



United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة • 联合国环境规划署
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ



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Terms of Reference for the Carpathian Wetlands Initiative (CWI)

Mission and objectives of the Carpathian Wetlands Initiative

Mission

To contribute to the implementation of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) and UNEP Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (UNEP Vienna ISCC) signed on 13 December 2006 in Kyiv, Ukraine. The CWI will facilitate collaboration between the two Conventions and its Parties in their efforts in conservation and wise use of wetlands in the Carpathian region and beyond, through local, national, regional and international activities.

Objectives

- to promote and participate in the implementation of the Ramsar and Carpathian Conventions objectives in protection of wetlands, identification and designation of additional wetland sites of international importance, collection and harmonization of data on wetlands and wetland species (including transboundary wetlands and species), harmonization of monitoring methodologies of wetland ecosystems and their key species and in integration of wetlands into river basin management in the Carpathians;
- to facilitate effective cooperation between the environmental, water management and other relevant sectors;
- to identify and develop specific wetland restoration projects in major Carpathian river catchments and projects on information, education and training activities;
- to develop and reinforce capacities in areas where these are lacking, in public awareness on the role of wetland services in human wellbeing, and especially capacities to develop and ensure management of sites of international importance and cooperation between their management bodies
- to organise information campaigns, education and training activities to deepen knowledge of wetlands and their role and function in the landscape;
- to emphasise the importance and value of the transboundary wetland ecosystems and develop common objectives and principles of their management and wise use, based on experiences with successful case studies;
- to support projects focused widely on wetland ecosystems and implemented within the framework of the Ramsar and Carpathian Conventions to transfer and exchange knowledge and expertise to key conservation actors in order to reinforce Carpathian wetland management;
- to coordinate with other international initiatives, projects and networks in the region, and globally.



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The partners and implementing bodies of CWI

CWI is a partnership of:

- a) Governments of countries in the Carpathian region and other interested governments;
- b) Secretariats of the Ramsar and Carpathian Conventions;
- c) Intergovernmental organisations with activities related to or concern for Carpathian wetlands;
- d) Other entities with an interest in the conservation and wise use of Carpathian wetlands.

The implementing body of CWI is a Board composed of the National Focal Points delegated by the Parties to the Carpathian Convention.

The international and non-governmental organizations and secretariats of the Carpathian and Ramsar Conventions will provide inputs to the Board.

The Board will elect a chair to guide its proceedings. The chair will report on CWI activities to the Secretariats of the Ramsar and Carpathian Conventions.

If resources permit, the Board may meet periodically face-to-face, but will operate largely through electronic and telephone communication.

CWI background and guiding principles

CWI will take into account the provisions and decisions of the Conference of Parties of the Ramsar Convention (including its guidelines), of the Carpathian Convention, the Convention on Biodiversity and the Danube Protection Convention, as well as the EU Water Framework Directive.

CWI will consider the information provided by and will benefit from and contribute to the work of the Steering Committee of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (SC CNPA) and Steering Group of the WWF 2012 Programme on Protected Areas project, as well as the Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative (CERI) and ICPDR, REC-EURAC Handbook on the Carpathian Convention and REC-EURAC national assessments and the regional assessment of the policy, legislative and institutional frameworks related to the Carpathian Convention, available in English and national-language versions, prepared in the framework of the Umbrella Project financed by IMELS. CWI will closely interact with the Working Group on biodiversity, Working Group on spatial planning and other relevant working groups.

CWI will aim at developing a strategy, work plan and budget proposal for the Carpathian Wetland Initiative and for its recognition and further operation as a Regional Initiative under the Ramsar Convention.