



## *Ramsar Cultural Network in the Carpathian Region*

### *Carpathian cultural heritage in wetlands*



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**Ján Kadlečík, Carpathian Wetland Initiative**

5th Meeting, Carpathian Convention WG on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge,  
4 April 2018, Szentendre, Hungary

# Carpathian Wetland Initiative



- **Regional Initiative of the Ramsar Convention (RRI)**, launched in 2004, endorsed by Ramsar SC in 2009
- **RRIs are a regional mechanism to support implementation of the Convention**
- **Memorandum of Cooperation between secretariats of the Ramsar and Carpathian Conventions (2006)**
- **Terms of Reference for CWI (2007)**

## **Mission**

To contribute to the implementation of the MoC between the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) and Carpathian Convention signed on 13 December 2006 in Kyiv, Ukraine.

The CWI facilitates 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.

# 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

# CWI activities



- Annual reports ([www.cwi.sk](http://www.cwi.sk))
- Cooperation with other networks (DANUBEPARKS, ALPARC, CNPA) and organizations (WWF, WI, IUCN WCPA)
- Fund-raising, project proposals (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

# Activities connected with culture



- EKOPLAGÁT '17 (<http://www.cwi.sk/index.php?page=news>)
- International triennial exhibition and contest of posters (Žilina, SK)
- CWI awarding for the best poster on wetlands



Rita Nagyová (2017)



Scott Lazerow (2014)



Marcin Urbanczyk (2011)

# Project Ramsar Culture Network in the Carpathian Region



October 2017 – January 2018

- Supported by the Ramsar Convention Secretariat's MAVA Foundation funded project „*Conservation of the natural and cultural heritage in wetlands: Global leadership for an integrated approach through the Ramsar Convention*“
- Co-financed by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and Ministries of Environment and organisations in 5 Carpathian countries
- First inventory of cultural diversity and values linked to wetlands of international and national importance, literature review

# Project Ramsar Culture Network in the Carpathian Region



- The aim was to identify, document and make available information about notable cultural values and practices associated with wetlands in the Carpathian countries. The information collected will support both the conservation of cultural heritage and the Ramsar Convention's aim of integrating cultural aspects in the management of Ramsar sites and other wetlands.
- Due to short-term project and low budget there was no possibility for in-depth research and comprehensive study and database on the culture and wetlands in the region. Therefore we made a rapid inventory, collating information that is readily available and we did it in an uncomplicated way to produce fast and easy-to-use results, to bring them to the attention of everyone in a position to influence their fate.

# Wetlands



The term “**wetland**” includes all wetland habitat types as defined by the Ramsar Convention (“areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt...”)

- this includes natural and semi-natural springs, streams, creeks, rivers, waterfalls, inland deltas, lakes, oxbow lakes, floodplain lakes, marshes, pools, swamps, seasonally flooded meadows, sedge marshes, non-forested and forested peatlands, bogs, fens, alpine meadows, shrub swamps, alder thickets, swamp forests, seasonally flooded forests, peatswamp forests, geothermal wetlands, karst and other subterranean hydrological systems,
- as well as human-made wetlands, like aquaculture ponds, farm ponds, irrigated land, wet pastures, salt exploitation sites, water storage areas, reservoirs, dams, impoundments, excavations, gravel/brick/clay pits, mining pools, canals and drainage channels, ditches, etc.



# Rapid Cultural Inventory in Carpathian countries

- Questionnaire based on the Ramsar Guidance
- Identification of cultural heritage and/or traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands
- Pdf publication with map
- Promotion of sustainable tourism connected with cultural heritage and traditional knowledge in wetlands



## Guidance: Rapid Cultural Inventories for Wetlands

Dave Pritchard, Ramsar Culture Network 2016  
With Mariam Ali and Thymio Papayannis

# Project Ramsar Culture Network in the Carpathian Region

28 questionnaires  
CZ, SK, UA



Project "Conservation of the Natural and Cultural Heritage in Wetlands"
<b>Ramsar Culture Network Development in the Carpathian Region</b>
<b>Questionnaire</b>

I.	<p><b>Name of the wetland site with cultural aspect(s)</b> In case of the designated Ramsar site or World Heritage Site (or part of it) please add its reference number from the relevant database</p>
<p><b>Iron Gates Nature Park (Ramsar site no. 1946)</b></p>	
II.	<p><b>Location details (country, general location, administrative region, municipality, geographical coordinates)</b></p> <p>The Iron Gates Nature Park is situated in South West Romania, in the immediate vicinity of the Republic of Serbia, stretching on over 115,655 hectares, partially on territories belonging to the administrative competence of Caras-Severin and Mehedinti Counties, at the south of Locvei and Almajului Mountains and in South-West Mehedinti plateau. Coordinates: Between 44°51' and 44°28'30"N and between 21°21' and 22°36'E.</p>
III.	<p><b>Time period to which identified value or practice relates (historical dates/earliest known origins, date at which it ceased to be present, or specify that it is still of continuing relevance if this is the case)</b></p> <p>Cultural and anthropic values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) traces of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic settlements,</li> <li>b) testimonies proving the history of the residence: fortresses, monasteries, churches, buildings with special architectural features: houses, water mills, stone arrangements,</li> <li>c) the existence of an ethnic diversity with different traditions and customs - Serbs, Czechs, Swabians, Gypsies, Hungarians - without interethnic conflicts</li> <li>d) the presence of the largest hydroelectric power plant in Romania and the Danube basin</li> </ul>

<http://www.cwi.sk/index.php?page=projects>

# Project Ramsar Culture Network in the Carpathian Region



[http://www.cwi.sk/files/carpathian\\_cultural\\_heritage\\_in\\_wetlands.pdf](http://www.cwi.sk/files/carpathian_cultural_heritage_in_wetlands.pdf)

# Project Ramsar Culture Network in the Carpathian Region

- Archaeological sites

Domica-Baradla Transborder Ramsar Site (SK-HU)

Djerdap NP / Iron Gates NP RS (RS, RO)



*Piscine sculptures discovered in Lepenski Vir* ©Dragan Drndarević



*Demänovská Cave* ©Pavol Stanik



*Lepenski Vir* ©Dragan Drndarević



*Rock blades* ©M.Oravec



*Pots of Bükk culture* ©M. Oravec

Domica-Baradla cave system  
handicrafts and tools

# Project Ramsar Culture Network in the Carpathian Region

- Historical sites and structures  
Djerdap NP / Iron Gates NP and Ramsar Site (RS, RO)  
Orava River and its tributaries RS (SK)  
Danube Floodplain RS (SK)



Limes Romanus, Villa Rustica ©Jozef Klinda



Orava Castle



Golubac Fortress ©Dragan Dmdarević



History in the Iron Gates Nature Park

# Project Ramsar Culture Network in the Carpathian Region

- Sacral objects, museums  
SK, UA



Roman Catholic Church @www.mapio.net\_joko



Church of St. Elisabeth @https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=13248761



Sivá Brada @Milan Barlog

[http://www.cwi.sk/files/carpathian\\_cultural\\_heritage\\_in\\_wetlands.pdf](http://www.cwi.sk/files/carpathian_cultural_heritage_in_wetlands.pdf)

# Project Ramsar Culture Network in the Carpathian Region

- Technological monuments

„Tajchy“ artificial lakes for mining industry  
near Banská Štiavnica WH site (SK)

Water mills (RO, SK, UA)



Tajch Ottergrund ©Iveta Zvarová



Water mill on Klátovské rameno ©Jozef Lengyel



Watermill in Kolárovo ©Jozef Lengyel



Hamora water smithy ©Yuri Krylivets

[http://www.cwi.sk/files/carpathian\\_cultural\\_heritage\\_in\\_wetlands.pdf](http://www.cwi.sk/files/carpathian_cultural_heritage_in_wetlands.pdf)

# Project Ramsar Culture Network in the Carpathian Region

- Traditional use  
transportation - rafts,  
grazing, hay making,  
medicinal plants,  
gold extraction,  
fishing



*Menyanthes trifoliata* ©Jaroslav Košťál



"Bokorashi" – traditional way of timber transport ©<http://sviti.com.ua/nature/25399>



Museum of Kysuce village ©Zuzana Václavová



Gold extraction ©Dr. László Timaffy in BROZ archive



Examples of fishing tools ©Adriana Kušíková



# Project Ramsar Culture Network in the Carpathian Region

- Traditional products  
wood, shoots, reed - roofs, fence, insulation  
cattail weaving



Reed harvesting at the *Parižske močiare* Ramsar site ©Jozef Lengyel



Cattail weaving ©Adéla Ciháková



Willow pruning in *Detvice* site ©Jozef Lengyel



Cattail Products ©Adéla Ciháková



Willow furniture and products for sell in the local village in Ukraine ©Bohdan Prots

# Project Ramsar Culture Network in the Carpathian Region

- Traditions, social practices, rituals, ceremonies



Traditional spring ritual with Morena (painting from Forest Club Jadierka) ©Adriana Kušiková



Divination during Ivan Kupala ©<https://goo.gl/images/dZehNc>



<https://goo.gl/images/L8QcKv>

# Project Ramsar Culture Network in the Carpathian Region

- Festivals, fairs, celebrations, events



Lake Synervyr @www.ukraine-is.com



Cheremosh Fest © [https://ua.igotoworld.com/en/eventPage/1247\\_cheremosh-fest-2015.htm](https://ua.igotoworld.com/en/eventPage/1247_cheremosh-fest-2015.htm)



Wild Geese Festival in Tata @<http://www.vadludsokadalom.hu/en/index.php?p=galeria>



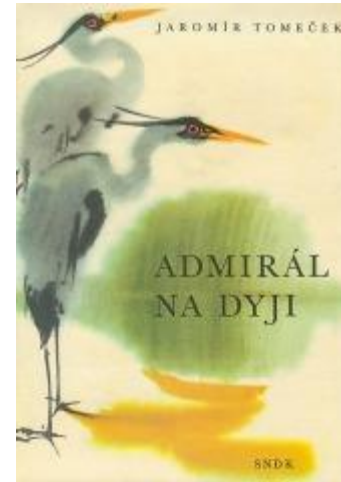
Wild Geese Festival in Tata @<http://www.vadludsokadalom.hu/en/index.php?p=galeria>



# Project Ramsar Culture Network in the Carpathian Region

- Arts

Paintings, films, photographs, novels, music, traditional songs



Josef Lada: Vodník (Nix, Waterman)



Gustáv Mallý, 1930-1945: Rafters on the Orava River



<http://www.vadludsokadalom.hu/en/index.php?p=galeria>



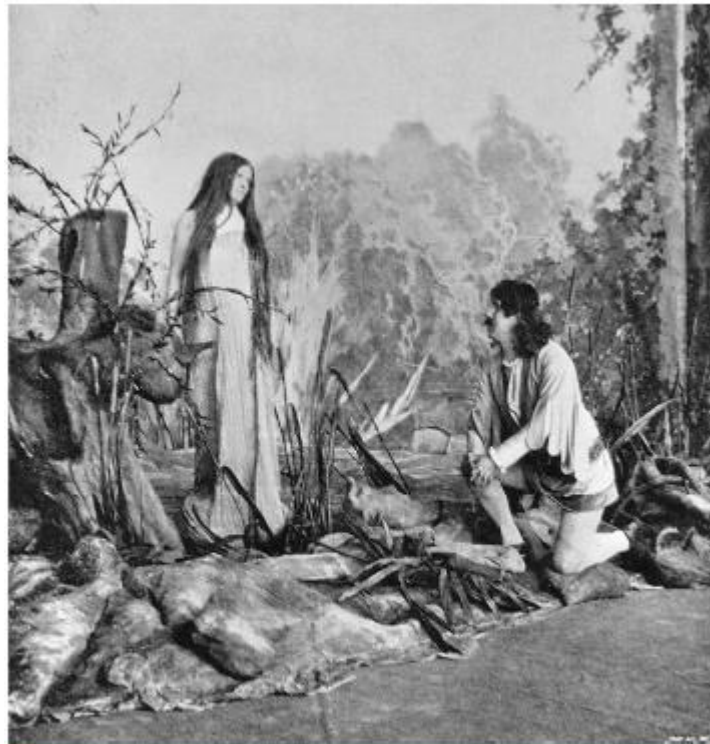
Josefovské louky-Josefov Meadows Bird Reserve ©Luděk Klíž

# Project Ramsar Culture Network in the Carpathian Region

- Legends, myths, stories, fairy tales



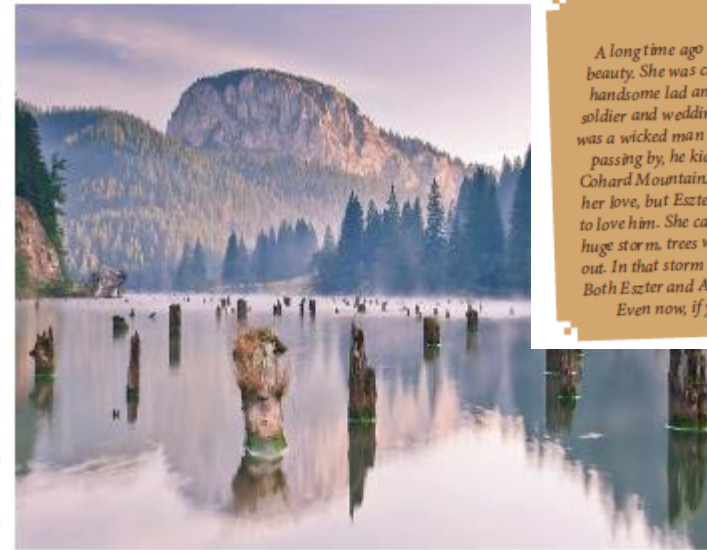
Witold Pruszkowski, 1877 - Rusalki



Antonín Dvořák – Rusalka Opera at National Theater in Prague, 1901 @<http://archiv.narodni-divadlo.cz/ArchivniDokumentFotografie.aspx?ad=12548>



Daffodil Valley (Narcissus Valley) @<https://we.org.ua/malomychi-kutochky-ukrayiny/zakarpatska-oblast/dolyna-nartsysiv/#jp-carousel-1947>



Lacul Rosu @<http://www.visitgheorgheni.ro/hu/Szabadido-to-Gyilkosto/Gyilkosto-u19313.html#sthash.Fd8BQMYD.dpbs>

## The Red Lake legend

A long time ago there lived a long haired green-eyed girl. She was a rare beauty. She was called Eszter Fazekas. In the Gyergyó market Eszter saw a handsome lad and she immediately fell in love with him. He enlisted for a soldier and wedding did not take place. Eszter waited her love in vain. There was a wicked man called Allan, who liked the girl very much. Once, as he was passing by, he kidnapped her on his horse. He took her in the caves of Kis-Cohard Mountain. He promised her all the treasure in the world in return for her love, but Eszter was still waiting for her lover. Allan couldn't make Eszter to love him. She called on the mountains for help. The nature answered with a huge storm. trees were crashing, mountains were moving and the clouds burst out. In that storm the mountains destroyed everything that came in their way. Both Eszter and Allan were killed. And that is how the Red Lake was formed. Even now, if you look carefully, you can see Eszter's deep green eyes.

# Project Ramsar Culture Network in the Carpathian Region

- Tourism,  
environmental education



<http://www.vadludsokadalom.hu/en/index.php?p=galeria>



Štvrté Roháčske pleso © Jaroslav Kašťál



Rafting on the Black Cheremosh River ©Bohdan Prots

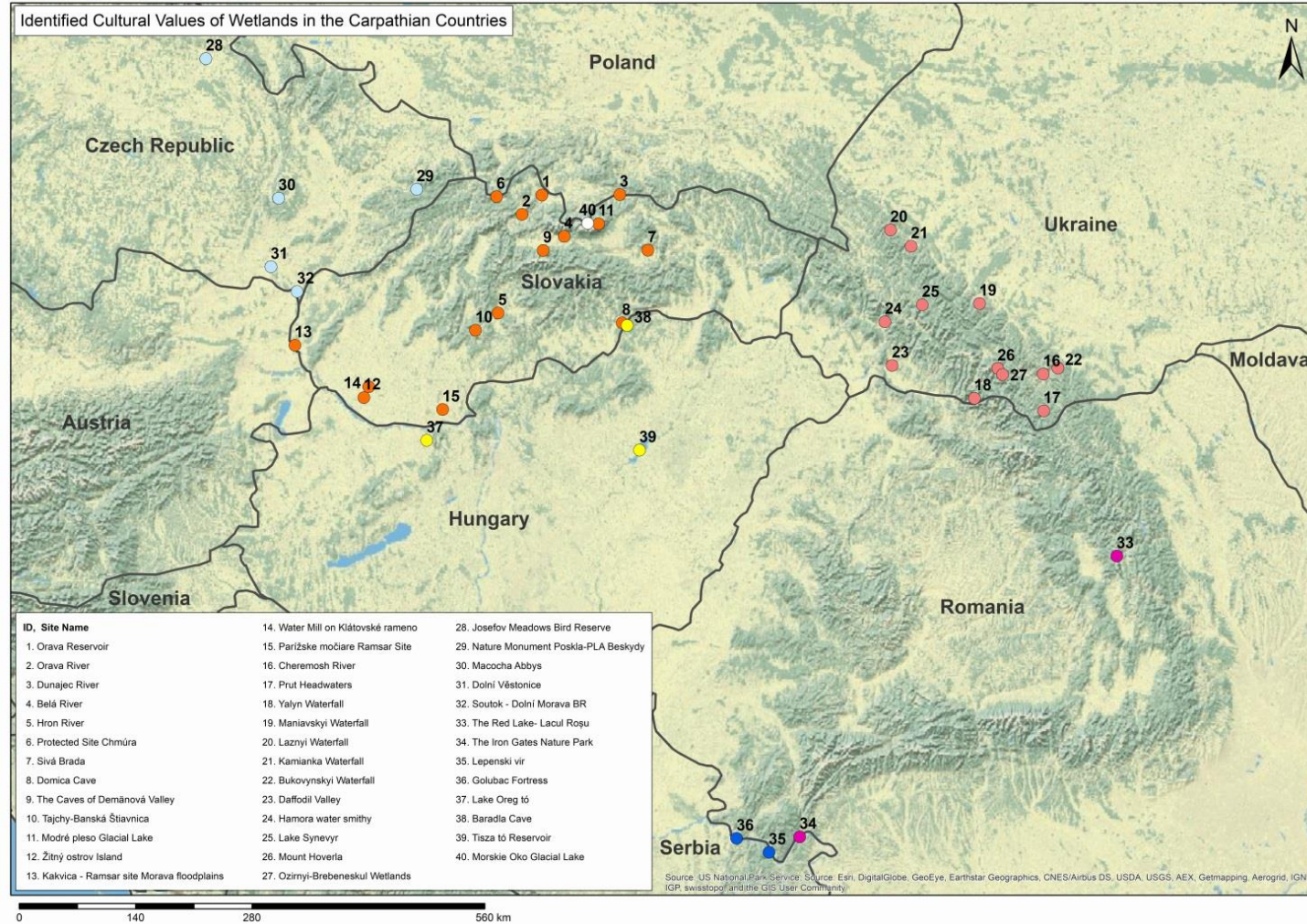


Photo: M. Koval



Ramsar Site Domica – Baradla ©Michal Rengevič

# Project Ramsar Culture Network in the Carpathian Region



# CWI Work programme / strategy 2019-2024



- **Promote integration of wetlands into sectoral policies (mainstreaming)**

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

- **Support of wetland inventories, including continuation of inventory of cultural values in wetlands, development of common database and maps on wetlands in the Carpathians, promotion of their values, conservation and effective management**

Means: CC working groups, CCIBIS, cooperation with CNPA, S4C, NGOs, workshops, conferences, management planning, translation of guidelines

- **Cooperate on documentation, demonstration, dissemination of wetland functions, services and benefits**

Means: cooperation with CC Biodiversity WG, S4C, NGOs, workshops, conferences

- support of WG Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge – highly appreciated

Questionnaire for inventory of cultural aspects in wetlands can be found on

<http://www.cwi.sk/index.php?page=projects>





Thank you for your attention

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