



Ministry of the Environment
of the Czech Republic

CARPATHIAN CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE (CCIC)

SEVENTH MEETING

Vienna, Austria

21 – 22 November 2016

MEETING REPORT

1) Opening of the Meeting

Mr. Harald Egerer, Head of the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants of the Seventh Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee.

2) Brief report on the Czech Presidency activities

Representative of the Czech Presidency and the Czech Focal Point, Ms. Eliška Rolfová, provided a brief report on important Carpathian Convention activities implementing the priorities of the Czech Presidency, such as the international Conference on Large Carnivores' Protection in the Carpathians (held in the Czech Republic in October 2016; in line with the *priority Strengthening the cooperation on the local, regional and international level on landscape, green infrastructure and ecological connectivity related issues*), or signing the Memoranda of Cooperation with specific Priority Areas of the EU Strategy for Danube Region (in line with the *priority Strengthening of the Carpathian Convention's involvement in EU funding programmes and macro-regional strategies*).

3) Election of the Chair and adoption of the Agenda

Ms. Rolfová was elected as the Chairperson of the CCIC meeting on behalf of the Czech Presidency and the Carpathian Convention. The Agenda was adopted (annexed to this document).

4) Status of signatures and ratifications of the Protocols to the Carpathian Convention

The Depositary of the Carpathian Convention, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, provided a short update on the status of signatures and ratifications of the Protocols. The update was related to the Protocol on Sustainable Transport, which was ratified by Ukraine (deposit of ratification dated on

20 June 2016). Poland deposited the instrument of ratification of this Protocol on 04 July 2016. The updated tables are available on the Carpathian Convention website (<http://www.carpathianconvention.org/status-of-signature-and-ratification.html>)

5) Implementation of the Programme of Work of the Carpathian Convention – Progress

Report :

- Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

The Secretariat briefly presented the current fourth draft of the SARD Protocol. In the following discussion, remarks concerning added value of the protocol were raised by the representative of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic, other Parties supported the current draft of the protocol. CCIC agreed to the following timeline for finalization of the document in the light of its adoption at the Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP5):

- the fourth draft of the SARD Protocol circulated by the Secretariat after the CCIC meeting for national expert consultation, feedback and comments from the Parties expected by **23 December 2016**;
- final draft circulated by the Secretariat by **15 January 2017** for the inter-ministerial consultation and final approval;
- final versions ready by **March 2017**.

- Possible new Article on Adaptation to Climate Change to the Carpathian Convention

After a short presentation of the idea of introducing the new Article on Climate Change to the Carpathian Convention, the CCIC members expressed their general support and informed about comments to the draft article's text. Czech Republic expressed its support to the adoption of the new article under the condition that concrete plan of activities to implement the article will be prepared, ideally by Hungarian presidency to the Carpathian Convention (starting in autumn 2017). The timeline for finalization the article is identical as for the SARD Protocol :

- the draft article circulated by the Secretariat after the CCIC meeting for national expert consultation, feedback and comments from the Parties expected by **23 December 2016**;
- final draft circulated by the Secretariat by **15 January 2017** for the inter-ministerial consultation and final approval;
- final versions ready by **March 2017**.

- Administrative units

The Secretariat presented the table containing data on the administrative units where the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols are being implemented in the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia. Hungary and Romania¹ informed that the required information will be submitted shortly.

¹ Update. Romania has recently provided information about the administrative unites.

- **WG Biodiversity**

The Secretariat together with the Czech Presidency updated the CCIC meeting about the outcomes of the Conference on Large Carnivores' Protection in the Carpathians (October 2016, Rožnov pod Radhoštěm, Czech Republic). One of them is the Conference Declaration on the Management and Protection of Large Carnivores in the Carpathians, which is calling for the elaboration of the international action plan for the conservation and sustainable management for the Carpathian populations of large carnivores. Following the WG Biodiversity recommendation, the CCIC was requested to focus future work of WG Biodiversity on activities related to large carnivores, namely on initiating preparations for the international action plan and exploring opportunities for elaboration of a project supporting the implementation on large carnivores activities.

Another focus of the WG Biodiversity shall be laid on finalization of the Carpathian Red Lists. The CCIC gave a green light for resubmission of the Carpathian Red List of Forest Habitat and the Red List of Vascular Plants of the Carpathians for a possible finalization and adoption at the COP5. The Secretariat will circulate both Red Lists to the WG Biodiversity shortly asking for the feedback by the end of January 2017.

The CCIC approved the new simplified version of the format of the National Report on Implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol. According to the Strategic Action Plan, the Parties shall submit the Report to the Secretariat three months prior the COP.

Mr. Mircea Verghet updated the CCIC meeting about the current developments regarding the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) including the signature of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat and the Association for Natural Protected Areas Administration, and the second one between the CNPA, ALPARC and DANUBEPARKS. The CCIC agreed that a meeting of the Steering Committee of the CNPA should be organized soon. Mr. Verghet, as the Chairman of the CNPA Steering Committee suggested that the CNPA Management Unit should request an update of the contacts of the SC CNPA members.

Ms. Klaudia Kuraś, UN Environment, Vienna Office – SCC, presented the online knowledge sharing platform promoting good practices and case studies of mainstreaming biodiversity into economic sectors relevant for the sustainable development of the mountain areas drawing on the examples of the Carpathians. The online platform will be launched during the official side event, organized by the Secretariat and the Slovak Presidency of the Council of EU with support of UN Environment, on 9 December 2016 at 18:15 in the framework of the CBD COP13 in Cancun, Mexico. Currently, the online platform is at the last step of finalization and once fully operational, it will go online at the address www.carpathianconvention.org/mountain-biodiversity

- **WG Forest**

The CCIC agreed that another meeting of the WG Forest before the COP5 is necessary. Prior to the WG Forest meeting (date to be agreed) national information about the virgin forest should be collected (according to the table prepared). Based on the information received, the Secretariat together with WWF will prepare a map of virgin forests/finalize the inventory of virgin forests, which will be presented at the WG Forest meeting asking for validation. The mentioned table for collecting information on virgin forest was shared with the Focal Points and WG Forest on 16 November 2016 with a one month time for providing inputs.

Also before the next meeting of WG Forest, the Parties should provide their national definitions of the natural forests. It was also agreed that during next WG Forest meetings the Parties could exchange information about the implementation of the EU Timber Regulation, using the WG Forest format as a platform for experience exchange on EUTR. Another idea was to involve climate change experts in the work of the WG Forest.

- **WG Tourism**

Mr. Octavian Arsene, National Authority for Tourism, Romania, presented the ongoing activities related to tourism in the Romanian Carpathians and arrangements made in the light of the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform, Centre – Romania. Moreover, Mircea Verghelet informed about the Alpine film festival Predeal, the brown bear sanctuary, and the Pan Carpathian hike (2380 km).

Ms. Bożena Haczek, Polish Focal Point, informed about establishment of the Sustainable Tourism Task Force in Poland for the implementation of the Tourism Protocol and its Strategy. Ms. Haczek mentioned a Polish pan-Carpathian expedition of 1979.

Mr. Michael Meyer, Ecological Tourism in Europe (ETE), informed about progress made thanks to the generous support provided by the Germany-funded project. He gave a presentation and mentioned delays in implementing the project, e.g. establishing the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform, the offer to support the operation of National Tourism Task Forces in the seven countries, and finding a new date for the next meeting of the WG Tourism.

The Secretariat informed about the letter received from the Undersecretary of State of the Ministry of Sport and Tourism of Poland, Mr. Dawid Lasek, expressing the readiness for signing the agreement regarding the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform between the Centre - Poland, Centre - Romania and the Secretariat.

The Secretariat will prepare draft agreements and share it with the CCIC members by the end of January 2017.

It was suggested that the next meeting of the WG Tourism should gather not later than March 2017, preferably still in February since by then the Ecological Tourism in Europe (ETE) has funds available for supporting travels of the meeting participants.

The Secretariat and ETE informed participants about the upcoming Workshop on the Implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism to the Carpathian Convention into National Law, foreseen for the 12 -13 December 2016 in Vienna at the Vienna International Centre.

- **WG Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge**

Due to the lack of capacity it was agreed to postpone discussion on the future activities of the WG Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge. However possible integration between the WG on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge and the WG Tourism was suggested. Mr. Meyer suggested the idea of organizing an event on cultural heritage during the COP5, which, in case the idea materializes, will be followed up in cooperation with the Secretariat. CCIC discussed the idea of possible integrating the WG Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge and the WG Tourism or to organize a meeting of the WG Cultural Heritage to decide on future activities and possible joint activities with the WG on Tourism.

- **WG Adaptation to Climate Change**

Prof. Sandor Szalai, Szent Istvan University, presented the current activities of the WG Climate Change, including the inclusion of the Carpathian region to the Climate-ADAPT Platform and the idea of producing the Report on Adaptation Responses to Climate Change for the Carpathians.

It was agreed that in the future the WG Climate Change shall be more involved into the work of the other Working Groups focusing on “climate proofing” the work by the other WGs.

6) Report on the results of the Forum Carpaticum 2016

Mr. Luboš Halada, Science for the Carpathians (S4C), briefly presented outcomes of the 4th Forum Carpaticum: Future of the Carpathians: Smart, Sustainable, Inclusive, that was held in Bucharest, Romania, between 28 and 30 September, 2016 at the Romanian Palace of Parliament. The presentation with more information is available on the Carpathian Convention website (<http://www.carpathianconvention.org/eventdetailccic/events/seventh-meeting-of-the-carpathian-convention-implementation-committee.html>).

7) Programme of Work 2018 – 2020 of the Carpathian Convention

The Secretariat presented a draft Programme of Work (PoW) for the next 3-year period and after discussion it was agreed that the PoW should be more focused on the activities and deliverables. The Secretariat will introduce necessary amendments and share the updated PoW with the Focal Point as soon as possible.

8) Cooperation with other initiatives

The Secretariat informed the CCIC meeting about the Memorandum of Cooperation between the International Council for Game and Wildlife and the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, which was signed during the Conference on Large Carnivore's Protection in the Carpathians, 20 October 2016, Rožnov pod Radhoštěm, Czech Republic.

The successful cooperation with the EUSDR and its PAs was also stressed during the CCIC meeting. So far the Secretariat has signed the Memorandums of Cooperation with EUSDR PA1b “Mobility I Rail-Road-Air” in June 2016, with EUSDR PA04 “Water Quality” in August 2016 and EUSDR PA02 “Energy” in November 2016.

Lastly, the ongoing fruitful cooperation with the European Environment Agency was briefly presented.

9) Update on the project development

Mr. Matthias Jurek, UN Environment Vienna – Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, presented the project ECOPotential: Improving Future Ecosystem Benefits Through Earth Observation (Horizon 2020) which involved partners from Slovakia and Poland. More information about the project and the movie shown can be found online (<http://www.ecopotential-project.eu/>)

Thereafter, Ms. Irene Lucius, WWF DCP, present the approved TRANSGREEN (DTP) project and gave an overview of the project objectives and foreseen activities. TRANSGREEN kick-off meeting will be organised in the Austrian Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology in Vienna on 28 February 2017 - 2 March 2107.

Ms. Ágnes Szabó – Diószeghy, UN Environment, Vienna – SCC, presented a project idea on promotion of Carpathian tourism handcraft heritage to be submitted to the Visegrad Fund by 1st December 2016.

The presentation are available on the Carpathian Convention website.

10) Update on COP5

Ms. Mária Galambos, Hungarian Focal Point, informed the CCIC meeting that the next COP will take place from 10 to 12 October 2017 in Hungary. The location will be disclosed shortly.

The CCIC meeting was informed that in conjunction with the COP5 session, the next Science for the Carpathians (S4C) Steering Committee meeting could be organized. More information in this regard will follow.

The next Presidency together with the Secretariat proposed a new format of the technical and high level segment of the COP5, which will focus more on substance rather than processes. For the high level segment a moderated, strategic discussion was proposed. The ideas of the new format of the COP5 received very positive feedback from the CCIC members.

11) Other matters

The CCIC members decided about the need to convene another Implementation Committee meeting before the COP5, preferably in May 2017.

It was suggested that during next CCIC meeting there should be a discussion focused on the Article 3 of the Convention referring to the integrated managements plans, and an update on national Carpathian Convention committees, where already existing.

CCIC recommendations :

- CCIC welcomes the progress made regarding the development of the Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development; and recommends to the Parties to follow the proposed timeline for finalization of the SARD Protocol;
- CCIC supports the idea of introducing the new Article on Climate Change to the Carpathian Convention; and recommends to the Parties to follow the agreed timeline for finalization of the Article;
- CCIC welcomes the progress made in collecting the data on the administrative units where the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols are being implemented; and requests the remaining Parties to provide the needed information;
- CCIC welcomes the outcomes of the Conference on Large Carnivores' Protection and recommends to the WG Biodiversity elaboration of an international action plan for the conservation and sustainable management for the Carpathian populations of large carnivores;
- CCIC recommends finalization of the Carpathian Red List of Forest Habitats and Red List of Vascular Plants of the Carpathians;
- CCIC agrees to use the simplified format of the of National Report on Implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol; and noted that the Reports shall be submitted to the Secretariat three months prior to the COP;
- CCIC welcomes the MoC between the Secretariat and ANPAA, and the MoC between CNPA, ALPARC and DANUBEPARKS;
- CCIC recommends organization of a next meeting of the WG Biodiversity in 2017 in order to follow up with the outcomes of the Conference on Large Carnivores' Protection and other WG Biodiversity activities;
- CCIC invites the Parties to submit the national data on virgin forests to the Secretariat with the format produced;
- CCIC invites the Parties to submit their national definitions of the natural forests;
- CCIC supports the idea of exchange of information about the implementation of the EU TR during the WG Forest meetings;
- CCIC supports the idea of involving the climate change experts in the work of the WG Forest;
- CCIC recommends organization of a next meeting of the WG Forest before the COP5;
- CCIC welcomes progress made regarding the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform and other aspects of implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism;
- CCIC requests the Secretariat to draft collaborative agreements with the Centres officially endorsed by the respective authorities;
- CCIC recommends the Secretariat to organize a next meeting of the WG Tourism possibly making use of the funds provided by the German Government;

- CCIC welcomes the progress made regarding inclusion of the Carpathian region to the Climate-ADAPT Platform and the idea of the Report on Adaptation Responses to Climate Change for the Carpathians, CCIC requests the Secretariat to finalise these activities;
- CCIC supports the idea of involving the WG Climate Change into activities of other Working Groups;
- CCIC welcomes the results of the Forum Carpaticum 2016; and invites the Science for the Carpathians to further provide the Convention with scientific support;
- CCIC requests the Secretariat to reconsider format of the Programme of Work 2018 – 2020;
- CCIC welcomes the approval of the TRANGREEN project and encourages the Secretariat's further involvement in and support to it;
- CCIC welcomes progress made in cooperation with other initiatives; and requests the Secretariat to continue carrying out activities deriving from the mentioned cooperation;
- CCIC welcomes information about the project approvals and new project ideas;
- CCIC welcomes information about the date for the COP5 and new format of the Conference;
- CCIC requests the Secretariat to facilitate organization of the eight meeting of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee before COP5, preferably in May 2017.

ANNEX 1



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FINAL AGENDA

- 1) Opening of the meeting
- 2) Brief report on the Czech Presidency activities
- 3) Election of Chair and Adoption of the Agenda
- 4) Status of signatures and ratifications of the Protocols to the Carpathian Convention
- 5) Implementation of the Programme of Work of the Carpathian Convention - Progress report – presentation of ongoing and planned activities with focus on the main issues :
 - Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development – updates and discussion;
 - Possible new Article on Adaptation to Climate Change to the Carpathian Convention – update and discussion;
 - Administrative units – updates and discussion;
 - WG Biodiversity – update on current developments (Declaration on the Management and Protection of Large Carnivores in the Carpathians, Carpathian Large Carnivores` International Management Plan, Finalisation of Red Lists, National Report on Implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol)
 - WG Forest – update on current developments (Virgin Forest Inventory and other planned activities for the WG Forest);
 - WG Tourism – update on current developments (activities related to implementation of the Strategy for the Sustainable Tourism Development);

- WG Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge (possible revitalisation of the idea of the Protocol on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge);
 - WG Climate Change – update on current development (Report on Adaptation Responses to Climate Change for the Carpathians);
 - Cooperation with other initiatives.
- 6) Report on the results of the Forum Carpaticum 2016
- 7) Programme of Work 2018 – 2020 of the Carpathian Convention
- 8) Cooperation with other initiatives :
- Memorandum of Cooperation with the International Council for Game and Wildlife (CIC)
 - Memorandum of Cooperation with EUSDR
 - European Environment Agency - implementation of Joint Work Plan
- 9) Update on the DTP projects approval
- 10) Updates on COP5
- 11) Other matters
- 12) Closure of the meeting