

## **Carpathian Protected Areas celebrate the European Day of Parks 2010.**

Almost 30 national and nature parks in five countries across the Carpathian Mountains will celebrated the immense biological diversity of Europe's last great wilderness areas for the first time on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

The Carpathian Parks Day, celebrated for the first time this year, encompassed iconic protected areas in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine. It aimed to raise awareness of the importance of protected areas in biodiversity conservation and sustainable socio-economic development as well as to increase tourism and contribute to the financial stability in the region.

“All of the parks taking part in this massive event have something spectacular and unique to offer. If you are a photographer, a biologist, a hiker or simply a mountain lover, you will see for yourself that these parks are genuine treasures”, said Alina Alexa, communications officer at WWF.

Among parks that took part are the [Tatra National Park](#) in Slovakia, Apuseni and Bucegi Nature Parks, and Piatra Craiului National Park in Romania, as well as Djerdap National Park in Serbia. Slovakia will have the largest number of parks involved, with 17 parks taking part. The programme for the day varied from country to country and from park to park, but offered activities including guided tours, school type activities, and trail clean ups.

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