

# The Carpathian Convention – Cooperation IN and WITH the Carpathians



FAO Mountain Partnership meeting, Erzurum

Pictures: A. Czaderna, A. & D. Nowak, Pieniny National Park



# Welcome to the Carpathians



# UNEP – Interim Secretariat for the Carpathian Convention (ISCC)

- Official opening of the office 15 July 2004
- Located at UN Headquarters in Vienna International Centre
- Currently UNEP has three staff members and employs several consultants. Moreover since November 2009 it is supported by two collaborators of the EURAC expert team and since 2013 GRID Arendal



# Main activities of the UNEP Office Vienna

- Carpathian Convention - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention
- Mountain protection and sustainable development – UNEP resource function, liaison with Alpine Convention
- **UNEP** Programme in South East Europe: ENVSEC, GEF etc.
- Liaison: IAEA, UNIDO, OSCE, international Vienna, WWF-DCPO, Danube issues





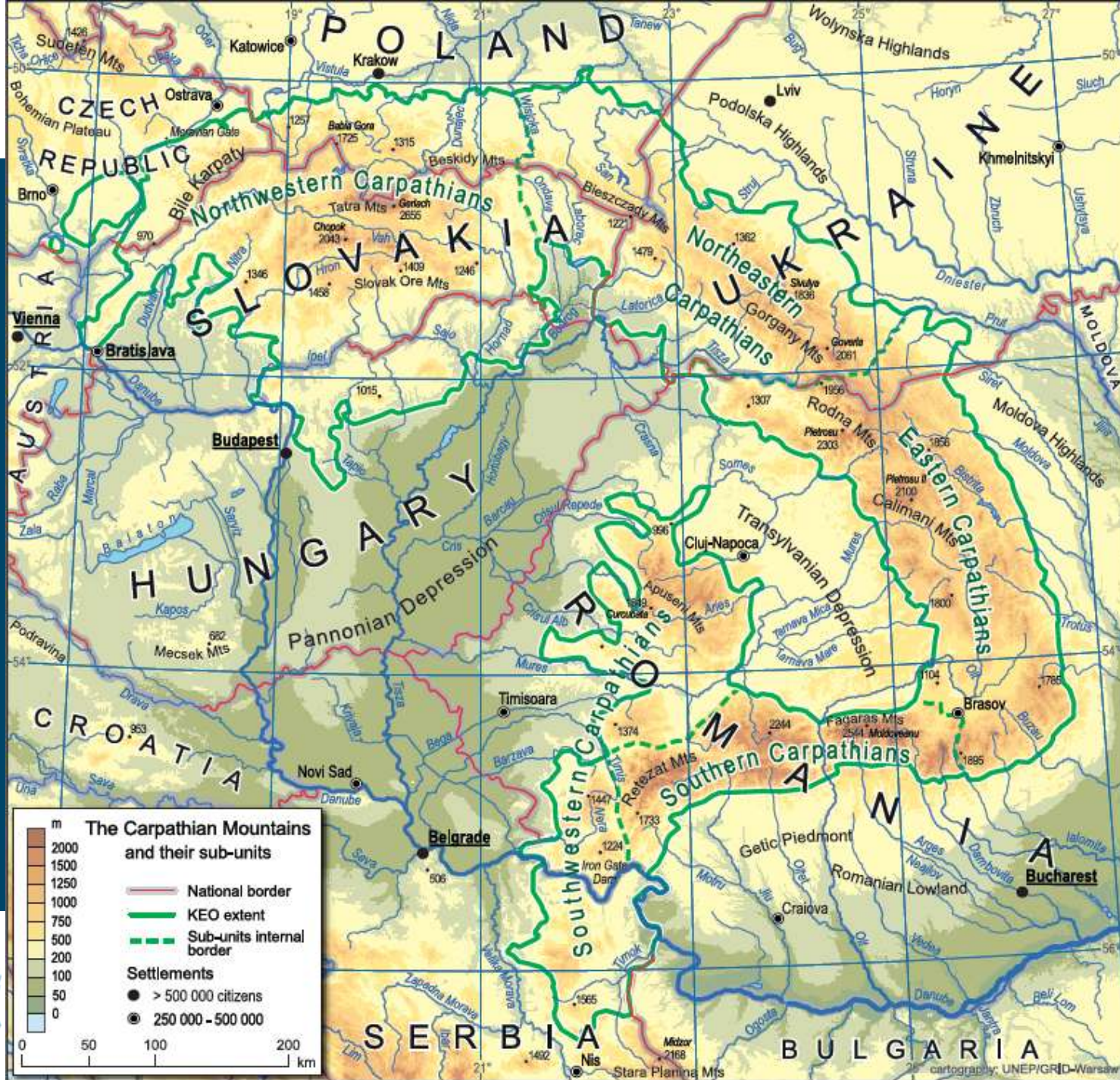
# The Carpathian Convention

# The Carpathians from Space



The green  
Jewel in the  
heart of Europe





Convention  
COP3  
25-27 May 2011

# The Carpathian Convention at a glance



- Adoption of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians at the 5th Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” on 22 May 2003 in Kyiv, Ukraine
- Entry into force on 4 January 2006
- 7 State Parties





# The Carpathian Convention – Main objectives and principles

## To sustainable develop

- Water/river basin management
- Agriculture
- Forestry
- Transport/Infrastructure
- Tourism
- Industry/Energy

## To preserve

- Biological and landscape diversity
- Endangered species
- Cultural heritage
- Traditional knowledge

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# The Convention as an engine



# The Convention as a legal framework

**The Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians**

Protocols  
under development  
Sustainable Transport  
Cultural Heritage

Biodiversity  
Protocol (In  
force)

Sustainable  
Forest  
Management  
Protocol (in  
force)

Sustainable  
Tourism  
Protocol (in force)



# Science for the Carpathians – the policy interface

- International Network of Carpathian science
- Forum Carpaticum

*Forum Carpaticum 2012*

*30 May – 2 June 2012, Stara Lesna*



# Current environmental key challenges of the Carpathians

1. Biodiversity and landscapes
2. Water & air pollution, climate, natural hazards
3. Balance between economic development and protection



# 1. Biodiversity and landscapes

- Continuing land use and land cover change
  - Abandonment of mountain grasslands, habitat degradation, exploitation of wildlife
  - Forest health (Spruce dieback)
- *Monitoring and management measures*

Picture: M. Jurek



## 2. Water, air pollution and hazards

- Impacts of climate change
  - Natural and man-made risks and hazards – mining!
  - Air and water pollution – ecosystem-level
- *Risk assessment, management, ecosystem-wide research, adaptation measures*

Picture: J. Kozak



# 3. Economy and development

## - Sustainable Regional development

Balance protection with development

Urban vs. rural development?

- Cultural trails
  - Example tourism - evaluate scenarios: spa – ski – agro – cultural – ecological
  - Role of traditional knowledge (landscapes!)
- *Enhance investment for natural resource management, projects and funding, make ESS valuation effective*



Pictures: J. Kozak, J. Jaudas, M. Verchelet



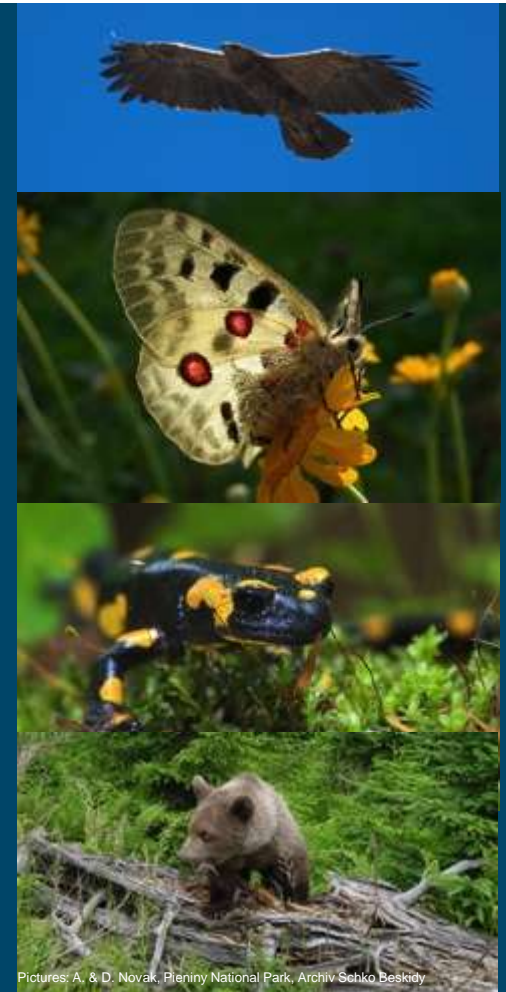


# Programme - Biodiversity

- Entry into force of **Biodiversity Protocol**
- **Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan**
- **CNPA Medium Term Strategy**
- Support to Carpathian Network of Protected Areas – WWF / Mava Foundation / Alpine Network / Dutch Government / UNEP
- **“BIOREGIO Carpathians” project**



*SIDE EVENT 26 May!*



Pictures: A. & D. Novak, Pieniny National Park, Archiv Sochko Beskydy



# “BIOREGIO Carpathians”



Aims at implementing the main provisions of the Carpathian Convention Biodiversity Protocol

**Partnership:** 16 Partners from all the Carpathian Countries represented in an integrated consortium. Ministries for the Environment are observers

**Budget:** 2.6 Million Euros

**Project Duration:** 2011 – 2013

Picture: Pieniny National Park



# Programme – Sustainable Transport and green infrastructure

ACCESS2MOUNTAIN



Picture: M. Jurek

**SIDE EVENT on 25 May 2011!**

Alpine-Carpathian Corridor (AKK)  
[www.alpenkarpatenkorridor.at](http://www.alpenkarpatenkorridor.at)



# Programme - Sustainable Agriculture, Rural Development and Forestry



Picture: A. Nowak



# Programme - Sustainable Tourism



➤ Finalized Draft Protocol on Sustainable Tourism



Pictures: J. Jaudas, N. Shovkoplias



# Cooperation with other International Conventions / bodies / NGOs

- Alpine Convention
- ICPDR
- CBD
- Ramsar Convention
- UNFCCC



UNIDO, UNWTO, FAO, many further ones.....



# Carpathian Space - European Union

EU Strategy for  
Danube Region  
and (future)  
supporting  
Carpathian  
Strategy?

A



# Interregional and global activities

- Cooperation with Alpine Convention – policy and projects
- UNEP hosted interim secretariat
- Luzern process / Rio Mountain Pavilion
- Adaptation to climate change: exchange with developing countries (Austria FASTA project 2013-2017)
- Post and after Rio +20: establishing and strengthening regional agreements, arrangements and Centers of Excellence (examples: Caucasus network, Dinaric Arc initiative, Central Asia cooperation)
- Integrating fragile mountain ecosystems into SDGs / critical environmental issues





# Mountain governance options

- Cooperation within a mountain range is essential but so is the cooperation between ranges
- Different successful models available (ICIMOD, Andean Community, CONDESAN, Alpine Convention...)
- Options range from legally binding (Convention - agreement) over mixed set-ups (arrangements) to political processes and regional (research) centers/networks and NGOs
- Advantages of legally-binding options are governmental support, stability and “automatic” institutional setting





- [www.carpathianconvention.org](http://www.carpathianconvention.org)



# THANK YOU

