

The Carpathian Ecoregion Action Plan and Biodiversity Protocol under the Carpathian Convention: A Sustainable Framework for Cooperation

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CERI General Assembly

Brasov, Romania 2005



What is the GEF?

- The ‘Global Environmental Facility’, established in 1991, in anticipation of the Rio Summit
- Managed by UNDP, UNEP and World Bank in 174 countries
- Helps developing countries fund projects and programs that protect the global environment

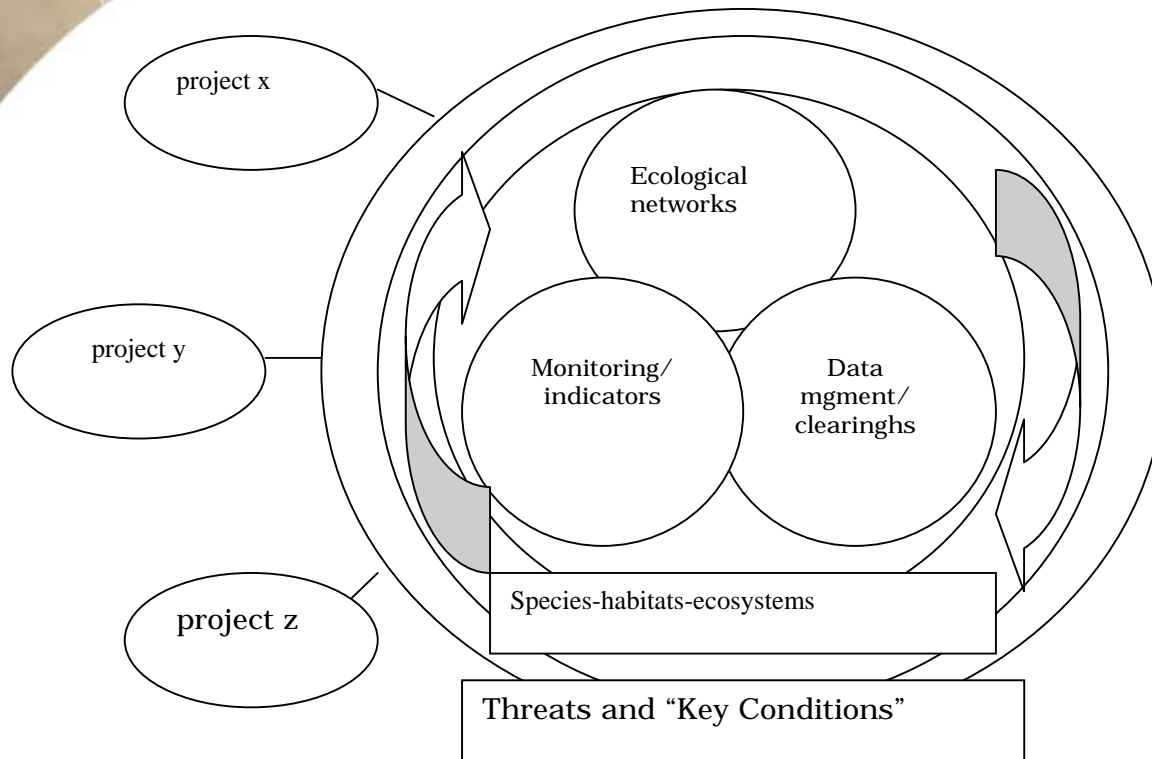




Why a 'Carpathians GEF'?

- Coordinated planning at the ecoregional level
- Mutual engagement and complementarity between the EU and non-EU states in policy development and implementation
- Rare opportunity for multilateral leadership: UNDP, UNEP, World Bank, CERI, WWF, others
- Systemic capacity-building and operationalization of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas
- Last chance to get a GEF covering the Carpathians

Why is the GEF for CERI?



- Lead design on EAP
- Chance to revisit Status Report Assessment
- Model projects link in

PDF-B phase

A full-sized GEF for the Carpathians

**“BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN THE
CARPATHIANS THROUGH AN ENHANCED
PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM AND
CONNECTIVITY OF AN ECOLOGICAL NETWORK”**

A photograph of a brown bear swimming in a river, with its head and front paws visible above the water.

Goal and Key Objectives

EXPECTED GOAL: To contribute to improved protection of the globally important biodiversity of the Carpathians and its critical role in the sustainable development of the region, on common multinational basis.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE: To strengthen the systemic capacity and sustainability of selected sub-systems of protected areas in order to support and maintain a functional ecological network in the Carpathians using ecoregion- and ecosystem- based approaches

How it will work

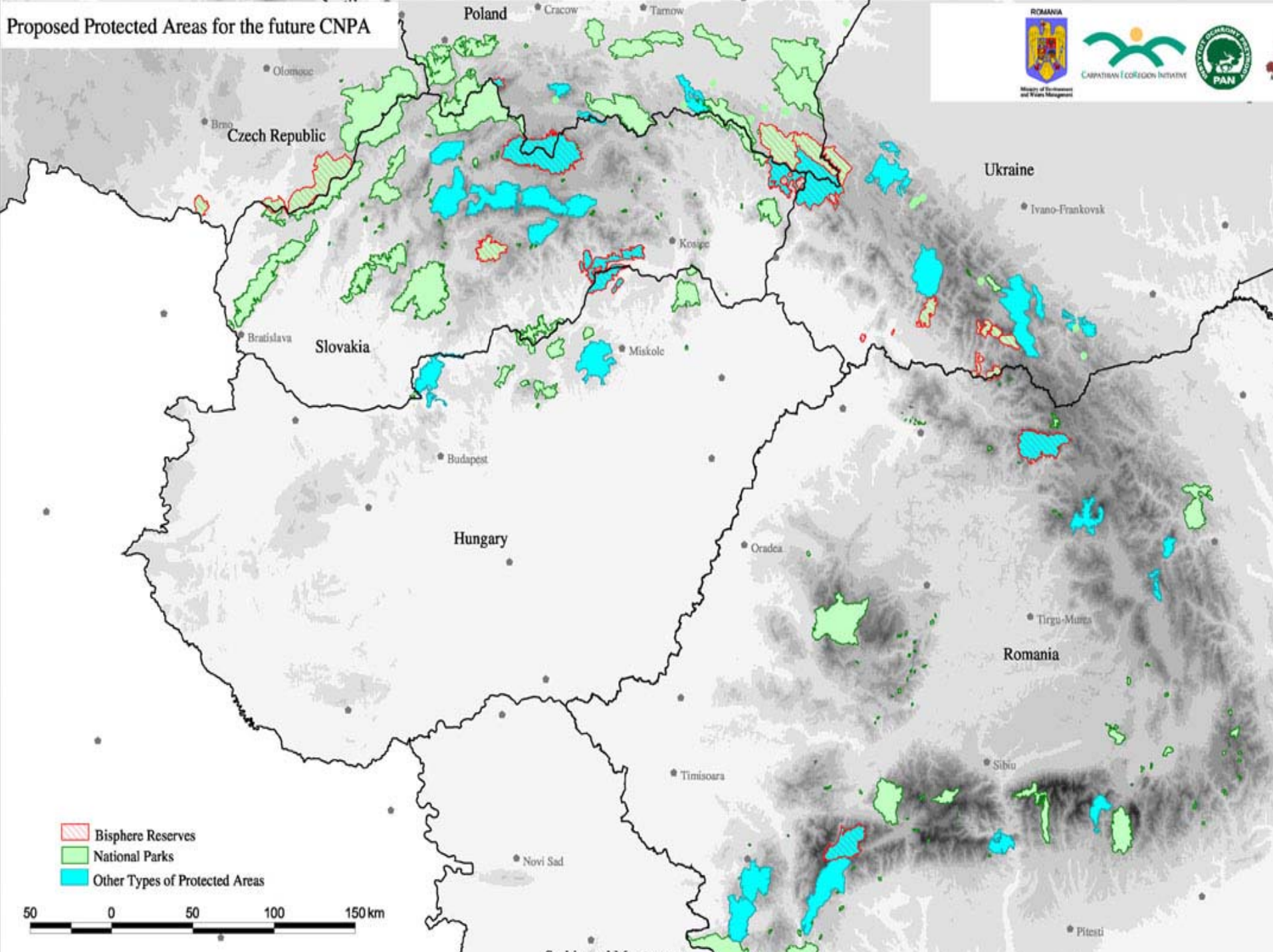
PLANNING

- PDF-A: UNEP and CERI lead stakeholder consultations (25K eur, 3 months)
- PDF-B (750K eur, 18 months):
 - EAP designed (revisit biodiversity assessment) to serve as a “roadmap” to prioritize conservation actions and guide investments in full-sized project
 - Set up of Carpathian Trust Fund
 - Operationalization of CNPA
 - Set-up of Carpathian Clearinghouse
 - Implementation of pilot activities and model projects to test interventions
 - Design of Biodiversity Protocol based on results of these actions
 - Strategies for removing key financial and institutional barriers to implementation of EAP and BD protocol

IMPLEMENTATION

- Full-sized project (1 million/country + EU co-finance, 3-5 years):
 - Strengthening and increasing SA of existings PAs, buffer zones, etc.
 - Mitigating extent of habitat conversion
 - Establishment of small grants program under CERI
 - “Corporate identity” of the CNPA
 - Implementation of transboundary projects along ecological network
 - Implementation of BD protocol and legislative measures to ensure its enforcement via other EU laws

Proposed Protected Areas for the future CNPA



Recent (and final!?) improvements to the latest concept

- **Focused and refined scope and root causes:**
 - **Threats to PAs/corridors mainly through habitat conversion through agriculture (but also some infrastructure, where addressable)**
- **Clarification of implementation arrangements by major partners**
- **Clarification of BD-1: Catalyzing the Sustainability of PAs**
 - **Capacity-building: long-term strengthening of selected sets of PAs through interventions inside and out through the Biodiversity Protocol (governments)**
 - **Sustainability through the CNPA through knowledge transfer throughout the network**
 - **Replication through CERi through sustainable finance and monitoring, institutionalized through the Carpathian Convention (Trust Fund, small grants projects)**

Current status of the project

- **UNDP approves of the concept of the ecoregion-based approach..to make a final decision well before 1st COP**
 - **Government endorsements**
 - **Proof that CNPA can be a viable mechanism for achieving enhanced PA management at the regional level (Bolzano)**
 - **Proof that the GEF is critical to implementing the Convention, developing the Biodiversity Protocol**
 - **Complementarity and cooperation with other GEF/non-GEF projects: Tisza GEF, Biosphere Reserve MSP, transport consultation work (EURAC), REC's assesement (for inputs into EAP)**
 - **Any last inputs/comments from govts/NGOs??**

Potential role for CERI during various phases

- PDF-A (Summer 2005)
 - “Stakeholder consultations” with UNEP-ISCC
 - CERI Chair, Vice-Chair and Coordinator lead (+CBD focal points, relevant regional and national authorities)
- PDF-B (Fall 2005 – Winter 2007)
 - Design of EAP and Biodiversity Protocol
 - CERI/CNPA (biodiversity?) workgroup and coordinator part lead together with consultant/project management team
 - “Demonstration projects” relevant to GEF’s goals
 - Qualified projects from CERI network and others
 - Establishment of “Carpathian Clearinghouse” for data
 - CERI (data management?) workgroup together with consultant/project management team

CERI core costs (workgroups, Secretariat) will also attempt to be covered during this phase!

Potential role for CERI during various phases

- Full-sized project (2007-2012)
 - Small grants projects
 - Implementation of transboundary and other projects as determined priorities of the EAP, including key segments of the ecological network