

Ostwind e. V.

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European primeval forest route – idea

The idea of the European primeval forest route contains the active interlinking of the significant primeval forests in the East European Carpathian Mts with the primeval forests in Middle and Western Europe to support the preservation and development of by forest characterized landscapes in Europe.

I. Tourist and environmental-educational interlinking

Primeval forests are attractive aims of an ecological tourism and provide the main hiking goals of the European primeval forest route. Other important points of the hiking trail are culturally valuable scenery elements, centres of the environmental education (national park centres, forest competence centres) as well as pilgrim's sites and cloisters. The hiking on the European primeval forest route supports both: the environmental education as well as the intercultural exchange.

For the route available, already marked and described long distance trails (also ecumenical pilgrim's ways) are used. A more precise elaboration of the route must take place in regional sections. Therefore a division of tasks and responsibilities between regional and European level is necessary.

To motivate the regional actors like tourism associations and agencies for regional development for participation on the primeval forest route, the European idea must be made clear and the chances for the regions must become recognizable.

The European primeval forest route should provide bonus programs, e.g. the acquisition of Eco miles.

Hikers acquire Eco miles by:

- personally documented and centrally captured hiking achievements
- return trips by the public traffic
- participating in guided natural and geographical considered trips
- visit of exhibitions, participation in environmental education events
- participation in environmental actions at the route (e.g., wood reforestation)
- participation in above-mentioned events into a foreign language (additional Eco miles)
- support of the information structure about the paths and about natural considered features.

II. Ecological, forestal and landscape-maintaining interlinking

Primeval forests represent ecologically high-quality cores of near-nature woodlands and scenic-adapted cultural areas. The preservation of existing primeval forests and the development of new primeval forests helps - together with the corresponding care and development of the surrounding woods and landscapes to preserve the biodiversity in Europe. Ultimately, it is both: a matter of developing the ecological islands and its spatial connection.

The aim is the development of the European primeval forest route as a green infrastructure corridor connecting the landscapes with primeval forests, near-natured

forests and high biodiversity. Basis points of the interlinking are forest administration territories, regions for sustainable development as well as national parks and other preservation areas. For the development of joint activities preliminary works have to be done, e.g.

- definition and spatial determination of the including landscape,
- coordination of an indicator system for the comparative assessment, e.g., of biodiversity,
- capture of the initial positions with the CO-2 emission (wood as CO-2-cutting) and construction of a running monitoring.

Both named interlinking paths can be linked to an integrated project in several ways,, e.g., achievements are able to the acquisition of Eco miles for capturing of biodiversity and reforestations can be used.

For the European primeval forest route an initial support for the construction of a small management and the named scientific preliminary works is needed. In the medium term the route is able to finance the activities with the help of sponsors from the particular regions and by the use of climate protection mechanisms (JI and CDM).