



**Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the
Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable
Development of the Carpathians**

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DECISIONS

Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (COP4)

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DECISION COP4/1 Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Adopts* the format for the National Report on the Implementation of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (further referred to as “Carpathian Convention”);
2. *Adopts* the revised Strategic Action Plan for the implementation of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity;
3. *Notes* the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions “Green Infrastructure (GI) — Enhancing Europe’s Natural Capital” (COM/2013/0249) and the reference to the ecosystems of mountain ranges, including the Carpathians, that require coordinated, joined-up actions and a pan-European vision;
4. *Extends* the duration of the Medium-Term Strategy of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) until the end of the year 2020;
5. *Adopts* the Medium-Term Work Plan 2013 - 2017 of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas;
6. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the “BIOREGIO Carpathians” project, that aimed at implementing the main provisions of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity;
7. *Welcomes* and appreciate the work conducted in the frame of the BioREGIO Carpathians project towards the elaboration of Carpathian Red List of Habitats, the Carpathian Red List of Species, as well as the List of Invasive Species in the Carpathians, *calls* for their further improvement, verification and finalization for adoption, suggests the elaboration of a List of Endemic Species of the Carpathians by the Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity;
8. *Encourages* the cooperation with the European Landscape Convention and *recommends* the Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity to guide and coordinate the implementation of the Carpathian Convention in this field, as well as the relevant provisions of the Biodiversity Protocol to the Carpathian Convention, and *requests* the Secretariat to coordinate the process;
9. *Welcomes* the idea of organizing joint meeting of the Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity, and other relevant Working Groups in order to develop the propose possible activities on ecological connectivity, green infrastructure and landscapes in the Carpathians;
10. *Welcomes* the Declaration of the 2nd Conference of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas;
11. *Notes* the Terms of References for the CNPA Unit;
12. *Expresses* its gratitude to the World Wide Fund – Danube-Carpathian Programme (WWF DCP) for its cooperation in the organization of the CNPA Steering Committee meetings and the 2nd Conference of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas organized back to back to the Mid Term Conference of the “BIOREGIO Carpathians” project, held in Tatranská Javorina on 23 - 26 April 2013, as well as for the development of the activities related to management of protected areas in the Carpathians;



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13. *Welcomes* the cooperation with ALPARC and the ongoing cooperation with the Alpine Convention;
14. *Welcomes* the ongoing cooperation with the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention) through the Carpathian Wetland Initiative and *urges* the Parties to continue to take appropriate action on the effective protection and sustainable use of Carpathian wetlands;
15. *Welcomes* the results of the GEF Project “Improving the Financial Sustainability of the Carpathian System of Protected Areas” implemented through UNDP Romania and *encourages* the protected areas in the Carpathians to use knowledge resources made available by the project;
16. *Welcomes* the Agreement between the Secretariat and ALPARC regarding the transfer of the CNPA webpage (www.carpathianparks.org) from ALPARC to the CNPA Unit and encourages further cooperation on specific topics common to the two networks.

DECISION COP4/2 Spatial development Article 5 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Reiterates* its call upon spatial planning/development local and regional authorities of the Carpathian countries to continue the cooperation on issues relevant for spatial planning to achieve the territorial cohesion of the Carpathian region, in particular on coordinating spatial and management planning in bordering areas (CC Art. 5.2; Art. 5.3; Art. 9.2), promoting transboundary cooperation on sustainable tourism development in the Carpathians (CC Protocol on Sustainable Tourism Art. 20), consultation, harmonization and coordination of measures undertaken in border areas for the conservation of the biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians (Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity Art. 16), including inputs and support to the development and implementation of relevant projects;
2. *Recognizes* the crucial role of local and regional administration and their spatial planning/development authorities in the successful implementation of the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols and invites them to pursue and strengthen their efforts and to cooperate among each other;
3. *Invites* the Parties to inform the Secretariat on the administrative units within which they plan to implement the Convention and its Protocols;
4. *Emphasizes* the importance of spatial planning for allocation of the development activities – namely, the keeping the empty flood prone areas for the possibility natural retention areas and the elimination/decreasing of flood effects and underground water effects in the urban areas and, in particular, restoration of river beds and flood plains as much as possible to original/natural state;
5. *Encourages* the Parties and the Secretariat to update the Strategic Action Plan for the Carpathian Area and its priority actions for the Carpathians, adopted at the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention, in accordance with the new EU Territorial Cooperation Instruments for the period 2014 - 2020, with a view of promoting it in relevant meetings at EU and international level;
6. *Encourages* the Parties to actively participate in the implementation of the already existing EU macroregional strategies, which are relevant for the Carpathians, the European Union Strategies for the Danube



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Region (EUSDR) and for the Baltic Region (EUSBSR), including by using the Carpathian Convention as a strategic tool to link and complement the relevant strategies;

7. *Mandates* the Secretariat to continue to promote the integration of Carpathian priorities into the related Transnational "European Territorial Cooperation" (ETC) Programmes (in particular the Danube Programme and Central Europe Programme, as well as – to the limited extend - Baltic Sea Region Programme) for the period 2014-2020, as well as other relevant funding programmes;

8. *Emphasizes* the importance of full involvement of and strong support to the above mentioned processes by all relevant stakeholders, in particular the competent national authorities, regional and local authorities as well as civil society and private sector;

9. *Invites* the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Committee of the Regions, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, and the Euroregions located in the Carpathians, to support the above mentioned processes;

10. *Appreciates* the support of the Association of Elected Representatives from Mountain Regions and of the Association of European Border Regions in the above mentioned processes and *invites* their further cooperation;

11. *Takes into account* the outcomes of the Europe of the Carpathians Conferences held on 4 September 2013 in Krynica and on 23 February 2013 in Krasiczyn;

12. *Welcomes* the outcomes of two editions of the Alpine-Carpathian Forum of Cooperation held in Rzeszow in September 2012 and September 2013;

13. *Takes into account* the results of the Workshop "Towards a EU Strategy for the Carpathian Region" held on 28 May 2013 at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels;

14. *Welcomes* outcomes of the joint meeting on macroregional strategies with the Alpine Convention, held on 16 – 17 June 2014 in Portoroz, Slovenia and *calls* for mutual support of Alpine and Carpathian Conventions Parties to ensure the consideration of European mountain regions within the implementation of existing EU macroregional strategies;

15. *Takes into account* the results of the Workshop "Shaping the Carpathian Region in the EU Strategy for the Danube Region", held on 27 June 2014 within the 3rd Annual Forum EUSDR 2014 in Vienna.

DECISION COP4/3 Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management Article 6 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Reiterates* the importance of the implementation of the provisions of Article 6 of the Carpathian Convention on sustainable and integrated water/river basin management;

2. *Calls* for enhanced cooperation through the Secretariat with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) in particular in the following areas: climate change adaptation, sustainable agriculture, promotion of the implementation of the "Guiding principles on sustainable hydropower development in the Danube Basin" in mountain areas, as well as on promotion of the Carpathian Wetland



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Initiative and cooperation with the Ramsar Convention, with a view to develop joint activities and projects with ICPDR in these area;

3. *Encourages* the final adoption of the Joint Declaration between the International Convention for the Protection of the Danube River and the Carpathian Convention supporting the sustainable development of the Carpathians and Tisza River Basin as declared in the Memorandum of Understanding adopted in Uzghorod on 11 April 2011, and encourages enhanced joint programming with International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River;

4. *Recognizes* the need to increase activities to promote sustainable agricultural practices in the Carpathian region to protect ground and surface water resources and reduce eutrophication and pollution.

DECISION COP4/4 Sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the entry into force of the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians and *encourages* the ratifications of the Protocol by the Parties, which have not yet done so;

2. *Adopts* the Strategic Action Plan for the implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management and *appreciates* the work done by the Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management;

3. *Adopts* the Criteria and indicators for selection of virgin forests in the Carpathians and expresses and *appreciates* the work done by the Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management with the contribution of WWF DCP.

4. *Welcomes* the progress made towards the establishment of a Carpathian Inventory of Virgin Forests and *appreciates* contribution to its development proposed by the European Environment Agency (EEA), and calls upon the Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management to closely cooperate with the EEA on the issue;

5. *Reiterates* the call for the possible development of a Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development by the Working Group on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development and for that reason *requests* the Secretariat to coordinate the preparation of a background analysis and documentation that will substantiate a decision on the need to conclude a Protocol;

6. *Calls* for enhanced cooperation through the Secretariat with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River on sustainable agriculture and rural development, aiming at reduction of nutrients and pesticide pollution, with a view to develop joint activities and projects with ICPDR in these areas.



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DECISION COP4/5 Sustainable transport and infrastructure, industry and energy Article 8 and 10 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Adopts* the Protocol on Sustainable Transport to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, *invites* the Parties to sign and ratify the Protocol, *encourages* the Parties, pending the ratification and entry into force of the Protocol, whenever possible to start its implementation and *appreciates* the work conducted by the Working Group on Sustainable Industry, Energy, Transport and Infrastructure, as well as the support provided by the European Transnational Cooperation South East Europe "Access2Mountain" project as well as the by Alpine Convention to the development process of the Protocol;
2. *Notes* the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), the EU guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network;
3. *Recommends* the Working Group on Sustainable Industry, Energy, Transport and Infrastructure to develop the Strategic Action Plan for the future sustainable transport development of the Carpathians and *invites* other Working Groups to cooperate on the Strategic Action Plan;
4. *Recommends* the development of follow up projects on sustainable transport taking into account ecological connectivity and green infrastructure;
5. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the Austria Slovakia Cross-border "Alpine - Carpathian Corridor" project which aimed to re-establish the ecological corridor between the Carpathians and Alps within Slovak – Austrian cross border area;
6. *Welcomes* the signature of the "Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of an Alpine - Carpathian Corridor" and *encourages* further implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding;
7. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the European Transnational Cooperation South East Europe "Access2Mountain" project which aimed at achieving, environmentally friendly and sustainable tourism, as well as to ensure accessibility and connection to, between and in sensitive regions of the Alps and the Carpathians and *encourages* the development of follow-up activities and initiatives;
8. *Call* for strengthened cross-border and transboundary cooperation of the Parties on maintaining sufficient ecological connectivity and in avoiding landscape fragmentation especially due to transport infrastructure, and *requests* the Secretariat to follow up with the interested Parties on possible joint project developments;
9. *Encourages* future cooperation activities with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other relevant organizations including the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) in the field of renewable energies in the Carpathians.



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DECISION COP4/6 Sustainable tourism Article 9 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the entry into force of the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians and *encourages* the ratifications of the Protocol by the Parties, which have not yet done so;
2. *Welcomes* the cooperation with and contribution by the Ecological Tourism in Europe (ETE), CEEweb for Biodiversity, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), WWF-Danube-Carpathian Programme Office (WWF DCPO) and other partners on national levels in particular related to the development of the Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development of the Carpathians to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, and of projects aimed at its implementation;
3. *Adopts* the Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development of the Carpathians to the Carpathian Convention, *welcomes* the Background Document and *takes note* that the Strategy aims at the implementation of relevant paragraphs of the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism adopted at COP3;
4. *Requests* the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Tourism to coordinate and guide the implementation of the Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development of the Carpathians;
5. *Invites* stakeholders, especially the tourism sector, in the Carpathians to actively contribute to the implementation of the Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development of the Carpathians and to the establishment of online Carpathian platform on sustainable tourism;
6. *Emphasizes* the need for resource mobilization for the implementation of the Protocol and the Strategy at national and international level involving all relevant stakeholders and *commits* to cooperate on this matter;
7. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the "Innovations in Rural Tourism" co-financed by the European Commission, which aims, among others, at facilitating the development of sustainable tourism in rural mountain areas;
8. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the First Carpathian States Tourism Forum organized by the Ministry of Sport and Tourism of Poland on 28 May 2014 in Rzeszów, Poland;
9. *Appreciates* the funding made available by the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety to support the elaboration of the Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development and its Background Document.

DECISION COP4/7 Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Underlines* the importance of the implementation of provisions of the Carpathian Convention Article 11 on cultural heritage and traditional knowledge;



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2. *Notes* the progress achieved towards the development of the draft Protocol on Cultural Heritage, and the work done under the auspices of the Working Group on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge;
3. *Calls* for enhanced cooperation coordinated by the Working Group on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge to achieve the objectives of the Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention'.
4. *Encourages* the Working Group on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge to further develop, in consultation with relevant institutions and local stakeholders, the draft Protocol on Cultural Heritage and a proposal for a corresponding Strategic Action Plan and *takes note* in this respect of the Working Group's Road Map, and *requests* the Secretariat to facilitate the process;
5. *Expresses* its gratitude to the Ekopsychologia Association and UNEP/GRID-Warsaw Centre within the project "Carpathians Unite – mechanism of consultation and cooperation for implementation of the Carpathian Convention", supported by Switzerland through the Swiss Contribution to the enlarged European Union, for their contribution to the development of the Protocol;
6. *Reiterates* the invitation to National Focal Points to continue actions to inform and cooperate with the competent ministries and sectors responsible for cultural heritage and traditional knowledge and calls upon them to be involved in this work;
7. *Appreciates* the outcomes of the pastoral event called "Carpathian Sheep Transhumance 2013".

DECISION COP4/8

Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning Article 12 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the Partnership Agreement between Carpathian Convention and the European Environment Agency (EEA) on the implementation of the Carpathian Convention;
2. *Welcomes* the Memorandum of Understanding between UNEP Vienna-ISCC and Daphne-Institute of Applied Ecology, European Academy of Bolzano, Slovak National Forest Centre, State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic, The Environmental Information Centre UNEP/GRID-Warsaw, WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme, for the Establishment of a Carpathian Integrated Biodiversity Information System;
3. *Encourages* the further development of an information system accessible to all Parties, gathering available data sets, information on local and regional administrations, outcomes of projects and other relevant data, to be harmonized with and integrated into existing information systems such as provided by the EEA and UNEP;
4. *Encourages* the Parties, Working Groups under the Carpathian Convention, the EEA and interested stakeholders to cooperate on the development of an information system supporting the implementation of the Carpathian Convention, and *requests* the Secretariat to prepare a background analytical document focusing on cost effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of such information system and its connection with existing systems and based on its outcomes to coordinate the process;
5. *Invites* the Parties to engage respective European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET) Focal Points in the implementation of Article 12 of the Carpathian Convention;
6. *Welcomes the* Memorandum of Understanding between the Carpathian Convention and the Science for the Carpathians Initiative signed at the Forum Carpaticum 2012;



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7. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the Forum Carpaticum 2014: Local Responses to Global Challenges presented at the COP4, and *requests* the Secretariat to further develop the cooperation with the Science for the Carpathians initiative;

DECISION COP4/9

Awareness raising, education and public participation

Article 13 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the EU Lifelong Learning project “Big Foot. Crossing Generations, Crossing Mountains”, aimed at sustainable development of rural mountains regions through intergenerational learning, and invites support to the use of the Big Foot Transferability Tool Kit to transfer the project results to the Carpathian *countries*;

2. *Welcomes* the new Lifelong Learning project Innovation in Rural Tourism (InRuTou), which includes Carpathian Convention partners from Poland, Romania and Ukraine and has a vocational learning component for sustainable rural tourism development;

3. *Welcomes* the continuous use of innovative Information and Communication Technologies approaches in Education and Public Participation, such as the Communities Livelihood Platform, developed by the Big Foot project, or the E-learning platform of the InRuTou project, and *invites* the Parties to support their active use by the Carpathian communities, organizations and individuals;

4. *Invites* Parties and other stakeholders to carry out regional consultations and to continue to raise public awareness in order to promote the Carpathian Convention implementation process;

5. *Recalls* the progress by Move 4 Nature Programme, and invites further support to the adaptation of the Tool Kit to other countries and translation to other Carpathian languages, and supports cooperation with other partners and other mountain regions in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), such as the Regional Center of Expertise in ESD and other partners in the Alps, the Balkans and the Caucasus;

6. *Requests* the Secretariat, in consultation with Parties and relevant partners, to facilitate cooperation of the Carpathian Convention with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Steering Committee on ESD, and to investigate options for establishing a Carpathian Regional Network within this process, in order to strengthen Carpathian countries in implementation and follow-up of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development;

7. *Invites* the Focal Points of the Carpathian Convention to coordinate with the Focal Points of the UNECE steering committee on ESD, in order to inform each other about the respective activities and developments on the national level, and to share the results of this coordination with the CCIC,

8. *Requests* the Secretariat to provide for opportunities for outreach, involvement and the active participation of civil society in the development of the Convention, through its official work, and development of strategic documents and projects;

9. *Reiterates* its recommendation to establish and develop national mechanisms to foster the implementation of the Carpathian Convention, including information, involvement and capacity building of relevant stakeholders and civil society related to the process and the future development of the Carpathian Convention.

10. *Welcomes* the cooperation of the Secretariat with UNIDO on training of young entrepreneurs in the Carpathian region in sustainable and green entrepreneurship.



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DECISION COP4/10 Adaptation to Climate Change

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Adopts* the Strategic Agenda on Adaptation to Climate Change in the Carpathian Region;
2. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the CARPIVIA, CarpathCC and CarpathClim projects;
3. *Gives* mandate to the Secretariat to participate and to promote the Carpathian Convention during the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change COP20 at the Mountain Pavilion, in Lima, Peru in December 2014;
4. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the Workshop on Adaptation to Climate Change organized in the frame of the Alpine-Carpathian Partnership, in Vienna, Austria in March 2014;
5. *Encourages* future cooperation activities with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River on climate change adaptation.
6. *Welcomes* the support of Hungary to the Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change;

DECISION COP4/11 Cooperation with the European Union

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Calls upon* the Parties to cooperate with European Union bodies in further promoting the Carpathian region within existing EU macroregional strategies;
2. *Welcomes* the idea of establishing inter-groups in the European Parliament dealing with Carpathian cooperation;
3. *Invites* the Parties to further solicit support from European Territorial Cooperation funds, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) cohesion funds, Norway grants, LIFE, European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument, Eastern Partnership, and Instrument for Pre- Accession Assistance, and requests the Secretariat to ensure coordination in project development and implementation.

DECISION COP4/12 Cooperation with the Alpine Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the cooperation with the Alpine Convention in the framework of the concluded Memorandum of Understanding, and *requests* the Secretariat to continue to strengthen the cooperation with the



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Alpine Convention in the fields such as the institutional cooperation, the exchange of information and experience, the development and implementation of common projects, the collaboration on the implementation of the Conventions and their respective Programmes of Work, the implementation of the Programmes of Work of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on Protected Areas and on Mountain Biodiversity and the collaboration in the field of protected area networks in the Alps and the Carpathians;

2. *Approves* the Joint Alpine - Carpathian Statement on Adaptation to Climate Change to be presented in Lima, Perú in December 2014 during the 20th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP20 at the Mountain Pavilion.

DECISION COP4/13

Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20 outcome document "The Future We Want" and *stresses* the importance of the implementation of its "mountains" chapter as well as of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution related to Sustainable Mountain Development (Doc. A/RES/68/217);

2. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Mountain Partnership and its members in promoting the mountains agenda in the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda process and *calls* upon the Parties to support mainstreaming of mountain-related issues into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

3. *Welcomes* and *supports* further specific cooperation with international conventions and international bodies, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat, the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, the European Landscape Convention, the Council of Europe, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the European Space Agency, the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, the Central European Initiative, the Visegrad Group, the Regional Environmental Centre, GRID Arendal, GRID Warsaw, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);

4. *Supports* the establishment and implementation of programmes to foster the further experience exchange between the Alps, Carpathians and other mountain regions, *requests* the Secretariat to implement the required activities and promote partnerships with other mountain regions, including interregional cooperation, and *invites* UNEP, all interested partners and donors, to participate in and to contribute to the process;

5. *Request* the Secretariat to continue to promote the Carpathian Convention and sustainable mountain development in the context of Rio+20 Follow up and the development of Sustainable Development Goals, in cooperation with UNEP, FAO and UNESCO.



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DECISION COP4/14 Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Recalling* its decision COP3/13 on the Programme of Work and budget of the Carpathian Convention;
2. *Having considered* the report of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee on the implementation of the Programme of Work (UNEP/CC/COP4/DOC9);
3. *Takes note* of the balance statement of the Trust Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention;
4. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Work, in particular the results achieved by the Working Groups on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity, on Sustainable Forest Management; on Sustainable Industry, Energy, Transport and Infrastructure, on Sustainable Tourism, on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge and by the CNPA;
5. *Encourages* the Parties to continue to finance their participation in meetings related to the implementation of the Programme of Work, and to share their expertise through their participation in online consultations and through providing leadership to the Working Groups;
6. *Requests* the Secretariat to facilitate the online consultations and information sharing by making available the appropriate tools, procedures and processes;
7. *Appreciates* the support provided by the "BIOREGIO Carpathians", "ACCESS2MOUNTAIN", "Carpathians Unite", "Sustainable Tourism Strategy for the Carpathians" (CarpatSusTourStrat), "CARPIVIA", "CarpatClim" and "CarpathCC";
8. *Adopts* the Programme of Work for 2015 - 2017 of the Carpathian Convention and welcomes the list of potential projects in support of the Programme of Work contained in Annex 1¹;
9. *Adopts* the Budget for 2015, 2016 and 2017 for the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians;
10. *Adopts* the revised Terms of Reference for the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee and requests CCIC to revise all Terms of References of Working Groups taking into account the contributions of the Working Groups to the Carpathian Convention Information System;
11. *Calls upon* the Parties with involvement of regional and local authorities to undertake the necessary actions 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;
12. *Calls upon* the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention in Vienna to actively promote and service the implementation of the Programme of Work and the implementation of COP Decisions;
13. *Recognizes* the need and pledges to further strengthen the Secretariat given its additional tasks and responsibilities related to the implementation of the Protocol on the Protection of Biological and Landscape Diversity, including the servicing of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas, the implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management, the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism, the Protocol on Sustainable Transport, as well as the possible development of new thematic strategic documents;

¹ Annex 1 is contained at the page 17 of the document.



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14. *Calls* for organization of joint Working Group meetings, where possible and appropriate, for reduction of costs, interaction and cooperation issues;

15. *Decides* that each Party will contribute to the Trust Fund on a yearly basis in accordance with the attached scale of assessment as in Annex 2²;

DECISION COP4/15 Administration and financial management of the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols

The Conference of the Parties

Recalling its Decision COP3/14 of 27 May 2011, by which it, inter alia:

- Agreed to establish a Trust Fund to cover the cost of administering and meeting the objectives of the Carpathian Convention and related Protocols, including the functioning of its Secretariat (para 12)
- Adopted the terms of reference for the administration of the Trust Fund as annexed to the decision (para 12)
- Decided that the Convention's Programme of Work and budget for 2012 – 2014 be used as the budget of the Trust Fund (para 14), and
- Requested the Executive Director of UNEP to assume responsibility for administering the Trust Fund, and to delegate the necessary administrative authorities to the Head of the Secretariat in line with the Rules and Regulations of the United Nations (para 15)

Recalling furthermore that in the terms of Reference of the Trust Fund, adopted by the COP, it was, inter alia, envisaged that it is for the COP and UNEP to agree on and administrative support charge to be paid to UNEP (para 13).

Aware that Trust Fund was established for a period of 3 years, i.e. formally to 27 May 2014, whereas the Trust Fund arrangement in UNEP ends in December 2014.

1. *Expresses* its gratitude to the Executive Director of UNEP for assuming responsibility for administering the Trust Fund for Administering and Meeting the Objectives of the Framework Convention for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians and related Protocols (Carpathian Convention);

2. *Decides* to extend the Trust Fund for three years until the fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention in 2017 and requests UNEP to continue to administer the Trust Fund until that date in accordance with the Terms of Reference adopted by the third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

3. *Decides* that the Programme of Work – Budget for 2015, 2016 and 2017 of the Carpathian Convention as approved in Decision 4/14 shall be used as the budget of the Trust Fund for these years;

4. *Request* the Executive Director of UNEP to inform the Contracting Parties of the measures taken in relation to its request to delegate the necessary administrative authorities to the Head of the Secretariat in Vienna in line with the Rules and Regulations of the United Nations (decision COP3/14, para 15);

5. Furthermore, taking into account para 13 of the approved terms of reference of the Trust Fund contained in Annex 4 of Decision COP3/14, *requests* the Executive Director of UNEP to maximize the use of

² Annex 2 is contained at the page 26 of the document.



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the 13% PSC for the benefit of the Convention and the functioning of the Secretariat, and *inform* the Contracting Parties accordingly.

DECISION COP4/16 Location of Permanent Secretariat

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the comparison table of the offers of locations for a permanent secretariat of the Carpathian Convention prepared by the Secretariat using the Criteria for selection of the Carpathian Convention Permanent Secretariat location;
2. *Recalls* that the resolution of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the adoption and signatures of the Carpathian Convention stipulates that the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention will be located in the Carpathian region;
3. *Expresses* its gratitude to UNEP for providing the Secretariat to the Carpathian Convention through its office in Vienna and requests it to continue to provide these services;
4. *Decides* to review the issue of the Secretariat location and relevant requirements at its 5th meeting of the COP if consensus has been reached.

DECISION COP4/17 Guidelines for the use of the logo of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

Requests the Secretariat to develop and implement a policy for the use of the logo of the Carpathian Convention.

Decision COP4/18 Date and venue of the Fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Decides* to accept the generous offer of the Government of Hungary to convene the Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP5) in 2017, and *requests* the Secretariat to make the necessary arrangements, in consultation with the host Government and the CCIC;
2. *Requests* the Secretariat to undertake the necessary preparation in consultation with all interested partners and stakeholders;
3. *Invites* all interested partners to make a financial contribution to the organization of the Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention.



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**Decision COP4/19
Presidency of the Carpathian Convention**

The Conference of the Parties

Express its gratitude for the successful Presidency of the Slovak Republic to the Carpathian Convention, as well as for the previous Presidencies of Ukraine and Romania.



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Annex 1 (DECISION COP4/14)

DRAFT Programme of work of the Carpathian Convention, 1 January 2015 - 31 December 2017

No	Month of start	Month of end	Title	Description of activities, components, means	Expected output / deliverables	Partners
1	01/2015	12/2017	Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CCIC)	2-3 meetings and continuous online consultations. Preparation of comprehensive information and documentation for the 5th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention – COP 5, guidance and overview of the implementation and work conducted under thematic Working Groups, review of MoUs, agreements and other relevant initiatives under the Convention	- documentation on sectoral issues, integrated reports, strategies/ strategic action plans/protocols for priority issues, - WGs Terms of Reference, - meeting reports and recommendations	EURAC GRID Arendal
2	01/2015	12/2017	Thematic Meetings /Sub Working Groups / workshops under the CCIC	<i>Background documentation, meetings of the transnational experts working group and continuous online consultations</i>	<i>Background documentation, meetings, reports, recommendations</i>	



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<p>a. Working Group on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity</p>	<p>2-3 meetings Working Group meetings and continuous online consultations and propose new priorities Meeting of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative; Joint meeting with the WG on Spatial Development to develop activities on landscape, ecological connectivity and green infrastructure</p>	<p>- support the development of follow-up projects and relevant activities in the area of biological and landscape diversity, landscapes, ecological connectivity and green infrastructure, work on the red list of species</p>	<p>UNEP, CERI, WWF-DCP, EURAC, ALPARC</p>
<p>b. Steering Committee Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA)</p>	<p>2-3 meetings of the CNPA SC, where appropriate jointly with the Biodiversity WG, including continuous online consultations</p>	<p>-organization of CNPA conference, support in the development of projects related to the CNPA activities, implementation of the Mid Term Strategy</p>	<p>CNPA Unit, WWF - DCP, EURAC CWI, CERI, ALPARC</p>
<p>h. Working Group on Spatial Development</p>	<p>1-2 meetings. Working Group meetings and continuous online consultations. Information-sharing and coordination of projects developed for application to European programmes. Promotion of the Carpathian Convention as strategic tool complementary to the already existing EU macro-regional strategies. Possible joint meeting(s) with other WGs. Connection with landscapes and ecological connectivity.</p>	<p>-support in the development and implementation of transnational projects aiming at implementing the Carpathian Convention</p>	<p>EURAC</p>



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<p>c. Working Group on Sustainable agriculture and rural development in mountains (SARD-M)</p>	<p>2-3 meetings Working Group meetings and continuous online consultations. Promotion of sustainable agricultural practices in the Carpathian region. Preparation of background documentation leading to the elaboration of a possible protocol or other instrument on sustainable agriculture and rural development. Possible joint meeting(s) with other WGs.</p>	<p>-possible protocol or other instrument on sustainable agriculture and rural development in mountains;</p>	<p>EURAC, FAO</p>
<p>d. Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management</p>	<p>1-2 meetings Working Group meetings and continuous online consultations. Cooperation with EEA to implement the Partnership Agreement with the Carpathian Convention; Background documentation for the elaboration of the Carpathian Inventory on Virgin and Natural Forests. Possible joint meeting(s) with other WGs</p>	<p>-inputs for proposals for follow-up activities and projects with the view of implementing the provisions of the Protocol on SFM and its Strategic Action Plan; Carpathian Inventory on Virgin Forests, possible development of an report format on the implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism and its Strategy</p>	<p>EURAC, EEA Forest Europe, University of Padova, GRID Warsaw</p>
<p>e. Working Group on sustainable industry, energy, transport and</p>	<p>1-3 meetings Working Group meetings and continuous online consultations. Background documentation for development of the Strategic Action Plan to the Protocol on</p>	<p>-Strategic Action Plan to the Protocol on Sustainable Transport; application of ICPDR "Guiding principles on sustainable</p>	<p>EURAC, GRID Arendal</p>



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infrastructure

Sustainable Transport. As well as of the application of "Guiding principles on sustainable hydropower development in the Danube Basin". Elaboration of guidelines for sustainable use of biomass
 WG meetings on specific topics covered by the WG. Possible joint meeting(s) with other WGs. Connection with green infrastructure, landscapes and ecological connectivity

hydropower development in the Danube Basin"; for sustainable use of biomass; inputs for proposals for follow-up activities and projects

g. Working Group on Sustainable tourism

3 - 4 meetings Working Group meetings and continuous online consultations. Guidance and coordination of the Implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism and its Strategy. Possible joint meeting(s) with other WGs.

- inputs for proposals for follow-up activities and projects with the view of implementing the provisions of the Sustainable Tourism Protocol and its Strategy; possible development of an report format on the implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism and its Strategy;
 -common online Carpathian platform on sustainable tourism developed, maintained and kept up to date

UNEP, EURAC, ETE CEEWEB EURAC



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	<p>i. Working Group on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge</p>	<p>1-3 meetings. Working Group meetings and continuous online consultations. Coordination and guidance for implementation of the Road Map to achieve the Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention Elaboration of the Protocol on the Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge, the Strategic Action Plan to the Protocol; Cooperation with Alpine Convention Possible joint meeting(s) with other WGs.</p>	<p>proposal for the Protocol on the Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge and its Strategic Action Plan; List of project ideas, List of Institution dealing with the cultural issues; Common criteria for definition of items to be included into a possible Carpathian Cultural Heritage Inventory defined; The Road Map implemented.</p>	<p>UNEP GRID/Warsaw ANPED</p>
	<p>j. Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change</p>	<p>1-2 meetings. Working Group meetings. Possible activities with ICPDR. Coordination of the implementation of the Strategic Agenda on adaptation to climate change in the Carpathian Region, Possible joint meeting(s) with other WGs.</p>	<p>-inputs for proposals for follow-up activities and projects, in particular with ICPDR; joint activities with the Alpine Convention regarding adaptation at the local level</p>	<p>CARPIVIA project partners, European Commission, EURAC, ICPDR, Alpine Convention</p>
2017	<p>5th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention</p>	<p>COP5</p>		<p>All partners</p>

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Annex 1 (DECISION COP4/14)
Budget and Counterpart Contribution of the Trust Fund

Carpathian Convention Trust Fund - Budget	Average exchange rate per UN		
	198,500 Eur	198,500 Eur	198,500 Eur
	0.736 ³	0.736*	0.736*
	2015	2016	2017
10 PERSONNEL COMPONENT			
1100 Personnel			
1101 H.EGERER Head of Secretariat	100,000	100,000	100,000
1102 Expert (Level P3)	-	-	-
1103 Information and Communication Officer ²	-	-	-
1104 Data Base Operator			
1105 Administrative Officer ³	-	-	-
1199 Sub-total	100,000	100,000	100,000
1200 Consultants			
1201 Consultants/Individual Contractors	-		
1299 Sub-total	-	-	-
1300 Administrative Support			
1301 Programme Assistant	40,000	40,000	40,000
1321 Team Assistant			
1399 Sub-total	40,000	40,000	40,000
1600 Travel on official business			
1601 Travel on official mission	16,281	16,281	16,281
1699 Sub-total	16,281	16,281	16,281
Component total	156,281	156,281	156,281
20 SUB-CONTRACT COMPONENT			
2100 Sub-contracts			
2101 MoU for UN family	15,000	15,000	15,000
2102 MoU 2			
2200 Sub-contracts (LOAs)			
2201 MoU (NGOs etc.)	20,000	20,000	20,000
2999 Component total	35,000	35,000	35,000
30 TRAINING COMPONENT			
3300 Meetings/Conferences			
3301 Meetings, workshops etc.	28,000	28,000	28,000
3999 Component total	28,000	28,000	28,000
40 EQUIPMENT AND PREMISES COMPONENT			
4100 Expendable Equipment			
4101 Office Supplies	900	900	900
4199 Sub-total	900	900	900
4200 Non-expendable equipment			
4201 Computer Hardware			
4202 Office Equipment	201	201	201
4299 Sub-total	201	201	201
4999 Component total	1,101	1,101	1,101
50 MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT			
5100 Operation and maintenance of equipment			
5103 Maintenance and Insurance	1,000	1,000	1,000
5120 Service of IT equip. by UNOV	200	200	200
5199 Sub-total	1,200	1,200	1,200
5200 Reporting costs			
5201 Reporting costs	2,000	2,000	2,000
5299 Sub-total	2,000	2,000	2,000

³ Average exchange rate per UN July 2014



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5300	Sundry			
5301	Communications (Telex, telephone, fax, etc.)	4,000	4,000	4,000
5302	Postage	600	600	600
5303	Sundry			
5399	Sub-total	4,600	4,600	4,600
5400	Hospitality and entertainment			
5401	Hospitality and entertainment	1,000	1,000	1,000
5499	Sub-total	1,000	1,000	1,000
5999	Component total	8,800	8,800	8,800
	Contingency Exchange rate gain/loss 4%	9,167	9,167	9,167
99	DIRECT COST TO TRUST FUND	238,350	238,350	238,350
	Programme Support Cost (13%) for 7% for FAFA⁴ projects	30,985	30,985	30,985
	GRAND TOTAL	269,335	269,335	269,335

¹Needs to cover United Nations Office in Vienna (UNOV) administrative support and secretariat administrative staff

²Services currently provided by UNEP and UN Information Service in Vienna

³Services provided by Administrative Service Center in Geneva and UNOV

⁴Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement between the European Union and the United Nations

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Counterpart contributions to Carpathian Convention Trust Fund and projects		Average exchange rate per UN		
		310,892 0.736 ⁴ 2015	127,767 0.736* 2016	127,767 0.736* 2017
10	PERSONNEL COMPONENT			
1100	Personnel			
1101	H. EGERER Head of Secretary	40,000	40,000	40,000
1102	Expert (Level P3)	84,000	43,000	43,000
1103	Information and Communication Officer			
1104	Data Base Operator			
1105	Administrative Officer			
1199	Sub-total	124,000	83,000	83,000
1200	Consultants			
1201	Consultants/Individual Contractors			
1299	Sub-total			
1300	Administrative Support			
1301	M.E.Lichem, Programme Assistant	40,000	40,000	40,000
1321	Team Assistant			
1399	Sub-total	40,000	40,000	40,000
1600	Travel on official business			
1601	Travel on official mission	30,991		
1699	Sub-total	30,991		
	Component total	194,991	123,000	123,000
20	SUB-CONTRACT COMPONENT			
2100	Sub-contracts			
2101	MoU for UN family	80,000		
2102	MoU 2	8,600		
2200	Sub-contracts (LOAs)			
2201	MoU (NGOs etc.)	30,000		
2999	Component total	118,600		
30	TRAINING COMPONENT			
3300	Meetings/Conferences			
3301	Meetings, workshops etc.	30,000		
3999	Component total	30,000		
40	EQUIPMENT AND PREMISES COMPONENT			
4100	Expendable Equipment			
4101	Office Supplies	900	900	900
4199	Sub-total	900	900	900
4200	Non-expendable equipment			
4201	Computer Hardware	500	500	500
4202	Office Equipment	500	500	500
4299	Sub-total	1,000	1,000	1,000
4999	Component total	1,900	1,900	1,900
50	MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT			
5100	Operation and maintenance of equipment			
5103	Maintenance and Insurance	1,000	1,000	1,000
5120	Service of IT equip. by UNOV	21,000	21,000	21,000
5199	Sub-total	22,000	22,000	22,000
5200	Reporting costs			
5201	Reporting costs	5,000	2,000	2,000
5299	Sub-total	5,000	2,000	2,000
5300	Sundry			
5301	Communications (Telex, telephone, fax, etc.)	4,500	4,500	4,500
5302	Postage	1,600	1,600	1,600
5303	Sundry	1,000	1,000	1,000
5399	Sub-total	7,100	7,100	7,100

⁴ Average exchange rate per UN July 2014



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5400	Hospitality and entertainment			
5401	Hospitality and entertainment	2,000		
5499	Sub-total	2,000		
5999	Component total	34,100	31,100	31,100
	Contingency Exchange rate gain/loss 4%	15,184	6,240	6,240
99	DIRECT COST TO TRUST FUND	394,774	162,240	162,240
	Programme Support Cost (13%) or 7% for FAFA projects	27,634	11,357	11,357
	GRAND TOTAL	422,408	173,597	173,597

* Needs to cover United Nations Office in Vienna (UNOV) administrative support and secretariat administrative staff



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Annex 2 (DECISION COP4/14)

**SCALE OF ASSESSMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS BY STATE PARTIES TO THE TRUST
FUND FOR THE THREE YEARS 2015 – 2016 - 2017 FOR
THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE CARPATHIANS**

(EURO)

The contributions by the Parties as specified below will be used for funding the administration of the Convention and its Protocols, including the functioning of its Secretariat.

State Party	Year 2015	Year 2016	Year 2017
The Czech Republic	30.000	30.000	30.000
The Republic of Hungary	30.000	30.000	30.000
The Republic of Poland	30.000	30.000	30.000
Romania	30.000	30.000	30.000
Serbia	18.500	18.500	18.500
The Slovak Republic	30.000	30.000	30.000
Ukraine ⁵	30.000	30.000	30.000
TOTAL	198.500	198.500	198.500

⁵ 21.500 assess contribution, 8.500 voluntary contribution