



Pictures: A. Czaderna, A.& D. Nowak, Pieniny National Park

# The Carpathian Convention

A platform for cooperation and interaction between Carpathian science and policy

Forum Carpaticum

31 May 2012, Stara Lesná, Slovak Republic

Harald EGERER

UNEP Vienna – Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention



# Overview

1. The Carpathian region in Europe

2. The Carpathian Convention

3. The Role of Science in the Convention

1. Challenges and future developments

# 1. The Carpathian region in Europe

# 1. The Carpathians



Over 1,500 km long and up to 500 km wide  
> 17 million people  
> 50 million incl. surrounding forelands

Cross 7 States

Mountains and forelands cover more than 200,000 km<sup>2</sup>  
but influence 450,000 km<sup>2</sup>

51.5 km<sup>3</sup>/year surface water resources

36,000 km<sup>2</sup> of protected areas

Close to 100,000 km<sup>2</sup> of natural or semi/natural forests  
> 3,000 km<sup>2</sup> of virgin forests

481 endemic plant species

Picture: Juliusz Stola – Tamica z Tamicy

# 1. The Alps vs. the Carpathians



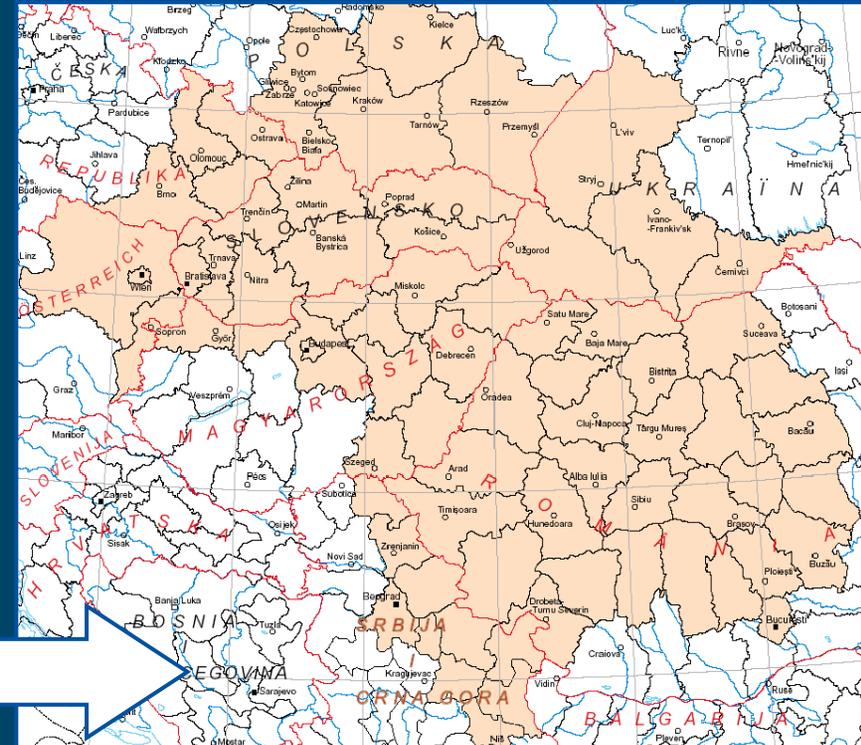
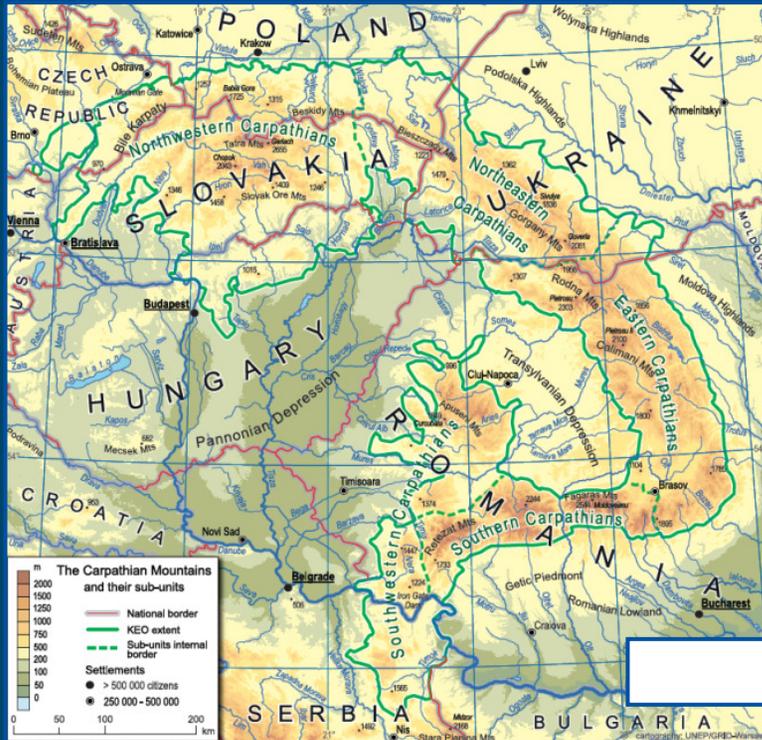
They share many geographic and natural features  
**BUT**

After the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, development trends bifurcated radically:

The Alpine regions are the most advanced and richest regions within rich countries (with a few exceptions)

The Carpathian regions are mostly the poorest regions within poor countries (with a few exceptions)

# 1. The Carpathian region

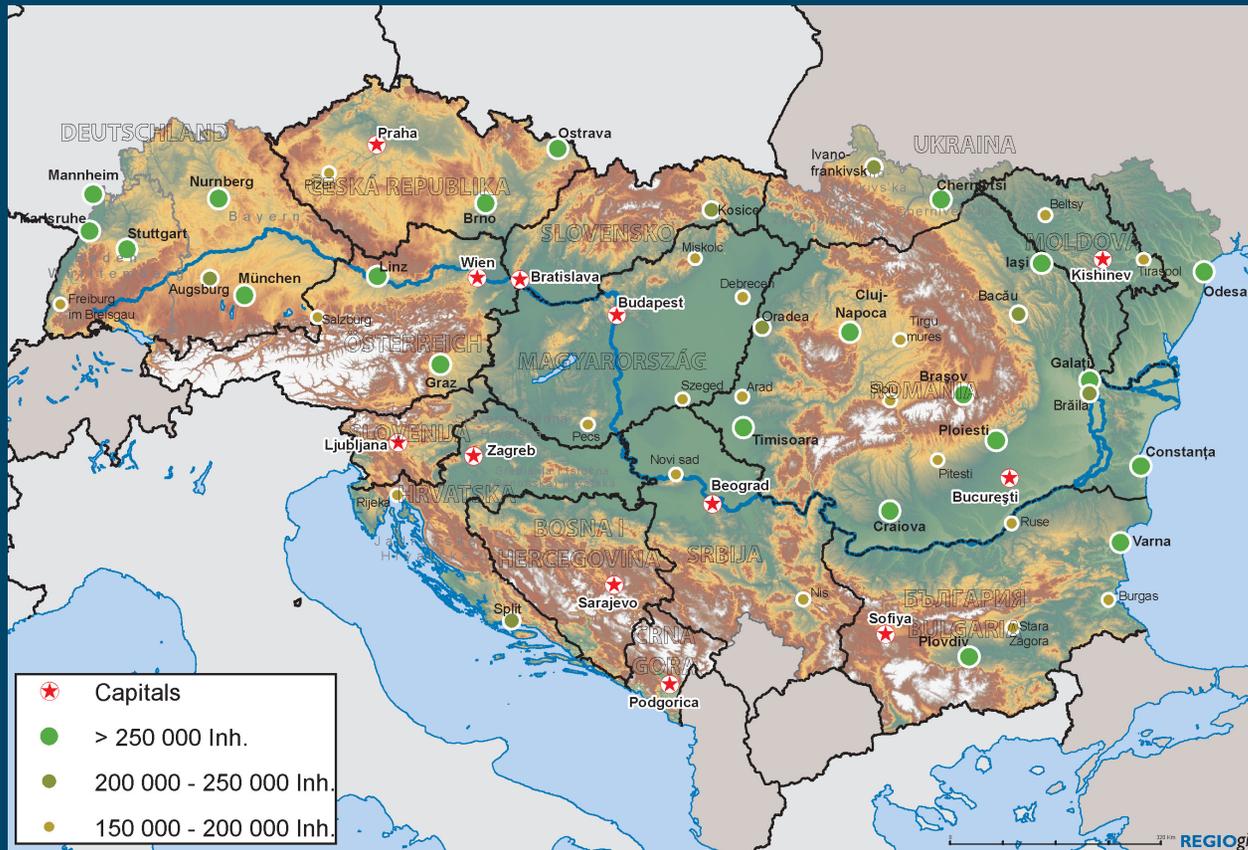


**Need for an integrated and sustainable (economic) development of the whole Carpathian region**

**Carpathian's natural assets as an important factor for development**



# 1. The Danube – (Carpathian) Macro Region



## 2. The Carpathian Convention



## 2. The Carpathian Convention at a glance

7 State Parties

Adoption: 22 May 2003 in Kyiv, Ukraine

Entry into force: 4 January 2006

3 Meetings of the COP: 2006, 2008, 2011

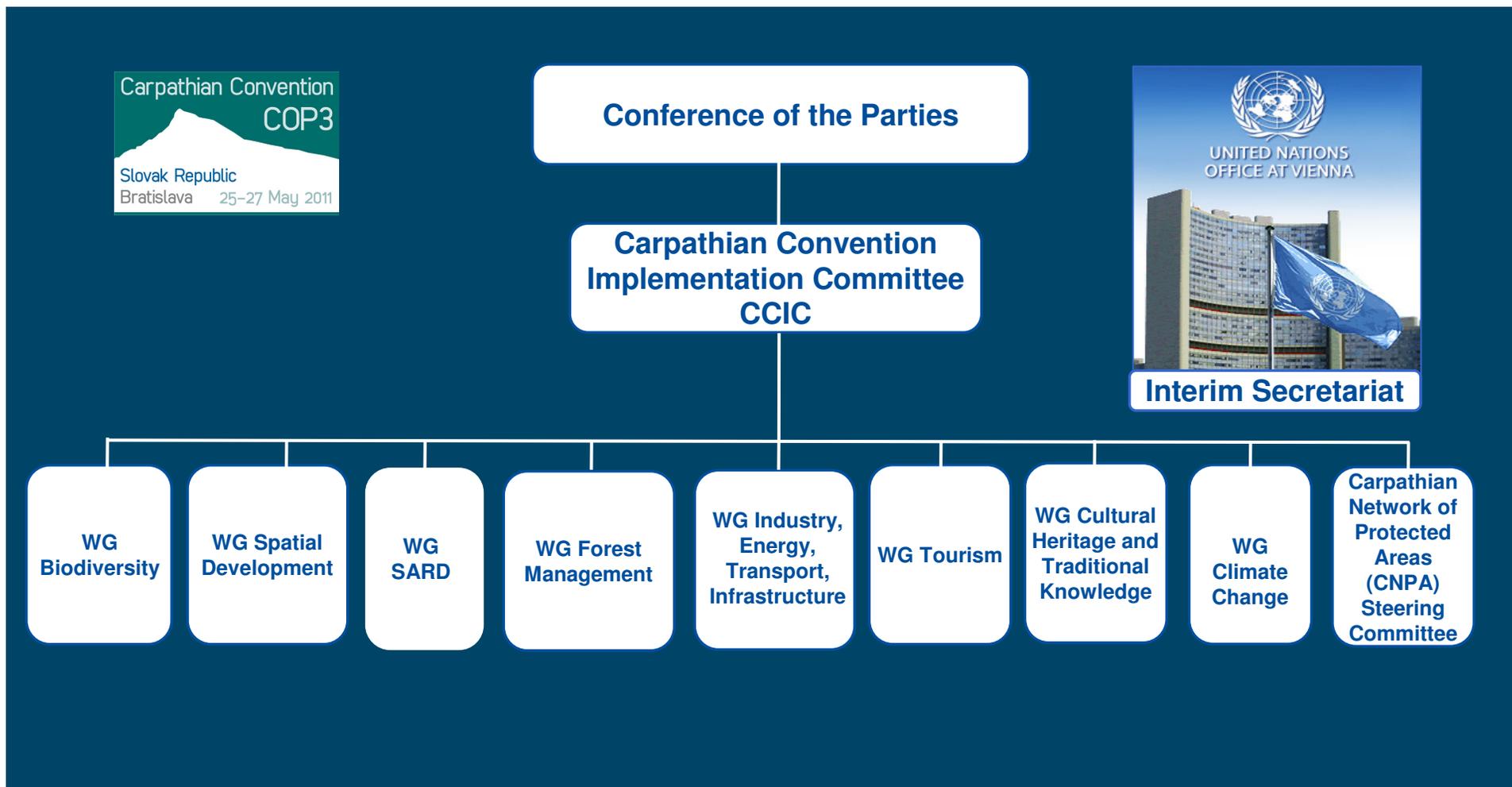
Current presidency: Slovak Republic



**Main objective:**  
Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathian region



## 2. The Convention as an institution



## 2. 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)

Other Protocols to be  
elaborated

New possible Protocols e.g. transport and infrastructure, agriculture, cultural heritage



## 2. The Programme of Work 2012 -2014

- Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA)
- Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity
- Spatial Development
- Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD)
- Sustainable Forest Management
- Sustainable Industry, Energy, Transport and Infrastructure
- Sustainable Tourism
- Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge
- Climate Change

## 2. COP3 topics: Biodiversity and landscapes

- Continuing land use and land cover change
- Abandonment of mountain grasslands, habitat degradation, exploitation of wildlife
- Forest health (Spruce dieback)
- *Monitoring and management measures*

Picture: M. Jurek

## 2. Water, air pollution and hazards

- Impacts of climate change
- Natural and man-made risks and hazards
- Air and water pollution – ecosystem-level
- *Risk assessment, management, ecosystem-wide research, adaptation measures*

Picture: J. Kozak

## 2. Economy and development

### - Sustainable Regional development

Balance protection with development

Urban vs. rural development?

- Via Carpatica idea / include protected areas in European trail
- Example tourism - evaluate scenarios: spa – ski – agro – cultural – ecological
- Role of traditional knowledge (landscapes!)
- *Enhance investment for natural resource management, projects and funding, make ESS valuation effective*



Pictures: J. Kozak, J. Jaudas, M. Vergholet

### 3. The Carpathian Convention and the role of science



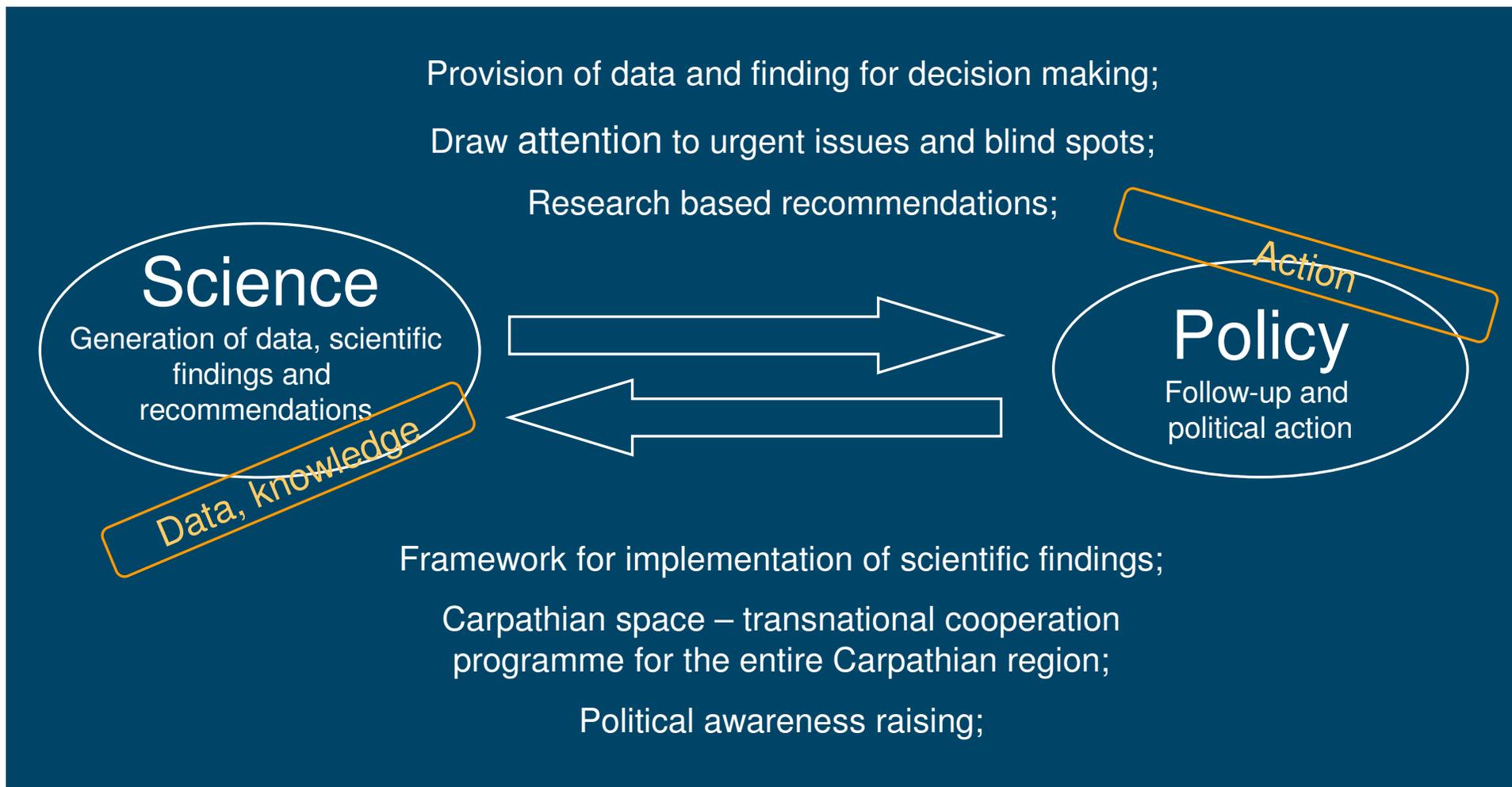
### 3. Article 12 – Environment assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning



- Constant and **Carpathian wide** monitoring, assessment and reporting needed
- Cooperation for **joint monitoring programmes**, harmonization of existing and development of new indicators;
- Harmonization, standardization of **data-acquisition** activities;
- Development of **early warning**, monitoring and assessment systems as well as **joint information systems**, accessible to all Parties.
- Application of specific techniques and procedures to ensure that the consequences of planned actions are taken into consideration
- **Close cooperation** of specialized institutions and local authorities needed;

*Science in the Protocols: Biodiversity (Article 19), Tourism (Article 19.3), Forests (Article 18)*

### 3. The science-policy interaction



# 3. Science in the Carpathian Convention

## Working Groups of the Carpathian Convention

Scientific institutions contribute as observers

## Specific projects

Scientific institutions involved as project partners

(BioREGIO Carpathians, Carpathian Project, Alpine-Carpathian-Corridor, etc.)

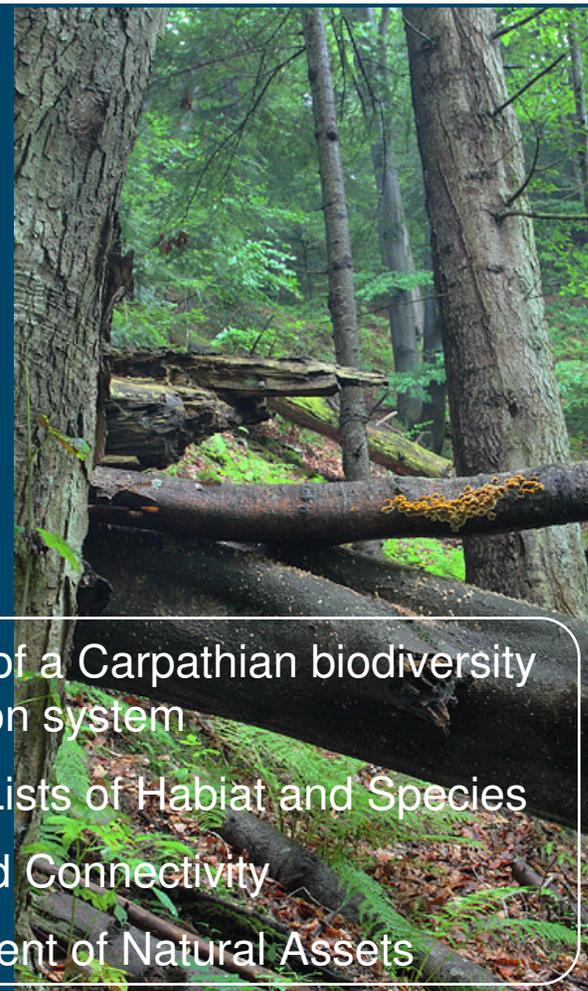
## Science for the Carpathians Initiative

Strategic partner of the Convention;



# 3. BIODIVERSITY

- Entry into force of Biodiversity Protocol
- Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan
- CNPA Medium Term Strategy
- Draft National Report on the Implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol
- Support to Carpathian Network of Protected Areas – WWF / Mava Foundation / Alpine Network / Dutch Government / UNEP



- Towards the development of a Carpathian biodiversity information system
- Towards Carpathian Red Lists of Habitat and Species
  - Continuity and Connectivity
- Integrated Management of Natural Assets

### 3. Common Projects – BIODIVERSITY

**BioREGIO Carpathians** – Integrated Management of biological and landscape diversity for sustainable regional development and ecological connectivity in the Carpathians



Continuity and connectivity

Carpathian Joint Biodiversity Information System

Red Lists

**Partnership:** 16 Partners from all the Carpathian Countries.  
Ministries for the Environment are observers.

**Project Duration:** 2011 – 2013

**Budget:** 2.6 Million Euros



# 3. European biodiversity CHM



**European Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism**  
**Integrated within BISE**  
Supporting the **Convention on Biological Diversity**

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## European biodiversity CHM network

[Collaborating countries](#)

[Meetings](#)

[Multilingual list of key terms](#)

[The European CHM Toolkit](#)

[Toolkit user forum](#)

[Countries using the Toolkit](#)

## International conventions for biodiversity

[CBD and other global Conventions](#)

[Marine Conventions, Europe](#)

[Pan European Initiatives and European Conventions](#)

[Home](#) [International conventions...](#) [Pan European Initiatives ...](#)

## Pan European Initiatives and European Conventions

A set of Conventions are specific to Europe and its neighbouring areas.

Another set of Conventions are specific to Europe and its neighbouring areas.

The [Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats](#) (the **Bern Convention**)

The [Alpine Convention](#)

The [Carpathian Convention](#)

The [European Landscape Convention](#)

There are also some Pan-European political processes that foster international co-operation on biodiversity issues such as [Forest Europe](#) - the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) and the [Pan-European Biodiversity and Landscape Diversity Strategy](#) (PEBLDS).

- Link to the [Council of Europe nature](#) page



# 3. Clearing-House Mechanism of the CBD

| EC CHM | AOPK CR | Natura 2000 | MŽP | Biodiversity CHM | Europe | DG Environment | DG Env-Nature | EEA | GBIF | EUNIS Database | SEBI | Biosafety BCH | EC ABS

## Clearing-House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Czech Republic

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Reports

Legislation

Contacts

Czech Committee for the CBD

Editorial Board of the Czech CHM

Conservation Biology

What is Convention?

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

What is Biodiversity?

Clearing House Mechanism

CBD on EU level

Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU (CZ PRES)

Czech Carpathians Delimitation

official Carpathian Convention website:

<http://www.carpathianconvention.org>

Taking action

Home > Co-operation > Carpathian Convention

Carpathian Convention

The Carpathian region boasts a stunning landscape of great beauty that is rich in both wildlife and culture. Europe's greatest reserve of untouched forest, it serves as a refuge for brown bears, wolves, bison, lynx, eagles and some 200 unique plants found nowhere else in the world. It also provides some of the continent's cleanest streams and supplies of drinking water.

The Carpathians are not an isolated wilderness untouched by human activity. Many small, rural communities have adapted successfully to the mountain environment over the centuries. Although separated by national boundaries, the people of the Carpathians are in many ways united by their cultural heritage. Altogether some 16 or 18 million people call these mountains home.

Fortunately there is room enough here for both wildlife and a modern economy – as long as effective measures are taken to preserve the region's unique biological heritage. To protect the Carpathians' wildness while helping its people improve their livelihoods, the region's governments joined together in 2003 to adopt the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians.

### Principles to live by

The Carpathian Convention addresses the many threats facing the region's people and natural resources. These include unemployment, poverty, unplanned building and development, over-exploited natural resources, pollution, deforestation and excessive hunting.

The Government of the Czech Republic is collaborating with its neighbors in Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine to tackle these threats. Working together, these countries are collaborating through the Carpathian Convention to strengthen their economies while supporting isolated mountain communities.

The Convention puts the globally agreed principles of sustainable development to work at the regional level. It promotes an economic and social development of the Carpathians that does not damage the natural environment or deplete natural resources. It advances environmental "best practices" to secure the ecological base needed for a healthy economy.

The Convention also sets out other important principles to guide policymakers. These include the 'polluter pays' principle, the emphasis on public participation in decision-making, cooperation with neighboring countries, and the ecosystem approach (which involves managing biodiversity to meet the needs of both people and nature).

Source: <http://chm.nature.cz/information/karpatska-umluva>

# 3. The Carpathian Clearing House Mechanism

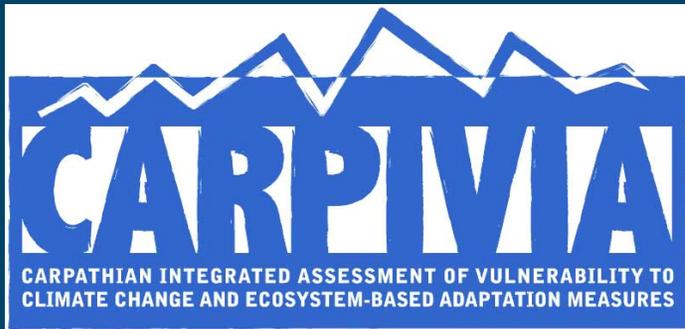
## Contribution to the European Biodiversity CHM



The screenshot displays the website for Carpathian Protected Areas. At the top left is the logo featuring a stag head and the text 'CNPACarpathian Protected Areas clearing house mechanism'. To the right are flags of member countries. Below the logo is a navigation bar with links: HOME | ABOUT US | NEWS | PARTNERS | LINKS | NEWSLETTER | CONTACT. A search bar is on the right. The left sidebar lists various categories: CARPATHIAN VALUES, PROTECTED AREAS (with sub-links like Overview, PA systems, Governance, Ownership, National and natural parks, Natura 2000, Threats, Maps and links), LEGISLATION, TOURISM, SOCIO-ECONOMIC, BIODIVERSITY, COOPERATION, PROJECTS, AWARENESS RAISING, EXPERT NETWORK, LAND USE, PUBLICATIONS, CONTACTS, USEFUL LINKS, FINANCIAL, MANAGEMENT, ADMINS, and LOGIN - guest. The main content area is titled 'National and natural parks' and 'Protected Areas in the Carpathians'. It contains text explaining the importance of protected areas and lists benefits such as freshwater provision, air purification, carbon sequestration, and support for traditional cultures. A map of the Carpathian region is shown on the right, with a callout for Romania: 'Romania More info National and Natural parks'. At the bottom right, there is a URL: <http://chm.natura2000.ro/>. The WWF logo is at the bottom left.

# 3. CLIMATE CHANGE

**CARPIVIA** — CARPATHIAN INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT OF VULNERABILITY TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION MEASURES



Vulnerability assessment

Adaptation measures

Information gap analysis

**Partnership:** Alterra-Wageningen, ECNC, ECORZS, Grontmij, WWF-DCP

**Project Duration:** 2011 - 2013

**Budget:** Funded by the EU Commission



# 3. FORESTS



- **Adoption of Forest Protocol**
- The ratification procedure is ongoing in Serbia, Poland, Ukraine, Hungary and Romania. Slovakia has no information on the status (recent change in the national government).
- **Forest Strategic Action Plan** discussed; on the way to reach a final agreement by the WG members at the next WG meeting (September 2012), to be adopted by the COP4 (2014)
- Future reporting system, integration into the future Carpathian Joint Information System (based on the Biodiversity System)
- **Carpathian Inventory of Virgin Forests**

# 3. COOPERATION – The Science for Carpathians Initiative



**Science for Carpathians Initiative S4C** Need for a Carpathian wide research approach in order to address larger-scale environmental and socioeconomic problems.



- Forum Carpaticum
- Research Agenda for the Carpathians
- Voice of Carpathian research

Latest news:  
Next step of collaboration  
concluded



Signature of MoU between  
S4C and the Carpathian Convention

*Yesterday at the  
Forum Carpathicum in Stara Lesna*



### 3. Need for further cooperation



Development of joint projects (S4C as catalyzer)

Fostering events on science policy interface (Forum Carpathicum)

Dissemination of scientific knowledge to policy makers and the public

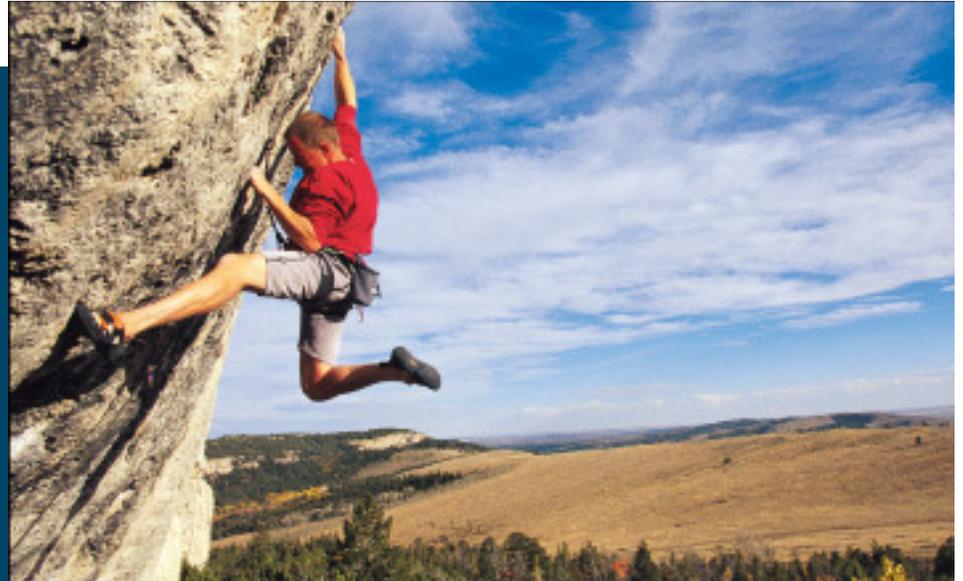
Promote research funding at the pan-Carpathian and EU level

Regular dialogue between the Carpathian Convention and S4C

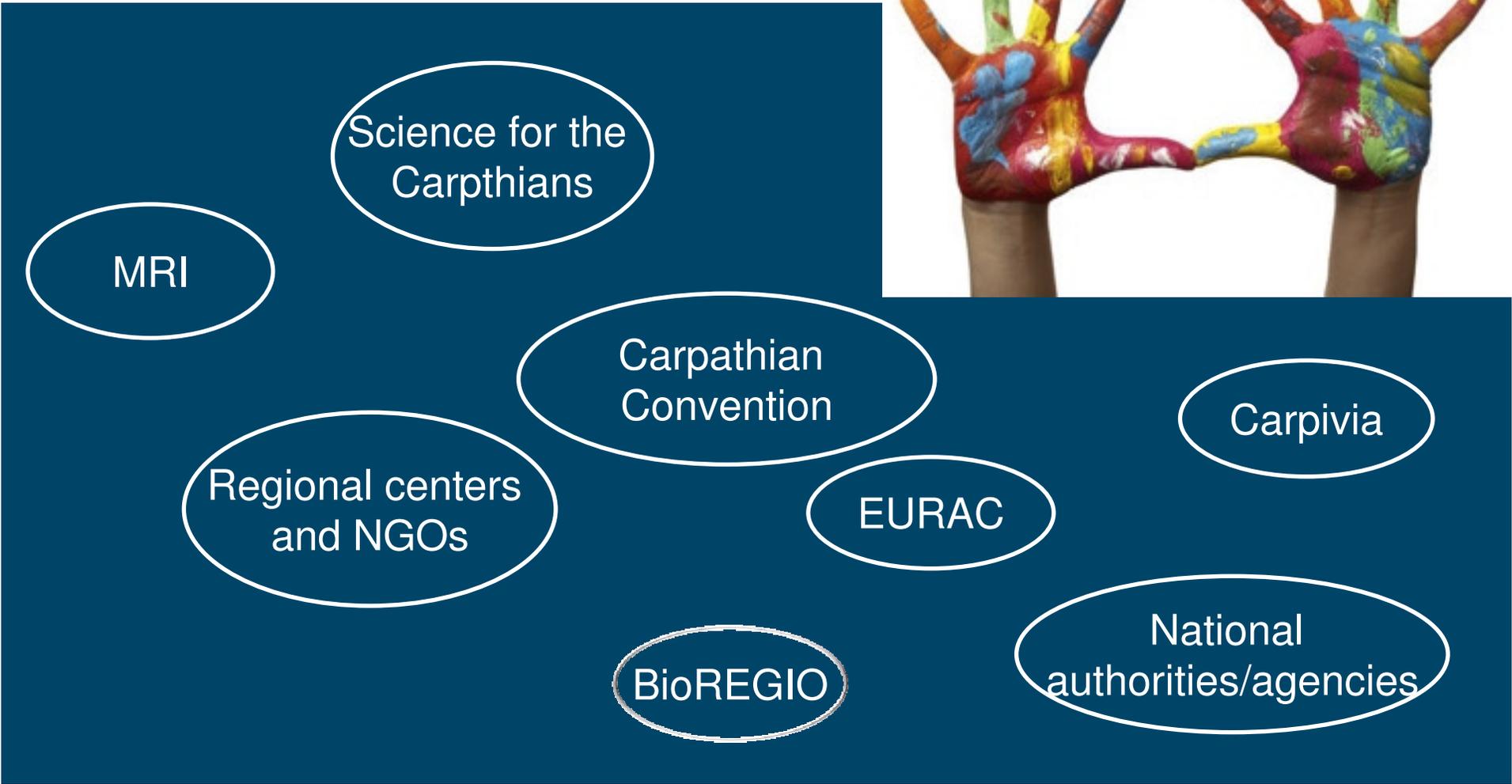
## 4 Challenges and future developments

## 4. The challenges

- Accessibility of data
- Data comparability
- Joint approach for strategic environmental assessments and monitoring programmes
- Identification of priority areas of action



# 4. The players



## 4. Basic question



Carpathian Convention Strategy / principles for  
“network enabled knowledge management”?

## 4. Questions for a Carpathian info strategy

What would be the added value of a Carpathian-wide info system / strategy?

Who are the users / beneficiaries?

Would you be willing to provide open access to data?  
Under which conditions?

Would you be interested to access open data?  
On which topic / themes?



# THANK YOU



Harald Egerer

Head of UNEP Vienna  
– Interim Secretariat of the  
Carpathian Convention

[Harald.egerer@unvienna.org](mailto:Harald.egerer@unvienna.org)  
[www.carpathianconvention.org](http://www.carpathianconvention.org)

