

## Progress report 2

**Project Title:** Building of Carpathian Biodiversity Information System and design of the ecological network for the Western Carpathians (“Aufbau des Carpathian Biodiversity Information System und Vorschläge für einen grenzüberschreitenden Biotopverbund in den Westkarpaten”)

**Reporting period:** 1 March – 30 June 2008

### Project team:

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**Country experts (third parties):** Jan Dusek (Daphne CZ), Jiri Koptík (Daphne CZ), Pavel Marhoul (Daphne CZ), Wojciech Mroz (PL), Anna Zięcik (PL), Kamil Najberek (PL), Joanna Perzanowska (PL), Katarzyna Staszyńska (PL), Grzegorz Cierlik (PL), István Csaba Botos (HU), Csaba Szigetvari (HU), David Kováts (HU), Katalin Hudák (HU), Ivan Jarolímek (SK), Milan Valachovic (SK), Michal Adamec (SK), Katarina Hegedusova (SK), Ján Kliment (SK), Tomáš Dražil (SK), Martina Badidova (SK)

**Project Activities according to the updated Activity Plan** (the numbers of activities follow the AP)

*1. Assess availability and reliability of data on biological and geo- aspects, maps and databases storing biodiversity data and of availability and reliability*

The country experts delivered the lists of references in standard excel work-sheets. The experts collected so far up to 250 references on vegetation, plants, animals, water, abiota, maps and geodata and existing databases. These references are being incorporated into databases on the occurrences of species and alliances by CERI GIS expert. The databases will be distributed back to the country experts and they will be filling in the data on distribution of the species and alliances in project countries.

*2. Refine the borders of the orographical units*

The country GIS experts checked and refined the borders and also the names of the orographical units. They delivered it to the CERI GIS expert for further processing into the database. The project area covers 148 orographical unit.

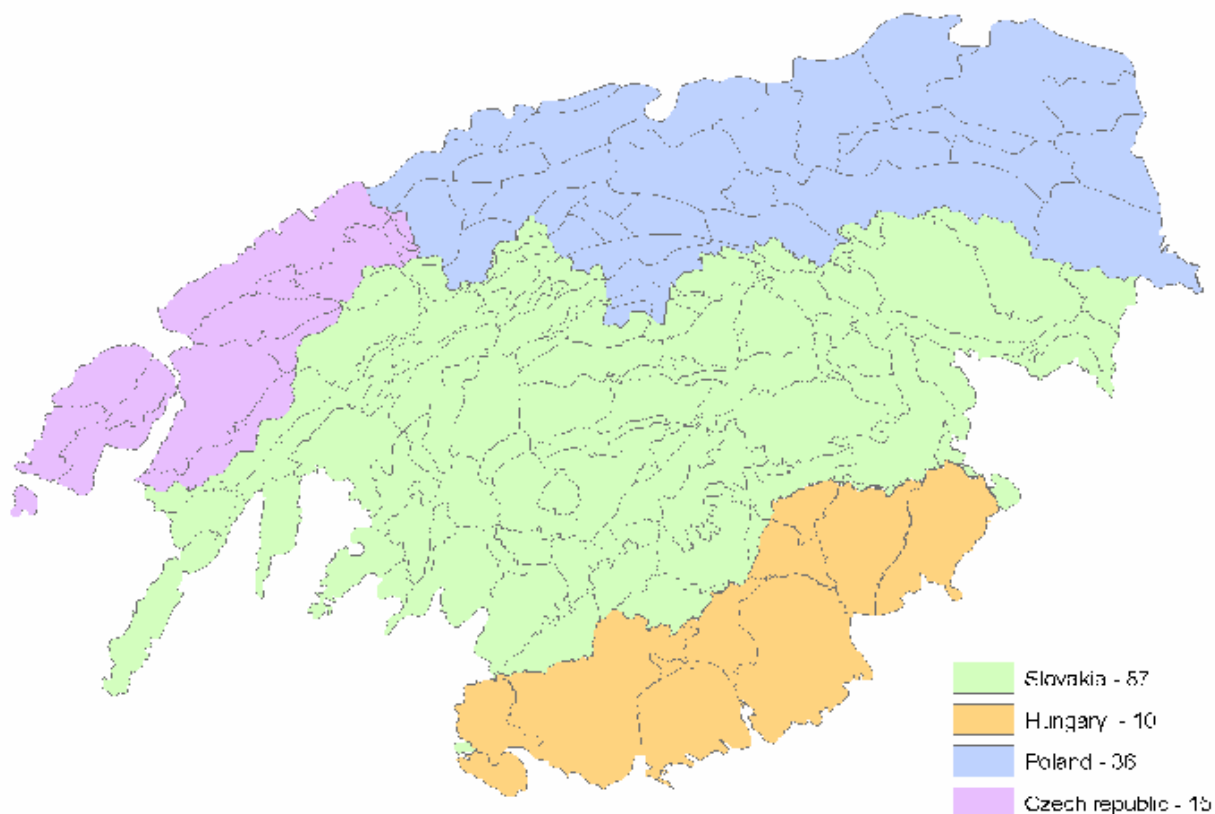


Fig. 1. Borders of orographical units in the project countries

### 3. Prepare national lists of plant species, animal species and habitats

The country experts continued this activity and finalized it by the end of the reporting period. Important milestone towards finalizing the list was second expert meeting, which was held on 2 June 2008 in Bratislava. The purpose of the meeting was to assess the first phase of biodiversity data collection, share experience with encountered problems, revise the drafts of the list in breakout groups (animals and plants + alliances) and to present logistic of collection of further data.

#### List of plant species

(Annex 5)

The experts checked 528 species, added 12 species, 246 of them occurs in the Western Carpathians

#### List of alliances

(Annex 6)

The experts checked 204 alliances, 187 of them occur in the Western Carpathians.

#### List of animal species

(Annex 7)

The experts checked 451 species, 429 of them occur in the Western Carpathians.

#### 4. Prepare the database and logistic for collection of GIS data (workflow)

During the reporting period the first three steps from the workflow below were completed. CERI GIS expert collected the data based on which he started to prepare country databases. The items 4 – 7 which are planned for the year 2008 were explained to the country experts.

**Workflow for the year 2008**  
instructions for national experts

**deadline for yellow part: Till the end of may 2008 before meeting**

- 1. Assessment of availability and reliability of databases storing biodiversity data**  
**Assessment of availability and reliability of data on biological aspects**
- 2. Refine the boundaries of the orographical units**
- 3. Preparation of the national list of habitats, plant species and animal species**
- 4. Database preparation and GIS data collection logistic**
- 5. Collecting the data on the distribution of habitats, plant species and animal species according to the final list**
- 6. Link of collected data to list of references**
- 7. Affinity of above mentioned biodiversity components to CORINE Land Cover units and altitude range**

#### 5. Collect the data on distribution of plant species, animal species and habitats according to the national lists, process the data into the databases and GIS layers

This activity will start after the databases will be distributed to the national team (July 2008).

#### 12. Prepare GIS layers for distributional data of priority conservation features

This activity will come after the distributional data are collected.

#### 13. Public relation

CERI actions towards building the Carpathian Biodiversity Information System (CBIS) which will play crucial role in design of the ecological network for the Western Carpathians were promoted through two releases during the reporting period. The first one is an interview on unique features of the Carpathians and importance to build the CBIS and consequently design the regional ecological network. The second one is narrative articles on CERI activities in the region published in a quarterly "Ochrana prírody Slovenska", issued by State Nature Conservancy.

Information on the project is being regularly updated CERI website ([www.carpates.org](http://www.carpates.org)). A subsite ([http://www.carpates.org/dbu\\_index.html](http://www.carpates.org/dbu_index.html)) was created and uploaded on CERI web to be a pool of information for the network of experts delivering the results as well as for the external audience.

## Meetings

### *1. Internal organisational meetings/communication*

The meeting was held 2 June in Bratislava with Axel Paulsch. The purpose of the meeting was to update on the work, discuss the activities towards ecological network design in the Alps (outcomes of the Inaugural Meeting of the Platform „Ecological Network“ under the Alpine Convention) and discuss the upcoming activities. Besides this meeting, regular exchange of information with German partner IBN was done by e-mail and skype.

### *2. Other meetings*

A meeting with Dr Ulrich Witte (Head of Department Environmental Communication and Protection of Cultural Assets) and Ms Romana Cermanova (representative of DBU foundation for the Czech Republic and Slovakia)

Dr Witte and Ms Cermanova visited the office of Daphne – Institute of Applied ecology, hosting also Secretariat of Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative on 14 May 2008, during their mission in Slovakia. The aim of the meeting was to give an overview of the activities which were supported by DBU foundation here in past as well as about the on-going activities and to discuss visions for potential cooperation in future. The CERI project as well as the other activities in the region were presented.

Science for Carpathians (S4C) – Strategy Development and Networking Workshop, organized by Jagiellonian University Kraków – Poland, Mountain Research Initiative, EURAC, Joanneum Research Graz, University of Applied Sciences Eberswalde – Germany, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin – Germany with a support of UNEP and Interim Secretariat of Carpathian Convention – Vienna, 27 – 28 May 2008, Kraków, Poland.

The objective of the meeting was to define the current status of Global Change research in the Carpathians in specific disciplines, to draft a research strategy for the Carpathians focusing on topics relevant to the region, to identify potential partners for jointly developing research proposals and projects on Global Change impacts in the Carpathian mountains and to establish an active S4C Network. CERI had possibility to present its current activities under the on-going projects to 72 participants from Poland, Slovakia, Ukraine, Romania, Hungary, Austria, Switzerland, Italy and Germany. More information on <http://www.carpates.org/news.html> and <http://mri.scnatweb.ch/events/mri-events/s4c-science-for-the-carpathians-27-28-may-2008-krakow-pl.html>.

National Seminar „Carpathian Convention and its implementation in Slovakia“ organized by REC Slovakia, REC, UNEP and EURAC, 2 – 3 June 2008, Modra, Slovakia

The workshop aimed at raising awareness about the Carpathian Convention and some of its key requirements and to serve as a capacity building exercise for national, regional and local authorities and to bring together a wide range of stakeholders for discussions and networking. The workshop was largely based on the findings and methodology of the Handbook on the Carpathian Convention. It also covered some of the key findings of the Regional Assessment of the Policy, Legislative and Institutional Frameworks Implementing Carpathian Convention. The key topics which were discussed during the workshops included biodiversity/nature protection, sustainable tourism and sustainable forestry/agriculture as well as public participation. CERI shared with the participants of the Seminar its experience from work towards protection of Carpathian and promoted the activities of this on-going project which can be carried out thanks to the funding from the DBU.

2nd Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention, 17-19 June 2008, Bucharest, Romania

The Carpathian Convention is a framework type convention pursuing a comprehensive policy and cooperating in the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians. The meeting in Bucharest was the second one. The main agenda items were: cooperation with EU, other conventions and international bodies, scope of application of the Carpathian Convention, permanent secretariat arrangements, preparation of the Ministerial Declaration, arrangements for COP 3. For high level segment the main items covered: achievements and future of the Carpathian process, stakeholders message, adoption and signature of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity. More information on [www.carpathianconvention.org](http://www.carpathianconvention.org). There were up to 150 registered participants of the Conference from seven Carpathian countries and international organisations

CERI organized a side event during the Conference. The programme of the event was to promote CERI activities towards design of Carpathian Ecological Network, which contribute to implementation of the Carpathian Convention and the adopted Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity.

2nd Exeprt meeting, 2 June 2008, Bratislava, Slovakia