

FINAL MEETING REPORT
9th Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee
17 – 19 December 2018, Vienna, Austria

1) Opening remarks and brief report on the Hungarian Presidency activities

Mr. Harald Egerer, Head of the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants of the 9th Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee and invited Mr. Péter Király, the representative of the Hungarian Presidency, to deliver a short report on the Presidency's activities, which have been undertaken from the COP5 and the further plans.

2) Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted with a minor change of the items' order.

3) Update on the status of signatures and ratification of the Protocols of the Carpathian Convention

The Depositary of the Carpathian Convention, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, provided an update on the status of signatures and ratifications of the Protocols. According to the information provided, the Protocol on Sustainable Transport to the Carpathian Convention entered into force for the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine on 14 January 2019, while for Serbia on 6 March 2019.

Secretariat note: Recently the Depositary informed about the ratification of the Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development by Slovakia on 21 December 2018.

The updated tables are annexed to the report (Annex2), as well as available on the Carpathian Convention website*

4) Report on the Forum Carpaticum 2018 and presentation of the recommendations

Ms. Katalin Mazsa and Mr. Luboš Halada, Science for the Carpathians (S4C), briefly presented report and recommendations of the 5th Forum Carpaticum 2018 – Adapting to Environmental and Social Risk in the Carpathian Mountain Region that was held in Eger, Hungary on 15 – 18 October 2018. The presentation with more information is available on the Carpathian Convention.

* All the presentation delivered at the 9th CCIC meeting and documents related to the meeting discussion are available on the Carpathian Convention website/9th CCIC meeting webpage:
<http://www.carpathianconvention.org/eventdetailccic/events/ninth-meeting-of-the-carpathian-convention-implemetation-committee.html>

The CCIC acknowledged the importance of the scientific research undertaken in the Carpathians and suggested to explore possibilities for more systematic exchange of scientific information in order to support decision making processes.

CCIC recommendations:

- CCIC invites the Secretariat and the Parties to explore possibilities for more systematic exchange of scientific information in order to support decision making processes.

5) Implementation of the Programme of Work of the Carpathian Convention – Progress Report – presentation of and discussion about ongoing and planned activities

Implementation of the Carpathian Convention:

During the discussion on development of a comprehensive national report on implementation of the Carpathian Convention covering all the Protocols and relevant sectors it was reiterated that in line with the decision COP5/1, a template for reporting will be presented at the COP6. First comprehensive report will be presented at the COP7. It was also reiterated that the above-mentioned decision requests the Secretariat to develop guidelines and reporting template in consultation with the Parties. The Secretariat in a close collaboration with the Parties will prepare the format of a reporting system. At the same time, the topic of reporting will be put on agenda of every Carpathian Convention Working Group meeting for discussion. The Secretariat will also research on the topic, potentially involving a legal international expert to consult to the best way forward. Czech Republic stressed that the report should focus on clear progress indicators to monitor the implementation of the Convention in order to allow for the evaluation of the added value of the Convention.

The Secretariat sustains the idea of project development focusing on outreach programs targeting local, regional authorities and other stakeholders to increase awareness of the importance of protection and sustainable development of the Carpathian region. However, due to time constraints, development of a relevant project proposal has been postponed. Afterwards, the Parties informed about the recent activities promoting and raising awareness about the Carpathian Convention and its implementation at the national level. The Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic together with the Bile Karpaty Education and Information Centre organizes annually a round table on Carpathian specific topics (in 2018 on SARD) involving regional stakeholders in discussion. Slovakia, through the cooperation of the Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservancy Agency of the Slovak Republic and the Local Action Groups, organizes info days about the Carpathian Convention for universities, municipalities and local stakeholders. Furthermore, one representative from each region of Slovakia joins the interministerial meetings on implementation of the Convention. Poland continues organization of annual meetings of the National Steering Committee involving relevant representatives of Ministries, regional authorities, NGOs and other stakeholders. Poland recently issued also brochures about the Carpathian Convention in Polish and English language.

CCIC recommendations:

- CCIC reiterates the COP5 request to the Secretariat to develop guidelines and reporting template of a comprehensive national report on implementation of the Carpathian Convention. and invites Parties to advise the Secretariat on a reporting format;
- CCIC requests the Secretariat to prepare a note on reporting system, including a reporting template for discussion at the next CCIC meeting, and to put the topic of reporting on agenda of every Carpathian Convention Working Group meeting for discussion.

- CCIC invites the Secretariat to consider, in cooperation with relevant project partners, developing and submitting a project proposal on outreach programmes in due course.

Cooperation with the European Union

The Secretariat reported on the recent developments regarding the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and the revision of its Action Plan, the ongoing discussion about the EU Strategy for the Carpathian Region and the negotiations of new regulations for the Cohesion Policy and European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) for the EU Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027, including also other EU cooperation matters like, cooperation with the Committee of the Regions Interregional Group “Carpathians” (more information in the Progress Report). Resulting from the discussion, the Secretariat shall meet the Danube Strategy Point to discuss the best ways and means for further cooperation with the EUSDR Priority Areas, having in mind the Secretariat’s limited capacity. Furthermore, the Secretariat will continue monitoring the process of the development of the Carpathian Strategy. Ukraine noted the importance of coordination of the Parties’ efforts within the Carpathian Convention and the Carpathian Strategy, to avoid duplication of activities and to improve synergy. Czech Republic emphasized the importance of cooperation with the EUSDR in order to increase synergies between the objectives and the processes of both instruments. The Secretariat shall as well explore possible cooperation opportunities for promotion of the Carpathian Convention activities during the Romanian Presidency of the EU Council and further cooperate and coordinate with the Group “Carpathians” of the Committee of the Regions to promote the region. The Secretariat also informed about the existing collaboration including the past invitations to the EU to accede to the Carpathian Convention.

CCIC recommendations:

- CCIC encourages the Secretariat to continue monitoring the discussion on the Strategy for the Carpathian Region, activities of the Committee of the Regions Group “Carpathians”, the Romanian Presidency of the EU Council, negotiation of the new Cohesion Policy and financial programmes and, if possible, explore possibilities of strengthening existing cooperation;
- CCIC encourages the Secretariat to enter into regular contact with the Danube Strategy Point to discuss the best communication channels and practical means of coordination and EUSDR, its Priority Areas and the Carpathian Convention, in particular, but not exclusively, with reference to the revision of the EUSDR Action Plan, in order to further enhance our ongoing fruitful cooperation.

Cooperation with other Conventions and international bodies

The CCIC stressed that the Carpathian Convention shall be involved in the CBD post2020 process. The focus of possible contribution and its means shall be further explored and discussed, however strengthening of mountain biodiversity aspect of CBD in a global biodiversity framework post 2020 could be considered, including closer cooperation with other mountainous regions.

The Secretariat briefly presented an idea of closer cooperation with the Euromontana (European multisectoral association for co-operation and development of mountain territories), especially in the field of sustainable agriculture and rural development. The formal cooperation will be initiated by signing of a memorandum of cooperation, possibly at the COP6 in Poland. The Secretariat will consult and then finalize the MoC text with the CCIC at its next meeting.

CCIC recommendations:

- CCIC encourages the Parties and the Secretariat to contribute to the CBD post2020 process, promoting protection and sustainable development of mountain regions;

- CCIC invites the Secretariat to draft text of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Carpathian Convention and Euromontana and to submit the draft to the CCIC for consultation and approval.

Biodiversity

Concerning the WG Biodiversity work on large carnivores, the Parties considered useful the recommendation of the workshop “Towards the standardization of monitoring procedures for large carnivores’ populations in the Carpathians”, especially the elaboration of a report presenting the population status of large carnivores and monitoring methods in every Carpathian country, and elaboration of joint guidelines on standardized methods estimating population status and promoting common standards. Poland raised a question on how the Carpathian Convention could contribute to the European processes on large carnivores without duplicating the work.

The Czech Republic sustained its kind offer to host the next meeting of the WG Biodiversity, potentially combine with a workshop organized by the EUSDR PA2 Energy. Subject of the workshop to be further determined, however the current discussion on workshop’s topic focuses on impact of powerline on birds. The exact date is to be confirmed, however the meeting should be organized in May 2019 in the Czech Carpathians.

WWF DCP briefly informed about a project proposal on wildlife crime to ISP funding line of DG HOME, the Secretariat will explore the possibilities of joining the project and will provide more information to the CCIC, if successful. Furthermore, the topic of illegal killing of wild birds will be added to the agenda of the next WG Biodiversity meeting.

Concerning the Red Lists, it was agreed, as suggested by Ukraine, that the Secretariat shall send a notification to the Parties asking for concrete suggestions on how to further work on the topic in line with decision COP5/4 which calls upon the Parties to submit the official comments and/or positions on the Lists to the CCIC.

Concerning the topic of invasive alien species, the CCIC agreed that a need-based approach will apply in this regard, at the same time, the topic shall be added to the agenda on the next WG Biodiversity meeting.

The Secretariat informed about the final evaluation phase of the CENTRALPARKS project proposal submitted under the third call of the Central Europe (CE) Programme.

Secretariat Note: CENTRALPARKS project proposal was approved! Further information will be shared soon.

The Secretariat requested the chairman of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas, Mr. Mircea Verghelet, to provide more information on cooperation between ALPARC, DANUBEPARKS and CNPA and a project proposal.

Mr. Ján Kadlečík, the State Nature Conservancy of Slovak Republic, coordinator of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI), presented a report on current and planned activities of CWI, as well as potential options for further CWI governance. More information can be found in the presentation available on the Carpathian Convention/9th CCIC meeting website*. The CCIC agreed that the CWI matters will be put on the agenda of the next WG Biodiversity meeting.

Ms. Hildegard Mayer, WWF DCP, in the capacity of the Lead Partner, presented the project called “[ConnectGREEN](#) - Restoring and managing ecological corridors in mountains as the green infrastructure in the Danube basin” and informed about expected project deliverables. One of them shall be a Strategy on identification, preservation and management of eco-corridors to be developed in cooperation with the Carpathian Convention and ideally presented at the COP6 in Poland*.

CCIC recommendations:

- CCIC requests the Secretariat to coordinate the implementation of the recommendations of the Large Carnivores workshop;
- CCIC invites Czech Republic and the Secretariat to facilitate the organization of the WG Biodiversity and EUSDR PA2 Energy workshop in cooperation with the Czech Republic in May 2019;
- CCIC invites the Secretariat to facilitate the organization of a workshop on harmonization of monitoring of Large Carnivores in the region, kindly offered by EUROLARGE CARNIVORES project in November 2019;
- CCIC invites the Parties and the Secretariat to consider supporting development of the project proposal on wildlife crime to ISP funding line of DG HOME and informing the CCIC about its results;

Note by Secretariat: project was not submitted and Secretariat would not have been in a position to join the project for formal reasons (UN vs. EU Rules).

- CCIC invites WG Biodiversity to add the topic of illegal killing of wild birds to the agenda of its next meeting;
- CCIC agreed that a need-based approach will apply to topic on invasive alien species, at the same time, the topic shall be added to the agenda on the next WG Biodiversity meeting;
- CCIC requests the Secretariat to send a notification to the Parties asking for concrete suggestions on how to further work on the Red Lists;
- CCIC encourages the Secretariat to provide support to the implementation of the Central Parks project;
- CCIC invites the CNPA to provide an update on cooperation between ALPARC, DANUBEPARKS and CNPA;
- CCIC invites WG Biodiversity to add Carpathian Wetlands Initiative matters to the agenda of its next meeting;
- CCIC encourages the Parties and the Secretariat to support the implementation of the ConnectGREEN project;
- CCIC invites the Parties and the Secretariat to support the organization of the Conference for the Carpathian Protected Areas within the ConnectGreen project at the beginning of 2021.

Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management

The representative of the Commission for the Protection of the Danube Region (ICPDR) briefly presented the current ICPDR activities, which are potentially in the scope of interest of the Convention (Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the Danube Region, workshop on hydropower in 2020, ISPDR Sturgeon Strategy, a Danube basin workshop on agriculture and mapping of 'hotspot' tailings management facilities). Cooperation with ICPDR on the agriculture workshop with regard to agriculture and rural development in the Danube – Carpathian region shall be to most concrete actions for enhancing the collaboration in near future. The Secretariat will follow up on this issue and will inform the CCIC about possible next steps.

Mr. Sandor Szalai, Szent Istvan University, presented the update on the JointTisza project on strengthening cooperation between river basin management planning and flood risk prevention to enhance the status of waters of the Tisza River Basin*.

Together with relevant partners, the Secretariat will consider possibilities for a follow up project in the Tisza River Basin.

Further to the Romania's request to UN Environment to provide a focal point for ICPDR in Vienna, the Secretariat will prepare a respective letter.

CCIC recommendations:

- CCIC invites the Secretariat to follow up with ICPDR on possible cooperation on the Danube basin workshop on agriculture;
- CCIC invites the Parties and the Secretariat to consider a possible development of the JoinTisza follow up project;
- CCIC invites the Secretariat to prepare a letter appointing the UN Environment focal point to ICPDR in Vienna.

Sustainable agriculture and rural development

After reporting on the outcomes of the last meeting of the WG on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (Romania, September 2018), the Parties suggested that in order to prioritize topic for the SARD Protocol implementation, the Secretariat shall initiate identification of the biggest problems in the field of agriculture and rural development in the Carpathian area. Based on the inputs from all the Parties, the WG SARD will be able to identify common problems. Furthermore, an elaboration of a database on agriculture in the Carpathians is also encouraged. The Parties are further invited to provide inputs to the table – *Towards Implementation of the SARD Protocol* (available online -Doc.6)*.

The Secretariat briefly presented the Horizon 2020 project idea on Mountain Value Chains providing private and public goods resilient to climate change and other future challenges. The Parties still have a possibility to suggest potential case studies from their countries. More information about the selection criteria for case studies were shared with the WG SARD and the Focal Points by the Secretariat. The Secretariat that is involved in the project proposal, will inform the Parties on further developments.

CCIC recommendations:

- CCIC encourages WG SARD to organize its next meeting to prioritize concrete strategic action/s for implementation of the SARD Protocol;
- CCIC invites parties, prior to the WG SARD meeting, to initiate identification of the biggest problems in the field of agriculture and rural development in the Carpathians;
- CCIC invites the Parties and the Secretariat to contribute to the Horizon 2020 project proposal on Mountain Value Chains, including the case studies from the Carpathians;
- CCIC invites the Secretariat to seek proactive cooperation with FAO on implementation of the SARD Protocol.

Sustainable forest management

Mr. Marco Trombetti, on behalf of the European Environment Agency and the European Topic Center on Urban, Land and Soil system, reported on the status and progress of undertaken activities supporting the work of the WG on Sustainable Forest Management*.

It was agreed that all the pending forest related issues, especially finalization of the Inventory of the Virgin Forest, will be addressed at the next meeting of the WG Forest, which will be hosted by Slovakia, as kindly offered by the Slovak Ministry of the Environment. The dates of the WG Forest meeting will be decided in due course. Parties who have not yet done so should complete the revision of the official Virgin Forest Inventory.

WWF expressed readiness to support organization of the Next WG Forest meeting in terms of meeting content and discussion. The need for action plan identifying future activities of the WG Forest was stressed. The WG Forest shall continue sharing information about its activities and meeting with the WG Climate Change. While planning future activities, the WG Forest shall consider work of the Forest Europe and UNFCCC in order to avoid possible duplication and/or find common activities. As requested, a link to the UNFCCC COP24 Declaration "Forest for Climate Declaration" can be find [here](#).

Czech Republic informed of its intent to organize a field workshop for forestry experts from Carpathian Convention Parties where practical experience in sustainable forest management could be shared.

CCIC recommendations:

- CCIC invites the Secretariat to organize, in cooperation with Slovakia the next meeting of WG Forest meeting addressing relevant forest related issues, specifically the finalization of the Inventory of the Virgin Forest;
- CCIC urges Parties who have not yet done so to complete the revision of the official Virgin Forest Inventory.
- CCIC invites the secretariat to seek proactive cooperation with FAO on implementation of Forest Protocol, and a workshop on forest transport issues in the Carpathians.
- CCIC invites the Czech Republic to keep the Secretariat and WG Forest informed about its intent to organize a field expert workshop.

Sustainable transport and infrastructure, industry and energy

Ms. Hildegard Mayer, WWF DCP, in the capacity of the Lead Partner, presented an update on implementation of the project TRANSGREEN - Green Infrastructure Planning in the Danube-Carpathian Region for the Benefit of People and Nature - and related activities*.

Summarizing the next steps for the TRANSGREEN implementation by the Carpathian Convention:

- the draft Carpathian Convention Strategic Action Plan on Sustainable Transport is up for comments - Carpathian Convention Focal Points, WG Transport and others are encouraged to provide feedback;
- Draft Guidelines how to minimize impact of transport infrastructure development on nature in the Carpathian countries" will be sent for review for CCIC and WG Transport. The Ministry of Environment of Romania is willing to support the adoption of the Guidelines at the Final Conference of the TRANSGREEN project;
- Catalogue of Measures for all 4 pilot areas in the TRANSGREEN project are expected to be ready by January 2019;
- Cross-sectoral meetings will be held in spring 2019 in CZ, HU, RO, SK, UA. The project team is ready to travel to Poland and Serbia to present results for experience sharing.
- The 9th CC Transport Working Group meeting will be held in spring 2019 in Budapest, Hungary (1-2 April 2019).

- There is a need to support promoting the above-mentioned documents towards policy makers, planners and implementers once they are finalized.

The CCIC and the WG Transport are welcome to join the Final Conference of the TRANSGREEN project in Bucharest on 25 June 2018 and to engage as speakers, moderators, etc.

Mr. Lazaros Georgiadis, IENE, briefly presented a project proposal on Strengthening Capacity building on Sustainable Transport for Ecology and People – “STEP”, which was submitted to the to the first call of the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Regional Cooperation. Czech Republic inquired about the details of the project proposal. As agreed, the project proposal will be shared with Parties.

UNEP/GRID-Warsaw Centre provided written update concerning the project on Local initiatives for deployment of green infrastructure within Natura 2000 sites in the Carpathians - LIFE Green-Go! Carpathians. Please find it available online on the CC website*. One of the project activities focuses on development of inventory of green infrastructure-related undertakings in Carpathian countries via an on-line questionnaire: www.zielonainfrastruktura.karpatylacza.pl/questionnaire. Please, kindly take a few minutes to fill out if you haven't yet done so.

CCIC recommendations:

- CCIC invites Parties to submit comments to the draft Carpathian Convention Strategic Action Plan on Sustainable Transport for consideration and finalization by the WG Transport at its next meeting;
- CCIC invites the Secretariat to circulate the final version of the TRANSGREEN Guidelines on integrated transport infrastructure development for collecting the Parties' feedback;
- CCIC welcomes the organization of cross-sectoral meetings within the TRANSGREEN project to be held in spring 2019 in CZ, HU, RO, SK, UA and sharing experience with Poland and Serbia;
- CCIC invites Parties and the Secretariat to promote the above-mentioned documents towards policy makers, planners and implementers once they are finalized;
- CCIC invites the Secretariat in cooperation of the TRANSGREEN project to facilitate organization of the 9th meeting of WG Transport, to be held on 1-2 April 2019 in Budapest, Hungary;
- CCIC welcomes the organization of Final Conference of the TRANSGREEN project in Bucharest on 25 June 2018 under the EUSDR and EU Romanian Presidency;
- CCIC requests the Secretariat to share the STEP project proposal.

Sustainable tourism

Ms. Alina Szasz, Brasov County Council, on behalf of the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform (CSTP) presented the interim report on CSTP activities. The Secretariat noted that it would welcome further information regarding progress in CSTP Centers establishment and their formal structure. Parties recommended improved communication and information sharing. Parties also noted some lack of progress in the implementation of the decision COP5/10 which requested the Secretariat to elaborate collaborative agreements for the CSTP Centers.

CCIC recommendations:

- CCIC requested the CSTP to provide a written interim report on CSTP activities;
- CCIC advised the CSTP partners to provide an update on progress in CSTP Centers establishment and their formal structure;

- CCIC reiterated decision COP5/10 requesting the Secretariat to elaborate collaborative agreements for the CSTP Centers, and, if available, submit draft Memoranda of Cooperation to the CCIC not later than 1 month before its next meeting.

Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge

The last WG Cultural Heritage meeting recommended that Parties shall implement the Roadmap's[†] tasks and designate a coordinating country for each specific task, if possible, to assure the effectiveness of their accomplishment. In this regard, the Czech Republic undertook the coordination of Task 3 (prepare, maintain and update a list of relevant institutions from all Parties) and Hungary volunteered to execute Task 4 (prepare, maintain and update a list of project ideas). As agreed with the Czech Republic, the Secretariat will send a reminder to the Parties to complete the list of institutions relevant for the cultural heritage in the Carpathians. Hungary will share the list of project idea soon.

After reporting on the outcomes of the last WG on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge meeting (April 2018, Hungary), Hungary informed about the attempts of issuing a high-level letter informing about current developments within the WG Cultural Heritage and desired finalization of the Protocol on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge, as one of the Hungarian Presidency's priority.

Furthermore, Slovakia expressed the importance of bringing the Protocol on Cultural Heritage to life as a significant tool supporting the work of the WG Cultural Heritage, as well as promotion and protection of the Carpathian cultural heritage. Slovakia is ready to host the next meeting of the WG Cultural Heritage. The Czech Republic called for further work on implementation of the Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention where the role of a possible protocol is limited and cannot replace activities needed at local and regional level.

The Secretariat briefly informed about the submission of the project proposal on exploring, promoting and protecting the richness of the cultural and natural heritage – "Carpathian Region" submitted to the first call of the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Regional Cooperation (1st stage of application). The project proposal will be shared with the CCIC. Due to the prolonged time of selection process for submitted applications to the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Regional Cooperation, an announcement of results of the assessment of concept notes is delayed. It is foreseen that the call for full proposals will be announced in February 2019 and all the shortlisted applicants will be informed about the next steps.

CCIC recommendations:

- CCIC encourages the Parties to implement the *Road Map to Achieve the Objectives of Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention* and to consider taking the role of a coordinating country for remaining tasks;
- Upon the request of the Hungarian Presidency, CCIC encourages the ministries responsible for cultural heritage matters in the Parties to consider, the high-level letter on cultural heritage developments within the WG Cultural Heritage, to be issued by the Hungarian Presidency;
- CCIC invites the Secretariat, depending on the further developments, to consider organization of a next WG Cultural Heritage meeting in cooperation with Slovakia;
- CCIC invites the Secretariat to send a reminder to the Parties to complete the list of institutions relevant for the cultural heritage in the Carpathians;
- If successfully approved to the second stage, CCIC encourages the Secretariat to contribute to further developing of the Carpathian Route project proposal, sharing the project proposal with the CCIC.

[†]http://www.carpathianconvention.org/tl_files/carpathiancon/Downloads/03%20Meetings%20and%20Events/COP/2014_COP4_Mikulov/WORKING%20DOCUMENTS/DOC4_ROAD%20MAP_Cultural%20Heritage.pdf

Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning

It was agreed that Secretariat should send an official letter to European Environment Agency (EEA) thanking for the cooperation and exploring the possibility to integrate The Carpathian Countries Integrated Biodiversity Information System (CCIBIS) into the Carpathian Mountain Information System.

CCIC recommendations:

- CCIC encourages the Secretariat to continue in successful cooperation with EEA;
- CCIC invites the Secretariat to explore the possibility to integrate CCIBIS into the Carpathian Mountain Information System.

Climate Change

Mr. Sandor Szalai, Szent Istvan University, in his capacity of the chairman of the Working Group on Climate Change, delivered a short presentation on the WG Climate Change activities*, informing at the same time about a kind offer made by the Wageningen Environment Research, WER (representative of WER, Mr. Henk Zingstra is long-standing Carpathia Convention partner and member of the WG Climate Change) to organise a training on the Copernicus Climate Change Data Store in Hungary in 2019, which could be combine with a meeting of the WG Climate Change. The offer was welcomed by the CCIC, thus the Secretariat will follow up on it making necessary arrangements. As soon as possible, the Secretariat will inform the CCIC and the WG Climate Change about further steps.

CCIC recommendations:

- CCIC welcomes the idea of organization of the Copernicus Climate Change Data Store training back to back to the WG Climate Change meeting and invites the Secretariat to facilitate organization of the meetings in cooperation with the WG CC and WER.

Awareness raising, education and public participation

Hungary informed about the Carpathian Convention Seminar on Education of Sustainable Development, which will be organized on 17 – 18 April 2019 in Budapest. The seminar, which is one of the Presidency's activities, will be organised by the Ministry of Human Capacities of Hungary in strong collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary and the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention. The seminar's mission is to establish a new and enduring tradition of transdisciplinary networking and cross-country exchange in ESD thus supporting the joint mission of the Carpathian Countries to work towards sustainability.

The seminar is planned to host a total of 50 participants: 14 participants would be invited from Hungary while 36 participants could arrive from each of the other six countries (6 participants per country). Participants shall represent professionals from the fields of practicing educators at ISCED 0-3 levels, teacher educators, representatives (leaders and officers) of decision-making bodies in the field of sustainability, environmental protection, environmental education, ESD and public education (including relevant ministries), representatives of educational maintenance. The seminar will allow participant to discuss good models in educational policies and practice relevant to ESD while reviewing challenges faced by practitioners. The seminar consists of invited oral presentations, roundtable discussions, workshops and on-site visits to observe

exemplar practices. Organisers welcome workshop proposals from each participating country and invite participants to actively contribute to sessions by sharing and reflecting on good practice in ESD.

The Presidency asked the CCIC for support in identification of relevant participants, which would attend the seminar. The Secretariat will facilitate and support the process, and as soon as possible will circulate the official invitation, including more information.

The Initiative Group Free Svydovets delivered a statement raising concerns about construction plans of a new ski resort on the Svydovets massif, and the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum project informed about public monitoring of the environmental impact assessment procedure in Ukraine

CCIC recommendations:

- CCIC encourages the Secretariat to support organization of the ESD seminar in Hungary;
- CCIC encourages the Parties to support identification of relevant participants of the workshop;
- CCIC welcomed the improvement in public participation process in Ukraine.

6) Programme of Work and budget of the Carpathian Convention

The Secretariat reported on the status of contributions and thanked the Parties for their timely contributions.

7) Administration and financial management of the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols

The Secretariat reported on the new Delegation of Authority and Accountability Framework of UN Environment measures taken to delegate the necessary administrative authorities to the Head of the Secretariat in Vienna. Furthermore, the Secretariat reported on the UN Environment standard management procedures for programme support costs. Last but not least, the Secretariat reported on obstacles regarding the Secretariat's capacity to join EU funded projects.

CCIC Recommendations:

- CCIC requests the Secretariat to liaise with UNEP Headquarters regarding the arrangements for the provision of secretariat functions by UNEP to the Carpathian Convention;
- CCIC requests the Secretariat to liaise with UNEP Headquarters to agree on the financial arrangements for the programme support costs, and the costs that will be covered by the Secretariat's PSC share, and the services to be provided to the COP of the Carpathian Convention.

8) Location of the Permanent Secretariat

Following the Decision COP5/17, the Secretariat informed that the subject on the Permanent Secretariat will not be put on the COP6 agenda unless the agreement between the Parties is reached.

9) Date and venue of the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention



Poland, the host of the COP6, informed that internal preparations for the next Conference of the Parties have already started. Consultations on the COP6 dates are ongoing and require careful consideration in order to avoid confliction events, especially CBD COP15, which is tentatively scheduled on October 2020. More information will be communicated by the Secretariat.

10) Upcoming meeting of the Carpathian Convention

The Secretariat presented a tentative list of the Carpathian Convention meetings asking for possible prioritization of the meetings to be organized in 2019.

ANNEX1

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 9TH MEETING OF THE CARPATHIAN CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE BY SECTORS

Report on the Forum Carpaticum 2018 and presentation of the recommendations

- CCIC invites the Secretariat and the Parties to explore possibilities for more systematic exchange of scientific information in order to support decision making processes.

Implementation of the Carpathian Convention

- CCIC reiterates the COP5 request to the Secretariat to develop guidelines and reporting template of a comprehensive national report on implementation of the Carpathian Convention. and invites Parties to advise the Secretariat on a reporting format;
- CCIC requests the Secretariat to prepare a note on reporting system, including a reporting template for discussion at the next CCIC meeting, and to put the topic of reporting on agenda of every Carpathian Convention Working Group meeting for discussion.
- CCIC invites the Secretariat to consider, in cooperation with relevant project partners, developing and submitting a project proposal on outreach programmes in due course.

Cooperation with the European Union

- CCIC encourages the Secretariat to continue monitoring the discussion on the Strategy for the Carpathian Region, activities of the Committee of the Regions Group “Carpathians”, the Romanian Presidency of the EU Council, negotiation of the new Cohesion Policy and financial programmes and, if possible, explore possibilities of strengthening existing cooperation;
- CCIC encourages the Secretariat to enter into regular contact with the Danube Strategy Point to discuss the best communication channels and practical means of coordination and EUSDR, its Priority Areas and the Carpathian Convention, in particular, but not exclusively, with reference to the revision of the EUSDR Action Plan, in order to further enhance our ongoing fruitful cooperation.

Cooperation with other Conventions and international bodies

- CCIC encourages the Parties and the Secretariat to contribute to the CBD post2020 process, promoting protection and sustainable development of mountain regions;
- CCIC invites the Secretariat to draft text of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Carpathian Convention and Euromontana and to submit the draft to the CCIC for consultation and approval.

Biodiversity

- CCIC requests the Secretariat to coordinate the implementation of the recommendations of the Large Carnivores workshop;

- CCIC invites Czech Republic and the Secretariat to facilitate the organization of the WG Biodiversity and EUSDR PA2 Energy workshop in cooperation with the Czech Republic in May 2019;
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- CCIC invites the Parties and the Secretariat to consider supporting development of the project proposal on wildlife crime to ISP funding line of DG HOME and informing the CCIC about its results;

Note by Secretariat: project was not submitted and Secretariat would not have been in a position to join the project for formal reasons (UN vs. EU Rules).

- CCIC invites WG Biodiversity to add the topic of illegal killing of wild birds to the agenda of its next meeting;
- CCIC agreed that a need-based approach will apply to topic on invasive alien species, at the same time, the topic shall be added to the agenda on the next WG Biodiversity meeting;
- CCIC requests the Secretariat to send a notification to the Parties asking for concrete suggestions on how to further work on the Red Lists;
- CCIC encourages the Secretariat to provide support to the implementation of the CentralParks project;
- CCIC invites the CNPA to provide an update on cooperation between ALPARC, DANUBEPARKS and CNPA;
- CCIC invites WG Biodiversity to add Carpathian Wetlands Initiative matters to the agenda of its next meeting;
- CCIC encourages the Parties and the Secretariat to support the implementation of the ConnectGREEN project;
- CCIC invites the Parties and the Secretariat to support the organization of the Conference for the Carpathian Protected Areas within the ConnectGreen project at the beginning of 2021.

Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management

- CCIC invites the Secretariat to follow up with ICPDR on possible cooperation on the Danube basin workshop on agriculture;
- CCIC invites the Parties and the Secretariat to consider a possible development of the JoinTisza follow up project;
- CCIC invites the Secretariat to prepare a letter appointing the UN Environment focal point to ICPDR in Vienna.

Sustainable agriculture and rural development

- CCIC encourages WG SARD to organize its next meeting to prioritize concrete strategic action/s for implementation of the SARD Protocol;
- CCIC invites parties, prior to the WG SARD meeting, to initiate identification of the biggest problems in the field of agriculture and rural development in the Carpathians;
- CCIC invites the Parties and the Secretariat to contribute to the Horizon 2020 project proposal on Mountain Value Chains, including the case studies from the Carpathians;
- CCIC invites the Secretariat to seek proactive cooperation with FAO on implementation of the SARD Protocol.

Sustainable forest management

- CCIC invites the Secretariat to organize, in cooperation with Slovakia the next meeting of WG Forest meeting addressing relevant forest related issues, specifically the finalization of the Inventory of the Virgin Forest;
- CCIC urges Parties who have not yet done so to complete the revision of the official Virgin Forest Inventory.
- CCIC invites the secretariat to seek proactive cooperation with FAO on implementation of Forest Protocol, and a workshop on forest transport issues in the Carpathians.
- CCIC invites the Czech Republic to keep the Secretariat and WG Forest informed about its intent to organize a field expert workshop.

Sustainable transport and infrastructure, industry and energy

- CCIC invites Parties to submit comments to the draft Carpathian Convention Strategic Action Plan on Sustainable Transport for consideration and finalization by the WG Transport at its next meeting;
- CCIC invites the Secretariat to circulate the final version of the TRANSGREEN Guidelines on integrated transport infrastructure development for collecting the Parties' feedback;
- CCIC welcomes the organization of cross-sectoral meetings within the TRANSGREEN project to be held in spring 2019 in CZ, HU, RO, SK, UA and sharing experience with Poland and Serbia;
- CCIC invites Parties and the Secretariat to promote the above-mentioned documents towards policy makers, planners and implementers once they are finalized;
- CCIC invites the Secretariat in cooperation of the TRANSGREEN project to facilitate organization of the 9th meeting of WG Transport, to be held on 1-2 April 2019 in Budapest, Hungary;
- CCIC welcomes the organization of Final Conference of the TRANSGREEN project in Bucharest on 25 June 2018 under the EUSDR and EU Romanian Presidency; CCIC requests the Secretariat to share the STEP project proposal.

Sustainable tourism

- CCIC requested the CSTP to provide a written interim report on CSTP activities;
- CCIC advised the CSTP partners to provide an update on progress in CSTP Centers establishment and their formal structure;
- CCIC reiterated decision COP5/10 requesting the Secretariat to elaborate collaborative agreements for the CSTP Centers, and, if available, submit draft Memoranda of Cooperation to the CCIC not later than 1 month before its next meeting.

Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge

- CCIC encourages the Parties to implement the *Road Map to Achieve the Objectives of Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention* and to consider taking the role of a coordinating country for remaining tasks;
- Upon the request of the Hungarian Presidency, CCIC encourages the ministries responsible for cultural heritage matters in the Parties to consider, the high-level letter on cultural heritage developments within the WG Cultural Heritage, to be issued by the Hungarian Presidency;
- CCIC invites the Secretariat, depending on the further developments, to consider organization of a next WG Cultural Heritage meeting in cooperation with Slovakia;
- CCIC invites the Secretariat to send a reminder to the Parties to complete the list of institutions relevant for the cultural heritage in the Carpathians;

- If successfully approved to the second stage, CCIC encourages the Secretariat to contribute to further developing of the Carpathian Route project proposal, sharing the project proposal with the CCIC.

Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning

- CCIC encourages the Secretariat to continue in successful cooperation with EEA;
- CCIC invites the Secretariat to explore the possibility to integrate CCIBIS into the Carpathian Mountain Information System.

Climate Change

- CCIC welcomes the idea of organization of the Copernicus Climate Change Data Store training back to back to the WG Climate Change meeting and invites the Secretariat to facilitate organization of the meetings in cooperation with the WG CC and WER.

Awareness raising, education and public participation

- CCIC encourages the Secretariat to support organization of the ESD seminar in Hungary;
- CCIC encourages the Parties to support identification of relevant participants of the workshop;
- CCIC welcomed the improvement in public participation process in Ukraine.

Administration and financial management of the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols

- CCIC requests the Secretariat to liaise with UNEP Headquarters regarding the arrangements for the provision of secretariat functions by UNEP to the Carpathian Convention;
- CCIC requests the Secretariat to liaise with UNEP Headquarters to agree on the financial arrangements for the programme support costs, and the costs that will be covered by the Secretariat's PSC share, and the services to be provided to the COP of the Carpathian Convention.