

TERMS OF REFERENCE

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Terms of Reference for the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA)

Mandate of the CNPA and its Steering Committee (SC)

The First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP1) to the Carpathian Convention (Kyiv, Ukraine, 11-13 December 2006) in its Decision COP1/4 para. 12 decided “to establish the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas, constituting a thematic network of cooperation of mountain protected areas in the Carpathian Region, and to designate one CNPA Focal Point in each Party to start up and encourage cooperation in the management of protected areas within and between the Carpathian countries”.

COP1 in its Decision COP1/4 para. 13 decided to establish the CNPA SC composed of the CNPA Focal Point of each country.

The Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP2) to the Carpathian Convention (Bucharest, Romania, 17-19 June 2008) in its Decision COP 2/1 para. 7 requested “the interim Secretariat in cooperation with the CNPA Steering Committee, with support of the ALPARC and Task Force of Protected Areas of the Alpine Convention Secretariat and in collaboration with the other CNPA partners, to prepare a Work Plan and Medium Term Strategy for CNPA, and invited the Protected Areas Conference to consider and provide inputs to the documents.”

The Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP3) to the Carpathian Convention (Bratislava, Slovakia, 25 – 27 May 2011) by its Decision COP3/1 adopted the Medium-Term Strategy of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas as well as the revised Terms of Reference of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas Steering Committee. Furthermore it encouraged the use of the Carpathian Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool as useful tool to support the implementation of the Carpathian Convention Biodiversity Protocol and Carpathian Network of Protected Areas activities and Convention Biodiversity Programme of Work on Protected Areas;

Aim and Tasks of the CNPA

The CNPA constitutes a regional thematic network of cooperation of mountain protected areas in the Carpathians. The CNPA aims to contribute to the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians, and in particular to accomplishing goals listed in Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention. The CNPA reports to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee through the Secretariat.

The following are the goals of the CNPA

- Promotion of cooperation on protection, restoration of nature and sustainable use of natural and cultural resources of the Carpathians;
- Implementation of decisions and recommendations undertaken by the bodies established under the Carpathian Convention as well as of other applicable relevant international legal instruments;
- Promotion of sustainable livelihoods and sustainable development of the Carpathians;

- Implementation of the relevant provisions of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity (Biodiversity Protocol).

The work programme and activities of the CNPA may include:

- making recommendations on expansion of the existing and/or creation of new protected areas;
- capacity building of the member protected areas and of the network;
- communication within the network;
- coordination of common activities and projects undertaken by the network;
- common fundraising from external sources for activities of the network;
- exchange of experience, skills, knowledge and data among network members, including through the CNPA working groups;
- raising ecological awareness and promoting trans-boundary cooperation and sustainable development;
- liaising and cooperating with other bodies established under the Carpathian Convention as well as with other relevant international, regional and national organizations under the guidance of the CNPA Steering Committee and coordination of the Working Group on the conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity thus building upon the vast experience and knowledge available;
- preparing reports, opinions and recommendations for the Working Group on the conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity, for further submission to the Conference of the Parties and the relevant bodies established under the Carpathian Convention;
- support the activities of common thematic working groups established under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee and common communication actions.

CNPA Structure:

- CNPA Members (to be updated by CNPA Unit)
- CNPA SC
- CNPA Units

The CNPA SC

The CNPA SC will aim at supporting the cooperation of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention for the implementation of Articles 4-13 of the Carpathian Convention relevant to the protected areas activities. The main tasks of the CNPA SC are to coordinate activities of the CNPA, to develop strategies and work plans for the CNPA, and to organize the CNPA Conferences.

The CNPA SC coordinates its activities with the other bodies of the Carpathian Convention, including the Working Group on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity and with other relevant working groups.

The CNPA SC is composed of the National Focal Points of the Carpathian Convention and/or persons nominated by them. In accordance with the Rules of Procedures of the Conference of the Parties, the meetings of the WG are open for observers.

Each CNPA National Focal Point will start up and encourage cooperation in the management of protected areas within and between the Carpathian countries. This shall be achieved in continuous cooperation between the Carpathian protected areas, designated as members of the CNPA, and with protected area networks of other regions. The Parties to the Carpathian Convention are invited to assist the nomination and participation of the relevant protected areas in CNPA;

In conducting its business, the WG will base itself on the applicable Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties.

The CNPA SC elects a chair for a 2 years period. The Chair of the SC ensures the role of Chair of the CNPA Conference; the CNPA Units act as rapporteur

The Chair, or if not possible another SC member, represents the CNPA during the meetings of the other bodies of the Carpathian Convention;

The CNPA SC will meet at least twice a year and can invite representatives from other bodies of the CC as observers to its meetings.

The CNPA SC will report to the Conference of the Parties through the CCIC.

Field of activities of the CNPA SC

1. Support and coordination of the CNPA activities to accomplish the adopted goals of the CNPA, according to the CNPA ToRs;
2. Support and coordination of the activities of the PA administrations related to CNPA, and support for their activities towards implementation of the protocols to the Carpathian Convention;
3. Cooperation with the Working Group on the conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity and with the other working groups of the Carpathian Convention (forestry, agriculture, sustainable tourism, cultural heritage etc);
4. Cooperation with the Carpathian Wetlands Initiative (CWI);
5. Support for the establishment of new trans-boundary PAs also under the Ramsar Convention and the UNESCO MaB program;
6. Cooperation with the CNPA partners, including ALPARC, CERI, UNEP and WWF-DCP;
7. Creation of thematic working groups between the different members of the network, for experience exchange and common projects.

List of results

- Maintenance of a webpage containing information on the network and its members (<http://www.carpathianparks.org/>);
 - The organization of the CNPA Conference;
 - Cooperation with the relevant partners in for the implementation of projects related to the CNPA activities.

Scientific contributions and background information

(might be moved to CNPA MTS)

The Steering Committee will benefit from the inputs provided by:

1. The Carpathian Protected Areas Administrations;
2. CERI – Carpathian Eco-Region Initiative;
3. ALPARC – Task Force of Protected Areas – Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention;
4. WWF-DCP – WWF Danube Carpathian Programme;
5. Programmes of work on Protected Areas and on Mountain Biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
6. CWI - Carpathian Wetland Initiative.

Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity

Mandate

The First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP1) to the Carpathian Convention (Kyiv, Ukraine, 11-13 December 2006) in its Decision COP1/4 para 1 decided “to support the establishment of a Working Group on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee”, a subsidiary body of the of the Convention, established pursuant to Decision COP1/3 para 4.

Decision COP2/13 paragraph 7 requests “the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CCIC) to review and decide on the continuation of the Working Groups, as appropriate”.

The Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP3) to the Carpathian Convention (Bratislava, Slovakia, 25 – 27 May 2011) by its Decision COP3/1 adopted the Strategic Action Plan for the implementation of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity, as well as adopted the revised Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity. Furthermore it Welcomes and supports the establishment of an ecological platform for the Carpathians, the invitation of Alpine observers to the Carpathian platform, and the participation of Carpathian observers in the Alpine Platform upon invitation.

Tasks

Field of activities

1. Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity and Strategic Action Plan (SAP)

The Working Group will coordinate and guide the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan for implementation of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity. Key aspects include the elaboration of the Carpathian Red List of Habitats, the Carpathian Red List of Species, the development of compatible monitoring systems and a joint information system and the Clearing House Mechanism.

As foreseen by objective 11 of the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for the implementation of the Protocol on Conservation –and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity (Biodiversity Protocol), the Working Group will elaborate the online format of the three years report on activities aimed at implementing the Protocol and their effectiveness (Biodiversity Protocol Implementation Report) on the basis of the proposal made by the Secretariat.

Furthermore it will provide to fill in the elaborated Report to be submitted to the Secretariat three months prior to each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

2. Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) and -Carpathian Wetlands Initiative (CWI)

The Working Group will coordinate the relevant activities with the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas Steering Committee (CNPA SC) and the CWI. Joint meetings of the Biodiversity Working Group and the CNPA Steering Committee will be organised to further coordinate their activities.

3. Contribution to CBD and PEBLDS

Pursuant to the Decision COP1/4 para 4, the Working Group will guide the interim Secretariat to continue to contribute in particular to the work programmes on protected areas and on mountain ecosystems of the CBD; and to continue to contribute to PEBLDS.

The WG will promote the implementation of the CBD and PEBLDS decisions in the Carpathian Region.

4. Contribution to the follow-up platform¹

The Working Group will coordinate the Carpathian Convention's involvement in key projects being developed or implemented in the area of biological and landscape diversity;

5. Consider cross-cutting issues such as the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in the Carpathian region, and the continuity and connectivity of habitats in the Carpathians.

List of results

- Carpathian Red Lists, Joint Information System, Clearing House Mechanism;
- Elaboration of the online format of Biodiversity Protocol Implementation Report;
- Compilation of the Biodiversity Protocol Implementation Report;
- Proposed inputs for COP5 of the Carpathian Convention;
- List of follow-up actions and proposals.

Composition and organization of work

Organization of joint Working Group meetings, where possible and appropriate for interaction and cooperation issues, is highly recommended.

The Working Group is composed of the National Focal Points for the Carpathian Convention and/or persons nominated by them. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties, the meetings of the Working Group are open for observers.

At each meeting, the Working Group will elect its Chair and Co-Chair; the ISCC will act as rapporteur. In conducting its business, the Working Group will base itself on the applicable Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties.

¹ The follow-up platform is a continuously updated list of EU co-funded projects that represent a follow-up of the INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project and are linked to the implementation of the Carpathian Convention

The Working Group will meet as necessary and its meetings will be financially supported by the work programme of the Carpathian Convention and supporting projects. Work through email is encouraged.

The Working Group will report to the Conference of the Parties through the CCIC.

Coordination and cooperation

The Working Group will continue to cooperate with the Alpine Convention as agreed in the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention, concluded at COP1 of the Carpathian Convention, Kyiv Ukraine, 13 December 2006, by developing and conducting common activities in the area of conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity and through reciprocal participation in the relevant meetings of the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions and their bodies (e.g. Alpine Network of the Protected Areas (ALPARC) and Carpathian Network of the Protected Areas (CNPA). The WG will also coordinate the cooperation under the trilateral MoU Alpine Convention – Carpathian Convention – CBD including mountain-to- mountain cooperation programmes.

According to Memoranda of Cooperation with the Ramsar Convention and Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative (CERI) signed at COP1 of the Carpathian Convention, Kyiv Ukraine, 13 December 2006, the Working Group will continue to cooperate with the Ramsar Convention and CERI on the issues related to its activities (e.g. on wetlands – with the Ramsar Convention and CWI, on the Carpathian ecological network – with CERI).

The Secretariat will ensure the coordination of the activities developed by the Working Group and other relevant bodies, such as the European Environment Agency and the Council of Europe.

Furthermore the Secretariat will ensure a continuous exchange and inter-linkage between the work and activities under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee and the work and activities related to follow up of the BIOREGIO Carpathians project.

Scientific contributions and background information

The Working Group will benefit from the inputs provided by:

- Creation of Ecological Corridors in Ukraine, State Agency for Protected Areas of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine, Altenburg & Wymenga Ecological Consultants, InterEcoCentre; Kyiv 2010;
- VASICA - Visions and Strategies in the Carpathian Area, UNEP-ISCC/Carpathian Project, 2009;
- Carpathian Environmental Outlook (KEO) Report, UNEP, 2007;
- A Heightened Perspective -Regional Assessment of the Policy, Legislative and Institutional Frameworks Implementing the Carpathian Convention, REC/EURAC, 2007;
- Handbook on the Carpathian Convention, REC/EURAC, 2007;
- Existing strategies, tools and sources of information at EU level;

- Relevant policies and strategies at national level;
- Comprehensive Report on the national achievements and challenges related to the implementation of the Carpathian Convention developed by EURAC;
- WWF's 2012 Protected Areas for a Living Planet Project (2012 PA4LP);
- BBI Matra Project on the Carpathian Ecological Network and the Carpathian Biodiversity Information System (CBIS);
- Austria – Slovakia Cross Border Programme “Alpine-Carpathian Corridor” project and its follow up;
- Relevant declarations, resolutions, decisions and documents with regard to the Convention and Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Programmes of Work (PoW) on Mountain Biodiversity and Protected Areas;
- Other related documentation.

Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Spatial Planning

Mandate

The First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP1) to the Carpathian Convention (Kyiv, Ukraine, 11-13 December 2006) in its Decision COP1/11 para. 4 decided “to support the establishment of a Working Group on spatial planning under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee”.

Decision COP2/13 paragraph 7 requests “the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CCIC) to review and decide on the continuation of the Working Groups, as appropriate”.

Decision COP3/2 paragraph 1 adopted the revised Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Spatial Development

Tasks

Field of activities

1. EU (European Union) financial programmes and contribution to the follow-up platform²
 - Analysis of several transnational initiatives, which partly or fully include the Carpathian area, and their documents, which include concepts, programmes, projects for the respective area. Among them the European Territorial Cooperation Programme: Central Europe and South East Gateway and Danube Programme;
 - Analysis, identification, support to the elaboration and promotion of projects aiming at implementing the Carpathian Convention to be submitted to the EU financial programmes;
 - Preparation of projects developed and implemented in the Carpathian Region to be submitted to the EU financial programmes;
 - Guidance and recommendations for the follow-up of activities and initiatives, such as “Visions and Strategies In the Carpathian Area” (VASICA), aiming at implementing the Carpathian Space.
2. Macroregional strategy for the Carpathians, Carpathian Space Programme and relations with EU institutions and bodies
 - Coordination and support for the promotion to the competent EU institutions and bodies of a “Macroregional strategy for the Carpathians” (Carpathian Strategy) and a “EU Territorial Cooperation Programme for the Carpathian Space (Carpathian Space Programme) adopted by the EU. Elaboration of background documents and establishment of contacts;

² The follow-up platform is a continuously updated list of EU co-funded projects that represent a follow-up of the INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project and are linked to the implementation of the Carpathian Convention

- Inputs to EU strategies related to the Carpathians, such as the Strategy for the Danube Region, mainly aimed at raising the attention to the Carpathians region in the EU regulations and action plans;
 - Facilitation and management of contacts of the Carpathian Convention bodies and Contracting Parties with EU institutions and bodies.
3. Strengthening territorial cooperation at regional level
- Strengthening of existing Carpathian Euroregions and facilitation and support of the creation of new ones;
 - Promotion and facilitation of creation of European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (established with Regulation (EC) no.1082/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council) among Carpathian regions and local authorities;
 - Development of documents and initiatives aiming at involving regional authorities in the Carpathian process and in particular in the promotion and development of a Carpathian Strategy and Carpathian Space Programme, and /or the inclusion of the Carpathians into the Danube Strategy as well as the Danube operational programme.
4. Cooperation with the Alpine Convention
- The WG shall cooperate with the Alpine Convention and its “Macro-regional Strategy for the Alps” Working Group on mutual support for the establishment of the respective macro regional strategies

List of results

- Promotion and development of a Carpathian Strategy and a Carpathian Space Programme;
- Development and implementation of transnational projects aiming at implementing the Carpathian Convention;
- Elaboration of a database of projects developed in the Carpathian area to be submitted to EU funds;
- Elaboration of a database of contacts with competent EU institutions and bodies;
- Organizations of consultations with stakeholders at regional level;
- Joint political declaration on macro regional strategies and adaptation to climate change between the Carpathian and the Alpine Convention to be adopted in Lima, Peru in December 2014 during the UNFCCC COP20 at the Mountain Pavilion.
- Further development of a follow up platform regularly updated.

Composition and organization of work

Organization of joint Working Group meetings, where possible and appropriate for interaction and cooperation issues, is highly recommended.

The Working Group is composed of the National Focal Points for the Carpathian Convention and/or persons nominated by them. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties, the meetings of the Working Group are open for observers.

At each meeting, the Working Group will elect its Chair and Co-Chair; the ISCC will act as rapporteur. In conducting its business, the Working Group will base itself on the applicable Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties.

The Working Group will meet as necessary and its meetings will be financially supported by the work programme of the Carpathian Convention and supporting projects. Work through email is encouraged.

The Working Group will report to the Conference of the Parties through the CCIC.

Coordination and cooperation

The Working Group will exchange information and foster communication with other relevant WGs of the Carpathian Convention (e.g. Working Group on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity, Working Group on Agriculture and Rural Development, Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management) and will seek cooperation with other interested constituencies beyond the Carpathian Convention.

Scientific contributions and background information

The Working Group will benefit mainly from the inputs provided by:

- The outcomes of the Workshop “Towards a EU Strategy for the Carpathian Region” held on 28 May 2013 at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels and other related events;
- The Strategic Action Plan for the Carpathian Area adopted at COP3 in Bratislava on 25-27 May 2011.
- The outcomes of the Consultative Workshop “Moving towards a Carpathian Strategy – Implementing the EU Danube Strategy in the Carpathian Area ” held in Brussels in January 2010 and of the other related events;
- The EU Strategy for the Danube Region (European Commission, Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. European Union Strategy for the Danube Region, 8 December 2010, COM(2010) 715 and its accompanying Action Plan, SEC(2010) 148)
- The Report of the Carpathian strategic Workshop on Spatial Planning, held in Vienna the 26- 27 May 2008
- The results of the INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project, and in particular the following deliverables:
 - Visions and Strategies In the Carpathian Area (VASICA)

- Carpathian Environmental Outlook (KEO)
- Socio-economic analysis of the Carpathian area
- Typology of settlement structure in the Carpathian area
- Lessons learned
- National spatial development strategies and plans

Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD)

Mandate

The First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP1) to the Carpathian Convention (Kyiv, Ukraine, 11-13 December 2006) by its Decision COP1/7 para 3 decided “to support the establishment of a Working Group on sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee”, a subsidiary body of the Convention established pursuant to Decision COP1/3 para 4.

The Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP2) to the Carpathian Convention (Bucharest, Romania, 17-19 June 2008) by its Decision COP2/4 para 1 “welcomes the work of the Working Group on Sustainable Agriculture, Rural Development and Forestry, takes note of its report as contained in the document UNEP/CC/COP2/2, and invites Parties and other stakeholders to ensure the proper follow-up”.

The Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP3) to the Carpathian Convention (Bratislava, Slovakia, 25 – 27 May 2011) by its Decision COP3/4 para 7 adopted the revised Terms of References of the Working Group on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development and “calls for the development of the Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development ”

Tasks

The Working Group (WG) will aim at supporting the Parties to the Carpathian Convention towards their cooperation for the implementation of Article 7 on sustainable agriculture and forestry and other related Articles of the Carpathian Convention.

Furthermore, WG shall consider and consolidate the background documentation made available to it by the EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project and the UNEP Vienna ISCC - FAO SARD-M (Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountainous Regions) Project.

WG shall provide recommendations for possible development of a draft Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) for the Carpathian region for submission to the COP5 through Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CCIC).

The WG might consider the development of a Carpathian trademark for food and non-food products.

Field of activities

1. The WG will focus on sustainable agriculture and rural development issues, and in this regard will benefit from the outputs provided by the EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project and the FAO SARD-M Project.
2. The WG shall consider making a proposal on the development of appropriate policy instruments such as a Protocol on SARD to the COP5 through the CCIC and prepare recommendations to the CCIC in this regard.

3. The WG will elaborate a strategic action plan (SAP) for the implementation of the future Protocol on SARD;
4. The WG will evaluate the outputs of the national and regional assessments on SARD-M policies, institutions and processes in the Carpathian countries, will formulate its recommendations for improvements/development of SARD-M policies with attention to the concept on high nature value farmland that needs also a common definition, and a concept on a Carpathian trademark for food and non-food products.
5. The WG will provide its guidance and recommendations for the identification and development of the follow-up projects in the area of sustainable agriculture and rural development to COP5 through the CCIC ..

List of results

- Proposal for the draft Protocol on SARD submitted to COP5 through the CCIC ;
- Recommendations for improvements/development of SARD-M policies and proposals for follow-up activities at the country and/or the Carpathians levels;
- Concept for a Carpathian trademark for food and non-food products;
- A list of follow-up actions and proposals.

Composition and organization of work

Organization of joint Working Group meetings, where possible and appropriate for interaction and cooperation issues, is highly recommended.

The WG is composed of the National Focal Points for the Carpathian Convention and/or persons nominated by them. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties, the meetings of the Working Group are open for observers.

At each meeting, the WG will elect its Chair and Co-Chair; the ISCC will act as rapporteur. In conducting its business, the Working Group will base itself on the applicable Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties.

The WG will meet as necessary and its meetings will be financially supported by the work programme of the Carpathian Convention and supporting projects. Work through email is encouraged.

The WG will report to the Conference of the Parties through the CCIC.

Coordination and cooperation

The WG will exchange information and foster communication with other relevant Working Groups of the Carpathian Convention (e.g. Working Group on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity, Working Group on Spatial Planning Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management) and will seek cooperation with other interested constituencies beyond the Carpathian Convention.

Scientific contributions and background information

The Working Group will benefit from the inputs provided by

- The Carpathian Convention Implementation Report (“National achievements and challenges related to the implementation of the Carpathian Convention” developed by EURAC Institute for Regional Development and Location Management;
- Carpathian Environment Outlook (KEO), which will provide a holistic and integrated assessment of the current state and future trends of the Carpathian environment;
- Handbook on the Carpathian Convention prepared in the framework of the Umbrella Project financed by the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS) and implemented by the Regional Environmental Centre (REC) in partnership with the European Academy (EURAC);
- National assessments of the policy, legislative and institutional frameworks related to the Carpathian Convention, available in English and national-language versions, prepared in the framework of the Umbrella Project financed by the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS) and implemented by the Regional Environmental Centre (REC) in partnership with the European Academy (EURAC);
- National (seven countries) and regional SARD-M policies, institutions and processes assessments conducted in the framework of UNEP Vienna ISCC – FAO SARD-M Project; Brief summary of SARD-M policy assessments conducted in Romania, Slovakia, and the Ukraine can be found on the SARD-M (website: http://www.carpathianconvention.org/tl_files/carpathiancon/Downloads/03%20Meetings%20and%20Events/Working%20Groups/Sustainable%20Agriculture,%20Rural%20Development%20and%20Forestry/First%20meeting%20WG%20200707/5.pdf)
- VASICA – Visions and Strategies in the Carpathian Area, developed within the INTERREG IIB CADSES Carpathian Project;

Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management

Mandate

The Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP2) to the Carpathian Convention (Bucharest, Romania, 17-19 June 2008) by its Decision COP2/4 paragraph 4 invited “the Parties to continue to take part in the preparatory work towards the development of a Protocol on Sustainable Forestry” and requested “the Interim Secretariat to further coordinate and service the Parties in the process”.

Decision COP2/13 paragraph 7 requests “the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CCIC) to review and decide on the continuation of the Working Groups, as appropriate”.

The Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP3) to the Carpathian Convention (Bratislava, Slovakia, 25 – 27 May 2011) by its Decision COP3/4 adopted the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, as well as the revised Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management. Furthermore requested “the interim Secretariat to coordinate the preparation of a Strategic Action Plan for the implementation of the Protocol, taking into account the work done under the auspices of the Working Group”;

Tasks

The Working Group (WG) aims at supporting the Parties to the Carpathian Convention in their cooperation for the implementation of Article 7 on sustainable agriculture and forestry and other related Articles of the Carpathian Convention.

The WG shall consider and consolidate the background documentation made available to it, in particular the Report on the Current State of Forest Resources in the Carpathians and the Report on Challenges and priority for adapting the management of Carpathians forests to new environmental and socio-economic conditions in the Carpathians prepared by the University of Padua on behalf of UNEP Grid Warsaw, the results of the INTERREG NMF Project, as well as other recent publications.

Field of activities

1. The WG will analyse the available information base and identify gaps requiring further research;
2. The WG can provide guidance and recommendations for the development of follow-up projects in the area of sustainable forest management with the view of implementing the provisions of the Protocol on SFM;
3. The WG shall in particular provide guidance and actions with regard to the establishment of a “Carpathian Inventory on Virgin Forests”;

4. The WG shall explore ways of cooperation with other relevant institutions such as Forest Europe (formerly: MCPFE)³ and the United Nations Forum on Forests;
5. The WG will cooperate, on the basis of the Partnership Agreement, with the European Environment Agency (EEA)

List of results

- Inputs for proposals for follow-up activities and projects with the view of implementing the provisions of the Protocol on SFM;
- “Carpathian Inventory on Virgin Forests “;
- Joint activities with the European Environment Agency (EEA)

Composition and organization of work

The WG is composed of the National Focal Points for the Carpathian Convention and/or persons nominated by them. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties, the meetings of the WG are open for observers.

At each meeting, the WG will elect its Chair and Co-Chair; the ISCC will act as rapporteur. In conducting its business, the WG will base itself on the applicable Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties.

The WG will meet as necessary and its meetings will be financially supported by the work programme of the Carpathian Convention and supporting projects. Work through email is encouraged.

The WG will report to the Conference of the Parties through the CCIC.

Coordination and cooperation

Organization of joint Working Group meetings, where possible and appropriate for interaction and cooperation issues, is highly recommended.

The WG will benefit from cooperation with FAO SEUR on matters related to sustainable forest management.

The WG will exchange information and foster communication with other relevant WGs of the Carpathian Convention (e.g. WG on Biodiversity, WG on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, WG on Spatial Development) and will seek cooperation with other interested constituencies beyond the Carpathian Convention.

Scientific contributions and background information

The WG will benefit from the inputs provided by

- Specific Carpathian Project inputs to the WG, prepared by UNEP GRID Warsaw in cooperation with partners such as the University of Padua, including, inter alia:

³ “Forest Europe” is the current official term making reference to the MCPFE process.

- Report on the Current State of Forest Resources in the Carpathians;
- Report on Challenges and priority for adapting the management of Carpathians forests to new environmental and socio-economic conditions;
- Other deliverables: publications, databases, documents and maps for state, forest administrations, Ministries of Environment and non-governmental organizations for improvement of forestry management in state and private forests and national parks. Innovative modern silviculture methods of implementations for stands conversion and "continuously cover forestry" for trees cutting – implemented (www.carpathianproject.eu/portal)
- The Carpathian Convention Implementation Report ("National achievements and challenges related to the implementation of the Carpathian Convention" developed by EURAC Institute for Regional Development and Location Management);
- Carpathian Environment Outlook (KEO), which provides a holistic and integrated assessment of the current state and future trends of the Carpathian environment;
- National assessments of the policy, legislative and institutional frameworks related to the Carpathian Convention (EURAC/REC);
- Existing strategies, tools and sources of information at EU level;
- The experience of the work developed within the frame of the Alpine Convention;
- Relevant declarations, resolutions, decisions and documents with regard to Forest Europe (formerly: MCPFE);
- Relevant declarations, resolutions, decisions and documents with regard to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF);
- Relevant declarations, resolutions, decisions and documents with regard to the Convention and Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Programme of Work (PoW) on Forest Biodiversity;
- The existing tools for identification of the high value conservation forests and their national application if existing in the Carpathian countries;
- Other sources at national level e.g. results of forest research (NBmR – national biodiversity monitoring system in Hungary, national forest inventories, reports on the state of forests,...);
- Other related documentation (e.g. documentation from UNESCO World Heritage Sites).

Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Sustainable Industry, Energy, Transport and Infrastructure

Mandate

The first Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP1) to the Carpathian Convention (Kiev, Ukraine, 1-13 December 2006), by its decisions COP1/8 and COP1/9, decided to “*support the establishment of a Working Group on sustainable industry, energy, transport and infrastructure under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee*”.

The second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP2) to the Carpathian Convention (Bucharest, Romania, 17-19 June 2008) by its decision COP 2/5 para. 1 “*welcomes the work and takes note of the report of the Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Energy and Industry and the recommendations of the Study on the Transport System in the Carpathians elaborated under the lead of the European Academy (EURAC, Bolzano, Italy) contained in the document UNEP/CC/COP2/2 and invites Parties and other stakeholders to ensure the proper follow-up*”.

COP2 by its decision COP2/5 para. 3 further “*invites the Parties to continue to take part in the preparatory work towards the development of a Protocol on Sustainable Transport (...)*”.

The third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP3) to the Carpathian Convention (Bratislava, Slovakia, 25 – 27 May 2011) by its Decision COP3/5 called for the development of a Protocol on Sustainable Industry, Energy, Transport and Infrastructure as well as adopted the revised Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Sustainable Industry, Energy, Transport and Infrastructure.

Tasks

The Working Group will aim at supporting the Parties to the Carpathian Convention towards their cooperation for the implementation of Articles 8 (Sustainable Transport and infrastructure) and 10 (Industry and energy) of the Carpathian Convention. The main goals of the Working Group is the elaboration of a Strategic Action Plan in the Carpathians for the future sustainable transport development of the Carpathians (pursuant to Article 17 of the Protocol text) and to further support the implementation of the Transport Protocol and the development of future related projects and programmes, with a strong focus on green infrastructure.

Field of activities

1. Strategic Action Plan for the future sustainable transport development of the Carpathians

Pursuant to Article 17 of the Protocol text, the Working Group will refine, strengthen and negotiate a Strategic Action Plan for the future sustainable transport development of the Carpathians. The Strategic Action Plan will outline the measures that are necessary for the implementation of the Transport Protocol.

2. Contribution to the follow-up platform

The WG will provide its guidance and recommendations for the identification and development of follow-up projects and initiatives in the area of sustainable transport, capitalizing on the various results gained throughout relevant projects and activities such as “Access2Mountain” and “Alpine Carpathian Corridor”, etc. In doing so, the WG will analyse the available information base and identify gaps requiring further research taking also into account relevant EU policies and developments, e.g. such as related to Green Infrastructure.

List of results

- Proposal for a Strategic Action Plan for development of Sustainable Transport and recommended COP action submitted to CICC;
- Proposed inputs for COP of the Carpathian Convention, such as inputs to a Ministerial Declaration to be considered by COP;
- Inputs for proposals for follow-up activities and projects;

Composition and organization of work

Organization of joint Working Group meetings, where possible and appropriate for interaction and cooperation issues, is highly recommended.

The Working Group is composed of the National Focal Points for the Carpathian Convention and/or persons nominated by them. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties, the meetings of the Working Group are open for observers.

At each meeting, the Working Group will elect its Chair and Co-Chair; the ISCC will act as rapporteur. In conducting its business, the Working Group will base itself on the applicable Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties.

The Working Group will meet as necessary and its meetings will be financially supported by the work programme of the Carpathian Convention and supporting projects, depending on the funds available. Work through email is encouraged.

The Working Group will report to the Conference of the Parties through the CCIC.

Coordination and cooperation

The WG will exchange information and foster communication with other relevant WGs of the Carpathian Convention (e.g. Working Group on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity, Working Group on Sustainable Tourism) and will seek cooperation with other interested constituencies beyond the Carpathian Convention.

Furthermore proactive cooperation shall be ensured with key international organizations active in these fields

Scientific contributions and background information

- Recommendations of the Study on the Transport System in the Carpathians elaborated under the lead of the European Academy (EURAC, Bolzano, Italy)

contained in the document UNEP/CC/COP2/2 and other relevant specific Carpathian Project inputs to the WG;

- Carpathian Environment Outlook (KEO), which will provide a holistic and integrated assessment of the current state and future trends of the Carpathian environment;
- REC-EURAC Regional assessment and handbook, documents prepared in the framework of the Umbrella Project financed by IMELS;
- EST goes EAST Clearing House promoting Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) in Central and Eastern Europe (*see <http://esteast.unep.ch>*). The WG will closely interact with the Working Groups on Transport and on Environment of the Central European Initiative (CEI);
- “Building a thematic dimension to the ENP” of the Communication from the EU Commission of 04/12/06 to the Council and the European Parliament on Strengthening the European Neighbourhood Policy to elaborate common approach (methodology) on IPPC – BAT (integrated pollution prevention control – best available technologies) for sustainable transport, energy, industry and infrastructure development in Carpathian Region;
- Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development on the European Continent as well as Linz Declaration of 21/03/2002 on regional policy & cohesion, governance & the future of Europe, transport networks in Europe, sustainable agriculture & protection of rural areas etc initiated by the Assembly of the European Regions and adopted by the Committee of the Regions of EU, CLRAE and other 14 European Regional Institutions as well;
- Communication from the EU Commission of 04/12/06 to the Council and the European Parliament on Strengthening the European Neighbourhood Policy and Communication from the EU Commission of 31/01/2007 to the Council and the European Parliament “Extension of the major trans-European transport axes to the neighbouring countries. Guidelines for transport in Europe and neighbouring regions”;
- Relevant outputs and results delivered and documentation provided throughout the project “ACCESS2MOUNTAINS” (South East Europe Programme), ;
- The experience of the work developed within the frame of the Sustainable Energy Research Alliance.

Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Sustainable Tourism

Mandate

The First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP1) to the Carpathian Convention (Kyiv, Ukraine, 11-13 December 2006) in its Decision COP1/10 para 2 decided “to support the establishment of a Working Group on sustainable tourism under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee”, a subsidiary body of the Convention, established pursuant to Decision COP1/3 para 4.

The Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 2) to the Carpathian Convention (Bucharest, Romania, 17 - 19 June 2008) in its Decision COP2/6 para 1 welcomed “the work of the Working Group on Sustainable Tourism invited Parties and stakeholders to ensure the proper follow-up”, in para 2 invited “Parties and other stakeholders to continue to take part in the preparatory work towards the development of a Protocol and Strategy on Sustainable Tourism, and requested the interim Secretariat to further coordinate and service them in the process”; and in Para 3 called “upon Parties and invites relevant institutions to support the development of future projects/programmes”.

The Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP3) to the Carpathian Convention (Bratislava, Slovakia, 25 – 27 May 2011) by its Decision COP3/6 adopted the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians as well as the revised Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Sustainable Tourism. Furthermore it recommended “the World Tourism Organization to continue the development of the sustainable tourism strategy with the involvement of relevant stakeholders and the support of the national tourism agencies”.

Tasks

The Working Group (WG) will aim at supporting the Parties to the Carpathian Convention towards their cooperation for the implementation of Article 9 on sustainable tourism and other related Articles of the Carpathian Convention.

Field of activities

The WG will support the project "Strategy for the Future Sustainable Tourism Development of the Carpathians", which has been mainly implemented by Ecological Tourism in Europe (ETE). The main objective of the project is to establish the Tourism Strategy for the Carpathians.

The project enjoys financial support from the Advising-assistance Programme of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Protection and Nuclear Safety in the Countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (more info: <http://www.carpathianconvention.org/news-details-195/items/new-project-carpatsustourstrat.html>).

The WG will support the implementation of the Strategy for the Sustainable Tourism Development of the Carpathians to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, which aims at the implementation of relevant paragraphs of the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism adopted at COP3.

The WG will provide its guidance and recommendations for the identification and development of follow-up projects in the area of sustainable tourism.

List of results

- Inputs for proposals for follow-up activities and projects with the view of implementing the provisions of the Strategy for the Sustainable Tourism Development of the Carpathians.

Composition and organization of work

Organization of joint Working Group meetings, where possible and appropriate for interaction and cooperation issues, is highly recommended.

The Working Group is composed of the National Focal Points for the Carpathian Convention and/or persons nominated by them. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties, the meetings of the Working Group are open for observers.

At each meeting, the Working Group will elect its Chair and Co-Chair; the ISCC will act as rapporteur. In conducting its business, the Working Group will base itself on the applicable Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties.

The Working Group will meet as necessary and its meetings will be financially supported by the work programme of the Carpathian Convention and supporting projects. Work through email is encouraged.

The Working Group will report to the Conference of the Parties through the CCIC.

The Central and East European Working Group for the Enhancement of Biodiversity (CEEWEB) provides continuous inputs to the Working Group.

Coordination and cooperation

The WG will exchange information and foster communication with other relevant WGs of the Carpathian Convention (e.g. Working Group on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity, Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management) and will seek cooperation with other interested constituencies beyond the Carpathian Convention.

Scientific contributions and background information

The Working Group will benefit inter alia from the inputs provided by

- The Carpathian Convention Implementation Report (“National achievements and challenges related to the implementation of the Carpathian Convention” developed by EURAC Institute for Regional Development and Location Management);
- VASICA (Visions and Strategies in the Carpathian Area);

- Outcomes of the ANPED Cultural Heritage Inventory process;
- Outcomes of the Move4Nature Project - the Study Trails;
- Outcomes of the INTERREG IIIB Alpine Space CLIMALPTOUR project;
- The National and Regional Sustainable Tourism Initiatives, such as the annual conference for rural tourism development organized by the Training and Innovation Centre in the Carpathians CEFIDEC in Vatra Dornei, Romania;
- The Practical Guide “Tourism and Mountains”;
- Methodology and tools for tourism infrastructure in margin and remote areas
- (methodology and tools) / Via Carpatica;
- Carpathian Cultural, Historic and Social Topography.

Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge

Mandate

The First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP1) to the Carpathian Convention (Kyiv, Ukraine, 11-13 December 2006) in its Decision COP1/6 para 2 decided “to support the establishment of a Working Group on cultural heritage and traditional knowledge under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee”, a subsidiary body of the of the Convention, established pursuant to Decision COP1/3 para 4.

Decision COP2/13 paragraph 7 requests “the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CCIC) to review and decide on the continuation of the Working Groups, as appropriate”.

The Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP3) to the Carpathian Convention (Bratislava, Slovakia, 25 – 27 May 2011) by its Decision COP3/7 adopted the revised Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Cultural Heritage;

Tasks

The WG will have the following tasks:

- Consider and consolidate the background documentation made available to it by the EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project, Work Package 4 “education and Awareness for the Future”, coordinated by REC Slovakia:
 1. Carpathian Cultural, Historic and Social Topography (case study)
 2. Carpathian Cultural, Historic and Social Topography (case monography)
 3. Carpathian Identity - application of the training program
 4. Methodology for the Carpathian Cultural, Historic and Social Topography
 5. Local “Agenda 21” - methodology and pilot action; as well as make use of maps to be provided by EURAC.
- Create an overview of experts, local materials and knowledge on the current diversity of cultural heritage in the Carpathians;
- Consider the development and provide guidance for a strategy to strengthen and support the cultural heritage of the Carpathians;
- Consider whether a legal instrument is required to assist the regional co-operation process;
- Consider establishing of the Carpathian Heritage List for sites and cultural activities;
- Consider providing a platform for sharing of the experiences acquired concerning the application of Carpathian sites to the UNESCO World Heritage List;
- Consider to cooperate on the development of common programs and projects for the preservation and promotion of the Carpathian cultural heritage and traditional knowledge,

- Provide recommendations for a programme of practical activities to support local communities active in the field of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge preservation and promotion, and to assist the preservation and protection of cultural heritage within all Carpathian countries;

Field of activities

1. The WG will focus on cultural heritage and traditional knowledge including awareness raising, education and public participation issues, and in this regard will benefit from the outputs provided by the EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project and ANPED, as well as from the inputs to be delivered by UNESCO in terms of expertise and support of its activities.
2. The WG shall consider the development of the Strategic Action Plan to the Protocol on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge and to submit it to the COP4 through the CCIC and prepare recommendations in this regard. The WG will explore the links between culture, cultural heritage and environment and the ways and means how cultural heritage and traditional knowledge can support and contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of rich biodiversity of the Carpathians.
3. The WG shall cooperate on the establishment, updating and maintenance of the Carpathian Cultural Heritage Inventory, as a tool for the identification, preservation and promotion of Carpathian Heritage.
4. The WG will act as a major platform for all the existing “hidden” potential resources and activities related to culture and cultural heritage linked to sustainable development that are on-going and available in the region. It can act as a promotion group for the Carpathian culture.
5. The WG will add value in the area of outreach and involvement of the key target groups and stakeholders vital for cultural heritage preservation and promotion as well as for the effective implementation of the Carpathian Convention as whole.
6. The WG may consider making a contribution to the development of the “Carpathian Identity” by linking its activities to those of e.g. ANPED and its partners that are focused on the development of the concept of “Carpathians - Diversity of Culture – Culture of Diversities, and to WWF DCP work under the “Carpathian Opportunity”.
7. The WG will submit its recommendations for the identification and development of the follow-up projects in the area of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge to COP5.

List of results:

- Proposal for the Strategic Action Plan to the Protocol on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge submitted to the COP4 through the CCIC
- Proposal for the draft regional strategy/Protocol on cultural heritage and traditional knowledge submitted to the Bureau of COP4 and its Terms of Reference if considered necessary;
- Report on the overview of experts, local materials and knowledge on the current diversity of cultural heritage in the Carpathians submitted to the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and to COP5 through the CCIC ;
- Terms of Reference of a Carpathian Heritage List submitted to the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and to CCIC;

- Establishment of the Carpathian Heritage Inventory, as a tool for the identification, protection and promotion of the Carpathian cultural heritage;
- Recommendations for a programme of practical activities to support local communities active in the area of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge preservation and promotion submitted to the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and to COP5 through the CCIC
- Proposed inputs for COP5 of the Carpathian Convention, such as inputs to the ministerial declaration to be considered by COP5;
- Recommendations for possible future projects for the preservation and promotion of the Carpathian cultural heritage and traditional knowledge,
- A list of follow-up actions and proposals.

Composition and organization of work

Organization of joint Working Group meetings, where possible and appropriate for interaction and cooperation issues, is highly recommended.

The Working Group is composed of the National Focal Points for the Carpathian Convention and/or persons nominated by them. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties, the meetings of the Working Group are open for observers.

At each meeting, the Working Group will elect its Chair and Co-Chair; the ISCC will act as rapporteur. In conducting its business, the Working Group will base itself on the applicable Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties.

The Working Group will meet as necessary and its meetings will be financially supported by the work programme of the Carpathian Convention and supporting projects. Work through email is encouraged.

The Working Group will report to the Conference of the Parties through the CCIC.

Coordination and cooperation

The WG will benefit from cooperation with UNESCO providing its expertise and technical backstopping as in relation to its aim and tasks in general and in drafting the recommendations for the identification and development of follow-up projects in the area of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge preservation and promotion.

The WG will rely on services offered by ANPED in executing of its tasks and will benefit from continuous inputs provided by ANPED to the Carpathian Convention implementation process.

The Working Group will exchange information and foster communication with other relevant WGs of the Carpathian Convention (e.g. Working Group on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity, Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management) and will seek cooperation with other interested constituencies beyond the Carpathian Convention.

Scientific contributions and background information

The Working Group will benefit mainly from the inputs provided by:

1. The Carpathian Convention Implementation Report (“National achievements and challenges related to the implementation of the Carpathian Convention” developed by EURAC Institute for Regional Development and Location Management;
2. Carpathian Environment Outlook (KEO), which will provide a holistic and integrated assessment of the current state and future trends of the Carpathian environment;
3. Handbook on the Carpathian Convention prepared in the framework of the Umbrella Project financed by the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS) and implemented by the Regional Environmental Centre (REC) in partnership with the European Academy (EURAC);
4. National assessments of the policy, legislative and institutional frameworks related to the Carpathian Convention, available in English and national-language versions, prepared in the framework of the Umbrella Project financed by the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS) and implemented by the Regional Environmental Centre (REC) in partnership with the European Academy (EURAC);
5. Specific Carpathian Project inputs to the WG, to be prepared by REC Slovakia in cooperation with the project partners, will include, inter alia:
 - Methodology Development for Identification of Cultural, Historic and Social Potential of Cities and Regions, in the Carpathian Mountain Range;
 - Preparation and elaboration of Carpathian Cultural, Historic and Social Topography (CHST);
 - Identification of common denominators;
 - Application of CHST in strategic documents; identification of experts elaborating CHST;
 - Presentation of the CHST to the project partners and representatives of the Carpathian regions from partner countries;
 - Elaboration of a manual for CHST;
 - Elaboration of Case Study and application of CHST methodology in the model region of White Carpathians (Euroregion Biele Karpaty/Bile Karpaty). Elaboration of the CHST for the Euroregion, analysis and evaluation of the region, elaboration of sustainable development program;
 - Application of the CHST - elaboration and publishing of model homeland study monograph.
6. Specific Carpathian Project inputs to the WG prepared by the European Academy (EURAC Research) in Bolzano, Italy, provided in cooperation with the project partners that will include:
 - Map topics (ethnic structure, religious structure, cultural landscapes, cultural heritage, common linguistic features) of the Atlas of the Carpathians data and other source materials collected from international and national sources, supplemented by specific investigations and harmonized for comparative cartographic representation in the 1: 2 million scale.

- Data collection and harmonization, if necessary additional specific investigations.
7. Specific Carpathian Project inputs to the WG prepared by the Polish Institute of Urban Development, provided in cooperation with the project partners will include:
 - Analysis of the cultural identity and diversity in the Carpathian Area as a whole and in the delimited sub-regions. Research on basic common features, which would help to develop the unique profile of the Carpathian Area in Europe and the characteristic cultural factors for the endogenous social and economic development.
 8. Other related documentation.

Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change

Mandate

The Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP2) to the Carpathian Convention (Bucharest, Romania, 17-19 June 2008) by its Decision COP2/3 paragraph 2 welcomed the “Report on water resources and natural disasters (climate change) and flood risk mapping” produced by the INTERREG IIIB Carpathian Project.

Decision COP2/3 paragraph 5 requested “the Interim Secretariat to consider in consultation with the Parties the further development and joint programming in the area of integration of water resources and land use planning, in particular concerning wetlands, natural water resources, springs, lakes and ground water resources, as well as biodiversity conservation and adaptation to climate change, taking into account experiences made in sustainable and integrated water/river basin management and land use planning of the relevant river basins of the Black Sea and Baltic Sea catchment areas in the Carpathians”.

In 2010 the European Commission, DG Environment, launched the invitation to tender “Preparatory action on climate in the Carpathian Region” focused on vulnerability of water and ecosystems to climate change and adaptation.

In May 2011 the European Commission – DG Environment, requested the Secretariat during Third Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP3) to consult with the Parties and Observers of the Carpathian Convention a possible proposal for the establishment of a Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change under the Carpathian Convention supported by the project CARPIVIA (Carpathian integrated assessment of vulnerability to climate change and ecosystem-based adaptation measures, www.carpivia.eu) that is funded by the European Commission under the above mentioned preparatory action.

The Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP3) to the Carpathian Convention (Bratislava, Slovakia, 25 – 27 May 2011) by its Decision COP3/15 para 3 decided to establish a Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change and adopts its Terms of Reference.

Tasks

The WG aims at supporting the Parties to the Carpathian Convention in their cooperation for the implementation of relevant articles of the Convention, including Article 12 on environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning .

The WG shall consider and consolidate the background documentation made available to it within the CARPIVIA project with the aim to:

- Benefit national and regional authorities of the Carpathian Region

- Support policy proposals in line with the Commission White Paper on Adapting to Climate Change and the objectives of the Carpathian Convention
- Contribute to a Carpathian and EU Information System on Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation

The WG, in light of the results of the CARPIVIA project, will review its tasks and make proposals on its future role and contribution to climate change adaptation in the Carpathian region;

The WG shall make recommendations for possible future projects in the field of vulnerability to climate change and ecosystem-based adaptation measures;

The WG shall support the organization of a joint meeting together with the Alpine Convention Task Force on climate change, aiming at developing a joint declaration on climate change and mountains to be presented at the COP20 of UNFCCC to be held in Lima, Peru, from 1 – 20 December 2014, and to exchange experience between Alpine and Carpathian Conventions on local adaptation plans;

The WG shall strengthen cooperation activities with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River on climate change adaptation;

The WG shall enhanced cooperation through the interim Secretariat with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River on implementation of the "Guiding principles on sustainable hydropower development in the Danube Basin" in mountain areas with a view to develop joint activities and projects with ICPDR in this area;

The WG shall propose inputs for COP5 of the Carpathian Convention, such as inputs to the ministerial declaration to be considered by COP5.

Field of activities

- The WG will collect information on vulnerability to climate change impacts in the Carpathian Region, will analyse the available information and identify gaps requiring further research;
- The WG will elaborate a proposal on how the results of CARPIVIA project can benefit national and regional authorities of the Carpathian Region;
- The WG shall in particular provide guidance and actions with regard to the contribution to the EU Information System on Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation;
- The WG will provide guidance and recommendations for the development of policy proposals in line with the Commission White Paper on Adapting to Climate Change and the objectives of the Carpathian Convention;
- The WG can provide guidance and recommendations for the development of follow-up projects in the area of vulnerability to climate change and ecosystem-based adaptation measures;
- The WG shall explore ways of cooperation with other relevant institutions such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River;

- The WG shall give inputs to preparation of a joint declaration on climate change and mountains to be presented at the COP20 of UNFCCC to be held in Lima, Peru, from 1 – 20 December 2014.

List of results

- Report on climate change impacts in the Carpathian Region and identification of gaps requiring further research;
- Discussion on the cost, benefits and feasibility of adaptation measures, in particular on adaptive water management and ecosystem-based measures;
- Guidelines on contribution to the EU Information System on Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation;
- List of recommendations for the development of policy proposals in the field of adaptation to climate change in the Carpathians;
- Inputs for proposals for follow-up activities and projects in the area of vulnerability to climate change and ecosystem-based adaptation measures;
- Joint declaration of Carpathian Convention and Alpine Convention on climate change and mountains presented at the COP20 of UNFCCC to be held in Lima, Peru.

Composition and organization of work

Organization of joint Working Group meetings, where possible and appropriate for interaction and cooperation issues, is highly recommended.

The WG is composed of the National Focal Points for the Carpathian Convention and/or persons nominated by them. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties, the meetings of the WG are open for observers.

At each meeting, the WG will elect its Chair and Co-Chair; the ISCC will act as Rapporteur. In conducting its business, the WG will base itself on the applicable Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties.

Coordination and cooperation

The WG will exchange information and foster communication with other relevant WGs of the Carpathian Convention (e.g. WG on Biodiversity, WG on Sustainable Forest Management, WG on Spatial Development) and will seek cooperation with other interested constituencies beyond the Carpathian Convention.

Scientific contributions and background information

The WG will benefit from the inputs provided by

- Results of CARPIVIA project;

- The Carpathian Convention Implementation Report (“National achievements and challenges related to the implementation of the Carpathian Convention” developed by EURAC Institute for Regional Development and Location Management;
- Report on water resources and natural disasters (climate change) and flood risk mapping, INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project;
- Atlas of the Carpathian Region, INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project;
- Carpathian Environment Outlook (KEO), which provides a holistic and integrated assessment of the current state and future trends of the Carpathian environment;
- Existing strategies, tools and sources of information at EU level and at national and regional level in the Carpathian Countries;
- The experience of the work developed within the frame of the Alpine Convention and the Alpine Space Programme;
- The decisions and recommendations of the IPCC;
- Relevant declarations, resolutions, decisions and documents with regard to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNCC);
- Other related documentation.