



7th Meeting of the CNPA Steering Committee 14 January 2010, Vienna, Austria

REPORT

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Mr. Harald Egerer (HE) made an introductory statement on behalf of the interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention:

According to the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity (Biodiversity Protocol) HE stressed the importance to focus on activities and make progress there. The CNPA Medium Term Strategy (MTS) as well as the Biodiversity Protocol Strategic Action Plan (SAP) need to be finalized, submitted to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CCIC) and finally submitted to the third Conference of the Parties (COP 3) for final approval, whereby both instruments should relate to each other. HE made also reference to the recommendations taken at the last meeting of the CCIC (10 to 11 December 2009, Vienna, Austria) in this respect. Still, different versions of the CNPA MTS do exist at the moment.

Mr. Zbigniew Niewiadomski on behalf of Poland suggested to add the item “Draft Terms of Reference of the CNPA and the Steering Committee” to the agenda due to the fact the Terms of Reference (ToRs) submitted to the last CCIC meeting have not yet been discussed by the CNPA SC. Other participants made no objections to this proposal.

The agenda was finally amended and adopted.

Agenda item 2: Update by the CNPA partners

CNPA partners gave an update on their national activities.

Mr. Jan Kadlecik on behalf of the Slovak Republic briefed participants on the Conference “Conservation of wetlands in the Carpathians” that was held from 16 to 17 November 2009, in Tatranska Strba, Slovakia, where also representatives of the Ramsar and the Carpathian Convention WWF-DCP and all Carpathian countries participated. Meanwhile, the State Nature Conservancy approved its work plan, within which 150 items are included. A number of projects from different funding sources and further public awareness activities have been carried out as well as bilateral agreements - related to protected areas - concluded with Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic serving the basis for future activities. The project proposal under Swiss funds, that aims at protected areas conservation, management and restoration, drafting a red list of habitats, promotion of the Carpathian Convention, CNPA, CWI etc., is almost finalized and further comments on the project proposal made by the Interim Secretariat are welcome.



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Ms. Jana Urbancikova on behalf of the Czech Republic gave an update on the activities carried out so far by the Czech Republic. Many activities have been developed, including activities under projects relating to natural and cultural heritage in the Carpathians. Education activities were received a positive resonance.

Mr. Zbigniew Niewiadomski on behalf of Poland further briefed participants about the activities developed by Poland, as the red book on endangered species in the Polish Carpathians published by the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Mr. Niewiadomski further gave an update on the current status of ratification of the Biodiversity Protocol by Poland. Poland made recent progress of its ratification: on 9 December 2009 the President signed the ratification instrument and on 18 December 2009 instruments of ratification were sent to the Ambassador of Poland to Ukraine for their delivery to the Depository .

An update on national activities carried out in Ukraine was then given by Mr. Sergii Matvyeyev and Ms. Yuliya Bondarenko: among these activities the national strategy of sustainable protected areas was drafted as well as 3 regional schemes of Eco-net developed.

Mr. Akos Ugron on behalf of Hungary informed participants on project NATURA 2000 sustainable management plans. Relating to the ratification of the Biodiversity Protocol, Hungary is about to deposit its instrument of ratification soon. In this respect HE noted that the Biodiversity Protocol will enter into force on the 90th day after the date of deposit of the instrument by Hungary.

Mr. Mircea Verghelet on behalf of Romania, currently serving as Interim Chair of the CNPA SC: gave an update on national activities. Finally a Minister of the Environment has been appointed and due to administrative changes followed by a reduction of numerous agencies by the newly established government, the agency for protected areas does no longer exist. There is a pending proposal to declare the Iron Gates National Park as a Ramsar site and a biosphere reserve.

Participants further briefed the Secretariat about Alpine-Carpathian international colloquium “Large carnivores: management, research and public relation strategies of the protected areas” held on 2-4 July 2009 in Low Tatras, Slovakia and planned further joint work with Alpine Network of Protected Areas (ALPARC), dealing with large carnivores in Carpathian and Alpine areas. The CNPA was represented also in the ALPARC international conference “Ecological network in the Alps – a response to climate change that will conserve biodiversity” (15-16 October 2009, Berchtesgaden, Germany).



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Agenda item 3: Draft Terms of Reference of the CNPA and the SC

HE refers to the recommendations related to Biodiversity that were taken during the last CCIC meeting (*See also attached document*). According to the ToRs of the CNPA and the CNPA SC the latest versions of the ToRs of the CNPA and the SC were finally merged together in one document that was also presented to the last CCIC meeting.

Participants went on further elaborating on the latest version of the CNPA Draft ToRs. Various amendments to the document were made (*See also attached document with track changes*). The Secretariat should send a message to CNPA Focal Points to request for official update of the list of CNPA members to be annexed to the ToRs.

Agenda item 4: Briefing on the outcomes of the CCIC, Implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol, Strategic Action Plan for the Biodiversity protocol

See also other agenda items in this respect.

Agenda item 5: CNPA Medium Term Strategy and Work Plan

In Romania consultations in this matter have not taken place since the last year. The Slovak Republic pointed out that the current version of the MTS is maybe too ambiguous and detailed. Participants agreed that it would be helpful to review the document and shorten it rather than to extend it.

Participants further agreed that the ISCC with the help of the EURAC expert team will elaborate on the document till the end of February with the view of producing a new version of the document. The draft version will then be circulated to the CNPA partners for final revision. The CNPA partners will have to provide the Interim Secretariat with their comments within a time period of 2 weeks.

According to the schedule of the forthcoming meetings of the CNPA, participants of the meetings agreed that it would be useful to have the meetings of the CNPA SC and the Working Group on Biodiversity on the same dates. This would offer the possibility to participants of the WG on Biodiversity to attend the meetings of the CNPA SC as observers and vice versa.

Upon suggestion of HE the CNPA partners finally agreed to schedule the next meeting from 17 to 21 May 2010.



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Participants further agreed that further work needs to be done on the Work Programme in order to have a final version of the document by the end of 2010.

Agenda item 6: Preparations for COP3

HE referred to the upcoming COP3 that is going to be held in Slovakia 2011 and briefed participants that the ISCC will soon start the preparations of the upcoming Conference in collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic.

Agenda item 7: “BIOREGIO” Project proposal

Mr. Giacomo Luciani (GL) on behalf of the EURAC expert team of the ISCC made a presentation on the “BIOREGIO” project proposal. Participants were briefed that the Expression of Interest finally was submitted under the 2nd call of the SEE-Programme on 21 December 2009. A response is awaited for spring 2010.

In addition, the Interim Secretariat envisages a new project proposal related to connectivity issues (that was too early to handle at the stage of the elaboration of the “BIOREGIO” project proposal). Such a project proposal could be considered to be submitted under an EU funding programme.

Agenda item 8: Other matters

WWF-DCP further briefed participants on the upcoming “European Day of Parks” that will be hosted on and around 24 May 2010¹. WWF DCP intends to launch a campaign at the same time that is linked to protected areas. Still the organisers of the campaign are looking for additional donor ships.

HE suggested to present this campaign to the forthcoming COP3 and to organise an official “Carpathian Park Day” as a side event to the COP3.

Furthermore, participants identified the following ongoing and forthcoming activities that are strongly linked to CNPA issues:

- Meetings of the Working Group dealing with Large Carnivores in the Alps and the Carpathians;
- Coordination meeting of education;
- Meetings of the Working Group on Sustainable Tourism;
- Meetings of the Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management ;

¹ For info: <http://www.europarc.org/what-we-do/european-day-of-park>



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- Carpathian Ecoregio Initiative (CERI) meeting ;
- Proposal on a seminar about Carpathian wetlands;
- Other possible project proposals going to be developed under the auspices of the ISCC with the help of the EURAC expert team;

According to the status of ratification of the Biodiversity Protocol HE finally remarked that is important to make sure that the Biodiversity Protocol enters into force quickly in order to have a legally binding instrument. In this respect it needs to be ensured that instruments of ratification are deposited the follow up work is done and that all steps are taken. This could also be a motivation for other countries to speed up and deposit their instruments of ratification.

The meeting is finally closed.

ACRONYMS

ALPARC	Alpine Network of Protected Areas
CCIC	Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee
CEI	Central European Initiative
CERI.....	Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative
CNPA	Carpathian Network of Protected Areas
COP	Conference of the Parties
CWI	Carpathian Wetlands Initiative
EEA	European Environment Agency
EU	European Union
EURAC	European Academy
ISCC.....	Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention
MTS.....	Medium Term Strategy
SAP	Strategic Action Plan
SC.....	Steering Committee
SEE.....	South East Europe
TORs	Terms of Reference
WG	Working Group
WWF –DCP	WWF – Danube Carpathian Programme