



Forest conservation is often claimed to lead to economic losses, especially for local people. With correct planning and knowledge this does not need to be the case. However, successful financing of tourist infrastructures, training local staff, and attracting high-quality businesses to the protected site requires skills from many sectors.

The workshop aims at bringing together park management bodies, local communities, NGOs, and tourism businesses experts. The venue, Central Balkan National Park, Bulgaria, is a place of great scenic beauty and natural values, and also of great visitor potential. The workshop's themes are there at their most topical!

# Workshop draft programme

## Thursday 13th October 2005

- Introduction to Central Balkan National Park and to the PAN Parks Programme for National Parks in Europe
- Big business - big money, small business – small money: financing N Park tourist infrastructures and businesses at different scales
- Finding employment opportunities and training for local people
- Tracking success: monitoring visitor numbers, ecological damage, and employment rates
- Specialist nature tours: finding new, well-paying clients. What are the trends in the 2000s?
- Afternoon workshops:
  - 1) Creating new attractions for forest protected areas
  - 2) Sustainability in the face of rising visitor numbers

## Friday 14th October 2005

All-day field trip – Tzarichina nature reserve, C Balkan National Park. Includes century-old Common beech and mixed Silver fir–Common beech stands. Especially valuable are the Norway spruce–Macedonian pine forests shaping the upper forest line.

- To pre-register and for more information, please contact the Co-ordinator of BirdLife's European Forest Task Force:

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- Info on The BirdLife Forest Task Force  
[http://www.birdlife.net/action/change/europe/forest\\_task\\_force/index.html](http://www.birdlife.net/action/change/europe/forest_task_force/index.html)

- Central Balkan National Park, Bulgaria  
[www.centralbalkannationalpark.org/en](http://www.centralbalkannationalpark.org/en)  
[www.visitcentralbalkan.net](http://www.visitcentralbalkan.net)



BirdLife European Forest Task Force

**W O R K S H O P:**

## **Economic and social benefits of forest conservation**

**Central Balkan National Park,**

**Bulgaria 13-14 October 2005**

### **Topics**

- **Maximising the economic and social potential of forest conservation**
- **Solving the bottlenecks of developing eco-tourism**
- **Forest conservation as a tool to improve rural livelihoods**