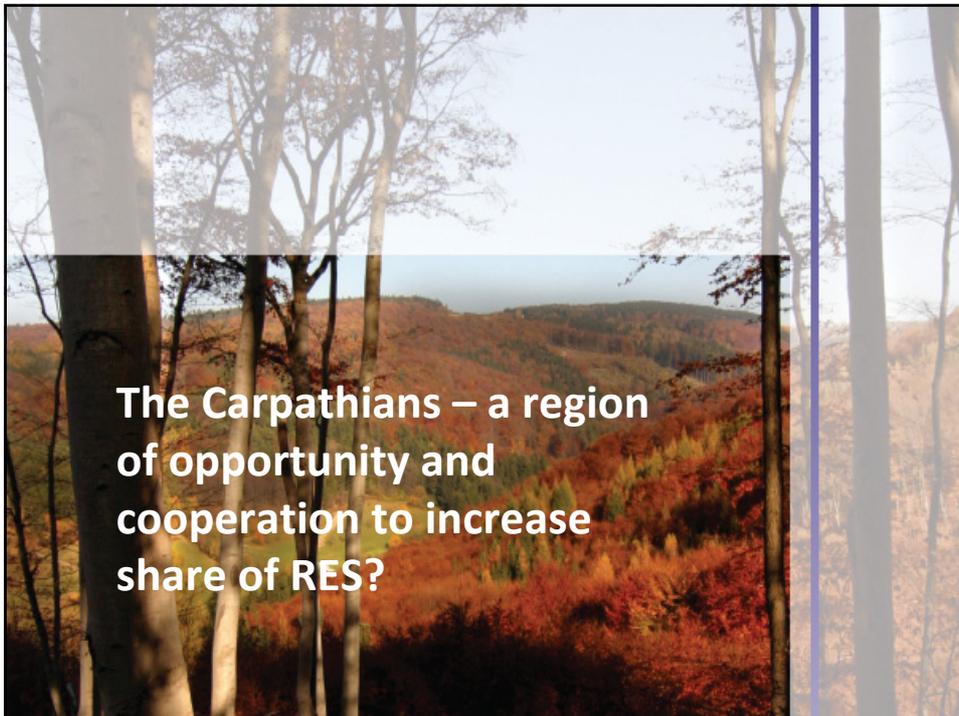




The role of Renewable Energy (and Energy Efficiency) in the Carpathian region

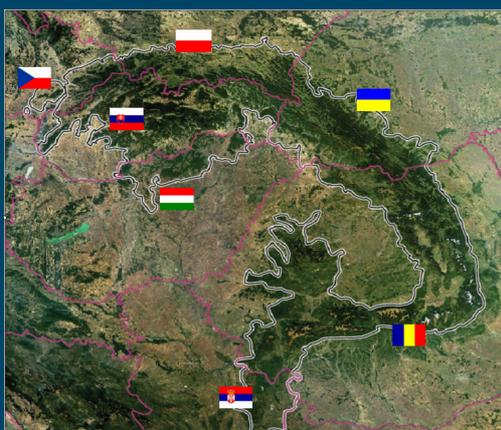


United Nations Environment Programme in Vienna

- Carpathian Convention
- Mountain Partnership
- SEE programme – Environment and Security



The Carpathians from Space



Carpathian Convention
Countries:

Czech Republic
Hungary
Poland
Romania
Serbia
Slovak Republic
Ukraine



The Carpathians at a glance



The highest peak in the Carpathians - Gerlachovský štít (The Gerlach mountain - 2655 m above sea level) - photograph by Jadwiga Czernecka

Total length: **1500km**

Surface: **190.000km²**

Population: **17 Mio.**

Protected Areas extend over some 36 000 km²: 36 national parks, 51 nature parks and protected landscape areas, 19 biosphere reserves and around 200 other protected areas, numerous cultural heritage sites



Source: www.carpathianparks.org

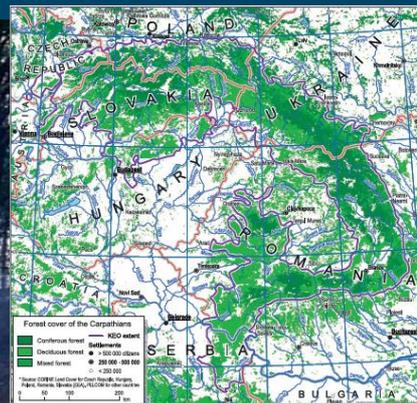


About Carpathian forests

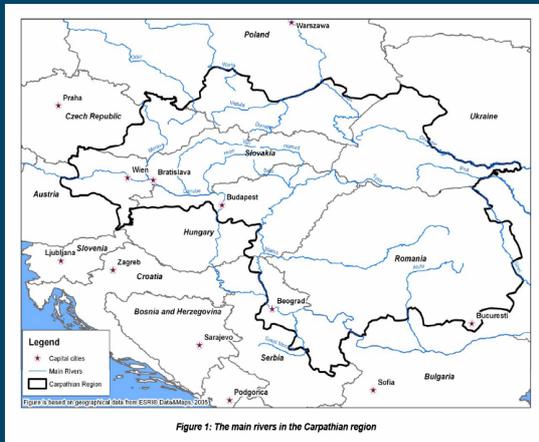
- 60% of the Carpathian area covered by forests
- about 225 virgin forests with areas larger than 10 ha have been identified across the Carpathian Mountains
- Sustainable Forest Management is a key issue

Country	Virgin forest area in the Carpathian region (ha)
Czech Republic	463
Hungary	n.a.
Poland	55 645
Romania	207 500
Serbia	3 248
Slovakia	15 428
Ukraine	40 300
Total	322 610

Tab. 5: area of virgin forests in the Carpathians



Carpathian rivers



In the Carpathian Region there are 18 main river basins, 7 of them are entirely located in this region.

Conflict of interests between the use of renewable energy and the protection of the aquatic ecosystems and landscapes

Sustainability is key issue



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

© Juhu Rahkoner



The Convention as a legal framework

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

Biodiversity Protocol
(adopted at COP 2, entered into force)

Forest and Tourism Protocols
(adopted at COP 3, 2011)

Other Protocols to be elaborated (Transport, Agriculture, Energy?)



The Carpathian Convention and RES / EE

Carpathian Convention, Article 10 Industry and energy

“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.

(...)”



EC DIRECTIVE 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and amending

(35) “ (...) Member States should be encouraged to pursue all appropriate forms of cooperation in relation to the objectives set out in this Directive. Such cooperation can take place at all levels, bilaterally or multilaterally. Apart from the mechanisms with effect on target calculation and target compliance, which are exclusively provided for in this Directive, namely statistical transfers between Member States, joint projects and joint support schemes, cooperation can also take the form of, for example, exchanges of information and best practices, as provided for, in particular, in the transparency platform established by this Directive, and other voluntary coordination between all types of support schemes.”

→ The Carpathian Convention as a cooperation platform



The Carpathian Convention and the EU Strategy for the Danube Region



December 2010: European Commission Communication on the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and the accompanying Action Plan



Source: frenchtribune.com



EU Strategy for the Danube Region Energy efficiency and renewable energy

Action

“To reinforce the Carpathian Convention to share best practices on using biomass for energy purposes”. The Carpathian Convention includes a provision that Parties shall pursue policies aiming at introducing environmentally sound methods for the production, distribution and use of energy, which minimises adverse effects on biodiversity and landscapes, including wider use of renewable energy sources.

Example of project

“To set-up a cooperation mechanism between the regions of the Alpine Convention and the regions of the Carpathian Convention for the transfer of best practices, best available technologies, environmental and social know-how”.



Partnership with UNIDO – Renewable Energy in the Carpathian Region

Decision COP2/7 “welcomes and encourages further cooperation between the ISCC and UNIDO (...) on the issue of renewable energy;”

Regional Workshop on Renewable Energy in the Carpathians, 6-7 May 2008, Lviv, Ukraine

UNIDO Publication: Renewable Energy in the Carpathian region (2010)
“The Carpathian region has great potential for renewable resources, especially biomass, but also wind and hydroenergy (...)”



Advantages of Carpathian regional cooperation

- ✓ Sharing of experience and best practices for support and usage of renewables
- ✓ Streamlining procedures, information dissemination, capacity building, building local awareness
- ✓ Build partnerships for more renewable energy projects
- ✓ Develop local cross border markets for biomass
- ✓ Ensure similar approaches to ensure sustainable origin
- Challenge: Lack of regional policy and cost barriers!
- (New agency or) network of agencies for the Carpathian region?



Outlook

- Possible Future Protocol on 'Industry and Energy' to the Carpathian Convention?
- Concrete activities:
 - Development of Alpine – Carpathian Partnership for Promotion of sustainable use of biomass for energy production for EU funding
 - Promote guidelines for (small) hydro in the Carpathian / Danube basin (Lead ICPDR)
 - Promote energy efficiency of mountain tourism / skiing



Thank you for your attention!



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