

Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management

Mandate

The Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP2) to the Carpathian Convention (Bucharest, Romania, 17-19 June 2008) by its Decision COP2/4 paragraph 4 invited “the Parties to continue to take part in the preparatory work towards the development of a Protocol on Sustainable Forestry” and requested “the Interim Secretariat to further coordinate and service the Parties in the process”.

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

The WG aims at supporting the Parties to the Carpathian Convention in their cooperation for the implementation of Article 7 on sustainable agriculture and forestry and other related Articles of the Carpathian Convention.

The WG shall consider and consolidate the background documentation made available to it, in particular the Report on the Current State of Forest Resources in the Carpathians and the Report on Challenges and priority for adapting the management of Carpathians forests to new environmental and socio-economic conditions in the Carpathians prepared by the University of Padua on behalf of UNEP Grid Warsaw, the results of the INTERREG NMF Project, as well as other recent publications.

Field of activities

1. The WG will elaborate a strategic action plan (SAP) for the implementation of the Protocol;
2. The WG will analyse the available information base and identify gaps requiring further research;
3. The WG can provide guidance and recommendations for the development of follow-up projects in the area of sustainable forest management with the view of implementing the provisions of the Protocol on SFM;
4. The WG shall in particular provide guidance and actions with regard to the establishment of a “Carpathian Inventory on Virgin Forests”;
5. The WG shall explore ways of cooperation with other relevant institutions such as Forest Europe (formerly: MCPFE)³ and the United Nations Forum on Forests;
6. The WG shall coordinate activities with regard to the “International Year of Forests 2011”.

³ “Forest Europe” is the current official term making reference to the MCPFE process.

List of results

- SAP elaborated
- Inputs for proposals for follow-up activities and projects with the view of implementing the provisions of the Protocol on SFM;
- “Carpathian Inventory on Virgin Forests “;
- List of coordinated activities within the frame of the “International Year of Forests”.

Composition and organization of work

The WG 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 WG are open for observers.

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

The WG 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 WG will report to the Conference of the Parties through the CCIC.

Coordination and cooperation

Decision COP2/4 para 4 requests the Interim Secretariat to further coordinate and service the Parties in the process.

The WG will benefit from cooperation with FAO SEUR on matters related to sustainable forest management.

The WG will exchange information and foster communication with other relevant WGs of the Carpathian Convention (e.g. WG on Biodiversity, WG on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, WG on Spatial Development) and will seek cooperation with other interested constituencies beyond the Carpathian Convention.

Decision COP2/4 para 5 “calls upon Parties and invites relevant institutions, including 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”. The WG will coordinate its activities with Forest Europe (formerly: MCPFE) and the United Nations Forum on Forests and other relevant institutions through the Interim Secretariat.

Scientific contributions and background information

The WG will benefit from the inputs provided by

- Specific Carpathian Project inputs to the WG, prepared by UNEP GRID Warsaw in cooperation with partners such as the University of Padua, including, 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 state, forest administrations, Ministries of Environment and non-governmental organizations for improvement of forestry management in state and private forests and national parks. Innovative modern silviculture methods of implementations for stands conversion and "continuously cover forestry" for trees cutting – implemented.
- Carpathian Environment Outlook (KEO), which provides a holistic and integrated assessment of the current state and future trends of the Carpathian environment;
- National assessments of the policy, legislative and institutional frameworks related to the Carpathian Convention (EURAC/REC);
- Existing strategies, tools and sources of information at EU level;
- The experience of the work developed within the frame of the Alpine Convention;
- The decisions and recommendations of the PEBLDS;
- Relevant declarations, resolutions, decisions and documents with regard to Forest Europe (formerly: MCPFE);
- Relevant declarations, resolutions, decisions and documents with regard to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF);
- Relevant declarations, resolutions, decisions and documents with regard to the Convention and Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Programme of Work (PoW) on Forest Biodiversity;
- The existing tools for identification of the high value conservation forests and their national application if existing in the Carpathian countries;
- Other sources at national level e.g. results of forest research (NBmR – national biodiversity monitoring system in Hungary, national forest inventories, reports on the state of forests,...);
- Other related documentation (e.g. documentation from UNESCO World Heritage Sites).