

**Implementation Plan of Recommendations for the UNEP project “Best practice of sub-regional cooperation: Partnership for the support of the Carpathian Convention and other Mountain Regions” (Project CP/5023-04-82)**

RECOMMENDATION	ACCEPTED (YES/NO)	WHAT WILL BE DONE?	MEASURES TAKEN	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	REPOSIBLE OFFICER/UNIT/ DIVISION/ AGENCY
<p>1. As regards <b>institutional arrangements</b>, it is important to have robust governance structures in place. Therefore, continue to building up and effectively manage these institutional structures, for example the CNPA and the CWI. Independently of the Secretariat responsibilities, there is the clear need for UNEP to build on the de facto role and functions and track record of achievements of UNEP Vienna – ISCC, and secure its multi-functional mandate, as well as the necessary cash and in kind support, to ensure long-term presence in the region and as UNEP’s global resource centre for sustainable mountain development.</p> <p><b>Responsibility:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNEP CC Secretariat, as part of its role and responsibilities</li> <li>• relevant UNEP entities (UNEP HQ, UNEP-ROE and UNEP Vienna – SCC) as part of their business.</li> </ul>	Yes	<p><b>Formalisation and uniforming of the SCC within the UNEP institutional structure</b></p> <p><b>Issuance of a sub-DoA of ROE DoA to Head of Secretariat in Vienna in line with the TF conditions</b></p>	<p>UNEP Vienna has been included into latest UNEP organigramme as a Programme Office (PO)</p> <p>Liaison Office with Vienna-based international organizations reflected in UNEP Policy Paper approved by the UNEP Executive Director on 15 June 2015</p>	31.12.2017	EO, UNEP ROE Geneva and Vienna SCC
<p>2. There is the need for commitments from governments and the political will to steer development towards sustainability. Parties to the Convention are encouraged to focus on strategic issues, to further develop and implement new Protocols, such as on agriculture, energy, mining, etc. The role of National Focal Points should also be strengthened to effectively promoting the Convention.</p>	Yes (with the reservation that as indicated in the recommendation, this is outside	Recommendation will be shared with NFPs		31.07.2015	UNEP Vienna SCC

RECOMMENDATION	ACCEPTED (YES/NO)	WHAT WILL BE DONE?	MEASURES TAKEN	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	REPOSIBLE OFFICER/UNIT/ DIVISION/ AGENCY
<p><b>Responsibility:</b> This is actually outside UNEP's direct influence, nevertheless, UNEP Vienna – SCC can play a major role in lobbying governments. In addition, the evaluation identified several impact drivers, which can help steer the process in the right direction. As regards the NFPs, the follow-up project may introduce a mechanism, e.g. capacity building, training, and motivation workshops, organized on a yearly basis.</p>	<p><b>UNEP's direct influence)</b></p>				
<p>3. For the Balkan countries it is advisable to keep the current approach of responding to country needs because it is benefiting the countries in the management of their environment. While developing and implementing country-level projects, for UNEP as a regionally based agency it is very important to maintain the regional dimension in the Balkans and South East Europe through this project, e.g. through replication of Carpathian experiences in the Dinaric Arc and.</p> <p><b>Responsibility:</b> UNEP Vienna – SCC with additional support and a clear institutional mandate</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p><b>Development of interlinked country level and regional (South East Europe) follow up projects</b></p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p>	<p><b>UNEP ROE Geneva and Vienna SCC, SP Coordinators, RSO</b></p>
<p>4. As regards <b>coordination, cooperation and networking</b>, good (semi)legal instruments are in place and should be further used and strengthened, specifically looking for synergies, transboundary initiatives and new partnerships. As Memoranda of Understanding and even more importantly, Memoranda of Cooperation, have proven to be successful in the past, it is advisable to negotiate additional agreements.</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p><b>Development of cooperative agreements by the Secretariat with partners</b></p>	<p><b>Cooperative agreements and partnerships developed continuously</b></p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p>	<p><b>UNEP Vienna SCC</b></p>

RECOMMENDATION	ACCEPTED (YES/NO)	WHAT WILL BE DONE?	MEASURES TAKEN	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	REPOSIBLE OFFICER/UNIT/ DIVISION/ AGENCY
<p><b>Responsibility:</b> UNEP Vienna – SCC should put emphasis on also involving partners from other sectors, e.g. transport, mining, agriculture, etc., and negotiate relevant MoUs. Furthermore, a stronger cooperation and collaboration with ICPDR should be envisaged, as both organizations are working in the same sub-region.</p>					
<p>5. Although a lot has been done in the project, <b>capacity building</b> is an ongoing process. Capacity building efforts should be an important component in a follow-up project. Activities in this regard should be strengthened at different levels, and the support and collaboration with relevant UNEP Divisions should be invoked and secured, as there is still a long way to go to achieve the intended impacts as regards sustainable development and environmental protection. It would therefore be advisable, to link the project to other regional processes / mechanisms, such as the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS), the Health Environment Forum, etc. and to provide input the UN Country Teams in the frame of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework – UNDAF, e.g. in Romania and Serbia.</p> <p><b>Responsibility:</b> UNEP Vienna – SCC in the follow-up project and additional UNEP inputs.</p>	Yes	<p><b>Development of regional follow up projects and interlinked country-level projects for UNEP support in Danube Carpathian Region</b></p>	Ongoing	Ongoing	<p><b>UNEP ROE Geneva and Vienna SCC, SP Coordinators, RSO</b></p>
<p>6. There is a clear need for more <b>integrated approaches</b> to land management and the linkages between nature protection and other environmental management sectors. A follow-up project should support such approaches on policy</p>	Yes	<p><b>This idea will be integrated in follow up work and development of CC Programme of</b></p>	Ongoing	Ongoing	<p><b>UNEP ROE Geneva and Vienna SCC</b></p>

RECOMMENDATION	ACCEPTED (YES/NO)	WHAT WILL BE DONE?	MEASURES TAKEN	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	REPOSIBLE OFFICER/UNIT/ DIVISION/ AGENCY
<p>and project level, ensuring a greater focus on land use and spatial planning and incorporating biodiversity aspects into other sectoral policies. Due to the need of integrated approaches, a follow-up project should look for additional partnerships and further support governments in the development and revision of strategic policy papers, as well as in the design and implementation of projects.</p> <p><b>Responsibility:</b> To be included in the project documents for the follow-up project developed by UNEP Vienna – SCC, with a special focus on building up and maintaining strategic partnerships with relevant sectors.</p>		Work 2017-2019			
<p>7. The project has proven to be successful with respect to <b>stakeholder participation</b>. Nevertheless, there is the need for continued strengthening of stakeholder involvement, specifically as regards the Civil Society Organization. There are also proposals to stronger involve the community level (county councils, mayors, business, etc.). Furthermore, there is the need to have a strategic approach towards the involvement of the European Commission, e.g. foster the relationship through participation in working groups and meetings, and to receive UNEP support for soliciting and obtaining EU involvement and support. It is very important to focus on cooperation with sub-national authorities and to create a flexible platform for their cooperation across borders.</p> <p><b>Responsibility:</b> UNEP Vienna – SCC with</p>	Yes	Active engagement in Danube Strategy	Ongoing	Ongoing	UNEP ROE Geneva, Brussels, Vienna-SCC

RECOMMENDATION	ACCEPTED (YES/NO)	WHAT WILL BE DONE?	MEASURES TAKEN	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	REPOSIBLE OFFICER/UNIT/ DIVISION/ AGENCY
additional UNEP support.					
<p>8. Ensure a good mix of formal processes on policy level (the development of additional Protocols and strategy papers) and <b>projects</b>; there should be a balance of top-down and bottom-up approaches linking institutional work with practical on the ground. UNEP Vienna – SCC should follow the current path in catalyzing projects, but improve project design and the elaboration process of projects by better involvement of partners from the very beginning and looking at their experience and real capacity for implementation. Both for the Carpathian Convention process and for projects in the Balkans, additional UNEP support, e.g. from the Environment Fund would be needed to enhance the project portfolio and UNEP’s reputation in the region.</p> <p><b>Responsibility:</b> For the Carpathians, UNEP Vienna – SCC in the frame of the Convention work and it’s role as a Secretariat, putting emphasis on inter-sectoral projects and investing more time in the design and planning of projects (capacity and absorption capacity of partners, risk mitigation strategy, etc.). As regards activities in the Balkan countries and other mountain regions, UNEP should recognize the important contributions and regular support would be advisable, the decision for regular funding from the Environment Fund lies in the hands of the UNEP Management in the HQ.</p>	Yes	<p>Seek corporate contributions to Carpathian Convention and further UNEP co-financing to (regional and country-level) projects in South East Europe</p> <p>Seek synergies between delivering UNEP PoW and CC PoW and identifying possible projects.</p>	Ongoing	Ongoing	UNEP ROE, RSO
9. <b>Sharing and learning from experience</b> from the Carpathians and further building up of the global mountain agenda has a high potential for	Yes	Formalizing role of Vienna-SCC in global mountain	Vienna SCC is leading certain global projects on	31.12.2017	Evaluation Unit, DEPI, ROE

RECOMMENDATION	ACCEPTED (YES/NO)	WHAT WILL BE DONE?	MEASURES TAKEN	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	REPOSIBLE OFFICER/UNIT/ DIVISION/ AGENCY
<p>promoting the Carpathian experience and enhancing UNEP's visibility, but relevant activities would need a strengthened and clarified UNEP-internal mandate and support. On request of governments, UNEP Vienna – as a resource centre for sustainable mountain development – should be ready and enabled to support the negotiations for similar environmental agreements in other mountain regions, adapted to the political, ecological and economic situation. The lessons learned from this project should be shared across regions for replicability. It would therefore be advisable to share the final evaluation document with all Regional Offices and particularly the sub-regional offices, which are just being established.</p> <p><b>Responsibility:</b> There needs to be a decision by the management of UNEP HQ and UNEP-ROE as regards the future mandate of UNEP Vienna – SCC (besides its Convention work), and the official recognition and promotion as a 'Centre of Excellence' for sustainable mountain development, equipped with necessary human and financial resources. UNEP Evaluation Unit to distribute the final report to all relevant institutions.</p>		agenda	mountains and climate change on behalf of DEPI		
<p>10. There is the obvious need to invest more resources as regards <b>communication and awareness raising</b>. Specifically, the UNEP Vienna website, currently providing unstructured and outdated information on activities other than the Convention, has to be newly designed and expanded. Synergies with and support from partners should be thought upon as regards the</p>	Yes	Unep.at to go offline	UNEP Vienna section on ROE website updated	31.07.2015	DCPI, UNEP ROE Geneva and Vienna-SCC

RECOMMENDATION	ACCEPTED (YES/NO)	WHAT WILL BE DONE?	MEASURES TAKEN	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	REPOSIBLE OFFICER/UNIT/ DIVISION/ AGENCY
<p>promotion of the Convention and other mountain related activities. A strategic approach toward collaboration with municipalities and communities as regards awareness raising is needed.</p> <p><b>Responsibility:</b> UNEP Vienna – SCC to include the elaboration and implementation of a communication strategy in the follow-up project, as well as – together with partner organizations – strategically planned awareness campaigns in selected countries.</p>					
<p>11. <b>In terms of funding</b>, a more robust resources mobilization strategy is needed in the next phase. UNEP Vienna – SCC is heavily depending on project funding, which might not be sustainable on the long-term. There is the need to strengthen the involvement of participating countries and encourage governments – whenever possible – to increase their yearly contributions or provide additional in-kind support. As regards EU money the question of co-financing, which is sometimes very difficult to arrange for partner organizations, should be taken seriously and solutions found. There is also the need for increased, predictable and stable financial support from UNEP and for making internal UNEP administrative procedures more compatible with donor procedures.</p> <p><b>Responsibility:</b> UNEP management to lobby on government level for increased contributions and commitments, and provide support for co-financing joint projects. UNEP internally, to discuss possibilities for simplified/streamlined administrative procedures and regular allocations</p>	Yes	<p><b>Improve compatibility of operations based on UNEP Rules and Regulations, Carpathian Convention Trust Fund and EU Rules, taking into account specificities and needs of the MEA</b></p> <p><b>Seek increase of beneficiary countries' cash and in-kind contributions by matching UNEP PoW allocations</b></p>	Ongoing	31.12.2015	<p><b>UNEP ROE Geneva and Vienna SCC, OSC, OfO (Sylvie Motard, Michael Evteev, Sara Rahman) in consultation with donors and Parties</b></p>

RECOMMENDATION	ACCEPTED (YES/NO)	WHAT WILL BE DONE?	MEASURES TAKEN	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	REPOSIBLE OFFICER/UNIT/ DIVISION/ AGENCY
from the Environment Fund and to clarify the mandate of the UNEP Vienna Office.					
<p>12. With respect to the <b>performance of the Secretariat and its mandate</b>, although there is a qualified and motivated team in place and the project management is well perceived, there is the clear indication that the exceptional wide range of activities cannot be effectively and efficiently managed with the current resources, meaning that human and financial resources should be adequate to the numerous tasks. With respect to UNEP Vienna’s role for liaison work and strengthening the mountain partnership, there is the need for additional resources to effectively implement activities and to sustain the outcomes. There is also the need to strengthening the explicit mandate of UNEP Vienna – SCC for liaison with international Vienna-based organizations.</p> <p><b>Responsibility:</b> UNEP Management to clarify the mandate and status of UNEP Vienna – SCC and provide sufficient support responding to their actual roles and responsibilities. It is also recommended to include the budget for a thorough evaluation in the next project.</p>	Yes	Enhance HR in Vienna SCC	<p>P.3 (mountains) under recruitment</p> <p>Seek possibility of JPO</p>	Ongoing	UNEP ROE Geneva and Vienna SCC, OSC



# United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

April 2015

