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OPPORTUNITIES FOR ECOTOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN THE MAGURSKI NATIONAL PARK AND ITS BUFFER ZONE

Abstract: The Magurski National Park lies in the central part of the Low Beskid (*Beskid Niski*) and is the youngest national park in the Polish Carpathians; it was established in 1995. It covers areas of remarkable natural features, attractive both because of their landscape and their historical and cultural aspects. These assets are used to only a limited extent. The region is scarcely populated and economically underdeveloped. After the Magurski National Park was established an increase in incoming tourism was seen, offering an opportunity for the development of the region, but at the same time creating a threat to its natural assets. To prevent this trend, only ecotourism should be developed, as its is friendly both to the environmental and cultural heritage of the area, while at the same time providing for the needs of tourists and a source of revenue for the local residents.

Key words: ecotourism, national park, Beskid, Magurski National Park

Introduction

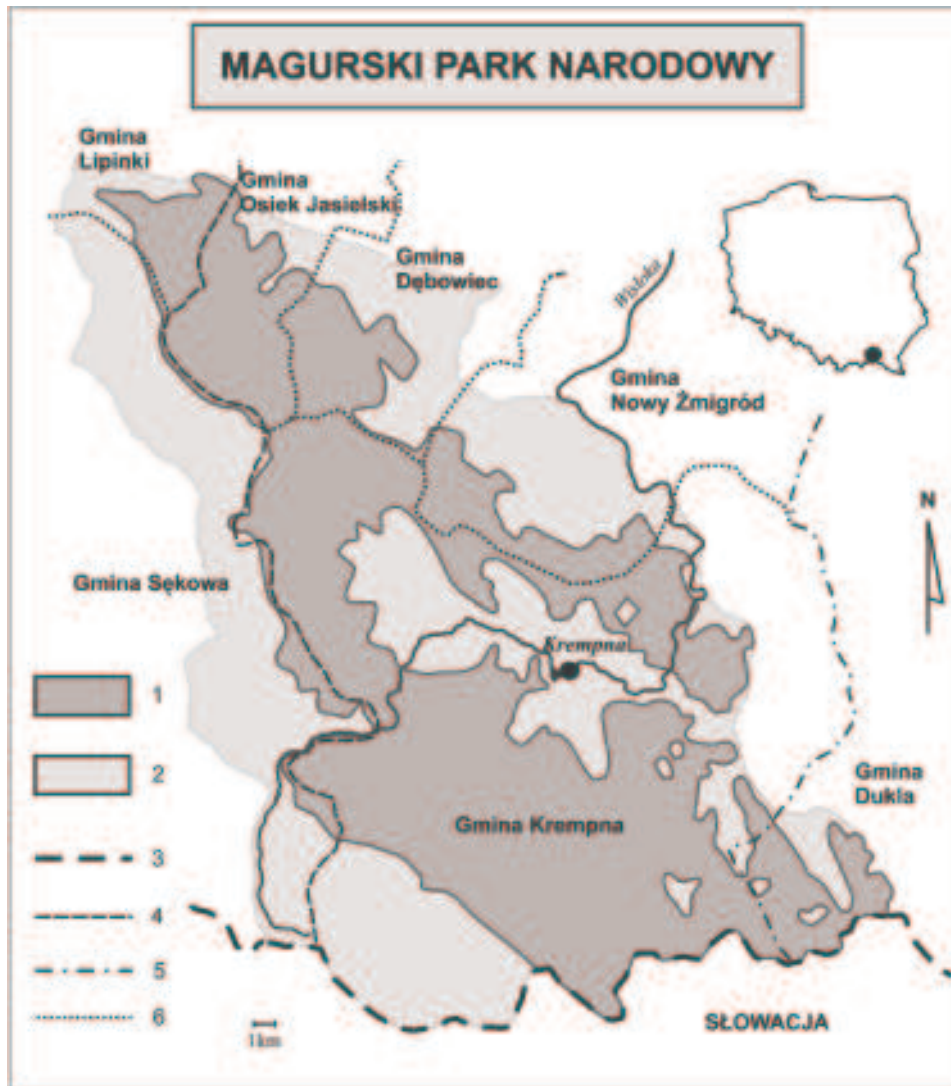
Following an increasing number of population, the progressive urbanisation and economic development of a country, the scarcely populated territories which are not transformed by human activity are shrinking. The sites with natural landscapes and unpolluted environment, precious because of their natural and cultural heritage, but with a low intensity of tourist movement, are becoming increasingly rare. One such region is the central part of the Low Beskid range. With the establishment of the Magurski National Park promotion of the region was initiated. A dramatic and uncontrolled increase in incoming tourism and development could easily lead to the degradation of the region's natural assets. Therefore it is necessary to undertake activities for the development of ecotourism only, i.e. tourism which develops in harmony with the natural and socio-cultural environment.

Situation and general characteristics of the area

The Magurski National Park, with an area of 19,363.05 ha, is situated in a sub-province of the Outer Western Carpathians, in the central part of the Low Beskid meso-region (Balon et al. 1995). It encompasses a part of the sub-region of the Magurskie ranges. Its is mostly situated in the Podkarpackie Voivodeship (89.7%), mainly in the Krempna commune (*gmina*), as well as in the communes of Nowy Żmigród, Dębowiec, Osiek Jasielski and Dukla (Jasło and Krosno Districts). Only a small portion lies in the Małopolskie Voivodeship (10.3%), in the communes of Sękowa and Lipinki (Gorlice District). In the south the Magurski National Park borders with Slovakia (Svidnik and Bardejov Districts).

The Magurski National Park is the youngest national park in the Polish Carpathians. It was established by the regulation of the Council of Ministers of 24 November 1994 (Journal of Laws. No. 126, item 618), which entered into force on 1 January 1995. The establishment of a national park laid down provisions for the protection of the fauna, flora and inanimate natural features, as well as the landscape and cultural heritage. Among other things, this has had a great economic significance for the region's tourist promotion. The park is surrounded by a buffer zone, with an area of 22,967 ha. In the south-east it neighbours with the Jaśliski Landscape Park established in 1992; in the north – with the Protected Landscape Area in the Low Beskid. In an area between the Magurski National Park and the Popradzki Landscape Park in the Małopolskie Voivodeship no protective measures have been introduced. The adjoining areas in Slovakia also remain unprotected.

The natural environment. The hills of the Low Beskid are extensive but relatively lower areas within the Outer Carpathians. Thus even the elevated parts of the Magurski National Park are low, gentle and cupola-shaped. They consist of two ranges of ridges running north-west and south-east, separated with the valleys of the Wisłoka and Wilsznia Rivers, which constitute an axis of the Park. The south range (on the border) is a little lower, the peaks in most cases reaching 650-750 m a.s.l. The northern culmination is the ridge of the Magurski Wątkowska range with its highest peak, Mt. Wątkowa (846 m a.s.l.), rising ca. 500 m over the depression of the Jasło–Sanok Basin to the north. The ridges are chiefly formed from Magurski limestones, creating various forms of picturesque rock outcrops. The area of the Magurski National Park is characterised by great variation of temperature and humidity, typical of mountainous areas, and the effects of strong föhn winds. The average annual temperature is 6°C. The warmest month is July (average temp. 17°C; on the ridges 14°C); the coolest month is January (average temp. –4°C, in valley bottoms –7°C). The total annual precipitation ranges from 740 to 950 mm, reaching 1,000 mm in the hill-top zone. Snow cover usually appears in the first three weeks of November, and disappears in the 1st half of April. At the level of 500 m a.s.l. snow lingers for approx. 95 days, while the snow-cover achieves its maximum depth in February – 20 cm on the average (Hess 1965). An adverse effect for tourist development is the fact that the snow cover melts and reappears several times during the season. The Magurski National Park is situated in the upper part of the river basin of the Wisłoka River – a right-side tributary of the Vistula River. The sanitary



Legend: 1 – Park area, 2 – buffer zone, 3 – Polish frontier, 4 – Voivodeship borders,
5 – Poviats borders, 6 – commune borders

Fig. 1. Situation and boundaries of the Magurski National Park

condition of the river and its tributaries above Kremna is assessed as being in the Ist and IInd class of cleanness. There is a small artificial lake on the Wisłoka River at Kremna (0.5 ha); however, its use for tourism is not fully practicable as the lake is significantly silted up. A large artificial lake is planned, with a maximum area of 460 ha. A dam

will be built in the southern part of the village of Kąty. Among the special riches of the region are mineral waters. These are low-mineralised sulphide waters, exploited in the Wapienne locality, as well as the springs in Folusz, Samokłęski and Bednarka, which are not exploited. The flora and the fauna of the Magurski National Park and the entire Low Beskid, are transient between those of the Eastern and the Western Carpathians. Due to the fact that the elevations are not very high and the climate is moderate, no high mountain species which can be found in the western part of the Carpathians are to be found here; instead, there are thermophilous species. The flora of the Park is moderately abundant, but the vegetation cover is well preserved and has the features of natural vegetation. Legally protected plants constitute a significant share of the species in the vegetation (Chapter 3). The area of the Magurski National Park embraces two altitudinal zones: foothill vegetation (to 530 m a.s.l.) and lower montane forest (above 530 m a.s.l.). Woodlands prevail in the local landscape, accounting for 93.79% of the Park's area (19058 ha). The extensive forest complexes are natural refuges of numerous species typical of foothill and lower montane forest fauna (Chapter 3).

The forms of environmental protection. Strict and partial (in passive and active forms) protection is applied in the Park. 13.1% of the Park area is under strict protection, including three areas: Magurski Wątkowska (1 188.69 ha) – the central, forested part of the massif; Kamień (377.93 ha) the south-eastern slopes of Mt Kamień (Carpathian forest with outcrops of Magurski limestone); and Zimna Woda (841.11 ha) – the source area (more than 140-year-old Carpathian beech stand, left out of commercial use for more than 40 years).

Within the boundaries of the buffer zone, on the southern slopes of the Kornuty, is the Jasło–Sanok Basin geological reserve (area 11.9 ha). It was established in 1953, in order to protect one of the most beautiful and interesting rock-slides in the Beskid. It is a partial reserve, so tourism is acceptable in it.

Population and economy. After WWII and the resettlement of the native population of the Low Beskid (the Lemko people), there was an influx of newcomers from the neighbouring areas. However, the population numbers have never reached the pre-war level, and some villages have ceased to exist. Currently there are 36 villages in the area, 9 of which are depopulated (6 such villages are located within the boundaries of the Park). The total population of all communities amounts to 8 623 residents¹. The central Krempna Commune, accounting for 48% of the discussed area, numbers 2,151 residents². Therefore its population density amounts to only 10.6 persons/km² (before WWII 49 persons/km²). The region is chiefly inhabited by farmers working on their own holdings. Small farms up to 5 ha prevail; 50.2%. Farms in the commune of Krempna are of such small size. Land in agricultural use in the commune accounts for 21% of the total area, of which the majority are meadows and pastures. After the State-Owned Farms closed down, the region has a very high level of unemployment.

¹ Data from the late 2001. The number of population also includes 200 residents of the Social Aid Home in Folusz.

² Data from the late 2001.

The development of ecotourism might create new jobs directly or indirectly connected with tourist services. Major obstacles, however, are: the lack of traditions of hosting tourists, the lack of the appropriate background, skills and understanding of the idea of ecotourism and the low level of education of residents³, as well as the limited local knowledge of the region's nature and culture.

Natural conditions for tourism development

The area of the Magurski National Park and its buffer zone is characterised by a very attractive landscape and the best-preserved natural environment in this part of the Carpathians. The Magurski ranges offer opportunities for interesting exploration of their geological and geomorphological features (numerous rock outcrops, crevice caves, river ravines, rock slide processes etc.), the processes of natural succession (forests encroaching on former arable lands). This area is also of great interest for those interested in botany and zoology. The indicator of the values of the Park's flora is the significant presence of rare and interesting plant species, including 48 strictly protected species and 11 partly protected species, including some endangered by extinction (12 species on "the Red List"). The very low population density and large forest areas have created conditions for the development of large populations of animal species, often including rare species. Some of rare animals may be easily seen by tourists. At least 200 species of strictly protected animals live in the Park territory. The largest populations and the greatest species diversity of large vertebrates of primeval forest fauna in all of the Low Beskid may be found in the Park. A particular feature of the Park is the introduction of beavers in the 1980s and the presence of dams built by these animals. The Park is especially rich in avifauna. Birds constitute the largest groups of legally protected species (98 breeding and wintering species, and 21 migrating species). In the natural forest refuges populations of many species considered rare or endangered in Poland occur, sometimes in great numbers. These include: the golden eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*, the eagle owl *Bubo bubo*, the lesser spotted eagle *Aquila pomarina*⁴, the honey buzzard *Pernis apivorus*, the goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*, the black stork *Ciconia nigra*, the white-backed woodpecker *Dendrocopos leucotos*, the Ural owl *Strix uralensis*, the buzzard *Buteo buteo* (the highest population density in Poland). Also noteworthy are rare and endangered species of butterflies (e.g. the Apollo *Parnassius apollo*, and the European swallowtail *Papilio machaon*), as are beetles: (*Rosalia alpina*, and the Capricorn beetle *Cerambyx scopolii*).

Among other curiosities of the Park is the occurrence of another swallowtail butterfly of *Papilio proserpina* – a south-European species.

The natural riches of the Magurski National Park offer opportunities for the development of various forms of ecological educational tourism, but, unfortunately

³ In 1999, 62% of residents of the commune of Krempnia had primary-school education and only 3% higher education.

⁴ Numerous population in the area (19 – 22 couples/100 km²); lesser spotted eagle is the symbol of the Park.

this potential is underused. The Park does not provide didactic activities yet, neither it has well-trained guides who might lead groups interested in nature-related issues (e.g. geology, ornithology, botany). No didactic trails have been laid out in the area discussed; no publications that might assist tourists in nature watching are currently available.

Interests other than natural attractions

Beside the natural attractions, the area abounds with very interesting historic architecture (Orthodox churches old, wooden cottages, chapels, roadside-crosses), as well as sites connected with the history of WWI and WWII, church cemeteries with numerous historic gravestones or numerous war cemeteries; all these contribute to the tourist attractiveness of the Magurski National Park and its environs. The area is also of great interest because of its history. Folk culture, including the Lemko language, traditional costumes, holidays and folk-customs are additional tourist attractions.

Eleven Lemko wooden Orthodox churches are still to be found in the Park buffer zone. Before WWII there were many more such churches, of which 16 are no longer extant, and one of which was transferred to the skansen in Nowy Sącz. The original interior furnishings have usually survived in these Orthodox churches; including the historic iconostases. The church in Bartne now serves as a museum. Five brick Orthodox churches are in the vicinity of the Magurski National Park. The oldest three (in Rozdziele, Desznica and Myscowa) date from the 18th c. In the Park and its buffer zone there are two Catholic churches: one in Skalnik (with historic interior furnishings dating from the 14th-18th c.)⁵ and another in Huta Polańska. Other traces of the former local residents, apart from Orthodox churches, are the Lemko cemeteries. Some of them are still used by contemporary parishes. An area adjoining the Orthodox church in Kotań may serve as fine example of the protection of sepulchral monuments. 22 gravestones from Żydowskie, Rostajne, Grabie and other places have been collected here. The oldest date from the 1st half of the 19th c. However, most of the cemeteries have been abandoned and neglected, overgrown by vegetation and dilapidated. Today many of them are even difficult to trace. Some cemeteries from WWI have shared the same fate. Fifteen such cemeteries may be found in the Magurski National Park and its buffer zone, including the most picturesque such places in the Polish Carpathians. There is also one cemetery dating back only to the times of WWII. It is a common grave of 1,250 Jews from Żmigród and its environs. Stone wayside shrines and crosses may be found in all Lemko villages, even if no farm buildings have survived there. Such landmarks are characteristic elements of the Low Beskid landscape and were made by local stoneworkers who used to live mainly in Bartne, Bodaki and Krempna. The region also has archaeological landmarks: the remains of an early medieval settlement (7th-9th c.) on Mt Walik, near Brzezowa, and the traces of stone fortifications on Góra Zamkowa near Mrukowa. Landmarks of historic wooden rural architecture date from an earlier era. Numerous Lemko cottages (*chyże*) may be admired in the majority of villages in the area. In one of such cottages in Olchowiec-Kolonia, a private museum has been arranged. The region of the Magurski

⁵ St Mary's sanctuary; in the high-altar is the venerated icon of Our Lady of Skalnik.

National Park is also very interesting in terms of ethnography. Although the native Lemko community has been resettled, some of the residents returned after 1953. Currently the revival of the old culture is to be seen, the Lemko language can be heard in many villages and folk events are organised.

In the Magurski National Park and its buffer zone tourists can pursue their interests in ethnography and history; e.g. to go hiking “retracing history” – finding the sites of the former Orthodox churches, farms, roads, battlefields etc. Didactic trails with descriptions would be advisable. Natural and cultural trails might also be created to familiarise the tourists with human activities related to nature. There is a local shortage of well-trained people who could provide guide services. When properly trained, local people might play the role of guides to certain extent. Local residents might as well acquaint the tourists with the regional cooking traditions, legends, folk craft, music etc. Such an offer would greatly enrich tourist visits to the region.

Tourist facilities

Transport accessibility. The Magurski National Park is situated far from larger urban centres. The closest international route (No. 9) runs from Rzeszów, via Dukla, to the frontier crossing in Barwinek. In the buffer zone there are two border crossings: Barwinek - Vyšny Komarnik and Konieczna–Becherov (since 1994). Additionally, the tourist border crossing Ożenna–Niżna Polianka is in the vicinity⁶. The condition of the local roads is very poor. Public transport is provided by PKS buses, the highest frequency of their operation is from N. Żmigród to Kąty (approx. 20 runs per day).

Overnight accommodations. No overnight accommodations are available in the Magurski National Park, except for a student hut in Nieznajowa (planned to be dismantled) and a camping ground in Fólusz. All tourist accommodations are located in the buffer zone and are mainly based in Krempna (Tab. 1). Most are provided by company holiday centres, which used to be closed to the general public. Currently they accommodate guests who are not employees of these establishments. None of such facilities is very large. Most accommodations are offered in cabins which are surrounded by woods and do not stand out from the landscape. These houses provided seasonal accommodations, only in the summer months. A small spa (Wapienne) is in the Sękowa commune, but the sanatorium facilities have been sold to a private owner and are no longer operational. In the recent years, the region has seen the development of agrotourist services. Private rooms are let by individual farmers-members of the Agrotourist Association “Galicyjskie Gospodarstwa Gościnne” (Bieszczady Chapter in Lesko). Currently 19 farms offer 151 beds. Almost all farms also offer catering services and sell local food products: dairy products, eggs, bread, honey and fruit. The development of agrotourism is equally beneficial for environmental protection, the landscape and the region’s economic development, and is in line with tourist’s expectations who want to enjoy leisure on their own and individual contact

⁶ Since 1996 open for limited scale border crossing movement; since 1999 also for pedestrian and biking tourist movement. Its adaptation for a vehicle border crossing is planned.

Tab. 1. Overnight accommodations in the Magurski National Park and its buffer zone

Type of facilities	Location	Number of facilities	Overnight accommodations		Total number of overnight accommodations	
			All year	Seasonal		
Holiday houses	Folusz	1	60	0	60	
	Kotań	1	50	0	50	
	Krempna	12	26	305	331	
	Radocyna	1	43	0	43	
Agrotourist farms	Krempna	4	21	0	21	
	Kotań	1	0	15	15	
	Huta Polańska	1	30	0	30	
	Myscowa	1	9	0	9	
	Kąty	6	30	6	36	
	Świątkowa Wielka	2	12	0	12	
	Skalnik	1	9	0	9	
	Folusz	1	0	3	3	
	Wapienne	1	10	0	10	
	Bartne	1	6	0	6	
	PTSM	Grab	1	-	25	25
		Folusz	1	-	25	25
Krempna		1	-	25	25	
Polany		1	-	25	25	
Świątkowa Wielka		1	-	25	25	
Mountain shelters	Bartne	1	29	0	29	
Total		41	335	429	764	

Source: own works; date from late 2001

with nature. Agrotourist farms may constitute the basis for overnight accommodation and catering for ecotourism, and an additional source of revenues for local residents. Agrotourism may also have a beneficial influence on the rural landscape. It does not involve the need for construction or development of accommodation or catering facilities. In addition, it brings about a change in local resident's attitudes towards the environment. Farmers who want to host tourists enhance the appearance of their houses, farm buildings and their surroundings. The development of agrotourism and ecotourism may also stimulate the residents to increase their knowledge about the region and their environmental awareness, together with an increase in understanding and support for environmental protection.

In addition to overnight accommodations in the region there should be properly equipped camping sites for tents. They are necessary, as it is connected with the specificity of tourism in Low Beskid, where hiking is particularly popular among young tourists. Currently there are three camping sites open (in Folusz, Krempna and Wapienne); during the summer season there is also campsite tent ground in Radocyna. Also one can spend a night in one's own tent at most agrotourist farms.

Catering facilities are very poorly developed. Apart from a network of small country shops providing food and industrial articles, there are only one snack-bar and a few seasonal catering places (cafeterias, mini-bars), as well as four canteens at the leisure centres.

Auxiliary facilities. After the Magurski National Park was created, the network of tourist trails became much more dense. Currently, on the area there are 8 tourist trails with a total length of 135 km (including 85 km within the Park boundaries)⁷. Signposting of additional trails is being planned, along with modifications of the existing trails. The target total length of tourist trails is 170 km, including 99 km within the Park boundaries (Wnuk, Rut 2000). Hiking trails will also serve tourist skiing, but cycling will not be permitted. Three cycling trails of the total length of 75 km are also being planned. These trails will form closed loops which will begin and end in Krempna. They will run only along public roads with particularly interesting landscapes and qualities that encourage interest in the locality. Protection of the Park against biking tourism as a uniquely sporting activity is necessary, and biking educational tours should be promoted. The region offers perfect conditions for the development of equestrian tourism. Two small studs are located in the Park buffer zone in Kotań and Wyszowatka. There is also a large stud of Hutsulian Horses in Gładyszów, 7 km from the boundaries of the Park. A section of the Carpathian Equestrian Trail runs through the area. The signposting of several didactic trails devoted to nature, history and culture is also planned. Detailed guides to such trails are also essential. No tourist infrastructure should be installed in the Park, other than the necessary elements of the trails (information tables, shelters against rain etc.)⁸.

Apart from a network of tourist trails, auxiliary tourist facilities are very poorly developed. The absence of tourist information is especially evident. Information points should be created to distribute promotional materials about the region's tourist attractions and to sell maps, guides and other publications. An educational centre of the Magurski National Park is currently being developed in Krempna. It will house a museum and didactic rooms. The centre's operation will be directed to both tourists and the local community, offering lectures, workshops, exhibitions and film showings. The damage caused by tourism can be significantly reduced through the promotion of knowledge of the region and its natural environment.

The intensity and forms of tourist movement

When compared with other national parks in the Polish Carpathians, the intensity of the tourist movement in the Magurski National Park is relatively low. Annually, the Park is visited by approx. 45 thousand tourists, that is 0.5 thousand tourists annually per 1 km of tourist trail⁹. This number of tourists does not cause any threat to the natural

⁷ Only trails of Polish Tourist and Nature-Lovers Society exist in the region.

⁸ The situation of camp sites and scout camps in the areas of lower natural assets, such as the Żydowskie locality, is permitted as an exception in the former State Farm buildings (planned to be demolished).

environment. Leisure tourism based on one site prevails in the region; there is also a significant share of hiking tourism practiced by young people. Tourist movement is significantly seasonal, with distinct peak-concentrations in the holiday months.

The area offers opportunities for hiking, biking, horse-riding and skiing on tourist and cross-country routes. These should be thematic excursions of a didactic character, including wildlife observation, familiarisation with the Park's flora and inanimate natural features, as well as the region's ethnography, history and landmarks. Such excursions should be made in small groups. Leisure activities, especially in agrotourist farms, might be expanded to acquaint visitors with local traditions, folk-customs, regional cooking etc. Local residents should prepare additional tourist attractions, such as rides in horse-driven carriages or carts, sledging cavalcades or bonfires. The scenic regional landscapes and its interesting culture also offer opportunities for organisation of "plein-air" for artists.

Typically ecological forms of tourism which should be developed in the Park and its buffer zone are difficult to enumerate. They will not cause damage to the environment only if they are properly distributed in time and location and are combined with the proper attitude on the part of tourists. This necessitates people of great environmental awareness. This awareness should be developed through the educational activities of the Park, the local community and others.

Summary

The assets of the Magurski National Park and its buffer zone create favourable conditions for the development of ecotourism, which may become a flagship of the region and one of its main functions. Ecotourism is the only way to achieve a harmony between the various needs of tourists, the local community and environmental protection. Where it is well-planned and developed, not only does it avoid the deterioration of its assets, but it contributes to their preservation. Once the members of the local community gain revenue from tourist services and see tourists' interests in the region, its nature and culture, they will appreciate and protect these assets. Thus ecotourism may contribute to an increased support for the Park. The promotion of ecotourism development should not remain exclusively an area of interest for the National Park itself. Local governments and local residents should also partake in the creation of opportunities of ecotourism development. Promoting the understanding and support of local residents to such projects and engaging them in the creation of tourist product and tourist services are necessary to achieve this objective. The development of tourism is an opportunity for improvement of the economic situation of this underprivileged region. However, the increase of revenue should be sought by upgrading of the standards of services and a varied tourist offer, and not only through the increase in the numbers of tourists. It is very important to prevent the excessive tourist movement and unwanted forms of tourism

⁹ Cnf. the Bieszczadzki National Park, which 1 thousand tourists annually per 1 km; the Gorczański National Park – approx.. 2.5 thousand; the Babiogórski National Park – 1.9 thousand and the Tatra National Park – 13.8 thousand. (*Parki narodowe w Polsce*, 2000).

and physical development. The planned development may serve as a regulator of the size and character of tourist movement. This movement should focus, to the largest possible extent, on the buffer zone. No effort should be spared to prevent tourism development adversely affecting the unique qualities of the region.

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Możliwości rozwoju ekoturystyki w Magurskim Parku Narodowym i otulinie

Streszczenie

Magurski Park Narodowy leży w centralnej części Beskidu Niskiego i jest najmłodszym parkiem narodowym w polskich Karpatach, istnieje od 1995 r. Są to tereny gór średnich i niskich, o łagodnej rzeźbie i znacznej lesistości. Odznaczają się najlepiej w tej części Karpat zachowanym środowiskiem naturalnym, wysoką atrakcyjnością krajobrazową, są również bardzo ciekawe pod względem historycznym i kulturowym. Pomimo wysokich walorów turystycznych, ruch turystyczny w regionie jest słabo rozwinięty. Bariery rozwoju stanowią zwłaszcza: znaczne oddalenie od ośrodków miejskich, trudna dostępność komunikacyjna oraz niezadawalający poziom infrastruktury turystycznej i brak odpowiedniej reklamy. Utworzenie parku narodowego pociągnęło za sobą nie tylko ochronę środowiska przyrodniczego, ale również podniesienie rangi regionu i jego promocję, co powoduje wzrost przyjazdów turystycznych. Turystyka może być szansą rozwoju dla bardzo słabo zaludnionych i słabo rozwiniętych gospodarczo terenów, niesie jednak zagrożenie degradacji walorów. Rozwój wyłącznie form turystyki ekologicznej – pozostającej w harmonii ze środowiskiem naturalnym i społeczno-kulturowym, stworzy możliwość pogodzenia interesów ochrony przyrody i dóbr kultury z potrzebami turystów oraz miejscowej ludności. Walory regionu umożliwiają rozwój różnorodnych form łagodnej dla środowiska turystyki. Na opisywanym terenie mogą mieć miejsce wędrowki piesze, rowerowe, konne oraz narciarskie. Powinny one przybierać formę wycieczek tematycznych o charakterze dydaktycznym, polegać np. na obserwacji życia zwierząt, poznawaniu flory oraz przyrody nieożywionej Parku, a także etnografii, historii i zabytków regionu. Wycieczki takie powinny odbywać się indywidualnie lub w niewielkich grupach. Wypoczynek, zwłaszcza w gospodarstwach agroturystycznych, mógłby zostać wzbogacony poznawaniem miejscowych tradycji, obrzędów, regionalnej kuchni, itp. Ekoturystyka może stać się wizytówką i jedną z głównych funkcji regionu, lecz jest to możliwe wyłącznie pod warunkiem uzyskania poparcia i zaangażowania w jej rozwój lokalnych samorządów oraz mieszkańców.

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