

# 7<sup>th</sup> Tourism Forum - Tábor, Czech Republic



**Natural and related immaterial heritage  
under the auspice of UNESCO  
Approaches to conservation and tourism**

# UNESCO NATURAL AND IMATERIAL HERITAGE

- World Heritage Sites
- Biosphere Reserves
- Global Geoparks
- Intangible Heritage





# World Heritage

## Natural (and mixed) properties



Main objective:

Identification and conservation of natural sites of outstanding universal value.

Number of sites: 206 natural and 35 mixed

18 in danger!

Czech sites: 0

Area: more than 2 mil. km<sup>2</sup> (natural and mixed properties)

**Cultural landscapes = cultural heritage?!**





# Biosphere Reserves



Main objective:

Harmonized management of conservation of biological and cultural diversity and economic and social development based on local community efforts and sound science.

Number of sites: 669 BR in 120 countries (20 transboundary)

Czech sites: 6

Křivoklátsko, Třeboň Basin, Lower Morava, Šumava, Bílé Karpaty, Krkonoše/Karkonosze Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (Czech Rep/Poland)

Area: nearly 600.000 km<sup>2</sup>







# Biodiversity in the Czech Republic

Number of species in the Czech Republic is above the European average:

- 577 vertebrates species
- 2.700 higher plants species
- 43 000 insect species
- 8.000 lower animals species



50% amphibian species became extinct in the Czech Republic!



# Central Europe Rewilding? Large predators Comeback!





# Tourism for Nature



A GEF Project on Biodiversity and Tourism strengthening protection of globally significant mountain ecosystems in selected Biosphere Reserves of Central and Eastern Europe



Eco-tourism while still at a relatively modest level of development in the region, provides opportunities as well as challenges for the sustainable use of biodiversity

- Šumava BR (Czechia)
- Aggtelek BR (Hungary)
- Babia Góra BR (Poland)



More information:

<http://www.tourism4nature.org>





# Ecotourism – wildlife watching









# Birdwatching

- In Central and Eastern Europe still underestimated form of sustainable tourism, great potential especially for protected areas
- Potential pioneer segment: foreigner visitors with proper professional or hobby orientation who already know and want this tourism product



# UNESCO Global Geoparks



## Main objective:

- Promotion of the significance and need for protection of geological and related cultural heritage through engagement with local communities and their traditional knowledge.
- Geohazards awareness and prevention.
- Local sustainable development through geotourism.

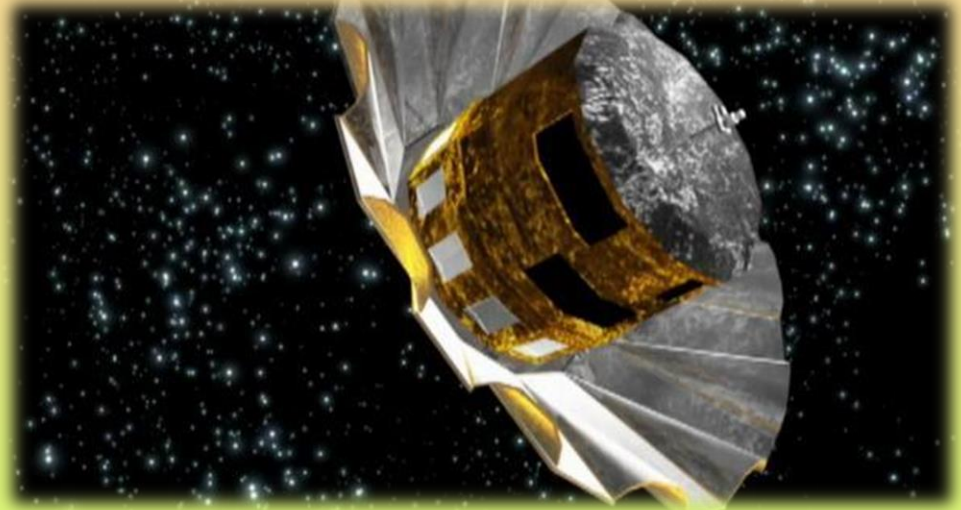
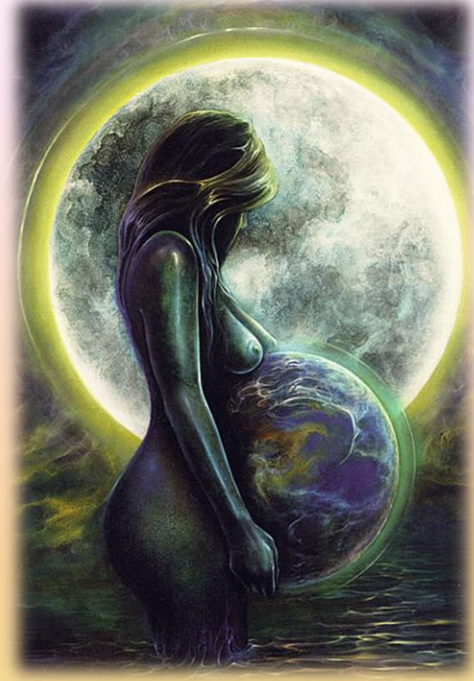
Number of sites: 127 in 35 countries

Czech sites: 1 - Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Global Geopark

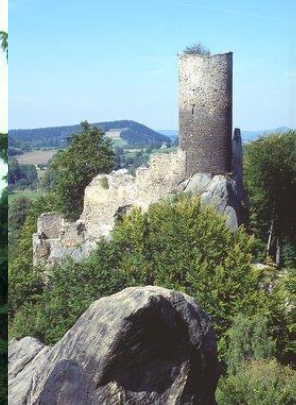
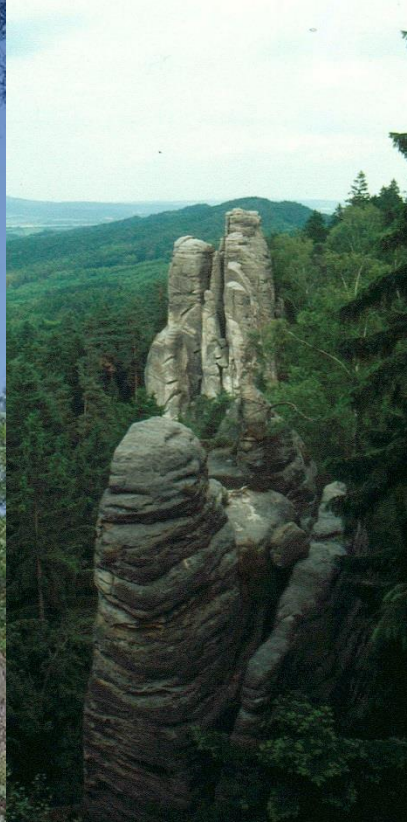
Area: more than 150.000 km<sup>2</sup>



# UNESCO Global Geoparks







Organizace Spojených  
Národů pro Výchovu,  
Vědu a Kulturu



Český Ráj  
Globální Geopark  
UNESCO

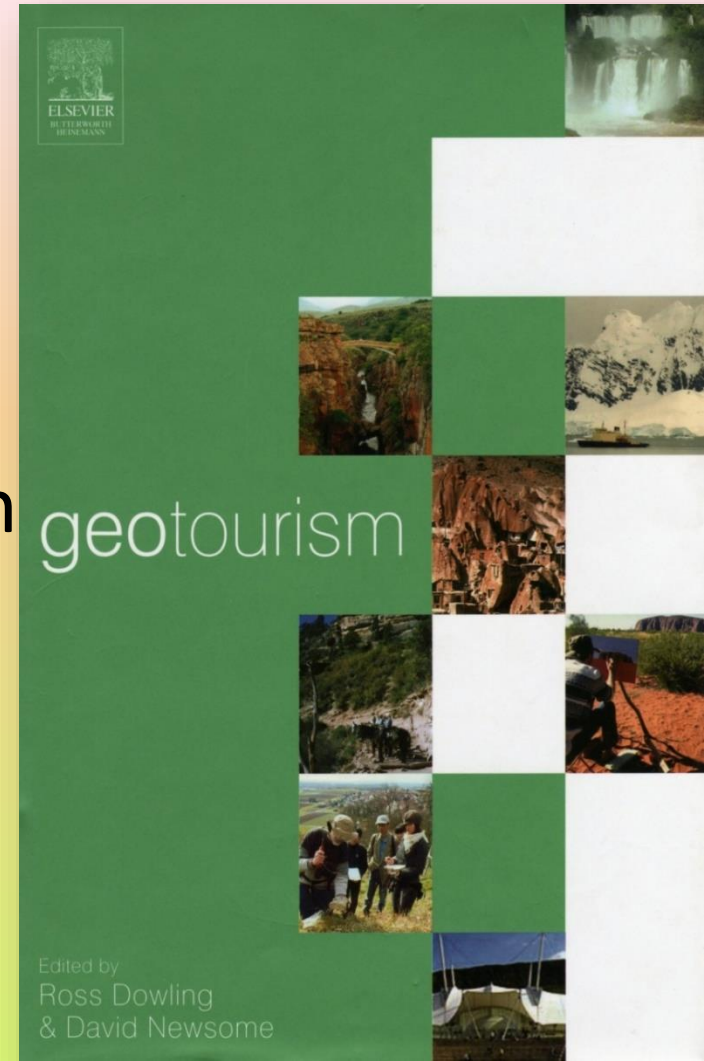




# Geotourism??

- Based on geological features
- Develops geological tourism products
- Creates outstanding tourist experiences
- Includes excellent interpretation
- Provides value to local communities
- Conserves geoheritage
- Should be sustainable

*(Prof. Ross Dowling)*





# Intangible Cultural Heritage



Main objective:

To provide communities with a sense of identity and continuity, while promoting creativity and social well-being, contributing to the management of the natural and social environment. Much of it is called traditional or indigenous knowledge is, can be integrated into health care, education and management of the natural resources systems.

Number: 429 elements in 113 countries

Czech items: 5

- Slovácko Verbuňk, recruit dances
- Shrovetide processions and masks in the villages of the Hlinecko area
- Ride of the Kings in the south-east of the Czech Republic
- Puppetry in Slovakia and Czechia
- Falconry, a living human heritage (with other 18 countries)





**The Shrovetide processions in the Czech Republic**

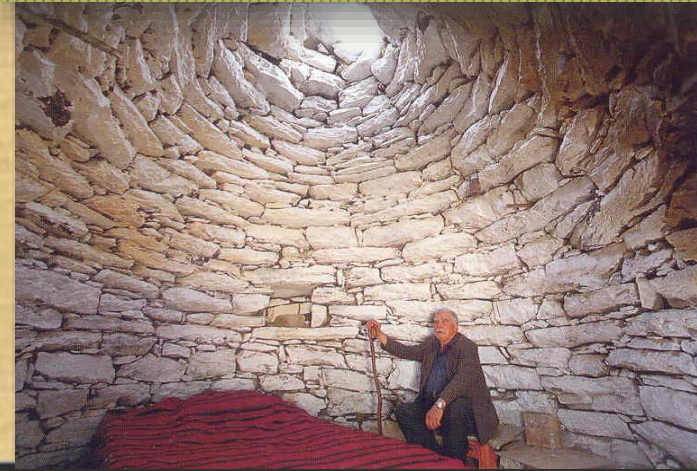


- (a) Oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of intangible cultural heritage;
- (b) Performing arts and music;
- (c) Social practices, ritual, and festive events;



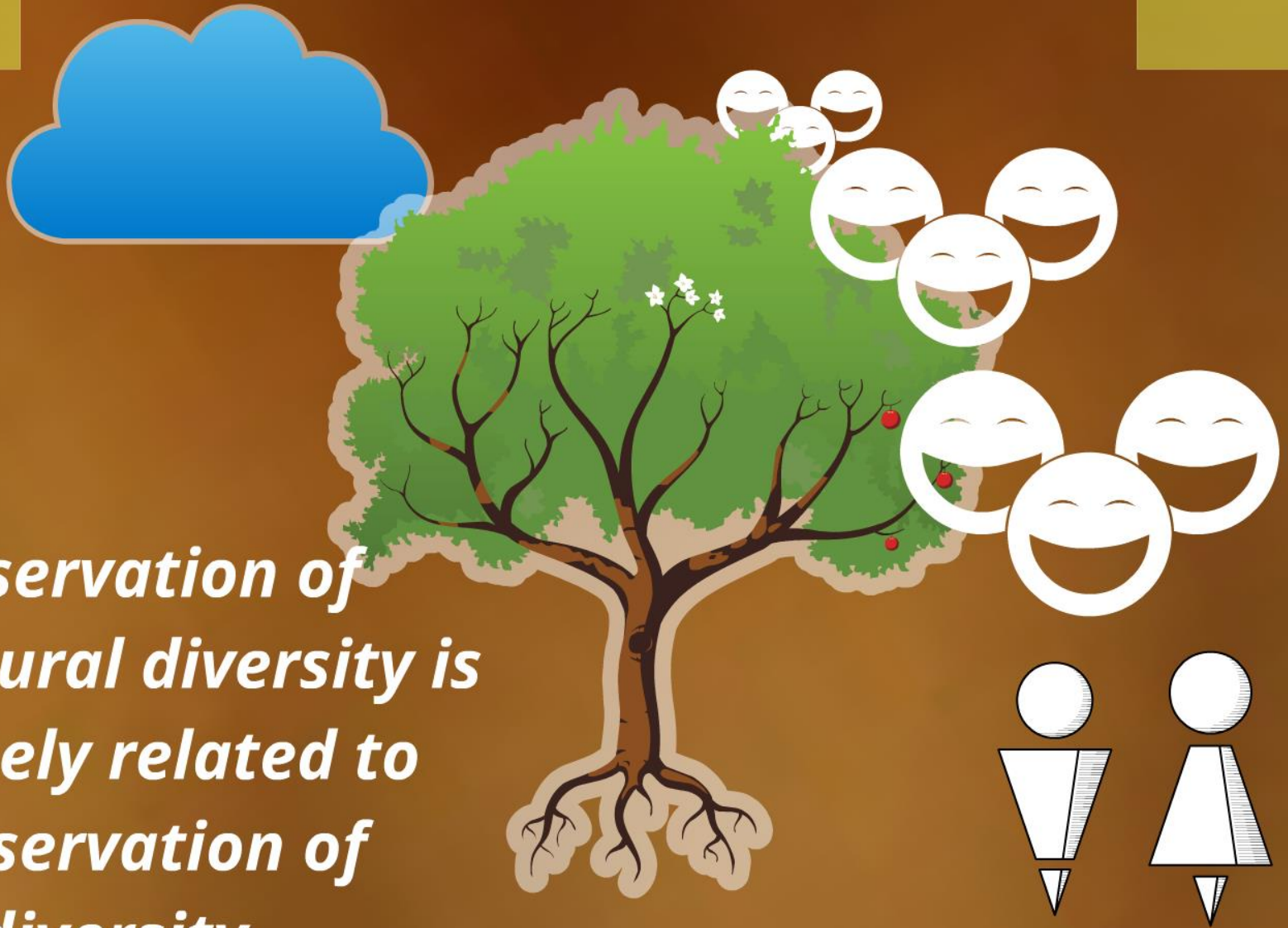
Intangible  
Cultural  
Heritage

- (d) Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe;
- (e) Handicrafts and visual arts that demonstrate traditional craftsmanship;
- (f) Gastronomy and culinary practices;





*Preservation of  
cultural diversity is  
closely related to  
conservation of  
biodiversity*







# Local and indigenous knowledge as a part of intangible heritage of natural areas

Special focus on **knowledge and practices concerning nature and universe:**

ecological wisdom, indigenous knowledge fauna and flora, traditional healing systems, beliefs, initiatory rites, shamanism, cosmologies, possession rites, festival, ethno-medicine etc.



# Biocultural approaches to conservation

**Biocultural heritage:**  
knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities that are collectively held and inextricably linked to, and shaped by, the socioecological context of communities



Michael C. Gavin, Joe McCarter, Aroha Mead, Fikret Berkes, John Richard Stepp, Debora Peterson and Ruifei Tang (2015):

**Defining biocultural approaches to conservation.** Elsevier Ltd.



# Local traditional ecological knowledge as a part of intangible heritage of natural areas

## Biocultural heritage:

The TEK and related beliefs are sometimes not accepted by dominant society, e.g. so called „Goddess from Kopanice region” persecuted by Czech communist regime for their mystic healing practices using local herbs and related knowledge to cure illnesses or protect against bewitch.



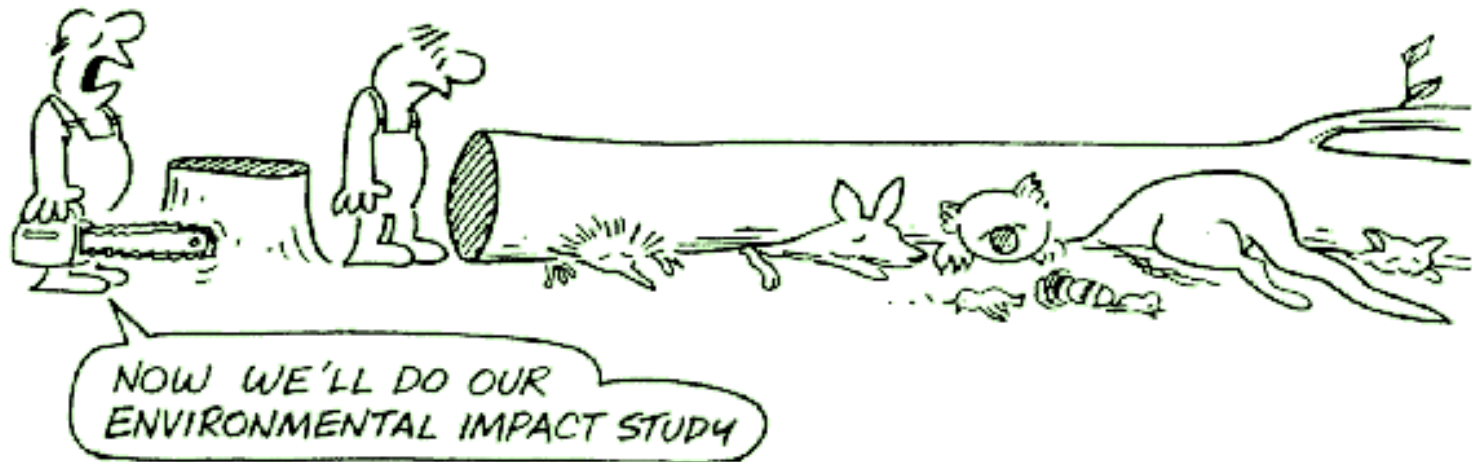
# Local traditional ecological knowledge as a part of intangible heritage of natural areas

The ILK includes the traditional, by time verified perception and usage of carrying capacity, as described by Klubnikin et al. (2000) in the Siberian taiga case study (Altai). Regarding e.g. the Siberian pine, they have observed the multiuse resource management respecting the carrying capacity of forest to recover its ecosystems: *“Stone pine, also called cedar or kedr (*Pinus sibiricus*), is considered a sacred tree by Altaians, and is a good example of the **use of plants for traditional purposes**. Each part of the tree can be used. The resin was used to make a **chewing gum that helped to clean teeth**. Seedlings were boiled and the **infusion was used to rinse out a person’s eyes**. Cedar nuts had many traditional uses; for example, chewing a handful of nuts was thought to **heal throat ailments**, and nuts were used to produce **cedar “milk” and butter**. Cedars were protected, so that only dead trees that were already dried out were used for firewood. Living trees were treated as **living forest capital and were not cut unless absolutely necessary**, and only when they could be taken without damaging wildlife or other aspects of the taiga ecosystem.”*



# Biocultural approaches to conservation

How conservation can lead to effective and fair outcomes within different social–ecological contexts?







**Don't be in despair!**



**Mass tourism is not  
invention of this  
century!**



# Conclusions



## What to do

to conserve the Earth Heritage for future generation?

1. Integrated and participative destination management
2. Environmentally and morally responsibility of visitors
3. Preference of environmentally innovative technologies for tourism infrastructure

Only combination of these approaches can lead to tourism sustainability, to assure

- Local ecosystems (their adaptive capacity to cope with disturbances)
- Local people cultural and natural identity
- Sustainability and attractiveness of destination areas





***„Take only pictures,  
leave only your footprints!“***





***Thanks for your attention!***

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