

THE CARPATHIAN CONVENTION AND THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES



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Carpathian Convention

The Danube-Carpathian region: a global hotspot for biodiversity

The region harbours many species and habitats that are either threatened or close to extinction in the rest of Europe

- Large natural and virgin forests
- Most of Europe's remaining intact rivers and wetlands
- Two-thirds of the European populations of large carnivores, including bears, lynx and wolves
- The Beluga sturgeon, now on the edge of extinction



The Carpathian mountains

Close to 100,000 km² of natural or semi/natural forests




- 36,000 km² of protected areas
- 3,000 km² of virgin forests
- 481 endemic plant species
- Viable population of all large herbivores
- Stronghold of the largest carnivore population in Europe
- Central Europe's last wilderness area



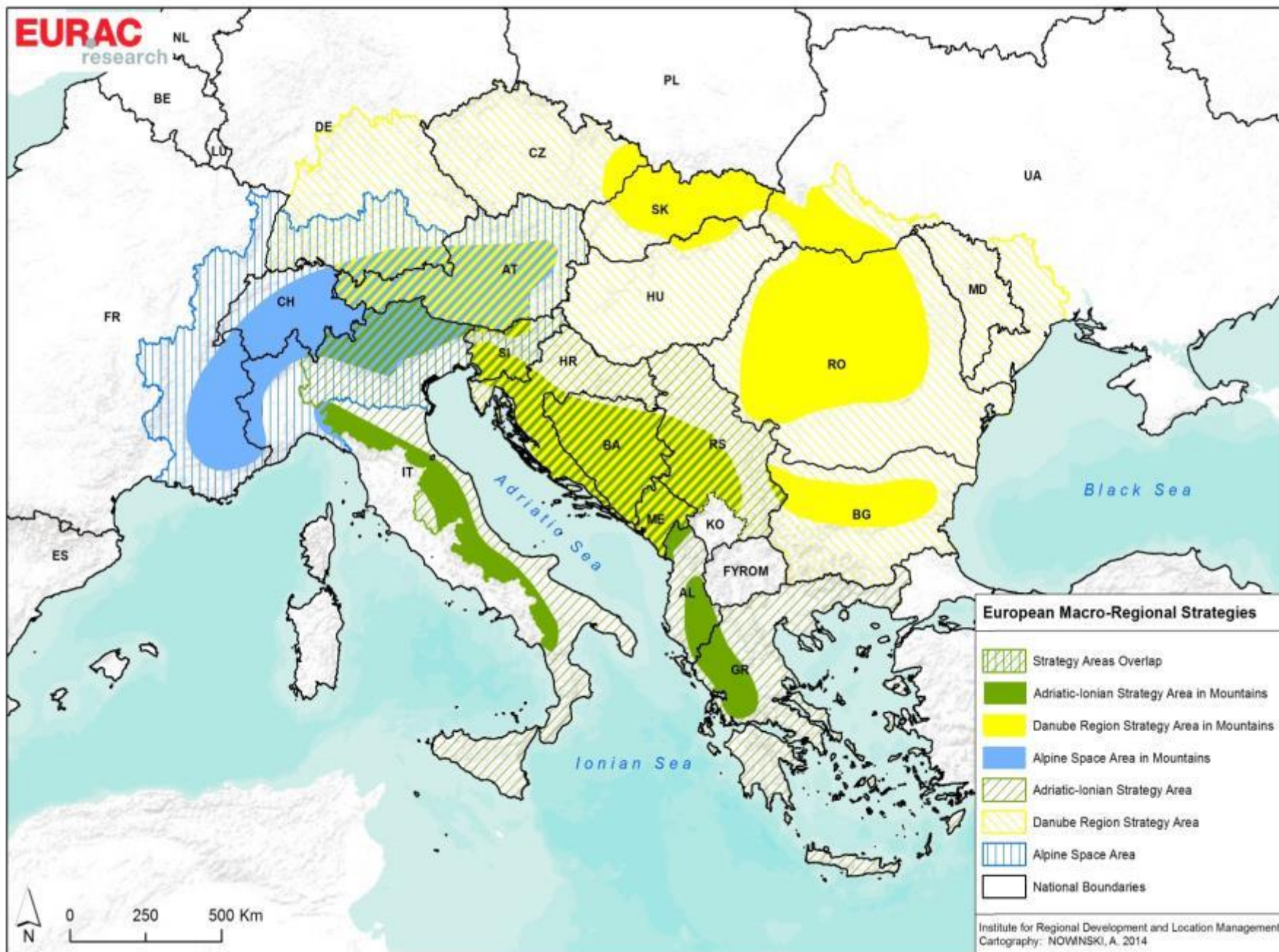


EU Strategy for the Danube Region



-  EU national boundaries
-  Danube region strategy
-  Karpatian area

Source: European Commission, as proposed on 18 December 2012
Geometrical basis: GFK MACDH



European Macro-Regional Strategies

Institute for Regional Development and Location Management
Cartography: NOWNSKI, A. 2014

Working for sustainable development in the Carpathian region

The region is complex and split between different regions and programmes...

...in order to work successfully projects need to be:

- Trans-boundary
- Multi-stakeholder
- Multi-sectoral
- Multi-policy framework

What could be a possible solution?



The Carpathian Convention- a framework convention for a transnational issue

Adopted on 22nd May 2003

Entered in force on 4th January 2006

- Ratified by all the seven Carpathian countries
- Observer in the Working Group on Green Infrastructure and Restoration of the European Commission
- A framework Convention for cooperation and multi-sectoral policy coordination



Only existing legally binding framework and active stakeholder platform in the region...

...as well as project factory



The Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention



Since 2003 UNEP Vienna is hosting the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

- Development of new Protocols
- Establishment of strategic partnerships with key actors in the region, towards the realization of strategic projects and initiatives within the Carpathians and beyond.
- Cooperation with thematic Working Groups
- Activities specifically related to Biodiversity, Climate Change, Spatial Planning and connectivity, Agriculture and Rural Development, Industry, Energy, Transport and Infrastructure and Sustainable Tourism



Goal: Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathian Region

The Carpathian Convention and Biodiversity

Article 4: *Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity*

Encouraging policies aiming at CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABLE USE and RESTORATION of biological diversity

Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape diversity

(Entered into force in 2010)

- Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity
- Steering Committee of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA)
- Carpathian Wetlands Initiative (CWI)
- Elaboration of a draft proposal of a Carpathian Red list of species and habitats



The Carpathian Convention and Biodiversity: Related Projects



BIOREGIO Carpathians: integrated management of biological and landscape diversity for sustainable regional development and ecological connectivity in the Carpathians

Duration: 2010 – 2013



Carpathian Project: Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians in a Transnational Framework

Duration: 2005 – 2008



Alpine-Carpathian Corridor: the project aims to safeguard the ecological connectivity between the Alps and the Carpathians in order to secure migration and genetic exchange among wildlife populations in the Centroe region

Duration: 2008 – 2012

Another multi-stakeholder project: Ecopotential

The main objective: making Earth Observation and Monitoring Data usable for ecosystem modeling and services

This will be done in selected Protected Areas in Europe, with a strong focus on mountain ecosystems, including a specific pilot site in the Carpathians.

Project funded by Horizon2020 Research Programme
UNEP is part of a 47 organizations-partnership
Total budget: 15 million over four years



The Carpathian Convention and climate change

The activities of the working group on Climate change and adaptation:

- **FUTURE IMPERFECT** – Climate change and adaptation in the Carpathians, a publication bringing together the results of the three projects on climate change in the Carpathians, CARPATCLIM, CARPVIA and CarpathCC (you can find it at www.carpathianconvention.org)
- **Joint Alpine-Carpathian Statement on Adaptation to Climate Change**, jointly presented at UNFCCC COP 20 in Lima by the Czech and Italian Presidencies
- **Strategic Agenda on Adaptation to Climate Change in the Carpathian Region** finalized



The Carpathian Convention and Climate Change: Related Projects



CARPVIA - Carpathian integrated assessment of vulnerability to climate change and ecosystem based adaptation measures



CarpathCC - Climate change framework project aiming to provide an in-depth of the vulnerability of the Carpathian region and establish a diversified portfolio of adaptation measures



CARPATCLIM - Project aiming to improve the basis of climate data in the Carpathian region for applied regional climatological studies



The Carpathian Convention and Sustainable Transport

- The Protocol on Sustainable Transport was **finalized**
- The Action plan for a regional framework approach for promotion of renewable energy in the Carpathian region was **finalized**



Related projects: access 2 mountain

Sustainable Mobility and Tourism in Sensitive Areas of the Alps and the Carpathians

Objective: achieve durable, environmentally friendly tourism, as well as to ensure accessibility and connection to, between and in sensitive regions of the Alps and the Carpathians

Duration: 2011-2014



Cooperation with ICPDR



- Joint Declaration between ICPDR and Carpathian Convention on cooperation in the Tisza Basin
- Close cooperation with ICPDR on the EUSDR in the Danube area: promotion of the implementation of the *"Guiding principles on sustainable hydropower development in the Danube Basin"* (DECISION COP4/3 par 2)

icpdr **iksd**

International
Commission
for the Protection
of the Danube River

Internationale
Kommission
zum Schutz
der Donau



Cooperation with Danube strategy

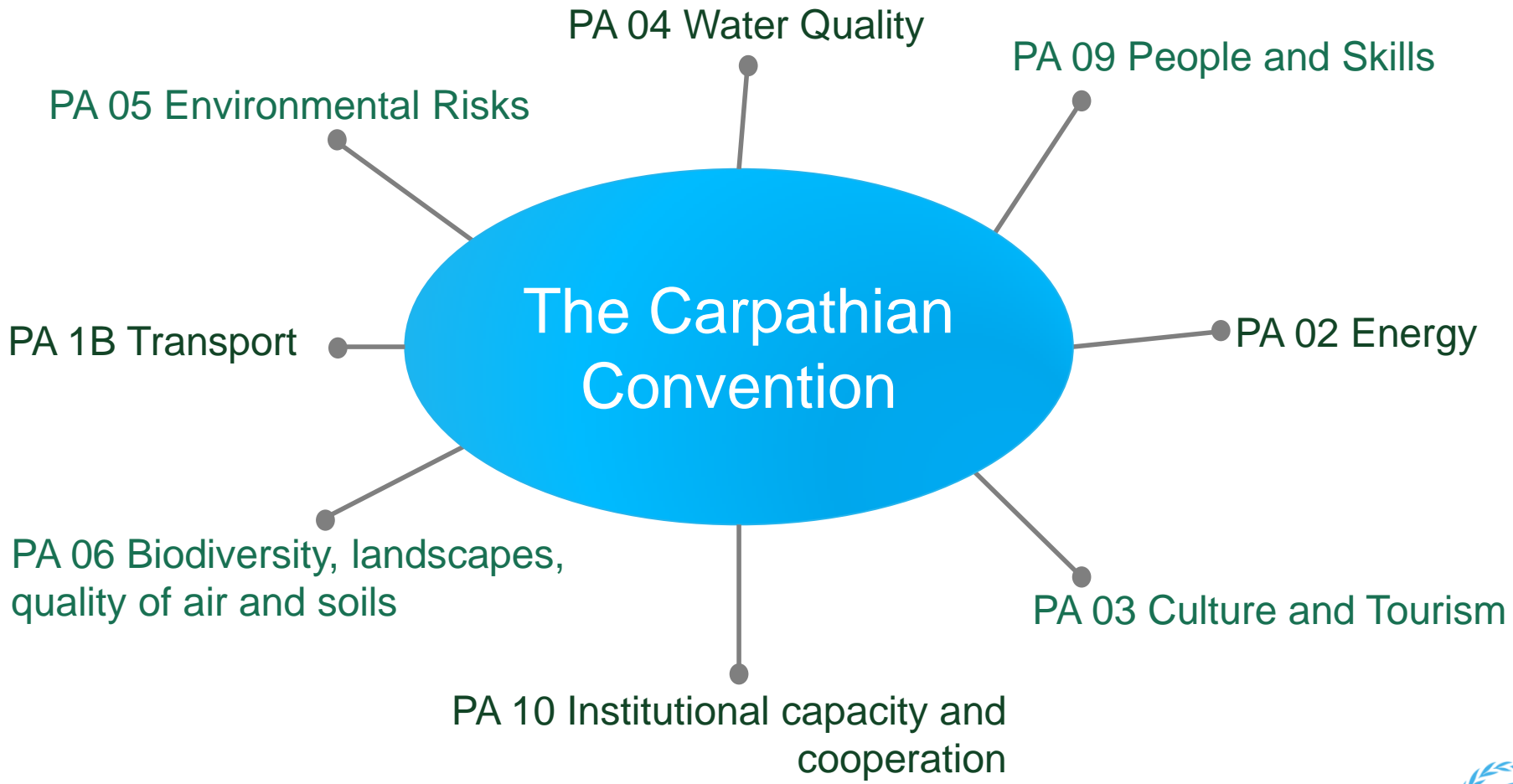


EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)

- **Priority Area 06** Biodiversity, landscapes, quality of air and soils – We are an observer
- **Priority Area 02** Energy – With the support of the Coordinators we submitted a project under the Danube Transnational Programme on the evaluation of local and regional conditions for sustainable use of RES with a focus on the Carpathians



The Carpathian Convention and Priority Areas



The Carpathian Convention is both geographically and thematically at the heartbeat of the Danube region



Thank you for your attention!

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