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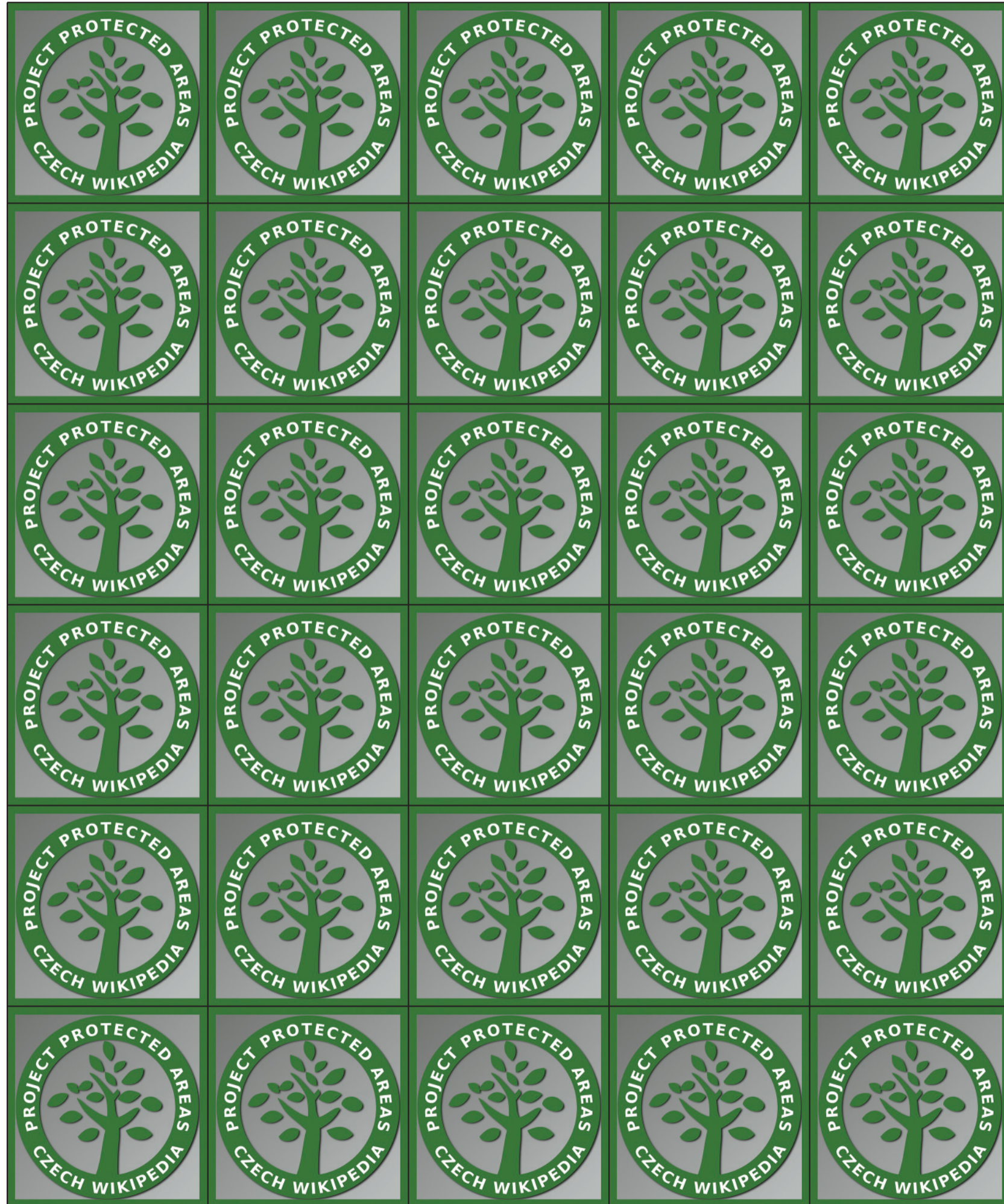
When one hears about Wikipedia... some people imagine a free internet encyclopedia from which we draw our knowledge and information for everyday use, for class presentations and term papers or just for joy and curiosity and from which we also download images for all kinds of purposes.

But not many of us imagine the effort of hundreds of unpaid volunteers who have invested thousands of hours of their time to create the content which we browse as readers. Articles are continually expanded and new photos are uploaded thanks to the enthusiasm and hard work of a group of editors, called "Wikipedians".

Much time has passed since the Czech Wikipedia was in its infancy, containing only a few hundreds entries in a poor condition. Now one can find articles about all areas of human knowledge with different levels of quality; many of them are supplemented with images. As Wikipedia has grown, a need has arisen to help Wikipedians who have similar hobbies or fields of interest to cooperate with each other. This gave birth to so called WikiProjects; one of them is **WikiProject Protected Areas** which tries to coordinate editors who are interested in protected areas, nature habitats, traveling and photography. The goal of this WikiProject is to help describe and photograph all protected areas for the public - that means for you. In this WikiProject the volunteers concentrate on protected areas in the Czech Republic, especially national parks, national nature preserves, national natural monuments, nature preserves, natural monuments, nature parks, protected landscape areas and protected trees. Visitors to these locations can admire prominent landscapes, rock peaks, river meanders, wildwoods, flood-plain forests, meadows, wetlands, moorlands, pastures and many other biotopes, which tend to be stifled because of human activity. These places are homes to both ordinary animals and plants as well as endangered ones we seldom meet in today's urban civilization.

Many travellers make the trip here to feel the touch of nature and to see the wonders that still exist in nature. It is often useful to prepare for a trip while one is still at home by learning what these places are like and what we will see there. Wikipedia is the place where we go first when looking for this kind of information.

However, Wikipedia is created by volunteers and they are unevenly distributed over the Czech Republic. Protected areas are often far from the main tourist paths and so it is impossible to create a catalogue of all protected areas quickly and easily with just the work of a few Wikipedians.



And so we ask you, experienced tourists, for help and cooperation. There is nothing easier than to join the host of volunteers who walk the Czech Republic with cameras and photograph the beauty of our homeland for future readers of Wikipedia. Every tourist has the opportunity to mix work and play - in a good way: to become one of the few whose goals are not only to visit and see untouched nature, but also to aid a praiseworthy cause.

With just a little effort you will make it possible for other visitors to get to know the area through Wikipedia before they actually travel there. You never know when you will be the one who benefits from such service. And we hope that Wikipedia will

be the first source to offer you all the information including photos.

If you take just a single snapshot and then sacrifice a bit of time to upload it to Wikipedia, you will help us in this ambitious project that we have created for the readers. The high number of protected areas requires that the general public participates - including you. Also your help will move us towards our goal: to document the protected areas of the Czech Republic with photos. I trust that I will meet many of you with a camera near mature trees, in the forgotten rock formations, in the midst of moorlands or marshland, in river bends, and many other places. Next time you take

a photo in nature, think of us, the Czech Wikipedia, and try to support the WikiProject Protected Areas by uploading a few photos to Wikipedia.

If you are interested, you can find us by typing "WP:WikiProject Protected Areas" into the search field on Czech Wikipedia. You can also watch our activities in the group "Chranena uzemi" on Google+ or Facebook.

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