

Sustainable Tourism Not Only in Mountain Wetland Areas



**Carpathian Wetland Initiative
Wetlands and Tourism Workshop
8th September 2010, Rytro, Poland**





***„Take only pictures,
leave only your footprints!“***

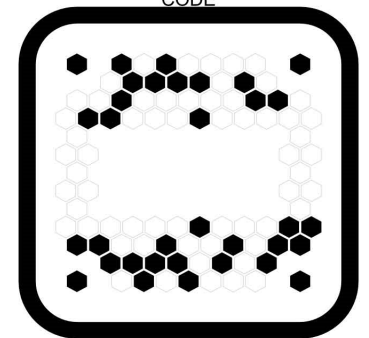
Sustainable Development Context

- Necessity to optimise effects of tourism on the environment
- Support of responsible tourism as an instrument of
 - environmental education
 - building-up and promotion of relationships to nature
 - keeping the traditional rural life style
 - sustainable use of natural resources
 - strengthening the cultural identity
 - protection of the landscape character

Karpatské dědictví Přírodní památka Hradní vrch Hukvaldy



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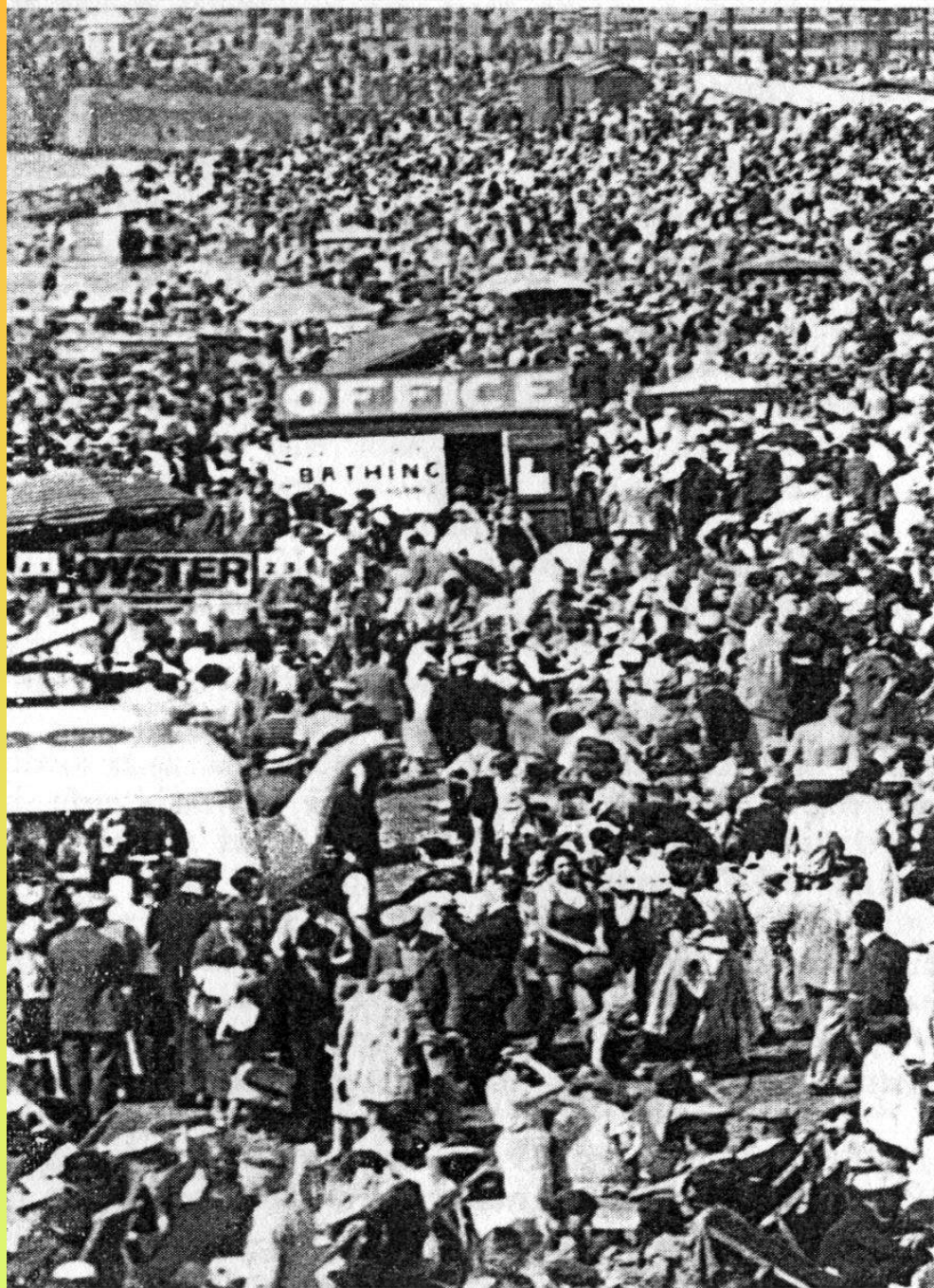


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Ministerstvo životního prostředí
České republiky


KARPATSKÉ DĚDICTVÍ



Mass Tourism An Invention of the last century?

Blackpool (Great
Britain)

Foto: Gilbert – Litt
1939



Mass Tourism An Invention of the last century?

Ainsdale Beach, Southport. Zdroj: Gilbert – Litt,
1939

Tourism in Protected Areas

- To minimise negative effects on local ecosystems, landscape character and local community life (CBD Guidelines)
- System of monitoring and management of the tourism impacts on a valuable natural territory
- Accession to the “European Chart of Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas”
- Establishment of the status of a specialised guide for ecotourism/geotourism
- System of permanent and mutual communication of protected areas administrations with all key stakeholders

Biodiversity Strategy of the Czech Republic

Sector part „Tourism“

- Action plan of this strategy – an implementation plan of „International guidelines for activities related to sustainable tourism development in vulnerable terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems and habitats of major importance for biological diversity and protected areas, including fragile riparian and mountain ecosystems“



Photos: Josef Štemberk

Needs of Mountain Wetlands Tourist

- Transportation to the mountain wetlands destination
- Access to the wetlands (walking trails, water access for kayacs, horse, terrain car etc.)
- Rich biodiversity for wild life watching (mainly birds)
- Mountain wetlands interpretation (guides, pannels, tags)
- Food, accommodation (bivacs)



Photos: Josef Štemberk

Potential Tourism for Wetlands Protection

- Provision of local economic benefits for protection management and restoration
- Support of natural identity of local community
- Environmental education through experience e.g. Everglades wetlands complex (Anhinga trail) visited by more than million people



Potential Destruction of Wetlands by Tourism

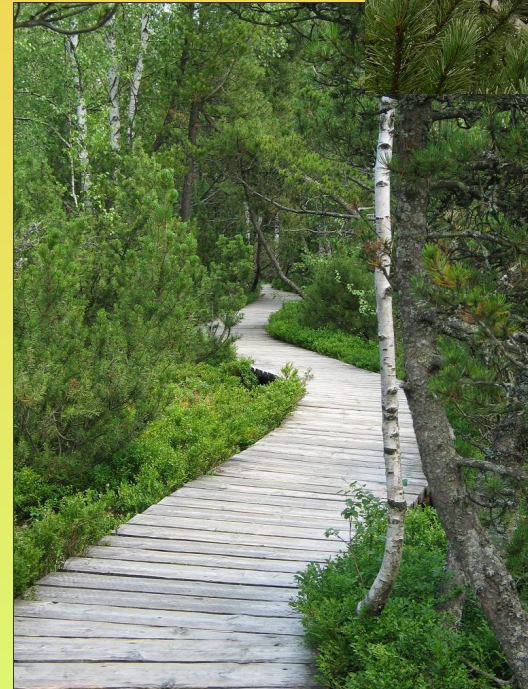
- Off-road vehicles, motorised boats,
- Hunting, fishing
- Plants and animal species collecting
- Disturbing fauna (nestling birds)
- Tourism infrastructure – modification of the landscape (genius loci), wetland hydrology, water quality



Photos: Josef
Štemberk

Strategic Management of Wetlands Tourism

- Working groups (local land trusts, local governments, state agencies, local businessmen)
- Resource conservation and development objectives identification
- Inventory of wetland resources and attractitons – what to offer and what to protect
- Land use and water use plans integrating mountain wetland tourism potentials and risks
- Boardwalks development, educational programs, guides



Photos: Josef Stemberk

Minimising of Wetlands Tourism Impacts

- Constructing access roads, bird watching trails and interpretive facilities outside of mountain wetlands
- Installation of buffers and barriers, elevated platforms
- Locating of boardwalks in less sensitive parts of wetlands
- Using natural materials, design, colors
- Construction of interpretation and walking infrastructure during winter season
- Restoring mountain wetlands demaged by tourism
- Limiting time and size of visitation via reservation system



Photos:
Martina
Pásková,
Josef
Štemberk

Inventoring of Wetlands Tourism Attractions

- Mountain wetlands, streams, lakes
- Birding sites,
- Vegetation, animal species
- Scenic vistas
- Archaeological and historic sites
- Local architecture
- Terrain landscape monuments
- Geological phenomena



Photos: Josef Štemberk

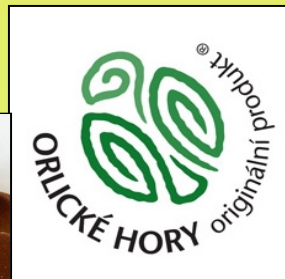
National System of Tourism Eco-certification

- Optional instruments, e.g. the European “Flower”, Green Flag
- In the Czech Republic Ecologically Friendly Service – accommodation, camping



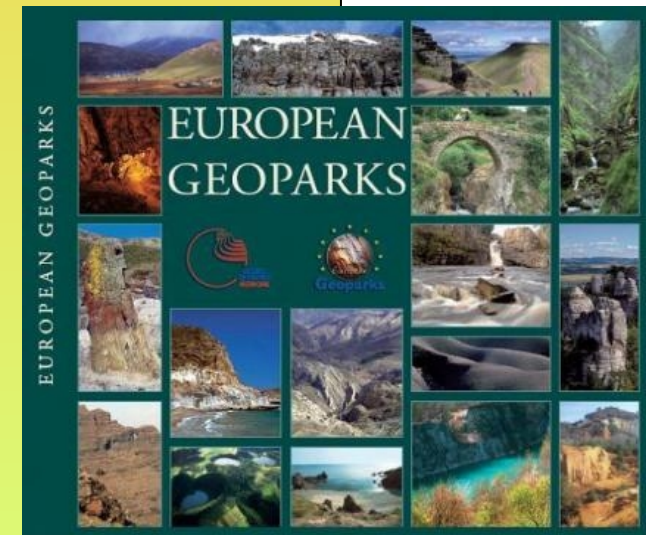
Local Branding in Natura 2000 sites

- Products fabricated in some protected areas can obtain a brand which presents their regional origin, quality and environmental responsibility
- The brand also express whether the product is fabricated
 - by traditional procedure
 - from the local resources
 - handmade
 - with regional motifs etc.



Geotourism and Geoparks Perspective

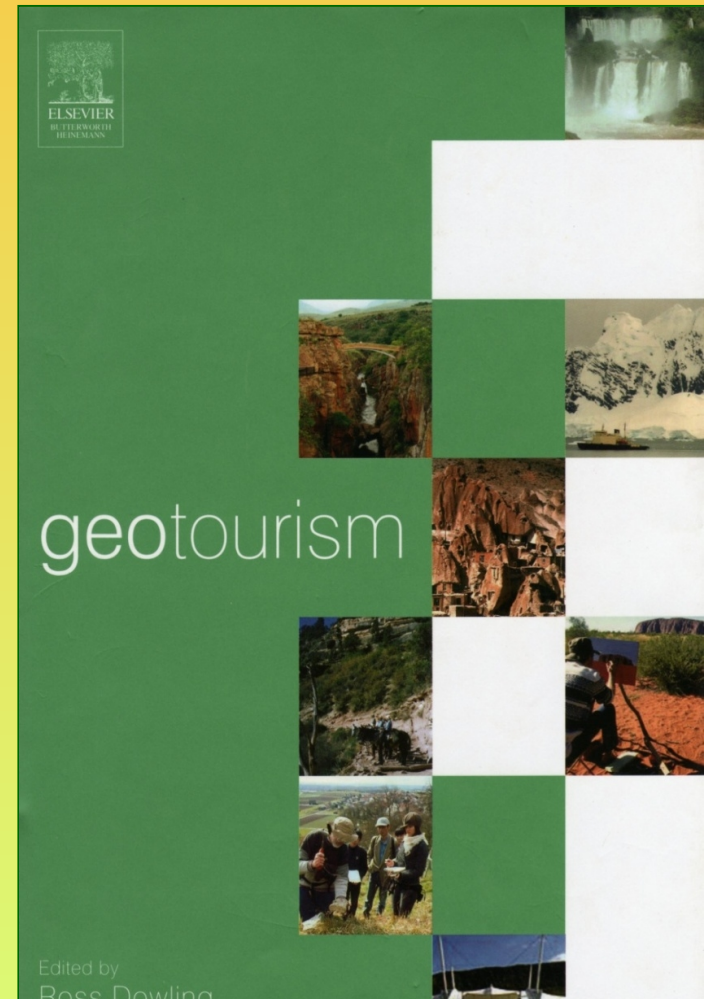
- Philosophy of sustainability
- Process: progress evaluation (4 years period)
- Biodiversity and geodiversity
- Community based development and conservation
- European Geoparks Network
- Global Geoparks network –
under the auspice of UNESCO
- National Geoparks Networks



Geotourism??

- Based on geological features
- Develops geological tourism products
- Creates outstanding tourist experiences
- Includes excellent interpretation
- Provides value to local communities
- Conserves geoheritage
- Should be sustainable

(Prof. Ross Dowling)



Geoparks??

- No new category of protected area
- Local legislation
- Local government
- Networking activities
- Cultural identity!!!
- Landscape as a combination of geodiversity, biodiversity and cultural diversity



Photos:
Josef
Zelenka,
Martina
Pásková

Global Network of UNESCO Geoparks



63 Geoparks in 19 Member States are members of the Global Network Geoparks assisted by UNESCO

Austria (1)

Nature Park Eisenwurzen

Australia (1)

Kanawinka Geopark

Brazil (1)

Araripe Geopark

PR China (20)

Mount Lushan Geopark

Geopark Wudalianchi

Songshan Geopark

Yuntaishan Geopark

Danxiashan Geopark

Shilin Geopark

Zhangjiajie Geopark

Huangshan Geopark

Xingwen National Geopark

Hexigten National Geopark

Yandangshan National Geopark

Taining National Geopark

Fangshan Geopark

Leiqiong Geopark

Funiushan Geopark

Wangwushan-Daimeishan

Geopark

Jingpohu Geopark

Taishan Geopark

Longhushan Geopark

Zigong Geopark

Croatia (1)

Papuk Geopark

Czech Republic (1)

Bohemian Paradise Geopark

France (2)

Reserve Géologique de Haute

Provence

Park Naturel Régional du Luberon

Greece (2)

Petrified Forest of Lesvos

Psiloritis Natural Park

Germany (6)

Vulkaneifel European Geopark

Nature park Terra Vita European

Geopark

Geopark Swabian Albs

Geopark Harz Braunschweiger Land

Ostfalen

Mecklenburg Ice age Park

European Geopark Bergstrasse-

Odenwald

Iran (1)

Qeshm Island

Italy (5)

Madonie Natural Park

Parco del Beigua

Parco Geominerario Sardegna

Adamello-Brenta Geopark

Roca di Cerere

Japan (3)

Malaysia (1)

Langkawi Geopark

Norway (1)

Gea-Norvegica

Portugal (2)

Naturtejo Geopark

Arouca geopark

Republic of Ireland (1)

Copper Coast

Rumania (1)

Hateg Country Dinosaur Geopark

Spain (4)

Maestrazgo Cultural Park

Subeticas Geopark

Sobrarbe Geopark

Capo de Gata

United Kingdom (6)

Marble Arch Caves & Cuilcagh

Mountain Park

North Pennines AONB Geopark

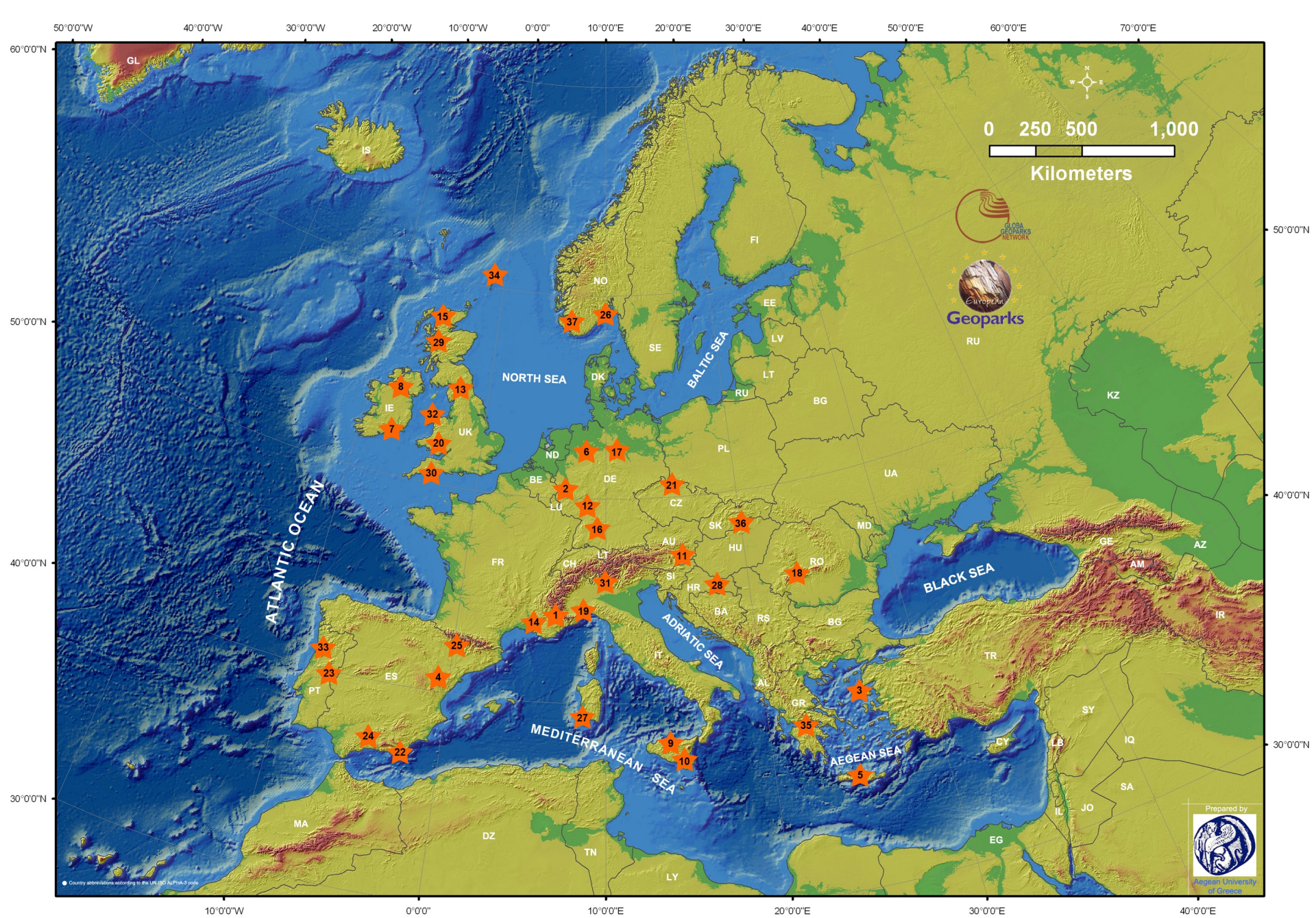
North West Highlands – Scotland

Fforest Fawr Geopark - Wales

Lochaber – Scotland English

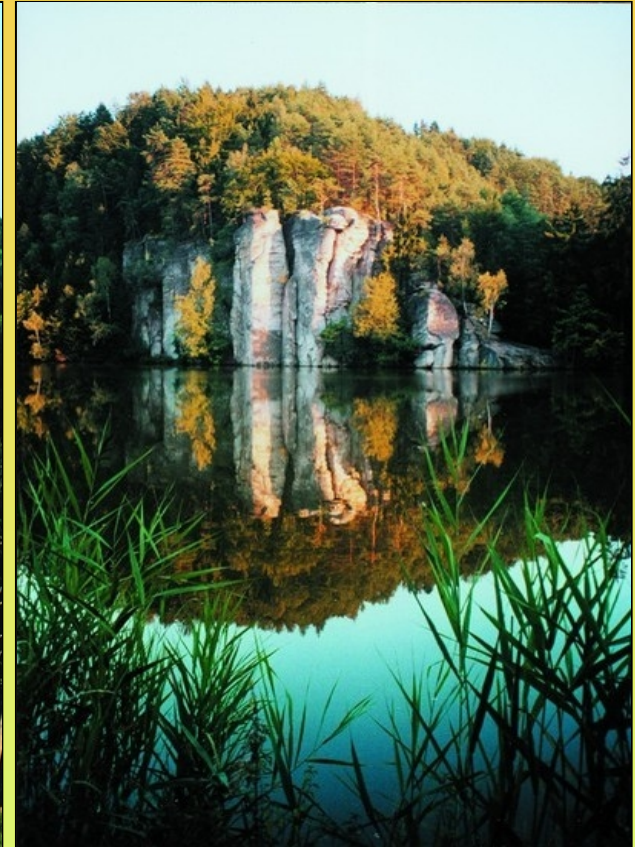
Riviera Geopark – England

GeoMôn geopark – Wales



European Geopark Network

Bohemian Paradise Geopark



Birdwatching

- In Central and Eastern Europe still underestimated form of sustainable tourism, great potential especially for protected areas
- Potential pioneer segment: foreigner visitors with proper professional or hobby orientation who already know and want this tourism product

Tourism Guides in Protected Areas

- Authorized guide – by protected area authority (training and accreditation system)

Benefits?

- Nature and landscape protection
 - tourism flows regulation (visitor management)
- Special offer for visitors
 - ecotourism as a top tourism product: interpretation of nature and landscape values
 - specialized tours: wild nature observing
- Sustainable enhancement of local community economy and cultural identity

Photo:
Martina
Pásková



Tourism for Nature



- A GEF Project on Biodiversity and Tourism strengthening protection of globally significant mountain ecosystems in selected Biosphere Reserves of Central and Eastern Europe
- Eco-tourism while still at a relatively modest level of development in the region, provides opportunities as well as challenges for the sustainable use of biodiversity
- Šumava Biosphere Reserve (the Czech Republic)
- Aggtelek Biosphere Reserve (Hungary)
- Babia Góra Biosphere Reserve (Poland)



Resource:

<http://www.tourism4nature.org>



Tourism for Nature Results



- Guiding documents and Case Studies
- Tourism Management Planning
- Promoting Biodiversity: Model Products/Certification and Labelling/Incentives/Promotion
- Indicators for Sustainable Tourism and Monitoring Systems
- Capacity Building and Trainings
- Revitalisation of Cultural Heritage
- Sustainable Tourism Infrastructure and Trails
- Policy and legal framework
- Consultation at local, national and international level
- Trans-Boundary Cooperation
- The activities in the three Biosphere Reserves



What to do?

- Implementation of CBD Guidelines when planning tourism in MW, involvement of local communities in implementation
- Facilitate establishment of authorized guide system in MW (ecotourism, geotourism guides – ensure training)
- Facilitate strategic approach of MW for solution of the conflicts between tourism development and nature and landscape protection – use tourism as an instrument for nature conservation and local community involvement
- Explain and promote principles of sustainable tourism in WA tourism praxis – pilot projects, incentives
- Support geoparks establishment and development as way of sustainable use of MW

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