

A COLLECTION ON THE CARPATHIAN CONVENTION

**AFTER THE SECOND CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
HELD IN BUCHAREST ON 17-19 JUNE 2008**



Project part-financed
by the European Union



INTERREG III B CADSES

A COLLECTION ON THE CARPATHIAN CONVENTION



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published in collaboration with

EURAC
research

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This collection includes the main documents produced in the framework of the Carpathian Convention. Only documents issued by the end of March 2008 underwent light linguistic revision and harmonization; documents issued after April 2008 underwent light editing only.

A copy of this volume can be obtained from the address below.

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No annex to the documents compiled was included in this collection. Copies of the annexes can be requested to the organizers of the respective meetings according to the relevant rules and regulations of the Carpathian Convention.

FOREWORD TO THE FIRST EDITION



*Ministero dell'Ambiente
e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare*

Since the International Year of Mountains in 2002, the Italian Ministry of the Environment, holding then the presidency of the Alpine Convention, strongly supported the development of an international legal instrument for the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathian mountain region. An Alpine-Carpathian partnership was established to promote an experience sharing process between the two regions upon request of the Government of Ukraine and UNEP-ROE. The scientific and technical support of the European Academy proved precious in this process.

Carpathian States immediately espoused the idea of a Carpathian Convention which was promptly negotiated, drafted and finalized. Only two years elapsed between the launching of the idea in 2001 and the opening to signature of the Convention at the end of 2003; and only four between its signature and its entry into force in all Carpathian States at the beginning of 2008. This reflects the Carpathian ownership of this Convention and the local support for this international legal instrument, as well as the urgency to protect the vulnerable environment of this region, which is experimenting rapid change. The challenge for the years to come and for the Carpathian Convention is to develop these regions, while preserving its rich natural and cultural heritage.

Two years have passed since the First Conference of the Parties in Kiev, Ukraine, in 2006; the Carpathian Convention has fared a long way since then; a number of decisions were taken, working groups created, reports and terms of reference adopted. The time has come to publish a first collection of the main documents developed in the framework of the Carpathian Convention. A first volume of the collection is published at the occasion of the Second Conference of the Parties in Bucharest, Romania, on 17-19 June 2008, while a second volume will be published shortly after in the same series, including the decisions and outcomes of the Conference.

In the spirit of and continuity with the Collectio on the Alpine Convention published by the European Academy in 2004, our wish is that this collection proves to be a useful instrument for the many stakeholders involved in this vital and innovative process.

*Corrado Clini
Director General*

FOREWORD TO THE SECOND EDITION



Just a few months have passed since the Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (the “Carpathian Conference” - COP2) was held in Bucharest, Romania (17-19 June 2008). The Carpathian Convention has produced so many key documents that a second, expanded edition of this collection was already necessary and much demanded. Together with the decisions of the COP2, we find here resembled the text of the first Protocol adopted under the Carpathian Convention, the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity, a true milestone for the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathian mountain region.

This edition also includes significant material such as the full report of the COP2, the Ministerial Declaration of COP2 in Bucharest, together with the reports of many other meetings held in the framework of the Carpathian Convention. The breadth of these activities witnesses the integrating potential of the Framework Convention, as well as the catalyzing effect of the European Union Interreg IIIb CADSES Carpathian Project. The wealth of outputs made available by all the Carpathian Project partners, including national, regional and local authorities, as well as research/academic institutions, private partners and non-governmental organizations is impressive. Many further cooperation projects must be acknowledged, partly led and facilitated by our partners of the United Nations family and other international organizations and multilateral environmental agreements.

On behalf of the Carpathian Convention and its Parties, we would like to extend our special gratitude to the European Union, supporting the Carpathian Convention, and preparing for its full implementation in the context of European Union policies and programmes. Furthermore, special recognition goes to the European Academy (EURAC), for their constant commitment to advancing the Alpine-Carpathian partnership, together with the Italian Ministry of the Environment.

Harald Egerer

UNEP Vienna - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A special “thank you” to the many members of the Carpathian family and friends of the Carpathians who contributed throughout the years with passion and dedication to the negotiating, drafting and revising of each and every document contained in this collection.

A particular “thank you” also to the many partners, colleagues and friends who contributed to the preparation and presentation of this collection, especially Paolo Angelini (Italian Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea) for the coordination, Harald Egerer, Pier Carlo Sandei, Nikoleta Tvrda and Andreea Bucur (UNEP Vienna ISCC) for the support and inputs, as well as Marco Polenta (European Academy) for the revision and layout.

ACRONYMS

2012 PAP	2012 Protected Areas Programme
ANPED	Polish League of Nature Protection
BMU	German Federal Ministry for the Environment Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
BWG	WG on Biodiversity
CADSES	Central, Adriatic, Danubian and South-Eastern European Space
CEMAT	European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional/Spatial Planning
CCIC	Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee
CEEWEB	Central and East European Working Group for the Enhancement of Biodiversity
CEI	Central European Initiative
CEI-ES	CEI - Executive Secretariat
CERI	Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative
CHST	Cultural, Historic and Social Topography
CNPA	Carpathian Network of Protected Areas
CNPA-SC	CNPA - Steering Committee
COP	Conference of the Parties
CWI	Carpathian Wetlands Initiative
ETE	Ecological Tourism in Europe
EU	European Union
EURAC	European Academy
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FAO-SEUR	FAO - Sub-Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe
ICPDR	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
IMELS / MATTM	Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea
INTERREG	Inter-Regional Initiative
ISCC	Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention
KEO	Carpathian Environmental Outlook
MCPFE	Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
REC	Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe
SARD	Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development
SARD-F	SARD - Forests
SARD-M	SARD - Mountains
ToR	Terms of Reference
TWG	WG on Tourism
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDP-GEF	UNDP - Global Environment Facility
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP-GRID	UNEP - Global Resource Information Database
UNEP-ROE	UNEP - Regional Office for Europe
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNESCO-BRESCE	UNESCO - Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe
WG	Working Group
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
WWF-DCP	WWF - Danube Carpathian Programme

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THE BASIC DOCUMENTS

The Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, also known as the Carpathian Convention, is a regional environmental agreement, a treaty among States. All Carpathian States - i.e. the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine - signed the Convention; after it entered into force also in Serbia on 10 March 2008, the Convention is now in force in the whole Carpathian region.

It is a framework convention, an international agreement setting general objectives and principles for the environmental protection and sustainable development of the region. As most framework conventions, it did not set obligatory goals or measures, it mainly created basic institutions and procedures and outlined a vision for the whole region. The general objectives and principles, which embody this vision, will be tailored into obligatory goals or measures in specific international agreements, the so-called protocols, developed in the framework of the general convention.

The Carpathian Convention was open for signature at the 5th Pan-European Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe", held in Kiev, Ukraine, at the ad hoc conference of plenipotentiaries held on 20-22 May 2003. The Government of Ukraine played a central role in the development of the Convention. This led Ukraine acting as the first presidency of the Convention after the First Conference of the Parties (COP1), the meeting at the ministerial level held on 11-13 December 2006 always in Kiev.

The United Nations Environment Programme - Regional Office for Europe (UNEP-ROE) also played a major role. In 2001 the Government of Ukraine requested UNEP-ROE to service a cooperation process in the Carpathian region to promote environmental protection and sustainable development. UNEP-ROE promoted the Alpine-Carpathian partnership, mainly supported by Italy and Austria, which played a key role in the development of the Convention. The negotiating and drafting process greatly benefited from the sharing of the experience of the "sister" Alpine Convention, opened for signature on 7 November 1991 in Salzburg, Austria.

The institution building and scientific backing of the Convention also greatly benefited from the support of the EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES "Carpathian Project", in whose framework a number of draft protocols were developed. The first protocol to the Convention, the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity (Biodiversity Protocol), was adopted at the Second Conference of the Parties (COP2), held on 17-19 June 2008 in Bucharest, Romania. While UNEP acted as the lead partner of the project, the European Academy of Bolzano (EURAC) supported the development of the Convention in a number of actions at both the scientific and institutional level.

The Biodiversity Protocol presents several similarities with the Nature and Landscape Conservation Protocol to the Alpine Convention, signed in 1994. However, it possesses several distinctive features. First and foremost, it is formulated in clear and strong language. The Carpathian States committed themselves to several obligations to take measures to conserve, restore, and

sustainably use biological and landscape diversity in the Carpathian mountain region.

Here follow the full texts of the Framework Convention for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians and of its Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity.

FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CARPATHIANS

“The Parties”,

Acknowledging that the Carpathians are a unique natural treasure of great beauty and ecological value, an important reservoir of biodiversity, the headwaters of major rivers, an essential habitat and refuge for many endangered species of plants and animals and Europe’s largest area of virgin forests, and *aware* that the Carpathians constitute a major ecological, economic, cultural, recreational and living environment in the heart of Europe, shared by numerous peoples and countries;

Realizing the importance and ecological, cultural and socio-economic value of mountain regions, which prompted the United Nations General Assembly to declare 2002 the International Year of Mountains;

Recognizing the importance of Mountain areas, as enshrined in Chapter 13 (Sustainable Mountain Development) of the Declaration on Environment and Development (“Agenda 21”, Rio de Janeiro, 1992), and in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

Recalling the Declaration on Environment and Sustainable Development in the Carpathian and Danube Region (Bucharest, 2001);

Noting the pertinent provisions of and principles enshrined in relevant global, regional and sub-regional environmental legal instruments, strategies and programmes;

Aiming at ensuring a more effective implementation of such already existing instruments, and *building* upon other international programmes;

Recognizing that the Carpathians constitute the living environment for the local people, and *acknowledging* the contribution of the local people to sustainable social, cultural and economic development, and to preserving traditional knowledge in the Carpathians;

Acknowledging the importance of sub-regional cooperation for the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians in the context of the ‘Environment for Europe’ process;

Recognizing the experience gained in the framework of the Convention on the Protection of the Alps (Salzburg, 1991) as a successful model for the protection of the environment and sustainable development of mountain regions, providing a sound basis for new partnership initiatives and further strengthening of cooperation between Alpine and Carpathian States;

Being aware of the fact that efforts to protect, maintain and sustainably manage the natural resources of the Carpathians cannot be achieved by one country alone and require regional cooperation, and of the added value of transboundary cooperation in achieving ecological coherence;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1*Geographical scope*

1. The Convention applies to the Carpathian region (hereinafter referred to as the “Carpathians”), to be defined by the Conference of the Parties.
2. Each Party may extend the application of this Convention and its Protocols to additional parts of its national territory by making a declaration to the Depositary, provided that this is necessary to implement the provisions of the Convention.

Article 2*General objectives and principles*

1. The Parties shall pursue a comprehensive policy and cooperate for the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians with a view to *inter alia* improving quality of life, strengthening local economies and communities, and conservation of natural values and cultural heritage.
2. In order to achieve the objectives referred to in para 1, the Parties shall take appropriate measures, in the areas covered by Articles 4 to 13 of this Convention by promoting:
 - (a) The precaution and prevention principles,
 - (b) The ‘polluter pays’ principle,
 - (c) Public participation and stakeholder involvement,
 - (d) Transboundary cooperation,
 - (e) Integrated planning and management of land and water resources,
 - (f) A programmatic approach, and
 - (g) The ecosystem approach.
3. To achieve the objectives set forth in this Convention and to ensure its implementation, the Parties may, as appropriate, develop and adopt Protocols.

Article 3*Integrated approach to the land resources management*

The Parties shall apply the approach of the integrated land resources management as defined in Chapter 10 of the Agenda 21, by developing and implementing appropriate tools, such as integrated management plans, relating to the areas of this Convention.

Article 4*Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity*

1. The Parties shall pursue policies aiming at conservation, sustainable use and restoration of biological and landscape diversity throughout the Carpathians. The Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure a high level of protection and sustainable use of natural and semi-natural habitats, their continuity and connectivity, and species of flora and fauna being characteristic to the Carpathians, in particular the protection of endangered species, endemic species and large carnivores.

2. The Parties shall promote adequate maintenance of semi-natural habitats, the restoration of degraded habitats, and support the development and implementation of relevant management plans.
3. The Parties shall pursue policies aiming at the prevention of introduction of alien invasive species and release of genetically modified organisms threatening ecosystems, habitats or species, their control or eradication.
4. The Parties shall develop and/or promote compatible monitoring systems, coordinated regional inventories of species and habitats, coordinated scientific research, and their networking.
5. The Parties shall cooperate in developing an ecological network in the Carpathians, as a constituent part of the Pan-European Ecological Network, in establishing and supporting a Carpathian Network of Protected Areas, as well as enhance conservation and sustainable management in the areas outside of protected areas.
6. The Parties shall take appropriate measures to integrate the objective of conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity into sectoral policies, such as mountain agriculture, mountain forestry, river basin management, tourism, transport and energy, industry and mining activities.

Article 5

Spatial planning

1. The Parties shall pursue policies of spatial planning aimed at the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians, which shall take into account the specific ecological and socio-economic conditions in the Carpathians and their mountain ecosystems, and provide benefits to the local people.
2. The Parties shall aim at coordinating spatial planning in bordering areas, through developing transboundary and/or regional spatial planning policies and programmes, enhancing and supporting co-operation between relevant regional and local institutions.
3. In developing spatial planning policies and programmes, particular attention should, *inter alia*, be paid to:
 - (a) Transboundary transport, energy and telecommunications infrastructure and services,
 - (b) Conservation and sustainable use of natural resources,
 - (c) Coherent town and country planning in border areas,
 - (d) Preventing the cross-border impact of pollution,
 - (e) Integrated land use planning, and environmental impact assessments.

Article 6

Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management

Taking into account the hydrological, biological and ecological, and other specificities of mountain river basins, the Parties shall:

- (a) Take appropriate measures to promote policies integrating sustainable use of water resources, with land-use planning, and aim at pursuing policies

- and plans based on an integrated river basin management approach, recognizing the importance of pollution and flood management, prevention and control, and reducing water habitats fragmentation,
- (b) Pursue policies aiming at sustainable management of surface and groundwater resources, ensuring adequate supply of good quality surface and groundwater as needed for sustainable, balanced and equitable water use, and adequate sanitation and treatment of waste water,
 - (c) Pursue policies aiming at conserving natural watercourses, springs, lakes and groundwater resources as well as preserving and protecting wetlands and wetland ecosystems, and protecting against natural and anthropogenic detrimental effects such as flooding and accidental water pollution,
 - (d) Further develop a coordinated or joint system of measures, activities and early warning for transboundary impacts on the water regime of flooding and accidental water pollution, as well as co-operate in preventing and reducing the damages and giving assistance in restoration works.

Article 7

Sustainable agriculture and forestry

1. The Parties shall maintain the management of land traditionally cultivated in a sustainable manner, and take appropriate measures in designing and implementing their agricultural policies, taking into account the need of the protection of mountain ecosystems and landscapes, the importance of biological diversity, and the specific conditions of mountains as less favored areas.
2. The Parties shall pursue policies aiming at developing and designing appropriate instruments, such as the crucially important agri-environmental programs in the Carpathians, enhancing integration of environmental concerns into agricultural policies and land management plans, while taking into account the high ecological importance of Carpathian mountain ecosystems, such as natural and semi-natural grasslands, as part of the ecological networks, landscapes and traditional land-use.
3. The Parties shall pursue policies aiming at promoting and supporting the use of instruments and programs, compatible with internationally agreed principles of sustainable forest management.
4. The Parties shall apply sustainable mountain forest management practices in the Carpathians, taking into account the multiple functions of forests, the high ecological importance of the Carpathian mountain ecosystems, as well as the less favorable conditions in mountain forests.
5. The Parties shall pursue policies aiming at designating protected areas in natural, especially virgin forests in sufficient size and number, with the purpose to restrict or adapt their use according to the objectives of conservation to be achieved.
6. The Parties shall promote practice of environmentally sound agricultural and forestry measures assuring appropriate retention of precipitation in the

mountains with a view to better prevent flooding and increase safety of life and assets.

Article 8

Sustainable transport and infrastructure

1. The Parties shall pursue policies of sustainable transport and infrastructure planning and development, which take into account the specificities of the mountain environment, by taking into consideration the protection of sensitive areas, in particular biodiversity-rich areas, migration routes or areas of international importance, the protection of biodiversity and landscapes, and of areas of particular importance for tourism.
2. The Parties shall cooperate towards developing sustainable transport policies which provide the benefits of mobility and access in the Carpathians, while minimizing harmful effects on human health, landscapes, plants, animals, and their habitats, and incorporating sustainable transport demand management in all stages of transport planning in the Carpathians.
3. In environmentally sensitive areas the Parties shall co-operate towards developing models of environmentally friendly transportation.

Article 9

Sustainable tourism

1. The Parties shall take measures to promote sustainable tourism in the Carpathians, providing benefits to the local people, based on the exceptional nature, landscapes and cultural heritage of the Carpathians, and shall increase cooperation to this effect.
2. Parties shall pursue policies aiming at promoting transboundary cooperation in order to facilitate sustainable tourism development, such as coordinated or joint management plans for transboundary or bordering protected areas, and other sites of touristic interest.

Article 10

Industry and energy

1. The Parties shall promote cleaner production technologies, in order to adequately prevent, respond to and remediate industrial accidents and their consequences, as well as to preserve human health and mountain ecosystems.
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.
3. Parties shall aim at reducing adverse impacts of mineral exploitation on the environment and ensuring adequate environmental surveillance on mining technologies and practices.

Article 11*Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge*

The Parties shall pursue policies aiming at preservation and promotion of the cultural heritage and of traditional knowledge of the local people, crafting and marketing of local goods, arts and handicrafts. The Parties shall aim at preserving the traditional architecture, land-use patterns, local breeds of domestic animals and cultivated plant varieties, and sustainable use of wild plants in the Carpathians.

Article 12*Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning*

1. The Parties shall apply, where necessary, risk assessments, environmental impact assessments, and strategic environmental assessments, taking into account the specificities of the Carpathian mountain ecosystems, and shall consult on projects of transboundary character in the Carpathians, and assess their environmental impact, in order to avoid transboundary harmful effects.
2. The Parties shall pursue policies, using existing methods of monitoring and assessment, aiming at promoting:
 - (a) Cooperation in the carrying out of research activities and scientific assessments in the Carpathians,
 - (b) Joint or complementary monitoring programmes, including the systematic monitoring of the state of the environment,
 - (c) Comparability, complementarity and standardization of research methods and related data-acquisition activities,
 - (d) Harmonization of existing and development of new environmental, social and economic indicators,
 - (e) A system of early warning, monitoring and assessment of natural and manmade environmental risks and hazards, and
 - (f) An information system, accessible to all Parties.

Article 13*Awareness raising, education and public participation*

1. The Parties shall pursue policies aiming at increasing environmental awareness and improving access of the public to information on the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians, and promoting related education curricula and programmes.
2. The Parties shall pursue policies guaranteeing public participation in decision-making relating to the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians, and the implementation of this Convention.

Article 14*Conference of the Parties*

1. A Conference of the Parties (hereinafter referred to as the “Conference”) is hereby established.

2. The Conference shall discuss common concerns of the Parties and make the decisions necessary to promote the effective implementation of the Convention. In particular, it shall:
 - (a) Regularly review and support the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols,
 - (b) Adopt amendments to the Convention pursuant to Article 19,
 - (c) Adopt Protocols, including amendments thereto, pursuant to Articles 18,
 - (d) Nominate its President and establish an intersessional executive body, as appropriate and in accordance with its Rules of Procedure,
 - (e) Establish such subsidiary bodies, including thematic working groups, as are deemed necessary for the implementation of the Convention, regularly review reports submitted by its subsidiary bodies and provide guidance to them,
 - (f) Approve a work program, financial rules and budget for its activities, including those of its subsidiary bodies and the Secretariat, and undertake necessary arrangements for their financing pursuant to Article 17,
 - (g) Adopt its Rules of Procedure,
 - (h) Adopt or recommend measures to achieve the objectives laid down in Articles 2 to 13,
 - (i) As appropriate, seek the cooperation of competent bodies or agencies, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental and promote and strengthen the relationship with other relevant conventions while avoiding duplication of efforts, and
 - (j) Exercise other functions as may be necessary for the achievement of the objectives of the Convention.
3. The first session of the Conference shall be convened not later than one year after the date of entry into force of the Convention. Unless otherwise decided by the Conference, ordinary sessions shall be held every three years.
4. Extraordinary sessions of the Conference shall be held at such other times as may be decided either by the Conference at ordinary session or at the written request of any Party, provided that, within three months of the request being communicated to all the other Parties by the Secretariat, it is supported by at least one third of the Parties.
5. The Parties may decide to admit as observers at the ordinary and extraordinary sessions of the Conference:
 - (a) Any other State,
 - (b) Any national, intergovernmental or non-governmental organization the activities of which are related to the Convention.

The conditions for the admission and participation of observers shall be established in the Rules of Procedure. Such observers may present any information or report relevant to the objectives of the Convention.

6. The Conference shall reach its decisions by consensus.

Article 15*Secretariat*

1. A Secretariat is hereby established.
2. The functions of the Secretariat shall be:
 - (a) To make arrangements for sessions of the Conference and to provide them with services as required,
 - (b) To compile and transmit reports submitted to it,
 - (c) To coordinate its activities with the secretariats of other relevant international bodies and conventions,
 - (d) To prepare reports on the exercising of its functions under this Convention and its Protocols, including financial reports, and to present them to the Conference,
 - (e) To facilitate research, communication and information exchange on matters relating to this Convention, and
 - (f) To perform other secretariat functions as may be determined by the Conference.

Article 16*Subsidiary bodies*

The subsidiary bodies, including thematic working groups established in accordance with Article 14 para 2 (e), shall provide the Conference, as necessary, with technical assistance, information and advice on specific issues related to the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians.

Article 17*Financial contributions*

Each Party shall contribute to the regular budget of the Convention in accordance with a scale of contributions as determined by the Conference.

Article 18*Protocols*

1. Any Party may propose Protocols to the Convention.
2. The Draft Protocols shall be circulated to all Parties through the Secretariat not later than six months before the Conference session at which they are to be considered.
3. The Protocols shall be adopted and signed at the Conference sessions. The entry into force, amendment of and withdrawal from the Protocols shall be done *mutatis mutandis* in accordance with Articles 19, 21 para 2 to 4 and Article 22 of the Convention. Only a Party to the Convention may become Party to the Protocols.

Article 19*Amendments to the Convention*

1. Any Party may propose amendments to the Convention.

2. The proposed amendments shall be circulated to all Parties to the Convention through the Secretariat not later than six months before the Conference session at which the amendments are to be considered.
3. The Conference shall adopt the proposed amendments to the Convention by consensus.
4. The amendments to the Convention shall be subject to ratification, approval or acceptance. The amendments shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit of the fourth instrument of ratification, approval or acceptance. Thereafter, the amendments shall enter into force for any other Party on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit of its instrument of ratification, approval or acceptance.

Article 20

Settlement of disputes

The Parties shall settle disputes arising from the interpretation or implementation of the Convention by negotiation or any other means of dispute settlement in accordance with international law.

Article 21

Entry into force

1. This Convention shall be open for signature at the Depositary from 22 May 2003 to 22 May 2004.
2. This Convention shall be subject to ratification, acceptance, or approval by the Signatories. The Convention shall be open for accession by non Signatories. Instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval and accession shall be deposited with the Depositary.
3. The Convention shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit of the fourth instrument of ratification, approval, acceptance or accession.
4. Thereafter the Convention shall enter into force for any other Party on the ninetieth day from the date of deposit of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

Article 22

Withdrawal

Any Party may withdraw from the Convention by means of a notification in writing addressed to the Depositary. The withdrawal shall become effective on the one hundred eightieth day after the date of the receipt of the notification by the Depositary.

Article 23

Depositary

1. The Depositary of the Convention shall be the Government of Ukraine.
2. The Depositary shall notify all the other Parties of

- (a) Any signature of the Convention and its Protocols,
- (b) The deposit of any instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession,
- (c) The date of entry into force of the Convention as well as its Protocols or amendments thereto, and the date of their entry into force for any other Party,
- (d) Any notifications of withdrawal from the Convention or its Protocols and the date on which such withdrawal becomes effective for a particular Party,
- (e) The deposit of any declaration according to Article 1 para 2.

Done at Kiev, Ukraine, on 22 May 2003 in one original in the English language.

The original of the Convention shall be deposited with the Depositary, which shall distribute certified copies to all Parties.

In witness whereof the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, have signed this Convention:

The Government of the Czech Republic

The Government of the Republic of Hungary

The Government of the Republic of Poland

The Government of Romania

The Council of Ministers of Serbia and Montenegro

The Government of the Slovak Republic

The Government of Ukraine

PROTOCOL ON CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIOLOGICAL AND LANDSCAPE DIVERSITY

The Parties to this Protocol

In accordance with their tasks, arising from the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, hereinafter referred to as the “Carpathian Convention” (Kyiv, 2003), of pursuing a comprehensive policy and cooperating for the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians;

Aware of the fact that during the last decades, the initiation and escalation of certain human activities have led to significant changes of the biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians, which are the natural habitat for many different flora and fauna species;

Aiming to mitigate threats to the biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians and to promote sustainable use of their natural resources;

In compliance with their obligations under Article 4 of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians;

Noting that all Parties to the Protocol are Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio de Janeiro, 1992); the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern, 1979); the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Washington, 1973), the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar, 1971) and the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (Paris, 1972);

Noting other relevant conventions and agreements, in particular the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn, 1979), the European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000), the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo, 1991) and the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Århus, 1998);

Taking into account the legal framework on nature protection and biodiversity conservation of the European Community;

Acknowledging the endeavours and achievements within the Council of Europe aiming to conserve ecosystems, habitats, species, their genetic diversity, and landscapes in Europe;

Aiming at ensuring a more effective implementation of existing legal instruments, and *building upon* other international programmes;

Convinced that efforts to protect, maintain and sustainably manage the natural resources of the Carpathians cannot be achieved by one country alone and require regional cooperation;

Being aware of the fact that ecosystems transcend national borders and of the added value of transboundary cooperation in achieving ecological coherence; and

Resolved to cooperate on the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians;

Have agreed as follows:

CHAPTER I

OBJECTIVES, GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE AND DEFINITIONS

Article 1

General objectives and principles

1. The objective of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity (hereinafter referred to as “the Protocol”) is to enhance the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians, bringing benefits to present and future generations.
2. To achieve the above objectives, the Parties shall harmonise and coordinate their efforts and cooperate on conservation, maintenance and sustainable use of natural and semi-natural habitats, and securing their continuity and connectivity; restoration of degraded habitats; conservation and sustainable use of species of flora and fauna characteristic to the Carpathians, in particular on conservation of endangered or endemic species and large carnivores.
3. The Parties shall therefore cooperate especially on the:
 - (a) development, harmonization and implementation of relevant management plans aimed at achieving common standards for protection and sustainable use of habitats and species;
 - (b) prevention of introduction of invasive alien species which might threaten ecosystems, habitats or species native to the Carpathians, their control or eradication;
 - (c) prevention of release of genetically modified organisms which might threaten ecosystems, habitats or species native to the Carpathians and their control;
 - (d) development and/or promotion of compatible biodiversity indicators and monitoring systems;
 - (e) development and/or promotion of coordinated regional inventories of species and habitats;
 - (f) development and/or promotion of coordinated scientific research programs and projects;
 - (g) establishment of ecological networks in the Carpathians and enhancing conservation and sustainable management of biological and landscape diversity in the areas outside of protected areas;
 - (h) integration of the objectives for the conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity into other sectoral policies.

Article 2

Geographical scope

1. This Protocol applies to the Carpathian region (hereinafter referred to as “the Carpathians”), as defined by the Conference of the Parties.
2. Each Party may extend the application of this Protocol to additional parts of its national territory by making a declaration to the Depositary.

Article 3

Definitions

For the purposes of this Protocol:

- (a) “Biological diversity” means the variability among living organisms which includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems;
- (b) “Border area” means an area remaining under the jurisdiction of the respective Party in the proximity of the state border with another Party, where activities undertaken on one side of the state border are, depending on the nature of the particular activity, likely to have direct or indirect and adverse or positive environmental impact on the other side of the state border;
- (c) “Carpathian Network of Protected Areas” means a thematic network of cooperation among protected areas in the Carpathians;
- (d) “Conservation” means a series of measures required to maintain the natural habitats and the populations of species of wild fauna and flora at a favourable conservation status;
- (e) “Conference of the Parties” means the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention.
- (f) “Degraded habitat” means a habitat reduced in quality or value of ecological functions by various impacts such as pollution, unsustainable use of resources, invasive alien species, etc.;
- (g) “Ecological network” means a system of areas which are ecologically and physically linked, consisting of core areas, corridors and buffer zones;
- (h) “Endangered species” means species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant proportion of their range;
- (i) “Endemic species” means species native and unique to a defined place or region;
- (j) “Invasive alien species” means non-native species introduced deliberately or unintentionally outside their natural habitats, where they become established, proliferate and spread in ways that cause damage to their receiving environment;
- (k) “Landscape” means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors;
- (l) “Landscape diversity” means the variability among landscapes;
- (m) “Native species” means indigenous species to a given region or ecosystem;
- (n) “Natural habitat” means the terrestrial or aquatic area distinguished by geographic, abiotic and biotic features where an organism or population naturally occurs;
- (o) “Observer” means observer defined under the Article 14 paragraph 5 of the Carpathian Convention
- (p) “Parties” means Parties to this Protocol;
- (q) “Protected area” means a geographically defined area which is designated and managed to achieve specific conservation objectives;
- (r) “Restoration” means the return of an ecosystem or habitat to its original structure, natural composition of species, and natural functions;

- (s) “Semi-natural habitat” means a habitat that has been modified and maintained by human activities, but still holds species that occur naturally in the area;
- (t) “Sustainable use” means the use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations;
- (u) “Transboundary protected area” means an area composed of two or more protected areas located within the territories of two or more Parties, adjacent to the state border, each remaining under jurisdiction of respective Party.

CHAPTER II

GENERAL OBLIGATIONS

Article 4

Policies aiming at conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians

Each Party shall develop and implement policies and strategies in its national territory aiming at the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians while taking into consideration policies and strategies developed and implemented by other Parties.

Article 5

Integration of the objectives of conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians into sectoral policies

1. The Parties shall take into consideration the objectives of this Protocol in their other policies, in particular on spatial planning and land resources management, water and river basin management, agriculture and forestry, transport and infrastructure, tourism, industry and energy.
2. The Parties shall cooperate on integration of the objectives of conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity into other regional or global sectoral policies and strategies which could have influence on the conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity in the Carpathians.

Article 6

Participation of regional and local authorities, and other stakeholders

1. Each Party shall take measures to facilitate, within its existing institutional framework, the coordination and cooperation between institutions and regional and local authorities concerned so as to encourage shared responsibility, in particular to develop and enhance synergies when implementing policies for conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians and the resulting measures.

2. Each Party shall take measures to involve the regional and local authorities, and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of these policies and measures.

Article 7

International cooperation

1. The Parties shall encourage active cooperation among the competent institutions and organisations at the international level with regard to the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians.
2. The Parties shall facilitate the cooperation between regional and local authorities in the Carpathians at the international level, and seek solutions to shared problems at the most suitable level.

CHAPTER III

SPECIFIC MEASURES

Article 8

Conservation, maintenance, restoration and sustainable use of natural and semi-natural habitats

1. The Conference of the Parties shall adopt a list of endangered natural and semi-natural habitat types native to the Carpathians (Carpathian Red List of Habitats).
2. Each Party shall take measures in its national territory with the objective to ensure the long-term conservation, restoration and sustainable use of natural habitats in the Carpathians, with a special focus on the endangered ones as defined in Article 8 paragraph 1.
3. Each Party shall take measures in its national territory with the objective to maintain or restore, and sustainably use, semi-natural habitats in the Carpathians with a special focus on the endangered ones as defined in Article 8 paragraph 1.

Article 9

Continuity and connectivity of natural and semi-natural habitats, ecological network in the Carpathians

1. Each Party shall take measures in its national territory with the objective to improve and ensure continuity and connectivity of natural and semi-natural habitats in the Carpathians, thus allowing dispersal and migration of wild species populations particularly of large carnivores, and genetic exchange between such populations.
2. Each Party shall maintain, manage and, if need be, expand existing protected areas in its national territory in the Carpathians, and encourage the designation and management of new protected areas in the Carpathians.

3. The Parties shall cooperate on establishing an ecological network in the Carpathians, composed of protected areas and other areas significant for biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians and for coherence of the network.

Article 10

Restoration of degraded habitats

Each Party shall take measures in its national territory with the objective to restore degraded habitats in the Carpathians.

Article 11

Conservation and sustainable use of species of flora and fauna of the Carpathians

Each Party shall take measures in its national territory with the objective to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of species of flora and fauna native to the Carpathians.

Article 12

Conservation of endangered species including endemic species, and large carnivores of the Carpathians

1. The Conference of the Parties shall adopt a list of endangered flora and fauna species native to the Carpathians (Carpathian Red List of Species) based on internationally recognized principles and criteria.
2. Each Party shall take measures in its national territory with the objective to ensure the long-term conservation or sustainable use and recovery of endangered species, including endemic species of flora and fauna native to the Carpathians, and of large carnivores which might be in need of management plans.
3. Parties shall cooperate on activities aiming at reintroduction of native species of fauna and flora.

Article 13

Prevention of the introduction of invasive alien species and/or genetically modified organisms threatening ecosystems, habitats or species, their control or eradication

1. Each Party shall pursue policies aiming at the prevention of introduction or release of invasive alien species and/or genetically modified organisms which are likely to have adverse environmental impacts that could affect the biological diversity, ecosystems, habitats or species of the Carpathians, including early warning on occurrence of new invasive alien species on its territory.
2. Each Party shall take measures in its national territory with the objective to prevent introduction or release of species mentioned under paragraph 1 and, if need be, control or eradication of such species.

Article 14

Carpathian Network of Protected Areas

1. The Parties shall support and facilitate cooperation under the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas established by the Conference of the Parties and encourage the protected area administrations to take part in the cooperation within this Network.
2. The Conference of the Parties shall recognise the areas part of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas and adopt the terms of reference of the Network.

Article 15

Enhancing conservation and sustainable management in the areas outside of protected areas

1. Each Party shall take measures in its national territory with the objective to enhance conservation and sustainable management in the areas outside of protected areas in the Carpathians.
2. Each Party shall facilitate coordination and cooperation between all relevant stakeholders, so as to enhance conservation and sustainable management in the areas outside of protected areas in the Carpathians, in particular with the objective of improving and ensuring connectivity between existing protected areas and other areas and habitats significant for biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians.

Article 16

Consultation, harmonisation and coordination of measures undertaken in border areas

1. Each Party shall harmonise and coordinate measures, undertaken in its border area in the Carpathians aimed at achieving objectives listed under Article 1 paragraphs 2 and 3, with the neighbouring Party, in particular in transboundary protected areas.
2. The Parties shall cooperate within existing transboundary protected areas in the Carpathians and harmonise the management objectives and measures applied and, if need be, encourage the expansion of existing transboundary protected areas or creation of new transboundary protected areas in the Carpathians.
3. In a case where the natural habitat of the endangered species is located on both sides of the state border between the Parties, such concerned Parties shall cooperate on ensuring the conservation and, as may be necessary, recovery of those species and their natural habitats.

Article 17

Development and implementation of management plans

1. Each Party shall develop and implement management plans with the objective to ensure the long-term conservation, maintenance or restoration, continuity and connectivity, and sustainable use of natural and semi-natural habitats, restoration of degraded habitats as well as long-term conservation and sustainable use of species of flora and fauna native to the Carpathians.
2. Each Party shall facilitate coordination and cooperation between the institutions, regional and local authorities, and other stakeholders directly

involved in implementation of management plans mentioned under paragraph 1 so as to encourage shared responsibility.

Article 18

Compatible monitoring and information systems

1. The Parties shall cooperate on harmonisation of their environmental monitoring systems in the Carpathians, which are conducive to achieving the objectives of this Protocol.
2. The Parties shall cooperate to develop a joint information system on biological and landscape diversity in the Carpathians.
3. Each Party shall cooperate in order to ensure that the national results of the public research are integrated into a joint information system.

Article 19

Coordinated scientific research and exchange of information

1. Each Party shall facilitate coordination of scientific research undertaken in its territory or by scientific institutions of this Party with regard to conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians.
2. The Parties shall cooperate on promotion and harmonisation of research programs and projects which are conducive to achieving the objectives of this Protocol.
3. The Parties shall facilitate international cooperation among the scientific institutions with regard to conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians, in particular on the harmonisation of monitoring systems, the provision and harmonisation of databases, and undertaking common research programs and projects in the Carpathians.
4. The Parties shall cooperate on dissemination of scientific research results which are related to the objectives of this Protocol.
5. The Parties shall support coordinated regional inventories of species and habitats of the Carpathians.
6. Each Party shall exchange information and experience on methods related to activities listed under Article 1 paragraphs 2 and 3 with other Parties.
7. Each Party shall exchange information on strategies and policies aiming at conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity in the Carpathians with other Parties.

Article 20

Common programs and projects

Each Party shall participate, according to its needs and possibilities, in common programs and projects on activities listed under Article 1 paragraphs 2 and 3 jointly undertaken in the Carpathians by the Parties.

CHAPTER IV

IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Article 21

Implementation

1. Each Party shall undertake appropriate legal and administrative measures for ensuring implementation of the provisions of this Protocol, and monitor the effectiveness of these measures.
2. Each Party shall explore the possibilities of supporting, through financial measures, the implementation of the provisions of this Protocol.
3. The Conference of the Parties shall develop and adopt the Strategic Action Plan for the implementation of this Protocol.

Article 22

Prevention of adverse impacts on biological and landscape diversity

1. The Parties shall apply the precaution and prevention principles by assessing and taking into consideration possible direct or indirect, short- or long-term influence, including cumulative effect of the projects and activities, which are likely to have adverse impacts on the biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians. In this regard, Parties shall proceed with appropriate assessment of potential adverse impact of projects, plans and activities on habitats and species, including transboundary impact.
2. Each Party shall establish conditions and criteria, including relevant remedial and compensatory measures, under which policies, projects and activities with potential harmful impacts on biological and landscape diversity may be authorised.

Article 23

Traditional knowledge and practices

When implementing this Protocol, the Parties shall take measures for the preservation and promotion of the traditional knowledge, in particular the sustainable land-use patterns, land resource management practices, local breeds of domestic animals and cultivated plant varieties, and sustainable use of wild plants.

Article 24

Education, information and public awareness

1. The Parties shall promote the education, information and awareness rising of the public regarding the objectives, measures and implementation of this Protocol.
2. The Parties shall ensure access of the public to the information related to the implementation of this Protocol.

Article 25

Meeting of the Parties

1. The Conference of the Parties of the Carpathian Convention shall serve as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol.
2. The Parties to the Carpathian Convention that are not Parties to this Protocol may participate as observers in the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol. When the Conference of the Parties serves as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol, decisions under this Protocol shall be taken only by those that are Parties to it.
3. When the Conference of the Parties serves as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol, any member of the bureau of the Conference of the Parties representing a Party to the Convention but, at that time, not a Party to this Protocol, shall be substituted by a member to be elected by and from among the Parties to this Protocol.
4. The Rules of Procedure for the Conference of the Parties shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the meeting of the Parties, except as may be otherwise decided by consensus by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol.
5. The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol shall be convened by the Secretariat in conjunction with the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties that is scheduled after the date of the entry into force of this Protocol. Subsequent ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol shall be held in conjunction with ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties, unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol.
6. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol shall make, within its mandate, the decisions necessary to promote its effective implementation. It shall perform the functions assigned to it by this Protocol and shall:
 - (a) Make recommendations on any matters necessary for the implementation of this Protocol;
 - (b) Establish such subsidiary bodies as are deemed necessary for the implementation of this Protocol;
 - (c) Consider and adopt, as required, amendments to this Protocol that are deemed necessary for the implementation of this Protocol; and
 - (d) Exercise such other functions as may be required for the implementation of this Protocol.

Article 26

Secretariat

1. The Secretariat established by Article 15 of the Carpathian Convention shall serve as the Secretariat of this Protocol.
2. Article 15, paragraph 2, of the Carpathian Convention on the functions of the Secretariat shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to this Protocol.

Article 27

Subsidiary bodies

1. Any subsidiary body established by or under the Carpathian Convention may, upon a decision by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol, serve the Protocol, in which case the meeting of the Parties shall specify which functions that body shall exercise.
2. Parties to the Carpathian Convention that are not Parties to this Protocol may participate as observers in the meetings of any such subsidiary bodies. When a subsidiary body of the Carpathian Convention serves as a subsidiary body to this Protocol, decisions under the Protocol shall be taken only by the Parties to the Protocol.
3. When a subsidiary body of the Carpathian Convention exercises its functions with regard to matters concerning this Protocol, any member of the bureau of that subsidiary body representing a Party to the Carpathian Convention but, at that time, not a Party to the Protocol, shall be substituted by a member to be elected by and from among the Parties to the Protocol.

Article 28

Monitoring of compliance with obligations

1. The Parties shall regularly report to the Conference of the Parties on measures related to this Protocol and the results of the measures taken. The Conference of the Parties shall determine the intervals and format at which the reports must be submitted.
2. Observers may present any information or report on implementation of and compliance with the provisions of this Protocol to the Conference of the Parties and/or to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (hereinafter referred to as the “Implementation Committee”).
3. The Implementation Committee shall collect, assess and analyse information relevant to the implementation of this Protocol and monitor the compliance by the Parties with the provisions of this Protocol.
4. The Implementation Committee shall present to the Conference of the Parties recommendations for implementation and the necessary measures for compliance with the Protocol.
5. The Conference of the Parties shall adopt or recommend necessary measures.

Article 29

Evaluation of the effectiveness of the provisions

1. The Parties shall regularly examine and evaluate the effectiveness of the provisions of this Protocol. The Conference of the Parties may consider the adoption of appropriate amendments to this Protocol where necessary in order to achieve its objectives.
2. The Parties shall facilitate the involvement of the local authorities and other stakeholders in the process under paragraph 1.

CHAPTER V

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 30

Links between the Carpathian Convention and the Protocol

1. This Protocol constitutes a Protocol to the Carpathian Convention within the meaning of its Article 2 paragraph 3 and any other relevant articles of the Carpathian Convention.
2. The Protocol shall be open for signature at the Depository from 19th of June 2008 to the 19th of June 2009.
3. The provisions of Articles 19, 20, 21 paragraphs 2 to 4 and Article 22 of the Carpathian Convention on entry into force, amendment of and withdrawal from this Protocol and on settlement of disputes shall be apply mutatis mutandis to this Protocol. Only a Party to the Carpathian Convention may become Party to this Protocol.

Article 31

Reservations

No reservations may be made to this Protocol.

Article 32

Depositary

The Depository of this Protocol is the Government of Ukraine.

STATUS OF RATIFICATION OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION

	Signature	National Ratification, Accession, Acceptance or Approval	Deposit of the Instrument of Ratification	Entry into Force
Czech Republic	23 May 2003	13 June 2005 Presidential Decree	28 July 2005	4 January 2006
Hungary	22 May 2003	21 May 2004 Resolution No. 2118/2004	6 October 2005	4 January 2006
Poland	25 Nov. 2003	27 February 2006 Official Journal No. 96/634	21 March 2006	19 June 2006
Romania	22 May 2003*	13 October 2006 Law No. 389/2006	6 December 2006	6 March 2007
Serbia	22 May 2003	5 November 2007 Official Journal No. 102/7	11 December 2007	10 March 2008
Slovakia	22 May 2003	3 March 2004 Resolution No. 194	11 May 2004	4 January 2006
Ukraine	22 May 2003	7 April 2004 Resolution No. 1672-IV	11 May 2004	4 January 2006

* *Reservation of Romania:* The Government of Romania considers the term “Carpathian region” in article 1, paragraph 1 of the Framework Convention for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians as designating the Carpathian mountain area, which is defined, on the territory of Romania, in accordance with physico-geographical and biological criteria, as well as with socio-economic criteria related to a reduced land use potential and to the relationship of the local population with the specific physical environmental features, and also in conformity with the criteria of the European Community regarding the delimitation of alpine bio-geographical regions, based on the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

STATUS OF RATIFICATION OF THE BIODIVERSITY PROTOCOL

	Signature	National Ratification, Accession, Acceptance or Approval	Deposit of the Instrument of Ratification	Entry into Force
Czech Republic	19 June 2009			
Hungary				
Poland	19 June 2009			
Romania	19 June 2009 *			
Serbia	19 June 2009			
Slovakia				
Ukraine	19 June 2009			

* *Declaration of Romania:* The Government of Romania declares that it interprets Article 2, paragraph 1 of the Protocol, only according to the provisions of and limitations to the Convention on the Protection and Sustainable development of the Carpathians, done at Kiev on 22 May 2003.

THE FIRST CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

The Carpathian Convention established with its article 14 a Conference of the Parties (COP). This is a common feature of most multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), such as the 1991 Alpine Convention, which with its article 5 established the so-called Alpine Conference, or the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). A Conference of the Parties is normally a regular meeting of the governments of the Contracting Parties of a Convention at the highest level, usually at the ministerial level. According to article 14 (2) of the Carpathian Convention the aim of the Conference of the Parties is to discuss common concerns of the Parties and make the decisions necessary to promote the effective implementation of the Convention.

The first session of the COP was convened in Kiev, Ukraine, on 11-13 December 2006 (COP1), within a year from the entry into force of the Convention on 4 January 2006, following its ratification by the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Ukraine, pursuant to article 14 (3). According to the same paragraph ordinary sessions shall be held every three years. However, the text of the Convention allows the Contracting Parties to opt otherwise. This was the case for the second session, held on 17-19 June 2008 in Bucharest, Romania, only one year and a half after the COP1, pursuant to Decision 18 of the COP1.

Here follow the report of the first session, its decisions, as well as the declaration and rules of procedure adopted in this occasion.

REPORT OF THE COP1

Final report

11-13 December 2006

Kiev, Ukraine

1. Opening of the Meeting

The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention was held at the Club of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, 9 Instytutska str., 01008 Kiev, Ukraine, from 11 to 13 December 2006.

Mr Vasyl Dzharty, Minister of Environmental Protection of Ukraine, made the opening statement. He remarked that it was appropriate that the opening of the COP coincided with International Mountain Day. He also emphasized the importance of the Rio Earth Summit results and of regional and international partnerships to promoting the environmentally sustainable development of the Carpathian region.

In addition to the seven participating Government delegations, some 50 representatives of non-governmental organizations were represented at the meeting.

2. Organizational Matters

The Secretariat proposed that, in line with common practice, the COP's provisional Bureau should consist of a President, a Vice President and a Rapporteur. The meeting elected Minister Vasyl Dzharty as President by acclamation. The President then proposed that Mr Frits Schlingemann, Director and Regional Representative, United Nations Environment Programme - Regional Office for Europe (UNEP-ROE), be confirmed as the Co-President. The meeting then elected Ms Jana Brozova of the Czech Republic as Vice President and Ms Carmen Damian of Romania as Rapporteur. Minister Dzharty requested, and the participants to the meeting agreed, that Mr Igor Ivanenko, Head of the State Agency for Protected Areas of Ukraine, would serve as President during his absences. The participants to the meeting agreed that Mr Harald Egerer, Head of the UNEP Vienna - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention Office, would act as the COP's Executive Secretary.

The provisional agenda of the meeting was presented by the Secretariat and adopted without changes. The participants to the meeting agreed to organize its work according to the proposal contained in UNEP/CC/COP1/INF.1, with the expert session to be held from 10.00 to 13.00 and from 15.00 to 18.00 on both Monday and Tuesday, 11-12 December 2006. Decisions adopted by the expert session were to be forwarded for final approval to the high-level Ministerial segment to be held on Wednesday, 13 December, from 9.30 to 13.00.

3. Status of ratification of the Carpathian Convention

The meeting was informed by the Depositary, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, that, with the ratification of the Convention by Romania on 13 October 2006, the Convention would shortly have six Parties; only one ratification (Serbia) remains pending.

4. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure for the Meetings of the COP and of Financial Rules for the Carpathian Convention

Following a comprehensive discussion and agreement on several amendments, the meeting adopted the Rules of Procedures for the Convention as Decision COP1/1 and the Financial Rules for the Convention as Decision COP1/2, in the understanding that the budget will only be decided once arrangements for the Permanent Secretariat will have been made, and that the scale of contributions will be elaborated in Decision COP1/3.

It also agreed to elect a Bureau of the Conference of the Parties that would consist of one member from each of the seven countries. Pursuant to Decision of COP1 on Rule 16, para 1, of the Rules of Procedure, saying that each Party shall nominate a member of the Bureau, the following further Bureau members (in addition to the President, the Vice-President and the Rapporteur already elected) were nominated: Ms Zsuzsanna Arokhati, Ministry of Environment and Water of Hungary; Ms Bozena Haczek, Ministry of Environment of Poland; Ms Aleksandra Doslic, Ministry of Science and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia; and Ms Dana Cajkova, Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic.

5. Programme of work and budget

Decision COP1/3 also established a Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee as a Subsidiary Body of the Carpathian Convention. The Committee in turn will oversee the establishment and convening of six Working Groups responsible for managing the projects and activities related to the Convention, notably the EU co-financed INTERREG IIIB CADSES (Central European, Adriatic, Danubian and South-Eastern European Space) "Carpathian Project". Many of these activities, and those initiated by other partners, are already actively promoting the goals of the Convention.

The participants to the meeting agreed that each Working Group would define its Terms of Reference at its first meeting. It decided to revisit the number and composition of the Working Groups in 2008 at the Second Meeting of the Parties and to make any necessary adjustments.

The meeting also finalized and adopted the Convention's Programme of Work for the three-year period 2006 to 2008. Delegates recognized the agreed result as an ambitious but realistic Programme through which the Convention can make a practical impact. The various elements of the Programme of Work were then allocated to the six proposed Working Groups.

a) Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity (Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention)

The meeting adopted Decision COP1/4 establishing the mandate for the Working Group on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity. The Group is to develop a Protocol on the Conservation of Biological and Landscape Diversity. The Protocol will detail concrete measures for strengthening the Convention's impact and is to be finalized "possibly before the COP2".

The meeting established the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) constituting a thematic network of mountain protected areas in the Carpathians. Its Steering Committee is to be composed of the CNPA Focal Points designated by

each country. A conference will be held in 2007 in cooperation with the Alpine Network of Protected Areas to advance the CNPA.

(b) Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management (Article 6 of the Carpathian Convention)

The meeting adopted Decision COP1/5 on sustainable and integrated water and river basin management. The Decision calls, among other measures, for the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR). COP1 requested the Working Group on spatial planning to deal with the issue of sustainable water management and the Working Group on biodiversity to address the issue of the Carpathians Wetlands Initiative.

(c) Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge (Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention)

The meeting adopted Decision COP1/6 elaborating the activities to be undertaken by the Working Group on cultural heritage and traditional knowledge.

(d) Sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry (Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention)

The meeting adopted Decision COP1/7 concerning the Working Group on sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry. This Working Group is to collaborate closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

(e) Sustainable energy (Article 10 of the Carpathian Convention)

The meeting adopted Decision COP1/8 addressing the critical issue of sustainable energy. The Decision requests the interim Secretariat to cooperate with the European Commission, the Secretariat of the Energy Community, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Secretariat of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP). The work on sustainable energy will take place under the Working Group on sustainable industry, energy, transport and infrastructure, whose other activities are further elaborated by Decision 9 on sustainable transport.

(f) Sustainable transport and infrastructure (Article 8 of the Carpathian Convention)

The meeting adopted Decision COP1/9 establishing a Working Group on sustainable industry, energy, transport and infrastructure.

(g) Sustainable tourism (Article 9 of the Carpathian Convention)

The meeting adopted Decision COP1/10 on the Working Group on sustainable tourism. This Group is to support and promote a number of highly promising and practical initiatives in this field. Several delegations expressed the view that sustainable tourism offers enormous potential for regional cooperation.

(h) Spatial planning (Article 5 of the Carpathian Convention)

The meeting adopted Decision COP1/11 concerning the Working Group on spatial planning. Among other activities, this Group is to undertake work on sustainable and integrated water and river basin management as set out under Decision COP1/5.

(i) Cross-cutting issues, including awareness raising, education and public participation (Article 13 of the Carpathian Convention)

The final decision on the Programme of Work adopted by the meeting was Decision COP1/12, which addresses the Convention's work on cross-cutting issues. These issues include awareness raising, education, public participation and capacity building. The Decision requests the interim Secretariat to cooperate with the Aarhus Convention Secretariat and to work with other partners to promote awareness of the Convention amongst civil society and the general public.

6. Cooperation with the EU and other conventions and international bodies

The meeting adopted Decision COP1/13 setting out a plan for strengthening cooperation with the European Union and the INTERREG IIIB CADSES project, aiming at the environmentally sustainable development of the "Carpathian Space". The Decision also invited the European Community to accede to the Carpathian Convention.

Decision COP1/14 on cooperation with other conventions and international bodies welcomed the signing of MOUs with the Ramsar Convention, the Alpine Convention, the Central European Initiative and the Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative (CERI). It also requested the interim Secretariat to prepare MOUs with other interested organizations.

7. Other decisions

The meeting adopted Decision COP1/17 on Input to Mountain Initiatives to the 2007 Belgrade Environment for Europe Conference. In Decision COP1/18 it welcomed the offer of Romania to host the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2008. It also agreed to postpone decisions on the geographical scope of the Convention's application (Decision COP1/15) and on arrangements for the Permanent Secretariat (Decision COP1/16) until the COP2.

8. Ministerial Segment and the "Carpathian Declaration"

Ministers from Hungary, Poland, Romania and the Slovak Republic; Deputy Ministers of the Czech Republic and Ukraine; and the Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia to Ukraine participated in the final day of the COP meeting. After the President of COP1, Minister Vasyl Dzharty of Ukraine, declared the session open, Mr Frits Schlingemann of UNEP made an opening statement on behalf of UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner. The Rapporteur, Ms Carmen Damian of Romania, then presented a brief oral report on the expert session. The participants to the meeting agreed that the Rapporteur, with the support of the Secretariat, would submit a brief final written report of the meeting in early 2007.

Statements were made by HE Jan Dusik, Deputy Minister and Director General for Legislation and International Relations, Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic; HE Miklos Persanyi, Minister, Ministry of Environment and Water Management of Hungary; HE Jan Szyszko, Minister, Ministry of Environment of Poland; HE Sulfina Barbu, Minister, Ministry of Environment and Water Management of Romania; HE Goran Aleksic, Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Serbia to Ukraine; HE Jaroslav Izak, Minister, Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic; and HE Pavlo Bol'shakov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine.

The following observers also made statements: HE Josef Markus Wuketich, Ambassador of Austria in Ukraine; Mr Corrado Clini, Director General, Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea of Italy; Mr Mykola Melenevsky, Deputy Director General of the Central European Initiative; Ms Aline Kuster-Menager, Head of International Affairs Division, Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development of France, representing the Presidency of the Alpine Convention; Mr Peter Bridgewater, Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; Mr Douglas McGuire, Coordinator of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat; Ms Beata Wiszniewska, Regional Director of the Regional Environment Center (REC); Mr Jan Seffer, Chair of the Carpathian EcoRegional Initiative (CERI); Mr Ivan Rybaruk, All-Ukrainian Association “Hutsulshchyna”; and Ms Monika Ochwat, League of Nature Protection, Poland, (ANPED).

The Ministers and Heads of Delegation next consider the two documents forwarded by the Preparatory Segment. The first (see Annex I) contained the draft decisions; the high-level segment formally adopted this document and all 19 decisions without changes. The second document contained a draft Carpathian Declaration expressing a vision for the future of the Carpathian Convention and highlighting achievements, challenges and cooperation and partnerships; this too was adopted by the high-level segment.

The participants to the meeting agreed that the Carpathian Convention would also be referred to as the Kiev Convention, after the city where it was adopted in 2003. COP1 confirmed that the credentials of all participating representatives of Parties / Signatories were found to be in conformity with the Rules of Procedure for COP and so recognized their validity. The originals of the credentials will be kept by the Presidency, the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine

After the customary exchange of courtesies, the President adjourned the meeting at 12.30. A press conference and a cultural event followed.

DECISIONS OF THE COP1

Final decisions

11-13 December 2006

Kiev, Ukraine

Contents

- COP1/1 Rules of Procedure for the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians
- COP1/2 Financial Rules for the Administration of the Trust Fund for the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians
- COP1/3 Work programme and budget of the Carpathian Convention
- COP1/4 Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity - Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention
- COP1/5 Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management - Article 6 of the Carpathian Convention
- COP1/6 Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge - Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention
- COP1/7 Sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry - Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention
- COP1/8 Sustainable energy - Article 10 of the Carpathian Convention
- COP1/9 Sustainable transport - Article 8 of the Carpathian Convention
- COP1/10 Sustainable tourism - Article 9 of the Carpathian Convention
- COP1/11 Spatial planning - Article 5 of the Carpathian Convention
- COP1/12 Cross-cutting issues, including awareness raising, education and public participation - Article 13 of the Carpathian Convention
- COP1/13 Cooperation with the European Union
- COP1/14 Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies
- COP1/15 Scope of application of the Carpathian Convention - Article 1 of the Carpathian Convention
- COP1/16 Permanent Secretariat arrangements of the Carpathian Convention
- COP1/17 Input on Mountain Initiatives to the Belgrade Conference 2007
- COP1/18 Date and venue of the Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention
- COP1/19 Credentials of representatives of the Parties to the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention

Decision COP1/1

Agenda item 4

Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties

Decides to adopt the rules of procedure for the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention as contained in Annex I.

Decision COP1/2

Agenda item 5

Financial rules for the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

Decides to adopt the Financial Rules for the Administration of the Trust Fund for the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, as contained in Annex II, in the understanding that the budget in the Annex to the Financial Rules can only be filled once the arrangements and location of the Permanent Secretariat have been decided, and that the scale of contributions is decided in the context of Decision COP1/3 on the Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention.

Decision COP1/3

Agenda item 6

Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention

1. *Welcomes* and *adopts* the work programme of the Carpathian Convention as contained in Annex I of the UNEP/CC/COP1/4;
2. *Welcomes* and *supports* the EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project as a good background for the development of the work programme and as an important tool fostering implementation of the Carpathian Convention, as contained in Annex II of the UNEP/CC/COP1/4;
3. Furthermore, *welcomes* the additional activities related to the Carpathian Convention as presented in the Annex III of the UNEP/CC/COP1/4;
4. *Decides* to establish the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee in accordance with Article 14 (e) of the Carpathian Convention, as its subsidiary body, and requests the interim Secretariat to prepare the related terms of reference for approval by the Bureau;
5. *Requests* the interim Secretariat to prepare the first meeting and, furthermore, to service and support the work of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee, in particular, as it relates to overseeing the establishment and convening of the Working Groups, their terms of reference and their activities;
6. *Requests* the interim Secretariat to ensure a continuous exchange and inter-linkage between the work and activities under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee and the work and activities contained in the EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project;

7. *Stresses* the importance of the ongoing interactive process to prepare the Carpathian Environment Outlook (KEO) report, which will provide a holistic and integrated assessment of the current state and future trends of the Carpathian environment. As a cross-cutting document, covering the key environmental and related social-economic issues in the region, KEO will provide scientific support and guidance for the implementation of the Carpathian Convention;
8. Decides that Carpathian countries shall make contribution to assist in meeting the core cost of the work programme of the Carpathian Convention, which will amount to a total € 139,000.00 per year;
9. *Acknowledges* the voluntary contributions of the Parties-Signatories to the Carpathian Convention since 2004, and encourages the Parties, which not have done so, to provide their voluntary contribution for 2006;
10. *Recommends* the proposed scale below to be used to share the overall contribution between the Carpathian countries:
11. *Requests* the interim Secretariat to prepare and provide the Parties to the Carpathian Convention with annual financial reports, and prepare and submit an overall financial report to the COP2.

State	Year 2007	Year 2008
The Czech Republic	21,500.00	21,500.00
The Republic of Hungary	21,500.00	21,500.00
The Republic of Poland	21,500.00	21,500.00
Romania	21,500.00	21,500.00
Serbia	10,000.00	10,000.00
The Slovak Republic	21,500.00	21,500.00
Ukraine	21,500.00	21,500.00
Total €	139,000.00	139,000.00

Decision COP1/4

Agenda item 6

Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention

Item 6 (a) of the annotated agenda

Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity

(Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention)

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Decides* to support the establishment of a Working Group on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee, which will include a sub-group on wetlands composed of National Focal Points for the Carpathian and Ramsar cooperation;

2. *Requests* the interim Secretariat to convene the first meeting of the Working Group on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity in order to define its terms of reference and initiate its concrete work;
3. *Requests* the interim Secretariat to inform the CBD through its Secretariat of the contributions to the implementation of the CBD at the sub-regional level;
4. *Requests* the interim Secretariat to continue to contribute in particular to the work programmes on protected areas and on mountain ecosystems of the CBD; and to continue to contribute to PEBLDS, with the view of halting the loss of biodiversity in the Carpathians by 2010;
5. *Takes note of* the Draft Protocol on Conservation of Biological and Landscape Diversity submitted by Ukraine;
6. *Submits* the Draft Protocol on Conservation of Biological and Landscape Diversity to the Working Group on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity for consideration and finalization possibly before the COP2.
7. *Having considered* the issue of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) and the Carpathian Wetlands Initiative (CWI), *takes note of*:
 - The Proposal for the establishment of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) by the CNPA meeting hosted by the WWF-Danube Carpathian Programme Office (WWF-DCPO) on 11 September 2006 in Vienna;
 - “Enhancing the CNPA through the Carpathian Ecological Network Project, Project Summary for the 2nd Preparatory Meeting to COP1, 11-12 September 2006, Vienna, Austria;
 - Recommendations of the Third Meeting of the CNPA Partnership Steering Committee 13-14 May 2004, Zakopane, Poland on establishing the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA);
 - Declaration of the Workshop “Integrated Management of Protected Areas” in Mala Fatra (Slovakia) from 1 to 3 June 2006, organized by the Alpine Network of Protected Areas in Mala Fatra National Park, Slovakia between 1 and 3 June 2006;.
 - Final Report “Towards a Carpathian Network of Protected Areas” Alpine Network of Protected Areas, 06/2004;
 - Carpathian Wetlands Initiative and its links to the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas and the Carpathian and Ramsar Conventions contained in the Secretariat note on sustainable and integrated water/river basin management UNEP/CC/COP1/6.
8. *Acknowledges* the preparatory work undertaken by the Steering Committee for the establishment of a CNPA, which had been officially designated by the Carpathian Convention Focal Points; and the contributions by the Project “Carpathian Network of Protected Areas and Ramsar Sites”, by the WWF International - Danube Carpathian Programme, by the Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative, by UNEP - interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention in cooperation with the Alpine Network of Protected Areas;

9. *Welcomes* the support by the Alpine countries, in particular by Germany, France and Monaco, the Danone-Evian Group (France) and the support by Norway to projects in support of the establishment of the CNPA, and *invites* interested countries and organizations to continue to support the CNPA and CWI operations;
10. *Highly appreciates* the ongoing support by the Alpine Network of Protected Areas and recommends to further enhancing the cooperation of the CNPA established under the Carpathian Convention with the Alpine Network of Protected Areas.
11. *Appreciates* the strong support and concrete contributions to the CNPA and CWI offered by Romania, Slovak Republic, in particular in terms of preparatory work done for putting CNPA and CWI in operation;
12. *Decides* to establish the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas, constituting a thematic network of cooperation of mountain protected areas in the Carpathian region, and to designate one CNPA Focal Point in each Party to start up and encourage cooperation in the management of protected Areas within and between the Carpathian countries;
13. *Decides* to establish the CNPA Steering Committee composed of the CNPA Focal Points of each country,
14. *Requests* the Working Group on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity in consultation with the CNPA Steering Committee to prepare the terms of reference of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas and the Carpathian Wetland Initiative;
15. *Requests* the interim Secretariat to service the CNPA and its Steering Committee, and to coordinate the activities of the CNPA with the other bodies of the Carpathian Convention (the Working Group on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity and the Conference of the Parties), pending the establishment of a Permanent Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention;
16. *Requests* the interim Secretariat to support the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) and the Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI) through the EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project, in particular by providing support to the cooperation of CNPA and CWI Focal Points and servicing the CNPA Steering Committee on an interim basis, and by supporting a Conference of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas, to be organized in the year 2007, in cooperation with the Alpine Network of Protected Areas;
17. *Requests* the interim Secretariat to submit through the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee a report highlighting experiences made in the interim phase of the CNPA, and a compilation of proposals for a permanent arrangement for the CNPA, to the COP2.

Decision COP1/5

Agenda item 6

Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention

Item 6 (b) of the annotated agenda

Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management

(Article 6 of the Carpathian Convention)

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Appreciates* the concrete contribution of the Carpathian Wetlands Initiative and the Ramsar Convention Secretariat to the Carpathian Convention process;
2. *Takes note of* information submitted by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic as contained in Annex I to UNEP/CC/COP1/6;
3. *Takes note of* the submitted information on the UNDP/GEF project “Establishing Mechanisms for Integrated Land and Water Management in the Tisza River Basin” as contained in Annex II to UNEP/CC/COP1/6;
4. *Welcomes* the fruitful cooperation with ICPDR on sustainable and integrated water/river basin management - Article 6 of the Carpathian Convention;
5. *Requests* the interim Secretariat to continue to coordinate its activities with ICPDR and the Ramsar Convention Secretariat;
6. *Requests* the interim Secretariat to develop and sign a Memorandum of Cooperation with ICPDR, and to submit it to the COP2 for endorsement;
7. *Requests* the Working Group on spatial planning to deal with the issue of sustainable water management in the context of the Carpathian Spatial Development Vision;
8. *Requests* the Working Group on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity to address the issue of Carpathian wetlands and Ramsar sites.

Decision COP1/6

Agenda item 6

Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention

Item 6 (c) of the annotated agenda

Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge

(Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention)

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Appreciates* the concrete contribution of ANPED to the Carpathian Convention implementation process, and *takes note of* information submitted by ANPED on cultural heritage and traditional knowledge as contained in the Annex to the UNEP/CC/COP1/7/Rev.1.;

2. *Decides* to support the establishment of a Working Group on cultural heritage and traditional knowledge under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee;
3. *Requests* the interim Secretariat to convene its first meeting in order to define the terms of reference for the Working Group and initiate its concrete work.

Decision COP1/7

Agenda item 6

Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention

Item 6 (d) of the annotated agenda

Sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry

(Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention)

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Appreciates* the concrete contribution of FAO - SARD-M and FAO-SEUR to the Carpathian Convention implementation process;
2. *Takes note of* information submitted in the Annexes to the Secretariat note on sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry - Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention UNEP/CC/COP1/8 and in UNEP/CC/COP1/INF.3;
3. *Decides* to support the establishment of a Working Group on sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee;
4. *Requests* the interim Secretariat to convene its first meeting in order to define the terms of reference for the Working Group and initiate its concrete work.

Decision COP1/8

Agenda item 6

Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention

Item 6 (e) of the annotated agenda

Sustainable energy

(Article 10 of the Carpathian Convention)

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note of* the submitted information on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Implementation of Article 10 of the Carpathian Convention with regard to Energy Policy, Sustainable Energy Use and the Development of Distributed and Efficient Energy Sources, as contained in the Annex to the Secretariat note on sustainable energy - Article 10 of the Carpathian Convention UNEP/CC/COP1/9;
2. *Submits* the aforementioned MoU to the follow-up work in the Working Group on sustainable industry, energy, transport and infrastructure for further consideration;

3. *Requests* the interim Secretariat to pursue the cooperation with the DG TREN of the European Commission, with the Secretariat of the Energy Community as well as with the Secretariat of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), in the fields of mutual interest.

Decision COP1/9

Agenda item 6

Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention

Item 6 (f) of the annotated agenda

Sustainable transport

(Article 8 of the Carpathian Convention)

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Appreciates* the concrete contribution of the Central European Initiative (CEI) to the Carpathian Convention and *welcomes* the scientific support provided by EURAC;
2. *Takes note of* the information submitted in Annex to the Secretariat note on Sustainable transport -Article 8 of the Carpathian Convention UNEP/CC/COP1/10;
3. *Decides* to support the establishment of a Working Group on sustainable industry, energy, transport and infrastructure under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee;
4. *Requests* the interim Secretariat to convene the first meeting of the aforementioned Working Group in order to define its terms of reference and initiate its concrete work.

Decision COP1/10

Agenda item 6

Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention

Item 6 (g) of the annotated agenda

Sustainable tourism

(Article 9 of the Carpathian Convention)

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Appreciates* the contribution of CEEWEB and the EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project to the Carpathian Convention implementation process;
2. *Decides* to support the establishment of a Working Group on sustainable tourism under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee, aiming at the elaboration of a strategy for the future tourism development of the Carpathians and of a Tourism Protocol;

3. *Requests* the interim Secretariat to convene the first meeting of the Working Group on sustainable tourism in order to define its terms of reference and initiate its concrete work;
4. *Invites* governments at all levels, international and non-governmental organizations and initiatives, as well as indigenous peoples, local communities, the private sector and other stakeholders to contribute to the actions related to the future cooperation under the Carpathian Convention and its implementation in the framework of sustainable tourism, e.g. by electronic consultation, and *welcomes* the continuous inputs provided by CEEWEB;
5. *Invites* national, regional and international funding organizations as well as the private sector to find ways and means to financially contribute to the actions related to the implementation of the Carpathian Convention, in the framework of sustainable tourism.

Decision COP1/11

Agenda item 6

Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention

Item 6 (h) of the annotated agenda

Spatial planning

(Article 5 of the Carpathian Convention)

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Appreciates* the concrete contribution of the Carpathian Environmental Outlook (KEO) to the Carpathian Convention process;
2. *Appreciates* the contribution of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) into the Carpathian Project, as an important source of support for the Carpathian Convention implementation process;
3. *Takes note of* the information submitted in the Secretariat note on spatial planning - Article 5 of the Carpathian Convention UNEP/CC/COP1/12;
4. *Decides* to support the establishment of a Working Group on spatial planning under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee;
5. *Requests* the interim Secretariat to convene the first meeting of the Working Group on spatial planning in order to define its terms of reference and initiate its concrete work;
6. *Requests* the Secretariat to inform the Council of Europe's European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional/Spatial Planning (CEMAT) of its activities promoting the implementation of Article 5 of the Carpathian Convention, and invite CEMAT to contribute to the meeting(s) of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Spatial Planning.

Decision COP1/12

Agenda item 6

Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention

Item 6 (i) of the annotated agenda

Cross-cutting issues, including awareness raising, education and public participation

(Article 13 of the Carpathian Convention)

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Appreciates* the contribution of ANPED, EURAC, REC and the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea to the Carpathian Convention implementation process and *encourages and invites* their further contributions to the Carpathian Convention process, as contained in the document UNEP/CC/COP1/13 and its Annexes.
2. *Takes note of* information submitted in the Annexes, as contained in the Secretariat note on cross-cutting issues, including awareness raising, education and public participation UNEP/CC/COP1/13, and in UNEP/CC/COP1/INF.5, UNEP/CC/COP1/INF.6, UNEP/CC/COP1/INF.7 and UNEP/CC/COP1/INF.8;
3. *Stresses* the importance of the ongoing interactive process to produce national and regional assessments of the policy, legislative and institutional frameworks for implementation of the Carpathian Convention, prepared by the REC and EURAC with the support of Italy.
4. *Requests* the interim Secretariat to support public participation in decision-making relating to the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians, and to the implementation of the Carpathian Convention;
5. *Supports and recommends* to establish and develop national mechanisms to foster the implementation of the Carpathian Convention, including information, involvement and capacity building of all relevant stakeholders and civil society, related to the progress and the further development of the Carpathian Convention;
6. *Requests* the interim Secretariat to strengthen the cooperation with the Aarhus Convention Secretariat, and with the assistance of the interim Secretariat and the involvement of ANPED, REC and other interested partners, including REC, to ensure the practice and outreach of the Carpathian Convention following Aarhus principles;
7. *Requests* the interim Secretariat to provide for opportunities for outreach, involvement and the active participation of civil society in the development of the Convention, through its official work, and development of protocols and projects;
8. *Requests* the interim Secretariat to work with ANPED and other interested partners to establish a communication system to provide for distribution of information on the progress of the Convention to the wider civil society;

9. *Requests* the interim Secretariat to ensure that the adequate links are been made between the work on cross-cutting issues and the work and activities of the Working Group on spatial planning.

Decision COP1/13

Agenda Item 7

Cooperation with the European Union

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Recalling* the experience of the INTERREG IIIB Alpine Space Programme as a valuable framework for project development and implementation in support of the Alpine Convention;
2. *Noting* the European Council Regulation no. 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund;
3. *Welcoming* the INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project as an essential instrument for shaping the transnational framework of and implementing the Carpathian Convention towards the sustainable development of the Carpathian Space;
4. *Requests* both the Parties and other stakeholders to fully support the implementation of and follow-up to the INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project in the common transnational framework of the Carpathian Convention;
5. *Expresses* interest in the development of an operational programme by the EU, supporting the sustainable development of the Carpathian Space, building on the transnational framework of the Carpathian Convention;
6. *Requests* the interim Secretariat in close consultation with the Parties and the appropriate EU institutions, to develop and further negotiate the follow-up projects and the operational programme, pursuant to paragraphs 4 and 5 above;
7. *Invites* the European Community to accede to the Carpathian Convention.

Decision COP1/14

Agenda Item 8

Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* and *encourages* exchange of information and cooperation with relevant international organizations, MEAs and other entities active in the areas of focus of the Carpathian Convention;
2. *Welcomes* the cooperation with the Alpine Convention as an important contribution to the international Mountain Partnership and to the Environment for Europe process;

3. *Endorses* the Memorandum of Understanding for the cooperation between the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention, and *requests* and *authorizes* its President and the interim Secretariat to sign the Memorandum;
4. *Welcomes* the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Executive Secretariat of the Central European Initiative (CEI) and the interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and;
5. *Welcomes* the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative (CERI) and the interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention;
6. *Welcomes* the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention and the interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention;
7. *Requests* the interim Secretariat to continue to prepare and conclude Memoranda of Cooperation with other interested international organizations, MEAs and other entities active in the areas of focus of the Carpathian Convention.

Decision COP1/15

Agenda Item 9

Scope of application of the Carpathian Convention

(Article 1 of the Carpathian Convention)

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Appreciates* the report on the scope of application of the Carpathian Convention, prepared by EURAC;
2. *Appreciates* also the submissions by the Parties/Signatories, related to the scope of application of the Carpathian Convention,;
3. *Recognizes* the map contained in the Annex IV of document UNEP/CC/COP/16 as the basis for further work in relation to the KEO process;
4. *Recognizes* the need for further consultations, with a view to reach consensus on the scope of application of the Carpathian Convention, and *requests* the Parties/Signatories to the Convention to expedite the dialog on the subject matter;
5. *Requests* the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee to review the issue of the scope of application of the Carpathian Convention, based upon the outcome of consultations referred to in paragraph 4 and other relevant inputs, including proposals from countries, and to submit a report to the COP2 for its consideration and decision.

Decision COP1/16

Agenda Item 10

Permanent Secretariat arrangements of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

Requests the interim Secretariat to collect further information on the proposals concerning the Permanent Secretariat arrangements of the Carpathian Convention in consultation with the Carpathian countries in order to further substantiate the offers, to service the intergovernmental consultation process, as appropriate, and to present an updated compilation of proposals to the COP2, as a basis for decision-making.

Decision COP1/17

Agenda Item 11

Input on Mountain Initiatives to the Belgrade Conference 2007

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the inclusion of the Agenda item on “Mountain initiatives” into the draft agenda of the Belgrade Conference;
2. *Welcomes* initiatives undertaken in other regions aiming at the protection and sustainable development of transboundary mountain ranges, and *reiterates* the readiness of the Carpathian Convention partners to continue to share experiences in the development of mountain related partnerships and frameworks;
3. *Endorses* the proposal to refer to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians as to the “Kiev Convention”;
4. *Expresses* the hope that the Belgrade Conference 2007 will underline the importance of the Carpathian Convention and related initiatives of the International Mountain Partnership for the protection and sustainable development of mountain regions in the world.

Decision COP1/18

Agenda Item 12

Other matters

Date and Venue of the COP2

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Decides* to convene the 2nd Meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Romania, spring 2008, and requests the interim Secretariat make the necessary arrangements, in consultation with the host Government and the Bureau of the COP;
2. *Requests* the interim Secretariat to undertake the necessary preparations in consultation with all interested partners and stakeholders;
3. *Invites* interested partners to make a financial contribution to the organization of the COP2.

Decision COP1/19

Agenda item 2.2

Review of credentials of representatives to the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the report on credentials of the Executive Secretary of the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the recommendations contained therein,

Approves the report on credentials submitted by the Executive Secretary of the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as contained in the Annex III.

CARPATHIAN DECLARATION OF THE COP1

Final declaration

11-13 December 2006

Kiev, Ukraine

We, the Ministers and High Representatives of the seven Parties and Signatories to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (hereafter Carpathian Convention), the Czech Republic, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Poland, Romania, the Republic of Serbia, the Slovak Republic and Ukraine, gathering in Kiev on 13 December 2006, for the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention;

Reaffirming the commitment to implement the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, other internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals as contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration as the overall policy frameworks for sustainable development;

Recalling the UN General Assembly resolutions proclaiming and celebrating the International Year of Mountains in 2002 drawing attention of governments, organizations and individuals to the particular role mountains play for biodiversity, wildlife and cultural heritage preservation, water and energy supply, providing benefits for a significant proportion of humanity, in both mountain and lowland areas;

Appreciating the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions (“Mountain Partnership”) as an important platform for cooperation and experience-sharing between mountain regions of the world;

Underlining that the Carpathian Convention is an important instrument to enhance the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathian region, based on its exceptional natural and cultural heritage.

Have expressed the following:

Achievements

We express our satisfaction with the entry into force of the Carpathian Convention on 4 January 2006 and *underline* our commitment to faithfully implement the Carpathian Convention;

We note with satisfaction that the Carpathian Convention unites seven Carpathian countries in a unique partnership, providing a transnational framework for cooperation and multisectoral policy integration, an open forum for participation by stakeholders and the public, and a platform for developing and implementing transnational strategies, programmes and projects for protection and sustainable development;

We recognize the important political support provided by the European Community and its Member States to the implementation of the Carpathian Convention through the EU INTERREG IIB CADSES “Carpathian Project”. *We furthermore appreciate* the contribution of the other organizations and institutions to the implementation of the Carpathian Convention as reflected in the section on Cooperation and Partnerships;

We appreciate the activities of the interim Secretariat provided by UNEP in Vienna in preparation of COP1, and *welcome* its activities in the development and leading of the Carpathian Project;

We underline the importance of the Carpathian Convention as an instrument to enhance the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathian region, based on its exceptional natural and cultural heritage of global importance.

Challenges

We are aware that the Carpathian region represents a unique and dynamic living environment, ecologically valuable and rich of cultural heritage, having enormous ecological and economic potential, but currently facing rapid environmental, social and political changes;

We note with concern that unbalanced and spontaneous development patterns in the Carpathian region can lead to loss of traditional knowledge and values, livelihoods, and local practices;

We emphasize that more environmentally-friendly practices and technologies will need to be implemented, along with appropriate policies to support the development of sustainable transport, organic farming, energy efficiency, renewable energy sources, sustainable forest management and sustainable tourism, creating new jobs in these sectors. Regional policy coherence and consistency between national policies are among the major prerequisites to achieve sustainability in the Carpathians;

We are aware that the challenge is to preserve and valorize the region's potential, specificity and uniqueness, while increasing its sustainability. This will require responsible actions, taking into account global, regional and transboundary contexts and linkages, in order to enhance both the Carpathian environment and human livelihoods;

We underline that the process of enlargement of the European Union provides the opportunity to strengthen the environmental protection and sustainable development in the Carpathian region, through the application and implementation of EU policies, programmes and legislation.

Cooperation and partnerships

We recall with appreciation that the Alpine States have actively supported the development of the Carpathian Convention, and *welcome* the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding for the cooperation between the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention;

We express our gratitude to the Government of Austria for its support to the Carpathian Convention, notably by continuing to host and co-finance the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention on an interim basis;

We appreciate the continued support of the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea, and the efficient cooperation and partnership with UNEP, the European Academy EURAC in Bolzano, Italy, and the Regional Environmental Center (REC);

We appreciate the successful cooperation with the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization), which resulted in the assessments of the SARD-M (sustainable agriculture and rural development in mountains);

We note with appreciation the contribution of the Carpathian Environmental Outlook (KEO), to develop a holistic, integrated and strategic environmental assessment of key issues in the Carpathian region for the implementation of the Carpathian Convention;

We appreciate the efforts of the Visegrad Group countries (the Czech Republic, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Poland and the Slovak Republic) to foster the dialog with the European Commission;

We encourage full participation and involvement of the Carpathian communities in decision-making and implementation of relevant development policies, in accordance with the Aarhus principles;

We note that the experiences of cooperation of the “Alpine Space” reveal the need for long-lasting commitment and structural support by the European Union, to fully benefit of the considerable potential of the mountains for regional development;

We express our conviction that cooperation with and support from the European Community and its Member States will be crucial to the development of the “Carpathian Space”, as an area of economic, social and environmental progress and sustainability in the heart of Europe, building on the region’s advantages and potentials, and addressing the challenges of mountain regions in an innovative and coordinated manner;

We invite the European Community to accede to the Carpathian Convention and *also invite* the European Community and its Member States to join the transnational platform of the Carpathian countries, and to continue to support the protection and sustainable development of the “Carpathian Space” through relevant instruments and programmes.

Done in Kiev, Ukraine, 13 December 2006.

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE COP

Rule 1

These rules of procedure shall apply to any meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians convened in accordance with Article 14 of the Convention.

Definitions

Rule 2

For the purposes of these rules:

- (a) “Convention” means the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians adopted in Kiev, Ukraine, on 22 May 2003;
- (b) “Parties” means Parties to the Convention;
- (c) “Conference of the Parties” means the Conference of the Parties established in accordance with Article 14 of the Convention;
- (d) “Meeting” means any ordinary or extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties convened in accordance with Article 14 of the Convention. “Session” means a part of any ordinary or extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- (f) “President” means the President elected in accordance with rule 16, paragraph 1, of the present rules of procedure;
- (g) “Secretariat” means the Secretariat established under article 15 of the Convention;
- (h) “Subsidiary body” means a subsidiary body established in accordance with Article 14 paragraph 2 (e) of the Convention that may include thematic working groups or committees;
- (i) “Parties present” means Parties present at the session at which decision-making takes place;
- (j) The “Bureau” means the executive body established under rule 16 of the present rules of procedure.

Place of meetings

Rule 3

Each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties shall decide on the place of the following ordinary meeting, unless other appropriate arrangements are made by the Secretariat in consultation with Bureau.

Dates of meetings

Rule 4

1. Ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall be held every three years. The Conference of the Parties may at any time review the periodicity of

its ordinary meetings in the light of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Convention.

2. At each ordinary meeting, the Conference of the Parties shall set the indicative date for the opening and the duration of the next ordinary meeting.
3. Extraordinary meetings of the Conference shall be held at such other times as may be decided either by the Conference at a ordinary meeting or at the written request of any Party, provided that, within three months of the request being communicated to all the other Parties by the Secretariat, it is supported by at least two third of the Parties.
4. In the case of an extraordinary meeting convened at the written request of a Party, it shall be convened not later than ninety days after the date at which the request is supported by at least two third of the Parties in accordance with paragraph 3 of this Rule.

Rule 5

The Secretariat shall notify all Parties of the dates and venue of the ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties at least three months before the meeting is due to commence and of the extraordinary meeting at least two months before it is due to commence.

Agenda

Rule 6

In agreement with the President, the Secretariat shall prepare the provisional agenda of each meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Rule 7

The provisional agenda of each ordinary meeting shall include, as appropriate:

- (a) Items arising from the articles of the Convention, including those specified in Article 14 of the Convention;
- (b) Items the inclusion of which has been decided at a previous meeting;
- (c) Items referred to in Rule 13 of the present rules of procedure;
- (d) Any item proposed by a Party and received by the Secretariat before the provisional agenda is produced;
- (e) The proposed budget as well as all questions pertaining to the accounts and financial arrangements.

Rule 8

The provisional agenda, together with supporting documents, for each ordinary meeting shall be distributed at least six weeks before the opening of the meeting, in the working language provided by the Secretariat in accordance with Rule 36.

Rule 9

The Secretariat shall, in agreement with the Bureau, include any item, which is proposed by a Party or an Observer and has been received by the Secretariat

after the provisional agenda has been produced, but before the opening of the meeting, in a supplementary provisional agenda.

Rule 10

The Conference of the Parties shall examine the provisional agenda together with any supplementary provisional agenda. When adopting the agenda, it may add, delete, defer or amend items. Only items, which are considered by the Conference of the Parties to be urgent and important, may be added to the agenda.

Rule 11

The provisional agenda for an extraordinary meeting shall consist only of those items proposed for consideration in the request for the holding of the extraordinary meeting. It shall be distributed to the Parties at the same time as the invitation to the extraordinary meeting.

Rule 12

The Secretariat shall report to the Conference of the Parties on the administrative and financial implications of all substantive agenda items submitted to the meeting, before they are considered by it. Unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise, no such item shall be considered until the Conference of the Parties has received the Secretariat's report on the administrative and financial implications.

Rule 13

Any agenda item of an ordinary meeting, consideration of which has not been completed at the meeting, shall be included automatically in the agenda of the next ordinary meeting, unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties.

Representation and credentials

Rule 14

Each Party participating in a meeting shall be represented by a delegation consisting of a head of delegation and such other accredited representatives, alternate representatives and advisers as it may require. A representative may be designated as an alternate head of delegation. An alternate representative or an adviser may act as a representative upon designation by the head of delegation.

Rule 15

The credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary of the Conference of the Parties or the representative of the Executive Secretary if possible not later than twenty-four hours after the opening of the meeting. Any later change in the composition of the delegation shall also be submitted to the Executive Secretary or the representative of the Executive Secretary.

Officers

Rule 16

1. At the commencement of the first session of each ordinary meeting, each Party shall nominate a member of the Bureau. From these Bureau members,

a President, a Vice-President and a Rapporteur are to be elected by the Conference of the Parties.

2. The President of the Conference of the Parties shall be held in turn by each Party in alphabetical order of the names of the Parties in English language, unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties.
3. The Bureau, including the President, the Vice-President and the Rapporteur elected at an ordinary meeting shall remain in office until their successors are elected at the next ordinary meeting. Their function in the intervening period shall be to serve in the capacity at any extraordinary meeting and to provide guidance to the Secretariat with regard to preparations for and conduct of meetings of the Conference of the Parties.
4. The President shall participate in the meeting in that capacity and shall not at the same time exercise the rights of a representative of a Party. The Party concerned shall designate another representative who shall be entitled to represent the Party in the meeting.

Rule 17

1. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon the President elsewhere by these rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of the meeting, preside at the sessions, ensure the observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions for decision-making and announce decisions. The President shall rule on points of order and, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings and over the maintenance of order thereat.
2. The President may propose to the Conference of the Parties the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times each representative may speak on a question, the adjournment or the closure of the debate and the suspension or the adjournment of a session.
3. The President, in the exercise of the functions of that office, remains under the authority of the Conference of the Parties.

Rule 18

The President, if temporarily absent from a session or any part thereof, shall designate the Vice-President to act as President. The Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President.

Rule 19

If an officer of the Bureau resigns or is otherwise unable to complete the assigned term of office or to perform the functions of the office, a representative of the same Party shall be named by the Party concerned to replace the said officer for the remainder of that officer's mandate.

Rule 20

At the first session of each ordinary meeting, the President elected at the previous ordinary meeting, or in the absence of the President, the Vice-President, shall

preside until the Conference of the Parties has elected the new President of the Conference of the Parties.

Subsidiary bodies

Rule 21

1. The Conference of the Parties may establish such subsidiary bodies, including thematic working groups, as are deemed necessary for the implementation of the Convention, regularly review reports submitted by its subsidiary bodies and provide guidance to them. The subsidiary bodies, including thematic working groups established in accordance with Article 14 paragraph 2 (e), shall provide the Conference, as necessary, with technical assistance, information and advice on specific issues related to the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians.
2. Where appropriate, meetings of subsidiary bodies shall be held in conjunction with meetings of the Conference of the Parties. The Conference of the Parties may decide that any such subsidiary bodies may meet in the period between ordinary meetings.
3. Unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties, the chairperson for each such subsidiary body shall be elected by the Conference of the Parties. The Conference of the Parties shall determine the matters to be considered by each such subsidiary body and may authorize the President, upon the request of the chairperson of a subsidiary body, to make adjustments to the allocation of work.
4. Subject to paragraph 3 of this rule, each subsidiary body shall elect a Chair Person, a Vice-Chair Person and a Rapporteur.
5. Unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties, these rules shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the proceedings of subsidiary bodies, except that the Chairperson of a subsidiary body may represent the Party in the meeting.

Secretariat

Rule 22

1. The Head of the Secretariat of the Convention shall be nominated by the Conference of the Parties and shall be the Executive Secretary of the Convention. The Executive Secretary or the representative of the Executive Secretary shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Conference of the Parties and of subsidiary bodies.
2. The Executive Secretary shall provide and direct the staff required by the Conference of the Parties or subsidiary bodies.

Rule 23

The Secretariat shall, in accordance with these rules:

- (a) Prepare, publish and circulate documents of the meeting to the Parties; it shall furthermore post these documents on the website;
- (b) Make and arrange for keeping of sound recordings of the meetings;

- (c) Arrange for the custody and preservation of the documents of the meetings;
- (d) Generally perform all other work that the Conference of the Parties may require;
- (e) Make available documents accessible to the public for its active participation.

Conduct of business

Rule 24

1. Sessions of the Conference of the Parties shall be held in public, unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise.
2. Sessions of subsidiary bodies shall be held in public unless the subsidiary body concerned decides otherwise.

Rule 25

The President may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed if at least a majority of the Parties to the Convention are present.

Rule 26

1. No one may speak at a session of the Conference of the Parties without having previously obtained the permission of the President. Subject to rules 27, 28, 29 and 31, the President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The Secretariat shall maintain a list of speakers. The President may call a speaker to order if the speaker's remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.
2. The Conference of the Parties may, on a proposal from the President or from any Party, limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each representative may speak on a question. Before a decision is taken, two representatives may speak in favor of and two against a proposal to set such limits. When the debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call the speaker to order without delay.

Rule 27

The chairperson or rapporteur of a subsidiary body may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusions arrived at by that subsidiary body.

Rule 28

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may at any time raise a point of order, which shall be decided immediately by the President in accordance with these rules. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be put to the decision-making immediately and the ruling shall stand unless overruled by consensus of the Parties present. A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Rule 29

Any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Conference of the Parties to discuss any matter or to adopt a proposal or an amendment to a proposal

submitted to it shall be put to decision-making before the matter is discussed or a decision is made on the proposal or amendment in question.

Rule 30

Proposals and amendments to proposals shall normally be introduced in writing by the Parties and handed to the Secretariat, which shall circulate copies to delegations. Nevertheless, the President may, in exceptional circumstances and in cases of urgency, permit the discussion and consideration of proposals, amendments to proposals or of procedural motions even though these proposals, amendments or motions have not been circulated.

Rule 31

1. Subject to rule 33, the following motions shall have precedence, in the order indicated below, over all other proposals or motions:
 - (a) To suspend a session;
 - (b) To adjourn a session;
 - (c) To adjourn the debate on the question under discussion; and
 - (d) For the closure of the debate on the question under discussion.
2. Permission to speak on a motion falling within (a) to (d) above shall be granted only to the proposer and, in addition, to one speaker in favor of and two against the motion, after which it shall be put immediately to the decision-making.

Rule 32

A proposal or motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before a decision on it is made, provided that the motion has not been amended. A proposal or motion withdrawn may be reintroduced by any other Party.

Rule 33

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered at the same meeting, unless the Conference of the Parties by consensus of the Parties present, decides in favor of reconsideration. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to the mover and one other supporter, after which it shall be put immediately to the decision-making.

Decision-making

Rule 34

All decisions of the Conference of the Parties on all matters shall be reached by consensus.

Participation of observers

Rule 35

1. Any other State, and any national, intergovernmental or non-governmental organization with activities related to the Convention may participate as observer at the ordinary and extraordinary meetings of the Conference.
2. The Secretariat shall compile and regularly update the list of such organizations, agencies and entities. Such a list shall be communicated by the Secretariat

to the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties prior to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

3. The Secretariat shall notify the observers of the dates and venue of a meeting at least one month before the meeting is due to commence.
4. The observers may participate, in the deliberations of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, on questions within their competence or scope of activities.
5. Such observers may present any information or report relevant to the objectives of the Convention.

Languages

Rule 36

1. The working language of the Conference of the Parties shall be English.
2. A representative of a Party may speak in a language other than the working language, if the Party provides for interpretation into the working language.
3. Official documents of the meetings shall be produced in the working language provided by the Secretariat in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Rule.

Audio records of the meetings

Rule 37

Audio records of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties, and whenever possible of its subsidiary bodies, shall be kept by the Secretariat in accordance with the practice of the United Nations.

Amendments to Rules of Procedure

Rule 38

These rules of procedure may be amended by consensus by the Conference of the Parties.

Overriding authority of the Convention

Rule 39

In the event of any conflict between any provision of these rules of procedure and any provision of the Convention, the Convention shall prevail.

THE SECOND CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

The States Parties to the Carpathian Convention, together with almost all the partners of the Carpathian Project, as well as several representatives of non-governmental organisations, met in Bucharest, Romania, on 17-19 June 2008, for the second session of the COP (COP2), only one year and a half after the. The agenda of the Conference contained several key issues for the development of the Convention, in particular the adoption of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity (Biodiversity Protocol).

Here follow the report of the second session, its decisions, as well as the declaration adopted in this occasion.

REPORT OF THE COP2

Final report

17-19 June 2008

Bucharest, Romania

1. Opening of the meeting

The second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention was held at the Athenee Palace Hilton Hotel in Bucharest, Romania from 17 to 19 June 2008.

The meeting was opened by Mr. Sergiy Gubar, Deputy Director, Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine (Presidency COP1). Ms. Lucia Ana Varga, State Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Romania made a welcome statement in which she stressed the need for cooperation of all Carpathian countries in promoting sustainable development, improving lives and at the same time preserving the nature. Ms. Varga reiterated Romania's offer to host the permanent Secretariat of the Convention.

2. Organizational matters

In line with the Rules of Procedures for the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention, the meeting elected the following Bureau:

- Czech Republic - Ms. Jana Vavrinova
- Hungary - Mr. Tibor Farago
- Poland - Ms. Bozena Haczek
- Romania - Mr. Attila Korodi
- Serbia - Ms. Olga Vlahovic
- Slovak Republic - Ms. Slavka Turecekova
- Ukraine - Mr. Sergiy Gubar

Furthermore, from the Bureau members: Mr. Attila Korodi, Minister, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Romania, was elected as the President; Mr. Tibor Farago, Director-General, Ministry of Environment and Water of Hungary, as the Vice-President and Ms. Bozena Haczek, National Focal Point, Ministry of Environment of Poland, as the Rapporteur.

On behalf of Mr. Attila Korodi, the working sessions of the Conference were chaired by Mr. Zoltan Levente Nagy, President, National Agency for Environmental Protection of Romania. The meeting requested Mr. Frits Schlingemann, Senior Adviser, UNEP ROE to act as a co-chair.

The meeting adopted the provisional Agenda as proposed by the interim Secretariat.

3. Status of ratification of the Carpathian Convention

Under the Agenda item 3 the Status of Ratification of the Carpathian Convention, Mr. Harald Egerer, Executive Secretary, interim Secretariat, informed and the meeting welcomed that all Carpathian states have ratified the Convention.

4. Implementation of the Carpathian Convention and of the decisions of the Conference of the Parties - Progress Report by the Secretariat, Report of the Implementation Committee

Following a comprehensive discussion of Agenda item 4 on Article 4 (Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity), the Meeting adopted Decision COP2/1. Parties agreed on the text of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity, for submission to the Ministerial segment for adoption and signature. The Protocol is being viewed as an example for other possible future protocols under the Carpathian Convention.

Appreciating the contributions by CERI, REC and WWF, the Parties discussed and urged the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) to prepare a consensus proposal for the permanent institutional arrangements and recognized the need for additional human, institutional and financial resources related to the servicing of the Protocol and the management of the CNPA.

In the discussion on Article 5 (Spatial planning), the Meeting received a presentation by RTI Polska and adopted Decision COP2/2 which inter alia calls for the development and implementation of a Carpathian Space programme.

The Meeting adopted Decision COP2/3 on Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management (Article 6). The meeting stressed the need for cooperation with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR).

In the discussion on Article 7 (Sustainable agriculture and forestry) the Decision COP2/4 was adopted. Further, the Meeting welcomed the National Policy Assessments and the Regional Assessment as a basis for the establishment of a regional platform for policy exchange and development. Parties underlined their readiness to develop a Protocol on Sustainable Forestry.

In the discussion on Article 8 (Sustainable transport and infrastructure), the Meeting adopted the Decision COP2/5. Parties expressed their support for the development of a Protocol on Sustainable Transport. New Europe Railway Heritage Trust and EURAC reiterated their support for activities related to the Article 8.

The Meeting adopted the Decision COP2/6 on Sustainable tourism (Article 9), CEEweb/ETE provided an update on the work undertaken so far and Parties agreed to continue to support the development of a Protocol and a Strategy.

In the discussion on Article 10 (Industry and energy), FAO-SEUR informed the Meeting of a proposed project on Renewable Energies for Sustainable Development of the Carpathian Region (RENEC). Furthermore, UNIDO reported on the outcomes of the Regional Workshop on Renewable Energy held in May 2008 in Lviv, Ukraine. The Meeting adopted the Decision COP2/7 encouraging Parties and other stakeholders to pay special attention to the issue of sustainability in the production, distribution and use of renewable energy, as well as issue of energy efficiency and in the development and implementation of projects.

In the discussion on Article 11 (Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge), ANPED reported on the work done so far. Decision COP2/8 was adopted establishing a "Carpathian Heritage Inventory" as a tool for identification, protection and promotion of Carpathian Heritage. The Meeting called upon National Focal Points

to continue to inform and cooperate with the relevant ministries and sectors particularly the Ministry of Culture and UNESCO National Focal Points.

The Meeting, furthermore, adopted the Decision COP2/9 on Article 12 (Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning) welcoming the “Science for the Carpathians” initiative and the intention of the European Environment Agency to make an assessment of ecosystem services rendered by the Alpine and Carpathian Mountain regions.

The Meeting adopted the Decision COP2/10 on Awareness raising, education and public participation (Article 13) which invites Parties and other stakeholders to carry out regional consultations and to continue to raise public awareness in order to promote the Carpathian Convention implementation process. The Meeting acknowledged and appreciated the support of OMV (private sector) in the area of awareness raising and education, in particular to the sustainability and environmental education network, to be funded through the Move and Help corporate social responsibility programme.

5. Cooperation with the European Union

On the Agenda item 5, Cooperation with European Union, the Meeting received an update by the Czech Delegation of their efforts to engage the European Union in the work of the Carpathian Convention and the Decision COP2/11 recognizes the importance of strengthening the working relations between the European Community and the Carpathian Convention on various thematic and other areas. The Decision also recalls the invitation to the European Community to support the Carpathian Convention process through accession or otherwise.

6. Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies

In the discussion on the Agenda item 6 the Decision COP2/12 on Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies was adopted. The Decision welcomes the recent signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention. It also requested the interim Secretariat to further prepare and conclude Memoranda of Cooperation with other interested international organizations, countries or Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

7. Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention

Under Agenda item 7, the Meeting discussed in comprehensive manner and approved the proposed Programme of Work 2009-2011 under Decision COP2/13. The Meeting reviewed the proposal to strengthen the interim Secretariat through contributions in cash and in kind, agreeing on the need to review the scale of contributions and provide the interim Secretariat with additional resources, in the order of 8,500 EUR or more.

8. Scope of application of the Carpathian Convention

In the discussion on the Agenda item 8 (Scope of application of the Carpathian Convention), some countries proposed solutions of self determination of the scope of application. At the same time, others felt that progress in the implementation of the Convention is best guaranteed by a pragmatic, issue-oriented approach. Other delegates sincerely regretted that no decisions could be taken and insisted

that a decision on the scope has to be taken soon (Decision COP2/14). It is the understanding that the interim Secretariat will explore ways and means to facilitate the consensus on the scope of application of the Carpathian Convention.

9. Permanent Secretariat arrangements of the Carpathian Convention

Discussing the Permanent Secretariat arrangements of the Convention, the representatives of Romania, Slovak Republic and Ukraine briefly reiterated their offers to host the Secretariat and the Meeting urged Parties to expedite the discussion and reach an early agreement on the matter (Decision COP2/15).

10. Date and venue of the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP3)

The Delegation of Slovak Republic offered and the Meeting welcomed and accepted the offer to host the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP3) in 2011 either in Banska Bystrica or Bratislava.

11. Ministerial segment, the adoption and signature of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity and the Ministerial Declaration

Ministers from Romania and Ukraine; Deputy Ministers from Czech Republic and Ukraine, Under-Secretary of State from Poland; Directors General from Hungary and Slovak Republic; and Assistant to the Minister from Serbia participated in the ministerial segment of the Conference on 19 June 2008.

Statements were made by Mr. Frantisek Pelc, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic; Mr. Tibor Farago, Director General, Ministry of Environment and Water Management of Hungary; Mr. Maciej Trzeciak, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment of Poland; HE Mr. Attila Korodi, Minister, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Romania; Mr. Dusan Pajkic, Assistant to the Minister, Ministry of Environmental Protection of Serbia, Mr. Kamil Vilinovic, Director General, Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic; HE Mr. Heorhiy Philipchuk, Minister, Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine.

The following observers also made statements: HE Mr. Martin Eichinger, Ambassador of Austria in Romania; Mr. Paolo Angelini, Italian Focal Point Alpine Convention, Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea of Italy; Ms. Solomiya Omelyan, Field Operation Officer, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); Ms. Marie-Joelle Couturier, representing the Presidency of the Alpine Convention, Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development of France; Ms. Rosa Laura Romeo, Programme Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); Ms. Marta Bonifert, Executive Director, Regional Environmental Center (REC).

The stakeholders' messages were delivered by: Mr. Mike Baltzer, Director, WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme; Ms. Jana Urbancikova, CERI board Member, CNPA Steering Committee, ANPED representative for the Carpathian Heritage consultations, Bile Karpaty VIS; Mr. Radu Ray, Romanian Mountain Forum.

Further, the Rapporteur, Ms. Bozena Haczek, presented a brief report on the expert sessions (17-18 June 2008). The finalization of the report was entrusted to

the Secretariat, working in consultation with the President and the Rapporteur to be submitted in due course.

The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft Decisions prepared by the working sessions (17-18 June 2008) on a number of issues relevant to the items on the Agenda of the meeting. The decisions as adopted are set out in Annex A to the present report.

The Ministers and Heads of Delegations furthermore adopted and signed the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity. Due to technical difficulties, Hungary and Slovak Republic will sign the Protocol at a later stage. The signature ceremony was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania.

The draft Carpathian Declaration expressing a vision for the future of the Carpathian Convention and highlighting achievements, challenges and cooperation and partnerships was adopted by the high-level segment (Annex B).

The interim Secretariat confirmed that the credentials, as well as the full powers necessary for the signature of the Protocol, of all participating representatives of Parties were found to be in conformity with the Rules of Procedure for COP and recognized their validity. The originals of the credentials/full powers will be kept by the interim Secretariat.

The President declared the meeting closed at 12h30 on Thursday, 19 June 2009. A press conference and a cultural event followed.

DECISIONS OF THE COP2

Final decisions

17-19 June 2008

Bucharest, Romania

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COP2/4	Sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry - Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention
COP2/5	Sustainable transport and infrastructure - Article 8 of the Carpathian Convention
COP2/6	Sustainable tourism - Article 9 of the Carpathian Convention
COP2/7	Industry and energy - Article 10 of the Carpathian Convention
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Decision COP2/1

Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity - Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *welcomes* the work of the Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity, *takes note* of its report as contained in the document UNEP/CC/COP2/2, and *appreciates* the valid contributions by CERI, REC and WWF;
2. *urges* Parties within the framework of the Working Group and *invites* other stakeholders to ensure the proper follow-up and implementation of the

present decision, and *takes into account* the recommendations produced by the Working Group;

3. *adopts* the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity and *invites* governments to sign and ratify the Protocol;
4. *encourages* Parties, pending the ratification and entry into force of the Protocol, whenever possible to start its implementation;
5. *requests* the interim Secretariat to coordinate the preparation of a Strategic Action Plan for the implementation of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity, taking into account the work done under the auspices of the Working Group;
6. *takes note* of the proposal for a permanent arrangement for the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) established under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CCIC) and submitted for further consideration and decision by COP3, and *requests* the CNPA Steering Committee to further discuss and elaborate that proposal taking into account results of the Protected Areas Conference to be held on 23-24 September 2008 (in Brasov, Romania);
7. *requests* the interim Secretariat in cooperation with CNPA Steering Committee, with the support of the ALPARC and Task Force of Protected Areas of the Alpine Convention Secretariat and in collaboration with the other CNPA partners, to prepare a Work Plan and Medium Term Strategy for CNPA, and *invites* the Protected Areas Conference to consider and provide inputs to the documents;
8. *recognizes* the need for additional human, institutional and financial resources to service the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity and manage the CNPA arrangements, *approves* the related arrangement and budget implications proposed by the interim Secretariat, contained in decision COP2/13;
9. *welcomes* the establishment of the Carpathian Wetlands Initiative (CWI) as an effective partnership for advancing the implementation of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Carpathian and Ramsar Conventions and *appreciates* the voluntary contributions by the governments of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia for further development of the CWI;
10. *takes note* of the Framework for Project Development and Work plan of the CWI and *encourages* relevant partners to ensure proper implementation and funding.

Decision COP2/2

Spatial planning - Article 5 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *thinks* the Carpathian Space Strategic Stakeholders Workshop on Spatial Planning for its work, *takes note* of the report contained in the document UNEP/CC/COP2/2, and *invites* Parties and other stakeholders to ensure the proper follow-up;

2. *recommends* the continuation of the activity of the Working Group on Spatial Planning;
3. *welcomes* the results of the Carpathian Project, in particular its contributions to integrate European spatial development policies with the management of the Carpathians' fragile ecosystem in a transnational context;
4. *notes* and *welcomes* the VASICA and its background documents as a strategic basis for the future sustainable development of the Carpathian region, including international, regional and transboundary cooperation;
5. *calls upon* spatial planning/development authorities of the Carpathian countries to continue the cooperation on issues relevant for spatial planning to achieve the territorial cohesion of the Carpathian region, including inputs and support to the development and implementation of relevant projects and the possible future establishment of a Carpathian Space Programme;
6. *welcomes* the Follow-up Platform established by the interim Secretariat as a useful tool for information-sharing and coordination of projects developed for application to European programmes or other relevant funding sources.

Decision COP2/3

Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management - Article 6 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *reiterates* the importance of the implementation of the provisions on Article 6 of the Convention on sustainable and integrated water/river basin management;
2. *welcomes* the "Report on water resources and natural disasters (climate change) and flood risk mapping" produced by the INTERREG IIIB Carpathian Project;
3. *recalls* paragraph 6 of decision COP1/5 on Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management and *reiterates* the desirability of and *requests* the interim Secretariat to develop and sign a Memorandum of Cooperation with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR);
4. *requests* the interim Secretariat to continue its cooperation with the Tisza River Group established under the ICPDR and within the UNDP GEF Tisza River Project on behalf of the Conference of the Parties;
5. *requests* the interim Secretariat to consider in consultation with the Parties the further development and joint programming in the area of integration of water resources and land use planning, in particular concerning wetlands, natural water resources, springs, lakes and ground water resources, as well as biodiversity conservation and adaptation to climate change, taking into account experiences made in sustainable and integrated water/river basin management and land use planning of the relevant river basins of the Black Sea and Baltic Sea catchment areas in the Carpathians.

Decision COP2/4

Sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry - Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *welcomes* the work of the Working Group on Sustainable Agriculture, Rural Development and Forestry, *takes note* of its report as contained in the document UNEP/CC/COP2/2, and *invites* Parties and other stakeholders to ensure the proper follow-up;
2. *welcomes* the Adelsboden Group Declaration and appreciates that the SARD-M project was presented by Switzerland as a successful example of cooperation between FAO and the Carpathian Convention at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development on its 16th session;
3. *welcomes* the National Policy Assessments conducted by Parties, as well as the Regional Assessment prepared by the interim Secretariat, as a basis for the establishment of a regional platform for policy exchange and development, in collaboration with and with the support of FAO;
4. *invites* the Parties to continue to take part in the preparatory work towards the development of a Protocol on Sustainable Forestry, and *requests* the interim Secretariat to further coordinate and service the Parties in the process;
5. *calls upon* Parties and *invites* relevant institutions, including the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests (MCPFE) as well as the Padua University, to support the development of the Protocol, and/or future projects/programmes (European Platform of Mountain Forests).

Decision COP2/5

Sustainable transport and infrastructure - Article 8 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *welcomes* the work and *takes note* of the report of the Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Energy and Industry and the recommendations of the Study on the Transport System in the Carpathians elaborated under the lead of the European Academy (EURAC, Bolzano, Italy) contained in the document UNEP/CC/COP2/2, and *invites* Parties and other stakeholders to ensure the proper follow-up;
2. *appreciates* the ongoing cooperation with and technical support from EURAC and the Central European Initiative (CEI);
3. *invites* the Parties to continue to take part in the preparatory work towards the development of a Protocol on Sustainable Transport, and *requests* the interim Secretariat to further coordinate and service the Parties in the process;
4. *calls upon* countries and relevant institutions, including EURAC, to support the development of the Protocol and relevant projects.

Decision COP2/6

Sustainable tourism - Article 9 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *welcomes* the work and *takes note* of the report and the recommendations of the Working Group on Sustainable Tourism, as contained in UNEP/CC/COP2/2, and support by CEEweb/ETE and *invites* Parties and stakeholders to ensure the proper follow-up;
2. *invites* Parties and other stakeholders to continue to take part in the preparatory work towards the development of a Protocol and Strategy on Sustainable Tourism, and *requests* the interim Secretariat to further coordinate and service them in the process;
3. *calls upon* Parties and *invites* relevant institutions to support the development of future projects/programmes (including the “Via Carpatica”);
4. *urges* Parties and *invites* other stakeholders to plan, develop and manage tourism in the Carpathians according to the principles of sustainable development;
5. *invites* the interim Secretariat to take into account the experience of the Alpine Convention in the field of sustainable tourism.

Decision COP2/7

Industry and energy - Article 10 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *welcomes* the work of the Working Group on Sustainable Industry, Energy, Transport and Infrastructure and *takes note* of its report as contained in the document UNEP/CC/COP2/2, and *invites* Parties and other stakeholders to ensure the proper follow-up;
2. *welcomes* and *encourages* further cooperation between the interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) on the issue of renewable energy;
3. *welcomes* the results of the “Regional Workshop on Renewable Energy in the Carpathians” (Lviv, May 2008) as a contribution to the Carpathian Convention implementation process;
4. *requests* Parties and other stakeholders to pay special attention to the issue of sustainability in the production, distribution and use of renewable energy, as well as the issue of energy efficiency, in the development and implementation of projects and report back to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CCIC);
5. *welcomes* the regional project on renewable energy developed jointly by UNIDO, FAO and UNEP, being submitted to the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme, and *requests* the interim Secretariat, in cooperation with UNIDO, to assist, through the National Focal Points, the Carpathian countries in the

development of additional proposals for the submission to the GEF and/or other funding mechanisms.

Decision COP2/8

Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge - Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *welcomes* the work of the Working Group on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge and *takes note* of its report as contained in the document UNEP/CC/COP2/2, *appreciates* the valid contributions by ANPED, and *invites* Parties and other stakeholder to ensure the proper follow-up;
2. *welcomes* the definition of Carpathian Heritage as “the diversity of natural and cultural and mixed tangible and intangible assets, and their interaction, which serve for maintaining Carpathian Unity and Identity” developed by the Working Group, as a useful instrument for delineating the work and responsibilities in protecting and managing the Carpathian heritage;
3. *welcomes* the recommendations as contained in the Annex to the report in the document UNEP/CC/COP2/2 based on consultations carried out in the Carpathian Region by ANPED, and *decides* to develop and establish a “Carpathian Heritage Inventory”, as a tool for the identification, protection and promotion of Carpathian Heritage;
4. *welcomes* the ANPED’s proposal to develop a programme of practical activities to support the Carpathian Heritage Inventory, and *encourages* Parties to collaborate and support the development of the Carpathian Heritage Inventory as well as a programme of practical activities in support of Carpathian heritage, as proposed in the report;
5. *urges* Parties and *invites* relevant stakeholders to continue to support the preservation of local breeds and cultivated plants in the Framework of the Carpathian Convention;
6. *invites* National Focal Points to continue actions to inform and cooperate with the relevant ministries and sectors (particularly Ministries of Culture and UNESCO National Focal Points) and *calls upon* them to be involved in this work.

Decision COP2/9

Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning - Article 12 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *welcomes* the establishment of the “Science for the Carpathians” initiative as a platform of researchers for and in the Carpathians for the implementation of Article 12 of the Carpathian Convention;
2. *thanks* the European Academy, Jagiellonian University in Krakow, the Joanneum Insitute and the Mountain Research Initiative for having supported the process since the very beginning;

3. *welcomes* the intention of the European Environment Agency (EEA) to undertake, as part of its overall efforts to improve the knowledge base regarding ecosystem functioning and services in Europe, a comparative analysis of ecosystem services rendered by the Alpine and Carpathian mountain regions, as a basis for a systematic valuation of these services for policy setting and decision making in these regions;
4. *invites* Parties and other stakeholders to actively participate and support the above mentioned processes and *requests* the interim Secretariat to report back to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee.

Decision COP2/10

Cross-cutting issues, including awareness raising, education and public participation - Article 13 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *recalls* the decision COP1/12 “Cross-cutting issues, including awareness raising, education and public participation”;
2. *welcomes* the important contributions by ANPED, REC, ENSI and EURAC to awareness raising, education and public participation in the Carpathian Convention implementation process, and *expresses* its gratitude to the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea for its support;
3. *supports* and *appreciates* the Carpathian Sustainable Education Network (CASALEN) initiative and *requests* the interim Secretariat to assist its further development and implementation, and *appreciates* the related financial support provided by the private sector;
4. *welcomes* and *supports* the development of the Public Participation Strategy prepared by ANPED;
5. *reiterates* its recommendation to establish and develop national mechanisms to foster the implementation of the Carpathian Convention, including information, involvement and capacity building of relevant stakeholders and civil society related to the process and the future development of the Carpathian Convention;
6. *invites* Parties and other stakeholders to carry out regional consultations and to continue to raise public awareness in order to promote the Carpathian Convention implementation process;
7. *urges* Parties and *invites* other stakeholders to ensure the proper follow-up and implementation of the present decision.

Decision COP2/11

Cooperation with the European Union

The Conference of the Parties

1. *recognizes* the important support provided by the EU INTERREG III B CADSES “Carpathian Project” for the achievement of significant progress in the implementation of the Convention’s goals;

2. *underlines* the importance of continuing the structural support for the Carpathian region from the relevant European Union programmes, in particular the European Regional Development Fund, to support the follow-up projects prioritized in the framework of the Carpathian Convention;
3. *invites* the relevant national, regional and local authorities to make full use of the available programmes ((i.e. European Territorial Cooperation funds, SDC Cohesion Funds, Norwegian Fund, LIFE+, ENPI and IPA) to achieve the goals of the Carpathian Convention;
4. *takes note* of the important role of the Carpathian Convention as a coherent framework for transnational and cross-sectoral cooperation for the implementation of activities throughout the Carpathian region;
5. *invites* Parties participating in the decision-making bodies of the above mentioned programmes to ensure the due consideration of the Carpathian Convention priorities in project selection and approval;
6. *requests* the interim Secretariat to ensure the necessary coordination in development and implementation of projects within the framework of the Carpathian Convention;
7. *stresses* the need for the establishment of a full-fledged Carpathian Space programme, and *requests* the interim Secretariat to continue to promote and support this process in cooperation with the EU Member States that are Parties to the Carpathian Convention;
8. *calls upon* Parties participating in the decision-making bodies of the relevant programmes of the European Territorial Cooperation to start up cooperation with the relevant EU bodies in the preparation of the “Carpathian Space” programme of European Territorial Cooperation for the 2014-2020 budget period;
9. *invites* the European Union within the context of the implementation of its Neighbourhood Policy and the Pre-Accession Programme to address the needs of the non-EU Parties to the Carpathian Convention;
10. *expresses* its gratefulness to Switzerland for including the Carpathian Convention in the areas eligible for support through the Swiss contribution to EU enlargement, and encourages relevant Parties to expedite the development and approval of coordinated projects in support of the Carpathian Convention;
11. *invites* the Presidency of the Carpathian Convention to inform other European Union members of the outcomes of the COP2;
12. recognizing the importance of strengthening the working relations between the European Community and the Carpathian Convention on various thematic and other areas, *recalls* in particular the invitation to the European Community to support the Carpathian Convention process through accession or otherwise.

Decision COP2/12

Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies

The Conference of the Parties

1. *welcomes* the fruitful cooperation between the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention, inter alia in the fields of biodiversity, forestry, sustainable transport, sustainable tourism, cultural heritage and environmental information, and *recommends* to enhance cooperation in the fields of public relations and joint approaches to the European Commission, to invite the full participation of the European Community in both Convention frameworks;
2. *welcomes* the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention signed on 29 May Bonn 2008, and *recommends* to make enhanced efforts for implementation of the CBD programmes of work on mountain biodiversity and on protected areas and other relevant CBD thematic programmes of work and cross-cutting issues;
3. *welcomes* the fruitful cooperation between the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention and the interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, in particular on the Carpathian Wetlands Initiative, and *calls* for increased cooperation in particular concerning implementation of pilot activities for integrating land and water use in the Tisza River Basin;
4. *encourages* cooperation with the Aarhus Convention, in particular concerning the implementation of the Almaty Guidelines on Promoting the Application of the Principles of the Aarhus Convention in International Forums;
5. *requests* the interim Secretariat to approach the Division for Cultural Heritage, landscape and spatial planning of the Council of Europe to prepare and conclude a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Carpathian Convention and the European Landscape Convention;
6. *welcomes* the fruitful cooperation with UNESCO on natural, and cultural heritage and traditional knowledge, with FAO on sustainable agriculture and rural development as well as on sustainable forest management, with UNDP and ICPDR on the Tisza river GEF project, and with UNIDO on renewable energy in the Carpathians;
7. *requests* the Presidency to notify the Mountain Partnership of the wish of the Parties to enlist the Convention as a member of the Partnership, and *invites* Parties to the Convention, which have not yet done so, to join the Mountain Partnership;
8. *appreciates* the fruitful cooperation between the Executive Secretariat of the Central European Initiative (CEI) and the interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, and *recommends* to further enhance cooperation in development of joint projects, inter alia in the field of sustainable transport;
9. *welcomes* the fruitful cooperation between the Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative (CERI) and the interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, and

recommends enhanced cooperation in supporting the future implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol;

10. *welcomes* the fruitful cooperation with other relevant international and national organizations, entities and institutions active in the Carpathian region on sustainable development promotion, awareness raising, capacity building and assisting the Parties in implementation of the Carpathian Convention including the REC for CEE, ANPED, CEEWeb, EURAC, ETE, WWF-DCP, MRI;
11. *requests* the interim Secretariat to continue to prepare and conclude Memoranda of Cooperation with other interested international organizations, MEAs, interested countries and other entities active in the areas of focus of the Carpathian Convention.

Decision COP2/13

Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *recalls* its decision COP1/3 on the Programme of Work and budget of the Carpathian Convention;
2. *recalls* furthermore its decisions COP1/4 to COP1/12 on the implementation of Articles 4 to 13 of the Carpathian Convention;
3. having considered the report of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee on the implementation of the Programme of Work (Annexes I, II and III of UNEP/CC/COP1/4), as contained in document UNEP/CC/COP2/2;
4. *takes note* of the certified the Financial Report of UNEP- Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention presented at the CCIC meeting and request the interim Secretariat to continue financial reporting on an annual basis, with an explanatory note;
5. *endorses* the terms of reference of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee, as approved by the Bureau and annexed to the present decision (Annex I);
6. *welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Work, through the Working Groups, in particular the results achieved by the Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable use of Biological and Landscape Diversity, and activities of individual countries, organizations and non-governmental organisations;
7. *requests* the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee to review and decide on the continuation of the Working Groups, as appropriate;
8. *appreciates* the support provided by the EU INTERREG IIB CADSES Carpathian Project to the development of the work programme and the implementation of the Carpathian Convention;
9. *adopts* the programme of work of the Carpathian Convention (Annex II to this decision) and *welcomes* the list of potential projects in support of the work programme (Annex III to this decision);

10. *calls upon* the Parties to undertake the necessary action to promote and ensure full implementation of the Programme of Work, in consultation with and with the support of relevant institutions, international organizations and non-governmental organisations;
11. *invites* Parties and other stakeholders to share information about future projects targeting the Carpathians during the early stages of their development and *requests* the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee to develop a mechanism for ensuring that they are in line with the articles of the Convention;
12. *commends* the interim Secretariat for its role and work in promoting and servicing the implementation of the Programme of Work;
13. *recognizes* the need to further strengthen the interim Secretariat given its additional tasks and responsibilities related to the implementation of the Protocol on the Protection of Biological and Landscape Diversity, the servicing of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas Steering Committee, and the development of the other protocols proposed in its decisions;
14. furthermore, confirming the wish of the Parties to reinforce the (international) significance of the Convention and its operation, *considers* the opportunity to make the Convention a UNEP administrated Convention, taking into account the Final Act signed in Kyiv in 2003, and *invites* UNEP to analyse such an opportunity and submit a proposal to that effect to the Parties for their consideration;
15. noting the financial implications of strengthening the interim Secretariat related to the enhanced implementation of the Carpathian Convention, *invites* Parties to consider seconding staff to the (interim) Secretariat and/or increasing for the period 2009-2011 their contribution with an indicative scale of Euro 8 500 or more per year, with a view to assist in meeting the core cost and ensuring full and proper implementation of the Programme of Work;
16. *requests* the Parties to continue to provide their voluntary contribution to the Secretariat budget as early as possible in the budget year.

Decision COP2/14

Scope of application of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *invites* the Parties to further discuss on the scope of application of the Carpathian Convention with the view to reach a common understanding.

Decision COP2/15

Permanent Secretariat arrangements of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *noting* the updated compilation of the proposals for the arrangements for the permanent secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, as included in document UNEP/CC/COP2/7/Rev1, *urges* Parties to pursue further consultations with the view to reach an early agreement on this issue.

Decision COP2/16

Date and venue of the Third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *decides* to accept the generous offer of the Government of the Slovak Republic to convene the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP3) in the Slovak Republic in 2011, and *requests* the interim Secretariat to make the necessary arrangements, in consultation with the host Government and the Bureau of the COP;
2. *requests* the interim Secretariat to undertake the necessary preparation in consultation with all interested partners and stakeholders;
3. *invites* all interested partners to make a financial contribution to the organization of the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP3).

MINISTERIAL DECLARATION OF THE COP2

Final declaration

17-19 June 2008

Bucharest, Romania

We, the Ministers and other Heads of Delegations responsible for environment of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Poland, Romania, the Republic of Serbia, the Slovak Republic and Ukraine, attending the high-level segment of the Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (hereafter Carpathian Convention), held in Bucharest, Romania on 19 June 2008;

Recalling Resolution 62/196 of the General Assembly of the United Nations of 30 November 2007, which “notes with appreciation the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, adopted and signed by the seven countries of the region to provide a framework for cooperation and multisectoral policy coordination, a platform for joint strategies for sustainable development and a forum for dialogue between all involved stakeholders”;

Recalling also the Ministerial Declaration of the Belgrade Conference held in October 2007, which welcomed “the mountain partnerships within and between the Alps, the Carpathians, the South-Eastern European mountain region, the Caucasus and the mountain regions of Central Asia”, recognized “the benefits from the existing legally binding instruments for the protection and sustainable development of the mountain regions like the Alpine and the Carpathian Convention”, welcomed “the initiative of South-Eastern European and Caucasian countries to develop such instruments”, and encouraged the Mountain Partnership “to promote and foster exchanges of experience and expertise with other mountain regions in the world”;

Reaffirming the commitments made in the Carpathian Declaration and the decisions adopted at the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties on 13 December 2006, in Kyiv, Ukraine;

Have declared the following:

We express our satisfaction with the ratification of the Carpathian Convention by all its seven Signatories;

We welcome the progress achieved in the implementation of the Carpathian Convention;

We take note of the important role of the Carpathian Convention as a coherent framework for transnational and cross-sectoral cooperation for the implementation of activities through out the Carpathian region;

We acknowledge the role and contribution of the Carpathian Convention in the implementation of the relevant global and regional programmes;

We stress the importance of participation and further involvement of the regional and local authorities as well as other stakeholders in the implementation of the Carpathian Convention;

We highly welcome the adoption of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity to the Carpathian Convention (hereinafter as the Biodiversity Protocol) and *call for* its ratification;

We look forward to developing the Strategic Action Plan as an implementation tool for the Biodiversity Protocol;

We appreciate the ongoing work on following protocols such as Protocol on Sustainable Forestry, Protocol on Sustainable Tourism and Protocol on Sustainable Transport and *look forward* to the finalization of these documents in order to enable more efficient implementation of the Convention and achieve its main objectives;

We welcome the development of a “Vision and Strategy for the Carpathian Area” as a strategic basis for the future sustainable development of the Carpathian region and other implementation strategies;

We welcome the successful work of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative as a partnership established in the framework of the Carpathian and Ramsar Conventions;

We note with appreciation the establishment of a regional platform for sustainable agriculture and rural development in the Carpathian region resulting of the fruitful cooperation with the FAO;

We support the development of an Inventory of Carpathian Heritage as well as other practical activities in support of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of the local people;

We welcome the Carpathian renewable energy partnership and programme for a regional competence network established in cooperation with UNIDO and the FAO, which should promote sustainable use and production of renewable energy while ensuring environmental sustainability;

We recognize the important support provided by the EU INTERREG III B CADSES “Carpathian Project” for the achievement of this progress in the implementation of the convention’s goals;

We underline the importance of continuing the structural support for the Carpathian region from the relevant European Union programmes, in particular the European Regional Development Fund, to support the follow-up projects prioritized in the framework of the Carpathian Convention;

We reiterate our call for the creation of a stand-alone “Carpathian Space” Programme of the European Regional Development Funds, following the successful example of the Alpine Space programme, supporting the general objectives of the Carpathian Convention, and request the interim Secretariat in cooperation with the EU Member States that are Parties to the Convention to undertake all necessary steps;

We appreciate the activities of the interim Secretariat provided by UNEP in Vienna in servicing the Carpathian Convention and leading the Carpathian Project, and we call upon the interim Secretariat to further support the Convention’s implementation by coordinating follow-up activities and projects;

We express our gratitude to the Government of Austria for its support to the Carpathian Convention, notably by continuing to host and co-finance the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention on an interim basis;

We appreciate the continued support of the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea, and the efficient cooperation and partnership with UNEP, the European Academy EURAC in Bolzano, Italy, and the Regional Environmental Centre (REC);

We express our gratitude to Switzerland for its commitment to support the Carpathian Convention implementation as part of the Swiss Contribution for EU enlargement;

We express our gratitude to ALPARC and the Task Force Protected Areas of the Alpine Convention for their support to the cooperation activities of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas;

We reiterate our invitation to the European Community to accede to the Carpathian Convention;

We appreciate the signature of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions and the Convention on Biological Diversity, supporting the implementation of the CBD in the Carpathian region;

We take note with concern of the impacts of climate change on mountainous areas and emphasize the need of a coordinated approach for coping with this global challenge within the Carpathian region;

We express our satisfaction with the Carpathian Convention joining the Mountain Partnership and emphasize our readiness to experience-sharing with other mountains regions;

We reaffirm our commitment to faithfully implement the Carpathian Convention;

We express our gratitude to the Government of Romania for having hosted the Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention.

THE WORKING GROUPS

Article 14 (2) (e) of the Convention assigns to the COP the power to establish the subsidiary bodies, including thematic working groups, deemed necessary for the implementation of the Convention. According to article 16, the subsidiary bodies must provide the COP with technical assistance, information and advice on specific issues. The COP1 decided to support the establishment of working groups (WGs) on a number of thematic issues such as conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity, cultural heritage and traditional knowledge, spatial planning, sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry, sustainable industry, energy, transport and infrastructure and sustainable tourism.

The COP1 also decided to also establish an Implementation Committee as its subsidiary body. The first meeting of the Implementation Committee took place on 2-4 April 2008 in Sibiu, Romania. The function of the Implementation Committee in the institutional architecture of the Convention is akin to that of the Permanent Committee of the Alpine Convention. It is meant to carry on regular consultations on the implementation process of the Carpathian Convention and to act in coordination with the WGs, whose establishment and progress it supervises. The Implementation Committee as well as the COP and the WGs are serviced and supported by the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (ISCC).

The activities of these WGs were also supported by the EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project, which provided both scientific and institutional support, and benefited from the inputs not only of the Contracting Parties and the Observers to the Convention, but also of a wide range of diverse Project Partners from across the Carpathians and some from other mountain regions in Europe. This fostered the complementarities between the scientific and the institutional dimensions fostered the activities of the WGs and represented a learning process among the partners, advancing integration within the Carpathians and with the rest of Europe.

Here follow the terms of reference (TOR) of each WG, including the Implementation Committee, as well as the reports of each meeting of the WGs until August 2008.

Here follows a chronological synopsis of the meetings of all the WGs.

	Date	Location	Meeting
2007	26 January	Vienna	CNPA-SC
	22-23 March	Bolzano	WG on Transport
	26-27 March	Vienna	WG on Biodiversity
	2-5 April	Lopenik	WG on Tourism
	9-10 July	Vienna	WG on SARD-F
	27-28 August	Venice	WG on Cultural Heritage
	19-21 November	Budapest	WG on Biodiversity
	22-23 November	San Vito	WG on SARD-F
	23 November	Budapest	CNPA-SC
	11-12 December	Trieste	WG on Transport
2008	2-4 April	Sibiu	Implementation Committee
	3-4 April	Sibiu	CNPA-SC
	23-25 April	Krakow	WG on Tourism
	6-7 May	Lviv	Regional Workshop on Renewable Energy
	26-27 May	Vienna	Strategic Workshop on Spatial Planning
	17-19 June	Bucharest	Planning Workshop on Teacher Training
	19 June	Bucharest	CNPA-SC

IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Background

The First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP1) decided to establish the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CCIC) in accordance with Article 14 (e) of the Carpathian Convention, as its subsidiary body, and requested the interim Secretariat to prepare the related ToR for approval by the Bureau.

COP1 also requested the interim Secretariat to prepare the first meeting and, furthermore, to service and support the work of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee, in particular, as it relates to overseeing the establishment and convening of the Working Groups, their ToR and their activities.

The following Working Groups have been established under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee and are currently being supported by the Carpathian Convention:

- 1) WG on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity (established pursuant to Decision COP1/4 para 1);
- 2) WG on cultural heritage and traditional knowledge (Decision COP1/6, para 2);
- 3) WG on agriculture, rural development and forestry (Decision COP1/7, para 3);
- 4) WG on sustainable industry, energy, transport and infrastructure (Decision COP1/9, para 3);
- 5) WG on sustainable tourism (Decision COP1/10, para 2);
- 6) WG on spatial planning (Decision COP1/11, para 4).

Decision COP1/3 para 6 requests the interim Secretariat to ensure a continuous exchange and inter-linkage between the work and activities under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee and the work and activities contained in the EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project.

Decision COP1/4, para 17 requests the interim Secretariat to submit through the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee a report highlighting experiences made in the interim phase of the CNPA and a compilation of proposals for a permanent arrangement for the CNPA, to the COP2.

Decision COP1/15 para 5 requests the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee to review the issue of the scope of application of the Carpathian Convention, based upon the outcome of consultations referred to in para 4 and other relevant inputs, including proposals from countries, and to submit a report to the COP2 for its consideration and decision.

Proposed Terms of Reference

The Rules of Procedure for the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (adopted by Decision COP1/1) shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the proceedings of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee, as a subsidiary body of the Convention, except that the Chairperson of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee may represent the Party in the meeting (Rule 21 para 5).

The Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee consisting of representatives of the Contracting Parties has been set up as a subsidiary body of the Carpathian Convention according to Articles 14 para 2 (e) and 16 of the Carpathian Convention. Serviced by the Secretariat, the Committee shall carry out the following functions:

- a) To collect, assess and analyze information submitted by the Parties and observers relevant to the implementation of the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols;
- b) To monitor the compliance by the contracting Parties with the provisions of the Convention and its Protocols;
- c) To organize its work as Working Groups to support formulation and/or implementation of Protocols, strategies or other measures and recommendations relevant to the implementation of the Convention as appropriate;
- d) To Ensure an integrated strategic approach through coordination, harmonization and examination of mutual consistency of Draft Protocols, strategies or other measures and recommendations, developed under the Convention;
- e) To consider, develop and recommend new and additional Protocols, strategies, or other measures and recommendations for the achievement of the objectives of the Convention;
- f) To report on its work and prepare the meetings of the COP.

The Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee shall meet at least once every year.

REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE CCIC

Minutes of the meeting

2-4 April 2008

Sibiu, Romania

1. Opening of the Meeting

The 1st Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (hereinafter referred to as the CCIC) was opened on 3 April 2008 at 9:00 by its Chair, Mr. Frits Schlingemann, Senior Adviser - UNEP Regional Office for Europe who thanked the Romanian authorities for organizing the meeting, as well as for the welcome dinner offered on 2 April 2008; he emphasized that the meeting of the CCIC is a “business oriented” one which should focus on the preparations for COP2. On behalf of the presidency of the Carpathian Convention held by Ukraine,

Mr. Sergiy Gubar, Deputy Director within the Ministry of Environment of Ukraine, welcomed the participants as the co-chair of the meeting. Mr. Harald Egerer, Executive Secretary of the UNEP Vienna Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention also spoke words of welcome.

Mr. Mykola Melenevskiy, Deputy Director of the Central European Initiative - Executive Secretariat (CEI-ES) gave a short introduction on the activities supporting the Carpathian Convention implementation process pursuing the goals of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the UNEP Vienna ISCC and CEI-ES signed in Kyiv (13 December 2006) on the occasion of the First Conference of the Parties (COP1). Moreover, Mr. Melenevskiy informed about a new CEI fund for the environmental protection, which could be used for future common (CEI-ES in collaboration with the (interim) Secretariat) projects. He suggested that the two Secretariats should interact and jointly develop projects within the EU structural funds.

2. Progress report by the Secretariat (status of ratification, voluntary contributions, Permanent Secretariat arrangements of the Carpathian Convention)

Mr. Harald Egerer welcomed the participants and thanked Romania and the Regional Agency of Sibiu for hosting the meeting of the CCIC. Furthermore, he updated on:

- a) *the status of ratification*, informing that all the seven Parties have ratified the Framework Convention - the process was completed by Serbia as from 10 March 2008;
- b) all the parties have paid in time their *voluntary contributions* and Serbia is expected to pay as well in the near future since with the ratification it became officially a Party to the Convention;
- c) *Permanent Secretariat arrangements* - all the three countries Romania, Slovak Republic and Ukraine have officially announced their wish to host the future Permanent Secretariat of the Convention, but only the Slovak Republic has submitted to the (interim) Secretariat a renewed proposal.

Mr. Egerer informed that almost all working groups met; only the Working Group on Spatial Planning could not meet prior to the CCIC meeting, but a Strategic Workshop on Spatial Planning will be convened on 26-27 May 2008. The Extended Bureau also met in Vienna (17-18 October 2007); moreover, the interim Secretariat together with the WWF DCP organized in Vienna (18 February 2008) a preparatory meeting for the Swiss Contribution Funds (SCF) to EU Enlargement in order to draft a common Carpathian strategy/proposal/programme of the 4 countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia) beneficiaries of this funds.

As for the 1st Meeting of the CCIC, Mr. Egerer underlined as the main goal the preparation of the Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP2) (17-19 June 2008, Bucharest, Romania), including the formulation of the Work Programme of the Convention (2009-2011). To this end, the Secretariat had prepared reports

on the activities and results under the Carpathian Convention since COP1. Mr. Egerer informed that the Carpathian Project - the most important resource financing the activities of the Convention - will end in August 2008; the outcomes of the Carpathian Project set the solid bases for the implementation phase that should follow and be further sustained through EU structural funds. Mr. Egerer stressed that the Carpathian Convention has a unique opportunity to benefit of these funds but that this will require strong national commitments.

Czech Republic informed that in order to receive a mandate for COP2 regarding the decision on a Permanent Secretariat the countries should send their official offers as soon as possible, since the Czech internal national governmental discussions would be held in one week time after the CCIC meeting. Moreover, it was reminded that the Extended Bureau Meeting agreed on an informal deadline - 31 January 2007 - for submitting proposals for a Permanent Secretariat. Hungary, as well as Poland agreed with Czech observation. Moreover, Poland expressed the concern that only one proposal for the location of the Permanent Secretariat was submitted in due time, and stressed that offers concerning hosting the Permanent Secretariat should precise commitments of the host countries related to hosting the Permanent Secretariat and that a potential COP decision in this respect would have to take into account the common interest of the Carpathian Convention Parties.

Romania and Ukraine explained that due to objective reasons (internal consultations, deciding on a single location out of many possibilities) the official offer for the Secretariat could not be sent out; moreover, Ms. Damian, National Focal Point for Romania, and Mr. Gubar, National Focal Point for Ukraine expressed their hope that this delay will not prevent the Parties to prepare for COP2, and promised that the official proposals will be ready and circulated among the Parties as soon as possible.

Ukraine also referred to the Rules of Procedure, which set as deadline a period of six weeks before the Meeting of the Conference of the Parties¹.

Slovak Republic, represented at this meeting by Mr. Ambros and the new designated Focal Point for the Carpathian Convention - Ms. Turecekova, thanked the Secretariat for the preparing all the documents for the CCIC meeting and also thanked the host country of the meeting. The Slovak Republic informed that the official proposals for the Permanent Secretariat, as well as for the CNPA Management Unit have been sent out. Furthermore, Ms. Turecekova expressed regret that Serbia was not present at the meeting as they would have liked to welcome them into the Carpathian "family".

Mr. Schlingemann summarized the observations of the participants on the issue of Permanent Secretariat proposals, underlining that the CCIC urges the candidate Parties to submit their proposals as soon as possible. In that respect the meeting agreed to set the deadline on 8 May 2008.

3. Implementation of the Carpathian Convention

Mr. Schlingemann introduced the third point on the Agenda of the CCIC meeting. He informed that the interim Secretariat has prepared progress reports on the

¹ See "Rules of Procedure for the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians" - Rule 8

implementation of the Carpathian Convention since COP1, as well as proposed possible action that might be taken by COP2, and emphasized the great benefits of the INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project. He stressed that the Work Programme of the Carpathian Convention has to be based on the decisions agreed upon at COP2.

Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity: Secretariat Report (Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention)

Mr. Egerer introduced the draft Secretariat Report on Biodiversity and gave a short overview of the activities of the Working Group on Biodiversity, characterized as a very productive one, resulting, inter alia, in a draft Protocol on the conservation and sustainable use of the biological and landscape diversity that would be submitted to COP2 for adoption and signature by the Parties. According to Article 18 of the Framework Convention the draft Protocol was circulated to all the Parties six months before COP II.

The activity of the Working Group on Biodiversity (detailed presentation and outcomes are to be found in the Secretariat Report), as presented in the Secretariat Report, has been split into three sections: the negotiation of the Protocol, activities related to the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) and the Carpathian Wetland Initiative which is implementing the Ramsar Convention at the regional level.

Various Parties proposed amendments to the text of the Protocol: editorial remarks, inclusion of new definitions, reference to the EU legislation, etc. Mr. Schlingemann reminded that the negotiations of the Protocol were concluded at the Second Meeting of the WG on Biodiversity (19-21 November 2007, Budapest, Hungary). He therefore suggested that, notwithstanding the fact that the text could continue to undergo improvement, the draft should now be seen and accepted as a proper framework for action, which will be further strengthened in the context of its implementation. The meeting agreed with these clarifications, and Parties informed that the Draft Protocol (see Annex 2 of the present report) is currently undergoing internal proceedings, allowing the Ministers to adopt and sign the Protocol at COP2.

The Meeting agreed that editorial notes would be brought to the attention of the Secretariat to be incorporated into the draft text of the Protocol (e.g. the Aarhus Convention was signed in 1989 and not 1988 - reference to this Convention is made in the Preamble of the Protocol). Furthermore, the meeting agreed that the definition on GMOs should be deleted, as valid definitions of GMOs are given in Directive 2001/18/EC and in the Cartagena Protocol.

Referring to the meeting of the CNPA Steering Committee, taking place simultaneously, Mr. Egerer informed that COP2 will consider the issue of a permanent arrangement for the CNPA. Slovakia presented an official renewed proposal for a permanent arrangement, Romania expressed and re-confirmed its interest and will present a proposal for a permanent arrangement in due course.

Some delegations emphasized that the CNPA should support all Parties and be a tool serving for the implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol. .

Czech Republic raised the question on the financial implication of this management unit, namely who would be responsible for paying the future staff member(s). Ms.

Damian clarified that the Romanian offer includes a Permanent Secretariat, as well as a Management Unit for the CNPA (linked to the Secretariat), the costs (logistics and staff) being paid by the Romanian government.

Ms. Schlingemann pointed out that, in addition to the increase in workload and ending of the Carpathian Project, servicing the CNPA and the implementation of the Protocol on Biodiversity would have budgetary implications for the Convention Secretariat, which will have to be covered by raising voluntary contributions of the Parties, and could be reduced by making a secondment to the Secretariat. He added that the staff member in charge of this service would not necessarily have to operate from the same location as the Convention Secretariat. Mr. Egerer added that the issue of location of the CNPA permanent arrangement and/or the Secretariat staff member will have to be discussed and negotiated by all the Parties to the Carpathian Convention, following also the consultations between and considering the offers made by the two countries which offered to host the permanent arrangement of the CNPA.

Czech Republic remarked that the ratification of the Biodiversity Protocol can be a rather long process and it would be preferable that countries start to apply its provisions as soon as possible. Consequently the meeting agreed to insert the following paragraph in the draft decision: “Urges Parties pending the ratification and the finalization of the Strategic Action Plan to implement the Protocol and report on its process to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee”.

Under this item, the question of the future of the “working groups” established by COP1 was raised by Czech Republic. Mr. Egerer explained that the working groups had an “informal” status and that after COP2 only CCIC will remain as a subsidiary body of the COP. However, the CCIC could always decide to establish working groups or meet for a specific purpose, e.g. to finalize the Strategic Action Plan for the implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol). Mr. Schlingemann added that the working groups, established by COP1 were financially supported by the Carpathian Project and would therefore need additional extra budgetary funding to continue. In support of the aforementioned explanations, Poland referred to Article 14 paragraph 2(e) of the Framework Convention² and the Terms of Reference of the CCIC.

In order to ensure a proper continuation of the activities of the WG(s) the Meeting agreed to insert the following paragraph in the relevant decisions for the COP: “Urges Parties and other stakeholders to ensure the proper follow-up and implementation of the recommendations produced by this Working Group”.

The Meeting agreed to make the following modifications to the draft decision on Article 4:

- New paragraph: “Urges Parties and other stakeholders to ensure the proper follow-up and implementation of the recommendations produced by this Working Group”;

² Art.14 (2) The Conference shall discuss common concerns of the Parties and make the decisions necessary to promote the effective implementation of the Convention. In particular, it shall: (e) establish such subsidiary bodies, including thematic working groups, as are deemed necessary for the implementation of the Convention, regularly review reports submitted by its subsidiary bodies and provide guidance to them.

- New paragraph: Urges Parties pending the ratification and entry into force of the Protocol, to start its implementation and to report on the progress to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee;
- Paragraph 4: “established under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee” was added to the draft decision.

On the implementation of Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention the Meeting approved the Secretariat Report and the proposed draft decision COP 2/1. (See “Progress report on the implementation of the Carpathian Convention” - UNEP/CC/COP2/2)

The CCIC decided to endorse the proposed text of a Memorandum of Understanding between the CBD, the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention, and requested the Presidency as well as the interim Secretariat to proceed with its signature.

Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management: Secretariat Report (Article 6 of the Carpathian Convention)

Mr. Egerer introduced the draft Secretariat Report and gave an overview of the activities undertaken in this field (detailed presentation and outcomes are to be found in the Secretariat Report). He emphasized the need for a continuation of the cooperation and exchange of experience between ISCC and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR).

The Parties stressed the need for more action in the water/river basin management area. Mr. Egerer explained that the ICPDR is already implementing/developing projects in this field in close cooperation with ISCC, but that Parties are invited to propose and come with new ideas which could bring added-value to the region.

The Meeting agreed to make the following modifications to the draft decision on Article 6:

- Paragraph 4: “Requests the interim Secretariat to give priority to the further development and joint programming in the area of integration of water resources and land use planning, in particular concerning wetlands, natural water resources, springs, lakes and ground water resources, as well as biodiversity conservation and adaptation to climate change, taking into account the experiences made in sustainable and integrated water/river basin management and land use planning of the relevant river basins of the Black Sea and Baltic Sea catchment areas in the Carpathians”
- New paragraph: “Urges Parties and other stakeholders to ensure the proper follow-up and implementation of these recommendations”.

On the implementation of Article 6 of the Carpathian Convention the Meeting approved the Secretariat Report and the proposed draft decision COP 2/3. (See “Progress report on the implementation of the Carpathian Convention” - UNEP/CC/COP2/2)

Sustainable agriculture and forestry: Secretariat Report (Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention)

Mr. Egerer introduced the draft Secretariat Report and gave an overview of the activities undertaken in this field (detailed presentation and outcomes are to be found in the Secretariat Report).

He informed that SARD-M project will be presented as a successful example of cooperation between FAO and the Carpathian Convention at the Commission for Sustainable Development Meeting (CSD) in New York (5-7 May 2008).

The Meeting welcomed the presentation in New York and called for further contacts and cooperation with the Commission for Sustainable Development.

The Meeting agreed to make the following modifications to the draft decisions on Article 7:

- Paragraph 2: "Welcomes the National Policy Assessments conducted by Parties, as well as the Regional Assessment prepared by the interim Secretariat, as a basis for the establishment of a regional platform for policy exchange and development, in collaboration with and with the support of FAO";
- Paragraph 3: "Appreciates the preparatory work towards the development of a Protocol on Sustainable Forestry, and requests the (interim) Secretariat to further coordinate and service the negotiation process, and urges Parties to nominate delegates for this process";
- Paragraph 4: "Calls upon countries and relevant institutions, including the Padua University, as well as the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests (MCPFE), to support the development of the Protocol, and/or future projects/programmes (European Platform of Mountain Forests)";
- New paragraph: "Urges Parties and other stakeholders to ensure the proper follow-up and implementation of the recommendations produced by this Working Group";
- New paragraph: "Welcomes the Adelboden Group Declaration and appreciates that the SARD-M project was presented by Switzerland as a successful example of cooperation between FAO and the Carpathian Convention at the CSD 16".

On the implementation of Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention the Meeting approved the Secretariat Report and the proposed draft decision COP 2/4. (See "Progress report on the implementation of the Carpathian Convention" - UNEP/CC/COP2/2)

Sustainable transport and infrastructure: Secretariat Report (Article 8 of the Carpathian Convention)

Mr. Egerer introduced the draft Secretariat Report and gave an overview of the activities undertaken in this field (detailed presentation and outcomes are to be found in the Secretariat Report).

Mr. Giacomo Luciani, EURAC Research, informed the participants that the "Study on the Transport Network in the Carpathians" has been finalized; based on this report EURAC also made recommendations, which were already circulated among the Parties. He proposed that the draft decision should emphasize the environmental impacts of transport and transport development.

Mr. Egerer made a short presentation of the three proposed projects (included in the follow-up platform) related to transport. He also mentioned that the draft recommendations by EURAC would be included in the draft decisions by COP2.

Some delegations commented that the main added value of the Carpathian Convention should be to ensure harmonization of the development of the transport network in the Carpathians with the requirements of their protection, in order to limit possible adverse environmental impacts.

The Meeting agreed to make the following modifications to the draft decision on Article 8:

- Paragraph 1: “Thanks the Working Group on sustainable Transport, Energy and Industry for its work and report, and welcomes the recommendations of the Study on the Transport System in the Carpathians elaborated under the lead of EURAC, Italy”;
- Paragraph 3: “Appreciates the preparatory work towards the development of a Protocol on Sustainable Transport, and request the Secretariat to further coordinate and service the negotiation process, and urges Parties to nominate delegate for this process”;
- New paragraph: “Urges Parties and other stakeholders to ensure the proper follow-up and implementation of the recommendations produced by this Working Group”.

On the implementation of Article 8 of the Carpathian Convention the Meeting approved the Secretariat Report and the proposed draft decision COP 2/5. (See “Progress report on the implementation of the Carpathian Convention” - UNEP/CC/COP2/2)

Industry and energy: Secretariat Report (Article 10 of the Carpathian Convention)

Mr. Egerer introduced the draft Secretariat Report and emphasized that the concrete work on sustainable energy under the Carpathian Convention framework will be initiated through a “Regional Workshop on Renewable Energy in the Carpathians” (6-7 May 2008, Lviv, Ukraine) organized as a joint initiative by the interim Secretariat and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The workshop will discuss the main issues concerning energy in the Carpathians, not only renewable energy (as the name of the workshop indicates). The outcomes of the Meeting and recommendations will be circulated by the interim Secretariat and presented to COP2 as an information document.

As part of the follow-up platform of the Carpathian Project, Mr. Egerer informed that the interim Secretariat, UNIDO and FAO will develop and submit follow-up projects in the field of renewable energy to the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme as well as the GEF.

CEI-ES suggested that within the Carpathian Convention framework special attention should be given to energy efficiency. CEEWEB proposed a further focus on the energy consumption modalities (“save energy” consumption).

The Meeting agreed to make the following modifications to the draft decision on Article 10:

- Last paragraph: “Endorses the regional project on renewable energy developed in cooperation by FAO, UNIDO and UNEP, being submitted to the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme, and requests the interim Secretariat, in cooperation with UNIDO, to develop further proposals for the submission to the GEF and/or other funding mechanisms”;
- New paragraph: “Urges Parties and other stakeholders to ensure the proper follow-up and implementation of the recommendations produced by this Working Group”;
- New paragraph: “Requests the interim Secretariat to pay special attention to the issue of sustainability in the production of renewable energy, as well as the issue of energy efficiency, in the development and implementation of projects”.

On the implementation of Article 10 of the Carpathian Convention the Meeting approved the Secretariat Report and the proposed draft decision COP 2/7. (See “Progress report on the implementation of the Carpathian Convention” - UNEP/CC/COP2/2)

Spatial planning: Secretariat Report (Article 5 of the Carpathian Convention)

Mr. Egerer introduced the draft Secretariat Report and informed the Meeting that the concrete work in this field would be initiated through a Carpathian Space Strategic Workshop (26-27 May 2008, Vienna, Austria). The main outcomes of the workshop will be presented to COP2 as an information document.

Mr. Maciej Borsa, RTI Polska partner in the Carpathian Project, gave a power point presentation on the main topics to be discussed during the workshop.

Poland proposed to extend the activity of the Working Group on spatial planning, since it did not achieve its purpose.

The Meeting agreed to make the following modifications to the draft decision on Article 5:

- New paragraph: “Recommends the continuation of the activity of this Working Group, and urges Parties and other stakeholders to ensure the proper implementation of follow-up activities”.

On the implementation of Article 5 of the Carpathian Convention the Meeting approved the Secretariat Report and the proposed draft decision COP 2/2. (See “Progress report on the implementation of the Carpathian Convention” - UNEP/CC/COP2/2)

Sustainable tourism: Secretariat Report (Article 9 of the Carpathian Convention)

Mr. Egerer introduced the draft Secretariat Report.

Ms. Kristina Vilimaite, Project Manager CEEWEB, presented the achievements in this field; she also informed the Meeting that a third meeting of the working group will take place on 23-25 April, in Cracow, Poland.

The Meeting agreed to make the following modifications to the draft decision on Article 9:

- New paragraph: “Urges Parties and other stakeholders to ensure the proper follow-up and implementation of the recommendations produced by this Working Group”;
- Paragraph 3: “Appreciates the preparatory work towards the development of a Protocol and Strategy on Sustainable Tourism, and requests the (interim) Secretariat to coordinate the further development and negotiation process, and urges Parties to nominate delegate for this process”;
- New paragraph: “Calls upon countries and relevant institutions to support the development of the Protocol and/or future projects/programmes (Via Carpatica)”.

On the implementation of Article 9 of the Carpathian Convention the Meeting approved the Secretariat Report and the proposed draft decision COP 2/6. (See “Progress report on the implementation of the Carpathian Convention” - UNEP/CC/COP2/2)

Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge: Secretariat Report (Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention)

Mr. Egerer introduced the draft Secretariat Report and gave an overview of the activities undertaken in this field (detailed presentation and outcomes are to be found in the Secretariat Report). He thanked ANPED for the report submitted to the Secretariat and for the recommendations for further actions; and invited Ms. McCarthy to update the Meeting on the latest developments and projects.

Ms. Pam McCarthy informed the Meeting about the National Stakeholder Consultations carried out by ANPED in all the seven Carpathian countries between January and March 2008. The draft report highlighting the main outcomes and recommendations was submitted to the CCIC and would be presented to COP2 as an Annex to the Secretariat Report.

Ms. Jana Vavrinova (Czech Republic Focal Point for the Carpathian Convention) informed that the Czech stakeholders showed a high interest in the Carpathian cultural heritage and greatly supported the undergoing activities.

Ms. Tamara Malkova, International Charity Organisation “Green Dossier”, proposed the establishment of a “fund” to financially support activities on the Carpathian Cultural Heritage. Mr. Egerer informed that projects will be developed within the follow-up platform (e.g. the development of an Inventory of Carpathian Heritage).

The Meeting agreed to make the following modifications to the draft decision on Article 11:

- New paragraph: “Urges Parties and other stakeholders to ensure the proper follow-up and implementation of the recommendations produced by this Working Group”;
- Paragraph 2: “Welcomes the definition of Carpathian Heritage as ‘the diversity of natural and cultural and mixed tangible and intangible assets, and their interaction, which serve for maintaining Carpathian Unity and Identity’ developed by the Working Group, as a useful instrument for delineating the work and responsibilities in protecting and managing the Carpathian heritage”;

- Paragraph 3: Welcomes the Report and recommendations based on consultations carried out in the Carpathian Region by ANPED, and encourages Parties to collaborate and support the development of an Inventory of Carpathian Heritage as well as a programme of practical activities in support of Carpathian heritage, as proposed in the report;
- Paragraph 5: “Urges parties and relevant stakeholders to continue to support the preservation of local breeds and cultivated plants in the Framework of the Carpathian Convention” (deletion of reference to specific projects);
- New paragraph: “Calls upon national UNESCO Focal Points to be involved in this work. “

On the implementation of Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention the Meeting approved the Secretariat Report and the proposed draft decision COP 2/8. (See “Progress report on the implementation of the Carpathian Convention” - UNEP/CC/COP2/2)

Awareness raising, education and public participation: Secretariat Report (Article 13 of the Carpathian Convention)

Mr. Egerer introduced the draft Secretariat Report and gave an overview of the activities undertaken in this field (detailed presentation and outcomes are to be found in the Secretariat Report). He also introduced the related proposed activities to support the Carpathian Sustainable Education Network (CASALEN) initiative presented in the “follow-up platform, which is proposed to be carried out through funds received from OMV.

ANPED announced that the report highlighting the main outcomes and recommendations of the Stakeholder Consultations submitted to the CCIC will be followed by a Strategy for Public Participation (to be circulated to the Parties through the interim Secretariat in due course).

The meeting agreed to make the following modifications to the draft decision on Article 13:

- Paragraph 1: “Appreciates the contributions by ANPED, REC, EURAC to awareness raising, education and public participation in the Carpathian Convention implementation process, and express its gratitude to the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea;
- Paragraph 2: “Takes note of the information presented in the Annexes, as contained in the Secretariat Report submitted through the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee” was deleted;
- Paragraph 3: “Supports and appreciates the Carpathian Sustainable Education Network (CASALEN) initiative and requests the (interim) Secretariat to assist its further development and implementation, and appreciates the related financial support provided by OMV”;
- Paragraph 4: “Welcomes and supports the programme of further actions prepared by ANPED” became “Welcomes and supports the public participation strategy prepared by ANPED”;

- New paragraph: “Re-iterates its recommendation to establish and develop national mechanisms to foster the implementation of the Carpathian Convention, including information, involvement and capacity building of relevant stakeholders and civil society, related to the progress and the further development of the Carpathian Convention”;
- New paragraph: “Urges Parties and other stakeholders to ensure the proper follow-up and implementation of these recommendations”.

On the implementation of Article 13 of the Carpathian Convention the Meeting approved the Secretariat Report and the proposed draft decision COP 2/9. (See “Progress report on the implementation of the Carpathian Convention” - UNEP/CC/COP2/2)

4) Cooperation with the European Union, Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies

Mr. Egerer introduced the draft Secretariat Report on Cooperation with EU, and gave an overview of the activities undertaken in this field (detailed presentation and outcomes are to be found in the Secretariat Report). He emphasized the importance of accession by the European Union to the Carpathian Convention and suggested, since various efforts by the Interim Secretariat had not yielded results, that the Parties to the Convention which are member states of the EU collectively invite the EU to accede.

The access to EU structural funds for implementing the Carpathian Convention should also be of top priority for the Parties. Mr. Egerer recalled the benefits of the INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project which allowed a broad spectrum of activities to be developed accelerating the implementation process of the Carpathian Convention (e.g. the working groups activities were funded through the Carpathian Project). He urged the Parties to lobby with their national representatives within the decision-making bodies of the relevant programmes of the European Territorial Cooperation for the 2014-2020 budget period.

The meeting agreed to make the following modifications to the draft decision on Cooperation with the European Union:

- Paragraph 3 “Underling the need of special attention for the sustainable development of the Carpathian Region” was deleted;
- Paragraph 10: “Calls upon the Members of the decision-making bodies of the relevant programmes of the European Territorial Cooperation to start up cooperation with the relevant EU bodies in the preparation of the “Carpathian Space” programme of European Territorial Cooperation for the 2014-2020 budget period”;
- Paragraph 12 was kept pending in light of the need for further internal consultations in the Czech Republic.
- New paragraph: “Requests the Presidency of the Carpathian Convention to inform the Council of Ministers of the European Union of the outcomes of the COP2, calling for the early accession of the European Community to the Carpathian Convention”.

On the Cooperation with the European Union the Meeting approved the Secretariat Report and the proposed draft decision COP 2/10. (See “Progress report on the cooperation with the European Union” - UNEP/CC/COP2/3)

Mr. Egerer introduced the draft Secretariat Report on Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies, and gave an overview of the activities undertaken in this field (detailed presentation and outcomes are to be found in the Secretariat Report).

The meeting agreed to add the following two paragraphs to the draft decision on Cooperation with other conventions and bodies:

- “Welcomes the fruitful cooperation with the Aarhus Convention, in particular concerning the implementation of the Almaty Guidelines on Promoting the Application of the Principles of the Aarhus Convention in International Forums, and request the Presidency, with the support of the interim Secretariat, to make a presentation on the progress made to the COP of the Aarhus Convention”
- “Requests the Presidency to notify the Mountain Partnership of the wish of the Parties to enlist the Convention as a member of the Partnership, and invites Parties to the Convention, which have not yet done so, to join the Mountain Partnership”.

On the Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies the Meeting approved the Secretariat Report and the proposed draft decision COP 2/11. (See “Progress report on the cooperation with other conventions and international bodies” - UNEP/CC/COP2/4)

At this point, the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas Steering Committee meeting joined the CCIC meeting.

Mr. Schlingemann updated the CNPA Steering Committee members on the conclusions reached by the CCIC: the CNPA permanent arrangement should be institutionally linked to the Secretariat, but not necessarily located together; servicing the CNPA permanent arrangement and the implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol requires additional resources; therefore the voluntary contributions would have to be increased and a solution to be found in terms of (staff) support by the country or countries hosting the arrangement; to that end negotiations with and between Romania and Slovakia are needed.

Mr. Verghet, interim chair of the CNPA Steering Committee (CNPASC), presented a draft document, which provided proposals for the future institutional organization of the CNPA. Several delegations recommended that due to absence at the Steering Committee meeting of three of the members of the CNPA SC the draft document could be circulated for further consideration and consultation, and the progress made presented to COP2, for instance as an information document.. It was agreed that consultations on the respective proposals for the CNPA permanent arrangement would continue.

5) Update on programme of work and follow-up platform, further development of the Carpathian process

Mr. Schlingemann introduced the draft programme of work of the Carpathian Convention/ (interim) Secretariat. He explained the programme of work is based

on the decisions already agreed upon on the different themes such as biodiversity, transport, etc. Also he remarked that in order for these decisions/ programme of work to be implemented, financial resources are needed.

The Secretariat presented the certified Financial Report 1 January - 31 December 2007, which was approved by the CCIC. The Parties requested the Secretariat to provide a detailed budget to the proposed programme of work, including possible scenarios and costs of proposed activities, which should accompany the work programme including any proposed increase of financial contributions.

Czech Republic suggested the creation of a source of funding similar to CBD's GEF programme. Mr. Egerer agreed and suggested to explore the further possibilities of development of a "Convention Fund".

The meeting agreed to make the following modifications to the decision on the Program of Work and budget:

- Paragraph 5: "endorses the terms of reference of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee, as approved by the Bureau and contained in the Meeting Report - Extended Bureau Meeting 17-18 October 2007, Vienna, Austria;"
- Paragraph 6: "Welcomes the progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Work, through the Working Groups, in particular the results achieved by the Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable use of Biological and Landscape Diversity, and activities of individual countries, organizations and non-governmental organisations";
- Paragraph 8: "Approves the platform contained in the Annex and decides that in the period 2009 - 2011 priority will be given to the implementation and follow up of the decisions of the COP and to promoting and ensuring the further development and implementation of the Platform";
- Paragraph 10: "Take note of the financial report and commends the (interim) Secretariat for its role and work in promoting and servicing the implementation of the Programme of Work";
- Paragraph 11: "Recognizes the need to further strengthen the (interim) Secretariat given its additional tasks and responsibilities related to the implementation of the Protocol on the Protection of Biological and Landscape Diversity, the servicing of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas and its Steering Committee, and the development of the other protocols proposed in its decisions";
- New paragraph: "Noting the financial implications of strengthening the (interim) Secretariat, urges parties to consider seconding staff to the (interim) Secretariat and/or increasing their contribution, with a view to ensuring full and proper implementation of the Programme of Work";
- New paragraph: "Requests the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee to review and decide on the continuation of the Working Groups, as appropriate".

The Meeting approved the proposed draft decision COP 2/12. (See “Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention” - UNEP/CC/COP2/5)

The Meeting agreed on the WWF-DCP proposal to have a side event - “Carpathian Opportunity” - during the ministerial segment of the Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The Chairman, Mr. Schlingemann, made a summary of the first day discussions:

- The Meeting approved the Secretariat Reports on biodiversity, water management, transport, energy, tourism, cultural heritage, education and public awareness and agreed on the draft decisions by COP2 on the aforementioned fields;
- The Parties expressed the wish to eventually keep the working groups as established by COP1; therefore, they decided to include the following paragraph in decision COP 2/12: “requests the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee to review and decide on the continuation of the Working Groups, as appropriate”;
- The CNPA permanent arrangement should function under to the Secretariat, but not necessarily located together; Romania and Slovakia will consult on their offers for a location, in-kind support or secondment would contribute to reducing the possibly required increase in countries financial contributions.

Furthermore, Mr. Schlingemann clarified once again that the Programme of Work of the Convention is shaped by the COP2 decisions and is divided into two parts: responsibilities of and activities undertaken by the Parties, and responsibilities and activities undertaken by the (interim) Secretariat. Mr. Egerer suggested that COP2 should *welcome* the “follow-up platform” prepared by the interim Secretariat and *approve* the work programme.

Mr. Egerer also pointed out that the Swiss Contribution Funds to EU Enlargement are managed at national level; therefore, the Convention representatives in each country included in this programme should coordinate internally for funds to be directed towards the Carpathians. He suggested that e.g. the interim Secretariat could provide a consultant to develop proposals in this direction, whenever requested by a Party. The Meeting agreed that representatives of the Swiss Government should be invited to COP2.

6) Preparations for COP2 (draft agenda, programme, list of documents)

Romania as the host country informed the Meeting on the status of COP2 preparations, including meeting venue and the Romanian cultural event.

The formal invitations to the Ministers will be sent by Romania and those for the other participants will be sent by the interim Secretariat.

(a) Draft agenda of COP2 (see Annex 1 of the present report)

At the proposal of Poland, a new point was added to the agenda (during the high-level segment) - Adoption and signature of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Biological and Landscape Diversity. Three other points were added to the draft agenda: Status of ratification of the Carpathian Convention (during the working sessions); Scope of application of the Carpathian Convention

(during the working sessions); and the stakeholder messages and the “Carpathian Opportunity” (during the high-level segment).

The draft agenda of COP2 was endorsed by the Meeting.

(b) Programme of COP2

Hungary suggested that for the Ministerial segment, a detailed programme (official dinner, Ministers statement, etc.) be prepared and circulated.

ANPED, CEWEEB and Mr. Jan Kadlecik (Carpathian Wetlands Initiative) expressed their wish to have a side event at COP2. For a good organization of the events, further information will be sent to the interim Secretariat in due course.

(c) Ministerial Declaration

Ukraine solicited a draft text of the Ministerial Declaration to be prepared by the interim Secretariat. The meeting agreed that a first draft would be circulated to the Parties no later than two weeks after the CCIC meeting in Sibiu; comments should be sent back to the Secretariat until the 15th of May.

The participants suggested aspects that should be taken into account when drafting the Ministerial Declaration:

- results achieved so far;
- the benefits of the Carpathian Project;
- the future steps of the Carpathian Convention - implementation phase;
- regional and local administrations must be involved in the process.

7) Scope of application of the Carpathian Convention

Two Parties announced that they would meet in May 2008, to consult on the scope of application of the Carpathian Convention; the outcome of the meeting would be sent to the interim Secretariat and reported to COP2. The meeting agreed to include the issue of the scope of the convention as a separate item into the agenda of the COP.

8) Report to COP2

Mr. Egerer informed the Meeting that the Implementation Committee’s report to COP2 would be based on the Secretariat Reports on the activities and outcomes since COP1 in the different fields (biodiversity, cultural heritage, etc.), as well as the decisions and recommendations of the first meeting of the CCIC, including the draft decisions proposed for adoption by COP2.

9) Other matters

Participants presented their final remarks/suggestions/conclusions regarding the CCIC meeting, as well as the foreseen outcomes of the Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention.

The Meeting was closed at 11.30.

Enclosed [omissis]

Annex 1 - Provisional agenda of COP2 (UNEP/CC/COP2/1)

Annex 2 - Protocol on Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity

WG ON CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIOLOGICAL AND LANDSCAPE DIVERSITY

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Mandate

The First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP1) to the Carpathian Convention (Kiev, Ukraine, 11-13 December 2006) in Decision COP1/4 para 1 decided “to support the establishment of a Working Group on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee”, a subsidiary body of the of the Convention, established pursuant to Decision COP1/3 para 4.

Aim and tasks

The Working Group (WG) will aim at supporting the Parties to the Carpathian Convention towards their cooperation for the implementation of Article 4 on Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity and other related Articles of the Carpathian Convention. Pursuant to Decision COP1/4 para 6, the main goal of the Working Group is to consider and finalize possibly before COP2, the Draft Biodiversity Protocol submitted by COP1. According to Decision COP1/4 para 14, the Working Group has to prepare the ToR for the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) in consultation with the CNPA Steering Committee, and for the Carpathian Wetlands Initiative (CWI) for submission to and approval of the COP1 Bureau - Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee.

Field of activities

1. Draft Protocol on Conservation of Biological and Landscape Diversity

Pursuant to Decision COP1/4 para 6, the Working Group will consider and finalize possibly before COP2, the Draft Protocol on Conservation of Biological and Landscape Diversity submitted by COP1. In addition, the Working Group will develop a draft Strategic Action Plan on the Protocol's implementation and relevant Annexes to the Protocol for submission to the COP1 Bureau - Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee.

2. Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA)

The Working Group will coordinate and oversee the activities of CNPA and welcomes its ToR.

3. Cooperation with the Carpathian Wetlands Initiative (CWI)

The Working Group will address the issue of wetlands in the Carpathians and will prepare the ToR for CWI.

4. Information of CBD and PEBLDS

Pursuant to the Decision COP1/4 para 4, the Working Group will guide the Interim Secretariat to continue to contribute in particular to the work programmes on protected areas and on mountain ecosystems of the CBD; and to continue to contribute to PEBLDS, with the view of halting the loss of biodiversity in the Carpathians by 2010.

5. Contribution to the follow-up platform

The WG will provide its guidance and recommendations for the identification and development of follow-up projects in the area of biological and landscape diversity.

List of results

- 1) Second Draft of the Biodiversity Protocol;
- 2) First Draft of Strategic Action Plan on the Implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol finalized and submitted to COP2;
- 3) Proposed inputs for COP2 of the Carpathian Convention, such as inputs to a ministerial declaration to be considered by COP2;
- 4) WG Progress Report for submission to COP2;
- 5) List of follow-up actions and proposals.

Composition and organization of work

The Working Group is composed of the National Focal Points of the Carpathian Convention and designated experts, including the members of the CNPA Steering Committee, and is open for observers.

The Working Group will meet at least twice a year and its meetings will be financially supported by the EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project. The tentative schedule of the Working Group is as follows:

- 1) First Meeting - 26-27 March 2007, VIC Vienna;
- 2) Second Meeting - 19-21 November 2007;
- 3) Reporting to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee Meeting - before COP2.

Coordination and cooperation

According to Decision COP1/3 “Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention”, the Secretariat is requested to ensure a continuous exchange and inter-linkage between the work and activities under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee and the work and activities under the EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project.

The Working Group will cooperate with the Alpine Convention as agreed in the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention, concluded at COP1 of the Carpathian Convention, Kiev, Ukraine, 13 December 2006, by developing and conducting common activities in the area of conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity and through reciprocal participation in the relevant meetings of the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions and their bodies, e.g. Alpine Network of the Protected Areas (ALPARC) and Carpathian Network of the Protected Areas (CNPA).

According to Memoranda of Cooperation with the Ramsar Convention and Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative (CERI) signed at COP1 of the Carpathian Convention, Kiev, Ukraine, 13 December 2006, the Working Group will cooperate with the Ramsar Convention and CERI on the issues related to its activities (e.g. on wetlands - with

the Ramsar Convention and CWI; on the Carpathian ecological network - with CERI).

Scientific contributions and background information

The Working Group will benefit from the inputs provided by:

- 1) The Carpathian Environment Outlook (KEO), which will provide a holistic and integrated assessment of the current state and future trends of the Carpathian environment;
- 2) The REC-EURAC Handbook on the Carpathian Convention prepared in the framework of the Umbrella Project financed by the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS);
- 3) REC-EURAC national assessments and the regional assessment of the policy, legislative and institutional frameworks related to the Carpathian Convention, available in English and national-language versions, prepared in the framework of the Umbrella Project financed by IMELS;
- 4) BBI Matra Project on the Carpathian Ecological Network and the Carpathian Biodiversity Information System (CBIS);
- 5) Transnational model project “Alpine-Carpathian Corridor” (WWF Austrian Programme);
- 6) Programmes of work on Protected Areas and on Mountain Biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- 7) Other related documentation

REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE WG

Minutes of the meeting

26-27 March 2007

Vienna International Center, Austria

Day One - Session I

The First Meeting of the Carpathian Convention WG on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity (hereinafter referred to as WG on Biodiversity) was opened on 26 March 2007 at 14.00, by Igor Ivanenko, Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine. Harald Egerer, Secretary, UNEP Vienna ISCC, welcomed the gathering on behalf of the Secretariat. Igor Ivanenko acted as a Chair of the meeting, and Frits Schlingemann, UNEP, as a Co-Chair. The WG on Biodiversity adopted a draft agenda with proposed changes and amendments as contained in the meeting documentation (Annex I).

The delegates agreed to start the session from the first round of substantive discussion on the Draft Protocol on Conservation of Biological and Landscape Diversity (further referred to as Biodiversity Protocol) submitted by Ukraine. Polish delegation proposed to discuss briefly the formal aspects of the establishment and work of the WG on Biodiversity.

Harald Egerer made a short introduction of the role and nature of WG in the Carpathian Convention process. He reminded that the WG was established by COP1/4 Decision para 1 under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (further referred to as CCIC). The WG aims at supporting the Parties to the Carpathian Convention towards their cooperation for the implementation of Article 4 on Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity and other related Articles of the Carpathian Convention. Its main goal is to consider and finalize, possibly before COP2, the Draft Biodiversity Protocol submitted by COP1 to the WG on Biodiversity. Pursuant to Decision COP1/4 para 1, WG on Biodiversity includes a sub-group on wetlands composed of National Focal Points for the Carpathian and Ramsar Cooperation. According to Decision COP1/4 para 14, the WG on Biodiversity is to prepare the ToR for the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) in consultation with the CNPA Steering Committee, and for the Carpathian Wetlands Initiative (CWI). Further, it was underlined that the WG on Biodiversity exists under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CCIC) - a subsidiary body of the Convention established pursuant to Decision COP1/3 para 4. For the time being, the WG has an informal status and might exist only until COP2 in 2008, unless COP2 will decide to confer it the official status of a subsidiary body. In this regard, the WG will be composed of the National Focal Points of the Carpathian Convention and designated experts, while a vast circle of observers will participate in its session. Concerning the CCIC, its work will be supported by the Secretariat pursuant to Decision COP1/3 para 5, and its meetings will be organized before COP2 aiming at carrying on the preparatory work to the Second Meeting of the COP and the finalization of the outcomes of activities of the six thematic WGs. The Secretariat will prepare the ToR for the CCIC and submit them to the COP1 Bureau. The Rules of Procedure for the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention will apply *mutatis mutandis* to CCIC meetings.

In this regard, the Czech Republic proposed to ask the established COP1 Bureau to act as CCIC. The Czech Republic also remarked that the CNPA will exist either independently and on the long term or within the WG on Biodiversity and that the institutional construction of all Carpathian Convention constituencies should be kept as simple as possible in order to enable a swift implementation of the Convention. Poland mentioned that the WG on Biodiversity has to be very realistic regarding its tasks and should act according to its mandate to prepare very concrete proposals for the Biodiversity Protocol and finalize it within a very tight time frame for COP2.

Igor Ivanenko, Chair, gave a brief introduction of the Draft Biodiversity Protocol submitted by Ukraine. He highlighted its objectives and focused on its most important articles. Further, the Chair encouraged the Parties to provide their comments on and adjustments to the Protocol, stressing that the future document will be a legally binding instrument which should enable direct enforcement of its provisions.

Frits Schlingemann, Co-Chair, remarked that the Secretariat did not make any change or remark to the Draft Protocol, and the countries had before them an original document submitted by the Ukrainian Government. UNEP can provide its comments to the Protocol and will submit them to the WG on Biodiversity

and the COP1 Bureau. For this purpose, Ms Ivonne Higuero, UNEP-ROE expert on biodiversity issues, was invited to the WG's proceedings and will assist the Secretariat in revising and finalizing of the Draft Protocol. The WG agreed that the Secretariat will take the comments of the countries and will incorporate those inputs to the revised version of the Protocol. The WG should provide guidance on substantial issues of the Protocol and, in particular, assist in identifying the missing components and principles. In this regard, the meeting reached a common agreement that the CNPA, as an official instrument in the toolbox of the Convention, should find its place in the Protocol, and the CNPA ToR should become part of it.

Mircea Verghet, Chair, CNPA Steering Committee, introduced the ToR of the CNPA submitted by the CNPA Steering Committee to the WG on Biodiversity and the Secretariat, and outlined the planned CNPA activities and programme. He stressed that the CNPA had benefited a lot from cooperation with the Alpine Network of Protected Areas (ALPARC) and represented a successful outcome of a long collaboration process between the Carpathian countries. Harald Egerer pointed out that pursuant to Decision COP1/4 para 15, the Secretariat will service CNPA and its Steering Committee and will coordinate the activities of the CNPA together with the WG on Biodiversity. In addition, according to Decision COP1/4 para 17, the Secretariat is requested by COP1 to submit through the CCIC a report highlighting experiences made in the interim phases of the CNPA, and a compilation of proposals for a permanent arrangement for CNPA for COP2.

Volker Sasse, Forestry Officer, FAO-SEUR, informed the WG of the outcomes of a meeting of the Heads of Forestry held in May 2006 in Budapest, particularly focusing on the draft key items proposed by that meeting with regard to a potential Forest Management Protocol for the Carpathian region. He reminded that the meeting reaffirmed the need for better coordination of forest management related policies, particularly forestry as well as conservation of biological and landscape diversity, but also hunting, ecotourism etc. He remarked that a forestry policy framework is a missing component in the Draft Protocol. Internal discussions with forestry and biodiversity experts led to the proposal to integrate forestry issues into the Protocol, considering the links between “forestry” (Article 7 of the Convention) and “biodiversity” (Article 4 of the Convention) components. In order to reflect the forestry component in the title of the Protocol, the Officer proposed as a working title “Conservation and management of biological, forest and landscape diversity” and suggested to structure the substantial parts of the common Protocol by policy areas (e.g. biodiversity, landscape, forestry), structuring them further into specific “objectives”, “policy statements”, “tools for implementation”. The WG discussed the proposal and recommended to ask FAO-SEUR to submit to the Secretariat the proposals on the “forest management” component.

The Czech Republic mentioned that it would refrain from trying to encompass all issues, e.g. forest management, in one protocol, and proposed to stick to the structure of Article 4 of the Convention that does not focus on forests. Ukraine supported the idea of merging the components of sustainable forest management and biodiversity in one document, reminding that 80% of the protected areas in the Carpathians are covered with forests. Poland stressed the need to comply with the current clear mandate for the WG on Biodiversity to prepare only

the Draft Biodiversity Protocol before COP2, and that only COP2 could decide on such possible merger of these two protocols. Ivonne Higuero remarked that there is a serious problem in separating biodiversity protection within and outside the protected areas and in excluding productive sectors such as forestry from the overall processes of biodiversity protection. Harald Egerer stated that the proposals of the observers are very welcomed and will be considered in due course to enable the countries to find a trade-off solution.

Jan Seffer, Chair, Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative (CERI), introduced one of the components of the BBI Matra Project “Development of a Carpathian Ecological Network” - the Carpathian Biodiversity Information System (CBIS) to be based on the data gathered in three project countries - Ukraine, Romania and Serbia, and structured into the national lists of species and habitats. The participants to the meeting agreed that the outputs of the project could potentially become part of the Annexes of the Draft Protocol.

Michael Balzer, WWF-DCP, further delivered a presentation on the Carpathian Ecological Network concept and approaches under the BBI Matra Project, stressing that its objective is to support the implementation of the Carpathian Convention. The expected outcome of the project - an interactive map with zonation and management recommendations, is a comprehensive management tool for the governments and the first draft will be presented at COP2. As for the suggested involvement of CNPA in the WWF project on the Carpathian Ecological Network, the Czech Republic mentioned that drafting proposals for designation of new protected areas is well beyond the original tasks and powers of the CNPA, i.e. to focus mainly on communication.

The Secretariat drew the attention of the participants to the synergy with and integration of the Carpathian Ecological Network into the Biodiversity Protocol, and remarked that there might be additional resources for extending the data collection to the rest of the Carpathian countries in support of implementation of Article 4 para 5 of the Carpathian Convention. The participants to the meeting agreed that ecological networking in the Carpathian region should provide for ecological connectivity and coherence between different areas in the Carpathians and shall serve as a starting point for the development of further related projects, e.g. connecting the Carpathians and the Alps.

Guido Plassman, Director, ALPARC (Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention), underlined the importance of cooperation between CNPA and ALPARC regarding the exchange of methodology used for the ecological network and invited one representative of the CNPA Steering Committee to participate in the ALPARC meeting on the related issue. Furthermore, the representative of ALPARC stated that ALPARC intends to permanently support the cooperation with CNPA.

The participants to the meeting agreed to elaborate a system of Annexes to the Protocol, e.g. using experiences of CERI in the development of the Carpathian Ecological Network, and requested the Secretariat to plan the logical development and structuring of the related Annexes. Annexes could be adopted and signed together with the Protocol. The importance of the agreement on the revision periods of the Annexes was raised. Jan Seffer, CERI, pointed out that there might be many evolving problems regarding supplementing the Annexes with up-to-date

information. The Czech Republic remarked that Parliaments might not be eager to ratify Annexes containing along of lists species. So, it might be an issue of concern to provide the full lists in the Annexes that will overlap with Natura 2000 networks. The Secretariat expressed its doubts that it will be feasible to get the full set of Annexes ready by COP2. Frits Schlingemann, Co-Chair, remarked that, in case the related Annexes are not ready and agreed upon by the Parties before COP2, COP2 may adopt the Biodiversity Protocol, while the Annexes could still be further elaborated and negotiated. In conclusion, the WG on Biodiversity agreed to cooperate with CERI on the Carpathian Ecological Network and concentrate on important issues which are not repeated in other constituencies and conventions and are unique (large carnivores, virgin forests, species rich meadows, endemic species and habitats etc.) and of utmost importance for the Carpathian region. The WG on Biodiversity also welcomed the scientific backstopping of CERI and expressed its hope to receive a list of the proposed Annexes to the Protocol prepared by CERI within one month's time.

In the light of the general discussion on the approach to be used for finalizing the Protocol, Ivonne Higuero, UNEP-ROE, reminded that the WG should set concrete goals, define priorities and expected results that are planned to be achieved with implementation of the future Protocol.

Poland pointed out that the Biodiversity Protocol on the implementation of Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention is a legally binding instrument and that it should therefore have a very simple and laconic structure reflecting the logical structure of Article 4. Furthermore, it was emphasized that the WG has limited time for preparation of the Draft Protocol; therefore the group must act as a simple and effective machine. A separate Strategic Action Plan (SAP) on the Protocol's implementation that could be revised in a certain time frame is needed to provide flexibility in the implementation phase. Poland also stressed the importance of extending the nature conservation process within the EU to non-EU countries (Ukraine and Serbia) in order to raise the issue of the pan-European relevance of the Carpathian Convention.

In this light, Zbigniew Niewiadomski, Poland, also suggested a so-called simplified four-button approach for the WG to proceed with the Protocol: (1) 'divide/select', (2) 'sort/merge', (3) 'delete/remove' and (4) 'add/supplement'.

- 1) 'Divide/select' would allow to keep the general/universal clauses relevant for the Protocol (which is supposed to remain unchanged and valid forever) within the contents of the second draft of the Protocol and to extract points related to particular actions (therefore more relevant for the Strategic Action Plan for Protocol's implementation, to be revised from time to time) with a specific timeframe for their implementation suggested in the Ukrainian proposal (therefore not necessarily suitable for a Protocol valid on the long term);
- 2) 'Sort/merge' would allow to adjust the internal structure and logic of the proposed Protocol (as well as of the proposed SAP) accordingly to the internal structure and logic of Article 4 of the Convention, and to merge points referring to similar issues;

- 3) 'Delete/remove' would allow to erase duplications and/or repetitions within the text (e.g. it is not necessary to quote the whole contents of Article 4 of the Convention) or points which could potentially be in conflict with national legislations of the Parties;
- 4) 'Add/supplement' would allow to supplement the still missing points, like e.g. reference to EC Habitat and Bird Directives (binding for a vast majority of Carpathian Convention Parties) and the "added value of the Carpathian Convention" allowing the "voluntary approximation" of non-EU countries to the EU legislation on nature conservation (important for obtaining support from the European Commission) in the proposed Protocol, as well as to add still missing actions into the future Strategic Action Plan (not all clauses of the proposed Protocol are followed by corresponding proposed actions so far).

Further, Poland proposed its assistance and expertise to Ukraine and to the Secretariat in preparing a revised draft of the Protocol. The Secretariat will rely on the services of Mr Zbigniew Niewiadomski, who will prepare a first revised draft text based on the "four button" methodology and the proposed draft of the related Strategic Action Plan for Biodiversity Protocol implementation. Further proposals from the countries are also invited. Consequently, the Secretariat will rework the draft (in particular through an in-depth check by Mrs Ivonne Higuero aiming at harmonization with internationally recognized language used in biodiversity-related instruments), to be followed by a general legal check by UNEP lawyers. The participants to the meeting agreed that the revised (second) draft of the Protocol and the Strategic Action Plan should be submitted to the Parties (COP1 Bureau) by the end of May 2007.

Furthermore, the WG discussed the need to find the appropriate enforcement mechanisms and a harmonized monitoring system that will be used in seven countries in the implementation phase of the Protocol. The participants to the meeting agreed to provide synergies with, and links to, the activities of the WG on Spatial Planning and other related WGs, in particular, in consulting with those experts that will be designated for this WG.

In conclusion of the first session, the Chair asked the countries to share their initial comments and remarks on the Draft Biodiversity Protocol.

The Czech Republic informed the participants to meeting that it had sent the Draft Protocol to national NGOs and had received a number of proposals on improvements, comments and adjustments to specific issues to be reflected in the future Protocol (e.g. terminology used, financing mechanism, indicators, harmonization with the non-EU countries). The Czech delegation also stressed that there are many overlapping parts which can be substituted with references - e.g. on Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention. Further, it pointed out that references to international conventions and EC Directives are missing as well as instruments proposed for the implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol, which could also allow the harmonization of measures undertaken with non-EU countries. It was emphasized that many definitions which are used in the Protocol are missing and that a map of the Carpathian region should be included (the list of cities/districts is not enough). The Czech delegation supported the Polish idea of a Strategic Action Plan which would contain specific and more concrete issues

than the Protocol. The Czech delegation added that five years for revising the Protocol is too short.

Romania underscored the need to restructure the Draft Protocol in order to make it simpler, while the more detailed information could be removed from the Protocol and moved to the Strategic Action Plan. Romania also proposed to concentrate on the rationale and value added to be provided by the Protocol.

Hungary stressed the importance of receiving support from the EU to the Convention process and of making strong references to relevant EC Directives. As to the Annexes containing the list of species, the delegation expressed its doubts that those lists will be supported by the Hungarian Government whenever they duplicate or overlap with existing policies or legislation (e.g. Natura 2000). Hungary would not support an obligation for the creation of new protected areas, but a focus on corridors and ecological networking is possible. Hungary also underlined the importance of the harmonization of monitoring methods. The Hungarian delegation also reminded the meeting participants that some comments of the Hungarian Focal Point, Ms Zsuzsanna Arokhati, are contained in the meeting documentation and are available to the WG for consideration.

Serbia expressed its support of the Draft Protocol in general, but remarked that there might be some problems with Article 3 of the Draft Protocol focusing on the scope at the districts level, which is not applicable for Serbia having a very small share in the Carpathian Mountains. Furthermore Serbia informed that the extension of the geographical scope of the Convention in the territory of Serbia is currently being discussed (to include the Eastern Serbian Mountains down to the Timok river valley), following the definition of the Carpathians by the geographer Jerzy Kondracki, which was the starting point for the negotiations on the proposed geographical scope of the Convention.

Slovakia emphasized that the harmonization of the reporting systems should be focalized.

Poland drew attention to the Draft Protocol's title which is inconsistent with the title of Article 4 of the Convention and proposed to change it accordingly, adding "and sustainable development". Poland also raised the issue of the definition of the scope of the Protocol, emphasizing a need for some reference framework.

The Chair asked the countries to submit their official comments on the Draft Biodiversity Protocol in two weeks time to the Secretariat, i.e. by 11 April. The Secretariat will collect these comments, incorporate them into one document and after the revision of the finalized version by the Bureau will submit the second draft of the Protocol to the second meeting of the WG on Biodiversity.

The first session of the meeting was closed on 26 March 2007 at 18.00.

Day Two - Session II

The second session was opened on the 27 March 2007 at 9.00. The meeting started with the presentation of two projects contributing to the activities of the WG on Biodiversity.

Marciej Borsa, RTI Polska, introduced the INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project supported by the European Union and briefed the meeting participants on the status of implementation of the project, stressing the importance of the

ongoing cooperation between the Carpathian countries, in particular it terms of cooperation between the Project and the intergovernmental platform, in the development and integration of the coherent European spatial development policies within the Carpathian Space. The meeting emphasized the significance of the follow-up activities and projects to the Carpathian Project. Harald Egerer remarked that all the outputs of the Project including the idea of the development of the Carpathian Space with coherent spatial development policies, will be available for COP2 constituting the culmination for the Carpathian Project. Frits Schlingemann, Co-Chair, remarked that the project is a short-term activity while the intergovernmental process will always remain superior to any project, and thus not all current project coalition partners may remain involved at the further stages/phases of implementation of the Carpathian Convention.

Gerhard Egger, WWF Austrian Programme, delivered a presentation of the transnational model project idea “Alpine-Carpathian Corridor”. The planned project should contribute to providing a connection between the Alpine and the Carpathian areas through the development of green bridges, corridors filling the existing gaps for migration of wild animal populations (e.g. for *Lynx lynx* population) between those areas. It was stressed that this project could build potential synergy with the activities to be undertaken under the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Alpine and the Carpathian Conventions representing a cooperative process between two Conventions. In addition, the project idea will be supported by such partners as the Austrian Motor Highway Company and Austrian State Forestry Administration.

The meeting returned to the discussion on the ToR of the WG on Biodiversity submitted by the Secretariat. Poland commented that the provisions on expected results of work and development of recommendations for COP2 should be added to the WG’s ToR. Hungary announced that a clarification of the financial background for the WG and the election of a Chair should be included in the document, as well as a more detailed description of the WG’s tasks. Ukraine requested to include the following additional provision into the ToR: WG will coordinate the work of CNPA and CWI and will report to the Bureau and the Secretariat.

The participants to the meeting concluded that the Secretariat will collect the proposals from the WG members on the ToR of the WG on Biodiversity in order to prepare a new more complex draft and will coordinate and harmonize the ToRs of all six WGs. A formal agreement on the ToR of the WG on Biodiversity will be reached at the next meeting. The finalized ToR will be submitted to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (COP1 Bureau) for approval. Hungary made an offer to host the next WG meeting at FAO in Budapest. It was recommended to send an official letter to the Secretariat on convening the next WG meeting in Hungary. The meeting, tentatively scheduled for October 2007, will agree *inter alia* on the “next steps” plan on circulating a revised draft of the Protocol before COP2.

The meeting reviewed the CNPA ToR submitted by the CNPA Steering Committee and the Secretariat and agreed that the ToR of CNPA will be part of the Biodiversity Protocol. The WG on Biodiversity approved the CNPA ToR with all related remarks and amendments as contained in Annex III. The participants to the meeting agreed

that the Secretariat will send the ToR of the CNPA to the Bureau and WG members for editorial remarks.

The WG welcomed the CWI activities and discussed its ToR. Jan Kadlecik, CWI Coordinator, updated the participants on the revised CWI ToR. The participants to the meeting agreed that the CWI is a voluntary partnership, in which the two Secretariats of the Ramsar and Carpathian Convention have a leading role, and constitutes a partnership embodying a collaborative effort, which seeks an advisory role and guidance from the Carpathian Convention bodies, e.g. from the WG on Biodiversity. CWI comprises a network of National Focal Points of both Conventions and is an informal constituency with a mission to contribute to the implementation of the MoU and the collaboration between the two Conventions. It was decided that considering the fact of establishing a sub-group on wetlands within the WG on Biodiversity, to include a reference to the CWI in the ToR of the WG on Biodiversity. The participants to the meeting decided to welcome the ToR of the CWI with all amendments and suggestions as contained in Annex IV.

It was stressed that all ToRs for all WGs should have a common structure beginning with the mandate given by COP1 and containing main tasks and goals.

The meeting proceeded with general discussion on the Protocol and the next steps to undertake for its finalization. Additional comments by the Parties shall be sent to the Secretariat within two weeks time. It was concluded that on the basis of inputs from the Parties the Secretariat will prepare revised version of the Protocol in consultation with and under the support of Poland and Ukraine, and will circulate a new draft by the end of May.

REC delivered a presentation of the Handbook on the Carpathian Convention targeted at local authorities emphasizing the importance of this document as a practical tool for the implementation of the Carpathian Convention at the local level.

REC proposed to include a reference to the Handbook into the ToR of the WG on Biodiversity as an information document (Chapter 4 contains an analysis of Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention) intended to facilitate the activities of the WG. REC called upon the WG to provide its assistance with the improvement of the Handbook in order to turn into it a handy practical tool. The Handbook's Chapter on Article 4 will be circulated to the WG members after the meeting.

Conclusions by the Chair and closure of the meeting on 27 March 2007, 13.00.

A second meeting of the WG on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity was hold on 19-21 November 2007 at the FAO-SEUR Office in Budapest, Hungary, where the Draft Biodiversity Protocol was further developed. No minutes or report of the meeting was finalized to date.

WG ON CULTURAL HERITAGE AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Mandate

The First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP1) to the Carpathian Convention (Kiev, Ukraine, 11-13 December 2006) in its Decision COP1/6 para 2 decided “to support the establishment of a Working Group on cultural heritage and traditional knowledge under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee”, a subsidiary body of the of the Convention, established pursuant to Decision COP1/3 para 4.

Aim and tasks

The Working Group on cultural heritage and traditional knowledge (further referred to as the WG) will aim at supporting the Parties to the Carpathian Convention in their cooperation for the implementation of Article 11 on cultural heritage and traditional knowledge and other related Articles of the Carpathian Convention.

Furthermore, the WG will have the following tasks:

- To consider and consolidate the background documentation made available to it by the EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project, Work Package 4 “Education and Awareness for the Future”, coordinated by REC Slovakia, in particular,
 - 1) Carpathian Cultural, Historic and Social Topography (case study),
 - 2) Carpathian Cultural, Historic and Social Topography (case monograph),
 - 3) Carpathian Identity - application of the training program,
 - 4) Methodology for the Carpathian Cultural, Historic and Social Topography,
 - 4) Local “Agenda 21” - methodology and pilot action,
- as well as to make use of maps to be provided by EURAC;
- To create on the basis of inputs by the Parties an overview of experts, local materials and knowledge on the current diversity of cultural heritage in the Carpathians;
- To consider the development of, and provide guidance for, a strategy to strengthen and support the cultural heritage of the Carpathians;
- To consider whether a legal instrument is required to assist the regional co-operation process;
- To consider establishing of a Carpathian Heritage List for sites and cultural activities;
- To consider possibilities of sharing experiences acquired concerning the application of Carpathian sites to the UNESCO World Heritage List (WHL) especially in the nomination process of serial and transboundary sites;
- To consider possibilities of promotion to support local communities’ activities in the field of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge preservation and promotion;
- To consider establishing a fund for supporting the Cultural Heritage sites.

Field of activities

- 1) The WG will focus on cultural heritage and traditional knowledge including awareness raising, education and public participation issues, and in this regard it will benefit from the outputs provided by the EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project and ANPED, as well as from the inputs to be delivered by UNESCO in terms of expertise and support of its activities.
- 2) The WG shall consider making a proposal on the development of appropriate policy instruments such as a regional strategy and/or Protocol or any other relevant policy tools in the field of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge to the COP1 Bureau and prepare recommendations to the Bureau in this regard.
- 3) The WG will explore the links between natural and cultural heritage and the ways and means how cultural heritage and traditional knowledge can support and contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of the rich biodiversity of the Carpathians.
- 4) The WG shall act as a major platform for sharing experiences on potential and ongoing activities related to promotion and preservation of cultural heritage.
- 5) The WG shall consider possibilities of outreach and involvement of the key target groups and stakeholders vital for cultural heritage preservation and promotion as well as for the effective implementation of the Carpathian Convention as whole.
- 6) The WG may consider making a contribution to the development of the “Carpathian Identity” by linking its activities to those of e.g. ANPED and its partners and other NGOs (such as REC) that are focused on the development of the concept of “Carpathians - Diversity of Culture - Culture of Diversities, and to WWF-DCP work under the “Carpathian Opportunity”.
- 7) The WG will provide its guidance to the INTERREG IIIB Carpathian Project and will submit its recommendations for the identification and development of the follow-up projects in the area of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge to the COP1 Bureau and for consideration at COP2.

List of results

- Proposal on the development of appropriate policy instruments in the field of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge submitted to the COP1 Bureau and its ToR, if considered necessary;
- Report on the overview of experts, local materials and knowledge on the current diversity of cultural heritage in the Carpathians submitted to the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and to COP1 Bureau;
- ToR of a Carpathian Heritage List submitted to the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and to COP1 Bureau;
- Recommendations for a programme of practical activities to support local communities active in the area of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge

preservation and promotion submitted to the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and to COP1 Bureau;

- Proposed inputs for COP2 of the Carpathian Convention, such as inputs to the ministerial declaration to be considered by COP2;
- A list of follow-up actions and proposals;
- Maps of cultural heritage sites.

Composition and organization of work

The WG is composed of those experts designated by the Parties to the Carpathian Convention and is open for observers.

The WG will meet as requested and its first meetings will be financially supported by the EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project. The tentative schedule of the Working Group meetings is as follows:

- 1) First Meeting - 27-28 August 2007, Venice, Italy;
- 2) Reporting to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee Meeting - before COP2 - 2007/2008

Coordination and cooperation

According to Decision COP1/3 “Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention”, the Secretariat is requested to ensure a continuous exchange and inter-linkage between the work and activities under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee and the work and activities under the EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project, including support of functioning of the Working Group on cultural heritage and traditional knowledge.

The WG will benefit from cooperation with UNESCO providing its expertise and technical backstopping as in relation to its aim and tasks in general and in drafting the recommendations for the identification and development of follow-up projects in the area of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge preservation and promotion.

The WG will rely on services offered by ANPED in executing its tasks and will benefit from continuous inputs provided by ANPED to the Carpathian Convention implementation process.

The WG will also benefit from cooperation with others organizations such as REC, CEWWEB, EURAC, and institutions active in the field of promotion and preservation of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge.

The WG will exchange information and foster communication with other relevant Working Groups of the Carpathian Convention (e.g. the Biodiversity Working Group, Working Group on Spatial Planning, Working Group on Sustainable Tourism) and will seek cooperation with other interested constituencies beyond the Carpathian Convention.

Scientific contributions and background information

The WG will benefit from the inputs provided by:

- 1) The Carpathian Environment Outlook (KEO), which will provide a holistic and integrated assessment of the current state and future trends of the Carpathian environment;
- 2) The Handbook on the Carpathian Convention prepared in the framework of the Umbrella Project financed by the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS) and implemented by the Regional Environmental Center (REC) in partnership with the European Academy of Bolzano (EURAC);
- 3) National assessments of the policy, legislative and institutional frameworks related to the Carpathian Convention, available in English and national-language versions, prepared in the framework of the Umbrella Project financed by the IMELS and implemented by the REC in partnership with EURAC;
- 4) Position Paper “Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge within the Framework of the Carpathian Convention” (see UNEP/CC/COP1/7/Rev.1) submitted by ANPED to COP1;
- 5) Specific Carpathian Project inputs to the WG, to be prepared by REC Slovakia in cooperation with the project partners, will include, *inter alia*:
 - Methodology Development for Identification of Cultural, Historic and Social Potential of Cities and Regions, in the Carpathian Mountain Range;
 - Preparation and elaboration of Carpathian Cultural, Historic and Social Topography (CHST);
 - Identification of common denominators;
 - Application of CHST in strategic documents; identification of experts elaborating CHST;
 - Presentation of the CHST to the project partners and representatives of the Carpathian regions from partner countries;
 - Elaboration of a manual for CHST;
 - Elaboration of Case Study and application of CHST methodology in the model region of White Carpathians (Euroregion Biele Karpaty/Bile Karpaty). Elaboration of the CHST for the Euroregion, analysis and evaluation of the region, elaboration of sustainable development program;
 - Application of the CHST - elaboration and publishing of model homeland study monograph;
- 1) Specific Carpathian Project inputs to the WG, to be prepared by the European Academy (EURAC) in Bolzano, Italy, provided in cooperation with the project partners will include:
 - Map topics (ethnic structure, religious structure, cultural landscapes, cultural heritage, common linguistic features) from the data collected for the Atlas of the Carpathians and other source materials collected from international and national sources, supplemented by specific investigations and harmonized for comparative cartographic representation in the 1:2 million scale;

- Data collection and harmonization, if necessary, additional specific research;
- 2) Specific Carpathian Project inputs to the WG, to be prepared by the Polish Institute of Urban Development, provided in cooperation with the project partners will include:
 - Analysis of cultural identity and diversity in the Carpathian Area as a whole and in specific sub-regions. Research on basic common features, which would help to develop the unique profile of the Carpathian Area in Europe and typical cultural factors for the endogenous social and economic development;
 - 3) Inputs by the Parties on their local traditions, cultural and natural heritage;
 - 4) UNESCO World Heritage List and its criteria - including UNESCO Sites on Google Earth.

REPORT ON THE FIRST MEETING OF THE WG

Minutes of the meeting

27-28 August 2007

UNESCO-BRESCE Office, Venice, Italy

Day One - Session I

The meeting started at 14.00 at the UNESCO-BRESCE Office in Palazzo Zorzi in Venice.

After a welcome to the focal points and the representatives from the Ministries by Mr Harald Egerer on behalf of UNEP, and by Mr Philippe Pypaert on behalf of Mr Hengelbert Ruoss, director of UNESCO-BRESCE, Mr Egerer invited all the participants to introduce themselves, their positions and activities.

The first presentation, illustrated by Harald Egerer, described a brief overview of the history of the Carpathian Convention stressing the concept of the “Carpathian Space” as a result of Decision COP1/13.

Election of the chair

After this presentation Mr Egerer informed the participants of the tradition of electing a chair of the WG, even if it is an informal WG. Mr Egerer proposed Ms Jana Vavrinova for this role and she was declared chair of the meeting with the agreement of all the participants.

Agenda approval

Ms Vavrinova opened the discussion on the agenda and the agenda was approved with the following changes: point 3 of the agenda on the presentation on already ongoing activities becomes point 2 and point 4 becomes point 3, both before the discussion on the draft ToR of the WG. Moreover, it was decided that each presentation should not last more than about twenty minutes and that these presentations were to be delivered during the first session of the meeting.

Presentations on already ongoing activities

1. Czech Republic - Tomas Kazmierski and Barbora Savarova

Emphasis was put on the need to create a Carpathian Heritage List, consisting of a list of sites in the Carpathians that are unique for their importance as cultural heritage. The Czech representatives illustrated the outputs of two meetings that took place in June 2007 in the Czech Republic: the first of stakeholders and the second of experts, with the aim of identifying the main problems in deciding the criteria for the inclusion in the list.

Some questions were raised on some keywords used in the presentation, and on what to do after defining what Cultural Heritage is, but the answers to these questions were left for the discussion that took place during the second session of the meeting.

2. Ukraine - Tamara Malkova

3. Pietro Laureano

Mr Laureano, UNESCO consultant, underlined the modernity of tradition and how tradition can be useful to find solutions for the future. He illustrated with effective images from around the world how the collapse of the environment can be contrasted through the use of traditional knowledge; especially traditional techniques for water drainage proved to be particularly useful in many contexts.

The participants were informed that UNESCO created a list of traditional knowledge and practical techniques, accessible online from the following website: www.tkwb.org; however, this list does not consider techniques that study genome, in order to avoid any problems related to patenting.

4. Slovakia - Vladimir Hudek and Peter Mederly “Methodologies of cultural and historical topography”

5. CEEWEB - Kristina Vilimaite

Mrs Vilimaite (CEEWEB) illustrated the linkage between the WG on cultural heritage and the WG on sustainable tourism.

6. Poland - Wiktor Glomacki and Janusz Komenda “Limited opportunities for delimitation”

Discussion on the ToR

The chair opened the discussion on the draft ToR prepared by the Secretariat. There a general agreement on the draft ToR and the chair proposed to the participants to prepare written comments and changes proposals on the draft ToR to be transmitted to the Secretariat by the next morning.

At 18.00 the meeting was adjourned and the participants are invited to a cocktail offered by UNESCO.

Day Two - Session II

Proposals for the ToR

The chair opened the discussion on the draft ToR and the proposed amendments. As there were no critical comments on the ToR, the chair proposed a decision be

taken not to go through the draft ToR paragraph by paragraph, and to ask the participants if there were any proposals.

UNESCO World Heritage List and the “Carpathian List”

Mr Andrian, from UNESCO, informed the participants on the latest guidelines on UNESCO World Heritage Sites (WHS).

It is more and more difficult to have new sites in the list and there are strict guidelines for new applications, he consequently suggested to have a good contact among the 26 members of the Committee that decides on the enlisting of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, in order to have higher chances to get any eventual site considered in the agenda [of the World Heritage Committee].

Moreover, he underlined how UNESCO Sites are to be considered as the “top jewels”; however, the many other sites in the Carpathians that are unique and that can therefore be considered and enlisted as Carpathian Heritage should not be forgotten.

The chair stressed the fact that public participation is really important in the process of identifying the criteria for the Carpathian Heritage. Moreover, Mr Andrian suggested involving the focal points of the other related Conventions in the following meetings of the WG.

Brainstorming

The chair proposed to answer to the questions raised by the Czech inputs to the WG, that is to say:

- What do you consider Carpathian Heritage?
- For whom should we protect it?
- Why should we protect it?
- From whom? What are the greatest dangers?

Agreement was reached on the following definition:

Carpathian Heritage is the diversity of natural and cultural and mixed tangible and intangible assets, and their interaction, which both serve for maintaining Carpathian unity and identity.

A discussion took place on the possibility to consider or not natural elements in the definition of Carpathian Heritage.

Recommendations:

- 1) The following three are the outputs of the meeting:
 - a) ANPED is invited to prepare a stakeholders' consultation and assures that the Secretariat will look for possible funds for this consultation;
 - 2) Each focal point will contact the UNESCO focal points in his/her country;
 - 3) Every focal point will ask the Ministry of Culture in his/her country how the system of protection of cultural heritage is working at the national level and will give this information to the Secretariat;

- 2) Mr Egerer underlined that the whole list of results included in the draft ToR of the WG have been met and fulfilled so the WG might consider completed his work until the COP2.

The participants thank UNESCO-BRESCE for the hospitality and for the interest in the work of the Carpathian Convention and look forward to further inputs from UNESCO on cultural heritage aspects.

The meeting was closed at 12.30.

WG ON SPATIAL PLANNING

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Working Group (WG) on spatial planning under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee was established pursuant to Decision COP1/11 para 4 of the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP1) to the Carpathian Convention (11-13 December 2006).

Goals

Carpathian Spatial Development Vision and Carpathian Space:

- The WG will contribute to the development of a Carpathian Spatial Development Vision by consolidating the results of the Carpathian Project and by providing recommendations for the follow-up and way ahead, aiming at the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathian Space.
- The WG shall also guide the Secretariat to inform the Council of Europe's European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional/Spatial Planning (CEMAT) of activities promoting the implementation of Article 5 of the Carpathian Convention. CEMAT shall be invited to contribute to the meeting(s) of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Spatial Planning. Cooperation with existing and potential partners, including the UN-Habitat Office in Warsaw, will be sought.
- Sustainable water management: Pursuant to Decision COP1/5 para 7, the WG will also deal with the issue of sustainable water management in the context of the Carpathian Spatial Development Vision.

Inputs to the WG provided by the INTERREG IIIB CADSES "Carpathian Project"

Preparatory and accompanying activities of the INTERREG IIIB CADSES "Carpathian Project", providing inputs to the WG, may include, *inter alia*:

- Inputs to be prepared by the UNEP GRID Warsaw will include:
 - ◊ Carpathian Environmental Outlook - processing SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment).
- Inputs to be prepared by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences - Center for Regional Studies include:
 - ◊ Definition of Indicators characterizing the Social-Economic Situation of the whole Carpathian Area; statistical-mathematical analysis of the homogeneity and heterogeneity; the typology of regions; statistical information on the countries and regions; clusters of homogeneous regions; linkages, interrelations and flows within-to-from the area; analysis of development and growth processes; types of development, growth pattern of individual regions; the characteristics of the area;
 - ◊ Analysis of several transnational initiatives, which partly or fully include the Carpathian area, and their documents, which include concepts, programmes, projects for the respective area. Among them there are

INTERREG IIA, INTERREG IIC, INTERREG IIIA and INTERREG IIIB programmes and projects, studies written or commissioned by the European Commission on the conditions and impacts of enlargement, on the needs of new member countries, “Visegrad” cooperation documents, studies, written or commissioned by the Central European Initiative (CEI) and by the Southeast European Cooperation Initiative (SECI);

- ◇ The analysis and the evaluation of national regional policies and spatial plans of the countries, making a comparative overview. Synthesis of national spatial development perspectives/plans³ - underlining potential conflicts and inconsistencies. Contribution to the European Spatial Development Prospect review from the national sides;⁴
- ◇ Review the adaptation of the ESDP in the area. Setting up the focus indicators of the area’s competitiveness analysis. Contribution to the ESDP review from the national side. Provision of data and their evaluation on the issue of territorial impact of pre-accession funds;⁵
- ◇ Preparation of the synthesis document “Visions and Strategies In the Carpathian Area” (VASICA). The aim is to present the results of the Carpathian Project in a structured form.
- The Carpathian Project inputs to the WG, to be prepared by [omissis] the project partners, will include, *inter alia*:
 - ◇ Report on the water resources and natural disasters risk management in Carpathians;
 - ◇ Guidelines for the Carpathian Spatial Development Vision;
 - ◇ Preparation of an application for a water retention project.

The interim Secretariat will support the work on water management through cooperation and preparation of a draft Memorandum of Understanding with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River.

Contribution to the follow-up platform

The WG will provide its guidance and recommendations for the identification and development of follow-up projects and activities for the implementation of the Carpathian Space.

The Carpathian Strategic Workshop on Spatial Planning is meeting on 26-27 May 2008 in Vienna, Austria. A report of the meeting will be included in the second volume of this Collection if available by July 2008.

REPORT ON THE STRATEGIC WORKSHOP ON SPATIAL PLANNING

Meeting summary

26-27 May 2008

Vienna, Austria

May 26, 2008

Duration of the session: 14.00-18.30.

³ National Strategic Reference Framework or Development Plans for non-EU countries.

⁴ “Towards a territorial agenda of the EU” (www.bmvbs.de/territorial-agenda).

⁵ Based on ESPON reports.

- Welcome and presentation by Harald Egerer, UNEP Vienna ISCC
- Introduction round
- Introduction to the workshop goals, presentation by Maciej Borsa, RTI Polska Mr. Borsa underlines the importance of this Working Group, as it serves - together with others - to make the Carpathian Convention more operational.
- The goal of this workshop is to achieve common understanding, formulate common goals based on documents and identify respectively confirm possible fields of transnational cooperation.
- Presentation of the Carpathian Project outcomes by Doris Wiederwald, ÖAR Regionalberatung, UNEP-ISCC-consultant
- Presentation of the draft „Visions and Strategies In the Carpathian Area (VASICA)”- by Ivan Illes, Hungarian Academy of Science

Discussion round:

Mr. Stojkov asks for the meaning of the term inner and outer market lines. Mr. Gál explains that, until after the 2nd World War, a chain of small market towns was operational for the trade of agricultural products. With centralisation processes these small markets disappeared and the small towns lost their significance for that. After the political changes in the 90ies some functions could be revived, but not all. Mr. Kyselka adds, that with the Walachian economisaton and the new economy old economic patterns disappeared, typical for the Carpathian Space are land-use and settlement, thermal spas and water.

Mr. Arbter asks for the embedding of this Working Group in political processes and on the background of having a „Carpathian Space”.

Mr. Egerer and Mr. Borsa outline the political structure of the Carpathian Convention and that this Workshop forms the start of the Spatial Planning Working Group. On the question on the background of the „Carpathian Space” they explain, that seven countries decided to form this Space in the Framework Convention. The task of this Workshop and the subsequent Working Group is on how to achieve these political goals. It is further outlined that the start of the Carpathian Convention was on biological issues, but there are very many specificities similar to the Alpine Space: Transport, agriculture, forestry, rural development, etc. The First Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Partners had 150 stakeholder from different sectors and levels, a cooperation with the Alpine Space is formally agreed. The Carpathian Countries can together make them more heard on EU-level, as a lot of funding still goes to urban areas and „old member-states”.

Presentation of the discussion topics: „Transnational Spatial Issues of the Carpathian Region” by Maciej Borsa.

Borsa raises the question on the structure of a transnational document and proposes to keep it simple and clear and define less goals than in national documents, namely: “Conservation and Restoration of Natural and Cultural Resources”, “Internal Cohesion”and “External Cohesion”.

The strategic questions are:

- How to protect the unique Carpathian heritage?

- How to make the Carpathian Region internally coherent, how to create its transnational identity?
- How to achieve external coherence of the Carpathian Region?
- The maps in workshop meeting room and in VASICA were prepared mainly by Urbanproiect Bucharest.

Mr. Stojkov explains that unfortunately Serbia could not take part in the INTERREG IIB-Project „Carpathian Project” but that now the Serbian part shall be added.

Mrs. Vilimaite asks for the difference between the VASICA and Mr. Borsa's discussion paper. Mr. Borsa replies, that they should be treated as parallel proposals, as it is not decided yet if it possible to politically decide on the 200-pages-paper VASICA which will be further extended with examples of pilot actions. What is missing are the maps. VASICA is collecting inputs and this Workshop is one first step for it. The next Conference of Parties (COP2), taking place from 17th to 19th of June 2008 will get VASICA for information but not for approval. The mandate shall be to start the work on the Carpathian Space. Another important part for the work on the Carpathian Space are the follow-up projects that are coordinated by UNEP-ISCC in the frame of the follow-up-platform.

Mr. Illes adds, that some comments to VASICA were already received and that these will be integrated in the document together with the Workshop comments.

Discussion on the 3 maps displayed in the workshop room Mr. Hrdina: Lines in polycentric development shall be more connected within Slovak Republic. As well a differentiation on what is developed and on what should be developed shall be made. Also on the Czech-Polish-Slovak border there are more activities now than indicated in the map, e.g. in Zilina, a lot of subcontractors now come from Southern Poland and Northern Bohemia. The Silesian cluster has nearly 8 million inhabitants now.

The map of the transport networks shall indicate some additional connections, e.g. the road from Timisoara to the Hungarian border.

Mr. Borsa agrees, that some corrections to the maps are of course needed, but not too detailed ones as they should be valid for the whole Carpathian Space.

Mr. Dittrich asks if these maps are a vision or a status quo?

Mr. Borsa defines them as a mixture of the status quo and wishful thinking. But there is not such a great difference.

Mr. Illes indicates, that the motorway network is indicated as it was 6 years ago.

Mr. Stojkov explains the contradiction that nearly only North-South lines are indicated in the transport map. The ideas of Planet Cense-project in terms of defining the action areas in terms of west-east connections shall be taken up.

Mr. Kyselka adds that the maps show the development until lately. Some areas of „tourism danger”, endangered peripheric regions and old industrial regions with environmental and social problems shall be further identified.

Mr. Egerer proposes to add the Centrope-Region as well.

Mr. Borsa adds that it shall be outlined what areas are „sleeping in development”, which regions are emerging. Mr. Gal underlines that it shall be indicated that

what development is internal and historic and which one is based on FDI (Foreign Direct Investment). Additionally he suggests that Tatabanya to Budapest might be a new development axis, apart from the first from Vienna to Budapest. As well currently Romanian cities grow faster than Hungarian ones and they attract Hungarian workers - thus daily commuting is taking place there.

Mrs. Vilimaite points out the sustainable development principle, that shall be considered.

Mr. Teres misses issues of rural development and especially sustainable agriculture in the maps. Mr. Illes replies, that this issue is mentioned in the background documents.

Mr. Church refers to the transport system study carried out by EURAC in the frame of the Carpathian Project and the recommendations given therein. Especially he underlines the importance to indicate which transport routes can be environmentally sensitive and that accessibility is not only relevant to tourism areas but also to major cities.

Presentation by Mr. Stojkov on the situation in Serbia

He points out the strong out-migration of Eastern Serbia, especially since the end of the 20th century. Further he points out the low accessibility of this region without trains or airport and only weak roads and accordingly low level of tourism as well as the small number of settlements with the main centre only having 50.000 inhabitants. As well he mentions concerns on the way the national park there is managed, on the border management and that, due to the average high age of population, the lack of interest in development.

Mrs. Vilimaite counters, that people there are still creative, but what they need are fora and guidance. Maps have the problem that they simplify on big scale and cannot take into consideration local solutions.

Mr. Borsa invites to indicate in the maps on what shall be changed or added in the maps in terms of tourism.

May 27, 2008

Duration of the session: 09.15-12.30.

Mr. Borsa concludes on the first day and introduces in the session of this morning.

Discussion of the „Progress report on the implementation of Article 5 - Spatial planning of the Carpathians”:

Mr. Egerer informs, that at the Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee, held on 2-4 April 2008 in Sibiu, it was decided that the Spatial Planning Working Group will further go on. At the upcoming Conference of the Parties (COP2) VASICA shall be welcomed. Additionally the follow-up-platform will further be the engine of project development in the Carpathians.

Mr. Illes proposes to explain the nature of the VASICA-document and of the Carpathian Project more clearly in this report. If spatial planning in the different countries is decentralised, the regions shall be invited to the next working group meeting.

Mr. Egerer explains that Ukraine will propose at COP2 a Conference of the Regions.

Mrs. Vilimaite adds for point 2 under „possible actions” that results of the Tourism Working Group are not considered yet and shall be integrated to ensure proper follow-up and activities in the Working Group.

Mr. Borsa proposes to indicate in the report as Carpathian Project outputs the following order: VASICA, then KEO, the sector analyses, the Carpathian Atlas and the pilot actions - and at the end the follow-up platform.

Mr. Church informs that EURAC produces a handbook on the implementation of the Carpathian Convention which is not part of the Carpathian project but still very relevant because related activities are implemented e.g. a series of training initiatives (note from the minute taker: the publication „Handbook on the Carpathian Convention” produced by the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe and EURAC is distributed to participants).

Discussion of VASICA and the political document:

Mr. Borsa proposes to add - in cooperation with Mrs. Wiederwald - the conclusions of other project activities to VASICA, once they are available.

As well the political document could be shortened to 15 pages.

Mr. Stojkov explains that Vision and Strategies have to put in context: Serbia and the Ukraine are not even yet candidate countries for accession to the European Union. This kind of administrative and political threats shall be mentioned there. Also he proposes to stronger underline the issue of raising awareness, information and education. Additionally he requires that Serbia has to be added in the data and maps.

Mr. Illes replies that future work should be put in another document and working programmes and that the KEO working process was rather different and that the scenarios mentioned therein are not sufficient.

Mr. Egerer counters that KEO provides an extensive Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Carpathian Space and this should be integrated into VASICA. Also more emphasis on opportunities shall be shown such as conservation economy, the Carpathians' assets and capital. As local development is not considered enough this point shall be shown in the final synthesis work.

The discussion on maps is summarized by Mr. Borsa that VASICA should be kept and maps shall be used for discussion in the Working Groups.

Mr. Zhigun also proposes to leave the maps as for them political agreement is needed, which is currently difficult to achieve in Ukraine.

Mr. Borsa asks especially Ukraine for support in new information, e.g. on emerging issues in Ukraine.

Mr. Kyselka and Mr. Stojkov point out that maps of status and maps of vision have to be differentiated.

Mr. Borsa adds that the results of the transport study by EURAC shall be integrated when further working on the transport map.

Mrs. Vilimaite raises the issue of asking stakeholders on the paper of Mr. Borsa.

Mr. Borsa explains that the background paper is no official document, parts of it are for VASICA, others are for a Working Paper for the need of the Carpathian Convention and the Working Groups. He warns to over-estimate the importance of a transnational strategy. A common understanding shall be achieved of the Carpathian Space, indicating what one could do and not what one should do. Maps and strategies only integrate how actions are related to the space.

Mr. Sambura indicates VASICA as the major output of the project. How to proceed with it will be up to the Carpathian Convention.

Mr. Illes adds, that even the ESDP was only accepted as a guideline and was not adopted by the nations.

Mrs. Rainer Cerovska proposes to add space for further thoughts of stakeholders in the documents.

Mr. Borsa agrees that it is of course a strategic process and that in the next step stakeholders have to be integrated. But in a first step the product itself has to be discussed. After the welcoming of the document by COP2 in the Working Groups it has to be elaborated how some parts can be implemented, as for example transport in connection with environmental issues.

These documents as basis will be useful for 8-10 years, depending on the development processes.

Discussion of the item „Correction to Texts”:

Mr. Borsa concludes for VASICA or the „Political Summary”:

- Points on rural areas and agriculture will be added. Ukraine and Mrs. Vilimaite are asked to send inputs.
- The transport issue has to be overworked, this concerns the summary and the map. Mr. Illes and Mr. Borsa will integrate the new points in the study and the background paper. It has to be considered there whether data stems from the ministries of transport or from the environmental ministries. Also the revision of TEN-corridors is currently taking place on EU-level.
- Points on the Serbian Carpathians will be put in the documents.
- Polycentrism as a tool for enhancing growth and reducing man-made pressure on the environment will be integrated in the study. The map will be further developed accordingly.

Mrs. Vilimaite suggests to mention train connections more strongly in the document.

The proposal of Mr. Kyselka, that historical connection shall be underlined for reviving them is replied by Mr. Borsa that Poland lacks in several parts of the country these connections as they were not part of the 19th century Austrian monarchy. Furthermore the EU has other needs to be considered.

Mr. Egerer explains the focus of the Carpathian Convention on sustainable modes of transport on different levels and at the same time prevent at best possible adverse impacts to the environment. This focus will be part of followup-projects.

Mr. Church supports this focus on basis of the results of the Working Group on Transport.

Mr. Borsa adds that not too many small roads shall be constructed, maybe one corridor could be split in several ones.

Mr. Borsa asks the participants to send their comments until the 4th of June 2008.

Mr. Illes agrees to try to synthesize the issue of possibilities for qualitative development based on resources as proposed by Mr. Egerer. But he points out, that agriculture cannot go together with that.

Further discussion on maps:

Mrs. Rainer Cerovska adds that the whole Carpathians are a large area with natural assets and not only in Romania. This should be indicated better in the maps, e.g. with showing areas with specific assets.

Mrs. Damian adds that there are several gaps in the maps and reminds that data collection was very hard also in the KEO-working process. Also it has to be indicated which data refers to the whole of Romania and what date only relates to the Carpathian area of Romania.

Mr. Egerer proposes to integrate more the results of the Tourism Working Group and to take maps also from Geoportal and KEO.

Mr. Gembiak suggests that in terms of competitiveness the maps shall also show the outward connections, e.g. to the Baltic States, and reminds that the Pan-European Corridors are reviewed until 2010. He points out that the connection of the Baltic Sea and the Mediterranean are very important and that Poland leads the initiative to build the „S 19”.

Mr. Borsa asks the project participants to draw in the maps their proposals or to make it electronically later.

To the question of Mr. Gembiak Mr. Egerer explains, that from the beginning of the Carpathian Convention process the environmental ministries and the ministries for foreign affairs were involved and also gave feedback to the ministerial declaration for COP2. Now the process is getting broader to other ministries.

Discussion on the future of the Working Group on Spatial Planning:

Mr. Borsa asks Mrs. Wollansky if Lower Austria could contribute with Spatial Planning. She replies that, if a contribution is provided, it will be also on behalf of Vienna and Burgenland.

Mr. Egerer points out that this Working Group is a new exercise and open for creativity. (note from the minute taker: The draft Terms of Reference for the Working Group is distributed to participants). Mr. Egerer underlines, that it is great that Lower Austria could participate in this informal workshop and that next time maybe also Vienna and Burgenland want to join.

In a next meeting the Working Group will also have to decide how it constitutes itself. After the COP2, in autumn, work will be starting and a next Working Group shall take place that also considers the follow-up platform. A future strategic workshop could also be bigger as now there are a lot of different follow-up ideas and the challenge is to pick a few and make them happen - also with stronger involvement of the regional authorities.

Mrs. Vilimaite proposes to start the next meeting with the results from other Working Groups as this Working Group is a cross-sectoral one.

All presentations mentioned hereinafter can be downloaded under <http://www.carpathianconvention.org/framework/26.05.2008.htm>

WG ON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FORESTRY

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Mandate

The First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP1) to the Carpathian Convention (Kiev, Ukraine, 11-13 December 2006) by its Decision COP1/7 para 3 decided “to support the establishment of a Working Group on sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee”, a subsidiary body of the Convention established pursuant to Decision COP1/3 para 4.

Aim and tasks

The Working Group will aim at supporting the Parties to the Carpathian Convention towards their cooperation for the implementation of Article 7 on sustainable agriculture and forestry and other related Articles of the Carpathian Convention.

Furthermore, the WG shall consider and consolidate the background documentation made available to it by the EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project and the UNEP Vienna ISCC - FAO SARD-M (Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Regions) Project.

WG shall provide recommendations for possible development of a draft of the SARD-M Strategy and/or Protocol for the Carpathian region for submission to the COP1 Bureau - Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee.

WG shall provide recommendations for the possible development of a draft of the Forest Management Strategy and/or Protocol for the Carpathian region for submission to the COP1 Bureau - Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee.

Field of activities

- 1) The Working Group will focus on sustainable agriculture and rural development issues, as well as forestry, and in this regard it will benefit from the outputs provided by the EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project and UNEP Vienna ISCC - FAO SARD-M Project.
- 2) The Working Group shall consider making a proposal on the development of appropriate policy instruments such as a Protocol and/or Regional Strategy on SARD to the COP1 Bureau and prepare recommendations to the Bureau in this regard.
- 3) The Working Group shall consider making a proposal on the development of appropriate policy instruments such as a Protocol and/or Regional Strategy on Forest Management to the COP1 Bureau and prepare recommendations to the Bureau in this regard.
- 4) The Working Group will evaluate the outputs of the national and regional assessments on SARD-M policies, institutions and processes in the Carpathian countries, will formulate its recommendations for improvements/development of SARD-M policies with particular attention to the concept of high nature

value farmland, which also needs a common definition. The WG members requested also to analyze the opportunity of and prepare proposals for follow-up activities at the country and/or the Carpathian level.

- 5) The Working Group will provide its guidance and recommendations for the identification and development of the follow-up projects in the area of sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry to COP1 Bureau.

List of results

- Proposal for the Draft Protocol and/or Regional Strategy on SARD submitted to the COP1 Bureau and its ToR;
- Proposal for the Draft Protocol and/or Regional Strategy on Forest Management submitted to the COP1 Bureau and its ToR;
- Recommendations for the improvement/development of SARD-M policies and proposals for follow-up activities at the country and/or the Carpathian level;
- Proposed inputs for COP2 of the Carpathian Convention, such as inputs to the ministerial declaration to be considered by COP2;
- A list of follow-up actions and proposals.

Composition and organization of work

The Working Group is composed of the experts designated by the National Governments of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention and is open for observers.

The Working Group will meet twice a year and its meetings will be financially supported by the EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project. The tentative schedule of the Working Group meetings is as follows:

- 1) First Meeting - 9 July 2007, Vienna, Austria;
- 2) Second Meeting - 22-23 November 2007;
- 3) Reporting to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee Meeting - before COP2.

Coordination and cooperation

According to Decision COP1/3 “Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention”, the Secretariat is requested to ensure a continuous exchange and inter-linkage between the work and activities under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee and the work and activities under the EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project, including support of functioning of the Working Group on sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry.

The Working Group will cooperate with FAO SARD-M Project providing its scientific and expert backstopping as in relation to the Draft Protocol and/or Regional Strategy on SARD and in drafting the recommendations for the identification and development of follow-up projects in the area of sustainable agriculture and rural development.

The Working Group will benefit from cooperation with FAO-SEUR on matters related to sustainable forest management. FAO-SEUR will, *inter alia*, contribute to the Working Group by identifying linkages between sustainable forest management and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Carpathian region.

The Working Group will exchange information and foster communication with other relevant Working Groups of the Carpathian Convention (e.g. the Biodiversity Working Group, Working Group on Spatial Planning) and will seek cooperation with other interested constituencies beyond the Carpathian Convention.

Scientific contributions and background information

The Working Group will benefit from the inputs provided by:

- 1) The Carpathian Environment Outlook (KEO), which will provide a holistic and integrated assessment of the current state and future trends of the Carpathian environment;
- 2) The Handbook on the Carpathian Convention prepared in the framework of the Umbrella Project financed by the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS) and implemented by the Regional Environmental Center (REC) in partnership with the European Academy of Bolzano (EURAC);
- 3) National assessments of the policy, legislative and institutional frameworks related to the Carpathian Convention, available in English and national-language versions, prepared in the framework of the Umbrella Project financed by IMELS and implemented by REC in partnership with EURAC;
- 4) National (seven countries) and regional SARD-M policies, institutions and processes assessments conducted in the framework of the UNEP Vienna ISCC - FAO SARD-M Project; brief summary of SARD-M policy assessments conducted in Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine can be found on the SARD-M website:

www.fao.org/sard/common/ecg/2361/en/CarpathianShortSummaryOctober2006EN1.pdf

- 5) Specific Carpathian Project inputs to the Working Group, to be prepared by UNEP GRID Warsaw in cooperation with partners, will include, *inter alia*:
 - Report on the current state of forest resources in the Carpathians;
 - Report on challenges and priority for adapting the management of Carpathians forests to new environmental and socio-economic conditions;
 - Other deliverables: publications, databases, documents and maps for the State, forest administrations, Ministries of Environment and non-governmental organizations for the improvement of forestry management in state and private forests and national parks; the implementation of innovative modern silviculture methods of implementation for stand conversion and “continuous cover forestry” for tree cutting.
- 6) Decisions and recommendations of the PEBLS (Pan-European Biological and Landscape Strategy);
- 7) Existing tools for identification of the high value conservation forests which are in place in Romania and Ukraine;

- 8) The FAO SARD-M database containing documents (policy studies, partner experiences, case studies, etc.) concerning social, economic, environmental and institutional policies for sustainable agriculture and rural development in mountain regions:

www.fao.org/sard/sard-m/orgdb/policy_query.jsp

- 9) Other related documentation:

- Information on SARD-M policy assessments conducted in various mountain regions of the world:
www.fao.org/sard/en/sardm/Communi/materials/index.html
- Outputs of the EU-INTERREG IIIC - Network of Mountain Forests Project, to which UNEP is partner.

REPORT ON THE FIRST MEETING OF THE WG

Minutes of the meeting

9-10 July 2007

Vienna International Center, Austria

Day One

The first meeting of the WG on sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry (WG on SARD-F) was opened by Mr Harald Egerer, Head of the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (UNEP Vienna), who made a short statement and introduced the UNEP staff involved in servicing this group. Mr Egerer welcomed the mixed composition of the WG, bringing together participants from agricultural, forest management and environmental protection governmental institution, as well as from science, academia and non-governmental organizations, in the true “convening spirit” of the Carpathian Convention, due to the fact that the WG has to deal with different sectors in an integrated manner. Mr Egerer emphasized that this activity benefits from the Alpine-Carpathian partnership, constitutes a contribution to the Mountain Partnership and is co-financed by the European Union through the INTERREG IIIB Carpathian Project. The participants were welcomed and introduced themselves.

Mr Egerer gave a short overview and main highlights of the Carpathian Convention processes up to COP1 (COP1 decision on the establishment of the WG on SARD-F was included into the meeting documentation) and introduced the Carpathian Project. In the name of the Carpathian Convention, Mr Egerer thanked the FAO SARD-M Project for the cooperation and financial support. Ms Dominique Legros of the FAO SARD-M Project addressed the meeting with a short statement and emphasized the benefits of mutual exchange of the sub-regional Carpathian experience with FAO and the Adelboden Group.

Mr Egerer invited Ms Solomiya Omelyan, policy consultant in the interim Secretariat, to proceed with the introduction of the WG’s nature and of the meeting objectives and programme.

The meeting objectives were described as the following:

- 1) To agree on the ToR of the WG on SARD-F;

- 2) To evaluate the results as well as contribute to the outputs of the national assessments (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Serbia) on SARD-M policies, institutions and processes in the Carpathian countries conducted in the framework of the UNEP Vienna ISCC - FAO SARD-M Project;
- 3) To formulate recommendations for improvements/development of SARD-M policies and prepare proposals for follow-up activities at the country and/or the Carpathians levels) and to draft provisional decisions to be taken by the Second Meeting of the COP to the Carpathian Convention (COP2); special attention should be given to the regional scale e.g. recommendations as to a Protocol or Strategy on SARD and/or Forestry including programmatic activities.

Ms Omelyan pointed out that the main role of the WG is to provide the elements for the decisions of COP2. In its first meeting, the WG is expected to agree on its activities.

Main outputs

- The submission of the ToR of the Protocol, if accepted by the Group;
- Cooperation with partner organizations; and
- The future of the WG after COP2.

The SARD-M policy assessments conducted in the Carpathian region should provide a good basis for decision-making of the WG experts on the output of the Group.

It will be emphasized that the WG mission is to bring a powerful message to COP2. The ToR of the Protocol on SARD will be a good product of the WG, if the WG will support this initiative.

Mr Egerer proposed the candidature of the Slovak Republic representative, Mr Andrej Skorna, Advisor, Department of Nature and Landscape Protection, Ministry of Environmental Protection, as chair of the meeting. The participants agreed to the proposal.

The Chair requested the Secretariat to briefly present the agenda (meeting document WG-SARD-F - Rev.1) and the programme (WG-SARD - F-2). The meeting adopted the agenda of the meeting as proposed. Upon request by the Chair, Ms Omelyan introduced the ToR of the WG starting from Decision COP1/7 on its establishment. The Chair invited the WG members to provide their comments and proposals for adjustments to the WG ToR.

Volker Sasse, Forestry Officer, FAO-SEUR, informed the WG on the outcomes of a meeting of the Heads of Forestry held in May 2006 in Budapest, particularly focusing on the key items proposed by that meeting with regard to an eventual Forest Management Protocol for the Carpathian region. He reminded that the meeting reassured a need for a better coordination of forest management related policies, particularly forestry as well as conservation of the biological and landscape diversity, but also hunting, ecotourism, etc. He stated that a forestry policy framework is a missing component of the Draft Protocol. Internal discussions with forestry and biodiversity experts would have led to a proposal to integrate forestry issues into the Protocol, considering the links between “forestry” (Article 7 of the Convention) and “biodiversity” (Article 4 of the Convention) components.

Mr Egerer expanded on the close connection between SARD-M/F and Biodiversity, and reported that, at the meeting of the WG on Biodiversity, FAO-SEUR made a proposal on this topic.

Ivonne Higuero underlined the importance of the PELBS (Pan-European Landscape and Biodiversity Strategy), the Council of Europe and the MCPFE (Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe), and other relevant ongoing activities in Europe.

Meeting participants, following the presentation of the CADSES project, supporting the WG activities, made some questions on the follow up of the project and on the possibilities of future funding for the WG.

Mr Egerer provided the participants with additional information on the procedure of funding WG activities and especially regarding the role of the Carpathian Convention in the INTERREG initiative. Ms Legros confirmed the interest of FAO to continue close cooperation with the Carpathian Convention, and to explore possibilities of further support for follow-up activities, in the context of design of an eventual next phase of the SARD-M Project.

Comments on the ToRs were made by some participants, in particular by WWF-DCP, requesting more attention on high natural value farmland. This concept also needs common definition. The WG members requested to analyze also the opportunity of identify high value conservation forests and this tool already exists in Romania and Ukraine. The proposal was included in the list of documents as an input. The proposals were accepted with an amendment to the part related to the “inputs” of the ToR.

As requested by the chair, Ms Omelyan gave a presentation on the Carpathian Convention and its activities.

The chair invited Mr Takashi Takahatake of the FAO SARD-M Project to deliver a presentation on the agenda item.

Mr Takahatake introduced the SARD-M Project (see the text of the presentation) and the procedure followed in preparing the national reports. The chair opened the floor for questions and comments from the participants.

The Czech Republic asked if the recommendations included in the national report are binding for the country. Mr Takahatake and the Secretariat replied that the SARD-M Project and the assessments developed in its framework provide only general recommendations and suggest follow up activities.

Ms Omelyan, as requested by the chair, introduced the SARD-M policy, institutions and processes assessments in the Carpathians referring to the meeting documents distributed to the WG members.

The Chair consequently introduced the consultant who developed the presentations on the national assessments, informing the meeting that the Hungarian Consultant was not able to attend the meeting and that no discussion will take place on this report.

The presentations on the national assessment were delivered by:

- Ms Dragana Tar, SARD-M consultant for the Serbian Carpathians;
- Ms Jana Hajduchova, SARD-M consultant for the Czech Carpathians;

- Ms Monika Ochwat-Marcinkiewicz, Project Coordinator, League of Nature Conservation, for the Polish Carpathians.

After the presentation Ukraine made a general comment pointing out that from the excerpts it was not possible to have a clear view of the assessment because of lack of information in it.

Ms Omelyan and Ms Legros replied that the full version will be available to the WG after its finalization and that the excerpt was conceived as the relevant part of the report for discussion by the WG.

Taking into account these explanations, the WG welcomed the work of the experts and thanked them for their efforts.

As requested by the Chair, Ms Omelyan made a short presentation on behalf of the Secretariat on the regional synthesis of the policies explaining its rationale.

Some participants requested to benefit from the experience of the Alpine Convention on this issue and Mr Egerer replied that the existing MoU with the Alpine Convention represents an opportunity for further discuss these questions.

The Chair requested the WG members to further reflect on the assessments and is requested to provide its comments and recommendations during day two.

Day Two

The meeting was opened by the Chair who pointed out that this second session of the WG meeting was more devoted to forestry and invited the Polish representative to have the presentation on forestry in Poland.

Mr Czesław Koziol, Poland, presented the National Policy on Forests and Forest Management in the Carpathians in Poland.

Mr Egerer briefed the meeting participants on the component on Forestry under the INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project and invited the representatives from the University of Padua, Italy, consultant of UNEP-GRID Warsaw, to deliver a presentation on this component of the project.

Prof Anfodillo presented the role of the University of Padua in the project and introduced the methodology as well as the data required for the study. He pointed out that, despite the importance of forests in the Carpathians, this issue has a limited availability of funds in the Carpathian Project.

The meeting approved the methodology proposed.

The Chair invited the participants to reopen the discussion on the activities of the WG in conjunction with its role of the advisory body to the COP and SARD-M Project.

As proposed by the Secretariat, the WG was divided in three sub-WGs, in which the participants were requested to discuss the three questions suggested by the Secretariat to facilitate the work.

The rapporteur from the sub-WG1 referred to the meeting the discussion and the common positions of the sub-WG as follows:

- It would be useful to have a legally binding instrument on these topics;
- A study on the pros and the cons of a Protocol is required;

- More Forests component in the WG, and in particular a proposal to call the WG “SAFRD”;
- Sharing experiences is welcomed, especially on global challenges (i.e. climate change) and on the accession to the EU;
- There should be a dialog between the Carpathian Convention and the EU on the CAP and its application in the Carpathian region;
- Message from the Czech Republic: it is necessary to identify joint interest in order to speak with one common voice to the EU and other donors.
- The rapporteur from the sub-WG2 referred to the meeting the discussion and the common positions of the sub-WG as follows:
- There is a need for restructuring the recommendations, as the general ones should be accompanied by more concrete target policies;
- Forest management should be separate from SARD.

Additional recommendations:

- Both the action plan and the protocol are good options; there is the need of an analysis on the potential benefits and advantages of a protocol on SARD;
- A bottom-up approach is needed with the WG at the national level and then to the regional one;
- There are strong synergies between forestry and SARD but the two issues should be addressed separately, maybe by a formal subsidiary body for the forestry component;
- A proposal to establish a regional platform composed of civil society, NGOs, governments at all levels as the center for the implementation of the Carpathian Convention was made by some participants and the WG briefly discussed the idea.

The rapporteur from the sub-WG3 referred to the meeting the discussion and the common positions of the sub-WG as follows:

- To update the national and regional reports regularly;
- To change the name of the WG to “Integrated Rural Development”;
- To continue the work of the WG after COP2;
- The importance of infrastructure for rural development was underlined and, in this sense, a connection with the WG on transport is welcome;

Recommendations should be as specific as possible.

Mr Egerer summarized the discussion and the points risen in the different sub-WGs. He underlined that most of the recommendations are fully acceptable by the whole WG and that three questions remain open for the next meeting of the WG:

- 1) The name of the WG;

- 2) The future of the WG;
- 3) The proposal for a Protocol or a Strategy.

The participants to meeting discussed the proposal made by sub-WG2 to establish an independent WG on Forestry. Mr Sandei proposed to keep the current structure of the WG but to organize the work into two sub-WGs, one more focused on forestry, the other more on agriculture. The proposal was briefly discussed by the WG.

Mr Egerer summarized the discussion saying that a flexible solution is feasible and that the WG should continue working on the basis of the needs and issues to be discussed. The participants to the meeting accepted this proposal.

As for the discussion on the inputs to the COP2 and in particular on the possibility of developing a Protocol or a Strategy, the Secretariat was requested to prepare a cost/benefit analysis on a protocol/regional platform to be initially discussed at the next meeting of the WG in November and presented to COP2.

As requested by the chair, Ms Dominique Legros, coordinator, FAO SARD-M Project, briefed the participants on the role of the Adelboden Group and its upcoming meeting. The WG was invited to present its contribution to the third meeting of the Adelboden Group, to be held on 1-3 October 2007 in Rome. The Carpathians will be represented in the Adelboden Group by one person on behalf of the governments and one on behalf of the civil society.

The participants to the meeting welcomed the proposal of FAO-SEUR to host a meeting of experts on forests in September, as well as the offer from EURAC and the University of Padua to have the next meeting in San Vito di Cadore, Italy, in mid-November 2007, supported by the CADSES project.

Conclusions by the chair and closure of the meeting on 10 July 2007 at 12.30.

REPORT ON THE SECOND MEETING OF THE WG

Final minutes of the meeting

22-23 November 2007

Centro Studi per l'Ambiente Alpino, San Vito di Cadore, Italy

Opening of the meeting on 22 November 2007 at 9.20.

- Welcome of the University of Padua (Prof Anfodillo)
- Welcome of UNEP Vienna ISCC (Avv Sandei)
- Welcome by the mayor of San Vito di Cadore (Ing De Vido)
- Welcome on behalf of the President of the University of Padua and presentation of the university (Prof Pettenella)
- Presentation of the Centro Studi per l'Ambiente Alpino and of the work of Prof Susmel (Prof Anfodillo)

Item 1 - Meeting overview, objectives and adoption of the agenda

After providing for an overview on the meeting and its objectives, the ISCC (Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention) reminded that the meeting was likely to

be the last one before COP2 in Romania and encouraged the participating States to produce a draft decision for consideration by COP2; the ISCC also reminded of the possibility of developing a follow up of the CADSES Carpathian Project within the new CENTRAL programme, also in the form, for example, of the proposal of a specific project on forests.

The participating States identified Hungary as chair of the meeting and the ISCC as facilitator. No objection was raised to the draft agenda, so the agenda was adopted by the participants.

Item 2 - Revision of the ToR of the WG on SARD-F

The ISCC announced that the Extended Bureau proposed minor changes to the ToR, for example the change of the date of the meeting and of the exact name of the WG, from “SARD including forestry” to SARD and forestry”, so to further mark the difference between agriculture and forestry.

The ISCC suggested holding bilateral meetings with the Contracting Parties over this issue and that of the draft study on forests in the Carpathians prepared by the University of Padua on behalf of UNEP GRID Warsaw (see below).

Hungary asked for a copy of the requests of the Extended Bureau and of the draft study of the University of Padua to be circulated.

No objection was raised to the proposed revision of the ToR.

Item 3 - Evaluation of the results and of the contribution to the study of the University of Padua on Forestry in the Carpathians

The University of Padua (Prof Anfodillo) presented the first part of the study on forests in the Carpathians prepared by the University of Padua on behalf of UNEP GRID Warsaw. A questionnaire was sent to the Carpathian States. While most States provided for some feedback, the Czech Republic had not provided any feedback yet; furthermore, in certain cases, data is available only for the country as a whole and not specifically for the Carpathian region. The ISCC reminded the participating States that the study should be presented to the COP2.

The University of Padua (Prof Pettenella) presented the second part on policy and legislation issues of the study on forests in the Carpathians prepared by the University of Padua on behalf of UNEP GRID Warsaw. The participating States provided for some feedback to the University of Padua.

Austria presented the results of the INTERREG NMF Project and joint final declaration Strengthening Mountain Forests in Europe, signed in Lindau, Germany, in October 2007, and produced in the framework of the project. The ISCC suggested an eventual project proposal on best practices in the Alpine and Carpathian region for the new INTERREG call; it also suggested another eventual project proposal for INTERREG CENTRAL on the harmonization of data collection, while the restrictions to funding to non-EU and non institutional partners was also mentioned.

During a tour of table, Poland raised the issue of the private management of forests; ISCC mentioned that privates have to be invited and participate to meetings: meetings under the Carpathian Convention are inclusive and open to all stakeholders, also from the private sector. Austria raised the issue of the education of forest owners and of the limited number of foresters. Romania insisted on the

public role of forests. The Czech Republic mentioned, instead, the problem of illegal logging and the fight against organized crime.

The participants shall provide for feedback to the University of Padua regarding the questionnaire by 15 December 2007 and the draft study on forests by the end of December 2007.

Item 4 - Discussion on the ToR of a possible Protocol/Strategy on Sustainable Forest Management

The ISCC presented the logic of a protocol vis-à-vis that of a declaration, and suggested that, in this case, a protocol should render general agreements on forestry specific to the Carpathian region, including specific provisions on virgin forests, which represent a rare feature in Europe.

The ISCC introduced the contents of article 7 on sustainable agriculture and forestry of the Carpathian Convention, proposing to develop the protocol on the basis of the article, as well as of the results of the meeting in Budapest. Poland requested to include within this basis also the outcomes of the meeting in Warsaw.

Upon request of the participating States, the ISCC elucidated the pros and cons of a protocol. Furthermore, it proposed the presentation of a draft declaration to the COP2 in spring 2007 in Romania, while that of the Draft Protocol to COP3. Romania also requested to include the role of public interest in the Draft Protocol.

The participant States decide to aim at presenting a Draft Protocol to the ministers at COP3, eventually transforming it into a declaration, if no agreement is reached over the Protocol.

The ISCC presented the structure of the Draft Protocol on Biodiversity. On the basis of this structure, the participants to the meeting elaborated—article by article—a Draft Protocol on Forestry (see attachment).

The ISCC proposed the creation of a specific drafting committee, composed of Poland (Mr Koziol), the University of Padua (Prof Pettenella), and the ISCC (Mr Sandei), to complete the first draft of the Protocol.

The participant States decide to authorize the abovementioned drafting committee to proceed with the revision and integration, if and where needed, of the Draft Protocol. The first draft of the protocol should be completed by the beginning of January 2008 and shall be submitted to the Implementation Committee for its presentation at the COP2 together with a draft ministerial declaration, based on the contents of the Draft Protocol. The final version of the protocol could be signed at the COP3, following its renegotiation by the Implementation Committee.

Item 5 - Inputs and draft decision to the Second COP to the Carpathian Convention

The participating States decide to submit the attached draft decision to the COP2.

Closure of the meeting on 23 November 2007 at 17.30.

Attachments [omissis]

- 1) Draft decision for the COP2
- 2) Draft Protocol on Forestry

- 3) Draft study on forests by the University of Padua
- 4) PowerPoint presentations by the University of Padua (Prof Anfodillo and Pettenella)
- 5) Invitation to the meeting by EURAC
- 6) Draft ToR for the WG on Sustainable Agriculture, Rural Development and Forestry
- 7) Report of the Workshop on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Forests, Biological and Landscape Diversity in the Carpathian Region held in Budapest, Hungary, at FAO-SEUR, on 19-20 September 2007
- 8) Europe's Forests 2007, report of the Fifth MCPFE held in Warsaw, Poland, on 5-7 November 2007
- 9) Strengthening Mountain Forests in Europe, joint final declaration produced within the INTERREG NMF Project and signed in Lindau, Germany, in October 2007
- 10) Preliminary Draft Declaration for Mountain Forests produced by the INTERREG NMF Project
- 11) Remarks of the State Committee of Forestry of Ukraine
- 12) Draft Protocol on Biodiversity to the Carpathian Convention
- 13) Some recent publications by the Centro Studi per l'Ambiente Alpino

WG ON SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRY, ENERGY, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Mandate

The First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (Kiev, Ukraine, 11-13 December 2006), by its Decisions COP1/8 and COP1/9, decided to “support the establishment of a Working Group on sustainable industry, energy, transport and infrastructure under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee”.

Aim

The Working Group will aim at supporting the Parties to the Carpathian Convention towards their cooperation for the implementation of Articles 8 (Sustainable Transport and Infrastructure) and 10 (Industry and Energy) of the Carpathian Convention.

Field of activities

The WG, as a starting phase, will focus mainly on sustainable transport and renewable energy and efficiency and, in this sense, it will:

- Consider to make a proposal for the development of appropriate policy instruments such as Sustainable Transport Protocol and/or Strategy under the Carpathian Convention to be included in the study prepared by EURAC;
- Guide and advise the work of the European Academy of Bolzano (EURAC) in preparing the study on the transport network in the Carpathians;
- Facilitate the provision of the required inputs (e.g. data, case studies) by the Parties, according to the Work Plan developed by the WG;
- Consider the information on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the implementation of Article 10 of the Carpathian Convention with regard to Energy Policy, Sustainable Energy Use and the Development of Distributed and Efficient Energy Sources, as contained in UNEP/CC/COP1/9, and it will also provide related recommendations;
- Provide its guidance and recommendations for the identification and development of follow-up projects and activities.

List of results

- Proposed inputs for the COP2 of the Carpathian Convention, such as inputs to a ministerial declaration to be considered by COP2, as well as possible proposals for a Transport Protocol and/or Strategy, if so deemed appropriate by the WG;
- Proposals for transnational renewable energy and energy efficiency partnerships or projects in the Carpathians;

- A list of follow up projects and proposals.

Organization of work

The WG is composed of experts designated for this purpose by the Carpathian Convention Focal Points, observers, as well as additional experts, as deemed necessary. The work will be undertaken in accordance with the work plan and timetable developed by the WG. The States are invited to take a leading role in contributing on specific issues or themes of their interest.

Coordination and cooperation

According to Decision COP1/3 “Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention”, the Secretariat is requested to ensure a continuous exchange and inter-linkage between the work and activities under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee and the work and activities contained in the EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project.

Furthermore, proactive cooperation shall be ensured with key international organizations active in these fields such as DG TREN, UNIDO, CEI, Energy Community, REEEP and others⁶.

Scientific assistance and contributions in the framework of the EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project

Preparatory and accompanying activities coordinated by the European Academy of Bolzano (EURAC) within the Carpathian Project, providing inputs to the WG, include:

- Strategic analysis on transport in the Carpathians and harmonized data; collected and harmonized cartographic representation of the density of the transport network and of the accessibility of the Carpathian region (1:2 million scale), including interpretative text.
- Consequently, the inputs of the Carpathian Project to the WG, to be prepared by EURAC in cooperation with partners, will include, *inter alia*:
- Policy guidelines for developing sustainable transport in relation to the Carpathians and in particular sub-areas (case studies, limited areas); assessment of the potential influence of sustainable transport on socio-economic and spatial development, on the environment and for territorial cohesion; definition of a priority list for the improvement of the transport network, including connectivity assurance for wildlife (migration corridors, eco-ducts, “green bridges”); summary guidelines and methodological tools for ensuring high level of protection of environmentally valuable areas, also by means of increasing the use of public transport.
- Electronic thematic maps on density of the existing Carpathian transport network and its accessibility, including interpretative text (to become part of the Atlas of the Carpathians).

⁶ Acronyms key: Directorate-General for Transport and Energy (DG TREN), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Central European Initiative (CEI), Energy Community South East Europe Treaty (Energy Community / ECSEE), Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP).

Other background information (list not exhaustive)

- Carpathian Environment Outlook (KEO), which will provide a holistic and integrated assessment of the current state and future trends of the Carpathian environment.
- REC-EURAC Regional Assessment and Handbook, documents prepared in the framework of the Umbrella Project financed by the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS)
- EST goes EAST Clearing House, promoting Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) in Central and Eastern Europe (see <http://est.east.unep.ch>). The WG will closely interact with the Working Groups on Transport and Environment of the Central European Initiative (CEI).
- “Building a thematic dimension to the ENP” [European Neighborhood Policy], Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on Strengthening the European Neighborhood Policy, 4 December 2006, in order to elaborate a common approach (methodology) on IPPC-BATs (Integrated Pollution Prevention Control - Best Available Technologies) for sustainable transport, energy, industry and infrastructure development in Carpathian Region.
- Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development on the European Continent, as well as the 21 March 2002 Linz Declaration on regional policy and cohesion, governance and the future of Europe, transport networks in Europe, sustainable agriculture and protection of rural areas, etc., initiated by the Assembly of the European Regions and adopted by the EU Committee of the Regions, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE) and also fourteen other European regional bodies.
- Communication from the EU Commission to the Council and European Parliament on “Strengthening the European Neighborhood Policy”, 4 December 2006, as well as Communication from the EU Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the “Extension of the major trans-European transport axes to the neighboring countries. Guidelines for transport in Europe and neighboring regions”, 31 January 2007.

REPORT ON THE FIRST MEETING OF THE WG

Report of the meeting

22-23 March 2007

European Academy, Bolzano, Italy

The First Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Industry, Energy, Transport and Infrastructure was held in Bolzano on 22-23 March 2007 in the premises of the European Academy of Bolzano (EURAC) in the framework of the CADSES Carpathian Project and with the support from the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and the CEI-ES. The meeting was serviced by Mr Pier Carlo Sandei, Project Manager for EURAC. The event was attended by experts from all Parties to the Carpathian Convention, except Serbia and Romania. The meeting was also attended by the CEI-ES Deputy Director

General, as well as representatives from UNEP and NERHT (see the annexed list of participants).

Aim and purpose of the WG

The WG aims at supporting the Parties to the Carpathian Convention towards their cooperation for the implementation of Articles 8 (Sustainable Transport and Infrastructure) and 10 (Industry and Energy) of the Carpathian Convention, as well as at guiding and advising the work of the European Academy (EURAC) in preparing the study on transport network in the Carpathians.

Items included in the agenda

- The Carpathian Convention process and the role of the WG on sustainable industry, energy, transport and infrastructure;
- Inputs from the EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project into the activities of the WG;
- Discussion on the objectives and tasks of the WG on sustainable industry, energy, transport and infrastructure;
- Discussion and approval of the ToR and Work Plan of the WG on sustainable industry, energy, transport and infrastructure.

Day One

Adoption of the agenda of the meeting without amendments by consensus

Discussion for the adoption of the ToR

Presentations

Mr Sandei presented the tasks of the WG and the study that is to be developed by EURAC with the support of the WG in the framework of WP2 of the CADSES Carpathian Project.

Mr Luciani, EURAC, presented the REC-EURAC Regional Assessment and Handbook, documents prepared in the framework of the Umbrella Project, financed by the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS), as a background document for the development of the activities of the WG.

After the presentations, the ToR were discussed and, following the request of some delegations, amendments were made to the proposed structure.

Day Two

The final version of ToR and the Work Plan were adopted on the basis of the inputs of the participants to the meeting (see annexes 2 and 3)

Presentations

Mr Massimo Santori (EURAC expert on transport) presented EURAC's experience resulting from the SWOMM project (sustainable mountain mobility) resulting from its work in the Alps and introduced the concept of the study EURAC will carry out on this issue, as well as the methodology EURAC intends to follow. In particular, the Work Plan and the data/information needed were presented and discussed.

The participants agreed to support EURAC in this study and to provide EURAC with relevant data necessary for the study.

Mr Broyde, Ukrainian delegation, gave a brief background of the current status of the Pan-European Corridors and pointed out the weak points, as well as the environmental impact of transport in the Carpathian region. In this context, Ukraine offered proposals for the railway network.

Mr Fuller and Mr Wiggs, NEHRT (New Europe Railway Heritage Trust), presented their activities in the field of tourist railways in many of the Carpathian Convention countries.

They insisted that the governments of the Carpathian countries should make an effort to help resolve the problem by removing legal and political obstacles, which may hinder the development of tourist railways and by joining in applications for European funds.

Mr Borsa, representative of RTI Polska, partner of the INTERRRG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project, suggested some strategic goals, such as improving the transport network in the Carpathians, defining the main transport links and their role for socio-economic development in the Carpathian region, assessing the transport supply in protected areas of the Carpathian region.

It was agreed that the members of the WG will be asked to provide EURAC and the Secretariat with the following materials for the development of the study on transport system in Carpathians:

- National Transport Master Plan (English version/synthesis);
- Local documents on the current transport situation and/or Transport Plans of specific areas of environmental and tourist interest (English version/synthesis);
- General up-to-date data on transport demand; freight and passengers traffic volume on main roads and rails;
- Suggestions and reasons behind the selection of a few case-studies regarding specific areas of environmental and tourist interest to be developed in the study;
- General data concerning traffic generation and attraction by selected areas of environmental and tourist interest.
- The meeting was closed at 15.30 with the final approval of the ToR (annexed) and of the Work Plan of EURAC (see annexes 2 and 3) [omissis].

REPORT ON THE SECOND MEETING OF THE WG

Final minutes of the meeting

11-12 December 2007

Chamber of Commerce, Trieste, Italy

Opening of the meeting on 11 December 2007 at 15.00.

- Welcome by UNEP (Harald Egerer and Pier Carlo Sandei)
- Welcome by CEI (Mykola Melenevsi)

After welcoming the participants, the CEI (Central European Initiative), which is contributing to the financing of the activities of the WG, reminded that the WGs of CEI are being discontinued and that their function is being replaced by network of experts in specific fields, such as transport or energy, whose expertise could be provided to the CEI and its Member States, if needed and upon request. While informing the participants of this development, the CEI asked them and their respective governments to kindly signal the CEI individuals who could serve as experts within the abovementioned network.

After providing for an overview on the meeting and its objectives, the ISCC (Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention) reminded that the meeting was likely to be the last meeting of the WG before the COP2 of the Carpathian Convention on 17-19 June 2008, in Bucharest, Romania, and encouraged the participating States to submit a draft recommendation for consideration by the COP2; the ISCC also reminded of the possibility of developing a follow up of the CADSES Carpathian Project within the new EU CENTRAL programme, also in the form, for example, of the proposal of a specific project on sustainable transport.

No objection was raised to the draft agenda, so the agenda was adopted by the participants.

Item 1 - Presentation of the draft of the study on the Carpathian transport system and of the recommendations for a Protocol on Sustainable Transport

Massimo Santori (EURAC/CSST Rome) presented the draft study on the transport system in the Carpathians (see the draft recommendations of this study in the annex). In order to complete the study, he stressed the importance of receiving the requested information from all the Carpathian countries, if possible in English and in a format that is compatible with—and comparable to—that of the countries which have already sent information. Furthermore, he recommended the inclusion of data specific to the Carpathians, due to the fact that most of the information received so far concerned the countries at a national level and not at the level of the Carpathian regions.

Item 2 - Discussion of the draft study and of the recommendations

Concerning the study, the participants suggested expanding the concept of inter and intra-Carpathian traffic both within each section of the study and as a specific section or case study; they also recommended including the use of minibuses in the analysis of public road transportation, as well as that of water transport. The participants requested the country specific case studies to be included as annex to the general study, because of the diversity of the contributions.

An executive summary as well as the appropriate disclaimers and logos are required in connection with other activities (especially the VASICA strategic document, Visions and Strategies in the Carpathian Area) and specific guidelines within the CADSES Carpathian Project.

Concerning the recommendations, see the attached document, elaborated with the assistance of Luca Cetara (EURAC).

Item 3 - Inputs from participants for the development of the study

John Fuller (NEHRT/FEDECRAIL) presented the case of forest railways in the Carpathians and in the rest of Europe, underlining their interest for accessibility

of tourist sites in mountain regions, in terms of nature protection and tourist development (see attachment).

Zinovy Broyde (Ukraine) presented the case of the Northeastern-Southeastern European transport axis, which as it is presently planned would cross the Carpathians in a number of points, and proposed its shifting Eastwards, shortening the route, crossing the Ukrainian territory, and avoiding the crossing of Carpathian mountain regions (see attachment).

Item 4 - Updating of the timetable for the development of the WG activities

The missing inputs to the study should be provided indicatively by the beginning of January and the study should be finalized by the end of February, in order to enable the ISCC to include it in the activities of the COP2.

Because of the COP2 in June and of the end of the CADSES Carpathian Project in August, the meeting was likely to be the last meeting of the WG before the COP2 and within the CADSES framework. However, if needed, a small meeting for the preparation of a new INTERREG project proposal on sustainable transport in the Carpathians could still be organized before the COP2.

Ukraine announced that it could host in the next future a meeting of the WG on Energy, and the participants demonstrated interest in this possibility.

Item 5 - Inputs from the participants for the COP2

The participants to the WG recommended the COP2 to take note of the study produced by EURAC on the Carpathian transport system as well as of the recommendations of the study, a revised draft of which attached to the present draft minutes.

Item 6 - Proposals from the participants for the new EU calls for Central and Eastern Europe

The participants demonstrated interest in developing a new INTERREG project proposal on a specific transport issue in the Carpathians and in eventually participating in a small preparatory meeting.

Closure of the meeting on 12 December 2007 at 17.00.

Annexes

- 1) Revised recommendations of the study
- 2) PowerPoint presentation by EURAC/CSST
- 3) PowerPoint presentation by NEHRT/FEDECRAIL
- 4) PowerPoint presentation by Ukraine
- 5) Invitation to the meeting by EURAC
- 6) Draft ToR for the WG on Sustainable Industry, Energy, Transport and Infrastructure
- 7) List of participants

REPORT ON THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON RENEWABLE ENERGY

Meeting summary

6-7 May 2008

Lviv, Ukraine

This collaborative initiative between UNIDO, UNEP and the Carpathian Convention is aimed at establishing a viable network between EU and non-EU countries of the Carpathians region to promote renewable energy development. Its main objective was to share knowledge and exchange experiences on the current status, barriers and opportunities for the development of renewable energy in order to harness the vast potential of renewable energy sources in the region. The network will allow a free flow of information between research institutions, regional and local authorities, entrepreneurs and investors of all kinds, consultants, intermediaries and other actors.

Participants

The Regional Workshop on Renewable Energy in the Carpathian region brought together more than 50 representatives from governments of all Carpathian Convention countries, from research institutions, private sector companies, universities and NGOs active in the field of renewable energy. In addition, focal points and observers of the Carpathian Convention as well as participants from multi/bilateral agencies and organizations attended the event.

Overview of the meeting

The workshop has highlighted the benefits that can be accrued from renewable energy, such as economic development opportunities, environmentally friendly power generation and a beneficial response to the threat of global warming. It has also explored the potential of a common strategy promoting renewable sources of energy in the Carpathian region.

The workshop has stimulated discussions and dialogue on the key role that can be played by renewable energy in enhancing energy security in the Carpathian region, specifically from the point of view of policy, institutional and investment concerns. Special focus has been given to the development of bio-energy as it has the largest potential in the Carpathian region.

Generally the workshop addressed two main issues:

- In the first part, the current situations of renewable energy in the countries which are the Parties to the Carpathian Convention have been illustrated and positive developments as well as possible shortcomings of the national policies and strategies discussed. The national participants from the Carpathian countries presented the national experiences in the field of renewable energy development.
- In the second part, opportunities for the future cooperation have been addressed and discussed. During the second part, inputs from the experts and international organizations especially on the topics of Renewable Energy policy and financing have been provided to support the cooperation process.

The main messages and conclusions about the two main focal areas of the workshop, RE Policy and Financing, are summarized in the following paragraphs.

Policy and institutional framework

Conducive policies are central for the development and promotion of renewable energy markets.

Policies for renewable energy promotion can be very diverse with a number of “levers” available to stimulate technical development and adoption. Although various countries have formulated renewable energy policies, there is still lack of a common regional approach, which could make use of synergies coming from the relatively unique and unifying socioeconomic and geographical structure of the Carpathian region.

Conclusions and recommendations generated during the workshop:

- 1) Current policies are not sufficient to reach the targets as put forward in the national legislation and EU Directives.
- 2) An opportunity exists in the significant potential for RE development, bearing in mind the sustainable approach especially with regard to the use of biomass and biofuels. The current approach will focus on forestry and agricultural waste residues with a specific aim to safeguard the Carpathian forest resources and minimize a potential impact on agriculture for food purposes
- 3) A regional approach and the inclusion of trading options for biomass and/or physical electricity could trigger and strengthen RE development in the region.

Financing Mechanisms

The workshop provided a summary of possibilities of (co-)financing of the projects in the field of renewable energy sources in the countries of the Carpathian region to facilitate RE development and to enhance investments in this field.

Most of the renewable energy projects are not yet profitable without a “start-up” support mechanism. RE project implementation can be facilitated by receiving a grant or softinterest loan for investment costs or by mechanisms supporting the operation (feed-in-tariffs or green bonuses or tax relief). There is already a variety of supporting mechanisms in the countries of the Carpathian region in place; however they are not unified and are often nontransparent.

Besides funding on national level, there is also a possibility to obtain support from international institutions, for example EBRD, GEF, World Bank, IFC, UNIDO etc. There is also a significant support from the EU in the Carpathian region. The projects located in the EU countries (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and the Slovak Republic) may be co-financed through national operational programs under the Cohesion Policy Framework of the European Union. There are also several EU programs financing RE projects in the EU. The support from the EU is also available for the countries that are not members of the EU, especially through Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (Serbia) or European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (Ukraine). However, there are not specific programs for support of renewable sources.

Outputs

Following the workshop, UNIDO is preparing a base-line report on renewable energy policies and financial instruments in the EU and non- EU countries of the Carpathian Convention. The report will include the inputs from the participants collected at the workshop and will be available in the third quarter of 2008.

As a further outcome of the workshop, UNIDO is currently co-developing a joint project initiative with FAO, UNEP and regional partners. The aim of this EU-funded project will be to enhance renewable energy development in the Carpathian region.

All meeting materials, including Presentations, are downloadable from:
www.unido.org/energy/carpathians

WG ON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Mandate

The First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP1) to the Carpathian Convention (Kiev, Ukraine, 11-13 December 2006) in its Decision COP1/10 para 2 decided “to support the establishment of a Working Group on sustainable tourism under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee”, a subsidiary body of the Convention, established pursuant to Decision COP1/3 para 4.

Aim and tasks

The Working Group (WG) aims at supporting the Parties to the Carpathian Convention towards their cooperation for the implementation of Article 9 on sustainable tourism and other related Articles of the Carpathian Convention. Pursuant to Decision COP1/10 para 2, the main goal of the Working Group is the elaboration and negotiation of a strategy for the future tourism development of the Carpathians and of a Draft Tourism Protocol.

Field of activities

1. Draft Tourism Protocol

Pursuant to Decision COP1/10 para 2, the Working Group will elaborate and negotiate the Draft Tourism Protocol.

2. Tourism Strategy

Pursuant to Decision COP1/10 para 2, the Working Group will elaborate and negotiate a strategy for the future tourism development of the Carpathians. The Tourism Strategy will outline the measures that are necessary for the implementation of the Tourism Protocol and therefore will be finalized after the final draft of the Tourism Protocol is developed.

3. Contribution to the follow-up platform

The WG will provide its guidance and recommendations for the identification and development of follow-up projects in the area of sustainable tourism.

List of results

- Strategy for the future tourism development of the Carpathians with Annexes;
- Draft of the Tourism Protocol with Annexes;
- Proposed inputs for COP2 of the Carpathian Convention, such as inputs to a ministerial declaration to be considered by COP2;
- Information documents for COP2, such as Draft Tourism Protocol and outline of the Tourism Strategy;
- WG Progress Report for submission to COP2;
- A list of follow-up actions and proposals.

Composition and organization of work

The participation in the Working Group on sustainable tourism is open-ended. The members of the Working Group are delegated by the Parties to the Carpathian Convention and may represent different sectors (economy, environment, tourism, etc.).

The Working Group will take into account the inputs of stakeholders, including governments at all levels, international and non-governmental organizations and initiatives, as well as indigenous peoples, local communities, the private sector and other stakeholders shall be involved to contribute to the actions related to the future cooperation under the Carpathian Convention and its implementation in the framework of sustainable tourism, also by using the means of electronic consultation.

The Working Group elects its chair, co-chair and rapporteur to guide its proceedings.

The Central and East European Working Group for the Enhancement of Biodiversity (CEEWEB) provides continuous inputs to the Working Group.

The Working Group will meet at least twice between COP1 and COP2 and its meetings will be financially supported by the EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project. The tentative schedule of the Working Group is as follows:

- 1) First Meeting - April 2007, Czech Republic;
- 2) Reporting to the Carpathian Convention Extended Bureau Meeting - October 2007;
- 3) Reporting to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee Meeting - April 2008;
- 4) Second Meeting - April 2008, Poland.

Coordination and cooperation

According to Decision COP1/3 “Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention”, the Secretariat is requested to ensure a continuous exchange and inter-linkage between the work and activities under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee and the work and activities under the EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project.

Scientific contributions and background information

The Working Group will benefit *inter alia* from the inputs provided by:

- 1) The Carpathian Environment Outlook (KEO), which will provide a holistic and integrated assessment of the current state and future trends of the Carpathian environment;
- 2) The Handbook on the Carpathian Convention prepared in the framework of the Umbrella Project, financed by the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS) and implemented by the Regional Environmental Center (REC) in partnership with the European Academy (EURAC);

- 3) National assessments of the policy, legislative and institutional frameworks related to the Carpathian Convention, available in English and national-language versions, prepared in the framework of the Umbrella Project financed by IMELS and implemented by the REC in partnership with EURAC;
- 4) Preparatory and accompanying activities of the INTERREG IIB CADSES Carpathian Project; this project will provide inputs to the WG through, *inter alia*:
 - Background document “Sustainable Tourism Opportunities in the Carpathians” prepared by CEEWEB;
 - Methodology and tools for tourism infrastructure in marginal and remote areas (methodology and tools) / Via Carpatica;
 - Developing professional skills in tourism - tools and methods - handbook for local authorities and development actors;
 - Carpathian Cultural, Historic and Social Topography.

REPORT ON THE FIRST MEETING OF THE WG

Report of the meeting⁷

2-5 April 2007

Lopenik, White Carpathians, Czech Republic

Introduction

On 22 May 2003 in Kiev, Ukraine, the Ministers of the Environment of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia and Ukraine signed the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians.

The Carpathian Convention provides the framework for cooperation and multi-sectoral policy coordination, a platform for joint strategies for sustainable development and a forum for dialog between all stakeholders involved.

On the First Meeting of the COP to the Carpathian Convention (COP1), 11-13 December 2006, in Kiev, Ukraine, the Parties decided

*To support the establishment of a of a Working Group on sustainable tourism under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee, aiming at the elaboration of a strategy for the future tourism development of the Carpathians and of a Tourism Protocol.*⁸

From April 2 to 5, 2007, the first meeting of the WG on sustainable tourism under the Carpathian Convention (from now on referred to as WG on Tourism or TWG) took place in the White Carpathians, Czech Republic.

The main goal of the meeting was to open the work towards elaborating and negotiating the strategy for the future tourism development of the Carpathians (from now on referred to as Tourism Strategy) and of a Draft Tourism Protocol, to be submitted to the COP1 Bureau - Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee, with a request for submission to COP2.

⁷ Report also edited by Katrin Gebhard, Michael Meyer (ETE) and Kristina Vilimaite (CEEWEB).

⁸ Decision COP1/10, Article 9 (2)

The 35 participants of the meeting elected the Chair, Vice-Chair and Rapporteur of the WG on Tourism, discussed and adopted the draft ToR of the WG on Tourism, the Tourism Strategy and the Draft Tourism Protocol. Further, the draft structures of Tourism Strategy and Protocol were adopted and responsibilities for the further elaboration of the Tourism Strategy's chapters were agreed.

Attendance

The first Meeting of the WG on Tourism was attended by governmental delegates from four of the seven Carpathian States (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Ukraine), NGOs, administrations of protected areas as well as international tourism experts and observers.

From the following countries, participants attended the workshop: the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Ukraine as well as Austria, Germany and the United Kingdom. The full list of participants can be found in Annex 1.

Opening of the meeting

The meeting officially opened at 9.30 on 2 April 2007.

Welcome remarks were made on behalf of the Government of the Czech Republic by Martina Paskova, Interim Chair of the WG and Head of the Settlements and Human Ecology Department, Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic.

Regarding the attendance of governmental delegates from four out of seven Carpathian States, Martina Paskova pointed out the need to prepare a constructive "letter of emergency" to be sent to the National Focal Points of the Carpathian Convention, in order to stress the need of full participation from all seven Parties of the Convention.

This proposal was supported by Solomiya Omelyan, representative of the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, UNEP Vienna.

The official opening of the meeting was followed by a short introduction round of the participants.

Organization of work

Facilitation of the WG on Tourism meeting

The Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic, with its National Focal Point Jana Brozova, hosted the WG on Tourism in the White Carpathians, Czech Republic and had the overall responsibility for the organization of the meeting.

Kristina Vilimaite from CEEWEB, Hungary, and Michael Meyer and Katrin Gebhard from Ecological Tourism in Europe, Germany, were responsible for the co-organization, the preparation of the meeting as regards to content and the overall facilitation of the meeting.

Agenda

The WG on Tourism adopted the agenda on the basis of a tentative agenda, as well as preparatory documents and materials that had been circulated to all participants prior to the workshop.

Due to rescheduling, however, the agenda has been altered in the course of the meeting. The following agenda (short version; the long version of the agenda is presented in Annex 2) shows the final schedule of the meeting.

Day One - April 2

- Introductory Session for NGOs on the WG on Tourism
- Introduction and General Aspects (Official Opening of the Meeting)
- Tourism in the Carpathians - Opportunities and Threats: Introductory presentations
- Carpathian Evening

Day Two - April 3

- Adoption of the ToR of the Tourism Strategy
- Preparation of the Tourism Strategy
- Adoption of the Structure of the Tourism Strategy
- Elaboration of the First Two Elements of the Tourism Strategy (Purpose of the Strategy and Vision Statement)

Day Three - April 4

- Excursion in the White Carpathians
- Protocol Development
- Adoption of the ToR of the Draft Tourism Protocol
- Adoption of the Structure of the Draft Tourism Protocol

Day Four - April 5

- Conclusions
- Miscellaneous (time and place of the second meeting)

Election of chair, vice-chair and rapporteur of the WG on Tourism

Martina Paskova, Head of the Settlements and Human Ecology Department, Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic, by then Interim Chair of the WG on Tourism was confirmed in her position and elected Chair of the WG on Tourism by the participants of the meeting.

Nominated by the Chair of the WG, Czesary Molski, Ministry of Economy, Poland, was elected Vice-Chair of the WG on Tourism by the participants of the meeting.

Nominated by the Chair of the WG, Michael Meyer, Ecological Tourism in Europe, Germany, and representative of CEEWEB, Hungary, was elected as Rapporteur of the WG on Tourism by the participants of the meeting.

The WG on Tourism in the framework of the Carpathian Convention

The Carpathian Convention process

Solomiya Omelyan shortly introduced the essential characteristics and the process of the Carpathian Convention as well as the role of UNEP Vienna as Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention.

She strongly pointed out the participatory approach of the Convention. This approach allows the early involvement of non-governmental bodies and institutions

in the discussion process and it focuses on transboundary and international cooperation, e.g. taking into account lessons learnt and best practices. In this respect, the close cooperation with the Alpine Convention had to be mentioned.

Further, Solomiya Omelyan underlined that the Carpathian Convention profited in a considerable manner from the “Protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians in a transnational framework” project [a.k.a. Carpathian Project] under the INTERREG IIIB CADSES Neighborhood Program.

She acknowledged the ambitious goal of the WG on Tourism to prepare the Tourism Strategy and the Draft Tourism Protocol for submission to COP2 and saw great potential for tourism as perfect showcase for COP2.

For more information, please check: www.carpathianconvention.org

WG on Tourism activities, timeframe and tasks until COP2

By means of a PowerPoint presentation, Michael Meyer introduced the role of the WG on Tourism in the scope of the Carpathian Convention.

Michael Meyer stressed that the actual geographical scope of the Carpathian Convention is not of importance for the work of the WG on Tourism as the impacts of tourism development go far beyond the discussed borders.

Summary of the presentation

The relevant timeframe for activities of the TWG is the period between April 2007 and May 2008 (COP2). During this time, three meetings are taking place (April 2007, October 2007 and January 2008), aiming at the elaboration of the Draft Tourism Protocol and the Tourism Strategy. In addition to the participation of the TWG members, an electronic consultation process will be held to ensure the broad involvement of stakeholders.

First TWG meeting

- Development and approval of the structure of the Tourism Strategy and Draft Tourism Protocol;
- Elaboration and adoption of the Vision of the Strategy as well as of the Purpose of the Strategy;
- Agreement on the further elaboration process of the contents of the documents;
- Distribution of responsibilities for the elaboration of the documents.
- Period between the first and second TWG meeting (6 months)
- Compilation of comments from the TWG participants on the outcome of the first meeting (email);
- Starting of the inter-ministerial consultation process in all countries;
- Development of the draft chapters of the Tourism Strategy and the Draft Tourism Protocol.

It was made clear, that the drafting of the Strategy and Protocol is an ambitious task, in particular because of the limited time available and the summer break.

However, the achievement of a very good draft before the second meeting is of vital importance.

Second TWG meeting (scheduled October 2007)

- Development of the drafts of the Tourism Strategy and the Tourism Protocol;
- Development of the draft action plan for the implementation of the Tourism Strategy;
- Call for contributions to the implementation of the Tourism Strategy and the Action Plan.

The call for contributions also includes the call for long-term projects and long-term funding in order to ensure long-term effects and success of Strategy and Protocol.

Period between the second and third TWG meeting (3 months)

- Compilation of comments of all relevant stakeholders through launching an official electronic consultation;
- Compilation of comments through an inter-ministerial consultation process in all countries.

Between the second and the third meeting the official electronic consultation process will start; therefore Michael Meyer suggests that the documents should be translated into the different languages to ensure broad participation (the translation of documents was further discussed as a separate item, see below).

After the second meeting, the elaborated documents should go for discussion to the inter-ministerial platforms to ensure easier adoption and better understanding.

Third TWG meeting (scheduled January 2008)

- Incorporation of the comments of all stakeholders (governmental and non-governmental) into the documents;
- Acknowledgement of all contributions to the implementation of the Tourism Strategy and the Draft Tourism Protocol.

The third meeting will be the most important because it represents the last opportunity to change the documents for COP2; it can already be regarded as “warming-up” for COP2: if the draft documents are agreed upon by the WG on Tourism, the best conditions for adoption at COP2 are created.

After the third meeting the final draft will be submitted through the Secretariat and the Bureau to COP2; changes are not possible at that stage. However, the documents will be posted on the webpage to allow commenting; these comments will then be submitted to COP2 as a separate document; in that way, all stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment at least twice in the process of document elaboration.

The Czech National Focal Point, Jana Brozova, proposed the opening of an electronic forum through the Czech Clearing House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity. This forum will work on the basis of a webpage and will be accessible for everybody. The address of the webpage is the following: www.chm.nature.cz

The Chair of the WG on Tourism underlined that most of the work will take place between the meetings. She encouraged the participants to contribute to the success of the elaboration of the Tourism Protocol and Strategy.

Discussion notes

- The WG on Tourism shall serve as platform for the support of follow-up initiatives. One of these initiatives is the proposal of the “Via Carpatica”, which is currently still at an early stage in the process of elaboration.
- It is most important for the success of the Carpathian Convention not to stop at the theoretical level, but to actually implement the steps which have been agreed on. Therefore both documents are equally needed: the Tourism Protocol as legally binding commitment and the Strategy as guidance for the implementation of the commitments deriving from the Protocol.
- In order to achieve documents which satisfy both needs, the official demands of the political level as well as the demands of the implementing organizations in the countries, the cooperation and input of governments, NGOs and tourism experts is desired.
- Following the decision of COP1, each country should establish an inter-ministerial platform in order to ensure interdisciplinary cooperation at the governmental level; the actual arrangement of this platform is left to the decision-making of each country; in general, the involvement of all relevant ministries should be targeted.

Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference of the WG on Tourism

The Czech National Focal Point, Jana Brozova, remarks that the WG on Tourism is not authorized to officially adopt ToR. This is a task of the Bureau and the TWG will have to wait for official adoption from it (via email). The preliminary adoption of the ToR through the TWG is nevertheless important for the further work.

The ToRs were discussed during the meeting and the WG on Tourism preliminarily adopted the following ToR on the basis of a draft that had been circulated to all participants prior to the workshop.

Discussion notes

Antonina Karnaukhova from Ukraine noted that the WG on Energy and Transport had to deal with a similar problem and she suggested to work towards a similar structure regarding the style (not contents) of all ToRs in all WGs under the Carpathian Convention.

Jana Brozova welcomed this proposal and recommended that the harmonization of the ToRs be done by the Secretariat within the following week (15th calendar week). This task has to be accomplished very promptly as the TWG cannot continue work without adopted ToR.

Further Antonina Karnaukhova recommended adding a paragraph on cooperation with other WGs and international organizations to the ToR.

This suggestion was approved by the TWG and the paragraph was added to the ToR.

Following a remark by Jana Brozova, it was agreed that the ToR will not show any timeframe - concerning validity of the ToR - as decided in Vienna.

Tamara Malkova, Ukraine, reminded that all stakeholders need to be informed about the ongoing process regarding the ToR adoption.

Jana Brozova pointed out that it is up to the National Focal Points to inform the stakeholders in their country. Additionally the Secretariat will inform all observers which are on their list of observers.

Terms of Reference of the Tourism Strategy

The ToR were discussed during the meeting and the WG on Tourism adopted the following ToR on the basis of a draft that had been circulated to all participants prior to the workshop.

Discussion notes

Finances

Michael Meyer, Rapporteur, emphasized that there will be limited financial support possible for participants from non-EU countries. However, this cannot be stated in the ToRs for formal reasons.

Public consultation

Tamara Malkova, Ukraine, raised the question on how to arrange public consultation.

Michael Meyer explained that the outcomes of each session shall be distributed in English to the participants and National Focal Points; all NGOs were requested to closely cooperate with their National Focal Points. Additionally all NGOs should use own additional channels for further distribution in their home countries.

The organizers of the TWG will cooperate as well with National Focal Points and NGOs and contribute to the distribution of outcomes and information.

In addition, the organizers will search for additional funding (e.g. in the scope of the INTERREG IIB CADSES Carpathian Project).

Jana Brozova, National Focal Point of the Czech Republic, and Michael Meyer, Rapporteur, again pointed out that the TWG is neither authorized to interfere with national affairs, nor is it capable of launching a dissemination process of its own. Further, the development of National Focal Points for NGOs, which was proposed earlier, must be left in the hands of national authorities. Every country has to use its own structures, functional bodies and ways of communication to disseminate the information on the processes related to TWG and the Carpathian Convention.

Solomiya Omelyan reminded that COP1 decisions state that the countries are invited to support the Carpathian Convention and related processes through dissemination, public consultation, etc.

Discussion on the translation of documents related to the TWG

Jana Brozova, National Focal Point of the Czech Republic, gave an example on how the Czech Republic deals with the issue. She stated that the Czech National Focal Point did not translate the decisions but prepared a table with all decisions, agreements, etc., relevant for the Czech Republic and individual bodies. In a

second step, those responsible for specific tasks are being contacted and invited to take up their work.

Furthermore, the Czech Republic applied for resources for 2007 (successfully) in order to realize interdisciplinary round tables, where the Tourism Protocol and the Tourism Strategy will be discussed together with other topics.

Istvan Sido, Association “Pro Conventia Carpatica”, Romania, proposed to encourage NGOs to support the National Focal Point in this task as well.

Michael Meyer, Rapporteur, suggested that NGOs should seek for possibilities to disseminate the outcomes of the TWG meetings through the activities of ongoing (sustainable tourism) projects: possible funds for translation within these projects could be used; further, project meetings could be used to discuss the Tourism Protocol and Strategy, e.g. through comments from the meeting participants being forwarded to the TWG for further consideration.

Michael Meyer for this purpose will use the GEF project “Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity through Sound Tourism Development in Biosphere Reserves in Central and Eastern Europe” coordinated by the Ecological Tourism in Europe.

Another suggestion was to involve local people in the process, which for instance might report back to the NGOs and TWG.

Jana Brozova, National Focal Point of the Czech Republic, proposed to establish a deadline for National Focal Points to submit their reports. It was decided to do so at the next TWG meeting in October.

Relation between the Tourism Strategy and the Tourism Protocol

The relation between, and the purpose of, both the Tourism Strategy and Protocol, were topics of discussion at the meeting.

Thus, Michael Meyer explained the difference between the Tourism Protocol and the Tourism Strategy:

The Tourism Strategy	The Tourism Protocol
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is a flexible document targeted to those implementing decisions on the ground (e.g. NGOs, businesses) • supports the Tourism Protocol • has a broad focus and tackles with Pan-Carpathian as well as country-specific issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is a static document, targeted to the governments • identifies needs for immediate action with regards to legal concerns • has a defined focus and precisely summarizes issues

Jana Brozova, National Focal Point of the Czech Republic, posed the question if the title “strategy” is too imprecise and may cause confusion among the meeting participants and other stakeholders, who do not expect a real framework for action behind the name.

Martina Paskova, Chair of the TWG, explained that a strategy is the usual title of such a document under a convention and that it will be understood as document dealing with the management of the implementation of the Protocol.

Jana Urbancikova from the Bile Karpaty PLA Administration, Czech Republic, stressed that the Strategy is exactly the document needed at the implementation level as it will include both the framework and a precise work program and action plan, which those implementing the Protocol can use to plan their work. She saw the Strategy as the way forward towards this goal. Even if COP2 did not adopt the Strategy, it will still be finished and it will prove to be very useful for all those who are willing to work towards sustainable tourism development.

Michael Meyer, Rapporteur, emphasized again that the goal of the Strategy is twofold: first, to make people understand the approach of sustainable tourism development and to show them the way towards this development and, then, to provide a detailed action plan that enables people to start working immediately and walk the first steps in the path inscribed in the Protocol.

As to adoption at COP2, if the COP decides not to adopt the whole Strategy, there is still the possibility to separate the document into an action plan and framework, so that the Parties might only focus on individual chapters, e.g. the Action Plan.

Validity of the ToRs

The ToRs are only valid until COP2 and can be submitted there as an information document; it would be best, if at COP2 the Parties agreed on the adoption and continued directly with the implementation of the Action Plan.

Terms of Reference of the Tourism Protocol

The ToR were discussed during the meeting and the WG on Tourism adopted the following ToR on the basis of a draft that had been circulated to all participants prior to the workshop.

Development of the draft structures of the Tourism Strategy and the Tourism Protocol

Introductory presentation on the preparation of the Tourism Strategy and the Tourism Protocol

Michael Meyer gave an introduction on the overall goals and cornerstones of the Tourism Strategy and the Tourism Protocol and described the main expected outcomes and impacts of both documents for the future development of tourism in the Carpathians.

Summary of the presentation

The Strategy for the Future Tourism Development of the Carpathians aims at supporting the conservation of Carpathian landscapes, biological diversity and natural treasures, the preservation of culture and traditions in the Carpathians and the continuity of long-term economic benefits for the local people through introducing a coordinating and unifying framework for strengthening, and building on, existing initiatives and promoting the responsible use of the rich tourism potential of the Carpathians.

Goals of the Tourism Strategy

- More effective integration of tourism with all relevant socio-cultural and ecologic elements as well as relevant economic sectors;
- Increase of public participation in, and awareness and acceptance of, conservation interests in the tourism sector;

- No introduction of new legislation or programmes, but the filling of gaps where initiatives are not implemented to their full potential or fail to achieve the desired objectives;
- It strives to be a Pan-Carpathian response to support the implementation of the Tourism Protocol to the Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians.

Cornerstones of the Tourism Strategy

Due to the urgent need to deal with certain pressing problems, the Strategy will be implemented through a framework of action, including a concrete action plan with different ranges of application, prioritizing the themes that need to be addressed, first, at the pan-Carpathian level, second, at the multi and bilateral levels, and which require priority attention from individual countries.

The Strategy also provides a framework to promote a consistent approach and common objectives for national and regional action to implement the Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Tourism Protocol

The Tourism Protocol is the legal instrument, super-ordinate to the Tourism Strategy which links the Strategy with the Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development. It is a further Protocol to the Carpathian Convention dealing in particular with issues related to sustainable tourism and it is binding under international law.

Benefits of the Tourism Strategy and the Tourism Protocol

- A joint and more powerful approach instead of fragmented, overlapping or contra productive individual attempts;
- Common legislation eases cross-border cooperation (pan-Carpathian cooperation);
- A unifying vision as guidance for future development;
- A common basis for future decision-making at all levels;
- Lasting economic prosperity instead of short-term benefits;
- The long-term conservation of natural and cultural treasures in the Carpathians.

Discussion Notes

The term “sustainable tourism” and its use in the Strategy and Protocol

Michael Meyer, Rapporteur, pointed out that the term “sustainable tourism” should not be overestimated. What is essential is achieving a common understanding of the form of tourism. Very often the term “sustainable tourism” provokes opposition among local people and practitioners. as it means losses, limitations and restrictions for them.

Therefore, it is sometimes - and also in our case - more useful to work only with the term “tourism”. It is less frightening but it can still be based on the very same

principles of sustainable tourism. The outcome, not the terminology, of tourism development is important.

Martina Paskova, Chair of the TWG, explained that the Strategy will facilitate the coordination between various stakeholders and sectors in the field of sustainable tourism development. Therefore it will be necessary to have a common understanding of what sustainable tourism is.

The goal is to achieve broad acceptance of the Strategy among all stakeholders, including governments, practitioners, business people and the local population.

Tamara Malkova, Green Dossier, Ukraine, reminded that during the process of Protocol development a lot of different views and opinions will have to be integrated.

Stakeholders

Governmental delegates

As the Tourism Protocol is a legal document, the national delegates are the key stakeholders in the process of developing the Tourism Protocol. Therefore, it is essential that they come to the meetings, follow and influence the process already from the beginning and work together with the TWG towards a broadly accepted document already before submission to COP2. Further, their commitment to work on the document in between the meetings of the TWG is of high importance for its success.

NGOs, academic institutions and other stakeholders will back up the process with their experience and expert knowledge and will help to ensure the link between the governmental, political and local level.

Regional governments and municipalities

Monika Ochwat-Marcinkiewicz, League of Nature Conservation, Poland, proposed to involve regional governments and municipalities into the development process of the document. This proposal was broadly accepted.

Solomiya Omelyan, Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, UNEP Vienna, offered to support the National Focal Points in their task of addressing these regional governments and municipalities.

Michael Meyer, Rapporteur, particularly addressed the NGOs from Romania, Hungary and Poland to approach their National Focal Points in order to provide them with information on the outcomes of the meetings. The NGOs are asked to get back to the organizers with their results.

Business sector

Jano Rohac, Ekopolis, Slovakia, stressed that the link to the business sector is also crucial. They must be made aware that sustainable tourism can be profitable and that there is potential for long-term benefits for the businesses as well. This comment is strongly supported by the Chair of the TWG.

Michael Meyer stressed that businesses will only be willing to agree to sustainable tourism development if there are incentives offered to them, e.g. a label which brings more guest or some tax reduction. Therefore, profitable incentives that persuade businesses need to be found.

Another opportunity to persuade businesses is to intimidate them with the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas, which might imply sanctions in case of non-compliance.

However, Michael Meyer reminded that the Strategy and Protocol are still documents for environmental conservation and business concerns should not overtake them.

He also reminded that sustainable tourism is a slow and long-term development process, in which people have to understand that they have to be patient for benefits to occur.

Last but not least, tourists themselves have to be won as pressure group; tourism is a demand-driven sector, so tourists that request sustainable tourism services will have great influence on the design of the future tourism market.

The EU

Dana Cajkova, National Focal Point of Slovakia, saw the urgent need for EU grants for sustainable tourism development, which will support as well the profitable involvement of businesses. She mentioned the need for new EU programs, financial mechanisms, structures and a new common policy.

Jana Brozova, National Focal Point of the Czech Republic, also remarked that the cooperation with the EU is not satisfactory at the moment. The Carpathian Convention already tried to strengthen cooperation with the EU, but got no response so far; e.g. at the level of the EU Council, the invitation to participate to COP1 did not receive any response.

Martina Paskova, Chair of the TWG, agreed with the comments of both National Focal Points but still emphasized the need to cooperate with the European Commission, not least because of financial reasons.

The opinion of Michael Meyer, Rapporteur, on the cooperation with the EU was less optimistic. He stressed that it is not wrong to hope for cooperation, but in the meantime it is more important to search for alternative sources of support.

Cezary Molski, Ministry of Economy, Poland, Vice-Chair, supported the attitude not to wait for the EU and move forward. He saw strength in the cross-border cooperation of Carpathian States and in bi and multilateral solutions.

Tamara Malkova, Green Dossier, Ukraine, reminded of the Global Code of Conduct under the UN as a good example of a similar initiative at the EU level.

The Alpine Convention

Solomiya Omelyan, Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, UNEP Vienna, and Martina Paskova, Chair, proposed to use and even strengthen the cooperation with the Alpine Convention and their experiences with developing a Tourism Protocol. Although the example of the Tourism Protocol to the Alpine Convention has been criticized, the lessons learnt can be helpful.

Tourism Strategy

The Structure of the Tourism Strategy was discussed during the meeting. The WG on Tourism adopted the Structure of the Strategy on the basis of a draft that had been circulated to all participants prior to the workshop.

The adopted Structure of the Strategy for the Future Tourism Development of the Carpathians can be found in Annex 3.

Discussion notes

Management and Monitoring of the Action Plan

Viktor Teres, Heifer Project International, Ukraine, posed a question on the management and monitoring of the Action Plan (Chapter 5, below).

Michael Meyer, Rapporteur, saw in it a good chance to involve the EU - the European Environmental Agency in particular - into the setting up of a monitoring mechanism. The European Environmental Agency mechanism is rather economically driven, but it is still a good concept which can be used during implementation and monitoring of the Strategy.

Another possibility is to involve different DGs (e.g. Regional Development, Economy) which are dealing with destination management.

Moreover, it would be a great challenge, but a very innovative one, to run a full monitoring mechanism only for the Carpathians. So far, the Rocky Mountains are the only destination worldwide which has such a system in place.

There are two possibilities to achieve the creation of such a monitoring system: first, with a mandate given to the Secretariat by COP2 and, second, through the engagement of the countries themselves.

Martina Paskova, Chair of the TWG, proposed to use clusters and already existing structures and institutional frameworks to manage the actions described in Chapter 5. The emphasis on the institutional structures shall help to avoid the frequent changes in support from the government, as institutions are rather independent from elections.

The National Focal Points will have the task to consult with their ministries and help them to find the most appropriate ways for using the single structures that already exist in the countries to implement new legislation and provisions related to the Carpathian Convention.

Martina Paskova supports Michael Meyer's comment that governments will only adopt the Strategy at COP2 if the conformity with their national legislation is achieved. Therefore the consultative role of the National Focal Points is very critical.

Martina Paskova does not favor the involvement of the EU in the management and monitoring process.

Finances

Solomiya Omelyan, Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, UNEP Vienna, proposed that either the Strategy or the Protocol should contain some concrete information about a financial mechanism. This proposal was supported by Antonina Karnaukhova, Permanent Mission of Ukraine, Vienna.

They added that there should be a paragraph in the document stressing the need for financial resources for the TWG.

The lack of a financial mechanism like the GEF (Global Environment Facility) under the Convention on Biodiversity is a problem that cannot be solved now. However,

it should be feasible to have enough funds to support at least those countries (Serbia, Ukraine) which are not in the EU.

It was agreed by the TWG that at, and after, COP2 discussions will continue with concrete plans, a budget and a permanent secretariat. For now the TWG decided to stick to a softer proposal regarding finances, probably added in the annexes.

Distribution of Tasks

The development of the Tourism Strategy has to be accomplished by the members of the TWG in between the meetings.

In order to achieve well thought chapters, Michael Meyer, Rapporteur, proposed team work with teams of different national and technical backgrounds (e.g. NGOs, institutions, etc.).

This idea was supported by the chair of the TWG. Furthermore, the chair reminded the members of the TWG to closely cooperate with the National Focal Points.

Chapter 1

Elaborated during the first TWG meeting - see the section "Elaboration of Strategy Chapters" (below)

Chapter 2

Elaborated during the first TWG meeting - see the section "Elaboration of Strategy Chapters" (below)

Chapter 3

Under the general direction of Poland, Chapter 3 will be elaborated by:

- 1) Cezary Molski, Ministry of Economy, Poland;
- 2) Polish NGO representatives;
- 3) Tamara Malkova, Green Dossier, Ukraine.

Chapter 4

It is important to ensure that the Tourism Strategy is embedded into existing regulations, rules and agreements at the national and international level. Therefore, a broad overview regarding these legal provisions is necessary. Further, it is important to achieve an outline of all initiatives, networks and relevant conventions active in the field of tourism.

The TWG agreed that this chapter needs to be elaborated by professionals and thus decides to approach the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention to take care of its elaboration.

Chapter 5

It was agreed by the WG on Tourism that all members will work on chapter 5. In particular because of the different levels of activities (from the pan-Carpathian to individual country level) information inputs from all countries are essential.

The members were asked to submit their inputs to the organizers (CEEWEB/ETE), who will coordinate the elaboration of Chapter 5 and who will take care of summarizing and harmonizing the material received.

As proposed by various members of the TWG, it was decided that chapter 6 should be elaborated in close relation to Chapter 5.

Therefore, every activity proposed in chapter 5 already needs to provide for an appropriate indicator. At the third meeting of the TWG the group will decide which indicators will be finally used for the Tourism Strategy.

Chapter 5.1, Objectives have already been elaborated during the first TWG meeting - see the section "Elaboration of Strategy Chapters" (below)

Chapter 6

As indicators will already be elaborated in Chapter 5, Chapter 6 shall merely deal with and explain the overall concept of monitoring to be used for monitoring tourism development in the Carpathians.

All countries were asked to prepare a proposal for developing a monitoring system. The proposals shall then be submitted to the second TWG meeting, where the proposals will be compiled and integrated into one final proposal to be ready for the third meeting of the TWG.

Martina Paskova, Chair of the TWG, stressed that every Strategy needs a well-functioning monitoring system in order to identify successes, as well as failures.

Answering the question of Tamara Malkova, Green Dossier, Ukraine, who proposed a compliance mechanism, Michael Meyer, Rapporteur, explained that the Convention itself could generally deal with a compliance mechanism; however, every single Protocol needs its own specific mechanism with different tools, e.g. for non-compliance.

Tomasz Lamorski, Babia Gora National Park, Poland, pointed out the value added of a monitoring system based on indicators as the basis for adaptive management and flexible adjustment to changing conditions.

A monitoring system also makes it possible to measure the success of the Strategy, which is useful when it comes to business involvement, as businesses will be interested in case they are able to achieve benefits, increase in outcomes, etc.

General Conditions and Deadlines

For all chapters, the deadline for the development of a proposal is 15 June 2007.

Regarding the development of Chapter 5, each country was asked to prepare maximum ten activities for each level.

Proposal for the elaboration of activities:

- Level 1 (Carpathian-wide): 3 for each country;
- Level 2 (Bilateral and multilateral cooperation): 5 for each country;
- Level 3 (Individual States): 10 for each country

Draft Tourism Protocol

The Structure of the Draft Tourism Protocol was discussed during the meeting. The WG on Tourism adopted the Structure of the Draft Tourism Protocol on the basis of a draft that had been circulated among all participants prior to the workshop. The adopted Structure of the Draft Tourism Protocol to the Carpathian Convention can be found in Annex 4.

Discussion Notes

CBD Guidelines

Tamara Malkova, Green Dossier, Ukraine, posed the question why the CBD Guidelines (Article 7) are particularly mentioned in the Structure of the Protocol.

Martina Paskova, Chair of the TWG, declared that the CBD Guidelines are the methodological approach which the TWG will use for sustainable tourism management.

Michael Meyer, Rapporteur, added that next to the CBD Guidelines also other multi and bilateral agreements will be referred to in the document.

Cross-cutting issues

Tamara Malkova, Green Dossier, Ukraine, asked about the purpose of chapter 2, "Cross-cutting issues".

The Protocol and the Strategy shall be characterized by an integrative and interdisciplinary character. Not only is cooperation between the individual national ministries of the environment required, but also other ministries (e.g. economy, regional planning) need to be included. Therefore, a chapter is necessary that ensures the cross-sectoral cooperation between the ministries.

The only other possibility is the integration of a sentence on interdisciplinary cooperation in each chapter and article of the Protocol.

Public participation

Tamara Malkova, Green Dossier, Ukraine, proposed the integration of public participation into Chapter 2, "Cross-cutting issues".

Jano Rohac, Ekopolis, Slovakia, noted that it might be weaker if integrated and that it should have an article of its own.

Jana Urbancikova, PLA Bile Karpaty, Czech Republic, reminded that it might scare politicians if public participation is stated in a separate article and that it should better be hidden.

Michael Meyer, Rapporteur, recommended using the term "prior-informed consent" in decision-making as it includes full participation, all levels and the cross-sector approach.

It was agreed that the term "prior-informed consent" will be integrated in Chapter 2, Article 9, "Decision-making".

Protected areas in the Protocol

The question was raised whether protected areas should be particularly dealt with in the Protocol (e.g. by a specific article).

Michael Meyer, Rapporteur, explained the danger of interfering too much with national legislation if protected areas became a specific topic in the Protocol. However, the CBD Guidelines are already focusing on protected areas and may therefore be used as guideline in this particular matter.

The Chair regarded the topic of protected areas as essential.

As a compromise, protected areas were added to Chapter 2, Article 8.

Proposals for new chapters/articles

Rights to Use of Land and Approval Processes - Jano Rohac, Ekopolis, Slovakia

Jano Rohac proposed to insert a new article related to property, e.g. compensations, land use, planning, etc.

It was agreed to include the article “Rights to Use of Land and Approval Processes” in Chapter 3.

Regional statistics - Jano Rohac, Ekopolis, Slovakia

Jano Rohac suggested including regional statistics into Chapter 3, Article 13. The suggestion was accepted.

Sustainable financing - Hildegard Meyer, WWF, Austria

It was agreed to include Sustainable Financing into Chapter 6, Article 26, “Enhancing Economic Benefits to the Communities and Regions”.

Further agreed changes

- Access to information and notification process were integrated into one article (Chapter 9, Article 39);
- Public Awareness Raising and Education were separated and two individual articles created (Chapter 9, Articles 37 and 38).

Annotation of the structure

It was agreed that the structure of the Protocol will be annotated before it will be sent to the National Focal Points and governmental delegates.

Michael Meyer pointed out again that the Draft Protocol will be negotiated and shall be finally adopted by the Parties. Therefore, the involvement of all the Parties is essential.

Attribution of responsibilities

Martina Paskova, Chair of the TWG, and Michael Meyer, Rapporteur of the TWG, raised the question to the delegates, whether they were ready to take responsibility for the elaboration of chapters of the Tourism Protocol.

The answers of the individual national delegates are the following:

Poland

Mr Cezary Molski, Ministry of the Economy, explained that it is very difficult to decide now if, who and what topics Poland could take responsibility for. It will be necessary to first contact the National Focal Point and discuss the proceeding with further ministerial colleagues.

He regarded the approach of the Biodiversity Protocol development as a good example and proposed to follow it. Thus, he asked for a draft of the Tourism Protocol which will be commented on by the ministries.

No final statement due to pending internal negotiations

Slovakia

The National Focal Point, Dana Cajkova, explained as well that she could not take responsibility for elaboration without prior consultation with the ministries. She proposed to involve national NGOs and specialists in the elaboration process.

No final statement due to pending internal negotiations

Czech Republic

Martina Paskova, Chair of the TWG, offered to work on Chapter 4, “Environmental Impacts”. Further, she proposes to involve national/international experts on tourism into the elaboration of the draft.

Interim Secretariat - UNEP Vienna

Solomiya Omelyan, on behalf of the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, agreed to work on chapters 1, 10 and 11.

Conclusions

Michael Meyer, Rapporteur, expressed his satisfaction about the progress with the distribution of tasks related to the Tourism Strategy and saw the main difficulty now in the lack of participation by governmental delegates from all countries.

He reminded - on the basis of the proposal from Poland - that the actual idea of the Tourism Protocol was to achieve a jointly elaborated document with an approach different from the Ukrainian approach to the Biodiversity Protocol.

Therefore the distribution of tasks needs to be left open. The delegates of the countries as well as the NGOs and other stakeholders shall use the following four weeks for consultations with their National Focal Points and colleagues.

Martina Paskova, Chair of the TWG, asked the delegates of Poland and Slovakia to take care of their internal negotiations within the next 3-4 weeks (by 7 May the latest) and to get back with the results to the organizers and the Chair.

Independent from the results of internal consultations, the TWG agreed on the proposal of Martina Paskova and Michael Meyer to involve international experts in the preparation of the draft of the Tourism Protocol. The fact that there is no budget for expert involvement available is a problem, therefore experts need to work for free or other financial sources need to be found. Moreover, the timeframe of six months is extremely short to finish the drafting and commenting process.

Michael Meyer, Rapporteur, promised that he will try to find international experts. He will inform the TWG about his results in six weeks.

As soon as the National Focal Points informed the organizers about their internal negotiations, decisions and recommendations (by 15 May the latest), the further steps in Tourism Protocol development will be consulted with the Czech Republic and the Chair of the TWG and recommendations will be made to the TWG on how to proceed.

It must also be clarified if the Czech Government reconfirms to be “lead partner” in the Protocol development, as stated by Jana Brozova, National Focal Point of the Czech Republic, during COP1 and if this commitment continues during COP2, i.e. if the Czech Republic supports the adoption process of the Tourism Protocol during COP2.

Additionally, it was agreed that a letter should be sent by Martina Paskova, Chair of the TWG, through the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention to the National Focal Points in order to achieve their full participation in the meetings and contribution to the two documents.

Elaboration of strategy chapters

Elaboration of Chapter 1: Purpose of the Strategy

The First Chapter of the Tourism Strategy “Purpose of the Strategy” was discussed and elaborated on the basis of a draft during the meeting.

The adopted Chapter 1 “Purpose of the Strategy” of the Strategy for the Future Tourism Development of the Carpathians is the following:

Chapter 1: Purpose of the Strategy

The purpose of the Strategy for the Future Tourism Development of the Carpathians is to encourage tourism that integrates socio-economic benefits with the conservation of biological and cultural diversity as it was determined by the Carpathian Convention, Article 9.

Discussion notes

The Participants decided that the purpose of the Strategy should be stated by briefly and precisely in one sentence. The main focus was placed on clarifying the anticipated benefits for people and nature through the form of tourism promoted by the Strategy.

It was discussed whether to repeat Article 9 on sustainable tourism of the Carpathian Convention. Repetition should make the close connection between the Tourism Strategy and the Carpathian Convention clear. However, among other reasons, due to the required brevity, it was decided to simply refer to Article 9.

It was decided to include other potential keywords, e.g. competitiveness, that were considered by the participants for integration in the “Purpose of the Strategy”, in Chapter 5, Objectives of the Strategy.

Elaboration of Chapter 2: Vision Statement

The Second Chapter of the Tourism Strategy “Vision Statement” was discussed and elaborated during the meeting.

The adopted Chapter 2 “Vision Statement” of the Strategy for the Future Tourism Development of the Carpathians is the following:

Chapter 2: Vision Statement

The Carpathians are a living region with a common identity where people enjoy quality of life with rich traditions and in a sound environment.

This natural and cultural heritage form the basis for a competitive and sustainable tourist destination.

Good cooperation, local management and partnerships contribute to the high quality of tourism, which ensures continuous benefits for local people and economies.

The elaboration of the Vision Statement was achieved through the group work. Therefore, four teams were created, shared their ideas and presented their draft visions to the plenum. The decision for the final Vision Statement resulted from the joint discussion of the draft visions in the plenum.

Elaboration of Chapter 5.1: Objectives

The objectives of the Tourism Strategy, included into subchapter 5.1 “Goals and objectives”, were discussed and elaborated during the meeting.

The teams created for the elaboration of the Vision Statement (see above) also discussed their ideas about objectives and presented their drafts to the plenum. Michael Meyer, Rapporteur, harmonized the drafts and formulated the objectives deriving from them, which were again presented to the plenum, discussed and in the end agreed upon.

The adopted Objectives of subchapter 5.1 “Goals and Objectives” of the Strategy for the Future Tourism Development of the Carpathians are the following:

Chapter 5.1 Goals and objectives (key elements)

- 1) Establishing a marketing scheme for the promotion of the Carpathians as unique destination, including the development of supportive conditions for sustainable tourism products and services;
- 2) Developing innovative tourism management at all levels, fully integrating the needs of the local population and the preservation of natural and cultural heritage;
- 3) Establishing of a continuous process of awareness raising, capacity building, education and training on sustainable tourist development and management at both vertical and horizontal levels.

Discussion notes

Whether it might become necessary to consider the integration of additional objectives - after Chapter 5 was elaborated - was left open for discussion.

The inclusion of potentially new objectives will then be discussed and decided on during the next meeting of the TWG.

Identification of essential problems to be tackled in Strategy and Protocol

Essential problems in the field of tourism development in the Carpathians were identified through the group work using the problem tree methodology. Therefore, three teams were created, in which they discussed their ideas and present their “problem trees” to the plenum.

Problem tree methodology

Kristina Vilimaite from CEEWEB, Hungary, presented the Problem Tree methodology, which serves as a tool for the WGs when analyzing an existing situation by identifying the major problems and their main causal relations. The output expected is a graphical arrangement of problems differentiated according to “causes” (roots) and “effects” (branches), joined by a core, focal problem. The core problem is defined as “unsustainability of tourism in the Carpathians”. This technique helps understanding the context and interrelations of problems. The potential impacts therefore serve as preparation for the elaboration of objectives under chapter 5.1.

Elaboration of problem trees by the participants

Group 1: Agata Pustelnik, Horatiu Popa, Jiri Hrabak

Effects:

- Uneven distribution of tourists;
- Difficulties with launching and running sustainable “businesses”;
- Unsustainable supply: infrastructure, architecture, McDonaldization
- Poor quality of products and services;
- Landscape being destroyed.

Problem: Unsustainability of tourism in the Carpathians

Causes:

- Poverty, low education, no flexibility, aging population;
- Insufficient tourism management, existence of borders, no common strategy for tourism;
- Unsustainable demand (quality and quantity);
- Uneven distribution of local people.

Group 2: Victor Teres, Dana Cajkova, Bernadetta Zawilinska, Hildegard Meyer, Tamara Malkova

Effects:

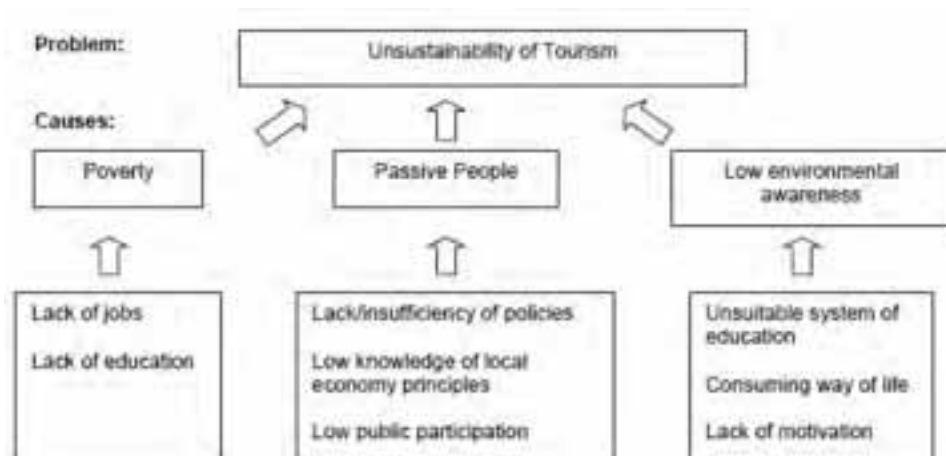
- Decreasing quality of the life of local people;
- Loss of local culture;
- Pollutions, waste management problems;
- Mass tourism;
- Selling of land (external control);
- Destruction of biodiversity and landscape;
- Chaos in the architecture, no common housing development.

Problem: Unsustainability of tourism in the Carpathians

Causes:

- Lack of suitable regulatory base, national and regional policies (economical policies, spatial plans, plans of tourism development, etc.);
- Poverty of local people;
- Economic interests of investors and local communities;
- Low awareness of the impacts of external investment;
- Very low ecological awareness of investors and local governments;
- Low levels of knowledge and skills on the possibilities of tourism development and regional products development (amongst locals);
- No connections of the investors with the area - special values, traditions;
- Lack of a protection system of tourists' rights;
- Low level of the local infrastructure.

Group 3: Istvan Sido, Monika Ochwat-Marcinkiewicz, Cezary Molski, Tomasz Lamorski



Michael Meyer, Rapporteur, made additional remarks on the results of the group work and concluded that:

- They review of existing Tourism Master Plans or the development of new ones is necessary, so that they fully integrate sustainability principles (e.g. strategic zonation and planning of destinations);
- The establishment of such bodies that foster the application of sustainable tourism is needed:
 - ◊ An inter-governmental platform,
 - ◊ A multi-stakeholder group (ad hoc/open ended), resulting in a communication system;
- Tourism Management Plans for all protected areas should be developed;
- Incentive Measures e.g. a certification system should be employed;
- Budgets at regional/local levels should be secured.

Presentations

On the first day of the meeting and in the morning of the second day, the participants to the meeting were introduced to the topic of the meeting through a number of presentations on different topics related to sustainable tourism in the Carpathians and the Carpathian Convention.

Presentation on the Background Document on Sustainable Tourism opportunities in the Carpathians

Kristina Vilimaite from CEEWEB, Hungary, presented the Background Document on Sustainable Tourism Opportunities in the Carpathians, which were submitted to COP1 in Kiev in December 2006.

Excerpt of the presentation

The Background Document was elaborated by CEEWEB/ETE in the course of the Carpathian Project (INTERREG IIIB CADSES) and aims at presenting the current

situation regarding positive and negative impacts of tourism on the Carpathian countries based on various case studies from all seven Carpathian States.

Deriving from the current situation, the document strives to provide an overview of the potentials tourism might have and identifies exemplary regions with differing tourism potential.

The document concludes with recommendations for the future development of tourism in the Carpathian region.

Recommendations given by the Background Document on Sustainable Tourism Opportunities in the Carpathians:

- 1) For the creation of synergies in all the relevant sectors involved in tourism development and management that target the best enhancement of the mega-destination “Carpathians”, a Strategy for the future tourism development of the Carpathians should be developed. This Strategy should aim at providing a comprehensive and holistic approach to combine the efforts of all the Carpathian countries in finding and agreeing on actions to maintain the region for long-term tourist operations.
- 2) As tourism activities are widely unregulated and difficult to control, governments need to have an effective tool that helps them to find common agreement at the regional level for advanced action regarding control and monitoring measures to ensure the high quality of their destinations in the long term. For this purpose, a Tourism Protocol under the Carpathian Convention will serve as a legal core tool for guiding the Parties and other stakeholders while they create joint mechanisms for the wise management and planning of tourism in the entire region.
- 3) Raising awareness and building capacity of those stakeholders and interest groups, which are going to support the Tourism Protocol and the Strategy should be top priorities. These efforts should ensure proper involvement and contribution of the Carpathian people to the implementation of the goals set out and agreed by the governments under the Carpathian Convention. To this end, appropriate action needs to be undertaken to ensure that tourism operation is based on a broad consensus and does not cause adverse effects to population in the mountains, their cultural heritage and traditional knowledge.

The document can be downloaded from:

www.ceeweb.org/workinggroups/sustainabletourism/resources/ST_Opportunities_Carpathians_Bg_Doc_31-10-2006.pdf

Presentation on the Carpathian Handbook, Article 9: Sustainable Tourism (Jana Brozova, on behalf of REC/EURAC)

Jana Brozova, National Focal Point of Slovakia, presented the chapter dealing with the Carpathian Convention Article 9 on Sustainable Tourism from the Carpathian Convention Handbook for Implementation, developed by REC/EURAC.

Excerpt of the document handed in by REC/EURAC

In the Umbrella Project “Support to the implementation of the Carpathian Convention in the framework of the Alpine-Carpathian partnership” supported by the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea, two projects are being

implemented by the Regional Environmental Center in partnership with the European Academy (EURAC):

- 1) Support for the implementation of the Carpathian Convention: diagnostic audit and guide on implementation; and
- 2) Support for the implementation of the Carpathian Convention - Phase II.

These two projects will produce a major publication: the Carpathian Convention Handbook for Implementation targeted at local authorities.

Comments and feedback are crucial and indispensable in order to ensure that this publication is as relevant and useful as possible to its target audience and that it can be used straightforwardly by the donor community to allocate assistance. We would therefore like to request feedback from the participants at the first meeting of the Carpathian Convention WG on Sustainable Tourism on the attached draft chapter of the Handbook. You are invited to raise significant issues, point out mistakes and provide additional relevant examples.

[omissis]

For more information see:

www.rec.org/REC/Programs/environmentallaw/carpathian/default.html

Presentation on tourist railways and sustainable tourism (John Fuller, FCILT)

Mr John Fuller from the New Europe Railway Heritage Trust informed about the opportunities of tourist railways for sustainable tourism development in the Carpathians and presented good practice examples from his work in and beyond the Carpathian countries.

Excerpts of the presentation

Narrow gauge railways combine two strong human instincts:

- Nostalgia for the past, “in my days it was different..”, and
- Curiosity to visit new places and experience different cultures.

Narrow gauge railways allow access to sensitive areas in an eco-friendly way and to recycle industrial assets that would be lost.

Railways join communities across geographical “obstructions”, across ethnical and cultural boundaries and across national boundaries.

Special features:

- “Little” trains are especially attractive;
- Visitors feel they are contributing towards conservation if they travel to/through sensitive landscapes by train;
- Your visitors are in “manageable chunks” and are contained and controlled;
- We can run summer and winter if required;
- Visitors spend as much in the area of the railway as they do on the railway itself.

Presentation on the potential of the Carpathians as a “mega-destination” for sustainable tourism in Europe (Laszlo Puczko, Xellum Ltd.)

Mr Laszlo Puczko, international tourism expert from Hungary, presented a vision of the Carpathians as a sustainable tourism destination in Europe.

Summary of the presentation

The Carpathians are non-existing so far as a tourism destination. However, they have great potential for tourism development, due to their rich natural and cultural treasures.

The question Mr Puczko raised is thus, how this potential might be used in the future and for whom a Carpathian destination shall be created. In this context, it is of crucial importance to persuade businesses, authorities and other relevant stakeholders in the Carpathians that sustainable development in the Carpathians carry along special advantages, not only restrictions.

He pointed out potential highlights and future tourism offers in the Carpathians, but also made the difficulties the Carpathian States will have to face on their way towards becoming a tourist destination clear.

Regarding the promotion of the Carpathians as a single sustainable tourist destination, he saw the greatest difficulty in the management of the area as a whole. First, because of language barriers, second because of the area's size. Therefore, Mr Puczko proposed the creation of distinct tourist offers through the creation of thematic as well as regional clusters.

Discussion notes

The WG agreed upon the fact that the right marketing of the Carpathians as tourist destination is highly important.

Agata Pustelnik, FWIE, Poland, and Martina Paskova, Chair of the TWG, strongly supported the idea of marketing the Carpathians under the theme of "Sustainability". The idea of using thematic and regional clusters for the management of the Carpathians, as introduced in the presentation, was also approved.

Michael Meyer, Rapporteur, emphasized that the development of a good strategy will support the qualitative growth of the Carpathians and of each one of their regions in a decisive manner. Therefore he proposed to show the presentation again at COP2. Mr Puczko and the TWG agreed on that proposal.

Martina Paskova, Chair of the TWG, stated that it will be most important to maintain a balance between controlled development, marketing and the benefit for all - nature and people.

Conclusions

Concluding comments by the participants

Michael Meyer asked the participants of the meeting to give brief feedback on the meeting, its organization, expectations for the future process, etc.

Cezary Molski, Ministry of Economy, Poland

It is a crucial thing to prepare the Strategy for the trans-national level as well as for the regions; a lot of forces are working parallel and therefore it would be good to do joint efforts. Therefore, the Strategy seems to be more important than the Protocol (although the Protocol is valuable as well). The meeting provided for a possibility to discuss with positive results and to involve so many different

opinions. It was also a lesson forward to better understand the opinions of NGOs. This proved the necessity to have an open-ended working group.

Dana Cajkova, National Focal Point of Slovakia

Supported and totally agreed with the comment of Cezary Molski.

Hildegard Meyer, WWF, Austria

Contacts with investors and the inclusion of businesses is of great importance for the Strategy. In its proposal towards the EU for core funding, CERI included that they would like to have a platform on sustainable tourism in the Carpathians promoted through the homepage. The initiative of organizing this meeting in the Carpathians is well appreciated.

Natalia Voloshyna, Swiss-Ukrainian Forest Development Project in Transcarpathia FORZA, Ukraine

The TWG has a very tough job ahead with strict time limits. Finding compromises regarding the involvement of NGOs and governments is needed. The implementation will be done by NGOs and therefore the public has to be informed about this process. Thus, the members of TWG should use links, partners, etc., to inform the public and the other stakeholders. The vision statement can still be considered as a draft that could be perfected in the future. The Swiss Cohesion Fund for the new EU members could be an additional financial source for TWG activities; it would make sense to develop a common project proposal.

Agata Pustelnik, FWIE, Poland

The two documents are crucial background documents for future work in the Carpathians. However, it is important not to forget that besides these documents further work should be done in the regions, where the documents will serve as good tools for further action. Hopefully the Tourism Strategy and Protocol will be developed and implemented well in order to really make the Carpathians a living region.

Bernadetta Zawilinska, PTTK - Academic Section, Poland

The meeting served for better understanding of the processes of the Carpathian Convention. The TWG worked very well during the meeting, however finding experts that are willing to contribute to the development of the Protocol voluntarily and therefore preparing the drafts of the two documents after the meeting can be difficult. In addition, it is necessary to spread the knowledge about the Convention and publicize the work of the TWG.

Martina Paskova, Chair of the TWG, Ministry of the Environment, Czech Republic

The fear of the participants regarding the timeline, the missing experts, etc. is understandable, but by putting into the work the best efforts and being optimistic, it is possible to succeed. Promotion and mass media, along with other tools in different ways should be used for better results.

Tomasz Lamorski, Babia Góra National Park, Poland

This meeting provided for the possibility to have a really good workshop with participants from all levels, to enjoy good cooperation and win new contacts. Not only the documents developed during this meeting, but also the process of working together, they are good outputs. Thanks to all the participants for this.

Jana Urbancikova, Bile Karpaty Protected Landscape Area Administration, Czech Republic

The involvement of experts should not be a problem as there definitely are people knowledgeable about their regions and tourism issues in each of the countries. And even if this is not the case, international experts can be involved.

Horatiu Popa, Green Echoes Association, Romania

It is a pity the delegates from Romania were not present at this meeting. It will be very important for the future that they are involved; especially as there is such a high percentage of mountains in Romania. At the meeting, however, there were really good discussions - great people participating - therefore there is hope for a successful outcome of the work of the TWG.

Tamara Malkova, Green Dossier, Ukraine

This project is a unique experiment which shall grow in the future. Sustainable tourism development needs to focus both on environmental and business issues. Communication and cooperation are highly needed. The development of this Protocol and Strategy are quite an example for this and the documents will be very useful in the future. The approach having different stakeholders and levels discuss these issues together is very much welcome; hopefully this experience will be disseminated to other processes. It is hard work, but it should be possible to find experts and funds. It is of crucial importance that the participants learn from each other and stay in contact.

Jiří Hrabák, Ministry for Regional Development, Czech Republic

This meeting is a first step; it is very important how quick and how well the TWG brings the results of its work to the governments and the people who need these results.

Rostislav Hošek Ministry of Agriculture, Czech Republic

The promotion at the regional and national level of the documents and the Carpathian Convention is very important. The same goes for cooperation with other partners at both levels, e.g. with NGO partners as Greenways. The effect of this will be the success of the Strategy.

Monika Ochwat-Marcinkiewicz, League of Nature Conservation, Poland

The development of a portfolio to promote the documents, the Carpathian Convention and related projects will be needed. One example is to prepare Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs); another one is logos.

The proposal on FAQs was supported by Cezary Molski and Michael Meyer

Comment by Jana Urbancikova: "At this stage, the process and not the product should be promoted. The product is not ready yet; care should be taken not to raise people's expectations and then disappoint them."

Comment Horatiu Popa: "For reaching remote communities promotion tools other than a webpage should be employed."

Michael Meyer, Rapporteur, Ecological Tourism in Europe

First of all it is necessary that the local population start to trust in their country legislation; it would surely ask too much of them to bother them with a Pan-Carpathian tool already now.

Therefore the seven governments should first be convinced, e.g. through a promotion tour; then, in a second step, the promotion should be expanded and directed towards the local people.

Miscellaneous

Call for cooperation from CEEWEB

Kristina Vilimaite from CEEWEB presented a brochure on sustainable tourism which had been developed by the Sustainable WG on Tourism of CEEWEB that can be used for promoting sustainable tourism as a concept also at the community level.

This brochure shall be translated into the various languages of the Carpathians and native speakers are needed, who would take responsibility of translating them in the language of the respective country. It is not sure yet that there are enough funds for printing the brochure in all languages. However, if possible, it would be desirable to have the brochure available in all Carpathian languages.

The following participants to the meeting agreed to cooperate:

- Romania: Horatiu Popa, Green Echoes Association;
- CZ: Martina Paskova, Ministry of the Environment, Czech Republic;
- PL: Bernadetta Zawilinska, PTTK, Poland;
- SK: Dana Cajkova, National Focal Point of Slovakia.

Kristina Vilimaite will send out the electronic version of the brochure to the volunteers. The translations of the brochure will be expected by 15 May.

Next Meeting and venue of the TWG

The delegates had to propose the venue of the next meeting.

As not all countries were represented by delegates, the decision about the venue for/of the next meeting was left open, so that all countries have the possibility to invite the TWG for the next meeting.

The meeting will be held in October 2007.

One proposal for arranging the next meeting came from Ukraine. In this context the idea emerged to organize the meeting back-to-back with the conference "Ecotourism and Sustainable Development in the Carpathians", 9-12 October 2007.

A second meeting of the WG on Sustainable Tourism was hold on 23-25 April 2008 in Krakow, Poland, where the Draft Tourism Protocol and Strategy were further developed. Only a draft version of the report of the meeting is available to date. The final version will be included in the second volume of this Collection.

REPORT ON THE SECOND MEETING OF THE WG

Report of the meeting⁹

22-25 April 2008

Krakow and Sucha Beskidzka, Poland

I. Attendance

The first Meeting of the Working Group on Sustainable Tourism (later on referred as Tourism Working Group or TWG) was attended by governmental delegates from all the seven Carpathian Countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic, Serbia, and Ukraine), NGOs, administrations of protected areas as well as international tourism experts and observers.

More than 40 participants from the following countries attended the workshop: Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic, Serbia, Ukraine as well as Austria, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom. The full list of participants can be found in Annex 1, p. 20.

II. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting officially opened at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 22nd.

Welcome remarks were made on behalf of the Chair of the Working Group, Martina Paskova, Head of the Settlements and Human Ecology Department, Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic by Michael Meyer, Ecological Tourism in Europe, Germany.

Michael Meyer reminds the participants of and agrees on keeping the rules of an official meeting, giving official delegates the right to speak before observers are stating their opinions.

In addition, Prof. Witkowski from the Academy of Physical Education in Krakow welcomed the members of the Working Group on behalf of the Academy's Rector, who hosted the meeting.

The official opening of the meeting was followed by a short introduction round of the participants. The introduction included the question, what the individual member is most proud of in the Carpathians. The list of answers reads as follows (no priority order):

- traditional landscape patterns and people that take care of them and thus ensure their endurance
- people living in the Carpathians
- opportunities for (cross-country) skiing and the Carpathian winter
- diversity in the broad sense
- environmental conservation / nature protection
- good status of nature & the resulting tourism potential (sustainable use of the Carpathian nature)
- development of sustainable tourism beyond national borders

⁹ Report also edited by Katrin Gebhard, Michael Meyer (ETE) and Kristina Vilimaite (CEEWEB).

- people who are proud of the Carpathians
- uniqueness
- diverse national parks all over the Carpathians
- opportunities for mountain tourism
- NGOs willing to work for a change towards sustainability
- large carnivore species (wolves, bears, etc.)
- nature
- high biodiversity (flora & fauna)
- culture and traditions (e.g. local crafts)
- opportunities for mountain tourism
- multi-national corridor with cultural & historical heritage
- development/progress in development of rural green tourism
- good trans-boundary cooperation
- many regions of real wilderness, pristine forests
- globally seen the C. are an amazing area of great importance (culture/biodiversity/history)
- sustainable development efforts
- people that want to have ST instead of fast profit
- different nationalities living peacefully together
- best forest railways in Europe

An introduction of the meeting agenda by Kristina Vilimaite, CEEweb, Hungary concluded the opening of the meeting. Due to rescheduling, however, the agenda has been altered in the course of the meeting. The agenda included into the Annex 2, p. 27, shows the final schedule of the meeting.

III. Update of the Tourism Working Group

- Presentation on the activities of the TWG to date; summary of the decisions relevant to the work of TWG that were taken by the Carpathian Convention Extended Bureau and Implementation Committee; short-term plans: Timeline till Carpathian Convention COP2
 - ◇ Terms of References
 - ◇ Tourism Working Group
 - ◇ Draft Tourism Protocol
 - ◇ Tourism Strategy

Presentation on the activities of the TWG to date

Kristina Vilimaite presented the activities undertaken by the Tourism Working Group within the period between the 1st meeting of the TWG in April 2007 and today. The presentation included

Summary of the presentation

Background information about TWG

- COP1 (December 2006, Kiev): decision COP1/10 to establish Working Group on Sustainable Tourism under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee
- Goals of TWG: a) elaborate a strategy for the future tourism development of Carpathians and of a tourism protocol, b) act as a cooperation platform for implementation of Article 9 of the Framework Convention
- TWG is Chaired by the Czech Republic
- TWG is moderated/facilitated by CEEweb and ETE

The first meeting in the White Carpathians

- The first meeting of the TWG: April 2007 in CZ
- Supported by the INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project
- Two documents related to the Draft Tourism Protocol were developed and adopted:
 - ◊ Terms of Reference
 - ◊ Structure
- Development of the Tourism Strategy has started. The following documents were developed and adopted at the meeting:
 - ◊ Terms of Reference
 - ◊ Structure
 - ◊ Chapter 1: Purpose
 - ◊ Chapter 2: Vision Statement
 - ◊ Part of Chapter 5.1: Objectives
- Vision Statement:

The Carpathians are a living region with a common identity where people enjoy quality of life with rich traditions and in sound environment.

This natural and cultural heritage builds the basis for a competitive sustainable tourism destination.

Good cooperation, local management and partnerships contribute to the high quality of tourism, which ensures continuous benefits for local people and economies.

- Main differences btw documents:
 - ◊ Where regulation is needed - Protocol
 - ◊ Strategy - inspires all stakeholders in making the Carpathians a sustainable tourism destination
 - ◊ The Protocol will be developed by ETE/CEEweb and international experts

- ◇ The Strategy will be a document elaborated by the Parties and stakeholders together

After the 1st TWG meeting

- The first draft of the Strategy was developed with the contribution of the Parties and stakeholders
- The first draft of the Protocol was developed by ETE/CEEweb
- The documents were submitted to the Carpathian Convention Extended Bureau (October 2007)

Decisions of the Carpathian Convention Extended Bureau

- The draft protocol is too extensive and technical
- The strategy should be the implementation document for the protocol
- The Parties confirmed that without a protocol the strategy will not be implemented
- The Extended Bureau requested to rewrite the documents and reformulate the ToRs

Decisions of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee

- CCIC meeting in Sibiu (April 3-4, 2008) was a preparatory meeting for COP2
- COP2 will take place in Bucharest on 17-19 June 2008
- CCIC drafted decisions for COP2, the most important ones for the work of TWG are the following:
 - ◇ The Working Groups were supported by the Carpathian Project that finishes in August 2008, the next Implementation Committee meeting will decide which groups should continue working
 - ◇ Meanwhile the work on protocols can be continued and the governments are requested to nominate delegates to the working groups that are developing protocols

Draft decision on tourism for COP2

- Thanks the WG on Sustainable Tourism for its work and report; appreciates the valid contributions by CEEweb;
- Urges Parties and other stakeholders to ensure the proper follow-up and implementation of the recommendations produced by the working group;
- Appreciates the preparatory work towards the development of a Protocol and Strategy on Sustainable Tourism, and requests the (interim) Secretariat to coordinate the further development and negotiation process;
- Urges Parties to nominate delegates for the development of the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism;
- Calls upon countries and relevant institutions to support the development of the Protocol, and/or future projects/programs (Via Carpatica).
- Short-term plans: Timeline till Carpathian Convention COP2

- The following docs will be submitted to the COP2 by May 6:
 - ◊ Draft report from the 2nd TWG meeting (the report of the secretariat already includes the report on the 1st TWG meeting)
 - ◊ Draft Tourism Protocol
 - ◊ Outline of the Strategy
 - ◊ Information about follow up projects (Via Carpatica)

TWG may suggest the modifications to the decision text

Terms of References

Due to the decisions of the Carpathian Convention Extended Bureau, the ToRs elaborated and adopted on by the TWG in April 2007 had been subject to some changes.

Based on the prior presentation, Michael Meyer, ETE, explains the alterations in the ToRs to the members of the TWG; however, he points out that there is no need to again adopt these documents as they are not going to be adopted by the ISCC and the COP2.

ToR Protocol

The TWG will not submit the draft protocol for adoption to COP2. The draft protocol will be submitted as an information document. The reasons are time constraints due to a) the need to have the final draft of the protocol 6 months before the COP (the final draft version should be agreed at a meeting of the governmental experts that have credentials for negotiation); b) busyness of the Parties with the finalisation of the Biodiversity Protocol; c) some delays in the preparation of the draft protocol.

It is now planned to finalise the draft Tourism Protocol at the earliest date possible, so that it can be submitted for COP3 in due time. The sooner the protocol will be submitted, the more time will be available for those in charge to consult about it. In addition, the protocol will be less competing with other working groups handing in their protocols shortly before COP3.

ToR Strategy

It was initially aimed at submitting a full-size strategy to COP2. This goal could not be achieved firstly, due to missing input from part of the Parties, secondly due to far-reaching recommendations of the ISCC to link the strategy to the protocol and, thirdly, the resulting time constraints.

Instead, it was decided to submit an outline of the strategy for acknowledgement to COP2 without showing the incorporated input of officials and stakeholders to the delegates of the COP2 yet. This approach was chosen in order to avoid a situation where the delegates refuse to support the development of a proper - and legally binding - protocol, based on the excuse that having a good strategy would be sufficient. By submitting only the outline of the strategy, the TWG will have enough time to work towards the finalisation of the strategy before COP3, where the tourism strategy shall be finally submitted for adoption.

After Michael Meyer's explanations, the participants were asked to go through the altered ToRs and give their comments. However, the comments were not related to ToRs, but to the contents of both protocol and strategy. Therefore, they will be shifted to the next chapter V.

The ToRs of the Working Group, the Tourism Protocol and the Strategy have been acknowledged by the members of the TWG.

IV. Finalisation of the Draft Tourism Protocol

Michael Meyer gives a short introduction to this point of the agenda, by explaining the original purpose of a protocol and a strategy.

Main problems:

- Finding a compromise between developing a protocol that has the power to cause changes, while at the same time not being so harsh that it doesn't get adopted by the Parties
- Governments are busy implementing national legislation. Therefore they do not really want to go beyond national laws and regulations; however, a protocol for the Carpathians clearly exceeds national limits. Besides, very often national legislation is good, but not implemented properly.

Aim of this meeting is to help finding a good solution, with delegates of the countries and observers (NGOs, other organisations) having the mandate to work together on a joint protocol. Of course, the protocol will be adjusted when entering COP3; still, this is a great chance for developing a protocol that satisfies everybody involved. What we as TWG want to achieve is to help governments finding the path to go beyond national legislation and thus to really try to ensure what you/we are all proud of in the Carpathians.

General Discussion of Contents

In the following the protocol was discussed by the TWG, the topics of discussion being the following:

1. Monitoring

Stefan Szabo from the NGO Sosna/Slovakia points out the need for a good monitoring system that ensures the compliance of the parties, giving examples from the field where national legislation is not implemented or neglected due to lacking or missing monitoring and non-compliance measures.

Michael Meyer explains that the Implementation Committee has the mandate to monitor the implementation of both, protocol and strategy; however, a mechanism of this monitoring system is not developed yet. Michal Meyer advises NGOs to submit their information and the resulting recommendations to the IC, which can forward the issues to the COPs.

The problem of long time periods between COPs and the continuous progress of adverse impacts on the environment due to unsustainable tourism developments in that time is a great problem that needs to be tackled by an additional mechanism.

Ombudsmen and the possibility of sanctions are discussed within the group, resulting in the agreement that this important issue of monitoring and implementation should be raised at COP2 for discussion.

Furthermore, the necessity is stated to include the obligation of developing a good monitoring and reporting system in the tourism strategy. In this context,

Prof. Witkowski points out that cooperation with scientific institutions (scientific research/education) is very important and should not be forgotten.

Michael Meyer calls again attention to the complementary functions of protocol and strategy: the protocol needs to state the need for a monitoring system in the frame of a legally binding document; the strategy shall explain how this monitoring system shall look like.

Pam McCarthy, ANPED and John Jones/FEDECRAIL/NERMT support the idea of placing more emphasis on monitoring already in the protocol - also in consideration of a too great work load in the Implementation Committee, being left alone with this problematic and important issue.

John Jones proposes a sentence on monitoring/reporting, which was included in the draft protocol text (see below, p.13).

2. Incentives for Politicians

Mihai Zotta, Romsilva/Romania proposes to include more incentives and positive attributes to consider into the strategy. In order to convince the parties of supporting the documents, they need to see the benefits they might gain from their compliance. An important decision factor for the delegates in this context is the economic potential of sustainable tourism.

Mihai Zotta further points out two particular problems related to that: a) the abuse of “sustainable tourism” as marketing strategy for products and activities that have nothing to do with sustainability, and b) the problem that a lot of benefits of sustainable tourism are only to be seen in the long run.

It is agreed that in order to avoid these two problems, best practice examples should be included in the tourism strategy that more effectively visualise the positive outcomes of sustainable tourism development. In addition, Michael Meyer proposes to use (economic) incentives also in the frame of the monitoring mechanism.

Further, Mihai Zotta stresses the need to highlight sustainable tourism development as opportunity for protected areas and their vicinities.

3. Cooperation/Interrelation with other protocols under the Carpathian Convention

Piotr Mikołajczyk, UNEP-GRID/Poland raises the issue on how to deal with the question of streamlining the individual protocols. As the biodiversity protocol shall be submitted for adoption at COP2, all subsequent protocols might need to adapt to its structure.

Michael Meyer explains that up to now the Implementation Committee is in charge for this process. UNEP didn't want to have a ready-made structure, but supported to have a growing structure that get adjusted within a longer process.

Kristina Vilimaite tells that RTI Polska, a project partner of the INTERREG Carpathian Project, plans to organise the first meeting of working group on spatial planning, which specifically aims at the interlinkage of the working groups and possibly of the individual protocols; the meeting is planned for the end of May. Further, members of the cultural working group are participating in the meetings of the TWG.

4. Stakeholder Involvement

The concern was raised that the stakeholders might get overloaded with work with all the protocols that are there to be developed and adopted, depending on the participation of stakeholders. The process on how to ensure a smooth stakeholder process is discussed.

Michael Meyer indicates that not all protocols will be ready at the same time, so that stakeholders will have enough time to read through everything. That way they will get a good overview of the broad developments taking place. The contributions of these stakeholders will be very valuable, when feeding into the monitoring process. Not only, but also for this reason, it will be of great importance to have a broad dissemination and a good mechanism of stakeholder involvement.

Pam McCarthy and ANPED will play a vital role in this process. Further, Stefan Szabo/Sosna offers his help and suggests using LEADER networks for synergizing with local action groups.

Specific discussion of articles / process

Michael Meyer reported to the TWG how difficult a task it was to find qualified experts to work on the protocol as there is both, the knowledge about tourism and biodiversity as well as the knowledge about legal requirements needed.

The experts that were invited and contributed to the protocol elaboration were:

- Scott Muller
- Jano Rohac
- Oliver Hillel
- Rainer Schliep

After finalisation of a first draft of the protocol text, it was then submitted to three experts for review:

- Gabor Verezi, UNWTO
- Stefanos Fotiou, UNEP-DTIE
- Oliver Hillel, CBD

All of them gave recommendations, generally stating that it is a very good, though challenging protocol. As soon as the draft protocol is finalised for submission to COP3, all these experts from international organisations will write official statements on the value of the protocol. This will hopefully help us when entering the negotiation process.

Preamble

The preamble is not part of the draft tourism protocol; it is normally being developed by the Parties themselves.

Chapter 1

Article 1

Definition of Sustainable Tourism

Piotr Mikolajczyk, UNEP-GRID/Poland raises concerns that the definition of sustainable tourism is too broad, making the misuse of it possible.

Kristina Vilimaite tells that it has to be general so that people can adapt it to their own national and local circumstances.

Michael Meyer points out that the definition as it is used here is already a lot more precise than any definition in other international agreements.

Gabor Kiss, Ministry of Environment and Water, Hungary recommends including the terms of geodiversity and landscape diversity in the definition, which is accepted.

Article 2

Geographical Scope

Mihai Zotta, Romsilva/Romania and Yuri Zinko/Ivan Franko National University Lviv/Ukraine have the feeling that the text only refers to trans-boundary tourism; the word “including” is being inserted before “trans-boundary tourism”.

Michael Meyer states that the protocol has to stick to the designated areas, whereas the strategy can go far beyond. The TWG will thus not deal with the topic of geographical scope. This is supported by John Johnes, who proposes the term “outside but serving”, a term used in the EU sphere.

Kristina Vilimaite informed the TWG that at the ISCC meeting in Sibiu it was stated that there will be no decision on the geographical scope during COP2; instead the protocols can decide by themselves where they set their geographical scope and lay their limitations. Therefore, it will get necessary for the TWG after COP2 to deal with this issue.

Chapter 1 is accepted by the TWG

Chapter 2

Article 3

Yuri Zinko proposed to change the order of f and h according to the title of the Convention. This proposal was accepted by the TWG.

Following the proposal of Prof. Witkowksi the amendment “and protect important habitats and species” has been included in 3a. Further the wording had been changed: “Develop and manage tourism in a way that it helps to... conserve...”

It was further discussed to include the issue of spatial planning (based on a concern of Piotr Mikolajczyk, UNEP-GRID); however, this proposal was not followed.

Article 4

No changes

Article 5

Sector policies was changed into “sectoral policies” in the title (English)

Article 6

The order of items 1 and 2 had been changed.

Article 7

The term “Collaboration” had been changed to “Cooperation” in the title

Article 8

No changes

Article 9

The inclusion of the European Landscape Convention was proposed. This raised the issue of two countries out of the seven being no EU member states (Non-Schengen countries).

Michael Meyer proposed to include an indicator to this problem in the preamble by submitting a proposal to the parties. Though the protocol and the strategy don't want to point out the differences in the seven Carpathian Countries, the topic will have to be dealt with.

Chapter 2 is accepted by the TWG

Chapter 3

Article 10

After discussion on the existence of proper zonation schemes and their persistence in the individual countries, it was proposed by Yuri Zinko, Ukraine to include "zoning and regulation schemes" instead of "zonation".

Taking into consideration changing or future protection statuses, Tomasz Lamorski/Babia Góra National Park, Poland, recommended to remove "existing" before zonation, which was accepted as well as to include "in and around" protected areas.

These changes have been agreed for all passages in the protocol where "zonation" has been mentioned.

Further, it was agreed to include the terms geodiversity and landscape diversity wherever the term biodiversity is mentioned and a logical relation is given. (Gabor Kiss/Ministry of Environment and Water, Hungary)

Article 11

No changes

Article 12

No changes

Article 13

No changes

Chapter 3 is accepted by the TWG

Chapter 4

Article 14

No changes

Article 15

No changes

Article 16

On proposal of Prof. Witkowski, Gabor Kiss and Piotr Mikołajczyk, UNEP-GRID the term "landscapes" has been included in item 2. Thus, item two reads "ecosystems and landscapes".

Article 17

According to the earlier decision (see article 10) “zonation” has been changed into “zoning and regulation schemes”.

Article 18

The article has been changed according to the comment from Oliver Hillel, including the reference “inter alia the ministries responsible for tourism and environment”.

Chapter 4 is accepted by the TWG

Chapter 5

Article 19

No changes

Article 20

No changes

Article 21

No changes

Article 22

In item 1 Piotr Mikołajczyk, UNEP-GRID suggested to use the phrase “and EU legislation where applicable”, which has been accepted by the TWG. The term “directives” has been additionally changed into “regulations”.

In this context, again the discussion about the problem of law enforcement and monitoring (e.g. forbid mass tourism investments in protected areas of IUCN categories I and II) was raised by Pam McCarthy and others.

Michael Meyer emphasised that this topic will be subject to further discussion and that it will be tried to find a solution latest between COP2 and COP3. However, so he points out, the draft protocol text already represents a challenge to the countries, when mentioning the crucial need of implementation of regulations. This after all implies that currently the countries are not taking into consideration the regulations they should obey to. That way, the protocol is going already beyond the interference of Brussels.

He reminds the TWG that this protocol is not about offending delegates, but about finding a viable solution that satisfies everybody involved as good as possible. Therefore, a diplomatic approach has to be chosen.

Article 23

No changes

Regarding the contents of articles 20-23 a discussion was taking place on Natura 2000 as example of EU legislation and potential problems related to the fact that two out of seven Carpathian countries are not EU member states. (see also under article 9)

Chapter 5 is accepted by the TWG

Chapter 6

Article 24

The article was changed according to the comment by Stefanos Fotiou, UNEP.

Article 25

No changes

Article 26

The article was changed according to the comment by Oliver Hillel, CBD.

The order of article 24 and 25 was changed following the proposal of Yuri Zinko, Ukraine.

Chapter 6 is accepted by the TWG

Chapter 7

Article 27 - 32

No changes

Chapter 7 is accepted by the TWG

Chapter 8

Article 33

The examples mentioned in the brackets have been deleted.

Article 34

The article was changed according to the comment by Oliver Hillel, CBD.

Article 35

The article was changed as follows” proven to be environmentally friendly through a certification scheme”.

Chapter 8 is accepted by the TWG

Chapter 9

Articles 36 - 41

No changes

Chapter 9 is accepted by the TWG

Chapter 10

The title of the chapter has been changed from “Capacity Development” into “Capacity Building”.

Article 42

No changes

Article 43

According to the change in the title, the term “capacity building” was used in the brackets.

Chapter 10 is accepted by the TWG

Chapter 11

Article 44

No changes

Article 45

No changes

Article 46

Based on the discussion led on the issue of monitoring, a new paragraph has been included in item 6. The proposal to the item has been submitted by John Jones/ FEDECRAIL/NERMT (see p. 8)

add 6

A mechanism for monitoring the tourist strategy and its implementation shall be developed such that the signatories to the Protocol undertake their best efforts to the resolution of problems as soon after their notification to the Carpathian Convention (Interim) Secretariat as possible. These efforts and the problems they deal with shall be reported back to the following COP. The efforts undertaken shall engage at least one member co-signatory not involved directly in the problem as an observer.

John Jones/ FEDECRAIL/NERMT(FEDECRAIL/NERMT)

- on behalf of tourist and museum railways -

Pam McCarthy stresses the importance of frequent reporting as part of the monitoring system. Another problem highlighted is the time gap between the COPs and the overloading of the ISCC with work.

Piotr Mikołajczyk, UNEP-GRID suggests finding an umbrella solution for the monitoring/reporting issue for all protocols and supports the idea of a common mechanism. The biodiversity protocol could be taken as example, once it is finished.

Kristina Vilimaite states that from legal point of view, the compliance issue has to be integrated into the very protocol and cannot be in a separate document.

Michael Meyer recommends NGOs, e.g. Pam McCarthy from ANPED to additional making use of the opportunity of submitting INF docs to the COP in order to emphasise the issue of compliance and non-compliance.

Article 47

No changes

Chapter 11 is accepted by the TWG

Chapter 12

Articles 48 - 52

No changes

Chapter 12 is accepted by the TWG

The protocol was thus accepted by the TWG and closed for discussion for the moment. In May, however, it will be opened again for public consultation.

Based on the proposal of Kristina Vilimaite it was decided to support the National Focal Points in their task of implementing the public dissemination in their countries. Therefore, recommendations will be drafted by the TWG. ANPED will contribute to this task.

V. The Tourism Strategy

Introduction

Michael Meyer recalls the purpose of protocol and strategy with their different indications and functions. It is agreed with the working group that the protocol fulfils the function of being a restrictive and legally binding document, whereas the strategy is rather supportive, offering incentives and tools on how to implement the regulations set by the protocol.

The strategy shall provide a catalogue of measures, actions, initiatives, etc. for supporting sustainable tourism development in all seven countries. As an example trans-boundary cooperation was mentioned, in which context the strategy can call for a set of projects strengthening cross-country cooperation.

What the strategy is needed for:

- The strategy as a tool to create a certain image for the Carpathians (Michael Meyer reminds the participants of the presentation by Laszlo Puczko given at the 1st TWG meeting in April 2007). So far, the Carpathians do not have a common marketing concept; each country is launching its own marketing initiative.
- The strategy will support the marketing and the development of products, e.g. labelling, certification, hiking trails, info centres, etc.
- The strategy will ensure the necessary capacity building and training of stakeholders, enhancing the knowledge of people involved in tourism.
- The strategy will provide for more concerted actions, help to avoid parallel and double work without any references and interconnections; it will support processes to join forces for achieving a better and more cohesive impact in the countries.

Discussion on the further development of the strategy - Contents

Coordination

The implementation of the strategy will be up to the countries, with the NGOs supporting them in their work.

The coordination of the countries and the activities, however, will be rather problematic. The Implementation Committee won't be in charge of this task. An independent implementing body will be needed.

If the TWG continues its work, it might take responsibility for observing the projects that come up in order to get an overview of what is going on in the countries. The goal will be to achieve more quality and less competition for the sake of sound tourism development all over the Carpathians.

Time constraints

Due to the recent unsustainable tourism development throughout the Carpathians, actions that aim at opposing these developments cannot wait until strategy and protocol are finalised. Thus, during the elaboration of both documents, it will be one of the tasks of the TWG to keep track of the developments in the countries.

In the strategy, recommendations need to be included about the establishment of a continuous implementation body.

One recommendation, resulting out of discussions in the TWG is to target on projects that take place in hotspots threatened by unsustainable tourism development.

Similar to the Global 200 Biodiversity Hotspots (developed by WWF), a map of those tourism-related hotspots should be developed. This map should be based on district layers and will be a guiding paper for the development of targeted sustainable tourism projects in the future.

In this context, John Jones/ FEDECRAIL/NERMT points out the need for a sound cadastral base, which includes besides the hotspots also no-go-areas, hydrographical information (mineral resources), etc. This map should be the basis for the Carpathian Convention and will help to turn identified threats into opportunities. Moreover, this cadastral base will be very important with regards to property right and land titles, as this is an increasingly difficult issue in the Carpathians.

Protocol vs. Strategy

Michael Meyer repeats the strategic approach chosen to present first a draft tourism protocol together with an outline of the tourism strategy (see also p. 5)

Discussion on the further development of the strategy - Process

Jana Urbancikova/ Bile Karpaty Education and Information Centre, Czech Republic suggests to take into consideration the support offered by her on behalf of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA). She proposes to present a draft of the strategy to CNPA, as their input might be very valuable, in particular as the protected areas will be one of the main stakeholder groups that are going to take care of implementing the strategy in their areas. They CNPA will have a meeting in September 2008; at this meeting a draft of the strategy could be discussed.

Michael Meyer agrees to use this offer if a draft of the strategy is ready in September to be submitted to the CNPA meeting.

Barbora Šafářová from the Czech Institute for Environmental Policy also offers help in ensuring a broad participation and dissemination of the strategy, based on a network of stakeholders that the Czech Republic has already established. Regarding the dissemination, Pam McCarthy/ANPED suggests to discuss cooperation.

Jon Marco Church/EURAC notes that the tourism working group is overlapping in its working scope with other working groups. This is partly true, but as Michael Meyer elaborates, tourism is a cross-cutting issue where many topics dealt with in other working groups (e.g. forests, clean air, sound environment) play an important role as they set the frame for every tourism development.

Moreover, Jon Marco Church calls attention to the fact that the Alpine Convention under the lead of the French Presidency is currently working on a “soft tourism” strategy. Michael Meyer agrees that cooperation and the request for contact and an information exchange is very welcome. It is decided to put the request for initiating contact into the recommendations to be provided to the COP2.

Kristina Vilimaite promises to keep the TWG updated about the process of strategy development and the received input in the future.

Presentation of the draft strategy text

Kristina Vilimaite presents the draft strategy text, including the input from stakeholders so far to the participants of the meeting. This text, however, will not be submitted to the COP2.

Based on the recommendations by the ISCC, the strategy will be subject to change regarding structure and a stronger relation to the protocol. However, it is attempted to re-structure the document in a way that it still complies with what has been adopted at the 1st TWG in April 2007.

VI. Recommendations of the TWG to COP2

The recommendations drafted by Kristina Vilimaite on the basis of results and decisions elaborated during the meeting, will be submitted in their final version to the Implementation Committee together with the draft protocol and the outline of the strategy to be submitted to the COP2 through the ISCC.

Kristina Vilimaite presents the draft recommendations to the TWG. After a short discussion, the recommendations read as follows:

The Working Group appreciates the work done by CEEweb/ETE in developing the draft Tourism Protocol and acknowledges the valid input of international experts, including:

- a) Oliver Hillel, Programme Officer, Sustainable Use, Tourism and Island Biodiversity at the Secretariat of CBD (Canada)
- b) Stefanos Fotiou, UNEP DTIE (France)
- c) Gabor Vereczi, UNWTO (Spain)
- d) Laszlo Puczko, Xellum Ltd. (Hungary)
- d) Jan Rohac, Amber Trail (Slovakia)
- e) Scott Muller, Codesta (Panama)
- f) Rainer Schliep, Environmental Information & Communication Services (EICS) ; (Germany)

Michael Meyer, Ecological Tourism in Europe (Germany)

The Working Group has revised the draft Protocol and has reached a consensus about the formulation of the Articles at its second meeting.

The Working Group acknowledges the need for developing a Tourism Strategy for the implementation of the protocol.

The Working Group has identified the adverse impacts of unsustainable tourism practices on natural and cultural resources throughout the Carpathians, resulting inter alia from poor enforcement of existing legislation and lack of planning for sustainable tourism on national level.

The Working Group finds it valuable to continue its activities according to the decision COP1/10.

The Working Group looks forward to the cooperation with those responsible for the Alpine Convention Soft Tourism Strategy.

Recommendations:

- 1) *The Working Group urges Parties and other stakeholders to plan, develop and manage tourism in the Carpathians according to the principles of sustainability pending the finalisation and adoption of protocol and strategy.*

- 2) *The Working Group recommends the Parties to start the process for the final negotiation and signature of the protocol.*
- 3) *The WG recommends the Parties to continue the development of the tourism strategy with the involvement of relevant stakeholders in parallel to the finalisation of the protocol.*
- 4) *The WG recommends the Parties to start implementing the strategy once it is developed and approved by the WG even if the adoption of the Strategy by a COP is pending.*
- 5) *The WG recommends the Parties to continue the activities of the Working Group under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee as per decision COP1/10, including the following function: act as a coordination body for the implementation of the Article 9 of the Carpathian Convention; and monitor and assure the quality of the initiatives, programmes and projects relating to sustainable tourism which are developed under the framework of the Carpathian Convention.*
- 6) *Recommends the (interim) Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention to establish cooperation with those responsible for the Alpine Convention Soft Tourism Strategy.*

Based on the request, to include an extra paragraph on cooperation with stakeholders, it was stated to use the list of participants of the meeting (as attached as annexe to the report) as first listing of relevant stakeholders for future cooperation.

Kristina Vilimaite summarizes what kind of documents will be submitted to the COP2:

- Recommendations (cover sheet)
- Cover sheet from ISCC
 - ◊ Recommendations
 - ◊ Draft tourism protocol
 - ◊ Outline of strategy
 - ◊ Reports of TWG meetings I and II

Mihai Zotta/Romsilva, Romania highlights the lack of planning in the Carpathians as one of the main problems for any future tourism development. This problem is added to the Recommendations.

He further suggests including a statement on the potential of sustainable tourism as incentive for the Parties into the Recommendations. This statement didn't find approval of the other delegates; finally, consensus was reached that this suggestion is not going to be added to the recommendations.

VII. Presentations of TWG members

Presentations

Izabela Gostisa/ Central European Initiative

Ms. Gostisa presented the structure and activities of the Central European Initiative. Her presentation can be downloaded at www.ceeweb.org

Stefan Szabo /Sosna

Mr. Szabo presented the initiative of the organisation Sosna of developing a biking trail in the eastern part of Slovakia connecting Ukraine and Hungary. His presentation can be downloaded at www.ceeweb.org.

Yuri Zinko/Ukraine notes that there is an initiative “Green Bike”, which already disposes of a biking trail network that connects Slovakia, Ukraine and Poland. He proposes to foster cooperation with this initiative. Both, Stefan Szabo as well as Michael Meyer welcome this proposal and will follow up on it.

VIII. Future Steps - The Vote of the TWG to Continue

Michael Meyer calls attention to the fact that for the strategy, there won't be any external experts hired. It is the strategy of the countries. Therefore, smaller working groups shall be established that will work intensively on the elaboration of the document. CEEweb and ETE will support this process and contribute to the success of the document development.

Asked about their commitment to the working group and the related activities, the participants confirm their interest and will to continue the work in future. A way how to practically ensure the continuation is yet to be found. Possibly one additional meeting of the tourism working group can be funded by the Carpathian CADSES project.

Horatiu Popa/Green Echoes Association, Romania stresses the impact NGOs can and should have by making all the ministries aware of the ongoing processes related to the Carpathian Convention and the Tourism Working Group. NGOs need to support the governments, i.e. by guaranteeing proper communication. NGOs can further be seen as watchdogs for the success of the protocol. Michael Meyer strongly supports this statement.

One of the biggest fears of NGOs, so Horatiu Popa, is the already mentioned time gap between today and the implementation of the protocol and the strategy. The estimated time till the enforcement of the protocol is about three to five years (acc. to Michael Meyer). In this time a lot of adverse developments will be taking place, severely worsening the situation in the Carpathian countries.

Michael Meyer confirms that this fear is justified. However, also here a strong NGO community can make an impact.

Report to COP2

The participants reviewed the report to COP2 and decided to reformulate point 2 and 4 (see: Report to COP2).

IX. Follow-up Projects and other Initiatives

Via Carpatica

Kristina Vilimaite gives a presentation on the elaborated project components of the Via Carpatica idea.

The presentation can be downloaded at www.ceeweb.org

Comments

- Joachim Jaudas/ISF München, Germany supports the approach of splitting the project into two rounds, each of them putting emphasis on different countries.

He recommends active partners in the Carpathians, e.g. FORZA in the Ukrainian Carpathians, Salvamont in RO and National Parks in general.

- John Jones/ FEDECREAIL/NERMT points out that the pilot sites developed in the frame of the project will lead to better justification of future investments; they will serve as best practice examples that convince future donors. One donor he specifically recommends is the regional operational programs.
- Jon Marco Church raises the issue of mapping and providing visual material within the frame of the project. Kristina Vilimaite explained that it is planned to provide material that allows to clearly identifying the gaps in the regions (WP1).
- Legal implications will be topic of the Via Carpatica project, in particular thinking about trans-boundary cooperation; at least 1-2 model sites will be cross-border. Generally, it will have to be decided how to tackle the issue. Michael Meyer proposes to maybe chose one or two countries (where the chosen trans-boundary model projects take place) and provide a comprehensive legal analysis of these.
- Jana Urbancikova, Czech Republic calls attention to the Green Ways network. Michael Meyer explains the reasons why EPCE won't be part of the project. However, he points out that the Slovak Bikers Association is interested to participate, with Jano Rohac helping them out as external consultant.
- A discussion was led about a suitable lead partner. The Czech Ministry for the Environment is the favourite candidate, but it is not decided yet whether they are in the position to take that role. Another possibility is the Slovak Ministry of the Economy.
- In order to meet the request of several participants of the meeting and according to discussions led in the TWG meeting, it was decided to include investment already in the first phase of the project in all countries in order to offer incentives to the parties.
- John Jones/ FEDECREAIL/NERMT recommend a contact in Poland as partner for the project. Michael Meyer will follow up on this.
- *Malgorzata Dzwierzynska, Rzeszow Regional Development Agency; ul. Szopena 51, 35-959 Rzeszow; mdzwierzynska@rarr.rzeszow.pl; www.rarr.pl; phone: +48 178520612; fax: +48 178520611*

Other recommended partners such as Kosice RDA and North-Hungary RDA are contacted already.

- Horatiu Popa/Green Echoes, Romania, proposes "Adopt a Trail" initiatives (e.g. taken by institutions, schools, etc.) as self-financing mechanism .
- Marking system of trails: it was decided to strive for a common system of trail marking throughout all seven countries. That doesn't imply that national trail marking systems loose their value, but that cross-country trails should have the same signage (comparable to the GTA system). Joachim Jaudas further

reminds that one trail can also use more than one signage, e.g. Via Carpatica and the local/national trail marks.

- Mihai Zotta/Romsilva, Romania, propose to write a parallel or even pre-starting project, addressing the structural fund for tourism in Romania. Such a project could already start now and be joined with the Via Carpatica afterwards. Michael Meyer, on behalf of the TWG, offers him help in writing the project if needed and Mihai Zotta promises to talk to the Romanian department of tourism for follow-up.
- Jana Urbancikova reminds to plan the project, e.g. WP 1, in a way that it sustains itself. Approaches as the Carrying Capacity and the Limits of Acceptable Change should be insisted on. One important example are trails that cut through protected areas.
- Ms Gostisa/CEI Executive Secretariat, Italy, points out that the Central European Initiative would be interested to cooperate on the “Via Carpatica” project, specifically in those activities related to transfer of best-practices, awareness raising and institutional dissemination.

Kristina Vilimaite invites all participants of the meeting that would like to participate in the project to send a written letter of interest, indicating their experience, expertise and special interest in parts of the project. They are also welcome to comment on the proposal or identify potential gaps. This invitation includes also those meeting participants that would like to become subcontracted or associated partners. The deadline for sending this informal letter to Kristina Vilimaite and Michael Meyer is May 23rd.

UNESCO Bresce - Capacity Building for Biosphere Reserves

Michael Meyer explains the intention of UNESCO-Bresce to launch a series of 3 trainings on sustainable tourism in biosphere reserves in CEE/SEE. Therefore, he gives a short presentation on the UNEP/GEF project run by ETE in the three biosphere reserves of Babia Gora (PL), Aggtelek (HU) and Sumava (CZ). This project and the very good results out of it will build the basis for the following trainings.

Michael Meyer asks the attending delegates, possibly in consultation with NGOs and protected area administrations, to propose participants to these meetings from their countries. Target groups of the training are protected area managers, NGOs working in protected areas and governmental representatives with special interest in these areas as well as community leaders and other stakeholders that might act as multipliers. In particular the last issue, i.e. the multiplier effect, should be one of the main reasons for a person to be sent to the training. Mainly participants from Biosphere Reserves are addressed; however, also protected area staff may apply.

The probable time period for the training is September 2008 - March 2009. Criteria for the selection of participants need to be developed. The selection process will be finalised by end of May.

Presentation from the Cultural Working Group (ANPED Input)

By Monika Ochwat - Marcinkiewicz/ Ecopsychology Society, Poland

Download at www.ceeweb.org

Presentation GEF Project

Michael Meyer presented the GEF Project on Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Three Biosphere Reserves in Central and Eastern Europe (Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic). Kristina Vilimaite urged to check the website of the project www.tourism4nature.org for detailed information on specific results of the project.

Download at www.ceeweb.org

Closing remarks

CEEweb and ETE promise to the members of the TWG to provide all documents elaborated within the frame of the meeting as well as the meeting report by May 1st for commenting. The timeframe for commenting from part of the TWG will be May 1-4. On May 5, CEEweb/ETE will have to submit all documents including the changes proposed by the TWG to the IC.

A meeting of the Via Carpatica project might be possible before the COP2 (back-to-back), if there is enough commitment from part of the parties interested.

All members of the TWG who are not going to participate in the COP2 will be updated with all information resulting from the meeting.

OTHER GROUPS AND INITIATIVES

With Decision 14 the COP1 established the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) and constituted a thematic network of mountain protected areas in the Carpathians. Its Steering Committee is composed of the Focal Points for the CNPA designated by each country. The Steering Committee met several times in 2007 and 2008 and benefited from a partnership with the Alpine Network of Protected Areas.

The CNPA together with the Carpathian Wetlands Initiative (CWI) actively contribute to the preservation of biological diversity in the Carpathians. The establishment of the CWI was supported by the Government of Norway since 2003 and received the assistance of the Secretariat of the 1971 Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (ISCC) and the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention during the COP1.

The Carpathian Environmental Education Network (CEEN) also actively contributes to pursuing the aims and objectives of the Convention, carrying on dissemination activities at the grassroots level in a strategic manner.

Here follow the terms of reference (ToR) of the CNPA and CWI, as well as the reports of the meetings of the CNPA, CWI and CEEN to present date.

CARPATHIAN NETWORK OF PROTECTED AREAS

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Mandate

The First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP1) to the Carpathian Convention (Kiev, Ukraine, 11-13 December 2006) in its Decision COP1/4 para 12 decided “to establish the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas, constituting a thematic network of cooperation of mountain protected areas in the Carpathian Region, and to designate one CNPA Focal Point in each Party to start up and encourage cooperation in the management of protected areas within and between the Carpathian countries”.

Aim, Tasks and Composition

The Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) constitutes a regional thematic network of cooperation of mountain protected areas in the Carpathians. CNPA aims at contributing to the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians and in particular to accomplishing goals listed in Article 4 of the Convention and supporting the work and activities of the Working Group on the conservation of biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathian Convention.

CNPA reports to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee through the Secretariat.

The CNPA Steering Committee is composed of the designated CNPA National Focal Points of each country. Each CNPA National Focal Point will start up and encourage cooperation in the management of protected areas within and between the Carpathian countries. This shall be achieved in continuous cooperation between the Carpathian protected areas, designated as members of the CNPA and with protected area networks of other regions. The Parties to the Carpathian Convention are invited to assist the nomination and participation of the relevant protected areas in CNPA.

The following are the goals of CNPA:

- Promotion of cooperation on protection, restoration of nature and sustainable use of natural and cultural resources of the Carpathians;
- Implementation of decisions and recommendations undertaken by the bodies established under the Carpathian Convention as well as of other applicable relevant international legal instruments;
- Promotion of sustainable livelihoods and sustainable development in the Carpathians;
- Development and implementation of the relevant provisions of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity.
- The work programme and activities of CNPA may include:
 - making recommendations on expansion of the existing and/or creation of new protected areas;
 - capacity building of the member protected areas and of the network;

- communication within the network;
- coordination of common activities and projects undertaken by the network;
- common fundraising from external sources for activities of the network;
- exchange of experience, skills, knowledge and data among network members, including through the CNPA working groups;
- raising ecological awareness and promoting transboundary cooperation and sustainable development;
- liaising and cooperating with other bodies established under the Carpathian Convention as well as with other relevant international, regional and national organizations under the guidance of the CNPA Steering Committee and coordination of the Biodiversity Working Group, thus building upon the vast experience and knowledge available;
- preparing reports, opinions and recommendations for the Working Group on the conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity, for further submission to the Conference of the Parties and the relevant bodies established under the Carpathian Convention;
- support the activities of common thematic working groups established under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee and common communication actions.

The CNPA-SC will meet at least twice a year.

REPORT ON THE FIRST MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting

26 January 2007

Vienna International Center, Austria

In accordance with the Decision COP1/4 para 13 of the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (Kiev, Ukraine, 11-13 December 2006), the 1st Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) was held in Vienna on 26 January 2007.

The following designated CNPA National Focal Points participated in the meeting:

1. Jana Urbancíková (Bile Karpaty Education and Information Center EIC, Czech Republic)
2. György Czibula (Ministry of Environment and Water, Hungary)
3. Zbigniew Niewiadomski (Bieszczady National Park, Poland)
4. Mircea Verghet (National Forest Administration, Romania)
5. Jan Kadlecik (State Nature Conservancy of Slovakia)
6. Sergiy Matvyeyev (Expert of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine)

Aleksandra Doslic from the Republic of Serbia was excused due to illness.

The following observers also participated:

1. Anna Guttova (CERI)
2. Michael Vogel (National Park Berchtesgaden, Germany)
3. Guido Plassmann (ALPARC - Task Force Protected Areas, Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention)
4. Harald Egerer (UNEP Vienna - ISCC)
5. Solomiya Omelyan (UNEP Vienna - ISCC)
6. Mike Baltzer (WWF-DCP)
7. Andreas Beckmann (WWF-DCP)
8. Erika Stanciu (WWF-DCP)
9. Csaba Domokos (WWF-DCP)
10. Hildegard Meyer (WWF-DCP)

A list of the meeting participants is included in Annex III to this report.

Introduction, brief update on COP1 to the Carpathian Convention

Mr Harald Egerer, Head of the UNEP Vienna - ISCC, welcomed the participants on behalf of the interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and initiated an introduction round.

Further, Mr Harald Egerer gave a brief update on the COP1. He evaluated the COP1 as a well-organized event, where all Carpathian countries and over 50 representatives of observer organizations demonstrated real participation. A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the Alpine and the Carpathian Conventions indicating equal partnership and formalizing the cooperation between the Alpine and Carpathian Convention Secretariats, including between the Alpine and the Carpathian Networks of Protected Areas.

Until COP2, which will be held in Romania in spring 2008, six WGs will be set up and become operational, among them the WG on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity (later referred to as BWG). A close cooperation between the BWG and the CNPA should be established. He assumed that the CNPA along with the BWG might be candidates for a good showcase at the COP2.

Furthermore, he briefed the meeting on the Carpathian Project activities supported by the EU. The Project should support the development of a “Carpathian Space” similar to the “Alpine Space” under the INTERREG IIIB Programme. On behalf of the Carpathian Convention, the interim Secretariat will engage into consultations with the relevant European institutions and partners, in order to create the necessary support for follow-up projects, like Via Carpatica and CNPA.

A MoU with the Ramsar Convention Secretariat was signed at COP1. This means that the Ramsar Convention recognized the Carpathian Convention as regional hub of a global Convention. The MoU with the Central European Initiative (CEI) also adds a new political and operational dimension to Carpathian cooperation.

Mr Egerer pointed out that a report highlighting experiences made in the interim phase of the CNPA and a compilation of proposals for a permanent arrangement of the CNPA will be submitted by UNEP Vienna ISCC to the COP2 through the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee.

Mr Egerer then introduced the draft meeting agenda, which was approved by the meeting with minor modifications.

Agenda items 1 and 2: Role of the CNPA Steering Committee and draft CNPA ToR

Pursuant to Decision COP1/4, the BWG will prepare, in cooperation with the CNPA Steering Committee, the ToR for the CNPA. To start up the process, the CNPA Steering Committee is invited to submit the draft of the ToR to the BWG for consideration and approval. Mr Egerer introduced the draft CNPA tasks and ToR to the meeting participants and invited the CNPA-SC to provide its comments and recommendations. The CNPA ToR (enclosed in Annex II) were drafted by the Secretariat on the basis of the outputs produced by the previous activities of the CNPA Steering Committee and in particular by the third meeting of the CNPA Partnership Steering Committee, held on 13-14 May 2004 in Zakopane, Poland.

Romania underlined that more detailed ToR would be desirable. The CNPA-SC agreed to apply the Rules of Procedure of the Carpathian Convention *mutatis mutandis* to its proceedings.

The CNPA-SC members agreed to meet at least twice a year taking into account the actual needs and financial support available. WWF-DCP informed that the 2012 PAP assures financial support for two CNPA-SC meetings per year for the next five years.

The meeting adopted the proposed ToR with some amendments by consensus and agreed that the draft CNPA ToR will be submitted to the BWG for approval in March 2007. A meeting of the BWG will be held in spring 2007 and the CNPA-SC is invited to participate in its proceedings.

In the context of the ALPARC-CNPA cooperation, one representative from the CNPA is invited to participate in the ALPARC meetings in order to enhance the future collaboration between the networks.

The CNPA-SC decided to elect an informal chair who could participate and represent the CNPA-SC in the ALPARC meetings as an observer. Consequently, Mr Mircea Verghet from Romania was elected a Chair of the CNPA-SC and will represent the CNPA-SC at the ALPARC meetings.

In exchange, the CNPA-SC decided to invite the President of the Alpine Network (currently held by Mr Michael Vogel from the National Park Berchtesgaden, Germany) to participate in the CNPA-SC meetings on behalf of the Alpine Network.

Agenda item 3: Presentation of progress of related activities (Alpine-Carpathian Partnership with ALPARC, Carpathian Wetland Initiative)

Alpine-Carpathian Cooperation

Mr Guido Plassmann, Director, ALPARC, Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, informed the CNPA-SC that ALPARC continued to support the CNPA. There is great interest in cooperating with the CNPA, as ALPARC is located in the same bio-geographical region, shares interest in similar topics, such as migration of species and many others. A concrete project will be introduced, aiming at supporting CNPA communication. The role of ALPARC within CNPA is up to the CNPA-SC to define.

Mr Guido Plassmann presented ALPARC's work in the Carpathian region in the last year including two workshops in Mala Fatra, Slovakia and Piatra Craiului, Romania, held in 2006, as well as the NATURA 2000 colloquium, held in 2004 in Neukirchen, Austria, initiated upon request of the protected area authorities. Both workshops were organized with the support of the host countries (Slovakia and Romania) and financially supported by the governments of Germany, Monaco and France. A CD-ROM with all presentations was made available.

He also presented the goals of the one-year project "Alpine-Carpathian Cooperation - Creation of Communication tools for the CNPA".

Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI)

Mr Jan Kadlecik from Slovakia introduced the CWI to the meeting participants. The establishment of the CWI was supported by the Norwegian government in 2003-2005. In November 2006, a meeting was held in Evian, France, in cooperation with the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, which formulated key points to be developed by the CWI and also action elements and responsibilities by November 2008.

Currently, there is one Focal Point per country working on wetland issues in the region. This group of people is developing information on wetland ecosystems in the Carpathians. In addition, the group will work on the designation of additional Ramsar Sites, integrating wetlands into river basin management, wetlands restoration plans, transboundary cooperation, species and habitat monitoring, capacity building and awareness rising, and will develop an action plan for the next two years. A side event at the COP1 was held; the CWI was included into the Carpathian Convention programme of work and decisions of the COP1; and the MoU between the Ramsar Convention and UNEP Vienna ISCC was signed. The CWI aims at operating as a Regional Initiative within the framework of the Ramsar Convention and to get financial support from the Ramsar core budget. A study tour on transboundary wetlands is planned as well as participation in the workshops and projects of ICPDR. The Wetlands International Black Sea Programme is to be expanded to the Carpathians and is to become a partner of the CWI. The CWI will also create a link to the WWF-DCP activities.

BBI-Matra Project by CERI

Ms Anna Guttova of CERI gave a brief introduction on the BBI-Matra Project "Development of a Carpathian Ecological Network". The project will support the CNPA at least in Ukraine, Romania and Serbia by creating a biological network. A methodology is currently in the process of being prepared. The first expert meeting will be held in the beginning of February in Bratislava. The data collection will be completed by the end of 2007. Final results are expected for the end of 2008 - beginning of 2009. This project is not only related to protected areas in the region, but also for areas characterized by a high level of biodiversity. Currently, CERI is working on a proposal for the Western part of the Carpathians with the aim at compiling the same dataset with the same methodology in order to be able to elaborate a biological network for the whole Carpathian ecoregion.

Mr Harald Egerer remarked that the Carpathian Project will also work on a biological network. The project includes a brief study that would examine the Carpathians as part of the Pan-European Ecological Network. The participation of CERI in the BWG of the Carpathian Convention will be of utmost importance.

Mr Mircea Verghelet requested CERI to update their map, because new major parks have been established in the Carpathians recently, especially in Romania. After he sends the missing polygons, CERI GIS expert will incorporate them into the existing map and will update the database.

The CERI representative explained that the ecological network will be based on biodiversity and socio-economic aspects rather than on protected areas. Mike Baltzer of WWF-DCP remarked that protected areas will be the cornerstones for the biological network. He asked the CNPA to contribute to the project by helping with data collection including data on Natura 2000 sites.

WWF-DCP activities in the region

2012 PAP supports CNPA activities. A work programme is being developed involving the CNPA-SC in the consultation process.

Ms Erika Stanciu also presented the activities of WWF-DCP in the region that are not linked to the 2012 PAP. There are local initiatives operating in Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine. In Poland and Hungary, local organizations were established. A campaign on protected areas is being conducted, including public awareness and lobbying activities. Letters signed by local people in Romania and several petitions were sent to the EU and the State, asking for more support for protected areas. An NGO coalition for Natura 2000 is preparing proposals on protected areas legislation in Romania. In Tatra Mountains WWF-DCP is working on forest issues, in particular related to issues after the windfall of 2004 and FSC certification. A project proposal is under development to strengthen forestry activities in protected areas in Ukraine and Romania. The protected areas will hopefully be leading these activities.

The Carpathian Project

The Carpathian Project supports the BWG established by the COP1 and activities on the development of the ecological network in the Carpathians. The Carpathian ecological network should become an important part of the Carpathian Project until the COP2 in 2008 and beyond.

UNEP suggested that an informal partnership could be established with ALPARC, WWF-DCP and CERI to support the CNPA, as general MoUs have already been signed between UNEP and all the other organizations. The invited partners agreed to this proposal and this partnership in support of CNPA was welcomed by the CNPA-SC. The partners will coordinate and cooperate within an informal work program under the guidance of the CNPA-SC and of the WG on Biodiversity of the Carpathian Convention, including the following elements:

- Preparing the CNPA conference in 2008 / COP2 of the Carpathian Convention
- Communication and PR issues, visibility guidelines, website (contents and maintenance)
- Capacity building / coordination / integration with 2012 PAP (WWF) and UNDP-GEF
- Thematic work and interaction with the WG on Biodiversity of the Carpathian Convention

The CNPA work programme includes holding a first CNPA conference. UNEP suggested that a combination of the CNPA conference with the COP2 could be possible. UNEP Vienna ISCC will register a domain www.cnpa.int for the CNPA website.

The First Meeting of the CNPA-SC was closed on 26 January 2007 at 17.00.

REPORT ON THE SECOND MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting

22-23 November 2007

Budapest, Hungary

The second meeting of the Steering Committee of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) was held in Budapest on 23 November 2007.

The following designated CNPA National Focal Points participated in the meeting:

1. Jana Urbancíková (Bile Karpaty Education and Information Center EIC, Czech Republic)
2. György Czibula (Ministry of Environment and Water, Hungary)
3. Zbigniew Niewiadomski (Poland)
4. Mircea Verghet (National Forest Administration, Romania)
5. Jan Kadlecik (State Nature Conservancy, Slovakia)
6. Olga Vlahovic (Ministry of Science and Environmental Protection, Serbia)
7. Igor Ivanenko (Ministry of Environmental Protection, Ukraine)

The following observers also participated:

1. Guido Plassmann (ALPARC - Task Force Protected Areas, Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention)
2. Martin Pavlik (ALPARC - Task Force Protected Areas, Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention)
3. Anna Guttova (CERI)
4. Bohdan Prots (State Museum of National History - Natural Academy of Science, Ukraine)
5. Piotr Krzan (Tatra National Park, Poland)
6. Harald Egerer (UNEP Vienna - ISCC)
7. Andreea Bucur (UNEP Vienna - ISCC)
8. Mike Baltzer (WWF-DCP)
9. David Strobel (WWF-DCP)
10. Erika Stanciu (WWF-DCP)
11. Csaba Domokos (WWF-DCP)
12. Hildegard Meyer (WWF-DCP)
13. Juraj Vysoky (WWF-DCP)

Agenda of the CNPA Steering Committee meeting

1. Update on the CNPA status within the framework of the Carpathian Convention (Decision COP1/4, presentation of the ToR of the CNPA), discussion
2. Update on available support (all partners)
3. CNPA Work Programme: proposals for feasible actions, discussion
4. CNPA Website, CNPA Logo, presentation, discussion
5. CNPA General Assembly 2008, proposals for agenda and points of deliberation by participants, discussion
6. Update on country proposals for a permanent arrangement by respective CNPA-SC members and partners, discussion
7. Report to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (preparations for COP2)

1. Update on the CNPA status within the framework of the Carpathian Convention (Decision COP1/4, presentation of the ToR of the CNPA), discussion

The Meeting of the CNPA Steering Committee was opened on 23 November 2007 at 9.00 by Harald Egerer, Head, UNEP Vienna - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (ISCC). Mr Egerer welcomed the participants on behalf of the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and initiated an introduction round.

Further, the participants agreed upon the revised agenda proposed by the Interim Secretariat (the topic regarding the Swiss Cohesion Contribution was removed from the agenda as it was already discussed by the Parties the previous day within the “Protected Areas for a Living Planet” Steering Committee Meeting).

Furthermore, Mr Egerer gave a brief update on the CNPA status within the framework of the Carpathian Convention. He reminded that COP1 decided to establish a Carpathian Network of Protected Areas that constitutes a thematic network of cooperation of mountain protected areas in the Carpathian region, as well as the CNPA Steering Committee composed of the CNPA Focal Points of each Contracting Party. The draft ToR, which set the goals of the Carpathian Network of Protected Area adopted at the last Extended Bureau meeting in Vienna on 17-18 October 2007, were presented. He also mentioned that the process of this body should bring results similar to the ones achieved under the Alpine Convention as their work represents a good example to follow and improve.

Mr Egerer also presented the latest achievements within the WGs established under the Carpathian Project with the support of the Carpathian Convention.

Further, it was announced that the WG on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity, which met in Budapest on the 19-21 November 2007, negotiated and finalized a Draft Protocol that will be prepared to be signed at the COP2 (17-19 June 2008) in Bucharest, Romania. Mr Zbigniew Niewiadomski, who had a major contribution in revising the draft text initially submitted by Ukraine, gave a brief overview of the Protocol. He mentioned that the Protocol is just a proposal and not a legal document, yet. After the Parties agree on the Protocol proposed, a Strategic Action Plan for implementation must be elaborated, as in Article 14 of the Carpathian Convention.

Mr Egerer pointed out that a partnership agreement was signed with the Alpine Convention. He suggested that this collaboration could bring to the Carpathians valuable lessons to learn from but also that the CNPA should go beyond the Alpine Convention experience.

After this short introduction, the participants were invited to provide their comments and recommendations. The Czech Republic welcomed the whole process and mentioned that the government would like to see concrete management plans with special emphasis on the financial schemes; Hungary considered the CNPA a good tool to address threats in the Carpathians; Poland explained that the CNPA official image is of a tool of exchange between the protected areas and that the government will not give financial support without a well elaborated working plan; Romania believed that the first goal of the CNPA is the cooperation between the Parties and proposed to establish a unit similar to that of the Alpine Convention, which should be in charge of coordinating the activities of the protected areas, i.e. a management unit. This management unit would facilitate the communication between the parks' administrations as well as the exchange of experience. Furthermore, Mr Mircea Verghelet informed that at the Belgrade Conference (October 2007) he represented the CNPA; Serbia believes that a better definition of CNPA activity and aims is needed and that the interchange of experience between the parks' administrations is very useful. Mr Harald Egerer stated that Serbia could constitute a crucial link point between South-Eastern Europe and the Balkans and proposals of cooperation are to be developed, as well as various projects; Slovakia informed that the parks' administrations are already very active in this field due to EU programme NATURA 2000. They are very interested in training programs and to learn about best practices from other partners. Information channels like the internet, the press or newsletters, ideally in national languages, would be very welcome. Moreover, new challenges have to be dealt with due to the new management of the parks, which are more business oriented; Ukraine (the presidency of the Carpathian Convention) clarified that the CNPA is also a physical network of protected areas, not only of managers; moreover, a work plan based on the ToR together with clearly defined financial needs should be elaborated as soon as possible, as well as a permanent unit, which would have to coordinate the whole process as the parks administrators are busy with daily tasks and they would need to allocate additional time for the CNPA; in this matter, Ukraine proposed that a position should be established within the ISCC in Vienna; the person would be proposed by one of the Parties and would be responsible for the work plan and for the coordination of the Protected Areas.

Mr Guido Plassmann, Director of Task Force Protected Areas of the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, informed the CNPA Steering Committee that ALPARC continues to support the CNPA. He remarked that the Alpine Network of Protected Area was the first of this type and it provides a good example for the CNPA. A coordination unit is vital for a good management of the process; the symmetric exchange of information and experience builds a relationship based on trust between protected areas administrations. There is great interest in cooperation with the CNPA, as ALPARC is located in the same bio-geographical region and shares interest in similar topics. Mr Plassmann believes that there should be a two ways exchange of information and experience between the CNPA

and ALPARC. For example, the latter could learn more about managing large carnivores, which are better managed in the Carpathians.

The WWF-DCP (Ms Erika Stanciu) remarked that is very important to have a legally binding agreement that is seen as a “good selling label”, giving the example of the MAVA Project, which generated another large project in Ukraine. It also emphasized the benefits of cooperation with other networks - Alpine Network, etc.

CERI reiterated their support to CNPA throughout their research incorporating studies in the entire Carpathian region on biodiversity and socio-economic issues.

Mr Igor Ivanenko appreciated the developments accomplished so far and he believes that the results of the ongoing projects will become visible in the near future. Also, he asked the ISCC to prepare the ToR for the coordinator (that was proposed to work within the ISCC) and advised the CNPA-SC to prepare and propose new projects for further development.

UNEP suggested that a follow up report comprising the experience should be prepared, including suggestions from the partners supporting of the CNPA: ALPARC, CERI and WWP DCP; the ToR of the unit management / coordinator should be based on the working plan of the CNPA.

Update on available support (all partners)

The first big step for concrete work taken for the cooperation between ALPARC and the CNPA will be the General Assembly that will take place in December 2008. Two important documents will have to be developed: a common work-program for the Alpine and the Carpathian protected areas and a strategic document/action plan for the CNPA.

Mr Egerer remarked that the document should be drafted by the COP2 and submitted for its discussion, which will take place on the 17-19 June 2008 in Romania.

Mr Igor Ivanenko agreed that the document should be produced and submitted to consideration by COP2 in Romania. He also suggested that the ISCC should produce a draft of the Strategic Document of cooperation between the CNPA and ALPARC.

Mr Zbigniew Niewiadomski suggested that, even if the CNPA does not have a very clear financial and administrative framework, the CNPA-SC should try to develop a strategic document. He gave as example the 2003 exercise, which was performed throughout a questionnaire asking for perceived priorities, training needs, etc. The COP2 should receive feedback from the administrations of the protected areas and discuss upon proposals underlining expectations of the Parties.

Mr Guido Plassmann remarked that the workshops planned during the meeting of the General Assembly will be a very productive exchange of information and experiences, which will bring added value to both parties, ALPARC and CNPA.

Mr Igor Ivanenko believes that there are sufficient projects on the run and the CNPA-SC should concentrate on improving their coordination and on getting the governmental support for concrete action. Mr Niewiadomski agreed on this matter and remarked that along with the strategy for the CNPA, a working plan should

also be developed. Mr Mircea Verghelet argued that the working plan should be elaborated after the strategy was outlined.

Mr Harald Egerer drew the attention to the institutional nature of the CNPA issue; he believes that this should be the first aspect to be clarified, which also depends on the financial support provided by the governments. Further, he asked Mr Plassmann, about the flexibility of ALPARC's support and the deadline for submitting the two strategic documents.

Mr Plassmann explained that financial support will be offered for 1 year by the Heidehof Foundation Germany, the Government of Monaco, BMU (German Federal Ministry of Environment) and the ALPARC budget. He also mentioned that the process of producing the two strategic documents is quite flexible and it should be a parallel one (the Strategic Document - outlining the strategy of CNPA - and the Working Plan). Furthermore, he explained that, due to limited funds, only the final meeting will be financed and that several other meetings will not take place.

Mr Igor Ivanenko believes that the Strategic Document should be produced after the Biodiversity Protocol was agreed upon.

Mr Mircea Verghelet suggested that a proposal regarding the management unit of the Protected Areas should be completed and submitted to COP2 and in parallel an interim Strategic Document can be elaborated.

Ms Erika Stanciu (WWF-DCP) assured the Steering Committee of the WWF-DCP support under the CBD Programme of Work for Protected Areas, which will be financed until the end of 2011, and emphasized that it brings added value, if compared to the EU project NATURA 2000.

The representative of CERI assured once again the CNPA-SC of their support consisting in the documents produced as a result of their research and the available funds received.

Mr Zbigniew Niewiadomski emphasized that the coordination between the CNPA and the WG on Biodiversity, WWF-DCP and CERI is very important and will produce valuable outcomes, which will benefit the Protected Areas.

CNPA Work Programme: proposals for feasible actions, discussion

The subject of the CNPA Work Programme was opened by Mr Harald Egerer, who invited the participants to express their opinion regarding the type of document that should be elaborated: a Strategic Plan, etc.

The representative of the Czech Republic believes that a Working Plan should exist; the opinion was shared by Hungary, who asked for a framework document that gives the guidelines for action.

The following proposals were presented for consideration by the CNPA-SC and its observers and were agreed upon:

- A Working Plan should be developed as soon as possible;
- A Strategic Plan/Document should be elaborated and proposed for consideration to COP2;

- Proposal and ToR (developed until COP2 and submitted for approval) for the permanent arrangement of the CNPA.

CNPA website, logo, presentation, discussion

Mr Martin Pavlik, ALPARC (Alpine Network of Protected Areas), presented the web page, currently hosted under www.alparc.org/cnpa/index.php, and explained to the Focal Points the structure of the site and the modality in which it can be accessed, depending on each one's position: public, Focal Points, park's administrations, etc. Mr Harald Egerer drew the attention on some mistakes that have been made in the text presenting the status of the CNPA on the website, as well as other information that should be posted. Mr Pavlik assured that the information published will be revised and properly updated. The web domains reserved for the CNPA web page are: www.carpathianparks.org and www.cnpa.int; in the near future it remains to be decided if both of them will be kept.

Further, the WWF-DCP presented the proposed logos for the CNPA which were the result of a voting process. The Parties did not agree on a particular logo and decided to postpone the decision on this matter. Since the process of designing a logo is complicated and may take up to 6 months, the logo n.1, which received most votes from the administrations of the protected areas, should be circulated again, after a simplification of the map.

CNPA General Assembly 2008, proposals for agenda and points of deliberation by participants, discussion

The Conference of the CNPA was announced to take place on the 24 September 2008 in Poiana Brasov, Romania.

The participants decided upon the number of delegates that will take part in the Conference:

Czech Republic	3 (+1) persons
Hungary	3 persons
Poland	12 (+1) persons
Romania	21 persons
Serbia	3 (+1) persons
Slovakia	15 persons
Ukraine	10 persons
Members of the CNPA Steering Committee	
Balkans representatives ¹⁰	5-7 persons

The programme of the Conference shall be established at a further date; the participants were invited to submit suggestions for the agenda.

6. Update on country proposals for a permanent arrangement by respective CNPA-SC members and partners, discussion

Mr Mircea Verghet reiterate Romania's proposal for hosing the management unit of the CNPA. A formal proposal will be developed in the near future; for the time being he believes that the ToR of the CNPA and of the management unit, as

¹⁰ Possible invitation.

well as the preparation of the Conference of the Protected Areas should be the items first to be developed. He proposed the Alpine Convention to be the example to follow in the process of shaping the future management unit of the CNPA.

Mr Harald Egerer clarified that the role and capacities of the future CNPA management unit will also depend on the official proposal from the two countries. In response, Mr Igor Ivanenko, supported by Mr. Mircea Verghelet, proposed that the ToR of the CNPA coordinator should be elaborated, in close collaboration with the Alpine Convention (Mr Martin Pavlik) by the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention.

Mr Jan Kadlecik also reiterated Slovakia's proposal to host the management unit. A building fully equipped located in Banska Bystrica is already prepared for this purpose; as for the financial support, there are ongoing negotiations with the government and a decision will be taken soon.

Mr Zbigniew Niewiadomski remarked that both Parties [Romania and Slovakia], when elaborating the proposal, should focus and present the advantages of placing the management unit in their country. He also believes that the management unit of the CNPA should be a functional part of the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention.

Mr Igor Ivanenko also emphasized on the advantages that countries would offer in case the management unit should be placed on their territory (also as in the case of the Permanent Secretariat). In the meantime, the CNPA coordinator should be located with the Interim Secretariat.

The two Parties were invited to submit a more detailed proposal, which should indicate the institutional/legal type of the "permanent arrangement" to the ISCC. The final decision should be taken by COP2.

7. Report to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (preparations for COP2)

The Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee - as decided by the Extended Bureau meeting (17-18 October 2007, Vienna, Austria) - will take place on 2-4 April 2008 in Sibiu, Romania. The Participants agreed that the following actions must be taken and presented:

1. As decided by COP1, the Secretariat is supposed to submit through the Implementation Committee a report highlighting the experiences made in the interim phase of CNPA. Also, a compilation of proposals for hosting the management unit from Romania and Slovakia is to be prepared by the ISCC Vienna and submitted for consideration to COP2. For this purpose, detailed proposals should be submitted to the Interim Secretariat as soon as possible, preferably in time before the Meeting of the Implementation Committee.
2. The ToR of a CNPA coordinator should be elaborated by the Secretariat and submitted for consideration by the Steering Committee.
3. The Interim Secretariat should coordinate and facilitate the elaboration of the two proposed key documents, the Working Plan and the Mid-Term Strategy, with the support of ALPARC. The documents should be prepared in close cooperation with the other CNPA partners - CERI, UNEP and WWF-DCP. The Working Plan should be developed as soon as possible and offer the needed

guidelines necessary for starting the actual fieldwork. The mid-term Strategy should be developed for a period of 5 years starting with year 2009. Both documents should be ready by the Protected Areas Conference that will take place in September 2008.

ALPARC offered to provide support and advice at every stage of the process - from the ToR for the CNPA coordinator to the Working Plan and the Mid-Term Strategy. WWF-DCP will support the Conference of the CNPA. UNEP Vienna ISCC will further facilitate and service the process.

The second meeting of the CNPA-SC was closed on 23 November 2007 at 15.00.

A third meeting of the CNPA was hold on 3-4 April 2008 in Sibiu, Romania, back-to-back with a meeting of Implementation Committee. Only a draft version of the report of the meeting is available to date. The final version will be included in the second volume of this Collection.

REPORT ON THE THIRD MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting

3-4 April 2008

Sibiu, Romania

In accordance with the Decision COP1/4 para. 13 of the 1st Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (Kyiv, Ukraine, 11-13 December 2006), the 3rd Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) was held in Sibiu, Romania, on 3-4 April 2008.

The following designated CNPA National Focal Points participated in the meeting:

1. Jana Urbancíková, Bile Karpaty Education and Information Centre EIC, Czech Republic
2. Mircea Verghet, National Forest Administration, Romania
3. Jan Kadlecik, State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic
4. Igor Ivanenko, Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine.
5. The following observers also participated:
6. Erika Stanciu, WWF DCP
7. David Strobel, WWF DCP
8. Csaba Domokos, WWF DCP
9. George Predoiu, CERI
10. Piotr Krzan, Tatra National Park PL

The CNPA Steering Committee meeting followed the one for the PA4LP SG on the 3rd and 4th of April. The agenda included a joint meeting with the CCIC members, on the evening of the 3rd of April.

We would like to thank to WWF DCP for the organizational and financial help provided for the CNPA SC meeting.

Unfortunately, there were 3 country representatives missing (Poland, Hungary and Serbia), and this fact is causing delays and gaps in the decisions of the CNPA SC.

The agenda for the CNPA SC included several topics, linked to the future activities and developments of the CNPA. Each topic was discussed and completely agreed among the present SC members, and the SC activities were developed in a teamwork and cooperation environment.

The following topics were discussed:

1. Side event for COP 2, Bucharest, 17-19 June 2008 - The Pristine Forests - Treasures of the Carpathians

Taking into consideration the proposal made by Erika Stanciu, with the help of WWF DCP, a CNPA side event will be organized during COP2, and the subject will be the pristine forests in the Carpathians and the celebration of the World Heritage Sites in Slovakia and Ukraine. The aim of the side event and the message for the Carpathian Countries will be to generate a commitment for the protection of the virgin forests in the Carpathian Mountains. The event will entail an introduction, the presentation of the WHS, Government Commitments (if any), cocktail. The event will also include the spreading of leaflets, postcards, posters, presentation of an UA film on the topic, the Romanian pristine forests study, a material by Daphne on the topic.

The participants also agreed that they will try to have a work meeting during COP2 for analyzing some draft documents (see Annex 6).

2. The first PA Conference (Assembly), Brasov, September 2008

Using the opportunity of the organization of the Europarc Conference in September 2008 in Brasov, the first CNPA Conference (Assembly) will be organized. The Conference will be attended by the CNPA SC members, the CNPA partners, the Carpathian PAs administration representatives, other interested representatives.

The meeting will be held for 2 full days (23rd and 24th of September), and will include the activities presented in Annex 1. The participants will then be able to attend the Europarc Conference and the post-conference field trips.

The draft documents for the strategy and action plan will be prepared with the help of the Alpine Network of Protected Areas and presented to the CNPA SC.

3. Future CNPA institutional arrangements

The topic was intensively discussed by the participants, and the initiative was based on a document sent by the Alpine Network of Protected Areas (Alparc) and was presented to the participants by the Romanian representative (Annex 2), as a follow-up of the discussions during the former meeting of the CNPA SC held in Budapest last autumn. The result was a much shorter document - CNPA Institutional Arrangements (Annex 3). The rest of the details will be prepared by the Romanian representative, and presented to the next SC meeting, as an annex to the main document.

The document was also presented to the CCIC in the evening of the 3rd of April and their conclusion was that the findings could be presented as an information document for COP2. On the other hand, the CNPA SC present members were surprised to find out that the CCIC already discussed and reached to a conclusion on the CNPA future structures, prior to the presentation of the SC findings.

The document (Annex 3) will be subject of observations and inputs from the 3 missing SC members (PL, HU and SE).

4. GEF Project Proposal

The Romanian representative presented a GEF PIF (project identification form) document proposal, compiled by the UNDP regional office from Bratislava, entitled: Improving the Financial Sustainability of the Carpathian System of Protected Areas (Annex 4). There were several observations made by the Slovak representative, and the new data will be sent by email and included in the document. The project is part of the Romanian GEF allocation and more details and consultations with the CNPA SC will be provided during the project preparation phase, in the proposal will be successful.

5. The CNPA work plan

The WWF DCP representative, Mr. David Strobel showed the proposal made by UNEP in 2007, which contains activities for the 2009-2012 period (Annex 5). The participants agreed that in this moment, because the only CNPA structure is the SC, there are not enough means (human and financial) for such an ambitious program. This is why the participants decided to create a much more realistic work program (Annex6), which is meant to be accomplished by the CNPA SC during the meetings, and also by the country representatives, through voluntary work.

REPORT ON THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting

19 June 2008

Bucharest, Romania

The 4th meeting of the CNPA Steering Committee was held at the Romanian National Forest Administration Office on 19 June 2008 in Bucharest, Romania.

The meeting was attended by the National Focal Points for CNPA from the Carpathian countries with the exemption of Serbia, UNEP Vienna - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, as well as observers: ALPARC Task Force Protected Areas - Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, WWF-DCP, EURAC (see Annex 1 - List of participants).

The Meeting was opened by Mr. Mircea Verghet who chaired the meeting together with Mr. Harald Egerer, Executive Secretary of the UNEP Vienna - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (ISCC). Mr. Verghet welcomed the participants and initiated an introduction round.

Further, the meeting adopted the revised Agenda of the Meeting (see Annex 2 - Agenda).

1. Institutional arrangements for the CNPA

Under Agenda item 1 the Meeting took note of the COP2 decisions on the CNPA related matters.

Decision COP2/1

6. takes note of the proposal for a permanent arrangement for the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) established under the

Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CCIC) and submitted for further consideration and decision by COP3, and requests the CNPA Steering Committee to further discuss and elaborate that proposal taking into account results of the Protected Areas Conference to be held on 23-24 September 2008 (in Brasov, Romania);

7. requests the interim Secretariat in cooperation with CNPA Steering Committee, with the support of the ALPARC and Task Force of Protected Areas of the Alpine Convention Secretariat and in collaboration with the other CNPA partners, to prepare a Work Plan and Medium Term Strategy for CNPA, and invites the Protected Areas Conference to consider and provide inputs to the documents;

8. recognizes the need for additional human, institutional and financial resources to service the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity and manage the CNPA arrangements, approves the related arrangement and budget implications proposed by the interim Secretariat, contained in decision COP2/13;

While further discussing the proposal for a permanent arrangement of the CNPA, the meeting decided to establish a CNPA unit. The work of the CNPA during the coming years should continue on an interim basis until the decision on the proposal for a permanent arrangement to be taken by COP3. The CNPA SC will draft the internal rules for the CNPA Unit and for the Protected Areas Conference. Romania will provide the first draft proposal for circulation to and consideration by the CNPA Steering Committee (See Decisions by the 4th Meeting of the CNPA SC - paragraph 1).

2. Information and discussions of the working procedures of the CNPA Steering Committee

The meeting agreed that the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention should continue to be applied *mutatis mutandis* to the CNPA Steering Committee. A consolidated version of the Rules of Procedure, adapted and modified according to the CNPA SC needs, will be prepared by the interim Secretariat for consideration by the CNPA SC (See Decisions by the 4th Meeting of the CNPA SC - paragraph 2).

3. Way of developing the Medium Term Strategy of the CNPA for presentation and discussions at the Brasov Conference / 5. Way of developing the draft Work Plan for 2009 for discussions at the Brasov Conference

The Second Conference of the Parties (COP2) to the Carpathian Convention requested the interim Secretariat in cooperation with the CNPA SC and with the support of the ALPARC Task Force Protected Areas and other partners, to prepare a Work Plan and a Medium Term Strategy for the CNPA that will be presented to the Protected Areas Conference.

WWF-DCP, as well as ALPARC Task Force Protected Areas expressed their interest in supporting the development of the Work Plan 2009, as well as the Medium

Term Strategy of the CNPA. Mr. Martin Pavlik, ALPARC Task Force Protected Areas, presented to the Meeting a first draft of the Strategy; the document will be improved and circulated to the CNPA National Focal Points and other partners for inputs.

The Draft Medium Term Strategy, as well as the Draft Work Plan will be officially circulated (following the timetable below) by the (interim) Secretariat to the CNPA Focal Points; the draft versions of the documents with the incorporated inputs by the CNPA Focal Points and Observers will be considered and a final draft adopted by the 5th meeting of the CNPA SC, to be held prior to the Protected Area Conference (23-24 September 2008):

(See Decisions by the 4th Meeting of the CNPA SC - paragraph 3). The final draft version of the two documents, as approved by the CNPA SC, will then be presented to the Protected Areas Conference, which will consider and provide further inputs to these documents.

- First draft will be sent out - beginning of July;
- First inputs should be received - end of July;
- Second draft will be sent out - mid-August;
- Second round of inputs should be received - mid-September.

6. Agree on the final agenda and number of participants to the CNPA Conference and the EUROPARC Conference 2008 to be held in September

As requested by some participants, and with the goal of defining the membership of the CNPA, the interim Secretariat will send to all the CNPA Focal Points an official request inviting them to nominate the members of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas. The official list should be finalized by the end of July 2008. (See Decisions by the 4th Meeting of the CNPA SC - paragraph 4)

Further, Mr. Jon Marco Church, European Academy of Bolzano - Italy, informed the meeting that EURAC, in cooperation with partners, is currently developing a project that is intended to further support the CNPA. The participants welcomed the proposal and promised to identify and propose possible areas/activities that can benefit from the project upon request.

The meeting discussed and modified the Agenda of the Conference; the final version will be circulated to the participants to the meeting in due course by Mr. Mircea Verghelet.

The Meeting agreed that the national parks administrations should receive detailed information about the Conference - an invitation letter specifying conditions to be fulfilled by participants: expenses, language abilities, financial support if available etc. This invitation letter to the Conference for the national parks administrations will be drafted and circulated to the CNPA National Focal Points by Ms. Erika Stanciu (deadline: two weeks after the 4th Meeting of the CNPA). The number of delegates to the Conference will be the one decided upon at the 2nd Meeting of the CNPA Steering Committee (22-23 November 2007, Budapest, Hungary)¹¹.

¹¹ Meeting Report - 2nd Meeting of the CNPA Steering Committee (22-23 November 2007, Budapest, Hungary) à Czech Republic 3 (+1) persons, Hungary 3 persons, Poland 12 (+1), Romania 21 persons, Serbia 3 (+1) persons,

Further, Ms. Erika Stanciu emphasized that the designated participants should speak English - working language of the Conference.

7. The CNPA logo

The final proposed logos by Romania and Slovakia were presented; the Steering Committee adopted the CNPA logo as displayed below. (See Decisions by the 4th Meeting of the CNPA SC - paragraph 5).

8. Fundraising - does the CNPA want to go for Swiss Contribution Funds - if yes, how

Mr. David Strobel, WWF Danube Carpathian Programme, updated the meeting on the first steps taken so far in order to obtain financing for the CNPA from the Swiss Contribution Funds (SCF) to the EU enlargement. A first meeting was convened in Vienna (hosted by the interim Secretariat on 18 February 2008); based on the meeting outcomes a proposal was drafted by the WWF DCP and circulated among the participants - representing the ministries of Environment and Finance of the 4 Carpathian countries beneficiaries of these funds. Since no feedback was received at this point, the document will be circulated again by WWF-DCP; WWF DCPO invited the CNPA Focal Points to lobby within their governments to obtain a part of the funds for developing the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas and its related activities.

9. Next meeting of the Steering Committee

The Chair proposed and the meeting agreed that the 5th Meeting of the CNPA Steering Committee will be held on 22 September (from 10 a.m.) 2008 in Brasov, Romania one day before the Protected Areas Conference.

10. Update on the GEF project

Mr. Mircea Verghelet updated the meeting on the GEF project - "Improving the Financial Sustainability of the Carpathian System of Protected Areas" - proposal that is going to be submitted on behalf of Romania by UNDP Bratislava.

Decisions of the meeting

1. 1. The SC decides to establish a CNPA Unit. The CNPA SC will draft the internal rules for the CNPA Unit and for the Conference of the CNPA (to be drafted by RO)
2. 2. Apply the rules of procedure of the COP mutatis mutandis. The SC will adapt the rules of procedure for its own needs (to be drafted by the Secretariat).
3. 3. Medium term strategy and work plan for 2009 for CNPA circulated by Interim Secretariat for inputs - deadline - end of July, final draft August, final inputs - September.
4. 4. Each CNPA SC member will deliver based on the request made by the Interim Secretariat to the CNPA Focal Points the official list of CNPA members from his/her own country by the end of July.

Slovakia 15 persons, Ukraine 10 persons, Members of the CNPA Steering Committee, Balkans Representatives (possible invitation) 5-7 persons



5. 5. The CNPA SC adopts the logo presented below and provided by the Slovak CNPA Focal Point as the official logo of the CNPA.
6. 6. The SC takes note of the GEF project proposal provided by UNDP Bratislava.

REPORT ON THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting

Poiana Brasov, Romania

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the Agenda

The 5th Meeting of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas Steering Committee was held in Poiana Brasov, Romania. The main theme of discussion was the 1st CNPA Protected Areas Conference and final preparations (Conference documents, logistical matters) for the event (see Annex 1 - Agenda of the CNPA Steering Committee meeting). The meeting was attended by the members of the CNPA Steering Committee (CNPA SC) and the partner organisations (see Annex 2 - List of participants).

Firstly, Ms. Erika Stanciu (WWF-DCP) gave a few logistical and administrative information regarding the upcoming event (the CNPA Protected Areas Conference).

The Meeting was opened and chaired by the Interim Chair of the CNPA - Mr. Mircea Verghelet.

2. Last preparations for the CNPA Protected Areas Conference 2008:

- draft agenda, provisional programme of work

After the approval of the agenda of the SC meeting, Mr. Verghelet presented the Agenda of the Conference point by point and invited the participants to provide comments or suggestions, if any. Also, he announced that after the SC meeting the facilitators of the working groups would gather in order to decide on the best way to organise and hold discussions within these groups.

Mr. Igor Ivanenko (CNPA National Focal Point for Ukraine) remarked that the discussions during the Conference should be focused on activities rather than priorities (that should be set at a higher level, e.g. by the CNPA Steering Committee). Moreover, he proposed that a list of questions based on the Mid-term Strategy and Work plans, as well as other matters (e.g. tourism, forestry, wetlands, etc.) should be prepared by the facilitators in order to better guide the participants in providing their answers and feedback.

Ms. Erika Stanciu remarked that from her point of view a 5 years work plan is not feasible and such a plan should be made for a period of one year. Mr. Guido Plassmann - ALPARC Task Force Protected Areas explained that the work plan

represents an overview of activities that should be undertaken and that possible available funding was not taken into consideration at this point.

Mr. Igor Ivanenko asked the meeting about the envisaged results of the Conference. Ms. Jana Urbancikova (CNPA National Focal Point for Czech Republic) answered that the work will be focused on the 3 strategic documents (collecting inputs from the Conference); moreover, all the recommendations of the Conference should be taken into consideration for further development of the Network. Mr. Niewiadomski explained that from his point of view the Conference has two purposes: a) the representatives of the protected areas have the opportunity to make acquaintance to each other as a first step; and, b) pursuant to the mandate given by the Second Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP2), the Conference participants should provide inputs and recommendations to the Mid-term Strategy and Work Plan.

Ms. Erika Stanciu explained how the programme of the Conference was drafted: on the first day the WGs - 1st day: free discussions within each WG followed by presentations in the plenary; and on the 2nd day: discussions on the 3 strategic documents. Mr. Plassmann underlined that the discussions on the Working Plan should be focused on concrete actions proposed by the parks' representatives.

Furthermore, the meeting decided on the 3 documents that would be submitted to the Conference and their names: 1. CNPA Draft Mid-term Strategy, 2. CNPA Draft Work Plan 2010-2015, 3. CNPA Draft Work Plan 2009, as well as on the timeframe. The slot from 17:00-18:00 on the 24th of September was reserved for presenting the outcomes of the Conference and adoption of recommendations to the bodies of the Carpathian Convention (e.g. CCIC/COP).

- review of documents available to the CNPA Protected Areas Conference:

a) Mid-term Strategy

The next topic discussed by the meeting was the CNPA Draft Mid-term Strategy.

The first version (version 1) of the document was prepared by the ALPARC Task Force Protected Areas within the ongoing Alpine-Carpathian partnership. After a first reading and inputs by the members of the CNPA SC members, an informal meeting was held in Bratislava which further discussed and improved the document (version 2). Following this meeting, comments by Poland and the interim Secretariat were included and a version 3 of the resulted that was circulated to the CNPA SC (which further distributed to the members - protected areas of the CNPA from each Carpathian country).

At this point the meeting had a extended discussion on the text of the versions 2 and 3 of the Draft Mid-term Strategy, as well as on which one should be submitted to the Conference for consideration and inputs.

Mr. Niewiadomski gave a brief presentation of version 3 of the document and relevant explanation on different points raised by the other participants. The meeting agreed that further improvements are needed and that the final version would also include the recommendations of the Conference.

Mr. Guido Plassmann, proposed and the meeting agreed, that in order to avoid possible misunderstandings the version 2 of the strategy would be renamed and

labelled as the background/introduction to the Draft Work Plan 2010-2015, and version 3 would be presented as the Draft Mid-term Strategy.

Mr. Akos Ugron (CNPA National Focal Point for Hungary) proposed that the Work Plans should be discussed first as a continuation of the first day's consultations within the 6 WGs on priority areas.

b) Work Plan 2009

Mr. Martin Pavlik (ALPARC Task Force Protected Areas) introduced the Work Plan to the participants. Furthermore, Mr. Plassmann presented the same document explaining it point by point and invited the participants to provide their inputs / observations / comments.

Mr. Mike Baltzer (WWF-DCP) remarked that there are projects ongoing already and that they should be coordinated between them.

Mr. Niewiadomski remarked that currently all the activities are funded through projects by the different CNPA partners, therefore their name should be clearly specified beside each action/activity proposed. The funds coming from the governments would be available once the work on the Biodiversity Protocol and its implementation will start. Also, he suggested that more activities should be included (also in the Draft Mid-term Strategy) even if funds are not available yet.

Mr. Plassmann informed the SC that two new projects (one through INTRREG, and one supported by MAVA Foundation) started and are dealing with the ecological networks. The cooperation and establishment of connections between the Alps and the Carpathians are mentioned in both of them. A meeting dealing with this connection might be organized in the frame of these projects.

Ms. Jana Urbancikova observed that the Draft Work Plan for 2009 is based on the ongoing projects by partner organisations and suggested that tasks of and activities by the CNPA (Steering Committee) and other Carpathian Convention bodies should be also clearly mentioned in the document; in this way the pressure of financing would be raised and hopefully with a positive feedback from the Carpathian governments/authorities.

The Draft Work Plan 2009 as submitted to the Conference is Annex 3 to the present report.

3. Elements for a proposal for a permanent arrangement of CNPA (by Mircea Verghelet, Interim Chair of the CNPA, Romania)

Further the meeting discussed and improved the draft internal rules of the CNPA Conference prepared by Mr. Mircea Verghelet. The document as modified by the meeting is Annex 4 of the present report.

4. Update by the CNPA partners on present and planned projects in support of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas.

On the 23rd of September (later afternoon), a short session on the Swiss Contribution Funds was convened.

Mr. Andreas Beckmann introduced the subject. He reminded the participants that preparatory meeting in connection with the opportunity to access funds provided through the Swiss Contribution Funds to EU Enlargement, was held at the Vienna

International Centre on 18 February 2008. In the current programme, they are 4 Carpathian countries beneficiary of these funds, and 3 of them - Hungary, Poland and Slovak Republic have mentioned the Carpathians in their governmental proposals to the Swiss authorities. Furthermore, he suggested that these funds could be used for the activities of the CNPA and invited the participants for their proposals of activities and offered the support of WWF-DCP team in helping the countries in drafting project proposals that should be approved by their national governments. In his view, projects should be prepared in such way that all the Carpathian countries could benefit from it, e.g. organising the next conference of the CNPA.

Mr. Jan Kadlecik (CNPA National Focal Point for Slovakia) informed that he already had a meeting with the representatives of the Slovak Ministry of Environment on a project focused on wetlands (the project was not successful, a renewed proposal will be submitted for approval). On a proposal by Mr. Beckmann, Mr. Kadlecik agreed to organize the next Conference of the CNPA if the project is approved.

Mr. Agos Ukon did not have much information about the status the SCF in Hungary, but promised to inform the CNPA SC (and the interim Secretariat) in due course. Moreover, he assured of the support from the Hungarian Ministry of Environment.

Mr. Harald Egerer remarked that also other available funds (e.g. European programmes - INTTREG) should be targeted. In this context a draft proposal by the European Academy (EURAC) was handed out to the participants. He also reminded the participants that at COP2 the countries increased their annual contribution that should be used part for the implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol and part for the CNPA.

Mr. Igor Ivanenko proposed that the interim Secretariat submits a draft proposal on behalf of Hungary. Mr. Egerer explained that the projects are submitted nationally and the interim Secretariat could only be involved in the preparations of the proposal (e.g. providing ideas of action/activities).

The Polish Focal Point - Mr. Niewiadomski informed the participants that in Poland the amount of money that could be allocated for activities related to the Carpathian Convention is not clear at this point. Furthermore, he emphasized that the Swiss Contribution Funds should be used not only for the CNPA, but also for other activities (e.g. implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol, development of the other protocols on Forestry, Tourism and Transport) of the Carpathian Convention.

Thus, the members of the CNPA Steering Committee were invited to come up with ideas for projects that could be financed through the SCF, circulated them and consult with the other members of the Steering Committee.

CARPATHIAN WETLANDS INITIATIVE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Mission

To contribute to the implementation of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) and UNEP Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (UNEP Vienna ISCC) signed on 13 December 2006 in Kiev, Ukraine. The will facilitate collaboration between the two Conventions and its Parties in their efforts in conservation and wise use of wetlands in the Carpathian region and beyond, through local, national, regional and international activities.

Objectives

- To promote and participate in the implementation of the objectives of the Ramsar and Carpathian Conventions in protection of wetlands, identification and designation of additional wetland sites of international importance, collection and harmonization of data on wetlands and wetland species (including transboundary wetlands and species), harmonization of monitoring methodologies of wetland ecosystems and their key species and in integration of wetlands into river basin management in the Carpathians;
- To facilitate effective cooperation between the environmental, water management and other relevant sectors;
- To identify and develop specific wetland restoration projects in major Carpathian river catchments and projects on information, education and training activities;
- To develop and reinforce capacities in areas where these are lacking, in public awareness on the role of wetland services in human wellbeing and especially capacities to develop and ensure management of sites of international importance and cooperation between their management bodies
- To organize information campaigns, education and training activities to deepen knowledge of wetlands and their role and function in the landscape;
- To emphasize the importance and value of the transboundary wetland ecosystems and develop common objectives and principles of their management and wise use, based on experiences with successful case studies;
- To support projects focused widely on wetland ecosystems and implemented within the framework of the Ramsar and Carpathian Conventions to transfer and exchange knowledge and expertise to key conservation actors in order to reinforce Carpathian wetland management;
- To coordinate with other international initiatives, projects and networks in the region and globally.

The partners and implementing bodies of CWI

CWI is a partnership of:

- Governments of countries in the Carpathian region and other interested governments;
- Secretariats of the Ramsar and Carpathian Conventions;
- Intergovernmental organizations with activities related to or concern for Carpathian wetlands;
- Other entities with an interest in the conservation and wise use of Carpathian wetlands.

The implementing body of CWI is a Board composed of the National Focal Points delegated by the Parties to the Carpathian Convention.

The international and non-governmental organizations and secretariats of the Carpathian and Ramsar Conventions will provide inputs to the Board.

The Board will elect a chair to guide its proceedings. The chair will report on CWI activities to the Secretariats of the Ramsar and Carpathian Conventions.

Resources permitting, the Board may meet periodically face-to-face, but will operate largely through electronic and telephone communication.

CWI background and guiding principles

CWI will take into account the provisions and decisions of the Conference of Parties of the Ramsar Convention (including its guidelines), of the Carpathian Convention, the Convention on Biodiversity and the Danube Protection Convention, as well as the EU Water Framework Directive.

CWI will consider the information provided by, and will benefit from, and contribute to, the work of the Steering Committee of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA-SC) and Steering Group of the WWF 2012 Programme on Protected Areas project, as well as the Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative (CERI) and International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), REC-EURAC Handbook on the Carpathian Convention and REC-EURAC national assessments and the regional assessment of the policy, legislative and institutional frameworks related to the Carpathian Convention, available in English and national-language versions, prepared in the framework of the Umbrella Project financed by the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS). CWI will closely interact with the Working Group on biodiversity, Working Group on spatial planning and other relevant working groups.

CWI will aim at developing a strategy, work plan and budget proposal for the Carpathian Wetland Initiative and for its recognition and further operation as a Regional Initiative under the Ramsar Convention.

PROGRESS REPORT

March 2008¹²

Introduction and background

The Carpathian Wetland Initiative was initiated by Slovakia as a signatory of the Carpathian Convention and Contracting Party to the Ramsar Convention on occasion of the World Wetlands Day in February 2004 by the letter of the Slovak Minister of Environment L. Miklos to his partners in other Carpathian countries and other potential partners, including non-governmental organisations. In the first stage this was supported by the Slovak-Norwegian project on a “Network of Carpathian protected areas and Ramsar sites” (2004-2005). In the initial workshop in Brezovica (Slovakia, 28-30 April 2004) and the Sixth Evian Encounter (Evian, France, 15-17 November 2006) the key points for action were set (for more information please see http://www.ramsar.org/mtg/mtg_evian_carpathian.htm). The Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI) aims at operating as a Regional Initiative within the framework of the Ramsar Convention, as stated in Annex I of Resolution IX.7 (adopted in 2005) and, at the same time, as a part of the work of the Carpathian Convention.

The Memorandum of Cooperation signed on 13 December 2006 during Carpathian Convention COP1 in Kiev, Ukraine, by Peter Bridgewater, Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention, and Frits Schlingemann, Director, UNEP Regional Office for Europe, on behalf of the UNEP Vienna ISCC, represents the framework for cooperation between the Secretariats of the Carpathian and Ramsar Conventions (see also http://www.ramsar.org/moc/key_carpathian_moc_2006.htm).

The Carpathian Wetland Initiative was included in the Carpathian Convention programme of work and to the activities of the Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity (Biodiversity Working Group) under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (Decisions COP1/4 on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity and COP1/5 on sustainable and integrated water/river basin management).

The mission, objectives, partners, implementing bodies of CWI and its guiding principles were agreed in the Terms of Reference for the CWI, which were prepared in consultation with Carpathian countries and their partners, discussed at the Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (March 2007) and subsequently adopted by the Extended Bureau of the Carpathian Convention in October 2007.

The background and tool for implementation of the mission and goals of CWI through the Carpathian Convention is also the (draft) Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Biodiversity Protocol), distributed recently for governmental approval procedure before the COP2 of the Carpathian Convention.

The short report on the progress of the initiative was distributed to the Secretariats of the Ramsar and Carpathian Convention, to National Focal Points and the partners

12 Prepared by Jan Kadlecik, State Nature Conservancy of Slovakia.

on 14 February 2007, using the “Action points and responsibilities” agreed at the Evian Encounter in November 2006 as a background document. This is the second yearly report for consideration of the CCIC using the similar structure.

Results and achievements

2007-2008

All Carpathian countries (relevant Ministries or Agencies) designated by 31 January 2007 their National Focal Points for the Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI) and their names and contact details are in Annex 1.

In February 2007 all National Focal Points were invited to participate or distribute information at the International Course on Ecohydrological Approaches to Wise Use, Restoration, Management and Conservation of Wetlands, organized by the Czech National Committee for the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme in cooperation with other organizations and the Czech Ministry of the Environment in Trebon, Czech Republic in June 2007. Participants from six Carpathian countries attended the course (please read more at http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.czech_ecohydrological2007.htm).

Wetlands International and its Black Sea Regional Office in Kiev were consulted by Tobias Salathé (Ramsar Secretariat) and Jan Kadlecik (CWI) and it was agreed that Wetlands International should expand its Black Sea Programme to the Carpathian region and Vasilii Kostyushin of the Regional Office confirmed in February 2007 his participation in the CWI. Cooperation of Wetlands International was further discussed and reinforced during the sixth meeting of the Association of Members of Wetlands International in November 2007 in Shaoxing, China, and it was included in a work plan at the European meeting of members.

The CWI has been coordinated by Jan Kadlecik of the State Nature Conservancy of Slovakia, where the activities for the establishment of the regional Wetland Centre as coordination unit in consultation with the SNC Headquarters and the Slovak Ministry of Environment have been carried on and some preconditions for further development of the CWI were made during re-structuring of the SNC at the beginning of 2008, when a new position within the headquarters of the SNC was established. The contact details of the National Focal Points and partners were distributed to the Secretariats of the Carpathian and Ramsar Conventions and relevant Ministries of the Carpathian countries.

The operational link with the WWF Danube Carpathian Programme activities was established through the coordinator of CWI and some CWI Board members who were designated representatives of their countries in the Steering Group of the MAVA project “Protected Areas for a Living Planet” (PA4LP) for implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas in the Carpathian EcoRegion. They participated in two meetings of the Steering Group in 2007 (January and November 2007) and the CWI coordinator delivered presentations on the CWI. He was invited by WWF International as representative of a protected area of the Carpathian EcoRegion also to the Workshop on the implementation of the MAVA Protected Areas for a Living Planet project in Rome, Italy (February 2008). The CWI and its necessary funding were reminded and important events of the Ramsar Convention (European Regional Meeting, COP10) were included in the “road map” of the MAVA project for 2008. The coordinator and other CWI contact persons

of four eligible Carpathian countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia) were also invited by WWF-DCP and CCIS to the meeting (18 February 2008, Vienna International Center, Austria) to identify common objectives and common coordinated activities for projects for the Swiss Cohesion Fund and the CWI was also included in the programme. The Steering Group of the PA4LP project works jointly with the Steering Committee of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) with almost the same composition of national representatives.

As a representative of the Slovak CNPA members and member of the Slovak delegations to the meetings of the Biodiversity Working Group of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee, the coordinator compiled, submitted, introduced and justified the CWI Terms of Reference and supported their adoption by the Biodiversity Working Group and the Extended Bureau of the Carpathian Convention (March, October 2007). They are now available at <https://www.carpathianconvention.org/framework/02.04.2008.htm> for the meeting of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (2-4 April 2008). The coordinator was also involved in the preparation of the draft Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity to the Carpathian Convention.

National Focal Points of the CWI were invited by the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) to participate and provide inputs to the final workshop on wetlands of the UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project held in April 2007 in Tulcea, Romania, and representatives of most Carpathian countries participated in it. A presentation on CWI was included in the programme as well. One of the results of the workshop was the declaration, "Appeal for the Development of the Danube River Network of Protected Areas". A short report can be seen at www.ramsar.org/mtg/mtg_danube_regional_2007.htm, while more details can be obtained from www.undp-drp.org/drp/en/activities_6_meetings_2007_18-19April_Wetlands.html.

All National Focal Points of the CWI were invited to the study tour of transboundary Ramsar sites organized by the Czech Ministry of Environment (Libuse Vlasakova) in cooperation with the Ramsar Secretariat. This took place in Austria, Hungary, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina from 28 April to 5 May 2007 and eighteen participants from three Carpathian countries, IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe in Belgrade and the Ramsar Convention Secretariat visited eight interesting sites. Results and recommendations can be found at www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.transboundary_study_2007.htm.

Information on the CWI was presented and consulted also during the meeting of the Slovak-Hungarian Working Group on Nature and Landscape Protection and meeting of the Hungarian Ramsar Committee and celebration of the World Wetlands day on 1-2 February 2007 in Josvafo, Aggtelek National Park, Hungary (bilateral Ramsar Site Domica-Baradla). Activities of CWI were included in the work plan of this Working Group. The INTERREG funded project on cooperation, joint monitoring and ecotourism development along the river Ipel/Ipoly (Slovakia-Hungary) was recently accomplished.

A special presentation on CWI was done also during the General Assembly of the Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative (CERI) in Poprad, Slovakia, in November 2006. Consultations with CERI and some projects (e.g. for wetlands inventorying and conservation in Ukraine, development of an ecological network in the Carpathians) were carried on.

The work plan and project ideas were consulted with the Czech Ministry of Environment (Mrs Libuse Vlasakova) and Slovak State Nature Conservancy during the special meeting in the Administration of Velka Fatra National Park in Vrútky (28-30 January 2008). The funding possibilities were mostly discussed and specified at the end of 2007 and beginning of 2008 when some funding possibilities have been identified after the opening of EU and Swiss funds.

The CWI Overall Work Plan, Work Plan for 2009-2011, plan of proposed activities in 2008 and budget were prepared and consulted with CWI Board members and partners and are enclosed to this document as annexes. Based on this the proposal for consideration by the Ramsar Standing Committee and COP10 for the regional initiative in the framework of the Convention on Wetlands was developed and distributed for comments and [was] submitted to the Ramsar Convention Secretariat by 31 March 2008.

OVERALL WORK PLAN

Key points for the CWI work plan were agreed as results of the Sixth Evian Encounter (2006), in the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ramsar and Carpathian Conventions (2006) and in the adopted Terms of Reference for the CWI (2007).¹³

Relevant activities:

1. Information on wetland ecosystems, including transboundary wetland ecosystems

Wetland information and data need to be harmonized throughout the region.

Activities:

1. Platform of basic data on wetlands

- The organizing of the first Carpathian wetland conference to establish priorities in research, inventory and management of wetlands in the Carpathians and to agree on the basis for further cooperation and development of the initiative (2009).

Outputs: International conference with participation of relevant experts, national authorities, international partners and NGOs from all Carpathian countries, with proceedings published.

- The development of harmonized classification system of wetland habitats compatible with EU (Natura 2000) system, compatible protocols for wetland inventory, guidelines for evaluation and interpretation of data for all Carpathian countries (using experience and work of the BBI-Matra/CERI project and Natura 2000/Emerald network development) (from 2009).

Outputs: Guidelines for inventory, evaluation and interpretation of data.

¹³ Annex II to the periodic report above.

- Training and workshop on field manual use, field mapping, storing of data, digitizing.

Outputs: Trained specialists for coordinated field mapping and database.

- The collection and harmonization of data for the Overview of Carpathian Wetlands - inventory in all countries, GIS polygons, identification of wetlands of international importance and of sites in need of restoration, as well as transboundary wetland sites in cooperation with neighbor institutions (from 2010).

Outputs: Database, publication on Carpathian wetlands - preparation of texts and maps, database and visualization of data on wetland habitats in the Carpathians; webpage with data on the Carpathian wetlands of various types.

- Involvement in the 2012 PA4LP Carpathian Clearing House Mechanism.

Outputs: Data available for both the projects.

Possible funding sources: Structural funds, Swiss Cohesion Fund.

2. National Focal Point support

National Focal Points were established in the period 2004-2006 to improve the exchange of wetland-related information, inter-sectoral cooperation and international collaboration. In the ToR for CWI their role is specified in the Board.

Activities:

II. Platform for cooperation

- The organizing of meetings and electronic communication of members of the CWI Board, using preferably other relevant events and support of travel expenses, if necessary (from 2008).

Outputs: At least one meeting face-to-face per year with reports of the meeting, reports of electronic and/or telephone communications.

- The facilitation of effective cooperation between the environmental, water management and other relevant sectors in the respective Carpathian countries, coordination of national teams, expert networks and institutions (from 2009).

Outputs: Meetings, agreements between sectors and institutions.

- Regular reporting to the Secretariats of the Carpathian and Ramsar Conventions and to the CWI Board (from 2008).

Outputs: Annual reports, electronic bulletin progress reports as required.

Possible funding sources: National governments.

3. Designation of additional Wetlands of International Importance, species and habitats monitoring

Activities:

III. Platform for wetland assessment and monitoring

- The assessment of results of national wetland inventories with selection of the most valuable sites, leading to the designation of additional Ramsar sites,

including transboundary sites, according to the vision and guidelines provided in the *Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance* to ensure a network of globally important sites of wetland ecosystems which is fully representative of the Carpathian region (mostly from 2011);

Outputs: List of potential sites of international importance fulfilling criteria for designation.

- The development of harmonized wetland monitoring methodologies of Carpathian wetland ecosystems and their key species, with particular regard to habitats and species listed in the annexes of the EU Habitats and Birds Directives, as well as indicators developed for broader use within the Ramsar and Biodiversity Conventions; the translation of general guidelines on wetland restoration and sustainable use into national languages (from 2011).

Outputs: Guidelines for harmonized wetland habitats and species monitoring published and placed on the web; guidelines on wetland restoration and sustainable use translated into national languages, published and placed online.

Possible funding sources: Structural funds, Swiss Cohesion Fund.

4. Integrating wetlands into river basin management

Provisions of the EU Water Framework Directive will be an important guiding tool for some aspects of the CWI. Promotion and contribution to the collaboration between relevant national authorities at river basin level, assuring thus wetland management and water allocation to wetlands are integrated into river basin management.

Activities:

IV. Platform for integrated river basin management, especially in shared catchments

- The involvement in the preparation of the protocol or other relevant documents on sustainable and integrated water/river basin management within the Carpathian Convention in cooperation with other partners and involvement in relevant projects (EU INTERREG, ICPDR/UNDP/GEF Tisa River Basin) which include water/river basin management, communication and consultations with the Carpathian Convention Secretariat and ICPDR (from 2009).

Outputs: Documents, agreements on participation in relevant projects

- The organizing of national seminars/workshops for relevant stakeholders and national authorities at river basin level on wetland management and water allocation to wetlands within the river basin management plans using Ramsar guidance (Handbook 7 “*River Basin Management*”) and the EU Water Framework Directive Guidance Document 12 (“*The role of wetlands in the Water Framework Directive*”) (from 2010).

Outputs: Series of workshops or seminars for relevant stakeholders on wetland management and water allocation to wetlands when developing river basin management plans; principles of the Ramsar and WFD guidance translated into the national languages and published.

- The facilitation of bilateral consultations and meetings on integrating wetlands into river basin management in shared wetlands and catchments, bilateral agreements on recognizing common objectives and principles of their management and wise use, based on experience of successful case studies (from 2010).

Outputs: Meetings of experts and relevant stakeholders on integrating wetlands into river basin management in shared wetlands and catchments, bilateral agreements.

- To develop/prepare handbooks and/or brochures, leaflets on:
 - ◊ Retention of water resources in the uplands of catchment basins (forests, mires, river floodplains and aquifers);
 - ◊ Guidance and interpretation document on importance of river sediments and limitation of river sediment removals;
 - ◊ Guidance on conservation of natural river morphology and preparation of a unified/harmonized classification system of river morphology with an illustrated interpretation manual/wordbook of morphological elements in national languages;
 - ◊ Recognition of the ecological services provided by Carpathian rivers and related wetlands in all sectoral policies.

Outputs: Handbooks, brochures, leaflets, interactive CD-ROM on river morphology.

- To cooperate on the development of a project of best practices in retention of water resources in the uplands of catchment basins (from 2011).

Output: Project proposal.

Possible funding sources: EU INTERREG, UNDP/GEF, LIFE.

5. Wetland restoration

Identify and develop specific wetland restoration projects in major Carpathian catchments.

Activities:

V. Platform for wetland restoration activities

- To develop wetland restoration strategies/policies for mountain/sub-mountain wetlands in a number of Carpathian countries (from 2009).
- Output: Wetland restoration strategy/policy in a number of Carpathian countries.
- Identify priority sites for restoration from results of national wetland inventories, especially in the Tisa River Basin (demonstration projects) (from 2010).

Output: List of priority sites for wetland restoration for future restoration projects.

Possible funding sources: UNDP/GEF, national governments, EU funds.

6. Capacity building and public awareness

To increase wetland management capacity in Carpathian countries and public awareness on the role of wetland services in human wellbeing, including establishment of a regional Wetland Centre, organize information, education and training activities.

Activities:

VI. Platform for capacity building and public awareness

- Preparation, distribution and evaluation of a questionnaire on training priorities and needs and the development of training modules and training programme according to results of the questionnaire (2009).

Outputs: Questionnaire results; training module, training program.

- The organization of training courses for trainees from the Carpathian countries focused on priorities (from 2010).
- Outputs: Two training courses for trainees from Carpathian countries.
- To establish a webpage of CWI and publish information on wetlands and their role and function in the landscape and for human wellbeing in the Carpathians (2009).

Output: Webpage of CWI.

- The establishment of a database of educational and training institutions and experts aimed at wetlands and communication with them (2009).

Outputs: Database, information.

- The development and production of brochures, leaflets, postcards and posters or a short documentary film on the Carpathian wetlands and their functions and services for human wellbeing and for biodiversity to support campaigns, and their presentation on web page (from 2009).

Outputs: Brochures, leaflets, stickers and posters on the Carpathian wetlands and their functions and services in national languages and in English (hard copy and electronic versions).

- Establishment of and support for a regional Wetland Center and its activities (coordination, information transfer, education, information sources collection, fund raising, harmonization with the Carpathian Convention Protocol on Biodiversity, Working Group on Biodiversity, the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee, WWF project 2012 Protected Areas for Living Planet and the Clearing House Mechanism, Carpathian Network of Protected Areas, CERL, etc.), based on the lessons learnt from the study tour focused on Wetland Centers in Europe (from 2009).

Outputs: Report of the study tour, educational and public awareness activities, information transfer, web page maintenance, meetings, supplement of library with new publications, CDs, DVDs, maps, program and yearly plan for work.

Possible funding sources: EU structural funds, Swiss Cohesion Fund, national governments

CARPATHIAN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION NETWORK

REPORT ON THE FIRST PLANNING WORKSHOP OF THE MOVE4NATURE TEACHERS' TRAINING TOUR

Workshop report

17-19 June 2008

Bucharest, Romania

In a combined effort of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and The Environment and School Initiatives (ENSI), the first planning workshop for the Carpathian environmental education network development and educator training was held in Bucharest, Romania on June 17-19, 2008 at the margins of the second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention. The workshop brought together governmental and academic experts, professionals and activists in education for Environment and Sustainable Development from Romania, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, and Ukraine, including the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth of Romania and members of the recently established Carpathian Sustainable Education Network.

The main goals of the workshop were:

1. to bring together educational experts from Carpathian countries, and to solicit their advice on the best strategy for a Carpathian ecological education network development
2. to decide on the details of the teachers' training tour to take place in the Carpathian region of Romania
3. to suggest existing educational tools which can be used in the training tour, and select the tool package

The workshop served as a platform for discussion and experience exchange on the state of Education for Sustainable development in the Carpathian countries.

The first part of the workshop was focused on introduction of the UENP involvement in the Carpathians and the "Move4Nature" project to the participants, presenting the participants with the idea of and deciding on the further steps of developing the Carpathian education network exchange of experience among the participants with respect to the ESD process and educator training in the Carpathian countries.

As outcomes of the workshop, the following recommendations were given:

The Carpathian Ecological/sustainable education network will remain connected through an internet network: materials will be posted to the Poland UNESCO website: <http://www.unesco.pl/edukacja/casalen.html>. The network will serve to connect governmental and academic experts and activists in the field of education for sustainable development and educator training in the Carpathian countries. The workshop participants, as members, will invite other relevant parties to join the network.

- UNEP should set up a mailing group: Carpathian Sustainable Education Network, as the medium for discussion/communication in the

Carpathian area. Participants of the workshop and other relevant/interested participants will be invited as members.

- UNEP, in cooperation with ENSI should make a short newsletter/report, to be shared with potentially interested parties, in order to extend the network.
- UNEP should invite the Ministries of Education, Environment and Agriculture to join the network and the Carpathian sustainable education activities. The ESD focal points in each country should be contacted
- CASALEN should find areas of cooperation with Climate Action - Romania, WWF and CERI: to build on the existing developments

The preliminary plan and schedule of the teacher's training tour in the Carpathian area of Romania was developed.

The main concept Carpathian Environmental training kit was decided to focus on "Designing a nature/culture trail of a Carpathian area," and its preliminary components - to be fitted to the Carpathian Convention components, in a way specifically relating to climate change, transportation and biodiversity (protected areas).

Workshop Summary

Ms. Gabriella Pasztor, the state secretary of The Ministry of Education, Research and Youth of Romania has informed the participants about the current state of the environmental education, and ESD in Romania, including involvement of the Ministries in the process, recent achievements and existing gaps.

The discussion focused on the degree of involvement of the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Education in ESD programs in each of the countries represented. In most, either one or the other ministry is involved to a greater degree.

The participants have recommended that UNEP should contact the Ministries of Environment and the Ministries of Education to ask for support/involvement in the project

- Mr. Attila Attila Varga has informed the participants about the Environment and Schools Initiatives(ENSI), its developments, such as the climate change campaign and the educations tool based on the Norwegian educational tool and the possibility to become involved in the work of ENSI, such as participating in workshops, and potential cooperation with of ENSI countries to translate ENSI materials into national languages.

Mr Varga has also given the background of the CASALEN: Carpathian Sustainable Education Network; he explained that it functions as an empty framework to be filled with projects, that it can identify under any umbrella, and spoke about availability of the various funding mechanisms, such as the Visegrad fund

- Ms. Ilona Morzol has invited participants to send her information to include into the UNESCO website, where a page for CASALEN has been created: <http://www.unesco.pl/>
- Mr. Pier Carlo Sandei, UNEP-Vienna has given the background to the participants of the Second Conference of the Parties of the Carpathian Convention, the

Mountain Partnership, and the work of the Carpathian Convention Secretariat in UNEP-Vienna.

- Ms. Tamara Mitrofanenko, UNEP-Vienna, has presented the background and preliminary details of the “Move4Nature” project and opened the floor to discussion about several aspects of the project, including the age group of students and disciplines which should be targeted by the project, as well as inclusion of the PET recycling component.

The discussion focused on the paradigm of Education for Sustainable development and its practice in the Carpathian countries. The participants agreed that ESD is a comprehensive concept, and should be multilateral in practice, including aspects of economy, local community, culture, etc, in addition to ecology.

- Mr. Hubert Hilbert, Committee for Sustainable Development. Slovakia gave a presentation about the Action plan of education for sustainable development in school in Slovakia, the concept of ESD and challenges of its proper implementation.
- Mr. Miroslav Tadic, from the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Serbia, spoke about Education for Sustainable Development in Serbia, about the CERI network, the UNECE process for ESD, and various existing environmental education programmes, such as 1) Educate the educators, 2) GreenPack, and 3) the Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative
- Mr. Jiří Kulich, Head of the Centre of Environmental Education SEVER, gave a presentation: “Czech national experience with ecological education networks and teaching tools,” including the ESD networks in Czech republic, developed documents and programmes, systems of financial support and existing teaching tools for environmental education (www.ekokatalog.cz) .
- Prof. Sergiy Stepanenko, Rector, Odessa State Environmental University, Focal Point for ESD, Ukraine spoke about the ESD Method in Ukraine.
- Sharing Experience
- Ms. Eliza Teodorescu, President, and Ms. Ioana Ciuta, Vice president Climate Action Network Romania (CANR) spoke about the structure and activities of the Climate Action Network Romania RAC-RO and environmental education on climate change in Romania, and introduced a newly developed educational tool kit.
- Ms. Dana Caratas and Ms. Ioana Busila, from the WWF- Danube-Carpathian Education Programme, spoke about the teacher training activities by WWF.
- Ms. Miruna Ralea, the Project Manager of the Danube Box project, shared experience in its introduction in Romania.
- Mr. Lucian Ionescu, Director of the Country Office, Regional Environmental Center - Romania introduced the The Green Pack to the participants and spoke about its development and potential uses.

- Mr. Danut Gitan, Director, Training and Innovation Centre for Development in the Carpathians, spoke about the Centre and its environmental training activities.
- Mr. Radu Ray, President of the Romanian Mountain Forum - Centre of education, invited the participants to cooperate in the field of Carpathian Environmental Education.

Mr. Horatiu Popa, Green Echoes organization, has talked about the WWF projects for rural sustainable development and recommended the subject of manually managed meadows in connection with the climate change and suggested potential locations for the workshop, based on the WWF - Romania activities:

1. The Aries Valley in Apuseni Mountains (the site of a former *Arnica montana* project in Garda de Sus)
2. Grosii Tiblesului, Tibles Mountains / Maramures county (Brown bear and old growth forest project)

Detailed Planning of the Move4Nature Teacher's Training Tour in Romania

The preliminary 6 stops of the training tour were decided. It was recommended that the teachers, NGOs, school authorities, natural park/protected area personnel in each area should be identified and contacted, in order to inform them about the project, and invite them to participate

It has been recommended to hold a second preparatory workshop before the tour, to be organized in Targu Mures, with participation from:

the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth of Romania, UNEP/ENSI and Romanian Participants of the Planning workshop,

- teachers, NGO members and protected area educators from the areas where training should take place.

The purpose of the workshop:

- to inform a number of representatives from each of the selected tour stops about the Move4Nature project and the Carpathian tool kit, so that they can assist with the training organization in each stop and,
- to request information from the participants about the teacher training needs in their respective communities/neighbouring communities, so that each training workshop can be adapted accordingly,
- to give the teacher training to the participants, on the technique of interactive learning, both outside and inside the classroom, so that they become familiar with the concept and can assist with the training workshops in their respective "stops,"
- to coordinate with the protected area/park personnel carrying the workshops in the territory of the protected area/park.

It was recommended that the Teachers training tour should consist of one-day workshops, in each of the six selected areas, to which a group of experts/trainers will travel by a mini-bus/van

Recommendations about the preliminary schedule/stops of the tour, components of the training team and materials to be brought on the tour were elaborated.

- The following preliminary training tour stops were recommended:
 - ◊ Maramures
 - ◊ Vatra Dornei
 - ◊ Cluj
 - ◊ Tg Mures
 - ◊ Gheorgeni
 - ◊ Brasov
 - ◊ Upon further consultation, it has been decided that a stop in the South-western area of the Carpathians will replace that in Targu Mures
- The training team on the bus:
 - ◊ UNEP/Carpahtian Convention representative
 - ◊ 3-4 teacher trainers, including 1-2 authors of the training tools to be taken on the tour (NGOs involved)
 - ◊ 2-3 participants of the Workshop in Targu Mures
- Materials to be brought to the meeting and tour:
 - ◊ Information brochure about the project (in the form of Carpathian map)
 - ◊ selected components of the RAC-Ro interactive educational tools
 - ◊ selected materials already in Romanian language: such as some of the WWF materials
 - ◊ information (Presentation) about the Carpathian tool kit
 - ◊ information (Presentation) of the PET Recycling
 - ◊ Information about a contest of ideas/tools to be present in the kit

The Carpathian Tool Kit

It was recommended that after the tour, the participants should be asked for feedback/ideas specific to their area for the Carpathian tool kit. Also, a contest of the Student/teacher ideas should be announced for ideas of education tools and Carpathian natural/cultural components to be present in the kit¹⁴.

Ms. Ilona Morzol shared environmental education materials from Poland as examples of possible training materials for the Tool Kit

Mr. Thomas Kazmierski, (Head, Department of Environmental Education, Ministry of Environment of the Check Republic), recommended that the Carpathian Toolkit should be based in the structure and contents on the contents on the Carpathian Convention.

- It was recommended that the tool kit should be focused on climate change, transportation and biodiversity (protected areas), and that it should:
 - ◊ target identifying problems specific to the community and solving them,
 - ◊ include connectivity between human activities and nature,

¹⁴ Regional input: the contest for teacher/student ideas for the Carpathian tool kit will be announced in each country. The contest will result in a youth/teacher conference, devoted to the Carpathian Environmental issues, where the winners will be announced.

- ◊ threats from development,
- ◊ offer a vision of the Carpathians in connection with the Climate Change and development threats, deforestation and reforestation and bio indicators.
- It was recommended that the training tool kit should be used as a unifying idea, but it should remain flexible to be adapted to students of both lower and higher grades, in any country/part of the Carpathians.
- The training kit should target teachers of a number of disciplines, such as: biology, crafts, English/other foreign languages, physical education and that it should contain interdisciplinary components.
- At the same time, the training kit should become a tool to encourage both teachers and students to think critically about what is valuable to them in their surroundings, what problems exist, and how they could approach those problems.

To address the given recommendations, the - Main idea for the toolkit was elaborated by the participants:

“How to design a Carpathian nature/cultural trail” - teaching students to make a “trail” representative of their neighboring part in the Carpathians, taking into consideration:

- ◊ the transport to/through the trail,
- ◊ natural resources of the Carpathians the trail presents,
- ◊ cultural components the trail can offer (local products that can be produced there, such as medicinal plants/honey/crafts),
- ◊ problems of the Carpathian environment which trail demonstrates (plant/animal species decline, changes in the landscape, migration of the rural population to the cities, and loss of traditional culture).

The Carpathian Convention COP II Side Events

During the breaks, participants had a chance to attend the following side-events of the Second Conference of the parties of the Carpathian Convention:

- Pristine Forests in the Carpathians with special focus on the Ukrainian and Slovakian Beech Forests (WHS)
- CEWEEB
- CERI: Carpathian ecological network (www.carpat.es.org)
- REC/EURAC

MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in its capacity of Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention has established strategic partnership with institutions and initiatives whenever synergies were possible. In order to strengthen these partnership, UNEP signed five Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) or Memoranda of Cooperation (MoC) with the Executive Secretariat of the Central European Initiative, with the Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative, with the Convention on Wetlands, with the Alpine Convention and, together with the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, with the Convention on Biological Diversity. The conclusion of MoUs is a well-established and highly valued practice in the field of international cooperation, as it allows to consolidate existing partnerships, while maintaining a certain degree of adaptability.

Here follow the text of the MoUs signed to present date.

MOU WITH THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT OF THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN INITIATIVE

Memorandum of Understanding between the Executive Secretariat of the Central European Initiative (hereinafter CEI-ES) and UNEP Vienna - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (hereinafter UNEP Vienna -ISCC)

In consideration of the fact that the Carpathian Convention came into force on 4th January 2006,

Noting that the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the Adoption and Signature of the Carpathian Convention (Kiev May 22) requested “the Regional Office for Europe of the United Nations Environment (UNEP) to continue to service the Convention process, including provision of interim secretariat support”, comprising the coordination of its operations with those of other competent international bodies and conventions,

Appreciating the fact that UNEP Vienna ISCC is leading the implementation of the EU CADSES IIIB Interreg Carpathian project,

Noting the work of UNEP Vienna - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention on sub-regional mountain cooperation worldwide in the framework of the Mountain Partnership, including the mountain regions of the Carpathians, of South Eastern Europe, of the Caucasus, and of the Himalaya - Karakoram - Hindukush,

Underlining the fact that all the countries of the Carpathian Convention are Member States of the CEI,

Recalling the Plan of Action of CEI for 2007-2009 and in particular the chapter on environment, which defines “Cooperation in Mountain Regions” as a priority of the CEI,

Considering that the CEI is an observer to the INTERREG CADSES Carpathian Project and is co-financing one of its component on Transport, and bearing in mind that CEI is co-financing the work of UNEP Vienna ISCC to support the development of a Framework Convention for the Protection and Sustainable Development of mountain regions in South Eastern Europe,

Guided by the principles of the UN Charter and the documents of the Helsinki process,

Pursuing the objectives, laid down in the CEI Guidelines and Rules of Procedure, and supporting relevant provisions of the Carpathian Convention;

Aiming at further enhancing regional cooperation with the European organisations and institutions as well as other regional cooperation initiatives, and at strengthening the awareness of the significance of a sustainable development of mountain areas in Europe;

The Executive Secretariat of the Central European Initiative and UNEP Vienna - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention agree on the following

Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC):

I - Duration

This Memorandum of Cooperation has permanent validity, and may be periodically reviewed. It can be terminated by six months notice in writing.

II - Goals

Strengthening of cooperation between the interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and the Executive Secretariat of CEI in fields of common interest, this Memorandum of Cooperation is aimed at providing a durable basis for the collaboration between the Secretariats in the field of information and experience exchange. Furthermore, its objective is the development and implementation of joint, coordinated and/or complementary activities and projects, including in EU-financed projects.

III - Collaboration fields

Collaboration will include all the issues covered by the Carpathian Convention and of interest to CEI, in particular:

- Mountain protection and sustainable regional development;
- Sustainable transport and infrastructure, energy issues in mountains (energy security and access to energy in mountains, efficiency, renewables), access to information technology in mountains,
- Sustainable agriculture, forestry and rural development in mountains,
- Technical co-operation and capacity building, sustainable tourism and local economies;
- Promoting good governance, by building institutional capacity, ensuring public participation and access of the public to information on matters related to the Carpathian Convention;
- Preservation and promotion of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge;
- Co-operation in the field of environmental assessment, awareness raising and education;
- Transboundary and transnational co-operation.

IV - Joint activities

The interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and the Secretariat of CEI will cooperate by, inter alia:

- Informing each other and disseminating the decisions adopted at their respective fora, and on policies and practices elaborated through their constituencies;
- Cooperating as Partners in EU-financed projects;
- Developing and implementing joint projects;
- Furthering the cooperation with financial institutions such as EBRD, World Bank, European Investment Bank;
- Providing a forum for dialogue on European integration and neighbourhood policy processes;

- Involving the private sector, e.g. by developing partnerships with the business sector;
- Jointly organizing seminars, workshops and advisory services in fields of common interest;
- Coordinating work-plans to the benefit of mutual cooperation, wherever it is possible;
- Mutually informing each other of, and inviting each other to, important events;
- Offering each other their good services and, whenever possible, their structures in support of their operational capacities.

The CEI-ES and UNEP Vienna - ISCC mutually declare their commitment to the implementation of this Memorandum of Cooperation.

Kyiv, 13 December 2006

MOU WITH THE CARPATHIAN ECOREGION INITIATIVE

Memorandum of Cooperation between the Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative (CERI) and the United Nations Environment Programme Vienna - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (UNEP Vienna - ISCC)

ACKNOWLEDGING that the Carpathians are a unique natural treasure of great beauty and ecological value, an important reservoir of biodiversity, the headwaters of major rivers, an essential habitat and refuge for many endangered species of plants and animals and Europe's largest area of virgin forests, and AWARE that the Carpathians constitute a major ecological, economic, cultural, recreational and living environment in the heart of Europe, shared by numerous peoples and countries;

REALIZING the importance and ecological, cultural and socio-economic value of mountain regions, ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of sub-regional cooperation for the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians;

NOTING the complementary nature of the goals and basic principles of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians and the 'ecoregion approach': visionary and large-scale, science-based, participatory (Article 2(3) of the CERI statutes), and the existence of specialized technical and scientific competence within CERI platforms and programs relating to the goals of the Carpathian Convention;

NOTING the Carpathian Convention's Article 4 on "Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity, and acknowledging the expertise of CERI members in specialized areas of biodiversity assessment and research in the Carpathians;

RECALLING the Declaration on Environment and Sustainable Development in the Carpathian and Danube Region (Bucharest, 2001); ACKNOWLEDGING the strong historic partnership of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative, such as in the Bucharest summit and the Kyiv Conference; TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the participation of and contribution by CERI as an invited guest in the work of the 3 Bolzano Ad Hoc Expert meetings, and ACKNOWLEDGING UNEP's participation in and contribution to the 1st CERI General Assembly since its independence;

RECOGNIZING that the Carpathians constitute the living environment for the local people, and ACKNOWLEDGING the contribution of the local people to sustainable social, cultural and economic development, and to preserving traditional knowledge in the Carpathians; and recognizing the ability of CERI to work on issues of local sustainable development;

The Secretariat of the Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative (CERI) and UNEP Vienna - ISCC agree to establish the following cooperation:

With the purpose of strengthening the cooperation between the UNEP Vienna ISCC and CERI in support of the implementation of the Carpathian Convention, this Memorandum of Cooperation is aimed at providing a durable basis for the collaboration between the Secretariats in the field of information and experience exchange.

Regular meetings between the Secretariats shall be held at least once a year. Collaboration can include all the issues covered by the Carpathian Convention, and more specifically, the development of joint, coordinated and/or complementary activities in the following areas:

- Support to the further development of the Protocol on Biological and Landscape Diversity, in particular by generating the required background information;
- The preparation of programmatic documents for developing the Carpathian ecological network, i.p. through preparations of maps;
- Support to the activities of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA), e.g. by providing background information to the CNPA Steering Committee or Working Group meetings.

The present Memorandum of Cooperation is concluded for an unlimited period and can be periodically amended, as required.

Nothing in this Memorandum shall create or imply a financial obligation by either party to this Memorandum. Either party can withdraw from this Memorandum of Cooperation by notifying the other party in writing at least six months in advance.

MOU WITH THE CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (RAMSAR CONVENTION)

Memorandum of Cooperation between the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) and the United Nations Environment Programme Vienna - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (UNEP Vienna ISCC)

Preamble

Since its inception in 1971, the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) has provided the single most important intergovernmental forum on wetland conservation issues. According to the Convention's mission statement, the Contracting Parties agree to *"the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local, regional and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world"*.

The Convention is founded on three pillars of:

- promoting wise use of wetlands,
- developing international cooperation, and
- developing a network of Wetland sites of International Importance.

The conservation and wise management of wetlands through the designation of wetlands for the Ramsar *List of Wetlands of International Importance*, especially the obligation to maintain the ecological character of designated sites, deserves special recognition. This obligation recognizes the importance of wetlands for the maintenance of healthy and productive inland freshwater and coastal systems. In the context of water and wetlands, the Convention on Wetlands thus addresses issues which guide its Contracting Parties on ways to achieve sustainable development.

Within the general obligations set out by the treaty, Contracting Parties, meeting as the Conference of the Parties (COP) identify priorities for action through a Strategic Plan. Implementation of this Memorandum of Cooperation shall be through joint actions within the framework of the Strategic Plan, detailed in the attached annex.

The Carpathian region - which spans the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic and Ukraine - is one of Europe's largest mountain ranges, harbouring a unique natural and cultural heritage, providing a haven for wildlife and acting as an ecological link within Europe. The diversity of the natural heritage is one of the biggest assets of the Carpathian region with a view to sustainable development. The Carpathians are a living environment for millions of people in the heart of Europe, yet their biodiversity and natural heritage are subject to a variety of threats and adverse impacts from land abandonment, habitat conversion and fragmentation, deforestation, large scale migration on the one hand, and from industrialisation, pollution and overexploitation of natural resources on the other.

The Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians enshrines a common vision, integrates developmental and environmental goals, provides objectives for action and constitutes the strategic

framework for cooperation to address these challenges in a transnational context. The Carpathian Convention provides the legal framework for cooperation and multi-sectoral policy coordination, a platform for joint strategies, projects and programmes for sustainable development, and a forum for dialogue between all stakeholders involved.

On 22 May 2003 in Kyiv, Ukraine, the Ministers of the Environment of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovak Republic and Ukraine signed the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians. The Carpathian Convention entered into force on 4 January 2006. UNEP Vienna ISCC has been requested by the Carpathian Convention countries to service the Carpathian Convention as its interim Secretariat. On behalf of the Parties and Signatories to the Carpathian Convention, the UNEP Vienna ISCC leads the Carpathian Project of the EU INTERREG III B CADSES Programme.

The Carpathian Convention, in its Article 4, paragraph 6, provides for the integration “of the objective of conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity into sectoral policies, such as mountain agriculture, mountain forestry, river basin management, tourism, transport and energy, industry and mining activities”. In its Article 6 (c), the Carpathian Convention calls upon Parties to pursue policies aiming at conserving natural watercourses, springs, lakes and groundwater resources as well as preserving and protecting wetlands and wetland ecosystems, and protecting against natural and anthropogenic detrimental effects such as flooding and accidental water pollution.

The Convention on Wetlands and the Carpathian Convention recognize the fundamental role played by wetlands in regulating and providing water, in supporting maintenance of cultural and biological diversity, in ensuring high ecosystem productivity, and in providing services and benefits for people and the planet.

Therefore, the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands and the UNEP Vienna ISCC agree the following:

Article 1. Mechanisms for Programme Cooperation

A -The Secretariats of the Convention on Wetlands and Carpathian Convention will develop a collaborative programme for sustainable wetland and water resource conservation and management in the Carpathian region - the Carpathian Wetlands Initiative (CWI).

B -The Secretariats of the Convention on Wetlands and Carpathian Convention will inform their focal points at regional and national levels of their co-operative activities. For general matters, the focal points for the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands and Carpathian Convention are respectively the Secretary General and the Head of UNEP Vienna - UNEP Vienna ISCC, or their assigned delegates.

C -The focal points, or their assigned delegates, may meet from time to time to assess the implementation of this Memorandum, exchange documents and review on-going activities.

Article 2. Joint Activities

A -Common areas for joint activities will be identified in an Annex to this Memorandum of Cooperation and will be reviewed annually or at the request of either party.

B -The UNEP Vienna ISCC and the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands will communicate agreement on common areas with their respective networks, and the UNEP Vienna ISCC will endeavour to mobilise the expertise available on wetlands and water resources within its organisation in support of these activities.

C -The Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands and the UNEP Vienna ISCC will ensure harmonisation of activities at global, regional and country levels.

D -The extent to which the collaborative programme and the joint conservation activities are implemented will be subject to the availability of resources.

Article 3. Obligation, Review and Termination

A -This Memorandum of Cooperation constitutes an expression of a shared objective and vision. However, each party's actions will be considered to be that party's sole and separate action, for all purposes, and neither party shall claim to be acting on behalf of, or as agent for the other party to this Memorandum of Cooperation.

B -This Memorandum of Cooperation has permanent validity, and may be reviewed at the request of either party (usually annually). It might be terminated by six months notice in writing.

Kyiv, 13 December 2006

MOU WITH THE ALPINE CONVENTION

Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation between the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention

In consideration of the fact that the Alps and the Carpathian represent living and economic areas of particular European interest,

In consideration of the fact that the Alps and the Carpathians are characterised by a multifaceted nature, culture, history as well as a particular ecological sensitivity and, in particular through the EU enlargement, are coming closer in many fields,

Recalling the valuable example of the sharing experience process between Alpine and the Carpathian Countries since 2001,

In consideration of the fact that the Alpine States keep supporting the development of the of the Carpathian Convention¹⁵ in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme - Regional Office for Europe (UNEP-ROE), and also appreciating the ongoing cooperation between the Alpine Convention¹⁶ and the Alpine Network of Protected Areas with the Carpathian Convention in the field of conservation of biological and landscape diversity,

In consideration of the fact that the Conference of the Plenipotentiaries for the Adoption and Signature of the Carpathian Convention¹⁷ requested “the Regional Office for Europe of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to continue to service the Convention process, also through the provision of interim secretariat support”,

In consideration of the fact that the VIIth Alpine Conference declared its readiness to further develop the existing mountain partnerships in the Carpathians, Caucasus and Central Asia and that the VIIIth Alpine Conference decided to include these mountain partnerships as a long-term key point in the multi-annual work programme of the Alpine Conference 2005-2010,

Noting the work of UNEP Vienna - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention in its functions as environmental focal point in the Mountain Partnership Secretariat on sub-regional mountain cooperation worldwide in the framework of the Mountain Partnership, including the mountain regions of the Carpathians, of the South Eastern Europe, of the Caucasus, and of the Himalaya - Karakoram - Hindukush,

In consideration of the fact that, after the Carpathian Convention came into force on 4 January 2006, the UNEP Vienna - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, is engaged to follow its implementation and to coordinate its operations with those of other competent international bodies and conventions,

In consideration of the fact that the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention was requested by the VIIIth Alpine Conference to initiate collaborating with the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention,

The Alpine Conference and the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention acting through their Secretariats have reached the following understanding:

¹⁵ Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians

¹⁶ Convention on the protection of the Alps

¹⁷ Kyiv, 22 May 2003

I - Duration

This Memorandum of Understanding¹⁸ (MoU) may be reviewed at any time in writing by mutual consent and may be cancelled by either side subject to six months notice in writing.

II - Goals

Endeavouring the strengthening of cooperation between Alpine and Carpathian Conventions in fields of common interest, this MoU is aimed at providing a durable basis for the collaboration between the Bodies of the two conventions in the field of information and experience exchange. Besides this, another objective is the development and implementation of common projects. The collaboration is aimed in the long term at strengthening the awareness of the significance of a sustainable development of mountain areas in Europe.

III - Collaboration fields

Common activities should be developed in regular meetings between the Bodies of the two conventions and especially of their Secretariats, which should be held at least once a year. Collaboration should include all the issues examined by both Conventions and, especially, the following collaboration areas:

- Spatial planning and sustainable development
- Sustainable and integrated water and river basin management
- Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity
- Sustainable mountain agriculture
- Sustainable forestry in mountain areas
- Soil protection
- Sustainable tourism
- Sustainable transport and infrastructure
- Industry and energy
- Air pollution control
- Waste management
- Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge
- Environmental assessment/information, monitoring and early warning
- Awareness raising, education and public participation

Due to the already existing collaboration, a significant role may be played especially by the following themes:

1. Work with the general public

In the sense of an active information and communication policy, both Secretariats harmonise their work with the general public with the aim of increasing the level

¹⁸ "Memorandum of Cooperation" in UN terminology

of knowledge of the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention at local, regional, national and European level, thereby promote a long-term stable balance between the protection of the environment and the social, cultural and economic development in both mountain areas within the context of European integration.

2. Collaboration in the field of protected areas

The Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and the UNEP Vienna - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention should continue with their efforts for enhancing networks of protected areas in the Alps (ALPARC) and in the Carpathians (CNPA) as well as the ecological linking-up between the two mountain ranges. They should work closely together on the issue of conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity.

3. Common activities in the framework of the Mountain Partnership

The Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention should intensify their collaboration within the framework of the Mountain Partnership by presenting their collaboration as an example for other mountain regions. The implementation of specific common events may contribute to achieve this objective, also in the field of local collaboration and an agreed presence of the Secretariats at third party events.

IV - Commitment

Both sides declare that within the scope of this collaboration they are ready to mutually inform each other of the work of the relevant Bodies of the convention in an appropriate way. The information exchange will take place through the respective Secretariats.

V - Effectiveness

This MoU will take effect at the day of the signature by both sides.

MOU WITH THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (TOGETHER WITH THE ALPINE CONVENTION)

Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention

The Convention on Biological Diversity (hereinafter referred to as the CBD), represented by its Presidency and Executive Secretary, the Alpine Convention represented by its Presidency and its Secretary General, and the Carpathian Convention represented by its Secretary and the Head of the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention;

Recalling the objectives of the CBD namely the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources;

Recalling the programme of work on Mountain biological diversity approved by the 7th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the CBD which constitutes a set of actions addressing characteristics and problems that are specific to mountain ecosystems;

Recalling the programme of work on Protected Areas approved by COP7 of the CBD which constitutes a set of actions addressing protected areas that constitutes an important tool of preservation of mountain ecosystems;

Recognizing that the Framework Convention for the protection of the Alps (hereinafter referred to as the Alpine Convention) and the Framework Convention for the Protection and the sustainable development of the Carpathians (hereinafter referred to as the Carpathian Convention) are binding international legal instruments for the sustainable development of mountainous region with an integrated approach;

Recalling the Protocol on Conservation of Nature and Landscape that entered into force in 2002 and reflects the CBD orientations laying down the framework for regional cooperation on this subject;

Recalling art. 4 of the Carpathian Convention “Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity” which reflects the CBD principles and constitutes a solid basis for cooperation among the countries on this topic;

Noting with appreciation the negotiation among the Contracting Parties of the Carpathian Convention of a protocol on Biological and Landscape Diversity and calling for its early conclusion;

Recalling the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions signed at the COP1 of Carpathian Convention in Kiev 2006 with its collaboration themes including collaboration in the field of protected areas;

Underlining that cooperation will lead to better implementation of the CBD in the Contracting Parties which are also Parties to the Alpine Convention or to the Carpathian Convention, thus benefiting also indirectly the implementation of the CBD by the European Community;

Recognizing that both the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions are platforms for regional cooperation for the protection of the environment and the sustainable development in mountain regions;

Appreciating that the Secretariats of the CBD, of the Alpine Convention and of the Carpathian Conventions are collaborating in the context of the Mountain Partnership and, together with their constituencies are working for the sustainable development in other mountain regions, including by facilitating, where appropriate, the development of regional platforms of and legal tools for cooperation;

Recognizing the role of the UNEP Vienna also as the Environmental Reference Centre of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat;

Recalling further that the CBD stresses the importance of, and the need to promote international, regional and global cooperation among States and intergovernmental organizations and the non governmental sector, as well as desires to enhance and complement existing international arrangements for the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components;

Recalling further decision VI/27 of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD which acknowledges the important role that regional and subregional mechanisms and networks play in promoting the implementation of the CBD, providing fora for the preparation of regional inputs to the meetings of the CBD and for translating COP decisions into regional actions;

Recalling also decision VII/26 of the COP to the CBD, which recognizes that enhanced cooperation and improved coordination at national level will be important in efforts to meet CBD biodiversity 2010 Target; and urged further enhanced cooperation between the CBD and all relevant international conventions, organizations and bodies, strengthening and building on existing cooperative arrangements to enhance synergies and reduce inefficiencies, in a manner consistent with their respective mandate, and resources;

Have agreed as follows:

I. Institutional Cooperation

1. The CBD, the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention acting through their Secretariats (hereinafter “the Secretariats”) will cooperate, as appropriate, for the preparation of the meetings of their respective governing and subsidiary bodies and invite each other to relevant meetings, subject to the applicable procedures.
2. The Secretariats will inform their respective Member States/Contracting Parties of their co-operative activities, with a view of promoting synergies at national level.
3. The Secretariats will cooperate in promoting exchanges of experiences and best practices on issues of relevance of their mandate, including, as appropriate, through the Clearing House Mechanism of the CBD.
4. The Secretariats will cooperate, in the framework of the Mountain Partnership, to promote participatory sustainable mountain development with all the relevant stakeholders including youth, women, NGOs, local authorities, local communities and the private sector.

II. Exchange of information and experience

The Secretariats agree to exchange information on matter of mutual relevance including, as appropriate:

- a) Scientific and technical information including ongoing consultations, discussions, and fact-finding processes on new and emerging issues;
- b) Technical guidance of relevance to the Conventions and to the sustainable mountain development in general;
- c) Components of the programmes of work under the Conventions that are of mutual interest, including in particular the programme of work on protected areas and the activities of networks thereof, invasive alien species, plant conservation, wetland conservation and adaptation to climate change;
- d) Activities related to monitoring status and trends of relevant components of biodiversity regarding global and European targets;

III. Collaboration on the implementation of the Conventions and their respective Programme of Work

1. The Secretariats will cooperate, as appropriate, in the organization of regional meetings and facilitating the reporting of the implementation of the programme of work on mountain biodiversity.
2. The Secretariats will cooperate, as appropriate, to support the implementation of the CBD, the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention and the achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity Target.
3. The Secretariats will explore the possibility of collaboration on the implementation of relevant programmes of work, including those mentioned under II paragraph c above.

IV. Programme of work on Mountain Biodiversity

1. The Secretariats will endeavour to cooperate in fundraising for joint projects, such as on training and support, where applicable, to developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition to assist in the effective implementation of the programme of work on mountain biodiversity, and call upon the Environmental Reference Centre of the Mountain Partnership to support these efforts.
2. The Secretariats will cooperate in collecting, reviewing, evaluating and sharing, through the Clearing-house Mechanism and other means, existing information about the role of mountain ecosystems in producing and maintaining freshwater resources, and about the consequences of climate change and desertification on mountain biological diversity.
3. The Secretariats will especially cooperate in order to facilitate the creation of continuity and connectivity of natural and semi-natural habitats.

V. Reporting

1. The Secretariats will report on the implementation of this Memorandum to their respective governing bodies according to the respective applicable

procedures and, as appropriate, will seek further guidance on possible new areas of co-operation.

VI. Effectiveness, Amendment and Termination

1. This Memorandum will entry into force upon signature by the all sides.
2. The CBD, the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention represented by their respective Presidencies and Secretariats may, by mutual agreement, review and amend this Memorandum.
3. This Memorandum may be terminated by the CBD, the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention represented by their respective Presidency and Secretariat giving a six month written notice.

Bonn, 29 May 2008

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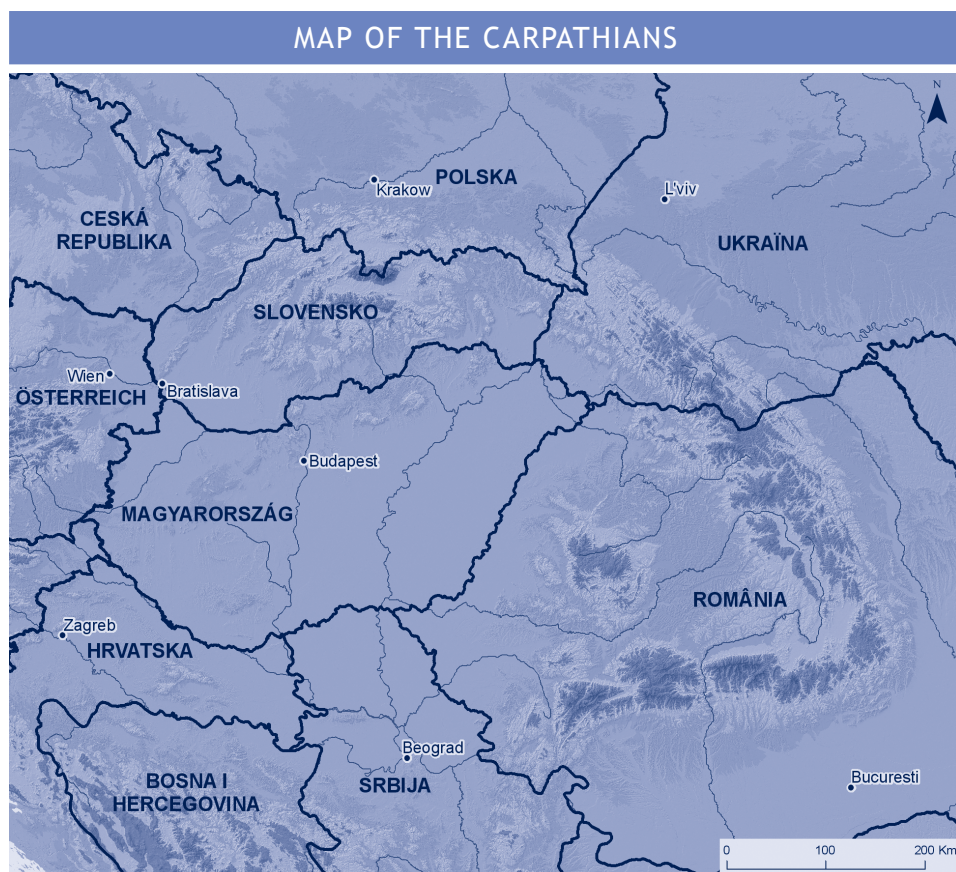


Figure 1: A physical map of the Carpathians with national boundaries.¹⁹

¹⁹ Source: Kathrin Renner, EURAC.

The Carpathian Convention is an international agreement signed in 2003 by seven countries - the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine - to ensure the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathian mountain region. Since then, the Carpathian Convention progressed remarkably, as decisions were taken, working groups created, reports and terms of reference adopted, memoranda of understanding signed. This volume collects the main documents produced in the framework of the Carpathian Convention including the Protocol on Biodiversity. This collection is aimed not only at decision-makers, civil servants or scientific experts, but also at common citizens interested in this innovative cooperation process right at the heart of Europe.

Summary: Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians - Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity - Status of Ratification - First Conference of the Parties - Second Conference of the Parties - Rules of Procedure for the COP - Working Groups - Other Groups and Initiatives - Memoranda of Understanding.

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