

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

## National Assessment of Policies, Institutions And Processes For SARD in the Czech Carpathian Mountains

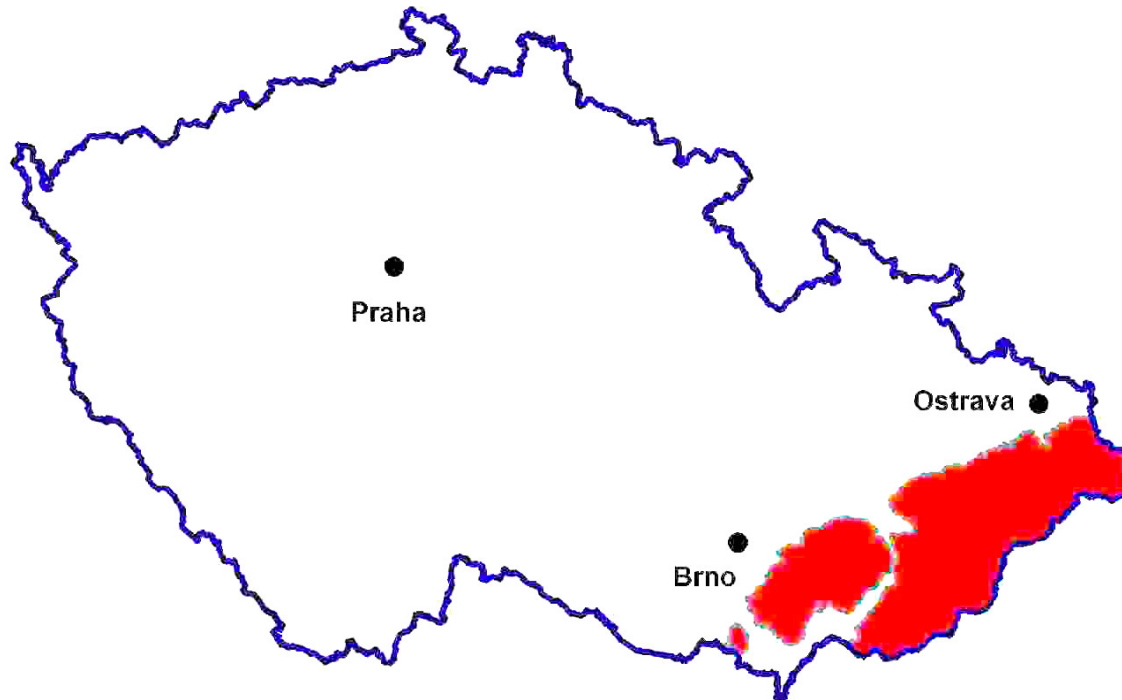
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# Specificities of the Czech Carpathians

- The CCR occupies about 9 % of the territory of CR
- Four mountain areas – Beskydy, The White Carpathians, Chriby and Palava, the valley of the Morava river was excluded



# Palava Mountains

**Palava is the warmest and almost the most arid area in CR. Karst forest steppe is the typical ecosystem of this mountain range. It originates partly due to the influence of grazing. The vine growing is the most important agricultural activity here.**



# The White Carpathians

**Country of rolling hills with stream valleys, elevation from 175 to 970 m above sea level. Vast areas of herb-rich meadows with unique flora and entomofauna, old-growth beech forests. Rich in folk culture.**



# The Chriby Mountains

**The most western part of the Carpathians. From the other part of the region they are separated by the Morava River valley. Reaching the highest elevation of 586 m above sea level, they are almost completely covered by forest, often still close to the original species composition (deciduous forests with beeches, oaks, lime tree, maples etc).**



# The Beskydy Mountains

**Unique natural treasures, especially indigenous primeval forests with rare Carpathian fauna and flora (cover 70% of the area), rich diversity of meadows and diversity of rare landscape type shaped by man in coexistence with nature. The highest of the Czech Carpathian Mountains (elevation from 350 to 1328 m above sea level)**



- **3 of these four mountains are protected as PLA**
- **They cover 27 % of the Czech Carpathian Region**

# Agriculture and Forestry 1

- **Agriculture originally focused on pasture farming with cattle and sheep due to poor soil, while only small strips of land were ploughed for little cereals and potatoes**
- **Period of socialism - more than 90% of agricultural land was cultivated by co-operatives and state farms supported by state subsidies. They exploited intensive farming methods even in the mountain areas**
- **After 1989 – process of restitution started, system of support has changed. The use of artificial fertilisers, pesticides and other chemicals decreased; and in mountain areas production became more extensive. The least productive areas neglected. The Carpathian Region was the first region in CR to develop organic farming**
- **After joining EU in 2004 – implementation of EU agricultural policy led to an increase of pesticide use, and the global income to agriculture doubled**

# Agriculture and Forestry 2

- The managed units of the land are several times bigger than in the EU, as are processing companies and marketing companies





# Agriculture and Forestry 3

- Only a few large commercial farms, bigger than 500 ha, cultivate half of the agricultural land in the PLA White Carpathians. The holdings bigger than 50 ha occupy about 90 % of agricultural land, although there are almost 80 % holdings smaller than 5 ha. In the Carpathian Region, this rate is more favourable than in the country overall
- Permanent decline of the area of arable land and an increase in the area of forests and grassland
- In the lower parts of the CCR, the agriculture is focused on vegetables, wine, corn – in the higher areas (mostly in PLAs) extensive farming, on pasturing and grazing, and production of hay, fully dependent on subsidies, and further complicated by the conditions of the nature protection

# Rural Development



**This number shows the CCR to be a stabilized part of the country with a well-developed and functioning rural settlement...  
but a more detailed view reveals a worse situation**



# Entry Point for the Assessment

## Sources

- ANPED Project “Public Participation in the Implementation of the Carpathian Convention” (2006)
- The National Assessment of the National Policy, Legislative and Institutional Frameworks Related to the Carpathian Convention (REC-EURAC Project)
- The provided analysis of the specificities of the Czech Carpathian Region
- Discussions/interviews with key informants

# Entry Point for the Assessment

## **Agriculture**

- Biological/nature friendly sustainable methods of management are necessary, including organic farming, support of local products and bio-products, preservation and restoration of traditional methods of management (or their replacement by modern environmentally friendly methods with desired results), conservation of traditional breeds and plant varieties
- Protection of the gene pool - biodiversity, conservation of native breeds and plant varieties together with the complex protection of species and ecosystems, reintroducing native breeds and plant varieties to the landscape

## **Forestry**

- application of environmentally friendly management systems and solving the issue of allocation of subsidies are necessary

# Entry Point for the Assessment

## **Rural development.**

- Respect for and support of the unique Carpathian phenomena, knowledge and awareness of the local culture, preservation of traditional knowledge, skills and architecture.
- Providing various support to the local people, promoting them and helping them to keep or build up a respected social status, based on the sense of belonging to the Carpathians as inhabitants of the region as well as their financial self-sufficiency.

## **Biodiversity and landscape protection.**

- Preservation of the unique character and high biodiversity of the landscape.
- Protection and renovation of the water regime in the landscape as one of the basic conditions for keeping the countryside alive.

# National Policy Framework/ SARD-M/Policies

- There is no SARD or SARD-M policy formulated or adopted in CR
- The assessment focuses on national agricultural, forest, biodiversity and other policies, influencing SARD
- Not feasible to find significant information on the influence of macro-economic policies on SARD

# National Policy Framework/ SARD-M/Policies

## Sustainable development

- Sustainable Development Strategy

## Agriculture

- Concept of Agrarian Policy for 2004 – 2013 (CARP) – framework for strategic documents:
  - 2004 – 2006 OP Agriculture and HPRD
  - 2007 – 2013 – Rural Development Programme
  - Organic Agriculture Action Plan of the Czech Republic up to 2010

## Forestry

- National Forestry Programme

## Protection of environment and nature

- State Environmental Policy (SEP) 2004 – 2010
- National Biodiversity Strategy (NBS) of the Czech Republic

## Others

- Rural Renewal Programme



# National Policy Framework/ SARD-M/ Institutions

## **Institutions at the national level**

- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Regional Development
- Ministry of Finance

## **Institutions at the regional level**

- Regional Offices – Departments of the Environment and Agriculture
- Agriculture Agencies
- Protected Landscape Areas (PLAs) Administrations

## **Institutions at the local level**

- Municipalities

## **NGOs**

# SARD-M Policy Formulation and Implementation Processes

## Policy processes

- Commitment to SD
- Adopting strategic documents - a wide range of intersectoral negotiations precedes adoption of a strategy by the Government, so adoption itself does not require any special political support.
- Some strategies – adopted, but no financial support

## Participatory processes

- Each strategy – working groups with representatives from different sectors, involvement of NGOs, public hearing
- Lobbying of the big unions of farmers

# SARD-M Policy Formulation and Implementation Processes

## **Institutional arrangements/knowledge management procedures**

- Two ways of implementation
  - through incorporating into sector strategies
  - using financial resources such as is done in implementation of Rural Development Programme (RDP), realized by monitoring committees involving different stakeholders
- The mechanisms to ensure convergence, complementarity, coherence and co-ordination of policies are being developed. Intersectoral communication has improved
- Missing or insufficient monitoring and providing feedback

## **Financial mobilisation**

- RDP – sufficient resources
- Another strategies – resources are missing

# SWOT analysis

## STRENGTHS

- Improving conditions of the landscape, increasing biodiversity
- Good experience with implementation EU CAP
- Increasing number of organic farmers

# SWOT analysis

## WEAKNESSES

- Existing strategies are not coherent enough, better linkage with the needs of the biodiversity conservation is lacking
- CAP was implemented without reflecting the specificities of CR (larger parcels, companies..). Some measures are contra-productive
- Missing local market with local products and soft tourism
- Missing or almost absent monitoring system, providing sufficient feedback for agricultural policy
- Poor communication, tension and lack of cooperation between some institutions  
(e.g. MoA and MoE and at the regional level)

# SWOT analysis

## OPPORTUNITIES

- Increasing number of young people, who want to move out of the town and live in the countryside,
- Increasing demand for the bio-products, local products, for soft forms of tourism
- Available financial sources to be used after implementing EU agricultural policy
- The capacities of state administrations and NGOs have increased

# SWOT analysis

## THREATS

- Traditional knowledge and the relationship to the landscape will die when the present generation of farmers is gone
- The local population is aging, and the trend to leave the rural areas continues
- Future steps of the EU CAP – on the European level this system may not be sustainable

# Findings

- Absence of any SARD or SARD-M policy
- Czech agricultural policy took a huge step forward after joining the EU and adopting EU agriculture and environmental policy. EU financial support helps to stabilize the financial condition of farmers
- Czech institutions function well and are able to implement agricultural and other policies, although long-standing tension between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment seems to be serious problem
- Policy processes have been positively influenced by application of EU rules, yet full transparency is missing, especially during final steps in the preparation of strategic documents
- On the other hand, the involvement of NGOs, the public and other stakeholders has improved greatly



# Recommendations

- Focus on improving monitoring and providing feedback
- Develop local markets for agricultural and other products, and develop soft tourism; promote regional brands and diversification of the production
- Lessen bureaucracy and provide more favourable legislation for small farms, small processing companies and local markets
- Incorporate the specificities of the Czech Carpathian Region into RDP. Create more allowances for respecting the local specificities, increasing the diversity of activities



**Thank you !**