

Interreg

CENTRAL EUROPE



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

BEECH POWER

Governance strategies for
stakeholder participation and the
integration of natural heritage
in sustainable regional development



Good governance for World Heritage Beech Forests

Good governance is a way of making and implementing decisions, which ensures that present and future needs of “Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe” are met by fulfilling the following criteria:



1. Participation



2. Consensus orientation



3. Accountability



4. Transparency

Good governance criteria as relevant to stakeholder participation



8. Rule of law



7. Equitability/
inclusiveness



6. Effectiveness/ efficiency

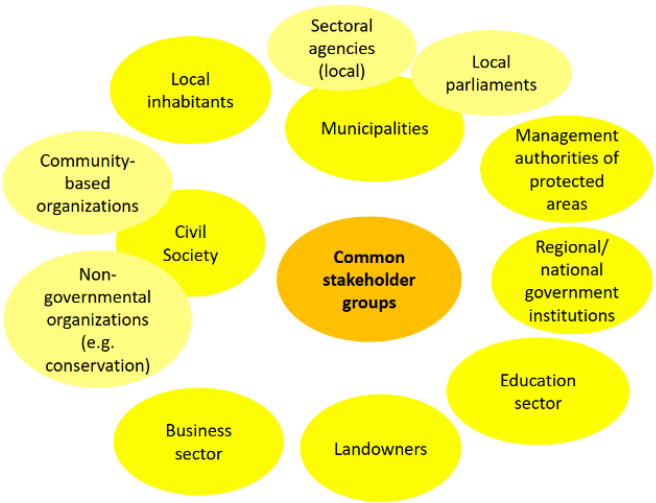


5. Responsiveness

1. Participation of all stakeholders in decision- making processes
2. Consensus orientation: acceptance by all
3. Transparency: clear stated rules and regulations, available information
4. Responsiveness to the legitimate needs of all stakeholders
5. Effectiveness and efficiency: required results by efficient use of available resources
6. Equitability and inclusiveness: fair costs distribution among all stakeholders
7. Rule of law: legal frameworks adequately implemented.

Activating and involving regional stakeholders in participatory planning processes

Stakeholder participation is generally identified as one of the criteria of good governance. BEECH POWER developed a strategy that supports public authorities in their efforts to ensure the good governance of the component parts of the World Heritage Beech Forests for which they are responsible, by activating and involving relevant stakeholders in planning and management processes. Within the framework of BEECH POWER, five component parts from Croatia (Suva draga- Klimenta and Oglavinovac Javornik), Slovenia (Snežnik and Krokav) and Germany (Grumsin) were exemplarily analysed with regard to stakeholder involvement and participation.

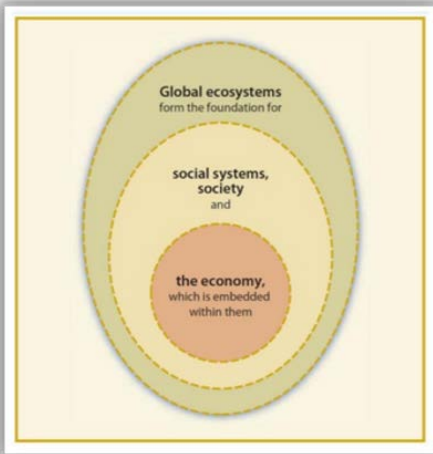


Common stakeholders at and around the component areas of the World Heritage Beech Forests

Integrating natural heritage in regional and communal sustainable development

Sustainable development is the overarching paradigm of the United Nations and, as such, a guiding principle for the management of UNESCO World Heritage sites.

The governance strategy developed by BEECH POWER supports management authorities of the World Heritage Beech Forest, regional decision-makers and stakeholders in their efforts to forge a productive relationship between the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value of the component parts of the World Heritage site and the sustainable development of the regions and communities surrounding them.



Schematic illustration of the relationship between the economy, society and the ecosystems in the systematic approach to sustainable development (Molitor & Ibsch 2019)

According to the systemic approach to sustainable development as proposed by Molitor & Ibsch (2019), social systems and, thus, the economy, are dependent components of the global ecosystem which provides the foundation on which social systems (society) develop. For the context of WH Beech Forests this means that sustainable development requires strategies and approaches that ensure the protection of the environment and its natural resources above all.

Objectives of the BEECH POWER governance strategy

- The World Heritage site is recognized and used as opportunity and means to reach the objectives of sustainable development of various agendas and policies on different levels, including beyond the boundaries of the property.
- Mechanisms to promote integration of natural World Heritage into the planning and management of regional and municipal sustainable development are in place and effective, and involve all relevant sectors and actors.
- Synergies between nature conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation are identified and managed around the component parts.
- Natural World Heritage is integrated in education sectors of bordering municipalities, in activities of the tourism sector, and by the arts and culture.
- Opportunities for regional and municipal development arising from the pan-European character of the World Heritage, e.g. in education and tourism, are used to their full potential.
- Sustainable regional / community development are anchored as management objectives in the management plans of the component parts of the Beech Forests, and pursued in practical part management.
- World Heritage promotes the generation, marketing and equitable sharing of regional benefit in line with the principles of sustainable development.

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT BEECH POWER

World Heritage BEECH Forests:
emPOWERing and catalyzing an
ecosystem-based Sustainable Development

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**Eberswalde University
for Sustainable
Development**



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