



## Conservation of wetlands in the Carpathians

Conference at Tatranska Strba

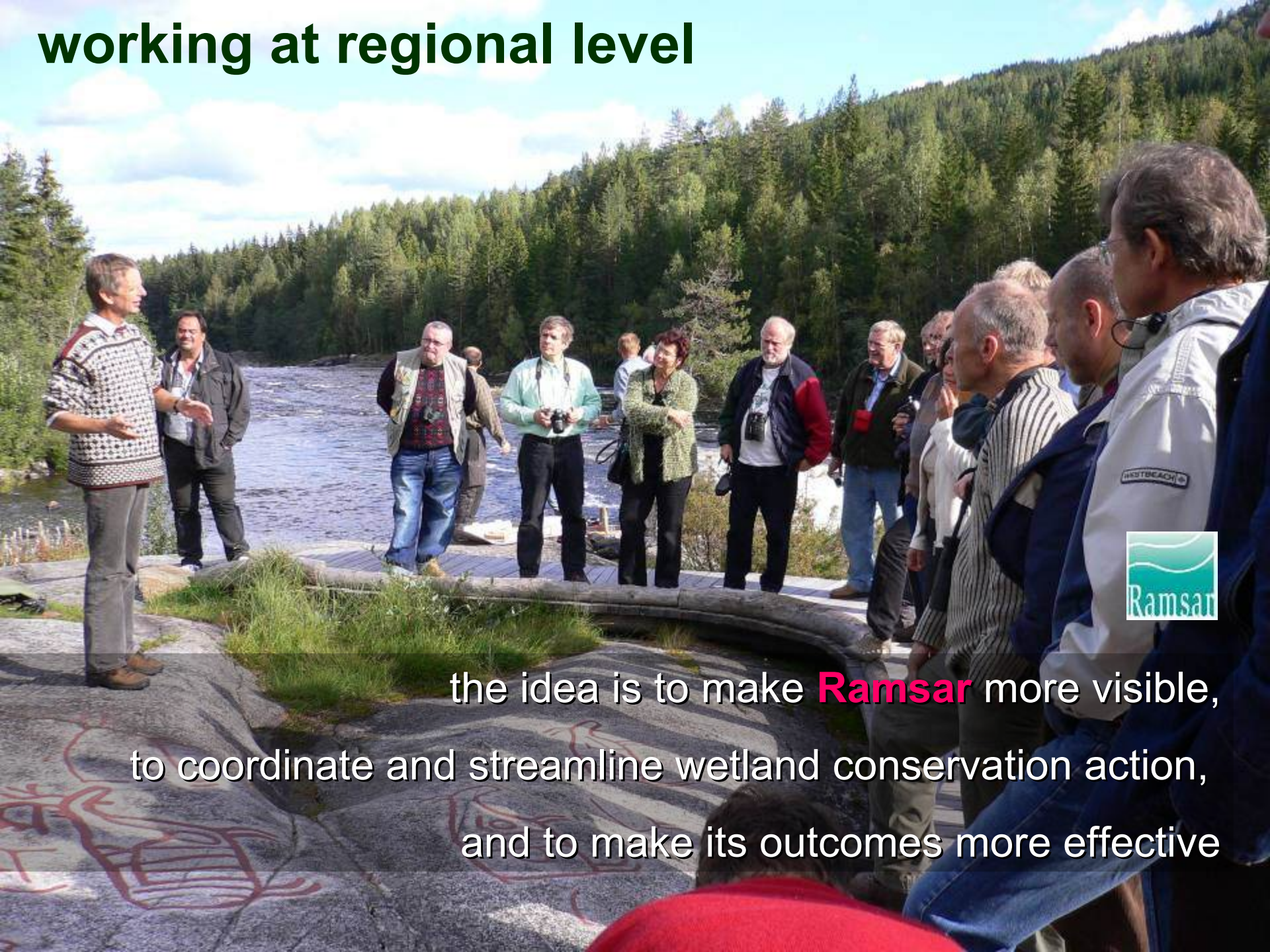
16-19 November 2009

*Why to conserve wetlands in the Carpathians?*

**How best to develop the  
Ramsar regional initiative and its  
outreach**



# working at regional level



the idea is to make **Ramsar** more visible,  
to coordinate and streamline wetland conservation action,  
and to make its outcomes more effective





# regional initiatives – *what for ?*

*regional initiatives as long-term support structures for on-site implementation*

to **improve** the application of Ramsar objectives on the ground  
to provide **lasting**, structural and operational **support**  
to provide **training** and **increase** implementation **capacity**  
to facilitate **exchange** of **expertise** and **knowledge**  
to **coordinate** technical, scientific and monitoring work  
to provide a **framework** for consultation, planning and cooperation  
to **facilitate** the implementation of **all** Ramsar approaches



# what makes a regional initiative ?

*regional initiatives facilitate international cooperation on issues of common concern, they:*

- provide **operational** means to support implementation
- need to have a **long-term** focus
- need to be based on **commonly** agreed terms
- depend on support by **all** Contracting Parties concerned
- need political and financial **support** within the region
- need minimal operational **structures**




## ***regional initiatives are not:***

- simply a regional project
- taking up the role of the Ramsar Secretariat
- duplicating efforts of the Ramsar Secretariat
- serving as a regional office of the Convention
- acting on behalf of the Convention, or in its name

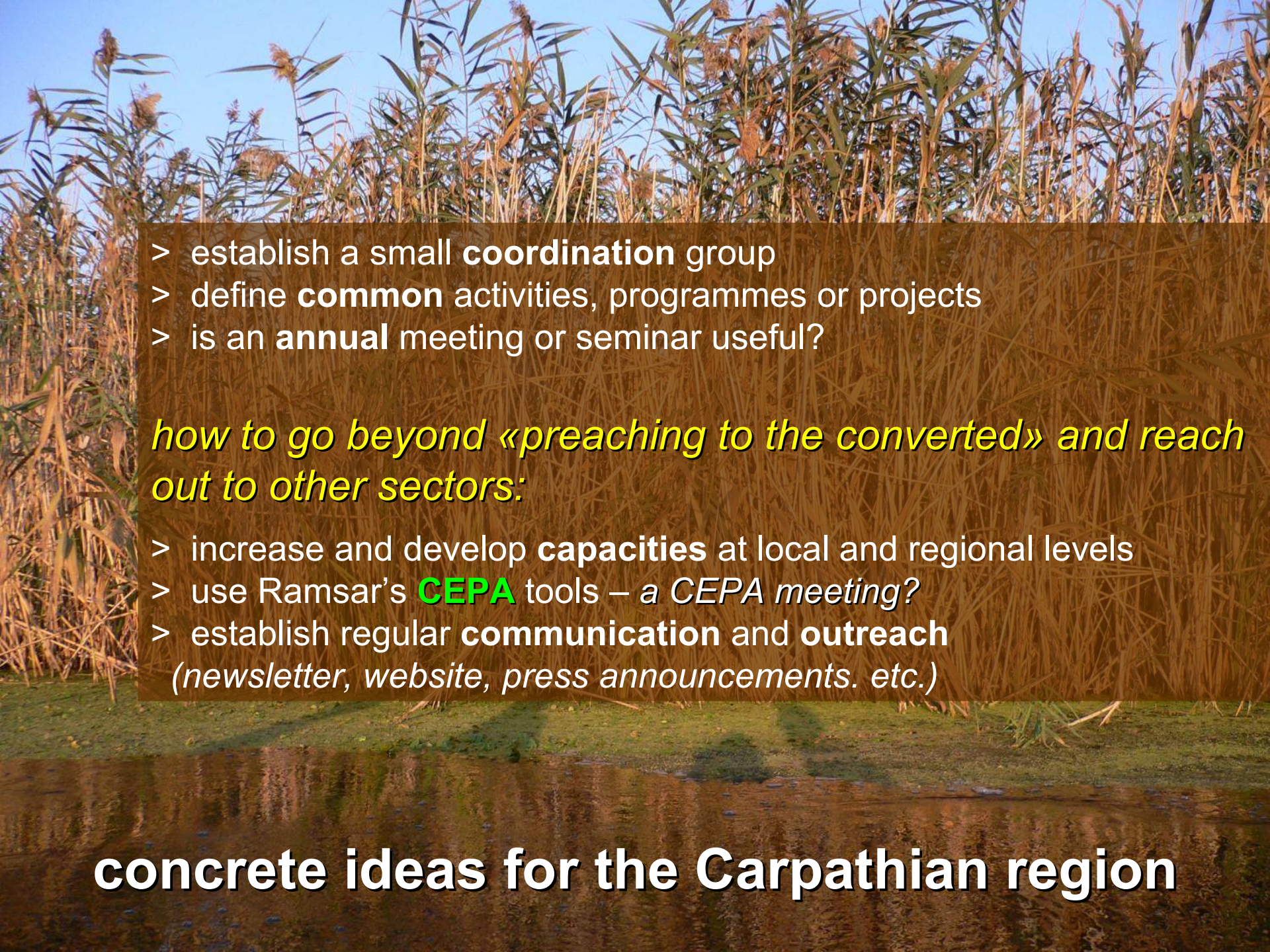
*Regional Initiatives provide added **value** to increase the **capacity** for better **implementation** of Ramsar on the ground, they are acting for the benefit of the Convention and wetland conservation.*



## ***Standing Committee verifies that regional initiatives:***

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- A group of people, mostly men, are walking away from the camera through a vast, open wetland landscape. They are wearing backpacks and casual outdoor clothing. The terrain is covered in tall, dry grass and low-lying shrubs. In the background, there are rolling hills and a line of trees under a clear sky.
1. correspond fully to the **Operational Guidelines** (adopted by COP10)
  2. provide **lasting**, structural and operational **support** to wetland conservation and the implementation of the Ramsar approaches
  3. establish their own coordination and governance mechanisms
  4. entail **participation**, not only from administrative authorities, but also other relevant stakeholders (NGOs, users, experts, private sector, etc.)
  5. receive political and financial **support** from within the region
  6. establish lean **reporting** and **evaluation** cycles



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- > establish a small **coordination** group
  - > define **common** activities, programmes or projects
  - > is an **annual** meeting or seminar useful?

*how to go beyond «preaching to the converted» and reach out to other sectors:*

- > increase and develop **capacities** at local and regional levels
- > use Ramsar's **CEPA** tools – *a CEPA meeting?*
- > establish regular **communication** and **outreach** (*newsletter, website, press announcements. etc.*)

**concrete ideas for the Carpathian region**





**some practical points:**

**report on your activities 2009 in time**

(December 2009 and final report before the end of February 2010)

**plan your activities for 2010**

(and submit your proposal before the end of February 2010 to the Secretariat)

**work together with relevant partners in the region**

(Carpathian Convention, others)