



BIOREGIO Carpathians

*Integrated Management of Biological and Landscape Diversity for Sustainable
Regional Development and Ecological Connectivity in the Carpathians*

CC Biodiversity Working Group, Vienna, 6th - 7th March 2013

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Overview:

1. General Overview
2. Partnership
3. Main Objectives
4. Project Structure and Implementation status/update



Jointly for our common future

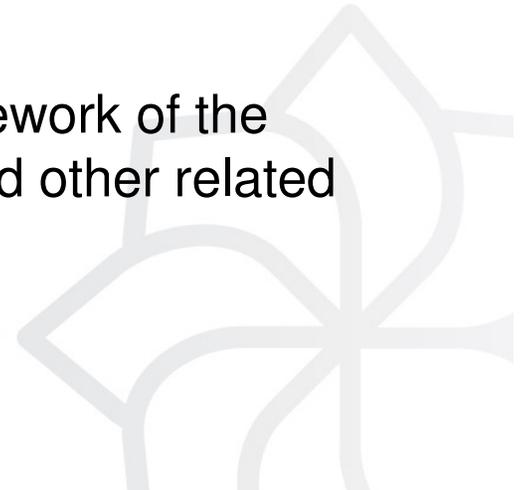


1. General overview

BioREGIO Carpathians is a transnational project, co-financed by the ERDF under the 2nd call of the [EU South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme](#).

The project was approved in March 2011, it will run for three years (2011 – 2013) and is a flagship project in the [EU Strategy for the Danube Region \(EUSDR\)](#). The Subsidy Contract was signed in December 2011; in 2012 a 6 months prolongation was requested to the JTS.

BioREGIO Carpathians builds on the existing framework of the Carpathian Convention, its Biodiversity Protocol and other related transnational networks and initiatives.



2. Partnership

16 international, national, and local authorities, organizations and scientific institutions from 9 countries:

- Lead Partner: Piatra Craiului National Park (RO)
- Austria:
 - UNEP Vienna – Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention
 - WWF Danube Carpathians Programme
- Hungary:
 - Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate
 - Szent István University



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2. Partnership

- Romania:
 - Maramures Mountains Nature Park,
 - Iron Gates Natural Park,
 - Environmental Protection Agency Sibiu
- Italy:
 - European Academy Bolzano - EURAC,
 - Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea
- Slovak Republic:
 - State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic,
 - National Forest Centre



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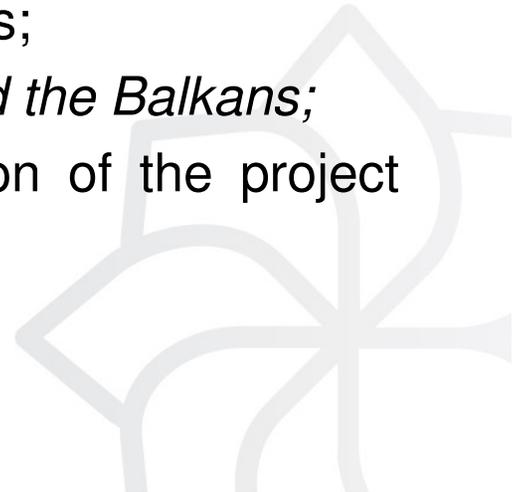
2. Partnership

- Czech Republic:
 - Nature Conservancy Agency
- Poland:
 - **UNEP GRID Warsaw Centre (proposed to be replacing Polish Academy of Sciences – former project partner)**
- Serbia:
 - Public Enterprise Djerdap National Park
- Ukraine:
 - Carpathian Biosphere Reserve
- Observers: Ministries of the Environment of all the 7 Carpathian Countries, Environment Agency Austria



3. Main Objectives/outputs

- a geo web-referenced interactive *Carpathian Joint Biodiversity Information System (CJBIS)*;
- the first Carpathian wide *Red Lists of Habitats and Species* and a List of Invasive Alien Species;
- *Common Integrated Management Measures (CIMM)* for natural assets and protected areas and further implementation in 3 different transboundary pilot areas;
- *Policy recommendations for ecological connectivity* after identifying the main natural, legal, social and economic barriers;
- Transfer of project results are *to the Dinaric Arc and the Balkans*;
- multi-level governance and cross-sector integration of the project outcomes and recommendations.



4. Project Structure and Implementation status

WP 0: Preparation Activities

WP 1: Transnational project and financial management

WP 2: Communication Activities

WP 3: Database development

WP 4: Integrated management of Carpathian natural
assets and protected areas

WP 5: Continuity and connectivity

WP 6: Pilot projects

WP 7: Intergovernmental platform and stakeholders
involvement



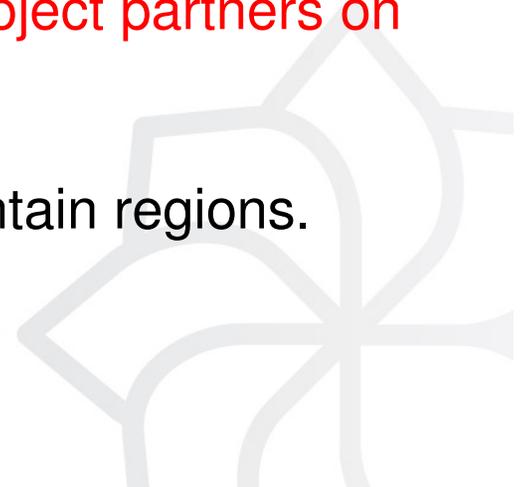
WP 1 - Project management – Piatra Craiului National Park

- Operational Manual elaborated;
- Regular exchange of information between all PPs and project technical and financial coordination/management ensured by the LP;
- Kick off meeting in July 2011 in Zărnești (RO) and **3 Project Partner** and Steering Committee meetings held in Austria and Romania in 2012 and 2013 – in collaboration with UNEP Vienna ISCC;
- Various internal meetings: JTS meetings (Hungary), Work Package **Leaders meetings in Austria and Hungary**, meeting with the Ukrainian partner for the activities coordination improvement;
- Submission of **4 Progress Reports** to the JTS – total amount: **393.681,90 Euro**;
- Delays in spending the budget – need to speed up;
- The LP is currently submitting the documentation for **PL partner changing**, CZ partner status changing, decommitment and prolongation to the JTS;
- Ensuring the linkage with the GEF project Improving the Financial Sustainability of the Carpathian PAs.



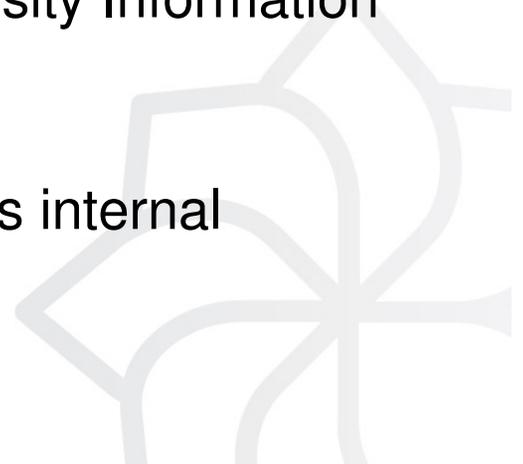
WP 2 – Communication activities – UNEP Vienna ISCC

- Regular update of BIOREGIO Carpathians project website – www.bioregio-carpathians.eu;
- Intranet platform to be set soon;
- Project mid-term and press conferences to be held in conjunction with the CNPA Conference, in April 2013 (Slovakia);
- Presentations and promotion during RIO Earth Summit, IENE Infra Eco network Europe conference, Forum Carpathicum, SEE Annual Conference, various CC Working groups;
- Finalization of the BIOREGIO Visual identity;
- Publication of various materials/articles by the project partners on national level;
- Project promotional items developed;
- Dissemination of the project results in other mountain regions.



WP 3 – Database development - State Nature Conservancy

- Methodology for elaboration of the Red Lists of Habitats and Species and Alien Invasive Species agreed;
- Preparatory activities for the Protected Areas Conference to be held in April (Slovakia);
- The online form for data collection is available for the experts filling in species data on national level (www.sopsr.sk/symfony-bioregio);
- **New questionnaires** on data availability distributed and data collected;
- Cooperation with Daphne - draft MoU on the establishment and operation of the Carpathian International Biodiversity Information System – **to be approved**;
- Chosen databases/classifications;
- 2 WP meetings, consultation workshop and various internal meetings organised.



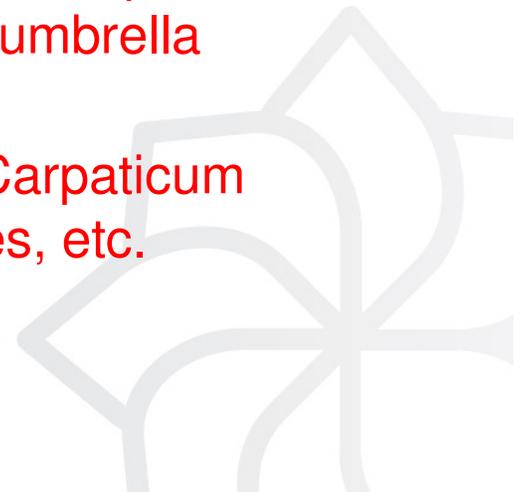
WP 4 – Integrated management of Carpathian natural assets and PAs - WWF DCP

- 2 WP meetings organised in Austria and Hungary, **next one following this month;**
- Experts hired by WWF **and PPs** for the studies to be developed;
- **New questionnaire related to wetlands integrated management sent to the PPs – data collection ongoing;**
- 3 WGs established (Wetlands, Large Carnivores and Herbivores, Forestry) and data collection **by the national experts;**
- Linkage with the GEF Project in Romania on PAs financial mechanisms;
- Contribution to the stakeholders meetings hold in Hungary, Romania, **Slovakia and Serbia in 2012 / 2013.**
- **Daphne - Institute of Applied Ecology subcontracted to compile the information on High Nature Value Farmlands for the entire Carpathian area.**
- **Report on the transferable best practices from the Alpine region related to the protected areas and natural assets – ongoing process.**



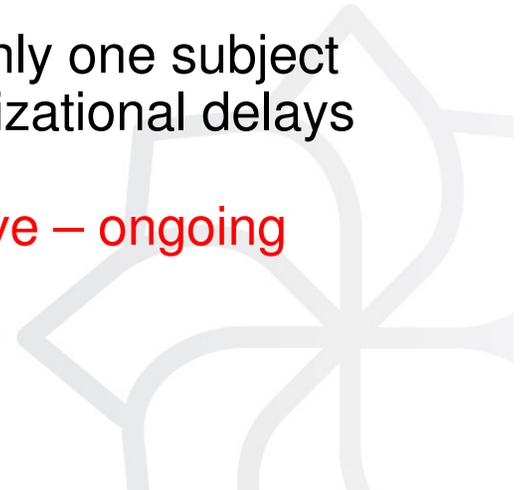
WP 5 – Continuity and Connectivity – EURAC Research

- Finalisation of the Operational Manual on data collection;
- 2 WP meetings in February and July 2012, in Banska Bystrica (Slovakia), in conjunction with WP 3 meetings;
- Questionnaires developed on the socio-economic and legal barriers; online forms installed for stakeholders usage – data collection;
- First 2 national reports on legal impacts on ecological connectivity were finalised (Slovakia, Ukraine);
- GIS model presently computed and able to calculate the probable dispersal paths across the whole Carpathians for 9 umbrella species;
- Project promotion and WP5 outputs during Forum Carpathicum (Slovakia), I.E.N.E. Conference (Germany), websites, etc.



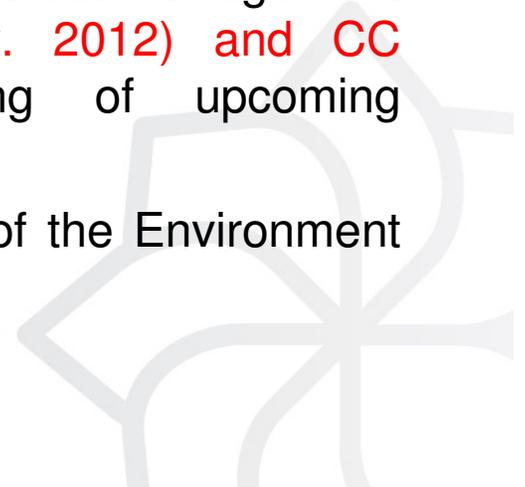
WP 6 – Pilot projects– Duna Ipoly National Park

- 1st WP meeting in June 2012, in Budapest (Hungary), in conjunction with WP4 meeting;
- Overview of existing management plans/measures; **various meetings organised between the pilot areas representatives and preparatory discussions on common problems to be addressed;**
- Drafting a bilateral field study – **ongoing process;**
- Cooperation with WP4 leader on developing and applying common management measures in pilot areas;
- Iron Gates – Djerdap – agreement signed **in Dec. 2012** – wetlands management, eco-tourism development, Ramsar ?
- Maramures Mts. – Karpatsky BR – still pending – only one subject identified – creation of a transboundary BR – organizational delays on the UA partner
- **Designation of Maramures NP as Biosphere Reserve – ongoing process (procurement procedures initiated).**



WP 7 – Intergovernmental platform and stakeholders involvement– UNEP Vienna ISCC

- Elaboration of the Strategy for a systematic process of stakeholders consultation;
- Organization of the first WP7 meeting together with the Stakeholder meeting in Hungary and Romania (Nov. 2012), coordination of stakeholders identification, contacts;
- Identification of national, regional and local authorities or relevant stakeholders to be involved in Pan-Carpathian Day (May 2013);
- Follow-up activities of the 2 intergovernmental Platform meetings: CC Biodiversity WG (February 2012) and CC Sustainable Forest Management WG (April 2012), organisation of CNPA SC (Nov. 2012) and CC Implementation Committee (Dec. 2012); Planning of upcoming intergovernmental platform meetings;
- Regular contacts with Carpathian Countries Ministries of the Environment on project implementation.



GEF Project

Financial sustainability

- Financial analysis
- Business plans
- PES
- Income generating activities
- Supporting a workshop during the CNPA Parks Conference

Training modules

- Core group established
- Survey on training needs
- Answered – PL, HU, SK, SRB, and RO
- Still to answer – UA and CZ



Thank you for your attention!

Mircea Verghelet
Piatra Craiului National Park

