

CNPA STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Within the 12th Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee meeting
18 November 2021, Krakow, Poland
14:00 – 16:00

Immediate recommendations by the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, based on the evaluation of the CNPA Medium-Term Strategy implementation status¹, for the consideration of the CNPA Steering Committee

- 1) **Establishing the full CNPA Steering Committee representing all the Carpathian Parties**
Need for consultation with the Parties of the Carpathian Convention that are responsible for appointing the CNPA SC member
- 2) **Updating the Terms of Reference of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas², which shall address the issue of sound and effective governance of the CNPA**
The ToRs was adopted in 2011 and requires revision.
- 3) **Updating / rethinking the CNPA Medium-Term Strategy³ and the related Work Plan**
CNPA Medium-Term Strategy was adopted in 2011, expired in 2020.
- 4) **Reviewing and updating if necessary the MoC between the Secretariat and the CNPA Unit/Association of Natural Protected Areas Administrations in Romania ANPAA⁴, according to the updated CNPA Terms of Reference.**
- 5) **Verifying the list of CNPA members and nominating new member areas**
Recently the list of Carpathian protected areas has been updated under the Centralparks project, with a reservation that some of the new PAs included in the updated list have not yet officially been nominated by the Parties as the CNPA member areas. Hence, there is a need for verification and official confirmation by the Parties. This task should lead to updating the map of CNPA Members to be further included in the Carpathian Countries Integrated Biodiversity Information System (CCIBIS).
- 6) **Organizing the CNPA conferences and CNPA Steering Committee meetings more regularly**
Possibly without the financial support from the external projects, which was the case so far.
- 7) **Considering and using relevant project results, especially of Centralparks and ConnectGREEN projects.**
- 8) **Strengthening cooperation with other Networks within the Memorandum of Cooperation between the CNPA, ALPARC and DANUBEPARKS through initiating common activities, as well as facilitating cooperation and exchange with other neighboring mountain regions and other initiatives.**

¹ [Review of the CNPA Medium Term Strategy implementation](#) and [Presentation of the CNPA status quo. Need for revisiting the strategic CNAP documents and discussing the way forward](#) – delivered at the 3rd CNPA Conference in Visegrad, Hungary in September 2021

² http://www.carpathianconvention.org/tl_files/carpathiancon/Downloads/02%20Activities/2.1.1%20ToR%20CNPA.pdf

³ http://www.carpathianconvention.org/tl_files/carpathiancon/Downloads/02%20Activities/2.1.1%20CNPA%20medium%20term%20strategy.pdf

⁴ http://www.carpathianconvention.org/tl_files/carpathiancon/Downloads/02%20Activities/Biodiveristy/Doc.%2010_MoC_SCC_ANPAA_CNPA_signed.pdf

- 9) **Considering establishing thematic working groups within the CNPA which should focus on substantive work of the Network.**

- 10) **Considering/establishing the internal CNPA newsletter functioning independently from the financial support by the external and time-limited projects.**

Recommendations collected from the participants of the 3rd CNPA Conference based on the questions proposed

During the 3rd CNPA Conference: A new age for the CNPA network, held in Visegrad (HU) on the 29th of September 2021, the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention proposed an interactive exercise to the attendants, through the online tool - Mentimeter. The main purpose of the open questions was to receive feedback on the way forward for the CNPA cooperation and activities, and to facilitate further discussion within the CNPA Steering Committee. Thanks to the great contribution of the participants and based on their answers, here are presented some recommendations and proposals.

1) With reference to the activities perceived as most urgent for institutional development and operational capacity building of the CNPA, it is recommended to:

- Develop and implement a functional structure of CNPA with dedicated people and financial resources for their work
- Uniform working procedures at the park level such as monitoring and external communication
- Organize a more frequent meetings of the SC to make it more active, and to improve regular communication with the CNPA Members and initiate regular common activities
- Create a platform and an online link for sharing best practices and presenting thematic conferences
- Reinforce the resources to support the Secretariat
- Designate a CNPA association and a CNPA secretariat
- Work on the preparation of projects on common topics
- Developing an Action Plan
- Regular communication with the CNPA Members

- The analysis and comparison of the responses and opinions expressed regarding the activities to be undertaken for the institutional development and operational capacity building of the CNPA, with respect to the current state of implementation of the CNPA's medium-term strategy, further recommends the **reviewing the CNPA Terms of Reference and the MoC between the Secretariat and the CNPA Unit** and, subsequently, suggest **more regular organization of the CNPA conferences and meeting of the CNPA SC**, in order to foster collaboration and future cooperation among the managers of the Carpathian protected areas.

2) With reference to the activities perceived as most urgent for enhancing communication between the member areas of the CNPA, it is recommended to:

- Update the official communication channels, like website and social media pages, for instance by creating a Facebook group with all CNPA members or a daily community platform for members
- Keep more frequent mutual contact with PAs
- Create a consultable database of main stakeholders
- Implement the newsletter, for instance by including useful information on members and good practices undertaken

- Improve the management of the PA contact list, by offering, through dedicated emails, a greater variety of engaging topics and meetings
- Consolidate commitment and collaboration through a funded project, a joint project to strengthen the common identity

➤ According to the responses and opinions expressed regarding the activities to be undertaken for enhancing communication between the member areas of the CNPA, with respect to the current state of implementation of the CNPA's medium-term strategy, it is recommended the need for **implementing and keeping the CNPA internal newsletter up to date**, independently from the financial support by the external and time-limited projects, and for **more systematic contribution to the awareness-raising on the Carpathian best practices and successful projects** among all the members through all available communication channels

3) With reference to the activities perceived as most urgent for common projects at the Carpathian scale, it is recommended to:

- Make a brainstorm with all members on the main problems they encounter and in which they need more support
- Focus on large carnivores
- Address common challenges such as the control of invasive species, waste management and tourism
- Improve connectivity between protected areas
- Implement research activities
- Deal with tours and exchange of tourism workers
- Get more involved in sustainable practices by sharing experience between members
- Focus on green businesses
- Help local communities
- Organize study tours of ranges to other PAs
- Focus more on local businesses and local products
- Spend more time and resources on joint advertisement and promotion
- Undertake more actions to prevent and contrast illegal logging

➤ On the basis of the responses and opinions expressed regarding the activities to be undertaken for the common projects at the Carpathian scale, concerning the current state of implementation of the CNPA's medium-term strategy, it is recommended to **identify the main challenges and problems in the Carpathian area**, by improving connectivity between PAs and taking into account the needs of each member, to be addressed and settled through joint projects and common fundraising from external sources for the network activities. Common issues perceived and identified as most urgent include **biodiversity conservation and management effectiveness, large carnivores, illegal logging prevention, invasive species, waste management and tourism, green bussines, supporting local communities, prmoting local producs, education and sustainable practices, experiences exchange, and active promotion.**

4) With reference to the activities perceived as most urgent for enhancing the exchange of information, experience, skills, knowledge and data between the CNPA, it is recommended to:

- Establish a knowledge hub for thematic topics

• Organize regular symposiums and online webinars with PA professionals on interesting topics
• Create a common network online platform
• Organize regular CNPA team-building meeting
• Identify a good coordinator able to keep communication among countries in the long term
• Organize exchanges of employees and managers or study visits for employees

- Depending on the responses and opinions expressed regarding the activities to be undertaken for enhancing the exchange of information, experience, skills, knowledge and data, concerning the current state of implementation of the CNPA's medium-term strategy, it is recommended to **consider common activities in the frame of the MoC between CNPA, ALPARC and DANUBEPARKS** and initiating new ones, such as pieces of training, seminars, study tours, joint scientific research project and programs elaboration and for the realization of a common database and platform for the continuous exchange and **sharing of experience and knowledge between members**.

5) With reference to the activities perceived as most urgent for promoting PAs as model areas for sustainable local development and transboundary cooperation, it is recommended to:
• Identify and designate transboundary PAs and areas for the restoration of a healthy planet
• Implement a joint communication strategy for the whole CNPA
• Promote PAs not only through their direct members but also through the involvement of other relevant stakeholders
• Organize press conferences and workshops
• Share successful stories and promote good examples through common social media platforms
• Implement a branding and visibility strategy
• Organize study visits for the relevant stakeholders
• Increase communication and implementation of feasible economic activities for local communities
• Start working also outside PAs, in the surrounding communities
• Access funding sources for successful communication

- In accordance with the responses and opinions expressed regarding the activities to be undertaken for promoting PAs as model areas for sustainable local development and transboundary cooperation, with respect to the current state of implementation of the CNPA's medium-term strategy, it is recommended to **facilitate cooperation and exchange with the relevant stakeholders and other neighboring regions** as well as other similar programs and networks, and for **wider use of the existing communication tools** and development of further instruments and initiatives supporting the processes.