



SECOND STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING TO THE CARPATHIAN NETWORK OF PROTECTED AREAS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

*Budapest, Hungary
22-23 November 2007*

The 2nd Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) was held in Budapest on the 23rd November 2007.

The following designated **CNPA National Focal Points** participated in the meeting:

1. Jana URBANČÍKOVÁ Bile Karpaty Education and Information Centre EIC, Czech Republic
2. György CZIBULA Ministry of Environment and Water, Hungary
3. Zbigniew NIEWIADOMSKI Poland
4. Mircea VERGHELET National Forest Administration, Romania
5. Jan KADLECÍK State Nature Conservancy, Slovak Republic
6. Olga VLAHOVIC Ministry of Science and Environmental Protection, Serbia
7. Igor IVANENKO Ministry of Environmental Protection, Ukraine

The following observers also participated:

1. Guido PLASSMANN Task Force Protected Areas
Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention
2. Martin PAVLIK Task Force Protected Areas
Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention
3. Anna GUTTOVA CERI
4. Bohdan PROTS State Museum of National History – Natural Academy of Science, Ukraine
5. Piotr KRZAN Tatra National Park, Poland
6. Harald EGERER UNEP Vienna - ISCC
7. Andreea BUCUR UNEP Vienna - ISCC
8. Mike BALTZER WWF DCP
9. David STROBEL WWF DCP
10. Erika STANCIU WWF DCP
11. Csaba DOMOKOS WWF DCP
12. Hildegard MEYER WWF DCP
13. Juraj VYSOKY WWF DCP



Agenda of the CNPA Steering Committee meeting

1. Update on the CNPA status within the framework of the Carpathian Convention (Decision COP1/4, presentation of ToRs of the CNPA), discussion
2. Update on available support (all partners)
3. CNPA Work Programme: proposals for feasible actions, discussion
4. CNPA Website, CNPA Logo, presentation, discussion
5. Conference of the Protected Areas 2008, proposals for agenda and points of deliberation by participants, discussion
6. Update on country proposals for a permanent arrangement by respective CNPA SC members and partners, discussion
7. Report to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (preparations for COP2)

1. Update on the CNPA status within the framework of the Carpathian Convention (Decision COP1/4, presentation of ToRs of the CNPA), discussion

The Meeting of the CNPA Steering Committee was opened on 23 November 2007 at 9:00 by Harald Egerer, Head, UNEP Vienna – Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (ISCC). Mr. Egerer welcomed the participants on behalf of the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, and initiated an introduction round.

Further, the participants agreed upon the revised agenda proposed by the Interim Secretariat (the topic regarding the Swiss Cohesion Contribution was removed from the agenda as it was already discussed by the parties during the previous day within the “Protected Areas for a Living Planet” Steering Committee Meeting).

Furthermore, Mr. Egerer gave a brief update on the CNPA status within the framework of the Carpathian Convention. He reminded that COP1 took the decision to establish a Carpathian Network of Protected Areas that constitutes a thematic network of cooperation of mountain protected areas in the Carpathian region, as well as the CNPA Steering Committee composed of the CNPA Focal Points of each Contracting Party. The Draft ToRs, which set the goals of the Carpathian Network of Protected Area adopted at the last Extended Bureau Meeting in Vienna on the 17-18 October 2007, were presented. He also mentioned that the process of this body should bring similar results as the ones achieved under the Alpine Convention as their work represents a good example to follow and to improve.

Mr. Egerer also presented the latest achievements within the Working Groups established under the Carpathian Project with the support of the Carpathian Convention.



Further, it was announced that the Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity which met in Budapest on the 19-21 November 2007 negotiated and finalized a Draft Protocol that will be prepared to be signed at the COP2 (17-19 June 2008) in Bucharest, Romania. Mr. Zbigniew Niewiadomski, who had a major contribution in revising the draft text initially submitted by Ukraine, gave a brief overview of the Protocol. He mentioned that the Protocol is just a proposal and not a legal document, yet. After the Parties should agree on the Protocol proposed, a Strategic Action Plan for implementation has to be elaborated as in Article 14 of the Carpathian Convention.

Mr. Egerer pointed out that a partnership was signed with the Alpine Convention. He suggested that this collaboration would bring valuable lessons to learn from and also the CNPA should go beyond the Alpine Convention experience.

After this short introduction, the participants were invited to provide their comments and recommendations. Czech Republic welcomes the whole process and mentioned that the government would like to see concrete management plans with special emphasis on the financial schemes; Hungary considers CNPA a good tool to address the threats in the Carpathians; Poland explained that CNPA official image is of a tool of exchange between the Protected Areas and the government will not give financial support without a well elaborated working plan; Romania believes that the first goal of the CNPA is the cooperation between the Parties and proposed to establish a similar unit to the Alpine Convention which should be in charge of coordinating the activity of the Protected Areas – a management unit. The management unit would facilitate the communication between the parks' administration as well as the exchange of experience. Furthermore, Mr. Mircea Verghelet informed that at the Belgrade Conference (October 2007) he represented the CNPA; Serbia believes that a better definition of CNPA activity and aims is needed, and the interchange of experience between the parks' administrations is very useful. Mr Harald Egerer stated that Serbia could constitute a crucial link point between South-Eastern Europe and the Balkans, and proposals of cooperation are to be developed, as well as various projects; Slovakia informed that the parks' administrations are already very active in this field due to EU programme NATURA 2000, and they are very interested in trainings and to learn about the best practice from the other partners and that information channels like internet, printed journals or newsletters ideally in the national languages would be very welcomed. Moreover, new challenges have to be dealt with due to the new management of the parks which are more business oriented; Ukraine (the presidency of the Carpathian Convention) clarified that the CNPA is also a physical network of Protected Areas and not only of managers; moreover, a work plan based on the ToRs and clearly defined financial needs should be elaborated as soon as possible, as well as a permanent unit which would have to coordinate the whole process as the parks administrators are busy with daily tasks and they would need to allocate additional time for CNPA; in this matter, Ukraine



proposed that a position should be established within the ISCC in Vienna; the person would be proposed by one of the Parties, and would be responsible for the work plan and for the coordination of the Protected Areas.

Mr. Guido Plassmann, Director of Task Force Protected Areas of the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, informed the CNPA Steering Committee that ALPARC continues to support the CNPA. He remarked that the Alpine Network of Protected Area was the first of this type and it provides a good example for the CNPA. A coordination unit is vital for a good management of the process; the symmetric exchange of information and experience builds a relationship based on trust between the Protected Areas administrations. There is a big interest in cooperation with the CNPA, as ALPARC is located in the same bio geographical region, shares interest in similar topics. Mr. Plassmann believes that there should be a two ways exchange of information and experience between the CNPA and the ALPARC, for example the last could learn more about managing large carnivores, which are better managed in the Carpathians.

The WWF DCP (Ms. Erika Stanciu) remarked that is very important to have a legally binding agreement that is seen as a "good selling label", giving the example of the MAVA Project which generated another large project in Ukraine. It also emphasized the benefits of cooperation with other networks – Alpine Network, etc.

CERI reiterated their support to CNPA throughout their research that incorporates studies in the entire Carpathian region on biodiversity and socio-economic issues.

Mr. Igor Ivanenko appreciated the developments accomplished so far and he believes that the results of the ongoing projects will become visible in the near future. Also, he asked the ISCC to prepare the ToRs for the coordinator (that was proposed to work within the ISCC) and advice the SC to prepare and propose new projects for further development.

UNEP suggested that a follow up report comprising the experience should be prepared, including suggestions from the CNPA supportive partners: ALPARC, CERI and WWF DCP; the ToRs of the unit management / coordinator should be based on the working plan of the CNPA.

2. Update on available support (all partners)

The first big step for concrete work taken for the cooperation between the ALPARC and the CNPA will be the Conference of the Protected Areas that will take place in 2008. Two important documents will have to be developed: a common work-program



for the Alpine and the Carpathian protected areas and a strategic document/action plan for the CNPA.

Mr. Egerer remarked that the document should be drafted before and submitted for discussion to COP2, which will take place on the 17-19 June 2008 in Romania.

Mr. Igor Ivanenko agreed that the document should be produced and submitted to consideration by COP2 in Romania. He also suggested that the ISCC should produce a draft of the Strategic Document of cooperation between the CNPA and ALPARC.

Mr. Zbigniew Niewiadomski suggested that, even if the CNPA does not have a very clear financial and administrative framework, the SC should try to develop the strategic document. He gave as example the 2003 exercise which was performed throughout a questionnaire asking for considered priorities, training needs, etc. The COP2 should receive the feedback from the PA administrations and discuss upon proposals underlining expectations of the Parties.

Mr. Guido Plassmann remarked that the workshops planned during the Conference of the Protected Areas will be a very productive exchange of information and experiences, which will bring added value to both parties, ALPARC and CNPA.

Mr. Igor Ivanenko believes that there are sufficient projects on the run and the SC should concentrate on their better coordination and on getting the governmental support for concrete action. Mr. Niewiadomski agreed on this matter and remarked that along with the strategy for the CNPA a working plan should be developed. Mr. Mircea Verghelet sustained that the working plan should be elaborated after the strategy has been outlined.

Mr. Harald Egerer drew the attention to the institutional type of CNPA issue; he believes that this should be the first aspect to be clarified which also depends on the financial support provided by the governments. Further, he asked Mr. Plassmann, about the flexibility of ALPARC support and the deadline for submitting the two strategic documents.

Mr. Plassmann explained that the financial support will be offered for 1 year by the Heidehof Foundation Germany, Government of Monaco, BMU (the German Federal Ministry of Environment) and the ALPARC budget. He also mentioned that the process of producing the two strategic documents is quite flexible and it should be a parallel one (Strategic Document – outlining the strategy of CNPA and the Working Plan). Furthermore, he explained that due to limited funds, only the final meeting will be financed and that several other meeting will not take place.



Mr. Igor Ivanenko believes that the Strategic Document should be produced after the Biodiversity Protocol has been agreed upon.

Mr. Mircea Verghelet suggested that a proposal regarding the management unit of the Protected Areas should be completed and submitted to COP2 and in parallel an interim strategic document can be elaborated.

Ms. Erika Stanciu (WWF DCP) assured the Steering Committee of the WWF DCP support under the CBD Programme of Work for Protected Areas, which will be financed till the end of 2011, and emphasized that brings added value if compared to the EU's project NATURA 2000.

CERI assured once again the CNPA SC of their support consisting in the documents produced as a result of their research and the available funds received.

Mr. Zbigniew Niewiadomski emphasized that the coordination between CNPA and the WG on Biodiversity, WWF DCP, and CERI is very important and will produce valuable outcomes which will benefit the Protected Areas.

3. CNPA Work Programme: proposals for feasible actions, discussion

The subject of the CNPA Work Programme was opened by Mr. Harald Egerer who invited the participants to express their opinion regarding the type of document that should be elaborated: a strategic plan, etc.

Czech Republic believes that a Working Plan should exist; the opinion was shared by Hungary who wishes for a framework document that gives the guidelines for action.

The following proposals were presented for consideration by the SC and observers, and agreed upon:

- A Working Plan should be developed as soon as possible;
- A Strategic Plan/Document should be elaborated and proposed for consideration to COP2;
- Proposal and ToRs (developed until COP2 and submitted for approval) for the permanent arrangement for the CNPA



4. CNPA Website, CNPA Logo, presentation, discussion

Mr. Martin Pavlik – ALPARC Alpine Network of Protected Areas presented the web page, currently hosted under www.alparc.org/cnpa/index.php, and explained to the Focal Points the structure of the site and the modality in which it can be accessed, depending on each one's position: public, Focal Points, park's administrations, etc. Mr. Harald Egerer draw the attention to some mistakes that have been made in the text presenting the status of the CNPA on the web site, as well as other information that should be posted. Mr. Pavlik assured that the information published will be revised and properly updated. The web domains reserved for the CNPA web page are: www.carpathianparks.org and www.cnpa.net; in the near future remains to be decided if both of them will be kept.

Further, the WWF DCP presented the proposed logos for the CNPA which were the result of a voting process. The Parties did not agree on a particular logo and decided to postpone the decision on this matter. Since the process of designing a logo is complicated and may take up to 6 months, the logo nr.1, which received the most votes from the administrations of the PA, should be circulated again after a prior simplification of the map.

5. Conference of the Protected Areas 2008, proposals for agenda and points of deliberation by participants, discussion

The Conference of the CNPA was announced to take place on the 24 September 2008 in Poiana Brasov, Romania.

The participants decided upon the number of delegates that will take part in the Conference:

- Czech Republic 3 (+1) persons
- Hungary 3 persons
- Poland 12 (+1)
- Romania 21 persons
- Serbia 3 (+1) persons
- Slovakia 15 persons
- Ukraine 10 persons
- Members of the CNPA Steering Committee
- Balkans Representative (possible invitation) 5-7 persons



The programme of the Conference shall be established at a further date; the participants were invited to submit suggestions for the agenda.

6. Update on country proposals for a permanent arrangement by respective CNPA SC members and partners, discussion

Mr. Mircea Verghelet reiterated Romania's proposal for housing the management unit of the CNPA. A formal proposal will be developed in the near future; for the time being he believes that the ToRs of the CNPA of the management unit and the preparations of the Conference of the Protected Areas should be the first to be developed. He proposed the Alpine Convention to be the example to follow in the process of shaping the future management unit of the CNPA.

Mr. Harald Egerer clarified that the role and capacities of the future CNPA management unit will also depend on the official proposal from the two countries. In response, Mr. Igor Ivanenko, supported by Mr. Mircea Verghelet, proposed that the ToRs of the CNPA coordinator should be elaborated, in close collaboration with the Alpine Convention (Mr. Martin Pavlik) by the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention.

Mr. Jan Kadlecik also reiterated Slovakia's proposal to host the management unit. A building fully equipped located in Banska Bystrica is already prepared for this purpose; as for the financial support the negotiations with the government are undergoing and a decision will be taken soon.

Mr. Zbigniew Niewiadomski remarked that both Parties when elaborating the proposal should focus and present the advantages of placing the management unit in their country. He also believes that the management unit of the CNPA should be a functional part of the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention.

Mr. Igor Ivanenko also emphasized on the advantages that countries would offer in case the management unit should be placed on their territory (also as in the case of the Permanent Secretariat). In the meantime, the CNPA coordinator should be co-located with the Interim Secretariat.

The two Parties were invited to submit a more detailed proposal, which should indicate the institutional/legal type of the "permanent arrangement" to the ISCC. The final decision should be taken by COP 2.



7. Report to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (preparations for COP2)

The Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee as decided by the Extended Bureau Meeting (17-18 October 2007, Vienna, Austria) will take place on 2-4 April 2008 in Sibiu, Romania. The Participants agreed that the following actions must be taken and presented:

- As decided by COP1, the Secretariat is supposed to submit through the Implementation Committee a report highlighting the experiences made in the interim phase of CNPA. Also, a compilation of proposals for hosting the management unit from Romania and Slovakia is to be prepared by the ISCC Vienna, and submitted for consideration to COP2. For this purpose, detailed proposals should be submitted to the Interim Secretariat as soon as possible, preferably in time before the Meeting of the Implementation Committee.
- The ToRs of a CNPA coordinator – to be linked to the (interim) Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention should be elaborated by the Secretariat and submitted for consideration by the Steering Committee.
- The Interim Secretariat should coordinate and facilitate the elaboration of two key proposed documents, the Working Plan and the mid-term Strategy, with the support of ALPARC. The documents should be prepared in close cooperation with the other CNPA partners – CERI, UNEP, and WWF DCP. The **Working Plan** should be developed as soon as possible and offer the needed guidelines necessary for starting the actual fieldwork. The **mid-term Strategy** should be developed for a period of 5 years starting with the year 2009. Both documents should be ready by the Protected Areas Conference that will take place in September 2008;
- ALPARC offered to support and advice at every stage of the process – ToRs for the CNPA coordinator, Working Plan and Mid-term Strategy. WWF-DCP will support the Conference of the CNPA. UNEP-ISCC will further facilitate and service the process.

The 2nd Meeting of the CNPA SC was closed on November 23, 2007 at 15:00.