

Recommendations

on creating of the Carpathian Heritage Inventory

This document is based on the information and recommendations, which were collected in the Czech Republic and Ukraine on the basis of consultations with stakeholders and pilot projects in 4 target regions of the Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention). Consultations and pilot testing of creating and building up of the Inventory were held in 2007 – 2011 in the frame of ANPED activities according to the Decisions COP1/6 and COP2/8 of the Conferences of the Parties to the Convention. Activities were coordinated by the Institute for Environmental Policy (in the Czech Republic) and ICO “Green Dossier (in Ukraine) in cooperation with Ministry of Environment CR and in partnership with a number of other locally and nationally recognized and respected organisations (see Annexes to this document). ANPED Carpathian Working Group members were involved in the consultation process. The document describes general objectives and approaches for creation of the Inventory as well as concrete ways, criteria and principles.

General objective of the Carpathian Heritage Inventory

The general objective of the Inventory is to help to protect and develop cultural heritage in the Carpathian region and to include it into all aspects of the region’s development. The inventory should reflect Carpathian values, increase the reputation of the region as well as its diversity, support the notion of its uniqueness and strengthen community life.

At the national level, the Inventory should help to exchange experiences between active people, share interesting practices, examples, and inspiration.

At the international level it aims towards the recognition of the Carpathians as a self-standing and compact region, the recognition of the “Carpathian Space” meaning and value. It should be shared by all Carpathian states and support cooperation and understanding between them.

The Inventory will assist to maintain the balance between social and economic development and environmental protection, improvement of lifestyles and well being of local people while preserving natural resources and ecosystems. Preservation and promotion of cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and practices could have positive influence on the whole Carpathians SES (social-ecological system).

Use of the Carpathian Heritage Inventory

- it is an instrument safeguarding protection and fostering sustainable development of Carpathian cultural heritage

- it is the basis for creation and implementation of cultural heritage protection policies, the basis for management and public presentation of the heritage
- it helps to create local policies in the fields of sustainable development and sustainable tourism
- it helps to find possibilities of financing projects on the heritage protection and development, it can be used as a supporting instrument for claiming the funds and investments into the area
- it is an instrument for environmental education and awareness-raising and increases the knowledge of the Carpathian culture
- it allows the discussion on the current state of heritage and its protection
- it helps local people to understand better the value of cultural heritage and traditional livelihood preservation and development, and thus support traditional folk crafts and environmentally friendly lifestyle.

Basis of the Carpathian Heritage Inventory

1. The Inventory is open and non-elite

The opinion for an open and wide list, covering up everything what the local communities appreciate and, in their opinion, deserves recognition, prevailed at stakeholder consultations against the opinion to present what is the most valuable from a general point of view. It should be possible to change and supplement the Inventory continuously.

2. The Inventory is simple and understandable.

3. The Inventory is innovative.

The list has to be created innovatively, which means it has to combine preservation and protection of the heritage (cultural values) with sustainable development of the region.

4. The Inventory identifies risks and problems which go hand in hand with the protection of the heritage.

5. The Inventory includes spontaneous activities and voluntary projects.

In order to keep the diversity and variety of the traditional culture, it is very important to present spontaneous folk activities having the aspect of conservation and development of the heritage. Supporting the small (and often voluntary) associations, which have worse chances to receive funding, is of great importance.

6. The Inventory does NOT presents only easily identifiable items of the Carpathian cultural heritage

The list shows also the less known and worse accessible attractions/practices in the region.

7. The Inventory presents traditional culture in its on-going development

The Inventory reflects the today's world and shows good examples of heritage worth to be developed sustainably in the future (for example: regional fruit varieties, organic farming, regional products, new buildings built in a traditional style, etc.). Current forms of old traditions reflect the people and their ways of life in the Carpathian region.

8. The Inventory offers an authentic and natural image of the Carpathian cultural heritage.

The Inventory shows traditions, which do not distort their natural form (traditions do not exist because of media and public presentation).

9. The Inventory supports cultural development, particularly where it has stagnated.

10. The inventories are designed for each country separately but shared and discussed at the international level.

National inventories should seek what is common for all or most of the Carpathian countries, thus encouraging cooperation and partnership. States should at the same time contribute with items, which are typical for them from the Carpathian viewpoint.

Recommendations for the creation and administration of the Carpathian Heritage Inventory

Each state is responsible for the process of proposing, approving, monitoring and labelling the heritage items. It can set up an independent body or a regional commission for this purpose.

Anyone (an individual or an organization) can propose items to be included in the Inventory. Consequently, proposals should be approved by the council (or other independent body consisting of experts, local leaders and other governmental and non-governmental stakeholders). The council is a free and flexible platform. The main task of the council is to make sure that the proposal meets the set criteria and principles. The items are approved at least once in 3 months (by email) and are discussed at a larger forum, ideally at stakeholders meetings held at the national level regularly (preferably once a year). CC National Focal Point may take into consideration the councils' activities, and serve as an information channel between all participants. CCNFP may recommend and mediate financial support for certain sites, clarified by Council of Experts as a priority for support, including both national and international resources.

The Inventory is created with "bottom-up" approach - which means that it is proposed and/or accepted by local communities and co-created by stakeholders of the Carpathian Convention. The role of local leaders with precise knowledge of local conditions and interest in heritage protection is crucial. Each item shall include the contact information (an individual or an organisation "responsible" for it). Interdisciplinary approach and cooperation with experts and organisations active in the field of heritage protection and related fields representing both the public and the private sector are most welcomed.

Categories of the Carpathian Heritage Inventory

1. Nature Care
2. Traditional farming and lifestyle (Traditional livelihood)
3. Food
4. Handicrafts
5. Folk architecture
6. Folk costumes
7. Ceremonies, customs, rites
8. Decorative art
9. Language
10. Folk music
11. Folk dance
12. Historical monuments
13. Spiritual culture
14. Other

Data listed to the concrete items

- Name
- Category
- Description (including current state)
- Threats and problems
- Date of entry + source
- Contact („patron“)
- Communication language
- Location
- Access (access for public, including sensitivity to promotion)

Criteria for the Carpathian Heritage Inventory

- **Uniqueness** - Carpathian heritage is everything that is unique and typical for the Carpathians and which can't be found in any other part of the world (= a unique testimony to the cultural tradition or to the civilization which is living or which has disappeared)
- **Origin** – Carpathian heritage is connected historically to the place and/or has an ethnographical value
- **Community development and belonging** – putting the item on the list increases its meaning for the community, encourages people to get together and cooperate, and supports the community as a whole
- **Pertaining to the character of landscape/nature** – the heritage goes together with the landscape, culture and life style of its inhabitants (= it is an example of the traditional human settlement, land-use, water resource-use which represent a cultural human interaction with the environment). *Note:* we assume that it is possible to define elements typical for individual sub-regions in the Carpathians and to view the heritage from this sub-region perspective.
- **Use of landscape** – the heritage utilizes and maintains typical materials, practices, techniques, and customs
- **Protection** – this criterion requires the suggested heritage item to reflect efforts (especially spontaneous ones) of people to protect and develop the specific heritage item together with the culture and traditions in general, primarily where they have diminished
- **Natural evolvement of traditions** – the heritage should be seen in the way it naturally develops and as an inspiration for 21st century
- **Sustainability** – heritage protection supports the sustainable development of the region

Principles of the Carpathian Heritage Inventory

Principle of diversity – to support various forms of heritage and thus contribute to cultural diversity of the Carpathian region

Principle of non-elite selection – to support variety and diversity of the forms regardless of their prestige

Principle of balance between tangible and intangible heritage – to ensure that equal and due attention is paid to the fast disappearing intangible heritage.

Principle of authenticity and appropriateness – putting the item on the list does not increase risks posed by mass tourism and commercial promotion

Principle of objectivity – to describe the heritage objectively, showing the real state of play that local people may identify with

Other recommendations:

- To hold regular Carpathian stakeholder meetings at national levels preferably with the periodicity of 1 year in order to involve the public into the discussion on the heritage, share information and experience, and therewith contribute to the implementation of Carpathian Convention
- To continue/re-launch work of the Carpathian Heritage Working Group established under the Convention
- To develop the work on the Inventory in other countries of the Convention under the next Phase of the **CHI project**.

Czech Republic

In the Czech Republic the stakeholder consultations regarding Carpathian Heritage and later on the creation and building up of the Carpathian Heritage Inventory were held between 2007 and 2010. They were coordinated by the Institute for Environmental Policy, a member of ANPED, in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment of CR, The Bile Karpaty Education and Information Centre, and other governmental and non-governmental organisations.

The Pilot Actions Project report was prepared on the basis of these stakeholder consultations and recommendations. The several years of experience helped form the methodology with the criteria and principles for the Carpathian Heritage Inventory presented in this report. The discussions at the stakeholder meetings and expert consultations covered not only the need to protect and conserve the heritage items (both tangible and intangible) but also the need to develop them and manage them in a way which would help communities in the Carpathians to build and maintain the Carpathian identity while using the heritage in a sensible and sustainable manner (sensible and sensitive promotion, sustainable use in tourism only where it would be suitable and would not cause irreversible damage).

Venues and dates of the main stakeholders' consultations to the Carpathian Heritage Inventory in the Czech Republic:

- “Carpathian Convention and the conservation of cultural heritage in the region”
3th Stakeholders meeting, The regional office of the Zlin region, 26 June 2007- Zlin
- “Protection of natural and cultural heritage of Carpathians”
4th Stakeholders meeting, 22-23 October 2007 – Uherske Hradiste
- National Workshop for local authorities on implementation of the Carpathian Convention, “Rolling out the Carpathian Handbook”, 11 June 2008, Roznov pod Radhostem (in cooperation with REC)
- Carpathian Convention 5th Stakeholders meeting, 25-26 November 2009, Stramberk
- Mini-conference on the outcomes of the project The Jablunkov Region Heritage and the Carpathian Convention - 6th Stakeholders meeting, 9-10 December 2010, Horni Lomna

Institute for Environmental Policy, Prague, Czech Republic

February 2011

Ukraine

Stakeholders' consultations providing during the years 2007 – 2010 demonstrated real interest to the issue at all levels. Participants of the project from different regions see different ways of developing the Inventory, but all of them are based on the same principles and approaches, meet main criteria.

The consultation process was run in Ivano-Frankivsk and TransCarpathians regions in cooperation with Ivano-Frankivsk state administration, Kosiv Institute for Applied and Decorative Arts and Kolomya museum of ethnography, supported by regional and national mass media.

The consultations were provided in Ukraine under the ANPED project and coordinated by ICO "Green Dossier".

The pilot investigations in the frame of "*Phase One: Pilot Actions in 4 targeted regions in Ukraine and the Czech Republic*" are aimed to establish a mechanism of the Inventory creation, test it and present to the COP3 (May 2011). Investigations and consultations were run in Kosiv and Hust pilot regions, recommendations and experience presented at the meeting of Sustainable Tourism working group under the Convention, as well as for the governmental implementation committee.

The investigations on building up the Inventory (2010 – 2011) took place

- in Kosiv district of Ivano-Frankivsk region in a partnership with local NGO "Center for public initiatives" and district educational state department; more than 200 students and teachers took part in the data collecting with assistance of the experts from the Council;
- in Hust district of TransCarpathians region under the supervising of the commission of the Council of the Hust district on culture and education; all administrative points of the district took part in the data collecting; the project local partner - NGO "Selysky dobrobut" (Nyzhnie Selyshe, Hust district, TransCarpathians).

Green Dossier Information Center,

Kyiv, March 2011.