

## ***Proposal for the Alpine-Carpathian cooperation, 2011***

### **A) Background**

A larger project for three years about the importance and role of the protected areas in times of climate change started in January 2010. The project is being led in three different approaches, regarding the issue:

- 1) Integration of measures for the climate protection in the work programmes of the protected areas: mobility, ecological construction, tourism
- 2) Protection of biodiversity at the time of climate changes: the example of large carnivores
- 3) Public relations and awareness raising of the managers, visitors and local people of the protected areas about the global climate changes: activities in the visitors' centres.

According to the discussions we have had with specialists, we understood that the main priorities of the Carpathian protected areas are focused on different issues than climate change impacts. Therefore, they are aware about the necessity of adaptation to these changes. The proposed activities should be linked with their main pre-occupations and should answer to the climate change adaptation strategies.

### **B) Activities proposal**

As the results of the 1<sup>st</sup> year of project are very mitigated, they have definitely influenced the choice of activities for 2011. The proposed activities are the logical continuity of the 2010 Alpine-Carpathian cooperation project.

#### **1) Ecological networks – strategy for adaptation to the climate change**

According to different researches, even after reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases, the warming of the Earth's surface will continue. This warming will modify the composition of mountain ecosystems and habitats, which will cause a migration movements of the species. To facilitate these migrations, the efforts on ecological connectivity have to be done.

##### Description of activities:

- **Identification of finished, ongoing and planned projects** dealing with the ecological networks in the Carpathians and identification of relevant literature

- Organisation of an Alpine-Carpathian **workshop focused on “Development of modeling methods for the ecological networks suitability assessment”** (together with partners from both mountain ranges working on this issue – i.e. CERI, Swiss National Park, etc.)
- **Support** of the German presidency of the platform Ecological networks of the Alpine Convention **in the field of Alpine-Carpathian cooperation** – follow-up of the Mikulov (CZ) meeting, implication of the Carpathian partners

## 2) Large carnivores – connectivity or protection of habitats?

According to the results of the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the project, it seems that the main threat for the large carnivores populations is not the climate change, but the human activities – especially the destruction of suitable habitats for the large carnivores. Therefore, the question is still important, as we do not know how the climate change will influence the interactions bears x humans (they will be disturbed during their hibernation, because of higher temperatures). Nevertheless, the large carnivores are one of the umbrella species (together with their most important preys – ungulates) for the ecological networks methodology based on the “species approach”.

### Description of activities:

- Continuation of activities of the ALPARC-CNPA working group “Large carnivores”, established in 2009 on the occasion of the European biennial on the large carnivores (organised together with the National park Mercantour).
- Participation within the activities of the different bodies dealing with the large carnivores (ALPARC and CNPA Working group Large carnivores and Platform Large carnivores of the Alpine Convention) and **tentative of creating synergies between the different initiatives**. The activities will be linked with the project *Bioregio Carpathians*;
- **Elaboration of “7x7x7 report”**: 7 most important questions, 7 most important barriers and 7 most important Alpine-Carpathian activities for a better management of the large carnivores

### 3) Communication and assistance to the coordination of the CNPA activities

The level of acceptance of the ecological networks by the local stakeholders, populations and large public is varying from a region to another. The communication activities would help to rise the public awareness and inform the stakeholders about the importance of ecological networks. Therefore, specific communication tools are required for such an activities.

#### Description of activities:

- Establishment of an **editorial committee** for the communication activities coordination (parks and NGO's from the Alps and Carpathians). Elaboration of a list of 10 most important messages for the communication activities and tentative of elaboration of a common CNPA slogan;
- Adaptation and use of a large public communication tool developed in the Alps - **“The Wall”**: **preparation of an event in occasion of the COP3 of the Carpathian Convention in Bratislava (SK), May 2011**. The aim of the action will be the awareness raising of the local populations on the ecological connectivity issue;
- Concretion of the Communication strategy with implementation guidelines and update of the CNPA website