of Germany with the full support and understanding of obligations placed upon the four relevant Länder. Annual budgets totalling over €12 million exist now for all component parts and are considered more than adequate to effectively manage these component parts. Additional funds may be available from European Union programs, foundations, municipalities, nature conservation organizations and direct donations. Cooperative management agreements with local groups and tourism agencies contribute to the achievement of management goals. Municipal authorities are also cooperating closely for example through the canopy walkway "Tree-top Trail" educational experience in Hainich, and nature conservation organizations such as the Kellerwald Park Centre and Königsstuhl Centre at Jasmund. Management cooperation also exists to support university research.

All five components have well-established, qualified and experienced professional and technical staff in place. The four park units have established ranger forces for both park protection and education of park visitors. Visitor management is of a high standard with a

number of visitor centres, facilities and guide services providing quality interpretation and education services.

Ecological research, monitoring and science programs are on-going guided by unit management plans and in cooperation with universities, EUROPARC Germany, UNESCO biosphere reserves, and nearby nature parks. Various programmes and initiatives are in place to ensure local community engagement. The protected area management entities also have advisory boards or communal national park boards composed of interest group representatives, elected officials (mayors), district administrators, ministerial representatives, and park staff to help reconcile the interests of local stakeholders and citizens.

IUCN considers the management of the nominated property meets the requirements set out in the Operational Guidelines

### **Threats**

At present the five nominated serial components are not subject to any proposed development or factors that may have a direct impact on their integrity. All are under longterm protection regimes and management as national parks or biosphere reserve core zones. According to scientific studies, climate change is not expected to appreciably affect the evolutionary progress of beech forests. In fact, the properties may help explain climate change since they are a result of environmental reaction to past climate change. Increases in temperature should not be a factor but stress by dryness may be a factor, although beech has physiological mechanisms to adapt for dryness. Hunting was identified as an issue in the nomination, but in reality is a form of management intervention, notably in limiting the impact of deer. There is no public hunting in any of the components. Monitoring of resource impacts (particularly wild boar and deer) may dictate when controlled taking of game by resource managers as appropriate to protect natural values.

Coordination is effected through a steering group comprised of representatives of the four Länder, the federal ministries, the national park and biosphere reserve managers. The nomination has been closely coordinated with Slovak and Ukrainian counterparts, and an Integrated Management System is proposed for the sites, if inscribed. This arrangement will implement a plan of coordinated management among all component parts, to sustain, protect, and preserve the OUV and integrity of the sites.

In summary, despite some concerns about the viability of small remnant forested areas, IUCN considers the nominated property meets the conditions of integrity as outlined in the Operational Guidelines.

- Examination of the State of Conservation by the World Heritage Committee (refer to previous State of Conservation reports)

## **Summaries of Working Documents and Decisions: 38th and 37th sessions of the Committee**

**Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B  
38th session of the World Heritage Committee,  
Doha, Qatar, 15 - 25 June 2014**

### **Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (Ukraine, Germany, Slovakia) (N 1133bis)**

#### *Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports*

- Lack of integrated Management Plan;
- Lack of transnational research and monitoring plans;
- Need for capacity building;
- Inadequate regulation and management of uses and activities (logging and hunting) in the Slovak part of the property.

### Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2014, the States Parties of Slovakia and Ukraine submitted reports on the state of conservation of the property, which are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1133/documents>. The State Party of Germany confirmed that these reports were jointly prepared in coordination among the three States Parties concerned. The reports note, in relation to the Committee's request for enhanced trilateral cooperation that a Joint Management Committee for the entire property and a trilateral working group on research have commenced operation, based on a trilateral Statement of Intent. This Statement was agreed by the Parties at the international scientific conference "Beech Primeval and Ancient Forests of Europe: Problems of their Conservation and Sustainable Use" (Ukraine, September 2013) organized in part with the financial support by UNESCO under its Participation Programme.

These reports also note the initiation of coordinated efforts on research, management and capacity building, and the ongoing research project "World Heritage Beech Forests", which is aimed at a future comprehensive serial nomination of European beech forests.

The State Party of Slovakia does not provide any information in relation to the management and integrity of its component sites of the property, and in particular in relation to Poloniny National Park (PNP), nor on the status of infrastructure development projects (antenna, roads and mass tourism infrastructure) in the vicinity of the property's components as was requested by the Committee in its Decision **37 COM 7B.26**.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The strong commitment and progress made by the States Parties of Germany, Slovakia and Ukraine towards enhancing their trilateral cooperation is worth noting, including efforts towards an integrated management regime for the component sites of the property, as well as towards a finite, comprehensive serial nomination on European beech forests. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the three States Parties to continue these activities, particularly the development and the effective implementation of an integrated management plan, aimed at preserving the ecological patterns and ecological processes of the beech forests of the property. The World Heritage status of the property's component sites should be communicated more clearly and mainstreamed into sectoral policy and management.

However, the Committee is recommended to express regret that the State Party of Slovakia did not provide any information on the concerns raised in Decision **37 COM 7B.26**. Concern remains about the integrity and management of the component sites in Slovakia, and particularly about Poloniny National Park (PNP).

According to information received, some steps towards developing a comprehensive vision of development around the Slovak parts of the property have been taken by the State Party. It is recommended that the Committee re-emphasize these requests and urge the State Party to ensure that the newly developed management plan of PNP is consistent with the overall management framework of this serial property. Given the lack of information from the State Party, the Committee is recommended to request a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the Slovak component parts of the property.

The German components of the property appear under no significant threat, except that their small size might present challenges to maintain their integrity in the future. This also applies to other component sites in Slovakia and Ukraine, the former of which are currently also facing challenges linked to insufficient human and financial resources as well as the lack of integration of the property within local socio-economic development. The Committee is therefore recommended to encourage the three States Parties to use their cooperation to address existing capacity gaps and to jointly promote improved mainstreaming of the management of the property.

**DECISION 38 COM 7B.75 ADOPTED BY THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE AT ITS 38TH SESSION,  
Doha, Qatar, 15 - 25 June 2014.  
WHC-14/38.COM/16**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.26**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Welcomes the progress achieved by the States Parties of Germany, Slovakia and Ukraine towards a closer transnational cooperation, in particular the establishment of an integrated management system for the trilateral property, as well as research and monitoring plans and capacity building to share best practices, and encourages the States Parties to continue strengthening their technical cooperation, particular in the field of forest management;
4. Regrets that the State Party of Slovakia did not provide any information on the concerns raised in Decision **37 COM 7B.26** and reiterates its concern about the integrity and management of the component sites in Slovakia, and particularly about Poloniny National Park (PNP);
5. Reiterates its request to the State Party of Slovakia to ensure that a comprehensive vision for development and effective protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the Slovak components of the property and in particular its integrity be included in the management plan of Poloniny National Park requested by the Council of Europe in order to ensure that the requirements of the *Convention* for the co-ordinated management of the serial transnational property, and those of the Council of Europe can be met in one single management system;
6. Urges the State Party of Slovakia to intensify efforts to strengthen cooperation between different Ministries and Agencies relevant for the management of the property and to ensure that the World Heritage status of the property is recognized and supported in their strategies and plans, and to urgently halt unsustainable logging activities within component sites of the World Heritage property, particularly Poloniny National Park, as requested by the Committee in its Decision **37 COM 7B.26**;
7. Reiterates that, in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) should be conducted and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for all development projects within the property and its surroundings that could affect its OUV, in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and also urges the State Party of Slovakia to immediately halt all infrastructure development that could affect the OUV of the property until such EIA is conducted and submitted;
8. Requests the State Party of Slovakia to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the component sites of the property in Slovakia and in particular Poloniny National Park, to assess the threats to the property, in particular issues related to its integrity and management and the implementation of the specific recommendations of Decision **37 COM 7B.26**;
9. Also requests the State Party of Slovakia, in consultation with the States Parties of Germany and Ukraine, to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

**Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (Germany, Slovakia, Ukraine) (N 1133bis)**

*Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports*

- a) Lack of integrated Management Plan;
- b) Lack of transnational research and monitoring plans;
- c) Need for capacity building.

*Current conservation issues*

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN received information from the Council of Europe concerning an expert mission that visited the Poloniny National Park in Slovakia in October 2012 as part of the renewal process of its European Diploma of Protected Areas. Parts of the park are included in the Slovak component of the property. The reports highlight a number of threats and conservation challenges that the park is confronted to, as described below. In September 2012 the World Heritage Centre and IUCN also received a letter from a Slovak environmental NGO outlining various threats to the Slovak component of the property which was transmitted to the State Party in October 2012.

In response to the letters of the World Heritage Centre of 15 February and 19 March 2013 requesting information on the threats and the measures taken to address them, the State party replied on 28 March 2013 stating that relevant information on the overall situation around the property will be provided to the World Heritage Centre in the State Party's Periodic Report. The State Party also mentioned in the letter that they might ask for assistance of the World Heritage Centre in order to assess the state of conservation of the property and concluded that the Ministry was "looking for the most appropriate measures for solving problems of the World Heritage property".

The following conservation issues affecting the property have been identified on the basis of the received information, which relates only to components of the property located in Slovakia, and particularly within Poloniny National Park:

*Lack of integrated management*

IUCN notes that although an Integrated Management Plan for the property had been prepared at the time of its nomination, its implementation is not clear nor is its relationship with other forest management plans of several forest reserves that form the Slovak component of the property, which do not take into account the World Heritage status of those component sites and do not provide for sufficient level of protection of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note the management challenges pointed out by the Group of Specialists of the European Diploma, who concluded that the management of the park could not be considered exemplary, as required by the regulation of the European diploma. The Group of Specialists recommended that the State Party be requested to immediately start the process of elaboration of an integrated management plan for the Diploma holding area, which would address all land uses and different activities sectors (tourism, hunting) in order to meet its obligations under the Regulations of the European Diploma for Protected Areas. The State Party has been requested to submit the draft management plan by November 2014, place this process under the coordination of a Pilot Committee, ask the Council of Europe for assistance, associate all other relevant international organizations including UNESCO and IUCN, ask also for financial external support if needed, and benefit from external technical expertise. In the event of failure to meet these provisions, the Group of Specialists recommended that the European Diploma be withdrawn immediately.

### *Unsustainable logging*

According to the information included in the report received from the Council of Europe, the forest management plans of the forest reserves which form the Slovak part of the World Heritage property provide for logging in those areas. The expert mission concluded that 93% of the Park is under serious pressure from unsustainable logging, as well as hunting and poaching.

### *Infrastructure development*

The report received from the Council of Europe also mentions several infrastructure projects (e.g. an antenna, roads and mass tourism infrastructures) that are planned in the immediate surroundings of the World Heritage areas.

### Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note the report of the Council of Europe, which shows that the Slovak part of the World Heritage property is affected by serious threats that might impact its Outstanding Universal Value, in particular its integrity, and are exacerbated by a lack of adequate management. It is therefore recommended that the State Party of Slovakia be requested to take a series of immediate measures to stop activities that negatively impact the property directly and indirectly, to improve the management of the Slovak part of the property, and enhance its transnational cooperation with Germany and Ukraine for a more effective management of this trilateral property as a whole.

**DECISION 37 COM 7B.26 ADOPTED BY THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE AT ITS 37TH SESSION,  
Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 16-27 June 2013  
Document WHC-13/37.COM/20**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-13/37.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **35 COM 8B.13**, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),
3. Expresses its concern about the level of threats which might be affecting the Outstanding Universal Value and integrity of the property and about the lack of adequate management response to address those pressures;
4. Requests the State Party of Slovakia to ensure that a comprehensive vision for development around the Slovak component of the property and practical guidance for achieving an effective protection of its Outstanding Universal Value and in particular its integrity be included in the management plan requested by the Council of Europe, in order to ensure that both the requirements of the Convention and those of the Council of Europe can be met in one single management plan;
5. Also requests the State Party of Slovakia to strengthen cooperation between different Ministries and Agencies relevant for the management of the property and to ensure that the World Heritage status of the property is recognized in their strategies and plans;
6. Urges the State Party of Slovakia to halt unsustainable logging activities within component sites of the World Heritage property;
7. Recalls that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) should be conducted and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for all development projects within the property and its surroundings that could affect its Outstanding Universal Value, in line with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and further requests the State Party of Slovakia to immediately halt all infrastructure development that could affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property until such EIAs are conducted ;

8. Encourages the State Parties of Germany, Slovakia and Ukraine to enhance their transnational cooperation and to implement the recommendations adopted in its Decision **35 COM 8B.13**, in particular the establishment of an integrated management system for the trilateral property to ensure the protection of the functional linkages between the component parts, as well as research and monitoring plans in order to monitor the property as a whole, and the development of capacity building to share best practices;
9. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2014**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session in 2014.

**DECISION 35 COM 8B.13 ADOPTED BY THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE AT ITS 35TH SESSION, Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, 19-29 June 2011 Document WHC-11/35.COM/20**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-11/35.COM/8B and WHC-11/35.COM/INF.8B2,
2. Approves the extension of the **Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians, Slovakia and Ukraine**, to include the **Ancient Beech Forests of Germany, Germany**, and becomes the **Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany, Slovakia, Ukraine and Germany**, on the basis of **criterion (ix)**;
3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

**Brief synthesis**

The Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany are a serial property comprising fifteen components. They represent an outstanding example of undisturbed, complex temperate forests and exhibit the most complete and comprehensive ecological patterns and processes of pure stands of European beech across a variety of environmental conditions. They contain an invaluable genetic reservoir of beech and many species associated and dependent on these forest habitats.

**Criterion (ix):** The Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany are indispensable to understanding the history and evolution of the genus *Fagus*, which, given its wide distribution in the Northern Hemisphere and its ecological importance, is globally significant. These undisturbed, complex temperate forests exhibit the most complete and comprehensive ecological patterns and processes of pure stands of European beech across a variety of environmental conditions and represent all altitudinal zones from seashore up to the forest line in the mountains. Beech is one of the most important elements of forests in the Temperate Broad-leaf Forest Biome and represents an outstanding example of the re-colonisation and development of terrestrial ecosystems and communities after the last ice age, a process which is still ongoing. They represent key aspects of processes essential for the long term conservation of natural beech forests and illustrate how one single tree species came to absolute dominance across a variety of environmental parameters.

**Integrity**

The individual components of this serial property are of sufficient size to maintain the natural processes necessary for the long-term ecological viability of the property's habitats and



ecosystems. Buffer zones including surrounding protected areas (nature parks, biosphere reserves) will be managed to protect the property and enhance integrity.

### **Protection and Management requirements**

Long-term protection and management is ensured through national legal protection as national parks or core areas of a biosphere reserve. Effective implementation of the integrated management plan and the trilateral integrated management system is required to guide the planning and management of this serial property. Key management issues include forest fire control and conservation of monumental old trees, conservation and management of mountain meadows, river corridors and freshwater ecosystems, tourism management, research and monitoring. Cooperative management agreements with local groups and tourism agencies can enhance the achievement of management goals and ensure local community engagement in the component parts.

4. Recommends the States Parties of Slovakia, Ukraine and Germany to address the following points:

a) The establishment of the Integrated Management System for the trilateral property that ensures the protection of the functional linkages between the component parts,

b) The establishment of cooperative and transnational research and monitoring plans in order to monitor and report on the transnational serial property as a whole,

c) Set up cooperative international programmes of capacity building to share best practices from countries included in the series, and other countries with significant primeval and ancient beech forests;

5. Commends the States Parties of Ukraine, Slovakia and Germany for their on-going commitment to ensure a comprehensive approach to conserving the primeval and ancient beech forests of Europe and for their exploration of the potential for the *World Heritage Convention* to further these efforts by cooperating with the support of IUCN and the World Heritage Centre, with other interested States Parties towards a finite serial transnational nomination in order to assure the protection of this unique forest ecosystem.

**TERMS OF REFERENCE****World Heritage Centre - IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the Slovak component sites of the World Heritage property Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (Ukraine, Germany, Slovakia)  
Slovakia, September - October 2014**

The Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany are a serial property comprising fifteen components. They represent an outstanding example of undisturbed, complex temperate forests and exhibit the most complete and comprehensive ecological patterns and processes of pure stands of European beech across a variety of environmental conditions. They contain an invaluable genetic reservoir of beech and many species associated and dependent on these forest habitats. The extension of the property in 2011 represents the addition of five forests in Germany totaling 4,391 hectares that are added to the 29,278 hectares of Slovak and Ukrainian primeval beech forests inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2007.

At its 37th session (2013), the World Heritage Committee expressed its concern about the level of threats which might be affecting the Outstanding Universal Value and integrity of the property, notably in Slovakia, and about the lack of adequate management response to address those pressures. At its 38th session (Doha, 2014), the World Heritage Committee regretted that the State Party of Slovakia did not provide any information on the concerns raised in Decision 37 COM 7B.26 and reiterated its concern about the integrity and management of the component sites in Slovakia, and particularly about Poloniny National Park (PNP).

The Committee requested the State Party of Slovakia to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the component sites of the property in Slovakia and in particular Poloniny National Park, to assess the threats to the property, in particular issues related to its integrity and management and the implementation of the specific recommendations of Decision 37 COM 7B.26.

In accordance with these decisions, the primary objective of the mission is to review the state of conservation of all Slovak component sites of the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians as well as to assess the status of all development projects within the Slovak component sites of the property and its surroundings, including the reported unsustainable logging activities within the Slovak component sites of the property, to meet with all relevant stakeholders, including NGOs and to evaluate the possible impacts of the development on the OUV of the property. Consistent with the *Operational Guidelines* (paragraph 173), the mission should also consider other issues relevant to the state of conservation of all Slovak component sites of the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians.

In particular, the mission should review and assess the following key issues:

- a) Integrity of all Slovak component sites of the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians, and in particular in relation to Poloniny National Park (PNP);
- b) Progress in the adoption of a comprehensive vision for development around the Slovak component sites of the property and practical guidance for achieving an effective protection of its Outstanding Universal Value and in particular its integrity, in order to ensure that the expectations of the World Heritage Committee and those of the Council of Europe can be met in one single management plan;
- c) Progress in the recognition of the World Heritage status of the property in the national strategies and plans of Slovakia, and in strengthening cooperation between different Ministries and Agencies relevant for the management of the property;

- d) Progress in the establishment of an integrated management system for the trilateral property to ensure the protection of the functional linkages between the component parts, as well as research and monitoring plans in order to monitor the property as a whole, and the development of capacity building to share best practices;
- e) Legal protection status of the property;
- f) Status of infrastructure development projects (antenna, roads and mass tourism infrastructure) in the vicinity of the Slovak component sites of the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians;
- g) Impacts of the development projects, infrastructure developments and unsustainable logging activities on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
- h) Status of the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) which should be conducted and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for all development projects within the Slovak component sites of the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and its surroundings that could affect its Outstanding Universal Value, in line with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
- i) Boundary issues;
- j) Other conservation issues currently affecting the property.

Mr Pierre Galland, IUCN expert, will represent both the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and IUCN.

During the mission, the expert should be able to conduct the field visits to the Slovak component sites of the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians in order to make the necessary assessments. The field visits should include detailed visits to the different places where development and infrastructure works are reported to have been undertaken. The expert should have the opportunity, through stakeholder meetings, to exchange views and receive information from the developers as well as the different stakeholders, including representatives of environmental NGO, such as WOLF Forest Protection Movement, researchers and local communities.

To enable the expert to prepare for the mission, the State Party should submit to the World Heritage Centre prior to the mission all relevant information to consider the present status of the property, such as recent and past monitoring data, as well as the existing Environmental Impact Assessments for all development projects within the Slovak component sites of the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and its surroundings that could affect its Outstanding Universal Value, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 37<sup>th</sup> session in 2013.

These documents should be provided in one of the working languages of the Convention (French or English). In case of substantial documents, at least summaries should be provided in one of these languages.

Based on the results of the above-mentioned assessment and discussions with the State Party representatives, the expert will develop recommendations concerning the conservation and management of the property.

The expert will prepare a concise mission report on the findings and recommendations of the reactive monitoring mission following the standard format.

## ANNEX 3

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### • ITINERARY & MISSION PROGRAMME WITH FULL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**DATES OF MISSION: 29 September – 3 October 2014**

#### **September 29, 2014**

**(organized by the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic)**

- 10,15 - Arrival in the Vienna airport
- From 11,00 to 12,00 - Transport to Bratislava
- From 12,00 to 13,00 - Lunch break
- 13,00 - Meeting with representatives of the governance of the Ministry of Environment SR, representatives of the State Nature Conservancy SR and presenter of the nomination dossier

#### Program of the meeting:

State of the management and protection of the Slovak part of the World Heritage property in the area of the Poloniny National park (component parts Havešová, Rožok, Stučica – Bukovské vrchy) and Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area (component part Vihorlat).

#### List of participants:

1. Ján Ilavský, State Secretary of the Ministry of Environment SR
2. Rastislav Rybanič, Director of Division of Nature Protection and Landscape Development of the Ministry of Environment SR
3. Ján. Julény, Director of the Nature Protection Department, Division of Nature Protection and Landscape Development of the Ministry of Environment SR
4. Zlatica Šimoňáková, Department of Landscape Development, Division of Nature Protection and Landscape Development of the Ministry of Environment SR
5. Klára Novotná, Ambassadeur, Permanent Delegation of Slovakia to UNESCO, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs SR
6. Aurélia Fülle, Setretary-General of the Slovak Commission for UNESCO, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs SR
7. Milan Boroš, General Director of the State Nature Conservancy SR
8. Michaela Mrázová, Nature Heritage National Focal Point, Coordinator of International Protected Areas, State Nature Conservancy SR
9. Viliam Pichler, Dean of the Faculty of Forestry, Technical University in Zvolen, presenter of the nomination dossier

#### **September 30, 2014**

**(organized by the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic)**

- From 9,00 to 13,00 - Meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Environment SR, Ministry of Culture SR, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs SR, Ministry of Finance SR, Ministry of Defence SR, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development SR and the State Nature Conservancy SR
- From 13,00 to 14,00 - Lunch break
- 14,00 - transport to the City of Snina

#### Program of the meeting:

Declaration of attitudes of single ministries to the management and protection of the World Heritage Property. Proposals of future communication and cooperation.

#### List of participants:

1. Rastislav Rybanič, Director of Division of Nature Protection and Landscape Development of the Ministry of Environment SR
2. Ján. Julény, Director of the Nature Protection Department, Division of Nature Protection and Landscape Development of the Ministry of Environment SR
3. Zlatica Šimoňáková, Department of Landscape Development, Division of Nature Protection and Landscape Development of the Ministry of Environment SR

4. Klára Novotná, Ambassadeur, Permanent Delegation of Slovakia to UNESCO
5. Aurélia Fülle, Secretary-General of the Slovak Commission for UNESCO, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs SR
6. Pavel Macko, 2nd Deputy chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces, Ministry of Defence SR
7. Ľubomíra Šišková, Department of Infrastructure Planning, Ministry of Defence SR
8. Ingrid Krejnosová, Department of Infrastructure Planning, Ministry of Defence SR
9. Štefan Adamec, Adviser of the State Secretary of Ministry of Finance SR
10. Jozef Dóczy, Director of Department of Government of Forestry and Hunting of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development SR
11. Tibor Jančok, Section of Forestry Operations, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development SR
12. Ján Jurica, General Director of the Military Forest Enterprise of the Slovak Republic (VLM SR, š.p. – Vojenské lesy a majetky SR, š.p.)
13. Anton Bodnár, Director of the branch Kamenica nad Cirochou, Military Forest Enterprise of the Slovak Republic
14. Milan Boroš, General Director of the State Nature Conservancy SR
15. Michaela Mrázová, Nature Heritage National Focal Point, Coordinator of International Protected Areas, State Nature Conservancy SR

#### **October 1, 2014**

##### **(organized by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic)**

- From 9:00 to 11:00 - meeting with representatives of private local land-owners and land-users: LPUPS Zvala, LPUPS Smolník, LPUPS Ruské, Súkromné lesy Kredba and Mudroch at the Municipal office of the Town of Stakčín
- From 11:00 to 13:00 - meeting with local representatives of self-governing authorities – by-law men
- From 13:00 to 14:00 - lunch break
- From 14:00 to 18:00 - field trip to the Stučica – Bukovské vrchy Primeval Forest (component part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site: Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany).

##### Program of the meeting:

Conservation of the World Heritage property in the Poloniny National Park (component parts Havešová, Rožok, Stučica – Bukovské vrchy)

##### List of participants – meeting with local land-owners and land-users (9,00 – 11,00 a.m.):

1. Róbert Latta, Chair of the LPUPS Zvala (Zvala Land-owners Association)
2. Ján Lempel, Chair of the LPUPS Ruské (Ruske Land-owners Association)
3. Milan Sivák, member of the LPUPS Smolník (Smolnik Land-owners Association)
4. Juraj Kučala, Chair of the LPUPS Smolník (Smolnik Land-owners Association)
5. Juraj Roško, Chair of the LPUPS Rovenky-Stakčín (Rovenky-Stakcin Land-owners Association)
6. Ján Kresila, Chair of the LPUPS Rovenky-Stakčín (Rovenky-Stakcin Land-owners Association)
7. Ján. Julény, Director of the Nature Protection Department, Division of Nature Protection and Landscape Development of the Ministry of Environment SR
8. Zlatica Šimoňáková, Department of Landscape Development, Division of Nature Protection and Landscape Development of the Ministry of Environment SR
9. Michal Adamec, Director of the Division of Nature and Landscape Protection, State Nature Conservancy SR
10. Michaela Mrázová, Nature Heritage National Focal Point, Coordinator of International Protected Areas, State Nature Conservancy SR
11. Miroslav Buraľ, Director of the Poloniny National Park
12. Marián Gič, IT specialist, Poloniny National Park
13. Milan Piroš, Forester, Poloniny National Park
14. Ladislav Rovňák, Director of the Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area

15. Juraj Koco, representative of the Ruske Private Owners of Immovable Assets Civil Association
16. Pavel Bindzár, representative of the Ruske Private Owners of Immovable Assets Civil Association
17. Ladislav Hríb, representative of the Ruske Private Owners of Immovable Assets Civil Association

List of participants – meeting with self-governing authorities – by-law men (11,00 a.m. -13,00 p.m.):

1. Vasil' Dinič, by-law man of the Village of Nová Sedlica
2. Ladislav Lodomirjak, by-law man of the Village of Zboj
3. Ján Holinka, by-law man of the Village of Ulič
4. Martin Riľak, by-law man of the Village of Ruský Potok
5. Oliver Kovács, representative of the Kosice Self-governing Region
6. Ján. Julény, Director of the Nature Protection Department, Division of Nature Protection and Landscape Development of the Ministry of Environment SR
7. Zlatica Šimoňáková, Department of Landscape Development, Division of Nature Protection and Landscape Development of the Ministry of Environment SR
8. Michal Adamec, Michal Adamec, Director of the Division of Nature and Landscape Protection, State Nature Conservancy SR
9. Michaela Mrázová, Nature Heritage National Focal Point, Coordinator of International Protected Areas, State Nature Conservancy SR
10. Miroslav Bural', Director of the Poloniny National Park
11. Marián Gič, IT specialist, Poloniny National Park
12. Milan Piroš, Forester, Poloniny National Park
13. Ladislav Rovňák, Director of the Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area

**October 2, 2014**

**(organized by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic)**

- From 9:00 to 11:00 - meeting with representatives of LOZ VLK (WOLF Forest Protection Movement) NGO
- From 11:00 to 13:00 - meeting with representatives of local governmental institutions: LPM Ulič, š.p. (Forest and Agricultural Enterprise), Lesy SR (State enterprise Forests of the Slovak Republic) and VLM SR (Military Forest Enterprise of the Slovak Republic) in the Town of Stakčín.
- From 13:00 to 14:00 - lunch break
- From 14:00 to 18:00 - field trip to the Stučica – Bukovské vrchy Primeval Forest or to the Vihorlat Primeval Forest (component parts of the UNESCO World Heritage Site: Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany).

List participants – meeting with LOZ VLK (WOLF Forest Protection Movement) NGO (9,00 – 11,00 a.m.)

1. Juraj Lukáč, Chief of LOZ VLK (WOLF Forest Protection Movement) NGO
2. Katarína Grichová, member of LOZ VLK (WOLF Forest Protection Movement) NGO
3. Viliam Bartuš, member of LOZ VLK (WOLF Forest Protection Movement) NGO
4. Peter Sabo, member of LOZ VLK (WOLF Forest Protection Movement) NGO
6. Ján. Julény, Director of the Nature Protection Department, Division of Nature Protection and Landscape Development of the Ministry of Environment SR
7. Zlatica Šimoňáková, Department of Landscape Development, Division of Nature Protection and Landscape Development of the Ministry of Environment SR
8. Michal Adamec, Michal Adamec, Director of the Division of Nature and Landscape Protection, State Nature Conservancy SR
9. Michaela Mrázová, Nature Heritage National Focal Point, Coordinator of International Protected Areas, State Nature Conservancy SR
10. Miroslav Bural', Director of the Poloniny National Park
11. Marián Gič, IT specialist, Poloniny National Park
12. Milan Piroš, Forester, Poloniny National Park

13. Ladislav Rovňák, Director of the Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area
14. Anna Kornajová, Vihorlat press – Slovenský východ

List participants – meeting with governmental institutions (11,00 a.m. – 13,00 p.m.):

1. Alexander Németh, Director of the Forest and Agricultural Enterprise (LPM Ulič, š.p.)
2. Štefan Salaj, Chief of Section of production and trade
3. Ľuboslav Mika, State Forests enterprise of the Slovak Republic Headquarters, Banska Bystrica (Lesy SR, š.p.)
4. Pavel Zaťko, Chief of division of production and technique, State Forests enterprise of the Slovak Republic Headquarters, branch Vranov
5. Jozef Staško, Chief of division of production and technique, State Forests enterprise of the Slovak Republic Headquarters, branch Sobrance
6. Anton Bodnár, Director of branch Kamenica nad Cirochou of the Military Forest Enterprise of the Slovak Republic (VLM SR, š.p)
7. Marián Hojdan, Chief of Section of Forest production, branch Kamenica nad Cirochou of the Military Forest Enterprise of the Slovak Republic (VLM SR, š.p)
8. Jozef Dóczy, Director of Department of Government of Forestry and Hunting of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development SR
9. Ján. Julény, Director of the Nature Protection Department, Division of Nature Protection and Landscape Development of the Ministry of Environment SR
10. Zlatica Šimoňáková, Department of Landscape Development, Division of Nature Protection and Landscape Development of the Ministry of Environment SR
11. Michal Adamec, Michal Adamec, Director of the Division of Nature and Landscape Protection, State Nature Conservancy SR
12. Michaela Mrázová, Nature Heritage National Focal Point, Coordinator of International Protected Areas, State Nature Conservancy SR
13. Miroslav Bural', Director of the Poloniny National Park
14. Marián Gič, IT specialist, Poloniny National Park
15. Milan Piroš, Forester, Poloniny National Park
16. Ladislav Rovňák, Director of the Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area
17. Ladislav Lodomirjak, by-law man of the Village of Zboj
18. Viktória Doričová, representative of Radio and Television of Slovakia (RTVS)
19. Michal Lukša, Member of Parliament SR

Program of the field trips:

#### **October 1, 2014**

Component part Havesovs Primeval Forest: - we went from Stakcin to Havesova through Kalna Roztoka by car. Short walking in Havesova.

Component part Stuzica – Bukovske vrchy: we moved from Havesová to Ruske sedlo through Stakcin by car and we walked in forest stands along the road from the former (moved out) village Ruske to the mountain pass Ruske sedlo.

#### **October 2, 2014**

Component part Stuzica – Bukovske vrchy: we went from Stakcin to locality called Grofske chyzky and we walked in forest stands above the local pond where foresters demonstrated their forest management (regeneration felling) in National Park. Then we moved to National Nature Reserve Stuzica to view primeval forest.

#### **October 3, 2014**

**(organized by the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic)**

- 5,30 - Departure from Snina to the Kosice airport
- 8,35 - Departure from the Kosice airport
- 9,30 - Arrival to the Bratislava airport and transport to the Ministry of Environment SR
- From 11,00 to 13,00 - Final meeting at the Ministry of Environment SR
- 13,00 - Working lunch with the meeting participants

- 16,00 - Transport to the Vienna airport
- 19,10 - Departure from the Vienna airport

Program of the meeting:

Evaluation of the reactive monitoring mission. Formulation of interim conclusions.

List of invited participants:

List of participant:

1. Ján Ilavský, State Secretary of the Ministry of Environment SR
2. Rastislav Rybanič, Director of Division of Nature Protection and Landscape Development of the Ministry of Environment SR
3. Ján. Julény, Director of the Nature Protection Department, Division of Nature Protection and Landscape Development of the Ministry of Environment SR
4. Klára Novotná, Ambassadeur, Permanent Delegation of Slovakia to UNESCO, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs SR
5. Aurélia Fülle, Setretary-General of the Slovak Commission for UNESCO, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs SR
6. Milan Boroš, General Director of the State Nature Conservancy SR
7. Michal Adamec, Director of the Division of Nature and Landscape Protection, State Nature Conservancy SR
8. Michaela Mrázová, Nature Heritage National Focal Point, Coordinator of International Protected Areas, State Nature Conservancy SR
9. Ladislav Chabreček, Director of Department of Border Police, Bureau of Border and Aliens
10. Petronela Hrnčárová, Department of State Border Administration, Ministry of Interior SR

<b>Composition of mission team</b>
------------------------------------

World Heritage Centre representative / IUCN expert:

**Dr Pierre Galland**

Consultant en Environnement et Développement

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Switzerland

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**ANNEX 4**

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Joint Declaration of Intent



JMC\_May  
2014\_signed.pdf



## ANNEX 4

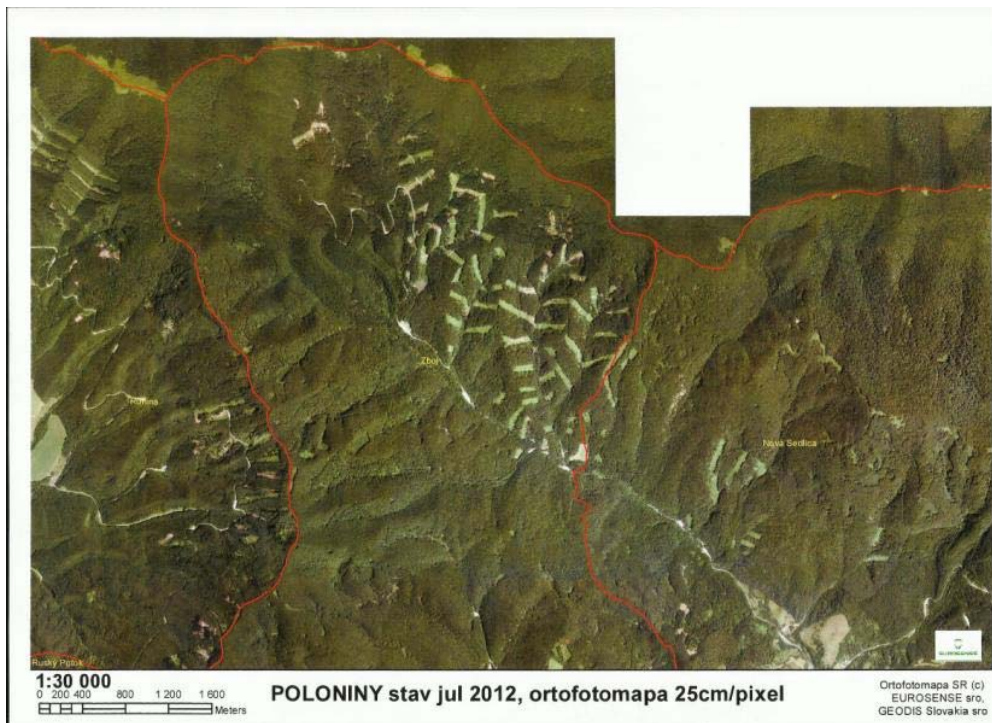
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- List of people met

## ANNEX 5

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- Maps, photos



*Photos provided by NGO WOLF*

The private and governmental enterprises are continuously logging timber and hunting animals in the Slovak part of the PBFC UNESCO property and the amount of planned **logging** in current forest management plan for the site Stuzica has **increased by 450 % !!!**



NGO WOLF



Corridor Stuzica - Bukovske vrchy  
("core area")





*Havesova component  
("core area")  
Really "Primeval"?*



*Havesova - buffer zone  
A few hundred meter from the property*



Stuzica - buffer zone



Stuzica component ("core area")





Forests in the buffer zone ( - 3rd level of protection) (above)  
and

cultural landscape (Poloniny NP, 2nd degree of protection) (below)



... present a great potential for soft tourism !