

Communication structures for UNESCO World Heritage Beech Forest areas in Slovak Republic, Ukraine and Germany



Kuziyskiy Massif, Ukraine (Foto: Pierre Ibsich)

Background

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee included the “Ancient Beech Forests of Germany” to the UNESCO World Natural Heritage List, on its 35th Meeting in June 2011. Now these forests form a joint World Natural Heritage Serial with the “Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians“, which are enlisted in the World Natural Heritage List since 2007. The UNESCO linked this decision to the recommendation, to exchange best practice examples between the related protected area administrations in Slovak Republic, Ukraine and Germany. To implement this recommendation made by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee a work group was established with participants from all protected areas. The work group had a meeting in November 2012 in Banska Bystrica (Slovak Republic) in the context of a trilateral workshop.

Project

The workshop participants analyzed and documented existing communication structures regarding the joint UNESCO World Natural Heritage cooperation. They further collected

and documented already implemented activities in the fields of information, communication and environmental education, identified existing gaps and accordingly derived concrete recommendations to enhance the cooperation. Technical support was provided by the Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development, which already accompanied the previous UNESCO nomination process in the context of another project (see FKZ 380 01 237).

The participants agreed to complete the jointly achieved overview on existing activities and to currently update it for mutual information and data exchange by using a joint internet-based platform. Furthermore, they decided to provide information on their web-pages in all languages of the trilateral World Heritage, to make online visitors aware of the different component parts of the joint World Heritage Site. A joint internet presentation and the production of a film about the joint World Heritage Site were also considered. Moreover, the participants agreed that already existing elements in environmental education will be exchanged, which is an activity that is easy to implement on short-term basis. The workshop contributed to a further strengthening of the trilateral World Heritage network.

- Target country/region: Slovak Republic, Ukraine
- Duration: 09/2012 – 11/2012
- Beneficiary: Protected area administrations
- Implementing organisation: Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development
- Project number: 22712