

## **MEETING REPORT**

### **10<sup>th</sup> of March 2009, Brasov, Romania.**

- meeting started at 14.45.

**Introduction of the project** – Ioan Vasile Abrudan (Transilvania University of Brasov).

**Introduction to the Ecological Network concepts and presentation of the CBIS** – Mike Baltzer

Discussions:

- Mihai Pop (EPA Covasna) – the Romanian local authorities (County Councils, EPAs, municipalities, etc) do not have information about the Carpathian Convention. It should be done more in this regard.
- Ioan Abrudan (Transilvania University) – the project worked more on the technical issues but people such as Mike Baltzer knows more about the Carpathian Convention.
- Mike Baltzer (WWF DCPO) – information regarding status of Carpathian Convention in the region.
- Mihai Pop (EPA Covasna) – EPAs could offer in the future more information but all this process should be official (based on written agreements).
- Ioan Abrudan (Transilvania University) – the data base is from literature and this process is a starting point. There were no field checks done. Some of the species and habitats have good data, some of them do not have recent data. In the future, there is a need of field validation. The work was done on the level of orographic units and linked with affinities. Precise locations were done for priority species and habitats.
- George Predoiu (Transilvania University) – there is differences between countries. In Romania there is Natura 2000 system but in Serbia and Ukraine not.
- Ioan Abrudan (Transilvania University) – the ecological network efforts should continue in the future.
- Herman Van Wissen (Dutch Embassy) – the social data should be more highlighted and the link with this data should be more visible. The local authorities in Romania complained that they were not consulted during Natura 2000 sites designation process.
- Sebastian Catanoiu (Bison Land – Vanatori Neamt Natural Park) – there is a political issue regarding the delimitation of the Carpathian region. Why we included in the project data base also the Transilvanian Plateau, which is not a part of Carpathian Mountains?
- Ioan Abrudan (Transilvania University) – explained the inclusion of the Transilvanian Plateau – it was included due to biodiversity linkages and importance.
- Mike Baltzer (WWF DCPO) – explained the issues regarding borders of the ecoregion. Each country should designate the areas by themselves. In Serbia they extend the area. In Romania, they excluded the Transilvanian Plateau.
- Mihai Pop (EPA Covasna) – MESD have an INPSIRE project for an environmental data base. CERI should contact this project and cooperate with them in the future.
- Ioan Abrudan (Transilvania University) – INSPIRE is a good collaboration option. We know about this and we will cooperate with them.
- Mihai Pop (EPA Covasna) – the data bases in Romania are not build based on common approaches and do not fit each other.

**Ecological Networks** – Mike Baltzer

Discussions:

- Ioan Abrudan (Transilvania Uni) – next step is to check all the light green areas (additional areas for the network).
- Herman van Wissen (Dutch Embassy) – the grey areas – it should be also checked
- Mike Baltzer (WWF DCPO) – grey areas will have a dedicated section in the project report.
- Sebastian Catanoiu (BISON LAND) – explore the grey areas in the Eastern Romanian Carpathians. Certainly there is a lack of data there because there are areas with high biodiversity.
- George Predoiu (Transilvania Uni) – the map presented is not suitable for large carnivore species (high density areas of LC are not designated as core areas or corridors). This is the case of Eastern Romanian Carpathians. On the other hand, the SW part of Romania has low densities.
- Ioan Abrudan (Transilvania Uni) – is not a map of the Ecological Network in Romanian Carpathians – is a starting point for future actions – both in green and grey areas.

Meeting finished at 16.45.

**Main conclusion:** - the presentations and discussions should be more detailed on groups of species and more people should be involved in this process. Probably this is the main activity for a future project. There are initiatives that can be included in such project (ECONET on bison, ECONET on wolves, bears and lynxes, ECONET on wild cat, etc.).

**List of participants:**

- were invited about 40 persons from different institutions with relevant activity in Carpathians (Ministry of Transport, Tourism, Environment, Agriculture, Internal Affairs).

- due to significant changes in these ministries and critical reduction of budgets, nobody from central authorities attended the meeting. This is a signal that authorities are not aware and not interested to actively participate in such a network. Further efforts should be done on this issue.

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