CC/CCIC7



 **21 - 22 November 2016**

 **Vienna, Austria**

**SEVENTH CARPATHIAN CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE**

**BRIEF PROGRESS REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT**

**Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development**

The Secretariat together with EURAC has produced the third version on the SARD Protocol based on the comments received from the Parties. Currently the Secretariat is collecting the comments to the fourth version of the SARD Protocol and it will be circulate with integrated comments before the CCIC meeting for further discussion and it will be available on the Carpathian Convention website (Doc1.)[[1]](#footnote-1). Please see below a timeline for the next steps for the development of the SARD Protocol :

- Implementation Committee meeting on 21-22 November 2016 in Vienna for a related discussion with the Parties during the meeting, further consultations if needed;

- by January 2017: the Parties initiate formal inter-ministerial consultations at the national level;

- by March 2017: final draft officially circulated by Secretariat to the Parties;

- September / October 2017: consideration, approval and signature at COP5.

* CCIC may consider and advise on next steps for finalization of the SARD Protocol

**Article on Adaptation to Climate Change to the Carpathian Convention**

The Secretariat informed the Parties about the idea of introducing the Article on "Climate Change" to the Carpathian Convention. The first draft proposal prepared by the Secretariat was circulated to the Focal Point and then discussed during the last meeting of the WG Climate Change, held in Vienna on 27 – 28 October 2016. The amended draft proposal was recommended by the WG Climate Change for submission to the CCIC (Doc. 2), the meeting report is also available (Doc.3).

* CCIC may consider the draft Article on “Climate Change” and decide on way forward for submission to COP

**Administrative Units**

The Secretariat has received information about the administrative units where the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols are being implemented from the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia. The excel table presenting already obtained date is available (Doc. 4).

* CCIC shall consider the information provided and guide on the way forward to complete and finalize the list of administrative units

**WG Biodiversity**

1. The Conference on Large Carnivores Protection in the Carpathians, together with the 8th Meeting of the Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity (WG Biodiversity) was organized in Roznov pod Radhostem, Czech Republic on 18 – 21 October 2016. One of the outcome of the Conference is the Declaration on the Management and Protection of Large Carnivores in the Carpathians, to be then submitted to the next COP. The Declaration shall be further considered by the CCIC (Doc. 5).
2. The WG Biodiversity recommended elaboration of an international action plan for the conservation and sustainable management for the Carpathian populations of large carnivores and possible finalization of the Carpathian Red Lists. The WG Biodiversity decided to first consult the draft Carpathian Red List of Forest Habitats (Doc. 6). All the draft Carpathian Red Lists and the meeting report of the 8th meeting of the WG Biodiversity are also available online (Doc. 7 and Doc. 8).
3. The format of National Report on Implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol was discussed during the WG Biodiversity meeting. Due to complexity and specificity of the current format, it was recommended that the Secretariat will provide a simplified version to the WG Biodiversity for its consideration. The simplified version of the Report Format was sent to the WG Biodiversity Members and will be presented at the CCIC meeting for its consideration (Doc. 9).
4. The Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat and the Association for Natural Protected Areas Administration (ANPAA) has been signed (Doc. 10).
5. The Secretariat was informed about the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation between CNPA, ALPARC and DANUBEPARKS. The MoC and related Action Plan is available online (Doc. 11 and Doc. 12).
* 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;
* CCIC may welcome the MoC between the Secretariat and ANPAA
* CCIC may welcome the MoC and Action Plan between CNPA, ALPARC and DANUBEPARKS

**WG Forest**

1. Fifth Meeting of the Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management was organized in Brasov, Romania on 26 – 27 September 2016. The WG Forest decided to continue its work on the Virgin Forest Inventory/Map and provide the national inputs to it. Definition/indicators for natural forest has been foreseen as a next important topic for the WG Forest. The Secretariat, in cooperation with the EEA/ETC-ULS, will collect the existing definitions and work on a common agreement for the future identification of natural forests distribution in the Carpathians. Meeting Report is available (Doc. 13)
2. WG Forest appreciated and requested to continue the cooperation with the European Environment Agency. Report of the EEA activities - *Forest indicators to support regional policy and management in the Carpathian region* - is available on the CC website (Doc. 14). The cooperation will continue the work carried out in 2016 in developing the indicators on forest naturalness, forest connectivity and fragmentation and the changes in the forest land uses between 2000 and 2012.
* CCIC may advise on way forward to complete the Virgin Forest Inventory;
* CCIC may also advise on way forward towards definition/description of natural forests in the Carpathians

**WG Tourism**

1. The Eight Meeting of the WG Tourism was organized in Brasov, Romania on 12 – 14 April 2016. The purpose of the meeting was to find a common agreement on arrangements for the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform. As for now, the discussion on the possible arrangements is still pending. See the Meeting Report of the WG Tourism (Doc. 15).
2. Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Project (led by the Ecological Tourism in Europe (ETE)) supporting the implementation of the Tourism Protocol and its Strategy, was extended by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety until 28 February 2017. The additional activities shall focus on the establishment of National Tourism Task Forces (NTTF) in each of the seven Carpathian countries, developing a common ToR for the NTTFs, and coaching them for the implementation of the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Strategy in their countries and beyond.

The Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Project offered an organization of a workshop - *Workshop on the Implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism to the Carpathian Convention into National Law,* which will be held on 12 – 13 December in Vienna. More information will follow soon.

* CCIC may advise on the way forward regarding the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform and other aspects of implementation of the Sustainable Tourism Protocol.

**WG Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge**

Possible revitalisation of the Protocol on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge shall be considered and discussed by the Parties. The Road Map to achieve the objectives of Art. 11 of the Carpathian Convention - Cultural Heritage approved at COP4 is available online (Doc. 16).

* CCIC may advise on the way forward regarding the draft Protocol on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge

**WG Climate Change**

1. Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change was organized on 27 – 28 October 2016 in Vienna, Austria. One of the main objective of the meeting was a discussion on a possible inclusion of the Article on Climate Change to the Carpathian Convention. See the update on the subject on page 1. The meeting report is available (Doc. 3).
2. The Secretariat will cooperate with EEA on the development of a Carpathian webpage under the platform Climate-ADAPT, collecting data and information on the activities and projects in the Carpathians.
3. The Secretariat with support of UNEP/GRID Arendal would like to produce the Report on Adaptation Responses to Climate Change for the Carpathians. The Parties has been requested to provide their inputs to the Report. The Secretariat will continue informing the Parties about the progress made in this respect.
* CCIC may welcome the cooperation with EEA on inclusion of the Carpathian region to the Climate-ADAPT platform.
* CCIC may welcome the idea of the Report on Adaptation Responses to Climate Change for the Carpathians.

**Cooperation with other initiatives**

1. **Memorandum of Cooperation with the International Council for Game and Wildlife**

During the Conference on Large Carnivore’s Protection, Roznov pod Radhostem, 18 – 21 October 2016, the Memorandum of Cooperation between the International Council for Game and Wildlife and the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention was signed (Doc. 17). As an annex to MoC, an annual work plan is foreseen. The Secretariat in consultation with the CIC is currently working on the possible ideas for common activities to be included in the annual work plan.

1. **Memorandum of Cooperation with EUSDR**

The Memorandum of Cooperation between the Carpathian Convention and EUSDR PA 1B “Mobility | Rail-Road-Air” was signed with on 7th June 2016. Also the EUSDR PA 04 “Water Quality” signed the Memorandum of Cooperation with the Carpathian Convention, after an online consultation. EUSDR PA 02 "Energy" signed the MoC with the Carpathian Convention during the 5th Annual Forum of the EUSDR, on 3 November 2016 in Bratislava. Some EUSDR PAs decided to launch a written procedure for its signature, while with other PAs, the Carpathian Convention is still at an earlier stage of mutual consultation.

The MoC will facilitate the coordination with the specific PAs and possible support to Carpathian related projects. Briefing on the cooperation activities with EUSDR and the copies of the signed MoCs are available online (Doc. 18).

1. **European Environment Agency - implementation of Joint Work Plan**

Under the Joint Work Plan 2016-2017, EEA and the Carpathian Convention are implementing the following points:

- Finalisation of the Joint Carpathian Convention and European Topic Centre on Urban, Land and Soil Systems (ETC/ULS) report on data and indicators relevant for sustainable forest management and for the elaboration of an inventory on the Carpathian Virgin Forests (see WG Forest para)-Development of a Carpathian webpage under Climate-ADAPT Platform (See WG Climate Change para)

- Organization of a joint EEA – Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management (see WG Forest para)

- Cooperation on the development of a sub-regional report on adaptation policies in the Carpathian Region, with the support of and in cooperation with the Carpathian Convention Adaptation to Climate Change Working Group (See WG Climate Change para).

Operational priorities of the joint Work Plan 2016– 2017 are available (Doc. 19).

* CCIC may consider and welcome progress in cooperation and advise on planning of cooperative activities

**Programme of Work 2018 – 2020 of the Carpathian Convention**

Draft Programme of Work for the period 2018 – 2020 is available online (Doc. 20).

* CCIC shall consider the draft Programme of Work 2018-2020

**Update on the projects approval**

**EUSDR START – Danube Region Project Fund**
**Project START ConnectGREEN,** LP: Friends of the Earth Czech Republic, Olomouc branch, Czech Republic, link to EUSDR PA 06 - Biodiversity, landscapes, air&soil quality (approved and finalised)

**EUSDR Technical Assistance Facility for Danube Region Projects (TAF-DRP)**
**Project WILD for DC** - Assessment of illegal wildlife & forest related practices and trade in the DCR and the effects on the conservation status of endangered wildlife species and priority forest habitats, LP: Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, link to EUSDR PA 06 - Biodiversity, landscapes, airsoil quality) (approved and finalised)

**EU DTP Projects**
**1 - Project ConnectGREEN** (LP: Piatra Craiului National Park Administration, RO), Programme Priority PA2. Environment and culture responsible Danube region, Programme Specific Objective SO2.3 Foster the restoration and management of ecological corridors (not approved)

**2 - Project TRANSGREEN,** (LP: WWF, AT), Programme Priority PA3. Better connected and energy responsible Danube region, Programme Specific Objective SO3.1 Support environmentally-friendly and safe transport systems and balanced accessibility of urban and rural areas (approved)

**3 - Project DANUBIOM**, (LP: Szent István University, HU), Programme Priority PA3. Better connected and energy responsible Danube region, Programme Specific Objective SO3.2 Improve energy security and energy efficiency (not approved)
 **4 - Project JOINTISZA** (LP:HU General Directorate of Water Management, HU), Programme Priority PA2. Environment and culture responsible Danube region, Programme Specific Objective SO2.1 Strengthen transnational water management and flood risk prevention (approved)

**EU HORIZON2020**

**Project ECOPOTENTIAL**, Improving future ecosystem benefits through earth observations (LP: Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche(CNR), Italy. (approved) <http://www.ecopotential-project.eu/>

* CCIC may welcome information about the projects’ approval

**COP5 Updates**

The host country of the COP5, Hungary, together with the Secretariat, will update the meeting participants regarding the organization of the next Conference of the Parties.

* CCIC may take note of and welcome the information provided
1. All the documents (Docs) mentioned in the Progress Report are available on the Carpathian Convention website under section of CCIC meeting (http://www.carpathianconvention.org/eventdetailccic/events/seventh-meeting-of-the-carpathian-convention-implementation-committee.html) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)