SCC/2017/01/draft

**DECISIONS**

**Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (COP5)**

**LIST OF DECISIONS:**

**DECISION COP5/1**

**Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity**

**Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention**

**DECISION COP5/2**

**Spatial development**

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**DECISION COP5/3**

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

**Article 6 of the Carpathian Convention**

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**Sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry**

**Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention**

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**Sustainable transport and infrastructure, industry and energy**

**Article 8 of the Carpathian Convention, Article 10 of the Carpathian Convention**

**DECISION COP5/6**

**Sustainable tourism**

**Article 9 of the Carpathian Convention**

**DECISION COP5/7**

**Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge**

**Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention**

**DECISION COP5/8**

**Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning**

**Article 12 of the Carpathian Convention**

**DECISION COP5/9**

**Adaptation to climate change**

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**DECISION COP5/10**

**Awareness raising, education and public participation**

**Article 13 of the Carpathian Convention**

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**Cooperation with the European Union**

**DECISION COP5/12**

**Cooperation with the Alpine Convention**

**DECISION COP5/13**

**Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies**

**DECISION COP5/14**

**National implementation of the Carpathian Convention**

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**Administration and financial management of the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols**

**DECISION COP5/17**

**Location of Permanent Secretariat**

**Decision COP5/18**

**Date and venue of the Fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention**

**Decision COP5/19**

**Presidency of the Carpathian Convention**

# We, the Ministers and High Official of the Czech Republic, Hungary, the Republic of Poland, Romania, the Republic of Serbia, the Slovak Republic and Ukraine, being responsible for implementation of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathian (Carpathian Convention) and having met in Lillafüred, Hungary on 12 October 2017, on the occasion of the Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP5);

*Acknowledging* the outstanding environmental value of the Carpathian forest that represents some of the Europe’s most significant remaining areas of old growth forest, and importance of the natural forests, underlining the need to protect and raise public awareness on the importance of maintaining those values, and for this reason supporting the elaboration of inventories of virgin and natural forests in the Carpathians and other relevant activities in the Carpathian region;

*Acknowledging* that the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2017 the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, emphasizing the potential of sustainable tourism to significantly contribute to the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals, the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform has been established in order to foster and enhance sustainable tourism development in the Carpathians giving opportunities to further close cooperation with Carpathians partners;

*Welcoming* outcomes of the conference on Large Carnivore’s Protection held in October 2016 in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm, Czech Republic, which clearly presented a need for enhanced cooperation and common regional approach in conservation and sustainable management for the Carpathian population of large carnivores, and also demonstrated a significant potential and interest from different stakeholders on this matter, including among others the EU Platform on Coexistence between People and Carnivores, the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation, the World Wildlife Found, the International Union for Conservation of Nature;

*Being aware* of the importance of agriculture and rural development for the Carpathian region in terms of economy, social aspects, environment, natural and cultural heritage, *following* the Decision of the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Mikulov, 2014 (COP4/4 para. 5), and *appreciating* the development of the Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development;

*Acknowledging* the Paris Agreement adopted at the 22nd Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21 UNFCCC) held in December 2015, and recognizing the special vulnerability of mountain ecosystems to climate change, paying particular attention to the actions focusing on climate change mitigation and adaptation, and for this reason supporting the introduction of a new article to the Carpathian Convention on Climate Change, which will give a significant recognition of this matter, and a clear mandate for undertaking needed actions in this respect;

*Acknowledging* the Cancun Declaration on mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for well-being, made by ministers at the high-level segment of the United Nations Biodiversity Conference, Cancun, Mexico, December 2016, convinced that integrating biodiversity in forestry, agriculture, and tourism sectors is closely connected to the objectives of the Carpathian Convention.

*Highly appreciating* the successful outcomes of the outgoing Czech Presidency, and welcoming the proposed priorities of the incoming Presidency, Hungary,

Have decided as follows:

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**Decision COP5/x Review of the past activities, priorities for future work**

**DECISION COP5/1**

**Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity**

**Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention**

*The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Reiterating* the decision COP4/1 para 7 on Carpathian Red List of Habitats and the Carpathian Red List of Species, *notes with concern* that the Red Lists were not elaborated any further, *decides* to provisionally adopt the Carpathian Red List of Forest Habitats and Red List of Vascular Plants of the Carpathians, as a step forward in achieving the implementation of Article 8 and 12 of the Biodiversity Protocol while *recognizing* that that these lists are non-exhaustive and no general consensus has been reached regarding their content, and *calls* for their further improvement by the Parties, subject to availability of funds, so that they could serve as useful tools for policy and communication for the implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol,
2. *Taking into account* the difficulties of the Parties to complete the adopted format of National Report on the Implementation of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, a*dopts* the simplified format of the report, *welcomes* the submission of the report by the Parties and *requests* the Secretariat to elaborate a summary of the reports and to submit it to the CCIC for further considerations and proposing the next steps in the implementation of the Protocol;
3. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the Conference on Large Carnivores’ Protection held on 18 -21 October 2016 in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm, Czech Republic, and *express* its gratitude to the Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic for organization of the event as well as to the German Federal Environment Ministry’s Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP) for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and other countries neighbouring the European Union for their support;
4. *Welcomes* the Declaration on the Management and Protection of Large Carnivores in the Carpathians, that among others, *calls* for elaboration of international action plan for the conservation and sustainable management for the Carpathian populations of large carnivores;
5. *Mandates* the Working Group on Biodiversity to prioritize its work on Large Carnivores for the next implementation period, and *appreciates* support offered by the WWF DCP and WWF Romania, EURAC and the Sapienza University of Rome in this respect;
6. *Welcomes* the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and the International Council for Game and Wildlife (CIC), , and *encourages* the Secretariat and the Working Group on Biodiversity to work together with CIC through a work plan for concrete activities to be carried out within this collaboration;

*Appreciates* development of the interactive knowledge sharing platform showcasing successful stories of mainstreaming biodiversity into other sectors of the Carpathians called *Mountain Biodiversity for our Wellbeing*, and *requests* the Secretariat to further develop the platform including best practices also from other mountain regions; 12. Welcomesthe ongoing cooperation with the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention) through the Carpathian Wetland Initiative and *urges* the Parties to continue to take appropriate action on the effective protection and sustainable use of Carpathian wetlands;

13. *Welcomes and supports* development of ConnectGREEN project, which focuses on the identification and management of ecological corridors in the context of spatial planning in the Danube-Carpathian region, submitted under the second call of the INTERREG Danube Transnational Programme (DTP) and *appreciates* the foreseen involvement of the Working Group on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity and the Working Group on Spatial Development, especially in respect to the development of a strategy on the identification, preservation, management of ecological corridors focusing on large carnivores' needs in the Carpathian region; *welcomes* the cooperation with WWF-DCPO Romania as the Lead Partner*, requests* the Secretariat to participate in it by providing expertise through an agreement with the Lead Partner;

*14.*

15.

**DECISION COP5/2**

**Spatial development**

**Article 5 of the Carpathian Convention**

*The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Welcomes* detailed information provided by the Parties on the administrative units within which they implement the Convention and its Protocols, and *encourages* the Secretariat to publish and disseminate this information, including local and regional stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Convention in the Carpathian region.

**DECISION COP5/4**

**Sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry**

**Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention**

*The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Adopts* the Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians*, invites* theParties to sign and ratify the Protocol, *encourages* the Parties, pending the ratification and entry into force of the Protocol, whenever possible to start its implementation, and *appreciates* the work conducted by the Working Group on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, as well as the expertise provided by the European Academy of Bolzano (EURAC) to the development process of the Protocol;
2. *Requests* the Working Group on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development to propose and prioritize strategic actions enhancing the implementation of the Protocol, to submit this proposal to the CCIC for consideration and in order for the CCIC to provide the WG with mandate to work on these priorities issues.,
3. *Welcomes* further progress made in preparing the inventory of virgin forests and appreciates the work done by the Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management (WG Forest) and the European Environment Agency (EEA) involved in the process, *asks* the WG Forest to prioritize the ongoing work on completing the inventory of virgin forests;
4. *Welcomes* and *appreciates* progress made towards elaborating criteria and indicators for identification of natural forests in the Carpathians, *request* WG Forest tofinalize the work on criteria and indicators;
5. *Reiterates* the calls for enhanced cooperation through the Secretariat with ICPDR on sustainable agriculture and rural development, especially in the light of the ICPDR Presidency 2017 priorities calling, among others, for assessing the impact of agricultural activities in the Carpathians on the Danube River Basin environment, and possible development of joint activities and projects in these areas.

**DECISION COP5/5**

**Sustainable transport and infrastructure, industry and energy**

**Article 8 and 10 of the Carpathian Convention**

*The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Welcomes* ratification of the Protocol on Sustainable Transport to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians by the Slovak Republic, Ukraine and Poland, and *encourages* the ratification of the Protocol by the Parties which have not yet done so;
2. *Recalling the decision COP4/5 para 4 and 8, welcomes* approval of the TRANSGREEN project – *Integrated Transport and Green Infrastructure Planning in the Danube-Carpathian Region for Benefit of People and Nature* funded by the INTERREG Danube Transnational Programme, and *appreciates* support given to the activities by the Working Group on Sustainable Industry, Energy, Transport and Infrastructure as well as the Working Group on Biodiversity, *welcomes* the cooperation with WWF- DCPO as the Lead Partner, *requests* the Secretariat to participate in it by providing expertise through an agreement with the Lead Partner;
3. *Recommends* the Working Group on Sustainable Industry, Energy, Transport and Infrastructure, in cooperation with the TRANSGREEN project, to prepare background material for the development of the Strategic Action Plan for fostering the implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Transport and further transport development of the Carpathians, *invites* other Working Groups and relevant stakeholders to support the process;

**DECISION COP5/6**

**Sustainable tourism**

**Article 9 of the Carpathian Convention**

*The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Takes note* of the memorandum signed by Romania and Ukraine, initiating the cooperation in the framework of the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform and appreciates the efforts made by the Parties directly involved in the process, and *encourages* all the Parties to actively participate in implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism and its Strategy;
2. *Welcomes* cooperation with the Ecological Tourism in Europe (ETE) and CEEweb for Biodiversity implementing the project *Support for the implementation of the Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development of the Carpathians*, and *appreciates* the financial support of the Federal Environment Agency (UBA) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety and the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, provided to ETE for this purpose;

**DECISION COP5/7**

**Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge**

**Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention**

*The Conference of the Parties*

**DECISION COP5/8**

**Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning**

**Article 12 of the Carpathian Convention**

*The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Welcomes* and *appreciates* the ongoing Partnership between Carpathian Convention and the European Environment Agency (EEA) on the implementation of the Carpathian Convention;
2. Welcomes the outcomes of the Forum Carpaticum 2016: Future of the Carpathians: Smart, Sustainable, Inclusive presented at the COP5, and requests the Secretariat to continue successful cooperation with the Science for the Carpathians initiative.

**DECISION COP5/9**

**Climate Change**

**Article 12bis of the Carpathian Convention**

*The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Adopts* the Article on Climate Change to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians to be introduced under the Article 12bis.
2. *Invites the Parties* to ratify the new Article and whenever possible to start its implementation, taking into account the Priority Actions developed by Hungary in order to support implementation of the new Article;
3. *Appreciates* the generous support of Hungary to the Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change and its activities;
4. *Welcomes* the Report on Adaptation Responses to Climate Change for the Carpathians and *appreciates* the work conducted by the Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change and relevant partners;
5. *Welcomes* the inclusion of the Carpathian region into the Climate-ADAPT Platform and *appreciates* the work conducted by the Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change and relevant partners;

**DECISION COP5/10**

**Awareness raising, education and public participation**

**Article 13 of the Carpathian Convention**

*The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Reiterates* the invitation for the Parties and other stakeholders to carry out regional consultations and to continue to raise public awareness in order to promote the Carpathian Convention implementation process;
2. *Requests* the Secretariat to establish strong outreach programmes targeting local and regional authorities, universities and other relevant stakeholders to promote their awareness of the importance of the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathian region, and of the Convention’s activities;

**DECISION COP5/11**

**Cooperation with the European Union**

*The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Expresses* its gratitude to the European Commission, especially Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) for given support and organization of the Expert Workshop on Macro-regional Strategies and Mountain Dimension, Brussels, 25 November 2015;
2. *Welcomes* the successful cooperation with the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region and signed, in this respect, Memoranda of Cooperation between the Secretariat and the Cooperation with EUSDR PA1b “Mobility I Rail-Road-Air” in June 2016, with EUSDR PA04 “Water Quality” in August 2016 and EUSDR PA02 “Energy” in November 2016; and *encourages* further common activities;
3. *Considering* the Carpathian Conventionto be an effective and sufficient instrument of cooperation within the Carpathian region and recalling the decision COP4/2 para 6, which encourages the Parties to actively participate in the implementation of the already existing EU macroregional strategies *Notes with concern the* initiative of the Polish Government for the development of the EU Macroregional Strategy for the Carpathian Region, and requests theSecretariat to follow the process;
4. *Notes* the inauguration of the interregional group “Carpathians” within the Committee of the Regions, and requests the Secretariat to coordinate with the group;
5. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to promote the integration of Carpathian priorities into the related Transnational "European Territorial Cooperation" (ETC) Programmes (in particular the Danube Programme and Central Europe Programme, as well as – to the limited extend - Baltic Sea Region Programme) for the period 2014-2020, as well as other relevant funding programmes, and *calls upon* the Parties to further cooperate with European Union bodies in further promoting the Carpathian region within existing EU macroregional strategies.
6. *Invites* the Parties to further solicit support from European Territorial Cooperation funds, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) cohesion funds, Norway grants, LIFE, European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument, Eastern Partnership, and Instrument for Pre- Accession Assistance, and requests the Secretariat to ensure coordination in project development and implementation.

**DECISION COP5/12**

**Cooperation with the Alpine Convention**

*The Conference of the Parties*

**DECISION COP5/13**

**Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies**

*The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Welcomes* and *supports* further specific cooperation with international conventions and international bodies, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat, the  Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, the European Landscape Convention, the Council of Europe, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the European Space Agency, the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, the Central European Initiative, the Visegrad Group, the Regional Environmental Centre, GRID Arendal, GRID Warsaw, the UN Environment ;
2. *Supports* the establishment and implementation of programmes to foster the further experience exchange between the Alps, Carpathians and other mountain regions with special focus on the Balkan region, *requests* the Secretariat to implement the required activities and promote partnerships with other mountain regions, including interregional cooperation, and *invites* UN Environment, all interested partners and donors, to participate in and to contribute to the process;
3. *Request* the Secretariat to continue to promote the Carpathian Convention and sustainable mountain development in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals.

**DECISION COP5/14**

**Implementation of the Carpathian Convention**

*The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Having* in mind the reporting on the Implementation of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity to the Carpathian Convention as a testing exercise, *welcomes* the idea of a National Report on Implementation of the Carpathian Convention covering all the relevant sectors, and in this respect *requests* the Secretariat to develop a guidelines and reporting template in consultation with the Parties, to be approved by the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee, and requests the Secretariat to assist Parties in the preparation of their first national report as appropriate;
2. *Reiterates* its recommendation to establish and develop national mechanisms to foster the implementation of the Carpathian Convention, including information, involvement and capacity building of relevant stakeholders and civil society related to the process and the future development of the Carpathian Convention.
3. *Encourages* local and regional authorities and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen their cooperation on implementation of the Carpathian Convention.

**DECISION COP5/15**

**Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention**

*The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Recalling* its decision COP4/14 on the Programme of Work and budget of the Carpathian Convention;
2. *Having considered* the report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the Programme of Work (document reference number)
3. *Takes note* of the balance statement of the Trust Fund of the UN Environment, Vienna Programme Office – Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention;
4. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Work, in particular the results achieved by the Working Groups on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity, on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, on Adaptation to Climate Change, on Sustainable Forest Management; on Sustainable Tourism, on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge and by the CNPA;
5. *Encourages* the Parties to continue to finance their participation in meetings related to the implementation of the Programme of Work, and to share their expertise through their participation in online consultations and through providing leadership to the Working Groups;
6. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to facilitate the online consultations and information sharing by making available the appropriate tools, procedures and processes;
7. *Adopts* the Programme of Work for 2018 – 2020 of the Carpathian Convention;
8. *Adopts* the Budget for 2018, 2019 and 2020 for the Carpathian Convention;
9. *Adopts* the revisedTerms of Reference for the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee and requests CCIC to revise all Terms of References of Working Groups;
10. *Calls* upon the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention to activelypromote and service the implementation of the Programme of Work and the implementation of COP Decisions;
11. *Decides* that each Party will contribute to the Trust Fund on a yearly basis in accordance with the attached scale of assessment as in Annex…[[1]](#footnote-1);

**DECISION COP5/16**

**Administration and financial management of the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols**

*The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Expresses* its gratitude to the Executive Director of UN Environment for assuming responsibility for administering the Trust Fund for Administering and Meeting the Objectives of the Framework Convention for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians and related Protocols;
2. *Decides* to extend the Trust Fund for three years until the sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention in 2020 and *requests* UN Environment to continue to administer the Trust Fund until that date in accordance with the Terms of Reference adopted by the third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
3. *Decides* that the Programme of Work – Budget for 2018, 2019 and 2020 of the Carpathian Convention as approved in Decision COP5/14 shall be used as the budget of the Trust Fund for these years;
4. *Request* the Executive Director of UN environment to inform the Parties of the measures taken in relation to its request to delegate the necessary administrative authorities to the Head of the Secretariat in Vienna in line with the Rules and Regulations of the United Nations (decision COP3/14, para 15);
5. Furthermore, taking into account para 13 of the approved terms of reference of the Trust Fund contained in Annex 4 of Decision COP3/14, to maximize the use of the 13% PSC for the benefit of the

Convention and the functioning of the Secretariat, applying the equal standards for all MEA Secretariats, and request UN Environment to provide further information to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee on the planned implementation of its new Standard Management procedure for the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention;

1. *Requests* the Secretariat to consult with the United Nations and the European Union competent bodies and programmes, and prepare a report on the participation of the Secretariat in projects funded by EU Programmes, in particular EU ERDF funds, analysing current obstacles, including proposed solutions to allow the Secretariat to participate again in EU Programmes.

**[DECISION COP5/17**

**Location of Permanent Secretariat**

*The Conference of the Parties*

1. Recalling the decision COP4/16 para 4 and taking into account that there were no developments in this issue since COP4, d*ecides* to review the issue of the Secretariat location and relevant requirements at its …. meeting of the COP if consensus has been reached.]

**Decision COP5/18**

**Date and venue of the Fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention**

 *The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Decides* to accept the generous offer of the Government of… to convene the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP6) in 2020, and *requests* the Secretariat to make the necessary arrangements, in consultation with the host Government and the CCIC;
2. *Requests* the Secretariat to undertake the necessary preparation in consultation with all interested partners and stakeholders;
3. *Invites* all interested partners to make a financial contribution to the organization of the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention.

**Decision COP5/19**

**Presidency of the Carpathian Convention**

 *The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Express* its gratitude for the successful Presidency of the Czech Republic to the Carpathian Convention;
2. *Encourages* close cooperation of the Carpathian Troika consisting of the previous, current and future Presidencies in order to maxims results of common efforts.
1. Annex 2 …. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)