

Progress report 3

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 July – 30 September 2008

Project team:

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

Three activities of the total list of twelve were ongoing during the 3rd quartal. Activity 4 – preparation of databases and logistic for further workflow, 5 – data collection and 12 – public relation. Preparation of the databases was prolonged (when confronted with Activity Plan) and databases were ready for the experts at the very beginning of September. Thus data collection process started in September and will be prolonged till the end of 2008. Subsequently, activity 6 (preparation of GIS layers) needed to be synchronized and it was shifted to the beginning of 2009. The achievements under the 3 reported activities are described below.

Activity 4 - Prepare the database and logistic for collection of GIS data (workflow)

The databases for the collection of occurrences of the plant and animal species and habitats in orographical units from the earlier created lists were finalized. They were placed on CERI website, so as they are easily accessible to the country expert teams and can be downloaded. Instructions for the collection of the precise data (preferably polygons) on occurrence of priority species and habitats were prepared too and included into the work flow. Instructions for the workflow were prepared as well and put on the website. Exhaustive information can be found on the CERI web: <http://www.carpates.org/dbu/workflow/workflow2008.html>, clicking on particular activities from the workflow (from 1 to 7), see below.

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

Activity 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

The country expert teams confirmed receipt of the databases, namely the information on their location for download and started to fill in the data according to the instruction. They also started to gather information on more precise occurrences for priority species and habitats. The experts are expected to deliver the databases by the end of 2008.

Activity 12 – Public relation

CERI activities supporting building Carpathian Biodiversity Information System and design of the ecological network for the territory of the Carpathians, were promoted through two press releases by press agency TASR and the portal Ekolist CZ Online.

Meetings

1. Internal organisational meetings/communication

Regular exchange of information with German partner IBN was done by e-mail and skype. The meeting with Axel Paulsch was held in 1 October 2008 in Banská Štiavnica, to get update on the achievements under the ongoing activities, update of the time plan and to clarify upcoming actions.

2. Other meetings

Target setting meeting: 9-10 September 2008

The aim of the expert meeting organized under BBI/Matra project “Design of a Carpathian Ecological Network” in Romania, Ukraine and Serbia was to set conservation targets for the conservation features. These targets will then be used as the building blocks for the ecological network. These targets will then be used to find the most suitable series of sites and locations to form the backbone of the ecological network once they are matched with the conservation feasibility data. During this meeting additional method how to collect data on occurrences of freshwater species and habitats was prepared. This method will record the

situation in a more sensitive way and will also be great contribution to this project in Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and Hungary.

1st CNPA (Carpathian Network of Protected Areas) Conference: 23-24 September 2008

CERI is an observer to the Steering Committee of the Carpathian Network of the Protected Areas (CNPA), a thematic network of mountain protected areas in the Carpathian region, established by the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention 1/14. The objective of the CNPA is to contribute to the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians, and in particular goals listed in Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention. The first CNPA conference took place 23 – 24 September 2008 in Poiana Brasov, Romania.

The conference is a platform for protected areas specialists to meet, network and discuss important issues. At the same time the conference's task is to promote the unique natural and cultural treasures of the Carpathians. CERI participated at this conference (up to 100 registered participants) and shared with the audience experience from on-going projects leading to the design of ecological network in the Carpathians.