SCC/2017/01/draft/rev1

**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:**

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**Decision COP5/19**

**Balanced implementation of the Carpathian Convention**

# We, the Ministers and High Officials 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);

*Welcoming* the 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 for the conservation and sustainable management of 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, WWF, the International Union for Conservation of Nature;

*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.

*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 outstanding environmental value and importance of the Carpathian forests, which represent some of Europe’s most significant remaining areas of old growth and natural forests, and *underlining* the need to protect and raise public awareness on the importance of maintaining these 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;

*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 to this matter, and a clear mandate for undertaking needed actions in this respect;

*Noting, that apart of the areas with good progress there are areas where the progress has been less satisfactory,*

*Welcoming* of the ongoing consultations regarding the development of an EU macroregional strategy and proposed EU Interreg programme for the Carpathian region, *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,

1. Welcomes the progress that has been made on development of the Carpathian Red List of Forest Habitats and Red List of Vascular Plants of the Carpathians, as useful tools for policy and communication for the implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol, and recognises that these lists are non-exhaustive and notes that additional expert work is needed in order to reach final and comprehensive version.

1. *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 Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CCIC) for further considerations and proposing the next steps in the implementation of the Protocol;

*2. Approves the decision of CCIC to adopt* the simplified format for the 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 to streamline the preparation of description of methods used to implement the Protocol; welcomes the fact that the countries (…) have submitted their reports and calls for the Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity to analyze them with the view to formulate conclusions aiming at strengthening of the implementation of the Protocol in the future;

1. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the Conference on Large Carnivores’ Protection held on 18 -21 October 2016 in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm, Czech Republic, and *expresses* 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;
2. *Welcomes* the Declaration on the Management and Protection of Large Carnivores in the Carpathians, that among others, *calls* the WG Biodiversity with support of the Secretariatfor elaboration of international action plan for the conservation and sustainable management for the Carpathian populations of large carnivores;
3. *Mandates* the Working Group on Biodiversity to prioritize its work on Large Carnivores for the next implementation period, and *appreciates* support offered by WWF, EURAC and the Sapienza University of Rome in this respect;
4. *Welcomes* the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), , and *requests* the Secretariat and the Working Group on Biodiversity to work together with CIC through a work plan for concrete activities, including possible harmonization of methodologies for the population based management of large carnivores, to be carried out within this collaboration;
5. CNPA signed

*8. 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;

*9. Welcomes* the outcomes of the Side Event held during the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on 9th December 2016 in Cancun, Mexico, inter alia launching of the Mountain Biodiversity for our Wellbeing platform and strengthened awareness for need for integrated approaches for ecosystem management in mountain regions based on collected best-practices in the Carpathians using the format of “storymaps” as a new innovative and interactive communication tool;and *thanks* the Slovak Republic, at that time the Presidency of the Council of EU, the Secretariat and UN Environment for the efforts made in this respect;

Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity (WG Biodiversity),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 WG Biodiversity 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 as the Lead Partner*, requests* the Secretariat to participate in it by providing expertise through an agreement with the Lead Partner;

*14.*

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**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.
2. *Mandates* the Working Group on Spatial Development to liaise and cooperate with other bodies established under the Carpathian Convention, in particular with the other Carpathian Convention working groups, with the objective to enhance synergies and ensure integration of the objectives   
   of respective thematic Protocols into spatial planning policies of the Parties.
3. *Reiterates* its call upon spatial planning/development local and regional authorities   
   of the Carpathian countries to continue the cooperation on issues relevant for spatial planning to achieve the territorial cohesion of the Carpathian region, in particular on coordinating spatial and management planning in bordering areas (CC Art. 5.2; Art. 5.3; Art. 9.2), promoting transboundary cooperation on sustainable tourism development in the Carpathians (CC Protocol on Sustainable Tourism Art. 20), consultation, harmonization and coordination of measures undertaken in border areas for the conservation of the biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians (Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity Art. 16), including inputs and support to the development and implementation of relevant projects;

4. *Recognizes* the crucial role of local and regional administration and their spatial planning/development authorities in the successful implementation of the Carpathian Convention   
and its Protocols and invites them to pursue and strengthen their efforts and to cooperate among each other.

1. *Welcomes*  the Joint Declaration between the International Convention for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) and the Carpathian Convention on sustainable development of the Carpathians and Tisza River Basin signed at the Danube Annual Forum in Ulm, Germany, 29 October 2015, and *encourages* enhanced joint programming with ICPDR;

*Welcomes* approval of the JOINTISZA Project - *Strengthening Cooperation between River Basin Management Planning and Flood Risk Prevention to Enhance the Status of Waters of the Tisza River Basin* funded by the INTERREG Danube Transnational Programme, *appreciates* the role of the Carpathian Convention as the Strategic Associated Partner (ASP), and *requests* the Secretariat to participate in it by providing relevant expertise

**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 (WG SARD), 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…**.**

1) The proposal shall be submitted to the CCIC for consideration and further mandate allowing the WG SARD to conduct work in this respect.

2) 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.,

1. *Takes note of* 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, and *asks* the WG Forest to prioritize the ongoing work on completing the inventory of virgin forests;
2. *Welcomes* and *appreciates* progress made towards elaborating criteria and indicators for identification of natural forests in the Carpathians, and *request* WG Forest tofinalize the work on criteria and indicators
3. *Recommends* the WG Forest to propose voluntary guidelines for unification of methodologies of sustainable management of natural forests in the Carpathian, implementing , inter alia, Art. 11 of the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management;
4. *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 (Transport Protocol) by the Slovak Republic, Ukraine and Poland, and *encourages* the ratification of the Protocol by the Parties which have not yet done so;
2. and *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 the Benefit of People and Nature* funded by the INTERREG Danube Transnational Programme, and *appreciates* support given to the activities by WG Transport, as well as the Working Group on Biodiversity, *welcomes* the cooperation with WWF as the Lead Partner, and *requests* the Secretariat to participate in it by providing expertise through an agreement with the Lead Partner;
3. *Recommends* the WG Transport 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 (Tourism Protocol)and the Strategy for the Sustainable Tourism Development of the Carpathians;
2. *Mandates* the Working Group on Sustainable Tourism to work on ….
3. *Welcomes* cooperation with 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;
4. *Takes note of* and appreciates organization of the Workshop on the Implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism to the Carpathian Convention into the National Law on 12 – 13 December 2016 in Vienna, Austria, and *acknowledges*  involvement of the ETE and the Secretariat in related preparations ;

project eing, which contributes to the implementation of the Article 11 of the Tourism Protocol.

**DECISION COP5/7**

**Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge**

**Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention**

*The Conference of the Parties*

, which might result in a close cooperation with UNESCO World Heritage Centre, for

1. *Requests* the Working Group on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge to consider further development, in consultation with relevant institutions and local stakeholders, of the draft Protocol on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge and a proposal for a corresponding Strategic Action Plan, and *requests* the Secretariat to facilitate the process;
2. *Reiterates* the invitation to National Focal Points to continue actions to inform and cooperate with the competent ministries and sectors responsible for cultural heritage and traditional knowledge and calls upon them to be involved in this work.

**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 the Carpathian Convention and the European Environment Agency (EEA) on the implementation of the Carpathian Convention based on the Partnership Agreement and related Join Work Plan;;

*Welcomes* the outcomes of the Forum Carpaticum 2016: Future of the Carpathians: Smart, Sustainable, Inclusive that were presented at the COP5, *requests* the Science of the Carpathians initiative to further support the Carpathian Convention with its sound scientific knowledge and expertise in many areas of cooperation

**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 Partiesto 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;

to be possible undertaken by the Secretariat and ICPDR.

**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, and *invites* the Parties to support implementation of awareness raising activities;
2. ;
3. *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;
4. Welcomes the proposal of the Hungarian Presidency to organize a seminar in 2018/2019 on the issues on environmental and sustainable development education and awareness raising in kindergartens and schools with the aim of exchanging best practices in the Carpathian region and exploring of further cooperation; Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) as well as possibly cooperate on project development in the field of ESD *Requests* the Parties, the Secretariat and relevant partners, among others. the UNECE steering committee on ESD and S4C, to consider common activities on awareness raising, for instance, establishing contest for a school students and/or young scientist with reference to the Carpathian matters;

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**DECISION COP5/11**

**Cooperation with the European Union**

*The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Expresses* its gratitude to the European Commission, especially the 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 ongoing cooperation with the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region and signed, in this respect, Memoranda of Cooperation between the Secretariat and EUSDR PA1b “Mobility I Rail-Road-Air” in June 2016, with EUSDR PA4 “Water Quality” in August 2016 and EUSDR PA2 “Energy” in November 2016; and *encourages* further common activities;
3. *Takes note* of the “”Workshop on balancing bioenergy production and sustainable forest management in Mountain Areas” organized by the EUSDRA PA2 “Energy” with Support of the Sopron University and the Secretariat on 17 May 2017 in Sopron, Hungary, as one of a good example of common activities between the EUSDR and the Carpathian Convention;
4. *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. Welcomes the* initiative of the Polish Government for the development of the EU Macroregional Strategy for the Carpathian Region as an important instrument to strengthen the role of the the Carpathian macro-region so that it becomes one of Europe’s centres, by allowing for full development of the potential of the region, with protection of the environment, landscape and cultural heritage and sustainable development of leisure industries being possible areas of cooperation, and requests theSecretariat to follow the process;

1. *Notes* the inauguration of the interregional group “Carpathians” within the Committee of the Regions, rand *requests* the Secretariat to coordinate with the group;
2. *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 the Central Europe Programme, as well as – to limited extent - 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;
3. *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 and other conventions and international bodies**

*The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Welcomes* the cooperation with the Alpine Convention in the framework of the concluded Memorandum of Understanding, and *requests* the Secretariat to continue to strengthen the cooperation with the Alpine Convention in fields such as institutional cooperation, the exchange of information and experience, the development and implementation of common projects, collaboration on implementation of the Conventions and their respective Programmes of Work, the implementation of the Programmes of Work of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on Protected Areas and on Mountain Biodiversity and collaboration in the field of protected area networks in the Alps and the Carpathians;

2. *Welcomes* outcomes of the Mountain Week organized during Expo 2015 in Milan, Italy, which was initiated by the Ministry of the Environment of Italy in collaboration with the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention, promoting sustainable mountain development and mountain products from all around the world and thanks to Czech Republic for organizing a seminar on Climate Change Adaptation in Mountain Regions;’s

1. *Welcomes* and *supports* further specific cooperation with international conventions and international bodies, including the Convention on Biological Diversity; European Environment Agency; ; 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 Committee of the Regions, 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 International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR); the Central European Initiative; the Visegrad Group; the Regional Environmental Centre; GRID Arendal, GRID Warsaw; the Mountain Partnership; 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 COP5/13**

**Implementation of the Carpathian Convention**

*The Conference of the Parties*

1. Welcoming (taking note of?) the reporting on the Implementation of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity to the Carpathian Convention, *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. s *Welcomes* establishment of the National Carpathian Committees in Poland supporting efficient and consistent processes for implementation of the Carpathian Convention, and awareness raising if relevant governmental officials regarding the activities of the Convention, and *encourage* the other interested Parties to follow this good practice;
3. *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;
4. *Encourages* local and regional authorities and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen their cooperation on implementation of the Carpathian Convention.

**DECISION COP5/14**

**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;
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 COP5/15**

**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, *requests* 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 *requests* 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;
6. *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 COP5/16**

**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, decides to review the issue of the Secretariat location and relevant requirements at its …. meeting of the COP if consensus has been reached.]

**Decision COP5/17**

**Date and venue of the Sixth 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 COP5/18**

**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 maximise results of common efforts.

**Decision COP5/19**

**Balanced implementation of the Carpathian Convention**

*The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Underlines* the importance of all the articles of the Carpathian Convention and Protocols accompanying the Convention;
2. *Reiterates* the need to implement them in a balanced way;
3. *Requests* the Secretariat to take all necessary efforts in order to mobilize financial means for development and implementation of projects relating to different areas covered by the Convention.

1. Annex 2 …. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)