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

**Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on the
Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians on its Fifth Meeting**
(Lillafüred, Hungary, 10-12. October 2017)

1. Official opening of the COP5 Technical Segment and welcome remarks

The Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP5) was held at Hunguest Hotel Palota in Lillafüred, Hungary, from 10 to 12 October 2017, at the kind invitation of the Government of Hungary. Altogether, some 180 participants had registered for the meeting. The Meeting was opened by Ms. Eliška Rolfová, National Focal Point, Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic, as the representative of the Czech Presidency. Mr. Michal Pastvinský, Director, Department of International Relations, Ministry of the Environment, gave a speech, on behalf of the outgoing Presidency, outlining the main achievements and priorities of the Czech Presidency 2014 – 2017. Mr. Pastvinský invited then the representative of the incoming Presidency, Hungary, Ms. Klára Székér, National Focal Point, Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary, to deliver the welcome remarks and official handed over the Presidency to Hungary. Ms. Klára Székér delivered a welcome speech in which the priorities of the upcoming Presidency were announced.

2. Organizational matters

In accordance with the Rules of Procedures for the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention, the meeting elected the following Bureau:

Hungary – Presidency

Poland – Vice-Presidency

Czech Republic – Rapporteur

Ms. Klára Székér chaired the technical segment of the COP5 on behalf of the new Presidency of Hungary.

The Head of the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, Mr. Harald Egerer reported on submission of the credentials and full powers in the capacity of the Executive Secretary of the Convention. Credentials of six out of seven delegations were received and found in order. The meeting adopted the provisional Agenda without any changes contained in CC/COP5/DOC1.

3. Status of contributions, status of ratification of the Biodiversity Protocol, the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management and the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism

Mr. Denys Krymov, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, in the capacity of the Depository informed on the status of signatures and ratifications of the Protocols: the Biodiversity Protocol entered into force for all Parties, the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management entered into force for all the Parties, except Poland; the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism entered into force for

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

all the Parties; the Protocol on Sustainable Transport was ratified by the Slovak Republic, Poland and Ukraine (CC/COP5/DOC9).

Mr. Egerer informed the meeting about the status of contributions.

4. Implementation of the Carpathian Convention – Presentation of the activities, scientific inputs and draft decisions for COP5

The agenda item 4. focused on presentation of the achievements and current activities of the Carpathian Convention involving the main experts engaged in the relevant undertakings. The sessions were divided into specific sectors (climate change, biodiversity, sustainable agriculture and rural development, sustainable forest management, sustainable tourism, cultural heritage and traditional knowledge, sustainable transport, education and awareness raising, cooperation with other institution and EU programmes) and were preceded by scientific inputs on the state of the art/challenges provided by the Science for the Carpathians (S4C). The introduction of particular draft decisions was accompanied by numerous presentations of projects, activities or studies developed within the last implementation period and related to the topic of the respective draft decision. This new format allowed the participants not only to learn about the progress made within different areas of the implementation of the Convention, but also supplied the text of the decisions with necessary substance. Moreover, this approach provided an excellent opportunity for experts and stakeholders from different Carpathian countries and fields of work to learn about the issues discussed within other areas. Possible links and opportunities for future cooperation could therefore be considered more easily, in line with the integrated approach the Carpathian Convention is unique for. Although, time limitations did not allow displaying the content of all draft decisions, in most cases delegations did not call for open floor discussions, since the documents were presented to Parties in good time in advance and were subject to thorough precedent negotiations. In summary, the delegations reached consensus on the text of all decisions, allowing them to be submitted to the COP5 for adoption in its entirety.

By agreeing on the text of COP5 Decisions, the Parties recommended for adoption by the Ministerial Segment 19 Decision in various sectors, including adoption of the Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, the amendment of the Carpathian Convention by adding the new article 12bis on Climate Change, Programme of Work for 2018 - 2020 of the Carpathian Convention, the Budget for 2018, 2019 and 2020 for the Carpathian Convention¹.

Under the Decision COP5/19 the priorities of the Hungarian Presidency have been listed with particular attention to climate change, awareness raising and education, environmental safety, cultural heritage, sustainable agriculture and rural development.

¹ Full text of the COP5 Decision, the SARD Protocol and the text of the new Article on Climate Change, including the amended Carpathian Convention text, are available on the Carpathian Convention website /COP5 page under OUTCOME DOCUMENTS, click [here](#) or visit http://www.carpathianconvention.org/tl_files/carpathiancon/Downloads/03%20Meetings%20and%20Events/COP/2017_COP5_Lillafured/outcomes_documents.html#head

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

Presentation² of the main activities of the Carpathian Convention, the scientific inputs and interventions were delivered the below order:

Climate Change:

Mr. Marcel Mindrescu, on behalf of the Science of the Carpathians, presented studies on adaption capacity of Carpathian ecosystems/landscape to climate change.

Mr. Sandor Szalai, on behalf of the Presidency, presented the new Article on Climate Change to the Carpathian Convention and Priority Actions of its implementation.

Ms. Dania Abdul Malak, European Environment Agency (EEA), presented the development of details information on the Carpathian Convention on the Climate-ADAPT Platform.

Mr. Magnus Andresen and Ms. Eleonora Musco, on behalf of the Secretariat, presented the new publication – Outlook on climate change adaptation in the Carpathian Mountains.

Administrative Units:

Mr. Harald Egerer, the Secretariat, presented the information gathered from the Parties regarding the administrative units where they implement the Carpathian Convention, which resulted in the interactive draft map produced by the European Environmental Agency.

Biodiversity:

Mr. Lubos Halada, on behalf of the Science for the Carpathians, delivered a presentation on biodiversity and landscape diversity.

Mr. Cristian Papp, WWF DCP, presented a report on large carnivores in the Carpathians and introduced the idea of the International Action Plan for the conservation and sustainable management for the Carpathian populations of large carnivores.

Mr. Harald Egerer, the Secretariat, shortly presented a summary of the National Reports on Implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol, however thorough analysis of the Report was impossible due to the late submission of the report by the Parties.

Mr. Mircea Vergelet, CNAP Unit, shortly presented current and future activities of the CNPA.

Mr. Cristian Papp, WWF DCP, presented ConnectGREEN project proposals.

² All the presentations delivered at the COP5 meeting are available Carpathian Convention website /COP5 page under PRESENTATIONS, click [here](#) or visit http://www.carpathianconvention.org/tl_files/carpathiancon/Downloads/03%20Meetings%20and%20Events/COP/2017_COP5_Lillafuered/prezentacie.html

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

Mr. Piort Mikolaczyk, UNEP/GRID Warsaw, presented LIFE Green-Go! Carpathians project being implemented in the Polish part of the Carpathians.

Mr. Martin Strnad, Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic, presented the 3lynx project.

Ms. Klaudia Kuras, the Secretariat, presented the online platform on Mountain Biodiversity

Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

Mr. Christian Hoffman, Eurac Research, S4C, delivered a presentation on the new Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development and possible future activities in this sector.

Sustainable Forest Management:

Mr. Yurij Bihun, on behalf of the Science for the Carpathians, delivered scientific inputs on the topic on sustainable forest management.

Ms. Dania Abdul Malak, EEA, presented the draft Inventory of Virgin Forest and activities related to identification of natural forest in the region.

Intervention:

The Delegation of Ukraine stressed the importance the natural forest in the Carpathian and suggested to focus work of the Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management more in that field.

Sustainable Tourism

Ms. Elena Matei, on behalf of the Science for the Carpathians, gave scientific input on the Carpathian tourism focused on issues, gaps, gains and directions.

Ms. Alina Szasz, Brasov County Council, presented the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform, Center Romania, and its activities related to the implementation of the Tourism Protocol.

Mr. Michael Meyer, Ecological Tourism in Europe (ETE), presented the project - Support to the Elaboration and Implementation of the Tourism Protocol and the Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Carpathians.

Ms. Cinzia de Marzo, (ETE Team) presented the Common set of indicators measuring the positive and negative impacts caused by tourism in the Carpathians.

Mr. Dawid Lasek, EUROREGION Karpacki, Poland, could not present the Carpathia Brand in person, however the presentation is available online.

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

Mr. Agnes Szabó-Diószeghy, presented the V4 Found project – CARPATHIAN TOURISM.

Ms. Monika Ochwat – Marcinkiewicz, Ekopsychology Society, presented the Future of the Carpathians Carpathians of the Future.

Mr. Walter Hauer and Ms. Elisabeth Mattes, presented a project idea “The Great Carpathians” Europe’s longest Mountain bike -Trail Tour for Cyclists.

Intervention:

The Slovak Delegation presented its proposals for the future priorities of the Working Group on Sustainable Tourism:

- 1) *Establishing of the Marketing plan in every member country and than produce General marketing plan for whole Carpatian Convention.*
- 2) *Slovakia will provide the counter for Carpathian Convention (CC) in its exhibition stand during some exhibitions like ITB Berlin, ITB London, ITB China in Russia.*
- 3) *Slovak Republic will provide one work force responsible for communication among CC member countries regarding CC web page.*
- 4) *Slovak Republic is proposing to the CC Sekretariat to produce the List of „communicators“ from all member countries who will be responsible for communicating marketing questions.*

The Hungarian Delegation informed that Hungary will host the 2018 World Tourism Day, on 27 September in Budapest.

Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform – Centre Ukraine offered to host the next meeting of the Working Group on Sustainable Tourism in Uzhgorod in the first half of 2018.

Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge:

Mr. Zsolt Molnar, on behalf of the Science for the Carpathians, presented the scientific inputs on the Carpathians’ cultural heritage and traditional knowledge, the nexus between generations and space.

Ms. Klaudia Kuras, the Sekretariat, presented the paper on World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism in the Carpathians and possible future activities of the WG Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge.

Intervention:

The Hungarian Delegation offered to host a meeting of the Working Group on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge.

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

2018 will be the European Year of Cultural Heritage.

Sustainable Transport

Ms. Hildegard Meyer, WWF DCP, presented the TRANSGRREN project and its activities related to the implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Transport.

Education and awareness raising

Mr. Andreas Beckmann, WWF DCP and on behalf of the Secretariat, deliver a presentation on Education for Sustainable Development in the Carpathians

Mr. Attila Varga, on behalf of the Presidency, presented the idea of a seminar on environmental and sustainable development education and awareness raising in kindergartens and schools.

Cooperation with other institutions and EU Programmes

The most relevant financial mechanisms for supporting implementation of the Carpathian Convention and cooperation with other institutions were presented as follows:

- International Visegrad Fund presented by Ms. Beata Jaczewska, IVF
- Danube Transnational Programme by Ms. Alessandra Pala, JTS Danube Programme
- Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme by Ms. Monika Schönerklee-Grasser, JTS Central Europe
- Life+, Horizon2020, Interreg Europe by Mr. Giacomo Luciani, EU Commission
- Cooperation with EUSDR – presentation on progress by Ms. Eleonora Musco, on behalf of the Secretariat
- Cooperation with Alpine Convention by Ms. Taja Ferjančič Lakota, Alpine Convention
- Cooperation with ICPDR and presentation of the Jointisza project by Mr. Ivan Zavadsky, ICPDR
- Cooperation with the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation by Mr. Klaus Hackländer, CIC.

5. Date and venue of the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP6)

The Delegation of Poland made an offer to host the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP6) in 2020 in Poland. The Parties welcomed the offer and recommended it to the Ministerial Segment for adoption.

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

6. Closing of the Technical Segment

Ms. Klára Szekér together with Mr. Harald Egerer officially closed the Technical Segment of the COP5 and thanked the Parties for great cooperation in preparations for the Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the participants for their active contribution, as well as the organizers for excellent organization of the COP5 meeting.

Ministerial Segment

1. Opening and welcome remarks

Minister of Agriculture of Hungary, Mr. Sándor Fazekas, delivered a welcome speech on behalf of the Hungarian Presidency, which was followed by the hand-over ceremony and the speech by Mr. Michal Pastvinský on behalf of the outgoing Presidency, the Czech Republic. Afterwards, Mr. Jan Dusik, Director and Regional Representative, UN Environment - Regional Office for Europe addressed the meeting on behalf of UN Environment.

2. Progress in the implementation of the Carpathian Convention

Mr. Harald Egerer, delivered the presentation on achievements, ongoing activities and future priorities of Carpathian Convention on behalf of the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention.

3. Future of the Carpathians

The keynote speech on behalf of stakeholders and civil societies was delivered by Mr. Andreas Beckmann, Director of WWF Danube – Carpathian Programme, who focused on the future of the Carpathians using the method of scenario thinking to depict how the Carpathian region could look like in 2050 – Carpathian Vision 2050. The keynote speech was accompanied by a video message and statements from representatives of the youth living in the Carpathian region, presenting their vision of and hopes for the Carpathians in the future.

4. Moderated high level discussion

The keynote speech was directly linked to the moderated high-level discussion. The Head of Delegations, Mr. Sándor Fazekas, Minister of Agriculture of Hungary, Mr. Michal Pastvinský, Deputy Director General, Department of International Relations, Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic, Mr. Jan Szyszko, Minister of the Environment of Poland, Mr. Viorel Toma, State Secretary, President of the National Agency for Environmental Protection of Romania, Mr. Norbert Kurilla, State Secretary, Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, Mr. Sergiy Gubar, National Focal Point of Ukraine, Expert of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, addressed issues of role of biodiversity for the future of the Carpathians, impacts of climate change

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

on the region, especially in regard to agriculture and tourism, role of the Carpathian forest and protected areas, as well as importance of international cooperation³.

Further statements were made by Ms. Marianna Elmi, Deputy Secretary General, Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, Mr. Ivan Zavadsky, Executive Secretary, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), and Mr. Florian Carius, German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation.

5. Presentation of Pan – Carpathian expeditions

Mr. Jerzy Montusiewicz, leader of the very first Pan-Carpathian expeditions done in 1979, and Mr. Vlad Spiru and Mr. Andrei Dumitrescu, students from Romania, who made the last one in 2015, jointly presented the expeditions sharing the similarities and differences, but above all lasting admiration for the Carpathian Mountains.

6. Brief report on the COP5 Technical Segment by the Rapporteur

The Rapporteur, Ms. Eliška Rolfová, National Focal Point, Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic, presented a brief report on the COP5 Technical Segment (10 – 11 October 2017). For the full Rapporteur speech⁴.

7./8./9./ Adoption of the COP5 Documents

The Conference of the Parties adopted the new Article 12bis Climate Change to the Carpathian Convention.

The Conference of the Parties adopted the Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathian, and Hungary and Romania signed the Protocol, whereas the Czech Republic, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine expressed their commitment to sign the Protocol after fulfilment of the internal procedures.

The Conference of the Parties adopted the COP5 Decisions agreed on by the Technical Segment (10 – 11 October 2017) on a number of issues relevant to the items on the Agenda of the meeting and beyond.

³ Short video presenting highlights of the Ministerial Segment, including the high-level discussion will be available on the Carpathian Convention [website](#) shortly

⁴ The Rapporteur speech is available on the Carpathian Convention website /COP5 page under OUTCOME DOCUMENTS, click [here](#) or visit http://www.carpathianconvention.org/tl_files/carpathiancon/Downloads/03%20Meetings%20and%20Events/COP/2017_COP5_Lillafuered/outcomes_documents.html#head

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

10. Closure of the COP5 Meeting

Mr. Jan Szyszko, Ministry of the Environment of Poland, kindly confirmed the offer for hosting the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2020 in Poland.

The meeting was declared closed at 13.30 hours on Thursday, 12 October 2017.