



# BEECH POWER

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

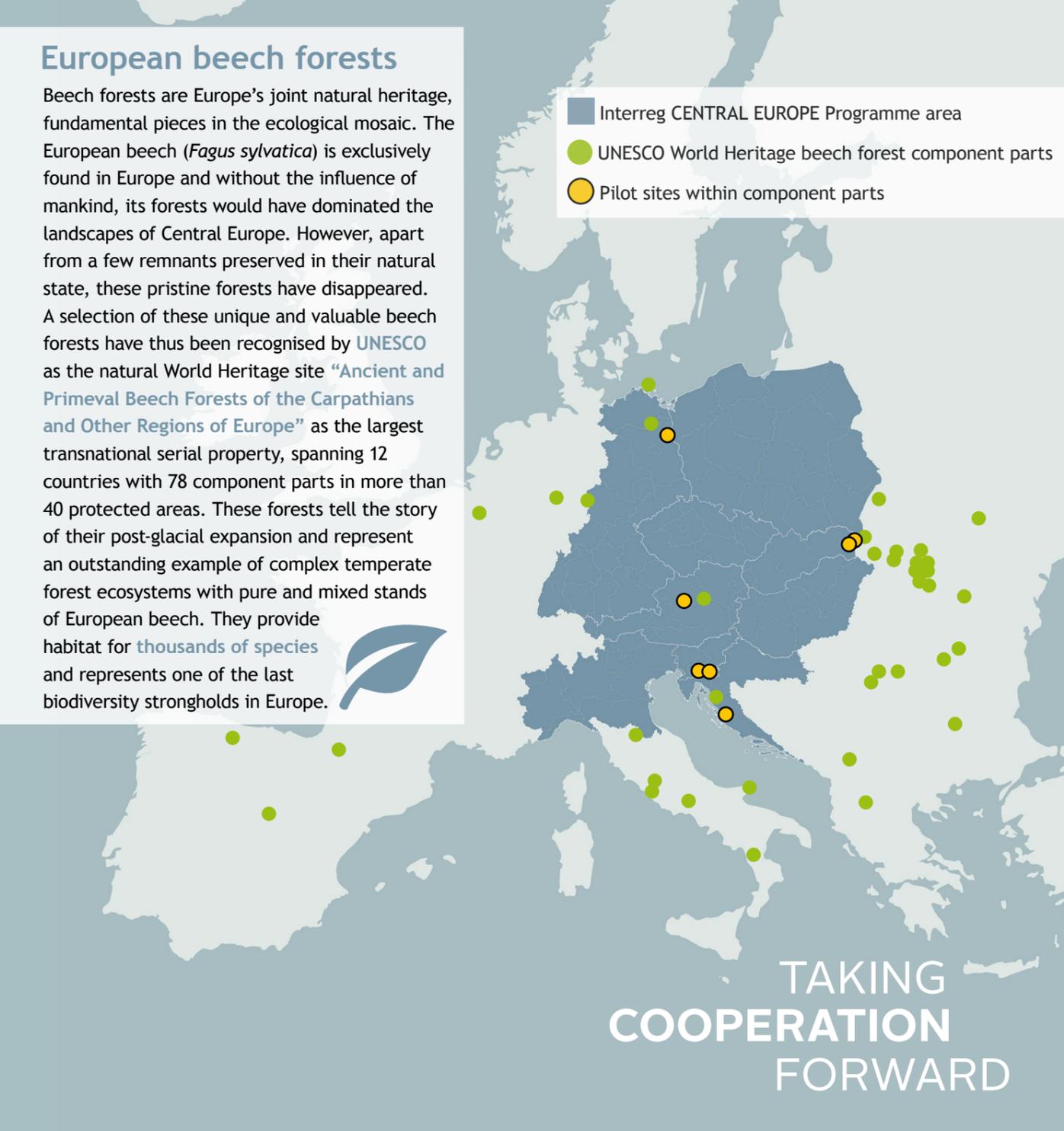


## European beech forests

Beech forests are Europe's joint natural heritage, fundamental pieces in the ecological mosaic. The European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) is exclusively found in Europe and without the influence of mankind, its forests would have dominated the landscapes of Central Europe. However, apart from a few remnants preserved in their natural state, these pristine forests have disappeared. A selection of these unique and valuable beech forests have thus been recognised by UNESCO as the natural World Heritage site "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe" as the largest transnational serial property, spanning 12 countries with 78 component parts in more than 40 protected areas. These forests tell the story of their post-glacial expansion and represent an outstanding example of complex temperate forest ecosystems with pure and mixed stands of European beech. They provide habitat for thousands of species and represents one of the last biodiversity strongholds in Europe.



- Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme area
- UNESCO World Heritage beech forest component parts
- Pilot sites within component parts



TAKING  
COOPERATION  
FORWARD

## WHO WE ARE

The project consortium involves 7 project partners coming from 5 European countries:

### Austria

- European Wilderness Society
- Kalkalpen National Park

### Croatia

- Public Institution Paklenica National Park

### Germany

- Angermünde City Administration
- Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development (Lead Partner)

### Slovakia

- National Forest Centre

### Slovenia

- Slovenia Forest Service

Supported by 13 associated partners, including ministries, municipalities, environmental organisations, and management authorities of beech forest World Heritage component parts.

## Objectives

BEECH POWER works with pilot sites of beech forest World Heritage component parts to find joint solutions to enhance the management quality and effectiveness of the World Heritage property and safeguard the ecosystem integrity of the single component parts. Partners take an ecosystem-based and participatory approach to produce replicable and innovative models for World Heritage beech forests and their local surroundings. The developed guidelines, models and tools will improve capacities and active participation possibilities of stakeholders, support protected area managers, public authorities and the civil sector and integrate these sites in regional environmental management.

## Who funds us

Our project is funded by the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme, which encourages cooperation on shared challenges in Central Europe.

With 246 million Euro of funding from the European Regional Development Funds, the Programme supports institutions to work together beyond borders to improve cities and regions in Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.



DISCOVER MORE ABOUT  
**BEECH POWER**

[www.interreg-central.eu/BEECH-POWER](http://www.interreg-central.eu/BEECH-POWER)



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Photos: Angermünde City Administration, European Wilderness Society, Slovenia Forest Service, National Forest Centre Slovakia, Stane Draškovič Pelc (p10), Špela Elizabeta Koblar Habič (p11).





## FACTS AND FIGURES



## Team in action

- ▶ BEECH POWER team during Kick-off meeting in Eberswalde, Germany
- Situational analysis workshop with stakeholders in Grumsin component part, Germany ◀
- ▶ Team discussions during Quality Standard workshop in Eberswalde, Germany
- Stakeholder workshop in Kaluža and visit to Vihorlat component part, Slovakia ◀
- ▶ Conflict resolution workshop with stakeholders in Kočevje, Slovenia

## Empowering World Heritage beech forest communities

Public involvement and local support for the **conservation of natural resources** is vital for an effective sustainable management of the World Heritage beech forests. BEECH POWER aims to enhance cooperation between protected areas and adjacent communities on a regional and transnational levels.

Outputs will include **strategies** for stakeholder participation and the integration of natural heritage in sustainable regional development, organisation of the **European Youth Academy** - a youth exchange programme between the pilot site in Croatia and Germany, the formation of **local working groups**, and development of regional World Heritage beech forest **marketing strategies**, which will be transferred to the network of World Heritage communities.

## Creating a sustainable model for buffer zone management

The buffer zones of World Heritage component parts are areas with high potential for conflicts between different interest groups. The results of this workpackage will contribute to **smoother management of buffer zones** and therefore better protection of the World Heritage forests, by addressing some of the most prominent issues facing them right now.

BEECH POWER aims to find solutions by targeting better involvement of stakeholders in buffer zone management, conflict management, visitor management, as well as sustainable forestry practices. The project will produce strategies for addressing these issues and a training in sustainable forestry.

## Developing a quality standard for beech forest protection

To secure good management of World Heritage beech forests in the long-term, BEECH POWER will develop an exemplary quality standard in the form of a **common code of best practice**. This tool should support managers to improve the protection management of beech forest integrity within the component parts, and hence contribute to the conservation of the **Outstanding Universal Value** of the property. The common code of best practice further aims to anchor site management in regional sustainable development and reinforce collaboration across sites.

The main outputs focus on good management in and around the participating protected areas. A **handbook** of criteria and indicators will serve to evaluate the conservation status and management quality of World Heritage beech forests.

## Pilot Actions

- Pilot model for local working groups of World Heritage component parts
- Pilot model for school exchange program: 'World Heritage Beech Forest' between Angermünde (Germany) and Starigrad (Croatia)
- Pilot model for regional World Heritage beech forest marketing concepts in Germany, Slovenia and Croatia
- Training in sustainable forestry practices in World Heritage component part buffer zones
- Beech Forest Quality Standard and Certification System handbook