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**Committee for the activities of the Council of Europe
in the field of biological and landscape diversity
(CO-DBP)**

Group of specialists – European Diploma for Protected Areas

20-21 January 2003
Room 2, Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg

**Bieszczady National Park
(Poland)**

RENEWAL

Expert report by
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*Document established by
the Directorate of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage*

The European Diploma for protected areas was awarded to the Bieszczady National Park (Poland) for the first time in 1998. This is the first renewal.

The Secretariat did not accompany the expert on his visit to the site.

Appendix I reproduces Resolution (98) 27 concerning the award of the Diploma. In Appendix II the Secretariat presents a draft resolution for possible renewal.

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Introduction

THE NATIONAL CONTEXT

Poland, and more particularly the Polish territory forming part of the Carpathians range, still has a very rich natural environment. All the central European large mammals are present: brown bear, wolf, lynx, boar, elk, European bison, red deer.

Since the 1990s, when Poland returned to a parliamentary system and a market economy, the country has continued to bring in legislation geared to its political situation, including in the sphere of the environment and nature protection. That legislation is now frequently amended to take account of a changing national situation and to adapt to community legislation in connection with Poland's accession to the European Union. The Nature conservation act provides for several types of protected area:

- *national parks and their buffer zones;*
- *landscape parks and their buffer zones;*
- *protected landscape areas;*
- *nature reserves.*

THE NATIONAL PARK

Initial plans to set up a Polish national park in the Bieszczady mountains date back to the 1950s and envisaged a territory of between 4,800 and 9,000 ha. At that time the region had been emptied of much of its population through the evacuation of numerous villages razed in post-war fighting against the UPA Ukrainian guerrilla army in what had been the Ukrainian (Soviet) Galicia from 1940 to 1945. The Bieszczady National Park was eventually created, with a surface area of 5,587 ha by decision of the Council of Ministers in 1973. The Park was extended in 1989, to cover an area of 15,710 ha. On the basis of previous scientific thinking, the park area was increased again in 1991, to 27,064 ha; at the same time two landscape parks (Ciśniańsko-Wetliński and the San Valley) were set up at the Park's western and northern boundaries.

The two landscape parks are run by the same Krosno-based management team as the Carpathians landscape parks. Management on the ground is handled by the forestry authorities and the municipal services.

In 1996, in addition to a slight extension of the National Park, a buffer zone of some 50,000 ha was established at the northern and western boundaries in the Ciśniańsko-Wetliński and the San Valley landscape parks.

In 1999, part of the San Valley (1,387 ha) along the Ukrainian border was incorporated into the Park, taking the total surface area to 29,202 ha. This latter acquisition forms part of an ambitious scientific project aimed at increasing the Park's total area to over 41,000 ha through the inclusion of the San Valley to the north-east (much of this project has been completed) and the upper slopes of the Smerek and the Bystry to the west.

Over the same period other economic development projects, competing with the National Park, have been planned or implemented. The setting up of large collective farm complexes (Walosate, Tarnawa) resulted in the draining of wetlands and forest clearance (San Valley). A substantial presidential hunting reserve, prohibited to the public, with hotel and dachas, was created in Muczne in the woodlands overlooking the San Valley. These installations are now open to tourists.

In 1988 a large ski resort was planned but then dropped.

In 1992 Unesco approved the scheme to create an MaB reserve on either side of the border between Poland and Slovakia. The reserve was extended in 1998 to the Ukrainian part, taking in the Stuzicia nature reserve, the Nadsansky'i national nature park and the Uzhansky'i national nature park, forming the East Carpathians MaB reserve covering an area of 213,211 ha.

In 1998 the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe granted the European Diploma to the Bieszczady National Park in Resolution (98) 27. The diploma is due for renewal in 2003.

THE VISIT TO THE BIESZCZADY NATIONAL PARK

The visit took place from 21 to 23 May 2002.

At its meeting on 28-29 January 2002 the Group of specialists of the European Diploma for protected areas recommended that the expert pay particular attention to the budgetary restrictions affecting the Park and the effects on the Park of the adoption of the new nature conservation act, increasing the powers of local authorities. The expert was accompanied throughout his stay in the Park by Mr Wojomir Wojciechowski, manager of the Park, and his deputy, Mr Zbigniew Niewiadomski. Discussion was substantially aided by the fact that the same officials had acted as guides to the Park during the expert appraisal for the Diploma award in 1997 and their ongoing management was a guarantee of continuity.

- 21 May: transfer from Kraków airport to the National Park in a park service vehicle.
- 22 May: meeting at the park headquarters in Ustrzyki Górne with MM Wojomir Wojciechowski and Zbigniew Niewiadomski.
- 23 May: meeting at the information centre in Lutowska with Mr Kajetan Perzanowski, director of the Carpathians section of the International ecology centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Mr Tadeusz Zajac, water and forestry engineer of the Lutowska inspectorate, Mr Jan Stachyrac from the management of the Carpathians landscape parks and Mr Włodzimierz Podyma, mayor of Lutowska municipality.

Visit to areas recently acquired by the Park in the San Valley; old grazing land of the Tarnica collective farm resulting from substantial forest clearance in the valley and ageing spruce plantations being converted to natural forest.

Visit to the Wetlinka Valley, featuring extensive sheep grazing and farm-produced cheeses; visit to a former collective farm now converted into a rural inn and local socio-cultural centre, where there are plans to establish a riding centre using the locally bred Hucul mountain horses and a camping and caravanning area on the abandoned collective farm sites.

Walk through the Gorna Slonka river beech forest and strict nature reserve: presence of the otter and building of dams by beavers recently reintroduced into the Park.

- 24 May: joint meeting with the managers of the Bieszczady and Poloniny parks; transfer to the Poloniny national park in Slovakia.

Discussion of recommendations

LOCAL AUTHORITY APPROVAL IN NATURE PROTECTION MATTERS

Poland gave up its centralised administration system from 1990 onwards. The 1990 Self-government act enabled municipalities to run their own affairs. A new territorial breakdown split the country into 16 voivody (regions), 308 powiaty (districts) and 2,546 municipalities, with elected chambers and councils at each level.

The policy of decentralisation as regards nature was introduced in 2001, in the Nature conservation act (Art. 14, 7b), which made the designation, extension or abolition of national parks subject to approval of the regional and local authorities concerned. An amendment to that act further stipulated that all national park management plans were to be revised in line with a standard model, creating a legal void in the application of municipal development plans (including where plans for national parks were concerned) in buffer zones.

In the Bieszczady National Park these new legal provisions concern two municipalities, Cisna and Lutowska, which have a free hand in drawing up new development plans and development projects, which may clash with the interests of the Park, one example being a scheme for a ski slope and a ski lift in a sensitive area of old birch forest.

Recommendation 1. Strengthen existing cooperation between Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine with a view to the official designation of a trilateral transfrontier biosphere reserve;

Recommendation 9. Set up the scientific and technical body provided for by the Agreement between the services of the three bordering protected areas, in order to monitor the management of the ecosystems of the biogeographical complex and to coordinate the research activities in the MaB Reserve.

The bilateral MaB Reserve between Poland and Slovakia gained Unesco recognition in 1992 and was extended to Ukraine in 1998, becoming the East Carpathians trilateral biosphere reserve. The reserve is funded by the Foundation for the Conservation of Biodiversity in the East Carpathians, set up in 1995 and

domiciled in Switzerland. The foundation is currently the main instrument of cooperation between the three countries in the nature conservation field. Its annual budget is about \$ 40,000.

The foundation has an executive committee comprising a member from each of the three countries and a representative of the foundation. The foundation's secretariat is based in Ustrzyki Górne on the premises of Bieszczady National Park.

The foundation participates in programmes and projects run by other international organisations relating to the Carpathians:

- WWF: Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative ("Time for the Carpathians")
- The Carpathians Euro-region.

Many partners are involved, therefore, in environmental conservation in the Carpathians. The official inauguration of the East Carpathians MaB Reserve took place on 22-24 June 1999.

Government-level talks have been under way for some years, with a view to the signing of a legal instrument ensuring cooperation between the services responsible for the areas included in the MaB reserve and coordinated management. Although this agreement, defining areas of collaboration between Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine in the MaB reserve, was to be signed in 1997, it has yet to be concluded.

Recommendations 1 and 9 have not yet been acted upon and should be maintained when the European Diploma is renewed. The cooperation agreement in connection with the trilateral reserve is a political decision for the three governments, and it should be concluded by the countries concerned during the next Diploma period.

Recommendation: Conclude as soon as possible the Intergovernmental agreement between Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine with a view to creating a legal basis facilitating coordination of the management of the trilateral MaB Reserve by the three national authorities concerned.

Recommendation 2. Hasten the adoption by the Ministry of the Environment and the implementation of the Conservation Plan for the National Park and provide a budget sufficient for the execution of this Plan;

Group of specialists recommendation: pay particular attention to the budgetary restrictions affecting the Park, preventing the implementation of the conservation plan adopted in 1997.

The management plan for the National Park and its buffer zone (part of the Cisniansko-Wetlinski and San Valley landscape parks) concerning an area of 84,983 ha was approved by the Minister of the Environment on 15 October 1997. An implementing provision of the revised Nature conservation act stipulates that national park management plans are to be revised in line with a standard model. Pending that revision, the existing plans remain temporarily in force.

The Park has a large staff: 108, of whom 60 are state employees and 48 have their wages paid by the Park; nevertheless, this number is lower than average for national parks.

Funding for the Park comes from the state budget for administrative costs and from subsidies from the national fund for environmental protection and water management for specific programmes and projects to conserve habitats, fauna and flora.

The Park considers the current budget inadequate for implementing the recently adopted management plan. The budget has been steadily declining in recent years. There are concerns over funding from the national fund, which will no longer be allocated to the national parks in future. Such a measure would limit the funds received by the Park to a paltry survival ration.

Recommendation: ensure that the National Park has adequate funding, inter alia from the national fund for environmental protection and water management, with which to implement the park management plan adopted in 1997.

Recommendation 3. Pay particular attention to the conservation of the pastures on the crests, the poloniny, and to the extensive and traditional management of the valley meadows.

The poloniny on Polish territory cover a fairly small area and their management is geared to maintaining vegetation essentially as grazing areas for roaming large game and bison. In 2000 a surface fire destroyed plant cover on several hectares of these sub-alpine meadows (Mt. Rozsypaniec) but did not cause definitive damage to the flora.

The conservation of valley meadows remains an ongoing problem in the Park; given the park budget, it is not possible to conserve these meadows over their large surface area (more than 4,000 ha). When unmanaged, they are invaded by scrub and naturally develop into woodland. Where funding allows, the valley meadows are kept open by brush clearance and mowing as well as by grazing sheep and Hucul horses, a mountain

horse bred by the Park and used for riding and drawing carts transporting tourists. The Park grants incentives for traditional sheep-rearing and local cheese manufacture.

Recommendation: pay constant attention to the maintenance of the valley meadows and their traditional management by sheep-grazing and Huccul horse-breeding.

Recommendation 4. Pursue the conversion of the conifer plantations towards the associations of the natural forest.

This silviculture forms part of the Park's management and *there are no grounds for maintaining this recommendation.*

Recommendation 5. Also pursue the efforts already made for the conservation and restoration of the architectural and historical heritage destroyed or badly damaged by the Second world war and its aftermath;

Recommendation 6. Prohibit any large tourist, sports or recreational facilities likely to impair the landscapes of the Park and transfer out of the Park the Wierch Wyznianski ski lift.

The Wierch Wyznianski ski lift has been dismantled and reassembled outside the Park.

On the other hand a new project for a cable car and ski slope is proposed in the state-owned forest in the Ciśniańko-Wetliński landscape park. Such an installation would make it necessary to clear a wide strip of high forest and would be located close to the protected ancient beech forest on the Slovakian side.

The Park's facilities on the whole are unlikely to damage the integrity of its landscapes: tourist and nature trails with shelters. Some paths are open to mountain bike-riding and horse-riding.

In Ustrzyki Górne, where the park authorities headquarters are located, there are several hotels, restaurants and a campsite; several other campsites, two inns and a few other night refuges are scattered around the territory of the Park. For some of these facilities (Wolosate, Wetlina/Hostyski) the old abandoned collective farm buildings were used.

A new (wood-built) inn has just been put up on a projecting shelf (Przeł nad Bérehami) overlooking the valley.

A sizeable administrative building has just been built in Ustrzyki Górne to accommodate the border guard services; despite its size it fits into the hamlet perfectly.

On the other hand, the post-war buildings and conversions of existing buildings reflect the lack of finance at that time. Therefore, rather than planning new buildings, consideration should be given to better integration of the existing ones and, where necessary, plans to ultimately replace them. Buildings should be contained within the village of Ustrzyki Górne, where the national park headquarters are located. In Wolosate the park employees have been accommodated in dwellings along the road leading up from the old collective farm that has been converted into a Huccul horse stud; three of these lodgings have never been finished, owing to a shortage of funds. Many of the national park service buildings lack heating installations and adequate insulation meeting ecological criteria.

Recommendation: Prohibit the installation of any large tourist, sports or recreational facilities likely to impair the integrity of the Park's landscapes.

Establish architectural standards within the Park geared to respecting and preserving the regional characteristics of buildings. Similarly, lay down rules for signposts giving directions or information and advertising displays, avoiding garish colours or materials not suited to the site.

As far as possible, improve the external appearance of existing buildings and installations and integrate them into the landscape through abundant vegetation. Similarly, make the Park's buildings more eco-friendly through heating installations and insulation complying with the norms.

At present there are still a number of major projects that might harm the integrity of the Park, either directly or through their ramifications:

- *a project for a cable car and ski slope is proposed in the state-owned forest in the Ciśniańko-Wetliński landscape park;*
- *a network of metal telephone relay masts is planned to improve telephone communications;*
- *it has been planned for several years now to directly link Ukraine and Poland with a route crossing this Carpathians region.*

Recommendation: Prohibit on the territory of the Park any major land route crossing the Carpathians between Poland and Ukraine that might cause irreparable damage to this National Park or the landscape parks bordering on it.

Subject any installation or facility of public interest to an impact study so that the most appropriate and least environmentally damaging technical solution may be chosen.

Recommendation 10. Grant to the Polish primeval forests of Krajobrazowy next to the Slovak forest reserves of Rabia Scala and Pl'asa the same protection status.

These ancient beech forests are in the south-eastern reaches of the Ciśniańko-Wetliński landscape park, bordering on the National Park for which they form part of the buffer zone. There have already been proposals to include them in the National Park (Michalik, 1977, 1987). The forest range, between 900 and 1,150 m in altitude, forms the north slope of the ridge-border with Slovakia; on the southern side, in Slovakia, there are two forest reserves, Plasza and Rabia Skala.

The forestry authorities are in favour of reclassifying the beech forest as a forest reserve; it is not easily accessible and there is no regular commercial cutting. Reclassification has been delayed by budgetary considerations, as it would have to be covered by a specific management plan in the forestry planning context.

Recommendation 10 is to be maintained and reworded as follows:

Recommendation: the Krajobrazowy forest range at the Slovakian border is to be classified as a forest reserve by the forestry authorities as soon as possible.

Recommendation 11. Maintain the state-owned status of the lands situated in the Valley of the River San, through making them subject to the forest administration or including them in the Bieszczady National Park.

A total of 1,389 ha of the state-owned lands of the San Valley have been transferred to the National Park. Much of the forest in this valley, where the river San forms the border with Ukraine, had been cleared to create grazing land and hay meadows for the needs of a large collective farm in Tarnawa Niżna, now abandoned. The valley lands had been drained with only two peat-bogs (Tarnawa-Litmirz) remaining at the edge of the San, which are being restored by the Park.

Of two ruined villages in the valley there remains only the tombstones and iron crosses of the cemeteries, identifiable from far away thanks to the rings of old trees surrounding them; these vestiges are preserved for collective remembrance.

The park service has now begun demolition of the large complex of hangers and stables previously used by the collective farm, keeping only low buildings for accommodation. The Park intends to keep the currently open landscape as a large game hunting area.

Recommendation: Continue and complete the demolition of the Tarnawa Niżna collective farm buildings, redevelop the San valley farmlands into wooded meadows favourable to threatened regional fauna, particularly the large herbivores, and continue converting forest plantations into stands similar to naturally occurring associations.

Recommendation 12. Coordinate the management of hunting in the two peripheral landscape areas of Cisniansko-Wetlinski and of the San Valley with the conservation of the fauna in Bieszczady National Park.

Large mammals, European bison, red deer, roe deer, boar and in particular carnivores, namely the brown bear, wolf, lynx, wildcat, fox, badger and otter, are a key element of fauna in the East Carpathians and justify this area's European interest.

At present, all the large carnivores are protected in Poland, and that protection will be stepped up by legislation being prepared for the application of the "Habitats" directive.

Henceforth the wolf or brown bear may be shot only in the event of danger or substantial livestock damage with special authorisation from the Ministry of the Environment.

The lynx has been protected since 1996. In Poland, its population numbers less than 300 and is thought to be declining.

Hunting is prohibited in the National Park but it is practised in the two landscape parks in accordance with national legislation. Hunting falls within the competence of the forestry authorities, which also comes under the Ministry of the Environment.

- The shooting of large game (red deer, roe deer, boar) is subject to shooting plans drawn up on the basis of annual inventories. These plans have been increased recently with a view to reducing the damage caused by deer.

- Other game to note in this connection: fox, badger, hare, hazel grouse, woodcock.

The law on hunting provides for the setting up of hunting districts consisting of private land (+3,000 ha) rented out to hunting associations, generally made up of local hunters, or of hunting reserves in state-owned forests (+10,000 ha) managed by the forest authorities, which may issue hunting permits to foreigners (250 hunters/year). The game shot remains state property and is sold, while the trophy goes to the hunter.

There are two areas of dispute concerning protection of the wolf:

- hunters believe that damage caused by wolves is a hindrance to selecting red deer for shooting as trophies,
- farmers complain of losses in their sheep stocks.

There does not appear to be any major conflict as regards hunting in the two landscape parks and the protection of hunted species in the National Park.

The two authorities, the forestry service and the national park service, both come under the Ministry of the Environment, and the National Park, while having no legal powers, is consulted on the cynegetic questions concerning the landscape parks.

However, it is advisable to maintain the recommendation on hunting, which is a standing recommendation.

Conclusions

The Park has a very dynamic management team, which has been in the job for many years and ensures continuity of management geared to landscape integrity and the conservation of native fauna and flora while exploring economic development oriented towards soft tourism in harmony with the environment. Information and education in the nature conservation field are a prime concern. The park service builds the Council of Europe's recommendations into the Park's management as far as its resources allow it to: extension of the area, silviculture close to nature, safeguarding of the poloniny and the valley meadows, cynegetic management.

The Park is the driving force in the trilateral MaB Reserve encompassing the national Slovakian and Ukrainian parks.

The assessment of the Park within the European Diploma framework is very positive on the whole and there is no argument against Diploma renewal, subject to the recommendations below:

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE ATTACHED TO THE RENEWAL OF THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA

1 - Conclude as soon as possible the Intergovernmental agreement between Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine with a view to creating a legal basis facilitating coordination of the management of the trilateral MaB Reserve by the three national authorities concerned.

2 - Pay constant attention to the maintenance of the valley meadows and their traditional management by sheep-grazing and Hucul horse-breeding.

3 - Prohibit the installation of any large tourist, sports or recreational facilities likely to impair the integrity of the Park's landscapes.

Establish architectural standards within the Park geared to respecting and preserving the regional characteristics of buildings. Similarly, lay down rules for signposts giving directions or information and advertising displays, avoiding garish colours or materials not suited to the site.

As far as possible, improve the external appearance of existing buildings and installations and integrate them into the landscape through abundant vegetation. Similarly, make the Park's buildings more eco-friendly through heating installations and insulation complying with the norms.

4 - Prohibit on the territory of the Park any major land route crossing the Carpathians between Poland and Ukraine that might cause irreparable damage to this National Park or the landscape parks bordering on it.

Subject any installation or facility of public interest to an impact study so that the most appropriate and least environmentally damaging technical solution may be chosen.

5 - The Krajobrazowy forest range at the Slovakian border is to be classified as a forest reserve by the forestry authorities as soon as possible.

6 - Coordinate the management of hunting in the two peripheral landscape areas of Cisniansko-Wetlinski and of the San Valley with the conservation of the fauna in Bieszczady National Park.

7 - Ensure that the National Park has adequate funding, inter alia from the national fund for environmental protection and water management, with which to implement the park management plan adopted in 1997.

APPENDIX I

**COUNCIL OF EUROPE
COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS**

**RESOLUTION (98) 27
ON THE AWARD OF THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA
TO THE BIESZCZADY NATIONAL PARK (Poland)**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 18 September 1998
at the 641st meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Status of the Council of Europe,
Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma;
Having regard to the proposals of the Committee for the Activities of the Council of Europe in the
field of Biological and Landscape Diversity (CO-DBP);
Having noted the agreement of the Government of Poland;

After deliberation,

Solemnly awards the European Diploma, Category B, to Bieszczady National Park;

Places the aforesaid zone under the patronage of the Council of Europe until 18 September 2003;

Attaches the following recommendations to the award:

1. Strengthen existing co-operation between Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine with a view to the official designation of a trilateral transfrontier biosphere reserve;
2. Hasten the adoption by the Ministry of the Environment and the implementation of the Conservation Plan for the National Park and provide a budget sufficient for the execution of this Plan;
3. Pay particular attention to the conservation of the pastures on the crests, the poloniny, and to the extensive and traditional management of the valley meadows;
4. Pursue the conversion of the conifer plantations towards the associations of the natural forest;
5. Also pursue the efforts already made for the conservation and restoration of the architectural and historical heritage destroyed or badly damaged by the second world war and its aftermath;
6. Prohibit any large tourist, sports or recreational facilities likely to impair the landscapes of the Park and transfer out of the Park the Wierch Wyznianski ski lift;
7. Ensure that the buildings and infrastructures in the buffer zone of the park and in the neighbouring landscape areas are in conformity with the provisions of the regional development regulations in force;
8. Promote a social and economic development strategy, particularly in the fields of agriculture, forestry and tourism in the Bieszczady National Park and the two adjoining landscape areas, which is consistent with the objectives of the conservation Plan of the Park;
9. Set up the scientific and technical body provided for by the Agreement between the services of the three bordering protected areas, in order to monitor the management of the ecosystems of the biogeographical complex and to co-ordinate the research activities in the MaB Reserve;
10. Grant to the Polish primeval forests of Krajobrazowy next to the Slovak forest reserves of Rabia Scala and Pl'asa the same protection status;
11. Maintain the state-owned status of the lands situated in the Valley of the River San, through making them subject to the forest administration or including them in the Bieszczady National Park;
12. Co-ordinate the management of hunting in the two peripheral landscape areas of Cisniansko-Wetlinski and of the San Valley with the conservation of the fauna in Bieszczady National Park.

APPENDIX II

**Draft resolution
on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas
to the Bieszczady National Park (Poland)**

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to Resolution (65) 6 instituting the European Diploma of Protected Areas, as amended by Resolution (98) 29 on the Regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;

Having regard to Resolution (98) 27 awarding the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Bieszczady National Park (Poland);

Taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists - European Diploma of Protected Areas on 20 and 21 January 2003;

Having regard to the proposals of the Committee for the Activities of the Council of Europe in the Field of Biological and Landscape Diversity (CO-DBP);

Renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas to the Bieszczady National Park until 18 September 2008;

Attaches to the renewal the following recommendations:

1 - Conclude as soon as possible the Intergovernmental agreement between Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine with a view to creating a legal basis facilitating coordination of the management of the trilateral MaB Reserve by the three national authorities concerned.

2 - Pay constant attention to the maintenance of the valley meadows and their traditional management by sheep-grazing and Hucul horse-breeding.

3 - Prohibit the installation of any large tourist, sports or recreational facilities likely to impair the integrity of the Park's landscapes.

Establish architectural standards within the Park geared to respecting and preserving the regional characteristics of buildings. Similarly, lay down rules for signposts giving directions or information and advertising displays, avoiding garish colours or materials not suited to the site.

As far as possible, improve the external appearance of existing buildings and installations and integrate them into the landscape through abundant vegetation. Similarly, make the Park's buildings more eco-friendly through heating installations and insulation complying with the norms.

4 - Prohibit on the territory of the Park any major land route crossing the Carpathians between Poland and Ukraine that might cause irreparable damage to this National Park or the landscape parks bordering on it. Subject any installation or facility of public interest to an impact study so that the most appropriate and least environmentally damaging technical solution may be chosen.

5 - The Krajobrazowy forest range at the Slovakian border is to be classified as a forest reserve by the forestry authorities as soon as possible.

6 - Coordinate the management of hunting in the two peripheral landscape areas of Cisniansko-Wetlinski and of the San Valley with the conservation of the fauna in Bieszczady National Park.

7 - Ensure that the National Park has adequate funding, inter alia from the national fund for environmental protection and water management, with which to implement the park management plan adopted in 1997.