

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

2. Work and activities undertaken during the 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 and activities of CWI promoted in the relevant Working Groups of the Carpathian Convention; participation and presentations at the online meetings of the WG on Climate Change (6 May) and WG on Biodiversity (19-20 May); activities of CWI and wetlands related included in the work plans of these WGs; participation with presentation at 12 th meeting of the CC Implementation Committee (17-19 Nov., Krakow, PL); work on the Carpathian Ecosystem Services Toolkit within Interreg Centralparks project; Communication with IUCN on involvement in the CWI work, cooperation in projects with WWF CEE and Wetlands International and in trainings with the Czech Ornithological Society (BirdLife partner).	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 Mid-term meeting;	Project meetings and reports
	2.2 Facilitation of bilateral consultations in shared wetlands and catchments on common objectives and principles of their management; participation in international conferences	Participation at webinar of the project “Danube Floodplain” – Floodplains under pressure: a natural system to preserve and restore (28 June); cooperation with the Czech Ramsar Committee (CZRC), participation at the extraordinary meeting of the CZRC and conference on the occasion of the 50 th Anniversary of the Ramsar Convention (30 Nov.-1 Dec., Mikulov, CZ)	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	Distribution of information on International conference – Protected Areas: Cornerstones of Ecological Connectivity in the Carpathians and Beyond	Meeting reports; project reports

Sites	and connectivity of habitats in the region, cooperation in the designation of new Ramsar Sites, expansion of existing sites; joint management planning	among CWI Board members and participation (28-30 Sept., Visegrád, HU), organization of the CWI side event – “Connectivity Academy” (30 Sept.); participation in the implementation of ConnectGREEN and Centralparks projects enhancing wetland connectivity issues	
	4.2 Cooperation with CNPA, DANUBEPARKS, ALPARC within existing MoC in development of new projects on ecological connectivity of wetland habitats in the region	Participation at meetings of the CNPA Steering Committee (19 July online, 18 Nov., Krakow, PL) and the 3 rd CNPA Conference (29 Sept., Visegrád, HU), involvement in the CNPA work plan; participation at online Alpine-Carpathian Biodiversity Forum (15-16 Dec.), introductory speech; communication with DANUBEPARKS, participation at General Assembly of the DANUBEPARKS Association	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 included 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 included common actions for wetland restoration	CARPWET project outline
	7.2 Sharing experience on wetland restoration in Europe, cooperation with EUROPARC Federation CE section	Cooperation with Eurosite, distribution of invitation for online workshop on innovative peatland restoration techniques (3 Nov.)	Information on the web
	7.3 Cooperation in projects aimed at long-term conservation, maintenance, restoration and sustainable use of wetland habitats and species	Project outline developed and submitted (CARPWET – Carpathian Wetlands as nature-based solution for climate change mitigation) in cooperation with DAPHNE-IAE (SK), Wetlands International, Masaryk University in Brno (CZ), Centre for Ecological Research (HU), DUENE (DE) and CC Parties, with support from EUSDR PAs; cooperation in development of the project WE.PEAT on peatland restoration; support for project proposal Rescue the Narcissi Valley (Danube-Carpathian Programme, UA); consultations on H2020 project idea on forests and wetlands	CARPWET project outline submitted to EUKI; WE.PEAT project proposal

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/ implementation	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; measures proposed; priorities for project discussed; participation at online side event of the Ramsar Convention at UNFCCC COP26 – Financing Wetlands Conservation and Restoration for Climate Benefits – Challenges and Opportunities	Reports of meetings, CARPWET project outline, WE.PEAT project proposal
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 and support letter received; participation at the online 6 th Forum Carpaticum (22-25 June) and discussions in sessions on Carpathian waters; cooperation with Greifswald Mire Centre (DE) and Daphne-IAE on the project WE.PEAT for the H2020 call; Consultations on project idea for H2020 on forests and wetlands; inclusion of wetlands in the Carpathian Ecosystem Services Toolkit and other deliverables of the Interreg projects.	ConnectGREEN and Centralparks projects, WE.PEAT project proposal; Forum Carpaticum report and conclusions and recommendations
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	CWI web site updated with relevant information; promotion of CWI in national media	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	Consultations with the Czech Ministry of Environment on international trainings	E-mail communication
	10.3 Development of a project for training on identified priorities; support of other trainings	Cooperation with the Czech Ministry of Environment, Czech Ramsar Committee and Czech Ornithological Society in international training on wetlands restoration (18-22 Oct., CZ)	CWI website www.cwi.sk
	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 RRIs	Wetland Centre maintained, Carpathian wetland library supplemented; participation in consultations within the WG of the Ramsar Convention on the RRIs of documents distributed, participation in online meeting of the WG (13 Apr.), commenting the draft Operational Guidelines for RRIs, draft resolution on RRIs, questionnaire on RRIs filled in, etc.; hybrid meeting of CWI Board members (30 Sept., Visegrád, HU and online); participation at workshop on networks in the Carpathians	Wetland Centre operating and working for coordination and training

		(19 Dec., Krakow, PL), annual reports and plans developed and submitted	
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	Communication and consultations with relevant ministries on voluntary contributions to the work of the CWI, contributions provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, HU and Ministries of Environment of SK (financial) and CZ (support for international training and bilateral meetings); inclusion in the annual work plan of the SNC SR	Annual report

3. Financial report for the Year 2021

Summary of income and expenditures. Average exchange rate to CHF: 1.081

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	1,472.04
2.1 Development and/or implementation of projects integrating wetlands in river basin management	700 EUR	90.00
2.2 Facilitation of bilateral consultations in shared wetlands and catchments; participation in international conferences	2,500 EUR	516.09
3.1 Identification and prioritization of invasive alien species and pathways of their introduction and expansion	2,400 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	1,494.88
4.2 Cooperation with CNPA, DANUBEPARKS, AL-PARC on ecological connectivity	700 EUR	315.00
5.1 Facilitation of exchange of information on risk of change of ecological character of wetlands	1,800 EUR	0.00
6.1 Inventory of wetland habitats and species; inventory of cultural values of wetlands	4,700 EUR	1,020.00
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	1,700 EUR	1,020.00
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	1,700 EUR	1,140.00
8.1 Identification of wetlands most at risk due to climate change, propose and implement measures	3,200 EUR	2,340.00
9.1 Facilitation of cooperation in species and habitats monitoring, research in wetlands in cooperation with S4C	1,700 EUR	730.00
10.1 Publications on CWI and Carpathian wetlands, translation of guidelines	2,500 EUR	240.00
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	7,000 EUR	7,277.54
10.4 Operation of the regional Wetland Centre, building of its library, human capacities, facilities, CWI coordination	6,878 EUR	1,820.00
11.1 Seeking for regular contributions to the CWI work and providing relevant capacities to activities and govern.	7,000 EUR	1,080.00
Total	52,128 EUR	20,975.55

Sources of income	Income received (EUR)
SNC SR SK	7,160.67
MoE SK	2,420.00
MoE CZ	6,820.00
MoA HU	1,480.00
MoE RO	120.00
MoE PL	120.00
UNE SCC	600.00
DTP project ConnectGREEN	550.00
Masaryk University CZ	120.00
Centre for Ecological Research HU	120.00
DUENE DE	120.00
DAPHNE - IAE	2,040.00
Wetlands International	1,200.00
CE Centralparks project	1,034.88
Total	23,905.55

Financial balance on 31 December 2021: amount left to be carried over to 2022

CWI Ramsar core budget (384115)	6,358.40 €
CWI budget from Hungary (384117)	8,673.06 €
CWI budget from the Czech Republic (384116)	887.29 €
CWI budget from the Slovak Republic (384130)	4,000.00 €

The Ramsar funding (amount left from previous funding – 6,358.40 €) was not spent in the reporting period because of reduced activities due to COVID-19 restrictions and will be used for activities planned in 2022 according to the plan below.

4. Work and activities planned for Year 2022

Objectives	Activities	Results/outputs	Indicators
1. Mainstreaming	1.1 Promote integration of wetlands, their services and benefits and nature-based solutions into sectoral policies, development of proposals for CC Working Groups and for sectors; cooperation with Ramsar Partner organizations (BirdLife, IUCN, Wetlands International, WWF)	Wetlands, their services and benefits and nature-based solutions 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, investigate the possibilities for a “sponges” project in a catchment; cooperation with WI; funding opportunities identified	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, international conferences	A number of experts and national focal points participating; report of the conferences, recommendations; guidelines
3. Invasive Alien	3.1 Identification and prioritization of invasive alien species and	The updated list of invasive alien species in the Carpathians	The information available on the web sites

Species (IAS)	pathways of their introduction and expansion		
	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; RISs and maps developed; transborder RS designation facilitated	Meeting reports; documents and maps for designation of new and transborder 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; cooperation with Eurosite, EUROPARC	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	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, Infor-	9.1 Facilitation of cooperation in species and habitats monitoring, research in wetlands in collabora-	Meetings, workshops, conferences, input to CCIBIS	Reports of the meetings, CCIBIS developed

Information System	tion with Science for Carpathians S4C, development of joint information system and joint guidelines 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; 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 (wetland restoration)	Project draft or application; training
	10.4 Operation of the Wetland Centre, building of the library, improvement of facilities, CWI coordination; meeting of CWI Board members; representation in WG on RRIs	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 RRIs; 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 2022

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, Eurosite, EURO-PARC	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	700 EUR	SNC SR 500.00 Ramsar 200.00
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	700 EUR	Ramsar 200.00 SNC SR 500.00
8.1 Identification of wetlands in relation to climate change, propose and implement measures to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change	2,200 EUR	Ramsar 200.00 UNE SCC 500.00 SNC SR 500.00 CWI budget HU 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 train-	7,500 EUR	Ramsar 500.00 MoE CZ 5,000.00

ings		CWI budget CZ 500.00 CWI budget ME SK.1,000.00 SNC SR 500.00
10.4 Operation of the regional Wetland Centre, building of its library, human capacities, facilities, CWI coordination	5,808 EUR	Ramsar 808.00 SNC SR 5,000.00
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
Using the rest from Ramsar core budget		6,358.00 EUR
Total	49,558 EUR	

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Acronyms:

ALPARC	Alpine Network of Protected Areas	MoE	Ministry of Environment
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
DTP	Danube Transnational Programme	WG	Working Group
DUENE	Institute of Sustainable Development of Land-scapes of the Earth, e. V.	WI	Wetlands International
EUKI	European Climate Initiative		
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		