

## 1. Title of the Regional Initiative: *Carpathian Wetland Initiative*

### 2. Work and activities undertaken during Year 2015

objectives	activities	results/outputs	indicators
1. Platform of basic data on wetlands	1.1 Development of guidelines for wetland inventory based on experience in SK, collection of information on research of wetlands and projects	The pilot project in SK will be finalized by the end of II.2016, Guidelines on wetland inventory will be reviewed and translated in English in 2016); collection of data on wetland research and projects on wetlands conservation, management and restoration.	Database on Carpathian wetlands developed and improved; draft interactive map for SK on wetlands developed and tested
	1.2 Collection of data on threatened habitats and species and on invasive alien species in the Carpathians, meetings of experts	Consultations with the Implementation Committee of the Carpathian Convention on finalization of the draft Carpathian Red List of threatened habitats and species and the List of invasive alien species; work on the list of endemic plant species of the Carpathians; participation in the international workshop on invasive carnivores in wetlands (5-6 Mar. 2015, Mikulov, CZ)	Database of threatened habitats, species, endemic species and of invasive alien species in the Carpathians; report of the meeting
	1.3 Coordination of research activities with the Science for Carpathians (S4C) initiative, coordination with regional projects and with national institutions	Information exchange.	S4C Research Agenda 2015-2020 on the web
2. Platform for cooperation	2.1 CWI Board members and experts updating, electronic communication and consultations; Involvement of working group(s) of active practitioners, specialists and NGO representatives, national networks of experts and cooperating institutions, exchange of experts; Organizing of the CWI Board meeting during the Ramsar COP12 (Punta del Este, Uruguay, June 2015); participation in meetings of the Carpathian Convention bodies (including Biodiversity WG) and of other partners (WI, ICPDR)	List of CWI Focal Points; CWI Board Meeting during Ramsar COP12 (1 June 2015, Punta del Este, Uruguay), participation and presentations at important meetings of the Carpathian Convention (Implementation Committee, 24 Nov. 2015, Brussels, BE; Sustainable Tourism WG, Aggtelek NP, HU), cooperation with CC Secretariat in preparation of presentation on CWI for the opening conference of the Danube Transnational Programme, consultations with the Czech Ramsar Committee (V., VI. and XII. 2015); participation and presentation in the Steering Committee meeting of the Alpine Convention (14-17 Oct. 2015, Berchtesgaden, DE) and discussion on future cooperation and projects; proposals to WI work programme; and electronic communication on relevant issues.	Report and minutes of the meetings
	2.2 Involvement of administrations of protected areas in the CWI work and cooperation with the Carpathian Network of Pro-	Carpathian protected areas administrations were informed and involved in the CWI project development, consultations on cooperation and possible	Minutes of the meetings

	tected Areas (CNPA), the DANUBEPARKS Network, the Trilateral Ramsar Platform (AT-CZ-SK), WWF-DCP, IUCN (involvement in “Little Sydney” conference, May 2015, Hainburg, AT); CBD; stakeholders involvement	joint projects with WWF, CEEweb for Biodiversity, DANUBEPARKS and Trilateral Ramsar Platform; cooperation with IUCN in preparation of the conference “Little Sydney” (28-31 May 2015, Hainburg, AT).	
	2.3 Fund-raising and projects proposals for financing the Initiative in consultation with national institutions	Project proposal on ecological connectivity in the Carpathians (including wetlands) for funding from the EU Danube Transnational Programme was developed in cooperation with the Carpathian Convention Secretariat and partners in Carpathian countries, coordination meeting for potential partners was organized in SK (3 Sept. 2015, Banská Bystrica)	Expression of Interest for project Connect-GREEN submitted to the DTP; minutes of the meeting
3. Platform for integrated river basin management especially in shared catchments	3.1 Involvement in the preparation of relevant documents on sustainable and integrated water/river basin management of the Carpathian Convention	Declaration between ICPDR Tisza Group and the Carpathian Convention was prepared	Declaration
	3.2 Facilitation of bilateral consultations in shared wetlands and catchments on common objectives and principles of their management, pilot project, participation in international conferences	Bilateral consultations with SK-HU experts in transborder areas; presentation (poster) on CWI at the International conference Wetlands in Agricultural Landscape (11-14 Oct. 2015, České Budejovice, CZ)	Meetings of experts and stakeholders; reports of the meeting; book of abstracts
4. Platform for wetland restoration activities	4.1 Development of the wetland restoration strategies/policies, meetings; wetland restoration activities	Consultations on wetland restoration activities and possible projects with CEEweb for Biodiversity, participation in CEEweb Academy on building Blue-Green Infrastructure “Restoring and protecting wetlands and their ecosystem services” (6-8 Oct. 2015, Budapest, HU)	Meeting reports
	4.2 Sharing experience on wetland restoration in Europe	Participation in the study tour to successful restoration activities in Ramsar sites in the Czech Republic (17-20 May 2015); International conference on river and stream restoration REFORM 2015 “Novel Approaches to Access and Rehabilitate Modified Rivers” (Wageningen, NL, 30 June–2 July 2015)	Conference documents
5. Platform for capacity building and public awareness	5.1 Participation in a project on capacity building in protected areas; Development of the training programme on wetland management and restoration; establishment of a database of educational and training institutions and experts aimed at wetlands and communication with them;	Involvement in a project on capacity building plans for efficient protected area management in Eastern Europe, participation in meetings of Advisory Committee (Isle of Vilm, DE, 23-24 April 2015; Regensburg, DE, 27 Oct. 2015); training and capacity needs assessment (questionnaire developed, distributed and processed); visit of	Minutes of the meetings, project documents

	Development of the CWI programme of CEPA	Visitor Centres UnterwasserReich in Nature park Hochmoor (AT) 17 May 2015 and Haus der Berge (Berchtesgaden, DE, 16 Oct. 2015); work on CWI CEPA programme	
	5.2 Development of a project for training on identified priorities; support of other trainings	Work on a project draft, not finished yet; participation; distribution of information on training opportunities; meeting with environmental education employees in museum in Banská Bystrica on possibilities for development of education activities	Draft document
	5.3 Preparation and printing of a brochure and leaflet on CWI and Carpathian wetlands, translation of relevant guidelines; Maintenance of CWI web site and newsletter	CWI web site updating	CWI web site
	5.4 Operation of the regional Wetland Centre, building of its library, human capacities, improvement of facilities, CWI coordination	Carpathian Wetland Centre in Banská Bystrica maintained, but with no specially dedicated human resources, Carpathian wetland library supplemented; participation in the Collaborative Workshop of the Ramsar Regional Initiatives with the Convention Secretariat and the subsequent 51 Meeting of the Ramsar SC in Gland, CH (22-26 Nov. 2015) and consultations on improving effectiveness of RIs	Carpathian Wetland Centre, report of the meeting, decisions of the Ramsar SC 51

### 3. Financial report for Year 2015

Summary of income and expenditures. Average exchange rate to CHF: 1.1

Activities	Planned expenditures	Actual expenditure (EUR)
1.1 Wetland inventory guidelines	1,000 EUR	900.00
1.2 Collection of data on threatened habitats and species, IAS, endemic species in the Carpathians, meetings of experts	6,000 EUR	1,140.70
1.3 Coordination of research with the S4C, projects and national institutions	1,000 EUR	135.00
2.1 CWI Board members meetings during various events, Carpathian Convention meetings; working groups, exchange of experts	8,500 EUR	2,379.09
2.2 Cooperation with CNPA, DANUBEPARKS, WWF-DCP and Trilateral Ramsar Platform	2,200 EUR	792.00
2.3 Fund raising	1,000 EUR	1,989.63
3.1 Cooperation on documents on sustainable and integrated water/river basin management	1,000 EUR	0.00
3.2 Facilitation of bilateral consultations in shared wetlands, participation in conferences	3,500 EUR	1,351.94
4.1 Development of wetland restoration strategies / policies, meetings, workshops, restoration activities	2,000 EUR	604.20
4.2 Sharing experience on wetland restoration	2,500 EUR	2,976.51
5.1 Project on capacity building in Pas, training programme, database of educational and training institutions	1,500 EUR	1,458.20

and experts, CEPA programme		
5.2 Development of a project for training on priorities, support of trainings	2,500 EUR	180.00
5.3 Preparation and printing of publications, translations, maintenance of CWI web site and newsletter	3,000 EUR	180.00
5.4 Operation of the Carpathian Wetland Centre, library, improvement of human capacities, facilities, CWI coordination	22,000 EUR	6,359.44
<b>Total</b>	<b>57,700 EUR</b>	<b>20,446.71</b>

Sources of income	Income received (EUR)
SNC SR	8,800.00
CZ CWI budget	2,096.78
MoE Czech Republic	1,070.00
MoE Ukraine	540.00
MoE Hungary	135.00
UNEP SCC	1,200.00
ALPARC	300.00
NEOVISION project	280.00
CEEweb	300.00
WWF DCP	250.00
Propark, BfN	500.00
<b>Ramsar core budget</b>	<b>4,974.93</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,446.71</b>

**Financial balance on 31 December 2015:** amount left to be carried over to 2016

**Ramsar core budget**

**5,538.66 €**

(+2,290 expected for second installment of 2015 not received yet)

**CWI budget from Hungary**

**5,716.78 €**

**CWI budget from the Czech Republic**

**943.57 €**

The Ramsar funding (including amount left from previous funding) was spent mostly for organization and travel expenses for meetings, participation in conferences (4,268.35 EUR) and maintenance and operation of the Carpathian Wetland Centre (706.58 EUR). It is proposed to use the amount left (about 7,829 EUR – 5,539 on the account and 2,290 expected as the second installment of 2015 contract from Ramsar) in 2016 for the activities planned for 2015 and 2016 according to the plan below.

#### 4. Work and activities planned for Year 2016

Objectives	Activities	Results/outputs	Indicators
1. Platform of basic data on wetlands	1.1 Development of guidelines for wetland inventory, collection of information on research of wetlands and projects; cooperation in designation of new Ramsar sites in the Carpathian region and updating of Ramsar Information Sheets	Guidelines on wetland inventory in the Carpathian countries, database on wetland research and projects on wetlands conservation, management and restoration; Ramsar Information Sheets and maps elaborated for new Ramsar sites or updated RISs	Guidelines on Carpathian wetland inventory available on the web site; database; RISs for a number of Ramsar sites developed or updated
	1.2 Collection of data on threatened habitats and species and on invasive alien species in the Carpathians, meetings of experts	Database on threatened Carpathian wetland habitats and species and on the invasive alien species (IAS) for finalization of the Carpathian	Database of threatened habitats, species, endemic species and invasive alien species; meeting reports

		Red Lists, List of IAS and endemic species; results of meetings	
	1.3 Coordination of research activities with the Science for Carpathians (S4C) initiative, participation in Forum Carpaticum (28-30 Sept. 2016, Bucharest, Romania), coordination with regional projects and with national institutions	Information on research of wetlands, experts and on projects, involvement in projects; presentation at Forum Carpaticum 2016	Information available on the web site
2. Platform for cooperation	2.1 Update of the CWI strategy and work plan based on new Ramsar Strategic Plan and guidelines; CWI Board members and experts updating, electronic communication and consultations; Involvement of working group(s) of active practitioners, specialists and NGO representatives, national networks of experts and cooperating institutions, exchange of experts; Organizing the CWI Board meeting; participation in meetings of the Carpathian Convention bodies (including Biodiversity WG) and of other partners (WI, ICPDR)	Updated CWI strategy and work plan; updated list of CWI Focal Points; Presentations during important meetings; The working group and national networks communicated, national experts and Ramsar committees exchanges. One meeting of the CWI Board and electronic communication on relevant issues	Updated documents, list of national CWI focal points; Report/minutes of the meetings with results achieved; the working group and national networks of experts and institutions on the web, report of the exchange of experts and members of the Ramsar committees of the Carpathian countries
	2.2 Involvement of administrations of protected areas in the CWI work and cooperation with the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA), the DANUBEPARKS Network, the Trilateral Ramsar Platform (AT-CZ-SK), WWF-DCP, IUCN, CBD; stakeholders involvement	Carpathian protected areas administrations informed and involved in the CWI projects, regular cooperation and information sharing with CNPA Steering Committee, DANUBE-PARKS, Trilateral Ramsar Platform, WWF-DCP, IUCN, CBD bodies and programmes and other networks and projects	A number of protected areas involved and informed; conferences results
	2.3 Fund-raising and projects proposals for financing of the Initiative in consultation with national institutions	Project proposals for funding and involvement in project drafts; analysis of funding opportunities for small grants	Project drafts submitted, involvement in different project proposals
3. Platform for integrated river basin management especially in shared catchments	3.1 Involvement in the preparation of relevant documents on sustainable and integrated water/river basin management of the Carpathian Convention	Documents developed, involvement in relevant projects, communication with the Carpathian Convention secretariat and ICPDR	Documents, meeting reports
	3.2 Facilitation of bilateral consultations in shared wetlands and catchments on common objectives and principles of their management, pilot project, participation in international conferences	Meetings of experts and relevant stakeholders; relevant projects implementation	A number of experts and national focal points participating; report of the conferences, recommendations; guidelines; results of the project, information distributed to partners
4. Platform for wetland restora-	4.1 Development of the wetland restoration strategies/policies,	Draft wetland restoration strategy/policy in a country, data on barri-	Draft document; meeting minutes; report on activi-

tion activities	meetings, workshops; wetland restoration activities	ers, meetings on the topic; small restoration activities	ties
	4.2 Sharing experience on wetland restoration in Europe	Workshops, conferences and study tours to wetland restoration examples; overview of wetland restoration guidelines and projects	Report of the meetings and study tour; information on the web
5. Platform for capacity building and public awareness	5.1 Development of the training programme on wetland management and restoration; establishment of a database of educational and training institutions and experts aimed at wetlands and communication with them; Development of the CWI program of CEPA	Training programme developed, using results of a study on capacity building in E Europe; database with information established and communication; CWI CEPA draft programme consulted with partners and existing Ramsar CEPA programme	Training programme; database on the web site; draft CWI CEPA programme on the web
	5.2 Development of a project for training on identified priorities; support of other trainings	Project proposal discussed and submitted, participation in trainings	Project draft or application
	5.3 Preparation and printing of a brochure and leaflet on CWI and Carpathian wetlands, translation of relevant guidelines; Maintenance of CWI web site and newsletter	A brochure and leaflet on CWI and the Carpathian wetlands and their functions and services, guidelines translated; web site updated with relevant information	Brochure and leaflet printed, guidelines in national languages and placed on the web; web site with updated information
	5.4 Operation of the regional Wetland Centre, building of its library, human capacities, improvement of facilities, CWI coordination	Wetland Centre maintained, functioning, Carpathian wetland library supplemented, staff supported; participation in the Working Group of the Ramsar Convention on the Ramsar Regional Initiatives	Wetland Centre operating and working for coordination and promotion of CWI and training; results and documents of the Working Group on the Ramsar Regional Initiatives

## 5. Financial plan for the year 2016

Summary of expected income and budgeted/planned expenditures. Average **exchange rate to the CHF**: 1.1

Activities	Planned expenditures	Expected income and source (EUR)
1.1 Wetland inventory guidelines, designation of new Ramsar sites, updating of RISs	1,500 EUR	SNC SR 500.00 MoE UA 500.00 Ramsar 500.00
1.2 Collection of data on threatened habitats and species, IAS, endemic species in the Carpathians, meetings of experts	3,500 EUR	Ramsar 500.00 UNEP SCC 2,000.00 SNC SR 1,000.00
1.3 Coordination of research with the S4C, projects and national institutions, Forum Carpaticum	1,200 EUR	Ramsar 700.00 SNC SR 500.00
2.1 Update of the CWI Strategy and work plan, CWI Board members meetings during various events, Carpathian Convention meetings; working groups, exchange of experts	7,300 EUR	Ramsar 800.00 UNEP SCC 1,000.00 SNC SR 1,000.00 CWI budget HU 1,000.00 Moe CZ 500.00 MoE HU 500.00 MoE PL 500.00 MoE RO 500.00 MoE RS 500.00 MoE SK 500.00 MoE UA 500.00

2.2 Cooperation with CNPA, DANUBEPARKS, WWF-DCP and Trilateral Ramsar Platform	2,200 EUR	Ramsar 500.00 SNC SR 500.00 MoE CZ 200.00 UNEP SCC 1,000.00
2.3 Fund raising	1,000 EUR	Ramsar 500.00 SNC SR 500.00
3.1 Cooperation on documents on sustainable and integrated water/river basin management	1,000 EUR	SNC SR 500.00 UNEP SCC 500.00
3.2 Facilitation of bilateral consultations in shared wetlands, participation in conferences	3,000 EUR	Ramsar 500.00 MoE CZ 1,000.00 CWI budget HU 1,000.00 SNC 500.00
4.1 Development of wetland restoration strategies/ policies, meetings, workshops, restoration activities	2,000 EUR	SNC SR 700.00 Ramsar 1,000.00
4.2 Sharing experience on wetland restoration	2,500 EUR	Ramsar 800.00 MoE CZ 500.00 CWI budget CZ 500.00 SNC SR 500.00
5.1 Training programme, database of educational and training institutions and experts, CEPA programme	1,000 EUR	MoE CZ 500.00 SNC SR 500.00
5.2 Development of a project for training on priorities, support of trainings	2,000 EUR	SNC SR 500.00 Ramsar 500.00 MoE CZ 500.00 MoE UA 500.00
5.3 Preparation and printing of publications, translations, maintenance of CWI web site and newsletter	3,000 EUR	SNC SR 1,000.00 Ramsar 1,000.00 UNEP SCC 1,000.00
5.4 Operation of the Carpathian Wetland Centre, library, improvement of human capacities, facilities, CWI coordination	15,829 EUR	Ramsar 829.00 SNC SR 15,000.00
<b>Using the rest from Ramsar core budget</b>		<b>7,829.00 EUR</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>47,029 EUR</b>	

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**Acronyms:**

AT	Austria
BfN	German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEPA	Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness programme
CNPA	Carpathian Network of Protected Areas
CWI	Carpathian Wetland Initiative
CZ	Czech Republic
HU	Hungary
IAS	invasive alien species
ICPDR	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
MoE	Ministry of Environment
PAs	Protected areas
PL	Poland
Propark	Propark Foundation, Romania
RIS	Ramsar Information Sheet
RO	Romania

RS	Serbia
S4C	Science for Carpathians
SC	Standing Committee
SK	Slovakia
SNC SR	State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic
UA	Ukraine
UNEP SCC	UNEP Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention
WG	Working Group
WI	Wetlands International
WWF-DCP	WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme