

## **RESOLUTION**

### **International Scientific Conference**

**“The 10th anniversary since the inscription of the UNESCO World Heritage Property  
“Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and  
the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany”: History, status and problems  
of the Integrated Management System implementation”  
(Rakhiv, 26-29<sup>th</sup> September 2017)**

The International Scientific Conference was organized by the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, supported by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine and the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration, and was held under the patronage of the UNESCO National Commission of Ukraine.

The Conference activities were financially supported by the German-Ukrainian project «Support of the Protected Areas in Ukraine», the Zakarpattia Regional Council and the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration.

The conference was attended by scientists, authorities of different levels, protected areas and the wide public from Ukraine, Germany, Slovakia, Hungary, Switzerland, Romania and Austria -about 150 persons in total.

The welcoming words to the conference participants were delivered by the director of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve Mr. Mykola Rybak, the Head of the Rakhiv District State Administration Mr. Pavlo Basaraba, the Head of the Tiachiv District State Administration Mr. Vasyl Kahanets, the Deputy Chief of the Department of Natural Resources of the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration Mr. Yuriy Shpontak, Mr. Ivan Koubek from the State Nature Conservancy of Slovak Republic, Mr. Hagen Kluttig from the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation of Germany, Mr. Horia Grosu from the Maramures Mountains Nature Park, Romania, Mrs. Brigitte Commarmot from the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL, Switzerland, and Mr. Vlado Vancura from the European Wilderness Society, Austria.

At the plenary sessions and during the work of the sections: “The state and prospects of deepening scientific research activity, environmental education and the implementation of sustainable development within the World heritage properties”, “Research and monitoring of phyto-diversity within the World heritage properties and other protected areas as an important prerequisite for the preservation of unique natural values”, “Importance of the World heritage properties and other protected areas for the fauna complexes conservation” and “Anthropogenic threats and risks of calamities for World heritage properties”, about 70 presentations and reports were presented and discussed. Materials of the conference in total of 414 pages were published. Also there was presented the book by Prof. Fedir Hamor "The global recognition of beech primeval forests of the Carpathians: history and management. Materials on the occasion of the 10th anniversary since designation of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" (in 28.8 conventional pages).

On the basis of the reports and discussions held, the participants of the Conference:

1. Note, that the 10-year experience of trilateral cooperation between Ukraine, Slovakia and Germany as parties of the UNESCO World Heritage Property, “Primeval Beech Forests of Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests of Germany”, serve as a great example of international environmental cooperation.
2. Are honored to note, that the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" has laid the basis for the European preservation process of the continent’s ancient beech forests, and they welcome the successful completion of the next stage of the expansion of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" and its reorganization into the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe”.
3. Note that the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe" is of extreme value as an example of intact temperate forest complexes, which represents the most complete and integral ecological models of natural beech tree stands under the various natural and climatic conditions.
4. Express gratitude to Ukraine for its significant role in preservation of beech primeval forests and ancient beech forests of Europe, first of all to the staff of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and personally to Professor Fedir Hamor, for many years of persistent work on preservation and study of the unique natural values of the Carpathians, for a special contribution to the process of organization and expansion of the UNESCO World Heritage site "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe", promotion of environmental cooperation on the European continent.
5. Note the innovative significance of the Decrees of the President of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Government and the decisions of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine on the approval of measures for the primeval beech forests conservation in the Carpathians and the development of settlements that are adjacent to the Property, and also the adoption of the Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to Some Legislative Acts of Ukraine on the Primeval Forests Protection In Line With the Framework Convention on Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians».
6. Deeply concerned about the situation regarding the conservation status of the Slovak part of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe" and hope that the Government of the Slovak Republic will fully implement the Phnom Penh and Krakow Resolutions of the World Heritage Committee on this issue.
7. Declare that the global climate change is negatively impacting the primeval beech forests, especially on the northern border of the beech forest range. The increase of dry seasons in umber and duration deteriorates the ecological conditions for the hydrophilous primeval beech forest components.

8. Pay attention to the need in enhancing the effectiveness of measures on protection of biota of beech primeval forests and ancient forests, taking into account the fact that in recent years in the Carpathian region, on the one hand, there's a significant increase of tourists in number, which is considered to be positive in terms of refocusing the region's economy, but on the other hand a mass forest logging takes place, which pose a huge threat for the primeval beech forests conservation, in particular it is the case for the Ukrainian part of the "East Carpathians" Trilateral Biosphere Reserve.
9. In order to implement the requirements of the Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, it is proposed to adopt the Law "On the Preservation of Cultural and Natural Objects of the UNESCO World Heritage" in Ukraine and, in accordance with the Article 5 of the Convention, the special Decrees of the President and the Government of Ukraine should be adopted to ensure the creation of the International Capacity-Building and Research Center for Beech Primeval Forests and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians on the basis of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve.
10. Judge it expedient to draw the attention of the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ukraine to the necessity to accelerate the processes of implementation of the principles and provisions of the European environmental legislation to the Legislation of Ukraine by preparing and adopting new editions of the Laws "On the Red Book of Ukraine" and "On the System of Protected Areas of Ukraine", which will promote the maintenance of legal principles of conservation within the protected areas created in accordance with the international obligations of Ukraine.
11. Recommend to the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ukraine, in pursuance of the recently adopted Law No. 4480, to agree criteria and indicators and approve the methodology for the primeval and oldgrowth (quasi-primeval) forests identification, developed by WWF, as a normative document in the most urgent time
12. Recommend to the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ukraine, if necessary, jointly with the State Agency of Forestry of Ukraine and other forest authorities, to urgently decide on an interim (prior to making a proper decision on their nature conservation status) exclusion of the primeval and oldgrowth forest sites that have been identified by the method indicated above from their management plans. It is recommended that the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ukraine initiate and coordinate the process of providing appropriate conservation status to these primeval and oldgrowth forest sites, as well as initiate the development and normative arrangement of appropriate monitoring tools for the preservation of primeval and oldgrowth (quasi-primeval) forest sites
13. Propose the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ukraine, together with WWF and other interested scientific, educational and public organizations, to develop a program and methodology for environmental education process and ecoeducational activities as guidelines for the employees of protected areas, local governments and wide public within the territories where the components of the World Heritage Property "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and other Regions of Europe" are located.

14. To recommend the application of the European audit system's principles (the European Wildlife Quality Standard developed by the European Wildresness Society) for the Management Plans of the protected areas of Ukraine and other protected areas of the Carpathian region.
15. The participants express their appreciation to the administration of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve for the excellent organization of this important international scientific forum.