



**CERI Board Meeting
Bratislava, Slovakia
17-18 May 2007**

Objective

Core Grant Activities 2006, 2007
 Status of Fundraising
 BBI Matra Project, Carpathian Convention Development - Update
 Belgrade Conference in October 2007
 CERI Development Strategy

Participants: 10 people, JS=Chair; MB=Vice Chair, Facilitator; AG=Interim Executive Secretary; HM=Minutes; VCh=Logistics & financial issues

Please note that AG=Anna Guttova; AK=Andras Krolopp (joined at 13:40); GP=George Predoiu (joined at 15:00); HM=Hildegard Meyer; JS=Jan Seffer; JU=Jana Urbancikova; MB=Michael Baltzer; MO=Monika Ochwat; NR=Nenad Robajac; VCh=Vera Chrenkova.

Ioan Abrudan was replaced by GP; Yaroslav Dovhanych was excused due to a time collision with another meeting.

For contact information on the participants see **Annex 3**.

Outcome

Draft structure of CERI Development Strategy
 Action List for Next Steps

13:10 Welcome; Approval of Agenda; Review of Old Business

JS welcomes the participants to this important Board Meeting that will be used for the development of the CERI Strategy.

The **Agenda** is being approved (Annex 1).

Review (Action List prepared at the GA in Serbia, November 2007):

	ACTION	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Finalize and approve RoP for NFP's	MCh	GA 2006
2.	Finalize and approve RoP for WG's	MCh	GA 2006
3.	Prepare and present proposal for GA 2007	MCh	GA 2006
4.	Finalize Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)	MCh	End of Nov

	with the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (ISCC)		06
5.	Sign MoC with ISCC at the Conference of the Parties (COP 1)	JS	Dec 2006
6.	Prepare side event at COP 1	MCh	Dec 2006
7.	Discuss possibility to involve CERI in Carpathian CADSES for data collection	JS	Dec 2006
8.	Collect comments on Biodiversity Protocol and present them at COP 1	JS	Dec 2006
9.	Finalize sub-contracts with NFP's and WG's, prepare forms, disseminate them, collect reports and outputs	MCh	End of Jan 07
10.	Find German partner for DBU proposal on Carpathian Ecological Network	AG	Jan 2007
11.	Arrange EU audits for Core Grant	MCh	Feb 2007
12.	Prepare and submit reports for Core Grant 2006	MCh	Feb 2007
13.	Incorporate GA comments and proceed with the elaboration of the CERI Development Strategy	NR	Feb 2007
14.	Incorporate GA comments and proceed with elaboration of the CERI Development Strategy	NR	Feb 2007
15.	Incorporate GA comments and prepare new draft of CERI Communication Strategy	TM	Feb 2007
16.	Prepare and print CERI leaflet	MCh	March 2007
17.	Develop and send for comments new design of CERI website	MCh	Jan 2007
18.	Prepare texts for CERI website	MCh	March 2007
19.	Elaborate and submit proposal for Core Grant 2007	MCh	Deadline?
20.	Propose new NFP for Hungary	AK	Beg 2007
21.	Draft MoC between CERI and CEEWEB	AK	Beg 2007

Ad 6) The side event at the COP 1 was successful. Out of ca 120 registered COP 1 participants up to 60 joined the side event.

Ad 7) Although there were promises by Harald Egerer to get involved in the Carpathian Project, especially for the data collection, no cooperation has been established.

Ad 8) JS did not directly comment on the Biodiversity Protocol under the Carpathian Convention at COP1, but was approached by the Czech Focal Point to do so. JS's suggestions were considered at the first meeting of the BD Working Group under the Carpathian Convention, to which CERI is an observer.

Ad 10) The German partner is IBN (Institute for Biodiversity Network), Regensburg.

Ad 11) Two audits had been prepared; a representative of the European Commission was at the CERI to proof it. There were no problems at all. CERI is awaiting feedback on the Core Grant reports of 2006 and the final payment.

Ad 13 & 14) The CERI Development Strategy will be worked out in the frame of this BM.

Ad 17) The CERI website has a new appearance and all technical issues will be completed by Riki Watzka by beginning of June. English is preferred, but there is need for sections in national languages for the overall information, the newsletter and other interesting attachments.

Ad 20 & 21) The new NFP for Hungary might be E-misszio Environmental and Nature Conservation Association (Istvan Csaba Botos). The organization needs to get information on the funding by the EU Core Grant 2007 to be able to decide on their function as NFP. AK will receive the draft MoC between CERI and CEEWEB that day or the next day.

13:35 Finalization of CORE Grant 2006

All reports could be completed according to the changes in the budget by Monika Chrenkova. The last payment is being awaited in summer.

13:40 CERI Secretariat Operation since May 2007

Monika Chrenkova is still working for the CERI and is well supported by AG. Since March the salary is covered by the BBI-Matra project. Without the Core Grant 2007 there will be a funding problem for the position of the secretariat.

AK informs about news on the Core Fund. In the end of May the internal processes will be completed, the approval should not change a lot. Informal information on the selection will be available by the end of May.

For the Core Fund 2008 rules will be changed. The fund will be linked to LIFE+ and a Work Plan for 3 years will be requested.

MCh will be on maternity leave for one year; a replacement for one year is needed. JS suggests one possible candidate, who could work for 80% for the CERI and the remaining 20% for Daphne activities. The candidate has experience on media and policy work. JS suggests to split the CERI activities between 2 persons who will work for 50% each.

NR suggests to have an approval by the board. JS will send CV.

MB says the one person for full-time is needed.

JS will ask UNEP for an intern during the time as UNEP has a volunteer service that places young graduates and also senior professionals.

14:10 Activities in CORE 2007

AG introduces the actions planned within the Core Fund proposal 2007.

Objectives

- Operation of the CERI Secretariat
- Improving the functioning of national networks and coordination of the WGs
- Strengthening the position at the international level
- Building new partnerships, getting more involved in international discussions, initiatives and activities for biodiversity conservation
- Promoting Carpathian experiences in order to contribute to overall improvement of the implementation of European environmental policies
- Expert activities

Activities

- Institutional and organisational activities
- Communication activities
- Policy and networking activities
- Expert activities
- Support for 7 Carpathian countries through NFP
- Support for activities of CERI Working Groups

Actions and means involved

Institutional and organizational activities:

- CERI Development Strategy
- Finalization of CERI Communication Strategy
- Running CERI Secretariat on day-to-day basis
- Organization of 2 Board Meetings
- Organisation of CERI General Assembly 2007

Communication activities:

- Updating and improving the structure of CERI website
- Maintaining CERI e-mail conferences
- Publishing two issues of CERI Newsletter
- CERI Information material

Policy and networking activities:

- Cooperation and maintaining contacts with ISCC, CNPA, other partners in the region Biodiversity Protocol to the Carpathian Convention – lobbying for NGO comments incorporation
- CERI membership in Working Group on Biodiversity under the Carpathian Convention
- Participation of CERI in the '6th Environment for Europe Conference' in Belgrade

Expert Activities:

- Carpathian Clearinghouse
- Carpathian Biodiversity Information System (CBIS)
- Involvement in the CADSES Carpathian Project through biodiversity data collection in Western Carpathians
- Development of Carpathian Ecological Network
- Identification of threats and obstacles to sustainable development in the Carpathians CERI involvement in 2012 Protected Area Programme (2012 PAP)
- Contribution to the KEO publication
- Elaboration of CERI Educational Manual "World of Carpathians"

Support for 7 Carpathian countries through NFPs

- Coordination of national network, organisation of meetings of national CERI members
- Communication with CERI Secretariat and members
- Representation of CERI at the national level
- Contribution to CERI Newsletter and its translation into national language
- Contribution to CERI Development Strategy
- Contribution to CERI Communication Strategy
- Identification of threats and obstacles to sustainable development in the Carpathians
- Supporting national projects contributing to sustainable development of the Carpathians
- Organization of meeting with the national CBD and CC FP

Support for activities of CERI Working Groups:

- Biodiversity WG
- Biodiversity Information System WG
- Communication WG
- Environmental Policy and Rural Development WG
- Environment and Sustainable Development Education WG
- Management Planning WG

- Tourism WG

POLICY AREAS

NATURE & BIODIVERSITY - Biodiversity WG

1. Towards unitary approach for large carnivores conservation in the Carpathians

Promotion of concentrated international - ecoregional action to large carnivores conservation in the Carpathians through development of a unitary approach for large carnivores conservation and a draft plan for management models for conservation of large carnivores in the Carpathians as a tool for initiation a cross-border cooperation projects regarding biodiversity conservation in the Carpathians.

2. Responsible forest management for sustainable development in the Carpathians

Promotion of common standards for responsible forest management throughout the Carpathian ecoregion by supporting of the development and harmonization of national FSC Standards.

NATURE & BIODIVERSITY – Management Planning WG

- Promote development and implementation of nature management planning as a tool for nature conservation and sustainable development in Carpathian ecoregion
- Promoting of knowledge exchange concerning nature management planning in Carpathian Eco-region through MPWG
- Development of common management planning approach for Carpathian ecoregion
- Providing trainings in nature management planning to build up capacities in Carpathian ecoregion

NATURE & BIODIVERSITY – CERI

- Provide a centre for streamlined data management and monitoring designed for member organizations, partners and external stakeholders
- Efficiently track conservation progress in the Carpathians
- Support the Carpathian Clearinghouse with information and data on biodiversity status in the Carpathians
- Enable coordinated transboundary management of the unique biodiversity of the Carpathians
- Make the information from the CBIS and the data summarized in KEO available, understandable, useful and attractive for broader audience

HORIZONTAL AND CROSS CUTTING ISSUES - Tourism WG

- Assessment of tourism certification in the Carpathians
- Set up directory at the CERI homepage that informs on labelled tourist destinations, accommodations and tour operators including information on sustainable tourism certification labels
- Design a Carpathian-wide project to support sustainable tourism in the region
- Contribute to the 'Sustainable Tourism Protocol' including the establishment of a 'Strategy for the future tourism development of the Carpathians', which is based among others on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and is being developed by CEEWEB under the CC

HORIZONTAL AND CROSS CUTTING ISSUES - CERI

- Cooperation and maintaining contacts with ISCC, CNPA, other partners in the region
- Biodiversity Protocol to the Carpathian Convention – lobbying for NGO comments incorporation
- CERI membership in Working Group on Biodiversity at ISCC
- Participation of CERI in The 6th 'Environment for Europe Conference' in Belgrade

Budget

	Euro
Personnel	43,935
Travel and subsistence	51,875
Rent and equipment	790
Subcontracts/external assistance	61,150
<u>Overheads</u>	<u>5,980</u>
Total	163,730

AG will inform the Board how much money will be co-financed by BBI-Matra. – co-financing sum is 43 600

AK suggests to organize a BM right after the decision on the Core Grant 2007 will be made to adapt the WP 2007 according to the budget.

14:40 BBI-Matra Project

AG summarizes the status quo within the BBI-Matra Project.

WP 1 Training on the principles and techniques of ecological network development and implementation

- Introduction document
- Questionnaire on training needs
- Interviews on training needs
- Final report on TNA – results and recommendations, action plan x trainings

Final report on Training Needs Assessment (TNA) - results

1. Training needs and wishes on Ecological Network design

- Methodologies of analysing data
- Identifying core areas and corridors
- Evaluating coherence, performing monitoring and understanding and using the functions and features of an ecological network

2. Training needs and wishes on Natura 2000 implementation

- Identifying Natura 2000 habitat types
- Handling Natura 2000 database
- Analysing Natura 2000 data
- Selecting and designating Natura 2000 sites
- Carrying out monitoring on Natura 2000 species and habitat types

3. Training needs and wishes on sustainable forestry

- Training on the principles of close-to-nature forestry needs
- Socio-economic aspects of forestry
- Stakeholder involvement in management of forests

4. Training needs and wishes on communication and cooperation

- Enhance communication skills on all levels
- Policy work
- Strategy development
- Lobbying
- Networking
- Stakeholder communication

Final report on TNA – action plan x trainings

Training modules:

1. GIS and database handling and Marxan modelling

Date: August 2007 (beginners) and spring 2008 (advanced)

Proposed location: Bratislava

Target audience: Experts of the member organisations involved in data base management and GIS

Trainers: Rasto and Bob Smith

Number of participants: max. 6

2. Natura 2000 including stakeholder analysis and consultation

Date: September 2007

Proposed location: Ukraine

Target audience: Experts of the CERI members in Ukraine and Serbia + relevant government organisations from the region

Trainers: Karina Kitnaes, Jan Seffer, Henk Zingstra, Esther?

Number of participants: max. 20

Co-financing - to apply at ECNC (SEENET)

3. Ecological network design including decision-making and modelling tool

Date: spring 2008

Proposed location: Romania

Target audience: Experts of the member organisations in Ukraine plus relevant government organisations from the Carpathian region.

Trainers: Karina Kitnaes, Mike Baltzer, Irene Bouwma, Esther?

Number of participants: max. 20

4. Sustainable forestry incl. socio-economic aspects and stakeholder involvement

Date: Autumn 2008

Proposed location: Romania

Target audience: Experts of the member organisations in Ukraine, Romania and Serbia.

Trainers: Karina Kitnaes, Esther?, socio-economist

Number of participants: max. 20

5. Communication strategies

Trainings - other

11-13 April 2007, Istanbul: Training seminar on

"*Funding sources for nature conservation and ecological network*" organized by ECNC, SEENET; communicated to relevant NFPs UA, RO, SB; RO participated.

WP 2 Carpathian Biodiversity Information System

- Guidelines and logistic how to collect and process the biodiversity data
- Template forms to gather available and reliable bio-geo data
- Template forms for preparation of national lists of plants, animals and alliances to secure consistency in all the Carpathian countries
- Working files to refine boundaries of orographical units (2 layers in 2 different projection systems 1942_GK_Zone_4 and WGS_84 for each country) – correction of geometry or creation of new one
- Deadline for first data set – 30 April 2007-05-07
- Available data:
 - RO – finalized lists of plants, animals, alliances; refined borders of orographical units

UA – finalized lists of plants, animals, alliances; refined borders of orographical units
SB – finalized lists of plants, animals, alliances; refined borders of orographical units

WP 3 Carpathian Ecological Network

- Design of a system for Carpathian Ecological Network
- Draft Carpathian conservation planning system – to illustrate the types of outputs that the project will produce
- Identification of conservation features to be used to define the parameters of the ecological corridor
- Identification of factors of threats and opportunities for selected features
- List of socio-economic data to be collected

List of socio-economic data to be collected

1st priority

Road network (density) – existing and planned – divide them in road category
(Improved) **Land use** information for Ukraine (for all other countries the information is available)

Tourist centres – mass tourism (ski resorts, bath- spa's)

Area under forest – certification (not in Serbia – contact FSC-bodies)

Areas eligible for agro-environmental schemes

Surface protected areas (easy to find)

Where will forest survive or grasslands disappear? (elevation, proximity to villages, infrastructure)

River regulation - mapping of natural, semi-, artificial rivers, dams, power station

2nd priority

Size of farms, trends in livestock

Urban areas - population densities - net migration - urban development

Mining (increase or decrease) – location of current and future data

Extra data: Administrative borders, Watersheds

Last priority:

Illegal logging

Landowner changes

Less importance

Poaching

Windmills

Land ownership (major owners - non state)

Intensification of grasslands

Land conversion

Drainage of wet grassland

Afforestation

Overgrazing

Invasive alien species

Traffic intensity (difficult – motorways + European roads)

Power line/gas pipeline - location

WP 4 Strengthening the organisational structure and capacities of CERI

- Identify threats and obstacles for sustainable development of the Carpathian Ecoregion

- Elaborate development strategy and action plan for the CERI do address these threats and to support sustainable development
- Finalize communication strategy to ensure effective external communication

Important meetings

CERI GA 2006

Training Needs Assessment, meeting of the Project Management Team

COP 1 11.12.2006

First Steering Committee Meeting

7-9 February 2007

Planning meeting for Ecological Network Development

Kick off meeting for biodiversity data collection

WG Conservation and sustainable use of biological & landscape diversity to the CC

26- 23 March 2007

- Link to the process of elaboration of Biodiversity Protocol
- Approved cooperation with CERI on CEN
- Concentration on unique regional biodiversity issues
- Welcomed scientific backstopping from CERI (Annex 2)

Reporting

2nd progress report 28 February 2007

Concise version available on CERI web

Discussion:

Ad WP 1)

The final TNA is available.

There will be 6 persons per training. It is not clear yet, whether the participants have to be from the target countries (RO, Serbia, Ukraine) only.

First results of the Ecological Network are expected for COP 2 in spring 2008.

WWF DCP can offer trainers for the seminar on sustainable forestry.

Meetings

The strategies planned for WP 4 should be approved by the GA in autumn. Before that national meetings shall be organized to elaborate the strategies. The national meetings could be combined with trainings or other meetings.

15:05 Fundraising - DBU Project Proposals, TWG Project Proposal

1. „World of the Carpathians“

Donor: DBU Foundation (Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt)

German partner: Thüringen Ökoherz

Co-finance: Slovak Environmental Fund (21 000 EUR)

- Project outline approved by DBU
- Full proposal elaborated and submitted
- Comments to the full proposal sent by DBU
- Feedback to DBU comments prepared, sent to the donor

CERI is awaiting a reply by the donor; co-finance of € 21,000 by the Slovak Environmental Fund is guaranteed.

2. „Proposal for Western Carpathian Ecological Network as a precondition for effective cross-border nature protection“

Donor: DBU Foundation (Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt)
German partner: IBN – Institute for Biodiversity, Regensburg
Co-finance: Matra BBI

Full proposal prepared, translated into German; submitted to donor by the end of May 2007.

Budget

1. Personnel (CERI)	45,432
2. Personnel (hand overs, fund contribution)	18,648
4. Material	22,713
5. Travel and accomodation	9,282
6. Hire of third parties	96,075
Total	130,835

3. „Development and promotion of certified sustainable tourism destinations in the Carpathians“

Concept developed by HM - Tourism WG

Output

- Ecotourism certification developed for SB and UA according to the national legislation
- 2 model areas in SB and UA developed as ecotourism destinations with ensured nature conservation and high quality ecotourism programmes
- Carpathian-wide umbrella labes for sustainable tourist services incl. all existing labels/certifications in the region
- Directory of eco-certified/labelled destinations and tourism businesses

Estimated budget in brief summary:

Item	Estimated costs €
1. Development of certification system	30,000
2. Capacity building in 2 model areas	250,000
3. Create umbrella label including monitoring and evaluation system and directory	35,000
4. Promotion and marketing	20,000
5. Project management	60,000
6. Office running costs and administration (7,5%)	29,625
TOTAL	424,625

Potential partners (to be contacted):

- CEEWEB, Hungary
- International Charitable Foundation 'Heifer Project International, Ukraine
- Djerdap National Park Administration, Serbia
- CenOrt, Serbia
- REC, Czech Republic (expertise on branding)
- ECEAT, Czech Republic

Suggestions for funding: BBI-Matra, DOEN CERI for major partner for funding the CERI, contact person Jeffrey Prince.

4. „The transnational hiking trail via carpathica – a concept for the sustainable development of the Carpathians“

Process under the Carpathian Project

Proposal/concept prepared by Joachim Jaudas, Judit Miklos, Eckhard Heidling

Discussion:

Initiate national funding by members of CERI. CERI should teach the member organizations how to submit projects. CERI should submit projects to the Visegrad Fund (www.visegradfund.org), which covers 5 Carpathian countries. The fund does not cover salaries but costs by experts. Serbia and UA are not funded. CERI could use the Norwegian and Swiss Fund for UA and Serbia.

All agreed that a Fundraising Strategy is needed. The role of fundraising would be to help the members to find money for their projects and for the CERI itself. A meeting shall be organized to work out the Fundraising Strategy.

MO suggests a cluster model, where organizations in each country should go for national funding possibilities and contribute with this money to overall fundraising activities. This would help to build a common identity.

15:35 Belgrade Conference, 6th Ministerial Conference within 'Environment for Europe', 10-12 October 2007

AG presents possibilities to get involved.

1. ECO Forum & PEBLDS (CEEWEB)

Biodiversity session – Round table - Day 1, 4.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.

- Agriculture & biodiversity
- PEEN
- Biodiversity indicators & monitoring
- Financing biodiversity
- Communication, Education & Public Awareness

Pre-conference on biodiversity & SPAC

Publication with recommendations for future cooperation in biodiversity field

case studies: the Efe process and its outcomes, international NGO coalitions, climate change, biodiversity

What has been done so far:

- Summary of key activities for publications sent

What has to be done:

- Register CERI under Eco-forum (by 1 June)

2. ISCC – UNEP ROE

Draft category II document on „Mountain Initiatives“

3. ECNC

Side event on PEEN only registered

theme: „PEEN connecting nature and putting the PEEN in practice“; no particular details available yet

4. IUCN

Performance & exhibition about biodiversity and the 2010 Countdown

Discussion:

AK explains the process within the Eco Forum. Canada and the US haven't signed the CBD yet. Because of Canada and the US participating in the Eco Forum as a part of Europe, biodiversity might not be a topic for the conference. A final decision on the agenda of the conference will be made at the next meeting in Geneva. Countdown 2010 network will carry out a reality check of ministries, what they have contributed to the Global Action for Biodiversity in their countries.

NGOs will have big side events; a huge exhibition space will be offered. The registration for contributions ends on 1 May. IUCN has made a reservation for a huge space and NGO's can buy parts of it. CERI could prepare a poster or organize a side event. The question is whether this would be useful. At the conference it is planned to sign the Balkan Declaration on Mountains. Here CERI could step in, but statements are needed for agriculture, biodiversity etc. The registration for speakers ends on 1 June.

It all depends on how we see CERI as a policy forming organization. This issue will be clarified with the development of the strategy. JS sees CERI more project oriented.

16:00 General Assembly 2007, 30 Sep – 4 October 2007

Date: 30 September – 4 October 2007

- **Plan A** – Core Grant 2007 funds available Kind offer from CZ NGO Beskydčan to organize GA
Contact: Šárka Košťálová
Location: Moravskoslezské Beskydy Mts., Hotel Sepetná
(www.sepetna.cz/cz/turistika)
- **Plan B** – no Core Fund
Kind offer from University of Transilvania, Ioan Abrudan

16:05 Development of the Carpathian Convention

Kyiv COP 1, 11-13 December 2006

• CERI side event – short overview

Welcome and opening by Harald Egerer
Presentation on Biodiversity in Carpathians and CERI Presentation of the MATRA/BBI Project Development of the Carpathian Ecological Network
Cooperation between ISCC and CERI – ISCC perspective
Cooperation between ISCC and CERI – CERI perspective Signing of **Memorandum of Cooperation** between ISCC
MATRA BBI Steering Committee Meeting

BD Protocol Development –

CERI offered biodiversity and socio-ecological data collection in for the Western countries in the framework of the Carpathian Project.

- **First Meeting of the WG on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity** Vienna, Austria, 26-27 March 2007 Prior the meeting JS on behalf of CERI was asked to comment on the BD Protocol. At the meeting all his comments were taken into account and will be incorporated in the text of the Protocol (Annex 2 Relevant excerpt of the Report of the Meeting).

16:15 Coffee Break

16:35 CERI Development Strategy

18:40 End of Day 1

DAY 2: 18 May 2007

9:10 CERI Development Strategy – continuation

11:00 Coffee Break

11:15 CERI Development Strategy – continuation

12:30 Elections of the NFP

Conclusions:

If Core Fund is available for 2007, the next BM has to be organized in August of September. The focus of this BM will be the draft of the Work Programme and the Fundraising Strategy.

A consultation process on the Strategy will be started with the members.

Several organizations (ISCC, REC, NFP's of the CC, ANPED, FAO/UNDP) will be asked for an external SWOT analysis of the CERI.

According to the statutes the NFP's have to be elected every 2 years.

Meetings of the members at the national level have to be organized to elect new NFP. The possibility to hold national meetings as well depend on the Core Grant. In case there is no Core Funding, the elections will be carried out electronically or will be linked to other meetings or seminars. Ukraine can hold its national meeting combined with the Natura 2000 training.

Secretariat: MCh will work until the end of May; AG and JS will temporarily take over the responsibilities until a replacement for Monika will be found.

JS introduces a potential candidate for the position. Martina Badidova currently works for Greenpeace and has an ecological background. She is familiar with media work and has experience in working abroad. She could start in July or August depending on the Core Fund.

Potential new CERI members are Daphne CZ and Heifer International, Ukraine.

Daphne in Czech Republic was established 3 years ago and is based in Ceske Budejovice. The organization is working on the restoration of species richness in grasslands in the White Carpathians, has developed an information system for NGOs and maps of habitats and species. They are experts on Natura 2000 issues and are well linked with the Nature Conservancy, which is important for us.

Heifer International is an international NGO based in the US. They are working on sustainable development in Ukraine, with a special focus on the rural life in Carpathians. It might be an important partner for the tourism project.

JU suggests to prepare a list of experts based in the Carpathian region that would make it easier to find experts in case of request, e.g. by ISCC or WWF.

An analysis of NGO's and institutes shall be carried out; a database shall be developed to make CERI activities better visible. The database shall be updated on a regular basis. Additionally, an analysis of potential members to get involved in the CERI shall be carried out.

The date of the next GA falls exactly between two huge events, namely the Belgrade Conference and the EUROPARC conference. It will be difficult to find external lecturers for the GA.

For the next BM CERI has to make sure to have a Ukrainian representative there.

12:50 End of Meeting

Action List

What?	Who?	By when?
Send out CV of the potential candidate for the position of the secretary to the Board (Martina Badidova)	JS	End of May
Inform the Board how much of the EU Core Grant budget is co-financed by BBI-Matra	AG	End of May
Call Stefan Welin for the decision on the CORE Grant	AG, JS	End of May
Draft results of the work on the CERI Strategy and put it into a framework	AG; MB	End of May
Ask ISCC, NFP's on the Carpathian Convention for a SWOT analysis on CERI.	MB	??
Ask REC for a SWOT analysis on CERI	AK	??
Ask ANPED for a SWOT analysis on CERI	MO	??
Ask FAO/UNDP for a SWOT analysis on CERI	JS	??

ANNEX 1

CERI Board Meeting

Bratislava, Slovakia
17th – 18th May, 2007

Draft Agenda

Time	Agenda Item	Needs/Considerations	Who	Duration
DAY 1				
13:00	Review of old business, approval of agenda	Key excerpts of the minutes and decisions of the last BM	JS	15 min
13:15	Finalization of CORE Grant 2006	Reports, Results of SK and EU Audits	JS	15 min
13:30	CERI Secretariat operation since May 07	Changes, financial situation, future plan	JS	15 min
13:45	Activities in CORE 2007	Summary of Workplan, WG activities planned for 2007	AG	15 min
14:00	MATRA BBI project	Summary of current status, upcoming activities	AG	20 min
14:20	Fundraising - DBU Project Proposals; Ecotourism WG project proposal	Current situation with project proposals, Potential donors/new project ideas	AG, HM, All	15 min
14:35	Belgrade Conference	Discussion on CERI participation	AG, All	20 min
14:55	General Assembly 2007	Location, Agenda, Ideas	All	15 min
15:10	Development of Carpathian Convention	Kiev COP, Biodiversity Protocol development, Data collection in western Carpathian countries	JS	20 min
15:30	CERI Development Strategy	Comments to overall approach, discussion on the main objective	facilitator	15 min
15:45	<i>Coffee Break</i>			
16:15	CERI Development Strategy	Analyses, Discussion	facilitator	105 min
18:00	End of the Day 1			
DAY 2				
9:00	CERI Development Strategy - continuation	Summary of results from DAY 1, Discussion	facilitator	90 min
10:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>			15 min
10:45	CERI Development Strategy - continuation	Discussion	facilitator	45 min
11:30	Elections of NFPs	Approach to the elections of NFPs in 2007	JS	15 min
11:45	Conclusions, next steps		JS	15 min
12:00	End of meeting, Lunch			

ANNEX 2

Excerpt of the Report on the First Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity

*26-27 March 2007
VIC, Vienna, Austria*

14. The meeting agreed to elaborate the system of annexes to the Protocol, e.g. utilizing experiences of CERI in development the Carpathian Ecological Network, and requested the Secretariat to plan the logical development and structuring of the related annexes. Annexes could be adopted and signed together with the Protocol. The importance of the agreement on the revision periods of the annexes has been raised. Jan Seffer, CERI, pointed out that there might be many evolving problems regarding supplementing the annexes with an updated information. The Czech Republic remarked that the Parliaments will be uneager to ratify the annexes containing the long of lists species. So it might be an issue of concern to provide the full lists in the annexes that will overlap with Natura 2000 networks. The Secretariat expressed its doubts that it will be feasible to get ready the full set of annexes by COP2. Frits Schlingemann, Co-Chair, remarked that in case the related annexes are not ready and agreed upon by the Parties before COP2 - COP2 may adopt the Biodiversity Protocol while the annexes would still be further elaborated and negotiated. In conclusion, the Biodiversity WG agreed to cooperate with CERI on the Carpathian Ecological Network and concentrate on important issues, which are not repeated in other constituencies and conventions and are unique (large carnivores, virgin forests, species rich meadows, endemic species and habitats etc.) and of utmost importance for the Carpathian region. The Biodiversity WG also welcomed the scientific backstopping from CERI and expressed a hope to receive a list for proposed annexes to the Protocol prepared by CERI within one month.

ANNEX 3

Participations List

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