



# D.T1.6.1

## Report of the training for Polish protected area managers on communication with local communities

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Training summary, evaluation of results  
and training feedback

01. 2022

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Trainings on effective communication between protected areas and local communities in the Carpathians constituted Activity AT1.6, carried out in thematic work package No 1 (WPT1) “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 AT1.6 contributed to the achievement of the Centralparks project Output O.T1.6, described in the project Application Form as “*Implementation and testing of the innovative tool jointly developed under Activity A.T1.3 - guidelines on effective communication with local communities, including knowledge on innovative mediation technologies*”.

This report explains the intervention logic of WPT1 coordinated by Ekopsychology Society (PP4) and of its pilot action aimed at testing the O.T1.3 Guidelines on communication between protected areas and local communities in the Carpathians (previously jointly elaborated by WPT1 Thematic Transnational Task Force on Communication, involving experts from 6 countries, allowing to pool and share the knowledge and expertise on communication concepts, techniques and skills from different Carpathian countries). Further, this report briefly summarizes the AT1.6 pilot action implementation process and activities undertaken by Ekopsychology Society.

Moreover, this report evaluates also the results of the pilot action and analyzes feedback received from participants, briefly summarizes lessons learnt in the course of implementation of this pilot action, and includes some recommendations for the further use of the above O.T1.3 Guidelines, providing a follow-up of AT1.6 trainings in the Polish part of the Carpathian region, or replication of these trainings in other Carpathian countries, other CE Programme area countries and beyond.



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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Legal and strategic framework

The most important legal act defining the objectives and principles, as well as determining the proper approach and methods used for implementing the Centralparks WPT1 project pilot actions was the [Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians](#) (further the Carpathian Convention), adopted on 22 May 2003 in Kyiv. The Carpathian Convention was ratified by Poland on 27 February 2006, and entered into force for Poland on 19 June 2006 (Polish Journal of Laws: [Dz.U. 2007 nr 96 poz. 634](#)).

During the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP1) to the Carpathian Convention held in Kyiv, Ukraine, 11-13 December 2006, the Conference of the Parties recommended to establish and develop national mechanisms to foster the implementation of the Carpathian Convention, including information, involvement and capacity building of all relevant stakeholders and civil society, related to the progress and the further development of the Carpathian Convention (Decision COP1/12, paragraph 5).

The Carpathian Convention is a "framework" convention that defines general objectives, principles of cooperation and obligations of the Parties. Hence, its implementation requires the adoption, ratification and implementation of subsequent international agreements, i.e. thematic Protocols setting up more detailed obligations of the Governments of the Parties in particular areas and sectoral policies covered by the Convention. Pursuant to Art. 91 of the Polish Constitution, the entry into force of the Convention (or its thematic protocols) means that such legal acts become parts of the national legal system and are directly applicable.

The Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP2) of the Carpathian Convention in 2008 in Bucharest adopted the thematic [Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity](#) (Polish Journal of Laws: [Dz.U. 2010 nr 90 poz. 591](#)), it entered into force for Poland on 28 April 2010.

During COP3 of the Convention held in 2011 in Bratislava, the [Protocol on Sustainable Tourism](#) was adopted (Polish Journal of Laws: [Dz.U. 2013 poz. 682](#)), that entered into force for Poland on 29 April 2013.

Both above-mentioned Protocols are already in force in all 7 "Carpathian" countries, unlike the [Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management](#) (2011), [Protocol on Sustainable Transport](#) (2014, Polish Journal of Laws: [Dz.U. 2019 poz. 285](#)), and [Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development](#) (2017, Polish Journal of Laws: [Dz.U. 2020 poz.131](#)).

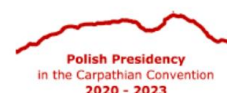
The Carpathian Convention and its thematic protocols already ratified by the Republic of Poland apply to the area extending over 18,612.48 km<sup>2</sup> within the boundaries of 200 municipalities of the three southernmost voivodeships (provinces, NUTS 2 units) of Poland: Małopolskie, Podkarpackie and Śląskie. The above area accounts for **only approx. 6%** of the territory of Poland.



It should also be emphasized that closer cooperation with the local and regional level is among the priorities of the current (2020-2023) Polish Presidency of the Carpathian Convention.



Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the  
Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable  
Development of the Carpathians



## Implementing the priorities of the Polish Presidency of the Carpathian Convention to promote the EU accession to the Carpathian Convention and closer cooperation with the local and regional level

Fig. 1. Excerpt of the Programme of Work for 2021 - 2023 of the Carpathian Convention, mentioning the two priorities of the current Presidency.

Source: [website of the Carpathian Convention](https://www.carpathian-convention.org/)

Building strong partnerships between protected areas and local communities in the Carpathians, and undertaking joint actions for the benefit of nature and local inhabitants would also be in line with the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives ([COM/2020/380 final](#)), explicitly emphasizing the need for strengthening such cooperation, by saying: “*protecting and restoring nature will need more than regulation alone. It will require action by citizens, businesses, social partners and the research and knowledge community, as well as strong partnerships between local, regional, national and European level*”.

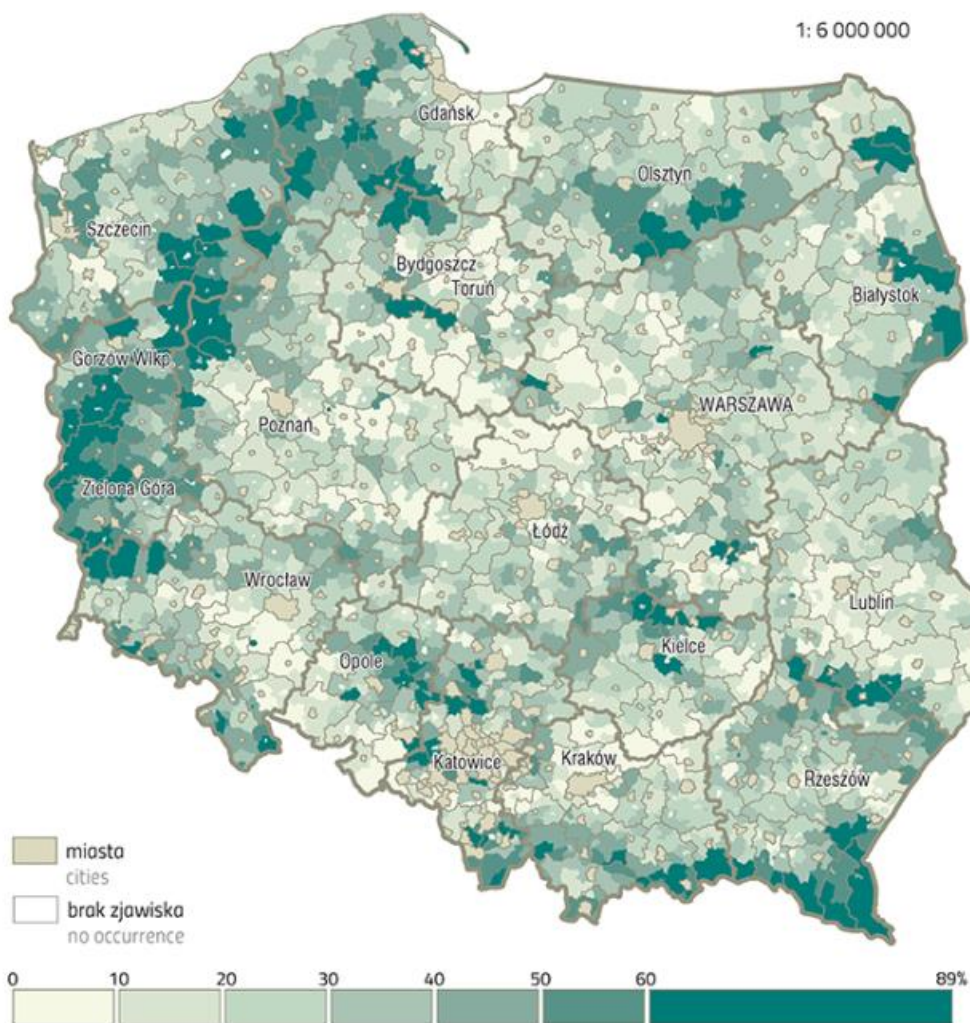
Last, but not least, building effective partnerships between public institutions, regional and local authorities, volunteer groups and others is an indispensable precondition for successful achievement of the goals set by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and resulting Sustainable Development Goal Targets, including the promotion of sustainable tourism (SDG Target 8.9), and ensuring the conservation of mountain ecosystems (SDG Target 15.4).



## 1.2. Natural, economic and social context in the Polish part of the Carpathian region

The above mentioned priority of the current Presidency of the Carpathian Convention, assuming closer cooperation with the local and regional level, could have partly resulted from the specific economic and social context in the Polish part of the Carpathian region combined with its natural values, preserved in numerous protected areas.

Mountain regions have always been an area clearly distinguishable from other regions of Poland, both due to their geographical distinctiveness or cultural identity, as well as different living conditions, farming and land management methods more appropriate for the mountains. Most of the municipalities in the Polish part of the Carpathian region are classified as less-favored areas (LFAs). In the Carpathians, the agricultural usefulness of soils is even lower than in the Sudetes, moreover, soils are more exposed to intense surface water erosion than observed in the Sudetes and Świętokrzyskie Mountains. The Carpathians are also one of the few regions in Poland where the share of forests ranges from 60% to almost 90% of the area of some municipalities.



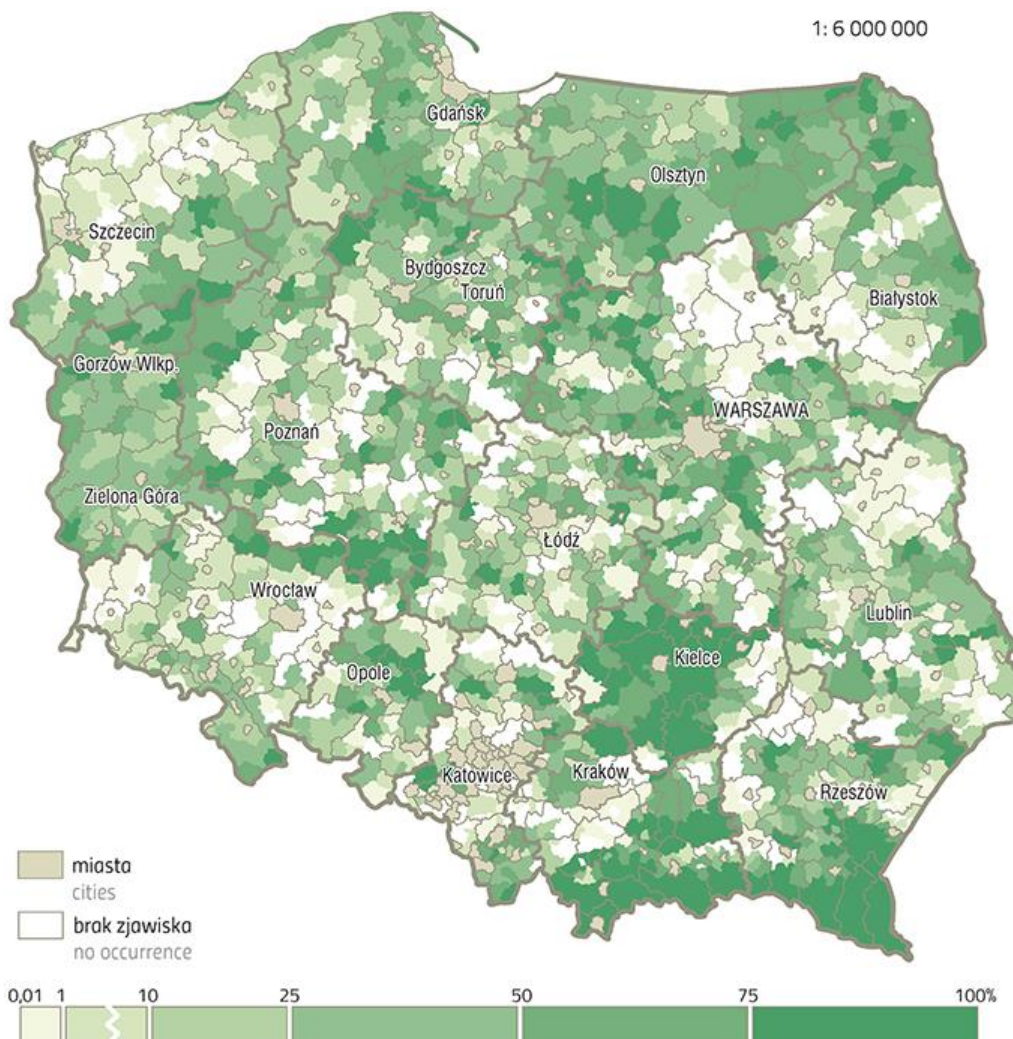
Map 1. Share of forests in the municipality territory, Poland (2012)

Source: Bański J. (ed.), 2016, [Atlas obszarów wiejskich w Polsce](#)  
[Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization, Polish Academy of Sciences \(IGiPZ PAN\)](#), Warszawa

Apart from unfavorable farming conditions and exceptionally high forest cover, the Polish part of the Carpathian region is characterized by a high share of the area covered by various forms of nature protection.

The total area of the six Carpathian national parks constitutes almost 4.47% of the geographical scope of application of the Carpathian Convention in Poland (while the average value of this indicator for the whole country is below 1%). Protected areas of different legal categories cover approx. 70% of the Polish part of the Carpathian region (in 2020 the country average was 32.3%).

Furthermore, in most Carpathian municipalities the share of protected areas exceeds 75% of their total territory. Numerous municipalities are entirely located inside protected areas.

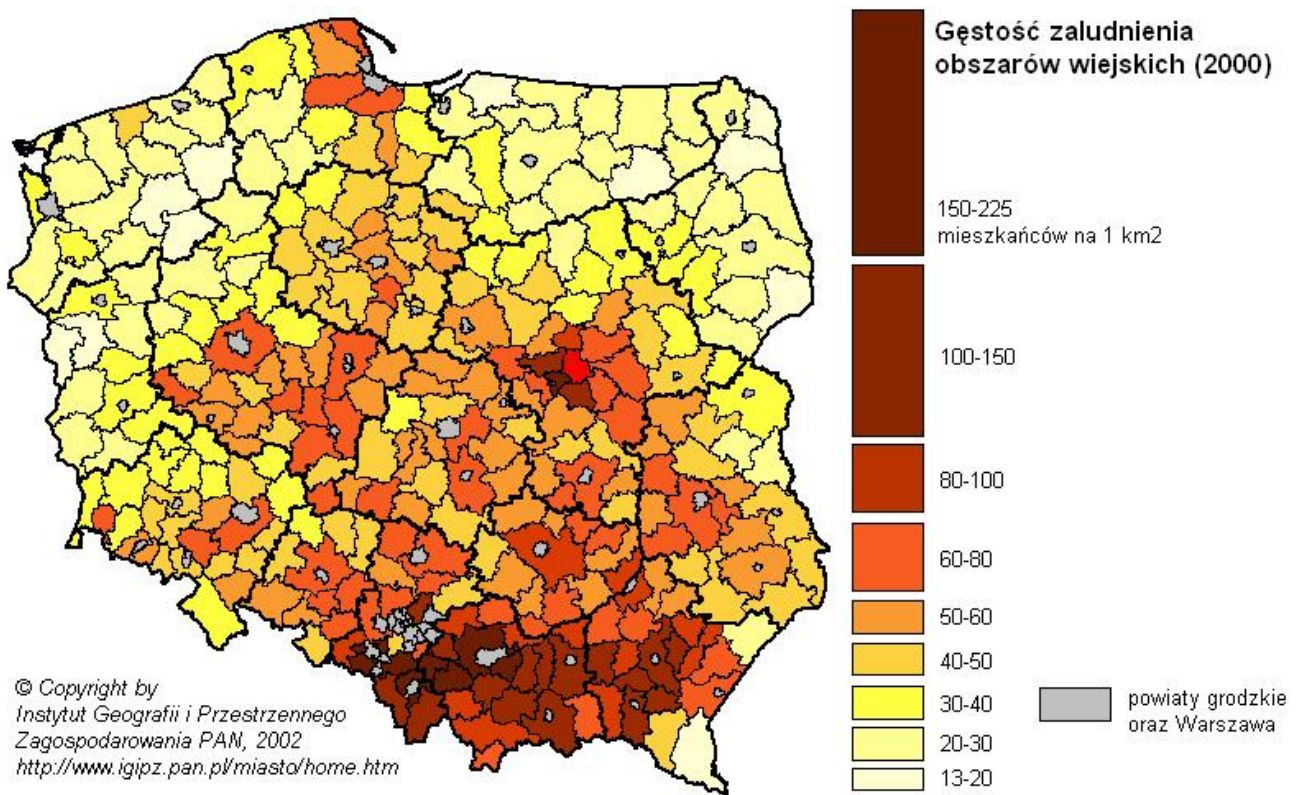


Map 2. Share of protected areas in the municipality territory, Poland (2012)

Source: Bański J. (ed.), 2016, [Atlas obszarów wiejskich w Polsce](#)

[Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization, Polish Academy of Sciences \(IGiPZ PAN\)](#), Warszawa

Simultaneously, the Polish part of the Carpathian region is characterized by the highest population density in rural areas. Among all 16 voivodeships of Poland three "Carpathian" provinces occupy the first three places in this respect. According to the data from 2020, the rural areas population density in Małopolskie and Śląskie (Silesian) voivodeships (131 pers./km<sup>2</sup> and 124 pers./km<sup>2</sup>, respectively) exceeded more than twice the average (53 pers./km<sup>2</sup>) for Polish rural areas, and five times the average for the three provinces, where this indicator is the lowest: in the north-eastern Podlaskie (24 pers./km<sup>2</sup>) and the northern ones: Warmińsko-Mazurskie and Zachodniopomorskie (25 pers./km<sup>2</sup>).



Map 3. Density of population (pers. per 1 km<sup>2</sup>) in rural areas, calculated at county level, Poland (2000)

Source: [Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization, Polish Academy of Sciences \(IGiPZ PAN\)](#)

Such a high population density in rural areas highly influences both the character and quality of agricultural and rural settlement landscapes, in particular in areas where the scattered settlement pattern prevails.

Such high population density of rural areas and the dispersed settlement pattern (different than historically typical and traditional, resulting from the current land-ownership structure) recently widespread in the Polish part of the Carpathian region, in combination with a higher share of the area covered by various forms of nature and landscape protection than in other regions of Poland, automatically translates into the scale of problems in spatial planning and conflicts between the need to protect natural and landscape values and the economic pressure on land development, agricultural use or building up most of the non-forested land.





Consequently, such conflicts are more intense and severe in the Carpathian region than in other regions of Poland. This might have been one of the important reasons for the recognition of the “*closer cooperation with the local and regional level*” as one of the priorities of the current three-year (2020-2023) Polish Presidency of the Carpathian Convention.

[The above explanation of this specific context in the Polish part of the Carpathian region, being one of the reasons for “conservation vs development” conflicts between protected area and local municipality administrations has been presented to our trainees - participants of the Centralparks WPT1 training on effective communication between protected areas and local communities in the Carpathians, carried out in 2021 in Muszyna-Złockie, but also to the representatives of several local municipalities and relevant stakeholders, at meetings organized under another Centralparks WPT1 pilot action implemented in 2021 in the transboundary Pieniny region.]

### 1.3. Centralparks Thematic Work Package No 1 - intervention logic

The basic assumption and intervention logic of the Centralparks thematic Work Package No 1 (WPT1) “Integration of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in the Carpathian region” was that the reconciliation, linking the conservation of biological and landscape diversity to sustainable local socio-economic development, and raising the support of local communities for protected area operations is possible, if:

- well protected natural and landscape values
- are properly used as the drivers and assets for the local economic development (in particular for sustainable tourism development)
- while the conservation objectives, and benefits arising from the above synergy are effectively communicated to the local stakeholders.

Consequently, the task of the three TTTFs (thematic transnational task forces, or expert working groups) established under WPT1 in 2019, and operating in 2019-2020, was to jointly develop three, resulting from the above assumption, mutually supporting and complementary documents:

- (draft) Carpathian strategy for enhancing biodiversity and landscape conservation outside and inside protected areas (resulting from, and aimed to support the implementation of the 2008 Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity to the Carpathian Convention);
- (draft) Strategy for local sustainable tourism development based on natural and cultural heritage of the Carpathians (resulting from, and aimed to support the implementation of the 2011 Protocol on Sustainable Tourism to the Carpathian Convention);
- Guidelines on communication between protected areas and local communities in the Carpathians.

It should be noted, that the Carpathian Convention and its thematic Protocols are international agreements i.e. instruments of international law binding the Parties (States), that signed and ratified them. Therefore, these legal acts first and foremost express the binding commitments of the Parties, and oblige their Governments to act and fulfill such commitments.



Article 2.1 of the Carpathian Convention defines its general objectives: *“The Parties shall pursue a comprehensive policy and cooperate for the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians with a view to inter alia improving quality of life, strengthening local economies and communities, and conservation of natural values and cultural heritage”*.

In accordance with the intentions of the Parties, the implementation of the Convention is primarily intended to serve the inhabitants of the Carpathian region, but will hardly be possible without their participation and commitment.

Consequently, Article 13.2 of the Carpathian Convention states that *“The Parties shall pursue policies guaranteeing public participation in decision-making relating to the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians, and the implementation of this Convention”*.

Due to the above, the strategies developed under Centralparks WPT1 are not addressed to Governments of the Parties and central administration bodies, but directly to the inhabitants of the Carpathians, represented by their local governments, and administration of Carpathian protected areas. Explicitly in line with the above priority of the current Polish Presidency, assuming *“closer cooperation with the local and regional level”*.

Nevertheless, both strategies elaborated under WPT1 were duly presented in 2021 to the relevant intergovernmental Working Groups of the Convention, and later submitted (as draft versions) for their expected endorsement by the Parties to the Convention.

The mere fact that the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols are in force in its Parties does not yet mean the achievement of the goals assumed in these documents. However, such legal instruments can be used to preserve the natural values and cultural heritage of the Carpathian region, and facilitate the sustainable development of our municipalities, counties and provinces.

The above mentioned WPT1 intention to provide our stakeholders mutually supporting and complementary documents means that the implementation of the Centralparks local sustainable tourism development strategy also supports the protection of biological and landscape diversity, by recommending measures aimed at preventing or mitigating the negative impact of mass tourism on protected areas.

Simultaneously, the purpose of the Guidelines on communication between protected areas and local communities is not only to facilitate the effective communication of the objectives of nature and landscape protection, but also to build and strengthen the sense of common ownership and responsibility for protected areas among the local residents.

In 2021, the testing phase began, in order to evaluate the effectiveness and usefulness of WPT1 main Outputs (strategic policy documents and tools), under several pilot actions implemented in Poland (in regions surrounding Pieniny National Park and Magura National Park), the Czech Republic, Hungary, the Slovak Republic, and in the transboundary region of Biele Karpaty (CZ) / Biele Karpaty (SK). WPT1 guidelines on communication have so far been tested only in Poland (Centralparks Activity AT1.6).



#### 1.4. Centralparks A.T1.6 pilot action - intervention logic

According to the *Description of deliverable D.T1.6.1* in the Centralparks Application Form (AF) Activity A.T1.6 “Conducting training on effective communication between protected areas and local communities” was expected to include “*Preparation of training workshop programme; test implementation of the Guidelines (D.T1.3.1); training targeted WS for managing authorities of all 19 PAs in the Polish Carpathians; summary and evaluation of results and training feedback in ENG*”.

Activity A.T1.6 aimed at the achievement of Centralparks Output O.T1.6 “Training on effective communication between protected areas and local communities in the Carpathians”.

The AF description of the Centralparks Output O.T1.6 was as follows: “*Implementation and testing of the innovative tool jointly developed under Activity A.T1.3 - guidelines on effective communication with local communities, including knowledge on innovative mediation technologies. The training will be targeted at all protected area administrations in the PL part of the Carpathian region, and other public sector entities dealing with the protection and sustainable use of natural resources. The training will be carried out under Activity A.T1.6*”.

Therefore, the main objective of Activity A.T1.6 was to raise the capacities, knowledge and skills of Carpathian protected area managers for effective communication with their local communities and stakeholders, in order to raise their support for the conservation of biological and landscape diversity, as well as facilitate and enhance the reconciliation and integration of nature protection with the local socio-economic development.

The main challenge addressed by the A.T1.6 trainings was the lack of communication skills among protected area managers and relevant public agency employees, resulting in their inability to interact and effectively communicate conservation objectives and requirements to their local stakeholders, and increase their support for protected area operations.

Consequently, the expected impact of Activity A.T1.6 were increased capacities and skills for:

- communicating nature conservation objectives and requirements to local stakeholders;
- building local partnerships promoting participatory approach;
- raising awareness & support of local communities for protected areas;
- reconciliation and integration of nature protection with the local socio-economic development;
- building the sense of common ownership and responsibility among the stakeholders.



## 2. Preparation of Centralparks A.T1.6 pilot action implementation

### 2.1. The sequence of activities of Centralparks A.T1.6 pilot action

In preparation for the implementation of the Centralparks WPT1 pilot training/s to be carried out in the Polish part of the Carpathian region, the following logical sequence of actions necessary for Activity A.T1.6 implementation was adopted. The same or similar sequence of actions may also successfully be applied in any other region, in other Carpathian countries, other CE Programme area countries and beyond.

1. Identification of specific challenges and problems that the planned pilot training should try to solve (at least partially).
2. Determining the more detailed objectives and expected effects of the planned pilot training workshop.
3. Defining the appropriate target group of the A.T1.6 pilot action, i.e. potential participants of the planned training workshop (also taking into account the size of the budget available for this pilot action, determining the feasible number of trainees to be invited to attend planned training workshops).
4. Selection of the appropriate, most important issues and recommendations from the WPT1 Guidelines on communication between protected areas and local communities (D.T1.3.1), which can adequately be covered in the training program (taking into account the timeframe specified in the AF, and the size of the budget available for this pilot action, determining the feasible number of training workshops to be organized as well as the number of national communication experts that can be involved).
5. Determining the most appropriate and potentially most effective training methods, tailored specifically for the previously defined target group of the training workshop (also taking into account the recommendations of the WPT1 Guidelines).
6. Searching, acquiring, collecting and selecting appropriate materials useful for conducting the planned training workshop, in accordance with the previously agreed communication and training methods.
7. Preparation of materials needed to conduct the planned workshop.
8. Organizing, preparing and conducting the training workshop.
9. Elaboration of the Report of the training for Polish protected area managers on communication with local communities [Deliverable D.T1.6.1], containing a summary of the conclusions from the implementation of this pilot action, and the formulation of recommendations on the use of Centralparks WPT1 Guidelines for e.g. similar training, to be replicated in any other region, in other Carpathian countries, other CE Program area countries and beyond.

## 2.2. Defining target group for A.T1.6 pilot training

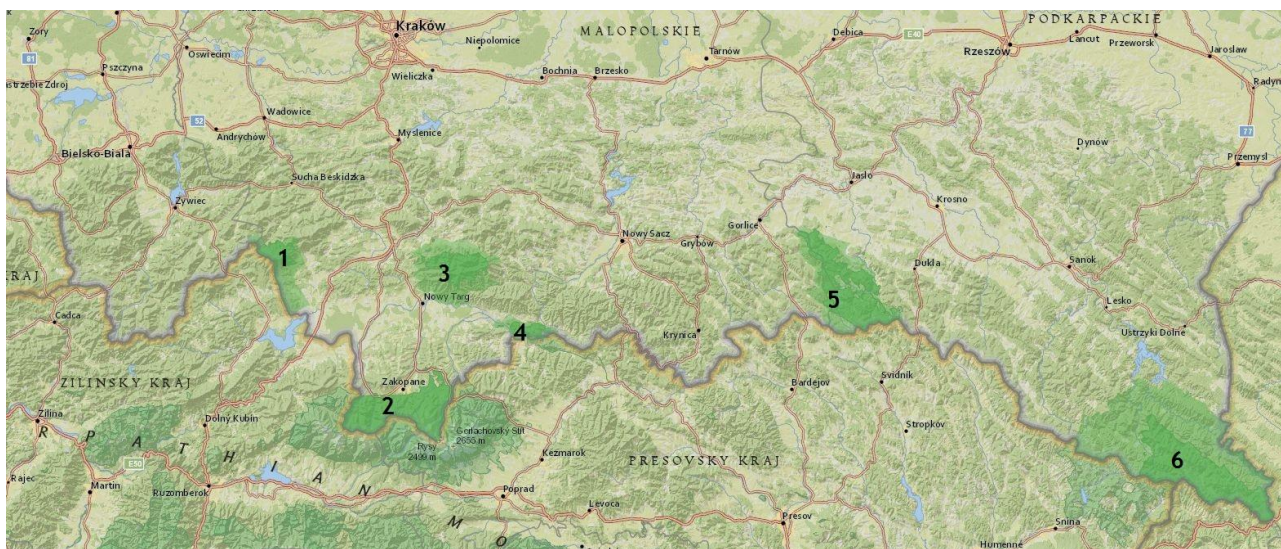
As determined in the Centralparks project Application Form, “the training will be targeted at all protected area administrations in the PL part of the Carpathian region, and other public sector entities dealing with the protection and sustainable use of natural resources”.

The above mentioned target group for the training matches at least part of the target audience defined for the Centralparks Guidelines (D.T1.3.1), including the managers and administrations of protected areas, nature conservation and landscape protection agencies, and other nature and landscape conservation bodies and authorities in the Carpathian region.

Taking into account the size of the budget available for the A.T1.6 pilot action, determining the feasible number of trainees to be invited to attend planned training workshops, it was decided that the planned training should first and foremost be targeted at the managers and employees of protected area administrations of the 19 areas included to the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA), designated CNPA member areas by the Polish Government in 2008.

Therefore, the planned training workshop should be targeted at the six national parks designated in the Polish part of the Carpathian region, as follows:

1. Babiogórski Park Narodowy (*Babia Góra National Park*)
2. Tatrzański Park Narodowy (*Tatra National Park*)
3. Gorczański Park Narodowy (*Gorce National Park*)
4. Pieniński Park Narodowy (*Pieniny National Park*)
5. Magurski Park Narodowy (*Magura National Park*)
6. Bieszczadzki Park Narodowy (*Bieszczady National Park*)



Map 4. National parks in southern Poland / Carpathian region.

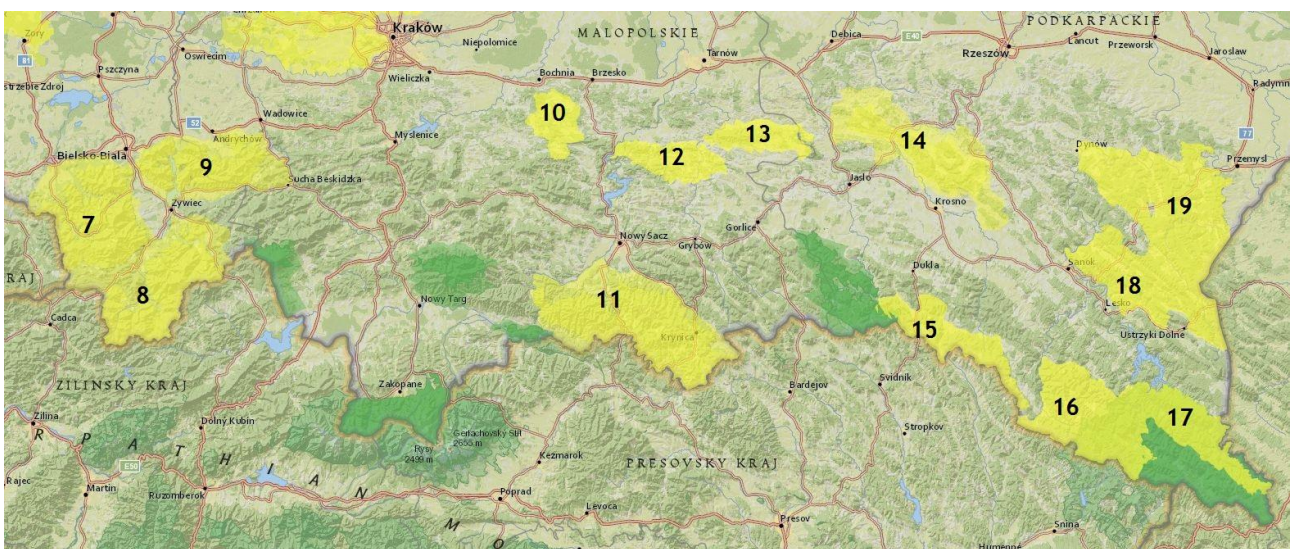
Map source: [Geoserwis of the General Directorate for Environmental Protection \(GDOS\)](#)

Each above national park is surrounded by external buffer zone, legally established in adjacent territories of local municipalities, which increases the need for effective communication, even greater in case of Tatra NP (21,167.82 ha), which tiny buffer zone extends over only 180.95 ha.

The other Polish CNPA member areas are the natural landscape parks designated in the Polish part of the Carpathian region. It should be explained that the natural landscape parks are most often called “landscape parks”, matching the term used in the 2004 Law on Nature Conservation to describe their legal category and protective status, but could also be misleading, as resembling a “protected landscape area”. Legal powers and duties of Polish natural landscape parks are similar to those of the national parks in Great Britain, while Polish national parks (predominantly state-owned), exclusively manage e.g. the state-owned forests inside the national park (which is not always the case in other Carpathian countries).

Hence, the remaining 13 Polish CNPA member areas (other than above six national parks) which personnel should be targeted by the planned training workshop were the natural landscape parks:

7. Park Krajobrazowy Beskidu Śląskiego (*Beskid Śląski Landscape Park*)
8. Żywiecki Park Krajobrazowy (*Żywiec Landscape Park*)
9. Park Krajobrazowy Beskidu Małego (*Beskid Mały Landscape Park*)
10. Wiśnicko-Lipnicki Park Krajobrazowy (*Wiśnicko-Lipnicki Landscape Park*)
11. Popradzki Park Krajobrazowy (*Poprad Landscape Park*)
12. Ciężkowicko-Rożnowski Park Krajobrazowy (*Ciężkowice-Rożnów Landscape Park*)
13. Park Krajobrazowy Pasma Brzanki (*Brzanka Range Landscape Park*)
14. Czarnorzecko-Strzyżowski Park Krajobrazowy (*Czarnorzecko-Strzyżowski Landscape Park*)
15. Jaśliski Park Krajobrazowy (*Jaśliski Landscape Park*)
16. Ciśniańsko-Wetliński Park Krajobrazowy (*Cisna-Wetlina Landscape Park*)
17. Park Krajobrazowy Doliny Sanu (*San Valley Landscape Park*)
18. Park Krajobrazowy Gór Słonnych (*Słonne Mountains Landscape Park*)
19. Park Krajobrazowy Pogórza Przemyskiego (*Przemyśl Foothills Landscape Park*)



Map 5. Natural landscape parks in southern Poland / Carpathian region.

Map source: [Geoserwis of the General Directorate for Environmental Protection \(GDOŚ\)](#)

Polish natural landscape parks also have external buffer zones, legally established in adjacent territories of local municipalities, which justifies the need for effective communication with their local stakeholders. Two natural landscape parks (No 9 and No 13) are located across the boundaries of neighbouring administrative provinces of Poland.

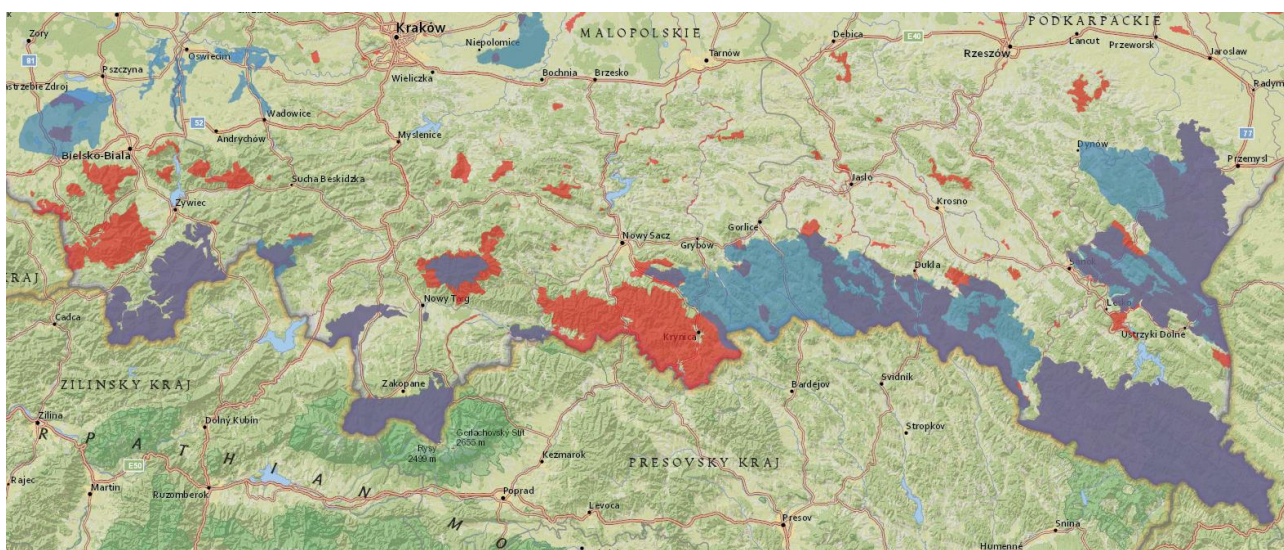
Protected landscape areas (thus protected areas different than the natural landscape parks) cover the vast majority of the geographical scope of application of the Carpathian Convention in Poland. But, Polish protected landscape areas (PLAs) were not designated CNPA member areas, as only some meet the criterion of having a managing body that can be involved in cooperation. In general, PLAs in Poland supplement spatial protection ensured by national parks and natural landscape parks (PLA territories never overlap with territories of these parks).



Map 6. Protected landscape areas in southern Poland / Carpathian region.

Source: [Geoserwis of the General Directorate for Environmental Protection \(GDOŚ\)](#)

Further, Natura 2000 sites and nature reserves designated in the Polish part of the Carpathian region should also duly be considered. They are supervised by territorially relevant public nature conservation authorities for administrative provinces - Regional Directorates for Environmental Protection.



Map 7. Natura 2000 sites: SACs (red) and SPAs (blue) in southern Poland / Carpathian region.

Source: [Geoserwis of the General Directorate for Environmental Protection \(GDOŚ\)](#)

Due to the above, the target group of the training planned under A.T1.6 pilot action included:

- administrations of the six national parks designated in the Polish part of the Carpathian region

No	Target group: PA Administrations	PA managed
1.	<a href="#">Babiogórski Park Narodowy</a> ( <i>Babia Góra National Park</i> )	national park No 1
2.	<a href="#">Bieszczadzki Park Narodowy</a> ( <i>Bieszczady National Park</i> )	national park No 6
3.	<a href="#">Gorczański Park Narodowy</a> ( <i>Gorce National Park</i> )	national park No 3
4.	<a href="#">Magurski Park Narodowy</a> ( <i>Magura National Park</i> )	national park No 5
5.	<a href="#">Pieniński Park Narodowy</a> ( <i>Pieniny National Park</i> )	national park No 4
6.	<a href="#">Tatrzański Park Narodowy</a> ( <i>Tatra National Park</i> )	national park No 2

- administrations of the four landscape park complexes supervising natural landscape parks, including 13 natural landscape parks in the Polish part of the Carpathian region

No	Target group: PA Administrations	PAs supervised
7.	Zarząd <a href="#">Zespołu Parków Krajobrazowych Województwa Śląskiego</a> ( <i>Board of the Complex of Landscape Parks of Silesian Voivodeship</i> )	natural landscape parks No: 7, 8, 9
8.	Zarząd <a href="#">Zespołu Parków Krajobrazowych Województwa Małopolskiego</a> ( <i>Board of the Complex of Landscape Parks of Małopolskie Voivodeship</i> )	natural landscape parks No: 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and several PLAs
9.	Zarząd <a href="#">Zespołu Karpackich Parków Krajobrazowych w Krośnie</a> ( <i>Board of the Complex of Carpathian Landscape Parks in Krosno</i> )	natural landscape parks No: 13, 14, 15, 16, 17
10.	Zarząd <a href="#">Zespołu Parków Krajobrazowych w Przemyślu</a> ( <i>Board of the Landscape Parks Complex in Przemyśl</i> )	natural landscape parks No: 18, 19

As visible above, the two natural landscape parks located across the boundaries of neighboring administrative province are co-supervised by territorially relevant Boards of the Landscape Parks Complexes, namely:

- Beskid Mały Landscape Park (No 9 on Map 5) by CLP Boards domiciled in Silesian and Małopolskie Voivodeships;
- Brzanka Range Landscape Park (No 13 on Map 5) by CLP Boards domiciled in Małopolskie and Podkarpackie Voivodeships.

Furthermore, the Board of the Complex of Landscape Parks of Małopolskie Voivodeship is also responsible for supervising protected landscape areas (PLAs) in this administrative province.





- nature conservation authorities - Regional Directorates for Environmental Protection, supervising all Natura 2000 sites and nature reserves in respective administrative provinces (Voivodeships), including those designated within the Carpathian parts of these provinces

No	Target group: nature / PA authorities	PAs supervised
11.	<a href="#">Regionalna Dyrekcja Ochrony Środowiska w Katowicach</a> (Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Katowice)	Natura 2000 sites and nature reserves in Silesian Voivodeship
12.	<a href="#">Regionalna Dyrekcja Ochrony Środowiska w Krakowie</a> (Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Kraków)	Natura 2000 sites and nature reserves in Małopolskie Voivodeship
13.	<a href="#">Regionalna Dyrekcja Ochrony Środowiska w Rzeszowie</a> (Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Rzeszów)	Natura 2000 sites and nature reserves in Podkarpackie Voivodeship

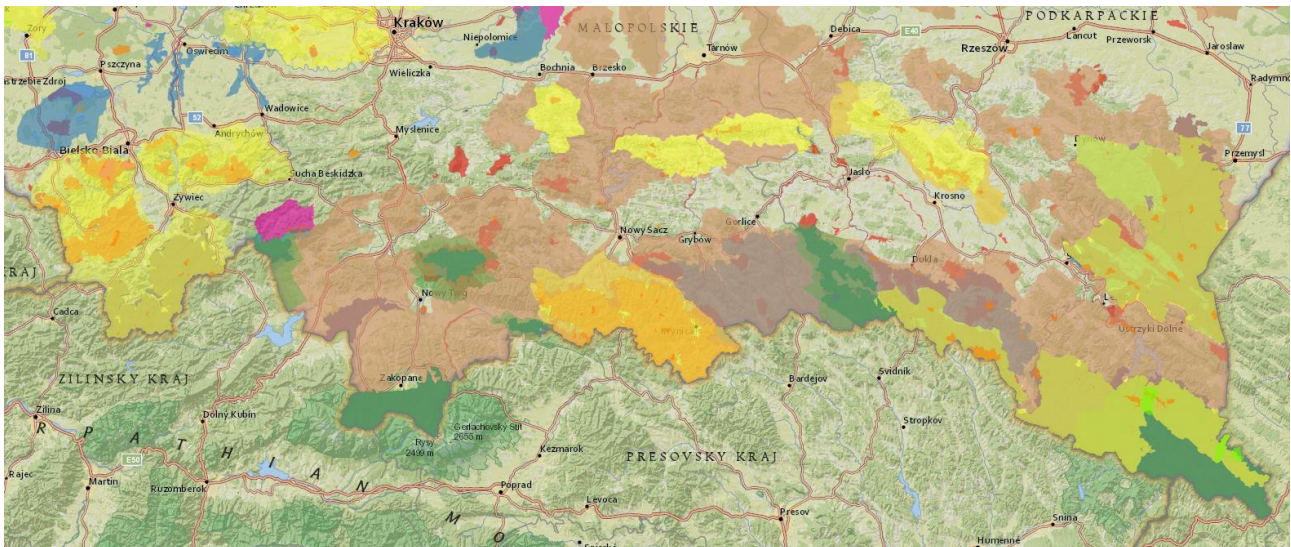
It should be noted that, according to the Polish legislation, issues related to spatial order, real estate management, environmental and nature protection are included in the own tasks of the local municipalities (pursuant to Art. 7 of the 1990 Law on the Municipal Self-Government), while the head of the municipality or the town mayor is also the body responsible for nature protection (pursuant to Art. 91 of the 2004 Law on Nature Conservation).

Thus, the picture of the range of spatial forms of nature and landscape protection in Poland would not yet be complete without taking into account other legal protected area categories (monuments of nature, documentation stands, ecological lands, nature and landscape complexes), designated, supervised and managed by the authorities of the local self-government units.

But, taking into account both the limited budget available for this pilot training, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic related sanitary restrictions (e.g. regarding the maximum limit of meeting participants) inviting representatives of 200 municipalities in the Polish part of the Carpathian region, with the aim to train them in communication with local communities and stakeholders would neither be feasible nor safe.

However, taking into account that the potential trainees recruiting from among the personnel of administrations and authorities responsible for Carpathian national parks, natural landscape parks, nature reserves and Natura 2000 sites will use the acquired skills for communication with their local communities in the Carpathian region, it can tentatively be assumed, that the expected impact of Activity A.T1.6 could also influence the effectiveness of communication between the local municipality authorities (managing e.g. the monuments of nature, and/or the locally designated “nature and landscape complexes”) and their local community members.

**If so, the impact of Activity A.T1.6 could in fact extend over all protected areas designated in the Polish part of the Carpathian region, regardless their legal category.**



*Map 8. Spatial range of protected areas (all categories) designated in southern Poland / Carpathian region that could benefit from Centralparks WPT1 trainings on communication with local communities.*

Source: [Geoserwis of the General Directorate for Environmental Protection \(GDOŚ\)](#)

### 2.3. Selecting effective A.T1.6 pilot training methods

Despite the recent trends favouring online distance education, the team decided to implement training as “physical” in-person meeting/s, allowing for much more intensive interactions between the trainers and trainees, as well as among trainees. Online training, e.g. webinars, recently becoming more and more popular, are too often limited to a one-way communication channel, suitable for pushing out information, but much less efficient in triggering the active involvement of trainees, and collecting their feedback (see Centralparks Guidelines on communication, p. 48).

In the opinion of the Polish communication expert team, workshops attended in-person could largely enhance the trainees’ involvement in interactive exercises and facilitate the two-way exchanges of experience on communication issues. Furthermore, physical training “outdoor” workshops organized away from the cities, in a location distant from trainees’ offices and homes, allow the trainees to submerge into the training theme, no longer distracted by their daily work and family duties, which allows for better participants’ involvement. This would not be feasible in case when the trainees “virtually attend” the training workshop and simultaneously try to catch up delays and deadlines in their regular office work, or tend for their kids at home.

Therefore, the Polish communication expert team decided to organize the A.T1.6 training workshop type, including short lectures on the most useful communication concepts and techniques, either frequently interrupted or followed by practical training exercises directly involving participants (role playing, working in smaller teams on case studies, brainstorming and discussions) allowing to acquire, test and practice different communication skills and techniques, and share experience from previously conducted communication activities and campaigns.



## 2.4. Preparation of materials for A.T1.6 training

The materials for the A.T1.6 pilot training workshop(s) were developed by the team of Polish experts on communication, accordingly to the commonly agreed communication and training methods, perceived as most relevant for the targeted group of potential trainees, recruiting from among the personnel of public administrations and authorities responsible for Carpathian state-supervised protected areas of different legal categories.

Thus, training materials had to be specifically tailored for the above target group, including people not only with high professional skills and hands-on experience in protected area management, but having university-level education, most often in natural sciences (environmental, biological or forestry education), well aware of the global climate changes and biodiversity loss, familiar with legal terms, regulations in force and their enforcement.

But, what most of the potential trainees missed were the knowledge of basic communication terms and techniques, and experience in practising communication with the local stakeholders. Therefore, materials prepared for A.T1.6 pilot training/s first and foremost aimed at filling the above gaps in professional training, common for protected areas in most European countries.

However, each training organized under A.T1.6 pilot action always begun from the presentation of the CE1359 Centralparks project, emphasizing the support by the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme and ERDF, explaining the Centralparks objectives and PP4 role in the project consortium, as well as providing links to Centralparks project websites.

Further, trainees were informed on the WPT1 basic assumptions and intervention logic (see part 1.3 of this Report), WPT1 activities and their synergy, WPT1 Outputs previously achieved, as well as the objectives of A.T1.6 pilot action, emphasizing the need for close cooperation between protected areas and their local and regional level stakeholders, accordingly to one of the priorities of the current Polish presidency in the Carpathian Convention (see part 1.1 of this Report). The specific natural and socio-economic context in the Polish part of the Carpathian region (see part 1.2 of this Report), being one of the reasons for “conservation vs development” conflicts between protected area and local municipality administrations was also explained to trainees.

Several examples of other projects, implemented by Ekopsychology Society (PP4) in 2003-2020 were briefly mentioned, as best practice examples of successful involvement of local municipality self-governments, NGOs and other local stakeholders in different PP4-led projects and initiatives supporting the implementation of the Carpathian Convention, including its official meetings organized in Poland by the [Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention](#) in cooperation with PP4.

As the Centralparks project aims to support and enhance the implementation of the Carpathian Convention, trainees were extensively informed on this Convention, its objectives and significance for shaping mountain policy, its thematic protocols (especially those in force in Poland), and the legal basis for public participation in its implementation. Additionally, training participants received basic information on the [Alpine Convention](#) and mechanisms of its implementation, the Alpine network of protected areas [ALPARC](#), EU macro-regional strategies and related financial mechanisms ([Interreg Alpine Space Program](#), [Interreg Danube Transnational Program](#)).



**DID YOU KNOW THAT ...**

... the European Union's largest populations of brown bears, wolves, lynx, European bison and imperial eagles (globally threatened species) are found in the Carpathians?

THE CONVENTION    ACTIVITIES    MEETINGS / EVENTS    RESOURCES / GALLERY    CONTACT THE CONVENTION

**BY CATEGORY**

Conference of the Parties

Implementation Committee

Working Groups

**WG BIODIVERSITY + WG SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT**



Joint Meeting of WG Biodiversity and WG Spatial Development

22.10.2014 - 24.10.2014

Kluszkowce, Poland

[MEETING REPORT](#)



**DID YOU KNOW THAT ...**

... the European Union's largest populations of brown bears, wolves, lynx, European bison and imperial eagles (globally threatened species) are found in the Carpathians?

THE CONVENTION    ACTIVITIES    MEETINGS / EVENTS    RESOURCES / GALLERY    CONTACT THE CONVENTION

**BY CATEGORY**

Conference of the Parties

Implementation Committee

Working Groups

WG Biodiversity

**WG CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**SECOND MEETING OF THE WG ON CULTURAL HERITAGE AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE**

14.05.2013 - 16.05.2013

Krynica, Poland



**DID YOU KNOW THAT ...**

... Gerlachovsky Peak (2,655 m altitude) in the High Tatras in Slovak Republic is the highest peak of the Carpathians?

THE CONVENTION    ACTIVITIES    MEETINGS / EVENTS    RESOURCES / GALLERY    CONTACT THE CONVENTION

**BY CATEGORY**

Conference of the Parties

Implementation Committee

Working Groups

WG Biodiversity

**WG CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**THIRD MEETING OF THE WG ON CULTURAL HERITAGE AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE**

09.09.2013 - 11.09.2013

Orelec, Poland

Fig. 2., 3., 4. Carpathian Convention WG meetings in Poland co-organized by the SCC and PP4.  
Source: [website of the Carpathian Convention](#)



In order to strengthen the sense of common ownership and responsibility for the implementation of the Carpathian Convention, its genesis has briefly been reminded to our trainees:

In March 1924 the League of Nations / Société des Nations (replaced in 1946 by the United Nations Organization) requested Czechoslovakia and Poland to agree upon the exact delineation of the state border and sign a protocol facilitating economic relations (e.g. land-use rights) of the local communities and inhabitants of the border „region of Jaworzina”. Two months later (on 6 May 1924) Czechoslovakia and Poland signed in Kraków a bilateral Protocol, which additionally recommended the Governments to „conclude as soon as possible” two new international agreements:

- Art. II a) Convention on tourism, which would enable and facilitate the development of tourism “in the whole mountain border zone” of both neighbouring countries;
- Art. II b) Convention on nature park, following the example of the Convention between the USA and Canada, on „establishing areas reserved for culture, fauna and flora, and local landscape” in border territories of both neighbouring countries.

## ZAŁĄCZNIK

**do oświadczenia rządowego  
z dnia 19 grudnia 1925 roku.**

(Dz. U. R. P. r. 1925, Nr. 133, poz. 952).

### Konferencja Ambasadorów.

Paryż, 16 września 1924 r.

Uchwałą swą z dnia 12 marca 1924, Rada Ligi Narodów ustaliła wytknięcie granicy polsko-czeskosłowackiej; w okręgu Jaworzyny i uznała potrzebę sporządzenia protokołu mającego na celu uregulowanie interesów gmin i ludności sąsiadujących z tą częścią granicy.

### P R O T O K Ó Ł

obrad odbytych w Krakowie w dniach 25 kwietnia 1924 r. do 6 maja 1924 r. między Komisarzem Polskim i Czeskosłowackim przy Międzynarodowej Komisji Delimitacyjnej Polsko-Czeskosłowackiej.

II. Poza kwestjami, zawartemi w tekście aneksu A niniejszego protokołu, obaj Komisarze przedyskutowali szereg spraw natury ogólniejszej, stojących w związku z pracami delimitacyjnymi i interesami kulturalnymi pogranicza i doszli do zgodnego wniosku, aby zalecić swym rządóm jaknajrychlejsze zawarcie:

- a) Konwencji turystycznej, któraby umożliwiła i ułatwiła na całym górskim pograniczu polsko-czeskosłowackiem rozwój turystyki, przede wszystkim przez zniesienie trudności paszportowych, ułatwienia komunikacyjne i t. d.
- b) Konwencji o parku przyrodniczym (rezewat), któryby wzorem analogicznej konwencji między Stanami Zjednoczonymi Ameryki a Kanadą, stworzył na pograniczu polsko-czeskosłowackiem rejony zastrzeżone dla kultury fauny i flory, oraz charakteru krajobrazu miejscowego.

### Conférence des Ambassadeurs.

Paris, 16 Septembre 1924.

Par sa résolution du 12 mars 1924 le Conseil de la Société des Nations a fixé le tracé de la frontière polono-tchécoslovaque dans la région de Jaworzina et a reconnu la nécessité d'établir un protocole destiné à régler les intérêts des communes et des populations limitrophes de cette partie de la frontière.

### P R O T O K O L

o poradách konaných v Krakově ve dnech 25. dubna 1924 až 6. května 1924 mezi komisařem polským a československým při mezinárodní rozhraní čovaci komisi československo-polské.

II. Mimo záležitosti, obsažené v textu přílohy A tohoto protokolu, oba komisaři projednali řadu záležitostí povahy všeobecné a související s pracemi delimitačními i zájmy kulturními v pohraničí a došli ku shodnému závěru, že doporučí svým vládám, aby co nejdříve uzavřely:

- a) dohodu o turistice, umožňující a ulehčující v celém horském pohraničí československo-polském rozvoj turistiky, především odstraněním pasových potíží, usnadněním komunikací a t. d.
- b) dohodu o přírodním parku (rezervace), kterým by dle vzoru analogické dohody mezi Spojenými Státy Americkými a Kanadou vytvořeny byly v pohraničním pásmu česko-slovensko-polském okrsky, vyhrazené kultuře místní fauny i flory i rázu krajiny.

Fig. 5., 6., 7. Excerpts of the Polish Government Declaration of 19 December 1925 and the 1924 “Kraków Protocol” (Dz.U. 1925 nr 133 poz. 952). Source: [Internetowy System Aktów Prawnych](#) (ISAP)

The idea of concluding these conventions, expressed in 1924 Kraków Protocol materialized in May 2003, by adopting the Carpathian Convention (although having much broader substantive scope than just tourism, and broader geographical scope, by involving seven Carpathian countries).

But, the idea of establishing a ‘nature park’, similar to World’s first transboundary protected area - [Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park](#) designated on 18 June 1932 at the US-Canadian border has successfully been implemented in the Carpathians a month later - already on 17 July 1932 the designation of a bilateral nature park in Pieniny Mountains (the first transboundary protected area in Europe) was jointly celebrated in Szczawnica (PL) and Červený Kláštor (SK).

[The above story, strengthening the sense of ownership and responsibility for the Carpathian Convention, was not only presented to A.T1.6 trainees, but also to the participants of meetings with the local authorities and stakeholders, organized under other Centralparks WPT1 pilot actions in Poland, implemented in the transboundary PL-SK Pieniny and Magura regions.]

It should be noted, that all materials prepared by the team of Polish experts for Polish trainees attending the A.T1.6 pilot training workshop(s) carried out in Poland were produced in Polish language version (and cannot be translated solely for the purposes of this Report).



Fig. 8. Example of a slide used during trainings, explaining communication terms in Polish language.

But, some few selected “visual” examples provided on the next six pages of this Report could possibly be understandable for all audiences, despite their language version.



ROK IV.

PAŹDZIERNIK 1934

NR. 4

# KWARTALNY BIULETYN INFORMACYJNY

## QUARTERLY INFORMATION BULLETIN

CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF NATURE IN POLAND

WYDAWNICTWO BIURA DELEGATA MINISTRA W. R. i O. P. DO SPRAW OCHRONY PRZYRODY

KWARTAŁ III. 1934.

KRAKÓW, LUBICZ 46

### A. USTAWY, ROZPORZĄDZENIA I ZARZĄDZENIA WŁADZ PAŃSTWOWYCH.

Pismo okólne Ministerstwa Spraw Wewnętrznych z dnia 18 września 1934 r. o sposobie zabudowania terenów górskich. (Nr. BB. 21-316).

Do Pana Wojewody w Krakowie, Katowicach, Lwowie, Stanisławowie, Tarnopolu.

Uchwały III Międzynarodowego Kongresu Alpinistycznego w Chamonix Mont Blanc latem 1932 r., poświęconego turystycznym i naukowym sprawom, związanym z terenem górskim, dotyczą budowli w górach i brzmia:

1) budowle w górach powinny być wykonywane z materiału krajowego, w stylu właściwym danej okolicy, w harmonji z otaczającym je krajobrazem górskim;

### B. PARKI NARODOWE, REZERWATY I POMNIKI PRZYRODY.

#### a) Parki Narodowe.

##### 1. Park Narodowy w Tatrach.

Komisja dla organizacji Parku Narodowego w Tatrach nie została dotychczas powołana do życia. To też ochrona przyrody tatrzańskiej opierała się nadal na zarządzeniach władz państwowych i akcji organizacji społecznych. — Na hali Kondratowej czynne jest postawione bezprawnie schronisko prywatne J. P o l a k a. W tej sprawie przedłożono p. Wojewodzie krakowskiemu memoriał, w którym przedstawiono dokładnie okoliczności, w jakich powstało to schronisko. Ponieważ jego istnienie niezgodne jest z zarządzeniami władz państwowych, przeto spodziewać się należy, iż w krótkim czasie zostanie ono zamknięte.

## S U M M A R Y.

#### National Parks.

##### The Pienines National Park.

The scientific researches carried on by order of the Polish Commission of the Pienines National Park have been inaugurated by Dr. J. W a l a s, assistant of the Jagellonian University, who spent some time in those mountains. His scope is to pursue statistical and sociological investigations of the process of afforestation of pastures where the cattle do not graze any more.

Inventory works are also carried on.

##### The Ludwikowo National Park.

This National Park, situated in the vicinity of Poznań has been recently enlarged by the acknowledgment of the lying near forests of Trzebaw as being under protection. These forests present a physiographic whole with the forests of the National Park.

##### The Białowieża National Park.

The herd of bisons living in the forest of Białowieża have reached the number of 14 individuals, viz., pure race: 2 adult males, 2 young males,

Połonina (alp) Kaminec will embrace calcareous rocks so rarely met with in the Carpathian range and the surrounding forests. On the rocks is seen an interesting flora. The plan of this reserve is connected with a future game reserve. At present the forests alone which surround the rocks have been put under protection.

The second reserve is situated in the forest district Leszno, near the town Rawicz, on the German frontier. It embraces 6.16 ha of an old mixed forest of State property.

#### Organization.

The work of cooperation between School Authorities and the organization of Nature Protection continues to develop properly. Recently the School Inspector of the School district of Tarnów has emphasized this action in a circular directed to School Masters.

The annual session of the Polish League of Hunters' Societies has adopted the motion proposing to organize the Section of the Protection of the bear. The Section will have its seat in Warsaw with

Fig. 9. Communication tool example: Quarterly Information Bulletin (1934, No 4) providing news on nature conservation issues in Poland and worldwide (issued in Polish language version, with summary in English)  
Source: [Jagiellońska Biblioteka Cyfrowa](#), Uniwersytet Jagielloński (Jagiellonian Digital Library)



Fig. 10. Slide opening the “Lisia Góra” nature reserve case study.

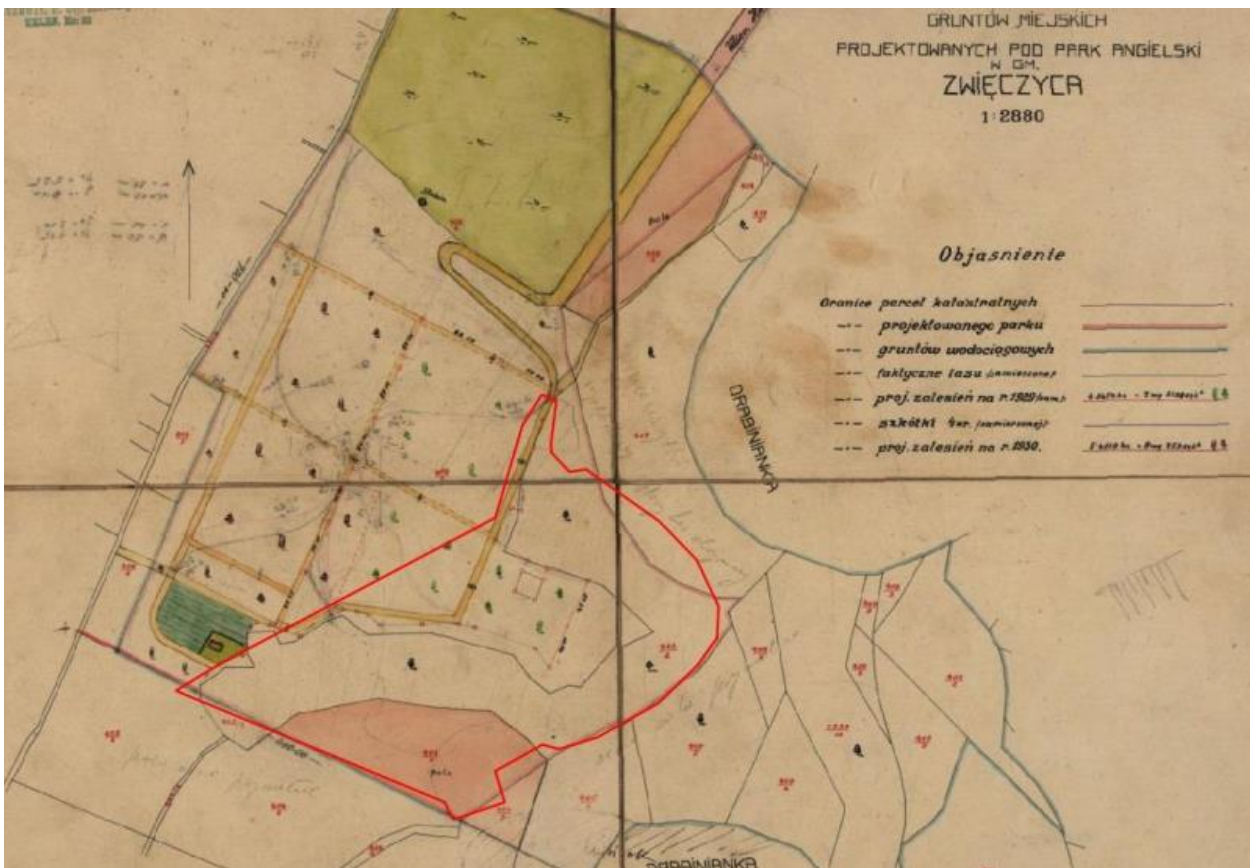


Fig. 11. Map of the planned “Lisia Góra” city park, indicating afforestation planned for 1929 and 1930. Source: [Archiwum Państwowe w Rzeszowie](http://Archiwum Państwowe w Rzeszowie)



**Lisia Góra**  
historia

**Badania historyczne**  
(A. Ćwik)

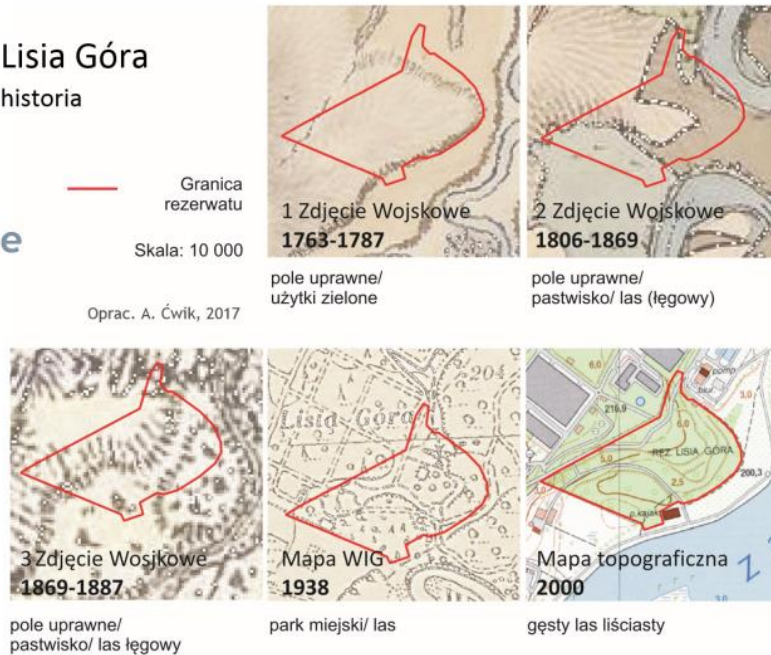
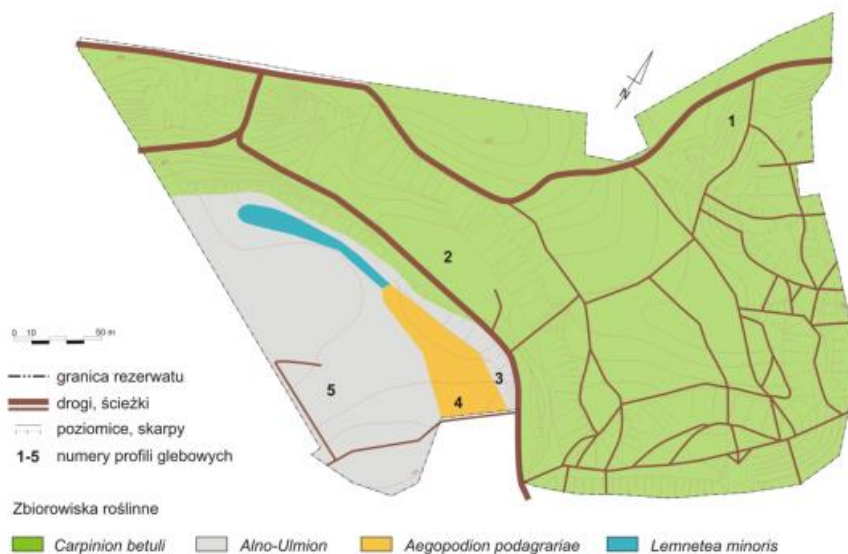


Fig. 12. Slide presenting research on historical changes of the Lisia Góra area, evolving from open landscape towards cultural-natural landscape: fields in 18<sup>th</sup> century, pasture overgrown by shrubs in 19<sup>th</sup> century, then arranged into a city park in early 20<sup>th</sup> century, currently forest landscape.

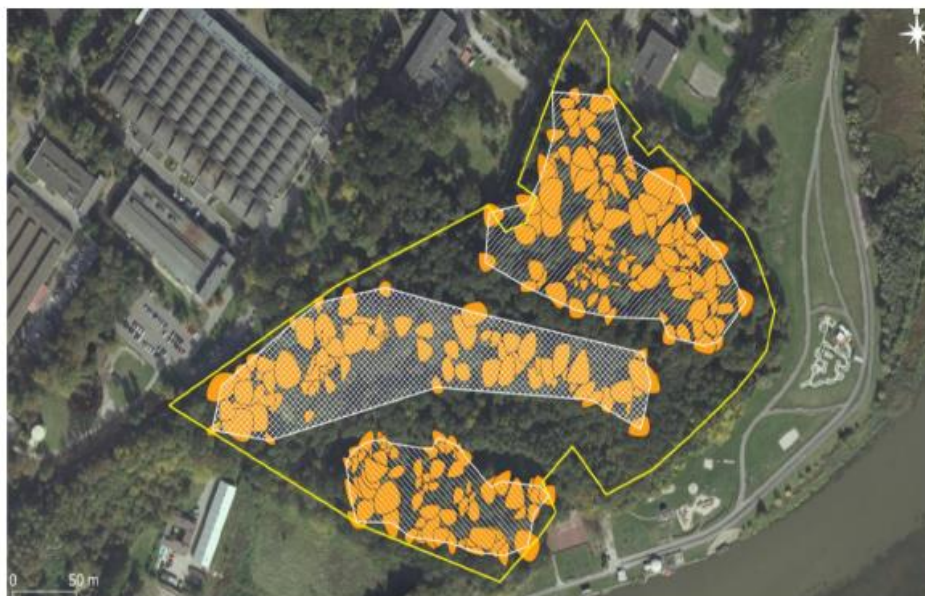
Author: A. Ćwik, Uniwersytet Rzeszowski, Zakład Ochrony Przyrody i Ekologii Krajobrazu  
(University of Rzeszów, Department of Nature Conservation and Landscape Ecology)



**Zbiorowiska roślinne**



Fig. 13. Slide presenting plant communities of the planned nature reserve Lisia Góra.



Bobic i in. 2021



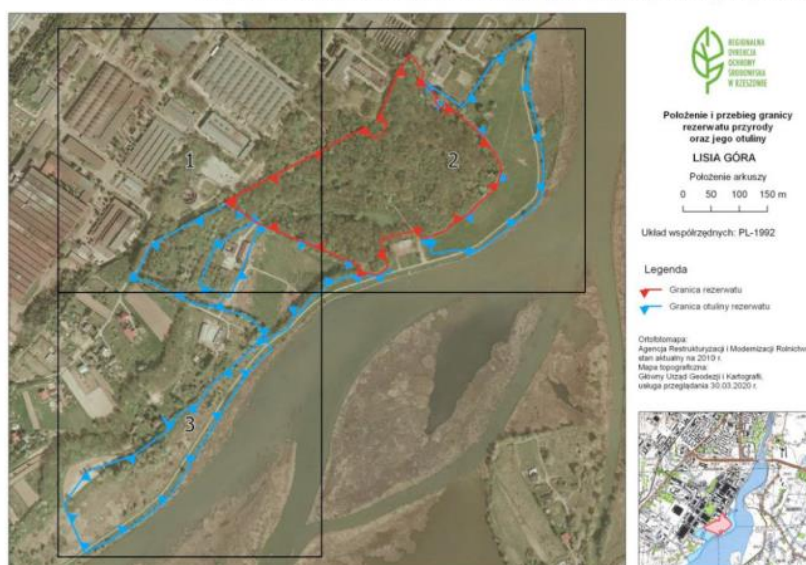
TAKING COOPERATION FORWARD



21

Fig. 14. Slide presenting the spatial distribution of 332 oak trees (growing since 1830 - 1968), according to field inventory carried out in 2018 in Lisia Góra Nature Reserve (designated in 2017).

Załącznik nr 2 do Zarządzenia Regionalnego Dyrektora Ochrony Środowiska w Rzeszowie z dnia 9 kwietnia 2021 r.



**Rezerwat 8,49 ha  
Otulina 11,30 ha**



TAKING COOPERATION FORWARD



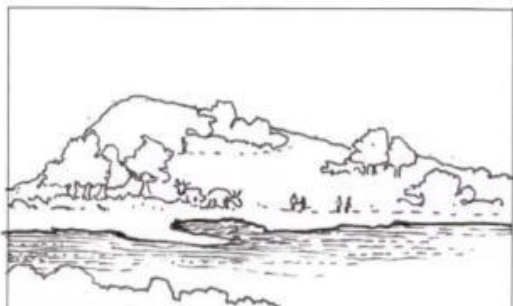
7

Fig. 15. Slide presenting the graphical Annex 2 to the Order of the Regional Director for Environmental Protection in Rzeszów of 9 April 2021, designating the external buffer zone (11.3 ha) of the Lisia Góra Nature Reserve (8.49 ha).

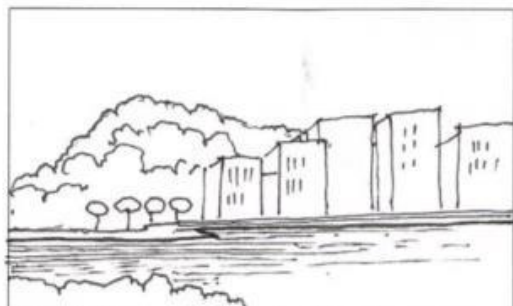
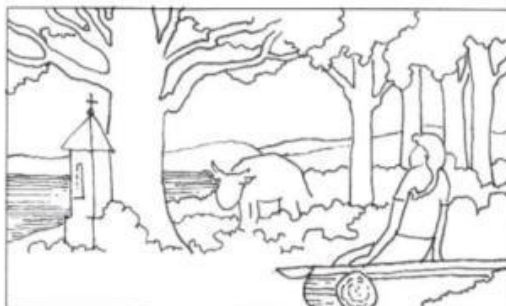
**B5. Którą formę rezerwatu Lisia Góra uważa Pan(i) za najbardziej właściwą?**



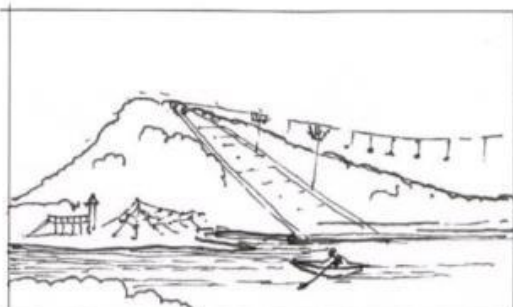
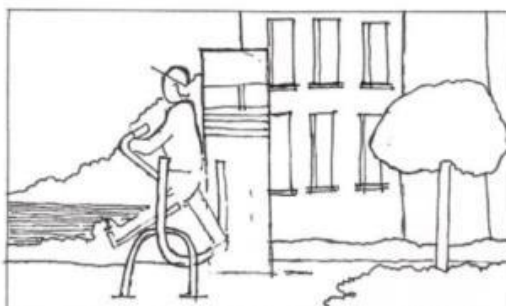
[1] Zwarty las



[2] Teren otwarty z grupami drzew



[3] Okolice osiedla mieszkaniowego



[4] Park wypoczynku i rekreacji



Fig. 16. Example - graphical page of a survey carried out among local inhabitants in the city of Rzeszów, aimed at researching their visual preferences concerning the future management of the Lisia Góra area. Author: A. Gajdek

## Badania opinii użytkowników rezerwatu (A. Gajdek)

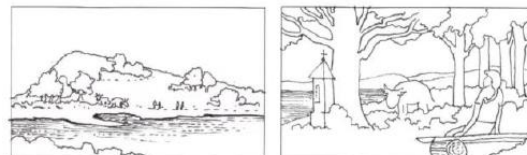
Możliwe scenariusze  
zagospodarowania Lisiej Góry  
zdaniem użytkowników



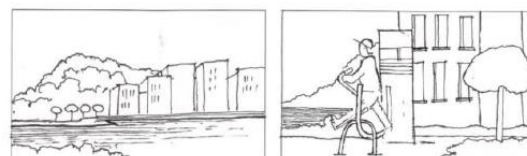
B5. Którą formę rezerwatu Lisia Góra uważa Pan(i) za najbardziej właściwą?



[1] Zwarty las



[2] Teren otwarty z grupami drzew



[3] Okolice osiedla mieszkaniowego



[4] Park wypoczynku i rekreacji

Fig. 17. Results of the local visual preferences' survey: the vast majority opted either for a dense forest, or partly open area with groups of trees.  
Author: A. Gajdek

Examples of resulting questions addressed to A.T1.6 training workshops' participants:

- Does the survey indicate a need to change the current method of protection?
- What do the inhabitants of the city say?
- What do the city authorities say?
- On which elements of communication should the scientists and representatives of the Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Rzeszów focus their attention?

Furthermore, materials prepared for A.T1.6 training workshops included also:

- materials used during practical training exercises, involving trainees in e.g. role playing, and working in small teams on case studies;
- thematically relevant printed publications from several other, previously implemented "Carpathian" projects;
- materials for own work, and use in the process of communication with local communities that were handed out to trainees during training workshops.

### 3. Implementation of Centralparks A.T1.6 pilot trainings

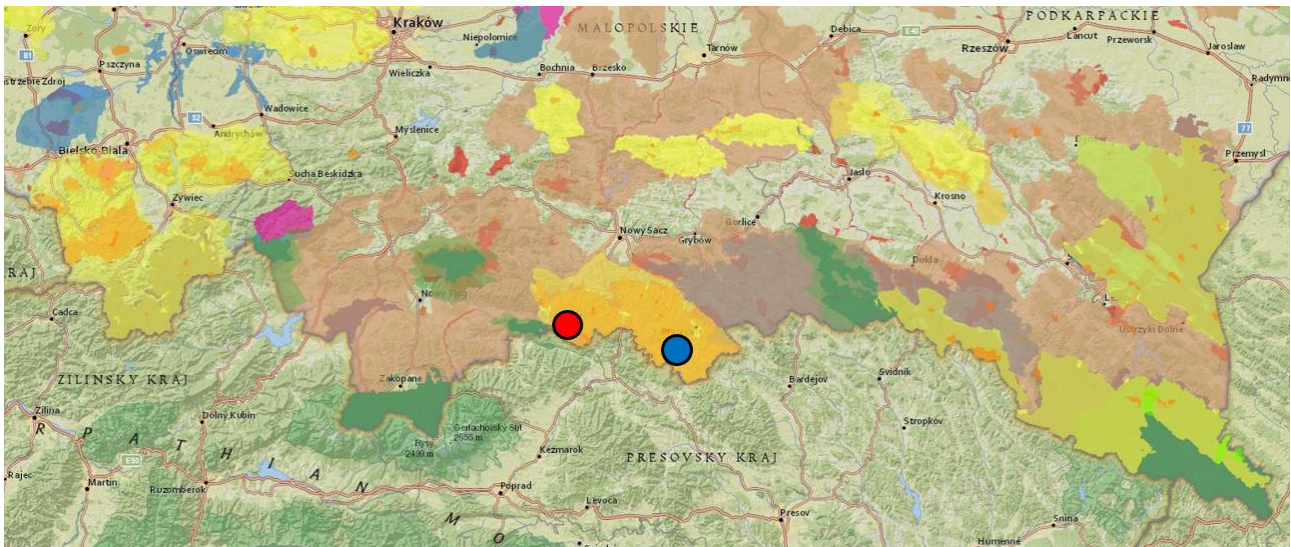
Originally, only one three-day long training workshop on communication for Polish protected area managers was planned under Centralparks A.T1.6 pilot action.

However, due to some budget savings made by Ekopsychology Society (PP4) at the earlier stages of project implementation, upon the approval by the Joint Secretariat of the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme it was possible to fulfil the expectations of protected area managers present at the first training workshop, and organize a follow-up - slightly shorter (2-day) second training.

In result, instead of just one training workshop on communication, Ekopsychology Society (PP4) managed to organize two trainings under the Centralparks pilot action A.T1.6:

- training in Muszyna-Złockie (22-24.09.2021)
- training in Piwniczna-Zdrój (13-14.01.2022)

Despite that workshop venues were always selected in public procurement procedure, by accident both training workshops were carried out inside Poprad Landscape Park / Natura 2000 Special Area of Conservation “Ostoja Popradzka” (PLH120019), in locations close to the PL-SK state border.



Map 9. Location of two subsequent A.T1.6 trainings on effective communication between protected areas and local communities: ● Muszyna-Złockie, ● Piwniczna-Zdrój

Map source: [Geoserwis of the General Directorate for Environmental Protection \(GDOŚ\)](#)

As always explained to the trainees at the beginning of each A.T1.6 training workshop, the aim of our training was to strengthen their skills, useful for:

- effective communication of nature conservation objectives to their local communities;
- building and strengthening a sense of shared ownership and responsibility for preserving the unique natural and cultural heritage of the Carpathians;
- promoting public participation and involving regional authorities and local communities in strong partnerships with protected area administrations for the implementation of joint activities that may bring tangible benefits to local communities of the Carpathian region (in particular by implementing both Centralparks strategies).



### 3.1. Training for protected area managers in Muszyna-Złockie (22-24.09.2021)

The originally planned A.T1.6 three-day long training workshop for Polish protected area managers Ekopsychology Society (PP4) organized in Hotel Klimek, Muszyna-Złockie on 22-24 September 2021.



Fig. 18., 19. Centralparks WPT1 Training in Muszyna-Złockie. Photos: Z. Niewiadomski

This pilot training workshop was carried out by the team of 6 Polish experts on communication, and involved 13 trainees, representing 8 out of 13 targeted protected area administrations and regional nature conservation authorities (for details please refer to part 4 of this Report).

Some other invited persons, representing other targeted national park or natural landscape park administrations, who initially registered for this training workshop did not attend it, for different personal reasons (in fact, it could easily be predicted that not all representatives of the training target group would finally join the in-person training, conducted during COVID-19 pandemic).

The workshop started at 10:00, beginning from (as always under Centralparks WPT1) the welcome address, presentation of the expert team implementing the pilot action and its participants, then delivering introductory presentations: on the Centralparks project, WPT1 intervention logic, objectives of the pilot action, and on the Carpathian Convention (for details see part 2.4).



Fig. 20., 21. Centralparks WPT1 Training in Muszyna-Złockie. Photos: Z. Niewiadomski



On the same Day 1 of the training workshop, participants divided into smaller groups (working in smaller teams) were involved in analyzing the potential opportunities and benefits resulting from the adoption and implementation of the Carpathian Convention, for Carpathian protected areas and local communities in the Carpathian region.



Fig. 22., 23. Centralparks WPT1 Training in Muszyna-Złockie. Photos: Z. Niewiadomski

In the afternoon, after the expert’s presentation introducing the next subject (incl. also nature interpretation), another practical exercise followed, concerning mapping the local community (stakeholder analysis, stakeholder needs, potential problem areas and situations, their reasons), again by working in smaller teams.

This part of the training workshop referred to Part 1 “Who should be involved?” as well as Part 6 “How to write a communication plan” of the Centralparks O.T1.3 Guidelines on communication.



Fig. 24., 25. Centralparks WPT1 Training in Muszyna-Złockie. Photos: Z. Niewiadomski

Work in teams was of course constantly facilitated and moderated by communication experts, who assisted and encouraged the trainees. After 16:45 PP4 experts summarised the first day of the training, however the participants continued the discussion also during dinner.

The next day (**Day 2**) of the training begun at 09:00, thus 1 hour earlier than on the previous day, when all workshop participants were travelling to Muszyna-Złockie from different distant locations scattered across the Polish part of the Carpathian region.



Fig. 26., 27. Centralparks WPT1 Training in Muszyna-Złockie. Photos: Z. Niewiadomski

Throughout the whole day No 2, only one PowerPoint presentation was used, instructing and guiding our trainees through a series of different practical exercises, in order to involve them and let them enjoy interactions within the group rather than to bore them by lengthy lectures.



Fig. 28., 29. Centralparks WPT1 Training in Muszyna-Złockie. Photos: Z. Niewiadomski

Day No 2 was entirely devoted to strengthening the participants' ability to express their "Strong ME" attitude, necessary for effective communication, but was divided into four thematic parts:

- beliefs;
- communication styles;
- communication tools;
- non-verbal communication.

Hence, this part of the A.T1.6 training this time referred to Part 3 "How to communicate? Basics of the communication" of the Centralparks O.T1.3 Guidelines on communication.





After 17:15 PP4 experts summarised the second day of the training, but participants continued the discussion also during dinner, and interacted until late evening hours.

On training workshop **Day No 3** two introductory presentations directly addressed protected area issues (including the “Lisia Góra” nature reserve case study - see part 2.4 of this Report).

Later the trainees worked in smaller teams on different issues related to communication between protected areas and local communities, then each team presented the results, which were later commented and discussed by both the trainers and trainees.

Particular emphasis was put on messages to be effectively communicated to the local stakeholders (referring to Part 2 “*What to communicate? Key messages*” of the Centralparks O.T1.3 Guidelines on communication).

To summarize, the following training blocks were covered in the communication-focused substantive part of the A.T1.6 training held in September 2021 in Muszyna-Złockie:

- Stakeholder analysis:
  - identification, needs, division into groups, determination of the moment of involvement;
  - determining methods of engagement and developing a communication plan;
  - engaging key stakeholders in the initial stages, identifying needs and benefits;
  - correcting the communication plan.
- Beliefs as means for programming our way of thinking (based on assumptions and interpretation of reality).
- Effective communication (roles of message sender and recipient).
- Construction, benefits and the ability to use the “ME communique”.
- Skill to focus attention and generate feedback with the use of the Paraphrase.
- Analysis of the stages of listening (incl. perception of the message, interpretation, decision on the meaning of the communique, reaction).
- Analysis of communication barriers (denying feelings, judging, filtering, giving advice, identifying, comparing, focusing on the answer).
- Characteristics and the ability to create messages using all communication styles (Analyst, Activator, Conceptualist, Affiliator).

Individual thematic modules were discussed in combination with the following issues:

- what motivates you to get involved in nature conservation?
- goals;
- values;
- a message to future generations working for protected areas.

Hence, a side effect of this last day of the training was the following key message, designed and formulated by our trainees - “*A Letter to Future Generations*” (to their successors who will continue to work on nature conservation).

On 24 September 2021 at 15:00 PP4 experts summarised the outcomes of the whole workshop, and handed Certificates to the graduates of their first training on effective communication.



**LIST DO PRZYSZŁYCH POKOLEŃ**

Warto zostawić coś po sobie  
Przyroda sama się nie obroni  
Przyroda determinuje wszystkie aspekty  
naszego życia

Chronimy przyrodę dla przyszłych pokoleń,  
a nie przed ludźmi

Przyroda bez człowieka przetrwa,  
a człowiek bez przyrody nie

Odtwarzanie jest trudniejsze niż  
zachowywanie

Pielegnujcie w sobie pasję odkrywcy  
Ważne jest podnoszenie świadomości  
i edukacja

Ochrona przyrody to praca dla idei,  
nie oczekuj pochwał za swoją pracę  
My zastanawiamy się po co chronimy  
przyrodę. Może WY to już wieciez...

(translation into English:)  
**A LETTER TO FUTURE GENERATIONS**

*It is worth leaving something behind  
Nature cannot defend itself  
Nature determines all aspects of our lives*

*We protect nature for future generations,  
not from people  
Nature will survive without man,  
and man without nature will not  
Recreating is more difficult than saving  
Cultivate the passion of the explorer  
in yourself  
Awareness-raising and education  
are important*

*Nature conservation is working for the idea,  
do not expect praise for your work  
We wonder why do we protect nature.  
Maybe YOU already know it ...*



Fig. 30. A Letter to Future Generations, designed by Centralparks WPT1 trainees in Muszyna-Złockie.



Fig. 31. Graduates of the Centralparks WPT1 Training in Muszyna-Złockie. Photo: A. Ćwik



Fig. 32. Centralparks WPT1 communication training completion certificate (training in Muszyna-Złockie).  
Source: Ekopsychology Society



### 3.2. Training for protected area managers in Piwniczna-Zdrój (13-14.01.2022)

As already mentioned, an additional (not originally planned in the AF) second training workshop on communication for Polish protected area managers turned out to be possible due to budget savings made by Ekopsychology Society (PP4) at the earlier stages of Centralparks WPT1 implementation, upon the approval explicitly expressed by the Joint Secretariat of the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme, which allowed the above budget shift.

Such follow-up second workshop was highly expected by our trainees who graduated the first communication training workshop held in September 2021. Budget savings allowed to finance a slightly shorter, only 2-day long second workshop (thus, PP4 expenses on participants' overnight accommodation and boarding could be considerably lower than previously).



Fig. 33., 34. Centralparks WPT1 Training in Piwniczna-Zdrój.

Photos: M. Ochwat-Marcinkiewicz

The follow-up second A.T1.6 workshop for Polish protected area managers was organized by Ekopsychology Society (PP4) on 13-14 January 2022 in Ski Hotel Sucha Dolina, located high in the mountains above the town of Piwniczna-Zdrój.

This second training workshop was carried out by a smaller team of 4 trainers - Polish experts on communication, and involved 10 trainees, representing 7 out of 13 targeted protected area administrations and regional nature conservation authorities (for details please refer to part 4 of this Report).



Fig. 35., 36. Centralparks WPT1 Training in Piwniczna-Zdrój. Photos: M. Ochwat-Marcinkiewicz

In response to the request expressed by trainees in September 2021 in Muszyna-Złockie, this second training organized in January 2022 entirely focused on environmental conflict mediation and resolution (see Part 5 “Risk and assumptions” of the Centralparks O.T1.3 Guidelines), particularly relevant for effective communication that could facilitate and promote more peaceful and constructive interactions between protected area administrations and nature conservation authorities (e.g. Regional Directorates for Environmental Protection) and local community authorities, jointly responsible for the future of the Polish part of the Carpathian region, taking into account its regional context, briefly outlined and explained in part 1.2 of this Report).

The above thematic focus was emphasized in the name of the event (“Training in Environmental Conflict Mediation and Resolution”) mentioned in the training agenda and completion certificates.



Fig. 37., 38. Centralparks WPT1 Training in Piwniczna-Zdrój. Photos: M. Ochwat-Marcinkiewicz

In order to make the best use of the limited time available for this shorter training, the workshop started on the first day already at 09:00, beginning from the welcome address, presentation of PP4 trainers and workshop participants, which was traditionally (as always under WPT1) followed by introductory presentation concerning the Centralparks project, WPT1 intervention logic, objectives of this pilot training, and on the Carpathian Convention (for details see part 2.4).

Day No 1 agenda: Module No 1. Systems for the protection of biological diversity and landscape, as a source of environmental conflicts

- 9.00 - 10.00 Welcoming the participants, presentation on the Centralparks project
- 10.00 - 10.30 Refreshing the participants’ knowledge from the 1<sup>st</sup> training on effective communication between protected areas and local communities (Sept. 2021)
- 10.30 - 11.30 Examples of environmental conflicts (lecture + team work in groups)
- 12.00 - 13.30 Conflict resolution styles (lecture + team work in groups)
- 14.30 - 16.30 Types of environmental conflicts - exercise
- 17.00 - 17.45 Ways of solving environmental conflicts (lecture + team work in groups)
- 17.45 - 18.30 Organization of the mediation process (lecture + exercise)



On this first day of the second training workshop participants learned the definition of a conflict, its symptoms, its subsequent phases - stages of conflict emergence, development, demonstration, resolution, silencing and extinction, as well as possible different causes of a conflict, its potential effects, and methods of conflict resolution. This part was also enriched by an exercise concerning the potential effects of a conflict, involving the participants.

Furthermore, trainees learned how to apply the inverted perspective method, so as they could perceive conflicts not only as a threat, but also as a great potential for the improvement of future relations, interactions, and performance.

They learned the basic first steps in conflict resolution (e.g. differentiating between needs and improper or ineffective means / strategies for satisfying these needs, which often lead to conflict generating situations). They could also identify their own style previously used by them for conflict resolution (compromise, cooperation, mitigation, competition, avoidance). Knowing this, during the subsequent exercises, they could first evaluate the effectiveness of “their own style of conflict resolution”, and (by working in small teams) jointly determine the potentially most effective and appropriate conflict resolution style that should be applied in an exemplary environmental conflict situation case study.

In result, thanks to learning the strengths and weaknesses of each conflict resolution style, participants already know that there is no bad style of conflict resolution.



Fig. 39., 40. Centralparks WPT1 Training in Piwniczna-Zdrój. Photos: M. Ochwat-Marcinkiewicz

#### Day No 2 agenda: Module No 2. Me as the Mediator

- 09.00 - 13.00 Me as the Mediator - Individual mediation processes together with feedback (role playing exercise by individual trainees, feedback from the group)
- 13.00 - 15.00 Summary, discussion, closing of the training workshop

On the second day of the training workshop held in Piwniczna-Zdrój its participants first learned the basic theoretical knowledge concerning the organization of the mediation process and the role of the mediator in resolving environmental conflicts. Then the participants again worked in teams, playing one of the roles in a specific conflict situation.

Each participant had the opportunity to play 5 different roles, including, most importantly, the role of an environmental conflict mediator. Each mediator had a specific timeframe allowed to conduct the mediation process and achieve the best possible effect. After this exercise, training participants shared feedback among themselves, and also received such from the trainers.

An important summary of day 2 was brainstorming, during which our trainees successfully defined what features the mediator should have, and which skills the mediator should possess.

On 14 January 2022 at 15:00 PP4 experts briefly summarised the outcomes of the whole workshop, and handed Certificates to the graduates of this second training on effective communication between protected areas and local communities.



Fig. 41., 42. Centralparks WPT1 Training in Piwniczna-Zdrój. Photos: M. Ochwat-Marcinkiewicz



Fig. 43. Graduates of the Centralparks WPT1 communication training in Sucha Dolina - Piwniczna-Zdrój. Photo: A. Leśniara



Fig. 44. Centralparks WPT1 communication training completion certificate (training in Piwniczna-Zdrój).  
Source: Ekopsychology Society



#### 4. Lessons learnt, and recommendations on the further use of O.T1.3 Guidelines, follow-up or replication of A.T1.6 trainings

The final stage of the implementation of the A.T1.6 pilot action of the Centralparks project was to evaluate training results and feedback, summarize the lessons learnt and conclusions from the implementation of this pilot action, and formulate recommendations on the further use of Centralparks O.T1.3 Guidelines, e.g. for the organization of similar training, either by continuing the training process in the Polish part of the Carpathian region, or replicating such in other Carpathian countries, other CE Program area countries and beyond.

##### Lessons learnt and conclusions resulting from the course and results of the A.T1.6 pilot action implemented in the Polish part of the Carpathian region

In result of the 2 pilot trainings organized in September 2021 and January 2022 under Centralparks A.T1.6 pilot action 17 individual trainees representing 8 public sector entities and authorities, at the local (protected area administrations) or regional level (nature conservation authorities) were trained in effective communication with their local stakeholders.

##### **Protected area administrations and nature conservation regional authorities - target group of WPT1 trainings:**

	1	2
Babia Góra National Park	●	●
Bieszczady National Park	○	○
Gorce National Park	●	○
Magura National Park	●	●
Pieniny National Park	●	●
Tatra National Park	○	○
Board of the Complex of Natural Landscape Parks of Silesian Voivodeship	○	○
Board of the Complex of Natural Landscape Parks of Małopolskie Voivodeship	●	●
Board of the Complex of Carpathian Natural Landscape Parks in Krosno	○	○
Board of the Natural Landscape Parks Complex in Przemyśl	○	○
Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Katowice	●	●
Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Kraków	●	●
Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Rzeszów	●	●



Therefore, it should openly be stated that **Centralparks A.T1.6 pilot action did not manage to reach, involve and benefit its whole target group** (defined in part 2.2. of this Report), for no less than three different but sound reasons:

- 1) The absence of invitees (including those, who initially registered for the training workshop) can partly be explained by the **COVID-19 pandemic situation**, discouraging individuals to travel, and attend any physical meetings.
- 2) Another factor that could, at least in some cases, limit the participation in training workshops was the requirement to cover the trainees' **travel costs** by their employers, the state-funded public entities and authorities delegating them to attend the training (participants' travel costs were non-eligible for reimbursement from the Centralparks project budget).
- 3) Last, but not least, mostly due to the specific and difficult regional context in the Polish part of the Carpathian region (briefly outlined and explained in part 1.2 of this Report) employees of protected area administrations or regional level nature conservation authorities who are responsible for, or involved in communication with e.g. the local self-government authorities could be overwhelmed with their **daily duties**, and were not in a position to allocate their worktime and disappear for several days (taking into account also the time required for travel to, and returning from the training). The above reason could possibly explain the absence of e.g. Tatra National Park representatives.

As for the “**COVID-19 pandemic**” factor, it should be emphasized and noted that, at the stage of Centralparks project planning (2017/2018) and project launch (April 2019), nobody could predict the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak that spread worldwide around a year later, in spring 2020. Thus, at the time when Centralparks O.T1.3 (Guidelines on communication between protected areas and local communities in the Carpathians) was already drafted by the WPT1 Thematic Transnational Task Force on Communication.

Therefore, these Guidelines (drafted by 09.2020, finalized and delivered 01.2021) were expected to be tested under A.T1.6 pilot action, in line with the AF, regardless the pandemic (that did not prevent the TTTF on Communication from finalizing this tool), still within the Centralparks project implementation period (closing in 03.2022).

As explained in part 2.3. of this Report, in the opinion of the Polish communication expert team the effective testing of these Guidelines would only be credible if trainings on communication are carried out in a ‘traditional pre-COVID manner’, as physical in-person meeting/s, allowing for much more intensive interactions than e.g. online webinars.

Hence, taking into account the COVID-19 related sanitary restrictions (e.g. the maximum limit of meeting participants allowed) imposed by CE Governments, it could be expected that not necessarily all important members of the target group will attend A.T1.6 pilot trainings.

**However, the overall evaluation of A.T1.6 pilot action should probably be positive, taking into account that this pilot action did achieve all expected effects and impacts.**



1. First and foremost, Centralparks A.T1.6 pilot action turned out to be quite effective in **testing the usefulness and applicability of Centralparks O.T1.3 Guidelines**.
2. Secondly, it can be stated that A.T1.6 pilot trainings had the positive impact, and benefited the majority of targeted protected areas: all Natura 2000 sites and nature reserves designated in the Polish part of the Carpathian region (supervised by the three territorially relevant Regional Directorates for Environmental Protection, which attended our trainings), 4 national parks (out of 6 targeted), and 5 natural landscape parks (out of 13 targeted).
3. Thirdly, A.T1.6 pilot trainings managed to involve the majority of targeted public entities and authorities (8 out of all 13, thus 61.5%).
4. Fourthly, all training participants acquired and practiced useful communication skills and techniques, which was the main objective of the training, had the opportunity to share experience (both best practice and failures) from their previous communication activities, could meet and interact with colleagues from other protected areas operating in the Polish part of the Carpathian region (which is, unfortunately, not often the case, in particular not for protected areas of different legal categories, as national parks and natural landscape parks each have different supervising authorities, and are never trained together).
5. Furthermore, the Carpathian protected area directors, either participating in A.T1.6 trainings in person, or delegating their employees to attend the trainings, perceived these trainings as an **useful institutional capacity building tool** (statement justified by results of the analysis of feedback from both workshops, received in training evaluation forms, anonymously filled in by training participants).
6. Last, but not least, all 17 trainees / graduates of A.T1.6 pilot trainings **positively evaluated and personally enjoyed** these workshops (which is an additional added value of this activity, also confirmed in training evaluation forms, anonymously filled in by training participants).

Despite that the Centralparks A.T1.6 pilot action has been completed, our graduates will continue to use acquired skills at work, possibly also share such with colleagues. They can always refer to O.T1.3 Guidelines available online on Centralparks (and Carpathian Convention) websites.

The participants' statements and the analysis of the evaluation questionnaires indicate the correct selection of subjects covered by this training programme, as well as the proper proportions between theoretical parts (lectures) and practical training exercises directly involving participants (role playing, working in smaller teams on case studies, brainstorming and discussions).

The participants clearly indicated the need to reach the largest possible group of public sector authorities and protected area employees with such a training offer.

Lessons learned from the implementation process indicate a gap in nature protection sector professional training, and the need for continuation or replication of A.T1.6 trainings on effective communication between protected areas and local communities in the Carpathians.



**Recommendations for the further use of O.T1.3 Guidelines, including the follow-up (in the Polish part of the Carpathian region) or replication of A.T1.6 trainings (in other Carpathian countries, other CE Programme area countries and beyond)**

As always emphasized during all workshops and meetings held under the Centralparks WPT1 - the implementation of the **Carpathian Convention** and its thematic Protocols should first and foremost benefit the inhabitants of the Carpathian region, but will hardly be possible without their active involvement, participation and commitment.

Preserving the high natural and landscape values of the Carpathian region, which are valuable assets of key importance for sustainable local socio-economic development of the local communities, as well as maintaining ecological connectivity in the region is not possible without the support and involvement of people who manage its natural resources - its inhabitants.

Moreover, it is not possible to maintain the above-mentioned values solely by the forces of managers and employees of Carpathian protected areas (e.g. national and landscape parks) and other authorities responsible for nature and landscape protection (such as Regional Directorates for Environmental Protection).

The spatial policy for the remaining, non-protected areas is primarily determined and shaped by local self-governments. The 2008 [Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity](#), Article 15 “Enhancing conservation and sustainable management in the areas outside of protected areas” expresses the binding commitment that “*Each Party shall take measures in its national territory with the objective to enhance conservation and sustainable management in the areas outside of protected areas in the Carpathians*”.

Effective communication between protected areas and local communities in the Carpathians, allowing protected area managers to raise the awareness of their local stakeholders on biological and landscape diversity conservation objectives and requirements, and increase their support for protected area operations, should be perceived as one of measures that could largely “*enhance conservation and sustainable management in the areas outside of protected areas*”.

Therefore, communication with the local stakeholders should further be strengthened under the Carpathian Convention, in line with the corresponding priority of its current Presidency.

Hence, it is suggested that trainings similar to those carried out under the Centralparks A.T1.6 pilot action should be **continued in the Polish part of the Carpathian region**, in order to further build the capacities of public sector entities which already benefited from the WPT1 trainings on communication, but also involve 10 parks which could not yet benefit from these trainings, i.e. Tatra National Park, Bieszczady National Park, and the remaining 8 natural landscape parks, located in Śląskie (Silesian) and Podkarpackie voivodeships (Beskid Śląski LP, Żywiec LP, Czarnorzecko-Strzyżowski LP, Jaśliski LP, Cisna-Wetlina LP, San Valley LP, Stonne Mountains LP, and Przemyśl Foothills Landscape Park).



It should also be noted that Centralparks A.T1.6 trainings on communication can easily be **replicated in other Carpathian countries**, other CE Programme area countries, and beyond.

Moreover, the O.T1.3 Guidelines (focused on nature and landscape conservation needs) can easily be **adopted for the needs of other sectors**. Hence, public authorities other than involved in nature conservation can also benefit from their use, and develop own training schemes.

As for more detailed recommendations, it seems that the O.T1.3 Guidelines are too complex to be fully covered throughout a 3-day or even 5-day long training.

Taking into account the exceptionally insufficient level of communication skills in most Carpathian countries (due to the lack of such subjects in the core curricula of education, as well as the low level of awareness among the protected area managers on the positive impact of these skills on the effectiveness of the performance of nature protection services) it seems that an adequate response to this challenge would be to:

- cover the thematic scope of the O.T1.3 Guidelines under a **series of several basic training sessions** (each lasting from 3 to 4 or even full 5 days) including lectures and exercises;
- later supplemented by a **round of e.g. one-day practical workshops**, possibly organized in different protected areas, which could then provide different site-specific case studies<sup>1</sup>, to be discussed “on the spot” by the trainees.

The minimum thematic scope of such trainings and workshops proposed for implementation should include:

- effective communication between protected areas and local communities (in a similar extent as covered under the first A.T1.6 pilot training held in 2021 Muszyna-Złockie);
- environmental mediations;
- environmental conflict resolution;
- organization, conducting, facilitating and moderating meetings and consultations with the local stakeholders.

It is also strongly suggested that both the several-day long training sessions (including lectures on basic most useful communication concepts and techniques etc.) as well as one-day practical workshops are carried out in a ‘traditional pre-COVID manner’, as physical in-person meetings, allowing for intensive interactions between the trainers and trainees, triggering their active involvement in practical training exercises directly involving participants in e.g. role playing, working in smaller teams on relevant case studies, brainstorming and discussions, thus allowing to acquire, test and practice different communication skills and techniques, and share experience from previously conducted communication activities and campaigns.

Last, but not least, it is also strongly suggested that communication trainings gather participants in different “outdoor” locations distant from trainees’ offices and homes, which would allow them to submerge into the training themes, which already proved to be effective under the Centralparks A.T1.6 pilot action, implemented in Poland in 2021-2022.

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<sup>1</sup> Several good examples of such site-specific case studies can be found in Centralparks D.T1.4.4 Report, concerning the pilot implementation of the Carpathian strategy for enhancing biodiversity and landscape conservation outside and inside protected areas (D.T1.1.3) in 2021, outside Pieniny National Park (Poland).