



FIRST STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING TO THE CARPATHIAN NETWORK OF PROTECTED AREAS

Vienna International Centre

26 January 2007

In accordance with the Decision COP1/4 para. 13 of the 1st Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (Kyiv, Ukraine, 11-13 December 2006), the 1st Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) was held in Vienna on 26 January 2007.

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

1. Jana URBANČÍKOVA Bile Karpaty Education and Information Centre EIC, Czech Republic
2. György CZIBULA Ministry of Environment and Water, Hungary
3. Zbigniew NIEWIADOMSKI Bieszczady National Park, Poland
4. Mircea VERGHELET National Forest Administration, Romania
5. Jan KADLECIK State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic
6. Sergiy MATVYEVYEV Expert of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine
7. Aleksandra Doslic from the Republic of Serbia was excused due to illness.

The following **observers** also participated:

1. Anna GUTTOVA CERi
2. Michael VOGEL National Park Berchtesgaden, Germany
3. Guido PLASSMANN ALPARC (Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention)
4. Harald EGERER UNEP Vienna- ISCC
5. Solomiya Omelyan UNEP Vienna - ISCC
6. Mike BALTZER WWF DCP
7. Andreas BECKMANN WWF DCP
8. Erika STANCIU WWF DCP
9. Csaba DOMOKOS WWF DCP
10. Hildegard MEYER WWF DCP

A list of the meeting participants is included in Annex III to this report.



1) Introduction, brief update on COP1 to the Carpathian Convention

Mr. Harald Egerer, Head of the UNEP Vienna – ISCC, welcomed the participants on behalf of the interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, and initiated an introduction round.

Further, Mr. Harald Egerer gave a brief update on the COP1. He evaluated the COP1 as well-organized event, where all Carpathian countries and over 50 representatives of observer organizations demonstrated a real participation. A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the Alpine and the Carpathian Conventions indicating equal partnership, and formalizing the cooperation between the Alpine and Carpathian Convention Secretariats, including between the Alpine and the Carpathian Networks of Protected Areas.

Until the COP2 that will be held in Romania in spring 2008, six working groups (further referred to as WGs) will be set up and operational, among them the Working Group on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity (later referred to as BD WG). A close cooperation between the BD WG and the CNPA should be established. He assumed that the CNPA along with the BD WG might be candidates for a good show case at the COP2.

Furthermore, he briefed the meeting on the Carpathian Project activities supported by the EU. The Project should support the development of the “Carpathian Space” similar to the “Alpine Space” under the Interreg IIIB Programme. On behalf of the Carpathian Convention, the interim Secretariat will engage into consultations with the relevant European institutions and partners, in order to create the necessary support for follow-up projects, like Via Carpatica and CNPA.

An MoU with the Ramsar Convention Secretariat was signed at the COP1. That means that the Ramsar Convention recognized the Carpathian Convention as a regional hub of a global Convention. The MoU with the Central European Initiative (CEI) also adds a new political and operational dimension to the Carpathian cooperation.

Mr. Egerer pointed out that a report highlighting experiences made in the interim phase of the CNPA, and a compilation of proposals for a permanent arrangement of the CNPA will be submitted by UNEP Vienna ISCC to the COP2 through the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee.

Mr. Egerer then introduced the draft meeting agenda, which was approved by the meeting with minor modifications.

2. Agenda items 1 and 2: Role of the CNPA Steering Committee. Draft CNPA ToRs

Pursuant to the Decision COP1/4, the BD WG in cooperation with the CNPA Steering Committee will prepare the ToRs for the CNPA. To start up the process, the CNPA Steering Committee is invited to submit the draft of the ToRs to the BD WG for consideration and approval. Mr. Egerer introduced the draft CNPA tasks and TORs to the meeting participants, and invited the CNPA SC to provide its comments and recommendations. The CNPA ToRs (enclosed in Annex II) were drafted by the Secretariat on the basis of outputs produced by the previous activities of the CNPA Steering Committee, and in particular - by the Third Meeting of the CNPA Partnership Steering Committee, held on 13-14 May 2004 in Zakopane, Poland.



Romania underlined that more detailed ToRs would be desirable. The CNPA SC agreed to apply the Rules of Procedure of the Carpathian Convention *mutatis mutandis* in its proceedings.

The SC members agreed to meet at least twice a year taking into account the actual needs and financial support available. WWF-DCPO informed that the 2012 PAP assures financial support for 2 CNPA SC meetings per year during the next 5 years.

The meeting adopted the proposed ToRs with some amendments by consensus and agreed that the draft CNPA ToRs will be submitted to the BD WG for approval in March 2007. A meeting of the BD WG will be held in spring 2007, and the CNPA SC is invited to participate in its proceedings.

In the context of the ALPARC-CNPA cooperation, one representative from the CNPA is invited to participate in the ALPARC meetings in order to enhance the future collaboration between the networks.

The CNPA SC decided to elect an informal chair who could participate and represent the CNPA SC in the ALPARC meetings as an observer. Consequently, Mr. Mircea Verghelet from Romania was elected a Chair of the CNPA SC and will represent the SC at the ALPARC meetings.

In exchange, the CNPA SC decided to invite the President of the Alpine Network (currently held by Mr. Michael Vogel from NP Berchtesgaden in Germany) to participate in the CNPA SC meetings on behalf of the Alpine Network.

3. Agenda item 3: Presentation of progress of related activities (Alpine-Carpathian Partnership with ALPARC, Carpathian Wetland Initiative)

Alpine-Carpathian Cooperation

Mr. Guido Plassmann, Director, ALPARC (Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention), informed the CNPA SC that ALPARC continues to support the CNPA. There is a big interest in cooperation with the CNPA, as ALPARC is located in the same biogeographical region, shares interest in similar topics, such as migration of species and many others. A concrete project will be introduced aiming at supporting CNPA communications. The role of ALPARC within CNPA is up to the SC to define.

Mr. Guido Plassmann presented ALPARC's work in the Carpathian region in the last year including two workshops in Mala Fatra, Slovakia and Piatra Craiului, Romania, held in 2006, as well as the NATURA 2000 colloquium, held in 2004 in Neukirchen, Austria, initiated on the request of the PA authorities. Both workshops were organized under the support of the host countries (Slovakia and Romania) and financially supported by the governments of Germany, Monaco and France. A CD with all presentations is available.

He also presented the goals of the one-year project "Alpine-Carpathian Cooperation – Creation of Communication tools for the CNPA".

Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI)

Mr. Jan Kadlecik from the Slovak Republic introduced the CWI to the meeting participants. The establishment of the CWI was supported by the Norwegian government in 2003-2005. In November 2006, a meeting was held in Evian, France, in cooperation

3



with the Ramsar Convention Secretariat which formulated key points to be developed by the CWI and also action points and responsibilities by November 2008.

Currently, there is one Focal Point per country working on wetland issues in the region. This group of people is developing information on wetland ecosystems in the Carpathians. In addition, the group will work on designation of additional Ramsar Sites, integrating wetlands into river basin management, wetlands restoration plans, transboundary cooperation, species and habitat monitoring, capacity building and awareness raising, and will develop an action plan for the next 2 years. A side event at the COP1 was held, the CWI was included into the Carpathian Convention programme of work and decisions of the COP1 and the MoU between the Ramsar Convention and UNEP ISCC was signed. The CWI aims to operate as a Regional Initiative within the framework of the Ramsar Convention and to get financial support from the Ramsar core budget. Study tour on transboundary wetlands is planned as well as participation in the workshops and projects of ICPDR. The Wetlands International Black Sea Programme is to be expanded to the Carpathians and to become a partner of the CWI. The CWI will also create a link to the WWF DCP activities.

BBI-Matra Project by CERi

Ms. Anna Guttova of CERi gave a brief introduction on the BBI-Matra Project 'Development of a Carpathian Ecological Network'. The project will support the CNPA at least in Ukraine, Romania and Serbia by creating a biological network. Methods are being prepared. The first expert meeting will be held in the beginning of February in Bratislava. The data collection will be completed by the end of 2007. Final results are expected in the end of 2008 - beginning of 2009. This project is not only related to PA in the region, but also for areas characterized by a high level of biodiversity. Currently, CERi is working on a proposal for the Western part of the Carpathians with the aim to compile the same data set under the same methodology in order to be able to elaborate the biological network for the whole Carpathian ecoregion.

Mr. Harald Egerer remarked that the Carpathian Project will also work on a biological network. The project includes a brief study that would examine the Carpathians as part of the Pan-European Ecological Network. The participation of CERi in the BD WG of the CC will be of utmost importance.

Mr. Mircea Verghelet requested CERi to update their map, because new major parks have been established in the Carpathians recently, especially in Romania. After he sends the missing polygons, CERi GIS expert will incorporate them into the existing map and will update the database.

CERi explained that the ecological network will be based on biodiversity and socio-economic aspects rather than on PAs. Mike Baltzer of WWF-DCPO remarked that PAs will be the corner zones for the biological network. He asked the CNPA to contribute to the project by helping with data collection including data on Natura 2000 sites.

WWF DCP activities in the region

2012 PAP supports the CNPA activities. A work programme is being developed involving the CNPA SC in the consultation process.



Ms. Erika Stanciu also presented the WWF DCPO's activities in the region that are not linked to the 2012 PAP. There are local initiatives operating in RO, SK, and UA. In PL and HU local organizations are established. A campaign on PA is being conducted including public awareness and lobbying activities. Letters signed by people in Romania and several petitions were sent to the EU and the state, asking for more support for PAs. The NGO coalition for Natura 2000 is preparing proposals on PA legislation in RO. In Tatra Mountains WWF DCP is working on forest issues in particular related to issues after the windfall in 2004 and FSC certification. A project proposal is in development to strengthen forestry activities in PA in Ukraine and Romania. The PAs will hopefully be in the leadership of the activities.

Carpathian Project

The Carpathian Project supports the BD WG established by the COP1 and activities on the development of the ecological network in the Carpathians. The Carpathian ecological network should become an important part of the Carpathian Project until the COP2 in 2008 and beyond.

UNEP offered that an informal partnership could be established with ALPARC, WWF DCP and CERI to support the CNPA, as general MoUs have already been signed between UNEP and all the other organizations. The invited partners agreed to this proposal, and the Partnership in Support of CNPA was welcomed by the CNPA SC. The partners will coordinate and cooperate within an informal workprogramme under the guidance of the CNPA SC and of the Biodiversity WG of the Carpathian Convention, including the following elements:

- Preparing the CNPA conference in 2008 / COP2 of the Carpathian Convention
- Communication and PR issues, visibility guidelines, Website (contents and maintenance)
- Capacity building / coordination / integration with 2012 PAP and UNDP GEF
- Thematic work and interaction with the Biodiversity WG of the Carpathian Convention

The CNPA work programme includes holding a first CNPA conference. UNEP suggested that a combination of the CNPA conference with the COP2 could be possible. UNEP Vienna ISCC will register a domain www.cnpa.int for the CNPA website.

The 1st Meeting of the CNPA SC was closed on January 26, 2007 at 17.00.



Annex I

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Discussions on the role of the CNPA Steering Committee
2. Draft proposal on the ToRs for the CNPA - to send to the Biodiversity Working Group
3. Presentation of progress of related activities (Alpine-Carpathian Partnership with the Alpine Network of Protected Areas, the Carpathians Wetlands Initiative)
4. Steering Group meeting on the 2012 PAP (Protected Area Programme) project, including:
 - a. Discussions on the activities to be included in the GEF Carpathian Project
 - b. Presentation of the 2012 PAP project,
 - c. Proposal for a Memorandum of Understanding for project implementation (including the role of the Project Steering Group)
 - d. Presentation and agreement on the first year work plan



Annex II

Draft ToRs of the CNPA

(Submitted for the consideration and approval of the Working Group on the conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathian Convention)

The Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (further referred to as „CNPA“) constitutes a regional thematic network of cooperation of mountain protected areas in the Carpathians. The CNPA shall have the objective to contribute to the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians, and in particular to accomplishing goals listed in Article 4 of the Convention, and by supporting the work and activities of the Working Group on the conservation of biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathian Convention.

The CNPA Steering Committee is composed of the designated CNPA Focal Points of each country. The CNPA Focal Point in each Party will start up and encourage cooperation in the management of protected Areas within and between the Carpathian countries. This shall be achieved in continuous cooperation between the Carpathian protected areas designated as members of the CNPA, and with protected area networks of other regions. The Parties designate the protected areas (as indicated in the map) of their respective states and invite them to be active members of the CNPA.

The following are the goals of the CNPA:

- Promotion of cooperation on protection, restoration of nature and sustainable use of natural and cultural resources of the Carpathians;
- Implementation of decisions and recommendations undertaken by the bodies established under the Carpathian Convention as well as of other applicable relevant international legal instruments;
- Promotion of sustainable livelihoods and sustainable development of the Carpathians.

The work programme and activities of the CNPA may include:

- making recommendations on expansion of the existing and/or creation of new protected areas;
- capacity building of the member protected areas and of the network;
- communication within the network;
- coordination of common activities and projects undertaken by the network;
- common fundraising from external sources for activities of the network;



- exchange of experience, skills, knowledge and data among network members, including through the CNPA working groups;
- raising ecological awareness and promoting trans-boundary cooperation and sustainable development;
- liaising and cooperating with other bodies established under the Carpathian Convention as well as with other relevant international, regional and national organisations under the guidance of the SC, thus building upon the vast experience and knowledge available;
- preparing reports, opinions and recommendations for submission to the Conference of the Parties, the Working Group on the conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity, and the relevant bodies established under the Carpathian Convention,
- support the activities of common thematic working groups established under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee and common communication actions.

The CNPA SC will meet at least twice a year.



Annex III

List of Participants

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