



# United Nations Environment Programme

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PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT · PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE  
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ



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## Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians

### First meeting

Kyiv, Ukraine, 11-13 December 2006

Item 6 (d) of the provisional annotated agenda

## Secretariat note on sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry – Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention

### Introduction

1. Article 7, paragraph 1 of the Convention requests Parties to maintain the management of land traditionally cultivated in a sustainable manner, and take appropriate measures in designing and implementing their agricultural policies, taking into account the need of the protection of mountain ecosystems and landscapes, the importance of biological diversity, and the specific conditions of mountains as less favoured areas.
2. Article 7, paragraph 3 and 4 calls upon the Parties to pursue policies aiming at promoting and supporting the use of instruments and programmes, compatible with internationally agreed principles of sustainable development and apply sustainable mountain forest management practices in the Carpathians.
3. Article 14, paragraph 2 of the Carpathian Convention states that the Conference of the Parties shall discuss common concerns of the Parties and make the decisions necessary to promote the effective implementation of the Convention. In particular, it shall establish such subsidiary bodies, including thematic working groups, as are deemed necessary for the implementation of the Convention.
4. To facilitate the implementation of Article 7 and Article 14 of the Convention, the interim Secretariat in cooperation with the Carpathian Convention partners prepared a background note (see Annex I), information document UNEP/CC/COP1/INF.3 and a draft decision of the COP1 on sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry.

### Implementation

5. Annex I to the present note contains a background note on sustainable agriculture and rural development (SARD) in the Carpathians prepared by the Secretariat in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Project for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountains Regions (SARD-M) on the basis of jointly implemented

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SARD-M Project in the Carpathians on assessments of strengths and weaknesses of SARD-M related policies in the Carpathians, for its information and consideration. The background note is intended to provide inputs and recommendations on pursuing SARD-M policies in the Carpathians, and in particular, recommend the establishment of the Working Group on sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry.

6. Annex II to the present note contains a report submitted by the participants of the Heads of the Forest Land Use meeting organised by FAO Sub-regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe (FAO SEUR) on 8-9 May 2006 in Budapest, for the information and consideration of the COP1 of the Carpathian Convention. The report is intended to provide inputs and key items for a draft Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management/ Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development to the Carpathian Convention. Annex 1 of the attached report contains the draft key items for a draft Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management (as agreed by the meeting participants).
7. An information document UNEP/CC/COP1/INF.3 contains a Brief Summary on Policy Consultation on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in the Carpathians.
8. The Carpathian Project is expected to produce a thorough analysis of the current state of forest resources in the Carpathians, along with other outputs related to the issue of sustainable rural development. Furthermore, the Carpathian Project supports the preparation of background documentation such as SARD policy assessments as well as the meetings of the Working Group on sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry.

#### **Possible action by the Conference of the Parties**

1. The Conference of the Parties may decide to establish the Working Group on sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry; request the interim Secretariat to convene its first meeting in order to define the Terms of Reference for the Working Group and initiate its concrete work.
2. The Conference of the Parties may appreciate the concrete contribution of FAO/SARD-M and FAO SEUR to the Carpathian Convention implementation process and take note of information submitted in the Annexes to the present note and in UNEP/CC/COP1/INF.3.

## Annex I

### **Background Note on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) in the Carpathians**

The Carpathian Convention is an integrative platform for multi-sectoral policy coordination, including sustainable agriculture and forestry within the scope of Article 7. It aims, inter alia, to promote mutual understanding, solidarity and information sharing between the Carpathian countries regarding the challenges and possibilities of sustainable agriculture and rural development in the Carpathian Mountains in order to enhance networking of the stakeholders, share ideas, articulate concerns, agree on and implement common strategic goals for the sustainable development and provide recommendations for the future of the SARD in the Carpathians.

While a vast majority of mountain people are rural, agriculture alone cannot ensure their livelihoods and will never be sufficient for sustaining mountain regions. Hence the crucial importance of designing and implementing complementary rural development policies and programmes that promote non-farm activities and rural employment and strengthen local government and civil societies institutions, enabling rural mountain populations to take ownership of their development. Development and implementation of such programmes would contribute to reducing the unsustainable use of natural resources thereby protecting biological diversity.

On one hand, **the Carpathian Mountains constitute a wealth of strategic resources**, representing one of the most globally important eco-regions and nature reserves comprising exceptionally rich biological and landscape diversity and cultural heritage. They constitute a major ecological, economic, cultural, recreational and living environment in the heart of Europe, shared by numerous peoples and countries. And on the other hand, **they are facing many threats** including unsustainable development, overexploitation of natural resources, pollution, deforestation, poverty and unemployment. The Carpathians are confronting such common challenges as economic transition, changes in land ownership and ongoing privatization, land abandonment, low productivity and income of agriculture, poverty and marginalization of population, lack of technology and state funding, gaps in or, even in some countries, absence of appropriate agricultural policy and legislation.

Therefore, the mountain region is facing a challenge to find key resolutions and provide orderly recommendations for a successful implementation of the SARD related policies, both individual and joint ones, to build on its potentials and cope with existing challenges in a sustainable development perspective. Mountain populations should benefit from new economic opportunities, once empowered and involved in the decision process.

#### **2. Successful collaboration with the FAO SARD-M Project**

In 2005, as a contribution to Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)<sup>1</sup>, through its Project for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Regions (SARD-M), and UNEP Vienna-Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (ISCC) agreed on performing assessments of the strengths and weaknesses of mountain related policies, including social, economic, environmental, legal and institutional aspects, in relation to SARD principles, in Slovakia, a new EU member State, Romania, an EU accession country, and Ukraine, a country neighbouring the EU. The objective was to identify sub-regional priority areas that need to be addressed and to draw up recommendations and proposals for follow-up activities at the Carpathian level.

The development of policies for sustainable development is an iterative process that allows for national and local levels to act in a coordinated and participatory manner to develop coherent

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<sup>1</sup> The United Nations lead agency on both sustainable agriculture and rural development and mountains.

policies that balance the economic, social and environmental objectives of sustainable development. It is therefore important to see if processes/mechanisms are in place to allow for a country, within and outside the government, to learn from its experiences in order to develop the human and institutional capacities to act strategically for sustainable rural development in mountain regions taking into account the mountain specificities of the Carpathian region.

A comprehensive report “**Policy Consultation on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in the Carpathians**”, a **four-page information sheet and a brief summary** of the assessments (19 pages) on the SARD-M Project activities in the Carpathians are available at [www.fao.org/sard/sard-m](http://www.fao.org/sard/sard-m).

These documents present the main results of the policy assessments for SARD conducted in the three selected Carpathian countries<sup>2</sup> by UNEP Vienna-ISCC during 2005 and of an expert workshop titled “Strengthening SARD-M Policies for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (24 October 2005 in Liptovský Mikuláš, Slovak Republic) organized by UNEP Vienna – ISCC together with the SARD-M Project and Euromontana. They include **22 recommendations at a global level or on some major issues** for the Carpathians such as biodiversity conservation, sustainable land-use, income generation and diversification of rural activities as well as **proposals for follow-up activities**.

Guided by the present political challenges, the policy assessments conducted in the framework of the SARD-M Project constitute a contribution to developing the capacity on policy, institutions and processes for SARD-M in the Carpathians for decision makers, civil society representatives and local people alike.

This activity builds on the foundations of and develops synergies with the following projects or programmes:

- The Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians provides a background for policy coordination, including sustainable agriculture and forestry in the scope of the Article 7 on Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry. Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention has been considered as an entry point for the policy assessment implementation in the region.
- The “Europe” and “SARD” in mountain regions initiatives of the Mountain Partnership.
- The multi-sectoral “Carpathian Environmental Outlook” (KEO), currently developed by UNEP/GRID.
- EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project under the lead of UNEP Vienna ISCC.

It is important to underline that such a comprehensive study in the context of the SARD-M approach for the mountain region has not been undertaken before in any of the seven countries which are Parties to the Carpathian Convention, however sustainable agriculture and rural development in mountain regions is a crucial policy domain in the Carpathians.

### **3. Follow-up**

This cooperation was welcomed by the Carpathian Convention Expert Group during the Preparatory Meeting for the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP1), held on 16 December 2005 in Bolzano, Italy. The Meeting encouraged the

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<sup>2</sup> The country assessments present an extensive survey of the overall and local situations of sustainable agriculture and rural development in the Carpathian Mountains of the three countries. They specifically focus on crucial aspects that need to be taken into consideration to provide elements for a diagnostic of policies, institutions and processes for SARD-M in the Carpathian region, namely: (1) land-use, (2) employment in agriculture, (3) agricultural production and forestry, (4) economic performance of agricultural producers, (5) biodiversity value of farmland and forestland, (6) economic, social and cultural aspects of rural development, (7) policies and strategies affecting SARD-M, (8) institutions in charge for designing and implementing the policies for SARD.

Interim Secretariat to continue cooperation with FAO SARD-M Project and to complete the assessments in the rest of the Carpathian countries.

The FAO SARD-M Project and UNEP Vienna ISCC agreed to extend these activities into the rest of the Carpathian region in 2006: the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Serbia, in order to complement the results of the background study in the three Carpathian countries. This activity will be followed by transnational expert workshop that will evaluate the SARD-M policy assessments outputs and formulate recommendations for the application of SARD related policies in the Carpathians.

The results and findings of the assessments should also serve as a basis for strategy and policy planning in the Carpathians mountain region. They should be translated to the national situation after stakeholder consultation and demonstrate complementarities with the Carpathian Convention principles and goals. When the concrete policies and policy options are been defined along with their strengths and weaknesses at the national and regional levels, the next action sustaining a continuity of the project objective could be a promotion of opportunities and addressing the challenges raised in the agricultural and rural sector of the mountain regions in the Carpathians encouraging the relevant stakeholders and governmental departments to work together and put in place policies that are mutually supportive with the aim of furthering progress towards sustainable development in the framework of the Carpathian Convention.

Some proposals will be **implemented through the comprehensive EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project in 2006-2007**, specifically its Work Package 3 regarding the promotion of SARD in the Carpathian mountain regions<sup>3</sup>.

The Project will support the Working Group on sustainable rural development, agriculture and forestry in conducting a in-depth analysis of these sectors in order to prepare appropriate policy instruments based on the generated comprehensive information and strategies to be agreed upon by the intergovernmental platform in a participatory process through continuous interaction with local and regional stakeholders.

#### **4. Recommendations**

The COP1 is recommended to establish a Working Group on sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry in order carry out analysis and consultations in relation to design, planning, harmonization and effective implementation of appropriate and well-targeted SARD-M oriented policies in the process of continuous interaction, dialogue and consensus building among concerned stakeholders with an objective to:

1. **Build national capacity to promote SARD mountain policies**, instruments and operational recommendations at national and regional levels according to the participatory and multi-stakeholder approach;
2. **Raise awareness** among policy makers, the international community and civil society on the role and value of the Carpathian Mountain ecosystem and the need for SARD mountain-specific policies or integration of their components to the sectoral policies;
3. **Support and facilitate the in-country implementation** of SARD mountain policies, where needed, by facilitating the mobilization of the necessary institutional, human or scientific support.

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<sup>3</sup> In April 2006 the European Commission (i.e. DG Regio) approved the "Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians in the Transnational Framework" Project, which builds on the existing structure of the Carpathian Convention, providing a transnational framework for the application of European Union policies throughout the Carpathian region. The Project constitutes a partnership of 19 institutions from the 11 countries under the lead of UNEP Vienna-ISCC.

## **Annex II**

### **Report of the Meeting on the Carpathian Convention: Protocol on Article 7 “Sustainable agriculture and forestry”**

FAO Sub-regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe

Budapest, 8-9 May 2006

#### **1. BACKGROUND**

With the objective of a better cooperation and coordination among the countries in the Carpathian Region the Ministers of Environment of Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovak Republic and Ukraine signed on May 2003 the “Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians”, also known as “Carpathian Convention”. This initiative has become for these countries an important framework for cooperation and multi-sectoral policy coordination, with the fundamental aim of achieving a sustainable development, being also a forum for dialogue for all involved stakeholders. The Convention was initiated on request of the Government of Ukraine and signed by the Ministers of Environment of the above mentioned countries in Kiev, May 2003. It has been ratified up to now by four countries of the region (Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Ukraine) and entered into force on 4 January 2006. The first meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP 1) is planned for autumn 2006. The Conference will decide on an official Work Programme of the Convention, including the establishment of working groups and the development of possible Protocols on priority issues ([www.carpathianconvention.org](http://www.carpathianconvention.org)).

It should be remarked that particularly sustainable forest management (hereinafter SFM) is characterized by significantly raising demands in social and environmental benefits from forests with far reaching cross-border impacts, while economic viability of wood production is getting under increasing pressure. Today a broad variety of policy instruments and institutions are dealing with this multifunctional “forestry”, which leads to a need in better coordination on the national and international level to ensure the appropriate contribution of SFM to an overall sustainable development.

The promotion of SFM is part of the mandate of FAO Sub-regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe. The Carpathian Convention, particularly Article 7 of the Convention (Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry), provides an opportunity to discuss and determine ground rules in the relationship between forest and society, address common issues and thus contribute to the harmonisation of the European forest policy approaches. The objective of the present paper is to contribute to the ongoing work on sustainable agriculture and forest management and to the proposal and development of a possible future Protocol on Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention.

With this intention 22 participants including national forest policy decision makers responsible for the administration of various forms of forest management from all the countries of the Convention and representatives of various international organizations active on forest management (see List of Participants in Annex 3) came together at the FAO Sub-Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe (SEUR), Budapest on 8 and 9 May 2006.

#### **2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May Mr. Volker Sasse, FAO Forestry Officer for Central and Eastern Europe opened the meeting on behalf of FAO Sub-Regional Representative, Ms. Maria Kadlecikova. He welcomed the participants and introduced the objectives, agenda and expected procedures (see Agenda in Annex 2), thanking the participants for attending the meeting and proposals provided.

Ms. Solomiya Omelyan, Policy Consultant in UNEP Vienna welcomed the participants and expressed her wishes for a successful meeting. Mr. András Szepesi, Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, welcomed the participants on behalf of Mr. András Klemencsics, Head of Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The participants introduced themselves and the country representatives informed on the institutional structure of forest related administration in their countries, particularly the organization of law enforcement and state forest management.

Ms. Solomiya Omelyan presented the role of UNEP Office in Vienna and the history, importance, present situation and expectable future development of the Carpathian Convention.

Mr. Volker Sasse introduced participants to outcomes of the FAO/UNECE European Forest Sector Outlook Study (EFSOS) focusing on increasing production and trade in Eastern Europe as well as the growing needs in social and environmental services from multifunctional forest management.

The participants communicated in a brainstorming session their ideas for a Protocol on Forests for Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention.

On the base of provided input from the countries the FAO/SEUR office prepared a paper on (see background paper in Annex 4). During the afternoon session on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> the following items have been actively discussed by the participants:

**a) Subject and Terminology**

Apart from the terms introduced initially in the background paper (see Annex 4), some other proposals were proposed during the discussions, such as “Sustainable Mountain Forest Management”. The discussion further focused on the term “Sustainable Forest Management” (SFM) highlighting various pros and contras:

Pros:

- SFM is recognized in International Forest Policy Dialogue and in the various National Forest Acts
- SFM reflects “forest” and “sustainability”, which were considered as key words by the participants of the meeting.
- The concept comes from a comprehensive approach that includes by definition all activities that can be developed on forests, as well as the fundamental social and environmental functions that occur on forests without which the society could not exist.
- This terminology is partly utilized in the Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention, Art. 3 (“The Parties shall pursue policies aiming at promoting and supporting the use of instruments and programs, compatible with internationally agreed principles of sustainable forest management”).

Contras:

- Public perception of SFM is predominantly focused on forestry in terms of wood production.
- The principal builds up on financing of social and environmental services through economic incomes from forestry, mainly in terms of wood production.
- This terminology is not consistently utilized in the Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention, as other terms are also utilized (sustainable forestry, sustainable mountain forest management, environmentally sound forestry measures).

**b) Main objective**

The objective of sustainable forest management in the Carpathian Region was discussed and agreed on the base of the background paper (see Annex 4).

**c) Recommendations for a draft Protocol**

An intensive roundtable discussion took place where all participants have been involved and proposed issues to be potentially addressed in a protocol on SFM in the Carpathian region.

On Tuesday 9th the FAO/SEUR secretariat presented the outcomes of the Monday afternoon discussion in the form of reviewed “Key items for a draft Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management” and invited participants for a plenary discussion of this paper. Participants discussed actively all the points of the draft, agreeing on the adoption, deletion or modification of the different items included.

It has to be noted that this discussion was to a large extent dominated by representatives of international organizations. The FAO/SEUR secretariat was requested to stimulate inputs from the countries during any further meeting. Follow-up activities have been discussed.

The UNEP and FAO/SEUR secretariats closed the meeting after thanking the participants for their active participation.

**3. OUTCOMES OF THE MEETING**

Meeting participants:

- Agreed to use the term “Sustainable Forest Management” (SFM) in the Carpathian Region, as to address the main subject of their common action, referring to the definition of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE); but noted that financing of social and environmental services out of incomes from wood production gets more and more difficult as economic viability of wood production is threatened;
- Agreed that the objective of this initiative is to improve the contribution of the various forms of SFM to overall sustainable development in the Carpathian Region by defining common policy issues and approaches as well as supporting the implementation of the recommendation to be laid out in a Protocol on SFM;
- Agreed to proceed with this initiative on the base of efficient national and regional activities towards a Protocol on SFM in the framework of the Carpathian Convention;
- Requested the UNEP and FAO/SEUR secretariats to organize and support financially a follow-up meeting, to be focused on adequate input by state authorities responsible for SFM to be held in late 2006 – beginning 2007 possibly in one of the Carpathian Convention member countries;
- Requested the UNEP and FAO/SEUR secretariats to assist in the preparation of the formally required articles of that possible Protocol (e.g. on the monitoring of implementation); Experiences from the Alpine Convention, particularly from the Protocol on Mountain Forest should be taken into account to the current initiative;
- Agreed to provide the outcomes of the current meeting as an input to the COP meeting planned for autumn 2006 and requested the UNEP secretariat for sufficient coordination of the various protocol initiatives;
- Requested the country representatives responsible for SFM to circulate the “Key items for a draft Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management” (see Annex 1) to the corresponding state authorities for comments and involve national SFM stakeholders adequately into this process;



- Recognized explicitly the useful input on formal background provided by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC);

**Annexes:**

1. DRAFT: Key items for a draft Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management
2. Agenda
3. List of Participants
4. Background paper

**DRAFT****Key items for a draft Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management**

(as agreed by the meeting participants)

Forest management issues

1. Continue to maintain and enlarge forest cover
2. Improve health, quality and stability of forests and protect them against damages notably through the application of close to nature forest management methods
3. Put high priority on forest management methods ensuring prevention against natural disasters such as flooding, landslides, avalanches, etc
4. Ensure the social and environmental functions of forests with regard to ecotourism, biodiversity conservation, water, air, climate and soil protection, etc, considering the economic requirements for the production of wood and non wood products and services
5. Foster sustainable production of wood, non-wood products and services, including infrastructure measures considering the essential social and environmental functions of forests
6. Promote wood as an environmentally friendly raw material and renewable energy source, particularly through innovations, efficient marketing and certification, as well as investments
7. Apply sustainable wildlife management methods, particularly controlling population size of hoofed animals that allows a natural regeneration of forests, especially by coordinated regulation measures in borderland regions
8. Designate protected areas in natural, especially virgin forests in sufficient size and number, with the purpose to restrict or adapt their use according to the objectives of conservation to be achieved
9. Limit livestock grazing in forests to a sustainable level allowing natural regeneration of the forests, avoiding soil degradation and preserving the protective function of the forest

Policy instruments and institutions

1. Explore means to compensate economic losses of forest owners for the sake of environmental conservation and create if possible instruments needed to fund incentives and compensation schemes
2. Recognize the property rights on forests when putting new instruments and/or restrictions in place on forest management
3. Promote consolidation of forest land in terms of ownership
4. Build capacities for SFM
5. Implement innovative financial tools for supporting social and environmental services provided by forests
6. Establish liability mechanisms for forest damages ensuring the applicability of 'polluter pays' principle
7. Promote by sufficient means the coordination of national policies instruments and institutions related to the various objectives of SFM and consider SFM in rural development planning adequately
8. Apply public participation and stakeholder involvement in decision making on SFM, mainly on policy and legislation, as well as in rural development planning
9. Undertake steps towards development and implementation of National Forest Programs or other relevant national forest strategies on SFM particularly in the mountainous areas of the Carpathian Region

10. Promote the integration of SFM objectives into other related sector policies
11. Support access to public, particularly international funding related to SFM through required co-financing (in countries where applicable)
12. Strengthen law enforcement and develop further instruments to mitigate unsustainable forest management and illegal activities in forests and related trade of timber and non-wood products

Communication and monitoring processes

1. Raise public awareness on SFM
2. Ensure public access to information relevant to SFM
3. Ensure transboundary cooperation on SFM
4. Support knowledge and information exchange between the Carpathian countries on “best practices” of SFM
5. Promote harmonization of monitoring of forest resources particularly damages caused to forests
6. Build capacities on generation, application and dissemination of data/information on forest resources, products and services as well as forest policies

Meeting of Heads of forest management on the Carpathian Convention  
8-9 May 2006, Budapest, FAO/SEUR, Benczur ut. 34, H – 1068 Budapest

## AGENDA

<b>Time</b>	<b>Monday, 8 May 2006</b>	<b>Who?</b>
9:00	Opening and welcome	FAO/Kadlecikova UNEP/Egerer Host/Hungarian government
9:20	Adoption of Agenda, Meeting Objectives, Technical Issues, Introduction of the participants	Secretariat
9:40	The Carpathian Convention	UNEP/Omelyan
10:00	Introduction to the Forest Policy Framework in CEEC - Opportunities for a Protocol on Article 7 “Sustainable agriculture and forestry”	FAO/Sasse
10:30	Coffee break	
11:00	Forest Policy Framework in Member Countries (Responsible Institutions and their Coordination) - Expectations from a forest land use component of a Protocol on Article 7 “Sustainable agriculture and forestry”	Roundtable
12:30	Lunch break	
14:00	Introduction to the Background Paper and procedures	FAO/Sasse, UNEP/Egerer
14:30	• Objectives and Terminology	Roundtable
15:00	Coffee break	
15:20	• Inputs to a proposal for a draft Protocol development	Roundtable
19:00	Dinner	
	<b>Tuesday, 9 May 2006</b>	
9:00	Plenary discussion of the inputs to a proposal for a draft Protocol development	Roundtable
10:30	Coffee break	
11:00	Plenary discussion of the inputs to a proposal for a draft Protocol development	Roundtable
12:30	Lunch break	
13:00	Summary/Conclusions/Follow-up steps	FAO/Sasse UNEP/Egerer

Meeting of Heads of forest management on the Carpathian Convention  
8-9 May 2006, Budapest, FAO/SEUR, Benczur ut. 34, H – 1068 Budapest

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**Meeting**  
**on the Carpathian Convention: Protocol on Article 7**  
**“Sustainable agriculture and forestry”**

FAO Sub-regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe  
Budapest, 8-9 May 2006

This document is drafted as a base for discussion during a meeting of policy decision makers responsible for the administration of the various forms of forest management, such as forestry (wood production), hunting, wood pasture, nature protection, biodiversity etc. The objective of this meeting is to discuss common forest policy issues and approaches in the region, leading potentially to the preparation of a future Protocol on Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention ([www.carpathianconvention.org](http://www.carpathianconvention.org)).

The current activity has to be evaluated in the context of former sub-regional conventions, mainly the Alpine Convention, as well as initiatives for intergovernmental agreements on sustainable development in South-East Europe and in the Caucasus regions.

This document was elaborated by FAO Sub-regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe on the base of suggestions provide by country representatives, experiences from the Alpine Convention and outcomes of recent FAO activities with regard to improved contribution of forest management to sustainable development in the region.

Meeting participants are invited to:

- Brief the meeting about forest policy instruments and institutions in their countries,
- Discuss the objectives and appropriate terminology to be used,
- Review key items for a draft protocol,
- Circulate, after the meeting, the reviewed draft to the responsible ministries in their countries.

## Objectives, subject matter and terminology

The Carpathian Convention invites “Parties to pursue a comprehensive policy and cooperate for the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians with a view to inter alia improving quality of life, strengthening local economies and communities, and conservation of natural values and cultural heritage ... by promoting:

- (a) the precaution and prevention principles,
- (b) the 'polluter pays' principle,
- (c) public participation and stakeholder involvement,
- (d) transboundary cooperation,
- (e) integrated planning and management of land and water resources,
- (f) a programmatic approach, and
- (g) the ecosystem approach.

To achieve the objectives set forth in the Convention and to ensure its implementation, the Parties may, as appropriate, develop and adopt Protocols.”

Forests provide a broad range of social and environmental benefits essentially for the whole society as well as income and employment opportunities. Today a broad variety of policy instruments and institutions are dealing with this multifunctional “forestry”, requiring coordination on the national and international level to ensure the appropriate contribution of forest land use to an overall sustainable development. "Forests" and "Landscapes" can barely be separated. The envisaged protocol should address both issues equally. This requires a lot of courage on both stakeholder groups, the foresters and the ecologists. Both groups in a modern and future oriented understanding. The current initiative aims on a comprehensive policy framework for forest land use, including the protection of forests and their social and environmental benefits as well as wood production, hunting, recreation and other forest products and services.

Thus **the objective of this initiative is to improve the contribution of the various forms of forest management/forest land use to sustainable development in the Carpathian Region** by defining common policy issues and approaches. In policy terms **the objective is to improve coordination of the various policy areas dealing with forest land use issues** and by that to avoid further marginalisation of forestry on the national and regional levels. A sub-regional convention promotes attempts towards harmonization of policies and institution of forest management in Europe.

Frequently the various stakeholder groups use a varying terminology for forest management considering their divers objectives. This initiative requires an appropriate terminology, which submits the objective of a comprehensive approach towards forest land use efficiently to society. Campaigns to “explain” any approach to society have failed in the past. There are various options for appropriate terminology in light of the objectives defined above (based on Schmitthüsen, 2006):

### Forest land use

This term doesn't emphasis any specific function of forests and might thus be perceived by the public neutrally. More specific options are:

- a) “Multiple forest land use”, emphasizing the broad variety of forest functions
- b) “Sustainable forest land use”, underlining the long-term view

### Forest management

This term has in public perception a quite strong link to economic activities and objectives, thus forest management is frequently linked mainly to cutting trees, at most including reforestation. There are various options for “smoothing” this lack somehow by adding terms directed towards the social and environmental values of forests, such as:

- c) “Integrated forest management”, emphasizing the broad variety of forest functions
- d) “Sustainable forest management”, used by traditional” forestry stakeholders underlining the

- long-term view, frequently misinterpreted as “sustainable management”,
- e) “Integrated sustainable forest management”, combining c.) and d.)
  - f) “Multiple use forest management”, similar to a.) emphasizing broad variety of forest functions
  - g) “Sustainable forest and landscape management”, addressing the link of “forests” and “landscape”
  - h) “Forest ecosystem management”, common in North America
  - i) “Multiple and sustainable forest ecosystem management”, brings additionally into h.) the long-term view and multipurpose aspects, but quite long

#### Others

The following terms are more (classical) forester's approach based on the fact that there are always protective and economic use aspects that have to be considered in dealing with landscapes in which forests are of importance:

- j) “Forest protection and forestry development”, excludes somehow the economic functions
- k) “Sustainable forestry development”, might be considered as development of the activity (forestry) rather than of forests
- l) “Sustainable forestry development and national parks management”, adds a feature, but keeps the two separated

As a first option for the following draft the term “Integrated Sustainable Forest Management” ISFM was used.

The formal items of the envisaged Protocol such as:

- Introductory Justification Statements
- General and Final Regulations
- Additional Measures
- Information and PR
- Implementation, Controlling and Evaluation
- Interrelation between the Carpathian Convention and the Protocol
- Signature and Ratifications procedures

are considered to be drafted and discussed at a later stage.

The following draft aims for a focus on potentially common key items, where consensus might be reached in a reasonable time frame, rather than for a detailed paper.

**DRAFT**

**Key items for a draft Protocol on Integrated Sustainable Forest Management**

Parties are invited to agree to:

Forest management issues

- Continue to keep and enlarge forests cover as well as to improve health and stability of forests
- Put high priority on forest protection activities, nature conservation measures, biodiversity and other social and environmental benefits from forests and implement appropriate financial tools for ISFM
- Promote the production of wood, non-wood products and services, including infrastructure measures, particularly through closed to nature management methods, in case the essential environmental functions are not threatened
- Support the elaboration of sufficient, comparable between countries forest inventories, including information on forest damages
- Consolidate private forest land, build capacities for private forest management, particularly diversification of forest management
- Promote wood as an environmentally friendly material and energy sources, particularly through innovations and investments policies
- Reduced air pollutant loads to a dose, which is not damaging to forest ecosystems, including transboundary loads
- Limit population size of hoofed game to a size that allows a natural regeneration of mountain forests and coordinate regulation measures in borderland regions, among others by supporting reintroduction of predators, considering specific requirements of the respective region

Policy instruments and institutions

- Promote by sufficient means the coordinate national policies instruments and institutions related to ISFM and consider ISFM in rural development planning adequately
- Apply participatory approaches in policy decision making on ISFM involving all stakeholders concerned and balance their interests fairly
- Undertake steps towards further outsourcing of management activities in state owned forests to commercially acting entities and by that splitting the administration and management functions
- Elaborate national multifunctional plans and strategies for forest development, according to societal needs and market demand; monitor their implementation
- Raise public awareness on ISFM and facilitate the cross-sectoral dialogue
- Provide access to EU funding for forest measures through required co-financing (in countries where applicable)
- Strengthen law enforcement and develop further instruments to mitigate illegal forest management (logging, hunting etc.) and related trade of timber and non-wood products

Communication and monitoring processes

- Assist collaboration and knowledge exchange between the countries on “best practice” of ISFM, including efficient policies through appropriate means (e.g. seminars, study tours publications, internet platforms)
- Build capacities on gathering of data/information on ISFM, including forest products as well as forest policies and provide public access to policy relevant information
- Provide sufficient means for adequate participation of national experts in international policy processes and networks.