

DEVELOPMENT OF A CARPATHIAN ECOLOGICAL NETWORK

STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITIES OF THE CARPATHIAN ECO-REGION NETWORK (CERI) IN SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CARPATHIAN CONVENTION

1ST PROGRESS REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2006

1. INTRODUCTION

The activities of the international, transboundary programme supported by the Netherlands government (BBI-Matra) are focused on increase of the awareness and understanding about the need to secure the protection of biodiversity of the Carpathian region through securing the connectivity between core areas for species and on creation of Carpathian Biodiversity Information System as a base for the design of a regional ecological network for the Carpathians. Political aspect is to strengthen profile of CERI – the network of NGOs and expert institutions in the region, to support implementation of the Carpathian Convention and to enable strategic and coherent approach to the protection of the unique biodiversity of the Carpathians.

• Position of this report

This is the First Progress Report prepared per 1 September 2006 according to the Art. 7 Reporting of “Agreement with CERI in the frame of the BBI/MATRA Project no 2005/026” for the period May 2006 – 31 August 2006. The report covers all the activities which were carried out during the reporting period according to the Terms of Reference CERI (Local Project Management) of March 2006.

• Main activities and progress

Main activities relevant to the reporting period as outlined in the Time Plan of the Inception Report submitted in May 2006 fall within the following three groups according to the operational and organisational structure of the programme:

1. Project Management Activities

	Deadline	Progress
Meet with team leaders of relevant projects to tune	30/9/2006	ongoing
Review budgets, actions, structure & timetable	30/9/2006	ongoing
Identify & contract experts & organisations & establish WGs	30/9/2006	ongoing

Meet with team leaders of relevant projects

- April 20 – 21, 2006 – meeting Ms Dimovic who participates in the different Serbian projects focused on the pan-European Green Belt route sites
- May 18-19, 2006 – meeting Mr Klaver and Mr Kuijper who participated in the project “Safeguarding the Romanian Carpathians as a regional ecological network modelled on large carnivores” (see Annex 4 and 5B). They explain the expert approach which was used to model the ecological network in Romania and expressed willingness to share their expert knowledge or co-operate when necessary.
- June 14, 2006 – meeting Mr Matvyeyev who is responsible for supervising the projects from the part of State Agency of Protected Areas/Ministry of Environmental Protection Ukraine (see Annex 4 and 5B). He reported on the project Development of national ecological network in Ukraine in the framework of the Pan-European Ecological Network – A concept and implementation in pilot areas, introduced the two areas where the work was done under the heading „Implementation of local EcoNets (Khmelnysky and Chernihiv regions)“ and „Identification of new sites“ and supplied us with the relevant description of the results and maps. The project was locally based, so Ukrainian part generally welcomed the on-going Matra project which operates on the ecoregion level.
- May 31 – June 2, 2006 – CADSES Carpathian project kick-off meeting of the project partners, CERI invited as an observer

Review of actions

The activities of the three work groups were reviewed with the heads of the work groups Jan Seffer, Mike Baltzer and Monika Chrenková separately and also on the common meeting May 18 – 19, 2006. There were no changes or specifications or refinement concerning the activities of the Work Group on the Carpathian Biodiversity Information System. Concrete steps were prepared how to realize the activities in the Work Group on Ecological Network development. These are as follows:

Concrete steps within the activities 1-9	Responsibilitites	project activity
Preparation meeting	MB, IB, BS, KK	3,4
Design of the system	IB, BS	5
Design of the first planning meeting	MB, IB, BS, KK	5
First planning meeting - conservation features	MB, IB, BS, KK, AG	5
Collation of data and incorporation into database	WG 2	1,2, 3, 6
Second planning meeting - target setting	MB, IB, BS, KK, AG	5
Analysis	BS	5
Network management design	BS, MB, KK	5, 7
Final consultation workshop	MB, IB, BS, KK, AG	5,7
Preparation of final materials	MB	8
Conference	in cooperation of PMT	8
Recommendations	MB	9
Project activities - Inception report		
1. Gather & process info of protected areas into Carpathian Biological IS		
2. Analyse juridical status of protected areas		
3. Review the existing national networks of the countries in the Carpathians		
4. Assess knowledge of implementation of N-2000 where relevant		
5. Design provisional regional ecological network		
6. Identify flagship species to evaluate connectivity of EcoNet		
7. Elaborate management recommendations		
8. Organise conference with government & stakeholders to discuss network		
9. Recommendations for sust. economic dev. harmonised with EcoNet		

The activities of the Work Group on strengthening CERI's capacities to operate in the region were finetuned.

Identification, contracting of experts, organisation & establishment of WGs

Work Group on Ecological Network Development

The international experts of the work group include Irene Bouwma, Bob Smith, Karina Kitnæs headed by Mike Baltzer. National experts of the CERI countries will be identified following the presentation of the planning process at the project meeting to be held in tandem with the CERI General Assembly in the last quarter of 2006. The specific experts required will depend on the design of the ecological network.

Work Group on strengthening CERI's capacities to operate in the region

National Focal Points (Ukraine – Ecoclub Carpathians, Romania – University of Brasov, Faculty of Forestry, Serbia – Ecolibri Bionet) were identified and contracted to perform the work on the fact sheet on existing policies and strategies towards the Carpathians. The work either will be done on wider national forum of experts or by an appointed expert.

Five CERI workgroups – Biodiversity WG, Information System WG, Management Planning WG, Ecotourism WG and Environmental Policy WG, will work on identification of threats and obstacles for sustainable development of the Carpathian Ecoregion based on the questionnaire as well.

The first step towards Ecoregion action plan for the CERI to address the identified threats and obstacles and to support sustainable development in the Carpathians is to select an approach. There are several methods for elaboration, the overview and analysis is being prepared by Jan Seffer and it will be presented to the CERI members on General Assembly for comments.

Communication work group headed by Tamara Malkova (Green Dossier) will be responsible for elaboration of the Communication Strategy. The group will cooperate with experts from UNEP GRID ARENDAL, who will provide an input on method and will also participate in CERI General Assembly.

Environmental policy Work Group headed by Nenad Robajac (Ecolibri) started work on Organisational and Operational Structure of the CERI.

2. Development of a design for the Carpathian Ecological Network

	Deadline	Progress
Identify flagship species to evaluate connectivity of ecological network	31/12/2006	ongoing

An ecological network design working group will be identified and will hold their first meeting in January 2007. This workshop will clarify which criteria (species, landscape attributes, etc) will be used to design the network and help to refine the data collection.

3. Strengthening the organisational structure and capacities of the CERI to support the implementation of the Carpathian Convention and to support and monitor sustainable development in the Carpathians

	Deadline	Progress
Fact sheets on current situation	31/12/2006	ongoing

The data regarding current situation in protection and management of the Carpathian mountains will be collected through the questionnaire. The questionnaire is being prepared by CERI Secretariat. CERI National Focal Points will also provide feedback to draft questionnaire. They will supply information on the current situation regarding the protection and management of the Carpathian. Based on the feedback the fact sheet will be compiled.

2. OUTPUTS

Describe the status of the project and the result of the discussions with relevant stakeholders, Ministries and Institutions

- *Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention*

The object of the discussions with the Interim Secretariat of the CC, Mr Harald Egerer, is the Steering Committee of the project, of which Mr Egerer is the member. This will secure optimal linkage between the implementation of the strategy plan of the Carpathian Convention and secures efficient use of the finances available. Another important issue is linking the project with the Conference of the Parties 1 to the Carpathian Convention. This is why the heads of two workgroups Jan Seffer and Monika Chrenkova participate at the COP 1 preparatory

meeting, held September 11 – 12, 2006 in Vienna. They lobby for a slot in the COP 1 agenda to present the project and to organize first Steering Committee meeting as a side event to the COP 1. For this purpose a short summary of the project and its relations to the CNPA (Carpathian Network of Protected Areas) activities – Enhancing the CNPA through the Carpathian Ecological Network Project was prepared.

- *Ministry of Environment and natural resources of Ukraine, Deputy Head of the Department for Land Resources Management - National Focal Point of the Carpathian Convention*
 The Ministry already supported the project by the Letter of Endorsement during the meeting of the project manager of Wageningen International with the representative of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine in the initial phase of the project. During another meeting held June 14, 2006 Mr Ivanenko Anna Guttova informed about the current status of the project and he was invited to the Steering Committee of the project, which he accepted.
- *Ministry for Science and Environmental Protection of Serbia, National Focal Point of the Carpathian Convention*
 Due to the political situation in Serbia, there were some uncertainties about the Focal Point of the Carpathian Convention. For this reason Ms Snezana Prokic (MoE) and Mr Goran Sekulic (Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia) were contacted. The focal point was established later, it is Ms Aleksandra Doslic. The meeting with Ms Doslic is already arranged to September 19, 2006 in Belgrade.
- *Ministry of Environment and Water Management, Directorate of Nature Conservation, Biodiversity, Biosafety, Romania*
 There were recent changes on the posts of Romanian National Focal Points. The newly established persons – Ms Carmen-Gabriela Damian and Mr Silvu Megan were not contacted yet.
- *Carpathian Network of Protected Areas*
 Because the approach of development of the ecological network is based on the identification of biodiversity important areas, great deal of which will undoubtedly be also protected areas, there is a clear link and necessity to cooperate with the CNPA, the network of protected areas. In this context the mutual assistance and communication between the Matra project and the CNPA is more than welcome. A declaration for legal implementation of the CNPA was prepared after the workshop “Integrated Management of Protected Areas”, held in Malá Fatra, Slovakia, June 1-3, 2006. The workshop was organized by Mountain Partnership under the Alpine Convention. Monika Chrenkova participated on behalf of the CERI. The Project Management Team participates at the meeting on the CNPA in Vienna, September 11, 2006 which is organized by WWF-DCP to promote the ongoing project.
- *UNEP Vienna ISCC*
 Apart from the fact that UNEP Vienna hosts the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, it is also a leading partner of the ongoing Carpathian Project – Protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians in a transnational framework (CADSES). The project is complementary to the work undertaken by many actors in the Carpathian region. That is why it is very important to follow these activities. Monika Chrenkova participated as an observer in the Kick-off meeting of all Carpathian project partners, held May 31 – June 1, 2006 in Vienna.

Review the planned outputs and the progress that has been made.

Immediate outputs and objectives

1. Design of a coherent transboundary ecological network
2. Strengthen the capacities of the Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative (CERI) to support the implementation of the Carpathian Convention.

The program results covering the CERI contract include

1. Concept for a Carpathian Ecological Network based on an analysis of existing protected areas, (p)SCIs and SPAs and other priority areas linked through a network of ecological corridors for a number of flagship species and taking into account the requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directives, the CBD and the PEEN.

So far the core team of experts in ecological network design in Europe and also in other continents (e.g. Africa) was established. They work on the method which will be applied in the Carpathian Ecoregion for design of the ecological network. On their first technical meeting they summarized all the assumptions which must be taken into consideration, outlined the necessities – setting targets, tune the selection of key species and finalize the list of other data inputs (e.g socio-economic aspects). Next expert meeting is planned for October, where the method will be discussed and described and the presentation prepared. Then the method will be presented to the Carpathian experts and CERI members during CERI General Assembly.

2. Strengthened organisational structure and capacities of the CERI to support the implementation of the Carpathian Convention and to design implement and monitor sustainable development in the Carpathians, with a specific emphasis on Ukraine, Romania and Serbia.

Involvement of the CERI members in the projects strengthens the CERI as their umbrella organization. At the same time it supports enhancement of the members' capabilities to respond to transboundary nature conservation issues and to contribute to the implementation of the Carpathian Convention in the region. CERI Secretariat is elaborating a questionnaire on the grounds of which the Fact sheet of current situation regarding the protection and management of the Carpathian mountains will be elaborated. The questionnaire will also cover issues on identification of threats and obstacles for sustainable development of the Carpathian Ecoregion. This will be the basis for elaboration of a draft study on threats and obstacles for sustainable development of the Carpathian ecoregion.

3. ACTIVITIES

- Establishment of working groups

There are three working groups which operate under CERI. Their key members – international experts were already identified and the cores of all the three groups were already established. Further national members of the CERI countries will be identified after there is more clarity about the required expertise. The members will be selected within the CERI network in consultation with the CERI secretariat and Project Management Team.

Work Group for Development of a design for the Carpathian Ecological Network – head Mike Baltzer, Irene Bouwma, Karina Kitnaes, Bob Smith, Jan Seffer, Rasto Lasak

Work Group for Strengthening the organisational structure and capacities of the CERI to support the implementation of the Carpathian Convention and to support and monitor sustainable development in the Carpathians – head Monika Chrenkova,

- Workshops and meetings

Altogether 10 different meetings and workshops were organized during the reporting period. Their aim was to present the project, discussed particular activities, meet the experts who will participate in the project implementation. Experts from all the three project countries were already met.

TIME PLANNING

The project activities are on schedule according to the time plan updated in the inception phase of the project.

Activity	2006	2007	2008	2009
WP 1 Inception phase plus management				
1.Contract CERI as Local Program Implementation Org.	■			
2.Select & contract Local Program Manager and Program Director	■			
3. Establish PMT	■			
4. Set up office and accounting facilities	■			
5. Meet with Carpathian Convention & CERI focal points	■			
6. Meet with team leaders of relevant projects to tune	■	■		
7. Review budget, actions, structures & timetable	■	■		
8. Identify & contract experts & org. & establish WGs	■	■		
9. Establish PSC & hold first PSC meeting		■		
10. TNA of network partners in 3 target countries		■		
11. Designing training program according to TNA		■		
12. Assess trainers available in non target countries		■		
13. Select team of trainers from non-target & EU states		■		
14. Carry out training program		■	■	■
15. Develop information and awareness materials		■	■	■
16. Elaboration and printing final report			■	■
WP2: Development of the CBIS				
1. Assess existing data bases in Carpathian countries	■	■		
2. Assess availability/reliability of bio & geo data in Carpathian countries	■	■		
3. Assess capacities/capabilities of focal CERI members re. databases & GIS	■	■		
4. Improve capacities & capabilities of focal CERI members re. database		■	■	■
5. Set up & agree on criteria for compatible & harmonised databases & IS	■	■		
6. Decide on information for databases	■	■		
7. Agree on structure for biodiversity IS	■	■		
8. Agree on method for data collect, analyse & process	■	■		
9. Collect, analyse and process data into the GIS and data base		■	■	■
10. Improve existing GIS by adding land use info,		■	■	■
11. Advice on gathering data to process in database harmonised with N-2000		■	■	■
WP 3 Ecological Network Design				
1. Gather & process info of protected areas into Carpathian Biological IS		■	■	■
2. Analyse juridical status of protected areas		■	■	■
3. Review the existing national networks of the countries in the Carpathians		■	■	■
4. Assess knowledge of implementation of N-2000 where relevant		■	■	■
5. Design provisional regional ecological network		■	■	■
6. Identify flagship species to evaluate connectivity of ecological network	■	■	■	■
7. Elaborate management recommendations		■	■	■
8 Organise conference with government & stakeholders to discuss network		■	■	■
9. Recommendations for sust. economic dev. harmonised with eco-network		■	■	■
WP 4 Capacity building of CERI				
1. Fact sheets current situation		■	■	■
2. Identify threats & obstacles for sustainable development of Carpathians		■	■	■
3. Elaborate draft strategy for sust. Dev. for CERI to address threats etc.		■	■	■
4. Elaborate plan for CERI to maintain & improve CBIS		■	■	■
5. Propose and discuss org. structure to secure sust. & increase effectiveness of CERI		■	■	■
6. Meetings to improve the sustainability of the network		■	■	■
7. Build capacity of CERI members to implement CERIs strategic goals		■	■	■

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

- Review of likelihood of achieving the project outputs and objectives

First of the project outputs is a concept for a Carpathian Ecological Network based on an analysis of existing protected areas, (p)SCIs and SPAs and other priority areas linked through a network of ecological corridors for a number of flagship species and taking into account the requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directives, the CBD and the PEEN. The group of experts who participate in this project component is a precondition for successful achieving of the project goal. Also the experts who work on the Biodiversity Information System which will support the ecological network group with data have a very good grasp of the matter. However, there is an obstacle described under “Problems and opportunities...” section above. The Project Management Team will use every feasible possibility out of those described above how to tackle this problem.

Next output to strengthen organisational structure and capacities of the CERI to support the implementation of the Carpathian Convention and to design, implement and monitor sustainable development in the Carpathians, with a specific emphasis on Ukraine, Romania and Serbia is realistic to reach. The first precondition is effective management of the work package, which is performed by the CERI Secretary. The work is in good progress and the CERI partners who cooperate have the ability to meet the targets which were set.

- Review of strategy and approach.

The strategy and approach to deal with the project tasks are appropriate and no review is needed at this stage.

Selected annexes

Annex 1 Updated logframe matrix

Annex 2 Updated list of addresses

Annex 3 Related projects

Annex 4 List of meetings and workshops where the project was presented or discussed

ANNEX 1 UPDATED LOGFRAME MATRIX

Description	Verifiable Indicators	Sources of Verification	Critical Assumptions
<p>OVERALL OBJECTIVE:</p> <p>Implementation of the Carpathian Convention through the development and implementation of a coherent transboundary ecological network as part of sustainable development of the Carpathians.</p>			<p>Governments continued commitment to the implementation of the Carpathian Convention and to the EU requirements for nature protection.</p>
<p>IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES:</p> <p>1. Strengthen the capacities of the Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative (CERI)</p> <p>2. Design of a coherent transboundary ecological network</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid organisational structure of CERI and increased capacities of the CERI members in Bulgaria, Serbia&Montenegro and Ukraine • Proposed Transboundary Ecological Network for the Carpathians. 		<p>Acceptance of the role of CERI in the implementation process of the Carpathian Convention by the responsible governments.</p> <p>Good working relationship between the CERI members and the respective government bodies responsible for the implementation of the Carpathian Convention.</p> <p>Smooth communication and co-ordination between the CERI secretariat and the focal organizations in the countries and between the focal organizations and other members in the respective countries.</p>
<p>PROJECT RESULTS:</p> <p>3. Increased understanding of the NGOs on the principles and techniques of ecological network development and implementation (Natura 2000, Emerald, PEEN)</p> <p>4. A joint Carpathian Biodiversity Information System (GIS, database structure, data storage, set up criteria for adding data and methodology)</p> <p>5. Concept for a Carpathian ecological network based on an analysis of existing protected areas, (p)SCIs and SPAs and other priority areas linked through a network of ecological corridors for a number of flagship species and</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trainings provided, x members trained 2. Carpathian Biodiversity Information System operational 3. Carpathian Ecological Network including core areas, corridors and buffer zones proposed 4. Proposal for the organisational and operational structure of CERI and increased capacities of the members to implement CERI's strategy. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training program, invitations, list of participants, agendas, training reports. 2. Print outs of GIS layers and databases. The proposed system approved by the CERI and the PSC 3. Map of Carpathian Ecological Network and list of core areas and corridors approved by the CERI and the PSC 4. CERI strategy and plan for improving and maintaining the network, as well as the 	<p>Minimal magnitude of knowledge and capacities of NGOs to absorb and process the information provided.</p> <p>Basic skills and knowledge to work with GIS are available</p> <p>Geographical and biological data are made available</p> <p>Continued commitment of WWF to support the Carpathian Initiative.</p>

Description	Verifiable Indicators	Sources of Verification	Critical Assumptions
<p>taking into account the requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directives, the CBD and the PEEN.</p> <p>6. Strengthened organisational structure and capacities of the CERI to support the implementation of the Carpathian Convention and to design implement and monitor sustainable development in the Carpathian EcoRegion.</p>		<p>organisational and operational structure accepted by CERI. Twinning and training program, invitations and reports.</p>	<p>Willingness of government institutes to co-operate with the NGOs.</p>
<p>PROJECT ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Inception Phase:</p> <p>1. Carry out Inception Phase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish Project Management Team (PMT) - Set up office and accounting facilities - Review budget, actions, logframe, organisational structure, contractual structure and timetable - Meet with Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and relevant national authorities to secure understanding, commitment and involvement - Meet with team leaders of other relevant projects to enhance tuning and synergies and avoid overlap - Identify and contract NGOs and experts and establish Project Working Groups (WGs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish PSC and carry out first PSC meeting - Produce Inception Report with findings and results 	<p>Inception Report elaborated holding findings from Inception Phase, including overview of experts to be contracted, list of addresses, participation lists from meetings, meeting reports, adjusted time planning, communication plan and budget reallocations. Provisional training programs elaborated.</p>	<p>Inception Report approved by the PSC</p> <p>Arrangements with national institutes to provide data.</p>	<p>Support of authorities, institutions, local communities and NGOs to co-operate.</p> <p>Qualified international and local experts</p> <p>The national authorities are willing to provide the required data for the data base and for the identification of the ecological network..</p> <p>Experts are available and willing to be contracted</p>
<p>PROJECT ACTIVITIES:</p> <p>Work-package 1</p> <p>1.1. Training needs assessment of network partners in the three target countries in the field of N-2000 implementation and ecological network designing.</p> <p>1.2. Designing training program according to training needs</p> <p>1.3. Assess expertise available in the non target countries to provide the training</p> <p>1.4. Select the team of trainers from non target countries and if needed other EU countries.</p> <p>1.5. Carrying out training program through twinning and</p>	<p>Identified training needs and training program elaborated and executed. X members trained.</p>	<p>Training needs report. Training Program, Invitations, Contracts with trainers, List of participants, Training reports</p>	<p>Interest to gain knowledge in the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directive and Ecological Networks.</p> <p>Willingness of representatives of NGOs to participate in the trainings.</p> <p>Experts of the non target countries show interest to disseminate knowledge about N-2000 implementation and Ecological Network Development.</p>

Description	Verifiable Indicators	Sources of Verification	Critical Assumptions
workshops.			
<p>Work-package 2</p> <p>2.1. Assess existing data bases in the Carpathian countries</p> <p>2.2. Assess availability and reliability of biodiversity and geographical data in the Carpathian countries with focus on the three target countries.</p> <p>2.3. Assess capacities and capabilities of the focal CERI members in the three target countries to set up and manage databases and geographical information systems</p> <p>2.4. Improve the capacities and capabilities of the focal CERI members in the target countries to set up and manage the data base (hard ware, soft ware, training)</p> <p>2.5. Set up and agree on the criteria for compatible and harmonised data bases and information systems</p> <p>2.6. Decide on the information (priority habitats, key species) to be processed into the data bases.</p> <p>2.7. Agree on a structure for the biodiversity information system including the priority habitat types and species</p> <p>2.8. Agree on a joint methodology for collecting, analyzing and processing data on habitats types and species.</p> <p>2.9. Improve the existing GIS by adding land use information where lacking.</p> <p>2.10. Advice on the gathering of field data to be processed into the data base in the target countries harmonised with N-2000 development</p> <p>2.11. Elaborate a plan for CERI to maintain and improve the Biological Information System including planning of additional data gathering, monitoring, management and protection of the ecological network.</p>	<p>2.1. Overview of existing data bases</p> <p>2.2. Overview of available and useful data</p> <p>2.3. Identified strengths and weaknesses in data base and GIS management</p> <p>2.4. Trainings, hard ware and software facilities available at focal NGOs</p> <p>2.5. Agreed list of criteria and indicators for the join database and information system to be developed</p> <p>2.6. List of key habitats and species</p> <p>2.7. Defined structure for the Biological information system</p> <p>2.8. Agreed methodology for handling data on habitat types and species</p> <p>2.9. Land use data added to the information system</p> <p>2.10. Know-how on methods for gathering field data transferred</p>	<p>Reports on the outcomes approved by the PSC and CERI members (progress reports and technical reports such as the proposed information system structure, training report etc).</p> <p>Hard and software available</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Data bases accessible and data are made available • Hard and soft ware plus knowledge to work with this available at focal NGOs • Sufficient expertise available to agree on the list f key species and habitats. • Land use data are made available. • Experts are willing to be trained in data gathering
<p>Work-package 3</p> <p>3.1. Gather and process information (boundaries, Land use, data on habitat types and species) of existing protected areas (local, regional national) pSCIs, SPAs, Ramsar sites, etc) into the Carpathian Biological information System</p>	<p>3.1. Information about protected areas processed into the Carpathian Biological Information System</p> <p>3.2. Overview of the protection status of protected</p>	<p>3.1. Carpathian Biological Information System operational</p> <p>3.2. Map showing provisional ecological network</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information about protected areas (protection status, boundaries, land use, management) is made available • Agreement between government and non

Description	Verifiable Indicators	Sources of Verification	Critical Assumptions
<p>System</p> <p>3.2. Analyse the juridical status of the protected areas.</p> <p>3.3. Design provisional ecological network</p> <p>3.4. Identify flagship species to evaluate the connectivity of the provisional ecological network</p> <p>3.5. Propose the location of ecological corridors and buffer zones and additional priority areas.</p> <p>3.6. Organise a conference with representatives of government and stakeholder groups (agriculture, forestry, nature protection, tourism) to present and discuss the proposed network.</p> <p>3.7. Elaborate recommendations for sustainable economic development harmonised with the protection and management of the ecological network.</p>	<p>areas in target countries available</p> <p>3.3. Provisional ecological network designed</p> <p>3.4. Proposed list of flag ship species</p> <p>3.5. Ecological corridors, core areas and buffer-zones identified and proposed.</p> <p>3.6. Conference held and comments received</p> <p>3.7. Recommendations developed taking into account the comments received.</p>	<p>3.3. Proposed ecological network approved by PSC</p> <p>3.4. List of proposed flag ship species approved by PSC</p> <p>3.5. Conference report available</p> <p>3.6. Recommendations approved by PSC and CERI</p>	<p>government organisations on the status, protection and management of the ecological network reached</p>
<p>4. Work-package 4</p> <p>4.1. Fact sheet analysing existing strategies and policies towards the Carpathians</p> <p>4.2. Identify threats and obstacles for sustainable development of the Carpathian Ecoregion</p> <p>4.2.1. Elaborate draft study of threats and obstacles</p> <p>4.2.2. Organise workshop to comment and finalise study</p> <p>4.3. Elaborate a strategy and Ecoregion action plan for the CERI to address these threats and to support sustainable development</p> <p>4.3.1. Elaborate draft strategy and action plan</p> <p>4.3.2. Comment and finalise strategy and action plan at the CERI General Assembly</p> <p>4.4. Identify threats and obstacles for establishment and conservation of CEN</p> <p>4.4.1. Elaborate draft study of threats and obstacles</p>	<p>4.1. Summary of the fact sheet</p> <p>4.2. 1. Threats and obstacles identified</p> <p>4.1.2. Workshop on the identified subject held; X CERI members deliver comments to the study</p> <p>4.2.1 Draft strategy and action plan proposed to CERI members</p> <p>4.2.2. Workshop on the identified subject held; X CERI members deliver comments to the strategy and action plan</p> <p>4.3.1. Threats and obstacles identified.</p>	<p>Reports on the outcomes approved by the PSC and CERI members (CERI strategy, plan for improving and maintaining the information system, organisational and operational structure). Training reports. Project proposal</p>	<p>WWF remains committed to support CERI</p> <p>CERI members are willing to agree on a long term strategy</p>

Description	Verifiable Indicators	Sources of Verification	Critical Assumptions
<p>obstacles</p> <p>4.4.2. Organise workshop to comment and finalise study</p> <p>4.5. Elaborate a strategy and action plan for the CERI to address these threats and to support CEN</p> <p>4.5.1. Elaborate draft strategy and action plan</p> <p>4.5.2. Organise workshop to comment and finalise strategy and action plan</p> <p>4.6. Elaborate a communication strategy for the CERI to ensure effective external communication</p> <p>4.6.1. Elaborate draft strategy</p> <p>4.6.2. Discuss, finalise and approve strategy at the General Assembly</p> <p>4.7. Propose an organisational and operational structure to secure the sustainability and increase the effectiveness of CERI.</p> <p>4.7.1. Elaborate draft structure</p> <p>4.7.2. Organize workshop to discuss, finalise and approve structure</p> <p>4.8. Build capacity of CERI members to support the implementation of CERI's strategic objectives</p> <p>4.8.1. Brochure "Carpathian ecoregion strategy and action plan" – preparation, translation, printing, dissemination</p> <p>4.8.2. Brochure "CEN strategy and action plan" - preparation, translation, printing, dissemination</p>	<p>4.3.2. Workshop on the identified subject held; X CERI members deliver comments to the study</p> <p>4.4.1. Draft strategy and action plan proposed to CERI members</p> <p>4.4.2. Workshop on the identified subject held; X CERI members deliver comments to the strategy and action plan</p> <p>4.5.1. Draft communication strategy proposed to CERI members</p> <p>4.5.2. X CERI members deliver comments and approve the the strategy</p> <p>4.6.1. Proposal for the organisational and operational structure of CERI.</p> <p>4.6.2. X CERI members deliver comments and approve the the strategy</p> <p>4.7.1. X copies of the brochure</p> <p>4.7.2. X copies of the brochure</p>		
<p>Project Management and Reporting:</p> <p>1. Project Management incl.:</p>	<p>Inception, Progress and Final Project Reports</p>	<p>Approved project reports by the PSC.</p>	

Description	Verifiable Indicators	Sources of Verification	Critical Assumptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Day-to-day project management and monitoring - Inception Report - Biannual Progress Reports - Final Project Report - Initial partner meeting during the Inception Phase - Quarterly meetings with PMT and key experts from WGs to discuss project progress and status. - Biannual PSC meetings - Project Audits 	<p>elaborated by PMT and submitted timely to the PSC for approval.</p> <p>List of participants and minutes of all meetings.</p>		
<p>PARTNER INPUTS:</p> <p>Project Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IAC (Lead, overall responsible to the donor, Dutch project manager, Technical Assistance, providing trainings/facilitation), contracting international Tas and CERI - CERI (implementing "local" day-to-day management + local focal points), contracting local experts and organisations <p>Project Steering Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project Management Team - Beneficiaries (Country focal points of the Carpathian Convention) 	<p>Means:</p> <p>...</p>	<p>Budget / Donors:</p> <p>.....</p>	

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ANNEX 3 RELATED PROJECTS

Romania

Lower Danube Green Corridor

Management: Christine Bratrich, WWF DCP Office

Period: September 1, 2004 – September 30, 2007

The project helps to realise and integrated ecological network of healthy, restored and protected wetlands along the Lower Danube.

Priority Forest, Sub-Alpine and Alpine Habitats in Romania

Management: Erika Stanciu, WWF DCP Office

Period: October 1, 2005 – January 31, 2009

The project aims to develop a list of proposed sites of Community importance for the forest, sub-alpine and alpine areas and to promote implementation of Natura 2000 in Romania

SEENET Facilitating the PEEN in South-Eastern Europe and the Black Sea area

Funded by: BBI-MATRA

Period: February 2006 – January 2008

The project aims at promoting the concept of PEEN among relevant actors and in relevant forums, initiating capacity building for ecological networks, at stimulating involvement of the region in international processes and at providing support to organisations from the region in successfully applying for funding for projects in support of ecological networks and PEEN.

Safeguarding the Romanian Carpathians as a regional ecological network modelled on large carnivores

Management: Erwin van Maanen, Altenburg & Wymenga

Implemented by: Institute of forestry research and management, Carpathian foundation, Romania

Period: November 2002 – June 2005

The project aimed at creating a regional ecological network structure for the Romanian Carpathians in order to protect important nature values in view of the country's accession to the European Union in 2007.

Ukraine

Development of national ecological network in Ukraine in the framework of the Pan-European Ecological Network – A concept and implementation in pilot areas.

Funded by: PIN-MATRA

Implementation: National Ecological Centre of Ukraine, Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine

Period: 2002-2005

The project aims at long term preservation of the biodiversity in Ukraine by integrating biological and landscape diversity concerns into the economic sectors and establishing National Ecological Network, as well as integrating further Ukraine along other European countries in the framework of Pan-European Ecological Network.

SEENET Facilitating the PEEN in South-Eastern Europe and the Black Sea area

Funded by: BBI-MATRA

Period: February 2006 – January 2008

The project aims at promoting the concept of PEEN among relevant actors and in relevant forums, initiating capacity building for ecological networks, at stimulating involvement of the region in international processes and at providing support to organisations from the region in successfully applying for funding for projects in support of ecological networks and PEEN.

Serbia

PEEN SEE Indicative Map of Pan European Ecological Network in South-Eastern Europe

Management: Edina Biró, ECNC

Funded by: PIN-MATRA

Period: July 2003 – May 2006

The project aims to outline the PEEN in South-Eastern Europe through identification of the core nature areas of European importance in the region, existing corridors between these areas, to meet the connectivity requirements of key species, where new corridors could and should be established and to locate buffer zones and stepping stones, when and if required

SEENET Facilitating the PEEN in South-Eastern Europe and the Black Sea area

Funded by: BBI-MATRA

Period: February 2006 – January 2008

The project aims at promoting the concept of PEEN among relevant actors and in relevant forums, initiating capacity building for ecological networks, at stimulating involvement of the region in international processes and

at providing support to organisations from the region in successfully applying for funding for projects in support of ecological networks and PEEN.

International

Protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians in a transnational framework (Carpathian project).

Lead Partner – Organisation: UNEP Vienna – ISCC

Funded by: INTERREG IIIB CADSES

Period: September 2005 – August 2008

The project integrates European spatial development policies with the management of the Carpathians' mountain ecosystems in a transnational context. The project will analyze and consolidate the information base, develop strategies and policy instruments, and implement and test pilot activities, in continuous cooperation with local and regional stakeholders. The project builds on the existing structure of the Carpathian Convention, providing a transnational framework for the application of EU policies throughout the Carpathian region.

ANNEX 4 LIST OF MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS WHERE THE PROJECT WAS PRESENTED OR DISCUSSED

No	Date	Place	Event	Purpose
1	February 3, 2006	Bratislava – Daphne Ecocentre	CERI winter board meeting	Introduction to the project, four work packages, organisations involved, potential of CERI members to participated on the wp4 strengthening CERI organisational structure
2	April 3, 2006	Bratislava – CERI office	Starting-up meeting	clarification of scope and activity lists within all the work packages; discussions on project management structure, contract structure, budget, time and terms of reference for CERI
3	May 18-19, 2006	Bratislava – Daphne Ecocentre	WP3 technical kick off meeting together with WP2 chair	to answer the questions: what type of ecological network do we need in the Carpathians, what design would be best for the Carpathians, what data is available, what data are to be collected
4	May 25, 2006	Bratislava – Daphne Ecocentre	CERI spring board meeting	Focus on activities in 2006, links to CERI WGs; information on the possibility for the project to provide training on N2000 implementation, responsible forestry and ecological network designing; agreement on implementation steps for WP4
5	June 12, 2006	Rahiv, UA – Ecoclub Carpathians	Meeting GIS and zoology experts for Carpathian Biodiversity Information System	Discuss the project activities leading to building the CBIS, specification of the needs for data collection
6	June 13, 2006	Lviv, UA – State Museum of Natural History	Meeting botany and habitat experts for Carpathian Biodiversity Information System	Discuss the project activities leading to building the CBIS, specification of the needs for data collection
7	June 14, 2006	Kiev – Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine	Information meeting with Focal Point of Carpathian Convention Mr. Igor Ivanenko	introduction to the project; steering committee of the project
8	June 23, 2006	Wien – WWF DCP office	Information meeting with WWF DCP representants (Erica Stanciu, Andreas Beckmann, Hildegard Meyer, Juraj Vysoký)	Exchange of information on on-going project activities RAPPAM - Rapid Assessment and Prioritization of Protected Area Management (Methodology implementation in Romania); Key findings & results: Erika Stanciu & Gerald Steindlegger, April 2006
9	July 13, 2006	Seshory (Ivano-Frankinvs oblast, Ukraine)	4th International ethnic music and land-art festival organized by Green Dossier, Tamara Malkova	joint presentation of CERI and Matra project prepared by Monika Chrenková & Anna Guttová, presented by Vasyl Pokynchereda
10	August 11-12, 2006	Bratislava – CERI office	Planning meeting	common workplan and meeting plan for the project WGs, training needs assessment, terms of references

Programme 3 of the project to design an ecological network in the Carpathian Mountain ecoregion kick off meeting, 18 – 19 May 2006, Daphne Ecocentre, Bratislava

Participants: Mike Baltzer (WWF DCP), Jan Seffer (DAPHNE), Rastislav Lasak (DAPHNE), Karina Kintaes (Bio/consult), Irene Bouwma (Alterra), Bob Smith (DICE), Rogier Klaver (Altenburg & Wymenga), Dries Kuijper (Altenburg & Wymenga), Monika Chrenkova (CERI) , Anna Guttova (CERI), Hildegard Meyer (WWF DCP)

Objective: Identify the process and technical procedures for developing a design for an ecological network in the Carpathians Mountains ecoregion

18 May			
10.00am	Introductions		MB
10.15	Agenda: Explanation of project and task ahead for the meeting	Explanation of the Agenda and purpose of the meeting	MB/AG
	<i>What is an ecological network?</i>		
10.35	Present European systems	presentation	Irene Bouwma
11.00	Romanian Carpathian Ecological Network	presentation	Rogier Klaver
11.20	Designing ecological networks: an international perspective	presentation	Bob Smith
11.45	Identification of other ongoing work and related analysis (i.e HCVF) Q and A. Clarification on the present systems around.	Facilitated discussion based on the presentations	MB
12.30pm	<i>Lunch</i>		
	<i>What type of ecological network do we need in the Carpathians</i>		
2.00	<i>Vision for the Network:</i> List the purposes for the ecological network. (What do we want from the network?)	Facilitated discussion	MB
3..30	<i>Break</i>	Facilitated discussion	MB
3.45	What design/planning system would be best for the Carpathians?	Facilitated discussion	MB
4.30	What data will we need?	Facilitated discussion	MB
5.30	Close day		
19 May			
9.30	Recap from day one		
9.45	What data is available?	Facilitated discussion	MB
1.00	<i>Lunch</i>		
2.00	What data do we need to collect?	Facilitated discussion	MB
4.30	Schedule for the data collection, organisation and next steps	Facilitated discussion	MB
5.30	Close of meeting		

Fig. 1. Participants of the meeting



Fig. 2. Participants of the meeting



Fig. 3. Different approaches to design the network – Mike Baltzer

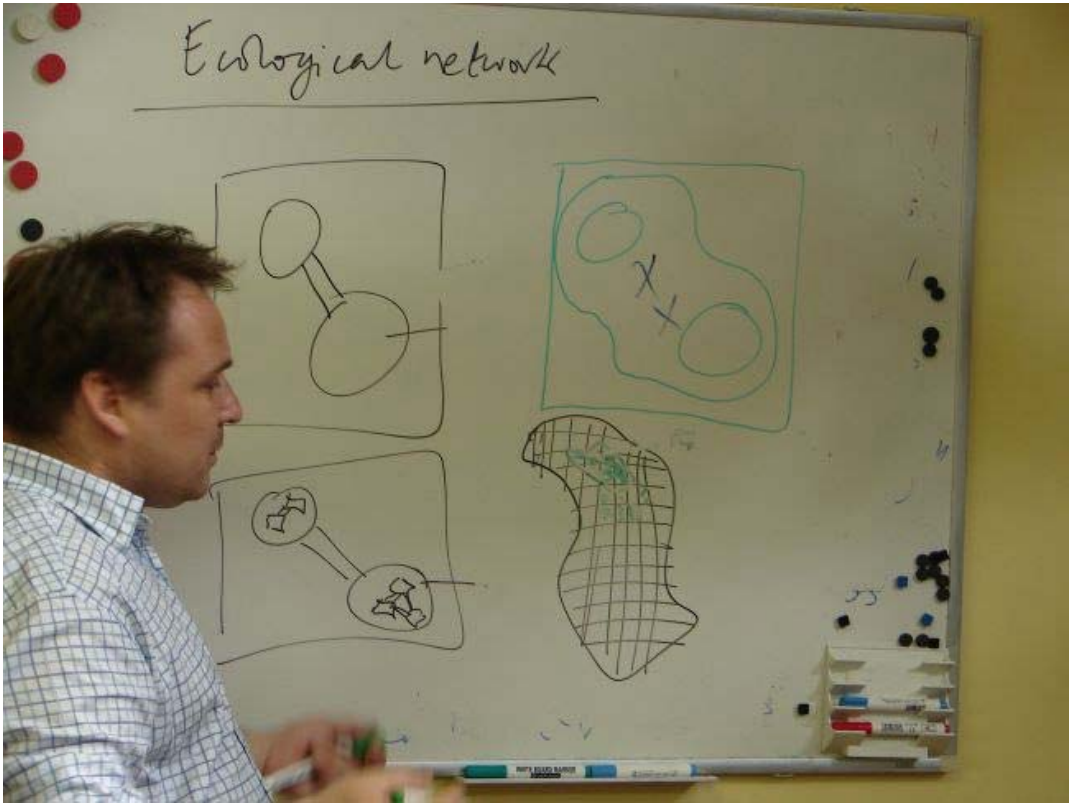


Fig. 4. Different approaches to design the network – Jan Seffer

