Nadsyansky Regional Landscape Park
The authors dedicate this publication to Prof. Stepan M. Stoyko, Ukrainian botanist who initiated works on establishing the Nadsyansky Regional Landscape Park and other protected areas in the Ukrainian Carpathians, the co-author of the concept for creating the World’s first trilateral UNESCO-MaB Biosphere Reserve “The East Carpathians” and devoted scientist who spent many years in order to turn the vision of Carpathian nature conservation into reality.

This publication is a part of the common Ukrainian-Polish project implemented in 2004-2005 aimed at supporting the sustainable development of tourism in NRLP, which also included establishing the tourist database, park tourist map preparation, marking the tourist trail and setting up information boards, in order to facilitate your visits in Nadsyansky RLP.

**Financed by:**

The Foundation for the Eastern Carpathians Biodiversity Conservation was registered in Switzerland on January 9, 1995 with the objective “to encourage, organize, conduct and promote activities serving to protect the overall biodiversity of the Eastern Carpathians Mountains zone”.

Internet: http://www.unesco.org/mab/ecbr.

The Carpathian Foundation was founded in 1994 with the mission to provide financial and technical assistance to NGOs and local governments of the Carpathian Euroregion, focusing on inter-regional, economic development and transfrontier activities.

Internet: http://www.carpathianfoundation.org

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Nadsyansky Regional Landscape Park (NRLP) was established in 1997 in the state frontier zone on the area of 19,428 ha of six communities in Turka District, Lviv Province.

The park stretches over two parallel mountain ridges on both sides of the European Continental Divide and harbours the sources of two major European rivers. The waters of the San River (with sources nearby the village of Syanky) flow to Vistula river and then to the Baltic Sea while the Dnestr River (originating nearby the village of Shandrovets) flows to the Black Sea.

The name of the park reflects its location - along the San River on the Ukrainian state border with Poland (currently also the European Union external border). The two valleys in the park are quite different - the remote and inaccessible valley of the San River is left with almost no human settlements, while the other one densely populated is flourishing with the wealth of cultural heritage and traditional land-use forms. The population of NRLP accounts for 9,000 inhabitants in 8 villages, harbouring numerous cultural heritage monuments.

Forests and shrubs cover some 51.6 per cent and agricultural land accounts for as much as 42.9 per cent of the park area. Five nature reserves protecting semi-primeval beech, fir-beech and green alder treestands constitute the core zone of the Biosphere Reserve in NRLP.

More than 30 plant species occurring in park area have been included into the Red Data Book of Ukraine, furthermore numerous habitats and species of the NRLP are those listed in Annexes to the EEC Habitat and Bird Directives, protected in the European Union.

NRLP constitutes part of World’s first trilateral Biosphere Reserve “the East Carpathians”. It borders another Ukrainian protected area - Uzhansky National Nature Park located in the Transcarpathian District as well as two neighbouring protected areas located across the river - Bieszczady National Park and the “San River Valley” Landscape Park in Poland.

Our intention is to guide you in this picturesque area and help you to explore its beauty in different seasons of the year. Welcome to Nadsyansky Regional Landscape Park, one of the treasures of Ukraine!
NRLP area is located within the Stry'i-Syan region of the Ukrainian Carpathians with altitudes in the range between 640 and 951 metres above the sea level. The landscape of the NRLP part along the state border is dominated by three mountain ridges ranging from north-west to south-east of the area: Chervony'i Verkh (Ukrainian: 'red mountain') with the elevation at Mt. Marhytyna (826 m), Syansky'i ridge with Mt. Scholb (874 m) and Buchok ridge with Mt. Buchok (915 m) and the south-easternmost height of 951 m.

Two single mountains - Mt. Kamenets (762 m) and Mt. Losivka (819m) raise between Chervony'i Verkh and Syansky'i ridges, among the characteristic steep hills in the upper San River valley the highest one is Mt. Kychera Syanska (888 m). In the northernmost part Chervony'i Verkh ridge joins the Otryt mountain range in the Polish part of the Reserve, Buchok and Syansky'i ridges are respectively from 6 to 10 km distant from and the European continental divide along the main East Beskid mountain range.

From the main Lviv-Uzhgorod road nearby Borynya, under favourable weather conditions you can see the valley formed by mountain rivers Yablunka (Dnestr tributary) and Rika (San tributary) harbouring the villages of Boberka, Shandrovet and Nyzhnya and Verkhnya Yablunka. The second valley of the park, 14 to 16 km wide, stretches between the main East Beskid mountain range and mountain ridges along the San river, from its sources located close to Syanky village in the northwestern direction.

The San river, within its 53-km long section between Syanky and Boberka constitutes the state border between Poland and Ukraine and simultaneously between the NRLP and the two Polish protected areas, also parts of the Reserve - Bieszczady National Park and the San River Landscape Park.

* Landscape of the park *
Inhabitants of Sokolyky, Ternava Nyzhnya and Vyzhnya, Verkhnyi Dzvynyach, Likot', Dydyova and Zhuravyn villages located in this valley have been expelled due to the operation of “clearing the border zone” undertaken between 1944 and 1946 by the Soviet regime.

From this valley, for instance from the range of Likot’, located above the former village of the same name one can admire broad vistas of the Polish part of the Reserve, beginning from Mt. Kińczyk Bukowski and Syanky village in the south-east to the village of Lutowiska and Mt. Smerek in the north-west.

In the south, at the Uzhotska Pass the NRLP shares approximately 1-km long border with the second protected area included into the Ukrainian part of the Reserve - Uzhansky National Nature Park. From the Uzhotska Pass you can see Uzhansky park in the south, the upper part of San river valley and surrounding water divide and Syansky’i ridges as well as characteristic peaks of the Western Bieszczady Mts. - Mt. Kińczyk Bukowski (1251 m) and Mt. Halicz (1333 m).

The main European Continental Divide between the San and Dnestr river catchments, thus between the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea drainage areas. The sources of the San river are located to the south from Syanky village and of the Dnestr river - close to Vowche village (nearby the village of Shandrovets). The Divide crosses the southernmost park areas in the vicinity of the Uzhotska Pass, turns northwards to Syanky village and continues in the north-western direction along Buchok and Syansky’i ridges, and eastwards to Mt. Vysoka. From that point it follows the ridges towards the Northwest, parallel to the park border, and in its northernmost part, close to Boberka village, crosses the Polish border.


\* \* Nature in the park \* \*

The major part of the NRLP area is covered by forests, mainly beech, fir and spruce, as well as by meadows and agricultural areas (hay-growing meadows, pastures and arable lands). Artificially planted spruce treestands, requiring stand reconstruction constitute the majority of NRLP forests. The most valuable beech, fir-beech and spruce-fir-beech forest complexes are preserved in Borynya and Yablunetske forestries of the park, therefore designation of forest nature reserves (2 in beech treestands and 3 in fir-beech treestands) is currently being considered. One green alder stand, quite unique for the park, was discovered on the slope of Mt. Vernik in the range of Buchok, to be designated the nature monument.
Communities with grey alder and wet meadows with numerous orchid species cover the terraces along the San river and the Polish-Ukrainian border. An oligotrophic moor located in the San river bend nearby Boberka village has exceptional flora of over 40 vascular plant species, including many rare ones. In the Syansky'i ridge area a highmoor peatbog has also been discovered.

As the result of recent intensive economic pressure vast areas of former forests changed into pastures, continuously overgrown by juniper.

According to the results of research carried out by Ukrainian scientists (Prof. Stepan Stoyko) the NRLP flora is composed of over 700 vascular plant species, some 10 per cent of these are considered to be rare and threatened ones.

Some 30 species have been included into the Ukrainian “Red Data Book”, e.g. the fir-club moss, ramson, belladonna, honesty, common snowdrop, Turk’s cap lily, bird’s-nest orchid and some other orchid species. Considerable human economy influence lead to decrease of the faunal diversity index of the NRLP. Reptiles and amphibians of the park include the adder, diced snake, smooth snake, viviparous lizard, Aesculapian snake and spotted salamander (the last two are included into the Ukrainian “Red Data Book of Animals”). Mountain rivers are home to the river trout, golden loach, brook minnow and grayling. The rarities among 60 nesting bird species are the lesser spotted eagle, eagle owl and black stork. Typical mammals for the park area are the red deer, roe dear, wild boar, squirrel, the European polecat and red fox, while the otter, badger, pine marten, lynx, wolf, brown bear and wild cat are rarely seen here.

**History and cultural heritage of the park area**

According to historians, the permanent human settlement process in nowadays NRLP area began at the break of the 1st and 2nd millennium A.D., in the times of the Kievan Ruthenia and Galicia-Volyn Principality, which is proved by the presence of old ramparts e.g. close to Nyzhny'i Turiv, the possible location of an old-Ruthenian fortified watchtower. According to Jan Długosz, Polish annalist - the legendary Sobin stronghold was build close to the sources of San and Dnestr rivers. An ancient trade and military route from Kievan Ruthenia to the Western Europe led along the San river between the city of Przemyśl and Uzhotska Pass.

The process of intensive settlement in the upper Nadsyanya region began in 14th - 16th centuries, when this territory belonged to the Polish Kingdom and to Rzeczpospolita (the Republic) since 1569. In the first half of the 16th century the owner of all lands of the Sobienie estate along the upper San river and its tributaries was Piotr Kmita, the Voivode of Kraków, who located the villages of Syanky, Sokolyky, Ternava Nyzhnya and Vyzhnya, Shandroverts, Verkhny'i Dzvynyach, Dydyova, Boberka and Likot', thus a major part of villages, territories of which are nowadays incorporated to the Nadsyansky park.
In the second half of 16th century in crown lands of the Sambor estate the Polish King Zygmunt August and the Hungarian Queen Isabel located the villages of Dnistryk Dubovy'i, Nyzhnya and Verkhnya Yablunka as well as Nyzhny'i and Verkhny'i Turiv, also inside the NRLP. Between 1772 and 1918 the whole Galicia including Turka region were incorporated by the Austro-Hungarian Empire, in 1918 the Nadsyanya was a part of the Western Ukrainian People’s Republic, since 1919 in Poland and since 1939 within the borders of the Soviet Union. Beginning from 1991 the area is part of Ukraine.

It is also worth to mention here the tragic history of Nadsyanya in 1944-46, when over seven thousand inhabitants of eight villages (Sokolyky, Ternava Vyzhnya and Nyzhnya, Verkhny'i Dzvynyach, Likot', Dydyova, Zhuravyn and Kryvka had been expelled from their homeland as the result of the operation aimed at “clearing the border zone” undertaken by the Soviet regime. Not only all the village buildings had been destroyed, but also the monuments of cultural heritage, including shrines - wooden tserkva churches built in either Boyko or “neo-Ukrainian’ architectural style, most often demolished by the Soviet border guards as late as around 1957-1958. Among the destroyed churches were the St. Demetrius tserkva built in 1791 in Sokolyky, Sts. Apostles Peter and Paul (1899) in Ternava Vyzhnya, St. Michael the Archangel (1894) in Ternava Nyzhnya, Dormition of the B. V. Mary (1860) in Dydyova, Immaculate Conception of the B. V. Mary (1901) in Kryvka, St. Michael the Archangel (1905) in Dzvynyach, St. Michael the Archangel (1907) in Benyova (on the left bank of the San river, plundered by the Polish People’s Army soldiers in 1946 and burnt down in 1947), Transfiguration of Our Lord (1918) in Zhuravyn and St. Michael the Archangel (1927) tserkva in Likot' village.

Regardless the flow of time and changing political regimes the lifestyle of local inhabitants, mainly descendants of the Boyko ethnic group, changed slowly. Own dialect, original folk costume (e.g. geometric patterns and floral ornaments embroidered on sorochka shirts) the way of life as well as ancient folk customs and traditions distinguished the Boykos from other mountaineers. The park preserves numerous cultural heritage monuments, mainly Greek-catholic shrines and belfries - tserkva churches in Verkhnya Yablunka (Synaxis of the B. V. Mary, 1788), Nyzhnya Yablunka (Transfiguration of Our Lord, 1820), Verkhnya Turiv (St. Pantaleymon, 1890), Boberka (Ascension of Our Lord, 1913 and St. Michael the Archangel, 1914), Nyzhnya Turiv (Dormition of the B. V. Mary, 1914) and Dnistryk Dubovy'i (Synaxis of the B. V. Mary / the Sacred Heart, 1920) often preserving unique Rybotych School icons and liturgical books from ancient, already non-existent wooden Boyko tserkva churches built between 16th and 18th century both in currently existing villages and in those destroyed long ago.
It is worth to mention here, that two ancient Boyko-style tserkvas built in Syanky village in 1645 and 1703 were sold to Kostryno (in 1703) and Sil’ (in 1831) villages in the Transcarpathian province (in the area of nowadays Uzhansky National Nature Park) and are preserved there until today.

Traditional Boyko wooden architecture, e.g. single-house farms (so called “long cabins”) linking both residential and farm functions under one roof has been preserved in the villages inside the park. On the initiative of metropolitan Andriy Sheptycky’i one of such cottages, built in Shandroves in 1909, has been transferred in 1930’s to the open-air Museum of Folk Architecture in Lviv. Farmers in the park still follow the old, nature-friendly terrace-like land use pattern, as well as two- and multi-course rotation methods, with the use of traditional farmers’ tools like ploughs, harrows, hoes, scythes, wooden pitchforks and flails. Livestock breeding is the traditional activity of NRLP area inhabitants. For centuries cattle, pigs, horses and sheep have been raised here, grazing on communal towoky pastures and mountain polonyny meadows, where the shepherds immediately processed milk, mainly into bundts sheep cheese. In early 1990’s as soon as kolkhoses have been dissolved, local inhabitants returned to traditional land-use forms, husbandry and apiculture. This also caused the revival of many traditional crafts, including embroidery, weaving, smithery (you can visit traditional blacksmith’s shops in Boberka and Verkhnya Yablunka), carpentry, wheelwright’s craft (manufacture of wheels and carriages in Nyzhnya Yablunka) and cooperage.

※ Socio-economic situation of park inhabitants

In NRLP area the population density reaches 46 inhabitants per square kilometre (which is over 75 times more than in areas on the Polish side across the San river) and accounts for some 9,008 inhabitants in 8 villages. The population size is growing due to high birth index, no matter unfavourable living conditions and high infant mortality index caused by insufficient financing of the health care system. Recently a negative trend in the age structure has been observed, affecting the well-being of the citizens: decreasing share of inhabitants in working age and growing share of two groups - retired people and children, who together account for 58 per cent of the park area population. Due to high unemployment rate and living standards being far from contemporary, the exodus of younger generations to Western Europe is common. Agricultural land in NRLP accounts for 42.9 per cent of the area. As the result of the land ownership reform initiated in 1990 in Ukraine these areas were transferred to employees of former collective (‘kolkhos’) farms. Some 80 per cent of farmers manage plots smaller than 5 hectares, where traditional tools are still in use for growing grain-
Crops, potatoes and vegetables. Livestock breeding is the predominant activity in the area. Ongoing degradation of mountain pastures is a negative factor, limiting agricultural production. Additional subsistence activities of the local inhabitants are collecting forest berries, bee-keeping (in Boberka, Verkhnya and Nyzhnya Yablunka, and in Syanky) or fishing (in Shandrovets, Nyzhnya Yablunka, Nyzhny'i and Verkhny'i Turiv).

Forests cover 51.8 per cent of the park area. Forest management in state-owned forests is conducted by the Forestry Inspectorate in Borynya, subordinate to the “Lvivlis” State Forest Association, and by the municipal “Galsill’ls” enterprise managing fragmented forests (former inter-kolkhos forests) of village co-operative companies. Due to severe economic condition of the population illegal cutting is common, especially in areas managed by “Galsill’ls”. Currently secondary stands dominated by spruce require urgent stand reconstruction. As a result of the agricultural impact, vast area of forests owned by village co-operatives has been transformed into meadows and pastures, which caused the decrease of biological diversity indexes due to progressive overgrowing of these areas by bushes and loss of rare and endangered plant species from floral communities’ composition. Nevertheless, no matter the strong human economy influence over 30 species included into the Red Data Book of Ukraine occur in NRLP area.

Monuments of history and cultural heritage

The Ukrainian part of the ‘East Carpathians’ Biosphere Reserve has best preserved historical development of monuments and cultural traditions, which should become its competitive advantage for the tourism and related services in the area.

Boberka

Voivode of Kraków Piotr Kmita founded the village of Boberka in 1537 on the tributary of the San River - Boberka (beaver) stream, by issuing the settlement privilege to Ivan Volosh. The first tripartite Boyko-style churches (tserkva) in Boberka were built in the 16th and 17th century. In the Lower Boberka the St. Michael the Archangel tserkva built in 1913 preserves the ‘Patronage of the B. V. Mary’ icon of 1759 and ‘Evangelya’ book printed in 1743 in Lviv. In the Upper Boberka the Ascension of Our Lord tserkva built in 1914 harbours old church books printed in 1623 and 1737 in Lviv as well as fragments of interior decorations from tserkva churches demolished in Likot’ and Dydyova villages. The park surrounded the large manor in the 19th century, today the stone building hosts the elementary school.

The village preserves many traditional Boyko wooden cottages and sawmills, the mill, ancient bridges and numerous roadside chapels and crosses. In the vicinity of the village you can see stony areas and an oligotrophic bog. Famous Ukrainian writer Ivan Franko often visited Boberka and nearby Dydyova village. Contrary to other frontier villages the population of Boberka was not displaced during the operation of “clearing the border zone” undertaken after 1939 by the Soviet Union.
Nadsyansky Regional Landscape Park
**Shandrovets**
The village of Shandrovets was founded before 1580 on the right tributary of the San River - Rika stream. It was the property of the Kmita family in the 16th century, inherited by the Tarnawski and Fredro families and later acquired by the Mniszko family in the late 17th century. The first tripartite Boyko-style church (tserkva) in Shandrovets was built before 1589 on a high hill in the centre of the village, close to the old road. It was replaced in 1755 by the St. Michael the Archangel wooden tserkva and later in 1924 by the St. John the Baptist tserkva used until today. The church preserves fragments of the old iconostas (wall of icons) from the 18th century and liturgical books printed in the 17th century in Lviv.

Close to the tserkva you can see the churchyard and a two-tier wooden belfry built in 1995. The village well preserved traditional Boyko-style wooden cottages and sawmills, you can also find remnants of the narrow-gauge railway embankment and numerous roadside chapels and crosses. The European Continental Divide ranges between Shandrovets and Verkhnya Yablunka villages.

**Verkhnya (Upper) Yablunka**
The village of Verkhnya Yablunka was founded in 1559 on the tributary of the Stryi River - the Yablunka (apple tree) River by the King Zygmunt August who issued the settlement privilege to brothers Myhalovych from Przyslup. In 1796 a German colony was established in the village. The first wooden church (tserkva) was built in 1568, the Boyko-style ‘new’ one, Synaxis of the B. V. Mary tserkva built in the close neighbourhood in 1788 serves the parish until today.

It preserves numerous icons and liturgical books from the 17th and 18th century, and icons stored in the attic, from tserkva churches demolished in Ternava Vyzhnya, Ternava Nyzhnya and other no longer existing villages. To the west of tserkva you can see a three-storey wooden belfry of 1797 harbouring old Rybotych School icons painted between the 16th and 18th century, in the churchyard you will find several old sepulchral crosses and graves of Russian and Austro-Hungarian soldiers who died here during the World War I. The village harbours traditional Boyko-style wooden cottages, fences, sawmills and bridges, numerous roadside chapels and crosses. In 2000 an orthodox church was built. The European Continental Divide ranges between Verkhnya Yablunka and Shandrovets villages.
**Nyzhnya Yablunka**
The village of Nyzhnya Yablunka (initially Yablunka Chernetska) was established in 1522 on the tributary of the Stryi River - the Yablunka River based on the privilege issued by Voivode of Kraków Piotr Kmita to Khrych Valashyn Tharnavsky. In the past it also harboured a small German colony. The first wooden tserkva was built in Nyzhnya Yablunka before 1565. The renovation of this church was no longer possible in 1803, therefore a new church, this time masonry one, Transfiguration of Our Lord tserkva (monument of architecture) was built between 1820-1830, in service until today. It preserves the “Ascension of Our Lord” aisle altar dated 1786 from the old tserkva. Churchyard is located close to the tserkva. In the neighbourhood of the railway station a wooden Roman-catholic chapel was built in 1911, demolished in 1975. Before the World War I a “dritban” ropeway crossed Nyzhnya Yablunka to transport timber to Borunya, nowadays only the foundations of its supporting structure can still be seen.

**Nyzhny'i Turiv**
The village of Nyzhny'i (Lower) Turiv was founded on the tributaries of the Yablunka River - Pysana River, Yasen and Roshchen streams in 1556 by the Queen Isabel, who issued the settlement privilege to Pavel Ivashkovytsch and Teodor Jatschkovytsch, confirmed by the privilege of 1567 by the King Zygmunt August. The old tserkva from 1556 was replaced in 1792 by the new ‘Latinised style’ wooden tserkva, demolished in 1913 (remnants of its foundations can still be seen). In the vicinity the Dormition of the B. V. Mary ‘neo-Ukrainian style’ tserkva was built in 1914, harbouring the 18th century icon from the old church and ‘Evangelya’ book printed in 17th century in Lviv, originally from St. Demetrius tserkva in Sokolyky. Close to the tserkva you can see a three-storey wooden belfry of 1914 and several old sepulchral crosses in the churchyard. The village preserves numerous traditional Boyko-style wooden cottages and fences, old bridges and many roadside chapels and crosses.

**Verkhny'i (Upper) Turiv**
The village of Verkhny'i (former ‘Royal’) Turiv was founded in 1556 on the tributary of the Yablunka River - the Skolaban stream, based on the privilege issued by the Queen Isabel. The first wooden tserkva was built in early 18th century. In the close vicinity, in the place after the manor’s chapel, the new wooden ‘Latinised style’ St. Pantaleymon
tserkva was built in 1890, preserving until today liturgical books printed in the 18th century and the iconostas (wall of icons) from the early 20th century. To the west of tserkva you can see the two-tier wooden belfry built at the same time as the church. The churchyard surrounds the tserkva. Almost all buildings in Verkhnyi Turiv are made of timber, the village preserves traditional Boyko-style wooden cottages and fences from the early 20th century, old bridges and numerous roadside chapels and crosses.

Syanky

Voivode of Kraków, Piotr Kmita founded the village of Syanky before 1580 close to the sources of the San River. Between the 17th and 19th century three wooden Boyko-style churches (tserkva) were built in Syanky, two of them (from 1645 and 1703) have been sold to the Transcarpathian Province and are still preserved there, in Kostryno and Sil’ villages.

As early as in the 1870s a railway crossed the village, linking Uzhhorod with Przemyśl and Lviv, and the railway station was built in 1904. Before the World War II the capacity of 10 holiday resorts, 6 pensions and 3 tourist hotels reached almost 2,000 beds; the village had its theatre, library, tennis-courts, ski-jumping take-off, toboggan-run and meteorological station. St. Stephen (1831) and St. Elijah (1908) tserkvas as well as the Roman-catholic church were demolished after the World War II, and the stone-built manor’s chapel around 1970. Part of Syanky village is called “Ropa” which is the reminder of salt mining in the past.

In the 1990s two churches were built in Syanky: the Greek-catholic St. George (1993) tserkva and the Ascension of Our Lord orthodox church (1996). In St. George tserkva you can see a chandelier from the old St. Elijah tserkva and the bell from the tserkva of Benyova village. The village of Syanky harbours a military cemetery of the World War I, traditional Boyko-style wooden cottages and fences, sawmills, old bridges and numerous roadside chapels and crosses.

Uzhotska Pass

Uzhotska Pass (852 m a.s.l.) on the European Continental Divide is located very close to the border between Uzhansky National Nature Park and Nadsyansky Regional Landscape Park as well as the border between Ukrainian and Polish parts of the ‘East Carpathians’ Biosphere Reserve. The sources of the San River are also close to the pass. A railway built across Uzhotska Pass in the 70s of the 19th century linked Uzhgorod with Przemyśl and Lviv. In the vicinity you will find the monument commemorating the Ukrainian Soldiers, a military cemetery and a monument to Austro-Hungarian and Russian soldiers who died here during the World War I. A line of trenches from these times is well preserved in the “Buchok” nature reserve of the Borynya State Forestry.

From the pass you can see nearby peaks of the Western Bieszczady Mountains in the Polish part of the ‘East Carpathians’ BR - Mt. Kińczyk Bukowski (1251 m a.s.l.) and Mt. Halicz (1333 m a.s.l.) in Bieszczady National Park.
Dnistryk Dubovy’i
The village of Dnistryk Dubovy’i was founded in 1567 based on the privilege issued by the King Zygmunt August to brothers Khrycek and Lukash, on the right tributary of the Dnestr River, bearing the same name as the village. Only 4.5 km long Dnistryk Dubovy’i stream rising from the slope of Mt. Vysoky Verkh (700 m a.s.l.) to the north-east from the European divide was in the past by mistake considered to be the beginning of the Dnestr river.

The village belonged to crown lands of the Rozluch part of the Sambor estate. The wooden tserkva in Dnistryk Dubovy’i was built in 1751, replaced in 1856 by the second one, seriously damaged during the battles of World War I.

The church serving today, the Sacred Heart tserkva was built in 1921 in the neo-Ukrainian style. It preserves interesting embroidered icons of B. V. Mary and Christ, following the example of icons from 1911 by Osip Kurylas. The wooden building of former nunnery from 1930’s, the churchyard with few old sepulchral crosses and a wooden belfry from 1960’s are located close to the tserkva. The village harbours traditional Boyko-style wooden buildings, many roadside chapels and crosses.

Non-existent villages
The NRPK includes areas of seven deserted villages: Zhuravyn, Dydyova, Likot’, Verkhny’i Dzvynyach, Ternava Nyzhnya, Ternava Vyzhnya and Sokolyky, inhabitants of all these villages have been expelled between 1939 and 1946. At the instance of contemporary Soviet and Polish regimes over seven thousand people were dispersed on different sides of nowadays Ukrainian-Polish border and deserve mentioning their ‘little motherlands’ swept over by the cruel 20th century.

Zhuravyn
The chronicle mentions issuing the locating privilege for the village to knight Zanko of Turka by the Polish King Władysław Warneńczyk even before 1444. It was the most ancient settlement of the upper San river valley, located at the former Roman trading route. Three wooden tserkva churches were built between 16th and 19th century in Zhuravyn, the village also harboured a small Basilian monk’s monastery and a manorial brewery. In 1831 the number of inhabitants reached 850 people. Close to the old church, seriously damaged during the battles of World War I a new one - Transfiguration of Our Lord tserkva was built in 1918 in the neo-Ukrainian style, destroyed by the Soviet border guards in 1957. The village with the population accounting in 1943 for 808 inhabitants was displaced between 1944-46
due to the operation of “clearing the border zone”. In 1945 the church interior decorations have been removed to tserkvas in Dnistryk Dubovy’i and Zhukotyn.

**Dydyova**

Voivode of Kraków Piotr Kmita founded the village of Dydyova before 1529. In 1589 a tserkva church was erected here, replaced in 1740 by the second wooden shrine which burnt down in 1859. In 1860 a wooden tripartite Dormition of the B. V. Mary tserkva was built, later destroyed in 1956 by the Soviet border guards, this fact is commemorated by a small plaque set up by the neighbouring communities. Ivan Franko, the famous Ukrainian writer used to come together with his wife to Dydyova each year in order to visit Ivan Kuziv, his schoolmate, local priest and the expert on ethnography of the Boykos. An agricultural “Syhla” Co-operative and “Prosvita” reading room operated before the World War II. The village with the population accounting in 1938 for 1,332 inhabitants was displaced between 1940-46 due to the operation of “clearing the border zone”. Until 1993 the interior decorations from the tserkva preserved in the church in Dnistryk Dubovy’i have been taken back by the former Dydyova inhabitants resettled to Sokal area. The remnants of the village are the ruins of the manor blown-up in 1960’s and of the ‘carpenter’s house’ hosting Ivan Franko (arrested in Dydyova in 1890) in late 19th century, large foundations of another building, few tombstones in the cemetery and two roadside crosses.

**Likot’**

The village of Likot’ was founded by Voivode of Kraków Piotr Kmita before 1565. The oldest documents mentioning the tserkva in Likot’ come from 1589. A tripartite wooden St. Michael the Archangel tserkva was erected in 1737, replaced in 1927 by another one, later destroyed by the Soviet border guards in 1955. In 1938 the number of inhabitants of Likot’ reached some 655 people. The village with the population accounting in 1943 for 466 inhabitants was displaced between 1945-46 and the church interior decorations have been removed to the tserkva in Boberka. The ring of trees clearly marks the place after the destroyed tserkva, surrounding its foundations and the churchyard with few tombstones. The Lymych family set the cemetery in order, placed 3 crosses in the place after the tserkva and an obelisk nearby the cemetery.

**Verkhny’i Dzvynyach**

Voivode of Kraków Piotr Kmita located the village of Verkhny’i Dzvynyach before 1529. The tax register of 1589 mentions the first tserkva, the second wooden tserkva was built in 1789 on the left bank of the San river. In 1905 the St. Michael the Archangel tserkva was erected on the right bank of the San river, later destroyed after the World War II. The local priest Yuriy Kmit carried out research on the Boyko folklore and was the author of the ‘Boyko Dialect Vocabulary’. In 1938 the number of inhabitants of Verkhny’i Dzvynyach reached 1,549 people. The village with the population accounting in 1943 for 859 inhabitants was displaced between 1944-46. The foundations of tserkva from 1905 remain on the Ukrainian side.
**Ternava Vyzhnya**
The chronicle mentions granting this land to knight Zanko of Turka by the Polish King Władysław Warneńczyk even before 1444. The village of Ternava Vyzhnya was founded over the San river in 1537 on the basis of the privilege issued by Voivode of Kraków Piotr Kmita to pope Vasil Ilnytsky'i. The tserkva in Ternava Vyzhnya was for the first time mentioned in tax register of 1655. The next tserkva was erected in 1746, and the Sts. Apostles Peter and Paul tserkva was built in its neighbourhood in 1889, destroyed after the World War II, it is still quite easy to find places after the tserkvas in Ternava Vyzhnya. In early 1915 bloodily battles of the World War I took place around the village. Industrial plant located on the right bank of the San river processed beech timber transported by the narrow-gauge train into furniture parts, exported as far as to France, Belgium and the Netherlands. In 1931 the number of Ternava Vyzhnya inhabitants reached 813 people. “Prosvita” reading room operated here in 1930’s. The village with the population accounting in 1938 for 765 inhabitants was displaced between 1939-46. Currently 30 residents of nine cottages inhabit the area of the former village.

**Ternava Nyzhnya**
The documents mention granting this area to knight Zanko of Turka by the Polish King Władysław Warneńczyk even before 1444. Similarly as Ternava Vyzhnya this village was founded over the San river in 1537 on the basis of the privilege issued by Voivode of Kraków Piotr Kmita to pope Vasil Ilnytsky'i. The tserkva in Ternava Nyzhnya most probably existed in 1640. The second wooden tserkva was built in the 18th century and survived until the end of 19th century. In 1894 the St. Michael the Archangel tserkva was erected on the right bank of the San river. It was destroyed after the World War II and the church interior decorations have been removed to the tserkva in Verkhnya Yablunka. In 1931 the number of Ternava Nyzhnya inhabitants reached 1,065 people. The village with the population accounting in 1938 for 929 inhabitants was displaced between 1939-46. The remnants on the Ukrainian side are the tserkva foundations and ruins of the belfry built of stone.

**Sokolyky**
Voivode of Kraków Piotr Kmita founded the village of Sokolyky before 1556. Tax registers of 1640 and 1655 contain the first references to the tserkva in Sokolyky. In 1791 the new wooden tripartite St. Demetrius, the Great Martyr tserkva was erected, and in 1931 the masonry one in its close vicinity. Due to the construction of railway Sokolyky became the local centre of timber industry and the local sawmill employed over 200 workers, while more than 100 people worked for the railway. In 1931 the number of Sokolyky inhabitants reached 1,716 people. The village developed also as the holiday resort, in 1937 it harboured seven summer pensions and the ‘Fairy-tale’ Carpathian House for the young. In June 1944 a squad of 400 Azer soldiers from the partisans’ group under the command of Sydor Kovpak conquered the fortified Nazi border guard outpost on the left bank of the San river, attacking across
the minefield. The village with the population accounting in 1938 for 1,520 inhabitants was displaced between 1945-46. The wooden tserkva was destroyed after the World War II and the masonry one was used by the Soviet border guards as the point of vantage and stables. Currently establishing the museum of resettled villages in the tserkva is planned.

**Nadsyansky RLP activities**

The objective for Nadsyansky Regional Landscape Park designation was to ensure the ecological balance in the upper San river valley shared by Ukraine and Poland in the way of extending the borders of the Biosphere Reserve to the San watershed; incorporation of additional areas on the northern slopes of Beskid Mts. also increased its natural representativeness. The main task for the NRLP with the headquarters in Borynya is to implement such forms of forest management and agriculture that will foster the preservation of biological diversity and sustainable development of this area, simultaneously allowing the rational use of its landscape for tourism and recreation.

This ‘young’ park still needs to carry out the inventory of its flora and fauna in order to define the ranges of species and habitats protected in Ukraine and in the European Union. Ultimate borders of forest reserves have to be designated and nature monuments identified. The history, ethnography and cultural heritage must be studied and the best way of protecting this unique area has to be found together with the local self-governments and park inhabitants. This is the only way to provide foundations for the economic development of the park area by implementing the sustainable development strategy based on maintaining the traditional land-use forms, developing local products as well as attaining additional income from tourism and recreation, facilitated by developing hiking, bicycle and horseback trail network.
Practical hints for visitors

Camping is allowed close to the location of the former village of Benyova. Due to the fact, that NRLP is located in the state frontier zone all visitors are required to bear valid passports, visiting the upper San river valley (only in organised groups) is possible subject to prior written consent issued by the Border Guard of Ukraine.

The nearest bank and money vending machine are available in Turka. Overnight accommodation (as for 2005) is available in private family houses owned by:

- in Boberka - Mykola Butriy, Galyna Pron'o, Anatoliy Bizhyk and Ivan Fedash;
- in Shandrovets - Hanna Zgoba, Mykola Saray, Anna Pyptyk and Ivan Startsun;
- in Verknya Yablunka - Paraskoviya Semkiv and Bogdan Shyika.

and also in other farms and villages of the NRLP, at moderate prices.

If you plan to ski, ride a horse or take a ride in a horse-driven carriage in NRLP - ski, horse and carriage rental is available in Boberka at Igor Perih, Petro Sirko, Vasil and Yaroslav Slavych, and in Verkhnya Yablunka from Mykola Zaets' and Ivan Kl'ob.

All villages in NRLP are within the operational range of two Ukrainian mobile phone operators: UMS and UA Kyivstar. In addition to the above in Syanky you can also get connection via Polish mobile phone operator ERA GSM, and when walking on top of NRLP mountain ridges or in the San River Valley also Polish mobile phone operator Plus GSM and others, depending on the location. For your own safety please remember that in hilly terrain mobile phone coverage may not be available in each place of the park.

Post office services, food-stores with basic products and coffee stands are available in all villages of the NRLP. Small pharmacies operate in Boberka, Shandrovets, Verknya and Nyzhnya Yablunka, Nyzhny'i and Verkhny'i Turiv, and in Syanky.

Public transportation is available:
- by bus to all NRLP villages currently except for Verkhny'i Turiv;
- by train to the main railway stations of the Lviv - Syanky - Uzhgorod line located in Syanky and Nyzhnya Yablunka, and smaller railway stops in Nyzhny'i Turiv, Sokolyky and Benyova.

Please note that the road section between Borynya and Boberka is currently not well maintained, therefore 4WDs are much more suitable for sightseeing than regular cars. Petrol station is located at the crossroads in Borynya, next to the main road from Turka to Uzhotska Pass and Uzhgorod.

For more detailed information on the Nadsyansky RLP please contact:
Regional Landscape Park Nadsyansky smt Borynya, Lisova Str.1, 82500 Lvivska oblast, Turkivskyi rajon Ukraine
phone No: +380 3269 41890,
+380 3269 54297.

In an emergency please contact:
- Health centre in Verknya Yablunka (phone No +380 3269 38745);
- Police station in Verknya Yablunka (phone No +380 3269 38745), Nyzhnya Yablunka (phone No +380 3269 39719), and in Syanky (phone No +380 3269 33667);
- Border Guard Station in Boberka (phone No 380 3269 38522) or in Syanky (phone No +380 3269 41254);
- Local First Aid stations in Boberka, Shandrovets, Verknya and Nyzhnya Yablunka, Nyzhny'i and Verkhny'i Turiv, Syanky.
The ‘East Carpathians’ Biosphere Reserve

In November 1992, under the Man and Biosphere Program, UNESCO designated a Polish-Slovak bilateral Biosphere Reserve. In October 1998 the Ukrainian part joined to form the first trilateral Biosphere Reserve “the East Carpathians” - a unique treasure of global importance, combining immense wildlife value with rich cultural heritage.

The reserve contains some of the least disturbed ecosystems e.g. part of the largest European natural beech forest complex, Eastern Carpathian mountain meadows called “poloniny”, protects endemic and threatened mountain plant species and communities. It constitutes one of the most important refuges for large animals of pri-

meval habitats of Europe. Unique fauna is composed of all native big predators like the brown bear, wolf, lynx and golden eagle, as well as all big native herbivorous mammals like the European bison, red deer and reintro-
duced primitive Hutzul horse and beaver.

The reserve covers 213,212 hectares (in Poland 53,4, in Slovakia 19,1 and in Ukraine 27,5 per cent of the total area) and encompasses six protected areas:

- Bieszczady National Park, Cisna-Wetlina and San Valley two Landscape Parks in Poland;
- Poloniny National Park and its buffer zone in Slovakia;
- Uzhansky National Nature Park and Nadsyansky Regional Landscape Park in Ukraine.
Selected literature on NRLP area:


4. „Бойківщина. Історико-етнографічне дослідження”, Київ: Наукова думка 1983


7. Pulnarowicz W.: „U źródeł Sanu, Stryja i Dniestr”, Turka 1929..


