

1. Title of your regional initiative: *Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI)*

2. Work and activities undertaken 2009

| objectives | activities | results/outputs | indicators |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| 1. Platform of basic data on wetlands | 1.1 Organizing the first Carpathian wetland conference | The conference “Conservation of Wetlands in the Carpathians” was held 16.-19.11.2009 in Tatranska Strba, Slovakia; Challenges and priorities for cooperation within CWI identified; Conclusions and suggestions for the CWI work plan 2010 formulated. | 65 representatives of all 7 Carpathian countries, specialists, conventions secretariats, NGOs participated; report of the conference www.sopsr.sk |
| | 1.2 Development of harmonized classification system of wetland habitats, compatible protocol for wetland inventory, guidelines for evaluation and interpretation of data and training on field mapping and data storing | Building of the Carpathian Biodiversity Information System within the project of the Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative CERI (supported by DBU) “Proposal for Western Carpathian Ecological Network as a precondition for effective cross-border nature protection“; Wetland inventory and study on potential Ramsar sites within the project “Establishment of Ramsar Sites in the Danube-Carpathian Region of Ukraine” (BBI-MATRA funded) | Carpathian Biodiversity Information System developed for Eastern and Western Carpathians www.carpates.org/dbu_index.html ; |
| 2. Platform for cooperation | 2.1 Organizing of meetings and electronic communication and consultations of members of the CWI Board, participation in meetings of the Carpathian Convention bodies | Regular electronic communication with CWI Board members, update of representation of the countries and partners in the Board, visit of the Czech representative in the Ramsar SC; presentation of CWI and its activities in the meetings of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (10.-11.12. 2009, Vienna, Austria), Biodiversity Working Group and the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (4.3.2009, 14.-15.1.2010, Vienna, Austria), standardization of cooperation; presentation at ALPARC international conference on ecological networks and climate change (14.-16.10.2009, Germany) | Reports of the meetings www.carpathianconvention.org |

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| | 2.2 Establishment of national networks of experts and cooperating institutions | National networks established in projects, will be further developed in 2010 | |
| | 2.3 Fund-raising and projects proposals for financing the initiative in consultation with national institutions | CWI activities included in the developed projects for South-East Europe Programme Integrated management of biological and landscape diversity for sustainable regional development and ecological connectivity in the Carpathians (BIOREGIO Carpathians - for all 7 Carpathian countries) and developed by the Slovak State Nature Conservancy for the Swiss funding mechanism | Projects (Expression of Interest and Project intent) submitted to the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme and the Swiss-Slovak Cooperation Programme |
| 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 | CWI involved in preparation of the project for the SEE Transnational Cooperation Programme (BIOREGIO Carpathians) in cooperation with the Carpathian Convention Secretariat | Expression of Interest submitted to the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme |
| | 3.2 Facilitation of bilateral consultations in shared wetlands and catchments on common objectives and principles of their management | The activity for integrated and harmonized management plans and common integrated management measures in some transborder Ramsar Sites was included in the project BIOREGIO Carpathians in cooperation with the Carpathian Convention Secretariat; participation in the 1 st Transboundary Ramsar Sites workshop (28.-30.1.2010, Strasbourg, France) | Expression of Interest submitted to the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme; Report of the Transboundary Ramsar Sites workshop www.ramsar.org |
| | 3.3 Cooperation with ICPDR especially in the Tisa River Basin | Participation in the 1 st stakeholder meeting within the UNDP/GEF project “Integrating multiple benefits of wetlands and floodplains into improved transboundary management for the Tisza River Basin” (13.11.2009, Kosice, Slovakia) | Report of the meeting www.icpdr.org/undp-gef-tisza |
| 4. Platform for wetland restoration activities | 4.1 Development of the wetland restoration strategies / policies | The activity was included in the project “Wetland management in Slovakia, support of environmental awareness and capacity building” supported in 2009 from the Operational | Information on the approved project www.opzp.sk |

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| | | Programme Environment and will be further developed | |
| | 4.2 Sharing experience on wetland restoration in Europe | The International Course on Ecohydrological Approach to Revitalisation and Conservation of Wetlands was organized 15.-20.6.2009 in Trebon, Czech Republic, with participants also from Carpathian countries; Management and restoration of fens was a part of the conference Conservation of wetlands in the Carpathians (19.11.2009, Tat. Strba, Slovakia); Study tour of SNC staff members was organized to Ramsar sites of the Czech Republic (1.-3.6.2009) | The Report on the course www.ramsar.org |
| 5. Platform for capacity building and public awareness | 5.1 Preparation, distribution and evaluation of a questionnaire on training priorities and needs | Will be prepared and distributed by the Czech Republic in beginning of 2010 | |
| | 5.2 Development of draft training programme for wetland sites managers | Will be developed in the beginning of 2010 | |
| | 5.3 Establishing and maintenance of web site of CWI and publishing of information on wetlands and their role and functions | The CWI logo was developed in October 2009 and was discussed in November 2009; the web site will be launched in March 2010 | The CWI logo www.sopsr.sk |
| | 5.4 Establishment of a database of educational and training institutions and experts aimed at wetlands and communication with them | Will be established in the beginning of 2010 | |
| | 5.5 Development of a brochure and leaflet on CWI and Carpathian wetlands, translation of relevant guidelines | The resource handbook "World of Carpathians" was developed by CERI within DBU funded project and was presented in the workshop (17.11.2009, Tat. Strba, Slovakia); The brochure and leaflet will be produced in the beginning of 2010; the further funding for translation of guidelines was included in the project proposals | The resource handbook available in DAPHNE Bratislava |
| | 5.6 Establishment of the regional Wetland Centre, based on lessons learned from the study tour | The Slovak State Nature Conservancy in 2009 made available a room space for regional Wetland Centre in | Report of the study tour |

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| | focused on Wetland Centres in Europe | Banska Bystrica (SK) and included its furnishing in the submitted projects; the study tour was held in cooperation with the Czech Ministry of Environment and the Ramsar Committee in Ramsar sites of Belarus, Lithuania and Poland | |
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3. Financial report for the year 2009

| activities | planned expenditures (EUR) | real expenditures (EUR) |
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| 1.1 Organizing the Carpathian Wetland Conference | 16,000 | 14,601.63 |
| 1.2 Development of harmonized classification system, database maintenance | 5,000 | 3,000.00 |
| 2.1, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 Organizing of trainings, workshops, consultations and meetings | 3,000 | 4,517.52 |
| 4.1 Development of wetland restoration strategies | 2,000 | 0 |
| 4.2 Sharing experience on wetland restoration | 2,000 | 592,12 |
| 5.2 Development of draft training programme | 1,500 | 0 |
| 5.3 Web site establishment and maintenance | 500 | 595.26 |
| 5.5 Development and printing of publications, translations | 6,000 | 1,000.00 |
| 5.6 Establishment of the regional Wetland Centre and study tour | 13,000 | 4,969.65 |
| total | 49,000 | 29,276.18 |

| sources of income (donors) | income received |
|---|----------------------|
| State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic | 10,732.55 EUR |
| Ministry of Environment Czech Republic | 2,000.00 EUR |
| Ministry of Environment and Water Hungary | 2,000.00 EUR |
| Daphne/UNDP/GEF | 5,205.90 EUR |
| CERI/DBU | 2,000.00 EUR |
| BBI-MATRA project/Ukraine | 2,000.00 EUR |
| WWF-DCP/MAVA project | 33.31 EUR |
| Ramsar core budget (where applicable) | 14,535.82 EUR |
| total | 38,507.58 EUR |

Financial balance on 31 December 2009: amount left to be carried over to 2010

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| Ramsar core budget – left from the first transfer | + 6,648.30 EUR |
| - expected from the second transfer | 10,230.00 EUR |
| Other sources - left | 2,343.10 EUR |

4. Work and activities planned for 2010

| objectives | activities | results/outputs | indicators |
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| 1. Platform of basic data on wetlands | 1.1 Organizing the CWI workshop | Meeting of experts on specific subject (e.g. wetlands and tourism) with recommendations | A number of experts and national focal points participating; report of the workshop, recommendations; workshop proceedings |
| | 1.2 Distribution of the guidelines for wetland inventory, wetland inventories in countries, data storing, collection of information on research of wetlands and projects | Database on Carpathian wetlands established and filled in with data from wetland inventory, wetland research and projects on wetlands conservation, management and restoration | Database on Carpathian wetlands available |
| | 1.3 Development of the Carpathian wetland handbook / classification system in all Carpathian languages | Draft Carpathian wetland handbook / classification system developed | The draft for consultation |
| | 1.4 Coordination of research activities with the Science for Carpathians (S4C) initiative and participation in the 1 st Forum Carpaticum (Sept.2010, Krakow, Poland) | Presentation on CWI at the 1 st Forum Carpaticum (15-17 September 2010, Krakow, Poland) and suggestions for research | Report of the 1 st Forum Carpaticum |
| 2. Platform for cooperation | 2.1 Organizing of meetings and electronic communication and consultations of members of the CWI Board, participation in meetings of the Carpathian Convention bodies and other partners | One meeting of the CWI Board and electronic communication on relevant issues; presentations in meetings of the Carpathian Convention bodies and other partners | Report/minutes of the meetings with results achieved |
| | 2.2 Establishment of a working group(s) of active practitioners, specialists and NGO representatives, national networks of experts and cooperating institutions | The working group and national networks established and communicated | The working group and national networks of experts and institutions on the web |
| | 2.3 Involvement of administrations of protected areas in the CWI work and cooperation with the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) and the DANUBEPARKS Network | Carpathian protected areas administrations contacted, informed and involved in the CWI projects, regular cooperation and information sharing with CNPA Steering Committee and DANUBEPARKS | A number of protected areas involved and informed |
| | 2.4 Fund-raising and projects proposals for financing of the Initiative in consultation with national institutions | Project proposals for funding and involvement in project drafts | Project drafts submitted, involvement in different project proposals |
| 3. Platform for integrated river basin | 3.1 Involvement in the preparation of relevant documents on sustainable and integrated | Documents developed, involvement in relevant projects | Documents, meeting reports |

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| management especially in shared catchments | water/river basin management of the Carpathian Convention | | |
| | 3.2 Facilitation of bilateral consultations in shared wetlands and catchments on common objectives and principles of their management, participation in the Network of Transboundary Ramsar Sites initiative | Meetings of experts and relevant stakeholders, proposals for activities and projects | A number of meetings and reports |
| | 3.3 Cooperation with ICPDR especially in the Tisa/Tisza River Basin and other IRBM projects | Meetings and communication outputs | Information distributed to partners |
| 4. Platform for wetland restoration activities | 4.1 Development of the wetland restoration strategies/policies | Draft wetland restoration strategy/policy in a country | Draft document |
| | 4.2 Sharing experience on wetland restoration in Europe | Overview of wetland restoration guidelines and projects | Information on the web |
| | 4.3 Development of the project proposal on inventory and control of invasive alien species in transborder catchments | Project proposal on invasive species | A project draft consulted |
| 5. Platform for capacity building and public awareness | 5.1 Development of the training programme on wetland management and restoration and support of other trainings | Training programme developed and participants supported | Training programme and a number of participants |
| | 5.2 Establishment of a database of educational and training institutions and experts aimed at wetlands and communication with them | Database with information established and communication | Database on the web |
| | 5.3 Maintenance of CWI web site and newsletter | Web site updated with relevant information | Web site with updated information |
| | 5.4 Development of a brochure and leaflet on CWI and Carpathian wetlands, translation of relevant guidelines | A brochure and leaflet on CWI and the Carpathian wetlands and their functions and services, guidelines translated | Brochure and leaflet printed, guidelines in national languages and placed on the web |
| | 5.5 Development of the programme of Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) within the CWI | CWI CEPA draft programme consulted with partners | Draft CWI CEPA programme on the web |
| | 5.6 Participation in the Field Symposium of IMCG members in Slovakia and Poland (July 2010) and study tours | Information and promotion materials of the IMCG Field Symposium and study tours | A number of participants of the Symposium and study tours, reports |
| | 5.7 Development of the Terms of Reference of the Carpathian Wetland Centre and establishment of the regional Wetland Centre, CWI coordination | Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Carpathian Wetland Centre, the Wetland Centre furnished and established with staff | ToR consulted with partners, Wetland Centre operating and working for coordination and promotion of CWI and training |

5. Financial plan for the year 2010

| activities | planned expenditures | expected income and source |
|---|----------------------|---|
| 1.1 Organizing the CWI workshop | 12,000 EUR | 9,000 EUR Ramsar budget 2,000 EUR MoEW Hungary 1,000 EUR SNC SR |
| 1.2 Wetland inventory and database | 6,500 EUR | 4,500 EUR Ramsar budget 1,000 EUR CERI 1,000 EUR BBI-MATRA/Ukraine |
| 1.3 Development of the Carpathian Wetland Handbook | 3,400 EUR | 2,200 EUR MoE CZ 1,200 EUR Ramsar budget |
| 1.4 Cooperation with the S4C and participation in the Forum Carpathicum | 1,000 EUR | 1,000 EUR Ramsar budget |
| 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1 Meetings of the CWI Board, working groups, the Carpathian Convention bodies and the CNPA | 1,800 EUR | 1,000 EUR Ramsar budget, 500 EUR WWF-DCP/UNEP ISCC 300 EUR SNC SR |
| 2.4 Fund raising | 1,100 EUR | 1,000 EUR SNC SR 100 EUR Ramsar budget |
| 3.2 Facilitation of bilateral consultations, participation in the Network of Transboundary Ramsar Sites | 2,300 EUR | 2,000 EUR Ramsar budget 300 EUR MoE CZ |
| 3.3 Cooperation with ICPDR and IRBM projects | 200 EUR | 200 EUR Ramsar budget |
| 4.1 Development of wetland restoration strategies | 2,000 EUR | 1,000 EUR Ramsar budget 1,000 EUR SNC SR |
| 4.2 Sharing experience on wetland restoration | 2,000 EUR | 1,500 EUR Ramsar budget 500 EUR MoE CZ |
| 4.3 Development of the project proposal on invasive species | 100 EUR | 100 EUR Ramsar budget |
| 5.1 Training programme on wetland management | 2,000 EUR | 1,000 EUR MoE CZ 1,000 EUR Ramsar budget |
| 5.3 Maintenance of CWI web site and newsletter | 500 EUR | 300 EUR Ramsar budget 200 EUR SNC SR |
| 5.4 Development and printing of publications, translations | 5,000 EUR | 4,000 EUR Ramsar budget 1,000 EUR SNC SR |
| 5.5 Development of CEPA programme | 200 EUR | 200 EUR MoE CZ |
| 5.6 Participation in the IMCG Field Symposium and study tours | 1,000 EUR | 1,000 EUR Ramsar budget |
| 5.7 Development of the ToR of the Carpathian Wetland Centre and its establishment, CWI coordination | 35,000 EUR | 14,000 EUR Ramsar budget 21,000 EUR SNC SR |
| total | 76,100 EUR | 41,900 EUR Ramsar budget 25,500 EUR SNC SR 4,200 EUR MoE CZ 2,000 EUR MoEW Hungary 1,000 EUR CERI 1,000 EUR BBI-MATRA/ Ukraine 500 EUR WWF-DCP/UNEP ISCC |
| Requested from Ramsar core budget in 2010 | | 25,000 EUR |
| Unspent from Ramsar core budget 2009 | | 16,900 EUR |

It is proposed to use the amount left (about 16,900 EUR) in 2010 for the activities not completed in 2009 and for the additional activities planned for 2010.

The funding from the Ramsar core budget helped to organize the first Carpathian Wetland Conference and to set up the organizational and planning basis of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative as well as the future Carpathian Wetland Centre, and in defining challenges and priorities for cooperation within CWI. It helped in development of international collaboration not only in the Carpathian region, but in wider context and it helped in providing co-financing from other sources and projects.

Jan Kadlecik
CWI co-ordinator
State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic

24 February 2010

Acronyms:

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| ALPARC | Alpine Network of Protected Areas |
| BBI-MATRA | International Policy Programme Biodiversity of the Dutch Government |
| CEPA | Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness programme |
| CERI | Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative |
| CNPA | Carpathian Network of Protected Areas |
| DBU | Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt foundation |
| MoE CZ | Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic |
| MoEW Hungary | Ministry of Environment and Water Hungary |
| SNC SR | State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic |
| UNEP ISCC | UNEP Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention |
| WWF-DCP | WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme |