



## **“Carpathian Biodiversity Days”**

### **Joint Meeting the Working Group on Biodiversity of the Carpathian Convention and the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas Steering Committee 4 March 2009, Vienna, Austria**

## **MEETING REPORT**

The Joint Meeting of the Working Group on Biodiversity and the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas was opened at 9:30 on 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2009, by Mr. Frits Schlingemann (UNEP Regional Office for Europe - Geneva). The meeting requested Mr. Schlingemann to chair the meeting.

### **1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the Agenda**

Mr. Schlingemann briefly updated the meeting on the conclusions of the Bureau Meeting (2 March 2009) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Biodiversity (3 March 2009). The main conclusions were presented:

- the Bureau recommended the CNPA Steering Committee to concentrate on undertaking substantial activities rather than on institutional arrangements that are in any case decided by the higher bodies of the Convention and/or at the political level;
- the Note on the CNPA prepared by the Co-Chair of COP2 was briefly presented pointing out the main developments/decisions in place by the Carpathian Convention; he emphasised that currently the CNPA and its Steering Committee are serviced by the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (ISCC);
- the Bureau came to the conclusion that all permanent Secretariat issues, including the CNPA Unit/ permanent arrangement, should be discussed at the high level. Slovakia re-iterated its offer to take the lead in facilitating consultations between the three countries – Romania, Slovakia, and Ukraine – which offered to host the Convention’s permanent Secretariat including a CNPA Unit/permanent arrangement.

The Agenda of the Meeting was approved with two modifications; point number 4 became “Future arrangements and activities of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas”; and under point number 5 – Other matters – Mr. Serhij Gubar (Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine) proposed to discuss about possible (joint) activities to celebrate the Biodiversity Day on 22 May.

### **2. Update by the interim Secretariat & partners on the latest activities/developments of the CNPA**

Mr. Egerer informed the meeting on the ongoing collaboration between the ISCC and the WWF-DCP on CNPA activities. Mr. Baltzer (Director, WWF-DCP) remarked that WWF-DCP is glad to be able to support the meetings and activities of the Network and assured of their continuous and further support as long as funds are available.



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## **MEETING REPORT**

Mr. Mircea Verghelet, interim Chair of the CNPA Steering Committee (Romanian National Forest Administration – Protected Areas Service) remarked that the Network was since its beginning helped by various organisations (e.g. ALPARC – Task Force Protected Areas of the Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, WWF, UNEP and CERI) for which the CNPA and its Steering Committee is grateful; in the same time he draw attention to the fact that the CNPA members / the Carpathian countries are the main responsible actors for its development and implementation.

### **3. Update by the interim chair of the CNPA, Mr. Mircea Verghelet, on the 1st CNPA Conference**

Mr. Mircea Verghelet briefly updated the meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Conference of the CNPA held on 23-24 September 2009 in Poiana Brasov – Romania:

- thanked CNPA partners – Task Force Protected Areas of the Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, UNEP and WWF-DCP – for their support in organising the event;
- he informed the meeting that as requested by the COP2 the participants to the Conference were asked to provide inputs/comments to the Medium-term Strategy and the Work Plan for 2010-2015; the aforementioned documents as well as other organisational details were thoroughly considered by the CNPA Steering Committee that met prior to the Conference on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2008;
- the Conference was attended by 85 parks’ administration members of the CNPA;
- the Conference considered a Declaration and Draft Rules of the CNPA Conference (including a provision that the CNPA Conference would meet every 2 years), developed by the CNPA Steering Committee (22 September 2009).

Ms. Bozena Haczek, present at the Conference in Poiana Brasov, remarked that no official Report was sent to the participants and stressed the necessity of such a document summarizing discussions and conclusions of the Conference; further the Report would be useful not only to the meeting participants, but also to the other decisional bodies of the Convention (WG on Biodiversity, CCIC, COP, etc.). Mr. Mircea Verghelet agreed on the necessity of having a Report after the Conference – the comments/materials were collected by ALPARC and WWF-DCP and will be used to prepare a consistent report.

Further, Mr. Schlingemann remarked – based on the current decisions by the Convention’s bodies – that the Protected Areas Conference is not an official body of the CNPA and of the Carpathian Convention (detailed analysis of the CNPA developments to date were presented in the Note on the CNPA – by the Co-Chair of the COP2).



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#### **MEETING REPORT**

Mr. Gubar remarked that the CNPA is indeed a very important component and mean of implementation of the provisions of the Carpathian Convention, but at this point a complicated structure – separate unit and an official CNPA Conference – would not be needed; instead the number of employees of the ISCC could be increased.

Mr. Niewiadomski emphasized the importance of having available the outcomes (comments and suggestions of the participants) of the CNPA Conference to be included in the Medium-term Strategy, Work Plan, but also for consideration by the Convention’s bodies in the context of shaping the activities and management of the Network, e.g. CCIC, COP, etc.

Furthermore, Mr. Schlingemann suggested to the CNPA Steering Committee members to find an agreement on the status of the CNPA Conference. If an agreement will not be reached among themselves, the question could be forwarded to the bodies at higher level of the Convention.

Ms. Haczek remarked that when considering/deciding on the status of the CNPA Conference within the framework of the Carpathian Convention, financial implications must be taken into consideration. Mr. Verghet replied that CNPA Conference has no financial implications – as envisaged and clearly laid-down in the Draft Rules of CNPA Conference – for the Convention’s budget. Moreover, he stressed the fact that a CNPA without the protected areas in the Carpathians actively involved is pointless.

Mr. Schlingemann suggested to consider the CNPA Conference to become an advisory body composed of experts, which hold the know-how about the issues that the parks/protected areas are facing. Mr. Ivanenko agreed and recalled the recommendation of the Bureau (2 March 2009) to focus on the substance – concrete activities and to leave the decision on the structure/arrangements for the CNPA to the political decision-makers; moreover, he underlined the importance of the CNPA Conference, which brought together for the first time many of the protected areas members of the CNPA, as well as of the discussions, comments or suggestions, e.g. creating working groups on different themes (tourism, park management, etc.) delivered during the event; therefore, he also agreed with the importance and necessity of having the Report of the Conference which should be together with all the other relevant documents (Medium-term Strategy, Work Plan, Rules of the CNPA Conference) circulated for comments and suggestions to all the working groups of the Convention.

On the issue of the CNPA Conference, the Joint Meeting recommended that the CNPA SC should finalize a proposal on the role and place of the protected areas managers gatherings in the Convention process.



## “Carpathian Biodiversity Days”

### Joint Meeting the Working Group on Biodiversity of the Carpathian Convention and the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas Steering Committee 4 March 2009, Vienna, Austria

## MEETING REPORT

The Joint Meeting recommended that the CNPA SC should as soon as possible finalize the agenda for short, medium and long term action by the CNPA for consideration by the CCIC. Furthermore, the CNPA SC should refrain from further discussing institutional issues as the Bureau decided that the secretariat related issues will be discussed and decided at the high level.

#### **4. Future arrangements and activities of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas**

Mr. Verghelet informed the Joint Meeting that some<sup>1</sup> of the CNPA Steering Committee members met informally on 3 March 2009 to discuss several matters on the CNPA activities and future developments; the outcomes<sup>2</sup> of this informal meeting were circulated to all participants of the Joint Meeting. Moreover, he proposed the following:

- the ToRs of the WG on Biodiversity of the Carpathian Convention to be amended by deleting the reference to the CNPA, its activities and its Steering Committee;
- the new proposed ToRs of the CNPA Steering Committee should be merged with the existing ones of the CNPA.

The Joint Meeting recommended that the CNPA Steering Committee may propose amendments to Biodiversity WG ToRs, for consideration by CCIC. Furthermore, the Steering Committee may propose amendments to ToRs of CNPA for consideration by CCIC (instead of “separate” TORs for CNPA SC).

Further, Mr. Jan Kadlecik briefly updated the participants on the Carpathian Wetland Initiative; the Slovak State Conservancy has submitted a project for approval by the Ramsar Convention Steering Committee – CWI operating as a regional initiative in the framework of the Ramsar Convention during the period 2009-2012. If approved the CWI will benefit of an amount of 15 000 EUR. Moreover, Mr. Kadlecik thanked all the countries/ministries for their letters of support.

<sup>1</sup> The informal meeting was attended by the representatives of: Czech Republic (Ms. Jana Urbancikova), Romania (Mr. Mircea Verghelet), Slovakia (Mr. Jan Kadlecik), Ukraine (Mr. Igor Ivanenko), WWF-DCP (Mr. Mike Baltzer, Ms. David Strobel, Ms. Hildegard Meyer).

<sup>2</sup> Documents presented: 1 - The Draft Permanent Arrangement for the CNPA; 2 - Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA SC); 3 - CNPA in the framework of the Carpathian Convention (diagram); 4 - The CNPA – key outcomes to date; 5 - Analysis of Carpathian Convention’s provisions on the CNPA.



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## **MEETING REPORT**

### **5. Other matters – Celebration of the Biodiversity Day (22 May)**

Mr. Gubar informed the meeting that during the events prepared to celebrate the Biodiversity Day in Ukraine the “Carpathian Biodiversity Days” held in Vienna on 2-4 March 2009 will be mentioned.



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## **MEETING REPORT**

### **ANNEXES:**

- 1. Agenda**
- 2. Programme of work**
- 3. List of participants**

### **ANNEX 1 – Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the Agenda
2. Update by the interim Secretariat & partners on the latest activities/developments of the CNPA
3. Update by the interim chair of the CNPA, Mr. Mircea Verghelet, on the 1st CNPA Conference
4. Future arrangements and activities of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas
5. Other matters – Celebration of the Biodiversity Day (22 May)



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## MEETING REPORT

### 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)

<b>09:30 – 13:30</b>	<b>Session 1</b>
<i>11:00 – 11:30</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>
<i>13:30 – 14:30</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
<b>13:15</b>	<b>Closure of the joint meeting – Conclusions</b>



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## MEETING REPORT

### 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 Republic	DOSTALOVA	Alena	Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection	
2.	Czech Republic	URBANCIKOVA	Jana	Bile Karpaty Education and Information Centre	CNPA National Focal Point
3.	Hungary	UGRON	Akos	Ministry of Environment and Water	Chief Counsellor – Department for National Parks and Landscape CNPA National Focal Point
4.	Hungary	HERCZEG	Zoltan	Ministry of Environment and Water	Senior Counsellor
5.	Poland	HACZEK	Bozena	Ministry of the Environment	Minister’s Advisor Carpathian Convention National Focal Point
6.	Poland	NIEWIADOMSKI	Zbigniew		CNPA National Focal Point
7.	Romania	MEGAN	Silviu Augustin	Ministry of Environment	Director – Nature Protection Directorate Carpathian Convention National Focal Point
8.	Romania	VERGHELET	Mircea	Romanian National Forest Administration	Head of the Protected Areas Service CNPA National Focal Point
9.	Romania	VÎRTOPEANU	Liliana - Viorica	Ministry of Environment	Counsellor – Nature Protection Directorate Carpathian Convention National Focal Point
10.	Serbia	PISCEVIC	Nevena	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning	Advisor
11.	Slovakia	KADLECIK	Jan	State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic	Coordinator of international treaties CNPA National Focal





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4 March 2009, Vienna, Austria**

**MEETING REPORT**

					Point
12.	Slovakia	AMBROS	Ladislav	Ministry of the Environment	Senior Adviser – Department of Nature Protection for Spatial Protection
13.	Ukraine	GUBAR	Sergiy	Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine	Deputy Director – Directorate of Biotic Resources and Econet Carpathian Convention National Focal Point
14.	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>
15.	CERI	GUTTOVA	Anna	CERI	Coordinator
16.	IUCN	KROLOPP	Andras	IUCN	Deputy Head
17.	WWF-DCP	BALTZER	Michael	WWF-DCP	Director
18.	WWF-DCP	MEYER	Hildegard	WWF-DCP	Protected Areas for a Living Planet Coordinator
19.	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>
20.	UNEP ISCC	BUCUR	Andreea	UNEP Vienna Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention	Consultant
21.	UNEP ISCC	EGERER	Harald	UNEP Vienna Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention	Head
22.	UNEP ROE	RUIS	Barbara	UNEP Geneva Regional Office for Europe	Legal Officer
23.	UNEP ROE	SCHLINGEMANN	Frits	UNEP Geneva Regional Office for Europe	Senior Adviser