

# The Carpathian Wetland Initiative

The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic  
Ján Kadlečík







## Carpathian Wetland Initiative (2004)

**Regional Initiative of the Convention on Wetlands** (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

### **Mission**

Facilitate collaboration between the Carpathian and Ramsar Convention 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.

# Memorandum of Cooperation (2006)



## 8 joint activities

1. **Information base on wetland ecosystems**
2. **Exchange of wetland-related information**
3. **Network of Ramsar sites**
4. **Integration of wetlands into river basin management**
5. **Wetland restoration projects**
6. **Transboundary wetland ecosystems**
7. **Species and habitat monitoring**
8. **Capacity building and public awareness**





# CWII Structure

## Partnership of

### Governments

of countries in the Carpathian region and other interested governments (7 Carpathian countries)



### Secretariats

of the Ramsar Convention (Gland, Switzerland)  
and the Carpathian Convention (ISCC UNEP Vienna, Austria)



### Intergovernmental organisations

and other entities with an interest in the Carpathian wetlands



## Partners and cooperation

DAPHNE – Institute of Applied Ecology



Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative (CERI)



IUCN – Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe



Wetlands International



WWF – Danube-Carpathian Programme



Carpathian Network of Protected Areas



ICPDR



Danube River Network of Protected Areas





# CWI Strategic Plan

## 1. Platform on basic data on wetlands

Wetland data collection and harmonisation

Guidelines for wetland inventory

Harmonisation of wetland ecosystems and species monitoring

Development of the Carpathian Wetland Handbook

## 2. Platform for cooperation

Establishment of WGs of active practitioners, specialists and NGO representatives interested in wetlands

Involvement of protected areas administrations in CWI work

Cooperation with CNPA, Danubeparks Network and ALPARC

Project proposals





# CWI Strategic Plan

## 3. Platform for integrated river basin management

Preparation of relevant documents on IRBM  
Bilateral consultations in shared wetlands on their  
management  
Cooperation with ICPDR

## 4. Platform for Carpathian wetland assessment and monitoring

## 5. Platform for wetland restoration activities

Development of a wetland restoration policy  
Inventory and management of invasive alien species in all  
Carpathian countries







# CWI Strategic Plan

## 6. Platform for capacity building and public awareness

Development of the training programme on wetland management

Database of educational and training institutions and experts aimed at wetlands

Maintenance of CWI website ([www.cwi.sk](http://www.cwi.sk))

Development of the CWI brochure and leaflet

Development of the Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) Programme

Establishment of the Carpathian Wetland Centre







# CWI work plans

- Since official endorsement by the Ramsar Standing Committee (2009) the CWI has organized conferences, workshops on conservation of wetlands, especially rich fens (2009), on wetlands and tourism (2010), wetland inventory (2011), on CWI priorities (2012), integrated wetland management in Carpathian protected areas (2013); training on education programme about Carpathian and Danube wetlands (2013)
- The Carpathian Wetland Centre was opened in June 2014 in Banská Bystrica (SNC SR facilities) as information and training centre for national and Carpathian wetland managers and for public awareness

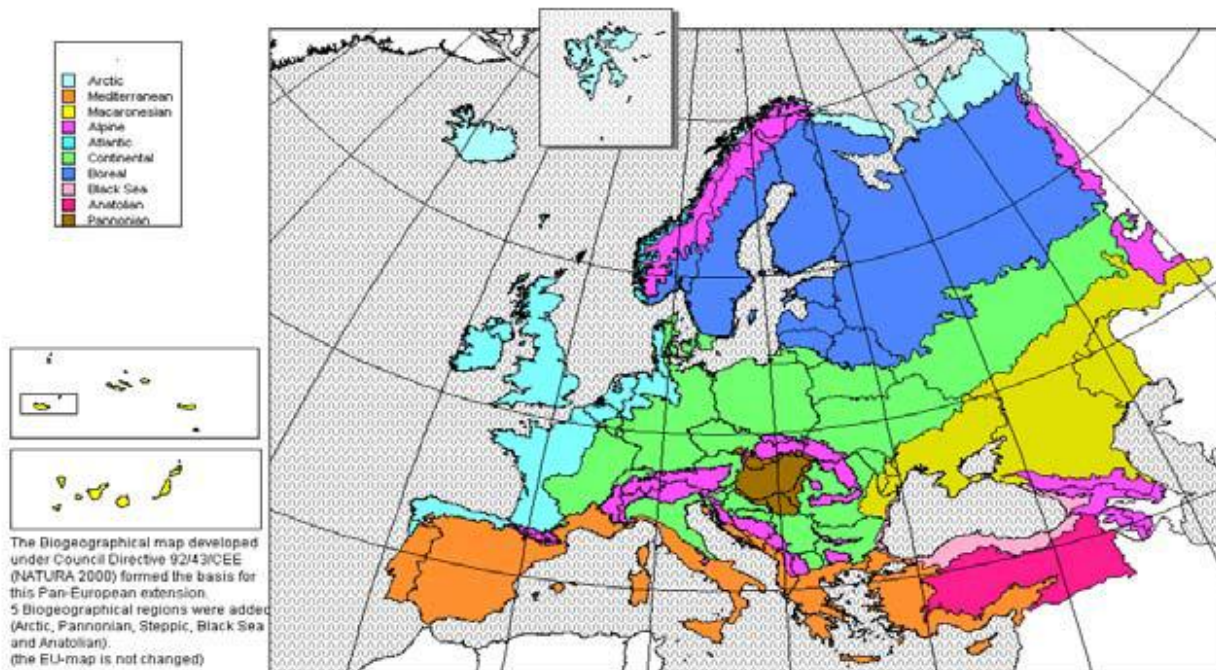




# Carpathians in the Natura 2000 processes

- Five of the seven Carpathian countries are EU members and 3 of them are included in the Natura 2000 Alpine Biogeographical Region (PL, RO, SK); with extension of the Biogeographical Regions to Pan-European Emerald Network of Areas of Special European Interest this includes also Ukraine.

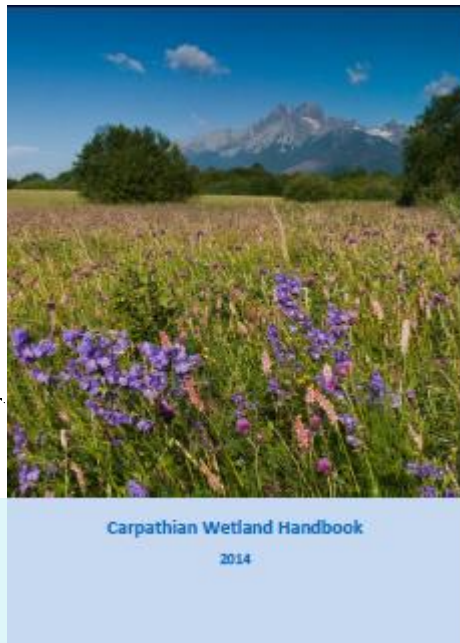
Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest  
 Extention of the Biogeographical Regions map of NATURA 2000 to Pan-Europe  
 Revisions according to comments in Emerald Pilot projects: October 2001





# Carpathians in the Natura 2000 processes

- For common understanding of wetland types in the Carpathians we developed Carpathian Wetland Handbook, including identification of Natura 2000 wetland and riverine habitat types
- Common integrated management measures (CIMM) elaborated within SEE Transboundary Programme BioREGIO Carpathians project - Strategic paper on CIMM of Carpathian natural assets, including wetlands







# Carpathians in the Natura 2000 processes

- Conservation of last remnants of (no-intact or low-impact) rivers and river continuum in the Carpathians – one of the priorities of CWI
- Big recent pressure for using of hydro-power in the Carpathian countries (e.g. 368 identified profiles on rivers in SK with potential for energetic use; around 400 small hydropower plants planned to be built in the Carpathian region of UA; the hydro-power potential estimation in RO is over 9 GW, etc.)
- Joint and coordinated activities needed for harmonisation of efforts with the Danube River protection Convention/ICPDR, EC and the Bern Convention





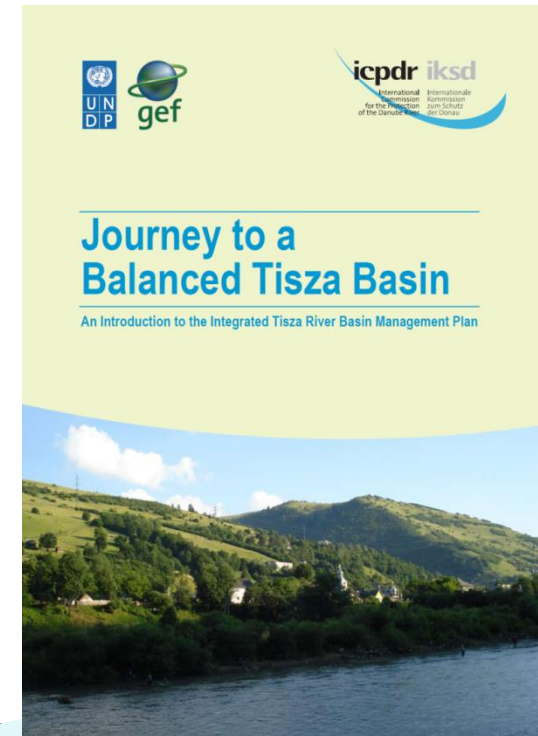






# Carpathians in the Natura 2000 processes

- Involvement of Carpathian countries in the biogeographical processes like this can help to meet legal obligations not only under the nature directives of EU, but also under other international frameworks as the Ramsar Convention, Danube River Protection Convention, Carpathian Convention, Bern Convention
- Example of transborder cooperation on river basin level - Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan (UNDP GEF Tisza Project Integrating multiple benefits of wetlands and floodplain into improved transboundary management for the Tisza River Basin)
- Voluntary application of WFD in non-EU countries (UA, RS)
- Memorandum of Understanding – Towards the implementation of the Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan supporting the sustainable development of the region





# Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan

## UNDP GEF Tisza Project

Integrating multiple benefits of wetlands and floodplain into improved transboundary management for the Tisza River Basin





# Carpathians in the Natura 2000 (and other) processes

- Synergy between EC (HD, BD, WFD), ECNC, Bern Convention, European Centre for River Restoration (ECRR), Danube River Protection Convention/ICPDR and other regional conventions (Alpine Convention, Carpathian Convention) and regional initiatives of global conventions (Ramsar Convention – CWI, NorBalWet, MedWet) in river habitats conservation and management – sharing of information, knowledge, training opportunities
- Concentrate on strict protection of remaining natural rivers in the biogeographic region and beyond and on restoration of degraded or affected streams and catchments
- Use river restoration tools like RiverWiki ([http://restorerivers.eu/wiki/index.php?title=Main\\_Page](http://restorerivers.eu/wiki/index.php?title=Main_Page)), ERCC (6th edition, Connecting River Restoration Thinking to Innovative River Management, 27-29 Oct 2014, Vienna, <http://www.errc2014.eu/>)
- Adopt common policy on hydropower development and restoration of river continuum



Thank you  
for your attention

