

**STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROTOCOL ON
SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT (BRATISLAVA, 2011)
TO THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON THE PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
CARPATHIANS
(KYIV, 2003)**

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Pursuant to Article 20 paragraphs 1¹ and 4² of the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management (hereinafter referred to as “the Protocol”) to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (hereinafter referred to as “the Convention”), adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Bratislava on 27 May 2011;

Welcoming the aim of the Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management to support the Parties to the Carpathian Convention towards their cooperation for the implementation of the Protocol and to give inputs based on their field of expertise and experience to formulate guidelines on the following;

Recalling the Ministerial Declaration of the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention³ and pursuant to Decision COP3/4 on Sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry, in particular its paragraphs 2⁴, 3⁵ and 6⁶;

Following the Terms of Reference for the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee approved by the Bureau and endorsed by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention by its Decision COP2/13 on Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention paragraph 5⁷;

Mandated by the above Terms of Reference, letter e)⁸ to carry out the function to consider, develop and recommend strategies for the achievement of the objectives of the Convention; In order to ensure implementation of the provisions of the Protocol

The Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee recommends the following Strategic Action Plan for approval of the Bureau and adoption by the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as follows:

Within the next 12 years the Parties shall undertake the following actions:

¹ “Each Party shall undertake necessary legal and administrative measures for ensuring implementation of the provisions of this Protocol.”

² “The Parties shall develop and adopt the Strategic Action Plan targeted on implementation of this Protocol.”

³ “*Welcome* the adoption and signing of the Protocols on Sustainable Forest Management and on Sustainable Tourism, and call for their timely ratification in accordance with national procedures, and implementation, in collaboration, inter alia with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the Forest Europe Process and other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, entities and processes.”

⁴ Decision COP3/4 paragraph 2: “*Adopts* the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians”

⁵ Decision COP3/4 paragraph 3: “*Adopts* the revised Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management”

⁶ Decision COP3/4 paragraph 6: “*Requests* the interim Secretariat to coordinate the preparation of a Strategic Action Plan for the implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management, taking into account the work done under the auspices of the Working Group”

⁷ Decision COP2/13, paragraph 5: “The Conference of the Parties endorses the terms of reference of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee, as approved by the Bureau and annexed to the present decision (Annex I)”

⁸ Terms of Reference for the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee: “*Serviced* by the Secretariat, the Committee shall carry out the following functions: e) To consider, develop and recommend new and additional Protocols, strategies, or other measures and recommendations for the achievement of the objectives of the Convention”

Objective 1 - Implementation of policies and/or strategies aiming at sustainable forest management and integration of its objectives into other sectoral policies

Pursuant to Articles 1, 2, 3 and 6 of the Protocol the Parties shall ~~undertake~~:

Action 1. 1. Assess, develop, adopt and/or update, and implement their national policies and/or strategies aiming at promoting the sustainable management and protection of the Carpathians forests in their national territory, to bring benefits to present and future generation. Potential extension of the Protocol to additional parts of the national territory possible.

Result expected

a) *Above mentioned policies and/or strategies developed and/or updated, and implemented.*

Action 1. 2. Communicate the objectives and provisions of the Protocol to relevant international bodies responsible for, or involved in development or revision of other regional or global sectoral policies and strategies, such as the EU macroregional Strategies for Danube (EUSDR) and Black Sea Regions (EUSBSR), which could have influence on the sustainable management and protection of the forests in the Carpathians and facilitate in-country consultations, to ensure that the objectives of the Protocol are duly taken into account in their national, regional and global policies. In particular, that they are integrated in those policies on biodiversity conservation, soil protection, rural development, water and river basin management, climate change, tourism, industry and energy, cultural heritage and traditional knowledge conservation, spatial planning, transport and infrastructure

Results expected

a) *Relevant objectives of the Protocol integrated in relevant national policies;*

b) *Issues relevant for the Protocol considered on the periodic basis by the ~~national inter sectoral dialogue~~ national state authorities responsible for supervision of the Protocol;*

c) *Regular contacts with the relevant international bodies and update on their activities ensured;*

d) *Participation of at least one Carpathian representative in relevant international conference/meetings and involvement of the relevant international bodies in the conference/meetings organized within the Convention ensured;*

e) *Contacts with EU institutions and bodies further developed;*

f) *Objectives of the Protocol added and adequately integrated in the EU and other relevant funds available for rural development, biodiversity, regional development, climate change;*

g) *Provisions of the Protocol considered during the development of a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe and of any other legally binding documents relevant for the region*

Action 1. 3. Encourage consultations, coordination and cooperation between global and regional institutions, local authorities and stakeholders concerned of each Party,

to involve them in the development and implementation of national policies and strategies, and the resulting measures which could have influence on the sustainable forest management and protection in the Carpathians.

Results expected

a) *Issues relevant for the Forest Protocol included in the agenda of the consultative meetings;*

b) *Cooperation between all stakeholders on sustainable management and protection of forests in the Carpathians strengthened.*

Objective 2 – Cooperation at subnational level

Pursuant to Articles 1, 4 and 26 of the Protocol the Parties shall ~~undertake~~:

Action 2. 1. Define the best level of coordination and cooperation between national institutions, regional and local authorities, as well as communities to encourage shared responsibilities in the process of implementation of the Protocol, for example using the available EU sectoral, regional and neighborhood instruments and programs.

Action 2. 2. ~~Undertake Measures-measures~~ to facilitate the involvement and to promote the participation of regional and local authorities, as well as communities and other stakeholders in forest management.

Action 2. 3. ~~Undertake Activities-activities to integrate- improving involvement of~~ communities, forest owners and managers concerned in the various stages of preparing and implementing national policies and measures.

Results expected

a) ~~Above-mentioned measures-and-activities-developed aimed to improve involvement of communities, forest owners and managers concerned in the various stages of preparing and implementing national policies and measures are implemented;~~

b) *Initiatives aimed at raising stakeholders awareness on the importance of sustainable forest management developed.*

Objective 3 – International cooperation

Pursuant to Articles 2, 5, and 16 of the Protocol the Parties shall ~~undertake~~:

Action 3. 1. ~~Undertake~~ active transboundary cooperation to better and further implement the objectives of the Protocol, e.g. enforce the sustainable management and the protection of the forests ~~beyond national borders~~.

Results expected

- a) Active exchange of relevant information with other Parties ensured;
- b) Cooperation in creating guidelines for the management of forests including close to nature forestry in Protected Areas ensured and fostered;
- c) Measures aimed at granting legal protective status to transboundary Protected Areas and to priority connecting corridors in border areas adopted.

Action 3. 2. Facilitate the cooperation between regional and local authorities at the international level through appropriate policies and/or strategies to involve them and permitting their easy participation. Implement measures seeking to solve shared problems at the most suitable level.

Results expected

- a) New cooperative arrangements and agreements between regional and local authorities established, and common implementation of the existing ones enhanced, if necessary;
- b) External funding identified and proposal for common projects prepared.

Action 3. 3. Develop and implement policies and/or strategies in their national territory aiming at improving the sustainable management of the Carpathian forests, while taking into consideration policies and/or strategies developed and implemented by other Parties.

Results expected

- a) Cooperation and exchange of information on policies of the Parties related to ecological networks and the forest management objectives and measures ensured and fostered;
- b) Analysis of possibility of allocating additional budgetary and other domestic resources for improving sustainable forest management in the Carpathian region conducted.

Comment [KK1]: Cooperation beyond national borders is doubtful. We can speak only about transboundary cooperation. We propose to amend as follows:

Objective 4 – Maintaining and enlarging forest cover

Pursuant to Articles 1 and 8 of the Protocol the Parties shall ~~undertake~~:

Action 4. 1. Take measures to maintain existing forest cover through sustainable forest management and spatial planning.

Results expected

a) Existing level of forest cover preserved on a level of 2010 year (last FRA) or increased;

b) Exchange information and best practices on the measures taken to maintain existing forest cover and prevent deforestation ensured.

Action 4. 2. Take measures, if appropriate, to enlarge forest cover, while taking into account the high ecological importance of natural and semi natural grasslands and the other goals of the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols.

Results expected

a) Areas in need of afforestation in the national territory identified;

b) Measures to enlarge, if appropriate, forests using mainly native species developed and implemented;

c) Consultation and information exchange among the stakeholders on the appropriate measures aimed at increasing forest cover ensured ;

d) Silvicultural measures taken;

e) Exchange information and best practices for increase forest cover in the Carpathian region ensured.

Comment [KK2]: It should be specified what kind of measures should be taken. We propose to amend as follows:

Comment [KK3]: It should be specified what kind of measures should be taken. As soon as in result b we already specified measures aimed to increasing forest cover, we propose to delete result d.

Objective 5 – Ensuring the productive functions of the forests and their role in rural development

Pursuant to Articles 1 and 9 of the Protocol the Parties shall ~~undertake~~:

Action 5. 1. Develop and implement measures aiming at ensuring the productive functions of the forests, and enhance their role in rural development through appropriate policies adapted to the ownership structure and the sound use of wood.

Results expected

- a) *Forest land property and management rights in the national territories defined and respected;*
- b) *Rural areas and forest owners concerned identified;*
- c) *Source of livelihood of the rural populations clearly identified;*
- d) *Forest land owners and users expectations on ensuring productive function of forest defined;*
- e) *Uses of wood in different local industries outlined;*
- f) *Contribution of forest management and sound use of wood to green economy fostered;*
- g) *Consultation with shareholders and local communities on challenges or constraints to the productive functions of forests conducted;*
- h) *Sound use of wood and non-wood products according to relevant normative documents on sustainable forest management in Carpathians practiced;*
- i) *Sources of income by raising the added value on forest resources promoted and ensured;*
- j) *International Ssupport, in accordance with national legislation, to the forest owner and managers and their associations provided.*

Action 5. 2. Reduce problems due to the forest land ownership fragmentation.

Results expected

- a) *International Ssupport, in accordance with national legislation, to the forest owners, managers and their associations provided;*
- b) *-Measures to reduce the problems associated with fragmentation of forest land, also through forest land and/or management consolidation developed and implemented, as appropriate.*

Action 5. 3. Combat illegal logging and associated trade through enforcing forest law.

Results expected

- a) *Approaches to combat illegal logging and associated trade, inter alia, through implementing the EU timber regulation or the EU FLEGT Action Plan coordinated and harmonised;*
- b) *Due diligence systems including timber tracking tool coordinated.*

Comment [KK4]: Ukraine is not a member of EU so it is doubtful it participation in coordinated due diligence system. We propose or to **delete** this result or **to amend as follows** “Due diligence systems including timber tracking tool coordinated among EU Member States”.

Action 5. 4. Promote sustainable harvesting and marketing of non-wood forest products.

Results expected

- a) Non-wood forest products and ways of its sustainable use in the Carpathian region commonly defined ~~and recognizable~~;
- b) Measures on the promotion of the non-wood forest products developed and implemented;
- c) Status of sustainable harvesting and marketing of non-wood forest products assessed and protected through adapted strategies.

Action 5. 5. Develop and spread the use of systems of payment for ecosystem services, as appropriate.

Result expected

- a) Schemes of payments for ecosystems services from forest in the Carpathians developed, including where appropriate a legislative framework;
- b) Use of payments of ecosystems services schemes promoted and spread, where appropriate.
- b)c) Measures for identification of forest ecosystem services in Carpathian region taken.

Objective 6 – Management of forests in Protected Areas, as well as identification and protection of natural and especially virgin forests

Pursuant to Articles 1, 10 and 11 of the Protocol the Parties shall ~~undertake~~:

Action 6. 1. Take measures to identify and protect natural forests and especially virgin forests through establishing Protected Areas in sufficient size and number and/or other specific measures of protection.

Results expected

- a) *Criteria and indicators for identifying natural and virgin forests harmonized;*
- b) *Work on compiling, analyzing and updating the scientific data, national inventories and maps of natural and especially virgin forests conducted; inventory data of virgin forests based of the format approved by the Parties included in Carpathian Convention joint information system;*
- c) *Virgin forests protected through establishing Protected Areas and/or other specific measures of protection;*
- d) *Commonly agreed definition of sufficient areas adopted by the Parties, if needed;*
- e) *Sufficient areas of all types of identified natural forests from the Carpathian region included in Protected Areas;*
- f) Improving cooperation ~~Joint actions~~ among administrations responsible for Protected Areas in the Carpathians facilitated.

Comment [KK5]: It should be provided explanation for what reason it should be provided joint actions. We propose to amend as follows:

Action 6. 2. Undertake measures aiming at preserving genetic resources of natural forests in the Carpathian region.

Results expected

- a) *Valuable genetic resources detailed, listed and recognizable in each territory;*
- b) *Policies on preserving genetic resources of natural forests implemented; inherent activities facilitated;*
- c) *Measures on the sustainable use and preservation of genetic resources developed and implemented;*
- d) Catalogue of measures including all the already existing measures of national and regional legislations developed, taking into account the results and experiences of ongoing projects.

Comment [KK6]: We would like to delete result.

Action 6. 3. Where appropriate, Aadopt measures to compensate costs or economic losses resulting from above mentioned measures aimed to protect -natural forests and especially virgin forests.

Results expected

- a) *Economic implications resulting from measures for the protection of natural and virgin forests addressed in the development of compensation schemes, as appropriate;*

Comment [KK7]: It should be specified for what kind of activities compensations should be provided. We propose to amend as follows

b) *Where appropriate, Costs or economic losses caused by the protection of natural forests and especially virgin forests clearly calculated and defined; specific measures to compensate them developed, implemented.*

Comment [KK8]: It should be specified what kind of economical losses we are speaking about. We propose to amend as follows

Action 6. 4. Ensure the coherence between the Protected Areas management plans and the forest management plans *in forest protected areas of the Carpathian region.*

Results expected

a) *Methodology for creation of forest management plans in Protected Areas developed;*

b) *Coherent management plans, including proper zonations according to forest conservation needs, achieved and implemented for all Protected Areas in the Carpathian region;*

c) *Cooperation on forest management among Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) members increased;*

d) *Improving cooperation Joint actions among administrations responsible for Protected Areas in the Carpathians facilitated;*

Comment [KK9]: It should be provided explanation for what reason joint actions should be provided. We propose to amend as follows:

e) *Financial programmes to submit project proposals identified and project proposals aimed at improving forest management in Protected Areas, as appropriate, prepared.*

Comment [KK10]: It should be specified what kind of project proposals should be prepared. We propose to amend as follows:

Action 6. 5. Implement measures in their national territory with the objective to ensure the long-term conservation or maintenance, protection, restoration and sustainable use of natural forests.

Results expected

a) *Current and potential future threats to the conservation status of natural forests, within the national territory of each Party, identified and assessed;*

b) *Elaborate guidelines for special conservation measures undertaken, if needed, with the objective to ensure the long-term conservation, protection, maintenance, restoration and sustainable use of all types of endangered forests;*

c) *Foreseen activities included in the agenda of the meetings of the common expert networks, such as the Carpathian Convention Sustainable Forest Management Working Group.*

Objective 7 – Improvement of the protective forest functions

Pursuant to Articles 1, 11, 12 and 16 of the Protocol the Parties shall ~~undertake~~:

Action 7. 1. Adopt measures to improve the protective functions of forests in general, such as better preventing floods, soil erosion, landslides, avalanches and rock falls by promoting appropriate forest management methods, to enhance stability and resistance to natural and anthropogenic disturbances.

Result expected

a) *Experience shared on measures aimed at enhancing forests protective functions;*

b) ~~Above mentioned~~ Measures aimed at improving protective forest functions adopted for the Carpathian region.

Objective 8 – Promotion of close to nature forestry

Pursuant to Articles 1, 11 and 13 of the Protocol the Parties shall ~~undertake~~:

Action 8. 1. Promote close to nature forestry.

Results expected

- a) Common catalog of best forest management practices elaborated;
- b) Programmes for protection and reintroduction of rare native forest species in their natural ecosystems established;
- c) Experiences on best practices related to close to nature forestry shared among the Carpathian countries;
- d) Increased areas where close to nature forestry is applied.

Objective 8 a – Improvement of forest-transporting infrastructure of mountain forests

Pursuant to Articles 1, 3, 9, 14 and 15 of the Protocol the Parties shall ~~undertake~~:

Action 8 a. 1. Adopt measures to increase density of forest roads in mountain forests and to improve their technical condition.

Results expected

- a) Questions on forest roads construction are considered in National Forest Programme or its equivalent; National programs of construction of forest roads developed and approved, and sources of their funding identified;
- b) Normative documents regulating the parameters of mountain forest roads developed at the international and/or national levels and adopted;
- c) Guidelines on planning forest-transporting networks in mountain forests developed at the international and/or national levels and adopted by the leadership;
- d) Experiences shared, and criteria and model areas with the optimal network of forest roads established.

Action 8 a. 2. Adopt measures to optimize improve ways of primary transportation of wood (from cutting area to roads) and to reduce distance and loading work during the primary wood transportation.

Results expected:

- a) Experiences shared and projects to promote the use of effective methods of primary transportation of wood developed;
- b) Volume of utilization Widespread use of cableway systems ensured increased;
- c) Experiences shared and model areas with the optimal network of primary transportation ways of wood established.

Objective 9 – Linking forestry, wildlife and ecological network needs in the Carpathian region.

Pursuant to Article 16 of the Protocol the Parties shall ~~undertake~~:

Action 9. 1. Develop and implement sustainable methods to harmonize forest management and wildlife management in the Carpathian region.

Results expected

a) ~~Harmonized measures in borderland regions developed and adopted; Transboundary cooperation aimed at wildlife management strengthened.~~

b) Population size of hoofed game controlled;

c) ~~Existing tools for sustainable forest management wildlife management and ecological connectivity promoted. Demands of wildlife management taken into account in sustainable forest management.~~

Objective 10 – Forestry and climate change

Pursuant to Articles 1 and 14 of the Protocol the Parties shall ~~undertake~~:

Action 10. 1. Adopt measures, policies and/or strategies to enhance the role of forest-based sector and forestry in mitigating climate change. Give a particular attention to find the right balance between increasing carbon stocks in forest ecosystems, promote the use of renewable wood energy, and the sound use of wood products as substitutes of rough materials derived from non-renewable resources.

Results expected

a) Sound use of wood following defined guidelines and best practices increased;

b) Guidelines on sustainable production and use of biomass for energy purposes in the Carpathians elaborated;

c) ~~Experiences shared and projects for promoting carbon sequestration developed on strengthening role of forestry and forest industry in mitigation climate change.~~

Comment [KK11]: We propose to delete result.

Comment [KK12]: It is very doubtful that it will be any possibility of creating project on sequestration in forestry according to an existing requirements of international negotiations on climate change. We propose to amend as follows:

Action 10. 2. Take into consideration the effects of climate change and the increasing vulnerability of forests towards fires and other extreme events due to it, pursuing adaptation policies and measures aiming at increasing the stability and the resilience of the Carpathian forests.

Result expected

a) Strategies and/or policies on adaptation of forests to climate change are developed and/or updated, and further implemented.

Objective 11 – Social functions of the forests

Pursuant to Articles 1 and 15 of the Protocol the Parties shall ~~undertake~~:

Action 11. 1. Establish effective tools, within the institutional framework, to increase coordination and cooperation between the forestry institutions and regional and local authorities concerned with forest management, with the involvement of other local stakeholders, inter alia aimed to enhance use of social function of forests, in particular concerning job creation and increase of employment in the region, improvement of safety regulations for conducting forestry operations, preservation of cultural heritage, enhancement of provision of recreational services by forests.

Results expected

~~a) Mechanisms for coordination and cooperation between institution, local authorities and other relevant stakeholders established; Cooperation between forestry institutions, regional and local authorities concerned with forest management, inter alia, aimed at enhancing use of social forest functions improved;~~

b) Job creation and employment measures taken into account in the sustainable forest resources management schemes;

c) Safety regulations for conducting forestry operations improved;

d) Cultural heritage of the Carpathian forests preserved;

d) Provision of recreational services by forests enhanced.

Action 11. 2. Undertake consideration of the high value of forests for tourism development, while taking into account sustainable tourism policies in forest management planning.

Results expected

a) Sustainable tourism policies and forest management plans harmonized;

b) Forest zonation and management planning considering the tourism value implemented;

c) Forest areas suitable for tourism purposes identified.

Action 11. 3. Take into account cultural heritage and traditional knowledge practices related to forest management, and the fundamental needs of local populations in forest management planning.

Results expected

a) Forest zonation and management planning consider the cultural heritage and the fundamental needs of local populations implemented;

b) Cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and forest management to promote their common high value, while increasing local populations livelihoods, linked.

Comment [KK13]: What does it mean “sustainable forest resources management schemes”? We propose to delete this result. If it is needed it could amended as follows: “b) Job creation and employment measures taken into account in the sustainable forest resources management framework schemes”

Objective 12 – Development of compatible monitoring systems and a joint information system

Pursuant to Article 17 of the Protocol the Parties shall ~~undertake~~:

Action 12. 1. Cooperate, within the framework of existing international initiatives, on harmonising the forest monitoring in the Carpathians by establishing a joint information system on the ecological state of forests in the Carpathians (according to Art. 12, CC).

Results expected

a) Information on state of forest and results of national forest monitoring based on the format agreed by the Parties, ~~identified~~ and integrated in the Carpathian Convention joint information system, regularly updated and accessible on the Party's request.

Objective 13 – Coordinated scientific research and exchange of information

Pursuant to Articles 1 and 18 of the Protocol the Parties shall ~~undertake~~:

Action 13. 1. Promote and coordinate scientific research and information exchange on Carpathian forests.

Results expected

a) *Symposia, conferences and meetings to facilitate and ensure scientific information and exchange of practical experience on the sustainable forest management in the Carpathian region organized;*

b) *Information obtain during the scientific research made in the Carpathian forests used for better and further implementation of policies and/or strategies aimed at improvement of sustainable forest management in the Carpathian region;*

c) *Effective information and experience exchange with other Parties on methods listed under Art. 1 paragraph 2 of the Protocol ensured and fostere;*

d) *Results of scientific research jointly provided by the Parties and/or by international organization in the framework of Carpathian Convention in the field of the sustainable forest management are incorporated in the joint information system and accessible through the relevant directory linked to the Convention website;*

e) *Research, scientific and technical cooperation at national, regional and international levels encouraged and improved; interdisciplinary research promoted;*

f) *A common classification of Carpathian forest types at national levels adopted and used.*

Action 13. 2. Coordinate and cooperate on scientific research undertaken in its territory, or by its scientific institutions.

Results expected

a) *Effective international cooperation among scientific and other institutions inter alia through the Science for the Carpathians Initiative ensured;*

b) *Common research programs and projects undertaken to improve sustainable forest management in the Carpathians elaborated and implemented;*

c) *Participation of scientists and experts in the common expert networks, such as the Carpathian Convention Sustainable Forest Management Working Group meetings ensured;*

d) *Funds to submit common scientific projects identified, projects prepared and developed.*

Objective 14 – Common programs and projects

Pursuant to Article 19 of the Protocol the Parties shall ~~undertake~~:

Action 14. 1. Undertake Active participation, according to the needs and possibilities of each Party, in common programs and projects on activities jointly undertaken in the Carpathians by the Parties.

Results expected

- a) *Joint actions, projects and programmes undertaken and implemented;*
- b) *Common aims and policies implemented, development of integrated and harmonised forest management plans supported,*
- c) *Cooperation, coordination, consultation, discussion and negotiation engaged with the Parties.*

Comment [KK14]: We propose to delete result.

Objective 15 – Financial measures

Pursuant to Article 20 of the Protocol the Parties shall ~~undertake~~:

Action 15. 1. Explore the possibilities of supporting, through fiscal and/or financial measures, the implementation of the provisions of the Protocol, its objectives and all the linked actions and activities undertaken.

Result expected

a) *Implementation of the provisions of the Protocol supported through fiscal and/or financial measures.*

Action 15. 2. Identify, develop and apply, if needed, appropriate schemes for payment for ecosystem environmental goods and services provided by forests.

Results expected

a) *Incentives for payment schemes, including forest certification schemes, encouraged.*

Comment [KK15]: is inappropriate as soon as forest certification could not be considered as payment for ecosystem services. We propose or to delete it or to repeat title of the action in achieved form.

Objective 16 – Education, information and public awareness

Pursuant to Article 21 of the Protocol the Parties shall ~~undertake~~:

Action 16. 1. Promote the education, information and public awareness on forests in the Carpathians, including cultural heritage and traditional knowledge practices related to forest management.

Results expected

a) ~~Education and training courses on sustainable forest management integrated into educational national systems;~~

b) ~~Informational campaigns aimed at promoting society ecological education, raising public awareness on the problems of Carpathian forests and measures on strengthening of sustainable forest management in the Carpathian region. Public information campaigns implemented.~~

Comment [KK16]: Is beyond of the Protocol responsibility as soon as it is required changes in national legislation. We propose to delete result or to add "as appropriate".

Action 16. 2. Ensure the public access to the information deriving from the implementation of the Protocol, taking into account also Aarhus Convention principles and tools.

Result expected

a) ~~Information deriving from the implementation of the Protocol in the national websites and the Carpathian Convention website ensured.~~

Objective 17 – Effectiveness, ensuring implementation of the Strategic Action Plan

Pursuant to Articles 20, 25 and 26 of the Protocol the Parties shall ~~undertake~~:

Action 17. 1. Take all the needed actions to ensure the implementation of the Protocol in cooperation with other relevant expert networks for the activities within the scope of their competences.

Results expected

a) Legal and administrative measures for the implementation of the Protocol are taken

Action 17. 2. Designate a relevant national authority responsible for the implementation of the Protocol and make this information available to other Parties.

Result expected

a) State authorities responsible for the Protocol implementation designated and their contact information is published on the Carpathian Convention website

Action 17. 3. Submit to the Secretariat three months prior to each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties a three years report on activities aimed at implementing the Protocol and their effectiveness, on the basis of the format elaborated by the [Carpathian Convention Sustainable Forest Management Forest](#) Working Group.

Results expected

a) Three years report on activities aimed at implementing the Protocol and their effectiveness are drafted and updated;

b) Timely submission of the Report to the Secretariat;

c) Report submitted and considered by the Conference of the Parties at their meetings.

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| COP | Conference of the Parties |
| CNPA | Carpathian Network of Protected Areas |
| EU | European Union |
| EUSDR | European Union Strategy for Danube Region |
| EUSBSR | European Union Strategy for Black Sea Region |
| FRA | Forest Resources Assessment |
| FLEGT | Forest Law Enforcement, Government and Trade |

Relevant documents and web links

Carpathian Convention

UNEP, (2003): Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (**Carpathian Convention**)

www.carpathianconvention.org

UNEP, Carpathian Convention (2011): Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management (**Forest Protocol**)

http://kcpd0.w4yserver.at/tl_files/carpathiancon/Downloads/01%20The%20Convention/1.1.2.2%20ProtocolonSustainableForestManagementsigned27may2011.pdf

UNEP, Carpathian Convention (2008): Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity (**Biodiversity Protocol**)

http://kcpd0.w4yserver.at/tl_files/carpathiancon/Downloads/01%20The%20Convention/1.1.2.1%20BiodiversityProtocolFinalsigned.pdf

UNEP, Carpathian Convention (2011): Protocol on Sustainable Tourism (**Tourism Protocol**)

http://kcpd0.w4yserver.at/tl_files/carpathiancon/Downloads/01%20The%20Convention/1.1.2.3%20ProtocolonSustainableTourismsigned27may2011.pdf

UNEP, Carpathian Convention: Terms of Reference (**ToRs**) for the Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management

http://kcpd0.w4yserver.at/tl_files/carpathiancon/Downloads/02%20Activities/2.1.4%20ToR%20WG%20Sustainable%20Forest%20Management.pdf

EU

Regulation (EU) No 995/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 laying down the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market (**Timber Regulation**)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/timber_regulation.htm

Council Directive 2009/147/EEC of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (**Birds Directive**)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index_en.htm

Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (**Habitats Directive**)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm

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