

Meeting report

11th Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity 10 March 2020 - ONLINE MEETING

Due to circumstances related to the Coronavirus pandemic, the physical meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity, the Working Group Sustainable Transport and the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas Steering Committee (CNPA SC), generously organized by CEEweb for Biodiversity and set to take place in Budapest, Hungary, was shifted to an online format. Members of the Working Groups, CNPA SC and observers from science institutions and NGOs for the first time met online.

The online meeting of the WG Biodiversity was chaired by Mr. Harald Egerer, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, and successfully facilitated by WWF CEE within the frame of the [ConnectGREEN](#) project.

After giving opening remarks and a general introduction to the meeting agenda, Mr. Harald Egerer underlined the relevance of topics that were foreseen for the WG Biodiversity discussions and thanked all the Parties and partners for contributions to the related activities.

Item 1: Large Carnivores Action Plan

The advanced version of the **International Action Plan for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of the Carpathian Large Carnivores Populations** was presented by Ms. Klaudia Kuras, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, informing as well about the previous consultations and meetings that led to the current version of the document. After a round of general comments from the Parties and observers, it was agreed that the Secretariat will circulate an official notification asking for written comments to the Action Plan.

The adoption of the Action Plan is expected during the 6th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention in September this year.

Mr. Jakub Kubala, representing IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group and Technical university in Zvolen, Department of Applied Zoology and Wildlife Management, informed about readiness of IUCN Cat Specialist Group to support and facilitate work on lynx, especially on preparation of guidelines for lynx monitoring in the Carpathians, including a stratified population management /action plan, which could be initiated at the international Carpathian Lynx Conference to be organized in 2021 in Bojnice, Slovakia under auspices of IUCN, Bern Convention, Carpathian Convention, national institutions and others. More information will follow in due course.

Item 2: Conservation of Ecological Corridors

Dr. Gabriella Nagy, CEEweb for Biodiversity, introduced the meeting participants to the **Strategy for Ecological Corridors in the Carpathians** that has recently been drafted. The strategy for ecological corridors in the Carpathian ecoregion aims to support the mainstreaming of biodiversity including green infrastructure into the economic sector. The WG Biodiversity welcomed the draft document and recommended its further developments while exploring further the intended nature and content of the document (e.g. more informal document due to formal requirements and time constraints of official procedures required for adoption of a strategy by the governments). Further consultation on the documents will be held in the near future, including exchange of written comments and possible online meetings. The Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention will ensure involvement of relevant Carpathian stakeholders in the consultation process.

Item 3: Centralparks Project and Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA)

Mr. Isidoro de Bortoli, Eurac Research, gave an update on the Interreg Central Europe Project **Centralparks**, partnering with ConnectGREEN on activities related to **Carpathian Protected Areas**. The Centralparks project aims at improving biodiversity and landscape conservation measures in and outside of Carpathian protected areas. Synergies of the two projects will result in the organisation of the **Carpathian Protected Areas Conference** in Visegrad, Hungary, scheduled for 20-22 April 2021. Centralparks will organise a Round Table together with the CNPA Steering Committee to support the preparation of the Conference in November this year. More information on the CNAP meetings will be shared by the Secretariat in cooperation with the project partners in due time.

Item 4: Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

The Carpathian Convention is actively involved in the preparation of the **Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework** currently being developed under the auspices of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Ms. Klaudia Kuraś, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, provided an update on the Convention's involvement in the Post-2020 process, including active participation in the relevant CBD meetings, consultation with the CC and CBD Focal Points and other relevant partners, including the CBD Secretariat and the EU, especially DG ENVI.

Within the Post-2020 process, the Carpathian Convention shall become a leading example of a regional instrument for implementation of the new framework, especially in Europe, translating global targets and goals to the regional level, and, in doing so, reflecting and addressing more precisely the needs, challenges and opportunities of the region. At the same time, the Convention, as a multi-sectoral agreement on protection and sustainable development with an underpinning priority of safeguarding a strategic biodiversity hotspot in Europe, represents a model for mainstreaming biodiversity into other sectors and highlighting the importance of mountain biodiversity.



Harald Egerer, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, delivered a presentation on the links between mountain biodiversity in the Carpathians and goals, targets, and indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the CBD.

Parties welcomed the proactive approach of the Secretariat in making linkages between the CBD and the Carpathian Convention and supported the idea of issuing a Ministerial Declaration on the Carpathian commitments to implementing the Post-2020 biodiversity framework at the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention in September this year (14-16 September 2020 in Rzeszow, Poland). The Secretariat will consult with the Parties on the draft declaration and related documents in due course, considering the time needed for the internal national consultation.

The meeting closed with the wish to continue discussions on the updated versions of the policy documents in the near future to present them to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee for their final approval in June this year prior to the COP6.

The participants agreed that the new online format of meetings is a good alternative in times of travel restrictions, although participants expressed that mixture of online and personal meetings would be best for the continuation of work.

The meeting was closed by the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention.

