

## **REPORT**

### **„WETLANDS AND TOURISM“ WORKSHOP**

**8th September 2010, Rytro, Poland**

The workshop was organised by the Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI) in accordance to the 2010 work plan and as a response to the outcomes of the Conservation of Wetlands in the Carpathians Conference held in November 2009 in Tatranská Štrba, Slovakia.

The aim of the workshop was to discuss sustainable tourism in wetland areas in the mountains, especially the Carpathians, and conservation of wetlands in tourism development in the mountains. The discussions were held in the perspective of the following 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Tourism, of which the Carpathian Convention Draft Protocol on Sustainable Tourism and the Strategy for the future sustainable tourism in the Carpathians were the main topics.

There were fifteen representatives present from four Carpathian countries, UNEP Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) - Consultation Unit on Tourism and Biodiversity. List of participants is annexed.

The workshop started with the presentation of CWI and an introduction to wetlands and tourism topic by Jan Kadlečík (CWI). It continued with the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism by Zuzana Okániková (SNC SR) and was concluded by a presentation of Michael Meyer (UNWTO-CUTB) on the importance of the tourism protocol and strategy for the Carpathians.

There were two more presentations planned, however, due to participants absence they were not presented. The programme of the workshop is annexed.

### **Results of the workshop**

The workshop discussion led to creation of recommendations/ suggestions regarding sustainable tourism in wetlands for both Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention and to the CC Working Group on Sustainable Tourism.

#### The recommendations / suggestions to the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention:

1. find ways and means on how to introduce good practices and lessons learned on sustainable tourism in wetlands in the Carpathians;
2. seek financial means to finance tools and projects to promote sustainable tourism in the Carpathian wetlands;
3. enhance its cooperation with the Carpathian Convention and UNWTO in the framework of the CWI to promote sustainable tourism in wetlands;
4. establish an award scheme / competition – on sustainable tourism for wetlands education, management, conservation, sustainable use, and social learning.

### The recommendations / suggestions to the CC Working Group for Sustainable Tourism:

1. To improve the Draft Strategy on Sustainable Tourism in the Carpathians concerning objectives and actions directly targeting the protection and sustainable use of Carpathian wetlands, especially those which are increasingly under threat.
2. To integrate a paragraph into the recommendations of the 3<sup>rd</sup> WGST to COP 3 of the CC which read as follows: "*Wetland ecosystems are one of the most fragile ecosystems in the Carpathians. The Parties of the Convention are urged to take immediate action on the effective protection and sustainable use of Carpathian wetlands, especially those which are increasingly under threat*".
3. To finalize the Tourism Protocol at its 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting and to submit it to Carpathian Convention Focal Points for national consultations.
4. To revise the objectives and the action plan of the strategy on sustainable tourism of the Carpathians so that it fully respects aspects of the wetlands protection and sustainable use.

All the participants of the CWI Workshop took part also in the CC WGST meeting held the following two days. The recommendations written above were presented and were reflected in the particular changes made in the text of the Tourism Protocol.

### **Activities recommended for 2011-2012 for CWI in respect of sustainable tourism in wetlands:**

- nominate representatives/experts to the CC Working Group on Sustainable Tourism 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 protected areas
- especially increase awareness and information for public, education

### **Contacts and further information**

#### **Ján Kadlečík**

State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic  
Tajovského 28B  
974 01 Banská Bystrica, Slovakia  
Tel.: +421 48 4722024  
Fax: +421 48 4722036  
E-mail: [jan.kadlecik@soprs.sk](mailto:jan.kadlecik@soprs.sk)