

Meeting report

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

Due to circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the physical meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity, the Working Group Sustainable Transport (Transport WG) 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 research institutions and NGOs for the first time met online.

Item 1: Opening of the meeting and background information

The online meeting of the Transport WG was chaired by Mr. Harald Egerer, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention. 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 Transport WG discussions and thanked all the Parties and stakeholders connected for their participation in the meeting.

Item 2: Presentation of the Large Carnivores Action Plan and the Strategy for identification and conservation of ecological corridors in the Carpathians

In order to ensure continuity from the previous day's sessions and communication between the Working Groups, Ms. Klaudia Kuraś, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, presented the advanced version of the International Action Plan for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of the Carpathian Large Carnivores Populations. Afterwards, Dr. Gabriella Nagy provided a summary of the Strategy for Ecological Corridors in the Carpathians, which aims to support the mainstreaming of biodiversity including green infrastructure into the economic sector.

Item 3: EU DTP Project proposal SAVEGREEN

Ms. Hildegard Meyer of WWF CEE provided an overview of the project proposal SAVEGREEN, submitted under the last call of the Danube Transnational Programme (DTP), which is a follow up to the EU DTP TRANSGREEN project. The project proposal aims at developing monitoring tools and at tracking the effectiveness of mitigation measures for minimizing the impact of transport on wildlife among other topics.

Item 4: Presentation of the draft Sustainable Transport Strategic Action Plan

Ms. Eleonora Musco, Eurac Research-Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, provided participants with a brief overview on past activities, held with the support of the EU DTP TRANSGREEN Project and Eurac Research,

which have led to the development of the Joint Strategic Action Plan (SAP) 2021 – 2026 for the Implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Transport's (Transport SAP). The Protocol entered into force on 14 January 2019 and it has been ratified so far by all Carpathian Countries, except for Hungary. Decision COP5/9 para 2. of the Fifth Conference of the Parties recommends “the Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Infrastructure, Industry and Energy (hereinafter WG Transport) with support of the TRANSGREEN project, to develop a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for fostering the implementation of the Transport Protocol, invites other Working Groups and relevant stakeholders to support the process”. In case of consensus among the Carpathian Convention Countries, the Transport SAP is expected to be adopted at the 6th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP6) in Poland.

Item 5: Feedback from the experts and discussion on the Sustainable Transport Strategic Action Plan

The members of the Carpathian Convention Working Groups on Biodiversity and Sustainable Transport together discussed the advanced version of the Joint Strategic Action Plan 2021 – 2026 for the implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Transport, with the aim to develop the final version of the document, to be adopted at COP6. The Transport SAP calls for cooperative work between fields of transport and nature conservation and it is defined “joint” for its integrative aspects. Experts provided feedbacks on the Transport SAP's text, which were collected by the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention for the preparation of a new draft of the document.

Item 6: Discussion and finalization of the Sustainable Transport Strategic Action Plan

The Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention will circulate the 6th draft of the Transport SAP, integrating all the comments provided by the Transport WG participants. A final version of the Transport SAP should be ready to be presented at the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CCIC) in June 2020, in view of its final adoption at COP6. Finally, countries requested the Secretariat to possibly organize a workshop back to back to CCIC on the Carpathian Countries Integrated Biodiversity Information System ([CCIBIS](#)), an online platform for collecting and sharing scientific information and data generated in projects within the Carpathian Convention Community.

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