



# Good example of the Cohesion Fund in the Carpathian region

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at the Carpathian Convention

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# Location



# History of the Carpathian Convention and main objective

- 7 State Parties
- Adoption: 22 May 2003 in Kyiv, Ukraine
- Entry into force: 4 January 2006
- 4 Meetings of the COP: 2006, 2008, 2011, 2014
- Current presidency: Czech Republic

## **Main objective:**

- Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathian region

# Policy Responses towards a Climate Proofed Carpathian Economy

- Public policy
- Mainstreaming of adaptation objectives
- Ecosystem management
- Increase transnational cooperation
- Ecoregional approach
- Action in framework of Carpathian Convention and of the EUSDR

# Climate Change adaptation WG at Carpathian Convention

- Decision COP3/15 on Climate change of the COP 3 of the Carpathian Convention: a Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change under the Carpathian Convention has been established
- Carpathian Convention aims at introducing a new Article on climate change because the topic is so important

# Workplan

- Preparation of strategic agenda on adaptation in the Carpathians
- Planning of adaptation measures
- Realization of a clearing house for the Carpathians in the wider EU context

# Strategic Agenda, content

1. Introduction
2. Background
3. Impacts of climate change in the Carpathians
4. Policy responses to create a Path to a Climate-Proofed Carpathian Economy
5. Institutional and organisational responses
6. Cross-Cutting Opportunities
7. Opportunity for the EU Funds from 2014-2020:
8. Steer the Region's Development Towards a Climate-Proofed Carpathian Space
9. Potential Priority Climate Change Adaptation Actions

# Cohesion Fund in the region

- The Cohesion Fund allocates a total of € 63.4 billion to activities under the following categories:
- trans-European transport networks. The Cohesion Fund will support infrastructure projects under the Connecting Europe Facility;
- environment: here, the Cohesion Fund supports projects related to energy or transport, as long as they clearly benefit the environment in terms of energy efficiency, use of renewable energy, developing rail transport, supporting intermodality, strengthening public transport, etc.
- THEMATIC GUIDANCE FICHE FOR DESK OFFICERS  
[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/informat/2014/guidance\\_fiche\\_climat\\_change.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/informat/2014/guidance_fiche_climat_change.pdf)



# Hungary

The priorities include:

- Improving the competitiveness and global performance of the business sector.
- Promoting employment through economic development, employment, education and social inclusion policies.
- Increasing energy and resource efficiency.
- Tackling social and demographic challenges.
- Implementation of local and territorial development aimed at promoting economic growth.

# How biodiversity benefits local communities?

- The reconstruction and protection of wetlands in Comana Nature Park – part of the EU’s Natura 2000 network – has helped boost biodiversity and bring more visitors to this region of Romania.
- The project title is:  
“Ecological Restoration of Comana Wetlands”

# Background of the project (2/1)

- Carpathians provide the habitat for the largest European populations of brown bears, wolves, chamois and lynxes, with the highest concentration in Romania, as well as over one third of all European plant species. The Carpathians and their foothills also have many thermal and mineral waters. The Southern Carpathians constituting Europe's largest unfragmented forested area.

# Background of the project (2/2)

- Wetlands are the land use types having the largest decrease. It is partly because of the climate change tendencies in the region, partly because of the water management activities.

# Technical information

- **Fund**
  - European Regional Development Fund
- **Operational programme**
  - Operational Programme 'Environment'
- **Programming period**
  - 2007-2013
- **Project duration**
  - 11/2009 - 04/2013
- **Total Investment**
  - 1 344 845
- **EU Investment**
  - 854 208

# Employment

- Some 20 temporary jobs were created during the construction of the dam, with more permanent economic benefits expected through the promotion of an area ideal for ecological research. Cooperation with scientific institutions in the nearby capital Bucharest and other Romanian cities is ongoing.

# Sustainable tourism

- The reconstruction of the wetlands has already led to an increase in visitor numbers, and created an opportunity for new tourist amenities to be developed. Approximately 10 000 tourists visit the protected site every year, engaging in a range of activities including camping, nature walks, jogging and cycling. The site is also popular for educational excursions.
- Their success of the project has shown the local community that environmental protection and the promotion of biodiversity can be hugely beneficial to the local economy.

# Biodiversity

- There are now 212 recorded species of birds, whereas before, there were 157. Most importantly, 78 of these species are protected at national and European level. There has also been a recorded increase in the population size of these species.
- The new conditions have also benefited fish populations and their invertebrate have improved oxygen concentrations.
- Achieving a constant level of water in the floodplain area will have a positive long term effect on wildlife. New feeding sites for species of ducks and herons in areas previously occupied by reeds have been established, while existing nesting places have been maintained.





# Mountains for Europe's Future

CH-AT Alliance

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Contribution by

## A Strategic Research Agenda

An input to the Horizon 2020 Work Programmes and Calls 2018–2020  
 April 2016

# Conclusions

- Many projects improve the environmental situation, support adaptation to climate change, mitigate the climate change, increase of effectiveness
- Therefore, the goals have to be better defined
- Regional differences
- Complex approach: natural, environmental and social interactions, if possible
- Benefit from the regional co-operations
- Co-operation with the research community
- Connecting CCA and DRR communities
- Etc.

Thank you for your attention!