Cooperative Audit of National Parks. State of Play

17-10-2013
Participating countries

Initial group:
Poland, Norway, Denmark, Lithuania, Ukraine as of March 2012

Joined later by:
Bulgaria as of August 2012; and Croatia as of September 2012

Coordinating country: Lithuania
Type of Audit

Coordinated audit (with a Joint Report based on national reports)
Audit Objective

To facilitate sharing of audit experiences, to disseminate common findings and differences and to support additional national audits.

Subtopics of the audit:
1. Nature conservation and protection of biodiversity in national parks;
2. Management of national parks;
3. Use of public funding in national parks.
Audit Time Frame

Audited period: 2010 to 2012
Joint report to be released by the end of 2014

Dates of national audits:

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Rationale for initiating the audit I

• Local communities’ willingness and ability to give priority to conservation issues over economic and rural development

• Few resources available for national park management

• Insufficient local level environmental knowledge and capacity

• Various challenges to obtaining a coordinated and coherent management;

• Failure to initiate activities to protect conservation values

• No nation wide system of monitoring of protected areas
Rationale for initiating the audit II

- Number of irregularities such as: lack of management plans, weak organizations, imprecise definition of boundaries, incomplete land ownership status, expansion of alien species, uncoordinated tourism management;

- Number evidence of NPs great role in the conservation of natural, homeostatic ecosystems, and biodiversity;

- Negative image of protected areas (PA);

- Ineffective system of compensations for restricted activities in PA, etc.;

- Lack of co-operation with other institutions involved;

- Insufficient control management and co-ordination.
Project group meetings

1. Kick-off meeting March 2012, Warsaw (Poland)
2. Meeting to finalise The project Plan May 2013, Vilnius (Lithuania)
3. Meeting to decide format of national contributions (cases), format of the joint report and sharing of work load and responsibilities March 2014 Lvov (Ukraine) (?)
4. Meeting to agree on the first draft of the joint report, June 2014, Norway
Questions to be answered

• Are the national parks making a difference?

• How should – and can – the national parks develop?

• What measures should be taken to increase the nature content of the national parks?
Questions?