

WORKSHOP ON BALANCING BIOENERGY PRODUCTION AND SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN MOUNTAINS AREAS

MAY 17, SOPRON - HUNGARY



ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

Workshop on balancing bioenergy production and sustainable forest management in Mountains Areas was **organized back to back to the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management**.

Workshop focused on concerns and **recommendations on how to achieve a socially and environmentally sustainable climate and energy policy associated with bioenergy production** in mountain areas of the Danube/Carpathian Region and opening the **debate about increasing demand for bioenergy production** and the question on how this demand can be met sustainably.

PROGRAMME

INTRODUCTION

- EU Strategy for the Danube region and PA2
- Cooperation of the Carpathian Convention and the EUSDR

FRAMEWORKS AND POLICIES

- Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians
- Adaptation to climate change in mountain areas

FORESTS & ENERGY – OPPORTUNITY OR THREAT?

- Sustainable forest management
- A sustainable bioenergy policy for the period after 2020
- Impacts of biomass use in forest areas in Europe

TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY

- Mitigation of Climate Change
- PromoBio project
- R.green - A Decision Support System to balance Alpine energy and nature
- Improvement of forest transport network of mountain areas



Opening the workshop

Workshop was opened by Mrs. Šiková, the Priority Area 2 (PA2) coordinator of EUSDR and Mrs. Rolfova from the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic - NFP for the Carpathian Convention.

Mrs. Šiková introduced the EUSDR, the scope of work the PA2 – “To encourage more sustainable energy” and highlighted the importance of joint activities with relevant institutions and initiatives as the Carpathian Convention.

Mrs. Rolfova emphasized a need for cooperation on issues and challenges affecting both the Carpathian area and the Danube region and welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation that aims at enhancing synergies between processes and mandates of the Carpathian Convention and the EUSDR to the benefit of the Region.

Mrs. Šiková - [presentation](#) on EUSDR - PA2

Mrs. Rolfova - [presentation](#) on European Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) & Carpathian Convention



Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management

Mr. Egerer - Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

Mr. Egerer introduced the history of the Carpathian Convention that entered into force in January 2006 and its activities concerning the topic of sustainable forest management. **The Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management** was developed by the WG Forest and adopted by all the Carpathian Countries as well as Strategic Action Plan for the implementation. It aims to promote the sustainable management and protection of Carpathian forests bringing benefits to present and future generations.

Mr. Egerer - [presentation](#) on the Protocol on sustainable FM

Adaptation to climate change in mountain areas

Mr. Szalai - Carpathian Convention

Mr. Szalai focused on the recommendation how mountain areas in general can better adapt and mitigate climate changes and introduced outcomes of the three Carpathian projects focusing on climate, and vulnerability of environmental resources (CARPATCLIM, CARPIVIA, CarpathCC). Mr. Szalai highlighted the importance of international co-operation (with Alpine Convention, EUSDR, Pyrenees Working Community, Baltic Sea Region etc.)

Mr. Szalai - [presentation](#) Carpathian Region: From a Strategic Agenda on Adaptation to Climate Change to practical improvements





Sustainable forest management (SFM)

Mr. Kusbach - Carpathian Convention

Mr. Kusbach presented the topic from the point of view of the SFM in the Czech Republic. He introduced Forest Management Guidelines that serve as recommendations for detail forestry planning. On the examples of Ukraine and Mongolia Mr. Kusbach showed the applied principle of SFM. Mr. Kusbach proposed a unified methodological tool for framework management of the Carpathian forests using common experience with existing structures similar to the Czech system.

Mr. Kusbach - [presentation](#) on SFM in Czech Republic

A sustainable bioenergy policy after 2020

Mr. Vaszkó - WWF Hungary

Mr. Vaszkó introduced the point of view of the WWF about the role of bioenergy in future. He stressed out that the availability of sustainable biomass is limited and other renewable sources have to play much bigger role. Mr. Vaszkó presented sustainability concerns regarding the policy perspective and highlighted the need for proper GHG emission accounting.

Mr. Vaszkó - [presentation](#): sustainable bioenergy policy after 2020

Impacts of biomass use in forest areas in Europe

Mr. Wolfslehner, European Forest Institute

Mr. Wolfslehner focused on the impacts of biomass use on forests and how to combine biomass, protection and ecosystem services. He introduced the opportunities and also threats that are forests facing nowadays. In the field of mountain forests Mr. Wolfslehner see the need for improved accessibility of forest areas, need to harmonise forest functions and ecosystem services and also opportunities to increase resilience and adaptive management.

Mr. Wolfslehner - [presentation](#) on impacts of biomass use in forests

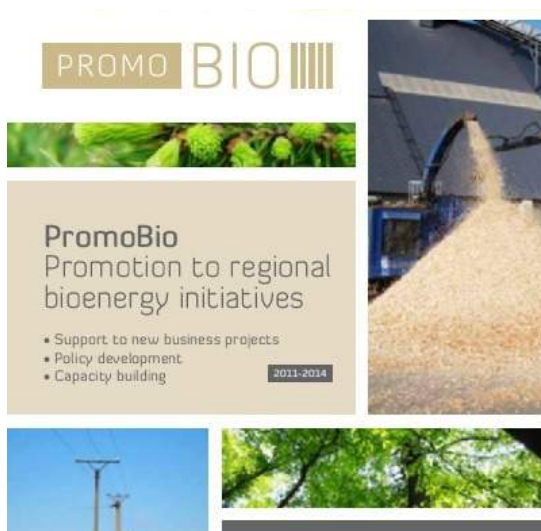


Mitigation on climate change - LULUCF sector

Mr. Somogyi - Hungarian Forest Research Institute

Mr. Somogyi looked at the topic of mitigation of climate change from the point of view of LULUCF sector. He highlighted that in order to ensure the sustainability of acceptable climate, rate of emission reductions and timing are essential. In its conclusion Mr. Somogyi raised questions to discussion focusing on the role of forest sector in solving problems, overemphasizing carbon at the cost of other important services and considering forests be more subjects to protection rather than means of mitigation.

Mr. Somogyi - [presentation](#) on mitigation on climate change



PromoBio project

Mr. Otepka - Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra

Mr. Otepka introduced the project PromoBio that aims to provide support to regional bioenergy initiatives and to facilitate new bioenergy projects in selected target regions in Slovakia, Romania and Poland and focus particularly on forest biomass. He presented main outcomes of the project – bioenergy action plans, project outlines, training guidebook for trainers, a guidebook on bioenergy success stories to decision-makers and other stakeholders.

Mr. Otepka - [presentation](#) on PromoBio project



Recharge.green

Mr. Vettorato - EURAC

Mr. Vettorato presented a spacial decision support system for renewable energy production in Alpine valleys. The project recharge.green brings together 16 partners to develop strategies and tools for decision-making on different issues. The analysis and comparison of the costs and benefits of renewable energy, ecosystem services, and potential trade-offs is a key component in this process. One of its aims is to support the implementation of various EU directives and strategies, and to contribute to the implementation of the Alpine Convention.

Mr. Vettorato - [presentation](#) on Recharge.green

Improvement of forest transport network of mountain areas

Mr. Korzhov, Ukrainian Research Institute for Mountain Forestry

Mr. Korzhov focused on the topic improvement of forest transport network of mountain areas as primary factor to elaborate sustainable forest management. He stressed out that the transportation of timber as part of the logging process is causing a significant impact on the forest environment and requires further improvement by developing of forest roads. Optimum transport infrastructure of forests will significantly reduce the volume of cargo transportation of the primary timber that will cause not only effectiveness of logging but also will reduce the volume of erosion and improve the hydrological role of forest areas.

Mr. Korzhov - [presentation](#) on improvement of forest transport network of mountain areas



CONTACTS

The Office of Government of the Czech Republic

EUSDR - Priority Area 2 Coordinator: Veronika Šiková, sikova.veronika@vlada.cz

Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

UN Environment, Vienna International Centre, info@carpathianconvention.org

Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic

Carpathian Convention National Focal Point: Eliška Rolfova, Eliska.Rolfova@mzp.cz

LINKS



EU Strategy for the Danube Region

<http://www.danube-region.eu/>

Priority Area 2 - To Encourage More Sustainable Energy

<http://www.danube-energy.eu/>

Carpathian Convention

<http://www.carpathianconvention.org/>

6th Meeting of WG on sustainable forest management

<http://www.carpathianconvention.org/eventdetailwg-forests/events/sixth-meeting-of-the-wg-on-sustainable-forest-management.html>



THE DANUBE TRANSNATIONAL PROGRAMME PROVIDES CO-FINANCING TO THE ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE PRIORITY AREA COORDINATORS (PACS) OF THE EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION (EUSDR)

<http://www.interreg-danube.eu/>