

1. Title of the Regional Initiative: *Carpathian Wetland Initiative*

2. Work and activities undertaken during the Year 2020

Objectives	Activities	Results/Outputs	Indicators
1. Mainstreaming	1.1 Promote integration of wetlands and their services and benefits into sectoral policies, development of proposals for CC Working Groups and for sectors; cooperation with Ramsar Partner organizations (BirdLife, IUCN, Wetlands International, WWF)	Wetlands and their services and benefits and activities of CWI promoted in the work of the EUSDR Priority Areas (PA4, PA5, PA6), CC Working Groups and decisions of the CC COP6; participation at the online meetings of the Steering Group of the EUSDR PA6, CC WG on Biodiversity, WGs on Climate Change, Sustainable Transport; CC Implementation Committee and CC COP6; proposals for draft Carpathian strategy for enhancing biodiversity and landscape conservation outside and inside protected areas, Carpathian Ecosystem Services Toolkit within Centralparks project, as well as in draft national action plans (nature and landscape protection, climate change adaptation, etc.). Cooperation in projects with WWF CEE and Wetlands International, participation in the WI webinar on Regional Strategy.	Relevant documents, meeting reports
2. River Basin Management	2.1 Development and/or implementation of Carpathian projects integrating wetlands in river basin management; consultations with ICPDR	CWI involved in the project “Improving water quality in the Danube River and its tributaries by integrative floodplain management based on ecosystem services” (IDES) as associated partner, participation at kick-off meeting; other project drafts (LIFE) consulted and developed within DANUBEPARKS	Project approved and/or submitted to DTP3 and LIFE
	2.2 Facilitation of bilateral consultations in shared wetlands and catchments on common objectives and principles of their management; participation in international conferences	Participation in online meetings of expert groups within Centralparks project	Reports of the meetings
3. Invasive Alien Species (IAS)	3.1 Identification and prioritization of invasive alien species and pathways of their introduction and expansion	Work on the updated list of invasive alien species in the Carpathians has been postponed	
	3.2 Cooperation in control and eradication of IAS and in preparation and implementation of management responses	Work on project drafts and meetings within CC Biodiversity WG have been postponed	
4. Ecological Networks and Management of	4.1 Cooperation in the development of the ecological network in the Carpathians, contribution to relevant projects on continuity	Participation at online meetings of the CC Biodiversity WG and other relevant WGs; participation in the implementation of ConnectGREEN and	Meeting reports; project reports; Ramsar Sites database

Sites	and connectivity of habitats in the region, cooperation in the designation of new Ramsar Sites, expansion of existing sites; joint management planning	Centralparks projects enhancing wetland connectivity issues; support (co-sponsoring) of a motion for the IUCN Congress 2021 on protecting rivers as corridors in a changing climate; 1 new Ramsar Site designated in the Serbian part of the Carpathians (Djerdap)	
	4.2 Cooperation with CNPA, DANUBEPARKS, ALPARC within existing MoC in development of new projects on ecological connectivity of wetland habitats in the region; cooperation with Water Platform of the Alpine Convention	Participation in online meetings of the CNPA Steering Committee, meetings of Task Forces of the Centralparks project; cooperation and consultations with secretariat of the DANUBEPARKS, participation at General Assembly of the DANUBEPARKS Association; consultations with EUROPARC CE Section on joint activities	Meeting reports
5. Prevention of environmental damages in wetlands	5.1 Facilitation of exchange of information on the risk of change of ecological character of wetlands (including transborder rivers), cooperation within ICPDR	Involvement of ICPDR through representation in the CWI Board	Address list
6. Wetland Inventories	6.1 Inventory of wetland habitats and species; inventory of cultural values of wetlands	Identification of databases of habitats and species and of cultural values within Centralparks project; development of the project outline for EUKI funding which includes wetlands inventory in the Carpathian region	Data on the database, Centralparks project website; CARPWET project outline
	6.2 Update of the Carpathian Red List of habitats and species	Update of the Red Lists and database on threatened Carpathian habitats and species has been postponed	
7. Wetlands conservation, restoration and maintenance	7.1 Identification of priorities for common actions and for wetlands restoration to be jointly undertaken in the Carpathians	Proposed activities in the project outline for EUKI funding include common actions for wetland restoration	CARPWET project outline
	7.2 Sharing experience on wetland restoration in Europe	Participation at the online workshop “Bring Back Bogs - Wetlands and Peatland at the heart of the EU Nature Restoration Plan” (3 Dec. 2020)	Information on the web
	7.3 Cooperation in the development of a new project aimed at long-term conservation, maintenance, restoration and sustainable use of wetland habitats and species	Project outline developed (CARPWET – Carpathian Wetlands as nature-based solution for climate change mitigation) in cooperation with DAPHNE-IAE, Wetlands International and CC Parties; invitation to participate in the project WE.PEAT on peatland restoration	CARPWET project outline; WE.PEAT project proposal
8. Climate change	8.1 Identify wetlands most at risk due to climate change based on an assessment of the vulnerability of Carpathian wetlands to climate change impacts, propose and implement measures to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change; project proposals	Project outline developed (CARPWET – Carpathian Wetlands as nature-based solution for climate change mitigation); cooperation in development of WE.PEAT project and Living Labs proposal; participation in the online meetings of the CC Working Group on Climate Change (15 May 2020); measures proposed; priorities for project discussed; promotion of training webinar of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands as Nature-based Solutions	Reports of meetings, CARPWET project outline, WE.PEAT project proposal

		(Nbs) for Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)	
9. Research, Monitoring, Information System	9.1 Facilitation of cooperation in species and habitats monitoring, research in wetlands in collaboration with Science for Carpathians S4C, development of joint information system and joint guidelines and methodologies to make them available to decision makers and practitioners	Consultations with S4C on project proposal; the 6 <sup>th</sup> Forum Carpathicum planned for June 2020 has been postponed to 2021; invitation from Greifswald Mire Centre (DE) to participate in the project WE.PEAT for the H2020 call; consultations within ConnectGREEN and Centralparks project on input to CCIBIS; collection of data, inclusion of wetlands in relevant work packages, including on Carpathian Ecosystem Services Toolkit	ConnectGREEN and Centralparks projects, WE.PEAT project proposal
10. Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness	10.1 Publications and promotion of CWI and Carpathian wetlands, translation of relevant guidelines; co-organization of the 15 <sup>th</sup> edition of the International Exhibition and Contest of Posters EKOPLAGÁT 2020; Maintenance of CWI web site	CWI web site updated with relevant information; promotion of CWI in national media; co-organizing the 15 <sup>th</sup> edition of the International Exhibition and Contest of Posters EKOPLAGÁT 2020, chairing to the Organizational Committee awarding, participation in Jury and awarding the best poster on wetlands/water	Web site with updated info; EKOPLAGÁT website <a href="http://ekoplagat.soprs.sk/en/current-year/">http://ekoplagat.soprs.sk/en/current-year/</a>
	10.2 Development of the training programme on wetland management and restoration and CWI CEPA programme; establishment of a database of educational and training institutions and experts aimed at wetlands and communication with them; cooperation with IUCN WCPA Working Group on Capacity Development	Consultations with the representative of the Czech Ministry of Environment on training programme and opportunities and CWI CEPA programme; information on online trainings and webinars distributed	E-mail communication
	10.3 Development of a project for training on identified priorities; support of other trainings	Proposal on international training course on wetlands restoration consulted and prepared with the Czech Ministry of Environment for October 2020, due to COVID-19 restrictions cancelled and postponed to 2021; presentations from International training course on sustainable agriculture in wetlands held in CZ (Sept. 2019) posted on the CWI web site	CWI website <a href="http://www.cwi.sk">www.cwi.sk</a>
	10.4 Operation of the regional Wetland Centre, the building of its library, human capacities, improvement of facilities, CWI coordination; the meeting of CWI Board members	Wetland Centre maintained, Carpathian wetland library supplemented; participation in consultations within the WG of the Ramsar Convention on the RRI of documents distributed, participation in online meeting of the WG on ToR of the WG on RRIs; cooperation with the Ramsar Convention Secretariat on participation in the CC COP6; CWI contacts updated; annual reports and plans developed and submitted	Wetland Centre operating and working for coordination and training
11. Capacities and Financing	11.1 Seeking for regular contributions to the CWI work from na-	Communication and consultations with the Ministry of Agriculture, HU	Annual report

	tional and international sources and providing relevant capacities to activities and governance	and Ministries of Environment of SK CZ on voluntary contributions, contributions received by the end of 2020 from HU and SK, contribution from CZ arranged through trainings support; call for voluntary contributions of other Ministries at the CC COP6, included in the COP6 decision; inclusion in the annual work plan of the SNC SR	
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### 3. Financial report for the Year 2020

Summary of income and expenditures. Average exchange rate to CHF: 1.07

Activities	Planned expenditures	Real expenditures (EUR)
1.1 Promotion of integration of wetlands and their services and benefits into sectoral policies, proposals for CC WGs	1,000 EUR	960.00
2.1 Development and/or implementation of projects integrating wetlands in river basin management	700 EUR	120.00
2.2 Facilitation of bilateral consultations in shared wetlands and catchments; participation in international conferences	2,500 EUR	360.17
3.1 Identification and prioritization of invasive alien species and pathways of their introduction and expansion	4,400 EUR	0.00
3.2 Cooperation in control and eradication of IAS and in preparation and implementation of management respons.	1,500 EUR	0.00
4.1 Cooperation in development of ecol. network, contribution to relevant projects on continuity, Ramsar Sites	2,250 EUR	480.00
4.2 Cooperation with CNPA, DANUBEPARKS, ALPARC on ecological connectivity	700 EUR	240.00
5.1 Facilitation of exchange of information on risk of change of ecological character of wetlands	1,800 EUR	60.00
6.1 Inventory of wetland habitats and species; inventory of cultural values of wetlands	4,700 EUR	1,140.00
6.2 Update of the Carpathian Red List of habitats and species	1,000 EUR	0.00
7.1 Identification of priorities for common actions and for wetlands restoration to be jointly undertaken	700 EUR	1,140.00
7.2 Sharing experience on wetland restoration in Europe	1,400 EUR	60.00
7.3 Cooperation in development of a new project aimed at long-term conservation, maintenance, restoration	700 EUR	840.00
8.1 Identification of wetlands most at risk due to climate change, propose and implement measures	2,200 EUR	3,940.00
9.1 Facilitation of cooperation in species and habitats monitoring, research in wetlands in cooperation with S4C	1,700 EUR	450.00
10.1 Publications on CWI and Carpathian wetlands, translation of guidelines; EKOPLAGÁT 2020 co-organizing	2,500 EUR	1,300.00
10.2 Development of the training program on wetland management and restoration and CWI CEPA program	1,500 EUR	360.00
10.3 Development of a project for training on identified priorities; support of other trainings	2,500 EUR	720.00
10.4 Operation of the regional Wetland Centre, building of its library, human capacities, facilities, CWI coordination	10,846 EUR	1,360.00
11.1 Seeking for regular contributions to the CWI work and providing relevant capacities to activities and govern.	7,000 EUR	3,900.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>51,596 EUR</b>	<b>17,430.00</b>

Sources of income	Income received (EUR)
SNC SR SK	6,080.00
MoE SK	2,300.00
MoE CZ	900.00
MoA HU	1,600.00
MoE RO	240.00
MoE PL	240.00
UNE SCC	600.00
UNEP-GRID Warsaw PL	360.00
Masaryk University CZ	360.00
Centre for Ecological Research HU	360.00
DUENE DE	400.00
DAPHNE – Institute of Applied Ecology SK	2,010.00
Wetlands International	1,260.00
CE Centralparks project	720.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,430.00</b>

**Financial balance on 31 December 2020:** amount left to be carried over to 2021

<b>Ramsar core budget</b>	<b>6,428.40 €</b>
<b>CWI budget from Hungary</b>	<b>7,673.06 €</b>
<b>CWI budget from the Czech Republic</b>	<b>887.29 €</b>
<b>CWI budget from the Slovak Republic</b>	<b>2,000.00 €</b>

The Ramsar funding (amount left from previous funding – 6,428.40 €) was not spent in the reporting period because of reduced activities due to COVID-19 restrictions and will be used for activities planned on 2021 according to the plan below.

#### 4. Work and activities planned for Year 2021

Objectives	Activities	Results/outputs	Indicators
1. Mainstreaming	1.1 Promote integration of wetlands and their services and benefits into sectoral policies, development of proposals for CC Working Groups and for sectors; cooperation with Ramsar Partner organizations (BirdLife, IUCN, Wetlands International, WWF)	Wetlands and their services and benefits are integrated in relevant documents of the Carpathian Convention, in sectoral strategies and policies and in relevant projects	Documents, project results
2. River Basin Management	2.1 Development and/or implementation of Carpathian projects integrating wetlands in river basin management; consultations with ICPDR	Project drafts consulted and developed; funding opportunities identified; implementation of approved projects	Project drafts prepared for submission; reports on the implementation of work packages of approved projects
	2.2 Facilitation of bilateral consultations in shared wetlands and catchments on common objectives and principles of their management; participation in international conferences	Meetings of experts and relevant stakeholders	A number of experts and national focal points participating; report of the conferences, recommendations; guidelines
3. Invasive Alien Species (IAS)	3.1 Identification and prioritization of invasive alien species and pathways of their introduction and expansion	The updated list of invasive alien species in the Carpathians	The information available on the web sites

	3.2 Cooperation in control and eradication of IAS and in preparation and implementation of management responses	Project drafts consulted and developed; workshops and meetings with CC Biodiversity WG	Project draft; reports of the meetings
4. Ecological Networks and Management of Sites	4.1 Cooperation in the development of the ecological network in the Carpathians, contribution to relevant projects on continuity and connectivity of habitats in the region, cooperation in the designation of new Ramsar Sites, expansion of existing sites; joint management planning	Workshops and meetings with CC Biodiversity WG and other relevant WGs; projects Work Packages implemented; RISs and maps developed	Meeting reports; indicators of relevant project WPs; documents and maps for designation of new Ramsar Sites
	4.2 Cooperation with CNPA, DANUBEPARKS, ALPARC within existing MoC in development of new projects on ecological connectivity of wetland habitats in the region	Meetings; project drafts consulted and developed	Meeting reports, project drafts prepared for submission
5. Prevention of environmental damages in wetlands	5.1 Facilitation of exchange of information on the risk of change of ecological character of wetlands (including transborder rivers), cooperation within ICPDR	Workshops, meetings, involvement in/of the cross-border river basin commissions	Reports of meetings, documents with information
6. Wetland Inventories	6.1 Inventory of wetland habitats and species; inventory of cultural values of wetlands	Inventory of wetlands and their role in supporting sustainable and climate-resilient water management; database of wetland species and cultural values	Database of wetlands in the Carpathians, maps
	6.2 Update of the Carpathian Red List of habitats and species	Meetings of experts, updated Red Lists and database on threatened Carpathian habitats and species	Documents; database updated
7. Wetlands conservation, restoration and maintenance	7.1 Identification of priorities for common actions and for wetlands restoration to be jointly undertaken in the Carpathians	Draft wetland restoration strategy/policy in the Carpathians, meetings on the topic; small restoration activities	Draft document; meeting minutes; report on activities; agreements on transborder cooperation
	7.2 Sharing experience on wetland restoration in Europe, cooperation with EUROPARC Federation CE section	Workshops, conferences and study tours to wetland restoration examples; overview of wetland restoration guidelines and projects	Report of the meetings and study tour; information on the web
	7.3 Cooperation in projects aimed at long-term conservation, maintenance, restoration and sustainable use of wetland habitats and species	Projects consulted and/or developed	Project outputs; draft prepared for submission
8. Climate change	8.1 Identify wetlands and their role in the climate change mitigation, propose and implement measures to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change; project proposals/ implementat.	Workshops and meetings with relevant CC Working Groups; measures proposed; project implementation and/or proposals developed	Reports of meetings, documents with information; project drafts
9. Research, Monitoring, Information System	9.1 Facilitation of cooperation in species and habitats monitoring, research in wetlands in collaboration with Science for Carpathians S4C, development of joint information system and joint guide-	Participation at 6 <sup>th</sup> Forum Carpathicum (June 2021, Brno, CZ), meetings, workshops, conferences, input to CCIBIS	Reports of the meetings, CCIBIS developed

	lines and methodologies to make them available to decision makers and practitioners		
10. Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness	10.1 Publications and promotion of CWI and Carpathian wetlands, translation of relevant guidelines; Maintenance of CWI web site	Publications on CWI and the Carpathian wetlands and their functions and services, guidelines translated; web site updated	Publications, guidelines in national languages and placed on the web; web site with updated info
	10.2 Development of the training programme on wetland management and restoration and CWI CEPA programme; establishment of a database of educational and training institutions and experts aimed at wetlands and communication with them	The training programme developed; database with the information established and communication; CWI CEPA and capacity development programme consulted with partners and existing Ramsar CEPA programme	Training programme; database on the web site; draft CWI CEPA and capacity development programme on the web
	10.3 Development of a project for training on identified priorities; support of other trainings	Project proposal discussed and submitted, participation in trainings (peatland restoration)	Project draft or application; training
	10.4 Operation of the Wetland Centre, building of the library, human capacities, improvement of facilities, CWI coordination; meeting of CWI Board members; representation in WG on RRI	Wetland Centre maintained, functioning, wetland library supplemented, staff supported; participation in the WG on the Ramsar Regional Initiatives; organization of the meeting of the CWI Board	Wetland Centre operating and working for coordination and training; results and documents of the Working Group on the RRI; meeting report
11. Capacities and Financing	11.1 Seeking for regular contributions to the CWI work from national and international sources and providing relevant capacities to activities and governance	Voluntary contributions, national allocations, projects with funding	Annual reports

## 5. Financial plan for the year 2021

Summary of expected income and budgeted/planned expenditures. Average exchange rate to the CHF: 1.1

Activities	Planned expenditures	Expected income and source (EUR)
1.1 Promotion of integration of wetlands and their services and benefits into sectoral policies, proposals for CC WGs	1,000 EUR	SNC SR 500.00 UNE CC 500.00
2.1 Development and/or implementation of projects integrating wetlands in river basin management	700 EUR	Ramsar 200.00 SNC SR 500.00
2.2 Facilitation of bilateral consultations in shared wetlands and catchments; participation in international conferences	2,500 EUR	Ramsar 500.00 SNC SR 250.00 Moe CZ 250.00 MoA HU 250.00 MoE PL 250.00 MoE RO 250.00 MoE RS 250.00 MoE SK 250.00 MoE UA 250.00
3.1 Identification and prioritization of invasive alien species and pathways of their introduction and expansion	2,400 EUR	UNE SCC 500.00 SNC SR 500.00 MoE CZ 200.00 MoA HU 200.00 MoE PL 200.00 MoE RO 200.00 MoE RS 200.00 MoE SK 200.00 MoE UA 200.00

3.2 Cooperation in control and eradication of IAS and in preparation and implementation of management response	1,500 EUR	Ramsar 500.00 UNE SCC 500.00 SNC SR 500.00
4.1 Cooperation in development of ecological network, relevant projects on continuity and connectivity of habitats, cooperation in designation of new Ramsar Sites; new PAs	2,250 EUR	Ramsar 250.00 SNC SR 500.00 UNE SCC 500.00 Projects 1,000.00
4.2 Cooperation with CNPA, DANUBEPARKS, AL-PARC in development of new projects	700 EUR	Ramsar 200.00 SNC SR 500.00
5.1 Facilitation of exchange of information on risk of change of ecological character of wetlands	1,800 EUR	SNC SR 200.00 Ramsar 200.00 MoE CZ 200.00 MoA HU 200.00 MoE PL 200.00 MoE RO 200.00 MoE RS 200.00 MoE SK 200.00 MoE UA 200.00
6.1 Inventory of wetland habitats and species; inventory of cultural values of wetlands	4,700 EUR	Ramsar 700.00 MoE CZ 500.00 MoA HU 500.00 MoE PL 500.00 MoE RO 500.00 MoE RS 500.00 MoE SK 500.00 MoE UA 500.00 SNC SR 500.00
6.2 Update of the Carpathian Red List of habitats and species	1,000 EUR	UNE SCC 500.00 SNC SR 500.00
7.1 Identification of priorities for common actions and for wetlands restoration to be jointly undertaken	1,700 EUR	SNC SR 500.00 Ramsar 200.00 Projects 1,000.00
7.2 Sharing experience on wetland restoration in Europe	1,400 EUR	SNC SR 200.00 Ramsar 500.00 CWI budget HU 700.00
7.3 Cooperation in development of a new project aimed at long-term conservation, maintenance, restoration	1,700 EUR	Ramsar 200.00 SNC SR 500.00 Projects 1,000.00
8.1 Identification of wetlands in relation to climate change, propose and implement measures to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change	3,200 EUR	Ramsar 200.00 UNE SCC 500.00 SNC SR 500.00 CWI budget HU 1,000.00 Projects 1,000.00
9.1 Facilitation of cooperation in species and habitats monitoring, research in wetlands in cooperation with S4C	1,700 EUR	Ramsar 200.00 CWI budget HU 1,000.00 SNC SR 500.00
10.1 Publications on CWI and Carpathian wetlands, translation of guidelines; maintenance of CWI web site	2,500 EUR	Ramsar 1,000.00 CWI budget HU 1,000.00 SNC SR 500.00
10.2 Development of the training program on wetland management and restoration and CWI CEPA program	1,500 EUR	Ramsar 200.00 MoE CZ 500.00 CWI budget CZ 300.00 SNC SR 500.00
10.3 Development of a project for training on identified priorities; training implementation; support of other trainings	7,000 EUR	Ramsar 500.00 MoE CZ 5,000.00 CWI budget CZ 500.00



		CWI budget MoE SK 500.00 SNC SR 500.00
10.4 Operation of the regional Wetland Centre, building of its library, human capacities, facilities, CWI coordination	6,878 EUR	Ramsar 878.00 SNC SR 5,000.00 CWI budget ME SK 1,000.00
11.1 Seeking for regular contributions to the CWI work from national and international sources and providing relevant capacities to activities and governance	7,000 EUR	MoE CZ 1,000.00 MoA HU 1,000.00 MoE PL 1,000.00 MoE RO 1,000.00 MoE RS 1,000.00 MoE SK 1,000.00 MoE UA 1,000.00
<b>Using the rest from Ramsar core budget</b>		<b>6,428.00 EUR</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>52,128 EUR</b>	

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25 January 2021

**Acronyms:**

ALPARC	Alpine Network of Protected Areas	NAS UA	National Academy of Sciences Ukraine
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity	PAs	Protected areas
CC	Carpathian Convention	PL	Poland
CCIBIS	Carpathian Integrated Biodiversity Information System	RIS	Ramsar Information Sheet
CCIC	Implementation Committee of the CC	RO	Romania
CE	Central Europe	RRIs	Ramsar Regional Initiatives
CEPA	Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness programme	RS	Serbia
CNPA	Carpathian Network of Protected Areas	S4C	Science for Carpathians
CWI	Carpathian Wetland Initiative	SK	Slovakia
CZ	Czech Republic	SNC SR	State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic
DANUBEPARKS	Danube Network of Protected Areas	UA	Ukraine
DE	Germany	UNE SCC	UN Environment Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention
DUENE	Institute of Sustainable Development of Land-scapes of the Earth, e. V.	WG	Working Group
EUKI	European Climate Initiative	WI	Wetlands International
EUSDR	EU Strategy for the Danube Region		
HU	Hungary		
IAS	Invasive alien species		
ICPDR	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River		
IUCN WCPA	IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas		
LIFE	LIFE programme – EU funding instrument		
MoC	Memorandum of Cooperation		
MoE	Ministry of Environment		