

D.T1.4.7

Pilot action completion report with recommendations

Competition report on the pilot action of the workshop organized in Királyrét, Szokolya, Hungary on February 22nd, 2022

Final version
02 2022

eurac
research





1. Introduction

Pilot implementation of the Centralparks D.T1.1.3 “Carpathian strategy for enhancing biodiversity and landscape conservation outside and inside protected areas” inside Danube-Ipoly National Park (Hungary) constituted part of Activity AT1.4, carried out in thematic work package No 1 “Integration of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in the Carpathian region” of the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE project *CE 1359 Centralparks - Building management capacities of Carpathian protected areas for the integration and harmonization of biodiversity protection and local socio-economic development*, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

Activity AT1.4 contributed to the achievement of the Centralparks project Output O.T1.4, described in the Project Application Form (p. 36) as “*Pilot implementation of the strategy (jointly developed under Activity A.T1.1) for enhancing biological and landscape diversity conservation inside and outside protected areas, integration of Carpathian protected areas into broader landscapes, maintenance and improvement of ecological connectivity in areas surrounding and within protected areas*”.

Accordingly to the description of Deliverable D.T1.4.6 in the Centralparks project Application Form (p. 40) the workshop for local stakeholders aimed to mitigate a local land use conflict, concerning the land use in the Csarna-valley (Csarnavölgy) within Börzsöny Mountains, and test the effectiveness of relevant measures recommended by the D.T1.1.3 “Carpathian strategy for enhancing biodiversity and landscape conservation” for nature conservation management planning. Therefore, the results of this pilot action will also be showcased and implemented within the Nature conservation management plan for Börzsöny Mountains (Centralparks D.T2.2.7).

The workshop was held on 22 February 2022, at the Education Center (Hiúz Ház - Lynx’s House) of the Danube-Ipoly National Park in Királyrét, Szokolya, and was organized by the Danube-Ipoly National Park Directorate (DINPD, Centralparks PP5). The workshop was held together with the D.T2.2.6 „Workshop on the result of tested methods, joint management planning”, in order to further enhance the compatibility and synergy of Centralparks work packages WPT1 and WPT2, and provide the relevant stakeholders an inside view of nature conservation management planning as well as the opportunity to contribute to it.



2. Workshop for local stakeholders

As the implementation of the Pilot action, D.T1.4.6 Danube-Ipoly National Parks directorate held a workshop was held on February 22nd, 2022 in Királyrét, Szokolya, Hungary, to mitigate the local and conflict of the Csarna Valley.

The workshop was attended by the representatives of Hungarian governmental and NGO nature conservation managers, private forest sector, local forest managers, the relevant research sectors, forest managers, and the representatives of the regional municipalities, altogether 19 people. During the workshop preparation the invitations were sent to 45 carefully selected representatives of the main target groups, the absence of some invitees can partly be explained by the COVID-19 pandemic situation, discouraging individuals to travel, and attending any physical meetings. The absent invitees were the representatives of the four local municipalities of Kemence, Bernecebaráti, Nagybörzsöny and Perőcsény; the representatives of wildlife managers and hunting association and the representatives of the private and governmental tourist sector.



3. Introduction of the land use conflict

The Csarna-valley was selected as the topic of the pilot action to implement landscape conservation within protected areas since it is located in the heart of the Upper-Börzsöny Mountains, part of the Carpathian Mountains within the administration area of the Danube-Ipoly National Park Directorate. The area is strictly protected, under the asset management of the local forestry managers, the Ipolyerdő Ltd.

In 2017, Ipolyerdő Ltd, submitted a permit application for the tourism aimed development for the Csarna-valley, to rebuild a local small forestry railway path, and build an operating small railway for tourists, leading through the heart of the valley. As a part of the strictly protected area of a national park's core zone, only nature conservation management activities are allowed in the area, even though there are some tourist trails, which can be used without obtaining special permission. However, the railway development would jeopardize the presence of large carnivores including strictly protected Lynx (*Lynx lynx*). The above investment was not supported by nature conservation authorities as well as WWF Hungary held a petition against the development of the valley, signed by a few thousand citizens, which successfully halted the investment, but was the basis of the local land-use conflict.

DINPD aimed to mitigate this conflict and showcase the proper landscape conservation planning while holding this workshop.



4. Conclusion

As a result of the discussion on the Csarna-valley, the valley remained strictly protected, as one core area of the A zone according to IUCN protocol. Forest managers emphasized the tourist use of strictly protected areas, as well as the sustainable forest management technologies including the „eternal forest concept” and the insufficiency of the current forest management legislation.

The activities carried out during the Csarnavölgy workshop held in Danube-Ipoly National Park, were consistent with measures recommended in Centralparks D.T1.1.3 “Carpathian strategy for enhancing biodiversity and landscape conservation outside and inside protected areas”, in particular:

- Measure 1.3.1. Protecting habitats of species, refuges, occurrence localities, breeding sites, wintering, and other sites of the regular presence of wild species against external threats by promoting the principles of sustainable resource management
- Measure 1.3.3. Protecting habitats of species, refuges, occurrence localities, breeding sites, wintering, and other sites of the regular presence of wild species against external threats by designating protective zones
- Measure 1.3.6. Supporting in-situ conservation of wild species populations
- Measure 2.2.3. Planning measures and activities for the protection, management or restoration of the target priority habitats
- Measure 2.3.2. Protecting the target priority habitats against external threats by promoting the principles of sustainable resource management
- Measure 2.3.4. Protecting the target priority habitats against external threats by limiting the extraction of natural resources
- Measure 2.3.5. Protecting the target priority habitats against external threats by limiting the adverse effects of human penetration
- Measure 3.2.3. Planning the protection of landscapes in the target intervention areas against external threats by the modifications of the economic use of the area
- Measure 3.3.2. Protecting landscapes in the target intervention areas by modifying the economic use of the area.

There is a constant need for communication between the interested sectors within landscape conservation and the involvement of stakeholders in nature conservation planning. The results of the discussion were taken into account while preparing the nature conservation management plan for the Börzsöny mountains (Centralparks D.T2.2.7).

Based on the result of the workshop, DINPD implemented the local action plan for Csarna Valley within its Nature Conservation Management Plan for Börzsöny Mountains (O.T2.4).