



BIOREGIO Carpathians

*Integrated Management of Biological and Landscape Diversity for Sustainable
Regional Development and Ecological Connectivity in the Carpathians*

CCIC Meeting, Vienna, 5-7th december 2012

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Overview:

1. General Overview
2. Partnership
3. Main Objectives
4. Project Structure and Implementation status/update



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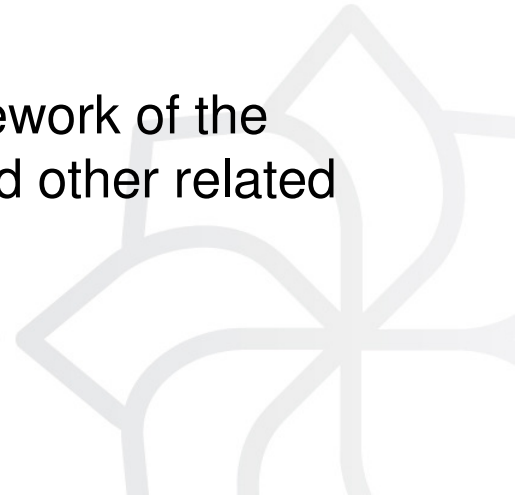


1. General overview

BioREGIO Carpathians is a transnational project, co-financed by the ERDF under the 2nd call of the [EU South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme](#).

The project was approved in March 2011, it will run for three years (2011 – 2013) and is a flagship project in the [EU Strategy for the Danube Region \(EUSDR\)](#). The Subsidy Contract was signed in December 2011; in 2012 a 6 months prolongation was requested to the JTS.

BioREGIO Carpathians builds on the existing framework of the Carpathian Convention, its Biodiversity Protocol and other related transnational networks and initiatives.



2. Partnership

16 international, national, and local authorities, organizations and scientific institutions from 9 countries:

• Lead Partner: Piatra Craiului National Park (RO)

• Austria:

- UNEP Vienna – Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention
- WWF Danube Carpathians Programme

• Hungary:

- Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate
- Szent István University



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2. Partnership

- Romania:
 - Maramures Mountains Nature Park,
 - Iron Gates Natural Park,
 - Regional Environmental Protection Agency Sibiu
- Italy:
 - European Academy Bolzano - EURAC,
 - Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea
- Slovak Republic:
 - State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic,
 - National Forest Centre



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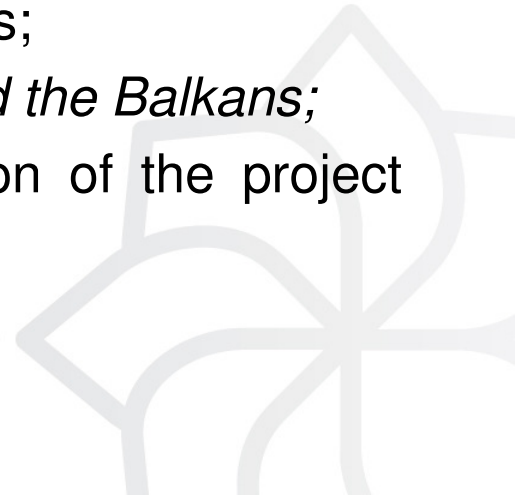
2. Partnership

- Czech Republic:
 - Nature Conservancy Agency
- Poland:
 - Polish Academy of Sciences - Institute of Nature Conservation
- Serbia:
 - Public Enterprise Djerdap National Park
- Ukraine:
 - Carpathian Biosphere Reserve
- Observers: Ministries of the Environment of all the 7 Carpathian Countries, Environment Agency Austria



3. Main Objectives/outputs

- a geo web-referenced interactive *Carpathian Joint Biodiversity Information System (CJBIS)*;
- the first Carpathian wide *Red Lists of Habitats and Species* and a List of Invasive Alien Species;
- *Common Integrated Management Measures (CIMM)* for natural assets and protected areas and further implementation in 3 different transboundary pilot areas;
- *Policy recommendations for ecological connectivity* after identifying the main natural, legal, social and economic barriers;
- Transfer of project results are *to the Dinaric Arc and the Balkans*;
- multi-level governance and cross-sector integration of the project outcomes and recommendations.



4. Project Structure and Implementation status

WP 0: Preparation Activities

WP 1: Transnational project and financial management

WP 2: Communication Activities

WP 3: Database development

WP 4: Integrated management of Carpathian natural
assets and protected areas

WP 5: Continuity and connectivity

WP 6: Pilot projects

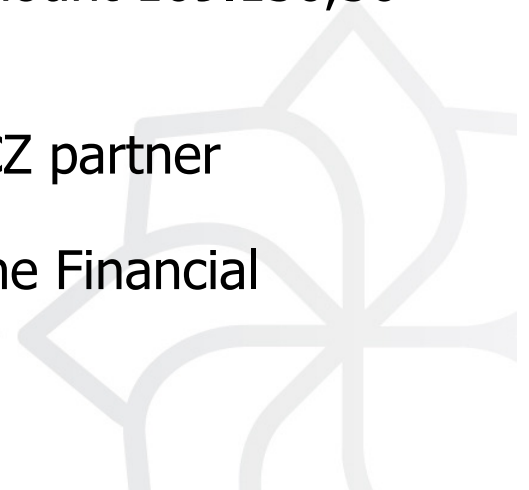
WP 7: Intergovernmental platform and stakeholders
involvement



WP 1 - Project management – Piatra Craiului National Park

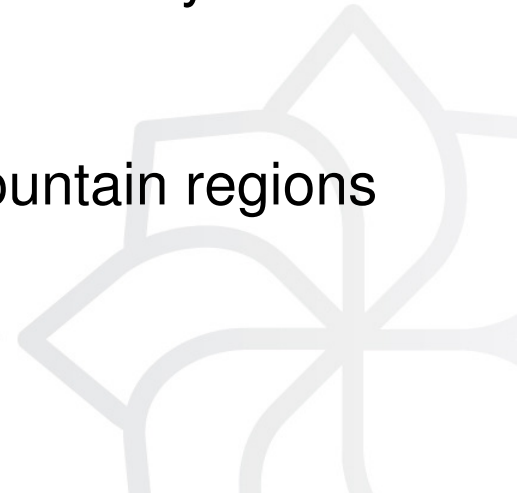
- Operational Manual elaborated;
- Regular exchange of information between all PPs and project technical and financial coordination/management ensured by the LP;
- Kick off meeting in July 2011 in Zărnești (RO) and 2 Project Partner and Steering Committee meetings held in Austria and Romania in January and September 2012 – in collaboration with UNEP Vienna ISCC;
- Various internal meetings: two JTS meetings (Hungary), Work Package Leaders meeting December 2011 (Austria), meeting with the Ukrainian partner for the activities coordination improvement;
- Submission of 3 Progress Reports to the JTS – total amount 169.136,36 Euro
- Delays in spending the budget – need to speed up
- The LP is currently submitting the documentation for CZ partner changing, decommitment and prolongation to the JTS
- Ensuring the linkage with the GEF project Improving the Financial Sustainability of the Carpathian PAs

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WP 2 – Communication activities – UNEP Vienna ISCC

- Internal and external Communication Plan;
- BIOREGIO website – www.bioregio-carpathians.eu; regular update;
- Intranet platform to be set soon;
- Project logo;
- Presentations and promotion during COP in Bratislava or in United States of America in occasion of the RIO+20 Consultations
- Special event during Forum Carpathicum - S4C in May 2012 in Slovakia
- Finalization of the BIOREGIO Visual identity
- Dissemination of the project results in other mountain regions



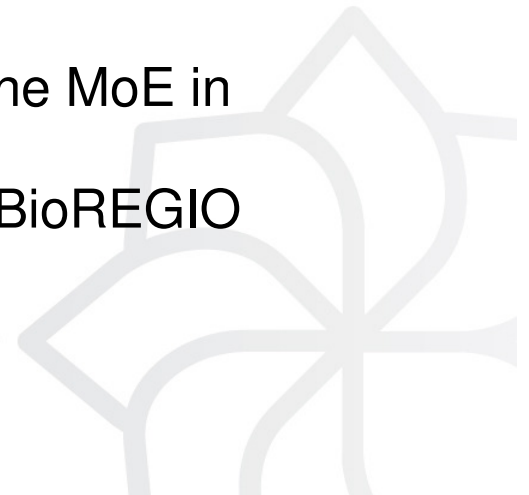
WP 3 – Database development - State Nature Conservancy

- Methodology for elaboration of the Red Lists of Habitats and Species and Alien Invasive Species agreed;
- IUCN Guidelines and Orographic units distributed to PPs;
- Terms of Reference for national experts defined;
- Questionnaires on data availability distributed and data collected;
- Cooperation with Daphne - draft MoU on the establishment and operation of the Carpathian International Biodiversity Information System;
- Presentation of the methodology/WP3 to CC Biodiversity WG (26 March 2012) or to Forum Carpaticum 2012, May 2012
- Chosen databases/classifications
- 2 WP meetings and consultation workshop organised



WP 4 – Integrated management of Carpathian natural assets and PAs - WWF DCP

- 2 WP meetings organised - November 2011 (Austria) and June 2012 (Hungary);
- Experts hired by WWF for the studies to be developed;
- Various questionnaire sent to the PPs – data collection ongoing;
- 3 WGs established (Wetlands, Large Carnivores and Herbivores, Forestry) and data collection;
- Linkage with the GEF Project in Romania on PAs financial mechanisms
- Contribution to the stakeholders meetings hold in Hungary and Romania and to be held in Slovakia and Serbia
- Project promotion at PA4LP project meetings and the MoE in Bratislava, Prague, Budapest, Kyiv and Warsaw
- CHM training held under the PA4LP project where BioREGIO project partners also participated.



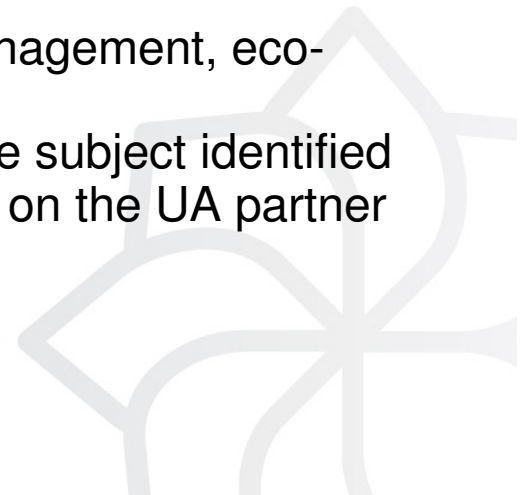
WP 5 – Continuity and Connectivity – EURAC Research

- WP5 Structure Connectivity and Continuum developed;
- 2 WP meetings in February and July 2012, in Banska Bystrica (Slovakia), in conjunction with WP 3 meeting;
- Preparation of the list of selected umbrella species and of the questionnaires on the physical and legal barriers – data collection of the available data; GIS Analysis of the physical barriers data collected;
- Exchange meeting ECONNECT project (Alps) with BIOREGIO partners in order to share the experience gained – May 2012, AU
- Project promotion: Presentation at Forum Capaticum (June 2012)
- Elaboration of the Operational Manual on data collection - ongoing process



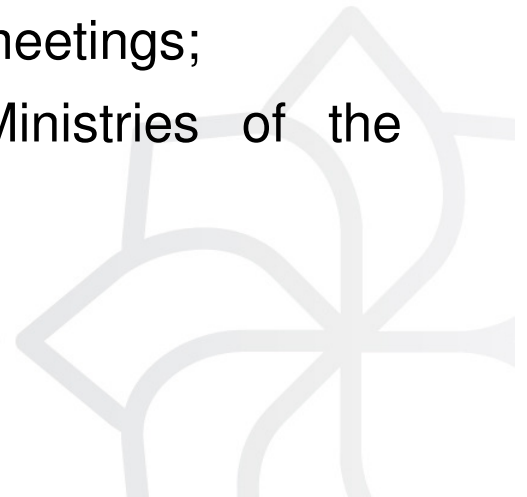
WP 6 – Pilot projects– Duna Ipoly National Park

- 1st WP meeting in June 2012, in Budapest (Hungary), in conjunction with WP4 meeting;
- Overview of existing management plans/measures;
- Drafting a bilateral field study (September – October 2012);
- Elaboration of a report identifying the fields of cooperation and pilot actions prepared – to be finalized in December 2012;
- Cooperation with WP4 leader on developing and applying common management measures in pilot areas;
- Organization of the first stakeholder meeting in Hungary (8th - 9th November 2012).
- WP leaders meeting
- Iron Gates – Djerdap – agreement signed – wetlands management, eco-tourism development, Ramsar ?
- Maramures Mts. – Karpatsky BR – still pending – only one subject identified – creation of a transboundary BR – organizational delays on the UA partner



WP 7 – Intergovernmental platform and stakeholders involvement– UNEP Vienna ISCC

- Elaboration of the Strategy for a systematic process of stakeholders consultation;
- Organization of the first WP7 meeting together with the Stakeholder meeting in Hungary and Romania (Nov. 2012), coordination of stakeholders identification, contacts and future meetings;
- 2 intergovernmental Platform meetings: CC Biodiversity WG (February 2012) and CC Sustainable Forest Management WG (April 2012) and follow-up activities;
- Planning of upcoming intergovernmental platform meetings;
- Regular contacts with Carpathian Countries Ministries of the Environment on project implementation.



GEF Project

Financial sustainability

- Financial analysis
- Business plans
- PES
- Income generating activities
- Supporting a workshop during the CNPA Parks Conference

Training modules

- Core group established
- Survey on training needs
- Answered – PL, HU, SK, SRB, and RO
- Still to answer – UA and CZ



Thank you for your attention!

Mircea Verghelet
Piatra Craiului National Park

