



# United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة · 联合国环境规划署  
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 8 of the provisional annotated agenda

## Secretariat note on cooperation with other conventions and international bodies

### Introduction

1. Article 14, paragraph 2 (i) of the Convention provides 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, and, as appropriate, seek the cooperation of competent bodies or agencies, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental and promote and strengthen the relationship with other relevant conventions while avoiding duplication of efforts.
2. Furthermore, Article 15 of the Carpathian Convention mandates the Secretariat to coordinate its activities with the secretariats of other relevant international bodies and conventions.
3. In order to facilitate decision-making on Article 14, in accordance with Article 15 of the Carpathian Convention, the interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, in consultation with the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, prepared a draft Memorandum of Understanding on the Cooperation between the Alpine and the Carpathian Conventions, which was presented to and considered by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Preparatory Meeting to the COP1 Vienna 11-12 September 2006).
4. The IX Meeting of the Alpine Conference (Alpbach, Tyrol, 9 November 2006) under the agenda item "Mountain Partnerships" congratulated the Carpathian States to the entry into force of the Carpathian Convention on 4 January 2006, confirmed the text of the draft MoU on the cooperation between the Carpathian and the Alpine Conventions, and requested the Presidency of the Alpine Conference and the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, to sign the Memorandum of Understanding, after consideration and decision by the COP of the Carpathian Convention, together with the President of the COP and the interim Secretariat, during the high-level session of the COP in Kyiv on 13 December 2006. The text of the MOU is attached (Annex I)

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5. Furthermore, in accordance with Article 15 of the Carpathian Convention, the interim Secretariat has prepared Memoranda of Cooperation between the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and : a) the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention, b) the Executive Secretariat of the Central European Initiative (CEI), and c) the Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative (CERI), with a view to exchange information and coordinate activities, as appropriate. The MoC with CERI will be signed during the CERI side event, the MoCs with the Secretariats of the CEI and of the Ramsar Convention will be signed in conjunction with the high-level segment. The text of the three Memoranda of Cooperation will be made available to the COP as INFO document.
6. Information on other important cooperative activities can be found in the section on “Partnerships” of the draft Carpathian Declaration. In a pre-event to the IX Alpine Conference, the Alpine States adopted the Alpbach Declaration (Annex II), constituting an important contribution to the international Mountain Partnership. The proposed elements for the Carpathian Declaration provide ample reference to the Mountain Partnership and its interaction with the Carpathian Convention process.

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

The Conference of the Parties may wish to:

1. Confirm the text of the Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation between the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention;
2. Request and authorize its President and the interim Secretariat to sign the Memorandum of Cooperation;
3. Welcome the cooperation with the Alpine Convention as an important contribution to the international Mountain Partnership and to the Environment for Europe process;
4. Welcome the Memoranda of Cooperation between the interim Secretariat and a) the Secretariat of the Central European Initiative (CEI), b) the Chair of the Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative (CERI), and c) the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention, and request the interim Secretariat to continue to prepare the Memoranda of Cooperation with further interested international conventions and bodies.



## **Memorandum of Understanding for the cooperation between the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention**

In consideration of the fact that the Alps and the Carpathians represent living and economic areas of particular European interest,

In consideration of the fact that the Alps and the Carpathians are characterised by a multifaceted nature, culture, history as well as a particular ecological sensitivity and, in particular through the EU enlargement, are coming closer in many fields,

Recalling the valuable example of the sharing of experience process between Alpine and Carpathian Countries since 2001,

In consideration of the fact that the Alpine States keep supporting the development of the Carpathian Convention<sup>1</sup> in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme - Regional Office for Europe (UNEP-ROE), and also appreciating the ongoing cooperation between the Alpine Convention<sup>2</sup> and the Alpine Network of Protected Areas with the Carpathian Convention in the field of conservation of biological and landscape diversity,

In consideration of the fact that the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the Adoption and Signature of the Carpathian Convention<sup>3</sup> requested "the Regional Office for Europe of the United Nations Environment (UNEP) to continue to service the Convention process, also through the provision of interim secretariat support",

In consideration of the fact that the VIIth Alpine Conference declared its readiness to further develop the existing mountain partnerships in the Carpathians, Caucasus and Central Asia and that the VIIIth Alpine Conference decided to include these mountain partnerships as a long-term key point in the multi-annual work programme of the Alpine Conference 2005 – 2010,

Noting the work of UNEP Vienna – Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention in its function as environmental focal point in the Mountain Partnership Secretariat on sub-regional mountain cooperation worldwide in the framework of the Mountain Partnership, including the mountain regions of the Carpathians, of

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<sup>1</sup> Framework Convention on the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians

<sup>2</sup> Convention on the protection of the Alps

<sup>3</sup> Kyiv, 22 May 2003

South Eastern Europe, of the Caucasus, and of the Himalaya – Karakoram – Hindukush,

In consideration of the fact that, after the Carpathian Convention came into force on 4 January 2006, the UNEP Vienna - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, is engaged to follow its implementation and to coordinate its operations with those of other competent international bodies and conventions,

In consideration of the fact that the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention was requested by the VIIIth Alpine Conference to initiate collaborating with the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention,

The Alpine Conference and the Conference of the Parties of the Carpathian Convention acting through their Secretariats have reached the following understanding:

### **I – Duration**

This **Memorandum of Understanding<sup>4</sup> (MoU)** may be reviewed at any time in writing by mutual consent and may be cancelled by either side subject to six months notice in writing.

### **II – Goals**

Endeavouring the strengthening of cooperation between the Alpine and the Carpathian Conventions in fields of common interest, this MoU is aimed at providing a durable basis for the collaboration between the Bodies of the two Conventions in the field of information and experience exchange. Besides this, another objective is the development and implementation of common projects. The collaboration is aimed in the long term at strengthening the awareness of the significance of a sustainable development of mountain areas in Europe.

### **III – Collaboration fields**

Common activities should be developed in regular meetings between the Bodies of the two conventions and especially of their Secretariats, which should be held at least once a year. Collaboration should include all the issues examined by both Conventions and, especially, the following collaboration areas:

- Spatial planning and sustainable development
- Sustainable and integrated water and river basin management
- Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity
- Sustainable mountain agriculture
- Sustainable forestry in mountain areas
- Soil protection
- Sustainable tourism

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<sup>4</sup> „Memorandum of Cooperation“ in UN terminology

- Sustainable transport and infrastructure
- Industry and energy
- Air pollution control
- Waste management
- Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge
- Environmental assessment/information, monitoring and early warning
- Awareness raising, education and public participation

Due to the already existing collaboration, a significant role may be played especially by the following themes:

### **1. Work with the general public**

In the sense of an active information and communication policy, both Secretariats should harmonise their work with the general public with the aim of increasing the level of knowledge of the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention at local, regional, national and European level, and should thereby promote a long-term stable balance between the protection of the environment and the social, cultural and economic development in both mountain areas within the context of European integration.

### **2. Collaboration in the field of protected areas**

The Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and the UNEP Vienna - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention should continue with their efforts for enhancing networks of protected areas in the Alps (ALPARC) and in the Carpathians (CNPA) as well as the ecological linking-up between the two mountain ranges. They should work closely together on the issue of conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity.

### **3. Common activities in the framework of the Mountain Partnership**

Both sides should intensify their collaboration within the framework of the Mountain Partnership by presenting their collaboration as an example for other mountain regions. The implementation of specific common events may contribute to achieve this objective, also in the field of local collaboration and an agreed presence of the Secretariats at third party events.

## **IV – Commitment**

Both sides declare that within the scope of this collaboration they are ready to mutually inform each other of the work of the relevant Bodies of the convention in an appropriate way. The information exchange will take place through the respective Secretariats.

## **V – Effectiveness**

This MoU will take effect at the day of the signature by both sides.

For the Carpathian Convention:

For the Alpine Convention:

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| <p>UNEP Vienna – Interim Secretariat<br/>of the Carpathian Convention</p> <p>The Presidency<br/>of the Conference of the Parties of the<br/>Carpathian Convention</p> | <p>Permanent Secretariat<br/>of the Alpine Convention</p> <p>The Presidency<br/>of the Alpine Conference</p> |
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## Annex II

### ALPBACH DECLARATION

*The Ministers of the Contracting States to the Alpine Convention and the Commissioner for Environment for the European Community as Contracting Party to the Alpine Convention,*

*Reaffirming* the commitment to implement the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, chapter 13 of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”), in particular paragraph 42 hereof, including the time-bound goals and targets, and the other internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and reaffirmed in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, as the overall policy frameworks for sustainable development in mountain regions;

*Recalling* UN General Assembly resolution 53/24 of 10 November 1998, by which it proclaimed 2002 the International Year of Mountains, *Recalling also* resolutions 55/189 of 20 December 2000, 57/245 of 20 December 2002, 58/216 of 23 December 2003 and 60/198 of 22 December 2005;

*Recalling* UN General Assembly resolution 59/238 of 22 December 2004 on rendering assistance to poor mountain countries to overcome obstacles in socio-economic and ecological areas;

*Noting* the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions (“Mountain Partnership”), launched during the World Summit on Sustainable Development, further developed during the first Global Meeting 2003 in Merano and the second Global Meeting 2004 in Cusco and implemented in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/61 of 25 July 2003 as an important approach to addressing the various interrelated dimensions of sustainable development in mountain regions;

*Noting with appreciation* that a growing number of Governments, organizations, major groups and individuals around the world recognizes the importance of sustainable development of mountain regions for poverty eradication, as well as the global importance of mountains as the source of most of the Earth’s freshwater, as repositories of rich biological diversity, as popular destinations for recreation and tourism and as areas of important cultural diversity, knowledge and heritage;

*Recalling* the Merano Declaration of the Ministers of the Contracting Parties of the Alpine Convention at the occasion of the VII. Alpine Conference 2002, confirmed by the VIII. Alpine Conference 2004, and the Long Term Working Programme of the Alpine Conference 2005-2010 which foresees the co-operation with other mountain regions and conventions as one of six priorities;

*Taking note with appreciation of* the Alpine Convention, the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, the work done in the Southern Caucasus to establish a network of communities on an international level to prepare the ground for future activities in this mountain region, the common actions of the Alpine Convention in the frame of existing Mountain Partnerships with the Carpathians, Balkans, Caucasus and Central Asia and the readiness to pass on the manifold

experiences made in the Alpine Process to other mountain regions;

*Noting with appreciation* the ongoing cooperation between the Alpine States and UNEP-ROE in order to facilitate the implementation of the Carpathian Convention;

*Appreciating* the ongoing cooperation between the Alpine Convention and the Alpine Network of Protected Areas with the Carpathian Convention in the field of conservation of biological and landscape diversity;

*Noting with appreciation* the commitment of the Alpine States in the implementation of the project "Sustainable development of mountain regions in the Caucasus – Local Agenda 21" aiming at establishing a transboundary alliance of mountain communities in the Caucasus;

*Noting with appreciation* that the Alpine States actively support the development of the alliance of Central Asian mountain communities, whose commitment to strengthen the role of local governance in sustainable development found expression in the recommendations of the international conference in Bishkek 2005 dedicated to the subject;

*Welcoming* the membership of the Convention on the Protection of the Alps in the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions and inviting the international community and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to also consider joining it;

*Noting nevertheless with concern* that the consequences of erosion, as result of deforestation, insufficient infrastructure, outmigration and the lack of good agricultural practice as well as the consequences of global climate change severely endanger many mountain areas;

*Expressing their concern* that in some cases growing pressure of industry, mining, transport or tourism can be additional challenges in fragile mountain ecosystems;

*Noting* the growing demand for natural resources, including water;

*Underlining* that eradication of extreme poverty in mountain regions is a prerequisite for sustainable development in these regions;

*Expressing their deep concern* at the number and scale of disasters and their increasing impact within recent years, resulting in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, in particular in mountain regions, whose populations are frequently among the poorest of a given country;

*Underline* the need of an integrated and specific approach for developing instruments and measures for mountain region policy, for enhancing the sustainability of ecosystems that provide essential resources and services for human well-being and economic activity and developing innovative means of financing for their protection;

*Underline* that action at the national and especially at regional and local level is a key factor in achieving progress in sustainable mountain development;

*Integrate* indigenous cultures, traditions and knowledge, including in the field of medicine in development policy and planning in mountain regions;

*Given* that mountain ranges are usually shared among several countries and therefore also sensitive in a political manner, *encourage* transboundary cooperation approaches to the sustainable development of mountain ranges and information-sharing in this regard and thus urge the States to cooperate;

*Encourage* the further establishment of committees or similar multistakeholder institutional arrangements and mechanisms at the transboundary, national, regional and local level to enhance intersectoral coordination and collaboration for sustainable development in mountain regions;

*Also encourage* increased involvement of relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, in the development and implementation of programmes and activities related to sustainable development in mountains;

*Promote* full participation and involvement of mountain communities in decisions that affect them and of integrating indigenous knowledge, heritage and values in all development initiatives;

*Improve* the access to resources for women in mountain regions as well as the need to strengthen the role of women in mountain regions in decision-making processes that affect their communities, cultures and environments;

*Stress* the importance of capacity-building, institutional strengthening and educational programmes in order to foster sustainable mountain development at all levels and to enhance awareness of good practices in sustainable development in mountain regions and of the nature of relationships between highland and lowland areas;

*Also encourage* States to collect and produce information and to establish databases devoted to mountains so as to capitalize on knowledge to support interdisciplinary research, programmes and projects and to improve decision-making and planning;

*Note* that the high level of extreme poverty and the lack of resources and services for human well-being and for economic activity may endanger any sustainable development of mountain regions in certain areas of the world and *encourages* the States concerned to develop programs to turn around this situation;

*Invite* the international community to support the efforts to formulate and implement national strategies and programmes for sustainable mountain development, including, where required, enabling policies and laws, through bilateral, multilateral and South-South cooperation, as well as through other forms of collaborative approaches;

*Aim at preparing for the cycle* of the work programme of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2012/2013, which will be dedicated to the thematic cluster of mountains, forests, biodiversity, biotechnology and tourism;

*Decided on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2006*