

Contribution to CERI Development Strategy (Bohdan Prots)

Background

It is important to have own face. So, the strongest feature of CERI is flexibility: different types of organization under “one umbrella” with one mission.

In this contest, the area of CERI activity should not be limited by Carpathian Mountains (in senso stricto), but also include activity at least within 50 km zone around Carpathian Mts. Probably, this area should be identified as Carpathian Ecoregion.

Mission

CERI is the leading Carpathian region organisation for nature conservation, ecological network and sustainable development bringing together dedicated professionals from science, NGOs and supporters to increase effectiveness in conserving and enhancing natural and cultural heritage

The mission will be achieved by:

- promoting efficient practice and contributing to the effective activities on nature conservation, ecological network and sustainable development
- raising the profile of nature values and increasing support for their protection and management;
- contributing to the formation of viable protected area networks through facilitating establishment of new areas and encouraging transboundary co-operation.

Vision

Carpathian ecoregion is a region where people respect and value nature and traditions as a basis for nature conservation, sustainability and community prosperity.

In order to achieve this vision there is a clear need to support and maintain a strong network of CERI members. Further, CERI needs to become the voice for biodiversity conservation, support of ecological network and sustainable development, convincing decision makers and the wider public of the importance of these issues for regional development.

Some points on strategic development:

- 1. The structure of CERI is quite efficient; however I would recommend improving management of National FP, making them more independent and influential, also having some resources for it.**
- 2. WG is based on management of projects, maybe they we would need them in the future, if National FP will start to cooperate between each other regularly.**
- 3. CERI should go more into the public using scientific background and within next 5 years try to improve the network through selection procedure of more committed personalities.**
- 4. Distinctiveness of CERI should lay within combination politics and good science, more in the sense of applied science, sustainable development and practical nature protection.**