

Mountain connectivity conservation across large – scale landscapes

# The Carpathian Convention and ecological connectivity in the Carpathians

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Rio Earth Summit, Mountain Pavilion, 17 June 2012



# Summary

1. The Carpathian Convention

2. The Biodiversity Protocol

3. Concrete examples:

- *Alpine Carpathian Corridor project - AKK*
- *BIOREGIO Carpathians project proposal*



# The Carpathians



The green jewel in the heart of Europe



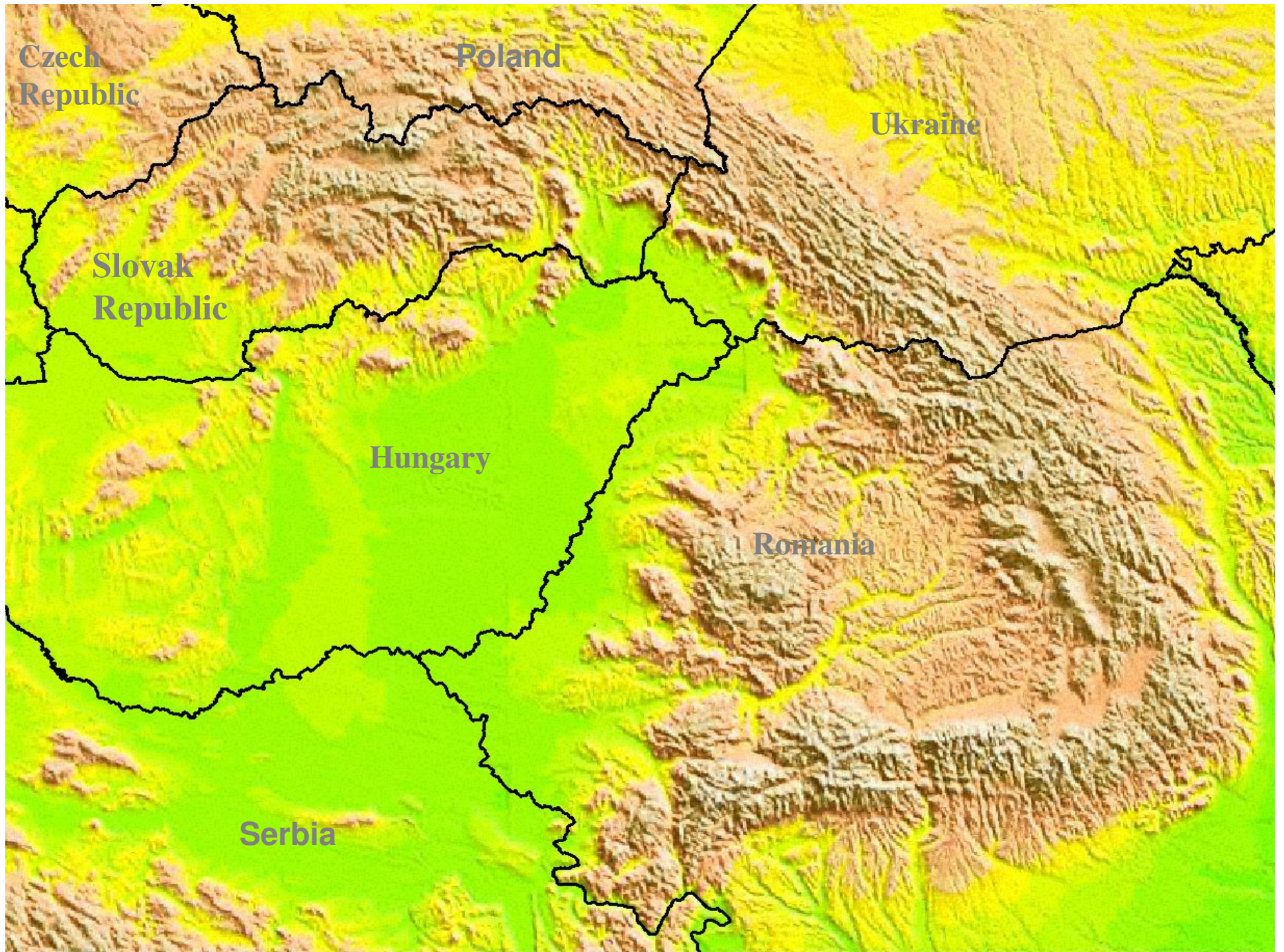
# The Carpathian Convention

Signed in **May 2003**

Ratified by 7 Carpathian countries

Entered into force: **1 January 2006**





# The Convention as a legal framework

The Framework Convention on the  
Protection and Sustainable Development  
of the Carpathians

*Biodiversity Protocol  
(Entered into force)*

*Forest and Tourism  
Protocols  
(Adopted at COP 3)*

*Other Protocols to be  
elaborated*



# The Convention as institution

Conference of the Parties

Carpathian Convention  
Implementation Committee CCIC

WG Sustainable  
Agriculture,  
Rural  
Development  
and Forestry  
(SARD-F)

WG Biodiversity

WG Sustainable  
Tourism

WG Sustainable  
Industry, Energy,  
Transport and  
Infrastructure

WG Spatial  
development

Carpathian  
Network of  
Protected Areas  
(CNPA) Steering  
Committee



# Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

Located in UN offices at Vienna International Centre





# Conferences of the Parties

COP 1, Kyev, 2006



COP 2, Bucharest 2008



COP 3, Bratislava, 2011



# Partnerships

- Alpine Convention
- Ramsar Convention
- Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative
- Central European Initiative (CEI)
- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Science for Carpathians Initiatives
- EURAC



# Carpathian Network of Protected Areas

Established at **COP 1** in Kyiv

**Decision COP 1/4:** „thematic network of cooperation of mountain protected areas in the Carpathian Region”



# The Biodiversity Protocol

Adopted at **COP 2** in Bucharest



Drafted by the Biodiversity WG within the **CADSES INTERREG IIB Carpathian Project**



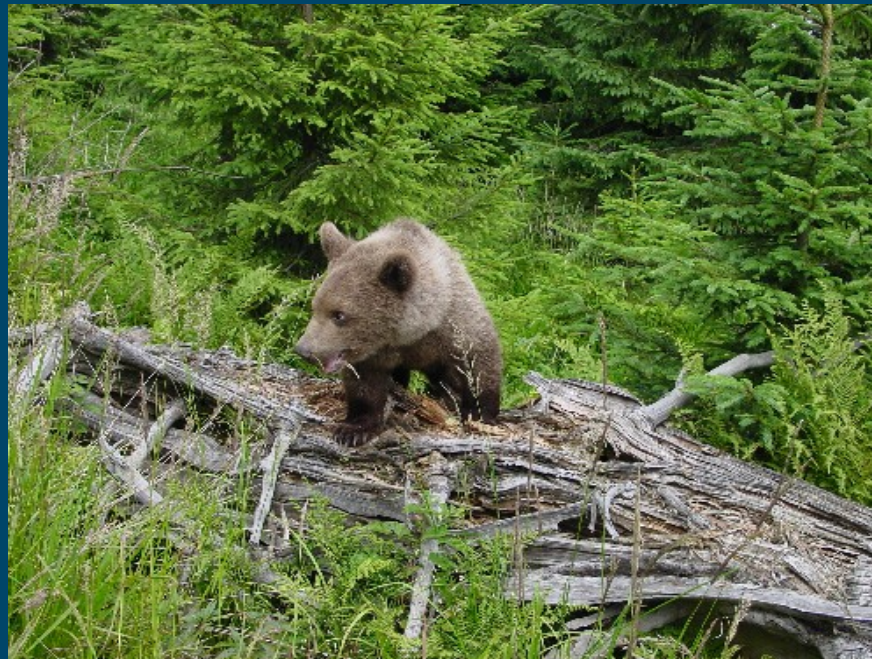
# Main objective

Enhancement of conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity in the Carpathians



# Specific objective

Establishment of ecological networks in the Carpathians



# Alpine Carpathian Corridor project - AKK

**Funds:** Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Slovakia-Austria 2007-2013

**Status:** Implementation (almost finalised)

**Duration:** AKK Basic: Dec 2008 - June 2012,  
AKK Centrope: Sept 2009 – June 2012

**Budget:** 1,8 Million Euro (1,4 Million Euro ERDF)

**Objective:** to safeguard the ecological connectivity between the Alps and the Carpathians by especially embedding instruments of spatial planning and to trigger sustainable development which considers the requirements of both humans and wildlife, focus on ecological bottlenecks

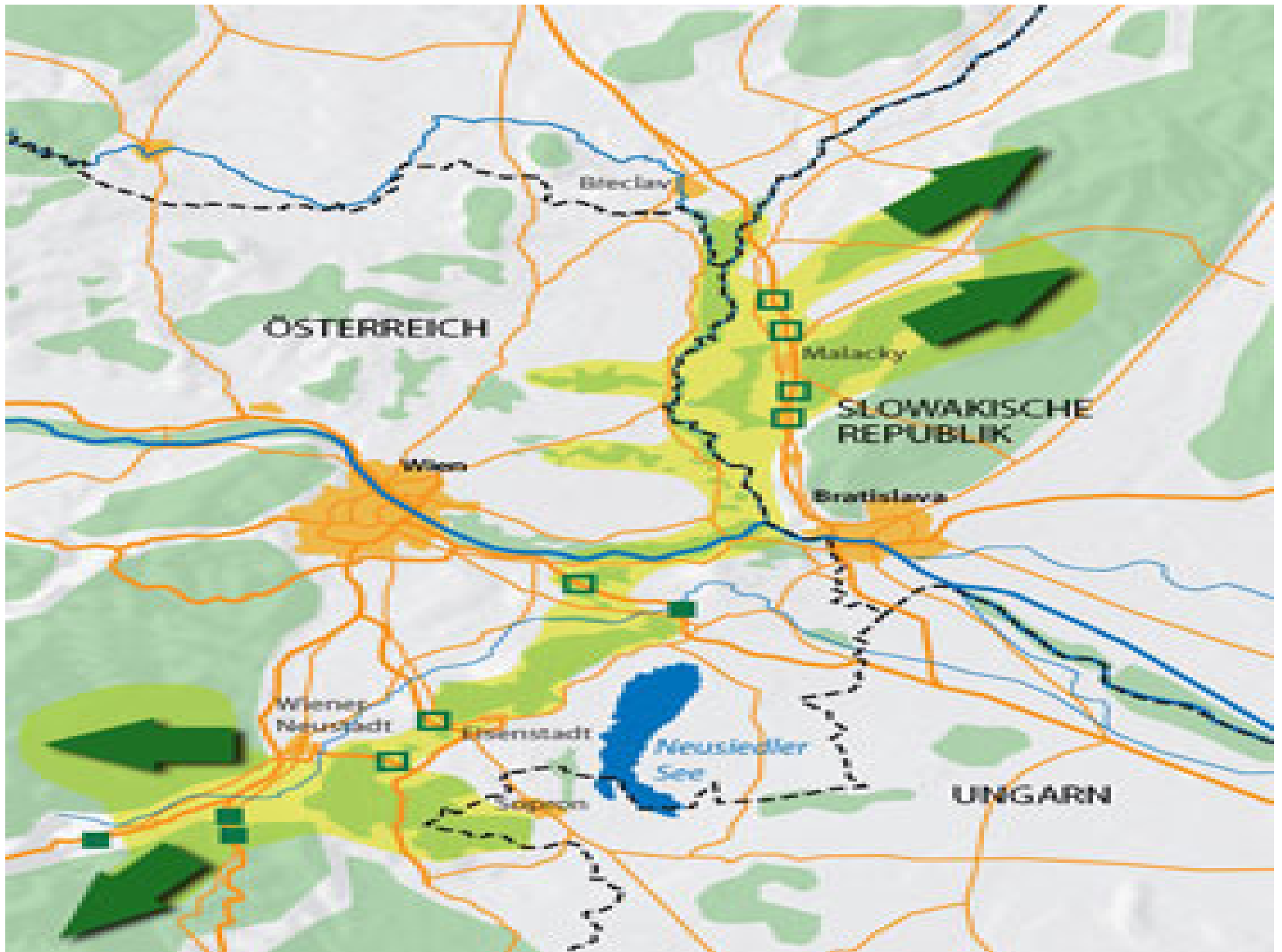


# Project objectives

- Safeguard of ecological connectivity by means of spatial planning
- Restoration of connectivity by building two wildlife-passages (A4 and D2)
- Improvement of landscape functionality for migrating wildlife
- Awareness raising by means of education, participation and information
- Investigation of a sound scientific basis







# Partnership

**Lead Partner:** Regional Government of Lower Austria

**Project management:** Weinviertel management

**Coordinating Partner:** Daphne

**Project partners:**

*Austria*

ASFINAG Autobahnen, Nationalpark Donau-Auen, WWF Österreich, UNEP - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, Universität für Bodenkultur Wien

*Slovakia*

Slovenská technická univerzita, Správa CHKO Záhorie, NDS a.s.



# AKK Basic - Workpackages

- Project management
- Information about the ACC, media relation & connectivity campaign
- Scientific background study on habitat fragmentation, green-bridges, connectivity and their influence on genetics and fitness of wildlife populations
- GIS modeling of the whole AKK area
- Preparation of a MoU to secure the Alpine-Carpathian Corridor and conduction of a crossborder Conference
- Detailed Corridor model of bottleneck sections
- Ecological planning of green-bridge over A4
- Green-bridge on D2 highway



# AKK Basic -Results

- Assessment of the scientific basis to preserve the corridor and availability for implementation.
- Preparation of the technical documentations to reestablish connectivity at the A4 and D2 and assessment of funding possibilities.
- Provision of information about the project, communication of the need for ecological connectivity measures and compilation of an advanced communication concept for phase 2.



# AKK Centrope - Workpackages

- Project management
- Information about the ACC, media relation & connectivity campaign
- Education materials and School programme
- Training course for nature guides in protected areas
- Strategies for habitat management along AKK (focus bottleneck sections)
- Action plan
- Improvement of landscape functionality
- Implementation of wildlife corridors into spatial management
- Arrangement and installement of an AKK bicycle path



# AKK Centrope -Results

- Securement of corridors within spatial planning instruments.
- Improvement of habitat-structures in the bottlenecks of the corridor within model-measures.
- Increase of the preservation of the corridor with means of environmental education, stakeholder-involvement and intensive communication.



# Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

***“One of the express project goals is to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the project partnership and with the public centers and other players either side of the border who can specifically contribute to the project goals and results, and to their long-term protection”***

**Signature of the Memorandum in Bratislava, Slovakia,  
January 2012**



# EU Strategy for the Danube Region

**Flagship project** under the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) → integrative, multi-sectoral approach; involvement of different stakeholders; possible model for similar projects in wider Danube Carpathian region and other regions

**For further info:**

[www.alpenkarpatenkorridor.at](http://www.alpenkarpatenkorridor.at)





# BIOREGIO Carpathians project

**Final approval in March 2011**

**Flagship project in the EU Strategy for the Danube  
Region (EUSDR)**



# Summary

**Main Objective:** to enhance the integrated management of the Carpathians' protected areas and natural assets in a transnational context and thereby increase the attractiveness of the region

**Partnership:** 16 Partners from all the Carpathian Countries represented in an integrated consortium. Ministries for the Environment are observers

**Budget:** 2.6 Million Euros



## Specific objectives

- Development of integrated and harmonized management of Protected Areas
- Stakeholders involvement
- Strengthening of transboundary cooperation between PAs
- Regional inventories of species and habitats
- Joint biodiversity information system
- Build on existing cooperation tools
- Awareness building, Knowledge transfer
- **Foster ecological connectivity**



# Foster ecological connectivity

- GIS database on barriers and potentials of connectivity in the Carpathians
- Drafting of recommendations to eliminate the identified barriers and to strengthen continuity and connectivity of natural and semi natural habitats

(Experiences: AKK, Econnect, Towards an Ecological Network for the Carpathians, Creation of ecological corridors in Ukraine...)



# Intermediate results

- Data collection
- First steps in the elaboration of the GIS system
- Discussion on coordination of GIS system on ecological connectivity with already existing informative systems
- Workshop on exchange of experiences between Carpathian and Alpine Regions



# Important

- Demand driven approach
- Communication and awareness raising, stakeholders dialogue
- Accessible and comprehensible results
- Coordination of initiatives in the field
- Exchange of experiences



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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