

## Progress report 1

**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 February – 31 March 2008

### **Project team:**

**CERI:** Anna Guttová, Jan Seffer, Viera Stanova, Rasto Lasak, Milan Janak

**Country experts (third parties):** Jan Dusek (Daphne CZ), Jiri Koptík (Daphne CZ), Pavel Marhoul (Daphne CZ), Wojciech Mroz (PL), Joanna Perzanowska (PL), Katarzyna Staszyńska (PL), Grzegorz Cierlik (PL), István Csaba Botos (HU), Csaba Szigetvari (HU), Katalin Hudák (HU), Ivan Jarolímek (SK), Milan Valachovic (SK), Katarina Hegedusova (SK), Martina Badidova (SK)

### **Project Activities according to the updated Activity Plan (Annex 1)**

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

The activity and its purpose was clarified to the country experts at the kick-off meeting. Standard excel work-sheets were prepared for country experts, who start collecting the information on the biological and geographical aspects in their countries. The assessment is planned to be completed during the following reporting period.

#### *2. Refine the borders of the orographical units*

The necessity to refine the borders of the orographical units and the source documents were presented to the country experts at the kick-off meeting. The package of source documents was prepared for country GIS experts to perform the work (existing boundaries of orographical units in “Pulkovo\_1942\_GK\_Zone 4” and “GCS\_WGS\_1984” projection systems). Further resources which are needed for the work are general geographical map or other GIS resource in scale 1:200000 (e.g. Digital Elevation Model with 90 m per pixel). GIS experts are checking and refining the borders and also the names of the orographical units. Like the previous activity, also refinement of the borders of orographical units is planned to be completed during the following reporting period.

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

The activity and the particular steps were clarified to the country experts at the kick-off meeting. The working lists for the 3 groups – habitats, plants and animals, were assembled by CERI experts. They were spread to country experts who are revising or if necessary supplementing them. Preparation of the national lists is planned to be completed in the following reporting period, after the second expert meeting. The purpose of this meeting will be to explain next phase of the work – collection of the data on distribution of habitats and species from the lists and to discuss potential questions and expected problems identified during the preparation of the national lists.

#### *4. Public relation*

To promote the project activities, two press releases were prepared after the kick off meeting in March: one for a Slovak daily SME ([www.sme.sk](http://www.sme.sk)) and another one for Mountain Research Initiative web page ([mri.scnatweb.ch](http://mri.scnatweb.ch)). Updated information on the project was put on a CERI website ([www.carpates.org](http://www.carpates.org)) and to promote in on Slovak level also on the website of Daphne ([www.daphne.sk](http://www.daphne.sk)). A special project site which will be place on the CERI website is under preparation.

### **Meetings**

#### *1. Internal organisational meeting*

The meeting was held 15 January 2008 in Bratislava, prior to the start of the project. Participants: German beneficiary – IBN: Axel Paulsch, Thomas Kamp, partner organisation CERI – Jan Seffer and Anna Guttova. The purpose of the meeting was to finalize and sign the contract, update the activity plan and discuss the upcoming activities.

#### *2. Other meetings*

A meeting to identify priority areas for future activities in the Carpathians, with an emphasis on Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and Hungary with a perspective to use the opportunity of Swiss Contribution Funds to EU Enlargement

This meeting was held 18 February 2008 in Vienna at the Interim Secretariat of Carpathian Convention. CERI promoted the on-going activities towards building Carpathian Biodiversity Information System and design of a Carpathian Ecological Network here and outlined the fields of potential future projects supporting the issues linked to biodiversity and the work on Biodiversity Protocol. The meeting was attended by 24 participants – parties to the Carpathian Convention, representants of MoEs from the four Carpathian countries countries and regional NGOs. More information on [www.carpathianconvention.org](http://www.carpathianconvention.org).

#### Project kick-off

Project kick off meeting of all the parties was held 3 – 5 March 2008 in Bratislava. The participants included Project Management Team – Axel Paulsch (IBN), Anna Guttova, Jan Seffer, Viera Stanova, Rasto Lasak and Milan Janak (CERI) and the country experts. The purpose of the meeting was to explain and clarify the process of biodiversity data collection and work flow for the experts from Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and Hungary and to link the process of design the Carpathian Ecological Network in the BBI-Matra project countries (Ukraine, Romania and Serbia), with an emphasis on the building of Carpathian Biodiversity Information System.

On the day 1 the experts were introduced to the process of developing the GIS database for the Carpathians (first comprehensive steps to demonstrate the value of the Carpathians and current state of the art) and then CERI experts presented the road map for implementation of the project activities. They demonstrated the steps how the GIS and database for the Carpathians is being developed, they clarified how to prepare national list of habitats, plants and animals, looking back to the genesis of the existing reference list, lessons learnt from the previous work, experience and tips from data collection under BBI Matra project.

Great benefit for the implementation of the initial project activities was a support from BBI-Matra project, which enabled to link the meeting of the experts from Western Carpathian countries with the experts from South-eastern Carpathians, who work under the BBI-Matra

project. Thus they could see the outputs of the collection of the same type of data in the South-eastern Carpathians, hear about the encountered problems and tips how to avoid them. Furthermore one session of a discussion on the scope and contents of the common publication (teams Ukraine, Romania, Serbia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland and Hungary) was held.