

Vienna, 9-10 July 2007

First Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on SARD and Forestry



Agenda Item 1

**Meeting objectives,
Election of a Chair,
Overview of the agenda**



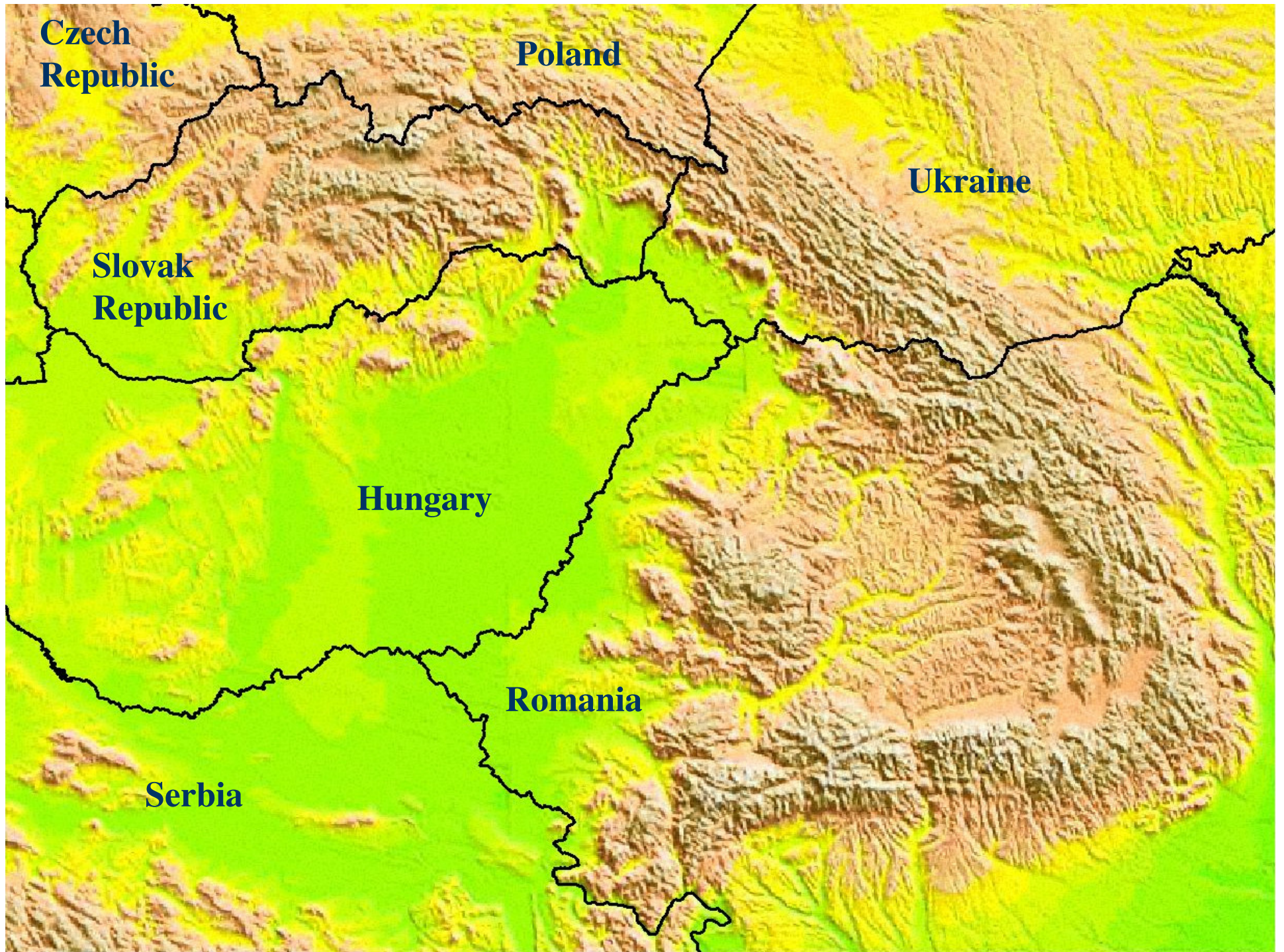
Meeting Objectives

- **To agree on the ToRs of the WG on SARDF**
- **To evaluate the results as well as contribute to the outputs of the national assessments of SARD-M PIPs in the Carpathian countries**
- **To formulate recommendations for improvements/development of SARD-M PIPs, to draft provisional decisions for COP2 and to identify follow-up activities**
- **Protocol/Strategy for SARDF?**

Agenda Item 2

Carpathian Convention Introduction





Seven countries –common Carpathian Space

- **Europe's largest mountain range!**
- Living environment for up to **18 million people!**
- **Europe's greatest reserve** of pristine forest, refuge for brown bears, wolves, bison, lynx, eagles and some 200 unique plant species found nowhere else in the world
- **Continent's cleanest streams** and drinking water supplies
- **Unique** natural, historical and cultural heritage
- **Haven** for wildlife and ecological link within Europe



Carpathian Convention

Unique agreement addressing exclusively mountain ecosystems

- **Signed in May 2003**
- **Entry into force** - 1 January 2006
- **Ratification** by the Parliaments of 6 Carpathian countries
- **COP1** - 11-13 December 2006, Kyiv, Ukraine
- **Political support of the EU, CC countries and V4:**
Carpathian Project promoted by the programme EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES
- **Partnerships:** MoUs with the Alpine Convention, the Ramsar Convention and Central European Initiative (CEI), cooperative agreement with EURAC



Carpathian Convention/COP1

COP1, 11-13 December 2006, Kyiv, Ukraine

- **200 participants, including 50 NGOs**
- **Carpathian Declaration:
Achievements, Challenges, Cooperation
and Partnerships**
- **19 COP1 Decisions**



- Programme and Budget
- 6 Working Groups and CNPA
- Cooperation with the EU
- Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies
- Input on the Mountain Initiatives to the Belgrade Conference 2007

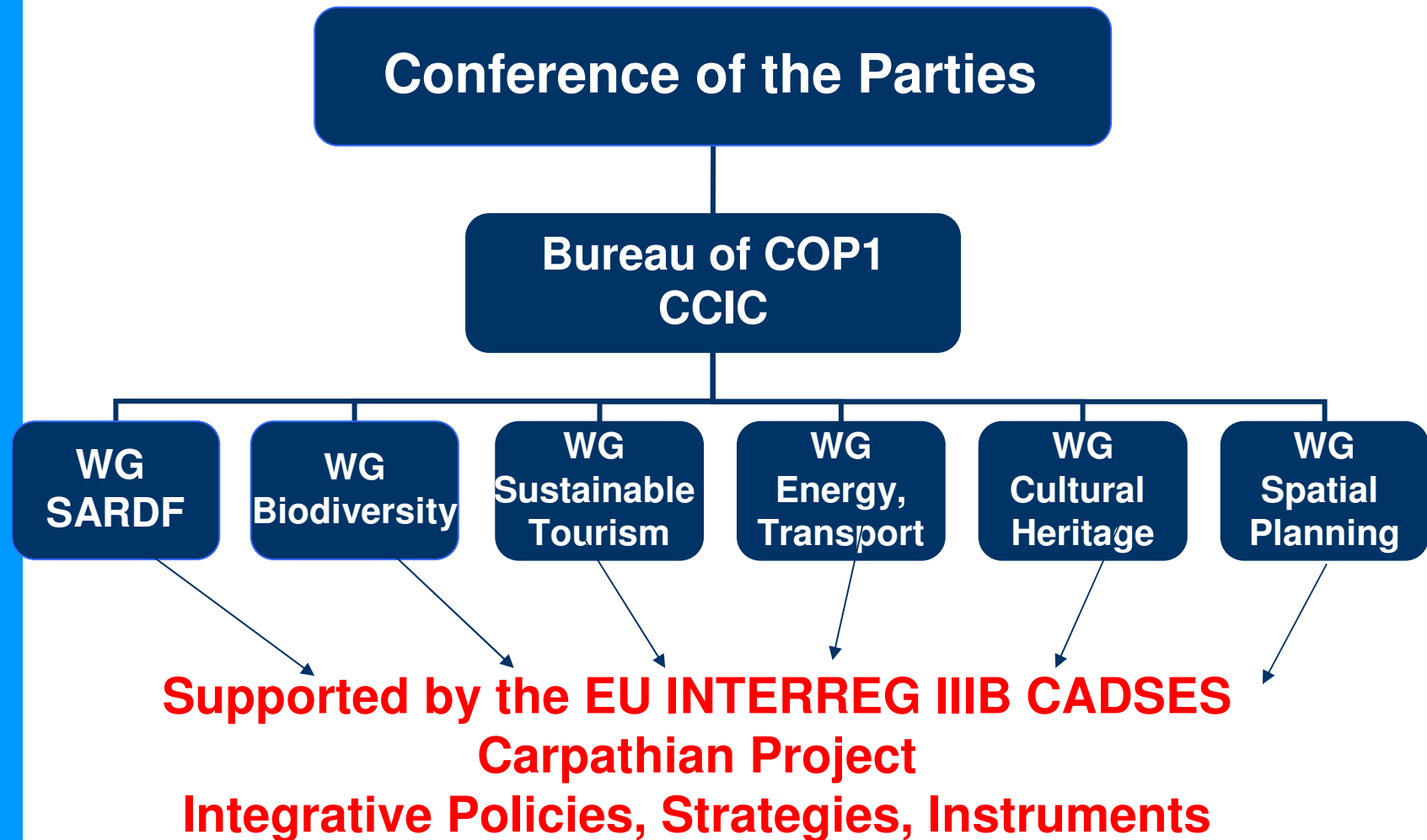
COP1

**11-13 December
2006, Kyiv, Ukraine**





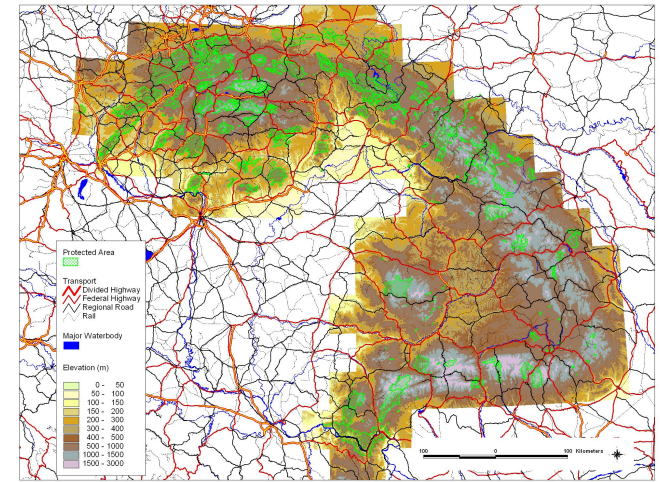
Current Institutional Structure



Carpathian Convention

Carpathian Convention provides:

- **trans-national framework for cooperation** and multi-sectoral policy coordination, including sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry
- **platform for joint strategies and policies** for sustainable development
- **forum for dialogue** and permanent communication between all stakeholders involved



EURAC Research, Institute for Regional Development - Flavio Ruffini, Thomas Strelfeder, Beatrice Eiselt, 2004
Data: Protected Areas: DAPHNE, DGM - (c) Geosys, Transport Network & Major Waters: (c) EBRI, 2003

Carpathian Convention: Main Goals

To preserve

- Biological and landscape diversity
- Endangered flora and fauna species and their natural habitats
- Cultural, historical and aesthetic heritage
- Traditional knowledge

To sustainable develop

- Water/river basin management
- Agriculture/rural areas
- Forestry/forest management
- Transport/infrastructure
- Tourism
- Industry/energy



100 0 100 Kilometers

Partners of the Carpathian Convention

- Ministries of Environment
- **Ministries of Agriculture!**
- MoEs of Italy and Austria
- Alpine Convention
- ALPARC
- CEI
- CERI
- CEEWEB
- EURAC
- EUROMONTANA
- FAO Sub-Regional Office
Budapest
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- FAO SARD-M Project
- GRID-Budapest
- UNEP GRID Warsaw
- IUCN Belgrade
- SAVE Foundation
- UNDP Regional Center
Bratislava
- UNEP
- WWF DCPO
- Mountain Partnership Secretariat
- Austrian Federal Environment
Agency
- Others (NGOs, individuals,
scientific institutions,
donors...)

Website

www.carpathianconvention.org

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Carpathian Convention website. At the top, there is a logo with a mountain range and the text "CARPATHIAN CONVENTION" above several national flags. A navigation bar includes "Home | Contact | Links | Imprint" and a search box. The main content area is titled "THE CARPATHIAN CONVENTION" and features a large heading: "The Convention on the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians". Below this, there are three paragraphs of text. The first paragraph describes the Carpathians as a unique natural treasure. The second paragraph lists various species found in the region. The third paragraph discusses the challenges of economic development and the role of the Convention. On the right side, there are three vertical panels: "NEWS" with a "New Photo Gallery" link, "POWERED BY" featuring logos for UNEP (with a link to www.unep.org) and Mountain Partnership (with a link to www.mountainpartnership.org), and "EURAC research".

2.9.2005

CARPATHIAN CONVENTION

Home | Contact | Links | Imprint

search

THE CARPATHIAN CONVENTION

- History of the Convention
- Text of the Convention
- Status of ratification
- Documents & Publications
- Photo Gallery

FRAMEWORK

- Focal Points
- Interim Secretariat
- Projects

THE CARPATHIAN CONVENTION

Home

The Convention on the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians

The Carpathians are not just one of Europe's largest mountain ranges, a unique natural treasure of great beauty and ecological value, and home of the headwaters of major rivers. They also constitute a major ecological, economic, cultural, recreational and living environment in the heart of Europe, shared by numerous peoples and countries.

The Carpathians are an important reservoir for biodiversity, and Europe's last refuge for large mammals- brown bear, wolf, and lynx, home to populations of European bison, moose, wildcat, chamois, golden eagle, eagle owl, black grouse, plus many unique insect species.

Transition to a market economy, increasing and integrating role of the civil society and dynamic economic development imply profound changes and challenges. The Carpathians are shared by seven Central and Eastern European Countries, four of which have already joined the European Union. This increases the possibilities of sustainable development based on the rich natural, environmental, cultural and human resources of the region, and for preserving its natural and cultural heritage for future generations.


On 22 May 2003 in Kiyv, Ukraine, the Ministers of the Environment of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovak Republic and Ukraine signed the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians.

The Carpathian Convention provides the framework for cooperation and multi-sectoral policy coordination, a platform for


NEWS

New Photo Gallery

POWERED BY


www.unep.org

Regional Office for Europe (ROE)
www.unep.ch


www.mountainpartnership.org

EURAC
research

UNEP ROE-Vienna ISCC



- **Liaison** with the UN agencies and other international organizations and bodies based in Vienna
- Opened on 15 July 2004 in Austria at VIC to provide **an interim Secretariat of the CC**
- **Part of the Secretariat** of the Mountain Partnership, MF Board, EMF, **observer** to the Alpine Convention
- **Focal Point** for cooperation with the **Central and South-Eastern European countries**, and sub-regional desk for SEE under UNEP-UNDP-OSCE-NATO **ENVSEC** Initiative



Agenda Item 2

**Terms of Reference (ToRs)
for the Working Group on SARD
and Forestry (SARDF WG)**



ToRs for the SARDF WG: Structure

- **Mandate**
- **Aim and tasks**
- **Field of activities**
- **List of expected results**
- **Composition and organization of work**
- **Coordination and cooperation**
- **Scientific contribution and background information**

Agenda Item 3

Global objectives, priorities and activities under the SARD-M Project



Sustainable Agriculture
and Rural Development
MOUNTAIN POLICY PROJECT

Agenda Item 4

Introduction of the assessments of policies, institutions and processes for SARD in the Carpathians



Project Team

National consultants:

Ms. Jana Hajduchova, Czech Republic

Ms. Monika Ruzsztecka, Poland

Mr. Tiner Tibor, Hungary

Ms. Dragana Tar, Serbia

FAO SARD-M Project Team:

Ms. Dominique Legros

Mr. Takashi Takahatake

Coordinator:

UNEP Vienna Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

Ms. Solomiya Omelyan



Project: Cooperation

- **Cooperation with the FAO SARD-M Project** from 2005 on: Slovakia, Romania and Ukraine in 2006
- **Regional Workshop** “Strengthening SARD-M Policies for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians”
(Liptovský Mikuláš, Slovak Republic, 2005)
- **Complementary SARD-M PIPs assessments** in 2007: Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Serbia
- **July 2007: 1st Meeting of the CC WG on SARDF**

Project: Objectives

- **Global overview and cross-sectoral understanding** of strengths and weaknesses of mountain policies, institutions and processes for SARD
- Identification of the national/regional **problematic or priority issues** facing the Carpathian region



Assessments: Approach

Operational framework:

- Methodology developed by the FAO SARD-M Project successfully applied in the national assessments
- National policies and legislation base
- Provisions of the Carpathian Convention, Alpine Convention Protocols, Agenda 21, SARD Initiative etc.

Assessments: Synergies

- **Implementation of Article 7 of the CC**
- **Contribution to the CC WG on SARDF**
- **EU INTERREG IIB CADSES Carpathian Project**
- **“Europe” and “SARD”** in mountain regions Initiatives of the Mountain Partnership
- **KEO:** Multi-sectoral “Carpathian Environmental Outlook” developed by UNEP/GRID
- **“Carpathian Opportunity”** Initiative launched by WWF DCP
- **CC Biodiversity Protocol, CC Tourism Protocol and Strategy**

Outputs

- Identification of the **problematic areas and priority issues** facing a mountain region (*achieved*)
- Evaluation of the overall **strengths and weaknesses of SARD-M PIPs** (*achieved*)
- **Recommendations** on improvements at the three levels: policies, processes and institutions (*in progress*)
- **Proposals** for concrete action-oriented follow-up activities (*in progress*)

Outputs

- **ToRs** for the CC WG on SARDF (*in progress*)
- **Establishment of a network** of committed partners (*in progress*)
- **Elements/ToRs for the Protocol/Strategy for SARDF** in the Carpathians
- **Draft decisions** for COP2 (*in progress*)
- **Concept paper** on the SARD-M in the Carpathians to be submitted to the COP2 (*expected*)

Achievements

- **Impact of PIPs on SARD** in the Carpathians **analysed** by addressing the most important issues associated with SARD were picked up and studied in detail
- **Component** of the analysis: the current/potential impact of the **Carpathian Convention** on SARD
- **Valuable data** supporting the analysis collected
- **“Entry points”** for the assessments has been identified in consultation with the national key informants
- Rural development aspects closely interlinked with agriculture, biodiversity conservation, forestry were addressed and the **ways and means to improve the current situation** have been suggested

WG on SARDF Role

- Consider and provide advice on the **improvement of the SARD reports and validate them; enrich recommendations**
- Provide advice on the **legal framework for SARD**
- Propose **draft decisions** for COP2
- **Identify gaps** in pursuing SARD in the Carpathians and **propose improvements** needed at the regional/local levels
- **Identify a vision/scenarios**, priorities and relevant strategies for SARD in the Carpathians
- **Formulate** possible/needed **follow-up activities**

Agenda Item 5

**Presentation of the results
of the national assessments of policies,
institutions and processes for SARD in the
Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and
Serbia**





Agenda Item 6



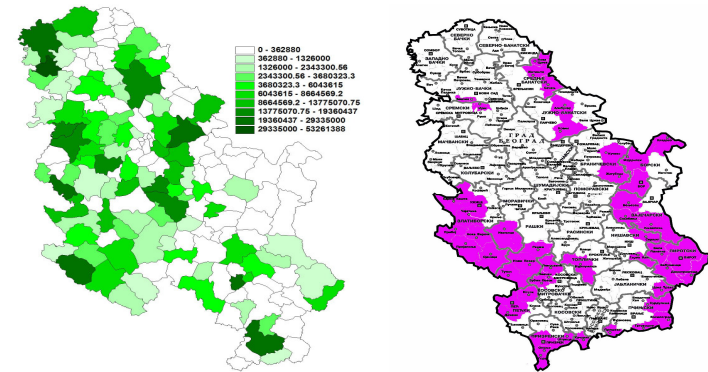
**Initial reflections on the regional
synthesis of PIPs
for SARD in the
Carpathians**

Regional Synthesis

Comprehensive mosaic for the regional analysis

Objectives :

- overview of the SARD PIPs status in the region
- analyse PIPs regional strengths and weaknesses
- propose recommendations for improvements of the PIPs based on the outcomes of the national reports
- regional synthesis is expected to provide a basis for action at the regional level
- identify areas to be addressed by the follow-up actions



Regional Synthesis: Rationale I

- Unified **synergetic Carpathian Space** paradigm similarly to the Alpine Space identity paradigm
- **Common solution for tackling regional challenges** of the Carpathian area shared by seven countries
- Despite existing striking diversity, the people in the Carpathians **face similar problems requiring joint and immediate action**

Regional Synthesis: Rationale II

- **Basis for the development of the SARD and Forestry Protocol (initially, of its ToRs)**
- **Substance for the concept paper on SARD-M in the Carpathians to be submitted to COP2 in 2008**
- **CC Protocol on SARDF as an “entry point”**

Regional Synthesis: Action I

- **The conclusion of the CC:** involvement of the Parties into international cooperation in the region **in various interlinked synergetic dimensions**
- **Examples of ongoing cooperation in the Carpathian region:**
 - 2nd Draft of the Biodiversity Protocol along with SAP under preparation;
 - 1st Draft of the Tourism Protocol and Strategy under preparation;
 - Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) established and launched

Regional Synthesis: Action II

Examples beyond the region: Alpine Convention

- Mountain Farming Protocol
- Forestry Protocol
- Soil Conservation Protocol

Conclusions:

- **Build up knowledge and institutional capacities** related to sustainable agriculture, land use, rural development, soil conservation and forestry in **close cooperation with the Alpine countries and the EU**
- **Use the expertise** and experience of the international **organizations specialized in SARD**
- Contribute to the **implementation of the MoC** between the Carpathian and the Alpine Conventions

Regional Challenges

- Rural mountain areas are facing a **new threats posed by globalization processes**
- **Negative demographic trends** (ageing population, low birth rates, abandonment of mountain regions - alarming migration rates)
- **Low level** of local and foreign **investment and technological upgrade**, low support to SMSs
- **Low competitiveness** of local produce
- **Lower income** in agriculture in comparison with the rest of the country
- **High unemployment rates**
- Problem of **loosing the skills** in traditional agriculture, crafts and other areas by younger generations
- Threat of **spreading of the big companies** having no traditional relation to the land

Positive Developments

- **Small farms and SMSs** are the most important drivers of the economic and social development
- **The traditional nature friendly agriculture** survived during the socialism era; it predominates in the Carpathians and contributes to the preservation of the landscape variety and rich biodiversity

SWOT: Policies

Strengths

- **Harmonization** of policies related to SARD with the EU legislation
- Inclusion of the Carpathian territories into LFAs **supported by special funds**
- Emerging or already well developed **ecological/organic farming** along with policies supporting those activities
- **Important role of the traditions** and customs at the local level having even a stronger enforcement than official laws and legal documents
- **Examples of strategic documents** taking into account regional and local specificities

Weaknesses

- **Missing legal framework and policies** compatible with the mountain specificities
- Policies and strategies in general are in place, however are **not effective** and **not enough supported by financial resources** when implemented
- Policies are sometimes **contradictory**
- Policies do not consider growing regional disparities
- Very general set up of objectives **not accompanied by concrete measures**
- **Inadequate monitoring, evaluation and indicator system**

SWOT: Institutions

Strengths

- The institutions function rather successfully and smoothly and are **open to further improvements**, capacity building and learning
- Ongoing sporadic **processes of cooperation between local authorities** in mountain regions
- **Strong commitment** and involvement in local initiatives by the **leading stakeholders e.g. NGOs** along with very small initiative-groups – openness to local partnerships

Weaknesses

- **Weak dialogue and cooperation between CC Parties**
- The **cooperation** between regional and local governments is very **dispersed**, has a very low impact and not supported by the state
- **Weak** regional and local **institutions** having no capacity to implement policies and measures effectively
- **Low level of communication and coordination** of activities or even antagonistic trends in and within national, regional and local authorities
- Big companies e.g. big farms and have a stronger voice in strategy and policy development processes than the small units

SWOT: Processes I

Strengths

- Positive perception and **recognition of the Carpathian uniqueness**
- Local communities have a very **strong connection to the territory**: Carpathian **identity is alive** and plays a very important role
- Processes which led to the establishment of the international cooperation in the Carpathians and to the signature and ratification of the CC were of a **bottom-up nature**, inspired by civil society and scientists, local governments

Weaknesses

- **Lack of information and knowledge** on supporting measures and programmes from the EU funds for the local population
- **Missing bottom-up approach** to policy development, planning and implementation

SWOT: Processes II

Strengths

- **Overall commitment at the national level** to a broader sustainable development agenda and policies
- **Signs of involvement of NGOs, other stakeholder groups and individuals** into the strategy and policy planning through public hearings and consultations
- **Available financial resources** in support of agriculture from the **EU funds** (SAPARD, LEADER, LIFE)

Regional Synthesis: Recommendations

EU Perspective

- Through the CC framework, to provide a link to the EU legislation, policies and strategies for the whole region
- To make use of funds available from the EU operational programmes (e.g. Central Europe Programme for 2007-2013) period by developing joint project proposals
- To apply selectively the best examples of the EU legislation
- Make use of the EU CAP contributing to achieving sustainable development by increasing its emphasis on encouraging healthy, high quality products, environmentally sustainable production methods, including organic production, renewable raw materials and the protection of biodiversity

Regional Synthesis: Recommendations

Carpathian Convention Perspective

- To establish a Carpathian wide platform for SARD: development, planning, monitoring, evaluation of SARD PIPs
- To build capacities on SARD within the Carpathian Research Initiative and Carpathian Research Agenda
- To build up knowledge base in cooperation with other mountain regions
- To open/enhance dialogue with and make use of the specialized expertise of the international organizations and agencies
- Increase national awareness and action by informing a broad public of the results, achievements, lessons learned related to SARD

Regional Synthesis: Recommendations

Protocol Perspective I

- To take a joint action at the regional level in pursuing the implementation of Article 7
- To secure commitments of the Carpathian countries to set a common objective to achieve SARD in the Carpathians as a success model for other mountain regions
- To establish an appropriate learning and research mechanisms to collect and process the data and information on SARD and its specific issues

Regional Synthesis: Recommendations

Protocol Perspective II

- Measures to be provided in the Protocol on SARDF should correspond to the EU legislation and policy
- The Protocol/Strategy on SARDF in the Carpathian region should be sufficiently linked to the demands of the rural poor in the region
- International organizations mandated to support and implement SARD in mountain areas, such as FAO and UNEP (with environmental component) should be requested to support the development of the SARDF Protocol

Issues for Discussion

- Do you agree with the **recommendations** made at the regional level on PIPs for SARD-M? Are there any you disagree with? Are there any **additional recommendations** that should be made?
- What **provisional decisions** would you like to put forward to **COP2**? What suggestions do you have on **how to support** the implementation of COP2 decisions?
- Towards a **strategy or a protocol** for SARDF?

Agenda Item 7

Forestry in the Carpathian Mountains



Carpathian Project



- Lead Partner UNEP-Vienna ISCC
- € 4.260.000 (2,4 ERDF, PHARE, TACIS, Nat.)
- 18 partners
- 10 countries
- 36 months (1 September 2005 – 31 August 2008)
- Basic Data Platform
- General Strategic Process
- Integrative Policies, Guidelines and Instruments
- Education and Awareness for the future
- Transfer of Experiences – SME's in the Mountainous Areas
- Coordination, Management and Progress Consolidation

→ **“The Carpathian Space”**



Thank you !

UNEP ROE - Vienna ISCC

www.carpathianconvention.org

www.carpathianproject.eu

www.unep.org

www.unep.ch

