



In 2006 a method for development of the Carpathian Biodiversity Information System (e.g. GIS, database structure, criteria for the data to be added) was prepared. It is a component of the programme aiming to develop a Carpathian Ecological Network, supported by Dutch government.

### **Environmental education and public awareness**

In 1999 – 2006, the Eco-centre was opened in Devin. The Eco-centre has conducted educational programmes for schools including kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, universities. It was the only NGO operating Eco-centre in Slovakia. During this period, around 5,000 children from kindergartens, 28,500 pupils from primary schools and 2,460 students from secondary school participated in programmes at the Eco-centre. The programmes continue also after closing down the Eco-centre operation in Devin.



Almost 1,700 primary school teachers have participated in a series of thematic seminars on the possibilities for using our 'World of Wetlands', 'World of Grasslands', 'World of Peatlands' and 'World of Woodlands' handbooks for primary school teachers.

All handbooks received the Certificate of the Ministry of Education (MoE). This certification represents a recommendation by the MoE that the handbooks are used as complementary teaching material in natural science subjects in primary schools. More than 2,400 handbooks have been distributed so far.

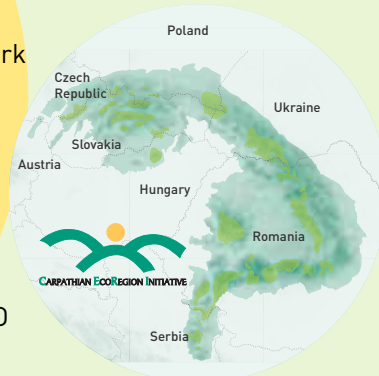


From 1996 to 2004 in co-operation with different organisations and local communities the longest nature trail (educational path) in Slovakia was built. It stretches 79 km along the Morava River and contains 39 information boards and 2 entrance boards – under the Devin castle and at the border crossing to Austria in Moravský Sv. Ján – Hohenau.

### **Environmental policy**

In 1999 the Danube Environmental Forum (DEF) – a Danube River Basin-wide platform of non-governmental, non-profit and politically independent environmental organisations was established. Membership currently stands at 170 members from 13 Danube basin countries.

We are among founders of Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative (CERI, 1999) – the network of NGOs and expert institutions dedicated to the protection of one of the most important natural areas of Europe, and of the world. It has currently almost 50 members from 7 Carpathian countries. The secretariat is based in Bratislava in DAPHNE.



In co-operation with NGO partners from Austria (Distelverein, WWF DCP) and the Czech Republic (Veronica) we significantly contributed towards the formation of a Trilateral Ramsar Platform for the Morava and Dyje floodplains. We received the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award 2002 in appreciation of our work with the NGO Trilateral Initiative.

We took part in the implementation of the countryside development program SAPARD in Slovakia and in proposing changes to EU agricultural policies.

### **Publications**

We have either prepared or published more than 70 publications in total.

Among them are:

- scientific publications
- publications for schools (teachers, students)
- publication for general public and visitors to the protected areas



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