

Renovation of the tourist trails in the Tatra Mountains

Mazik Marta, Tatra National Park, Poland, mmazik@tpn.pl

Due to substantial transformations of the surface within tourist paths in the Western Tatras, the Tatra National Park performs a reclamation of degraded slopes. It is implemented under projects "Reduction of tourist pressure on habitats and species in the area of the Tatras" co-financed by the EU (started in 2013, 2017). The Western Tatras belongs to naturally valuable areas where against a dense network of tourist paths runs. Hiking is currently one of the most important factors affecting the transformation of the surface. By descending from marked trails tourists contribute to the destruction of vegetation and deterioration of soil cover properties.

Mostly renovated paths are located on the alpine, sub-alpine and forest zones. Paths are overhauled by native materials - stones, mineral soil and wood. The area around the trails trampled, devoid of vegetation - soil and eroded is protected by jute mats and slats. Parallely to the renovation activities, the Tatra National Park leads a monitoring of visitors getting around in strictly protected areas as well as monitoring out-of-trail human activities by means of camera traps.