

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

2. Work and activities undertaken during Year 2013

objectives	activities	results/outputs	indicators
1. Platform of basic data on wetlands	1.1 Testing of the guidelines for wetland inventory, data storing, collection of information on research of wetlands and projects; methodological recommendations	Database on Carpathian wetlands developed with data from wetland inventory in SK; start of collection of data on wetland research and projects on wetlands conservation, management and restoration; consultations with UA on Ramsar Sites establishment for Carpathian region.	Database on Carpathian wetlands developed and improved; first draft interactive map for SK on wetlands developed and tested
	1.2 Development of the Carpathian wetland handbook / classification system, identification of endangered habitats and species and of invasive alien species	First public procurement for development of the Carpathian wetland handbook in VII.2013 was not successful, the new one was prepared recently; the methodology for Carpathian Red List of habitats and species and for identification of invasive alien species was developed, experts work on red lists and list of IAS in all countries; coordination with BIOREGIO project; a workshop planned for I.2014.	Database of threatened species, habitats and invasive alien species developed; minutes of meetings on red lists and IAS; on-line forms available and used
	1.3 Coordination of research activities with the Science for Carpathians (S4C) initiative, regional projects (e.g. on climate change) and with national institutions	Information on research priorities of S4C and on projects presented during 2 nd CNPA conference (Tatranska Javorina, SK, IV.2013); communication with S4C, invitation received for Forum Carpaticum 2014; collection of data for the new transborder Ramsar Site Iron Gates/Djerdap (RO/RS).	Participation of the S4C at the CNPA conference, consultations on future cooperation; data on Djerdap NP
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 meeting of the CWI Board during the CNPA conference (April 2013, Tatr. Javorina, SK); participation in meetings of the Carpathian Convention bodies (including Biodiversity WG) and of other partners (WI, ICPDR)	List of CWI Focal Points; Presentations and participation at important meetings of the Carpathian Convention (V.2013, Vienna, AT; Biodiversity WG III.2013, Vienna, AT), meetings of the working group on wetlands of the BioREGIO project, national networks and experts communicated and consulted; consultations with the Czech Ramsar Committee in SK (VII.2013); meeting of the CWI Board during 2 nd CNPA conference (IV.2013, Tatr. Javorina, SK) and electronic communication on relevant issues; consultations on cooperation with ICPDR.	Report and minutes of the meetings and CWI Board meeting
	2.2 Involvement of administrations of protected	Carpathian protected areas administrations contacted, informed	Bilateral protected areas and Ramsar sites

	areas in the CWI work and cooperation with the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA), the DANUBEPARKS Network, the Trilateral Ramsar Platform (A-CZ-SK), WWF-DCP, Convention on Biodiversity; stakeholders involvement	and involved in the CWI projects (including BioREGIO, project drafts for Norway grants), involvement in preparation of the 2 nd CNPA conference in IV.2013 with CWI side event; regular cooperation and information sharing with CNPA Steering Committee (participation in the meeting of the CNPA SC, cooperation included in CNPA Medium Term Work Plan 2013-2017), DANUBEPARKS, Trilateral Ramsar Platform, CBD bodies and programs and other networks and projects (e.g. project on capacity building in PAs).	involved in activities within BioREGIO project; 2 nd CNPA conference and report; CNPA Medium-term Work Plan 2013-2017; involvement in the project on capacity building in protected areas in Eastern Europe
	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 (Programme of cross-border cooperation of Norway grants; communication with NorBalWet; Capacity building in protected areas in Eastern Europe)	Project drafts prepared, information on BioREGIO project; participation in projects meetings, reports
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	Draft Common Integrated Management Measures (CIMM) in Carpathian wetlands developed and discussed at meetings within BioREGIO project, the study will be distributed for comments in I.2014; consultations on the common management plan for transborder Ipel/Ipoly (SK/HU) Ramsar Site	Draft CIMM for comments; first draft of management plan for the Poiplie Ramsar Site; meeting reports
	3.2 Organizing the CWI workshop on integrated wetland management (High Tatras, SK, April 2013) and workshop on hydropower; Facilitation of bilateral consultations in shared wetlands and catchments on common objectives and principles of their management, pilot project, cooperation with ICPDR	CWI workshop organized on 24.4.2013 in Tatranska Javorina, SK); bilateral consultations with Polish and Hungarian experts in transborder areas; meetings of stakeholders on integrated river basin management in RS within BioREGIO project; consultations with ICPDR, WWF-DCP and CZ organizations about workshop on hydropower in the Carpathians	Meetings of experts and stakeholders; reports of the meetings
4. Platform for wetland restoration activities	4.1 Development of the wetland restoration strategies/policies, data on continuity and connectivity, meetings; wetland restoration activities	Data on continuity and connectivity collected within BioREGIO project; consultations on wetland restoration activities and possible projects in transborder sites.	Information in project
	4.2 Sharing experience on wetland restoration in Europe	Participation in conferences in Vienna, AT (IX.2013, European River Restoration Conference), AT, SK (the Morava River) and CZ (X. 2013)	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	Involvement in a project on capacity building plans for efficient protected area management in Eastern Europe, participation in a meeting and in training and capacity needs assessment	Meeting and project documents

	institutions and experts aimed at wetlands and communication with them; Development of the programme of Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) for CWI		
	5.2 Training of environmental education specialists on the educational programme World of the Carpathians in Slovakia (May 2013); support of other trainings	Environmental education specialists (15) of 6 Carpathian countries trained and provided with the handbook in cooperation with Daphne-IAE (23-24.5.2013, SK/AT); series of trainings organized for protected areas professionals and teachers in SK from Swiss funded project.	Lists of participants
	5.3 Printing of a brochure and leaflet on CWI and Carpathian wetlands, translation of relevant guidelines; Maintenance of CWI web site and newsletter	3 banners on the Ramsar Convention and CWI prepared for the Carpathian Wetland Centre within the Swiss funded project; a position for web administrator and editor negotiated within SNC SR.	Banners, web site, new draft structure of SNC SR
	5.4 Development of the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Carpathian Wetland Centre and operation of the regional Wetland Centre, building of its library, human capacities, CWI coordination	The Wetland Centre in Banska Bystrica (SK) designed, improved, reconstructed, furnished within different projects, Carpathian wetland library supplemented; exposition under development; a position for the Wetland Centre coordinator negotiated within the SNC SR (approval by the MoE of SR necessary and pending), interviews with candidates for the position and selection process.	Wetland Centre prepared for operating and working for coordination and promotion of CWI and training

3. Financial report for Year 2013

Summary of income and expenditures. Average exchange rate to CHF: 1.2

Activities	Planned expenditures	Actual expenditure (EUR)
1.1 Wetland inventory and database	20,000 EUR	10,597.50
1.2 Development of the Carpathian Wetland Handbook, Carpathian Red lists of species and habitats, list of invasive alien species	9,000 EUR	12,215.00
1.3 Coordination of research with the S4C, projects and national institutions	1,000 EUR	200.00
2.1 CWI Board members meetings during various events, Carpathian Convention meetings; working groups, exchange of experts	4,700 EUR	1,861.75
2.2 Cooperation with CNPA, DANUBEPARKS, WWF-DCP and Trilateral Ramsar Platform	3,700 EUR	1,400.00
2.3 Fund raising and project proposals	500 EUR	2,742.89*
3.1 Cooperation on documents on sustainable and integrated water/river basin management	2,000 EUR	6,020.00
3.2 Organizing the CWI workshops, facilitation of bilateral consultations in shared wetlands, cooperation with ICPDR	16,000 EUR	2,483.91
4.1 Development of wetland restoration strategies, data on continuity and connectivity, meetings, restoration activities	4,000 EUR	570.00
4.2 Sharing experience on wetland restoration	2,000 EUR	1,103.69

5.1 Training programme on wetland management, database of educational and training institutions and experts, development of CEPA programme	3,500 EUR	532.50
5.2 Training World of the Carpathians and other trainings	12,000 EUR	21,490.11
5.3 Printing of publications, translations, maintenance of CWI web site and newsletter	5,000 EUR	1,362.50
5.4 Development of the ToR of the Carpathian Wetland Centre and its establishment, CWI coordination	15,000 EUR	62,682.38
Total	98,400 EUR	125,262.23

*Up to 2,000 EUR will be reimbursed from Norway grants bilateral fund after a project application submission

Sources of income	Income received (EUR)
SNC SR	91,804.86
MoE Czech Republic and CWI CZ	353.79
BioREGIO Carpathians project	18,827.50
Visegrad Fund	2,200.00
Daphne-IAE	500.00
BfN DE, Propark RO	200.00
Ramsar core budget (where applicable)	11,376.08
Total	125,262.23

Financial balance on 31 December 2013: amount left to be carried over to 2014

Ramsar core budget **13,775.06 €** (11,580.40 received in 2013)
(+4,233 expected for second installment of 2013 not received yet)

CWI budget from Hungary **5,716.78 €**

CWI budget from the Czech Republic **3,040.35 €**

The Ramsar funding was spent mostly for organizing the training (7,000 EUR), travel expenses for meetings (3,651.06 EUR) and Carpathian Wetland Centre establishment and maintenance (725.02 EUR). Some activities could not be implemented because of not successful public procurement (wetland handbook), lack of human capacity (promotion activities, workshops) and quite complicated legal procedures in the coordinating agency (public procurement procedures, new structure and staff approval). For the Carpathian Wetland Handbook development (Act. 1.2) was prepared a new public procurement for I.2014. It is proposed to use the amount left (about 18,000 EUR – 13,775.06 on the account and 4,233 expected as the second installment of 2013 contract from Ramsar) in 2014 for the activities not completed in 2013 and for the additional activities planned for 2014 according to the plan below.

4. Work and activities planned for Year 2014

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; methodological recommendations	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 Development of the Carpathian wetland handbook / classification system, identification of endangered habitats and species and of invasive alien species	Draft Carpathian wetland handbook / classification system developed; Carpathian Red List of habitats and species and the List of the IAS (coordination with BIOREGIO project)	The drafts for consultation; database of threatened habitats, species and invasive alien species
	1.3 Coordination of research activities with the Science for	Information on research of wetlands, experts and on projects,	Information available on the web site

	Carpathians (S4C) initiative, participation in 3 rd Forum Carpathicum (Lviv, UA, Sept. 2014), coordination with regional projects (e.g. on climate change) and with national institutions	involvement in projects; presentation at 3 rd Forum Carpathicum	
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 meeting of the CWI Board during the European Ramsar Meeting and/or COP4 of the Carpathian Convention (Mikulov, CZ, Sept. 2014); participation in meetings of the Carpathian Convention bodies (including Biodiversity WG) and of other partners (WI, ICPDR)	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; side events and presentations in meetings of the Ramsar and Carpathian Conventions bodies and other partners	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 (A-CZ-SK), WWF-DCP, Convention on Biodiversity; stakeholders involvement	Carpathian protected areas administrations informed and involved in the CWI projects, regular cooperation and information sharing with CNPA Steering Committee, DANUBEPARKS, Trilateral Ramsar Platform, WWF-DCP, CBD bodies and programmes and other networks and projects	A number of protected areas involved and informed; project 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 (Common Integrated Management Measures in wetlands), involvement in relevant projects, communication with the Carpathian Convention secretariat	Documents, meeting reports
	3.2 Organizing the CWI workshop on hydropower; Facilitation of bilateral consultations in shared wetlands and catchments on common objectives and principles of their management, pilot project, cooperation with ICPDR	Meetings of experts and relevant stakeholders on hydropower generation and barriers on streams, river continuum; guidelines developed for Carpathian protected areas; pilot common management plan for transborder wetland; relevant projects implementation	A number of experts and national focal points participating; report of the workshop, recommendations; guidelines; results of the project, information distributed to partners
4. Platform for wetland	4.1 Development of the wetland restoration strategies/policies,	Draft wetland restoration strategy/policy in a country, data	Draft document; meeting minutes; report on

restoration activities	meetings; wetland restoration activities	on barriers, meetings on the topic; small restoration activities	activities
	4.2 Sharing experience on wetland restoration in Europe	Workshops and study tours to wetland restoration examples; overview of wetland restoration guidelines and projects	Report of the study tour; information on the web
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; Development of the CWI program of Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness	Results of a study on capacity building in Eastern Europe; Training programme developed, database with information established and communication; CWI CEPA draft programme consulted with partners and existing Ramsar CEPA programme	Questionnaire, study; 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	Project draft or application
	5.3 Preparation and printing of a brochure and leaflet on CWI and Carpathian wetlands, Ekoplagat exhibition; 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; 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 Development of the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Carpathian Wetland Centre and operation of the regional Wetland Centre, building of its library, human capacities, improvement of facilities, CWI coordination	ToR consulted with partners, the Wetland Centre completed, maintained, Carpathian wetland library supplemented, staff supported	ToR of the Carpathian Wetland Centre, Wetland Centre operating and working for coordination and promotion of CWI and training

5. Financial plan for the year 2014

Summary of expected income and budgeted/planned expenditures. Average exchange rate to the CHF: 1.23

Activities	Planned expenditures	Expected income and source (EUR)
1.1 Wetland inventory guidelines	1,000 EUR	SNC SR 1,000.00
1.2 Development of the Carpathian Wetland Handbook, Carpathian Red lists of species and habitats, list of IAS	12,000 EUR	Ramsar 8,000.00 BioREGIO 3,000.00 SNC SR 1,000.00
1.3 Coordination of research with the S4C, projects and national institutions, Forum Carpaticum 2014	1,500 EUR	Ramsar 1,000.00 SNC SR 500.00
2.1 CWI Board members meetings during various events, Carpathian Convention meetings; working groups, exchange of experts	4,400 EUR	Ramsar 1,000.00 UNEP ISCC 1,000.00 CWI budget HU 1,000.00 Moe CZ 200.00 MoE HU 200.00 MoE PL 200.00 MoE RO 200.00 MoE RS 200.00

		MoE SK 200.00 MoE UA 200.00
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 ISCC 1,000.00
2.3 Fund raising	500 EUR	Ramsar 500.00
3.1 Cooperation on documents on sustainable and integrated water/river basin management	2,000 EUR	BioREGIO 1,500.00 UNEP ISCC 500.00
3.2 Organizing the CWI workshop, facilitation of bilateral consultations in shared wetlands, cooperation with ICPDR	9,000 EUR	Ramsar 4,000.00 BioREGIO 1,000.00 CWI budget HU 2,000.00 SNC/Norway grants 2,000.00
4.1 Development of wetland restoration strategies, data on continuity and connectivity, meetings, restoration activities	2,500 EUR	SNC SR 2,000.00 Ramsar 500.00
4.2 Sharing experience on wetland restoration	2,000 EUR	Ramsar 500.00 MoE CZ 500.00 CWI budget CZ 500.00 SNC SR 500.00
5.1 Training programme on wetland management, database of educational and training institutions and experts, development of CEPA programme	1,500 EUR	BfN, Propark 500.00 MoE CZ 500.00 SNC SR 500.00
5.2 Development of a project for training on priorities, support of trainings	2,500 EUR	SNC SR 500.00 Ramsar 2,000.00
5.3 Printing of publications, translations, Ekoplakat CWI award, maintenance of CWI web site and newsletter	6,500 EUR	MoE SK 1,000.00 SNC SR 2,000.00 Ramsar 3,500.00
5.4 Development of the ToR of the Carpathian Wetland Centre and its operation, equipment, CWI coordination	25,000 EUR	Ramsar 5,000.00 SNC SR 20,000.00
Requested from Ramsar core budget		8,500.00 EUR
Total	72,600 EUR	

6. Summary and list of shortcomings and priority areas for action addressed in 2013

In 2013 the effort was concentrated in support of the establishment of the Carpathian Wetland Centre in the facilities of the coordinating institution – the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic in Banska Bystrica (building and rooms repair, re-furnishing, equipment, exterior and interior facilities for information centre, etc.) for which were used funds from different projects (especially Swiss-Slovak Cooperation Programme – more than 60,000 EUR); a new position in the structure of the SNC SR was proposed to improve the capacity of the coordinating institution with interviews with candidates (approval by the Ministry of Environment is required and expected in the beginning of 2014). After official establishment of the Centre renewed letters of support will be arranged from all Carpathian countries. Written arrangements between the CWI Board, SNC SR, Ramsar Secretariat and Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention will be prepared during COP4 preparatory meetings of the Carpathian Convention. Very good feedback was from the first training supported from the Ramsar core budget and other sources (especially Swiss Financial Mechanism) for education specialists and teachers. Lack of capacity for implementation of the Ramsar Convention and CWI tasks is the main shortcoming in the Carpathian region, therefore it is proposed to orient the future activities of the CWI in training and capacity building. For fund raising were made efforts especially in using Norway grants, including cooperation with other regional initiatives, like Nordic-Baltic Wetland Initiative.

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

13 January 2014

Acronyms:

AT	Austria
BfN DE	German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
CEPA	Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness programme
CNPA	Carpathian Network of Protected Areas
CWI	Carpathian Wetland Initiative
CZ	Czech Republic
Daphne	Institute of Applied Ecology Bratislava
HU	Hungary
IAS	invasive alien species
ICPDR	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
MoE	Ministry of Environment
PL	Poland
Propark	Propark Foundation, Romania
RO	Romania
RS	Serbia
SK	Slovakia
SNC SR	State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic
ToR	Terms of reference
UA	Ukraine
UNEP ISCC	UNEP Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention
WG	Working Group
WI	Wetlands International
WWF-DCP	WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme