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DECISION COP4/1
Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity
Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. Adopts the format for the National Report on the Implementation of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (further referred to as “Carpathian Convention”) and encourage the establishment of the online version of the Report

2. Adopts the revised Strategic Action Plan for the implementation of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity;

3. Extends the duration of the Medium-Term Strategy of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) until the end of the year 2020;

4. Adopts the Medium-Term Work Plan 2013 – 2017 of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas;

5. Welcomes the outcomes of the “BIOREGIO Carpathians” project, that aimed at implementing the main provisions of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity;

6. Adopts Welcomes and appreciate those the work conducted in the frame of the BioREGIO Carpathians project towards the elaboration of Carpathian Red List of Habitats, the Carpathian Red List of Species, as well as the List of Invasive Species in the Carpathians, which have been completed in the context the BIOREGIO Carpathians project and calls for their further improvement, verification of remaining Lists and finalization for adoption, also suggests the elaboration of a List of Endemic Species of the Carpathians;

7. Encourages the cooperation with the European Landscape Convention and recommends the Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity to guide and coordinate the implementation of the Carpathian Convention in this field, as well as the relevant provisions of the Biodiversity Protocol to the Carpathian Convention, and requests the Secretariat to coordinate the process;

8. Welcomes the idea of organizing joint meeting of the Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity and the Working Group on Spatial Development and the Working Group on Sustainable Industry, Energy, Transport and Infrastructure in order to develop the propose possible activities on ecological connectivity, green infrastructure and landscapes in the Carpathians;

9. Notes the Terms of References for the CNPA Unit performed by the OZ Pronatur_Civic Society, Slovak Republic, and the Association of Natural Protected Areas Administrations, Romania;

10. Expresses its gratitude to the World Wide Fund – Danube-Carpathian Programme (WWF DCP) for its cooperation in the organization of the CNPA Steering Committee meetings and the 2nd Conference of the Carpathian Network of the Protected Areas organized back to back to the Mid Term
11. "Welcomes the cooperation with ALPARC and the ongoing cooperation with the Alpine Convention;

12. "Welcomes the ongoing cooperation with the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention) through the Carpathian Wetland Initiative and urges Parties to continue to take appropriate action on the effective protection and sustainable use of Carpathian wetlands;

13. "Welcomes the results of the GEF Project “Improving the Financial Sustainability of the Carpathian System of Protected Areas” implemented through UNDP Romania and encourages the protected areas in the Carpathians to use knowledge resources made available by the project;

14. "Welcomes the Agreement between the CNPA and ALPARC regarding the transfer of the CNPA webpage (www.carpathianparks.org) from ALPARC to the CNPA Unit and encourages further cooperation on specific topics common to the two networks.

DECISION COP4/2
Spatial development

Article 5 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. Reiterates its call 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;

2. Encourages the Parties and the Secretariat to further promote the Strategic Action Plan for the Carpathian Area adopted at the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention and its priority actions for the Carpathians in relevant meetings at EU and international level;

3. Encourages the Parties to actively participate in the implementation of the already existing EU macro-regional strategies, which are relevant for the Carpathians, the European Union Strategies for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and for the Baltic Region (EUSBSR), using the Carpathian Convention as a strategic tool to link and complement the relevant strategies;

4. Mandates the Secretariat to continue to promote the integration of Carpathian priorities into the related Transnational “European Territorial Cooperation” (ETC) Programmes (in particular the Danube Programme, Baltic Programme and Central Europe Programme) for the period 2014-2020, as well as other relevant funding programmes;

5. Emphasizes the importance of full involvement of and strong support to the above mentioned processes by all relevant stakeholders, in particular the competent national authorities, regional and local authorities as well as civil society and private sector;

6. Invites the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Committee of the Regions, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, and the Euroregions located in the Carpathians, to support the above mentioned processes;

7. Appreciates the support of the Association of Elected Representatives from Mountain Regions and of the Association of European Border Regions in the above mentioned processes and invites their further cooperation;
8. Recognizes the crucial role of local and regional administration in the successful implementation of the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols and invites them to pursue and strengthen their efforts and to cooperate among each other;

9. Invites the Parties to inform the Secretariat on the administrative unites within which they plan to implement the Convention and its Protocols;

10. Emphasizes the importance of spatial planning for allocation of the development activities – namely, the keeping the empty flood prone areas for the possibility natural retention areas and the elimination/decreasing of flood effects in the urban areas and, in particular, restoration of river beds as much as possible to original/natural state;

11. Welcomes the outcomes of the Europe of the Carpathians Conferences held on 4 September 2013 in Krynica and on 23 February 2013 in Krasiczn;

12. Welcomes the outcomes of two editions of the Alpine-Carpathian Forum of Cooperation held in Rzeszow in September 2012 and September 2013;

13. Takes into account the results of the Workshop “Towards a EU Strategy for the Carpathian Region” held on 28 May 2013 at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels;

14. Welcomes outcomes of the joint meeting on macroregional strategies with the Alpine Convention, held on 16 – 17 June 2014 in Portoroz, Slovenia and calls for mutual support of Alpine and Carpathian Conventions Parties to ensure the consideration of European mountain regions within the development of new and implementation of existing EU macroregional strategies;

15. Takes into account the results of the Workshop “Shaping the Carpathian Region in the EU Strategy for the Danube Region”, held on 27 June 2014 within the 3rd Annual Forum EUSDR 2014 in Vienna.

DECISION COP4/3
Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management
Article 6 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. Reiterates the importance of the implementation of the provisions of Article 6 of the Carpathian Convention on sustainable and integrated water/river basin management;

2. Calls for enhanced cooperation through the Secretariat with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) in particular in the following areas: climate change adaptation, sustainable agriculture, promotion of the implementation of the “Guiding principles on sustainable hydropower development in the Danube Basin” in mountain areas, as well as on promotion of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative and cooperation with the Ramsar Convention, with a view to develop joint activities and projects with ICPDR in these area;

3. Encourages the final adoption of the Joint Declaration between the International Convention for the Protection of the Danube River and the Carpathian Convention supporting the sustainable development of the Carpathians and Tisza River Basin as declared in the Memorandum of Understanding adopted in Uzhgorod on 11 April 2011, and encourages enhanced joint programming with International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River;
4. Recognizes the need to increase activities to promote sustainable agricultural practices in the Carpathian region to protect ground and surface water resources and reduce eutrophication and pollution.

DECISION COP4/4
Sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry
Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. Welcomes the entry into force of the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians and encourages the ratifications of the Protocol by the Parties, which have not yet done so;

2. Adopts the Strategic Action Plan for the implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management and appreciates the work done by the Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management;

3. Adopts the Criteria and indicators for selection of virgin forests in transboundary regions and expresses and appreciates the work done by the Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management with the contribution of WWF DCP;

4. Welcomes the progress made towards the establishment of a Carpathian Inventory of Virgin Forests and appreciates contribution to its development proposed the European Environment Agency (EEA), and calls upon the Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management to closely cooperate with the EEA on the issue;

5. Reiterates the call for the possible development of a Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development by the Working Group on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development and for that reason requests the Secretariat to coordinate the preparation of a background analysis and documentation that will substantiate the need for a Protocol and to service the Parties in the process;

6. Calls for enhanced cooperation through the Secretariat with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River on sustainable agriculture and rural development, in the framework of a possible Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, aiming at reduction of nutrients and pesticide pollution, with a view to develop joint activities and projects with ICPDR in these areas.

DECISION COP4/5
Sustainable transport and infrastructure, industry and energy
Article 8 and 10 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. Adopts the Protocol on Sustainable Transport to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, invites the Parties to sign and ratify the Protocol, encourages the Parties, pending the ratification and entry into force of the Protocol, whenever possible to start its implementation and appreciates the work conducted by the Working Group on...

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1 This paragraph will be amended according to the result of the further consultation.
2 This paragraph will be amended according to the result of the further consultation.
Sustainable Industry, Energy, Transport and Infrastructure, as well as the support provided by the European Transnational Cooperation South East Europe “Access2Mountain” project as well as the by Alpine Convention to the development process of the Protocol;

2. Notes the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), the EU guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network, as well as the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions “Green Infrastructure (GI) — Enhancing Europe’s Natural Capital” (COM/2013/0249) and the reference to the ecosystems of mountain ranges, among which the Carpathians, that require coordinated, joined-up actions and a pan-European vision;


4. Recommends the development of follow up projects on sustainable transport considering/taking into account ecological connectivity and green infrastructure;

5. Welcomes the outcomes of the Austria Slovakia Cross-border “Alpine - Carpathian Corridor” project which aimed to re-establish the ecological corridor between the Carpathians and Alps within Slovak – Austrian cross border area;

6. Welcomes the signature of the “Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of an Alpine - Carpathian Corridor” and encourages further implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding;

7. Welcomes the outcomes of the European Transnational Cooperation South East Europe “Access2Mountain” project which aimed at achieving, environmentally friendly and sustainable tourism, as well as to ensure accessibility and connection to, between and in sensitive regions of the Alps and the Carpathians and encourages the development of follow-up activities and initiatives;

8. Call for strengthened cross-border and transboundary cooperation of the Parties on maintaining sufficient ecological connectivity and in avoiding landscape fragmentation especially due to transport infrastructure, and requests the Secretariat to follow up with the interested Parties on possible joint project developments;

9. Encourages future cooperation activities with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other relevant organizations including the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River in the field of renewable energies in the Carpathians.

DECISION COP4/6
Sustainable tourism
Article 9 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. Welcomes the entry into force of the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians and encourages the ratifications of the Protocol by the Parties, which have not yet done so;

2. Welcomes the cooperation with and contribution by the Ecological Tourism in Europe (ETE), CEEweb for Biodiversity, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), WWF-Danube-Carpathian Programme Office (WWF DCPO) and other partners on national levels in particular related to the development of the Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development of the Carpathians to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians and of projects aimed at its implementation;
3. *Adopts* the Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development of the Carpathians to the Carpathian Convention, *welcomes* the Background Document and *takes note* that the Strategy aims at the implementation of relevant paragraphs of the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism adopted at COP3;

4. *Requests* the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Tourism to coordinate and guide the implementation of the Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development of the Carpathians;

5. *Invites* stakeholders, especially the tourism sector, in the Carpathians to actively contribute to the implementation of the Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development of the Carpathians and to the establishment of online Carpathian platform on sustainable tourism;

6. *Emphasizes* the need for resource mobilization for the implementation of the Protocol and the Strategy at national and international level involving all relevant stakeholders and *commits* to cooperate on this matter;

7. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the “Innovations in Rural Tourism” co-financed by the European Commission, which aims, among others, at facilitating the development of sustainable tourism in rural mountain areas;

8. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the First Carpathian States Tourism Forum organized by the Ministry of Sport and Tourism of Poland on 28 May 2014 in Rzeszów, Poland;


**DECISION COP4/7**

**Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge**

**Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention**

*The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Undertakes* the importance of the implementation of provisions of the Carpathian Convention Article 11 on cultural heritage and traditional knowledge;

2. *Notes* with satisfaction the Ministerial Declaration on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge of the Carpathian region;

3. *Calls* for enhanced cooperation on the implementation of the road map constituting an Annex to the aforementioned Ministerial Declaration, to be guided by the Working Group on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge;

4. *Appreciates* the progress achieved towards the development of the draft Protocol on cultural heritage, and the work done under the auspices of the Working Group on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge;

5. *Recommends* the Working Group on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge to further discuss and elaborate the draft Protocol on cultural heritage, for its submission to COP5;

6. *Recommends* the Working Group on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge to develop, in consultation with relevant institutions of the Parties and local stakeholders, the proposal for a corresponding Strategic Action Plan for the implementation of the above Protocol and requests the Secretariat to facilitate the process;
7. Expresses its gratitude to the Ekopsychologia Association and UNEP/GRID-Warsaw Centre within the project “Carpathians Unite – mechanism of consultation and cooperation for implementation of the Carpathian Convention”, supported by Switzerland through the Swiss Contribution to the enlarged European Union, for their contribution to the development of the Protocol;

8. Reiterates the invitation to National Focal Points to continue actions to inform and cooperate with the competent ministries and sectors responsible for cultural heritage and traditional knowledge and calls upon them to be involved in this work;

9. Appreciates the outcomes of the pastoral event called “Carpathian Sheep Transhumance 2013”.

DECISION COP4/8
Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning
Article 12 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. Welcomes the Partnership Agreement between Carpathian Convention and the European Environment Agency (EEA) on the implementation of the Carpathian Convention;

2. Welcomes the Memorandum of Understanding for the Establishment of a Carpathian Integrated Biodiversity Information System;

3. Encourages the further development of an information system accessible to all Parties, gathering available data sets, information on local and regional administrations, outcomes of projects and other relevant data, to be harmonized with and integrated into existing information systems such as provided by the EEA and UNEP;

4. Encourages the Parties, Working Groups under the Carpathian Convention, the EEA and interested stakeholders to cooperate, and requests the Secretariat to prepare a background analytical document focusing on cost effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of such information system and its connection with existing systems and based on its outcomes to coordinate the process;

5. Invites the Parties to engage respective European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET) Focal Points in the implementation of Article 12 of the Carpathian Convention;

6. Welcomes the Memorandum of Understanding between the Carpathian Convention and the Science for the Carpathians Initiative signed at the Forum Carpaticum 2012;

7. Welcomes the outcomes of the Forum Carpaticum 2014: Local Responses to Global Challenges presented at the COP4, and requests the Secretariat to further develop the cooperation with the Science for the Carpathians initiative;
DECISION COP4/9

Awareness raising, education and public participation

Article 13 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. **Welcomes** the outcomes of the EU Lifelong Learning project “Big Foot. Crossing Generations, Crossing Mountains”, aimed at sustainable development of rural mountains regions through intergenerational learning, and invites support to the use of the Big Foot Transferability Tool Kit to transfer the project results to the Carpathian countries;

2. **Welcomes** the new Lifelong Learning project Innovation in Rural Tourism (InRuTou), which includes Carpathian Convention partners from Poland, Romania and Ukraine and has a vocational learning component for sustainable rural tourism development;

3. **Welcomes** the continuous use of innovative Information and Communication Technologies approaches in Education and Public Participation, such as the Communities Livelihood Platform, developed by the Big Foot project, or the E-learning platform of the InRuTou project, and invites the parties to support their active use by the Carpathian communities, organizations and individuals;

4. **Invites** Parties and other stakeholders to carry out regional consultations and to continue to raise public awareness in order to promote the Carpathian Convention implementation process;

5. **Recalls** the progress by Move 4 Nature, and invites further support to the adaptation of the Tool Kit to other countries and translation to other Carpathian languages, and supports cooperation with other partners and other mountain regions in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), such as the Regional Center of Expertise in ESD and other partners in the Alps, the Balkans and the Caucasus;

6. **Requests** the Secretariat, in consultation with Parties and relevant partners, to facilitate cooperation of the Carpathian Convention with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Steering Committee on ESD, and to investigate options for establishing a Carpathian Regional Network within this process, in order to strengthen Carpathian countries in implementation and follow-up of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development;

7. **Invites** the Focal Points of the Carpathian Convention to coordinate with the Focal Points of the UNECE steering committee on ESD, in order to inform each other about the respective activities and developments on the national level, and to share the results of this coordination with the CCIC;

8. **Requests** the Secretariat to provide for opportunities for outreach, involvement and the active participation of civil society in the development of the Convention, through its official work, and development of strategic documents and projects;

9. **Reiterates** its recommendation to establish and develop national mechanisms to foster the implementation of the Carpathian Convention, including information, involvement and capacity building of relevant stakeholders and civil society related to the process and the future development of the Carpathian Convention.
DECISION COP4/10
Adaptation to Climate Change

The Conference of the Parties

1. Adopts the Strategic Agenda on Adaptation to Climate Change in the Carpathian Region;
2. Welcomes the outcomes of the CARPIVIA, CarpathCC and CarpathClim projects;
3. Gives mandate to the Secretariat to participate and to promote the Carpathian Convention during the UNFCCC COP20 at the Mountain Pavilion, in Lima, Peru in December 2014;
4. Welcomes the outcomes of the Workshop on Adaptation to Climate Change organized in the frame of the Alpine-Carpathian Partnership, in Vienna, Austria in March 2014;
5. Encourages future cooperation activities with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River on climate change adaptation.

DECISION COP4/11
Cooperation with the European Union

The Conference of the Parties

1. Calls upon the Parties to cooperate with European Union bodies in further promoting the idea of ensuring the due attention to the Carpathian region while implementing the existing EU macroregional strategies;
2. Welcomes the idea of establishing inter-groups in the European Parliament in the field of Carpathian cooperation;
3. Invites the Parties to further solicit support from European Territorial Cooperation funds, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), cohesion funds, Norway grants, LIFE, European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument, Eastern Partnership, and Instrument for Pre-Assistance, and requests the Secretariat to ensure coordination in project development and implementation.

DECISION COP4/12
Cooperation with the Alpine Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. Welcomes the cooperation with the Alpine Convention in the framework of the concluded Memorandum of Understanding, and requests the Secretariat to continue to strengthen the cooperation with the Alpine Convention in the fields such as the institutional cooperation, the exchange of information and experience, the development and implementation of common projects, the collaboration on the implementation of the Conventions and their respective Programmes of Work, the implementation of the Programmes of Work of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on Protected Areas and on Mountain Biodiversity and the collaboration in the field of protected areas networks in the Alps and the Carpathians;
2. Approves the Joint Alpine - Carpathian Statement on Adaptation to Climate Change to be presented in Lima, Peru in December 2014 during the 20th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP20 at the Mountain Pavilion;

DECISION COP4/13
Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies

The Conference of the Parties

1. Welcomes the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20 outcome document “The Future We Want” and stresses the importance of the implementation of its “mountains” chapter as well as of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution related to Sustainable Mountain Development (Doc. A/RES/68/217);

2. Welcomes the efforts of the Mountain Partnership and its members in promoting the mountains agenda in the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda process and calls upon the Parties to support mainstreaming of mountain-related issues into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

3. Welcomes and supports further specific cooperation with international conventions and international bodies, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat, the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, the European Landscape Convention, the Council of Europe, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the European Space Agency, the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, the Central European Initiative, the Visegrad Group, the Regional Environmental Centre, GRID Arendal, GRID Warsaw, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);

4. Supports the establishment and implementation of programmes to foster the further experience exchange between the Alps, Carpathians and other mountain regions, requests the Secretariat to implement the required activities and promote partnerships with other mountain regions, including interregional cooperation, and invites UNEP, all interested partners and donors, to participate in and to contribute to the process;

5. Requests the Secretariat to continue to promote the Carpathian Convention and sustainable mountain development in the context of Rio+20 Follow up and the development of Sustainable Development Goals, in cooperation with UNEP, FAO and UNESCO.

DECISION COP4/14
Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. Recalling its decision COP3/13 on the Programme of Work and budget of the Carpathian Convention;
2. Having considered the report of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee on the implementation of the Programme of Work (UNEP/CC/COP4/DOC9);


4. Welcomes the progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Work, in particular the results achieved by the Working Groups on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity; on Sustainable Forest Management; on Sustainable Industry, Energy, Transport and Infrastructure, on Sustainable Tourism, on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge and by the CNPA;

5. Encourages the Parties to continue to finance their participation in meetings related to the implementation of the Programme of Work; and to share their expertise through their participation in online consultations and through providing leadership to the Working Groups;

6. Requests the Secretariat to facilitate the online consultations and information sharing by making available the appropriate tools, procedures and processes;

7. Appreciates the support provided by the “BIOREGIO Carpathians”, “ACCESS2MOUNTAIN”, “Carpathians Unite”, “Sustainable Tourism Strategy for the Carpathians” (CarpatSusTourStrat), “CARPIVIA”, “CarpatClim” and “CarpathCC”;

8. Adopts the Programme of Work for 2015 - 2017 of the Carpathian Convention and welcomes the list of potential projects in support of the Programme of Work contained in Annex 1;


10. Adopts the revised Terms of Reference for the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee and requests CCIC to revise all Terms of References of Working Groups, inter alia, with the view to mainstream the involvement of the regions into the implementation of the Carpathian Convention, as well as the contributions of the Working Groups to the Carpathian Convention Information System;

11. Calls upon the Parties to undertake the necessary action to promote and ensure full implementation of the Programme of Work, in consultation with and with the support of relevant institutions, international organizations and non-governmental organizations;

12. Calls upon the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention in Vienna to actively promote and service the implementation of the Programme of Work and the implementation of COP Decisions;

13. Recognizes the need and pledges to further strengthen the Secretariat given its additional tasks and responsibilities related to the implementation of the Protocol on the Protection of Biological and Landscape Diversity, including the servicing of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas, the implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management, the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism, the Protocol on Sustainable Transport, as well as the possible development of new thematic strategic documents;

14. Calls for organization of joint Working Group meetings, where possible and appropriate, for interaction and cooperation issues;

15. Decides that each Party will contribute to the Trust Fund on a yearly basis in accordance with the attached scale of assessment as in Annex 2;
Recalling its Decision COP3/14 of 27 May 2011, by which it, inter alia:

- Agreed to establish a Trust Fund to cover the cost of administering and meeting the objectives of the Carpathian Convention and related Protocols, including the functioning of its Secretariat (para 12)
- Adopted the terms of reference for the administration of the Trust Fund as annexed to the decision (para 12)
- Decided that the Convention’s Programme of Work and budget for 2012 – 2014 be used as the budget of the Trust Fund (para 14), and
- Requested the Executive Director of UNEP to assume responsibility for administering the Trust Fund, and to delegate the necessary administrative authorities to the Head of the Secretariat in line with the Rules and Regulations of the United Nations (para 15)

Recalling furthermore that in the terms of Reference of the Trust Fund, adopted by the COP, it was, inter alia, envisaged that it is for the COP and UNEP to agree on and administrative support charge to be paid to UNEP (para 13).

Aware that Trust Fund was established for a period of 3 years, i.e. formally to 27 May 2014, whereas the Trust Fund arrangement in UNEP ends in December 2014:

1. Expresses its gratitude to the Executive Director of UNEP for assuming responsibility for administering the Trust Fund for Administering and Meeting the Objectives of the Framework Convention for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians and related Protocols (Carpathian Convention);

2. Decides to extend the Trust Fund for three years until the fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention in 2017 and requests UNEP to continue to administer the Trust Fund until that date in accordance with the Terms of Reference adopted by the third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

3. Decides that the Programme of Work – Budget for 2015, 2016 and 2017 of the Carpathian Convention as approved in Decision 4/14 shall be used as the budget of the Trust Fund for these years;

4. Request the Executive Director of UNEP to inform the Contracting Parties of the measures taken in relation to its request to delegate the necessary administrative authorities to the Head of the Secretariat in Vienna in line with the Rules and Regulations of the United Nations (decision COP3/14, para 15);

5. Furthermore, taking into account para 13 of the approved terms of reference of the Trust Fund contained in Annex 4 of Decision COP3/14, requests the Executive Director of UNEP to maximize the use of the 13% PSC for the benefit of the Convention and the functioning of the Secretariat, and inform the Contracting Parties accordingly.
DECISION COP4/16
Location of Permanent Secretariat

The Conference of the Parties

1. Takes note of the comparison table of the offers of locations for a permanent secretariat of the Carpathian Convention prepared by the Secretariat using the Criteria for selection of the Carpathian Convention Permanent Secretariat location;

2. Recalls that the resolution of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the adoption and signatures of the Carpathian Convention stipulates that the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention will be located in the Carpathian region;

3. Expresses its gratitude to UNEP for providing the Secretariat to the Carpathian Convention through its office in Vienna and requests it to continue to provide these services;

4. Decides to review the issue of the Secretariat location and relevant requirements at its 5th/6th meeting of the COP and requests the CCIC to steer the process and prepare proposals for permanent arrangements.

DECISION COP4/17
Guidelines for the use of the logo of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. Requests the Secretariat to develop and implement a policy for the use of the logo of the Carpathian Convention.

Decision COP4/18
Date and venue of the Fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. Decides to accept the generous offer of the Government of Hungary to convene the Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP5) in ........ in 2017, and requests the Secretariat to make the necessary arrangements, in consultation with the host Government and the CCIC;

2. Requests the Secretariat to undertake the necessary preparation in consultation with all interested partners and stakeholders;

3. Invites all interested partners to make a financial contribution to the organization of the Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention.
Decision COP4/19
Presidency of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. Express its gratitude for the successful Presidency of the Slovak Republic to the Carpathian Convention, as well as to the previous Presidencies of Ukraine and Romania.