

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

2. Work and activities undertaken during 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	The pilot project in SK was finalized in 2016, Guidelines on wetland inventory will be reviewed and translated in English in 2017; collection of data on wetland research and projects on wetlands conservation, management and restoration.	Database on Carpathian wetlands developed and improved; 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 within the Implementation Committee of the Carpathian Convention and Biodiversity WG on finalization of the draft Carpathian Red List of threatened habitats and species and the List of invasive alien species, preparation of Red Lists of habitats and of plants for approval by the COP; work on the list of endemic plant species of the Carpathians.	Database of threatened habitats, species, endemic species and of invasive alien species in the Carpathians; report of the meetings
	1.3 Coordination of research activities with the Science for Carpathians (S4C) initiative, participation in Forum Carpathicum, coordination with regional projects and with national institutions	Information exchange; Some CWI members participated at Forum Carpathicum (28-30 Sept. 2016, Bucharest, RO).	S4C Research Agenda 2015-2020 and results of the Forum Carpathicum on the web
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 of the CWI Board meeting; participation in meetings of the Carpathian Conv. bodies (including Biodiversity WG) and of other partners (WI, ICPDR)	List of CWI Focal Points updated; participation at important meetings of the Carpathian Convention (Biodiversity WG, 20 Oct. 2016, Rožnov p. R., CZ, Implementation Committee, 21-22 Nov. 2016, Vienna, AT); meeting with potential partners for projects from Carpathian countries, discussion on work programme; electronic communication on relevant issues; participation in survey on Carpathian biodiversity governance.	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 Protected Areas (CNPA), the DANUBEPARKS Network, the Trilateral Ramsar Platform (AT-	Carpathian protected areas administrations were informed and involved in the CWI project development; consultations on cooperation and possible joint projects with WWF, DANUBEPARKS, ALPARC, IUCN; participation and presentation at the meeting of	Minutes of the meetings, MoC signed and CWI included in the text

	CZ-SK), WWF-DCP, IUCN, CBD; stakeholders involvement	DANUBEPARKS (27-28 Oct 2016, Hainburg, AT) and in development of the Memorandum of Cooperation with ALPARC, DANUBEPARKS and CNPA and Action Plan, participation at the workshop (21-24 Sept. 2016, Berchtesgaden, DE).	
	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 finalized and submitted in cooperation with the Carpathian Convention Secretariat and partners in Carpathian countries, coordination meeting for potential partners was organized in CZ (21-23 Apr. 2016, Pruhonice), the project was not approved in the 1 st call; work on redrafting and re-submitting in 2017; involvement in preparation of the project “Danube Floodplain”, participation in coordination meetings (30-31 Aug 2016, Vienna, AT; 12-15 Dec. 2016, Bucharest, RO).	Application form for project Connect-GREEN submitted to the DTP; minutes of the meetings; Draft project Danube Floodplain
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	Cooperation between ICPDR and the Carpathian Convention; Memorandum of Cooperation signed between Carpathian Convention Secretariat and EUSDR PA04 “Water Quality” in Aug. 2016 (in Bratislava, SK).	MoC signed
	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 experts in transborder areas.	Meetings of experts and stakeholders
4. Platform for wetland restoration activities	4.1 Development of the wetland restoration strategies/policies, meetings; wetland restoration activities	Consultations on floodplain restoration activities and possible projects within the Danube River basin, meeting of partners.	Meeting reports
	4.2 Sharing experience on wetland restoration in Europe		
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 programme of CEPA	Involvement in a process of capacity development in governmental nature conservation organisations and protected areas in cooperation with IUCN WCPA and BfN (DE), participation in a workshop (8-11 Jan. 2017, Isle of Vilm, DE); work on CWI CEPA programme.	Minutes of the meetings
	5.2 Development of a project for training on identified priorities; support of other trainings	Work on a project draft.	Draft document
	5.3 Preparation and printing of a brochure and leaflet on CWI and	CWI web site updating	CWI web site

	Carpathian wetlands, translation of relevant guidelines; Maintenance of CWI web site and news		
	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 Working Group on the Ramsar Regional Initiatives, consultations on revised Operational Guidelines for RRI.	Carpathian Wetland Centre, report of the meeting, decisions of the Ramsar SC

3. Financial report for Year 2016

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

Activities	Planned expenditures	Actual expenditure (EUR)
1.1 Wetland inventory guidelines	1,500 EUR	360.00
1.2 Collection of data on threatened habitats and species, IAS in the Carpathians, meetings of experts	3,500 EUR	1,140.00
1.3 Coordination of research with the S4C, projects and national institutions, Forum Carpathicum	1,200 EUR	635.00
2.1 CWI strategy and work plan, Board members meetings, communication, Carpathian Convention meetings; working groups, exchange of experts	7,300 EUR	885.49
2.2 Cooperation with CNPA, DANUBEPARKS, WWF-DCP, IUCN and Trilateral Ramsar Platform	2,200 EUR	1,502.81
2.3 Fund raising, project proposals	1,000 EUR	3,087.76
3.1 Cooperation on documents on sustainable and integrated water/river basin management	1,000 EUR	500.00
3.2 Facilitation of bilateral consultations in shared wetlands, participation in conferences	3,000 EUR	180.00
4.1 Development of wetland restoration strategies / policies, meetings, workshops, restoration activities	2,000 EUR	225.00
4.2 Sharing experience on wetland restoration	2,500 EUR	0.00
5.1 Training programme on wetland management and restoration, database of educational and training institutions and experts, CEPA programme	1,000 EUR	846.20
5.2 Development of a project for training on priorities, support of trainings	2,000 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, human capacities, facilities, CWI coordination	15,829 EUR	3,400.00
Total	47,029 EUR	13,122.26

Sources of income	Income received (EUR)
SNC SR	8,009.00
UNEP CC	2,354.42
MoE HU	43.72
MoE CZ	56.28
NCA CZ	150.00
WWF DCP	500.00
ALPARC	400.00

DANUBEPARKS	100.00
Project Start DRPF	250.00
BfN DE	550.00
Ramsar core budget	708.84
Total	13,122.26

Financial balance on 31 December 2016: amount left to be carried over to 2017

Ramsar core budget 7,098.46 €

CWI budget from Hungary 5,673.06 €

CWI budget from the Czech Republic 887.29 €

The Ramsar funding (including amount left from previous funding) was spent mostly for travel expenses for meetings, connected with fund raising and projects preparation (359.96 EUR) and cooperation with partners (327.81 EUR). It is proposed to use the amount left (about 7,098 EUR) in 2017 for the activities planned according to the plan below.

4. Work and activities planned for Year 2017

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 RISs	Guidelines on wetland inventory in the Carpathian countries, database on wetland research and projects on wetlands conservation, management and restoration	Guidelines on Carpathian wetland inventory available on the web site; database
	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 Red Lists, List of IAS and endemic species; results of meetings	Database of threatened habitats, species, endemic species and invasive alien species; meeting reports
	1.3 Coordination of research activities with the Science for Carpathians (S4C) initiative, coordination with regional projects and with national institutions	Information on research of wetlands, experts and on projects, involvement in projects	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 and WGs and of other partners	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	Carpathian protected areas administrations informed and involved in the CWI projects, regular coopera-	A number of protected areas involved and informed; conferences re-

	the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA), the DANUBEPARKS Network, the Trilateral Ramsar Platform (AT-CZ-SK), WWF-DCP, IUCN, CBD; stakeholders involvement	tion and information sharing with CNPA Steering Committee, DANUBEPARKS, Trilateral Ramsar Platform, WWF-DCP, IUCN, CBD bodies and programmes and other networks and projects	sults
	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; project draft, information distributed to partners
4. Platform for wetland restoration activities	4.1 Development of the wetland restoration strategies/policies, meetings, workshops; wetland restoration activities	Draft wetland restoration strategy/policy in a country, data on barriers, meetings on the topic; small restoration activities	Draft document; meeting minutes; report on activities
	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 and CWI CEPA programme; establishment of a database of educational and training institutions and experts aimed at wetlands and communication with them; cooperation with IUCN WCPA Working Group on Capacity Development	Training programme developed; database with information established and communication; CWI CEPA and capacity development draft programme consulted with partners and existing Ramsar CEPA programme;	Training programme; database on the web site; draft CWI CEPA and capacity development 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; participation in Ekoplagat exhibition; Maintenance of CWI web site	A brochure and leaflet on CWI and the Carpathian wetlands and their functions and services, guidelines translated; Ekoplagat exhibition organized with CWI award for a poster; web site updated with relevant information	Brochure and leaflet printed, guidelines in national languages and placed on the web; a poster awarded; 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 training; results and documents of the Working Group on the RRI

5. Financial plan for the year 2017

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 RS	1,000 EUR	SNC SR 500.00 MoE UA 500.00
1.2 Collection of data on threatened habitats and species, IAS, endemic species in the Carpathians, meetings of experts	3,000 EUR	Ramsar 500.00 UNEP SCC 2,000.00 SNC SR 500.00
1.3 Coordination of research with the S4C, projects and national institutions	1,000 EUR	Ramsar 500.00 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	7,000 EUR	Ramsar 500.00 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	2,000 EUR	Ramsar 500.00 MoE CZ 500.00 CWI budget HU 500.00 SNC SR 500.00
4.1 Development of wetland restoration strategies/ policies, meetings, workshops, restoration activities	1,000 EUR	SNC SR 500.00 Ramsar 500.00
4.2 Sharing experience on wetland restoration	2,500 EUR	Ramsar 1,000.00 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	1,500 EUR	SNC SR 500.00 Ramsar 500.00 MoE CZ 500.00
5.3 Preparation and printing of publications, translations, Ekoplagat exhibition, 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 coordin.	16,098 EUR	Ramsar 1,098.00 SNC SR 15,000.00
Using the rest from Ramsar core budget		7,098.00 EUR
Total	43,298 EUR	

Acronyms:

AT	Austria
BfN DE	German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CC	Carpathian Convention
CEPA	Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness programme
CNPA	Carpathian Network of Protected Areas
CWI	Carpathian Wetland Initiative
CZ	Czech Republic
DRPF	Danube Region Project Fund
DTP	Danube Transnational Programme
EUSDR	European Union Strategy for the Danube Region
HU	Hungary
IAS	invasive alien species
ICPDR	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
IUCN WCPA	IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas
MoE	Ministry of Environment
NCA CZ	Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic
PAs	Protected areas
PL	Poland
RO	Romania
RRI	Ramsar Regional Initiatives
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