



United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة · 联合国环境规划署
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT · PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ



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Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians

First meeting

Kyiv, Ukraine, 11-13 December 2006

Item 6 (f) of the provisional annotated agenda

Secretariat note on sustainable transport – Article 8 of the Carpathian Convention

Introduction

1. Article 8, paragraph 1 of the Convention stipulates that Parties shall pursue policies of sustainable transport and infrastructure planning and development, which take into account the specificities of the mountain environment, by taking into consideration the protection of sensitive areas, in particular biodiversity-rich areas, migration routes or areas of international importance, the protection of biodiversity and landscapes, and of areas of particular importance for tourism. In paragraph 2 of Article 8, the Convention requests the Parties to cooperate towards developing sustainable transport policies which provide the benefits of mobility and access in the Carpathians, while minimizing harmful effects on human health, landscapes, plants, animals and their habitats, and incorporating sustainable transport demand management in all stages of transport planning in the Carpathians.
2. Article 14, paragraph 2 of the Carpathian Convention states that the Conference of the Parties shall discuss common concerns of the Parties and make the decisions necessary to promote the effective implementation of the Convention. In particular, it shall establish such subsidiary bodies, including thematic working groups, as are deemed necessary for the implementation of the Convention.

Implementation

3. To promote the implementation of Article 8 of the Convention, the Carpathian Project will produce a sectoral study on transport networks in the Carpathian area, and will support a thematic working group developing inter alia proposals for a strategy or protocol on sustainable transport in the Carpathians. Furthermore, EURAC with the support of the Central European Initiative (CEI) and in cooperation with UNEP has developed and started the implementation of a project on sustainable transport in the Carpathians (see Annex).

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Possible action by the Conference of the Parties

1. The Conference of the Parties may take note of information submitted in the Annex and:
 - (a) Establish the Working Group Working on sustainable industry, energy, transport and infrastructure;
 - (b) request the Interim Secretariat to convene its first meeting in order to define the Terms of Reference for the Working Group and initiate its concrete work.
2. The Conference of the Parties may appreciate the concrete contribution of the Central European Initiative (CEI) to the Carpathian Convention, and welcome the scientific support provided by EURAC.



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITY

1. Title of the Project

TRANSCARP: Transnational cooperation for sustainable transportation in the Carpathians

2. Short Description (please attach more detailed information)

The project will describe the present situation of the transport infrastructure, the road and rail network, and the traffic flows in the Carpathian region. Drawing a detailed description of the actual situation of transport infrastructures in this region is fundamental for any possible future projects dealing with transports in the area. Moreover, having a clear, up-to-date picture of the transport network and its infrastructure is also relevant in order to possibly draft a Transport Protocol to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians. The project aims at providing scientific support, within the Carpathian environmental Outlook (KEO), for drafting a Protocol on transports and infrastructures to the Carpathian Convention. This result will be achieved through the development of some possible future scenarios of infrastructure and transports system in the Carpathian region, that will be designed with reference to environmental, social, legal and economical aspects.

Data sets will be collected and elaborated on road network development and improvements of standards for railways networks in the Carpathian region, with special reference to countries with special needs.

The project will involve the European Academy (EURAC), the Italian Ministry of Environment and Territory and the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention which are working together on the sharing experience of the Alpine- Carpathian cooperation.

3. Intended date and place of implementation

January 2006 – January 2008

Carpathian countries: Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Ukraine.

Project to be developed in collaboration with Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and the above mentioned subjects which have a direct experience in the Carpathian Region.

4. Envisaged number of participants and, if applicable, registration fees (please specify to which Member State the expected participants belong and which arrangements for countries in special need you have made)

The participants are from Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Ukraine; and the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention will individuate which is the most experienced entity in each state to collaborate in the project.

5. Compatibility with the Plan of Action

The main activities of this project are consistent with the CEI Plan of Action, with a special reference to the Chapters on “Environmental Protection” (CEI Plan of Action – I.3 Environmental Protection) and “Transports” (CEI Plan of Action – I.6 Transport) and “Cross-border Cooperation and Local Development” (CEI Plan of Action - IV.1. Cross-border Cooperation and Local Development). Environmental Assessment and impact of transport infrastructures on the environment will be analysed and a comprehensive report on the present situation of transport infrastructures, traffic and trade in the Carpathians will be prepared, aiming at improving the quality of standards in the infrastructures and helping a sustainable development of transports in the region. Moreover, some possible future scenarios of infrastructure and transports system in the Carpathian region will be developed for a possible future drafting of a Protocol on transports and infrastructures to the Carpathian Convention.

6. Participating CEI countries, other countries and/or international bodies (list of contacts, dept., phone, fax, e-mail)

- Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Ukraine.
- Accademia Europea di Bolzano – EURAC viale Druso 1 – 39100 Bolzano – Phone number: +39 0471 055 358
- Italian Ministry for the Environment and Territory – Mr. Paolo Angelini - Via Cristoforo Colombo, n. 44 - 00147 - Roma ITALIA – Phone number: +39 06 57221
- UNEP – Regional Office for Europe - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention
- Other Scientific Partners in the Carpathian Region will be contacted by UNEP – Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

7. CEI visibility (use of CEI logo and references)

CEI Logo will be used in all the publications developed within this project and a broad visibility will be guaranteed to CEI during all the meetings to be held for the development of the project. CEI materials will be broadly disseminated in the Carpathian countries and during all the meetings. CEI officers and representatives will be invited to intervene in the main events of the project.

8. Expected results (impact on the sector)

- Definition of critical areas of the transport network in the Carpathian region and evaluation of its environmental and functional efficiency in order to define strategic infrastructural solutions.
- Implementation of data sets regarding road and rail transport systems, with particular attention to weight and relevant freight features, aiming at considering member states actions and development opportunities for road and rail infrastructure facilities in the Carpathians
- Involvement of local partners from the Carpathian countries in order to assure each member state participation
- Involvement of entities which have a long experience in this topic
- Capacity building and planning for relevant authorities regarding assessment and mitigation of adverse impacts of transportation infrastructure on biodiversity (including e.g. eco-bridges, eco-tunnels, other approaches).
- Possible development of a Transport Protocol to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians