

Interreg

CENTRAL EUROPE



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

BEECH POWER

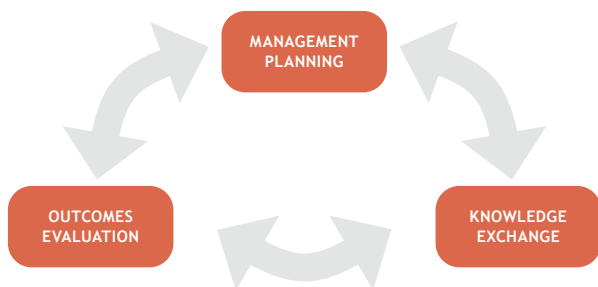
Code of quality management for World Heritage Beech Forests



What is the Code of Quality Management?

The serial transnational UNESCO World Heritage site “Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe” designated and protects 94 old-growth beech forests across Europe. All 94 component parts are united by their Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) as pristine and intact beech forests. But they vary widely in terms of local conditions, stakeholders, challenges and management. BEECH POWER has developed a “Code of quality management for World Heritage Beech Forests” to improve and harmonise management across all component parts.

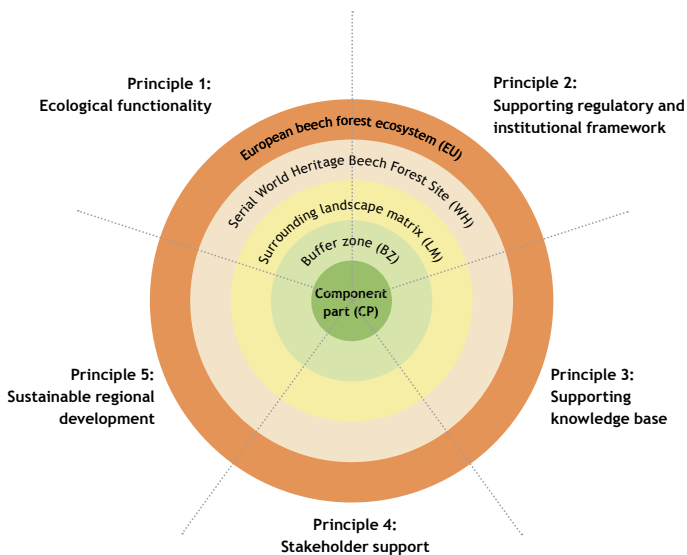
The Code contains a series of principles, criteria and indicators that help managers to assess the current situation, define desired developments and guide their future management. The Code was implemented for testing and first results in five pilot areas of the project. It is available for other World Heritage Beech Forest component part managers to be used.



The applicability of the Code is threefold:

1. The principles and criteria resemble required goals and objectives for management of World Heritage beech forest component parts and can guide management planning.
2. The principles, criteria and indicators build the framework for the evaluation of management outcomes assisting manager in identifying achievements and challenges as well as overall management performance.
3. By providing a common language and understanding of World Heritage component part management the Code can facilitate the identification, exchange, collaborative generation and documentation of relevant knowledge.

Management effectiveness levels



World Heritage component part management covers five different spatial and thematic contexts. All contents of the Code apply to all five levels of management effectiveness:

1. Component part (CP)
2. Buffer zone (BZ)
3. Surrounding landscape matrix (LM)
4. Serial World Heritage Beech Forest site (WH)
5. European beech forest ecosystem (EU)

The main goal of management is to maintain component part integrity. Since negative impacts arise mainly from the outside, the scope of management needs to range from a local (CP & BZ) over the regional (LM) up to the national and international World Heritage site- and European (WH & EU) level.

This should contribute to improve the World Heritage site as a whole and act as best-practice example and role model for all European beech forests.

Principles & criteria

The Code defines five principles that guide integrative component part management. To implement the principles on the ground, they are translated into 15 criteria to define the effect of management. They are concrete targets that need to be met in order to fulfil the principles.

Principle 1: Management prioritizes ecological functionality.

The OUV of the World Heritage Beech Forests is their pristineness and ecological integrity. Their preservation is the foremost goal of management. This is only possible by ensuring ecological functionality of the components, the buffer zones and wider landscapes surrounding them and the serial World Heritage Site as a whole.

Principle 2: Management ensures a supporting regulatory and institutional framework.

The foundation for good management and development of the beech forests is adequate legislation, regulation and institutional infrastructure. Accordingly, managers must implement existing legislation and push towards to improving legislation where necessary.

Principle 3: Management generates, maintains and develops a supporting knowledge base.

The richer and comprehensive the knowledge base is, the more precisely strategies can be developed and implemented and the more effective management can be. Hence, a comprehensive knowledge management system should facilitate the generation, documentation, sharing and transferring of knowledge of all sources, including local knowledge, monitoring, information and academic research.



Principle 4: Management creates a high level of understanding, appreciation & support by stakeholders and other actors.

Local stakeholders are a crucial factor for all decisions and activities in the buffer zones of the World Heritage component parts. Managers must work to engage them and gather their support. The goal should be conflict mitigation and self-motivated involvement of stakeholders. The main tools to achieve this are communication and education.

Principle 5: Management fosters community well-being in a framework of ecosystem-based regional sustainable development.

A World Heritage Site should always bring additional value to local communities. They are model sites for community development, which should focus on the dependance of ecological functionality. If done correctly, it can bring socio-economic, cultural and well-being advantages to local communities.

Assessment tool

For the assessment of management effectiveness, each criterion is translated into one or several indicators, creating a total of 41 indicators. They are measurable states covering all five management levels that allow the assessment how much a criterion has been met.

A standard assessment protocol with guiding questions for each indicator as well as a detailed indicator guidance document providing reference values for the rating of individual indicators, ensure a high level of transparency and comparability between different assessments.



DISCOVER MORE ABOUT BEECH POWER

World Heritage BEECH Forests:
emPOWERing and catalyzing an
ecosystem-based Sustainable Development

www.interreg-central.eu/BEECH-POWER



www.beechpower.eu



 www.facebook.com/BEECHPOWER

 www.linkedin.com/company/BEECHPOWER

 @BEECHPOWER

 www.tinyurl.com/toj7kz9

Photo credits: European Wilderness Society, Slovenia Forest Service



**Eberswalde University
for Sustainable
Development**



**NATIONALPARK
KALKALPEN**

STAATLICH
ANERKANNTER
ERHOLUNGORT

Angermünde
echt.natürlich



PAKLENICA
Nacionalni park
National Park



Let's
get
Wild!



ZAVOD za GOZDOVE
SLOVENIJE
Slovenia Forest Service

