



Seizing opportunities to support nature conservation in the Carpathian Mountains

Funding sources for supporting nature conservation and sustainable development in
Slovakia

Daphne Institute of Applied Ecology
WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme



Protected Areas for a Living Planet — delivering on CBD commitments

Carpathian Treasures

The Carpathian Mountains are Europe's greatest remaining wilderness area. They are a bastion of large carnivores, with over half the European populations of brown bear, wolves and lynx as well as the greatest remaining stands of natural forest. At the same time, the Carpathians have some of Europe's richest cultural landscapes, shaped and enriched by centuries of human cultivation.

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Available in digital form and on the Internet:

- **Handbook** of selected funding sources to support nature conservation and local development in the Carpathian Mountains. The handbook provides a general description and overview as well as links to further information on major funding sources available across the Carpathian Mountains, including in both EU and non-EU member states. Sources include relevant EU funds as well as EEA, Norwegian and Swiss funding mechanisms.
- **Powerpoint presentation** on funding sources across the Carpathian Mountains – essentially a powerpoint version of the handbook and free for use and adaptation.
- **Country reports:** Funding sources available in individual Carpathian countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia).

All available at:

- <http://www.panda.org/dcpo>
- Direct link:
http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/europe/what_we_do/danube_carpathian/our_work/forests_and_protected_areas/carpathian_ecoregion/carpathians_funding/index.cfm

I. **Introduction:** What and whom this handbook is for

What it is for

The Carpathian Convention – which has been signed and ratified by all Carpathian countries including the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine – has set itself the aim of ensuring no less than the protection and maintenance of the region's prodigious natural wealth and of promoting the long-term sustainable development of the region. This dovetails with a number of international commitments that Carpathian governments have made, including implementation of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas under the Convention on Biological Diversity as well as – for the EU member states – implementation of the EU's Natura 2000 network of specially protected sites.

Fulfilling these ambitious aims will require significant financial support for everything from protected area management and conservation measures to awareness raising and nature-friendly development for local communities. Fortunately, there are a number of not insignificant funding sources available to cover at least some of these needs. Gradual reforms have served to increasingly integrate environmental needs into a range of substantial EU funding sources, including e.g. into rural and regional development funds, which are available only to the EU Member States, but also into new funds that can be tapped by prospective EU member states and neighboring countries. There is also parallel support available to a number of the Carpathian countries from the governments of Norway, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Iceland. At national level, there are also a range of different funding instruments, including national programmes of support.

This country report provides an overview to the most relevant funding sources that are available to support nature conservation and related local development in the Carpathian areas of Slovakia. It consists of three main tables:

Table 1: Funding needs for nature conservation and related development, organized into general categories of funding needs, from management planning to compensation.

Table 2: Overview of funding sources available for nature conservation and related development, providing a short description of these sources.

Table 3: Funding sources available for specific funding needs, which presents the funding sources outlined in Table 2 according to categories of funding needs (Table 1) that they can address. This last table should enable you to quickly identify the funding sources that may be available for your particular need.

A handbook and complementary powerpoint presentation are also available that provide an overview of selected funding sources for nature conservation and related development that are available across the Carpathians both to EU and non-EU member states. They cover relevant EU sources as well as EEA, Norwegian and Swiss Financial Mechanisms.

Our ultimate aim is to ensure the full and effective use of any and all funding available for nature conservation and sustainable development in the Carpathians.

Who it is for

The handbook is ultimately intended for all stewards of high nature value areas, including Protected Area managers, NGOs, local communities and interested stakeholders. While the primary focus is on biodiversity and landscape conservation, much if not most of the contents of the handbook address inevitably related issues of sustainable local development. While these materials are intended expressly for audiences in the Carpathian Mountains, many of the sources described are relevant in other areas as well.

II. **Funding needs** for nature and development in the Carpathians

Table 1: Categorisation of types of nature conservation activities requiring financial support¹

Category	Activity	Further description
Scientific research and monitoring	1 Scientific studies/inventories for the identification of sites – surveys,	Scientific studies, research personnel, workshops and meetings, assembly of
	2 Pilot projects Initial 'trial' projects at sites	
Outreach – communication, education and awareness raising	3 Preparation of information and publicity material	Including handbooks, seminars, workshops, communication materials for training and capacity building.
Capacity building and training	4 Training and education for staff, including training courses, participation in workshops and seminars, etc.	
Management planning	5 Preparation of management plans, strategies and schemes	Elaboration and/or update of management and action plans, land use plans etc.
	6 Establishment of management bodies Start-up funding, feasibility studies,	
	7 Consultation – public meetings, liaison with landowners	Including costs incurred for the organisation of meetings and workshops, the publication of consultation outcomes, financial support of stakeholders, etc. Can include networking
	8 Review of management plans, strategies and schemes	
	9 Running costs of management bodies (maintenance of buildings and equipment)	Including: running costs incurred to meet depreciation of infrastructure; consumables;
	10 Investments in and maintenance of facilities for public access to and use of the sites, interpretation works,	Including costs related to guides, maps, related personnel.
	11 Staff (conservation/project officers, wardens/rangers, workers)	Ongoing staff costs.
Ongoing habitat management and monitoring	12 Conservation management measures – maintenance and improvement of	Including restoration work, provision of wildlife passages, management of specific
	13 Conservation management measures – maintenance and improvement of species' favourable conservation status	Including restoration work, provision of wildlife passages, management of specific species (flora and fauna), plans.
	14 Conservation management measures in relation to invasive alien species (IAS)	Including restoration work, infrastructure, management of specific species, preparation of management plans.
Cross-border management of sites	15 Cross-border management of sites, including for activities mentioned above but across national borders	

¹⁾ European Commission (2007), Financing Natura 2000. Guidance handbook (produced for the European Commission by WWF and IEEP)

III. Funding for nature conservation in the Carpathian Mountains in Slovakia

Table 2: Most relevant sources of funding available for nature conservation in the **Slovak Carpathians**

Funding source	Funding source, programme or measure	Description/comments/restrictions	Further information
EU sources			
EAFRD	Rural Development Programme for Slovakia for 2007-13: - Axis 2: Improvement of Environment and Landscape; - Axis 3: Quality of Life in Rural Areas and Diversification of Rural Economy; and - Axis 4: Implementation of LEADER approach.	Axis 2 includes: payments for Less Favoured Areas (LFAs), Natura 2000 sites, agri-environment and silvi-environment payments. Axis 3 includes: diversification of rural economy towards non-agriculture activities, development of rural tourism, education and information, reconstruction and development of villages, gaining skills and creating and implementing the integrated local development strategies. Axis 4 includes: implementation of integrated local development strategies, implementation of cooperative projects and operation of Local Action Groups.	
ERDF	Regional Operational Programme for Slovakia for 2007-13: Priority Axis 3: Strengthening the cultural potential of the regions and tourism infrastructure.	Includes construction and reconstruction of trails and cycling paths, information panels, resting places etc. in international and national importance nature sites	
ERDF	Environment Operational Programme for Slovakia for 2007-13: Priority Axis 5: Conservation and rehabilitation of natural environment and landscape.	Area restriction: Slovakia outside Bratislava County ('Convergence' objective regions).	Specific objective: Finalisation of Natura 2000 network and nature conservation infrastructure with regard to legal instruments of the EU and the Slovak Republic

Funding sources for supporting nature conservation in the **Slovak Carpathians**

ERDF	Bratislava County Operational Programme, Measure 1.1: Regeneration of settlements.	Area restriction: Bratislava County ('Regional competitiveness and employment' objective region).	Activities: • Development of physical infrastructure of settlements (incl. trails, cycling paths, etc.); • Preservation and rehabilitation of natural heritage (conservation and strengthening of natural potential of the region, including Natura 2000 sites)
ERDF	Research and development Operational Programme for Slovakia for 2007-13: • Axis 1: Research and development; • Axis 2: Research and development in Bratislava County	• Axis 1 restricted to Slovakia outside Bratislava County ('Convergence' objective regions); • Axis 2 restricted to Bratislava County.	Measures: Reconstruction and development of technical infrastructure for research and development; Support for research centers networks and trans-regional cooperation; Implementation of knowledge and technologies acquired through research into practice
ERDF	Programme of Cross-Border Cooperation Slovakia-Austria for the period 2007-2013: • Priority Axis 2: Accessibility and sustainable development	Restricted to Bratislava and Trnava Counties, can be similar for other cross-borders cooperation programmes (Slovakia-Czech Republic, Slovakia-Hungary, Slovakia-Poland, Slovakia-Ukraine)	Measure 2.3: Cooperation and common management of protected areas (including common management, monitoring, reporting and marketing of protected sites)
ESF	Education Operational Programme for Slovakia for 2007-13: • Priority Axis 2: Further education as a tool for development of human resources; • Priority Axis 4: Modern education for knowledge society in Bratislava County.	• Axis 2 restricted to Slovakia outside Bratislava County ('Convergence' objective regions); • Axis 4 restricted to Bratislava County.	

Funding sources for supporting nature conservation in the **Slovak Carpathians**

LIFE+	LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity; LIFE+ Environmental Policy and Governance; LIFE+ Information and Communication.	Shall not finance measures eligible or in the main scope of, or receive assistance from other EU financial instruments.	Include surveys, studies, plans and programmes, land purchase and leasing, management measures, monitoring, communication activities, etc.
Foreign governments			
Norwegian and EEA Funds	Memorandum of Understanding on Implementation of EEA Financial Mechanism & Memorandum of Understanding of Norwegian Financial Mechanism	Priority areas for EEA FM (Art. 6 of MoU) include: • Protection of the environment, incl. reduction of pollution and promotion of renewable energy; • Promotion of sustainable development through improved resource use and management; • Human resource development through, inter alia, promotion of education and training, strengthening of administrative or public service capacities of local government or its institutions as well as the democratic processes, which support it; • Academic research may be eligible for funding in so far as it is targeted at one or more of the priority sectors. Priority areas for Norwegian FM (Art. 6 of MoU) include: • Environment, i. a. with emphasis on strengthening the administrative capacity to implement relevant acquis and investments in infrastructure and technology with priority given to municipal waste management, • Regional policy and cross-border activities, • Technical assistance relating to implementation of the EU Acquis Communautaire.	• Improvement and development of infrastructure for water protection and management • Reduce the loss of biodiversity and preserve natural habitats • Promotion of renewable energy sources • Environmental education and mainstreaming on all levels of public administration including support to environmental information activities • Research activities within all eligible areas of EEA FM

Funding sources for supporting nature conservation in the **Slovak Carpathians**

State sources				
Environmental Fund	According to Act Nr. 587/2004 Coll. And amendments (penalties, fees for waste water discharge, air pollution, entrance fee to protected sites, etc.).	Financial priorities set in §4 of the Act Nr. 587/2004, each year specified in the call of the Environmental Fund	Includes actions needed for reaching of goals of state environmental policy, environmental research and development, education and promotion, mitigation and re-habilitation measures in environmental accidents and risks.	
Compensation of Restriction of Common Cultivation	State budget, according to § 61 of the Act Nr. 543/2002 Coll. and amendments on Nature and Landscape Protection	- Entitlement to a compensation is created only in case of restrictions which arise from the Nature and Landscape Protection Act and other provisions created upon this act - Difference between the common and restricted use needs to be proven - Amount of compensation suits this difference Only land owners can apply for the payment, entitlement to compensation may be applied in a period of 3 years.		
Financial contribution (for nature conservation management)	State budget, according to § 60 of the Act Nr. 543/2002 Coll. and amendments on Nature and Landscape Protection	The owner, administrator or lessee can apply for the payment. Payment is provided prior to realization of agreed measures for maintaining or reaching of favourable conservation status.	Financial contribution is intended to maintain or reach a favourable status of part of the landscape that it is not possible to reach with common cultivation.	
Private foundations				

Funding sources for supporting nature conservation in the **Slovak Carpathians**

Nadacia Ekopolis – Slovak Environmental Partnership Foundation	The foundation has a number of different small grant programmes (usually ca. €2000) of relevance for nature conservation and protected areas, including: Environmental Programme, Green Belt, Tatra Fund and Greenways. Grants are available for NGOs and communities. Total foundation budget in 2006: 23 million SKK (ca. €689,000).	Financial support is limited, both in terms of size and number of grants, but relatively flexible, accessible, and responsive, with limited bureaucracy. In 2008-09 the foundation is responsible for managing environmental programmes for NGOs funded by the EEA Financial Mechanism, Norwegian Financial Mechanism and state budget of the Slovak Republic.	http://www.ekopolis.sk
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Table 3: Available funding sources in Slovakia according to relevant cost categories

Activity category 1: Scientific studies/inventories for the identification of sites – surveys, inventories, mapping, condition assessment

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
EAFRD	Rural Development Programme for the Slovak Republic 2007-13 /Axis 3: Quality of Life in Rural Areas and Diversification of Rural Economy; Measure: gaining skills and creating and implementing the integrated local development strategies.	Public-Private Partnerships involving NGOs, municipalities and private sector	All	Rural areas	Can fund 100% of eligible costs (75% EU + 25% SK for 'Convergence' regions; 50% EU + 50% SK for 'Competitiveness and Employment' regions)	Studies on respective area (elaboration of baseline information, main study, analyses, recommendations).
EAFRD	Rural Development Programme for the Slovak Republic 2007-13 /Axis 4: Implementation of LEADER approach; Measure: implementation of integrated local development strategies.	Local Action Groups (LAGs)	All	Rural areas with minimum of 10,000 and maximum of 150,000 inhabitants	Establish LAGs and develop integrated local development strategy. Municipalities outside the 'Convergence' regions can participate only if they are part of LAGs registered in 'Convergence' regions.	Inventories and surveys as part of local development strategies implementation
ERDF	Environmental Operational Programme/Priority Axis 5: Conservation and rehabilitation of natural environment and landscape.	(Public administration)	All	Area restriction: Slovakia outside Bratislava County ('Convergence' objective regions).	Only as part of finalisation of the Natura 2000 network.	As part of development of management or recovery plans for sites or species as part of development of monitoring programmes of habitats and species, etc.
ERDF	Bratislava county Operational Programme/ Measure 1.1: Regeneration of settlements.	(Public administration)	All	Area restriction: Bratislava county ('Regional competitiveness and employment' objective region).	Preservation and rehabilitation of natural heritage (conservation and strengthening of natural potential of the region, including Natura 2000 sites).	As part of development of management or recovery plans for sites or species as part of development of monitoring programmes of habitats and species, etc.
ERDF	Research and development Operational Programme/ Axis 1: Research and development, Measure 1.3 Implementation of knowledge and	Research organizations (universities, scientific institutes)	All	Area restriction: Slovakia outside Bratislava County ('Convergence' objective regions).		Research to assess current status of natural habitats in order to pre-define possible restoration measures

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	technologies acquired through research into practice.					
ERDF	Research and development Operational Programme/ Axis 2: Research and development in Bratislava Count, Measure 2.3 Implementation of knowledge and technologies acquired through research into practice in Bratislava County.	Research organizations (universities, scientific institutes)	All	Area restriction: Bratislava county ('Regional competitiveness and employment' objective region).		Research to assess current status of natural habitats in order to pre-define possible restoration measures.
LIFE+	LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity, or LIFE+ Environmental Policy and Governance	Public and/or private bodies, actors and institutions	All		Shall not finance measures eligible or in main scope of, or receive assistance from other Community financial instruments. Only innovative, best practice, pilot, etc. projects (Art. 3 of LIFE+ Regulation)	Include surveys, studies, plans and programmes also as part of monitoring.
Norwegian and EEA Funds	Memorandum of Understanding on Implementation of EEA Financial Mechanism & Memorandum of Understanding of Norwegian Financial Mechanism Priority area: Academic research	State and public bodies, non-governmental non-profit organizations (excludes private commercial organizations)	All		Research activities within all eligible areas of EEA FM	Research and studies needed to define best practice in habitat management
Environmental Fund	State fund	Individual persons or legal entities resident in the Slovak Republic	All		Actions needed for reaching the goals of state environmental policy, environmental research and development oriented on environment improvement (§4 of Act 587/2004).	Research aimed at improving applied management practices on non-forest habitats

Activity category 2: Pilot projects, initial 'trial' projects at sites

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
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Funding sources for supporting nature conservation in the Slovak Carpathians

EAFRD	Rural Development Programme for the Slovak Republic 2007-13 / Axis 3: Quality of Life in Rural Areas and Diversification of Rural Economy; Measure: gaining skills and creating and implementing the integrated local development strategies	Public-Private Partnerships involving NGOs, municipalities and private sector	All	Rural areas	Can fund 100% of eligible costs (75% EU + 25% SK for 'Convergence' regions; 50% EU + 50% SK for 'Competitiveness and Employment' regions)	Pilot projects aiming at improving of local development strategy implementation in terms of protected sites management
EAFRD	Rural Development Programme for the Slovak Republic 2007-13 / Axis 4: Implementation of LEADER approach; Measure: implementation of integrated local development strategies	Local Action Groups (LAGs)	All	Rural areas with minimum of 10,000 and maximum of 150,000 inhabitants	Established LAGs and developed integrated local development strategy. Municipalities outside the 'Convergence' regions can participate only if they are part of LAGs registered in 'Convergence' regions	Pilot projects on Natura 2000 species management as part of local development strategy implementation
ERDF	Environment OP / Priority Axis 5 Conservation and rehabilitation of natural environment and landscape	(Public administration)	All	Area restriction: Slovakia outside Bratislava County ('Convergence' objective regions).	Only as part of finalisation of Natura 2000 network	Pilot project on testing the methodology for Natura 2000 sites monitoring
ERDF	Bratislava county OP/ Measure 1.1 Regeneration of settlements	(Public administration)	All	Area restriction: Bratislava county ('Regional competitiveness and employment' objective region).	Preservation and rehabilitation of natural heritage (conservation and strengthening of natural potential of the region, including Natura 2000 sites)	Project testing new methods of non-forest habitat management
ERDF	Research and development OP/ Axis 1 Research and development, Measure 1.3 Implementation of knowledge and technologies acquired through research into practice	Research organizations (universities, scientific institutes)	All	Area restriction: Slovakia outside Bratislava County ('Convergence' objective regions).		Research to assess current status of natural habitats in order to pre-define possible restoration measures
ERDF	Research and development OP/ Axis 2 Research and development in Bratislava County, Measure 2.3 Implementation of knowledge and technologies acquired	Research organizations (universities, scientific institutes)	All	Area restriction: Bratislava county ('Regional competitiveness and employment' objective region).		Research to assess current status of natural habitats in order to pre-define possible restoration measures

Funding sources for supporting nature conservation in the Slovak Carpathians

	through research into practice in Bratislava County					
LIFE+	LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity, or LIFE+ Environmental Policy and Governance	Public and/or private bodies, actors and institutions	All		Shall not finance measures eligible or in main scope of, or receive assistance from other Community financial instruments. Only innovative, best practice, pilot, etc. projects (Art. 3 of LIFE+ Regulation)	Project testing new methods of non-forest habitat management
Norwegian and EEA Funds	Memorandum of Understanding on Implementation of EEA Financial Mechanism & Memorandum of Understanding of Norwegian Financial Mechanism Priority area: Academic research	State and public bodies, non-governmental non-profit organizations (excludes private commercial organizations)	All		Research activities within all eligible areas of EEA FM	Project testing new methods of non-forest habitat management
Environmental Fund	State fund	Individual persons or legal entities resident in the Slovak Republic	All		actions needed for reaching the goals of state environmental policy, environmental research and development oriented on environment improvement (§4 of Act 587/2004)	Project testing new methods of non-forest habitat management

Activity category 3: Preparation of information and publicity material

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
EAFRD	Rural Development Programme for the Slovak Republic 2007-13 /Axis 3: Quality of Life in Rural Areas and Diversification of Rural Economy; Measures: education and information and gaining skills and creating and implementing the integrated local development strategies	State, public or non-profit organizations providing research and education activities if these are part of their subject of operation; Public – Private Partnerships involving NGOs, municipalities and private sector	All	Rural areas	Can fund 100% of eligible costs (75% EU + 25% SK for 'Convergence' regions; 50% EU + 50% SK for 'Competitiveness and Employment' regions)	Printed publications and web portals on measures for protection, creation and management of landscape

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EAFRD	Rural Development Programme for the Slovak Republic 2007-13 /Axis 4: Implementation of LEADER approach; Measure: implementation of integrated local development strategies	Local Action Groups (LAGs)	All	Rural areas with minimum of 10,000 and maximum of 150,000 inhabitants	Established LAG and developed integrated local development strategy. Municipalities outside the 'Convergence' regions can participate only if are part of LAGs registered in 'Convergence' regions.	Preparation of information portals as part of local development strategy implementation
ERDF	Environmental Operational Programme/Priority Axis 5: Conservation and rehabilitation of natural environment and landscape; Operational objective: Improvement of information and public awareness in environment issues	(Public administration)	All	Area restriction: Slovakia outside Bratislava County ('Convergence' objective regions).	Only as part of finalisation of Natura 2000 network	Preparation of printed materials on Natura 2000 in Slovakia
ERDF	Bratislava County Operational Programme/Measure 1.1 Regeneration of settlements	(Public administration)	All	Area restriction: Bratislava County ('Regional competitiveness and employment' objective region).	Preservation and rehabilitation of natural heritage (conservation and strengthening of natural potential of the region, including Natura 2000 sites)	Preparation of exhibitions on Natura 2000 in Bratislava county
LIFE+	LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity, or LIFE+ Environmental Policy and Governance or LIFE+ Information and Communication	Public and/or private bodies, actors and institutions	All		Shall not finance measures eligible or in main scope of, or receive assistance from other Community financial instruments. Only innovative, best practice, pilot, etc. projects (Art. 3 of LIFE+ Regulation)	
Norwegian and EEA Funds	Memorandum of Understanding on Implementation of EEA Financial Mechanism & Memorandum of Understanding of Norwegian Financial Mechanism Priority area: Promotion of sustainable development	State and public bodies, non-governmental non-profit organizations (excludes private commercial organizations)	All		Environmental information activities within all eligible areas of EEA FM	Promotion of best practices in non-forest habitats management
Environmental	State fund	Individual persons or legal entities resident	All		actions needed for reaching the goals of state environmental	Promotion of best practices in non-forest

Funding sources for supporting nature conservation in the Slovak Carpathians

Fund		in the Slovak Republic			policy, environmental education and promotion (§4 of Act 587/2004)	habitats management
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Activity category 4: Training and education for staff, including training courses, participation in workshops and seminars, etc.

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
EAFRD	Rural Development Programme for the Slovak Republic; 2007-13 /Axis 3: Quality of Life in Rural Areas and Diversification of Rural Economy; Measures: education and information and gaining skills and creating and implementing the integrated local development strategies	State, public or non-profit organizations providing research and education activities if these are part of their subject of operation; Public-Private Partnerships involving NGOs, municipalities and private sector	All	Rural areas	Can fund 100% of eligible costs (75% EU + 25% SK for 'Convergence' regions; 50% EU + 50% SK for 'Competitiveness and Employment' regions)	Internship programmes or training courses for LAG employees responsible for development and implementation of local development strategies
EAFRD	Rural Development Programme for the Slovak Republic; 2007-13 /Axis 4: Implementation of LEADER approach; Measures: implementation of integrated local development strategies, implementation of cooperative projects and running of the LAG	Local Action Groups (LAGs)	All	Rural areas with minimum of 10.000 and maximum of 150.000 inhabitants	Established LAG and developed integrated local development strategy. Municipalities outside the 'Convergence' regions can participate only if are part of LAGs registered in 'Convergence' regions.	Twining projects on training for the LAG leaders
ERDF	Environmental Operational Programme/Priority Axis 5: Conservation and rehabilitation of natural environment and landscape; Operational objective: Improvement of information and public awareness in environment issues	(Public administration)	All	Area restriction: Slovakia outside Bratislava County ('Convergence' objective regions).	Only as part of finalisation of the Natura 2000 network	Seminars and expert workshops on Natura 2000 in Slovakia
ERDF	Bratislava county Operational Programme/Measure 1.1: Regeneration of	(Public administration)	All	Area restriction: Bratislava County ('Regional competitiveness and	Preservation and rehabilitation of natural heritage (conservation and strengthening of natural potential of the region, including	Seminars and expert workshops on Natura 2000 in Slovakia

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	settlements			employment' objective region).	Natura 2000 sites)	
ESF	Education Operational Programme/Priority Axis 2: Further education as a tool for development of human resources	Public and private institutions (such as schools, authorities, NGOs, profession organizations, chambers, consultancy companies, entrepreneurs)	All	Area restriction: Slovakia outside Bratislava County ('Convergence' objective regions).		Programmes for further education of Natura 2000 site managers with aim of gaining and strengthening their key competences (such as communication skills, computers skills, etc.)
ESF	Education Operational Programme/Axis 4: Modern education for knowledge society in Bratislava County	Public and private institutions (such as schools, authorities, NGOs, profession organizations, chambers, consultancy companies, entrepreneurs)	All	Area restriction: Bratislava County ('Regional competitiveness and employment' objective region).		Programmes for further education of Natura 2000 site managers with aim of gaining and strengthening their key competences (such as communication skills, computers skills, etc.)
LIFE+	LIFE+ Information and Communication	Public and/or private bodies, actors and institutions	All		Shall not finance measures eligible or in main scope of, or receive assistance from other Community financial instruments. Only innovative, best practice, pilot, etc. projects (Art. 3 of LIFE+ Regulation)	Conferences and trainings for Natura 2000 site managers
Norwegian and EEA Funds	Memorandum of Understanding on Implementation of EEA Financial Mechanism & Memorandum of Understanding of Norwegian Financial Mechanism Priority area: Human resource development	State and public bodies, non-governmental non-profit organizations (excludes private commercial organizations)	All			Trainings on best practices in non-forest habitats management
Environmental Fund	State fund	Individual persons or legal entities resident in the Slovak Republic	All		actions needed for reaching the goals of state environmental policy, environmental education and promotion (§4 of Act 587/2004)	Trainings on best practices in non-forest habitats management

Activity category 5: Preparation of management plans, strategies and schemes

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
EAFRD	Rural Development Programme for the Slovak Republic, 2007-13/Axis 3: Quality of Life in Rural Areas and Diversification of Rural Economy; Measure: gaining skills and creating and implementing the integrated local development strategies	Public-Private Partnerships involving NGOs, municipalities and private sector	All	Rural areas	Can fund 100% of eligible costs (75% EU + 25% SK for 'Convergence' regions; 50% EU + 50% SK for 'Competitiveness and Employment' regions)	Development of Natura 2000 management plan as part of development of local development strategies
EAFRD	Rural Development Programme for the Slovak Republic, 2007-13/Axis 4: Implementation of LEADER approach; Measures: implementation of integrated local development strategies, implementation of cooperative projects	Local Action Groups (LAGs)	All	Rural areas with minimum of 10,000 and maximum of 150,000 inhabitants	Established LAG and developed integrated local development strategy. Municipalities outside the 'Convergence' regions can participate only if are part of LAGs registered in 'Convergence' regions	Development of Natura 2000 management plan as part of implementation of local development strategies
ERDF	Environment Operational Programme/Priority Axis 5: Conservation and rehabilitation of natural environment and landscape; Operational objective: Securing favourable status of habitats and species through development and implementation of protected sites management plans incl. Natura 2000	(Public administration)	All	Area restriction: Slovakia outside Bratislava County ('Convergence' objective regions).	Only as part of finalisation of Natura 2000 network	Preparation of management plans for Natura 2000 sites in Slovakia
ERDF	Bratislava County Operational Programme/Measure 1.1: Regeneration of settlements	(Public administration)	All	Area restriction: Bratislava County ('Regional competitiveness and employment' objective region).	Preservation and rehabilitation of natural heritage (conservation and strengthening of natural potential of the region, including Natura 2000 sites)	Preparation of management plans for Natura 2000 sites in Slovakia

Funding sources for supporting nature conservation in the Slovak Carpathians

LIFE+	LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity, or LIFE+ Environmental Policy and Governance	Public and/or private bodies, actors and institutions	All		Shall not finance measures eligible or in main scope of, or receive assistance from other Community financial instruments. Only innovative, best practice, pilot, etc. projects (Art. 3 of LIFE+ Regulation)	Preparation of management plans for Natura 2000 sites in Slovakia
Norwegian and EEA Funds	Memorandum of Understanding on Implementation of EEA Financial Mechanism & Memorandum of Understanding of Norwegian Financial Mechanism Priority areas: Promotion of sustainable development or Environment, i. a. with emphasis on strengthening the administrative capacity to implement relevant acquis	State and public bodies, non-governmental non-profit organizations (excludes private commercial organizations)	All			Preparation of management plans for Natura 2000 sites in Slovakia
Environmental Fund	State fund	Individual persons or legal entities resident in the Slovak Republic	All		Actions needed for reaching the goals of state environmental policy (§4 of Act 587/2004)	Preparation of management plans for Natura 2000 sites in Slovakia

Activity category 6: Establishment of management bodies Start-up funding, feasibility studies, management plans etc.

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
EAFRD	Rural Development Programme for SR 2007-13 /Axis 3 Quality of Life in Rural Areas and Diversification of Rural Economy; Measures: education and information and gaining skills and creating and implementing the integrated local development strategies	State, public or non-governmental non-profit organizations providing research and education activities if these are part of their subject of operation; Public – Private Partnerships involving NGOs, municipalities and private sector	All	Rural areas	Can fund 100% of eligible costs (75% EU + 25% SK for 'Convergence' regions; 50%EU+50%SK for 'Competitiveness and Employment' regions)	Establishment of local management committees or local partnerships for Natura 2000 site as part of development of local development strategies
EAFRD	Rural Development	Local Action Groups	All	Rural areas with	established LAG and developed	Establishment of local management

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	Programme for SR 2007-13 /Axis 4 Implementation of LEADER approach; Measures: implementation of integrated local development strategies, implementation of cooperative projects and running of the LAG	(LAGs)		minimum of 10 000 and maximum of 150,000 inhabitants.	integrated local development strategy. Municipalities outside the 'Convergence' regions can participate only if are part of LAGs registered in 'Convergence' regions.	committees for Natura 2000 site as part of implementation of local development strategies.
ERDF	Environment Operational Programme/Priority Axis 5 Conservation and rehabilitation of natural landscape; Operational objective: Improvement of information and public awareness in environment issues incl. improvement of cooperation and communication between stakeholders	(Public administration)	All	Area restriction: Slovakia outside Bratislava County ('Convergence' objective regions).	Only as part of finalisation of Natura 2000 network.	Start-up funding for local management committees for Natura 2000 site.
ERDF	Bratislava County Operational Programme/Measure 1.1 Regeneration of settlements	(Public administration)	All	Area restriction: Bratislava county ('Regional competitiveness and employment' objective region).	Preservation and rehabilitation of natural heritage (conservation and strengthening of natural potential of the region, including Natura 2000 sites).	Start-up funding for local management committees for Natura 2000 sites.
LIFE+	LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity, or LIFE+ Environmental Policy and Governance, or LIFE+ Information and Communication	Public and/or private bodies, actors and institutions.	All		Shall not finance measures eligible or in main scope of, or receive assistance from other Community financial instruments. Only innovative, best practice, pilot, etc projects (Art. 3 of LIFE+ Regulation).	Start-up funding for local management committees for Natura 2000 sites.
Norwegian and EEA Funds	Memorandum of Understanding on Implementation of EEA Financial Mechanism & Memorandum of Understanding of Norwegian Financial Mechanism Priority areas: Promotion of sustainable development or	State and public bodies, non-governmental non-profit organizations (excludes private commercial organizations)	All			Start-up funding for local management committees for Natura 2000 sites.

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	Environment, i. a. with emphasis on strengthening the administrative capacity to implement relevant acquis.					
Environmental Fund	State fund	Individual persons or legal entities resident in the Slovak Republic.	All		Actions needed for achieving the goals of state environmental policy (§4 of the Act 587/2004).	Start-up funding for local management committees for Natura 2000 sites.

Activity category 7: Consultation – public meetings, liaison with landowners

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
EAFRD	Rural Development Program for the Slovak Republic, 2007-13/Axis 3 Quality of Life in Rural Areas and Diversification of Rural Economy; Measure: gaining skills and creating and implementing the integrated local development strategies	Public-Private Partnerships involving NGOs, municipalities and private sector	All	Rural areas	Can fund 100% of eligible costs (75% EU + 25% SK for 'Convergence' regions; 50% EU + 50% SK for 'Competitiveness and Employment' regions)	Consultations and public meetings in preparation of the local development strategy
EAFRD	Rural Development Program for the Slovak Republic, 2007-13/Axis 4 Implementation of LEADER approach; Measures: implementation of integrated local development strategies, implementation of cooperative projects	Local Action Groups (LAGs)	All	Rural areas with minimum of 10,000 and maximum of 150,000 inhabitants	Established LAG and developed integrated local development strategy. Municipalities outside the 'Convergence' regions can participate only if are part of LAGs registered in 'Convergence' regions.	Consultations and public meetings within implementation of the local development strategy.
ERDF	Environment Operational Programme/Priority Axis 5: Conservation and rehabilitation of natural environment and landscape; Operational objective: Improvement of information and public awareness in environment issues	(Public administration)	All	Area restriction: Slovakia outside Bratislava County ('Convergence' objective regions).	Only as part of finalisation of Natura 2000 network.	Consultations and public meetings within implementation of the local development strategy.

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ERDF	Bratislava County Operational Measure/Measure 1.1: Regeneration of settlements	(Public administration)	All	Area restriction: Bratislava County (Regional competitiveness and employment' objective region).	Preservation and rehabilitation of natural heritage (conservation and strengthening of natural potential of the region, including Natura 2000 sites).	Consultations and public meetings within implementation of the local development strategy.
LIFE+	LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity, or LIFE+ Environmental Policy and Governance or LIFE+ Information and Communication	Public and/or private bodies, actors and institutions	All		Shall not finance measures eligible or in main scope of, or receive assistance from other Community financial instruments. Only innovative, best practice, pilot, etc projects (Art. 3 of LIFE+ Regulation).	Consultations and public meetings within implementation of the local development strategy.
Norwegian and EEA Funds	Memorandum of Understanding on Implementation of EEA Financial Mechanism & Memorandum of Understanding of Norwegian Financial Mechanism Priority areas: Promotion of sustainable development; Environment. i. a. with emphasis on strengthening the administrative capacity to implement relevant acquis.	State and public bodies, non-governmental non-profit organizations (excludes private commercial organizations).	All		Environmental information activities within all eligible areas of EEA Financial Mechanism.	Consultations and public meetings within implementation of the local development strategy.
Environmental Fund	State fund	Individual persons or legal entities resident in the Slovak Republic.	All		Actions needed for reaching the goals of state environmental policy, environmental education and promotion (§4 of Act 587/2004).	Consultations and public meetings within implementation of the local development strategy.

Activity category 8: Review of management plans, strategies and schemes. Review and updating of management plans and strategies

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
EAFRD	Rural Development Programme for the Slovak Republic, 2007-13 /Axis 3: Quality of Life in Rural	Public-Private Partnerships involving NGOs, municipalities and private sector	All	Rural areas	Can fund 100% of eligible costs (75% EU + 25% SK for 'Convergence' regions;	Review of Natura 2000 management plan as part of development of local development strategies.

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	Areas and Diversification of Rural Economy; Measures: gaining skills and creating and implementing the integrated local development strategies.					50% EU + 50% SK for 'Competitiveness and Employment' regions).	
EAFRD	Rural Development Programme for the Slovak Republic, 2007-13 /Axis 4: Implementation of LEADER approach; Measures: implementation of integrated local development strategies, implementation of cooperative projects.	Local Action Groups (LAGs)	All		Rural areas with minimum of 10,000 and maximum of 150,000 inhabitants	Established LAG and developed integrated local development strategy. Municipalities outside the 'Convergence' regions can participate only if are part of LAGs registered in 'Convergence' regions.	Review of Natura 2000 management plan as part of implementation of local development strategies.
ERDF	Environment Operational Programme/Priority Axis 5: Conservation and rehabilitation of natural environment and landscape; Operational objective: Securing favourable status of habitats and species through development and implementation of protected sites management plans incl. Natura 2000.	(Public administration)	All		Area restriction: Slovakia outside Bratislava County ('Convergence' objective regions).	Only as part of finalisation of the Natura 2000 network.	Review of management plans for Natura 2000 sites in Slovakia.
ERDF	Bratislava county Operational Programme, Measure 1.1: Regeneration of settlements.	(Public administration)	All		Area restriction: Bratislava County ('Regional competitiveness and employment' objective region).	Preservation and rehabilitation of natural heritage (conservation and strengthening of natural potential of the region, including Natura 2000 sites).	Review of management plans for Natura 2000 sites in Bratislava county.
ERDF	Research and development Operational Programme/Axis 1: Research and development, Measure 1.3: Implementation of knowledge and technologies acquired through research into practice	Research organizations (universities, scientific institutes)	All		Area restriction: Slovakia outside Bratislava County ('Convergence' objective regions).		Assessment of current status of the site in order to adapt management and restoration measures

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ERDF	Research and development Operational Programme/Axis 2: Research and development in Bratislava County, Measure 2.3: Implementation of knowledge and technologies acquired through research into practice in Bratislava County.	Research organizations (universities, scientific institutes)	All	Area restriction: Bratislava County (Regional competitiveness and employment' objective region).		Assessment of current status of the site in order to adapt management and restoration measures.
LIFE+	LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity, or LIFE+ Environmental Policy and Governance	Public and/or private bodies, actors and institutions	All		Shall not finance measures eligible or in main scope of, or receive assistance from other Community financial instruments. Only innovative, best practice, pilot, etc projects (Art. 3 of LIFE+ Regulation).	Review of management plans for Natura 2000 sites in Slovakia.
Norwegian and EEA Funds	Memorandum of Understanding on Implementation of EEA Financial Mechanism & Memorandum of Understanding of Norwegian Financial Mechanism Priority areas: Promotion of sustainable development or Environment, i. a. with emphasis on strengthening the administrative capacity to implement relevant acquis.	State and public bodies, non-governmental non-profit organizations (excludes private commercial organizations).	All			Review of management plans for Natura 2000 sites in Slovakia.
Environmental Fund	State fund	Individual persons or legal entities resident in the Slovak Republic.	All		Actions needed for reaching the goals of state environmental policy (§4 of Act 587/2004).	Review of management plans for Natura 2000 sites in Slovakia.

Activity category 9: Running costs of management bodies (maintenance of buildings and equipment)

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
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EAFRD	Rural Development Programme for the Slovak Republic; 2007-13 /Axis 3: Quality of Life in Rural Areas and Diversification of Rural Economy; Measure: gaining skills and creating and implementing the integrated local development strategies	Public-Private Partnerships involving NGOs, municipalities and private sector	All	Rural areas	Can fund 100% of eligible costs (75% EU + 25% SK for 'Convergence' regions; 50%EU+50%SK for 'Competitiveness and Employment' regions) Only with relation to development of local development strategy	Running costs of LAG during development of local development strategy.
EAFRD	Rural Development Programme for the Slovak Republic; 2007-13/Axis 4: Implementation of LEADER approach; Measure: running of the LAG	Local Action Groups (LAGs)	All	Rural areas with minimum of 10,000 and maximum of 150,000 inhabitants.	Established LAG and developed integrated local development strategy. Municipalities outside the 'Convergence' regions can participate only if are part of LAGs registered in 'Convergence' regions.	Maintenance of tourist information centre by LAG as part of implementation of local development strategy.
ERDF	Environment Operational Programme/Priority Axis 5: Conservation and rehabilitation of natural environment and landscape; Operational objective: Improvement of infrastructure for nature and landscape protection and building of new facilities	(Public administration)	All	Area restriction: Slovakia outside Bratislava County ('Convergence' objective regions).	Generally ineligible for continuous activities, can cover part of running costs directly related to any other eligible activities.	Travel costs related to development of management plan for Natura 2000 sites.
ERDF	Bratislava County Operational Programme/Measure 1.1: Regeneration of settlements.	(Public administration)	All	Area restriction: Bratislava County ('Regional competitiveness and employment' objective region).	Generally ineligible for continuous activities, can cover part of running costs directly related to any other eligible activities.	Travel costs related to development of management plan for Natura 2000 sites.

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LIFE+	LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity, or LIFE+ Environmental Policy and Governance	Public and/or private bodies, actors and institutions	All		Shall not finance measures eligible or in main scope of, or receive assistance from other Community financial instruments. Only innovative, best practice, pilot, etc projects (Art. 3 of LIFE+ Regulation); Generally ineligible for continuous activities, can cover part of running costs directly related to any other eligible activities.	Travel costs related to development of management plan for Natura 2000 sites.
Norwegian and EEA Funds	Memorandum of Understanding on Implementation of EEA Financial Mechanism & Memorandum of Understanding of Norwegian Financial Mechanism Priority areas: Protection of the environment, incl. reduction of pollution and promotion of renewable energy; Promotion of sustainable development through improved resource use and management	State and public bodies, non-profit organizations (excludes private commercial organizations).	All		Generally can not fund continuous activities, can cover part of running costs directly related to any other eligible activities.	
Environmental Fund	State fund	Individual persons or legal entities resident in the Slovak Republic	All		Actions needed for reaching the goals of state environmental policy (§4 of Act 587/2004); Generally ineligible for continuous activities, can cover part of running costs directly related to any other eligible activities.	

Activity category 10: Investments in and maintenance of facilities for public access to and use of the sites, interpretation works, observatories and kiosks etc.

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
EAFRD	Rural Development Programme for the Slovak	Public-Private Partnerships involving	All	Rural areas	Can fund 100% of eligible costs (75% EU + 25% SK for	Development of tourist information centres and related facilities in Natura 2000 sites as

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	Republic, 2007-13/Axis 3: Quality of Life in Rural Areas and Diversification of Rural Economy; Measures: diversification of rural economy towards non-agriculture activities, development of rural tourism, reconstruction and development of villages, gaining skills and creating and implementing the integrated local development strategies	NGOs, municipalities and private sector			'Convergence' regions; 50%EU + 50% SK for 'Competitiveness and Employment' regions)	part of promotion of local development and employment.
EAFRD	Rural Development Programme for the Slovak Republic 2007-13 /Axis 4: Implementation of LEADER approach; Measures: implementation of integrated local development strategies, implementation of cooperative projects and operation of Local Action Groups.	Local Action Groups (LAGs)	All	Rural areas with minimum of 10,000 and maximum of 150,000 inhabitants.	Established LAG and developed integrated local development strategy. Municipalities outside the 'Convergence' regions can participate only if are part of LAGs registered in 'Convergence' regions.	Construction and maintenance of tourist information centre as part of implementation of local development strategies.
ERDF	Environment Operational Programme/Priority Axis 5: Conservation and rehabilitation of natural environment and landscape; Operational objective: Improvement of infrastructure for nature and landscape protection and building of new facilities.	(Public administration)	All	Area restriction: Slovakia outside Bratislava County ('Convergence' objective regions).	Only as part of finalisation of Natura 2000 network.	Construction of tourist information centers, nature trails, etc. in Natura 2000 sites.
ERDF	Bratislava County Operational Programme/Measure 1.1: Regeneration of settlements	(Public administration)	All	Area restriction: Bratislava County ('Regional competitiveness and employment' objective region).	Development of physical infrastructure of settlements (incl. trails, cycling paths, etc.).	Construction of tourist information centers, nature trails, etc. in Natura 2000 sites.
ERDF	Regional Operational Programme/Priority Axis 3: Strengthening cultural potential of the regions and	Public institutions, owners of cultural heritage objects, public tourism actors	All	Area restriction: Slovakia outside Bratislava County ('Convergence'	Includes construction and reconstruction of trails and cycling paths, information panels, resting places etc. in international and national	Construction of cycling paths and nature trails, etc. in important nature sites.

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	tourism infrastructure			objective regions).	importance nature sites	
LIFE+	LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity, or LIFE+ Environmental Policy and Governance	Public and/or private bodies, actors and institutions	All		Shall not finance measures eligible or in main scope of, or receive assistance from other Community financial instruments. Only innovative, best practice, pilot, etc. projects (Art. 3 of LIFE+ Regulation) Heavy infrastructure is not eligible, other infrastructure is eligible only in form of depreciation costs (from 25-50%) with exception of public and non-profit beneficiaries in LIFE+ Nature projects (100% of eligible costs).	Pilot or innovative projects which include building of nature education centre in Natura 2000 sites.
Norwegian and EEA Funds	Memorandum of Understanding of EEA Financial Mechanism & Memorandum of Understanding of Norwegian Financial Mechanism Priority areas: Protection of the environment, incl. reduction of pollution and promotion of renewable energy; Promotion of sustainable development through improved resource use and management.	State and public bodies, non-governmental non-profit organizations (excludes private commercial organizations)	All			Improvement and development of infrastructure for water protection and management in order to improve public access to protected sites.
Environmental Fund	State fund	Individual persons or legal entities resident in the Slovak Republic	All		actions needed for reaching the goals of state environmental policy (§4 of the Act 587/2004)	Construction of tourist information centers, nature trails, etc. in Natura 2000 sites.

Activity category 11 : Staff (conservation/project officers, wardens/rangers, workers)

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
EAFRD	Rural Development Programme for the Slovak	Local Action Groups (LAGs)	All	Rural areas with minimum of 10,000	Established LAG and developed integrated local development	Staff costs of LAG employees as part of implementation of local development

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	Republic, 2007-13/Axis 4: Implementation of LEADER approach; Measure: operation of the Local Action Group.			and maximum of 150,000 inhabitants.	strategy.	strategy.
ERDF	Environment Operational Programme/Priority Axis 5: Conservation and rehabilitation of natural environment and landscape; Operational objective: Improvement of infrastructure for nature and landscape protection and building of new facilities	All	(Public administration)	Area restriction: Slovakia outside Bratislava County (‘Convergence’ objective regions).	Generally ineligible for continuous activities, can cover part of staff costs directly related to any other eligible activities.	Staff costs related to development of management plan for Natura 2000 sites.
ERDF	Bratislava County Operational Programme/Measure 1.1: Regeneration of settlements	All	(Public administration)	Area restriction: Bratislava County (‘Regional competitiveness and employment’ objective region).	Generally ineligible for continuous activities, can cover part of staff costs directly related to any other eligible activities.	Staff costs related to development of management plan for Natura 2000 sites.
LIFE+	LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity, or LIFE+ Environmental Policy and Governance or LIFE+ Information and Communication	All	Public and/or private bodies, actors and institutions		Shall not finance measures eligible or in main scope of, or receive assistance from other Community financial instruments. Only innovative, best practice, pilot, etc projects (Art. 3 of LIFE+ Regulation); Generally ineligible for continuous activities, can cover part of staff costs directly related to any other eligible activities.	Staff costs related to development of management plan for Natura 2000 sites.
Norwegian and EEA Funds	Memorandum of Understanding on Implementation of EEA Financial Mechanism & Memorandum of Understanding of Norwegian Financial Mechanism Priority areas: Protection of the environment, incl. reduction of pollution and promotion of renewable	All	State and public bodies, non- governmental non- profit organizations (excludes private commercial organizations).		Generally can not fund continuous activities, can cover part of staff costs directly related to any other eligible activities.	Staff costs related to development of management plan for Natura 2000 sites.

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	energy; Promotion of sustainable development through improved resource use and management.					
Environmental Fund	State fund	Individual persons or legal entities resident in the Slovak Republic.	All		Actions needed for reaching the goals of state environmental policy (§4 of Act 587/2004); Generally can not fund continuous activities, can cover part of staff costs directly related to any other eligible activities	Staff costs related to development of management plan for Natura 2000 sites.

Activity category 12: Conservation management measures – maintenance and improvement of habitats' favourable conservation status

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
EAFRD	Rural Development Programme for the Slovak Republic, 2007-13/Axis 2 Improvement of Environment and Landscape	Individual and legal entities in agriculture and forestry business	Agriculture land and forests	Designated areas		Payments for management of natural and semi-natural grasslands within agri-environmental schemes
EAFRD	Rural Development Programme for the Slovak Republic, 2007-13/Axis 4: Implementation of LEADER approach; Measures: implementation of integrated local development strategies, implementation of cooperative projects and running of the LAG	Local Action Groups (LAGs)	all	Rural areas with minimum of 10,000 and maximum of 150,000 inhabitants	established LAG and developed integrated local development strategy municipalities outside the 'Convergence' regions can participate only if are part of LAGs registered in 'Convergence' regions	Natural grassland management as part of implementation of local development strategies
ERDF	Environment Operational Programme/Priority Axis 5 Conservation and rehabilitation of natural environment and landscape: Operational objective: Securing favourable status of habitats and species through development and implementation of protected	(Public administration)	all	Area restriction: Slovakia outside Bratislava County ('Convergence' objective regions).	Only as part of finalisation of Natura 2000 network	Implementation of Natura 2000 sites management plans

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	sites management plans incl. Natura 2000						
ERDF	Bratislava County Operational Programme Measure 1.1: Regeneration of settlements	(Public administration)	all		Area restriction: Bratislava County (‘Regional competitiveness and employment’ objective region).	Preservation and rehabilitation of natural heritage (conservation and strengthening of natural potential of the region, including Natura 2000 sites)	Implementation of Natura 2000 sites management plans
LIFE+	LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity, or LIFE+ Environmental Policy and Governance	Public and/or private bodies, actors and institutions	All			Shall not finance measures eligible or in main scope of, or receive assistance from other Community financial instruments. Only innovative, best practice, pilot, etc. projects (Art. 3 of LIFE+ Regulation) Can not fund on-going activities	Pilot or innovative projects which include management of habitats in Natura 2000 sites
Norwegian and EEA Funds	Memorandum of Understanding on Implementation of EEA Financial Mechanism & Memorandum of Understanding of Norwegian Financial Mechanism Priority areas: Protection of the environment, incl. reduction of pollution and promotion of renewable energy; Promotion of sustainable development through improved resource use and management	State and public bodies, non- governmental non- profit organizations (excludes private commercial organizations)	All			Can not fund on-going activities, can be used only for innovative, best practice, pilot, etc. projects	Pilot or innovative projects which include management of habitats in Natura 2000 sites
Environmental Fund	State fund	Individual persons or legal entities resident in the Slovak Republic	all			actions needed for reaching the goals of state environmental policy (§4 of the Act 587/2004)	Implementation of Natura 2000 sites management plans
Compensation of Restriction of Common Cultivation	State budget	Only landowners	all		Only designated protected areas or proposed SCIs and SPAs (for the Natura 2000 network)	Entitlement to compensation is created only in case of restrictions which arise from the Nature and Landscape Protection Act and other provisions created upon this act. Difference between the common and restricted use needs to be	Payments for restriction of forest use in Natura 2000 sites with most strict protection regime

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						proven. Amount of compensation suits this difference. Entitlement to compensation may be applied within a period of 3 years.	
Financial contribution (for nature conservation management)	State budget	Owner, administrator or lessee	all	Only designated protected areas or proposed SCIs and SPAs (for the Natura 2000 network)		Financial contribution is intended to maintain or reach a favourable status of part of the landscape that is not possible to reach with common cultivation. Payment is provided prior to realization of agreed measures for maintaining or reaching of the favourable conservation status.	Payments for management of wetlands outside agri-environmental schemes

Activity category 13: Conservation management measures – maintenance and improvement of species' favourable conservation status

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
EAFRD	Rural Development Programme for the Slovak Republic; 2007-13/Axis 2: Improvement of Environment and Landscape	Individual and legal entities in agriculture and forestry business	Agriculture land and forests	Designated areas	Including SPAs	Payments for management of SPAs within agri-environmental schemes
EAFRD	Rural Development Programme for the Slovak Republic; 2007-13/Axis 4: Implementation of LEADER approach; Measures: implementation of integrated local development strategies, implementation of cooperative projects and running of the LAG	Local Action Groups (LAGs)	All	Rural areas with minimum of 10,000 and maximum of 150,000 inhabitants	Established LAG and developed integrated local development strategy. Municipalities outside the 'Convergence' regions can participate only if are part of LAGs registered in 'Convergence' regions	Management of SPAs as part of implementation of local development strategies
ERDF	Environment Operational Programme/Priority Axis 5: Conservation and rehabilitation of natural environment and landscape; Operational objectives: Securing favourable status of	(Public administration)	All	Area restriction: Slovakia outside Bratislava County ('Convergence' objective regions).	Only as part of finalisation of Natura 2000 network	Implementation of SPA management plans; Species action or recovery plans, including building of facilities for ex-situ breeding of sturgeons

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	habitats and species through development and implementation of protected sites management plans incl. Natura 2000; Improvement of infrastructure for nature and landscape protection and building of new facilities							
ERDF	Bratislava County Operational Programme, Measure 1.1 Regeneration of settlements	All			Area restriction: Bratislava County ('Regional competitiveness and employment' objective region).	Preservation and rehabilitation of natural heritage (conservation and strengthening of natural potential of the region, including Natura 2000 sites)	Implementation of SPA management plans or species action or recovery plans	
LIFE+	LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity, or LIFE+ Environmental Policy and Governance	All				Shall not finance measures eligible or in main scope of, or receive assistance from other Community financial instruments. Only innovative, best practice, pilot, etc. projects (Art. 3 of LIFE+ Regulation) Can not fund on-going activities	Pilot or innovative projects which include species driven management of Natura 2000 sites	
Norwegian and EEA Funds	Memorandum of Understanding on Implementation of EEA Financial Mechanism & Memorandum of Understanding of Norwegian Financial Mechanism Priority areas: Protection of the environment, incl. reduction of pollution and promotion of renewable energy; Promotion of sustainable development through improved resource use and management	All				Can not fund on-going activities, can be used only for innovative, best practice, pilot, etc. projects	Pilot or innovative projects which include species driven management of Natura 2000 sites	
Environmental Fund	State fund	All				Actions needed for reaching the goals of state environmental policy (§4 of Act 587/2004)	Implementation of SPA management plans	
Compensation of	State budget	All			Only landowners	Entitlement to compensation is	Payments for restriction of grassland use in	

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Restriction of Common Cultivation				protected areas or proposed SCIs and SPAs (for the Natura 2000 network)	created only in case of restrictions which arise from the Nature and Landscape Protection Act and other provisions created upon this act. Difference between the common and restricted use needs to be proven. Amount of compensation suits this difference. Entitlement to compensation may be applied within period of 3 years.	SPAs due to protection of ground nesting birds
Financial contribution (for nature conservation management)	State budget	Owner, administrator or lessee	All	Only designated protected areas or proposed SCIs and SPAs (for the Natura 2000 network)	Financial contribution is intended to maintain or reach a favourable status of part of the landscape that is not possible to reach with common cultivation. Payment is provided prior to realization of agreed measures for maintaining or reaching of the favourable conservation status.	Financial contribution for patchy hand mowing of fen meadows for Dusky Large Blue butterfly (<i>Maculinea nausithous</i>) outside agri-environmental schemes

Activity category 14: Conservation management measures in relation to invasive alien species (IAS)

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
EAFRD	Rural Development Programme for the Slovak Republic, 2007-13/Axis 2: Improvement of Environment and Landscape	Individual and legal entities in agriculture and forestry business.	Agriculture land and forests.	Designated areas	Only indirectly as part of habitat or species driven management in grasslands or forests, directly only if included in Natura 2000 management plans (Natura 2000 payments).	Management of IAS as side effect of grassland and forest management within agri-environmental schemes.
EAFRD	Rural Development Programme for the Slovak Republic, 2007-13/Axis 4: Implementation of LEADER approach; Measures: implementation of integrated local development strategies, implementation of cooperative projects and operation of Local Action Groups.	Local Action Groups (LAGs).	All	Rural areas with minimum of 10,000 and maximum of 150,000 inhabitants.	Established LAG and developed integrated local development strategy. Municipalities outside the 'Convergence' regions can participate only if are part of LAGs registered in 'Convergence' regions.	Management of IAS as part of implementation of local development strategies.

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ERDF	Environment Operational Programme/Priority Axis 5: Conservation and rehabilitation of natural environment and landscape; Operational objectives: Securing favourable status of habitats and species through development and implementation of protected sites management plans incl. Natura 2000; Improvement of infrastructure for nature and landscape protection and building of new facilities	(Public administration)	All		Area restriction: Slovakia outside Bratislava County ('Convergence' objective regions).	Only as part of finalisation of the Natura 2000 network.	Management of IAS as part of Natura 2000 site management plans.
ERDF	Bratislava County Operational Programme/Measure 1.1: Regeneration of settlements.	(Public administration)	All		Area restriction: Bratislava County ('Regional competitiveness and employment' objective region).	Preservation and rehabilitation of natural heritage (conservation and strengthening of natural potential of the region, including Natura 2000 sites).	Management of IAS as part of Natura 2000 site management plans.
LIFE+	LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity, or LIFE+ Environmental Policy and Governance	Public and/or private bodies, actors and institutions	All			Shall not finance measures eligible or in main scope of, or receive assistance from other Community financial instruments. Only innovative, best practice, pilot, etc. projects (Art. 3 of LIFE+ Regulation) Can not fund on-going activities	Pilot or innovative projects which include IAS management within Natura 2000 sites.
Norwegian and EEA Funds	Memorandum of Understanding on Implementation of EEA Financial Mechanism & Memorandum of Understanding of Norwegian Financial Mechanism Priority areas: Protection of the environment, incl. reduction of pollution and promotion of renewable energy; Promotion of sustainable development	State and public bodies, non-governmental non-profit organizations (excludes private commercial organizations).	All			Can not fund on-going activities, can be used only for innovative, best practice, pilot, etc projects.	Pilot or innovative projects which include IAS management within Natura 2000 sites.

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	through improved resource use and management						
Environmental Fund	State fund	Individual persons or legal entities resident in the Slovak Republic	All			Actions needed for reaching the goals of state environmental policy (§4 of the Act 587/2004).	IAS management within protected sites.

Activity category 15: Cross-border management of sites, including for activities mentioned above but across national borders

Fund	Description	Target groups	Land types	Area restrictions	Notes/other restrictions	Examples
EAFRD	Rural Development Programme for the Slovak Republic, 2007-13/Axis 4: Implementation of LEADER approach; Measure: implementation of cooperative projects	Local Action Groups (LAGs)	All	Rural areas with minimum of 10,000 and maximum of 150,000 inhabitants	Established LAG and developed integrated local development strategy. Municipalities outside the 'Convergence' regions can participate only if are part of LAGs registered in 'Convergence' regions.	Trans-boundary knowledge transfer in restoration of natural grasslands as part of implementation of local development strategy
ERDF	Research and development Operational Programme/Axis 1: Research and development, Measure 1.2: Support for research centers networks and trans-regional cooperation	Research organizations (universities, scientific institutes)	All	Area restriction: Slovakia outside Bratislava County ('Convergence' objective regions).		Trans-boundary research studies resulting to adaptation of site management.
ERDF	Research and development Operational Programme/Axis 2: Research and development in Bratislava County, Measure 2.2: Support for research centers networks and trans-regional cooperation in Bratislava County	Research organizations (universities, scientific institutes)	All	Area restriction: Bratislava County ('Regional competitiveness and employment' objective region).		Trans-boundary research studies resulting to adaptation of site management.
ERDF	Programme of Cross-Border Cooperation Slovakia-Austria, 2007-2013, Priority Axis 2: Accessibility and sustainable development, Measure 2.3: Cooperation	Protected areas managing authorities, local and regional institutions, regional development agencies, NGOs, land owners in protected areas.	All	Bratislava and Trnava Counties		Establishment of common management plans for trans-boundary Ramsar sites including common management, monitoring, reporting and marketing activities.

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	and common management of protected areas.					
LIFE+	LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity, or LIFE+ Environmental Policy and Governance or LIFE+ Information and Communication	Public and/or private bodies, actors and institutions	All			Pilot or innovative projects which include trans-boundary management of habitats in Natura 2000 sites.
Norwegian and EEA Funds	Memorandum of Understanding on Implementation of EEA Financial Mechanism & Memorandum of Understanding of Norwegian Financial Mechanism Priority areas: Protection of the environment, incl. reduction of pollution and promotion of renewable energy; Promotion of sustainable development through improved resource use and management.	State and public bodies, non-profit organizations (excludes private commercial organizations)	All		Shall not finance measures eligible or in main scope of, or receive assistance from other Community financial instruments. Only innovative, best practice, pilot, etc projects (Art. 3 of LIFE+ Regulation). Can not fund on-going activities	Pilot or innovative projects which include trans-boundary management of habitats in Natura 2000 sites.
					Can not fund on-going activities, can be used only for innovative, best practice, pilot, etc. projects.	Pilot or innovative projects which include trans-boundary management of habitats in Natura 2000 sites.

IV. Further use and acknowledgements

Further use and translation of these materials:

Our aim with this publication is to spread practical information regarding funding opportunities for nature conservation and related local development in the Carpathians. Therefore we welcome and support any efforts to do so, including photocopying and printing as well as translation into other languages. We would appreciate it if in doing so you note the source and would be interested to know how this handbook is being used and distributed. Get in touch with us – we can probably provide you with assistance, e.g. use of digital files, graphic templates, photos, etc. Please send your email titled “Carpathian handbook” to: office@wwfdcp.org.

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Protected Areas for a Living Planet — delivering on CBD commitments