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## CARPATHIAN CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

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### SECOND MEETING

VIENNA, AUSTRIA, 10 to 11 DECEMBER 2009

Item 2 of the provisional annotated agenda

## PROGRESS REPORT BY THE INTERIM SECRETARIAT

### *Summary*

*The Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP2) was held in Bucharest, Romania, on 17-19 June 2008. COP2 adopted 16 decisions, including the Programme of Work of the Convention for the period 2009-2011 outlining the objectives to be accomplished by its Third Meeting.*

*The present report does not include the reports on the progress of implementation of the Carpathian Convention at the national level. The delegations of the Carpathian Convention countries are invited to present the progress made in the CCIC meeting. This report outlines the main activities and developments, which were undertaken by the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (ISCC) or in which it was involved, since COP2.*

*Among the main issues to be addressed by the CCIC are the following:*

- Progress of ratification and implementation of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity (Biodiversity Protocol), progress in preparatory activities for the implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol and Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) issues, consideration of Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the Working Group (WG) on Biodiversity and of the CNPA SC, endorsement of the "BIOREGIO Carpathians" project proposal (former Econet- C) for submission to the EU Program "South East Europe" European Territorial Cooperation Call for proposals, request to the Ministries of the Environment of all the seven Parties to the Carpathian Convention to become observers to the project;*
- Recommendation by the WG on Sustainable Forest Management for the development of the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management for consideration of adoption and*



*signature at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP3) going to be held in Slovakia in 2011, consideration of the ToRs of the WG on Sustainable Forest Management; ensuring the consistency of the Draft Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management with the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity;*

- *Progress on institutional arrangements, strengthening of the ISCC by the European Academy (EURAC) support team, options for the establishment of a Trust Fund to facilitate operational arrangements, discussion of long-term vision, permanent arrangements for the Secretariat and the CNPA;*
- *Progress on the Carpathian Space and the cooperation between the ISCC and the EU, invitation to EU for accession to the Carpathian Convention;*
- *Preparations for COP3 (update by the host country, draft agenda etc.)*

## DECISION COP2/1

### *Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention*

The Biodiversity Protocol, adopted at COP2 in Bucharest on 19 June 2008, was open for signature until 19<sup>th</sup> of June 2009 and has been signed by all the seven Parties to the Carpathian Convention within the deadline. So far, the Czech Republic and the Ukraine have deposited their instruments of ratification of the Protocol.

- *Parties are invited to provide an update on their respective progress of ratification of the Biodiversity Protocol*

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

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

For this purpose a SAP is being prepared under the auspices of the WG on Biodiversity; the first round of consultations took place during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the WG held on 3 March 2009 (Vienna, Austria).

- *Delegations are invited to present possible progress with the implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol in the Parties to the Carpathian Convention*

The SAP for the implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol was first developed in parallel with the draft Biodiversity Protocol. The 1<sup>st</sup> draft SAP was submitted by the ISCC to the Meetings of



the WG on Biodiversity, held respectively in March and November 2007. As stipulated in decision COP2/1 para. 5, the ISCC prepared the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft SAP in line with the text of the Biodiversity Protocol adopted meanwhile by COP2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> draft SAP was then submitted by the ISCC to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the WG on 3 March 2009. The document should be finalized by the WG and submitted for its adoption by COP3 in 2011. The next meeting of the WG on Biodiversity is scheduled to take place during the first half of 2010.

The interim Secretariat with the support of EURAC and close cooperation with respective partners has developed the “BIOREGIO Carpathians” project proposal (formerly known as “Econet-C” proposal), which should help to implement the main transnational provisions of the Protocol on Biodiversity to the Carpathian Convention, in consistency with EU legislation and in particular with “NATURA 2000”. The project proposal should be presented under the 2<sup>nd</sup> Call of the South East Europe (SEE) programme of European Territorial cooperation (see Annex I).

It aims at developing and implementing integrated management plans for natural areas to promote a regional development in the region and at improving the ecological connectivity in the Carpathians.

- *Parties might consider recommending that the Ministries of the Environment of all seven Parties to the Carpathian Convention to become observers to the project proposal “BIOREGIO Carpathians” and constitute its steering mechanism*

**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 CNPA SC, during its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, held on 19 June 2008 in Bucharest, Romania, decided to establish a CNPA Unit. The work of the CNPA Unit should continue during the next years on an interim basis until a final decision on the proposal for a permanent arrangement is taken by COP3. The CNPA SC engaged in drafting the internal rules for the CNPA Unit and for the Protected Areas Conference. Romania, the WWF-DCP and Alpine Network of Protected Areas (ALPARC), the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention/Task Force Protected Areas expressed their interest in supporting the development of the Work Plan 2009, as well as the Medium Term Strategy of the CNPA.

On 23-24 September 2008 (Poiana Brasov, Romania) the 1<sup>st</sup> CNPA-Conference was convened that considered and provided inputs to the CNPA Medium Term Strategy and the CNPA Work Plan (2010-2015), prepared by the CNPA SC and the ISCC in cooperation with ALPARC, the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention/Task Force Protected Areas and the WWF-DCP. The two strategic documents were submitted to the CNPA SC for consideration.

The Bureau of the Carpathian Convention met on 2 March 2009 and welcomed the offer by the Slovak Republic to facilitate and organise consultations between Romania, the Slovak Republic and Ukraine on the establishment of the Permanent Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, including the CNPA Unit. Consequently, the joint Meeting of the WG on Biodiversity and the



CNPA SC held on 4 March 2009 recommended that the CNPA SC should refrain from further discussing institutional issues as the Bureau decided that the secretariat-related issues will be discussed and decided at the high political level.

The recommendations to the CNPA SC by the Bureau (2 March 2009), by the WG on Biodiversity (3 March 2009), and by the Joint Meeting of the WG on Biodiversity and the CNPA SC (4 March 2009), can be summarized as follows:

As regards the CNPA Conference, the CNPA SC should finalize a proposal on the role and place of the protected areas managers gatherings in the Convention process. The CNPA SC may propose amendments to the ToRs of the WG on Biodiversity for consideration by the CCIC. The SC should refrain from further discussing the issue of the CNPA permanent arrangement / “Unit” now that the Bureau decided that the secretariat-related issues will be discussed by the competent Ministries of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention. The SC may propose amendments to the ToRs of the CNPA for consideration by the CCIC instead of creating new “separate” ToRs for the CNPA SC.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CNPA SC on 4 March 2009 recommended modification of the ToRs of the WG on Biodiversity by deleting all the references to the CNPA and its SC. It was agreed to propose that the ToRs for the CNPA should be modified accordingly. Amended ToRs for the CNPA should be presented to the CCIC for consideration, together or as part of the proposal for permanent arrangements for CNPA.

- *The CCIC is invited to consider and adopt the revised ToRs of the WG on Biodiversity (see Annex II);*
- *The CCIC may provide guidance on the revision of ToRs of the CNPA (see Annex III).*

**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.**

Following COP1, the ISCC circulated a draft CNPA Work Plan and Medium Term Strategy by ALPARC to the CNPA National Focal Points and other partners for inputs. The draft CNPA Medium Term Strategy was subject to national consultations in the Parties to the Carpathian Convention prior, during and after the CNPA Protected Area Conference held in September 2008 (for instance national consultations with CNPA member protected areas were carried out twice in Poland in 2008).

The joint Meeting of the WG on Biodiversity and the CNPA on 4 March 2009 recommended that the CNPA SC should focus on action. Regarding the Medium-term Strategy and Work Plan (2010-2015), the CNPA SC should as soon as possible finalize the agenda for short, medium and long-term action by the CNPA for consideration by the CCIC.



Prior to the “Carpathian Biodiversity Days” meetings (February/March 2009), Slovakia circulated a new version of the draft CNPA Medium-Term Strategy with a different structure inspired by the one of the Ramsar Strategy. The 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CNPA SC on 4 March 2009 agreed to further develop the Medium-Term Strategy based on this version. The meeting decided that the CNPA Focal Points would circulate to the protected areas the consolidated final draft of the Medium-Term Strategy together with a consolidated version of the Work Plan (2010-1015) for their inputs, comments and improvements.

The next meeting of the CNPA SC in conjunction with a Protected Areas for a Living Planet Project (PA4LP) WWF project meeting will take place in Vienna, 21 to 22 January 2010.

## **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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 40<sup>th</sup> 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. The Conference discussed and approved the CWI work plan for 2010.

Furthermore, the “Alpine-Carpathian Corridor” project promoting ecological connectivity between the Alps and the Carpathians has finally been approved by the ETC programme for bilateral cooperation between Austria and the Slovak Republic. The project aims at contributing to the implementation of the COP2 decisions on sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity, as well as on sustainable transport and infrastructure in the Carpathians, in the framework of the MoU between the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention.



**COP2/13 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.)

## DECISION COP2/2

### *Spatial planning*

#### *Article 5 of the Carpathian Convention*

**Para. 1: The COP recommends continuation of the activity of the WG on Spatial Planning**

The “Visions and Strategies in the Carpathian Area” (VASICA) – produced under the “Carpathian Project” is available in a final draft. Based on the Carpathian Project’s deliverables that provide a harmonized data basis and reflects findings on current situation, problems and challenges in different topics in the Carpathians, “VASICA” represents a strategic document formulating a Carpathian Spatial development vision.

The “Carpathian Project”, recognised 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 of the “Carpathian Space”.

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.

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), “Adaptation to climate change through spatial planning in the Alps” which involves dissemination of information and experience sharing with the Carpathians.

The Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and the interim Secretariat were invited to the Seminar on "Territorial cooperation and territorial cohesion" organized by the European Commission on 25 September 2009 in Brussels, to which the Secretariats of the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention 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 following two projects are proposed for support by the Carpathian Convention:

- “*BIOREGIO Carpathians*”
- “*Sustainable Mobility and Tourism in sensitive mountain areas of the Alps and the Carpathians*”

## DECISION COP2/3

### *Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management*

#### *Article 6 of the Carpathian Convention*

**Paras. 3 and 4: 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 ISCC actively participated in the meetings of the UNDP GEF Tisza River project SC (9 December 2009) and in the Tisza Group SC (23-24 September 2009, Kosice, Slovakia).

The Integrated Tisza Water Management Plan under construction. The ISCC has provided inputs to the plan during the 13th Tisza Group and Stakeholder Meeting and 3rd UNDP GEF Tisza MSP Workshop on November 12-13, 2009, as well as during the 11<sup>th</sup> ICPDR Ordinary Meeting in December 10, 2009.

With this respect, and as follow-up to the Transboundary River Management Study Tour conducted in cooperation with the ICPDR in October 2009, 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.

More concretely, the ISCC will cooperate with the ICPDR in organizing the workshop on integration, devoted to integrating land and water use to achieve sustainable water (quality and quantity) management of the Tisza river, to take place tentatively in April 2010 in Hungary, including contribution to the background papers and facilitation of discussion during the workshop.

**Para 5: The COP requests further the ISCC to work on integration of water resources and land use planning.**

The Study Tour Transboundary Water Management of the Morava River Basin took place on 5-9 October 2009. The tour was organized by the ISCC in cooperation with the Secretariat of the ICPDR, the 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.

The main objective of the Tour was to familiarize the participants from Ukraine and Belarus with water management practices, infrastructure and issues of the Morava river management between Austria, the Slovak and the Czech Republic in order for them to be able to consider and apply the



relevant experience in the management of the Pripjat river shared by Belarus and Ukraine. One of the side goals was to facilitate further progress in drafting an agreement between Ukraine and Belarus on the allocation of water in the Dnepro-Burgskiy canal.

Overall, the tour was comprehensive, eventful and informative. Many issues and challenges of the Morava management discussed were directly relevant to balancing needs and interests of the upper Pripjat's water users. Most of the visited practices and infrastructure was evaluated as too expensive to be applied in Ukraine or Belarus today, however the used technical and organizational solutions provoked vivid discussions and are very likely to provide food for thought when planning further work in the these countries. In addition, communication during the tour elucidated potential further cooperation opportunities between the ISCC, the ICPDR and other participating organizations in Ukraine, the Slovak and the Czech Republic. A comprehensive report of the tour is available upon request.

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 14<sup>th</sup> Chapter: Lessons learnt for 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.

- *CCIC might consider to renew the invitation to ICPDR to sign an MoU at COP3*

## 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).

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.

Next steps, including the establishment of the web-based platform, are under discussion with the FAO and will be implemented in the framework of the SARD-M project.





**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:*

The 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 (see Annex IV) and further elaborated on the text of the Draft Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management (for latest version, see Annex V). 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 WG finally agreed on the following recommendation to the CCIC (see Annex VI):

The WG submits the revised draft text Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management to the CCIC and proposes to the CCIC to develop the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management for adoption at COP3 in Slovakia (2011) and further proposes to the CCIC to recommend to the Parties to consider starting inter-ministerial consultations on the draft text of the Protocol.

The WG, furthermore, scheduled a next (and last) meeting in summer 2010 to review the official comments received and to finalize the draft text of the Protocol. The WG in this respect welcomed the offer of the University of Padua to host the next meeting in San Vito, Italy.

- *The CCIC is invited to consider approving the ToRs of the WG on Sustainable Forest Management;*
- *The CCIC is invited to consider prioritizing the development of the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management for possible adoption at COP3;*
- *The CCIC might provide recommendations on the further development of the Draft Protocol;*
- *The CCIC is invited to consider recommending to the Parties to start inter-ministerial consultations on the draft text of the Protocol.*

*Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE):*

In close consultation with the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, the process within the framework of the MCPFE aiming at developing a Pan-European Legally Binding Agreement (LBA) on forests in Europe was closely followed. The interim Secretariat as part of the UNEP delegation participated as an observer in various meetings. The following comments on the work done so far by the MCPFE WG on exploring the potential added value of and possible options for a LBA on forests in the pan-European region were provided:

“Despite of the findings of the WG that the existing international treaties, including the Carpathian Convention, most likely do not contain provisions,



which are in conflict with some of the provisions outlined in proposed content for a LBA on forests in Europe, it is important to note that in order to explore possible conflicting provisions with accuracy, it would be necessary to have a detailed text of possible provisions of a LBA on forests in Europe.

The Carpathian Convention constitutes a sub-regional framework of cooperation, which can be used as implementing tools of a possible Europe-wide LBA. Moreover, the inclusion of a provision on sub-regional agreements in the LBA draft elements would allow benefiting from the work done so far in these frameworks.

Furthermore, the Carpathian Convention represents an important source of expertise and knowledge on Sustainable Forest Management in alpine, montane and forest ecosystems that can contribute to the development and implementations of an LBA in Europe. Therefore, it is important to define ways and means to make use of these important resources. The creation of some institutional linkages between MCPFE / a future LBA and the Convention Secretariats, not only in the form of mutual observer ship, but in the form of Memoranda of Cooperation, is recommendable.”

Furthermore, the Slovak Republic holding the Chairmanship of the WG on Sustainable Forest Management informed the MCPFE Expert Level Meeting in Oslo (24 - 25 November 2009) of the status and recent development of activities relating to the development of a Draft Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management to the Carpathian Convention, as this process can have certain implications for the MCPFE work, particularly in relation to the preparation for a decision on a possible LBA on forests in Europe.

- *The CCIC is invited to consider requesting the ISCC to apply for official observer ship on behalf of the Carpathian Convention to the MCPFE, and*
- *to consider requesting the ISCC to negotiate a MoC with the MCPFE Liaison Unit in Oslo.*

### European Network of Mountain Forests II:

The project “European Network of Mountain Forests II” – aiming at establishing a European-wide platform for promoting mountain forests and their ecosystem services is – which was developed and submitted for consideration under the European programme INTERREG IV was finally rejected.



## 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".

Lead by the Umweltbundesamt (Environment Agency Austria) and 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.

- *The National Focal Points / Ministries of the Environment of all seven Parties to the Carpathian Convention are invited to support and to become observers to the project proposal.*



Another project aiming at the implementation of decision COP2/5 on sustainable transport and infrastructure is the “the Alpine-Carpathian Corridor” with the involvement of many stakeholders from the Slovak Republic and Austria. One purpose of this project is to achieve a legally-non binding MoU between the various stakeholders (Ministries, regions and counties, highway companies etc.).

**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 to work towards (with the ISCC to coordinate and service the process) the development of the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism; and, furthermore, calls for support to the development of future projects, including the “Via Carpatica” - project.**

The project proposal “Sustainable Mobility and Tourism in sensitive mountain areas of the Alps and the Carpathians” (as highlighted above) is currently being developed by project partners from the two regions and is expected to be submitted for consideration under the European Territorial Cooperation Programme – SEE. The project aims at implementing the COP2 decisions related to sustainable transport and infrastructure and sustainable tourism.

Also in the context of the implementation of the decision COP2/6, the ISCC participates in the project “Climate Change and Tourism in the Alps” (“ClimAlpTour”) which involves dissemination of information and experience gained in the Alpine Space to the Carpathian region.

*Sustainable tourism in the Polish Carpathians - Consultation Seminars:*

The next practical stage of the project “Support for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Polish Carpathian Region” in Poland is underway.

A series of 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.

An important objective and added value will also be networking and the exchange of ideas on sustainable tourism among the participants. The next stage of the project will focus upon consultations 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.

The Project will also include the development of a portal – ‘Virtual Carpathians’ and conclude with a working conference in autumn 2010, bring 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 seminars are part of the project entitled „Support for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Carpathian Region” implemented in Poland, of which UNEP/GRID-Warsaw is the Lead Partner and the two collaborating partners are the Eko-Psychology Society and the Northern Alliance for Sustainability (ANPED).

The project is carried out thanks to financial support from the governments of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism, as well as through funds from the state budget of the Republic of Poland provided within the Non-Governmental Organisation Fund.

**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.

**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 has submitted to the ISCC a new proposal to develop an interactive Carpathian Cultural Heritage Inventory (follow-up to the proposal presented to COP2 in June 2009) for further



developments and implementation of the Convention's provisions and the COP2 decision on cultural heritage and traditional knowledge (see Annex VII).

The project will include pilot actions in the region of the Czech Republic and Ukraine, as a first step towards a comprehensive Carpathian Heritage programme and web portal covering all the countries in the Carpathian region.

Furthermore, the ISCC is actively working together with UNESCO on the Carpathian cultural heritage. Several successful meetings between ISCC and UNESCO already took place which further strengthen the cooperation between both institutions,

- *The CCIC might recommend 10.000 Euro support to the proposal submitted by ANPED.*

## 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 was organizing 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 will co-organize the First Forum Carpathicum (pan-Carpathian scientific symposium) in Poland in 2010.

In the context of the preparation by the EEA of the European Ecosystem Assessment (EURECA), a comparative study will be made of the ecosystem services rendered by the Alpine and Carpathian mountain regions. Spearheaded by EURAC, the Carpathian mountain network will contribute to the assessment and help to ensure that the structure and organization of the assessment are conducive to the longer term data and information needs of the Convention process.



## 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 governmental and academic experts, professionals and activists in education for Environment and Sustainable Development from Romania, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, and Ukraine, including the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth of Romania and members of the recently established Carpathian Sustainable Education Network. The workshop 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 “Move4Nature Teacher Training” project on Education for Sustainable Development is a training project oriented towards the schools in the rural mountainous areas, developed in order to acknowledge the importance of education for sustainable development, based on its relevance to the Carpathian Convention, to introduce the concept of the Carpathian Ecoregion to the rural mountainous schools of the Carpathian countries, and to encourage critical thinking about the present use of natural and cultural heritage of the Carpathians in order to contribute to the sustainable development of the Carpathians through production and distribution of the teaching materials and teacher training.

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. The workshop served to finalize the concept of the Tool Kit and to frame and determine the concrete steps of its development. Consequently, the draft Tool Kit was developed in time to be reviewed during the Training of the Trainers and the Teacher Training Tour in Romania, as well as by other partners of the Carpathian Convention, such as CERI, RomSilva and ANPED. Currently, the Tool Kit has been printed in Romanian and an English Draft version for adaptation by the other Carpathian countries is being finalized and printed.

#### **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**

With respect to Public Participation ANPED has previously made investigations and recommendations and proposals to ISCC and the Parties over recent times. To give an overview now :



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. Improvements could be made to the provision of information in practical and technical ways and by developing a fuller communication programme. 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.

There has been previously discussion and dialogue with the ISCC and Parties to the Carpathian Convention on these issues.

## 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.**

- *CCIC might recommend to the Romanian presidency to approach the EC by a renewed letter*

**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.**

Furthermore, the ISCC is working on accessing the European funds offered through different programmes (European Territorial Cooperation, INTERREG IV, etc.) for the projects comprised in the follow-up platform. 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.

## 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 MP, and following the MoU 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) (see Annex VIII).

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.

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 et al.

“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. A resubmission of the project proposal is envisaged.

In 2004 a MoU has been signed between EURAC and UNEP for the cooperation in the frame of the ISCC. Since November 2009 the ISCC is further strengthened by the new established EURAC support team, consisting of Mr. Giacomo Luciani and Mr. Matthias Jurek.



## ACRONYMS

AC .....	Alpine Convention
ALPARC .....	Alpine Network of Protected Areas
ANPED .....	The Northern Alliance for Sustainability
BD .....	Biodiversity
CBD .....	Convention on Biological Diversity
CADSES .....	Central, Adriatic, Danubian and South-Eastern European Space
CASALEN .....	Carpathian Sustainable Education Network
CCIC .....	Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee
CEI .....	Central European Initiative
CERI .....	Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative
CLIMALPTOUR .....	Climate change and its impact on tourism in the Alpine Space
CLISP .....	Climate Change Adaptation by Spatial Planning in the Alpine Space
CNPA .....	Carpathian Network of Protected Areas
COP .....	Conference of the Parties
CWI .....	Carpathian Wetlands Initiative
DABEO .....	Dinaric Arc and Balkans Environment Outlook
EEA .....	European Environment Agency
ENSI .....	Environment and Schools Initiatives
EU .....	European Union
EURAC .....	European Academy
FAO .....	Food and Agriculture Organisation
ICPDR .....	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
IEE .....	Intelligent Energy Europe
ISCC .....	Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention
LBA .....	Legally Binding Agreement
MCPFE .....	Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe
MoC .....	Memorandum of Cooperation
MoU .....	Memorandum of Understanding
MP .....	Mountain Partnership
PA4LP .....	Protected Areas for a Living Planet Project
POW .....	Programme of Work
RENEC .....	Renewable energy in the Carpathians
SAP .....	Strategic Action Plan
SARD .....	Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development
SARD-F .....	SARD - Forests
SARD-M .....	SARD – Mountains
SBSTTA .....	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice
SC .....	Steering Committee
SEE .....	South East Europe
S4C .....	Science for Carpathians
TORs .....	Terms of Reference
UNDP .....	United Nations Development Programme



# 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

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UNEP .....	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO .....	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNIDO .....	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
VASICA .....	Visions and Strategies in the Carpathian Area
WG .....	Working Group
WWF .....	World Wide Fund for Nature
WWF –DCP .....	WWF – Danube Carpathian Programme