



Federal Foreign Office



INSTITUTE OF STUDIES IN ECOLOGY AND RELIGION

# International Conference

*„Cooperation between civil society and the Church for the nature preservation in Eastern Europe – common protection of Creation”*

**Date of the conference: 07-09 October 2016  
Uzhgorod/Ukraine**

**Venue:** Volodymyrska str. 76, Catechetical center, Uzhgorod, Ukraine

**Conference languages:** Ukrainian, English, Russian

**Organisers:** Nature Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU), Institute of Ecological and Religious Studies (Uzhgorod), Optima Fide (Moldova) and Georgian Academy for Education (Georgia)

## **Background Information**

The main purpose of the conference is to promote the dialog and mutual understanding in terms of responsibility for Creation – Nature through establishing cooperation between networks of units of civil society for nature preservation and the Church in Eastern Europe.

### ***The planned working directions of the conference:***

Considerable attention during the forum will be paid on searching real mechanisms of:

- using cooperation opportunities on ecological education and enlightenment in general between the Church and NGOs
- using the influence of religion in addressing environmental challenges in Eastern Europe
- using the understanding of nature and environmental issues in the sacred texts of churches and religions to address environmental problems in Eastern Europe
- discussion, preparation and publication of joint handbooks, prayer books, appeals and forums on responsibility for Creation
- discussing and planning the series of future projects on responsibility for Creation in Eastern Europe

International Conference  
07-09 October 2016, Uzhgorod



Ukrainian and foreign delegates from Church as well as Nature Conservation experts from NGO's, scientists, authorities' representatives, media representatives are invited to take part in the conference.

*Arrival: Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> October in the morning.*

*Departure: Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> October.*

*Costs for travel, accommodation, meals and organizational fees are covered by the German Federal Foreign Office.*

### **Contact for further information**

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## Conference schedule 07/10/2016

- 10.00 Registration of guests**
- 11.00 Musical interlude by the men choir of Uzhgorod's National University**
- 11.20 Opening of the conference** (moderator AleksandrBokotey)  
BogdanAndriiv – Mayor of Uzhgorod  
Igor Korol– Vice Rector National University Uzhgorod  
Bishop MajnekAntal–Head of Commission on Ecology of Roman Catholic Church (Ukraine)  
Auxiliary Bishop Nil –Greek-Catholic Eparchy of Mukachevo  
Bishop Feodor –Orthodox Eparchy of Mukachevo  
BishopAntonCoşa–Diocese of Chişinău  
Boris Tichomirow–ProgramDirector, Project Coordinator NABU  
Henry Schmauder – Representative of the German Office for Nature Protection  
Peter Pavlovich – Secretary of the European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN)  
AlexanderGerevich – Ukrainian society of environmental protection
- 11.55 Group photo and introduction of participants** (Prayer on responsibility for the Creation in Eastern Europe, media interviews)
- 12.00 Coffee break**
- 12.30 How to develop cooperation between nature conservation NGOs and Church in transformative European States**  
AleksandrBokotey, Institute of Ecological and Religious Studies
- 13.00 Presentationofthework ofECENin Western Europe**  
Peter Pavlovich, Secretary of ECEN
- 13.30 Lunch**
- 14.30 The relationship between social movements for the conservation of nature and the Church in Western Europe**  
Kerstin Arnold, Officer Public Relations NABU
- 15.00 The Salem Concept – a Christian socio-ecological way for a peaceful future for our children**  
Gerhard Lipfert, Executive Director, SALEM International
- 15.30 Conservation of the environment in the tradition of the Orthodox Church**  
DimitrySidor, Orthodox Eparchy of Mukachevo
- 16.00 Coffee Break**
- 16.30 Islam and environmental challenges of the present**  
RustamGafuri, Vice President of the Central Spiritual Administration of Muslims in Ukraine
- 16.50 Problems of environmental education in the sphere of religious foundations**  
GiaKadzhaja, NGO “Georgian Academy of Education”
- 17.10 Activities for the preservation of Creation in Slovakia**  
Martin Celuch, the environmental subcommittee of the Roman Catholic Church in Slovakia
- 17.30 Presentation of print publications and website elaborated within the project**  
MychailBilanich, Ecological commission of the Greek – Catholic Eparchy Mukachevo
- 17.45 Activities of Christian- Ecology in Poland**  
Krzysztof Wojciechowski, Society of Lublin landscape parks
- 18.00 Recapitulating the first conference day and clarifying the plan for the next two days**

**19.00** Spiritual musical performance

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### Conference schedule 08/10/2016

- 8.00** *Breakfast*
- 9.00** **Biblical meditation by the representative of the Ecumenical Commission of Uzhgorod**  
Vladyslav Ignatyshyn
- 9.10** **Prospects for cooperation between civil society and Churches in Eastern Europe at a time of global challenges**  
Oleg Luksha – Director of the Institute «Noosfera», Uzhgorod
- 9.30** **Round Table:** Preparing a memorandum between Christian and nature conservation organizations of Eastern Europe on establishing an “Christian-Environmental forum for Eastern Europe” – election of its coordinator and members  
Boris Tichomirow, Moderator
- 10.30** *Coffee break*
- 11.00** **Initiatives for the Conservation of Creation of Kiev’s Archeparchy of Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church**  
Roman Romanovich, Officer for environmental questions of Kiev’s Archeparchy of Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church
- 11.30** **Experience in the implementation of socio-environmental projects in Georgia**  
Gulnara Soshitashvili, Representative of Association of Civil Society Development in Georgia
- 12.00** *Lunch*
- 13.00** **Round Table:** Discussion work program between Christian and civil society organizations and the preparation on further follow-up projects for the “Christian-Environmental forum of Eastern Europe”  
Aleksandr Bokotey, Moderator
- 14.30** *Coffee break*
- 15.00** **The need for cooperation for protection of the Creation**  
Joseph Terek – Founder of the Department of Ecology in the University of Prešov, Slovakia
- 15.30** **Activities for the preservation of Creation in Moldova**  
Igor Plevchi, NGO “Optima Fide”, Moldova
- 15.50** **Experience of Church’s partnerships with Ukrainian system of extracurricular ecological education on the issue of protection of Creation**  
Alexander Gerevich, Director of the Transcarpathian Regional Ecological Center
- 16.10** **Experience of Church’s partnerships with Ukrainian system of post-graduate ecological education on the preservation of Creation**  
Ass. Prof. Maria Bayanovska, Head of the Chair of social and humanitarian education ZIPPO
- 16.30** *Dinner*
- 17.00** Uzhgorod sightseeing tour
- 19.00** Evening with Jewish Music

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## Conference schedule 09/10/2016

- 7.00**            *Breakfast*
- 8.00**            **Divine liturgy in Uzhhorod's Cathedral of the Holy Cross**
- 9.30**            **Round table meeting with the clergy**
- 10.30**          **Summing up the Conference. Adoption of the resolution**
- 12.00**          *Lunch*
- 13.30**          Expedition to the Carpathian beech forests (Small and Big Uholka)
- From 14.30**    Visiting an operating water mill in Lukovo / Farm in Ukraine with 3 species of Transcarpathian buffaloes / Churches and monuments of sacred wooden architecture in Sokirnitsa
- 18.00**          Excursion to the Museum of mountain ecology and nature history of Ukrainian Carpathians
- 21.00**          Accommodation on the territory of the Uholka-Shyrokoluzhansky (Carpathian Biosphere Reserve)
- 21.30**          Hutsul dinner (village Malaya Uholka)
- Departure of conference participants**