

ANNEX 1

S T A T U T E S

CARPATHIAN ECOREGION INITIATIVE

PREAMBLE

The Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative, hereafter referred to as the CERI (formerly the 'CEI'), was established by the WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme in 1999 as an international network of organizations and experts working for the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians.

The Initiative began as a reconnaissance exercise, a multi-disciplinary review of the basic biodiversity features and main environmental threats of the region, and continued with an assessments phase consisting of biodiversity and socio-economic assessments. Both provided the basis for the general 'Vision Statement' of the Carpathians: *"to achieve the long-term conservation of the unique nature of the globally important Carpathian mountains, and, at the same time, support its economy and culture for the lasting benefit of people through international partnership"*.

This vision statement was used to drive the signing of high-level conservation commitments by the governments of Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Ukraine, Hungary, Romania, Serbia & Montenegro in the form of the Bucharest Summit in April 2001 and the Kiev Conference Environment in Europe in May 2003. The Carpathian countries referred to in these statutes comprise the 7 countries which signed the Draft Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention).

ARTICLE 1

Name and status

- (1) The name of the organization is Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative, abbreviated as CERI (hereinafter referred to as "CERI").
- (2) CERI is a non-governmental, non-profit, politically independent organization founded in the Slovak Republic as the legal entities association according to §20f of the Civil Code, licensed to operate as an international organization according to the Act No. 116/1985 on the acting of organizations with international subjects.
- (3) The seat of the organization is hosted by the DAPHNE Institute of Applied Ecology, Podunajská 24, 821 06, Bratislava, Slovak Republic.
- (4) CERI is a legal entity.

ARTICLE 2

Mission and objectives

- (1) The mission of CERI is to achieve the long-term conservation of unique nature in the globally important Carpathian Mountains and simultaneously support the local

economy and culture for the benefit of local people, supported by international cooperation.

CERI promotes international cooperation and supports the support and coordination of activities relevant for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development of the Carpathian region.

- (2) CERI organizes mutually beneficial expert meetings and conferences, obtains resources from public sources relevant for functioning, cooperates with subjects working on these topics and represents their members.
- (3) CERI will meet aims using an approach that is:
 - a) Visionary and large-scale
 - b) Science-based
 - c) Participatory
- (4) CERI will act on a regional scale through communication, co-ordination, representation, fundraising and project implementation.

ARTICLE 3

Membership

- (1) Membership is open to NGOs, academic and research institutes committed to sign up to the vision statement in the Preamble and accepting the CERI Statutes.
- (2) Any member of CERI may nominate a candidate for membership through written notice sent to the Secretariat. The Board may grant temporary membership until the decision of admission by the General Assembly.
- (3) Written application should contain the name, location, identification number and other follow-up information of the applicant according to the requirements of the CERI Board. Candidates for membership should explicitly declare in written form that they accept the CERI statutes and agree with the vision statement mentioned in the Preamble. The attachment to the application must include a copy of the abstract from the relevant registry of the legal entities association indicating the status of the organization during the time the application is submitted for membership, together with a copy of its statutes or other basic legal document registered by the relevant office. The attachment must also include a profile of the organization and a recommendation of at least one organization as a potential member of CERI.
- (4) Rights of members:
 - a) equal access to all information, resources, services and access to all communication originated by the network.
 - b) equal rights to apply for funds available within the network.
 - c) right to participate in General Assembly meetings.
- (5) Obligations of members:
 - a) Payment of the annual membership fee.
 - b) acting in conformity with the CERI vision and objectives.

- (6) Membership is free of charge in the first year after approval of General Assembly. In the following years each member shall pay an annual membership fee at least 30 days before the General Assembly. In case the membership fee is not paid by the given deadline, the member has no right to vote at the General Assembly.
- (7) Membership fees as regular income shall contribute to the operational costs of CERI and the amount of membership fee shall be defined by the General Assembly.
- (8) Membership originates:
 - a) by obtaining permission for the development of activities (for founder organizations);
 - b) by approval of the General Assembly (for new members). The Board can offer temporary membership until the General Assembly decides to admit new members.
- (9) Membership terminates:
 - a) on the basis of a written decision by the member;
 - b) if the membership fee has not been paid for more than one year;
 - c) by decision of the General Assembly to terminate the organization's membership within the CERI, if it acts contrary to CERI objectives according to General Assembly;
 - d) by termination of the legal entity, if their rights and obligations do not apply to its legal successor;
 - e) The CERI Board can temporarily suspend membership until the decision of the General Assembly. .

ARTICLE 4

CERI National Focal Points

- (1) CERI members from each Carpathian country elect one national member as CERI National Focal Point representative.
- (2) CERI National Focal Points shall be elected every two years, and must fulfill the following conditions:
 - a) legally registered organization working on Carpathian environmental issues;
 - b) technical communication tools, computer skills;
 - c) two staff persons fluent in English;
 - d) the Board can decide on the election of National Focal Points earlier than 2 years, if the above conditions are not fulfilled.
- (3) CERI National Focal Points are nationally coordinating organizations responsible for CERI activities on the national level with a mandate to represent the Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative at the national level.

ARTICLE 5

CERI Bodies

- (1) CERI bodies are:
 - a) General Assembly,

- b) Board,
- c) Secretariat.

ARTICLE 6

General Assembly

- (1) The highest decision-making body of the CERI is the General Assembly, convened at least once a year. The General Assembly takes decisions by a majority of votes unless these Statutes stipulate otherwise. The General Assembly is comprised of all members of the CERI, represented by statutory delegates or authorized delegates. Authorization of delegates must be in written form and submitted to the Chair of the meeting before the start of the meeting, otherwise the vote of the members is not accepted.
- (2) Extraordinary General Assemblies may be convened upon the request of at least one third of CERI members.
- (3) Members of the CERI shall be informed about the meeting of the General Assembly at least 30 days prior to the meeting, while the agenda and background documents shall be sent at least 20 days before it. The General Assembly may decide to discuss matters which are not included in the agenda, except the issues to be decided by the qualified majority.
- (4) The General Assembly constitutes a quorum if the majority of CERI members and a majority of Carpathian countries are present.
- (5) The meetings are public unless the General Assembly decides otherwise.
- (6) The General Assembly decides on:
 - a) approval of amendments to the Statutes;
 - b) approval or dismissal of CERI members;
 - c) separation, unification with other associations or CERI dissolution;
 - d) approval of the annual budget of the CERI, membership fee and acceptance of the annual fiscal and activity reports of the CERI Secretariat;
 - e) workplan of CERI;
 - f) formation of a scientific advisory committee and workgroups, and election of members to constitute those bodies;
 - g) selection of the date and venue of the next General Assembly meeting;
 - h) any other issues the General Assembly considers important.
- (7) Decisions on questions regarding par. (6) letters a), b) and c) are based on a two-thirds majority of the votes of members present.

ARTICLE 7

CERI Board

- (1) The CERI Board is the highest body of CERI during the period between the sessions of the General Assembly and it is also its statutory body. It has a minimum of 5 members, and a maximum of 8. Except the first year, the functional period of the CERI Board is 2 years.

- (2) The CERI Board represents CERI at the Carpathian regional level.
- (3) The CERI Board consists of CERI National Focal Point representatives plus a representative of the WWF-Danube Carpathian Programme.
- (4) The Board elects a Chair and Vice-chair among its members.
- (5) The CERI Board can invite non-voting observers to its Board meetings.
- (6) CERI Board meetings shall be held at least twice a year.
- (7) The Chair convenes the meeting of the CERI Board by announcing the request for convocation of the CERI Board meeting to the CERI Secretariat. The Secretary shall announce the date and place of the Board meeting to every member of the CERI Board at least 14 days before the meeting. The Secretary also convenes CERI Board meetings in cases when the majority of CERI Board members request it.
- (8) Chair and the Vice-chair jointly have signatory power.
- (9) The Vice-chair can take over the duties of the Chair in case of his-her absence.
- (10) A decision taken by the Board is valid if approved by a majority of Board members.
- (11) CERI Board members are also allowed to take decisions outside of their meetings. Any member of the CERI Board can submit the proposed decision. The proposal has to be submitted to the other CERI Board members in written form, by fax or mail, including the deadline for delivering the proposal. If a CERI Board member does not reply in the given time period in the means described above, it is taken as his disapproval. The CERI Secretariat shall inform CERI Board members about the results of its decision within seven days from the given deadline.

ARTICLE 8

CERI Secretariat

- (1) The CERI Secretariat is located in the place of the seat of one of the CERI Board members according to the decision of the CERI Board. The CERI Board chooses the staff of the Secretariat, unless otherwise delegated.
- (2) Main tasks of the Secretariat include:
 - a) providing institutional and administrative support for CERI development;
 - b) providing support and maintaining internal and external communication;
 - c) preparing all internal CERI meetings and trainings;
 - d) overseeing and coordinating CERI programmes;
 - e) liaising with the (interim) Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention.

ARTICLE 9

Financial issues

- (1) CERI manages its holdings according to the general obligatory legal rules based on the principles of management and budget approved by the General Assembly for the relevant calendar year.

- (2) The holdings of the CERI consist mainly of:
 - a) annual membership fees of members;
 - b) donations and fees of third parties;
 - c) donations from state bodies and funds;
 - d) grants.
- (3) Expenses of the CERI are mainly for:
 - a) day to day operation and events organized by the CERI.
- (4) The economic activities of the CERI shall be conducted in line with its basic aims and objectives. All revenues of the CERI shall be used in harmony with these Statutes to achieve CERI goals. CERI does not generate any profit and is not a business pursuant to par. 2 of the Commercial Code.

ARTICLE 10

Deletion and liquidation of the CERI

- (1) The CERI can be deleted through liquidation or otherwise through legal succession (by affiliation, merger or division) based on:
 - a) decision of the CERI Board, after it has not been proven possible to legally convene the General Assembly three times;
 - b) secession of the penultimate member or otherwise, once the interests of members from at least two Carpathian countries are no longer represented by CERI;
 - c) decision of the General Assembly after obtaining a two-thirds quorum from all members of CERI.
- (2) If deletion with liquidation results, the rights, settlements, holdings and duties will be decided by the liquidator, which is nominated by the CERI Board. The CERI Board shall also determine payment for the liquidator. The distribution of the balance after liquidation shall be decided by the CERI Board.
- (3) Proposal of CERI for liquidation, and entry of the liquidator into the register of the legal entities association advances the chair of CERI Board 5 days before acceptance of the decision to delete CERI through liquidation.
- (4) The day upon which the liquidator is recorded into the register of the legal entities association, the person acting as liquidator has the right to act in the name of CERI. The liquidator is allowed to act in the name of CERI only in cases connected with the liquidation.
- (5) On the day of liquidation, the liquidator compiles the account balances and submits them to the General Assembly for approval. 30 days before its registration into the register of legal entities associations as being liquidated, the liquidator creates an introductory liquidation account balance sheet and sends it to the CERI Board, together with the liquidation plan and minutes concerning the extraordinary inventory of managing tools originating once liquidation commences.
- (6) The liquidator is obliged during the liquidation period:
 - a) To balance taxes, deliveries and charges,

- b) To balance duties and claims,
 - c) To commercialize CERI holdings in the most manageable and efficient manner.
- (7) The liquidator compiles final account balances once liquidation is terminated and submits them to the CERI Board for approval, together with the final report about the liquidation process.
- (8) 30 days before liquidation is terminated, the liquidator must inform the Regional office in Bratislava, Department of General Interior Administration about the proposal to delete the CERI from the register of legal entities associations.
- (9) The CERI is considered terminated on the day it is deleted from the register of legal entities associations.

ARTICLE 11 **Effectiveness**

The founders of CERI were familiarized with the Statutes and agree with the wording contained within them. The effectiveness of the Statutes enters into force on the day the legal entities association is founded, according to the Founder's Agreement of 1.12.2004.

ANNEX 2



The Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative NATIONAL FOCAL POINT Terms of Reference

- Adhere to the requirements listed in Article 4 of the CERI Statutes, in particular, representing a nationally coordinating organization responsible for CERI activities on the national level with a mandate to represent the Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative at the national level
- Attend board meetings, general assemblies and other internal meetings
- Help organize the program content of board meetings, general assemblies and other internal meetings
- Help draft and implement the rules of procedure for the new legal entity
- Provide overall direction (principles, mission, strategy) and guidance on the ecoregion planning process involving governments, civil society and businesses
- Raise the profile of the new CERI both nationally and regionally
- Build the basis for creating, understanding and building political support for the CERI
- Provide specific advice and endorsements on model projects submitted to the Secretariat
- Review reports, fact sheets and other literature produced by the working groups
- Lobby, fundraise and engage in ‘ambassadorial’ activities
- Work with UNEP-ISCC, as necessary, on the workplan for the draft framework Carpathian Convention

ANNEX 3

Summary of Rule

Rule: Functioning of the Board

Background/Progress:

At the CERI Update Meeting in the Tatras, November 2004, it was discussed that the interim National Focal Points (Board members) start to become proactive as coordinating bodies in their countries. It was also discussed that the Secretariat needed to be somehow made accountable to the Board, but this issue will be treated by the ROF for Secretariat.

Article 8 of CERI Statutes mentions that:

The CERI Board represents CERI at the Carpathian regional level.

The CERI Board can invite non-voting observers to its Board meetings.

CERI Board meetings shall be held at least twice a year.

CERI Board members are also allowed to take decisions outside of their meetings. Any member of the CERI Board can submit the proposed decision. The proposal has to be submitted to the other CERI Board members in written form, by fax or mail, including the deadline for delivering the proposal. If a CERI Board member does not reply in the given time period in the means described above, it is taken as his disapproval. The CERI Secretariat shall inform CERI Board members about the results of its decision within seven days from the given deadline.

Therefore, these rules should further detail these 5 provisions of the Statues

Document(s):

Action and /or proposed resolutions under the Rule:

- (a) The CERI Board members should keep a record of all their statements/references to CERI (written or in mass-media) and present it to the Board during its meeting (at least twice a year);
- (b) Whenever possible (considering the budget available and organizational constraints) CERI Board meetings should be held by rotation in each CERI country;
- (c) When a non-voting observer is invited to a CERI Board meeting, all Board members should be announced 2 weeks in advance and a justification for the observer's presence should be provided;

ANNEX 4

Summary of Rule

Rule: Functioning of the Secretariat

Background/Progress:

At the CERI Update Meeting in the Tatras, November 2004, it was discussed that the opinions on role of the Secretariat were still divided (“leading” vs. merely “coordinating”), but that the interim National Focal Points (Board members) start to become proactive as coordinating bodies in their countries. It was also discussed that the Secretariat needed to be somehow made accountable to the Board, and this was included in the statutes but not fully fleshed out. Finally, it was discussed that the role of DCP – as the Secretariat for CERI – was to lay the foundations (financial, institutional, technical) for the network to be able to run as part of the CERI as an independent organization.

As the interim Secretariat for the CERI, WWF-DCP will continue to contribute to CERI by providing critical financial, administrative and technical support in 2006 – however the financial and administrative support will be slowly phased out by the end of FY06 through a series of critical institutional changes. The Coordinator will be charged with helping the board raise core funds for CY06, and if she is successful, would raise funds for the continuation of support for the WWF Carpathian Ecoregion program, largely responsible for coordinating DCP’s input into the GEF projects as well as helping CERI develop a workplan with the GEF as a major component of it. The CERI board should then decide around January, when it knows whether its bid for core funding is successful, where the future Secretariat should sit and whether DCP should now ‘host’ the Secretariat or whether the Secretariat should be moved to Slovakia or another Carpathian member organization, and should start actively recruiting for this position. The Carpathian Ecoregion Coordinator would then continue to transfer financial and administrative responsibilities over to the CERI. A more complete description is included in the table attached as ‘Annex A.’

Therefore, these rules should address the general need for a Secretariat, the relationship of the Secretariat and its responsibilities to the board, and the relationship of the Secretariat and its responsibilities to CERI members. Finally, these rules should address the potential role for the Secretariat in terms of building up the capacities for the future Secretariat and board - including the extent to which the interim Secretariat should ‘lead versus coordinate,’ the substance of CERI’s work programmes (CERI Statutes - Article 8, para 2d).

Document(s): Annex A: CERI Secretariat Workplan with Institutional Milestones

Action and /or proposed resolutions under the Rule:

- (d) The Secretariat shall be responsible, under the instruction and leadership of the board, for providing all necessary institutional, financial, administrative and technical support to CERI
- (e) The Secretariat will be answerable to the Board.
- (f) A member organisation will be contracted to provide the Secretariat by the CERI board. The nominated organisation will be reviewed each year at the General Assembly. The organisation hosting the secretariat will give at least three months notice should it want to halt this arrangement. The CERI board will give at least three months notice if it intends to change the organisation hosting CERI.
- (g) The Secretariat will be managed by a „CERI Coordinator“. The Coordinator will be responsible for creating and maintaining an efficient Secretariat to meet the needs of CERI members
- (h) The Secretariat will be use the Carpathian Ecoregion Action Plan as its major programmatic guidance, will be the focal point for CERI members for the Plan, will liase with the (interim) Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and coordinate and monitor CERI members contribution to the plan.
- (i) The role of the Secretariat and its terms of reference will be reviewed annually.

Annex 4A: CERI Secretariat Workplan with Institutional Milestones

Goal: CERI achieves financial independence from WWF-DCP by June 2006

| Activity | Purpose | Institutional Milestone/ Progress toward goal | Timeframe |
|---|--|--|---------------------|
| General Assembly (includes first stakeholder consultation as part of the PDF-A) | Transfer of some fundraising responsibilities via discussion of workplan during GA | | June 2005 |
| Protected Area Action Plan Workshop (includes second stakeholder consultation as part of the PDF-A) | | | June 2005 |
| DOEN Tour | 'Flagship' CERI projects should emerge from this and be used as demonstration projects in the PDF-B this year, and also to generate future interest in DOEN investment | | June 2005 |
| Drafting EU Proposal | To raise funds for CERI core needs (110.000 needed for ideal running of Secretariat). Need to have funds in account to apply for EU money | Open bank account for CERI in Slovakia/transfer some core funds from GA | June-September 2005 |
| Drafting Pin-MATRA proposal | To develop ecological network and 'clearinghouse' capacities of CERI: Creation of indicator-based monitoring program to set baseline for all projects and plans, including the establishment of a 'Carpathian Clearinghouse' under CERI as a meta-database – | Include in the project plan, transfer of all key administrative functions of CERI. | June-July 2005 |
| Drafting CADSES Proposal | For EU co-finance for the GEF – to increase CERI and CNPA capacities | | June-July 2005 |
| Drafting PDF-B application | | | July – September 05 |
| Fourth Ad Hoc Expert Meeting, Bolzano (includes third stakeholder | | | September 2005 |

| | | | |
|---|---|--|----------------|
| consultation meeting as part of the PDF-A) | | | |
| CERI Board meeting | | Draft business plan – includes workplan for phasing over remaining financial, technical and administrative tasks from DCP to CERI through June 2006 | September 2005 |
| Kick-off workshop for PDF-B/joint media event | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of priority areas for investment (hotspots) through the EAP based on target species, communities and habitats (PDF-B) • Design and establishment of small grants scheme | | October 2005 |
| Carpathian Convention Ministerial Meeting – CERI Side Event | | Signing of MoU recognizing CERI as an independent organization leading the GEF process | October 2005 |
| Study tour of the C.A.P.E. – bring key decision-makers from Carpathians GEF to South Africa during their stakeholder event to get guidance on planning and design of the Action Plan, PDF-B | | Start actively recruiting independent (Slovakia-based) CERI Coordinator or Director and Communications person or 'node'/NGO, once core funding secured | January 2006 |
| Installation of CERI secretariat based on non- WWF funding sources | Funding proposals underway for financing team | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment process for CERI executive secretary and team • Establishment of accounting and communication systems | January 2006 |
| CERI General Assembly | Several options for sustainable finance for CERI | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First-time assessment of membership dues (x-% of core) • First-time assessment of project management fees • Establishment of Carpathian Convention Trust Fund with UNEP-ISCC | June 2006 |

ANNEX 5

Summary of Rule

Rule: Fundraising/Project Definition

Background/Progress:

In the past, the CEI had ample sources of funding for both core and project-related activities (300.000-400.000 Eur/year, CEI office records at WWF-DCP). These sources were virtually guaranteed on a renewable basis, and from mainly one source (WWF-Netherlands, with some funds from WWF-US as well). WWF-Netherlands agreed verbally to fund CERI over the next WWF year (July 2005 – June 2006), for 60.000/year if there is a clear ‘exit strategy’ for the transference of financial dependence from WWF to CERI proper (see ROP for ‘Functioning of the Secretariat’, and Annex A), but this is still not enough to cover the current core needs – not to mention the associated meeting costs plus future project costs (e.g. workgroups, communications, workshops, other future projects) –for the organization.

It was suggested at the CERI Update Meeting in the Tatras in November 2004 that fundraising efforts of the Secretariat will concentrate more on raising money for joint CERI projects than for projects of member organizations – but this still remains to be worked out as it is not clearly defined in the statutes. This not only affects the actual workload of the Secretariat, but reflects the core identity of CERI, itself: should CERI directly manage field projects in the Carpathians, or rather manage Carpathian-wide ‘umbrella’ projects e.g. communications, monitoring and ‘conservation brokering,’ acting as an enabling environment for NGOs and research institutes in the Carpathians, as has been suggested in previous meetings.

Document(s): Annex A: CERI Secretariat Workplan with Institutional Milestones

Action and /or proposed resolutions under the Rule:

- (j) A major platform for CERI should be as a ‘conservation broker,’ e.g. providing access to funding for members’ projects, ideas for sustainable finance of programs and other networking opportunities, but not direct fundraising.
- (k) Fundraising for CERI Secretariat and associated meetings (e.g. general assemblies, board meetings and workgroups), should be the responsibility of the CERI Secretariat.
- (l) CERI should only do projects where it plays a ‘Secretariat’-type role e.g. monitoring, database clearinghouse, coordination of ecoregion-wide projects, etc. CERI members can do projects, but not CERI as an organization itself.
- (m) Only CERI members can get financial, (technical and administrative) support for projects, adding value to the CERI ‘brand.’
- (n) Membership and project management fees should ultimately become a major source of financing for CERI

ANNEX 6

Summary of Rule

Rule: Representation

Background/Progress:

Although the issue of ‘representation’ is treated to different extents throughout the CERI statutes, the issue is not treated as a collective rule in the document. Moreover, there has been little discussion until now regarding the issue of representation in steering committee meetings until this point, but the issue becomes especially important now that the CERI is an independent organization.

Document(s): n/a

Action and /or proposed resolutions under the Rule:

- (a) The chair and vice-chair of the Board are the only representatives of the CERI that have the signatory power of CERI.
- (b) The board as a collective body of CERI can act on behalf of CERI (make decisions, develop statements, proposals for funding, etc.) in between the General Assemblies as the highest CERI body.
- (c) Representatives of the National Focal Points, CERI Board members, can speak on behalf of the CERI at their respective national levels if it is consistent with CERI General Assembly or Board decisions, statements, positions, a work plan or funded CERI project activities and aims.
- (d) Only the chair or vice-chair of the CERI Board can represent the CERI and speak on behalf of the CERI on international level (conference, COPs, etc.) if the decision of the General Assembly or the Board does not say differently or if the chair asks a third person (e.g. Secretariat) to do so.
- (e) Any breaks of these rules are subject of discussion of the CERI Board and may result in appropriate consequences including terminating membership with CERI.

ANNEX 7

ROP for workgroups

Member organizations of the CEEWEB network can establish thematic working groups

- led by an elected Chair. The chair coordinates the administrative matters related to the WG.
- The chair's term of office is normally for one year and then the position may rotate among the WG members. The chair becomes the member of the Board and also official representative of the organisation. The chair has to prepare a short presentation
- receiving financial and administrative support from the Secretariat for implementing their work programme.

The WG has to have a multi-annual work programme, in which they set their own goals and objectives.

The financial needs are covered by resources provided by CEEWEB on the one hand and by their own fund-raising activities on the other hand. It constitutes the financial basis for their activities.

The operating conditions of the Working Groups are regulated by a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

This document has to be signed by the Chair of the Working Group and by the CEEWEB Secretary General. The MoU includes

- the description of establishing and terminating the working group,
- how to elect the Chair,
- the roles and responsibilities of the Chair and the Policy Office,
- some financial regulations and accountability

The procedure to establish a WG

Two approaches:

1. Top down: the Policy Office can propose the establishment of a new Working Group
2. Bottom up: member organizations have the same interest and they initiate a new one.

The person who initiates the new WG should first examine the opportunity to include the specific topic into the activities of an already existing WG.

In case it is not possible, a new Working Group can be proposed. The first step is that the proponent develops a draft work programme and distributes it to the members of the network.

In case at least five member organizations express their will to participate in the WG + the Policy Office also confirms, that there is sufficient capacity in the office to assist the coordination of the WG, a draft work program has to be presented at the next Annual Meeting, which will decide on endorsing the WG.

The operating conditions of the WGs are regulated by a Memorandum of Understanding and signed by the Chair of the Working Group and by the CEEWEB General Secretary.

At his moment we have 4 WGs:

1. Agri/environment
2. Natura 2000
3. CITES
4. Sustainable Tourism (see the leaflets)

The WGs besides their own specific goals support achieving the aims of the general work programme of CEEWEB.

Let me summarize the issue of WGs:

- focus on particular thematic areas,
- they work towards their own identified goals and objectives
- through their work programmes
- and projects carried out in cooperation.
- The financial resources needed for their functioning are partly provided by the CEEWEB Policy Office, and partly from their own funding resources.
- The Annual Meeting decides on the establishment of new working groups.
- Their elected chairs also become members of the CEEWEB Board, thus the specific policy priorities are adequately represented in the strategic planning of the organisation.

ANNEX 8

CERI – Rules of Procedure

The Secretariat

1. The Secretariat is responsible, under the instruction and leadership of the Board, for providing all necessary institutional, financial, administrative and technical support to CERI.
2. The Secretariat is answerable to the Board.
3. A member organization will be appointed by the CERI Board to provide the Secretariat. The nominated organization will be reviewed each year at the General Assembly. The organization hosting the Secretariat will give at least three months notice should it want to halt this arrangement. The CERI Board will give at least three months notice if it intends to change the organization hosting CERI.
4. The Secretariat will be managed by a „Executive Secretary“. The Executive Secretary will be responsible for creating and maintaining an efficient Secretariat to meet the needs of CERI members.
5. The Secretariat uses the Carpathian Ecoregion Action Plan as its major programmatic guidance, is the focal point for CERI members for the Plan, liases with the (interim) Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and coordinates and monitors CERI members contributions to the plan.
6. The role of the Secretariat and its terms of reference are reviewed annually by the General Assembly.
7. The Secretariat informs CERI members about current and planned activities and developments.
8. The Secretariat prepares a CERI annual work plan and budget for approval by the General Assembly.
9. The Secretariat prepares annual narrative and financial reports for CERI activities in the previous year for approval by the General Assembly.
10. The Secretariat, under guidance and with input of the Board, prepares the agenda and programme for the General Assembly, including proposed decisions to be made, and distributed to member organizations in advance of the General Assembly as stipulated in the CERI Statutes.

Fundraising/Project Definition

1. The CERI Secretariat provides a fundraising service to the CERI members by acting as a ‚*conservation broker*,‘ e.g. providing access to funding for members‘ projects, providing information on members and projects to donors, disseminating information and ideas for sustainable finance and negotiating with donors where necessary on behalf of the members. The CERI Secretariat does not directly fundraise for any of its members or member’s projects unless the General Assembly instructs it to do so for specific project and activities.
2. Fundraising for the CERI Secretariat and associated meetings (e.g. General Assemblies, Board meetings and working groups), is the responsibility of the CERI Secretariat and the Board.
3. In principle, the CERI Secretariat only implements projects where it is directly related to the ‘Secretariat’ role as described in the statutes e.g. monitoring, database clearinghouse,

coordination of ecoregion projects and involving at least two countries and members.

4. In general only CERI members receive financial, technical and administrative support for projects through CERI and the CERI Secretariat and only if the support is judged to contribute to the goals of CERI.
5. All CERI member organisations can request CERI endorsement of their projects or proposals where these meet the objectives and aims of CERI and include at least two Carpathian countries and member organisations. The proposed projects are published on the web for comments by CERI members. Endorsement is given by the General Assembly or Board through application to the Secretariat.

Representation

- a. Representatives of the National Focal Points can speak on behalf of CERI in their countries in a manner that is consistent with CERI objectives, positions, statements, work plans or funded CERI project activities and aims, as approved by the General Assembly or Board.
- b. Only the Chair or Vice-chair of the CERI Board can represent CERI and speak on behalf of CERI on international level, including at conferences, Conferences of Parties, etc., unless decided otherwise by the General Assembly or Board. The Chair and Vice-Chair can delegate representation at international level to a third party, including e.g. the Executive Secretary, Board Members and National Focal Points, and regular CERI members.

National Focal Point

National Focal Points must:

1. Adhere to the requirements listed in Article 4 of the CERI Statutes, in particular, representing a nationally coordinating organization responsible for CERI activities on the national level with a mandate to represent the Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative at the national level
2. Attend board meetings, general assemblies and other internal meetings
3. Help organize the program content of board meetings, general assemblies and other internal meetings
4. Help draft and implement the rules of procedure for the new legal entity
5. Provide overall direction (principles, mission, strategy) and guidance on the ecoregion planning process involving governments, civil society and businesses
6. Raise the profile of the new CERI both nationally and regionally
7. Build the basis for creating, understanding and building political support for the CERI.
8. Provide specific advice and recommendations taking into consideration opinions of member organizations on model projects submitted to the Secretariat for endorsement.
9. Review reports, fact sheets and other literature produced by the working groups
10. Lobby, fundraise and engage in ‘ambassadorial’ activities
11. Work with UNEP-ISCC, as necessary, on the workplan for the draft framework Carpathian Convention

Failure to observe the CERI rules of procedure may result in appropriate consequences, including termination of membership in CERI, as decided by the General Assembly.

ANNEX 9

Update on the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians

Note by the Interim Secretariat
31 May 2005

The Carpathian Convention and the EU

At the meeting of V4 Environment Ministers hosted by Hungary in Siófok on 21 May 2004, the V4 Environment Ministers signed a letter to the European Commissioners for Environment and Regional Development, inviting the European Commission to join the Carpathian Convention and to provide support to it through existing or future instruments. On 23 May 2005, the Director, UNEP Regional Office for Europe and the Head of the UNEP Vienna - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (ISCC) visited HE Danuta Hübner, Commissioner of Directorate-General of Regional Policy, and discussed the further involvement and support by the European Commission to the Carpathian Convention.

Commissioner Hübner welcomed the progress made by the Carpathian Convention and emphasized the interest of DG Regio in the promotion of this sub-regional cooperation. In addition to the possibility of supporting member States through cohesion funds, modalities of structurally supporting cooperation and activities under the Carpathian Convention could possibly be identified. DG Regio will take the initiative and start an in-house consultative process within the European Commission, including a technical meeting between Directorates-General involved (initially DG Environment, DG Regio and DG Transport&Energy). UNEP and the Carpathian Convention will be informed of progress and a follow-up meeting with UNEP in due course will be organized.

Status of ratification and entry into force

So far, Hungary, Slovak Republic and Ukraine have ratified the Carpathian Convention. The Parliament of the Czech Republic has completed the ratification, which is now awaiting approval by the President. Therefore, the Carpathian Convention is expected to enter into force (90 days after the deposit of the fourth instrument of ratification) in the course of the current year 2005.

Serbia and Montenegro has started the ratification procedure, and Romania has initiated the ratification process under reservation as to its geographical scope of application, the ratification in Poland is advanced.

First meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP1)

Consequently, the interim secretariat is preparing for the 1st Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP1) to be organized following the entry into force of the Convention. Romania has recently confirmed its offer to organize the COP1 in Brasov, Romania. Possible dates for the COP1 are being explored, with a current preference for the first half of October 2005 (hoping and expecting that the host country will have ratified the Convention by that date).

The 3rd Ad Hoc Expert Meeting of the Carpathian Convention (Bolzano, Italy) discussed and prepared the draft agenda for the COP1. Main items on the agenda include:

- Scope of application of the Convention

- Draft Rules of procedure and Financial rules for the Convention
- Interim and permanent Secretariat arrangements of the Convention
- Workprogramme of the Convention

Status of voluntary contributions

UNEP Vienna – ISCC has, so far, received structural support and voluntary contributions by the Governments of Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Switzerland, the Slovak Republic, and Ukraine. Italy continues to sponsor the process through meetings and scientific support by EURAC. At the Conference of Plenipotentiaries (Kyiv, May 2003), Signatories decided to make a voluntary contribution to assist in meeting the core costs of the interim secretariat, which will be up to USD 150.000 per year.

Interim Secretariat

UNEP Vienna – ISCC is fully operational and supports the interim implementation of the Carpathian Convention. Three Ad Hoc expert meetings have been fundraised for and organized with the support of Italy/EURAC in Bolzano, Italy, in 2004 and 2005. UNEP Vienna ISCC coordinates a workprogramme under the Carpathian Convention, including a broad project portfolio. Additional income for activities is and will be generated through such operations.

UNEP Vienna ISCC is part of the Secretariat of the Mountain Partnership located at FAO in Rome and receives structural support from the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) for this purpose. UNEP Vienna ISCC is an observer to the Alpine Convention located in Innsbruck and is in the process of signing a Memorandum of Cooperation with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR). UNEP Vienna ISCC is a Focal Point for South East Europe in the UNEP-OSCE-UNDP-NATO EnvSec initiative and supports the implementation of related UNEP projects (e.g. Rapid Environmental Assessment of the Tisza River Basin, Reducing Environment and Security Risks from Mining in the Tisza River Basin and SEE, including organizing the recent sub-regional Conference from 11-14 May in Cluj).

ANNEX 10



**Memorandum of Cooperation between
the Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative (CERI)**

and

**the United Nations Environment Programme Vienna – Interim Secretariat of the
Carpathian Convention (UNEP Vienna – ISCC)**

ACKNOWLEDGING that the Carpathians are a unique natural treasure of great beauty and ecological value, an important reservoir of biodiversity, the headwaters of major rivers, an essential habitat and refuge for many endangered species of plants and animals and Europe's largest area of virgin forests, and AWARE that the Carpathians constitute a major ecological, economic, cultural, recreational and living environment in the heart of Europe, shared by numerous peoples and countries;

REALIZING the importance and ecological, cultural and socio-economic value of mountain regions, ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of sub-regional cooperation for the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians;

NOTING the complementary nature of the goals and basic principles of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians and the 'ecoregion approach': visionary and large-scale, science-based, participatory (Article 2(3) of the CERI statutes), and the existence of specialized technical and scientific competence within CERI platforms and programs relating to the goals of the Carpathian Convention;

NOTING the Carpathian Convention's Article 4 on "Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity, and acknowledging the expertise of CERI members in specialized areas of biodiversity assessment and research in the Carpathians;

RECALLING the Declaration on Environment and Sustainable Development in the Carpathian and Danube Region (Bucharest, 2001); ACKNOWLEDGING the strong historic partnership of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative, such as in the Bucharest summit and the Kyiv Conference; TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the participation of and contribution by CERI as an invited guest in the work of the 3 Bolzano Ad Hoc Expert meetings, and ACKNOWLEDGING UNEP's participation in and contribution to the 1st CERI General Assembly since its independence;

RECOGNIZING that the Carpathians constitute the living environment for the local people, and ACKNOWLEDGING the contribution of the local people to sustainable social, cultural and economic development, and to preserving traditional knowledge in the Carpathians; and recognizing the ability of CERI to work on issues of local sustainable development;

The Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative (CERI) and UNEP Vienna – ISCC, agree to establish the following cooperation:

- 1) CERI and UNEP Vienna ISCC join their efforts in promoting the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathian region by combining their comparative advantages and balancing top-down and bottom-up approaches.
- 2) CERI and UNEP Vienna ISCC will further increase their cooperation and ensure regular exchange of information and ensuring representation, as appropriate, in each other's events and activities.
- 3) CERI and UNEP Vienna ISCC will cooperate in the development and implementation of relevant projects, and in particular in the UNDP GEF submission "Biodiversity Conservation in the Carpathians through an Enhanced Protected Areas System and Connectivity of an Ecological Network".
- 4) Based on the activities and outcomes of above project, CERI and UNEP Vienna ISCC will cooperate in supporting stakeholders, as requested by them, in the development and implementation of an Ecoregion Action Plan as well as of a future Protocol on Biodiversity under the Carpathian Convention.
- 5) CERI and UNEP Vienna ISCC will join the efforts in supporting Governments of Carpathian countries, as requested, in their preparations for the implementation of the Carpathian Convention and the establishment of a Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA).
- 6) CERI and UNEP Vienna ISCC will explore further opportunities of increased cooperation in integrative activities relating to other fields of action of the Carpathian Convention.
- 7) CERI and UNEP Vienna ISCC will cooperate by dissemination of information on the implementation of the Carpathian Convention in Carpathian countries.
- 8) CERI and UNEP Vienna ISCC will cooperate in assessment and data collection, such as in preparation of KEO, and the development of Carpathian Clearinghouse and information system.

CERI and UNEP Vienna-ISCC establish joint annual operational action plans for their activities in support of the Carpathian Convention (Annex), which shall be regularly updated through at the request of either party or at the point either party's programme is revised.

The present memorandum of cooperation is for an initial period of two years (2005 and 2006) and can be extended for a second period, taking into account the results of the first period.

Nothing in this Memorandum shall create or imply a financial obligation by either party to this Memorandum. Either party can withdraw from this Memorandum of Cooperation by notifying the other party in writing at least six months in advance.

Signed:

For the CERI Secretariat

For UNEP Vienna ISCC

Jan Seffer
Chair

Frits Schlingemann
Regional Representative, UNEP

ANNEX 11



PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FACILITY REQUEST FOR PDF BLOCK A FOR FSP

(UNDP PROJECT INITIATION DOCUMENT)

AGENCY'S PROJECT ID (PIMS): 3458

GEFSEC PROJECT ID:

COUNTRIES: Romania, Serbia & Montenegro, Ukraine, Czech Republic, Hungary Poland and Slovakia

COUNTRY ELIGIBILITY: All countries are Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

PROJECT TITLE: Biodiversity Conservation in the Carpathians through an Enhanced Protected Areas System and Connectivity of an Ecological Network

GEF AGENCY: UNDP

OTHER EXECUTING AGENCY(IES): UNEP, World Bank

DURATION: 3 months

GEF FOCAL AREA(S): Biodiversity Conservation

GEF OPERATIONAL PROGRAM(S): Forest Ecosystems (OP-3), Mountain Ecosystems (OP-4)

GEF STRATEGIC PRIORITY(IES): Catalysing the sustainability of Protected Areas (Strategic Priority BD-1)

ESTIMATED STARTING DATE: September 2005

1. Global Significance and Problem Statement

1.1 *Global Significance*

The Carpathian region extends over more than 200,000 km² in Central and Eastern Europe (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Ukraine). It is the largest single element of the Pan European Ecological Network (PEEN) recognised under the Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS), that has been adopted by European environment ministers as the basis for regional implementation of the CBD. The Alpine-Carpathian ecological corridor is a vital link between Western and (South-) Eastern Europe for migration and genetic exchange of game and wildlife.

The Carpathians are included in the WWF "Global 200" Ecoregion list, which means that the biodiversity of the Carpathians is globally significant, and which provide a

critical blueprint for biodiversity conservation at a global scale. Chosen as one of only 238 ecoregions around the world noted for ‘exceptional levels of biodiversity, such as high species richness or endemism, or those with unusual ecological or evolutionary phenomena,’

(http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/ecoregions/about/what_is_the_g200.cfm) the Carpathians host a globally significant diversity of habitats, characterised by extensive tracts of virgin broadleaf and conifer forests, alpine meadows and braided rivers. The Carpathians harbor some of the best examples of representative temperate primeval forests in this part of the world, and its signature semi-natural habitats - pastures and grasslands – are the result of shepherding as part of the pastoral culture, which has co-evolved over centuries, and which harbor nearly 75% of the unique habitat types identified as the most biologically diverse in the region.

The unique diversity of habitats of the Carpathians make them a haven to globally threatened species such as the European bison (*Bison bonasus*), the Tatra Mountain Chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra tatraica*) and the Imperial eagle (*Aquila heliaca*), the bison and chamois of which are also endemic to the range (Carpathian List of Endangered Species, 2003).

Additionally the Carpathians support one third of all European plant species and 486 endemic species and subspecies. It is the only European region outside of Russia that still holds strong populations of large migratory vertebrates, including brown bear, wolf and Eurasian lynx, as well as several species of eagles and owls, all of which constitute a large proportion of world population. Finally, the Carpathians host rivers rich in fish species, including endemics and migratory species such as sturgeon and trout that come from the Black Sea to spawn in the gravel beds of the clear streams.

Recognising their biological and economic importance, in 2003 all the range states signed a Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, with an interim secretariat hosted by UNEP.

1.2 Problem Statement

In the Status of the Carpathians, published in 2001, the Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative (“CERI”, formerly known as the “CEI”, see Section 8.2) not only identified the most important biological features of the Carpathians, it also gained a clear picture of the threats to the region and a “first cut” of their root causes. The initiative assessed the relative impacts of various socio-economic and political threats (intensifying transport development, illegal and unsustainable logging, habitat degradation and fragmentation, and species exploitation, among others) on “Biodiversity Important Areas,” (focal habitats and species) in order to generate the 30 areas of highest biodiversity in greatest need of protection. These 30 priority areas were used in the past to generate high-level political support in the form of the world’s first ecoregion-based agreement (the Carpathian Convention, signed by the governments in 2003), and will be used in this project to form the backbone of the world’s first realized ecological network.

Although the Initiative ultimately named four areas (based on the real root causes of poverty and development), which pose the greatest threat to biodiversity loss in the Carpathians - unsustainable rural development, unsustainable tourism, land privatization and restitution during the post-Communist transition period, and industrial and infrastructure development, changes in the agricultural sector underline all of these. As most people in the Carpathians still make their living through farming (Status Report), the

threat with the most far-reaching and wide-ranging impacts in the Carpathians with regard to potentially negative environmental impacts is intensification of agriculture.

Current unsustainable forms of agriculture include overgrazing (which impacts the species-rich meadows), groundwater and watershed pollution (which impact the 18 million residents who depend on freshwater, migratory fish, freshwater mammals and ecosystems) and habitat conversion and fragmentation - which affects habitat for countless forest, wetland, and grassland-dependent species. Many of the most natural and undeveloped traditional landscapes in the peripheral but most biodiverse areas of the Carpathians identified by the Report as in need of immediate protection were left untouched by some of the intense harvesting of natural resources under the policy of collectivization during the communist regime, and are now extremely vulnerable to development.

At the same time, within the existing protected areas, habitat conversion and modification of natural processes due to consumptive biological resource use (poaching, logging and non-timber forest products), rank as the key threats to protected areas (WWF-International). According to a recent WWF-International study, the underlying causes of these activities are very often related to socio-economic dynamics, policies and institutional arrangements outside of protected areas – within the rural development sector. While quite a number of GEF and non-GEF initiatives and programmes have been launched to address the loss of biodiversity in the productive agricultural and forestry ecosystems in Carpathians, parallel efforts are needed to expand and strengthen the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas.

Although the 30 priority areas of highest biodiversity mentioned above have been determined and publicized for the Carpathians, only about 34% of their area is under some form of protection (with 16% of the entire ecoregion under some form of protection). They have very low levels of financial support for protection and management activities, and there is scant transboundary cooperation or regional coordination on environmental issues between the countries concerned. Threatened by intensified habitat conversion and fragmentation, the Carpathians' current protected area system is insufficient in scale, connectivity and management performance on its own to prevent the irreversible loss of biodiversity over the next decades, including the severe reduction or in some cases full-scale extinction, of large mammal populations, key to maintaining the balance of ecosystems across the Carpathians.

2. Project Linkage to National Priorities, Action Plan and Programmes and CP/GCF/RCF, CCA and UNDAF situation analysis

Guidance requested from Natalya

3. Stakeholders and Beneficiaries involved in Project

3.1 Main Stakeholders

- Signatory states of the Carpathian Convention
- Protected areas in the CNPA (Carpathian Network of Protected Areas)
- Local authorities, especially along the borders (EU Neighbourhood Programme)
- Local communities represented by voluntary, non-government associations (including those representing the commercial sector)

- European Commission (Natura 2000 Network under the Birds and Habitats Directives)
- Council of Europe (Emerald Network under Bern Convention, European Diploma holding PAs)
- UNEP and the Council of Europe (Pan-European Ecological Network under the Pan European Ecological and Landscape Diversity Strategy)

3.2 *Main Beneficiaries*

- Signatory states of the Carpathian Convention
- Protected areas in the CNPA (Carpathian Network of Protected Areas)
- Local communities
- Regional authorities
- Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative (CERI) – a network of NGOs and research institutes
- Local entrepreneurs and enterprises engaged in ecologically sustainable business activities
- Educational and research bodies (schools, universities, institutes)

4. Rationale for GEF Involvement and Fit with GEF Operational Programmes and Strategic Priorities

4.1 *Rationale for GEF Involvement*

There has been increased exploitation of resources following recent entry into the market economy, exacerbated by current patterns of economic growth that have accompanied EU accession that are particularly evident in the agricultural sector through habitat conversion and fragmentation. These forces - as short-term means are sought to address high unemployment rates, rural depopulation and increased income disparity - are likely to lead to the erosion of the prodigious natural wealth that the Carpathian countries contain, particularly within and just outside the set of protected areas that have been established to safeguard core biodiversity until legal protection, and stronger, more enforceable management measures can be obtained.

As many of the consequences of poverty in the Carpathians (e.g. land abandonment, infrastructure development, species and natural resource exploitation), cannot be addressed due to the scope and scale of the problems through this project alone, many of the drivers of poverty as they contribute to biodiversity loss in protected areas (habitat conversion and fragmentation), can be. By investigating many of the impacts that the agricultural sector contributes to in terms of habitat conversion and fragmentation along selected areas of the PA network, one can set up mechanisms inside protected areas to begin to ensure for accountable and systematic management.

This project offers the first opportunity for involvement in coordinated planning at the ecoregional level, which has inherent added value in itself. Because ecoregion planning takes a large-scale (across several countries), long-term (across several decades) approach, by identifying the few species most critical to capturing the habitat needed to provide the most natural benefit to humans and other species over the long-run, it tries to ensure that the most biodiversity is conserved for the least cost to society. "The ecoregion approach allows planners to be visionary and forward-thinking, and to develop 'spatially-explicit strategies for meeting the ecological needs of wildlife and habitats while minimizing land use conflicts and maximizing benefits to resident populations.' (WWF 2004)

The other benefit of the ecoregion approach in this case is that it offers the opportunity for mutual engagement and complementarity between the EU and non-EU states in policy development and implementation for biodiversity conservation and sustainable management along the ecological network. This is especially important for Romania and Ukraine, within whose territory a large part of the Carpathians fall, as the project will push these governments to raise the bar of their environmental standards in line with, and perhaps even beyond, those of the existing EU-member states.

Taking into consideration the requirements of a functional ecological network, the project will produce and test a legally binding Biodiversity Protocol as well as cross-border Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan capable of addressing the impacts of habitat conversion and fragmentation on protected areas due to intensification of agriculture, unsustainable rural development and other identified threats. This will result in the reform and operationalization of the protected area system through key links to the agricultural sector, using innovative financial mechanisms and legislative levers.

GEF has had previous involvement with relevant projects in the Carpathian region, including:

- Biodiversity Conservation Management in Romania (GEF 129);
- Transcarpathian Biodiversity Protection in Ukraine (GEF 543); and
- Biodiversity Protection in Slovakia (GEF 567).

The incremental contribution from GEF will be critical to demonstrating that maintaining connectivity and ensuring ecological coherence between selected sets of protected areas in the Carpathians can increase the standard of living while maintaining the sustainable livelihoods of the most economically peripheral and ecologically vulnerable parts of the Carpathians. In particular, it will use pilot projects throughout the region as catalytic tools to bind the countries together in the form of international agreements and transboundary activities.

The project will also complement the proposed UNDP GEF International Waters project on *“Reversal of land and water degradation in the Tisza basin ecosystem: establishment of mechanisms for land and water management”*. This latter proposal seeks to formulate a Strategic Action Plan that meets the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and the July 2004 EC Communication on Flood Risk Management while at the same time addressing wider sustainability issues in the water, agriculture, energy, industry and navigation sectors. Thus it deals with basin-wide land and water use and the impact on water quality of productive sectors like agriculture, forestry and mining. Meanwhile, the focus of the current proposal is on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity – that in some respects may conflict with flood management actions such as afforestation of species-rich grasslands, and will need to defend these interests where projects activities overlap. Nevertheless, the two projects are more likely to have mutually reinforcing activities such as conservation of valuable watershed soil- and waterprotective forests, increasing of retention capacity of landscape through restoration and management of grassland and wetlands habitats, promoting more sustainable activities such as ecotourism (i.e. supply of clean drinking water) and organic farming. The Tisza project will focus on forests more in terms of their protective functions (flood alleviation and nutrient reduction), while the Carpathians project will focus on watershed management in terms of maintaining connectivity for natural resource and biodiversity benefits

(wildlife benefits, compensation payments for owners, community management, etc.) The two projects will also serve as a platform for comparing the socio-economic and ecological benefits of biodiversity protection versus flood protection in terms of forest management.

4.2 *Fit with GEF Operational Programmes and Strategic Priorities*

The project is fully consistent with the GEF Operational Programmes on Forests (OP-3) and Mountains (OP-4), and addresses the strategic priority of Catalyzing the Sustainability of Protected Areas (BD-1). The long-term strengthening of the protected areas system of the Carpathians will be addressed through interventions targeting the impacts of habitat conversion on protected areas, through demonstration of various ecosystem services. Lessons learned from these interventions will be replicated through the CERI through sustainable finance and monitoring, institutionalized through the Carpathian Convention and signatory governments, through improved and enforced legislation and policy, and sustained through the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas through knowledge transfer across the network.

It is known that there are a number of other ongoing GEF biodiversity projects in the region in addition to the most closely related Tisza project. These will be identified and contacted during the PDF-A phase to establish appropriate links and complementarity during the subsequent project stages.

5. Expected Goal, Objectives and Outcomes of Final Project and Relevance to Outcomes of CPD and UNDAF

5.1 Expected Goal

The expected goal of the project is 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 a common multinational basis.

This goal will be achieved by developing the systemic capacity of selected sets of protected areas for supporting and maintaining a functional ecological network in the Carpathians using ecoregion- and ecosystem-based approaches, by establishing the critical framework for future coordination and implementation - the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) and the Protocol for Biodiversity under the Carpathian Convention.

This framework will be created during the development of the project (i.e. the PDF-B phase) in order to serve as the foundation for the creation of an effective protected area system, for increased capacity and accountability, to promote and sustain biodiversity within productive landscapes. The framework will also help establish long-term mechanisms for the sustainable implementation and enforceability of the Convention through innovative financing and awareness-raising mechanisms.

During the PDF-B phase, the BSAP will be designed and planned to serve as a “roadmap” to support the implementation of the Carpathian Convention Protocol by guiding conservation actions, interventions and investments throughout the full-sized project. The action plan will primarily set out the necessary measures to create a Carpathian

ecological network by linking key sets of protected areas of the *Carpathian Network of Protected Areas* (CNPA) through sustainably managed habitat corridors and buffer zones. Full participation of key stakeholders in the planning process will be ensured through the CNPA (representing the Protected Areas managers) as well as the CERI (involving local communities as well as NGOs and research institutes). The species and habitats in the Action Plan will be selected according to a review/revisit of the existing biodiversity data, focusing in and beyond the 30 previously designated priority areas at finer scale, irreplaceability, and the nexus of environmental strategies with local socio-economic development, especially in relation to agricultural developments.

Implementation of pilot activities such as schemes of transboundary sustainable tourism, providing financial means to conservation efforts, and marketing of ecological mountain products, will be used to test the efficacy of economic and policy interventions attempted through this project, as well as to test the effects of certain EU policies (CAP, WFD). It is expected that many of the interventions will deal with ecosystem services achievable through the agricultural sector: arable soil, potable water, flood retention services, payments for environmental services and sustainable tourism measures. And it is hoped that incentives can be created that increasingly link biodiversity within and outside of protected areas, especially through making economic growth outside of protected areas more dependent on the effective management of the biodiversity inside protected areas. These activities will be facilitated by a small grants portfolio to leverage EU-cofinancing, which will be run by the CERI.

Sustainability will be ensured through the design and creation of a Carpathian Convention Trust Fund and through a protocol on Biodiversity, which the Interim Secretariat for the Convention (UNEP) will set up during this phase. Additionally, the CNPA will be officially established and made operational during this phase, which will provide a platform for cooperation knowledge transfer, and for promoting the implementation of EU environmental legislation and enhancing local capacity. Sustainability will also be ensured in the BSAP through the creation of an indicator-based monitoring programme developed and implemented for the Carpathians to set baseline for all projects and plans created to meet certain thresholds, including the establishment of a 'Carpathian Clearinghouse' under the CERI, as a meta-database for mutual information and data exchange.

Capacity-building will be institutionalized through the Carpathian Convention and signatory governments through improved and enforced legislation and policy at the national and EU levels, at both the protected area level and via enabling activities in the agricultural sector. The design and planning for a biodiversity protocol under the Carpathian Convention will capture as many of the lessons learned from this process as possible.

Finally, strategies for removing the key financial and institutional barriers to implementation of the BSAP and Biodiversity Protocol will be developed during this phase.

The full GEF project will include the following elements: strengthening and increasing the surface area of existing protected areas, creating new protected areas and ensuring adequate zoning of buffer zones and mitigating the extent of habitat converted to or fragmented by unsustainable uses. In addition, the joint "corporate identity" of the CNPA will be created, with key segments of the ecological network realized through the promotion of sustainable income activities which have been created as a result of

mitigated or controlled habitat conversion due to agricultural interests (conservation credits and easements, ecotourism, debt for nature swaps and certification, payments for environmental services and internalization of protected area economic values within the ministries of agriculture, see above). Pilot projects for mitigating adverse effects of habitat conversion within the PAs and in their buffer zones will be implemented through transboundary environmental assessments, and small scale projects to promote sound productive activities catalyzing community action in the buffer zones of protected areas designated during the PDF-B phase. Key sets of protected areas of the ecological network will achieve coherence and connectivity through the above measures and promoted as such, and the protocol for biodiversity will be implemented to ensure the governments' commitment to the implementation and enforcement of the Carpathian Convention.

5.2 *Project Objectives*

The project objective is 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***. This will be achieved through the establishment of a framework for future coordination and implementation - the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) and the Protocol for Biodiversity under the Carpathian Convention; expansion of the protected areas coverage; demonstration of improved buffer zones management and sustainable land use practices; implementation of a comprehensive monitoring system; and enhanced financing for the Carpathian protected areas network.

5.3 *Project Outcomes*

- Expanded and consolidated system of protected areas in Carpathians used to develop a functional ecological network as a constituent part of the Pan-European Ecological Network;
- An institutionalised, operational and widely supported Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for a transboundary ecological network in the Carpathian ecoregion and the related Protocol of the Carpathian Convention to empower the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas and establish a mechanism for replication of best practices and lessons learned;
- An environmental and socio-economic research and indicator-based monitoring programme developed and implemented for the Carpathians to set the baseline for conservation success for all projects and plans, including the establishment of a 'Carpathian Clearinghouse' as a meta-database for mutual information and data exchange;
- Ecologically sustainable livelihoods and natural resources used in the PA buffer zones are encouraged through financial incentives, as well as investments into conservation-oriented land use (e.g. through a Carpathian Convention Trust Fund and small grants programme); demonstration of sustainable use practices; and increased access to markets;

- CNPA is equipped with adequate capacities, skills and communication strategy to carry out effective awareness raising and networking activities; stakeholders demonstrate greater appreciation of the values of the natural and cultural heritage shared throughout the entire Carpathian region;
- Financial sustainability of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas is strengthened through increased budget allocation for PAs; increased direct income generated through sustainable tourism, marketing of products etc; and operationalization of the Carpathian Convention Trust Fund.

5.4 *Relevance to Outcomes of CPD and UNDAF*

Guidance requested from Natalya

6. Description of Preparatory Inception Stage

6.1 *Expected Outcomes and Completion Date of PDF A project*

The PDF-A phase will start in mid-April 2005 and finish by 30 September 2005. It will include the following main elements:

- Further information gathering from the Carpathian ecoregion on the national protected areas sub-systems, key gaps and barriers to conservation within the protected areas and in their buffer zones, socio-economics, biodiversity, stakeholder participation, and key barriers to implementation of the BSAP
- Two consultations with the main stakeholders including a stakeholder workshop convened in association with the expert meeting of the Carpathian Convention;
- Researching and identifying different approaches to ecoregion planning and determine the best fit for the BSAP component of this project
- Develop the overall structure of the logframe, and indicate how the action plan and implementation plan will be included in the logframe, building into the logframe, objectives that can be used as major indicators of project success during later stages (e.g. budget allocation, protected area coverage, forestry and protected area management tools such as RAPPAM and HCVF, policy change, increased employment, etc.)
- A separate stakeholder consultation in Ukraine under the guidance of CERI;
- Preparation of a stakeholder consultation report;
- Work with World Bank to conduct an initial assessment of country-specific investments and projects, and exploring other co-financing mechanisms to be integrated into the GEF
- Drafting root cause analysis of biodiversity loss or mismanagement in this region and how they link with legal, socio-economic and institutional factors
- Identifying the role of small grants and other model projects in the action plan and implementation phases of the project
- Identifying the need for pilot projects during pdf-b phase based on research/information gaps in the current assessment
- Writing of a Concept and PDF-B phase application for a full-size GEF Project, approved by the signatories of the Carpathian Convention.

- Identifying ways in which the current GEF proposal can build on and complement ongoing GEF projects in the region
- Preparing a draft concept document for approval by the steering committee, and by the governments, the latter of which should be accompanied by a letter prepared by the World Bank, UNDP, and UNEP-ISCC
- Submitting the concept to the GEF-SEC, responding to any feedback by the GEF-SEC and ensuring that the concept is agreed upon by the GEF-SEC.

The full project is expected to have a duration of five years and a GEF budget up to \$6 million. Its implementation would be contingent on the Parties to the Carpathian Convention adopting the Biodiversity Protocol formulated during the PDF-B phase.

6.2 Total Cost of PDF A (including co-financing amounts and sources)

7. Output Budget

| Expected Date (2005) | Output | GEF contribution | UNDP contribution | UNEP contribution | WWF contribution | Co-Financing |
|----------------------|---|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------|
| April – June 2005 | <p>1st Stakeholder meeting in conjunction with 3rd Expert Meeting of the Carpathian Convention (UNEP), including NGO and CNPA focal points.</p> <p>2nd Stakeholder meeting involving public stakeholder consultations with government representatives, CBD focal points, CNPA Focal Points, CERI focal points and UNDP and World Bank national officers. An expert facilitator should be hired for this meeting. (CERI)</p> <p>Presentation of progress at Ministerial Conference of Signatories to the Carpathian</p> | 5.000 | ??? | 10.000 | 12.000 | XXXX |

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------|--|---------------|------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| | Convention (UNDP/UNEP/W B) | | | | | |
| 1 August 2005 | Final report on stakeholder consultations (UNEP) | 5.000 | ??? | | | XXXX |
| 30 September 2005 | Concept and PDF- B application for full size GEF Project (CERI / UNEP) | 15.000 | ??? | | | XXXX |
| Total funding | | 25,000 | ??? | 10,000 | 12.000 | XXXX |

8. Management Arrangements

8.1 Roles and Responsibilities of the Parties, including financial and administrative modalities

UNEP Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (UNEP-ISCC) is the main implementing partner for the project development phase answerable to a project steering committee made up of UNDP, World Bank, WWF-DCP, CERI together with consultation from the national governments. During the PDF-A, UNEP-ISCC and CERI will undertake stakeholder consultations.

During the PDF-B phase, a project team will be hired by UNEP-ISCC to coordinate the activities. CERI will be asked to coordinate the development of the BSAP with input from all relevant stakeholders, including the assessment of the protected area network with the CNPA, while UNEP-ISCC will manage the Protocol and governmental consideration of the BSAP. In addition, CERI will be responsible for managing the stakeholder process with local communities and NGOs supporting the BSAP and will undertake the development of the monitoring and indicators system to track the extent to which targets and thresholds for biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods are achieved throughout the life of the project and after its completion. WWF DCPO will establish a support unit for the CNPA with PA managers' inputs into the BSAP. Substantive World Bank involvement will be sought during the PDF-B for developing the financial mechanisms to be implemented during the full-sized project phase.

The final project proposal will be prepared by a team contracted by the project team, which will be implemented by a Project Management Unit located together with the Convention Secretariat. World Bank, UNDP, the EU and other major stakeholders will contribute to the project through the support to implementation of project activities and through co-financing supporting projects.

8.2 Information on Applicant Institutions

UNEP - Regional Office for Europe's mission is to promote intergovernmental policy dialogue and regional cooperation, increase national capacity for environmental management, raise awareness and enhance information exchange, and translate global policies into regional action, in the 54 countries of the European region. In the fulfillment of its mission, UNEP-ROE services the recently adopted Carpathian Convention, and hosts the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention. For this purpose, UNEP has established a project office in Vienna Office, also acting as the UNEP Focal Point in the International Partnership for the Sustainable Development of Mountain Regions, supporting UNEP-ROE's cooperation with countries, partner organizations and institutions of the Carpathian-Danube region. UNEP-ROE, through the Vienna project office, will ensure coordination within the work programme of the Carpathian Convention and the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA), help to foster political support and obtain timely endorsement by the signatory governments, will provide the intergovernmental framework for integrated regional planning in a transboundary context, and support the development of Protocols under the Carpathian Convention, as required. In the implementation phase, UNEP will help to strengthen institutional, legal, regulatory and economic frameworks for the potential action plan, aiming at the implementation of the Carpathian Convention.

The Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative – now known as the ‘CERI’ – is the NGO platform created by the WWF-DCP in 1999 to carry out conservation on an ecoregion scale, and is now focusing on implementation of the Carpathian Convention with its partner, UNEP. The CERI is now preparing itself for full legal incorporation in Slovakia as an international network of NGOs and research institutes working for sustainable development in the Carpathians. Its main function is to serve as an enabling environment for NGOs and research institutes in the Carpathians in the form of project development and support and data information and exchange, as well as long-term monitoring. Within the scope of this project, the CERI will be responsible for some key aspects of the implementation of the project, as well as designing and facilitating the management of projects – particularly the small grants and monitoring schemes – to fit within the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

World Wide Fund for Nature Danube-Carpathian Programme (WWF-DCP) promotes the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of freshwater and forest resources in the Danube River Basin and Carpathians Mountains through model projects, influencing policy, networking, capacity-building, communication and crisis response. The DCP will be involved with the conceptual and scientific design of the ecoregion action plan, as well as lending its expertise in integrated and adaptive ecosystem management within the implementation of the project.

The World Bank, Europe and Central Asia, works with the countries in transition in the region to improve living standards, and promote economic growth through sound environmental practices through lending, technical assistance analysis and policy advice. It will support this project by ongoing technical review, assessing economic indicators, institutional pushing and other administrative aspects.

8.2.1 Mandate (capacity assessment) and sources of revenue

By Resolution of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for Adoption and Signature of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Kyiv, 20 and 22 May 2003), UNEP – Regional Office for Europe was requested to continue to service the Carpathian Convention process, including provision of interim secretariat support. Furthermore, the Conference recommended the creation of a Carpathian Network of Protected Areas. The Conference decided that, pending the entry into force of the Carpathian Convention, and the decisions on the arrangements and funding of its Secretariat, the Signatories will make voluntary contributions to assist in meeting the core costs of the Secretariat. The interim secretariat also receives support and voluntary contributions from several Alpine countries.

9. Mandatory Annexes

Annex 1: TOR for key staff

Expert for Preparation of Project Concept and PDF-B Application

An expert will be sought to carry out the following tasks:

1. Facilitate the stakeholder consultations to be held in association with the expert meeting of the Carpathian Convention, and carry out other stakeholder meetings as required;
2. Prepare a report on consultations regarding the project proposal by 1 August 2005;
3. In the light of these consultations, having regard for the PDF-A proposal, and by gathering further relevant information, to write a project concept and PDF-B phase application aimed at putting in place the measures needed for the operational protection and sustainable management of biodiversity in the Carpathian region as a whole in order to ensure optimal ecosystem services for all stakeholders, 30 September 2005.

The expert will have:

- A university degree and appropriate qualifications in the field of natural sciences (e.g. biodiversity conservation, environmental protection, natural resource management, etc.);
- A minimum of 10 years experience of biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of natural resources in Central and Eastern Europe;
- Experience with facilitating large-scale projects
- Knowledge and experience with European legislation on environment and biodiversity conservation relating to ecological networks and protected area management;
- Knowledge of GEF project preparation procedures with sound experience in stakeholder consultation and elaboration of proposals;
- Fluency in English.

ANNEX 12

CERI Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)

Role:

- Advise CERI Board/members on scientific issues which are in accordance with CERI mission and statement;
 - Contact and work together with other specialists included into the database of CERI experts, proposed by CERI members (either from CERI members or other organisations) in various fields relevant for CERI activity;

Structure:

- The SAC will consist of well-known experts from CERI members in the following fields:
 - Zoology (two experts – vertebrates and invertebrates)
 - Botany (two experts – lower plants and higher plants)
 - Habitats (two experts – forest and non forest)
 - Hydrology (one expert)

Proposal for GA decision

- The General Assembly could delegate the Board to elect temporary members of the Scientific Advisory Committee - nominated by CERI members, which will be approved by the next General Assembly;

Data base of experts:

- proposed by CERI members and approved by the Board

ANNEX 13

Potential CERI Working Groups

| Issue | No. interested members | Lead |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Biodiversity | 14 | Vasyl P |
| Bats | 1 | |
| Other mammals | | |
| Environmental Education | 13 | Miroslav Tadic |
| Sustainable Development 3 | | |
| Non-Forest habitats 2 | | |
| Database | 6 | Jan Seffer |
| Caves Fauna | 1 | |
| Social economic aspects of conservation | 1 | |
| Environmental Impact Assessments | 1 | |
| Large Carnivores | 4 | George Predoiu |
| Sturgeons 1 | 1 | |
| Environmental policy 7 | 7 | CEEWEB |
| Ecotourism, sustainable rural development | 8 | Colin Shaw |
| Forests | 6 | Ioan Abrudan |
| Hydroecology 2 | 2 | |
| Birds 3 | 3 | |
| CERI institutional development and communications | 6 | Green Dossier, Kiev |

ANNEX 14

Danube Carpathian Programme

Income & Expenditure FY2005 9E0643.02 CERI - Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative

in Euro

| | FY2005 Budget | |
|---|--------------------------|--|
| INCOME | | |
| WWF Netherlands | 89.000 | 60,000 core funding + 29,000 for grant project |
| TOTAL INCOME | 89.000 | |
| EXPENDITURE | | |
| Staff costs | 42.517 | |
| Third party fees | 0 | |
| Other grants & agreements | 29.000 | For Milvus Raptor education project |
| Travel, meeting & training costs | 10.638 | Includes General Assembly and board meetings |
| Communications & fundraising costs | 0 | |
| Miscellaneous costs | 0 | |
| Office running costs | 0 | |
| Project administration or management fees | 8.515 | |

Danube Carpathian Programme

Income & Expenditure 2nd half 2005 and 1st half 2006 9E0643.02 CERI - Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative

in Euro

| | 2nd half 2005 Budget | | 1st half 2006 Budget | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| INCOME | | | | |
| WWF Netherlands | 30.000 | | 30.000 | |
| EU Core Grant for WWF-DCP | 35.000 | | | |
| TOTAL INCOME | 65.000 | | 30.000 | |
| EXPENDITURE | | | | |
| Staff costs | 27.000 | Coord, Assist. | 27.000 | |
| Third party fees | 0 | | | |
| Other grants & agreements | 5.000 | Work Groups | 5.000 | |
| Travel, meeting, training | 2.000 | Board mtg, Coord. | 12.000 | GA, 2 BMs, Coord. |
| Communications & fundraising | 4.500 | www, other | 4.500 | |
| Miscellaneous costs | 0 | | | |
| Office running costs | 5.000 | | 5.000 | |
| Project admin., management | 7.125 | | | |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 50.625 | | 53.500 | |
| NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT) | 14.375 | | -23.500 | |

ANNEX 15

Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative (CERI) Work Plan Milestones for the Secretariat - 2005

| Activity | Timeframe |
|---|-------------------------|
| General Assembly | June 2005 |
| Protected Area Action Plan Workshop (CNPA) | June 2005 |
| DOEN Tour | June 2005 |
| Drafting EU Proposal | June-September 2005 |
| Drafting Pin-MATRA proposal | June-July 2005 |
| Drafting CADSES Proposal | June-July 2005 |
| Possible Ukrainian national consultation meeting | July 2005 |
| Launch of Carpathian Road Trip to tour CERI model projects, meet with the future network and local stakeholders, and collect inputs for the PDF-B application (full-sized application for the GEF), if GEF goes ahead | July-August 2005 |
| Drafting PDF-B application (full-sized application for the GEF) | August 05 |
| Fourth Ad Hoc Expert Meeting for the Draft Framework Carpathian Convention, Bolzano | September 2005 |
| CERI Board meeting | September 2005 |
| Kick-off workshop for PDF-B (if GEF goes ahead) | October 2005 |
| Carpathian Convention Ministerial Meeting – CERI Side Event | October 2005 (date tbc) |
| Extraordinary General Assembly, Djerdap National Park | 24-25 November 2005 |

ANNEX 16

**FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON THE
PROTECTION
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF
THE
CARPATHIANS**

“The Parties”,

ACKNOWLEDGING that the Carpathians are a unique natural treasure of great beauty and ecological value, an important reservoir of biodiversity, the headwaters of major rivers, an essential habitat and refuge for many endangered species of plants and animals and Europe's largest area of virgin forests, and AWARE that the Carpathians constitute a major ecological, economic, cultural, recreational and living environment in the heart of Europe, shared by numerous peoples and countries;

REALIZING the importance and ecological, cultural and socio-economic value of mountain regions, which prompted the United Nations General Assembly to declare 2002 the International Year of Mountains; RECOGNIZING the importance of Mountain areas, as enshrined in Chapter 13 (Sustainable Mountain Development) of the Declaration on Environment and Development (“Agenda 21”, Rio de Janeiro, 1992), and in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

RECALLING the Declaration on Environment and Sustainable Development in the Carpathian and Danube Region (Bucharest, 2001);

NOTING the pertinent provisions of and principles enshrined in relevant global, regional and sub-regional environmental legal instruments, strategies and programmes;

AIMING at ensuring a more effective implementation of such already existing instruments, and BUILDING upon other international programmes;

RECOGNIZING that the Carpathians constitute the living environment for the local people, and ACKNOWLEDGING the contribution of the local people to sustainable social, cultural and economic development, and to preserving traditional knowledge in the Carpathians;

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of sub-regional cooperation for the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians in the context of the 'Environment for Europe' process;

RECOGNIZING the experience gained in the framework of the Convention on the Protection of the Alps (Salzburg, 1991) as a successful model for the protection of the environment and sustainable development of mountain regions, providing a sound basis for new partnership initiatives and further strengthening of cooperation between Alpine and Carpathian states;

BEING AWARE of the fact that efforts to protect, maintain and sustainably manage the natural resources of the Carpathians cannot be achieved by one country alone and require regional cooperation, and of the added value of transboundary cooperation in achieving ecological coherence;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

Geographical scope

1. The Convention applies to the Carpathian region (hereinafter referred to as the “Carpathians”), to be defined by the Conference of the Parties.

2. Each Party may extend the application of this Convention and its Protocols to additional parts of its national territory by making a declaration to the Depositary, provided that this is necessary to implement the provisions of the Convention.

Article 2

General objectives and principles

1. The Parties shall pursue a comprehensive policy and cooperate for the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians with a view to *inter alia* improving quality of life, strengthening local economies and communities, and conservation of natural values and cultural heritage.

2. In order to achieve the objectives referred to in paragraph 1, the Parties shall take appropriate measures, in the areas covered by Articles 4 to 13 of this Convention by promoting:

- (a) the precaution and prevention principles,
- (b) the 'polluter pays' principle,
- (c) public participation and stakeholder involvement,
- (d) transboundary cooperation,
- (e) integrated planning and management of land and water resources,
- (f) a programmatic approach, and
- (g) the ecosystem approach.

3. To achieve the objectives set forth in this Convention and to ensure its implementation, the Parties may, as appropriate, develop and adopt Protocols.

Article 3

Integrated approach to the land resources management

The Parties shall apply the approach of the integrated land resources management as defined in Chapter 10 of the Agenda 21, by developing and implementing appropriate tools, such as integrated management plans, relating to the areas of this Convention.

Article 4

Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity

1. The Parties shall pursue policies aiming at conservation, sustainable use and restoration of biological and landscape diversity throughout the Carpathians. The Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure a high level of protection and sustainable use of natural and semi-natural habitats, their continuity and connectivity, and species of flora and fauna being characteristic to the Carpathians, in particular the protection of endangered species, endemic species and large carnivores.

2. The Parties shall promote adequate maintenance of semi-natural habitats, the restoration of degraded habitats, and support the development and implementation of relevant management plans.

3. The Parties shall pursue policies aiming at the prevention of introduction of alien invasive species and release of genetically modified organisms threatening ecosystems, habitats or species, their control or eradication.

4. The Parties shall develop and/or promote compatible monitoring systems, coordinated regional inventories of species and habitats, coordinated scientific research, and their networking.

5. The Parties shall cooperate in developing an ecological network in the Carpathians, as a constituent part of the Pan-European Ecological Network, in establishing and supporting a Carpathian Network of Protected Areas, as well as enhance conservation and sustainable management in the areas outside of protected areas.

6. The Parties shall take appropriate measures to integrate the objective of conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity into sectoral policies, such as mountain agriculture, mountain forestry, river basin management, tourism, transport and energy, industry and mining activities.

Article 5

Spatial planning

1. The Parties shall pursue policies of spatial planning aimed at the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians, which shall take into account the specific ecological and socio-economic conditions in the Carpathians and their mountain ecosystems, and provide benefits to the local people.

2. The Parties shall aim at coordinating spatial planning in bordering areas, through developing transboundary and/or regional spatial planning policies and programmes, enhancing and supporting co-operation between relevant regional and local institutions.

3. In developing spatial planning policies and programmes, particular attention should, *inter alia*, be paid to:

- (a) transboundary transport, energy and telecommunications infrastructure and services,
- (b) conservation and sustainable use of natural resources,
- (c) coherent town and country planning in border areas,
- (d) preventing the cross-border impact of pollution,
- (e) integrated land use planning, and environmental impact assessments.

Article 6

Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management

Taking into account the hydrological, biological and ecological, and other specificities of mountain river basins, the Parties shall:

- (a) take appropriate measures to promote policies integrating sustainable use of water resources, with land-use planning, and aim at pursuing policies and plans based on an integrated river basin management approach, recognizing the importance of pollution and flood management, prevention and control, and reducing water habitats fragmentation,
- (b) pursue policies aiming at sustainable management of surface and groundwater resources, ensuring adequate supply of good quality surface and groundwater as

- needed for sustainable, balanced and equitable water use, and adequate sanitation and treatment of waste water,
- (c) pursue policies aiming at conserving natural watercourses, springs, lakes and groundwater resources as well as preserving and protecting wetlands and wetland ecosystems, and protecting against natural and anthropogenic detrimental effects such as flooding and accidental water pollution,
 - (d) further develop a coordinated or joint system of measures, activities and early warning for transboundary impacts on the water regime of flooding and accidental water pollution, as well as co-operate in preventing and reducing the damages and giving assistance in restoration works.

Article 7

Sustainable agriculture and forestry

1. The Parties shall maintain the management of land traditionally cultivated in a sustainable manner, and take appropriate measures in designing and implementing their agricultural policies, taking into account the need of the protection of mountain ecosystems and landscapes, the importance of biological diversity, and the specific conditions of mountains as less favoured areas.
2. The Parties shall pursue policies aiming at developing and designing appropriate instruments, such as the crucially important agri-environmental programs in the Carpathians, enhancing integration of environmental concerns into agricultural policies and land management plans, while taking into account the high ecological importance of Carpathian mountain ecosystems, such as natural and semi-natural grasslands, as part of the ecological networks, landscapes and traditional land-use.
3. The Parties shall pursue policies aiming at promoting and supporting the use of instruments and programs, compatible with internationally agreed principles of sustainable forest management.
4. The Parties shall apply sustainable mountain forest management practices in the Carpathians, taking into account the multiple functions of forests, the high ecological importance of the Carpathian mountain ecosystems, as well as the less favourable conditions in mountain forests.
5. The Parties shall pursue policies aiming at designating protected areas in natural, especially virgin forests in sufficient size and number, with the purpose to restrict or adapt their use according to the objectives of conservation to be achieved.
6. The Parties shall promote practice of environmentally sound agricultural and forestry measures assuring appropriate retention of precipitation in the mountains with a view to better prevent flooding and increase safety of life and assets.

Article 8

Sustainable transport and infrastructure

1. The Parties shall pursue policies of sustainable transport and infrastructure planning and development, which take into account the specificities of the mountain environment, by taking into consideration the protection of sensitive areas, in particular biodiversity-rich areas, migration routes or areas of international importance, the protection of biodiversity and landscapes, and of areas of particular importance for tourism.

2. The Parties shall cooperate towards developing sustainable transport policies which provide the benefits of mobility and access in the Carpathians, while minimizing harmful effects on human health, landscapes, plants, animals, and their habitats, and incorporating sustainable transport demand management in all stages of transport planning in the Carpathians.

3. In environmentally sensitive areas the Parties shall co-operate towards developing models of environmentally friendly transportation.

Article 9

Sustainable tourism

1. The Parties shall take measures to promote sustainable tourism in the Carpathians, providing benefits to the local people, based on the exceptional nature, landscapes and cultural heritage of the Carpathians, and shall increase cooperation to this effect.

2. Parties shall pursue policies aiming at promoting transboundary cooperation in order to facilitate sustainable tourism development, such as coordinated or joint management plans for transboundary or bordering protected areas, and other sites of touristic interest.

Article 10

Industry and energy

1. The Parties shall promote cleaner production technologies, in order to adequately prevent, respond to and remediate industrial accidents and their consequences, as well as to preserve human health and mountain ecosystems.

2. The Parties shall pursue policies aiming at introducing environmentally sound methods for the production, distribution and use of energy, which minimize adverse effects on the biodiversity and landscapes, including wider use of renewable energy sources and energy-saving measures, as appropriate.

3. Parties shall aim at reducing adverse impacts of mineral exploitation on the environment and ensuring adequate environmental surveillance on mining technologies and practices.

Article 11

Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge

The Parties shall pursue policies aiming at preservation and promotion of the cultural heritage and of traditional knowledge of the local people, crafting and marketing of local goods, arts and handicrafts. The Parties shall aim at preserving the traditional architecture, land-use patterns, local breeds of domestic animals and cultivated plant varieties, and sustainable use of wild plants in the Carpathians.

Article 12

Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning

1. The Parties shall apply, where necessary, risk assessments, environmental impact assessments, and strategic environmental assessments, taking into account the specificities of the Carpathian mountain ecosystems, and shall consult on projects of

transboundary character in the Carpathians, and assess their environmental impact, in order to avoid transboundary harmful effects.

2. The Parties shall pursue policies, using existing methods of monitoring and assessment, aiming at promoting:

- (a) cooperation in the carrying out of research activities and scientific assessments in the Carpathians,
- (b) joint or complementary monitoring programmes, including the systematic monitoring of the state of the environment,
- (c) comparability, complementarity and standardization of research methods and related data-acquisition activities,
- (d) harmonization of existing and development of new environmental, social and economic indicators,
- (e) a system of early warning, monitoring and assessment of natural and manmade environmental risks and hazards, and
- (f) an information system, accessible to all Parties.

Article 13

Awareness raising, education and public participation

1. The Parties shall pursue policies aiming at increasing environmental awareness and improving access of the public to information on the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians, and promoting related education curricula and programmes.

2. The Parties shall pursue policies guaranteeing public participation in decision-making relating to the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians, and the implementation of this Convention.

Article 14

Conference of the Parties

1. A Conference of the Parties (hereinafter referred to as the “Conference”) is hereby established.

2. The Conference shall discuss common concerns of the Parties and make the decisions necessary to promote the effective implementation of the Convention. In particular, it shall:

- (a) regularly review and support the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols,
- (b) adopt amendments to the Convention pursuant to Article 19,
- (c) adopt Protocols, including amendments thereto, pursuant to Articles 18,
- (d) nominate its President and establish an intersessional executive body, as appropriate and in accordance with its Rules of Procedure,
- (e) establish such subsidiary bodies, including thematic working groups, as are deemed necessary for the implementation of the Convention, regularly review reports submitted by its subsidiary bodies and provide guidance to them,
- (f) approve a work program, financial rules and budget for its activities, including those of its subsidiary bodies and the Secretariat, and undertake necessary arrangements for their financing pursuant to Article 17,
- (g) adopt its Rules of Procedure,

- (h) adopt or recommend measures to achieve the objectives laid down in Articles 2 to 13,
- (i) as appropriate, seek the cooperation of competent bodies or agencies, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental and promote and strengthen the relationship with other relevant conventions while avoiding duplication of efforts, and
- (j) exercise other functions as may be necessary for the achievement of the objectives of the Convention.

3. The first session of the Conference shall be convened not later than one year after the date of entry into force of the Convention. Unless otherwise decided by the Conference, ordinary sessions shall be held every three years.

4. Extraordinary sessions of the Conference shall be held at such other times as may be decided either by the Conference at ordinary session or at the written request of any Party, provided that, within three months of the request being communicated to all the other Parties by the Secretariat, it is supported by at least one third of the Parties.

5. The Parties may decide to admit as observers at the ordinary and extraordinary sessions of the Conference:

- (a) any other State,
- (b) any national, intergovernmental or non-governmental organization the activities of which are related to the Convention.

The conditions for the admission and participation of observers shall be established in the Rules of Procedure. Such observers may present any information or report relevant to the objectives of the Convention.

6. The Conference shall reach its decisions by consensus.

Article 15

Secretariat

1. A Secretariat is hereby established.

2. The functions of the Secretariat shall be:

- (a) to make arrangements for sessions of the Conference and to provide them with services as required,
- (b) to compile and transmit reports submitted to it,
- (c) to coordinate its activities with the secretariats of other relevant international bodies and conventions,
- (d) to prepare reports on the exercising of its functions under this Convention and its Protocols, including financial reports, and present them to the Conference,
- (e) to facilitate research, communication and information exchange on matters relating to this Convention, and
- (f) to perform other secretariat functions as may be determined by the Conference.

Article 16

Subsidiary bodies

The subsidiary bodies, including thematic working groups established in accordance with Article 14 paragraph 2 (e), shall provide the Conference, as necessary, with technical assistance, information and advice on specific issues related to the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians.

Article 17

Financial contributions

Each Party shall contribute to the regular budget of the Convention in accordance with a scale of contributions as determined by the Conference.

Article 18

Protocols

1. Any Party may propose Protocols to the Convention.
2. The draft Protocols shall be circulated to all Parties through the Secretariat not later than six months before the Conference session at which they are to be considered.
3. The Protocols shall be adopted and signed at the Conference sessions. The entry into force, amendment of and withdrawal from the Protocols shall be done *mutatis mutandis* in accordance with Articles 19, 21 paragraphs 2 to 4 and Article 22 of the Convention. Only a Party to the Convention may become Party to the Protocols.

Article 19

Amendments to the Convention

1. Any Party may propose amendments to the Convention.
2. The proposed amendments shall be circulated to all Parties to the Convention through the Secretariat not later than six months before the Conference session at which the amendments are to be considered.
3. The Conference shall adopt the proposed amendments to the Convention by consensus.
4. The amendments to the Convention shall be subject to ratification, approval or acceptance. The amendments shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit of the fourth instrument of ratification, approval or acceptance. Thereafter, the amendments shall enter into force for any other Party on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit of its instrument of ratification, approval or acceptance.

Article 20

Settlement of disputes

The Parties shall settle disputes arising from the interpretation or implementation of the Convention by negotiation or any other means of dispute settlement in accordance with international law.

Article 21

Entry into force

1. This Convention shall be open for signature at the Depositary from 22 May 2003 to 22 May 2004.
2. This Convention shall be subject to ratification, acceptance, or approval by the Signatories. The Convention shall be open for accession by non-Signatories. Instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval and accession shall be deposited with the Depositary.
3. The Convention shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit of the fourth instrument of ratification, approval, acceptance or accession.
4. Thereafter the Convention shall enter into force for any other Party on the ninetieth day from the date of deposit of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

Article 22

Withdrawal

Any Party may withdraw from the Convention by means of a notification in writing addressed to the Depositary. The withdrawal shall become effective on the one hundred eightieth day after the date of the receipt of the notification by the Depositary.

Article 23

Depositary

1. The Depositary of the Convention shall be the Government of Ukraine.
2. The Depositary shall notify all the other Parties of
 - (a) any signature of the Convention and its Protocols,
 - (b) the deposit of any instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession,
 - (c) the date of entry into force of the Convention as well as its Protocols or amendments thereto, and the date of their entry into force for any other Party,
 - (d) any notifications of withdrawal from the Convention or its Protocols and the date on which such withdrawal becomes effective for a particular Party,
 - (e) the deposit of any declaration according to Article 1 paragraph 2.

Done at Kyiv, Ukraine on 22 May 2003 in one original in the English Language.

The original of the Convention shall be deposited with the Depositary, which shall distribute certified copies to all Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, have signed this Convention:

ANNEX 17

Conclusions of the 3rd Ad Hoc Expert Meeting of the Carpathian Convention, Bolzano, Italy, 6 – 8 April 2005

- **Status of Ratification of the Convention**

Hungary and Ukraine have ratified the Convention. The instrument of ratification of Hungary will be deposited soon. In Serbia and Montenegro the documents for ratification have been finalized and ratification is expected before the end of the year. In Poland ratification is expected by June 2005. In Czech Republic the first reading in parliament has been completed. In Slovak Republic the ratification process has started. Romania's ratification process is linked to the discussion and solution of the scope of application of the Convention. Romania would expect to receive a letter from UNEP related to Romania's ratification.

- **Scope of Application of the Convention**

Two countries expressed that the Transylvanian plateau could be part of the scope of application (Article 1 paragraph 1 of the Convention) or not, and supported self-designation. Four countries favored the self-designation. One country favors the inclusion of the Transylvanian plateau.

Countries welcomed the European Academy in Bolzano (EURAC) comprehensive report on the scope of application. The Interim Secretariat informed that with this presentation the related component of the Italian Umbrella project has been completed successfully. The meeting noted the attached recommendation by the Chair to the Ad Hoc Expert Meeting and recommended that Hungary and Romania meet bilaterally, preferably at ministerial level, to reach an agreement on the scope of the application of the Convention, in the understanding that the other Carpathian Countries will join the consensus reached.

- **Rules of Procedure for the Convention**

The meeting reviewed and endorsed the rules of procedure, as amended, for submission to the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP I).

- **Financial Rules for the Convention**

The meeting reviewed and endorsed the financial rules, as amended, in the understanding that they will be submitted to COP I with an explanatory note highlighting the relevance and importance of a continuation of the contribution system agreed upon in the Kiev Resolution, and the need for countries to include their contribution to the Convention Secretariat in a structural way in their national budget planning and implementation. Financial rules are not linked to the scope of application of the Convention.

- **Interim and Permanent Secretariat Arrangements of the Convention**

The meeting approved the activity and financial report 2003 – 2004 of the Interim Secretariat. The meeting welcomed the note by the Interim Secretariat on the consequences and implications of establishing the Permanent Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention. Hungary repeated that the Secretariat should be run by UNEP and located in the Carpathian region. Poland, Czech Republic and Serbia and Montenegro supported the Hungarian statement.

Slovak Republic will formulate its position at a later stage. Ukraine reconfirmed and presented its offer to host the Secretariat, supporting the proposal that UNEP would run the Secretariat. Romania repeated its offer to host the Secretariat.

The meeting agreed that the UNEP Interim Secretariat circulate a questionnaire, introducing the above-mentioned positions and soliciting the final views and specific offers for the hosting and the institutional linkages of the Secretariat, for submission to COP I.

- **Workprogramme of the Convention**

The meeting reviewed and discussed the workprogramme of the Convention, and requested the Secretariat to prepare and circulate the amended version, for final comments and submission to COP I.

- **Preparation for the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention**

The meeting requested the Interim Secretariat to seek the views and confirmation by the Romanian Government concerning its offer to host COP I, while stressing the need and importance of holding a ministerial level meeting before end 2005. Depending on the reply, the Interim Secretariat will undertake the necessary action and further consultations, if needed.

The meeting reviewed the provisional agenda for COP I and requested the Interim Secretariat to prepare and circulate an amended version.

- **Joint Session with the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) Steering Committee / Carpathian Global Environment Facility (GEF) project**

The meeting welcomed the finalized GEF Request for a PDF Block A for Full Sized Project “Ensuring Connectivity of an Ecological Network through a Framework for Ecoregional Planning and Capacity Development of the Protected Areas System” and emphasized the need for regional action for sustainably protecting and managing the Carpathian mountain ecosystems. Romania, Serbia and Montenegro and Ukraine will recommend the proposal for rapid endorsement, and requested the Interim Secretariat to submit it to their GEF Focal Points.

The meeting welcomed the offer by WWF to further support GEF development and the preparations of the CNPA until the first COP, and requested the Interim Secretariat to circulate to Focal Points and the CNPA Steering Committee the proposed workplan for information, consideration, inputs and approval.

- **Other Matters**

The meeting welcomed the proposed Memorandum of Cooperation between the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR Secretariat) and the Carpathian Interim Secretariat.

The meeting welcomed and expressed gratitude for the presentations and ongoing support and collaboration with WWF International, the Central and East European Working Group for the Enhancement of Biodiversity (CEEWEB), the Society for Ecological Tourism in Europe (ETE) based in Bonn/Germany, the Northern Alliance for Sustainability (ANPED), the

Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) and the Bratislava-based Institute for Applied Ecology (DAPHNE).

The meeting requested the Interim Secretariat to explore the need and potential for a 4th Ad Hoc Expert Meeting in preparation of COP I.

The meeting expressed its gratitude and high appreciation for the continuous support by the Italian Government to the Carpathian Convention process, in particular the meetings hosted and work undertaken by EURAC.

The meeting welcomed the development of the website by the interim secretariat in cooperation and with the support by EURAC.

Recommendation by the Chair to the 3rd Ad Hoc Expert Meeting of the Carpathian Convention on the issue of the “Scope of Application of the Carpathian Convention”

The meeting participants,

ACKNOWLEDGING great work, which has been done by the European Academy (EURAC) to justify the scope of application;

BEARING IN MINDS the utmost importance of the ratification of the Carpathian Convention by all Carpathian Countries;

FOLLOWING the Article 1 of the Carpathian Convention;

Decided unanimously:

To recommend the following to the Carpathian Governments for adoption by all Carpathian Countries at its First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, pursuant to provision of the Article 1 of the Convention:

(MAP)

The Convention applies to the geographical areas designated by the Governments/ Parties of the Convention, as reflected in the map above.

The scope of application of the Convention furthermore includes the areas decided upon in the context of the negotiation and conclusion of the thematic protocols to the Convention. As to these areas, the information provided in the map above will be further analyzed, adopted and integrated in the final decisions on the scope of application of the protocols.

ANNEX 18

DAY 2 – THURSDAY, JUNE 2

| | | |
|--------------|---|------------|
| 9:00 | Cooperation in the Carpathian Convention Process (Chair: J. Seffer) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More on the Carpathians GEF/Ecoregion Action Plan project and the potential role of CERI (S. Lieberman) - Building off the work of “The Status Report”: the Carpathian Environmental Outlook - “KEO” (H. Egerer) - Presentation of Memorandum of Understanding between CERI and UNEP and discussion of future cooperation (H. Egerer/J. Seffer) <i>Presentations and discussion</i> | 90 minutes |
| 10:30 | COFFEE BREAK | 30 minutes |
| 11:00 | Rules of Procedure + Scientific advisory group (A. Beckmann) <i>Presentation of drafts, discussion, possible adoption or next steps</i> | 60 minutes |
| 12:00 | LUNCH | 60 minutes |
| 13:00 | Possibilities for future cooperation (S. Lieberman/J. Seffer) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potential thematic areas of work/strategies for cooperation ▪ Break out into work groups ▪ Feed back on work groups in plenary | 60 minutes |
| 14:00 | CERI workplan and budget (A. Beckmann) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update on the CERI budget and financial outlook - Financial report (January 2005 – present) (S. Lieberman) - Expected expenses through CY05 (S. Lieberman) - Plan to cover expenses = ‘workplan’ (2005-06) | 75 minutes |
| 15:15 | COFFEE BREAK | 30 minutes |
| 15:45 | Current projects (A. Beckmann) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EU-Twinning/GIS – Serbia-Slovakia: Djerdap (N. Robajac) - Leveraging EU funds/Grasslands: Daphne (J. Seffer) - Habitat fragmentation and the conservation of large carnivores (G. Predoiu) - Maramures project, One Europe More Nature (S. Pop) - Rural development project, CEEWEB (R. Francia) - Summary of former small grants programme (H. Meyer , V. Pokynchereda,) | 90 minutes |
| 17:15 | Next steps and end (A. Beckmann) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of workplan/budget - Assigned delegation of tasks: leaders of workgroups, funding proposals, etc. - Agree on date and venue for next GA - Wrap-up - Final words (J. Seffer) | 45 minutes |
| 18:00 | Meeting adjourned: photo and toast to CERI independence | |
| 19:30 | Dinner and celebration at local restaurant, Stana Turtistica | |

DAY 3 – FRIDAY, JUNE 3

Half-Day Field Trip (Optional) around Brasov/Zarnesti and Departure

ANNEX 19



The Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative

BIODIVERSITY WORKGROUP Proposed Terms of Reference

1. General organization

- Co-ordinate and organize, as necessary, biodiversity work undertaken on the local, regional and national scale.
- Decide on team structure and responsibilities and develop the workplan for the Ecoregion Action Plan, in coordination with CERI Secretariat and Board
- Agree on coordination mechanisms and reporting lines.
- Organize coordination meetings as necessary and organize a forum for group communication and information exchange – email network?
- Liaise with other CERI working groups, Board and the Secretariat

2. More specific requirements

- Agree on thematic categories of work and assign to individual biodiversity country coordinators and others based on experience/interest.
- Define GIS database and mapping requirements and liaise with GIS (data management/clearinghouse group). Decide on appropriate and compatible landscape classification.
- Address gaps in knowledge and data identified during the previous Assessment phase.
- Determine methodology for revisiting/refining the areas formerly determined to be BDIA's. Establish a method for prioritization under the EAP: species, communities and habitats most irreplaceable, most at threat, and also with most potential to contribute to sustainable livelihood options.
- Use the gaps previously identified in species, communities and habitats assessments to determine "pre-priority" landscapes and model projects areas in the Carpathians under the EAP
- Identify the threats to biodiversity conservation (confer with socio-economic group)
- Identify the gaps in protected area coverage and knowledge and assess the degree to which outstanding biological features of the Carpathians are conserved within the CNPA by liaising with CNPA.
- Determine the conservation status and landscape integrity of critical sites
- Redraft a 'biodiversity vision' according to the new needs of the EAP.
- Highlight communication and education opportunities
- Facilitate work of the process group in demonstration and pilot projects
- Submit biodiversity progress report to the Secretariat for review by the board by ???

ANNEX 20

List of CERI members

CZECH REPUBLIC

Hnutí DUHA Olomouc

Miroslav Kutal

Dolní náměstí 38
77200 Olomouc

Tel.: (+420) 58 522 85 84

Fax: (+420) 58 522 85 84

Email: olomouc@hnutiduha.cz

Webpage:

www.hnutiduha.cz/olomouc

Legal status: NGO

No members, 3 employees and 25
volunteers

Topics: Conservation of large
carnivores

HUNGARY

Central and East European Working Group for the Enhancement of Biodiversity – CEEWEB

Andras Krolopp

Kuruclesi ut 11/A
1025 Budapest

Tel: (+63) 1 398 01 35

Fax: (+63) 1 398 01 36

Email: office@ceeweb.org,

krolopp@ceeweb.org

Webpage: www.ceeweb.org

Legal status: NGO

60 members, 8 employees, 3 volunteers

Topics: Rural development, Natura
2000, CITES, sustainable tourism

E-misszio Environmental and Nature Conservation Association

Istvan Csaba Botos

6 Szabolcs Street
4400 Nyiregyhaza

Tel.: (+36) 42 42 38 18

Fax: ?

Email: emisszio@e-misszio.hu

Webpage: www.e-misszio.hu

Legal status: NGO

400 members, 23 employees, 25
volunteers

Topics: Ornithology, land-use change,
environmental education and awareness,
habitat protection

POLAND

Foundation for the Support of Ecological Initiatives

Fundacja Wspierania Inijatyw

Ekologicznych

Dorota Maslanka

Ul. Czysta 17/4
31-121 Kraków

Tel.: (+48) 124 631 57 31, -30

Fax: (+48) 124 631 57 32

Email: biuro@fwie.eco.pl

Webpage: www.fwie.eco.pl

Legal status: NGO

No members, 10 employees and 10
volunteers

Topics: Nature conservation, education

**Polish Environmental Partnership
Foundation – Fundacja Partnerstwo
dla Środowiska**

Rafal Serafin

Bracka 6/6
31-005 Krakow

Tel: (+48) 12 422 5088

Fax: (+48) 12 429 4725

Email: serafin@epce.org.pl

Webpage: www.epce.org.pl

Legal status: NGO

19 members, 15 employees, 5
volunteers

Topics: Awareness for sustainable
development, community-based
environmental initiatives

Polish Tatra Society

Barbara Morawska-Nowak

21/5 Konarskiego
30-049 Krakow

Tel: (+48) 12 422 5088

Fax: (+48) 12 429 4725

Email: morawska@ppt.org.pl

Webpage: www.ptt.org.pl

Legal status: NGO

Approx. 1500 members and 1500
volunteers

Topics: Ecotourism, education, natural
and cultural heritage of the Tatras

ROMANIA

Amicii Salvamont Association

Sabin Cornoiu

Targu Jiu st Victoriei 7A
Gorj County

Tel: (+40) 253 222 555

Fax: (+40) 253 221 555

Email: salvamont@eltop.ro

No webpage

Legal status: NGO

24 members, 1 employee, 11 volunteers

Topics: Protection of the natural
patrimony, sustainable development,
ecotourism

**AER - "Discover Eco Romania" -
Association of Ecotourism in
Romania**

Andrei Blumer, Colin Shaw

Str.Toamnei nr. 13, Bl.4, Sc. D, Apt. 13,
500223 Brasov

Tel: (+40) 21311950

Fax: (+40) 268 328 721

mobile +40 744 319 742 (Andrei
Blumer)

Email: blumera@rdslink.ro,

roving@deltanet.ro (Colin Shaw)

Webpage: www.eco-romania.ro,

www.roving-romania.co.uk

Topics: ecotourism

CARPATI Foundation

George Predoiu

str. Pavilioanele CFR, nr. 100
500233 Brasov

tel/fax: +40-268-330567

email: fundatiacarpati@go.ro

mobile: +40-744-363640

Webpage ?

Legal status: NGO

Members?

Topics: Wildlife management

Kogayon Association

Florin Stoican

Costesti Street 343
247115 Costesti
Valcea County

Tel.: (+40) 723 071 648

Fax: ?

Legal status: NGO

88 members, 200 volunteers
Topics: Environmental protection,
ecotourism, culture, education, natural
park "Buila-Vanturarita Massif"

Milvus Group

Tamás Papp

Str. Crinului nr. 22
540343 Tirgu-Mures

Tel: (+40) 265 264 736
Fax: (+40) 265 264 736
Email: office@milvus.ro

Webpage: www.milvus.ro

Legal status: NGO
750 members, 56 employees and
volunteers
Topics: Nature conservation (birds and
mammals), education

Transilvania University of Brasov Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering

Dr. Ioan Vasile Abrudan

1, Sirul Beethoven
2200 Brasov

Tel.: (+40) 268 47 68 08
Fax: (+40) 268 47 68 08
Email: abrudan@unitbv.ro

Webpage: www.unitbv.ro/silvic

Legal status: Academic
44 employees staff, 2 volunteers
Topics: Forest and wildlife higher
education and research

Societatea de Stiinte din Cluj

Dr. Oana Moldovan

Clocinilor 5
400006 Cluj-Napoca

Tel.: (+40) 264 59 59 54
Fax: ?

Email:

oanamol@hasdeu.ubbcluj.ro

Webpage: none

Legal status: NGO

10 members

Topics: Protection of cave habitats and
fauna in Carpathians

SERBIA

Association of Young Researchers Bor

Dragana Randjelovic

Djordja Vajferta 11
19 210 Bor

Tel.: (+381) 30 25 241
Fax: ?

Email: mibor@ptt.yu,
mibor@sezampro.yu

Webpage: www.etos.co.yu/mibor

Legal status: NGO
300 members, 1 employee, 40
volunteers
Topics: Environmental awareness,
education, protection, monitoring

Ecolibri-Bionet

Nenad Robajac

Sindjeliceva 7
11 000 Belgrade

Tel.: (+381) 11 344 29 75
Fax: (+381) 11 344 29 75
Email: nrbionet@eunet.yu
Webpage:

www.ecolibribionet.co.yu

Legal status: NGO
100 members, 13 employees and
volunteers

Topics: Database of Carpathian in Serbia, environmental awareness

Ecological Society ENDEMIT

Miroslav Tadic

Oracka 42
Zemun
11 000 Belgrade

Tel.: (+381) 64 15 77 257

Fax: ?

Email:

zajednice@endemit.org.yu

Webpage: www.endemit.org.yu

Legal status: NGO

40 members, 40 volunteers

Topics: Djerdap National Park: database, protection and awareness

Ecological Society of Kladovo

Mirko Gavrilovic

Save Kovacevica 1

19 320 Kladovo

Tel.: (+381) 19 812 13

Fax: (+381) 19 815 63

Email: ekomi@teleport.co.yu

Webpage: none

Legal status: NGO

60 members, 10 employees, 20 volunteers

Topics: Nature and biodiversity protection, education, environmental awareness

SLOVAKIA

DAPHNE Institute of Applied Ecology

Ján Šeffler

Podunajska 24
SK-821 06 Bratislava

Mobile: (+421) 905 982 865

Tel/fax: (+421) 245 524 019

Email: jansef@changenet.sk

Webpage: www.daphne.sk

Legal status: NGO with 16 employees, ? members

Topics: applied ecology and research, environmental education

Institute of Botany of Slovak Academy of Sciences

Ivan Jarolimek, Viera Vitekova

Dúbravská cesta 14
SK-845 23 Bratislava

Tel: (+421) 02 5477 3507

Fax: (+421) 02 5477 1948

Email: ivan.jarolimek@savba.sk

Webpage: <http://ibot.sav.sk>

Legal status: Academic institute
80 employees

Topics: Research of flora and vegetation

Ekopolis Foundation – Slovak Environmental Partnership

Peter Medved, Ludo Sluka

Komenského 21
974 01 Banská Bystrica

Tel: (+421) 48 4145 478

Fax: (+421) 48 4145 259

Email: epce@changenet.sk

Webpage: www.ekopolis.sk

Legal status: ?

No members, 10 employees, 50 volunteers

Topics: Environmental and biodiversity conservation, Greenways Programme

RPS – Raptor Protection of Slovakia
– **Ochrana dravcov na Slovensku**
Slávka Siryová

Sekurisova 16
841 02 Bratislava
Tel: (+421) 2 64283984
Fax: ?
Email: dravce@dravce.sk
Webpage: www.dravce.sk

Legal status: NGO
150 members, 5 employees, 20
volunteers
Topics: Research, conservation and
monitoring of birds of prey

UKRAINE

Association “Our Home”
Yurij Wasidlow

50/2 Hotkevich str ap. 28
76-022 Iwano-Frankiwsk

Tel: (+380) 342 55 10 19
Fax: (+380) 432 55 94 36
Email: ourhome@il.if.ua
Webpage: none

Legal status: ?
15 members, 1 employee, 26 volunteers
Topics: Biodiversity, large carnivores,
Carpathian Convention

The Carpathian Biosphere Reserve
Victoria Stolpnik

77 Krasnoe Pleso St.
Rakhiv, 90600
Transcarpathian region

Tel: (+380) 3132 22 659
Fax?
Webpage: <http://cbr.nature.org.ua>

Legal status: Nature-protection fund of
Ukraine

297 employees
Topics: Nature conservation and
protection, education, research,
monitoring, regional sustainable
development

**Charity Information Center “Green
Dossier”**

Tamara Malkova

POB 201
01025 Kiev-25

Tel.: (+380) 287 62 77
Fax: ?

Email: Tamara@bg.net.ua
Webpage: www.dossier.kiev.ua

Legal status: NGO
20 members, 8 employees, 30
volunteers
Topics: Environmental awareness,
cultural events, education

Ecological Club “Carpathians”
Vasyl Pokynchereda

P.O.B. 10
Rakhiv, 90600
Zakarpatska oblast

Tel: (+380) 22 914
Fax: (+380) 22 632
Email:
ecoclub@rakhiv.ukrtel.net
Webpage: none

Legal status: NGO
14 members, 10 volunteers, no
employees
Topics: Nature protection, education,
ecotourism, regional sustainable
development, ecological networking

**Institute of Ecology of the
Carpathians - National Academy of
Science of Ukraine**

Aleksander A. Kagalo

4 Kozelnitska str.
79026 Lviv

Tel.: (+380) 322 707 430
Fax: (+380) 322 973 912
Email: kagalo@mail.lviv.ua,
ecoinst@mail.lviv.ua
Webpage: none

Legal status: Academic
61 employees
Topic: Ecosystem research in the
Carpathians, plant ontogenesis,
conservation biology

OTHER

WWF International
Danube-Carpathian Programme
Michael Baltzer

Mariahilferstrasse 88a/3/9
A-1070 Vienna, Austria

Tel: (+43) 1 524 54 70 13
Fax: (+43) 1 524 54 70 70
Email: mbaltzer@wwfdcp.org
Webpage: www.panda.org/dcpo

Legal status: NGO
30 employees
Topics: Freshwater, forests, protected
areas, EU Accession, agriculture and
rural development, ecosystem services

ANNEX 21

List of CERI Participants at General Assembly, Brasov, June 2005

| Name of participant | Organisation | Role at the GA | email |
|-----------------------|---|---|----------------------------|
| Czech Republic | | | |
| Miroslav Kutal | Hnutí DUHA Olomouc | Member, substitution for Tomas Ruzicka (NFP) | vbcı.dech@hnutıduha.cz |
| Hungary | | | |
| Rita Francia | CEEWEB | Member, substitution for Andras Krolopp (NFP) | francia@ceeweb.org |
| Poland | | | |
| Dorota Maslanka | Foundation for The Support of Ecological Initiatives | Temporary NFP, member | dorota@fwie.eco.pl |
| Monika Ochwat | Enterprising Group Green Carpathians, Ekopsychology Association | Member | m.ochwat@ekopsychologia.pl |
| Romania | | | |
| Andrei Blumer | AER | Member | blumera@rdslink.ro |
| Colin Shaw | AER | Member | roving@deltanet.ro |
| Tamas Papp | Milvus Group | Member | tamas.papp@milvus.ro |
| Cristina Biru | Amicii Salvamont Association | Member, substitution for Sabin Cornoıu (Head of the organization) | salvamont@eltop.ro |
| Cosmin Stefurec | Amicii Salvamont Association | Member | salvamont@eltop.ro |
| Mirela Cimpean | Societatea de Stiinte din Cluj | Member, substitution for Oana Moldovan (Head of the organization) | mirelacimpean78@yahoo.com |
| Ioan Abrudan | Transilvania Uni Brasov, Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering | NFP, member | abrudan@unitbv.ro |
| George Predoiu | Carpati Foundation | Member | fundatiacarpati@go.ro |

| Serbia | | | |
|---|--|---|----------------------------|
| Dragana Randjelovic | Association of Young Researchers Bor | Member | mibor@sezampro.yu |
| Ivan Jaric | Center for Multidisciplinary Studies, Uni Belgrade | Member | ijafic@ibiss.bg.ac.yu |
| Nenad Robajac | Ecolibri-Bionet | NFP, member | nrbionet@Eunet.yu |
| Miroslav Tadic | Ecological Society ENDEMIT | Member | zajednice@endemit.org.yu |
| Marina Ilic | Ecological Society ENDEMIT | Member | zajednice@endemit.org.yu |
| Mirko Gavrilovic | Ecology Society of Kladovo | Member | ekomi@teleport.co.yu |
| Slovakia | | | |
| Ivan Jarolimek | Institute of Botany SAS | Member | ivan.jarolimek@savba.sk |
| Slavka Siryova | Raptor Protection of Slovakia RPS | Member | siryova@dravce.sk |
| Miroslav Dravecky | Raptor Protection of Slovakia RPS | Member | dravecky@spisnet.sk |
| Jan Seffer | Daphne | Chair, NFP, member, presenter | jansef@changenet.sk |
| Peter Straka | Daphne | Member | pestrade@changenet.sk |
| Ukraine | | | |
| Vasyl Pokynchereda | Ecoclub "Carpathians" | Member | ecoclub@rakhiv.ukrtel.net |
| Victoria Stolpnik | The Carpathian Biosphere Reserve | Member | cbr@rakhiv.ukrtel.net |
| DCP, Speakers and External Observers | | | |
| Andreas Beckmann | DCP | Presenter, substitution for Mike Baltzer (Vice Chair) | abeckmann@wwfdcp.org |
| Harald Egerer | UNEP-ISCC | Presenter, observer | Harald.Egerer@unvienna.org |
| Verghet Mircea | Director, PA Service in Brasov (RNP-AP) | Presenter | vmircea@pcrai.ro |
| Sorin Pop | GeoMMed Professional Association | Presenter | geommed@mail.multinet.ro |
| Suzanne Lieberman | DCP | Facilitator, presenter | slieberman@wwfdcp.org |
| Hildegard Meyer | DCP | Rapporteur, logistics | hmeyer@wwfdcp.org |
| Luminita Tanasie | DCP, Romania | Observer, logistics | ltanasie@wwrdcp.ro |
| Ingrid Butusina | DCP, Romania | Observer, logistics | ibutusina@wwfdcp.org |

ANNEX 22

THE CARPATHIAN ECOREGION INITIATIVE

CERI General Assembly

Brasov, Romania

1-2 June 2005

DRAFT AGENDA

| | |
|--|--|
| <p><u>Objective</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build the core structure, membership base and key principles of CERI as a newly established international association <p><u>Outputs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of Chair, Vice Chair and National Focal Points and members from 7 countries • Agreement on workplan and budget for 2005-06 • Rules of Procedure • Establishment of the first workgroups and activities | <p><u>Why</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CERI is ready to move forward as an independent organization <p><u>Who for</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGOs and research institutes (potential CERI members) from the 7 Carpathian countries • Key partners from UNEP-ISCC (Interim Secretariat for the Carpathian Convention), WWF-DCP, and One Europe More Nature |
| <p><u>Agenda</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration 30' • Introduction 30' • CERI Past and Present 20' • Meeting of Extraordinary GA 60' • Rules of Procedure 105' • Update on the Carpathian Convention 35' • Possibilities for Future Cooperation 60' • CERI Workplan and Budget 45' <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation in the Convention Process, I 90' • Cooperation in the Convention Process, II 75' • The Small Grants Programme 30' • Current Projects, I 105' • Current Projects, II 30' • Current Funding Opportunities and Future Projects 60' <p style="text-align: center;">Friday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field Trip to Zarnesti, Piatra Craiului National Park (c. 5 hours) and departure | <p><u>Conditions of success</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be prepared to think and discuss hard • Give clear, honest information about the CERI • Don't get caught up with details, but work out how to treat them later • Remember, YOU are the CERI, it can only work as a fully-engaged network <p>Chair: Ján Šeffler Facilitator: Suzanne Lieberman</p> |

DAY 1 – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1
“CERI Network and Basic Principles”

| <u>Time</u> | <u>Agenda Item</u> | <u>Duration</u> |
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| 8:30 | Registration | 30 minutes |
| 9:00 | Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome by Romanian Focal Point, University of Brasov (I. Abrudan) - Welcome by host country (M. Verghelet) - Review and approval of agenda (S. Lieberman) - Rules of Procedure for the General Assembly (R. Francia) | 30 minutes |
| 9:30 | CERI Past and Present <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introductory presentation on CERI (S. Lieberman) | 20 minutes |
| 9:50 | Meeting of Extraordinary General Assembly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Members introduce and give background profiles on proposed member organizations (5 minutes each) - Approval of new members - All members break into country groups and elect National Focal Points | 60 minutes |
| 10:50 | COFFEE BREAK | 25 minutes |
| 11:15 | Rules of Procedure (A. Beckmann) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction to Rules of Procedure (A. Beckmann) - Functioning of the Board (I. Abrudan) - Functioning of the Secretariat (S. Lieberman) - Fundraising/Membership (P. Straka) - Representation (N. Robajac) - Travel Budget and other obligatory rules under Slovakian law (J. Šeffler) - Workgroups (R. Francia) | 105 minutes (5 minutes per resolution, plus 10 minutes discussion following each) |
| 13:00 | LUNCH | 60 minutes |
| 14:00 | Board Meeting (S. Lieberman) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Election of Chair and Vice Chair | 10 minutes |
| First General Assembly | | |
| 14:10 | Update on the Carpathian Convention Process (H. Egerer) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Short update on Convention workplan - Carpathians GEF/Biodiversity Protocol - The role of CERI in the Convention process (e.g. possible workgroups, etc.) | 35 minutes |
| 14:45 | Possibilities for Future Cooperation (S. Lieberman) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential thematic areas of work - Potential strategy for working together - Workgroup session (break out into workgroups and discuss draft TORs) - Feedback on workgroups (S. Lieberman/A. Beckmann/H. Egerer) | 60 minutes |
| 15:45 | CERI workplan and budget (A. Beckmann) | 45 minutes |

- Update on the CERI budget and financial outlook
- Financial report (January 2005 – present) (S. Lieberman)
- Expected expenses through CY05 (S. Lieberman)
- Plan to cover expenses = ‘workplan’ (2005-06)
- Agree on date and venue for next GA

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| 16:30 | COFFEE BREAK | 15 minutes |
| 16:45 | Summary of Day 1 (J. Šeffler) | 45 minutes |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summary of basic ‘take-away’ principles agreed on for CERI until now (draft resolutions, etc.) - Preview of Day 2 - Maramures film | |
| 17:30 | End of Meeting, Day 1 | |
| 19:00 | DINNER | |

DAY 2 – THURSDAY, JUNE 2
“Future Cooperation: Projects and Activities Under the Carpathian Convention and Ecoregion Action Plan”

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| 9:00 | Cooperation in the Carpathian Convention Process, Part I | 90 minutes |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More on the Carpathians GEF/Ecoregion Action Plan project and the potential role of CERI (S. Lieberman) <p><i>Includes 20 minutes for discussion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building off the work of “The Status Report”: the Carpathian Environmental Outlook - “KEO” (H. Egerer) <p><i>Includes 20 minutes for discussion</i></p> | |
| 10:30 | COFFEE BREAK | 15 minutes |
| 10:45 | Cooperation in the Carpathian Convention Process, Part II (H. Egerer) | 75 minutes |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion of strategy for participation in Ministerial Meeting for the Convention (I. Abrudan) - Presentation of Memorandum of Understanding between CERI and UNEP and discussion of future cooperation (H. Egerer/J. Seffer) | |
| 12:00 | LUNCH | 60 minutes |

CERI Projects: Past, Present and Future

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| 13:00 | CEI Case Studies from the Past and Moving Forward with Small Grants | 30 minutes |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summary of former small grants program and future outlook (V. Pokynchereda, H. Meyer, others welcome to present here) <p><i>Followed by discussion on a future small grants program</i></p> | |
| 13:30 | Current projects, Part I – the EU (A. Beckmann) | 105 minutes |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EU-Twinning/GIS – Serbia-Slovakia: Djerdap (N. Robajac) - Leveraging EU funds/Grasslands: Daphne (J. Seffer) - Identifying priority landscapes in the Carpathians: Lesser Spotted Eagle project (T. Papp) - Habitat fragmentation and the conservation of large carnivores | |

- (G. Predoiu)
 - Natura2000 Coalition in Romania (G. Predoiu)
- 15 minutes each with 5 minutes Q&A between each presentation*

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| 15:15 | COFFEE BREAK | 15 minutes |
| 15:30 | Current projects, Part II – model landscapes for sustainable land-use planning (S. Lieberman) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maramures project, One Europe More Nature (S. Pop) - Rural development project, CEEWEB (R. Francia) <i>5 minutes for discussion</i> | 30 minutes |
| 16:00 | Current funding opportunities and future projects (A. Beckmann) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communications: newsletter, website, future publication ideas (S. Lieberman) - History of data/develop agreement on future cooperation and data-sharing (J. Seffer) - Discussion of what projects we want to fund and our plans to fund them (A. Beckmann) | 60 minutes |
| 17:00 | Next steps (A. Beckmann) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of workplan/budget - Assigned delegation of tasks: leaders of workgroups, funding proposals, etc. - Final words (J. Seffer) | 30 minutes |
| 17:30 | Meeting adjourned: photo and toast to CERI independence | |
| 19:00 | Dinner and celebration at local restaurant, Stana Turtistica | |

DAY 3 – FRIDAY, JUNE 3

Half-Day Field Trip (Optional) around Brasov/Zarnesti and Departure

Note: at **20:00 on Tuesday, May 31st**, there will be a side meeting for the **Ukrainian delegates** with short consultation and election of a board member.