

Second Conference of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas CNPA

Tatranská Javorina, Slovakia, 23-26 April 2013

Side Event 4 – “Integrated wetland management in protected areas in the Carpathians”

The chair **Ján Kadlečík (Carpathian Wetland Initiative CWI & State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic)** gave a short introduction on the framework for wetland managements that are important to the Carpathians, highlighting the EU Water Framework Directive, Carpathian Convention, Ramsar Convention, Danube River Protection Convention and more. He emphasized the importance on integrated management of wetlands and presented various examples which have been collected within the BioREGIO Carpathians project.

Tobias Salathé (Ramsar Convention, Switzerland) talked about the functioning of wetlands in general and its ecosystem services. He emphasized an integrated participatory approach for wetland management and called for appropriate institutional arrangements to be able to do so. He stated that communication, education, participation and awareness are the factors for success (CEPA outreach) and promoted 21 handbooks that have been published by the Ramsar Convention giving guidance on inventory & monitoring, land use planning, integrated river basin management, site management and international cooperation for wetlands.

Dobromil Galvánek, wetland expert, Slovakia, talked in more detail about common integrated management measures on wetlands in the Carpathians; experience he gained from the development of a study in the frame of the BioREGIO Carpathians project.

Amalia Raluca Dumbravă (Iron Gates National Park, Romania) presented their work on the inventory, restoration and invasive species management in the Iron Gates National Park. The inventory is of high importance as the data available are quite old.

Finally, **Martina Proháčzková (Tatra National Park, Slovakia)** presented an educational tool on river basin functioning.

Participants with members of the CWI Board and observers consulted CWI work during last year (including activities within the BioREGIO project), discussed the role, ambitions and objectives of the Ramsar regional initiatives in 2013-2015 and the CWI priorities and challenges for 2014.

Ramsar regional initiatives should be linked to ongoing Ramsar scientific and technical work, which include climate change, water resource management, agriculture, urbanisation, tourism, energy, or human health. Important themes for next years are communication, education, participation and awareness, wetland inventory, assessment, monitoring and reporting, ecosystem services, cooperation with other sectors, Integrated River Basin Management. More specifically the CWI will focus in next two years to:

- improved projects implementation, information sharing (contribution to study on CIMM, red lists of species and habitats and lists of invasive alien species, the Carpathian Wetland Handbook, harmonized management plans for transborder Ramsar Sites, support for designation of the new transboundary RS);
- steps for practical measures in small projects (small grants for restoration of wetlands);

- synergies with other initiatives (CC Protocol on Biodiversity and its Strategic Plan, CNPA and its Coordination Support Unit, WWF DCP, ICPDR, DANUBEPARKS, ...);
- transborder cooperation on shared wetlands;
- CEPA, trainings, campaigns; Carpathian Wetland Centre development and its further funding.

For more information see www.carpathianparks.org.