

## **Biodiversity and tourism**

### Situation Assessment:

Mass tourism developments and unsustainable tourism practices can result in detrimental environmental impacts largely affecting ecosystems and biodiversity. This threat can also be perceived to emerge in Central and Eastern Europe causing significant obstacles to conserve biodiversity. Promoting sustainable tourism in CEE National Tourism Strategies and in the Carpathian Convention has the potential to avoid this threat and contribute to biodiversity conservation.

### Objectives:

- The development and implementation of EU tourism policies (e.g. the Agenda for a sustainable and competitive European tourism, the Europe, the world's No 1 tourism destination - a new political framework for tourism in Europe and the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region) fully take into account existing and evolving EU biodiversity policies
- National Tourism Development Strategies in CEE take into account EU tourism and biodiversity policies
- Enhanced contribution of CEE NGOs in promoting sustainable tourism in regional and local economy and thus in respecting the carrying capacity of ecosystems
- The Carpathian Convention is being implemented in the light of sustainable tourism

### Activities:

- Revise the already existing five CEE assessments on National Tourism Development Strategies, compile five other assessments and compile a summary report out of them
- Disseminate the results of the assessments among decision makers of CEE National Tourism Administration Institutions and among CEE NGOs, to the EP focal point responsible for tourism, three EC DGs responsible for Environment, Economy, Regional Development asking feedback and integrate them to the final summary report
- Ensure coordinated contribution of CEE NGOs and other CEE key players to the Carpathian-tourism strategy by
  - assessing the tourism strategy for all seven countries in the Carpathians
  - organizing seminars to develop recommendations on the Carpathian-tourism strategy and to compile proposals for tasks and responsibilities of Carpathian stakeholders
  - coordinating national consultations on Carpathian Tourism Strategy
- Develop CEE NGO proposal for implementing regional tourism progressive labelling system, taking into consideration the experiences of the European flower
- Incorporate these CEE findings to the current version of the Carpathian Convention Tourism Strategy (CCTS), channel them into related events (e.g. two Seminars of the Working Group on Sustainable Tourism of the Carpathian Convention and the meeting of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee) as well as disseminate them electronically to all other interest groups
- Collect best practises and lessons learnt from all the seven countries of the Carpathians

- Continue the information exchange among CEE NGOs on the Carpathian Convention Sustainable Tourism Strategy development as well as on the Danube Strategy and activate CEE NGOs to contribute to their implementation
- Continuously update a website under the CEEweb domain dedicated to disseminate processes related to the Carpathian Convention Tourism Strategy as well as to the Danube Strategy

<b>Medium and long term results</b>	<b>Outputs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NGOs in CEE are informed about current situation of tourism development planning at national level considering EU tourism and biodiversity policies</li> <li>• Decision-makers of National Tourism Administration Institutions as well as ministries in CEE countries are more aware of the importance of sustainable tourism in local economy and well-being while respecting the carrying capacity of ecosystems</li> <li>• The know-how on assessing National Tourism Development Strategies is being continuously exchanged among CEE NGOs</li> <li>• The interim Secretariat and WG Tourism of the Carpathian Convention fully integrate the contribution of CEE NGOs to the Carpathian Convention Tourism Strategy</li> <li>• Stakeholders are constantly informed on the potential of the Carpathian Convention Tourism Strategy</li> <li>• Consultations take place about the implementation of Carpathian Convention Tourism Strategy in all of seven countries with the involvement of CEE NGOs</li> <li>• Partnership among Carpathian countries is strengthened in implementing the Carpathian Convention Tourism Strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CEE NGOs from all seven countries from the Carpathian Region (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine) and three additional countries (Macedonia, Moldova, Bulgaria) have revised and assessed their National Tourism Development Strategies</li> <li>• Summary of national tourism strategies assessments presented on CEEweb website <b>and submitted to CEE National Tourism Administration Institutions as well as to related DGs and EP focal point</b></li> <li>• Two seminars organized (15 participants each) for CEE NGOs to develop recommendations to the Carpathian Convention Tourism Strategy</li> <li>• The final Sustainable Tourism Strategy document of the Carpathian Convention considers the developed CEE NGO recommendations and the findings of the National Tourism Development Strategy assessments</li> <li>• Project website under the CEEweb domain for the Carpathian Convention Tourism Strategy and for the Danube Strategy is being updated</li> <li>• Seven best practices and seven lessons learnt from the Carpathian countries are put on the project website</li> <li>• CEE NGO proposal is developed for implementing regional tourism progressive labelling system</li> </ul>