



# **CARPATHIAN WETLAND INITIATIVE**

**Jan Kadlecik**

**State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic**

**Banská Bystrica**

[www.jilasek.com](http://www.jilasek.com)

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# Introduction

## **Carpathians**

- Europe's largest mountain range with unique natural and ecological values, including rivers, lakes, wetlands
- Shared by 7 (8) countries
- Reservoir of biodiversity
- Water tower of the region
- At the same time dynamic economic development imply profound changes and challenges

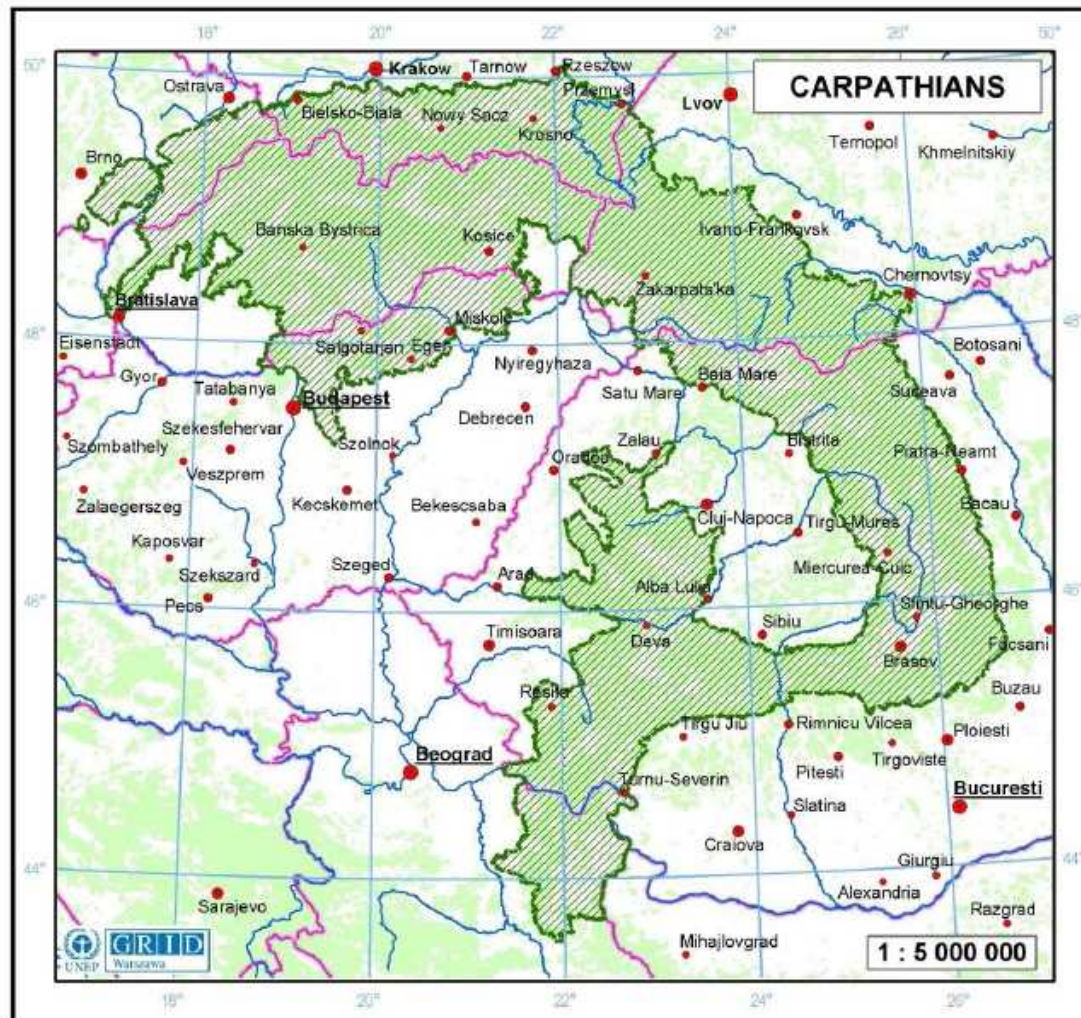
Many international tools, but  
practical cooperation with some results and outputs visible in the field or  
in capacity building of the institutions and awareness in wetlands  
conservation is necessary and required

Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between the Ramsar Convention  
and UNEP Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

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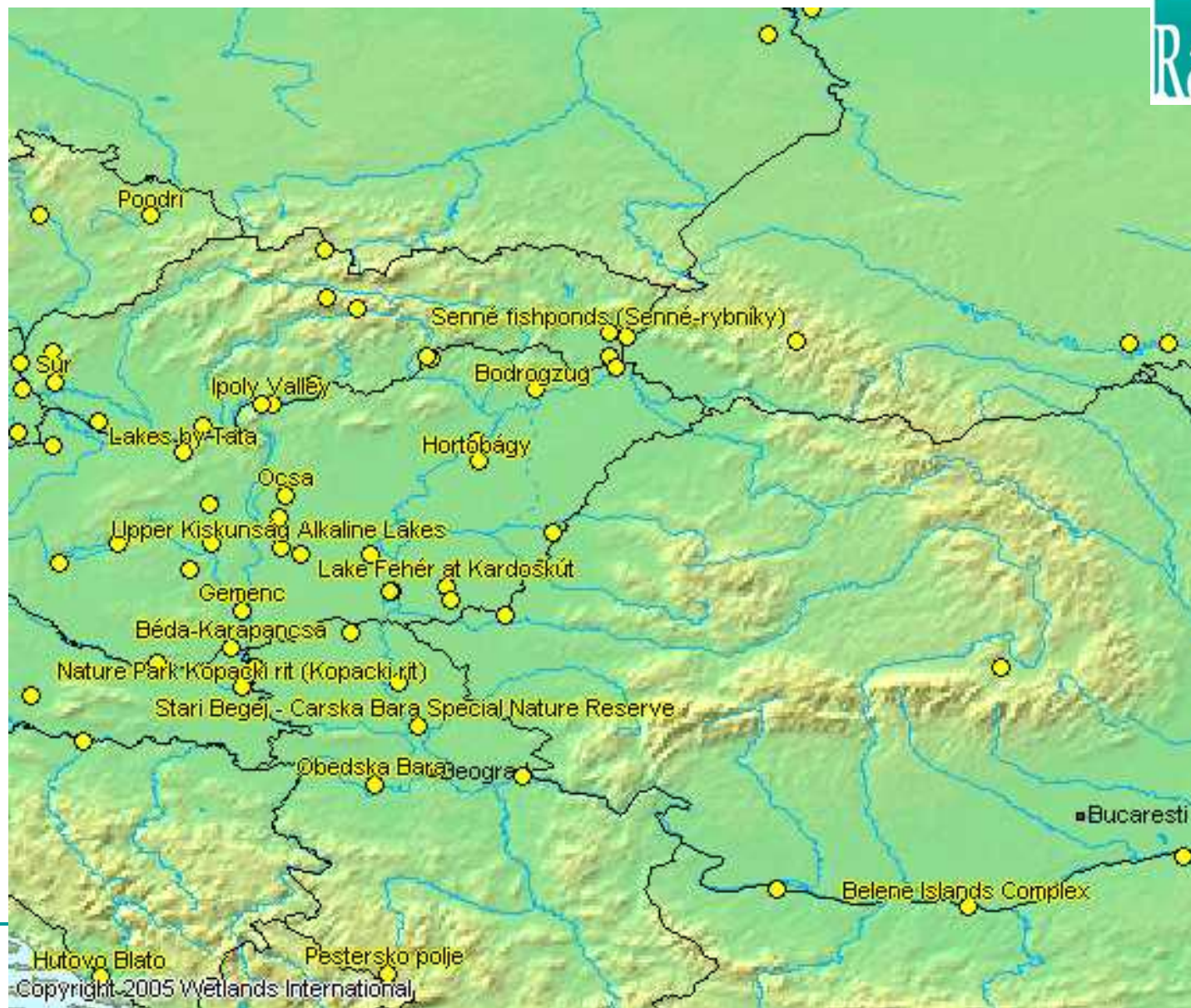
# Seven countries included in the Framework Convention on Protection and Sustainable development of the Carpathians

Czech Rep., Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine





# Ramsar sites in the region (Ramsar database)



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## Why CWI?

- Valuable habitats
- Geographic commonalities
- Shared river catchments and wetland systems
- Shared wetland dependent species
- Common social and cultural links
- Threats to preservation of the last remnants of natural habitats

## Benefits

- effective support for improved implementation of the objectives of the Ramsar Convention and its Strategic Plan in the Carpathians, and the relevant articles of the Carpathian Convention and Protocol on biodiversity
  - Raising the awareness of issues
  - Increased fundraising capacity and potential
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## CWI as international tool

### Carpathian Convention

- CC COP1 (2006) – CWI included in CC work programme; MoC signed
- CC COP2 (2008) – **Decisions COP2**

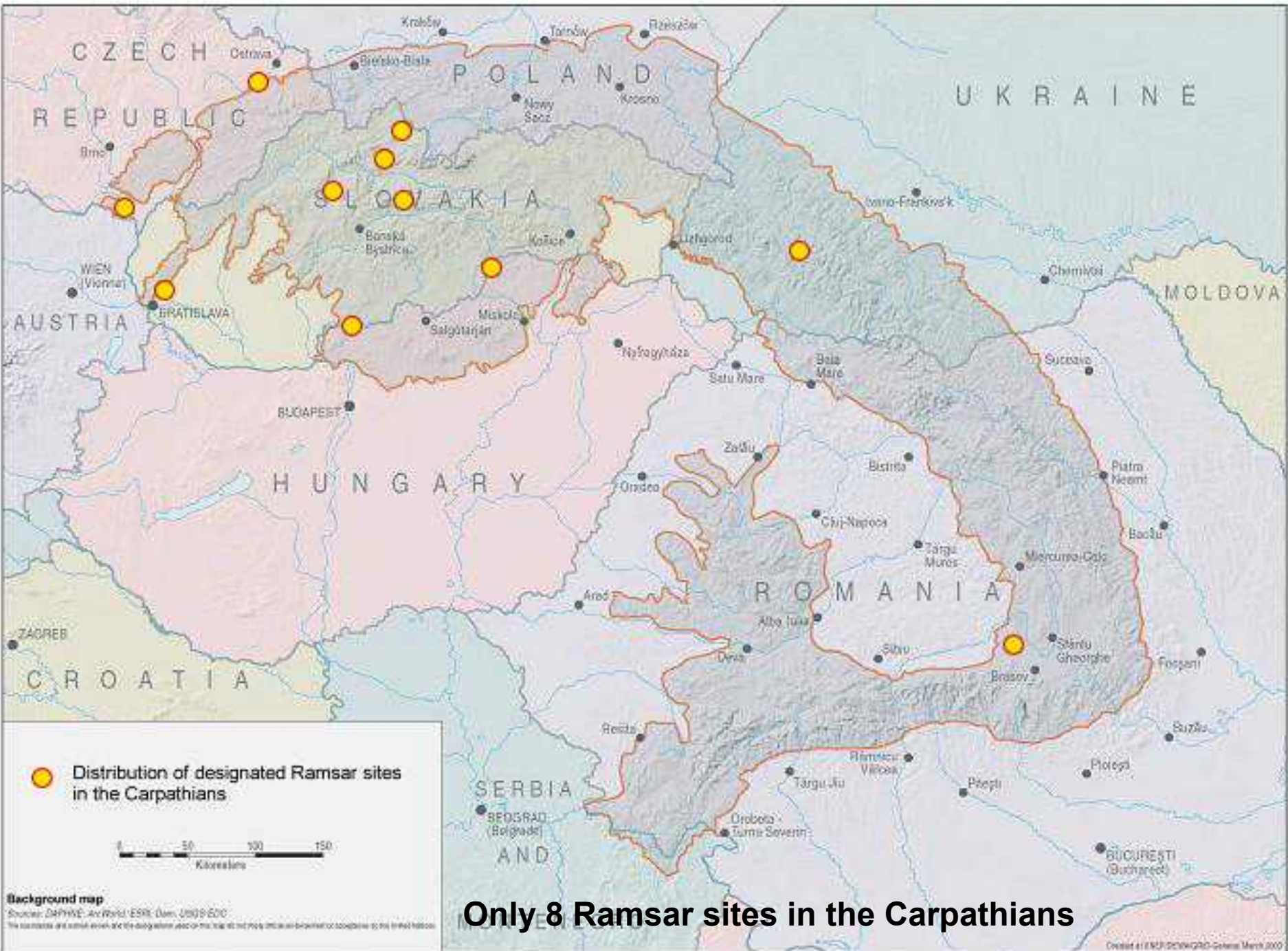
#### 1 – Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity

- welcomes the establishment of the CWI as an effective partnership for advancing implementation of the MoC between the Carpathian and Ramsar convention and appreciates the voluntary contributions by the governments of the CZ, HU and SK for further development of the CWI
- takes note of the Framework for Project Development and Work Plan of the CWI and encourages relevant partners to ensure proper implementation and funding

#### 3 – Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management

- requests the interim Secretariat to consider in consultation with the parties the further development and joint programming in the area of integration of water resources and land use planning, in particular concerning wetlands, natural water resources, springs, lakes and ground water resources, as well as biodiversity conservation and adaptation to climate change, taking into account experience made in sustainable and integrated water/river basin management and land use planning of the relevant river basins in the Black Sea and Baltic Sea catchment areas in the Carpathians





## Memorandum of Cooperation

The MoC in its Annex specifies that the Ramsar Convention Secretariat and UNEP Vienna ISCC will work together especially on 8 joint activities which support also implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan and the Carpathian Convention and its Protocol on Biodiversity.

1. To improve the information base on wetland ecosystems;
  2. To improve exchange of wetland-related information, inter-sectoral cooperation and international collaboration;
  3. To ensure the network of globally important Ramsar sites is complete and representative;
  4. To integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including wetlands, into river basin management;
  5. To identify and develop specific wetland restoration projects in major Carpathian river catchments;
  6. To identify potential transboundary wetland ecosystems and possibilities for their joint management;
  7. To facilitate cooperation in species and habitat monitoring; and
  8. To facilitate communication and information exchange aiming at capacity building and public awareness on the role of wetland ecosystem services in human wellbeing in the Carpathians.
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# CWI as the Ramsar Regional Initiative



- Efforts since 2005 (COP9), submitted to COP10 (2008)
- Endorsed by 40th Meeting of the Ramsar Standing Committee in May 2009

COP10 Res. X.6 ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties, intergovernmental agencies, IOPs, NGOs and other potential donors to support regional initiatives with additional voluntary contributions

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## How? (Operational Guidelines 2009-2012 for regional initiatives)

- need to be firmly established
  - minimal operational structure for effective work in the region necessary
  - capacity to take on the role of coordinating and supervising regional projects
  - use the Ramsar tools (frameworks, guidelines, guidance, methodologies, etc.)
  - scientific and technical backing provided by relevant institutions which should be recognized as partners in the initiative
  - raise the visibility of the Convention and its objectives - communication, education and participatory processes with relevant stakeholders
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## Governance and advisory mechanisms

### CWI

- Terms of reference – approved by the Carpathian Convention Working Group on biodiversity, Extended Bureau of the CC Implementation Committee (2007, 2008)
  - networks of collaboration of stakeholders – governmental agencies, NGOs, scientific institutions and others
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# National Focal Points – CWI Board Members

Country	Name	Organization	e-mail
CZECH REP.	Libuše Vlasáková	MoE	<a href="mailto:libuse_vlasakova@mzp.cz">libuse_vlasakova@mzp.cz</a>
	Jana Brožová		<a href="mailto:jana.brozova@mzp.cz">jana.brozova@mzp.cz</a>
HUNGARY	András Schmidt	MoEaW	<a href="mailto:schmidt@mail.kvvm.hu">schmidt@mail.kvvm.hu</a>
POLAND	Marek Kajs	MoE	<a href="mailto:marek.kajs@mos.gov.pl">marek.kajs@mos.gov.pl</a>
ROMANIA	Diana Cocai	MoE	<a href="mailto:diana.cocai@mmediu.ro">diana.cocai@mmediu.ro</a>
SERBIA	Alexandra Doslic	MoESD	<a href="mailto:aleksandra.doslic@ekoplan.gov.rs">aleksandra.doslic@ekoplan.gov.rs</a>
	Jelena Ducic		<a href="mailto:jelena.ducic@ekoplan.gov.rs">jelena.ducic@ekoplan.gov.rs</a>
	Alexandar Srbulovic Sasa Nestorovic Marija Milenkovic-Srbulovic	NP Djerdap	<a href="mailto:office@npdjerdap.org">office@npdjerdap.org</a>
SLOVAKIA	Ján Kadlecík	SNC	<a href="mailto:jan.kadlecik@sopsr.sk">jan.kadlecik@sopsr.sk</a>
	Ivan Koubek		<a href="mailto:ivan.koubek@sopsr.sk">ivan.koubek@sopsr.sk</a>
	Jana Durkošová	MoE	<a href="mailto:jana.durkosova@enviro.gov.sk">jana.durkosova@enviro.gov.sk</a>
UKRAINE	Igor Ivanenko	SAfPA MoE	<a href="mailto:ecoland@menr.gov.ua">ecoland@menr.gov.ua</a>
	Grygoriy Parchuk		<a href="mailto:parks@menr.gov.ua">parks@menr.gov.ua</a>
	Bohdan Prots	SMoNH, NAS	<a href="mailto:bohdan.prots@gmail.com">bohdan.prots@gmail.com</a>

# Partners

- Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention
- Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention
- DAPHNE – Institute of Applied Ecology
- Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative (CERI)
- IUCN – Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe
- Wetlands International – Black Sea Office
- WWF – Danube-Carpathian Programme
- Carpathian Network of Protected Areas
- ICPDR



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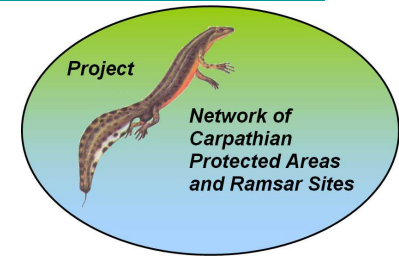
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## Financial and other support

- political support – nominations to the CWI Board from all relevant ministries or agencies
  - letters of support from ministries of all Carpathians countries
  - voluntary contributions – Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia
  - support from the Convention's core budget for 2009
  - need to generate own resources
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# Draft strategic and operational targets



- Basis – project „Network of Carpathian protected areas and Ramsar sites“ 2003-2005; questionnaire 2004 on priorities
- Carpathian Wetland Initiative Workshop – 28-30 April 2004 – Brezovica, Slovakia – ways of collaboration, steps to develop the initiative, should be based on the Ramsar Strategic Plan, conference proposed for future heading of the CWI
- Key points for CWI development and Action points 2006-2007 - Evian Encounter, France – 15-17 November 2006



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## Draft strategic and operational targets

### **6th European regional Ramsar Meeting – Stockholm, May 2008**

Meeting of the partners of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative

- discussed CWI work plan 2009 and draft CWI strategy (further consulted with CWI Board members) – aligned with the Ramsar Strategic Plan
  - among priorities – support for the establishment of the Carpathian Regional Wetland Centre
  - designation of new wetlands of international importance, including transboundary ones
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## Draft strategic and operational targets

CWI is a part of the collaborative programme for sustainable wetland and water resources conservation and management in the Carpathian region through which the Secretariats of the Convention on Wetlands and Carpathian Convention develop mechanisms for programme cooperation

- Platform for basic data on wetlands
  - Platform for cooperation of CWI bodies
  - Platform for Carpathian wetland assessment and monitoring
  - Platform for integrated river basin management especially in shared catchments
  - Platform for wetland restoration activities
  - Platform for capacity building and public awareness
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# Strategic and operational targets

## Work Plan 2009

- First Carpathian Wetland Conference
  - Harmonized classification system of wetland habitats, compatible protocol on wetland inventory, guidelines
  - Meetings of consultations of the CWI Board members
  - Establishment of national networks of experts and institutions
  - Fund-raising and projects development
  - Cooperation with Carpathian Convention
  - Facilitation of bilateral consultations in shared wetlands and catchments
  - Cooperation with ICPDR
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# Strategic and operational targets

## Work Plan 2009

- Development of wetland restoration strategies
  - Sharing experience on wetland restoration in Europe
  - Questionnaire on training priorities and needs
  - Draft training programme for wetland managers
  - Web site of CWI, publishing of information
  - Database of educational and training institutions and experts
  - Brochure and leaflet on CWI and Carpathian wetlands, translation of guidelines
  - Establishment of the regional Wetland Centre
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# Protocol on biodiversity to the Carpathian Convention



- Art. 5, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20
- conservation, maintenance and sustainable use of natural and semi-natural habitats,
- continuity, connectivity, ecological networks
- restoration of degraded habitats
- development, harmonisation, implementation of management plans, standards for protection and sustainable use of habitats and species
- prevention of introduction of invasive alien species, control, eradication
- compatible information and monitoring systems
- coordinated inventories of species and habitats, research, projects
- policies, strategies, integration to sectoral policies,
- participation, education, information, public awareness

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## New themes for cooperation

- Climate change and role of wetlands
  - Priority habitats
  - Invasive alien species
  - Carpathian Project ECONET C development
  - Personnel for coordination and implementation
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