



Bieszczady and Poloniny National Parks

Unique natural and cultural heritage



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Ustrzyki Górne 2021



We present you a publication introducing the reader to the most interesting natural and cultural resources of the Bieszczady National Park and Poloniny National Park.

The state of nature preservation on both sides of the border is exceptional, therefore, both in Poland and Slovakia, these are areas of the highest form of nature protection. The international rank and good quality of facility management are confirmed by the European Diploma of Protected Areas, awarded over 20 years ago. Thus, the special and unique features of this biogeographical region called the Bieszczady on the Polish side and Bukovské Vrchy on the Slovak side were emphasized. For many years, our cooperation has been aimed at promoting parks in such a way that they can be made available to tourists while explaining the rules of conduct in such valuable places. Together, we manage the hiking trail from Rabia Skala to Krzemieniec. Two nature paths, equipped with boards and permanent markings in the terrain, pass through the border area. We are united by one of the lowest artificial light pollution, hence we are developing programs dedicated to astronomical observations. We are also united by the presence of exceptional beech, beech and fir stands, which

in the past were not subject to commercial use, as they were under reserve protection. Their preservation along with the richness of fauna is our significant contribution to the natural heritage of two Slavic nations of Europe, or even to the whole world (World Natural Heritage). We are also united by clean air and the crystal water of the spring zones that flows towards the two seas. Together we care for the preservation of traces of the material culture of the region (Bieszczady) or existing objects (Poloniny).

One should agree with the statement that getting to know each other enables better protection and cooperation. That is why this study was created by authors who tied their scientific or professional life with these unique mountains, with a history of natural and cultural development incomparable to other places.

*Together with our friends from Slovakia,
we invite you to read this interesting study*

*Ryszard Prędki, Ph.D.
Director of the Bieszczady National Park*

International Biosphere Reserve “Eastern Carpathians”

Stanisław Kucharzyk

The International Biosphere Reserve “Eastern Carpathians” covers the western edge of the Eastern Carpathians, located in three countries: Slovakia, Poland, and Ukraine. It was established in 1992 as a bilateral Polish-Slovak transboundary protected area. Since 1998, it has been a tripartite Polish-Slovak-Ukrainian facility and covers an area of over 178.55 thousand hectares. According to the general principle established in the “Man and the Biosphere” (MaB)

program, the reserve is divided into three functional zones: central (without human interference), buffer – protecting the interior, and transitional, which serves the development and implementation of the principles of sustainable development.

On the Polish side, the most valuable areas in terms of nature are protected by the Bieszczady National Park, which creates a central and buffer zone. The area of the park is currently 29.20 thousand hectares (86% forests, 6% high mountain

pastures, 8% other non-forest ecosystems). The unique advantages of the Park include landscape with a characteristic arrangement of plant and climate levels, forest with a rich biota of bryophytes, lichens and fungi, invertebrate fauna characteristic of primeval forests, meadows above the upper forest border, and picturesque valleys.

The transition zone consists of two joined landscape parks: the Cisna-Wetlina Landscape Park with an area of 51.01 thousand hectares (about 83% forest cover), which was established in 1992. The park protects the characteristic landscape of parallel, forested mountain ranges, the watershed sections of Wetlina and Solinka, rock thresholds on these rivers, and other interesting forms of landform features (barren forests, landslide lakes). Important elements to be protected are the remains of old villages and other historic buildings (war cemeteries, forest railway). There are numerous nature reserves: “Olszyna łęgowa w Kalnicy” (Riparian alder in Kalnica), “Cisy na górze Jawor” (Yews on the Jawor mountain), “Woronikówka” (proper name), “Przełom Osławy pod Duszatynem” (Osława river gorge near Duszatyn), “Sine



Obelisk at the junction of the borders of Poland, Slovakia, and Ukraine – Kremenaros (1208 m above sea level) (G.H.)

Bieszczady National Park – view from Połonina Caryńska (Polonyna Carynska) (C.Ć.)



Poloniny National Park – primeval forest in the Havešová nature reserve (A.L.)



Wiry” (proper name), “Gołoborze” (Boulder field), “Zwieszło” (proper name).

The San Valley Landscape Park with an area of 28.72 thousand hectares was established in 1992. A large area (82%) is occupied by natural forest complexes and tree stands on former farmland. The few traces of former Boyko villages are also protected here including the Orthodox church in Smolnik entered on the UNESCO World Heritage List. In the park there are the following reserves: “Zakole” (proper name), “Krywe” (proper name), “Hulskie im. Stefana Myczkowskiego” (Stefan Myczkowski Hulskie) and “Śnieżycza wiosenna w Dwerniczku” (Spring snowfall in Dwerniczek).

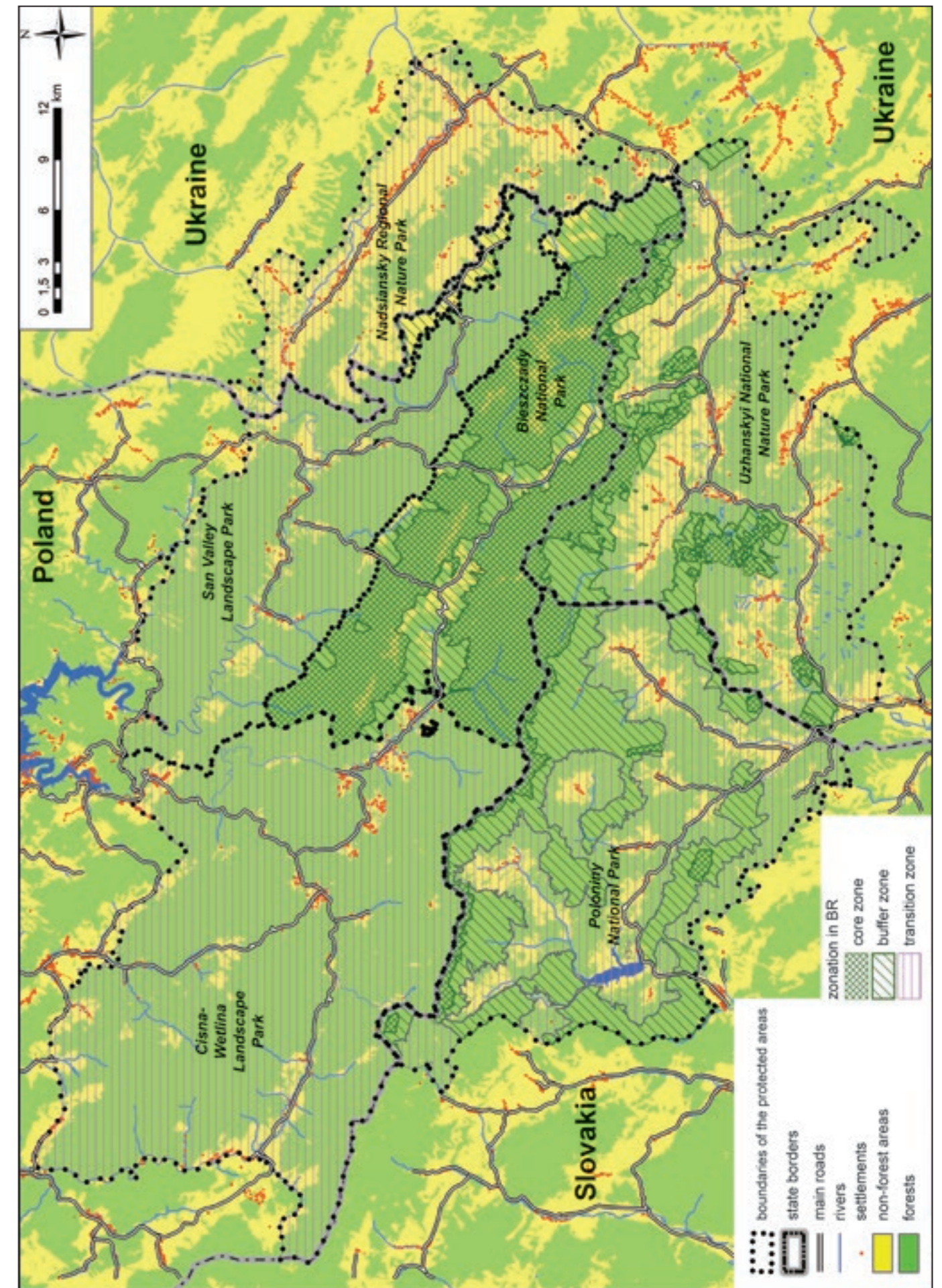
The Slovak part of the biosphere reserve is the Poloniny National Park with an area of 29.81 thousand hectares with a buffer zone of 10.97 thousand hectares. The forests of park, mainly beech and fir-beech trees, cover over 80% of the total area. The park protects the largest area of primeval forests in Slovakia, and in 2007 was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Uzhanskyi National Nature Park currently has 39.16 thousand hectares and was established

in 1999. Seven nature reserves (3 forest and 4 botanical) and 10 nature monuments have been established in the Park. Almost 70% of the area is covered with beech forests with an admixture of fir and sycamore. The forests on the Jawornik mountain and in the pre-war “Stużica” reserve, which largely retain their original character, are especially valuable. Clean beech forests and sycamore-beech forests reach 1,200 m above sea level and in a curved form, they build the upper border of the forest.

Nadsiansky Regional Landscape Park (NRLP) was established in 1997 on the area of 19.43 thousand hectares. The park is spread over two parallel mountain ranges crossed by the European watershed. There are sources of the San belonging to the catchment area of the Baltic Sea and the Dniester River flowing into the Black Sea. Forests and bushes constitute about 51.6% of the park area, and agricultural land – as much as 42.9%. The vast majority of this protected area will be covered by the Boikivshchyna National Nature Park established in 2019, which is currently at the stage of organization.

Uzhansky National Nature Park – view of the village of Stużica (G.L.)



Zoning in the International Biosphere Reserve “Eastern Carpathians”

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	5
International Biosphere Reserve “Eastern Carpathians”	6

The Bieszczady National Park

Changes in the natural environment in the past.....	12
Landscape and plant-climate levels.....	16
Abiotic natural environment.....	18
The “land of valleys”	24
Forests	28
Polonynas (mountain grasslands).....	34
The world of plants.....	42
Fungi and lichens	46
The world of animals	48
Insects	48
Fish, amphibians, reptiles.....	51
Birds.....	53
Ungulate and predator mammals	57
Hucul Horse.....	61
Traces of history.....	62
Threats and means of protection.....	68
Access to the Park for sightseeing.....	70
Know, love, protect – nature education.....	74

The Poloniny National Park

The history of nature conservation	78
Selected elements of abiotic nature	80
Geology and geomorphology	80
River system.....	84
The world of plants and its curiosities.....	86
Our fungi.....	94
Natural and primeval forests - pearls of our nature.....	96
Peculiarities of the animal world.....	104
Insects and other invertebrates	104
Amphibians and reptiles	107
Birds.....	110
Mammals, small and large	114
Man as a part of the landscape and its changes over time	120
Cultural heritage as an added value to the region	124
Nature conservation and its challenges	128
Let’s get to know Poloniny	134

The book presents the most interesting natural and cultural assets of the Bieszczady National Park (in Poland) and the Poloniny National Park (in Slovakia). The state of nature and wildlife conservation on both sides of the border is exceptional, as these areas are subject to the highest standards of nature protection in both countries. In 1992 they were included in the International Eastern Carpathians Biosphere Reserve. The internationally recognised status of these areas and the good quality of the management of their assets were acknowledged over 20 years ago with the European Diploma of Protected Areas. The award emphasises the special and unique features of this bio-geographical region called the Bieszczady Mountains on the Polish side and the Bukovské Vrchy Mountains on the Slovak side.

Our long-standing cooperation has focused on keeping the parks open to visitors, as well as promoting the rules of tourist conduct, essential to ensure that future generations will also be able to admire the wildlife of the Bieszczady Mountains. That is the reason behind this book, written by the authors whose scientific and professional interests are closely linked with these unique mountains, incomparable to others.

Together with our friends in Slovakia, we invite you to read this interesting publication.

Ryszard Prędki, Ph.D.
Director of the Bieszczady National Park

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