



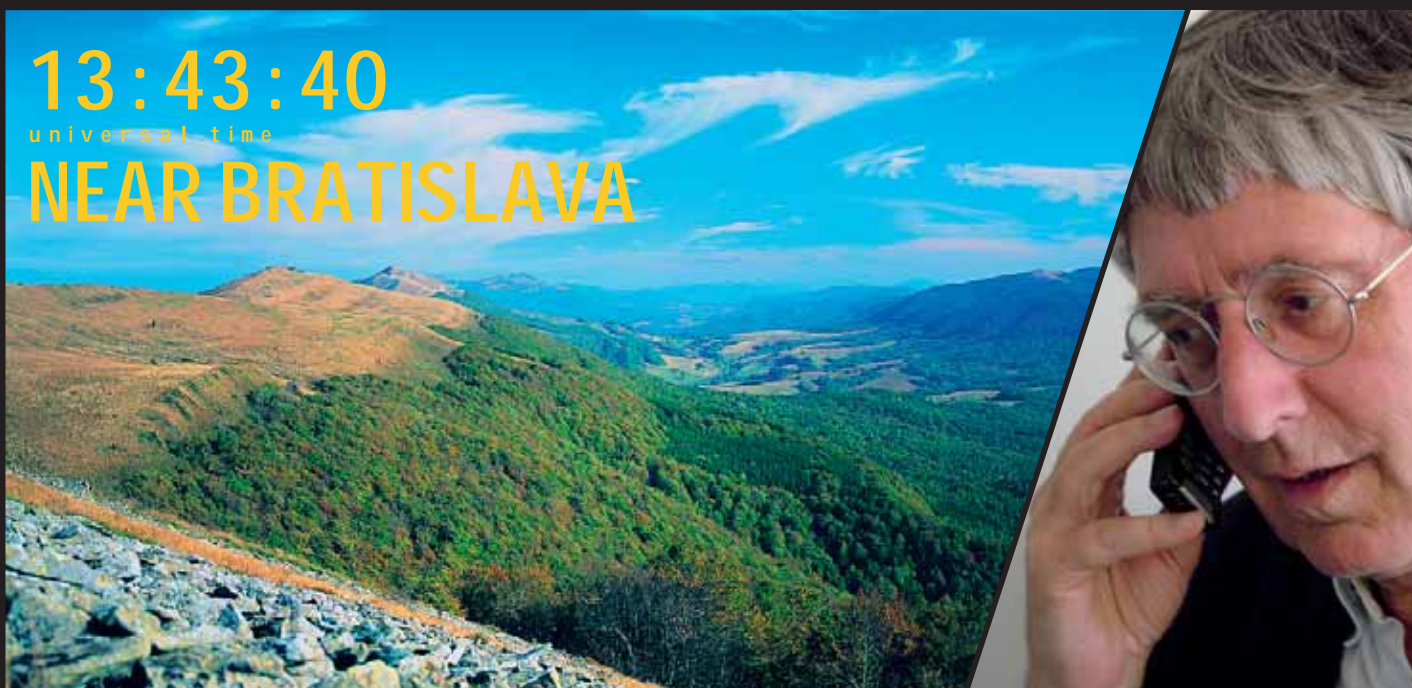
HOURS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

CARPATHIAN CONVENTION

13:43:40

universal time

NEAR BRATISLAVA



...Europe Regional Director Frits Schlingemann checks on the progress of negotiations with the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention...

The Carpathians are one of Europe's largest mountain ranges, with a unique natural and cultural heritage. They provide a haven for wildlife and act as an ecological link within Europe. The region's governments—the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, and Ukraine—joined together in the Carpathian Convention, which entered into force on 4 January 2006.





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CARPATHIAN CONVENTION

13:50:22

universal time

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...The Carpathians are home to around 200 unique plant species, found nowhere else in the world...

Spread over some 200,000 square kilometers (an area 10 per cent larger than the Alps), the Carpathians region contains vast tracts of forest that still shelter large populations of brown bear, wolf, lynx and other animals that are rare elsewhere in Europe. Although separated by national boundaries, the people of the Carpathians are in many ways united by their cultural heritage.



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CARPATHIAN CONVENTION

13:58:05

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...Sustainable tourism can draw investors and tourists to rural communities. This will assist in developing livelihoods that have been largely isolated from the European economy...



The Carpathian Project, co-financed by the European Union, supports the Carpathian Convention as a tool for regional cooperation and development. The Convention recognizes the link between environmental protection and the need to benefit local populations through sustainable development. Plans include improving the management of water resources; promoting sustainable agriculture, forestry, transport, industry and infrastructure; and preserving the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge.

