



CARPATHIAN CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE (CCIC)

**THIRD MEETING
BRATISLAVA, SLOVAK REPUBLIC, 29 – 30 NOVEMBER 2010**

DRAFT REPORT OF THE MEETING

Agenda Item 1 - Opening of the meeting

At its opening session the meeting was addressed by the Minister of the Environment of the Slovak Republic HE József Nagy. The Minister welcomed the participants to Bratislava, highlighted the interest and support of his government for the Carpathian Convention process and the upcoming Third Conference of the Parties (COP3).

Ms. Ramona Cherascu of Romania was elected as Chair and - at the proposal of the Romanian delegation – Mr. Frits Schlingemann (FS) served as Co-chair.

Mr. Harald Egerer (HE) made an introductory statement on behalf of the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (ISCC).

Agenda Item 2 – Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was adopted without change.

Agenda Item 3 - Status of contributions, Status of ratification of Biodiversity Protocol

HE on behalf of ISCC presented the current state of contributions to the Carpathian Convention, as well as of ratification of the Protocol on Biodiversity (BD) (see Annex I, Doc. UNEP/CC/CCIC3/7).

Depositary Ukraine informed that it recently received the instrument of ratification of Romania. Serbia will provide information on the status of ratification at a later stage. In Slovak Republic ratification of the BD Protocol is under way.

Agenda Item 4 - Implementation of the Carpathian Convention - Progress report:

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

HE informed the CCIC that the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) of the BD Protocol has been finalized. It was suggested that in the document reference is made to decisions that have been recently adopted at the Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and relevant directives of the European Union.

ISCC will update and make the necessary editorial changes to the document after which the SAP will be submitted to COP3 for adoption.

Mr. Mircea Verghelet, Chair of the Carpathian Network on Protected Areas (CNPA), provided an update on the recent activities of the CNPA: the workshop held in Mikulov and the proposal to set up a joint CNPA-Alparc platform on ecological connectivity. He stresses that establishing the platform will not involve any additional costs, but remain a voluntary initiative that can be served by anyone.

The CCIC agreed to request COP3 to welcome the initiative.

In addressing the proposed revised Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the respective Working Groups (WGs) and the CNPA, CCIC agreed that these should as much as possible be harmonized, especially where it concerns the section on “composition and organization of work”.

The CCIC reviewed, revised and agreed to submit the ToRs of the CNPA and WG on Biodiversity (BD) to COP3 for approval.

Mr. Giacomo Luciani (GL) on behalf of the EURAC expert team/UNEP Vienna – ISCC reported on progress regarding the “BIOREGIO Carpathians” project proposal that has been submitted under the last call of the EU South Eastern Europe programme. The final decision with regard to the approval of the project is still pending.

The CCIC considered and agreed to submit the CNPA Medium Term Strategy to COP3 for approval.

Short statements were delivered by Mr. Wolfer Mayrhofer (Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention) and Mr. Andreas Beckmann (WWF-DCP).

Ms. Barbara Ruis on behalf of UNEP/DELCO informed the CCIC of developments with the regard to the Ramsar Convention. The idea of bringing the Convention under UNEP has been under discussion for many years. A specific Ad Hoc Working Group was set up to deal with the administrative reform of the Ramsar Convention; the WG will report to the standing Committee and then to COP10 in Romania in spring 2010.

In reply to the suggestion for evaluating the implementation of the BD SAP, HE informs that each meeting of the COP should revisit and adapt the plan if and when needed.

CCIC recommendations to COP3

- To adopt the Strategic Action Plan of the Biodiversity Protocol.
- To welcome and support the establishment of an ecological platform for the Carpathians, the invitation of Alpine observers to the Carpathian platform, and the participation of Carpathian observers in the Alpine Platform upon invitation.
- To adopt the revised ToRs of the WG BD.
- To welcome and support the “BIOREGIO Carpathians” project proposal that aims at implementing the main provisions of the BD Protocol.
- To adopt the Medium-Term Strategy of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas.
- To adopt the revised ToRs of the CNPA SC.
- To welcome the assistance by Alparc and ongoing cooperation with the Alpine Convention.
- To express its gratitude to WWF-DCP for its cooperation in the organisation of the CNPA SC meetings within the PA4LP project and for the development of the activities related to management of protected areas in the Carpathians and the establishment of a related clearing house mechanism.
- To welcome the work and activities of the CWI in support of the implementation of the BD Protocol, welcome the ongoing cooperation with the Ramsar Convention and urge Parties to take appropriate action on the effective protection and sustainable use of Carpathian wetlands.

b. Spatial planning: Secretariat Report (Article 5 of the Carpathian Convention)

HE briefed the meeting on the status of the follow-up platform, the VASICA study under the Carpathian Project, and the “CLISP” project (funded under Alpine Space Programme) to which UNEP Vienna –ISCC is a project partner. The ISCC contributed to the public

consultation process on the future EU Strategy for the Danube Region. Since COP2 no meeting of the Working Group on Spatial Planning has been held.

A first draft of the “Strategic Action Plan for the Sustainable Development of the Carpathian Area” has been elaborated and was presented by Ms. Maria Krislova (AEM). The objective is to seek support of the Ministers of the Parties to the CC for presenting the Plan to the EC in Brussels during the negotiation of future policies. On 25 January 2011 a Workshop will be convened in Brussels to further elaborate on the prepared draft text (Carpathian national and regional representatives and EU representatives will be invited to the Workshop).

Mr. Andreas Beckmann (WWF-DCP) highlighted the need to thoroughly review the potential of environmental funds on the European level. Presenting a prepared handout (see Annex II, Doc. UNEP/CC/CCIC3/8) he suggested to organize a Practitioners workshop with the view of sharing experiences in using these funds and lessons learned. The outcome of this workshop could be a joint statement/ recommendation for adoption by COP3.

HE informed that the meeting in Brussels would be convened as a meeting of the WG on Spatial Planning to the CC. The ISCC will lead in organizing this meeting that will be convened in the format of a seminar. It was agreed that no formal submissions would be made to the meeting in Brussels which main aim would be to make stakeholders aware of Carpathian process, including the work on a Carpathian Strategy underpinning the overall objective of creating a Carpathian Space. On the basis of the outcomes of the meeting in Brussels and the workshop proposed by WWF-DCP a more elaborate briefing document will be prepared for consideration/adoption by COP3 and consequent distribution to relevant political actors and stakeholders, with a view to influence decision making by the EU regarding the future EU Territorial Cooperation Funding Programmes.

The CCIC considered, amended agreed on revised ToRs of what in future will be named the “WG on Spatial Development”.

CCIC recommendations to COP3

- To adopt the revised ToRs for the Working Group on Spatial Development.
- To consider and adopt a strategic briefing drawing attention to the Carpathian Convention process in the context of the discussions regarding the future EU Territorial Cooperation Funding Programmes.

c. Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management: Secretariat Report (Article 6 of the Carpathian Convention)

HE proposes to go for a mutual observer ship instead of a MOU between the ISCC and ICPDR.

Ukraine informs participants that under its upcoming presidency of the ICPDR one of the priorities will be the finalization and approval of the Tisza River Management Plan.

An inconclusive discussion took place about the role and potential of the proposed Tisza River Management Plan for the implementation of article 6 of the CC, and for advancing a solution to the unresolved issue of the scope of application of the CC.

CCIC will revert to the matter including a possible recommendation to COP3 at a later stage.

CCIC recommendations to COP3

- To welcome the concluded mutual observer ship between the ICPDR and the Carpathian Convention.

k. Proposal for an “Implementation Report” for COP3 (EURAC)

Mr. Thomas Streifeneder (EURAC) reported on progress in preparing the Carpathian Convention Implementation Report requested by CCIC at its meeting in Vienna in December 2009. So far, a draft table of contents and questionnaire has been prepared by EURAC. It is envisaged to circulate this questionnaire to the National Focal Points early December in order to get inputs with regard to national achievements and challenges with the view of preparing a first draft report on the basis of these inputs. HE added that the final report will be ready three months before COP3. It was agreed to delete the word “comprehensive” from the title of the report. The ISCC further noted that the Carpathian Convention Implementation Report shall not be considered as a formal report.

d. Sustainable agriculture and forestry: Secretariat Report (Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention)

HE proposed and the CCIC reached agreement on the ToRs of the WG on Agriculture and Rural Development, which main objective will be the development of a Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development.

With regard to the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management Czech Republic presented some minor editorial changes to the draft text, which had already been finalized and in summer 2010 was circulated to National Focal Points for internal approval, with a view to adoption and signature at COP3.

The ISCC was requested to seek agreement on the proposals of the Czech Republic in the understanding that this would not disrupt the formal approval process.

The CCIC amended and agreed on the ToRs of the WG on Forests.

CCIC recommendations to COP3.

- To adopt the revised ToRs of the SARD WG including the development of a Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development.
- To adopt and sign the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management.
- To adopt the revised ToRs of the WG on Sustainable Forest Management.

e. Sustainable transport and infrastructure: Secretariat Report (Article 8 of the Carpathian Convention)

g. Industry and Energy: Secretariat Report (Article 10 of the Carpathian Convention)

Mr. Matthias Jurek (EURAC expert team/UNEP Vienna – ISCC) briefed participants on the recent developments with regard to the “ACCESS2MOUNTAINS” project proposal, submitted under the last call of the South Eastern Europe Programme and awaiting the final notification of approval. One of the core activities within this project – if approved – will be the development of the Protocol on Sustainable Transport.

Participants stressed the need to decide the exact scope of the Protocol to be elaborated by the WG. HE concluded that this issue should be a first priority for the WG Working Group on Sustainable Industry, Energy, Transport and Infrastructure

Mr. John Word presented the idea and the elements of setting up a Sustainable Energy Research Alliance for the Carpathians (see Annex III, Doc. UNEP/CC/CCIC3/9). The CCIC recommended to COP3 to take note of the initiative and requested the ISCC to report on developments in this matter. A specific reference to this alliance will be made in the ToRs of the WG.

CCIC Recommendations to COP3

- To adopt the revised ToRs of the WG on Sustainable Industry, Energy, Transport and Infrastructure, including the development of a Protocol on Sustainable Industry, Energy, Transport and Infrastructure.
- To take note of the initiative to create a “Sustainable Energy Research Alliance” and requests the ISCC to report on developments in this matter.
- To welcome future cooperation activities with UNIDO, FAO and other relevant organisations in the field of renewable energies in the Carpathians.

f. Sustainable tourism: Secretariat Report (Article 9 of the Carpathian Convention)

Mr. Michael Meyer (UNWTO) briefed participants on developments with regard to the work of the WG on Sustainable Tourism.

The CCIC agreed that the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism is ready for adoption by COP3. The final version of the text will be again circulated to the CC NFPs for the internal approval process in their countries.

CCIC recommendations to COP3

- To adopt and sign the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism.
- To adopt the revised ToRs of the Working Group on Sustainable Tourism.
- To give mandate to the Interim Secretariat and UNWTO to continue the development of the tourism strategy with the involvement of relevant stakeholders and the support of the national tourism agencies.
- To welcome the ongoing cooperation with and assistance by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), in particular related to the development of projects aimed at promoting the sustainable tourism in the Carpathians.

Agenda Item 5 - Administration and financial management of the Carpathian Convention

HE presented an overview of income and expenditures over the last three years with regard to the Carpathian Convention and introduced what he called the minimum budget requirements for future years, as presented in Appendix 2 of Annex II of TC/COP3/7.

HE presented the advantages and disadvantages of establishing a UNEP Trust Fund in support of the Carpathian Convention, as highlighted in Annex I of TC/COP3/7. In doing so he illustrated that while the choice for an independent Secretariat requires a decision on its location, a choice for UNEP to continue to administer the Secretariat of the Convention in Vienna can be made independent of the decision on its permanent location.

If COP3 would request UNEP to formally administer the Convention Secretariat, it would have to establish a trust fund and request UNEP to administer it. The establishment of such a trust fund requires a decision of the UNEP Governing Council. HE pointed out that the continuation of the current interim arrangement might pose some administrative problems.

The CCIC could not finalize the discussion on the future institutional arrangements, nor could it have a conclusive discussion on the budget proposals for the years to come. Questions which will have to be addressed and solved at the next meeting of the CCIC include:

- Also given the additional workload deriving from protocol implementation requirements, what would be an acceptable minimum Convention budget for the years to come?

- Would it be feasible/preferable to introduce an assessed contribution scale for the minimum/core budget or part of it?
- Would it be proper/timely to formalize UNEP's role of administering the Convention Secretariat by establishing a trust fund and requesting UNEP to administer it, under the explicit understanding that such a decision will not and can not prejudice the decision on the future permanent location of the Secretariat in the region?

Based on the outcome of the discussion the CCIC may amend and agree on the proposed draft decision for adoption by COP3.

The Third Meeting of the CCIC will resume in Vienna on 17 January 2011.

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
EU	European Union
EURAC	European Academy Bolzano
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
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
UNIS	United Nations Information Service
UNOOSA	United Nations Office on Outer Space Affairs
UNOV	United Nations Office at Vienna
VASICA	Visions and Strategies in the Carpathian Area
WG	Working Group