



3rd CNPA Conference “A new age for the CNPA network”

co-organized by the Centralparks project and the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

29 September 2021, Visegrád, Hungary and online
14:00-18:30

Conference Agenda

Moderation: Mircea VERGHELEȚ, Chair of the CNPA Steering Committee

The event, launched by the Centralparks Project Partnership in strong synergy with the ConnectGREEN and the SaveGREEN projects and with fundamental support of the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, will focus on the revitalization process of the CNPA network. Protected area representatives from each Carpathian country will share with the audience the best practices in protected area management and networking in their countries, with a particular focus on achievements and experience gathered in their respective parts of the Carpathian region. The CNPA Steering Committee members will be invited to evaluate the progress of the work dedicated to the network achieved so far. The event will offer a platform for discussions in order to foster collaboration and future cooperation among the managers of the Carpathian protected areas.

Agenda of the 3rd CNPA Conference

SESSION I 14:00 -16:30

1. **Short welcome** (*Harald Egerer, UNEP Vienna Programme Office - Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, and Mircea VERGHELEȚ, Chair of the CNPA Steering Committee*)
2. **Presentation of the Centralparks project results relevant for the CNPA revitalization** (*Mircea VERGHELEȚ/CNPA Steering Committee and Hanna Öllös/European Wilderness Society*)

3. Short interventions by the CNPA Steering Committee Members:

- I. General overview of the state of well-being of the Carpathian Protected Areas in your country;*
- II. Possibility of synergies with the surrounding territories, outside PAs;*
- III. Overview of PAs economic status with a view to the implementation of future strategies. (e.g. elaborated during Centralparks project);*
- IV. Description of the major risks threatening these areas in your Country;*
- V. Your opinion on a possible dialogue between PAs and external communities present in your region*

4. Presentations by the representatives of the CNPA from each Carpathian country¹ on:

- I. best practices of a protected area management (e.g. on zonation, monitoring, public awareness, education, forest management, wildlife management, communities, etc.)*
- II. experiences of networking of protected areas in your country (especially in the Carpathian part of your country) - as an introduction to the topic of networking of PAs on a Carpathian scale.*

5. Presentation of the Protected Area Management Effectiveness Tool

(Cristian Remus Papp/WWF Romania) TBC

Coffee break. 16:30 – 17:00

SESSION II 17:00 - 18:30

- 6. Presentation of the CNPA status quo - *Need for revisiting the strategic CNPA documents and discussing the way forward of the CNPA* (Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention)**
- 7. Interactive exercise²** – questions to the CNPA Conference participants about the future activities of the CNPA (see questions below)
- 8. Discussion**
- 9. Recommendations and next steps**
- 10. Closing of the 3rd CNPA Conference**

¹ 10 minutes presentation per country will be kindly requested through the CNPA Steering Committee.

² The online questionnaire will be done with support of the [Mentimeter](#) application. To participate you will need only your smartphone or laptop. Further instruction will be given during the meeting.

Session II of the 3rd CNPA Conference shall allow for undertaking open discussion on progress made by the CNPA in terms of implementing the strategic objectives of the network. In this regard, the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention would like to present a brief general overview of the state of implementation of the [CNPA Medium Term Strategy](#)³ and the [CNPA Medium Term Work Plan 2013 – 2017](#)⁴, which shall encourage updating of the above documents for strengthening cooperation and the future collaborative activities between the protected areas in the Carpathian region. Such updated basic CNPA strategic documents could then be officially adopted during the 7th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP7) to be held in the Republic of Serbia (2023), and thus serve as a valid and sound reference when developing joint application/s for project funding for the CNPA revitalization-related activities (e.g. under a call of the Interreg Central Europe Programme). Furthermore, the Secretariat will advise on updating the [Terms of Reference of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas](#), which shall address the issue of sound and effective governance of the CNPA.

Through an interactive tool, the Secretariat will pose open questions to the participants of the CNPA conference regarding:

Which activity do you perceive as the most urgent for:

- I. the institutional development and operational capacity building of the CNPA?
- II. enhancing communication between the member areas of this PA network ?
- III. undertaking at the pan-Carpathian scale under a common project, co-funded from external (e.g. EU) sources?
- IV. enhancing the exchange of information, experience, skills, knowledge and data between the CNPA member areas (e.g. through establishing common thematic working groups)
- V. promoting PAs as model areas for sustainable local development and transboundary cooperation?

Based on the results of the online questionnaire, the Secretariat will facilitate further discussion and shall propose recommendations to be considered by the CNPA Steering Committee.

The discussions of the CNPA Conference should lead to a development of a project proposal supporting the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas in its endeavours.

³ Adopted by the Parties in 2011 at CC COP3, with time horizon until 2015, later extended at CC COP4 until the end of the year 2020 – see Decision COP4/1.4

⁴ Adopted by the Parties in 2014 at CC COP4, with time horizon April 2013 – December 2017