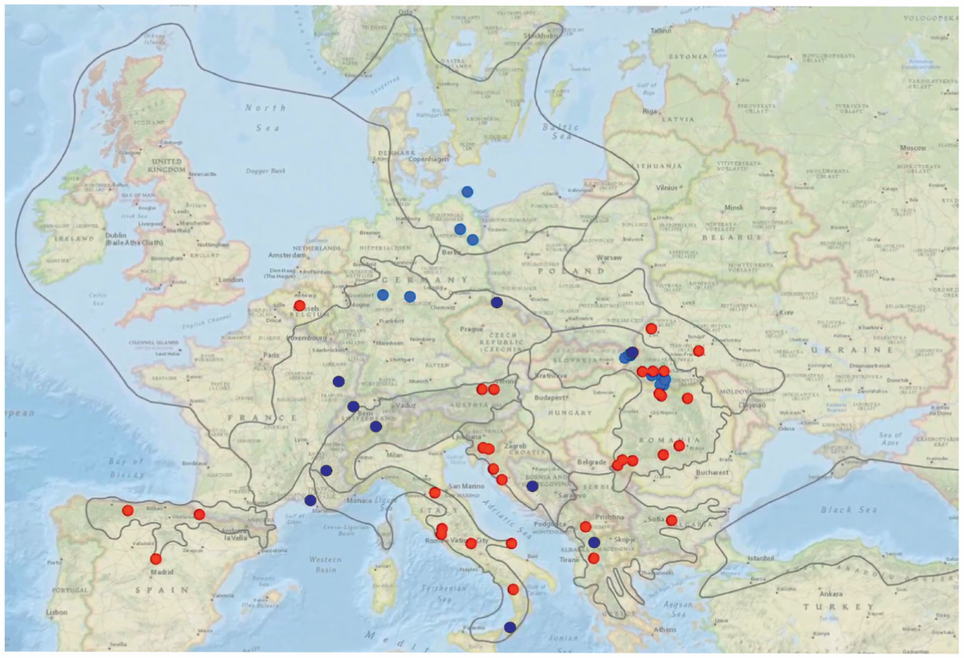
ВСЕСВІТНЯ ПРИРОДНА СПАДЩИНА БУКОВІ ЛІСИ

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WELT NATUR ERBE BUCHEN WÄLDER

WORLD NATURAL HERITAGE BEECH FORESTS



КАРПАТСЬКЕ ЕКОЛОГІЧНЕ ТОВАРИСТВО ECO-KARPATY UA

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Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe – UNESCO World Heritage Site

Fedir HAMOR ECODIAMONDS OF EUROPE

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Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe World Heritage since 2007



Fedir HAMOR

ECODIAMONDS OF EUROPE

HISTORY OF BEECH PRIMEVAL FORESTS NOMINATION TO THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF UKRAINE
CARPATHIAN BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Fedir HAMOR

ECODIAMONDS OF EUROPE

HISTORY OF BEECH PRIMEVAL FORESTS NOMINATION TO THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST

SECOND (SUPPLEMENTED) EDITION OF THE MONOGRAPH «FROM THE UKRAINIAN INITIATIVE TO THE TRANS-EUROPEAN WORLD NATURAL HERITAGE SITE»



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The book addresses crucial issues on the history of designation and management of the transnational serial UNESCO World Heritage Property «Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe». Attention is drawn to the international scientific forums that have laid the basis for the preparation of this nomination and deployment of a European process for the preservation of old beech forests. Here is presented a long-term experience of European environmental cooperation and the views of Swiss, German and Ukrainian experts on the problems of conservation of primeval forests.

The state of execution of the Ukrainian President's and the Government's acts on primeval beech forests conservation as an object of World Heritage and the sustainable development and improvement of the mountain settlements adjacent to them are analyzed. The main international and Ukrainian legal acts regulating the UNESCO World Heritage protection and some other archival materials are also provided.

Designed for scientists, specialists and activists in the field of nature protection, employees of Government and local self-government bodies and the general public.

Reviewers:
Hannes D. Knapp, Professor, Dr. (Germany);
Ivan Voloschuk, Professor, Dr. (Slovakia);
Stepan Stoiko, Doctor of Biological Sciences, Professor (Ukraine).

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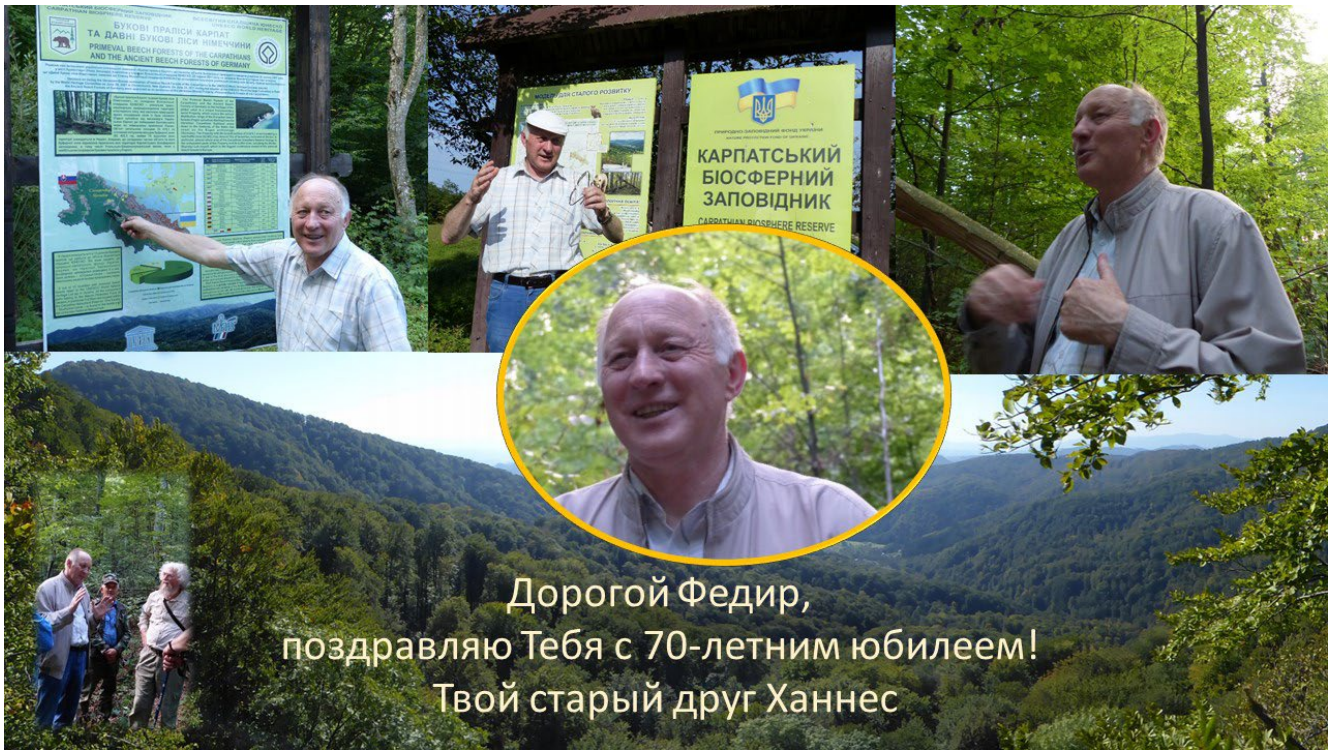
Founders of the Ukrainian-Slovak UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" – Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Professor Fedir Hamor (second to your left) and professor of the Matei Bel University (Slovakia) Dr. Ivan Voloschuk (second on your right) with the German partners during the visit to the Jasmund National Park in the German archipelago of Rügen. In the center – Dr. Elsa Nickel (Director of the Department of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany). To your right – Professor Lembret Eskel (Michael Zukov Foundation, Germany). To your left – Olach Diechmann (representative of the Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania Federal Ministry of Environment Protection). (November 2011)

Dear Fedir!

I would like to congratulate you on publication of your wonderful book dedicated to the history of European beech forests nomination to the World Heritage List, which has started in the Carpathians, on your initiative. You are the father of this idea and also a promoter of the process and transnational cooperation.

This is a great documental monograph about an important project aimed at protection of the ancient Europeans forests and excellent cross-border cooperation. I am very grateful for your participation in this cooperation and for our personal friendship.

Professor, Dr. Hannes KNAPP,
co-chair of the Association «European Beech Forest Network»,
long-term director of the International Academy of Nature Conservation
on the island of Vilm (Germany).



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Director of the Swiss Federal Institute of Forest, Snow, and Landscape Research (WSL) Dr. Mario Broggi and a group of participants of the International Conference "Natural Forests of the Temperate Zone of Europe – Values and Utilization" (in the foreground – director of the German International Academy of Nature Conservation on the Vilm island Professor Hannes D. Knapp) are getting acquainted with the primeval beech forests of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (Ukraine, 2003)



The publication is dedicated to the 100th anniversary since birth of an outstanding ukrainian researcher and defender of Carpathian forests - professor Stepan Gensiruk.

INTRODUCTION

The Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage has been ratified by Ukraine and belongs to the valid international treaties, and in accordance with its Articles 5 and 27, as well as Article 9 of the Constitution of Ukraine, the realization of its provisions is obligatory and priority for implementation.

Therefore, the States – Parties to this Convention are obliged to ensure the most effective protection and promotion of the cultural and natural heritage, to implement educational and information programs, to strengthen the respect and commitment of their peoples to preserve it, to publicly inform population about the danger threatening this heritage, as well as about measures taken for the implementation of this Convention.

The task of conservation and promotion of the unique natural heritage in Ukraine, is defined in the Decree of the President of Ukraine dated November 21, 2017 «About the additional measures for the development of forestry, rational use of nature and conservation of objects of the nature reserve fund» (protected area system), and described in details in the Special Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated November 21, 2018 No 892-p «Some issues on conservation of the Ukrainian part of the UNESCO World Heritage site «Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe» and sustainable development of the surrounding territories».

In order to accomplish these tasks, we have prepared a scientific-popular, journalistic and documentary collection of materials «Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe – UNESCO World heritage property. History and Management».

The book addresses topical issues on the history of the establishment and management of the transnational serial World Heritage Site «Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe».

Here is presented the fifteen-year experience of European ecological cooperation and the views of Swiss, German and Ukrainian experts on the problems of conservation of primeval forests. Attention is drawn to the international scientific forums that initiated the preparation of this nomination and the deployment of the European process of conservation for ancient beech forests, and to the joint research of natural forests by the teams of Professor Fedir Hamor (Ukraine) and Professor Maria Nyijnyk from the James Hutton Institute in Scotland (Great Britain). Here is presented analysis of the state of implementation of Ukrainian Presidential and the Governmental acts on the issues of conservation of primeval beech forests as World Heritage Site and sustainable development and improvement of the mountain settlements, adjacent to them.

Also, here provided the main international and Ukrainian legal acts, regulating the activity on conservation of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, and some other archival materials.

The book is designed for scientists, specialists and activists in the field of nature protection, employees of Government and local self-government bodies and the general public.

PROFESSOR STEPAN GENSIRUK*



On January 6, 2023, Ukrainian and global forest science celebrated the 100th anniversary of the birth of Professor, Doctor of Sciences Stepan Antonovych Gensiruk (1923-2014) - an outstanding scientist from whom, few generations of foresters learned a lot, and at the same time a person of exceptional talent - a wonderful Ukrainian singer who promoted vocal art. There were many bright moments in his life, for example, as the head of the branch of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, prof. Gensiruk with extraordinary dedication and great personal efforts stood up for the protection of Ukrainian forests, which remained excessively exploited from the post-war period until the mid-1970s. He contributed to the conservation of unique forest ecosystems, including the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians, and the revision of the existing in those times views on the forest as a source of timber to the recognition of the multifaceted benefits and functions of the forest.

Professor Gensiruk has published numerous scientific articles and monographs. The scientific output of Stepan Antonovych Gensiruk is 840 scientific works, including 30 fundamental monographs.

Under his supervision 28 candidate and five doctoral theses (dissertations) were defended. His books «Forests of Ukraine» and «Ukrainian encyclopedia of forestry», published during the years when he worked at Lviv National Forestry University of Ukraine (Lviv Forestry Institute and at that time) were highly appreciated by experts from all over the world.

They presented the following important issues for the first time: the evolution of forests and forestry in our country; typological characteristics of forests; theoretical foundations of complex forestry zoning as the basis of sustainable forest management; mechanisms of forest restoration and reforestation in beech, oak and spruce forests of the Carpathians; forest management systems to optimize forest use, support the natural reproduction of the main tree species and cultivation of highly productive and biologically resilient forests; principles of distribution of forests in natural zones of Ukraine; theoretical approaches to promoting the improvement of agricultural landscapes in terms of their socio-economic, visual and ecological components; mechanisms for ensuring the sustainability of forest ecosystems and conservation of biodiversity.

In 1991, Prof. Gensiruk S.A. was elected as a member of four specialized academies: engineering, environmental, forestry and technological cybernetics.

Prof. Stepan Gensiruk was a member of four specialized academies: engineering, ecological, forestry and technological cybernetics, and of the Scientific Society named after Shevchenko.

Professor Gensiruk has been awarded with high state and departmental awards of Ukraine for his significant contribution to the development of national and world forestry and fruitful research, teaching and public work.

He is a Holder of the Order of Merit, Laureate of the State Award of Ukraine in the field of science and technology, Honored Scientist and Technician of Ukraine, Honored Worker of Public Education of Ukraine, Excellent Forestry Worker of Ukraine, winner of the Silver Medal for promoting the development of academic science.

And in 2000, the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO) for the first time awarded the Ukrainian scientist - Stepan Gensiruk with a Gold Medal and Laureate Diploma.

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* Based on the website materials of the National Forestry University of Ukraine

AMONG ALL THE WORLD HERITAGE SITES, THE NOMINATION «ANCIENT AND PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS AND OTHER REGIONS OF EUROPE» INCLUDES THE LARGEST NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

The serial trans-European World Heritage site «Ancient and primeval beech forests of the Carpathians and other regions of Europe» is located on the territories of 18 European countries (Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, Spain, Germany, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine, France, Croatia, Czech Republic and Switzerland).

Among all UNESCO World Heritage sites, it has the largest number of participating countries.

Its total area constitutes 98,125.15 hectares, of which 21.4% is protected on the territory of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve. Due to this, Ukraine, within the Site, holds the first place in terms of the area (28,985.97 hectares or 29.5% of the total area), the second place belongs to Romania (23,982.77 hectares), and the third – to Bulgaria (10,988.91 hectares).

The largest, among the 94 component parts of this Heritage Site, is the continuous massif of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve Uholka-Shyrokyi Luh (11,860 hectares).

The Heritage Site also includes Ukrainian components of primeval and ancient beech forests from the nature reserves «Gorgany» and «Roztochchya», national nature parks «Synevyr», «Zacharovanyi Krai» and «Podilski Tovtry».

According to experts, this nomination at the world level has become extremely valuable as a sample of intact complexes of temperate deciduous forests. It represents the most complete ecological models, which reflect the processes occurring in pure beech forests under various natural and climatic conditions.

This is a truly priceless gene pool of forest beech (Fagus sylvatica) and a number of other species confined to its range.

STAGES OF STRUCTURAL FORMATION OF THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SERIAL PROPERTY "ANCIENT AND PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS AND OTHER REGIONS OF EUROPE"

European beech (Fagus sylvatica L.) is distributed exclusively in Europe and if there were no human interventions, beech forests would be dominant among the landscapes of the central part of our continent. It is also interesting that this sylvatic tree species survived in the last ice age only in small refugiums, in the south and south-east of Europe, and then began to colonize large areas of the continent.

Due to its ecological and biological features, over the past 4 000 years it has occupied large areas, in a wide range of ecological conditions, became part of various forest communities and spread from the sea coast in the northwest to the main mountain systems of Europe.

It is important to note that the post-glacial colonization of the landscapes by beech had been taking place in parallel with the human settlement of the territory and the rise of a developed society.

It is therefore not surprising that beech has become an important element of European culture.

A series of words, such as English "book" or Slavic alphabet letter "bukva" or ABC book "bukvar" are is associated with the name of this species – "buk". Many words in European languages, including the names of regions (such as Bukovyna or the Ukrainian ski resort of Bukovel) and settlements, also come from the word "buk" – beech.

But human economic activity has led to a significant reduction in the area of beech forests in Europe, and there are very few pristine, undisturbed beech forests or primeval (primeval) forests. Therefore, the most valuable remnants of natural beech forests are taken under special protection in a number of countries.

In accordance with the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, a list of cultural and natural sites of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of exceptional universal value is established on the basis of certain criteria and rigorous international scientific expertise.

Therefore, on our initiative, at the end of 2006, after intensive preparatory work done by the research teams of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (Ukraine) and Zvolen Technical University from Slovakia, the governments of Ukraine and Slovakia sent a proposal to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. And on June 28, 2007, this intergovernmental authority, at its 31st session in Christchurch (New Zealand), with the participation of diplomats, scientists and environmentalists from various parts of the world, unanimously, without any remarks, decided to include the Ukrainian-Slovak nomination "Primeval beech forests of the Carpathians" in the Unesco World Heritage List (Pichler V. et al, 2007; Hamor, 2019). It was a long-awaited, truly historic event for scientists and conservationists of Ukraine and Slovakia, and it marked the international recognition of their environmental and scientific activities.

It has also become a tribute to our peoples, who have managed to preserve these unique natural values in the heart of Europe under various complex historical and socio-economic circumstances.

Important for this kind of victory were the active conservation position and fundamental research held by many Ukrainian and foreign scientists from different eras, especially professors Alois Zlatnik (Czech Republic), Stefan Korpel, Ivan Voloschuk and Ivan Voloshchuk and William Pichler (Slovakia), Vasyl, Stepan, Stepan and Vasyl Parpan (Ukraine), Mario Brodji and Brigitte Commarmot (Switzerland) and others (Hamor, 2018).

Big contribution to this process was made by the international scientific conferences and seminars organized by the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve: "Natural forests of the temperate zone of Europe – values and uses" (Hamor, 2004; Commarmot, B.; Hamor F., 2005) and "Identification of potential World Natural Heritage Sites" (Babenko V., 2004), the monograph

"Primeval Forests of the Carpathians. Guidebook to the Forests of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve" (Brandley and Dovhanych, 2003) was published in Switzerland in Ukrainian and German languages, a Ukrainian-Dutch project on inventory of the Transcarpathian primeval forests (Hamor et al. 2008), as well as huge support by German researchers Peter Schmidt and Harald Plachter.

The support granted by David Michalek, an expert of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (USA), was extremely important in this case.

At the first stage of designation, the Ukrainian-Slovak nomination included 77,971 hectares of primeval beech forests, 29,278 hectares of which formed the core area, and 48,692 hectares formed a buffer zone.

It was a transnational serial property consisting of ten separate component parts located along a 185 km long axis, from the Rakhiv Mountains and the Chornohora Range in Ukraine and further to the west along the Poloniny Mountain Range and the Bukovske Vrchy and the Vihorlat Mountains in Slovakia.

More than 52,000 hectares (20,980.5 of which hectares belong to the core area) or almost 70% of the nomination belonged to the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve.

Part of it is still protected at the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park, and only a fourth of it was located within Eastern Slovakia.

According to experts, this nomination has become extremely valuable on the global level as a model of undisturbed complexes of temperate deciduous forests. It represents the most complete and continuous ecological models, which reflect the processes occurring in pure beech forests under different climatic conditions. This is a truly invaluable gene pool of European beech (Fagus sylvatica) and a number of other species associated with its distribution range.

This nomination is an extremely important site (along with the one established earlier in Japan on the island of Hokkaido, a UNESCO World Heritage Site of Japanese beech (Fagus crenata Blume), with an area of ten thousand hectares) to recreate a complete picture of the history and evolution of the genus Fagus, which due to its prevalence in the northern hemisphere is globally important.

Beech is one of the most important components for the biome of temperate deciduous forests, the primeval forests of beech once used to occupy 40% of Europe, and now their fragments are an example of recolonization and development of terrestrial ecosystems and communities since the ice age – a process that is lasting today as well.

Some components of this nomination (especially Uholka-Shirokyi Luh, Chornohirsky, Svydovets and Maramures massifs of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve) are large enough to be home for natural processes necessary for long-term life of many species and ecosystems.

It is also important that primeval beech forests grow on all soil-forming rocks found in the Carpathians (crystalline rocks, limestone, flysch, andesite), represent 123 plant associations and have significant biological diversity. Compared to other UNESCO World Heritage sites, the Carpathian primeval beech forests are characterized by specific flora and fauna, which add ecological complexity and completeness of these ecosystems.

It is also extremely valuable, according to the World Heritage Committee's Resolution, that scientific information from nominees can already help explore the potential impact of the global climate change on Earth.

Thus, the Ukrainian-Slovak nomination "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" as a UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site was of special environmental, scientific and tourist-recreational interest, which became the basis for the creation of a European network of primeval and ancient beech forests.

The next extremely important stage in the history of the world recognition of the primeval beech forests, thanks to the active work of German scientists and conservationists, was the expansion of the Ukrainian-Slovak nomination "Beech primeval forests of the Carpathians" in 2011.

As a result, a serial transnational site of the UNESCO World Heritage Site "Primeval beech forests of the Carpathians and ancient beech forests of Germany" was created. This new, expanded property was also a unique cluster-type transnational site, representing the natural distribution range of beech forests, from the highlands of the Ukrainian Carpathians to the Baltic Sea coast of the German Rügen archipelago.

It included 33,670.1 hectares of core zone and 62,402.3 hectares of buffer zone. In accordance with the decisions of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, in connection with the creation and expansion of this world heritage site, the governments of Ukraine, Germany and Slovakia were tasked the following:

First, to ensure the most effective conservation of the property, with all biotic and abiotic components, including natural habitats of more than 10,000 species of animals, plants and fungi.

To do this, the integrated management plan was designed to identify the mechanisms for their preservation and sustainable use. In particular, all economic activities are prohibited in the core area, though fire protection measures are allowed, also protection against illegal logging is ensured, preservation of monumental old trees is introduced, protection and special management of mountain meadows together with water corridors and freshwater ecosystems is secured, and research and monitoring systems are organized, etc.

Secondly, to organize research aimed at obtaining knowledge that can be transferred and used for sustainable, close-to-nature forest management.

Third, to use the world natural heritage status to intensify environmental education, ensure molding of environmental culture and raise public awareness on primeval forests and their values at the local, national and international levels.

Fourth, to promote the principles of sustainable use of natural resources in the areas adjacent to the World Heritage Site (including the restoration of traditional crafts, development of ecotourism, production of organic food, etc.).

Fifth, Ukraine, Germany and Slovakia are tasked to jointly explore the potential of the World Heritage Convention for further expansion of the site, with the support of IUCN and the World Heritage Center, using the component parts from other states parties, in order to create a full serial transnational nomination and ensure the preservation of this unique forest ecosystem.

However, UNESCO has determined that preference should be given to the international management plan for research and monitoring, given that the volume of the existing database and information collected within the components included in the serial Ukrainian-Slovak-German nomination of primeval beech forests and German ancient beech forests can help explore the effects of global climate change.

In addition to the introduction of an integrated management system, including research programs and monitoring, a European network of information and capacity building centers is being set up, including the future International Capacity Building and Research Center for Beech Forests and Sustainable Development in the Carpathians based at the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, in the Ukrainian mountain resort of Kvasy, which activities should focus on research and promotion of primeval beech forests.

They will serve as a basis for exchange of experience at the international level, as well as organization of joint research activities and dissemination of ecological knowledge.

It should be emphasized that enlisting the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians in the World Heritage List, in general, triggered the European process of preservation of oldgrowth beech forests.

As part of this process, in accordance with the decision of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, with the financial support of the German Government and the active participation of Ukrainian experts, a large-scale inventory and research of ancient beech forests in all European countries that belonged to the distribution ranged of this once dominant tree species.

More than 100 undisturbed beech forest sites were identified; the ones with sufficient size were found in 12 beech forest regions of Europe in 23 countries (Fig. 1). Later, as a result of critical analysis, the so-called "Rakhiv short list" of ancient beech forests was formed within the framework of the international conference "Primeval and oldgrowth beech forests of Europe: problems of conservation and sustainable use", held on September 16-22, 2013 in Rakhiv. Those sites could have been considered as potential components for the expansion of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German Property.

This list was finalized at the Vienna seminar and agreed at an inter-ministerial meeting in May 2014 in Bonn. As a result, 47 applicants for inclusion in the World Heritage List from 20 countries are included in it.



Fig. 1. Map of Beech Forest Regions (Kirchmeir, Kovarovics (eds.), 2020)*

Among them there were Ukrainian sites with primeval and ancient beech forests from the nature reserves "Gorgany" and "Roztochchia", national nature parks "Synevyr", "Enchanted Land" and "Podilski Tovtry". The most significant areas of primeval beech forests from 10 European countries successfully passed the peer review of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and on July 7, 2017 in Krakow, Poland, at the 41st meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee they got included in property as the second phase of expansion of the Ukrainian – Slovak site.

By the Krakow decision of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, the Property "Primeval beech forests of the Carpathians and ancient beech forests of Germany" was renamed to "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe".

A buffer zone with a total area of 294,720.87 hectares was formed around all the component parts of the site.

And at the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee, held online on July 28, 2021 in the Chinese city of Fuzhou the Property was expanded once again (Table 1).

As a result, it covers now 18 European countries (Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, Spain, Germany, Northern Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine, France, Croatia, the Czech Republic and Switzerland) (Fig. 2).

Its total area is 98,125.15 hectares, of 21.4% which is protected in the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve.

It is also interesting that the largest of the 94 components included in this world heritage site is the continuous Uholka-Shyrokyi Luh forest massif (11,860 ha).

It should also be noted that on our proposal on February 2, 2017 in the German city of Eberswalde (Hamor, 2017) representatives of scientific and environmental organizations of Germany, Britain, Austria and Slovakia, created and registered the International NGO "European Beech Forest Network", which is going to deal with conservation and research of primeval beech and ancient beech forests of Europe, as well as seek additional sources of funding and develop other mechanisms for sharing experience and information on their scientific and environmental values, solving problems of their protection in the countries concerned, etc.

It is also extremely important that the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in its decision (39 COM 7B.19) in 2015 approved the actions of Germany, Slovakia and Ukraine on close cooperation regarding preservation and management of the World Heritage Site "Primeval beech forests of the Carpathians and ancient beech

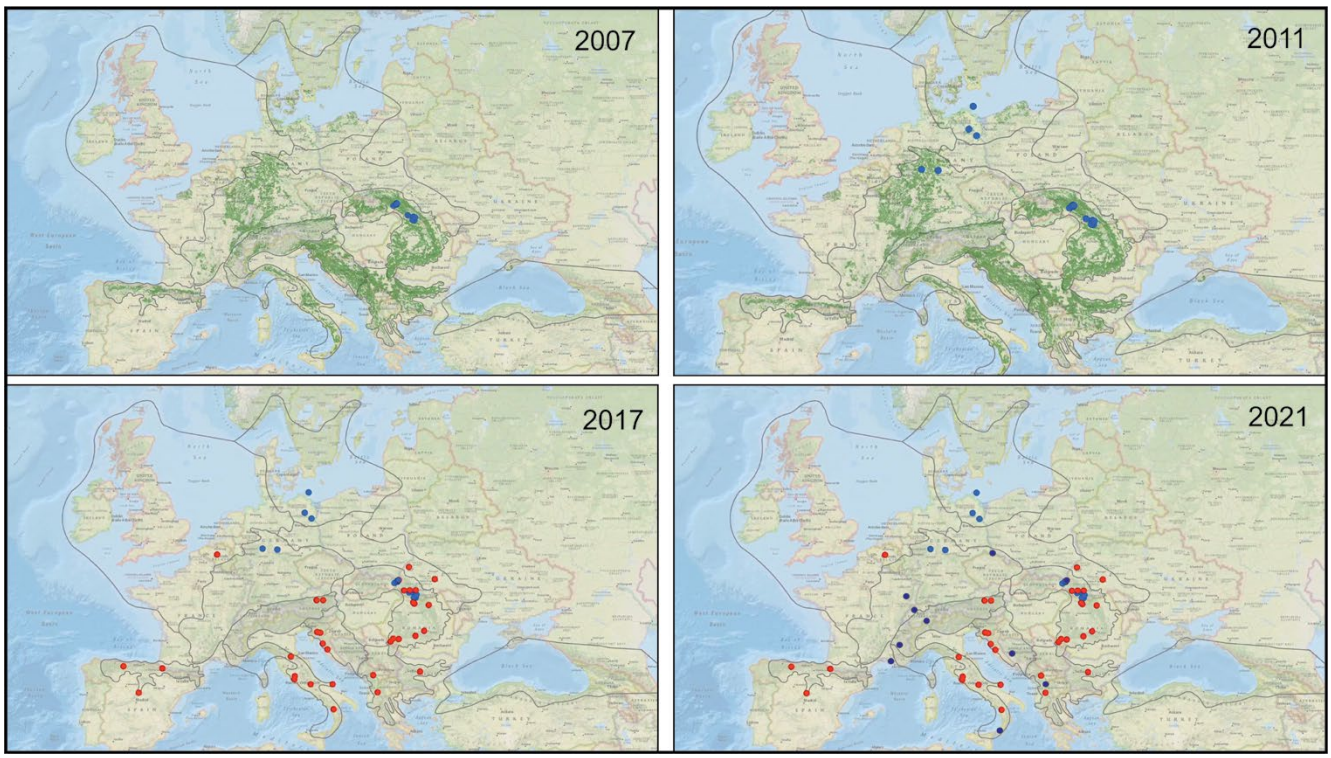


Fig. 2. UNESCO World Heritage Site
«Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe»*
* The schematic maps are prepared with Yuriy Berkela's contribution

forests of Germany ", including the signing of the Joint Declaration of Intent between the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Construction of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic directed onto cooperation regarding the management and protection of the shared Property (Hamor, 2019) and recommends that they continue to make every effort in this direction.

Acts of the President and the Government of Ukraine, which approved the complex of measures, are also of great importance for the preservation of primeval beech forests as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. These measures are aimed not only at protection, but also at ensuring sustainable development and improvement of the adjacent mountain settlements of Zakarpattia region (Hamor, 2013, 2014, 2018).

A special role in the inclusion of primeval beech forests in the UNESCO World Heritage List and their research was played by the projects of the Swiss Federal Institute of Forest Snow and Landscape Research (WSL) implemented in Ukraine, which were based on successful cooperation between Ukrainian and Swiss scientists and aimed in particular on strengthening the capacity of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and enhancing research of primeval forest ecosystems as a whole (Hamor, 2013, 2016, 2017, 2018).

Also important are the joint research of natural forests initiated in 2003-2007 by the teams of Professor Fedir Hamor (Ukraine) and Professor Maria Nijzhnyk from the James Hutton Institute in Scotland (Great Britain), which are still supported by the Department of Analytical Services of the Scottish Government through the Strategic Research Program (2022-2027), in particular within the framework of the JHI-D5-1 project on the study of natural capital.

In general, the experience of multilateral cooperation between scientists and conservationists in the framework of the World Heritage Convention, according to experts, is a reference model of international environmental cooperation.

In general, the experience of multilateral cooperation between scientists and conservationists in the framework of the World Heritage, according to experts, is a reference model of international environmental cooperation.

Table 1. **Dynamics of structural formation of the UNESCO World Heritage Site «Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe»***

№ п/п	State Party	Component part/cluster	Years of establishing (expansion) and area, ha							
			2007		2011		2017		2021	
			Area of the component part (ha)	Area of the Buffer zone (ha)	Area of the component part (ha)	Area of the Buffer zone (ha)	Area of the component part (ha)	Area of the Buffer zone (ha)	Area of the component part (ha)	Area of the Buffer zone (ha)
1.1	Ukraine	Uholka-Shyrokyi Luh	11860,0	3301,0	11860,0	3301,0	11860,0	3301,0	11860,0	3301,0
1.2		Chornohora	2476,8	12925,0	2476,8	12925,0	2476,8	12925,0	2476,8	12925,0
1.3		Svydovets	3030,5	5639,5	3030,5	5639,5	3030,5	5639,5	3030,5	5639,5
1.4		Kuziy-Trybushany	1369,6	3163,4	1369,6	3163,4	1369,6	3163,4	1369,6	3163,4
1.5		Maramorosh	2243,6	6230,4	2243,6	6230,4	2243,6	6230,4	2243,6	6230,4
1.6		Stuzhytsia-Uzhok	2532,0	3615,0	2532,0	3615,0	2532,0	3615,0	2532,0	3615,0
1.7		Synevyr - Darvaika					1588,46	312,32	1588,46	312,32
1.8		Synevyr - Kvasovets					561,62	333,63	561,62	333,63
1.9		Synevyr - Strymba					260,65	191,14	260,65	191,14
1.10		Synevyr - Vilshany					454,31	253,85	454,31	253,85
1.11		Zacharovanyi Krai - Irshavka					93,97	1275,44	93,97	1275,44
1.12		Zacharovanyi Krai - Velykyi Dil					1164,16		1164,16	
1.13		Gorgany					753,48	4637,59	753,48	4637,59
1.14		Roztochya					384,81	598,21	384,81	598,21
1.15		Satanivska Dacha					212,01	559,37	212,01	559,37
2.1	Slovakia	Havešová	171,3	63,99	171,3	63,99	171,3	63,99	167,88	6474,84
2.2		Stužica – Bukovské Vrchy	2950,0	11300,0	2950,0	11300,0	2950,0	11300,0	1742,47	5694,84
2.3		Rožok	67,1	41,4	67,1	41,4	67,1	41,4	74,37	1138,89
2.4		Vihorlat	2578,0	2413,0	2578,0	2413,0	2578,0	2413,0	1553,06	854,08
2.5		Udava							455,82	814,69
3.1	Germany	Jasmund			492,5	2510,5	492,5	2510,5	492,5	2510,5
3.2		Serrahn			268,1	2568,0	268,1	2568,0	268,1	2568,0
3.3		Grumsin			590,1	274,3	590,1	274,3	590,1	274,3
3.4		Hainich			1573,4	4085,4	1573,4	4085,4	1573,4	4085,4
3.5		Kellerwald			1467,1	4271,4	1467,1	4271,4	1467,1	4271,4
4.1	Albania	Lumi i gashit					1261,52	8977,48	1261,52	8977,48
4.2		Rrajca					2129,45	2569,75	2129,45	2569,75

№ п/п	State Party	Component part/cluster	Years of establishing (expansion) and area, ha							
			2007		2011		2017		2021	
			Area of the component part (ha)	Area of the Buffer zone (ha)	Area of the component part (ha)	Area of the Buffer zone (ha)	Area of the component part (ha)	Area of the Buffer zone (ha)	Area of the component part (ha)	Area of the Buffer zone (ha)
5.1	Austria	Dürrenstein					1867,45	1545,05	1867,45	1545,05
5.2		Kalkalpen – Hintergebirge					2946,20	14197,24	2946,20	14197,24
5.3		Kalkalpen – Bodinggraben					890,89		890,89	
5.4		Kalkalpen – Urlach					264,82		264,82	
5.5		Kalkalpen – Wilder Graben					1149,75		1149,75	
6.1	Belgium	Sonian Forest – Forest Reserve «Joseph Zwaenepoel»					187,34	4650,86	187,34	4650,86
6.2		Sonian Forest – Grippensdelle A					24,11		24,11	
6.3		Sonian Forest – Grippensdelle B					37,38		37,38	
6.4		Sonian Forest – Réserve forestière du Ticton A					13,98		13,98	
6.5		Sonian Forest – Réserve forestière du Ticton B					6,50		6,50	
7.1	Bulgaria	Central Balkan – Boatin Reserve					1226,88	851,22	1226,88	851,22
7.2		Central Balkan – Tsarichina Reserve					1485,81	1945,99	1485,81	1945,99
7.3		Central Balkan – Kozya stena Reserve					644,43	289,82	644,43	289,82
7.4		Central Balkan – Steneto Reserve					2466,10	1762,01	2466,10	1762,01
7.5		Central Balkan – Stara reka Reserve					591,20	1480,04	591,20	1480,04
7.6		Central Balkan – Dzhendema Reserve					1774,12	2576,63	1774,12	2576,63
7.7		Central Balkan – Severen Dzhendem Reserve					926,37	1066,47	926,37	1066,47
7.8		Central Balkan – Peeshti skali Reserve					1049,10	968,14	1049,10	968,14
7.9		Central Balkan – Sokolna Reserve					824,90	780,55	824,90	780,55
8.1	Croatia	Hajdučki i Rožanski kukovi					1289,11	9869,25	1289,11	9869,25
8.2		Paklenica National Park – Suva draga–Klimenta					1241,04	414,76	1241,04	414,76
8.3		Paklenica National Park – Oglavinovac–Javornik					790,74	395,35	790,74	395,35

№ п/п	State Party	Component part/cluster	Years of establishing (expansion) and area, ha							
			2007		2011		2017		2021	
			Area of the component part (ha)	Area of the Buffer zone (ha)	Area of the component part (ha)	Area of the Buffer zone (ha)	Area of the component part (ha)	Area of the Buffer zone (ha)	Area of the component part (ha)	Area of the Buffer zone (ha)
9.1	Italy	Abruzzo, Lazio & Molise – Valle Cervara					119,70	751,61	119,70	751,61
9.2		Abruzzo, Lazio & Molise – Selva Moricento					192,70		192,70	
9.3		Abruzzo, Lazio & Molise – Coppo del Morto					104,71	415,51	104,71	415,51
9.4		Abruzzo, Lazio & Molise – Coppo del Principe					194,49	446,62	194,49	446,62
9.5		Abruzzo, Lazio & Molise – Val Fondillo					325,03	700,95	325,03	700,95
9.6		Cozzo Ferriero					95,74	482,61	95,75	2851,83
9.7		Pollinello							477,94	
9.8		Falascone (Foresta Umbra)					182,23	1752,54	254,30	3486,29
9.9		Pavari – Sfilzi							667,13	
9.10		Monte Cimino					57,54	87,96	57,54	87,96
9.11		Monte Raschio					73,73	54,75	73,73	54,75
9.12		Sasso Fratino					781,43	6936,64	781,43	6936,64
9.13		Valle Infernale							320,79	2191,36
10.1	Romania	Cheile Nerei – Beușnița					4292,27	5959,87	4292,27	5959,87
10.2		Codrul secular Șinca					338,24	445,76	338,24	445,76
10.3		Codrul Secular Slătoara					609,12	429,43	609,12	429,43
10.4		Cozia – Masivul Cozia					2285,86	2408,83	2285,86	2408,83
10.5		Cozia – Lotrisor					1103,30		1103,30	
10.6		Domogled – Valea Cernei – Domogled–Coronini–Bedina					5110,63	51461,28	5110,63	51461,28
10.7		Domogled – Valea Cernei – Iauna Craiovei					3517,36		3517,36	
10.8		Domogled – Valea Cernei – Ciucevele Cernei					1104,27		1104,27	
10.9		Grosii Țibleșului – Izvorul Șurii					210,55	563,57	210,55	563,57
10.10		Grosii Țibleșului – Preluci					135,82		135,82	
10.11		Izvoarele Nerei					4677,21	2494,83	4677,21	2494,83
10.12		Strîmbu Băiuț					598,14	713,09	598,14	713,09
11.1	Slovenia	Krokar					74,50	47,90	74,50	47,90
11.2		Snežnik – Ždrocle					720,24	128,80	720,24	128,80

№ п/п	State Party	Component part/cluster	Years of establishing (expansion) and area, ha							
			2007		2011		2017		2021	
			Area of the component part (ha)	Area of the Buffer zone (ha)	Area of the component part (ha)	Area of the Buffer zone (ha)	Area of the component part (ha)	Area of the Buffer zone (ha)	Area of the component part (ha)	Area of the Buffer zone (ha)
12.1	Spain	Hayedos de Ayllón – Tejera Negra					255,52	13880,86	255,52	13880,86
12.2		Hayedos de Ayllón – Montejo					71,79		71,79	
12.3		Hayedos de Navarra – Lizardoia					63,97	24494,52	63,97	24494,52
12.4		Hayedos de Navarra – Aztaparreta					171,06		171,06	
12.5		Hayedos de Picos de Europa – Cuesta Fría					213,65	14253,00	213,65	14253,00
12.6		Hayedos de Picos de Europa – Canal de Asotin					109,58		109,58	
13.1	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Prašuma Janj							295,04	380,74
14.1	Czech Republic	Jizera Mountains							444,81	2279,40
15.1	France	Chapitre							371,30	41,65
15.2		Grand Ventron							319,00	1328,00
15.3		Massane							239,50	1432,30
16.1	Northern Macedonia	Dlaboka Reka							193,27	234,70
17.1	Poland	Border Ridge and Gorna Solinka valley							1506,05	24330,52
17.2		Polonina Wetlinska and Smerek							1178,03	
17.3		Terebowiec stream valley							201,00	
17.4		Wolosatka stream valley							586,66	
18.1	Switzerland	Forêt de la Bettlachstock							195,43	1094,16
18.2		Valli di Lodano, Busai and Soladino Forest Reserves							806,78	2330,74
		Разом	29278,9	48692,69	33670,1	62402,29	92023,14	253815,38	98125,15	294720,87

* Data in the table were prepared with Yuriy Berkela's contribution

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Hamor F. In Bonn, with the participation of the administration of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Joint Declaration between the Ministries of Nature Protection of Ukraine, Germany and Slovakia was signed on conservation and management of primeval beech forests / From the Ukrainian initiative to the trans-European World Heritage Site. The second, supplemented edition of the monograph «World recognition of primeval beech forests of the Carpathians: history and management» – sole proprietor Sabov A.M., Uzhgorod, 2019. – P. 87-89.

SWISS, GERMAN, AND UKRAINIAN VIEWS ON THE VALUES AND PROBLEMS OF PRIMEVAL FORESTS CONSERVATION

WHAT DO THE PRIMEVAL FORESTS OF TRANSCARPATHIA MEAN FOR US?

Primeval forests and cultural landscapes of the Biosphere Reserve in Transcarpathia (Ukraine) are an ideal polygon for the Federal Institute of Forest, Snow, and Landscape Research WSL to conduct the comparative analyses on relevant topics in forestry and nature conservation, as well as landscape management in Switzerland.

WSL has recently hosted guests from Ukraine in Birmnsdorf: Fedir D. Hamor, Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve located in Rakhiv, Vasyl I. Parpan, Director of the Ukrainian Scientific Research Institute of Mountain Forestry from Ivano-Frankivsk, and an interpreter working for the biosphere reserve Ms. Inna M. Tomashuk.

WSL Director Mario F. Broggi, who (as an expert of the Council of Europe) presented a report on awarding this Biosphere Reserve with the European Diploma for Protected Areas, also commented in his speech on the mutual interests to cooperate in the field of scientific research.

Transcarpathia or Zakarpattia, the western region (oblast) of Ukraine in the southwestern part of the Carpathians, is an ancient cultural mountain landscape, which is forest-covered by more than two-thirds; it is located in the geographical center of Europe, and is a natural paradise, primarily because of primeval beech forests that are unique throughout Western Europe. In 1992, the reserve was included into the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves with the appropriate legal status, and six parts of the reserve were identified with the total area of 39,000 hectares, 18,000 hectares of which were primeval forests that extended across all altitudes from 180 to 2061 m asl. They are rich in beech and deciduous mixed forests, and the grass vegetation zone of the upper forest line was once used by shepherds (like Huzele in the archaic culture of the Alps). The value of the nature in this region contrasts with the impoverishment of highly skilled, but mostly unemployed population living down in the valley, who after the collapse of the Soviet Union have lost their industry and tourism. In November, the people there suffered from a catastrophic flood, which, by the way, had eroded all bridges.



Mario Broggi

ALMOST LIKE SIHLWALD

For a Swiss forest scientist, this region is already interesting (from a forest point of view) for comparing natural forests and the sites with continuous logging interventions in the forested area of Switzerland, where they practice close-to-nature forest management. Moreover, it has a big importance to us in terms of the long-term forest management, maintenance of natural landscapes similar Sihlwald (close to Zurich), discussions on establishing a permanent biosphere reserve, preservation of nature and culture, tourism in the Alps, especially in the light of a modern concept of nature protection, which also includes dynamics and management. This comparison also helps to identify similarities and contrasts. Swiss

forestry experts say that in the beech forests of the Carpathians (at an altitude of 600 m) they felt themselves like in the highest segments of Sihlwald forests - perhaps, it may have looked like this some 200 years ago. Although there were many endemic species in these forests (species that occur only there), a very similar composition of vegetation and fauna was observed. As a matter of fact, till now, none of us knew what primeval beech forests look like; the generally accepted idea of the collapse of the "pillar hall" of beech trees in any case was not justified; we are talking more about a forest stand with much more (according to our imagination) amount dead and decaying timber.

It was relatively easy to explain what the natural landscape of Sihlwald was lacking in order to become a primeval forest, and why, due to its recently introduced exploitation, it was different from the forest, which had never (or at least for the past 200 years) been managed. The Carpathian forests are also viewed as a contrast for conducting the comparison of game fauna balance and forest regeneration, large predators such as lynx, wolf and bear in Switzerland and their impact on wild ungulates in order to maintain forest development process. These forests are a home for, in particular, roe deer and deer, which are rarely encountered as a result of poaching, while lynx, wild cat, otter, ferret, wolf and bear, which are either rare or threatened here, are flagship species there.

According to Mario Broggi, the essence of cooperation interest is as follows: when we introduced a long-lasting close-to-natural use landscape management into the program (the term "sustainability" was first used in the forest management), we understood that one should first learn how the nature is developing without human economic activity, and above all – hot it functions without predatory exploitation. As it is well-known, there is a Law on quantitative, long-term forest management in Switzerland, and there is a large amount of data on forest sites obtained in the result of long-term observations of forest development, taking care of "good trees" from the economical point of view, but sustainability of the forest because of logging is extremely poor.

In Transcarpathia (Zakarpattia oblast of Ukraine), the situation is completely different: there exists both non-commercial forests with a complete protection and forest sites with continuous logging, thus WSL could, as an experience exchange, obtain environmentally sustainable model of primeval forests, and have at its disposal an example of long-term use of a managed forest. As for the scientific staff, cooperation here is already possible. In the biosphere reserve there are 20 employed researches with a relevant university degree (their salary ranges from 20 to 75 CHF) and 300 people with other qualifications; there is a herbarium, a library and a museum here, also the data for 10-year period of research are collected and processed, for example, the information is collected from permanent inventory plots of one hectare, and the observation data for 60-year period is available for them, which is really incredible. Though, all this is written in Cyrillic and scattered across various specialized journals, and therefore it is necessary to accumulate these valuable data in archives and translate them.

AN EXAMPLE OF ONE MINI-ROJECT

Last year, one WSL employee has undertaken a very informative trip to Transcarpathia to identify opportunities for scientific collaboration with a local research institution in Rakhiv and other universities in the region. The mini-project initiated by Peter Duelli gives an idea of how such cooperation can be initiated: the starting point is the comparative analysis of primeval beech forests of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Albishang Beech Forest in order to determine and estimate the number of insects living on tree trunks (Xylobionten). In the ten weeks of catching insects in traps, a Standard List of Species was prepared for Sihlwald, and a conclusion about the impact of forest management on biodiversity was made. The calculation of financial expenses without wages of WSL staff – 65,800 CHF; animal species identification will be held in Ukraine, but only for 16,000 CHF.

COOPERATION AND SOFT TOURSIM

Such cooperation leads simultaneously to, so to speak, research tourism in the area. The region should get some revenue from the fact that the biosphere reserve is located here. This natural area, which is both multiethnic and rich in tradition, could also be useful for "soft" natural tourism, research and education or ethnic tourism. That is why Dr. Broggi is encouraging the relevant authorities and institutions of Switzerland and Liechtenstein to cooperate with him, involving the

non-governmental organizations that operate in the field of nature conservation (WWF, Bird Life etc.). Since Soviet times, a number of buildings remain here – deserted holiday homes and hotels, designed for almost 320,000 guests, which can be partially restored and refurbished, with minimal sanitary equipment installed. There's a lacking of income among population here, almost every family keeps a cow. They can offer several organic products, especially milk, honey, mushrooms, medicinal herbs, trout breeding; besides, here we find lots of unused mineral water sources, as well as handmade arts and crafts. The topographic position in the Carpathians makes it easy to understand and perceive the Swiss model of nature management. This was revealed during an exchange visit, when guests were interested in, in particular, our alpine farms and cooperatives.

The Western model of natural reserves, which differs from the east-European one, could also bring benefits both the population and nature. The Soviet Union was known, as compared to the West, for being very generous in establishing nature reserves, and they were also maintaining imperial royal hunting lands dating back to the times of the Austrian-Hungarian monarchy in a good state. The Ukrainian concept of the biosphere reserve is characterized by one huge, 80% of its area, core zone where protection and research are carried out, and smaller areas are the buffer zone and the development zone. In the Western model for long-term use a "taboo zone" was created, which is very small in size, while the buffer zone and the development zone for selective use are larger correspondingly. In such external zones, the long-term use of giant beeches and tourism development take place without any harm to the reserve. At the same time, this is an alternative to the Soviet forest management, which is first of all known for combination of protection and continuous logging.

Neue Zurcher Zeitung INLA ND Montag, 20.09.1999 Nr. 218 11

TEN THESES OF GERMAN PROFESSOR HANNES D. KNAPP

From the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve to the World Natural Heritage Site and the European Beech Forest Network.

1. Local activities for the protection of remaining virgin/ancient forests started in 19th century in several countries of Europe (e.g. Swedish Pomerania, Mecklenburg, France, Bohemia, Austria, Italy, Slovenia etc., initiated by artists and scientists, forest owners and foresters in respect to the old age of trees and the high integrity of forests. Early examples are the rescue of the ancient forest from cut on the Isle of Vilm (1810), the decision to protect beech forests as "sacred halls" in Mecklenburg (1850), the initiatives of artists from Barbizon to save ancient trees in the forest of Fontainebleau near Paris (around 1850), and the protection of the Rothwald (1875) as the last remaining virgin forest of the Alps in Austria.

2. The Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (Ukraine) is the "cradle" and the pro-motor of the World Heritage nomination of the "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians", and the extension process in two steps to the serial transnational World Natural Heritage "Primeval and Ancient Beech Forests of the Carpathians and other Regions of Europe". In the International Conference "Natural Forests



Decades-long directors of the International Academy for Nature Conservation on the island of Vilm (Germany) and the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (Ukraine) – Professors Hannes D. Knapp (left) and Fedir D. Hamor

in the Temperate Zone of Europe – Values and Utilization" in Mukachevo (2003), organized by the CBR and the Swiss WSL, questions of virgin forest protection were discussed. 2007 the

"Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" were inscribed as serial transnational World Natural Heritage Site, consisting of four Slovak and six Ukrainian component parts.

3. Ukraine and the Carpathian BR are not only the cradle, they are also the largest part of the joint World Natural Heritage Site. The Uholka component part in the CBR includes nearly 12,000 ha compact beech virgin forests, more than 1/3 of the first inscription. 2011 it was extended by five component parts from Germany, which cover in total 4,391 ha.

4. The Swiss WSL supported the CBR in scientific research of virgin beech forests as an important base for the justification of the Outstanding Universal Value in the nomination process for the World Heritage List.

5. Governmental institutions and experts from Germany (e.g. BMU, BfN) initiated and supported the development of a European beech forest network (EBFN) in cooperation with the CBR and experts from several countries. In a series of Expert-Workshops "Beech Forests – Joint Natural Heritage of Europe (1-8)" on the Isle of Vilm (2010, 1011, 2012; Germany), in Soriano nel Cimino (2012: Italy), CBR Rakhiv (2013, Ukraine), and Vienna (2014, 2 x 2015; Austria) the data for the European extension nomination were collected and discussed.

6. Austria finalized and submitted the extension nomination dossier 2016 to UNESCO. The World Heritage Committee decides to inscribe the extension nomination of European Beech Forests at the 41st Session in Krakow (Poland) in July 2017. The "Primeval and Ancient Beech Forests of the Carpathians and other Regions of Europe" today contain 78 component parts in 12 countries of Europe (Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Italy, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Ukraine). They cover in total 92,023 ha, surrounded by 253,815 ha buffer zones. This European project started in CBR, it contributes to European identification and integration.

7. The inscription of European beech forests in the World Heritage List improves the public awareness for the value and importance of virgin forests and supports the movement of civil society for the protection of remaining old-growth forests in Europe.

8. The status as World Heritage Site requires a close cooperation of the state parties at administration and expert levels to preserve the integrity of the property, and to save the OUV. It is an urgent need for the establishment of an Integrated Management System for the property, of cooperative and transnational research and monitoring plans, and for the set up cooperative international programmes of capacity building to share best practices.

9. The European Beech Forest Network (EBFN) shall be a frame for cooperation, joint research, and exchange of expertise and experiences open for experts from all old-growth beech forests in Europe. Since July 2017 it is registered as legal association (e.V.) in Germany. Its overall goal is to work towards a functional network of European beech forest experts/ practitioners from areas, which contain valuable old-growth beech forests. The Vilm Resolutions from 2015 and 2017 give recommendations to policy for the management and protection of beech forests. Today about 200 experts from 24 countries are listed.

10. Beech forests can be also an important contribution to the network of certified Wilderness areas in Europe. Every intervention in a primeval/old-growth forest interrupts the continuity of millennia of the evolution. A virgin forest, once cut, is irreversible destroyed. It can never be restored as "virgin forest". All remaining old-growth forests are too valuable for shredder and planks. They have to be strictly protected. The mankind is able to fly to the moon, but it cannot make a virgin forest. This is a key message from the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve.

2018.

PRIMEVAL FORESTS PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION NEED TO BE RELEVANTLY SAFEGUARDED BY LAW*



Andriy Mykhailyk

In February 2016, the Ukrainian Society for Nature Conservation initiated a scientific working meeting with the involvement of conservationists and other stakeholders from among the state executive authorities on the issues of preservation of Ukrainian primeval forests. In particular, it was satated during the meeting that, according to the results of the inventory, about 62.000 hectares of primeval forests remain fragmentarily preserved in Ukraine, mainly in the Carpathian region. Those located in the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park are component parts of the UNESCO World Heritage Property. But in recent years they are in serious danger. Some virgin forests, even in protected areas, are mercilessly cut down. Therefore, the participants of the meeting came with a proposal to discuss the draft amendments to some legislative acts of Ukraine regarding the protection of primeval forests. The very idea of the protection on the level of legislation was supported, but during contentious debate a lot of comments and suggestions were made.

Time had passed, and on April 20, 2016, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine registered a draft Law regarding protection of primeval forests, prepared by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine and by NGOs – the Kyiv Ecological and Cultural Center, the Ukrainian Bird Conservation Association and WWF in Ukraine. The signatories of the bill were 3 Parliament Members.

– Some members of the general public are in a hurry, initiating the introduction of amendments to the legislation on the protection of virgin forests through the members of the Parliament, – noted the deputy director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (CBR) Professor Fedir Hamor in his interview.

A while ago, it was exactly Fedir D. Hamor, who as the director of CBR proposed to enter the Ukrainian primeval beech forests into the UNESCO World Heritage List. The author of these lines remembers that, almost two decades ago, some skeptics laughed at him: "Did you hear what Hamor is up to? Do you know what he proposes?!".

And today, preservation of primeval forests is practically main trend of nature conservation activities in a number of institutions, organizations and associations. And it's not only in Ukraine.

– In the law-in-draft registered in the Parliament, two key aspects are missing, Fedir Hamor emphasizes. First of all, the economic mechanism of interest and stimulation of people to protect the forests is not involved, because it is a real nonsense to act only through prohibitions. It is also necessary to increase the level of criminal responsibility for logging in primeval forests. This law does not solve anything at all. There is a lot of fuss around it, but the adoption of this law will not bring anything positive to us. This is rather a PR campaign.

– But you yourself have noted: it is absolutely necessary to ensure the primeval forests protection on the legislative level.

– As can be seen from the above, protection and conservation of primeval forests require an adequate legal support. In late March, the Verkhovna Rada adopted the amendments to the Law of Ukraine "On Protection of Cultural Heritage" at the first reading (as for preservation of cultural heritage Properties that are listed into the UNESCO World Heritage List). This is a very important bill. I offered to our Ministry of Environmental Protection to join the working process and to combine in one document not only preservation of the cultural, but also natural world heritage, where the Property "Primeval Beech

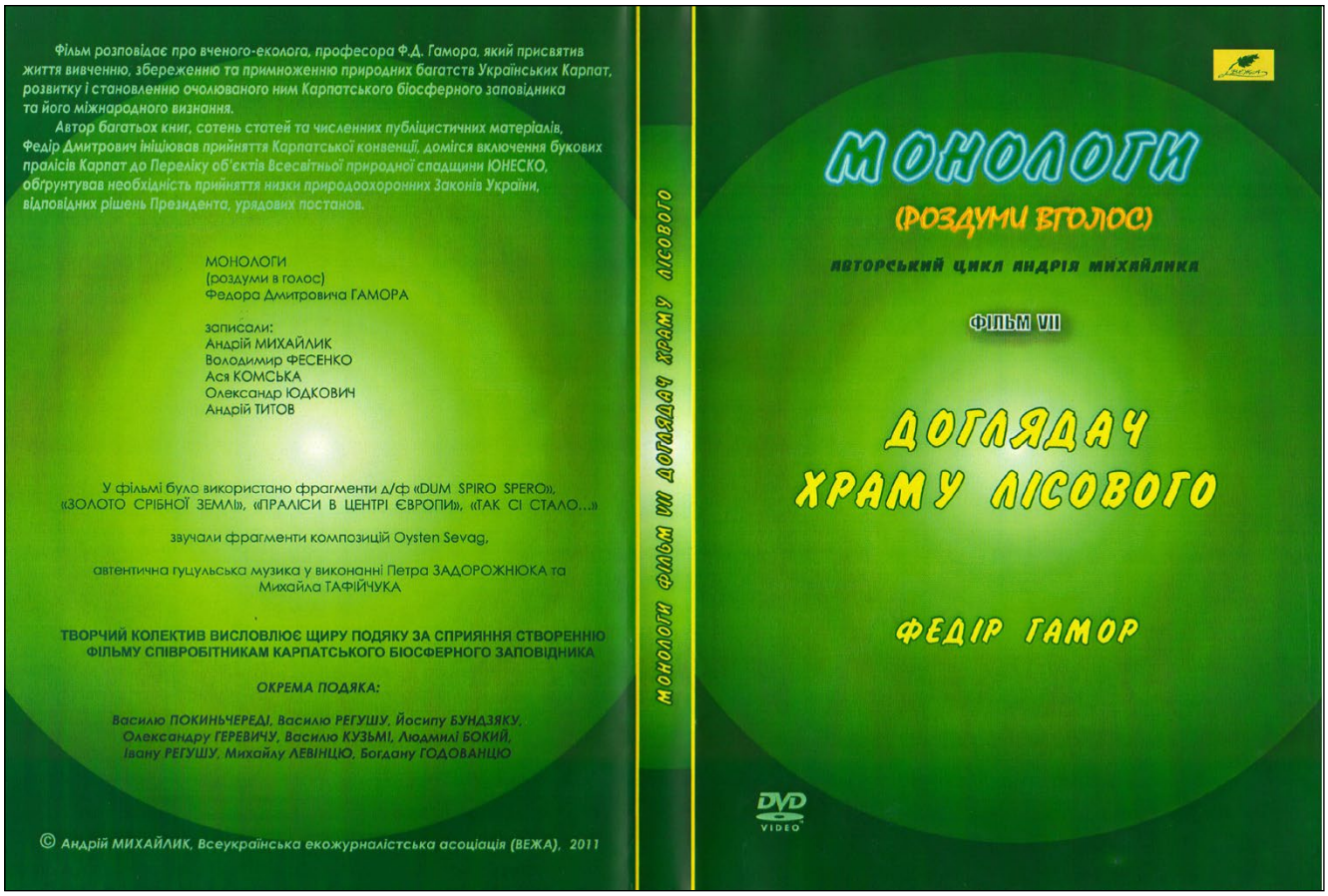
* Andriy Mykhailyk

Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany belong to. But it happened as it is. Now we are waiting for the time when the bill will be adopted as a whole. And after that, we will present our proposals to extend this Law for the natural UNESCO World Heritage Properties.

– But not all the Ukrainian primeval forests are part of the World Heritage Property. What shall we do with them?

– Sporadic legislative actions do not eliminate the problem in general. "Do not allow this to happen!" – It's not enough today. Throughout the world, problems are being solved is another way: to enable local communities to understand and feel that the preserved forest brings them some benefits. And now, the residents of the mountain areas are in difficult conditions. People do not have to think about how and where they should get illegal wood from or steal it. Such unique territories should protect by everyone – and not only by rangers, but also by other employees of a protected area.

Internet resource "Hrinchenko-Inform", 2016.



Documentary film by Andriy Mykhailyk (in three parts) about Fedir Hamor – a warden of the temple of forest
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n3mxfT0ba9Q&fbclid=IwAR36J54HSqIfWdwOBKBxZBscSUe1XmXkcvrcaW8SwWWw4dB5q8ZQhql_bjg)

ON THE ROLE, PLAYED BY INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC FORUMS IN THE PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS' NOMINATION PROCESS TO THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST

EAST-WEST: THE VALUES OF NATURE AND PEOPLE

When in the late 80s of the last century an iron curtain between Eastern and Western Europe was dropped, there opened new possibilities for studying nature, landscape, nature-management and culture of these vast areas. In Eastern Europe, in particular, there remained pristine ecosystems and undisturbed landscapes preserved together with the unique culture of its peoples. As a huge safe, it has long been locked away from scholars of Western Europe though they keep lots of valuable information on forest development and climate change, nature conservation and biodiversity.

This applies, for example, especially to the beech forests of Zakarpattia region and the vast forests in the Urals. This is where the Western scientists together with Ukrainian and Russian partners have the opportunity to conduct intensive study of the dynamics of natural processes, as well as get acquainted with the culture and life of East European nations. In turn, the Eastern European scientists are learning about the latest achievements of the European science and culture, they study the publications on advanced research methods, gain experience of practical implementation of sustainable development strategies under the market conditions.

As a result, new knowledge for continuous and ecologically optimal land-use and forest management are formed, are well as the knowledge on conservation of nature and landscapes and on implementation of the market reforms, increasing the responsibility of people of different nations and ethnic groups for the preservation of the planet Earth.

The benefits of collaborative research is clear for all the parties of the process. This is confirmed, for example, by a long-term cooperation between the Swiss Federal Institute of Forest, Snow and Landscape Investigations (Switzerland) and the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (Ukraine) and the Ural Academy of Forestry (Russia). As part of this collaboration there were developed and implemented a number of important joint projects. Thus, scientists from CBR and the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Investigations based on the data obtained from the Uholka primeval forest site, are working on a model of optimal recovery of the Swiss managed forests, analyze the dynamics of the forest ecosystems, and organize exchange trips for ecotourists and so on.

Therefore, in order to promote the cooperation and understanding between scientists and experts in Western and Eastern Europe, attracting the attention of financial and business representatives of Switzerland to these problems, the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research supported by the Swiss Federal Office for the environment, forests and landscape (BUWAL) and the Board of Directors of the Swiss Agency for cooperation with developing countries (DEZA), held on October 24-29, 2000 in Birmensdorf (Switzerland) the international conference "Natural values of the East and the West – scientific research for the sake of continuous development from the Alps to the Ural Mts.". The conference gathered about 200 scientists, experts, Government representatives and businessmen from Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Sweden, Slovakia, Ukraine, Russia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Romania and other countries. The conference resulted in a large forum of knowledge. According to the Chairman of the conference Dr. Reinhard Lessig, the event involved perhaps the largest number of scientists from Eastern Europe.

The conference played an important role in the exchange of scientific information and gave a big push to strengthen East-West joint actions

in the sphere of science, economics, politics and culture. During the meetings there were developed and discussed concrete proposals in the field of environmental management and conservation, tourism, prevention and mitigation of natural calamities etc.

The conference was attended by a large group of scientists of Ukraine: CBR, the Uzhgorod National University, and the Institute of Ecology of the Carpathians NAS of Ukraine, Ukrainian National Forestry University and the Ukrainian Research Institute of Mountain Forestry. Among them there were such well-known scientists as Dr. Sci. S.M. Stoiko, V.I. Parpan V.I. Nykolaichuk and the author of this publication.

The first presentation at the conference on the topic "Eurasia – an opinion of a scientist" was made by Werner H. Schoch (Switzerland). This researcher studied for a long time the nature of Russia. He presented a series of spectacular slides that showed the vast areas of Siberia and the Urals, the unique beauty of their nature, including forests, rivers, unique plant and animal species, especially the lives and traditions of indigenous peoples. Briefly commenting on these impressive natural panoramas, Dr. Schoch said: "In the West we have lost long ago this pristine nature, and therefore our sacred duty is to do everything possible to preserve the natural values at least in the East". The director of the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Investigations Mario Broggi made a presentation under the title "Primeval forests and prospects of cooperation between East and West", continuing the idea above, said: "Today, these great treasures, which include extremely valuable information on forest and climate development, as well as on specie and nature conservation practices, have become objects of collaborative research for the West and East European scientists. Our institute has been successfully working with Eastern European scientific institutions almost 10 years. And all members of the research process have enormously benefited of the joint projects". Assessing the cooperation with the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Ural Institute of Forest, Dr. Mario Broggi stressed that this work provides an excellent platform for scholars of East and West, enables the exchange of information and ideas, creates conditions for the pan-European network of environmental research.

With a great interest the participants accepted the presentation on the topic "Cooperation in the context of Ukraine", which was made by the director of CBR, Dr. Sci. in biology Fedir Hamor. It outlined the great work carried out in the sphere of biological diversity conservation and the creation of new protected areas in Ukraine in recent years. Those achievements were possible due to adopting the system of legislation in the field of environmental protection in Ukraine, and thanks to the support of this activity by the President and the Government of Ukraine. Attention was focused on the problems of the Carpathian region, including the environmental aspects of catastrophic natural calamities, emerging here.

The presentation contained an analysis of CBR's activity in solving these problems and its achievements in implementing sustainable development strategies. The results of cooperation between the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Investigations were summed up, and the author also expressed views on increased cooperation between the scientists of East and West, and proposed a number of specific projects and economic mechanisms to implement them.

Significant recommendations to the protection of nature in Ukraine were made in his speech also by Dr. Sci. Professor, and chief researcher at the Institute of Ecology of the Carpathians of NAS of Ukraine Stepan Stoiko.

The presentations by a number of high-profile officials of the Government of Switzerland were made during the Conference. So, the presentation on the topic "Cooperation between East and West in terms of Switzerland" was made by the Director General of the Swiss Directorate on cooperation with developing countries (DEZA), Swiss Ambassador Walter Fust. He talked about the political and economic processes taking place on the European continent after the collapse of the Soviet Union, described the place and role of Switzerland in these processes. The Swiss Government supported Eastern Europe and CIS in terms of providing not only the political support, said Dr. Fust, but also by the humanitarian aid and funding research projects. Only in 2000 about 80 million of Swiss francs were allocated for this purpose. By the proposals made by DEZA there is a new project to assist Eastern European countries for the period until 2003 within the 900 million Swiss francs is being drafted. The joint research

projects, partnership between institutions and participating in conferences and other programs will be supported.

The Secretary of state on scientific research in Switzerland Charles Kleiber made a presentation on the topic "Cooperation between East and West in terms of science" and gave an analysis to the impact of the Soviet Union's collapse and on technologies' development in the territory of the newly formed states. He noted that (since 1990) there created many organizations in the West the purpose of which was to help stabilize the situation in the CIS countries and especially in Russia and Ukraine. One of the objectives was also to support scientists and prevent unwanted spread of military technologies. Moreover, the West sought to benefit from the huge scientific potential and prevent the exodus of intellectuals from East to West. The assistance given by West was directed primarily at improving the management of science and technology. This is the goal of corresponding Swiss programs and activities such as the European projects INTAS, TACIS and others. Many Western experts hope that CIS will become valuable partners in international cooperation in science and technology. The head of the Swiss National Fund for Scientific Cooperation Evelyn Gletti in her presentation "Research cooperation with Eastern Europe – goals, experience and prospects" in detail dwelled on a number of aspects research projects support in CIS. It was very rightly emphasized that after the first euphoria over independence, the East European scientists were experiencing a harsh reality: salaries became scarce, they got outdated equipment, there was a lack of funds for new equipment and trips abroad.

Many interesting ideas were outlined in the report delivered by the Professor of the Greifswald University (Germany) Michael Succow "Values of the Eurasian nature – to be protected and used", and in the one by Eugene Schwartz, head of the Nature Conservation group of the Bureau of the Russian World Wildlife Fund "The role of protected areas for sustainable development of Russia".

The conference also contained a number of scientific reports, which summarized the studies, including the study of human influence on changes in forest ecosystems and climate, the results of knowledge and technologies exchange on the examples of Switzerland, Ukraine, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and others. These messages were all about the same thing: "Primeval forests research on the example of a biosphere reserve in Ukraine", which was made by Brigitte Commarmot – a researcher from the Swiss Institute of Forest, Snow and Landscape Investigations and Vasyl Chumak – assistant lecturer from the Uzhgorod National University. The authors summarized cooperation between the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Swiss Federal Institute in primeval forest ecosystems research, stopped more in detail on the prospects of these studies.

During the discussion that took place, there were made a lot of concrete proposals to enhance cooperation; there was a great interest expressed by the participants to the preservation of natural values of the East and West, and they constructively discussed financial support and other assistance to the East European countries in the study and conservation of natural and cultural heritage.

And during the breakout sessions "Continuous forest and land use" (Chairman – Dr. Hans Kasper, President of the Swiss Society of Foresters); "The development of forest and climate" (Chairman – Professor George Grabherr, University of Vienna); "Biodiversity – primeval forests – protected areas" (Chairman – Professor Peter F. Schmidt, Dresden University); "Tourism that does not harm nature" (Chairman Professor Michael Succow, University of Greifswald) "Natural phenomena" (Chairman – Prof. Hans Kinholtz, Berne University) there were expressed and discussed many new ideas and projects.

The conference participants made a trip to the Swiss biosphere reserve "Entlebuch" in Lucern, which perfectly illustrates in practice the harmonious development of man and nature in mountain ecosystems.

The conference was attended by a large group of journalists. By the results of its work there were published lots of materials in the Swiss press. For example, a well-known newspaper "Neue Zurcher Zeitung" in its issue on October 28, 2000 noted that "... studies of primeval forests of Transcarpathia create an ideal basis for the comparison of actual problems of forestry and nature conservation in Switzerland". Following this idea, Bern newspaper "Der Bund" in its issue of October 31, 2000 says: "The research project of primeval forests lead by Brigitte Commarmot and

her Ukrainian partner Vasyl Chumak is aimed at the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, MAB UNESCO member, in Transcarpathia, where they study the structure, life cycles and biodiversity of natural forests. The object for comparison is Sihlvald in the canton of Zurich. This experience makes a perfect basis for comparison of actual problems of forestry and environment in Switzerland as well. It tells us how to efficiently care for protected areas, and gives us arguments in the debate about clearing of Swiss forests affected by windfall and storm "Vivian" and "Lothar" in 1990 and 1999". "Economically hopeless situation and a long history of air pollutions – says the newspaper "Zurcher oberlanden" in its issue of October 30, 2000 – are a real danger to the nature of many East European countries. Therefore, the research should be held not just for the heart's sake, – underlined many conference participants".

The possibility to make nature conservation economically viable in Eastern regions and to create jobs there are proved by the changes occurring in the biosphere reserve, located in the Carpathian region of Ukraine. Ecotourism can facilitate income for the locals, which is really needed, according to the director of the reserve.

Making further review of the presentation made at the conference by the director of CBR F.D. Hamor, the newspaper "St. Caller Tagbatt" in its issue of October 31, 2000 says: "Forest cover occupies 15 per cent of Ukraine. In Zakarpattia province in the far south-west, bordering Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and Poland more than half of the territory today is still forested. You can also find the last individuals of European forest cat and bear, lynx and wolf. Carpathian Biosphere Reserve covers primeval beech forest, the size of which amounts to 9000 hectares except for mountains and botanical reserves. Small remnants of primeval forests that still can be studied in other European countries vary from 50 to 100 hectares, and sites of over 1,000 hectares are rare. That is why the forests of the Carpathian region are the natural heritage of global significance. The newspaper "Tages-Anzeigen" in its issue of November 3, 2000 says: "Fedir Hamor, the Director of the Biosphere Reserve from Transcarpathia hopes for joint work and some arguments to convince the Ukrainian Government that extensive clear-cutting followed by plantations of spruce should be prohibited. Outside the reserve, common practices of clear cutting have led to problems of erosion and enhance the destructive force of floods that have occurred in the Carpathian region in 1998. And, of course, Fedir Hamor hopes that more programs from the West that can bring jobs and income stability for beautiful but poor villages of the Carpathians.

Indeed, not only at CBR, but also in the Carpathian region in general, there is a great number of natural and cultural values of great international importance which are a valuable treasure of Ukraine. Protection and rational use of this wealth can give not only a decent living to the mountain dwellers, but also a considerable benefit to the state of Ukrainian as a whole...

It is encouraging that a huge scientific forum in Switzerland drew attention to Ukraine again.

The Conference Proceedings were published as a collection of scientific papers which contained 13 articles.

2001.

NATURAL FORESTS IN THE TEMPERATE ZONE OF EUROPE: VALUES AND UTILIZATION

From October 13 to October 17, 2003, the International Scientific Conference "Natural Forests in the Temperate Zone of Europe: Values and Utilization" (Mukachevo) was held by the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve. This scientific gathering was attended by 250 representatives of the European forest science elite from 26 countries of Western and Eastern Europe.

Among them such well-known scientists as: Mario Broggi and Peter Duelli (Switzerland), Peter Schmidt (Germany), Jari Parvijnen (Finland), Bill Slee (UK), George Frank and Elizabeth Johann (Austria), Emil Klimo (Czech Republic), Andriy Yavorskyi (Poland), Nadislaw Pavel (Slovakia), Stepan Stoiko, Iryna Dudka, Svitlana Ziman, Vasyl Komendar, Vasyl Parpan (Ukraine) and others.

The most numerous delegation of scientists was the one from Ukraine (76 people), also Germany (25 persons), Switzerland (24 persons), Austria (7 persons), Poland (6 persons), Czech Republic (6 persons), Romania (4 persons), Slovakia (4 people) and other countries.

The conference was held under the auspices of the Council of Europe, WWF, IUCN and IUFRO. The initiators of it were the Swiss Federal Institute of Forest, Snow and Landscape Investigations (WSL) and the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve.

Greetings to the conference participants were sent by the Chairman of The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Mr. Volodymyr Lytvyn. In particular, it was emphasized there that "conducting the international conference under the patronage of the Council of Europe with the participation of academics from 26 countries in Zakarpattia region of Ukraine testifies to the considerable interest of the European community to Ukraine, and this fact also reaffirms the high authority of its organizers – the Swiss Federal Institute of Forest, Snow, and Landscape Investigations (WSL) and the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve.

Ukraine is one of the least forested territories of Europe, and the Verkhovna Rada and the Government of Ukraine pay more attention to the problem of the protection and rational use of their forest resources. Recently, the state program "Forests of Ukraine", the Law "On moratorium on continuous felling in fir-beech forests of the Carpathian region", a new version of the "Forest Code", etc. have been drafted. In this case, great importance is given to the use of scientific achievements and European experience of sustainable forest management.

It is certain that your conference will serve the purpose of international exchange of information, promote the development of forest science and bring together scientists from the East and West".

In his special communication to the conference participants, the Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine Ivan Kyrylenko stressed: "In today's conditions of globalization, the role of international collaboration and cooperation of scientists and specialists from different countries has grown ever more. At the same time, the main challenges remain the sustainable development and preservation of the environment, along with the rational use of natural resources, as well as preservation of historical and cultural heritage".

When opening the plenary session of the conference, the Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Doctor of Biological Sciences, Professor Fedir Hamor noticed that the idea of conducting an international scientific conference on the basis of Zakarpattia primeval forests was not accidental. It is the result of many years of collaboration between Ukrainian and Swiss researchers within the framework of the partnership institution project supported by the Swiss Scientific Foundation. Undoubtedly, the given scientific forum will give a new impulse to strengthening the cooperation not only between these organizations, but also will open up a number of new opportunities to develop some scientific and business projects, and will contribute to the implementation of sustainable forest management in the European continent, especially in Ukraine.

The chairman of the State Committee of Forestry of Ukraine M.V. Kolisnychenko addressed to the participants of the conference. He stressed that "Ukraine, despite a small percentage of forested territory (15.6%), has a forest covered area of 9.4 million hectares and occupies the tenth place in Europe. Forests in our country fulfill primarily ecological functions and have a limited economic significance. Industrial felling is prohibited in half of the forested area, and 13% are within protected areas. On the lands of the State Forest Fund there

was created 2,8 thousand protected sites with a total area of about 1 million hectares".

The Ukrainian Carpathians are the unique region in Ukraine with a high diversity of flora and fauna, rare for Europe. They shelter about 20% of the country's forests.

According to scientists, over 60 thousand hectares of unique primeval forests remain preserved in this territory. These are invaluable natural objects for the development of scientific foundations to revive the transformed secondary forest stands, improvement of their structure, biological, ecological stability and increase of productivity. Nature gives humanity its thousand years of experience in creating optimal forest ecosystems. Therefore, our task is to make full use of this golden stock.

Natural and primeval forests in the Carpathian Mountains are preserved in various altitudes and serve as models to elaborate the principles of sustainable development in the region, rational forest management, and ensuring the implementation of state policy in the sphere of sustainable forest management.

In order to study the experience of other countries, the State Committee of Forestry of Ukraine strengthens and develops contacts with the international organizations. Since 1992 we have been cooperating with the Timber Committee of the European Commission and the Joint Committee on Forest Technology, Management, and Training.

Ukraine has joined the pan-European forest protection process in Europe, and our specialized scientific institutes are members of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO).

An important challenge of the integration process is the harmonization of national aspects of forestry with the international ones. It is useful to have joint international projects involving both Ukrainian and foreign experts.

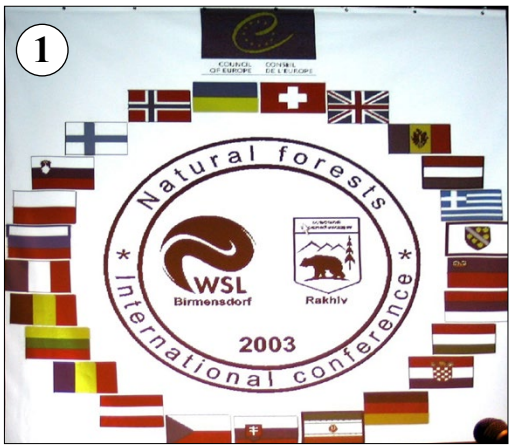
The first Deputy Head of the Zakarpattia regional state administration S.S. Revak, the Deputy Head of Zakarpattia Regional Council I.V. Artiomov, director of the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow, and Landscape Investigations (WSL) Mario Broggi also addressed their greetings to the participants of the conference.

The scientific presentations made at the conference on the following topics were really high-profile ones: "Primeval and natural forests of temperate zone of Europe" by Dr. of Agronomy and Forestry of the Finnish Forest Research Institute, Professor Jari Parvijnen; "Primeval and Natural Forests in Ukraine: Problems and Protection Strategy" by the Director of the Ukrainian Scientific Research Institute of Mountain Forestry Prof. Vasyl Parpan; "Carpathian Biosphere Reserve: Protection and Sustainable Use" by the Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Doctor of Biological Sciences Professor Fedir Hamor; "Ancient Forest as a Source of Knowledge in Forestry: A Reality or Myth?" By Professor Peter Brang (Switzerland); "The Importance of Natural Forests for Biodiversity" by Professor Peter Duelli (Switzerland); "Socioeconomic values of natural forests" – Professor Bill Slee (Great Britain); "The influence of forests on runoff formation" – Professor Christoph Hegh (Switzerland), etc.

After that the participants of the conference worked in 12 sections, in particular: "Structure and dynamics of natural and managed fir-beech and spruce-fir forests", "Genetic and species diversity", "Structure and dynamics of natural and managed beech forests", "Assessment of biodiversity and conservation values", "Dynamics of vegetation and ecosystem modeling", "Preservation of natural forests in the past and nowadays", "Management of natural forests and buffer zones", "Natural forests and tourism", "Various socioeconomic values of natural forests" and others.

In total, during the 3 days of the Conference there were made over 60 presentations. A large number of different materials were presented at the poster session.

The conference participants adopted the Mukachevo Statement and the Appeal. The Statement reflects a general picture of the situation with natural forests in the temperate zone of Europe. It is noted that the main challenges should be to study their structure, dynamics of development, as well as biodiversity and socioeconomic values, and also the problems of their protection. The Statement particularly emphasizes that natural forests are rare and vulnerable ecosystems. Therefore, they are important for the development of protected area network, and it is crucial to use the as basic habitats for approbation of natural methods of management, as well as for preservation of the forest gene pool "in situ" and the establishment of a forest depository. The Conference recommended that the problems of natural forests should be included in the Working Program on the Implementation of the Vienna Declaration and the Resolutions of the Conference of Ministers for the Protection of Forests in



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Flashback of the International Scientific Conference "Natural Forests in the Temperate Zone of Europe: Values and Utilization" (Mukachevo, 2003), where the process of listing the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians into the list of the UNESCO World Heritage Properties was initiated



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1. Conference emblem 2. Registration of participants 3. Standing at the rostrum – Dr. Mario Broggi, Director of the Swiss Federal Institute of Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL) 4. Performance by the Transcarpathian Regional Philharmonic Hall 5. Speech by Fedir Hamor, Director of CBR 6, 9. In the conference hall 7. Second to your left – Felix Nescher, Representative of the Government of Liechtenstein 8. Urs-Beat Brandli (WSL) – editor of the book "Primeval forests in the center of Europe: a guidebook to the forests of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve" 10. Members of the organizing committee: Brigitte Commarmot and Bodmer Hans-Casper (WSL) are working 11. Participants of the conferences during a field trip to the Carpathian highland

Europe (MCPFE), with emphasis on Resolution 4 (Conservation and Enrichment of Forest Biodiversity in Europe) and its paragraphs 9, 10, 16.

In the Appeal the conference participants propose the following: 1) to conduct the primeval and natural forests inventory based on a harmonized methodology; 2) to the Swiss Federal Institute of Forest, Snow and landscape Investigations – to elaborate legal provisions for a territorial protection of primeval and natural forest sites; 3) to the scientific research institutions and organizations of the countries where the remnants of primeval and natural forests are concentrated – to introduce relevant research and monitoring in order to obtain the data which will be practically used in forestry and ecological education activities.

The following recommendations are given to the Government of Ukraine: 1) to introduce in the new edition of the Forest code of Ukraine the provisions about protection, conservation, and use of the natural and primeval forests based on the best experience from other European countries, and to use them as ecological models for the managed forests; 2) taking into account the transboundary ecological importance of the Carpathian Mountains in the Central-East Europe, and in the view of a peculiar importance of the mountainous forests for maintaining the ecological balance, it is recommended to foster the implementation of the Laws of Ukraine on expansion (!) of the protected area network in Ukraine; 3) in order to secure the preservation of the forest species gene-pool, it is recommended to strengthen the control over protection and conservation of gene reserves; 4) to make necessary changes in order to support the transition to selective forest logging as the basis of forest management; 5) to start the process of inclusion of the primeval forests of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve into the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The Book of Abstracts with summaries of 129 papers was printed before the Conference. The Conference Proceedings will be published in Switzerland.

An interesting and active cultural program was prepared for the participants. The Zakarpattia Choir gave its concert, and there was also an excursion held to the Mukachevo Castle, and hiking tours to the Uholka and Chornohora primeval forests.

There was also a presentation of a new publication (Ukrainian and German) held – "Primeval Forests in the Center of Europe. Guidebook on the forests of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve", which was a big event for the scientific and cultural life of Ukraine.

Ukrainian Botanic Journal,
2004, vol. 61, Issue 4, pp. 115-119.

SINCE WE ARE ABLE TO COOK – LET'S LEARN HOW TO SERVE*

An epilogue to the International Scientific Seminar devoted to identification of potential UNESCO World Natural Heritage sites in Ukraine, held in Zakarpattia



Valentyn Babenko

THROUGH THE EYES OF A FOREIGNER

Actually, what an average inhabitant of the planet Earth, for example a barman from Buenos Aires, or a taxi driver from Rome, or a saleswoman Tokyo supermarket knows about Ukraine? Which words appear in their mind son hearing its name, which is the association? Surely, they will first remember the infamous Chernobyl, and then in terms of positive reputation they would recall Klichko brothers, energetic and eccentric singer Ruslana. Also they know the name of Andriy Shevchenko (in their slang he is Sheva), not knowing and not even thinking of another Ukrainian with the same family name, Taras by the first name (not a football player, but the brilliant national poet whose rebellious soul is living in generations!) who has become a spiritual father of Ukrainian nation.

* Valentyn Babenko

What do they, being advanced and wealthy, know about one of the youngest states on the map, which has been for a long time locked in the cellar, which, after having risen from its knees, seeks to adequately represent itself to the world? Have they, the citizens of huge cities of urbanized countries, ever heard of the unique beauty and scientific value of outstanding treasures of Ukrainian natural environment? Figuratively speaking, the fabulous diamonds that have no price, though, much to our shame, are deprived of decent recognition? American artist Rockwell Kent, the one who was praising the endless icy lands of Alaska, had many years ago visited the picturesque Transcarpathian region (ukr. Zakarpattia), and admitted that he had never seen such a sunset as he enjoyed in Zakarpattia regional center (city of Uzhgorod) over the slow-flowing river of Uzh.

That average citizen, of course, has heard of Niagara Falls, the Galapagos Islands in the Pacific Ocean, the uniqueness of which is not even questioned. And on the other hand, does he know of such a Ukrainian natural wonder as untouched primeval beech forests in the Carpathians, in the midst of which you feel the endless purity, almost from Adam's times, and inhale the naturally healing air? Do John or Mary imagine a possibility to enjoy vast areas of wild steppe (here I mean the Biosphere Reserve "Askania Nova") with its centuries-intact flora and fauna in a distance of some two hundred kilometers from industrial areas of the Ukrainian South with its charcoal blast furnaces and coke-oven batteries? Is it not a natural wonder of the global significance?

These are the first thoughts, "from general to specific", that are materialized after the end of the scientific seminar held in Mukachevo, which has been attended by 35 experts from Ukraine, Slovakia, Poland, Germany and representatives from IUCN and UNESCO – International Center of World Heritage.

NOT EVERYONE GETS MEMBERSHIP IN THE "CLUB OF THE CHOSEN ONES"

There is a logical question: what will our country get when some localities of its natural environment (still, unfortunately, we do not have any!) get the global recognition? Actually, the answer is obvious. An international – means to belong to the international elite with all privileges. Speaking in the language of official documents, it is guaranteed that biosphere reserve will be improving the overall level of environmental protection, will get enough financial support, if possible also some influx of tourists with money, adequate funding (annual budget of this international organization is 300 million US dollars), support from experts and so on. And when the World Heritage Committee gets interested, you can count on a number of other grant programs. So, sorry for this mercantile approach, this process is worth the efforts.

The problem is how to convince high-ranking international officials to get interested in the Ukrainian nature reserves and convince them that they generally correspond to the established world standard. Uneasy is the case, since the World Heritage Convention has been adopted over thirty years ago, signed by 44 countries, and it clearly defines conditions for joining the "club of the chosen ones". Today, the natural sites included in the World Heritage Lists on the planet are only 154, and most of them are in wealthy Europe and in North America. Moreover, only a third (an eloquent fact!) is located in the eastern part of our continent. A place for Ukraine, no matter how painful it is to admit it, in this fine collection has not been found yet. But sure, we are eager to get in there.

And it is difficult to overestimate the role of Fedir Hamor, Sc.D., professor, director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, a serious scholar and a worthy citizen, who for many years has been pounding all the bells to break through and to protect from so-called civilization the emerald pearl of the Carpathians. He is trying to move and actively convince the members of the global scientific community about the natural treasures, at least the ones protected by the reserve where he takes the position of a director, proving that Ukraine could serve as an example for other more wealthy countries. This is not a manifestation of local patriotism and sober assessment of the real state of things is its principle position. At the cost of tremendous effort Fedir Hamor (incidentally, a longtime reader and active contributor to our newspaper) annually invites his respected colleagues from many countries to introduce them to a rich variety of flora and fauna species, some of which have never been seen by the guests of those numerous events held at CBR.

So this time he again called under his roof high-ranked international officials, including the

Chairman of the UNESCO World Heritage Center Dr. Mechthild Rosler, an expert of the International Union for Conservation of Nature UNESCO Dr. Gerhard Heiss, Professor of Dresden University of Technology and Forestry Peter Schmidt, and old fellow like-minded persons — Director of the Tatry national park (Slovakia) Ivan Voloschuk, professors Stepan Stoiko, Vasyl Komendar, Volodymyr Stetsiuk, a number of other prominent activists, so that with the participation of the Deputy Chairman of the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO, Ambassador at Large of MFA of Ukraine Mrs. Natalia Zarudna, and other officials from Kyiv and local authorities to convince the UNESCO officials that beech forests of the Uholka-Shyrokyi Luh mountain massif of the Ukrainian Carpathians is a promising World Natural Heritage property. And also this list can further be accomplished by means of "Pristine steppes of Askania Nova" in Kherson region of Ukraine, "Polissia Lowland" in Volyn region, "Dendrological national park Sofiyivka" in Cherkasy region, and "Cultural-landscape canyon of Kamianets-Podilskyi".

ARGUMENTS AND COUNTERARGUMENTS

Cheerful expectations unfortunately were not fulfilled. Despite the fact that dossiers for the nomination were carefully prepared in compliance with all requirements, and the friendly atmosphere of the meeting, aforementioned Mr. Heiss and Mr. Rosler, friendly smiling, said that the previous submission for inclusion of Ukrainian sites to the World Heritage List had been generally rejected. So that we don't look like cooks each of whom praises own broth, I do not intend to suspect the meeting's guests in giving a wrong verdict or blame them in taking a haste decision. Although, I can do nothing but agree with very convincing counterarguments in our favor given by Professor of the Taras Shevchenko Kyiv National University Dr. Volodymyr Stetsuik and some other participants of the discussion during the round-table meeting on the topic "The lessons learned from the previous nomination of potential World Heritage sites, including the Ukrainian ones".

Qualified and impartial international experts at a distance, of course, evaluate our environment at a wider angle, looking at it realistically, coolly and calmly. But despite this all, I cannot understand the following: are they really not interested in those miraculously preserved unique, continuous 10 000 (!) hectare areas (while in many famous high-quality managed forest sites of other countries such clusters are below 200 hectares) hidden in the depths of beech forests in the very heart of Europe, where no forest economic activities have ever been held? Could anything similar be found in Germany, Scandinavia, or in Swiss mountains, where the development of forestry and nature protection as a whole are given a lot of attention?

In the territory of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve one can find the last remaining, or we can even say – reference models of pristine mountain forests of European beech (where else in the world will you see such giant relics?), that have been here almost since the last Ice Age, by taking examples from which you can recreate the relevant disturbed ecosystems. Let me quote the findings of scientists, who state that here "there is available valuable environmental information about the historical development of forest formations, their geographic distribution, structure and functional capacity for self-regulation, self-healing, biological protection". One cannot say it better. So how come they don't hear us?

Well, you can take a horse to the water, but you cannot make him drink. So the next day, as they say "as a dessert", F.D. Hamor invited the meeting's participants to leave comfortable rooms of the Mukachevo hotel "Star "for a while, and drive some hundred kilometers to these primeval forests so that the foreign experts (it is a pity but Mrs. Rosler could not join the field trip) could clearly, without seeing the things rose-colored, to experience them in real form, to touch them.

This time the result exceeded all expectations. I still remember the face expression of professor of the Dresden University of Technology and Forestry Peter Schmidt — an athletic young man in worn jeans and his backpack, which has seen many corners of the world, who had his head in clouds, as most enthusiastic scientists (probably exactly that way at his age looked young Jacques Paganel — one of the main characters in Jules Verne's novel In Search of the Castaways), when just right after hopping off the bus, instantly seeing the territory of the Uholka field division of CBR, looking at every plant or an insect, not seen by him in his home country, with great interest in a long time. A senior researcher of CBR – my old

colleague and friend – Mr. Vasyl Pokynchereda, a really bring, educated, knowledgeable and easy-going person (whom I call the "bat-man" as he has been studying bats for decades already) told exciting stories to the guests in decent English. The experts looked with their eyes wide open at the primeval beech forests. So then...

I will not cherish illusions that they are going to express their "unique opinion" as for the negative decision adopted by the management of the UNESCO World Heritage Center. The hardly will. So I cannot predict what future awaits Ukraine in this respect. Even if not everything we do finishes with success at first, but at least the first step (considering not too pleasant remarks) yet done. I am convinced that sooner or later, in one year or three – we will nevertheless sit on this "throne". Thus, the process has begun, and it should be actively accelerated as much as possible.

A DERIVING SETTING FOR THE PRECIOUS DIAMOND

First of all, there's an urgent need to create proper infrastructure within the aforementioned sites. In the simplest terms, to pave high-quality roads leading to them so that even a sophisticated car can get there, also to build comfortable hotels, guest houses and campsites, to create a network of trade and catering, print colorful promotion brochures, souvenirs and guidebooks. Unfortunately, there are a number of serious problems. Is it not a mockery of the bus and passengers, if it took 40 minutes to a comfortable "Mercedes" to make 12 km (there are so many potholes that you are shaken all the way long!) by the road of crashed asphalt from Uhlia to Mala Uholka village s of Tiachiv district, where the primeval beech forests spread. If only this segment was the only one in Zakarpattia! Try to drive a regular car (not a jeep!) to get to the Chornohora massif, where no less valuable beech-fir primeval forests at the foot of Hoverla Mt. in Rakhiv district are located, or go to Mizhgiria district and its Kolochava village, which is a real mecca for Czech tourists, where a famous writer Ivan Olbracht was born, or drive any other roads of regional subordination. It is not the most pleasant experience, I should say. So you can understand the surprise of everyone including the experts from the UNESCO World Heritage Center, when we invite them, sorry for an impropriate comparison, to a dirty house to show a diamond of an unprecedented beauty on an untidy table. It's a shame.

They can say: there's no money for maintenance of these territories in the budget. Yes, perhaps. But let's look at the white-stone "fortresses" and "castles" – fashionable estates of the rich (I have seen them in the eye in Drahobrat tract and some other scenic spots of the Ukrainian Carpathians) and ask occasionally the owners for which "earnings of labor" and with whose permission have they been built? Maybe these people in response will just grant a million or two – dollars, not hryvnias! – for these activities? Such amount would be more than enough to pave a high-class highway to Mala Uholka, and then we would be able to take a usual 'Mercedes' and drive the experts of the World Heritage Center for signing those highly desirable documents.

So is this such an unreachable dream? Why are we not able to maintain and deal with this natural value granted by God? Is there no other person apart from Fedir Hamor, who honestly does his duty of national importance, getting no Government awards or honorary titles (like most devotees like him)? Looks like nobody else cares...

... And at the end I would like to tell a folk-tale about a hungry gypsy, who was treated by a generous hostess to soup and porridge. When she put on the table a bowl of fried potatoes, cabbage rolls, and fragrant dumplings with other delicious dishes, he, feeling full, only sadly noted "Ah, lady, you can cook tasty dishes, but unfortunately you don't know how to serve them… "

Can this proverb be applied here in a slightly different context? Though, nothing can make us master these skills and start worthy present ourselves.

Uriadovyi Kurier – "Government's Courier", Issue 248, 28.12.2004

LISTING PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS INTO THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST HAS LAID THE BASIS FOR A PAN-EUROPEAN PROCESS OF OLDGROWTH BEECH FORESTS' RESEARCH, AND CONSERVATION AND ENHANCED THE INTERNATIONAL ECOLOGICAL COOPERATION

THE NOMINATION DOSSIER "PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS" SUBMITTED TO THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE CENTER

The Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine, the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO, the Ministry of Environment of Slovakia and the National UNESCO Committee of Slovakia sent the Ukrainian-Slovak nomination dossier "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" to the UNESCO World Heritage Center. The nomination dossier was prepared by research groups from the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (Ukraine, director – Professor Fedir Hamor) and the Zvolen Technical University (Slovakia, supervisors – Ivan Voloschuk and Associate Professor William Pichler).

The total area of Ukrainian-Slovak nomination is about 60 000 ha. To the Slovak part there belong areas of primeval forests of Havesova, Vihorlat mountains and Stuzica with the total area of 1,208 hectares (including 986.2 hectares of core zone and 221.8 hectares of buffer zone). The Ukrainian part of the property includes the territories protected by CBR (Uholka-Shyrokyi Luh mountain massif, Chornohora, Svydovets, Maramures mountains and Kuziy-Trybushany field division) with the total area of 52,111.8 hectares (including 12,625.8 hectares of core area and 39,486 hectares of buffer zone), and the Uzhansky National Nature Park (Stuzhytsia forest site with the territory of 2532 hectares of the core zone and buffer zone – 3615 ha).

According to numerous international experts, the Ukrainian-Slovak nomination "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" has big chances to get into the list of the World Heritage Properties. Moreover, the Primeval Forests of the Carpathians is the only natural site in Ukraine that really meets the criteria set out for candidates by the Convention "On Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage."

2005.

CARPATHIAN BIOSPHERE RESERVE HAS PREPARED AND SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF UKRAINE AND SLOVAKIA THE DOSSIER FOR LISTING PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS INTO UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST WITHIN SHORT TIMEFRAMES*

At the international conference "Natural forests in the Temperate Zone of Europe: values and use" (October 13-17, 2003, Mukachevo, Ukraine) there were made statements as for the necessity to prepare documents to nominate the Carpathian natural forests into the UNESCO World Heritage list.

In the resolution of the international conference "Optimizing and improving the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve's functioning" (May 10-12, 2004, Rakhiv, Ukraine) it was observed that the participants recommended to the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine to support jointly with the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO the administration of the Carpathian Biosphere reserve in establishing cooperation with the Slovak side to conduct identification of the sites

* Dmytro Sukhariuk

and present the joint nomination dossier "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" to the UNESCO World Heritage List.

In October 2004, in Mukachevo, Ukraine, at the special international seminar "Identification of potential UNESCO World Heritage sites (natural properties)" there was adopted a decision to start preparing materials for nominating the Ukrainian-Slovak property to the list.

To implement these suggestions and recommendations, the working group of CBR consisting of the reserve's Director Hamor F.D., Deputy Director of CBR Sukharyuk D.D., head of the zoological laboratory Dovhanych Ya.O., head of the botanical laboratory Bedei M.I., senior researcher Pokynchereda V.F., also experts Stolpnik V.M., and Berkela Yu.Yu., together with Prof. Ivan Voloschuk and Associate Professor Dr. Wiliam Pichler of Zvolen Technical University (Slovakia) for nearly two years have been conducting an intensive work on preparation of the Ukrainian-Slovak nomination dossier.

The materials were timely submitted and approved by the governments of Ukraine and Slovakia and presented in the headquarters of UNESCO World Heritage Center in Paris.

The work done is of great public and political importance, because Ukraine still does not have any natural properties included into the UNESCO World Heritage List.

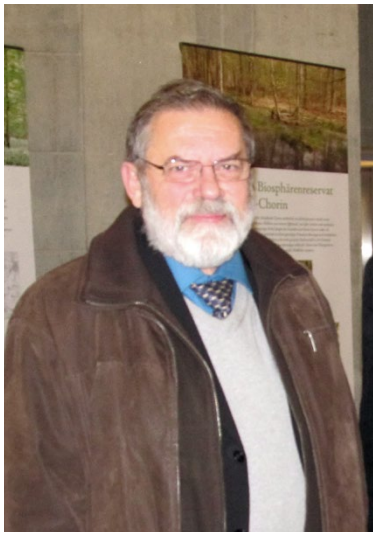
2006.

GERMAN ECOLOGISTS SUPPORT UKRAINIAN-SLOVAK NOMINATION "PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS"

From the 3rd to 6th of August, 2006 a group of experts consisting of members of the German Government commission on preparation of materials for submission of natural sites from Germany into the UNESCO World Heritage List, headed by Professor Peter Schmidt (University of Dresden) and Harald Plachter (Marburg University), had been on a visit to the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve.

The purpose of the visit was to study the experience of the Ukrainian-Slovak nomination dossier's preparation – "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" – and consider the possibilities of integrating German natural beech forests to this Property.

Peter Schmidt and Harald Plachter have had a big experience of collaboration with the IUCN Commission for natural sites nominations to the World Natural heritage. During the meeting, a special presentation was made by the German colleagues on the nomination dossier preparation, and the participants of the meeting expressed a number of important tips.



Peter Schmidt

First, the German side expressed the wish to join to the Ukrainian-Slovak nomination "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" in case of inclusion in the list of World Natural heritage. Second, if our nomination is rejected, then Germany could initiate a new nomination "Central European beech forests" with the participation of Ukraine and Slovakia. And thirdly, it is suggested, regardless of whether the beech forests included in the list of World Natural heritage or not to organize cooperation between the protected areas of Europe, within which protected beech forests.



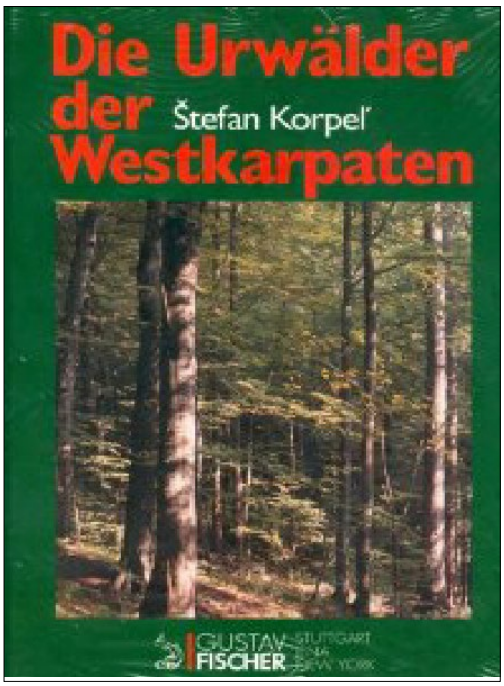
Harald Plachter

German colleagues proposed to intensify diplomatic efforts of Ukraine in matters connected to the Ukrainian-Slovak Property nomination to the UNESCO WH List, and promised to support the nomination process on the expert level.

2006.



Alois Zlatnik



Stephan Korpel



Vasyl Komendar

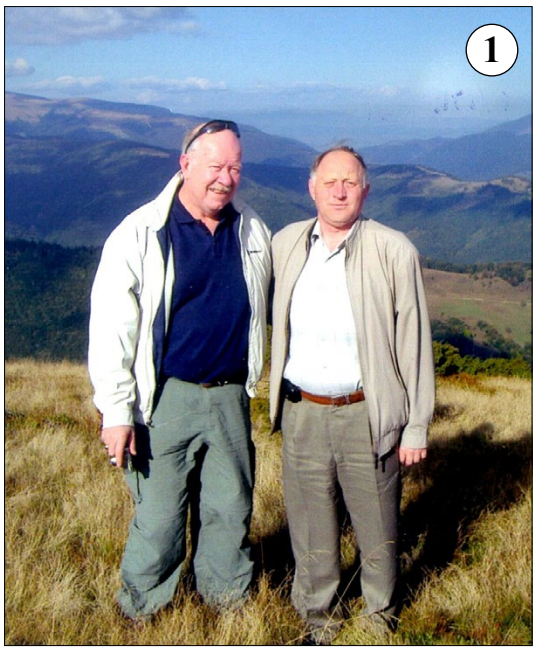


Stepan Stoiko

THE FIRST EXPLORERS OF THE CARPATHIAN PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS



Vasyl Parpan





1. Expert of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) David Michalek (to your left) and Fedir Hamor while inspecting primeval beech forests of the Svydovets mountain massif of CBR
2. Fedir Hamor with David Michalek and an Associate Professor of the Zvolen Technical University (Slovakia) Viliam Pichler (in the center) during the discussion of the Uholka-Shyrokyi Luh primeval beech forests' values (CBR)
3. First on of the right – Professor Ivan Voloschuk (Slovakia), Viliam Pichler (third on your left) during the UNESCO World Heritage Committee meeting in Christchurch (New Zealand, 2007)



EXPERTS FROM THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND UNESCO HIGHLY PRAISED NOMINATION OF "PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS"*

For the outstanding achievements in preserving natural, cultural and historical heritage, the Council of Europe awarded a protected area – the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve – with the European Diploma (1997, 2002) for the first time in Ukraine.

In July 2006 an expert from the Council of Europe – a representative of the Polish Institute of Nature Conservation at the Ministry of Environment of Poland –Ms. Jadwiga Sienkiewicz paid a visit to the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve. She assessed the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in connection with the awarding of the protected area of international importance with the European Diploma.

The expert comprehensively and deeply analyzed CBR activities, met with its director Sc.D., Professor Fedir Hamor, visited the Chornohora, Uholka, and Kevliv field divisions, and gave a high estimation of the Reserve's work, stating that its activities meet all the requirements of the Council of Europe.

At the end of September 2006 Rakhiv was visited by UNESCO expert and Professor David Mihalek together with the Professor of the Zvolen University Dr. Ivan Voloschuk (Slovakia). They met with the scientists of CBR, heads of state district administrations (top public authority of the district level) and the director of the Rakhiv State Forestry Enterprise Mr. Volodymyr Prystupa. UNESCO's experts noted the extensive work done by the reserve's team in participation of the project "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians", which is of great public and political significance for Ukraine and our region.

2006.

GERMAN STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS CONDUCTED PRACTICAL TRAININGS IN THE UHOLKA PRIMEVAL FOREST SITE

The interest to the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve among both Ukrainian and foreign research institutions and universities is growing annually, primarily as to a natural laboratory and educational-methodological base.

Nationwide scientific workshops for educators and educational and industrial practice of students from many universities in Ukraine and other European countries are successfully held here.

Recently, graduate and PhD students from the Klaipeda University (Lithuania), and the Faculty of Forestry of the Brno University (Czech Republic), the Warsaw Agricultural University and others were on tuitions at the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve. And the Eberswalde University of Applied Sciences (Germany) has chosen the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve as one of the most important scientific and educational centers for the training of German experts in forestry and conservation. Therefore, every year large groups of students and teachers of the University study the experience of this biosphere reserve in conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. The participants of a study excursion are introduced to unique flora and fauna, and learn the principles of primeval forests' functioning along with other ecosystems and wilderness areas. At the end of May 2006, German students and professors held an educational excursion to the Museum of the Carpathians' Ecology and to the Uholka primeval forests, and also conducted study expeditions along the ecological paths in th e Kuziy and Maramures mountain massifs.

An important element of the educational process was an evening of the Ukrainian-German friendship, which was organized by the administration of the biosphere reserve in Rakhiv. The honored guests of the event, namely: Rakhiv Mayor Mr. Yaroslav Dumyn, Kostylivka village mayor Mrs. Olha Smetaniuk, Deputy Head of the Department for Culture and Tourism of the District State Administration Mr. Mykola Tafiy, honorary citizen of Rakhiv Mr. Illia Rusnak, chief engineer of the Rakhiv State Forestry Enterprise Mr. Borys Boichuk, as well as the author of this publication, accompanied by

* Ivan Voloshchuk

the Amateur Hutsul Folk Music Ensemble from the village of Kostylivka has told to the German students about life, culture and traditions of the Ukrainian mountain residents. A story told by of our guests – Professor Pierre Ibis Tomas Zavila – Niyedzveski – were real examples of the people's diplomacy.

2006.

LISTING PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS TO THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST WILL CONTRIBUTE TO ENHANCEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL IMAGE OF UKRAINE AND SERVE AS A BASIS FOR INTENSIFYING ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN ADJACENT SETTLEMENTS

According to the World Heritage Convention, the list of World Heritage Properties, which have an outstanding universal value, is formed on the basis of the defined criteria and a rigorous international scientific expertise. For today, such a high international status has been given to 851 Properties from different parts of the world.

Among them, 660 are the cultural sites, and 166 belong to the natural phenomena and 25 are mixed natural and cultural properties. The Sophia Cathedral, the Kyiv Pechersk Lavra, the historic center of the city of Lviv and fragments of the Struve geodetic arc represent Ukraine in the cultural heritage list. But since 1972, when the formation of the World Heritage List started, neither any Ukrainian nor Slovak sites managed to be included in the natural World Heritage List. On June 28, 2007, after an intense preparatory work done by the research teams of CBR and the Technical University of Zvolen, Slovakia, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee on its 31st session in Christchurch (New Zealand), with the presence of almost fifteen hundred diplomats, scientists and law enforcement officers from all over the world, the members unanimously without any comments, decided to include the Ukrainian-Slovak nomination "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" into the UNESCO World Heritage List as a natural property. This long-awaited event, which is truly historical for Ukraine and Slovakia, means an international recognition of their environmental and scientific activities. It will also honor the nations who have managed in various complex historical and socio-economic circumstances to keep untouched these unique creations of nature in the very center of Europe.

Important role for this kind of victory was played by an active environmental stance and fundamental studies made by a number of Ukrainian and foreign scientists, representatives of different generations, especially professors Alois Zlatnik (CZ) and Stefan Korpel, Ivan Voloschuk and Viliam Pichle r (Slovakia), Vasyl Komendar, Stepan Stoiko and Vasyl Parpan (Ukraine), Mario Broggi and Brgitte Commarmot (Switzerland) and others.

A prominent position in this complicated process was taken by played Carpathian Biosphere Reserve by organizing international scientific conferences "Natural forests in the temperate zone of Europe – Values and Utilization" (2003) and "Identification of potential UNESCO World Natural Heritage Properties" (2004), also by implementing the Ukrainian-Dutch project on primeval forests inventory in Transcarpathia (led by Peter Vein), and a very valuable role was played by the support of German scientists – Dr. Peter Schmidt and Dr. Harald Plachter.

An extremely important role in this case was played by the professional opinion expressed by the representative of the International Union for Conservation of Nature Dr. David Michalek (USA).

The Ukrainian-Slovak nomination includes 77,971 hectares of beech forests, 29 278 hectares of which constitute the core area, and 48692 make up the buffer zone. This transnational serial property, consisting of ten separate sites, is located along the axis of 185 km length, stretching from the Rakhiv Mountains and the Chornohora mountain range in Ukraine westwards along the Poloniny mountain ridge to the Bukovske Vrchy and Vihorlat mounta insin Slovakia. More than 52000 ha (20980.5 hectares

are the core area) or nearly 70% of the Property belong to the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve. One component is protected by the Uzhansky National Park and only 1/4 is located within the Eastern Slovakia.

According to scientists, this nomination at the global level is extremely valuable as a model of complex intact temperate forests. It represents the most complete and full ecological models that reflect the processes in pure beech forest stands under different climatic conditions. This is truly an invaluable gene pool of European beech (Fagus sylvatica) and several other species that are confined to its range. The nominated site "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" is an extremely important element for the understanding a full picture of history and evolution of the beech as genus (Fagus), which due to its prevalence in the northern hemisphere is globally important. Beech is one of the most important components for temperate deciduous forests biome, and these forests used to occupy 40 % of Europe, and now they represent only fragmented examples that illustrate the processes of recolonization and development of terrestrial ecosystems and communities since the Ice Age – a process that is lasting today as well. Some components of this nomination (especially the Uholka- Shyrokyi Luh, Chornohora, Svydovets and Maramures mountain massifs of CBR) are large enough to maintain the natural processes required for long-term existence of numerous habitats and ecosystems.

It is also important that these forests grow on all bedrocks found in the Carpathians (crystalline rocks, limestone, flysch, and andesite), sheltering 123 plant associations and having a significant biological diversity. Compared to other forest Properties listed to the World Heritage List, the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians include specific flora and fauna (especially troglobiont spe cies) that add to the environmental complexity and completeness of these ecosystems.

Extremely valuable, as noted in the resolution of the World Heritage Committee, is the fact that the scientific information collected from the clusters of the nomination, already at the moment can help to explore the potential impact of the global climate change occurring on the planet Earth.

Thus, the Ukrainian-Slovak nomination "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" as a UNESCO World Natural Heritage Property is of a special environmental, scientific, tourism and recreational interest. Therefore, an integrated management plan excludes any economic activities in the core zone, and involves first of all fire prevention measures, protection from illegal logging, conservation of monumental old trees, protection and special management of mountain meadows, water corridors and freshwater ecosystems, as well as research and monitoring activities, etc.

It is anticipated that special infrastructure will be created to regulate tourism pressure and provide formation of ecological culture of visitors. In order to introduce the ecotourists to the structure and values of primeval forests and ecosystems within the buffer zone of the nominated site there functions a network of eco-educational trails. All of them have been dedicated in situ, and are also described and illustrated in the book "Primeval forests in center of Europe. Guidebook on the forests of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve". These are such ecological trails as "Mala Uholka" (about 5 km), "Velyka Uholka" (about 5 km),"Through the Chornohora Primeval forests to Hoverla" (14 km), "Keveliv" (12 km), "To the Falcon Rock" (4.1 km) in the Kuziy-Svydovets massif and other enable guests to get the necessary scientific information and to get acquainted with different types of primeval forests and landscapes, and to admire the variety of plant and animal species.

Much attention is paid to the formation of environmental culture and consciousness of the visitors. This is the target of the Museum of Mountain Ecology and History of Nature Use in the Ukrainian Carpathians, and the magazine "Green Carpathians" (Zeleni Karpaty), the newspaper "Newsletter of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve", as well as the network of information centers and various environmental information boards, a series of popular books and booklets, numerous publications in the mass-media, what not. An important role in enhancing these activities and in shaping new ideas and developing the necessary recommendations is played by the scientific conferences and seminars that are regularly organized by the administration of CBR. A significant contribution to this field of activity is made by numerous international projects, including the Ukrainian-Swiss project

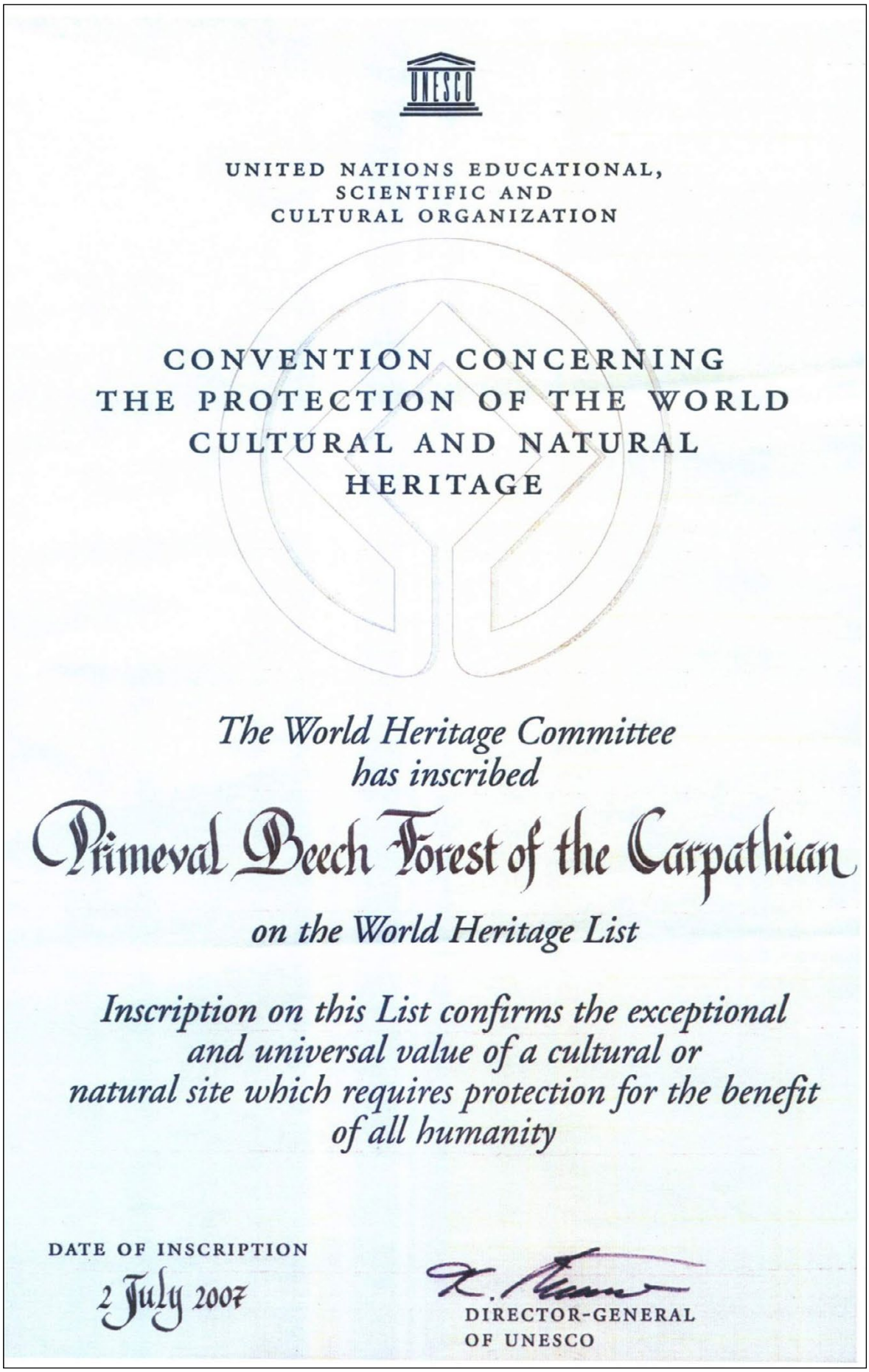
on beech forests research, also the Ukrainian-Dutch project dedicated to the Zakarpattia primeval forests inventory, also the one implemented here by the Danube-Carpathian Program WWF etc.

Listing the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians into the UNESCO World Heritage List opens up, on the one hand, new opportunities to enhance the ecotourism activities. But on the other – it sets forth high demands on safety and a more effective and ambitious ecoeducational work and awareness rising campaigns, as well as for developing the necessary tourist infrastructure. The expert report prepared by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) also focuses on the fact that the local population (especially in rural areas) is suffering from high unemployment rate. The rate of job migration is extremely high. In the buffer zone there sites where people log forest for fuel wood, which is not really possible to be stopped. Local people, unfortunately, are not always aware of the difference between the primeval and managed forests. Illegal logging and irresponsible behavior of tourists (provoking forest fires, littering, poaching, etc.) are still the case here. Therefore, the specific recommendations of the World Heritage Committee are supposed to include integrated management plan measures aimed at solving these problems. It is also recommended carrying out the search for additional sources of funding, also to introduce the participative management involving local residents, NGOs and all other stakeholders.

In this regard it is important to take care of creation new jobs in the settlements located along the perimeter of the Property, primarily through the construction of hotels, restaurants and other infrastructure, and also to introduce alternative sources of heating for homesteads (by connecting them to the centralized gas supply or creating technical and economic conditions to use electric heating in Rakhiv and Tiachiv districts), also paving roads leading to the primeval beech forests (especially in Mala Uholka) and others. To enhance research and environmental education activities, it is necessary to create in the International Ecoeducation Center "Primeva l Beech Forests of the Carpathians" in the town of Rakhiv. The information facilities should also be created in Mala Uholka, Velyka Uholka, Shy rokyi Luh and other areas.

The listing of the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians to the World Heritage List will certainly enhance the international image of Ukraine, and may serve as a basis for strengthening the environmental movement and the socio-economic development in localities adjacent to these forests. But to reach this we first need to change the attitude of the Ukrainian governmental structures to the proposals put forward by the international organizations. The experience shows that bureaucrats don’t care about the opinions of international conservationists, because, for example, they have long ignored the recommendations of the Council of Europe and UNESCO MAB Committee on the development of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, and the issue on expanding the protected areas network in Ukraine is not yet solved, and we can see many other examples like this. We would really like, that "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians", which has won the highest international recognition, never faces such problems as described above.

2007.



UNESCO Certificate on listing Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians into the UNESCO World Heritage List

EXPERIENCE OF COOPERATION OF GERMAN NATIONAL PARK "HAINICH" WITH NEIGBORING TERRITORIAL COMMUNITIES WAS STUDIED BY DELEGATION OF THE CARPATHIAN BIOSPHERE RESERVE AND THE TOWN OF RAKHIV

Within the framework of the European territorial cooperation program of the European Union (INTERREG), with the support of the Government of the German land of Thuringia, an international project "Climate change monitoring in the national parks with beech forests and incorporating these problems into educational curriculum" is being developed.

In the light of these processes, the administration of the Hainich national park (Germany) organized a working meeting of stakeholders from Germany, Ukraine, Slovakia and Poland on July 15-21, 2007 in Behringen. The delegation of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Mayor of the town of Rakhiv Mr. Yaroslav Dumyn took part in this forum.

The program of the meeting included learning about the experience of cooperation between the Hainich National Park and local self-government bodies of the settlements located within its scope in the field of nature research and ecological education of the population, development of territorial communities, increase of tourist potential of protected areas and so on.

The ten-year experience of a well-organized cooperation between the park administration, local Government officials and business structures has helped to radically improve the state of the natural ecosystems and create a developed infrastructure for eco-education and tourism around the villages and towns. A number of hotels, restaurants and various attractions, which bring significant profits to the population and local budgets, got developed around the Hainich National Park. An example of such cooperation is the ecoeducation hiking trail tree-crowns (the Canopy Walk) (overall investment of 2 million Euro), which was developed by the park's administration in 2005. The necessary amounts to build this grandiose structure were allocated from the budget of a neighboring town and one of the German foundations. And in 2006, the trail was visited by over 250 thousand tourists, each of whom paid a visitation fee of 6 Euros for this great pleasure. Not a lot, therefore, the funds were directed (as will be in the future) into the local budget. As a result, an enormous eco-educational (and of course emotional), effect was reached, and the nature practically has not been, and a substantial social-economic growth of local communities was provided. And there are many projects of this kind being implemented. The director of the Hainich National Park Walter Kemkes, Mayor of Behringen Gerhard Bischof, and the representatives of the Thüringen Government informed the meeting participants about this in great details. During the reception at the European Information Center in Erfurt, the central city of Thuringia, there were in detail discussed the possibilities for implementing such projects at the expense of the European Union funds in Ukraine, Slovakia and Poland.

During the workshop, bilateral contacts were established between the managers of the parks, biosphere reserves and territorial communities. In particular, the Mayor of Rakhiv, Mr. Yaroslav Dumyn, held talks with the Mayor of Behringen, and he got acquainted with the tourism and social infrastructure of this and other communities. It was decided to establish a partnership between Rakhiv and Behringen, and to initiate the delegations exchange for young people, also the cooperation in tourism sector and to work with people with disabilities, etc.

During the meeting, the future project was discussed, and a number of important ideas were expressed. In particular, the author of this article proposed, in connection with listing the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians into the UNESCO World Heritage List, to develop unified programs and methods of scientific research in primeval forests, and to create a permanent center for analysis of carbonate processes in Uholka and Chornohora mountain ranges protected by CBR. It is also proposed to create the International Capacity-Building and Research Center for the Carpathian mountain forests research and promotion in Rakhiv, and to develop an appropriate tourist infrastructure in Ukraine, to enable scholars and tourism industry representatives to study German directly in Germany, etc.

In September 2007, German colleagues visited the administration of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the municipality of Rakhiv. The project has been finalized for submission to the European Commission, an agreement on cooperation between Rakhiv and Behringen was signed.

2007.

INCLUSION OF THE UKRAINIAN-SLOVAK NOMINATION "PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS" INTO THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST CONTRIBUTES TO ESTABLISHMENT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UKRAINIAN TOWN OF RAKHIV AND GERMAN BEHRINGEN

The expert report prepared by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, dedicated to the inclusion of the Ukrainian-Slovak nomination "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" into the UNESCO World Heritage List, emphasizes the importance of scientific research and monitoring in primeval forests.

According to experts, the results obtained here are of a great value for determining the potential impact of global warming on the climate change. Therefore, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee recommends that such studies are to be intensified. In this context, the well-known German institution – the Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry – showed interest in conducting joint research in the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve. On September 9, 2007, the director of the Institute, Professor Ernst-Detlef Schultz, studied the possibility of creating inventory plots in the Uholka and Chornohora mountain massifs for the analysis of carbon dioxide exchange in primeval forest ecosystems. In addition, director of the Hainich National Park Dr. Walter Kemkes, the Mayor of Behringen Mr. Bernhard Bischof, the coordinator of the INTERREG Central Europe project Dr. Michael Figl and other German specialists got acquainted with the situation with nature protection, and also scientific and ecoeducation activities of CBR's administration; they visited the Museum of Ecology of the Carpathians, as well as participated in celebration of the 560th anniversary of the town of Rakhiv. During the round table meeting "Rakhiv is welcoming friends" the mayor of Rakhiv Mr. Yaroslav Dumyn and the Mayor of Behringen Mr. Gerhard Bischof officially signed an agreement on cooperation.

Bernhard Bischof and Walter Kemkes were also awarded with honorary awards of the town of Rakhiv.

2007.

TRILATERAL MEETING OF DELEGATIONS FROM THE MINISTRIES OF ENVIRONMENT OF UKRAINE, SLOVAKIA AND GERMANY, DEDICATED TO THE UKRAINIAN-SLOVAK UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY "PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS"*

From November 28 to December 2, 2008, a tripartite meeting of delegations from the Ministries of Environment of Ukraine, Slovakia and Germany was held at the International Academy of Nature Conservation on the island of Vilm – a division of the German Federal Agency for Nature Protection. It was dedicated to the Ukrainian-Slovak UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians".

The Ukrainian delegation was represented by the Deputy Head of the State Agency for Protected Areas of the Ministry of Environment of Ukraine Dr. Ihor Ivanenko, Head of Department of Biotic, Water and Land Resources and Ecological Network of the Ministry of Environment of Ukraine Dr. V.O. Tarasenko, Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Professor Fedir Hamor, and the Deputy Director on research of CBR Ing. Vasyl Pokynchereda and associate professor of the National Forestry University (Lviv) Dr. Mykola Cherniavskyi.

The main goal of the meeting was to discuss the perspectives of expansion of the transnational Property by means of inclusion of five clusters of natural beech forests from Germany. The strategic directions for further cooperation in the field of the Carpathian primeval beech forests and natural beech forests of Germany conservation and research were also considered by the meeting. According to its results, a draft Memorandum was prepared, which contained the items speaking of support for the idea of expanding the transnational serial Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" and defined the basic principles of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German cooperation for the next decade. The Memorandum will come into force after signing by the representatives of all three parties.

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* Vasyl Pokynchereda

At the end of the meeting, an excursion to the Jasmund and the Muritz national parks was organized for the participants. Both parks include areas of natural beech forests that will be nominated by the German party to extend the serial Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians".

2008.





**During the meeting of delegations (photo on the left).
International meeting experts, Professors (from left to right):
Hannes Knapp (International Academy of Nature Conservation, Germany),
Fedir Hamor (Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Ukraine),
Pierre Ibisch (University of Applied Sciences, Eberswalde, Germany),
Harald Plachter (Magdeburg University, Germany)
and Peter Schmidt (Dresden University, Germany)**

AT THE TRILATERAL INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN RAKHIV A PREPARATION OF NOMINATION FOR JOINING GERMAN OLDGROWTH BEECH FORESTS TO THE UKRAINIAN-SLOVAK UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE «PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS» WAS DISCUSSED*

On May 8-12, 2009, the third International Expert Meeting of scientists from Ukraine, Germany and Slovakia took place in the town of Rakhiv, on the basis of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, dedicated to the expansion of the Ukrainian-Slovak UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians". The main purpose of the Meeting was to discuss the present conditions of the nomination process for the inclusion of natural beech forest 5 clusters that have survived in the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany, into the already existing UNESCO Property.

The meeting began with a visit to the world's largest primeval beech forest site of European beech (Fagus sylvatica), located in the territory of the Uholka-Shyrokyi Luh mountain massif of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve. An excursion to the magnificent primitive forests, the visit of the Valley of Narcissus, the Museum of Mountain Ecology and the Ecoeducation Center "Museum of Narcissus" left an unforgettable impression for the German and Slovak specialists.

The director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Prof. Fedir Hamor, opened up the meeting, followed by an exchange of greetings from the national delegations. The first and most important issue of the meeting's agenda was the discussion of the Management Plan "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians", that had been elaborated by the German side for the purpose of integration of new plots into the structure of the Property. Then the "outstanding universal value" of the German clusters nominated for the accession was discussed. The next issue, proposed for discussion, were the letters of approval from the governments of Slovakia and Ukraine related to the accession of the

* Vasyl Pokynchereda

German clusters. Representatives of the ministries, present at the meeting, agreed on the procedure for the dossier's preparation and submission. The meeting also discussed the procedure of signing the Memorandum of Understanding between the three countries, which had been prepared at the second trilateral meeting, held at the end of the previous year on the island of Vilm (FRG).

The participants of the meeting supported the proposal of Fedir Hamor to build the International Research and Capacity-Building Center for Primeval Beech Forests on the basis of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve. The German colleagues promised to find funds to finance its creation.

Participants of the meeting visited some sites of the UNESCO World Natural Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" in the territory of Slovakia.

2009.





The International Management-Plan for primeval beech forests conservation was discussed during the Ukrainian-German-Slovak meeting in Rakhiv. Participants of the meeting in the Center of Europe (May 9, 2009)

WAYS TO STRENGTHEN UKRAINIAN-GERMAN COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES DISCUSSED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALLPLIED SCIENCES IN THE CITY OF EBERSWALDE (GERMANY)

From July13 to July 17, 2009, the director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve Prof. Fedir Hamor and his deputy Ing. Vasyl Pokynchereda visited the German University of Applied Sciences in the city of Eberswalde.

It is one of the oldest educational and research institutions in Germany that trains specialists in the field of ecology and the use of natural resources. During the recent years, students and university scientists have been collaborating with CBR, and have established strong scientific and educational contacts with us. And such kind of relationships is mutually beneficial. This, in particular, was stated in the publication made in a German newspaper "Märkische Oderzeitung" on July 14, 2009, which you can see in the photo.

2009.



Auf dem Waldcampus: Die ukrainische Delegation um Prof. Fedir Hamor (5.v.l.) mit Prof. Pierre Ibisch (r.) und Mitarbeitern der FH Eberswalde. Foto: MOZ/Thomas Burckhardt

Wissenschaftler aus der Ukraine an der FH

Delegation besucht die Schorfheide

Eberswalde (bkr) Ein Delegation von Wissenschaftlern aus der Ukraine ist seit gestern zu Gast an der Fachhochschule. Der Direktor des Karpaten-Biosphärenreservats, Fedir Hamor, der wissenschaftliche Leiter Vasyl Pokynchereda und Dozent Andrij Hamor von der Universität Ushgorod werden noch bis morgen einen fachlichen Austausch mit Vertretern des Fachbereiches Wald und Forst führen. Professor Pierre Ibisch, Dekan des Fachbereiches, empfing die Gäste auf dem Waldcampus. Gemeinsam unternahmen die Forscher eine Exkursion in das Biosphärenreservat Schorfheide/Chorin. Auf dem Plan steht neben der Vertiefung von Kooperationsprojekten auch eine Diskussion des Vorhabens, für den Grumsiner Forst den Status des UNESCO-Weltnaturerbes zu beantragen. Die Buchenwälder der Karpaten in der Ukraine tragen diesen Status bereits. „Wir arbeiten seit langer Zeit gut zusammen und hoffen nun auf ein großes deutsch-ukrainisches Naturschutzgebiet", sagte Fedir Hamor.

UKRAINIAN-SLOVAK WORKING GROUP "PROTECTED AREAS FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION" ON ITS MEETINGS IN BONN AND RAKHIV DISCUSSED THE ISSUES RELATED TO OPERATION OF THE UKRAINIAN-SLOVAK UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY "PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS" AND THE POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDING IT BY JOINING GERMAN CLUSTERS OF NATURAL BEECH FORESTS

On November 17-19, 2009 in Bonn, in accordance with the Agreement on cooperation in environmental sphere between the Governments of Ukraine and the Federal Republic of Germany, a meeting of the Ukrainian-German Working Group "Protected Areas for Biodiversity Conservation" was held.



At the meeting in Bonn

The meeting discussed the designation and expansion of a network of national nature parks and other protected areas in Ukraine; the discussions were held as for their role in preserving biodiversity, strengthening international cooperation in this sphere, and so on. The Head of the Ukrainian delegation, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection of Ukraine M.M. Movchan informed his German colleagues, in particular, that Ukraine had not long ago adopted a decree of the President of Ukraine "On additional measures for nature conservation development in Ukraine", which provided for a series of measures aimed at improving the management of protected areas and protected sites, expansion of its area, improvement of environmental legislation, increasing the role of protected areas in solving problems of sustainable development, etc. It was stressed that, due to the efforts of the Ministry of Environment of Ukraine, the adoption of the Decree of the President of Ukraine on designation and territory expansion of another 22 national nature parks and reserves was envisaged in the near future.

In the framework of the meeting, with the participation of the delegation of the Slovak State Conservancy Agency, the issues related to the operation of the Ukrainian-Slovak UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" were discussed, as well as the possibility of joining the German components of natural beech forests to this Property. It was noted that the President of Ukraine Mr. Victor Yushchenko instructed the Cabinet of Ministers to develop and approve an action plan aimed at preservation and development the Ukrainian part of primeval beech forests. The relevant document will be approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine in the near future. And this will enable not only the improvement of the primeval beech forests, but will also promote the development of the neighboring settlements adjoining them, and will expand the opportunities to strengthen the international cooperation in this sphere. The Ukrainian party supported the efforts of the German Government to join its clusters of natural beech forests to the Ukrainian-Slovak UNESCO World Heritage Property: they worked on the draft Memorandum on Cooperation between the Ministries of Environmental Protection of Ukraine, Slovakia and Germany.

Let us recall also that on May 8-12, 2009 in Rakhiv, at the trilateral Ukrainian-German-Slovak Meeting, the International Management Plan for the primeval beech forests conservation was discussed, and the concept suggested by Professor Hannes Knapp regarding the values of the German clusters proposed as expansion of the existing Property was agreed upon.

During the trip, the delegation visited the Eiffel National Park and the biological station in the Aachen District.

In connection with the latter, we would like to emphasize the need for further study of the German experience with the aim of establishing similar structures in Ukraine. Here they are organized at the expense of local budgets allocated for research,

conservation and environmental education to be conducted at the "Natura-2000" sites. For example, within the federal state of Upper Rhine-North Westphalia there are 40 biological stations of this kind. A 12-person staff of the station, which we have visited, cares of about 4000 hectares of Natura-2000 territories, they conduct research and restoration activities for rare habitats here, also attract wide public's attention to these matters, and so on. In this regard, the question arises: who actually cares for the numerous protected areas and sites (sanctuaries, natural monuments, localities of red-book species) in Ukraine for real?..

2009.

INTERNATIONAL PROJECT "STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLANNING FOR THE CARPATHIAN BIOSPHERE RESERVE IN THE LIGHT OF THE CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION"*

The Carpathian Biosphere Reserve is a well-known center and a catalyst of the international cooperation processes both in the Carpathian region of Ukraine, and the country as a whole. A new international project "Strategic Management Planning for the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve in the Light of the Cross-Border Cooperation" was recently completed with the support of the German governmental foundation DBU. It was implemented by the experts from CBR in co-operation with the colleagues from the University of Sustainable Development from the city of Eberswalde (Germany), the Institute of Ecology "E.C.O." (Austria) and the Uzhgorod National University.



At the workshop, from left to right: Head of the Department of the State Agency for Protected Areas of the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ukraine Dr. Hryhoriy Parchuk, a researcher from the University of Sustainable Development, Eberswalde, Professor Pierre Ibisch (Germany), Head of the Department of Recreation, Public Relations and International Cooperation CBR Victoria Gubko, Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Professor Fedir Hamor. (Rakhiv, March 2010)

The main outcome of the project was the creation of a conceptual model for CBR management and the use of best practices in environmental management planning with the help of "Open Standards" and the MIRADI computer software. The further goal will be to spread this practice among other protected areas of Ukraine, in particular the ones located in the Carpathian Mountains.

With this purpose (on March 17-18, 2010), an International Workshop was held in Rakhiv, in the premises of the Rakhiv branch of the Precarpathian University named after Vasyl Stefanyk. During the Workshop, in addition to the managers and experts of the reserve, there was present the German delegation headed by the manager of this international project, Professor of the University of Sustainable Development from Eberswalde Pierre Ibisch, the Special Commissioner for Eastern Europe of the German Federal Foundation for Nature Protection Dr. Wilhelm Kulke, a British expert, Professor of the University of Essex Prof. Peter Hobson, Director of the Institute of Ecology E.C.O from Austria Hanns Kirchmaier, colleagues from the State Agency for Protected Areas of the Ministry of Nature Resources of Ukraine, scientists of Lviv and Uzhgorod National Universities, managers of national nature parks from around the Western region of Ukraine, environmental NGOs, representatives of district councils and state administrations, managers of state forestry enterprises, as well as mayors of settlements located in the scope of the reserve's activity (totaling up to 80 people).

The presentations at the Workshop were made by: "The Carpathian Biosphere Reserve – its legal status, territory, objectives and Management Plan" by Director of CBR, Professor Fedir Hamor; "The Project – its purpose, goals and brief summary" – Prof. Pierre Ibish; "Introduction to Open Standards

* Victoria Gubko

for conservation practices" – a young researcher from the University of Sustainable Development Eberswalde Lena Strixner.

The participants of the workshop then worked in groups where under the guidance of foreign experts analyzed the status and landscape diversity, climate and water resources, forest management, primeval forests conservation, protection of mountain valleys, natural and anthropogenic impact on them, did scenario building exercises, etc.

The results of the Workshop were summarized by Fedir Hamor, Pierre Ibisch and Peter Hobson.

In addition, within the framework of the Workshop, the Ukrainian-German-British working meeting dedicated to fundraising options for construction of the international capacity-building and research center for students and scientists of these and other countries in the territory of the Reserve (in the village of Kvasy). This structure is planned to be built in the scope of primeval beech forests recognized as the UNESCO World Heritage. The participants of the trilateral meeting discussed the preparation of the Ukrainian-German-British project to mitigate the impact of climate change on the ecological and socio-economic situation in Transcarpathia (Zakarpattia).

Using the proposals made by community representatives and the authorities, as well as based on own experience, the project team led by Professor Fedir Hamor prepared a conceptual model that, along with a number of other achievements, was presented at the final seminar held on October 6, 2010 at the headquarters of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve. Scientists of CBR, experts from the University of Sustainable Development (Eberswalde, Germany), an expert from the Austrian Institute of Ecology "E.C.O" Dr. Hanns Kirchmeir, scientists from the Uzhgorod National University, and the present stakeholders and community representatives expressed confidence that with the joint efforts we can achieve the preservation of the identified conservation goals and implement the intended strategy.

The fruitful cooperation of CBR team with the German colleagues is not yet over. It has become the starting point for discussing new plans and ideas that, if successfully implemented, could guarantee the long-awaited sustainable development of the region, reduce dependence of the population on wood resources and decrease its excessive use. That is why on October 7, 2010, the next information event was organized for representatives of state forestry enterprises, NGOs and local authorities. It outlined the prospects for implementing the project proposed by Professor Fedir Hamor under the draft title "Transcarpathian World Heritage Initiative on Mitigation the Consequences of Global Warming (TransCarBio)" within the framework of the Program funded by the German Governmental Foundation "International Climate Initiative". The project application itself is only under preparation, but the administration of CBR, together with the German partners, finds it necessary to discuss this idea with the potential partners and stakeholders at this stage.

Now let's say few words about the prospects which are being opened to the region under the condition of a successful approval of the project proposal. Today, the industrially developed countries, in particular large companies and corporations, are willing to pay the so-called "carbon credits" as a compensation for CO2 emissions into the atmosphere. There is a special carbon market in the world that trades these quotas. But so far, unfortunately, this is happening without the participation of our region, which, without any doubt, is extremely important in terms of carbon sequestration. After all, primeval forest ecosystems are capable of capturing a significant amount of carbon dioxide, which causes significant damage to the planet and is the main driver of such a highly negative and destructive processes as the climate change. The question of how to attract these credits our region and how to direct these funds for the sustainable development of an environmentally pure, yet economically declined land is being considered by Professors Fedir Hamor and Pierre Ibisch from of the University of Sustainable Development in the city of Eberswalde (Germany).

Our German partners proposed to bring Transcarpathia region (Zakarpattia oblast of Ukraine) to the market of carbon credits and to raise funds for this region, which would help to stimulate the sustainable development of it and to pay compensations to the forestry companies for the transfer to less exhausting use of wood resources, as well as procurement of the most modern equipment for SFE partners and for the implementation of close-to-nature forestry practices (for example, selective felling instead of continuous logging). In addition, such compensations will ensure the implementation of a number of social projects, and the introduction of deep wood processing will help, firstly, to reduce the amount of logging, and,

secondly, increase the number of jobs by organizing the production of end-products, and not merely selling round logs as done today, etc.

It was interesting to hear the opinions of the representatives of the Rakhiv, Yasinia and Velykyi Bychkiv state forestry enterprises, their ideas as for the possible project, as well as proposals and positive attitude towards such processes in the region. The participants of the informational workshop confirmed: if the project proposal is supported, prospects for conservation activities, as well as for sustainable forest management and socioeconomic development of the region will open for the Transcarpathian region and Rakhiv district in particular.

So, let's hope for the success of this important international activity. The Carpathian Biosphere Reserve will continue its efforts to open up new perspectives and horizons to ensure the preservation of nature and the sustainable development of the region through active operation not only at the local, but also international levels, drawing the attention of the global community to the problematic issues of the Rakhiv district and Zakarpattia in general.

Additionally we would like to emphasize, that the publication of a photo album in Ukrainian and German languages "Five Years of the Ukrainian-German Friendship, 2006-2010" marked an important threshold of cooperation between CBR and the University for Sustainable Development (Eberswalde, Germany).

2010.

CONVINCING ARGUMENT OF PROFESSOR FEDIR HAMOR PLAYED AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT ROLE IN INCLUSION OF GERMAN BEECH FOREST SITES "ANCIENT BEECH FORESTS OF GERMANY" INTO THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST*

On September 13-16, 2010, the delegation of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine, led by the Director of the State Agency for Protected Areas Mr. Victor Kantsurak, participated in the expert evaluation visit within the Project on German ancient beech forest sites accession to the Ukrainian-Slovak UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians".

The active support of the Ukrainian colleagues, in particular the convincing argumentation suggested by Professor, Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve Dr. Fedir Hamor on this subject is extremely important for the implementation of this transnational environmental project, as stated by Dr. David Michalek (USA), an IUCN expert, and the director of the Nature Conservation Department of the German Ministry of the Environment, Frau Elsa Nickel.

A number of other issues of Ukrainian-German cooperation in the field of environmental protection were also discussed at the Berlin meeting.

2010.



Group of experts during the evaluation of ancient beech forests of Europe at the German National Park "Jasmund"

* Ihor Ivanenko

AT THE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP IN GERMANY "IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UKRAINIAN PROGRAM ON NATURE CONSERVATION FOR THE PERIOD UP TO 2020", MANAGERS OF THE UKRAINIAN AND GERMAN ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTIONS EXCHANGED THEIR EXPERIENCE

In accordance with the intergovernmental agreement between Germany and Ukraine, the Ukrainian delegation participated in the Workshop "Implementation of the Ukrainian Program on Nature Conservation for the Period up to 2020", which took place on November 30 – December 6, 2010 at the International Academy for Nature Conservation of the Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety on the island of Vilm (Germany).

Director of the Department for Biodiversity, Land Protection and Ecological Network of the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ukraine Mr. Mykola Movchan, chief specialist of the Department of Environmental Policy and Technological Security of the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine Ms. Tetiana Hranovska, experts the State Agency for Protected Areas of the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ukraine Ms. Lesia Karnaukh, Ms. Anastasia Drapaliuk, and eleven directors of nature reserves and national nature parks from different regions of Ukraine studied the experience of Germany in the management of protected area system, discussed the ways to reduce the technogenic and natural risks for biodiversity conservation, mitigation of the climate change impact on the environment, etc. Methodology for assessing the protected areas' benefits of and the ways of their development were elaborated in detail. Much attention has been paid to the development of the Strategic Plan for the Protected Area System Development, the improvement of environmental legislation and funding mechanisms for nature reserves and national parks in Germany and Ukraine in the framework of the International Convention on Biological Diversity were also considered. In this context, Prof. Hans Knapp and Prof. Gizella Stolp, representatives of the International Academy for Nature Conservation, made interesting presentations on the system of protected areas in Germany and their management, also the employee of the German University of Sustainable Development (Eberswalde), Lars Schmidt, made a presentation on the topic "Management Planning for the Carpathian Mountains Biosphere Reserve in Ukraine".

At the workshop there were made presentations by the directors of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve Prof. Fedir Hamor, the National Nature Parks "Hutsulshchyna" Mr. Vasyl Prorochuk and "Buzkyi Hard" Mr. Vladyslav Artamonov.

The Workshop participants also studied the working experience of the biosphere reserve "Southeast Rügen", and visited the national parks "Muritz" and "Jasmund".

For Ukrainian environmentalists were invited to an official meeting to the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany in Berlin.

2010.



During the seminar "Implementation of the Ukrainian Program on Nature Conservation for the Period until 2020". Germany, Vilm Island, November 30 – December 6, 2010

THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE APPROVED DECISION TO EXPAND THE UKRAINIAN-SLOVAK PROPERTY "PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS" AT THE EXPENSE OF FIVE NEW CLUSTERS FROM GERMANY*

On June 19-29, 2011, the 35th meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee was held in Paris. At its meetings, the UNESCO World Heritage List became larger by 25 new Properties, of which three were the natural ones and 21 – cultural and one mixed Property. Today, this List includes 936 sites, 183 of which are natural.

At the meeting of the Committee, in particular, there was decided to expand the Ukrainian-Slovak Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" at the expense of five new component parts from Germany with an area of the core zone of 4 391 hectares. They represent four national parks (Jasmund, Muritz, Hainich and Kellerwald-Erderzee) and the Schorfheide-Chorin biosphere reserve. The new name of the Property was also approved: "Primeval beech forests of the Carpathians and ancient beech forests of Germany" (Slovakia, Ukraine, Germany). The total area of the core zone is now 33 669 hectares. Also, the Metropolitan Headquarters of Bukovina and Dalmatia dating back to the XIX century from the Ukrainian city of Chernivtsi was added to the list of unique sites of a universal importance. Today this is the main building of the Chernivtsi National University named after Yuriy Fedkovych.

Let me remind you, that in 2007 as parts of the World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" (Slovakia, Ukraine, Germany) the primeval beech forests of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve were listed as the UNESCO WH with an area of the core zone of 20,980.5 hectares, which is 62 % of the total Property's surface.

2011.

AT THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR HELD AT THE CARPATHIAN BIOSPHERE RESERVE, IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF THE INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM OF THE SERIAL PROPERTY "PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS AND THE ANCIENT BEECH FORESTS OF GERMANY" WAS ANALYZED**

Due to the active position of the administration of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, this protected area is a regular participant of important international projects that are being implemented not only for its own development but also to the benefit of the region as a whole.



At the seminar within the framework of the project "Sustainable Management of the Territories Adjacent to the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" (Ukraine-Slovakia)", Solotvyno, July 2011

The project "Sustainable management of territories adjacent to the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" (Ukraine-Slovakia) became one of the important activities implemented by CBR. It was developed with the support of the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany. The project included a number of seminars dedicated to the integrated management improvement for this extremely important transnational Property. The participants of the meeting were representatives of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park (Ukraine), as well as of the two protected areas of Slovakia (the Poloniny National Park and the Landscape Park "Vihorlat"), together with five protected areas from Germany (National Parks "Muritz",

* Yuriy Berkela
** Victoria Gubko

"Hainich", "Jasmund", "Kellerwald-Erdersee " and the Schorfheide-Chorin Biosphere Reserve).

A regular meeting – the third seminar in the framework of the aforementioned trilateral project – took place at the resort complex "Speleocenter" in Solotvyno on July 5-7, 2011. CBR acted not only as an active participant but also as a co-organizer.

For three years, the nomination dossier to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee has been under preparation in order to expand the existing UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" (Ukraine-Slovakia) by means of the five German clusters of oldgrowth beech forests protected by the above-mentioned protected areas in Germany. On June 25, 2011, this process was logically completed when, at the 35th meeting of the World Heritage Committee taking place in Paris, it was proclaimed that "The Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" were listed into the UNESCO World Heritage List as an addition to the already existing Ukrainian-Slovak Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians". The German colleagues largely owe their success to the active support given by the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve's team and personally Prof. Fedir Hamor, who had participated in numerous meetings, as well as acted as an expedition member during the assessment of the German clusters.

Also, in the course of the nomination process, an Integrated Management System was developed that was aimed at ensuring an efficient management of this extremely valuable trilateral transnational Property.

Basic common challenges are: to ensure the most effective conservation of the Property with its entire biotic and abiotic components, together with the geo- and biodiversity and ecological processes; maintaining the self-regeneration ability in relevant ecosystems and securing the protection mechanisms from anthropogenic processes and impact factors; maintaining and expanding the existing ecologically connected complex of primeval and natural beech forests that connect the Slovak and Ukrainian clusters; the use of this serial Property for scientific research with the aim of obtaining knowledge that can be transmitted and used for a sustainable, close-to-nature forest management; the use of this natural heritage Property with the aim to enhance eco-education, environmental knowledge and public awareness on primeval forests and their values at the local, national and international levels; ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources in the territories adjacent to the Property (traditional crafts, ecotourism, food products, etc.).

The achievement of these goals was the main topic of the series of five workshops conducted within the framework of the above-mentioned Ukrainian-Slovak-German project. The international workshop held in Zakarpattia region of Ukraine was aimed at developing the project ideas and was directly related to the objectives of the Integrated Management System of the serial Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany".

The international delegation also went on a field trip to the Uholka-Shyrokyi Luh massif of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve.

On July 7, the participants of the seminar took part in the celebration of the Day of Conservationist of Ukraine, and in the official opening ceremony of the information and tourist center "Carpathian Highland".

2011.

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR "PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS – COMMON NATURAL HERITAGE OF EUROPE: THE POTENTIAL FOR CREATION OF A JOINT SERIAL NOMINATION OF BEECH PRIMEVAL AND ANCIENT FORESTS OF EUROPE"*

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee, during its 35th meeting in Paris, adopted the decision to expand the existing Ukrainian-Slovak Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" by adding five clusters of ancient beech forests from Germany, and it played a role as a powerful catalyst in the process of joining the efforts of European conservationists in preserving common natural heritage on the continent – oldgrowth beech forests, which are also an important factor in mitigating negative effects of the global climate change.

The Resolution includes recommendations developed by IUCN experts based on the results of the field mission and the cameral studies of the materials contained in the nomination dossier. Including the ones related to the expansion of the transnational Ukrainian-Slovak-German Property

* Victoria Gubko

"Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" by adding other European primeval and oldgrowth beech forests that would meet the IUCN guidelines, namely: the ones that help to unravel the history and evolution of the globally important Fagus genus, being widely distributed in the Northern Hemisphere. These undisturbed complex temperate forests should reflect the most complete and continuous ecological processes characteristic of pure beech forests under various ecological conditions in all the biogeographic regions.

In order to fulfill this recommendation, an international seminar "Primeval primeval beech forests – common natural heritage of Europe: the potential for creation of a joint serial nomination of primeval beech and ancient forests of Europe" was held on the basis of the International Academy of Nature Conservation (isle of Vilm, Germany), jointly with representatives of the transnational Ukrainian-Slovak-German Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany". The leading scientists from Ukraine, Slovakia, Germany, Austria, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Romania, France, Italy, Spain, Greece, and Great Britain took part in the meeting, which was held on October 10-14, 2011. The beech forests of Europe as well as their evolution and history were the main topic together with the eco-geographic location of the latter, and also their role for forestry and nature conservation was discussed.

The key role was played by the presentation made by Professor Fedir Hamor, Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, which was dedicated to the conference "Natural Forests of the Temperate Zone of Europe – Values and Usage" held in 2003 in Mukachevo, with the participation of 250 scientists from 26 countries of the globe. That gathering had caused a powerful resonance and had great consequences for the European forest science and conservation activities. In addition, F. Hamor mentioned in his speech the founders of scientific research and the pioneers of primeval forest ecosystems' investigation, as well as those dedicated scholars who had made considerable efforts to draw the attention of the global community to the problem of this unique and exceptionally valuable natural heritage preservation.

During the second day of the seminar, the participants heard a report on the technical assessment of the German nomination dossier prepared by IUCN (Dr. Hervé Letier, IUCN expert), and then proceeded to a closer study of the ecogeographic regions and held discussions of possible remnants of primeval and oldgrowth beech forests in Europe, namely: the Atlantic beech forest region – West Europe, the Alpine beech forest region, the Illyrian-Balkan beech forest region, the South European mountain beech forest region, the additional potential of the Carpathians (Romania, Poland) and the potential of Central Europe.

2011.

DRAFT MEMORANDUM ON MANAGEMENT OF THE JOINT UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY WAS BEING WORKED ON AT THE 5th UKRAINIAN-SLOVAK-GERMAN WORKING MEETING*

On October 14-15, 2011, the fifth trilateral Ukrainian-Slovak-German meeting took place on the basis of the International Academy of Nature Conservation (isle of Vilm, Germany). This gathering, which is an annual event under the Intergovernmental Agreement on Cooperation, this time has gained new meaning and added value due to expansion process of the already existing Ukrainian-Slovak Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" by adding five clusters of ancient beech forests from Germany, thus creating a transnational Ukrainian-Slovak-German Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" (according to the Resolution of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee dated on 25.06.2011).

Representatives of Slovakia, Germany, as well as the delegates from Ukraine – Dr. Ihor Ivanenko, deputy head of the Agency for Protected Areas of the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ukraine, Mr. Ihor Markelov, Advisor to the Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine and also a team of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve headed by its Director – Prof. Fedir Hamor.

The main topic discussed at the working meeting was the Memorandum on Cooperation and the joint action plan 2012. It was decided that it will outline the main areas of cooperation on the basis of

* Victoria Gubko

the newly created trilateral World Heritage Property, and will also regulate other aspects of the trilateral cooperation in the field of nature conservation at the level of the Ministries, namely: setting up the working groups, appointing regular meetings, etc.

Also, it is worth mentioning that the most important agenda item for the trilateral working group for the next year will be fundraising for the construction of the International Capacity Building and Research Center for Primeval Beech Forests and Sustainable Development to be organized on the basis of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve in the balneological resort village of Kvasy, Rakhiv district, Zakarpattia region of Ukraine. It is gratifying that this idea has been approved at all levels not only in Ukraine, but it has also received considerable support and well-deserved attention among the foreign colleagues. A decision was made to create a special tripartite expert working group tasked with developing the concept of the exposition for the future Center.

2011.

CHAIRMAN OF THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE, DR. KISHORE RAO, HANDED OVER THE CERTIFICATE ON INCLUSION OF THE UKRAINIAN-SLOVAK-GERMAN "PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS AND THE ANCIENT BEECH FORESTS OF GERMANY" INTO THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST TO THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF GERMANY, SLOVAKIA AND UKRAINE*

The delegation of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, headed by Professor Fedir Hamor, was honored to be invited to the official ceremony of awarding five German ancient beech forest sites with the UNESCO WH Certificate, which, together with the Ukrainian and Slovak sites, now form a joint serial transnational Ukrainian-Slovak-German Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and The Ancient Beech Forests of Germany".

This extremely memorial event took place on October 15, 2011, at the premises of the Federal Ministry of Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety of Germany with the participation of about 120 persons – all those who were involved, one way or another, into a long and laborious nomination process.

A welcoming speech was delivered by the Minister of Environment and Nuclear Safety of Germany Dr. Norbert Röthgen. He thanked the experts who had been preparing the nomination dossier, as well as the representatives of the five protected area administrations that were included into the Property. Warm words of gratitude were also addressed to the Ukrainian and Slovak colleagues who had provided enormous support to the German nominated components during the evaluation process.

The Minister's speech was followed by Mr. Kishora Rao, Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Center, who emphasized the outstanding global value of the primeval and oldgrowth beech forests, and then he granted the UNESCO World Heritage certificates to the five clusters of ancient beech forests of Germany. The Ministers of nature conservation of the federal states of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Thuringia, Brandenburg and Hesse, on whose territory these valuable sites were located, also delivered their speeches.

A greeting speech was made by the Deputy Director of the Agency for Protected Areas of the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ukraine Dr. Ihor Ivanenko on behalf of the official Ukrainian delegation. He congratulated his German colleagues on this great recognition, also told about the priorities and achievements of Ukrainian environmental policy, and as well emphasized the special role of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve as the leading institution of the PA system of Ukraine. The idea of creating the International Capacity Building and Research Center for Primeval Beech and Sustainable Development on the basis of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve was accepted with a storm of applause by the participants, especially by the UNESCO representatives.

2011.

* Victoria Gubko

WORKSHOP IN SPAIN, WHERE THE PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF MANAGING THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES WERE DISCUSSED

On November 21-25, 2011 the International Consortium "Conservation Coaches Network" (CCNet) held a workshop in the Spanish town of Deltebre dedicated to implementation of adaptive management within the framework of the Open Standards Program for conservation practices in protected areas.

Representatives of such countries as Spain, Germany, Greece, Philippines, Guinea-Bissau, France, Bulgaria, Sweden, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Tanzania, Mexico and Ukraine participated in it. The practical aspects of the Open Standards Program implementation in the spheres of nature conservation and sustainable use of unique natural sites that have a global importance were considered at the seminar. In particular, specific projects were developed to reduce the negative effects of the climate change on the planet, conservation of gorilla and chimpanzee populations in Central Africa, saw-fish protection in the Guinea-Bissau water area, and the sustainable development of some regions in Spain and France.

The issue of the Carpathian primeval beech forests protection as the only Ukrainian natural UNESCO World Heritage Property was separately discussed. Experts from the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park, together with the experts from Greece and France, analyzed the greatest threats to the primeval forests, and developed a conceptual model and strategic vision for their conservation and sustainable development of the surrounding areas. The solutions of the problem connected to the conservation and introduction of sustainable pasturing practices on alpine meadows, located within the buffer zone of the UNESCO World Heritage Property, were elaborated in detail. In particular, it was recognized that it was necessary to develop a special legal documents that would regulate the issues of protection and management of alpine meadows in the Carpathians, and introduction of a rotational grazing here together with prevention measures against the degradation processes, etc.

Taking into account the outcomes of the seminar, it is planned to submit a project application on the topic "Conservation and sustainable use of alpine meadows within the protected areas of the Maramures mountain range in the Ukrainian-Romanian border region (using the Open Standards for protected areas)" under the EU-funded Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine cross-border cooperation program.

2011.

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1-2. A meeting room prepared for an official ceremony of awarding with the UNESCO Certificate
3-5. Chairman of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, Kishore Rao, taking floor and awarding the Ministers of the Environment of Germany and the federal lands and representatives of the Governments of Ukraine and Slovakia with the UNESCO World Heritage Certificate. At the hall for official ceremonies on the occasion of the Certificate Award
6. The founders of the Property have met. From left to right: Professor Ivan Voloschuk (Slovakia), David Michalek (USA) – IUCN Expert, Professor Fedir Hamor (Ukraine) and Hannes Knapp (Germany)
7. Kishore Rao and Fedir Hamor exchanging opinions on the Property's management
8. Meeting on the sidelines of the vent. From left to right: David Michalek, Professor of the University for Sustainable Development Pierre Ibisch (Germany), Fedir Hamor, and the head of the recreation and international cooperation department of CBR Victoria Gubko
9. Minister of the Federal Ministry of Environmental Protection of Germany Dr. Norbert Rutgen holds a discussion with Kishore Rao and Fedir Hamor
10. Preventative of the Government of Ukraine Dr. Ihor Ivanenko taking floor
11. A commemorative picture of the members of the Ukrainian delegation with Dr. Kishore Rao and a representative of the Federal Agency for the Conservation of Nature of Germany Barbara Engels

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

World Heritage
Convention

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

The World Heritage Committee
has inscribed

Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany

on the World Heritage List

Inscription on this List confirms the outstanding universal value of a cultural or natural property which requires protection for the benefit of all humanity

DATE OF INSCRIPTION
25 June 2011

Irina Bokova
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
OF UNESCO

UNESCO World Heritage Certificate on expansion of the Ukrainian-Slovak UNESCO World Heritage Property at the expense of German clusters



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The UNESCO Certificate on listing the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" Awarding Ceremony for the representatives of the governments of Germany, Ukraine and Slovakia (Berlin, 2011).



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1. At the International Workshop at the International Academy of Nature Conservation on the island of Vilm (Germany) – Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve Professor Fedir Hamor is making his report (translation by Victoria Gubko)
2. The discussion is supported by Barbara Engels (Federal Environmental Protection Agency (BfN)) and the director of this Academy, Professor Hannes Knapp.
3. A commemorative picture of the workshop participants (November, 2011)



STATUS OF THE DOSSIER PREPARATION FOR EXPANSION OF THE PROPERTY "PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS AND THE ANCIENT BEECH FORESTS OF GERMANY" WAS DISCUSSED AT INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP IN ITALY

European beech (Fagus sylvatica) forests are distributed on our planet exclusively in Europe. And if there were no human management held, they would be dominant among the landscapes of the central part of this continent. It is also important that beech as a biological species had survived after the glacial period only in small refuge areas in the south and south-east of our continent, and only then began to colonize large areas, and over the past 4 000 years it has captured almost half of the European territory. Therefore, nowadays, beech forests are represented in a wide range of ecological conditions and are distributed from the seaside in the northwest of Europe up to the main mountain systems. They are the natural habitats for more than 10 000 species of animals, plants and fungi.





In the forest "study room" of the Munti Cimino National Park the issue of including the ancient beech forests of Italy into the list of UNESCO World Heritage Properties is discussed (June, 2012)

The post-glacial colonization of the landscapes by beech tree had been taking place in parallel with the settlement of men all over Europe and the formation of a developed society. Therefore, beech has become an important element of the European economy and culture. It is not known how civilization would develop in this part of the world, if there were no beech wood and coal, products of its chemical distillation and other products from it. The importance of this species in life of peoples is reflected even in the names of regions, settlements, and objects in many European languages. For example, Ukrainian and Romanian Bukovina region, German Buchenwald, Ukrainian "Bukvar" (ABC-book) are also linked to the name of this tree.

At the same time, the population growth, intensive farming, in particular the development of industry and agriculture, had led to the massive deforestation of beech forest sites, which in its turn triggered the worsening of the ecological situation on the continent and contributed to global climate change. By the way, in the Ukrainian Carpathians, the replacement of beech forests on hundreds, even thousands of hectares with spruce monocultures is causing nowadays not only great environmental, but also economic losses.

As a result of human management, the oldgrowth beech forests, which used to dominate on vast areas of the continent, became a big rarity in Europe today.

Taking these circumstances into account, and thanks to our (Ukrainian) initiative, the largest remnants of primeval beech forests of the Carpathians with their Slovak localities are recognized by UNESCO as the ones having an outstanding global value and are listed into the World Heritage List. And the subsequent extension of this Property by adding the ancient beech forests from Germany has initiated a pan-European process of preserving oldgrowth beech forest ecosystems.

In this context, from a scientific point of view, it becomes apparent that the south-European, west-Atlantic, Illyrian-Balkan and Alpine biogeographic regions of beech distribution, together with the Carpathian and Central European habitats, may also have some additional outstanding universal value for conservation of the natural ecological processes.

That is why the Resolution adopted by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee (35 COM 8B.13) instructed Ukraine, Slovakia and Germany to provide appropriate management for the primeval and ancient beech forests conservation in Europe. In addition, it is commissioned to investigate the situation regarding the potential expansion of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" by adding the oldgrowth beech forests of other biogeographic regions of Europe, in order to create a complete serial transnational Property and ensure the preservation of these unique forest ecosystems.

In this context, the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, the University for Sustainable Development (Eberswalde, Germany) and the Center for Econics and Ecosystem Management (Great Britain), with the financial support of the Federal Ministry of Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety of Germany are implementing a special research and development project "Beech Forests as a European Heritage".

It is anticipated that during two and a half years, a group of experts from Ukraine, Slovakia and Germany, together with conservationists from other European countries, will evaluate the conservation status of oldgrowth beech forests on the European continent and analyze the situation in terms of their additional global value, and will also prepare proposals to be submitted to the governments of respective countries for submission of the nomination dossiers to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

In order to continue the works, that have been carried out within the framework of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German meeting and the recommendations of the international seminar on the German island of Vilm (October 2011), a European seminar was held on the basis of the national natural park of Abruzzo, Lazio and Molise in Italy on June 16-20, 2012. A field assessment of the Apennine Mountains oldgrowth beech forests, which represent the forest beech refugium in the south-European biogeographic region, was held during the seminar. This event was organized by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (German) and the Italian University of Tuscia.

The workshop was attended by senior officials from the central environmental authorities of Germany, local authorities from the towns of Soriano-Nel-Cimino and Villavallelonga, scientists, environmentalists and public activists from 16 European countries. Ukraine was represented by the delegation from the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve.

The organizational and methodological principles of new oldgrowth beech forest sites selection from different biogeographical regions of Europe for expansion of the existing Ukrainian-Slovak-German WH Property were discussed during the workshop. A particular attention was paid to the presentations made by the Italian researchers and environmentalists who presented argumentation on the need to grant the UNESCO World Heritage status to the oldgrowth beech forests of Munti Cimino (1035 m.) protected in the national park of Abruzzo, Lazio, Molise and Pollino. There have also been considered the proposals from France, Spain, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Austria, Switzerland, Slovenia, Serbia, Croatia and other countries. In her special report, the chief of one of the departments of the German Federal Ministry of Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety, Frau Heike Brits said that the German Government had reported about the implementation of the international project to preserve the ancient beech forests in Europe at one of the meetings of the European Union member states, and that idea was greatly supported by the partners from the European Union. In addition, Germany allocated funding for the implementation of this project. The University for Sustainable Development (Eberswalde, Germany) is the partner responsible for the works implementation.

It was emphasized at the workshop on the special role played by Ukraine in this process. Therefore, in his speech at the seminar, the author of these lines had shared his experience in preserving the largest segments of the primeval beech forests in Europe. In particular, the attention was paid to the implementation of the Action Plan for conservation and development of the Ukrainian part of the UNESCO WH Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians", which had been approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine in 2009, and Prof. Hamor also reported about the construction of the International Capacity Building and Research Center for Primeval Beech Forests and Sustainable Development which was supposed to be built in Ukraine, etc. It was proposed to

create an association of protected areas, which dealt with the UNESCO World Heritage beech forests' preservation, and to establish a union of twin-cities that were located in the scope of those unique natural sites. In addition, the issue of accelerating the signing process for the Ukrainian-Slovak-German Memorandum on Cooperation in preserving the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany was raised; two international conferences on conservation, research and sustainable use of beech forest ecosystems to be held in the year 2013 in Ukraine were discussed in detail. The co-organizers of these events are expected to be the Swiss Scientific Foundation and Ministries of Environment of Germany and Slovakia.

The aforementioned workshop in Italy gave an opportunity not only to exchange views and to get to know the environmental experience in this Euroregion, but also to see the negative effects that had been caused by a long-term management in beech forests. The most striking were the huge "deserts" in the Apennines, which had been formed in the result of forest logging activities and excessive grazing of livestock in the mountains. Bare rocks, rivers without water, and empty towns remind us about this. But the Government of Italy and the local authorities have recently been doing a lot to restore the degraded nature. Big national parks have been created on large areas. For fifty years already logging interventions in the beech forests have been stopped. At the expense of the state budget, the administration of the national parks compensates to the local communities the prohibitions of the forest use in the municipal forests. Thus, the national park of Abruzzo, Lazio and Molise pays the almost of 500 000 Euro for community-owned forests each year (an average sum of 30 to 45 Euro per hectare of the forest, for which the environmental limitations are introduced). Also the local municipalities are involved in the awareness rising and eco-educational activities, they create information centers, ecological trails and "schools of nature" right in the forests. An explicit example in this regard is the activity of Soriano-Nel-Cimino municipality, which is located not far from Rome. This experience of cooperation between a protected area and local authorities should be implemented in Ukraine as well.

When drawing conclusions of this European Workshop, one of its organizers – the Director of the International Academy of Nature Conservation Germany, Professor Hannes Knapp (Germany) perfectly noticed that the primeval beech forests had become not only globally important, but also serve as one of the symbols of the European solidarity. Of course, we would find difficulty to quarrel with this statement.

2012.

SELECTION CRITERIA AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY FOR DISTRIBUTION OF ESPECIALLY VALUABLE SECTIONS OF BEECH FORESTS IN EUROPE WERE DEBATED DURING MEETING ON THE VILM ISLAND, GERMANY*

The nomination process of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians", which had been initiated by the team of experts from the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve under the leadership of the Director of the institution Professor Fedir Hamor in close collaboration with the Slovak colleagues is now a thing of the past.

A number of significant events have happened since then, in particular the expansion of the given Property by adding the five component parts of German oldgrowth natural forests and the transformation of this unique natural UNESCO World Heritage Property into "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany". But the process of this WH Property's development is far from its end. The primeval beech forests are acquiring a more and more important meaning.

According to the recommendations given by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, the state-parties of the Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany", namely Ukraine, Slovakia and Germany, should continue their work towards attracting other valuable primeval and oldgrowth beech forest sites from different parts of the continent that would meet the criteria ix, under which the Property had been nominated ("continuing unique natural processes") and which would supplement the "outstanding universal value" of "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany". As of autumn 2012, three expert workshops on this issue have already been held and a special project "Beech Forests as a Common

* Victoria Gubko

European Heritage" has been launched. The given project is being implemented with the support of the Federal Agency for Nature Protection of Germany.

The next event from a series of workshops was held on the island of Vilm (Germany) at the International Academy of Nature Conservation on October 3-6, 2012. The delegation from the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, under the leadership of Ing. Vasyl Pokynchereda and the Deputy Manager of the Laboratory for Scientific Research, took an active part in this gathering. The agenda of the workshop included presentations of potential component parts that could be used to expand the Property; the discussions of selection criteria were held and the presentations on the methodology for identifying the distribution of the valuable areas of beech oldgrowth and primeval forests of Fagus sylvatica on the continent were made. During the three days of the workshop activities, more than a dozen of reports were made about a significant number of clusters ranging in size from 50 ha to several thousand hectares. It should be noted that despite the vast areas of valuable primeval beech and oldgrowth forests in the Balkans (Bulgaria) and in other countries of the Carpathians (Romania), the primeval beech forests of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve remain the largest and most valuable sites on the continent.

The analysis of the proposed clusters showed that some of them did not fall under the requirements set forward to the nomination dossier. As for the rest of them, they should be further surveyed, and some deeper scientific information should be gathered, also the possibility of nominating each of the primeval or oldgrowth beech forest clusters at the level of the governments of the relevant countries should be discussed. The experts are to deal with these tasks, and the results will be presented already at the next workshop, which will take place next year. This time it will be held at the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve.

2012.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS WILL LAY THE BASIS FOR ESTABLISHING AN "ECOLOGICAL DAVOS" IN TRANSCARPATHIA

"An "Ecological Davos" can be created in Transcarpathia, if we all together contribute to this" – Victor BALOHA, the Minister of Emergency Situations wrote on his Facebook page.

"Thanks to the enthusiasm of the Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Professor Fedir Hamor" observes Victor Baloha, "in the village of Kvasy, the Rakhiv district of Zakarpattia region of Ukraine, an International Capacity Building and Research Center for Beech Forests and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians is about to be established.

Fedir Hamor has inspired with this idea not only me and other people from Zakarpattia, but also high officials of Ukraine, Germany and Slovakia.

Exactly with this purpose the Governmental Order "On Approval of the Action Plan for Conservation and Development of the Ukrainian Part of the UNESCO WH natural Property Beech "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" was adopted. Funds for construction of the Center were allocated by the State Foundation for Environmental Protection of Ukraine and the Federal Ministry of Environment of Germany.

The Center will become the coordinating point for the network of education centers that are being created in parallel in Ukraine, Slovakia and Germany within the framework of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany"...

"It should be added that the International Center, mentioned above, will play a coordinating role in the network of capacity-building centers that are being created in parallel in Ukraine, Slovakia and Germany. In particular, in Germany there will be established five facilities of this kind, also one in Slovakia and three in Ukraine.

A tourism information center with a field camp in the village of Mala Uholka, Tiachiv district, and an ecological and educational center at the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park in the village of Velykyi Bereznyi will be created.

All these facilities will not only enable the protection of valuable forests, but will also give opportunities for people to see these forests in their original state.

And this is just another example of how only one person, namely Prof. Fedir Hamor, who loves his land and his job, is able to unite people so that we all together can make our Transcarpathian land and our Ukraine cleaner and better" – summed up Victor Baloha.

August 19, 2012.

PROBLEMS OF PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF PRIMEVAL AND ANCIENT BEECH FORESTS OF EUROPE WERE DISCUSSED AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN RAKHIV

On September 16-22, 2013, the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve's Administration held the International Scientific Conference "Primeval and Oldgrowth Beech Forests in Europe: Problems of Conservation and Sustainable Use" in the town of Rakhiv, Zakarpattia region of Ukraine, under the UNESCO support. The conference was devoted to the 45th anniversary since the Carpathian State Reserve ("zapovidnyk") was created, and the 20th anniversary of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve's designation based on the old-style Soviet strict state reserve.

The event was held in the context of the Recommendations given by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee (35COM 8B.13) in connection with listing the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany", and in the light of the Order of the President of Ukraine on Sustainable Development and Improvement of Mountain Settlements, located in the scope of the primeval beech forests, and in the context of the Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On Approval of the Action Plan on Conservation and Development of the Ukrainian Part of the UNESCO WH natural Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians".

The European workshop "Beech Forests as a Common Natural Heritage of Europe" was held in the framework of the conference. A meeting of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German Management Committee on integrated management of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" took place in parallel to the Conference. Also the Ukrainian-German working group on protected areas had its meeting. An evening of international friendship "Primeval Beech Forests uniting the peoples of Europe" and a field trip to the Uholka primeval beech forests of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve were held too.

The conference was attended by scientists, top-authorities and representatives of different state and regional structures, environmental institutions and NGOs from Ukraine, Germany, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Switzerland, Romania, Austria, Italy, Spain, Great Britain and other countries – totally about 150 people.

Greeting messages from the Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine Mr. Oleh Proskuriakov and the Head of the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration Mr. Oleksandr Ledyda were addressed to the Conference participants.

The participants of the conference were also greeted by the Deputy Director of the State Agency for Protected Areas of the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ukraine Dr. Ihor Ivanenko, the Director of the Department of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration Mr. Yuriy Shpontak, the Head of the Rakhiv District State Administration Mr. Dmytro Andriyuk, the Deputy Head of the Rakhiv District Council Mr. Mykhailo Firka and the Rakhiv town mayor Mr. Yaroslav Dumyn.

At the plenary and during the breakout sessions on the topics "Current state of inventory and research of primeval and oldgrowth beech forests", "The role of primeval and oldgrowth beech forests in biodiversity conservation", "The significance of primeval and oldgrowth beech forests in mitigation of the global climate change impacts and introduction of ecological models of sustainable forest management" and "Using the primeval and oldgrowth beech forests for scientific, educational and ecotourism purposes ", as well as at the poster session there were made 73 reports and presentations. A volume of the Conference proceedings was published.

The author of these lines took floor at the Conference with the Presentation "About the Ukrainian contribution into conservation and investigation of beech forests in Europe". The Director of the International Academy for Nature Conservation Professor Hannes Knapp (Germany) made his presentation of the topic "Primeval beech forests as a common natural heritage of Europe" and told about the preparation process of the finite European nomination dossier of the Property to be listed in the UNESCO World Heritage List; the Advisor of the Minister of Ecology of Slovakia Dr. Ladislav Ambros informed on the status of the outstanding universal value's preservation in the Slovak part of the World Heritage Property in the light of the UNESCO WH Committee Resolution on this issue. The presentations made at the conference by Professor Peter Hobson (Great Britain) and Professor Pierre Ibisch (Germany) on the peculiarities of forest management in the

context of global climate change, and on the study of ecological processes in forest ecosystems made by Professor Ivan Voloschuk (Slovakia), on the added value of primeval beech and oldgrowth forests in the Apennines by Dr. Alfredo Di Filipo (Italy), on the state of oldgrowth beech forests conservation in the Pyrenees (by Dr. Oscar Schwendtner, Spain), about the prospects of Ukrainian-German cooperation by the Head of the Department of International Affairs of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany Dr. Nicola Breier, etc. were of a great interest for the participants.

While adopting the Resolution, the conference participants noted the significant role of Ukraine in the primeval and oldgrowth beech forest preservation in Europe, and expressed their gratitude to the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and personally to Professor Fedir Hamor for long years of persistent work in the field of conservation and research of these unique natural values of the Carpathians, and for a special contribution into the nomination process of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" and for the contribution onto the ecological cooperation on the European continent.

The innovative projects launched by the administration of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve were highly appreciated, namely the ones regarding the adoption of special Resolutions by the President and the Government of Ukraine on sustainable development and improvement of mountain settlements located in the scope of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German Property "Primeval Beech Forests of Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests of Europe". It was recommended to use this experience in other countries too.

The conference also appealed to the Governments of Ukraine, Slovakia and Germany with a request to accelerate the process of signing the Memorandum between the Ministry of Environment 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 Environment of the Slovak Republic on protection and management of UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany", to allocate an adequate budget for construction of the International Capacity Building and Research Center for primeval beech forests and sustainable development of the Carpathians, and establishing a network of the eco-education centers in every part of this globally important natural Property. It is also recommended to create an Association of twin-towns and a union of protected areas that deal with the protection and research of the primeval and oldgrowth beech forests in Europe in order to ensure the exchange of experience, to increase the intellectual potential, to improve the skills of scientific and forest management personnel, and to unite the ecological activists and local self-government bodies.

2013.

See pp. 76-77

1. The Presidium is still working

2. Professor of the University for Sustainable Development Pierre Ibisch (Germany, Eberswalde) is presenting a set of flags to the administration of CBR. The flags are those of the countries, the students from which have taken part in study trips to the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve.

3. Director of the International Academy for Nature Conservation (Germany, Vilm Island), Professor Hannes D. Knapp – an interesting respondent for the journalists of the TV channel "Tysa" (Uzhgorod).

4. Guests are enjoying Hutsul music.

5. Professor Fedir Hamor is telling about the Ukrainian contribution to preservation of primeval beech forests in Europe.

6, 9. Attentive audience in the meeting room.

7. The discussion is ongoing on the sidelines of the event.

8. Professor Peter Hobson (Great Britain) is taking the floor.

10. Meeting of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German Management Committee on the complex management of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany".

11. At the Evening of International Friendship "Primeval Beech Forests uniting the peoples across Europe" – Professor Ivan Voloschuk (Slovakia) and counselor of the Minister of Environment of Slovakia Ladislav Ambros are taking the floor.

12 Participants of the European Seminar "Beech Forests as a Common European Heritage".

RESULTS OF PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS RESEARCH WERE CONSIDERED AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN LVIV

Forests of European beech (Fagus sylvatica) are distributed exclusively in Europe and have once covered almost half of its territory. But the growth of population, intensive farming, and in particular – the industrial and agricultural development, had led to massive deforestation of beech forests, which in its turn triggered an aggravation of ecological situation on the continent and contributed to the global climate change processes.

In consequence of human management, the oldgrowth beech forests, that used to dominate on vast territories in the past, have become very rare in Europe today.

In the light of these circumstances, thanks to our Ukrainian initiative, the largest remnants of primeval beech forests in the Carpathians with their Slovak localities were recognized in 2007 as a global value by UNESCO and listed into the World Heritage List. And the next expansion of this Property in 2011 by adding the ancient beech forests of Germany triggered the European process of the oldgrowth beech forest ecosystems protection.

In Ukraine, which possesses the largest clusters of primeval beech forests in Europe, and under the initiative of which the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests of Germany", a considerable attention is devoted to the and conservation of these forests. Thus, in 2009, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved the Action Plan aimed at preservation and development of the Ukrainian part of the UNESCO WH natural Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians", and on April 2, 2013, the President of Ukraine Mr. Viktor Yanukovych issued a special Order aimed at ensuring the sustainable development and improvement of mountain settlements located in the scope of this unique natural value.

In pursuance of this Order of the Government of Ukraine, the administration of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve together with the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL) and the National Forestry University of Ukraine held an international scientific conference "Primeval Beech Forests: Reference model systems for management and conservation of biodiversity, forest resources and ecosystem services " on June 2-9, 2013, in the historical center of Lviv city (which, by the way, as well as the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians was included into the UNESCO World Heritage List as a historical and cultural Property). Approximately 170 researchers from 27 countries of the world took part in the Conference.

The participants of the conference were welcomed by the Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine Oleg Proskuriakov. The researchers were also greeted by the Rector of the National Forestry University of Ukraine, Academician of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine Prof. Yuriy Tunytsia, and the Chairperson of the International Organizing Committee for the Conference Dr. Brigitte Commarmot (Switzerland).

At the plenary session the following presentations were made: "World Heritage of primeval beech forests of the Carpathians as a symbol of ecological unity of Europe" (Prof. Fedir Hamor, Ukraine); "Primeval forest reserves in the Ukrainian Carpathians: the history of establishing" (Prof. Stepan Stoiko, Ukraine); "European beech forests regions and the potential for expanding the transnational World Heritage Property"(Prof. Hannes D. Knapp, Germany)," Global Perspectives for restoration of oldgrowth forests and implementation of sustainable forestry: Learning through experience exchange"(Prof. William Keeton, USA) and "Population dynamics in highly fragmented landscapes" (Prof. Otso Ovaskainen, Finland).

The conference there were also presented and discussed about 120 presentations at the breakout and poster sessions dedicated to biodiversity conservation of primeval beech forests, analysis of their structure and dynamics, introduction of sustainable forest management and the future of the European forest ecosystems. The most of the presentations were made by Swiss, German, Italian and Ukrainian researchers. Many new approaches were proposed by the scientists from Japan, Canada, Iran and the Scandinavian countries. The participants were impressed with the high level of professionalism and knowledge of Ukrainian young scientists, their fluency in English while making reports, in particular those from Uzhgorod, Lviv and Kyiv.

At the workshops organized in parallel to the Conference, and also during the scientific field expeditions to the world's largest primeval forest sites of European beech in the Uholka-Shyrokyi Luh massif, the scientific research platforms, as well as







Photoreport from the International Scientific Conference "Primeval Beech Forests and the Ancient Beech Forests of Europe: problems of conservation and sustainable use" (Rakhiv, September 16-22, 2013)










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the promising international and inter-disciplinary programs on primeval beech forest research were discussed, and the experience of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve on the organization of the scientific research and conservation of the UNESCO World Heritage Property was studied, etc.

The conference participants took part in the official opening of the tourism information center built by the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve – "Primeval Beech Forests as the UNESCO World Heritage Property" located in Mala Uhoka village.

The Head of the Tiachiv District Council Mr. Mykhailo Danylyuk, the Deputy Head of the Tiachiv District State Administration Mr. Fedir Stan, the Chairman of the Conference Organizing Committee Dr. Brigitte Commarmot, representatives of the Uhlia territorial community and the author of these lines welcomed and snipped the ribbon at the newly-created Center with the melody of Hutsul trembita and the applause of the numerous guests and participants of the celebration.

The monograph on the results of the Ukrainian-Swiss project on large-scale inventory of the Uholka-Shyrokyi Luh primeval forests (published in English) and the conference participants' scientific papers abstracts were published before the beginning of the Conference.

The conference proved an extremely high international interest in research and conservation of primeval beech forests and in studying the experience of Ukraine in this sphere.

2013.

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP "IMPROVING PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT IN THE CARPATHIAN REGION: EXPERIENCE OF UKRAINE AND GERMANY"

Pursuant to the Agreement between the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany and Ukraine in the field of environmental protection and in the framework of cooperation in the implementation of the National Program for Development of National Natural Parks in Ukraine for the period of 2012-2014, there was held an International Seminar on the topic "Improving protected area management in the Carpathian region: experience of Ukraine and Germany" on the basis of the Yavorivskyi, Carpathian, and Hutsulshchyna National Nature Parks and the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve.

On August 29-30, 2013 within the framework of the given Seminar, the German delegation got acquainted with the experience of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve as a protected area dealing with the UNESCO World Heritage Property. The reports of the author of these lines and the Mayor the mountain resort village of Kvasy Mr. Vasyl Dymich covered the main directions of the reserve's activity, as well as the state of cooperation with the territorial communities, the prospects for the International Capacity Building and Research Center for primeval beech forests and the sustainable development of the Carpathians construction, also there were raised a number of questions on strengthening the Ukrainian-German cooperation. And at the round-table meeting with the participants of the seminar, Mr. Volodymyr Zakurenyi, the First Deputy Head of the Zakarpattia Regional Council, informed in detail about the operation of the local self-government and executive authorities and their work in the sphere of execution of the Presidential Decree on the primeval beech forests conservation, sustainable development and improvement of mountain settlements, located close to the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-German-Slovak UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany". It was emphasized, that this document played a crucial role for Zakarpattia region of Ukraine, so the local authorities would do everything necessary to ensure implementation of the tasks set by the President of Ukraine to the fullest extent. A draft Action Plan, which is supposed to be adopted by October 1, 2013, should be approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, is also aimed at fulfilling these objectives.

A great interest among the Seminar participants from Ukraine, was evoked by the presentations made by managers of the German National Parks "Jasmund" Mr. Ingolf Schtodian and "Hartz" – Ms. Sabina Monet, also the one made by the Director of the Spreewald Biosphere Reserve Mr. Eugene Novak about the experience of cooperation with the communities, the use of protected areas brands for the sustainable development of the neighboring settlements, on development of tourist and recreational infrastructure on in the protected areas, etc. Mr. Borys Tikhomirov, the Director of the Central Asian Program of the German Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Agency (NABU), very emotionally shared his impressions on poor state of the roads that lead to the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, which he saw by himself during the trips to the forest

massifs. He appealed to the representatives of local authorities and stressed that for the development of this region the road maintenance is a matter of crucial importance. In this regard, he proposed to start the project preparation aimed at introduction the latest highway construction technologies, developed in Germany, the service life of which would be not less than 50 years without repairs, and the costs needed for the construction works are by 30% less than that of the outdated technologies with the usual building materials as used in Ukraine now.

The discussion was summed up by the head of the German delegation, Mr. Henrich Schmauder, who was responsible for cooperation with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe at the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany. First of all he notified that Germany is grateful to Ukraine and personally to Professor Fedir Hamor for the great efforts contributed by the Ukrainian party to incorporate the oldgrowth German beech forests into the UNESCO World Heritage Property. This event is extremely important for Germany, so exactly the primeval beech forests and the development of the territories surrounding the Property in Ukraine will become the key topics for future projects that could be funded by the German government.

Heinrich Schmauerer and Boris Tikhomirov expressed their readiness to help in fundraising for the implementation of the project proposed by us aimed at conservation and sustainable use of alpine meadows in the buffer zone of the primeval beech forests of the Ukrainian Carpathians in the nearest future, and grant assistance in preparation of projects proposals on involvement of religious communities in formation of an ecological culture of the population, capacity-building for the Ukrainian protected areas and introduction of the German protected areas' experience in Ukraine etc.

The guests visited the Chornohora primeval forests during the field trip, got acquainted with the Ukrainian-Swiss permanent research plots on spruce monocultures' transformation into the forest with a natural composition, learned about the operation of the demonstrative trout farm, attended the Museum of Mountain Ecology and the History of Traditional Nature Use in the Carpathians, visited the tourist information centers "Carpathian Highland" and "The Center of Europe".

2013.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING AND RESEARCH CENTER FOR PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WILL BE SECURED

On October 11, 2013 the issue of creating the above-mentioned Center was discussed at the joint meeting of the Panels of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine and the Transcarpathian Regional State Administration, which took place in Uzhgorod.

Director of the State Agency for Protected Areas of the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ukraine Mr. Victor Kantsurak noted that, in pursuance of the relevant decree of the President of Ukraine, development and approval of the technical and cost-estimation documentation for construction of the International Capacity Building and Research Center for Primeval Beech Forests on the basis of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve had been secured. The estimated cost of the construction project is 22.5 million UAH. The construction works are supposed to be being carried out during 2 years starting from 2014, at the expense of the State Budget in accordance with the Plan of Ecological Measures prepared by the Ministry of Environment of Ukraine.

The Director of the Department of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration Mr. Yuriy Shpontak added in his presentation that in line with the project, the construction of this Center will be accomplished in the village of Kvasy (in the scope of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve) with an area of about 3 000 square meters, equipped an interactive exposition of primeval beech forests, etc.

The International Capacity Building and Research Center for Primeval Beech Forests is created with the aim of a systematic study of the beech and other forest ecosystems, in particular – the intact forests of the European continent. One of the crucial directions of the Center's activity will be providing practical training for students – the future environmentalists from all over the European continent. The International Center will serve as a hot-spot for dissemination of ecological knowledge on primeval forests, in particular – on their scientific, conservation, cultural and historical value. Also, the International Capacity Building and Research Center for Primeval Beech Forests will have a special theme devoted to the implementation of the sustainable development concept in the context of modern alternative energy sources and use of other nature-friendly technologies.

2013.

UKRAINIAN CONTRIBUTION INTO CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH OF PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS IN EUROPE

The forested area in Ukraine is twice less than the average world index and an average European level of it, and comprises only slightly more than 15 % of the country's territory. The percentage of protected areas territory in the country remains three times lower than the average European index.

But, covering less than 6% of Europe's territory, nearly 35% of European biodiversity is concentrated in this region, with a significant potential for conservation and regeneration. Therefore, Ukraine can be considered as one of the most powerful pools for restoration of flora and fauna diversity in Europe.

In this light, the Government and a number of research institutions are making a lot of efforts to develop nature conservation activity in order to preserve the unique natural values in this part of the continent. With this aim, in particular, special Laws of Ukraine were drafted to approve the Ruling Principles (Strategy) of the State Environmental Policy of Ukraine for the period up to 2020. Already back in 1998 there was initiated the adoption of the Framework Convention on Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, and the Protocols to this Convention on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity and on Sustainable Forestry, etc. were drafted and adopted too.

In this context, in Ukraine, as the country which possesses the largest sites of European primeval beech forests in Europe, and by the initiative of which the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" had been created, a considerable attention is paid to research and conservation of these forests. A great contribution to this activity was made by a number of Ukrainian scientists, first of all – Professor Stepan Stoiko, Professor Vasyl Komendar, Professor Vasyl Parpan and others. With this purpose, the Carpathian State Reserve (Soviet-style "zapovidnyk") was established back in 1968 by the Government of Ukrainian SSR, and in 2009 the Action Plan for preservation and development of the Ukrainian part of the UNESCO natural WH Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" was approved. The special Decree of the President of Ukraine on ensuring sustainable development and improvement of the mountain settlements located around this unique natural site is also of a great importance.

For the great recognition of the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians by high-level Ukrainian and international authorities, the systematic, long-term work of the administration of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve played a great role. By the way, the given protected area is going to mark 20 years since its designation by the Decree of the President of Ukraine as a "biosphere reserve", and the 45th anniversary of the first state reserve's ("zapovidnyk") in the Ukrainian Carpathian, which was later converted into the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve.

Numerous international scientific conferences organized in Ukraine, in particular – upon an initiative of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve's Administration, have made a considerable contribution into the research and promotion of primeval beech forests. A special role in this process was played by the conference "Natural Forests in the Temperate Zone of Europe: Values and Usage", which took place ten years ago and laid the basis for the pan-European process of beech forests conservation.

Using this opportunity, I would like to remind to the readers that this historic conference was taking place from October 13 to October 17, 2003 in the city of Mukachevo, under the auspices of the Council of Europe, WWF, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the International Union of Forest Research (IUFRO). Around 250 representatives of forest science from 26 countries of the world participated in it. The initiator of the conference was the author of these lines, and the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Swiss Federal Institute of Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL) were the actual organizers.

The fact that the Head of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Mr. Volodymyr Lytvyn sent his greetings to the Conference participants and the Director of the State Forestry Committee of Ukraine Mr. Mykola Kolisnychenko made a special presentation there, proved the importance of this international scientific forum.

The Mukachevo Conference Statement and the Conference Appeal were adopted. The Statement reflected the general state of natural forests in the temperate zone of Europe. It is noted that the main challenge for researchers and environmentalists should be the issue of their structure research together with the growth dynamics, biodiversity and socio-economic values, as well as the problems of their protection. The Statement emphasizes that the natural forests are really rare and vulnerable ecosystems. Therefore, they are

important for the Pan-European ecological network and for their use as basic habitats for approbation of close-to-nature methods of management, as well as for in situ conservation of the forest gene pool and establishing a forest nature depository.

The Conference addressed to all stakeholders with a request to carry out the primeval and natural forests inventory using the unified methodology, to intensify scientific research activities and monitoring in order to use the obtained data in practical forestry and ecological education, etc. It was specifically recommended to the Government of Ukraine to include legal mechanisms into the Forest Code of Ukraine, which would ensure preservation of the primeval forests, and to take all necessary take measures to expand the protected area network, to ensure the transition to selective logging in the system of forest management and to start the process of nominating the primeval forest sites protected by the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve to the UNESCO World Natural Heritage List.

Ten years is not a long period of time, but now it can be stated that the decisions of this international scientific forum have had a huge influence not only on the research activities and conservation of the primeval and oldgrowth beech forests in Europe, but it has also launched an active processes of international scientific and environmental cooperation, and has been, without any exaggeration, a true catalyst for the ecological cooperation on the European continent, and has contributed to the implementation of a number of scientific and socio-economic projects in Ukraine.

A lot has been done in Ukraine for designation of the transnational Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany". As a part of this unique international union of protected areas of world importance, with a total area of 96072.4 hectares (its core zone has a territory of 33670,1 hectares), which covers the natural distribution area of the European beech forests from the foothills of the Ukrainian Carpathians up to the Baltic Sea coast in the German Rügen archipelago, Ukraine occupies almost 70% of its territory. And now, according to the Resolution adopted by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, an active work is being conducted aimed at expanding this Property by adding the remnants of oldgrowth beech forests of other biogeographic regions of Europe.

The incorporation of the provision that guarantees the preservation of primeval forests and forest biodiversity into the Article 85 of the Forest Code of Ukraine together with the adoption of the Decrees of the President of Ukraine "On the expansion of the territory of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve" and establishing a number of new protected areas in Ukraine should be considered as extremely important results of long history of scientific and environmental initiatives in Ukraine.

In the result of the Ukrainian-Dutch project implementation in the frameworks of the BBI-Matra program (2007-2008), an inventory of the Transcarpathian primeval forests was carried out (Hamor et al., 2008). It is defined that in terms of Ukraine, the absolute majority of them is concentrated in this region, and they make up about 10% of its forested area (61190 hectares). 99.9 % are the natural forest stands with participation European beech.

The largest primeval beech forest sites in Ukraine are concentrated within Tiachiv district (22582.9 ha) of Zakarpattia oblast, which is a real core of their location in Europe. But, unfortunately, a significant part of them still belong to the category of exploited forests and are under a threat logging interventions.

For example, it refers to the Mokrianske State Forestry and Hunting Enterprise, the territory of which shelters large areas (8829 hectares) of primeval beech forests. Recently, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine has supported the request sent by the Scientific and Technical Board of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve for adding these unique sites to its territory. There is a great hope that the local authorities and local Government of Tiachiv district and the Transcarpathian Regional Department for Forestry and Hunting will also support the idea of this unique primeval forests preservation.

Thanks to the active support of the Swiss Federal Institute of Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL), large-scale projects on special scientific research in primeval beech forests of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve were carried out. In particular, on the ten-hectare sample plot in the Uholka forest massif, the structure and functioning peculiarities of the primeval beech forest site were studied in detail, a number of the development patterns were determined, the geographic information system "Primeval Beech Forest" was formed, the recommendations were developed to ensure the implementation of the knowledge obtained into the practice of sustainable forest management, etc. Substantial research on biological diversity has been carried out, in particular, the ones of the insect fauna and the mycoflora of brioflora. The results of investigations carried out in the Uholka-Shyrokyi Luh primeval forests, when the oldest beech trees in Europe were identified that may be around 550 years old, are really interesting.

And the implementation of the project on large-scale inventory of the largest primeval beech forest sites in Europe and the presentation of its results at the International Scientific Conference "Beech Forests: Model Reference Systems for Management and Conservation of Biodiversity, Forest Resources and Ecosystem Services" revealed not only a great international interest to the research and conservation of primeval beech forests, but also gave new research platforms and interdisciplinary programs dealing with their research and the implementation of the identified patterns in the environmental practical activity and in the methodology of sustainable forest management.

As an important contribution to the preservation of primeval beech forests we can view the experience of Ukraine as for non-traditional approaches in solving socio-economic problems of the adjacent territories development. In this context, the Ukrainian-German project "Conservation management of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and solution of modern challenges in Transcarpathia (Ukraine)" as well as the Presidential Decree on sustainable development and improvement of mountain settlements located around the primeval beech forests dated on 2 April 2013, No. 1-1 / 749 are really innovative.

Much has been done for the use of the primeval beech forests of Ukraine as a natural research laboratory and for the development of ecotourism by conducting numerous students' educational excursions and scientific expeditions of foreign experts here. Of a special importance for this process is an active work conducted by the teachers and professors from the University of Sustainable Development, headed by Professor Pierre Ibisch (Eberswalde, Germany). For hundreds of students from many countries of the world that are studying at this university, annual visits to the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve have already become an integral part of the curriculum not only for their professional training when studying the patterns of wildlife development in the primeval forests and socio-economic processes in the surrounding areas, but this is also a vivid example of people's diplomacy, a real contribution into strengthening the international cooperation and integration of Ukraine into the world community.

It should be emphasized that Ukraine has initiated discussions and the adoption at the International Seminar held at the International Academy of Nature Conservation (Germany, Vilm Island) the strategies for creation of the information centers network for primeval beech forests in Ukraine, Germany and Slovakia in 2011. It has been stated that this network is created for the dissemination of scientific knowledge and raising the awareness of the European community as for the primeval beech forests preservation as the unique natural values of the universal importance. Exactly because of this the tourism information center "Primeval Beech Forests As UNESCO World Heritage" was opened in Ukraine in the Uholka forest massif already, and the construction of the International Capacity Building Center for Primeval Beech Forests and the Sustainable Development of the Carpathians in the Kvasy mountain resort village was started.

Among the priority objectives of this center should be development and implementation of integrated monitoring of the primeval forest ecosystems, research of their dynamics, composition and structure together with the phases and stages of development and processes of natural regeneration, also the Center should be engaged in drafting recommendations for of the primeval forests preservation and close-to-nature forest management, as well as ensuring the use of primeval forests as a research plot for studying the processes of climate change, etc. Its activities will also be aimed at raising the level of environmental education of local and regional authorities and forest managers, at conducting research and training activities in the field of forest ecology and sustainable development for students and scientists. Here the environmental initiatives and projects for sustainable development of mountain areas will be lobbied, the measures for the introduction of alternative energy sources and energy saving technologies will be developed, exchange of specialists will be organized, as well as seminars and international scientific conferences will be held, and other actions will be implemented in order to strengthen the international cooperation in the sphere of the European natural and cultural heritage preservation.

Ukraine also made a significant contribution, as stipulated by the Decree of the President of Ukraine, into drafting the Memorandum between the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany aimed at ensuring conservation of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German natural UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests of Germany". The adoption of this document is also supposed to create a legal precondition for fostering the European process of the beech forests conservation.

2013.

NEW UKRAINIAN-GERMAN NATURE CONSERVATION PROJECT

Based on the materials prepared by an international consultant who had studied the work of nature reserves and national natural parks in Ukraine in the past year the German Bank for Reconstruction and Development (KfW) prepared the Feasibility Study for a Ukrainian-German Project "Strengthening the Protected Areas System of Ukraine" and presented it to the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ukraine. The activity is done within the framework of the Agreement between the Governments of Ukraine and the Federal Republic of Germany on cooperation in the field of environmental protection. They approved the institution, which will ensure the implementation of this feasibility study. It is the German consortium "Osterreichssche Bundesforte AG (OBf)". And now the preparation of the documents is being completed to implement this project in the territories of the selected protected areas of Ukraine.

An important point in this process was the selection of the protected areas (there are 70 of them in Ukraine as for today), which will take part in the implementation of this project – it means they will become the beneficiaries of the financial assistance. Previously six environmental protected areas were selected for an expert assessment, including the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve.

From June 24 to July 2, 2013, the KfW Evaluation Mission members had been working on the final examination of this project in Ukraine. As part of the Mission's working agenda, on June 27-28 the KfW delegation visited the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve. Managers of the KfW Energy and Natural Resources Department Frank Murichel, Andreas Weitzel and Serhiy Horbachov, with the participation of Igor Ivanenko, deputy director of the Agency for Protected Areas of the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ukraine, analyzed the experience in nature conservation activities, research, ecological education and recreational work conducted by the biosphere reserve, and the problems they were facing there. The most crucial aspects to be covered by the expected financial assistance were discussed with the managers of the institution, as well as with the mayors of the town of Rakhiv Mr. Yaroslav Dumyn and the village of Kvasy Mr. Vasyly Dimych, with the director of the Rakhiv State Forestry Enterprise Ing. Volodymyr Prystupa, the representatives of wide public and NGOs and the reserve's staff. In particular, the following issues were considered: construction of the International Capacity Building and Research Center for Primeval Beech Forests and the Sustainable Development of the Carpathians in Kvasy village, restoration of mountain forest roads, purchase of specialized equipment – scientific laboratory equipment, field trips gear, etc. Separately, the project's role in solving the socio-economic problems of settlements situated in the scope of the biosphere reserve's location, and activation of cooperation with territorial communities were discussed.

The needs for the financial and logistical support of the biosphere reserve were also critically considered, and a general positive opinion was reached on the ability of its administration to ensure the implementation of the activities envisaged by the given project.

The experts in general gave a high estimation of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve administration's activity, and expressed confidence that the financial means to be obtained within the framework of this project would help to solve the existing problems, and contribute to the preservation of the unique natural values of the Carpathian region that are of a global importance.

2013.

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER "PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS AS UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY" WAS OPENED*

On June 7, 2013 in the village of Mala Uholka, Tiachiv district of Zakarpattia region, the opening ceremony of the Tourist Information Center "Primeval Beech Forests as UNESCO World Heritage Property" was held.

With the inclusion of the primeval beech forests into the UNESCO World Heritage List as a natural Property important for all the mankind, a crucial problem emerged in terms of the need to strengthen their ecological, educational and egalitarian role. In recent years, the primeval beech forests of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve became a natural research laboratory for European foresters, students of Ukrainian and foreign educational institutions, and other interested individuals. But a particular educational role of the information-tourist center should be played for schoolchildren and the local

* Victoriya Bundziak



Tourist Information Center "Primeval Beech Forests as the UNESCO World Heritage Property" (village of Mala Uholka, Tiachiv district of Zakarpattia region)






НАЙБІЛЬШІ БУКОВІ ПРАЛІСИ СВІТУ
THE LARGEST BEECH PRIMEVAL FORESTS OF THE WORLD
ІСТОРІЯ ВИВЧЕННЯ ПРАЛІСІВ
HISTORY OF BEECH PRIMEVAL FORESTS INVESTIGATION


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СТРУКТУРА ТА ДИНАМІКА ПРАЛІСУ
STRUCTURE AND DYNAMICS OF A PRIMEVAL FOREST


БУКОВІ ПРАЛІСИ КАРПАТ
ТА ДАВНІ БУКОВІ ЛІСИ НІМЕЧЧИНИ
PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS
AND THE ANCIENT BEECH FORESTS OF GERMANY





population. This was emphasized in a welcoming speech at the opening ceremony made by the Head of the Tiachiv District Council Mr. M. Danyliuk. He also informed the audience about the environmental projects that were at that time being implemented in the district and were aimed at improving the ecological environment for the population.

The Tourist Information Center "Primeval Beech Forests as UNESCO World Heritage Property" was created upon the initiative of and under the direct guidance of Professor Fedir Hamor, who, together with a group of specialists of the reserve, developed its thematic and exposition plan, the design and information content. Artistic works at the highest creative level were performed by Mykhailo Pontsir assisted by workers of the repair and construction brigade of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve. For the interior decorations a wide range of local natural materials was used – wood, stone etc. In the artistic canvas of the Center, information materials are harmoniously embedded too. The emphasis is given, of course, to the primeval beech forests, their belonging to the UNESCO World Heritage as a heritage for all the mankind, and the history of designating the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property. The exhibition room is a special pearl here, as it creates the illusion of one's presence in a primeval beech forest. Wallpapers depict centuries-old beeches, covered with ivy garlands; a mountain stream goes through the oldgrowth forest, and from behind the trees we can see animals popping out – the ones found in the Carpathian primeval forests. The famous karst bridge of Uholka seems to be hanging over the visitors in all its greatness, and right under the ceiling, which is made in shape of the blue sky, birds are hovering. Here, in the silence of the imitated primeval beech forests, the visitors can watch videos about the ancient beech forests of the Carpathians. After having visited the Center, the visitors get charmed by the mystery and grandeur of the beech forest; they are really impressed by it and become confident about the need to preserve it.

2013.

PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS PRESENTED ON GERMAN POSTAGE STAMP

In his letter to the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Dr. Till Bachhouse, the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Consumer Protection of the Federal Land Mecklenburg (Upper Pomerania, Germany), said that at the national park "Muritz", which had become part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany", a new special postage stamp "Ancient beech forests of Germany – UNESCO World Heritage Property" was presented.

Furthermore, the Minister rightly observes that "... we must for future stay conscious of our joint responsibility for the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany", so that both we and the future generations can admire the untouched beech forests in all their beauty and uniqueness".

It goes without saying that the release of this postage stamp will not only enrich collections of philatelists, but will also contribute to the promotion of the given UNESCO World Heritage Property. And this is one of the main tasks assigned to the Governments of the State-Parties under the Convention for World Cultural and Natural Heritage Protection.

It should be noted that much is done in Ukraine in this field. Thus, last year the tourist information center "Primeval Beech Forests as UNESCO World Heritage Property" was been opened in the largest massif of primeval beech forests – Uholka-Shyrokyi Luh; the International Conference "Primeval and Oldgrowth Forests in Europe: Problems of Conservation and Sustainable Use" was held under the support of UNESCO on the basis of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve. And in January 2014, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved the Action Plan aimed at sustainable development and improvement of mountain settlements surrounding the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German natural UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany". According to the decision of the Government of Ukraine in 2014, the construction of the International Capacity Building and Research Center for Primeval Beech Forests and Sustainable Development will be launched in the village of Kvasy.

2014.

GERMAN NATIONAL PARK "HAINICH" HAS RELEASED AN AUDIO DISC "SOUNDS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE" WITH BIRDS SINGING IN OLDGROWTH BEECH FORESTS

On March 21, 2014 Michael Figel from the Hainich National Park released an audio disc "Sounds of World Heritage" with the records of birds' melodies sang in oldgrowth beech forests, which had become parts of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany".

It turns out that in one and the same species of birds in different regions have their specific "language" dialects. And this is clearly evident in the sounds of, let's say, nightingales in beech forests of the Hainich National Park located on the lands of Thuringia in central Germany compared to the ones from the Baltic island of Rügen in the Jasmund National Park.

Totally, the audio disc includes an almost one-hour long bird concert from all five components of the German part (Hainich, Kellerwald, Serrahn, Grumzin and Jasmund) of this World Heritage Property. And it is interesting that it is accompanied by mini-booklet with their characteristics.

The primeval beech forests of the Carpathians and the ancient beech forests of Germany do not only reflect the unique world significance of the ecological processes that are globally important for the history and evolution of natural planetary phenomena, represent the key aspects in processes that are vital for a long-term conservation of natural ecosystems, but are also important localities for protection of the European biodiversity and gene pool for numerous rare and endangered species of plants and animals. In particular, they are considered to be a paradise for birds. According to ornithologists, there are about 150 of bird species distributed in this habitat. Our feathered friends are an important element for the substances circulation in nature; they are very sensitive and responsive to changes in the environment.

Undoubtedly, these natural ecosystems and especially the bird kingdom inhabiting them, among other things, have a really important aesthetic and educational significance. Therefore, our German partners pay much attention to promotion of these forests (they produce photo albums, booklets, videos, stamps, etc.).

2014.

IN BONN, WITH PARTICIPATION OF THE CARPATHIAN BIOSPHERE RESERVE'S ADMINISTRATION, A JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT WAS SIGNED BETWEEN THE MINISTRIES OF ECOLOGY OF UKRAINE, GERMANY AND SLOVAKIA ON PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS

On May 14, 2014 in Bonn, at the Federal Agency of Environment of Germany (BfN), authorized representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Construction and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, with the participation of the administration of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, signed the Joint Declaration of Intent on Protection and Management of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians (Slovakia and Ukraine) and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (Germany)".

The parties signing the Declaration, noted that the beech forests included into the UNESCO World Heritage List, serve as a key element of Europe's forest ecosystems, and they play a significant role in biodiversity conservation and mitigation of the global climate change.

Referring to international Conventions and Intergovernmental Agreements, the environment protection ministries of Ukraine, Germany and Slovakia confirmed their readiness to contribute to the implementation of these documents, and to ensure preservation of integrity of this Property with an outstanding global value.

The declaration is supposed to become the basis for a trilateral cooperation in the field of the Property's protection and management. It

defines, in particular, the organizational aspects of these activities, establishes a joint management committee (management committee) and determines the procedure for its activities, provides details on the areas of cooperation. In particular, the most important areas are: preparation and implementation of joint transnational research programs and projects (including inventory, research of natural forest ecosystems, anthropogenic impact assessment, response to climate change, etc.), training and advanced capacity building, experience exchange for specialists, etc. The issue of organizing the activities for the planned International Capacity Building and Research Center for Primeval Beech Forests and Sustainable Development at the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve is also given attention to in this document, together with additional fundraising and ensuring adequate resources, and development of communication processes, ecoeducation, public awareness, participatory management involving wide public, ensuring sustainable development in the territories adjacent to the primeval beech forests, primarily – sustainable tourism development.

In general, the Declaration, based on the formulation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the UNESCO WH Property, introduces common principles and objectives in the activities on protection and management of the site, introduces mechanisms for the Integrated Management System implementation and ensuring s transnational monitoring of its status.

On the top of that, during a working meeting in Bonn, the delegations from Ukraine, Germany and Slovakia discussed other present and future issues of cooperation, in particular, the preparation of a periodic report to be submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee on the conservation status of the Property, working plans for the next year, etc. Mr. Victor Kantsurak, the Director of the State Agency for Protected Areas of the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ukraine, informed the colleagues that the Government of Ukraine paid a considerable attention to the problems of the primeval beech forests conservation and to sustainable development of the surrounding territories, and the construction of the International Capacity Building and Research Center for Primeval Beech Forests and Sustainable Development on the basis of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve belonged to the priority objectives of the Ministry. Ukraine, as the initiating party of the European process of the beech forests conservation in Europe, supports the expansion of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German Property by adding a number of ancient beech forest sites from other countries of the continent.

German and Slovak partners highly appreciated the work of Ukraine in this field. For example, the director of the International Academy for Nature Conservation Professor Hannes Knapp (Germany) spoke enthusiastically about the Tourism Information Center "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany – as the UNESCO World Heritage Property" recently created in the village of Uholka, the Advisor to the Minister of Environment of Slovakia Dr. Ladislav Ambros showed great interested in experience of CBR in concluding memorandums on cooperation with the territorial communities and local authorities by the administration of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve aimed at preservation and sustainable use of the UNESCO World Heritage Property's part located in Transcarpathia. And the Director of the International Affairs Division of the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation, Construction and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany, Ms. Nicola Breier, generally praised the work of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve's managers.

It is also illustrative that in the draft Resolution of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee as for the primeval beech forests conservation (which will again be considered in June 2014 because of the problems with the protection status of the Slovak part) the International Conference held in Rakhiv in September 2013 under the UNESCO support under the title "Primeval and Oldgrowth Beech Forests of Europe: Problems of Conservation and Sustainable Use" is given as a positive example

It is important to emphasize that earlier, on May 13, 2014, at the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Construction and Nuclear Safety of Germany, there was also an International Meeting of top-managers of the State Conservancy Agencies held, dedicated to the issues of nature conservation and biodiversity protection in the countries that harbor ancient beech forest sites, that could be proposed for the expansion of the existing Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany".

Presentations and information notes on the results of the experts' findings while studying beech forests in all biogeographic regions of Europe, and on the state of preparation of the nomination dossier materials, the procedures and deadlines for submitting them to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee were made by Dr. Nicola Breier, Ms. Barbara Engels (Federal Conservation Agency of Germany) Prof. Hannes Knapp, Prof. Pierre Ibisch (University of Sustainable Development, Eberswalde, Germany), Dr. Hanns Kirchmeier (Institute of Ecology E.C.O., Austria) and others. And Professor Fedir Hamor (Carpathian Biosphere Reserve) drew attention to the history and problematic issues that had been faced by the team during the preparation of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German nomination; he also recalled a significant role of international conferences and seminars held in the Ukrainian city of Mukachevo in 2003 and 2004 in this process.

As a result, the meeting gave a positive estimation to the 45 clusters of oldgrowth beech forests representing 11 biogeographic regions in 20 European countries, while the representatives of Spain, Italy, Romania, Slovenia, Austria, Switzerland, Montenegro, the Republic of Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and other countries declared the readiness of their governments to submit the relevant nomination dossiers. Austria confirmed its willingness and allocated the necessary budget to generalize these materials and submit them to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee by 2017.

2014.





Ceremony of signing the Joint Declaration of Intent on cooperation in protection and management of the joint UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" by the nature protection agencies of Ukraine, Germany and Slovakia. On behalf of the Governments, the Declaration was signed (from left to right) by Victor Kantsurak (Ukraine), Nicola Brier (Germany) and Ladislav Ambros (Slovakia). (Bonn, Germany, May 14, 2014)

"RAKHIV LIST" FOR EXTENSION OF THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY "PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS AND THE ANCIENT BEECH FORESTS OF GERMANY" WAS DISCUSSED AT THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR IN VIENNA

It is well-known that the Resolution of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee dated on June 19, 2011 (35COM 8B.13) on designation of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" obligated Slovakia, Ukraine and Germany to examine the situation regarding the potential expansion of this Property at the expense of globally important beech forest areas of other European countries.

With this aim and under the financial support of the Government of Germany, the University of Sustainable Development (Eberswalde, Germany) and the Center for Econics and Ecosystem Management (UK) are implementing the project "Beech Forests as a Common Natural Heritage of Europe".

According to the results of the three-year work, a so-called short "Rakhiv List" of oldgrowth forests distribution was formed in its frameworks at the international conference "Primeval and Ancient Beech forests of Europe: Problems of Conservation and Sustainable Use", which took place on September 16-22, 2013 in Rakhiv. The sites from the List can be considered as potential components for the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" expansion. It includes about forty candidate sites from 12 biogeographic regions of beech forest distribution in Europe, located in twenty countries. A "long" list of important primeval and ancient beech forests that are of high value for the biodiversity conservation at the regional and local levels, and which, according to experts, can create an international association "European beech forest network", has a total of 94 clusters. All the sites that do not fall under the World Heritage criteria may become parts of this network.

In order to discuss the "Rakhiv List" and to determine the additional Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated candidates for the UNESCO World Heritage Property expansion, the final international seminar took place on April 3-4, 2014 in Vienna at the Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Supply of Austria.

There participated experts from 23 European countries and the authorized representatives of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUSN). The procedure of candidates' selection was determined there together, and it was especially emphasized on the need to prove the additional Outstanding Universal Value of the new sites proposed to be used to expand the Property. It was pointed out that the most probable contenders could be the Balkan, Iberian and Central-Mediterranean refuge areas of European beech and the plots located at the extreme boundaries of this species' distribution range. Very important were the results of genetic studies of this species presented by Professor Pierre Ibisch, the University of Sustainable Development (Eberswalde, Germany).

The attention was drawn to the issues of the UNESCO WH Properties management and monitoring. In this regard, Ms. Barbara Engels (Federal Agency for Nature Conservation of Germany) and Professor Fedir Hamor (Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Ukraine) reported on the Integrated Management System implementation for the Ukrainian-Slovak-German Property.

In order to submit the nomination dossier to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, Austria agreed to take the role of a coordinator for the preparation of the relevant documentation, which, according to the agreed plan, should be sent to Paris in 2017.

Upon our initiative, the draft name of the new, expanded UNESCO World Heritage Property was discussed and approved in the following wording: "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Europe".

2014.



Participants of the Vienna workshop dedicated to research and conservation of primeval beech forests in Europe, April 4, 2014

PARTICIPANTS OF THE ROUND TABLE MEETING IN KYIV DISCUSSED PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF UKRAINIAN UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES MANAGEMENT

First of all, it is worth mentioning here that the following Ukrainian Properties are listed into the UNESCO World Heritage List: the St. Sophia Cathedral the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra with adjoining monastic structures (1990), the ensemble of the historical center of Lviv (1998), the Struve geodetic arc (2005), the Bukovina and Dalmatia metropolitans residence (2011), the ancient city of Chersonesus of Taurida and its Chora (2013) and the wooden churches of the Carpathian region in Poland and Ukraine (2013). And there is only one Property included in the natural list of UNESCO World Heritage Properties from Ukraine – the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany.

Along with this, 15 more sites were included into the Tentative List – the ones that expressed the will to be included in this extremely prestigious in the world "club of the chosen". Among them there are such well-known historical, cultural and natural monuments as "Taras Shevchenko's Tomb" and the Kaniv Historical and Natural Museum-Reserve (1989), the Askania-Nova Biosphere Reserve (1989), the Bakhchisaray Crimean Khan Palace (2003), the historical center of Odessa port city (2009), and the dendrological park "Sofiyivka" (2000), etc.

It is important to know that, in accordance with the Convention on the World Cultural and Natural Heritage Protection, Ukraine has undertaken to ensure the preservation of these sites. And in the present realities, as you know, it is very difficult. Therefore, the round-table meeting, held on September 18, 2014 at the National Reserve "Sophia of Kyiv" with the participation of the National UNESCO Commission of Ukraine, the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine and representatives of other stakeholders common issues of management of the UNESCO World Heritage List Properties' in Ukraine, the experience and problematic aspects in preparation of nomination dossiers, and development of management plans and completion of the second cycle of periodic reports to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee were discussed.

General Director of the Sophia of Kyiv National Reserve Dr. Olena Serdiuk, the National Coordinator for preparation of periodic reporting, as stipulated by the UNESCO World Heritage Convention Ms. Maria Buekli, the Head of the Department of the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine Ms. Lidia Karpenko, the representative of the Lviv Regional State Administration Mr. Volodymyr Herevych, the Vice Rector of the Chernivtsi National University Professor Tamara Marusik and others spoke about the experience and problems in the protection, organization research and promotion of these unique Ukrainian values of global significance. The issue of improving the legal and regulatory framework for the World Heritage Properties protection was particularly discussed, as the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine presented draft laws connected to the preservation of cultural heritage.

Speaking at the round-table meeting, the author of these lines shared his experience in preserving the Ukrainian-Slovak-German natural UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany". It was emphasized that a number of international projects were implemented in line with the recommendations of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee and to ensure the implementation of the Integrated Management Plan. The Presidents of Ukraine issued special Decrees in 2009 and 2013, and the Cabinet of Ministers in 2009 and 2014 approved Action Plans to preserve the Ukrainian part of the primeval beech forests and to ensure the sustainable development of the adjacent mountain settlements in the Transcarpathian region of Ukraine. A Joint Declaration of Intent was signed between the Ministries of Environmental Protection of Ukraine, Germany and Slovakia on protection and management of this Property. The project of construction of the International Capacity Building and Research Center for Primeval Beech Forests and Sustainable Development on the basis of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve was developed. The tourism information center "Primeval Beech Forests as the UNESCO World Heritage Property" was opened in the village of Mala Uholka, Tiachiv district, and a network of information stations and border signs was developed along the perimeter of the Property's territory. In addition,

the Memorandums on Cooperation were signed between the administration of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Tiachiv and Rakhiv District State Administrations and also with the mayors of the relevant territorial communities on the issues related to the interaction in protection of the primeval beech forests as the World Heritage Property and on sustainable development of the adjacent settlements, etc.

A great interest was also raised by the work on the expansion of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German Property at the expense of ancient beech forests of other European countries that we presented to the audience. The National Coordinator for the UNESCO reporting preparation expressed gratitude to the Director of Development Department of the State Agency for Protected Areas of the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ukraine Dr. Hryhoriy Parchuk for the timely and qualitative submission of the information materials on preservation status of the Ukrainian natural World Heritage sites.

The participants in the round-table meeting also supported the proposed amendments to the draft laws developed by the Ministry of Culture on the legislative regulation of a number of problems connected to the conservation and protection of the World Heritage Properties in Ukraine.

2014.

NOMINATION DOSSIER IS BEING PREPARED FOR EXPANSION OF THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY "PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS AND THE ANCIENT BEECH FORESTS OF GERMANY"*

The five protected areas in Ukraine may become the candidates for listing into the UNESCO World (Natural) Heritage List. Some areas of the National Nature Parks "Synevyr", "Podilski Tovtry" and "Enchanted Land" (Zacharovanyi Krai), and of the nature reserves "Gorgany" and "Roztochchia" were recently selected for consideration and possible inclusion in the network "Beech forests as a common natural heritage of Europe" under the auspices of UNESCO in the status of World Heritage.

Today in Ukraine the status of World Heritage Property is given only one natural site, namely – "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians", which is located in the CBR. The future inclusion of other protected areas in Ukraine into the group of UNESCO World Natural Heritage Properties suggests that these territories and institutions will be given a number of benefits, because they will guarantee the preservation of their integrity and protection regime, including priority in obtaining financial support and creating an attractive investment climate.

On November 18, 2014 in the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (Rakhiv town) there was held a scientific workshop dedicated to preparing an application form for inclusion of the aforementioned protected areas of Ukraine into the UNESCO World Heritage List within the already existing Natural Property.

The seminar was moderated by the CBR Deputy Director Professor Fedir Hamor and project coordinator of WWF Dr. Bohdan Prots and with the active participation of the Director of the Department for the Environment Protection and Natural Resources of the Transcarpathian Regional State Administration Mr. Yuriy Shpontak. History and current state of Ukrainian-Slovak-German transnational serial object "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" were considered – a Property that includes five clusters of primeval beech forests from CBR and the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park (F. Hamor), also the project "Beech forests as a common natural heritage of Europe" (Victoria Gubko, Vasyl Pokynchereda), the results of the ministerial meeting discussing the project in Bonn (Germany) and application forms for inclusion of the protected areas from Ukraine to the UNESCO Tentative List (Victoria Gubko, Vasyl Pokynchereda).

Prof. Fedir Hamor in his report drew attention to the basic criteria for inclusion of beech forests in Europe to the joint network under the auspices of UNESCO. Meanwhile Bohdan Prots, Victoria Gubko, Vasyl Pokynchereda analyzed the roadmap, i.e. the main stages of the preparation of dossiers for the five proposed primeval beech forest sites to be referred to this extremely desired category.

Scientific reports on the five abovementioned sites as on behalf of the respective teams were made

* Maria Shetelia

by S. Ziman, M. Derbak (National Nature Park "Synevyr") O. Slobodian, M. Cherniavskyi (Natural Reserve "Gorgany"), B. Mochan (National Nature Park "Enchanted Land"), L. Lyubinska (NNP "Podilsky Tovtry"), H. Striamets (Nature Reserve "Roztochchia"). Regarding the NPP "Synevyr" a large amounts of natural beech forests (over 7000 ha) drew attention of the participants, almost half of which belongs to the core area. The presentation on the National Nature Park "Synevyr" contained information on phytodiversity of primeval beech forests, which demand protection at the highest level, there was noted the presence of rare association of pure beech, that was included in the latest edition of the Green Book of Ukraine (2009), and rare species of vascular plants (33 species are present in the Red Book of Ukraine, 2009) in their structure

The Director of the National Nature Park "Synevyr" Mr. Mykola Derbak in his speech stressed on an extreme importance of the objective set for his team by the Government and the need for joint movement to the goal – the joint nomination dossier.

Following the Rakhiv seminar, the candidates considered for inclusion to the UNESCO World Natural Heritage nomination are to confirm their intentions by December 1, 2014, and by January 28, 2015 the application form for inclusion of the aforementioned areas to World Heritage Tentative List should be sent. The next stage is preparation of a detailed and full text of the nomination dossier, and it will take about a year and will be finally considered by the Experts of the UNESCO Committee in July 2017.

2014.

SPECIAL STUDIES OF WILDLIFE IN PRIMEVAL FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIAN BIOSPHERE RESERVE CONDUCTED BY SWEDISH SCIENTISTS

Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, since 2007, has been implementing in northern and mountainous forests (with different management systems) in Sweden, Russia, Poland, Belarus and Ukraine the international project "Sustainable forest management study – East and West Europe as a landscape laboratory".

The research is being conducted with the aim to ensure development of landscape management and formation of a holistic understanding of the economic, environmental and socio-cultural consequences of obtaining forest products, services and other items that are used and produced in forest ecosystems. In order to develop appropriate management decisions in Europe are collected and analyze data from a wide range of different landscapes and socio-ecological systems.

In this context, CBR beech forests and wildlife in general are of a significant scientific interest because in most of the European territory the natural ecosystems have undergone significant transformation.

On May 26, 2015 the project manager Prof. Pierre Anhelstam from Sweden visited CBR. He was interested in the possibility of special studies to be conducted in the natural areas that would be ideal reference models for forest management and conservation of biodiversity in the affected ecosystems. At his meeting with the scientists of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve he noted the importance of such a research, in particular in the framework of activities related to the preservation and promotion of the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians as a World Heritage Property. He also underlined the significant role played in this process by the research fellows from Switzerland, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Germany and other countries.

An agreement was reached on the first practical steps in joint research, preparation of relevant scientific publications, raising additional sources of financing and the exchange of experience between the Ukrainian and Swedish nature scientists under a special agreement.

An expedition of Swedish researchers, together with the scientists of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve will mark the start of a special program of research in Uholka-Shyrokyi Luh forest massif already in the coming days.

2015.

RESULTS OF 15-YEAR-LONG UKRAINIAN-SWISS FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCHES OF PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS WERE ANALYZED AT THE CARPATHIAN BIOSPHERE RESERVE

The Resolution of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, connected to the inclusion of the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians and the ancient beech forests in Europe to the UNESCO World Heritage List, a particular attention is drawn to the need to enhance the research activities there in order to gain knowledge for sustainable, close-to-nature forest management, and to the use of this natural heritage to enhance ecological education and spread the environmental knowledge and awareness to the public about forests and their value at the local, national and international levels.

For this on June 4, 2015 in the Uholka primeval beech forests of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve a group of scientists from the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL), CBR, the National Forestry University of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Research Institute of Mountain Forestry named after P.S. Pasternak conducted a field research seminar.

The event was dealing with the analysis of the results of the 15-year-long fundamental research of structure and dynamics of natural processes on a 10-hectare plot in the Uholka primeval beech forests. The research results were compared with the data from the plots of the same size simultaneously laid in 1999-2000 in a managed beech forests near Zurich in Switzerland, and the results of a large-scale statistical inventory using 353 circular plots, conducted in 2010-2013 in the Uholka-Shyrokyi Luh massif of CBR.

The information provided by the manager of the aforementioned Swiss projects on primeval beech forests research Dr. Brigitte Commarmot, head of the forest research division of the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research Dr. Peter Blanc, a scientist of the same institute Andrea Plus, Doctor of Agricultural Sciences, head of the laboratory of the Ukrainian Research Institute of Mountain Forestry named after P.S. Pasternak Yuriy Shparyk, Doctor of Biology, Professor, Deputy Director of CBR Fedir Hamor and others contained the details on succession processes in primeval beech forests, structural peculiarities, stands composition and more.

During the discussion, it was stressed that such large-scale studies in Europe have never been performed before. And the results of studying the structure and functioning of primeval beech forests – the natural forests of different ages – are important not only for modern forestry, especially for forest use based at the principles of sustainable forest management, which involves avoiding clear cutting and protection of forested areas.

The results of the given research have an exceptional value the, said Peter Blank, for management in national parks, which are in most cases formed within the transformed forest ecosystems. Because only in a primeval forest you can see what real natural forests look like, which are supposed to be gradually formed in a natural way in the territory of protected areas, which in Europe cover on average nearly 15 % of its territory, and in some countries the protected areas with forests even reach 30-40 %.

These studies can also predict how long it takes to restore wilderness areas and what the structure of a managed forest should be in order to ensure not only a high yield of timber, but also to preserve biodiversity. The practitioners should know: how many, for example, habitat trees should be per hectare of forest to maintain the ecological balance of the forest site and so on. And the answers to these and other questions, as scientists believe, can be found only in the primeval forests.

The possibility to extend the research projects activity was discussed at the workshop. Thus in the autumn of 2015 there will be held the next (4th) five-year inventory of sample plots. A Swiss researcher Andrea Plus launches in-depth genetic studies of beech, and the researchers from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences led by Professor Pierre Anhelstam, among whom we, incidentally, met even graduates from Australia and the a Far Russian city of Arkhangelsk, are thinking of studying the economic values of the primeval beech forests and so on.

The participants concluded that research in the primeval forests should not only be continued, but intensified. And here a big role would be played by young researchers, who were the majority among the participants. This shows that the research, preservation and restoration of wilderness areas and the implementation of sustainable forest management in Europe has a great future.

2015.

GERMAN EXPERTS IN NATURE CONSERVATION, FORESTRY AND OTHER RELATED SPHERES FROM THE HAINICH NATIONAL PARK CAME ON AN EXCHANGE TOUR TO UHOLKA PRIMEVAL FOREST SITE

On September 1-4, 2015 a group of German experts on environmental protection, forestry and other related areas from the Hainich National Park (Thuringia), headed by their director Manfred Grossmann visited the Uholka primeval beech forests.

Guests from Germany made over 1 000 km to reach Transcarpathia and showed a great interest in the Ukrainian natural and cultural values, enthusiastically studied patterns of functioning of these world's largest areas of primeval beech forests. They were especially impressed by 500-year old monumental trees in the primeval beech forest, karst formations and wild, undisturbed state of the Velyka Uholka river valley, along which they made a really long continuous hike to the mountaintop of Menchul Mt. and back.

At the round-table meeting, which was held at the end of the expedition with the participation of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve's managers, in line with the Resolutions of the World Heritage Committee and the Joint Declaration of Intent between the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic on cooperation for protection and management of the joint UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathian (Ukraine and Slovakia) and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (Germany)", the urgent issues of strengthening the cooperation between the Hainich National Park and the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve were considered.

The Hainich National Park, which for many years has been in a friendly cooperation with CBR, is located in central Germany, near Berlin, and is one of the five components of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany ".

Established in 1997, it covers an area of 7500 hectares. It is the largest (about 5 000 ha) untouched massif of deciduous forests of Germany.

This is a lowland (225-490 m above sea level) oldgrowth beech forest site with a large diversity of species. Growing on underlying limestone bedrocks it has an impressive richness of tree species and ephemeroid plants. Most of the national park's territory is a part of the UNESCO World Heritage Property (1573 hectares – the core zone and 4085 ha make up the buffer zone of the cluster).

Interestingly, in the Hainich National Park the protection regime and the use of natural ecosystems are very similar to the protection regime in Ukrainian nature reserves, where any economic activity is prohibited. It employs 63 professionals, including 25 rangers and the institution has a significant experience in maintaining natural ecosystems. The research activities and systematic monitoring of natural processes are well organized here. By means of the community budget they created a unique information and tourism infrastructure, including an ecological hiking trail in the tree crowns, well-known not only in Germany, which each year is visited by hundreds of thousands of visitors. During the ten years of its use it has brought more than one million Euro to the local budget.

2015.

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND BENEFITS PROVIDED BY NATURAL PROPERTIES FROM THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST WERE DISCUSSED DURING THE EXPERT WORKSHOP HELD AT THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY FOR NATURE CONSERVATION IN GERMANY*

The representatives of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve – Yuriy Berkela and Vasyl Pokynchereda – participated in the international expert workshop "Ecosystem services and benefits provided by natural World Heritage Properties". The event was held at the International Academy for Nature Conservation on the island of Vilm (Germany).

The representatives of the UNESCO World Heritage Center, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Germany (BfN), experts from the institutions and organizations that manage and carry out research in the territories of UNESCO World Heritage Properties in Europe, Asia, North and South America and Australia were invited to the workshop.

During the seminar they presented the methodology and the results of the research done by IUCN on ecosystem services and benefits provided by natural UNESCO World Heritage Properties, described the peculiar features and functioning of such Properties. A profound presentation was made by the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve's representatives, dedicated to ecosystem services and benefits obtained from the status of World Natural Heritage Property. It was recommended to focus on the experience of Ukrainian institutions on the use of potential UNESCO World Heritage Properties. Also, in the result of discussion there were made recommendations for inclusion the new data in IUCN report and expanding the list of evaluation parameters.

A field expedition to Serrahn oldgrowth beech forest site of the Müritz National Park – one of the components of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" – was made during the workshop. It is interesting to note that the network of information facilities of the park, dedicated to the Property, was been created in close cooperation with the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve.

2014.

AT THE MEETING OF THE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY "PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS AND THE ANCIENT BEECH FORESTS OF GERMANY" THE PROBLEM OF THE SLOVAK PART OF THE HERITAGE SITE'S CONSERVATION WAS DISCUSSED

On October 25-28, 2015, in accordance with the Joint Declaration of Intent between the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Construction and Nuclear Safety of the German Republic and the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic on Cooperation in Protection and Management of the Joint World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians (Slovakia and Ukraine) and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (Germany)", which was approved by the decision of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee 39 COM 7B. 19 (Doha, 2014), a meeting of the Joint Management Committee for management of this Property took place in the town of Snina (Slovakia).

According to the Integrated Management System of the joint World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians (Slovakia and Ukraine) and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (Germany)", the Management Committee should coordinate the management of the component parts of the Property, and deal with promotion and direction of the national steering committees' and groups' operation. First of all, it regulates the development and implementation of joint transnational monitoring plans, research programs and projects, capacity-building and professional development of specialists

* Yuriy Berkela, Vasyl Pokynchereda

who provide conservation and research of the components of the object.

An important task of the Management Committee is also to monitor the state of conservation and to provide reporting to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee on the status of this transnational serial Property as a whole.

The Joint Management Committee consists of representatives of the environmental ministries of the States-Parties (in case of Germany also the ministries of the federal states), as well as of relevant protected areas and experts.

Its meetings are to be held once a year in a rotation alphabetical manner – in of one of the States-Parties one after another.

Let's recall here, that the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" was established by the Resolution of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee on June 25, 2011, as a result of expanding the Ukrainian-Slovak Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" (designated on June 28, 2007).

It is composed of 15 component parts of European primeval beech and ancient forests representing various natural and climatic zones of Europe, from the Carpathians down to the coast of the Baltic Sea, in the territory of Ukraine, Slovakia and Germany. The area of the core zone of the Property is 33,669 hectares (4,391 hectares in Germany and 29,278 hectares in Slovakia and Ukraine).

Each component part of the Property is surrounded with a buffer zone with the total surface of 62 402 hectares.

The most crucial issues of the Property's functioning, in particular – the progress of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee's Resolutions implementation on the cessation of clear cuts in the primeval forests of the Slovak part were discussed at the meeting of the Joint Management Committee. The results of the expert report made after a monitoring mission of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) on this subject were analyzed in detail.

The reports of the Adviser of the Minister of Environment of the Slovak Republic Jan Juleni, the Deputy Director of the Nature Conservation Service of the Slovak Republic Michal Adamec and the employee of the Poloniny National Park Dr. Marian Gic contained some solutions for the problems associated with the preservation of Slovak World Heritage clusters. In particular, they informed the participants that an appropriate memorandum was signed on this issue between the Ministry of Nature Conservation and the Ministry of Forestry of Slovakia, and the works were carried out with landowners and communities on clarifying the boundaries of the core and buffer zones of this part of the Property, also an active lobbying was carried out, and so on. A document is being prepared at the state level on increasing the protection status of certain parts of the Property that are outside the Poloniny National Nature Park and the Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area. All this will, in the opinion of the members of the Joint Management Committee, secure the preservation of the integrity and the undisturbed status of this Property.

During the meeting of the Joint Management Committee, there were keen discussions held on the opinion of Slovakia, Germany and Ukraine on the expansion of the WH Property, and the following procedure of formation, functioning and funding of the Joint Management Committee, as well as the order of preparation of the agreement on expansion of the World Heritage Property, the current state of the nomination process, a new name for the Property etc.

A presentation on this issue was made by a manager of one of the divisions of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management Dr. Victoria Hassler and the Director of the Austrian Institute for Ecology Dr. Hanns Kirchmeir.

In order to secure management of the expanded Property, the chapters of the nomination dossier, which had already been almost prepared for eleven countries, Austria then proposed to establish a Secretariat which will be funded at the expense of States-Parties and to change the name from "Primeval Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" into "Primeval and Ancient Beech Forests of Europe".

Speaking on this topic, the Deputy Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Professor Fedir Hamor, noted that Ukraine distinctly could not agree with the wording of any name of the new Property without the word "the Carpathians", and that due to the absence of mechanisms for funds allocation for such purposes in Ukraine,

the creation of a coordinating secretariat on those principles would be problematic. Such a statement was supported by the representatives of the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation, Construction and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany, Prof. Hannes Knapp and Ms. Anna Okensburg and the Slovak party as well. As a result, the name of the expanded Property was adopted in the following wording: "Primeval and Ancient Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe". Thus, the UNESCO World Heritage brand for the Carpathian primeval beech forests will be preserved.

It was very important that Belgium and Austria offered (for a period of five years each) to ensure funds for a coordinator of the Property, and each States-Party will in their turn would organize the meeting of the Joint Management Committee in their territories.

During the meeting of the Joint Management Committee, the consultations with the managers of the State Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and the coordinator of the German project management group, the head of one of the units of the Ministry of the Environmental Protection of the federal state of Hesse Dr. Karin Kaiser were also held on the topic of conclusion of bilateral agreements on cooperation between the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the German and Slovak protected areas.

The meeting participants learned about the state of conservation of primeval beech forests in the territory of the "Poloniny" National Park, the "Vihorlat" protected landscape area and the East-Slovak military forestry unit.

The next regular meeting of the Joint Management Committee will be held in 2016 in the territory of Ukraine.

2015.

AT THE ROUND-TABLE MEETING ON OCCASION OF THE DAYS OF EUROPEAN HERITAGE IN UKRAINE THE ATTENTION OF THE WIDE PUBLIC, STATE AUTHORITIES AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT BODIES WAS DRAWN TO THE PROBLEMS OF PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF NATURAL HERITAGE SITES IN THE CARPATHIAN REGION

On September 25, 2015 in the Geographic Center of Europe, in the Tourism Information of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, a round-table meeting was held on occasion of the Days of European Heritage celebration in Ukraine, attended by scientists, artists, representatives of local self-government bodies, entrepreneurs, NGOs and the wide public.

It is worth mentioning here, that the idea of marking the Days of European Heritage belongs to the former Minister of Culture of France Jacques Langue, who in 1984 organized the Open Doors Days in France under the slogan "New life to the cultural heritage!".

Under this initiative, since 1991, the Council of Europe, and since 1999 – also the European Commission, are recommending to the governments of the European countries to host the European Heritage Days. In Ukraine, according to the order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the celebration of these Days is conducted starting with 2008.

For this purpose (throughout September) in European countries, under the unchanging slogan "Europe: Common Heritage", which symbolizes the unification of peoples by means of culture, a number of events and celebrations devoted to various topics take place. Their general objective is not only to reveal the richness and diversity of the common heritage in the context of the international cultural dialogue, but also to promote numerous national and regional unique peculiarities.

When opening this year's round-table meeting in the Geographic Center of Europe, Doctor of Biological Sciences, Honored Conservationist of Ukraine, Deputy Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve Professor Fedir Hamor attracted the attention of the wide public, state authorities and local self-government representatives to the problems of preservation and popularization of natural and cultural heritage in the Carpathian region. The speaker made a special emphasis on the problems of the ecological culture formation among the population.

Indeed, as shown by the results of studies conducted by the Global Environment Facility, among the 10 biggest threats to the humanity the first place is given to an ecological collapse of the civilization. Therefore, we must not just talk about



At the meeting of the Integrated Management Committee, conservation state of the Slovak part of the Property and expansion of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German nomination (Snina, Slovakia) were discussed (October 2015)







these things, but fight at all levels, especially in the mountainous regions that are most environmentally vulnerable.

We should not only call for the preservation of the nature of our region, but also persistently seek the options to shift the economy's orientation by ensuring ecologically safe methods of management, and to refuse from massive logging in the mountains not in words, but in practice, as well as to create conditions for the preservation of natural ecosystems and development of tourism and recreation.

This is also important because the only natural UNESCO World Heritage Property in Ukraine "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" is located in the center of Europe. The Struk and Uzhok wooden churches of the Ukrainian-Polish UNESCO World Heritage Property "Wooden churches of the Carpathian region of Ukraine and Poland" is located here too. On August 15, 2015, it was exactly 120 years since launching of Maramures section of the Transcarpathian railway, part of which now needs to be restored as one of the most prominent sites of the European heritage.

There is no doubt that the Hutsul ethnic culture, the artistic and literary works of the Ukrainian gifted writers and artists, in particular Boksay József, Adalbert Erdeli, Fedir Manailo, Yuriy Hertz, Yuriy Pavlovych, Yuriy Havyuk, Marko Barabolia, Petro Skunts, Vasyl Herasymiuk, Vasyl Portiak, Vasyl Kukhta and many other actors of culture, who have praised the unique natural and cultural values of the Carpathian region – they also belong to important elements of the European heritage.

Therefore, during the round-table meeting Mr. Vasyl Kukhta, deputy editor-in-chief of the Ukrainian popular-science ecological magazine "Green Carpathians" (Zeleni Karpaty), presented a new book of poems "Deus ex machina" (translated from Latin as "God from the machine"), which had been published earlier this year in the Lviv publishing house "League-Press".

Vasyl Kukhta is a well-known Ukrainian writer, author of fourteen books of poetry and journalist works, winner of the national literary awards: the Pavlo Tychyna national literature award, Boris Necherda national literature award; "Dew Prince" national literature award named after Taras Melnychuk; the Transcarpathian Regional Award of Fedir Potushniak (twice); the Romanian literature award of the 3rd millennium "Knight of words"

Vasyl Kukhta's new book received wide publicity among the readers, there were many reviews in the printed and online media communication, and the Kyiv's Ukrainian literary newspaper published a lengthy extract from it (on a two-page opening).

This book, the Shevchenko Award Prize winner, editor of the NTRC "Culture" Vasyl Herasymiuk (Kyiv) said in his speech, can really touch its readers, because, as it is stated the preamble by the publisher, is filled with historical and philosophical reflections on the fate of Ukraine, its modern spiritual and civilizational searches and more.

Furthermore, Vasyl Herasymiuk stressed that solving ecological and cultural issues should be seen as the key ones on the way of Ukraine to the European Community.

In this context, he praised the role of the "Green Carpathians" magazine, which had an experience of more than twenty years of selfless environmental and educational work.

Various aspects of the European heritage preservation and the role of the creative writing by Vasyl Kukhta during the round-table meeting were drawn attention to by the Head of the Rakhiv District Council Mr. Mykhailo Firka, as well as by Rakhiv Mayor Mr. Yaroslav Dumyn, the Head of Culture and Tourism Department of the Rakhiv District State Administration Mr. Volodymyr Shepeta, the Head of Rakhiv District Branch of the Ukrainian Association "Hutsulshchyna" Mr. Ivan Berkela, the founder of the museum of Hutsul-style wood carving artist Yuriy Pavlovych, the historian and ethnographer Mr. Mykola Tkach and so on. And a composer Mykhailo Tomashuk with the musical quartet "Curly guys" from the Rakhiv music school (lead by Vladimir Shepeta) performed songs written with the verses of Vasyl Kukhta.

At the meeting there was raised and discussed the issue of establishing an annual international award for writers and artists for their contribution to promotion of the European natural and cultural heritage "The Carpathian Crown" ("Corona Carpatica").

The participants of the round-table meeting got familiar with the work of the Tourist Information Center "The Center of Europe" and the Museum of Mountain Ecology and the History of Nature Use at CBR, and the Museum of Hutsul Wood Carving of Yuriy Pavlovych.

2015.

FILM "THE CARPATHIAN PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF SLOVAKIA"

One of the major challenges posed by the Convention on the Conservation of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (the World Heritage Convention) to the countries that own UNESCO World Heritage Properties is the promotion of the latter.

In this context, the State Nature Conservancy of Slovakia, in the framework of the Swiss financial mechanism "Development of Nature Conservation and Protected Areas System in the Slovakian Carpathians" in 2015 produced a video in Slovak and English "Carpathian primeval beech forests in Slovakia" (the ones which are part of the transnational Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval beech forests of the Carpathians and the ancient beech forests of Germany").

Scientific documentaries telling the story of the structure and functioning of the pristine nature, clearly demonstrates the ecological processes in primeval beech forests, and discloses their environmental and socio-economic importance.

Authors of the film are: Jan Kadlicek, Ivan Koubek, Viacheslav Kybichka and Zdeno Vlach.

2015.



Sculptural composition depicting primeval beech forests of the Carpathians as the UNESCO World Heritage Property in Slovakia

UKRAINE NEEDS A SPECIAL LAW ON NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION

On February 10, 2016 in the premises of the Aarhus Information and Education Center of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, by the initiative of NGO "Ukrainian Society for Protection of Birds" within the project "Carpathian primeval forests protection", funded by the Frankfurt Zoological Society (Germany), there was held a working meeting of researchers, environmentalists and representatives of state executive bodies dedicated to conservation of the primeval forests in Ukraine.

Addressing the participants of the meeting, the interim Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine Ms. Anna Voronska, in particular, stressed that the problem of primeval forests conservation belong to the priority ones for the Ministry of Environment, so they will therefore be strongly support public initiatives for the improvement in this sphere of the ecological legislation.

And, indeed, there is a great need in this, because, as Doctor of Agricultural Sciences, Deputy Director of the Institute of Natural Sciences of the Carpathian National University named after V. Stefanik Dr. Yuriy Shparyk and the deputy head of the laboratory for research and sustainable development of CBR Vasyl Pokynchereda emphasized in their presentations, according to the inventory, some fragments of about 62 000 hectares of primeval forests survived in Ukraine, that are concentrated mainly in the Carpathian region. Part of primeval beech forests of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park are component parts of the Ukrainian-German-Slovak UNESCO WH Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" that are listed as a natural heritage site, to the expansion of which 11 other European countries have recently joined.

But in recent years this unique natural sites are in serious danger. Some of them, even in protected areas, are being logged mercilessly. To confirm this, the director of the Kyiv Ecological and Cultural Center Volodymyr Boreiko gave strong arguments. Thus, in the territory of the Uzhanskyi National Park for the past 10 years logging has been held on 121.6 hectares of primeval forests, and in 2016 it is expected to log another 160.6 hectares of primeval forests. During this period, in the National Nature Park "Skolivski Beskydy" 10 hectares of primeval forests have been logged, and in sanctuaries "Hrofa" and "Bradulske" up to 10 % of the primeval forests have been cut, while in the protected site "Tusuly" – 20 % of its primeval forests were logged. In general, in recent years cut down about a thousand hectares of forests.

In this light, Mr. Volodymyr Boreiko offered to discuss a draft law "On amendments to some legislative acts of Ukraine" (concerning protection of the primeval forests belonging to the World Heritage List and the ones in other protected areas).

It is supposed to make revisions of the Law of Ukraine "On Flora", "On Environmental Protection", "On the System of Protected Areas" and "The Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offenses."

The proposed changes are aimed at consolidating the legal term "a primeval forest", strengthening the legal requirements for the protection of primeval forests and impose the responsibility for violation of primeval forests' protection regime and use of timber resources of oldgrowth forests.

The majority of participants considered the idea of adopting the law on preservation of primeval forests to be truly urgent. And its adoption should not be delayed. But while the discussing the draft law, a lot of comments and suggestions were made. Its text provoked fierce debates.

In particular, Sc.D., Professor, Honored Conservationist of Ukraine, Deputy Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve Fedir Hamor proposed, that the conservation of primeval forests, as the only natural UNESCO World Heritage Property in Ukraine, should be considered in the context of the World Heritage Convention, and should be regulated by a special Law of Ukraine "On the conservation of natural and cultural heritage in Ukraine."

Second, he reminded, the recommendations on the need to introduce the standards of protection and conservation of primeval forests into the legislation of Ukraine have long ago been adopted as part of the Conference Resolution of the International

Conference "Natural forests in the Temperate Zone of Europe: values and utilization" (Mukachevo, October 13-17, 2003), which was organized by the administration of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest Snow and Landscape Research WSL. As a result, a new version of the Article 85 of the Forest Code of Ukraine already contains the regulations to ensure the primeval forests protection.

Third, the definition of "primeval forests" is clearly stated in the Protocol to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians "On sustainable forest management", which was ratified by the Law of Ukraine dated on 16 October 2012. According to Chapter II of these regulations, the term "primeval forests" means "natural forests that have not undergone the impact from any human activities in the course of its development". Therefore, there is no need to invent and introduce into the Legislation any other definition.

Fourth, the new draft law is extremely important for providing an economic mechanism to preserve the primeval forests, particularly to grant support to the local population living in the area of their location. This, by the way, is the subject of a series of decrees issued by the President and the Government of Ukraine aimed at preservation of the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians and sustainable development of the region of their location. Unfortunately, there are problems with law enforcement regarding those decrees.

Fifth, we must review the regulation proposed in this draft law to impose fines for violations of conservation regime in the primeval forests in the amount of "ten to fifteen minimum incomes". For example, in Albania there has recently been adopted a law banning illegal logging, and the punishment is up to ten years of imprisonment.

Finally, together with the Department of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Transcarpathian Regional State Administration we proposed to the Ministry of Environment to immediately submit to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine a draft order to ban the use of the Order of the Cabinet of Ukraine dated on 27 July, 1995 No. 555 "On approval of sanitary rules in forests of Ukraine" and the one dated on May 12, 2007 No. 724 "On approval of rules for interventions directed on quality improvement of forests composition" in the territory of primeval forest sites and other protected areas.

Much criticisms as well as constructive suggestions to the draft law were expressed by Volodymyr Boreiko and Sc.D., Director of the Ukrainian Research Institute of Mountain Forestry Professor Vasyl Parpan, director of the "Ukrainian forest planning institution" Ing. Mykola Rekovets, Deputy Head of the Ivano-Frankivsk Regional Forestry and Hunting Department Ing. Roman Oliynyk, assistant of the parliament member of Ukraine Mr. Ostap Yednak, a reporter of the newspaper "Governmental courier" Mr. Oleh Lystopad, Director of the Department for Natural Resources Protection of the Ministry of Environment of Ukraine Mr. Mykhailo Tomakhin, deputy manager of the Department for Protected Areas Serhiy Matveyev, head of the development department Mr. Hryhoriy Parchuk, and a leading expert of this department, a researcher Larysa Demydenko other speakers.

It was decided that within a week proposals to the draft law should be made taking into account the propositions made during the discussion. Then the document is to be finalized and sent to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

2016.

THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF LISTING ANCIENT BEECH FORESTS OF GERMANY INTO THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST WAS CELEBRATED IN BERLIN

On June 25, 2016 in the state office of the federal state of Hesse in Berlin with the participation of delegates from the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve the celebration of the 5th anniversary since listing the ancient beech forests of Germany into the UNESCO World Heritage List was celebrated.





At the international forum in Berlin: deputy director of CBR Professor Fedir Hamor (right) and deputy head of the Department of research and sustainable development Vasyl Pokynchereda (June 25, 2016)

The organizers of the celebration were the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Construction and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Ministry for the Environment, Climate, Agriculture and Consumer Protection of Hessen, the Federal Agency for Nature Protection of Germany (BfN) and the National UNESCO Commission of Germany.

In speeches and presentations a detailed analysis of the state of conservation, research and promotion of this Property was made by the honorable participants, including the President of the National UNESCO Commission Professor Dr. Verena Metze-Mangold, Minister for the environment, climate protection, agriculture and consumer protection of Hessen Dr. Prisk Hintz, director of the department of the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation, Construction and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany Dr. Elsa Nickel, Ministers and Secretaries of state of the federal states of Mecklenburg – Western Pomerania and Brandenburg – Dr. Tilla Bakhaus and Dr. Caroline Schilde, director of the National Park "Hainich" (federal state of Thuringia) Dr. Manfred Grossmann and others.

It was emphasized, that the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany", established by the Resolution of the World Heritage Committee on June 25, 2011 by expanding the Ukrainian-Slovak Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" (designated on June 28, 2007). It includes 15 component parts of primeval and oldgrowth beech forests that represent different climatic zones of Europe, from the Carpathians down to the Baltic Sea coast in Ukraine, Slovakia and Germany. The core zone has an area of 33,669 hectares (4,391 hectares in Germany and 29,278 hectares in Slovakia and Ukraine). Around each of the clusters there is a buffer zone formed with the total area of 62,402 hectares.

It was also stressed, that according to the Resolution of the World Heritage Committee, the project of expansion of the Property by adding 48 primeval and oldgrowth beech forest sites from Spain, Italy, Bulgaria, Austria, Romania, Poland, Bulgaria and other Europe was at its the final stage.

In his speech at the ceremony, the Deputy Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve Sc.D., member of the National UNESCO Commission of Ukraine Professor Fedir Hamor as a man who had had the honor to directly initiate and justify the idea of listing the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians into the UNESCO World Heritage List, and who in 2007 together with scientists of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and Professor Ivan Voloschuk and Associate professor Villiam Pichler (Slovakia), had provided dossier preparation and inclusion of the Ukrainian-Slovak Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" into the list of UNESCO World Heritage Properties, he especially thanked for the considerable scientific and diplomatic support to the German colleagues, including Professor Peter Schmidt from the Dresden University and Prof. Harald Plachter of Marburg University.

Second, and recalled the difficulties that arose during the preparation of the German nomination dossier, and how they managed to overcome them. In this complex process Professor Hannes Knapp and officials Dr. Elsa Nickel, Ms. Heike Brits, Ms. Barbara Engels and others have made tremendous efforts and contributions to its success.

And he also emphasized that in Ukraine, which has the Europe's largest primeval forests of European beech, upon the initiative of which the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" had been designated, paid a special attention to study and conservation of these forest sites. The President and the Government of Ukraine adopted specific orders and decrees on this subject.

In accordance with the Joint Declaration of Intent between the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Construction and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic on cooperation for the protection and management of the joint World Heritage Property "Primeval beech forests of the Carpathians (Ukraine and Slovakia) and the ancient beech forests of Germany (Germany)", signed on 14 May 2014 in the city of Bonn (Germany), development and implementation of joint transnational monitoring plans, research programs and projects, education and training events for professionals who provide conservation and research components of the Property are being provided.

The process of creation the International Capacity Building and Research Center for Primeval Beech Forests and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians at the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and other activities are being implemented.

It is important that owing to the active support granted by the German colleagues and the contribution of the Ukrainian specialists, according to the Resolution of the World Heritage Committee, the process of expansion of the existing World Heritage Property is completed by adding the primeval and oldgrowth beech forest sites from eleven European countries.

In 2017 we will mark ten years since the establishment of the Ukrainian-Slovak Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians", also the Resolution of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee to expand our common Property is expected.

In this regard, it is proposed to conduct the International Scientific Conference "10th Anniversary Since Listing the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany": history, conservation state and problems of the Integrated Management System implementation".

The participants also watched performances of famous German entertainers. A young producing team "FairFilm Productions" presented an impressive, emotionally intense popular science film "Ancient Beech Forests of Germany: Natural Heritage", which can be watched if you follow the link: https://vimeo.com/171927490.

2016.

WAYS OF RESEARCH ACTIVITIES DEVELOPMENT IN BEECH PRIMEVAL FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIAN BIOSPHERE RESERVE WERE DISCUSSED WITH SWISS PARTNERS

On September 19, 2016, the administration the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (CBR) hosted a meeting, where the ways to deepen research cooperation with the partners from the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL (Birmensdorf) were discussed.

At the meeting, the scientific team of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, with the participation of scientists of the National Forestry University (m. Lviv), first expressed sincere gratitude to a researcher from WSL Dr. Brigitte Commarmot, who for 16 years had been acting as a coordinator of Ukrainian-Swiss cooperation project, and that day she was passing her role over to the young colleagues.

In the course of the discussion it was noted that during the period of long-term cooperation, which had started back in 1996 by people who then acted as directors of the institutions – CBR and WSL – Prof. Fedir Hamor and Dr. Mario Broggi, there were implemented a number of important research projects, including an international scientific conference "Natural forests in the temperate zones of Europe: values and usage "(Mukachevo, 2003). This event launched the process of listing the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians into the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Large-scale forest research in the Uholka-Shyrokyi Luh primeval beech forests and secondary forest stands of the Chornohora were launched; there was initiated the implementation of a large-scale project on implementation of sustainable forest management in Transcarpathia (FORZA); a fundamental monograph in Ukrainian and German "Primeval forests in the center of Europe: Guidebook to forests of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve", as well as numerous scientific articles in international journals and other publications were jointly made.

WSL researchers Peter Brang and Jonas Shtilhard, who started to coordinate the joint projects, and the scientists from CBR expressed numerous ideas that would make up the basis for new project proposals to be submitted to the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation of Switzerland (SERI), which expressed its interest interested in continuing providing funds for the Ukrainian-Swiss environmental projects in the Ukrainian Carpathians.

2016.



Meeting of CBR team with the partners from the Swiss Federal Institute of Forest, Snow, and Landscape Research (WSL) (Rakhiv, September 19, 2016)

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP "EUROPEAN BEECH FOREST NETWORK" HELD ON THE ISLAND OF VILM (GERMANY)*

On 1-5 December 2016 at the International Academy of Nature Conservation (Vilm island, Germany) there was held the second international workshop "European Beech Forests Network", organized in the framework of the international project under the same name, which is funded by the Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Construction and Nuclear Safety of Germany (BMUB). The project is implemented by the Center of Econics and Ecosystem Management and the University Sustainable Development (Eberswalde, Germany), supported by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation Germany (BfN).

The event was attended by representatives of research institutions, universities, administrations of protected areas, non-governmental organizations from 14 European countries – over 30 people. The Carpathian Biosphere Reserve was represented by Victoria Gubko and Vasyl Pokynchereda and the author of this paper.

During the workshop there were made 25 presentations on ecology and preservation of beech forests, as well as threats and risks and management issues for these forest stands. The representatives of the Carpathian BR presented their experience in oldgrowth forest sites management. Working sessions of the Workshop facilitated exchange of experience, problem analysis of and discussions of concrete measures and steps to be taken.

Hanns Kirchmeir (Austria) informed the participants in great detail about the situation with the expansion of the UNESCO World Natural Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany". Hopes were expressed, that the Polish Government will reconsider its decision to refuse to participate in the nomination process.

The participants of the meeting expressed grave concern about the ongoing destruction of the primeval beech forests in the Romanian Carpathians, and supported the idea of signing Memorandum, initiated by forest scientists, to protect the primeval forests of Romania. It was also decided to initiate the establishment and legal registration of the Association "European Beech Forest Network", the objective of which would be to facilitate and support the preservation of primeval and oldgrowth beech forests, ensure their sustainable management, deal with raising public awareness on the importance of the beech forest ecosystems, and also Support the given natural UNESCO World Heritage Property. Also, the Open Standards for quality of the beech forests conservation and sustainable use will be developed by the members of the Association.

2016.

AT THE INTERNATIONAL UNESCO CONFERENCE IN BERLIN THE ISSUES OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF "PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS AND THE ANCIENT BEECH FORESTS OF GERMANY" WERE ACTIVELY DISCUSSED

Scientists of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve took part in the International Conference "Perspectives of cross-border cooperation in the framework of the UNESCO World Heritage List: the experience of Germany and other countries", held under the auspices of the German UNESCO Commission on 12-13 December 2016 in Berlin, at the office of the Permanent Delegation of the Federal Land of Hesse, Germany.

The organizers of the forum, which was attended by about a hundred of representatives of National Commissions for UNESCO, national governments, scientists and NGOs from Germany, Poland, Slovakia, Ukraine and other countries, were: the UNESCO Commission of Germany, the Federal Foreign Affairs Agency of Germany, the Government of the German Federal Land of Hesse and the Secretariat of the transboundary UNESCO World Heritage Property "Wadden Sea" (Germany, Denmark and Norway).

The conference was opened with greetings from the head of the Federal Agency for Foreign Affairs of Germany Professor Maria Bomer, Secretary General of the German Commission for UNESCO Dr. Ronald Berneker, Head of the Department of the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Protection, Agriculture and Consumer Protection of the Federal State of Hesse Dr. Karin Kaiser and head of the Council of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Wadden Sea" Dr. Vedaas.

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* Yuriy Berkela

The Director of the World Heritage Center of UNESCO Mechtild Rössler addressed to the participants of the Conference with a special video speech "The problems of cross-border cooperation within the World Heritage List and a European Action Plan".

The presentations on cross-border and transnational World Heritage Properties, that include German component parts, were presented at the conference with the emphasis on improving cooperation mechanisms, legal protection, funding etc.

The presentations described in detail the operation of the following UNESCO World Heritage Properties: German-Polish " Muskauer Park" (speakers Frederick Hansel and Barbara Furmanik from Poland), German-Italian "Frontiers of the Roman Empire" (Dr. Marcus Hensvid and Dr. Christof Flugel), German-Danish-Norwegian "Wadden Sea" (Rüdiger Schtrempel), German-Slovenian "Prehistoric pile dwellings around the Alps" (Sabine Haagman and Diana Veranic of Slovenia), German-Belgian "Architectural work of Le Corbusier" (Friedman Hesschvind and Piet Heleins of Belgium, and Ukrainian-Slovak-German "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany "(Dr. Karin Kaiser, Dr. Manfred Grossmann, Germany, and Dr. Jana Durkosova from Slovakia).

Speaking at the conference, a member of the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO, Sc.D., professor, deputy director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve Fedir Hamor drew the attention of the participants to the issues of improving the cross-border cooperation in the framework of Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany ".

In particular, he stressed that in order to achieve the objectives specified in Article 5 of the Convention on the World Heritage Conservation, the Joint Declaration of Intent between the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Conservation of Nature, Construction and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany on cooperation in the sphere of protection and management of the joint UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians (Slovakia and Ukraine) and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (Germany) " and the relevant Decrees of the President and Government of Ukraine, there was developed a



UNESCO International Conference in Berlin. In the first row (from right to left) Vasyl Pokynchereda, Fedir Hamor, Hannes Knapp and Manfred Grossmann (December 12-13, 2016)

project to construct the International Capacity Building and Research Center for Primeval Beech Forests and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians at the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, which would ensure the coordination of activities within this transnational UNESCO WH Property. But due to the economic crisis in Ukraine, the construction of the Center is not yet funded. That is why, taking an opportunity of this respectable international meeting, we addressed to the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Conservation of Nature, Construction and Nuclear Safety of Germany with a request to send to the Government of Ukraine and the top-management of the German project (Michael Brombacher) a letter of request asking to urgently direct (already in 2017) the funds for construction of this extremely important International Center out of the funds planned for the development of protected areas in Ukraine (which the German Development Bank (KfW) had allocated in the amount of 14 million Euro).

And secondly, an attention was drawn to the fact that in the next year – 2017 – we would mark the 10th anniversary listing the Ukrainian-Slovak Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" into the UNESCO World Heritage List.

On this occasion, in Ukraine, in the second half of September 2017, at the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve under the support of UNESCO Participation Program for 2016-2017, it is planned to conduct an international scientific conference "10th Anniversary of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests

of Germany": history, conservation status and implementation of the Integrated Management System", which will also become an important step in improving the cross-border cooperation within the UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Three parallel workshops worked within the conference, where the participants thoroughly discussed the ways to enhance the cooperation within the UNESCO World Heritage Properties by: "Financing across the borders"; "Legal protection across the borders" and "Education across the borders". In addition, there was a special plenary meeting held on exchange of experience in the sphere of international cooperation. The activities of the German foundation for the UNESCO WH Properties financial support, organization of tours "ViTour" – excursions to the USECO WH vineyard landscapes of Europe, cultural heritage management in the central part of Europe, and sustainable tourism implementation in "Wadden Sea" UNESCO WHO Property.

2016.

INTERNATIONAL NGO "EUROPEAN BEECH FOREST NETWORK" GOT REGISTERED IN GERMANY

These days, upon our proposal, in the German town of Eberswalde the representatives of scientific and environmental organizations from Germany, Great Britain, Austria and Slovakia, established and registered an international non-government organization "European Beech Forest Network".

In his presentation on October 29, 2014 in Bonn, at the final meeting of directors of Nature Conservation Agencies of Ministries of Environment of the European countries dedicated to the expansion of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" with the participation of 14 countries, including Spain, Italy, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Romania, Ukraine and others, the author of these lines proposed, that those sites that could not get into the UNESCO WH nomination dossier, could become parts of a kind of a European ecological network – "The European network of primeval and oldgrowth beech forests", which would, involving the International Union for Conservation of Nature IUCN, ensure their safety and provide an establishment of a special Foundation and other mechanisms to facilitate the exchange of experience and information as for their scientific and ecological values, to find solutions for problems of these forests' conservation in the relevant countries etc. (http://zakarpattya.net.ua/…/131280-Zakarpattsi-v-Nimechchyn…).

And, these days, as it was reported by Professor Pierre Ibisch from the University for Sustainable Development (Eberswalde, Germany) at the constituent assembly, which had taken place on February 2, 2017 in Eberswalde, representatives of scientific and conservation spheres of Germany, Britain, Austria and Slovakia had established and registered an international non-government organization "European Beech Forest Network". A famous German scientist and conservationist Professor, Dr. Hannes D. Knapp was elected as its president, and Doctor of Biological Sciences, Professor Fedir Hamor (Ukraine) became its honorary member.

It should be recalled that as a result of the financial support of the German government, a large scale inventory and study of the conservation status of oldgrowth beech forest in all the European countries within the distribution range of this once dominant tree species, there were identified over a hundred slightly-affected or undisturbed European beech forest sites, that were large enough and represent 12 biogeographic regions of Europe in 23 countries.

As a result of a critical analysis, during the International Conference "Primeval and oldgrowth beech forests of Europe", held on September 16-22, 2013 in the Ukrainian town of Rakhiv, a so-called short list – "Rakhiv List" – of oldgrowth beech forests distribution in Europe, which could be viewed as potential sites for expansion of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German Property.

This list was completed at the Vienna workshop and agreed at the inter-ministerial meeting in May 2014 in Bonn. At the end, 47 candidates for inclusion into the UNESCO World Heritage Property from 11 biogeographic regions of 20 countries were identified. Among them there also a number of Ukrainian primeval and oldgrowth beech forest sites from the Gorgany Nature Reserve, Roztochchia Nature Reserve, Synevyr National Nature Park, Enchanted Land (Zacharovanyi Krai) NNP, and Podilski Tovtry NNP.

Currently, the most outstanding areas of beech forests of 10 European countries have passed the expert evaluation process by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and it is expected that in July this, at the meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in Krakow, Poland, they will be included as an expansion of the already existing UNESCO World Heritage Property, and a new site will be formed under the name "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe".

2017.

SKYPE CONFERENCE ON THE WORLD RANGER DAY

On July 31, 2017 for the first time in 10-year history of cooperation between the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Hainich National Park, within the framework of the transnational Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany", there was held a joint Skype conference on occasion of the World Ranger Day.

When opening the event, Deputy Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve Professor Fedir Hamor expressed gratitude to his German colleagues for the initiative and preparation of the Skype conference, expressed confidence that this non-traditional method of communication would facilitate their cooperation and friendship between the two protected areas. The directors of the Hainich National Park (Manfred Grossman), the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (Mykola Rybak) and also some rangers told about the peculiarities of the Rangers Service activity in the Ukrainian and German protected areas, discussed some problematic issues that are being solved every day by the rangers in their institutions.

Manfred Grossmann also said that the administration of the Hainich National Park, funded by the German government, had prepared a special exchange program for experts and schoolchildren who work or study in the vicinity of these protected areas. Already in the near future, the delegation from Rakhiv is going to will visit the

The participants of the Skype Conference (right-to-left in the first row): director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve Mykola Rybak and Professor Fedir Hamor (Ukraine)...





... and director of the National Park from Germany Dr. Manfred Grossmann (first to the left)

Hainich National Park and Behringen (Hörselberg-Hainich).

They also discussed the issues of preparation for the International Conference dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the Ukrainian-Slovak UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians".

Let us remind you, that every year, on July 31, the conservation community celebrates the World Rangers Day - the Day of the people who are professionally involved in protection and conservation of protected areas.

This Day was started by the International Rangers Federation (IRF) with the aim to attract attention of wide public to their contribution to nature conservation, and honor the memory of their colleagues who were killed or injured while performing their official duties.

One also needs to know that IRF was founded the Scottish ecologists together with the employees of the leading world protected areas in 1992. The reason for this were the tragic events associated with the death of the rangers in African national parks, where poachers are ready to commit crimes to obtain the so-called "Great helmet", which symbolizes hunting five great rare animals - elephant, rhino, buffalo, lion and leopard.

The World Rangers Day was launched in 2007 in honor of the 15th anniversary of the Federation. This day is actively popularized by more than 60 organizations from 46 countries of the world that are members of the Federation. On the occasion of World Rangers Day, various events are organized, the main tasks of which are: to inform the wide public about difficulties of rangers' work, to attract attention to the crucial problems of nature protection and conservation of biological diversity.

2017.

NEXT OF THE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING FOR THE UKRAINIAN-SLOVAK-GERMAN UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY "PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS AND THE ANCIENT BEECH FORESTS OF GERMANY" TOOK PLACE AT THE CARPAHTIAN BIOSPHERE RESERVE

On September 27, 2017 the meeting of the Joint Management Committee of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" took place in Rakhiv, on the basis of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve during the International Scientific Conference organized on the occasion of 10th anniversary of listing the primeval beech forests of Ukraine and Slovakia into the UNESCO World Heritage List.

First of all, it should be recalled that, according to the Joint Declaration of Intent between the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of Germany, the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine on cooperation in the sphere of protection and management of the joint UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians (Slovakia and Ukraine) and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (Germany)", which was approved by the decision of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee 39 COM 7B.19 (2015), the Joint Management Committee was established. In the Integrated Management System of the World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians (Slovakia and Ukraine) and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (Germany)", the Management Committee should coordinate the management of the Property's component parts, promote and direct the activities of the national steering committees and groups.

First of all, it deals with the development and implementation of joint transnational monitoring plans, research programs and projects, capacity-building for the specialists, which would ensure the preservation and research of the Property's components. An important task of the Management Committee is also to organize monitoring of the conservation status and ensure reporting to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee on the state of the transnational serial Property as a whole.

The Joint Management Committee consists of representatives of the Ministries of Ecology from states-parties (and in case of Germany also the

Ministries of the federal states), relevant protected areas and experts. Its meetings are held once a year, alternately in an alphabetical order on the territory of one of the states-parties.

The latest meeting of the Joint Management Committee took place in Slovakia (Snina, October 25–28, 2015). The most crucial issues connected to the Property's functioning were discussed; in particular, the participants considered the progress in decision-making made by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee as for termination of continuous logging within the primeval beech forests of the Slovak part of the Property. The results of the expert report prepared after a monitoring mission of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) on this subject were analyzed in detail.

The next regular meeting of the Management Committee, earlier scheduled for 2016 in Ukraine, was postponed to 2017 at the request of the Slovak side.

This year, the final meeting of the Joint Management Committee of the World Heritage Property, in the format of "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians (Slovakia and Ukraine) and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (Germany)", was chaired by the Deputy Chairman of the National Steering Group of the Joint Management Committee, Deputy Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Doctor of Biological Sciences, Professor Fedir Hamor. The following delegations and their members participated in it: Germany - the delegation consisted of Gagen Kluttig (Federal Agency for the Conservation of Nature), Hannes Knapp (Michael Succow Foundation), and Katrin Barwald and Mark Elers (Jasmund National Park); Slovakia - the delegation consisted of Ivan Koubek (State Nature Conservancy Agency of the Slovak Republic), Marian Gic (Poloniny National Park) and Luboslav Mik (State Company "Forests of the Slovak Republic"); Ukraine - members of the Ukrainian Steering Group and representatives of the newly-joined component parts of the Property "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe" (nature reserves "Gorgany" and "Roztochchia" and the national nature parks: "Synevyr", "Enchanted Land" (Zacharovanyi Krai) and "Podilski Tovtry".

A total of about twenty people took part in the meeting of the Management Committee. Director of the State Nature Conservation Agency of the Slovak Republic Mr. Ivan Koubek reported on the status of implementation of the Decisions (recommendations) that had been adopted during the last meeting of the Joint Management Committee in Slovakia; a representative of the Austrian Institute of Ecology (E.S.O.), Dr. Anna Kovarovic and a senior researcher of the State Natural History Museum of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, conservation manager of WWF-DCP-Ukraine Dr. Bohdan Prots informed about on the results of the expansion process for the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" and about some peculiarities of the integrated management system for the newly-created UNESCO WH Property "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe"; Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve Mykola Rybak reported on the measures taken by the administration of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve on preservation of the primeval beech forests of the Reserve as the largest part of the World Heritage Property "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe"; Ing. Marian Gic, researcher from the Poloniny NP, Slovakia, highlighted the progress of the World Heritage Committee's decisions implementation regarding preservation of the Slovak part of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany".

Taking the floor at the Management Committee meeting with his report "On some clarifications of the wording for a new edition of the Joint Declaration of Intent between the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Slovak Republic on cooperation in the sphere of protection and management of the joint UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians (Slovakia and Ukraine) and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (Germany)" in connection with its expansion," Professor Fedir Hamor drew attention of the participants to the fact that the new version of the Joint Declaration of Intent in connection with the expansion of the UNESCO World Heritage

Property, is provided without the item "3.6. Operation of the planned International Capacity-Building and Research Center for Primeval Beech Forests and Sustainable Development on the basis of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve", which was removed without the knowledge of the Ukrainian side by the Austrian colleagues.

We cannot agree on it, because this subject is extremely important for conservation and promotion of the UNESCO World Heritage Property. The project on creation of the International Capacity-Building and Research Center for Primeval Beech Forests and Sustainable Development on the basis of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve was specifically developed upon our request in accordance with the Article 5 of the World Heritage Convention, jointly with the International Academy for Nature Conservation on the Vilm Island in 2011 as a key element of the network of eco-education and research centers (visitor centers) for the given transnational UNESCO World Heritage Property. Its construction is fully supported by Germany and Slovakia. And the President and the Government of Ukraine have adopted a decision on its construction.

The Department for Ecological Network and Protected Areas of the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ukraine and I addressed to the Austrian part to bring this item back. Unfortunately, we have not received any explanations so far.

While discussing this issue, Ivan Koubek reminded that at the previous meeting of the Management Committee, which had taken place in Slovakia, it was decided that the changes into the wording of the Declaration cannot be adopted without the consent of the three founder-countries.

Hannes Knapp proposed to support the proposal to restore the paragraph 3.6. in the text of the new edition of the Joint Declaration.

It was decided to suggest to Austria, as the coordinating country in the process of preparation and approval of the new version of the Joint Declaration of Intent, to bring the following paragraph back into the text: "3.6. Operation of the planned International Capacity-Building and Research Center for Primeval Beech Forests and Sustainable Development on the basis of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve"

Fedir Hamor also informed about the experience in implementation of the Integrated Management System for the Property in Ukraine, and about the plans to construct the International Capacity-Building and Research Center.

The next meeting of the Joint Management Committee will take place in a new format with the participation of 12 countries, based on the updated Joint Declaration of Intent. The date and place of it will be agreed upon later.

2017.



At the Management Committee meeting (Ukraine, Rakhiv, September 27, 2017)

INTERNATIONAL FORUM IN RAKHIV DEDICATED TO THE 10th ANNIVERSARY SINCE LISTING PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS INTO THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST



It was exactly 10 years in June 2017 since the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians of Zakarpattia region of Ukraine and East Slovakia came to be part of the UNESCO World Heritage List.

This event important for Ukraine and Slovakia has become possible due to the intensive preparatory work of the scientific groups based at the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Technical University of Zvolen, in particular – Professors Fedir Hamor and his colleague from Slovakia Ivan Voloschuk. This is truly an epochal event for the researchers and protectionists of nature in Ukraine and Slovakia, and it means the international recognition of their environmental and scientific activities. It is also a sign of deep respect for the nations who have managed to preserve these unique natural values in the heart of Europe despite various difficult historical and socioeconomic circumstances.

An extremely important stage in the history of gaining the global recognition for the primeval beech forests, thanks to the active work of German scientists and environmentalists, was completed with an expansion of the Ukrainian-Slovak nomination "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" at the expense of five ancient beech forest sites from Germany in 2011. As a result, a serial multinational UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" was formed. The given expanded object is a unique transnational cluster-type protected area that covers the natural range of beech forests from the highlands of the Ukrainian Carpathians down to the coast of the Baltic Sea in the German archipelago of Rügen.

It should be emphasized that the inscription of the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians into the World Heritage List in general had triggered the European process for the ancient beech forests protection, which has led to the inscription of oldgrowth beech forest sites from ten other European countries. In Ukraine, which has initiated the formation of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German joint serial UNESCO World Heritage Property, this process is viewed as an important step in conservation of these unique global natural values of our countries; we would like to note the special role played by Germany in the European process of beech forests conservation on the continent.

Enlisting the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians into the UNESCO World Heritage List, together with the Decrees adopted by the President and the Government of Ukraine in connection to this event, and the adoption by the Verkhovna

Rada of Ukraine of the Law "On Amendments to Particular Legislative Acts of Ukraine on Forest Protection Within the Convention on Protection and Sustainable the Development of the Carpathians" open up a number of new opportunities not only for strengthening protection of beech forests, but also creates some prerequisites for sustainable development of the settlements adjacent to this Property and for the infrastructural development. It also creates opportunities to strengthen the Ukrainian-Slovak-German cooperation in the sphere of nature protection, and for establishing a business partnership between territorial communities and business structures in the region where the joint Property is located via attracting foreign investments in eco-friendly projects, introducing alternative energy sources, stimulating tourism and recreation industry, etc.

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of enlisting the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians into the UNESCO World Heritage List, the International Scientific Conference "The 10th anniversary since the inscription of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval beech forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany": history, status and problems of implementation of the integrated management system" was held in Rakhiv, Zakarpattia region, on September 26-29, 2017.

The conference was organized by the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve jointly with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine and the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration, and was held under the patronage of the National Commission of Ukraine for









Taking the floor:
Yuriy SHPONTAK – Deputy Director of the Department of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration;
Anton BURGI – a researcher from the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow, and Landscape Research (WSL), Birmnsdorf
Vasyl KAHANETS – the Head of the Tiachiv District Council;
Ivan KOUBEK – Director of the Nature Conservation Agency of the Slovak Republic

UNESCO. The financial support for the event was given by the Ukrainian-German project "Support for Protected Areas in Ukraine", the Zakarpattia Regional Council and the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration.

The conference was attended by scientists, representatives of authorities, protected areas and the NGOs from Ukraine, Germany, Slovakia, Hungary, Switzerland, Romania and Austria – in total about 120 people.

The conference was opened by the Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Honored Conservationist of Ukraine Mr. Mykola Rybak. The participants of the Conference were cordially greeted by the Head of the Rakhiv District State Administration Pavlo Basaraba, Yuriy Shpontak – Deputy Director of the Department for Ecology and Natural Resources of the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration, Vasyl Kahanets – Chairman of the Tiachiv District Council, Ivan Koubek – representative of the Slovak Agency for Nature Conservation, Gagan Klutigig from the Federal Agency for the Conservation of Nature of Germany (BfN), Bornobasz Carmandi – a representative of the Duna Ipoli NP from Hungary, Goria Grosu from the Maramures Mountains NP, Romania, Dr. Brigitte Commarmot from the Swiss Federal Institute of Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL), and Vlado Vancura from the European Wilderness Society (Austria).

The Head of the Rakhiv Regional State Administration Mr. Pavlo Basaraba and the Chairman of the NGO All-Ukrainian Association "Hutsulshchyna" Mr. Dmytro Steflyuk awarded Prof. Hamor with the medal "For special services to Hutsulshchyna". And Vlado Vancura handed the honorary diplomas of the European Wilderness Society to the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and to a group of Ukrainian conservationists including the Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve Mr. Mykola Rybak and Professor Fedir Hamor.

The plenary meeting included the following presentations: Fedir Hamor "Some historical aspects of establishing and expansion of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians"(Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Rakhiv, Ukraine); Hannes Knapp "From the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve to the UNESCO World Heritage Property and the European Beech Forest Network" (Michael Succow Foundation, Germany); Mykola Rybak and Vasyl Pokynchereda "Cooperation with local communities as a surety for conservation of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" (Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Rakhiv, Ukraine); Anna Kovarovic "Results of the International Project on expansion of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany "and presentation of the newly-formed nomination "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe" (Institute of Ecology E.C.O., Klagenfurt, Austria); Anton Burgi et al. "Ukrainian-Swiss cooperation in the sphere of forest research" (Swiss Federal Institute of Snow, Forest and Landscape Research (WSL), Birmnsdorf, Switzerland); Svitlana Ziman et al. "Comparative analysis of vascular herbaceous flora in beech forests of the Ukrainian Carpathians" (M.H. Kholodnyi Institute of Botany, the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine); Michael Jungmeier and Bohdan Prots "Integrated management plans for protected areas – from theory to practice" (Institute of Ecology E.C.O., Klagenfurt, Austria, WWF and National Museum of Natural History of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Lviv, Ukraine); Roman Kovbasnyuk et al. "Problems international legal mechanism implementation for protection of the World Natural Heritage Properties in the Legislation of Ukraine" (Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Rakhiv, Ukraine); Mykhailo Lendel "Some principles of agrarian tourism formation and development in Zakarpattia" (Uzhgorod Trade and Economic Institute, Uzhgorod, Ukraine); Vlado Vancura "Wilderness areas and the European network of oldgrowth and primeval forests – how to combine wilderness areas with the European network of oldgrowth and primeval forests" (European Wilderness Society, Austria) and others.

In general, at the plenary sessions and during

the section meetings "The state and prospects to strengthen scientific research, environmental education and the implementation of sustainable development within the UNESCO World Heritage Properties"; "Research and monitoring of phytogeographical diversity within the UNESCO World Heritage Properties and other protected areas as an important precondition for unique natural values protection"; "The role of the UNESCO World Heritage Properties and other protected areas in conservation of fauna complexes" and "Anthropogenic threats and catastrophic risks for the UNESCO World Heritage Properties" there were presented and discussed about 70 reports and presentations.

The Conference Resolution was adopted by its participants. They also went on a field trip into Uholka primeval beech forests.

The final meeting of the Joint Management Committee of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" was held in the framework of the conference. The meeting considered the actual conservation state of this Property along with some suggestions to the new wording of the Joint Declaration of Intent on management of the expanded Property "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe".

The Conference Proceedings were published before the start of the event. The book by Fedir Hamor "Global recognition of primeval beech forests of the Carpathians: history and management. Materials on occasion of the 10th anniversary since the designation of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" were also presented during the Conference.

2017.

See pp. 118-119

1. In the meeting hall of the Rakhiv District Council.
2. The German delegation hands over the World Heritage symbols to CBR.
3. The meeting room is filled with working atmosphere.
4. The ensemble of violinists from the Rakhiv children's music school (teacher – Tatiana Shtodler).
5. Taking the floor – Director of CBR Mykola Rybak.
6. Head of the Rakhiv District State Administration Pavlo Basaraba presents the medal "For special services for the Hutsul Land" to Professor Fedir Hamor.
7. In the foreground - representatives of the Maramures Mountains Nature Park (from left to right) Goria Grosu and Gabriel Kovasa.
8. Taking the floor: representative of the national park from Hungary "Duna Ipoli" Barnabas Kormondi.
9-10. Taking the floor: Professor Hanness Knapp (Germany) and Brigitte Commarmot (Switzerland)
11. Representative of the European Wilderness Society (Austria) Vlado Vancura (left) handing over a honorary certificate to the Ukrainian environmentalists (from left to right) Fedir Hamor, Mykola Rybak, Dmytro Tomenchuk, Vasyl Pokynchereda and Yuriy Berkela.
12-13. A commemorative picture.













GLORIOUS ANNIVERSARY

Some moments of the International Scientific and Practical Conference "The 10th anniversary since the inscription of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval beech forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany": history, status and problems of the integrated management system implementation". Rakhiv, September 26-29, 2017

Photos by Bohdan HODOVANETS




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The formal zonation system


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RESOLUTION OF INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE "THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY SINCE THE INSCRIPTION OF THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY "PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS AND THE ANCIENT BEECH FORESTS OF GermanY": HISTORY, STATUS AND PROBLEMS OF THE INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION" (Rakhiv, 26-29th September 2017)

On the basis of the reports and discussions held, the participants of the Conference:

1. Note, that the 10-year experience of trilateral cooperation between Ukraine, Slovakia and Germany as parties of the UNESCO World Heritage Property, "Primeval Beech Forests of Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests of Germany", serve as a great example of international environmental cooperation.

2. Are honored to note, that the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" has laid the basis for the European preservation process of the continent's ancient beech forests, and they welcome the successful completion of the next stage of the expansion of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" and its reorganization into the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe".

3. Note that the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe" is of extreme value as an example of intact temperate forest complexes, which represents the most complete and integral ecological models of natural beech tree stands under the various natural and climatic conditions.

4. Express gratitude to Ukraine for its significant role in preservation of primeval beech forests and ancient beech forests of Europe, first of all to the staff of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and personally to Professor Fedir Hamor, for many years of persistent work on preservation and study of the unique natural values of the Carpathians, for a special contribution to the process of organization and expansion of the UNESCO World Heritage site "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe", promotion of environmental cooperation on the European continent.

5. Note the innovative significance of the Decrees of the President of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Government and the decisions of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine on the approval of measures for the primeval beech forests conservation in the Carpathians and the development of settlements that are adjacent to the Property, and also the adoption of the Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to Some Legislative Acts of Ukraine on the Primeval Forests Protection In Line With the Framework Convention on Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians".

6. Deeply concerned about the situation regarding the conservation status of the Slovak part of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe" and hope that the Government of the Slovak Republic will fully implement the Phnom Penh and Krakow Resolutions of the World Heritage Committee on this issue.

7. Declare that the global climate change is negatively impacting the primeval beech forests, especially on the northern border of the beech forest range. The increase of dry seasons in umber and duration deteriorates the ecological conditions for the hydrophilous primeval beech forest components.

8. Pay attention to the need in enhancing the effectiveness of measures on protection of biota of primeval beech forests and ancient forests, taking into account the fact that in recent years in the Carpathian region, on the one hand, there's a significant increase of tourists in number, which is considered to be positive in terms of refocusing the region's economy, but on the other hand a mass forest logging takes place, which pose a huge threat for the primeval beech forests conservation, in particular it is the case for the Ukrainian part of the "East Carpathians" Trilateral Biosphere Reserve.

9. In order to implement the requirements of the Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, it is proposed to

adopt the Law "On the Preservation of Cultural and Natural Objects of the UNESCO World Heritage" in Ukraine and, in accordance with the Article 5 of the Convention, the special Decrees of the President and the Government of Ukraine should be adopted to ensure the creation of the International Capacity-Building and Research Center for Primeval Beech Forests and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians on the basis of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve.

10. Judge it expedient to draw the attention of the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ukraine to the necessity to accelerate the processes of implementation of the principles and provisions of the European environmental legislation to the Legislation of Ukraine by preparing and adopting new editions of the Laws "On the Red Book of Ukraine" and "On the System of Protected Areas of Ukraine", which will promote the maintenance of legal principles of conservation within the protected areas created in accordance with the international obligations of Ukraine.

11. Recommend to the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ukraine, in pursuance of the recently adopted Law No. 4480, to agree criteria and indicators and approve the methodology for the primeval and oldgrowth (quasi-primeval) forests identification, developed by WWF, as a normative document in the most urgent time.

12. Recommend to the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ukraine, if necessary, jointly with the State Agency of Forestry of Ukraine and other forest authorities, to urgently decide on an interim (prior to making a proper decision on their nature conservation status) exclusion of the primeval and oldgrowth forest sites that have been identified by the method indicated above from their management plans. It is recommended that the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ukraine initiate and coordinate the process of providing appropriate conservation status to these primeval and oldgrowth forest sites, as well as initiate the development and normative arrangement of appropriate monitoring tools for the preservation of primeval and oldgrowth (quasi-primeval) forest sites.

13. Propose the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ukraine, together with WWF and other interested scientific, educational and public organizations, to develop a program and methodology for environmental education process and ecoeducational activities as guidelines for the employees of protected areas, local governments and wide public within the territories where the components of the World Heritage Property "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and other Regions of Europe" are located.

14. Recommend to apply the European audit system's principles (the European Wildlife Quality Standard developed by the European Wilderness Society) for the Management Plans of the protected areas of Ukraine and other protected areas of the Carpathian region.

15. Propose to the governments of the countries on the territory of which component parts of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe" are located, to implement additional measures for fundraising aimed at securing preservation of primeval and ancient beech forests of Europe, as well as for preparation of joint transnational projects, deepening scientific research and monitoring, introducing the scientific knowledge obtained into practical forestry management and sustainable tourism management.

16. The participants express their appreciation to the administration of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve for the excellent organization of this important international scientific forum.



Exchange of views on the sidelines of the conference: Anton BURGI, Brigitte COMMARMOT (Swiss Federal Institute of Forest, Snow, and Landscape Research (WSL)) and Vasyl LAVNYI (National Forestry University of Ukraine)

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP DISCUSSED THE STRATEGY FOR CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BEECH FORESTS IN EUROPE

On October 12-16, 2017, the University for Sustainable Development (Eberswalde, Germany) and the International Center of Econics and Ecosystem Management, with the support of the Federal Agency for Environmental Protection of Germany (BFN) organized an international workshop at the International Academy for Nature Conservation on the German island of Vilm, funded by the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany, which discussed the strategy of preservation and sustainable use of the beech forests in Europe.

The workshop was attended by 33 experts from 13 European countries, including representatives of environmental ministries and departments, scholars and public figures from Germany, Great Britain, Austria, Italy, Spain, Bulgaria, Romania, and others. Ukraine was represented by a group of specialists from the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, the Carpathian National Nature Park and the WWF-Ukraine team members. The event was opened by the coordinator of the International Project "European Beech Forest Network (September 2015 - November 2017)", funded by the Government of Germany, Professor of the German University for Sustainable Development (Eberswalde) Pierre Ibisch and Director of the International Academy for Nature Conservation of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation of Germany (BfN) Thorsten Garder.

In their analytical reports, the presenters Professor Dr. Hanness Knapp (International Association "European Beech Forest Network"), Professor, Dr. Pierre Ibisch (University of Sustainable Development, Eberswalde), Dr. Hanns Kirchmeier (Austrian Institute for Ecology E.C.O., Marcus Waldherr (International Center for Econics and Ecosystem Management) deeply analyzed the state of research and conservation of beech forests in Europe and the problems of their sustainable use. The speakers discussed in detail the work on establishing the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe" (Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Croatia, Italy, Spain, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, and Ukraine) and the activity of the International Association "European Beech Forest Network". The strategy of protection and sustainable use of beech forests in Europe, potential trends in international coordination of the efforts in terms of research, popularizing and preserving them, activity management for the International Association "European Beech Forest Network" that had been recently registered in Germany and other topics were proposed for discussion.

Professor Hannes Knapp noted, in particular, that a special role in this process belongs to the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, and Professor Pierre Ibisch named Professor Fedir Hamor "the father" of the UNESCO World Heritage Site "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe" and the European process of the beech forests conservation. "Without the initiative and tremendous efforts of Professor Fedir Hamor," he said, "this Property and our projects would not exist at all." Speaking at the seminar, the deputy director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Doctor of Biological Sciences, Professor Fedir Hamor first of all sincerely thanked his colleagues for the high appreciation of the Ukrainian contribution. Further he drew attention to some critical moments in the history of the World Heritage Property "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe" creation, dwelling in detail on the Ukrainian experience in implementing an integrated management plan, elaboration and adoption of innovative decrees of the President and Government of Ukraine on preservation of the Carpathian primeval forests and sustainable development of the settlements located in their vicinity, and on the results of the International Conference dedicated to the anniversary of primeval beech forests of the Carpathians inclusion into the UNESCO World Heritage List, etc.

The book by Fedir Hamor "World recognition of primeval beech forests of the Carpathian: history and management" was also presented at the meeting. It was proposed by the participants of the workshop to publish an English version of it. In total, about a dozen reports, presentations and project

ideas have been presented and discussed at the workshop. Among them, we would like to mention the presentations made by the representative of the Wild Europe Foundation (Great Britain) as for the strategy for the conservation of the forests of Europe, and Matias Schikhofer, a representative of Euro Natura (Austria) was speaking about the massive deforestation in primeval beech forests in Romania; Daniele Aschgrenbrenner (University for Sustainable Development, Eberswalde) spoke about the preparation of the project proposal for the European Climate Initiative, etc.

During the discussion of the presentations and during the meetings of the working groups, the author of these lines proposed: 1) to search for sustainable sources of financing the management of the World Heritage Property and the European beech forest network, and to establish a trust fund for this purpose, also to prepare appropriate project proposals to the UNESCO World Heritage Foundation; 2) to the Governments of the countries (they are 12 now), who own parts of this World Heritage Property, to implement the provisions of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention into national legislations; 3) to create, in accordance with Article 5 of this Convention, national and regional training centers for the protection, conservation and popularization of this World Heritage Property and to encourage the conduct of scientific research there; 4) to develop, within the Association "European Beech Forest Network" the mechanisms for real cooperation and exchange of experience between the institutions that are part of it, etc. Taking into account our proposals, the relevant resolution was adopted at the seminar.

The workshop participants went on an excursion to the Jasmund National Park, where with a great interest they got acquainted with the recently opened visitor center dedicated to the primeval beech forests as a UNESCO World Heritage Property. Chancellor Angela Merkel had taken part in the official opening ceremony. In this regard, Professor Hannes Knapp, who was on that field trip too, drew the guests' attention to some interesting details. First of all, he noted that the pioneer in establishing visitor centers about primeval beech forests as a UNESCO World Heritage Property was the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, where, according to him, Professor Fedir Hamor had established such a visitor center in the village of Mala Uholka few years ago. Secondly, one million Euros were spent on the reconstruction of an old private forest house and its arrangement from the budget of the local municipality, a private company and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). Thirdly, in the three months since the opening of the visitor center, it was visited by 12.000 guests.

While working in the meeting room





Participants of the international forum during a field trip to the Jasmund National Park on the Baltic Sea shores (Germany, October 2017)

It's worth mentioning here that the exposition of the visitor center occupies only 15 m2 of the ground floor of the reconstructed building. The rest of the room is given to a cafe and a kitchen. On the second floor it is planned to open a hotel.

Thus, it was the final workshop within the framework of the International Project "European Beech Forest Network" (September 2015 – November 2017), which summed up another stage in designation and expansion of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe", and it defined the main activities of the International Association "European Beech Forest Network". And last but not least, it should be emphasized that Germany played an extremely important organizational and financial role in this process.

2017.

MANAGERS OF A NUMBER OF UKRAINIAN PROTECTED AREAS WERE OFFICIALLY AWARDED WITH CERTIFICATES ON LISTING THEIR PRIMEVAL BEECH FOREST SITES INTO THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST*

Today, on January 27, 2018 in the town of Rakhiv, Zakarpattia region of Ukraine, I used an honorable opportunity and handed over the Certificates on listing the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe" to the directors of 7 protected areas that have been listed to the WH List as an expansion of the already existing Property in July 2017 during the meeting in Krakow. Frankly speaking, we had a great temptation to leave these unique documents with the walls of the Ministry of Ecology, still we rightly hand them over to the real owners.

On the other hand, this is the case when the document is not only a symbol of the process being completed, but it is a great commitment. Indeed, in the long run, we will have to go through the process of filling the Property with a real content by implementing the joint management of these ancient and primeval forest sites across 12 European countries.

I would like to express deep gratitude to Dr. Bohdan Prots and Vasyl Pokynchereda for making the expanded nomination real, and to tireless Fedir Hamor for his great ideological and practical work on protecting primeval beech forests, as well as to Mykola Rybak, Hryhoriy Parchuk and Anastasia Drapalyuk for their wonderful organizational work, and to the participants of this event – for these emotional, but constructive discussions.

2017.

See p. 125

At the official ceremony on the occasion of the UNESCO Certificate awarding (Rakhiv, January 27, 2018):
1. In the meeting hall.
2. Victor Klid, Director of the Department for Protected Areas of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine, presents the Certificates.
3. The initiator of listing the primeval beech forests into the UNESCO World Heritage List, Professor Fedir Hamor, is addressing the participants of the official event.
4. Directors of protected areas of Ukraine awarded with the UNESCO Certificates.

* Victor Klid


1


Букові праліси і давні ліси Карпат
та інших регіонів Європи
2


3


4



The Certificate on inclusion of the nomination
"Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe"
into the UNESCO World Heritage List

PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS AS THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY THAT PROMOTES SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF MOUNTAIN SETTLEMENTS IN ZAKARPATTIA REGION OF UKRAINE

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT IN THE CARPATHIANS

The whole system of laws of Ukraine, which, inter alia, regulate the expansion of the national protected area network, improve forest management, introduction of environmentally friendly technologies, is developed for protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians. The Framework Convention for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians is important in this context is. And the Law of Ukraine "On the fundamental principles (strategy) of the state environmental policy of Ukraine till 2020" it is stressed that "in order to prevent the deterioration of the environment it necessary to increase the area of the ecological network, which is of a strategic importance in achieving the ecological balance in Ukraine". In addition, "the increase of the national ecological network's territory should be primarily done via expansion of the existing and creation of new protected areas". The same law deals with the expansion of the protected area system of Ukraine for up to 10 % in 2015 and to make it reach 15 % of the territory of Ukraine till 2020. In addition, the Law of Ukraine "On the moratorium on clear logging on mountain slopes in fir-beech forest stands of the Carpathian region" stipulates that in the Carpathian the protected areas' territory should be increased to 20% of the region's territory. For your reference we would like to note that that these indexes in Ukraine are now the worst for Europe and constitute only about 5 %, and in the Carpathians – about 10%.

A PLACE FOR RECONCILIATION OF NATURE WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The most important strategic objectives also include the improvement of regional environmental policies. Therefore, in this sphere, in particular, it is planned to provide a legislative support of transition from socio-economic to the ecological and socio-economic regional urban development planning by 2015, and by 2020 – to develop a regulatory framework for environmental and economic macro-regions. And that is very important for mountain areas – the implementation of a pilot project on combining spatial planning procedures with long-term scenario building, environmental and socio-economic planning and conducting strategic environmental assessment on the example of the Carpathian macro-region by 2015. Of course, such an approach is extremely promising and is really needed.

Because, despite the resolutions of the world conferences of country leaders held in of Rio de Janeiro (1992) and Johannesburg (2002), Ukraine still has not adopted even a national concept of sustainable development.

Unfortunately, no response was given on the resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on preservation of protected areas and cultural heritage in Ukraine, adopted on September 12, 2002 №140-IV, which recommended to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine to develop "a comprehensive State program of sustainable development of mountain regions of Ukraine by July 1, 2003".

The essence of the concept of sustainable development, and especially the mechanisms of managing these extremely complex processes, a functional combination of environmental, economic and social components in them – i.e. the balanced, coherent, predictable development of all the areas of intellectual and industrial human activities, require primarily the development of theoretical models and their testing in practice. In this regard,

we want to point out that according to the decisions of the UNESCO General Conference in November 1995 in Seville and the Madrid Action Plan for Biosphere Reserves, the model sites and training grounds is for the implementation of sustainable development in various conditions must be the World Network of Biosphere Reserve. A biosphere is not merely a protected area, but a place for the reconciliation nature with local communities and the society in general. In this context, according to the UNESCO expert, 'biosphere reserves have made a made major contribution to the emergence of the idea of sustainable development and an ecosystem approach; they help to test the application of these ideas in practice". Their management, or as determined by the Law of Ukraine "On the Protected Areas System of Ukraine" "Project of territory organization and protection of natural complexes of protected areas", provides development of science and monitoring and the implementation of measures to ensure the sustainable development of the territory along with the preservation of natural and cultural values. It is stipulated that the sustainable agriculture, forestry and industry, restoration of traditional ways of nature use, organic farming, production of organic foods, development of recreational activities and use of medical and health potential and other environmentally friendly economic activities will lead to creating new jobs. Implementation of these objectives by biosphere reserves and other protected areas is stipulated in the Decrees of the President of Ukraine "On additional measures for the development of nature conservation activities in Ukraine" and "On expansion of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve". Thus, the management planning for protected areas, which occupy significant areas in a number of mountainous administrative districts of the Ukrainian Carpathians (e.g., Kosiv, Mizhhiria, Velykyi Bereznyi, Rakhiv, Yaremche), has not only environmental but also social and economic importance.

FROM THE UKRAINIAN CARPATHIAN HIGHLANDS DOWN TO THE COAST OF THE BALTIC SEA

In this aspect the obtained experience would good to be used also in the cooperation aimed at protection of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German transnational serial UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany".

Let me remind you, that on June 28, 2007 the UNESCO World Heritage Committee at its 31st meeting in Christchurch (New Zealand) adopted a decision on listing the Ukrainian-Slovak nomination "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" with the total area of 77,971.6 hectares (29,278.9 hectares of the core zone) into the UNESCO World Heritage List. And on June 25, 2011 at the 35th meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in Paris it was declared that "The ancient beech forests of Germany" were also listed into the UNESCO World Heritage List as an extension of the existing Ukrainian-Slovak Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians." So, a unique international protected area of a cluster type with the total area of 96,072.4 hectares (core zone – 33,670.1 ha) was created on the European continent, covering the European beech (Fagus sylvatica) natural habitat from the highlands of the Ukrainian Carpathians down to the Baltic Sea coast of the German archipelago of Rügen. The Property includes oldgrowth beech forest sites from Germany that are protected at the Schorfheide-Chorin Biosphere Reserve (Brandenburg), national parks "Hainich" (Thuringia), "Kellervald-Edersee" (Hesse), "Jasmund" and "Müritz" (Mecklenburg – Western Pomerania) with a total area of 18,100.8 hectares (core zone – 4391.2 hectares). Clusters of primeval beech forests protected in the territory of the Poloniny National Park and the Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area (Presov region) with the total area of 19,584.8 hectares (core zone – 5766.4 hectares) are included from Slovakia. In Ukraine this Property covers the mountain forest massifs of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park with the total area of 58,386.8 hectares (core zone – 23,512.5 ha).

It should be emphasized that the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve covers 54.37 % from the overall area of the entire Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany".

Certainly, an agreement between the respective Government agencies of Ukraine, Slovakia and Germany under the Convention on World Cultural and Natural Heritage Protection of the offers great opportunities to enhance the international cooperation in environmental and scientific fields,

and the implementation of experience (for example the one of Germany) in sustainable development implementation. The Ukrainian protected areas now have attracted a number of new partner-stakeholders; also today they have an access to the best European experience.

The Integrated Management System, which is designed to effectively manage the transnational trilateral Property of an extremely high value, involves primarily the most effective measures for the Property's protection with all biotic and abiotic components, its geo- and biodiversity and ecological processes. Self-regeneration processes should be supported in relevant ecosystems and protection from the negative effects caused by anthropogenic factors should be ensured along with the maintenance and expansion of the existing ecologically connected complex of primeval and oldgrowth beech forests that are united by the Ukrainian and Slovak clusters. Scientific research activities will be intensified with the aim of obtaining knowledge that can be passed on and used for sustainable close-to-nature forest use, use of the natural heritage for eco-education enhancement, the formation of ecological consciousness, and increased public awareness on the role and value of the primeval forests at the local, national and international levels, ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources in the territories adjacent to this Property.

For the implementation of the Integrated Management System, a project "Sustainable management of the territories adjoining the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians "(Ukraine-Slovakia) is implemented with the financial support of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany, and the German University for Sustainable Development (Eberswalde) completed the development of the project "Environmental management of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and solutions of modern challenges in Transcarpathia (Ukraine)" funded by the German Nature Conservation Fund (DBU). In addition, the Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved the Action Plan for preservation and development of the Ukrainian part of the natural UNESCO WH Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians".

CAPACITY BUILDING CENTER IN THE MOUNTAINOUS VILLAGE OF KVASY

During the implementation of these projects with the participation of partner stakeholders (the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, district state administrations, village councils, local population, state forestry enterprises, private wood companies, tourism sector representatives, educational and research institutions and other categories of stakeholders) the analysis of the situation in the scope of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve's location and the main environmental objectives for the eastern part of the Transcarpathia region were determined. The most important of them are the preservation of primeval forests and forest ecosystems in general, conservation and restoration of alpine meadows, restoration big mammal populations' sizes, protection of water bodies and flood-plain ecosystems, caves, karst formations and the Valley of Narcissus. Eight strategic directions for the implementation of these objectives were formulated. First of all, it is proposed to grant a conservation status to the remnants of primeval forests and to introduce a special control over the forest legislation enforcement, to develop projects on attracting the international "carbon credit" funds for forest conservation, in particular – to use the voluntary carbon credits mechanism within the German Climate Initiative.

Since most of the towns and villages that are located in the territories adjacent to the biosphere reserve do not have a central gas supply and the main source of heating is fuelwood, it is proposed to prepare project applications for introduction of alternative energy sources and thus reduce the demand for fuelwood in the scope of CBR's primeval beech forests location. An important activity direction is ecotourism development and revival of traditional alpine sheep farming etc.

The Integrated Management System and the relevant resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine also define the establishment of the International Capacity Building and Research Center for Primeval Beech Forests and Sustainable Development on the basis of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve in the mountain resort village of Kvasy, Rakhiv district, as one of the strategic priorities.

The Center is supposed to lobby environmental initiatives and projects for sustainable development

of mountainous areas, to organize the exchange of experience between specialists and strengthen international cooperation. Its activities will be aimed at raising the level of environmental education of the managerial personnel and rangers, conducting research and capacity-building activities in the field of forest ecology and sustainable development for students and researchers from Ukraine, Germany, Slovakia, Switzerland, Czech Republic and other countries. The Center will be the venue for annual international scientific and practical conferences. There's an idea, that it will become kind of an "ecological Davos" in the center of Europe.

2011.

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY SUPPORTS REGIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ZAKARPATTIA

Today we celebrate 40 years since the UNESCO World Heritage Convention's adopting. 185 countries of the world are parties of the given Convention. In Ukraine, the Convention entered into force on January 12, 1989.

UNIQUE NATURAL LOCALITY OF OUR CONTINENT

The Convention provides for protection, conservation and promotion of cultural and natural heritage. And the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, apart from a legislative protection of one or another Property, also requires their integration into regional or local spatial planning, providing access for tourists to them.

Exactly that is why, in all countries with such unique natural and cultural values, as a rule, the tourism and recreational industry is actively developing, these factors are used to create an attractive image of the territories and increase the well-being of the local population.

In the regions where the natural Properties of the UNESCO World Heritage List are located, the development of ecological tourism is mostly being started, tourism infrastructure is being developed, and social-economic life of the adjoining territories is intensified. For example, such processes are observed near the Niagara Falls in Canada, the Yellowstone National Park in the United States, the Plitvice Lakes in Croatia, and other places like that. That is why, upon our initiative, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine has recently sent a request to the President of Ukraine to adopt a special order of the President of Ukraine on sustainable development and improvement of towns and villages in the mountainous part of Transcarpathia (Zakarpattia) located in the scope of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany".

In this context, it should be recalled that the UNESCO World Heritage Committee decided to list the Ukrainian-Slovak nomination "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" into the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2007, and in 2011, thanks to the support of Ukrainian experts, the ancient beech forests Germany were also listed as a World Heritage Property as an extension of the existing Ukrainian-Slovak Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians". Thus, on the European continent, a unique international union of protected areas of the global significance has been created, with a total area of 96072.4 hectares (core zone of 33,670.1 hectares), which covers the natural range of European beech distribution (Fagus sylvatica) from the highlands of the Ukrainian Carpathians down to the coast of the Baltic Sea on Rügen archipelago in Germany.

Undoubtedly, the introduction of primeval beech forests of the Ukrainian Carpathians into the UNESCO World Heritage List was a long-awaited and historic event for Ukraine, and it is a high recognition of its nature conservation and scientific activities. But the fact that the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians are preserved in the densely populated geographical center of Europe, which additionally possesses numerous unique historical and cultural values, gives special prestige to Ukraine. By the way, foreign experts consider the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve to be one of the most beautiful and most famous places on the globe, and along with the Swiss Alps, the Norwegian Fjords and the Plitvice Lakes, it is among five most beautiful places in Europe. And the town of Rakhiv because of its natural and cultural values, in the 1930s was called "a Hutsul Paris".

According to the decree of Maria Theresia, the Empress of Austria, here, along with the Czech city of Karlovy Vary, the Slovak Poprad and Ukrainian resort city of Truskavets, they planned to develop four Carpathian major mountain resorts in the former Austro-Hungarian region. It was a destination for trains from Budapest and Prague. The Transcarpathian railway line built at the crossroads in the geographical center of Europe, built in the 19th century, unites Ukraine with Bucharest, Budapest, Vienna and Prague. But, unfortunately, this railroad is not used for some reason. In addition, the infrastructure and improvement of settlements adjacent to the UNESCO World Heritage site do not meet the growing needs of a large number of domestic and foreign tourists. The available tourist and recreation potential is not used fully because of the lack of investments, and that is why we can observe a high unemployment rate among people living in mountains, as well as a high level of social poverty and poor living conditions. In this regard, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee recognizes the management of this unique natural site to be the major issue as well as tourism management improvement, and it recommends that the Government of Ukraine should involve local people, NGOs and other stakeholders to these processes.

WHAT SHOULD BECOME THE PRIORITY FOR AUTHORITIES?

Proceeding from these circumstances and in accordance with the current legislation, in particular, the Law of Ukraine "On the Status of Mountainous Settlements in Ukraine", and the Framework Convention On Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, in order to preserve the unique natural values and ensure the sustainable development and improvement of mountain settlements of Zakarpattia, a proposal was made to the President of Ukraine to issue an order to the Government of Ukraine and the Transcarpathian Regional State Administration to take the necessary measures to increase the region's tourist attractiveness and secure an appropriate economic growth in the scope of the location of the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany".

The draft document, that under the assistance of a Government supervisor of the Transcarpathian region Mr. Victor Baloha had been viewed by ten Ministries and departments, by the Cabinet of Ministers, the departments of the Presidential Administration of Ukraine and, as we know, was submitted for signature to the head of state was aimed to ensure, firstly, the development of the action plan on sustainable development and improvement of mountain settlements, while providing for the development of the tourism potential of all of Transcarpathia. Second, it is instructed to conduct the reconstruction and repair works on the national and local roads, also the mountain roads and other tourist and recreational infrastructure in the area around the given UNESCO World Heritage Property. Third, the document obliges to resolve the problem of collection, storage and disposal of waste in the surrounding areas; fourth – to develop and implement pilot projects of upgrading heating systems of mountain towns and villages of the Transcarpathian region and introduction of the systems using alternative fuels. Fifthly, it is ruled to address the issues of restoring the destroyed automobile bridge from crossing the Ukrainian-Romanian national border across the Tisza River and to develop the necessary border infrastructure along the Ukrainian-Romanian border in the village of Dilove. Sixth, to provide adequate funding for construction of the International Capacity Building and Research Center for Primeval Beech Forests and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians based at the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve. Finally – to explore possibilities for establishing the railway connection between Kyiv and Rakhiv. The measures are supposed to be implemented by the end of 2015.

Also it should be added here that during the round-table meeting "Ecological Davos in the center of Europe", which was held in June 2011 it was unanimously declared by the newspaper "Voice of Ukraine" and the administration of the Carpathian biosphere Reserve, that "the land in the center of Europe, as a unique locality not only on the map Ukraine, may even under the present circumstances become one of the most highly civilized and attractive tourist places of our country and throughout Europe if an appropriate support is given by the central and regional authorities, and also the international community". The 1998 Cabinet of Ministers

Resolution on Measures for State Support to the Implementation of the Integrated Program for Ecological, Economic and Social Development of Mountain Rakhiv District for the period 1998-2005 is orientated towards these objectives, which clearly states that "conservation of the unique natural ecosystems, development of a powerful recreational potential, creating here an ecologically-oriented tourism and recreation destination of national importance" should become a priority in this region.

HOW TO MAKE THE NEXT STEP TOWARDS THE EUROPEAN UNION

Unfortunately, this has not happened yet. Moreover, the following orders of the Presidential Administration of Ukraine and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine initiated by us still remain unfulfilled: on the development Rakhiv as a town in the geographical center of Europe and on considering possibilities to host the Winter Olympics in the region. Therefore we would like to appeal to the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO, to the Zakarpattia Oblast State Administration, the newly elected Member of Parliament of Ukraine Mr. Vasyl Petiovka and communities other stakeholders to participate in the process of accelerating the adoption of this document by the President of Ukraine, which is so important for the sustainable development and improvement of mountain towns and villages in Transcarpathian region, which are located in the scope of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany". We believe that the adoption of this Resolution at the level of the President and the Government of Ukraine may not only become a Ukraine's next step towards the European community, but will also really help to preserve the unique UNESCO World Heritage Property in Ukraine, the reduce the continuous deforestation, refocus the economy of this unique land towards the ecologically-safe activities and increase the well-being of the people living in the mountain region.

In addition, we believe that the fulfillment of the proposed measures can also become a contribution to the implementation of the Law of Ukraine "On basic principles (strategy) of the state environmental policy in Ukraine until 2020". In particular, it is important for the implementation of a pilot project on ecological and socio-economic planning and conducting a strategic environmental assessment in the Carpathian macro-region. This approach is also important in the context of the final document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development "Rio +20: The future that we want" (June 20-22, 2012), where country leaders and governments of the globe again and again encouraged people to live in harmony with nature, to take urgent actions to combat the climate change, to implement the principles of green economy, to introduce the sustainable forest management, develop eco-tourism, and to contribute more efforts to preserve the biodiversity, to protect mountain ecosystems and overcome the poverty of the population living in the mountains.

FOR YOUR REFERENCE

The UNESCO World Heritage List now contains 962 Property (742 cultural, 191 natural and 29 mixed ones) in 157 countries. In Ukraine this list includes Sophia Cathedral and architectural ensemble of Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra in Kyiv, the historical center of the city of Lviv, parts of the geodesic arc of Struve, the residence of the Bukovina metropolitan in Chernivtsi and the unique natural Property – the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians.

FACTS

The Ukrainian part of the Property represented by the Europe's largest primeval beech forest sites of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park in the territory of Rakhiv, Tiachiv and Velykyi Bereznyi districts covers about 70% of the Property's total area and is the only natural Property in Ukraine, listed to the UNESCO World Heritage List.

2012.

THE CARPATHIANS ON THE WAY TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In the summarizing document generated at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development "Rio + 20: The Future We Want" (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 20-22 June 2012) it was emphasized with a new force on the need to achieve harmony between man and nature. It is suggested that survival of the planet Earth and its ecosystems, as well as ensuring the necessary balance between the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations remains problematic without this.

EXCEPTIONAL IMPORTANCE OF MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEMS – SOURCES OF WATER SUPPLY

A special emphasis was also made on the fact that in some countries the rights of Her Majesty Nature are now placed at the forefront equally with the human rights, and the ecological component of the institutional framework of sustainable development is given a special attention to. Moreover, in the approved Framework Action Program the key role in played by follow-up steps towards the implementation of the sustainable development strategy in various thematic areas and cross-sectorial spheres; these actions are aimed at solving environmental problems. First of all, it refers to water supply and sanitary situation, energy, sustainable tourism, climate change, forests, biodiversity, etc.

In particular, the Conference recognized the great benefits that the global community is receiving from the sustainable development of mountain areas. Namely, the importance of mountain ecosystems as the main suppliers of water resources for a large part of all the continents is emphasized. It is also noted that mountain ecosystems are especially vulnerable to the negative effects of the global climate change, as well as they are affected by deforestation and forest degradation. Huge damage is caused to them by changes in land use practices, land degradation and natural disasters. In this regard, the Leaders of Countries and Governments of the world call for increased efforts to protect mountain ecosystems, including preserving their biodiversity. There were appeals made to adopt long-term concepts with the application of comprehensive approaches that would be based on development programs for mountain regions.

OUR COUNTRY AGAIN RAISED THE PROBLEM OF THE ECOLOGICAL CONSTITUTION OF THE EARTH

It was very illustrative that at that conference, Ukraine repeatedly raised the issue of the Ecological Constitution of the Earth. It was stated that in order to achieve the goals of sustainable development, Ukraine considered it to be appropriate to start the process of preparation of the draft Concept of the Ecological Constitution of the Earth and to launch its public discussion, and to organize a Global Environmental Organization using UNEP as a basis.

Unfortunately, despite all the resolutions adopted during different international forums and a large number of international regulatory documents, no concept of sustainable development have yet been adopted in Ukraine. The ecological and socio-economic situation in the Carpathian region remains extremely complicated.

According to the conclusions of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (Resolution 315 (2010) "Sustainable development of mountain regions and the experience of the Carpathian Mountains"), this region is characterized by a significant decrease of forest cover compared to the recent past. Due to the disturbed ecological balance, flood probability is extremely high, also erosion processes pose a serious threat, as well as contaminated wastewater discharges in water bodies and unorganized accumulation of domestic and industrial waste. So, solving these pressing environmental and socio-economic problems is possible only by adopting the State Program for Sustainable Development of the Ukrainian Carpathians and integration of Ukraine into the European Union's program "Carpathian Space".

In general, according to experts, the anthropogenic and technogenic pressure in Ukraine, including in the Carpathians, is several times higher than the corresponding indicators in developed countries. Therefore, life expectancy in 2010 was lower and reached only 69.8 years, and GDP figures in 2011 amounted to about 60% of the world's average indicator. The energy intensity of production here is almost three times higher, there is a tendency to increase the volume of forest logging, etc.

A large-scale and chaotic exploitation of the natural resources leads to an aggravation of the ecological situation and, above all, does not bring any economic growth to local communities. And in the region of the Ukrainian Carpathians is, unfortunately,

well-known as a mere supplier of raw materials. Hundreds of thousands of cubic meters of timber, which are harvested here annually with the use of environmentally hazardous technologies, are exported abroad as round logs or as lumber. Such methods of forest use do not bring socio-economic benefits, but, on the contrary, aggravate the flood situation, trigger erosion processes, destroy landscapes and road infrastructure, create a negative image of the area in terms of tourism development, etc.

The state of forest exploitation in the upper part of the Tisza basin, in the territory of the depressed Rakhiv district of Transcarpathian region in Ukraine, which is very flood-hazardous, can serve as a very illustrative example. It is here that, despite the adoption of the law of Ukraine "On moratorium for continuous logging in forests on mountain slopes", there exists a clear tendency to increase the volume of logging. Apart from that, the main amount of wood is harvested using continuous logging, and a number of forest sites where seedlings plantations are planted have greatly decreased now. The declarations on sustainable forest management and international forest certification are nothing but words on paper.

SOME NEED FUELWOOD, OTHERS – MONEY...

The situation here looks extremely disturbing, despite the 70% index of forestation, because the problem of providing the local population with mere fuel wood remains crucial. For example, according to calculations, the need of people, enterprises and organizations in fuelwood in this remote area without a centralized gas supply annually (not including the demand for construction timber) is about 250 000 cubic meters (27 000 households with the demand of 8 vm3 each a year in average, plus socio- cultural and tourist-recreational establishments, institutions, shops, etc.). But in fact, according to official statistics, last year only a third to the required amount was supplied. And in 2011 only 36.1 thousand cubic meters were sold to the population. So where do they get the remaining amount of fuelwood needed for heating? The answer is simple as that – from illegal logging and illegal trade in timber. So, one way or another, real timber consumption is much larger than the statistical data. Consequently, the environmental damage is actually much higher than it is officially stated. Also, nobody raises the issue of the losses for the state budget from these shady schemes.

Under the aforementioned circumstances, the situation with the implementation of the State Program for the establishment of the national ecological network looks very alarming for the Carpathian region, also there is a harmful tendency of a total undermining of the implementation of the Decrees of the President of Ukraine by the local authorities, I mean those regarding the establishment of new protected areas and expansion of the already existing ones, in particular the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, the national natural park "Hutsulshchyna" and others. The requirements of Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine "On moratorium for continuous logging on mountain slopes in fir-beech forests of the Carpathian region", which was supposed to bring the surface of protected areas in the Carpathians to 20 % of the region's territory by 2005, is nothing but a "wish list" under these conditions.

Activities on compliance with the requirements of the Law of Ukraine "On ratification of the Protocol on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity to the Framework Convention for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians", signed in Kyiv on May 22, needs to be finally activated. Because, as it is shown by the analysis, here we also have an uneasy situation. Over the past decade, there has been a significant increase in the number of species of plants and animals that are listed in the Red Data Book of Ukraine; moreover, a large part of endangered species is distributed exactly in the region of the Ukrainian Carpathians. In this context, it is interesting to note that the majority of them, as well as species, which are included into the European and international lists of endangered species, are protected within the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and other protected areas. In this context, it is necessary to increase the role of nature and biosphere reserves and national parks, which nowadays need to be supported by the national and regional authorities, as well as by local self-government bodies.

A special attention should be given in the mountainous regions, in line with the objectives of the Seville Strategy (1995) and the Madrid Action Plan (2008) adopted by UNESCO, to the development of biosphere reserves and the improvement of the Ukrainian environmental legislation for the regulation their activities.

Biosphere reserves, that have been functioning since 1971 in the frameworks of the UNESCO "Man and the Biosphere" Program, are the protected areas of an entirely new type, the key objective of which is to ensure the harmonious development of man and nature. The idea of biosphere reserves in itself is making up the basis of the principles of sustainable development, and it is welcomed with a great enthusiasm all around the world, and it has already

gained considerable success within the past four decades. And nowadays, the biosphere reserves make up a world network of model sites, where different types of sustainable nature use and the adaptation ability to the changing environmental, economic and social conditions can be tested with the participation of all stakeholders.

As it is underlined in the Dresden Declaration on Biosphere Reserves and Climate Change, over 560 biosphere reserves are included into the World Network of UNESCO BRs in more than 100 countries as for today. An invaluable experience has been accumulated here, which is an important contribution to the sustainable development, in particular – to the global climate change mitigation and to the adaptation to it, and also to the biodiversity conservation.

Since launching the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Program and the establishment of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, the innovative approaches have been introduced in research, monitoring, and environmental education building the necessary capacity for this, improving the management system, implementing model projects that go well beyond only nature conservation, and these sites have become really great models for an environmentally-sustainable lifestyle.

THE ROADMAP, WHICH NEEDS TO BE SUPPORTED

In Ukraine, four biosphere reserves have been created and are successfully operating in different natural and climatic zones: the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, the Black Sea Biosphere Reserve, Danube Biosphere Reserve and Askania-Nova Biosphere Reserve. All of them contribute to the implementation of the strategies for sustainable development in Ukraine and serve as effective instruments for introducing the principles of green economy, providing ecosystem services, rational use of nature, climate change effects mitigation, etc. For example, according to studies held by the University of Vermont (CLUA), the primeval beech forests of the Uholka-Shyrokyi Luh massif of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve take the second place among the forests of the temperate zone (after the rainforests of the American Pacific coast) as for the greenhouse gases sequestration. In addition, according to the authors of the report drafted as a result of the Ukrainian-German project "Ecological management of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and solutions for modern challenges in Transcarpathia (Ukraine)", the natural ecosystems of the eastern part of Transcarpathia today constitute the European hotspot for wilderness, rich nature and functional forests. Their unique features constantly attract researchers, students, foresters and environmentalists from around the world. And the forests of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, that belong to the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property, "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany", now serve as a reference model for the European forest ecology and nature conservation.

No less important is the fact that, upon the initiative of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve's Administration during the International Scientific Conference "The Carpathian Region and the Problems of Sustainable Development" organized on the occasion of its 30th anniversary (Rakhiv, October 13-15, 1998), a truly historic Resolution was adopted, literally stating the following: "In order to create an international legal terrain in the field of nature conservation and socio-economic development of the Carpathian countries, the governments of these countries should develop and adopt the Carpathian Convention on Sustainable Development". And in 2003 at the Kyiv Conference of the Environment Ministers of Europe "Environment for Europe" this idea was implemented by signing the "Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians", which in 2004 was ratified by a corresponding Law of Ukraine.

Apart from that, due to our initiative, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine made amendments to its Resolution dated on September 12, 2002 "On submitting information to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on the status of the state policy implementation in the sphere of legal enforcement of the laws of Ukraine "On the protected area system of Ukraine" and "On the protection of cultural eritage", and on the official persons' compliance with the requirements of the valid legislation in terms of the Khortytsia National Reserve and other historical and cultural reserves and protected areas of Ukraine" an item concerning the development "of the State Integrated Program of sustainable development of mountainous regions of Ukraine by July 1, 2003". A bit earlier, with the active participation of the administration of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, the Laws of Ukraine "On the Status of Mountain Settlements in Ukraine" (1995) and "On the moratorium for continuous felling on the mountain slopes in fir-beech forests of the Carpathian region" (2000), the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On state support

measures for the implementation of the Integrated Program for Ecological, Economic and Social Development of mountain Rakhiv district for the period of 1998-2005" were adopted. In addition to that, in 2002, the Transcarpathian Regional Council adopted the "Concept of Sustainable Development of Zakarpattia region" (the only one of its kind in Ukraine), and in 2012 the Regional Council also adopted a special Appeal to the President of Ukraine as for the sustainable development and improvement of the mountain settlements of Zakarpattia located in the scope of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests of Germany", etc.

The scientific divisions and the whole network of ecological education and tourist information centers, created on the basis of the Carpathian biosphere reserve (the Museum of Mountain Ecology and the History Nature Use in the Carpathians, the Museum of Narcissus, the Center of Europe, the Carpathian Highland etc.) direct their activity at the development, promotion and implementation of specific sustainable development projects. The same objectives are being implemented by the periodicals published by CBR: an ecological popular-science magazine "Green Carpathians" (Zeleni Karpaty) and the Newsletter of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve. This topic was considered at almost two dozens of International Conferences organized by the Carpathian biosphere reserve and during the implementation of numerous international projects, etc.

A significant feedback from the wide public was received on the ideas on hosting the Winter Olympics in the Carpathians, and the creation of an "Ecological Davos" in Zakarpattia in the geographical center of Europe, the implementation of the sustainable forest management principles, and other ideas expressed by us on the pages of the newspaper "Holos Ukrainy" (The Voice of Ukraine).

Consequently, the future development of the Carpathian region depends to a large degree on the implementation of those developments that are being created and tested in the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve. According to the proposal made by us, some conceptual provisions as for the need to "sustain the socio-economic situation in the region, to provide the conservation of these unique natural ecosystems, as well as to secure the development of its powerful recreational potential, and create an ecologically friendly zone, which would be suitable for the creation of a national tourism and health-improvement complex" were introduced into the Resolution of the Government of Ukraine "On the development of the mountainous Rakhiv district" adopted in 1998. And today these conceptual provisions can serve as a road map for drafting and adoption of the State Program for Sustainable Development of the Carpathian region, which is compliant with the Resolution of the UN Conference" Rio + 20: The Future We Want".

2013.

THE ZAKARPATTIA REGIONAL COUNCIL ADOPTED AN APPEAL TO THE PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE ON BEECH PRIMEVAL FORESTS' PRESERVATION

According to Part 2 Article 43 of the Law of Ukraine "On Local Self-Government in Ukraine", the Law of Ukraine "On the Status of Mountain Settlements in Ukraine", the Framework Convention "On Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians", taking note of the information provided by the Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve Prof. F.D. Hamor, and considering numerous appeals from inhabitants of the region, the Regional Council on its second plenary session of the 11th meeting of the Council of the 6th convocation on December 21, 2012 (Resolution № 648), appealed to the President of Ukraine Victor Yanukovych with a request to solve the problems of sustainable development and maintenance of the high-altitude settlements of the mountainous part of Zakarpattia region, that are located in the vicinity of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany".

It was stressed in the appeal that in 2007 the UNESCO World Heritage Committee decided to include the Ukrainian-Slovak nomination "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" in the UNESCO World Heritage List. And in 2011, with the support of the Government of Ukraine, the natural oldgrowth beech forests of Germany were added to this Property. As a result, a unique transboundary Ukrainian-Slovak-German protected area of world importance appeared on the European continent.

The Ukrainian component parts of this Property belong the Europe's largest primeval beech forests protected by the Carpathian

Biosphere Reserve and Uzhanskyi National Nature Park in the Rakhiv, Tiachiv and Velykyi Bereznyi districts of the Transcarpathian region of Ukraine, and make up almost 70% of its total area. This is the only natural Property in Ukraine listed to the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee obliges the States-Parties to the Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage not only t secure a legislative protection of this or that Property, but also to ensure their integration into a regional or local spatial planning, and the provision of access to them for tourists. And therefore, in all countries of the world where such unique natural and cultural values are protected, as a rule, the tourist-recreational industry is actively developing, these factors are used to create an attractive image of the territories and increase the well-being of the population.

The primeval beech forests of the Carpathians are located in the geographical center of Europe, which is also characterized with a number of unique historical and cultural values. This region is considered to be one of the most beautiful places in the world by foreign experts. But, unfortunately, settlements that are located in the vicinity of the World Heritage Property are considered to be depressed mountain areas with underdeveloped road and tourist-recreational infrastructure and high unemployment rate.

Within this context, it was proposed to the President of Ukraine to issue a special resolution instructing the central executive authorities to take additional actions aimed at the primeval beech forests conservation and ensuring the sustainable development and improvement of settlements in the mountainous part of Zakarpattia, which located in the vicinity of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany".

2012.

PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE ORDERED TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF ZAKARPATTIA VILLAGES WITHIN THE VICINITY OF PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS

Based on the scientific justifications developed by us, thanks to the efforts of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, the Zakarpattia Regional Council, personally thanks to its Head Mr. Ivan Baloha, to the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO, the editorial team of the newspaper "Holos Ukrainy" (Voice of Ukraine), members of Parliament of Ukraine Victor Baloha and Vasyl Petiovka, on April 2 In 2013, the President of Ukraine Victor Yanukovych issued the Order No. 1-1 / 749 on the preservation of unique natural complexes, and ensuring the sustainable development of the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German natural UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany", and on development of mountain settlements of the Zakarpattia region, located in the vicinity of the Ukrainian part of the Property.

The country leader instructed the Prime Minister of Ukraine Mykola Azarov to organize the development of a draft memorandum between the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, the Ministry of Environment of Slovak Republic and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Protection and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany within the period till December 2, 2013, aimed at ensuring the preservation of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forest of Germany".

The President of Ukraine also demanded from the Prime Minister of Ukraine Mykola Azarov and the Head of the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration Oleksandr Ledyda to ensure: first of all, before June 3, 2013, to consider the issue of the railway connection renovation between the city of Kyiv and the town of Rakhiv (Zakarpattia region), secondly, during the period of April-September 2013 to develop a, action plan for ensuring sustainable development and improvement of mountain settlements of the Zakarpattia region in the vicinity of the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany", at the same time ensuring the development of tourist and recreational potential throughout the Zakarpattia region, and thirdly, by the end of 2013 to find solutions to the issue of collecting, storing and

utilizing domestic waste within the territories adjacent to the territory of the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German natural UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany"; fourth, until December 31, 2015 to ensure funding for the construction of the International Capacity-Building and Research Center for primeval beech forests and sustainable development of the Carpathians on the basis of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve; fifthly, to consider the problem of motorways repairing along with the elements of tourist and recreational infrastructure in the vicinity of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany", sixth, development and implementation of pilot projects on upgrading heating systems in mountain settlements of Zakarpattia region and shifting to alternative energy sources.

In addition, Viktor Yanukovych gave the task to the top authorities of the Government of Ukraine and the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration to ensure during the same period the implementation of measures aimed at restoration of the destroyed border crossing point across the Tisza River and create the necessary border infrastructure on the Ukrainian-Romanian state border in the village of Dilove of the Rakhiv district, Zakarpattia region.

It should be specially emphasized that the adoption of this Order by the President of Ukraine is an extremely important a step towards the preservation of the only UNESCO World Heritage natural site in Ukraine at the highest state level. And the full implementation of its provisions may not only significantly impact the real implementation of the sustainable development concept (which, by the way, includes the measures on overcoming unemployment and poverty) in the depressed mountain settlements of Zakarpattia, and the solution of the urgent social and economic problems, but also it undoubtedly will contribute to the development of a positive international image of our state. But we must also note here, that without proper organizational arrangements at the level of top authorities from the ministries and departments, as well as local authorities and self-government bodies, first of all the ones of the Rakhiv, Tiachiv, Velykyi Bereznyi and Khust districts of the Zakarpattia region, within the territories of which this unique UNESCO World Heritage Property is located, as well as the necessary financial support from the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, this remarkable initiative may only remain on paper. And, unfortunately, it has happened like this many times already. Therefore, I would like us not to lose this opportunity, especially since the process of the ecological, social and economic development of the Carpathian region is defined by the Law of Ukraine on the main principles (strategy) of the state environmental policy of Ukraine for the period up to 2020. The Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, and the Law of Ukraine "On the Status of Mountainous Settlements in Ukraine" also lay obligations to fulfill this.

Today, it is very important to work out a detailed plan how to implement the Order of the President of Ukraine, to determine the sources of funding, executors and the deadlines for the measures. A particular attention should be given to the Action Plan development, which is supposed to be approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine by October 1, 2013.

2013.

WHEN WILL THE TRAIN TO THE CAPITAL RUN THROUGH THE CARPATHIANS?

A new unique project was proposed to the Ministry of Infrastructure – to launch a train route from Kyiv to Rakhiv.

ATTRACTIONS OF THE «HUTSUL PARIS»

The region of the Ukrainian Carpathians belongs to the most environmentally vulnerable territories. In addition, it has always been affected by unemployment and poverty, and now hundreds of thousands of mountain dwellers feel a particular importance of the phrase, that "it is easy to breathe in the mountains, but it’s difficult to live here".

An excessive forest exploitation, which has been practiced here for centuries, has not brought prosperity to this region. On the contrary: it has led to the intensification of catastrophic natural phenomena. Floods, wind storms, bark beetle outbreaks have caused a great damage to the regional economy during the past decades. Therefore, there is a good reason for the issue

of reducing the clear-cuts in the forests together with reorienting the economy of the region to the environmentally safe methods of management to be urgently considered; the preservation of unique natural values and the development of tourism and recreation industry are recognized as priority directions for its development.

The activity of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the network of national nature parks is aimed exactly at solving these problems. An important step in this direction was the inclusion of the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians as parts of the transnational Ukrainian-Slovak-German serial natural Property into the UNESCO World Heritage List, because the Special Order of the President of Ukraine, adopted in this regard, obliged the Government of Ukraine and the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration to ensure proper conditions for tourism development, in particular, to repair roads, to improve the mountain settlements, to ensure launching the passenger train on the route from Kyiv to Rakhiv, and a number of other tasks like that.

A BEAUTIFUL DREAM BLOCKED BY THE UKRAINIAN RAILWAY COMPANY "UKRZALIZNYTSIA"

But in 2002, in connection with the International Year of Mountains, which was marked according to the decision of the UN General Assembly, the author of this lines in his article "A beautiful dream of a mountain train" ("Voice of Ukraine"/ Holos Ukrainy, March 2, 2002) raised the issue and provided justification to the Ministry of Transport of Ukraine on necessity of launching a passenger train "Hutsulshchyna" (Hutsul Land) along the route Kyiv-Rakhiv. And we should be grateful to the top-authorities from the Ministry for the fact that this initiative is not left unattended. It was decided to launch a trailer car Kyiv-Rakhiv as a part of the train Kyiv-Truskavets in 2003. This direct car, after staying in Lviv half a day, was then attached to the Lviv-Rakhiv train. It is clear that with such a timetable there were not many enthusiasts who wished to travel by this car. So, tt is not surprising that in 2005 it has been canceled as an unprofitable one.

This false decision adopted by the officials of Ukrzaliznytsia blocked the due consideration passenger transportation service for a large part of the Hutsul region for decades, and hence – the development of this important mountainous region of Ukraine was blocked too.

On numerous requests sent over the years by the local authorities, as well as the repeated articles in the newspaper "Voice of Ukraine" (July 13, 2011, November 16, 2012, May 31, 2013, Feb. 18, 2014) and even the Order of the President of Ukraine (№ 1-1 / 749 of April 2, 2013), the Ministry of Infrastructure reacted only formal with replies, the essence of which was that the trailer car Kyiv – Rakhiv was not profitable and, therefore, there was no possibility of launching a passenger train.

PROSPECTS

Recently, however, in the context of the aforementioned Order of the President of Ukraine on sustainable development of mountain settlements of Transcarpathia located in the vicinity of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany", the author of these lines, and also an enthusiast from Kyiv, an entrepreneur, and – as he calls himself – a fan of railway Mr. Ivan Shostak, with the participation and strong support of the first Minister of transport of Ukraine (1992-1994 pp.), Ukrainian Parliament member of the second and fourth convocations Mr. Orest Klympush developed and proposed to the Ministry of Infrastructure a new unique project of launching a train connection along the route Kyiv-Rakhiv. According to the opinion of the authors of the project, such a possibility appears in connection with the ratification of the Protocol on the Amendment of the Agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Moldova "On the Railway Transport Operation" by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on May 15, 2014.

According to this document, it is envisaged to shift the passenger transportation along the route Kyiv-Chernivtsi from the existing route via Ternopil to a fast-tracked route through Kamianets-Podilskyi and Moldova. This should have a positive impact on the transport connection between Bukovyna region and Kyiv. In this regard, it is proposed to launch the train Kyiv-Rakhiv instead of the planned abolition of the Kyiv-Chernivtsi (via Ternopil) train, thus keeping the existing route to the station of Zalishchyky (Shtefanyshty station), and then further direct it to Rakhiv via Horodenka, Kolomyia, Deliatyn Vorokhita.

... AND THIS WILL ENSURE A NEW ROUTE TO MYSTERIOUS TRANSYLVANIA!

According to the estimations conducted by the initiators, this train could carry almost one and a half million people. If we assume that the probability of this train usage by the local population will be only 10-15 percent, then taking into account the proportion of tourists (about 2.5-3 million people annually), who visit the area along this route (especially Yaremche and its vicinity, Rakhiv district and the adjacent territories of the Hutsul land), then there is doubt that this train will be used at all its capacity.

It is also important to emphasize that in favor of launching this train there exist a number of other important prerequisites. Firstly, in 2013, a reconstructed, comfortable railway station in Rakhiv was put into operation. Secondly, according to the Ministry responsible for the railway connection, the state of the railway infrastructure on the proposed route, 835 km long, today meets the requirements for passenger trains passage with the speeds as for the railways. Thirdly, there is a real possibility that the Romanian partners will be interested to turn the Rakhiv station into the "railway gates" to such a mysterious Transylvania, because it is the shortest way to it not only from the Halychyna region or Ukraine in general, but also from Belarus, Poland, and countries of the Baltics and Russia.

As for the latter: for launching the connection with the Romanian city of Cluj-Napoca (located just 200 km from Rakhiv, which is the capital of Transylvania, and the second most populated city in Romania), it is enough to include a trailer group of international train cars to the scheme of the existing trains Cluj – Valia Viseului – Sighetu Marmatiei and Lviv – Rakhiv (and in the long run, to the schemes of the proposed trains Kyiv – Rakhiv and Uzhgorod – Rakhiv – Chernivtsi – Khmelnytskyiyi). Later, in a similar way, it is possible to arrange a connection with the city of Brasov – the major tourist and industrial center of Romania.

It is important that for this purpose, the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine №1445 of October 18, 2006 approved Dilove – Valia Viseului as a border crossing point across the Ukrainian-Romanian state border. Another Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 629 dated on May 12, 2004, the border crossing Berlybash – Valia Viseului is defined as a potential crossing point at the Ukrainian-Romanian state border by railway, and this document also provides that the passage of Ukrainian transit trains on the Tomanian railway sections (the state border – Valia Viseului – Sighetu Marmatiei – Câmpulung la Tisa – state border) is defined by an Agreement between the railway companies of both states. The Ukrainian station Berlybash and, accordingly, the Romanian station Valia Viseului were recognized as border stations. And at the very end, the notorious Crimean events have made part of train stock vacant and the interest in Hutsul land as a great place for tourism and recreation among the population of Ukraine has increased.

Unfortunately, according to the officials of the Ministry of Infrastructure, an obstacle to launching trains passage along this route is the unfortunate experience of exploiting the unprofitable direct trailer car Kyiv-Rakhiv. But this argument, as Orest Klympush and Ivan Shostak think, is a wrong one, and it cannot serve as a reason for refusal to launch this train.

We agree with this a conclusion, and would like to use once again the pages of the popular newspaper "Holos Ukrainy" to address to the Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine and the local authorities of Zakarpattia, Ivano-Frankivsk and Ternopil regions to support this truly life-changing project not only for the residents of the mountainous regions, but also for many other people living in the west of Ukraine.

HISTORICAL REFERENCE

The Transcarpathian railway was built already back in the days of Austria-Hungary. By the way, on August 15, 2015 it would be exactly 120 years since the railway section Sighetu Marmaţiei –Trybushany – Yasinia was opened; this branch was connected with the already existing Voronenko – Nadvirna – Stanislaw (now – Ivano-Frankivsk) railway line. And along this railway, besides the intensive timber export, passenger trains began to run from Yasinia to Budapest, Prague, Vienna, Lviv, Chernivtsi and some other cities. Due to this, tourism had been actively developing here, and the town of Rakhiv had become famous in Europe. And, according to a well-known political and public figure of the Carpathian Ukraine, Mr. Stepan Klochuriak, this town was given a nickname of a "Hutsul Paris." And in Soviet times, special tourist trains from Moscow, Leningrad and Central Asia arrived here. With the proclamation of the independence of Ukraine, all these connections became, unfortunately, a forgotten story.

2013.

UKRAINIAN RAILWAY COMPANY "UKRZALIZNYTSIA" OPENS A NEW ROUTE KYIV-RAKHIV

"When will the train to the capital run through the Carpathians?" – This was the heading of the last publication in a respectable newspaper of June 11. And after it, on my initiative, on July 4, Mr. Orest Klympush, Mr. Ivan Shostak and some wide public representatives met the Director General of the State Administration of Railway Transport of Ukraine Mr. Borys Ostapyuk.

As a result of a long and complicated discussion, considering the convincing arguments we have provided, and taking into account the great importance of the Rakhiv-Kyiv train for the socio-economic development of a number western regions of Ukraine, in particular the Hutsul region, Borys Ostapyuk adopted a decision to launch a new branch of railway connection. He instructed Mr. Yevheniy Dykhne, the Director on passenger transport of the State Administration of Railway Transport of Ukraine (who, by the way, once worked as a conductor of the Lviv-Rakhiv train), to ensure the shortest possible time the implementation of this decision.

RETROSPECTIVE

For the development of the region in general and the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve in particular, with the active participation and support of the first Minister of Transport of Ukraine (1992-1994 pp.), Member of Ukrainian Parliament of the 2nd and 4th convocations Mr. Orest Klympush, as well as top central and local authorities, I was lucky to justify the launching of the passenger train along the Kyiv-Rakhiv route.

According to the Order issued by the President of Ukraine, dated on April 2, 2013 №1-1 / 749 "On sustainable development of mountain settlements of Transcarpathia, located in the vicinity of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property", a separate point contains an order to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine to deal with this issue. In the last period, a businessman from Kyiv Mr. Ivan Shostak has developed the route together with a draft timetable for the train taking into account the interests of the population of southern part of the Ternopil region and Pokuttia, who during the last years were deprived of long-distance trains and also need railway connections with Kyiv, thus providing an essential assistance in this case.

PERSPECTIVES

Launching of the Kyiv-Rakhiv train is expected in the first decade of August – after completion of the preparatory works. The target area of service for this train is the territories adjacent to the stations of the Ternopil-Chortkiv-Zalishchyky-Kolomyia-Deliatyn-Yaremche-Vorokhta-Yasinia-Rakhiv line. This will be the only long-distance train along this segment, which will be used conveniently by the tourists, students, and seasonal workers and other categories of passengers who travel to Kyiv, Kharkiv or Moscow, as well as in the opposite direction. The train will consist of twelve carriages – compartment and placecard cars. The proposed schedule is quite convenient, and during the transition to the winter time there will be an additional opportunity to improve it – the change of departure time from Kyiv to a later period – after 18.30.

I would like to specially emphasize, that the authorities of the Ukrzaliznytsya Public railway Company appealed to the initiators of this train with a request to actively promote and advertise the new railway route, attracting, in particular, travel agencies, and make every effort to make the train profitable. Therefore, it's worth reminding that traveling by rail is not only convenient, but it is also the cheapest way, and the new route of the passenger train will greatly contribute to the development of tourism in the Carpathians and improve life of the locals.

At the meeting there were also discussed the prospects of launching the international passenger railway connection between Lviv, Kyiv and the Romanian city of Cluj-Napoca, transforming the town of Rakhiv into the "railway gates" to the mysterious Transylvania and the "window" into the European Union as a whole.

2014.









Solemn meeting of the train Kyiv-Rakhiv (Rakhiv, August 4, 2014). International workshop dedicated to renovation of train connections through Rakhiv to Cluj-Napoka, Budapest and Prague (Rakhiv, September 4, 2014)



ACTION PLAN PROPOSED BY THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CARPATHIAN BIOSPHERE RESERVE WAS APPROVED BY THE CABINET OF MINISTERS OF UKRAINE

An action plan for sustainable development and improvement of mountain settlements of the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German natural UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" was approved by the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated on September 10, 2014 No. 819-p. The Ministries, other central executive authorities and the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration are tasked by this document to submit to the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade every year, by January 25, an information report on the state of this Action Plan implementation in order to summarize it and submit annually to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine by February 20.

It should be mentioned here that this extremely important and long-awaited Government's decision, adopted in pursuance of the Order of the President of Ukraine (No. 1 – 1/749 dated on April 2, 2013) initiated by us (with the assistance of the member of Parliament of Ukraine Mr. Victor Baloha and by the request sent by the Zakarpattia Regional Council dated on December 21, 2012). The aforementioned Order deals with preservation of primeval beech forests of the Carpathians, ensuring sustainable development and improvement of mountain settlements of the Zakarpattia region, located in the vicinity of the Property.

This given Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers tasks the Ministry of Infrastructure, the Ministry of Regional Development, the Ministry for Environment, the Ministry of Agrarian Policy, the Ministry of Energy and Coal Industry, and the State Agency of Ukraine for Water Supply, the State Tourism Agency and the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration during 2014 and subsequent years to carry out a series of measures for the preservation of primeval forests, as well as sustainable development and improvement of mountain settlements, in particular – to create proper conditions for tourist resources development in Zakarpattia region.

The issue of determining the list of motorways of local subordination in Zakarpattia region, that are leading to the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park, and submitting it for approval by the Cabinet of Ministers as the roads of national importance is set to the first place. The roads repair and improvement of road infrastructure within the territory of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park should also be carried out. The upgrade of heating systems of administrative buildings and multi-storey residential houses of public and communal ownership which are located in the vicinity of the Ukrainian part of the natural UNESCO WHO Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany " is also envisaged.

During 2014-2016, the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration, the Ministry of Regional Development, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the State Agency of Ukraine for Water Supply should provide planning and execution of works on river banks revetment and the implementation of anti-landslide measures, reconstruction of water treatment facilities and water supply infrastructure, reconstruction of sewerage networks and centralized and non-centralized drinking water supply networks in Rakhiv, and villages Kobyletska Poliana and Yasinia of Zakarpattia region.

The Zakarpattia Regional State Administration, the Ministry of Regional Development and the Ministry of Environmental Protection should ensure, in the current and next year, the development of the spatial planning schemes for the territories of the Velykyi Bereznyi, Perechyn, Rakhiv, Tiachiv and Khust districts, and also to solve the issue of collection and disposal of household wastes.

The paragraph 8 of the Action Plan is particularly important, as it instructs the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration, the Ministry of Economic Development, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Ministry of Agrarian Policy to consider attracting investments in 2015-2016 for the development of enterprises dealing with deep processing of wood, wild fruit, berries and mushrooms and other natural resources in Velykyi Bereznyi, Rakhiv, Tiachiv and Khust districts of Zakarpattia region. The Action Plan contains a number of issues devoted to the development of tourist and recreational potential of Transcarpathia.

First, it is supposed to evaluate the situation with the tourism resources of the mountainous part of Zakarpattia. Secondly, it is recommended to develop a regional program for protection and rational use of tourism resources. Thirdly, it is ruled to ensure

the establishment of tourist information centers and promote rural (green) tourism development.

In order to promote the natural Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany", the State Tourism Agency was tasked to ensure the dissemination of relevant information at the "Welcome to Ukraine" national tourism portal. The Zakarpattia Regional State Administration and the Ministry of Economic Development should constantly promote transborder co-operation within the territory of the Carpathian region.

Let's hope that this truly life-changing decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, under the support of local authorities, local self-government bodies and the wide public, will improve the lives of the mountain dwellers and will contribute to the preservation of the unique natural and cultural heritage of the Transcarpathian land.

2014.

PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS: WHY ARE THE PRESIDENTIAL DECREES NOT BEING IMPLEMENTED?

The interpretation of the tasks set by the President of Ukraine appears to be very strange, since the instructions given by the head of state to the Ministers and local officials regarding the sustainable development and improvement of the mountain settlements of the Transcarpathia are not fulfilled.

How to shame Ukraine in the eyes of Slovaks, Poles, Romanians and Germans? It has been almost a year since the approval (April 2, 2013) of the Order of the President of Ukraine Mr. Viktor Yanukovych (drafted by me) on sustainable development and improvement of mountain settlements of Zakarpattia region located in the vicinity of the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany".

This document was called unprecedented for our region by a group of the Zakarpattia Regional Council members in their special appeal addressed to the Prime Minister of Ukraine supported by the Rakhiv District Council, namely: Volodymyr Zakurenyi, Mykhailo Popovych and Mykhailo Tsiryk. And Minister of Economic Development and Trade Mr. Ihor Prasolov, after the approval of the Action Plan on January 15 by the Government of Ukraine (instead of the term specified by the President – on October 1, 2013), emphasized: "Implementation of the Action Plan will ensure the preservation of the Ukrainian part of the natural Property ("Primeval Beech Forests" – author), and will contribute to promotion of socio-economic development of the region, as well as increase the image of Ukraine in the international context".

LOOKS LIKE WE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE HAPPY…

After all, it was thought that everything would be provided the way it had been envisaged by the leader of our country, namely: connecting the mountain settlements with adequate – in the European sense – motorways, ensuring their sanitary cleaning, reducing the use of timber for heating, and much more measures were supposed to be carried out. First of all – the ones directed at development and improvement. And the local people would be able to feel that they for real live in a European country, which possesses a UNESCO World Heritage Property, and to get benefits and support from the state authorities for the preserved unique natural values of the global significance.

And we don't have to look for such examples in distant lands. It is enough to look at the rapid development and improvement of small border towns – the administrative centers of the Slovak and Polish protected areas located in Stakčín and Ustrzyki Dolne. And a real inspiration is an active development of road and communal infrastructure in the territory of the newly-created nature park in Romania "Maramures Mountains", in particular in the town of Viseu de Sus, where its administration is situated.

Against this context, in addition our German partners, the Ukrainian towns of Rakhiv, the Velykyi Bereznyi and other settlements located in the vicinity of the UNESCO World Heritage component parts look not simply very modest, but we can even say they have a miserable look.

SO WHY IS THE RAILWAY COMMUNICATION BETWEEN KYIV AND RAKHIV NOT RESTORED?

It is very disturbing that, while having not only the support but also the Orders issued by the top authorities of the country and the Government of Ukraine, individual officials of central executive authorities and local managers demonstrate a complete misunderstanding of the need to preserve the unique natural values of Zakarpattia. Moreover, while constantly stating the priority of tourism and

recreation development, they in fact restrain this process. Tell me, please, how else can you evaluate the unjustified failure of the Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine to fulfill the President's Order to restore the railway connection between Kyiv and Rakhiv?

Unfortunately, the position of the Zakarpattia Regional and Rakhiv District State Administrations was reduced only to the preparation of letters of appeal to Kyiv authorities. The deadline for this task has expired on June 3, 2013.

SO WHAT'S NEXT?

By December 31, 2013 it was supposed to deal with the issue of collecting, storing and utilizing of domestic wastes in the territories adjacent to the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage 9natural) Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany", which is extremely important for the development of tourism. And again only silence in response.

...AND NOT A SINLGE PILOT PROJECT WAS IMPLEMENTED!

Very strange is the interpretation of the tasks of the President of Ukraine and the implementation of measures to restore the destroyed border crossing across the Tisza River and the creation of the necessary border infrastructure along the Ukrainian-Romanian state border in the village of Dilove – in the geographical center of Europe. Some, apparently, seeks to arrange (instead of creating conditions for the development of these depressed mountain settlements and enhancing the international cooperation in the field of ecotourism) a "green" corridor for timber transportation at the border...

We hope that this year, after a comprehensive research and study of the implementation progress of Acts and Orders of the head of state by the Government bodies and local administrations, which will be held in accordance with the President's decree dated on December 31, 2013, the problems of the Carpathian primeval beech forests protection and the improvement of the adjacent will be finally resolved.

FACTS

Nothing is being done apart from the Action Plan approved by the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration. One of the key issues in the primeval beech forests protection, as well as the forests as a whole, is the reduction of logging, in particular with the purpose of obtaining fuelwood, and introduction of alternative sources of energy. To do this, the head of the state tasked the Cabinet of Ministers and the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration to ensure the development and implementation of relevant pilot projects. For example, for Rakhiv it is extremely important to use electric heating as an alternative, because there's a shortage in fuelwood. Several years ago, the Rakhiv Town Council prepared a project to target this problem. So why would not the Rakhiv District State Administration submit it to the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration and to the Ministry of Energy? Moreover, no pilot project has ever been proposed by anyone till this time.

2014.

WHY IS ZAKARPATTIA NOT AMONG THE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES…

...if the only in Ukraine natural UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany", as well as the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, and three national nature parks with their natural values, such as Hoverla Mountain, Lake Synevyr and the geographical center of Europe are the landmarks and brand identities for the whole country?

The governmental decree dated on August 6 has approved the State Strategy for the regional development till 2020.

This extremely important document defines the strategic planning process for the regional development, as well as its goals and implementation toolkit. The primary goals are to strengthen the competitiveness of the regions and to ensure the territorial socio-economic integration and spatial development of Ukraine.

To achieve these goals, taking into account the specifics of each individual region, it is envisaged t ensure the rational use of natural resource potential, preservation of cultural heritage and valuable natural territories, development of cross-border cooperation and border territories.

However, having read reading this resolution and comparing it with the State Strategy of Regional Development for the period up to 2015, one can notice significant changes in priorities for Zakarpattia region development.

It is very strange on our mind, that according to this Strategy, the issues of biological and landscape diversity preservation, reproduction of natural complexes, land and water resources, and the national econet formation are no longer

the priorities for Zakarpattia region (Annex 3). Nevertheless, this issue is still a priority for the neighboring regions.

Looks strange, but it is a fact. The rational use of recreational resources of the territories and objects of the protected area network with the aim of the economic environment formation and the development of employment is also not attributed to the development priorities in Zakarpattia. And this has happened despite the fact that the only for Ukraine natural UNESCO World Heritage Property is located here, namely "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany", as well as the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and three national nature parks with their unique natural values (Valley of Narcissus, Hoverla Mt., Lake Synevyr, Geographical Center of Europe and others) are the landmarks not only for Transcarpathia but also for Ukraine as a whole.

But the most surprising is the fact that Zakarpattia is not in the list of regions where the priority is given to "Consolidation efforts aimed at cross-border cooperation development, further strengthening of cooperation within Euroregions and intensifying activities directed at expanding the scope of such cooperation, eliminating infrastructural barriers and facilitating joint entrepreneurial activity within the border regions in the sphere of small and medium business". Does our region – like no other in Ukraine! – no longer border with the four EU states?!

Disturbing is the fact that in the section "Development of border territories" (Objective 2. Territorial socio-economic integration and spatial development) we do not find Zakarpattia region, neither we find it in the list of those administrative-territorial units of Ukraine, for which the important priorities are "Implementation of projects, aimed at raising the level of social and economic development of the border areas, improving their ecological status, developing border infrastructure, development of tourism, etc.", "Development of border infrastructure and cooperation between local and regional communities of the neighboring countries by means of development and implementation of joint border projects in social, humanitarian, economic, cultural and environmental spheres" and "Facilitation of the processes aimed at upgrading the living standards of the border regions to the Central European ones, and ensuring the free movement of people, goods and capital across borders, as well as promoting the unification of stakeholders' efforts in cross-border cooperation for solving common problems of the border regions and implementation of European integration activities at the regional level".

I, or any other citizen of Ukraine, is sorry to realize the fact why it has been decided to change the priorities of Zakarpattia development. But one thing is evident: if that really happens, then the unique natural values of this part of Europe will be irretrievably lost, and the socio-economic situation here, obviously, will not improve.

This formulation seems relevant in the context of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union, Chapter 6 of which emphasizes the need to strengthen environmental protection and the implementation of long-term goals for sustainable development and the implementation of green economy principles. And in the 7th Chapter the emphasis is given to strengthening the cross-border and regional cooperation. And it is exactly in the Transcarpathian region, which borders on four countries, it is extremely important i develop and implement programs for tourist and recreational sector development as an alternative to continuous logging of forests, as well as solving the serious environmental problems – in particular, prioritizing such issues as collection and utilization of waste, development of a reliable system for catastrophic floods prevention etc.

We are particularly disturbed and concerned by the draft decision of the Zakarpattia Regional Council on approval of the request submitted by the State Agency for Geology and Subsoil of Ukraine as for the auction sale of a special permit for the subsoil development aimed at oil, gas and natural condensate extraction in the densely populated Tereblia catchment area, which directly adjoins the Uholka-Shyrokyi Luh massif – the component of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany". According to experts, the development of these deposits will inevitably lead to pollution of freshwater sources, to the reduction of their horizons and to excessive urbanization of the protected area.

So, there might appear real threats of Zakarpattia transformation into a mining area with all the ecological consequences deriving from such activities...

THE IMEDIACY OF THE PROBLEMS

is also explained by the fact, that recently, an excessive lobbying of large-scale construction processes in Zakarpattia, including even within the

protected areas (e.g. hydroelectric power stations and the development of minerals) was conducted by individual business entities. These trends, contrary to the environmental legislation, are included into the spatial planning schemes of the Transcarpathian region and the corresponding districts. And in the National Program for the Development of Mineral Resources of Ukraine until 2030 an active exploration of subsoil with further extraction is foreseen even in the vicinity of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve.

SUGGESTION

There is a possibility of a mistake due to the haste or anything else, and then it would be probably reasonable that the state and local self-government bodies in Zakarpattia elaborate appropriate proposals to the Government regarding the necessary clarifications or revisions of the State Strategy for Regional Development for the period up to 2020.

2014.

THE NATIONAL COMMISSION OF UKRAINE FOR UNESCO TAKES CARE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION ADJACENT TO THE PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS

On March 24, 2015, under the chairmanship of the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Mr. Serhiy Kyslytsia, the 26th session of the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO was held. The director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve is also a member of this assembly together with the Deputy Ministers of culture, education and science, youth and sports, ecology and natural resources, and also the mayors of the cities of Kyiv and Lviv, top authorities of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, rectors of higher educational institutions, prominent activists of science and culture.

It is worth mentioning here, that UNESCO is a unique international organization that defines the strategy of cooperation of the states of the globe in the fields of education, science, culture and communication, and thanks to its international reputation moulds state policies of the state-parties in relevant fields and implements large-scale cultural, educational, informational and scientific programs.

Given that one of UNESCO's main tasks is the identification, protection and handing over to future generations the cultural and natural heritage of the whole world, active membership in the organization contributes to the long-term growth in the international image of a state-party, strengthening its influence in the humanitarian areas of the mankind's social activity.

Exactly in is in this context, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Chairman of the National UNESCO Commission of Ukraine Mr. Serhiy Kyslytsia and the speakers – Deputy Minister of Culture of Ukraine Mr. Ihor Likhovyi, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports of Ukraine Mr. Mykola Movchan, Director of the department dealing with the affairs related to the Ukrainians all over the world and cultural-humanitarian cooperation of the Foreign Ministry of Ukraine Mrs. Larysa Dir, and others spoke about the prospects of the commission's work for 2015, the preparation of the Ukrainian delegation to participate in the 196-th session of the UNESCO Executive Board, implementation of UNESCO resolutions on Crimean situation monitoring and preservation of UNESCO World Heritage Properties there, submission of proposals to the UNESCO International Registry "Memory of the World" and the issues related to the events dedicated to the 70th UNESCO anniversary celebration in Ukraine and others. The author of this paper raised the issue of biosphere reserves' activity and conservation of the only in Ukraine natural UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany". At our request, the agenda of the Commission for 2015 will include the items dedicated to the implementation of the UNESCO BR Statutory Frameworks and the Seville Strategy for Biosphere Reserves in Ukraine and integration of the UNESCO policy documents into the Ukrainian legislation. Another agenda item also provides "To ensure the implementation of the recommendations given by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee along with the Decrees of the President of Ukraine and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine aimed at conservation and sustainable development of the territories adjacent to the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German natural UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany".

The decision was made to launch an online publication of a newsletter by the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO, and the procedure for the patronage of the National Commission was approved.

2015.

THE NATIONAL COMMISSION OF UKRAINE FOR UNESCO IS CONCERNED WITH THE UNSATISFACTORY IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF PRESIDENTIAL AND GOVERNMENTAL DECREES ON PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS PROTECTION

First of all, let's recall here that the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO, established by the Decree of the President of Ukraine, is a permanent interdepartmental agency under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, and it coordinates and promotes the activities of ministries and other central executive authorities, organizations and institutions aimed at participation in UNESCO programs and resolving urgent problems of development of Ukraine in the humanitarian sphere, expansion of multilateral and bilateral international cooperation of Ukraine in the field of education and culture.

In this context, at the XVIII meeting that took place on September 17, 2015 in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, the progress of the National Commission's 2015 work plan and its previous decisions implementation was analyzed.

The information of the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine about the participation of the Ukrainian delegation in the 39th UNESCO World Heritage Committee meeting (June 28 – July 8, 2015, Bonn, Germany) was considered. It was mentioned, that the meeting in its special resolution highly appreciated signing of the Joint Declaration of Intent between the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine, the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation, Construction and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of Environment of Slovak Republic on cooperation in the sphere of protection and management of the joint UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathian (Ukraine and Slovakia) and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (Germany)".

The report of the UNESCO Chair of Human Rights, Peace, Democracy, Tolerance and Mutual Understanding Among the Nations was presented at the meeting held at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (students-environmentalists and students of its business school, too, by the way, have been coming on professional field excursions to the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve for many years), the progress of measures implementation as for celebration of the 70th anniversary of UNESCO at the national and international levels was presented, and other topical issues were discussed.

In his report made at the meeting, Doctor of Biological Sciences, Honored Conservationist of Ukraine, Deputy Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Professor Fedir Hamor, drew attention to the unsatisfactory implementation of the National Commission's Work Plan as for ensuring the implementation of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserves Statutory Frameworks and the Seville Strategy in Ukraine and the incorporation of UNESCO Program Documents into the Ukrainian legislation. It was emphasized, that due to the gaps in the Ukrainian legislation, by the decision of the International Coordinating Council of the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Program, almost all the biosphere reserves of Ukraine, including the Carpathian BR, were recognized as those that did not meet the criteria provided in the Statutory Frameworks of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

There was also discussed the issue of ignoring the recommendations made by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, as well as the acts issued by the President of Ukraine and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine regarding the preservation and sustainable development of the territories adjacent to the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany".

During the discussion on this topic, Deputy Chief of the International Coordinating Council of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Program and the MAB National Committee of Ukraine Pavlo Chirinko frankly stated that the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ukraine did not understand these issues and did not want to do anything about it, and this at the same time, for example, a pattern of the Law on the Activities of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves is being sent to Ukraine by the International Coordinating Council of the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Program already back in 2010.

Sharing the concern about the unsatisfactory state of execution of the acts of the President and the Government of Ukraine on primeval beech forests preservation and ensuring sustainable development and improvement of the mountain

settlements of Transcarpathia located in the zone of the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage site "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests Germany ", and the implementation of UNESCO program documents in the Ukrainian legislation, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, the Chairman of the National Commission of Ukraine On UNESCO Affairs, Serhiy Kyslytsia instructed the Secretariat of the National Commission to take the necessary response measures in this regard.

At the end of the National Commission meeting, some new issues on the online information bulletin of the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO were presented, the second issue of which – for 2015 – contains two articles of the author of these lines dedicated to the experience of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve in international cooperation.

The newsletter of the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO is available on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine in the "UNESCO" chapter.

2015.

THE NATIONAL COMMISSION OF UKRAINE FOR UNESCO SENT AN APPEAL TO THE CABINET OF MINISTERS IN CONNECTION WITH UNSATISFACTORY PERFORMANCE OF THE ACTS OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE ON CONSERVATION OF THE PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF MOUNTAIN SETTLEMENTS IN ZAKARPATTIA

On March 12, 2016, upon our request, the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO sent an appeal to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine regarding an unsatisfactory performance of the Acts of the President and the Government of Ukraine on preservation of the Carpathian primeval beech forests and sustainable development of the mountain settlements of Zakarpattia region.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Chairman of the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO Mr. Serhiy Kyslytsia, in his appeal to the Cabinet of Ministers emphasizes that the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, in its Resolution № 31 COM 8B.16, has listed the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians as the only natural Property from Ukraine into the UNESCO World Heritage List, thus recognizing them to be a unique phenomenon with an outstanding natural beauty and a natural site that plays a prominent role in the development and preservation of biological diversity.

And in 2011, by means of expansion of the given nomination, a transnational Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" was created.

In accordance with the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage dated on November 16, 1972, ratified by Ukraine on October 4, 1988, each state-party of the Convention undertakes to protect, preserve, promote and hand over to future generations the cultural and natural heritage Properties.

In pursuance of these commitments, the President and the Government of Ukraine approved a number of measures aimed at the preservation of unique natural complexes, ensuring sustainable development and improvement of the mountain settlements located in the vicinity of the Ukrainian part of the aforementioned World Heritage Property.

But, as it is shown by the analysis, most of the approved measures are not fulfilled by the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration and the relevant central executive authorities.

In this connection, based on the Paragraph 5 of the Regulations on the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO, as approved by the Decree of the President of Ukraine dated on March 26, 1996, No. 212/96, and with the aim to ensure the fulfillment of the Decree of the President of Ukraine dated on April 2, 2013 No. 1- 1/749 and the Decree of the Prime Minister of Ukraine dated on April 13, 2013 № 3626/1 / 1-13 on preservation of the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians, and the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1619-p dated on December 23, 2009 "On Approval of the Action Plan on preservation and development of the Ukrainian part of the UNESCO World Heritage (natural) Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians", and No. 819-p dated on September 10, 2014 "On Approval of the Action Plan on preservation and development of the Ukrainian part of the UNESCO World Heritage (natural) Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany", the Chairman of the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO

requests that the relevant interdepartmental meeting is to be called at the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine in the near future.

In the light of this situation, the Vice Prime Minister – Minister of Regional Development, Construction, Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine Mr. Hennadiy Zubko on March 21, 2016 asked the Ministry of Environmental Protection (H. Vronskyi), Ministry of Regional Development (V. Nehoda), Ministry of Infrastructure (A. Pyvovarskyi), the Ministry of Energy and Coal Industry (V. Demchyshyn) and the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration (H. Moskal), in a five-day term, jointly consider this request and make appropriate proposals to the Cabinet.

Under the instruction given by Hennadiy Moskal, on March 31, 2016 an urgent meeting will be held with the participation of the managers of the relevant departments and divisions of the Regional State Administration and the representatives of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park at the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration.

In accordance with the Articles 107, 117 and 119 of the Constitution of Ukraine, for the purposes of ensuring a complete implementation of the measures as provided for by the aforementioned documents issued by the President and the Government of Ukraine on preservation of the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians and sustainable development of the mountain settlements of Zakarpattia, we have proposed to adopt a separate Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, which would extend the deadline for these measures' implementation till January 1, 2020. Also, it is proposed to oblige the relevant ministries, departments and the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration to plan in the State Budget of Ukraine and the budget of the Zakarpattia region in 2017, and in subsequent years the necessary funds to fund the measures envisaged as by the Decree of the President of Ukraine dated on April 2, 2013 No. 1-1 / 749 and the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1619-p dated on December 23, 2009 "On Approval of the Action Plan on preservation and development of the Ukrainian part of the UNESCO World Heritage (natural) Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" and No. 819-p dated on September 10, 2014 "On Approval of the Action Plan on preservation and development of the Ukrainian part of the UNESCO World Heritage (natural) Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany".

2016.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEETING ON IMPLEMENTATION OF DECREES OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE REGARDING PROTECTION OF PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS AND ENSURING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR VICINITY TOOK PLACE

On April 27, 2016, at the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, on behalf of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and at the request of the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO, there was held an interdepartmental meeting dedicated to the implementation status analysis of the Acts of the President and the Government of Ukraine regarding preservation of the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians and ensuring sustainable development and improvement of the mountain settlements in Zakarpattia, which are located in their vicinity.



The implementation status of the Decrees of the President and the Government of Ukraine on primeval beech forests conservation is being considered at the Ministry for Natural Resources (Kyiv, April 27, 2016)

It is worth mentioning here, that in order to fulfill the requirements of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, as well as the Resolutions of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee regarding the inclusion of the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians in the UNESCO World Heritage List, the Acts of the President and the Government of Ukraine have obliged the Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Infrastructure, Ministry of Regional Development, Ministry of Energy and Coal Industry, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Ukrainian Public Motorway Development Company, the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration and other central executive

authorities to implement a series of measures aimed at conservation of these unique natural complexes, and the sustainable development and improvement of mountainous settlements of Zakarpattia, located in their vicinity, during 2009-2015. But, as it is noted in the report based at the information provided by the responsible executives as for the work results for the given period, the vast majority of items of the approved Action Plans have not been implemented.

Thus, in his speech at the meeting, the deputy director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve Prof. Fedir Hamor emphasized that out of eight points of the Order of the President of Ukraine dated on April 2, 2013, No. 1-1 / 769, five had not been fulfilled at all. And out of the 11 points of the Action Plan approved by the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on September 10, 2014, No. 819-p, practically nothing had been done for ten of them.

For example, according to the Decree of the President of Ukraine "On Additional Measures for Nature Conservation Development in Ukraine", thorough overhaul and reconstruction of access roads leading to the territories of nature reserves and national nature parks should have been carried out back in 2009. It was also ordered to include the roads leading to the primeval beech forests of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park into the list of the roads of national significance.

According to the results of the discussion, which was attended by the Director of the Department for Protected Areas of the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ukraine Dr. Ihor Ivanenko, managers of structural subdivisions of the Ministry of Regional Development, the Ministry of Fuel and Energy, the Ukrainian Public Motorway Development Company and the Ministry of Environmental Protection Oksana Sheremet, Alexander Sukhonosov, Tetiana Karpenko, Lyudmyla Vlasenko and Hryhoriy Parchuk, our request and the proposal prepared by the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration were supported regarding the need for the Government of Ukraine to extend the deadlines for the envisaged measures implementation till January 1, 2020 and to reserve in the State Budget of Ukraine for 2017 and subsequent years sufficient funds by the relevant ministries to finance the measures for preservation of the Ukrainian part of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" and for ensuring the sustainable development in the region of their location.

Apart from that, in the context of the opinions expressed at this meeting, it would be good if the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration, the Ministry of Regional Development and the Ministry of Natural Resources ensured the preparation and implementation a pilot project "Development of conservation and tourism-recreation infrastructure in the depressed mountainous settlements of the Zakarpattia region, located in the vicinity of the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage (natural) Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" within the framework of the State Fund for Regional Development in 2016-2020.

2016.

ANALYSIS OF ACTIONS IMPLEMENTATION AS ENVISAGED BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE TO PRESERVE THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY "PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS AND THE ANCIENT BEECH FORESTS OF GERMANY" AND TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF MOUNTAIN SETTLEMENTS LOCATED IN THEIR VICINITY

The world's largest primeval beech forests of Fagus sylvatica are located in Khust, Tiachiv and Rakhiv districts of Zakarpattia region, which together represent the only natural site from Ukraine included into the UESCO World Heritage List as parts of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany".

According to the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the state-parties possessing such Properties must ensure their protection, preservation and promotion of this cultural and natural heritage. But the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, in addition to the legislative protection of one or another object, also requires their integration into the regional or local spatial planning, providing access to them for tourists.

Therefore, in all the countries that house such unique natural and cultural values, as a rule, the tourism and recreation industry is being actively developed, and these factors are used to create an

attractive image of the territories and increase well-being of local population.

In regions where the natural Properties belonging to the World Heritage List are located, the development of ecotourism has started in most of the cases. The tourist infrastructure is being developed, social and economic life of the adjoining territories is being intensified.

For example, such processes are observed in the region where the Niagara Falls are located, or the Yellowstone National Park in the United States, and the Plitvice Lakes in Croatia, etc.

Exactly that is why, upon our initiative the following documents were adopted: the Decree of the President of Ukraine "On Additional Measures for the Nature Conservation Development in Ukraine" No. 611/2009 dated on August 14, 2009 and the Presidential Decree No. 1-1 / 749 dated on April 2, 2013 on the issues connected to preservation of the primeval beech forests and ensuring sustainable development and improvement of mountain settlements of Zakarpattia region that are located in their vicinity, as well as the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated on December 23, 2009 No. 1619-p "On Approval of the Action Plan of Measures for Conservation and Development of the Ukrainian Part of the Natural UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians, and the one dated on 10.09.2014 № 819-p "On approval of the Action Plan aimed at Sustainable Development and Improvement of Mountain Settlements located in the vicinity of the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO WH Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany", which suggested a toolkit aimed at preservation of these unique natural values and ensuring sustainable development and improvement of mountain settlements of Zakarpattia region, located in the vicinity of the Property.

However, since the adoption of the aforementioned legal acts of the President and the Government of Ukraine, little has been done to implement them. And although the next year we will mark the 10th anniversary since listing the Ukrainian Carpathian primeval beech forests into the UNESCO World Heritage List as the only natural site of this kind in Ukraine, there has been no positive progress in the development of the adjacent settlements.

The roads leading to the Uholka and Chornohora primeval forests are still in an unsatisfactory state. And the mountain settlements continue to suffer from unemployment and a number of unresolved problems connected to waste management and heating.

Therefore, at the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, in order to fulfill the instructions of Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine – Minister of Regional Development, Construction, Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine H. Zubko, there author of this publication (Hamor, 2015) initiated an appeal of the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO (a letter of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine dated on March 12, 2016 No. 203 / 13-187 / 094452) on preservation of the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians, and on April 27 and 29, 2016, working meetings were held with the participation of the representatives of the Ministry of Regional Development, the Ministry of Infrastructure, the Ministry of Energetics and the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration.

At these meetings, the state of implementation of the Decrees of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated on December 23, 2009 No. 1619-p "On Approval of the Action Plan for Conservation and Development of the Ukrainian Part of the UNESCO WH Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" and the one dated on 09.10.2014, No. 819-p "On Approval of the Action Plan for sustainable development and improvement of mountain settlements located in the vicinity of the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage natural Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany". Taking into account the achievements of the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration, the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park, the relevant proposals were prepared and sent to the Cabinet.

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved these proposals. Their implementation is supposed to lead to the fulfillment of the Action Plan approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1619-p dated on December 23, 2009 and No. 819-r dated on September 10, 2014, aimed at preservation of the primeval primeval beech and on the development of nature conservation and tourism-recreational infrastructure in the depressed mountain settlements of Zakarpattia.

In particular, in order secure preservation and development of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park, the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine will, in 2016-2020, direct there the funds under the Ukrainian-German project "Support to Protected Areas in Ukraine". And the Ministry of Finance together with the Ministry of Environmental Protection should, in 2017-2018, plan funds for the construction of the

International Capacity Building and Research Center for primeval beech forests of the Carpathians, and for the completion of the construction of an ecological and educational center in the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park in the state budget

Additional measures should be developed and approved to strengthen the international cooperation on scientific research of the primeval beech forest ecosystems of the Carpathians, and the necessary funds should be allocated for this purpose.

The Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Culture, the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO, and the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration on a regular basis should continue covering in the printed media related to the preservation of the properties belonging to the natural and cultural heritage of the universal importance, in particular, the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians, to intensify the activities aimed at raising public awareness on issues of the environmental protection.

Significant work should be done in connection with the non-fulfillment of most of the positions as indicated in the Action Plan for the sustainable development and improvement of mountain settlements in the vicinity of the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German natural UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" approved by the Cabinet of Ministers (Order No. 819-r dated 09/10/2014).

First, the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration will have to reapply to the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Ukrainian Public Motorway Development Company by the end of 2016 with the proposals for including the main access roads leading to the component parts of the World Heritage Property in the list of the public roads of the national importance.

Secondly, the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration and the Ukrainian Public Motorway Development Company should annually include the access roads to the World Heritage Property in the repair plans and ensure the repair and maintenance of road infrastructure within the territory of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and Uzhanskyi National Nature Park.

Thirdly, it was proposed to the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration to establish a regional development agency as a non-profit organization (NGO) with the purpose of an effective implementation of the state regional policy, the Standard Regulations for which were approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated on February 11, 2016 No. 258; to hold a meeting on switching the settlements to alternative fuel instead of wood sources (fuel pumps, solar panels, electric heating). Appropriate proposals for the implementation of pilot projects should be submitted with a proper co-financing from local budgets, and the project proposals for funding from the State Fund for Regional Development aimed at deepening the public-private partnership together with the technical project documentation and expert opinions should be prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Regional Development (Interdepartmental Coordinating Committee on the Regional Development). Every year there should be foreseen actions aimed at the development of depressed areas, and they should be viewed as priorities while drafting the final version of the Regional Strategy for Zakarpattia Region; to provide expenditures for 2017, and for subsequent years, for upgrading of the heating systems of the administrative and residential buildings of public and communal ownership, which are located in the areas adjacent to the components of the UNESCO World Heritage Property.

Fourthly, the National Commission, which implements the Government control in the fields of energy and utilities, will have to introduce special reduced tariffs on electricity for the inhabitants of the settlements situated in the vicinity of this Property by the end of 2016, in order to preserve the forests of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany".

Fifth, the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration and the Rakhiv District State Administration, in the local budgets for 2017 and subsequent years, should provide the budget lines for co-financing of the design and execution of works on river bank stabilization and the implementation of anti-landslide measures, reconstruction of water treatment facilities and water supply system, construction of sewage networks, centralized and non-centralized drinking water supply networks in the town of Rakhiv, and the villages of Kobyletska Poliana and Yasinya of the Zakarpattia region.

Sixth, the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration should constantly monitor the situation, so that in the development of the territorial planning schemes for the Velykyi Bereznyi, Perechyn, Rakhiv, Tiachiv and Khust districts of the Zakarpattia oblast the environmental components are taken into account as a matter of crucial necessity and in any case no economic activity that could negatively affect the preservation of the World Heritage Property should be envisaged.

Seventh, the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration is obliged to organize special meetings annually, to develop and implement individual plans of measures for ensuring the solution of the issue of domestic waste management in the territories adjacent to the World Heritage Property.

Eighth, the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration has to:

a) continue to work on attracting investments to open enterprises that carry out deep processing of wood, wild fruits, berries, mushrooms and other natural resources in Velykyi Bereznyi, Rakhiv, Tiachiv and Khust districts of the Zakarpattia region;

b) by the end of 2017, to evaluate the state of tourist resources of the mountainous part of Zakarpattia to develop a regional program for the protection and rational use of the tourist resources, to create new tourist information centers etc. Tourism development should be classified as one of the priorities for the regional development strategy of the Zakarpattia region.

Ninth, the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration, the Ministry of Regional Development and the Ministry of Environmental Protection should ensure the preparation and implementation of a pilot project on the development of nature conservation and tourism-recreational infrastructure in the depressed mountain settlements of the Zakarpattia region located in the vicinity of the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German natural UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" in 2016-2020 using the funds of the State Fund for Regional Development.

Tenth, the Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of Environmental Protection are obliged to constantly promote the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" on the national portals, to include the relevant measures into the agenda of the Council of Tourist Cities and Regions established by the Order of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade on 02.02.2016. No. 204.

And in the end, the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration, the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Ministry of Economic Development should submit proposals on the organization of a Ukrainian-Romanian border crossing point. Dilove (Ukraine) – Valea Vişeului (Romania) with the development of border infrastructure during the period of 2016-2020, and reconstruction of the bridge across the Tisza River in the village of Dilove, motorway and rail connections through Rakhiv to Romania, Budapest and Prague, as well as to continue work on the organization of a cross-border checkpoint Ulič (Slovak Republic) – Zabrod village (Ukraine).

In this context, the clarifications given by the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Regional Development, Construction, Housing and Communal Development of Ukraine are very important, as they clarify the order and sources of financing of the Action Plan for ensuring sustainable development and improvement of mountain settlements located in the vicinity of the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany", which have been sent to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ukraine on July 15, 2016 (letter No. 31-06130-04-3 / 20474), and August 2 (Letter No. 7 / 31-9600).

Thus, the Ministry of Finance explains that, in accordance with the Article 22 of the Budget Code of Ukraine, for the fulfillment of programs and measures implemented at the expense of the state budget funds, the allocations are provided to budget holders.

The main budget holder thus develops a plan of its activities, manages the budget funds within its budgetary authority, and provides efficient, high-performance and targeted use of the budget funds.

Taking into account the aforementioned facts, the implementation of measures aimed at preservation of primeval beech forests in Ukraine should be ensured by the main budget holders, that are responsible for their implementation within the limits of the expenditures approved by the Law of Ukraine "On the State Budget of Ukraine for 2016".

When informing the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine on the execution of the Order of the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers on the state of implementation of the Action Plan of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine for the Sustainable Development and Improvement of Mountain Settlements Located in the Vicinity of the Ukrainian Part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO WH Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient German Beech Forests of Germany", the Ministry of Regional Development, Construction and Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine (Minregion) also gives its clarification on funding for these measures.

According to the Law of Ukraine "On the Principles of State Regional Policy," the Ministry of Regional Development emphasizes, "the funds of the State Fund for Regional Development are one of the

sources to finance the state regional policy". Therefore, "proposals for the implementation of projects aimed at development of nature conservation and tourism-recreational infrastructure in the settlements located in the vicinity of the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests of Germany " at the expense of this Fund will be considered in accordance with the procedure established by Law, in case of their submission by the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration".

In addition, the Ministry of Finance emphasizes that "the Action Plan for the sustainable development and improvement of mountain settlements located in the vicinity of the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO WH Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests of Germany", approved by the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine 10.09.2014, No. 819, appoints the budget holders responsible for the implementation of the specified measures.

Therefore, it is now understood even better that the responsibility for organizing and financing of the action plans is stipulated by the aforementioned Acts of the President and the Government on preservation of primeval beech forests and sustainable development of the adjacent areas is carried by the respective ministries and departments, in particular the Ukrainian Public Motorway Development Company, the Ministry of Regional Development, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Energy and Coal Industry, the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, the Ministry of Agrarian Policy, the State Tourism Agency, the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration. And it depends only on them whether these vital measures will be carried out to preserve the unique UNESCO World Heritage Property in Ukraine and to ensure the development of the depressed mountain settlements in Transcarpathia, or everything will remain the same, that is, they will simply be ignored.

2016.

WITH PARTICIPATION OF THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT TO SUPPORT FOR PROTECTED AREAS OF UKRAINE HAS BEEN LAUNCHED

On October 10-11, 2016, a seminar was held at the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine dedicated to the report on the initial stage of the project "Support for Protected Areas of Ukraine", where the state and prospects for the use of the German financial assistance for the development of the protected areas and national parks in Ukraine were discussed in detail.



Participants of the workshop dedicated to the implementation of the project "Support for Protected Areas of Ukraine" (Kyiv, October 10-11, 2016)

First of all, it should be reminded that on February 3, 2016, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine ratified the Law of Ukraine on a financial agreement between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on financial cooperation in the framework of the project "Support for the Protected Areas of Ukraine" dated on April 10, 2015. The recipient of the funds in the amount of 14 million EUR, which are allocated by the German KfW Development Bank, is the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine (Ministry of Environment).

The main objective of the project is: to improve the management and effectiveness of the selected nature reserves and national parks, to deepen their cooperation with the local communities and increase the perception of the need to preserve their natural values among the wide public.

Within the project it is planned to allocate funds, primarily to finance the infrastructure development and strengthening the material and technical capacity for eight protected areas in the Carpathian region.

1.2 million Euro will be allocated to support the territorial communities located in their vicinity.

The project was officially launched on May 1, 2016, with duration of six years, until April 2022. The key partners in the project are the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ukraine, the administrations of the protected areas, representatives of local communities and NGOs, specialized state institutions and a Consultant consortium selected on the basis of an open contest, which includes the German company ATN GROUP AG, WWF, Frankfurt Zoological Society, Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Birds and contractors (suppliers of services, goods, construction companies, non-governmental organizations and auditors).

A phased approach will be used to implement activities in field. At the first stage, the project will be implemented in the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Nature Reserve "Gorgany", with the gradual involvement of other protected areas of high priority.

All this, as well as the main results and definition of further steps for the implementation of the project, with the participation of the top authorities of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the German Development Bank KfW, the Consultant, stakeholders (public authorities), representatives of wide public and protected areas, NGOs were discussed at the Ministry of Natural Resources on October 10-11 2016, at the seminar dedicated to the report on the initial phase of the project "Support for the Protected Areas of Ukraine".

On behalf of the Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine Ostap Semerak, the seminar was opened by the Director of the Department for Protected Areas of the Ministry of Ecology of Ukraine Dr. Ihor Ivanenko, who emphasized on the extremely important role of this project for the development of nature conservation in Ukraine, and expressed deep gratitude to the Government of Germany and the German Development Bank KfW for the financial support, which was vital for the nature conservation in Ukraine.

But the project manager of the Department of Energy and Natural Resources of the German Development Bank KfW, Frank Morschel, said that, unfortunately, in Germany, the provision of financial assistance in the field of nature protection in Ukraine is not a priority. Therefore, it is extremely important to achieve tangible positive results in the development and conservation of the nature reserve fund during the implementation of this project, in order to open up new opportunities for the next German environmental investments in Ukraine.

In the extensive reports delivered at the seminar, the chief consultant and financial management expert of ATN GROUP AG presented the structure and main chapters of the initial report, the structure and guiding principles of the project management, the annual work plan (including the procurement plan), etc.

The project technical consultant from the Frankfurt Zoological Society, Michael Brombacher, informed about the funding of the priority measures that would be implemented in the given year at the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Nature Reserve "Gorgany". He also gave much attention to the issues of developing land management plans for the protected areas, and proposed a concept of financial support for the socio-economic development of the territorial communities and a project to create a Trust Fund in Ukraine or the Carpathian region for the sustainable financing of the future needs for the protected area development.

Speaking at the discussion, the deputy director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Professor Fedir Hamor, supported the proposed concept of project management and the extremely important initiative suggested by Michael Brombacher to create an ecological trust fund. He also drew attention to the most important problems of the biosphere reserve and the surrounding territorial communities that urgently need the financial support. It is necessary to complete the process of the Management Plan preparation for the biosphere reserve, which, according to the proposals of the seminar participants, should become a model territory in management planning. The construction of the International Center Capacity Building and Research Center for primeval beech forests and sustainable development of the Carpathians should be financed as envisaged by the acts of the President and the Government of Ukraine, as well as finding of solving the problems of domestic waste management (first of all utilization of landfills on the banks of the Tisza river in the town of Rakhiv) and the introduction of alternative energy sources instead of wood in the settlements adjacent to primeval beech forest sites, etc..

The seminar also discussed the possibility of funding, at the expense of the project, the restoration of the Museum of Forest and the completion of the construction of the Rehabilitation Center for brown bears and other infrastructure facilities in the National Nature Park "Synevyr" and other protected areas for which the technical projects and cost estimation had already been made.

Within the framework of the seminar, a high-level meeting was held on the results of the report on the initial phase of the project "Support for the Protected Areas of Ukraine", which was attended by Director of the Development Bank KfW in East Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia Region, Eva Witt, the Deputy Ministers of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine Victor Kantsurak and Mykola Kuzio and other German and Ukrainian high-ranking officials.

The creation of an Advisory Committee and the Project Management Unit under the order of the Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine was agreed at the meeting together with the proposes to appoint the coordinator of the project – Deputy Minister for European Integration of the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ukraine Mykola Kuzio.

In conclusion, I would also like to remind you that the development of this project became possible due to our efforts on listing the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians into the UNESCO World Heritage List and due to the inclusion of the oldgrowth German beech forests.

For the first time, this idea was officially discussed, with our participation, in Bonn on November 17-19, 2009, during the meeting of the Ukrainian-German working group "Protected Areas for Biodiversity Conservation" (Zeleni Karpaty Magazine, No. 1-2, 2009, p. 41).

2016.

THE MINISTRY OF ECOLOGY OF UKRAINE CONSIDERED THE PROBLEMS OF PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS CONSERVATION IN THE CARPATHIANS

According to the Order of the Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine dated on September 14, 2015, No. 334 there was created a working group of the Natural Sciences and Natural Heritage Sector of the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO.

At the meeting of this working group, held on January 28, 2016, at the premises of the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ukraine, the issued related to the management of the World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" were discussed.

Director of the Department for Protected Areas of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine Dr. Ihor Ivanenko and the Deputy Head of the Research Department of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve Mr. Vasyl Pokynchereda informed about the implementation status of the Resolutions of the 35th, 37th and 39th meetings of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in connection with the expansion of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" by adding the primeval beech and oldgrowth forest sites from 11 European countries.

The proposals for inclusion of the primeval and oldgrowth beech forest sites from the NNPs "Synevyr", "Enchanted Land", "Podilski Tovtry" and the natural reserves "Gorgany" and "Roztochchia" into the World Heritage Property were considered and supported. It was recommended to send the relevant nomination files to the secretariat of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

The results of work and the implementation of the Resolutions of the Joint Management Committee of the Trilateral Transboundary Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians (Slovakia and Ukraine) and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (Germany)" (October 25-28, 2015, Snina, the Slovak Republic) and "About the state of execution of the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated on December 23, 2009 No. 1619-p, the Order of the President of Ukraine dated on 02.04.2013 No. 1-1 / 749 and the Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated on September 10, 2014 "On Approval of the Action Plan for sustainable development and improvement of mountainous settlements located in the vicinity of the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO WH Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" were reported by the deputy director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Professor Fedir Hamor.

In connection with the unsatisfactory performance of these acts of the President and the Government of Ukraine, the working group recommended that the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO and the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine send an appeal to the Prime Minister of Ukraine Arseniy Yatseniuk to hold an interdepartmental meeting on solving the problems of primeval beech forests protection and ensuring the sustainable development and improvement of mountain settlements located in the vicinity of of the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests of Germany".

A keen discussion took place on the problems of the UNESCO World Heritage Property's component "Stuzhytsia-Uzhok" conservation status, located in the territory of Uzhanskyi National Nature Park.

Director of the Uzhanskyi NNP Viktor Byrkovych and the head of the working group which had been established on this subject at the Ministry of Ecology of Ukraine, Professor Fedir Hamor.

The working group supported the immediate cessation of any economic activities in this component part of the World Heritage Property. The administration of the Uzhanskyi NNP, together with the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, was obliged to shape the core area of the component "Stuzhytsia-Uzhok" in accordance with the nomination dossier on the area of 2592 hectares.

The working group supported the proposals as for the approval of the personal membership of the National Management Committee for the World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" by the order of the Ministry of Ecology of Ukraine, and appointing the administration of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve as a responsible institution.

The working group also discussed the research work of the Public Ecological Academy of Post-Graduate Education at the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine, on the topics connected to the problems which the working group was dealing with.

2016.

CRUCIAL PROBLEMS OF IMPROVING ECOLOGICAL SITUATION IN ZAKARPATTIA (TRANSCARPATHIA)

On December 2, 2016, the Department of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration held a scientific conference "Ecological Governance in Zakarpattia: state and prospects of its development" in Vynohradiv.



The Presidium of the Conference (from the left to the right): Head of the Vynohradiv District State Administration Mykhailo Rusanyuk, Deputy Head of the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration Victor Mykulin and Director of the Department of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration Serhiy Rishko (Vynohradiv, December 2, 2016)

The leaders of the Zakarpattia Regional and Vynohradiv District State Administrations and the Vynohradiv Town Council, scientists, managers and responsible representatives of the Department of Ecology and Natural Resources of the State Administration and the State Ecological Inspectorate in Zakarpattia region, protected areas' administrations of Transcarpathia, NGOs and state forest enterprises took part in it.

The conference was opened by the Director of the Department of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration Serhiy Rishko. Doctor of Law, professor, deputy chairman of the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration Victor Mykulin and head of the Vynohradiv district state administration Mykhailo Rusanyuk addressed to the audience; they drew attention to the main ecological problems of Zakarpattia and the work of local bodies of the public executive authorities on their solution.

Doctor of Biological Sciences, Professor, Honored Conservationist of Ukraine, Deputy Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve Fedir Hamor, reported on "Status of the implementation of the acts of the President and the Government of Ukraine on preservation of primeval beech forests of the Carpathians as a UNESCO World Heritage Property and sustainable development of mountain settlements of Zakarpattia" and about "Implementation of measures aimed at development of the management plan for the territory of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, taking into account the interests of the local communities".

He particularly emphasized that within the limits of the Rakhiv, Tiachiv, Khust and Velykyi Bereznyi districts of the Zakarpattia region the world largest primeval beech forests are located, which are the only natural UNESCO WH Property of Ukraine, which are parts of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" listed into the UNESCO World Heritage List.

According to the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the countries owning such properties must ensure protection, preservation and promotion of the cultural and natural heritage. But the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, in addition to the legislative protection of a particular Property, also requires their integration into regional and local spatial planning, ensuring access of tourists to them.

In this regard, the President and the Government of Ukraine approved the relevant Resolutions, Decrees and Orders that adopted a set of measures aimed at preservation of these unique natural values and ensuring the sustainable development and improvement of the mountain settlements of Zakarpattia located in the vicinity of the Property.

But, unfortunately, Fedir Hamor emphasized, since their adoption in 2009 and 2014, responsible ministries and departments of Ukraine and the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration have done very little to implement them.

He described in detail the unsatisfactory performance of each item of the aforementioned legal acts of the President and the Government of Ukraine. For example, the roads that lead to the UNESCO World Heritage site are still in poor condition, there exist unresolved problems with household waste, no alternatives to timber as fuel at the households located in the area of primeval beech forests' location, etc.

In order to eliminate the faults in fulfilling the aforementioned legal acts of the President and the Government of Ukraine the relevant proposals have been developed in the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ukraine and the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration, which are once again approved by the Cabinet of Ministers, Order No. 203 / 13-187 / 094-452 dated on March 12.

Commenting on this situation, Victor Mykulin stressed that the abovementioned problems were among the priorities for the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration and that further decisive actions will be taken to solve them.

However, in this regard, they expressed concerns about the lack of agreement among the members of the Zakarpattia Regional Council on the need in creation of a Zakarpattia Regional Development Agency, which according to the Model Provisions for the Agency for Regional Development (approved by the Cabinet of Ministers, Decree No. 258 of 02.11.2016) had to develop programs and projects for the effective implementation of the state regional policy in this context.

Victor Mykulin critically characterized the state of compliance with the ecological legislation in the forestry sector and in solving the problems of the mountain resort "Drahobrat", unsatisfactory work on the expansion of the protected area system, especially the "Enchanted Land" national nature park. A special attention was paid to the need of taking more decisive actions, within the framework of the current legislation, regarding the issues of allocation of land plots for public needs, location of waste processing enterprises, etc.

Ostap Tsapuklyuk, deputy head of the State Environmental Expertise and Environmental Monitoring Department of the Department of Ecology and Natural Resources of the RSA, chief forestry officer of the National Nature Park "Zacharovyi Kray" (Enchanted Land) Ivan Shishkanynets, deputy director of the NNP "Synevyr", Yuriy Tiukh, Director of the Vynogradiv State Forestry Enterprise Mr. Vasyl Agiy and others took floor at the conference.

The conference adopted relevant recommendations. Its materials are supposed to be published.

2016.

UP-TO-DATE PROBLEMS OF PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS CONSERVATION IN THE CARPATHIANS AND INTENSIFICATION OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNESCO BIOSPHERE RESERVES ARE CONSIDERED BY THE MINISTRY OF ECOLOGY OF UKRAINE

On December 21, 2016, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine discussed the up-to-date issues of preservation of the UNESCO World Heritage Property, which is unique for Ukraine, "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" and intensification of the cross-border cooperation of biosphere reserves in Ukraine.

It is worth mentioning, that in order to optimize the activities of the Natural Sciences and Natural Heritage Sector of the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO, by the order of the Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine Ostap Semerak, a working group has been set up, which includes leading Ukrainian scientists, heads of departments of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the National Committee of Ukraine on the UNESCO "Man and Biosphere" Program, protected areas, representatives of local executive bodies and the wide public.

At the meeting of this working group, on December 21, 2016, a set of issues related to the conservation status of the UNESCO World Heritage Property, unique for Ukraine, "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians (Slovakia and Ukraine) and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (Germany)" was considered. The international aspects of stipulating the cooperation of Ukrainian transborder UNESCO biosphere reserves and long-term work plans for implementation of the Lima Action Plan for the UNESCO "Man and the Biosphere" Program for the years 2016-2025 in Ukraine, which had been recently adopted by the UNESCO General Conference, were considered too.

When opening the meeting, Deputy Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine on European Integration, Vice-Chairman of the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO Mykola Kuzio first of all drew special attention to the need to strengthen the responsibility of the central and local executive authorities for the execution of acts of the President and Government of Ukraine on conservation of the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians and the Government's Action Plan for sustainable development and improvement of mountain settlements located in the vicinity of the Ukrainian parts of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests of Germany".

He also praised the results of the IUCN expert mission to ten European countries that had been held that year in order to consider the compliance with the World Heritage criteria of the oldgrowth beech forest sites proposed for the expansion of the World Heritage Property under the new name "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe", including the ones from the nature reserves "Gorgany" and "Roztochchia", National nature parks "Synevyr", "Enchanted Land" and "Podilski Tovtry".

The report of the member of the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO Doctor of Biological Sciences, Professor, Deputy Director of the CBR Fedir Hamor highlighted the work on the joint implementation of the decisions taken by the Joint Management Committee of the trilateral transboundary Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany", the state and proposals for the implementation of the relevant Acts of the President and the Government of Ukraine, prospects for the creation of a cross-border Ukrainian-Romanian Biosphere Reserve in the Maramures mountains and informed about the progress of the expansion of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" (in co-report with the deputy chief of research and sustainable development department of CBR Mr. Vasyl Pokynchereda), etc.

At the suggestion made by F. Hamor, the working group discussed the construction of the International Capacity Building and Research Center for primeval beech forests and sustainable development of the Carpathians on the basis of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, at the expense of the Ukrainian-German project "Support for the Protected Areas in Ukraine".

In addition, the reports of the director of the Department for Protected Areas of the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ukraine Dr. Ihor Ivanenko, directors of the Uzhanskyi and Shatskyi national nature parks Viktor Birkovych and Volodymyr

Zakharko, the head of the department for the PA network formation of the Ministry of Natural Resources Dr. Hryhoriy Parchuk concerning the participation of the Ukrainian delegations in the meetings of the coordination councils of the transboundary biosphere reserves "Eastern Carpathians" (Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia), "Western Polissia" (Ukraine, Belarus, Poland) and "Danube Delta" (Ukraine, Romania), and preparation of the proposals for the implementation of the Strategy and the Lima Action Plan of the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Program for 2016-2025 and approval of the work plan for 2017 work group were considered during the meeting.

Other topical issues on activation of transborder cooperation within the framework of the World Heritage Convention and the UNESCO Program "Man and the Biosphere" were considered, the relevant decisions were made.

2016.

THE MINISTRY OF ECOLOGY DISCUSSED THE PROBLEMS OF PRESERVING PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS AND MEASURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LIMA ACTION PLAN UNDER THE UNESCO MAN AND BIOSPHERE PROGRAM IN UKRAINE

On June 6, 2017 in Kyiv, at the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, a working group meeting of the Natural Sciences and Natural Heritage Sector of the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO was held, which addressed the most urgent issues of preserving the natural heritage in Ukraine and the implementation of the Lima Action Plan of the UNESCO Program "Man and Biosphere".

At the meeting of the working group, an interim Director of the Department of Ecological Network and Protected Areas Network of the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ukraine, Hryhoriy Parchuk, and the Advisor to the Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine Mr. Viktor Klid, first of all informed about the progress made in implementing the requirements of the Convention and the decisions of the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO as for conservation of the World Heritage natural Property, and drew attention to the primary tasks of the authorities in this context.

The progress of the execution of the acts of the President and the Government of Ukraine on the preservation of the Carpathian primeval beech forests and the clarification of the borders configuration for the component part "Stuzhytsia-Uzhok" (Uzhanskyi National Nature Park) of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany".

When reporting on this issue, the member of the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO, Deputy Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Doctor of Biological Sciences, Professor Fedir Hamor noted that recently a number of additional measures had been taken to intensify this work. So, on March 1, 2017 the progress of these Government decisions' fulfillment was analyzed at a special meeting held in the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration.

As a result, in particular, the Zakarpattia Agency for Regional Development and Transfrontier Cooperation was tasked to prepare and implement in 2017-2020, within the frameworks of the State Fund for Regional Development, a pilot project on the development of nature conservation and tourism-recreational infrastructure in depressed mountain settlements of the Zakarpattia region, located in the vicinity of the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German natural UNESCO WH Property. Works had been started on repairing the road leading to the Uholka primeval beech forests (Mala Uholka). Due to excessive income of customs payments, funds are allocated for the repairs and other roads leading to the Chornohora (Rakhiv-Bohdan-Luhy) and Svydovets (Luh-Kosivska Poliana) massifs of the WH Property.

The issue of funding the construction of the International Capacity Building and Research Center for Primeval Beech Forests and the Sustainable Development of the Carpathians in Kvasy village and on the organization of the Ukrainian-Romanian border crossing point in Dilove (Ukraine) – Valea Viseului (Romania) with relevant border crossing infrastructure were raised again.

It was also reported that the decision of the Head of the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration supported the proposal of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve to hold an international conference on the topic "10th Anniversary of the UNESCO World

Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" Designation: history, state and problems of the integrated management system implementation" in Rakhiv on September 26-29, 2017, as well as the establishment of an organizing committee headed Viktor Mykulin, Deputy Head of the Regional State Administration under the patronage of the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO.

The meeting also considered the issues regarding the fulfillment of measures taken to implement the Strategy and the Lima Action Plan of the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Program for the period up to 2025 in Ukraine, the state of preparations for the meeting of the Joint Management Committee of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" in Ukraine, the progress of the expansion of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property" Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" and the perspectives of preserving in this context the oldgrowth forests of the National Nature Park "Podilski Tovtry", preparation of a national periodical report by the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park as a part of the transboundary biosphere reserve "East Carpathians", the creation of the Ukrainian-Polish biosphere reserve "Roztochchia", preparations for the 5th meeting of the Coordination Council of the Belarusian-Polish-Ukrainian Biosphere Reserve "Western Polissia" and others.

Information notes and presentations were made by deputy chairman of the International Coordinating Council of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Program Dr. Pavlo Cherinko, member of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine Yakiv Didukh, director of the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park Viktor Birkovych, Deputy Head of the Department of Research and Sustainable Development of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve Mr. Vasyl Pokynchereda and others.

The working group adopted relevant decisions and recommendations.

2017.

THE ZAKARPATTIA REGIONAL STATE ADMINISTRATION TOOK CONTROL OVER EXPANSION OF THE CARPATHIAN BIOSPHERE RESERVE TERRITORY AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTS OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SETTLEMENTS ADJACENT TO THE BEECH PRIMEVAL FORESTS

The Zakarpattia Regional State Administration conducted an analysis and considered the issue of expanding the territory of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the state of execution of the acts of the President and the Government of Ukraine on ensuring sustainable development of mountain settlements in the vicinity of the primeval beech forests.

On March 22, 2017, in the Transcarpathian Regional State Administration at the meeting of the special working group chaired by the Deputy Head of the Administration Dr. Victor Mykulin, which had been created by the order of the head of the Regional State Administration Hennadiy Moskal, the issues of the expansion of the territory of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve were considered.

Reporting on this issue, the deputy director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Professor Fedir Hamor, firstly, emphasized that the implementation of this important environmental project is being carried out in compliance with the requirements of the Law of Ukraine "On the Basic Principles (Strategy) of Environmental Policy of Ukraine for the Period until 2020", the State regional development strategies for the period till 2020 (approved by the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated on August 6, 2012 № 385), the order of the head of the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration dated on November 22, 2012 "On the Regional Action Plan on Environmental Protection in Zakarpattia region" and the relevant orders of the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine Mr. Ostap Semerak on August 22, 2016.

Secondly, it was reported that as a result of the inventory of the most valuable natural forests (primeval forests) of the Transcarpathian region held in 2006-2007, with the support of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine and the State Forestry Committee of Ukraine, in

the framework of the Ukrainian-Dutch project "Primeval forests of Transcarpathia as core areas of the pan-European ecological network", it has been discovered that primeval forests in Zakarpattia make up about 10% of its forest covered area. It was identified that the largest areas of primeval forests, not only in Zakarpattia, but also in the whole Ukraine, are concentrated in Tiachiv district (22 582 hectares). But over 12 000hectares, right on the border with the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, belong to the managed forests and do not have a national protection status.

This situation leads to them being logged. By the way, as the research shows, only from 1997 to 2007 in the Rakhiv, Tiachiv and Khust districts the surface of primeval forests has decreased by almost 10 %. Therefore, the inclusion of primeval forest sites and natural oldgrowth forests of the Krasna mountain massif, which are planned for territory expansion of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, will guarantee their long-term preservation.

In general, the working group supported the project proposal made by the administration of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve on the expansion of its territory, by adding the forests of the Mokrianske State Forestry and Hunting Enterprise in Tiachiv District, with an approximate area of about 9,000 hectares. It is ordered to finalize the materials on the expansion, taking into account the comments of stakeholders and send the dossier to the Zakarpattia Regional Department of Forestry and Hunting and the administration of the Mokrianske State Forestry and Hunting Enterprise to obtain a prior approval.

The resolution adopted at the meeting with representatives of the Departments for housing, utilities, and communal property, the Economic Development and Trade; departments of foreign economic relations, investments and cross-border cooperation; Urban planning and architecture; tourism and resorts of the Regional State Administration; Department of basin management of the Tisza River water resources; the leaders of the Rakhiv district state administration, the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park, which took place on March 1, 2017 at the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration was also very important.

At the meeting, the deputy head of the Regional State Administration Dr. Viktor Mykulin and the director of the Department of Ecology and Natural Resources Serhiy Rishko critically analyzed the state of execution of the Acts of the President and Government of Ukraine on the issues of sustainable development and improvement of mountain settlements located in the vicinity of the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German natural UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany".

Because of the financial difficulties, the meeting supported the initiative of the author of these paper regarding founding the Communal Company "Agency for Regional Development and Cross-Border Cooperation of Zakarpattia" in 2017-2020, within the frameworks of the State Fund for Regional Development, and the pilot project on the development of nature conservation and tourism-recreation infrastructure in the depressed mountain settlements of the Zakarpattia region, located in the vicinity of the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany".

Other proposals made by us for resolving the problems of financial support for the construction of the International Capacity Building and Research for Primeval Beech Forests and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians in the Kvasy Mountain Resort, and conducting an international scientific conference on the occasion of the 10th anniversary since the inclusion of the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Properties, as well as establishing the Ukrainian-Romanian border crossing point in the villages of Dilove (Ukraine) – Valea Vseului (Romania) with the appropriate border infrastructure, etc. were supported as well.

2017.

AT THE MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION OF UKRAINE FOR UNESCO NECESSITY OF BUILDING THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CENTER FOR PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS IN TRANSCARPATHIA WAS SUPPORTED

On February 7, 2017, in Kyiv, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, 21st session of the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO was held, chaired by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Chairman of the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO S.O. Kyslytsia, which discussed a wide range of issues connected to the international cooperation of Ukraine within the framework of UNESCO.

An particular, the reports were made regarding the activities of the sectors of the National Commission in 2016, priorities of its work in 2017, progress in implementing the previous decisions, the issue of Ukraine's accession to the Second Protocol of the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954), etc., were heard.

Presentations on these issues were made by the heads of the sectors of the National Commission on Culture and Cultural Heritage – First Deputy Minister of Culture of Ukraine Svitlana Fomenko, Education – First Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine Volodymyr Kovtunets, Vice-President of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Academician Anatoly Zahorodnyi, Youth Policy – Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports of Ukraine Mykola Movchan, Deputy Head of the Natural Sciences and Natural Heritage Sector, Director of the Department for Protected Areas of the Ministry of Ecology of Ukraine Dr. Ihor Ivanenko, etc.

At our request, the issues regarding construction of the International Capacity Building and Research Center for Primeval Beech Forests and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians on the basis of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the celebration of the 10th anniversary since inclusion of the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians into the UNESCO World Heritage List were considered.

Informing the participants of the meeting about this, Deputy Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Doctor of Biological Sciences, Professor Fedir Hamor emphasized that despite the requirements of the Article 5 of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the Order of the President of Ukraine dated on 02.04.2013 No. 1-1 / 749 regarding protection of the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians as a UNESCO World Heritage Property, the Action Plan approved by the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated on December 23, 2009 No. 1619-p, and the order of the Cabinet of Ministers of March 21, 2016 No. 9026/1 / 1-16, the necessary funds were not allocated for the construction of the International Capacity Building and Research Center for primeval beech forests and sustainable development of the Carpathians at the CBR in the mountain resort village of Kvasy.

And this facility, should play a coordinating role in the network of educational centers of all countries, where the World Heritage primeval beech forests are located in accordance with the Joint Declaration of Intent between the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine, the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic and the Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany on cooperation in the field of protection and management of the common UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians (Slovakia and Ukraine) and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (Germany)" and the Development Strategy for a network of capacity building and research centers of primeval beech forests, which was specially developed by German experts in the framework of the Ukrainian-German-Slovak project "Sustainable Management of Territories Adjacent to the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians".

The urgency of this Center's construction is growing also due to the expansion of the World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" by adding the primeval forest sites from 11 other European countries (Spain, Italy, Austria, Belgium, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Romania and some others) and its reorganization into a new World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and other Regions of Europe".

In this regard, we requested to carry out the construction of this important Center at the expense of the Ukrainian-German project "Support for Protected Areas in Ukraine".

We also requested that the international scientific and practical conference "The 10th

Anniversary Since Designation of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany": history, status and problems of the integrated management system implementation" (September 26-29, 2017, Rakhiv), would be held under the auspices of the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO, as it would be attended by about 200 people, representing the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCIN), academics, authorities and the wide public from 22 European countries.

The National Commission adopted the relevant decisions on the issues discussed.

2017.

IN THE CONTEXT OF THE WORK CONDUCTED UNDER THE INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY "PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS AND THE ANCIENT BEECH FORESTS OF GERMANY" IMPLEMENTATION OF A NEW UKRAINIAN-SWISS SCIENTIFIC PROJECT BEGINS

In this regard, on April 4, 2017, a work meeting took place at the administration of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve with the participation of scientists from the Swiss Federal Institute of Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL), the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the National Forestry University. And on April 5, 2017, the scientific and organizational aspects of this project implementation were discussed at a meeting of the Scientific-Technical Council of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve.

Speaking at the meeting, the head of one of WSL research departments and a Research Fellow, Peter Brang and Jonas Stillhard, informed that the project "Ukrainian-Swiss Cooperation in Forest Research" was based on long-term and successful cooperation between the Ukrainian and Swiss scientists and was aimed at strengthening the potential of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and deepening research of forests ecosystems.

The project was developed in accordance with the strategic directions of the WSL and the Swiss Federal Environmental Protection Agency (FOEN).

The leading institution for its implementation is WSL. Partners will be: the Swiss School of Agricultural, Forestry and Food Sciences (HAFL, Zollikofen) and the Center for Development and Environment (CDE, Bern), and from the Ukrainian side – the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, the National Forestry University and the Agency for the Sustainable Development of the Carpathian Region (FORZA).

The future research activities in Ukraine will be complemented by similar research activities in Switzerland, which will secure a significant synergy effect.

The project envisages the elaboration of the issue connected to the use of the Uholka-Shyrokyi Luh primeval forests as a "hot spot" for science and exchange of knowledge in the field of education and research, capacity-building for young scientists and the creation of a synergy effect in all projects on this topic.

During 2017-2020, a next inventory of permanent forest inventory plots will be conducted, the role of primeval forests as standards for forest biodiversity will be studied together with the causes for beech forest dominance, and using special remote studies (using LiDAR technology) a model of vegetation and relief in the Uholka-Shyrokyi Luh primeval forests will be developed. Separately, the structure of spruce-fir-primeval beech forests and monocultures of spruce in the Chornohora massif of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and others will be explored.

Within the framework of the project, a number of scientific thesises will be prepared by Ukrainian and Swiss scholars, a group of Ukrainian scientists will be trained in Switzerland, a summer school for students will be held, an infrastructure of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve will be improved, an international scientific conference will be held, etc.

Speaking to the participants of these meetings, Deputy Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Doctor of Biological Sciences, Professor Fedir Hamor emphasized that the implementation of the new Ukrainian-Swiss project on deepening of forest research was especially relevant in the context of solving the tasks set by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee (in its Resolutions 31 COM 8B.16 of June 28, 2007, and 35 COM 8B.13 of June 26, 2011, on the inclusion of primeval beech forests

of the Carpathians and the ancient beech forests of Germany in the list of the UNESCO World Heritage Properties) for the governments of Ukraine, Germany and Slovakia, which, firstly, obliged to provide the most effective conservation of the Property with its entire biotic and abiotic components.

Second, to conduct scientific research aimed at obtaining knowledge that can be passed on and used for sustainable close-to-nature forest use.

Thirdly, the use of natural heritage to enhance ecological education, formation of ecological culture and raising public awareness on primeval forests and their values at the local, national and international levels.

And, fourthly, implementation of the principles of sustainable use of natural resources in the territories adjacent to the World Heritage Property (in particular, to restore traditional crafts, to develop ecotourism, start the production of environmentally friendly foodstuffs, etc.).

At the same time, UNESCO says that the advantage should be given to the international management plan for research and monitoring, given that the volumes of the existing database and the information collected on the components that belong to the serial Ukrainian-Slovak-German Property can help to investigate the effects of the global climate change.

And Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve Mr. Mykola Rybak and the doctor of agricultural sciences, the head of the department of the National Forestry University Dr. Vasyl Lavny expressed gratitude for the prepared project and assured that the Ukrainian side would do its utmost to promote its successful implementation.

The Scientific-Technical Board adopted a positive decision on the implementation of the aforementioned Ukrainian-Swiss project.

2017.



UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY BRINGING UKRAINIAN AND GERMAN COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

On September 17-23, 2018, a delegation from the town of Rakhiv visited the amalgamated territorial community of Hörselberg-Hainich, which is located in Wartburg district of the Federal Land of Thuringia, which is called "the green heart of Germany". The purpose of the trip was to exchange the work experience.

This community unites 17 settlements, where live more than 6 300 inhabitants. I tis located at an altitude of 285 meters above sea level and occupies an area of 14,195 hectares. The population density is 44.9 people per square kilometer.

The communities are part of the National Park "Hainich", the ancient beech forest of which, along with the primeval beech forests of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, are included into the UNESCO World Heritage List "Ancient and primeval beech forests of the Carpathians and other regions of Europe".

The municipal Government of the community is located in the town of Behringen. 11 years ago, during the preparation process of the nomination for the inclusion of ancient beech forests of Germany into the UNESCO World Heritage List, on the initiative of Professor Fedir Hamor, the Ukrainian town of Rakhiv signed an agreement on cooperation (signed by mayors of territorial communities – Herr Bernhard Bischof and Mr. Yaroslav Dumyn, on September 9, 2007 in Rakhiv, during the celebration of the 560th anniversary of the town) as the communities located at the edge of the UNESCO World Heritage Property.

Within the framework of this agreement, on September 17-23, 2018, the delegation from Rakhiv, consisting of town mayor Victor Medvid, member of the executive committee of the town council, deputy director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve Fedir Hamor, member of the town council, a doctor from the Rakhiv central district hospital Olesia Gudz, director of the municipal utility enterprise "Rakhiv-Teplo" Vasyl Veklyuk, director of the Velykyi-Bychkiv state forestry enterprise Yuriy Soima, editor of the town newspaper "Rahiv Newsletter", teacher of the Rakhiv secondary school Nr. 1 Natalia Drebota, and a leading specialist of the town council Victoria Gubko, at the invitation of the mayor of the community Herr Bernhard Bischof, visited Germany to study their partner's experience in preserving the World Heritage Property and in implementing sustainable socio-economic development of the communities adjacent to the UNESCO WH Property.

The trip took place thanks to the efforts of the employees of the community's municipal Government and the executive committee of the Rakhiv Town Council, also personally due to the efforts of Ms. Anke Trautmann and Victoria Gubko, through the project "Partnership with Ukrainian Communities", which is implemented by the order of the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany in the framework of trilateral cooperation of German institutions such as the Municipal Development Service Center (SKEW), "Engagement Global", in partnership with the German International Cooperation Society (GIZ) and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

First of all, it should be emphasized that since the last visit (in 2007) of representatives of the Rakhiv community to this region of Germany, which has become possible with the help of the EU program INTERREG, some spectacular changes for the better have taken place here. To a large extent, as our partners emphasized, it happened due to the inclusion of ancient beech forests of the National Park "Hainich" into the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany " with the active support of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve administration in the 2011.

Therefore, it is no coincidence that the first day of the visit of the Rakhiv delegation devoted to studying the experience of the National Park "Hainich" (accompanied by its director Dr. Manfred Grossmann) in preservation of the World Heritage Property and its role in the implementation of sustainable development projects in the settlements located in the zone of its activity.

The Hainich National Park is one of 16 protected areas of this kind in Germany, occupying an area of 7,500 hectares. In this territory, prior the formation of the park, a large military training polygon and a tank-training ground of the Soviet troops in Germany functioned, after which, on the lands where ancient beech forests were still preserved, the National Park was established in 1998. And in 2011, 1573.4 hectares (with a protection zone of 4085.4 hectares) of its territory was included into the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property

"Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany".

50 kilometers from the park there is the central city of Thuringia with 200 thousand inhabitants – Erfurt, and within 10-15 kilometers there also lie such towns as Bad Langensalza (with the population of 18 000 people) and Eisenach (50 000 people), where the famous German royal castle – the UNESCO World Heritage Property – Wartburg is located, and where a world-famous composer Johan Sebastian Bach was born, and Martin Luther also lived for some time in this city and worked here on his revolutionary works for the Catholicism reformation.

In accordance with the German Legislation, the entire territory of national parks is completely withdrawn from any forms of economic management. Any forest felling activities, grazing, hunting and the use of other natural resources are forbidden here. The protection regime is analogous to the regime of absolute conservation in Ukrainian nature reserves. In the German national parks they strictly adhere to the principle: "nature must remain natural".

Therefore, the national parks are primarily established with the purpose of nature protection, they do everything possible to create conditions for recreation, environmental education and environmental knowledge dissemination for local population and tourists. For this purpose, there is a network of eco-educational trails, recreation areas, car parks, observation towers, a well-developed information infrastructure, visitor centers, etc.

Visitation of the Park is free of charge and is carried out by specially equipped routes. But the fee is charged for excursions to information centers, for car parking and for guided tours. For example, about 30 people privately work based at the Hainich National Park in this sphere.

This National Park is subordinated to the Ministry of Ecology of the Federal Land of Thuringia. There are 42 employees here (including 24 rangers), who are considered to be public servants. Annually the Federal state allocates about 2 million euros from the land's budget for its maintenance. The average salary of the park's employees is around 2 000 Euro.

Wild cat was chosen as the symbol and tourism brand of the national park and the region of its location. The population of this animal amounts to about 30 individuals in the forests of the park.

Given that the wild cat is very popular among the local population and numerous tourists, in one of the settlements here there was created a visitor center "Village of a wild cat" and an enclosure of wild cats, equipped with a special "cat" ecological and educational hiking trail the expense of investors. It is annually visited by up to 30 000 of tourists. As a visitation fee, adults pay 5.5 euros, and families – 14.5 Euro.

A unique tourist attraction enjoys a great popularity in Germany – a tower with an ecological trail in tree crowns; its height is from 10 to 24 meters. For its construction there were allocated about 6 million euro from the budget of the neighboring city – Bad Langensalza, and the German Environmental Foundation.

Annually it is visited by about 200 000 tourists. Ticket price -11 Euro for adults and 5 Euro for children. The costs obtained here are directed to the budget, of the city, which has financed the construction of this facility.

And recently, next to the walking trail in the tree crown, using the budget costs of the same city, there was built a huge visitor-center dedicated to the primeval beech forests as a UNESCO World Heritage Property together with a nice good restaurant; total area of the facility is several thousand square meters.

Those who visit these sites have an opportunity to enjoy not only the unique panoramas and landscapes of the park's nature, without causing any harm to it, but also to get acquainted in detail with flora and fauna of ancient beech forest, its structure and structure, ecological features, scientific and economic values with the help of informational boards, video films, interactive exhibits and attractions, popular leaflets and booklets and so on.

In addition, in the surroundings and directly on the territory of the park, a regional youth environmental camp was created, as well as an educational center for pupils (in which about three thousand children are trained annually under the supervision of the rangers), an impressive viewing tower (for its construction, the Thüringen Government has allocated 140 000 Euro), a large recreation camp made up of 26 cottages, a network of hotels and restaurants, etc. – all this has been done at the expense of investors.

In each village, the communities have provided information on the National Park and the UNESCO World Heritage Property at the expense of the Thüringen Government's budget. The same information, using the same design and style, is placed in schools, kindergartens, on enterprises, in restaurants (25 of which are official partners of the Park) and in other tourist facilities.

It is also important, that for the development of information and tourism infrastructure in the national

park, there was built a large woodworking workshop, equipped with modern outfit (also using the funds specially allocated for this purpose).

Therefore, thanks to the joint and harmonized actions of the park administration, the Thüringen Government and territorial communities, in recent years, they have managed to create here about 250 new jobs. And the Park, for 20 years of its existence, was visited by about 5 million tourists.

The high level of public understanding and state support for the role of protected areas and the World Heritage status, are also confirmed by the fact that the Prime Minister of the Thüringen Government personally took park in the official events on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Hainich National Park celebrated this year. In order to advertise and popularize its activities, additional 40 000 Euro were allocated from the budget of the Land, and at the Agricultural Exhibition "Green Days in Erfurt" (to which we also were invited), a big exhibition on occasion of the Park's anniversary was displayed.

According to the Hainich National Park's Director Herr Manfred Grossmann, all the communities and the administration of the park work in harmony and "haul upon the same rope" – that is, they protect nature and take pride in their region.

But despite all this, the protection of the World Heritage Property, conservation of the natural ecosystems and a large number of plant and animal species, which attract here not only researchers but also visitors, remain the most important tasks fulfilled by the park.

The Park and communities work diligently together on conflict management. For example, according to calculations of experts, the number of wild boars increased to 600 individuals in its forests. And this already leads to damaging the surrounding villages and agricultural lands. Therefore, at the request of the communities, according to the decision of the Park's Administration, its rangers annually shoot about 200 boars along the outer limits of the protected area, and the meat is sold at symbolic prices in the shop network of the adjacent settlements, which also has a positive effect on their development.

The unique experience of the authorities, NGOs and activists in promoting the UNESCO World Heritage Properties and using them as a brand for the sustainable development of this region also deserves a special attention.

Thus, within the boundaries of the territorial community, the World Heritage Union and the Association for Promotion of the National Park Development operate, which include all settlements, a lot of activists and patrons. Using the contributions of its members and the funds from the Thüringen government, active ecoeducational activities for the population and tourists are organized, various events are conducted, children are involved into the activity "Be a natural forest explorer", etc.

In addition, the Hainich World Heritage Union, together with a tourism association is working to promote the World Heritage Property "Wartburg Castle"; they have developed and are implementing since 2012 "The Wartburg-Hainich World Heritage Region" project, which is a driving force for sustainable development here.

The most important objective of the Project is to promote this rare region around the world, where UNESCO World Natural and Cultural Heritage Properties are located next to each other. For these purposes, the Government of Thuringia has already allocated around 1 million Euro. Special promotional magazines, booklets and information boards are made, video films are shot, internet and social network pages are created, and information panels about the World Heritage Properties are installed on train and bus stations or places on local buses, also this brand is being used during conferences and tourist shows and fairs in various cities of Germany, etc. As a result, tourism flows are noticeably growing, tourist infrastructure is being actively developed. As a result, the number of beds in hotels has increased by almost 10 percent and the revenues to the budgets of the region are increasing.

In this light, it is worth mentioning that Transcarpathia also belongs to those rare regions in the world where UNESCO World Natural and Cultural Heritage Properties are neighboring each other. Thus, in Yasinia and Uzhok villages there are unique wooden churches which are parts of the Ukrainian-Polish Property of listed as the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage – "Wooden tserkvas (churches) of the Carpathian region in Poland and Ukraine".

And between them, in the territories of the national nature parks "Uzhanskyi", "Enchanted Land" (Zacharovanyi Krai), "Synevir" and in the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, there lie large massifs of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe".

So, why don't the stakeholders here get together and use the experience of our German partners and

start working on the preparation and implementation of the project "Transcarpathia – the UNESCO World Heritage Region"?

It seems to us that such a Project could become a quite positive brand to promote the sustainable development of our region, attracting investments into the development of, first of all, the tourist and recreational infrastructure, etc.

We have seen many interesting and useful things in other spheres of life at our partner community from Germany.

The mayor of the community, Bernhard Bischof, presented in great details the administrative structure of the municipality, their sources of income and priorities in allocating the expenditure part of the budget, also told about the interaction with the Park administration, which, in his opinion, is the crown jewel for the community, as well as about cooperation with voluntary unions made up by the population, institutions and enterprises in terms of social and economic development, etc.

The consolidated budget of the community is about 13 million Euro, the bulk of which is made out of an industrial and agricultural taxation. 72.5% of the budget expenditures are directed to construction works related to maintenance of the roads, green areas and improvement of the settlements.

The budget includes expenditures to support an extensive network of NGOs that carry out various activities, forming a healthy creative and working environment in the community, and make up the foundation of the civil society.

Within the given amalgamated territorial community, there is a large taxation base, since there are four industrial zones with around 4000 jobs, and also more than 300 small businesses. Therefore, there is a low level of unemployment here (about 0.7 %).

On the territory of the community there are 6 kindergartens (for 300 kids), two primary schools and one secondary school.

To organize the leisure for the local people, here operate about 60 societies, clubs and associations uniting citizens by interests; they actively use the National Park and the World Heritage properties for recreational activities.

Among the problems of the community there were mentioned, in particular, the reduction of its population, the fact that young people are moving to big cities, arrival foreign migrants and the lack of medical doctors.

We also saw many interesting things, which are worth to be implemented in our region, for example, during our visit to the volunteer fire brigade, the public utility company, the kindergarten, the secondary school, the water supply and sewage water treatment facility in the nearby town of Eisenach (which serves about 70,000 people).

We were especially impressed by the fact that on the territory of the community, a well-equipped firefighting department is created and maintained at the expense of the community budget. They constructed special hangars and premises for this brigade, and provided rooms for personnel training, modern firefighting machines and equipment not only for fire extinguishing, but also for the elimination of other emergencies was bought.

But, the most interesting thing is that here, as well as in Germany as a whole (with the exception of big cities), fire brigades operate exclusively on a voluntary basis, in the time free from main jobs of brigade members. Nevertheless, it takes only ten minutes for the team on duty to arrive to the venue of a fire event or other emergency situation.

For this public work, the budget of the community allocates for each member of the voluntary fire brigade a monthly installment of 5 Euro to his pension fund. And for 40 years of experience in this activity, the members of the voluntary firefighting brigade can earn an additional pension of 300 euros per month. So, volunteers are quite numerous, and they are being trained from school age.

We saw starting from the kindergarten how the mentality and the future of the German nation are formed here.

First of all, both for children and their parents, ideal comfortable living conditions and moral and psychological atmosphere are created here, which resemble home environment. Children, depending on their age, feel free here. Most of the time they spend in the fresh air and get acquainted with nature and the environment. Together with their teachers they cultivate soil on small plots, plant and care for tomatoes, cucumbers and pumpkins, etc.

Informally, mostly in the form of a game, the teachers conduct educational activities. They identify and develop the abilities and inclinations of each child individually, and prepare a boy or a girl for the future independent, civilized life.

The same principles make up the basis of the programs and systems of school education and upbringing, with which we also had the opportunity to see.

A lot of interesting aspects we've seen at an agrarian company "BEAG", which now continues

to work as a continuing company of one of former cooperatives (in our understanding – collective farms) in East Germany.

The farm includes the lands belonging to 75 owners, and it rents about 1 000 private plots. With the use of high performance agricultural machinery and new technologies, 4020 hectares of arable land and 650 hectares of fields are cultivated, 2000 sheep are kept, 800 pigs are bred, and tens of thousands of piglets are grown and sold. The yield of wheat is 80 centners per hectare.

In order to reduce environmental pollution, the farm produces biogas using the manure from the pig farm and corn silage mass, which are immediately processed on its own thermal power plant for electricity, which is annually sold in the amount of 3.5 million kilowatt/hour.

Equally interesting was the visit too ecological production facility at the VEKA-Umveltechnik plastic window processing plant, and the construction and maintenance communal company within the amalgamated territorial community.

But the most important thing is that at the end of the visit we agreed to continue the active cooperation between our territorial communities and the protected areas.

2018.



Hainich National Pak on the map of Germany

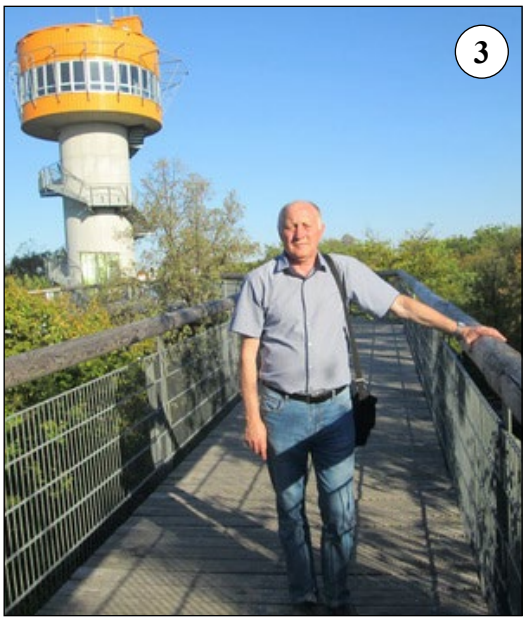
See p. 172:

1-2. The delegation from the town of Rakhiv meeting the burgermeister of Behringen Mr. Berghard Bischof and the participants are getting acquainted with the activities conducted by the Hainich National Park.
3. Fedir Hamor hiking along the Tree-Crown Walk.
4. Director of the Hainich National Park Dr. Manfred Grossman informing about the partnership of the park administration with the territorial communities.
5. A commemorative picture (from left to right): Rakhiv town Mayor Victor Medvid, burgermeister of Behringen Mr. Berghard Bischof, Deputy Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve Fedir Hamor, Director of the Hainich National Park Dr. Manfred Grossman.


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THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE HAS APPROVED A NEW PLAN OF MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION OF PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS AS A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SURROUNDING TERRITORIES

In pursuance of the Decree of President of Ukraine dated November 21, 2017, "About the additional measures for the development of forestry, rational use of nature and conservation of objects of the nature reserve fund" (protected area system), the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, on November 21, 2018, adopted an Order No. 892-p on "Some issues on conservation of the Ukrainian part of the UNESCO World Nature Heritage Site "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe" and sustainable development of the surrounding territories".

The approved Plan of Measures, developed by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine on my initiative and direct participation, includes two large sections.

The first involves the implementation of a complex of measures aimed on conservation and protection of the Ukrainian part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe", while the second one describes the most important actions of governmental structures and local authorities, which aimed on providing the sustainable development of the areas surrounding the World Heritage Site.

The Governmental Order, first of all, requires from the Ministry of Nature, Ministry of Education and Science and from the State Forestry Agency, to ensure coordination of the work on conservation of the Ukrainian part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe" (hereinafter referred to as the World Heritage Site), in particular through participation in meetings of the Joint Management Committee of the World Heritage Site; development and implementation of an integrated system of management of World Heritage Site; providing cooperation with institutions from other European countries which protect primeval beech forests and ancient forests, first of all with the Romanian and Slovak institutions, located along the Ukrainian-Romanian and Ukrainian-Slovak borders; ensuring the conduction of activities of the National Steering Group of the World Heritage Site for the implementation of decisions passed at the meetings of the Joint Management Committee of the World Heritage Site.

Secondly, during 2018-2023, there should be created conditions for the development of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, the Uzhansky National Nature Park, the National Nature Parks "Zacharovanyi Krai", "Synevir" and "Podilski Tovtry", the Nature Reserves "Gorgany" and "Roztochchia", whose sites are part of the World Heritage Site. For this it is necessary to:

– approve methodological recommendations on the management of sites of the World Heritage Site and its buffer zone, cooperation with local executive authorities and local self-government bodies;

– ensure proper protection regime of the World Heritage Site and to establish a monitoring system for its sites and the buffer zone; conduct scientific researches of biotic and landscape diversity of the World Heritage Site;

– provide to the institutions of the nature reserve fund – transportation means, equipment for communication and observation, and also the uniform outfit;

– arrange ecological-educational, tourist-information centers, recreational and touristic points, museum rooms in the location of the World Heritage Site areas, to take measures to build a museum of nature with administrative and laboratory premises in Uzhanskyi National Nature Park;

– organize and arrange ecological trails and tourist trails in all parts of the World Heritage Site;

– install information and border signs in places of mass visiting, in settlements adjacent to the World Heritage Site, near the main roads;

– work on the question of the possibility of organizing in the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve an international research center for conservation of primeval beech forests, ecological education and sustainable development;

– ensure the development of projects of the territory organization (management plans) and

the effective management of the areas of World Heritage Site;

Thirdly, Transcarpathian, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv and Khmelnytskyi regional state administrations, the Ministry of Nature, Ministry of Regional Development, Ministry of Culture, institutions of the nature reserve fund (protected areas), during 2018-2023, should ensure the popularization of the World Heritage Site by means of:

– informing about the issues related to the conservation of the World Heritage Site and its outstanding value, as part of the celebration of good-neighborhood days, using partners' connections in Mass Media, on official web-sites of the Ministry of Nature, regional state administrations, institutions of nature reserve fund;

– using and promoting the logos of UNESCO, UNESCO World Heritage, a World Heritage Site, such nature reserve institutions (protected areas) as the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Uzhanskyi National Nature Park, National Nature Parks "Zacharovanyi Krai", "Synevyr" and "Podilski Tovtry", Nature Reserves "Gorgany" and "Roztochchia";

– publishing booklets, leaflets and guide-books devoted to the values of the World Heritage Site.

And for the implementation of sustainable development on the territories adjacent to the World Heritage Site, Ministry of Regional Development, Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Infrastructure, State fiscal service (Tax service), Administration of the State Border Guard Service, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Transcarpathian, Ivano-Frankivsk and Lviv regional state administrations in 2018-2023, should ensure the development of cross-border cooperation in the Carpathian region by means of:

– drafting and submission of project proposals for the development of tourism, nature conservation and recreational infrastructure within the World Heritage Site and the adjacent territories in the framework of joint operational programs of border cooperation "Hungary – Slovakia – Romania – Ukraine", "Romania – Ukraine", "Poland-Ukraine-Belarus ", funded through the European Union Neighborhood Instrument for 2014-2020, as well as realization of the Strategy for the implementation of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians;

– proceeding with consultations together with the Slovakian Party on the possibility of opening an international border crossing point for automobile and pedestrian traffic Zabrod (Ukraine) – Ulych (Slovak Republic);

– consultations with the Romanian Party regarding the possibility of building (rebuilding) the bridge over the Tisza River and opening an international border crossing point for the automobile, rail and pedestrian traffic Dilove (Ukraine) – Valea Vişeului (Romania).

In addition, the Ministry of Infrastructure, Ukravtodor (road service), Transcarpathian, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv and Khmelnytskyi regional state administrations are empowered to provide in 2019-2023 repair and maintenance of the road infrastructure connecting the parts of the World Heritage Site on the territory of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Uzhansky National Nature park, National Nature Parks "Zacharovanyi Krai", "Synevyr" and "Podilski Tovtry", Nature Reserves "Gorgany" and "Roztochchia"; and also to discuss issue of the inclusion of roads leading to areas of World Heritage Site, which at present are of local importance in Transcarpathian, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv and Khmelnytskyi regions, to the list of public roads of state significance.

Transcarpathian, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv and Khmelnytskyi regional state administrations with participation of local self-government bodies, Ministry of Regional Development, Ministry of Nature, and the State Agency for Water Supply in 2019-2023 have to provide:

– re-equipment of municipal heating systems, reconstruction of sewage treatment facilities and water intakes, construction of sewage networks, centralized and non-centralized drinking-water supply networks, collection and disposal of domestic waste on the territories adjacent to the World Heritage Site, encouraging population to switch to alternative energy sources (heat pumps, solar panels, electric heating, wind power installations);

– development and implementation of public -private partnership instruments for sustainable development of the territories adjacent to the World Heritage Site.

Finally, the Ministry of Regional Development, the Ministry of Agrarian Policy, the State Agency of Forestry; Transcarpathian, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv and Khmelnytskyi regional state

administrations in 2019-2020 should ensure the creation of additional employment possibilities on the territories adjacent to the World Heritage Site, in particular, to consider issues of attracting investments for the establishment of enterprises, which perform a deep processing of wood, processing of wild fruits, berries, mushrooms and other natural resources.

Speaking about all these things, it will be worthwhile to remind that this Order of the Cabinet of Ministers is already the fourth Act, and the instructions passed by the President and the Government of Ukraine, for preservation of primeval beech forests of the Carpathians as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Despite all our requests and speeches at various meetings in the Ministry of Nature of Ukraine, the Transcarpathian Regional State Administration, meetings of the UNESCO National Commission of Ukraine, round tables, seminars, conferences and in mass media (more detailed on the following links: http://cbr.nature.org.ua/doc/BFC.pdf – ст.126-130; 165-184 and 224-240), they were implemented only partially. Therefore, there are great concerns that these decisions of the Government of Ukraine may be again not fully implemented.

In this context, important would be the explanations of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Regional Development in this regard (letters to the Cabinet of Ministers and Ministry of Environmental Protection dated July 15, 2016, No. 31-06130-04-3 / 20474 and dated August 2, 2016 (No. 7 / 31-9600).

Thus, the Ministry of Finance clarifies that "in accordance with Article 22 of the Budget Code of Ukraine, for the implementation of programs and measures implemented at the expense of budget funds, budget allocations are provided to the budget funds' administrators. The main administrator of the budget funds develops a plan of his activities, manages budget funds within his budgetary authority, provides efficient and targeted use of budget funds.

Taking into account the above said, implementation of measures concerning preservation of primeval beech forests in Ukraine should be ensured by the main administrators of the budget funds, responsible for their implementation, within the limits of expenditures approved by the Law of Ukraine "On the State Budget of Ukraine".

Informing the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine about the implementation of the order of the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers concerning the state of implementation of the Plan of Measures of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine for ensuring sustainable development and wellbeing of mountain settlements of the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Site "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Ancient beech forests of Germany", the Ministry of Regional Development, Construction and Communal Services of Ukraine (Minregion) also gives its clarification about the financing of these measures.

Thus, according to the Law of Ukraine "On the Principles of State Regional Policy", the Ministry of Regional Development emphasizes, "one of the financing sources of the state regional policy is the funds of the state fund of regional development". Therefore, "proposals for the funding of implementation of Projects for the development of nature conservation and tourist-recreational infrastructure in settlements, located in the zone of the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Site "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Ancient beech forests of Germany" at the expense of this Fund, will be considered in accordance with the procedure, established by law, in case they come from the Transcarpathian Regional State Administration".

In addition, the Ministry of Finance emphasizes that "the Plan of measures for the sustainable development and wellbeing of mountain settlements of the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Site "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Ancient beech forests of Germany", approved by the order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 10.09.2014, No. 819, determines the administrators of budget funds, responsible for the implementation of the above-mentioned measures".

But, in general, the adoption of this Order of the Cabinet of Ministers, despite possible difficulties with its implementation, creates a positive image for nature protection activity, and will definitely contribute to the sustainable development of the regions where the UNESCO World Heritage site "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe" is located.

2018.

BASIC LEGAL AND REGULATORY DOCUMENTS WHICH REFER TO PROTECTION OF THE PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS AS THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY

CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

The General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization meeting in Paris from 17 October to 21 November 1972, at its seventeenth session,

Noting that the cultural heritage and the natural heritage are increasingly threatened with destruction not only by the traditional causes of decay, but also by changing social and economic conditions which aggravate the situation with even more formidable phenomena of damage or destruction,

Considering that deterioration or disappearance of any item of the cultural or natural heritage constitutes a harmful impoverishment of the heritage of all the nations of the world,

Considering that protection of this heritage at the national level often remains incomplete because of the scale of the resources which it requires and of the insufficient economic, scientific, and technological resources of the country where the property to be protected is situated,

Recalling that the Constitution of the Organization provides that it will maintain, increase, and diffuse knowledge by assuring the conservation and protection of the world's heritage, and recommending to the nations concerned the necessary international conventions,

Considering that the existing international conventions, recommendations and resolutions concerning cultural and natural property demonstrate the importance, for all the peoples of the world, of safeguarding this unique and irreplaceable property, to whatever people it may belong,

Considering that parts of the cultural or natural heritage are of outstanding interest and therefore need to be preserved as part of the world heritage of mankind as a whole,

Considering that, in view of the magnitude and gravity of the new dangers threatening them, it is incumbent on the international community as a whole to participate in the protection of the cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal value, by the granting of collective assistance which, although not taking the place of action by the State concerned, will serve as an efficient complement thereto,

Considering that it is essential for this purpose to adopt new provisions in the form of a convention establishing an effective system of collective protection of the cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal value, organized on a permanent basis and in accordance with modern scientific methods,

Having decided, at its sixteenth session, that this question should be made the subject of an international convention,

Adopts this sixteenth day of November 1972 this Convention.

I. DEFINITION OF THE CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Article 1

For the purpose of this Convention, the following shall be considered as "cultural heritage":

monuments: architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting, elements or structures of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwellings and combinations of features, which are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science;

groups of buildings: groups of separate or connected buildings which, because of their architecture, their homogeneity or their place in the landscape, are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science;

sites: works of man or the combined works of nature and man, and areas including archaeological sites which are of outstanding universal value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological point of view.

Article 2

For the purposes of this Convention, the following shall be considered as "natural heritage":

natural features consisting of physical and biological formations or groups of such formations, which are of outstanding universal value from the aesthetic or scientific point of view;

geological and physiographical formations and precisely delineated areas which constitute the habitat of threatened species of animals and plants of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation;

natural sites or precisely delineated natural areas of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science, conservation or natural beauty.

Article 3

It is for each State Party to this Convention to identify and delineate the different properties situated on its territory mentioned in Articles 1 and 2 above.

II. NATIONAL PROTECTION AND INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION OF THE CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Article 4

Each State Party to this Convention recognizes that the duty of ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage referred to in Articles 1 and 2 and situated on its territory, belongs primarily to that State. It will do all it can to this end, to the utmost of its own resources and, where appropriate, with any international assistance and co-operation, in particular, financial, artistic, scientific and technical, which it may be able to obtain.

Article 5

To ensure that effective and active measures are taken for the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage situated on its territory, each State Party to this Convention shall endeavor, in so far as possible, and as appropriate for each country:

a) to adopt a general policy which aims to give the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community and to integrate the protection of that heritage into comprehensive planning programmes;

b) to set up within its territories, where such services do not exist, one or more services for the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage with an appropriate staff and possessing the means to discharge their functions;

c) to develop scientific and technical studies and research and to work out such operating methods as will make the State capable of counteracting the dangers that threaten its cultural or natural heritage;

d) to take the appropriate legal, scientific, technical, administrative and financial measures necessary for the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation of this heritage;

e) to foster the establishment or development of national or regional centres for training in the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage and to encourage scientific research in this field.

Article 6

1. Whilst fully respecting the sovereignty of the States on whose territory the cultural and natural heritage mentioned in Articles 1 and 2 is situated, and without prejudice to property right provided by national legislation, the States Parties to this Convention recognize that such heritage constitutes a world heritage for whose protection it is the duty of the international community as a whole to co-operate.

2. The States Parties undertake, in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, to give their help in the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage referred to in paragraphs 2 and 4 of Article 11 if the States on whose territory it is situated so request.

3. Each State Party to this Convention undertakes not to take any deliberate measures which might damage directly or indirectly the cultural and natural heritage referred to in Articles 1 and 2 situated on the territory of other States Parties to this Convention.

Article 7

For the purpose of this Convention, international protection of the world cultural and natural heritage shall be understood to mean the establishment of a system of international co- operation and assistance designed to support States Parties to the Convention in their efforts to conserve and identify that heritage.

III. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Article 8

1. An Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the Cultural and Natural Heritage of Outstanding Universal Value, called "the World Heritage Committee", is hereby established within the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It shall be composed of 15 States Parties to the Convention, elected by States Parties to the Convention meeting in general assembly during the ordinary session of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The number of States members of the Committee shall be increased to 21 as from the date of the ordinary session of the General Conference following the entry into force of this Convention for at least 40 States.

2. Election of members of the Committee shall ensure an equitable representation of the different regions and cultures of the world.

3. A representative of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (Rome Centre), a representative of the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and a representative of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), to whom may be added, at the request of States Parties to the Convention meeting in general assembly during the ordinary sessions of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, representatives of other intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations, with similar objectives, may attend the meetings of the Committee in an advisory capacity.

Article 9

1. The term of office of States members of the World Heritage Committee shall extend from the end of the ordinary session of the General Conference during which they are elected until the end of its third subsequent ordinary session.

2. The term of office of one-third of the members designated at the time of the first election shall, however, cease at the end of the first ordinary session of the General Conference following that at which they were elected; and the term of office of a further third of the members designated at the same time shall cease at the end of the second ordinary session of the General Conference following that at which they were elected. The names of these members shall be chosen by lot by the President of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization after the first election.

3. States members of the Committee shall choose as their representatives persons qualified in the field of the cultural or natural heritage.

Article 10

1. The World Heritage Committee shall adopt its Rules of Procedure.

2. The Committee may at any time invite public or private organizations or individuals to participate in its meetings for consultation on particular problems.

3. The Committee may create such consultative bodies as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

Article 11

1. Every State Party to this Convention shall, in so far as possible, submit to the World Heritage Committee an inventory of property forming part of the cultural and natural heritage, situated in its territory and suitable for inclusion in the list provided for in paragraph 2 of this Article. This inventory, which shall not be considered exhaustive, shall include documentation about the location of the property in question and its significance.

2. On the basis of the inventories submitted by States in accordance with paragraph 1, the Committee shall establish, keep up to date and publish, under the title of "World Heritage List," a list of properties forming part of the cultural heritage and natural heritage, as defined in Articles 1 and 2 of this Convention, which it considers as having outstanding universal value in terms of such criteria as it shall have established. An updated list shall be distributed at least every two years.

3. The inclusion of a property in the World Heritage List requires the consent of the State concerned. The inclusion of a property situated in a territory, sovereignty or jurisdiction over which is claimed by more than one State shall in no way prejudice the rights of the parties to the dispute.

4. The Committee shall establish, keep up to date and publish, whenever circumstances shall so require, under the title of "list of World Heritage in Danger", a list of the property appearing in the World Heritage List for the conservation of which major operations are necessary and for which assistance has been requested under this Convention. This list shall contain an estimate of the cost of such operations. The list may include only such property forming part of the cultural and natural heritage as is threatened by serious and specific dangers, such as the threat of disappearance caused by accelerated deterioration, large-scale public or private projects or rapid urban or tourist development projects; destruction caused by changes in the use or ownership of the land; major alterations due to unknown causes; abandonment for any reason whatsoever; the outbreak or the threat of an armed conflict; calamities and cataclysms; serious fires, earthquakes, landslides; volcanic eruptions; changes in water level, floods and tidal waves. The Committee may at any time, in case of urgent need, make a new entry in the List of World Heritage in Danger and publicize such entry immediately.

5. The Committee shall define the criteria on the basis of which a property belonging to the cultural or natural heritage may be included in either of the lists mentioned in paragraphs 2 and 4 of this article.

6. Before refusing a request for inclusion in one of the two lists mentioned in paragraphs 2 and 4 of this article, the Committee shall consult the State Party in whose territory the cultural or natural property in question is situated.

7. The Committee shall, with the agreement of the States concerned, co-ordinate and encourage the studies and research needed for the drawing up of the lists referred to in paragraphs 2 and 4 of this article.

Article 12

The fact that a property belonging to the cultural or natural heritage has not been included in either of the two lists mentioned in paragraphs 2 and 4 of Article 11 shall in no way be construed to mean that it does not have an outstanding universal value for purposes other than those resulting from inclusion in these lists.

Article 13

1. The World Heritage Committee shall receive and study requests for international assistance formulated by States Parties to this Convention with respect to property forming part of the cultural or natural heritage, situated in their territories, and included or potentially suitable for inclusion in the lists

mentioned referred to in paragraphs 2 and 4 of Article 11. The purpose of such requests may be to secure the protection, conservation, presentation or rehabilitation of such property.

2. Requests for international assistance under paragraph 1 of this article may also be concerned with identification of cultural or natural property defined in Articles 1 and 2, when preliminary investigations have shown that further inquiries would be justified.

3. The Committee shall decide on the action to be taken with regard to these requests, determine where appropriate, the nature and extent of its assistance, and authorize the conclusion, on its behalf, of the necessary arrangements with the Government concerned.

4. The Committee shall determine an order of priorities for its operations. It shall in so doing bear in mind the respective importance for the world cultural and natural heritage of the property requiring protection, the need to give international assistance to the property most representative of a natural environment or of the genius and the history of the peoples of the world, the urgency of the work to be done, the resources available to the States on whose territory the threatened property is situated and in particular the extent to which they are able to safeguard such property by their own means.

5. The Committee shall draw up, keep up to date and publicize a list of property for which international assistance has been granted.

6. The Committee shall decide on the use of the resources of the Fund established under Article 15 of this Convention. It shall seek ways of increasing these resources and shall take all useful steps to this end.

7. The Committee shall co-operate with international and national governmental and non-governmental organizations having objectives similar to those of this Convention. For the implementation of its programmes and projects, the Committee may call on such organizations, particularly the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (the Rome Centre), the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), as well as on public and private bodies and individuals.

8. Decisions of the Committee shall be taken by a majority of two-thirds of its members present and voting. A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

Article 14

1. The World Heritage Committee shall be assisted by a Secretariat appointed by the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

2. The Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, utilizing to the fullest extent possible the services of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and the Restoration of Cultural Property (the Rome Centre), the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) in their respective areas of competence and capability, shall prepare the Committee's documentation and the agenda of its meetings and shall have the responsibility for the implementation of its decisions.

IV. FUND FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Article 15

1. A Fund for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage of Outstanding Universal Value, called "the World Heritage Fund", is hereby established.

2. The Fund shall constitute a trust fund, in conformity with the provisions of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

3. The resources of the Fund shall consist of:

a) compulsory and voluntary contributions made by States Parties to this Convention,

b) Contributions, gifts or bequests which may be made by:

i) other States;

ii) the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, other organizations of the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Development Programme or other intergovernmental organizations;

iii) public or private bodies or individuals;

c) any interest due on the resources of the Fund;

d) funds raised by collections and receipts from events organized for the benefit of the fund; and

e) all other resources authorized by the Fund's regulations, as drawn up by the World Heritage Committee.

4. Contributions to the Fund and other forms of assistance made available to the Committee may be used only for such purposes as the Committee shall define. The Committee may accept contributions to be used only for a certain programme or project, provided that the Committee shall have decided on the implementation of such programme or project. No political conditions may be attached to contributions made to the Fund.

Article 16

1. Without prejudice to any supplementary voluntary contribution, the States Parties to this Convention undertake to pay regularly, every two years, to the World Heritage Fund, contributions, the amount of which, in the form of a uniform percentage applicable to all States, shall be determined by the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention, meeting during the sessions of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. This decision of the General Assembly requires the majority of the States Parties present and voting, which have not made the declaration referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article. In no case shall the compulsory contribution of States Parties to the Convention exceed 1% of the contribution to the regular budget of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

2. However, each State referred to in Article 31 or in Article 32 of this Convention may declare, at the time of the deposit of its instrument of ratification, acceptance or accession, that it shall not be bound by the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article.

3. A State Party to the Convention which has made the declaration referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article may at any time withdraw the said declaration by notifying the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. However, the withdrawal of the declaration shall not take effect in regard to the compulsory contribution due by the State until the date of the subsequent General Assembly of States parties to the Convention.

4. In order that the Committee may be able to plan its operations effectively, the contributions of States Parties to this Convention which have made the declaration referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article, shall be paid on a regular basis, at least every two years, and should not be less than the contributions which they should have paid if they had been bound by the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article.

5. Any State Party to the Convention which is in arrears with the payment of its compulsory or voluntary contribution for the current year and the calendar year immediately preceding it shall not be eligible as a Member of the World Heritage Committee, although this provision shall not apply to the first election. The terms of office of any such State which is already a member of the Committee shall terminate at the time of the elections provided for in Article 8, paragraph 1 of this Convention.

Article 17

The States Parties to this Convention shall consider or encourage the establishment of national public and private foundations or associations whose purpose is to invite donations for the protection of the cultural and natural heritage as defined in Articles 1 and 2 of this Convention.

Article 18

The States Parties to this Convention shall give their assistance to international fund-raising campaigns organized for the World Heritage Fund under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. They shall facilitate collections made by the bodies mentioned in paragraph 3 of Article 15 for this purpose.

V. CONDITIONS AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

Article 19

Any State Party to this Convention may request international assistance for property forming part of the cultural or natural heritage of outstanding universal value situated within its territory. It shall submit with its request such information and documentation provided for in Article 21 as it has in its possession and as will enable the Committee to come to a decision.

Article 20

Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 13, sub-paragraph (c) of Article 22 and Article 23, international assistance provided for by this Convention may be granted only to property forming part of the cultural and natural heritage which the World Heritage Committee has decided, or may decide, to enter in one of the lists mentioned in paragraphs 2 and 4 of Article 11.

Article 21

1. The World Heritage Committee shall define the procedure by which requests to it for international assistance shall be considered and shall specify the content of the request, which should define the operation contemplated, the work that is necessary, the expected cost thereof, the degree of urgency and the reasons why the resources of the State requesting assistance do not allow it to meet all the expenses. Such requests must be supported by experts' reports whenever possible.

2. Requests based upon disasters or natural calamities should, by reasons of the urgent work which they may involve, be given immediate, priority consideration by the Committee, which should have a reserve fund at its disposal against such contingencies.

3. Before coming to a decision, the Committee shall carry out such studies and consultations as it deems necessary.

Article 22

Assistance granted by the World Heritage Fund may take the following forms:

a) studies concerning the artistic, scientific and technical problems raised by the protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation of the cultural and natural heritage, as defined in paragraphs 2 and 4 of Article 11 of this Convention;

b) provisions of experts, technicians and skilled labour to ensure that the approved work is correctly carried out;

c) training of staff and specialists at all levels in the field of identification, protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation of the cultural and natural heritage;

d) supply of equipment which the State concerned does not possess or is not in a position to acquire;

e) low-interest or interest-free loans which might be repayable on a long-term basis;

f) the granting, in exceptional cases and for special reasons, of non-repayable subsidies.

Article 23

The World Heritage Committee may also provide international assistance to national or regional centres for the training of staff and specialists at all levels in the field of identification, protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation of the cultural and natural heritage.

Article 24

International assistance on a large scale shall be preceded by detailed scientific, economic and technical studies. These studies shall draw upon the most advanced techniques for the protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation of the natural and cultural heritage and shall be consistent with the objectives of this Convention. The studies shall also seek means of making rational use of the resources available in the State concerned.

Article 25

As a general rule, only part of the cost of work necessary shall be borne by the international community. The contribution of the State benefiting from international assistance shall constitute a substantial share of the resources devoted to each programme or project, unless its resources do not permit this.

Article 26

The World Heritage Committee and the recipient State shall define in the agreement they conclude the conditions in which a programme or project for which international assistance under the terms of this Convention is provided, shall be carried out. It shall be the responsibility of the State receiving such international assistance to continue to protect, conserve and present the property so safeguarded, in observance of the conditions laid down by the agreement.

VI. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

Article 27

1. The States Parties to this Convention shall endeavor by all appropriate means, and in particular by educational and information programmes, to strengthen appreciation and respect by their peoples of the cultural and natural heritage defined in Articles 1 and 2 of the Convention.

2. They shall undertake to keep the public broadly informed of the dangers threatening this heritage and of the activities carried on in pursuance of this Convention.

Article 28

States Parties to this Convention which receive international assistance under the Convention shall take appropriate measures to make known the importance of the property for which assistance has been received and the role played by such assistance.

VII. REPORTS

Article 29

1. The States Parties to this Convention shall, in the reports which they submit to the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on dates and in a manner to be determined by it, give information on the legislative and administrative provisions which they have adopted and other action which they have taken for the application of this Convention, together with details of the experience acquired in this field.

2. These reports shall be brought to the attention of the World Heritage Committee.

3. The Committee shall submit a report on its activities at each of the ordinary sessions of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

VIII. FINAL CLAUSES

Article 30

This Convention is drawn up in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish, the five texts being equally authoritative.

Article 31

1. This Convention shall be subject to ratification or acceptance by States members of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures.

2. The instruments of ratification or acceptance shall be deposited with the Director- General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Article 32

1. This Convention shall be open to accession by all States not members of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization which are invited by the General Conference of the Organization to accede to it.

2. Accession shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument of accession with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Article 33

This Convention shall enter into force three months after the date of the deposit of the twentieth instrument of ratification, acceptance or accession, but only with respect to those States which have deposited their respective instruments of ratification, acceptance or accession on or before that date. It shall enter into force with respect to any other State three months after the deposit of its instrument of ratification, acceptance or accession.

Article 34

The following provisions shall apply to those States Parties to this Convention which have a federal or non-unitary constitutional system:

a) with regard to the provisions of this Convention, the implementation of which comes under the legal jurisdiction of the federal or central legislative power, the obligations of the federal or central Government shall be the same as for those States parties which are not federal States;

b) with regard to the provisions of this Convention, the implementation of which comes under the legal jurisdiction of individual constituent States, countries, provinces or cantons that are not obliged by the constitutional system of the federation to take legislative measures, the federal Government shall inform the competent authorities of such States, countries, provinces or cantons of the said provisions, with its recommendation for their adoption.

Article 35

1. Each State Party to this Convention may denounce the Convention.

2. The denunciation shall be notified by an instrument in writing, deposited with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

3. The denunciation shall take effect twelve months after the receipt of the instrument of denunciation. It shall not affect the financial obligations of the denouncing State until the date on which the withdrawal takes effect.

Article 36

The Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization shall inform the States members of the Organization, the States not members of the Organization which are referred to in Article 32, as well as the United Nations, of the deposit of all the instruments of ratification, acceptance, or accession provided for in Articles 31 and 32, and of the denunciations provided for in Article 35.

Article 37

1. This Convention may be revised by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Any such revision shall, however, bind only the States which shall become Parties to the revising convention.

2. If the General Conference should adopt a new convention revising this Convention in whole or in part, then, unless the new convention otherwise provides, this Convention shall cease to be open to ratification, acceptance or accession, as from the date on which the new revising convention enters into force.

Article 38

In conformity with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations, this Convention shall be registered with the Secretariat of the United Nations at the request of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Done in Paris, this twenty-third day of November 1972, in two authentic copies bearing the signature of the President of the seventeenth session of the General Conference and of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which shall be deposited in the archives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and certified true copies of which shall be delivered to all the States referred to in Articles 31 and 32 as well as to the United Nations.

(Extract)

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

WHC.17/01 12 July 2017

Legislative, regulatory and contractual measures for protection

Legislative and regulatory measures at national and local levels should assure the protection of the property from social, economic and other pressures or changes that might negatively impact the Outstanding Universal Value, including the integrity and/or authenticity of the property. States Parties should also assure the full and effective implementation of such measures.

Boundaries for effective protection

The delineation of boundaries is an essential requirement in the establishment of effective protection of nominated properties. Boundaries should be drawn to incorporate all the attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value and to ensure the integrity and/or authenticity of the property.

For properties nominated under criteria (i) – (vi), boundaries should be drawn to include all those areas and attributes which are a direct tangible expression of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, as well as those areas which in the light of future research possibilities offer potential to contribute to and enhance such understanding.

For properties nominated under criteria (vii) – (x), boundaries should reflect the spatial requirements of habitats, species, processes or phenomena that provide the basis for their inscription on the World Heritage List. The boundaries should include sufficient areas immediately adjacent to the area of Outstanding Universal Value in order to protect the property's heritage values from direct effect of human encroachments and impacts of resource use outside of the nominated area.

The boundaries of the nominated property may coincide with one or more existing or proposed protected areas, such as national parks or nature reserves, biosphere reserves or protected cultural or historic districts or other areas and territories. While such established areas for protection may contain several management zones, only some of those zones may satisfy requirements for inscription.

Buffer zones

Wherever necessary for the proper protection of the property, an adequate buffer zone should be provided.

For the purposes of effective protection of the nominated property, a buffer zone is an area surrounding the nominated property which has complementary legal and/or customary restrictions placed on its use and development to give an added layer of protection to the property. This should include the immediate setting of the nominated property, important views and other areas or attributes that are functionally important as a support to the property and its protection. The area constituting the buffer zone should be determined in each case through appropriate mechanisms. Details on the size, characteristics and authorized uses of a buffer zone, as well as a map indicating the precise boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, should be provided in the nomination.

A clear explanation of how the buffer zone protects the property should also be provided.

Where no buffer zone is proposed, the nomination should include a statement as to why a buffer zone is not required.

Although buffer zones are not part of the nominated property, any modifications to or creation of buffer zones subsequent to inscription of a property on the World Heritage List should be approved by the World Heritage Committee using the procedure for a minor boundary modification (see paragraph 164 and Annex 11). The creation of buffer zones subsequent to inscription is normally considered to be a minor boundary modification*.

Management systems

Each nominated property should have an appropriate management plan or other documented management system which must specify how the Outstanding Universal Value of a property should be preserved, preferably through participatory means.

The purpose of a management system is to ensure the effective protection of the nominated property for present and future generations.

* In case of transnational/transboundary properties any modification will need the agreement of all States Parties concerned.

An effective management system depends on the type, characteristics and needs of the nominated property and its cultural and natural context. Management systems may vary according to different cultural perspectives, the resources available and other factors. They may incorporate traditional practices, existing urban or regional planning instruments, and other planning control mechanisms, both formal and informal. Impact assessments for proposed interventions are essential for all World Heritage properties.

In recognizing the diversity mentioned above, common elements of an effective management system could include:

a) a thorough shared understanding of the property by all stakeholders, including the use of participatory planning and stakeholder consultation process;

b) a cycle of planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and feedback;

c) an assessment of the vulnerabilities of the property to social, economic, and other pressures and changes, as well as the monitoring of the impacts of trends and proposed interventions;

d) the development of mechanisms for the involvement and coordination of the various activities between different partners and stakeholders;

e) the allocation of necessary resources;

f) capacity-building; and

g) an accountable, transparent description of how the management system functions.

Effective management involves a cycle of short, medium and long-term actions to protect, conserve and present the nominated property. An integrated approach to planning and management is essential to guide the evolution of properties over time and to ensure maintenance of all aspects of their Outstanding Universal Value. This approach goes beyond the property to include any buffer zone(s), as well as the broader setting. The broader setting, may relate to the property's topography, natural and built environment, and other elements such as infrastructure, land use patterns, spatial organization, and visual relationships. It may also include related social and cultural practices, economic processes and other intangible dimensions of heritage such as perceptions and associations. Management of the broader setting is related to its role in supporting the Outstanding Universal Value.

Moreover, in the context of the implementation of the Convention, the World Heritage Committee has established a process of Reactive Monitoring (see Chapter IV) and a process of Periodic Reporting (see Chapter V).

In the case of serial properties, a management system or mechanisms for ensuring the co-ordinated management of the separate components are essential and should be documented in the nomination (see paragraphs 137 -139).

Where the intrinsic qualities of a property nominated are threatened by human action and yet meet the criteria and the conditions of authenticity or integrity set out in paragraphs 78-95, an action plan outlining the corrective measures required should be submitted with the nomination file. Should the corrective measures submitted by the nominating State Party not be taken within the time proposed by the State Party, the property will be considered by the Committee for delisting in accordance with the procedure adopted by the Committee (see Chapter IV.C).

States Parties are responsible for implementing effective management activities for a World Heritage property. State Parties should do so in close collaboration with property managers, the agency with management authority and other partners, and stakeholders in property management.

The Committee recommends that States Parties include risk preparedness as an element in their World Heritage site management plans and training strategies.

Sustainable use

World Heritage properties may support a variety of ongoing and proposed uses that are ecologically and culturally sustainable and which may contribute to the quality of life of communities concerned. The State Party and its partners must ensure that such sustainable use or any other change does not impact adversely on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. For some properties, human use would not be appropriate. Legislations, policies and strategies affecting World Heritage properties should ensure the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value, support the wider conservation of natural and cultural heritage, and promote and encourage the active participation of the communities and stakeholders concerned with the property as necessary conditions to its sustainable protection, conservation, management and presentation.

JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF ECOLOGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF UKRAINE, THE FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR ENVIRONMENT, NATURE CONSERVATION, BUILDING AND NUCLEAR SAFETY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC CONCERNING COOPERATION IN 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)"

The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter Participants),

consider the importance of natural beech forests with Outstanding Universal Value as a key element of forest ecosystems of Europe;

acknowledge the importance of the protection of the integrity ofWorld Heritage property "Primeval Beech forests of the Carpathians (Slovak Republic and Ukraine) and the Ancient Beech forests of Germany (Germany)" and

note the significant role of natural beech forests, first of all those of the World Heritage property "Primeval Beech forests of the Carpathians (Slovak Republic and Ukraine) and the Ancient Beech forests of Germany (Germany)" in supporting biodiversity and mitigating effects of climate change.

The Participants recall the relevant objectives of:

- the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972),
- the Convention on the Conservation of European wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979),
- the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992),
- the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (2003),
- the Agreement between the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Government of Ukraine on Cooperation in Environmental Protection (1993),
- the Agreement between the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine on Cooperation in Environmental Protection (1994) and
- the Agreement between the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Government of the Slovak Republic on Cooperation in Environmental Protection (1997).

The Participants also recall the results of the trilateral meetings that took place between2007 and2012 on beech forests as World Natural Heritage;

note Decision 31WHC 8B.16 and Decision 35 WHC 8B.13 of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee and

reaffirm their willingness to contribute to their implementation.

The Participants share the view that this Joint Declaration of Intent should serve as a basis for the trilateral 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)".

1. AIM OF THE COOPERATION

The Participants express their intention of 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)".

2. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

2.1. The Participants have decided to establish the Integrated Management System for the Joint World Heritage property "Primeval Beech forests of the Carpathians (Slovak Republic and Ukraine) and the Ancient Beech forests of Germany (Germany)" to ensure its protection and effective management.

To coordinate the overall management of the Joint Property the Participants have decided to establish the Joint Management Committee.

The Participants share the opinion that each of them contributes to the cooperation under this Joint Declaration of Intent according to their capabilities, unless consented otherwise by the Participants.

Coordination of the national management rests with the National Steering Committees/National Steering Group.

2.2. The tasks of the Joint Management Committee should include:

- to promote, steer and manage the implementation of this Joint Declaration of Intent especially in the areas of cooperation as specified in Number 3;
- to jointly establish and to further develop a working programme and to oversee its implementation.

2.3. The Participants share the view that the Joint Management Committee may establish by mutual consent trilateral working groups to address, inter alia, topics of the different areas of cooperation as specified in Number 3. The protected areas authorities, responsible for the individual components, may establish further Working groups.

2.4. 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 (Bundeslander), and/or representatives of the relevant protected areas and/or experts. Irrespective of the number of representatives, any Participant has only one vote when decisions or recommendations are made. By mutual consent of the Participants of this Joint Declaration of Intent, representatives of other institutions/organisations may be invited to the meetings.

2.5. Meetings of the Joint Management Committee:

- Meeting frequency: One regular meeting per year (and additional extraordinary meetings if required and by prior consent of all Participants).
- Meeting venue: rotating in alphabetical order in one of the three Participants.
- Chair: Participant hosting the meeting.
- Language: Meetings should be held in English unless consented otherwise.
- Conclusions: to be taken by consensus.
- Meeting Documents: to be distributed six weeks in advance before a meeting.

At its next meeting the Joint Management Committee should consider the need for further rules of procedures and may adopt such rules of procedures.

3. AREAS OF COOPERATION

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

3.1. Implementation of common principles and objectives based on the defined Outstanding Universal Value of the Joint Property;

3.2. Establishment and effective implementation of the integrated management system for the Joint Property;

3.3. Establishment and implementation of cooperative and transnational monitoring plans in order to monitor and report on the transnational serial property as a whole;

3.4. Establishment and implementation of cooperative and transnational research programmes and projects (including inventories, research on natural forest ecosystems, anthropogenic impact assessments, response to climate change, etc.);

3.5. Training and capacity building (including training institutions, exchange among specialists, etc.);

3.6. Activities of the planned "International capacity- building and research centre for primeval beech forests and sustainable development" at the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve;

3.7. Finding and possibly securing adequate resources;

3.8. Communication, education, public awareness and local community engagement;

3.9. Sustainable tourism;

3.10. Sustainable development in the areas adjacent to World Heritage property.

4. DURATION

The Participants share the view that the cooperation under this Joint Declaration of Intent should start when it is signed by each Participant. The Participants intend to cooperate on the basis of this Joint Declaration of Intent until it is unanimously decided to do otherwise.

Signed in Bonn on 14 May 2014
in three copies in English language.

JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA, THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABILITY AND TOURISM OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA, THE GOVERNMENT OF LOWER AUSTRIA, THE GOVERNMENT OF UPPER AUSTRIA, THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS, THE GOVERNMENT OF WALLONIA, THE GOVERNMENT OF BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION, THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND WATERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA, THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA, THE FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR ENVIRONMENT, NATURE CONSERVATION AND NUCLEAR SAFETY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, THE MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, LAND AND SEA PROTECTION OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC, THE MINISTRY OF WATERS AND FORESTS OF ROMANIA, THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OF ROMANIA, THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC, THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SPATIAL PLANNING OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA, THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT OF THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN AND THE MINISTRY OF ECOLOGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF UKRAINE CONCERNING THE COOPERATION ON THE PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE JOINT WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY "ANCIENT AND PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS AND OTHER REGIONS OF EUROPE"

We, the responsible implementing bodies of the World Heritage Convention, hereinafter referred to as Parties, consider the importance of natural beech forests with Outstanding Universal Value as a key element of forest ecosystems of Europe;

acknowledge the importance of the protection of the integrity of World Heritage property "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe" and

note the significant role of natural beech forests, first of all those of the World Heritage Property "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe" in supporting biodiversity and mitigating effects of climate change.

The Parties recall the relevant objectives of:

- the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972),
- the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979),
- the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992),
- the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (2003),
- the Convention on the Protection of the Alps (Alpine Convention, 1991).
- EU Directive 92/43/EEC on conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

The Parties also recall the results of the tri- and multilateral meetings that took place between 2007 and 2017 on beech forests as World Natural Heritage;

note Decision 31 COM 8B.16 (inscription of "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians"), Decision 35 COM 8B.13 (inscription of "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests of Germany") and Decision 41 COM 8B.7 (inscription of the "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe" of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee and

reaffirm their willingness to contribute to their implementation.

The Parties share the view that this Joint Declaration of Intent will serve as a basis for a common approach at multilateral level on the protection and management of the Joint World Heritage Property "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe" and have decided as follows:

1. AIM OF THE COOPERATION

The Parties express their intention of mutual support and cooperation concerning the protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the Joint World Heritage Property "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe".

2. INDICATIVE AREAS OF COOPERATION

The Parties will cooperate, inter alia, on the following topics:

2.1. Implementation of common principles and objectives based on the defined Outstanding Universal Value of the Joint World Heritage Property;

2.2. Establishment and effective implementation of the Integrated Management System for the Joint World Heritage Property;

2.3. Establishment and implementation of cooperative and transnational monitoring plans in order to monitor and report on the transnational serial property as a whole;

2.4. Establishment and implementation of cooperative and transnational research programmes and projects (including inventories, research on natural forest ecosystems, anthropogenic impact assessments, response to climate change, etc.);

2.5. Training and capacity building (including training institutions, exchange among specialists, etc.);

2.6. Establishment of a common web-based information platform to inform the public and to exchange data among the managements of the component parts;

2.7. Finding, and possibly, securing adequate resources;

2.8. Communication, education, public awareness activities on the World Heritage Property and local community engagement;

2.9. Sustainable development e.g. tourism.

3. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

3.1. The Parties will contribute to the cooperation under this Joint Declaration of Intent according to their capabilities.

3.2. To coordinate the overall management of the property, the Parties have decided to establish the Joint Management Committee (JMC).

3.3. Integrated Management System

The Parties have decided to establish the Integrated Management System as included in the nomination dossier for the Joint World Heritage Property "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe" to ensure its protection and effective management.

3.4. Coordinator

- In order to achieve the assigned tasks specified in Number 3.6. below, a Coordinator will be appointed with the task to give support to the Joint Management Committee in the coordination of the activities to be developed within the Joint Management System.
- An arrangement on the organisational infrastructure and financing of the coordinator will be made as soon as possible.

3.5. Coordination of the national management

Coordination of the national management as described in the nomination dossiers will rest with the National Steering Committees/National Steering Groups.

3.6. Tasks of the Joint Management Committee

The tasks of the Joint Management Committee will include:

- to promote, steer and manage the implementation of this Joint Declaration of Intent especially in the indicative areas of cooperation as specified in number 2;
- to jointly establish and to further develop a working programme and to supervise its implementation;
- to establish by mutual consent multilateral working groups to address, inter alia, topics of the different areas of cooperation as specified in number 2.

3.7. Members of the Joint Management Committee

The permanent members of the Joint Management Committee will be the representatives of the responsible Ministries and/or corresponding authorities at federal states level, and/or representatives of the relevant protected areas/component parts and/or experts. Irrespective of the number of representatives, any Party will only have one vote. By joint decision of the Parties of this Joint Declaration of Intent, representatives of other institutions/organisations may be invited to the meetings.

3.8. Meetings of the Joint Management Committee:

- Meeting frequency: One regular meeting per year (and additional extraordinary meetings if required and by prior consent of all Parties);
- Conclusions: will be taken by consensus.
- The Joint Management Committee will adopt Rules of Procedure for the management of the JMC meetings.

4. LEGAL STATUS

This Joint Declaration of Intent will not create any legal or financial obligations to the Parties under national or international law.

5. DURATION

This Joint Declaration of Intent will become effective when it is signed by all Parties.

6. SIGNATURES OF PARTIES

Signed in 13 copies (one per State Party and one for UNESCO)

Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine
Ostap Semerak signed it on November 28, 2018

RESOLUTIONS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE ON THE PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS CONSERVATION

Decision: 31 COM 8B.16 **28 June 2007**

Nomination of natural, mixed and cultural properties to the world heritage list – Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.2,

2. Inscribes the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians, Slovakia and Ukraine, on the World Heritage List on the basis of criterion (ix):

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

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-colonization 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.

4. Commends the States Parties of Slovakia and Ukraine for addressing IUCN's previous recommendation to work together and bringing forward a transboundary nomination of the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians;

5. Recommends 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;

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

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;

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; and

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

Decision: 35 COM 8B.13 **25 June 2011**

Natural Properties – Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (Germany)

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 theAncient 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-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 (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.

Decision: 36 COM 8B.65 **24 June – 6 July 2012**

Statements of Outstanding Universal Value of the twelve properties inscribed at the 35th session of the World Heritage Committee (UNESCO, 2011)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-12/36.COM/8B.Add,

2. Adopts the following Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for the following World Heritage properties inscribed at the 35th session of the World Heritage Committee (UNESCO, 2011):

…

- Germany / Slovakia / Ukraine: Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany;

…

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.

Decision: 37 COM 7B.26 **16-27 June 2013**

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

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: 38 COM 7B.75 **15-25 June 2014**

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

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 encouragesthe 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.

Decision: 39 COM 7B.19 **28 June – 8 July 2015**

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

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision 38 COM 7B.75, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),
3. Commends the States Parties of Germany, Slovakia and Ukraine for their cooperation concerning the protection and management of the property and for signing the Joint Declaration of Intent and encourages the States Parties to continue their efforts;
4. Welcomes the progress achieved by the State Party of Slovakia towards enhancing cooperation between relevant Ministries responsible for the management of Slovak components of the property, but notes with concern that an integrated management framework for the Slovak components of the property is still lacking and that forest management plans providing for logging apply to some areas within the property boundaries;
5. Endorses the recommendations of the 2014 reactive monitoring mission and requests the State Party of Slovakia to implement them;
6. Also requests the State Party of Slovakia to ensure that no logging operations take place within the property's boundaries until this issue is resolved through the development, in consultation with the States Parties of Germany and Ukraine, of an integrated management framework 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;
7. Notes that the current delineation of the Slovak components of the property does not provide for adequate protection of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and further requests the State Party of Slovakia to develop a proposal for boundary modification of its components, in close cooperation with the States Parties of Germany and Ukraine, as well as other States Parties who are currently preparing a proposal for an extension of the property;
8. Takes note of the State Party of Slovakia's intention to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ IUCN Advisory mission to provide advice on the management of the Slovak components of the property and on the development of a proposal for boundary modification;
9. Requests furthermore the State Party of Slovakia to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2016, an updated 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 41st session in 2017.

Decision: 41 COM 7B.4 **5 July 2017**

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

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision 39 COM 7B.19, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),

3. Welcomes the efforts of the State Party of Slovakia to explore how sustainable tourism could contribute to sustainable development around the property as well as the information provided by the State Party regarding the establishment of a new nature reserve and of an "ecological functional area" covering parts of the property located within Poloniny National Park, but notes with utmost concern that, despite these measures and the voluntary commitment of some entities involved not to carry out logging operations, only parts of the Slovak components of the property are currently legally protected against logging;

4. Also notes with concern that no Integrated Management Plan (IMP) has been established for the Slovak components of the property; reiterates its request to the State Party of Slovakia to ensure that no logging operations take place within the property's boundaries until this issue is resolved through the development, in consultation with the other States Parties for this property, of an IMP 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, European Diploma and Natura 2000 and urges the State Party to ensure that no logging will be possible within the property's boundaries after the adoption of the plan;

5. Takes note that negotiations regarding possible boundary modifications of the Slovak components of the property are planned to be completed in 2017, and also urges the State Party of Slovakia to submit a proposal for such boundary modifications as soon as possible, after consultation with the other States Parties for this property;

6. Also welcomes the State Party's progress made in implementing the recommendations of the 2014 Reactive Monitoring mission and requests the State Party to continue its efforts to complete the implementation of all mission recommendations;

7. Considers that, unless urgent measures are taken to address the lack of an adequate protection regime of the Slovak components of the property and to ensure that their boundary delineation is adequate, their protection from logging and other potential threats cannot be guaranteed in the long-term, which would clearly constitute a potential danger to the OUV of this serial transnational property as a whole, in line with Paragraphs 137 and 180 of the Operational Guidelines;

8. Also requests the State Party of Slovakia, in consultation with the other States Parties for this property, to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2018, 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 42nd session in 2018.

Decision: 41 COM 8B.7 **7 July 2017**

Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe
(Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Italy, Germany, Romania,
Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Ukraine)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B2,

2. Approves the extension of Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany, Slovakia, Ukraine and Germany, to become Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe, Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Italy, Germany, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain and Ukraine, on the World Heritage List, on the basis of criterion (ix);

3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and other Regions of Europe" are a serial property comprising 77 component parts in total. They represent an outstanding example of anthropogenically undisturbed, complex temperate forests and exhibit the most complete and comprehensive ecological patterns and processes of pure and mixed 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 "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and other Regions of Europe" are indispensable to understand 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 and mixed stands of European beech across a variety of environmental conditions, such as climatic and geological conditions, throughout all relevant European Beech Forest Regions. They comprise all altitudinal zones from the coast up to the forest line in the mountains and, furthermore, include the best remaining examples of the outer boundaries of the European beech forest range. 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 since the last Ice Age. The continuing northern and westward expansion of beech from its original glacial refuge areas in the eastern and southern parts of Europe can be tracked along natural corridors and stepping stones spanning the continent. More recent changes in the distribution pattern of this species relate to direct influences of human disturbance and the more complex effects of anthropogenically induced climate change. Both historic and present serial patterns of distribution represent natural evolutionary strategies for adapting and surviving environmental change. The dominance of beech across extensive areas of Europe is a living testimony of the tree's genetic adaptability.

Integrity

The selected beech forest sites not only represent the full serial diversity found across Europe, they are also of sufficient size to maintain natural processes necessary for the long-term ecological viability of the wider ecosystem. Buffer zones including surrounding protected areas (nature parks, biosphere reserves) are managed sympathetically to ensure the long-term conservation of the particular character of the designated beech forests together with its inherent attributes. Next to criteria such as the extent of the forest area and the presence of an effective buffer zone, key characteristics, which were also used in the site selecting process included the average age of the forest stand and the period since it was last managed or actively disturbed. The evaluation criteria used in the selection process helped to describe the degree of naturalness of a forest, but also provide some indication of the inherent functional capacity of the ecosystem. Finally, where appropriate, special emphasis was given to connectivity between beech forests and the surrounding complementary habitats as a perceived prerequisite for ecosystem functioning and adaptation to environmental change.

Protection and management requirements

Long-term protection and management is ensured through national legal protection as national parks, core areas of a biosphere reserve or other types of protected areas. Effective implementation of an integrated management plan and a multilateral 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. Takes note of the outcome of the screening process as a proposal for the finite series in this nomination process, based on a strictly scientific selection. The defined statement of Outstanding Universal Value and the amended property name should be coherent with the current inscribed property and will ensure that possible future extensions will be clearly and consistently configured;

5. Thanks the States Parties for their cooperation in developing this nomination;

6. Requests the States Parties to consider the future enlargement of components in consultation with IUCN and the World Heritage Centre, to at least the established minimum size of 50 ha, and to strengthen the protection level within buffer zones and the improvement of ecological connectivity especially between component parts, and further recommends interested States Parties to ensure that component parts included in any future extensions exceed minimum requirements to fully meet integrity, protection and management requirements;

7. Also requests the States Parties to ensure that committed funding arrangements are able to safeguard consistent site management at the component level as well as coordinated management across the transnational serial property;

8. Further requests that special emphasis shall be given to appropriate buffer zone management in order to support undisturbed natural processes with special emphasis on dead and decaying wood, including ongoing monitoring of threats and risks, making effective use of the expertise and institutional capacity in management of the property;

9. Requests furthermore the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre by 1 December 2018 a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.



The moment of triumph: the pan-European World Heritage Property is designated! (July 7, 2017, Krakow)

Decision: 44 COM 8B.32 **Fuzhou, July, 28, 2021**

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

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/21/44.COM/8B.Add and WHC/21/44.COM/INF.8B2.Add,

2. Recalling decisions 31 COM 8B.16, 35 COM 8B.13, 41 COM 8B.7, 42 COM 7B.71 and 43 COM 7B.13 adopted at its 31st (Christchurch, 2007), 35th (UNESCO Headquarters, 2011), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 42nd (Manama, 2018) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions respectively,

3. Approves the significant boundary modification of the Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe, Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Italy, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Ukraine, on the basis of criterion (ix), through the addition or modification of the following nominated component parts in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czechia, France, Italy, North Macedonia, Poland, Slovakia and Switzerland:

- Vihorlat (Slovakia), as a boundary modification of the existing component part of the same name;
- Havešová Primeval Forest (Slovakia), as a boundary modification of the existing component part of the same name;
- Rožok (Slovakia), as a boundary modification of the existing component part of the same name;
- Udava (Slovakia) and Stužica - Bukovské Vrchy (Slovakia), as a boundary modification of the existing component part Stužica - Bukovské Vrchy (Slovakia);
- Cozzo Ferriero (Italy), as a boundary modification of the existing component part of the same name;
- Falascone (Italy), as a boundary modification of the existing component part Foresta Umbra (Italy);
- Pavari-Sfilzi (Italy) [new component part];
- Pollinello (Italy) [new component part];
- Valle Infernale (Italy) [new component part];
- Prašuma Janj (Bosnia and Herzegovina) [new component part];
- Forêt de la Bettlachstock (Switzerland) [new component part];
- Valli di Lodano, Busai and Soladino Forest Reserves (Switzerland) [new component part];
- Jizera Mountains (Czechia) [new component part];
- Chapitre (France) [new component part];
- Grand Ventron (France) [new component part];
- Massane (France) [new component part];
- Dlaboka Reka (North Macedonia) [new component part];
- Polonina Wetlinska and Smerek (Poland) [new component part];
- Border Ridge and Gorna Solinka valley (Poland) [new component part];
- Terebowiec stream valley (Poland) [new component part];
- Wolosatka stream valley (Poland) [new component part];

4. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property as a whole, including the modified and newly added components outlined above:

Brief synthesis

The “Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe” are a transnational serial property comprising 94 component parts across 18 countries. They represent an outstanding example of relatively undisturbed, complex temperate forests and exhibit a wide spectrum of comprehensive ecological patterns and processes of pure and mixed stands of European beech across a variety of environmental conditions. During each glacial phase (ice ages) of the last 1 million years, European beech (Fagus sylvatica) survived the unfavourable climatic conditions in refuge areas in the southern parts of the European continent. These refuge areas have been documented by scientists through palaeoecological analysis and using the latest techniques in genetic coding. After the last Ice Age, around

11,000 years ago, beech started expanding its range from these southern refuge areas to eventually cover large parts of the European continent. During this expansion process, which is still ongoing, beech formed different types of plant communities while occupying largely different environments. The interplay between a diversity of environments, climatic gradients and different species gene pools has and continues to shape this high diversity of beech forest communities. These forests contain an invaluable population of old trees and a genetic reservoir of beech and many other species, which are associated with and dependent on these old-growth forest habitats.

Criterion (ix): The property is indispensable for the understanding of 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 largely undisturbed, complex temperate forests exhibit comprehensive ecological patterns and processes of pure and mixed stands of European beech across a variety of environmental gradients, including climatic and geological conditions, spanning almost all European Beech Forest Regions. Forests are included from all altitudinal zones from coastal areas to the treeline and, include the best remaining examples from the range limits of the European beech forest. Beech is one of the most important features in the Temperate Broadleaf Forest Biome and represents an outstanding example of the re-colonization and development of terrestrial ecosystems and communities since the last Ice Age. The continuing northern and westward expansion of beech from its original glacial refuge areas in the eastern and southern parts of Europe can be tracked along natural corridors and stepping stones spanning the continent. The dominance of beech across extensive areas of Europe is a living testimony of the tree's genetic adaptability, a process which is still ongoing.

Integrity

The selected component parts represent the diversity of ancient and primeval beech forests found across Europe in terms of different climatic and geological conditions and altitudinal zones. The property includes component parts, which convey its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and represent the variability of European beech forest ecosystems. Together these component parts contribute to the integrity of the property as a whole. Additionally, each component part needs to demonstrate integrity at the local level by representing the full suite of natural forest development processes in its particular geographical and ecological setting within the series. Most of the component parts are of sufficient size to maintain such natural processes necessary for their long-term ecological viability.

The most significant threats to the property are logging and habitat fragmentation. Logging activities in the vicinity of component parts can cause microclimatic changes and nutrient mobilising effects, with negative impacts on the integrity of the property. Land use change in the surrounding landscapes can lead to increased habitat fragmentation, which would be of particular concern for smaller component parts. Infrastructure development is a potential threat only in the surroundings of a few component parts.

Climate change already poses a risk to some component parts and further impacts can be anticipated, including changes in species composition and habitat shifting. However, it should be noted that one of the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is its demonstration of the ability of beech to adapt to different ecological and climatic regimes throughout its range. Therefore, potential future changes need to be monitored and documented in order to better understand these processes.

The above-mentioned threats may affect the integrity of the component parts to a different extent and in different ways, for example through the reduction of structural diversity, fragmentation, loss of connectivity, biomass loss and changed microclimate, which reduce ecosystem functionality and adaptive capacity as a whole. To cope with these threats, buffer zones are established and are managed accordingly by the responsible management bodies.

Protection and management requirements

A strict non-intervention management is essential for the conservation of the OUV of this serial property across all its component parts. The majority of the 94 component parts are protected by law as strict forest reserves, wilderness areas, core areas of biosphere reserves or national parks (IUCN category I or II). Some of the component parts are protected and managed by Forest Management Plans (with regulations ensuring no logging in old-growth forests). As it is of uppermost importance to guarantee strong protection status in the long term, the protection status will be improved where needed.

To ensure the viability of the four component parts smaller than the established minimum size of 50 ha, an enlargement of the component parts with further non-intervention management will be considered by the States Parties. Additionally, an effective management of buffer zones to protect the property from external threats and to safeguard its integrity is of uppermost importance.

The integrity of each component part is the responsibility of the State Party and is ensured by the relevant local management units. For the coherent protection and management of the property, as well as to coordinate activities between the management units and the 18 States Parties, a functional organisational structure should be established. To ensure this aspect, an Integrated Management System was developed during the nomination process and will be maintained to allow effective and coordinated management and protection of the property as a whole. The Joint Management Committee, comprising representatives of all States Parties, formulated a Joint Declaration of Intent. This Declaration regulates and structures the cooperation between all the States Parties whose territory is included in the property and ensures the commitment to protect and strengthen the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. The position of a coordinator will be established and maintained to support the Joint Management Committee and the States Parties in their work.

The Integrated Management System and the management plans of the component parts will ensure a non-intervention management approach for the component parts while the buffer zones will be managed to avoid negative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property with a specific focus on ensuring integrity remains intact. To harmonise the management approach across the 94 component parts, the States Parties will develop common objectives and coordinated activities which will cover property and buffer zone management, monitoring and research, education and awareness raising, visitor management and tourism as well as financial and human capacity building. It is proposed to establish a coherent monitoring system based on selected ecological (proxy) indicators of integrity within all component parts to compare long-term development. It is imperative that each State Party provides clear and committed long-term funding arrangements, to support consistent national site management as well as coordinated management.

Special attention is required to ensure the configuration of the property such that each component part retains ongoing viability to evolve with unimpeded ecological and biological processes and without the need for substantial interventions. This includes the integration of surrounding forest ecosystems to provide sufficient protection and connectivity, especially for small component parts. All component parts have buffer zones of various configurations including surrounding protected areas (national parks, nature parks, biosphere reserves and others). These buffer zones will be regularly monitored to ensure protection under changing environmental conditions such as climate change. The boundaries of buffer zones should, where possible, be aligned with existing protected area boundaries and should be expanded to connect component parts where they are in close proximity. Finally, where appropriate, special ongoing emphasis is needed to ensure effective ecological connectivity between beech forests and the surrounding complementary habitats to allow natural development and adaptation of the forest to the environmental change.

5. Takes note of the following component parts in the present nomination, which are not recommended for inclusion in the serial property at the present time:

- Fruška gora – Papratski do (Serbia);
- Fruška gora – Ravne (Serbia);
- Kopaonik – Kozje stene (Serbia);
- Tara – Rača (Serbia);
- Tara – Zvezda (Serbia);
- Kyjovský prales (Slovakia);
- Aigoual (France);
- Sainte-Baume (France);
- Saint-Pé-de-Bigorre (France);
- Biogradska Gora 1 (Montenegro);
- Biogradska Gora 2 (Montenegro);

6. Recommends before considering potential resubmission of these component parts in any future nomination:

a) The State Party of Serbia to provide more detailed information on the type, scale, frequency and extent of any logging and forestry operations that may be implemented in the buffer zones of the nominated component parts in Serbia and their potential impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value, together with a plan to minimize logging in the entirety of the defined buffer zones,

b) The State Party of Slovakia to expand the buffer zone of the nominated Kyjovský prales component part and to connect this buffer zone to the buffer zone of the existing Vihorlat component part,

c) The State Party of France, with the support of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN if requested, to significantly revise the nominated component parts of Aigoual, Sainte-Baume and Saint-Pé-de-Bigorre to enhance their integrity and to re-design and enlarge their buffer zones,

d) The State Party of Montenegro, with the support of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN if requested, to merge the nominated component parts Biogradska Gora 1 and Biogradska Gora 2, and to align the zonation of the Biogradska Gora National Park in light of this and to revise current regulations, especially the Special Purpose Spatial Plan for Biogradska Gora National Park in order to align them with the protection of the nominated property's Outstanding Universal Value. It is further recommended to develop an appropriate tourism management plan for the resulting area;

7. Also takes note of the following nominated component parts which are not recommended for inclusion in the serial property:

- Chizé Component 1 North-West (France);
- Chizé Component 2 South (France);
- Fontainebleau (France);

8. Notes that the Fontainebleau nominated component part could potentially be considered in relation to the possible extension of the existing World Heritage property: Palace and Park of Fontainebleau, France;

9. Reiterates its requests to all States Parties involved in this transnational serial property, to ensure that buffer zone management supports undisturbed natural processes with special emphasis on dead and decaying wood, including ongoing monitoring of threats and risks, in line with Decision 41 COM 8B.7, with a clear, strict and consistent approach to buffer zone design and management, in line with Decision 42 COM 7B.71, as the only feasible way to protect the integrity of the small forest remnants included in this property, in line with Decision 43 COM 7B.13;

10. Also requests all States Parties involved in this transnational serial property to undertake a review of the consistency of component part design and buffer zone configurations across the entire transnational serial property, allowing for the expansion of undisturbed natural processes into the surrounding areas, so as to ensure the natural evolution and continued recovery of Beech Forests within the component parts and towards the surrounding areas, and to consider the proposals to strengthen the property accordingly;

11. Further requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2023, a joint report on the state of conservation of the property as a whole, and the implementation and the review of boundary and buffer zone consistency, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session;

12. Welcomes the enhanced cooperation between a large number of European States Parties to preserve primeval, ancient and old-growth Beech Forests across the continent.

DECREES OF THE PRESIDENT AND GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE ON PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS PROTECTION IN THE CARPATHIANS AS A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR VICINITY



DECREE
OF THE PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE
"On Additional Measures on Nature Conservation Development Ukraine" (Extract)

In order to improve the conditions for the implementation of a unified state policy in the field of nature conservation activity development, as well as for the improvement of protected areas' management, I hereby resolve:

1. To the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine:

…

5) Within the period of 3 months: to develop and approve a Plan of Measures aimed at conservation and development of the Ukrainian part of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians", which is listed into the UNESCO World Heritage List;

…

President of Ukraine V. Yushchenko

Kyiv, August 14, 2009
№ 611/2009



Доручення Президента України

З метою збереження унікальних природних комплексів, забезпечення сталого розвитку української частини українсько-словацько-німецького природного об'єкта Всесвітньої спадщини ЮНЕСКО "Букові праліси Карпат та давні букові ліси Німеччини", благоустрою гірських населених пунктів Закарпатської області, розташованих у зоні української частини цього природного об'єкта:

М.АЗАРОВУ

1. Забезпечити розроблення проекту Меморандуму між Міністерством екології та природних ресурсів України, Міністерством довкілля Словацької Республіки і Федеральним міністерством довкілля, охорони навколишнього природного середовища та безпеки ядерних реакторів Федеративної Республіки Німеччина, спрямованого на забезпечення збереження українсько-словацько-німецького природного об'єкта Всесвітньої спадщини ЮНЕСКО "Букові праліси Карпат та давні букові ліси Німеччини".

Термін – 2 грудня 2013 року

М.АЗАРОВУ
О.ЛЕДИДІ

2. Забезпечити:

1) опрацювання питання щодо відновлення залізничного сполучення між містами Києвом та Раховом (Закарпатська область);

Термін – 3 червня 2013 року

2) розроблення плану заходів щодо забезпечення сталого розвитку і благоустрою гірських населених пунктів Закарпатської області в зоні української частини українсько-словацько-німецького природного об'єкта Всесвітньої спадщини ЮНЕСКО "Букові праліси Карпат та давні букові ліси Німеччини", передбачивши розвиток туристично-рекреаційного потенціалу Закарпатської області;

Термін ~~1 жовтня 2013 року~~

ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА ОБЛАСНА ДЕРЖАВНА АДМІНІСТРАЦІЯ

3) вирішення питань щодо збирання, складування та утилізації побутових відходів на територіях, прилеглих до території української частини українсько-словацько-німецького природного об'єкта Всесвітньої спадщини ЮНЕСКО "Букові праліси Карпат та давні букові ліси Німеччини";

Термін – 31 грудня 2013 року

4) фінансування будівництва міжнародного навчально-дослідного центру з вивчення букових пралісів та сталого розвитку Карпат на базі Карпатського біосферного заповідника;

5) проведення ремонту автомобільних доріг та об'єктів туристично-рекреаційної інфраструктури в зоні української частини українсько-словацько-німецького природного об'єкта Всесвітньої спадщини ЮНЕСКО "Букові праліси Карпат та давні букові ліси Німеччини";

6) розроблення та впровадження пілотних проектів із переоснащення систем опалення в гірських населених пунктах Закарпатської області на системи з використанням альтернативних видів палива;

7) здійснення заходів із відновлення зруйнованого автомобільного переходу через річку Тиса та створення необхідної прикордонної інфраструктури на українсько-румунському державному кордоні у селі Діловому Рахівського району Закарпатської області.

Термін – 31 грудня 2015 року

В.ЯНУКОВИЧ

Вих. № 1-1/749
від 2 квітня 2013 року

ODRER OF THE PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE

With the aim to secure conservation of the unique natural complexes and development of the Ukrainian part of the UNESCO UA – SK – DE WH Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany", improvement of conditions in the mountainous settlements in the Transcarpathian Region of Ukraine within the WH Property's scope:

1. To support elaboration of a draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Ecology and Nature Resources of Ukraine and the Ministry of Environment of Slovak Republic and the Federal Ministry of Environment and Nuclear Safety of Germany, that will secure protection of the UA – SK – DE WH Property.

2. To ensure:

1) Consideration of possibilities to renovate railway connection between Kyiv and Rakhiv (Transcarpathian reg., UA)

2) Elaboration of the Action Plan for sustainable development and improvement of conditions in the mountainous settlements in the Transcarpathian Region of Ukraine in the scope of the Ukrainian part of the UNESCO UA – SK – DE WH Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany", including development of the tourism and recreation potential of the Transcarpathian region of UA;

3) Finding solutions for a proper waste management within the scope of the UNESCO WH Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" – within the adjacent territory;

4) Fundraising for construction of the International Capacity Building and Research Center based at the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve;

5) Repairing and maintenance of the motor-ways and elements of the tourism infrastructure within the scope of the UNESCO UA – SK – DE WH Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany";

6) Elaboration and implementation of pilot projects targeted for upgrading and converting central heating systems at the mountainous settlements of Transcarpathia using alternative energy sources;

7) Implementation of measures directed onto the renovation of a ruined crossing on the Tisza River and development of a corresponding border infrastructure on the Ukrainian-Romanian state border in the village Dilove, Rakhiv district, Transcarpathia, UA.

Victor Yanukovych, President of Ukraine
No. 1-1/749, April 2, 2013

ПРЕМ'ЄР-МІНІСТР УКРАЇНИ
вул. Грушевського, 12/2, Київ,01008,
тел.: (044) 256 7624, телефакс: (044) 254 0584

До доручення Президента України
від 02.04.13 № 1-1/749

1. До пункту 1

ПРОСКУРЯКОВУ О. А. — скликання
КОЖАРІ Л. О.
ПРИСЯЖНЮКУ М. В.
ЛАВРИНОВИЧУ О. В.
ЛЕДИДІ О. О.

Прошу забезпечити розроблення проекту Меморандуму між Міністерством екології та природних ресурсів України, Міністерством довкілля Словацької Республіки і Федеральним міністерством довкілля, охорони навколишнього природного середовища та безпеки ядерних реакторів Федеративної Республіки Німеччина, спрямованого на забезпечення збереження українсько-словацько-німецького природного об'єкта Всесвітньої спадщини ЮНЕСКО "Букові праліси Карпат та давні букові ліси Німеччини".

Про результати поінформувати Кабінет Міністрів разом з проектом відповіді Президентові України.

Строк — до 1 листопада 2013 року

Ящук В. В. (Апаршину І. М., Щербині М. М. — відповідно до компетенції), Мельничуку А. В.

2. До підпункту 1 пункту 2

КОЗАКУ В. В. — скликання
БОЛОБОЛІНУ С. П.
ЛЕДИДІ О. О.

Прошу забезпечити опрацювання питання щодо відновлення залізничного сполучення між містами Києвом та Раховом (Закарпатська область).

Про результати поінформувати Кабінет Міністрів разом з проектом відповіді Президентові України.

Строк — до 15 травня 2013 року

Ящук В. В. (Щербині М. М.)

Міністерство екології та природних ресурсів України
ДЕПАРТАМЕНТ ЗАБЕЗПЕЧЕННЯ ДОКУМЕНТООБІГУ СЕКРЕТАРІАТУ КАБІНЕТУ МІНІСТРІВ УКРАЇНИ
№13626/1/1-13 від 13.04.2013
№ 1058/2-3
13 " 04 2013 р.
70 м2 9.22.25

3. До підпункту 2 пункту 2

ПРАСОЛОВУ І. М. — скликання
ТЕМНИКУ Г. П.
ПРОСКУРЯКОВУ О. А.
СТАВИЦЬКОМУ Е. А.
ПРИСЯЖНЮКУ М. В.
КОЗАКУ В. В.
КОРОЛЕВСЬКІЙ Н. Ю.
ШАПОВАЛОВІЙ О. О.
ЛЕДИДІ О. О.

Прошу забезпечити розроблення плану заходів щодо забезпечення сталого розвитку і благоустрою гірських населених пунктів Закарпатської області в зоні української частини українсько-словацько-німецького природного об'єкта Всесвітньої спадщини ЮНЕСКО "Букові праліси Карпат та давні букові ліси Німеччини", передбачивши розвиток туристично-рекреаційного потенціалу Закарпатської області.

Про результати поінформувати Кабінет Міністрів разом з проектом відповіді Президентові України.

Строк — до 1 вересня 2013 року

Ящук В. В. (Апаршину І. М., Щербині М. М. — відповідно до компетенції)

4. До підпункту 3 пункту 2

ЛЕДИДІ О. О. — скликання
ТЕМНИКУ Г. П.
ПРОСКУРЯКОВУ О. А.
ПРАСОЛОВУ І. М.
ЖИЛІ П. Б.

Прошу забезпечити вирішення питань щодо збирання, складування та утилізації побутових відходів на територіях, прилеглих до території української частини українсько-словацько-німецького природного об'єкта Всесвітньої спадщини ЮНЕСКО "Букові праліси Карпат та давні букові ліси Німеччини".

Про результати поінформувати Кабінет Міністрів разом з проектом відповіді Президентові України.

Строк — до 2 грудня 2013 року

Ящук В. В. (Щербині М. М., Апаршину І. М. — відповідно до компетенції), Ткаленку І. І.

5. До підпункту 4 пункту 2

КОЛОБОВУ Ю. В. — скликання
ПРОСКУРЯКОВУ О. А.
ТЕМНИКУ Г. П.
ЛЕДИДІ О. О.

Прошу забезпечити фінансування будівництва міжнародного навчально-дослідного центру з вивчення букових пралісів та сталого розвитку Карпат на базі Карпатського біосферного заповідника.

Про результати поінформувати Кабінет Міністрів разом з проектом відповіді Президентові України.

Строк — до 1 грудня 2015 року

Ящук В. В. (Апаршину І. М., Щербині М. М. — відповідно до компетенції)

6. До підпункту 5 пункту 2

КОЗАКУ В. В. — скликання
КОЛОБОВУ Ю. В.
ПРОСКУРЯКОВУ О. А.
МЕЗДРІНУ М. Г.
ЛЕДИДІ О. О.

Прошу забезпечити проведення ремонту автомобільних доріг та об'єктів туристично-рекреаційної інфраструктури в зоні української частини українсько-словацько-німецького природного об'єкта Всесвітньої спадщини ЮНЕСКО "Букові праліси Карпат та давні букові ліси Німеччини".

Про результати інформувати Кабінет Міністрів.

Строк — щокварталу

Ящук В. В. (Щербині М. М., Апаршину І. М. — відповідно до компетенції)

7. До підпункту 6 пункту 2

ЛЕДИДІ О. О. — скликання
ПРАСОЛОВУ І. М.
ТЕМНИКУ Г. П.
ПАШКЕВИЧУ М. О.

Прошу вжити заходів щодо розроблення та впровадження пілотних проектів із переоснащення систем опалення в гірських населених пунктах Закарпатської області на системи з використанням альтернативних видів палива.

Про результати інформувати Кабінет Міністрів.

Строк — щокварталу

Ящук В. В. (Щербині М. М.), Ткаленку І. І.

8. До підпункту 7 пункту 2

КОЗАКУ В. В. — скликання
КОЛОБОВУ Ю. В.
МЕЗДРІНУ М. Г.
ЛИТВИНУ М. М.
ЛЕДИДІ О. О.

Прошу забезпечити здійснення заходів із відновлення зруйнованого автомобільного переходу через річку Тиса та створення необхідної прикордонної інфраструктури на українсько-румунському державному кордоні у селі Діловому Рахівського району Закарпатської області.

Про результати інформувати Кабінет Міністрів.

Строк — щокварталу

Ящук В. В. (Щербині М. М.)

БОЙКУ Ю. А.
ВІЛКУЛУ О. Ю.
ЛУКАШ О. Л.

ЛЮБЧЕНКУ К. В.
АНІСТРАТЕНКУ Ю. С.

КУШНІРЕНКУ О. М.

Ящук В. В., Ткаленку І. І., Ковалю О. А., Кутецькій В. М., Янчуку Ю. М.

Микола АЗАРОВ

PRIME MINISTER OF UKRAINE

The Instruction of the President of Ukraine
Dated on 02.04.13 Nr. 1-1/794

1. To Item 1

Proskuriakov O.A. – summoning
Kozhara L.O., Prysiazhnyuk M.V.,
Lavrynovych O.V., Ledyda O.O.

To ensure elaboration of the draft Memorandum between the Ministry of Ecology of the Republic of Slovakia and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Conservation of Nature and Nuclear Safely of the Federal Republic of Germany aimed at protection of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property (natural) "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany".

The results are to be reported about to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine together with a draft response letter to the President of Ukraine.

Deadline – by November 1, 2013

2. To the Item 2

Kozak V.V. – summoning
Bolobolin S.P., Ledyda O.O.

To ensure consideration of the issue of a railway connection restoration between the city of Kyiv and the town of Rakhiv (Zakarpattia region).

The results are to be reported about to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine together with a draft response letter to the President of Ukraine.

Deadline – May 15, 2013

3. To Sub-Item 2 of the Item 2

Prasolov I.M. – summoning
Temnyk H.P., Proskuriakov O.A.
Stavytskyi E.A., Prysiazhnyuk M.V.
Kozak V.V., Korolevska N.Yu.
Shapovalova O.O., Ledyda O.O.

To ensure elaboration of an Action Plan directed at sustainable development and improvement (maintenance) of mountainous settlements of Zakarpattia region located in the vicinity of the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property (natural) "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany"; to envisage development and tourism and recreation potential of Zakarpattia.

The results are to be reported about to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine together with a draft response letter to the President of Ukraine.

Deadline – September 1, 2013

4. To Sub-Item 3 of the Item 2

Ledyda O.O. – summoning
Temnyk H.P., Proskuriakov O.A.
Prasolov I.M., Zhyla P.B.

To ensure solutions for the issues connected to waste management within the territories, adjacent the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property (natural) "Primeval

Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany"; to envisage development and tourism and recreation potential of Zakarpattia.

The results are to be reported about to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine together with a draft response letter to the President of Ukraine.

Deadline – by December 2, 2013

5. To Sub-Item 4 of the Item 2
Kolobov Yu.V. – summoning
Proskuriakov O.A.,
Temnyk H.P., Ledyda O.O.

To ensure funds' allocation for construction of the International Capacity-Building and Research Center for primeval beech forests and sustainable development of the Carpathians based at the Carpathian Biosphere reserve.

The results are to be reported about to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine together with a draft response letter to the President of Ukraine.

Deadline – by December 1, 2015

6. To Sub-Item 5 of the Item 2
Kozak V.V. – summoning
Kolobov Yu.V., Proskuriakov O.A.,
Ledyda O.O.

To ensure repair works for motorways and elements of tourism and recreation infrastructure within the territories, adjacent the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property (natural) "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany".

The results are to be reported about to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

Deadline – quarterly

7. To Sub-Item 6 of the Item 2
Ledyda O.O. – summoning
Prasolov I.M., Temnyk H.P.,
Pashkevych M.O.

To ensure implementation of measures aimed at development and implementation of pilot projects on heating systems upgrading in the mountainous settlements of Zakarpattia region using alternative energy sources.

The results are to be reported about to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

Deadline – quarterly

8. To Sub-Item 8 of the Item 2
Kozak V.V. – summoning
Kolobov Yu.B., Mezdrin M.H.,
Ledyda O.O.

To ensure implementation of actions aimed at restoration of the ruined automobile border crossing checkpoint across the Tisza River and development of the relevant border infrastructure along the Ukrainian-Romanian state border in the village of Dilove, Rakhiv district, Zakarpattia region.

The results are to be reported about to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

Deadline – quarterly

CABINET OF MINISTERS OF UKRAINE
RESOLUTION
December 23, 2009, № 1619-p, Kyiv
On the Action Plan for conservation and development of Ukrainian part of the UNESCO WH Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians"

1. To adopt an action plan for protection and development of the Ukrainian part of the UNESCO WH Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians"

2. The Ministry of Environment jointly with other authorities should ensure Action Plan enforcement according to the given Resolution.

Prime-Minister of Ukraine Yulia Tymoshenko

Action Plan for conservation and development of the Ukrainian part of the UNESCO WH Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians"

Action	Term
1. To establish information boards at the Carpathian BR and the Uzhanskyi NP with information about the Property	2010-2012
2. To support fundraising, which is necessary for the development of CBR and UNNP	Permanently
3. To develop international cooperation in the sphere of scientific research of the primeval beech forest ecosystems in the Carpathians	Permanently
4. To organize promotion and information campaign through mass-media as for the cultural and natural heritage of the global significance, and the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians in particular	Permanently
5. To establish an international research and training center for primeval beech forests investigation based at CBR	2010-2013
6. To finish construction of the information center at the Uzhanskyi NNP	2010-2012
7. To organize a conference dedicated to the issues of restoration and maintenance of primeval forests of the Carpathians	2010
8. To conduct activity directed onto awareness raising in terms of environmental protection	Permanently

Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine
"On Approval of the Action Plan of for Sustainable Development and Improvement of Mountain Settlements of the Ukrainian Part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German Natural UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany"
dated on September 10, 2014, No. 819-p
{With the amendments introduced in accordance with the CM Decree No. 499 dated 17.07.2015}

1. To approve the Action Plan for the sustainable development and improvement of mountain settlements of the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German natural UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany", attached.

2. Ministries, other central executive authorities and the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration to submit to the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade every year by January 25, the information on the state of implementation of the Action Plan approved by this Decree, for its consideration and submission to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine annually by February 20th.

Prime Minister of Ukraine **A. Yatsenyuk**
Ind. 33

APPROVED
by the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine
dated on September 10, 2014 No. 819-p

ACTION PLAN
for ensuring sustainable development and improvement of mountain settlements of the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German natural UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany"

1. To consider the issue of determining the list of local roads in the Zakarpattia region leading to the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park, that are parts of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" (further – the natural Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany"), and their inclusion in the list of public roads of state importance, Approved: the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, April 18, 2012, No. 301 (Official Bulletin of Ukraine, 2012, No. 30, p. 1110).

Ministry of Infrastructure,
Ukrainian Public Motorway Development Company,
Zakarpattia Regional State Administration.
2014-2015

2. To carry out maintenance and thorough overhaul of road infrastructure within the territory of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and Uzhanskyi National Nature Park.

Ministry of Infrastructure,
Ukrainian Public Motorway Development Company,
Zakarpattia Regional State Administration.
2015

3. To organize and hold a meeting with the representatives of the Ministry of Environment of Ukraine, the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic and the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Conservation of Nature and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany with the purpose of signing a Memorandum of Understanding on preservation of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Natural Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests of Germany".

Ministry of Environment, Zakarpattia Regional State Administration.
2014-2015

4. To ensure heating systems upgrade for administrative and residential buildings of the public and communal ownership, which are located in the vicinity of the Ukrainian part of the UNESCO WH Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany".

Zakarpattia Regional State Administration,
Ministry of Regional Development, Ministry of Energy and Coal Industry.
2014

5. To ensure planning and implementation of works on river bank stabilization and the implementation of anti-landslide measures, reconstruction of treatment facilities and water supply, construction of sewage networks, centralized and non-centralized drinking water supply networks in Rakhiv town and villages of Kobyletska Poliana and Yasinia of Zakarpattia Oblast, located in the vicinity of the Ukrainian part of the UNESCO WH Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany".

Zakarpattia Regional State Administration, Ministry of Regional
Development Ministry of Environment, State Agency for Water Resources.
2014-2016

6. Ensure the development of a territorial planning scheme for the Velykyi Bereznyi, Perechyn, Rakhiv, Tiachiv and Khust districts of the Zakarpattia region.

Zakarpattia Regional State Administration, Ministry of Regional Development.
2014-2015

7. To solve the issue regarding waste management in the territories adjacent to the Ukrainian part of the UNESCO WH Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany".

Zakarpattia Regional State Administration,
Ministry of Regional Development, Ministry of Environment.
2014-2015

8. To consider the issue regarding attraction of investments for opening up enterprises in Velykyi Bereznyi, Rakhiv, Tiachiv and Khust districts of the Zakarpattia region engaged in the deep processing of wood, wild fruits, berries, mushrooms and other natural resources.

Zakarpattia Regional State Administration, Ministry of Economic Development,
Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agrarian Policy.
2015-2016

9. To ensure conditions for the development of tourist resources in Zakarpattia region, namely: to assess the state of tourist resources of the mountainous part of Zakarpattia.

Zakarpattia Regional State Administration,
Ministry of Environment, State Agency for Tourism and Resorts.
Second half of 2014

to develop a regional program for protection and rational use of tourist resources.

Zakarpattia Regional State Administration, Ministry of Environment.
Second half of 2014

to ensure the establishment of tourist information centers.

Zakarpattia Regional State Administration,
State Agency for Tourism and Resorts.
2015-2016

to promote the development of rural tourism.

Ministry of Agrarian Policy, State Agency for Tourism and Resorts,
Zakarpattia Regional State Administration.
On the permanent basis.

10. In order to promote the natural UNESCO WH Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" to ensure the availability of relevant information on the national tourist portal "Welcome to Ukraine".

State Agency for Tourism and Resorts.
2014-2015

11. Contribute to the development of cross-border cooperation within the framework of the Carpathian region.

Zakarpattia Regional State Administration,
Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Regional Development.
On the permanent basis.

СЕКРЕТАРІАТ
КАБІНЕТУ МІНІСТРІВ УКРАЇНИ

10895 0/2-16 від 01.07.16

Мінприроди
Мінекономрозвитку
Мінрегіон
Мінінфраструктури
Мінфін
Закарпатська
облдержадміністрація

Відповідно до пункту 6 § 12 Регламенту Кабінету Міністрів надсилаємо лист Мінприроди від 21 червня 2016 р. № 5/3-9/5806-16 для розгляду в установленому порядку з метою забезпечення виконання доручення Кабінету Міністрів від 21 березня 2016 р. № 9026/1/1-16.

Додаток: на 11 арк.

Заступник Міністра
Кабінету Міністрів **Володимир ФЕДОРЧУК**

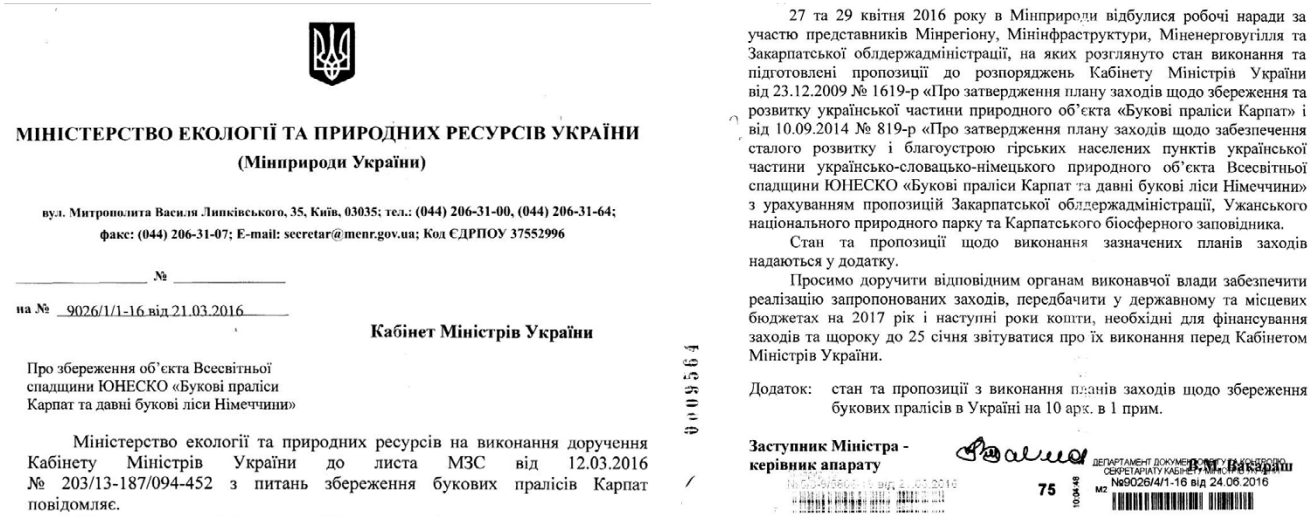
SECRETARIAT
OF THE CABINET OF MINISTERS OF UKRAINE
10895 02-16 dated on 01.07.16

To the
Ministry of Environment
Ministry of Economic Development
Ministry of Regional Development
Ministry of Infrastructure
Ministry of Finance
Zakarpattia Regional State Administration

According to the Item 6 of the Paragraph 12 of the Agenda of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine we're sending you herewith the Letter of the Ministry of Environment dated on June 21, 2016 Nr. 5/3-9/5806-16 for your consideration in accordance with the established procedure with the aim to ensure implementation of the Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated on March 21, 2016 Nr. 9026/1/1-16

Annex – 11 pages

Deputy Minister of the Cabinet
of Ministers of Ukraine **Volodymyr Fedorchuk**



МІНІСТЕРСТВО ЕКОЛОГІЇ ТА ПРИРОДНИХ РЕСУРСІВ УКРАЇНИ
(Мінприроди України)

вул. Митрополита Василя Липківського, 35, Київ, 03035; тел.: (044) 206-31-00, (044) 206-31-64;
факс: (044) 206-31-07; E-mail: secretar@menr.gov.ua; Код ЄДРПОУ 37552996

_____ № _____

на № 9026/1/1-16 від 21.03.2016

Кабінет Міністрів України

Про збереження об'єкта Всесвітньої спадщини ЮНЕСКО «Букові праліси Карпат та давні букові ліси Німеччини»

Міністерство екології та природних ресурсів на виконання доручення Кабінету Міністрів України до листа МЗС від 12.03.2016 № 203/13-187/094-452 з питань збереження букових пралісів Карпат повідомляє.

27 та 29 квітня 2016 року в Мінприроди відбулися робочі наради за участю представників Мінрегіону, Мінінфраструктури, Міненерговугілля та Закарпатської облдержадміністрації, на яких розглянуто стан виконання та підготовлені пропозиції до розпоряджень Кабінету Міністрів України від 23.12.2009 № 1619-р «Про затвердження плану заходів щодо збереження та розвитку української частини природного об'єкта «Букові праліси Карпат» і від 10.09.2014 № 819-р «Про затвердження плану заходів щодо забезпечення сталого розвитку і благоустрою гірських населених пунктів української частини українсько-словацько-німецького природного об'єкта Всесвітньої спадщини ЮНЕСКО «Букові праліси Карпат та давні букові ліси Німеччини» з урахуванням пропозицій Закарпатської облдержадміністрації, Ужанського національного природного парку та Карпатського біосферного заповідника.

Стан та пропозиції щодо виконання зазначених планів заходів надаються у додатку.

Просимо доручити відповідним органам виконавчої влади забезпечити реалізацію запропонованих заходів, передбачити у державному та місцевих бюджетах на 2017 рік і наступні роки кошти, необхідні для фінансування заходів та щороку до 25 січня звітуватися про їх виконання перед Кабінетом Міністрів України.

Додаток: стан та пропозиції з виконання планів заходів щодо збереження букових пралісів в Україні на 10 арк. в 1 прим.

Заступник Міністра - керівник апарату

ДЕПАРТАМЕНТ ДОКУМЕНТООБІГУ ТА КОНТРОЛЮ СЕКРЕТАРІАТУ КАБІНЕТУ МІНІСТРІВ УКРАЇНИ
№9026/4/1-16 від 24.06.2016

MINISTRY OF ECOLOGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF UKRAINE
(Ministry of Environment)

To the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine
on their letter 9026/1/1-16
dated on 21.03.2016

On the issues related to conservation
of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German
UNESCO World Heritage Property
"Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians
and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany"

The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine in execution of the Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine to the letter of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs dated on 12.03.2016 Nr. 203/13-187/094-452 on the issues related to conservation of the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians informs:

On April 27 and 29, 2016 the Ministry of Environment hosted working meetings with participation of the Ministry of Regional Development, Ministry of Infrastructure, Ministry of Energetics and the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration, where the status of implementation and proposals to the Orders of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated on 23.12.2009 Nr. 1619-p "On approval of the Action Plan on development of the Ukrainian part of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" and the Order dated on 10.09.2014 Nr. 819-p "On approval of the Action Plan on ensuring sustainable development and maintenance (improvement) of the mountainous settlements of the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property (natural) "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" were discussed, taking into account the proposals made by the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration, the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park and the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve.

The implementation status and proposal as for these Action Plans execution are annexed.

We ask you to entrust relevant bodies of executive power to ensure the implementation of the measures proposed, and to allocate in the state and local budgets for 2017 and the next years the funds necessary for their implementation; to report on their implementation annually by January 25 to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

Annex: status of implementation and proposals to the Action Plans for conservation of the Ukrainian part of the primeval beech forests in Ukraine on 10 pages, 1 copy

Deputy Minister – Control Officer **V.M. Vakarash**

Annex to the letter of the Ministry of Environmental Protection
dated on June 21, 2016, No. 5 / 3-9 / 5806-16

Status and proposals to implementation of conservation plans for primeval beech forests in Ukraine

Nr.	Name of activity	Implementation status	Proposal (activity)
Action Plan for conservation and development of the Ukrainian part of the natural UNESCO WH Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" (2009)			
1.	Ensuring availability of information boards with the info about the natural Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" (further on – primeval beech forests of the Carpathians in the territory of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Uzhanskyi National Park	**Implemented.** In all the six clusters of primeval beech forests of the Carpathians there are information boards dedicated to this Property	
2.	Support fundraising activity to attract funds necessary for preservation and development of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park	**Not implemented.** The financial support has not been involved	**Ministry of Environment:** To ensure protection and development of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park it is necessary to raise funds from the Ukrainian-German project "Support for Protected Areas in Ukraine" **Period: 2016-2020**
3.	Ensuring active international cooperation in the field of scientific research of primeval beech forest ecosystems in the Carpathians	**In the process of implementation.** The Ukrainian-Swiss project on large-scale inventory of Uholka-Shyrokyi Luh primeval beech forests was implemented. On May 14, 2014 in Bonn (Germany) a Joint Declaration of Intent was signed between the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Conservation of Nature, Building and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic on cooperation in the field of protection and management the joined UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany". An Integrated Management System was developed and the Joint Management Committee for the "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" established	**Ministry of Environment and the NAS of Ukraine:** to elaborate and approve additional actions aimed at deepening the international cooperation in scientific research of primeval beech forest ecosystems in the Carpathians and to allocate necessary funds **Period: 2017**

4.	Ensuring highlighting the issues related to conservation of UNESCO WH (natural and cultural) Properties of universal importance, in particular the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians, in print media	**In the process of implementation.** All-Ukrainian and local media regularly publish information related to conservation of UNESCO WH Properties (natural and cultural) of universal importance, in particular – the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians. In the Uholka division of CBR a tourism-information center was opened up – "Primeval Beech Forests as UNESCO World Heritage Property"	**Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Culture, National Commission for UNESCO, NAS of Ukraine:** to continue the issues related to conservation of UNESCO WH (natural and cultural) Properties of universal importance, in particular the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians, in print media **Period: continuously**
5.	To establish the International Capacity Building and Research Center for primeval beech forests of the Carpathians on the basis of the Carpathian biosphere reserve	**Not implemented.** The funds were allocated only for preparing the project documentation	**Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Finance:** to plan the funds for construction of the International Capacity Building and Research Center for primeval beech forests of the Carpathians on the basis of the Carpathian biosphere reserve and for construction of an eco-education center in the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park in the state budget **Period: 2017 – 2018**
6.	Final works on construction of the eco-education center in the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park	**Not implemented.** Funds to complete the works were not allocated	**Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Finance:** to plan the funds for final construction works on the eco-education center in the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park in the state budget **Period: 2017 – 2018**
7.	Organization of a conference dedicated to the issues of restoration and improvement of the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians	**Implemented.** On September 16-22, 2013 the International Scientific Conference "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Beech Forests of Europe: Problems of Conservation and Sustainable Use" was held on the basis of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve	
8.	Ensuring activities aimed at raising the level of public's awareness on the issues of environmental protection	**In the process of implementation.** The Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park are constantly informing the wide public about their conservation activities	**Ministry of Environment and Zakarpattia Regional State Administration:** to keep on the implementation of the activities aimed at raising the level of public's awareness on the issues of environmental protection **Period: continuously**

Action Plan on sustainable development and maintenance of mountain settlements of the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" (2014)			
1.	To consider determining the list of local roads in Zakarpattia region, that lead to the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park as parts of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" (further – UNESCO WH Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany"), and their inclusion into the list of public roads of state importance, as approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on April 18, 2012 Nr. 301	**Not implemented.** The Zakarpattia Regional State Administration in its letter dated o 12.12.2014 Nr. 06-1 / 2559 to the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Ukrainian Public Road Development Company submitted a number proposals to be included into the list of public roads of national importance, which were not supported	**Zakarpattia RSA:** to address the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Ukrainian Public Road Development Company again with proposals to include main access roads leading to the UNESCO World Heritage Property into the list of general use roads of the national importance **Period: by the end of 2016**
2.	To carry out repair works and ensure maintenance of the road infrastructure within the territory of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and Uzhanskyi National Nature Park	**Partially implemented.** In 2015 in Zakarpattia region, 218 km of local roads (95%) were repaired, repair works on the Lviv-Sambir motorway are being done. At the same time, there are extremely unsatisfactory access roads leading to Hoverla Mt. (the road from Rakhiv town to Luhy village), roads to the Uholka-Shyrokyi Luh UNESCO WH Property component (from the village Bushtyno to Mala Uholka, Uhlia village – Velyka Uholka; Neresnytsia village – Shyrokyi Luh) and to the "Stuzhytsia – Uzhok" cluster of the UNESCO WH Property (village of Uzhok – Pidpolozzia) and its connection with the Kyiv-Chop highway (Zhorniava – Stuzhytsia)	**Zakarpattia RSA and the Ukrainian Public Road Development Company:** to include into the Road Repair Plans the repair works and maintenance of road infrastructure within the territory of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and Uzhanskyi National Nature Park **Period: annually**
3.	To organize and hold a meeting with the representatives of the Ministry of Environment of Ukraine, the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic and the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Conservation of Nature and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany for the purpose of signing a Joint Memorandum on conservation of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests of Germany"	**Implemented.** On May 14, 2014 in Bonn (Germany) a Joint Declaration of Intent was signed between the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Conservation of Nature, Building and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic in the field of protection and management of the joint UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany"	

4.	To ensure upgrading heating systems of the administrative and residential buildings of state and communal ownership, which are located in the territory of the Ukrainian part of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests of Germany"	**Partially implemented.** Four facilities of the social sphere are equipped with independent heating stations using solid fuel or electricity, and the reconstruction of a heating system in Zabrid secondary school with the installation of an additional solid-fuel heater on wood waste was conducted; cost estimation and other project documents were prepared to change the heating system in the town of Rakhiv into the electric one with, the total value of the project is 47.8 million UAH. Implementation of this project is complicated by the fact that the settlements adjacent to the World Heritage Property are located in depressed areas and do not have adequate funding.	**Zakarpattia RSA:** to establish an agency for regional development as a non-profit organization with the purpose of effective implementation of the state's regional policy, the Regulations for which have been approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated on February 11, 2016 Nr. 258; to hold a meeting on introduction of the sources of energy supply alternative to fuel wood (fuel pumps, solar panels, electric heating) in settlements, and submitting appropriate proposals for the implementation of pilot projects under the conditions of co-financing from local budgets; preparation and submission to the Ministry of Regional Development (Interdepartmental Coordinating Commission on the Issues of Regional Development) the projects to be funded from the State Foundation of Regional Development aimed at strengthening public-private partnership, the projects are to be submitted with relevant cost-estimation and other documents; to plan this and other activities in the action plan, in particular the development of depressed territories, as the priority while preparing the Regional Strategy for Zakarpattia Region Development; to allocate funds for 2017 and the subsequent years for heating systems upgrading in administrative and residential buildings of state and communal ownership, which are located in the vicinity of the World Heritage Property **Period: annually** **The National Commission on energy and public utilities:** In order to preserve the forests of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" it is required to introduce reduced tariffs on electricity for the inhabitants of the settlements situated the Property's vicinity **Period: by the end of 2016**

5.	To ensure the preparation of design and implementation of works on coastal protection for the rivers and to take anti-landslide measures, as well as to conduct the reconstruction of water treatment facilities and district water supply networks the town of Rakhiv and the villages of Kobyletska Poliana, Yasinia of Zakarpattia region, located in the vicinity of the Ukrainian part of the UNESCO WH Property "Primeval Beech Footrests of the Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests of Germany"	**Not implemented.** In the framework of the Sectorial Program for the Development of Water Management and the Ecological Recovery of the Tisza Basin in Zakarpattia Region for 2013-2021, insignificant planned repair works on the river bank stabilization and some other measures were carried out, and the project documentation was prepared only for the areas around the villages of Yasinia, Kobyletska Poliana of Rakhiv district. The situation in the town of Rakhiv remains extremely unsatisfactory	**Zakarpattia Regional State Administration and Rakhiv Regional State Administration:** to plan funds for co-financing for designing and performing works on bank stabilization of the rivers, and for the implementation of anti-landslide measures, reconstruction of water treatment facilities and the district and non-centralized drinking water supply networks in the local budget plans for 2017 and for the following years for the town of Rakhiv and the villages of Kobyletska Poliana, Yasinia of Zakarpattia region, that are adjacent to the World Heritage Property **Period: annually**
6.	To ensure the development of spatial planning dossiers for the territories of the Velykyi Bereznyi, Perechyn, Rakhiv, Tiachiv and Khust districts of Zakarpattia region	**Not implemented.** While preparing the spatial planning dossiers, they practically don't take into account the ecological components, including those adjacent to the UNESCO World Heritage Property. Here they try to include unjustified and hazardous projects and measures, which threaten preservation of this site	**Zakarpattia Regional State Administration:** when designing the spatial planning dossiers for the territories of the Velykyi Bereznyi, Perechyn, Rakhiv, Tiachiv and Khust districts of Zakarpattia region, the ecological components must obligatory be taken into account, and in no case should economic development activity be foreseen, as it may negatively affect the preservation of the World Heritage Property **Period: continuously**
7.	To resolve the problem of waste management in the territories adjacent to the Ukrainian part of the UNESCO WH Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests of Germany"	**Not implemented.** The Rakhiv District Council and LLC "Tiachivecoprom" signed an agreement on the concession right for waste management services for 49 years, but the situation with the collection of waste in the area has not improved since then, and poor waste management affects the vicinity of the World Heritage Property, especially the areas along the Tisza River, which creates a negative international image of Ukraine	**Zakarpattia Regional State Administration:** to organize special meetings, to develop and implement special action plans aimed at substantial improvement of the waste management system in the territories adjacent to the UNESCO World Heritage Property **Period: annually**
8.	To consider the issue of investments attraction in order to establish companies for deep processing of wood, wild fruits, berries, mushrooms and other natural resources in the Velykyi Bereznyi, Rakhiv, Tiachiv and Khust districts of Zakarpattia region	**Partially implemented.** In order to attract investments in the region's industry, on 08.10.2015, an investment forum "Zakarpattia – Business in the Center of Europe" was held, where the Catalogue of Investment Proposals for Zakarpattia region and the Catalogue "The Export Potential of Zakarpattia Companies" were presented	**Zakarpattia Regional State Administration:** to continue the activities on investments attraction in order to establish companies for deep processing of wood, wild fruits, berries, mushrooms and other natural resources in the Velykyi Bereznyi, Rakhiv, Tiachiv and Khust districts of Zakarpattia region **Period: continuously**

9.	Create appropriate conditions for the development of Zakarpattia region's tourism resources, namely: to assess the state of tourism resources of the mountainous part of Zakarpattia, to develop a regional program for protection and sustainable use of tourism resources, to ensure the creation of tourism information centers, to promote rural tourism development	**Partially implemented.** During 2015, the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration organized training seminars "Rural Tourism. Where to start and how to succeed", the Manual "Rural tourism of Zakarpattia – Welcome to Rural Guesthouses" was published, the Catalogue "Rural Guesthouses of Tiachiv District" was prepared, eco-education and tourism-information centers operate at the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park. At the same time, the state of tourism resources of the mountainous part of Zakarpattia has not been assessed, the regional program for protection and sustainable use of tourism resources has not been developed, new tourism information centers have not been opened	**Zakarpattia Regional State Administration:** to estimate the state of tourism resources of the mountainous part of Zakarpattia, to develop the regional program for protection and sustainable use of tourism resources, to open new tourism information centers. Tourism development in the region should be among the priorities of the Region's Development Strategy of Zakarpattia **Duration: by the end of 2017** **Zakarpattia Regional State Administration, Ministry of Regional Development, Ministry of Environment:** to ensure preparation and implementation of a pilot project for development of nature conservation and tourism-recreation infrastructure in depressed mountain settlements of Zakarpattia region located in the vicinity of the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" in 2016-2020 in the framework of the State's Regional Development Foundation **Period: annually**
10.	For the promotion of the natural UNESCO WO Property "Primeval Beech Forests Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" it is a must to ensure the dissemination of relevant information via the national tourism portal "Visit Ukraine"	**In the process of implementation.** The Action Plan included promotion activities for the UNESCO World Heritage Property by disseminating relevant information via the national tourist portal "Visit Ukraine", which was supposed to be created under the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated on November 7, 2013, No. 888-p, but this Resolution has become invalid on the basis of the Resolution issued by the Government of Ukraine dated on 11.11.2015 No. 918. At the same time, this Action remains relevant	**The Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of Environment:** to ensure promotion campaign for the UNESCO World Heritage property (natural) "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" via the national portals, including appropriate activities within the working plans of the Council of Tourism Destinations established under the Order of the Ministry of Economic Development of Ukraine dated on February 9, 2016 No. 204 **Period: continuously**

11.	Contribute to cross-border cooperation development in the Carpathian region	**Partially implemented.** The International Association "Carpathian Euroregion", the Committee for the Joint Management of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany", the transboundary Ukrainian-Polish-Slovak UNESCO biosphere reserve "East Carpathians" work in the region; the Neighborhood Days and the Days of Zakarpattia in the neighboring states are held; partnerships are established at the regional level, and between the territorial communities of cities/towns, districts, villages, settlements, as well as between the administrations of institutions and organizations, etc. In 2015, the Memorandum on strengthening cooperation between the Maramures County Council (Romania), the Rakhiv District State Administration and the Rakhiv District Council on search of solutions for ecological and socio-economic problems in border settlements in the upper part of the Tisza river basin along the Ukrainian-Romanian border was signed, in which the parties supported the idea of restoring the bridge across the Tisza River, as well as motorway railway connection within the Ukrainian-Romanian border area (villages of Dilove (Ukraine) and Valea Vişeului (Romania), and development of border-crossing infrastructure using EU funds. Also, the issue of establishing the cross-border checkpoint in the villages of Ulych (Slovak Republic) and Zabrod (Ukraine) is still relevant. The issue of establishing a Ukrainian-Polish border-crossing checkpoint Lubnia-Volosate requires consultations between the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park (Ukraine) and the Bieszczady National Park (Republic of Poland)	**The Zakarpattia Regional State Administration, Ministry of Infrastructure and Ministry of Economic Development:** to submit proposals for establishing a Ukrainian-Romanian border crossing point in the village of Dilove (Ukraine) to the village of Valea Vişeului (Romania) with relevant border infrastructure, and reconstruction of the bridge across the Tisza River in the village of Dilove, ensuring motorway and railway connection via Rakhiv to Romania, Budapest and Prague, and to continue works on establishing a cross-border checkpoint in the villages Ulych (Slovak Republic) and Zabrod (Ukraine) **Period 2016 – 2020**

Extract

DECREE OF THE PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE

About additional measures for development of forestry, rational use of nature and conservation of objects of the Nature Reserve Fund (protected area system)

In order to ensure sustainable use of natural resources, development of forests, improvement of the system of state administration in the field of protection, use and reproduction of forest plantations, forest management, as well as the conservation of valuable natural complexes and ecosystems, the development of nature conservation, I resolve:

1. The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine:

4) to ensure the implementation of a set of measures for the protection and conservation of especially valuable natural areas and objects, the development of protected areas, and namely:

to develop and approve a plan of measures aimed on preservation and development of the Ukrainian part of the UNESCO World Heritage site "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe";

President of Ukraine P.POROSHENKO
21 November 2017
№381/2017

CABINET OF MINISTERS OF UKRAINE
ORDER
dated 21 November 2018 № 892-p
Kyiv

Some issues on conservation of Ukrainian part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe" and sustainable development of the surrounding territories

1. To approve a plan of measures aimed on preservation of the Ukrainian part of UNESCO World Nature Heritage Site "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe" and sustainable development of the surrounding territories, which is attached.

2. To declare invalid the Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated September 10, 2014 № 819 "On approval of the plan of measures aimed on the sustainable development and improvement (wellbeing) of mountain settlements of the Ukrainian part of Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Nature Heritage Site "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Ancient beech forests of Germany".

3. Ministries, other central executive authorities, Transcarpathian, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv and Khmelnytskyi regional state administrations should submit to the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources every year, by January 25, information on the state of implementation of the plan of measures approved by this order, for its generalization and submission by February 20 to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

Prime-Minister of Ukraine **V. GROISMAN**

APPROVED
by the Decree of Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine
dated 21 November 2018. № 892-p

PLAN
of measures aimed on conservation of the Ukrainian part of UNESCO World Nature Heritage Site "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe" and sustainable development of the surrounding territories
Conservation of the Ukrainian part of UNESCO World Nature Heritage Site "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe"

1. To ensure coordination of the work on conservation of the Ukrainian part of UNESCO World Nature Heritage Site "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe" (hereinafter referred to as the World Heritage Site), in particular:

to participate in:

- meetings of the Joint Management Committee of the World Heritage Site;
- development and implementation of an integrated system of management of World Heritage Site;

to provide cooperation with institutions from other European countries which protect primeval beech forests and ancient forests, first of all with the Romanian and Slovak institutions, located along the Ukrainian-Romanian and Ukrainian-Slovak borders;

to ensure the conduction of activities of the National Steering Group of the World Heritage Site for the implementation of decisions passed at the meetings of the Joint Management Committee of the World Heritage Site.

Ministry of Nature, Ministry of Education and Science,
State Forestry Agency
for the years 2018–2023.

2. To create conditions for the development of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, the Uzhansky National Nature Park, the National Nature Parks "Zacharovanyi Krai", "Synevir" and "Podilski Tovtry", the Nature Reserves "Gorgany" and "Roztochchia", whose sites are part of the World Heritage Site, and namely:

to approve methodological recommendations on the management of sites of the World Heritage Site and its buffer zone, cooperation with local executive authorities and local self-government bodies;

to ensure proper protection regime of the world heritage site and to establish a monitoring system for its sites and the buffer zone;

to ensure conduction of scientific researches of biotic and landscape diversity of the World Heritage Site;

to provide to the institutions of the nature reserve fund (protected areas) – transportation means, equipment for communication and observation, and also the uniform outfit;

to arrange ecological-educational, tourist-information centers, recreational and touristic points, museum rooms in the location of the world heritage site areas, to take measures to build a museum of nature with administrative and laboratory premises in Uzhanskyi National Nature Park;

to organize and arrange ecological trails and tourist hiking trails in all parts of the World Heritage Site;

to install information and border signs in places of mass visiting, in settlements adjacent to the world heritage site, near the main roads;

to work on the question of the possibility of organizing in the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve an international research center for conservation of primeval beech forests, ecological education and sustainable development;

to ensure the development of projects of the territory organization (management plans) and the effective management of the areas of World Heritage Site.

Ministry of Nature, Ministry of Education and Science,
State Forestry Agency
for the years 2018–2023.

3. To ensure popularization of the World Heritage Site by means of:

informing about the issues related to the conservation of the World Heritage Site and its outstanding value, as part of the celebration of good-neighborhood days, using partners' connections in Mass Media, on official web-sites of the Ministry of Nature, regional state administrations, institutions of nature reserve fund (protected areas);

using and promoting the logos of UNESCO, UNESCO World Heritage, a World Heritage Site, such nature reserve institutions (protected areas) as the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Uzhanskyi National Nature Park, National Nature Parks "Zacharovanyi Krai", "Synevyr" and "Podilski Tovtry", Nature Reserves "Gorgany" and "Roztochchia";

publishing booklets, leaflets and guide-books, devoted to the values of the World Heritage Site.

Transcarpathian, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv and Khmelnytskyi regional state administrations,
Ministry of Nature, Ministry of Regional Development, Ministry of Culture,
institutions of the nature reserve fund (protected areas).
for the years 2018–2023.

Ensuring the sustainable development of the territories adjacent to the World Heritage Site

4. To ensure the development of cross-border cooperation in the Carpathian region by means of:

drafting and submission of project proposals for the development of tourism, nature conservation and recreational infrastructure within the World Heritage Site and the adjacent territories in the framework of joint operational programs of border cooperation "Hungary – Slovakia – Romania – Ukraine", "Romania – Ukraine", "Poland-Ukraine-Belarus ", funded through the European Union Neighborhood Instrument for 2014-2020, as well as realization of the Strategy for the implementation of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians;

proceeding with consultations together with the Slovakian Party on the possibility of opening an international border crossing point for automobile and pedestrian traffic Zabrod (Ukraine) – Ulych (Slovak Republic);

consultations with the Romanian Party regarding the possibility of building (rebuilding) the bridge over the Tisza River and opening an international border crossing point for the automobile, rail and pedestrian traffic Dilove (Ukraine) – Valea Vişeului (Romania).

Ministry of Regional Development, Ministry of Economic Development,
Ministry of Infrastructure, State fiscal service (Tax service),
Administration of the State Border Guard Service, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Transcarpathian, Ivano-Frankivsk and Lviv regional administrations.
for the years 2018–2023.

5. To ensure repair and maintenance of the road infrastructure connecting the parts of the World Heritage Site on the territory of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Uzhansky National Nature Park, National Nature Parks "Zacharovanyi Krai", "Synevyr" and "Podilski Tovtry", Nature Reserves "Gorgany" and "Roztochchia"; and also to discuss issue of the inclusion of roads, leading to areas of World Heritage Site, which at present are of local importance in Zakarpattia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv and Khmelnytskyi regions, to the list of public roads of state significance.

Ministry of Infrastructure, Ukravtodor (road service),
Transcarpathian, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv and Khmelnytskyi regional state administrations
for the years 2019–2023.

6. To ensure implementation of measures on:

re-equipment of municipal heating systems, reconstruction of sewage treatment facilities and water intakes, construction of sewage networks, centralized and non-centralized drinking-water supply networks, collection and disposal of domestic waste on the territories adjacent to the World Heritage Site, encouraging population to switch to alternative energy sources (heat pumps, solar panels, electric heating, wind power installations);

providing development and implementation of state-private partnership instruments for sustainable development of the territories adjacent to the World Heritage Site.

Transcarpathian, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv and Khmelnytskyi regional state administrations
with participation of local self-government bodies, Ministry of Regional Development,
Ministry of Nature, and the State Agency for Water Supply
for the years 2019–2023.

7. To ensure the creation of additional employment possibilities on the territories adjacent to the World Heritage Site, in particular, to consider issues of attracting investments for the establishment of enterprises, which perform a deep processing of wood, processing of wild fruits, berries, mushrooms and other natural resources.

Ministry of Regional Development, Ministry of Agrarian Policy,
State Agency of Forestry; Transcarpathian, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv and Khmelnytskyi
regional state administrations
for the years 2019–2020.

Strategy for the network of capacity building centers development

For the various tasks and functions necessary for capacity building on primeval and ancient beech forests in Europe, it would be helpful to develop a network of capacity building centers in Europe. The network should be based on existing facilities for capacity building and should be completed by new facilities, necessary for capacity building.

1. **Vision.**

The vision of the network is:

To develop a European Network of Capacity Building Centers of all UNESCO WHS beech forest clusters with harmonized functions of the various units of the network covering all actual und future clusters.

To promote the special value of primeval and ancient beech forests all over Europe at all levels and to all relevant stakeholders.

1.1. Overall goal.

The overall goal of the network of capacity building centers is to expand the scientific knowledge and to raise the awareness of Europeans society for the protection and development of primeval and ancient beech forests in Europe.

1.2. Main goals

- beech forest value promotion (eco-education, local population education);
- information and promotion of UNESCO World Heritage in general;
- to inform people (transfer knowledge about beech forests, raise environmental awareness, be part of regional development, ...);
- to inform about and demonstrate advanced energy saving and renewable energy production opportunities;
- research (collect, maintain, distribute (research) data);
- education and training (young academics, specialists, multipliers, ...);
- knowledge transfer in conferences, workshops, study visits;
- coordination of capacity building activities.

1.3. Target Groups

- scientists, researchers, experts;
- students, student groups (young professionals);
- nature conservationists from GO`s and NGO`s;
- pupils, school groups;
- general public, local, regional population;
- stakeholders (foresters, farmers, local people, ...);
- politicians, donors, sponsors;
- travelers (nature tourists, hiking/mountain tourists, cultural tourists).

2. Capacity building functions and infrastructural requirements

a) Information about:

- the special value of primeval and ancient beech forests;
- UNESCO World Heritage Sites in general.

Information should be offered at each protected area with WHS component sites. Therefore the following infrastructure is required: Visitor Centers / Information Centers / Nature Museums with

- exhibition rooms for indoor exhibitions;
- outdoor space for outdoor exhibitions;
- cinema rooms;
- class rooms for information and education.

b) Knowledge transfer, education and training

- on nature conservation and management of primeval and ancient beech forests.

Conference Center infrastructure with:

- conference rooms;
- seminar rooms for know-how transfer and education.

If there are not adequate hotels and restaurants capacities in the region, in addition:

- accommodation facilities;
- catering facilities.

Main target groups are: scientists, nature conservationists from GO`s and NGO`s, stakeholders (foresters, farmers, etc.), but also politicians, donors and sponsors.

In addition a Field Campus, especially close to primeval beech forests, with:

- seminar rooms for training and education;
- laboratories;
- computer lab;
- library;
- accommodation facilities;
- catering facilities.

c) Field stations for research and monitoring on/of the primeval and ancient beech forests. Beside the above mentioned infrastructure

- small laboratories;
- small computer lab;
- room for research equipment;
- small accommodation opportunities.

d) Regional culture and regional development infrastructure

- community meeting/assembly rooms;
- tourist information desks;
- desks for regional products/souvenirs.

Additional function:

e) Demonstration and information on advanced energy saving and renewable energy production opportunities

- buildings with newest energy saving standards;
- buildings with advanced renewable energy production facilities;
- exhibitions and information equipment on energy saving and renewable energy production.

3. Requirements for optimal capacity building infrastructure

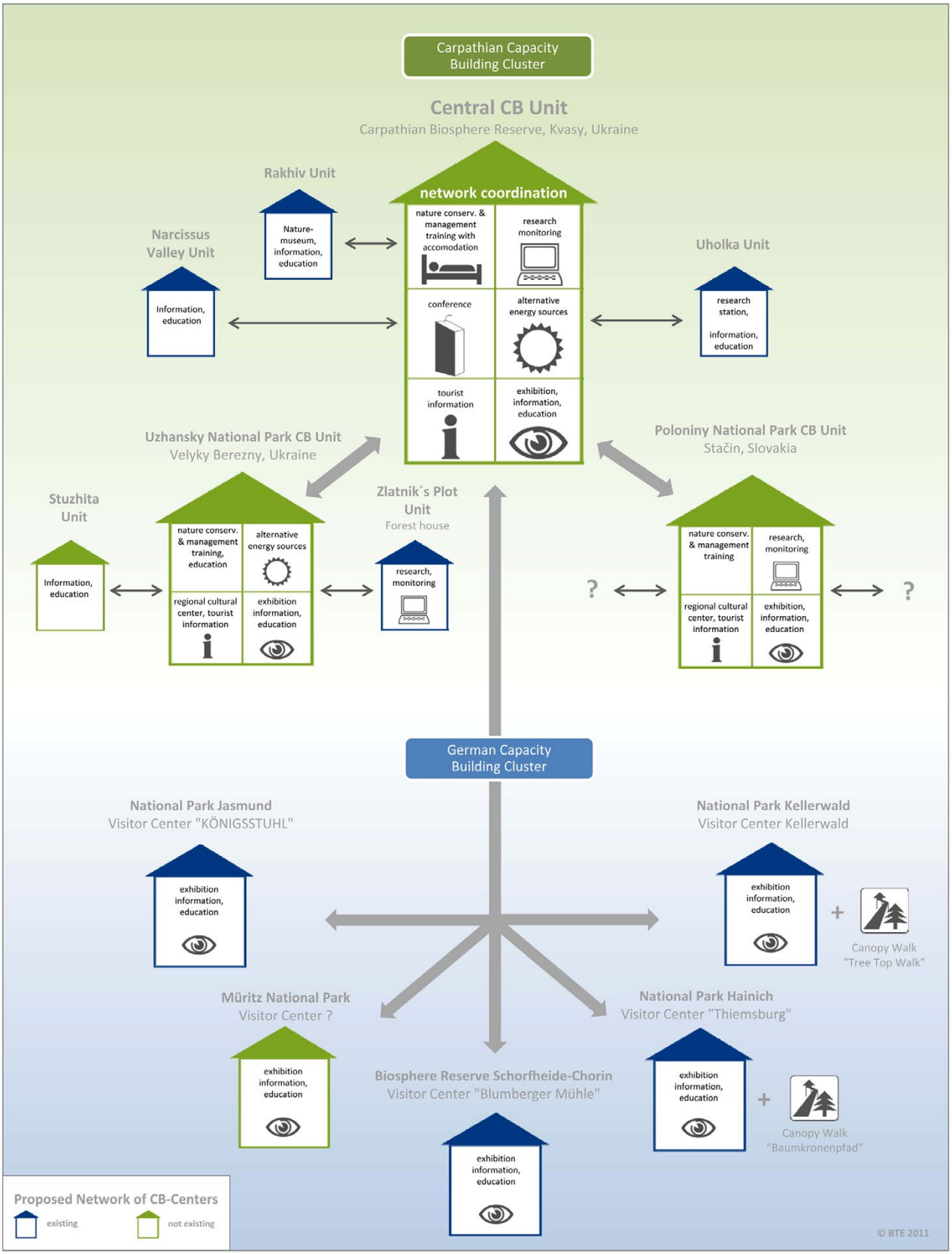
Not every function needs to be offered at every location. So a system of capacity building units with different tasks and functions should be developed as infrastructural basis to set up cooperative international programs of capacity building.

The following table shows a comparison between an optimal solution and the actual situation for capacity building for the WHS:

Capacity building infrastructure for the UNESCO WHS "Primeval beech forests of the Carpathians and ancient beech forests of Germany"		
WHS	**9 Protected Areas with WHS component parts**	**15 WHS component parts**
"European Beech Forest Competence, Training and Capacity Building Center"	**Visitor Centers** In addition: nature museums, regional culture museums	**Small information facilities** information boards, nature education trails, information points
Optimal solution: One Capacity Building Center in each regional European cluster	Optimal solution: One visitor center at each protected area with WHS component parts	Optimal solution: At all WHS component parts as far as useful and accessible
Actual situation: not existing!	Actual situation: 1. National Park Jasmund, Germany – Visitor Center Königsstuhl 2. Müritz National Park, Germany – not existing! 3. Biosphere Reserve Schorfheide-Chorin, Germany: Visitor Center Blumberger Mühle 4. National Park Hainich, Germany: Visitor Center Thiemsburg 5. National Park Kellerwald-Edersee, Germany: Visitor Center Kellerwald 6. Poloniny National Park, Slovakia: not existing! Only insuffient information centre in Nová Sedklica 7. Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area, Slovakia: not existing! 8. Uzhanskyi National Nature Park; Ukraine: Visitor Center Stuzhytsia (very old, renovation or new building necessary!) 9. Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Ukraine: Ecological Education Center "The Center of Europe", "Museum of Mountains Ecology and Traditional Nature Use in the Ukrainian Carpathians", Ecoeducation Center "Museum of Narcissus", Tourism and Information Center "The Carpathians Highland", "Keveliv", "The Carpathian Trout", "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians".	Actual situation: Some information facilities at component parts which are more or less accessible

As a result of a comparative SWOT-analysis of different locations in Ukraine and Slovakia during a workshop of the Slovakian and Ukrainian partners of the WHS in March 2011 at the International Academy for Nature Conservation (INA), Isle of Vilm, Germany, the following system of capacity building infrastructure in the Carpathians was developed.

Structure of the proposed European network Of Beech Forest Capacity Building Centers



The central beech forest competence and coordination center for all Carpathian capacity building activities is supposed to be in the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Ukraine, close to the largest primeval beech forest clusters of the World Heritage Site.

A new building which is offering space for all capacity building functions required (coordination, trainings, exhibitions, conferences, research and monitoring, accommodation, catering, alternative energy sources, a.s.o.), is suggested in the village of Kvasy, next to Rakhiv, reaching an area of 30.000 people located close to all the WHS clusters in the eastern part of the Carpathians.

Other existing capacity building infrastructure in the CBR, like the Museum of Mountain Ecology and Traditional Nature Use in the Ukrainian Carpathians in Rakhiv, the ecological education center "The Center of Europe" close to Rakhiv, the Museum of Narcissus, the tourism and information centers "The Carpathian Highland", "Keveliv" and "The Carpathian Trout" complement the function of the supposed central competence and coordination center.

4. Central actions for the realization

All the suggested locations for capacity building units in the Carpathians are in the ownership of the protected area management authorities.

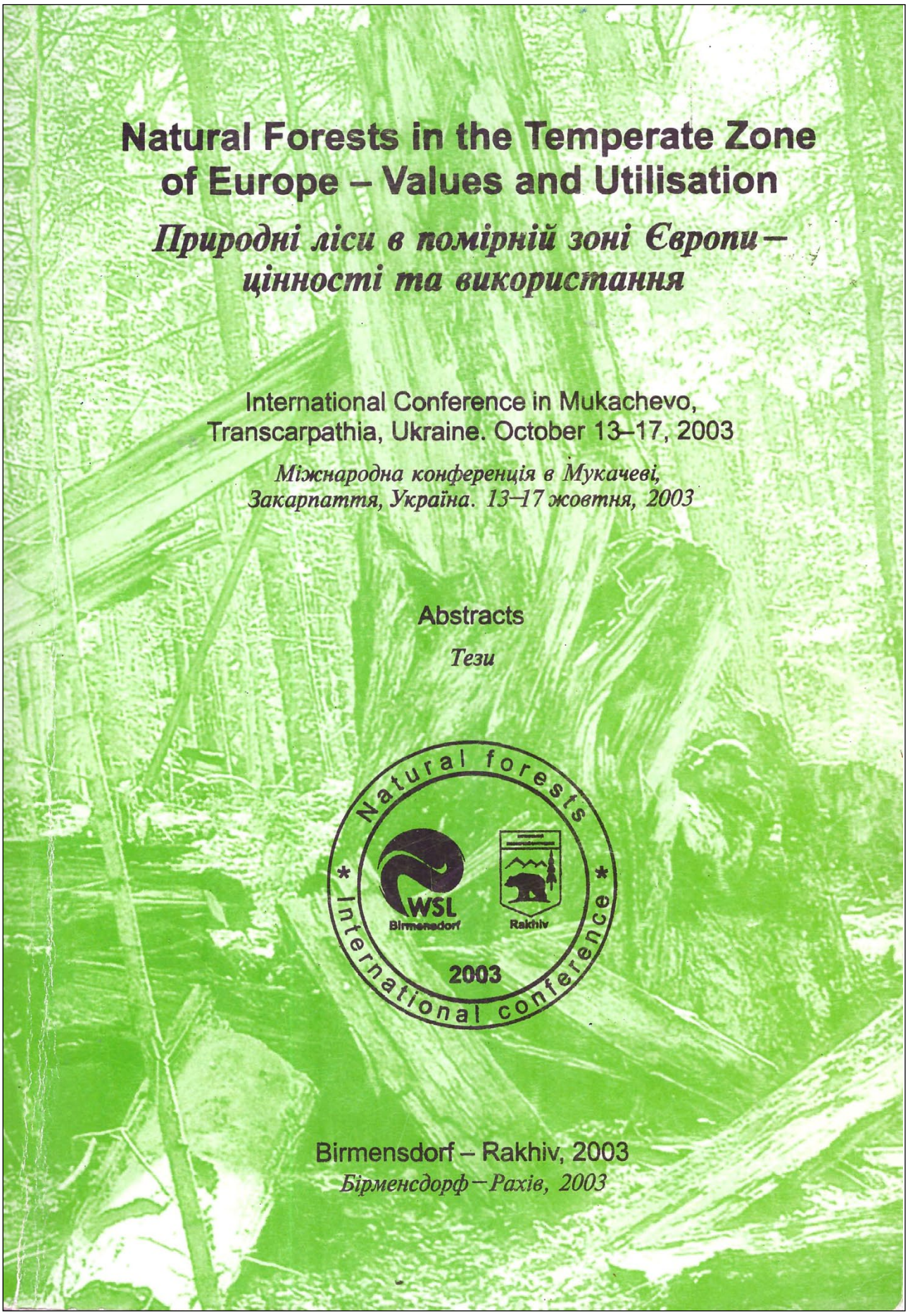
For the realization of the suggested capacity building infrastructure the following actions and development steps are necessary:

- political lobbying for the network of capacity building centers;
- identification of suitable funds for the realization (EU, foundations,…);
- development / feasibility studies for the network and the three central capacity building units;
- development of environmental education and capacity building concepts;
- development of concepts for the integration of energy-saving technologies and alternative energy production into infrastructure planning of capacity building centers;
- preparation of detailed project documentations (technical planning);
- development of a marketing concept for the network of capacity building centers;
- realization of the capacity building infrastructure.



An architectural model of the International Capacity-Building and Research Center for Primeval Beech Forests and Sustainable Development

REFERENCES TO OTHER MATERIALS ON HISTORY AND MANAGEMENT OF THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY "PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS AND THE ANCIENT BEECH FORESTS OF GERMANY"


Natural Forests in the Temperate Zone of Europe – Values and Utilisation
Природні ліси в помірній зоні Європи – цінності та використання
International Conference in Mukachevo, Transcarpathia, Ukraine. October 13–17, 2003
Міжнародна конференція в Мукачеві, Закарпаття, Україна. 13–17 жовтня, 2003
Abstracts
Тези
Natural forests
International conference
WSL
Birmensdorf
Rakhiv
2003
Birmensdorf – Rakhiv, 2003
Бірменсдорф – Рахів, 2003













Natural Forests in the Temperate Zone of Europe – Values and Utilisation

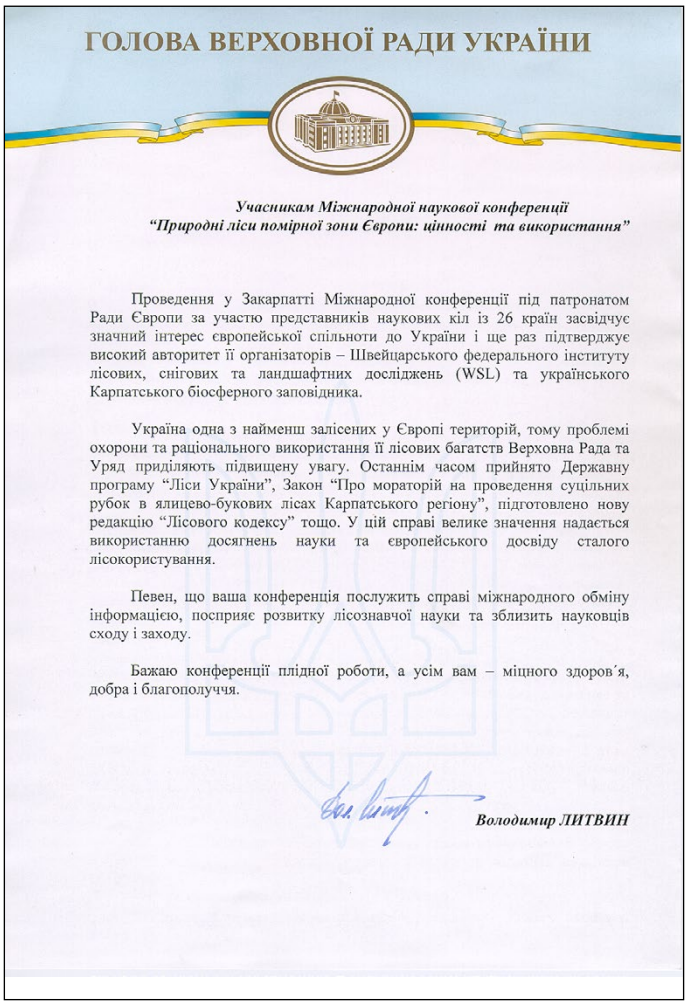
Conference 13–17 October 2003
Mukachevo, Ukraine

Proceedings

Editors: Brigitte Commarmot and Fedir D. Hamor







ГОЛОВА ВЕРХОВНОЇ РАДИ УКРАЇНИ

Учасникам Міжнародної наукової конференції
"Природні ліси помірної зони Європи: цінності та використання"

Проведення у Закарпатті Міжнародної конференції під патронатом Ради Європи за участю представників наукових кіл із 26 країн засвідчує значний інтерес європейської спільноти до України і ще раз підтверджує високий авторитет її організаторів – Швейцарського федерального інституту лісових, снігових та ландшафтних досліджень (WSL) та українського Карпатського біосферного заповідника.

Україна одна з найменш залісених у Європі територій, тому проблемі охорони та раціонального використання її лісових багатств Верховна Рада та Уряд приділяють підвищену увагу. Останнім часом прийнято Державну програму "Ліси України", Закон "Про мораторій на проведення суцільних рубок в ялицево-букових лісах Карпатського регіону", підготовлено нову редакцію "Лісового кодексу" тощо. У цій справі велике значення надається використанню досягнень науки та європейського досвіду сталого лісокористування.

Певен, що ваша конференція послужить справі міжнародного обміну інформацією, посприяє розвитку лісознавчої науки та зблизить науковців сходу і заходу.

Бажаю конференції плідної роботи, а усім вам – міцного здоров'я, добра і благополуччя.

Володимир ЛИТВИН

CHAIRMAN OF THE VERKHOVNA RADA OF UKRAINE

To the participants of the International Conference
"Natural Forests in the Temperate Zone of Europe – Values and Utilization"

Hosting the International Conference under the patronage of the Council of Europe in Zakarpattia region with the participation of scientists from 26 countries is a proof of a great interest paid by the European community to Ukraine, and it again confirms a highly prestigious position taken by the organizers of this event – the Swiss Federal Institute of Forest, Snow and Landscape research (WSL) and the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve from Ukraine.

Ukraine is one of the least forested areas in Europe. That is why the problems of reasonable use of its forest resources are being paid a great attention to by the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine and the Government. The National Program "Forests of Ukraine" has recently been adopted, as well as the Law of Ukraine "On moratorium on clear cuts in beech-fir forests of the Carpathian region" together with a new version of "The Forest Code of Ukraine" have been prepared etc. A great importance in this sphere is given to application of scientific achievements and international experience of forest use.

I am greatly convinced that your conference will contribute to the process of international information exchange, strengthen the development of international forest science, and will bring the scientists of east and west closer to each other.

I wish fruitful cooperation to this Conference, and to each of you – good health, happiness and prosperity.

Volodymyr Lytvyn

October 13, 2003


ПРАЛІСИ
В ЦЕНТРІ ЄВРОПИ
Путівник по лісах Карпатського біосферного заповідника
Урс-Беат Брендлі, Ярослав Довганич
Федеральний інститут досліджень WSL, Бірменсдорф
Карпатський біосферний заповідник, Рахів
URWÄLDER
IM ZENTRUM EUROPAS
Ein Naturführer durch das Karpaten-Biosphärenreservat in der Ukraine
Urs-Beat Brändli, Jaroslaw Dowhanytsch
Eidg. Forschungsanstalt WSL, Birmensdorf
Karpaten-Biosphärenreservat, Rachiw
Haupt



Proceeding of the International Workshop
"Identification of Potential UNESCO World Heritage Properties"
(Mukachevo, Zakarpattia region, Ukraine, October 5-7, 2004)

SEMINAR PROGRAM

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

8:00 – 13:00	**Arrival and registration**
13:00 – 14:00	**Lunch**
14:00 – 14:30	**Official opening of the Seminar** *Setting goals and objectives* **Welcoming words to the participants from:** - Zakarpattia Regional State Administration, Ukraine - Ministry for Environmental Protection of Ukraine - National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO - UNESCO World Heritage Center
14:30 – 17:30	**Session 1:** Requirements to listing sites into the UNESCO World Heritage List. UNESCO WH Tentative List preparation for Ukraine ***Moderators:*** **Natalia Zarudna**, National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO, **Hryhoriy Parchuk**, State Agency for Protected Areas ***Speakers:*** **Mechtild Rössler**, Director of the UNESCO WH Center (Europe and North America) **Dr. Gerhard Heiss**, IUCN, UNESCO expert - Global strategy for balanced representation in the WH List - Some aspects of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention implementation - Practical guidelines for the Convention implementation: • General principles • Information of the states-parties on the nomination process into the UNESCO WH List • Criteria, which the Properties should correspond to in order to be included into the UNESCO WH List • Field visits and evaluation of the natural sites • Form and content of application dossiers • Procedure and deadlines of application dossiers approval • Reporting - Preparation of the UNESCO WH Tentative List **Questions, answers, discussion**
16:15 – 16:30	**Coffee break**
17:30 – 19:30	**Round-table meeting:** Lessons learnt after the first submission of potential WH Properties' application dossiers, including the ones from Ukraine ***Moderators:*** **Mechtild Rössler**, Director of the UNESCO WH Center (Europe and North America) **Dr. Gerhard Heiss**, IUCN, UNESCO expert **Questions, answers, discussion**
19:30 – 21:30	**Gala dinner**

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

7:30 – 8:00	**Breakfast**
8:00 – 15:00	**Session 2 (in field):** hiking tour to the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak transboundary site "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" as a potential UNESCO WH Property ***Moderator:*** **Prof. Fedir Hamor**, Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve
15:00 – 15:45 **17:15 – 17:30** **Coffee break**	**Session 3:** Presentation of Ukrainian sites in the transboundary context ***Moderators:*** **Prof. Stepan Stoiko**, Institute of Ecology of the Carpathians of NASU **Hryhoriy Parchuk**, State Agency for Protected Areas - Primeval Beech Forests, Ukraine-Slovakia ***Speaker:*** **Prof. Fedir Hamor**, Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve - Valuable steppes of Askania Nova, Ukraine ***Speaker:*** **Victor Havrylenko**, Director of the Askania Nova Biosphere Reserve named after F.E. Falz-Fain - Perspectives to present the Polissia region as a transboundary Ukrainian-Polish Property ***Speaker:*** **Prof. Vasyl Stetsyuk**, National Taras Shevchenko University of Kyiv - Mixed cultural-natural Property: "Podilski Tovtry" combined with the cultural site of Smotrych Canyon ***Speaker:*** **Lyudmyla Lyubynska**, Senior Lecturer of the Kamianets-Podilskyi Institute **Questions, answers, discussion**
19:00 – 20:00	**Dinner**

Thursday, October 7, 2004

8:00 – 9:00	**Breakfast**
9:00 – 13:00	**Session 4:** Perspectives for Ukraine to join the List of Properties under the UNESCO WH Convention ***Moderators:*** **Natalia Zarudna**, National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO **Dr. Gerhard Heiss**, IUCN, UNESCO expert **Questions, answers, discussion**
11:00 – 11:15	**Coffee break**
13:00 – 14:00	**Lunch**
14:00 – 16:00	**Drafting the Seminar Recommendations**
	Departure

VEDA
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Slovenskej
akadémie
vied

ACTA

Ecologica



OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE OF THE ECOLOGICAL PROCESSES IN THE PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT AS WORLD HERITAGE SITES

Viliam Pichler
Fedir Hamor
Ivan Vološčuk
Dmytro Sukharyuk



EUROPEAN BEECH FORESTS

Nomination of the "Beech Primeval Forests of Germany" as Extension to the World Natural Heritage "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" (1133)

Nomination Dossier to the UNESCO for the Inscription on the World Heritage List

Nationale Naturlandschaften


Fünf Jahre ukrainisch-deutsche Freundschaft
2006-2010
П’ять років українсько-німецької дружби
2006-2010

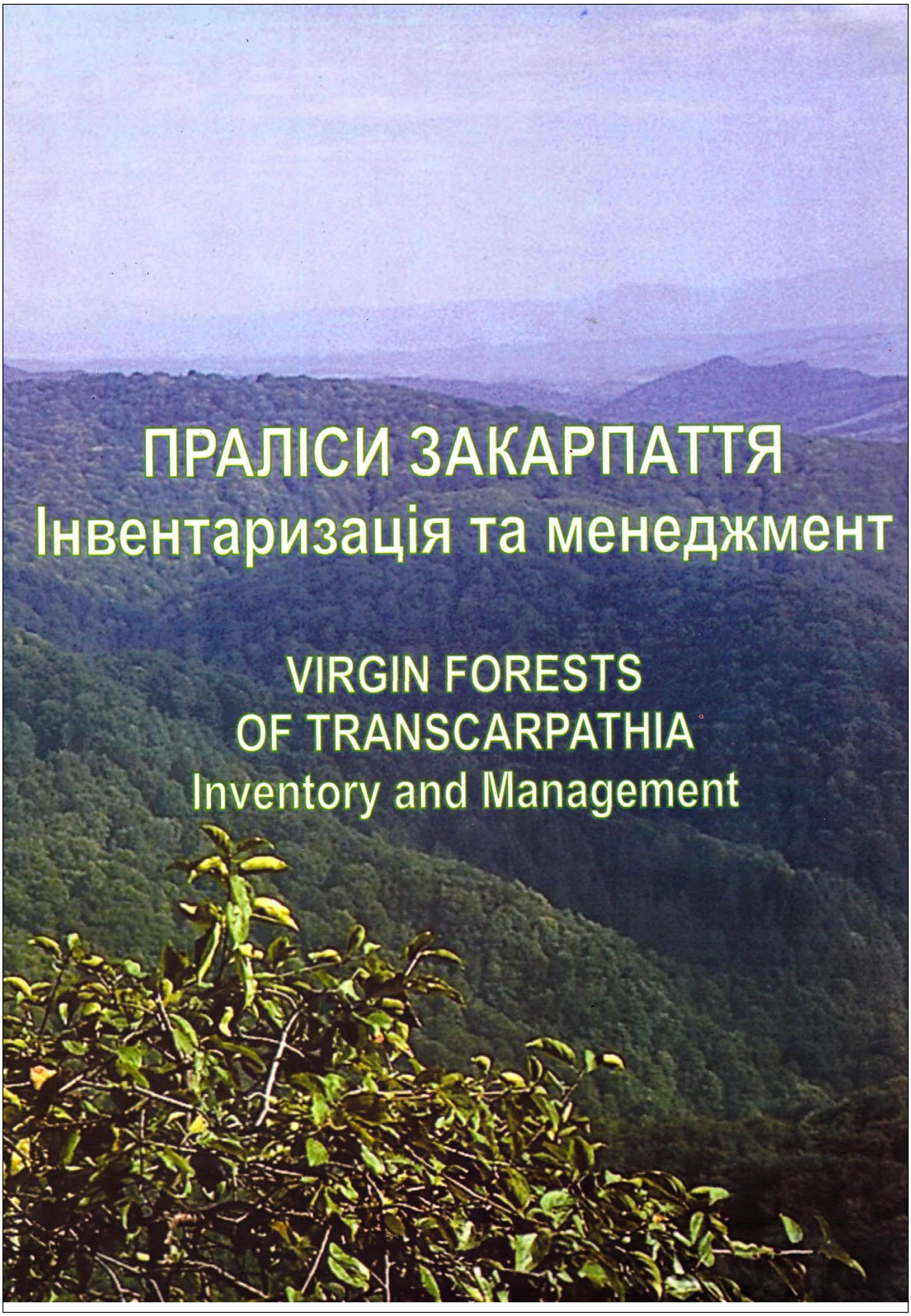
Seit fünf Jahren lernen wir vom Karpaten-Biosphärenreservat

Минулі п’ять років ми вчились від колег з Карпатського біосферного заповідника



Ein herzliches Dankeschön von Prof. Dr. Pierre Ibisch und Kollegen sowie hunderten von Studenten

Сердечна подяка від проф. П’єра Ібіша з колегами, а також від сотень студентів


ПРАЛІСИ ЗАКАРПАТТЯ
Інвентаризація та менеджмент
VIRGIN FORESTS
OF TRANSCARPATHIA
Inventory and Management

Carpathian Biosphere Reserve: challenges and solutions for protected area management in Ukrainian Transcarpathia

Природоохоронний менеджмент Карпатського біосферного заповідника і розв'язання сучасних викликів на Закарпатті (Україна)



Pierre L. Ibisch,
Juliane Geyer,
Lars Schmidt,
Vasyl Pokynchereda
& Victoria Gubko
(Editors)

П'єр Л. Ібіш,
Юліана Геєр
Ларс Шмідт,
Василь Покиньчереда
& Вікторія Губко
(Редактори)

FEDIR D. HAMOR: VISIONARY DRIVER OF CARPATHIAN BIOSPHERE RESERVE SPEARHEADING EUROPEAN PRIMEVAL FOREST CONSERVATION

Pierre L. Ibisch & Victoria Gubko



Figure 1: Fedir D. Hamor - Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve

On the occasion of his 60th birthday we are proud to dedicate this book to Prof. Dr. Fedir Hamor. This man shows us that even under difficult socioeconomic and political circumstances, and in a complicated framework of development, it is of pivotal relevance – and also possible - to fight for our natural heritage. Thus, we want to congratulate him for everything he has accomplished so far, both in personal and public life. As conservationist and scientist he has made an enormous difference and achieved that the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (CBR) now is a globally recognized landmark of European conservation. It is his merit that the conservation of old-growth forests is a top-priority in Ukraine biodiversity conservation. This is especially noteworthy as, commonly, in regions where resources such as forest still are abundant; often people hardly invest in their conservation before they notice that they are becoming critically scarce. It is nothing else but visionary to struggle for the maintenance of old forests in a region that seems to be so dominated by them that people rather are attracted by cultural landscapes and man-influenced attractions than in wilderness. It is also extremely courageous to stand up for the conservation of forests in an area where people's livelihood depends on these ecosystems and where the use is intensively related with local history and development.

Fedir Hamor has recognized that the conservation of forests and their embedded biodiversity can be a motor of sustainable development in the Carpathians and also insurance for local livelihoods, especially in times of economic turmoil. Very consequently he has chased internationalization of the reserve's activities and official international recognition. In 1992 the inclusion of the reserve in the list of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves was achieved. CBR was awarded with the European Diploma (1997; 2002; 2007) and became a partner in numerous international ecological projects. In 2007 some of CBR's most important 'crown jewels' were inscribed in the UNESCO World Natural Heritage List forming part of the serial site Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians.

Fedir Hamor is among the Ukrainian scientists who are very present outside of their country attending a multitude of congresses, workshops and meetings. He travels around promoting foreign knowledge about the Carpathians and creating a considerable network. By his work in and for the biosphere reserve, Fedir Hamor became an exemplary representative of popular diplomacy. Conservation of forests has been his seed, and among the manifold fruits there are friendship and peace among the peoples of Europe. He has opened Transcarpathia and Ukraine to scientific cooperation, he has welcomed generations of students, scientists and foresters in the Biosphere Reserve triggering multiple lessons learned about ecosystem function and sustainability. It shall be also mentioned that many activities of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve have been possible thanks to the motivation and capacity of the whole working team. Fedir Hamor, by establishing infrastructure and promoting the establishment and development of a skilled team of scientists and conservationists, has invested in institutional sustainability safeguarding the role of the reserve for local development.

Hamor Fedir Dmytrovych was born on March 28, 1951 in Verkhne Vodiane village, in the Rakhiv district of Transcarpathia. He graduated from the Verkhne Vodiane secondary school in 1968, and started his career as an apprentice of a forester at the Velykyi Bychkiv state forestry enterprise, the Verkhne Vodiane forestry unit. Being the son of ordinary rural parents who went to school in a remote village, in 1969 he started his academic life at the biological faculty of the Uzhgorod State University, where he graduated in 1974 as one of the best students of the faculty. After graduation he continued working at the Velykyi Bychkiv State Forestry Enterprise. Later on, he became the First Secretary of the Comsomol Committee in Rakhiv district; worked at the collective farm; occupied the position of the First Deputy Head of the district Executive Committee which is the highest local administrative body. The combination of practice with the preparation of his academic theses (1980, 1990) helped him not only to gain deep theoretical knowledge, but also to get a better picture of the processes occurring in the system of public nature use.

In 1987 he was invited to take over the position of the Director of the Carpathian State Reserve. Fedir Hamor initated the process of the reserve's extension (extension of the CBR's boundaries by almost five times; up to 58,000 ha) and also the institutional development and scientific research. He combined the work for the reserve with a wise political promotion of biodiversity conservation. He participated in numerous development programs on the regional and local level. Among others, he is one of the initiators of the Carpathian Convention. He elaborated proposals related to law "On the nature protection fund of Ukraine", initiated and prepared justification for the following laws: "About the special status for mountainous settlements in Ukraine", "About the moratorium for clear logging in spruce-beech forests on mountain slopes in the Ukrainian Carpathians", as well as propositions to the decrees of the Government of Ukraine on sustainable development of mountainous communities, and the designation of an Ukrainian-Romanian transboundary biosphere reserve in the Maramures mountains, among others. Fedir Hamor founded the *Museum of Mountain Ecology and Traditional Nature Use in the Ukrainian Carpathians* (Rakhiv), which is the only of its kind in Ukraine, the ecological education centre *Museum of Narcissus* (Khust), and the visitor centers in the *Geographical Center of Europe* as well as in the Carpathian highland area. Fedir Hamor is author of hundreds of publications, initiator of the ecological semi-popular magazine *Zeleni Karpaty* (Green Carpathians) (1993) and a regional newspaper *The Newsletter of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve* (2006).

Prof. Fedir Hamor is Honored Officer of Nature Conservation in Ukraine; he is also awarded with a national medal "For the Contributions - III", with an award of the international contest "Golden Fortune", the Transcarpathian award for regional development, the Patriot Star Award and many others. He is Academician of the Ecological Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, a member of the

Journalists Union of Ukraine, the honored Ukrainian tourism activist, an honored citizen of Rakhiv and of the Romanian town Viseu-de-Sus.

Our congratulations are accompanied by our deepest wishes for the next decades of Fedir Hamor's life and work. If every region of this world had a Fedir Hamor, we were living on another kind of planet.

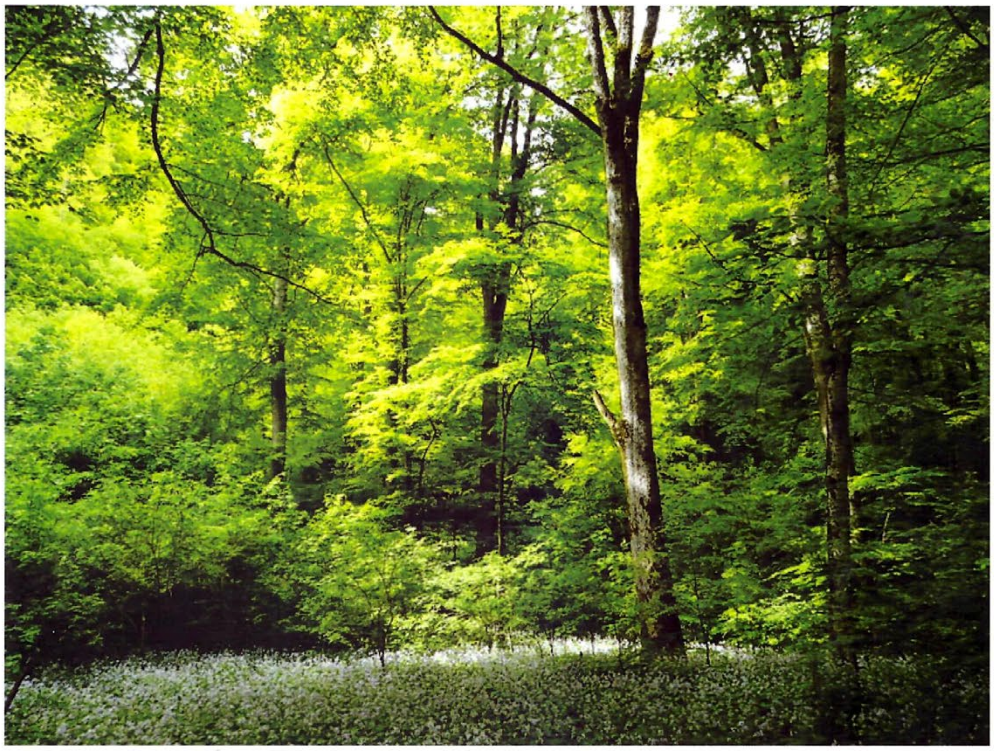


Figure 2: Fedir D. Hamor in action with local stakeholders and international partners.

Hans D. Knapp and Andreas Fichtner (Eds.)

Beech Forests

Joint Natural Heritage of Europe (2)



Federal Agency for Nature Conservation

BfN-Skripten 327

2012

BfN-Skripten **327**, 53–58, Bonn-Bad Godesberg

Conclusions of the international conference "Natural forests in the temperate zone of Europe – values and utilisation", Mukachevo, Ukraine

FEDIR HAMOR

RESEARCHERS OF THE CARPATHIAN PRIMEVAL FORESTS

- 1930 – Swiss forest scientist Conrad Rott was the first to see and to describe the Transcarpathian primeval forests with great excitement.



- Alois Zlatnik (1902-1979) – Czech researcher, who had devoted his life to investigation and protection of the Carpathian primeval forests. He was the first to establish sample plots in those primeval forests, which have preserved up to nowadays



- 1995 – Slovak professor Stefan Corpel published a scientific work called "Der Urwalder Der Westkarpaten" in Stutgart



- Stepan Stoiko – a Ukrainian scientist famous for his primeval forest research in the Ukrainian Carpathians. He greatly contributed to the primeval forest sites conservation.



- Ivan Voloscuk – a Slovak scientist, who has continued A. Zlatnik's work and renovated the sample plots in primeval forests.



- Vasyl Parpan – director of the Mountain Forestry Research Institute; the beech primeval forests of the Ukrainian Carpathians are in the center of the research.

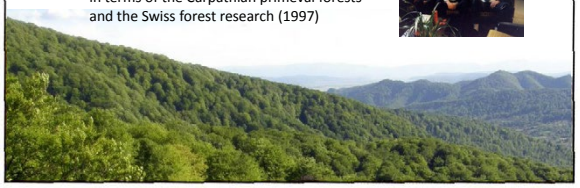
ON THE WAY TO MUKACHEVO - 2003



- Visit of the head of the Department for Ecology and Self-Government of the European Council Mr. Jean-Pierre Rebott and the European Council expert Mario Broggi; the aim of the visit was to identify the eligibility of the CBR's territory to become the European Diploma for PAs territory (1996)

- Exchange visit of CBR staff members to WSL in order to establish a scientific cooperation in terms of the Carpathian primeval forests and the Swiss forest research (1997)





ON THE WAY TO MUKACHEVO - 2003

1999 – signing a cooperation agreement between CBR and WSL



Dr. Mario Broggi – director of WSL, 1998-2004

Dear Dr. Broggi,

Please find attached English and Ukrainian version of the Agreement on Co-operation between the WSL and the CBR.

If you have any comments, corrections etc., please do not hesitate to insert them.

With best wishes and kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Fedir D. Hamor,
director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve

13.09.1999

Dear Dr. Hamor

I got the information from the SNSF that our institutional partnership project will be accepted.

We would like to start this year with our joint research project "Comparison of the structure and regeneration dynamics..."

We are looking forward to our collaboration and thank you for your efforts.

With best regards,
Yours sincerely,
Brigitte Commarmot
Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research

15.08.2000

2000 – preparation and approval of the scientific project entitled "Institutional partnership" between WSL and КБЗ



Brigitte Commarmot – scientific cooperation coordinator on behalf of WSL

CONFERENCE "EAST-WEST: VALUES OF NATURE AND PEOPLE", OCTOBER 25-26, 2000, ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

In his report the expert of the European Council, director of the Swiss Federal Institute of Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL, Dr. Mario Broggi emphasized : "today these great treasures (e.g. Transcarpathian primeval forests), which contain an invaluable information about forest development and climate, and also about species and nature conservation, are becoming subjects of common researches held by West and East European researchers. This work makes up a wonderful platform for the eastern and western scientists for the information exchange, and also creates wonderful preconditions to develop the European network of ecological researches".







"The primeval forests research in Transcarpathia establishes a perfect comparative basis for current forest management and nature conservation problems in Switzerland" – article by M. Broggi «Natural values from the Alps edge up to the Ural», Neue Zurcher Zeitung, 28.10.2000

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS BETWEEN CBR AND WSL

Dear Brigitte!

As we have arranged, **I am sending you the proposals for the organization of international conference "Primeval forests of Europe and their scientific and applied sigificance".**

Best regards,
Fedir Hamor director of
the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve

13.11.2000

Proposals on the organization of International scientific-practical conference "Primeval forests of Europe and their scientific and applied significance"

Organizers:
- Carpathian biosphere reserve
- Swiss Federal Institute for forest, snow and landscape research

Participants of the conference: scientists and specialists from Ukraine, Switzerland, Romania, Slovakia, Czechia, Poland, Russia and other countries.
Tentatively – 100 persons.
Tentative date – September 2001
Tentative place – Rakhiv, Ukraine

Items for consideration:
- Remains of primeval forests in Europe and their protection state
- Primeval forests as a treasury of biodiversity
- Peculiarities of structure and functioning of primeval forests
- Primeval forests as a model for the forestry conduction
- Multifunctional significance of primeval forests
- International co-operation in the study and conservation of primeval forests

Dear Mario,

During the visit of Brigitte Commarmot to the CBR we have discussed in details the results of our project's fulfilment, considered the feasibilities of future joint projects. We agreed that our co-operation is successful.

The possibility of organizing a conference on virgin forests was discussed too. The most convenient date to hold a conference is the second half of September 2003. At that time our reserve will also celebrate it's 35th anniversary. And we could dedicate the conference to this event.

Yours sincerely,
Fedir Hamor, director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve

31.10.2001

NATURAL FORESTS IN THE TEMPERATE ZONE OF EUROPE – VALUES AND UTILISATION

- On October 13 – 17, 2003 an International Scientific Conferences was held based at the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve - "Natural forests in the temperate zone of Europe: values and utilization".
- This scientific forum gathered 250 representatives of forest science elite from 26 countries of West and East Europe, North America, and even from Iran. Among them there were such prominent scientists as: Mario Broggi and Peter Duelli (Switzerland), Peter Schmidt (Germany), Iari Parviajnen (Finland), Bill Slee (Great Britain), George Frank and Elizabeth Johann (Austria), Emil Klimo (Czech Republic), Andrij Javorskyi (Poland), Ladislav Paule (Slovakia), Stepan Stoiko, Iryna Dudka, Svitlana Zyman, Vasyl KOmendar, Vasyl Parpan (Ukraine), et al.
- The most numerous scientific delegations were: Ukrainian – 76 persons, German – 25 persons, Swiss – 24 persons, Austria – 7 persons, Poland – 6 persons, Czech - 6 persons, Romania – 4 persons, Slovakian – 4 persons.



NATURAL FORESTS IN THE TEMPERATE ZONE OF EUROPE – VALUES AND UTILISATION



Prof. Dr. Fedir Hamor – Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve

"It is not in vain that we've had this idea to conduct an international scientific conference in the midst of Transcarpathian primeval forests. It is an outcome of the multi-year Ukrainian-Swiss cooperation within the Institutional Partnership Program supported by the Swiss Scientific Foundation. Undoubtedly, this scientific forum will produce an impulse to foster the cooperation not only between these two organizations, but also will open up new possibilities to elaborate cooperative scientific and business projects, and will promote the idea of sustainable forest management on the European continent in general and in Ukraine in particular."

NATURAL FORESTS IN THE TEMPERATE ZONE OF EUROPE – VALUES AND UTILISATION

The participants were also greeted by Dr. Mario Broggi, Director of the Swiss Federal Institute of Forest, Snow and Landscape Research SL, and also by the First Deputy Head of the Transcarpathian Regional Administration Mr. S. Revak, and the Deputy Head of the Transcarpathian Regional Council Mr. I. Artyomov.

The letter with official greetings to the participants were send by the Head of the Ukrainian Parliament (Verkhovna Rada) Mr. Volodymyr Lytvyn and the Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine – Mr. Ivan Kyrylenko



Dr. Mario Broggi, Director of WSL

NATURAL FORESTS IN THE TEMPERATE ZONE OF EUROPE – VALUES AND UTILISATION



Mr. M. Kolisnychenko – Head of the State Forestry Committee of Ukraine

- Despite of an insignificant share of forests (15,6 %), Ukraine totally has 9,4 million of hectares covered with forests and takes the tenth place in Europe according to this parameter. Forests in our country first of all fulfill important ecological functions and play a rather limited exploitation role.
- The Ukraine Carpathians is a unique region of Ukraine with a great animal and plant diversity with representation of European rare species; around 20% of the country's forest fund is concentrated here.
- Here, according to scientists, over 60 000 ha of uunique primeval forests are preserved. These natural sites are extremely valuable for elaboration of scientific basis for monocultures transformation and improvement of their structure, biological and ecological stability, and raising their productivity.

NATURAL FORESTS IN THE TEMPERATE ZONE OF EUROPE – VALUES AND UTILISATION

- The following presentations were really revolutionary: "Primeval and natural forests of the temperate zone of Europe" by Dr. of agronomy and forestry Prof. Iari Paraviajnen, Scientific Research Institute of Forest, Finland; "Primeval and natural forests of Ukraine: problems and conservation strategy" by Prof. Vasyl Parpan, Director of Research Institute of Mountain Forestry; "The Carpathian Biosphere Reserve: conservation and sustainable use" by Prof. Dr. Fedir Hamor, Director of CBR; "Oldgrowth forests as a source of knowledge for forest management: reality of myth?" by Prof. Peter Brang, Switzerland; "Importance of primeval forests for biodiversity" by Prof. Peter Duelli, Switzerland; "Socio-economic values of natural forests" by Prof. Bill Slee, Great Britain; "Influence of forest on catchment formation" by Prof. Christoph Hegg, Switzerland, etc.
- Totally in 3 days over 60 presentations were made. A great deal of interesting materials were presented via poster session.



NATURAL FORESTS IN THE TEMPERATE ZONE OF EUROPE – VALUES AND UTILISATION

- Учасники конференції працювали у 12 секціях, зокрема: "Структура та динаміка природних та господарських ялицево-букових і смереково-ялицевих лісів", "Генетичне та видове різноманіття", "Структура та динаміка природних та господарських букових лісів", "Оцінка біорізноманіття та цінності збереження", "Динаміка рослинності та моделювання екосистем", "Охорона природних лісів в минулому та на сьогоднішній день", "Управління природними лісами та буферними зонами", "Природні ліси та туризм", "Різноманітні соціально-економічні цінності природних лісів" та інших.
- Для учасників конференції було проведено екскурсії до Угольських і Чорногірських пралісів.



NATURAL FORESTS IN THE TEMPERATE ZONE OF EUROPE – VALUES AND UTILISATION

- The presentation of a joint publication "Primeval forests in the center of Europe. Guidebook of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve's prieval forests" was held within the conference. The book was published in German and Ukrainian and became a great even in scientific and cultural life of Ukraine.

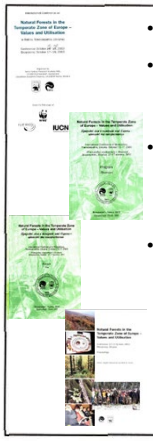












- The conference adopted the Mukachevo Resolution and Declaration.
- The Declaration provides an overall picture of the sate of natural forests in the temperate zone of Europe. It is emphasized that the basic tasks should be research of their dynamics, structure, biodiversity and social-economic values as well as the conservation issues.
- The Declaration especially stresses on the fact that the natural forests represent especially rare and vulnerable ecosystems. That is why they are important for the ecological network formation, using them as basis for testing the close-to-nature forestry, and also for conservation of the "in situ" conservation of the forest gene pool.
- The conference also recommended to include the issue of the natural forests into the Work Program on Vienna Declaration implementation and realization of the resolution of the Conference of Ministers of Environment on European forests protection (MCPFE) with a special emphasis on Resolution 4 (Conservation and enrichment of forest biodiversity in Europe) and its chapters 9, 10, 16.

In the Resolution the participants proposed:

- to conduct primeval and natural forests inventory based on unified methodology;
- for WSL Institute – to elaborate legal basis for a territorial protection of the primeval and natural forest sites;
- For scientific research institutions and organizations of the countries where they still have remnants of primeval and natural forests – to conduct necessary research and monitoring and to use the data obtained in the practical forestry and ecological education.

A separate recommendation for the Ukrainian Government:

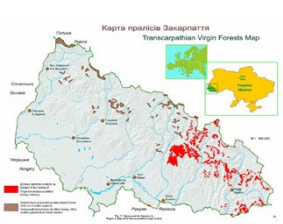
- To include a chapter about protection, conservation and use of natural forests and primeval forests into the renewed Forest Code of Ukraine based on the best European experience, and to use them as models for forest management;
- Taking into account the transboundary importance of the Carpathians in the Central-East Europe and the peculiar role of montane forests in the ecological balance maintenance, it is necessary in ensure legal enforcement as for extension of the PA network in Ukraine;
- For ensuring conservation of the forest species gene pool it is necessary to improve control on protection and conservation of these gene reserves;
- To make changes necessary for implementation of selective forest management approach as a basis further sylvicultural reasearc;
- To start the process of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve inscription into the UNESCO World Natural Heritage List.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONFERENCE RESOLUTION

• PRIMEVAL AND NATURAL FORESTS INVENTORY

Within the Ukrainian-Dutch "Primeval forests of Transcarpathia (Ukraine" as core areas of the Pan-European ecological network", implemented in 2006-2008, there were identified, described and mapped over 60 000 ha of primeval forests, for which an Action Plan for conservation and rational use was elaborated. Materials of the research are available in a publication "Primeval forests of Transcarpathia – Inventory and management".







Петер Фейн – координатор проекту

• ACTIVATIO OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

The following projects were implemented:

- Ukrainian-Swiss "umbrella" project "The Institutional Partnership" (2005-2013):
  - "Transformation of spruce monocultures into multi-aged close-to-natural forests"
  - "Large scale inventory of the Uholka-Shyrokyi Luh primeval forest massif"
  - "Spatial structure investigation of xylobiont Artropodea in beech primeval forest"
- DCP-WWF project funded by the Norwegian government – "Protection and sustainable use of natural resources in the Ukrainian carpathians» (2007-2008)
- Ukrainian-Romanian project within EU neighborhood cooperation program "Improvement of anti-flood protection and ecological rehabilitation yof the environment within the Ukrainian-Romanian border area along the Tysa River» (2008-2010)
- Ukrainian-German project funded by DBU "Strategic management planning for the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve" (2009-2011)
- Ukrainian-Slovak-German project "Sustainable management of the territories adjacent to the UNESCO World Natural Heritage Property "Primeval forests of the Carpathians" (2010-2011)





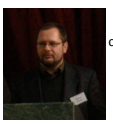
Pierre Ibisch – coordinator of the UA-DE project

• ACTIVATIO OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

The following projects were implemented:

- Ukrainian-Swiss "umbrella" project "The Institutional Partnership" (2005-2013):
  - "Transformation of spruce monocultures into multi-aged close-to-natural forests"
  - "Large scale inventory of the Uholka-Shyrokyi Luh primeval forest massif"
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- Ukrainian-Slovak-German project "Sustainable management of the territories adjacent to the UNESCO World Natural Heritage Property "Primeval forests of the Carpathians" (2010-2011)





Pierre Ibisch – coordinator of the UA-DE project

• ACTIVATION OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

International conferences held by CBR:

- "EEcological and socio-economic aspects of ethnic-cultural and historical heritage conservation in the Carpathians", September 2–4, 2005.
- "Problems of sustainable nature use in the Carpathian region (ecology, business, education), May 10-11, 2006
- "Ecotourism and sustainable development in the Carpathians", October 9-12, 2007
- "Protected Areas Network development in Ukraine and formation of the Pan-European ecological network, dedicated to the 40th anniversary of CBR and 100th anniversary of first nature reserves in the Ukrainian Carpathians, November 11-13, 2008.







• **FOREST CODE OF UKRAINE**

2006 – a new version of the Forest Code of Ukraine is adopted; it represents a set of Laws, which regulate all aspects of forest use; the term "primeval forest" first appears here.

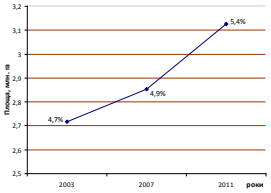


Chapter 15
IMPROVEMENT OF PRODUCTIVITY AND QUALITY COMPOSITION OF FORESTS; FOREST DIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Article 85. Protection of biodiversity in forests

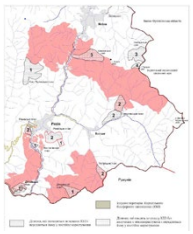
Protection of biodiversity is fulfilled by their owners and permanent users on the genetic, species and ecosystem levels through:
...
5) **ensuring conservation** of rare and endangered species of flora and fauna, plan communities, **primeval forests**, and other valuable natural complexes according to the ecological legistation.

• **EXTENSION OF THE PA NETWORK IN UKRAINE**



Within 2003 – 2011 the overall protected territory of Ukraine was enlarged by 400 000 ha, and the total amount of PAs was doubled

2010 – the territory of CBR is extended by 5 000 ha according to the Decree of the President of Ukraine; most of this territory belong to primeval forests.



• **РОЗПОЧАТО РЕАЛЬНУ РОБОТУ З ВКЛЮЧЕННЯ ПРАЛІСІВ ДО ВСЕСВІТНЬОЇ СПАДЩИНИ ЮНЕСКО**

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP:
"IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL UNESCO WORLD NATURAL HERITAGE SITES "
(OCTOBER 5-7, 2004)

Organizers: UNESCO Secretariat, Paris, France), Ukrainian national UNESCO Commission, Ministry of Environment of Ukraine

Venue: Mukacheve, Transcarpathia, Ukraine

Program

- Presentation of cultural and natural heritage sites of Ukraine in the transboundary context
- Natural Heritage
  - Primeval beech forests of the Carpathians
  - Virgin steppes of Askania-Nova
  - Polissia Lowland
- Cultural and natural heritage
  - National arboretum "Sofiivka"
  - Smotrych-Dnister canyon in Podillia

The workshop participants recommended to start the inscription prcudure only for the serial nomination "Primeval beech forests of the Carpathians"



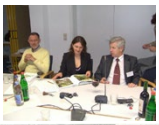
2005-2006 – joint Ukrainian-Slovak working group was working on the dossier preparation to nominate "Beech Primeval Forests of the Carpathians" to the UNESCO WH List



Expert mission conducted by Dr. Dave Michalek gave a green light for the nomination



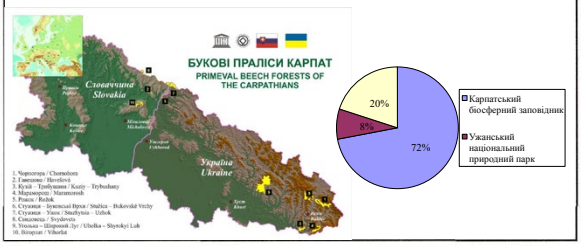
German experts – Prof. Haral Plachter of Marburg University, and Prof. Peter Schmidt of Dresden University – ensured international support of the transboundary serial UA-SK nomination and prepared recommendations for its extension by means of German clusters



Ukrainian – Slovak – German intergovernmental meeting (May 7-8, 2007, Vilm) adopted a decision on extemsion of the Beech Primeval Forests of the Carpathians by means of German oldgrowth forests

UKRAINIAN-SLOVAK PROPERTY "BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPAHTIANS"

- June 28, 2007- the UNESCO WH Committee inscribes the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians into the World Natural Heritage List on its 31st session in Cristchurch, New Zealand; total area - 77971,6 ha (core area - 29278,9 ha)



CABINET OF MINISTERS OF UKRAINE

RESOLUTION
December 23, 2009, № 1619-р
Kyiv

On the Action Plan for conservation and development of the Ukrainian part of the UNESCO WH Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians"

1. To adopt an action plan for protection and development of the Ukrainian part of the UNESCO WH Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians"

2. The Ministry of Environment jointly with other authorities should ensure Action Plan enforcement according to the given Resolution.

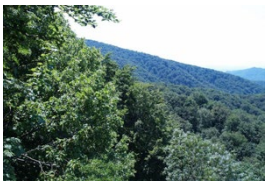
Prime-Minister of Ukraine
Yulia Tymoshenko

Action Plan for conservation and development of the Ukrainian part of the UNESCO WH Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpahtians"

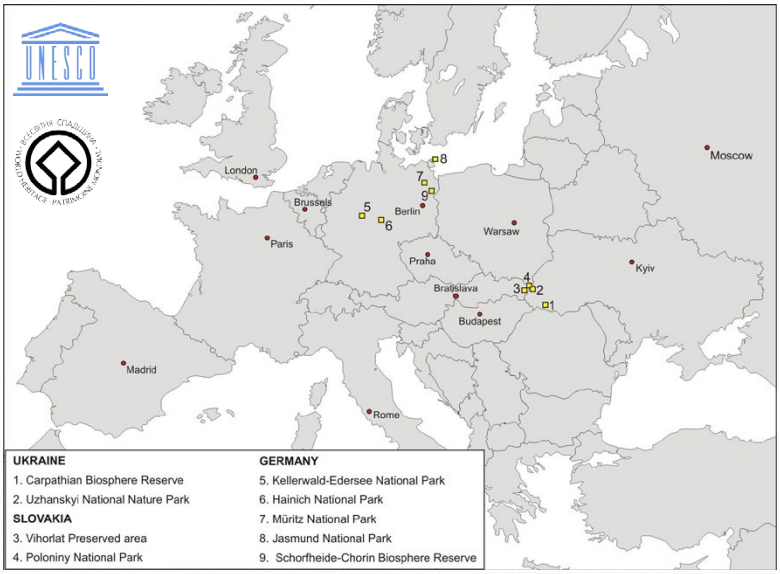
Action	Term
1. To establish information boards at the Carpathian BR and the Uzhanskyi NP with information about the Property	2010-2012
2. To support fundraising, which is necessary for the development of CBR and UNNP	Permanently
3. To develop international cooperation in the sphere of scientific research of the beecj primeval forest ecosystems in the Carpathians	Permanently
4. To organize promotion and information campaign through mass-media as for the cultural and natural heritage of the global significance, and the beech primeval forests of the Carpathians in particular	Permanently
5. To establish an international research and training center for beech primeval forests investigation based at CBR	2010-2012
6. To finish construction of the information center at the Uzhanskyi NNP	2010-2012
7. To organize a conference dedicated to the issues of resoration and maintenance of primeval forests of the Carpathians	2010-2012
8. To conduct activity directed onto awareness raising in terms of envoronmental protection	Permanently

UKRAINIAN-SLOVAK-GERMAN UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY "BEECH PRIMEVAL FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS AND ANCIENT BEECH FORESTS OF GERMANY"

- June 25, 2011 – on its 35th session in Paris, UNESCO WH Committee inscribes the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany into the WH List as an extenstion of the existing UA-SK Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians".
- This is a unique transnational site of a cluster type with the total area of 96072,4 ha (core zone - 33670,1 ha), which covers the natural range of Fagus sylvatica distribution from the Ukrainian Carpathian upper montane belt down to the Baltic sea, and namely the German archipelago Ruegen.

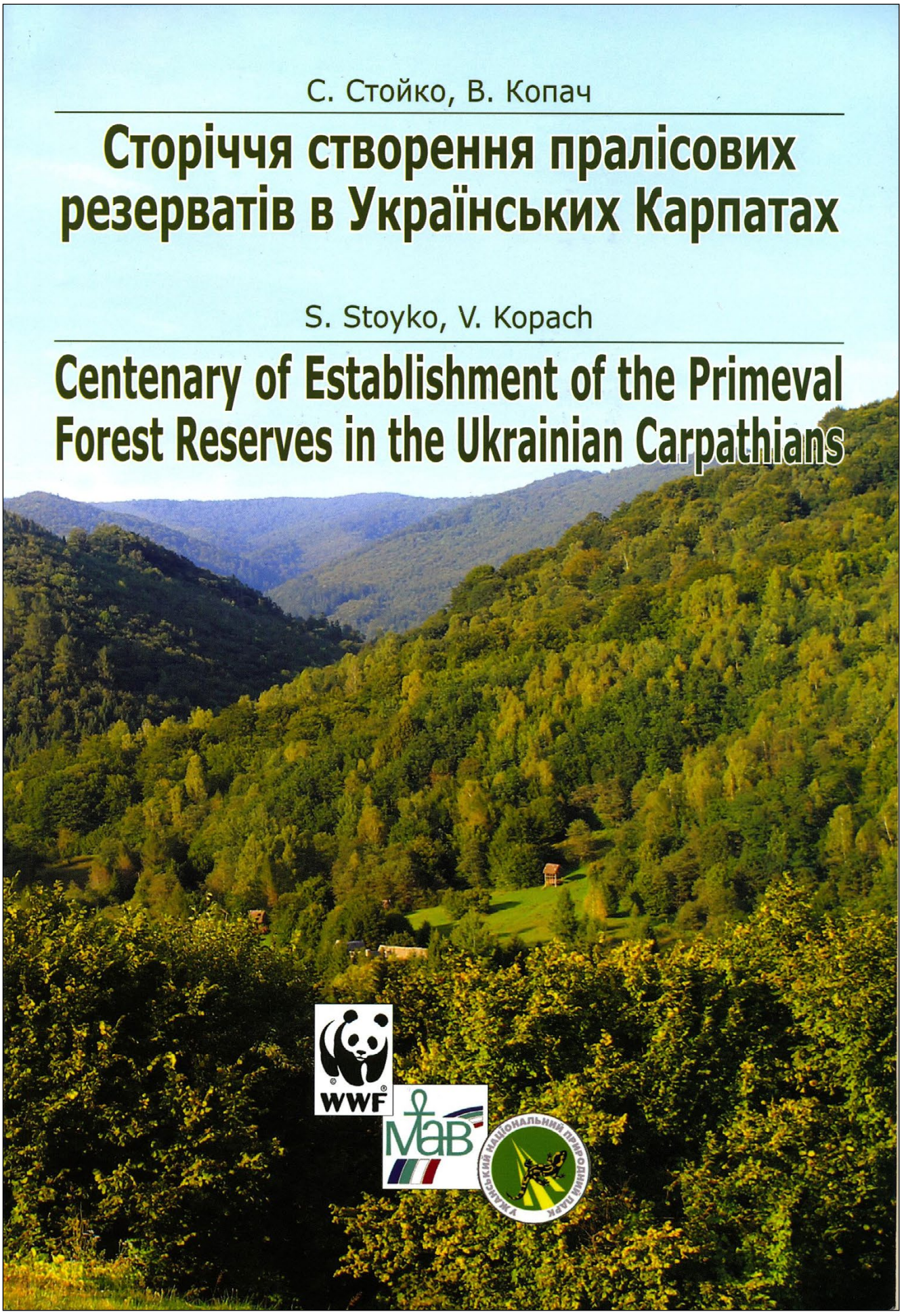






Map of the clusters belonging to the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany
– an ecological and political unity in Europe

Author:
Prof. Dr. Fedir Hamor,
Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve
P.O.Box 8
90600 Rakhiv / Ukraine
cbr@rakhiv.ukrtel.net


С. Стойко, В. Копач
Сторіччя створення пралісових резерватів в Українських Карпатах
S. Stoyko, V. Kopach
Centenary of Establishment of the Primeval Forest Reserves in the Ukrainian Carpathians
WWF
МаВ
УЖАНСЬКИЙ НАЦІОНАЛЬНИЙ ПРИРОДНИЙ ПАРК



Ministry for Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine
Carpathian Biosphere Reserve

PRIMEVAL AND ANCIENT BEECH FORESTS OF EUROPE: PROBLEMS OF PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE USE

PROCEEDINGS
of the International Conference
Ukraine, Rakhiv, September 16–22, 2013

Uzhhorod
CE "Uzhhorod City Publishing House"
2013

LAND BRANDENBURG

HESSEN

Mecklenburg Vorpommern
MV tut gut.

Freistaat Thüringen

Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, Bau und Reaktorsicherheit

BfN Bundesamt für Naturschutz

Fotos: Arensberg © Nationalpark Kellerwald-Edersee , Buchenblatt © emer / Fotolia.com und Buchenblätterornament © Atelier Papenfuss

EINLADUNG

Festakt

Fünf Jahre UNESCO-Weltnaturerbe „Buchenurwälder der Karpaten und Alte Buchenwälder Deutschlands“

am Samstag, den 25. Juni 2016
von 14.30 bis ca. 17.30 Uhr
in der Hessischen Landesvertretung in Berlin
In den Ministergärten 5
10117 Berlin



Organisation der Vereinten Nationen für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Kultur

Buchenurwälder der Karpaten und Alte Buchenwälder Deutschlands
Welterbe seit 2007 / 2011

Nationale Naturlandschaften

Poetry Slam:
Lars Ruppel

Musikalischer Rahmen:
Nina Hill und Begleitung

www.weltnaturerbe-buchenwaelder.de

PROGRAMM

5 Jahre UNESCO-Weltnaturerbe „Buchenurwälder der Karpaten und Alte Buchenwälder Deutschlands“

Begrüßung Priska Hinz (Umweltministerin Hessen)
für das derzeit federführende Land Hessen

Festvortrag Prof. Dr. Verena Metze-Mangold
(Präsidentin Deutsche UNESCO-Kommission)

Grußwort Dr. Elsa Nickel
(Abteilungsleiterin Naturschutz im Bundesumweltministerium)

Premiere des Films UNESCO-Weltnaturerbe
„Alte Buchenwälder Deutschlands“
FairFilm Productions

Einführung in die Kurzfilme der Teilgebiete:

Minister Dr. Till Backhaus, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
für Jasmund und Serrahn
Staatssekretärin Dr. Carolin Schilde, Brandenburg
für Grumsin
Ministerin Anja Siegesmund, Thüringen
für Hainich
Ministerin Priska Hinz, Hessen
für Kellerwald

Get together mit kleinem Imbiss im Garten der Landesvertretung
Offener Ausklang

Jubiläumsausgabe / 2016

BuchenBlatt

Magazin des Nationalparks Kellerwald-Edersee



5 Jahre Weltnaturerbe

Organisation der Vereinten Nationen für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Kultur

Buchenurwälder der Karpaten und Alte Buchenwälder Deutschlands
Welterbe seit 2007 / 2011

Nationalpark Kellerwald-Edersee



СУСПІЛЬСТВО

Під Раховом, у центрі Європи

Природоохоронний менеджмент у Карпатах

Голос України

«Екологічний Давос» — у центрі Європи

The topic of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" protection, and the sustainable development of the region, where this Property is located is widely covered by the newspaper published by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine "The Voice of Ukraine" (Holos Ukrainy)



СУСПІЛЬСТВО

Всесвітня спадщина ЮНЕСКО може допомогти сталому розвиткові Закарпаття



ЕКОЛОГІЯ

Карпати на шляху до сталого розвитку

СУСПІЛЬСТВО
ГОЛОС УКРАЇНИ №100 (5600)
П'ЯТНИЦЯ, 31 ТРАВНЯ 2013

Розвивати й оберігати букові праліси Карпат, а також забезпечити сталий розвиток гірських сіл Закарпаття

ПІСЛЯ ВИСТУПІВ «ГОЛОСУ УКРАЇНИ»

На підставі розроблених нами наукових обґрунтувань, завдяки зусиллям екологічної та природних ресурсів України, голови Закарпатської обласної ради Івана Балоги, Національної комісії України у справах ЮНЕСКО, редакції газети «Голос України» (див. номери газети за 9.4.94 р., 2.3.02, 13.7.11,19.7.12,16. XI.12, 31.3.13), народних депутатів України Віктора Балоги та Василя Петьовки 2 квітня 2013 року Президент України Віктор Янукович дав доручення № 1-1/749 щодо збереження унікальних природних комплексів, забезпечення сталого розвитку гірських населених пунктів українсько-словацько-німецького природного об'єкта Всесвітньої спадщини ЮНЕСКО «Букові праліси Карпат та давні букові ліси Німеччини», благоустрою гірських населених пунктів Закарпаття, які розташовані у зоні українській частини цього природного об'єкта.

Главі держави доручив Прем'єр-міністр України Микола Азаров до 2 грудня забезпечити розроблення проекту меморандуму між Міністерством екології та природних ресурсів України, Міністерством довкілля Словацької Республіки і Федеральним міністерством довкілля, охорони навколишнього природного середовища та безпеки ядерних реакторів Федеративної Республіки Німеччини, спрямованого на збереження українсько-словацько-німецького природного об'єкта Всесвітньої спадщини ЮНЕСКО «Букові праліси Карпат та давні букові ліси Німеччини», передбачивши при цьому розвиток туристично-рекреаційного потенціалу всієї Закарпатської області;

по-перше, у терміни до 3 червня опрацювати питання щодо відновлення залізничного сполучення між містами Києвом та Раховом (Закарпатська область);

по-друге, розробити протягом квітня-вересня цього року пропозиції щодо збільшення фінансування будівництва міжнародного маршруту Е-58 «Київ—Чоп» з урахуванням можливості створення туристично-рекреаційного кластера;

по-третє, вирішити до кінця п. р. питання щодо збирання, складування та утилізації побутових відходів на територіях, прилеглих до територій гірськолижних курортів «Буковель» та «Драгобрат»;

по-четверте, до 31 грудня 2015 року забезпечити фінансування будівництва міжнародного навантажувально-розвантажувального терміналу з вивезення буково-пиломатеріалів та сталого розвитку Карпат на базі Карпатського біосферного заповідника;

по-п'яте, провести реконструкцію та капітальний ремонт автомобільних доріг загального користування державного значення, що ведуть до населених пунктів Закарпаття, та автомобільних доріг, що проходять територією природних заповідників і національних природних парків, з урахуванням потреб розвитку туризму і рекреації, вони реалізацію цього проекту.

Сказать, будь ласка, можна розшикувати необґрунтований зрим Міністерством інфраструктури України виконання доручення Президента щодо відновлення залізничного сполучення між Києвом та Раховом?

На жаль, позиція Залізничних перевезень в Київ Рахівської районної державної адміністрації змушена до підготовки проекту Програми розвитку Термін виконання цього доручення минув 3 грудня 2013 року.

А що далі?

До 31 грудня 2013 року буде розв'язано питання щодо проведення у 2014 році Всеукраїнського конкурсу проектів



Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine
Zakarpattia State Regional Administration
Carpathian Biosphere Reserve

THE 10th ANNIVERSARY SINCE THE INSCRIPTION OF THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY «PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS AND THE ANCIENT BEECH FORESTS OF GERMANY»: HISTORY, STATUS AND PROBLEMS OF THE INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION

PROCEEDINGS
of the International Scientific Conference
Ukraine, Rakhiv, September 26-29, 2017

Lviv
Rastr-7
2017

SOME ARCHIVE DOCUMENTS

THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

To Mr. Kostiantyn Tymoshenko
Authorized Ambassador of Ukraine to France,
Permanent Delegate of the Permanent Delegation
of Ukraine to UNESCO

Dear Sir,

I have an honor to inform you, that the UNESCO World Heritage Committee on its 31st meeting (Christchurch, New Zealand, 23.06. - 2.07.2007) considered the nomination dossier "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" and adopted the decision to enlist the aforementioned Property into the UNESCO World Heritage List. The relevant Decision is attached.

I am deeply convinced that your Government will take all the necessary measures to ensure proper conservation of this valuable Property. The Committee and its Secretariat, the World Heritage Center will do everything possible to support your activity in this direction.

"Practical Guidelines for Implementation of the UNESCO WH Convention" (Para. 168) envisage, that the Secretariat has to send to each of the states-parties, whose Properties have been enlisted into the List, a map with delineated boundaries of the Property. Please, carefully look at the map sent attached, and let us know about any possible mistakes in the information by January 1, 2007.

Enlisting of the Property to the UNESCO WH List is a great opportunity to draw visitors' attention and to share the information on the UNESCO World Heritage Convention among the local population, and to explain the universal value of the Property. To reach this, you can install an information board with the logos of World Heritage and UNESCO. The requirements for using these logos you can find in the Guidelines.

It happens very often, that the states-parties want to hold an awarding ceremony with the Certificate on being enlisted into the UNESCO WH List. By an application from a state-party the UNESCO World Heritage Center will prepare a certificate for the award ceremony.

We will be grateful, if you could send us the name of the institution or the name of a responsible representative, also contact details, such as email, phone number, fax, and postal address, so that we can send our materials to the administration of the Property.

Please find attached a brief description of your Property, which will be used in future in official publications and on the website of the World Heritage List. Please, let us know before January 1 if any significant changes are needed.

Apart from that, probably you already know that the UNESCO WH Center is creating a website, where one can find information about any of the Properties, provided according to a standard format. As we can place a limited amount of information, we plan to upload a link to the administration of your Property or a responsible institution. If the newly-created Property already has its own website, please share a link to it with us.

Soon we will send you a full list of Decisions adopted by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee on its 31st meeting.

As you already know, according to the Para. 172 of the Guidelines the UNESCO World Heritage Committee obliges the states-parties to inform about any plans to conduct by themselves or to allow others to implement the activities which might threaten the Property under Convention.

Taking an opportunity, I would like to thank you for cooperation and contribution into the implementation of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention.

Sincerely,

Francesco Bandarin

Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Center

НАЦІОНАЛЬНА КОМІСІЯ УКРАЇНИ У СПРАВАХ ЮНЕСКО
COMMISSION NATIONALE D'UKRAINE POUR L'UNESCO
NATIONAL COMMISSION OF UKRAINE FOR UNESCO

Секретаріат Комісії: Україна, 01018, Київ, Михайлівська пл., 1
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Web: http://unesco.org.ua

"30" 07 2007р. № 203/14-194/087/5-1556
на № _____ від _____

Міністру охорони навколишнього природного середовища України

В.Г. Джарти

Копія: Державна служба заповідної справи

Карпатський біосферний заповідник

Щодо результатів 31-ї сесії Комітету всесвітньої спадщини ЮНЕСКО

Шановний Василю Георгійовичу,

23 червня - 2 липня 2007р. у м.Крайстчерч (Нова Зеландія) відбулася 31-а сесія Комітету всесвітньої спадщини ЮНЕСКО (КВС).

У роботі сесії взяли участь представники 21-ї країни-члена КВС, а також спостерігачі від інших країн-учасниць Конвенції з охорони всесвітньої культурної і природної спадщини 1972р., у т.ч. й України.

Участь нашої держави у сесії було забезпечено силами Посольства України в Австралії та Почесного консула України в Новій Зеландії.

Сесія ухвалила рішення про включення до Списку всесвітньої спадщини ЮНЕСКО спільного українсько-словацького об'єкта "Букові праліси Карпат". Відповідне рішення КВС буде надіслано до Міністерства охорони навколишнього природного середовища додатково, після отримання матеріалів сесії від ЮНЕСКО.

Надані Карпатським біосферним заповідником презентаційні матеріали щодо номінації були схвально сприйняті членами КВС. Представлення словацьким представником українсько-словацького об'єкта "Букові праліси Карпат" пройшло успішно і не викликало застережень з боку членів КВС, які одностайно ухвалили позитивне рішення.

Таким чином, з урахуванням усіх змін, ухвалених 31-ю сесією КВС, Список всесвітньої спадщини нині складається з 851 об'єкта: 660 культурної спадщини, 166 природної спадщини та 25 змішаних.

З огляду на викладене, пропонуємо розглянути можливість відзначення державною нагородою директора Карпатського біосферного заповідника, професора Гамора Федора Дмитровича, за особистий внесок у збереження екологічно цінних і найбільших в Європі масивів букових та буково-смерекових пралісів Карпат, які увійшли до українсько-словацького об'єкта всесвітньої спадщини "Букові праліси Карпат", та активну участь в українсько-словацькому співробітництві у природоохоронній сфері.

Крім того, за високий професіоналізм та активну участь у підготовці українсько-словацької номінації "Букові праліси Карпат" пропонуємо нагородити грамотами Міністерства охорони навколишнього природного середовища начальника відділу перспективного розвитку, наукового забезпечення та зв'язків з громадськістю Державної служби заповідної справи Парчука Григорія Васильовича, директора Ужанського національного природного парку Копача Василя Олексійовича, заступника директора Ужанського національного природного парку Іванегу Івана Юрійовича, в.о. заступника директора Карпатського біосферного заповідника Покиньчереду Василя Федоровича, завідувача зоологічної лабораторії Карпатського біосферного заповідника Довганича Ярослава Омеляновича, начальника відділу регулювання біологічних, земельних ресурсів, надрокористування та об'єктів природно-заповідного фонду Державного управління охорони навколишнього природного середовища в Закарпатській області Поляновського Анатолія Олександровича.

Просимо розглянути.

З повагою,

Голова Національної комісії України,
т.в.о. Міністра закордонних справ України **В.С. Огризко**

NATIONAL COMMISSION OF UKRAINE FOR UNESCO

30.07.2007, Nr. 203/14-194/087/5-1556
To the Minister
of Environmental protection of Ukraine
V.H. Dzharty
Copy: State Agency for Protected Areas
Carpathian Biosphere Reserve

Dear Mr. Vasyl Dzharty,

On June 23-July 2, 2007 the 31st Meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee took place in Christchurch, New Zealand.

The meeting was attended by the representatives of 21 states-parties that are members of the UNESCO WH Committee, and also observers from other states-parties of the UNESCO WH Convention as adopted in 1972, including Ukraine.

Our party was represented by the Embassy of Ukraine in Australia and an Honored Consul of Ukraine to New Zealand.

The Meeting adopted the Decision to enlist the Ukrainian-Slovak UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" into the WH List. The relevant Decision will be sent to the Ministry of environmental Protection additionally, after we receive all the materials of the UNESCO WH Meeting.

The presentation materials provided by the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve were positively welcomed by

the members of the Committee. The presentation of the Ukrainian-Slovak UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" was successfully made by the Slovak colleagues, no comments were made by the members of the UNESCO WH Committee, all of them unanimous voted for its enlisting.

Thus, taking into account all the corrections as adopted by the 31st UNESCO WH Meeting, the UNESCO World Heritage List is now consisting on 851 Properties: 660 cultural Properties, 166 natural and 25 mixed ones.

The light of aforementioned facts, we propose you to consider a possibility to award the Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve Prof Fedir D. Hamor with the State Award for his personal contribution into conservation of ecologically valuable European largest sites of beech-spruce primeval forests of the Carpathians, which are now part of the Ukrainian-Slovak UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians", and for his active participation in the Ukrainian-Slovak environmental cooperation.

Moreover, we propose to award with special awards of the Ministry of Environmental Protection the following people for their high professional profile and active involvement in drafting a nomination dossier for the Ukrainian-Slovak UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians", namely: head of the Department for perspective development, scientific research and public relations of the State Agency for Protected Areas Dr. Hryhoriy Parchuk, Director of the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park Dr. Vasyl Kopach, Deputy Director of the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park Dr. Ivan Ivaneha, Deputy Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve Ing. Vasyl Pokynchereda, head of the zoological laboratory Dr. Yaroslav Dovhanych, head of the Department for biologicasl and land resources management, use of subsoil resources and protected area system of the State Agency for nature protection in Zakarpattia region Mr. Anatoliy Polianovskyi.

We kindly ask you to consider the aforementioned proposals.

Sincerely,
Chairman of the National Commission
of Ukraine for UNESCO
Interim Minister of Foreign Affairs **V.S. Ohryzko**

8/06/11

Dear Fedir, Dear Viliam, Dear Ivan

Thanks a lot for such positive and supportive replies! We are pleased to hear that you are ready to support us.

We welcome the idea expressed by Fedir Hamor as for the letter of support to IUCN on behalf of Ukraine, as well as the proposal made by Ivan and Viliam as for such letters to be sent by international experts to ta standing representative of UNESCO in each of your countries.

On our opinion, you can mention in those letters your personal and a common international experience in expansion of such Properties. It's also advisable to provide few practical examples in order to prove that a step-by-step process of expansion has its advantages, because numerous obstacles can be overtaken in this way. Also you can mention here, that on your opinion the approval of the German nomination dossier "The Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" is reasonable exactly at this meeting of the Committee. This will be an official confirmation of the positive attitude expressed by the states-parties, and an invitation to others to join us on later stages. Apart from that, you can also mention the important role of the Integrated Management System, which is going to be signed by all our three states-parties, and also stress on the need for it to be adopted at one of the Committee meetings.

This week we are working on justification of the Outstanding Universal Value of our nomination according to IUCN recommendations. During the next week we hope we can send it to you for agreement. We think, IUCN should not be aware that we are working on OUV as a joint tactic action.

All the best to you!

Sincerely,

Heike Britz

Від: Britz, Heike <Heike.Britz@bmu.bund.de>
Надіслано: 31 травня 2011 р. 13:47
Кому: 'Carpathian Biosphere Reserve'
Копія: Breier, Nicola; Nickel, Elsa; BfN_Barbara Engels; 'Hannes Knapp'; 'FORST GroЯmann, Manfred'
Тема: Nomination Ancient Beech Forests of Germany

Dear Fedir,

Today I am writing to you because once again we urgently need your help. As you know the World Heritage Committee will decide on our nomination "Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" as extension to the "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians (Slovak Republic/ Ukraine)" during its 35st meeting in June. Two weeks ago we learned by the Committee documents about the results of the IUCN Technical evaluation including the IUCN recommendation and the respective draft decision for the Committee to defer the nomination. Reading carefully the IUCN recommendation it is obvious that the nomination meets the conditions/requirements of integrity, boundaries, protection and management and we are really glad about this fact. Furthermore it states that "The nominated components of the property represent different altitude zones, site conditions, and dominant beech forest types that are not represented by the 10 primeval beech forest components (Slovakia/Ukraine) and hence provide the basis for a serial approach." and with regard to the application of criteria it says "IUCN considers that the components within the nominated property have the potential to meet this criterion, only when considered as an extension to the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians, however **there may be alternative sites of equivalent or greater value that should be considered in other States Parties.** "These findings of IUCN correspond to what we had expected and whished to turn out as results.
But unfortunately based on the latter aspect (in bold) IUCN comes to the conclusion that we should first "continue working with the States Parties of Ukraine and Slovakia and other interested States Parties in order to define the scope of a finite and complete serial transnational nomination based on an extension of the existing property and the consideration of Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for a completed serial property which would convey and describe the scope and values of the property

as whole and which would be agreeable to all of the relevant States Parties in Europe". (I am attaching the relevant Committee document.) You can surely imagine how disappointed we were when reading the draft decision. To see the nomination is well done but should not result in an inscription for the reason that we are supposed to carry out a very long lasting process.

A long term goal of our paneuropean activities (e.g. Vilm workshops) as well as of your activities (e.g. conferences in Rhakiv) is to conserve valueable natural beech forest. So in general we could agree to the IUCN argumentation for a complete and comprehensiv cluster of European beech forests. However, we we are convinced that an intermediate step is needed to further advance the process to reach the overall goal. Nevertheles an inscription could be very motivating for further joint work at European level. In that respect we think a deferral of the German nomination would be counterproductive. If Ukraine and Slovakia agree in general and also willing to play an active role we all together are willing and able to fulfill the demand of IUCN, to finalize a complete and comprehensiv nomination. But in our view we need the inscription of the German component parts now, as basis for the involment of other relevant states in the further nomination process. The United Nations declared the year 2011 the International Year of Forests. We are of the opinion that right this year a clear signal is needed for the protection and conservation of the ecosystem of European beech forests, knowing the tremendous pressure on and threat of outstanding beech forests in other European countries. What do you think about this approach? I hope, that the committee will discuss the benefits of an inscription versus the risks of a deferal and we still see a chance for an inscription of the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany rhight in June. We think until the Committee meting we need to prepare and to agree with you and Slovakia a short statement of OUV for a clompete and finite property including some crireria for a scope as requiered by IUCN as well as to explaine how to proceed to reach the overall goal. In our view together we have already started with the process (e.g. by the Vilm-Workshop and you by planning the Conference scheduled to take place in autumn next year. Hoping that you are interested in such an approach I would like to propose that we make a written draft, send it to you and our Slovak colleagues and we hope that it will obtain your acceptance.

I am looking forward to hearing from you.
Best regards,

Heike Britz
Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit
Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
Referat N I 4 / Division N I 4
Internationaler Naturschutz / International Nature Conservation
Robert-Schuman-Platz 3

53175 Bonn
Tel. +49.228.305.2612
Fax. +49.228.305.2684
E-mail: heike.britz@bmu.bund.de

Dear Fedir,

bolschoje spasibo, thank you very much for the letters of support to our WH nomination. Your argumentation is really excellent. May be it has more importance and effect as a letter from the ministry could have. We will inform you immediately about the decision, I go Thursday to Paris, Heike and Barbara already day after tomorrow. Congratulations and thank you also to Victoria for the English formulation of the letters.

Best regards
Hannes Knapp

МІНІСТЕРСТВО
ЕКОЛОГІЇ ТА ПРИРОДНИХ РЕСУРСІВ
УКРАЇНИ

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OF UKRAINE

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"17" 06 2011 р. № 458

Mr. Kishore Rao
Director
World Heritage Centre
UNESCO

The Carpathian Biosphere Reserve has initiated nomination of the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians to the UNESCO World Heritage List, and today our institution protects 72 % of the Ukrainian-Slovak serial Property. Our institution, like no other else, clearly understands the great importance of joining 5 oldgrowth German forests to the existing Property. The Carpathian Biosphere Reserve fully supports this kind of extension and has already implemented a number of concrete actions in this direction. We closely cooperated with our German partners in the process of the nomination dossier design, in particular in the preparation of the Trilateral Integrated Management System. Please find below our justification for inclusion the aforementioned German clusters during the 35th Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in June this year.

The extension of the given Property exactly in this way would lead to a significant positive result. First of all, representation of the Property would be greatly enlarged, as this site is anyway dedicated to the European oldgrowth forests in general. Today we have representation of exclusively montane beech forests, while lowland forest stands are not represented, though they constitute the greatest part of European beech range. Exactly these forest ecosystems are protected within the nominated German clusters. Due to their listing a renewed Property would become much more comprehensive and continuous – it would cover European beech range from its eastern to the western border, and from the sea level up to the vertical edge of distribution in the montane zone. This, in its turn, would contribute to formation of a far greater validity of the Property as a reference model of undisturbed complex temperate forests and an example of the most continuous and balanced ecological phenomena and processes, which occur in pure stands of *Fagus sylvatica* in various ecological conditions, as well as an invaluable European beech and other species' gene pool associated to the given habitat.

Another important benefit from listing the Ancient Beech forests of Germany is a well-designed and fully agreed trilateral (UA-SK-DE) Integrated Management System. If it is implemented, the scientific cooperation would be raised to a totally new qualitative level due to harmonized research programs, which in its turn would not only secure an effective monitoring of a newly-coined transnational site as a homogeneous whole, but also provide complex data for the global climate change investigation; in this way joint international programs on staff training and capacity building would be launched both for individual protected areas in charge of each of the cluster, and for Property management as an inseparable unit, which is extremely crucial for Ukraine; this would foster linkage and cooperation

between individual clusters which make up the serial Property; ecological education and promotion of the Property would be significantly improved etc. In general, the developed Integrated Management System allows maintaining an efficient international cooperation in the field of the most precious European beech forests conservation for future generations.

Inscription of the German oldgrowth forest sites as an extension of the existing Property would also support its further conservation, as thus we will have the German conservation experience involved and get additional opportunities.

Inscription of the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany as an extension of the Beech primeval Forests of the Carpathians (UA – SK) does not finite the expansion of the given Property, just on the contrary – this action would stipulate other State Parties to possibly nominate their, no less important, sites of well-preserved old-growth beech forests. Though, as the nomination process of the Beech Forests of the Carpathians testifies, identification and expert evaluation of such forest sites and the dossier preparation is a time-consuming activity. By adding up the five oldgrowth beech forest sites from Germany at the nearest session of the World Heritage Committee as a result we would produce a convincing motivation for further nomination of similar forests on the European level, as it would serve an example for other State.

It is indeed symbolic, that the year 2011 is proclaimed by UN as the International Year of Forests. By granting the World Heritage Status to invaluable forest ecosystems, just like the Ancient Beech forests of Germany, exactly this year we would again and again draw people's attention to threats and threats existing for primeval forests all over the world, and would help to unite conservation efforts of the global community.

Fedir Hamor
Professor, Dr. of biological sciences
Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve

МІНІСТЕРСТВО
ОХОРОНИ НАВКОЛИШНЬОГО
ПРИРОДНОГО СЕРЕДОВИЩА УКРАЇНИ

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„16" 07 2008 р., № 428

**Президенту України
В.А. Ющенко**

Вельмишановний Вікторе Андрійовичу!

Відповідно до рішення Комітету Всесвітньої спадщини ЮНЕСКО №3 COM 8Б.16 від 28 червня 2007 року українсько-словацький об'єкт „Букове праліси Карпат" включено до Списку Всесвітньої природної спадщини ЮНЕСКО.

У зв'язку з цим та з метою поліпшення охорони природних об'єктів що мають виняткову загальнолюдську цінність просимо розглянути можливість прийняття Указу Президента України „Про збереження українсько-словацького об'єкту Всесвітньої природної спадщини ЮНЕСКО „Букові праліси Карпат".

Проект Указу Президента додається.

**Директор Карпатського
біосферного заповідника,
професор, заслужений
природоохоронець України** **Ф.Д. Гамор**

CARPATHIAN BIOSPHERE RESERVE

16.07.2008, Nr. 428
**to the President of Ukraine
Mr. Victor A. Yushchenko**

Dear Mr. Victor A. Yushchenko!

According to the Decision of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee Nr. 3 COM 8B.16 dated on June 28, 2007 the Ukrainian-Slovak Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" is enlisted into the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Due to this and with the aim to improve conservation status of the Properties that pose an exceptional value for the mankind we ask you to consider a possibility to adopt an Order of the President of Ukraine "On Conservation of the Ukrainian-Slovak UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians".

The draft wording of the Order is annexed to this letter.

**Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve,
Honored Conservationist of Ukraine,
Professor** **Fedir Hamor**

МІНІСТЕРСТВО
ОХОРОНИ НАВКОЛИШНЬОГО
ПРИРОДНОГО СЕРЕДОВИЩА УКРАЇНИ

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http://cbr.nature.org.ua

„10" 07 2008 р., № 414

Міністру охорони навколишнього природного середовища України п. Філіпчуку Г.Г.

Шановний Георгій Георгієвич!

У зв'язку з включенням українсько-словацького об'єкту „Букові праліси Карпат" до списку Всесвітньої природної спадщини ЮНЕСКО повторно просимо порушити клопотання про прийняття Указу Президента „Про збереження українсько-словацького об'єкту Всесвітньої природної спадщини ЮНЕСКО „Букові праліси Карпат", який підтримано Національною комісією України у справах ЮНЕСКО.

В додатку Проект Указу Президента та інші матеріали на 4 сторінках.

З повагою,
директор Карпатського
біосферного заповідника Ф.Д. Гамор

CARPATHIAN BIOSPHERE RESERVE

10.07.2008, Nr. 414

To the Minister of Environmental Protection of Ukraine Mr. H.H. Filipchuk

Dear Mr. Heorhiy H. Filipchuk!

In the light of enlisting of the Ukrainian-Slovak Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" is enlisted into the UNESCO World Heritage List we again ask you to send a request about adoption of the Order of the President of Ukraine "On Conservation of the Ukrainian-Slovak UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians", which already has been supported by the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO.

The draft wording of the Order is annexed to this letter together with other materials (4 pages).

Sincerely,
Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve **Fedir Hamor**

МІНІСТЕРСТВО
ЕКОЛОГІЇ ТА ПРИРОДНИХ
РЕСУРСІВ УКРАЇНИ

**КАРПАТСЬКИЙ БІОСФЕРНИЙ
ЗАПОВІДНИК**

вул. Красне Плесо, 77, м. Рахів,
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Код ЄДРПОУ 00276104

MINISTRY
OF ECOLOGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES OF UKRAINE

**CARPATHIAN BIOSPHERE
RESERVE**

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State Registration Code 00276104

3 грудня 2012 р., № 1115

Голові Закарпатської обласної ради

п. Балога І.І.

Шановний Іван Іванович!

З метою реагування на виступ газети "Голос України" від 16 листопада 2012 року (стаття "Всесвітня спадщина ЮНЕСКО може допомогти сталому розвитку Закарпаття"), просимо прийняти на сесії обласної ради звернення до Президента України з питань сталого розвитку та благоустрою населених пунктів гірської частини Закарпаття, які розташовані в зоні об'єкта Всесвітньої спадщини ЮНЕСКО "Букові праліси Карпат та давні букові ліси Німеччини". Переконані, що схвалення відповідного рішення на рівні Президента та уряду України, може стати не тільки черговим кроком України в Європу, але й допоможе збереженню єдиного в Україні природного об'єкта Всесвітньої спадщини ЮНЕСКО, сприятиме зменшенню суцільних вирубок лісів у горах, переорієнтації економіки цього унікального краю на екологічно безпечні види діяльності та підвищуватиме рівень добробуту гірського населення.

В додатку проект звернення до Президента України та інші матеріали на 8 стор.

З повагою,
директор Карпатського біосферного заповідника, доктор біологічних наук, професор, заслужений природоохоронець України Ф.Д.Гамор

CARPATHIAN BIOSPHERE RESERVE

December 3, 2012, Nr. 1115

To the Chairman of Zakarpattia Regional Council
Mr. Baloha I.I.

Dear Mr. Ivan I. Baloha!

With the aim to react on the publication in the Holos Ukrainy (Voice of Ukraine) Newspaper (article "The UNESCO World Heritage Property could support sustainable development of Zakarpattia"), we ask you to adopt an appeal to the President of Ukraine at the next meeting of the Regional Council as for ensuring sustainable development and maintenance (improvement) of mountainous settlements of the mountainous part of Zakarpattia region, which lie within the vicinity of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany". We are convinced, that adopting such a resolution on the level of the President and Government of Ukraine will become not only the next step towards the European integration, but also will contribute to preservation of this UNESCO World Heritage Property, will reduce clear cuts in mountain forests, will help to refocus the economy of this unique region towards ecologically friendly types of economic activity, and will also raise the welfare of the mountain dwellers.

Please find attached a draft Appeal to the President of Ukraine and some other materials (8 pages).

Sincerely,
Director of the Carpathians Biosphere reserve,
Dr. Sc., Professor,
Honored Conservationist of Ukraine **Fedir Hamor**

ZAKARPATTIA REGIONAL COUNCIL
11th Meeting of VI Council Convocation
DECISION

21.12.2012 **Uzhgorod** **№648**

On Appeal of the Regional Council Members to the President of Ukraine

In accordance with the paragraph 2 of the Article 43 of the Law of Ukraine "On Local Self-Government in Ukraine", the Law of Ukraine "On the Status of Mountain Settlements in Ukraine", the Framework Convention "On Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians", taking into account the information provided by the Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve Dr. Hamor F. D., and in view of numerous requests from the citizens, the Regional Council

ADOPTED A DECISION:

1. To approach the President of Ukraine on the issues connected to sustainable development and improvement of settlements in the mountainous part of Zakarpattia, located in the vicinity of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" (the text of the Appeal prepared by the members of the Regional Council is annexed).

2. The control over the implementation of this Decision is entrusted on the Deputy Head of the Regional State Administration Mr. Popovych M.M. and the Standing Committee of the Regional Council on Ecology and the Use of Natural Resources (Tsiryk M.M.).

Chairman of the Council **Ivan Baloha**

APPEAL

Dear Victor Fedorovych!

Already back in 2007, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee adopted a decision to include the Ukrainian-Slovak nomination "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" into the World Heritage List. In 2011, with the support of the Government of Ukraine, natural beech forests of Germany were also included to it. As a result, a unique transboundary Ukrainian-Slovak-German conservation area of global importance appeared on the European continent.

The Ukrainian part of this Property is one of Europe's largest primeval beech forests protected by the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park within the Rakhiv, Tiachiv and Velykyi Bereznyi districts of Zakarpattia region, which is almost 70% of its total area and is the only natural Property in Ukraine, which is listed into the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee obliges the States Parties to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention not only to secure the legislative protection of a Property, but also to ensure its integration into regional or local spatial planning, and the provision of access to it for tourists. Therefore, in all countries of the world, where such unique natural and cultural values are located, as a rule, the tourism and recreational industry is actively developing, and these factors are used to create an attractive image of the territories and increase well-being of their population.

The primeval beech forests of the Carpathians lie in the geographical center of Europe, which is also characterized with a number of unique historical and cultural values. This region is considered to be one of the world's most beautiful places by foreign experts. But, unfortunately, the settlements located in the vicinity of the World Heritage Property are located in depressed mountain areas with underdeveloped road network and the tourism-recreational infrastructure together with and high unemployment rate.

In this regard, we would like to request you, Honorable Victor Fedorovych, to task the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine with respective orders concerning sustainable development and improvement of settlements in the mountainous part of Zakarpattia located in the vicinity of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany", the draft of which has been prepared by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine in consultation with the relevant central executive authorities and the Administration of the President of Ukraine.

Members of the Zakarpattia Regional Council of VI Convocation.

ZAKARPATTIA REGIONAL COUNCIL

To the Minister of the Federal Ministry
for the Environment,Nature Protection, Building
and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany
Frau Barbara Hendrix

Dear Frau Minister!

On May 14, 2014 in Bonn, authorized representatives of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine signed the Joint Declaration of Intent on Cooperation in the field of Protection and Management of the joined UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians (Slovakia and Ukraine) and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (Germany)".

In Ukraine, which has initiated creation of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German joint UNESCO World Heritage Property, the signing of the Joint Declaration is viewed as a significant step in preservation of the unique global natural values of our countries and we admit the special role played by Germany in the European process of beech forests conservation in Europe.

Zakarpattia is a unique region of Ukraine, where the Ukrainian part of the Property is concentrated, e.g. the European largest primeval beech forest sites. The region is located in the geographical center of Europe on the borders with Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and Poland.

That is why for Zakarpattia region, the Declaration together with the decisions taken by the Government of Ukraine in this regard open up a number of new opportunities not only in strengthening protection of beech forests, but they also create good prerequisites for sustainable development in the settlements adjacent to this Property, and for developing the necessary infrastructure here. The Zakarpattia Regional Council considers the Declaration as another opportunity to deepen the Ukrainian-German cooperation in the ecological sphere, and a chance to establish productive partnership between the territorial communities and business entities located in the vicinity of the joint Property, as well as to attract foreign investments in developing and implementation of waste management system, implementation of pilot projects on alternative energy, roads construction, investments into tourism and recreation, processing of agricultural products, timber and other natural resources processing etc.

In order to achieve the goals mentioned above, we kindly ask you to support the initiative to hold a Ukrainian-German meeting involving directors of environmental departments and regional authorities to discuss the creation of the Association of twin-towns and protected areas that deal with the conservation and research of primeval beech forests of the Carpathians and the ancient beech forests of Germany which constitute the UNESCO World Heritage Property. This will provide an opportunity to effectively exchange experience, increase the intellectual potential, ensure capacity building for scientific and management personnel as well as for the public activists from territorial communities.

Dear Ms. Minister, on behalf of the territorial communities of Zakarpattia region, I would like to thank you for the cooperation, and I'm looking forward to its strengthening so that we can preserve these unique forest ecosystems.

With deep respect
Chairman of the Council **Ivan Baloha**

May 26, 2014
№ 01-14/350

МІНІСТЕРСТВО
ЕКОЛОГІЇ ТА ПРИРОДНИХ
РЕСУРСІВ УКРАЇНИ

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State Registration Code 00276104

«15» 08 2012 р., № 732

На № _____ від «__» _____201__ р.

**Міністру надзвичайних
ситуацій України,
Урядовому куратору
Закарпатської області
Балозі В.І.**

Шановний Вікторе Івановичу!

Завдяки Вашому сприянню, ще 2 лютого ц.р., Міністерство екології та природних ресурсів направило до Адміністрації Президента України, клопотання щодо прийняття Президентом України окремого доручення з питань сталого розвитку та благоустрою населених пунктів Закарпаття, які розташовані в зоні об'єкта Всесвітньої спадщини ЮНЕСКО «Букові праліси Карпат та давні букові ліси Німеччини». Як нам відомо, проект цього документу опрацьований зацікавленими міністерствами, відомствами та службами Адміністрації Президента, погоджений першим заступником глави Адміністрації І. Акімовою. Але нажаль, він до цього часу так і не підписаний главою держави.

У зв'язку з цим дуже прошу зробити ще одну спробу (можливо через керівника Адміністрації Президента) щодо прийняття цього надзвичайно важливого екологічного та соціально економічного рішення Президента України.

Додаток на 6 сторінках.

З повагою,
директор Карпатського
біосферного заповідника,
професор Ф.Д. Гамор

CARPATHIAN BIOSPHERE RESERVE

13.08.2012, Nr. 732

**To the Minister of Emergency of Ukraine,
Governmental Supervisor of Zakarpattia region
Baloha V.I.**

Dear Mr. Victor I. Baloha!

Thanks to your support, already on February 2 this year, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources sent to the Administration of the President of Ukraine a request to adopt a special Order aimed at sustainable development and maintenance (improvement) of mountainous settlements of the mountainous part of Zakarpattia region, which lie within the vicinity of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany". As far as we know, the draft of this document has been viewed by relevant Ministries, Agencies, and services of the Administration of the President, and it has been agreed by the first deputy of the Head of Administration Ms. I. Akimova. But unfortunately, this Order is still not signed by the leader of the country.

In connection to this, I kindly ask you to make one more attempt (maybe with the support of the Head of the President's Administration) to ensure signing this extremely important ecological and social-economic Resolution of the President of Ukraine.

Annex – 6 pages.

**Sincerely,
Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve,
Professor Fedir Hamor**

УКРАЇНА

РОЗПОРЯДЖЕННЯ

голови Закарпатської обласної державної адміністрації

13.04.2017 **Ужгород** **№ 178**

Про підготовку та проведення Міжнародної науково-практичної конференції на тему: „Десятиріччя створення об'єкта Всесвітньої спадщини ЮНЕСКО „Букові праліси Карпат та давні букові ліси Німеччини": історія, стан та проблеми впровадження інтегрованої системи менеджменту"

Відповідно до статей 6 і 39 Закону України „Про місцеві державні адміністрації", розглянувши лист Карпатського біосферного заповідника 13.03.2017 № 240:

1. Підтримати пропозицію Карпатського біосферного заповідника про проведення Міжнародної науково-практичної конференції на тему: „Десятиріччя створення об'єкта Всесвітньої спадщини ЮНЕСКО „Букові праліси Карпат та давні букові ліси Німеччини": історія, стан та проблеми впровадження інтегрованої системи менеджменту" у м. Рахів 26 – 29 вересня 2017 року.
2. Утворити організаційний комітет із підготовки та проведення Міжнародної науково-практичної конференції на тему: „Десятиріччя створення об'єкта Всесвітньої спадщини ЮНЕСКО „Букові праліси Карпат та давні букові ліси Німеччини": історія, стан та проблеми впровадження інтегрованої системи менеджменту" у складі згідно з додатком.
3. Контроль за виконанням цього розпорядження покласти на заступника голови державної адміністрації Мікуліна В. П.

В. о. голови державної адміністрації **І. Дуран**

ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА ОБЛАСНА ДЕРЖАВНА АДМІНІСТРАЦІЯ
Відділ документування управлінської інформації
Код ЄДРПОУ 00022498
УКРАЇНА

UKRAINE
RESOLUTION
OF THE HEAD OF ZAKARPATTIA REGIONAL STATE ADMINISTRATION

13.04.2017 Uzhgorod Nr. 178

On preparation and carrying out of the International Scientific Conference "The 10th anniversary since the inscription of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval beech forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany": history, status and problems of implementation of the integrated management system"

According to the Articles 6 and 39 of the Law of Ukraine "About Local State Administrations", having considered a letter from the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve dated on 13.03.2017 Nr. 240:

1. To support the proposition made by the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve about carrying out of the International Scientific Conference "The 10th anniversary since the inscription of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval beech forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany": history, status and problems of implementation of the integrated management system" in the town of Rakhiv on September 26-29, 2017.
2. To create a Conference Organizing Committee on preparation and carrying out of the International Scientific Conference "The 10th anniversary since the inscription of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval beech forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany": history, status and problems of implementation of the integrated management system", made up of the members as described in the Annex.
3. Monitoring of this Resolution's implementation is to be carried out by the Deputy Head of the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration Mikulin V.P.

Interim Head of Zakarpattia Regional State Administration **I. Duran**

Додаток
до розпорядження
13.04.2017 № 178

СКЛАД
організаційного комітету із підготовки та проведення Міжнародної науково-практичної конференції на тему: „Десятиріччя створення об'єкта Всесвітньої спадщини ЮНЕСКО „Букові праліси Карпат та давні букові ліси Німеччини": історія, стан та проблеми впровадження інтегрованої системи менеджменту"

Голова організаційного комітету

МІКУЛІН Віктор Петрович	заступник голови обласної державної адміністрації

Члени організаційного комітету:

БАБІНЕЦЬ Юрій Юрійович	головний спеціаліст відділу вищої, професійно-технічної освіти і науки департаменту освіти і науки облдержадміністрації
БЕРКЕЛА Юрій Юрійович	начальник відділу науково-дослідної роботи та сталого розвитку Карпатського біосферного заповідника (за згодою)
БУНДЗЯК Вікторія Віталіївна	начальник відділу еколого-освітньої роботи Карпатського біосферного заповідника (за згодою)
ГАМОР Федір Дмитрович	заступник директора Карпатського біосферного заповідника (за згодою)
ІГНАТЮК Дмитро Миколайович	заступник голови Рахівської райдержадміністрації
КОЦУР Ігор Сильвестрович	заступник начальника Закарпатського обласного управління лісового та мисливського господарства (за згодою)
МАН Денис Миколайович	директор департаменту економічного розвитку і торгівлі облдержадміністрації

МОСКАЛЮК Богдана Іванівна	начальник редакційно-видавничого відділу наукових та науково-популярних видань Карпатського біосферного заповідника (за згодою)
МОЙШ-ШІМАН Рената Василівна	начальник управління зовнішньо-економічних звязків, інвестицій та транскордонного співробітництва облдержадміністрації
РИБАК Микола Петрович	директор Карпатського біосферного заповідника (за згодою)
ТОМЕНЧУК Дмитро Євгенович	заступник начальника відділу раціонального природокористування, розвитку екомережі та природно-заповідного фонду управління регулювання природокористування департаменту екології та природних ресурсів облдержадміністрації
ШПОНТАК Юрій Михайлович	заступник директора департаменту екології та природних ресурсів облдержадміністрації

Примітка: керівник робочої групи у разі потреби може залучити інших спеціалістів структурних підрозділів облдержадміністрації та представників громадських організацій (за згодою).

**Заступник керівника апарату
державної адміністрації** **О. Варцаба**

ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА ОБЛАСНА ДЕРЖАВНА АДМІНІСТРАЦІЯ
Відділ документування управлінської інформації
Код ЄДРПОУ 00022496
УКРАЇНА

Annex
to the Resolution
13.04.2017 Nr. 178

MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
On preparation and carrying out of the International Scientific Conference "The 10th anniversary since the inscription of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval beech forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany": history, status and problems of implementation of the integrated management system"

Chairman of the Conference Organizing Committee	
Victor Mikulin	Deputy Head of the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration
Members of the Conference Organizing Committee	
Yuriy Babinets	Leading specialist of the Division of higher professional education and science of the Department for education and science of the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration
Yuriy Berkela	Head of the Department for scientific research and sustainable development of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (by agreement)
Victoria Bundziak	Head of the Department for ecological education of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (by agreement)
Fedir Hamor	Deputy Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (by agreement)
Dmytro Ihnatyuk	Deputy Head of the Rakhiv District State Administration
Ihor Kotsur	Deputy Head of the Zakarpattia Regional Agency of Forestry and Hunting (by agreement)
Denys Man	Director of the Department for economic development and trade of the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration
Bohdana Moskalyuk	Head of the Editorial Department for popular-scientific publications of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (by agreement)
Renata Moish-Shiman	Head of the Agency of external economic relationships, investments, and transboundary cooperation of the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration
Mykola Rybak	Director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (by agreement)
Dmytro Tomenchuk	Deputy Head of the Division for rational nature use, ecological network development and protected area system of the Agency for nature use management of the Department for ecology and natural resources of the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration
Yuriy Shpontak	Deputy Director of the Department for ecology and natural resources of the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration

Note: The leader of the working group has a right to involve other experts from structural divisions of the Department for ecology and natural resources of the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration or NGO representatives (by agreement) in case of necessity.

Secretary General
of the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration **O. Vartsaba**

“ЗАТВЕРДЖУЮ“

Голова Національної комісії України у справах ЮНЕСКО, заступник Міністра закордонних справ України

С.О.Кислиця

«17» лютого 2017 року

РІШЕННЯ
XXI засідання Національної комісії України у справах ЮНЕСКО

(7 лютого 2017 р., м. Київ, МЗС України)

За результатами XXI засідання Національної комісії України у справах ЮНЕСКО (далі - Нацкомісія) **вжити таких заходів:**

11. Провести під патронатом Національної комісії України у справах ЮНЕСКО міжнародну науково-практичну конференцію «Десятиріччя створення об’єкта Всесвітньої спадщини ЮНЕСКО «Букові праліси Карпат та давні букові ліси Німеччини».

Мінприроди, Карпатський біосферний заповідник
Термін: 26-29 вересня 2017р.

ADOPTED
By the Chairman of the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
S.O. Kyslytsia
February 17, 2017

DECISION
of the 21st Meeting of the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO
(February 17, 2017, Kyiv, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine)

By the results of the 21st Meeting of the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO (further on – the National Commission) **the following measures are to be implemented:**

11. To carry out the International Scientific Conference "The 10th anniversary since the inscription of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval beech forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany": history, status and problems of implementation of the integrated management system" under the patronage of the National Commission

To: the Ministry of Environment, the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve
Deadline: September 26-29, 2017

APPEAL OF SLOVAKIAN NGO TO THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

regarding the request to list "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" into the UNESCO List of World Heritage in Danger.

Dear Sirs,

The recommendations of the 39th UNESCO WH meeting, which had confirmed the results of our survey, as mentioned in the letter to the UNESCO WH Center in 2012 and 2014, have not been implemented.

The areas that Slovakia has designated as the Slovak part of the UNESCO World Heritage Property, had never been related to any environmental protection category as indicated in the nomination, namely – IUCN Ia. Following the consultations with the UNESCO World Heritage Center, the Slovak party undertook to create a new protected area "Bukovské Vrchy", within which 1457 hectares will be of the highest conservation status. Thus, along with this new protected area, the surface of the protected core is currently 1,900 hectares. This means that 3,870 hectares (67%) of the Slovak part of the Property are not adequately protected and hunting, logging and other activities are still ongoing there. The most vulnerable now is Vihorlat, where only 6% have a relevant protection status.

The second Government response to the recommendations of the UNESCO World Heritage Center was the approval of the Management Plan for the Poloniny National Park, including the component parts of Stužica, Havešová and Rožok. The quality of the Management Plan was evaluated in a document published by the Council of Europe – "Conclusions on the Poloniny National Park Management Plan" Poloniny" issued of February 9, 2017, where a rather critical opinion about the Plan was expressed.

Management plan for Vihorlat component part is not yet available, and there is no information when the works on it are going to start.

The problem with ill-defined boundaries is also urgent. As of today, even in 10 years after being included in the UNESCO WH List, the only maps available are those that used to be annexed to the nomination dossier. The scale of these maps does not allow defining the boundaries of the Slovak component parts, and therefore they remain indeterminate and not delineated in nature. Consequently, the Slovak part cannot be under the effective protection, since nobody knows exactly where the clusters are located.

Therefore, based on the stated above, we are fully convinced that the Outstanding Universal Value of this Property is in danger. The Government of Slovakia has violated a number of items of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, namely: Para. 49, 78, 97, 98, 99, 101, 108.

In accordance with paragraph 117 of the Operational Guidelines adopted by the UNESCO World Heritage Center, the said Property (Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany) is

- listed into the UNESCO WH List
- in a serious danger
- great changes are to be made to ensure its proper conservation

In 2014, we applied for support to the Property under the Convention.

In accordance with the definition in paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines adopted by the UNESCO World Heritage Center, the Property faces a significant threat that adversely affects its major characteristics.

In such a way, taking into account the facts mentioned above, we demand the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" to be included into the UNESCO List of World Heritage in Danger. The criteria to refer it there are indicated in paragraphs 177, 178 and 180 of the Operational Guidelines to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention.

For additional information, please see the Annexes, or contact our NGO "WOLF – Movement for the Conservation of Forests"

Sincerely,
Viliam Bartus
"WOLF – Movement for the Conservation of Forests"
Head of the East-Carpathian Branch

MONOGRAPH ABOUNT GLOBAL RECOGNITION OF PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS: EXPERTS OPINION

In early autumn 2017, under the financial support of the Zakarpattia Regional Council (Chairman - Mykhailo Rivis) and the Transcarpathian Regional State Administration (headed by Hennadiy Moskal), the first edition of the popular-science journalistic book by Fedir Hamor was published in the Uzhgorod publishing house "Private Company of Sabov A.M." – "Global Recognition of the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians: History and Management. Materials, dedicated to the 10th anniversary since the designation of UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany", which was highly appreciated by the experts.

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Thus, the General Director of the Department of Nature Conservation and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany Frau Nickel wrote to the author in connection to this event: "This is a great summary of the long way that we all have gone through in order to improve the understanding and conservation oldgrowth beech forests in Europe. This work also illustrates the success achieved by the hard work of scientists, managers and the wide public! And everything has become possible under your guidance and the efforts of your dedicated team! I am pleased to have had an opportunity



to join this process for some time. I've always felt inspired while working with you, with your team and colleagues. My best wishes for further progress in the project dedicated the primeval and oldgrowth beech forests in Europe (the plans are really numerous!), and I wish you to achieve good results for the best conservation of ancient beech forests and nature in general".

"I would like to express my sincere gratitude for this wonderful book!" – wrote the dean of the Technical University of Zvolen, Slovak Republic, Professor Viliam Pichler. – "I think, this work describes the efforts, the complexity of which is known only to you, Ivan, me and David. Those were really unforgettable times, what an unforgettable achievement! And other countries joining this Property are another confirmation of the success of our idea, in spite of all the obstacles".

Professor, Doctor of Sciences, President of the European Beech Forests Association Hannes Knapp (Germany) when estimating the given book emphasizes: "Here we can see a truly comprehensive documentation of the ongoing processes aimed at protection the last remains of primeval beech forests in Europe, as well as the history of them being listed into the UNESCO World Heritage List. The translation of the book into English is really important for Europe in the light of establishing a new serial transnational World Heritage Property, which includes beech forests of whole Europe. Let's try to find such an opportunity! I am deeply grateful for the cooperation and friendship with you, and I thank you for your participation in this process for so many years".

And Brigitte Commarmot from the Swiss Federal Institute of Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL) adds in this context: "It's wonderful, that starting from the primeval forests of CBR, a great process had been initiated, which has led to such remarkable results. I would like to take an opportunity and thank you and the others, who have made it possible".

Here is an interesting opinion expressed by the patriarch of nature conservation in Ukraine, a 98-year-old Professor Stepan Stoiko, who writes: "Dear Fedir Dmytrovych! I am so much grateful to you for your new monograph "The World Recognition of the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians: History and Management"! I have carefully analyzed it, and I believe that this is the encyclopedia of history and ecology of primeval beech forests. In the preservation of these forests we should stress on a great contribution made by the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and by you personally. You have raised the environmental image of Ukraine among UNESCO authorities and Ukrainian scientists. There's only one remark to the monograph: it advisable to provide here a list of yours and other works on primeval beech forests as References"

FOR THE SAKE OF THE GLOBAL SCIENCE

In 2017, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the registration of the Carpathian Primeval Beech Forests on the UNESCO World Heritage List, FOP Sabov A.M. published in Uzhgorod in the Ukrainian language the Fedir Hamor monograph "Global Recognition of the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians: History and Management". ISBN 978-6177344-48-2.

The author of the monograph is one of the most prominent Ukrainian (Carpathian) ecologists, environmentalists, scientists and conservationists. As the leading manager of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve based in Rakhiv, he is an internationally renowned scientific and professional person who has greatly deserved the successful process of registering Europe's beech forests and old beech forests on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The monograph of Professor Fedir Hamor, DrSc brings a detailed summary of past events related to the preparation of nomination projects and their inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List. The remarkable objectivity of historical events is highlighted by the fact, that the author of monograph, as the long-term director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, was not only a direct participant in the events, but also the initiator of all the necessary international and domestic organizational and management measures, the aim and final outcome of which was the World Heritage of the Carpathian Primeval Forests.

The author of the monograph relies heavily on domestic and foreign documents relating to the preparation of the World Heritage, which he personally prepared or personally participated in preparing. Thanks to tremendous tenacity, enthusiasm, tactics, tolerance, principle of consistency, and scientific scholarship, he has been able to harmonize the diverse interests of domestic and foreign participants in the preparation and approval of nominee projects for beech forests.

Many times I have personally convinced myself in domestic and international talks about "not being Fedir, not even the world heritage of beech forests." In the historical monograph, the author has fluently and consistently interpreted key moments since 2000, such as seminars, conferences, personal negotiations and discussions, not only related to the preparation of the "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" project (written on the UNESCO Charter in 2007), but also to the preparation of the second nomination project the "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" (signed on the UNESCO Charter in 2011), as well as the third project "Primeval Beech Forests and Ancient Forests of Europe" (registered on the UNESCO Charter in 2017). Although the documentary overview is very compelling and impressive, it can not capture the charm of the working atmosphere, readiness to react, detailed knowledge of the subject, and especially the mental concentration of the author needed to reach and apply the conclusions of successful negotiations.

The monograph contains 247 pages of text with multiple images.

Introduction is devoted to the evaluation of the ten-year successful Ukrainian-Slovak-German cooperation in the preparation of nomination projects. The beech forests of the Carpathians have been included in the UNESCO World Heritage List on the basis of the worldwide uniqueness of the ongoing ecological and biological processes. Subsequently, after being enrolled in the World Heritage List, scientists and experts on beech forests and natural forests from Ukraine, Slovakia and Germany unambiguously understood and promoted the need to preserve natural beech forests of Germany in the interests of the global science, biodiversity protection, ecological stability, complexity and integrity of ecosystems and landscapes.

European beech Fagus sylvatica has spread to Central Europe mainly during the postglacial Atlantic (about 5,000 years ago), when it became an organic part of human society and provided it with all the necessary ecosystem services. In view of the significant area of beech forests in Germany, the Scientific and Professional College of Workers of the Three States has drawn up a nomination project for the connection of the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany to the already declared World Heritage "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians". The



Ivan Voloschuk
Professor, Engineer, Doctor of Sciences,
Matej Bel University,
Banská Bystrica, Slovak Republic

leading figures of this second project were prof. Hannes Knapp from Germany, prof. Fedir Hamor from Ukraine, prof. Ivan Vološčuk and prof. Viliam Pichler from Slovakia.

In the preparation of the third nomination project "Primeval Beech Forests and Ancient Forests of Europe" led by Professor Pierre Ibisch from Germany, participated scientists and experts from 10 European countries (Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Italy, Romania, Slovenia, Spain and Ukraine).

In the chapter on the inclusion of "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians" in UNESCO's list of international ecological cooperation prof. Fedir Hamor stressed that they were the "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians", which initiated two other nomination projects, emphasizing the need to preserve and protect natural beech forests in Europe.

The next chapter of the Monograph "The Importance of International Joint Scientific Sessions for the nomination process of Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians to the UNESCO World Heritage List" provides detailed information on the beginnings of the East – West cooperation in exploring the importance of natural forest ecosystems for human society. At the end of the 1980s, after the fall of the Iron Curtain, new

opportunities for cooperation between Eastern and Western Europe were opened, focusing on the study of nature, landscape, economy and culture. In Eastern Europe, forest ecosystems have been preserved in a poorly disturbed country with a special culture of human society. The Transcarpathian Primeval Forests and the forests in region of Urals with unique information on the development of forests in changing climatic conditions and the need for nature and biodiversity conservation have been reflected in the long-term cooperation between the Ukrainian Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Russian Urals Forestry Academy with the Swiss Federal Institute of Forests and Anti-Avalanches Prevention. Financial support from Switzerland has allowed deepening of cooperation between Western and Eastern Europe.

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In 2000, the international conference "Nature Value in the East and the West. Sustainable Development Study from the Alps to Ural" took place in Birmensdorf, Switzerland. The conference was attended by around 200 scientists, specialists and representatives of executive bodies from Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Sweden, Slovakia, Ukraine, Russia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Romania and other European countries. The conference played an important role in developing further cooperation in science, economics, politics and culture. Specific projects on the use and conservation of nature, tourism, prevention and destruction of natural disasters were adopted at the conference. Scholars from Switzerland have designed the research theme "Study of primary forests on the example of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve", which has become the basis for further cooperation between Switzerland and Ukraine. The conference proceedings have been published.

In 2003, a scientific conference "Natural forests in the temperate zone of Europe: value and use" took place in Mukachevo, Zakarpattia, Ukraine. The initiator of the conference was the Swiss Federal Research Institute for Forests and Anti-Avalanches Prevention and the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve in cooperation with the Council of Europe, WWF World Wildlife Fund, the IUCN World Conservation Union, and the IUFRO International Forestry Research Organization. The conference recommended, inter alia, to carry out an inventory of the Carpathian forests and natural forests according to a uniform methodology. The conference was published in Switzerland by a collection of papers in English. The conference initiated the process of preparing a nomination project for primeval beech forests, the Carpathian World Heritage Site of UNESCO.

In the next chapter, the monograph approaches the 4-year preparation of the nomination project "The Beech Forests of the Carpathians". Nomination project was elaborated by prof. Fedir Hamor and his colleagues from Transcarpathian Ukraine and prof. Ivan Vološčuk with prof. Viliam Pichler from Slovakia. The project was signed on the UNESCO World Heritage Charter on July 2, 2007, during the 31st UNESCO World Heritage Committee meeting in Christchurch, New Zealand, based on the "uniqueness of ecological and biological processes" world.

In the next chapters, the monograph provides detailed information on the preparation of the nomination project "Beech Forests Carpathian and Old Beech Forests of Germany", initiated by the inclusion of the "Beech Forests Carpathians" project on the UNESCO World Heritage List. In the preparation of this project, prof. Hannes Knapp, Director of the German Nature Conservation Agency in the management of the Federal Ministry of Nature Protection and Nuclear Safety of Germany. Part of the preparation of the nomination project was the seminar work of experts from Ukraine, Germany and Slovakia with the participation of representatives of relevant ministries in three countries. In 2008, a meeting took place in Germany on the island of Vilm, in 2009 in the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve in Rakhiv, in 2009 in Bonn, in 2010 in Berlin, and in the Nature Conservation Academy on the island of Vilm. On the basis of several years of work negotiations, the definitive nomination project "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" was adopted in Paris on 25 June 2011 at the 35th UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

The adoption of the two nomination projects led to the elaboration of the third nomination project "Primeval Beech Forests and Ancient Beech Forests of Europe". Several working meetings of experts from 11 European countries (including Slovakia) were held for this project. In June 2012, a tour of the ancient beech forests in Italy took place and in September 2012 a key meeting was held on the project on the island of Vilm (Germany). In 2013 an international meeting was held in Rachive with the participation of prof. Pierre Ibisch of Eberwald University in Germany, who was the main guarantor of the project. The meeting agreed to the final title of the project. On 16-22. October 2013 International Conference "Primeval Beech Forests and Beech Forests of Europe: the Problem of Protection and Sustainable Development" took place in Rakhiv. To this end, in 2014 in Bonn and Vienna, working meetings of Ukrainian, German and Slovak specialists took place in order to reconcile the inventory of old beech forest sites in 10 European countries. At a meeting in Vienna in 2014, the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management has been mandated to finalize and submit a nomination project to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in Paris. The UNESCO World Heritage Committee endorsed this nomination project at its meeting in Krakow in 2017.

In the other chapters of the monograph, there is extensive information on the application of knowledge and recommendations from the preparation of nomination projects in the practice of the Ukrainian authorities and the nature conservation organization. In addition to the provisions of the International Committee on Integrated Management, the Ukrainian side has prepared a project "Scientific-Research Center of the Primeval Beech Forest" in the village of Kvasy near the Rakhiv town.

Harmonization and assessment of management plans and international co-ordination of research in natural forests and forests of the Carpathians were carried out by scientists and experts from the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and scientific institutions of Sweden, Switzerland, Germany and Slovakia. The monograph provides detailed information on nature conservation management in the beech woods of the Carpathian Mountains and Europe for effective cooperation with NGOs, local authorities and forest owners. Impressive is a detailed overview of official documents at various levels of nature conservation authorities, focusing on the management of beech forests, starting with the President of Ukraine, through regional authorities to local authorities. This review also includes legal documents for the protection and conservation of beech forests as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

The monograph of prof. Fedir Hamor, Dr.Sc is a unique piece of work that contains valuable and so far little-known documents concerning the preparation of three nomination projects for UNESCO World Natural Heritage. The text of the book has a clear arrangement of actions and events in the time course from 2000 to 2017.

The monograph is written in Ukrainian language but will be translated into English. It will become a search tool for scientists, ecologists and the environment, for nature conservation practitioners and conservation and environmental authorities, from ministries to local authorities in Ukraine, Slovakia and Germany.

We congratulate the author of prof. Fedir Hamor, Dr.Sc, wishing more creative efforts to process and issue monographs focusing on the sustainable development of primeval beech forests and ancient beech forests in Europe.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

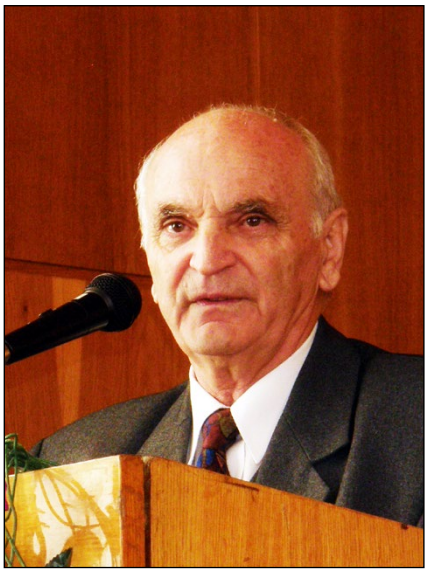


Fedir Hamor is a luminary of European forests preservation.

Mario Broggi,
Council of Europe expert, Doctor of Sciences, Professor
(Vaduz, Liechtenstein)

Thanks to his enormous perseverance, enthusiasm, tact, tolerance, principled consistency and scientific erudition, Fedir Hamor was able to reconcile all the various interests of both Ukrainian and foreign stakeholders in the preparation and approval of the nomination dossiers on primeval beech forests. Many times I got personally convinced during internal and international negotiations, that except for Fedir Hamor's activity, there would be no primeval beech forests as the World Heritage Property.

Ivan Voloschuk,
Professor of the Matej Bel University,
(Banská Bystrica, Slovak Republic)





Professor Fedir Hamor is the father of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe" and of the European process on beech forests conservation. Without the initiative and tremendous efforts of Professor Fedir Hamor, this Property and our projects in general simply would not exist.

Pierre Ibisch,
Professor of the University for Sustainable Development
(Eberswalde, Germany)

Fedir Hamor was born on March 28, 1951 in the village of Verkhnie Vodiane, Rakhiv district, Zakarpattia. He graduated from Uzhhorod State University. Doctor of Biological Sciences, Professor, Honored Conservationist of Ukraine, holder of the Order of Merit, Honorary Citizen of the town of Rakhiv and the Romanian town of Viseu de Sus.

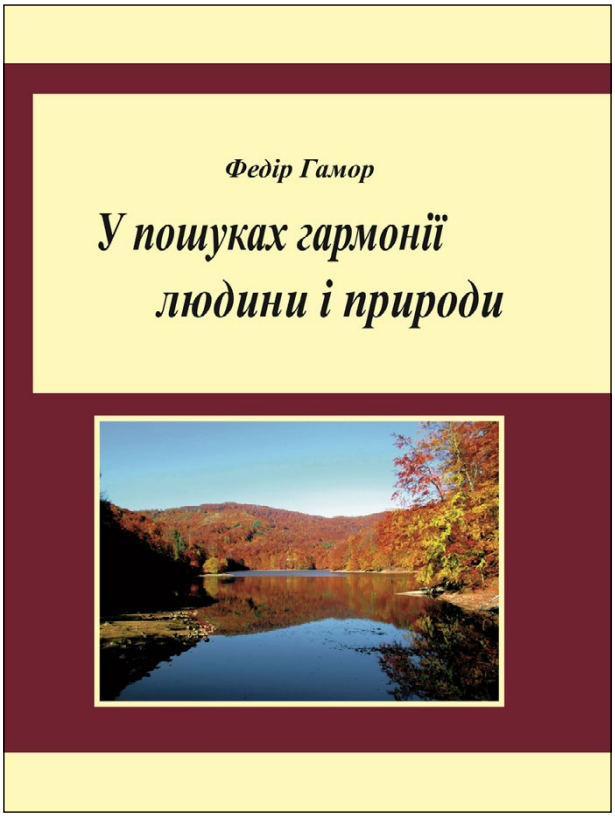
For the outstanding results in the field of nature and environment protection Gamor F.D. awarded in 2022 with the European award «EuroNatur Award 2022», and for «Inspiring and promoting the conservation of beech forests in Europe, with the aim of protecting biodiversity, absorbing carbon and increasing environmental awareness», nominated by Slovak scientists for the global environmental award «Earthshot Prize» Prince William and the British Royal Foundation.

He had been taking various responsible positions in Government and economic structures, also he acted as a freelance adviser to the Minister Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, and was repeatedly elected as a member of local councils.

Organizer and long-term director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (1987-2013), he also was a part-time team member in other institutions in different periods of his career: Professor of Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian National University, Uzhhorod National University and Open International University of Human Development «Ukraine».

Numerous regional, national and international programs and projects have been developed and implemented by Professor Hamor either personally or with his participation. His long-lasting leadership has contributed to the preservation of unique natural and cultural values of global importance, sustainable development in the Carpathian region and the achievement of harmony between man and nature.





On the occasion of Fedir Hamor's 70th anniversary his autobiographical book «In search of harmony between man and nature» (2021) was published in Lviv Publishing House «Prostir-M», with the financial support of Director General of the Ukrainian-Austrian enterprise «Fischer-Mukachevo» Vasyl Ryabych and other sponsors.

According to Professor Vasyl Khymynets, Holder of the State Prize of Ukraine, the readers will find "many interesting and unique facts and photos related to preservation of natural and cultural values and sustainable development in the Carpathian region, and especially on the life and passionate scientific activity of Fedir Hamor, who above all loves the Carpathians, his native Rakhiv region and respects the people he lives and works with".

For many years of conscientious and persistent work, Professor Hamor together with his team created the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve. In spite of fierce opposition from loggers, officials and poachers, four presidential decrees and Government decrees were adopted to expand the reserve from 12.600 to 58.000 hectares and was included into the UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve Network, and also its primeval forests were listed into the UNESCO World Heritage UNESCO List.

During the years of Fedir Hamor's activity, the reserve has become an internationally recognized ecological and scientific center. It is the only protected area in Ukraine to have been awarded with the European Diploma for conservation activity by the Council of Europe, and the said Diploma has been validated four times. There is a strong research and logistic basis, as well as social, environmental, educational and tourist and recreational infrastructure. Dozens of various international, national and regional projects – not only scientific, but also socially significant – have been implemented by the CBR.

In particular, he was directly involved in the development and adoption of the Framework Convention for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, the Laws "On the status of mountain settlements in Ukraine", "On a moratorium on continuous felling in fir and beech forests of the Carpathian region", Decrees "On state support for the implementation of the Comprehensive Program of Ecological, Economic and Social Development of the Rakhiv Region for the Period 1998–2005" and "On Approval of the State Program for the Development of the Ukrainian Carpathians for 2020-2022", Presidential and Government Decisions on Preservation of Carpathian Beech Forests and Ensuring Sustainable Development and Improvement of Mountain Settlements of the Ukrainian Part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe"...

Led by Professor Hamor for more than a quarter of a century, the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve has become a highly respected conservation and research institution of international importance. The departments of scientific research, ecological education and international cooperation, recreation and sustainable development, were screated here, as well as laboratories: botanical, zoological, forest research and ecological monitoring; CBR's team established 12 field divisions, scientific research plots, weather and hydrological research stations, a demonstrative trout farm and so on.

Ukraine's only museum of History of Nature Use in the Carpathians, Museum of Narcissus, eco-education center in the geographical center of Europe, an apartment house of 15 flats for the reserve's research team members and a whole network of other ecological education, tourism information, nature protection and socially important infrastructural projects was implemented. Dozens of scientific monographs and many hundreds of scientific materials have been published in Ukrainian and foreign scientific journals.

Under the leadership of Fedir Hamor, the All-Ukrainian Ecological Popular Science Magazine "Green Carpathians" (Zeleni Karpaty) has been published for almost thirty years.

The Newsletter of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve is periodically published, and a scientific journal "Nature of the Carpathians" is issued jointly with the Research Institute of Ecology of the Carpathians of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. More than two dozen international scientific conferences and round table meetings were held, recommendations and papers issued as the result of which have formed the basis for adoption of a number of laws and acts of the President and Government of Ukraine. In particular such as: payment of the land tax by the protected areas of Ukraine to territorial communities; launching train connection from Kyiv to Rakhiv.

Professor Hamor has published about 1,200 scientific, popular science, journalistic articles, monographs and other works.

Almost a hundred of them were printed on the pages of the Voice of Ukraine, the Government

Courier and other central newspapers.

Let's quote the headlines of some of the nearly fifty journalistic and analytical materials published by the Voice of Ukraine – "Could the Carpathians host the Winter Olympics", 1996, "People in mountains breathe easily, but live hard. The Carpathian region and the problems of sustainable development", 1998, "Why rivers overflow their banks", 1999, "Harmony between man and nature: where to look for it?", 2008, "From the first reserves in the Carpathians to the UNESCO World Heritage Site", 2008, "Environmental Management in "Carpathians", 2011, "One of the symbols of our continent's unity. European process of beech forests conservation of", 2012, "When will the train to the capital roar through the Carpathians?", 2014, "Usual firewood logging reveals deep crisis in protected area system, and exposes bureaucratic obstacles that triggered "pocket mafia" occurrence in the sphere of nature protection, 2016, "There is no other way than to achieve harmony between man and nature" 2018, "And yet: why rivers overflow their banks, or Is it possible to minimize the effects of destructive flooding in the Carpathian region?", 2020 – these publications give you an idea of the scale and relevance of thinking and many years of fruitful work of this extraordinary person.

Fedir Hamor is the organizer and inspirer of two dozen international projects that have strengthened the image of Ukrainian science in the world, and most importantly – the author and implementer of an idea that is perhaps the only one in recent years to truly glorify Ukraine. I mean the UNESCO world heritage site "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe".

According to the famous Slovak professor Ivan Voloshchuk, this became possible "thanks to the great perseverance, enthusiasm, tact, tolerance, principled consistency and scientific erudition of Fedir Hamor, who was able to reconcile the different interests of Ukrainian and foreign participants during the preparation and approval of WH nomination projects. Many times I have personally been convinced during national and international negotiations that "if there wasn't for Fedir Hamor, there would have been no World Heritage primeval beech forests".

Reflecting in this context on the phenomenon of this scientist, the poet Vasyl Kukhta remarks: "For many people F. Hamor is a disturbing factor, a firework of endless ideas, such as: the Days of European Cultural Heritage in the Center of Europe; ecological Davos in the Center Europe; trans-European train connection (via Rakhiv) to Budapest, Prague, Vienna – these are just some of them. To some, they seem far-fetched, unfeasible in the face of our permanent poverty. But, probably, here it is necessary to speak first of all (at the national level) about spiritual poverty, inability to listen to unique ideas; and also the absence (both in common people and authorities) of the features inherent in Hamor: assertiveness, the ability to achieve results.

However, let us remember: until recently, when it came to his new idea – the train from Kyiv to Rakhiv – he was called "the Rakhiv dreamer." Everyone who doubted is now happy to use the services of this train connection.

And so many of such "dreams"(which are in fact strictly verified projects) are stored in Hamor's scientific portfolio today! Much has been written recently about Fedir Hamor, the experience of the Ukrainian scientist has been summarized in the pages of various world publications. Professor Mario Broggie, a well-known scientist and former director of the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL), called him "the luminary of European forest protection". The European Conservation Community also remembers the brilliant metaphor of Professor Pierre Ibish of the University of Sustainable Development in Eberswalde (Germany), who, speaking of the "champion's title" of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve in the European conservation process, rightly and with some humor remarked: "if there was no Hamor, we should have definitely invented him...".

Fortunately, Hamor as a phenomenon has been existing and will continue to exist for future.

Finally, I would like to note something else: if he happened to be "allowed" in Ukraine to be elected as the President or appointed as a Minister, Prime Minister or some other a high-ranking official with a capability to adopt fateful decisions, these decisions would not be elaborated and delivered to him on paper by a whole army of office employees, on the contrary – he would produce them himself, strictly monitoring the exact implementation of his orders, feeling deep responsibility for every word, for every move...

Having known Fedir Hamor for several decades, I can do nothing but agree with these statements of the German researcher.

Vasyl Nytka,
Honored Journalist of Ukraine
"Voice of Ukraine" № 58 (7558),
March 30, 2021

ATTEMPTS TO REVEAL THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UKRAINIAN CARPATHIANS TO THE WORLD*

On March 28, 2016, the well-known Ukrainian scientist-ecologist FEDIR HAMOR turns 65. He is one of the founders of the protected area system in Ukraine, an active propagator of the idea of sustainable development, the founder and a long-time director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (1987-2013), editor-in-chief of the All-Ukrainian Ecological Scientific Popular Journal "Green Carpathians"/Zeleni Karpaty, Doctor of Biological Sciences, Professor, Academician of the Ukrainian Ecological Academy of Sciences. Fedir Hamor is a holder of the Order "For Special Contribution", Honored Conservationist of Ukraine, Honorary Actor of Tourism of Ukraine, Honorary Citizen of the City of Rakhiv and Romanian City of Viseu de Sus.

An interview with a hero of an anniversary is conducted by a correspondent of the newspaper "Holos Ukrainy" (Voice of Ukraine) in Zakarpattia region, Honored Journalist of Ukraine Mr. VASYL NYTKA.

...If each ecoregion of the world had its own Hamor,
We would have lived on a totally different planet!
Prof. Pierre IBISCH, Germany

V. N.: – ***Dear Fedir, with your fruitful activity in the field of nature protection, and in general, a versatile work, you have proved that in a remote mountain district (even if its nickname is a "Hutsul Paris") it is possible to conduct large-scale European scientific research...***

F. H.: – First of all, I would like to note here, that in order to be able to conduct a large-scale research, as you say, in wider science, I have had to work a lot: in order to get included in the Law of Ukraine "On the Protected Areas System of Ukraine", which was adopted by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine in 1992, the chapter, where the legal status, tasks and peculiarities of the activities of biosphere reserves were determined, and that the Carpathian Reserve, under the Presidential Decree "On Biosphere Reserves in Ukraine" dated on November 26, 1993, could receive the status of a biosphere one and was included in the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Having received such status, the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve became a "nature conservation, research institution of international importance". This fact had enabled, in accordance with the requirements of the Ukrainian legislation, the Statutory Framework for the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves and the Seville Strategy for Biosphere Reserves, to launch a long-term environmental and socio-economic research.

It was also important to organize the work of the biosphere reserve as a model for research and demonstration of best approaches in nature conservation and sustainable development, to participate in international research programs and projects on research and monitoring of biodiversity, water balance and global climate change.

Equally important was the issue of establishing effective scientific units, trainings for highly skilled scientific personnel and building the necessary infrastructure.

And as a result, the Department for Research and Sustainable Development, Botanical, Zoological, Forestry Laboratories and Environmental Monitoring Laboratory, 11 field divisions, scientific research plots, weather stations, a demonstrative trout nursery and other units successfully started their work at the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, administration of which is located in the town of Rakhiv, a remote mountain district center.

The only for Ukraine Museum of Mountains Ecology and the History of Nature Management in the Carpathian was built along with the Museum of Narcissus, the ecological and educational center in the geographical center of Europe, and a whole network of other ecological educational, informational and tourist facilities, etc.

Dozens of scientific monographs and hundreds of scientific publications were published in Ukrainian and foreign journals. For more than twenty years, the All-Ukrainian Ecological Scientific-Popular Magazine Green Carpathians/ Zeleni Karpaty is being issued; the Regional Environmental Newspaper "The Newsletter of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve" is published, and the specialized scientific publication "Nature of the Carpathians: Annual Journal Scientific of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Institute of Ecology of the Carpathians of the

* Vasyl Nytka

National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine" has been launched. Twenty international scientific conferences were held; the recommendations of these forums together the achievements of our researchers have formed the basis of adoption of a number of laws and acts of the President and the Government of Ukraine.

V. N.: – Not without vanity, it can be stated that it is precisely thanks to your efforts that the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians have been listed in the World Heritage List of UNESCO. Was this not easy?

F. D.: – Perhaps, on my part, this is quite inappropriate, but the best answer to your question may be a quotation from the article by Professor Pierre Ibisch, Professor of the German University for Sustainable Development (Eberswalde), published in the monograph "Environmental management of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the solution of modern challenges in Zakarpattia (Ukraine)" printed in Germany in 2011 both in German and Ukrainian languages, literally the following: "As a conservationist and scientist, he (Fedir Hamor) has contributed incredible efforts to reach the global recognition of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (CBR), make it a reference point for the European environmental activities. Preservation of the primeval forests, as a priority element of Ukraine's biodiversity, is a personal merit of Prof. Hamor. Particularly it is worth mentioning here, that in regions where in the past forest resources have been extremely rich, people have almost never thought about preserving them until the situation has become really critical. Obviously, there is an urgent need to fight for the maintenance of the viability of the primeval forests of CBR, since people have become more interested in cultural landscapes than the natural ones in recent times. And in the region, where the welfare of the population depends predominantly on these ecosystems, and where the forest use has been an integral part of history and development, the competition for the preservation of the valuable oldgrowth forests is a very courageous act..."

So, despite all the difficulties connected to the protection of the primeval forests, in 2007 the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians, together with the Slovak sites, were listed into the UNESCO World Heritage List. And this is the best guarantee for maintaining and ensuring the sustainable development of the region where they are located. It is important that on this occasion, also upon our initiative, the President and the Government of Ukraine have adopted corresponding Decrees.

Moreover, in 2011 this Property was expanded by adding five German clusters of oldgrowth beech forests. And now the process of primeval beech forests preservation has gained a pan-European significance. As a result, 11 countries have already applied for inclusion of their primeval and oldgrowth beech forest sites to our Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests of Germany".

There is a hope that next year the UNESCO World Heritage Committee will decide on designation of a new trans-European World Heritage Property "Primeval and Ancient Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe". And this will expand the opportunities for deepening the European cooperation in the environmental and scientific spheres.

V. N.: – ***You have a long history of close cooperated with ecological institutions both from the European countries bordering on Ukraine, and with such as Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Spain, America...***

F. H.: – Indeed, for many years we have been having a fruitful cooperation with protected areas and research institutions of many countries.

But the most active collaboration is established with the Swiss Federal Institute of Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL), the German University for Sustainable Development (Eberswalde), the Dutch Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, the International Academy of Nature Conservation of the Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety, the Polish Bieszczady National Park, the Hainich National Park from Germany, the Romanian Nature Park "The Maramures Mountains" and others.

For example, thanks to the active cooperation with WSL, large-scale projects on special scientific researches of primeval beech forests were made; recommendations were made regarding the implementation of the obtained knowledge into practice of sustainable forest management. In addition, the monograph "Primeval Forests of Zakarpattia Transcarpathia. Guidebook on the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve Forests " was published in German, English and Ukrainian in Switzerland, and a booklet "Primeval forests of

Uholka as a UNESCO World Heritage Property" became a real advertisement for the unique natural and cultural values of Ukraine in the European scientific and cultural environment. A resonance international scientific conference "Natural Forests of the Temperate Zone of Europe: Values and Utilization" organized in 2003 (the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and WSL), which was attended by scientists from 27 countries of the world, triggered the process of listing primeval beech forests of the Carpathians into the UNESCO World Heritage List, and other initiatives as well.

V. N.: – ***Ecological Davos in the center of Europe – this event, held with the support of the newspaper "Voice of Ukraine" (Holos Ukrainy) a few years ago, is it planned to be continued and expanded in future?***

F. H.: – The editorial staff of the newspaper "Holos Ukrainy" held a round-table meeting on the topic "Ecological Davos in the Center of Europe" at the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve in July 2011, and its conclusions and recommendations on the real possibility of implementing the idea of creating the "Ecological Davos" in the center of Europe was approved. And, of course, this issue remains relevant today.

It is important that practical steps for the implementation of these ideas are provided in separate acts of the President and the Government of Ukraine. And some of the positions of the Action Plan are already being implemented. For example, the opening of passenger train on the route Kyiv-Rakhiv has been secured, and the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine ratified an agreement between the Government of Ukraine and Germany on the allocation of financial assistance for the development of protected area system in Ukraine, in particular the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve is on the list, and the concept has been developed together with technical documentation for construction of the International Capacity Building and Research Center for Primeval Beech Forests and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians in the mountain resort village of Kvasy. The funds for the construction of this key facility and establishing the "Ecological Davos" in the center of Europe are expected to be allocated this year, etc.

V. N.: – ***Perhaps a special page of your environmental and scientific experience is related to the period when you have been the director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve for a long time...***

F. H.: – I am grateful to the fate that for 26 years I managed not only to be the director of the institution, but also to have a chance to stand at the very beginning of establishing the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve. Over the years, in a harsh confrontation with forest loggers, various officials and poachers, together with the team I managed to achieve the adoption of four Presidential Decrees and Decrees of the Government of Ukraine on the extension of its territory from 12.6 to 58 thousand hectares and its inclusion into the World Network of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves.

Over these years, the Carpathian biosphere reserve has become an internationally recognized ecological and scientific center; it has been four times awarded by the Council of Europe with the European Diploma. Here a powerful scientific, social, ecological education and tourist-recreational infrastructure have been created.

It was also possible to initiate the adoption of many governmental decisions regarding the sustainable development of the region where the biosphere reserve was located, aimed at solving socio-economic problems in the Carpathian region. Dozens of various international, not only scientific, but also socially significant projects have been implemented.

In particular, we were directly involved in the elaboration process and approval of the framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, the Laws of Ukraine "On the Status of Mountainous Settlements in Ukraine", "On the moratorium on continuous felling in spruce-beech forests of the Carpathian region", the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On measures of state support to the ecological, economic and social development of the mountainous Rakhiv district for the period of 1998-2005", the decisions of the President and the Government of Ukraine on preservation of the primeval beech forests of the Carpathians and ensuring sustainable development and improvement of mountain settlements located in the vicinity of the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German natural UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany", etc.

V. N.: – ***The American Biographical Institute named you "Man of the Year-97"...***

F. H.: – Really, such a pleasant event took place in my life. According to the decision of the

board of international studies of the American Biographical Institute, which at that time was considered the globally important publisher of biographical reference works, my name was included in the list of those who were awarded with such an honorary title. In an official statement, D. Evans, Chief Executive Officer of this institute, wrote to me in this regard: "We are reviewing the achievements from all around the world for the title "Man of the Year". And the international research council has nominated you thanks to the high achievements and contribution into the development of the society".

In addition, in 1998, I was nominated among the elite group of people who helped to create an international image for their countries, and had become purposeful, visionary leaders with a sense of social responsibility. It was recommended to the editorial board of this institution to make the seventh edition of the collection "Five hundred influential leaders ", which was published on the basis of the international biographical research of the Institute every 30 years.

V. N.: – ***Once "The Voice of Ukraine", on the pages of which you often raise global problems, wrote about you as follows: "He managed to convey the continental significance of the Ukrainian Carpathians to the world"...***

F. H.: – In response to this difficult question, I want to cite another quotation from the German monograph "Environmental Management...", which i have already mentioned: "The name of Fedir Hamor is listed one of the first among the names of those scholars who represent their country in numerous forums, seminars, meetings. He travels around the world, spreads knowledge about the Carpathians and establishes international cooperation. Due to his work for the benefit of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Fedir Hamor has become an example of "people's diplomacy". Having sowed the seeds of primeval beech forests preservation, he mows, among all the rich crops, the fruits of friendship and peace for the European nation. It was he who opened Zakarpattia and Ukraine for scientific cooperation, invited students and new generations of scientists to CBR to exchange experiences and study the functions and sustainability of ecosystems".

In this context, we recall a resonant international scientific conference "Natural Values of East and West. Study of Continuous Development from the Alps to the Urals" held in Switzerland in 2000, which, according to Swiss officials who participated in its work, played an important role in the exchange of scientific information, gave a great impetus to the strengthening of the links between East and West in science, economics, politics and culture.

Having the opportunity to make a presentation on that forum "Cooperation from the point of view of Ukraine", I spoke in the first place, as the Swiss newspaper "St. Galler Tagbatt " in its issue on October 31, 2000 noted, on unique primeval forests, which "in Transcarpathia are a natural heritage of the global significance". Commenting on my statement, the newspaper Tages-Anzeiger (November 3, 2000) emphasized that "Fedir Hamor hopes for more programs from the West, which can bring jobs and earnings to idyllic but poor villages of the Carpathian Mountains. There are lots of things that are worth attention in the biosphere reserve".

By the way, the ideas of sustainable forest use, which we also justified here, have later made up the basis of the great Ukrainian-Swiss project "Forests of Transcarpathia (FORZA)".

V. N.: – ***As a scientist, you've often got World Bank grants...***

F. H.: – Of course, I was lucky enough to receive financial support for the implementation of environmental, scientific and socio-economic projects, which I initiated and developed. Among them there were the grants of the Swiss Scientific Foundation, the International Renaissance Foundation and the Carpathian Foundation, the Dutch Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, and others. But the first and the largest project of the Global Environment Facility in Ukraine, funded by the World Bank and implemented on the basis of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve in 1993-1996, was a project on biodiversity conservation in the Carpathians. One of the important results was the expansion of the territory of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve in 1997 by 24 000 hectares and publication of a fundamental scientific monograph "Biodiversity of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve".

V. N.: – ***Still, please share the secret with the readers: what is so special about Rakhiv that scientists from Europe and America come to you with the aim to develop and take over the novelty of environmental achievements?***

F. H.: – In brief, they say: ever ingenious thing is simple in fact.

Apparently, I managed to find and implement the ways how to show the unique Ukrainian values in the geographical center of Europe in an attractive way, and to draw attention, first of all, of the European scientific community to the natural ecosystems of the eastern part of Transcarpathia, which, according to international experts, were truly today's European wildlife epicenter and a hot-spot of untouched functional forests. Their unique feature is constantly attracting researchers, students, foresters and environmentalists from all around the world. But the forests of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve are now a standard in the European forest ecology and environmental activity.

V. N.: – ***In conclusion: how is the topic of the railway connection between Rakhiv and Kyiv with a continuation to Bucharest, Budapest, Bratislava and Vienna – exactly thanks to the publication made in the Voice of Ukraine – is being developed now, when the Ukrainian Public Railway Company has opened this route through the wonderful places of the Ukrainian Carpathians?***

F. H.: – Indeed, among the numerous important, or even historical problems that have been solved in the Carpathians with the help of the publications made in the Voice of Ukraine ("A Beautiful Dream About a Mountain Train", March 2, 2002, "When Will the Train Run Through the Carpathian Mountains to the Capital", June 11, 2014), the most significant one is definitely opening of the passenger train's movement from the capital of Ukraine to Rakhiv in the geographical center of Europe.

It is very important that, according to the results, again, obtained after the publication made in "The Voice of Ukraine" ("The Ukrainian Public Railway Company opens a new route Rakhiv-Kyiv", July 16, 2014), the idea of launching trains to Romania, Budapest and Prague has emerged, as it has been recently reported to the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration by the Deputy Minister of Infrastructure of Ukraine V. Kornienko, the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Ukrainian Public Railway Company are trying to find understanding. The official said: "... the introduction of inter-regional trains through the Rakhiv station to Romania, Hungary, the Czech Republic would create conditions for the development of inter-country relations, trigger an increase in the flow of tourists in both directions, as well as the economic and social development of the neighboring regions" and that "the update is being carried out for the regional map of the Transcarpathian transport network and the issue of attracting the funds for the implementation of this project is being worked out".

In addition, according to the joint action program of the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration and the Prefecture of the Romanian County of Maramures in 2016, which has been signed by the head of the Zakarpattia Regional Administration Hennadiy Moskal and the prefect of the Maramures county A. Rochian, also by our proposal, in the first quarter of 2016 there will be organized a workshop for stakeholders on organizational and engineering aspects of the historical trains movement restoration through Rakhiv (Ukraine) to the cities of Romania, Budapest and Prague.

2016.


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Mario Broggi



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Scientific-popular, journalistic and documentary edition

FEDIR HAMOR

ECODIAMONDS OF EUROPE

HISTORY OF BEECH PRIMEVAL FORESTS NOMINATION TO THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST

SECOND (SUPPLEMENTED) EDITION OF THE MONOGRAPH «FROM THE UKRAINIAN INITIATIVE TO THE TRANS-EUROPEAN WORLD NATURAL HERITAGE SITE»

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