



**Carpathian Convention Working Group on  
Protection and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity  
(Biodiversity WG)**

**Carpathian Network of Protected Areas Steering Committee  
(CNPA SC)**

**18-19 May 2010**

**MEETING REPORT**

**CNPA SC Meeting, 18 May 2010 (morning session)**

Mr. Mircea Verghet, ad interim Chair of the CNPA SC and chair of the meeting, welcomed the participants to the 8<sup>th</sup> CNPA SC meeting.

Mr. Harald Egerer, Head of the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (ISCC), introduced the meeting reminding that the Protocol on Protection and Sustainable Use of Landscape and Biological Diversity of the Carpathian Convention (Biodiversity Protocol) will soon enter into force and presented to the participants the background information documents prepared by the Secretariat. The two documents consist in a state of the art of the main activities related to the Biodiversity Protocol and a proposed list of priorities for future actions aimed at implementing the Biodiversity Protocol to be included in the Biodiversity Protocol Programme of Work, that will be presented during the Joint meeting the day after.

He announced also to the participants that the project proposal Bioregio Carpathians, submitted under the second call of the SEE programme, aimed at implementing the main provisions of the Biodiversity Protocol, has passed the first step of the selection procedure and now a more detailed project proposal must be submitted to the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS), probably in June 2010. The BIOREGIO Carpathians proposal had in fact been the rated by the SEE Programme as the second best out of 600 submitted project concepts.

He stressed, also in light of the development of project proposals to be submitted to the EU financial programmes, the importance of the consistency of the activities related to the Biodiversity Protocol with the EU policies and regulation. In particular he stressed the importance of a strategy for NATURA 2000 for the Carpathians.

Mr. Egerer gave the floor to Mr. Frits Schlingemann, UNEP ROE. Mr. Schlingemann stressed the importance that the CNPA Medium Term Strategy (MTS) is consistent with the Biodiversity Protocol Strategic Action Plan and the need of identification of do-able and feasible priority actions in the MTS to be developed. He underlined again also the importance of the support of the EU to the process and of having as part of this the recognition by the EU of the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols as an instrument for the implementation of the EU policies and regulation. Finally he raised the issue of the need for a focal point in the secretariat for the activities related to the Biodiversity Protocol. In this regard if the project proposal Bioregio Carpathians will be approved it can be located within the project.

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After the introductory speeches and the adoption of the agenda the participants provided their comments to the last version of the CNPA MTS and part of them were directly inserted in the document.

Mr. Martin Pavlik (Permanent Secretariat Alpine Convention – Task Force Protected Areas), informed the participants about two events that will be organized in September 2010 in the Czech Republic concerning the sharing the experiences in the establishment of ecological networks between Alps and Carpathians, and in October 2010 in Switzerland (Conference of Alpine Protected Areas).

### **Conclusions:**

The CNPA SC reached full agreement on the text of the CNPA MTS with the following understanding:

- The text will be screened and made consistent with EU policies and regulation, in particular NATURA 2000 (responsible: Ms. Sissi Samec, UNEP Vienna/ISCC consultant) and Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) requirements (responsible: WWF DCP). An annex with CBD references will be added (responsible: WWF DCP)
- A reference to the European Environment Agency will be included in the introduction (responsible: Ms. Sissi Samec)
- The final draft will be circulated by 11 June 2010 for last screening by participants within two weeks. During that period, Serbia (not represented at the meeting) can still make text proposals, if any
- The next meeting of the CNPA SC will take place with the Biodiversity WG meeting in early October 2010.

### **Biodiversity WG meeting, 18 May 2010 (afternoon session)**

Mr. Schlingemann, chair of the meeting, presented the Draft Agenda that was adopted by the participants.

The Country representatives updated the Secretariat and the other participants on the main activities developed in their respective Countries related to the Biodiversity Protocol.

In Poland activities related to NATURA 2000 and Red List of Species have been developed; in Ukraine 3 new National Parks have been established and territories of existing National Parks have been extended; in Slovakia several projects for monitoring and management of habitats and species are ongoing, the implementation of the EU regulation has been improved and funds for the Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI) have been increased; in Romania Maramures Nature Park has become an administration and several projects on biodiversity and nature protection are ongoing; several initiatives are carried out also in the Czech Republic, such as a new rescue program of large carnivores, and in Hungary, such as the start of a 5-year Life+ project in January 2010 aiming at the establishment of the so-called Pannon Seed Bank (a gene bank) for the ex-situ conservation of the wild flora of Hungary and possibly in the Carpathian basin.

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After this update from the Countries representatives, the Biodiversity Protocol SAP was discussed by the meeting participants and modifications were directly included in the document.

### **Conclusions:**

The meeting participants agreed as follows:

- The Biodiversity Protocol SAP will be a 12 year framework and basis for a 3 year Work Plan
- The text will be screened and made consistent with EU/Natura 2000 (responsible: Sissi Samec) and CBD requirements (responsible: WWF DCP)
- A section with “expected results” will be added to each objective (responsible: ISCC)
- All references to intergovernmental panels will be removed and replaced by references which maximize the use of existing structures and networks (responsible: ISCC)
- The section on CNPA (objective 9) will be considered to be the “umbrella” for the CNPA MTS and be made consistent with that notion (responsible: ISCC)
- All references to EU regulation will be reviewed and amended to reflect the fact that Serbia and Ukraine are not EU Member States (responsible: ISCC)
- A paragraph on the conservation of landscapes and (infrastructure) development affecting Protected Areas will be drafted, circulated for approval, and included in the text (responsible: Mircea Verghelet)
- A paragraph on the dissemination of the information related to the Biodiversity Protocol will be added (responsible: ISCC)
- The revised draft of the SAP will be circulated by 2nd of July 2010 for comments that have to be sent to the ISCC by 1 September 2010 at the latest
- The SAP will be finalized at the next meeting of the Biodiversity WG to be held in early October 2010

### **Joint Biodiversity WG and CNPA SC meeting, 19 may 2010 (all day)**

After the finalisation of the Biodiversity protocol SAP, Mr. Schlingemann opened the meeting and presented the Draft Agenda, that was adopted by the participants.

In the first part of the meeting there were presentations from WWF DCP and ISCC.

WWF DCP presented the PA4LP project and two of the main results of this project: the Carpathian Protected Area Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (CPAMETT) and the Carpathian Protected Areas Clearing House Mechanism (CPACHM). In particular was discussed the possibility of the use of the CPACHM as a decision makers support system for the development of the comprehensive joint biodiversity information system of the Carpathian Region and the use of CPAMETT system to report the activities aimed at implementing the Biodiversity Protocol in the Carpathian Countries. Both issues have to be further discussed.

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Ms. Sissi Samec presented the background information paper prepared by the ISCC on the state of the art of the main activities related to the Biodiversity Protocol.

Mr. Giacomo Luciani (EURAC expert team/ISCC) introduced the ISCC proposals for priority actions aimed at implementing the Biodiversity Protocol included in the background information paper distributed to the meeting participants. These priority actions were selected from the Biodiversity Protocol SAP and were considered do-able and financially affordable in the time frame of three years between COP 3 and COP 4.

Mr. Luciani presented also the state of the art of the Bioregio Carpathians project proposal and the next steps for its development. He underlined that if the project will be approved (the final approval is expected in late autumn) additional activities aimed at implementing the Biodiversity Protocol other than those proposed can be carried out.

The proposed priorities were discussed by the meeting participants that agreed on the importance of the use of the already existing instruments and available data in the establishment of a joint biodiversity information system and the elaboration of a red list of species and habitats.

### **Conclusions:**

The meeting participants recommended that the SAP for the implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol will be the framework and umbrella for a complementary 3 year/short term Work Plans for the activities aimed at implementing the Biodiversity Protocol of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI), the CNPA and the Biodiversity WG. These Work Plans will form the Biodiversity Protocol Programme of Work for submission to and approval by COP 3. It was also recommended that the operational priorities proposed by ISCC should form the core of the Biodiversity Protocol Programme of Work, and that due attention has to be given to the need to integrate the outcomes and secure the follow up of the PA4LP project, including the work on the CPACHM (WWF DCP will prepare a short note with recommendations of the PA4LP project).

It was confirmed that if the Bioregio project proposal is approved additional activities other than those proposed by the ISCC and included in the Programme of Work can be developed.

The meeting agreed that the support service structure of the Biodiversity Protocol (CWI, the CNPA and the Biodiversity WG) will be the ISCC and, in light of the prevailing constraints, needs to be organized as cost effectively as possible, combining and utilizing resources of UNEP Vienna, the Bioregio project proposal (in case of its approval) and contributions by Governments.

The meeting participants agreed that the Carpathian Convention constituency should reflect and undertake measures, individually and collectively, to ensure maximum attention and mainstreaming of the Carpathian Convention (and Biodiversity Protocol) implementation requirements in the relevant policies and planning of the Carpathian Convention member countries and the EU.

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

Carpathian Convention Working Group on Protection and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity	Biodiversity WG
Carpathian Protected Areas Clearing House Mechanism	CPACHM
Carpathian Network of Protected Areas Steering Committee	CNPA SC
Carpathian Protected Area Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool	CPAMETT
Carpathian Wetland Initiative	CWI
Conference of the Parties	COP
Convention on Biological Diversity	CBD
Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention	ISCC
Joint Technical Secretariat	JTS
Protocol on Protection and Sustainable Use of Landscape and Biological Diversity of the Carpathian Convention	Biodiversity Protocol
Medium Term Strategy	MTS
Strategic Action Plan	SAP



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