

Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Sustainable Tourism

Mandate

The First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP1) to the Carpathian Convention (Kyiv, Ukraine, 11-13 December 2006) in its Decision COP1/10 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.

The Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 2) to the Carpathian Convention (Bucharest, Romania, 17 - 19 June 2008) in its Decision COP2/6 para 1 welcomed “the work of the Working Group on Sustainable Tourism invited Parties and stakeholders to ensure the proper follow-up”, in para 2 invited “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 requested the interim Secretariat to further coordinate and service them in the process”; and in Para 3 called “upon Parties and invites relevant institutions to support the development of future projects/programmes (including the “Via Carpatica”)”;

Tasks

The Working Group (WG) will aim 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 COP2/6 para 2 and 3 the main goals of the Working Group is the elaboration of a strategy for the future tourism development of the Carpathians to support the implementation of the tourism protocol and the development of future projects and programmes, including the “Via Carpatica”.

Field of activities

1. Tourism Strategy

Pursuant to Decision COP2/2 para 2, the Working Group will refine, strengthen 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.

2. 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;
- Proposed inputs for COP of the Carpathian Convention, such as inputs to a ministerial declaration to be considered by COP;
- Information documents for COP4, such as draft Tourism Strategy;
- WG Progress Report for submission to COP;
- Follow-up actions and projects.

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.

The Central and East European Working Group for the Enhancement of Biodiversity (CEEWEB) provides continuous inputs to the Working Group.

Coordination and cooperation

According to Decision COP2/13 "Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention", para 9 the meeting "welcomes the list of potential projects in support of the work programme" of the Carpathian Convention and in Para 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 organizations";

The WG will exchange information and foster communication with other relevant WGs of the Carpathian Convention (e.g. Working Group on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity, Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management) and will seek cooperation with other interested constituencies beyond the Carpathian Convention.

Scientific contributions and background information

The Working Group will benefit inter alia from the inputs provided by

- VASICA (Visions and Strategies in the Carpathian Area);
- Outcomes of the ANPED Cultural Heritage Inventory process;
- Outcomes of the Move4Nature Project - the Study Trails;
- Outcomes of the INTERREG IIIB Alpine Space CLIMALPTOUR project;
- The National and Regional Sustainable Tourism Initiatives, such as the annual conference for rural tourism development organized by the Training and Innovation Centre in the Carpathians CEFIDEC in Vatra Dornei, Romania;
- The Practical Guide "Tourism and Mountains";
- Methodology and tools for tourism infrastructure in margin and remote areas
- (methodology and tools) / Via Carpatica;
- Carpathian Cultural, Historic and Social Topography.