**8th Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity**

**20 October 2016**

**DRAFT MEETING REPORT**

The 8th Meeting of the Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity (WG Biodiversity) was held on 20th October 2016, as a part of the Conference on Large Carnivores’ Protection in the Carpathians organized on 18th – 21st October 2016 in cooperation with the Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic and with support of the German Federal Environment Ministry’s Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP) for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and other countries neighbouring the European Union. It is supervised by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) and the German Environment Agency (UBA).

The WG Biodiversity members gave a general feedback on the Conference and a way forward regarding a possible new priority of the WG Biodiversity to be given to the Large Carnivores management and protection in the Carpathians. The Conference adopted by acclamation the Declaration on the Management and Protection of Large Carnivores in the Carpathians[[1]](#footnote-1), which calls for development of an international action plan for the conservation and sustainable management for the Carpathian populations of large carnivores.

The WG Biodiversity members discussed also the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) signed during the Conference in Roznov pod Radhostem. A first step of this newly established cooperation should focus on producing an annual work plan for common activities with CIC, in consultation with the WG Biodiversity.

Regarding the development of international action plan for the conservation and sustainable management for the Carpathian populations of large carnivores, it was suggested that first ideas of the activities/actions, which could be included in the document, shall be discussed during the next CCIC.

Taking into account the differences between the Carpathian Countries regarding e.g. number of large carnivores living on their territories, it was agreed that the international action plan should be rather an umbrella of national management plans. The document could mention that Poland will develop its national management plan soon.

Concerning a possible finalization of the draft Carpathian Red Lists, it was agreed to start the process with the Carpathian Red List of Forest Habitats. The mentioned Red List shall be sent to the WG Biodiversity for comments before CCIC for its discussion and consideration.

One of the Agenda item of the meeting was referring to the discussion on the first round of reporting on implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol. During the meeting the Secretariat was informed about difficulties in filling in the current format of the Report due to its complexity and specificity. After a fruitful discussion it was agreed that the Secretariat will revise the current format and propose a simplified version in order to facilitate the reporting. The new version of the Report Format has been sent already to the WG Biodiversity for comments and opinion. After receiving feedback, the revised version of the Report Format will be submitted to the CCIC for its consideration.

Moreover, it was proposed that since now on during each meeting of the WGs, a short briefing on current activities of the other WGs will be delivered by the Secretariat.

**Recommendation to CCIC:**

* CCIC may consider the outcomes of the Large Carnivore Conference and of the WG Biodiversity; possible inclusion into COP Decisions;
* CCIC may advice on activities to be included in the international action plan for the conservation and sustainable management for the Carpathian populations of large carnivores;
* CCIC may consider the Carpathian Red List of Forest Habitats and possible way forward for other draft Carpathian Red Lists available;
* CCIC may welcome simplified version of the Report Format, recommend its use and subsequent amendment of the Report Format by the COP;

1. All the Conference documents are available online (http://www.ochranaprirody.cz/conference-on-large-carnivores-protection-in-the-carpathians/) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)