



CARPATHIAN NETWORK OF PROTECTED AREAS

5th Meeting of the Steering Committee

22 September 2008, Poiana Brasov, Romania

MEETING REPORT

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the Agenda

The 5th Meeting of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas Steering Committee was held on the 22nd of September 2008, in Poiana Brasov, Romania. The main theme of discussion was the 1st CNPA Protected Areas Conference and final preparations (Conference documents, logistical matters) for the event (see Annex 1 – Agenda of the CNPA Steering Committee meeting). The meeting was attended by the members of the CNPA Steering Committee (CNPA SC) and the partner organisations (see Annex 2 – List of participants).

Firstly, Ms. Erika Stanciu (WWF-DCP) gave a few logistical and administrative information regarding the upcoming event (the CNPA Protected Areas Conference).

The Meeting was opened and chaired by the Interim Chair of the CNPA – Mr. Mircea Verghelet.

2. Last preparations for the CNPA Protected Areas Conference 2008:

- draft agenda, provisional programme of work

After the approval of the agenda of the SC meeting, Mr. Verghelet presented the Agenda of the Conference point by point and invited the participants to provide comments or suggestions, if any. Also, he announced that after the SC meeting the facilitators of the working groups would gather in order to decide on the best way to organise and hold discussions within these groups.

Mr. Igor Ivanenko (CNPA National Focal Point for Ukraine) remarked that the discussions during the Conference should be focused on activities rather than priorities (that should be set at a higher level, e.g. by the CNPA Steering Committee). Moreover, he proposed that a list of questions based on the Mid-term Strategy and Work plans, as well as other matters (e.g. tourism, forestry, wetlands, etc.) should be prepared by the facilitators in order to better guide the participants in providing their answers and feedback.



Ms. Erika Stanciu remarked that from her point of view a 5 years work plan is not feasible and such a plan should be made for a period of one year. Mr. Guido Plassmann – ALPARC Task Force Protected Areas explained that the work plan represents an overview of activities that should be undertaken and that possible available funding was not taken into consideration at this point.

Mr. Igor Ivanenko asked the meeting about the envisaged results of the Conference. Ms. Jana Urbancikova (CNPA National Focal Point for Czech Republic) answered that the work will be focused on the 3 strategic documents (collecting inputs from the Conference); moreover, all the recommendations of the Conference should be taken into consideration for further development of the Network. Mr. Niewiadomski explained that from his point of view the Conference has two purposes: a) the representatives of the protected areas have the opportunity to make acquaintance to each other as a first step; and, b) pursuant to the mandate given by the Second Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP2), the Conference participants should provide inputs and recommendations to the Mid-term Strategy and Work Plan.

Ms. Erika Stanciu explained how the programme of the Conference was drafted: on the first day the WGs – 1st day: free discussions within each WG followed by presentations in the plenary; and on the 2nd day: discussions on the 3 strategic documents. Mr. Plassmann underlined that the discussions on the Working Plan should be focused on concrete actions proposed by the parks' representatives.

Furthermore, the meeting decided on the 3 documents that would be submitted to the Conference and their names: 1. CNPA Draft Mid-term Strategy, 2. CNPA Draft Work Plan 2010-2015, 3. CNPA Draft Work Plan 2009, as well as on the timeframe. The slot from 17:00-18:00 on the 24th of September was reserved for presenting the outcomes of the Conference and adoption of recommendations to the bodies of the Carpathian Convention (e.g. CCIC/COP).

- review of documents available to the CNPA Protected Areas Conference:

a) Mid-term Strategy

The next topic discussed by the meeting was the CNPA Draft Mid-term Strategy.

The first version (version 1) of the document was prepared by the ALPARC Task Force Protected Areas within the ongoing Alpine-Carpathian partnership. After a first reading and inputs by the members of the CNPA SC members, an informal meeting was held in Bratislava which further discussed and improved the document (version 2). Following this meeting, comments by Poland and the interim Secretariat were included and a version 3 of the resulted that was circulated to the CNPA SC (which further distributed to the members – protected areas of the CNPA from each Carpathian country).

At this point the meeting had an extended discussion on the text of the versions 2 and 3 of the Draft Mid-term Strategy, as well as on which one should be submitted to the Conference for consideration and inputs.

Mr. Niewiadomski gave a brief presentation of version 3 of the document and relevant explanation on different points raised by the other participants. The meeting agreed that further improvements are needed and that the final version would also include the recommendations of the Conference.

Mr. Guido Plassmann, proposed and the meeting agreed, that in order to avoid possible misunderstandings the version 2 of the strategy would be renamed and labelled as the background/introduction to the Draft Work Plan 2010-2015, and version 3 would be presented as the Draft Mid-term Strategy.

Mr. Akos Ugron (CNPA National Focal Point for Hungary) proposed that the Work Plans should be discussed first as a continuation of the first day's consultations within the 6 WGs on priority areas.

b) Work Plan 2009

Mr. Martin Pavlik (ALPARC Task Force Protected Areas) introduced the Work Plan to the participants. Furthermore, Mr. Plassmann presented the same document explaining it point by point and invited the participants to provide their inputs / observations / comments.

Mr. Mike Baltzer (WWF-DCP) remarked that there are projects ongoing already and that they should be coordination between them.

Mr. Niewiadomski remarked that currently all the activities are funded through projects by the different CNPA partners, therefore their name should be clearly specified beside each action/activity proposed. The funds coming from the governments would be available once the work on the Biodiversity Protocol and its implementation will start. Also, he suggested that more activities should be included (also in the Draft Mid-term Strategy) even if funds are not available yet.

Mr. Plassmann informed the SC that two new projects (one through INTRREG, and one supported by MAVA Foundation) started and are dealing with the ecological networks. The cooperation and establishment of connections between the Alps and the Carpathians are mentioned in both of them. A meeting dealing with this connection might be organized in the frame of these projects.

Ms. Jana Urbancikova observed that the Draft Work Plan for 2009 is based on the ongoing projects by partner organisations and suggested that tasks of and activities by the CNPA (Steering Committee) and other Carpathian Convention bodies should be also clearly mentioned in the document; in this way the pressure of financing would be raise and hopefully with a positive feedback from the Carpathian governments/authorities.

The Draft Work Plan 2009 as submitted to the Conference is Annex 3 to the present report.

3. Elements for a proposal for a permanent arrangement of CNPA (by Mircea Verghelet, Interim Chair of the CNPA, Romania)

Further the meeting discussed and improved the draft internal rules of the CNPA Conference prepared by Mr. Mircea Verghelet. The document as modified by the meeting is Annex 4 of the present report.

4. Update by the CNPA partners on present and planned projects in support of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas.

On the 23rd of September (later afternoon), a short session on the Swiss Contribution Funds was convened.

Mr. Andreas Beckmann introduced the subject. He reminded the participants that preparatory meeting in connection with the opportunity to access funds provided through the Swiss Contribution Funds to EU Enlargement, was held at the Vienna International Centre on 18 February 2008. In the current programme, they are 4 Carpathian countries beneficiary of these funds, and 3 of them – Hungary, Poland and Slovak Republic have mentioned the Carpathians in their governmental proposals to the Swiss authorities. Furthermore, he suggested that these funds could be used for the activities of the CNPA and invited the participants for their proposals of activities and offered the support of WWF-DCP team in helping the countries in drafting project proposals that should be approved by their national governments. In his view, projects should be prepared in such way that all the Carpathian countries could benefit from it, e.g. organising the next conference of the CNPA.

Mr. Jan Kadlecik (CNPA National Focal Point for Slovakia) informed that he already had a meeting with the representatives of the Slovak Ministry of Environment on a project focused on wetlands (the project was not successful, a renewed proposal will be submitted for approval). On a proposal by Mr. Beckmann, Mr. Kadlecik agreed to organize the next Conference of the CNPA if the project is approved.

Mr. Agos Ukron did not have much information about the status the SCF in Hungary, but promised to inform the CNPA SC (and the interim Secretariat) in due course. Moreover, he assured of the support from the Hungarian Ministry of Environment.

Mr. Harald Egerer remarked that also other available funds (e.g. European programmes - INTTRREG) should be targeted. In this context a draft proposal by the European Academy (EURAC) was handed out to the participants. He also reminded the participants that at COP2 the countries increased their annual contribution that should be used part for the implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol and part for the CNPA.

Mr. Igor Ivanenko proposed that the interim Secretariat submits a draft proposal on behalf of Hungary. Mr. Egerer explained that the projects are submitted nationally and the interim Secretariat could only be involved in the preparations of the proposal (e.g. providing ideas of action/activities).

The Polish Focal Point – Mr. Niewiadomski informed the participants that in Poland the amount of money that could be allocated for activities related to the Carpathian Convention is not clear at this point. Furthermore, he emphasized that the Swiss Contribution Funds should be used not only for the CNPA, but also for other activities (e.g. implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol, development of the other protocols on Forestry, Tourism and Transport) of the Carpathian Convention.

Thus, the members of the CNPA Steering Committee were invited to come up with ideas for projects that could be financed through the SCF, circulated them and consult with the other members of the Steering Committee.

ANNEXES:

- **Annex 1** – Agenda of the 5th Meeting of the CNPA Steering Committee
- **Annex 2** – List of Participants
- **Annex 3** – Work Plan 2009
- **Annex 4** – Draft Internal Rules of the CNPA Conference