

# FRAMEWORK FOR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FOR CWI

## Project summary

*Project title, information about the applicant, short description including objectives, budget, partners, duration*

**Project title:** Carpathian Wetland Initiative

**Applicant:** Carpathian Wetland Centre (State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic ?)

## Project Aims

The general project aim is to support the conservation, management and wise use of all types of wetlands in the Carpathian region, which represents an important biogeographical, diverse mountainous region and source of important European rivers, to enhance international cooperation in coordinated regional efforts in protection, restoration and sustainable use of vital habitats. The aim is also to promote and support synergies and collaboration between ministries, agencies, institutions and other relevant national authorities, partners and stakeholders to reach sustainable use and conservation of wetlands and in river basin management.

## Objectives/Goals:

The objectives of the project are:

- To contribute to implementation of the obligations of the EU Habitats Directive, Birds Directive and Water Framework Directive and relevant principles of other agreements in the countries of the Carpathian region.
- To contribute to implementation of the relevant provisions of the Carpathian Convention (especially articles on biodiversity and water/river basin management), and its (draft) Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity.
- To contribute to implementation of the relevant provisions and resolutions of the Ramsar Convention on wetlands and assist Carpathian countries in harmonising of common efforts.
- To contribute to global efforts to reduce carbon emissions from the destruction of peatlands, to support carbon storage and contribute to mitigation of global climate change by protection and programme of restoration of peatland and other wetland habitats in the Carpathians.
- Exchange and share of information, experience.
- To bring into practice the priorities (key points) identified by the Carpathian countries and partners in the process of development of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative and included in the CWI ToR, especially:
  1. Information on wetland ecosystems

Harmonisation of wetland information and data throughout the region using the experience and work of the Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative (CERI) and national projects developing Natura 2000/Emerald networks

2. National focal points

Support the facilitation role of members of the Board in the inter-sectoral cooperation and international collaboration, and the coordination of national teams, expert networks and institutions.

3. Designation of additional Wetlands of International Importance

Wetland inventory and assessment – leading to the designation of additional Ramsar sites, including transboundary sites, according to the vision and guidelines provided in the Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance to ensure the fully representative network of globally important sites of wetland ecosystems in the Carpathian region; wetland monitoring, restoration and sustainable use

4. Integrating wetlands into river basin management

Provisions of the EU Water Framework Directive will be an important guiding tool for some aspects of the CWI. Promotion and contribution to the collaboration between relevant national authorities at river basin level, assuring thus wetland management and water allocation to wetlands are integrated into river basin management

5. Wetland restoration

Identify and develop specific wetland restoration projects in major Carpathian catchments

6. Transboundary wetland ecosystems

Identify potential transboundary wetland ecosystems and possibilities for their joint management

7. Species and habitat monitoring

Aim to harmonise the monitoring methodologies of Carpathian wetland ecosystems and their key species, with particular regard to habitats and species listed in the annexes of the EU Habitats and Birds Directives, as well as indicators developed for broader use within the Ramsar and Biodiversity Conventions

8. Capacity building and public awareness

To increase wetland management capacity in Carpathian countries, their expert institutions, and public awareness on the role of wetland services in human wellbeing, including establishment of a regional Wetland Centre, organise information, education and training activities.

## **Relevance**

*Contribution to reduction of economic and social disparities between the countries, fit within the strategies*

The project will contribute to reduction of disparities between EU and non-EU countries with harmonisation of their efforts, attitudes, legislation and methodologies used towards the common goals and interest.

It fits within the following documents, programmes and strategies:

- EU Habitats Directive, Birds Directive, Water Framework Directive
- Framework Convention on Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention)
- (Draft) Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable use of Biological and Landscape Diversity to the Carpathian Convention

- Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) and its Strategic Plan
- Resolutions of the Ramsar Convention concerning regional initiatives
- Key points to be developed by the Carpathian Wetland Initiative (results of the 6<sup>th</sup> Evian Encounter)
- Terms of Reference for the Carpathian Wetland Initiative
- Biodiversity Convention and its Programme of Work for Protected Areas
- 2012 Protected Areas for Living Planet project and WWF priorities
- Bern Convention and Emerald Network
- Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy
- Danube River Convention
- national strategies and Action Plans for Wetlands
- Mountain Partnership Watershed Management Initiative
- IUCN, Wetlands International

## **Project content**

*Description including objectives, expected outcomes/outputs, activities and the respective indicators, beneficiaries, target groups, risks and potentials, sustainability of the project*

### 1. Information on wetland ecosystems, including transboundary wetland ecosystems

Activities:

#### I. Platform of basic data on wetlands

- Organising of the first Carpathian wetland conference to establish priorities in research, inventory and management of wetlands in the Carpathians and to agree on the basis for further cooperation and development of the initiative (2009).

Outputs: international conference with participation of relevant experts, national authorities, international partners and NGOs from all Carpathian countries, with proceedings published.

- Using of unified classification system of wetland habitats compatible with EU (Natura 2000) system, compatible protocols for wetland inventory, guidelines for evaluation and interpretation of data for all Carpathian countries (using experience and work of the CERI project and Natura 2000/Emerald network development).

Outputs: Guidelines for inventory, evaluation and interpretation of data

- Training and workshop on field manual use, field mapping, storing of data, digitizing.

Outputs: trained specialists for coordinated field mapping and database

- Collection and harmonisation of data for Overview of Carpathian Wetlands – inventory in all countries, GIS polygons, identification of wetlands of international importance and of sites in need of restoration, as well as transboundary wetland sites in cooperation with neighbour institutions.

Outputs: database, publication on the Carpathian wetlands - preparation of texts and maps, database and visualisation of data on wetland habitats in the Carpathians;

Web page with data on the Carpathian wetlands of various types.

- Involvement in the 2012 PA4LP Carpathian Clearing House Mechanism.

Outputs: Data available for both the projects.

## 2. National Focal Points support

Activities:

### II. Platform for cooperation

- Organizing of meetings and electronic communication of members of the CWI Board, using preferably other relevant events and support of travel expenses if necessary.

Outputs: At least one meeting face-to face per year with reports of the meeting, reports of electronic and/or telephone communication.

- Facilitation of effective cooperation between the environmental, water management and other relevant sectors in respective Carpathian countries, coordination of national teams, expert networks and institutions.

Outputs: Meetings, agreements between sectors and institutions.

- Regular reporting to the Secretariats of the Carpathian and Ramsar Conventions and to the CWI Board.

Outputs: Annual Reports, progress reports as required.

## 3. Designation of additional Wetlands of International Importance, species and habitat monitoring

Activities:

### III. Platform for wetland assessment and monitoring

- Assessment of results of national wetland inventories with selection of the most valuable sites, leading to the designation of additional Ramsar sites, including transboundary sites, according to the vision and guidelines provided in the Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance to ensure the fully representative network of globally important sites of wetland ecosystems in the Carpathian region; (*last year*)

Outputs: List of potential sites of international importance fulfilling criteria for designation.

- Development of harmonised wetland monitoring methodologies of Carpathian wetland ecosystems and their key species, with particular regard to habitats and species listed in the annexes of the EU Habitats and Birds Directives, as well as indicators developed for broader use within the Ramsar and Biodiversity Conventions; Translation of general guidelines on wetland restoration and sustainable use into national languages. (*last year*)

Outputs: Guidelines for harmonised wetland habitats and species monitoring published and placed on the web;  
Guidelines on wetland restoration and sustainable use translated into national languages published and placed on the web.

## 4. Integrating wetlands into river basin management

Activities:

### IV. Platform for integrated river basin management, especially in shared catchments

- Organising of national seminars/workshops for relevant national authorities at river basin level on wetland management and water allocation to wetlands

within the river basin management plans using Ramsar guidance (Handbook 7 “River Basin Management”) and the EU Water Framework Directive Guidance Document 12 (“The Role of Wetlands in the Water Framework Directive”).

Outputs: Series of workshops or seminars for relevant stakeholders on wetland management and water allocation to wetlands when developing river basin management plans;  
Principles of the Ramsar and WFD guidance translated into the national languages and published.

- Facilitation of bilateral consultations and meetings on integrating wetlands into river basin management in shared wetlands and catchments, bilateral agreements on recognizing common objectives and principles of their management and wise use, based on experience of successful case studies.

Output: Meetings of experts and relevant stakeholders on integrating wetlands into river basin management in shared wetlands and catchments, bilateral agreements.

- Develop/prepare handbooks and/or brochures, leaflets on
  - retention of water resources in the uplands of catchment basins (in forests, mires, river floodplains and aquifers);
  - guidance and interpretation document on importance of river sediments and limitation of river sediment removals;
  - guidance on conservation of natural river morphology and preparation of unified / harmonised classification system of river morphology with illustrated interpretation manual/wordbook of morphological elements in national languages;
  - recognition of the ecological services provided by Carpathian rivers and related wetlands in all sectoral policies;

Outputs: Handbooks, brochures, leaflets, interactive CD on river morphology.

- Cooperate on development of a project of best practice in retention of water resources in the uplands of catchment basins.

Output: Project proposal.

- Involvement in the planned projects (EU Interreg, Tisa River basin) which will include water/river basin management, communication and consultations with Carpathian Convention Secretariat and ICPDR.

Outputs: Agreements on participation in relevant projects.

## 5. Wetland restoration

Activities:

### V. Platform for wetland restoration activities

- Develop wetland restoration strategies/policies for montane/submontane wetlands in a number of Carpathian countries.

Output: Wetland restoration strategy/policy in a number of Carpathian countries.

- Identify priority sites for restoration from results of national wetland inventories.

Output: List of priority sites for wetland restoration for future restoration projects.

## 6. Capacity building and public awareness

Activities:

### VI. Platform for capacity building and public awareness

- Preparation, distribution and evaluation of a questionnaire on training priorities and needs and development of training modules and training programme according to results of the questionnaire.  
Outputs: Questionnaire results; training module, training programme.
- Organisation of training courses for trainees from the Carpathian countries focused on priorities.  
Outputs: One/two training courses for trainees from Carpathian countries
- Establishment of a database of educational and training institutions and experts aimed at wetlands and communication with them.  
Outputs: database, information.
- Development and production of brochures, leaflets and posters on the Carpathian wetlands and their functions and services for human wellbeing and for biodiversity to support campaigns, and their presentation on web page.  
Outputs: brochures, leaflets, stickers and posters on the Carpathian wetlands and their functions and services in national languages and in English (hard copy and electronic versions).
- Establishment and support for regional Wetland Centre and its activities (coordination, information transfer, education, information sources collection, harmonisation with the CC Protocol on Biodiversity, Working Group on Biodiversity of the Carpathian Implementation Committee, WWF project 2012 Protected Areas for Living Planet and the Clearing House Mechanism, Carpathian Network of Protected Areas, etc.). Preparation, study tour – Wetland Centres in Europe.  
Outputs: educational and public awareness activities, information transfer, web page maintenance, meetings, supplement of library with new publications, CDs, DVDs, maps, programme and yearly plan for work.

### **Beneficiaries:**

Relevant ministries (access to the data, improved information base, transnational coordination of policies and programmes)

Professionals of national institutions responsible for nature conservation, wetland management and river basin management, participation in pilot projects, implementation of coordinated policy approaches

Specialists with improved capacity and opportunity for field research, analysis and results, new contacts, using of new methods

Non-governmental organisations from coordination, improved knowledge and the opportunity to contribute with further initiatives

Local communities of the Carpathians and downstream and lowland communities, benefiting from sustainable development and ecological services provided by wetlands, improved awareness.

### **Project justification**

Contribution to sustainable development of the Carpathian region through conservation activities to protect and wisely manage viable and valuable habitats on which depend communities in the region but also beyond this (wetlands, sources of drinking water, flood prevention, fish and other resources).

The project will consolidate, harmonise and complement the information base on wetland ecosystems, their monitoring and management in the region and thus contribute to

implementation of the obligations of the EU Habitats Directive, Birds Directive and Water Framework Directive and relevant principles of other agreements (e.g. the Bern Convention, Convention on Biodiversity) in the countries of the Carpathian region.

Contribution to implementation of the relevant provisions of the Carpathian Convention (especially articles on biodiversity and water/river basin management), and its (draft) Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity and to implementation of the relevant provisions and resolutions of the Ramsar Convention on wetlands and assist Carpathian countries in harmonising of common efforts.

Implementation of the objectives of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative as agreed and stated in the Terms of Reference of CWI approved by the Carpathian Convention bodies.

Contribution to global efforts to reduce carbon emissions from the destruction of peatlands, to support carbon storage and contribute to mitigation of global climate change by protection and programme/policy of restoration of peatland and other wetland habitats in the Carpathians.

The project builds on the existing strategies and structures of the Carpathian Convention, Ramsar Convention and other treaties, providing a transnational framework for the application of EU policies throughout the Carpathian region.

The transnational cooperation and outreach processes and capacity building activities will strengthen regional implementation capacities and mechanisms for the future.

### **Project organisation**

*Organisational chart, responsibilities...*

Coordinator, manager

CWI Board

Scientific Board – specialists on wetland inventory, monitoring, management, restoration and education

### **Detailed implementation Schedule**

*Including milestones and indicators based on which monitoring of progress will be done*

Work Plan of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative for period 2009-2011 (enclosed).

### **Budget**

*Eligible costs, own contribution, amount of grant, co-financing, any other financial sources,*

*Note: Czech Ministry of Environment and Slovak State Nature Conservancy have contributed*

### **Procurement**

*Procurement procedures for goods and services*

### **Development impact**

*Monitoring and evaluation of output/outcome/impact indicators*

### **Annexes**

Partners and cooperation:

UNEP – Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, Vienna

Carpathian Project

Ramsar Convention Secretariat, Gland

Danube Protection Commission (ICPDR)  
Wetlands International, Wageningen  
Wetlands International Black Sea Office, Kiyv  
Project WWF-DCP 2012 Protected Areas for Living Planet – implementation of the  
Programme of Work for Protected Areas of the Convention on Biodiversity  
CWI National Focal Points/Board members  
EURAC  
CERI – Daphne – Institute of Applied Ecology, Bratislava

Annex 1 – Results of the 6<sup>th</sup> Evian Encounter  
Annex 2 – Terms of Reference of the CWI  
Annex 3 - National Focal Points and contacts for CWI  
Annex 4 – Work Plan of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative

Key points to be developed by the Carpathian Wetland Initiative:

1. Information on wetland ecosystems  
Harmonisation of wetland information and data throughout the region using the experience and work of the Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative (CERI) and national projects developing Natura 2000/Emerald networks
2. National focal points  
They were established during 2004-2006 to improve exchange of wetland-related information, inter-sectoral cooperation and international collaboration. Their role within the project along with facilitation of effective cooperation between the environmental, water management and other relevant sectors will be extended to coordinating national teams, expert networks and institutions
3. Designation of additional Wetlands of International Importance  
Wetland inventory and assessment – leading to the designation of additional Ramsar sites, including transboundary sites, according to the vision and guidelines provided in the Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance to ensure the fully representative network of globally important sites of wetland ecosystems in the Carpathian region; wetland monitoring, restoration and sustainable use
4. Integrating wetlands into river basin management  
Provisions of the EU Water Framework Directive will be an important guiding tool for some aspects of the CWI. Promotion and contribution to the collaboration between relevant national authorities at river basin level, assuring thus wetland management and water allocation to wetlands are integrated into river basin management
5. Wetland restoration  
Identify and develop specific wetland restoration projects in major Carpathian catchments
6. Transboundary wetland ecosystems  
Identify potential transboundary wetland ecosystems and possibilities for their joint management
7. Species and habitat monitoring  
Aim to harmonise the monitoring methodologies of Carpathian wetland ecosystems and their key species, with particular regard to habitats and species listed in the annexes of the EU Habitats and Birds Directives, as well as indicators developed for broader use within the Ramsar and Biodiversity Conventions
8. Capacity building and public awareness



To increase wetland management capacity in Carpathian countries and public awareness on the role of wetland services in human wellbeing, including establishment of a regional Wetland Centre, organise information, education and training activities.