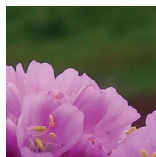




© Milena Piatkowska

Protection of the valuable non-forest habitats and landscapes characteristic for the area of Orle Gniazda Landscape Park

Complex of Landscape Parks of the Silesian Voivodeship



The project has enhanced the landscape with its environmental, cultural and historical features. Sustainable planning and management of the landscape revealed and enhanced the limestone hills with rocky outcrops which are a unique feature at national and European level. Non-forest thermophilic habitats have been protected, restored and preserved; nature conservation methods have been developed and invasive non-native species have been controlled, thus setting an example to be followed. The knowledge, experience and results of the project were promoted at conferences, and the education, information, publication and promotion activities of the Silesian Voivodeship Landscape Park Complex (*Zespół Parków Krajobrazowych Województwa Śląskiego*) were presented, both in Poland and abroad.

The project is part of a policy of sustainable and inclusive development of the Krakow-Częstochowa plateau, contributing to the social and economic development of the population. The landscape awareness-raising activities promoted, and the forms of participation developed, have led to the search for alternative sources of income that respect the natural and cultural environment. Active conservation of the landscape and the development of rural tourism that promotes gastronomy and the sale of local products have helped to improve the living conditions of local communities.

Through the introduction of exemplary landscape planning and management operations, the project has helped to protect a unique landscape of the Upper Jura which consists of a mosaic of picturesque hills and rocks. It has preserved valuable habitats and endemic species that were threatened by agricultural intensification, by various forms of pollution and invasive species. The actions carried out to raise the local actors' awareness on the territory's history, the values of its natural and cultural resources, as well as traditional farming and livestock practices, have fully placed the issue of sustainable territorial development at the centre of their concerns.

Recognised for its great value, the Project is part of the Landscape Award Alliance of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, as a source of inspiration.