SUSTAINABLE TOURISM for local communities

WHY?
We are all more conscious of the need to care for and appreciate our natural environment. As inhabitants of, or close to, a Protected Area we try to use less resources, protect nature and blend the traditional with the modern to keep our places alive for people and nature.

BUT
Despite the special duty of care that we have, we cannot expect responsible attitudes about how we look after our place, to necessarily be shared by tourists when they come to visit us.

HOWEVER
We can encourage visitors to have a responsible and caring attitude towards our nature and culture and show by good example how we can live and care for our Protected Areas together.

...we can choose SUSTAINABLE TOURISM!
Sustainable tourism means getting benefits from visitors in a responsible way, both for our nature and culture, so we can improve our livelihoods in an economically viable way and protect our natural environment in the long term. But we must do that by leading by example.

In European Protected Areas, sustainable tourism is best delivered when managers, businesses, public agencies and our own communities work together to provide a meaningful, quality experience for visitors. We also must endeavour to safeguard the natural and cultural values that tourist come to visit.

WHAT THE LOCAL COMMUNITY CAN DO?

PROTECT
Nature by implementing good sustainable practices like recycling and using natural resources responsibly. This will help maintaining the natural attractive of your area and increase the capacity of nature to resist the presence of tourist.

ENGAGE
Both personally and professionally by joining initiatives and groups dedicated to the development of sustainable tourism in protected areas. We all share similar objectives and together we can make a difference!

GROW
By carrying out economic and social initiatives that allow your community to develop and sustain itself, avoiding youngsters to leave the rural areas.

OFFER
Tourist love local gastronomy and culture! Make your products available to the public in an appealing way.

GET RECOGNITION
Make sure everybody is aware of the efforts you make to preserve the natural values of your area by displaying certificates that will give your business an added value.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM - MAKING IT WORK
CEETO project has been created to help communities and business in Central Europe to learn how to provide tourism services less harmful to nature. CEETO is based on the experience of EUROPAC’s European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas, a tool that ensures that tourism is being managed in a way to conserve the present and protect the future for locals and visitors alike.

Find more about the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas at www.europarc.org/sustainable-tourism/