

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CARPATHIANS REPRESENTED BY THE PRESIDENCY OF THE CARPATHIAN CONVENTION AND UNEP VIENNA – INTERIM SECRETARIAT OF THE CARPATHIAN CONVENTION
(hereinafter referred to Carpathian Convention)

AND

THE SCIENCE FOR THE CARPATHIANS INITIATIVE REPRESENTED BY THE SCIENTIFIC STEERING COMMITTEE
(hereinafter referred to S4C)

ACKNOWLEDGING that the Carpathians host a unique natural and cultural diversity, exceptional at the European scale.

NOTING the five Grand Challenges identified by the International Council for Science (ICSU): forecasting - observations – thresholds - responses - innovation, to enable society to cope with, and manage, global change and its impacts in near future.

RECOGNIZING the importance of sub-regional cooperation for sustainable development of the Carpathians to address larger-scale environmental and socioeconomic problems that cannot be tackled with by individual researchers.

ACKNOWLEDGING that the Framework Convention on the Protection and the Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, signed in Kiev in May 2003 by the Carpathian countries and serviced by UNEP Vienna – Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (UNEP Vienna - ISCC), represents a legal framework and a platform for cooperation in the field of sustainable development in the Carpathians.

ACKNOWLEDGING that the current Presidency of the Carpathian Convention (period 2011 – 2014) is held by the Slovak Republic.

RECOGNIZING the potential and capacity of Carpathian science to inform decision-makers at the local, regional and European level, stressing the need to seize the research priorities proposed in the 'Research Agenda for the Carpathians 2010-2015'.

RECOGNIZING the S4C initiative as an important basis for policymaking in the Carpathians, as stated in Decision COP3/8, and NOTING the complimentary nature of the goals and basic principals of the Framework Convention of the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians and S4C.

CONSIDERING the importance to support the science-policy dialogue and to strengthen the role of science for the sustainable development of the Carpathian region.

NOTING the Carpathian Convention's Article 12 on "Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning", as well as Article 19 of the Protocol on Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity and Article 18 of the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management on "Coordinated scientific research and exchange of information", and Article 19.3 of the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism to the Carpathian Convention.

RECOGNIZING the ongoing cooperation between the Carpathian Convention and S4C in the development of important initiatives, such as the "Forum Carpaticum".

THE CARPATHIAN CONVENTION AND S4C HAVE AGREED TO COOPERATE UNDER THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AS FOLLOWS:

I. Duration

This MoU has permanent validity and may be periodically reviewed. It can be terminated within six months notice in writing.

II. Goals

Strengthening the cooperation between the Carpathian Convention and S4C in fields of common interest, this MoU is aimed at providing a durable basis for the collaboration in the field of scientific research, project development and implementation, information exchange and knowledge transfer in the field of protection and sustainable development. The collaboration is aimed in the long term at strengthening the awareness of a Carpathian wide approach in scientific work that provides an important information basis for further strategic political decision making.

III. Fields of Collaboration

Collaboration will include issues covered by the S4C initiative and the Carpathian Convention, in particular:

- Supporting the implementation of the 'Research Agenda for the Carpathians' and the Programme of Work of the Carpathian Convention, in particular in the following fields: climate change, water resource management, land use and land cover change, natural hazards, pollution, forests, biodiversity, ecosystem services, land resource management, rural development, tourism, traditional knowledge, transport and energy, and regional policies.
- Supporting the establishment of a Carpathian Research Area to enhance visibility of Carpathian science, to promote capacity building in the region, and to expand international research collaboration to Europe and globally.
- Addressing data management and access in the Carpathian region, i.e. better access to existing data, better knowledge of data quality and the generation of new data in a manner that allows data sharing among researchers. Pan-Carpathian or meta-studies compiling or synthesizing the results of different parts of the region are particularly important.

IV. Joint Activities

The Carpathian Convention and S4C will cooperate by, inter alia:

- Supporting the implementation of the research priorities identified in the 'Research Agenda for the Carpathians' and in the Carpathian Convention Programme of Work by developing and implementing joint projects, including joint efforts in acquiring project funding, whenever possible;
- Conceptualizing and organizing events at the science-policy interface, such as the Forum Carpaticum;
- Joining forces to promote research funding at the pan-Carpathian and EU level where possible and dissemination of scientific knowledge to policy makers and the public;
- Maintaining a regular dialogue between the Carpathian Convention and S4C, which includes information of and invitation to important events and associated working group sessions, jointly organized seminars, workshops and advisory services in the field of common interest.

V. Commitment

Nothing in this MoU shall create or imply a financial obligation by either party to this Memorandum.

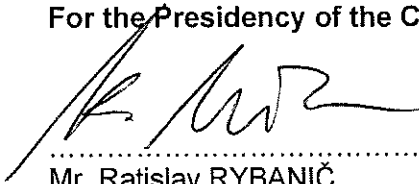
VI. Effectiveness

The MoU will take effect at the day of the signature by both sides.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the duly authorized representatives of the Parties affix their signatures below.

Stara Lesna, 30 May 2012

For the Presidency of the Carpathian Convention



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Mr. Ratislav RYBANIČ

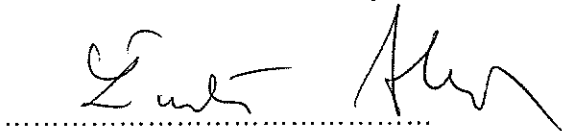
Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic - Section of conservation and landscaping
Director-General

For UNEP Vienna – Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention



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Mr. Harald EGERER
UNEP Vienna – ISCC
Head

For the Science for the Carpathians Initiative



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Mr. Luboš HALADA
S4C Scientific Steering Committee
Chair 2012 - 2014