













Connectivity Academy part II

Carpathian Wetland Initiative Workshop
30 September 2021



















Agenda of the meeting



- Introduction
- Updates on the CWI work in 2020-2021 and on activities or projects in the Carpathian countries
- Wetlands in the global, European and regional strategies and plans and implications for the CWI future plans and activities
- The role of wetlands in climate mitigation and adaptation and ecological connectivity of wetlands (H. Zingstra, WI and Eurosite)
- Discussion on the CWI work plan and priorities for 2022
- New Operational Guidelines for the Ramsar Regional Initiatives
- Issues of interest













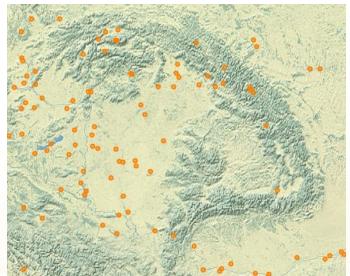




Introduction



Updates on the CWI work in 2020 - 2021



Protected Areas – Cornerstones of Ecological Connectivity in the Carpathians and Beyond

















Carpathian Wetland Initiative



Regional Initiative of the Ramsar Convention (RRI), launched in 2004, endorsed by Ramsar SC in 2009, one of 20 currently operating RRIs in the world

RRIs are a regional mechanism to support implementation of the Convention

Pririties/Strategy – based on the Ramsar Strategic Plan

Memorandum of Cooperation between secretariats of the Ramsar and Carpathian Conventions (2006)

Mission

To contribute to the implementation of the MoC between the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) and Carpathian Convention signed on 13 December 2006 in Kyiv, Ukraine. The CWI facilitates collaboration between the two Conventions 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.















1. Mainstreaming

Wetlands and their services and benefits integrated in relevant documents of the **Carpathian Convention**











Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians

CC/COP6/DOC3/ADOPTED

DECISIONS

Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (COP6)

Decision COP6/5

Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies

- 1. Welcomes and supports further cooperation with international conventions including ...the Convention on Wetlands... maintain close links and enhance synergies between the relevant international actors and the Carpathian Convention.
- 6. Welcomes the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 ...calls upon the Parties to make strong commitments to achieve transformational ecosystem restoration.
- 9. Encourages the Secretariat to strengthen cooperation with the Danube River Protection Convention and discuss possible further common activities with the ICPDR...









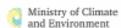






6th COP of the Carpathian Convention











Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians

CC/COP6/DOC3/ADOPTED

DECISIONS

Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (COP6)

DECISION COP6/9

Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention

- 7. Recognizes the importance of the ecological connectivity in the Carpathians for biodiversity preservation and adaptation to future environmental conditions, invites the Parties and relevant WGs to make use of the existing instruments, including relevant project results, as appropriate, for adequate managing and protecting the Carpathian natural heritage and restoring the ecological connectivity, and to undertake necessary actions in this respect;
- 11. Welcomes the cooperation between the ALPARC, DANUBEPARKS and CNPA under the Memorandum of Cooperation of 2016, in particular cooperation under the ALPBIONET2030 project resulting in the elaboration of "Recommendations and Action Plan ALPS-DANUBE-CARPATHIANS cooperation for ecological connectivity", and encourages further cooperation on topics of common interest, especially on ecological connectivity, exchanges on protected areas management, education and other specific topics common to the three networks;















6th COP of the Carpathian Convention











Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians

CC/COP6/DOC3/ADOPTED

DECISIONS

Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (COP6)

DECISION COP6/9

Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention

- 13. Appreciating the work of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI) in strengthening synergies between the Ramsar Convention and the Carpathian Convention, welcomes close cooperation of CWI with the Secretariat and relevant WGs, especially the WG Biodiversity and the WG Climate Change, in raising the importance of the Carpathian wetlands and initiating concrete activities, including development of a project proposal on relevant topics, encourages the relevant WGs and the Secretariat to support the process and the project's implementation, if successful;
- 14. Welcomes and appreciates the organization of international courses on Sustainable agriculture in wetlands, held on 22-27 September 2019 and on wetland restoration planned on 5-9 October 2020 (postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic), both in the Czech Republic by CWI and the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic;
- 15. Welcomes the designation of the new Ramsar sites, wetlands sites of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, in the Carpathians in Poland, Romania and Ukraine, and encourages other Parties to consider designation of new Ramsar sites in the Carpathian region;
- 16. Welcomes the voluntary contribution made by Hungary and the Slovak Republic to the Carpathian Wetland Initiative, and encourages other Parties to do so as well;















1. Mainstreaming

Wetlands and their services and benefits integrated in relevant documents of the Carpathian Convention

Cooperation with CC WG on Biodiversity

- 12th meeting of the WG on Biodiversity (online 19-20 May 2021)
- Updates on CWI activities
- Involved in Work plan 2021 2023
 - Cooperation with CWI
 - 1) Strengthening cooperation with Carpathian Wetland Initiative and relevant WGs, especially the WG Climate Change, especially in raising the importance of the Carpathian wetlands and initiating concrete activities, including development of a project proposal on relevant topics, and supporting relevant CWI activities:
 - International trainings on wetland conservation, management and restoration
 - Workshops on wetland conservation, management and restoration and on communication, education, participation and awareness (CEPA)
 - Implementation of submitted projects (if approved)
 - Co-organization of the EKOPLAGÁT 2023 –16th edition of International Exhibition and Contest of Posters on environment and nature conservation















1. Mainstreaming

Wetlands and their services and benefits integrated in relevant documents of the Carpathian Convention

Cooperation with CC WG on Climate Change

- 8th meeting of the WG on Climate Change (online 6 May 2021)
 - CWI presentation on wetlands as nature-based solution for climate change mitigation and updates on relevant projects
 - Involvement in Work Plan 2021-2023

Implementation Framework 2030 at COP6

Strengthen close cooperation and exchange with the other thematic Working Groups of the Carpathian Convention Develop mechanisms for identifying, developing and implementing joint activities

Identify and close knowledge gaps and encourage transnational research needs for the Carpathians:

- Strengthen further the cooperation with ICPDR, especially the Tisza Group and engage in developing a proposal for a follow-up project in the Tisza River Basin
- Continue collaboration with the EUSDR PA 4 and EUSDR PA 5 and support project development on integrated water/river basin management and climate change
- Support further development of project ideas from the Carpathian Wetland Initiative
- Expected results:

Project proposals are explored and supported, including:

- A project proposal for a follow-up project in the Tisza River Basin
- Proposals on integrated water/river basin management and climate change in mountains and connected low-land areas
- Project proposal on the impacts of climate change on Carpathian wetlands and recommendations for planning and policy responses















4. Ecological Networks and Management of Sites

Cooperation in the development of the ecological networks in the Carpathians, contribution to relevant projects on continuity and connectivity

Cooperation with CNPA

CNPA Steering Committee roundtable (online 19 July 2021)

Contribution to Interreg projects ConnectGREEN, Centralparks, DaRe to Connect, IDES (Improving water quality in the Danube river and its tributaries by integrative floodplain management based on Ecosystem Services)















8. Climate change

Project proposals

CARPWET project - Carpathian wetlands as the nature-based solution for climate change mitigation

Development of the project outline for European Climate Initiative (EUKI) funding, which included

- · wetlands inventory in the Carpathian region,
- common actions for carbon-rich soil and wetland restoration
- integration into climate mitigation and adaptation policies and strategies

to enhance CO2 sequestration and storage; enhancing the knowledge and awareness of wetlands as nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation and promote the inclusion of wetland management, protection and restoration in national climate policies.

WE.PEAT – Green New Deal for Peatlands - H2020 project proposal – PL, RO, SK involved, submission supported by CWI, CC Secretariat















9. Research, Monitoring, Information System

Cooperation with Science for Carpathians S4C

Participation at 6th Forum Carpaticum (online 21-25 June 2021)

• Sessions on Carpathian waters: From knowledge to management (14 presentations, 4 posters)

















































10. Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness Development of a project for training

Preparation of training course on wetlands restoration in cooperation with Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic, planned for October 2020 (postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions), now planned for October 2021 (testing of the format with CZ and SK participants, more flexible in the COVID development situation, next year other Carpathian countries)

















10. Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness Co-organizing the EKOPLAGÁT 2020

15th edition of the International Exhibition and Contest of Posters EKOPLAGÁT 2020, Žilina, SK – Organizational Committee, International Jury, co-funding, awarding the "wetland" poster.





















10. Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness CWI coordination

- Communication with CWI Board members
- Consultations within the WG on the Ramsar Regional Initiatives (RRIs) Consultancy for development of draft Operational Guidelines for RRIs; ToR for
 Consultancy; Survey (questionnaire) on RRIs + RRIs Assessment 2016-2019; ToR of
 the WG on RRIs; draft revised Operational Guidelines for RRIs including new
 reporting format; draft Report of the RRIs WG for Ramsar SC59; draft resolution
 on Operational Guidelines; meeting of the WG on RRIs...
- Existing CWI ToR will be revised accordingly after approval of the Operational Guidelines.















11. Capacities and Financing Regular contributions, providing relevant capacities to activities and governance

- Human capacities challenge
- Voluntary contributions

Ministry of Agriculture HU – 2020 – 1000 EUR; 2021 – 1000 EUR

Ministry of Environment SK – 2020 – 2000 EUR; 2021 – 2000 EUR

State Nature Conservancy SK – annual budget and Work Plan















Carpathian countries

Updates on the activities or projects on wetland conservation, management, restoration, education and awareness



















Global and regional priorities

Wetlands in the global, European and regional strategies and plans and implications for the CWI future plans of activities



















Post-2020 global biodiversity framework

First draft of the post-2020 GBF (July 2021)

- 2050 Goals and 2030 Milestones
- Goal A
- The integrity of all ecosystems is enhanced, with an increase of at least 15 % in the area, connectivity and integrity of natural ecosystems, supporting healthy and resilient populations of all species, the rate of extinctions has been reduced at least tenfold, and the risk of species extinctions across all taxonomic and functional groups, is halved, and genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species is safeguarded, with at least 90 % of genetic diversity within all species maintained















Post-2020 global biodiversity framework

2030 action targets

- Reducing threats to biodiversity
- Target 1. Ensure that all land and sea areas globally are under integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning addressing land- use change, retaining intact and wilderness areas.
- Target 2. Ensure that at least 20 % of degraded freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems are under restoration, ensuring connectivity among them and focusing on priority ecosystems.
- Target 3. Ensure that at least 30 % globally of land and of sea areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and its contributions to people, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.
- Target 4. Ensure active management actions to enable the recovery and conservation of species and the genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species, ...















Post-2020 global biodiversity framework

2030 action targets

Reducing threats to biodiversity

Target 6. Manage pathways for the introduction of invasive alien species, preventing, or reducing their rate of introduction and establishment ..., and control or eradicate invasive alien species to eliminate or reduce their impacts, focusing on priority species and priority sites.

Target 7. Reduce pollution from all sources to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and human health, including by reducing nutrients lost to the environment by at least half, and pesticides by at least two thirds and eliminating the discharge of plastic waste.

Target 8. Minimize the impact of climate change on biodiversity, contribute to mitigation and adaptation through ecosystem-based approaches, contributing ... to global mitigation efforts, and ensure that all mitigation and adaptation efforts avoid negative impacts on biodiversity.















Wetlands in the global, European and regional strategies and plans and implications for the CWI future plans of activities

EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

- Improving and widening the network of protected areas
- Developing EU Nature Restoration Plan
- A coherent network of protected areas Trans-European Nature Network
- set up ecological corridors, investments in green and blue infrastructure and cooperation across borders should be promoted and supported















EU Biodiversity strategy – Key commitments

- Legally protect a minimum of 30% of the EU's land area and integrate ecological corridors, as part of a true Trans-European Nature Network
- Strictly to protect at least a third of the EU's protected areas
- Effectively manage all protected areas, defining clear conservation objectives and measures, and monitoring them appropriately















EU Biodiversity StrategyAn EU Nature Restoration Plan

Invasive Alien Species

- Nature restoration targets restore degraded ecosystems, in particular those with the most potential to capture and store carbon and to prevent and reduce the impact of natural disasters
- At least 25,000 km of free-flowing rivers restored
- (draft) Guidance on the 2030 Biodiversity Strategy river restoration targets

Addressing invasive alien species















Prioritised Programme Areas

- WATER
- Unprecedented decline 83% in freshwater biodiversity and wetlands disappearing three times faster than forests, water use and management is driving ecosystem degradation and fragmentation, as well as species loss.
- Water stress increasing, negatively affecting economic growth and natural resource base.

What needs to be done?

 Water management and the protection, sustainable use and restoration of freshwater systems for biodiversity conservation and human needs require urgent reform. Better management and investment in water resources must protect freshwater biodiversity and at the same time, manage water resources for equitable access for people and broader human needs and wellbeing.















Prioritised Programme Areas

- WATER
- Impact Targets:
- 1. The loss of freshwater species and decline of freshwater ecosystem health is halted and restoration initiated
- 2. Scientific information on freshwater biodiversity, knowledge on the implementation of protection, sustainable water management, and wetland and river restoration; protect, restore and promote healthy freshwater systems and habitats, targeting better connectivity, water quality, pollution control and mitigation, and system integrity.
- 3. Equitable access to water resources and all associated ecosystem services are secured
- 4. Water governance, law and investment decisions address the multiple values of nature and incorporate biodiversity knowledge















Prioritised Programme Areas

- CLIMATE
- Nature conservation has a specific role in advancing Naturebased Solutions for both adaptation and mitigation, as well as in ensuring that other climate change responses do not themselves cause negative impacts on nature.















Prioritised Programme Areas

- CLIMATE
- Impact Targets:
- 1. Countries use Nature-based Solutions to scale up effective adaptation to the impacts of climate change
- 2. Mainstream NbS into adaptation planning and actions, including integration of NbS in the adaptation component of countries' Nationally Determined Contributions and their national adaptation plans
- 3. Countries scale up Nature-based Solutions to reach climate mitigation targets
- 4. NbS for greenhouse gas emission reduction, avoidance and removal are mainstreamed into the mitigation targets of countries' Nationally Determined Contributions and long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies
- 5. Investments in landscapes to improve their management and restoration
- 6. Responses to climate change and its impacts are informed by scientific assessment and knowledge to avoid adverse outcomes for nature and people















IUCN World Conservation Congress Motions - resolutions

Protecting rivers and their associated ecosystems as corridors in a changing climate

- Encourages ... to promote the inclusion of river protection and connectivity within the Post-2020 GBF and the monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal Target 6.6
- work with civil society, communities, the private sector and others to identify, restore and protect free-flowing rivers or stretches, and their associated ecosystems
- balance development by enacting durable legal protections and enhanced governance for rivers, including riparian buffer protections ...
- restore rivers or stretches, and their associated ecosystems, in which sufficient connectivity and flows could feasibly be restored
- promote cooperative management among governments to strengthen transboundary river governance
- use the IUCN Guidance for conserving connectivity through Ecological Networks and Corridors

- ...















Carpathian Convention











Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians

CC/COP6/DOC3/ADOPTED

DECISIONS

Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (COP6)

DECISION COP6/11

Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management Article 6 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

- 1. Welcomes the cooperation with the ICPDR Tisza Group in the frame of the "Joint Declaration of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River Tisza Group and the Framework Convention on the Protection and the Sustainable Development of the Carpathians on the sustainable development of the Tisza River Basin within the Carpathian Region", and appreciates the important role of the EUSDR PA 4 and EUSDR PA 5 in this respect; encourages the further strengthening of this cooperation in the areas of common interest, including development and implementation of joint, coordinated and complementary activities and projects, exchange of information, and awareness raising of the local communities in the Tisza River Basin;
- 2. Welcomes the results of the JOINTISZA Project "Strengthening Cooperation between River Basin Management Planning and Flood Risk Prevention to Enhance the Status of Waters of the Tisza River Basin" funded by the INTERREG Danube Transnational Programme, invites the relevant partners to develop a follow up project involving the ICPDR Tisza Group and the Carpathian Convention; and requests the Secretariat and relevant WGs to participate in it by providing relevant expertise; welcomes the related Tid(y) up project (F(oI)low the Plastic from source to the sea: Tisa-Danube integrated action plan to eliminate plastic pollution of rivers) recently supported by the INTERREG Danube Transnational Programme and encourages its implementation;
- Encourages enhanced cooperation through the Secretariat and relevant WGs with the ICPDR on climate change adaptation, agriculture or water nexus, or other relevant topics.















6th COP of the Carpathian Convention











Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians

CC/COP6/DOC3/ADOPTED

DECISIONS

Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (COP6)

DECISION COP6/18

Climate Change Article 12bis of the Carpathian Convention

- Encourages the Parties to promote sustainable climate change measures in mountain areas at Carpathian level in response to EU and international commitments (EC European Green Deal; UNFCCC, 2015 Paris Agreement; Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction; 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework);
- Invites the Parties to strengthen regional cooperation and interaction through identifying common priority actions and harmonizing with national efforts on climate change in the Carpathian region;
- 7. Invites the WG Climate Change to further develop/establish close cooperation and explore joint activities with the other thematic Working Groups of the Carpathian Convention in order to ensure incorporation of climate change consideration into all relevant Convention's topics and activities, and in this respect welcomes the preliminary ideas for potential topics for collaboration of the WG Climate Change with other Carpathian Convention Working Groups, recommended by the WG Climate Change at its 7th meeting2;
- Encourages the Parties and the WG Climate Change in close cooperation with other WGs, to identify and promote nature-based solutions for climate mitigation and adaptation, to be best implemented at transboundary scale across the Carpathian region.















Contributing to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

- Joint Statement by the Carpathian Convention welcoming the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration
- Identification of regional flagships to promote the UN Ecosystem Restoration Decade in the Carpathians







Joint Statement by the Carpathian Convention welcoming the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration















CWI priorities for 2022

Preparation of the CWI Work Plan
Common projects





















New Operational Guidelines for Ramsar Regional Initiatives to support the implementation of the Convention



Submitted to 59th Meeting of the Ramsar Standing Committee 21-25 June 2021

Decision SC59-21: The SC took note of the progress report on the work of the Ramsar Regional Initiatives WG, and agreed that the draft resolution would be considered at the resumed session of the SC















Principles of the new proposed Operational Guidelines for RRIs

- RRIs have to be endorsed by the COP, or intersessionally by the SC
- Support the operational implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan in the geographical area they are covering; improve implementation of the Convention through international cooperation within the region on wetland-related issues of common concern, involving relevant stakeholders
- All CPs are encouraged to participate in the activities according to the established workplan and to contribute to the RRI, either financially and/or inkind
- Establish own governance and advisory mechanisms governing body made up of the participating CPs and other relevant stakeholders, and a coordination body defined in operative rules
- The governing body meets regularly, guides, defines mandates, rules and principles of procedure... Monitors activities, work programme and resources
- Use the best worktools; They are to be in contact with Ramsar NFPs, incl. CEPA and STRP
- Work in synergy with other initiatives and/or projects and/or programmes of other international agreements and to ensure compliance with the activities set out in the annual plans















Principles of the new proposed Operational Guidelines for RRIs

- RRIs include CPs and can act on their behalf only by express mandate of their constituents
- RRIs are requested to adopt their own logo and to use it in combination with the Convention logo
- Active RRI website
- The Coordination body is encouraged to organize periodic meetings
- Effective partnership with Convention IOPs and other relevant regional or global organizations should be promoted
- Effective and frequent communication and coordination between the RRI and the Secretariat is important
- The work programme of each RRI is aligned with the approved Strategic Plan
- RRIs are encouraged to include specific activities related to CEPA in the annual work plans and/or projects















Principles of the new proposed Operational Guidelines for RRIs

- RRIs have their own systems for accounting and presenting reports, overseen by their governing bodies, unless they are part of one or several of the CPs accounting and reporting systems
- All participating CPs are encouraged to provide assistance to RRIs
- RRIs take necessary measures to establish financial sustainability with resources allowing for the development of their activities over the long term
- RRIs support the CPs in the development of project proposals in the framework of the workplan to implement the Strategic Plan
- Submit to the Ramsar Secretariat annual reports on progress regarding the workplan implementation and financial status of the past year according to the adopted format; consultation with Administrative Authorities
- The annual report format will be approved by the SC.



















Other issues of interest















Participants onsite



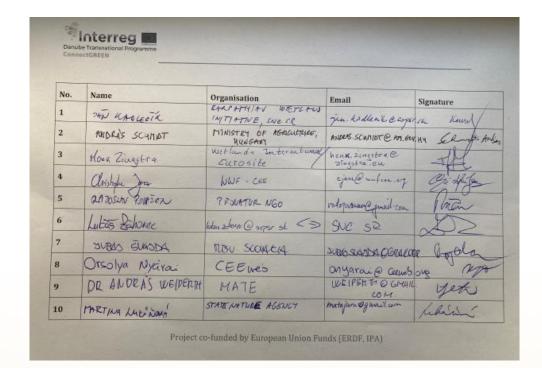


Photo: Orsi Nyárai















Participants online

