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**COOPERATION**  
FORWARD



## **Work Session 1** **for decision and policy makers**



Conference on Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas  
Opatija, 23 October 2018



CEETO - EUROPARC - Jacques DECUIGNIERES

# WS1 - policy & decisions related to Sustainable Tourism in PAs

## The CEETO background

### *EU last 'State of Environment' report:*

*the most effective goal related to nature conservation is to foster ecosystems resilience, a vision in which human activities are the main driving force.*

## Sustainable Tourism in protected areas (PAs)

- An effective tool to enhance natural heritage, to contribute to its conservation and to take part to wellbeing of local communities.

>> An open challenge in central Europe: share appropriate, cost-effective and low-impact models of sustainable tourism management.

## The CEETO project

- "implementing an innovative governance system for tourism, based on a participatory planning approach that will help improve managing capacities of PA managers".

- "identifying and testing innovative management and monitoring tools focused on different sustainable tourism activities".



## Workshop selected topics

- a) **Governance** (*existing and expected*)  
*Decision-making*
  - b) **Visitor monitoring and its integration in PA management plan**  
*Security and visitor flow regulations*
  - c) **Contribution of tourism to conservation**  
*Visitor involvement*
- >> d) and other topics, questions, concerns and solutions to share

## Workshop objectives

- Sharing experience** around most successful practices, particularly about:
- reducing negative impacts of tourist visits in PAs & N2000 sites,
  - developing a sustainable tourism,
  - while increasing benefits thanks to inclusive conservation governance.

## Expected outcomes

Recommendations by participants based on their practical experience

- contribution to a **manual of sustainable tourism governance for PA managers.**



## Examples of fields of decisions, related to sustainable tourism in PAs

(Adapted from Europarc's ECST application list).

- Protecting valuable landscapes, biodiversity and cultural heritage (F1)
- Supporting conservation through tourism (F2)
- Reducing carbon footprint, pollution and wasteful resource use (F3)
- Providing safe access, quality facilities and special experiences of the protected area, available for all visitors (F4)
- Effectively communicating the area to visitors (F5)
- Ensuring social cohesion (F6)
- Strengthening prosperity in the local community (F7)
- Providing training and capacity building (F8)
- Monitoring tourism performance and impacts (F9)
- Communication and implementation *in accordance with* national tourism scheme, PA management plan, international (cooperation) commitment (F10)



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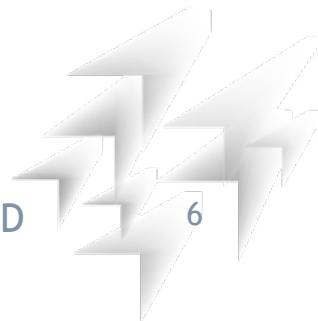
## Examples of additional questions raised by WS participants

- Are climate changes and their impact on protected areas significant enough to be discussed separately in a different chapter?
- Is stakeholders participation really a good way of ensuring effective work?
- Why should stakeholder interests be considered?
- What is the best way to identify stakeholders?
- To what extent should tourism development be influenced by stakeholders' opinion?
- Are strategies and action plans a living and breathing document? What should be improved?
- What is the role of government/national ministries in preparing strategies and action plans for protected areas?
- Is running a profit-making activity in a protected area an opportunity or a threat?
- Which measures are needed to generate revenues for managing a PA, to achieve conservation and development objectives of the protected area?
- What are the problems whilst implementing an action plan or strategy?
- Who is in charge of monitoring/control over implementation and for evaluation of the performance?
- What is the best type of marketing for protected areas?



## Presentations during our WS

- Assessment of service quality in protected areas (by Demir Barić)
- Interreg cooperation in Baltic sea; parks and benefits (by Olaf Ostermann)
- Slovenian tourism, new vision and story of green Slovenia. the Green Scheme of Slovenian Tourism (by Miša Novak)



## Example of tourism activity fostered by a P.P.Partnership in some PAs

### cycle tourism and mountain biking in PAs

#### ➤ Local cooperation:

- the Park: selection of trails, signage, documents, webpages
- the municipalities: maintenance of trails, signage, connection between villages, information panels, public transport
- service providers: restaurants, accommodation, bike hire and repair, transport and then cultural, heritage sites, etc.

#### ➤ Regional and/or national cooperation:

- public tourism bodies (educational tours, tourism fairs, promotion, etc.)
- travel agencies selling and promoting the area as a cycle destination
- branding and support to networking actions
- cooperation with other PAs sharing the same certifications (national, European)

