









National achievements and challenges related to the implementation of the Carpathian Convention











European Academy of Bolzano (EURAC) Institute for Regional Development and Location Management Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (ISCC) UNEP Vienna Office

Miriam L. Weiß, Dr. Thomas Streifeneder Viale Druso/Drususallee 1 I-39100 Bolzano/Bozen Harald Egerer Vienna International Centre A-1400 Vienna/Wien

and EURAC Office Vienna Giacomo Luciani

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Authors:

Miriam L. Weiß, Dr. Thomas Streifeneder Institute for Regional Development and Location Management European Academy of Bolzano/Bozen Viale Druso 1 I-39100 Bolzano/Bozen www.eurac.edu

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Introduction



1. Introduction

1.1. Objective of the publication

This report aims at providing a synthetic and comprehensive overview of the relevant policies, projects, initiatives, best practices, etc. related to the implementation of the Carpathian Convention (CC) since the publication of the assessment "A Heightened Perspective" (2007), carried out by the Regional Environmental Center (REC) and the Institute for Regional Development and Location Management of the European Academy of Bozen-Bolzano (EURAC). It serves as an overview of opportunities and challenges for multiple promotional uses by identifying problems and achievements in the Carpathian region. National achievements and challenges related to the implementation process of the CC are pointed out. In the view of the large number of national activities, special cases are selected to highlight the (trans) national achievements since the last report.

1.2. Expected results

This report is expected to provide stakeholders involved in the implementation of the CC with the following output:

- List of relevant regional, national, transnational achievements (laws, agreements, projects, initiatives, best practices, documents, publications, etc.);
- Map of the Carpathian area indicating:
 - National and transnational projects;
 - National best practices;
- Identification of problems and challenges for future implementation steps;
- Conclusions: Synthetic analysis of the achievements:
 - legal character;
 - thematic gaps;
 - geographical gaps;
- Outlook: Recommendations and possible guidelines.

1.3. Methodology

By means of a standardized questionnaire elaborated by EURAC¹⁾ (composed of 16 questions, see Annex 5.1.) and personal telephone interviews, information on the national achievements, problems, and opportunities since 2007 was obtained from the National Focal Points (NFP) of Czech Republic (CZ), Hungary (HU), Romania (RO), Republic of Serbia (RS), Poland (PL), Slovakia (SK) and Ukraine (UA) regional and national stakeholders as well as experts as indicated by the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (ISCC). Literature and desk research by Eurac staff supplement the provided information.

 $^{1) \ \} Sent out by the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (ISCC) by E-Mail on 2 December 2010. \\$



General issues



2. General issues

2.1. Introduction

This report analyses the thematic priorities and the legal, political, institutional and financial framework of the seven countries belonging to the Carpathian Convention. It focuses on the national and transnational achievements since 2007, though in some particular cases reference is also made to earlier activities. Most information was provided by the NFPs, which in most cases consulted national, regional, and local stakeholders and experts in answering the questionnaire. Further information on specific cases was obtained from stakeholders, experts indicated by the ISCC and desk research. If not cited otherwise, the information has been provided by the NFPs.

Chapter 2 provides a general overview of the institutional framework and involvement at different administrative levels per country. Bearing in mind the large number of documents and organizations mentioned by the NFPs, legislative and institutional accomplishments are presented by means of aggregated figures. It will, however, be referred to selected legislation and institutions in chapters two and three. The core assessment of national achievements in the Carpathian countries (chapter 3) has been carried out according to the articles of the CC. This part is followed by conclusions as well as the main challenges and opportunities encountered on the national level to provide an outlook on future steps that should be taken. National as well as Carpathian-wide publications and other documentation are listed in chapter 4. The Annex contains further documentation of the Carpathian countries' work (maps, publications, policies, participation in multilateral agreements, etc.).

2.2. Typology of CC-implementation measures

According to the NFPs, since 2007, around 60 regulatory documents²⁾ were introduced by the countries to implement the Carpathian Convention on the national level (Fig. 1). Nearly half of the papers are governmental laws, decrees, and ministerial orders/decisions. National strategies and plans and programs constitute the second biggest share of CC-implementation measures. Other instruments are protocols and rulebooks.

²⁾ Refer to Annex 5.6 for the full list of documents.

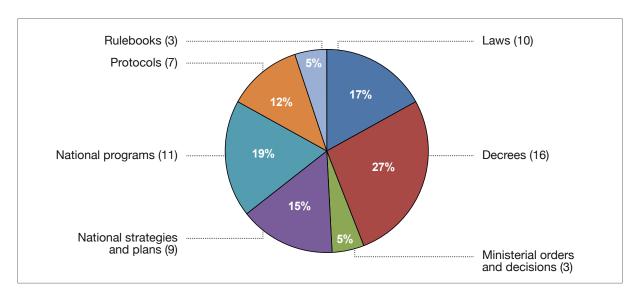


Fig. 1: Typology and number of national CC-implementation measures for the period 2003-2019³⁾ according to the NFPs.

2.3. Institutional framework for the implementation

2.3.1. Involved institutions

According to the NFPs, the governmental institutions⁴⁾, state agencies, and national research organizations are identified as main driving forces in implementing the Carpathian Convention. National/state institutions also constitute the largest share in all countries (Fig. 2, Fig. 3). At the same time, a large number of institutions operate at the regional and local levels (51 %). Exemplary of this are **Poland** and the **Ukraine** (Fig. 3).

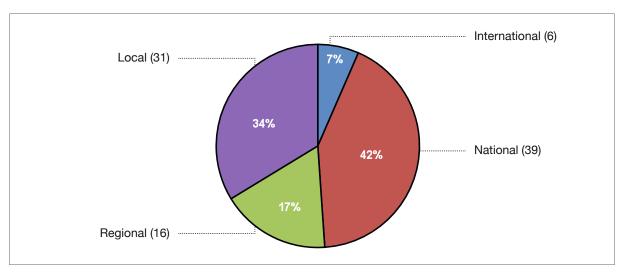


Fig. 2: Levels of institutional involvement in CC-implementation in all countries according to the NFPs.

³⁾ Some national programs, which started in 2003 and last until 2007, are included. Years of reference per country: Czech Republic, 2009; Hungary, 2003-2014; Poland, 2007-2030; Romania, 2010-2011; Serbia, 2008-2019; Slovak Republic, 2003 and 2008; Ukraine, 2007-2015.

⁴⁾ E.g. Ministries for Rural/Regional Development, Environment, Transport, Agriculture, Mining and Spatial Planning.

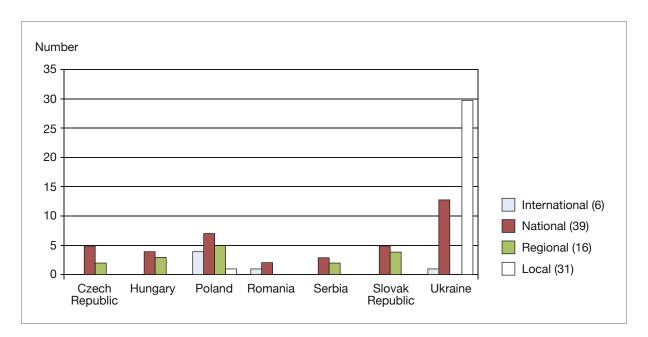


Fig. 3: Levels of institutional involvement in CC-implementation by country according to the NFPs.

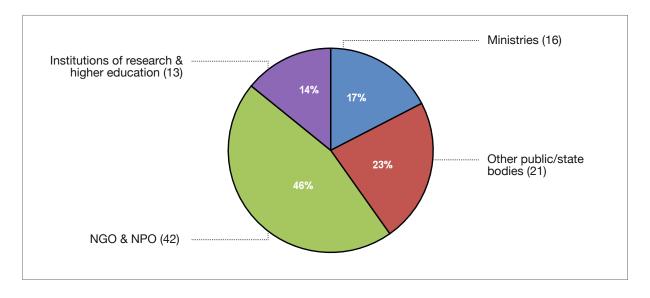


Fig. 4: Institutions involved in promoting CC in the countries according to the NFPs.

2.3.2. Main driving forces (institutions) for the implementation of the Carpathian Convention

In the **Czech Republic** the driving force is mainly the Ministry of the Environment. A stronger involvement of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry for Regional development is anticipated with regard to the prospect of adopting the new protocols on Sustainable Forest Management and Sustainable Tourism. Moreover, the Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic including the Landscape Protected Areas Administrations drive CC-implementation. The Institute for Environmental Policy (NGO) provides a database of information regarding CC-implementation in the country. On the regional level in the Carpathians, the Bílé Karpaty Education and Information Centre (NGO) and the Moravia-Silesia Regional Authority are active.

The **Hungarian** Ministry for Rural Development and the three affected Directorates of the National Parks Duna-Ipoly, Bükki, and Aggteleki were pointed out as driving forces. Also, the NGOs CEEweb for Biodiversity, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), and Regional Environmental Center (REC) strongly promote the Carpathian Convention in the country.

In **Poland**, the Ministry of the Environment with the NFP and the Steering Committee of the Carpathian Convention are considered the driving forces on national level. At regional level, the department of Country-Side of the Marshal Office of Silesian Province, the Upper Silesian Nature Heritage Centre, the University of Silesia, the Regional Directorate of State-Forests and the Workshop for All Beings (NGO) run the CC-activities in the Silesian Province. The work by research institutes, results of their studies and analyses can also be indicated as a driving force behind the implementation of the Carpathian Convention. Research organizations operating in the Polish Carpathian area are e.g. the Institute of Technology and Life Sciences (supervised by the Minister for Agriculture), the Institute of Nature Conservation and the Polish Academy of Science. Local authorities and NGOs endorsing the CC are the Association of Ecopsychology, which promotes the CC on its website, and the Country Cultural centre in Ochotnica Górna which promotes nature, culture and tourism values of Gorce Mountains and is developing the historical "Trail of Woloska Culture".

The **Romanian** Ministry of Environment and Forests which is also the NFP and the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism have been pointed out as motivating powers. The WWF Danube Carpathian Programme (WWF DCP) continues to be a strong promoter of the Carpathian Convention in Romania as over 50 % of the Carpathian mountains and 80 % of the Danube Delta are on Romanian territory.

In **Serbia**, driving forces are the Ministry of Environment, Mining and Spatial Planning as well as the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia. An involved research institution is the Society of Young Researchers Bor.

The **Slovak** Ministry of the Environment, the State Nature Conservancy, Slovak Environmental Agency, as well as the Institute of Landscape Ecology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences were referred to as drivers of CC-implementation. The involvement of both the DAPHNE Center for Applied Ecology and the Bratislava Regional Environmental Center (REC) contributes to CC-promotion in Slovakia.

Ukrainian government institutions moving forward CC-implementation are the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and its territorial authorities. Sectoral organizations relevant to CC-implementa-

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tion are various government institutions (the Ministries of Agrarian Policy and Food; Culture; Regional Development, Construction and Municipal Services; and Infrastructure) as well as the State Agency on Forest Resources of Ukraine and its territorial authorities on Forestry and Hunting and the state Agency on Water Resources. Involved scientific and research institutes are the National Academy of Sciences, the Ukrainian science and research institute of mountain forestry (Ivano-Frankivsk City), the Institute of Ecology of the Carpathians (Lviv City) and the Institute of strategic research (Lviv City). NGOs are promoting the Carpathian Convention on the national level (three) and local level (26). Additionally, the Ukrainian Carpathian region currently has 182 recreational and awareness rising centers: 29 in Ivano-Frankivska oblast, 111 in Chernivetska oblast, 35 in Lvivska oblast, seven in Zakarpatska oblast. Five forest museums are being created.

2.4. Coordination committee at national and regional levels to coordinate the implementation activities on the different administrative levels

In order to strengthen the institutional framework within the individual Carpathian countries, the establishment and strengthening of coordination committees both at national and regional levels has been recommended in "A Heightened Perspective" (REC/Eurac, 2007, p. 115). An overview of currently existing commissions of such type, which could improve implementation activities and promote sustainable development in the Carpathian area, is presented in Tab. 1.

Tab. 1: Overview of coordination committees on national or local level in the Carpathian countries.

Coordination committee	CZECH REPUBLIC	HUNGARY	POLAND	ROMANIA	SERBIA	SLOVAK REPUBLIC	UKRAINE
National	Y*/P	N	Y	not known	Y/P	not known	Υ
Local	not known	not known	not known	not known	not known	not known	Υ
* Y = ves. P = partially. N = no							

In Czech Republic regular annual meetings of CC stakeholders take place, which the regional NGOs and other stakeholders are invited to in order to meet with the state and regional representatives. In Hungary, the Ministry for Rural Development is responsible for nature conservation, biodiversity, forest management, agriculture, water management and coordinates the participation of other governmental organizations in the implementation of the CC. A National Steering Committee (composed of representatives of all ministries involved in the implementation of the Carpathian Convention, regional and local authorities, self-governments, scientific institutions, euroregions, and NGOs) coordinates activities in Poland. In addition, two administrative bodies coordinating cooperation between neighbouring Carpathian countries exist: the Inter-Governmental Commission on transborder cooperation (coordinated

by the Ministry of Interior and Administration) and the Visegrad Group (V4; representatives of the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovak Republic, and Hungary; coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs). In **Serbia**, the Ministry of Environment, Mining and Spatial Planning has been pointed out as the main authority. By means of legislations and collaboration with Science Institutions and protected areas (PA) managements, it can conduct implementation activities on different administrative levels. In the **Slovak Republic**, a good cooperation exists between the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. At the national level in **Ukraine**, the Coordination Council on the implementation of the Framework Convention on Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians was created in 2004. Its members are: Government representatives (including local authorities), scientific and non-governmental organizations. On the local level, Coordination Councils are created in Chernivetska, Ivano-Frankivska, Lvivska and Zakarpatska oblasts (Council members are: local authorities, scientific and non-governmental organizations).

2.5. National action plans for the Carpathian region to promote the implementation of the Carpathian Convention

A specific strategy or action plan for the Carpathian region does not exist in the **Czech Republic**, **Poland**, and **Romania** according to the respective NFPs. **Serbia** has passed the National Law on Ratification of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of biological and Landscape Diversity to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians. Due to the territorial extent of the Carpathians in the **Slovak Republic**, the country adopted a Strategic Plan on Biodiversity that is applicable to the entire national territory. The **Ukraine** has issued two ministerial documents ⁵⁾, and decisions of Oblast Councils on local action plans. In **Hungary**, the Aggtelek, Bükk and Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorates do not have any specific strategy/action plan for the Carpathian region. The execution of wolf and lynx Strategic Action Plans and other Local Management Plans is in progress.

2.6. Inter-institutional cooperation and cross-cutting issues on the national level

Most Carpathian countries give crucial importance to cooperation between institutions on the regional, national, as well as international levels, in implementing the CC as can be inferred from Tab. 2. The crosscutting nature of various issues has been recognized and is attested by respective projects (e.g. Move4-Nature - see chapter 3.1 - and other initiatives). This shows that some NFPs perceive the institutional cooperation and cross-cutting issues as being realized in concrete projects.

In line with this inter-institutional commitment and recognition of cross-cutting issues, the positive involvement of Carpathian countries in various international agreements has to be pointed out. An overview of the multilateral agreements, which all or some Carpathian countries participate in, is provided in Annex 5.5, Tab. 7.

⁵⁾ Degree of the cabinet of the Ministers "On the Strategy of the Implementation of the Framework Convention on Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians" (2007).

Order of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine "On the Action Plan of the Strategy of the Implementation of the Framework Convention on Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians" (2007).

Tab. 2: Overview of inter-institutional cooperation and cross-cutting issues on national level according to NFPs 6).

Czech Republic	 Generally considered as very relevant. Creation of network of NGOs and other organizations for acquisition of funding opportunities and setting of thematic priorities. Incorporation of CC issues in local, national and cross-border level projects. Main issues: biodiversity conservation, sustainable tourism, preservation and management of Carpathian Heritage, environmental education and public awareness raising. Regular annual meetings of CC stakeholders with the support of the Ministry of Environment and Northern Alliance for Sustainability (ANPED) organized by the Institute for Environmental Policy (NGO). Discussion about the Carpathian Heritage Inventory (CHI), already integrated in a project on international level. Attendance of a representative of the CC focal point⁷⁾ and relevant PA Administrations officers, regional officers and local representatives.
Poland	 Cooperation with NGOs within the National Steering Committee[®]. Education programme for farmers on protection of breeding species from wolves by nature conservation services in cooperation with Association for Nature WOLF (NGO).
Romania	 International projects that are considered as cross-cutting issues, e.g. Move4Nature project (for education) WWF Danube Carpathian Programme
Serbia	Education for promotion of local goods and handicrafts, traditional architecture and sustainable use of domestic animals and wild plants.
Slovak Republic	 In general, a large number of people is engaged in implementing international cooperation. Better coordination of projects at the national level, between NGOs and public administration. Request by the land use administration of the participation of landowners, farmers, foresters, businesses, local authorities and residents and NGOs. Increasing awareness building to avoid conflicts of interest, e.g. in protected areas, forests, bird areas, areas of arable land, meadows, and farm ponds.
Ukraine	 Cooperation with public is one of the main components of nature conservation policy. Publication of documents on CC-implementation on the website of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources. Existence of 182 recreational and awareness rising centers. Implementation of 17 ecological and awareness rising routes.

No communication of relative information by Hungary.
 All minutes from the meetings and other documents can be downloaded here (only in Czech language): http://chm.nature.cz/information/karpatska-umluva/copy_of_fol218338.
 Representatives of all ministries involved in the implementation of the CC, regional and local authorities, self-governments, scientific institutions, Euroregions, NGOs.



National achievements in the Carpathian Countries



3. National achievements in the Carpathian Countries

3.1. Analysis of the implementation of the operative articles of the Carpathian Convention

Introduction

This chapter covers the core assessment of national achievements in the Carpathian countries according to the articles of the Carpathian Convention. The article-sections are subdivided in: national thematic priorities (according to NFPs, Annex, Tab. 5); policy and legal assessment; projects, initiatives, and other activities. Where no information is given, no input was provided by the NFPs or experts.

Selected specific projects which strongly support the implementation of the Carpathian Convention are presented in separate boxes. A map indicating **all** projects, initiatives, best practices, etc. ordered by the articles of the Carpathian Convention can be found on the inside back cover (Fig. 5). As the spatial reference of some activities could not be indicated precisely – and as some activities involve two countries and more – a box shows the project involvement of countries per article of the Convention.

General issues

As reported by the NFPs, in most of the Carpathian countries, the majority of legislative acts issued by the Carpathian Countries relate to the Articles 4 – 7. However, some countries also set priorities for activities related to Articles 8 –13 (see also Annex, Tab. 5). Several countries, e.g. **Serbia**, **Hungary**, and **Ukraine** have also adopted national strategies and programmes which deal with cross-cutting issues and thus cover several CC-articles¹⁾.

Articles 1 and 2:

Geographical scope and General objectives and principles

Policy and legal assessment

While the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity of the CC has been signed by all Parties to the Convention, it has not yet entered into force in all member states (Tab. 3). The Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management and that on Sustainable Tourism were adopted by the High Level Representatives of the Carpathian Countries at the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP3) on 27 May 2011.

¹⁾ Refer to Annex 5.6 for the full list of documents.

Tab. 3: Status of Ratficiation of the Biodiversity Protocol (Carpathian Convention²⁾, 2011).

Country Signature		National Ratification, Accession, Acceptance or Approval	Deposit of Instrument of Ratification	Entry into Force
Penublic 19 June 2008 Presidential De		1 July 2009 Presidential Decree signed on 1 July 2009	5 August 2009	28 April 2010
Hungary 11 June 2009		2 December 2009 Resolution No. 281/2009	27 January 2010	28 April 2010
Poland	19 June 2008	9 December 2009	28 January 2010	28 April 2010
Romania	19 June 2008	12 July 2010 Law No. 137/2010 22 November 2010		20 February 2011
Serbia	19 June 2008			
Slovak Republic	18 June 2009	30 March 2011	5 May 2011	3 August 2011
Ukraine 19 June 2008 20		4 September 2009 Verkhovna Rada Bill Nr. 0142	4 September 2009	28 April 2010

Projects, initiatives, and other activities

All initiatives and projects showed a reference to the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians and the issues concerning Articles 1 and 2. The "scope" issue was analyzed, however, in detail in the framework of the **CADSES Carpathian Project** (see text box). Several possible approaches how to delimitate the Carpathian mountain region are documented in the publication of the European Academy, Bolzano/Bozen "Implementing an international mountain convention – An approach for the delimitation of the Carpathian Convention area" (2006). A further example of initiatives with crosscutting character is the project developed by REC "Building Capacity and Strengthening Cooperation for the Promotion of Transboundary Nature Conservation along the South Eastern European Green Belt".

The CADSES Carpathian Project (INTERREG CADSES 2000-2006) within a trans-Carpathian partnership involving all CC member states aimed at enhancing the sustainable development of the Carpathian region based on its rich natural and cultural heritage. The project partners worked on common and harmonized data and maps from the Carpathian Space and developed analyses, recommendations and a common conceptual document covering the contents of the Carpathian Convention (Articles 4-5 and 7-11). Pilot activities for selected topics were implemented. Several relevant publications were devised as e.g. a handbook for local authorities and development actors, the Carpathian Environment Outlook, the Carpathian Spatial Development Vision (VASICA) and the Atlas of the Carpathian Macroregion.

 $^{2) \} http://www.carpathian convention.org/status.htm\\$

Articles 3 and 5:

Land Resources Management and Spatial Planning

Thematic priorities

Poland's thematic priorities take into account the development of soil and landscape. **Romania** focuses on spatial planning though to a minor extent.

Policy and legal assessment

Serbia adopted the Law on Spatial Planning and issued Spatial Decrees on protection of single protected areas.

Projects, initiatives, and other activities

Only a few initiatives and projects are specifically dedicated to these two articles on issues with strong cross-cutting character. In **Slovakia** two initiatives directly refer to spatial planning "Parks and Economy – Developing Initiatives exploiting the Potential of Natural Heritage for Regional Spatial Development" and "Common best practices in spatial planning for the promotion of sustainable polycentric development". In **Ukraine** exists a draft document on "Spatial organisation of the econet in the river basins of Zakhidniy Bug and Dnister" ³⁾ pointing out explicitly the issue of land management.

Article 4:

Biological and Landscape Diversity

Thematic priorities

Most countries continue making efforts to conserve and make sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity in the Carpathian region. In **Ukraine** and **Czech Republic**, a focus is set on the establishment, expansion, and management optimization of protected areas. The Czech Republic additionally aims at species protection and **Ukraine** on the development of econets. **Poland** sets as a priority flora and fauna protection. **Serbia's** priorities include the integration of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity considerations into sectoral policies and supports an invasive alien species approach.

Policy and legal assessment

Hungary launched the third National Environmental Programme (NEP III, 2009-2014⁴⁾, following NEP II 2003-2008) with a focus on nature protection and industry (refer to Article 10): adding the independent bio-geographical unit Pannonicum to the EU's environmental heritage; expanding the NATURA 2000 area in Hungary to at least 15 % of the country; declaring 11 % of the country as being legally protected; implementing the national agro-environmental programme.

Poland issued for the years 2011-2030 the strategy of nature protection of Silesian Province. **Serbia** passed Laws on Nature Protection and on Game and Hunting. The National Environmental Protection Programme for the years 2010-2019, the Serbian National Strategy on Sustainable Development (2008-2017) and the Law on Environment are relevant not only to Article 4 issues but to other CC-articles as well. Additionally, Serbia issued rulebooks on the proclamation and protection of strictly protected, on

³⁾ No further information was provided and available.

 $^{4)\} http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/area/europe/v4+1/pdfs/ws_gh_0910_03.pdf$

protected wild flora, fauna and fungi, on Compensatory Measures, as well as on criteria for selecting habitat types.

In **Ukraine**, three presidential decrees (2009) were issued on the inclusion or the exclusion of endangered species from national lists of species. The regional program "Ecology 2011-2015", partly dedicated to oblast econet development according to CC principles has been submitted to Oblast Chernivetska Council for approval. Additionally, throughout 2007-2010 several scientific and research works aimed at biodiversity research and conservation.

Projects, initiatives, and other activities

The exceptional appreciation which was given to nature protection is the result of the numerous initiatives, projects and activities concerning Article 4 which were indicated by the NFPs and NGOs and other relevant institutions. Exemplary activities are:

- CZ: Conservation of biological diversity of Carpathian Mountain grasslands in the Czech Republic through targeted application of new EU funding mechanisms, Assessment of landscape migration permeability for large mammals and proposal of protective and optimization measures;
- HU: Nature Conservation research in Börzsöny, Bükk mountains, Aggtelek Karst;
- RO: The Life Nature project: Natura 2000 Sites in the Piatra Craiului National Park, Expanding protected areas in Romania, Improving the financial sustainability of the Carpathian System of Protected Areas, Bear Working Group;
- RS: The Protection of the environment to the integration of the natural heritage of Europe;
- PL: Carpathian Brown Bear Project;
- SK: Protecting the habitat diversity in the National Park Slovak Paradise;
- UA: Conservation and sustainable use of Ukrainian Carpathians' natural resources.

Several initiatives follow a transnational approach such as:

- CZ, HU, IT⁵⁾, PL, RO, RS, SK: **AKK Centrope** Implementation of measures along the Alpine-Carpathian Corridor and implementation in the region Centrope; **AKK Basic** Fundamentals for the creation of the Alpine-Carpathian Corridor (see text box);
- CZ, HU, PL, RO, RS, SK and IT: **BIOREGIO Carpathians** (see text box);
- Southern Carpathian Countries: Southern Carpathian Initiative;
- PL, RO, UA: Realization of the transboundary ecological connectivity in the Ukrainian Carpathians;
- RO, RS, UA: Proposal for Western Carpathian Ecological Network as a precondition for effective cross-border nature protection;
- PL, SK: Protection of endangered bird species in West Carpathian Mountains;
- CZ, SK: Butterflies CZ-SK Integrated protection of rare butterfly species of non-forest habitats, Falco cherrug-HU/SK Conservation of Falco cherrug in the Carpathian basin, **Protected Areas for a Living Planet** (see text box).

In certain cases nature protection is part of a more global approach including issues such as regional development and awareness raising. Good examples are the Slovakian projects "Parks and Economy – Developing Initiatives exploiting the Potential of Natural Heritage for Regional Spatial Development" and "Improving infrastructure and landscape conservation and environmental awareness in the territorial scope of the Report of the National Park Velka Fatra". Another interesting initiative is **AKK Centrope** – Implementation of measures along the Alpine-Carpathian Corridor and implementation in the region

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⁵⁾ Italy.

Centrope. The upcoming project "**BIOREGIO Carpathians** – Integrated management of biological and landscape diversity for sustainable regional development and ecological connectivity in the Carpathians" will probably contribute in a significant way to foster biological and landscape diversity.

The AKK Centrope project seeks to further establish unrestricted passageways for wild animals, enforce trans-sectoral activities to secure ecological networks, and strengthen public awareness of the importance of undisturbed green areas and eco-friendly land consumption. Centrope, co-financed by the EU Slovakia-Austria cross border cooperation programme, is a joint initiative of the Austrian Federal Provinces of Vienna, Lower Austria and Burgenland, of the Czech Region of South Moravia, of the Slovak Regions of Bratislava and Trnava, of the Hungarian Counties of Györ-Moson-Sopron and Vas as well as of the Cities of Bratislava, Brno, Eisenstadt, Györ, Sopron, St. Pölten, Szombathely and Trnava. The objective lies in the creation of a prospering European Region that exploits and focuses its economic, social and political assets as well as its linguistic and cultural variety in a joint effort to foster dynamic development. The activity focuses include research and training, economy and labour market, regional development, infrastructure and culture. The project AKK Basic aimed at re-establishing the wildlife migration corridor between the Alps and the Carpathians by first modeling the actual situation and then refining by planning and building green-bridges and improvements of the landscape connectivity.

The **BIOREGIO Carpathians** project involving partners from all the Carpathian Countries CZ, HU, PL, RO, RS, SK and from AT⁶ and IT (the Ministers of the Environment of the Carpathian Countries are observers), starting in 2011 until end of 2014, aims at implementing the main provisions of the Carpathian Convention Biodiversity Protocol. In particular it aims at enhancing the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of the biological and landscape diversity through a more effective harmonization of the management of the shared natural heritage, habitats and species, as well as the joint preservation and promotion of the natural values of the Carpathians in a transnational framework. The project builds on existing cooperation tools in the Carpathians such as the CC, providing multilevel governance and cross-sector integration.

The **Protected Areas for a Living Planet (PA4LP)** project has been launched as a tool to help governments to fulfill their commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Within the project, the WWF and Swiss-based MAVA Foundation ⁷⁾ have strengthened partnerships between governments, civil society, international and local community organizations in order to support delivery on biodiversity, climate change and poverty targets. In the Carpathian Ecoregion, that extends across CZ, HU, PL, RO, RS, SK, UA (one of five PA4LP-project areas), the following achievements can be highlighted:

- Operational regional Carpathian Network of Protected Areas,
- Economic valuation studies,
- Increased capacity of PA practitioners,
- Involvement of local people through participatory management,
- Online information platform Carpathian Protected Areas Clearing House Mechanism (CPA CHM),
- Development of Carpathian Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (CPAMETT).

Austria

⁷⁾ The MAVA Foundation-supported project PA4LP has involved a notable number of worshops, study tours, etc.

Article 6:

River Basin Management

Thematic priorities

Countries continue to recognize the values as well as risks stemming from the important Carpathian water resources (e.g. main watercourses Tisza and Morava). Sustainable water resources management remains of concern in several countries. E.g. **Ukraine** focuses on flood protection. **Hungary's** priorities include the efficient use of natural resources and an integrated water management with special regard to share water resources with the countries of the **Tisza River Basin** (see text box). The 'Tisza Group'⁸⁾ prepared and coordinated the Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan⁹⁾ (ITRBM Plan) that was adopted by Ministers and high level representative in April 2011. Countries also signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)¹⁰⁾, which includes relevant paragraph about further cooperation with the CC, to express their commitment to the ITRBM.

Policy and legal assessment

By means of the **Hungarian** National Fisheries Programme (2007-2013)¹¹⁾, the country addresses the storage capacity of fishponds, constituting an important aspect of the water management of the Carpathian basin. **Serbia** passed the Law on Water.

Projects, initiatives, and other activities

Almost all projects and initiatives dealing with issues related to sustainable and integrated water/river basin management show a cooperation within an international framework. This is the natural consequence of the challenges and respectively problems to be faced within water/river basin management which require a common and cross-border approach. Examples are:

- CZ, HU, PL, RO, RS, SK, UA and national, intergovernmental, and international institutions: **Carpathian Wetland Initiative** (CWI) (see text box);
- CZ, HU, IT, PL, RO, RS, SK: The Danube River Network of Protected Areas;
- AT, BG¹²⁾, CZ, HU, MD¹³⁾, RO, SK, Sl¹⁴⁾, UA: Conservation in the Danube-Carpathian;
- HU, RO, RS, SK, UA: Establishment of Mechanisms for Integrated Land and Water Management in the Tisza River Basin, Integrated multiple benefits of wetlands and floodplains into improved transboundary management for the Tisza River Basin;
- CZ, PL: Revitalization of the border river Olza.

⁸⁾ The Tisza Group also serves as a platform for strengthening coordination and information exchange among relevant international, regional and national bodies and projects in the Tisza River Basin. Its activities were supported via EC and UNDP/GEF funds: http://www.icpdr.org/icpdr-pages/tisar_2007.htm; http://www.icpdr.org/icpdr-pages/tisza_undp_gef.htm

⁹⁾ The plan includes the Tisza Joint Programme of Measures, listing the necessary measures to reach good water status in the TRB by 2015 (according to the EU Water Framework Directive). http://www.icpdr.org/icpdr-pages/item20100621095910.htm

 $^{10) \}quad http://www.icpdr.org/icpdr-pages/ministerial_meeting_tisza.htm$

National Fisheries Strategic Plan of Hungary for the programming period of 2007-2013, October 2007, http://www.fvm.gov.hu/doc/upload/200711/07_oct_nhst_en.pdf

¹²⁾ Bulgaria.

¹³⁾ Moldova.

¹⁴⁾ Slovenia.

The project "Establishment of Mechanisms for Integrated Land and Water Management in the **Tisza River Basin**" addresses flooding, pollution, loss of biodiversity and the need for sustainable development in the Tisza River Basin. A major output will be the development of a regionally owned Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Programme. The project "Integrating multiple benefits of wetlands and floodplains into improved transboundary management for the Tisza River Basin" will result in policies promoting the optimal use of wetlands/floodplains and other habitat for flood mitigation, nutrient retention, biodiversity enhancement and social amenity value. Effective floodplain management strategies including the adaptation to increased flood events will be implemented. Both projects are closely linked to the activities of the ICPDR ad hoc Tisza Group.

The Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI) aims at improving and coordinating within a trans-Carpathian partnership (all Carpathian countries, national institutions and international organizations) the implementation of the Ramsar Convention and its Strategic Plan in the Carpathian mountain region, which represents a major freshwater resource and is known for its great biodiversity and cultural richness. Its mission is to contribute to the implementation of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between the Ramsar Convention and UNEP Vienna ISCC. On the basis of this MoC the CWI facilitates the collaboration between the two Conventions and their Parties in their efforts in conservation and wise use of wetlands in the Carpathian region and beyond, through local, national, regional and international activities. The Ramsar Convention Secretariat and UNEP Vienna ISCC work together on eight joint activities which support the implementation of the Convention documents and protocols.

Article 7:

Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry

Thematic priorities

Sustainable and nature-friendly forest management is of main concern in several countries. **Romania**'s focus on forestry, this is reflected e.g. in the cooperation efforts within the WWF Danube Carpathian Programme (WWF DCP) on Responsible Forest Management, Pristine Forest Conservation and Protected Areas Development (WWF, 2011¹⁵⁾). In both **Ukraine** and **Romania**, the development of criteria of High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) is under way in cooperation with the WWF DCP. **Ukraine**'s focus on the development of protected areas is demonstrated by the expansion of three existing national nature parks and other PAs and the establishment of four new ones in the years 2008 – 2010. Provisions for the establishment of further nature parks and PAs are in place. The **Czech Republic** has also prioritized the designation and management of PAs as well as the optimization of a PA system. Even though agriculture plays an important economic role in the Carpathian countries, only **Hungary** explicitly refers to it as a main goal of its national strategies.

Policy and legal assessment

Hungary passed a New Forest Law (2009) that is said to be more favorable for nature conservation. The

¹⁵⁾ According to the Director of the WWF-Danube Carpathian Programme, Andreas Beckmann (phone interview on 18 April 2011).

same year, Cserhát Naturpark was founded and the official measures of Ranger Services were further elaborated.

The **Slovak Republic** adopted the National Forest Porgramme (NFPSR) in 2007. It sets sustainable forest management as basic principle and assumes the development of an economic system on satisfying social requirements for nature-protective and ecological as well as social functions of forests and forestry services. The **Slovak** National List of Special Protection Areas was adopted by the Government Decree No. 363 of 9 July 2003. Additionally, 21 special protection areas have been declared as of 15 October 2008; 17 special protection areas are yet to be declared. Three national parks (Tatra NP, Poloniny NP, Slovenský kras NP) and one protected landscape area (Poľana PLA) are included in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves of the UNESCO "Man and the Biosphere Programme".

Poland implemented regulations which emphasize the superior position of the protection over the production-function in planning and conducting the forest management. It is vividly enhanced through multiple educational programs undertaken by the State Forest staff both in class and in the outdoor environment. The country moreover introduced several instruments of Rural Development Policy for the period 2007-2013.

Serbia passed the Law on Forestry and launched the National strategy on Agriculture. In 2011, **Serbia** will sign the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management (according to Serbian NFP). In **Ukraine** in 2008, ministerial documents issue rules on the cutting in the Carpathian mountain forests.

Projects, initiatives, and other activities

Forestry projects were indicated more numerous than those related to agriculture. It is especially Ukraine that has launched several activities to protect the mountain forests as e.g. the "Moratorium on the main cutting and use of the crawler transport in high-mountains in force", "Improvement of forest system use, FORZA – Forestry development in Zakarpattya" and "Certification of forests". The cooperation between the Word Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the multi-national company IKEA has resulted in a programme on responsible forest management and protection, in the framework of which numerous workshops and trainings of hundreds of Romanian and Ukrainian foresters were carried out.

Concerning activities within the agricultural sector in Poland two projects can be indicated "Development of traditional herding" and "Education programme for farmers on protection of breeding species from wolves". In Czech Republic it is the project "Preservation of alluvial forest habitats in the Moràvka river Basin" which needs to be emphasized. The important international project "Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in the mountains (SARD-M)" involves all Carpathian countries and represents a framework for increased focus on sustainability issues within the processes of agricultural and rural development (see text box).

The **SARD-M** project serves as a link between mountain issues and Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD). The concept aims at facilitating the design of coherent policies, appropriate institutions and processes in the mountain regions of developed and developing countries. The project responds to increasing awareness among policy makers, the international community and civil society as to the role and value of mountain ecosystems and the current need for SARD mountain specific policies, legislation and institutions (see also: Ruffini F. V., C. Hoffmann, T. Streifeneder and K. Renner 2008: SARD-M Report for the Carpathian Convention Member States. Assessment of Policies, Institutions and Processes, Regional Synthesis for Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Republic of Serbia, Slovak Republic and Ukraine. European Academy of Bolzano/Bozen, p. 63.)

Article 8:

Sustainable Transport and Infrastructure

Thematic priorities

In **Romania**, infrastructure is set as a priority, though a less considered one. Overall, few initiatives related to transport and infrastructure have been pointed out by the NFP.

Projects, initiatives, and other activities

The few initiatives communicated in the field of sustainable transport and infrastructure concern almost projects to improve or strengthen the infrastructure within nature parks. Slovakia established interesting projects in this regard as e.g. the initiative "Infrastructure development of Novohrad-Nógrád Geopark" which was carried out in cooperation between Hungary and Slovakia. Until now the development of railways (e.g. Cracow-Slovakia railway line) represent exceptional projects. With the participation of all Ministers of Transport of all seven Carpathian Countries the project "**Via Carpatia**", a railway line which links BG, GR ¹⁶⁾, HU, LT ¹⁷⁾, PL, and SK, is a noteworthy cross-cutting initiative linking in a sustainable way transport and tourism (see text box).

The project **Via Carpatia** aims at creating an international road route linking Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Greece. The idea of establishing this route was initiated by the governments of Poland, Lithuania, Slovakia and Hungary in 2006 by signing the Łańcut Declaration. In 2010, Ministers of Transport of all seven Carpathian countries signed the new Via Carpathian Declaration, which replaces this one from 2006 and extends the project.

Article 9:

Sustainable Tourism

Thematic priorities

Sustainable or eco-tourism are expressed priorities of Romania and Ukraine.

Policy and legal assessment

In **Ukraine**, local programs on NUTS2-level on tourism development were elaborated in order to create the conditions for ecotourism. They aim at conserving, protecting and sustainably using the Carpathian natural resources for touristic activity and fostering local/transboundary cooperation to achieve ecological integrity. **Serbia** will sign the CC Protocol on Sustainable Tourism in 2011, as stated by the NFP.

Projects, initiatives, and other activities

There are interesting and challenging projects dealing with sustainable tourism. Environmental friendly tourism was one of the core issues within the Carpathian Project. In 2011 will start the project **ACCESS-2MOUNTAIN** "Sustainable Mobility and Tourism in Sensitive Areas of the Alps and the Carpathians" which aims at linking in a sustainable way tourism and mobility to promote environmental friendly

¹⁶⁾ Greece.

¹⁷⁾ Lithuania.

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forms of tourism (see text box). Like the **ACCESS2MOUNTAIN** project, some further tourism initiatives are interlinked with other CC-articles, such as the infrastructure project "Via Carpatia" (see Article 8), and in the Ukraine the creation of tourist information desks which aims at raising awareness for behavioral aspects related to sustainable tourism. More initiatives and projects are:

- HU, SK: Development of exhibition sites and nature trails and release of popular scientific packages;
- PL: "Sustainable development of the Carpathians through environment-friendly tourism" (see text box); six projects on sustainable tourism;
- UA: VeloUkraine, Renovation of recreational infrastructure, Systematization of tourist routes;
- PL, UA: Green tourism management in the region Ukrainian Carpathians and Stanitsya Luganska; Know where to go. Collaboration of the local authorities in the field of Carpathian system of touristic information development.

The ACCESS2MOUNTAIN project aims at improving the sustainable accessibility and connection to, between, and in sensitive mountain regions. It will study best practices of soft tourist mobility. The project, involving several institutions from the Carpathians and the Alpine region, pursues different objectives concerning knowledge (e.g. for transport problems and solutions with soft mobility), infrastructure/connection (e.g. efficient, attractive, and competitive small railways and intermodal transport for tourism development), transnational mountain regional development (e.g. strengthening peripheral mountain regions through innovative, competitive offers for tourism), environment (reduction of green house gases etc.) and multi-level policy objectives (e.g. strengthening policy dialogue between/on transnational and EU level).

A remarkable Polish project is the **Sustainable development of the Carpathians through environment-friendly tourism** which was launched by the UNEP/GRID-Warsaw and carried out (January 2009 – November 2010) in partnership with the Association of Ecopsychology and the Northern Alliance for Sustainability (ANPED). The project aimed at promoting sustainable development of the Carpathian region through the development of environmentally friendly tourism in the mountainous communities. It was financially supported by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway (Financial Mechanism of the EEA and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism), as well as by the Polish state budget.

Article 10:

Industry and Energy

Thematic priorities

Poland sets as a priority environmental biotechnology.

Policy and legal assessment

As set out in the **Hungarian** National Environmental Programme (NEP) III, the main goals with regard to energy are: to increase proportion of renewable energy sources, to increase energy efficiency and to reduce energy dependency on imported sources. For the period 2007-2012, **Serbia** has launched the Programme of the Implementation of the Strategy for Development of Energy.

Projects, initiatives, and other activities

Although the Carpathian countries enacted legislation and strategic documents that aim at a sustainable use of resources and energy saving in production in order to meet the legal obligation to implement and apply EC legislation on industrial pollution control, concrete sustainable initiatives and projects on industrial matters still do not seem to be relevant to be promoted in the Carpathian countries until now. However, there exist exemplary activities as follows:

- Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) by the Secretariat for Central and Eastern Europe and Turkey involving AL ¹⁸), BG, BA ¹⁹), HR ²⁰), CZ, EE ²¹), HU, LV ²²), LT, MK, PL, RO, RS, SK, SI, TR ²³);
- Energy of the Carpathians in UA.

Article 11:

Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge

Thematic priorities

The preservation and promotion of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge is prioritized in the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Ukraine. The Czech Republic pursues the documentation and protection of heritage. Ukraine engages in the conservation and restoration of nature values and cultural heritage.

Policy and legal assessment

In Poland, the regional "Programme of the Economic Activation and the Preservation of the Cultural Heritage of Beskids and Cracow Częstochowa Jura – the Sheep Plus" was launched twice since 2007 (I. 2007-2009, II. 2010-2014). Moreover, from 2007-2010, about 47 activities were supported by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage as part of the Polish Cultural Heritage Policy, Priority 3, Protection of Folk Culture Programme.

¹⁸⁾ Albania.

¹⁹⁾ Bosnia and Herzegovina.

²⁰⁾ Croatia.

²¹⁾ Estonia.

²²⁾ Latvia.

²³⁾ Turkey.

Projects, initiatives, and other activities

Only a limited number of activities aim at the conservation of the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge. Some projects as the Czech "Mapping of the Carpathian Heritage Items" (see text box) and "Methodology for mapping of Carpathian Heritage" are focused on inventory work. Others, such as the transnational Czech and Slovakian initiative "Jablunkov Region Heritage", explicitly refer to the Carpathian Convention (see text box) and its practical implementation. Another international project is represented by the "Protection of cultural heritage within the Pieniny National Park on both sides of the Polish-Slovak border" endeavoring to protect the bats living in the attics of the churches located there.

Mapping of the Carpathian Heritage Items: The effort to map and capture significant items of the Carpathian Heritage in CZ has been reflected in the practical mapping in respective regions. First, in 2008, a map of the Carpathian Heritage of Zlín Region was published. This was followed by maps of Moravian-Silesia Region (2009) and South-Moravia Region (2010). The first two maps were coordinated by the Institute for Environmental Policy, the last map had been created by Bílé Karpaty Education and Information Centre. A number of local stakeholders, both experts, PA staff and local residents, have been consulted within the process. These pilot actions have led to the development of a methodology for the mapping of Carpathian Heritage, which will hopefully be utilised and will contribute to the creation of the Carpathian-wide Heritage Inventory. This was also listed among one of the goals outlined by the Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP 2).

The project Jablunkov Region Heritage: Carpathian Convention in Practice (2010-2011) intends to promote environment-friendly tourism, involves the public in solving environmental and cultural heritage protection problems, offers information, produce and expand teaching aids for schools, and generally contributes to the sustainable development of the region and fulfillment of the CC in practice. The project is supported by the Czech Ministry of the Environment Revolving Fund. Planned results and outputs are: maps of Carpathian natural and cultural heritage in Jablunkov region; "Nature Trail" with on-site information accessible via mobile phone; addition of new panels for the Mysterious Carpathians exhibition; communication and dissemination activities (internet portal, CD-ROM, educational programme for schools, etc.); meetings with local and regional stakeholders.

Article 12:

Assessment, Information, Monitoring and Early Warning

Thematic priorities

Only **Ukraine** has referred to the implementation of an environmental monitoring system as an explicit priority.

Projects, initiatives, and other activities

In all Carpathian countries several activities deal with Article 12. Important in this regard is the Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative (CERI) (see text box) an international network of NGOs and research institutes²⁴⁾, almost all activities are located on national level. The following projects were implemented on the national level:

- UA: Electronic data base: Information system on biodiversity of East Carpathians,
- SK: Sustainable development of towns and reduction of the negative effects of climate changes on the quality of life and the environmental conditions in the cities (within the Carpathian Project),
- PL: Sustainable development of towns and reduction of the negative effects of climate changes on the quality of life and the environmental conditions in the cities, Seminar on Communication in Relation to Nature Protection, Training on Natura 2000 for Local Administration,
- CZ, PL: Air quality information system on the border area of the Silesia and Moravy region,
- PL, SK: Analysis integration networking of regional potentials in the Podkarpackie Province and the Proszow Country,
- SK: Preparation and implementation of monitoring of habitats and species and to improve public disclosure, Monitoring and management of the cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo), Research and monitoring populations of large carnivores and the wild cat in Slovakia, Management models for grassland habitats,
- RS: Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements in South Eastern Europe.

The Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative (CERI) is an international network of NGOs and research institutes to work towards a common vision for conservation and sustainable development in the Carpathians. It was created to stem the loss of biodiversity in the Carpathians and, at the same time, support local economy and culture for the lasting benefit of people. CERI works on biodiversity protection inside and outside of protected areas, in forestry, freshwater, grasslands and species issues relevant for sustainable livelihoods. The CERI Secretariat is hosted by DAPHNE – Institute of Applied Ecology.

Further projects, for example carried out by the REC, are:

- Background Paper for the Belgrade Ministerial Conference "Compliance and Enforcement: Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements in South Eastern Europe" (for Hungary),
- Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements in South Eastern Europe,
- Training on Natura 2000 for Local Administration,
- Seminar on Communication in Relation to Nature Protection,
- Guidance on the Process of Environmental Assessment for Natura 2000 Sites,
- Sustainable Development of the Cities of Cetinje and Herceg Novi (Montenegro),
- Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements in South Eastern Europe.

²⁴⁾ For members see: http://www.carpates.org/contacts.html#members

Article 13:

Awareness Raising, Education and Public Participation

Thematic priorities

Ukraine sets ecological education and public awareness raising as a priority.

Policy and legal assessment

Poland passed an Act on Sharing Information on the Environment and its Protection, Involvement of Society in Nature Conservation and on Environmental Impact Assessments (3 October 2008).

Projects, initiatives, and other activities

Nature protection and in particular protected areas are the core issue of the activities within Article 13. Climate change becomes an emerging issue. Under the participation of CZ, HU, IT, PL, RO, RS, SK the project "World of Carpathians - Raising awareness about the Carpathian Biodiversity" (see text box) represents maybe the most exemplary activity in this concern. One important outcome is the "Handbook for environmental education" published by DAPHNE - Institute of Applied Ecology, Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative and Thüringer Ökoherz. Another relevant project is the Move4Nature (see text box) environmental Education Network in the Carpathian mountains with the participating countries of CZ, HU, IT, PL, RO, RS, SK. It is aiming at the creation of tools/educational materials which can be spread to schools, the establishment of environmental awareness and better connectivity and facilitating environmental education interaction throughout the Carpathian region. The core issues are nature protection and protected areas, sustainable marketing (local crafts/natural products), PET/Waste and mobility, energy and climate change. For the first time, the Carpathian Parks Day (see text box) was organized in almost 30 national and nature parks of CZ, SK, RO, RS, UA to celebrate the immense biological diversity of the Carpathian area. It aimed at raising awareness about the importance of protected areas for: biodiversity conservation, sustainable socio-economic development, tourism and contribution to the financial stability in the region ²⁵⁾.

Selected national activities are:

- CZ: Workshop on Environmental Programmes in Western Balkan Countries and Asia: Expectations and Prospects post-2010,
- CZ, SK: Raising awareness on nature and landscape in the Moravian-Slovakian Carpathians,
- HU: Conference on Green Procurement,
- RO: Participative management and strengthening Romania's Protected Area System by Demonstrating Public-Private Partnership in Romania's Maramures Nature Park,
- SK: Improving awareness and environmental awareness of Natura 2000 in Upper Orava PLA, Providing Wetland Slovakia, raising environmental awareness on wetlands and capacity building, Promotion of protected areas and Natura 2000 species.

²⁵⁾ World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) (2010). Five countries to mark first/time Carpathian Parks Day (http://wwf.panda.org/?193404/Five-countries-to-mark-first-time-Carpathian-Parks-Day); http://assets.panda.org/downloads/carpathian_park_day_report2010.pdf

World of Carpathians was launched as a publication project with the intention to present and raise awareness about the richness, vulnerability and endangerment of the Carpathian mountain region. The handbook contains contributions regarding the following aspects of the Carpathians: abiotic conditions; biological diversity; forest, grassland, water and wetland habitats; extreme habitats; man and biodiversity; and biodiversity conservation. It concludes with concrete examples of conservation and wise use of biodiversity for Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Czech Republic and Germany.

The **Move4Nature Teacher Training Project** on *Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)* is a training project that aims to introduce the concept of the Carpathian Ecoregion to the rural mountainous schools of the Carpathian countries, and to encourage critical thinking about the present use of natural and cultural heritage of the Carpathians in order to contribute to their sustainable development. For the first time, the initiative brought together teachers from various disciplines, school inspectorates, and the Ministry of Education to cooperate on a programme focused on the Carpathian environment. It has set the initial stage for a network of teachers and activists, who now plan on expanding it to continue cooperation among schools in the mountain areas of Romania and other Carpathian countries²⁶.

The **Carpathian Parks Day** aimed at recreating and reinforcing the bond between people and nature, i.e. the general public and protected areas. It served as opportunity to promote the work of protected areas administrations and to translate abstract definitions of biodiversity conservation or management measures into tangible facts, such as fresh drinkable water, clean air, healthy environment, etc. More than 30 one-day events took place and more than 800,000 people participated or were informed about it. The organizing body hopes to extend the cooperation area to all seven Carpathian countries for a second edition of the Carpathian Parks Day ²⁵⁾.

 $^{26) \}quad According to the Consultant at UNEP \ Vienna \ Regional \ Office for Europe, \ Tamara \ Mitrofanenko \ (email from 13 \ May 2011).$

3.2. Sources of funding

The sources of funding for implementing the objectives of the CC in each country, as indicated by the NFPs and regional stakeholders, are indicated in Tab. 4. All countries primarily draw funds from **national and regional budgets** for carrying out CC-related activities. Next to state/ministerial budgets²⁷⁾, this category includes funds from

- National Park Directorates (HU)
- National Environmental (Protection) Funds (PL, RS, SK)
- National Forest Enterprise/Administration (PL, RO)
- Regional/local budgets (PL, RO, UA)

Additionally, financial assistance is provided by **European funding** to EU member states and Serbia (including funds from other European states):

- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) (HU)
- Rural Development Policy (PL)
- South East Europe INTERREG (HU)
- Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area (EEA) (PL)
- Norwegian Financial Mechanism (PL)
- Swiss National Funds (PL, potentially HU and SK ²⁸⁾)
- Global Environmental Facility European Funding (RO)
- LIFE (EU funding instrument for the environment) (SK)
- Other EU-funding (RO, RS)

On the **international** level, **funding sources** include:

- Global Environmental Facility International Funding (RO, RS)
- UNESCO Biosphere reserve (RS)
- Financial and technical assistance by other international institutions and foreign governments (RS, UA)

Summarizing the above-mentioned, it becomes evident that both national and EU-funding are the main sources allowing the Carpathian countries to implement CC-activities. Most of the countries which are also EU-member states benefit also from EU-funds to different degrees. However, in Serbia and Ukraine for example, funding by international organizations was pointed out as a major financial source. In order to assess the individual share of sources on the different levels, though, further investigation is necessary.

²⁷⁾ In the Czech Republic, activities within the Ministry of Environment and within Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection are financed mostly from national budget. The Ministry of Environment has special budgetary subsidies for implementation of multilateral environmental agreements at national level for all conventions the Czech Republic is party to and which are in the competence of the Ministry of Environment.

²⁸ The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (SNC SR) worked between 2008-2010 on the development of the proposal for the project "Development of nature conservation and of protected areas in the Slovak Carpathians" within the Swiss Financial Mechanism, which is expected to be approved by July 2011. (According to an email from the SNC SR Department of International Treaties, Dr. Jan Kadlečík, 16.05.2011).

Tab. 4: Main sources of funding in the countries on state, European, and international level.

	NATIONAL	EUROPEAN	INTERNATIONAL
CZECH REPUBLIC	State budget (for activities within the Ministry of the Environment and within the Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection) Ministry of the Environment (has a special budgetary subsidy for the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements at national for all conventions the Czech Republic is a Party to and which are in the ministry's competence)	Operational Programme Environment LIFE+ Erste Bank Environmental Partnership Foundation	World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Toyota
HUNGARY	State budget National Park Directorate incomes	European Regional Development Fund SEE Interreg Swiss contributions (potentially) Erste Bank Environmental Partnership Foundation	World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Toyota
POLAND	State budgets Regional budgets National Fund for Environmental Protection and respective regional funds Ecofund National Forest Enterprise	EU Funds (incl. agro-environmental funds) Financial Mechanism of the European EEA Norwegian Financial Mechanism Swiss-Polish Cooperation Programme Erste Bank Environmental Partnership Foundation	World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Toyota
ROMANIA	National Administration Forestry Romsilva County Councils Lafarge Romania	European Union Global Environmental Facility (GEF, European funding) Lifelong Learning Programme (potentially) IKEA Corporation Erste Bank Environmental Partnership Foundation	Global Environmental Facility (GEF, international funding) World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Toyota
SERBIA	Environmental Protection Fund (EPF)	EU Funds	Unesco Biosphere Reserve Global Environmental Facility (GEF) International Finance Cooperation (IF)
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	Ministerial budget Slovak Environmental Fund	LIFE+ Swiss Financial Mechanism (potentially) Erste Bank Environmental Partnership Foundation	World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Toyota
UKRAINE	State budgets Local budgets	Norwegian Foreign Ministry IKEA Corporation	International institutions and Foreign governments provide financial and technical assistance (e.g. Norwegian Foreign Ministry) World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

3.3. Conclusions

General achievements

The outstanding issue of the policies, initiatives, projects etc. indicated and pursued by the NFPs and NGOs as well as other relevant institutions of the Carpathian countries to achieve the fulfillment of the CC-articles concern nature protection (Article 4) (see in the Annex Tab. 6 for a detailed list of activities and Tab. 5 for the identified national thematic priorities). Other issues are by far less important i.e. less mentioned by the persons and institutions contacted. Hence, further efforts and challenges should be faced to meet the goals of the CC in all other spheres.

The large number of activities (projects, initiatives etc.) dealing with the implementation of the CCarticles cover almost all relevant and interesting issues required for the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians and the fulfillment of the objectives indicated in the articles of the CC. They match with the efforts made until now within the policy, legislative and institutional framework. Hence, there is a good basis to further develop and pursue the sustainable development of the Carpathian region. The outstanding number of activities and legislation concerning Article 4 reveal the high appreciation of and concern about the protection of the exceptional natural value of the Carpathians. On the contrary, some elementary aspects as e.g. spatial planning/regional development, transport, cultural heritage, agriculture/forestry, tourism and energy still seem to be of a more marginal significance. This situation calls for further engagement. Despite numerous international projects involving many partners of the Carpathian region, transnational and particularly interdisciplinary/ intersectoral activities well coordinated between the Carpathian countries should be additionally initiated and developed in the future. Furthermore, in many cases a specific reference to the mountain regions of the Carpathians is still missing (e.g. the water/river basin management, transport). For this reason, a stronger focus should be given to the situation and the development in this area. The big challenge will be the international cooperation required as many challenges can only be faced in a common framework.

3.4. Main challenges, obstacles, problems, recommendations and opportunities

National Level

In the **Czech Republic**, the CC is not considered a priority on the national level, as the Carpathians cover only 13% of the total Czech Republic territory in the border area. In contrast, the implementation of EU legislation is being set a priority. However, the Czech Republic invites the initiative of the Secretariat to implement the CC into the EU legislation and processes (such as Carpathian Space Programme). The intersectoral approach to CC-issues is perceived as a challenge that the Czech Republic is willing to face. However, at the same time it is considered a difficult task to effectively put into practice. On these grounds, the **Czech NFP** recommends the official designation of the Carpathian Space under the Convention as well as the establishment of a permanent Secretariat. It would enhance the perception of the importance and added value of the CC for the Carpathian region in the country and ensure support. Moreover, it suggests the institutionalization of a coordination group for CC-implementation in which the following should participate: Czech Ministry of the Environment, Agency for Nature Conservation

and Landscape Protection, Bílé Karpaty Education and Information Centre, and the Institute for Environmental Policy.

In **Hungary**, a major problem results from decreasing national contributions which would allow a better implementation of the CC. One reason is maybe the limited extension of mountain areas within the Hungarian territory. According to Philip Weller²⁹⁾, ICPDR Executive Secretary, the Tisza cooperation is important for the entire region, as it will become a flagship project for the EU Danube Strategy. This strategy will set the framework for developments in the Danube River Basin, and the Tisza countries now take the opportunity to act at its forefront. The Tisza cooperation carries EU policies and funding beyond the borders of the EU, to the benefit of all countries involved.

The **Polish NFP** pointed out the lack of a specific mountain law in Poland. A low level of activities of the Convention Secretariat in CC-implementation has been detected in the involvement of local governments located in the Carpathians. The implementation of CC is also impeded by the lack of regional (provincial) coordinators and separated financial means for the implementation of decisions of the Carpathian Convention, as stated by Monika Ochwat ³⁰⁾. According to the NFP, there is a lack of legal possibilities for the National Park Authority to purchase land in the buffer zone of the park which is thus encountering problems in fulfilling its aim to protect the migration routes of migratory species. Bureaucratic processes are complicated and money flow is slow. A better coordination and dissemination of information is needed. Following the NFP, an integrated land management and spatial planning according to the European Landscape Convention by establishing integrated spatial management plans for the Carpathian region is required for Poland ³¹⁾.

On the regional level, there is need for establishing offices for implementation of the CC with competent staff, proper equipment and an adequate budget on the core activities, according to the Articles 3 – 13 of the CC. Additionally, monitoring, evaluation and correction processes of the implementation should be introduced. In some areas, e.g. restoration of traditional grazing of mountain sheep herds, needs to be linked to agricultural or agro-forest rehabilitation related to the culture of using forest buffer zones. Furthermore, according to Monika Ochwat, the dissemination of CC-documentation is to be improved and an enforced cooperation process at national level in order to enhance consultation on the implementation of the CC-protocol in the regions is needed. NGOs and businesses should be involved more frequently to meet the goals of the CC. Furthermore, Monika Ochwat sees one of the main opportunities in the two projects "Carpathians Our Home", an agreement between NGOs, which should be further developed by a cooperation with local governments and other relevant stakeholders and the "Forum Carpaticum" as exchange platform for scientists and stakeholders.

In **Romania**, a lack of human resources and the absence of institutions especially established for the management of the Carpathian protected areas system were detected. Therefore, it is necessary to pro-

²⁹⁾ On the importance of the Tisza cooperation in the light of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, which will be adopted in 2011; http://www.icpdr.org/icpdr-pages/ministerial_meeting_tisza.htm

³⁰⁾ According to Monika Ochwat, Specialist of the Carpathian Convention and Project Manager of "The Carpathian Agreement 'Carpathians our House' an active partner of civil dialogue" from the Ekopsychology Society (phone interview on 14 April 2011). She further states that to include local and regional governments is a major challenge due to insufficient public awareness raising about the structures and work of CC to make it a priority. Decision-making and consultation processes connected to the CC protocols need to be implemented by local/regional governments. Moreover, a discrepancy of priorities is observed: the government prioritizes biodiversity protection and network of protected areas; Ekopsychology Society focuses on public participation, tourism, awareness raising.

³¹⁾ See "The Position on the Directions of Mountain Areas Development" (Committee of Management of Mountain regions, Polish Academy of Sciences) for further information on the most important problems faced by the Polish Carpathian area and the need for new forms of supporting rural areas and agriculture in the region.

vide funds and a budget at the national level for the management of the protected areas system, aimed at strengthening the institutional capacities and enhancing the financial and technical cooperation with international organization, NGOs. All in all, Andreas Beckmann³²⁾ (WWF) states the CC is not being sufficiently applied. Tools available on EU-level need to be fully and effectively implemented – many instruments are already available, but they are not sufficiently used. Beckmann requests to use what is at our disposal and to seek a more integrated approach to development in a broader sense and nature conservation. On the part of the WWF, a further institutionalization of the CNPA is desired so as to make it financially more autonomous.

Tamara Mitrofanenko³³⁾ (Consultant at UNEP Vienna) maintains that sustainable development is still a vague or even unknown concept for many inhabitants of the Carpathian area. One of the key mechanisms to establish awareness, to strengthen interconnections, and to ensure sustainable development of the mountain communities in the long term is incorporating these efforts into educational programs, both informally - through extracurricular activities, and formally - by mainstreaming them into the teaching programs and the school curriculum³³). Additionally, Mitrofanenko attaches great importance to the need of fostering information of and action by the local population itself. It is crucial to encourage the population living in the mountain areas to appreciate their surroundings, to become aware of the special natural features and cultural phenomena as well as the problems and challenges of sustainable development in their communities. The local communities should be guided and taught to create new and innovative solutions to improving local livelihoods, while preserving these unique local resources and using them in a responsible way. Such action is to be further strengthened by continuously building and supporting lasting relationships among the people of the Carpathian mountain region. The success of future Education for Sustainable Development activities is a challenging endeavour which requires continuous active coordination and cooperation among multiple stakeholders, such as Ministries of Education, Ministries of Environment, existing local representations of various relevant international organizations, the school administrations, principals and teachers, etc.³³⁾.

Serbia requires management planning, knowledge for habitat renewal and requires staff training, specialization, research and status monitoring. It recommends the procurement of equipment for research and monitoring of ecologically and economically important species. The NFP further suggests the education and training for park rangers in all areas and an improvement of public awareness about biodiversity, protection and conservation³⁴⁾.

A key to implementation of the CC in the **Slovak Republic** is seen in the closer cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, representing the interests of farmers and foresters. Forest certification and cross-compliance inspection subsidies for farmers are examples for future cooperation. There is a great need for increased municipal budgets. Moreover, a new law for spatial planning and nature protection and strengthening ecological institutions is considered essential as the current situation does not allow sufficient implementation of the Convention at national level. Additionally, cooperation needs to be enhanced in various areas, e.g. NGO-participation in local/small-scale projects; NGO monitoring of CC-implementation; cooperation of scientific institutions and protected areas; sectoral cooperation. Dr. Jan Kadlečík sees a challenge in the implementation of international conventions,

³²⁾ According to the Director of the WWF-Danube Carpathian Programme, Andreas Beckmann (phone interview on 18 April 2011).

³³⁾ According to Consultant at the UNEP Vienna Regional Office for Europe, Tamara Mitrofanenko (email from 13 May 2011).

³⁴⁾ There are several legislations that have been elaborated or are in progress in this field: The Law on National Park Djerdap; Special Decrees on protection of single protected areas; Strategic Programme of Protection of Natural Goods for period 2011-2015; Management plans of single protected areas.

including the Carpathian Convention in face of the decreasing number of staff available for implementing agreed decisions and resolutions. At the same time, there is an evident decrease of funding for tasks deriving from these conventions, leading to the urgent need to change these trends ³⁵⁾. Additionally, Dr. Jan Kadlečík states that the Carpathian Convention and its message can be well communicated to public and stakeholders in the Carpathian countries and that more intensive campaigns should be developed in this respect. Supporting materials should be developed in national languages of the Carpathian countries and with regard to the different target groups ³⁵⁾. As the language barrier is also still a problem in many protected areas administrations and regional authorities, it is recommended to support translation of key documents, guidelines and communications to national languages and thus support better use of opportunities of the Convention. In order to fulfil the expectations in implementation of the Protocols of the Convention it is crucial to support the activities of working groups and expert groups and transposition of agreed results in national conditions. The further progress in work of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas is conditioned by establishment of the coordination unit with professional staff and budget for its activities ³⁵⁾.

Implementation of CC objectives in **Ukraine**³⁶⁾ is complicated by the absence of an agreement on the geographical scope of the CC and absence of a decision on the location of CC Permanent Secretariat. Moreover, EU nature protection programs do not apply to CC Parties that are not EU members. Ukraine needs the availability of and access to GIS-technologies and applications for key stakeholders, including governmental bodies. Additionally, financial and technical strengthening is required for:

- monitoring of biodiversity and econet the Carpathians to particularly protect the hydrological situation against pollution, the conversion of land as a result of the demand for resources and other illegal activities;
- monitoring of the Carpathian forests to avoid logging und coordinate hunting;
- protected areas management especially for semi-natural areas;
- incentive measures development for sustainable use of biodiversity, econet and environmental friendly business (NTFP);
- the tourism sector;
- climate change;
- law enforcement;
- · coping with the difficulties of personnel recruitment.

The **Ukrainian** State Agency for Protected Areas further recommends to:

- analyze and identify the world experience on Russian Federation governance types and the possibilities to adapt them in Ukraine;
- develop a national communication plan to enforce public support and recognition of PAs;
- devise a socio-economic impact assessment of management of PAs;
- asses and manage implications of contribution of PAs environmental services;
- identify legislative and institutional gaps and barriers for the development of PAs;
- strengthen the capacities of institutions to establish cross sectoral collaboration for PA management;

³⁵⁾ According to the State Nature Conservancy of Slovak Republic, Department of International Treaties, Dr. Jan Kadlečík (email from 16 May 2011).

³⁶⁾ Recommendations from Ukraine (NFP) require special investigations and analysis and may be carried out after finalizing of reorganization of governmental bodies in the country.

3. NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE CARPATHIAN COUNTRIES

- evaluate PAs capacity needs assessment;
- develop online course for PA managers;
- develop training system (modules) for PA staff;
- develop national volunteer system for PAs;
- develop standards and best practices for PA financial sustainability;
- improve the draft of the national programme on development of PAs until 2020 and lobbying for obtaining legislative status;
- develop system of standards and best practices for establishment and management of PAs;
- introduce a risk assessment of PA management;
- capacity building of staff on PAs;
- transboundary cooperation;
- creation of new PAs;
- development of Management Plans for PAs.

The Agency sees opportunities in:

- the protection of biodiversity and promotion of econet;
- sustainable green tourism;
- the promotion of environmental friendly business (NTFP);
- the production of environmentally friendly products;
- the promotion of equity and benefit-sharing.

Transnational level

A number of recommendations for cooperation and coordination of activities related to activities on the transnational level were formulated by NFPs ³⁷⁾:

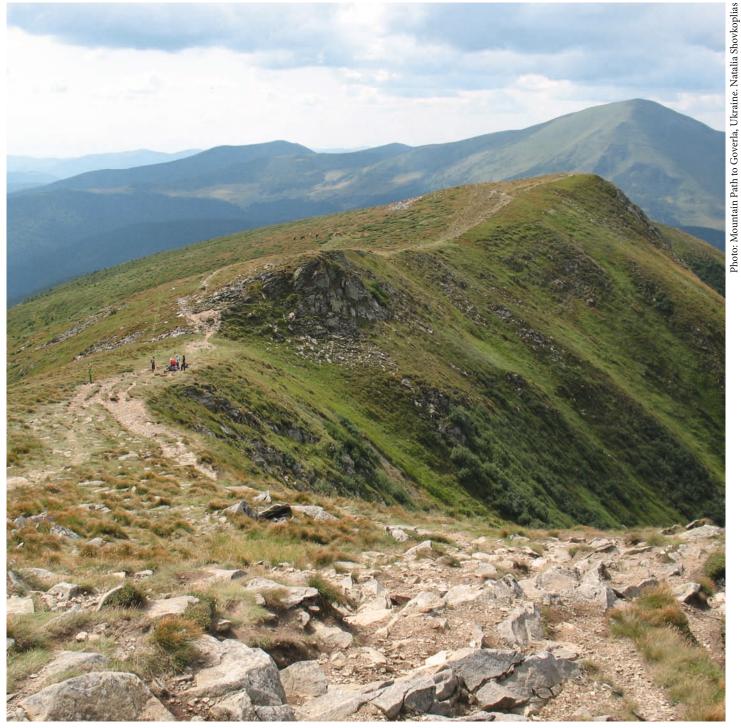
Czech Republic	 Transboundary protected areas with different protected species regime: e.g. a policy to protect bears in Poland that is not adopted by Slovakia. The laws and measures connected with the protection of such species must be agreed by all bordering countries. Official designation of the Carpathian Space under the Convention as well as the establishment of a permanent Secretariat.
Hungary ³⁸⁾	 According to the Aggtelek National Park Directorate, the CC has to develop specific and detailed programs to ease implementation. According to the Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate, a Transnational Data Base and more funds for implementation are needed. Joint Nature Conservation Management Plans for the Carpathian region.
Poland	 Establishment of transboundary cooperation with other parties to the CC to set common landscape protection plans. Need to strengthen the cooperation in the management of transboundary populations of large carnivores, especially wolves, brown bears and lynxes.
Slovak Republic	 The current situation only allows limited international cooperation for implementation of the Convention in the long term. Cooperation needs to be enhanced in various areas; e.g. coordination of cross-border cooperation and interconnection regions of the Carpathians (INTERREG IV).

³⁷⁾ Not all NFP provided information.

³⁸⁾ In the opinion of the Aggtelek National Park Directorate, the main difficulty is that at the moment, the CC as well as the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) are missing specific practical programs. In order to proceed with the work, strategic papers and concrete programs are needed.



Selected relevant documents, publications and reports



4. Selected relevant documents, publications and reports

4.1. CC-wide

2010

- Ruffini F.V., Ptáček P. (Eds.) (2010): Atlas of the Carpathian Macroregion, Palacky University Olomouc, Czech Republic.
- UNEP-GRID Warsaw, Association of Ecopsychology, ANPED (2010): Proceedings of the Carpathian conference as a summary of the project "Support for the Sustainable Development of the Carpathians through environment-friendly tourism", 9-10 September 2010, Rytro.
- Bieszczadzki National Park (2010): Proceedings of the International XIX Conference "Impact of the current management practices on the preservation of nature resources of the Carpathians", online: http://www.bdpn.pl.
- State Agency for Protected Areas of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine, Altenburg & Wymenga Ecological Consultants, InterEcoCentre (2010): Creation of Ecological Corridors in Ukraine A manual on stakeholder involvement and landscape-ecological modeling to connect protected areas, based on a pilot in the Carpathians, Kyiv.

2009

- UNEP Vienna Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (2009): Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, Vienna.
- UNEP Vienna Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (2009): The Carpathian Convention Leaflet (in English and all Carpathian languages), Vienna.
- Bieszczadzki National Park (2009): Proceedings of the International XVIII Conference "Methods of monitoring and verification of conservation activities in national parks and Natura 2000 sites", 17-19 September, online: http://www.bdpn.pl
- UNEP-ISCC/ENSI-CASALEN (2009): Carpathian Mountains ESD Training Tool Kit, UNEP-ISCC/ENSI-CASALEN, Vienna.
- UNEP-ISCC/Carpathian Project (2009): VASICA Visions and Strategies in the Carpathian Area, Vienna.
- DAPHNE/Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative/Thüringer Ökoherz (2009): World of the Carpathians Handbook for Environmental Education.

2008

- Bieszczadzki National Park (2008): Proceedings of the International XVII Conference "The most important values of Carpathian nature and their conservation", 18-20 September, online: http://www.bdpn.pl
- Ruffini, F.V., Hoffmann, C., Renner, K. (2008): SARD-M Report for the Carpathian convention Member States, Assessment of policies, institutions and processes, regional synthesis for Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Republic of Serbia, Slovak Republic and Ukraine, European Academy of Bolzano/Boten, p. 63.
- REC Slovensko (2008): Cultural-historical social topography of the microregion Sources of the White Carpathians, Bratislava.

2007

- REC/EURAC (2007): A Heightened Perspective Regional Assessment of the Policy, Legislative and Institutional Frameworks Implementing the Carpathian Convention, Vienna.
- REC/EURAC (2007): Handbook on the Carpathian Convention, Vienna.
- UNEP/DEWA (2007): Carpathian Environment Outlook (KEO) Report 2007, Genève.
- WWF (2007): Factsheet Protected Areas for a Living Planet, Carpathian Ecoregion Project.
- WWF (2007): Saving Nature with EU neighbors, Bruxelles.
- UN General Assembly (2007): Report from the Secretary General on Sustainable Mountain Development, 62nd Session.
- Bieszczadzki National Park (2007): Proceedings of the International conferences on Transboundary Biosphere Reserve "Eastern Carpathians" in the Bieszczadzki National Park: XVI Conference "Carpathian primeval forests and their role for biodiversity conservation", 20-22 September, online: http://www.bdpn.pl.

4.2. Publications on national level

4.2.1. Czech Republic

• Carpathian Heritage Maps (diff. years): Zlín Region, Moravia-Silesia Region, South Moravia Region; Online: http://ekopolitika.cz, http://chm.nature.cz.

4.2.2. Poland

- Wladyslaw Szafer Institute of Botany, Polish Academy of Science (2010): Red Book of Polish Carpathians vascular plants, Krakow.
- Kopacz M., Twardy S., Kuźniar A., Kostuch M. (2007): The impact of meteorological factors on the nitrate concentrations in the ground waters in view of the Directive 91/676/EEC. Polish Journal of Environmental Studies, vol. 16, no. 3B, p. 236-239.
- Kopacz M., Twardy S., Kowalczyk A., Kuźniar A. (2009): The structural changes of the Raba catchment area in the aspect of selected surface water quality parameters. Polish Journal of Environmental Studies, vol. 18, no. 3A, p. 155-160.
- Kuźniar A., Twardy S., Kowalczyk A. (2009): Changes in the pollution loads in the surface water of the Upper San against a background of land management. Polish Journal of Environmental Studies, vol. 18, no. 3A, p. 207-213.
- Smoroń S., Twardy S., Kuźniar A. (2009): Studies in favour of surface water quality protection in the highly valued nature areas of the Polish Carpathians. Polish Journal of Environmental Studies, vol. 18, no. 3A, p. 404-410.
- Twardy S. (2009): Tendencje zmian użytkowania przestrzeni rolniczej obszarów karpackich. (Change trends in agro-spatial utilisation of the Carpathian areas). Studies and reports of IUNG PIB Puławy, vol. 17, p. 49-58.
- Smoroń S., Twardy S., Kuźniar A., Kopacz M. (2008): Environmental threat to the nature in the Podhale area (the Polish Carpathians) in view of the Water Framework Directive. Polish Journal of Environmental Studies, vol. 17, no. 3A, p. 517-520.

- Twardy S. (2008). Karpackie użytki rolne jako obszary o niekorzystnych warunkach gospodarowania (ONW). Carpathian agricultural lands as less favoured areas (LFA). IMUZ Falenty, Woda Środowisko Obszary Wiejskie [Water Environment Rural Areas], vol. 8, of. 2b(24), p. 191-202.
- Stanisław Kucharzyk (diff. years): National Park "Roczniki Bieszczadzkie", various publications with studies on the Carpathians written by Polish, Ukrainian, Slovak and authors of other nationalities with English summary. An important, cross-cutting article "System of nature protection in the Carpathians with the special consideration to national parks", incl. in vol. XVII, pages 15-42; online: http://www.bdpn.pl.

4.2.3. Ukraine

- Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, quarterly publication, "Zeleni Karpaty", all-Ukrainian ecological popular science journal.
- Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk University (ed.) (2008): Proceedings "Ecotourism and sustainable development in Carpathians", Uzhgorod, Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk.
- Protsenko, L., Deodatus, F. (2010): Development of the ecocorridors in Ukraine. Educational book on law, landscape modeling and management for the protected areas connection based on the Carpathian experience.
- Solodky V.D., Rybak I.P., Sivak V.K., Bilokon M.V. (2010). The quality of the environment as the indicator of the Carpathian Convention implementation
- Shutak G.D., Solodky V.D., Sivak V.K. (2009): Carpathian Convention and the development of reserve activities in Bukovina
- Solodky V.D., Shutak G.D., Sivak V.K., (2009): Robulets S.V. The regional econet development according to the Carpathian Convention principles;
- Solodky V.D., Shutak G.D., Sivak V.K. (2009): The role of the Carpathian Convention in improvement of nature protection activity in the region;
- (diff. years and issues): "Zhyva Ukraina" (life-giving water) Ecological magazine.



Annexes

5.1. Questionnaire



ACCADEMIA E U R O P E A

EUROPEAN ACADEMY

BOZEN - BOLZANO



National achievements and challenges related to the implementation of the Carpathian Convention¹⁾

Questionnaire for the CC focal points and experts

1.	Which are the legal, policy and institutional achievements on national and regional level since the last implementation report in 2007 in your country aiming at the implementation of the objectives of the CC ²⁾ ? Please consider and evaluate briefly all relevant measures, laws, projects, programmes, initiatives, multilateral agreements etc.
2.	What are the thematic priorities in your country regarding the implementation of the CC? (in other words: Which thematic issues are being acted upon, which are less considered?) Have the objectives of the CC been explicitly integrated in existing sectoral legislation? If yes, please indicate these sectoral legislations.

¹⁾ As there is a good documentation until 2007, the focus should be on the innovations since 2007 until today.

²⁾ According to the articles of the CC in the fields of land resources management, biological and landscape, diversity, water management, agriculture and forestry, transport, tourism, industry and energy, cultural heritage, environmental impact assessment, education and public participation.



ACCADEMIA E U R O P E A

E U R O P E A N A C A D E M Y

BOZEN - BOLZANO



 Are there any explicitly Carpathian-orientated projects or specific projects dealing with mountain issues in your Country? If yes, please provide the names of these projects.
4. Concerning the implementation of the CC, what best practices can be listed in your country?
5. Has your country a specific strategy/action plan for the Carpathian region?
6. Are / is a coordination committee(s) at national and regional level in place to coordinate the implementation activities on the different administrative levels?
7. Which institutions in your country are the driving forces in implementing the CC?



ACCADEMIA E U R O P E A

E U R O P E A N A C A D E M Y

BOZEN - BOLZANO



	8.	Could you name examples where local authorities and NGOs have been used to promote the CO in your contry?
	9.	Which are the main sources of funding (national, European and international) for implementing the objectives of the CC in your country?
	10	. Which are important documents/publications/projects with reference to the CC or the Carpathians in your country?
	11	. Concerning the transnational or transboundary cooperation with neighbouring countries, what achievements can be outlined?
	12	. Are cross-cutting issues (e.g. NGO involvement, public information, education) relevant for the implementation of the CC in your contry and how?
_		



ACCADEMIA E U R O P E A

E U R O P E A N A C A D E M Y

BOZEN - BOLZANO



13. What challenges and difficulties/gaps do you see for implementing the CC further and better?
14. What are the main technical and financial needs for the implementation?
15. What are your recommendations related to policy, legislative and institutional measure to improve the implementation process?
16. If you may have further comments and recommendations please write them down here
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5.2. Thematic priorities

Tab. 5: Thematic priorities and key issues regarding the implementation of the Carpathian Convention according to the NFPs.

Article of the Carpathian Convention			Hungary	Poland	Romania	Serbia	Slovak Republic	Ukraine
Article 4: Conservation and	Article 4 explicitly mentioned	Х		Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
sustainable use	Species protection	Χ						
of biological and landscape diversity	Flora and fauna protection			Χ				
	Development of econets							Χ
Article 5: Spatial planning	Land use, landscape, soil, spatial planning		Х	Х	Х			Х
	Natural resources		Χ			Χ		Χ
Article 6:	Flood protection							Χ
Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management	Water management		Х	Х		Х		Х
Article 7:	Forest management		Χ		Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ
Sustainable agriculture and forestry	Agriculture		Χ					
	Protected areas	Χ		Χ				Χ
Article 8: Sustainable transport and infrastructure	Infrastructure				Х			
Article 9: Sustainable tourism	Sustainable tourism	Х			Х			Х
Article 10: Industry and energy	Environmental biotechnology			Х				
Article 11: Cultural heritage and	Conservation, protection, restoration	Х						Х
traditional knowledge	Documentation	Х						Χ
Article 12: Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning	Implementation of environmental monitoring system							Х
Article 13: Awareness raising, education and public participation Education, public awareness		Х						Х

5.3. Projects

The Articles of the Carpathian Convention¹⁾

Article 1: Geographical scope Article 2: General objectives and principles Article 3: Integrated approach to the land resources management Article 4: Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity Article 5: Spatial planning Article 6: Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management Article 7: Sustainable agriculture and forestry Article 8: Sustainable transport and infrastructure Article 9: Sustainable tourism Article 10: Industry and energy Article 11: Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge Article 12: Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning Article 13: Awareness raising, education and public participation

Tab. 6: Projects concerning the implementation of the Carpathian Convention in the Carpathian Area.

Name	Spatial reference	Participating countries (Involved institutions)	Time period	Source of funding/Financing	Concerned CC-Article
Carpathian Project – Protection and Sustainable Development of Carpathians within the trans-national Network	Carpathian mountain/makro- region	CZ, HU, IT, PL, RO, RS, SK	2006 – 2009	CADSES Programme	1-13
Building Capacity and Strengthening Cooperation for the Promotion of Transbound- ary Nature Conservation along the South Eastern European Green Belt	South Eastern European Green Belt	HU	2010		2
Support to the Implementation of the Carpathian Convention	Carpathian re- gion				2
Protection and sustainable use of natural resources in the Ukrainian Carpathians, focusing on promoting cooperation between protected area management authorities, NGOs and local communities and stakeholders to promote local sustainable development and nature protection as well as cross-border cooperation		UA	2007 – 2012	Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs	2

¹⁾ Articles 14 to 23 of the Carpathian Convention have not been considered in this regard.

Name	Spatial reference	Participating countries (Involved institutions)	Time period	Source of funding/Financing	Concerned CC-Article
Valuation of ecosystem services and economic and cultural values related to protected areas in Slovenský raj National Park	Slovenský raj National Park	SK, AT (WWF-DCP, Klagenfurt Univer- sity)			4
2012 Protected Areas Project - Carpathian Ecoregion: Establishment of a scientifically based and representative regional network of well managed protected areas and ensure the effective participation of local communities and provide social and economic benefits	Carpathian Ecoregion	CZ, HU, PL, RO, RS, SK, UA	2007 – 2011	MAVA Foun- dation	4
Realization of the transboundary ecological connectivity in Ukrainian Carpathians	Chernivetska oblast (UA), na- tional park "Van- atory Neamt" (RO), Lvivska oblast (UA)	UA, RO, PL	2008 – 2010	Supprted by Government of the Nether- lands	4
Assessment of landscape mi- gration per-meability for large mammals and proposal of protective and optimalization measures	entire CZ	CZ	2008 – 2010		4
Butterflies CZ-SK – Integrated protection of rare butterfly species of non-forest habitats	CZ, SK non- forest areas	CZ, SK	2010 – on- going		4
BIOREGIO Carpathians: Integrated Management of biological and landscape diversity for sustainable regional development and ecological connectivity in the Carparthians	Carpathians	RO, CZ, HU, IT, PL, RS, SK	2011 – 2014	SEE Trans- national Cooperation Programm	4
Improving the financial sustainability of the Carpathian System of Protected Areas	Carpathians pro- tected areas	RO	2010 – 2013	UNDP	4
Protection of endangered bird species in West Carpathian Mountains	West Carpathian Mountains	PL, SK			4
Optimisation of the benefits from the Natura 2000 network for sustainable development in the Carpathians	South of the provinces: Malo- polski, Podkar- packie, Silesian	PL	2007 – 2011	Financial Mechanism of the Euro- pean EEA and Nowegian Financial Mechanism	4
Protection of a capercaillie and black grouse and their biotopes in Western Carpathians	Western Car- pathians	PL	2006 – 2009	Ecofund	4

Name	Spatial reference	Participating countries (Involved institutions)	Time period	Source of funding/Financing	Concerned CC-Article
Bears (Brown bear conservation in the Carpathians)	Tibles Mountains	RO	August 2009 ongoing	WWF AT, WWF Interna- tional, WWF DK and com- pany Mondi	4
Carpathian Brown Bear Project	Carpathians	PL			4
Conditions for management of the catchment area and biodiversity management for ensuring sustainable develop- ment of nature valuable areas for the example of Czarna Orawa catchment area	Czarna Orawa (region)	PL		Financial Mechanism of the Euro- pean EEA and Nowegian Financial Mechanism	4
Restitution and monitoring of a capercaillie	Wisla Forest District	PL			4
Nature Conservation research in Börzsöny, Bükk mountains, Aggtelek Karst	Börzsöny, Bükk mountains,	HU		Supported by Swiss Con- tribution Pro- gram	4
Nature Conservation research in Börzsöny, Bükk mountains, Aggtelek Karst	Börzsöny, Bükk mountains,	HU		Supported by Swiss Con- tribution Pro- gram	4
Nature Conservation research in Börzsöny, Bükk mountains, Aggtelek Karst	Börzsöny, Bükk mountains,	HU		Supported by Swiss Contribution Program	4
Field data collection and research of wetland habitats of Ipoly Catchment Area and compilation of national lists	River Ipoly catchment area	HU, SK	2010 – 2011		4
The Protection of the environment to the integration of the natural heritage of Europe	RS	RS		Institute for Nature Protection of Serbia, Society of Young Researchers Bor	4
Protection of natural and landscape values of Male Pieniny Mountains	Male Pieniny Mountains	PL	2006 – 2009	Ecofund	4
Conservation and sustainable use of Ukrainian Carpathians' natural resources	East Carpath- ian biosphere reserve, Car- pathian NNP, naturae reserve "Gorgany"	UA	2007 – 2012	Supported by Government of Norway	4
Improving air quality in the border region	Border region Czech Republic – Poland	PL, CZ			4

Name	Spatial reference	Participating countries (Involved institutions)	Time period	Source of funding/Financing	Concerned CC-Article
AKK Centrope – Implementation of measures along the Alpine-Carpathian Corridor and implementation in the region Centrope	Alpine- Carpathian Corridor	CZ, HU, IT, PL, RO, RS, SK	2009 – 2012	EU programm Central Europe	4
Bear Working Group		RO			4
Preparation of the Declaration of World Heritage Carpathian beech forests	Carpathian beech forests	SK (State conserva- tion), academic insti- tutions (Germany)			4
Green Belt of Europe – protection and reviewing of lanscape along the former "Iron Curtain"		SK	2006 – 2008		4
Expanding protected areas in Romania		RO	2005 – 2009		4
Conservation of biological diversity of Carpathian Mountain grasslands in the Czech Republic through targeted application of new EU funding mechanisms	Carpathians	CZ	2005 – 2008		4
Restoration of thermophilous habitats in the Moravian Karst	Moravian Karst	CZ	2004 – 2007		4
Restoration of peatlands in the land of Spisska Bela	Spisska Bela	SK	2010 – 2012		4
Protecting SPA Senne and Medzibodrozie Slovakia		SK	2005 – 2011		4
Protecting the Great Bustard (Otis tarda) in Slovakia	SK	SK	2005 – 2009		4
Wetland restoration Záhorská lowlands	Záhorská low- lands	SK	2005 – 2008		4
Protecting the habitat diversity in the National Park Slovak Paradise	National Park Slovak Paradise	SK	2004 – 2008		4
Protection of eagles in the Slovak part of Carpathian Mountains	Carpathians	SK			4
Protecting Saker in the Carpathian Basin	Carpathians	SK			4
Protection and management of Danube floodplain forests	Danube area	SK			4

Name	Spatial reference	Participating countries (Involved institutions)	Time period	Source of funding/Financing	Concerned CC-Article
The processing of documents for the good state of birds and their habitats in the SPA - 1 stage.	SK	SK	2009 – 2011		4
Development of management plans for 10 protected areas	SK	SK	2009 – 2011		4
Implementation of conservation programs approved by the critically endangered plant species	SK	SK	2009 – 2011		4
Improve the conservation status of butterflies of the genus Maculinea	SK	SK			4
Improving the conservation status of species capercaillie and black grouse	SK	SK			4
Implementation of the salvage kind Maned bison (Bison bonasus)	SK	SK			4
Protection of the diversity of aquatic birds and their habitats in the Eastern plains	Eastern plains	SK	2009 – 2012		4
Establishment of Nature Parks	SK	SK			4
Care programs for 6 national parks	SK	SK	2009 – 2011		4
The Life Nature project: Natura 2000 Sites in the Piatra Craiului National Park	Piatra Craiului National Park	RO	2003 – 2007		4
Feasibility Study for the Green Pack in Ukraine	UA	UA			4
Updating the Waste Management Plan for Gorj County, Romania	Gorj County, Romania	RO			4
Southern Carpathian Initiative	Southern Carpathians: 13 national or nature parks (625,000 ha), 5 areas to be designated as specially protected sites under the EU's Natura 2000 network.		2009 – 2011		4

Name	Spatial reference	Participating countries (Involved institutions)	Time period	Source of funding/ Financing	Concerned CC-Article
Falco cherrug-HU/SK - Conservation of Falco cherrug in the Carpathian basin (LIFE06/NAT/H/000096)	Map of project areas in HU & SK: http://www.sa- kerlife.mme.hu/ en/content/show	HU (Bükk National Park Directorate, Aggteleki National Park Directorate, Balaton-felvidéki National Park Directorate, Duna-Dráva National Park Directorate, Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate, E-misszió, Fertő-Hanság National Park Directorate, Hortobágyi National Park Directorate, Kiskunsági National Park Directorate, Körös-Maros National Park Directorate, Körös-Maros National Park Directorate, MME / BirdLife Hungary, Pro Vértes Fundation for Nature Conservation) SK (Raptor Protection of Slovakia, State Nature Conservancy of Slovak Republic, SOS/BirdLife Slovensko, West-Slovak Electric Company)	2006 – 2010	LIFE Programme	4
Parks and Economy - Developing Initiatives exploiting the Potential of Natural Heritage for Regional Spatial Development	SK	SK	2006 – 2008		4, 5, 10
One Europe More Nature project in Maramures / Maintain and restore the Oas-Gutai plateau's biodiversity and functioning ecosystems of flood control through an integrated approach in forest, grassland, and water management. The project simultaneously involves opportunities in sustainable livelihoods for local people	Maramures County, RO	RO	2006 – 2009	WWF Nether- lands	4, 6
Improving infrastructure and landscape conservation and environmental awareness in the territorial scope of the Report of the National Park Velka Fatra	National Park Velka Fatra	SK			4, 8, 13

Name	Spatial reference	Participating countries (Involved institutions)	Time period	Source of funding/Financing	Concerned CC-Article
Protection of cultural heritage within the Pieniny National Park on both sides of the PL-SK border, in churches located at Jaworki, Udol, Lesnica, protection of bats living in the attics of these churches	Jaworki, Udol, Lesnica. Polish – Slovak – border	PL, SK			4, 11
Development projects for the declaration of 26 sites of Community Importance		SK 2009 – 2010			4, 12
Proposal for Western Carpathian Ecological Network as a precondition for effective cross-border nature protection		UA, RO, RS 2008 – 2010		4, 12	
AKK Basic - Fundamentals for the creation of the Alpine-Carpathian Corridor	Alpine-Carpathi- an Corridor	CZ, HU, IT, PL, RO, RS, SK	, 2008 – 2012		4, 13
Common best practices in spatial planning for the promotion of sustainable polycentric development		SK	2005 – 2007		5
For nature and local communities - the basis for a Natura 2000 integrated management in Hartibaciu - Tarnava Mare - Olt area: Ensure the conservation of species and habitats of community and national interest in the project area (1 SPA and 4 SCIs) by establishing the framework for sustainable land management and for other activities and by providing support to ensure the minimal conditions for European funding, especially for the Natura 2000 payments and for the implementation of sustainable development projects and plans for local communities	RO	RO	2011 – 2015	EC structural funds	5
Draft document on spatial organisation of the econet in the river basins of Zakhidniy Bug and Dnister	Lvivska oblast; Zakhidniy Bug and Dnister	UA			5, 6

Name	Spatial reference	Participating countries (Involved institutions)	Time period	Source of funding/Financing	Concerned CC-Article
The Danube River Network of Protected Areas	Danube area	CZ, HU, IT, PL, RO, RS, SK	2009 – on- going		6
Conservation in the Danube-Carpathian		AT, BG, CZ, HU, MD, RO, SK, SI, UA			6
Drasviaty Lake International Cooperation	Drasviaty Lake	SK			6
Improving water purity of rivers in the Orava region	Orava region: Czarna Orawa, Orawa, Orawa Rivers, Orava Lake	PL, SK	PL, SK		6
Evaluation of changes in the Pieniny environment caused by the construction of water reservoirs at Czorsztyn- Niedzica and Sromowce Wyzne	Czorsztyn- Niedzica and Sromowce Wyzne	PL, SK		Pieniny Na- tional Park, Slovak counter Park PIENAP	6
Restoration of condition for being able to pass of the Biala Tarnowska River ecological corridor	Biala Tarnowska River ecological corridor	PL		EU funds	6
Revitalisation of the border river Olza	Olza river	PL, CZ			6
Construction of sewage systems in settlements located in the Poprad river basin-Wierchomla-Forbasy	Poprad river basin-Wierchom- la-Forbasy	PL, SK			6
Reducing pollution of the Dunajec River and its tributaries through construction of a sanitary system in villages Kamianna and Jarabina	Dunajec river; villages Kami- anna and Jarabina	PL, SK			6
Establishment of Mechanisms for Integrated Land and Water Management in the Tisza River Basin	Tisza River Basin	HU, RO, RS, SK, UA	2006 – 2008	GEF, EU, UNDP, UNEP, Governments	6
Integrated multiple benefits of wetlands and floodplains into improved transboundary management for the Tisza River Basin	Tisza River Basin	HU, RO, RS, SK, UA	2008 – 2011	GEF, UNDP	6

Name	Spatial reference	Participating countries (Involved institutions)	Time period	Source of funding/Financing	Concerned CC-Article
Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI)	Carpathians	CZ, HU, PL, RO, RS, SK, UA + national, intergov- ernmental, and inter- national institutions	2006 – ongoing	National ministries (SK, CZ, HU), WWF-Danube Carpathian Programme/ MAVA Foundation, CERI/DBU, BBI/MATRA Ukraine, ICPDR/ UNDP/GEF, DAPHNE/ UNDP/GEF, EU/Swiss, CC Secretariat/ INTERREG	6, 13
Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in the mountains (SARD-M) project	Carpathians	Carpathian countries			7
Development of traditional herding	Carpathians	PL	PL		7
Promote responsible forest management to support sustainable development in the Danube-Carpathian Ecoregion		RO, UA	2005 – 2014	IKEA	7
Regional Program for Improving Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) in the European Neighbourhood Partnership (ENP)		UA	2009 – 2011	World Bank	7
The System of differential forestry in forest ecosystems of Ukrainian Carpathians	Ukrainian Car- pathians	UA, CZ 2008 – 2010		Supported by Czech Party in the framework of the Memo- randum of Understanding between UA and CZ	7
FORZA – Forestry development in Zakarpattya	Zakarpattya Region (OBLAST)	UA 2003 – 2		SDC (Swiss Agency for Development and Coopera- tion)	7
MORAVKA - Preservation of alluvial forest habitats in the Moràvka river Basin	Beskydy area; Moràvka river Basin	CZ	2007 – 2010		7

Name	Spatial reference	Participating countries (Involved institutions)	Time period	Source of funding/Financing	Concerned CC-Article
Multipurpose assessment serving forest biodiversity conservation in the Carpathian region of Hungary	Hungarian Car- pathians	HU			7
Revitalisation of the Beskidy forests on the PL-SK border region to improve their social, ecological and anti-flood functions	Beskidy forests; border area of Poland and Slo- vakia	PL, SK			7
Developing breeding huculs on Muran Plateau	Muran Plateau	SK	2010 – 2012		7
Forest certification	Ukrainian forests	RO, UA (Forest Stewardship Coun- cil)			7
Education programme for farmers on protection of breeding species from wolfs	PL	PL (Nature Conservation Services, Association for Nature WOLF (NGO))			7
Improvement of forest system use	Ukrainian forests	UA			7
(Re)Construction of forest roads	Ukrainian forests	UA			7
Moratorium on the main cutting and use of the crawler transport in high-mountains in force	Ukrainian forests	UA			7
Crop and Food Biosecurity					7
Inventory of Zakarpattya primeval forests	Zakarpattya Region (OBLAST)	UA	2006 – 2008	Supported by Royal Dutch Society for Nature Conservation	7, 12
Infrastructure development of Novohrad-Nógrád Geopark	Novohrad- Nógrád Geopark	HU, SK			8
Cracow-Slovakia railway line	Malopolskie Province				8
Strengthening Infrastructure in the National Park Slovak Paradise for securing commitments related to Natura 2000	National Park Slovak Paradise	SK	2008 – 2011		8
Strengthening the infrastructure in the Pieniny National Park to ensure compliance with obligations related to Natura 2000	Pieniny National Park	SK			8

Name	Spatial reference	Participating countries (Involved institutions)	Time period	Source of funding/Financing	Concerned CC-Article
Strengthening infrastructure for PLA Ponitrie Information Centre and the completion of NATURA 2000 in Nitra	Nitra	SK 2009 – 2011			8
Improving the infrastructure of the Slovak Paradise interior decor and renovated the facility	National Park Slovak Paradise	SK	2010 – 2011		8
ACCESS2MOUNTAIN - Sustainable Mobility and Tourism in Sensitive Areas of the Alps and the Carpathians	Carpathians	AT, BE, HU, IT, PL, RO, SK, SI, ME, RS, UA	2011 – 2014	SEE Transnational Cooperation Programm	8, 9
Via Carpatia (railway line) to link BG, GR, HU, LT, PL, SK	Via Carpatia	PL, LT, SK, HU, RO, BG, GR 2006: idea; 2010: exten- sion		Ministers of Transport of all seven Carpathian Countries	8, 9
Several projects to develop pilot case studies of sustainable tourism in various national parks	Various national parks	SK (State Nature Conservancy), Eu- roparc Federation, European Charter of Sustainable Tourism			9
Know where to go. Collaboration of the local authorities in the field of Carpathian system of touristic information development	Oblasts: Ivano- Frankivska, Lvivska and Chernivetska	UA, PL			9
VeloUkraine	Ivano-Frankivska Oblast	UA	2009 – on- going	EU financial support	9
Green tourism management in the region – Ukrainian Carpathians and Stanitsya Luganska	Oblasts: Lugan- ska and Cherniv- etska	UA, PL 2009		Supported by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland – "Poland's foreign assistance – 2009"	9
Sustainable development of the Carpathians through environment-friendly tourism	Carpathians	PL	2009 – 2010		9
Six projects on sustainable tourism		PL			9
Development of exhibition sites and nature trails and release of popular scientific packages	Bükk National Park	HU, SK	2009 – 2011	Managed by Bükk National Park Directorate	9

Name	Spatial reference	Participating countries (Involved institutions)	Time period	Source of funding/Financing	Concerned CC-Article
Renovation of recreational infrastructure	Ukraine	UA			9
Systematization of tourist routes	Ukraine	UA			9
Via Carpatica	European primeval forest route, European lond distance trail E 3, European long distance trail E 8	SK, PL, UA, RO			9
Creation of tourists's information desks	Ukraine	UA			9, 13
Energy of the Carpathians	Oblasts: Ivano- Frankivska, Lvivska and Zakarpatska	UA	2010	East Europe Foundation, Embassy of Finland in Ukraine and USAID	10
Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) Secretariat for Central and Eastern Europe and Turkey	Central and Eastern Europe and Turkey	AL, BG, BA, HR, CZ, EE, HU, LV, LT, MK, PL, RO, RS, SK, SI, TR	EE, HU, LV, LT, MK, PL, RO, RS, SK, SI,		10
Mapping of the Carpathian Heritage Items	Carpathians	CZ	2008 – 2010	Institute for Environmental Policy Karpaty Education and Information Centre	11
Jablunkov Region Heritage: Carpathian Convention in Practice	CZ-SLK-border- Region; Jablunkov Region	CZ, SK	2009 – 2011	Institute for Environmental Policy	11
Methodology for mapping of Carpathian Heritage	South Moravia Region, Zlín re- gion, Moravian- Silesia Region (Contribution to creation of Carpathian-wide Heritage Invento- ry; goal outlined by COP2)	CZ (Bile Karpaty Education and information centre + local stakehoders, experts, PA staff, local residents; Institute for Environmental Policy + local stakehoders, experts, PA staff, local residents; Institute for Environmental Policy + local stakehoders, experts, PA staff, local stakehoders, experts, PA staff, local residents)			11, 13
Protection, restoration and rational use of fens in the Slovak Republic	SK	SK	2005 – 2010		11, 13
Electronic data base: Information system on biodiversity of East Carpathians	East Carpathians	UA			12

Name	Spatial reference	Participating countries (Involved institutions)	Time period	Source of funding/ Financing	Concerned CC-Article
Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative (CERI)	Carpathians	International net- work of NGOs and research institutes from Carpathian Convention area			12
Air quality information system on the border area of the Silesia and Moravy region	Border area Silesia and Moravy region	PL, CZ			12
Analysis – integration – net- working of regional potentials in the Podkarpackie Province and the Proszow Country	Podkarpackie Province and Proszow Country	PL, SK			12
Guidance on the Process of Environmental Assessment for Natura 2000 Sites	Natura 2000 Sites	CZ			12
Sustainable development of towns and reduction of the negative effects of climate changes on the quality of life and the environmental conditions in the cities	Wisla Forest District	PL			12
Seminar on Communication in Relation to Nature Protection	Szczecin	PL			12
Training on Natura 2000 for Local Administration	Natura 2000 Sites	PL			12
Preparation and implementa- tion of monitoring of habitats and species and to improve public disclosure		SK	2009 – 2012		12
Monitoring and management of the cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo)		SK			12
Research and monitoring populations of large carnivores and the wild cat in Slovakia		SK	2009 – 2014		12
Management models for grassland habitats	Grassland areas	SK	2009 – 2011		12
Sustainable Development of the Cities of Cetinje and Herceg Novi (Montenegro)	Cetinje and Herceg Novi (Montenegro)	SK			12
Sustainable development of towns and reduction of the negative effects of climate changes on the quality of life and the environmental conditions in the cities	Slovakian cities	SK	2005 – 2007		12

Name	Spatial reference	Participating countries (Involved institutions)	Time period	Source of funding/Financing	Concerned CC-Article
Background Paper for the Belgrade Ministerial Conference "Compliance and Enforcement: Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements in South Eastern Europe"		HU	2007		12
Carpathian Parks Day	Almost 30 national and nature parks	CZ, SK, RO, RS, UA	2010		13
Raising awareness on nature and landscape in the Moravian-Slovakian Carpathians	Moravian-Slova- kian Carpathians	CZ, SK			13
Move4Nature		RO, CZ, HU, IT, PL, RS, SK	2008 - 2009		13
Enhancing Regional CEE Cooperation in the field of Climate Change		RS 2007			13
Reports on eight outstanding individuals who have been contributing to the preservation of the Carpathian Heritage	CZ	CZ (Institute for Ecopolicy)			13
Grant competition under the law on charity organizations and volunteer work	Malopolska	PL (Regional govern- ment of Malopolska)			13
Participative management	Maramures Mountains Na- ture Park	RO (Maramures Mountains Nature Park)			13
Workshop on Environmental Programmes in Western Balkan Countries and Asia: Expectations and Prospects post-2010	Western Balkan Countries and Asia	CZ			13
Improving awareness and environmental awareness of NATURA 2000 in Upper Orava PLA	Upper Orava PLA	SK	2009 – 2011		13
Providing Wetland Slovakia, raising environmental awareness on wetlands and capacity building	Wetlands SK	SK	2009 – 2012		13
Promotion of protected areas and Natura 2000 species	Natura 2000 Sites	SK			13
World of Carpathians – Awareness Raising about the Carpathian Biodiversity	Carpathians	CZ, HU, IT, PL, RO, RS, SK	2007 – 2009		13

Name	Spatial reference	Participating countries (Involved institutions)	Time period	Source of funding/ Financing	Concerned CC-Article
Strengthening Romania's Protected Area System by Demonstrating Public-Private Partnership in Romania's Maramures Nature Park	Maramures Na- ture Park	RO			13
From school desks to Nature		SK	2010 – 2011		13
Establishment of the Timok River Forum	Timok river area	SK			13
Aid to Carpathian municipalities in form of grants	Malopolska	PL (Regional government of Malopolska)			13

5.4. Further efforts of cross-border cooperation pointed out by NFPs

5.4.1. Czech Republic

- Close cooperation with the Administrations of Protected Landscape Areas in the Slovak Republic;
- Close cooperation of the Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic and the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic.

5.4.2. Hungary

• Joint Nature Conservation management Plans, enhanced involvement of relevant stakeholders, exchange of knowledge and experience.

5.4.3. Poland

- Polish-Slovak International Commission for Cross-border cooperation;
- PL-SK-UA: Eastern Carpathian Transboundary Biosphere Reserve.

5.4.4. Romania

- RO-RS: Transboundary Cooperation between Djerdap National Park and Iron Gates Natural Park (in order to designate the Ramsar sites);
- RO-UA: Maramures Mountains Nature Park and Ukraine's Carpathian Biosphere Reserve.

5.4.5. Serbia

• Cooperation with Dinaric Arc countries within the implementation framework of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas.

5.4.6. Slovak Republic

- SK-PL-UA: Trilateral Biosphere Reserve east Carpathians;
- SK-CZ: "Small Carpathians" and "White Carpathians";
- SK-HU: Slovak Karst (Common World Heritage Site).

5.4.7. Ukraine

- UA-HU: anti-flood protection programme (2006-2015);
- Participation in four international conferences on sustainable development and nature protection and two cross-border working groups with Hungary in the period form 2008-2010;
- UA-RO: Euroregion Verkhniz Prut;
- UA-PL: transboundary biosphere reserve in Rostochchya region.

5.5. Status of participation of Carpathian countries in relevant multilateral agreements (as of December 1, 2007)

Global conventions which all Carpathian countries participate in²:

- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention);
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);
- Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (Ozone Convention);
- Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer;
- Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal;
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);
- Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);
- Cartagena Protocol on BioSafety (Cartagena Protocol);
- Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (Rotterdam Convention);
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs);
- Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (UNESCO World Heritage Convention).

Regional conventions which all Carpathian countries participate in 46: *UNECE*:

- Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP);
- Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo);
- Convention on the Protection and use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention);
- Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention).

OTHER CONVENTIONS:

• Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention).

Sub-regional conventions which all Carpathian countries participate in:

• Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention).

²⁾ Ratification, acceptance, approval, accession or succession.

Tab. 7: Status of participation of Carpathian countries in relevant multilateral agreements (as of 1 December 2007).

Global conventions	CZECH REPUBLIC	HUNGARY	POLAND	ROMANIA	SERBIA	SLOVAK REPUBLIC	UKRAINE
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)	X*	Х	Х	Х	M**	Х	Х
Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats	Х	Х	Х	Х	M	Х	Х
Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds	М	Х	М	Х	М	Х	Х
Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and the North Seas			Х				
Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area				Х			Х
Regional conventions							
UNECE:							
Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (TEIA)	Х	Х	Х	Х	M	Х	
Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transbound- ary Waters (not yet in force)		Х	М	М			М
OTHER CONVENTIONS:							
Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention)	х	х	х	х	х	х	Х
European Landscape Convention	Х	Х	Х	Х	М	Х	Х
Sub-regional conventions							
Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Bucharest Convention)				Х			Х
Conventon on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable use of the Danube River (Danube River Protection Convention)	Х	Х		X	Х	М	Х

 $^{^{\}star}$ X = ratification, acceptance, approval, accession or succession ** M = member only

5.6. Listing of national legislative documents

5.6.1. Czech Republic

- **Protocol** on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity was signed by the President of the Czech Republic on 1 July 2009;
- Protocols on Sustainable Forest Management and on Tourism;
- Multilateral agreement: Agreement on cooperation between Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic and State Nature conservancy of the Slovak Republic, 2009.

5.6.2. Hungary

- National Environmental **Programmes** (NEP II. 2003-2008, NEP III. 2009-2014);
- National Fisheries Strategic Plan 2007-2013;
- New Forest Law (2009) that is more favorable for nature conservation;
- Foundation of the Cserhát Naturpark (2009);
- Further elaboration of official measure of **Ranger Services** (2009).

5.6.3. Poland

- Act (dated 3 October 2008) on Sharing Information on the Environment and its Protection, Involvement of Society in Nature Conservation and on Environmental Impact Assessments;
- **Legislative** and **introductory achievements** in agriculture and rural development by the introduction of several instruments of the Rural development Policy 2007-2013:
- Less-favoured areas and agro-environmental programmes (the Act of 7 March 2007 on supporting rural development from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (Dz.U. No 64, item 427, as amended);
- Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of 26 February 2009 on detailed conditions and mode of granting financial assistance under measure "Agro-environmental programme", Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 (Dz.U.³⁾ No 33, item 262 and No 161, item 1286 and of 2010, No 39, item 218 and No 76, item 500);
- Polish **regulation**s emphasise the superior position of the protection over the production function in planning and conducting the forest management. It is vividly enhanced through multiple educational programs undertaken by the State Forest staff both in-class and in the outdoor environment;
- Ratification of the **Protocol** on the conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity;
- Regional "Programme of the Economic Activation and the Preservation of the Cultural Heritage of Beskids and Cracow Częstochowa Jura – the Sheep Plus" (I. 2007-2009, II. 2010-2014);
- The **strategy** of the nature protection of Silesian Province for the years 2011-2030;
- Red Book of Polish Carpathians vascular plants. Wladyslaw Szafer Institute of Botany, Polish Academy of Science, Krakow 2010;
- 47 examples of **activities** supported by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage (MKiDN) from 2007-2010 as part of the **Cultural Heritage**, **Priority 3**, **Protection of Folk Culture** programme, concerning actions for the Carpathian Region.

³⁾ Dziennik Ustaw Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej (English: Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland).

5.6.4. Romania

- **Protocol** on Biological and Landscape Diversity to the Carpathian Convention recently approved by law no. 137/2010;
- The **approval of strategy** of biodiversity is estimated to be finalised in 2011.

5.6.5. Serbia

Laws

- Law on Environment;
- Law on Spatial Plan;
- Law on Nature Protection;
- · Law on Water:
- Law on Forestry;
- Law on game and hunting (established by the Parliament of the Republic of Serbia in 2010);
- Law on Ratification of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians;
- The Law on Ratification of the Landscape Convention;
- Decree on Ecological Network;
- Spatial Decrees on protection of single protected areas.

National Strategies (2007-2019)

- National strategy on Sustainable Development (2008-2017);
- National Environmental Protection Programme (2010-2019);
- The National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Goods;
- Strategy on Biological Diversity of the Republic of Serbia (2011-2018);
- National Strategy on Agriculture;
- Programme of the Implementation of the Strategy for Development of Energy of the Republic of Serbia (2007-2012).

Protocols

In 2011, the Government of the Republic of Serbia will sign (according to NFP):

- The Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management;
- The Protocol on Sustainable Tourism to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians.

Rulebooks

- on Compensatory measures;
- on criteria for selecting habitat types including lists of priority natural habitat types and measures for their conservation established by the Ministry of environment and spatial planning, 26 May 2010⁴);
- on proclamation and protection of strictly protected and protected wild flora, fauna and fungi (established by the Ministry of environment and spatial planning and Ministry of agriculture, forestry and water management, 5 February 2010).

⁴⁾ Harmonized with the EU Habitat Directive and the Bern Convention

5.6.6. Slovak Republic

- Adoption of National Lists of Special Protection Areas (Decree No. 363 of 9th July 2003);
- Declaration of 21 Special Protection Areas (15 November 2008). Proposal of 38 Special Protection Areas. Further Special Protection Areas in discussion.

5.6.7. Ukraine

Documents regarding protection and sustainable development of Carpathians

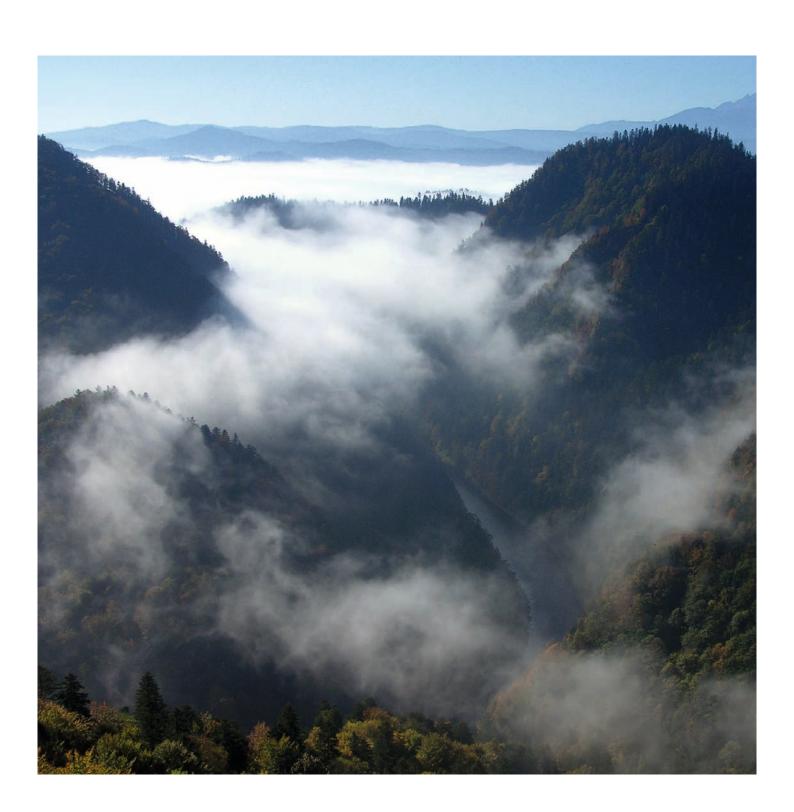
- The **Law** "On ratification of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity for the Carpathian Convention" (2009);
- The **Strategy** of the Implementation of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (2007);
- The **Action Plan** on the Realization of the Strategy of the Implementation of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (2007);
- Regional **program** on econet development for the period 2008-2015 of Lvivska oblast (one of the chapters is dedicated to the Carpathian ecocorridor development which will be connected with Alps-Carpathians international ecocorridor);
- Regional **program** of Chernivetska oblast "Ecology 2007-2010", the draft program "Ecology 2011-2015" is submitted to Chernivetska oblast Council for the approval (one of the chapters is dedicated to oblast econet development according to CC principles);
- **Four** local **programs** on tourism development in Chernivetska, Ivano-Frankivska, Lvivska and Zakarpatska oblasts (the goals of the programs are to conserve, protect and sustainably use the natural resources of the Carpathians for the touristic activity and local and transboundary cooperation, and achieve the ecological integrity while realizing touristic activity).

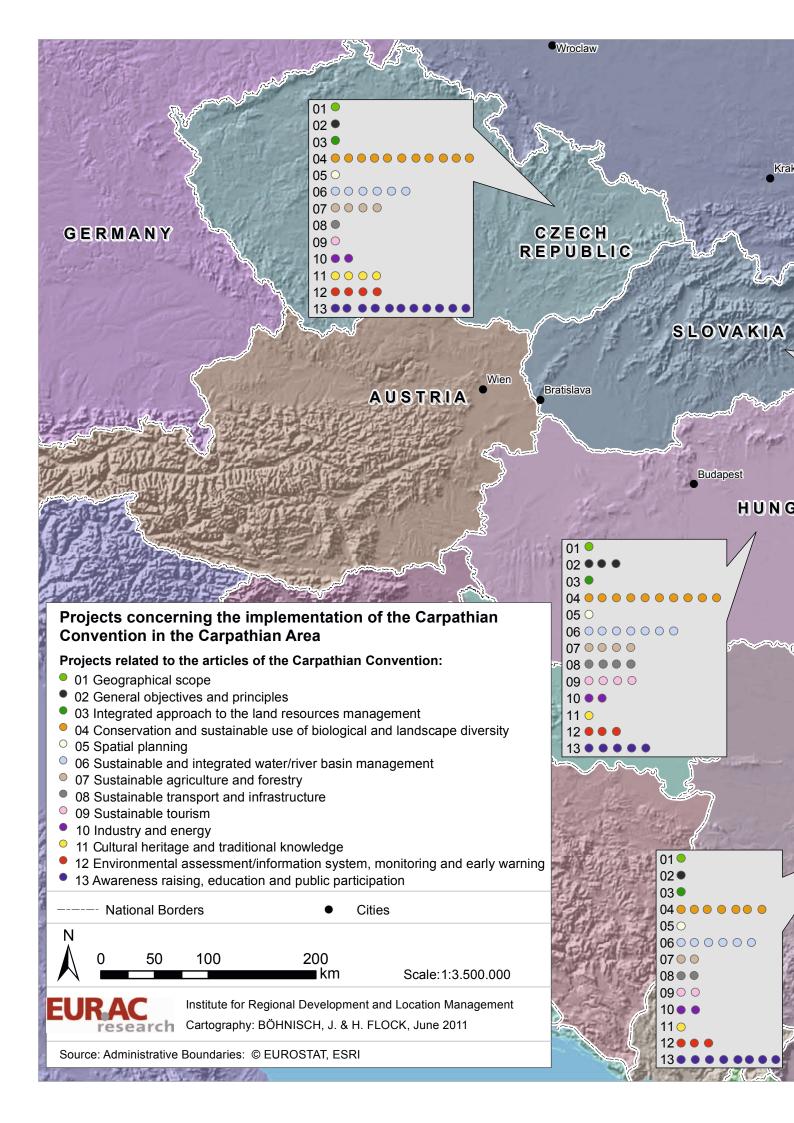
Documents regarding Carpathian protected area management:

- Order of the Cabinet of Ministers "On immediate actions on prevention of non-controlled cutting of the Carpathian forests and ensuring the artificial restoration of forest plantations" (2008);
- **Decision of the Cabinet of the Ministers** "On approval of the rules of the main cutting in the Carpathian mountain forests" (2008);
- **Decree** "On improvement of Goverla Mountain territory and installation of the memorial sign on its top" (provisions concerning establishing Goverla Mountain as nature protected area, 2008);
- **Decree** "On decision of the Security and Defense Council of Ukraine from August 19, 2008" (provisions concerning establishing nature protected areas in the river basins of Zakarpatska, Ivano-Frankivska, Ternopilska and Chernivetska oblasts, 2008);
- **Two decrees** "On **expansion** of the territories of the national nature parks (NNP) and other protected areas" (concerning expansion of the NNP "Synevir" and Carpathian biosphere reserve, 2009, 2010);
- Decree "On establishment of the NNP "Zacharovany Kraj" (2009);
- **Decree** "On the additional measures concerning nature protected areas development in Ukraine up to 2013" (2009);
- Decree "On establishment of the NNP "Syniogora" (2009);
- Decree "On establishment of the NNP "Cheremosky" (2009);
- **Decree** "On establishment of the NNP "Verkhovynsky" (2009);
- Decree "On expansion of the territory of the Carpathian NNP" (2010);

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- **Decree** "On approval of the lists of the plants and fungus species to be put in and to be excluded from Red Book of Ukraine" (2009);
- **Decree** "On approval of the lists of the animal species to be put in and to be excluded from Red Book of Ukraine" (2009);
- **Decree** "On approval of the list of rare, endangered and typical nature plant communities, the subjects to special conservation regime, and to be put in Green Book of Ukraine" (2009);
- Order of the Cabinet of Ministers "On approval of the action plan on conservation and development of Ukrainian part of the nature object "Beech primeval forests of the Carpathians" (2009).





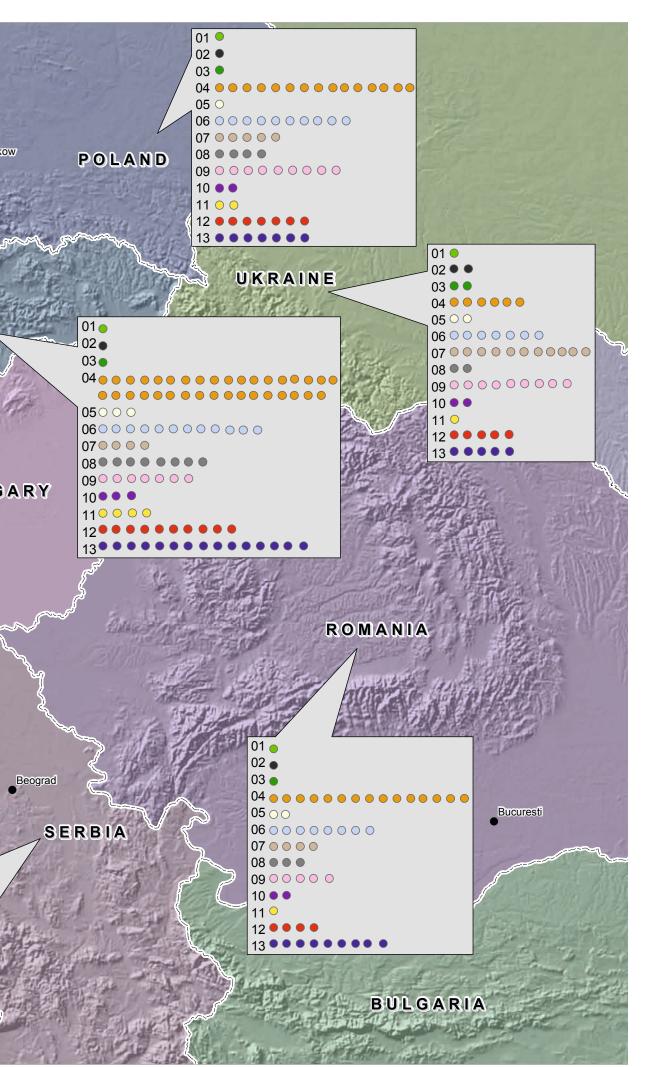


Fig. 5:

Projects per country concerning the implementation of the Carpathian Convention in the Carpathian Area.



aims at providing a synthetic and comprehensive overview of the relevant policies, projects, initiatives, best practices, and other activities related to the implementation of the protocols of the Carpathian Convention since 2007. Based on consultations of the National Focal Points and regional experts it presents opportunities and challenges and points out the achievements made in the Carpathian Convention Member States and the problems encountered. It provides recommendations for measures to enable the further implementation of the Carpathian Convention.

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