



BIOREGIO Carpathians

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

CC Implementation Committee, Prague, 18 - 20 February 2014

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Overview:

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



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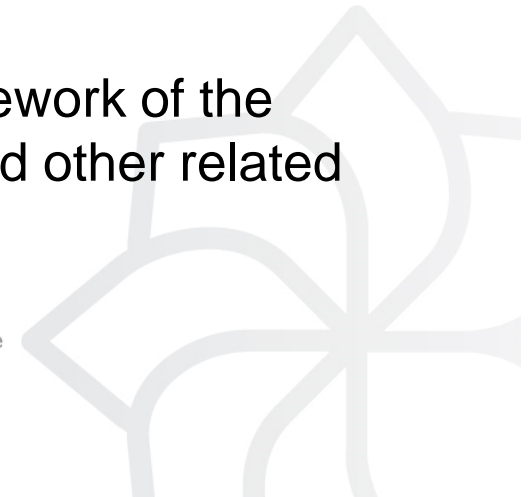


1. General overview

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 to be implemented in three years time (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 hence the project will end on 30th June 2014.

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 (Romania)

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,
- 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:

- UNEP GRID Warsaw Centre

Serbia:

- Public Enterprise Djerdap National Park

Ukraine:

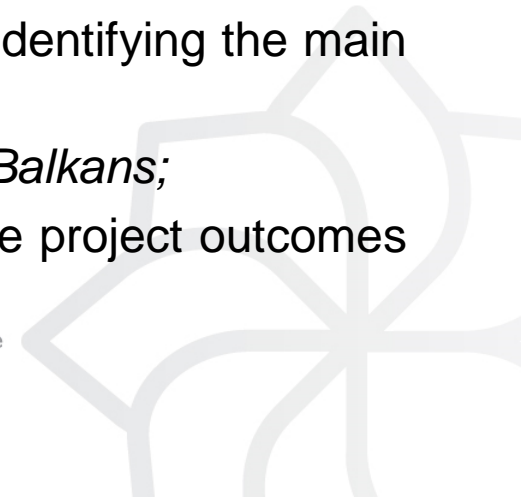
- Carpathian Biosphere Reserve

Observers: Ministries of the Environment of all the 7 Carpathian Countries, Environment Agency Austria



3. Main Objectives/Outputs

- a geo web-referenced interactive *Carpathian Integrated Biodiversity Information System (CIBIS)*;
- 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;
- studies on regional development opportunities, financial mechanisms and innovative economic tools for PAs and natural assets;
- *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

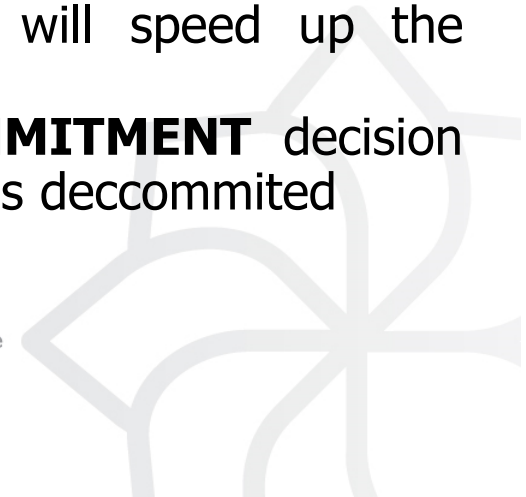
WP 6: Pilot projects

WP 7: Intergovernmental platform and stakeholders
involvement



WP 1 - Project management – Lead Partner - Piatra Craiului National Park

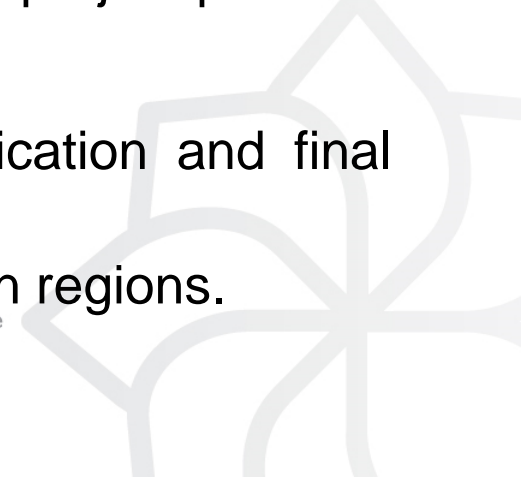
- Regular exchange of information between all PPs → project technical and financial coordination/management ensured by the LP;
- Kick off meeting in July 2011 & 5 Project Partners and Steering Committee meetings held in Austria and Romania in 2012 and 2013 – in close collaboration with UNEP Vienna ISCC;
- Internal meetings: JTS meetings (Hungary), Work Package/WP Leaders meetings, various meetings of the partners for the activities coordination improvement;
- Submission of 6 Progress Reports to the JTS (including an interim report) – total amount: 857.096,09 Euro;
- Delays in spending/reporting the budget → all PPs will speed up the implementation in the remaining period;
- The JTS recently informed the LP on a **NO-DECOMMITMENT** decision regarding Bioregio Project, even if the whole program was decommitted



WP 2 – Communication activities – UNEP Vienna ISCC

- Regular update of BIOREGIO Carpathians project website – www.bioregio-carpathians.eu;
- Intranet platform set and constantly used by the PPs;
- Project mid-term and press conference held in conjunction with the CNPA Conference in April 2013 (Tatranska Javorina, Slovakia);
- Presentations and project promotion during events like RIO Earth Summit, IENE Infra Eco network Europe conference and workshops, Forum Carpathicum, SEE Annual Conferences, CC Working groups, etc.;
- Publication of articles and TV/radio interviews of the project partners on national level;
- Various project promotional materials developed;
- Preparation activities for elaboration of final publication and final conference organization;
- Dissemination of the project results in other mountain regions.

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WP 3 – Database development - State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic

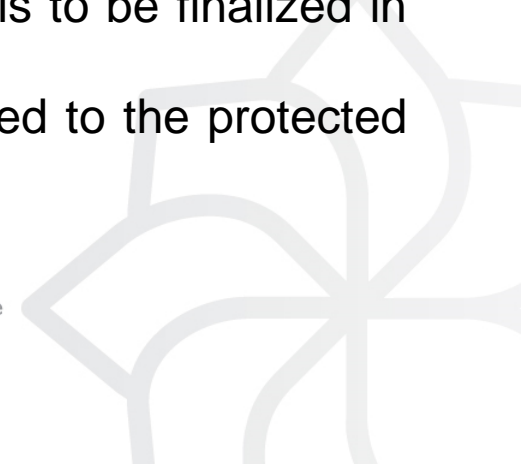
- Methodologies for elaboration of the Red Lists of Habitats and Species and Alien Invasive Species developed;
- Protected Areas Conference (CNPA conference) organized in April 2013 (Slovakia);
- Data collection from national experts through online form (www.sopsr.sk/symfony-bioregio);
- Cooperation with *Daphne* - MoU on the establishment and operation of the Carpathian International Biodiversity Information System (CIBIS) – currently being signed by all contributing parties;
- CIBIS database is being developed (www.ccibis.org);
- 4 WP meetings, consultation workshop and various internal meetings organised;
- Red lists for species & habitats and List of Alien Invasive Species to be finalized end of February/March 2014;
- Carpathian Wetland Handbook to be finalized by the end of May 2014.

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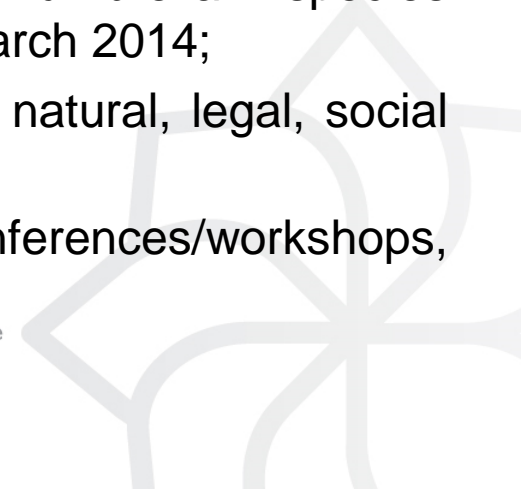
WP 4 – Integrated management of Carpathian natural assets and PAs - WWF DCP

- Both studies on Regional development opportunities (RDO) represented by the Carpathian Pas and on the Common Integrated Management Measures for Pas (CIMMs) to be finalized in early spring 2014;
- The results of the stakeholders consultations and meetings held in Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Serbia in 2012/2013 = basis for the CIMMs and RDO study elaboration.
- 3 WGs established (Wetlands, Large Carnivores and Herbivores, Forestry) and data collection on national level for CIMMs drafting;
- Daphne - Institute of Applied Ecology was subcontracted and delivered the information on High Nature Value Farmlands for the entire Carpathian area;
- Linkage with the GEF Project in Romania on PAs financial mechanisms – study on financial mechanisms/innovative economic tools to be finalized in February by UNEP Vienna ISCC expert;
- Transferable best practices from the Alpine region related to the protected areas and natural assets – included in the studies.
- 4 WP meetings organised in Austria and Hungary;



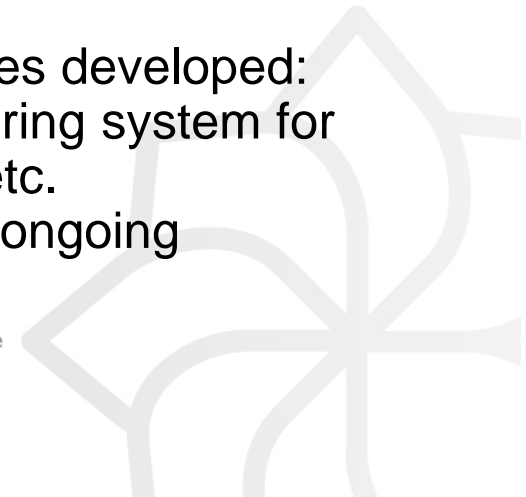
WP 5 – Continuity and Connectivity – EURAC Research

- 3 out of 4 WP meetings in February/July 2012 & June 2013, in Banska Bystrica (Slovakia); hot spots visits and stakeholders consultations in HU, RO, UA, RS, SK;
- Report on advanced tools and methodologies adopted finalized;
- National reports on legal impacts on ecological connectivity in the Carpathian countries were finalised and included into the publication "Toward the protection of Biodiversity and Ecological Connectivity in Multi-Layered Systems";
- GIS model presently computed and able to calculate the probable dispersal paths across the whole Carpathians for 9 umbrella species (<http://webgis.eurac.edu/bioregio/>) → to be finalized in March 2014;
- Recommendations for ecological connectivity related to natural, legal, social and economic barriers to be finalized in May 2014;
- Project and WP5 outputs promotion during many conferences/workshops, websites, TV interviews, etc.



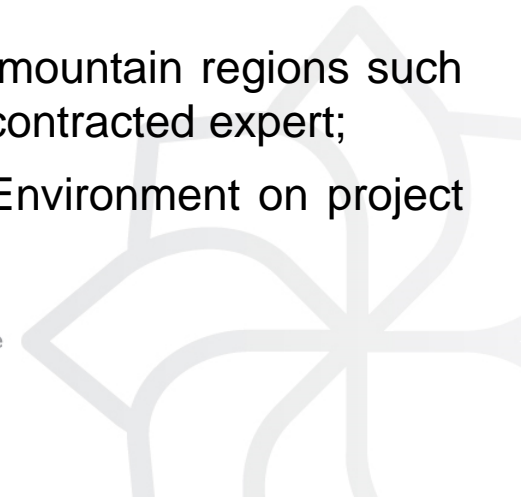
WP 6 – Pilot projects– Duna Ipoly National Park

- Cooperation with WP4 leader on developing and applying common management measures in 3 pilot areas;
 1. Duna Ipoly-Poiplicie: Actualisation of RIS; overview of existing management plans/measures and common management plan to be developed together with various common activities (water birds counting, crossborder study trail, etc.) in the remaining implementation period;
 2. Iron Gates – Djerdap NP – common activities and/or studies developed for the transboundary PA on wetlands management, eco-tourism development, Ramsar Site designation, rangers trainings, ecosystem services/sustainable management, etc.
 3. Maramures Mts.NP – Carpathian BR: common activities developed: harmonisation of management plans, common monitoring system for large mammals/bark beetle, communication actions, etc.
- Designation of Maramures NP as Biosphere Reserve – ongoing process.



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

- Elaboration of the Strategy for a systematic process of stakeholders consultation and organisation of 4 Stakeholders meetings in Hungary, Romania, Serbia and Slovakia (2012 - 2013);
- Organization of Pan-Carpathian Day activities in 38 protected areas (national or nature parks) in 5 Carpathian countries (May 2013) → increase of public awareness on Carp. Natural heritage, biodiversity conservation, etc.
- Organisation and follow-up activities of various intergovernmental Platform meetings: CC Biodiversity WGs, CC Sustainable Forest Management WGs, CNPA SC meetings and CC Implementation Committee meetings; Planning of upcoming intergovernmental platform meetings;
- Synthesis report of project results of high relevance for other mountain regions such as the Dinaric arc, the Balkans – currently being developed by contracted expert;
- Regular contacts with Carpathian Countries Ministries of the Environment on project implementation.



CNPA Unit

1. Association of Natural PAs Administrations in Romania
2. Pronatur NGO in Slovakia

Updating contacts

Questionnaires

Web page – transferred from Alparc to CNPA - AAANP

Updating PAs GIS borders

Linkage with CHM – mapping system developed in the
WWF Mava project

Updating members list

Proposal:

COP4 welcoming decision for the cooperation with Alparc
and transfer of the CNPA webpage



GEF Carpathian PAs Financial Sustainability Project

Partners – UNDP Romania, NFA
Cooperation with PAs from CNPA

Financial analysis, business plans, strategy for Romanian PAs

Payments for ecosystem services – legislative changes proposals elaborated

Training modules – online on the CNPA webpage

Modules – will be translated in all the Carpathian languages

2 international meetings – last one in November in Sinaia and a working group on financing CPAs

Proposal

COP4 welcoming the results of the project

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Thank you for your attention!

Mircea Verghelet
Piatra Craiului National Park

