



Carpathian Network of Protected Areas Steering Committee meeting

27 March 2012, Banska Bystrica, Slovakia

FINAL REPORT

Opening of the meeting

Mr. Mircea Verghelet, Director of the Piatra Craiului National Park and Chair of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas Steering Committee (CNPA SC) opened the meeting.

Welcome by State Nature Conservancy of Slovak Republic (SNCSR)

Mr. Jan Kadlecik, Head of Department of International Treaties of the SNCSR, host of the meeting, welcomed the meeting participants.

Opening remarks by UNEP Vienna – ISCC and WWF DCP

Mr. Harald Egerer, Head of the UNEP Vienna - ISCC, and Ms. Hildegard Meyer, Project Manager of WWF DCP, informed the participants on the meeting objectives.

Adoption of the Agenda

The Draft Agenda was unanimously agreed by the participants.

Presentation of CARPIVIA and CarpathCC projects

Mr. Tomáš Hlásny, National Forest Centre (NFC), presented both the CARPIVIA and CarpathCC Projects, developed under the European Commission Preparatory Action on Climate in the Carpathian Region.



Update on the BIOREGIO Carpathians project and on the main outcomes of the Carpathian Convention Biodiversity Working Group meeting

Mr. Mireca Verghelet, presented BIOREGIO Carpathians Project and updated the meeting participants on its status of implementation.

Mr. Harald Egerer summarised the main outcomes of the Biodiversity WG meeting that took place in the same venue before the CNPA SC meeting.

Discussion on CNPA Conference and Carpathians Park Day: dates, financing, content

Ms. Hildegard Meyer presented a draft plan for the Pan Carpathians Park Day and the CNPA Conference.

The meeting participants agreed the following:

- the ordering of the events proposed in the programme should be modified and it was suggested to shorten the programme
 - the CNPA SC will look for possible additional funding for the organisation of the CNPA Conference and will check possible options for the Conference venue. In particular the SNCSR will write an official letter to the new Minister of the Environment of Slovak Republic asking for possibility to host the meeting and to contribute to its financing
 - UNEP Vienna – ISCC will consider contributing to the organisation of the Conference with additional 10.000 Euros. It is possible to organise it together with the BIOREGIO Carpathians Mid Term Conference
 - besides CNPA internal issues, the Conference could substantively focus on “financing of protected areas” in times of financial crisis including funding opportunities for projects development and possible instruments for transboundary
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cooperation and should be linked as much as possible to the implementation of the CNPA Medium Term Strategy and the relevant EU policies and strategies

- an online access to the material, outcomes and presentations of the last CNPA Conference organised in Brasov, Romania, in 2008, as well as successful projects and actions will be made available for the participants to the next conference where possible by the responsible partners

Discussion on the possible further contribution of the CNPA SC to BIOREGIO Carpathians project

UNEP Vienna – ISCC, in agreement with WWF DCP, informed the meeting participants on the possibility to organize the next CNPA SC meetings together with the stakeholders meetings that will be organised within WP 7 of the BIOREGIO Carpathians project.

It was agreed that the CNPA SC members can contribute to the elaboration of the Common Integrated Management Measures to be elaborated under WP 4 of the BIOREGIO Carpathians project.

Presentation of the GEF Medium Size Project (MSP) “Improving the financial sustainability of the Carpathian System of Protected Areas” and of the Core Expert Group - Designation of Core Expert Group members

Mr. Mircea Verghelet presented the GEF Medium Size Project (MSP) “Improving the financial sustainability of the Carpathian System of Protected Areas” and informed the meeting participants about the possibility to finance within the project a group of experts from the Carpathian countries (Core Expert Group) in order to create a permanent cooperation framework on financing Protected Areas.

The Core Expert Group designed members are:

- Romania – Mr. Alin Birda - Maramuresului Mountains Nature Park
 - Slovakia – Ms. Zuzana Okanikova – State Nature Conservancy
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- Hungary – Ms. Katalin Sipos - Duna Ipoly National Park

The following members have to be confirmed:

- Serbia – Mr. Zarko Vojanic - Ministry of Environment, Mining and Spatial Planning
- Ukraine – Ms. Anastasia Drapaluk - Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine

The following Countries have not designated their members yet:

Poland and Czech Republic.

The CNPA SC members have to send an official communication on the designation of the Core Expert Group members to Mircea Verghelet.

Next steps

The next meeting probably will be held at the end of September together with the first BIOREGIO Carpathians stakeholder meeting.

It was agreed that UNEP Vienna – ISCC will send the meeting report in two weeks and WWF DCP will prepare an updated CNPA Conference programme according to what has been discussed during the meeting and on the feedbacks from CNPA SC members.

Closure of the meeting

Mr. Mircea Verghelet thanked all the meeting participants and the hosting organisation, SNSCR, and closed the meeting.
