



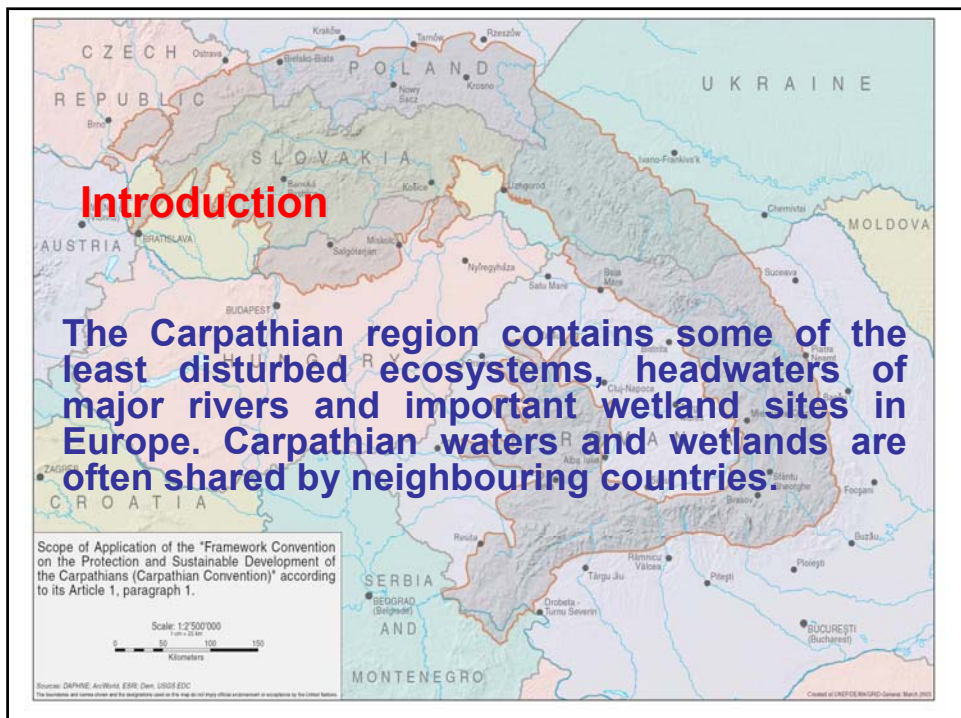
# CARPATHIAN WETLANDS INITIATIVE and its plans for the near future

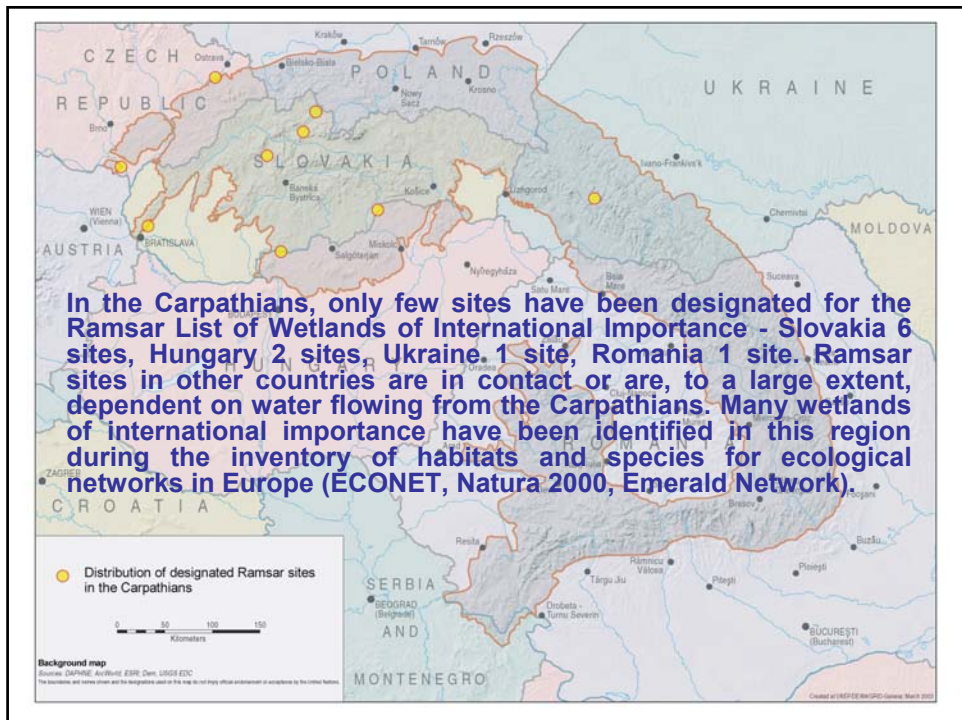
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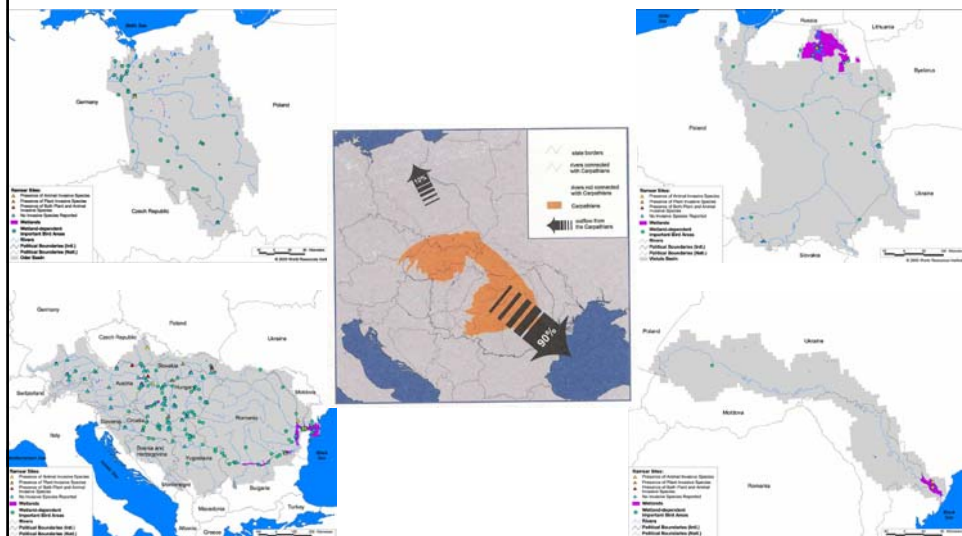
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Carpathian waters flow to the Black and Baltic seas via four large river catchments (Danube, Dniester, Vistula, Oder); the habitats and challenges in their protection and use in the Carpathians are similar and common measures for their sustainable management and conservation should be developed and achieved. There are bio-geographic commonalities, shared wetland systems, shared wetland-dependent species, and common social and cultural links.



## Benefits of regional and transboundary cooperation

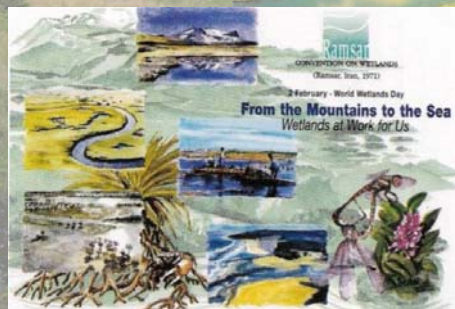
Water and wetlands are becoming recognised as invaluable assets both for nature and for humans. They are often shared by neighbouring countries and they require joint efforts of equitable and wise use and their problems require joint solutions. Such problems require longer term cooperation, developing on many levels, and thus involving national authorities, but also local communities and the non-governmental and academic sectors. Such systematic and broad cooperation leads to the establishment of transboundary wetland initiatives (Papayanis 2004).

- Pooling of scientific resources
- Joint management of resources
- Conservation of biodiversity
- Better implementation of management measures
- Platform for resolving conflicts
- Raising the awareness of issues
- Increased fundraising capacity and potential
- Increased visitors potential
- Social, cultural and political benefits

## The Carpathian Wetlands Initiative

was launched on the World Wetlands Day 2004 to help in implementation of the obligations of the Ramsar Convention and its Strategic Plan 2003-2008 and of other resolutions adopted at the COP, and to establish and promote collaboration of managers of protected or otherwise important wetland sites in the implementation of both Ramsar and Carpathian Conventions in the region.

**WWD 2004 – Working for Wetlands**  
**Mountain wetlands – Safeguarding the world's water towers**





## Purpose of the Initiative

To contribute to improved implementation of the Ramsar Convention parallel with implementation of relevant articles of the Carpathian Convention (especially Art. 4 on biodiversity and Art. 6 on water/river basin management, and of other articles and themes – spatial planning – Art. 5, agriculture and forestry - Art. 7, industry and energy – Art. 10, cultural heritage – Art. 11, environmental assessment, information system, monitoring, early warning – Art. 12, awareness raising, education, public participation – Art. 13, etc.)

To avoid duplication of activities of different MEAs in wetland issues – communication and cooperation between them is necessary



## Project „Network of Carpathian Protected Areas and Ramsar Sites“



- Implemented by the Slovak State Nature Conservancy, through the funding of a project in the framework of the Norwegian Government's Plan of Action for Candidate Countries to the EU (2003-2005), in cooperation with other Carpathian countries



- Activities for the establishment of a Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) and the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in the Carpathian region.

### CARPATHIAN WETLAND INITIATIVE WORKSHOP

28 - 30 April 2004

Brezovica, Oravsky Haj, Sedliacky mlyn  
Slovakia



## The Carpathian Wetland Initiative Workshop

The CWI invited all Carpathian countries and some other representatives of international organisations, including the Ramsar Convention, the Carpathian Convention and their Administrative Authorities, the MedWet and Ramsar IPOs (BirdLife, IUCN, WI, WWF) to cooperate in wetland conservation in this ecoregion.



Before the meeting was distributed and evaluated a questionnaire to Ramsar Administrative Authorities of Carpathian countries to identify their interests, needs and suggestions, and to nominate contact persons.



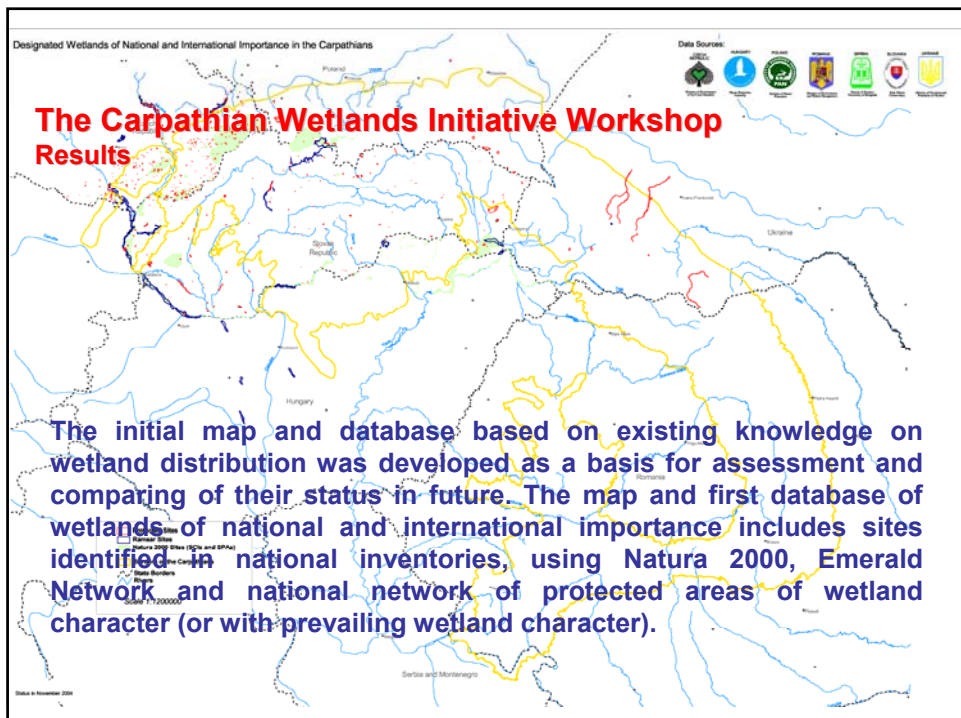
## Outcomes of questionnaire of 2004 on the CWI

Activities perceived as the most important:

1. Identification and designation of wetlands of international importance;
2. Wetlands inventory;  
Capacity building for wetlands conservation, restoration and wise use;  
Organizing professional trainings;
3. Publishing common informational materials on Carpathian wetlands, their conservation and wise use;  
Facilitating electronic communication and information exchange;  
Coordinating and facilitating working group on wetlands, development and implementation of joint management plans in transfrontier or shared wetlands/catchments/river basins;  
Organizing staff exchanges and study visits;  
Common wetland and river basin strategies development;  
Establishing the Wetland Centre, coordinating and facilitating cooperation with other regions and networks in Europe and the world;  
Lobbying, fundraising and coordinating joint projects, preparation of joint applications to available relevant programmes and funds,  
etc.

## Recommendations of the Workshop on Carpathian Wetland Initiative

- to Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention to work on Memorandum of Understanding between Ramsar and Carpathian Conventions;
- to governments of Carpathian countries to provide existing database information, connected to GIS, of identified wetlands of national and international importance and protected areas as an initial background for future development of the wetlands network;
- to governments to identify relevant stakeholders with an interest in and directly or indirectly responsible for wetland issues and to support their participation in the Initiative; such stakeholders should include intergovernmental bodies, international organisations operating in the region, NGOs, academia, and economic actors;
- to CNPA Steering Committee and Carpathian Convention Interim Secretariat to establish a Working Group on Wetland issues and to prepare terms of reference for such a Group;
- to governments and all other stakeholders identify funding sources for the initiative, for preparation of the Conference on Carpathian Wetlands, and for long term financing of this initiative.



## Main (potential) Partners

Ramsar Convention, Carpathian Convention, WWF-DCP, CERI, ICPDR, Wetlands International, BirdLife International, IUCN, Alpine Convention and Alpine Network of Protected Areas, Council of Europe (PEBLDS, Emerald Network, Bern Convention), Bonn Convention and AEWA, MaB Programme, Mountain Partnership / UN FAO, EUROPARC, EUROSITE, Environmental Partnership for Central Europe, ECNC, REC, EURAC, etc.



## Evian Encounter 2006

Important component of the Ramsar Convention project financed by the Danone group



The sixth Evian Encounter 2006 focused on the CWI, building on the outcome of the Slovak-Norwegian project 2003-2005

15-17 November 2006 – 19 wetland and water experts, including ministerial focal points of all 7 Carpathian countries met to define the fields of activities for 2007-2008 to be addressed by the CWI



## Results of the 6th Evian Encounter

The key points of action agreed during the Evian Encounter are based on the outputs adopted by the CWI workshop in Brezovica (Slovakia, 28-30 April 2004), held as part of the project on a „**Network of Carpathian protected areas and Ramsar sites**“.

Through these activities, the CWI aims to operate as a **Regional Initiative** within the framework of the Ramsar Convention, as stated Annex I of Res. IX.7 (adopted in 2005) and it aims to be included in the workprogramme of the Carpathian Convention through the establishment of a **Working Group** at COP1 (Kyiv, December 2006).

To this end, the Carpathian and Ramsar Convention secretariats agreed during the Evian Encounter, **to sign a Memorandum of Understanding** to provide a framework for cooperation between the two conventions and to guide further cooperation for the CWI according to the key points.

## Results of the 6th Evian Encounter Key Points to be developed by the CWI

### 1. Information on wetland ecosystems

Information on wetland ecosystems and their services varies greatly between Carpathian countries. Wetlands information and data need to be harmonized throughout the region. Such harmonization can be largely based on the ongoing work of the Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative (CERI) and through national projects developing the Natura 2000/Emerald Networks.





## Results of the 6th Evian Encounter

### Key Points to be developed by the CWI

#### 2. National focal points

To improve exchange of wetland-related information, inter-sectoral cooperation and international collaboration, the Carpathian countries will identify national focal points (NFP) for the Carpathian and Ramsar Conventions, specifically focusing on the CWI. These NFPs will facilitate effective cooperation between the environmental, water management and other relevant sectors. Their tasks include ensuring that existing institutional capacities at national level contribute fully to the development of the CWI, building on information compiled by wetland organisations, expert networks and institutions, *inter alia* the ICPDR and the Biodiversity Convention.

#### Designated National Focal Points for the CWI

- Czech Rep.:** L. Vlasakova, J. Brozova – MoE
- Hungary:** A. Schmidt – MoEW
- Poland:** Z. Krzeminski, D. Piechowski, B. Haczek – MoE/DFNPL;  
Z. Niewiadomski – Bieszczady NP
- Romania:** C. Damian - MoEW
- Serbia:** M. Pantovic, M. Spasojevic, S. Prokic, J. Ducic –  
MoSEP/DEP; Stojnic – INC; NP Djerdap
- Slovakia:** J. Kadlecik, I. Koubek – SNC; R. Oruzinsky - MoE
- Ukraine:** I. Ivanenko, G. Parchuk – SAPA;  
B. Prots – NAS; V. Kostyushin – WI BSRO

#### Cooperating organisations

Ramsar Convention Secretariat; Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention;  
Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative; ICPDR; WWF-DCP

## **Results of the 6th Evian Encounter**

### **Key Points to be developed by the CWI**

#### **3. Designation of additional Wetlands of International Importance**

The Carpathian wetland inventory and assessment work may lead to the designation of additional Ramsar Sites, including transboundary sites, according to the vision and guidelines provided in the Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List.

Wetland monitoring, restoration and sustainable use will help maintain the existing Ramsar Site network in the Carpathians. The secretariats of the CC and RC will work cooperatively to ensure the network of globally important sites is fully representative of wetland ecosystems in the Carpathian region.



## **Results of the 6th Evian Encounter**

### **Key Points to be developed by the CWI**

#### **4. Integrating wetlands into river basin management**

The provisions of the EU WFD, to be implemented by Carpathian EU Member and Accession States, and throughout all countries in the Danube River Basin under the coordination of the ICPDR, will be an important guiding tool for some aspects of the CWI. In part, using the WFD approach, the CC and RC will actively promote and contribute to the collaboration between relevant national authorities at river basin level, assuring thus wetland management and water allocation to wetlands are integrated into RBM. This work will be guided in part by Ramsar guidance and the EU WFD Guidance Document 12 „The Role of Wetlands in the Water Framework Directive“.

**In the context of river basin management, the Carpathian and Ramsar Convention will work in particular for the issues of:**

- a. retention of water resources in the uplands of catchment basins (in forests, mires, river floodplains and aquifers);
- b. limitation of river sediment removals;
- c. conservation of natural river morphology; and
- d. recognition of the ecological services provided by Carpathian rivers and related wetlands in all sectoral policies.



## **Results of the 6th Evian Encounter**

### **Key Points to be developed by the CWI**

#### **5. Wetland restoration**

The Carpathian and Ramsar Conventions will identify and develop specific wetland restoration projects in major Carpathian river catchments.

#### **6. Transboundary wetland ecosystems**

Many Carpathian wetland ecosystems and river catchments are shared between neighbouring countries – indicating that transboundary management will be a critical element of the Initiative. The CC and RC will focus specifically on identifying potential transboundary wetland ecosystems and possibilities for their joint management.

## Results of the 6th Evian Encounter

### Key Points to be developed by the CWI

#### 7. Species and habitat monitoring

The Carpathian and Ramsar Conventions will aim to harmonise the monitoring methodologies of Carpathian wetland ecosystems and their key species, with particular regard to habitats and species listed in the annexes of the EU Habitats and Birds Directives, as well as indicators developed for broader use within the Ramsar and Biodiversity Conventions.

#### 8. Capacity building and public awareness

The Carpathian and Ramsar Conventions will work especially to increase wetland management capacity in Carpathian countries and public awareness on the role of wetland services in human wellbeing, including the establishment of a regional Wetland Centre. To this end, they will organize information, education and training activities.



### Achievements 2006 – 2007 according to Evian Action Points



#### During the CC COP1 (11-13 December 2006):

- The side event on the CNPA and CWI was organized
- The CWI was included in the CC programme of work with establishment of a Working Group (Decision COP1/4)
- Memorandum of Cooperation between the Carpathian and Ramsar Convention secretariats was signed

#### By 31 January 2007

- NFPs for the CWI in Carpathian countries were designated
- Wetlands International was involved and it agreed to expand its Black Sea Programme to include the Carpathian region
- An operational link with the WWF DCP activities in the Carpathians was established within the „2012 PAs Programme – The Carpathian Ecoregion“ (Steering Group) as well as with the Steering Committee of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas.





## **Achievements 2006 – 2007 according to Evian Action points**



### **February 2007**

- NFPs were invited to participate or distribute information on International Wetland Training course in Trebon (CZ) in June 2007

### **March 2007**

- NFPs were invited to participate and provide inputs to the 1st Meeting of the WG on Biodiversity under the CC Implementation Committee; draft Terms of Reference of the CWI/sub-group on wetlands discussed.

### **April 2007**

- NFPs were invited to participate and provide inputs to the final wetland workshop of the Danube Regional Project (Tulcea, Romania)
- NFPs were invited by the Czech MoE to the study tour on the management of transboundary wetland sites scheduled for end of April / beginning of May 2007



## **Plans for 2007 according to Evian Action points**



### **April 2007**

- LINK the NFPs concerned with the Tisza river basin project

### **May/June 2007**

- DEVELOP and circulate among NFPs and the convention secretariats a plan of proposed activities and for fund-raising

### **October 2007**

- PROVIDE a progress report, work plan and budget proposal for 2008 to the Ramsar Secretariat for recognition as a Regional Initiative



## Plans for 2008 according to Evian Action points



### Early 2008

- OBTAIN recognition by the 36th meeting of the Ramsar SC as a Regional Initiative

### 28 October – 4 November 2008

During the COP10 of the Ramsar Convention:

- OBTAIN recognition as a Ramsar Regional Initiative and an incentive programme co-financement from the Ramsar budget



## Plans for 2007



In addition to the above mentioned it is necessary and proposed in short time:

- Develop a special article on wetlands to the Carpathian Convention's Protocol on biodiversity
- In cooperation with the CC WG on biodiversity, WI and CERI prepare a unified wetland inventory standard data form and database
- Organize a conference on state of wetlands in the Carpathians as a basis for development of a strategy for their conservation and wise use
- Develop the draft Carpathian Wetland Strategy
- Prepare a special Carpathian Wetland training module and establish a Wetland Centre with coordination function

## **Short-term strategy / project for 2007-2008**

### **Aim:**

Prepare conditions for recognition of the CWI as a Ramsar Regional Initiative and its long-term funding

- Involvement of relevant national organisations, institutions and NGOs, intergovernmental bodies and other stakeholders
- Develop the first draft of the Carpathian Wetland Strategy for discussion, based on principles and support of:
  - maintenance of water quality,
  - surface and ground water supply,
  - role of wetlands in flood prevention,
  - goals of WFD in all Carpathian countries,
  - habitats for flora and fauna conservation and typical or specific habitat types protection, under-represented in the Ramsar List,
  - restoration of degraded wetlands,
  - sustainable recreation,
  - systematic education and capacity building, etc.



**Your cooperation is more than  
welcome.**

**Thank you !**