



**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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PROGRESS REPORT BY THE INTERIM SECRETARIAT

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

23 – 26 September 2014

Meeting venue: Hotel Galant, Mikulov, Czech Republic



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Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable
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DECISION COP3/1

*Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity
Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention*

Para 3. Adopts the revised Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity;

The final version of 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 has been finalized during the last Biodiversity WG meeting in March 2013 held in Vienna, Austria (see UNEP/CC/COP4/DOC6).

The First European Conference for the Implementation of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNESCO-SCBD) Joint Programme on Biological and Cultural Diversity “Linking Biological and Cultural Diversity in Europe”, held in April 2014, Florence, Italy, was attended by the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (the Secretariat). UNESCO and SCBD joined forces to raise awareness of the importance of the interactions between biological and cultural diversity for global sustainability. During the conference, the Secretariat participated in the discussion to identify policy areas relevant for mainstreaming the links between biological and cultural diversity in Europe, to formulate some joint recommendations for linking biological and cultural diversity in the European region and to identify relevant actors in the region and their role in the implementation of the joint strategy.

Para 4. Welcomes the approval of and pledges its support to the “BIOREGIO Carpathians” project, that aims at implementing the main provisions of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity.

The implementation of the European Transnational Cooperation South East Europe **BIOREGIO Carpathians** project (www.bioregio-carpathians.eu), aimed at implementing the main provisions of the Carpathian Convention Biodiversity Protocol, ended in June 2014.

Together with the project partners, the lead partner is elaborating the final financial and activity report which will be submitted to JTS by the end of September.



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The Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention was responsible for WP 2 (Communication activities) and WP 7 (Intergovernmental Platform and stakeholder's involvement) and assisted the project lead Partner, the Piatra Craiului National Park, in the management of the project and actively contributed to the other WPs.

As WP 2 Leader, the Secretariat has delivered several outputs, such as the project communication plan and the project website, and presented the project at the SEE Annual Conference in Bologna at the end of June 2012, where BIOREGIO was one of the eight projects selected for presentation at the Conference. In April 2013, the Secretariat organized the Mid Term Conference together with the 2nd Conference of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA). Both events, with more than 130 participants, ensured a proper project promotion and constituted a significant step in improving the Carpathian protected areas management through discussions in several workshops and side-events. The Secretariat organized the last project partner and steering committee meeting in Vienna, Austria on the 25 - 26 February 2014. In cooperation with the lead partner, the Secretariat organized the final conference on the 12th and 13th of June 2014 in Poiana Brasov, Romania. Furthermore, the Secretariat was responsible for the preparation, lay-outing and printing of the final publication of the project.

As WP 7 Leader, the Secretariat, co - organized all four stakeholder meetings in Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Serbia, had regular contacts with stakeholders and Carpathian governmental representatives, and organized the past Carpathian Convention meetings of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity (**WG Biodiversity**), organized respectively in Vienna, Austria in March 2013 and Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management in Rzeszow, Poland in September 2013).

The methodology of the Carpathian Red List of Species, the Carpathian Red List of Habitats and List of Invasive Alien Species developed within BIOREGIO Carpathians WP 3, was presented and agreed upon by all members during **WG Biodiversity** - organized by the Secretariat and the local partner State Nature Conservancy of Slovak Republic (SNCSR) in March 2012 in Banska Bystrica, Slovakia. Furthermore, an update on all BIOREGIO activities as well as the status of the Red List of Species was presented during the last WG Biodiversity, held on the 6 - 7 March 2013 in Vienna, Austria. The data collection for the Red Lists faced important delays due to the lack of data collection from some experts and delays in the contracting of experts. The data on species and forest



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habitats have been distributed to the project partners and contributing experts before the end of the project. The Secretariat sent this data for comments to the Biodiversity Working Group members. The Secretariat received the request from the Czech Republic, Ukraine and Poland to further improve the list. The draft COP4/1 Decision para 5 underlines that the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP4) welcomes and appreciates the Red List and calls for further improvement, verification and finalization.

As requested by the WG Biodiversity, the Secretariat amended the Strategic Action Plan for the Implementation of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity to reassure the general coherence of the document (see UNEP/CC/COP4/DOC7).

The Carpathian Countries Protected Areas Clearing House Mechanism (CCPA CHM, a GIS web based tool developed by WWF within the Protected Areas for a Living Planet project), has been further developed resulting in the Carpathian Integrated Biodiversity Information System (CIBIS - <http://geoportal.ccibis.org/>). The original CHM functions have been preserved within the CIBIS, to continue providing the information and experience exchange platform and the networking possibilities for protected area professionals, experts working on biodiversity projects and research in the Carpathian protected areas, for the business sector and for the general public. The core of the CIBIS is an interactive map with spatial related information about biodiversity and protected areas in the Carpathian Countries, including threats, tourism information, legal frameworks and other. The CIBIS is offering various tools to protected areas managers and conservationists, like the biodiversity mapping and monitoring tool linked to the GIS map in the background.

Various institutions and NGOs contributed to its development and made their valuable data sets available for its use on the platform. The Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention together with the BioREGIO project partners, are looking at further options to keep the information system alive and updated. A successful collaboration with the European Environmental Agency (EEA) will ensure a continuous dissemination of the project results also after the project end.

The signature process of the Memorandum of Understanding between the interested organizations for the establishment of a Carpathian Integrated Biodiversity Information



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System (see UNEP/CC/COP4/BD12) interlinking existing information systems and those developed under the BIOREGIO Carpathians project is still ongoing. The Secretariat is waiting for the signatures of some partners, however, the cooperation and data exchange is already taking place.

Within the frame of WP4 "Integrated management of Carpathian natural assets and protected areas", together with the activities for CNPA, the study on Regional development opportunities as well as the strategies on common integrated management measures (CIMM) have been successfully elaborated. The CIMM is being implemented in 3 pilot areas of the Carpathian region.

The study on successful financial mechanism of protected areas in the Carpathian as well as in other regions has been finalized, and will serve as a comprehensive guide for stakeholders in the region.

The BioREGIO project results will be presented during a side event at COP4 by the project partners.

Para 5. Adopts the Medium-Term Strategy of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas

Together with the Midterm Conference of the BIOREGIO Carpathians project in Tatranska Javorina, Slovakia from 23 to 26 April 2013, the Secretariat co-organized the Second Carpathian Network of Protected Areas Conference. During this Conference, various aspects of the work on protected areas, the challenges and development opportunities were discussed between protected areas administrators, ministries representatives, researchers, experts, environmental organizations etc. Future steps in improving the Carpathian protected areas were agreed upon during various workshops and side-events. Furthermore, at the Conference the Declaration of the Second Conference of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas was elaborated (see UNEP/CC/COP4/BD2)

The Secretariat signed a small scale agreement to establish Terms of References for the support to the CNPA Management Unit by the Civic Society OZ Pronatur from the Slovak Republic and by the Association of Natural Protected Areas Administrations from Romania in May 2013. Both partners successfully finished the activities planned. The



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last CNPA Steering Committee (CNPA SC) meeting was organised side by side with the BioREGIO final conference on the 12th and 13th of June 2014. The meeting gave the two partners supporting the management unit the opportunity to present their activities done to the steering committee members. Please see the Final Reports on their activities provided to the Secretariat (see UNEP/CC/COP4/BD10 and UNEP/CC/COP4/BD11).

So far, CNPA activities have been financed through the BIOREGIO Carpathians project. The CNPA Management Unit was responsible to find new financing opportunities and establish a platform with ideas for future projects. Together with the CNPA SC, the CNPA management unit will use the current European Union project call openings to apply for funding projects which will benefit the CNPA.

The previous CNPA SC meetings were organized by the Secretariat, back to back with the CCIC meeting, on 20 February 2014 and back to back with the WG Biodiversity in March 2013. The main outcome of the meeting was finalization of the CNPA Medium Term Work Plan April 2013 – December 2017 (see UNEP/CC/COP4/DOC8).

Para 10. Welcomes the work and activities of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative in support of the implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol, welcomes the ongoing cooperation with the Ramsar Convention and urges Parties to take appropriate action on the effective protection and sustainable use of Carpathian wetlands.

The Secretariat had regular contacts and exchange of information with State Nature Conservancy of Slovak Republic (SNCSR), leading the **Carpathian Wetland Initiative**.

The CWI was in 2013 formally endorsed again by the Ramsar Convention Standing Committee as the Regional Initiative meeting the Operational Guidelines in the framework of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and received CHF 13,000 from the Ramsar core budget for support of its activities as proposed in the work plan (Decisions SC 46-13 and 46-23, <http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/sc/46/sc46-decisions-e.pdf>). A more detailed Annual Summary Report for 2013 and Plan for 2014 were distributed for comments to all national focal points in the beginning of January 2014, and after no comments had been received, they were sent to the Ramsar Convention Secretariat for submission to the next Ramsar Standing Committee meeting.



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In 2013 the effort was concentrated to support the establishment of a Carpathian Wetland Centre in the facilities of the coordinating institution – the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (SNC SR) in Banska Bystrica. Very good feedback was obtained from countries for CWI training activities for education specialists and teachers supported by the Ramsar Convention, the Swiss Financial Mechanism and other sources. The cooperation between CWI and CNPA has been further strengthened at the 2nd CNPA Conference and included in the CNPA Medium Term Work Plan 2013-2017.

The **Carpathian Wetland Centre** celebrated its official opening on the 4th June 2014 in Banska Bystrica. Renewed letters of support will be arranged from all Carpathian countries to confirm further interest in cooperation in this field. Written arrangements between the CWI Board, SNC SR, Ramsar Secretariat and Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention are required to be further recognized as the Ramsar Convention regional initiative.

Lack of capacity for implementation of the Ramsar Convention and CWI tasks is the main shortcoming in the Carpathian region; there is generally low feedback from Parties and overloading of participating institutions is reported. Good cooperation is mainly with the Czech Ministry of Environment and good feedback from Hungary; Ukraine was involved in fund raising activities. To improve the situation it is proposed to orient the future activities of the CWI towards training and capacity building for improved implementation of the both Ramsar and Carpathian Convention in relevant fields of common interest.

The CWI has been involved in the BioREGIO Carpathians project and some other relevant projects (Capacity Building Plans for Efficient Protected Area Management in Eastern Europe – PROPARK Foundation (RO) and BfN (DE)). The CWI requested further support from the Ramsar Convention core budget for the activities in 2014, but this is the last possibility and eligibility in this starting period and funding from other sources (including national funds and the Carpathian Convention budget) would be more than welcome. Efforts were made for fund raising especially in using Norway grants, including increased cooperation with other regional initiatives, like Nordic-Baltic Wetland Initiative.



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DECISION COP3/2
Spatial development
Article 5 of the Carpathian Convention

Para 4. Supports the implementation and calls for the further development of the Strategic Action Plan for the Carpathian Area, providing tangible benefits to the Carpathian regions, as an important contribution to the European Strategy for the Danube Region, and recommends the use of the Strategic Action Plan to be considered in discussions within existing and future European Union macroregional strategies and programmes.

Para 6. 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 process.

Para 7. Appreciates the support of the Association of Elected Representatives from Mountain Regions and of the Association of European Border Regions in the process and invites their further cooperation.

The Secretariat presented the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for the Carpathian Area at the **General Assembly of the European Association of Elected Representatives from Mountain Regions held in Covilha**, Portugal, in April 2012 and at the two editions of the Conference “Europe of the Carpathians” organized in Krynica, Poland (see paragraph below for further information on the Conferences in Krynica), in order to inform the high level representatives of the EU and Carpathian national and regional authorities about the priority actions of the Carpathian Convention for discussion on next EU Financial Programmes and possible future macroregional strategies.

The SAP and the related list of priority actions for the Carpathian Convention were also sent to the **Joint Technical Secretariat for the South East Europe Programme** for discussion on the future European Territorial Cooperation Programme in the next EU Financial Period.

On 28 May 2013 the **Workshop “Towards a EU Strategy for the Carpathian Region”**, hosted by the **Committee of the Region**, Brussels, Belgium, was organized by the Secretariat in cooperation with the AEM (Association of Elected Representatives from Mountain Regions) and AEBR (Association of European Border Regions), that are



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important partners in the Carpathian Convention process, and with the assistance of the European Academy Bolzano (EURAC), which supports the activities of the Secretariat.

Representatives from the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions, Carpathian countries, regions, local authorities, NGOs and public associations acting in the Region participated in the Conference. The Workshop aimed at promoting the development of a EU Strategy for the Carpathian Region (Carpathian Strategy) integrating the EUSDR with those actions and projects that are a priority for the Carpathian Region but are not included in the EUSDR and linking the EUSDR with the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR). On the basis of the meeting discussion, the Secretariat amended the Draft working document on proposed priority areas and related actions/projects for a possible EU strategy for the Carpathian region (see Info doc. 3/CCIC5^{*}). It was emphasized that EUSDR and the Carpathian Strategy processes are both very important for the Carpathian Area, also in order to promote strategic projects for the Carpathian Region in the next EU Financial Programmes.

On 3 December 2013, the Secretariat actively participated in the conference entitled "**The macro-regional strategy for the Carpathian Region**", which was organized by Mr. Tomasz Poreba, Polish Member of the **European Parliament**, in the European Parliament in Brussels. The aim of the conference was to spread and consolidate the image of the Carpathian Region at the European Union level and to further initiate the discussions on a possible Carpathian macroregional strategy. The invited guests included ministers of regional development from the seven Carpathian Convention countries as well as Austria, representatives of the Carpathian regions, experts from the European Commission, ambassadors and members of the National Parliaments and the European Parliament. A concrete outcome of the meeting was the idea to establish an informal Carpathian Group in the European Parliament promoted by Mr. Poreba, which might be useful in terms of joint support for Carpathian issues at the EU level. See the conclusions after the conference (Info doc. 4/CCIC5)

During the Workshop the Secretariat delivered a presentation on the real perspective and possibilities for establishing the macroregional strategy for the Carpathians. The

* All documents referring to the CCIC5 can be found on the webpage of the Fifth Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee <http://www.carpathianconvention.org/eventdetailccic/events/fifth-carpathian-convention-implementation-committee-meeting-188.html>



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presentation is available on the Carpathian Convention website: <http://www.carpathianconvention.org/eventdetailothers/events/the-macro-regional-strategy-for-the-carpathian-region-conference.html>.

In any case, according to the conference participants and to the Commission representative, it would not be realistic to institutionalise a separated Carpathian Strategy already for the 2014-2020 period and it would be more useful to reach a wider coordination among Carpathian Countries to better define the existing territorial tools, like the Strategy for the Danube Region and the future Danube operational programme.

Following this inputs, the Secretariat with the assistance of EURAC, coordinated the organization of the workshop “Shaping the Carpathian Region in the EU Strategy for the Danube Region”, organized within the 3rd Annual Forum EUSDR 2014 at the Vienna City Hall on 27 June 2014. The Workshop aimed at further profiling the Carpathian Region in the EUSDR, and at providing inputs to the consultation process on the implementation of the Strategy and its Operational Programme 2014-2020. The EUSDR National Contact Points of the Carpathian countries, the representatives of the Carpathian Countries, regions and local authorities, of EU institutions and bodies, stakeholders active in the Carpathians, NGOs, and associations acting in the Carpathian Region, participated in the Workshop (see full Meeting Report UNEP/CC/COP4/BD8).

From the meeting discussion it was clear that the Carpathian Countries should actively participate in the implementation of the already existing EU macro-regional strategies, which are relevant for the Carpathians using the Carpathian Convention as a strategic tool to link and complement the relevant strategies. The Secretariat, with the help of the Carpathian Countries, will continue to promote the integration of Carpathian priorities into the related Transnational "European Territorial Cooperation" (ETC) Programmes for the period 2014-2020, as well as other relevant funding programmes. The Secretariat will also further promote the **Strategic Action Plan for the Carpathian Area** in relevant meetings at EU and international level.

The workshop benefited from the inputs of the workshop “Stressing the role of mountains in European macro regional strategies”, Portorož, 16 - 17 June 2014, organized by the Secretariat, which brought together the representatives, experts and national focal points of the Alpine, Adriatic-Ionian and Danube EU macro regional strategies to discuss on the possible ways for mainstreaming and profiling mountains at a more regional level



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Para 5. Emphasizes the importance of full involvement of and support to this process by all relevant stakeholders, in particular the competent national authorities, regional and local authorities as well as civil society and private sector.

The Secretariat attended all four editions of the **Conference “Europe of the Carpathians”** held in Krynica – Zdroj, Poland within the Economic Forum in Poland from 2011 onwards. The Conferences were organized at initiative of the Vice – Marshall of the Sejm (the Lower House of the Parliament of Poland), Mr. Marek Kuchcinski.

Each edition was focus on different topics but in general the main aim of the Conferences is to consolidate parliamentary cooperation of the Carpathian states and to strengthen the regional ties between all the parties working together for the benefit of the development of the Carpathians and East – Central Europe.

The Secretariat contributed to all sessions of the Conferences by delivering speeches on the Carpathian Convention and its activities and participating in panel discussions.

The Secretariat also participated in all three editions of the **Alpine – Carpathian Cooperation Forum** – organized by the Association of the Carpathian Euroregion in Poland, held in Rzeszow, Poland in 2012, 2013 and 2014. The Secretariat mainly contributed to the panel discussions concerning local and over-regional initiative of territorial cooperation for the Alps and the Carpathians and giving updates on the Carpathian Convention activities.

The Carpathian Convention assumed the honorary patronage of the second and third edition of the "Alpine-Carpathian Cooperation Forum".

DECISION COP3/3

*Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management
Article 6 of the Carpathian Convention*

Para 1. Welcomes the concluded mutual observership between the Danube River Protection Convention and the Carpathian Convention.



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The Secretariat had regular contacts and exchange of information with International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) on the respective activities (e.g. activities related to the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region). The Secretariat is aiming to increase the cooperation and exchange of information regarding activities related to guiding principle for sustainable hydropower.

Para 3. And welcomes the Joint Declaration between the Danube River Protection Convention and the Carpathian Convention supporting the sustainable development of the Carpathians and Tisza River Basin adopted in Uzhgorod on 11 April 2011, and encourages enhanced joint programming with International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River.

During the meeting in October 2012 the “Joint Declaration of the ICPDR Tisza Group and the Framework Convention on the Protection and the Sustainable Development of the Carpathians represented by the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention on the sustainable development of the Tisza River Basin” (Tisza River Basin Joint Declaration) was presented and discussed among the Tisza River Group, ICPDR and the Secretariat members (see Doc. 6/CCIC5).

This document of the Joint Declaration is planned to be signed in 2014. Furthermore, in 2013 an expert position has been established for the continuation of the Tisza activities, based in Hungary (National Institute for Environment).

DECISION COP3/4

*Sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry
Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention*

Para 2. Adopts the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians;

The **Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management** to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, adopted and signed at the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP3, Bratislava, May 2011), entered into force for the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, Romania and Ukraine on 21 October 2013, and for Hungary on 6 November 2013. After



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the deposit of ratification instruments by the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, Ukraine and Romania, and in accordance with the provision of the Article 21 of the Convention, the necessary number of instruments of ratification needed for the entry into force was established (see UNEP/CC/COP4/INF6).

The successful entry into force of the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management to the Carpathian Convention was mentioned, among other forest related achievements and developments all over the world, in the third edition of the Regional Voices, Newsletter of the United Nations Forum on Forest Secretariat. The newsletter is available under following link: <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/files/2013/10/Regional-Voices-Issue-3.pdf>

Para 5. Welcomes the initiative of the establishment of the Carpathian Inventory of Virgin Forests;

Para 6. Requests the interim Secretariat to coordinate the preparation of a Strategic Action Plan for the implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management, taking into account the work done under the auspices of the Working Group;

The Secretariat signed the **Partnership Agreement** and the related Work Plan 2013 – 2015 between the Carpathian Convention and the European Environment Agency (EEA) (see UNEP/CC/COP4/BD6).

Follow-up of the Partnership Agreement, also according to the Joint Work Plan 2013-2015, will be a Joint Carpathian Convention and European Topic Centre on Spatial Information and Analysis (ETC - SIA) elaboration of a report on data and indicators relevant for sustainable forest management and for the elaboration of an inventory on the Carpathian forests (see section DECISION COP3/8 for further information).

First concrete step for the cooperation between the Parties was the elaboration of the Terms of Reference, for the elaboration of the above mentioned report.

The Secretariat participated in the “Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management (WG Forest) - Workshop on Carpathian virgin forests in preparation of the Forest WG meeting of September 2013 in Poland” held in Baia Mare, Romania, from 20 to 21 June 2013. The Workshop was organized by WWF DCP and was co-financed by IKEA.



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The main objective of the Workshop was the elaboration of Criteria and indicators for selection of virgin forests in transboundary region, as called for by Article 10 of the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management to the Carpathian Convention (Forest Protocol) and as indicated in the WG ToRs. This Workshop was an intermediate step between the Forest WG meeting held in Djerdap National Park, Serbia, in April 2012, and the next Forest WG that took place in Rzeszów, Poland, from 4 to 6 September 2013, concerning the activities of the Forest WG related to virgin forests.

The WG Forest mentioned above was organized and co-financed by the Polish Ministry of the Environment. The main aim of the meeting was the further elaboration of the Strategic Action Plan for the Implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management to the Carpathian Convention (SAP Forest – see UNEP/CC/COP4/DOC11). On a basis of the SAP version elaborated by the WG Forest, further e-consultations were held due to additional comments received from the Parties. The final version was circulated among the Parties and no further comments were provided to the Secretariat.

The second outcome of the meeting was the further elaboration of the Criteria and indicators for selection of virgin forests in transboundary region (see UNEP/CC/COP4/DOC13). As in the case of the SAP, additional e-consultations were necessary to finalized the document.

DECISION COP3/5

*Sustainable transport and infrastructure, Industry and energy
Article 8 of the Carpathian Convention, Article 10 of the Carpathian
Convention*

Para 1. Adopts the revised Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Sustainable Industry, Energy, Transport and Infrastructure, and calls for the development of a Protocol on Sustainable Industry, Energy, Transport and Infrastructure.

Following a meeting of the **Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Industry, Energy, Transport and Infrastructure Meeting** as series of meetings of the WG Transport were organized in Vienna: 26-27 February 2013, 4 to 5 June 2013 and 1 to



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2 October 2013. The meetings were organized by the Secretariat in collaboration with EURAC and its Vienna Office and were technically and financially supported by the “Access2Mountain” Project. The meeting’s main purpose was to foster the further development of the draft text Protocol on Sustainable Transport and Infrastructure to the Carpathian Convention. -The WG members agreed to focus the scope of the Protocol on "Transport and transport- related Infrastructure" (whereas the official title of the Protocol is related solely to “Transport”) Consultations between the members of the Working Group follow-up informal meetings and e-consultation led to an agreed new version of the draft text Protocol. According to the Article 18 para 2 of the Carpathian Convention, the latest version was circulated to all Parties through the Secretariats six months before the COP4 session. Afterwards, some mainly editorial comments were provided to the Secretariat (see UNEP/CC/COP4/DOC2).

Several activities related to the implementation of the European Transnational Cooperation South East Europe **Access2Mountain project** (www.access2mountain.eu) have been developed.

The project “Access2Mountain” aims at achieving durable, environmentally friendly tourism, as well as to ensure accessibility and connection to, between and in sensitive regions of the Alps and the Carpathians. It should benefit all (potential) users. With the long-term perspective of increasing sustainable tourist mobility, railway and multimodal connections will be improved and attractive offers created via pre-investment measures, pilot activities, and investments. It is central to the project, to transfer experiences made and knowledge gained in the Alps to the South Eastern European region. In this regard, transnational cooperation in the field of sustainable regional development plays an important role. Touristic infrastructures are to be created or improved in a sustainable manner. This paves the way for achieving international environment goals and yield competitive advantage. The project will end in June 2014. One of the major components of particular interest to the Carpathian Convention is Working Package 7 that deals with policy and cooperation. EURAC together with the Secretariat is in charge of the implementation of this package. All Carpathian NFPs are observers to the project.

Besides the work on the Transport Protocol, the Secretariat continued to facilitate the exchange of experience between Alps and Carpathians in the context of the Working Group on Sustainable Transport of the Carpathian Convention, e.g. either through the presentation of Alpine Convention relevant experiences in the field and preparation of



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joint meetings between representatives of the Working Groups on Transport of both Conventions.

The Secretariat has actively contributed to the organization of the 9th edition of the Scientific Workshop on Mountain Mobility and Transport (SWOMM), by providing technical support and substantive inputs to the Italian Ministry for the Environment and Sea (IMELS), currently holding the Presidency of the Alpine Convention.

The Secretariat has also contributed to the elaboration of the Access2Mountain Common Charter on recommendations to European policy makers, on the basis of the results of the project.

The meeting was held on December 11th 2013 in Vienna at the Vienna International Center and was organized with the collaboration of the University of Camerino, EURAC Research, the Environmental Agency Austria (UBA) and the Austrian Ministry of the Environment.

Inspired by the topics of the Access2Mountain project, the SWOMM 2013 focused on the role and the relationship between sustainable accessibility and sustainable tourism, as a mean to increase the attractiveness of mountain areas (particularly mostly isolated ones), improving the quality of life both of residents and tourists, preserving the natural habitat and cultural assets. Experts coming from research centres and involved public administrations discussed jointly about these topics and called for continuing the cooperation of the Carpathian and Alpine Convention on it.

During the Final Conference of the ACCESS2MOUNTAIN Project, held in Admont (National Park Gesäuse), Austria 1-3 April 2014, the Secretariat contributed to the preparation of a presentation on the work done in the context the WP 7 – “Policy development and cooperation”.

The presentation was focused on the contents of the Carpathian Convention Transport Protocol and highlighted the influence of the ACCESS2MOUNTAIN consortium in its elaboration. In this context, the importance of the ACCESS2MOUNTAIN Project was stressed, since it supported the Carpathian Convention Transport Working Group Meetings technically and financially, and it provided important inputs to the text of the Protocol thanks to the partnership comments.



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The Secretariat, together with EURAC, coordinated the organization of a side event to the COP4 on transport related activities, which aim is to present the ACCESS2MOUNTAIN Project results and to discuss its follow up activities.

The Secretariat further worked with its partners on the implementation of the Alpine Carpathian Corridor Project (AKK). The project (AKK Centrope) received a further extension (AKK Centrope Add on) until December 2013. The Secretariat took steps towards implementation of the concluded Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that established the framework for future cooperation and coordinated activities in the sector of spatial planning, transport and infrastructure, agriculture and nature protection. The MoU was signed in the frame of the International Conference on the Alpine Carpathian Corridor (AKK), organized by the Secretariat in Bratislava on 30 January 2012. In the context of the AKK Project, the Secretariat organized a meeting of the Ad Hoc AKK Memorandum of Understanding Working Group on 12 November 2013 (following a previously organized informal meeting) in Vienna to receive updates by MoU stakeholders (Ministries, motorway companies etc.) on activities and initiatives related to the implementation of the AKK MoU. (see Info doc 12/CCIC5).

In the meantime, the AKK Project has received attention on various levels, including the EU and the global levels. Besides its mentioning as a flagship project in the frame of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, the AKK Project has been also presented in UNEP's Annual Report 2012 as a flagship project as well as is mentioned as a flagship project in the context of the recently endorsed EU Strategy related to Green Infrastructure. AKK Project results and outcomes have been further disseminated by the Secretariat on various occasions, including the IENE 2013 Scientific Workshop, organized 16 to 18 October 2013, in Luhačovice (Czech Republic).

The further implementation of the MoU on the AKK is important. Currently, consultations for a possible AKK sequel to be presented under the next call of the Austria-Slovakia Cross-border Programme are being held.

Para 3. Encourages future cooperation activities with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization and other relevant organizations in the field of renewable energies in the Carpathians.



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The Secretariat promoted the project **“Bioenergy AC - –Sharing best available technologies and promoting partnership for sustainable biomass use for energy between the Alps and the Carpathians”** under the Fourth Call of the European Transnational Cooperation South East Europe Programme on the basis of the request of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region that calls for the reinforcement of the Carpathian Convention “to share best practices on producing and using biomass for energy purposes” and for the development of a project aimed at setting-up “a cooperation mechanism between the Alpine and Carpathian regions for the transfer of best practices, best available technologies, as well as environmental and social know-how” in the field of bioenergy.

The project Lead partner was Regione Veneto (Italy) and the project was designed to create a powerful cooperation mechanism interlinking the Carpathian and Alpine Regions to sharing experiences and best practices concerning the sustainable production of renewable energy from biomass.

Bioenergy AC was approved by the competent authorities but could not be financed due to limited funds in the SEE Programme. The Secretariat has the intention to present the project under the new EU Operational Programmes 2014 - 2020.

With a view to resubmit the Bioenergy AC project proposal, the Secretariat submitted a small project proposal under the pilot initiative of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) called START – Danube Region Project Fund, which provides financial support for the development and implementation of Danube Region projects. Priority Area 10: Institutional Capacity and Cooperation (PA 10), coordinated by the City of Vienna, has been entrusted by the European Commission to set up this new pilot initiative.

Since the START Initiative can finance the preparation phase and/or the implementation of specific work packages of an "overall project", the Secretariat proposed to develop a small work package of a future bigger project within the EUSDR Priority Area PA 02 – Energy.

This work package is developed to be in line with the Bioenergy AC project proposal, with a view of starting the process of re-submission of the past proposal as an "overall project" under the upcoming EU Operational Programmes.



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The abovementioned work package is focused on developing a database of national and regional authorities, research, technologies and innovation centres, private companies, NGOs involved in the field of biomass energy sector and on existing projects and initiatives on biomass energy in the Carpathians. The collection of this data and information could be also strategic for the cooperation activities with the EEA. The decision letter on the project evaluation and approval will be sent by PAC 10 to each applicant until the end of November 2014.

The Secretariat joined a partnership for developing the **project proposal "enerSKI" ("Energy Efficiency, Networking and Capacity-Building for Skiing-Resorts")** that was presented under the Call 2012 of "Intelligent Energy Europe". Unfortunately, the project missed the positive evaluation by one point and was not approved by the competent Programme authorities.

DECISION COP3/6

Sustainable tourism

Article 9 of the Carpathian Convention

Para 2. Requests the Secretariat and recommends the World Tourism Organization to continue the development of the sustainable tourism strategy with the involvement of relevant stakeholders and the support of the national tourism agencies;

Project "Strategy for the Future Sustainable Tourism Development of the Carpathians" has been launched. The main objective of the project was –to establish the Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development of the Carpathians (Tourism Strategy) and then to support the possible implementation of the document. The Strategy is interlinked with the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism in order to contribute to its implementation and enhance it.

The project, which is funded by the Advising-assistance Programme of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Protection and Nuclear Safety in the Countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, ends in November 2014, however currently under a negotiation is an extension of the project until 2016 or 2017, which could provide training for the implementation of the Strategy.



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The main partners of the project are:

- Ecological Tourism in Europe (ETE) as the main implementing organization
- CEEweb for Biodiversity (CEEweb) as the coordinating organization for NGOs
- World Wide Fund for Nature – Danube-Carpathian Programme (WWF-DCP) as the coordinating organization for the tourism business sector
- Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) with the coordinating function for the protected areas and tourism case studies
- the Secretariat as the coordinating institution for National Focal Points to the Carpathian Convention

Since 2006 the official institutions of the Carpathian Convention have been discussing the possible establishment of the Tourism Strategy for the Carpathians. At the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties held in Bratislava, Slovakia in 2011, the Parties to the Convention recommended that such Strategy should reflect the content of the adopted Protocol on Sustainable Tourism. As the Strategy should be implemented by all stakeholders in the Carpathians, it was suggested that it should be easy to read, as short as possible, and reflect the current trends, demands and needs on sustainable tourism development and conservation of biodiversity.

All respective ministries of the Parties responsible for tourism issues were informed by the leading partner of the project – ETE – about the country consultations related to drafting of the Tourism Strategy, which had started at the first NGO meeting held in Svaty Anton - Banská Stiavnica, Slovakia in June.

The Fourth and Fifth meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Tourism (WG Tourism), held in October 2013 in Poiana Brasov, Romania and in May, 2014, Bratislava accordingly, were dedicated to elaboration of the Tourism Strategy. Based on the comments received from the participants of the WG Tourism during the meetings and followed by several rounds of e-consultations, the final version of the Tourism Strategy was developed and then circulated among the Parties (see UNEP/CC/COP4/DOC14). As an Annex to the Strategy, a draft of the map and the list of administrative units defining the possible scope of application for the Tourism Strategy was provided by the ETE (see UNEP/CC/COP4/DOC14). In addition, the Background Document for the Strategy, which serves as a supplementary background information to the Tourism Strategy was elaborated and agreed among the Parties (see UNEP/CC/COP4/BD4).



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The First Carpathian States Tourism Forum, organized on the initiative of the Ministry of Sport and Tourism of Poland, was held in May 2014 in Rzeszów, Poland. The Secretariat, together with the Undersecretary of State of the Ministry of Sport and Tourism of Poland, gave the opening remarks and further contributed to the Conference, which focused on tourism products development, marketing and implementation of joint projects in the field of tourism basing on the provisions of the Carpathian Convention its Protocol on Sustainable Tourism. Conclusions elaborated during the Forum were circulated to the Secretariat (see UNEP/CC/COP4/BD3).

Para 4. Adopts the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians;

The Protocol on Sustainable Tourism to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, adopted and signed at the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP3, Bratislava, May 2011), entered into force on 29 April 2013. After the deposit of ratification instruments by the Slovak Republic, the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary, and in accordance with the provision of the Article 21 of the Convention, the necessary number of instruments of ratification needed for the entry into force was established (see UNEP/CC/COP4/INF6).

DECISION COP3/7

*Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge
Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention*

Para 1. Being aware of the unique values of cultural heritage, recommends to support the creation of the Cultural Heritage Inventory and Programme of Activities;

Two meetings of the Working Group on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge – Cultural Heritage WG - (May, 2013, Krynica, Poland and September 2013, Rzeszow, Poland) were co-organized by the Secretariat, as well as by Ekopsychologia Association and UNEP/GRID-Warsaw Centre within the project “Carpathians Unite – mechanism of



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consultation and cooperation for implementation of the Carpathian Convention", supported by Switzerland through the Swiss Contribution to the enlarged European Union.

The main objective of the Working Group meetings was the consideration of a proposal to develop a Protocol on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge. The draft version of the Protocol was prepared by UNEP/GRID-Warsaw Centre and included feedbacks from regional consultations conducted by Ekopsychologia Association in the frame of the Carpathians Unite project.

Due to the time limitation for the further consultation on the draft text of the Protocol on Cultural Heritage, it was agreed at the Fourth meeting of Working Group on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge, held in Bratislava, Slovak Republic, in March 2014, that further elaboration of the Protocol may take place after the COP4. Instead, a soft law instrument under Art. 11 of the Carpathian, the Road Map to achieve the objective of Art. 11 of the Carpathian Convention, which expresses the will for cooperation and prepares the way for the hard law instrument (Protocol) in the future, was developed. The Road Map can serve as an intermediate step towards the Protocol, until next COP, when a Protocol could be adopted (see UNEP/CC/COP4/DOC4).

The Working Group meeting elaborated also the Ministerial Declaration on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge of the Carpathians (see UNEP/CC/COP4/DOC3).

The Secretariat actively participated in the First and Second Carpathians Unite project Steering Committee meeting held in September 2012 in Zakopane, Poland and in December 2013 in Kraków, Poland accordingly.

The Carpathian Convention was requested to provide honorary patronage of the Carpathian Sheep Transhumance 2013, which was a project of traditional movement of the professional shepherds with 300 sheep through the Carpathians. This initiative was organized to celebrate historical transhumance of the Vlach shepherds, which in the past led to the settlement of the mountain area and the creation of a common pastoral culture in the Carpathians. The main objective of the Transhumance is the international meeting of people who live and work in the Carpathians, their integration, the ability to learn and to show the cultural wealth of the inhabitants, as well as the richness and uniqueness of



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the nature. The priority for the project is the sustainable development of the mountain areas.

Furthermore the Secretariat attended the conference organized in the capacity in the Polish Presidency to the Visegrad Group, which was held on 10 May 2013 in the Brasov. The event was organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Bucharest, in cooperation with the Embassies of the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary and was devoted to the topic of sustainable development on the Carpathian region. During the conference the Secretariat delivered a speech on using existing instruments of cooperation to secure sustainable development of the region. The meeting was organized back to back with the launching of the Carpathian Sheep Transhumance 2013.

Furthermore, the Secretariat attended the First and the Second International Pastoralism Conference organized within the Carpathians Unite project, organized in October 2013 in Zakopane, Poland and in May 2014 in Zawoja, Poland, accordingly. The Secretariat contributed to the Conferences by delivering the presentation on the role of pastoralism in the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable development, as well as on economic development of the Carpathians in the light of the provisions of the Carpathian Convention.

DECISION COP3/8

Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning

Article 12 of the Carpathian Convention

Para 1. Welcomes the finalization of the Partnership Agreement and the related Work Plan 2013 – 2015 between the Carpathian Convention and the European Environment Agency (EEA), and requests the Secretariat to coordinate this process;

The Secretariat signed the **Partnership Agreement** and the related Work Plan 2013 – 2015 between the Carpathian Convention and the European Environment Agency (EEA) in Copenhagen on 4th July 2014 during a meeting with the representatives of the EEA (see UNEP/CC/COP4/BD6).



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The **Partnership Agreement** is aimed at providing a durable basis for the collaboration between the EEA and the Carpathian Convention regarding the observation, collection of data, monitoring and information analysis with relevance to the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians. The goals of collaboration include the management of data flow between the EEA and the Carpathian Convention; the harmonization of the use of Carpathian indicators with EEA Indicators and their application; the strengthening of the cooperation with EIONET National Focal points and European Topic Centre, also with a view of promoting cooperation with other mountain ranges.

Follow-up of the Partnership Agreement, also according to the Joint Work Plan 2013-2015, will be the Joint Carpathian Convention and European Topic Centre on Spatial Information and Analysis (ETC - SIA) elaboration of a report on data and indicators relevant for sustainable forest management and for the elaboration of an inventory on the Carpathian forests.

Furthermore, on the basis of the Partnership Agreement and the discussion with the EEA representatives, the Secretariat will coordinate 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.

Para 2. Welcomes the preparation for Forum Carpaticum 2014 and recognizes the Science for the Carpathians Network as an important basis for policy making in the Carpathians, and requests the Secretariat to further develop modalities for cooperation.

The Secretariat participated in Science for the Carpathians Scientific (S4C) Steering Committee, held on 21-22 October 2013 in Krakow.

During the meeting it actively took part in the preliminary discussion about Forum Carpaticum 2014 – “Local Responses to Global Challenges” held in Lviv, Ukraine, 16-19 September 2014.

It was decided that the main themes of the 3rd Forum Carpaticum (FC2014) should be related, but not limited, to the policy priorities of the Europe 2020 Strategy and the Horizon 2020 Programme, focusing on major challenges relevant for the Carpathian



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ecoregion, like for example: ecosystem services and land use change; climate change, water and extreme events/hazards; natural and cultural heritage; smart mountains. Furthermore, the Secretariat will keep regularly up-to-date the S4C Scientific Steering Committee about the Carpathian Convention Working Group meetings and next Carpathian Convention Institutional Meetings (CCIC, COP4), for the S4C direct involvement.

In this context the Secretariat participated in the FC2014 in Lviv, Ukraine, on 16-19 September 2014, opening also the meeting with a presentation on the relation between science and policy in the Carpathians.

The Secretariat, within the wider UNEP network and in collaboration with its partners, further took efforts to promote the establishment of a Scientific Network for the Caucasus Mountain Regions, drawing on other established Scientific Networks for mountains, including Science for Carpathians.

DECISION COP3/9

*Awareness raising, education and public participation
Article 13 of the Carpathian Convention*

Para 1. Welcomes the progress by Move4Nature, thanks the private sector for the contribution, and invites further support to the initiative;

A new **Move4Nature** Initiative page has been created on the Community Livelihood Platform (described below) <http://platform.bigfoot-project.eu/move4nature.html>, in order to bring more exposure to the initiative. In addition, a Slideshare page of UNEP Vienna ISCC – ESD was created, accessible from the Platform page, and the final presentations of the teachers trained during the Move4Nature initiatives were uploaded there.

The Secretariat presented its recent ESD-related activities to the **UNECE Steering Committee on ESD** at the meeting in April 2014, and organized a side-event meeting with the representatives of the Carpathian Countries, present at the meeting, on establishing a **Carpathian regional network** within the UNECE ESD process. Representatives of Poland and Ukraine attended the meeting and expressed their interest to coordinate ESD activities with the Carpathian Convention focal points. The Secretariat



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is exploring options to facilitate a connection between the focal points of the Carpathian Convention and the Steering Committee focal points from the Carpathian Countries, in order to support further development of ESD in the Carpathians in cooperation with the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD.

Para 2. Decides to actively support the expansion of the Tool Kit to other countries, and supports cooperation with other partners and other mountain regions in Education for Sustainable Development, such as the Alps, the Balkans and the Caucasus;

The Move4Nature Tool Kit provided the ground for further involvement of the Secretariat in ESD partnerships, such as the RCE and the Lifelong Learning programme of the EU.

The Secretariat continues to be partner in the **Regional Center of Expertise (RCE)** in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) since 2011. The website has been set-up: <http://www.rce-vienna.at/>. RCE Vienna could be considered as a model for the Carpathian Countries, where similar Centers can be set up with advice of the Secretariat.

The Secretariat became a partner in the project **“Big Foot. Crossing Generations, Crossing Mountains,”** dedicated to lifelong learning, intergenerational learning and sustainable development. The role of the Secretariat included supporting capitalization and transferability of the project results in the Carpathians. The project was finished in July 2013, and the final report has just been approved by the EC. The website of the project, produced and maintained by the Secretariat, contains all relevant information in several languages: <http://www.bigfoot-project.eu/home.html>.

The Secretariat organized the **final Big Foot conference “Intergenerational Learning and Innovation for Sustainable Development”** in the Vienna International Center on June 5th-6th, starting on the World Environment Day, in cooperation with the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS). The high-level speakers at the conference included Alan Hatton – Yeo, Chief Executive Officer of the Beth-Johnson-Foundation and Coordinator of the European Map of Intergenerational Learning, and Jan Dusik, the acting director of UNEP ROE. The RCE, mentioned above, participated in part of the Big Foot project evaluation activities.



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The **Big Foot Transferability Tool Kit** has been produced by the Secretariat and presented at the final conference. The printed versions are available in English, and electronic versions on the website - in English, Italian, Bulgarian and Greek. The Tool Kit contains description of the project activities and advice from the partners, in order to enable transferability of the project activities to the Carpathian Countries and other mountain regions.

The follow-up project Big Foot II has been submitted to the European Commission, with participation of the Secretariat and ROMONTANA, Romania.

The Secretariat facilitated writing another Lifelong Learning project – **Innovation in Rural Tourism (InRuTou)**, which received funding from the EC and was launched in February 2013, and which includes partners from Poland (Ekopsychology Society), Romania (Romontana) and Ukraine (Green Dossier). The project aims at vocational training in sustainable tourism development of the local population of the rural areas, by creating ICT learning modules and destination – promotional tools. Information about the project can be found on the website: <http://inrutou.eu/> or the Community Livelihood Platform. The first training of the trainers was held in Romania in July, and the second training is prepared in Austria on October 2-5. InRuTou has been presented at several conferences, including the Forum Carpaticum and will be presented at the COP. The project will be integrated into the activities of the Working Group on Sustainable Tourism of the Carpathian Convention, in order to facilitate transferability of the results to the other Carpathian countries and regions. The Final Conference of the project will take place in Poland in November 2015.

The Secretariat started cooperating with UNIDO in order to explore the options for cooperation in training young entrepreneurs in the Carpathian region in sustainable and green entrepreneurship.

Para. 3 Requests the Secretariat, in consultation with Parties, Northern Alliance for Sustainability and other stakeholders, to explore possibilities for the further development and finalization of the Public Participation Strategy.



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Intergenerational programs, such as Big Foot play an important role in supporting public participation in community development, which is especially relevant for the mountainous regions, where the older generation holds a lot of traditional knowledge, and the younger inhabitants often plan to move away, which threatens the maintenance of cultural heritage, traditional land use practices, as well as culturally-sensitive innovation, and renders sustainable development of rural communities more difficult. The Big Foot project deliverables include the Participatory Mapping Guidelines, available electronically in English on the Big Foot website in the publication section. The Transferability Tool Kit also makes a reference to Participation and suggests further resources to support communities' participatory initiatives.

In order to make use of this mechanism, the electronic **Community Livelihood Platform** has been developed by the Secretariat, which connects the Big Foot project with the Carpathian Convention community electronically, and which includes links to the Move4Nature Initiative and Tool Kit, InRuTou project, etc.

The aim of the platform is to provide space for participation of the local community actors by sharing their stories and initiatives in various thematic areas, such as ESD, intergenerational learning, cultural heritage, tourism, sustainable production and consumption, etc, and to demonstrate that these themes are interrelated and equally important in sustainable development initiatives. The URL of the platform is: <http://platform.bigfoot-project.eu/>. A direct link to the platform has been added to the Carpathian Convention website, page on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge.

The Secretariat introduced the idea of intergenerational participation to the Carpathian Protected Areas by informing the CNPA steering committee about the Big Foot project, and presenting it at the CNPA Conference in April 2013. Several protected areas expressed interest in this approach and indicated the need for intergenerational learning and practice, which would enable to strengthen public participation in Protected Area management, to preserve traditional land use practices, and to enhance Protected Areas cooperation with the locals in ESD and economic development of the communities.

In order to highlight the importance of participation and empowerment of younger and older population in the Carpathians, the Big Foot Project was also presented at the annual conference on Romanian rural tourism in the context of sustainable development in Vatra Dornei, Romania, in May 2013. Moreover, Intergenerational learning was included in the Draft Cultural Heritage protocol, which will be further discussed in the future by the Working Group on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge.



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The Secretariat also presented its activities at the Sustainable Development, Innovation and Youth conference in Klagenfurt, Austria, in June 2014, where the ideas of youth participation in sustainable development were discussed.

The InRuTou project also has a community participation component: partners from Poland, Romania and Ukraine carried out community consultations, in order to base the training on the community needs. Moreover, one of the objectives of the project is to facilitate community consultation and participation as the basis of the rural tourism development process.

DECISION COP3/10

Cooperation with the European Union

Para 1. Welcomes the European Commission Communication on the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and the accompanying Plan of Action, in particular its references to the Carpathian region and to the Carpathian Convention, as well as the included priority issues and flagship projects relevant for the Carpathian region. Reiterates the importance of the Carpathian region as the area relevant both for the Baltic and the Danube macroregional strategies and underlines the need to reflect this in the implementation of the EUSDR as well as in future activities related to the development of the EU macroregional approach.

Para 3. Invites the Parties to further solicit support from European Territorial Cooperation funds, SDC cohesion funds, Norwegian fund, LIFE, European Neighbourhood and partnership Instrument and Instrument for pre Accession Assistance, and requests the Secretariat to ensure coordination in project development and implementation.

Paara 4. Calls upon Parties, supported by the Secretariat, to cooperate with European Union bodies in further promoting the “Carpathian Space” concept in the context of existing or planned European Union cooperation programmes (e.g. such as under the European Union Territorial Cooperation budget for 2014-2020.

On 20th of June 2011 the **Kick Off Meeting of the Steering Group of the Pillar 2 - Priority Area 6 “Preserving Biodiversity, Landscapes and the Quality of Air and Soil” of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR PA 6 SG)** was held in



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Munich, Germany. Throughout the meeting the members of the Steering Group agreed by consensus to accept the Carpathian Convention as permanent observer for its important role in the implementation of the Strategy, in particular in the field of biodiversity.

The Secretariat participated at the **Second meeting of the EUSDR PA 6 SG**, which was held in Zagreb, Croatia from 24 to 25 of October 2011. During the meeting it was agreed that the Secretariat will contribute in particular in the implementation of Action 9 of PA6 and will contribute the EUSDR PA 6 projects database. The Secretariat actively contributed to the meeting discussion and presented to the PA 6 coordinators the SEE Bioenergy AC project proposal for possible support from the SG.

The Secretariat attended the **EUSDR Pillar 2 Annual Stakeholders Seminar**, held on 6th of November 2012 in Budapest, Hungary, and which was organized by the European Commission – DG REGIO, the Government of Hungary and the EUSDR Pillar 2 coordinators.

The Secretariat actively participated in the Fourth and Fifth EU Strategy for the Danube Region Priority Area 6 Steering Group meeting in March 2013 and April 2014 as well in Zagreb, accordingly.

The participation of the Secretariat in the above mentioned meetings was focused mostly on the promotion of Carpathian Convention activities related to the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region and on establishing contacts with European Commission – DG REGIO and other relevant stakeholders. The PAs coordinators and SG members highly appreciate the efforts of the Carpathian Convention related to its contribution to the implementation of the EUSDR.

Additionally, the Secretariat requested the label of the EUSDR for the BIOREGIO Carpathians project in order to strengthen the visibility of the project and to further increase the support from the European Commission according to the procedure established by the PA 6 Steering Committee.

The Secretariat had also regular contacts with the **European Commission – DG Regional Policy, the European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions** on the contribution of the Carpathian Convention to the EU Strategy of the Danube Region, on the possible future Carpathian Strategy and on the next European Territorial Cooperation Programmes.



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Furthermore, the Secretariat enjoys the financial support of the **European Commission – DG Environment** for the activities related to the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change through the CARPIVIA project and has regular contacts with the European Commission contact point for CARPIVIA (for further information on the Secretariat activities in the climate change sector see below section DECISION COP3/15).

In addition, the Secretariat co-organized the **Workshop “Towards a EU Strategy for the Carpathian Region”**, hosted by the **Committee of the Region**, Brussels, Belgium, on 28 May 2013 (see section DECISION COP3/2 for further information).

The Secretariat actively participated in the conference entitled "**The macro-regional strategy for the Carpathian Region**", which was organized by Mr. Tomasz Poreba, Polish Member of the **European Parliament**, on 3 December 2013, in the European Parliament in Brussels (see section DECISION COP3/2 for further information).

Furthermore, the Secretariat coordinated the organization of the workshop “Shaping the Carpathian Region in the EU Strategy for the Danube Region”, organized within the 3rd Annual Forum EUSDR 2014 at the Vienna City Hall in June 2014. The Workshop aimed at further profiling the Carpathian Region in the EUSDR, and at providing inputs to the consultation process on the implementation of the Strategy and its Operational Programme 2014-2020. (see section DECISION COP3/2 for further information).

DECISION COP3/11

Cooperation with the Alpine Convention

Para 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 Alpine Convention in the fields such as 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 Convention Biodiversity Programmes of Work on Protected



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Areas and Mountain Biodiversity and the collaboration in the field of protected areas networks in the Alps and the Carpathians.

The Secretariat participated as observer in the **52th, 53th, 54th, 55th and 56th Meetings of the Permanent Committee of the Alpine Convention**, organized under the Italian Presidency. The latter two Permanent Committees were respectively held in Gorizia, Italy, on 20 - 21 March 2014 and in Brescia, on 24 - 25 June 2014.

The Italian Presidency of the Alpine Convention, the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, and the Austrian, French and Italian National Delegations to the Alpine Convention participated in the Third Carpathian Convention Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change, which was hosted by the Lebensministerium of Austria on 12 – 13 March 2014. In the frame of the Working Group, the Joint Alpine – Carpathian Statement on Adaptation to Climate, which will be presented during the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP 20 in Lima in December 2014, was drafted and discussed.

The Secretariat supported the Italian Presidency of the Alpine Convention in the organization of the first Task Force Meeting on International Mountain Cooperation held on 6 – 7 June 2013 in Budoia, Italy.

Several stakeholders from different mountain regions including the Alps, Carpathians, Caucasus, Dinaric Alps and the Tien Shan - Pamir ranges participated in the Workshop which focused on sub-national / local levels of cooperation in mountain areas. The aim of the meeting was to identify cooperation sites, pointing some urgent challenges for mountain regions and detect some priority areas for taking action.

Through the workshops of the Task Force, the Secretariat and the Italian Presidency of the Alpine Convention aim at delivering a final document, where a strategy for implementing Sustainable Mountain Development (SMD) and creating new partnership networks in mountain regions are outlined.

The Secretariat actively contributed as observer to the Workshop “Bringing the Alps to Expo 2015: mountains, food, environment and culture on the way to Milano”, organized by the Italian Presidency of the Alpine Convention on 20 March 2014 in Gorizia, Italy.



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The Workshop focused on evaluating and developing modalities for the contribution of the Alpine countries and other mountainous regions to the Universal Exposition (EXPO) that will be held in Milano, Italy from May to October 2015. The discussion brought forward the great opportunity of EXPO Milano 2015 to showcase the experience of regional cooperation for the sustainable development of a mountain transboundary region as well as the actions and good practices of mountain regions such as the Alps and the Carpathians. The Secretariat will actively support the Alpine Convention in the organization of the Mountain Week, which will be held in June 2015 in the frame of EXPO 2015 and will facilitate the networking between the National Focal Points to the Carpathian Convention and the Commissioners for the National Pavilions at EXPO 2015.

Besides the work on the Transport Protocol, the Secretariat continued to facilitate the exchange of experience between Alps and Carpathians in the context of the Working Group on Sustainable Transport of the Carpathian Convention, e.g. either through the presentation of Alpine Convention relevant experiences in the field and preparation of joint meetings between representatives of the Working Groups on Transport of both Conventions.

The Secretariat supported the Italian Presidency of the Alpine Convention in the organization of the 9th edition of the Scientific Workshop on Mountain Mobility and Transport (SWOMM 2013), which was held in Vienna, Austria on 11 December 2013.

The meeting was organized in the frame of Access2Mountain, the project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund through the Programme "South-East Europe", with the support of the University of Camerino, EURAC Research, the Environmental Agency Austria and the Austrian Ministry of the Environment (see section DECISION COP3/5 for further details).

Experts coming from research centers and from the Alpine and Carpathian Transport Working Groups, public administrations, representatives of the Italian and Austrian Ministry of the Environment and Austrian Ministry of Transport, jointly discussed about the relationship between sustainable accessibility and sustainable tourism in mountain areas, and called for continuing the cooperation of the Carpathian and Alpine Convention on these issues.



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Para 2. Also welcomes the joint approaches made by the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions to EU institutions, and encourages further cooperation to ensure the contributions of the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions in the consideration or development of macro-regional strategies and mountain-relevant policies at the European (EU) level.

The Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention will present the Joint Alpine – Carpathian Statement on Adaptation to Climate Change within the Mountain Pavilion of the UNFCCC COP20 which will be organized in Lima, Peru, from 1-12 December 2014. (see section DECISION COP3/15 para.1 for further information).

At the invitation of the Italian Presidency of the Alpine Convention, the Secretariat participated in the International Conference “The Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention: Sharing The Experiences. The Apennines, A European Mountain Range” held in Saranono, Italy from 23 to 24 April 2014. The Secretariat contributed to the Conference by giving speeches on international policies and negotiations for mountain areas as well on the Carpathian Convention activities and its mutual cooperation with the Alpine Convention. The Conference aimed at exchange of experience and knowledge between different mountain ranges in Europe and enhancing the cooperation with the Alpine Convention.

The Italian Presidency of the Alpine Convention participated in the Workshop “Stressing the role of mountains in European Macro Regional Strategies”.

Moreover the Italian Presidency of the Alpine Convention will participate in the Carpathian Convention Conference of the Parties (COP 4) in Mikulov (24-26 September 2014) and the Carpathian Convention will participate at the Torino Alpine Conference in November 2014 (19-20 November).

DECISION COP3/12

On Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies

Para. 2 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, the Ramsar Convention, the Aarhus Convention, the European Landscape Convention, the



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Council of Europe, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the European Space Agency, the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, the Central European Initiative and the Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative, the REC, UNEP.

Following the long-term process with the involvement of the global mountain community and the inclusion of a mountains chapter –in the **Rio+20 Conference outcome “The Future We Want”** (see Info doc. 20, in particular para.210-212/CCIC5), the Secretariat in collaboration with other partners such as the Alpine Convention took efforts to implement the “mountains” chapter. Following-up to the Rio+20 Summit, the UN Secretary General (UNSG) has mandated UNEP together with FAO and UNESCO to lead the implementation of the “mountains” chapter as included in the Rio+20 outcome document “the Future We Want” (paras. 210-212). In this context, various events and activities have been organized by the Secretariat and its partners with the view of fostering experience exchange with other mountain regions. including the following: the Task Force Meeting on International Mountain Cooperation established by the Italian Presidency of the Alpine Convention with the support of UNEP, 6-7 June 2013, Budoia, Italy (see section DECISION COP3/15 for further information about the meeting), Celebration of the International Mountain Day 2013 (11 December as designated by the UN General Assembly), UNESCO Synthesis Science - Policy Workshop “Climate Change Impacts in Major Mountain Regions of the World: Multidisciplinary Network for Adaptation Strategies”, 23-24 January 2014, Paris; a series of events with regards to the establishment of a Scientific Network for the Caucasus Mountain region (April, May and November 2013, July and September 2014) drawing on the success of the Science for Carpathians Initiative, a series of event with regards to the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and mountains.**

The Secretariat participated and contributed to the **Fourth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership**, held in Erzurum (Turkey), 17 to 19 September 2013. During the meeting the future and new governance structure of the Partnership was discussed and endorsed by its members. During the meeting, participants addressed *inter alia*: the new Mountain Partnership Strategy and Governance; mountains in Rio+20 and the Post-2015 SDGs; the Mountain Forum knowledge platform for sustainable mountain development; regional coordination mechanisms; and the selection of the Steering Committee. Thematic working groups considered how to put the Mountain Partnership into practice.



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Parallel regional meetings, Partnership Fairs and side events also took place. The Secretariat was invited to present the experiences of the Carpathian Convention under the item regional cooperation and contribute to a side event related to European mountains and stressed the importance to mainstream mountain-related issues into the SDGs. At the meeting it was noted, that many Carpathian countries are not yet members of the MP. In the moment, the future participation and role of the Secretariat in the Partnership has to be further discussed with Carpathian Convention National Focal Points, and the costs and benefits of membership to the Mountain Partnership should be further assessed.

The Secretariat, through UNEP, provided various inputs to the UN Secretary General's Report on Sustainable Mountain Development (coordinated by Mountain Partnership Secretariat) that was presented to the UN General Assembly in autumn 2013. Various Carpathian-related information has been included in the aforementioned report (see the Report of the Secretary General on Sustainable mountain development – Info doc. 21/CCIC5). In its recommendations, the UNSG also stressed the importance of the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions: “(d) *Promote, where relevant, the establishment of regional mechanisms for coordinated and integrated transboundary cooperation and knowledge sharing for sustainable mountain development, strengthen existing mechanisms such as the Alpine and the Carpathian Conventions and promote the exchange of experiences and lessons learned*”. The UN General Assembly further adopted Resolution A/RES/68/217 related to Sustainable Mountain Development on 20 December 2013, stressing again the importance of the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions, following inputs by the Secretariat and the support of the Carpathian countries.

Following the meeting of the Global Mountain Partnership and the Report of the UNSG, the Secretariat supported UNEP and partnered with various institutions, including UNEP's collaborating centre GRID Arendal (GRIDA), the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), CDE Bern, FAO/MP Secretariat and other partners (ICIMOD, CONDESAN, Alpine Convention etc.) to mainstream mountain-related issues into the current Post-2015 Process and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) discussions. As part of this overall initiative, a series of thematic briefs related *inter alia* to energy, climate change and disaster risk reduction, forestry and biodiversity, and water has been prepared (including proposals for mountain-specific targets and indicators, drawing on the various information and data that has been gathered including in the context of the Carpathian



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Convention) that should guide discussions in the context of the Open Working Group (OWG) in New York. For this purpose, various events have been organized, including a meeting of the Mountain Focus Group (attended by Carpathian countries) on 16 October 2013 in New York as well as side event related to climate change and disaster risk reduction in the frame of the 7th session of the OWG, 8 January 2014 in New York, an International event “Why mountains matter for the Post2015 Process” organized on the occasion of the celebration of the International Mountain Day (11 December as designated by the UNGA) in Vienna. Efforts undertaken resulted in the inclusion of mountain-related issues in the Outcome Document - Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (see UNEP/CC/COP4/BD9), in particular, related to the thematic areas of water and ecosystems.

A joint GRID Arendal – UNEP unit has been established in summer 2013 to support the work of the Secretariat and of the UNEP Vienna Office also with the view of promoting experience exchange and lessons learnt between the Alps and Carpathians with other mountain regions. The Secretariat, being hosted by UNEP in Vienna, also provides a mountain resource center for UNEP, and works very closely with through the wider UNEP Network, including, the collaborating centre GRID Arendal, in the context of sustainable mountain development, and thereby promotes the Carpathian Convention in various fora and platforms at the regional and global levels.

Furthermore **relevant documents and publications** related to the “global mountain agenda” have been developed in follow-up to Rio+20 with contribution of the Secretariat, e.g. “Mountains: Our Life, Our Future – Progress and perspectives on sustainable mountain development” (produced by SDC, CDE Bern and others), “Tourism in Mountain Regions – Hope, Fears and Realities”(published by University of Geneva, University of Bern and UNEP) as well as other relevant publications that will emerge in 2014 addressing the topics such as climate change, drawing as well on the experiences and lessons-learnt of the Carpathians.

DECISION COP3/13

Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention

See Updated list of Carpathian Convention meetings (see CC Meetings 2015 – 2017)
See the Follow Up Platform for the Carpathian Convention (see Follow Up Platform).



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See the updated ToRs of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (see UNEP/CC/COP4/DOC15)

DECISION COP3/14

Administration and financial management of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention) and its Protocols

By Decision COP3/14 of 27 May 2011, the Contracting Parties, 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);;

The terms of Reference of the Trust Fund, adopted by the COP, inter alia:

- Repeated that the Executive Director of UNEP can delegate the administration of the Trust Fund to the Head of the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and related Protocols (para 2);
- Stated that the budget estimates, covering the income and expenditures for the financial period to which they relate, shall be submitted to and approved by the COP (para 9);
- Stated that it is for the COP and UNEP to agree on and administrative support charge to be paid to UNEP (para 10);
- Suggested that at the end of each calendar year the Executive Director will through the Head of the Secretariat, submit to the Contracting Parties, the certified accounts for that year.

Following the request of COP3, the UNEP Deputy Executive Director (DED) on 17 January 2012 provisionally approved the establishment of a Trust Fund for the Carpathian Convention, noting that “the purpose of the Trust Fund is clearly defined by the terms of reference agreed at COP3”. Included in the approval was the proposal that Programme Support Cost will be charged at the rate of 13%; in line with ST/AI/286. The



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UNEP Governing Council, in its 27th session held in Nairobi in February 2013, by Decision 27/14, approved the establishment of what it called “the Trust Fund for the Core Budget of the Carpathian Convention for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians and Related Protocols”[†]. The Trust Fund was established for two years with an expiry date of December 2014.

DECISION COP3/15

Climate change

Para 2. Emphasizing the importance of climate change and its impact for the implementation of the Carpathian Convention;

The First Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change (WG Climate Change) was organized by the Secretariat together with the CARPIVIA project lead partner, Alterra Wageningen University, in February 2012 in Brussels, Belgium within the CARPIVIA project. The representatives of the Parties, as well as officials of the European Commission, the European Parliament, representatives of ICPDR and the projects CARPIVIA and CarpathCC participated in the meeting. The elaboration of the Strategic Agenda on Adaptation to Climate Change in the Carpathian Region was decided at the meeting.

The Second Meeting of WG Climate Change was organized by the Secretariat together with the CARPATCLIM project coordinator on 24th of October 2012 in Eger, Hungary. The meeting was organized back to back with the Workshop on sharing of experiences on adaptation to climate change in mountain areas, which was attended by representatives of organizations and institutions from the Alps, Carpathians, Pyrenees, Balkans, Caucasus and Central Asia.

Representatives of each above mentioned mountain regions presented projects and initiatives in the field of climate change and climate change adaptation and participated in the Round Table “Sharing of experiences on adaptation to climate change strategies and initiatives in mountain areas”. During the Round Table were discussed-, among other, the

[†] Decision 27/14: Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions 22 The Governing Council, Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the management of trust funds: 1. Notes and approves the establishment of the following trust funds since the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council: Trust funds in support of regional seas programmes, conventions, protocols and special funds 3. Notes and approves the establishment of the following trust fund since the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council: CAP – Trust Fund for the Core Budget of the Carpathian Convention for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians and Related Protocols, which was established in 2012 with an expiry date of December 2014



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interlinkages and consistency between the strategies and projects presented (and also between other similar strategies and projects developed by other organisations/institutions) and identification of areas of mutual support and conflict; priority actions to be included in ongoing and future adaptation strategies and projects in mountain areas; identification of possible synergies for the development of future follow – up projects; benefits of enhanced regional and interregional cooperation.

The Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention decided to elaborate a Joint Statement between both Conventions to be presented and adopted in Lima, Peru in December 2014 during the UNFCCC COP20 at the Mountain Pavilion.

The Joint Statement focuses on the adoption of Guidelines on Climate Change adaptation at local level. The text of the Joint Statement was elaborated through technical meetings of both Conventions and further mutual consultations.

The Third meeting of CC WG Climate Change took place in Vienna in March 2014. The main results of the meeting was the finalization of the Strategic Agenda on Adaptation to Climate Change in the Carpathian Region (see UNEP/CC/COP4/DOC12) and further elaboration of the Joint Alpine – Carpathian on Adaptation to Climate Change. Additional comments to the Joint Statement provided by the Alpine Convention did not encounter any objection from the Carpathian Countries (see UNEP/CC/COP4/DOC5).

The Secretariat participated in the **Circle 2 MOUNTain Final Meeting** held in September 2013 in Barcelona, Spain. Several representatives of institutions from Spain, France, Austria and other Alpine countries were invited to attend the conference and presentations on adaptation to Climate Change in different mountain regions of the world were delivered.

At the margins of the conference the Secretariat met with the organizers of the meeting in order to discuss the main results of the conference and possible connections between EEA ClimatADAPT and the mountain regions. The future developments and tasks of the Eger Gropu were also taken into account.

The Secretariat attended the **High Summit 2013 Meeting** organized by Ev-K2-CNR which was held in October 2013 in Lecco, Italy.



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The Secretariat took active part in the **International Symposium on Climate Change** organized by the Working Community of the Pyrenees (CTP) as part of the Pyrenees Climate Change Observatory (OPCC) held on 6 November 2013 in Pamplona, Spain.

Within the section dedicated to international cooperation in mountain areas the Secretariat delivered a presentation on “Adaptation efforts on Climate Change in the Carpathians and in the Alps”, stressing the role and work of the Carpathian Convention and of the Alpine Convention by highlighting the ongoing projects dealing with adaptation to climate change in the two regions.

The Secretariat is partner in the European Transnational Cooperation Alpine Space “**ALPSTAR – Towards carbon neutral Alps**” project (www.alpstar-project.eu).

The EU funded Alpine Space project was addressing the need for well-directed and cross-cutting action to effectively manage climate change and reduction of climate-damaging emissions in the Alpine region, which was expressed in the Action Plan on Climate Change in the Alps, approved within the frame of the Alpine Convention during the 10th Alpine Conference. Furthermore, ALPSTAR also encouraged good practice climate change reduction measures on a regional and local level. With a total budget of 2,79 million Euros, the three-years project finished in 31 June 2014. The final conference took place on the 27-29 May 2014 in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

The Secretariat office provided input for agreement on common methodology and common criteria and standards on what is considered as a good practice in strategies, action plans and measures toward carbon neutrality. In addition, the Secretariat transferred project results and outcomes to stakeholders in different Alpine towns and stakeholders from Carpathian Convention and Dinaric Arc Initiative through its well established channels. Finally, the Secretariat supported the establishment of the Policy Board, which gathered experts in the field of climate change adaptation to elaborate recommendations on climate change strategies.

The Secretariat is also partner in the European Transnational Alpine Space “**C3ALPS- Capitalising climate change knowledge**” project (<http://www.c3alps.eu>).

C3-Alps is a transnational capitalisation project. Building on the results of previous projects (for ex. CLISP) and initiatives on adaptation to climate change in the Alps, C3-



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Alps seeks to synthesize, transfer, and implement in policy and practice the best available adaptation knowledge. By applying a knowledge transfer concept driven by the information and communication needs of target groups, the project optimizes the usability of available knowledge resources in an attempt to bridge the gap between the generation of adaptation knowledge and its application in real-world decision-making.

The Secretariat is, in the frame of the C3ALPS Project, communicating the project results and sharing outcomes with ministries, international governmental organizations, international non-governmental organizations, EU institutions, UN agencies and expert communities on the international level, including with leading international climate change expert institutions. Furthermore, the Secretariat was engaged in involving and financing experts from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) providing a scientific perspective on the project results, as well as in financing two external experts in the sectors health, energy and agriculture for the knowledge Inventory Platform (a platform regrouping all the knowledge and results collected in previous Alpine Space projects). The Secretariat is co-organising the final conference, which will take place on 14 October 2014 in Vienna, Austria. The project will end on 31 December 2014.

The Secretariat, within the wider UNEP network, further raised successful funds for the implementation of the inter-regional project “Climate change action in developing countries with fragile mountainous ecosystems from sub-regional perspective”.

The project contributes to the implementation of the UNEP Programme of Work, subprogramme: climate change and aims at replicating the experiences gained in the Alpine and Carpathian Convention (regional action towards climate change adaptation) in the following regions: Africa, Andes, Balkans, Caucasus and Central Asia. The multi-year project (2013-2017) will have a total budget of 1.75 Mio EUR (funded by the Government of Austria under the Fast Start Finance Mechanism of the UNFCCC) and be implemented by the Secretariat in close collaboration with DEPI and other partners.

The project forms a contribution to the implementation of the Rio+20 outcome related to mountains and the operational mandate as included in para. 211: *“We invite States to strengthen cooperative action with effective involvement and sharing of experience of all relevant stakeholders, by strengthening existing arrangements, agreements and centres of excellence for sustainable mountain development, as well as exploring new arrangements and agreements, as appropriate.”*



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DECISION COP3/16

Location of Permanent Secretariat

Para 1. Underlines the need and urgency of taking a decision on the location of the Permanent Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and decided that, serviced by the interim Secretariat, a meeting at expert level will be held within six months to prepare for High-level meeting to be organized by the Presidency. In preparation for the meetings Country offers should be updated, proposed sites should be visited, and criteria for the selection of the location should be prepared.

In accordance with the decisions of the fourth meeting of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (Vienna, 5-7 December 2012) regarding the submission of new, complemented or amended offers on the location of a permanent Secretariat by 31 May 2013, the Secretariat received offers from four Parties: Poland submitted offer for Rzeszow, Slovakia submitted new offer for Bratislava, Romania provided an update on the current Romanian offer - Brasov, Ukraine has informed that, in accordance with Decisions of the Fourth Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee and the Decision COP3/16 "Location of Permanent Secretariat" and the interim secretariat letter dated on 1 February 2013, the proposal to host a permanent Secretariat of the Kyiv Convention (Carpathian Convention) in Chernivtsi, Ukraine, remains unchanged.

Next, the Secretariat finalized the comparison of the offers received and distributed it to the Parties for the consideration at the next meeting of the CCIC (see UNEP/CC/COP4/BD7). Furthermore, the Secretariat prepared a comparative estimate of secretariat costs at the given location as well as the existing arrangement.

Last CCIC decided to propose to COP4 to decide that a review of the issue of the Secretariat location, and relevant requirements, should be made at the 5th or 6th meeting of the COP.

Guidelines for the use of the logo of the Carpathian Convention

The CCIC5 meeting decided that the Secretariat will develop and implement a policy for the use of the Carpathian Convention logo.



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**Date and venue of the Fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the
Carpathian Convention**

During the Fifth CCIC session, the Hungarian delegation offered to host the Fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention, which will take place in 2017. The detailed venue is still to be decided. The Secretariat was requested to support the process and make all necessary arrangements in close cooperation with the future host Government and the CCIC.



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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACUNS	Academic Council on the United Nations System
ADC	Austrian Development Cooperation
AEA	Austrian Environment Agency
AEM.....	European Association of Elected Representative from Mountain Regions
AKK.....	Alpine Carpathian Corridor
ALPARC.....	Alpine Network of Protected Areas
AEBR	Association of European Border Regions
ANPAA	Association of Natural Protected Areas Administrations
ASFINAG	Autobahnen-und Schnellstraßen-Finanzierungs Aktiengesellschaft
BD.....	Carpathian Convention Biodiversity Protocol
BIOREGIO Carpathians	Integrated management of biological and landscape diversity for sustainable regional development and ecological connectivity in the Carpathian
CADSES	Central, Adriatic, Danubian and South-Eastern European Space
CARPATCLIM.....	Climate of the Carpathian Region
CarpathCC.....	Climate Change in the Carpathian Region
CARPIVIA.....	Carpathian Integrated Assessment of Vulnerability to Climate Change and Ecosystem – Based Adaptation Measures
CC	Carpathian Convention
CCIC.....	Carpathian Conventions Implementation Committee
CCPA CHM.....	Carpathian Countries Protected Areas Clearing House Mechanism
CC WG Climate Change.....	Carpathian Convention Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change
CEE.....	Central East Europe
CIBIS	Carpathian Integrated Biodiversity Information System
CIMM	Common Integrated Management Measures
CNPA.....	Carpathian Network of Protected Areas
CONDESAN	Consortio para el Desarrollo Sostenible de al Ecorregion Andina



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COP3.....	Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention
COP4.....	Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention
CoR	Committee of the Regions
CTP	Working Community of the Pyrenees
CWI.....	Carpathian Wetland Initiative
DAHNE	Institute for Applied Ecology
DEWA.....	The Division of Early Warning and Assessment
EEA.....	European Environment Agency
EIONET	European Environment Information And Observation Network
enerSKI	Energy Efficiency, Networking and Capacity- Building for Skiing-Resorts
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development Programme
ETC.....	European Topic Centre
ETC – SIA.....	European Topic Centre on Spatial Information and Analysis
EU	European Union
EUSBSR	EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region
EURAC	European Academy Bolzano
EUSDR	European Union Strategy for Danube Region
EUSDR PA 6 SG	EU Strategy for the Danube Region – Pillar 2 – Priority Area 6 Steering Group
EXPO.....	Universal Exposition
FAO.....	Food and Agriculture Organization
FC2014.....	3 rd Forum Carpaticum
Forest Protocol SAP.....	Strategic Action Plan for the Implementation of the Forest Protocol
GEF.....	Global Environment Facility
GIS.....	Geographic Information System
GRIDA	GRID Arendal
ICIMOD.....	The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
ICPDR.....	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
IMELS.....	Italian Ministry for the Environment and Sea
InRuTou	Innovations in Rural Tourism
IPCC.....	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change



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ISCC.....	Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention
JTS	Joint Technical Secretariat
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSP.....	Medium Size Project
NGO.....	Non-Governmental Organization
NFPs.....	National Focal Points
NFC.....	National Forest Center
OPCC	Pyrenees Climate Change Observatory
OWP.....	Open Working Group
PSAC.....	Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention
PA	Priority Area
REC.....	Regional Environmental Center
RCE.....	Regional Centre of Expertise
ROE.....	Regional Office for Europe
SAP	Strategic Action Plan
SC.....	Steering Committee
SCBD	Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
SDC.....	The Swiss Agency for Development and Sustainable Cooperation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SMD.....	Sustainable Mountain Development
SEE	South East Europe
SG	Steering Group
SNCSR.....	State Natural Conservancy of the Slovak Republic
SWOMM	Scientific Workshop on Mountain Mobility and Transport
S4C.....	Science for the Carpathians Initiative
TORs.....	Terms of Reference
UBA.....	Environmental Agency Austria
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCO.....	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNESCO-SCBD.....	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP DED.....	United Nations Environment Programme Deputy Executive Director
UNFCCC.....	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate



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	Change
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNIDO.....	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNOOSA.....	The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs
UNSG.....	United Nations Secretary General
UNWTO.....	United Nations World Tourism Organization
URL.....	Uniform Resource Locator
VITUKI.....	Environmental and Water Management Research Institute
WG.....	Working Group
WP.....	Working Package
WWF DCP.....	WWF Danube Carpathian Programme



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PROGRESS REPORT BY THE INTERIM SECRETARIAT

ANNEX I : Project Platform

Introduction to the Project ideas and proposals

This paper gives an overview on projects ideas to develop in cooperation with Ministries, Regional authorities and NGOs in the different fields of the Carpathian Convention activities (given along the Working Groups and other core activities – overlapping is often due to cross-sectoral character of the project).

Table on next EU Funding Programmes 2014-2020

Funding Programmes 2007-2013	Funding Programmes 2014-2020	Status
EU territorial Cooperation		
Central Europe	Central Europe (Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, as well as eight Länder from Germany (Baden-Württemberg, Bayern, Berlin, Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Sachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt, Thüringen) and nine regions from Italy (Emilia-Romagna, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Liguria, Lombardia, Piemonte, Provincia Autonoma Bolzano, Provincia Autonoma Trento, Valle d'Aosta, and Veneto) http://www.central2020.eu/	Under discussion (first calls for proposals expected: end 2014/ beginning 2015)

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<p>South East Europe will be divided in two programmes</p>	<p>Adriatic Ionian Programme (Italy, Slovenia, Greece, Croatia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia) http://www.southeast-europe.net/en/about_see/adriaticionianprogramme/</p> <p>Danube Transnational Programme (Germany, Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Moldova, Ukraine) http://www.southeast-europe.net/en/about_see/danubeprogramme/</p>	<p>Under discussion (first calls for proposals expected: first half 2015)</p> <p>Under discussion (first calls for proposals expected: mid 2015). (already open: 1) Technical Assistance Facility for Danube Region Projects 2) START - Danube Region Project Fund)</p>
<p>INTERREG IVC</p>	<p>INTERREG EUROPE http://www.interreg4c.eu/programme/2014-2020/</p>	<p>First call for proposals expected: mid-February 2015</p>



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CROSSBORDER PROGRAMME Austria – Slovakia	CROSSBORDER PROGRAMME Austria – Slovakia http://www.sk-at.eu/	Under discussion
Other programmes		
LIFE+	LIFE Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (€3.2 billion) http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/life2014/index.htm	Call open
-FP 7 – Seventh Framework Programme for Research	Integrated in Horizon 2020 http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html	Open Deadlines based on the different calls
-European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIP) -Intelligent Energy Europe(IEE) -Parts of CIP(Competitiveness and innovation Programme)	Erasmus + (Key Activity 2: Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices) http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/index_en.htm#	Open Deadlines based on the different calls (30 April, 3 April, 2 September, 1 October)

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PROJECT IDEAS

CCTopic	Name of Project idea	Synopsis	Target program	Partners (to be confirmed)	Status	Decision / Benefit for Carpathian Convention
Climate Change, Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning	CALL SC5-16-2014: Making Earth Observation and Monitoring Data usable for ecosystem modelling and services	Eco-system services (modelling and scenarios), Earth Observation, besides Carpathians covering other mountain regions and types of ecosystems	Horizon 2020	Partnership (Under Construction)	Proposal accepted for stage-2, The partnership has to prepare the full proposal by 16 September 2014	DECISION COP3/8 Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning. Article 12 of the Carpathian Convention
Forestry, Energy	Bioenergy AC – Sharing best available technologies and promoting Partnership for sustainable biomass use for Energy between the Alps and the Carpathians	Setting-up of a cooperation mechanism between the Alpine and Carpathian regions for the transfer of best practices, best available technologies, as well as environmental and social know-	1) START - Danube Region Project Fund 2) European Transnational Cooperation Danube Programme 2014-2020	-Centre for Promotion of Clean and Efficient Energy in Romania - ENERO (Romania) -National Forest Centre (Slovakia) -Energy Centre, Energy Efficiency, Environment and Energy Information Agency Non-profit Limited Company (Hungary) -Public organization, Renewable Energy Agency (Ukraine) -Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea (Italy) -Ministry of Environment and Forests (Romania)	The project has been submitted in December 2011 under the 4th Call of the South East Europe Programme but the Monitoring Committee (MC) approved the application under conditions, due to the limited availability of ERDF resources at	DECISION COP3/4 Sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry. Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention DECISION COP3/5 Sustainable transport and infrastructure, Industry and energy. Article 8 of the Carpathian Convention, Article 10 of the

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		how in the field of bioenergy.		-Association The Krakow Institute for Sustainable Energy (Poland) -Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention (Austria)	the time of the decision.	Carpathian Convention
Nature, Biodiversity, Landscape, Agriculture and Forestry	I-ECONETICS Improving Ecological Connectivity in Mountain Regions in the Danube Basin + focus on green infrastructure and landscape protection	Planning tools for the maintenance of Carpathian habitats, ecological connectivity, landscape protection +green infrastructure planning. BIOREGIO Carpathians follow-up	1) Technical Assistance Facility for Danube 2) LIFE Programme 2014-2020 3) European Transnational Cooperation Danube Programme 2014-2020 3) Cross Border Programme Slovakia - Austria	-UNEP/GRID-Warsaw -WWF -CC Countries -BIOREGIO Project Partners -IENE -EURAC - poss. partners of AKK Project	Draft Project Proposal accepted under the Technical Assistance Facility for Danube→ Complete Proposal in development to be submitted under either LIFE Programme 2014-2020 or ETC Danube Programme 2014-2020	DECISION COP3/1 Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity. Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention DECISION COP3/2 Spatial planning. Article 5 of the Carpathian Convention DECISION COP3/5 Sustainable transport and infrastructure, Industry and energy. Article 8 of the Carpathian Convention,

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CCTopic	Name of Project idea	Synopsis	Target program	Partners (to be confirmed)	Status	Decision / Benefit for Carpathian Convention
						Implementation of the European Landscape Convention
Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management	Sustainable Development of Hydropower in the Carpathian Area	Application of the ICPDR "Guiding principles on sustainable hydropower development in the Danube Basin" in the Carpathians	1) START - Danube Region Project Fund 2) European Transnational Cooperation Danube Programme 2014-2020	-UNEP Vienna-ISCC in collaboration with ICPDR and other partners -CC Countries	Idea in development	DECISION COP3/3 Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management. Article 6 of the Carpathian Convention DECISION COP3/5 Sustainable transport and infrastructure, Industry and energy. Article 8 of the Carpathian Convention, Article 10 of the Carpathian Convention

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CCTopic	Name of Project idea	Synopsis	Target program	Partners (to be confirmed)	Status	Decision / Benefit for Carpathian Convention
Climate Change, Forestry	Sustainable management of forests as a key to mitigation of climate change effects	Assessment of various forest management systems' capacities for climate change mitigation	1) Technical Assistance Facility for Danube (accepted) 2) LIFE Programme 2014-2020 3) European Transnational Cooperation Danube Programme 2014-2020	Lead Partner: Ukraine NGO Partnership (under construction)	In development	DECISION COP3/4 Sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry. Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention
Sustainable Mobility, Accessibility, Transit Sustainable industry and energy	ACCESS2MOUNTAIN follow-up project	Under discussion	2) LIFE Programme 2014-2020 3) European Transnational Cooperation Danube Programme 2014-2020	-Access2Mountain Project Partners -Others	To develop	DECISION COP3/5 Sustainable transport and infrastructure, Industry and energy Article 8 of the Carpathian Convention, DECISION COP3/6 Sustainable tourism Article 9 of the Carpathian Convention
	EuBike Carpathians	Establishing dialogue between tourism providers,	1) Erasmus+ 2) LIFE Programme 2014-2020	Provisional: - UNEP Vienna-ISCC (Lead/coordination of Carpathian participants)	To develop	DECISION COP3/5 Sustainable transport and infrastructure, Industry and energy

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CCTopic	Name of Project idea	Synopsis	Target program	Partners (to be confirmed)	Status	Decision / Benefit for Carpathian Convention
		infrastructure authorities and cyclo-tourists to promote development of bike routes in the Carpathians	3) European Transnational Cooperation Danube Programme 2014-2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zoi environment network (web-site and communication) - University of Krems - ECE Potential Carpathian Countries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ekopsychology Society Poland (to be confirmed) - Green Dossier Ukraine (to be confirmed) - Romontana Romania(to be confirmed) - CNPA or some Protected areas 		<p>Article 8 of the Carpathian Convention,</p> <p>DECISION COP3/6 Sustainable tourism Article 9 of the Carpathian Convention</p> <p>DECISION COP3/9 Awareness raising, education and public participation Article 13 of the Carpathian Convention</p>
Landscape protection, Cultural Heritage, Spatial Planning	Carpathian cultural landscapes project	Identification, delimitation, cataloguing, mapping and spatial visualization of sites harbouring Carpathian cultural landscape structures,	To be defined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -UNEP Grid Warsaw -UNEP Vienna-ISCC -Others 	To develop	DECISION COP3/7 Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge. Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention

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CCTopic	Name of Project idea	Synopsis	Target program	Partners (to be confirmed)	Status	Decision / Benefit for Carpathian Convention
	CONNECT-C “Carpathian Habitats Continuity and Connectivity	Develop and update databases prepared under Bioregio with the aim to delineate areas significant for biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians		-UNEP Grid Warsaw -UNEP Vienna-ISCC -CC Countries -Others	To develop	DECISION COP3/1 Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity. Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention
	Carpathian Connectivity Outreach	Conservation and sustainable management in the areas outside of protected areas in the Carpathians, with the objective of improving and ensuring connectivity between existing protected areas and other areas and habitats significant for biological and landscape diversity of the	To be defined	-UNEP Grid Warsaw -UNEP Vienna-ISCC -CC Countries -Others	To develop	DECISION COP3/1 Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity. Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention

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CCTopic	Name of Project idea	Synopsis	Target program	Partners (to be confirmed)	Status	Decision / Benefit for Carpathian Convention
		Carpathians				
	Networking project supporting CNPA activities	Conservation and sustainable management of Protected Areas	To be defined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -UNEP Grid Warsaw -UNEP Vienna-ISCC -CC Countries -Others 	To develop	DECISION COP3/1 Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity. Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention
	TransCarpathians	The project is aimed at the harmonization of spatial planning in border areas of the CC Parties, in particular transboundary protected areas (TBPA).	To be defined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -UNEP Grid Warsaw -UNEP Vienna-ISCC -CC Countries -Others 	To develop	DECISION COP3/2 Spatial development. Article 5 of the Carpathian Convention



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CCTopic	Name of Project idea	Synopsis	Target program	Partners (to be confirmed)	Status	Decision / Benefit for Carpathian Convention
	Carpathian Cultural Heritage Inventory	Establishment of the common Carpathian Cultural Heritage Inventory	To be defined	-UNEP Grid Warsaw -UNEP Vienna-ISCC -CC Countries -Others	To develop	DECISION COP3/7 Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge. Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention
	CIRIS “Carpathian Integrated Regional Information System”	Development of the common Carpathian information system facilitating integrated land resources management and allowing synergies and harmonization of different sectoral policies / thematic areas of CC interest	To be defined	-UNEP Grid Warsaw -UNEP Vienna-ISCC -CC Countries -Others	To develop	DECISION COP3/8 Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning. Article 12 of the Carpathian Convention

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CCTopic	Name of Project idea	Synopsis	Target program	Partners (to be confirmed)	Status	Decision / Benefit for Carpathian Convention
Awareness raising, education and public participation	Carpathian ESD regional network	Developing of a Carpathian Annex to the UNECE ESD Strategy and Carpathian ESD action plan	Erasmus+ (other possibilities to be examined)	-UNEP Vienna ISCC -UNECE Steering Committee on ESD -Carpathian Ministries: of Environment and Education -RCE Vienna -ENSI	In development	DECISION COP3/9 Awareness raising, education and public participation Article 13 of the Carpathian Convention
	Carpathian Teacher Training – Translation and development of an ICT component	Teacher Training in the Carpathians Area	Erasmus + (other possibilities to be examined)	UNEP Vienna ISCC ENSI (yet to be confirmed) CNPA (yet to be confirmed) Selected local partners	In development	DECISION COP3/9 Awareness raising, education and public participation Article 13 of the Carpathian Convention
	Intergenerational Practices in Carpathian Protected Areas	Testing intergenerational practices as a component of protected area management by carrying out several pilot activities in the selected Carpathian protected areas	Erasmus + (other possibilities to be examined)	-UNEP Vienna – ISCC -CNPA (2-3 selected protected areas, yet to be confirmed) -University of natural Resources and Life Sciences - BOKU (yet to be confirmed) -1-2 Selected local NGOs (yet to be confirmed) -WWF Danube – Carpathian programme	In development	DECISION COP3/9 Awareness raising, education and public participation Article 13 of the Carpathian Convention DECISION COP3/1 Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity Article 4 of the



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CCTopic	Name of Project idea	Synopsis	Target program	Partners (to be confirmed)	Status	Decision / Benefit for Carpathian Convention
						Carpathian Convention
	Carpathian Convention Youth Initiative	Raising awareness among the young people about the sustainable development of the Carpathian Mountains, and involving youth in various activities of the Carpathian Convention	Erasmus+ (other possibilities to be examined)	-UNEP Vienna – ISCC -ACUNS -RCE Vienna (yet to be confirmed) -Selected Carpathian NGOs (yet to be confirmed) -Ministries of Education (yet to be confirmed)	In development	DECISION COP3/9 Awareness raising, education and public participation Article 13 of the Carpathian Convention
	Public involvement in CC implementation	Strengthening public involvement in CC implementation	To be defined	UNEP Vienna – ISCC UNEP/GRID-Warsaw Ekopsychologia Association	To develop	DECISION COP3/9 Awareness raising, education and public participation Article 13 of the Carpathian Convention

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CCTopic	Name of Project idea	Synopsis	Target program	Partners (to be confirmed)	Status	Decision / Benefit for Carpathian Convention
	Training and supporting young entrepreneurs in green and sustainable entrepreneurship	Interested young people from the Carpathians will be selected and trained in sustainability and entrepreneurship, and supported with seed funding	To be defined	UNEP Vienna – ISCC UNIDO Business, Investment and Technology Branch	In development	DECISION COP3/9 Awareness raising, education and public participation Article 13 of the Carpathian Convention
Sustainable Tourism Development	InRuTou follow-up	Transferring InRuTou training to other areas of the Carpathians, in cooperation with protected areas	Erasmus + Others to be defined	UNEP Vienna – ISCC Ekopsychology Society (Poland) Romontana (Romania) Green Dossier (Ukraine) CNPA/selected protected areas to be defined Other Carpathian countries	To develop	DECISION COP3/6 Sustainable tourism Article 9 of the Carpathian Convention DECISION COP3/9 Awareness raising, education and public participation Article 13 of the Carpathian Convention