



## “Carpathian Biodiversity Days”

### 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas Steering Committee 4 March 2009, Vienna, Austria

#### MEETING REPORT

The 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas Steering Committee (CNPA SC) was opened at 14:30 on 4 March 2009 by Mr. Frits Schlingemann (UNEP Regional Office for Europe in Geneva). The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Mircea Verghelet (National Forest Administration of Romania – Protected Areas Service).

#### **1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the Agenda & 2. Update on the results of the Bureau Meeting (2 March) and of the Joint Meeting: the Biodiversity WG and the CNPA Steering Committee**

As requested by the Bureau (2 March) and by the WG on Biodiversity (3 March), and taken into consideration discussions during the Joint Meeting of the WG on Biodiversity and the CNPA SC (4 March), Mr. Schlingemann presented and distributed to the participants a note presenting the recommendations and conclusions of the aforementioned meetings/ Carpathian bodies:

1. ***FOCUS ON ACTION: Medium-term Strategy and Work Plan (2010-2015)*** → the Steering Committee should as soon as possible finalize the agenda for short, medium and long term action by the CNPA for consideration by the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CCIC)
2. ***CNPA Conference*** → the Steering Committee should finalize a proposal on the role and place of the protected areas managers gatherings in the Convention process
3. ***Terms of Reference of the WG on Biodiversity*** → the Steering Committee may propose amendments to the ToRs of the Working Group on Biodiversity for consideration by CCIC
4. ***CNPA permanent arrangement / “Unit”*** → the Steering Committee should refrain from further discussing the issue now that the Bureau decided that the Secretariat issues will be discussed by the Ministers
5. ***Terms of Reference of the CNPA Steering Committee*** → the Steering Committee may propose amendments to ToRs of CNPA for consideration by CCIC (instead of “separate” TORs for CNPA SC)

The Agenda of the Meeting was modified according to the 5 points/recommendations presented by Mr. Schlingemann.

#### **3. The CNPA Medium Term Strategy and Work Plan (2010-2015)**

Mr. Verghelet remarked that currently there are 4 different versions of the Medium-term Strategy (MTS):

- version 1: prepared and proposed by ALPARC;



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- version 2: the second version of draft 1 including inputs from the informal preparation meeting in Bratislava (July 2008);
- version 3: presented to the 1<sup>st</sup> CNPA Conference (September 2008);
- version 4: proposed by Mr. Jan Kadlecik (Slovakia) and circulated prior to the Carpathian Biodiversity Days meetings (February/March 2009)

and invited the participants to decide on the way forward in order to finalize it as soon as possible.

Mr. Zbigniew Niewiadomski (Poland) suggested to have as starting point version 4 (proposed by Slovakia- Mr. Kadlecik) which should be circulated to the parks for comments; also, he believes that the CNPA Steering Committee could agree upon a final version of the MTS before its next meeting (autumn 2009).

Further, Mr. Jan Kadlecik (State Nature Conservancy of Slovakia) explained that version 4 has the same content as the last version circulated officially by the interim Secretariat but under a new structure – the structure was inspired by the one of the RAMSAR Strategy. He added that the document still needs many improvements including deleting irrelevant information – the MTS is currently too long. Moreover, he remarked that for the Biodiversity Protocol already a Strategic Action Plan is being developed and therefore it does not have to be also entirely reflected into the CNPA MTS.

The meeting agreed to further develop the MTS based on the version provided by Mr. Kadlecik.

Mr. Niewiadomski also argued in favour of a “questionnaire” to be sent to the parks collecting their suggestions/ relevant info on their needs and what are they expecting to accomplish through the Network. Mr. Ivanenko agreed and suggested few points to be included in the questionnaire: high priority activities, linkage with the Carpathian Convention, inventory of activities on the ground in the parks; information also valuable for development of the Work Plan.

The meeting decided that the CNPA Focal Points would circulate to the parks the consolidated version/final draft of the MTS together with a consolidated version of the Work Plan (2010-1015) for their inputs/comments/improvements. Mr. Egerer informed the meeting that the Work Plan will be developed with the help of the WWF-DCP.

Ms. Hildegard Meyer (WWF-DCP) suggested to include in the MTS the relevant activities of the CBD programme of work on mountains.



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### 4. The CNPA Conference

Mr. Verghet remarked that the document – Draft Permanent Arrangements for the CNPA – was presented to CNPA Conference in Poiana Brasov after being prior endorsed by the CNPA SC. Mr. Niewiadomski recalled that the CNPA SC agreed to present the respective document to the Conference which does not imply its adoption. Also, he drew attention to the possible financial implications / burden for the parks/Carpathian countries to attend the Conference, if such were an official body. Furthermore, asked by Mr. Igor Ivanenko (State Agency for Protected Areas of Ukraine), Mr. Verghet explained the necessity and objectives of the CNPA Conference as official body of the CNPA; thus, he believes the Conference would be the official tool of consulting the parks’ managers on specific issues and their opinion should be taken into consideration as they represent the Carpathian protected areas that form the CNPA and they should be able to take decisions concerning common issues. Also, he remarked that organising a CNPA Conference without any “official” outcome is pointless and would not stimulate the parks’ administrations to take part in the Network’s activities or even participate to such event (CNPA Conference).

Further, Mr. Ivanenko proposed to consider the CNPA Conference as an official activity of the Carpathian Convention. Thus, the results of the meeting could be officially presented to and considered by the CCIC and COP.

Czech Republic could imagine the CNPA Conference being a “body” or just an “official” / “accredited” activity of the Carpathian Convention.

Serbia, as well as Slovakia expressed a preference for a stronger position for the CNPA Conference in the framework of the Carpathian Convention. Hungary will offer a point of view on the matter after internal consultations back home.

Therefore, it was agreed by the CNPA Steering Committee that the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas Conference could be proposed as an “official activity” in the framework of the Carpathian Convention. The draft document “Permanent Arrangements of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas” was modified accordingly (see Annex 4).

Further, Mr. Guido Plassmann representing the Task Force Protected Areas – Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention partner of the CNPA and co-organizer of the 1<sup>st</sup> CNPA Conference the presented the booklet produced after the event which also contains a CD with the relevant documents presented during the meeting as well as a summary of the comments provided by the participants – parks’ administrations.



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### 5. Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Biodiversity and of the CNPA Steering Committee

Mr. Veghelet proposed to the meeting – based on discussions held during the informal meeting of some (representatives of Czech Republic – Ms. Jana Urbancikova, Romania – Mr. Mircea Vergehet, Slovakia – Mr. Jan Kadlecik and Ukraine – Mr. Igor Ivanenko) of the CNPA SC members on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March – to modify the ToRs of the WG on Biodiversity by deleting all the references to the CNPA and its Steering Committee (see Annex 5). It was agreed to propose that the ToRs for the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas should be modified accordingly<sup>1</sup>.

Furthermore, Mr. Vergehet reopened the discussion on amendment of the CNPA Terms of Reference with specific tasks to be performed by the CNPA Steering Committee – ToRs for the CNPA Steering Committee. The relevant document was also produced during the informal meeting of some of the CNPA SC members on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March; thus, the representatives of Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine explained that in their view the CNPA Steering Committee is a Working Group and therefore should have laid down its tasks/mission similar to the other WGs within the Carpathian Convention framework.

The meeting agreed that a proposal for amending the CNPA ToRs should be presented to the next meeting of the CCIC for consideration (with a view to be adopted by COP3), together or as part of the proposal for permanent arrangements for CNPA. The interim Secretariat will undertake to prepare a next draft document integrating the proposed permanent arrangements, the ToRs of the CNPA and of its SC into one single document, for consideration by the next meeting.

### 6. Other matters

Mr. Egerer presented briefly the draft concept of the project ECONET-C and invited the members of the CNPA SC to provide comments and/or additional ideas at their earliest convenience. Also, he emphasised the importance of finding a suitable lead partner. Mr.

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<sup>1</sup> Proposed modifications:

- In the first paragraph under section “Aim, Tasks and Composition” the reference to the WG on Biodiversity should be deleted – “, and supporting the work and activities of the Working Group on the conservation of biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathian Convention”.
- Under section “The following are the goals of CNPA” the last point was added the text “and other future Protocols to the Carpathian Convention”.
- Under section “The work Programme and activities of the CNPA may include” the eighth point should be deleted – “and coordination of the Biodiversity Working Group”.



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Plassmann offered to provide guidelines to the development of the project, a similar project being already endorsed in the Alpine region.

Furthermore, the participants were invited to future events to be held in 2009:

- “1<sup>st</sup> CWI Conference” to be held in mid-November in Slovakia – invitation by Mr. Kadlecik;
- “Large carnivores: management, research and public relation strategies of the protected areas” in the Alps and the Carpathians to be held on 2-4 July in Nizke Tatry National Park, Slovakia – invitation by Mr. Plassmann;
- “Conference on Wilderness and Large Natural Habitat Areas in Europe” to be held on 27-28 May in Prague, Czech Republic .

The CNPA Steering Committee agreed to have its next meeting in conjunction with the 1<sup>st</sup> CWI Conference as offered by the Slovak Republic.



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### **ANNEXES:**

- 1. Agenda**
- 2. Programme of work**
- 3. List of participants**
- 4. Permanent Arrangements of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas**
- 5. ToRs for the WG on Biodiversity (proposal by the CNPA SC)**

### **ANNEX 1 – Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the Agenda
2. Update on the results of the Bureau Meeting (2 March) and of the Joint Meeting: the Biodiversity WG and the CNPA Steering Committee
3. The CNPA Medium Term Strategy and Work Plan (2010-2015)
4. CNPA Conference
5. Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Biodiversity and of the CNPA Steering Committee
6. Other matters



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#### ANNEX 2 – Programme of work

**Meeting venue:**

ROOM: **F0817** (F-building, 8<sup>th</sup> floor)  
Vienna International Centre (VIC)  
Wagramer Strasse 5  
1220 Vienna  
Austria

#### Wednesday, 4 March 2009 (Day one)

**14:30 – 18:00**

**Session 1**

*16:00 – 16:30*

*Coffee break*

**17:30**

**Closure of the meeting – Conclusions**

*Departure of the participants*



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**ANNEX 3 – List of participants**

<i>No.</i>	<i>Carpathian Country</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Institution</i>	<i>Position</i>
1.	Czech	URBANCIKOVA	Jana	Bile Karpaty Education and Information Centre	CNPA National Focal Point
2.	Hungary	UGRON	Akos	Ministry of Environment and Water	Chief Counsellor of the Department for National Parks and Landscape CNPA National Focal Point
3.	Poland	NIEWIADOMSKI	Zbigniew	Ministry of the Environment	CNPA National Focal Point
4.	Romania	VERGHELET	Mircea	Romanian National Forest Administration	Head of the Protected Areas Service CNPA National Focal Point
5.	Serbia	PISCEVIC	Nevena	Ministry of Environmental Protection	Advisor
6.	Slovakia	KADLECIK	Jan	State Nature Conservancy	Coordinator of international treaties CNPA National Focal Point
7.	Ukraine	IVANENKO	Igor	State Agency for Protected Areas	Deputy Head CNPA National Focal Point

<i>No.</i>	<i>Entity</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Institution</i>	<i>Position</i>
8.	Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention	PLASSMANN	Guido	Task Force Protected Areas / Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention	Director
9.	IUCN	KROLOPP	Andras	IUCN	Deputy Head
10.	WWF-DCP	BALTZER	Michael	WWF-DCP	Director
11.	WWF-DCP	MEYER	Hildegard	WWF-DCP	Protected Areas for a Living Planet





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					Coordinator
12.	WWF-DCP	STROBEL	David	WWF-DCP	Protected Areas for a Living Planet Project Officer

<i>No.</i>	<i>Entity</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Institution</i>	<i>Position</i>
13.	UNEP ISCC	BUCUR	Andreea	UNEP Vienna Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention	Consultant
14.	UNEP ISCC	EGERER	Harald	UNEP Vienna Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention	Head
15.	UNEP ROE	RUIS	Barbara	UNEP Geneva Regional Office for Europe	Legal Officer
16.	UNEP ISCC	SANDEI	Pier Carlo	UNEP Vienna Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention	Associate Programme Officer
17.	UNEP ROE	SCHLINGEMANN	Frits	UNEP Geneva Regional Office for Europe	Senior Adviser



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#### ANNEX 4 – Permanent Arrangements of the CNPA

#### Permanent Arrangements of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas DRAFT

The CNPA consists of all the protected areas of the Carpathian region, which cooperate through:

##### **1. The Steering Committee**

Established by the decision COP1/4 paragraph 12 of the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP1) (11-13 December 2006, Kyiv, Ukraine), and is composed of the CNPA Focal Points of each Party (COP1/4 paragraph 14), designated by each Carpathian country.

The SC approves the Work Plan of the CNPA.

##### **2. The CNPA Unit**

The CNPA Unit implements and coordinates the relevant activities envisaged by the CNPA work plan; the CNPA Unit reports to the CNPA Steering Committee.

Moreover, **the CNPA Conference** is recognized as an official activity of the Carpathian Convention.



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### ANNEX 5 – ToRs for the WG on Biodiversity (proposal by the CNPA SC)

#### Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity

DRAFT (proposed by the 6<sup>th</sup> CNPA Steering Committee Meeting on 4 March 2009)

#### **Mandate**

The First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP1) to the Carpathian Convention (Kyiv, Ukraine, 11-13 December 2006) in its Decision COP1/4 para 1 decided “to support the establishment of a Working Group on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee”, a subsidiary body of the of the Convention, established pursuant to Decision COP1/3 para 4.

#### **Aim and tasks**

The Working Group (WG) will aim at supporting the Parties to the Carpathian Convention towards their cooperation for the implementation of Article 4 on Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity and other related Articles of the Carpathian Convention. Pursuant to Decision COP1/4 para 6, the main goal of the Working Group is to consider and finalize possibly before COP2, the draft Biodiversity Protocol submitted by COP1. According to Decision COP1/4 para 14, the Working Group has to prepare the terms of reference for the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) in consultation with the CNPA Steering Committee, and for the Carpathian Wetlands Initiative (CWI) for submission to and approval of the Bureau of COP1 / Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee.

#### **Field of activities**

##### *1) Draft Protocol on Conservation of Biological and Landscape Diversity*

Pursuant to Decision COP1/4 para 6, the Working Group will consider and finalize possibly before COP2, the Draft Protocol on Conservation of Biological and Landscape Diversity submitted by COP1. In addition, the Working Group will develop a draft Strategic Action Plan on the Protocol’s implementation and relevant annexes to the Protocol for submission to the COP1 Bureau / Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee.

##### *2) Cooperation with the Carpathian Wetlands Initiative (CWI)*



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The Working Group will address the issue of wetlands in the Carpathians and will prepare the terms of reference for CWI.

### *3) Information of CBD and PEBLDS*

Pursuant to the Decision COP1/4 para 4, the Working Group will guide the interim Secretariat to continue to contribute in particular to the work programmes on protected areas and on mountain ecosystems of the CBD; and to continue to contribute to PEBLDS, with the view of halting the loss of biodiversity in the Carpathians by 2010.

### *4) Contribution to the follow-up platform*

The WG will provide its guidance and recommendations for the identification and development of follow-up projects in the area of biological and landscape diversity.

## List of results

1. Second Draft of the Biodiversity Protocol;
2. First Draft of Strategic Action Plan on the Implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol finalized and submitted to COP2;
3. Proposed inputs for COP2 of the Carpathian Convention, such as inputs to a ministerial declaration to be considered by COP2;
4. WG Progress Report for submission to COP 2;
5. List of follow-up actions and proposals.

## Composition and organization of work

The Working Group is composed of the National Focal Points of the Carpathian Convention and designated experts, and is open for observers.

The Working Group will meet at least twice a year and its meetings will be financially supported by the EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project. The tentative schedule of the Working Group is as follows:

1. First Meeting – 26-27 March 2007, VIC Vienna;
2. Second Meeting – 19-21 November 2007;
3. Reporting to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee Meeting – before COP2.

## Coordination and cooperation



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According to Decision COP1/3 “Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention”, the Secretariat is requested to ensure a continuous exchange and inter-linkage between the work and activities under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee and the work and activities under the EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project.

The Working Group will cooperate with the Alpine Convention as agreed in the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention, concluded at COP1 of the Carpathian Convention, Kyiv Ukraine, 13 December 2006, by developing and conducting common activities in the area of conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity and through reciprocal participation in the relevant meetings (e.g. Alpine Network of the Protected Areas (ALPARC) and Carpathian Network of the Protected Areas (CNPA)) of the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions and their bodies.

According to Memoranda of Cooperation with the Ramsar Convention and Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative (CERI) signed at COP1 of the Carpathian Convention, Kyiv Ukraine, 13 December 2006, the Working Group will cooperate with the Ramsar Convention and CERI on the issues related to its activities (e.g. on wetlands – with the Ramsar Convention and CWI, on the Carpathian ecological network – with CERI).

The Working Group will liaise and cooperate with the CNPA SC. The Chair of the CNPA SC should be invited to participate as an observer to its meetings.

### Scientific contributions and background information

The Working Group will benefit from the inputs provided by:

1. Carpathian Environment Outlook (KEO), which will provide a holistic and integrated assessment of the current state and future trends of the Carpathian environment;
2. REC Handbook on the Carpathian Convention prepared in the framework of the Umbrella Project financed by IMELS;
3. REC national assessments and the regional assessment of the policy, legislative and institutional frameworks related to the Carpathian Convention, available in English and national-language versions, prepared in the framework of the Umbrella Project financed by IMELS;
4. BBI Matra Project on the Carpathian Ecological Network and the Carpathian Biodiversity Information System (CBIS);
5. Transnational model project “Alpine-Carpathian Corridor” (WWF Austrian Programme);
6. Programmes of work on Protected Areas and on Mountain Biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
7. Other related documentation.