

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

2. Work and activities undertaken during 2014

| objectives                            | activities  | results/outputs   | indicators   |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| 1. Platform of basic data on wetlands | 1.1 Development of guidelines for wetland inventory based on experience in SK, collection of information on research of wetlands and projects; methodological recommendations   | Guidelines on wetland inventory will be translated in English after finalizing of the project implemented in SK with wetland inventory and database development (prolonged until VI.2015); collection of data on wetland research and projects on wetlands conservation, management and restoration; consultations with RS on new transboundary Ramsar Site designation.  | Database on Carpathian wetlands developed and improved; draft interactive map for SK on wetlands developed and tested; RIS for Djerdap NP prepared   |
|                                       | 1.2 Development of the Carpathian wetland handbook / classification system, identification of endangered habitats and species and of invasive alien species   | Carpathian wetland handbook prepared in cooperation with experts from Carpathian countries, printed and distributed; the draft Carpathian Red List of threatened habitats and species and the List of invasive alien species were developed and published in coordination with BIOREGIO project.  | Carpathian wetland handbook and Carpathian Red List of threatened habitats and species printed and available on the web ( <a href="http://www.cwi.sk">www.cwi.sk</a> )   |
|                                       | 1.3 Coordination of research activities with the Science for Carpathians (S4C) initiative, participation in 3 <sup>rd</sup> Forum Carpathicum (Lviv, UA, Sept. 2014), coordination with regional projects (e.g. on climate change) and with national institutions   | CWI members participated in 3 <sup>rd</sup> Forum Carpathicum 2014 (16-19 Sept. 2014, Lviv, UA) with the themes including climate change, water and extreme events/hazards; water resources and management included in the new S4C research agenda 2015-2020.   | Participation in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Forum Carpathicum; abstracts and new S4C Research Agenda 2015-2020 on the web ( <a href="http://carpathianscience.org/forum/forum-carpathicum-2014/">http://carpathianscience.org/forum/forum-carpathicum-2014/</a> ) |
| 2. Platform for cooperation           | 2.1 CWI Board members and experts updating, electronic communication and consultations; Involvement of working group(s) of active practitioners, specialists and NGO representatives, national networks of experts and cooperating institutions, exchange of experts; Organizing of the meeting of the CWI Board during the European Ramsar Meeting and/or COP4 of the Carpathian Convention (Mikulov, CZ, Sept. 2014); participation in meetings of the Carpathian Convention bodies (including Biodiversity WG) and of other partners (WI, ICPDR) | List of CWI Focal Points; CWI Board Meeting during 8 <sup>th</sup> European Ramsar Meeting (20-24 Oct. 2014, Kufstein, AT), participation and presentations at important meetings of the Carpathian Convention (COP4, 24-26 Sept. 2014, Mikulov, CZ), consultations with the Czech Ramsar Committee in SK (VI. and IX.2014); participation in Wetlands International meeting and workshop (22-23 Sept. 2014, Rotterdam, NL); and electronic communication on relevant issues. | Report and minutes of the meetings, COP4 of the Carpathian Convention and CWI Board meeting  |
|                                       | 2.2 Involvement of  | Carpathian protected areas  | Bilateral protected areas  |

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|   | administrations of protected areas in the CWI work and cooperation with the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA), the DANUBEPARKS Network, the Trilateral Ramsar Platform (A-CZ-SK), WWF-DCP, Convention on Biodiversity; stakeholders involvement   | administrations informed and involved in the CWI projects (including BioREGIO, project drafts for Norway grants), cooperation and information sharing with CNPA Steering Committee (participation in the meeting of the CNPA SC, 12 June 2014, Brasov, RO; cooperation included in CNPA Medium Term Work Plan 2013-2017), DANUBEPARKS, CBD bodies and programs and other networks and projects (e.g. project on capacity building in PAs). | and Ramsar sites involved in activities within BioREGIO project; CNPA SC report; CNPA Medium-term Work Plan 2013-2017; involvement in the project on capacity building in protected areas in Eastern Europe                              |
|   | 2.3 Fund-raising and projects proposals for financing of the Initiative in consultation with national institutions   | Project proposals for funding and involvement in project (Programme of cross-border cooperation of Norway grants; I-ECONETICS, Floodplain restoration in the Danube River Basin), participation in projects preparatory meetings   | Project drafts prepared, information on BioREGIO project; reports  |
| 3. Platform for integrated river basin management especially in shared catchments | 3.1 Involvement in the preparation of relevant documents on sustainable and integrated water/river basin management of the Carpathian Convention   | Common Integrated Management Measures (CIMM) in Carpathian wetlands developed and published within BioREGIO project; Common management plan for transborder Ipel/Ipoly (SK/HU) Ramsar Site developed   | CIMM and management plan for the Poiply / Ipoly Valley Ramsar Site published ( <a href="http://www.bioregio-carpathians.eu/key-outputs-and-publications.html">http://www.bioregio-carpathians.eu/key-outputs-and-publications.html</a> ) |
|   | 3.2 Organizing the CWI workshop on hydropower; Facilitation of bilateral consultations in shared wetlands and catchments on common objectives and principles of their management, pilot project, cooperation with ICPDR  | Alpine River Restoration workshop organized in cooperation with European Commission, ECNC (3-4 Sept. 2014, Zvolen, SK); bilateral consultations with Hungarian experts in transborder areas; consultations with ICPDR on hydropower in the Carpathians   | Meetings of experts and stakeholders; reports of the meeting   |
| 4. Platform for wetland restoration activities                                    | 4.1 Development of the wetland restoration strategies/policies, meetings; wetland restoration activities   | Consultations on wetland restoration activities and possible projects in transborder sites (Danube River Basin).   | Meeting reports, project concept   |
|   | 4.2 Sharing experience on wetland restoration in Europe  | Participation in conference in Vienna, AT (26-29 Oct. 2014, European River Restoration Conference), data and information collection  | Conference documents   |
| 5. Platform for capacity building and public awareness                            | 5.1 Participation in a project on capacity building in protected areas; Development of the training programme on wetland management and restoration; establishment of a database of educational and training institutions and experts aimed at wetlands and communication with them; Development of the CWI programme of | Involvement in a project on capacity building plans for efficient protected area management in Eastern Europe, training and capacity needs assessment (questionnaire distributed)  | Minutes of the meeting, project documents; EKOPLAGÁT 2014 installed, a poster awarded  |

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|  | Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness   |   |  |
|  | 5.2 Development of a project for training on identified priorities; support of other trainings  | Draft project intent developed  | Project intent   |
|  | 5.3 Preparation and printing of a brochure and leaflet on CWI and Carpathian wetlands, Ekoplagat exhibition; translation of relevant guidelines; Maintenance of CWI web site and newsletter                           | Co-organizing of the International competing exhibition of issued posters on the theme of nature conservation and environment EKOPLAGAT 2014 (X.-XI.2014, Zilina, SK), wetland poster awarded; CWI web site reconstruction and updating | EKOPLAGÁT 2014 installed, a poster awarded; CWI web site reconstructed               |
|  | 5.4 Development of the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Carpathian Wetland Centre and operation of the regional Wetland Centre, building of its library, human capacities, improvement of facilities, CWI coordination | ToR prepared and consulted with partners, the Carpathian Wetland Centre in Banska Bystrica (SK) furnished and maintained, opening ceremony on 4 June 2014, Carpathian wetland library supplemented; the work plan developed.            | Wetland Centre opened and working for coordination and promotion of CWI and training |

### 3. Financial report for Year 2014

Summary of income and expenditures. Average exchange rate to CHF: 1.23

| Activities   | Planned expenditures | Actual expenditure (EUR) |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1.1 Wetland inventory guidelines   | 1,000 EUR            | 800.00                   |
| 1.2 Development of the Carpathian Wetland Handbook, Carpathian Red lists of species and habitats, list of IAS            | 12,000 EUR           | 29,710.50                |
| 1.3 Coordination of research with the S4C, projects and national institutions, Forum Carpaticum 2014                     | 1,500 EUR            | 100.00                   |
| 2.1 CWI Board members meetings, Carpathian Convention meetings; working groups, exchange of experts                      | 4,400 EUR            | 7,634.62                 |
| 2.2 Cooperation with CNPA, DANUBEPARKS, WWF-DCP and Trilateral Ramsar Platform   | 2,200 EUR            | 277.00                   |
| 2.3 Fund raising   | 500 EUR              | 215.00                   |
| 3.1 Cooperation on documents on sustainable and integrated water/river basin management                                  | 2,000 EUR            | 907.00                   |
| 3.2 Organizing the CWI workshops, facilitation of bilateral consultations in shared wetlands, cooperation with ICPDR     | 9,000 EUR            | 3,283.69                 |
| 4.1 Development of wetland restoration strategies, data on continuity and connectivity, meetings, restoration activities | 2,500 EUR            | 615.49                   |
| 4.2 Sharing experience on wetland restoration  | 2,000 EUR            | 1,042.89                 |
| 5.1 Training programme on wetland management, database of educational and training institutions and experts, CEPA        | 1,500 EUR            | 95.00                    |
| 5.2 Development of a project for training, support of other trainings  | 2,500 EUR            | 142.50                   |
| 5.3 Printing of publications, translations, Ekoplagat CWI award, maintenance of CWI web site and newsletter              | 6,500 EUR            | 1,100.17                 |
| 5.4 Development of the ToR of the Carpathian Wetland Centre and its operation, CWI coordination                          | 25,000 EUR           | 13,858.97                |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>72,600 EUR</b>    | <b>59,782.83</b>         |

| Sources of income  | Income received (EUR) |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| SNC SR             | 19,522.45             |
| MoE Czech Republic | 2,647.50              |

|                              |                  |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| BioREGIO Carpathians project | 15,903.00        |
| Academy of Science Ukraine   | 100.00           |
| Norway grants reimbursement  | 1,999.95         |
| <b>Ramsar core budget</b>    | <b>9,097.10</b>  |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>49,270.00</b> |

**Financial balance on 31 December 2014:** amount left to be carried over to 2015

**Ramsar core budget 3,311.53 €**  
(+3,252 expected for second installment of 2014 not received yet)

**CWI budget from Hungary 5,716.78 €**

**CWI budget from the Czech Republic 3,040.35 €**

The Ramsar funding (including amount left from previous funding) was spent mostly for preparation and printing of publications (11,880 EUR), organization and travel expenses for conferences, meetings and opening of the Carpathian Wetland Centre (6,982.03 EUR) and maintenance and operation of the Carpathian Wetland Centre (2,747.85 EUR). It is proposed to use the amount left (about 6,563 EUR – 3,311.53 on the account and 3,252 expected as the second installment of 2014 contract from Ramsar) in 2015 for the activities planned for 2015 according to the plan below.

#### 4. Work and activities planned for Year 2015

| Objectives                            | Activities   | Results/outputs  | Indicators  |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| 1. Platform of basic data on wetlands | 1.1 Development of guidelines for wetland inventory based on experience in SK, collection of information on research of wetlands and projects  | Guidelines on wetland inventory in the Carpathian countries, database on wetland research and projects on wetlands conservation, management and restoration  | Guidelines on Carpathian wetland inventory available on the web site; database  |
|                                       | 1.2 Collection of data on threatened habitats and species and on invasive alien species in the Carpathians, meetings of experts  | Database on threatened Carpathian wetland habitats and species and on the invasive alien species (IAS) for finalization of the Carpathian Red Lists, List of IAS and endemic species; results of meetings  | Database of threatened habitats, species, endemic species and invasive alien species; meeting reports   |
|                                       | 1.3 Coordination of research activities with the Science for Carpathians (S4C) initiative, coordination with regional projects and with national institutions  | Information on research of wetlands, experts and on projects, involvement in projects  | Information available on the web site   |
| 2. Platform for cooperation           | 2.1 CWI Board members and experts updating, electronic communication and consultations; Involvement of working group(s) of active practitioners, specialists and NGO representatives, national networks of experts and cooperating institutions, exchange of experts; Organizing the CWI Board meeting during the Ramsar COP12 (Punta del Este, Uruguay, June 2015); participation in meetings of the Carpathian Convention bodies (including Biodiversity WG) and of other partners (WI, ICPDR) | Updated list of CWI Focal Points; Presentations during important meetings; The working group and national networks communicated, national experts and Ramsar committees exchanges. One meeting of the CWI Board and electronic communication on relevant issues; side events and presentations in meetings of the Ramsar and Carpathian Conventions bodies and of other partners | List of national CWI focal points; Report/minutes of the meetings with results achieved; the working group and national networks of experts and institutions on the web, report of the exchange of experts and members of the Ramsar committees of the Carpathian countries |

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|   | 2.2 Involvement of administrations of protected areas in the CWI work and cooperation with the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA), the DANUBEPARKS Network, the Trilateral Ramsar Platform (AT-CZ-SK), WWF-DCP, IUCN (involvement in “Little Sydney” conference, May 2014, Hainburg, AT), CBD; stakeholders involvement | Carpathian protected areas administrations informed and involved in the CWI projects, regular cooperation and information sharing with CNPA Steering Committee, DANUBE-PARKS, Trilateral Ramsar Platform, WWF-DCP, IUCN (conference “Little Sydney” results), CBD bodies and programmes and other networks and projects | A number of protected areas involved and informed; conferences results   |
|   | 2.3 Fund-raising and projects proposals for financing of the Initiative in consultation with national institutions  | Project proposals for funding and involvement in project drafts; analysis of funding opportunities for small grants   | Project drafts submitted, involvement in different project proposals   |
| 3. Platform for integrated river basin management especially in shared catchments | 3.1 Involvement in the preparation of relevant documents on sustainable and integrated water/river basin management of the Carpathian Convention  | Documents developed, involvement in relevant projects, communication with the Carpathian Convention secretariat and ICPDR   | Documents, meeting reports   |
|   | 3.2 Facilitation of bilateral consultations in shared wetlands and catchments on common objectives and principles of their management, pilot project, participation in international conferences  | Meetings of experts and relevant stakeholders; relevant projects implementation   | A number of experts and national focal points participating; report of the conferences, recommendations; guidelines; results of the project, information distributed to partners |
| 4. Platform for wetland restoration activities                                    | 4.1 Development of the wetland restoration strategies/policies, meetings, workshops; wetland restoration activities   | Draft wetland restoration strategy/policy in a country, data on barriers, meetings on the topic; small restoration activities   | Draft document; meeting minutes; report on activities  |
|   | 4.2 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  |
| 5. Platform for capacity building and public awareness                            | 5.1 Participation in a project on capacity building in protected areas; Development of the training programme on wetland management and restoration; establishment of a database of educational and training institutions and experts aimed at wetlands and communication with them; Development of the CWI program of CEPA       | Results of a study on capacity building in Eastern Europe; Training programme developed, database with information established and communication; CWI CEPA draft programme consulted with partners and existing Ramsar CEPA programme   | Questionnaire, study; Training programme; database on the web site; draft CWI CEPA programme on the web  |
|   | 5.2 Development of a project for training on identified priorities; support of other trainings  | Project proposal discussed and submitted, participation in trainings  | Project draft or application   |
|   | 5.3 Preparation and printing of a brochure and leaflet on CWI and Carpathian wetlands, translation of relevant guidelines;  | A brochure and leaflet on CWI and the Carpathian wetlands and their functions and services, guidelines translated; web site updated with  | Brochure and leaflet printed, guidelines in national languages and placed on the web; web  |

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|  | Maintenance of CWI web site and newsletter   | relevant information   | site with updated information   |
|  | 5.4 Operation of the regional Wetland Centre, building of its library, human capacities, improvement of facilities, CWI coordination | Wetland Centre maintained, functioning, Carpathian wetland library supplemented, staff supported | Wetland Centre operating and working for coordination and promotion of CWI and training |

## 5. Financial plan for the year 2015

Summary of expected income and budgeted/planned expenditures. Average exchange rate to the CHF: 1.23

| Activities   | Planned expenditures | Expected income and source (EUR)  |
|--|----------------------|---|
| 1.1 Wetland inventory guidelines   | 1,000 EUR            | SNC SR 1,000.00   |
| 1.2 Collection of data on threatened habitats and species, IAS, endemic species in the Carpathians, meetings of experts                    | 6,000 EUR            | Ramsar 1,000.00<br>UNEP ISCC 2,000.00<br>SNC SR 2,000.00<br>CWI budget CZ 1,000.00  |
| 1.3 Coordination of research with the S4C, projects and national institutions  | 1,000 EUR            | Ramsar 500.00<br>SNC SR 500.00  |
| 2.1 CWI Board members meetings during various events, Carpathian Convention meetings; working groups, exchange of experts                  | 8,500 EUR            | Ramsar 2,000.00<br>UNEP ISCC 1,000.00<br>SNC SR 1,000.00<br>CWI budget HU 1,000.00<br>Moe CZ 500.00<br>MoE HU 500.00<br>MoE PL 500.00<br>MoE RO 500.00<br>MoE RS 500.00<br>MoE SK 500.00<br>MoE UA 500.00 |
| 2.2 Cooperation with CNPA, DANUBEPARKS, WWF-DCP and Trilateral Ramsar Platform   | 2,200 EUR            | Ramsar 500.00<br>SNC SR 500.00<br>MoE CZ 200.00<br>UNEP ISCC 1,000.00   |
| 2.3 Fund raising   | 1,000 EUR            | Ramsar 500.00<br>SNC SR 500.00  |
| 3.1 Cooperation on documents on sustainable and integrated water/river basin management  | 1,000 EUR            | SNC SR 500.00<br>UNEP ISCC 500.00   |
| 3.2 Facilitation of bilateral consultations in shared wetlands, participation in conferences   | 3,500 EUR            | Ramsar 1,000.00<br>MoE CZ 1,000.00<br>CWI budget HU 1,000.00<br>SNC 500.00  |
| 4.1 Development of wetland restoration strategies/policies, meetings, workshops, restoration activities                                    | 2,000 EUR            | SNC SR 1,000.00<br>Ramsar 1,000.00  |
| 4.2 Sharing experience on wetland restoration  | 2,500 EUR            | Ramsar 1,000.00<br>MoE CZ 500.00<br>CWI budget CZ 500.00<br>SNC SR 500.00   |
| 5.1 Project on capacity building in PAs, training programme, database of educational and training institutions and experts, CEPA programme | 1,500 EUR            | BfN, Propark 500.00<br>MoE CZ 500.00<br>SNC SR 500.00   |
| 5.2 Development of a project for training on priorities, support of trainings  | 2,000 EUR            | SNC SR 500.00<br>Ramsar 1,000.00<br>MoE CZ 500.00   |
| 5.3 Preparation and printing of publications, translations,  | 3,000 EUR            | SNC SR 1,000.00   |

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| maintenance of CWI web site and newsletter   |                   | Ramsar 2,000.00                     |
| 5.4 Operation of the Carpathian Wetland Centre, library, improvement of human capacities, facilities, CWI coordin. | 22,000 EUR        | Ramsar 2,000.00<br>SNC SR 20,000.00 |
| <b>Requested from Ramsar core budget</b>   |                   | <b>6,000.00 EUR</b>                 |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>57,700 EUR</b> |                                     |

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**Acronyms:**

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| AT        | Austria   |
| BfN       | German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation                   |
| CBD       | Convention on Biological Diversity                              |
| CEPA      | Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness programme |
| CNPA      | Carpathian Network of Protected Areas                           |
| CWI       | Carpathian Wetland Initiative                                   |
| CZ        | Czech Republic  |
| HU        | Hungary   |
| IAS       | invasive alien species  |
| ICPDR     | International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River |
| MoE       | Ministry of Environment   |
| PAs       | Protected areas   |
| PL        | Poland  |
| Propark   | Propark Foundation, Romania                                     |
| RO        | Romania   |
| RS        | Serbia  |
| S4C       | Science for Carpathians   |
| SK        | Slovakia  |
| SNC SR    | State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic                 |
| ToR       | Terms of reference  |
| UA        | Ukraine   |
| UNEP ISCC | UNEP Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention           |
| WG        | Working Group   |
| WI        | Wetlands International  |
| WWF-DCP   | WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme                                 |