



7th CCIC Meeting, Vienna, UNE, 17-19 December 2018

Carpathian Convention COP5 (2017)



DECISION COP5/4 Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity

- *...notes* the existing synergies between the Convention on Wetlands and the CWI, *invites* the CWI to enhance cooperation and to mobilize resources in support of appropriate action on the effective conservation, restoration, management and sustainable use of Carpathian wetlands, as well as on development of education and training in these topics

Summary of activities since CC COP5



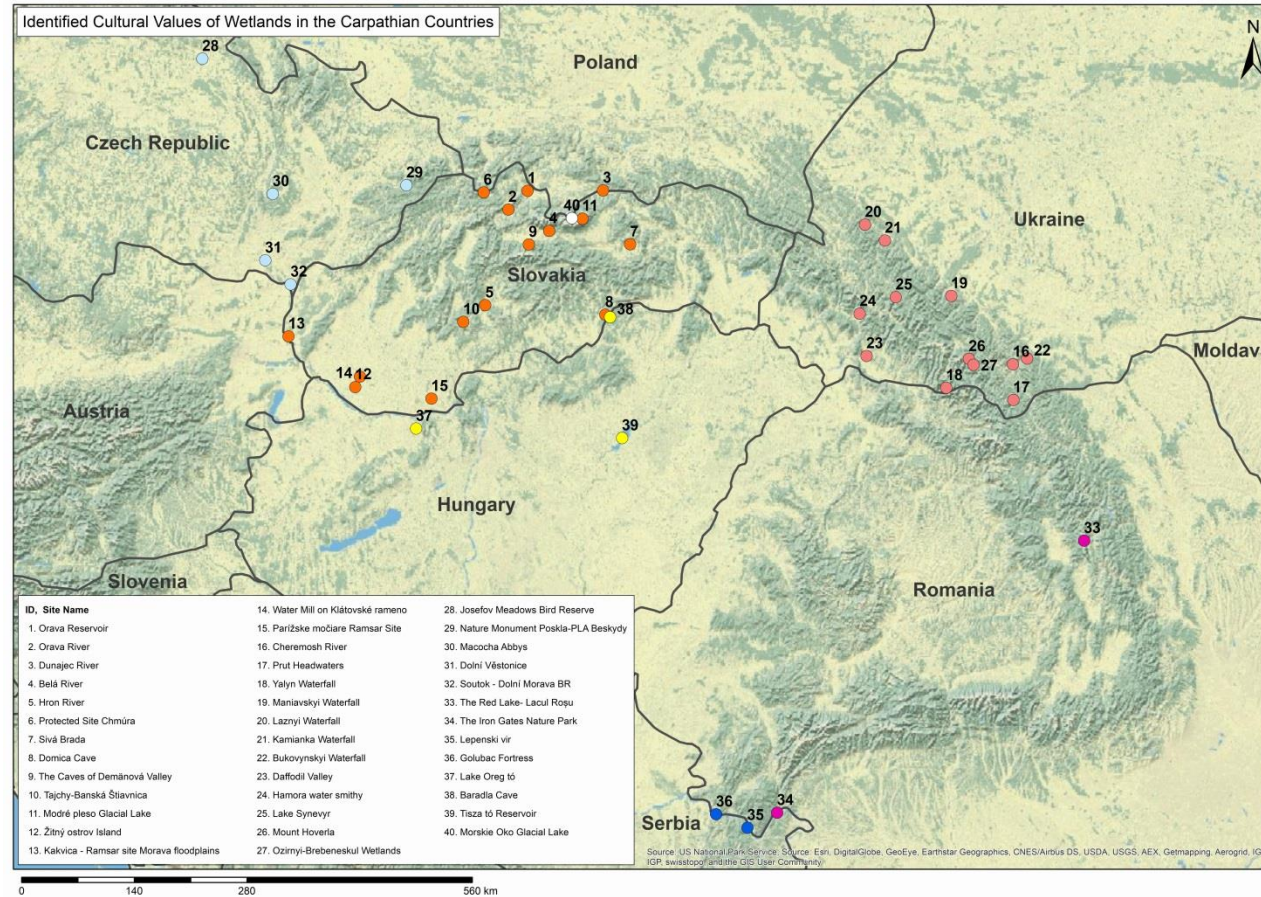
- Annual report distributed to CWI Board members and available at www.cwi.sk
- Cooperation with other networks (DANUBEPARKS, ALPARC, CNPA) and organizations (WWF, WI, IUCN WCPA)
- Fund-raising, projects development and implementation (INTERREG Danube Transnational Programme – ConnectGREEN, partly TRANSGREEN, Danube Floodplain; INTERREG Central Europe – CentralParks; Endangered Landscapes Programme – peatland restoration in transborder areas – in cooperation with CEEweb and other organisations ...)
- **Bilateral transborder cooperation** e.g. HU/SK (NAT-NET DUNA/DUNAJ 2, Aggtelek – Slovak Karst, Bodrog River, etc.)

Project Ramsar Culture Network in the Carpathian Region



http://www.cwi.sk/files/carpathian_cultural_heritage_in_wetlands.pdf

Project Ramsar Culture Network in the Carpathian Region



Presentation at CC WG Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge, Szentendre/Budapest, HU, 4-5 April 2018, other events, and further discussion with CC Secretariat

Activities of the CWI Board



- Two meetings of the CWI Board (March 2018 – ERRM, Olomouc, CZ; October 2018 – Ramsar COP13, Dubai, UAE)
- CWI Strategy/Priorities 2019-2024 and funding opportunities
- Draft CWI workplan 2019
- CWI governance

CWI Work programme / strategy 2019-2024



based on already by Carpathian Parties agreed documents

- Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024,
- Strategic Action Plan for the implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol of the Carpathian Convention,
- Decisions of the Carpathian Convention COP5 and Programme of Work 2018-2020,
- Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ramsar Convention and Carpathian Convention,
- ToR CWI

CWI Work programme / strategy 2019-2024



1. Mainstreaming - *Promote integration of wetlands and their services and benefits into sectoral policies*

- Means: CC working groups, cooperation within ICPDR, workshops, conferences

2. River Basin Management - *Cooperate on development and implementation of projects integrating wetlands in river basin management*

- Means: cooperation with ICPDR and Tisza Group (JOINTISZA project), cooperation with DANUBEPARKS, Alpine Convention, NGOs, translation of relevant guidelines to national languages, management planning

3. Invasive Alien Species - *Cooperate on identification and prioritization of invasive alien species and pathways of their introduction and expansion, on control and eradication of priority invasive alien species, and on preparation and implementation of management responses to prevent their introduction and establishment*

- Means: CC Biodiversity Working Group, CNPA, NGOs, translation of relevant guidelines to national languages, transborder projects, workshops, conferences, trainings

CWI Work programme / strategy 2019-2024



4. Ecological Networks and Management of Sites - *Cooperate on development of ecological network, continuity and connectivity of habitats in the Carpathians, including through integrated management of Ramsar Sites, designation of new Ramsar Sites, expansion of existing sites, maintenance and restoration of wetlands*

- Means: cooperation in running projects and development of new projects, cooperation with CNPA, DANUBEPARKS and ALPARC within existing MoC, NGOs, workshops, conferences, consultation on designation of new Ramsar Sites, Natura 2000 sites, trans-border cooperation, joint management planning

5. Prevention of environmental damages in wetlands - *Facilitate exchange of information on risk of change in ecological character of wetlands (including transborder rivers), addressing the threats to wetlands*

- Means: cooperation within ICPDR, involvement in/of cross-border river basin commissions, cooperation with CNPA, DANUBEPARKS, cooperation agreements between protected areas in cross-border regions, joint management planning

6. Wetland Inventories – *Support of inventory of wetland habitats and species, development of Red Lists, inventory of cultural values in wetlands, common database and maps on wetlands in the Carpathians, documentation, promotion and dissemination of their functions, values, conservation and effective management*

- Means: CC working groups (Biodiversity, Forestry, SARD, Cultural Heritage), Carpathian Countries Integrated Biodiversity Information System (CCIBIS), cooperation with CNPA, Science for Carpathians S4C, NGOs, workshops, conferences, management planning, translation of guidelines

CWI Work programme / strategy 2019-2024



7. Wetlands conservation, restoration and maintenance - *Identify priorities for common actions and for wetlands restoration and develop and implement common projects aimed at long-term conservation, maintenance, restoration and sustainable use of wetland habitats and species to be jointly undertaken in the Carpathians, in particular in border areas and transboundary protected areas*

- Means: cooperation with CC Biodiversity WG, CNPA, AEWA, NGOs, translation of guidelines, agreements on transborder cooperation, management planning

8. Climate Change - *Identify wetlands most at risk due to climate change based on an assessment of the vulnerability of Carpathian wetlands to climate change impacts, propose and implement measures to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change*

- Means: cooperation with CC Biodiversity WG, WG Climate Change, S4C, NGOs, workshops, conferences, trainings, web pages

9. Research, monitoring, information system - *Facilitate cooperation in species and habitats monitoring, research in wetlands, development of joint information system and joint guidelines and methodologies to make them available to decision makers and practitioners*

- Means: cooperation with CC Biodiversity WG, CNPA, S4C, ICPDR, NGOs, CCIBIS, workshops, conferences, projects

CWI Work programme / strategy 2019-2024



10. Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness - *Develop and implement CWI Programme on communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness, develop Carpathian Wetland Centre*

- Means: cooperation with CC working groups, CNPA, NGOs, questionnaires, workshops, conferences, trainings, campaigns, education activities, publications, web sites, detailed communication plan, detailed training plan, projects

11. Capacities and financing - *Provide personal and financial support for implementation of the CWI strategy and related strategies and actions plans, mobilize financial resources for CWI work*

- Means: voluntary contributions, projects, national allocations for transboundary cooperation

Ramsar COP13, Res. XIII.9 on RRIs 2019-2021



- CWI formally endorsed by COP as one of 19 RRIs in the world
- Re-established the Ramsar Regional Initiatives Working group (open-ended), to draft new *Operational guidelines for RRIs*, and submit their recommendations to the Standing Committee at its 58th meeting which should include a draft resolution for consideration by the SC
- ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties and INVITES other potential donors, bilateral or multilateral, to support RRIs, ..., and INVITES Contracting Parties that are geographically related to an RRI to consider giving financial support;
- ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties, as appropriate, to invite regional intergovernmental, international and non-governmental organizations, Organisations of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and may invite transboundary river and groundwater basin organizations as well, to participate in or collaborate with RRIs;
- ENCOURAGES the Contracting Parties concerned to take the necessary steps to achieve financial sustainability for the RRIs, preferably from a variety of sources, as well as to establish mechanisms and procedures to ensure their sustainability beyond specific project periods, and try to avoid RRIs from becoming dependent on a single major donor, thus improving the possibility for financial stability for the RRI;

Options for further CWI governance



- No special project dedicated to CWI operation and activities
- Status quo – continuation of current **coordination by SNC SR** – written agreement with Parties and the Ramsar Secretariat
- **Other governmental organisation / AA** in a country (volunteer?)
- **Rotational basis** – Presidency country of the Carpathian Convention taking over the CWI coordination for 3 years until next CC COP with the administrative role of the **Carpathian Convention Secretariat** (based on work plan agreed at CC COP)
 - „patronage“ of countries over themes of the work plan (e.g. CZ – CEPA, HU – IAS...)
- Establishment of **independent NGO** for coordination (which country?, membership fees)
- **Existing NGO?**
- **Other proposal?**

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