



Terms of Reference

Thematic Transnational Task Force
on nature conservation management

Version 2

1. Introduction

The Thematic Transnational Task Force (TTTF) on nature conservation management has been established under the Centralparks Thematic Work Package 2 (WPT2) “**Building capacities of Carpathian Protected Areas managers**”. Responsible for this TTTF is the WPT2 lead Partner Danube-Ipoly National Park Directorate.

The TTTF **objective** is to encourage and facilitate transboundary cooperation, pool the expertise of protected area managers and experts from all Carpathian countries, to capitalize the exchange of information, experience, and best practices available in a particular country.

TTTF **output**: Integrated Nature Conservation Management Plan for Börzsöny Mountains [Output O.T2.4] Delivery month 10.2021.

2. The Integrated Nature Conservation Management Plan for Börzsöny Mountains

The nature conservation management plan is based on innovative methods as (1) laser scanning technology (LiDAR), (2) the forest state evaluation protocol, and (3) the grassland state evaluation protocol. The methods will be prepared under Activity A.T2.1.(Cooperation exchange on nature conservation management planning) next to the habitat mapping, based on the National Biodiversity Monitoring System and the description and determination of Hungarian habitat’s vegetation. The methods will be tested and implemented under Activity A.T2.2 (Integrated nature conservation management planning based on the outcomes of A 2.1).

The Nature Conservation Management Plan for Börzsöny Mountains jointly prepared by the TTTF shall aim at:

- building capacities of Carpathian Protected Areas (PAs) managers by showcasing innovative and useful methods serving as a base of nature conservation management planning
- a more effective way of conservation planning to be introduced and circulated among the stakeholders
- proper nature conservation of the PAs in the Börzsöny Mountains will be guaranteed.



3. Required collaboration

The exact tasks of the TTTF members consist in:

- Contribution and elaboration of the preparation of the Deliverables (D) and the Outputs (O):
 - D.T2.2.7: Nature conservation management plan for Börzsöny Mountains (Hungary)
 - O.T2.3: Guidelines for proper integrated nature conservation planning (final document of the TTTF)
 - O.T2.4: Integrated Nature Conservation Management Plan
- Elaboration of the implementation of the Deliverable:
 - D.T2.2.3: Forest state evaluation
 - D.T2.1.4: Grassland state evaluation
 - D.T2.2.1: Pilot Action: LiDAR laser scan study on 2 habitat types (mountainous and river valley)
- Possible participation in the Workshop on the result of tested methods and joint management planning (Deliverable D.T2.2.6).

3.1. TTTF work organization

The TTTF on nature conservation management shall meet only twice. The first meeting will be held online, organized by DINPD in August 2021. In this meeting, the TTTF's and the foreseen work will be presented and the cooperation for the proper nature conservation management planning will be discussed. In a second meeting, held in 2021, the results of the tested methods and the joint management planning will be analysed.

The meeting will be held in October 2021 in the Hungarian part of the Carpathian (Börzsöny Mountains) as foreseen, aiming to evaluate the finalized nature conservation management plan, the tested methods and lessons learned.

The first meeting intends to initiate cooperation, familiarize experts with their tasks, agree upon necessary intermediary steps, establish internal procedures for their efficient work and cooperation towards the subsequent working drafts, next to the introduction of methods will be used.

- In between the TTTF meetings, and after the second TTTF meeting, experts will contribute to the assessment of data, collected with the innovative methods used in conservation planning. They will evaluate and comment on the draft of the nature conservation management plan and liaise solely via electronic communication means (email, Skype). Therefore, experts work will mostly be conducted through:
 - individual expert desk studies/research and conceptual work
 - joint work on subsequent draft documents
 - frequent online consultations between experts, and with PP5, responsible for WPT2



4. External experts' involvement

Each **Project Partner from a Carpathian country** shall select, appoint and contract (by the end of September 2020) their national expert/s, who will contribute to the work of the TTTF. The Project Partner shall facilitate the involvement of its national expert/s in the work of the TTTF, agree upon the amount of the expert fee, and the rules for the reimbursement of travel, overnight accommodation and subsistence costs related to the expert's participation in the TTTF meetings.

National experts for the TTTF on nature conservation management shall be recruited from among the employees of the relevant public sector administration (in particular protected area administrations, nature conservation authorities), academic, scientific and research institutions, or any other relevant organizations active in the Carpathian region.

4.1. Experts profile

The **criteria** for the selection of relevant experts from each Carpathian country should include:

- work experience in nature conservation management and/or management planning, or forest management (at least 3 years).
- fluent communication in English, and availability to travel and participate in TTTF meetings (organized in the Hungarian part of the Carpathian region).
- readiness to cooperate with the experts of Danube-Ipoly National Park and other experts at the TTTF meetings, in between meetings, and after the meetings.
- willingness to share information, materials, and expertise with other TTTF members
- good knowledge of the Carpathian region.
- personal motivation and willingness to contribute to the TTTF work actively and creatively.
- previous experience/s of working in a multinational expert team/s would also be an asset.

5. Contact information

Interreg Central Europe “Centralparks” project

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