



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

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**Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the
Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development
of the Carpathians (CC COP3)**

25 May – 27 May 2011

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DECISION COP2/1
Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity
Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention

Para. 4: The COP encourages Parties, pending the ratification and entry into force of the Protocol, whenever possible to start its implementation.

The Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Biodiversity (Biodiversity Protocol), adopted at COP2 in Bucharest on 19 June 2008, was open for signature until 19th of June 2009 and has been signed by all the seven Parties to the Carpathian Convention within the deadline. The previous CCIC meeting held in December 2009 in Vienna concluded that Parties should ensure through ratification that the Biodiversity Protocol is operational by the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Slovakia 2011. So far, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and the Ukraine have deposited their instruments of ratification of the Protocol.

Para. 5: The COP requests the ISCC to coordinate the preparation of a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for the implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol.

The SAP for the implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol was developed in five meetings of the Working Group (WG) on Biodiversity in March 2007 (Vienna, Austria), November 2007 (Budapest, Hungary), March 2009 (Vienna, Austria), May 2010 (Poiana Brasov, Romania) and October 2010 (Belgrade, Serbia). During the Biodiversity WG meeting on 18 May 2010 in Poiana Brasov it was agreed that the SAP would be a 12 year framework and an umbrella for complementary 3 year Work Plans or programs under the CWI, the CNPA and the BD WG. Together these Work Plans or Programs would form the PoW of the BD Protocol. Core of that PoW would be the operational priorities proposed by ISCC to the Brasov meetings while due account would be taken of the need to integrate and secure the follow up of the PA4LP project. It was furthermore agreed that the text of the SAP would be screened and made consistent with European legislation and CBD requirements. It was also agreed to review the roles and mandates (TOR) of the WG BD, the CNPA SC and the CWI to fit the approach and secure complementarity.

It has furthermore been agreed that the support service structure and supporting workprogramme of the BD Protocol (CWI; CNPA, Red List elaboration etc.) would be the ISCC and, in light of the prevailing constraints, would need to be organized as cost-effective as possible, combining and utilizing resources of UNEP Vienna, the BIOREGIO Carpathians project proposal and increased contributions by governments.

In the Belgrade meeting held in early October 2010 it was agreed that ISCC would finalize the SAP for consideration by the CCIC and subsequent adoption by COP3.

Furthermore the proposal for a platform on ecological connectivity in the Carpathians made by Alpine Convention Permanent Secretariat – Task Force Protected Areas with the comments of UNEP Vienna – ISSC was presented and finalised.

Finally project proposals linked to the implementation of the BD protocol have been approved (Alpine Carpathian Corridor) and others are under evaluation (e.g. Acute). See ANNEX 1 (follow-up platform) for the summary and status of these projects.

Para. 6: The COP requests the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) Steering Committee (SC) to further discuss and elaborate the proposal for a permanent arrangement for the CNPA, taking into account the results of the Protected Areas Conference held on 23/24 September 2008 in Brasov, Romania.

The support structure of the CNPA was discussed in a number of meetings, in particular meetings of the CNPA SC in June 2008, September 2008, March 2009, January 2010 and May 2010. Advice was also provided by the first CNPA Conference in Poiana Brasov, September 2008.

In the understanding that institutional CNPA support would form part of the consultations on the arrangements for the CC Secretariat, the joint Meeting of the WG BD and CNPA SC in March 2009 decided to refrain from further discussing the issue.

Para. 7: The COP requests the ISCC to prepare a Work Plan and Medium-Term Strategy for CNPA, in cooperation with the CNPA SC, with the support of ALPARC and the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention/Task Force of Protected Areas in collaboration with the other CNPA partners, and invites the Protected Areas Conference to consider and provide inputs to the documents.

The request of the COP was implemented through ISCC serviced CNPA SC meetings in March 2009, January 2010 (Vienna, Austria), May 2010 (Poiana Brasov, Romania) and October 2010 (Belgrade, Serbia).

In Poiana Brasov, agreement was reached on the text of the CNPA MTS including short term (2012) and medium term (2015) results expected, in the understanding that comments of Serbia would have to be integrated and that the text would be screened and made compatible with EU and CBD provisions.

In Belgrade the ISCC informed the participants that the CNPA MTS had been finalized for consideration by the CCIC and subsequent submission to COP3.

The ISCC is successfully promoting the Carpathian Convention and its related activities for implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol. The Secretariat is attended several meetings of the project partners and the Steering Group Meetings, is proactively looking for synergies with project partners and relevant institutions, ISCC staff participates in numerous conferences, events, etc., amongst them:

- The ISCC further supported the Carpathian science network and linked relevant activities to the EEA – EIONET network. During the EIONET National Focal Point Group Meeting in Copenhagen on 24 – 25 February 2010 the Secretariat provided input to the discussions and was involved in follow-up activities with respect to drafting parts of the State of Environment Report (SOER). The ISCC coordinated

the country inputs in drafting the 'The Carpathians – a biodiversity hotspot in the heart of Europe' as a part of the SOER 2010 (reference also in Decision COP2/9 Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning Article 12 of the CC).

- The Conference 'Creation of Ecological Corridors in Ukraine' organized by the Ministry of Environmental Protection was held in Kiev, Ukraine, on 1 June 2010. The meeting presented the final outcomes of the project "Realising trans-boundary ecological connectivity in the Ukrainian Carpathians" (funded by BBI-Matra), aimed at establishing an ecological corridor between Ukraine and Romania, and the related publication were presented. The ISCC representative made a presentation on the CC, he provided inputs to the discussion and established new contacts with experts for the development of BIOREGIO Carpathians project proposal and possible development of new projects in the field.
- On 14 – 15 September 2010 the Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks of the Bern Convention met in Strasbourg. The meeting was organized by the Council of Europe, that host the Secretariat. Representatives of the Council of Europe, member states of the Bern Convention, European Commission – DG Environment, European Topic Centre on Biodiversity, Alpine Convention, Ramsar Convention and other relevant organisations participated in the meeting. Progress towards setting up of the Emerald Network and other initiatives were presented and discussed. Besides presenting and promoting the activities of within the CC to implement the Biodiversity Protocol, the UNEP Vienna – ISCC representative established new contacts with representatives of Balkans, Carpathian, Alpine and Caucasus countries, Council of Europe, European Commission and European Topic Centre.
- ISCC staff attended the Conference 'International exchange of ecological networks between the Alps and the Carpathians' realized in Mikulov, Czech Republic, on 21 – 22 September 2010 which was organised by the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention – Task Force Protected Areas. The conference was also attended by the European Commission – DG Environment. The ISCC representative made an opening speech and presented relevant activities in the Carpathians, in particular the BIOREGIO project, and the Alpine Carpathian Corridor project. Main activities and projects in the field of biodiversity and ecological networks developed in the Alps and in the Carpathians at transnational and national level were presented and discussed.
- During the Danube Parks Ranger Training – organized by the National Park Donau Auen within the Danube Parks project approved under the SEE programme - held in Eckartsau, Austria, on 22 September 2010, the representative of the ISCC made presentations of the Convention, the CNPA, and the Alpine-Carpathian Corridor project. Furthermore, contacts were established with PA representatives (incl. Members of the CNPA) to facilitate networking between CNPA and Danube Parks.

There are several projects supporting the implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol (Alpine-Carpathian Corridor, BIOREGIO Carpathians, IMPACT); see ANNEX 1-Follow-up Platform for the summary and status of these projects.

Paras. 9 and 10: The COP welcomes the Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI) for implementation of the Carpathian-Ramsar MoU, and encourages the implementation and funding of the CWI Work Plan

In the framework of the MoU between the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) and UNEP Vienna ISCC, the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic as the current coordinator of the CWI prepared a proposal for the further development of the CWI as the regional initiative in the framework of the Ramsar Convention. The Parties to the Carpathian Convention were invited to provide inputs to the document proposal and further support the initiative.

The CWI was discussed during the 10th Meeting of the COP to the Ramsar Convention in Changwon, Republic of Korea (28 October – 4 November 2008) and it was endorsed by the Ramsar Convention SC at its 40th Meeting (11-15 May 2009) as fully meeting the Operational Guidelines and operating within the framework of the Ramsar Convention in 2009-2012. The SC agreed that the initiative may be eligible for funding and allocated 37,500 CHF to the CWI for 2009.

The CWI is coordinated by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic which presented the initiative in a number of international meetings and conferences. The Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic allocated in July 2009 additional voluntary contributions for the implementation of the CWI Work Plan. Representatives of the CWI participated in the Study tour of members of the national Ramsar Committees “Management of selected wetlands of international importance of Belarus, Lithuania and Poland”, 5 - 11 September 2009.

The first Carpathian wetlands conference (“Conservation of wetlands in the Carpathians”) was organized in Tatranska Strba (Slovakia) 16-19 November 2009 with the active participation of all Carpathian countries. Following this conference – where also representatives of the Ramsar and the Carpathian Convention participated – the Slovakian State Nature Conservancy approved the CWI work plan for 2010, within 150 items are included. A number of projects from different funding sources and further public activities have been carried out. In addition, bilateral agreements related to protected areas have been reached with Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic which serve as a basis for future activities.

A project proposal under the Swiss Fund, that aims at protected areas conservation, management and restoration, drafting a red list of habitats, etc. was finalized and submitted, the content has been approved and the CWI is now in the process to develop the final proposal to be submitted to the Slovak Government by end of September 2010.

The Carpathian Wetland Initiative also provided valuable recommendations to the Tourism Protocol, using the opportunity to have their meeting (8 September 2010) at the same time in Ryto, Poland, where the 3rd WG on Sustainable Tourism took place on 9 – 10 September 2010.

DECISION COP2/2
Spatial planning
Article 5 of the Carpathian Convention

Para. 2, to 6:

2. The COP recommends the continuation of the activity of the Working Group on Spatial Planning;

3. welcomes the results of the Carpathian Project, in particular its contributions to integrate European spatial development policies with the management of the Carpathians' fragile ecosystem in a transnational context;

4. notes and welcomes the VASICA and its background documents as a strategic basis for the future sustainable development of the Carpathian region, including international, regional and transboundary cooperation;

5. calls upon spatial planning/development authorities of the Carpathian countries to continue the cooperation on issues relevant for spatial planning to achieve the territorial cohesion of the Carpathian region, including inputs and support to the development and implementation of relevant projects and the possible future establishment of a Carpathian Space Programme;

6. welcomes the Follow-up Platform established by the interim Secretariat as a useful tool for information-sharing and coordination of projects developed for application to European programmes or other relevant funding sources.

The "Carpathian Project", recognized as a very successful project by programme authorities, was presented at the "Central, Adriatic, Danubian and South-Eastern European Space" ("CADSES") Closing Conference held on 25 November 2008 in Venice, Italy, as the first step towards the sustainable development vision. The 'Carpathian Project' provides a harmonized data basis and reflects findings on current situation, problems and challenges in different topics in the Carpathians and the outcomes were published in the '*Visions and Strategies in the Carpathian Area*' (VASICA). It lays the basis for a strategic document for the formulation of a Carpathian sustainable development vision, the 'Carpathian Space'. The outcomes of the project were presented at many international conferences.

The "Follow-up Platform" has become operational with several projects submitted (approved / pending approval / rejected), and effectively facilitates the coordination of the development of new project concepts or projects (See ANNEX I)

Also in the context of the implementation of the decision COP2/2, the ISCC participates in the project "Climate Change Adaptation by Spatial Planning in the Alpine Space" (CLISP), funded under the European Territorial Cooperation 2007-2013. CLISP is focused on the challenges to spatial planning facing climate change and shall contribute to climate change adaptation by providing climate-proof spatial planning solutions. The ISCC is one of the 14 partner and focuses its activities on communication involving dissemination of information and experiences. The aim is to share relevant information with stakeholders in the Carpathian Area and distribute the project outcomes on a wider scale. ISCC will organize the Final CLISP Conference to be hosted in the VIC 2010.

The Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and the ISCC were invited to the Seminar on "Territorial cooperation and territorial cohesion" organized by the European Commission on 25 September 2009 in Brussels, to which both Secretariats made a common contribution, along the following ideas:

"The Alpine and Carpathian Conventions are compatible with the macro regional approach. The Alpine and Carpathian Conventions already recognize the specificity of two of the most important European mountainous regions, providing a legal framework for territorial cooperation and instruments for a coherent joint development over national borders. The Alpine convention is member of the Alpine space programme's monitoring committee. The Carpathian area would need a specific programme, allowing to address the macro-region's priorities as well as to transfer Alpine Space experiences.

The previous CCIC meeting held in Vienna in December 2009 agreed that the ISCC and the WG on Spatial Planning should focus their activities to take stock and discuss the integration of a 'Carpathian Space' in the EU Danube Strategy (see Decision COP2/11).

A draft strategic action plan for the Carpathian Area has been elaborated by UNEP Vienna – ISCC together with the EURAC expert team in Vienna and AEM. The document is strongly linked to the EU Strategy for the Danube Region and includes some recommendations aimed at promoting the sustainable development of the Carpathians through the coordination and the strengthening of the activities developed by the main actors that operate in the region and the establishment of new initiatives and instruments, such as an European Territorial Cooperation Programme for the Carpathian Area (Carpathian Space Programme).

The draft was presented in the Consultative Workshop "Towards a Carpathian Strategy" organised by UNEP Vienna – ISCC, EURAC and AEM that was held in Brussels at Euro Regio Tyrol, South Tyrol and Trentino on 25 January 2010.

The document was discussed with the national experts of the Ministries of the Environment of the Carpathian Countries, representatives of the European Union (EU), of the Carpathian regions, and of other relevant organisations based in Brussels, such as Euromontana.

There are a series of projects which – in case of approval – have strong components related to spatial planning and shall support the implementation of the Carpathian Convention ('Mountainous Areas Participated Planning – MAPP', 'Carbon Neutral Alps 2050! Making Best Practice Minimum Standards – ALPSTAR', 'ACUTE-Alp – Adjusting Protection Policies for the Sustainable Development of Exposed Alpine valley regions', 'C3-Alps – Capitalising Climate Change Knowledge for Adaptation in the Alpine Space'). See ANNEX I (Follow-up Platform) for the summary and status of these projects.

DECISION COP2/3
Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management
Article 6 of the Carpathian Convention

Paras. 2 and 3: The COP requests the ISCC to sign a MoU with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) and continue to cooperate with the Tisza River Group.

The Integrated Tisza Water Management Plan is under construction. The ISCC actively participated in several meetings of the UNDP GEF Tisza River project. The Secretariat provided inputs to the Tisza Group SC (23-24 September 2009, Kosice, Slovakia), to the 13th Tisza Group and Stakeholder Meeting and 3rd UNDP GEF Tisza MSP Workshop on November 12-13, 2009, as well as during to the 11th ICPDR Ordinary Meeting in December 10, 2009.

The ISCC closely cooperated with the ICPDR in organizing the workshop on integration of land and water management to reduce impacts of floods and droughts on the water status. The workshop – co-organized with the European Commission, ICPDR, UNEP ISCC and UNDP/GEF Tisza MSP – was held in Szolnok, Hungary on 26 – 27 April 2010. It played an important part in finalizing the discussions of the ICPDR's Tisza Group in the development of the Integrated River Basin Management Plan for the Tisza River Basin. The ISCC prepared a background paper ('Sustainable agriculture and forestry in the Tisza River Basin minimizing impacts on water quality and quantity'), presented the key issues during the workshop, made provided inputs to the discussion and was involved in elaborating the recommendations to be included into the Integrated Tisza Water Management Plan.

Already one year before the Szolnok workshop the ISCC proposed a MoU to ICPDR as requested by the Parties. Discussion with respect to a MoU took place during the workshop between the ICPDR/Tisza Group and ISCC. Following, ISCC prepared a first draft, which was presented during the last meeting of the Tisza Group, which took place in Vienna on 30 September – 1 October 2010. The Tisza Group was invited to provide feedback. The MoU is currently under discussion within ICPDR. The MoU will be finalized between the ICPDR secretariat and ISCC, to be possibly presented for signature at the ICPDR Ministerial Meeting in Ukraine in May 2011. Furthermore ICPDR and UNEP Vienna – ISCC in November 2010 proposed an initiative towards mutual observer status between the Convention on the Danube River and the Carpathian Convention (see ANNEX II).

Paras. 4 and 5: The COP requests the ISCC to continue working on integration of water resources and land use planning.

A Study Tour of Transboundary Water Management of the Morava River Basin – organized by the ISCC in cooperation with the Secretariat of the ICPDR – took place on 5-9 October 2009. The tour involved heads of delegations of Austria, the Slovak and the Czech Republic to the ICPDR, and the national and local water, environmental and transport authorities and scientific institutions in each of the abovementioned countries. Furthermore, participants from Ukraine and Belarus attended the tour. Water management practices, infrastructure and issues of the transboundary management, lessons learned and possibilities of applying relevant

experiences in other countries were discussed. A comprehensive report of the tour is available upon request.

As follow-up to this Transboundary River Management Study, several cooperation projects are under discussion with the ICPDR and national partners, including cooperation on the Tisza River and also in connection with the Education for Sustainable Development in the mountain areas.

In addition, the ISCC has provided inputs to a recent technical report by the European Environment Agency (EEA) "Vulnerability to climate change and adaptation to water scarcity in the European Alps" in the 14th Chapter: Lessons learned from other mountain regions in Europe, highlighting the provisions on water/river basin management (Article 6 of the Carpathian Convention) in the framework of the cooperation and experience exchange with the Alpine Convention.

Finally, during the Danube day in Ukraine, the Carpathian Mountain ESD Training, developed by the ISCC, was presented to the participants, and other opportunities to find funding for the Tool Kit transfer to Ukraine are under evaluation.

DECISION COP2/4
Sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry
Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention

Para. 3: The COP welcomes the National Policy Assessments conducted by Parties, as well as the Regional Assessment prepared by the ISCC as a basis for the establishment of a regional platform for policy exchange and development, in collaboration and support with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO);

The SARD-M (Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development) Report – Assessment of Policies, Institutions and Processes has been finalized and published (July 2008). Within this frame another publication emerged 'Mountain development based on cultural and environmental assets – European case studies and proposals to guide Carpathian and Balkan projects' which was published in April 2009.

On 19-20 May 2009, ISCC in cooperation with FAO SARD-M project and Euromontana organized a meeting of the WG on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development which was held back-to-back with one focussing on the Balkan region. The Seminar analyzed the existing examples of payment of ecosystem services in mountains and identified possible projects in the Carpathians to be implemented in the third phase of the FAO SARD-M project.

A website has been developed¹ and follow-up projects are under development.

¹ <http://www.carpathianconvention.org/SARD-M+Platform.htm>

Paras 1, 4 and 5: The COP invites the Parties and other stakeholders to ensure the proper follow-up work of the WG on SARD and Forestry. The COP furthermore invites the Parties to continue to take part in the work towards the development of a Protocol on Sustainable Forestry with support of the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) and the University of Padua and requests the ISCC to coordinate and service this process.

WG on Sustainable Forest Management

A meeting of the WG on Sustainable Forest Management in the Carpathians was organized by the ISCC in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic and hosted in Bratislava from 19 – 20 November 2009. The WG revised its draft ToRs and further elaborated on the text of the Draft Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management. With the participation of forestry-experts representing the various countries in the Carpathian Region productive work was made during the meeting of the WG.

The draft text Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management was submitted to the CCIC's December 2009 meeting in Vienna. The CCIC concluded that the development of the forest Protocol will continue in the view to have a Protocol adopted and signed at COP3, that Parties will advance internal agreement on their representation, and at the same time provide comments to the draft text.

The University of Padua hosted the next meeting in San Vito di Cadore, Italy, which took place on 14 – 16 June 2010. The main objective was to finalize the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), ready for its approval and signature at COP3. Many representatives recommended to achieve a balance within the text of the draft Protocol based on the social, environmental and economic pillars thereby making it a tool of shared interest. The draft text was further elaborated and it was agreed to circulate the document after the meeting for internal consultation and approval under the coordination of and final editorial changes by the ISCC to be ready for approval. After the meeting of the WG in San Vito, the final draft text of the Protocol, was submitted to the Carpathian NFP for its internal approval.

During the last meeting of the WG in San Vito, an up-date regarding the pan-European process for the sustainable management of European forests was further provided. The representative of the Forest Europe Liaison Unit Oslo briefed participants about ongoing development with regard to a Legally Binding Agreement (LBA) and other matters regarding the Forest Europe Process (formerly known as the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, MCPFE).

With regard to the "International Year of Forests" in 2011, the opportunity to communicate the Carpathian Convention and the established Protocol on SFM was envisaged, especially with the view of the upcoming COP3. The adoption and signature of the Forest Protocol at COP3 would be an outstanding event, would become one of the highlights of the forthcoming "International Year of Forests", and would strengthen the collaboration with the Forest Europe. The ISCC is in the process of consulting with the wider UNEP and UNFF and others about joint activities within the frame of the International Year of Forests 2011.

During the meeting the representative of the Secretary of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) delivered a statement, stressing the need of enhancing₁₁

cooperation with the UNFF, specifically in the view of the forthcoming International Year of Forests 2011. Participants were informed about a recent meeting with staff of UNFF Secretariat discussing possible collaboration between the Carpathian Convention and the UNFF. The Carpathian Convention is already considered as part of the wider UNFF network. The ISCC received a questionnaire on subregional/regional cooperation, coordinated the inputs from Carpathian countries and delivered the information to UNFF by July 2010. It was agreed that further coordination of activities between the Carpathian Convention National Focal Points and UNFF National Focal Points is needed.

Two presentations on activities regarding virgin forests in the Carpathian area and other forest related issues were presented by the Hungarian and Ukrainian representatives. The idea of a future research project on virgin forests and the possibility to produce a map ('Pan-Carpathian assessment of virgin forests') with the view of presenting it at COP3 was discussed.

Forest Europe (formerly: Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe)

The ISCC intensified contacts with the Forest Unit (former MCPFC) by involving this Unit in the negotiation process of the Forest Protocol (see under WG on Sustainable Forest Management). Discussions are underway to strengthen the cooperation through developing joint future activities, e.g. Carpathian inventory of virgin forest.

On 19 May 2010 the ISCC expressed its interest in an official letter in supporting the MCPFC process and becoming observer to Forest Europe. A formal decision on the observer status of the ISCC to Forest Europe was taken during the Expert Level Meeting held in Geneva on 14-15 December 2010.

DECISION COP2/5
Sustainable Transport and Infrastructure
Article 8 of the Carpathian Convention

Paras. 1, 3 and 4 (and COP2/7 para. 1): The COP invites Parties/stakeholders to ensure the follow-up work of the WG on Sustainable Industry, Energy, Transport and Infrastructure and invites Parties to continue to work on the development of the Protocol on Sustainable Transport and Infrastructure (with the further coordination and service by the ISCC), with the ongoing cooperation and support from EURAC a.o.

The Alpine Convention as well as the respective Protocols dealing with tourism and transport and the Carpathian Convention state sustainable transport in the context of tourism as an important issue and call for cooperation in this field. Based on the results of the IIIB-CADSES "Carpathian Project", COP2 adopted recommendations to:

- improve the tourist accessibility in the Carpathians,
- adopt management systems for sustainable transport and
- pursue Working Groups for drafting of a Protocol on Sustainable Transport and Infrastructure and a Protocol on Sustainable Tourism.

Together with works carried out in the Alpine Convention WG dealing with transport and the experiences of the INTERREG IIIB “Alpine Space” project “Alps Mobility II”, a project was elaborated and submitted under the ETC-programme SEE: ‘*Sustainable Mobility and Tourism in sensitive mountain areas of the Alps and the Carpathians*’. The ISCC facilitated and supported the development of the project proposal, that has been approved by the competent Authorities .

Umweltbundesamt (Federal Environment Agency Austria) with the involvement of various project partners from the Alpine and the Carpathian Space (including the Italian Ministry for the Environment), EURAC and the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention (as strategic observer) will cooperate to achieve durable accessibility and connection to (between and in) environmental sensitive areas for sustainable tourism, but also with benefits for public and freight transport.

One module of the project will be the elaboration of a model and monitoring instrument for traffic flows in sensitive areas and the potential of shifting road traffic to other modes of transport. Other core topics will be the role of regional railways in tourism and the development of attractive (multi-modal) packages for environmentally-friendly sustainable and safe travelling. Beside awareness raising measures and trainings on sustainable mobility; one important part of the project is a further contribution to the strategic cooperation between the Alpine and the Carpathian Convention and notably the elaboration of the Protocol on Sustainable Transport and Infrastructure to the Carpathian Convention, taking also the findings of the projects’ pilot activities into consideration.

Another ongoing project aiming at the implementation of decision COP2/5 on sustainable transport and infrastructure is the “the Alpine-Carpathian Corridor” project (Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Slovakia and Austria) with the involvement of many stakeholders from the Slovak Republic and Austria (described already under Decision COP2/1 Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity).

DECISION COP2/6
Sustainable tourism
Article 9 of the Carpathian Convention

Paras. 1, 2 and 3: The COP invites Parties and stakeholders to ensure the follow-up work of the WG on Sustainable Tourism; invites Parties and other stakeholders, serviced by the ISCC, to work towards the development of the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism; and, furthermore, calls for support to the development of future projects, including the “Via Carpatica” - project.

In the frame of the project ‘Support for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Carpathian Region’ implemented in Poland, a series of consultation seminars were organized, led by UNEP/GRID-Warsaw in collaboration with the Eko-Psychology Society and the Northern Alliance for Sustainability (ANPED).

The six consultation seminars were conducted in three Polish Carpathian provinces: Małopolskie, Podkarpackie, and Śląskie from 26th October to 24th November 2004. The seminars brought together stakeholders from the Carpathian communities: representatives of local self-governments, NGOs, tourism agencies, culture centres, forestry and protected area authorities, and other groups active in the region. The seminars spread knowledge and awareness on such topics as the Carpathian Convention, sustainable tourism practices in mountains and guidelines on developing sustainable tourism at the local scale.

Furthermore, consultations took place creating local strategies for sustainable tourism in twenty selected areas, working towards common goals: The protection of natural and cultural heritage of the Polish Carpathians and fostering sustainable tourism as a viable and economic activity for the local communities. A virtual Carpathians web portal was developed and launched, using cartography and GIS. The user-interactive portal allowed interested users to make comments and suggestions. The project concluded with a working conference on 9-10 September 2010, bringing together the good practises from the Polish region and the results of the project, presenting them to international guests from across the Carpathian region.

The 3rd Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Tourism was held in Rytro, Poland, on 9-10 September 2010 in conjunction with the closing conference of the above mentioned project. Governmental delegates from all seven Carpathian Convention Countries, NGOs, administrations of protected areas, as well as international tourism experts and observers, in total 32 participants, attended the Meeting.

An update on the national situation on ministerial level was given and tourism possibilities / barriers for the Protocol development were discussed. In addition, the WG agreed to revise its Terms of Reference.

The WG made good progress discussing and further elaborating the draft Tourism Protocol and has reached a consensus about the formulations of the Articles. Outcomes of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI) meeting and of the Carpathian Cultural Heritage Inventory meeting (both held at the margins of the Working Group meeting on 8 September 2010) were presented and provided valuable recommendations for the development of the Protocol.

As the goal was to adopt and sign the Protocol at COP3, the participants agreed on a very tight time schedule for its finalization. The new draft was circulated to Focal Points for additional comments and prepared for consideration by the CCIC.

UNWTO is coordinating, in cooperation with the countries, the development of a Tourism Strategy for the implementation of the Tourism Protocol. There was an agreement that the ISCC and UNWTO will rework/reconsider the current version of the strategy, and to present it at COP 3. The Working Group agreed to a need to make a funding strategy; It was decided that ISCC and UNWTO will make a list of potential funding programmes for this strategy, and circulate it to the countries. Next identified and targeted funding programme was the European Neighbourhood Programme, with deadline of October 2010. It was concluded that the Working Group on Sustainable Tourism (WGST) will continue drafting the strategy, with the help of external funding. The information was provided that there is a possibility of applying₁₄

to the European Territorial Cooperation Programme in 2011, for a project with the goal to develop the Tourism Strategy, and to build this project on national stakeholder consultation processes.

Another outcome of the meeting was the idea to produce a 'Book of Carpathian Fairy Tales' (one tale from each country), the draft should be ready for COP3.

A presentation was given, followed on discussion of the elaborated project components, history, current status, and project concept of the Project 'Via Carpatica', which should serve as one of the implementation tools of the Tourism Protocol. The Working Group gave comments on the presented proposal draft. Next steps were defined and the Slovak Government has noted its interest in taking the lead in the project, and was asked to officially confirm this.

Also in the context of the implementation of the decision COP2/6, the ISCC participates in the project 'Climate Change and its Impact on Tourism in the Alpine Space' ('ClimAlpTour'). The main objective of the project is to make Alpine centers an interesting destination in all seasons and to increase their potential, even if snow is lacking. The ClimAlpTour Partners are working together to raise awareness among citizens, businessman and, above all, policymakers on the possible changes of the climate, to identify appropriate strategies and to act on a timely base and on valid information. The project will deliver a powerful computer- based tool able to provide to all interested parties customized adaptation strategies based on information referring to every specific site.

The project proposal 'Sustainable Mobility and Tourism in sensitive mountain areas of the Alps and the Carpathians' (as mentioned already under Decision COP2/1) would aim at implementing the COP2 decisions related to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, sustainable transport and infrastructure and sustainable tourism. The project has been approved and the implementation phase will start in May.

DECISION COP2/7
Industry and energy
Article 10 of the Carpathian Convention

Paras. 2 and 5: The COP encourages cooperation between the ISCC and UNIDO, UNEP, FAO on the issue of renewable energy, welcomes the ISCC/UNIDO/FAO/UNEP joint project submitted to the Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) Programme, and requests the ISCC to help Carpathian countries to develop other projects.

The "RENEC" (Renewable energy in the Carpathians) project presented at COP2 was finally rejected under the SEE Program. UNIDO has meanwhile initiated a GEF-funded project in Ukraine.

ISCC organised together with EURAC a meeting with UNIDO to identify possible fields of cooperation.

DECISION COP2/8
Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge
Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention

Para. 1: The COP invites Parties and stakeholders (including ANPED) to ensure the follow-up work of the WG on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge.

Paras. 2, 3 and 4: The COP welcomes the definition of Carpathian Heritage, decides to develop and establish the Carpathian Heritage Inventory, and encourages Parties to collaborate and support the development (by ANPED) of the Inventory and a programme of activities.

ANPED submitted a new proposal to develop an interactive Carpathian Cultural Heritage Inventory (follow-up to the proposal presented to COP2 in June 2008) Funding was provided from ISCC for the Phase One of the project, with pilot actions in the region of the Czech Republic and Ukraine. Phase One started and a MoU was signed between ISCC and ANPED. Main objectives of the project are to produce a coherent set of suggestions and recommendations, on the basis of the results of the pilot activities and the feedback from all countries, for the development of a comprehensive programme for a Carpathian Heritage Inventory and web portal that will cover the whole Carpathian region. The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the implementation of the Carpathian Convention, especially of the provisions of Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention, outlining the need to preserve and promote the Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge of the Carpathians.

The Carpathian cultural heritage is closely connected with tourism development. At the margins of the third Meeting of the Working Group on Sustainable Tourism of the Carpathian Convention ANPED held its Carpathian WG meeting on 8 September 2010. Besides discussions about the project mentioned above the WG elaborated recommendations with respect to the Tourism Protocol which were presented to the WGST held during 9 – 10 September 2010.

Furthermore, the ISCC is actively working to develop cooperation with UNESCO on the Carpathian cultural heritage. ISCC co-organised a side event during the UNESCO ESD conference in 2008, together with UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe), which drafted a cooperation document between the two organizations; information exchange regarding the ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) Tool Kits is ongoing (ISCC on the Carpathians, and UNESCO on the Mediterranean). ANPED requested ISCC to facilitate contacts and discussions with UNESCO with respect to Carpathian Heritage Inventory.

DECISION COP2/9
Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning
Article 12 of the Carpathian Convention

Paras. 1, 3 and 4: The COP welcomes and invites Parties to support the establishment of the “Science for the Carpathians” initiative and the EEA’s work on the Carpathian/Alpine ecosystem services.

The “Science for the Carpathians (S4C)” initiative organized a meeting on 10 June 2009 in Bratislava, Slovakia. The meeting aimed at discussing efficient and sustainable approaches, including securing long-term funding for a S4C coordination office within the Carpathian region, with representatives of the National Academies of Science of the Carpathian countries, with representatives of the Swiss and Austrian Academy of Sciences, and members of the S4C Task Force. Through the meeting, the S4C was formally established and it was decided to organize the First Forum Carpaticum (pan-Carpathian scientific symposium). The S4C initiative intends to use the Forum Carpaticum to develop concerted research efforts responding to the specific needs of the Carpathian mountain region, to strengthen the research capacity and to make Carpathian science more prominent in the European and global science community. The First Forum Carpaticum was organized in Krakow on 15 – 17 September 2010. 200 scientists attended the Forum. However, throughout the presentations it was evident that in none of the scientific disciplines a real Carpathian approach exists so far. Harmonization and the bad accessibility of data together with funding problems are the main barriers for the start of a Carpathian wide approach. The next Forum Carpaticum will take place in the Slovak Republic in 2012.

UNEP – ISCC supported the S4C-Initiative since its beginning as well as the organization of the Forum Carpaticum. UNEP-ISCC was invited to join as observer to the S4C Steering Committee Meetings held in Krakow, Poland, on 11 – 13 March 2010 where a representative of the secretariat presented the CC and its activities as well as on 16 September where the lack of a Carpathian wide science and standardized data were discussed again. Furthermore the Permanent Steering Committee of the S4C Initiative has been elected.

A representative of the ISCC together with the interim chair of the CNPA SC participated at the European Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) meeting held in Copenhagen, Denmark, 16 – 17 June 2010 organized by EEA. At the meeting the Biodiversity Information System for Europe (BISE), the European Biodiversity CHM and other CHM developed at different levels were presented. The further development of the European Biodiversity CHM was discussed.

The Carpathian Protected Areas Cleaning House Mechanism (CPACHM) developed by WWF DCP within the PA4LP project was presented, as well as the BIOREGIO Carpathians project, within which a joint Carpathian biodiversity information system based on the CPA CHM and other existing tools will be developed. The CPA CHM and the future joint Carpathian biodiversity information system were presented as a regional contribution to the European Biodiversity CHM. The possibility to link the CPA CHM and the joint Carpathian biodiversity information system to the European Biodiversity CHM were discussed.

DECISION COP2/10
Awareness raising, education and public participation
Article 13 of the Carpathian Convention

Para. 3: The COP requests the ISCC to assist in the further development of Carpathian Sustainable learning Network (CASALEN).

The first planning workshop of the CASALEN on the Carpathian environmental education network development and educator training was held in a combined effort of the UNEP - ISCC and The Environment and School Initiatives (ENSI), at the margins of the second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention. The workshop brought together a wide range of stakeholders from different institutions and served as a platform for discussion and experience exchange on the state of education for sustainable development in the Carpathian countries. UNEP Vienna - ISCC, facilitated the necessary connections to the Ministries of the Carpathian countries and the relevant contacts among the Carpathian ESD partners to support CASALEN in the development of the Move4Nature project.

The Second "CASALEN" workshop for the development of the Carpathian Mountain ESD Training Tool Kit (Tool Kit) was organized in Trencin, Slovakia on January 28-29, 2009 by the ISCC and ENSI. Currently, the Tool Kit has been printed in Romanian and an English Draft version for adaptation by the other Carpathian countries has been finalized and printed.

The Move4Nature Teacher Training programme was developed by UNEP Vienna – ISCC in cooperation with the Carpathian Sustainable Education Network (CASALEN), and in partnership with Environment and School Initiatives (ENSI). Support is provided by the international corporate social responsibility initiative OMV Move & Help. The training programme is oriented towards the schools in the rural mountainous areas, developed in order to introduce the concept of the Carpathian Ecoregion and practices of Education for Sustainable Development to the rural mountainous schools of the Carpathian countries. The goal, in the long-run, is to encourage approaches to sustainable management of the mountain areas through enabling the mountain communities to develop the attitudes, skills, and knowledge to make informed decisions for the benefit of themselves and others, and to act upon these decisions, in preserving the unique cultural and natural features of their surroundings.

After the finalization of the Training Tool Kit – printed in Romanian in 2009 – more than 40 schools from 8 Counties in Romania have received the Tool Kit and are using it in their activities. In February 2010 the adapted English version, including updated maps was produced. The availability of the education tool was communicated and promoted to partners and stakeholders, not only in Romania and other Carpathian countries, but also internationally.

The project was submitted to the UNECE collection of best practices for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), available at the UNECE web-site.

On 18 March 2010 the Tool Kit and the Move4Nature project have been presented by UNEP-Vienna during the UNECE Steering Committee meeting, where the focal

point in the Ministry of Education of Austria (Guenther Pfaffenwimmer) and representatives from Ministries of Environment and Education of the Caucasus, Eastern Europe, and South Eastern Europe participated. Colleagues from Carpathian, Caucasus, and Central Asian countries remain in touch with UNEP Vienna – ISCC to adopt the Tool Kit to their countries and regions.

The organisers of the Teaching Climate Change Conference planning workshop (1-3 February 2010, Belgrade, Serbia) were informed about the Move4Nature project, the Tool Kit, and its potential application in Serbia. Adaptation of the Tool Kit to Serbia was discussed with the representatives of the ministry of Environment.

During the workshop on ESD materials in schools at the Teaching Climate Change Conference held in Belgrade, Serbia on May 17-18, 2010, the Move4Nature programme was presented as an example of a good practice in Romania, and an opportunity for experience exchange and replication in Serbia and other Balkan countries.

Furthermore, information on this programme was provided during the workshop 'Integrating Land and Water Management in the Tisza River Basin', organized by the European Commission, ICPDR, UNEP Vienna – ISCC and UNDP/GEF Tisza MSP, in Szolnok, Hungary, during 26 – 27 April 2010. The Tool Kit was presented as one of the ways to promote the paradigm of integrated land and water management and develop educational approaches in this respect. The Ukrainian participants suggested presentation of the Tool kit to the Ukrainian teachers and students during the Danube Day.

In Romania – on the World Environment Day Celebration - the Cluj–Napoca School Inspectorate invited the teachers trained within this programme and presented Carpathian activities during the ESD Conference and the Science Teaching Festival held on 4 - 6 of June in the town. Information on the Tool Kit and the Move4Nature project were provided at the event, and received constructive feedback from the participating teachers.

The Tool Kit and related UNEP Vienna – ISCC activities were presented to the Danube Day participants – local residents, teachers, and students, attending the festival – in the village Dilove, Rakhiv rayon, Zakarpatska Oblast, Ukraine on June 27 2010.

On 27-28 May 2010 a second annual Tourism Development Conference was organized in Vatra Dornei, Romania. A representative from UNEP Vienna – ISCC reported about the education activities and emphasised that education as an important component of the strategy for Rural Tourism development. The Ministry of Education was informed of the presentation and expressed its interest and support. The Tool Kit, including its main concept and exercises on Tourism, was presented to the participants of the conference as a good example of introducing aspects of local tourism development to the students and teachers. UNEP is invited to continue cooperation with the organisers of the Conference, in education, and awareness raising in connection with the Sustainable Rural Tourism development.

Recently, UNEP Vienna – ISCC received feedback from the Romanian Ministry of Education on the Tool Kit based on comments, suggestions and recommendations from teachers who actively use this instrument. Thus, the Romanian Tool Kit is undergoing slight revisions.

UNEP, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport of Romania, organized the final meeting of the Move4Nature Teacher Training Programme in Poiana Brasov on 21 – 22 October 2010. Representatives of each participating school were invited to demonstrate its work with the Tool Kit and the Study Trails developed. An evaluation committee, composed of the Move4Nature trainers and school inspectors, viewed all presentations and selected the best Study Trail in each County, and the best three Study Trails in Romania. Much positive feedback was received from the Romanian teachers using the Tool Kit. Many partners have been involved on the local level by the schools. The three winning schools will receive 200 USD each for Tool Kit follow-up projects. The presentations in Romanian will be included into the Romanian Tool Kit. The winning presentations, translated into English, will be included in the English Tool Kit and made available online.

The Ministry of Education expressed its interest and willingness to continue developing the project in Romania, and requested facilitation from UNEP – ISCC, including facilitation of a closer cooperation between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Environment.

A connection became evident between the main Tool Kit exercise, sustainable tourism and cultural heritage inventory. The Study Trails created by the schools represent local perceptions of the natural and cultural heritage, and support their identification, awareness raising and promotion by the local communities. The outcomes of the project were presented to UNESCO, including the national commission of UNESCO in Romania, which expressed its interest in supporting further spread of the Tool Kit in Romania.

From UNEP's side there is a proposal on the table to expand and enhance the Carpathian Sustainable Education Network (CASALEN) to include a broader variety of partner in the network, like Park Managers, more NGOs and School Inspectorates, representatives of the ICPDR Education Team, etc. Consultations are underway.

UNEP Vienna - ISCC is considering opportunities of transferring the successful Tool Kit experience to the neighbouring countries, such as Ukraine and Serbia, and other mountain regions, such as the Balkans, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Follow-up projects could serve as a motivation to the participating teachers and enable experience transfer from Romania to other countries of the Carpathians and other mountain ranges.

UNEP Vienna – ISCC is a partner in a recently approved – three years project submitted under the Lifelong Learning Programme (Grundtvig). The project 'Big Foot – Crossing Generations, Crossing Mountains' will be implemented by a international consortium (Italy, Belgium, France, Austria, Bulgaria, Greece) with a variety of different partners (public authorities, public and non-profit research institutes, local community association, private foundation). The project will provide senior citizens with tools for transmitting their knowledge & skills, will promote an intergenerational dialogue based on elderly experiences & knowledge and will re-integrate into the local communities those knowledge & skills through a creative re-elaboration of economic values.

UNEP has joined as a partner in the proposed Regional Centre of Excellence (RCE) on ESD, to be established between Vienna and Bratislava, the initiative lead by the Austrian university of Economics, and including an educational forum Umweltbildung (under the Austrian Ministry of Education, Austrian Business Council for

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Sustainable Development, and Sustainable Europe Research Institute). The goal of RCE is to establish a regional network for research, education and “knowledge interactions” in order to promote the principle of sustainable development and to enhance cross-border cooperation in the field of education, research and innovation. The role of UNEP Vienna - ISCC will be promoting RCE activities throughout the Carpathians, and facilitating creation of similar initiatives throughout the Carpathian region, using the experience of RCE – Vienna.

Paras. 4, 5 and 7: The COP supports the development of the Public Participation Strategy prepared by ANPED and invites countries and stakeholders to establish, develop and support related national mechanisms

A good basic level of access to information is provided in the functioning of the Carpathian Convention. Observers are active in some meetings and contribute to consultation of Protocols and the implementation of some programmes. Access to information varies at the national level, as provision exists, but practice varies across the region.

Also there is much to be gained by programmes for stronger outreach and involvement with the partners, sectors and groups which will be affected by plans and policies of the Convention, whose support will strongly contribute to the success or limitations of implementation. Several activities carried out by ANPED (e.g. educational and tourism activities, the cultural heritage inventory, etc.) have contributed to involve the public and these experiences will build the bases for the future Public Participation Strategy.

DECISION COP2/11
On Cooperation with the European Union

Paras. 11 and 12 and COP2/12 para. 1: The COP invites the Carpathian Presidency a.o. to inform the EU of the outcomes of COP II and recalls in particular the invitation to the EU to accede and fully participate in the Carpathian Convention.

During the last CCIC meeting the Parties agreed to revisit and analyze past efforts to promote accession or otherwise of the European Community to the Convention, especially in the light of the forthcoming Hungarian EU presidency (January to June 2011) with the view to advance the issue. The ISCC will strengthen its efforts in the forthcoming months to ensure the high-level participation of a representative of the EC in the COP3.

The Conference on the EU Strategy for the Danube Region held in Ulm, Germany 1 – 2 February 2010, was the start of the consultation process on this strategy. The ISCC presented VASICA (Visions and Strategies in the Carpathian Area) and widely distributed the publication. The ISCC, in particular, on numerous occasions, promoted the need and importance of the establishment of a “Carpathian Space” programme as one of the main outcomes of the VASICA. The Carpathian Region was presented as a macro region forming an integrated part of the Danube Region

and relevant inputs to the EU Danube Strategy were provided including recommendations and information of flagship projects, e.g. Alpine-Carpathian Corridor Project, BIOREGIO Carpathians, etc. Furthermore, contacts were established with relevant stakeholders involved in the EU Danube Strategy process (national contact points in states and the European Commission).

During the consultation process for the future EU Strategy for the Danube Region, the ISCC on behalf of the Carpathian Convention provided written Carpathian-related inputs and recommendations to the future Danube Region Strategy to the European Commission (DG Regional Development) by end of March 2010 (see also attached document ANNEX VI).

The European Commission elaborated the first draft and presented it at the EU Danube Strategy Conference on Transport, Energy and Environmental issues held in Vienna/Bratislava between 19 – 21 April 2010. During a workshop on biodiversity at the margins of the conference in Vienna, the Head of the ISCC made a presentation promoting the implementation of a macro regional strategy and projects to implement the Carpathian Convention and further presented best-practice examples of the Carpathian region.

The EU Danube Strategy was adopted by the European Commission in December 2010.

The ISCC also participated and provided its inputs in the international meeting on the elaboration of the European Danube Region Strategy that was held in the Embassy of Hungary in Vienna on 15 February 2010.

A representative of the ISCC further participated in the International Conference 'Sustainable Development of the Carpathians and other European Mountain Regions' that was held from 7 to 10 September 2010 in Uzhgorod/ Ukraine. At the margins of the opening segment a statement calling for support of and the need of establishing a Carpathian Space Programme and a Strategy for the Carpathian Region elaborated within the CC was delivered.

Furthermore a strategic action plan for the Carpathian Area has been developed by UNEP Vienna – ISCC together with EURAC and AEM (See Decision COP 2/2 para. 2,6).

Paras 3, 5 and 6: The COP invites parties to solicit support from European Territorial Cooperation funds, SDC cohesion funds, Norwegian fund, LIFE, ENPI and IPA, and requests the ISCC to ensure coordination in project development and implementation.

The ISCC is working on accessing the European funds offered through different programmes, such as European Territorial Cooperation, for the projects comprised in the follow-up platform (see ANNEX I). Moreover, the Swiss Contribution Funds to the EU Enlargement are available for four of the Carpathian countries that could also become a source of funding for projects submitted nationally for the implementation of the Convention.

As the Carpathian Convention has no proper funding mechanism, further efforts must be used to benefit from EU-programmes as financial instruments to support the implementation of the Carpathian Convention.

Paras 7 and 8: The COP calls upon Parties, supported by the ISCC, to cooperate with EU bodies in preparing the “Carpathian Space” programme under the European the Territorial Cooperation budget for 2014-2020.

The “Carpathian Project” was successfully completed in August 2008. The Closing Conference of the “CADSES” INTERREG IIIB was held in Venice, Italy on 25 November 2008. The ISCC as the lead partner of the project was invited to present the outcomes of the project as a strong basis for follow-up projects towards a “Carpathian Space” following the successful example of the Alpine Space. The “Carpathian Space” and its priorities were presented at the SEE Programme Annual Conference in Sarajevo in October 2009. On numerous other occasions, such as meetings within the frame of the consultation process for the EU Strategy for the Danube Region and Conference, the ISCC promoted the idea of a “Carpathian Space” programme and presented the outcomes of the VASICA.

DECISION COP2/12

On Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies

Paras. 2 to 10: The COP welcomes and supports further specific cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (conclusion of a MoU), the Ramsar Convention, the Aarhus Convention, the Council of Europe, the UNESCO, the FAO, UNDP, the ICPDR, UNIDO, the Mountain Partnership (MP) (the Carpathian Convention as a member of the Partnership), the Central European Initiative (CEI), the Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative (CERI).

Cooperation with the CBD and the Alpine Convention:

In the framework of the Mountain Partnership (MP), and following the MoC between the CBD, the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention, and in the context of the CBD’s 2010 annual theme – Mountains Biodiversity, the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and the ISCC submitted comments to the in-depth review of the programme of work on mountain biological diversity going to be undertaken by the CBD Secretariat’s Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) at its 14th meeting (Nairobi, 10-21 May 2010). On the basis of the discussions during the SBSTTA meeting in Nairobi recommendations for the draft decisions with regard to the in-depth review on the implementation of the PoWs on Mountain Biodiversity and Protected Areas were taken.

These draft decisions for the CBD COP10, held in Nagoya in October 2010, took explicitly reference of the Carpathian Convention and the CNPA (see attached ANNEX III and IV).

UNEP – ISCC together with many other partners such as the CBD Secretariat, the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, ICIMOD, IUCN, CONDESAN and others co-organised a Mountain Partnership side-event on Mountain Biodiversity during the high-level segment of the COP10 CBD. The event was hosted on 27 October 2010, many high-level representatives of states, IGOs and other institutions participates in the side event. The event was focused on the role of regional

Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) as instruments for the implementation of the CBD obligations and for the achievement of the objectives specified in the Programmes of Work (PoWs) on Mountain Biodiversity and Protected Areas (PAs). Participants were informed on the current and future activities of the MEAs in order to make visible the important function of such mechanisms of regional cooperation. A special focus was devoted to cooperation in the mountain regions such as the Alpine region, the Carpathian region, the Hindu Kush-Himalaya, the Dinaric Arc and the Balkans, the Andes and the Ethiopian Highlands. The Carpathian and Alpine Convention as well as the current process in the Balkans and Dinaric Arc were presented as best-practise examples. Participants stressed the need of further expanding the cooperation between the CBD, the Alpine and Carpathian Convention and called for the definition and implementation of a mountain-to-mountain cooperation programmes (also by referring to the COP10 decisions on the PoW on Mountain Biological Diversity). In advance to the side event the ISCC in consultation with the other co-organizers and participants of the side event prepared an informal outcome that was presented by Harald Egerer and distributed at the end of the side event (see attached ANNEX V).

In the light of 2010 International Year of Biodiversity international experts on biodiversity met on 28 May at the Vienna International Centre (VIC) to share their experiences at a symposium titled "Environment Day Talks '10: Value of Diversity – Diversity of Value". The symposium which was organized by the Austrian NGO "die umweltberatung" (Eco Counselling Austria), in co-operation with the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Vienna Office and the United Nations Information Service (UNIS) Vienna, was held to mark World Environment Day and the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity.

The cooperation of the Alpine and Carpathian Convention in the framework of the MoU is continuing with the same success in exchange of experience and joint work on common projects in order to create benefits for both regions (see also under other decisions).

Within the cooperation with EEA the ISCC provided substantial input to the publication: "Europe's ecological backbone – recognizing the true value of our mountains!".

The scoping consultation for a Dinaric Arc and Balkans Environment Outlook (DABEO) was planned by UNEP in late 2008, following an offer from the Albanian government to host an initial meeting among countries of the region and international organizations. UNEP therefore organized an exploratory meeting with the nine countries of the sub-region and international partners, to determine the level of interest and identify *raison d'être* and value-added of such a reporting process for the countries. Following the scoping consultation meeting, the first DABEO meeting took place in Ljubljana in February 2010 and the first draft of the scoping consultation paper and of the thematic focus paper of the Report were discussed and the further steps of the process were agreed.

"The European Mountain ABC" under the motto "Alpine Experience, Balkan Future and Carpathian Opportunity" aiming at implementing the COP2/12 decision was rejected by the EU programme INTERREG IVc. The project proposal involved two partners from each mountain range and the Secretariats of the Alpine and Carpathian Convention. It aimed at exchanging experience especially on Sustainable

Forest Management, Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Tourism.

The ISCC together with EURAC have started discussions with the European Space Agency (ESA) to build a future strategic cooperation. First consultations were held and ideas for joint future projects were exchanged, e.g. future projects to be funded under the Data User Element Programme of ESA.

UNEP Vienna - ISCC together with EURAC provided input to the workshop on Integrated Space Technologies Applications for Sustainable Development in the Mountain Regions of Andean Countries co-organized by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and ESA and others in Bolivia end of October 2010.

Based on the MoU between EURAC and UNEP, the ISCC has been reinforced and strengthened by an EURAC expert support team, fruitful cooperation can be reported and many common activities related to policy and project development and implementation are carried out.

The ISCC participated in the side event on biodiversity at the margins of the FAO Regional Conference on Europe and Central Asia in Jerewan/Armenia, 12 to 14 May 2010 and presented the activities in the Carpathians in the field of biodiversity.

In the framework of Article III.1 of their MoU, the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention organized a Congress Day on "Sustainable Tourism in Mountain Regions" at the International Mountain Summit. The IMS is a fix meeting point for the world's most famous mountaineers and Alpine Clubs. It took place for the second time at Bressanone (Italy) from 30 October – 07 November. The main aim of the congress day, which took place at the 03 November, was to raise awareness on the impact of tourism on the mountain ecosystem and explore its role on the sustainable development in mountain areas. The subject was approached by a broad range of experts from the policy as well as from the implementation side.

UNEP supports the this years' International Mountain Day celebrations during the second Verbier Green Pioneering Summit (GPS) to held in Verbier, Switzerland on 9 - 11 December. UNEP-ISCC was especially involved in the preparations of the International Mountain Day. The theme for International Mountain Day 2010 is "Mountain minorities and indigenous people". The 11 December was the official Swiss event for International Mountain Day, with the support of commune, canton and federal Government.

DECISION COP2/13

Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention

Paras. 10, 13 and 15:The COP encourages relevant partners to ensure proper implementation and funding and invites Parties to increase their contributions and/or consider seconding staff (related to the Protocol on BD, CNPA servicing, etc.)²

The Slovakian Government has seconded a staff member, Mr. Miroslav Beriac, to help the ISCC in the preparatory work for COP3 to be held in Bratislava end of May 2011.

² See also separate documents on "Programme of Work of the Carpathian Convention" and "Administration and financial management of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians"

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ALPARC	Alpine Network of Protected Areas
BD	Biodiversity
CASALEN	Carpathian Sustainable Education Network
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CC	Carpathian Convention
CCIC	Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee
CEI	Central European Initiative
CNPA	Carpathian Network of Protected Areas
COP	Conference of the Parties
CPs	Contracting Parties
CWI	Carpathian Wetlands Initiative
DABEO	Dinaric Arc and Balkans Environment Outlook
EEA	European Environmental Agency
EIONET	Environment Information and Observation Network
ESA	European Space Agency
ESD.....	Education for Sustainable Development
EU	European Union
EURAC	European Academy Bolzano
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GEF	Global Environment Fund
ICPDR	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
ISCC	Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention
MCPFE	Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe
MEAs.....	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Mountain Partnership
MTS	Medium Term Strategy
PAs	Protected Areas
PoWPA	Programme of Work on Protected Areas
RCE	Regional Centre of Excellence
SAP	Strategic Action Plan

SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice
SC	Steering Committee
SEE	South East Europe
SOER	State of Environment Report
TORs	Terms of Reference
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
UNIS	United Nations Information Service
UNOOSA	United Nations Office on Outer Space Affairs
UNOV	United Nations Office at Vienna
UNWTO	United Nations world Tourism Organisation
VASICA	Visions and Strategies in the Carpathian Area
WG	Working Group



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

UNEP/CC/COP3/DOC2.1
Original: English

PROGRESS REPORT BY THE INTERIM SECRETARIAT

ANNEX I: Carpathian Convention Follow-Up Platform

Carpathian Convention Follow-Up Platform

Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity: Secretariat Report (Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention)

Title: Alpine-Carpathian Corridor

Programme: EU-Cross-border cooperation

Partners: Lead Partner: Regional government of Lower Austria

Austria – UNEP ISCC; Asfinag; BOKU; Nationalpark Donau-Auen; Weinviertel Management. **Czech Republic** – DAPHNE. **Slovakia** – CHKO Zahorie. **Switzerland** – WWF. **Others** – CWS, NDS, STU

Summary: The Alps and the Carpathians, Europe's greatest mountain ranges, are among the most diverse ecoregions of the world. It is not a long time ago that large mammals such as red deer or lynx (and with them the whole range of forest species) could migrate between the Alps and the Carpathians without any hindrances. This traditional migration route of international importance crosses the region between Vienna, Bratislava and Sopron – a region that ranks among the most dynamic economic areas in Europe. Considering the need for action to preserve ecological networks and further a sustainable development, several partners joined their forces in activities in the field of ecological connectivity to secure the Alpine-Carpathian Corridor. Together with partners from Austria and Slovakia WWF Austria, DAPHNE and State nature conservancy have prepared two EU co-funded project-proposals.

Objectives: The aim of the Alpine-Carpathian Corridor project is to safeguard the ecological connectivity between the Alps and the Carpathians, within the Centropoe region. Migration and genetical exchange among wildlife populations shall be secured. The project shall strengthen conservation management for the protected areas along the Alpine Carpathian Corridor and neighbouring habitats. The project also wants to trigger a sustainable development which considers the requirements of both man and wildlife. The awareness about the importance of undisturbed areas, green zones and a close use of land resource shall be fostered. Project activities shall contribute to the implementation of the EU habitats directive, the Convention on Biodiversity, the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions and shall deliver a sound basis for spatial decision making processes in terms of wildlife corridors (e.g. Environmental Impact Assessments).

Results: Project management. Information about the ACC, media relation & connectivity campaign. Scientific background study on habitat fragmentation, greenbridges, connectivity and their influence on genetics and fitness of wildlife populations. GIS modelling of the whole AKK area. Preparation of a MoU to secure the Alpine-Carpathian Corridor and conduction of a crossborder Conference. Detailed Corridor modell of bottleneck sections. Ecological planning of Greenbridge over A4. Greenbridge on D2 highway

Duration: 01.12.2008 – 01.06.2012

Budget: 1,800,000 EUR

Status: Approved

Priority: N/A

Title: BIOREGIO Carpathians – Integrated management of biological and landscape diversity for sustainable regional development and ecological connectivity in the Carpathians

Programme: South East Europe

Partners: Lead Partner: NFA (National Forest Administration) ROMSILVA Piatra Craiului National Park Administration (Romania)

Austria – UNEP REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, UNEP Vienna – ISCC; WWF DCP (Danube Carpathians Programme). **Czech Republic** – Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection; Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic. **Hungary** – Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate; Szent István University; Ministry of Rural Development. **Italy** – European Academy Bolzano/Bozen, Institute for Regional Development and Location Management; Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea. **Poland** – Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute of Nature Conservation; Ministry of the Environment, Department of Nature Protection. **Romania** NFA (National Forest Administration) ROMSILVA ? Maramures Mountains Nature Park Administration; NFA (National Forest Administration) ROMSILVA ? Iron Gates Natural Park Administration; Regional Environmental Protection Agency Sibiu; Ministry of Environment and Forest. **Slovakia** – State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic; National Forest Centre; Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic. **Serbia** – Public Enterprise Djerdap National Park; Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning. **Ukraine** – The State Agency for Protected Areas; Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine

Summary: BIOREGIO Carpathians is aimed at enhancing the integrated management of the Carpathians, protected areas, and natural assets in a transnational context, which thereby increases the attractiveness of the region. The Carpathians, the largest mountain range of Europe, harbour a unique natural heritage and act as a major ecological link within Europe. Experiences from the Alpine Space demonstrate that the



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exceptional natural assets of mountain areas offer considerable potential for a sustainable regional development by maintaining the biological and landscape diversity as well as their ecological connectivity. The project promotes the harmonized management of natural assets and protected areas including NATURA 2000 sites in the Carpathians by involving all relevant stakeholders and by building on existing framework of the cooperation of the Carpathian Convention; its Biodiversity Protocol and other related transnational networks and initiatives. BIOREGIO provides the identification of common standards for integrated management plans and therewith the elaboration of common integrated management measures in particular transboundary areas and their implementation in pilot projects. These measures will be mainly identified in the meetings of stakeholders involved in the management of natural assets and protected areas from all the Carpathian countries. Further outputs are the identification of the main natural, legal, social and economic barriers, and the elaboration of recommendations for the elimination of these barriers to improve the connectivity and continuity of the region. In addition, the project develops a Joint Biodiversity Information System and a Red List of the most endangered habitats and species in the Carpathians based on already established databases. The establishment of an intergovernmental platform will further ensure the follow up of the project activities. The project results are transferred to other mountain region in the Programme Area.

Objectives: The project aims at enhancing the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of the biological and landscape diversity through the more effective harmonization of the management of the shared natural heritage, habitats and species, as well as the joint preservation and promotion of the natural values of the Carpathians in a transnational framework. In order to improve the harmonization of management plans, the project aims at providing common standards and at encouraging and supporting cooperative agreements. To support sustainable regional development, the project promotes the economic value of areas with high biodiversity, including sustainable tourism and other forms of positive externalities, and aims at increasing awareness of the importance of an integrated management of the Carpathians' natural assets as a development factor. Common integrated management measures will be discussed and elaborated in meetings with relevant stakeholders and implemented in the identified pilot transboundary protected areas. The development and promotion of regional inventories of species and habitats will support implementation of Natura 2000 in the Carpathians and foster ecological connectivity. A joint biodiversity geo-referenced web based information system will be established (on the basis of the already existing Carpathian Protected Areas Clearing House Mechanism and other relevant databases) and a Carpathian Red List of Species and Habitats further developed to provide a solid information basis to the decision makers and relevant stakeholders. Furthermore recommendations to overcome economic, social and legal barriers to ecological connectivity will be prepared and agreed upon. The project builds on existing cooperation tools and platforms in the Carpathians such as the Carpathian Convention and the CWI, providing multi-level governance and cross-sector integration.

Results: The common standards and financial mechanisms identified, the common integrated measures elaborated and their implementation in pilot projects in transboundary protected areas increase the harmonization and an integrated approach in the management of natural assets and protected areas in the Region. The established Joint Biodiversity Information System and the elaboration of a Carpathian Red List of Species and Habitats, together with the elaborated analysis and recommendations for the elimination of the economic, legal and social barriers to the ecological connectivity in the Carpathians increase the information basis for the decision makers, that can plan their investments in the identified areas on the basis of those project outputs. The stakeholders meetings organised together with the events organized and the several communication tools established will increase the public awareness on the opportunity of natural assets as a development factor. Furthermore they ensure that the project outputs will be used by the stakeholders in the future management of the identified areas. The competent authorities will use them in the implementation of the Carpathian Convention Biodiversity Protocol and the Carpathian Wetland Initiative. In particular the Carpathian Ministries for the Environment, observers in the project, monitor and further ensure its political, institutional and financial sustainability and follow up. Through the transferability of results the project offers strong leverage effects on the management of protected areas not directly involved in the project. A study on the transferability of the project results in the Balkans and Dinaric Arc will be elaborated within the project and on the basis of the BIOREGIO Carpathians experience a project on the connectivity between natural areas in the Balkans and Dinaric Arc can be developed.

Duration: 01.01.2011 – 01.12.2013

Budget: 2,700,00.00 EUR

Status: Approved

Priority: Protection and improvement of the environment

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Title: IMPACT – Indicators for Monitoring and Managing of protected Areas in Central Europe

Programme: Central Europe

Partners: Lead Partner: Regione Veneto (Italy)

Austria: Agricultural Research and Education Centre Raumberg-Gumpenstein (AREC); UNEP Regional Office for Europe – Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention; Office of the Government of Carinthia, Dep. 20 spatial planning, Subdepartment for Nature Conservation. **Czech Republic** – Daphne CZ – Institute of Applied Ecology. **Hungary** – Nimfea Environment and Nature Conservation Association. **Italy** – Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia – Fauna and Natural Environments protection Department; Ersaf Lombardia Region; Province of Ravenna. **Slovakia** – Slovak Environmental Agency. **Slovenia** – University of Maribor.

Summary: IMPACT project was born from a necessity: management of NATURA 2000 sites is often too generic. The reason is because there are too many and too different strategies, indicators and local statements. IMPACT project would create an international and common recognized policies for the management of NATURA 2000 sites.

Objectives: to identify an efficient set of indicators for monitoring and managing Special Protected Areas (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC), in accordance and harmonisation with other indicators on preservation of biodiversity at international level. Then to implement this set of indicators in a decision support software, that can be recognized at international level to be used as a model for monitoring plans, management plans, habitats and species action plans and for the assessment of projects and plans which affect NATURA 2000 sites across Europe.

Results: IMPACT will elaborate a harmonised set of geodatabases, indicators and management tools for Public Administrations in order to improve the effectiveness of nature management measures and ensure long-term biodiversity conservation within NATURA2000 network. Expected results are: the harmonisation of indicators throughout NATURA2000 sites in Central Europe, the implementation of monitoring, assessment and management methodologies in a decision support software (DSSSP), the feedback with EU Commission on the validity of the set of indicators established and the test and experimentation of the software in NATURA2000 pilot sites. Main outputs are: a complete analysis of the state of art which will lead to the identification of an agreed Strategic Action Plan and of transnational Guidelines, a DSSSP will be created as a management tool for NATURA 2000 sites management authorities, pilot actions will be conducted in protected areas through the validation of the DSSSP.

Duration: 01.01.2011 – 01.06.2014; 42 months

Budget: 2,786,073.67 EUR

Status: Rejected

Priority: Priority 3 – Using our environment responsibility

Title: MAPP – Mountainous Areas participated (territorial) Planning

Programme: Central Europe

Partners: Lead Partner: Emilia Romagna Region (Italy)

Austria – UNEP Vienna – Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention; Regional Development Vorarlberg. **Italy** – Research Institute for the Ecology and the Economy Applied to Alpine Areas. **Poland** – Rzeszow Regional Development Agency, Institute for Urban Development. **Slovenia** – Department Centre Litija

Summary, Objectives, Results: MAPP Mountains face social/demographic/economic/environmental change, due to “brain drain” and immigration, difficulty to contrast “knowledge divide”, climate challenge to tourism e.g. in “snow districts”. Challenges call for new paths to development, with “identity” as a value for change. Issue addressed by MAPP is to provide new impulse to mountains economic/social systems, esp. in weaker areas facing depopulation, services decrease, social-economic delay, encouraging economic diversification based upon assets/opportunities and strengthening social capital. Affording participation in development planning as its “core”, MAPP assumes that multi-actor participation milieux facilitate knowledge hybridization/experiences cross-fertilization in Sustainable Innovation (SI), to turn Territorial “Potentials” into development actions. MAPP general objectives focus on valorisation of mountains assets as economic opportunities, to improve citizens’ quality of life and to strengthen CE regional integration. This needs a strong “social pillar” supporting the undertaking of a path to “knowledge-based communities”. Structured participation process, involving mountains citizens/stakeholders is key for strategic planning/action drawing/project implementation. MAPP specific objective is a strengthened capacity of communities to catch opportunities for economic diversification/social cohesion, providing mountain citizens with same rights (to jobs, culture, services) as urban and reinforcing territorial resilience/adaptability to changes. Trans-national scale is key to achieve “critical mass” of a cluster of mountain innovative/sustainable/attractive communities.



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These elements make MAPP highly labour-intensive: partnership was built accordingly to PP availability in being involved in participative processes strongly innovation-oriented. An International Organization is involved due to its strategic access to several “mountain stakeholders”, strengthening trans-nationality. Regional policy makers and networks of regional/trans-national mountain stakeholders involved as Associate Partners reinforce MAPP impact and mainstreaming opportunities on actual policies. Activities foreseen/related results are summarized below. SI Forums, set in 6 mountain areas after stakeholders inception hold Innovation Strategic Area Assessment (ISAA) supported by facilitators. ISAA reports focus conditions/priorities for innovation. Sustainable Innovation Laboratory (SIL), created by clustering SI Forums sets the “cooperation space” to improve communities’ ability in drawing participative strategies/development actions. SIL draws accordingly a MAPP-area Baseline Study. Web 2.0 platform (virtual space for common work/materials sharing/results debate) allows MAPP community “social networking”. SIL holds 6 Project Works (PW) coordinated by PPs on relevant thematic/horizontal issues. PW reports focus on SI project proposals. An Central Europe mountains SI Conference debates outputs/results with Associate Partners & international stakeholders (ETC projects; international networks; research institutions) asked for contributions. Upon outputs/results, SIL draws Master Plan of trans-national strategic projects, selected upon relevance and feasibility. A Partners’ agreement on SIL sustainability beyond MAPP, addresses organizational/financial issues, also assessing opportunity for EGTC promotion. SI Forums start locally projects implementation. Innovative results are process-oriented: Baseline Study will support mutual understanding at local/trans-national scale on “innovation in mountain areas”; goal-oriented: SIL focuses on strategies/actions capacity to support generation of sustainable/knowledge-based communities; context-oriented: to become regionally integrated/attractive, mountain communities address opportunities to unleash Territorial Potential, not only counteracting weaknesses.

Duration: 01.03.2011 – 01.02.2014; 36 months

Budget: 2,433,828.40 EUR

Status: Rejected

Priority: Priority 4 – Enhancing competitiveness and attractiveness of cities and regions

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Spatial planning: (Article 5 of the Carpathian Convention)

Title: CLIMCAR – Climate change and Spatial Planning in the Carpathians

Programme: ERANET Circle Mountain 2

Partners: Lead Partner: University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences (Austria)

Austria – Szent István University; The Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (ISCC)/UNEP Vienna. **Poland** – The Science for the Carpathians Network (S4C). **Italy** – The European Academy (EURAC);

Summary: So far, the issue “climate change impacts and adaptation” has not been high on the political agenda in the Carpathians. Information focusing particularly on the interrelation between climate change and the Carpathian mountain ecosystems, especially on adaptation to climate change, is lacking. The major purpose of CLIMCAR is to provide different stakeholders with information about the interrelation of climate change impacts and the Carpathian mountain ecosystems, by focusing on one targeted pilot region. The core of this strategic pilot project will be the establishment of links to the ongoing project CLISP and the development of a vulnerability assessment scheme for a pilot region in the Hungarian Carpathians. The Hungarian site is selected because their database is better than for most other regions in the Carpathians. The scientific objective of CLIMCAR is development of knowledge on the vulnerability of the targeted pilot region and on possible adaptation strategies, specifically in the frame of spatial planning. Further, CLIMCAR aims at promoting the integration of the vulnerability concept into the practice of designing and planning adaptation strategies. With the involvement of the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention², the international character of CLIMCAR and the political follow-up will be ensured. Further synergy effects can be created by establishing links to other mountain research activities, such as those under the ENVSEC³ initiative. Moreover, CLIMCAR is supported by the Science for the Carpathians network⁴ with the view of further disseminating the scientific results to other Carpathians regions.

Objectives: The project proposal fully corresponds to the theme of the call. CLIMCAR will address the issues of climate change impacts as well as the question of adaptation strategies by targeting a pilot region in the Carpathians. Climate change impacts and adaptation in the selected pilot region will be the main topics to be under scientific investigation. The research project aims to give an general outlook on the interrelation between climate change and the mountain ecosystems of the targeted pilot region, as well as the linked economic sectors impacted by changes in the ecosystem. The scientific objective of the CLIMCAR project is to provide and improve the knowledge and create awareness of the vulnerability of the mountain ecosystems of the pilot region to the impacts of the climate change. In addition to that, the project aims at demonstrating and promoting the integration of the vulnerability concept into practice, when defining and planning adaptation strategies. CLIMCAR also aims at providing knowledge of possible adaptation strategies, especially in the frame of spatial planning. CLIMCAR includes no own climate or impact modelling activities and therefore depends on climate change scenarios produced by international projects.

Results: The project results, in particular, the recommendations and policy options (including guidance on adaptation strategies and spatial planning) to be worked out under Working Package 5, will serve as the basis for future policy action, in particular, under the Carpathian Convention (with the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention ST2 acting as the main body). The Interim Secretariat intends to disseminate the results (compiled in a study) together with the prepared recommendations to the various meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Carpathian Convention (such as the Implementation Committee, relevant working groups) or other relevant events that are linked to the Carpathians. The results of this project proposal could flow in the actual work in elaborating on the various Protocols to the Carpathian Convention by the respective Working Groups. The for a of main decision-making bodies of the Carpathian Convention, such as the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee, will be used to reflect on the results of the CLIMCAR project (especially the policy recommendations) in order to decide, if further policy action under the Carpathian Convention is needed. Based on the results of the CLIMCAR pilot project, especially on the testing of existing vulnerability assessment schemes, projects in other pilot regions of the Carpathian Space could be identified and considered to be submitted. The upcoming meetings of the Conference of the Parties (represented by the competent Ministries of the seven Carpathian countries) steering the process under the Carpathian Convention plays a crucial in this context. It is also envisaged to use in particular the next Conference of the Parties (COP3), which will be held in Slovakia in 2011, as a forum to discuss the issue of climate change in the Carpathians and raise awareness of this project. With the involvement of the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, the political follow-up is thus ensured.

Duration: August 2010 to August 2012

Budget: 105, 000 EUR

Status: Rejected

Priority: N/A

Title: CLISP – Climate Change and Spatial Planning in the Alps

Partners: Lead Partner: Umweltbundesamt GmbH (Austria)

Austria – Amt der Salzburger Landesregierung, Abteilung Raumplanung; Amt der Steiermärkischen Landesregierung, Abteilung 16 - Landes- und Gemeindeentwicklung; Amt der Oberösterreichischen Landesregierung, Abteilung Raumordnung

Germany – Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Wirtschaft, Infrastruktur, Verkehr und Technologie, Abteilung Landesentwicklung; United Nations Environment Programme, Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention.

Italy – Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare; Accademia Europea di Bolzano; Provincia di Alessandria. **Slovenia** – Urbanistični inštitut Republike Slovenije. **Switzerland** –

Bundesamt für Raumentwicklung, Strategiegruppe Politik des Ländlichen Raumes; Graubünden, Amt für Raumentwicklung. **Liechtenstein** – Fürstentum Liechtenstein, Ressort Umwelt, Raum, Land- und

Waldwirtschaft

Summary: Climate change impacts, especially from growing risks from natural hazards, increasingly threaten settlements, infrastructure, lives and future development in the Alpine Space. CLISP aims at preventing climate change related spatial conflicts, vulnerability, damages and costs by providing "climate proof" spatial planning solutions as a substantial basis for future sustainable territorial development in the Alps. Climate change adaptation & mitigation is a novel field for spatial planning policy and administration; CLISP is a strategic pilot project. Its main pillars are assessment of the vulnerability of Alpine regions to climate change related risks, evaluation of the "climate change fitness" of current spatial planning systems, and intense risk communication & governance in model regions.

Objectives: Contributing to sustainable, "climate proof" spatial planning and development in the Alpine Space by providing adequate planning strategies that are coordinated vertically & horizontally for the transnat., nat. & eg. level, options for enhancing planning structures, instruments and procedures, and practical decision support for efficient on-site spatial adaptation and vulnerability management, thus contributing to implementing the EU Territorial Agenda (esp. to 1st TA Action Programme, Action 3-2b: "Potential impacts of climate change on spatial development ... in the Alpine Space") and the EU Green Paper on Adaptation. Providing knowledge on spatial vulnerability to climate change impacts and resulting spatial conflicts in Alpine regions & municipalities by elaborating a transferable, practice-oriented approach of vulnerability assessment and applying this procedure in model regions, thus allowing preventive adaptation of spatial structures. Analysing the "climate change fitness" of current spatial planning systems by evaluating legal & institutional framework, instruments (e.g. regional development programmes & plans, land-use plans) with regard to their strengths and weaknesses in preventing, avoiding and mitigating adverse climate change impacts on reg. & local level. Promoting risk governance and management on reg. & local level by intensively communicating climate change-related risks to stakeholders & the public in model regions, discussing reaction options and introducing risk-oriented approaches in reg. & local planning procedures. Raising awareness and sensitisation of policy-/decision-makers, planning & other authorities (e.g. water, forestry, agriculture, nature), stakeholders & the public in the Alpine Space for spatial adaptation requirements and increasing preparedness to take suitable reaction measures. Transferring results & experiences to the entire Alpine Space and other European mountain regions

Results: Strategic and operative basis for "climate proof" spatial planning and resilient development in the Alpine Space provided on the basis of the strengths and weaknesses discovered in the frame of the climate change fitness check of the planning systems in the Alpine countries, comprising 1. one transnational strategy for spatial adaption to climate change in the Alpine Space as an input to Alpine and EU policies, 2. corresponding nat. & reg. planning strategies tailored to the planning systems of A,D,I,CH,FL,SI including enhancement options ready for integration in upcoming legal amendments and updating of spatial plans as well as transferable "climate proof" planning practice examples. Key vulnerability factors with regard to climate change-related risks determined and specific exposure, sensitivity & adapting capacity of model regions identified, providing together with risk communication processes the knowledge base and practical support for risk-oriented decisions on-site. Risk governance processes promoted and introduced in reg. & local planning procedures. Increased awareness, understanding, preparedness & support of spatial planning policy-makers & authorities, other relevant policy fields (water, forestry, agric., nature), stakeholders & the public in the model regions for spatial adaptation measures.

Duration: 23.11.2007-31.08.2011 36 months

Budget: 2,522,990 Euro

Status: Approved

Priority: Priority 3 – Environment and Risk Prevention

Title: ClimAlp Tour – Climate Change and Tourism in the Alps

Programme: Alpine Space

Partners: Lead Partner: Regione Veneto (Italy)

Austria – Universität Innsbruck (UIBK); United Nations Environment Programme in Vienna. **France** – Institut de la Montagne - Université de Savoie. **Germany** – Alpenforschungsinstitut GmbH (AFI); Hochschule München, Fakultät für Tourismus. **Italy** – Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare (MATTM); EURAC Accademia Europea di Bolzano (EURAC); Unione Nazionale Comuni Comunità Enti Montani Piemonte (UNCCEM); Istituto per l'Ecologia e l'Economia Applicata alle Aree Alpine (IREALP); Regione Autonoma Valle d'Aosta, Assessorato Territorio Ambiente e Opere pubbliche, Direzione Ambiente (RAVA Env); Regione Autonoma Valle d'Aosta, Direzione Turismo (RAVA Tour); World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). **Slovenia** – Znanstvenoraziskovalni center Slovenske Akademije znanosti in umetnosti, Geografski inštitut Antona Melika. **Switzerland** – Hochschule für Technik Rapperswil, Forschungsstelle für Freizeit, Tourismus und Landschaft, Institut für Landschaft und Freiraum; Haute école spécialisée de Suisse occidentale Valais, Institut Economie & Tourisme; Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft HTW Chur, Institut für Tourismus- und Freizeitforschung

Summary: This project aims at dealing with the internationally recognized issue of the effects of climate change on alpine tourism, with reference both winter tourism and sports to alpine all-seasons tourism. The issue of providing appropriate strategies to ensure a balanced development of alpine tourism, the preparation of appropriate adaptation policies at the national, regional and local levels, and the assessment of economic and social effects of climate change on tourism were central issue in several studies. Alpine tourism needs to be rethought; both public institutions and private stakeholders have to meet the challenge of a new idea of tourism which goes beyond the traditional vision of winter sports and other typical alpine tourism activities. This project addresses the need to provide sound knowledge of different aspects of the impact of climate change on alpine tourism and concrete adaptation strategies applied in selected areas.

Objectives: To analyze different possible impacts of climate change on the alpine tourist sector and their complex interrelation. To provide an overview of tourist areas in the Alps where the effects of climate change can be stronger according to climate scenarios. To analyze adaptation and management strategies for tourist sector which better fit in the alpine region, considering changes in customer perception and new alpine strategies for tourism industry. To select a set of parameters and to identify common trends in order to feed an algorithm being able to deliver possible strategies according to the features of the examined tourist sites. To build a web electronic tool for stakeholders being able to make a first assessment of the local impact of climate change and to provide hints for possible adaptation strategies. To apply most important strategies developed in the framework of the project in pilot areas along the Alps with a direct involvement of local authorities, stakeholders and the public aiming at raising the awareness of policy makers, business sector and all relevant actors on the topic of climate change and its effect on the economy (mainly in the tourist sector).

Results: Overview and assessment of possible impacts of climate change on the alpine tourist sector. Identification of most sensitive areas (at least 14 pilot areas), economic activities, environmental aspects. Identification of main stressors on alpine tourism due to CC. Identification of possible adaptation strategies (at least one for each PP), policies and measures to CC impact for different typologies of tourist locations. Development of one electronic web-based tool to assess the local impact of CC on alpine tourist sites and provide basic adaptation strategies, policy options and tourist management strategies to stakeholders and policy makers. Information, education and communication activities (at least three seminars, one mid term and one transnational conference, one expert hearing) to stakeholders groups, general public and policy makers at different levels in the alpine region on effects of CC on tourist sector and possible actions. Contribution to the development of the multi - annual program and the Working Program of the presidency of the Alpine Convention. Strong involvement of local stakeholders and policy makers in concretely implementing policies and adaptation strategies on their own territories. This also aims at internalizing the need of building innovative tourist strategies aimed at making the alpine territory and the different alpine tourist regions more attractive as tourist locations in all seasons.

Duration: 01.07.2007 – 01.09.2011; 36mths

Budget: 2,806,500 EUR

Status: Approved

Priority: Priority 1 – Competitiveness and Attractiveness of the Alpine Space

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Title: **ACUTE** – Adjusting protection policies for the sustainable development of exposed Alpine valley regions

Programme: Alpine Space

Partners: **Lead Partner:** Lebensministerium (BMLFUW) (Austria)

Austria – UNEP REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention; Amt der Kärntner Landesregierung; Österreichische Bundesforste AG; Amt der Steiermärkischen Landesregierung; Umweltbundesamt GmbH. **France** – PGRN - Pôle Grenoblois Risques Naturels ; Cemagref: L'institut de recherche en sciences et technologies pour l'environnement ; Office National des Forêts. **Germany** – Bayerisches Landesamt für Umwelt (LFU). **Italy** – EURAC, European Academy of Bozen/Bolzano; Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano; ISPRA - Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale (ex APAT); Politecnico di Torino, Dipartimento di Ingegneria Strutturale e Geotecnica. **Slovenia** – Univerza v Ljubljani; Geološki zavod Slovenije. **Switzerland** – Service des forêts et du paysage, Section dangers naturels ; Climatic Change and Climate Impacts (C3i)

Summary: The competitiveness of spatially confined Alpine Valley Regions is highly dependent on their development paths concerning regional economy and the use of natural resources. Large interregional disparities exist with regard to socio-economic/demographic trends and development potentials causing multiple use conflicts. Interdependencies between regional development and natural hazards protection require review and harmonised re-design of policies in both fields, which has not yet been tackled in projects funded by EC.

Objectives: The overarching objective is to secure safe living space, livelihood & quality of life in Alpine valley regions and to ensure sustainable and hazard-proof exploitation of their different economic and spatial development potentials in a short and long term perspectives. Analysis of economic & spatial development trends & potentials and identification of "prototype valley regions" (regional development types). Assessment of current & future protection needs (incl. managing multiple risks) and re-adjustment of protection policies. Investigating related conflicts & synergies resulting from multiple resource use demands and balancing public & private use interests. Economic assessment for optimizing public investments in relation to regional development potentials. Contributing to sustainable & safe regional development strategies. Initiating & testing a dialogue process on risk governance with Alpine valley regions. Establishing a "quality seal" for risk-aware Alpine municipalities.

Results: Classification of "prototype valley regions" as an information and decision-making basis for natural hazard management and regional development. Methods and validation tools (models, cost-effectiveness/cost-benefit analysis) for assessing socio-economic effectiveness of public investments in protection measures. Decision support tools (criteria, indicators, guidance) for prioritizing investments in protection measures and for objectifying decision-making. Approaches for assessment and management of multiple risk settings. Valuation models for reconciling multiple use conflicts (e.g., hydro power, flood/torrent control, ecology and morphology) and for balancing public and private interests (cf. Water Framework Directive) at Alpine water bodies in selected model valleys. Forest management concepts for Alpine torrent catchment areas and forest stands on river banks in selected model valleys as well as recommendations for enhancing forest policy instruments. • Protection concepts (goals, strategies, protection levels) and safety concepts (disaster management and emergency response) specifically adjusted to the model valley regions and the prototype valley regions and to their respective development potentials. Policy options for models for regional risk transfer, inter-municipal cooperation, and public-private-partnerships in natural hazard management. Concepts and strategies for sustainable and hazard-proof spatial development of model and prototype valley regions specifically adjusted to their respective development needs. Long-term platforms for discussing and negotiating risk governance issues (protection needs vs. optimized resource allocation) between natural hazard authorities and regional/municipal stakeholders established. Invention and establishment of a "quality seal" for risk-aware communities. Transferation of results to target groups and fed into strategic policy development (PLANALP, Carpathian Convention).

Duration: 01.09.2011 – 31.08.2014 36 mths

Budget: 2,600,000 EUR

Status: Pending (Foreseen final decision: mid May)

Priority: Priority 1 - Competitiveness and Attractiveness of the Alpine Space

Title: ALPSTAR

Programme: Alpine Space

Partners: Lead Partner: Služba Vlade Republike Slovenije za podnebne spremembe (SVPS) (Slovenia)

Austria – Land Vorarlberg (VORARLBERG); UNEP Vienna- Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention. **France** – CIPRA France; Rhône-Alpénergie-Environnement (RAEE). **Germany** – Verein Alpenstadt des Jahres e.V. (ALPINE TOWNS); Ökomodell Achental e.V.(ÖKOMODELL). **Italy** – Accademia Europea Bolzano (EURAC). **Slovenia** – Posoški Razvojni Center (PRC). **Liechtenstein** – Amt für Wald, Natur und Landschaft (AWN). **Switzerland** – Amt für Raumentwicklung und Geoinformation des Kantons ST. GALLEN

Summary: The ALPSTAR project focuses on implementation of policies in managing climate change on regional and local level through capitalisation of existing know-how, methods and measures. Transnational approach is needed to gather relevant good practice measures, to establish common transfer method, a transfer platform and common approach in capacity building, to encourage further transfer of measures in the Alpine region and to prepare recommendations for national and transnational policies.

Objectives: The aim of this project is to provide political and operational support to encourage implementation of proven good practice measures in managing climate change through preparation of strategies and action plans toward carbon neutrality on regional and local level. To create good practice transfer platform and network of regions for exchange of know-how in preparation and implementation of strategies and good practice measures toward carbon neutrality. To ensure reproducibility of good practice measures. To improve transboundary, cross-sectoral and inter-policy-level cooperation in coping with climate change. To empower local and regional administrative and planning capacities to become facilitators and actors of change. To promote integrative and participatory approach to development of strategies for good practice implementation. To encourage pooling and transfer of innovative and efficient good practices from and to other Alpine regions and beyond.

Results: Good practice transfer platform on the project website - available from website of Alpine Convention. Practical guidelines in preparation of strategies and action plans • 4 workshops for partners on the process of strategy preparation/implementation and on measures toward carbon neutrality. One situation analysis per pilot region (8). 8 study visits of all partners to pilot regions. 3 workshops and 5-10 individual meetings with stakeholders per pilot region. 33 good practices for transfer. Study visits to regions with existing good practices (16). Network of contact points for good practices. Follow up projects, investment proposals prepared for implementation of good practices (11). Recommendations for strategic documents. 8 capacity building seminars for stakeholders outside the pilot regions. Increased capacity of staff members in partner organisations in strategy, action plan and measures toward carbon neutrality. Directory of good practice strategies and action plans toward carbon neutrality and practical guidelines in preparation of strategies and action plans available for the use by Alpine regions. One strategy or action plan toward carbon neutrality per pilot region agreed among stakeholders (8). Local stakeholder networks established. Good practice clusters as a source of knowledge for good practice transfer. 1 good practice implementation plan per region agreed among stakeholders (8). 8 implemented good practices. Strategic policy board appointed. Recommendations of the Board used in pilot regions' strategic documents (consistency with national, Alpine and EU strategic documents on managing climate change). Recommendations prepared by partners for the Board to be used in strategic documents on national, Alpine and EU level. 350 stakeholders outside pilot regions with increased capacity in strategies, action plans, measures toward carbon neutrality

Duration: 01.05.2011 – 31.12.2013; 32 months

Budget: 2,290,960 EUR

Status: Pending (Foreseen final decision: mid May)

Priority: Priority 3 - Environment and Risk Prevention

Title: C3-Alps – Capitalising Climate Change Knowledge for Adaptation in the Alpine Space

Programme: Alpine Space

Partners: Lead Partner: Umweltbundesamt GmbH (Austria)

Austria – Umweltbundesamt GmbH; Amt der NÖ Landesregierung; Amt der Kärntner Landesregierung; Z_GIS Zentrum für Geoinformatik; UNEP Regional Office for Europe - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention. **France** – Université de Savoie. **Germany** – Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Umwelt und Gesundheit (StMUG); Handwerkskammer für München und Oberbayern; Forstliche Versuchs- und Forschungsanstalt Baden-Württemberg. **Italy** – Regione Veneto, Directorate for Forests and Parks; Agenzia Regionale per la Protezione Ambientale (ARPA) Piemonte; Accademia Europea di Bolzano (EURAC); Autonome Provinz Bozen; ARPA Veneto; Centro Euro-Mediterraneo per i Cambiamenti Climatici S.c.a r.l. (CMCC). **Slovenia** – Urbanistični inštitut Republike Slovenije (UIRS). **Liechtenstein** – Fürstentum Liechtenstein, Amt f. Wald, Natur & Landschaft. **Switzerland** – Bundesamt für Umwelt (BAFU); Eidg. Forschungsanstalt für Wald

Summary: Coping with unavoidable climate change is recognized as a key challenge to sustainable & balanced territorial development in the Alpine Space that calls for joint transnational action. Alpine countries have started to develop national adaptation strategies, but policies & implementation on regional & local levels are still lacking. C3-Alps contributes to strategic policy development and piloting in the adaptation policy field by capitalising and developing further existing adaptation knowledge.

Objectives: To capitalise existing ASP project results on climate change impacts & adaptation by:

1. Preparing an integrated & consolidated state-of-the-art knowledge base on climate change impacts & adaptation in the Alps that is harmonized across sectors and directly useable to policy- & decision-makers on different territorial levels by fully considering user and communication requirements of target groups
2. Analysing existing adaptation policy performance in Alpine countries and developing recommendations for enhancing policy effectiveness
3. Transferring, communicating and disseminating climate change & adaptation knowledge in tailor-made ways to target groups
4. Providing transferable adaptation strategies, principles, and portfolios, incl. their auditing for sustainability, externalities, cross-sector impacts, and mal-adaptation risks
5. Informing and supporting tailor-made adaptation policies & processes in Alpine regions & municipalities by implementing pilot capitalisation activities

Results: Climate change knowledge synthesis report, representing the cross-sectorally harmonised, consolidated state-of-the art knowledge base about climate change impacts & adaptation in the Alpine Space, and tailor-made according to information & communication requirements of adaptation policy- & decision-makers in particular on regional & local levels. Operational concepts, strategies & experiences for transferring and communicating adaptation knowledge to decision-makers and stakeholders. Joint ASP Climate Change & Adaptation Internet Platform ("Clearing House"; to be closely linked with ongoing development of EU Clearing House via observer EEA) that clusters the findings of all running ASP climate change projects, is durable and expandable, offers downloadable datasets, and employs advanced visualization tools and a geoportal. Policy-coherent, sustainability-checked and transferable 'good practice' adaptation strategies, principles and portfolios harmonized across sectors. Recommendations and policy options for enhancing effectiveness & efficiency of adaptation policies, governance processes and decision-making mechanisms in Alpine countries. Tailor-made frameworks for action on adaptation (know-how, guidelines, decision support, adaptation options) in support of regional & municipal adaptation processes. Usable state-of-the-art climate change and adaptation knowledge made available, transferred and communicated to policy-/decision-makers & stakeholders. Regional and municipal adaptation processes informed, prepared, initiated and running. Strategic and technical contributions to national adaptation policies delivered and adaptation policy change facilitated. Knowledge and experience in bridging the multiple gaps between knowledge production & use, research & policy, project outputs & behaviour change, and top-down & bottom-up processes in adaptation.

Duration: 01.01.2010 – 31.12.2014; 36 months

Budget: 3,090,000 EUR

Status: Pending (Foreseen final decision: mid May)

Priority: Priority 3 - Environment and Risk Prevention



Carpathian Convention Follow-Up Platform

Sustainable transport and infrastructure: (Article 8 of the Carpathian Convention)

Title: Access2Mountains - Sustainable Mobility and Tourism in Sensitive Areas of the Alps and the Carpathians

Programme: South East Europe

Partners: **Lead Partner:** Environment Agency Austria

Austria – Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology; National Park Gesäuse; National Park Steirische Eisenwurzen; Mostviertel-Tourism Ltd.; Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention; Austrian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management; Lower Austrian Transport Organisation Association; Central Alliance Austria; Tourist board Alpine Region Gesäuse National Park.

Belgium – European Federation of Museum and Tourist Railways (FEDECRAILVZW). **Hungary** – NORDA Regional Development Agency of North Hungary Nonprofit Ltd. **Italy** – University of Camerino; European Academy Bozen/Bolzano – Institute for Regional Development and Location Management; Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea. **Poland** – Rzeszow Regional Development Agency. **Romania** – County Center for Tourism Information MARAMURESINFOTURISM. **Slovakia** – Agency for the support of Regional Development Kosice. **Slovenia** – Ministry of Transport. **Montenegro** – Office for Sustainable Development, Montenegro. **Serbia** – Timok Club; Regional Chamber of Commerce Zajecar; Serbian Chamber of Commerce, Department for Tourism. **Ukraine** – Carpathian Foundation Ukraine

Summary: The Alpine and the Carpathian Conventions state sustainable tourism mobility as a challenge and call for cooperation on this topic among the countries of these mountain regions. In particular sustainable tourist mobility is not well-developed in mountainous regions, especially in South-East Europe, as mountain regions are lacking sufficient sustainable transport facilities and facing major ecological impacts caused by individual vehicles. Based on this fact, EU-, national strategies and INTERREG-outcomes a project was jointly developed under the leadership of the Environment Agency Austria. The proposed project aims at achieving durable environmentally friendly tourism accessibility and connection; to, between, and in sensitive regions of the Alps and Carpathians benefiting all (potential) users' through visualisation of existing problems, awareness raising, development of common knowledge and creation of a monitoring base. The long-term perspective of increasing sustainable tourist mobility, railway, and multimodal connections will be improved and attractive offers created via pre-investment measures, pilot activities and investments. A policy dialogue on the sub-regional and EU-level, feedback loops with the (Interim) Secretariats of the Alpine and Carpathian Convention and the related working groups dealing with transport as well as the development of the Transport Protocol to the Carpathian Convention will ensure political and institutional sustainability of the project and broader dissemination in these two important European mountain ranges. 12 partners from 8 countries, accompanied by further 4 ASP (strategic level) and 6 observers (incl. Slovenia and Montenegro) build the partnership, thus multi-level participation, broad coverage in both macro-regions, and transferability of knowledge is ensured.

Objectives: Sustainable Accessibility and connection to, between, and in sensitive mountain regions, benefiting all (potential) users. Knowledge, awareness and capacity basis for transport problems and solutions with soft mobility established in mountain regions on different levels and for potential users. Feasibility to increase soft tourist mobility in sensitive mountain regions exemplified in pilot regions. Efficient, attractive and competitive small railways and intermodal transport for tourism development in Alpine and Carpathian areas with similar problems but different backgrounds. Additional benefits for public everyday mobility and in some areas also for environmentally sustainable freight transport. Strengthened peripheral mountain regions through innovative, competitive offers for (and raised income by) tourism, new accessibility possibilities and follow-up investment. Reduction of green house gases, pollutant emissions and segmentation and thus sustained and improved quality of the environment. Transnational cooperation is needed to further position the topic in the Alps and Carpathians and to further develop the Transport Protocol to the CC to be ratified by all Carpathian countries. Singular approaches would not lead to policy development and dialogue on the upper level.

Results: PPs from 6 countries, feedback loops with ASPs and observers of five more and conventions with in total 17 partner states, provide relevance of project results for different levels and economic, legal and transport backgrounds. Existing platforms, communication and policy dialogue on transnational / EU level will ensure a wide visibility of the project, results are disseminated to the Alps, Carpathians and possibly other mountain regions such as the Balkans which will contribute to the durability of the project. With the Alpine / Carpathian Convention and their transport related Working Groups established structures will be further strengthened and with the Transport Protocol to the CC a framework for long-term cooperation in the Carpathian Space is elaborated. Cooperation of PP, ASPs and observers will allow the development of a strong inter-mountain network in order to further develop solutions for sustainable mobility. Different regional/national transport providers/authorities observers will ensure implementation relevance and network



Carpathian Convention Follow-Up Platform

for further investments, e.g. with 'Objective Convergence'-managements. Besides concrete soft transport measures in 10 regions, one of the basic outcomes is the share of experience between stakeholders in the Alpine and Carpathian region with the view of further strengthening the link between these two areas. Monitoring of achievement of outputs will be monitored by the Lead Partner by defined indicators as well as by strong exchange in meetings, by phone, etc. The achievement of results will be monitored by defined indicators and be based on the methodology "Process Monitoring of Impacts" - defining paths towards the achievement of results and impacts and providing the basis for monitoring and timely steering the project towards achievement of results and impacts. Additionally a foreseen mid-term evaluation will take stock of achieved outputs and prepare grounds for an internal reflection process on possibly needed steering.

Duration: 01.05.2011 – 01.04.2014; 36 months

Budget: 2,480,569.75 EUR

Status: Approved

Priority: Improvement of the accessibility



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

UNEP/CC/COP3/DOC2.2
Original: English

PROGRESS REPORT BY THE INTERIM SECRETARIAT

**ANNEX II: Letter to the ICPDR Heads of Delegations about the Initiative
towards mutual Observer Status between ICPDR and UNEP Vienna - ISCC**

Ref: xxxx

Vienna, 10 November 2010

Subject: Letter to the ICPDR Heads of Delegations about the initiative towards mutual Observer status between ICPDR and UNDP-CC

Dear ICPDR HoDs,

Based on the discussion between the ICPDR Executive Secretary and UNEP Carpathian Convention Head of Interim Secretariat, taking into account the common field of interest in connection to the Tisza River Basin as part of the Carpathian Region as well as activities such as integration of land use management - water quality and water quantity management as well as climate change impacts on the Carpathian Region, an initiative is proposed to be established between the two international organizations via endorsement of mutual Observer status focusing on the following activities:

- ⇒ Initiate dialog between land use management and water quality management sector in the Tisza River Basin and related awareness raising
- ⇒ Assessment of climate change impacts in the Tisza River Basin/Carpathian Region – development of a case study

To establish the frame of the common activities the following steps are proposed to be made:

1. UNEP-Carpathian Convention initiate Observer status at the ICPDR in the frame of the OM 13 by the end of December 2010
2. ICPDR initiate Observer status at the UNEP-Carpathian Convention and asking for feedback by the end of December 2010
3. Drafting of a one-page Joint STATEMENT between ICPDR and UNEP based on the main activities outlined in the observer status letters
4. Ceremonial introduction of the initiative (introducing a one-page `STATEMENT between ICPDR and UNEP) in the frame of the Tisza Ministerial meeting in April 2011 in Ukraine, Kiev in the frame of a side event

Related Annexes:

- ⇒ Annex 1: Letter from the ICPDR Executive Secretary to the UNEP CC Head of Interim Secretariat initiating observer status at the UNEP CC
- ⇒ Annex 2: Letter from the UNEP CC Head of Interim Secretariat to the ICPDR Executive Secretary to initiating observer status at the UNEP CC

Annex 1: Letter from the ICPDR Executive Secretary to the UNEP CC Head of Interim Secretariat initiating observer status at the UNEP CC

United Nations Environment Programme - Vienna Office
Mr. Harald Egerer
Head Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention
Environmental Reference Centre of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat
UNEP Vienna - ISCC
Vienna International Centre
PO Box 500
A 1400 Austria

ICPDR Permanent Secretariat
Philip Weller
Executive Secretary
Vienna International Centre
PO Box 500
1400 Austria

Application of ICPDR – International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River for Observer status at the United Nations Environment Programme - Carpathian Convention Secretariat (UNEP-CC Secretariat)

Dear Mr Egerer,

As a follow-up of the successful cooperation within the UNDP/GEF Tisza project and based on the previous discussions related to the establishment of a mutual observer status between ICPDR and UNEP-CC the **International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River is herewith officially applying for an observer status to the UNEP-CC**

The ICPDR - International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) is the organisation established by Article 18 of the Danube River Protection Convention (DRPC) to implement the objectives and provisions of the DRPC. The fifteen contracting parties – Danube States and the European Community (which have ratified the DRPC) –are the members of the ICPDR.

The main objective of the Convention is the protection and sustainable use of surface and groundwater and riverine ecology, directed at basin-wide and sub-basin-wide cooperation with transboundary relevance.

In order to achieve substantial progress in implementing the Convention the following overall strategic aims have been agreed:

- maintain and improve the status of water resources as to quality and quantity
- prevent, reduce and control water pollution, including accidental pollution
- improve the environmental conditions of the aquatic ecosystems and biodiversity
- contribute to the protection of the Black Sea from land-based sources of pollution

Since 2000 the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive is the highest priority for the ICPDR. The ICPDR provided the platform for coordination necessary to develop and establish a River Basin Management Plan for the Danube River District. The Danube River Basin Management Plan (DRBMP) has been finalized in 2009 and approved in the frame of the ICPDR Ministerial Meeting as of 16 February 2010.

The ICPDR also put specific emphasis on sub basin related activities and established its Tisza Group in 2004 aiming at to develop an Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan by 2009/2010 focusing on the integration of land use and water quality and water quantity management.

Taking into account the complementary nature of the goals of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention) - specifically its Article 6 of the Carpathian Convention about "*Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management*" - and the common field of interest with the ICPDR in connection to the Tisza River Basin as part of the Carpathian Region and activities such as integration of land use management - water quality and water quantity management as well as climate change impacts on the Carpathian Region, an initiative was proposed to be established between the two international organizations via endorsement of mutual Observer status focusing on the following activities

- ⇒ Initiate dialog between land use management and water quality management sector in the Tisza River Basin and related awareness raising
- ⇒ Assessment of climate change impacts in the Tisza River Basin/Carpathian Region – development of a case study

We acknowledge the approval of the UNEP-CC and are expecting a fruitful cooperation with mutual benefits for both parties

Official representative for the ICPDR

Philip Weller
Executive Secretary
ICPDR Secretariat at UNOV (VIC D0412)
e-mail: philip.weller@unvienna.org

DATE and SIGNATURE upon approval by the high level representatives of the two international organizations in the frame of their annual meetings, namely:

- CARPATHIAN CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE, THIRD MEETING
BRATISLAVA, SLOVAK REPUBLIC, 29 - 30 NOVEMBER 2010 AND
- 13TH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE ICPDR, 9-10 DECEMBER 2010, VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Sincerely,

Philip Weller
ICPDR Executive Secretary



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

17 November 2010

ICPDR Permanent Secretariat
Philip Weller
Executive Secretary
Vienna International Centre
PO Box 500
1400 Austria

United Nations Environment Programme - Vienna Office
Mr. Harald Egerer
Head
UNEP Vienna - ISCC
Vienna International Centre
PO Box 500
A 1400 Austria

Application of the Carpathian Convention for Observer status at the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)

Dear Mr. Weller,

As a follow-up of the successful cooperation within the UNDP/GEF Tisza project and based on the previous discussions related to the establishment of a mutual observer status between ICPDR and the Carpathian Convention, the **Carpathian Convention is herewith officially applying for an observer status to the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River.**

The Carpathian Convention was adopted at the Fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" in May 2003 in Kyiv, Ukraine, and signed by the seven Carpathian countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic and Ukraine). UNEP, upon request by the Government of Ukraine, serviced the negotiation meetings of the Carpathian countries and, as requested by the parties, is acting as the interim secretariat of the Convention in Vienna.

The Carpathian Convention is a framework agreement pursuing comprehensive policy coordination and cooperation in the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians, and providing a platform for joint strategies and dialogue between all stakeholders involved.

Given the common geographical area and common fields of interest of the Carpathian Convention with the Convention for the Protection of the Danube River, namely, Article 6 of the Carpathian Convention, devoted to "*Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management*", the Tisza River Basin as part of the Carpathian Region, and activities, such as integration of land use management - water quality and water quantity management, education and awareness raising, as well as climate change impacts on the Carpathian Region, an initiative was proposed to be established between the two international organizations via endorsement of mutual Observer status focusing on the following activities



United Nations Environment Programme

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PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

- ⇒ Initiation of a dialog between land use management and water quality management sector in the Tisza River Basin and related awareness raising
- ⇒ Assessment of climate change impacts in the Tisza River Basin/Carpathian Region – development of a case study
- ⇒ Cooperation in the field of Education and Awareness raising of the local communities in the Tisza River Basin/Carpathian Region

We would be looking forward to the approval of the ICPDR and are expecting a fruitful cooperation with mutual benefits for both parties

Contact on behalf of the Carpathian Convention

Mr. Harald Egerer
Head
Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention
United Nations Environment Programme - Vienna Office
UNEP Vienna - ISCC
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Vienna International Centre
PO Box 500
A 1400 Austria

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E-mail: harald.egerer@unvienna.org

DATE and SIGNATURE upon approval by the high level representatives of the two international organizations in the frame of their annual meetings, namely:

- CARPATHIAN CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE, THIRD MEETING BRATISLAVA, SLOVAK REPUBLIC, 29 - 30 NOVEMBER 2010 AND
- 13TH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE ICPDR, 9-10 DECEMBER 2010, VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Sincerely,

Harald Egerer
Head of UNEP Vienna - ISCC



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

UNEP/CC/COP3/DOC2.3
Original: English

PROGRESS REPORT BY THE INTERIM SECRETARIAT

ANNEX III: CBD COP 10 Draft decisions 1

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

UNEP/CBD/COP/10/WG.I/CRP.1
19 October 2010

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Tenth meeting

Nagoya, Japan, 18-29 October 2010

WORKING GROUP I

Agenda item 5.3

MOUNTAIN BIODIVERSITY

Draft decision submitted by the Chair of Working Group I

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling paragraph 16 of General Assembly resolution 60/198 of 22 December 2005 and paragraph 26 of resolution 62/196 of 19 December 2007, in which the Assembly noted with satisfaction the adoption of the programme of work on mountain biological diversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Also recalling paragraph 23 of General Assembly 64/205 of 21 December 2009, by which the Assembly invited States and other stakeholders to strengthen implementation of the programme of work on mountain biological diversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity through renewed political commitment and the establishment of appropriate multi-stakeholder institutional arrangements and mechanisms,

Status and trends of mountain biological diversity

1. *Notes/Welcomes* the progress made by the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA) of DIVERSITAS in developing, in cooperation with the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, a thematic mountain portal to make available geo-referenced databases and allow searches for primary biodiversity data in a mountain-specific context and *invites* GMBA and other relevant organizations to regularly update the thematic portal and make the information widely available in various formats;

2. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and indigenous and local communities to collect and update information periodically, *inter alia*, for the use in the thematic portal to monitor the changes and disseminate information on:

(a) Mountain biological diversity including on sites of biological, ecological and socio-economic importance, in particular the mountain biosphere reserves, on ecosystem services, on endangered and endemic species, and on genetic resources including in particular genetic resources for food and agriculture;

(b) Related traditional knowledge and cultural dimensions of mountain biodiversity;

(c) Direct and indirect drivers of change in mountain biodiversity, including, in particular, climate change and land-use change as well as tourism and sports activities;

(d) Use trends, including harvesting intensities of high-value species, in particular native and endemic ones, and consequent changes in populations, habitats and ecosystem properties;

Programme element 1: Direct actions for conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing

3. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and indigenous and local communities to:

(a) Enhance the effectiveness of management in existing mountain protected areas;

/...

(b) Establish effectively and appropriately managed protected areas in line with the programme of work on protected areas to safeguard the highest priority key biodiversity areas in mountain ecosystems;

(c) Establish, *inter alia*, conservation corridors and connectivity, where appropriate, and possible and taking into account in particular endemic species while avoiding the spread of invasive alien species, and transboundary mountain protected area systems, taking into account the need to integrate protected areas into wider landscapes;

4. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to consider the development and implementation of national and regional targets, as well as the development of the related indicators for assessing progress towards these targets, within their respective national biodiversity strategies and action plans, taking into account the Strategic Plan for 2011-2020,¹ which addresses the direct drivers of biodiversity loss, including mountain biodiversity, in an effort to reduce the pressures on biodiversity from habitat change, overexploitation, pollution, invasive alien species and climate change, and to safeguard and restore mountain biodiversity and related ecosystem services, given their potential to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, for assessing progress towards these targets;

5. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and indigenous and local communities, to address climate-change and adaptation and mitigation issues for mountain biodiversity, taking into account the decision on the in-depth review of work on biodiversity and climate change (see X/xx) by:

(a) Developing and implementing measures for the *in situ* conservation of mountain biodiversity and its components, as appropriate, and *ex situ* conservation of genetic resources and species currently and potentially under threat from climate change;

(b) Undertaking measures, where appropriate, to reduce deforestation and restore degraded mountain forest ecosystems, conserve carbon in the mountain soil, including in peatlands and other wetlands in order to enhance the role of mountains as natural carbon and water regulators and other important ecosystem services;

(c) Developing, strengthening and implementing policies favourable to the conservation and sustainable use of mountain biological diversity and all its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in mountain ecosystems to reduce the impact of climate change on mountain biodiversity and related traditional knowledge, enhance resilience and address unsustainable agriculture practices;

(d) Supporting and coordinating research and monitoring networks of global change impacts in mountain regions, through observation of natural processes, ecosystem services and biological diversity;

(e) Undertaking environmental and strategic assessment of renewable energy planning, as a part of mitigation strategies in mountain areas and to reduce their impacts on mountain biodiversity;

6. *Invites* relevant organizations and initiatives such as, among many others, the IUCN-WCPA mountains biome programme to assist countries in their programmes and projects relating to climate change;

7. *Requests* Parties to promote the conservation and sustainable use of mountain biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in mountain ecosystems and the improvement of agriculture, ranching and forest activities compatible with sustainable mountain development;

¹ This text needs to be revised in accordance with the language of the draft Strategic Plan.

Programme element 2: Means of implementation for conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing:

8. *Invites* Parties and other Governments with mountain systems within their jurisdiction to consider the adoption of a long-term vision and ecosystem approaches to the conservation and sustainable use of mountain biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in mountain ecosystems by developing, if necessary, specific actions, timetables and capacity-building needs for the implementation of the programme of work on mountain biological diversity and where appropriate integrating them with revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans in line with the revised Strategic Plan, as well as with overall sustainable development strategies in mountain regions;

9. *Encourages* Parties to use existing or establish national committees and multi-stakeholder institutional arrangements and mechanisms at national and regional levels to enhance intersectoral coordination and collaboration for sustainable mountain development as called for in paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 62/196 and linking them to the implementation of the programme of work on mountain biological diversity;

10. *Invites* Parties to cooperate in developing regional strategies on animals that could cause conflict with humans in particular large predators;

11. *Encourages* Parties, where possible and appropriate, to develop and implement regional collaboration strategies and action plans for the conservation of mountain biodiversity, with assistance, including effective funding, from international and regional organizations, as needed and when requested and agreed by all Parties concerned in such collaboration;

12. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to develop upland-lowland interactions, with aim of strengthening the conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in mountain ecosystems and the well-being of people through the provision of ecosystem services;

13. *Invites* the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Consorcio para el Desarrollo de la Ecoregion Andina (CONDESAN), the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions, and the Andean High Plateau Initiative and other relevant initiatives to strengthen their involvement in formulating regional strategies, to work closely with countries when receiving requests from countries and to help in the implementation of the programme of work on mountain biological diversity;

14. *Invites* the Mountain Partnership, the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA) and other initiatives to promote enhanced implementation of the programme of work on mountain biological diversity in close collaboration with Parties and organizations bearing in mind paragraph 23 of General Assembly resolution 64/205;

15. *Invites* Parties, other governments and relevant organizations in line with the objectives of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, and other relevant initiatives to restore and enhance the conservation status of native mountain plant and animal genetic resources by providing economic and other incentives, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, for the conservation and sustainable use of mountain biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in mountain ecosystems;

Programme element 3: Supporting actions for conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing

16. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to develop and implement national, regional and global communication programmes, educational and awareness raising programmes highlighting the economic, ecological and social benefits of the conservation and sustainable use of mountain biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in mountain ecosystems for human well-being and for the provision of ecosystem services to mountain dwellers and also to lowland communities;

17. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to develop and implement mountain-to-mountain cooperation programmes for the exchange of best practices, expertise, information sharing and appropriate technologies;

18. *Urges* Parties, and *encourages* other Governments and relevant organizations, with the collaboration of the scientific community, relevant intergovernmental organizations and mountain communities, to study the effects of climate change as well as the effects of adaptation and mitigation measures on mountain environments and biological diversity, in order to elaborate sustainable adaptation and mitigation strategies;

19. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to develop research programmes for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in mountain ecosystems;

20. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Enhance collaboration and partnership with organizations, initiatives, regional conventions to support the Parties in their implementation of the programme of work on mountain biodiversity and related decisions; and

(b) Disseminate information, best practices, tools and resources relating to mountain biodiversity through the clearing-house mechanism and other means.



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

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PROGRESS REPORT BY THE INTERIM SECRETARIAT

ANNEX IV: CBD COP 10 Draft decisions 2

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

UNEP/CBD/COP/10/WG.1/CRP.3
21 October 2010

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Tenth meeting

Nagoya, Japan, 18-29 October 2010

WORKING GROUP I

Agenda item 5.4

PROTECTED AREAS

Draft decision submitted by the Chair of Working Group I

The Conference of the Parties

A. Strategies for strengthening implementation

1. National level

1. Invites Parties to:

(a) Enhance the coverage and quality, representativeness and, if appropriate, connectivity of protected areas as a contribution to the development of representative systems of protected areas and coherent ecological networks that include all relevant biomes, ecoregions, or ecosystems;

(b) Develop a long-term action plan or reorient, as appropriate, relevant existing plans, taking into account national circumstances and priorities, involving all relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, for the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas, including appropriate implementation mechanisms, and, where appropriate, detailing list of activities, timelines, budget and responsibilities, based upon the results of key assessments of the programme of work on protected areas, with a view to contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention and *requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a report on the preparation of such plans to the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting;

(c) Integrate the action plans of the programme of work on protected areas into revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and into relevant sectoral plans and budgets, as soon as possible and no later than six months before the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and *requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a report on the integration of protected area action plans into national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and into relevant sectoral plans and budgets, to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting;

(d) Promote the application of the ecosystem approach that integrates protected areas into broader land and/or seascapes for effective conservation of biological diversity and facilitate, where appropriate, sustainable use of protected areas;

(e) Expedite establishment where appropriate of multisectoral advisory committees for strengthening intersectoral coordination and communication to facilitate the integration of protected areas in national and economic development plans;

(f) Increase awareness of the programme of work on protected areas especially among decision-makers, in the context of communication, education and public awareness and other programmes such as *The Green Wave*;

(g) Carry out communications plans to promote understanding and behavioural change among decision-makers and stakeholders of key sectors at all levels of government, community and non-governmental organizations on the benefits of protected areas to national and subnational economies,

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securing ecosystem services, public health, maintenance of cultural values, sustainable development and climate-change adaptation and mitigation;

(h) Consider standard criteria for the identification of sites of global biodiversity conservation significance, when developing protected area systems drawing on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, established criteria in other relevant processes including those of UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme, the World Heritage Convention, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, threatened ecosystem assessments, gap analysis, Key Biodiversity Areas and Important Bird Areas, and other relevant information;

(i) Take into account as appropriate the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples¹ in the further implementation of the programme of work on protected areas;

2. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to develop and implement research and monitoring programmes for conservation and, where appropriate, sustainable use within protected areas at any relevant scale as well as assess the efficiency and effectiveness of various kinds and categories of protected areas complying with the three objectives of the Convention;

2. *Regional level*

3. *Notes* progress in regional initiatives, such as the Micronesian Challenge, the Caribbean Challenge, marine conventions, the Dinaric Arc Initiative, the Amazonian Initiative, the Coral Triangle Initiative, the Natura 2000 and Emerald Networks, the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas, the Trans Frontier Conservation Areas Initiative in Southern Africa, the Barents Protected Areas Network (BPAN) in the Barents Euro Arctic Region, *Le Réseau des Aires Protégées d'Afrique Centrale* (RAPAC) and *invites* Parties to foster the formation of such initiatives and formulate regional action plans, where appropriate through national focal points for the programme of work on protected areas in collaboration with the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas and other conservation organizations, based on country action plans for implementation of the programme of work on protected areas and other relevant programmes of work, and through regional technical support networks, to coordinate funding, technical support, exchange of experiences and capacity-building for implementing the programme of work on protected areas;

4. *Invites* countries in a position to do so, non-governmental organizations and other funding organizations to support regional initiatives, including marine protected areas;

5. *Invites* Parties to actively explore the potentially suitable areas for transboundary protected-area cooperation and by effective means to create an enabling environment for transboundary cooperation in regards to planning and management practices, connectivity as well as to development across national borders;

6. *Encourages* Parties to use existing guidelines, best practices and tools and develop regional guidelines, best practices and tools, as appropriate, to improve the effectiveness of transboundary protected-area cooperation as well as to explore the suite of standards to evaluate the quality of such cooperation;

3. *Global level*

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary subject to available funds to:

(a) Continue to hold regional and subregional capacity-building workshops, with special attention to element 2 (Governance, participation, equity and benefit-sharing) of the programme of work, and other identified priorities with specific timetables for planning and funding, developing cooperation with regional and subregional convention agreements, the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, technical networks and other partners;

¹ General Assembly resolution 61/295 of 13 September 2007, annex.

(b) Provide additional technical support through the development of toolkits, best practices, and guidelines on themes of the programme of work on protected areas in collaboration with Parties partners and international organizations, in particular techniques and instruments to assess and communicate values of ecosystems services and cost benefits, planning and institutional strengthening of protected area systems, improving protected area coverage of under-represented biomes and ecosystems as well as on element 2;

(c) Increase awareness of the benefits resulting from the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas to health, water and other sectors, fisheries, industry, climate change adaptation and mitigation, the importance of ecosystem services provided by protected areas, poverty alleviation and the Millennium Development Goals by holding workshops to bring key actors from these sectors to discuss ways of collaborating to promote the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas in order to reach mutual benefits;

(d) Support the global Friends of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas network including through the involvement of, among other actors, indigenous and local communities, relevant international organizations and technical networks;

(e) Support coordination and communication to strengthen synergies with regional conventions and global conventions as well as national policies and strategies in the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas;

8. *Invites* the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, and other relevant organizations to develop technical guidance on ecological restoration, monitoring and evaluation of the status of biodiversity in protected areas, governance of protected areas, connectivity, representativity with a regional approach, management effectiveness, conservation corridors, and adaptation to and mitigation of climate change;

B. Issues that need greater attention

1. Sustainable finance

[9. *Recalling* paragraph 1 of its decision IX/18 B, *further urges* Parties, in particular developed country Parties, and *invites* other Governments and international financial institutions including the Global Environment Facility, the regional development banks, and other multilateral financial institutions to provide the adequate, predictable and timely financial support, to developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries, and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition to enable the full implementation of the programme of work on protected areas,]

10. *Invites* Parties to:

(a) Develop and implement sustainable finance plans in accordance with national legislation, for protected area systems by 2012 and support individual protected areas ,based on realistic needs assessments and a diversified portfolio of traditional and innovative financial mechanisms, such as *inter alia* payments for ecosystem services, as appropriate;

(b) Timely and appropriately use the Global Environment Facility's five protected-area biodiversity allocations, bilateral, multilateral and other aid using their action plan for implementing the programme of work on protected areas as the basis for accessing funds;

(c) Develop and implement additional means and methods of generating and allocating finance, *inter alia* on the basis of a stronger valuation of ecosystem services, taking into account the findings of The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity study, as appropriate;

11. *Encourages* developing country Parties, in particular the least developing countries, and small island developing States among them, as well as countries with economies in transition, to express their protected area system-wide and project-funding needs based on their national biodiversity strategies

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and action plans and action plans for the programme of work on protected areas and *urges* donors to support funding needs, including through the LifeWeb Initiative,, taking into account the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness;

12. *Encourages* donors and Parties, subject to available funding, to hold subregional and national donor roundtable meetings to mobilize funding for implementing the programme of work on protected areas involving relevant funding institutions, including, as appropriate, the LifeWeb Initiative;

[13. *Urges* the Global Environment Facility and its Implementing Agencies to streamline their delivery for expeditious and proportionate disbursement and to align the projects to national action plans for the programme of work on protected areas for appropriate and focused interventions and continuity of projects;]

2. *Climate change*

14. *Invites* Parties to:

(a) Achieve target 1.2 of the programme of work on protected areas by 2015, through concerted efforts to integrate protected areas into wider landscapes and seascapes and sectors, including through the use of connectivity measures such as the development of ecological networks² and ecological corridors, and the restoration of degraded habitats and landscapes in order to address climate-change impacts and increase resilience to climate change;

(b) Enhance scientific, traditional and indigenous knowledge and the use of ecosystem approach to support the development of adaptive management plans and to improve management effectiveness of protected areas for addressing impacts from climate change on biodiversity;

(c) Evaluate, recognize and communicate the value and the benefits of comprehensive, effectively managed and ecologically representative protected-area systems in climate change adaptation and mitigation;

(d) Identify areas that are important for biodiversity conservation climate-change mitigation and/or adaptation, including carbon sequestration and maintenance of carbon stocks, and where appropriate protect, restore and effectively manage and/or include them in the protected areas systems with the aim to increase co-benefits for biodiversity, addressing climate change and human well-being, while recognizing that biodiversity conservation remains the primary objective of protected areas;

(e) Support and finance the conservation and management of naturally functioning ecosystems and in particular, protected-area systems in contributing to carbon sequestration and maintenance of carbon stocks as well as to ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation to climate change, while recognizing that biodiversity conservation remains the primary objective, and to link improved design and management approaches for comprehensive and integrated protected area systems (including buffer zones, corridors and restored landscapes) into national strategies and action plans for addressing climate change, including through existing national adaptation strategies and plans;

[(f) Further develop tools to be used by relevant national authorities and stakeholders for the joint planning of subregional and national protected-area networks and climate-change mitigation and adaptation measures such as vulnerability assessments for terrestrial as well as marine and coastal protected areas;]

15. *Invites* Parties to explore how funding opportunities under climate-change adaptation and mitigation strategies could contribute to the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas, while enhancing co-benefits for biodiversity and climate-change adaptation and mitigation;

² In the context of this programme of work, a generic term used in some countries and regions, as appropriate, to encompass the application of the ecosystem approach that integrates protected areas into broader land- and/or seascapes for effective conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use.

16. *Reminds* the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to pay attention to the impact on and the role of protected areas in adaptation and mitigation strategies with the appropriate social and biodiversity safeguards and support projects related to adaptation and mitigation in protected areas ensuring that national mitigation and adaptation actions that involve expansion of protected area networks can receive financial and technical assistance through climate-related financial mechanisms;

[16 *bis* Invites the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to recognize ecosystem-based adaptation approach as an effective mechanism/tool to build the resilience of vulnerable communities and ecosystems]

[17. *Invites* the Executive Secretary to convene a special meeting of the Joint Liaison Group of the three Rio conventions in 2011 on the role of protected areas in the implementation of the objectives of the three Rio conventions with a view to recommending to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) elements of a joint programme on protected areas, biodiversity, climate change and land degradation;]

3. *Management effectiveness*

18. *Invites* Parties, taking into account the target for goal 1.4 of the programme of work, which calls for all protected areas to have effective management in existence by 2012 using participatory and science-based site-planning processes with active stakeholder involvement, and *noting* that to assess the effectiveness of the management, specific indicators may also be needed to:

(a) Continue to expand and institutionalize management effectiveness assessments to work towards assessing 60 per cent of the total area of protected areas by 2015 using various national and regional tools and report the results into the global database on management effectiveness maintained by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-WCMC) ;

(b) Include information on governance and social impacts and benefits of protected areas into the management effectiveness evaluation process;

(c) Consider climate change adaptation and mitigation in management-effectiveness assessments;

(d) Ensure that the results of assessments are implemented and integrated into other assessments of the programme of work on protected areas (e.g., sustainable finance, capacity);

4. *Invasive alien species management*

19. *Noting* the role of invasive alien species as a key driver of biodiversity loss *invites* Parties to consider the role of invasive alien species management as a cost effective tool for the restoration and maintenance of protected areas and the ecosystem services they provide, and thus to include management of invasive alien species in the action plans for implementation of the programme of work on protected areas, taking into account decision X/xx on invasive alien species ;

5. *Marine protected areas (MPAs)*

20. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to cooperate, as appropriate, collectively or on a regional or subregional basis, to identify and protect ecologically or biologically significant areas in open-ocean waters and deep-sea habitats in need of protection, including by establishing representative networks of marine protected areas in accordance with international law and based on the best scientific information available, and to inform the relevant processes within the United Nations General Assembly and *invites* the General Assembly to encourage the United Nations Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group established by the Assembly in its resolution 59/24 of 17 November 2004 to expedite its work in this area [on a process towards designation of marine protected areas in areas beyond national jurisdiction];

21. *Notes* with concern slow progress towards achieving the 2012 target of establishment of marine protected areas consistent with international law and based on scientific information, including representative networks and therefore *urges* Parties, where necessary through relevant regional and international organizations, to increase their efforts, in accordance with national capacities, to improve the design and extent of marine protected area networks, in particular within national jurisdiction, to achieve the 2012 target and invites financial institutions to support the efforts of Parties;

22. *Encourages* Parties to establish and/or strengthen a range of governance types for long term appropriate management of marine protected areas and to incorporate good governance principles;

22.bis *Encourages* Parties to establish marine protected areas as fisheries management tools;

6 *Inland water protected areas*

23. *Encourages* Parties to increase the coverage, quality, representativeness and connectivity where appropriate of inland water ecosystems and their key hydrological features in their protected-area systems through the designation or extension of inland water protected areas and to maintain or enhance their resilience and sustain ecosystem services including through the use of existing designation mechanisms available and being applied under biodiversity related Conventions, such as the World Heritage Convention and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands;

7. *Restoration of ecosystems and habitats of protected areas*

24. *Urges* Parties to:

(a) Increase the effectiveness of protected area systems in biodiversity conservation and enhance their resilience to climate change and other stressors, through increased efforts in restoration of ecosystems and habitats and including, as appropriate, connectivity tools such as biodiversity corridors in and between protected areas and adjacent landscapes and seascapes;

(b) Include restoration activities in the action plans of the programme of work on protected areas and national biodiversity strategies;

8. *Valuing protected area costs and benefits including their ecosystem services*

25. *Requests* the Executive Secretary in collaboration with the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas and other partners, including indigenous and local communities, in supporting the programme of work to explore and evaluate existing methodologies and guidelines for measuring the values, costs and benefits of protected areas, bearing in mind the characteristics of the different biomes and ecosystems, building on existing work including on the findings of The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study, and disseminate the results of the evaluation for Parties to apply;

26. *Invites* Parties to:

(a) Increase understanding of and communicate the role, importance and costs and benefits of protected areas in sustaining local livelihoods, providing ecosystems services, reducing risks from natural disasters, adapting to and mitigating climate change, health, water and other sectors, at all levels;

(b) Advance innovative measures to instill in park visitors and the general public a deeper understanding of the values of biodiversity, and to inspire their support and commitment for its protection;

9. *Programme element 2 on governance, participation, equity and benefit-sharing*

27. *Encourages* Parties to:

(a) Enhance coordination at the national level between the programme of work on protected areas and other related processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity, including, *inter alia*, the programmes of work on forest biological diversity and marine and coastal biological diversity, the working groups on access and benefit-sharing and Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention,

and the processes related to the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity³ and the Akwé: Kon Voluntary Guidelines for the Conduct of Cultural, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment regarding Developments Proposed to Take Place on, or which are Likely to Impact on, Sacred Sites and on Lands and Waters Traditionally Occupied or Used by Indigenous and Local Communities⁴ for exchange of information on implementation of these programmes and recommendations on possible joint actions for enhanced implementation;

(b) Promote integration of the provisions of access and benefit sharing in regard to the third objective of the Convention in the governance of protected areas and support initiatives on the role of protected areas in poverty alleviation as well as for indigenous and local community livelihoods;

28. *Invites Parties to:*

(a) Establish clear mechanisms and processes for equitable cost and benefit-sharing and for full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, related to protected areas, in accordance with national laws and applicable international obligations;

(b) Recognize the role of indigenous and local community conserved areas and conserved areas of other stakeholders in biodiversity conservation, collaborative management and diversification of governance types;

(c) Recalling paragraph 6 of decision IX/18 A, develop appropriate mechanisms for the recognition and support of indigenous and community conserved areas (ICCAs), *inter alia*, through formal acknowledgement, inclusion in listings or databases, legal recognition of community rights to land and/or resources, as appropriate, or incorporation of ICCAs into official protected area systems, with the approval and involvement of indigenous and local communities in accordance with national laws and applicable international obligations. Such mechanisms for recognition should respect the customary governance systems that have maintained ICCAs over time;

(d) Include indigenous and local communities in multi-stakeholder advisory committees, in consultations for national reporting on the programme of work on protected areas, and in national reviews of the effectiveness of protected-area system;

(e) Conduct, where appropriate, assessment of governance of protected areas using toolkits prepared by the Secretariat and other organizations, and conduct capacity-building activities for protected area institutions and relevant stakeholders, with support from international organizations, non-governmental organizations and donor organizations, on the implementation of element 2, and especially on governance aspects of protected areas, including issues such as environmental conflicts;

10. *Reporting*

29. *Invites Parties to:*

(a) Consider as part of national reporting, a simple and effective reporting process that tracks the overall status of the conservation of biodiversity within protected areas, as well as actions and outcomes of the programme of work on protected areas;

(b) Adopt the reporting framework on national implementation of the programme of work on protected areas annexed to this decision. This format will foster periodic updates using standardized, user-friendly, web-based frameworks;

(c) Consider voluntary in-depth reporting using standardized indexes and taxonomies including the proposed global registry of indigenous and community conserved areas, where applicable;

(d) Establish transparent and effective mechanisms for stakeholder input and review;

³ Decision VII/12, annex.

⁴ Decision VII/16 F, annex.

(e) Ensure that reporting on the programme of work on protected areas is clearly integrated with reporting on progress towards post-2010 biodiversity targets and indicators;

30. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to explore and communicate options for enhancing the review of progress and achievements of the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas by considering additional information to what is provided in national reports as well as by considering the response of Parties that utilize the reporting framework;

31. *Encourages* Parties to share and update relevant information on their protected areas system with the World Database on Protected Areas, which includes the United Nations List of Protected Areas;

31. *bis Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a comprehensive manual on the use of the reporting framework, and integrate the online reporting tool with the World Database on Protected Areas, in order to facilitate the reporting process and promote the joint use of both tools by the Parties;

C. Target and time table issues

32. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to align the targets of the programme of work on protected areas with specific indicators and timelines that are based on agreed post-2010 targets and the revised Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

33. *Invites* Parties to link these indicators and timelines to their national targets and indicators and use this framework to focus monitoring on the progress in the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas.

Annex

NATIONAL PROFILE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON PROTECTED AREAS

The draft reporting framework facilitates capturing the progress in completing assessments on 13 key goals of the programme of work on protected areas and specific actions taken to implement the results of those assessments, in order to indicate the status of implementation. Progress in completing these assessments is measured from 0-4 (0 – no progress; 1 – planning phase; 2 – initial progress; 3 – substantial progress; 4 – nearly or fully completed). The framework allows Parties to append the results of these assessments, and to optionally describe specific actions taken in three time lines (before 2004; between 2004-2009; and since 2010). If a question is not applicable, the letters N/A should be entered. The PoWPA focal points could upload the information on the CBD website as and when they have undertaken and completed the assessment or following the reporting cycle of national reporting through a user ID and password.

COUNTRY:	(NAME OF COUNTRY)		
Name of person completing survey:	(NAME)		
Email address of person completing survey:	(EMAIL)		
Date survey completed:	(DATE)		
Please briefly describe who was involved in gathering information for this survey	(NAMES AND ORGANIZATIONS)		
1) Has a multi-stakeholder advisory committee been formed to implement the PoWPA?	(YES/NO)		
2) Is there an action plan for implementing the PoWPA?	(YES/NO)		
3) If yes, please provide a URL (or attach a pdf) of the strategic action plan:	(URL OR ATTACHMENT)		
4) If yes, which is the lead agency responsible for implementing the action plan?	(AGENCY NAME)		
5) If not, are the PoWPA actions included in other biodiversity-related action plans? (please provide a URL or attachment if so)	(URL OR ATTACHMENT)		

1.1 To establish and strengthen national and regional systems of protected areas integrated into a global network as a contribution to globally agreed goals

1) What progress has been made in assessing the representativeness, comprehensiveness and ecological gaps of your protected area network?		(STATUS: 0-4)		
2) If available, please indicate the URL (or attach a pdf) of the gap assessment report:		(URL OR ATTACHMENT)		
3) Do you have specific targets and indicators for the protected area system?		(YES/NO)		
4) If yes, please provide a URL (or attach a pdf) of the targets and indicators:		(URL OR ATTACHMENT)		
5) What actions have been taken to improve the ecological representativeness of the protected area network? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description:				
✓	ACTION	BEFORE 2004	BETWEEN 2004 - 2009	SINCE 2010
	Created new protected area/s			
	Promoted an array of different types of protected areas (e.g., different IUCN Categories, CCAs etc)			
	Expanded and/or reconfigured existing protected area boundaries			
	Changed the legal status and/or governance type of protected area/s			
	Other actions to improve the representativeness and comprehensiveness of the network			

1.2 To integrate protected areas into broader land- and seascapes and sectors so as to maintain ecological structure and function

1) What progress has been made in assessing protected area landscape and seascape connectivity and sectoral integration?		(STATUS: 0-4)		
2) If available, please indicate the URL (or attach a pdf) of the assessment of protected area connectivity and sectoral integration:		(URL OR ATTACHMENT)		
3) What actions have been taken to improve protected area connectivity and sectoral integration? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description:				

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✓	ACTION	BEFORE 2004	BETWEEN 2004 - 2009	SINCE 2010
	Changed the legal status and/or governance in key connectivity areas			
	Created new protected areas in key connectivity areas			
	Improved natural resource management to improve connectivity			
	Designated connectivity corridors and/or buffers			
	Created market incentives to promote connectivity			
	Changed awareness of key stakeholders in key connectivity areas			
	Improved laws and policies within or around key connectivity areas			
	Restored degraded areas in key connectivity areas			
	Changed land use planning, zoning and/or buffers in key connectivity areas			
	Removed barriers to connectivity and ecological functioning			
	Integrated protected areas into poverty reduction strategies			
	Other actions to improve connectivity and integration			

1.3 To establish and strengthen regional networks, transboundary protected areas (TBPAs) and collaboration between neighbouring protected areas across national boundaries

1) What progress has been made in identifying conservation priorities and opportunities for establishing transboundary protected areas and regional networks?		(STATUS: 0-4)		
2) If available, please indicate the URL (or attach a pdf) of the assessment of opportunities for transboundary protected areas and regional networks.		(URL OR ATTACHMENT)		
3) What actions have been taken to strengthen the regional protected area network and foster transboundary PAs? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description:				
✓	ACTION	BEFORE 2004	BETWEEN 2004 - 2009	SINCE 2010
	Created transboundary protected area/s			
	Contributed to the creation of regional-scale conservation corridors			
	Participated in the establishment of regional networks			
	Created enabling policies to allow for transboundary protected areas			
	Established a multi-country coordination mechanism			
	Other actions to foster regional networks and transboundary areas			

1.4 To substantially improve site-based protected area planning and management

2.4. To substantially improve site based protected area planning and management				
1) What progress has been made in developing protected area management plans?				(STATUS: 0-4)
1) What percentage of your protected areas has an adequate management plan?				(%)
2) What percentage of the total surface area of protected areas does the management plan(s) cover?				(%)
3) Please provide a URL (or pdf attachment) of a recent example of a participatory, science-based management plan				(URL OR ATTACHMENT)
4) What actions have been taken to improve protected area management planning? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description:				
✓	ACTION	BEFORE 2004	BETWEEN 2004 - 2009	SINCE 2010
	Developed guidelines and tools for developing management plans			
	Provided training and/or technical support in management planning			
	Developed management plans for protected areas			
	Changed legislation or policy to strengthen management planning			
	Improved the scientific basis of existing management plans			
	Conducted protected area resource inventories			
	Other actions to improve management planning			

1.5 To prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to protected areas				
1) What progress has been made in assessing the status of protected area threats, and opportunities for mitigation, prevention and restoration?				(STATUS: 0-4)
2) If available, please indicate the URL (or attach a pdf) of the assessment of the status of threats and opportunities for mitigation, prevention and restoration.				(URL OR ATTACHMENT)
3) What actions have been taken to mitigate or prevent protected area threats, or restore degraded areas? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description				
✓	ACTION	BEFORE 2004	BETWEEN 2004 - 2009	SINCE 2010
	Changed the status and/or governance type of a protected area			
	Improved staffing numbers and/or skills to prevent and mitigate threats			
	Included measures to address threats in a management plan			
	Improved management practices to prevent or mitigate threats			
	Increased threat mitigation funding			
	Developed a plan to address the impacts of climate change			
	Changed market incentives to reduce or prevent threats			
	Improved monitoring and detection of threats			
	Evaluated the efficacy of threat-related actions			
	Improved public awareness and behavior regarding threats			
	Changed laws and policies related to threats			
	Restored degraded areas			
	Developed and/or implemented strategies to mitigate threats			
	Other actions to mitigate and prevent threats			

2.1 To promote equity and benefit-sharing				
1) What progress has been made in assessing the equitable sharing of costs and benefits of establishing protected areas?				(STATUS: 0-4)
2) If available, please indicate the URL (or attach a pdf) of the assessment of equitable sharing of costs and benefits of establishing protected areas.				(URL OR ATTACHMENT)
3) What actions have been taken to improve equitable benefits sharing? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description				
✓	ACTION	BEFORE 2004	BETWEEN 2004 - 2009	SINCE 2010
	Developed compensation mechanisms			
	Developed and/or applied policies for access and benefit sharing			
	Developed equitable benefits-sharing mechanisms			
	Diverted PA benefits towards poverty alleviation			
	Other actions to strengthen equitable benefits sharing			
4) What progress has been made in assessing protected area governance?				(STATUS: 0-4)
5) What percentage of protected areas has been assigned an IUCN category?				(%)
6) If available, please indicate the URL (or attach a pdf) of the assessment of protected area governance:				(URL OR ATTACHMENT)
7) What actions have you taken to improve and diversify governance types? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description				
✓	ACTION	BEFORE 2004	BETWEEN 2004 - 2009	SINCE 2010
	Created new protected areas with innovative forms of governance, such as community conserved areas			
	Changed laws or policies to enable new governance types			
	Other actions to diversify governance types			

2.2 To enhance and secure involvement of indigenous and local communities and relevant stakeholders

1) What is the status of participation of indigenous and local communities and other key stakeholders in key protected area decisions?		(STATUS: 0-4)		
2) What actions have been taken to improve indigenous and local community participation? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description:				
✓	ACTION	BEFORE 2004	BETWEEN 2004 - 2009	SINCE 2010
	Assessed opportunities and needs for local community participation in key protected area decisions			
	Improved laws, policies and/or practices to promote participation			
	Developed policies for prior informed consent for resettlement			
	Improved mechanisms for participation of indigenous and local communities			
	Increased participation of indigenous and local communities in key decisions			
	Other actions to promote participation			

3.1 To provide an enabling policy, institutional and socio-economic environment for protected areas

1) What progress has been made in assessing the policy environment for creating and managing protected areas?		(STATUS: 0-4)		
2) If available, please indicate the URL (or attach a PDF) of the assessment of the policy environment:		(URL OR ATTACHMENT)		
3) What actions have been taken to improve the protected area policy environment? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description				
✓	ACTION	BEFORE 2004	BETWEEN 2004 - 2009	SINCE 2010
	Harmonized sectoral policies or laws to strengthen management effectiveness			
	Integrated PA values and ecological services into the national economy			
	Improved accountability and/or participation in decision-making			
	Developed incentive mechanisms for private protected areas			
	Developed positive market incentives to support protected areas			
	Removed perverse incentives that hinder effective management			
	Strengthened laws for establishing or managing protected areas			
	Cooperated with neighboring countries on transboundary areas			
	Developed equitable dispute resolution mechanisms and procedures			
	Other actions to improve the policy environment			
4) What progress has been made in assessing the contribution of protected areas to the local and national economies?		(STATUS: 0-4)		
5) What progress has been made in assessing the contribution of protected areas to the Millennium Development Goals?		(STATUS: 0-4)		
6) If available, please indicate the URL (or attach a PDF) with the assessment of the contribution of protected areas to the local and national economy and to the Millennium Development Goals:		(URL OR ATTACHMENT)		
7) What actions have been taken to value the contribution of protected areas? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description				
✓	ACTION	BEFORE 2004	BETWEEN 2004 - 2009	SINCE 2010
	Implemented a communication campaign to encourage policy makers to recognize the value of protected areas			
	Created finance mechanisms linked to protected area values (e.g., payment for ecosystem services)			

3.2 To build capacity for the planning, establishment and management of protected areas

1) What progress has been made in assessing protected area capacity needs?		(STATUS: 0-4)		
2) If available, please indicate the URL (or attach a PDF) of the assessment of capacity needs:		(URL OR ATTACHMENT)		
3) What actions have been taken to strengthen protected area capacity? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description:				
✓	ACTION	BEFORE 2004	BETWEEN 2004 - 2009	SINCE 2010
	Created a professional development program for protected area staff			
	Trained protected area staff in key skills			
	Increased the number of protected area staff			
	Developed a system for valuing and sharing traditional knowledge			
	Other actions to improve capacity			

3.3 To develop, apply and transfer appropriate technologies for protected areas

1) What progress has been made in assessing the needs for relevant and appropriate technology for protected area management?		(STATUS: 0-4)		
2) If available, please indicate the URL (or attached a PDF) of the assessment of the technology needs:		(URL OR ATTACHMENT)		
3) What actions have been taken to improve the access to and use of relevant and appropriate technology? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description:				
✓	ACTION	BEFORE 2004	BETWEEN 2004 - 2009	SINCE 2010
	Developed and/or used appropriate technology for habitat restoration and rehabilitation			
	Developed and/or used appropriate technology for resource mapping, biological inventories and rapid assessments			
	Developed and/or used appropriate technology for monitoring			
	Developed and/or used appropriate technology for conservation and sustainable use			
	Encouraged technology transfer and cooperation between protected areas and agencies			
	Other actions to improve access to and use of appropriate technologies			

3.4 To ensure financial sustainability of protected areas and national and regional systems of protected areas

1) What progress has been made in assessing protected area finance needs?		(STATUS: 0-4)		
2) If available, please indicate the URL (or attach a PDF) of the assessment of finance needs:		(URL OR ATTACHMENT)		
3) What progress has been made in developing and implementing a sustainable finance plan that incorporates a diversified portfolio of financial mechanisms?		(STATUS: 0-4)		
4) If available, please indicate the URL (or attach a PDF) of the sustainable finance plan:		(URL OR ATTACHMENT)		
5) What actions have been taken to improve the sustainable finance of your protected areas? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description:				
✓	ACTION	BEFORE 2004	BETWEEN 2004 - 2009	SINCE 2010
	Developed new protected area funding mechanisms			
	Developed protected area business plan or plans			
	Developed revenue-sharing mechanism			
	Improved resource allocation procedures			
	Provided financial training and support			
	Improved accounting and monitoring			
	Improved financial planning capacity			
	Removed legal barriers to sustainable finance			
	Clarified inter-agency fiscal responsibilities			
	Other actions to improve sustainable finance			

3.5 To strengthen communication, education and public awareness

1) What progress have you made in conducting a public awareness and communication campaign?		(STATUS: 0-4)		
2) If available, please indicate the URL (or attach a PDF) of the public awareness and communication plan:		(URL OR ATTACHMENT)		
3) What actions have you taken to improve public awareness and strengthen education programs? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description:				
✓	ACTION	BEFORE 2004	BETWEEN 2004 - 2009	SINCE 2010
	Identify core themes for education, awareness and communication programs relevant to protected areas			
	Conducted an awareness campaign on the value of protected areas to local and national economies and the Millennium Development Goals			
	Conducted an awareness campaign on the value of protected areas in climate change adaptation and mitigation			
	Established or strengthen communication mechanisms with key target groups, including indigenous and local communities			
	Developed protected area curricula with educational institutions			
	Produced public outreach materials			
	Conducted public outreach programs			
	Other actions to improve communication, education and awareness			

4.1 To develop and adopt minimum standards and best practices for national and regional protected area systems

1) What progress has been made in developing best practices and minimum standards?		(STATUS: 0-4)		
2) If available, please indicate the URL (or attach a PDF) of examples of protected area best practices and minimum standards.		(URL OR ATTACHMENT)		
3) Is there a system in place for monitoring protected area outcomes achieved through the Programme of Work on Protected Areas		(YES/NO)		
4) What actions have been taken related to best practices and minimum standards? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description:				
✓	ACTION	BEFORE 2004	BETWEEN 2004 - 2009	SINCE 2010
	Developed standards and best practices for protected area establishment and selection			
	Developed standards and best practices for protected area management planning			
	Developed standards and best practices for protected area management			
	Developed standards and best practices for protected area governance			
	Collaborated with other Parties and relevant organizations to test, review and promote best practices and minimum standards			
	Other actions related to best practices and minimum standards			

4.2 To evaluate and improve the effectiveness of protected areas management

1) What progress has been made in assessing the management effectiveness of protected areas?		(STATUS: 0-4)	
2) If available, please indicate the URL (or attach a PDF) of the assessment of protected area management effectiveness:		(URL OR ATTACHMENT)	
3) In what percentage of the total area of protected areas has management effectiveness been		(%)	

assessed?				
4) In what percentage of the number of protected areas has management effectiveness been assessed?		(%)		
5) What actions have been taken to improve management processes within protected areas? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description:				
✓	ACTION	BEFORE 2004	BETWEEN 2004 - 2009	SINCE 2010
	Improved management systems and processes			
	Improved law enforcement			
	Improved stakeholder relations			
	Improved visitor management			
	Improved management of natural and cultural resources			
	Other actions to improve management effectiveness			
	Have you submitted management effectiveness results to UNEP-WCMC's WDPA			

4.3 To assess and monitor protected area status and trends				
1) What progress has been made in establishing an effective monitoring system of protected area coverage, status and trends?			(STATUS: 0-4)	
2) If available, please indicate the URL (or attach a PDF) of a recent monitoring report.			(URL OR ATTACHMENT)	
3) What actions have been taken to improve protected area monitoring? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description:				
✓	ACTION	BEFORE 2004	BETWEEN 2004 - 2009	SINCE 2010
	Assessed the status and trend of key biodiversity			
	Monitored the coverage of protected areas			
	Developed or improved a biological monitoring program			
	Developed a database for managing protected area data			
	Revised management plan based on monitoring and/or research results			
	Changed management practices based on the results of monitoring and/or research			
	Developed geographic information systems (GIS) and/or remote sensing technologies			
	Other monitoring activities			

4.4 To ensure that scientific knowledge contributes to the establishment and effectiveness of protected areas and protected area systems				
1) What progress has been made in developing an appropriate science and research program to support protected area establishment and management?			(STATUS: 0-4)	
2) If available, please indicate the URL (or attach a PDF) of a recent research report:			(URL OR ATTACHMENT)	
3) What actions have been taken to improve protected area research and monitoring? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description:				
✓	ACTION	BEFORE 2004	BETWEEN 2004 - 2009	SINCE 2010
	Identified key research needs			
	Assessed the status and trends of key biodiversity			
	Developed or improved a biological monitoring program			
	Conducted protected area research on key socio-economic issues			
	Promoted dissemination of protected area research			

	Revised management plan based on monitoring and/or research results			
	Changed management practices based on the results of monitoring and/or research			
	Other research and monitoring activities			





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

UNEP/CC/COP3/DOC2.5
Original: English

PROGRESS REPORT BY THE INTERIM SECRETARIAT

ANNEX V: CBD COP 10 outcomes

CONCLUSIONS

of the Side event “Implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Mountain Biodiversity: Regional Approaches and Conventions”

Nagoya, 27 October 2010

At the margins of the tenth meeting of the COP of the CBD in Nagoya, high-level representatives from governments, inter-governmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations, and others gathered together in order to reflect on the implementation of the CBD Programmes of Work on Mountain Biodiversity and Protected Areas. The side event was called for in the framework of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention by their respective Secretariats, and was supported by a broad range of partners in the context of the Mountain Partnership. The main outcomes of this side-event can be concluded as follows:

1. Participants acknowledged the role of mountains all over the world as storehouses of biological diversity and endangered species. Mountains hold some of the richest but also most fragile varieties of ecological systems.
2. Mountains are exposed to natural hazards such as landslides, soil erosion, avalanches etc. but also to more and more human caused loss of habitats and species. Both are contributing to an important change of mountain landscapes and natural heritage influencing strongly the natural balance of ecosystems. While the first group of phenomena is strongly caused by global changes such as warming and for this difficult to mitigate by local or regional measures, the second group should be the target of active policies reducing the loss of biodiversity by the adoption of appropriate measures and changes especially in spatial planning strategies.
3. Both the Alpine and the Carpathian Conventions place an emphasis on concrete activities in this field, such as the creation of a continuum of non-fragmented natural or semi-natural spaces and ecological corridors, thus furnishing the essential political framework for such an initiative and thereby directly contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the CBD. Based on the experience of the developing work on connectivity in the Alps and the Carpathians, the participants of the side events recommended that approximately 15 % of

the territory of each mountain region should be dedicated to ecological networks before 2020.

4. Participants recalled the outcome of the Millennium Summit, addressed the need of reducing the rate of loss of biodiversity and called for the support of efforts of countries to preserve fragile mountain ecosystems as an important source of fresh water and as repositories of rich biological diversity.¹ Concrete and visible actions should start not later than in 2011 as a pragmatic result of the international "Year of Biodiversity". It is proposed that each mountain range define the most urgent needs for action in order to protect biodiversity and that the corresponding actions be adequately financed.
5. Participants took note of the draft decisions to be considered by COP 10 with regard to the in-depth review of the implementation of the Programme of Work on Mountain Biodiversity² and highlighted the role and importance of the Programmes of Work on Mountain Biodiversity and Protected Areas. Participants recommended increasing until 2020 the surface of protected areas to about 7% in each mountain range.
6. Participants acknowledged and noted with appreciation the work being undertaken with regard to the conservation of mountain biological diversity within the various existing mechanisms of regional cooperation and global initiatives, alliances and networks such as the Alpine Convention, the Carpathian Convention, ICIMOD, CONDESAN, the Andean high plateau project, the Mountain Partnership, the Mountain Research Initiative, the International Mountain Society, the Mountain Forum and the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA). They welcomed the Mountain Partnership Consortium and the support it provides to Mountain Partnership members and others, in promoting the sustainable management of ecosystem services for the benefit of mountain people and the global population. For improving communication efficiency of all these initiatives and a more regular exchange of information, participants proposed concrete tools for promoting the sharing of experiences, such as enhancing the participation of local populations in decision-making processes as well as awareness raising campaigns and the definition and implementation of Mountain-to-Mountain Cooperation Programmes.
7. Because of their characteristics, mountain regions can play the role of model regions for implementing climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. Ambitious climate-related objectives should therefore be formulated for the regions on the basis of a precise time-schedule.
8. Participants recognized the achievements accomplished within the frameworks of the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions, ICIMOD, CONDESAN, Andean high plateau project and other relevant initiatives. They demonstrated the importance of and the need for the

¹ See also Doc. A/65/L/1 Sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, Follow up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit, Draft resolution referred to the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session.

² See Doc UNEP/CBD/COP/10/1/Add.2 Item 5.3., taken from the recommendation XIV/1 of the 14th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (UNEP/CBD/COP/10/3)

establishment of regional cooperative frameworks in other mountain regions in order to implement the provisions of the CBD and objectives as set out in the CBD Programmes of Work on Mountain Biodiversity and Protected Areas. It was further recommended to extend this approach to other mountain regions, starting the necessary negotiation work at the latest by 2012. Participants appreciated the relevant ongoing work in the framework of the Alpine-Carpathian-CBD MoC, and called upon UNEP to continue and enhance its programmatic support to global experience sharing on eco-regional governance mechanisms for mountains. Furthermore, participants emphasized the benefits of mountain to mountain cooperation to enhance results through experience exchange and the enhancement of synergies in the implementation of biodiversity-related and other MEAs.

9. Nevertheless, participants of the meeting - also by making reference to Agenda 21, Chapter 13 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, further stressed the need for communicating and disseminating the results of inter-regional partnerships with the view of inspiring other regions toward similar actions, and to report on progress made to the Rio +20 Earth Summit in 2012.
10. Building upon the COP 10 Draft Decision on Mountain Biodiversity, the Nusa Dua Declaration³ and the Alpine-Carpathian-CBD MoC, participants called for a more systematic exchange of information, enhancement of synergies, joint programming and collaboration between mountain regions of the world. Participants called upon the Alpine Convention, the Carpathian Convention, and the CBD, in cooperation with all interested organizations, conventions, alliances and initiatives including UNEP, the FAO, the UNCCD⁴, the UNFCCC⁵, UNOOSA, the Ramsar Convention, IUCN, WWF, ICIMOD, CONDESAN, GMBA and all Mountain Partnership members, as well as regional and local partners, to pursue the **definition and implementation of future Mountain-to-Mountain Cooperation Programmes**. Participants invited all interested States and donors to actively participate in and support this process.

³ Nusa Dua Declaration, Bali, February 2010

⁴ United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

⁵ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change



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PROGRESS REPORT BY THE INTERIM SECRETARIAT

ANNEX VI: EU Strategy for the Danube Region - Inputs ISCC



EU Strategy for the Danube Region

The Carpathian Region – a macro-region forming an integrated part of the Danube region

Inputs submitted by
UNEP - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention
on behalf of the Carpathian Convention
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Introduction

The following inputs have been prepared by the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention. They are intended to serve as an input for the consultation process on the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (duration: 2 February to 12 April 2010). The following inputs have been elaborated taking into account the questionnaire communicated by the European Commission in its scoping paper for the public consultation.¹

1. The Danube Region Strategy – scope of application and topics to be covered

Although the core of the Danube region is the Danube river with its basin the future Strategy on the Danube region should not put its focus on river-related issues (e.g. navigation) *per se*, as the territorial coverage of the Danube region encompasses also the hinterland of the river and its basin. In particular, the Carpathian mountains are one of the most important sub regions of that hinterland.

The Carpathian region is the largest mountain area in Europe, being shared by seven Central and Eastern European countries: the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, the Republic of Serbia, the Slovak Republic and Ukraine. The majority of these Carpathian countries – being also the Parties to the Carpathian Convention - border the Danube river and its basin. This manifests itself *inter alia* through the following fact: 80% of the Carpathians water drains into the Danube river as pointed out by the WWF Danube Carpathian Programme.

In particular, the major Carpathian tributaries of the Upper Danube Basin are the Morava River with the Dyje River whereas the major Carpathian tributaries of the Middle Danube Basin are the Váh, Hron, Ipel, Juzna Morava and the Tisza, the latter being the largest of all. In addition to this, the Lower Danube Basin encompasses the following rivers from the Carpathian region: The Timok, Jiu, Olt, Arges, Ialomita and the Siret and the Prut.²

¹ Document REGIO/E1/EN/NV/OB D(2010), Brussels, 2 February 2010.

² Further information can be found in the Carpathians Environmental Outlook (2007), Chapter 3.5 Water Resources, available at http://www.carpathianconvention.org/NR/rdonlyres/DF8CC9F5-04B1-4DC2-B331-1D3D16AAD0A0/0/CH_3b.pdf



Map of the Danube Carpathian Region (source: WWF Danube Carpathian Programme)



It is therefore recommended that the future EU Danube Region Strategy also encompasses aspects of the Carpathian region taking into account the specific characteristics and the same time weaknesses of these sensitive ecosystems:

The Carpathians – as a youthful range less suitable for larger settlements - belong to the less developed areas, even in the Central European context. The mountain areas are less suitable for agriculture, the Carpathian range is less passable than the Alps resulting in poor accessibility. The situation of the whole area is peripheral, markets and large urbanized centres are far. The Carpathian region is also an area of borders, that pose a hindrance to economic cooperation and integration.

There are different levels to define the Carpathian area. The first one is the proper mountain region with minimum elevation of 600 m and minimum slope of 20°. The second one is the foreland, or the foot of the mountains which are in direct connection to the mountainous area, and where a large part of the services, serving the mountain population are located. The third level is the wider region – including the NUTS3 (in Ukraine NUTS2) level administrative units to which the mountainous areas belong. Most of the statistical data and analyses refer to these latter units. For the purposes of the analysis and strategy building in the Carpathian region, the widest area has been delineated as Carpathian programme area - the so called “Carpathian Space”. This delineated area of the Carpathian Space is significantly wider (470 thousand km²) than the area of the Carpathian mountains (190 thousand km²).



The Carpathian Countries are developing an overall Strategy for the entire Carpathian Space in the framework of the Carpathian Convention. This work is based on the VASICA (“Visions and Strategies in the Carpathian Area”), which constitutes the first transnational spatial development document for the entire Carpathian Space and a core output of the INTERREG IIIB CADSES “Carpathian Project” (see box below).

The Carpathian Strategy is currently being further developed by the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Spatial Planning, in consultations with regional authorities of the region. One of the overall objectives of the Carpathian Strategy is to ensure that sustainable development priorities of the Carpathian Space are fully included into and addressed by the EU Danube Region Strategy and related high-level EU processes and programmes.

Therefore, the future EU Danube Region Strategy should have a multi-sectoral approach covering various areas, such as energy, environmental protection, tourism and transport, education and awareness-raising, cultural aspects. These fields beside others were also identified as key elements of the future EU Strategy for the Danube Region at the Danube Summit on 25 February 2010 in Budapest.³ Sustainable development encompasses an economic, social and environmental dimension. This multi-sectoral approach also corresponds to the view of the European Union and was lately reflected by the European Council as well.⁴

To adopt a comprehensive approach is important, especially with the view of facing the challenges in the Danube region, such as the economic crisis, defragmentation of landscape, etc.

The threats and challenges in the Carpathian Space - forming a major part of the wider Danube region – are similar to those characterizing the entire region and multi-faceted as well : Rural population pressure combined with shortage of agricultural land area, climate change, migration pressure, huge economic, social and security gaps along the external borders, to mention a few of them. The Carpathian region after the recent enlargement of the European Union has become the Eastern external border area of the European Union. Whatever policy in relation to the enlargement process will be pursued in the future, securing a political stability requires cooperation with neighbouring countries and to help them to stabilise their economy and to improve the living conditions of their population.⁵

Therefore, it would be recommendable - according to main concrete actions and projects in the coming years within the Strategy – that priority will be given to those activities aiming at a comprehensive approach and linking different sectors rather by tackling one specific sector.

³ Compare with the Declaration of the Danube summit, Budapest, 25 February 2010, para. 11.

⁴ Compare with Presidency Conclusions, Meeting of the Brussels European Council 18/19 June 2009, Doc 11225/2/09 REV 2

⁵ See also threats in the Carpathian area, Visions and Strategies in the Carpathian Area (VASICA), pp. 25ff.



2. Implementation of the EU Danube Region Strategy – the importance of regional and sub-regional cooperation

In order to foster the cooperation and coordination and the exchange of good practices in the Danube Region, already existing regional tools need to be allocated and strengthened while taking into account the specific demands of certain regions.

It is out of question that mechanisms of regional and sub-regional cooperation play a crucial role in the wider context of international policies and efforts. Complementarily to ongoing efforts on the international and European level they contribute to the implementation of efforts by addressing specific problems and developing regional solutions to specific regional problems that might differ from region to region.

The Convention of Biological Diversity has put regional cooperation high on the agenda⁶: Its actual programme of work on mountain biological diversity sets out the goal of establishing regional and transboundary collaboration and establishing cooperative agreements in order to implement the objectives and goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The role and, in particular, the importance of sub-regions and linked mechanisms has also been recognized at the international meeting on the elaboration of the European Danube Region Strategy, hosted by the Hungarian embassy in Vienna, 15 February 2010.⁷ This view was also reflected at the high –level meeting at the Danube Summit in Budapest as the representatives of the governments of the participating countries made reference to enhancing cross-border, trans-regional and trans-national cooperation and coordination.⁸

In relation to the Danube Region Strategy, existing multilevel international governance mechanisms like the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River and Framework Convention for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians are well suitable frameworks for cooperation. Strategies being defined and implemented within these frameworks of cooperation already contribute to ongoing efforts being undertaken within the wider EU Danube Region Strategy. The Carpathian Convention in particular - with the Carpathian region as the scope of its application - covering a large macro-region within the bigger Danube Region - disposes of already existing instruments and tools for addressing pertinent issues in the context of the EU Danube Region Strategy.

Rather by developing new mechanisms, existing mechanisms of cooperation within the wider Danube Region should be therefore strengthened as these existing tools can contribute to the implementation of the aims and objectives of the Strategy.

⁶ See also Program of Work, available at <http://www.cbd.int/mountain/wopo.shtml>

⁷ See also outcome document of the meeting, “Principles, objectives and some critical components of the European Danube Region Strategy based on the criteria of sustainable development” summarised by the Chairman of the meeting

⁸ See also the Declaration of the Danube Summit, Budapest, 25 February 2010.



An overall EU Strategy for the Danube Region can also further help to coordinate activities among these different mechanisms of regional and sub-regional cooperation with the aim of creating further synergies.

The added value of the future EU Danube Region Strategy to existing mechanisms of regional and sub-regional cooperation would be to strengthen them and link them to each other with the view of establishing further synergy effects. An overall future Strategy on the Danube Region would facilitate a coordination between these mechanisms, while taking into account the specific characteristics and needs of these distinct regional areas.

3. The Carpathian Region and the Carpathian Convention

The Carpathian Mountains are the Eastern wing of the Great Central Mountain System of Europe, curving on the territory of eight Central and Eastern European countries (Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Ukraine, Romania and Serbia). The Carpathians begin on the Danube near Bratislava. They surround Transcarpathia and Transylvania in a large semicircle, sweeping towards the south-west, and end on the southern bank of the Danube near the Iron Gate, in Serbia. The total length of the Carpathians is over 1500 km, and the width of the mountain chain varies between 12 km and 500 km. The greatest width of the Carpathians corresponds with their highest altitudes. The system attains its greatest breadth in the Transylvanian plateau and in the meridian of the Tatra group (the highest range with Gerlachovský štít, at 2655 m in Slovak territory near the Polish border). It covers an area of 190000 km², and, after the Alps, it is the most extensive mountain system in Europe.

The Carpathian region is a European Region, stretching over the area of 8 European countries (Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine). Its total area and population is comparable to that of the Alps. Nevertheless, so far much less attention was paid – in European context - to this area than to the Alps. Since the 1st of January 2007, 6 Carpathian countries out of the 8 are members of the European Union. But even the other two – Ukraine and Serbia - are of key importance for European security and development.

The Carpathian Region is a living environment for millions of people in the heart of Europe, harbouring also a diverse cultural and natural heritage. Still this heritage has to face numerous threats and adverse impacts caused by land abandonment, habitat conversion and fragmentation, deforestation, large scale migration on the one hand, and from industrialisation, pollution and overexploitation of natural resources on the other as already highlighted above. The situation of the area has been peripheral as large sections of the mountain range constitute borders between countries and are far away from urban centres. In addition, the region still suffers effects of transition, aggravated by the recent economic crisis.



To address these numerous challenges the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention) calls for cooperation and the development of coordinated spatial planning policies aiming at the sustainable development and the environmental protection of the Carpathians.

It is an innovative instrument that aims at improving the quality of life, strengthen local economies and communities. It also strives for providing conservation and restoration of unique, rare and typical natural complexes and objects of recreational and other importance situated in the heart of Europe through the promotion of joint policies for sustainable development among the Carpathian region.

The Carpathian Convention is at present the only multi-sectoral governance mechanism covering the whole of the Carpathian area, allowing for a cross-sectoral integration and broad participation of different stakeholders coming from different levels (national, regional, governmental, non-governmental, etc.)

The Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention is currently hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme in Vienna on an interim basis. According to its mandate, it supports its implementation and coordinates the meetings of its relevant political bodies and subsidiary bodies (Conference of the Parties, Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee, Working Groups). The Secretariat promotes the development and submission of transnational and national projects aimed at implementing the Convention, such as the Interreg IIIB CADSES “Carpathian Project” or the Alpine-Carpathian Corridor under the Austria-Slovakia Crossborder cooperation programme (for more information see box below)

More information on the Carpathian Convention and its activities can be found on:
<http://www.carpathianconvention.org>



4. The potential of the Carpathian Convention for addressing pertinent issues in the context of the future EU Strategy for the Danube Region

The framework of the Carpathian Convention provides a lot of potential for the Danube Region and its stakeholders. In the following the main benefits will be summarized. In addition, particular reference will be made to two projects of transnational cooperation (in the stage of being implemented and under evaluation) that could be considered as flagship projects under the future EU Danube Region Strategy, mainly due to their multi-sectoral approach and their contribution to the main pillars of the EU strategy.

Geographical coverage of the Danube Region

As already underlined above, the Carpathian Convention covers a crucial part of the Danube basin and its basins, at least 80% of the Carpathians' water drains into the Danube.

Multi-sectoral approach

The Carpathian Convention aims at sustainable development and environmental protection and focuses on a multi-sectoral approach by calling for cooperation in fields like tourism, transport, cultural heritage etc. , thus addressing issues that were identified as key elements of the future EU Danube Region Strategy.⁹

Existing framework of regional cooperation

The Carpathian Convention disposes of a huge network (including important actors such as Ministries) and operative framework in areas of importance for cooperation in the Danube Region. The work that is already done in the frame of the Convention, in particular the activities and follow-up undertaken in the context of INTERREG projects, provide potential contribution to the implementation of major parts of the EU Danube Region Strategy.

Existing legal instruments for activities in specific sectors

The Carpathian Convention as well as a number of Protocols to the Convention devoted to specific sectors (Biodiversity¹⁰, Sustainable Forest Management, Sustainable Transport etc.) provide the legal framework for activities in various sectors in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development that will be addressed by the future EU Danube Region Strategy.

Existing expertise and practise in the field of project development and implementation

The Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention as the coordinating body of the Convention and other stakeholders in the Carpathian region disposes of considerable expertise in the field of EU funding programmes and projects, and can share its experiences

⁹ As reflected at the Danube Summit in Budapest, 25 February 2010, see Declaration of the Danube Summit.

¹⁰ The Protocol is about to enter into force soon.



and provide input to projects, especially flagship projects that will be included in the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

Existing experience and visions for the Carpathian region as a macro-region forming part of the bigger Danube Region

The VASICA (“Visions and Strategies in the Carpathian Area”) publication is the first transnational spatial development document for the entire Carpathian Region building on the example of the VASAB (“Visions and Strategies around the Baltic Sea”). It encompasses concrete analysis and recommendations for nine concrete action areas of importance for the implementation of the Danube Region Strategy. It is one of the main outputs of INTERREG IIIB CADSES “Carpathian Project” (see box below) and represents an important background document for a chapter on the Carpathians within the EU Danube Region Strategy.

The Carpathian Project at a glance

The Carpathian Project (duration: 2005- 2008) was developed by UNEP Vienna Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and RTI Polska together with Carpathian Convention Signatories and the broad project consortium of partners from 11 countries. The project built on the intergovernmental cooperative platform of the Carpathian Convention. UNEP Vienna - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention performed the Lead Partner of the project with the support of the seven Carpathian Convention Parties and Signatories. The Carpathian Project was co-financed by the EU through the Interreg IIIB CADSES Programme.

The Carpathian Project developed the Carpathian Convention into an operational and truly transnational platform, allowing for the implementation of the most relevant EU policies across the Carpathian region. The project demonstrated that environmental and developmental objectives can go hand in hand, if the future is built upon the region's advantages and potentials, and typical mountain challenges are addressed in a coordinated manner.

Actions under the project covered an area, which had so far not been comprehensively examined by spatial factors, and for which no consistent vision of sustainable development had been created. The long-term objective of the project was to strengthen the protection and to accelerate the sustainable development of the Carpathian region by improving the internal as well as European cohesion of the area and by preserving its natural and cultural heritage for future generations. Besides successful pilot action at the regional and local levels, the project also resulted in the first integrated strategic approach for the Carpathian Space as a whole - the VASICA (“Visions and Strategies in the Carpathian Area”),

More information on: <http://www.carpathianproject.eu>



5. The need for transnational programme encompassing the Danube Carpathian Area and a Strategy for the Carpathian Space

One of the basic outcomes of VASICA was the call for the establishment of a financial mechanism for the “Carpathian Space” within the European Territorial Cooperation Objective, following the ongoing success within the Alpine Space. The Carpathian region forming part of the Danube Region - is divided into transnational EU funding programmes: “Central Europe” and “South-East Europe”. In order to facilitate the implementation of future projects in the Carpathian Region facing the specific needs of the region, future transnational programme should include the entire Carpathian region, or an effective mechanism of coordination of existing financial instruments and programmes to meet the needs of the Carpathians and other macro-regions within the Danube region.

Therefore, the Strategy for the “Carpathian Space” is currently being further developed as a contribution to the EU Strategy for the Danube Region,

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE DANUBE REGION STRATEGY

- The substantive scope of the Danube Region Strategy – which includes both the Danube river and its basin and the Carpathian mountains (besides other important mountain regions in South East Europe) - should include the priorities of the Carpathian region. Therefore, it should be of cross-sectoral and integrated nature, prominently including issues of environmental protection and regional development. A full analysis of main challenges in demography, agriculture, industry, urban network, cultural and natural heritage, transport, environment, tourism, and recommendations for support and action, can be found in the VASICA;
- The future EU Danube Region Strategy should take into consideration the vast experience and build on the priorities identified within the existing tools of multi-level governance and regional and sub-regional cooperation, such as the Carpathian Convention and the ICPDR;
- The Carpathians are a unique natural treasure of European and global importance. Therefore, the preservation and enhancement of their natural heritage – as a unique strength and key element of regional development – must be ensured in line with EU policies (e.g. improving effectiveness of management of Natura 2000 sites in the Carpathians, application of environmental impact assessments to projects etc.);
- Future EU transnational programmes in this region should be based on macro-regional approaches. This should allow that sustainable development priorities of the Carpathian Space will be addressed through better coordination of existing or new EU programmes. The strategic and programme framework should allow to



address the Carpathians in their integrity, avoiding a split in different programmes or strategies,

- A specific chapter on the Carpathian Space (“Carpathian macro-region”), taking into account the specific features of the area, could be elaborated within the EU Danube Region Strategy.

6. Potential flagship projects under the EU Danube Region Strategy

Introduction

The following are transboundary projects within the frame of the Carpathian Convention that could be considered as flagship projects under the future EU Danube Region Strategy. Due to the involvement of different stakeholders from various levels (governmental and non-governmental) in these projects and their multi-sectoral approach targeting the Danube region they are of particular relevance. Both projects were developed closely following the “men in biosphere” concept, by linking economical oriented objectives with environmental concerns.

Alpine Carpathian Corridor (AKK)

Funds: Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Slovakia-Austria 2007-2013

Budget: 1,8 Million Euro (1,4 Million Euro ERDF)

Status: implementation

Duration:

- AKK Basic: December 2008 – June 2012
- AKK Centrope: September 2009 – June 2012

Objective and content of the project:

The objective of the Alpine-Carpathian Corridor project is to safeguard the ecological connectivity between the Alps and the Carpathians, within the Centrope region - that forms part of the wider Danube Region - by especially embedding instruments of spatial planning.

In addition, the project also wants to trigger a sustainable development which considers the requirements of both man and wildlife. The awareness about the importance of undisturbed areas, green zones and a close use of land resource shall be fostered, carrying benefits for people in the targeted areas.

Main causes for the fragmentation of the landscape are also intensive agricultural land-use and an increasing demand for build up land. In the AKK projects these problems will be addressed by specific improvements in sustainable land-use in the course of the Alpine-Carpathian-Corridor and by means of spatial planning (including wildlife-ecological spatial management).



AKK aims at a multi-sectoral approach by addressing aspects of environmental protection, spatial planning and economic development at the same time. This especially manifests itself by its involvement of actors from different sectors (highway companies, NGOs, authorities etc.) By bringing together people from this various fields the “Men in Biosphere” idea shall be followed and realized

Specific Value for the EU Danube Region Strategy:

Project activities will contribute to the implementation of the Danube Region Strategy as they address the main pillars of the Strategy and will be carried out in an area that is forming part of the Danube region.

Cross border collaboration within this project, involving actors from the Austria and the Slovak Republic, is especially in line with one of the main objectives of the Danube Region Strategy, that is to say the enhancement of cooperation and understanding among countries. A Memorandum of Understanding involving various stakeholders from both countries that will be concluded in the final phase of the project, is especially ensuring the long-term perspective of this project.

The AKK project could be used as a model for similar projects in the wider Danube Carpathian region.

More information on the project can be obtained from:

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BIOREGIO Carpathians

Funds: South-East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme

Budget: 2,7 Million Euro (2.125.000 Euro ERDF)

Status: Under evaluation

Objective and summary of the project:

The project is aimed to develop, harmonize and implement integrated management plans for natural areas to promote a regional development in the Carpathians and to improve the ecological connectivity in the region.

The Carpathians harbour a unique natural heritage and act as a major ecological link within Europe. Experiences e.g. from the Alpine Space demonstrate that the exceptional natural assets of mountain areas offer considerable potential for a sustainable regional



development by maintaining the biological and landscape diversity as well as their ecological connectivity.

The project promotes the harmonized management of natural assets and protected areas including NATURA 2000 sites in the Carpathians by involving all relevant stakeholders and by building on the existing framework of cooperation of the Carpathian Convention, its Biodiversity Protocol and other related transnational networks and initiatives. Results will be transferred to other mountain regions in the programme area.

The partnership is constituted by 16 partners that have complementary competencies on regional, national and transnational levels. There are partners from all Carpathian countries represented in the integrated project consortium (National and Nature Parks, national and regional environmental authorities, International Organizations, Non Governmental Organizations, Universities, Research centres). The Ministries for the Environment of all the Carpathian Countries are observers to the project

Specific Value for the EU Danube Region Strategy:

BIOREGIO Carpathians offers a unique approach in order to develop strategies and instruments for an integrated management of biological and landscape diversity for sustainable regional development and ecological connectivity in the Carpathians.

The project follows a truly integrated approach of cross-sectoral multi-level governance for increasing the attractiveness of the area and capitalizing its outstanding natural assets.

The project addresses already approved international conventions and strategies, in particular the Carpathian Convention Biodiversity Protocol. This innovative approach can be transferred to other areas of the Danube – Carpathian region. It can become a model for the management of natural areas in the region and for the coordination of existing cooperation tools.

More information on the project can be obtained from:

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