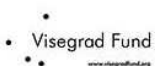




**DECLARATION  
OF THE  
2<sup>ND</sup> CONFERENCE OF THE CARPATHIAN NETWORK OF PROTECTED  
AREAS**

**Tatranská Javorina, Tatra Region Slovakia**

**23-26 April 2013**



The representatives of Carpathian protected areas gathered in Tatranská Javorina, Slovakia for the 2nd Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) Conference held within the framework of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention), as a thematic network of cooperation of mountain protected areas in the Carpathians,

Hosted by the Government of Slovakia, organized with the support of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (SNSCR), WWF Danube Carpathian Programme (DCP), UNEP Vienna – Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (ISCC), CNPA Steering Committee (SC), Alpine Network of Protected Areas (ALPARC), European Academy Bolzano (EURAC), within the SEE BioREGIO Carpathians project and with the financial support of the Visegrad Fund, Carpathian Convention, Ministry of the Environment of Germany, Ministry of the Environment of Slovak Republic, Carpathian Wetlands Initiative, GEF, UNDP Romania, Romanian National Forest Administration,

Pursuant to relevant Decisions of the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention to the Carpathian Convention (COP 3) and in particular the adoption of the Medium-Term Strategy of the CNPA [Decision COP 3/1(5)], adoption of the revised Terms of Reference of the CNPA SC [Decision COP 3/1(6)] and request to the ISCC to service the CNPA SC [Decision COP 3/13(13)],

Declare as follows:

We turn the attention to the challenges and increasing pressures to the protected areas network which could threaten natural and cultural heritage and ecological connectivity and functionality.

We encourage economic activities in line with the conservation objectives and emphasize the role of protected areas for regional sustainable development.

We emphasize the need for adequate funding for the protected areas network which would allow the proper functioning and the achievement of the management objectives.

We welcome the fruitful cooperation with the international partners (ALPARC, EURAC, Science for the Carpathians Initiative (S4C), UNEP, WWF DCP, and others) and express our wish to continue and to strengthen this cooperation.

We welcome the results of various projects relevant for the CNPA framework (e.g. MAVA PA4LP, ETC SEE BioREGIO Carpathians, GEF Improving the Financial Sustainability of the Carpathian System of Protected Areas, Alpine-Carpathian Cooperation, Austria-Slovakia cross border Alpine – Carpathian Corridor) and express the willingness to sustain and apply the findings and proposed activities from those projects.

We express our gratitude for the ongoing support of the European Union to our common efforts undertaken in the Carpathians.

We thank the ISCC<sup>1</sup> for the continuous support to the CNPA activities.

We welcome the draft Medium Term CNPA Work Plan 2013 - 2017 presented at the Conference and ask the CNPA SC and ISCC to integrate the outcomes of the Conference to it for submission to COP for approval...

We welcome the establishment of a provisional CNPA Management Unit financed by UNEP Vienna – ISCC through the BioREGIO Carpathians project and sustain the elements of a permanent arrangement for the CNPA.

<sup>1</sup> The ISCC includes UNEP Vienna – ISCC and EURAC representing office Vienna (EURAC expert team – ISCC) members