

# **CARPATHIAN WETLAND INITIATIVE AND WETLANDS AND TOURISM WORKSHOP**

**8 September 2010, Rytro, Poland**



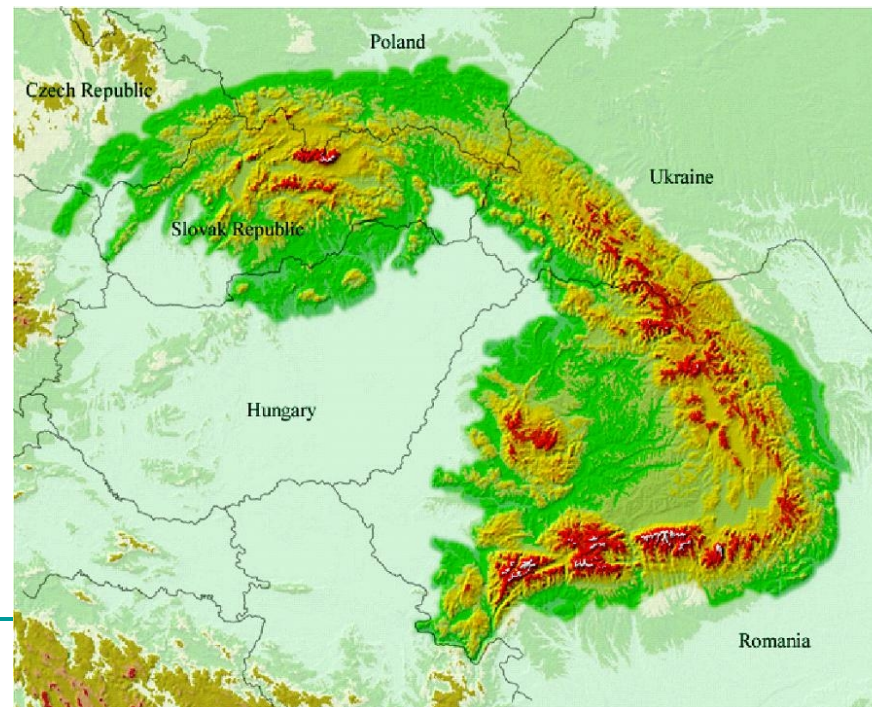
**Ján Kadlečík**  
**CWI / SNC SR**  
**Banská Bystrica, SK**

# Introduction to CWI



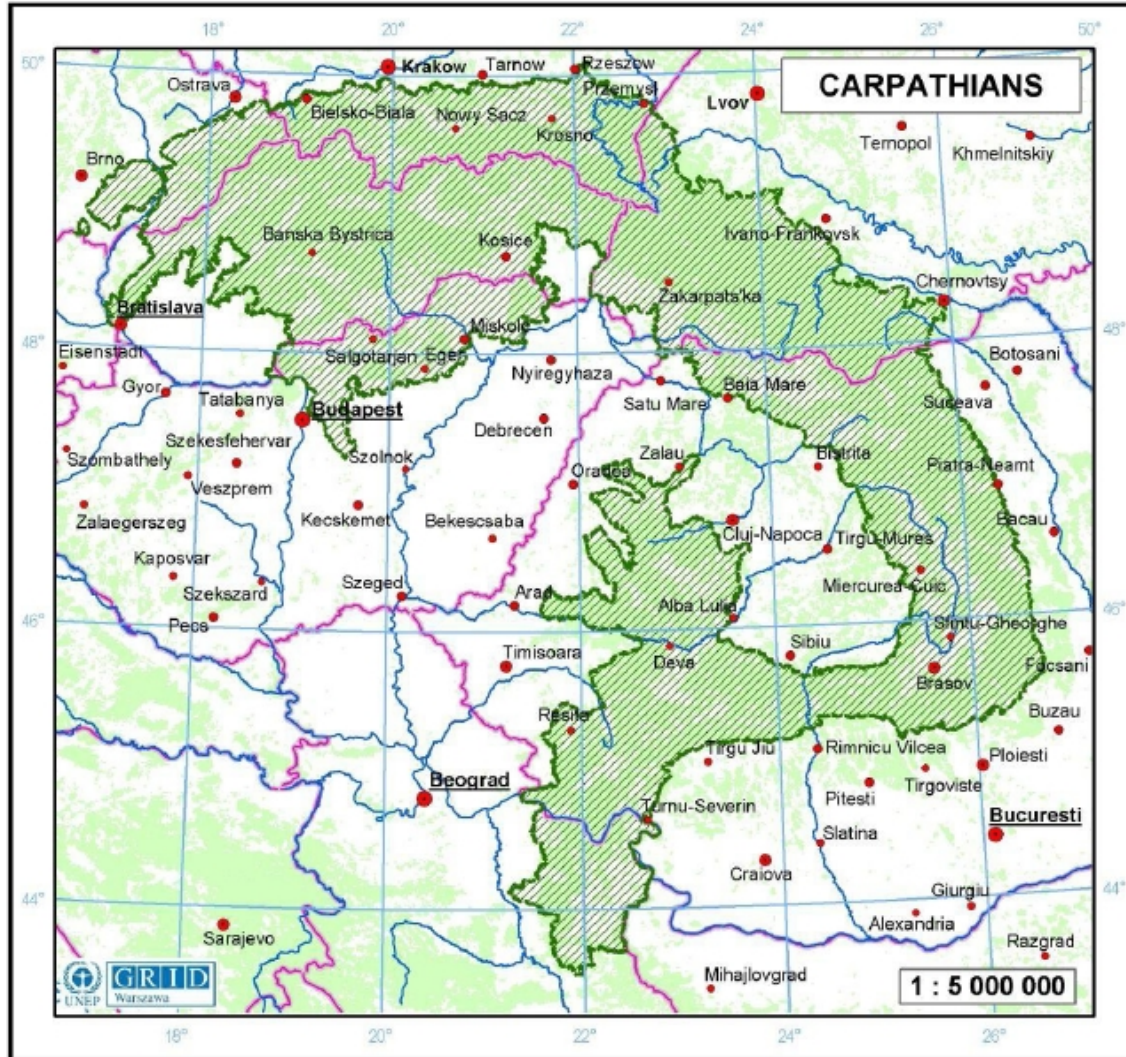
## Carpathians

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



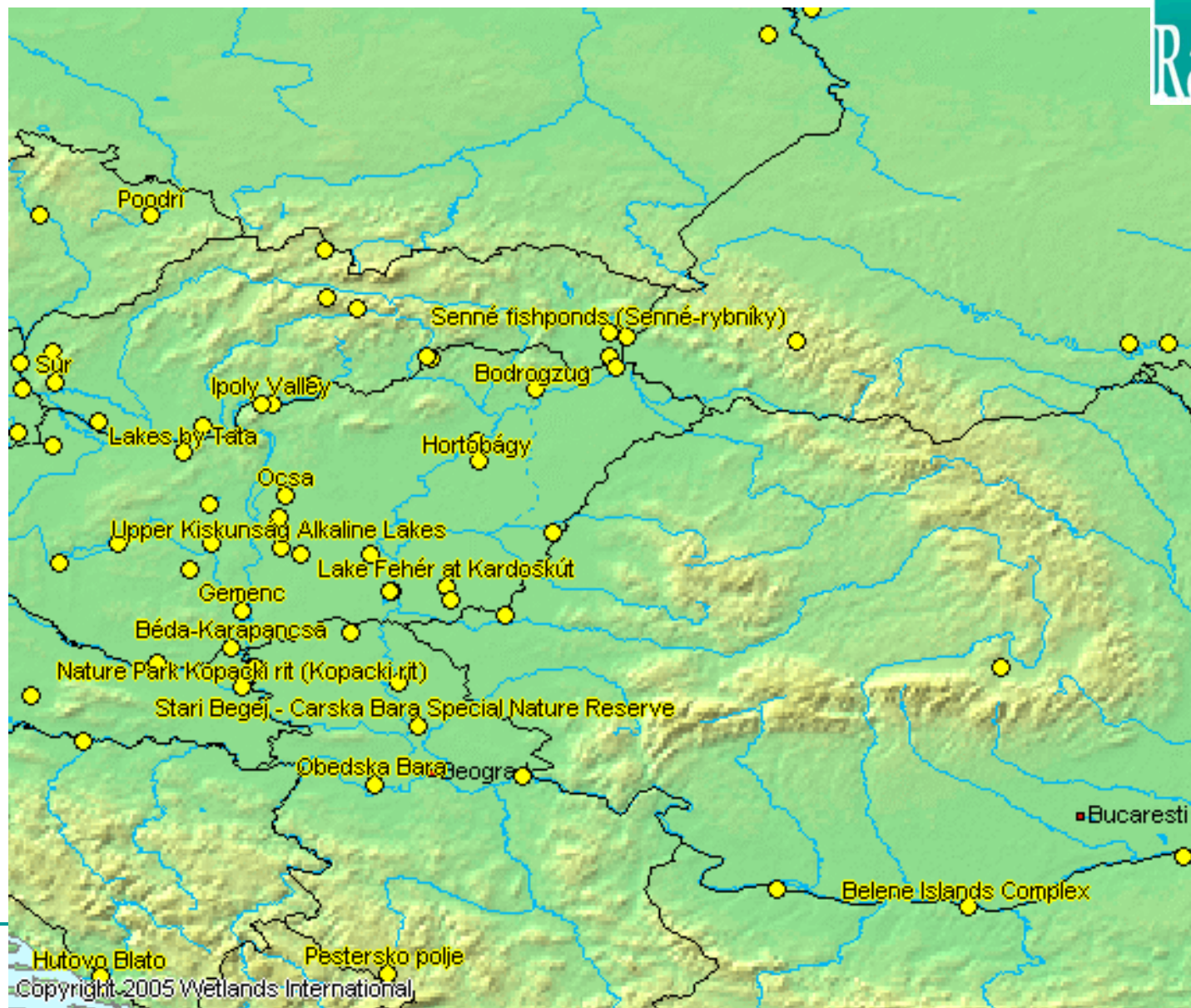
# Seven countries included in the Carpathian Convention and the Carpathian Wetland Initiative

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

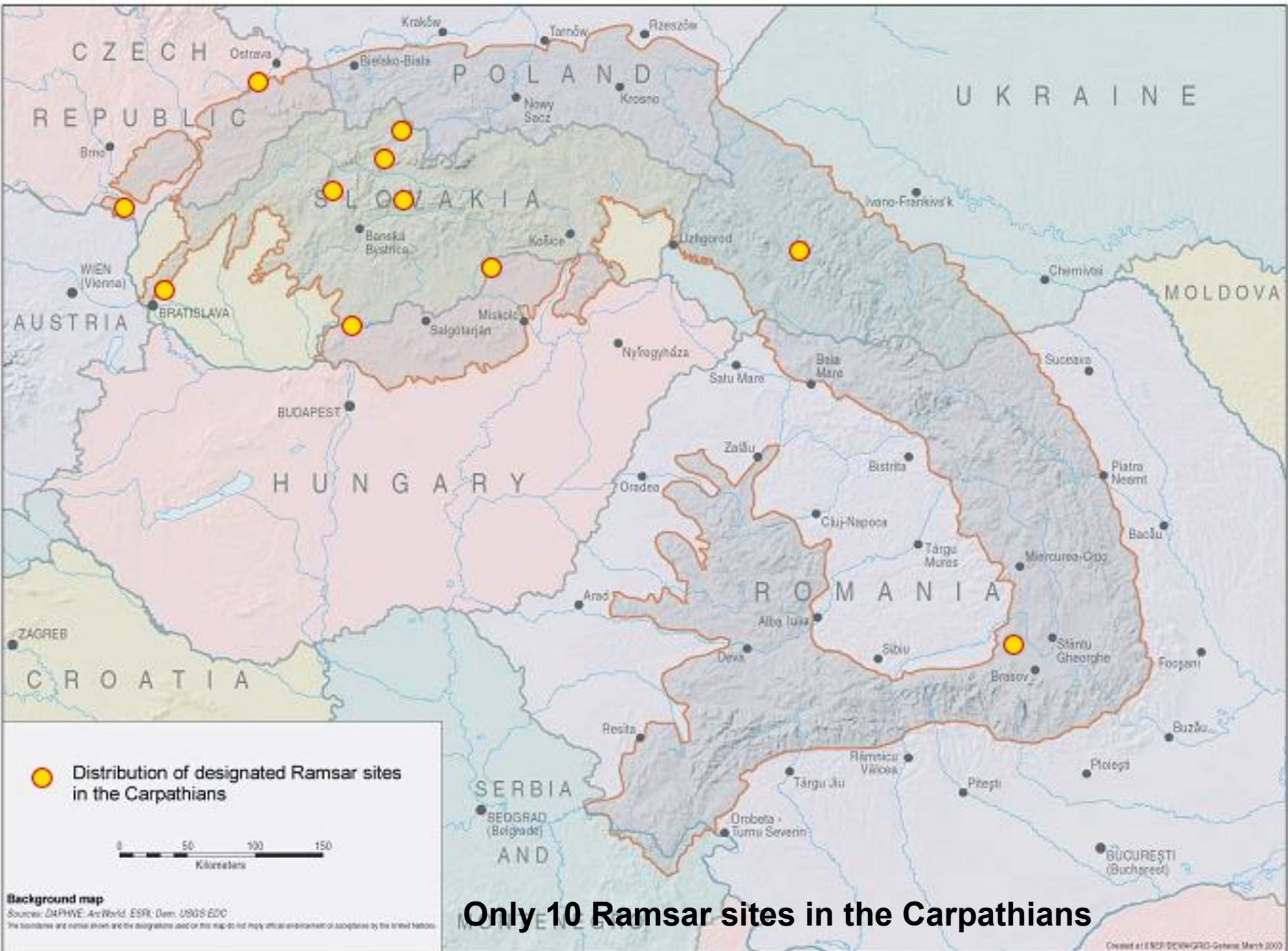




# Ramsar sites in the region (Ramsar database)







**Only 10 Ramsar sites in the Carpathians**

# Establishment of 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 – Memorandum of Cooperation signed (2006) between the Ramsar Convention and UNEP Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention
- raising the awareness of issues
- increased fundraising capacity and potential





## 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.
-

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

# Ramsar Convention

- **COP10 Res. X.6 ENCOURAGES** Contracting Parties, intergovernmental agencies, IOPs, NGOs and other potential donors to support regional initiatives with additional voluntary contributions
  - **Endorsed** by 40th Meeting of the Ramsar Standing Committee in May 2009 as Ramsar regional initiative
  - network of collaboration of stakeholders – governmental agencies, NGOs, scientific institutions and others
-



# National Focal Points – CWI Board Members

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



of

■ 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





# CWI 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

# Strategic and operational targets



- CWI workshops
- Wetland inventory, data storing, information on research and projects
- Carpathian wetland handbook / classification system
- Harmonized classification system of wetland habitats, compatible protocol on wetland inventory, guidelines
- Cooperation with the Science for Carpathians (S4C) initiative
- Establishment of working groups, national networks of experts and institutions, NGO representatives
- Fund-raising and projects development
- Cooperation with Carpathian Convention, Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA), DANUBEPARKS Network etc.
- Facilitation of bilateral consultations in shared wetlands and catchments
- Cooperation with the Danube River Protection Convention and ICPDR

# Strategic and operational targets



- Development of wetland restoration strategies / policies
- Sharing experience on wetland restoration in Europe
- Development of the project proposal on inventory and control of invasive alien species in transborder catchments
- Development of the training programme for wetland managers and information on training opportunities
- Web site of CWI, publishing of information
- Brochures, leaflets on CWI and Carpathian wetlands, translation of guidelines
- Establishment of the regional Wetland Centre

# Wetlands and tourism

- Natural beauty and the diversity of animal and plant life and landscapes in many wetlands makes them prime locations for tourism
- Many of the finest sites are protected as National Parks, World Heritage Sites, Ramsar Sites, Biosphere Reserves etc.
- Many wetland sites generate considerable income locally and nationally from tourist and recreational uses (like coasts, rivers, lakes)
- Recreational activities such as swimming, diving, fishing, hunting, boating and other water sports, watching wildlife and even art, enjoying the scenery etc., involve many people who spend their money on their activities
- Wetlands offer ideal locations for involving the general public and schoolchildren in hands-on learning experiences to raise awareness of environmental issues





## Wetlands and tourism

- We can not expect that the mountain wetlands attract the same millions of visitors as Caribbean countries, Everglades in US or Australian coral reefs and parks, but they are also development opportunity in the Carpathians
- Wetland education centres and programmes span the border between education and recreation and help in better understanding of the environmental concepts and conservation of the watersheds



# Ramsar Convention and tourism



- a number of projects funded from SGF
  - big interest on the development of sustainable tourism in wetlands and in this aspect of wetland management
  - There is evidence of the value of developing sustainable tourism within and near wetlands as a means both for alleviating poverty (especially in developing countries) and of raising awareness about the values of wetlands
  - Equally there is evidence of the potential for developing unsustainable tourism that has adverse effects on wetland ecosystems
  - Ramsar web page ([www.ramsar.org](http://www.ramsar.org)) – diverse guidelines that can assist in developing tourism at wetland sites, publications providing useful information and experiences, tourism projects at Ramsar sites and other wetlands, useful links
-



## World Wetlands Day 2012 theme

- Ramsar Standing Committee at its 40th meeting suggested the theme for World Wetlands Day 2012 to be *Wetlands and Tourism*
- general theme of Ramsar COP11 in 2012 (Romania)
- expectations of the Ramsar Secretariat from this workshop – to do some ground work





The Ramsar Convention Secretariat Secretary General and the UN World Tourism Organization Director of Sustainable Tourism signed on the February 2nd, 2010 a Memorandum of Cooperation







# Ramsar and the WTO



## Art. 1 – Wise use of wetlands and sustainable tourism

- collaboration to reinforce the role of wetlands and their biodiversity for sustainable tourism development through demonstration of integrated management approaches at national and global level
  - support the formulation of guidelines for wise use of wetlands through information sharing, inventories, and developed wetland policies based on sound scientific findings for the promotion of sustainable tourism
  - conduct a brief scoping review of needs, options and opportunities for development of advice on scientific and technical aspects of tourism, sustainable tourism, ecotourism and related recreational activities in relation to wetlands, also taking into account the effects of tourism-related hunting and harvesting in wetlands
-

## Art. 2 – Designation and management of wetlands of international importance for the purpose of sustainable tourism and poverty reduction

- share information and expertise concerning the management of Ramsar sites and promote regional collaboration of managers, experts and researchers who produce data to manage the sites for the purpose of sustainable tourism development
- development of project proposals within the Sustainable Tourism – Eliminating Poverty (ST-EP) UNWTO framework and Ramsar COP9 res. 14, in designated Ramsar sites where the potential exists



## Art. 3 – Regional and international cooperation

- framework for fundraising and information sharing to facilitate implementation
- achieving common objectives of managing and restoring vital degraded wetlands to promote sustainable tourism



# Wetlands and tourism



There are many different tools, instruments, guidelines on sustainable tourism in protected areas and biodiversity related studies

- CBD COP7 Decision VII/14 on biological diversity and tourism and Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development
- IUCN WCPA Guidelines for Planning and Management – Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas
- UNEP / CMS Convention on Migratory Species – Wildlife Watching and Tourism; A study on the benefits and risks of a fast growing tourism activity and its impact on species
- UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics and WTO
- Wetlands International publication on Wetlands, poverty reduction and sustainable tourism development
- AEWA Guidelines on the development of ecotourism at wetlands
- Draft Tourism Protocol to the Carpathian Convention



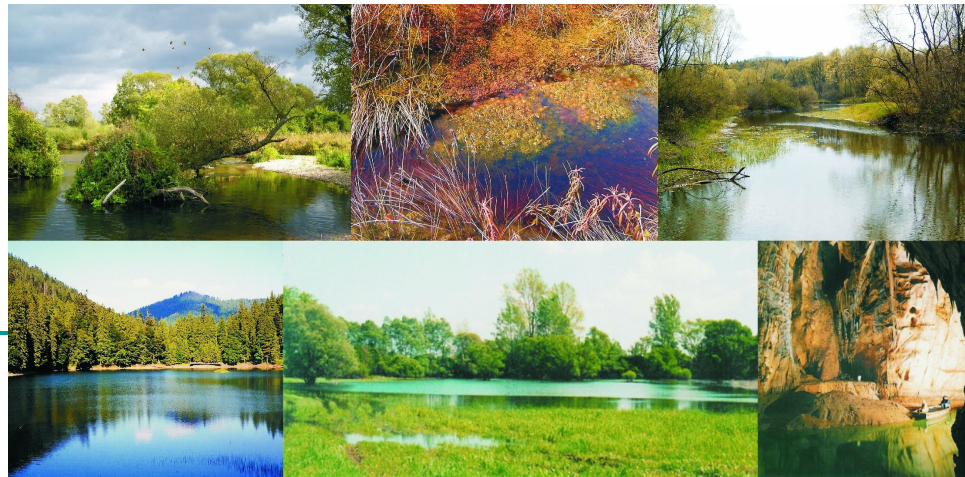
# Wetlands and tourism – examples in Carpathian RS

- Domatica (SK) – Baradla (HU) caves bilateral RS (200.000 visitors annually)
- Caves of Demänovská dolina Valley (SK) (100-180,000 visitors)
- Wetlands of Orava Basin – visitors centre
- Turiec Wetlands – bicycle trail
- Lake Synevir (UA) – nature tourism, festivals

Public awareness (guided tours, nature trails, information days)

What we don't have – e.g. promotion of products from organic farms in the floodplain, Ramsar as a label for local products

Trained guides - improved knowledge on the natural surroundings can decrease the impact of local people on the environment and enhance their livelihood through tourism



# Wetlands and tourism - adversarial relationship

Uncontrolled tourism can impact wetlands in a number of ways

- habitat loss, land degradation (construction of general infrastructure such as roads, and of tourism facilities, including resorts, hotels, restaurants, shops, marinas)
- increased pressure on endangered species (disturbing, stress, alien invasive species)
- pressure on local resources like over-consumption of water, energy, raw materials that may already be in short supply (when the level of visitor use is greater than the environment's ability to cope with this use within the acceptable limits of change)
- pollution - noise, air emissions, solid waste and littering, releases of sewage, oil and chemicals, and even architectural/visual pollution
- damage of the scenery, destroying tourism opportunities



# Wetlands and tourism Workshop



## Expectations

- Recommendations for the Ramsar Convention
- Recommendations for the Carpathian Convention – draft Protocol on Sustainable Tourism
- Recommendations for the further activities of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative



A close-up photograph of a dragonfly perched on a thin green stem. The dragonfly's body is brown and segmented, with a long, thin abdomen. Its four wings are transparent and intricately veined, with a reddish-brown border. The dragonfly is facing upwards. The background is a soft-focus green field of grass and foliage, with a bright light source creating a bokeh effect of circular light spots. Overlaid on the center of the image is the text "Thank you and Good luck!" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

**Thank you  
and Good luck !**



# Recommendations



- How to explore the theme further within CWI
- Activities for 2011-2012:
  - nominate representatives/experts to the CC WGT and to exchange information
  - collect examples – best practices from the Carpathian wetlands (and beyond)
  - retain suitable soft tourism products, measures, attitudes
  - develop recommendations/guidelines for CWI members and PAs
  - especially increase of awareness and information for public, education!