

## Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity

### **Mandate**

The First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP1) to the Carpathian Convention (Kyiv, Ukraine, 11-13 December 2006) in its 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.

Decision COP2/13 paragraph 7 requests “the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CCIC) to review and decide on the continuation of the Working Groups, as appropriate”.

### **Tasks**

#### **Field of activities**

1. Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity and Strategic Action Plan (SAP)

The Working Group will coordinate and guide the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan for implementation of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity. Key aspects include the elaboration of the Carpathian Red List of Habitats, the Carpathian Red List of Species, the development of compatible monitoring systems and a joint information system and the Clearing House Mechanism.

As foreseen by objective 11 of the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for the implementation of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity (Biodiversity Protocol), the Working Group will elaborate the format of the three years report on activities aimed at implementing the Protocol and their effectiveness (Biodiversity Protocol Implementation Report) on the basis of the proposal made by the Secretariat.

Furthermore it will provide to fill in the elaborated Report to be submitted to the Secretariat three months prior to each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

2. Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) and Carpathian Wetlands Initiative (CWI)

The Working Group will coordinate the relevant activities with the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas Steering Committee (CNPA SC) and the CWI. Joint meetings of the Biodiversity Working Group and the CNPA Steering Committee will be organised to further coordinate their activities.

3. Contribution to 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.

The WG will promote the implementation of the CBD and PEBLDS decisions in the Carpathian Region.

#### 4. Contribution to the follow-up platform<sup>1</sup>

The Working Group will coordinate the Carpathian Convention's involvement in key projects being developed or implemented in the area of biological and landscape diversity.

#### **List of results**

- Carpathian Red Lists, Joint Information System, Clearing House Mechanism;
- Elaboration of the format of Biodiversity Protocol Implementation Report;
- Compilation of the Biodiversity Protocol Implementation Report;
- Proposed inputs for COP4 of the Carpathian Convention;
- List of follow-up actions and proposals.

#### **Composition and organization of work**

The Working Group is composed of the National Focal Points for the Carpathian Convention and/or persons nominated by them. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties, the meetings of the Working Group are open for observers.

At each meeting, the Working Group will elect its Chair and Co-Chair; the ISCC will act as rapporteur. In conducting its business, the Working Group will base itself on the applicable Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties.

The Working Group will meet as necessary and its meetings will be financially supported by the work programme of the Carpathian Convention and supporting projects. Work through email is encouraged.

The Working Group will report to the Conference of the Parties through the CCIC.

#### **Coordination and cooperation**

The Working Group will continue to 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, Kyiv 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). The WG will also coordinate

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<sup>1</sup> The follow-up platform is a continuously updated list of EU co-funded projects that represent a follow-up of the INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project and are linked to the implementation of the Carpathian Convention

the cooperation under the trilateral MoU Alpine Convention – Carpathian Convention – CBD including mountain-to- mountain cooperation programmes.

According to Memoranda of Cooperation with the Ramsar Convention and Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative (CERI) signed at COP1 of the Carpathian Convention, Kyiv Ukraine, 13 December 2006, the Working Group will continue to 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).

The Secretariat will ensure the coordination of the activities developed by the Working Group and other relevant bodies, such as the European Environment Agency and the Council of Europe.

Furthermore the Secretariat will 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 BIOREGIO Carpathians project if approved.

### **Scientific contributions and background information**

The Working Group will benefit from the inputs provided by:

- Creation of Ecological Corridors in Ukraine, State Agency for Protected Areas of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine, Altenburg & Wymenga Ecological Consultants, InterEcoCentre; Kyiv 2010;
- VASICA - Visions and Strategies in the Carpathian Area, UNEP-ISCC/Carpathian Project, 2009;
- Carpathian Environmental Outlook (KEO) Report, UNEP, 2007;
- A Heightened Perspective -Regional Assessment of the Policy, Legislative and Institutional Frameworks Implementing the Carpathian Convention, REC/EURAC, 2007;
- Handbook on the Carpathian Convention, REC/EURAC, 2007;
- Existing strategies, tools and sources of information at EU level;
- Relevant policies and strategies at national level;
- Comprehensive Report on the national achievements and challenges related to the implementation of the Carpathian Convention developed by EURAC;
- WWF's 2012 Protected Areas for a Living Planet Project (2012 PA4LP);
- BBI Matra Project on the Carpathian Ecological Network and the Carpathian Biodiversity Information System (CBIS);
- Austria – Slovakia Cross Border Programme “Alpine-Carpathian Corridor” project;
- Relevant declarations, resolutions, decisions and documents with regard to the Convention and Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Programmes of Work (PoW) on Mountain Biodiversity and Protected Areas;
- Other related documentation.