

IV International Seminar on Mountain Tourism
Mountain Tourism in NATURA 2000 Areas
Conflict or Opportunity?

SEMINAR REPORT



Kudowa Zdrój, Poland
22th - 25th October 2009

International Seminar organized by:

International Friends of Nature

Polish Tourist Country Lovers' Society (PTTK) – Cracow Academic Section

Institute of Tourism and Recreation of Academy of Physical Education in Cracow

in co-operation with

Góry Stołowe National Park and Broumovsko Protected Landscape Area.

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Executive Summary

From 22th to 25th October 2009, Kudowa Zdrój – the old spa laying at the foot of the Stołowe Mountains played host to the IV International Seminar on Mountain Tourism entitled:
MOUNTAIN TOURISM IN NATURA 2000 AREAS - Conflict or Opportunity?

The Seminar was organised by: International Friends of Nature, Polish Tourist Country Lovers' Society (PTTK) – Cracow Academic Section and Institute of Tourism and Recreation of Academy of Physical Education in Cracow in co-operation with Góry Stołowe National Park and Broumovsko Protected Landscape Area.

The organizers set out to create an opportunity for discussion, exchange of information, experience and ideas in topics which included:

- relations between Natura 2000 and other protected areas (nature reserves, national and landscape parks);
- preparing management plans for mountainous Natura 2000 areas;
- the role of the societies active in mountain tourism in the management of Natura 2000 areas;
- new trends in mountain tourism and the evolution of protected areas management;
- identifying NGOs' dealing with tourism in the mountains;
- the reasons why conflicts sometimes occurs between protected area authorities and NGO's;
- co-operation between Natura 2000 areas which straddle national frontiers;
- case studies of positive and negative examples.

The seminar brought together 20 participants from 10 European countries, including park managers responsible for tourism and environmental education, representatives of local and international tourism organisations, scientists, rangers and mountain guides, all of whom involved in the topics outlined above.

The Seminar provided participants with an opportunity to visit the part of two bordering protected areas: Góry Stołowe National Park in Poland and Broumovsko Protected Landscape Area in Czech Republic. Both were designated as Natura 2000 Areas. Góry Stołowe (Czech part is known as Broumovska Vrchovina) is about 40 km long and a few km wide mountain range built mostly of Cretaceous sandstones. It is area of exceptional rock formations and high bio-cultural diversity and with more than two hundred years history of mountain tourism.

October 22nd

Arrival and registration of participants. Opening ceremony. „Potlach” dinner.



The Seminar started in the afternoon. After a formal opening and self-introduction of the participants, dr Zbigniew Gołąb and Diana Mańkowska from Góry Stołowe National Park gave a presentation providing basic background information about the National Park and Natura 2000 Area.

These talks continued until late evening during a “potlach” party, which was enriched by many kinds of local food brought by participants from their countries.

October 23th

Field excursion, presentation of the parts of Broumovsko PLA Góry Stołowe NP and discussion of conference topics.

The second day was devoted to a field study excursion. The aim was to familiarize the participants with nature of the area and chosen problems of tourism within Natura 2000 sites.

The field excursion was guided by a members of protected areas staff: Mr Jiří Malik and Mr. Petr Köppl - in Czech Republic; dr Zbigniew Gołąb and Ms Diana Mańkowska – in Poland.

In the morning the first visiting point was Teplice Roků (Teplické Skály) a part of a large National Nature Reserve and Natura 2000 area in the western part of Broumovsko PLA. Walking along educational trail participants were informed about nature, management problems, chances connected with Natura 2000, conflicts with tourism and rock climbing etc. The most important problem occurred few years ago when high rock were re-inhabited by peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). It was necessary to close temporary a part of tourist trails to protect falcons during nesting time.



However the day was rather misty the participants were really enraptured by fabulous scenery of high rocky pillars, towers and walls. So, everybody was surprised that three hours passed very quickly and it was necessary to go back to the bus, to visit the next place before the darkness.

The second visiting area was the highest peak of the Stołowe Mountains – Szczeliniec Wielki (919 m a.s.l.), protected as nature reserve since 1957 and later (1993) included into National Park. Because of the rocky labyrinth on the top and spectacular panoramas

Szczeliniec was visited since the second half of XVIII c. by several famous people including J.W. Goethe and Prussian kings.

To get to the top participants had to ascend 665 steps, so the first point of the visit was lunch in the mountain hut, which belongs to the Polish Tourist and Country Lovers Society. The hut was recently renovated. Participants had opportunity to see technical installations reducing environmental impact of this building. After that a walk through rocky labyrinth started. In the fog rock formations looked even more mysterious than in the full light. It was almost dark, when participants reached bus and returned to Kudowa.

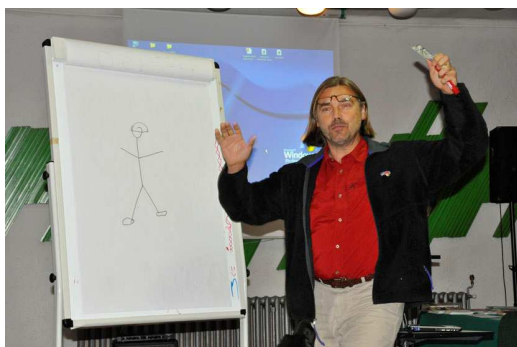


In the evening participants gathered again for dinner and informal meeting which generated a long discussion based on the experiences and observations encountered during the day.

The excursion was a good starting point to get into the issue and to understand problems and challenges of tourism in the montane Natura 2000 areas.

October 24th

Plenary session and discussion in working groups. Banquet.



The next day was divided into two parts: a plenary session, until early afternoon which was then followed by workshops.

Following a formal opening a Motion Committee and Chairpersons were elected from the group (see below) charged with the task of preparing a Seminar Declaration, which had to be adopted in the concluding session.

The Plenary session was devoted to a series of presentations by participants, addressing the topic issues referred to above. (See the chapter

“Presentations” for details). All the speakers generated considerable interest within the group, provoking lots of questions and discussions.



In the afternoon participants were divided into two groups to arrive with answers for the following questions, formulated during previous discussions:

- What is the awareness about Natura 2000 amongst mountain tourists and local communities?
- How to promote concept of Natura 2000 network?
- Does Natura 2000 mean new situation in the nature protection in the mountains?
- Is it possible to use Natura 2000 as a new tool for better management of mountain tourism?
- What is the role of NGO's?
- What kind of mountain tourism should be promoted in Natura 2000 areas, if any?
- How to solve conflicts between tourism and nature protection in the mountains?

The aim of these work groups was to prepare proposals for the plenary discussion on the Declaration.

The day finished in a restaurant in Kudowa, specialized in Czech cuisine.



October 25th

Plenary session: reports from the working groups. General discussion of the Declaration.

Close of Seminar.



The last morning was again set aside for a plenary session.

In the beginning two speakers from the both (Czech and Polish) sides of the Giant (Karkonosze) Mountains presented this area covered by two national parks, transboundary biosphere reserve and recently also two, straddling national frontier, large Natura 2000 areas.

Then, reporters from both working groups presented conclusions worked out during their working sessions. All participants then discussed the structure and the content of the Seminar Declaration submitted by the Motion

Committee. After a rich debate the participants agreed on a draft-version of the declaration. Due to a lack of time, it was impossible to formulate the full text of the Declaration. Therefore the participants agreed that the Motion Committee, should draft a full version of the Seminar Declaration, which would then be sent out to all participants for final remarks and corrections. After that, final version of declaration would be approved after an electronic consultation.

It is also important to note that during the Seminar all participants appreciated the project "Natura Trail" initiated by Nature Friends International.

The Seminar was closed at about midday.

The debates were chaired jointly by Piotr Dąbrowski and Wilfried Meulembergs.

The Motion Committee consisted of: Grit Restetzki, Michael Maunsell, Joop Spijker and Piotr Dąbrowski (chairman).

Seminar Program

22nd October

Afternoon: Arrival and registration of participants.

6.00 p.m.

Opening of the seminar. Organizers' welcoming remarks and self introduction of the participants

6.45 p.m.

Góry Stołowe National Park and Natura 2000, an introduction to visited area.
Zbigniew Gołąb, Diana Mańkowska, (Góry Stołowe National Park, Poland)

8.00 p.m.

Informal „potlach” dinner, accompanied by mountain music.

23rd October

Field seminar

8.30 a.m - 6. 00 p.m

Field excursion, presentation of the adjoining Natura 2000 areas on the both sides of Czech/Polish boundary. Lunch will be provided during excursion (Szczeliniec Mountain Hut).

7.00 p.m.

Dinner

24th October

Plenary session and workshops.

9.00 a.m.

Election of the Chairpersons and the Motion Committee

9.15 a.m.

“Methodology of Cultural, Historical and Social Topography as a precondition for the preservation and maintaining of natural, historical and cultural identity and diversity in the mountain areas”.

Natalia Shovkoplías (The Union of Towns and Cities in Slovakia)

9.45 a.m.

“Good management as a way to avoid conflicts – decision support system for Natura 2000 sites”.

Karolina Królikowska (Wroclaw School of Banking, Department of Tourism and Recreation, Poland)

10.15 a.m.

“Natura Trails” – Project of Nature Friends International

Grit Restetzki (NFI – Austria)

10.45 – 11.00 a.m.

Coffee break

11.00 a.m

“Management Plan of Protected Area Klek”

Darka Spudić (Croatia) / poster/

11.30 a.m.

“Tourism in Sjevneri Velebit National Park”.

Irena Glavičić (Sjeverni Velebit National Park, Croatia)

12.00 a.m.

"Monitoring and Management of Tourism in Natura 2000 Areas: an Ongoing Experience in the Italian Western Alps"

Daniele Piazza (Veglia Devero Natural Park, Italy)

12.30 p.m.

"The problem of peregrine falcon nesting under pressure of tourism and climbing in Broumovsko LPA (Czech Republic)".

Jiří Malik (Broumovsko Protected Landscape Area, Czech Republic)

1.00 p.m. – 2.30 p.m.

Lunch break

2.30 p.m.

"Natura 2000 in Ireland – Conservation and Conflict".

Michael Maunsell (Tipperary Institute, Ireland)

3.00 p.m.

"PROGRESS - An instrument for nature protection and recreation guidance".

Joop Spijker (UIAAA, Mountain Protection Commission, The Netherlands)

3.30 p.m.

"Friends of Nature and Outdoor Sports Education (OSE) a sustainable relationship"

Wilfried Meulembergs (NFI, Belgium)

4.00 – 5.00 p.m.

Discussion in working groups (1st session)

5.00 - 5.15 p.m.

Coffee break

5.15 – 6.15 p.m.

Discussion in working groups (2nd session)

After workshops – a short meeting of motion committee

7.00 p.m. Departure for informal party.

25th October

Plenary session

9.00. a.m.

"The experience with implementation of NATURA 2000 to the Krkonose Mts."

Petra Šťastná (Krkonose National Park, Czech Republic)

9.30. a.m.

Nature and tourism: the case of the Giant Mts.

Krzysztof R. Mazurski (Scientific Council of Karkonosze National Park, Poland)

10.00 – 10.20

Coffee break

10.20 – 11.50 a.m.

Reports from the working groups, general discussion, adoption of a declaration.

Noon:

Close of Seminar.

12.30 Lunch

Presentations

This chapter contains text or summaries of the presentations, which were delivered during the seminar. They were published as they were sent by their authors, with only insignificant changes to standardize the edition. Most of the presentations can be also find on the enclosed CD.

The Stolowe Mountains National Park, Habitats and Birds Areas of Natura 2000 Network

Zbigniew Gołąb; Stolowe Mountains National Park, Poland

The Stolowe Mountains are a part of the Bohemian Cretaceous Basin. This one of the longest Sudeten's mountain's range (ca 45 km), divided by Polish-Czech border, is built of late Cretaceous sediments filling Intra Sudetic Basin between Karkonosze (Giant Mountains) and Bystrzyckie and Orlickie Mountains. Upper sandstone layer shows different resistance to the erosive factors. This is why long lasting (about 70 millions years) erosive process has led to creation of numerous fabulous rocky shapes in the form of rocky cities (Szczeliniec Wielki), animals, human beings, clubs, (Szczeliniec Wielki) mushrooms (Rocky Mashrooms trail in the S.M. N.P), as well as deep fissures (Szczeliniec Wielki) and rocky labyrinths (Bledne Skaly- Errant Rocks) on the top of Skalniak. Spider (Bathyphantes eumenis) and root's stalagmites are the curiosity of sandstone rocky world. Because of habitats of European importance like: Asperulo-fagetum beech forests, Luzulo-Fagetum beech forests, European sycamore forests, marshy meadows with many protected species, mountain hay meadows and species mentioned in Annex II of Habitats Directive occurrence, the habitats area of Natura 2000 PLH 020004 Gory Stolowe has been declared. Because of rare birds nesting the area is included to bird area Natura 2000 020006 PLB Góry Stolowe. Although the area offers a lot hiking and cycle trails as well as educational paths growing tourist movement is a big thread for Stolowe Mountains nature.

The Methodology of Cultural, Historical and Social Topography (CHST) as a precondition for the preservation and maintaining of natural, historical and cultural identity and diversity in the mountain areas

*Natalia Shovkoplias, Marian Minarovic
The Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia, Bratislava, Slovak Republic*

Annotation: The main objective of the **cultural-historical and social topography** (hereinafter referred to as "**CHST**") is to renew and maintain harmony between the man and its environment which the man uses and governs. The determining idea is an assumption that we recognize historicity of the environment and necessity to renew a natural continuity of development based on respecting values and major properties of the environment. The CHST presents a systemic, interdisciplinary approach to identification, assessment, mutual influence and application of basic elements and structures of

historical heritage and the environment which play a fundamental role in the overall identity of a concrete territory, environment or community.

Practical fulfilment of the main objectives is represented by a systemic and multi-sectoral application of the CHST in coordination of territory's development and in mobilization of human resources for creation of development strategies and policies, spatial and regional plans, in urban, architectonic and conservation practice in public administration performance as well as in awareness raising, information and education.

In the framework of spatial-planning practice and regional development documentation the CHST has a specific position as it seeks to identify historical and cultural values, phenomena and structures of a landscape in a monitored territory and to propose possible conservation, renewal or continuation in specific cultural phenomena, structures and values on a concrete territory through correct interpretation of this heritage.

The CHST can be applied on local, regional or trans-regional levels with most frequent use on the micro-regional and regional levels.

The presentation describes the objectives, application and form of CHST processing, as well as the procedure and outline of CHST methodology, evaluation of assumptions of the **pilot Micro-region Sources of the White Carpathian (SWC)** development and formulation of recommendations and proposals for the development of the **SWC micro-region** in terms of methodology CHST.

Key words: cultural-historical and social topography (CHST), CHST methodology, landscape framework, landscape image and landscape character, historical landscape structures, cultural-historical and socio-cultural assumptions, sustainable development of the territory.

Good management as a way to avoid conflicts – decision support system for Natura 2000 sites

Karolina Królikowska; Wrocław School of Banking, Poland

Anna Dubel, Marta Jamontt-Skoti, Krzysztof Dubel; Centre for Systems Solutions CRS, Poland

Many types of conflicts may occur between tourism and nature conservation including conflicts of both spatial and institutional functions, as well as conflicts of values and interests. Protected areas, including Natura 2000 sites can perform different functions e.g. conservation, scientific, educational, cultural, touristic, sport and recreational. These functions may be mutually exclusive so attempts to fulfill them at the same time and place obviously leads to conflict situations. Regarding conflicts of values they refer to the perception of relations between people and environment – whether nature should be protected for its own, immanent value or whether it is as much valuable as it serves human needs. These conflicts are difficult to solve because they deep roots come from cultural and social conditions. Conflicts of interests refer to economic interests or different users' rights e.g. hikers vs. skiers or touristic organizations vs. protected areas service. Regarding subjects of conflicts there are quite many of them, for example both too many and not enough of them may be a problem. Other examples include terms of reference of different actors, information flow, styles of management, tourist and sport infrastructure, some forms of tourism and recreation (especially skiing). The situation seems to be even more complex when we consider a number of interest groups involved like nature conservation administration, tourist business, tourist organizations, environmental NGOs, local authorities, tourists, scientists, and media.

Efficient management is one of the methods to avoid conflicts by improving the information flow, enhancing participatory approach, and providing clear rules for all actors. Management is the process of planning, organizing, leading and controlling the work of other people in an organization and materials expenditure in this organization only concentrated on achieving its goals. Regarding Natura 2000 sites management European Union directives do not specify its structure and methods. That is

why in every country this problem is solved in a different manner. In some countries methods of management are centrally planned, like in Holland, where the Ministry of Transport and Water Management is responsible for their implementation. In other countries management is decentralized, like in Germany, where every land has its own approach or like in France, where every Nature 2000 area is managed by local authorities or a group of governments. In Poland we have the General Board of Environmental Protection and Regional Boards of Environmental Protection. Their scope of competence is rather the coordination and control function, and not exactly management as it was defined before (the cycle of planning, organizing, implementation, and controlling).

Management process can be supported with so called Decision Support Systems, which are computer-based information systems supporting decision-making activities. They usually consist of databases with data sets, simulation models and user interface. According to the research conducted by CRS for the purpose of the project „Efficient management of Natura 2000 sites” (funded from Norway Grants) DSS for these sites is desirable due to many reasons:

- it would make decision making faster and easier,
- it would enable fast information search and its display as a report or in the graphic form,
- it would enhance fast data update,
- it would facilitate complex data analysis,
- it would enable fast localization of Natura 2000 species and habitats as well as threats.

Natura Trails: Nature Experience in Europe’s Protected Areas

Grit Restetzki; Nature Friend International, Austria

Natura Trails © are theme trails in protected areas that are particularly well suited for soft leisure pursuits. The trails are designed to introduce people to the domestic flora, fauna and habitats, thus enhancing their awareness of the need to protect nature and landscapes. The project was launched 2004, as a pilot project of Naturefriends International (NFI) and Naturefriends Austria. Implementation was embarked upon in 2006, in cooperation with Österreichische Bundesforste AG (Austrian Federal Forests Management).

Meanwhile, Natura Trails have come to figure as a brand name for leisure-time pursuits that are compatible with nature and the environment. Besides, Natura Trails help to spread the message of modern, human-related nature protection in municipalities and regions and stimulate sustainable regional development by boosting gentle tourism.

Building on the experience gathered with the Austrian pilot project, quite a number of Naturefriends organisations in other countries have taken up the idea, and a pan-European network is now in the making (see www.naturatrails.net/international).

Special trails through nature

By now, the Austrian Natura Trails network comprises 22 Natura Trails through diverse protected areas, among them European protected areas or Natura 2000 sites, nature reserves and biosphere parks – all of them dedicated to the protection of valuable habitats in line with the needs of the population and the criteria of ‘soft’ economic utilisation.

In the given context, soft utilisation signifies in particular that no new trails are laid out, that info-boards are sparingly used and that trails are carefully routed with a view to bypassing highly sensitive zones, such as the breeding sites of endangered bird species. Soft utilisation also implies soft mobility, in other words environmentally compatible access trips by bicycle or public transport.

Multimedia signposting

Folders and sparingly used info-boards point the way, inform about the fauna and flora that is characteristic of the region, introduce readers to its biological diversity and invite them to discover the area. In addition, GPS data and supplementary information on Natura Trails can be downloaded with the help of a trailbased geocoaching tool from www.naturatrails.net/geocoaching or are available on an online geocoaching application.

Project: Management Plan for Protected Area of Nature – the Important Landscape Klek

Darka Spudić; Croatia

Short Project Description

Title: The Management Plan for protected area of nature - Important Landscape Klek

Beneficiary: Public Establishment for Management of Protected Natural Values of the County Karlovačka

Partners: Speleological Club «Ozren Lukić», State Institute for Nature Protection, Mountaineering Society «Klek»

Financing: The Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund, County Karlovačka

Duration: May 2009 - May 2012

Overall Objective: To define and establish the Management Plan for protected area of nature Klek, based on exploring and protecting activities and to promote of natural values of the wider area of the important landscape Klek

Specific Objectives:

1. To collect and analyse scientific data
2. To include all sectors (local government, educational institutions, NGO, tourist board and economic sectors)
3. Biological and biospeleological researches and inventorying of flora and fauna
4. Geological, hydrogeological and speleological explorations
5. To educate local community through the workshops
6. To choose the geological route and to make educational trail
7. To promote project activities, protected area and County Karlovačka (brochure and movie, professional convention)

About the Important Landscape Klek

The protected area of nature – the important landscape „Klek“ is located in the central part of Croatia and covers an area of 847,86 hectares.

The Klek Mountain is a prominent peak located at the eastern edge of the Velika Kapela massif, rising above the town of Ogulin. From whichever side it is approached, Klek always shows a different face, but there is one feature that ever draws the eye - its vertical, 200 metre-high cliff face at the peak. Seen from a distance it appears as a sleeping giant, with Klecice as his feet, and the cliff face at the peak as his head. The mountain has the shape of a ridge, 3-4 km long, extending NW-SE, forested from its foothills to its crest, while the foothills themselves are given to wide fields and meadows with rich spring flora.

There is no peak in the whole of Croatia that has so excited the popular imagination as does, Klek.

Tradition has it that Klek has been (and still is) place where witches have held their convens since times immemorial, and in fact they have almost become the symbol of the mountain, and of Ogulin (taken from www.croatia.hr - Croatian National Tourist Board).

The south-eastern cliff face of Klek was the place of the first climbing school in Croatia. With this Mountain is also connected the first mountaineering association in Croatia (Hrvatsko planinarsko drustvo - HPD, 1874) and today Klek forms a part of the emblem of HPD.

Because of many natural values, diversity of flora and fauna and other characteristics (geological, geomorphological, speleological, climatic), Klek is a protected natural area since 1971, when is declared as a important landscape. Today is the area under the jurisdiction of the Public Establishment for Management of Protected Natural Values of the County Karlovačka. Plan is to carry out numerous projects of protection and monitoring the status of natural values of this area.

Sjeverni Velebit National Park

Irena Glavičić; Sjeverni Velebit National Park, Croatia

Introduction

Northern Velebit National Park was established in 1999. It is situated in the northwestern part of Croatia, in Lika-Senj County. The Park is very close to the Adriatic Sea, only about 2 km east of the coast and 15 km south of the town of Senj. According to the legislation proclaiming the national park, the park covers a surface of 109 km². It is completely situated inside the borders of Velebit Nature Park. The area was designated as a national park due to the exceptional number, diversity and uniqueness of its karst phenomena, the wealth of wildlife and extraordinary natural features present in a relatively small area.

The following are among the Park's acknowledged treasures:

- A large number of vertical speleological phenomena (pit-caves) – this area is valuable in global terms and has a high number of endemic subterranean animal life;
- Habitats for three large carnivore species (bear, wolf and lynx), and also wild cats;
- Valuable alpine grasslands;
- Exceptionally valuable and well-preserved coniferous forests;
- Autochthonous black pine forests;
- A significant capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*) population in Croatia;
- Exceptional landscape diversity;
- Significance of the entire area in the national consciousness.

The sense of authentic wilderness that can be experienced in the Northern Velebit National Park is symbolized in the Park's logo featuring a wild animal's paw. The triangle in the logo indicates the triangular shape of the Park's boundaries, while the use of green and gray stresses a picturesque contrast between lush forests, grasslands and rocky, limestone peaks.

The bulk of the Park rests on limestone, dolomite and carbonate breccias, and it contains an immense wealth of karst relief forms: from bizarrely shaped crests, "pillars" and various jutting rocks to deep karst valleys, pit-caves and other karst depressions. Wooded fields called dulibe and green grasslands wend their way through white limestone cliffs, creating extremely picturesque panoramas. The Hajdučki and Rožanski Crests, as specific geomorphological phenomena, were proclaimed a strict reserve. So far more than 150 pit-caves have been discovered, out of which the most famous, and one of the deepest in the world, is Lukina, discovered in 1992. The climate on Velebit is characterized by two vegetation zones. The National Park is located in a part of Croatia with high rainfall and low

annual average temperatures (4-6°C). Due to its exceptional location at the border between two large vegetation zones, Northern Velebit has exceptionally rich and diverse plant species (around 950) which vary from sub-Mediterranean to alpine. Also, there are many rare, protected and endemic plant species in the Park. The Park encompasses the Visibaba Botanical Reserve, with its rich site of the endemic Croatian *Sibirrhoea* (*Sibiraea altaiensis* ssp.croatica), and the Zavižan-Balinovac-Velika kosa Botanical Reserve, famous for the outstanding richness of its alpine plant species. This reserve includes the well known Velebit Botanical Garden, founded by Professor Fran Kušan in 1967.

The Park's cultural heritage is present in a form of numerous ruins of old shepherds' huts, cottages and stacked-stone walls, which testify to past times when this area was more densely populated. Although harsh for everyday life, this area has always attracted hikers, and it is crisscrossed by numerous trails.

The most famous and widely known is the Premužić Trail, built in 1933. The trail, 57 km long, presents a masterpiece of stacked-stone wall construction. Its section 16 km section in the Park passes through some of its most beautiful and interesting sections.

Vision of Northern Velebit National Park

The Northern Velebit National Park is recognizable by its preserved biodiversity, richness of the natural phenomena and experience of pristine wilderness. It is a space for gaining new experiences and the stronghold of sustainable development for the surrounding local communities, based on traditional practices.

This vision reflects the specific characteristic of the Northern Velebit National Park as the most natural part of Velebit. This vision also includes awareness of being a very special area as a National Park within a much larger Nature Park encompassing all of Velebit. The Park has a serious understanding of being a motor for sound and sustainable development in the region and a space for offering new experiences to visitors of the area, especially the experience of wilderness and pristine nature.

The three fundamental objectives foreseen for the long-term sustainable management of the Park are:

- Conservation – to conserve and reinforce biological and landscape diversity and the cultural heritage in perpetuity;
- Education and recreation – to promote understanding of the importance of conservation and protection of natural value and enjoyment of the pristine natural environment and other specific qualities of the Park;
- Strengthening the local community – to reinforce cooperation initiated with the local community in sustainable use of the Park's natural resources with the objective of local and regional economic growth and development, ensuring income for the local community and the creation of new jobs.

Tourism in National Park Sjeverni Velebit

Northern Velebit National Park is just beginning to develop its visitor system. An essential function of the Park will be to expand its attractions to visitors both in the narrower and wider environs. For now, there is only one official entrance into the National Park, at which visitor can receive information and are changed for admissions passes. There are several other entrances to the Park where admissions passes are not sold nor is any visitor information available. The number of visitors to the Park is growing every year and in 2008, 13 739 admissions passes were sold, while in 2009, 15 419 were sold. It is assumed that the actual number of visitors is higher due to the impossibility of checking every entrance to the Park, and there are those who enter without admissions passes. Passes can be purchased at the Park entrance at Babić Siča, and at the information centers in Krasno and Senj. At other sites, admissions are charged by rangers in the field. Out of the total number of visitors in 2009, 89% were adults, and 11% children. Approximately one third of the guests (40%) visited the Park in groups. Most visitors are domestic (70%), but their number varies seasonally – e.g. as a result of visits by school groups in May and June and September and October, domestic visitors predominate, while during July and August, the share of domestic and foreign visitors is the same.

The Zavižan area and the Velebit Botanical Garden are visited most often. This primarily pertains to organized visits by bus. Also popular is the Premužić Trail, as well as the Alan and Lubenovac areas, particularly among hikers. The Štirovača area is a traditional gathering place for the local population. The Park has an educational/presentation center in the Headquarters building in Krasno, and a multimedia information center in Senj.

Park visitors can go sight-seeing, take photographs, stroll, hike, ride bicycles and go horseback riding (on occasion). In 2006, the Premužc Trail was enhanced with educational content, i.e. info-panels were installed on which the Park's natural treasures are presented to visitors. In 2007, the circular path in the Velebit Botanical Garden was also enhanced with info-panels, an restroom facilities were installed in the immediate vicinity of the Botanical Garden. Accommodation in the Park is possible in mountaineer/hiker facilities: a mountain lodge, mountain cottage and mountain shelter. Accommodation capacity is modest, and the food on offer is quite basic. There are several more mountaineering facilities nearby, in the Nature Park, and it is also possible to find accommodations in nearby Krasno, Sveti Juraj, Jablanac, and Senj.

In the summer of 2004, a survey of visitor needs, expectations and satisfaction was conducted as part of the Karst Ecosystem Conservation Project. Although the number of visitors who filled out the questionnaire was small (158), the results provided a clear indicator of the views of visitors. The results indicated that most visitors were satisfied with the pristine landscapes (over 90%), and the wealth of plants and animals (over 80%), while most were not satisfied or only marginally satisfied with access to the Park, accommodations, cuisine and presentation of the cultural heritage. In a second study conducted in 2006, the Park's primeval and untouched natural beauty and the wealth and diversity of plant and animal life were indicated as the elements that most impressed visitors (about 65% of responses), while potential areas for improvement included transportation (40%) and amenities in the Park (26.3%). It is interesting that a large number of visitors obtained information on the Park through recommendations from friends and relatives (approximately 40%) or based on previous stays in the Park (approximately 40%), while the share of those who were informed by the media, promotional materials and travel agencies was relatively small.

The development of tourism infrastructure must first be located in the area of the surrounding settlements, while in the Park itself attempts should be made to improve the conditions of existing accommodations, hospitality and educational options, and secure conditions to reduce the negative impact of the increased number of people (the problem of sanitation, waste disposal, etc.).

Monitoring and management of tourism: an ingoing experience in the Western Alps

Daniele Piazza; Veglia Devero Natural Park, Italy

The presentation briefly introduces the state of the art of Natura 2000 in the Italian Alps.

Since 2002 Veglia Devero Natural Park has been focusing its attention on mountain tourism (e.g. hiking, ski- alpinism, climbing..) as a major impact factor as well as an economic resource for local communities.

A two-year monitoring program has been carried out, producing a GIS-based model for evaluation of widespread impact caused by human presences on vulnerable species (especially ground-nesting birds) and delivering important information about tourism (features, volumes, needs and requests) for further planning, management and communication plans.

Thanks to the information collected, the Park is now developing a management plan for the IT1140016 SCA and SPA "Alpi Veglia and Devero – Monte Giove" (which is partially enclosed in the Natural Park) with the participation of local administrators and stakeholders and with a great deal of effort being spent in dissemination of information about Natura 2000, in order to let the tourists know about the presence and the protection needs of the area.

The presentation set the focus on monitoring programs as a need for further planning, on the results of the monitoring program, on the management strategies, on co-operation with other bordering parks (Switzerland), on funding availability.

The problem of peregrine falcon nesting under pression of tourism and climbing in Broumovsko (Broumovsko Protected Landscape Area (PLA), Czech republic).

The Return of Plumy Knight

Jiří Malík; Administration of PLA Broumovsko, Czech Republic

Bird Area: SPA Broumovsko (Area: 9128 Ha, kinds of species: *Bubo bubo* and *Falco peregrinus*) in PLA

SAC: Adršpach-Teplice rocks (in Czech system of nature protection National Nature Reserve is the highest grade of protection) in PLA.

Motto: *Falco peregrinus is the fastest animal in the world. He reaches the speed of 440 km per hour during header flight. Amasing jump of nature from slow dinos, their ancestores.*

The population of falcons was killed by chemistry in agricultrure and by hunting and completely disappeared in 60's last century not only in Czech republic.

The population starting to grow around from 1990 in Czech rep., in PLA from 1995. The first attempt about nesting was in 1998 by wild falcons in PLA Broumovsko.

Church Walls in Teplice

Falcons came back to Church Walls in the Teplice rocks in 2004. But this first nesting was disturbed by people (tourists or maintance of tourist track). Female falcon flew away and embryos were killed by frost during a few minutes.

Therefore Administration of PLA stopped entrance for tourists and climbers at this part of rocky formation – only during nesting time. Falcons are very sensitive to noise, movement around the nest to 300 m, especially above the nesting hole.

Thirteen young falcons have flown up until today from one pair of falcons, which sometimes stay here all winter. Administration of PLA started watching the nesting area by guards and volunteers before four years (with ten people) – at the end of nesting time 24 hours per day. Those people were there for 3 months from snow time to hot summer. They have made a movie, photos and description of falcon's behavior and kept tranquility in this area.

Falcons in Teplice rocks are very original. Their nesting hole is very low (around 30 m high) and they sometimes let us reach to 50 m distance from the nesting hole. That is very good for their observation, which persist 5 years and we finished movie about falcons.

The nesting area lays in favorite climbing and tourist area. Nesting area is closed during all nesting time and is protecte against nest-draggers, not-disciplined tourists and climbers.

The monitoring and filming is the fight with technique and distance and we have big probleme with money for very expensive optic systems.

To protect or not to be? That is not a question...

The return of falcons is not positive for all people in the region. It was a big surprise for us. Part of local people think that closing the tourist track (even small part of this) is not necessary and that is a reason of decreasing number of visitors and by the way reduction of town's income.

Yes, it is possible. But it is not possible to count nature on money.

Rocky formations are one of the last chance to keep a tranquil area of nature in Central Europe, for example nesting of falcons.

Therefore we have PLA, Bird Areas, Nature Reserves – nature must be the first purpose their existence, not hard commercial using. The „price“ of nature is not comparable with the price of entrance fee.

Natura 2000 in Ireland – Conservation and Conflict

Michael Maunsell; Tipperary Institute, Ireland

Introduction

Mountains were considered ugly, useless, inconvenient and even terrifying excrescences placed by an inscrutable providence in the path of long suffering man. The art of this period reflected these opinions, and mostly mountains were depicted as angular monstrosities, sombre piles charged with the twin spirits of gloom and fear.

The fears and superstitions which once prevailed, as described by above Smyth (1947) no longer exist. There is growing recognition of the important environmental services and natural resources provided to society in general, by mountain regions. Research findings suggest that mountain regions conventionally considered to be of low economic benefit, are in fact rich in valuable ecosystem services (Gren & Isaccs 2009). Internationally, sustainable mountain tourism and nature conservation strategies, are emerging as key activities in maintaining viable communities in many mountain regions.

In Ireland there is still a lack of protection of mountain areas, especially in the context of nature conservation. Research indicates there is a strong market for nature based tourism in Ireland. Nevertheless, the prevailing Irish cultural attitude to nature and land in general, is proving to be a significant barrier to both NATURA 2000 conservation and Mountain Tourism. This attitude has its origins in Ireland's colonial past, and is crystallised when exploring Mountain Tourism and Natura 2000 issues.

Natura 2000 & Mountain Areas in Ireland

A range of important habitats and species occur in Ireland's upland and mountain areas, including mountain blanket bog, wet heath and alpine heath. These habitats are designated under the EU Habitats Directive and therefore included in the NATURA 2000 network. Despite transposing important legislation associated with NATURA 2000 sites into Irish law, the erosion and degradation of upland and mountain areas has intensified in recent times as a result of overgrazing by sheep, heather burning, peat extraction, afforestation, trampling, wind turbine installation and telecommunication installations. Environmental Non-Governmental Organisations (ENGO's) in Ireland have expressed concerns regarding accuracies of the information base used for NATURA 2000 site selection, including the selection process itself and ongoing lack of protection of these Mountain areas. Irish NOGs highlight the lack of a formal survey of upland and mountain areas, by the National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS), the statutory authority with responsibility for designation and protection of NATURA 2000 Mountain areas. It has been estimated that uplands above 300m account for 4,100,000ha or 5% of the country's surface. As such they are a significant habitat and landscape feature in the country. Only 111,000ha of upland habitat, has been designated. Analysis indicates a significant lack of even the most basic nature conservation designation (Natural Heritage Area), in nine upland and mountain areas in the southern part of the country.

Tourism Policy and Natura 2000

The tourism industry plays unique and significant role in the Irish economy. The value of total tourism-related activity in Ireland during 2008 reached €4.8 billion from 7.4 million overseas visitors. While an impressive figure for a small country, it was a decrease of 4% on 2007 and the first drop in numbers in seven years (Fáilte Ireland 2008).

Tourism policy in Ireland is one based on landscape scenery and more recently activity based tourism. Little reference however, is made to nature based tourism, in the context of nature watching, appreciation or study. As far back as 1994 Bord Fáilte's strategy for tourism for the rest of the century, clearly stated the fundamental aim "We must develop a central image of Ireland as an uncrowded, relaxed island of great scenic beauty, with a distinctive heritage and culture, a friendly welcoming people, high-quality facilities, and a superb unspoiled environment". Paradoxically, there is little awareness of NATURA 2000 as a concept, or the location of NATURA 2000 sites. Research highlights the lack of awareness, understanding or potential of NATURA 2000 sites in the context of a viable tourism products and services by State funded Tourism Information offices and staff at regional and local level (Maunsell 2009). Yet in 2005, 82% of visitors rated Ireland's scenery as an important

reason for visiting Ireland. 77% of visitors nominated the natural unspoilt environment. Ireland's distinctive landscapes and seascapes are an important differentiating factor in attracting visitors to Ireland. Without this environmental attraction there would be no distinctive Irish tourism product, or no significant potential for ecotourism (Fáilte Ireland 2007).

Fáilte Ireland commissioned an audit in 2007, designed to identify priority areas for future tourism investment. The audit rates the product and how ready it is for the tourism market. The 'Heritage' and 'Rural culture' themes make up 16% of the inventory. Fáilte Ireland places 'nature' under the heading of 'Rural culture' in its policy documents, while Irelands Heritage Council considers 'nature' as Natural Heritage in its policy documents. While one might argue over the correct theme under which to place 'nature' in stakeholder policy and strategy documents, the Fáilte Ireland commissioned audit found that both heritage and rural culture products were of relatively low quality. Indeed, some products which could feature under these themes like organised wildlife watching and tours, were virtually nonexistent. (Fáilte Ireland 2007) Yet NATURA 2000 sites, key to delivering sustainable Mountain Tourism activity and viable mountain communities, were not included or acknowledged in the audit as potential tourist products to deliver on the recommendations of the audit.

The audit of the Irish tourism product has shown that it needs to catch up with its EU competitors on its core tourism products such as: Heritage, Culture and Walking, these products which are considered "unique selling points" along with landscapes. These marketable elements are encapsulated in NATURA 200 Mountain areas. Wildlife watching emerged as a potential new product area. Hiking/Mountain Walking were amongst the most popular activities undertaken by domestic holiday makers in 2008. These two activities, in particular, almost doubled in popularity between 2004 and 2008. Hiking/Mountain walking was by far the most popular activity for visitors to Ireland in 2008 with the numbers engaging in this activity doubling to 517,000 between 2004 and 2008. Visitors highlighted the Irish people and the scenery as the biggest advantages of Ireland, as a holiday destination in 2008 while the cost of living and the weather were cited as the biggest disadvantages (CSO 2008).

Attempts to increase the income from tourism are understandable in the circumstances. Ireland is a relatively sparsely populated country, rural communities are under threat as European Community subsidies are in decline, and as MacDonald et al (2000) point out, the commercialisation and technological developments in agriculture have resulted in a shift in agricultural activity to the more fertile and accessible areas in Europe. "Gone are the days when 'the rural' was synonymous with agriculture" (O'Rourke 1999). There is a recognised shift in planning and development policies for the Irish rural landscape, this shift is away from agriculture as "the sole or principle activity" (O'Rourke 1999). The new focus in rural areas is on "sustainable development" (DAFF 2002) with a major emphasis on rural tourism (DoE & LG 1997).

Mountain Area demographics

In 2006 the population of Ireland was 4,239,848. 60.7 % of the population is classed as 'urban'. This represents an increase of 5.1% from an urban population of 55.6% in 1981. The figures reveal an average urban population growth rate of just over 1%, every 3 years, during a fifteen year period. Analysis of census data for the years between 1981 and 2006 confirms increasing migration to urban areas and a continuing decline in rural populations. Traditionally towns with population of less than the threshold figure on 1,500 inhabitants are not classified as 'urban'. However as demographics changed during the unprecedented construction boom at the height of the so called 'celtic tiger' years (2002-2007), many small villages within commuting distance of larger towns and cities, gained very significant populations, as commuters were forced out of larger population centres due to increasing house prices. While these populations are often just under the threshold of 1,500 inhabitants for classification as 'urban', it is obvious the automatic default threshold masks the urban dependency lifestyle of these populations. If towns under 1,500 inhabitants are included the figure for Irelands 'urban population for 2006 rises to 67.7%. Many Rural Development activists regularly site the figure to 40% of the population being rural dwellers. This masks the reality of rural lives. The real question is what percentage of rural dwellers derive their income directly from rural based economic activity? The above figures shows a steady pattern of urbanization, which has been encouraged by the government through its National Spatial Strategy (2002) which seeks to concentrate populations in identified economic 'hubs' and 'gateways'. The desire in Ireland for a house in a rural area is still strong, but the occupation, life style, income source, and purchasing habits of the home owners is changing, the link with the rural landscape in fast diminishing, being replaced by urban attachments.

The Irish Mountain Landscape

Ireland's landscape is a highly contested space. Ireland's social history, especially the 800 years of occupation by a colonial power has left a unique attitude to nature and land. This legacy is briefly outlined here.

Irish Mountain landscapes are the product of a dynamic interaction between cultural components and the natural environment (Aalen 1997). Mountain landscapes have been modified by the presence of people of the past 9,000 years, though these people probably did not set out to create the Irish mountain landscapes, or any landscape for that matter. Sauer (1981) in a similar vein, states that "Culture is the agent, the natural area is the medium, the cultural landscape is the result". Irish landscapes are a result of a dynamic interaction between communities and their environment. Jackson (1984) argues that landscapes are a by-product of a group endeavoring to create a community, the landscape being a manifestation of their working and living lives.

Ireland's landscape is highly modified, though the long association with agriculture which was, and remains, the main driver of landscape change, to the extent that Ireland, it can be said, has no true wilderness. From the summit of Ireland's highest peak to the sea shore, all landscapes are anthropogenic. The mountainous landscapes are at best semi-natural places, often highly managed as a result of sheep grazing. Areas designated under NATURA 2000 are the product of a past farming practices, which only survived where land type and structure was deemed unproductive, marginal or non viable.

Ownership of land in Ireland is primarily in private hands, overwhelmingly as farms, 93% of farms are still family owned holdings. Due to the geomorphology of Ireland, especially along the Western and North-Western sea board, farm practices retained a relatively high proportion of natural and semi-natural elements, as there was no history of industrial development and agricultural intensification. The growth in the designation of private land for nature conservation since the 1970's, has been the source of bitter and longstanding conflict between private land owners and the State.

In Ireland a strange relationship exists with nature. For many Irish farmers their concept of nature is based on premise of "good nature and bad nature". Good nature, are plants and animals which are part of the agricultural system. Bad nature is any plant or animal which is perceived to be in competition with agricultural systems. This includes all wild animals and most wild plants. In the eyes of many farmers and farm organisation leaders, EU designations which protect "bad nature" are winning a perceived battle in a paradigm shift against good nature, with falling commodity prices, a crisis in agriculture and increasing nature protection designation.

Conclusion

The private ownership by farmers of the majority of Ireland's mountain areas and NATURA 2000 sites is an increasingly contentious issue. It comes into conflict with the tourist industry's desire for access to the countryside and designation of large areas of land as NATURA 2000 sites. NATURA 2000 designation does not remove land from private ownership, but it does imposes severe restrictions on the use the owner can make of it.

It is important to bear in mind that farming and nature has co-evolved in the Irish hills and mountains to such an extent that today the conservation internationally important mountain NATURA 2000 species and habitats requires farmers to continue sustainable management practices which will maintain the uniqueness of Ireland's mountain cultures, habitats and species.

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PROGRESS - An instrument for nature protection and recreation guidance

Joop Spijker; UIAAA, Mountain Protection Commission, The Netherlands

The New Forest and Fontainebleau Forest are two of the largest state-owned woodland sites in the NWE. As designated Natura 2000 sites (under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives), the forests face considerable pressure in providing informal outdoor leisure amenities to surrounding communities and visitors. The main objective of this project, Promotion and Guidance for Recreation on Ecologically Sensitive Sites which involves the UK's Forestry Commission, the French Office National des Forêts, as well as a research institute, countryside agency and tourism bodies from England, Scotland, France and the Netherlands - is to reconcile the high level of demand for woodland recreation with wildlife conservation in two major NWE forests, and to integrate the recreation strategies within the wider regional planning framework through cross-sectoral co-operation.

PROGRESS aims to generate sustainable solutions to the issues of:

- ecology, by adapting management of such sites to reconcile conservation and cultural heritage with leisure activities and tourism
- communication, by effectively transmitting focused environmental awareness to local communities and visitors
- sustainability, by securing resources and partnerships for sustainable recreation management
- wider European transnationality, by gaining from other European examples and developing mechanisms of environmental sustainability for successful partnerships between land managers and leisure operators in the NWE zone and across Europe, to the accession countries.

Examples of actions to be undertaken include a field survey, to show how different visitor patterns will affect the sustainability of wildlife populations and vegetation, with Alterra models, MASOOR and METAPHOR; and a volunteer ranger programme, to involve local communities and develop awareness. Recreation plans will be drawn up on the basis of an innovative data modelling system and widespread consultation with various stakeholders. A range of small investments in networks of forest trails and access point changes will be aimed at promoting alternative recreation and re-

directing users away from sensitive zones in need of protection. PROGRESS provides a transnational vehicle for data collection and mapping, the formulation and transfer of best practice, staff exchanges and joint communication activities.

Friends of Nature and Outdoor Sports Education (OSE) a sustainable relationship

Wilfried Meulenbergs, Nature Friend International, Vienna, Austria

Apart from being an international NGO with advisory status on environmental issues in the Council of Europe, the International Friends of Nature gather member organisations that are very active in the field of Outdoor Sports Education. More than 700.000 individual members in more than 25 countries are active 'users' of nature, by walking, camping, biking, canoeing, ...

Yet this 'Friends of Nature' are not just practicing 'sports'. Being in nature, moving in nature, is for them a way to get close to nature, to be in the nature. Thus some of our member organisations (mainly those active in mountaineering) developed a concept to make this out-door sports sustainable.

For the Friends of Nature, sports in nature need to be sustainable, by having respect for this nature. Three criteria can make these sports more sustainable:

- **RISK:** in nature we do not know precisely what will happen, how things will go; we prefer less as possible marking or organisation over the general overkill of signs and planning
- **COMMITMENT:** when we engage in nature while practicing our sport (f.i. climbing or walking) we prefer not using technical support like lifts, bolts, mobiles, helicopters, ...
- **SELF RELIANCE:** the more we rely on our own effort, the more we are close to nature and the more we respect the force of it, get to know it.

These three elements together: RISK, COMMITMENT and SELF-RELIANCE, and most importantly: the level of their presence in our activity, decides on whether our action is really nature-friendly.

This radical approach is most successful in our work with youngsters, who love this way of feeling nature, enjoying being in it, not just being a consumer. They especially like this approach because during our trainings we not only focus on technical skills and safety (who are important and basic in this kind of activities), but mainly on the feelings, experiences, communication, cooperation, ...

More information in :

- 'Outdoor Sport Education –Proceedings from the international symposium Hrubá Skála', Prof. J. Neuman, Charles University Cz, 2004
- 'OSE Camps Report – Processing the international experience', O. Pohanka & W. Meulenbergs, Prague, 2006

See also on:

- www.nf-int.org
- www.iynf.org

The experience with implementation of NATURA 2000 to the Krkonose Mts.

Petra Stastna; Administration of the Krkonose Mts. National Park, Czech Republic

Introduction

The Krkonose Mts. are situated on the border of Czech and Polish country at the middle Europe. They are old non-calcareous mountains (altitude from 300 to 1602 m), a part of Hercinides chain. The area of 531 km² belongs to the category Special Protection Areas (SPA) created for birds and to the category Sites of Community Interest (SCI) created for habitats, plants and animals. The Natura 2000 site was established for general conditions as preservation of local biodiversity, maintaining natural sites in the best possible conditions and the protecting of the most endangered species. The area or its parts has also other kinds of protection labels: national park, bilateral biosphere reserve, trans-boundary Ramsar site (peat bogs of the Labska and Lucni meadow), Eurosite, program PEFC and FSC (forests) and program Green Light. Concrete species of birds which are on the list of interest due to SPA are Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Ficedula parva*), Corncock (*Crex crex*), Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*), Black Woodpcker (*Dryocopus martius*), Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*), Red-spotted Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica svecica*) and Black Grouse (*Tetrao tetrix*). Protected plants of the SCI are namely: Sudetic Lousewort (*Pedicularis sudetica*), Bohemian Gentian (*Gentianella bohemica*), Sudetic Bedstraw (*Galium sudeticum*) and Bohemian Bellflower (*Campanula bohemica*). And finally protected animals of the SCI are Bullhead (*Cottus gobio*) and Pond bat (*Myotis dasycneme*). Next list shows protected habitats of SCI; habitats marked with a star show the priority ones.

- 4030 European dry heaths
- 4060 Alpine and boreal heaths
- 4070 *Bushes with *Pinus mugo* and *Rhododendron hirsutum*
- 4080 Sub-Artic willow scrub
- 6150 Siliceous alpina and boreal grasslands
- 6230 *Species rich *Nardus* grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas
- 6430 Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels
- 6510 Extensive hay meadows of the plain to submontane levels
- 6520 Mountain hay meadows
- 7110 *Active raised bogs
- 7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs
- 8110 Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels
- 8220 Chasmophitic vegetation on siliceous rocky slopes
- 8310 Caves not open to public
- 9110 *Luzulo-Fagetum* beech forests
- 9130 *Asperulo-Fagetum* beech forests
- 9140 Medio-European subalpine beech woods
- 9180 **Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines
- 91D0 *Bog woodlands
- 91E0 *Mixed ash-alder alluvial forests of temperate and Boreal Europe
- 9410 Acidophilous spruce forests

The existence of the Natura 2000 site brings these views and consequences:

- viewing on the landscape by the measure of populations and habitats,
- assessment in decision making of tourism development,
- bigger projects are assessed due to a special law assessment NATURA 2000,
- manager of NATURA 2000 is the administration of the national park,

- management plan of SPA and SCI is a part of management plan created for the national park.

Natura 2000 and tourism

The Krkonose Mts. are very popular from the view of visitors. This confirm high numbers of visitors per year which are from 5,4 to 6 millions people. The active role in carrying of projects in tourist development is in the Czech Republic mainly put to the local communities – municipalities; consequently to the private subjects.

The manager of NATURA 2000 site plays (due to this law system) a passive role and belongs to the one of respected authorities. Therefore, the most of main decisions makes society, politicians and main stakeholders, e.g. building authority and similar subjects with high economic position. The trend of tourist development is mainly going in the idea of hard tourism which brings fast and easy money. The Krkonose Mts. are the highest mountains of the Czech Republic so the most of ski “industry” and ski interests are there situated. This bring requirements for new ski slopes, accommodation, new roads or extending of present tracks, technical arrangement of cross country ski trails, and such consequences as higher automobile traffic, illegal entrance of four-wheelers and scooters to the open landscape and new sport and tourist activities to the thus far quiet places (snow kitting, geocaching, helicopter flying etc.). Less visible are trends of soft tourism because it is itself discrete. Some positives which broad the sustainable ways of tourism are e.g. reconstructed exhibitions, museums, trails or chapels and building of new monuments etc. Certificated guides started to act here and eco-camps are considered.

If we look to the type and the role of NGOs in this mountain area, here is a one successful subject targeting on the ecological education called SEVER. Other quite active NGO is the group of municipalities but it has less from the interest of nature values. This NGO is hardly enforcing their ideas of the tourist development which very differ from the feeling of sustainable tourism. The rest of NGOs are non active groups or such which exist only temporarily. One type is NGO created from close neighbors. They arise only in the case of very concrete problem which hardly touches them. After the given result their activity finishes. Other case: e.g. architects who create NGO focusing on nature protection for the hidden purpose of watching activity of the competition. Such a kind of subjects does not help to the Natura 2000 site a lot. Unfortunately here is really missing an active NGO cooperating with park administration or other institutions and respecting sustainable development and nature heritage.

From all what was written above of course some conflicts between tourist activities and NATURA 2000 site arises. They can be summarized as:

- destroying of natural habitats (ski slope, accommodation objects, new roads, etc.),
- destroying of river habitats by hydraulic power plants for Bullhead (*Cottus gobio*),
- destroying of natural lowlands in close of villages so disappearing are habitats as Species rich *Nardus* grasslands on siliceous substrates in mountain areas or species Bohemian Bellflower,
- bothering of Black Grouse during winter time by skiing outside of trails,
- cutting of grass in the period of nesting of Corncrake,

For the solving of such problems is great cooperation with the other Natura 2000 sites. If we look to the potential partners, the closest one is the polish side of the Krkonose Mts. national park. Good cooperation works for many years. In the rest of the Czech Republic is a good communication with regions as Jeseniky Mts., Jizerske Mts., Sumava Mts. or Beskydy Mts. because of their similar conditions from the view of relief. There exists also a cooperation with similar mountain areas in the world; concretely with the Snowdonia Mts. from Wales. From the view of problems and topics are mostly solved problems as tourist and sport activities, management activities and the monitoring and research. A good step was establishing a working group for tourism where are members of all protected areas. This group is informing about news in this field, solves actual problems and makes methodologies to the concrete sport activities on the protected areas.

Closings

Even are the Krkonose Mts. under the big pressure of tourist development it is still a very interesting and valuable area which should stay saved for the next generations.

NATURA 2000 helps saving of nature areas against human impacts and points out values and nature phenomena, shows them not independently but in context.

NATURA 2000 plays the important role in making decisions and helps to protect last rest of nature land.

Nature and tourism: the case of the Giant Mts.

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The Karkonosze (Giant) Mts. are a unique creature of the nature in Europe: their elevation over the sea level – 1400-1600 m, severe climate (subpolar conditions on the border ridge) and a relict, postglacial vegetation qualify them to most valuable areas of this type on the continent. Their penetration dates from the fullness of the Stone Ages, but the permanent colonization appeared in their depth only on the turn of the 12th/13th cent. Thence forward the farm implements of these mountains ran very intensely, in what the tourism had a meaning participation from the end of 18th cent. The Giant Mts. were at the beginning of the next century a region with the greatest tourist traffic in all Europe. Therefore first steps to the preservation of nature were undertaken here already eighty years ago. Only however in 1959 Polish authorities established the national park, and four years later – Czech authorities. Poland's 'the Karkonosze National Park' covers 5575 has, whereof 70% are forests. His buffer zone embraces 11,266 has. Today this is the most intensely visited national park in Poland (in the count on 1 km²) – 1.5-2 million of persons annually, on the summit Śnieżka (1602 m) – 10,000 daily in the high season. This is caused by a high tourist investing in the comparatively not big and narrow area of the Park: 120 kms of pedestrian routes (besides, less, of ski, mounted and bike), 10 shelters (mainly Polish Tourist and Regional Survey Association), 3 chair lifts. These last ones cause the distinct canalization of a traffic in regions of significant rest-tourist centres: Karpacz and Szklarska Poręba. The greatest threat for the nature in the Park makes a slope skiing which in consequence of the bad decision of the late minister of environmental protection Stefan Kozłowski invaded the precincts of the strict protection { near Szklarska Poręba. This pressure grows, though snow conditions are also disadvantageous, and about 65% of tourist incomes come from the warm season. Other, growing problem makes a biking. Cyclists do not observe rules, drive everywhere, cause collisions with pedestrians. For the counteraction the Park leads an intensive action for education: many materials are published, the educational centre became built at Szklarska Poręba, and next one is built at Karpacz. Large financial outlays are directed on repairs of routes, which tourists do not damage of grassy grounds. Still limiting of a number of visitors makes a great problem which however does not seem to be soluble in the face of impossibility of a closing of the full access to the Park.

IV International Seminar on Mountain Tourism

Mountain Tourism in Natura 2000 Areas

Conflict or Opportunity?

organized by:

International Friends of Nature

*Polish Tourist Country Lovers' Society (PTTK) – Cracow Academic Section
Institute of Tourism and Recreation, Academy of Physical Education, Cracow*

In co-operation with:

Góry Stołowe National Park (Pl) and Boumovsko Protected Landscape Area (Cz)

Kudowa Zdrój (Poland) 22 –25 October 2009

Official Declaration

"NATURA 2000 protects space for high quality mountain tourism"

20 participants from 10 European countries representing Ministries, NGOs, Alpine Clubs, protected areas' administration and academic institutions deliberated on the topic "the use of NATURA 2000 areas for mountain tourism and the role of NGOs and local communities in preparing management plans for them" and adopted the following conclusions:

PREAMBLE

- **This Declaration takes into account the results of three previous International Seminars (Zakopane 2002, Szklarska Poręba 2005, Sucha Beskidzka 2007). The conclusions reached during those events remain valid.**
- **Other international documents, e.g. Alpine Convention, Carpathian Convention and the "Babia Gora Declaration on Sustainable Tourism Development in Mountain Areas" (2002), were also considered during discussions.**
- **Participants emphasized the importance of the NATURA 2000 network, as a tool for much better protection of European mountains.**
- **Participants also appreciated the value of Natura Trail Project managed by Nature Friends International.**

RATIONALE

A. Importance and peculiarity of NATURA 2000 network in the European mountain

- NATURA 2000 creates a new situation in the protection of European mountains.
- In several mountain ranges NATURA 2000 covers large areas (even bigger than 1000 sq. km.), which have never been protected before.
- NATURA 2000 can play an important role in European Mountain Areas not previously designated as nature conservation areas. NATURA 2000 provides a valuable opportunity to host communities to develop best practice, in utilizing the designation for local economic, social and environmental benefits.
- NATURA 2000 areas are protected not only by the law of particular countries, but is also supervised by European Commission.
- Several "old" protected areas can now be considered, as core zones of NATURA 2000 areas, which also include adjacent territories.
- Managers of those areas which were protected before implementation of NATURA 2000 obtained a new tool for efficient protection, but also new responsibility.
- People living and working within NATURA 2000 areas can use European funds to support ecological farming and forestry. They can also have an income directly from a rise in tourism, because NATURA 2000 areas can attract more tourists.
- Mountainous NATURA 2000 areas are usually utilized all year round and in much more diverse manner, than those on lowlands.

B. Public awareness

- There is a common opinion that public awareness regarding NATURA 2000 network is low and insufficient both among mountain tourists, tourism service providers and host communities.
- NATURA 2000 areas are often perceived by local stakeholders as the obstacle in the way of economic development.

C. NATURA 2000 and mountain tourism/recreation

- NATURA 2000 Mountain Areas have numerous similar problems irrespective of laying in an alpine biogeographical region or not.
- The promotion of tourism in NATURA 2000 Mountain Areas presents unique challenges and requires carefully considered solutions in order to achieve sustainable tourism, which meets the needs of all stakeholders.
- NATURA 2000 Mountain Areas are special areas, which by their very nature are vulnerable in the context of agriculture, tourism and ecology.

D. Importance of NGO's dealing with tourism

- The history of nature protection in European mountains is inseparably connected with activity of societies dealing with mountain tourism.
- Today NGOs which unite mountain tourists, support the protection of mountain nature and landscape, and also the conservation of space for high quality tourism and recreation.
- The model of mountain tourism promoted by NGOs is close to the principles of sustainability and therefore can be accepted within protected areas.
- NGOs have usually good communication both with their members and local communities, so they can play an important role in raising public awareness.

POSTULATES – RECOMMENDATIONS

public relation activities:

- Cooperation is a key element in delivering Sustainable Tourism at a local level, with social, economic or environmental benefits to the host community.
- A Management planning process for NATURA 2000 areas should integrate demands of nature protection, mountain tourists and host communities.

- There should be a strategy for local and regional culture within NATURA 2000 Mountain Areas.

networking:

- International and regional co-operation is important to solve several problems connected with the management of NATURA 2000 Mountain Areas. This co-operation can be facilitated by:
 - promotion of good practices;
 - spreading advanced methods of investigation of tourism;
 - creation of a web page dedicated to NATURA 2000 Mountain Areas;
 - organising workshops, seminars etc.;
 - exchange of staff working for different stakeholders.
- It is necessary to promote integrated knowledge about the countryside within NATURA 2000 Mountain Areas.
- Special attention should be focused on those NATURA 2000 Mountain Areas which have no other protective status.
- Managers of NATURA 2000 Mountain Areas, local authorities and NGOs should co-operate to harmonize policies in frontier territories. Experiences of euro-regions and international NGOs (like NFI, CIPRA, UIAA) can be very useful in this field.

public role of NGOs:

- Societies uniting mountain tourists represent people who have a vital interest in particular mountain areas, often living far from their homes, even in other countries. Those NGOs should participate in planning and decision making process regarding NATURA 2000 Mountain Areas.
- NATURA 2000 areas are under special surveillance of European Commission. NGOs should avail themselves of this opportunity where insufficient protection of particular mountain territories occur.
- NGOs should:
 - co-operate with nature protection administration and local authorities in management planning processes for NATURA 2000 areas;
 - educate tourists and train leaders for mountain tourism;
 - promote model of sustainable tourism.

APPEAL

We appeal to all stakeholders - especially tourist associations, local communities and authorities responsible for NATURA 2000 areas lying in the mountain – To work in active cooperation for the sustainable development of these unique fragile environments, which are key to our identity, diversity, as well as our economic, cultural, and environmental prosperity. To promote the education, protection, understanding and integrated knowledge so essential and mutually beneficial to all who rely on NATURA 2000 Mountain Areas.

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