



Project funded by the
EUROPEAN UNION



Joint Operational Programme “Black Sea Basin 2007 - 2013”

Common borders. Common solutions.

The project “Interpretative Trails on the Ground - Support to the Management of Natural Protected Areas in the Black Sea Region (InterTrails)” is funded by the European Union through the Joint Operational Programme “Black Sea Basin 2007 - 2013”

Description of Trails

BSNN Bulgaria -The beneficiary’s team and the scientific advisory board made a review of the plans for the trails from the time of project preparation. They supported the idea to create two trails on the northern coast, in the vicinity of the Nature Reserve Kaliakra and the Yaylata archaeological and nature reserve and two more in the south - on the territory of the Nature Park Strandzha. Both areas are famous for their biodiversity - the two oldest established Bulgarian nature protected areas were created there over 70 years ago. Their scenic beauty attracts increasing numbers of tourists and both areas have a very significant potential for regional and trans-border communication. The nearby towns and villages would benefit from local development in the form of improved tourist infrastructure and local capacity for interpretation along the routes. The Yaylata trail is designated to be inside the archaeological reserve of the same name as the territory is both historical and nature reserve. It is managed by the archaeological museum of Kavarna and the Kavarna municipality. The Kaliakra/Bolata trail route will have sections in the spaces open to tourists, on the panoramic promontory-like cape Kaliakra. Other sections will lead to nearby protected areas and the visitor’s centre in the village of Bulgarevo. Manager of the area is Kavarna municipality in coordination with the environment ministry. The project team and a hiking group from Tourist Society Rodni Balkani made a field study to choose most suitable route for this trail. The northern trails describe high rock coast, rock terraces, marine mammals and fishes, Via Pontica birds, steppe vegetation and animals of the area and numerous historic monuments from prehistoric times up to the present. The Strandzha trails focus on the beech and oak woods, the endemic under wood vegetation, the Pontian species characteristic of the area, coastal and marine biodiversity, chapels, cromlechs, springs and sanctuaries. The area was visited by the project team and associates from the nature park. The routes were presented at the regional workshop in Varna. On the site visits were conducted and will continue. The team assessed various aspects of the trails description and route mapping including the taking of bearings of the individual points to be included in the description and guide.

P2 MN Romania organised an expert meeting to identify the trails. During this meeting, considering the criteria already laid down, the team named 10 potential trails, but after analyzing all aspects, the experts reduced the options to six out of ten: “Histria”, “Cheile Dobrogei”, “Canaraua Fetii”, “Dumbrăveni”, “Babadag” and “Hârşova”. These six trails were subject to further analysis in view of the selection criteria. Each expert assessed the trails from his point of view, emphasizing those that correspond to the criteria. Finally, a detailed description of each trail was made, including all features. Criteria for



Black Sea NGO Network



Project funded by the
EUROPEAN UNION

preliminary selection of trails: Accessibility - transport links to the trails, connectivity infrastructure; Ecological, geological and cultural importance of the trails; Attractiveness; The trail's potential to contribute to the development of Dobrogea; Uniqueness; General condition of the trail. In order to finalize this activity, the project team had a few internal meetings with the custodians to present the Action and how they will be involved. The first meeting took place at Forest Department of Constanta, on March 14, when the Director gave them their total approval. Then, on March 21, the team had a meeting in Tulcea, at Forest Department of Tulcea and Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority. At the media event from March 29, were selected the final five protected areas where the trails will be set. At the internal meeting from April 6, between the contracted experts, project team, resource experts from Mare Nostrum and representative of custodians, established the initial trails: Canaraua Fetii - Dumbraveni on biodiversity, Cheile Dobrogei - Histria one on geodiversity and one on biodiversity and Hârșova - Topalu - Capidava on cultural aspects. These trails can be modified according to the information the team will collect during trips. One of the trails is in the protected area "Canaraua Fetii", on biodiversity, and is focusing on the oak forest with its characteristic fauna and also on the endemic species. The second trail is in "Cheile Dobrogei", on geodiversity and we will try to emphasize the beauty and the gorgeous history and features of the quay of Dobrogea. The third trail is also in Cheile Dobrogei, a few kilometers from the first trail on geodiversity, and here we have designed a trail having in mind the cultural aspects. The last trail in on biodiversity and its place is in the protected area "Allah Bair".

P2 - BSB UEAS, Ukraine implemented the following: The project team with the aim to design, develop and promote 20 Interpretative Trails (IT) of the natural and cultural heritage in NPAs began to organise the dialog between administrations of NPAs.

During the first month negotiations with Danube Biosphere Reserve of National Academy of Science (Tatyana Balatskaya, head of tourism sector) and Karadag Nature Reserve of National Academy of Science (Vladimir Maltsev, deputy director on scientific work) were organised by Skype, during which the trails and approximate list of points on these territories were discussed. Trails have already existed in those two territories and their administrations are interested in introducing interpretation and the installation of information boards, the preparation and edition of guides. The administrations were very interested in the idea of organizing a School for Guides. During the same period the project team began to collect information about the above NPAs including guides, scientific reports, books, articles, etc. With the aim of development of methodology on the establishment of interpretative trails a review of literature on this topic was made.

Later the BSB UEAS team visited the associates Regional Landscape Park "Kinburnskaya kosa" (Zinoyi Petrovich, director) in Ochakov, who express the Park's readiness to join the Action. Director of RLP Zinovy Petrovich proposed the trail on the Kinburnskaya spit which consists mostly of historical points. He emphasized the absence of systematic reviews and researches of historical and geological objects in RLP. In his opinion there is great necessity of interpretation of ecological trails for the Park. The administration of the Park expressed vivid interest in the results of the Action. The trail with biological and geological points was offered by Oleg Derkach (senior lecturer, Black Sea University). It was decided to unite these two trails and propose to guides and tourists several routes in Kinburnskaya kosa.



Black Sea NGO Network



Project funded by the
EUROPEAN UNION

Negotiations with Nizhnedniestrovsky National Nature Park (Vladimir Gubanov, deputy director on scientific work) and were also held, the trail and points were scheduled. Vladimir Gubanov informed that the NNPP aimed to develop 4 ecological trails: Beloe Lake, Gontarenko Island, ornithological trail and entomological trail. In his view the Park needs to interpret the existing trails, update them and attract local and foreign tourists.

The official letters to administration of NPAs were prepared, with the aim to determine the trail and focal points, responsible for communication and organization of work in the NPAs. Focal points were appointed for the territories Tatyana Balatskaya, Danube Biosphere Reserve, Larisa Znamenskaya in Karadag Nature Reserve, Oleg Derkach and Irina Formanyk, Regional Landscape Park “Kinburnskaya kosa”, Vladimir Gubanov in Nizhnedniestrovsky National Nature Park.

In the third month personal meetings with the experts on Geology and History were held in the BSB UEAS office with the aim to discuss the trails and points. Expert on Geology Natalya Fedoronchuk proposed to organise marine trail on Karadag, she offered over 40 geological points in all chosen NPAs. Expert on History Vladimir Poltorak presented about 30 historical objects to be included into the trail description. Results of discussions were presented on the Expert Meeting on 28 December 2011.

In January 2012 discussion of biological points took place. Several experts on Biology are in process of preparation of the description of the points. The following have already been discussed: 17 biological objects on Kinburnskaya kosa with Oleg Derkach, for example, Bienkovi Plavni, Orchid Field, Kovalivska Saga, Long (Dolgyi) and Kruglyi (Round) Islands, Mullet Lakes, etc. 10 biological points on Karadag were previously discussed that are being prepared by Galina Bezlushko. Among them there are endemics of Karadag, bird-watching on Hop-Tepe, steppe vegetation, etc. About 10 biological objects in the Danube Delta are prepared by Tatyana Balatskaya. Vladimir Gubanov and Julia Nazarchuk are responsible for biological objects in the Nizhnedniestrovsky Natural Park.

In the next months experts finished discussing the points of 4 IT and began the preparation of their descriptions. A Meeting in Karadag Nature Reserve was organized. Oleg Rubel communicated with administration and contact person (Galina Bezvushko) from the reserve. The trails was presented, the possibilities of future changes and additions were discussed. Later negotiations with Zinoviy Petrovich (head of RLP “Kinburnskaya kosa”) and Oleg Derkach (expert in biology) were conducted in Nikolaev, and the ways of combination of existing trails and new routes were discussed. Another meeting with administration of Nizhnednestrovsky National Nature park was organised. The trails was discussed, two experts in Biology (Nikolay Rozhenko and Julia Nazarchuk) began to describe the points. Expert Vladimir Gubanov was unable to participate in the Project because of his release from the Park. Gathering of the information about Black Sea NPAs and international experience of organization of trails, publishing guides is going on. During the implementation period of the Action 80 points of 4 Interpretative Trails discussed and agreed with 9 experts and 4 competent authorities.

P3 - CF SDC, Moldova In the process of trails identification and establishment, besides the experts contracted, the following agencies were involved: National Agency “Moldsilva”; Scientific Reserve “Lower Prut”; District Administrations from the area of trails locations. Four meetings were held with them. The



Black Sea NGO Network



Project funded by the
EUROPEAN UNION



process of identification included the following steps: 1. Each expert first identified the major points from his area from the South and Central part of the Republic of Moldova: 35 - 45 points. 2. Out of the previously identified points 20 were selected taking into account their importance, relevance, tourist attractiveness, geographic location etc. 3. Modelling of trail routes.

The partner has established 4 Interpretative Trails on the territory of the Central and Southern part of the Republic of Moldova. Maps are provided with colour code of presentation of points - blue colour geodiversity points and trail, green colour biodiversity points and trail, red colour culture points and trail. The names of the trails are as follows each containing 20 points of the 3 types „Lower Prut” Interpretative Trail, „Bugeac Steppe” Interpretative Trail, „Lower Nistru” Interpretative Trail, „Moldova’s Codri” Interpretative Trail. Work on the description is under way. Work on the identification and description of trails has been disseminated locally and the project is made popular with the public.

P4 - BSEA, Georgia. The project team in the first months of the project developed an action plan for communication with the Agency of Protected Areas (APA) at the Ministry of Environment Protection and Environment Protection Department in Adjara AR. There are 14 Strict Nature Reserves, 8 National Parks, 12 Managed Nature Reserves, 14 Natural Monuments and 2 Protected Landscapes in Georgia. These Protected Areas are managed and coordinated by a Legal Entity of Public Law Protected Areas Agency of the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia. Agency of Protected Areas (APA) was created with the aim of implementation of governmental goals and public functions in the sphere of Protected Areas.

From these two state organizations were selected Focal Points - Ms. Tamar Pataridze Deputy Head of APA and Mr. Nodar Kontselidze - Head of Biodiversity and Integrated Management division of Environment Protection Department in Adjara AR. The team translated project document in Georgian language and sent to the Focal Points for reviewing and planning meetings for the selection 4 trails. In the first meeting on 02/11/11 at the Environment ministry the project team met the head of marketing and PR section Ms. Anna Japaridze and delivered a presentation of the project. Ms. Japaridze expressed interest in cooperation both in marketing and PR for the project and advised the team to hold a meeting with the Deputy Chairman of the Protected Areas Agency - Ms. Tamar Pataridze. At the next meeting on 24.11. 2011 the national coordinator of the project - Ms. Maia Ochigava and the national coordinator of BSEA Ms. Ketevan Kokilashvili met the Deputy Chairman of the Protected Area Agency - Ms. Tamar Pataridze and the Deputy Chairman of the Protected Area Agency - Mr. Lasha Moistrapishvili. They discussed the project and the opportunities for its implementation. Since the project does not envisage infrastructural component, the team could not accept the Ministry’ request to assist in infrastructural improvement of existing routes that can serve as interpretative trails. It was agreed to update the existing topo-maps for the four routes - trails, to produce and install information boards for them - the activities envisaged by the project. Since all the four protected areas which we chose for the project are under the supervision of the Protected Area Agency, our team will closely cooperate with the Agency for the whole course of implementation of the project. The contact person on the behalf of the Agency is Ms. Tamar Pataridze - the Deputy Chairman of the Protected Area Agency. The Agency has handed over the existing descriptions and topo-maps of the interpretative trails. They will be updated within the project and by the end of the



Black Sea NGO Network



Project funded by the
EUROPEAN UNION

project the team will hand over to the Ministry the maps in shape files. On the other hand, the Ministry (Agency) will be involved in all the important steps and events of the project and we will conduct trail related consultations with them. The trails envisaged are Kolkheti National Park - Touristic Route Paliastomi - Fichori; Mtirala National Park Touristic Route - Chestnut wood path; Kintrishi Protected Areas Touristic Route “Arched bridge - St. George’s Church - Grooves of Cholchic Boxwood and Waterfall”; Qobuleti Protected Areas Touristic Route - White Moss. The trails are briefly outlined as well as the points and more information is being developed for the project.

In March a meeting in MOE (NEPA) was organized. Maia Ochigava communicated with administration and contact person (Tamar Pataridze-Deputy head of NEPA). The trails were presented, the possibilities of future changes and additions were discussed. In April negotiations with Administrations on National Parks about filed trips in all 4 trails and ways of combination with existing trails were discussed. In May a meeting of Biodiversity and Geology teams and consultations with Ukrainian colleagues was held. In June the project team had a meeting with APA’s staff and reporting to ministry about project progress and with administrations of 4 National Parks about filed trips and their descriptions. In July and the beginning of August the team had working meetings with experts in bio, geo and cultural diversity. Gathering of the information about Black Sea NPAs and international experience of organization of trails, and preparation of guide is going on. During the implementation period of the Action 80 points of 4 Interpretative Trails discussed and agreed with 6 experts and 4 competent institutes.



Black Sea NGO Network