

DRAFT

Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change

Mandate

The Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP2) to the Carpathian Convention (Bucharest, Romania, 17-19 June 2008) by its Decision COP2/3 paragraph 2 welcomed the “Report on water resources and natural disasters (climate change) and flood risk mapping” produced by the INTERREG IIIB Carpathian Project.

Decision COP2/3 paragraph 5 requested “the Interim Secretariat to consider in consultation with the Parties the further development and joint programming in the area of integration of water resources and land use planning, in particular concerning wetlands, natural water resources, springs, lakes and ground water resources, as well as biodiversity conservation and adaptation to climate change, taking into account experiences made in sustainable and integrated water/river basin management and land use planning of the relevant river basins of the Black Sea and Baltic Sea catchment areas in the Carpathians”.

In 2010 the European Commission, DG Environment, launched the invitation to tender “Preparatory action on climate in the Carpathian Region” focused on vulnerability of water and ecosystems to climate change and adaptation.

In May 2011 the European Commission – DG Environment, requested the Secretariat during Third Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP 3) to consult with the Parties and Observers of the Carpathian Convention a possible proposal for the establishment of a Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change under the Carpathian Convention supported by the project CARPIVI A (Carpathian integrated assessment of vulnerability to climate change and ecosystem-based adaptation measures) that is funded by the European Commission under the above mentioned preparatory action.

Tasks

The WG aims at supporting the Parties to the Carpathian Convention in their cooperation for the implementation of Article 12 on environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning and other related Articles of the Carpathian Convention.

The WG shall consider and consolidate the background documentation made available to it within the CARPIVIA project with the aim to:

- Benefit national and regional authorities of the Carpathian Region
- Support policy proposals in line with the Commission White Paper on Adapting to Climate Change and the objectives of the Carpathian Convention
- Contribute to a Carpathian and EU Information System on Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation

Field of activities

- The WG will collect information on vulnerability to climate change impacts in the Carpathian Region, will analyse the available information and identify gaps requiring further research;
- The WG will have regular contact with the CARPIVIA project partners and the European Commission – DG Environment;
- The WG will elaborate a proposal on how the results of CARPIVIA project can benefit national and regional authorities of the Carpathian Region;
- The WG shall in particular provide guidance and actions with regard to the contribution to the EU Information System on Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation;
- The WG will provide guidance and recommendations for the development of policy proposals in line with the Commission White Paper on Adapting to Climate Change and the objectives of the Carpathian Convention;
- The WG can provide guidance and recommendations for the development of follow-up projects in the area of vulnerability to climate change and ecosystem-based adaptation measures;
- The WG shall explore ways of cooperation with other relevant institutions such as the IPCC (International Panel on Climate Change) and ICPDR (International Convention for the Protection of the Danube Region)

List of results

- Report on climate change impacts in the Carpathian Region and identification of gaps requiring further research;
- Proposal on how the results of CARPIVIA project can benefit national and regional authorities of the Carpathian Region;
- Guidelines on contribution to the EU Information System on Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation;
- List of recommendations for the development of policy proposals in the field of adaptation to climate change in the Carpathians;
- Inputs for proposals for follow-up activities and projects in the area of vulnerability to climate change and ecosystem-based adaptation measures;
- Regular contacts with CARPIVIA project partners and the European Commission - DG Environment

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 CARPIVI A project.

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

Coordination and cooperation

The WG will benefit from cooperation with CARPIVIA project partners and European Commission – DG Environment

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

Scientific contributions and background information

The WG will benefit from the inputs provided by

- CARPIVIA project;
- Report on water resources and natural disasters (climate change) and flood risk mapping, INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project;
- Atlas of the Carpathian Region, INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project;
- Carpathian Environment Outlook (KEO), which provides a holistic and integrated assessment of the current state and future trends of the Carpathian environment;
- Existing strategies, tools and sources of information at EU level and at national and regional level in the Carpathian Countries;
- The experience of the work developed within the frame of the Alpine Convention and the Alpine Space Programme;
- The decisions and recommendations of the IPCC;
- Relevant declarations, resolutions, decisions and documents with regard to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNCC);
- Other related documentation.