



**Report**  
**CERI General Assembly**  
**Brasov, Romania**  
**5-7 December 2007**

**Objective:**

- CERI Work Plan 2007, 2008
- Update on BBI-Matra Project
- Carpathian Projects and Initiatives
- National CERI networks
- Working Group Meetings

**Participants:** 40-45 people. Chair: JS; Coordinator: AG; Minutes: HM; Logistics: IA, GP.

Please note AG=Anna Guttova; BP=Bohdan Prots; JS=Jan Seffer; MB=Mike Baltzer; MO=Monika Ochwat-Marcinkiewicz; JU=Jana Urbancikova; GP=George Predoiu; HM=Hildegard Meyer; HZ=Henk Zingstra; IA=Ioan Abrudan; TM=Tamara Malkova;

For contact information on the participants, please see Annex 20.

**Main outputs:**

**Adoption of decisions including the following:**

- Approval of new members
- Agreement on workplan for 2008
- Revised Draft Communications Strategy
- Revised Draft Development Strategy
- Agreement on date and venue for the next General Assembly in 2007

**DAY 1 – December 5 2007**

**14:00 – 17:00 CERI National Networks Meetings**

The meetings were facilitated by the National Focal Points. The content of the meeting was to elect a new National Focal Point for the next 2-year period and to contribute to the CERI Development Strategy based on a draft sent out earlier.

Representatives of all countries except for Hungary and Romania met and prepared a short statement to present it on the next days.

## **DAY 2 – December 6 2007**

### **9:15 Welcome and opening of CERI General Assembly 2007**

JS as Chair and IA as host welcome all members of the CERI to Brasov.

Suggestions for changes in the agenda were discussed and incorporated (Annex 1).

### **9:20 Approval of new CERI members**

***Daphne in CZ*** represented by Jan Dusek.

Daphne CZ is the same type of organization like Daphne in Slovakia working on biodiversity research, Natura 2000, reporting on Article 17 of Habitats Directive nationally and at the EU level, agriculture and nature conservation.

Approval (22/22; 0 abstained)

### ***International Charity Heifer Organization, Ukraine***

The organization was established in 1940 in the US; in UA about 15 years ago. The organization supports rural tourism in the Carpathians. It is involved in the Carpathian Project led by the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention supported by CADSES.

Approval (23/23; 0 abstained)

### ***Ekosphaera, Ukraine***

AG presented Ekosphaera, which representative Oksana Stankievic could not attend the meeting. The organization deals with ecological research and forest certification. Representatives of the organization took part in the BBI-Matra training in Ukraine.

Approval (20/20; 0 abstained)

### ***Slovak Bat Conservation Society***

AG presented the organization which is a group of zoologists and ornithologists located in Nitra.

Approval (20/20; abstained)

The CERI network is extended to 47 CERI members.

### **9:30 BBI-Matra Project: Development of a Carpathian Ecological Network – Development Strategy, Part I**

HZ gives a brief overview on the project meeting that took place the day before the GA. The project has 4 topics namely trainings in Ukraine, Romania and Serbia based on the Training Needs Assessment carried out by Karina Kitnaes during the GA 2006, the Carpathian Biodiversity Information System, the design the Carpathian Ecological Network and strengthening the network of the CERI.

A Development Strategy shall be adopted. And the question is how to make the network work, even if there is no budget for meetings. The network has to be built from national networks; national network meetings shall be organized to strengthen cooperation. What does CERI's role as conservation broker mean to the national networks? There are 1 ½ years left and there is need to start the process of developing the Development Strategy. Unfortunately, until now this aspect has not received the attention as it should have had.

### **9:35 CERI Development Strategy (DS) – feedback from National Networks, Part II** led by Mike Baltzer (Annex 2)

The Development Strategy is a very important issue for the CERI. The very first stage for the DS has been done with support of the BBI-Matra project. The Board Members went through a process and have defined what they think are the goals, the programme and area of work, also in the long-term. The National Networks had a chance to review the DS after the last BM in May 2007. There is no deadline yet when the DS shall be finalized. The CERI members shall be all very clear what they want to do within the CERI including fundraising, area of work etc.

The DS exists as draft document. Here is the opportunity to talk and to further develop the strategy. MB asks for feedback from the national networks.

#### **Poland** represented by MO (Annex 3)

The DS shall be the basis for the Action Plans in the future. The Polish members suggest to create Rules of Cooperation between the CERI members, including their duties and rights. The way of how to share information and to promote good practice shall be defined. Very important for the Action Plan 2008 is capacity building, management planning, biodiversity, communication issues, fundraising and project writing.

In terms of communications the Polish member request information in national languages at the website, at least some basic information. Leaflets shall be drawn up in national languages to promote CERI. Building of a national CERI identity shall be another focus.

CERI experts shall have a say at the national and international level. CERI's role shall not be focused on biodiversity alone, but also on cultural heritage and sustainable tourism. More concrete projects at national level would be helpful.

Poland would like to see CERI working in other Carpathian Convention protocols, beside the Biodiversity Protocol and requests to change the DS accordingly.

#### **Czech Republic** represented by JU (Annex 4)

The Czech CERI members have taken comments into consideration from JS, HM and Ukraine. They request changes in the following sections:

5. Goal: The wording 'economic point of view' shall be reformulated, as it is not clear what it definitely means.

6. Objectives: The wording shall be replaced by 'CERI is the recognised first-stop regional source of data and information and the centre of expertise for biodiversity and biodiversity conservation in the Carpathians'.

In terms of networking the question has arose what equal benefit means. There will be more and less active members.

7. Achievements: The Czech members request that CERI should as well participate in the development of other protocols under the Carpathian Convention, like the Forest and Agriculture Protocol.

Under Development Network: Members shall be strongly involved not only in the scientific part but also in other aspects.

It is not quite clear to the Czech members, whether the institute for creating the data collection shall be inside or also outside the CERI.

Network support: The national level is also important, because NGOs do not have a strong lobby in their countries.

**Ukraine** represented by BP (Annex 5)

Bohdan Prots replaces Yaroslav Dovhanych as the Ukraine Focal Point.

The Ukrainian members have only small contributions to the DS. In general, they think that it is still a lot of discussion needed to create good combination of science and NGO work.

They see that with strengthening the national networks the organization will be stronger and financial pressure will be relieved from the secretary.

He informs that there are a lot of new members in Ukraine and that international donors would like to support activities initiated by the CERI.

**Serbia** represented by Alexandar Vlajic

Alexandar Vlajic is the new FP for Serbia.

Via CERI the Serbian members can benefit from international experience regarding biodiversity, social problems, tourism development and funding issues. Serbia as an accession country is forced to ask for international funding.

**Romania** represented by IA

Scientific network collaboration with other scientific organizations outside of CERI is missing in the DS.

**Slovakia** represented by JS

JS gives feedback to what has been said before. He thinks that currently it is not feasible to get involved in the development of other protocols. Time and deep background in the according field is needed. At the moment CERI has good expertise in biodiversity. CERI is recognized by the Carpathian Convention as biodiversity expert network. He would appreciate to have other expertise among the CEIR members.

### *Discussion*

MO states that the Polish members are active in 3 working groups under the Carpathian Convention, namely the Sustainable Tourism, the Agricultural and Cultural Heritage working group. If there were more members who would like to share their experience, CERI would have this capacity and this capacity should be used.

JU supports this statement.

TM says that Ukraine does not have a strong MoE to be involved in the process of the protocol development. There is poor cooperation with other ministries. CERI should push for cooperation with other partners as well.

MB sees an enormous strength in the field of biodiversity. In other fields the Carpathian Convention National Focal Points need to be influenced by CERI.

The DS makes up the very top line. An Action Plan is needed to provide more details.

## **Brainstorming session**

Questions:

- *What would the members see as success of the CERI?*
- *What would they like to see from CERI?*

What do CERI members really like to achieve in the long-term? This question caused a quite long discussion within the Board.

MB thinks that point 5. 2008-2012 Goal – a living Carpathians is quite broad at the moment. Co-work is needed to be able to really influence the Carpathian Convention. CERI shall have a relevant role in implementing the Carpathian Convention. 4 areas shall be defined where CERI would like to be excellent.

Under point 7. Achievements in the DS the 4 topics (Convention network, development network, scientific network, network support) shall be split. Targets as well as rough achievements shall be defined for each of the topic.

### *Output*

- Strong identity needed to be successful
- Policy work

Stronger involvement in Carpathian Convention and CNPA: well-functioning help for and respected by the Carpathian Convention. The Carpathian Convention shall ideally be incorporated into economic development in Ukraine.

In terms of biodiversity conservation: CERI shall promote better laws not only for nature conservation in all Carpathian countries.

CERI should create a culture and environment development plan.

CERI shall become a regional authority and shall be an unavoidable partner in the Carpathians when sustainable development is discussed.

CERI shall become a leader for nature conservation, ecological network and sustainable development in the Carpathian region. CERI shall have big influence and powerful forces to be recognized by the governments.

CERI shall work towards a real ecological network and highly cooperate with NGOs and governments in the region.

- Communications

CERI shall be a strong NGO communication organ on developments and policies across the Carpathian nations.

CERI shall work on experience exchange at the international level; common project shall be developed as models to learn and help the local communities in all aspects. Good coordination and cooperation are needed between all different ecological organizations which work in Carpathian region.

CERI shall keep on working scientifically and have the role of an expert in at the national and international level (biodiversity, sustainable tourism and sustainable development).

CERI shall be able to provide first-hand source of data / information on biodiversity in the Carpathian region, including the establishment of the CBIS and exchange platform for biodiversity. Long-term financing of scientific work is needed. The biodiversity database shall be regularly updated

- Networking

- CERI shall fundraise to be able to work as an effective network.
- CERI shall create a good understanding between stakeholders.
- CERI shall increase the number of members.
- CERI national networks shall have at least one long-lasting project that links to CERI
- Organizational support for CERI members.
- Organizing a transnational Carpathian celebration.
- Projects
  - CERI shall be able to cover all expert activities from different projects; LIFE+ (Core) will be used only for running costs of the network.
  - More participation needed at the national level.
  - Strong identification support between CERI members in different issues - 4<sup>th</sup> objective of the DS.
  - Enhance coordination of biodiversity research activities within the Carpathians.

#### *Discussion*

Next steps are collecting ideas and agreeing on how to integrate the comments and link the DS to the BBI-Matra project.

The question is whether to approve the DS at this or the next GA.

HZ suggests that the members have to approve the DS to strengthen the network. The DS will be part of the output. At the moment the strategy is very broad. Therefore, an action plan out of this is needed and also a roadmap how to proceed after approval of the DS.

### **10:30 – 10:00 Coffee break**

### **10:00 Development Strategy – Part III**

Timeline for the development of the DS:

- Finalize draft by June
- Consultation process during summer including all members
- Input of communication and fundraising strategy
- Final adoption at the next GA, in the autumn 2008

The DS shall include a compilation of actions, which is of great importance.

#### **Brainstorming session**

Questions:

- *What would make the network effective?*
- *How can CERI be better?*

*Output*

- Networking / communication
- Get to know each other better

Fundraising shall be a common activity and not be left to the Secretariat alone; information on funds shall be distributed and discussed within the working groups.

The website shall include more interactive parts for communication; promotion of good practice and good projects within the CERI.

Common marketing activities shall be initiated.

- Strong identity

More media presence of CERI is requested.

CERI shall involve public society in their activities.

Capacity building for NFP needed.

- Common projects

Projects shall be carried out nationally and internationally.

Joint projects on key issues shall be initiated.

More concrete actions shall be organized to involve members (meetings, workshops, entertainment on national and international level)

Mirror projects

#### *Discussion*

JS asks whether or not to approve the development strategy together with an action plan and who will be responsible for the actions.

IA suggests to leave out the action plan, because there is no budget yet.

MB suggests to have the DS ready, before working on the action plan.

IA states that funding should be clear before working on the action plan.

MB reminds that it is needed to know what CERI wants to do to get funded.

MO says that the action plan is not only for fundraising, but shall also inform the members, what the organization would do the next year. The action plan could be seen as motivation tool for members. She suggests to have an action plan comprising only a few activities.

JS suggests that CERI should develop an action plan on a yearly basis. The DS shall be completed as soon as possible. A group of people/organizations shall be chosen to set up and to implement the action plan, including fundraising for the secretariat.

The DS could be finalized within the next 2-3 months and could be updated on a regular basis.

The national networks are asked to come up with a solution for the timeline developing the DS and the action plan.

### **11:40 Development Strategy – Part IV - Feedback from National Networks on the timeline**

**Czech Republic:** The DS shall be finalized the next day within the GA. Some evening work can be done to incorporate Polish proposal. A realistic action plan shall be drafted, based on projects that are already running and on work of the WG who have clear vision for projects. The approval or development of an action plan does not necessarily be made at the next GA. The action plans permanently needs to be adapted to the fundraising situation. The action plan shall be finalized

at the coming BM in spring 2008. The action plan could consist of a list of needs what CERI should work on.

**Ukraine and Poland** support the Czech suggestion.

MB asks how to deal with 27 members who are not present at the GA.

The DS has been available for all members since summer 2007. Comments are always welcome and will be included.

**Agreement**

- *The DS will be finished based on the comments of the members and shall be approved the next day.*

TM reminds that the communications strategy was prepared as separate document. In case the communications strategy should be incorporated in general DS, it will not be possible to do so until the next morning. She adds that she hasn't got any comments from the members so far.

The DS includes additional strategies that have to be linked, but these strategies could be separate documents. Point 1 to 6 of the DS could be finalized by the next day, but not point 7 – Achievements. These are activities and not achievements.

**Agreement**

- *The DS shall be finalized at the end of the day including point 7 – Achievements.*
- *Next step will be to draft an action plan for activities based on real funding.*

The question is whether or not a Fundraising WG shall be established that would compile information on funding possibilities in general and based on concrete project ideas. The NFP would be tasked with consultation.

JS states that this information could be prepared by the secretariat, WGs and the NFP.

MB says that the secretariat shall prepare a document with all the information available now. The WGs shall do so as well. After consultation with the national networks, the secretariat shall finalize the document and contribute it to the members.

The WGs will meet the next day and will discuss their contributions to the achievements in the DS.

**12:05 CERI Work Plan for 2007** (Annex 6) by AG

Important issues:

The work plan for 2007 is based on activities compiled for the EU Core Grant for 2008. Unfortunately, the proposal was not approved.

Communications strategy: The Board had some comments that will be discussed in the morning session the next day.

Website: Members are asked to comment on how to improve the website.

The publication of the CERI newsletter will be delayed. A draft will be ready by Christmas.

EU Core Grant proposal 2008: The proposal was sent in the day before the GA. The topics are focused on 2 areas, biodiversity and tourism. All hope that CERI will be supported.

## **Carpathian projects and initiatives – part I**

### **12:25 The Carpathian Network of Protected Areas** by Mircea Verghelet (Annex 7)

#### *Discussion*

JS asks where the future CNPA will have its seat.

The CNPA has an offer from Ukraine, Slovakia and Romania. A decision will be made at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention. Additionally, the design of the coordination unit will be agreed on at COP-2.

### **12:30 2012 Protected Areas for a Living Planet – progress** by HM (Annex 8)

### **12:50 ANPED Activities for Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge - as a contribution to the Implementation of the Carpathian Convention** by MO (Annex 9)

The project is about identification, protection and promotion of Carpathian cultural heritage.

### **13:00 – 14:40 Lunch**

### **14:40 BBI-Matra project 'Development of a Carpathian Ecological Network' – project progress** by AG (Annex 10)

### **14:50 Incorporating socio-economic developments in the design of the Carpathian Econet** by Irene Bouwma (Annex 11)

A meeting was held in Slovakia in February 2007 to discuss threats and pressure for the Carpathian Ecoregion and how to map them.

Many data have been used generated by the Eururalis project, which builds a conceptual framework and a powerful toolbox with data and models to support interactive use on the web (<http://www.eururalis.eu/index.htm>) including future development scenarios in rural areas in Europe.

#### *Discussion*

JS will not be able to correct future scenarios, but can assess the current status.

The current threat map will be more important than the longer-term scenarios. The current threats weigh much more than the future scenarios. For example the biofuel discussion might change a lot, in which direction it is unknown yet.

Future scenarios until 2030 will be developed on our knowledge of today. The aim of scenarios is to have different pictures of possible developments.

The members are asked to review available information on socio-economic developments, like roads and railways, ski-resorts, urban growth and land abandonment on the maps that have been developed so far.

Two sources of road data were the basis of the maps, but both are not reliable. Irene Bouwma would like to learn the CERI member's opinion about the map. Inaccuracy between datasets may occur. The scale of the final product will be 1x1 km, 1:2000000. The maps shall be finalized by end of April.

JS suggests to get data from GPS navigators for cars, but a license is needed to download the data, which costs a lot of money. There are really good data available, but CERI needs to have a license.

Until now it has been difficult to find good data on water management. Data might be available from the Water Framework Directive or the ICPDR. It is planned to finalize the maps including water management data and Natura 2000 sites by February 2008, whereas the final list of Natura 2000 sites is not available yet. For example, the list of Natura 2000 sites Romania has not yet been approved and published. The suggestion is to get them from the national level.

The members are asked for suggestions where socio-economic data are available from. The basic problem is that data have to be compatible and from all Carpathian countries.

## **17:20 Development Strategy – Part V** chaired by JS (Annex 12)

### *Discussion and decisions*

#### Ad 7.2. Development network

RoP that have been elaborated at the 2<sup>nd</sup> GA in Serbia, shall be posted on the website.

The question was whether or not to develop ToR for the scientific network. As this virtual network (CRMCB) is going to be established only in 2 years time and lot of discussions are needed on the function and design, it is not necessary to draft ToR at the moment.

Until now not membership fees have been collected, but the members will be asked to pay for their travel costs to the GA. Exceptions shall be made for those organizations that have a low budget.

### **Decision #1**

The Board will prepare Rules of Cooperation until the next GA; the document will be added as annex to the Development Strategy.

Approval (24/24; 0 abstained)

### **Decision #2**

The Development Strategy has been finalized; annexes will be prepared until the next GA.

Approval (24/23, 1 abstained)

## **18:50 End of Day 2**

## **DAY 3 – December 7 2007**

### **9:10 Wrap-up on national network working session on revising socio-economic maps** by MB

Some of the data are more useful than others. Roads and railways were very incorrect. In terms of urban areas, the main areas were correct, but there were also some underestimates in terms of growth of the cities.

Next steps will be to compile socio-economic data and to divide the maps in small grids. For these virtual areas recommendations will be developed and feasibility scores added, for example where should be bears. Until April data collection shall be finalized and the process of modelling will start, looking at management scenarios, ski development etc.

In April 2008 a workshop with experts will be organized to set the targets, for example how many bears shall be kept and where. The consultation process will be linked to CERI meetings also at the national level, including one big major final conference in March 2009.

AG announces that Miroslav Tadic, the leader of the Environmental Education WG prepared a CD for information.? Maybe better to be mentioned in the section of Working Groups? And in wording like: Miroslav Tadic, the leader of the Environmental Education WG prepared a CD demonstrating different environmental education activities in Serbia and offered a free distribution for all CERI members who are interested. (announced by Biljana Macura and AG)

## **Carpathian projects and initiatives – Part II**

### **9:20 Draft Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity to the Carpathian Convention** by JS (Annex 13)

The process of the development of the protocol started at the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention one and half year ago. The first version was drafted by Ukraine. There was no broad discussion. Later Poland took over the task to elaborate the 2<sup>nd</sup> version coordinated by Zbigniew Niewiadomski. The 2<sup>nd</sup> version was sent to the members of the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity WG under the Carpathian Convention in summer 2007. Comments were expected until Sept 15. At a 3-day meeting held together with FAO in Budapest in September 2007, the draft was deeply discussed and article by article were improved. Comments from Czech Republic and JS were incorporated.

At the moment the final draft of the protocol is in Czech Republic for legal check.

The next step will be the adoption of the protocol by the next COP-2 in June 2008. The Action Plan will be prepared later and should be accepted by COP-3 (2010/2011). Zbigniew Niewiadomski prepared a draft proposal for the Action Plan. 3 days of work of the WG would be needed to complete it.

Unfortunately, there is no mechanism to force the Carpathian countries to implement the Carpathian Convention and its protocols, although all 7 Carpathian Countries signed the convention.

### **9:30 Countdown 2010 Initiative** by AG (Annex 14)

The Countdown 2010 Initiative is partnership open to NGOs, governments and other networks. It might be important to CERI to link to this initiative. The European office is closely linked to the European Commission. This might be useful for CERI in terms of funding. You can find the template for Countdown Declaration in Annex 15.

For the establishment of the partnership, a commitment between representative of Countdown 2010 Initiative and CERI is needed, including goals and objectives.

Through this partnership CERI would be visible at the international level. The initiative is more a political issue. Partners meet periodically to review the overall process.

It is a fact that the Carpathian Convention is not recognized by the European Commission.

#### *Discussion*

JS thinks that the Countdown 2010 Initiative is not feasible, because the targets will not be fulfilled within the given timeframe. He would not see any advantage to be a partner.

Jan Dusek suggests to join the process of SEBI 2010 (<http://biodiversity-chm.eea.europa.eu/information/indicator/F1090245995>), Streamlining the 2010 European Biodiversity Indicators. 26 indicators have been identified by 5 or 6 working groups. He thinks that in case CERI would like to be more visible in Europe, this would be a more direct approach. He will send a presentation to all members by email.

There are not enough members in the room to vote on whether or not join the Countdown 2010 Initiative. (Decision: 7 against, 1 for, 4 abstained). Therefore, a short information will be sent to the NFP to inform the national networks.

### **9:50 Work Plan 2008 overview of general activities** by AG (Annex 16)

The new project proposal for the EU Core Grant was submitted 2 days before the GA. There are new rules for non-member countries, like Serbia and Ukraine. No direct payments can be done to these two countries. Support for Serbian and Ukrainian members are reduced to travel expenses that have to be paid in a European country. All activities have to be carried out in the EU countries.

The focus of the proposal is CERI institutional building, including the secretariat, the NFP and 3 WG that had input to the proposal.

AG explains details of the budget. No small national projects under this programme will be possible to run. Activities within the WGs will be possible. There is still the offer to participate.

In April 2008 the EU will announce the beneficiaries of the grant.

#### *Discussion*

TM wants CERI to be visible at different levels. She wants to know which kinds of support for local activities are foreseen and how this will be arranged. She would like to know whether it would be possible to run small projects at the local level linked to CERI and which arrangements are needed.

JS replies that a support letter from the CERI could be easily drawn up and the local NGO can use the logo for promotion.

TM asks which kind of support for local organizations would be possible.

JS replies that co-financing as it is at the moment will not be possible.

HM says that local NGOs will be invited to meetings and can take part in the sharing knowledge etc. within the network.

BP sees only small involvement for Ukrainian members. CERI has to search for other funds.

TM doubts that CERI member activities will be carried out in case the members are not financially supported like the year before. What will be the benefits for local NGOs being a CERI member?

BP states that the members should use CERI as an instrument and not wait for CERI to do something for them.

JS says that CERI will never be able to secure financial support for any member.

### **10:35 – 11:10 Coffee break**

#### **11:10 Communications Strategy** (Annex 17) by TM

TM introduces the Communication Strategy to the CERI members. She emphasizes the needs to make a clear difference between internal and external communications. Target groups were identified. The Communications Strategy shall be closely related to the Action Plan of the CERI and should as well support concrete activities. Further target groups can be identified according to actions or

Draft Communication WG Work Plan for 2008

The main issue for 2008 is to improve internal communication in the WG itself as well as within the CERI. Common rules for communication and common points of interest have not been identified yet.

JU suggests the Communications WG to prepare basic rules for communications. Later communications can be more connected to the projects. Members would need to know how to proceed with communications. It would be fine to post instructions on the website, including the things that should be avoided in terms of communications.

TM regrets that there is no big interest in the newsletter.

JU says that it has to be clear what need of such a newsletter is. The newsletter should focus on a specific topic.

TM says that there was an agreement on sharing information on members' activities. Additionally, NFPs and WGs are asked to contribute to the newsletter.

HM explains that there were not many activities within the WG due to lack of money. Therefore, no there were no news to report on.

JU suggests to post the call for articles on the website. Mirek Kutal suggests to directly invite the NGOs to write an article. In Tamara Malkova's opinion this is the task for the NFPs. They should know about activities in countries.

AG says that there is a need of clarification who takes the actions and who would be the one to announce calls for articles or to ask the secretariat to put it on the website.

Mirek Kutal requests short information on all organizations and their projects are posted on the web.

TM explains the structure of the next newsletter (Annex 18). The issue will be more political including conferences, COP to the Carpathian Convention, after COP

movements etc. She thinks that it would be very interesting for CERI members to learn about points of conflicts and CERI's opinion.

JS says that the newsletter should be rather used for external communications. This has to be clarified at the next Board Meeting.

### **Agreements**

- The Communications Strategy will be completed after the development of the Action Plan.
- The Secretariat and Board Members will draft the Action Plan until the next Board Meeting.

### **12:05 Management Planning WG – Activities** by Milan Janak

1. According to the long-term vision of the WG, common standards for management plans for PA in the Carpathians are being set up. The task is not only a scientific issue but also include a political process. It has been worked out how to use these standards at the political level.

Common principles and objectives are derived from a document on common principles of management plans in the floodplain region Morava, Danube and Dyje (Trilateral Ramsar Platform; [http://www.ramsar.org/wg/w.n.trilateral\\_morava.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/wg/w.n.trilateral_morava.htm) ).

The main topics are transboundary cooperation, agriculture, hunting and fishing, environmental education as well as cross-cutting issues.

This document was adopted by official representatives of the 3 participating countries, Austria, Czech and Slovak Republic in 2003.

As management principles will be part of the ecological network design, the activity could be linked to the BBI-Matra project currently carried out by CERI. A link will be made to the Action Plan for the Biodiversity Protocol under the Carpathian Convention.

The principles will not only refer to restoration of habitats and species, but also will involve local communities.

2. Two management models for Annex 1 Habitat Directive species will be elaborated, one for plant and one for animal species with core distribution in the Carpathians. The two management models are part of a wider project supported by the EU (25 management models for selected habitats types). Daphne prepares 5 out of 25 habitats.

### **12:40 Lunch**

### **13:50 WG Working Sessions – Management Planning WG & Tourism WG** (CERI TWG project concept, Annex 19)

### **15:40 Discussion on the next GA**

There is no new offer. The next GA might be organized in the Czech Republic. For Ukrainians it has become more difficult to go to the new Schengen countries and the overall financing of such an event is crucial.

A Board Meeting will be organized after the EU Core decision.

JS thanks those who have prepared the GA, especially AG, the donors, BBI-Matra and the Brasov University, and for the logistics handled by Brasov University.

**15:55 End of General Assembly**