

## **CNPA institutional arrangements**

### **Introduction**

As defined in the article 4.5 of the Carpathian convention "The parties shall cooperate in developing an ecological network in the Carpathians, as a constituent part of the Pan-European Ecological Network, in establishing and supporting a Carpathian Network of Protected Areas, as well as enhancing conservation and sustainable management in the areas outside of protected areas". This cooperation must be encouraged at both the national and international levels through the creation of formal and informal networks.

Since the official creation of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (further referred to as "CNPA") in December 2006 during the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention in Kiev (Decision COP 1/4), there is a need for the establishment of the institutional framework for the CNPA.

The Carpathian Network of Protected Areas constitutes a regional network of cooperation of mountain protected areas in the Carpathians. The CNPA contributes to the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians, and in particular to accomplishing goals listed in Article 4 of the Convention.

### **A. Goal and Objectives of CNPA**

The goal of the Carpathian network of Protected Areas is to promote common activities of the protected areas administrations and to participate in the implementation of the Carpathian Convention strategies.

The objectives of the CNPA are as follows:

- 1) Support the work and activities of the Working Group on the conservation of biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathian Convention and the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention.
- 2) Development of thematic network

Exchanges within this network deal principally with the different aspects of the protected areas management:

- a. fauna and flora species, habitats, landscapes: protection, management methods, NATURA 2000 etc;
- b. tourism and sustainable development, local communities: impact of tourism on nature, protected areas contributions, opportunities for regional sustainable development;
- c. protected areas and mountain economy: cultural landscape conservation through a nature friendly agriculture and forestry.

Activities within these domains contribute to the implementation of the article 4 of the Carpathian convention about the Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity.

- 3) Support of the Pan-European Ecological network

In cooperation with other governmental and non-governmental organizations the CNPA shall contribute to the progressive establishment of an ecological continuum within the Carpathian mountain range to improve the potential for species movements and for conserving habitats.

4) Creating and running a communication network

The CNPA shall develop the knowledge and experience exchanges between the protected areas administrations and other experts as well as activities with the stakeholders and the general public. The main objectives are:

- promote the common identity of the Carpathian protected areas;
- awareness raising activities about the importance of the natural and cultural Carpathian heritage;
- promote the wide public participation in the nature protection and the sustainable development.

This communication network shall make the Carpathian convention known by the inhabitants and visitors of the protected areas and their regions.

5) Support and coordination of projects oriented towards applied research for the protected areas benefit. The cooperation with research institutions has to be developed.

The Carpathian Network collaborates with other protected areas or networks established in other mountain areas and especially in the Alps.

The CNPA will achieve its objectives through:

- a common work program for the major themes defined by the protected areas managers of the Carpathian mountains;
- exchanges of know-how, experiences, lessons learned and work methods of the protected areas and of research and scientific studies;
- involvement of all Carpathian protected areas in the establishment of a spatial network between existing protected areas and in the establishment of a Carpathian ecological continuum.

## **B. Carpathian network of protected areas institutional framework**

The CNPA institutional framework includes the General Assembly of the CNPA (GA), the CNPA Steering Committee (SC) and the Implementation Unit (IU).

### **General Assembly**

The General Assembly of the Carpathian network of protected areas is the supreme decision making entity for the CNPA and meets every two years. It discusses and agrees on the strategy for cooperation between the Carpathian PAs.

### **Steering Committee**

The CNPA Steering Committee (SC) ensures the implementation of the strategy and work program of the CNPA between the meetings of the GA. The SC is composed of one representative from each Carpathian country, accepted by the country CNPA members and designated by the relevant national authority. The SC elects every 2 years a chair who also chairs the General Assembly. The SC meets at least twice a year.

### **Implementation Unit**

The Implementation Unit for the CNPA is the permanent body which implements and coordinates the activities envisaged by the CNPA work program. It coordinates its activities with the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention.

### **Resources**

The human resources for the implementation unit (2-3 people) will be presented by Country(ies) Party to the Convention on voluntary basis by secondment of relevant staff or by another appropriate way.

The Country hosting the Implementation Unit will provide the necessary premises and conditions for the Implementation Unit.

The SC will prepare the draft internal rules for the GA and the terms of references for the SC and IU. The GA will adopt the internal rules for the GA and the terms of reference for the SC. The SC will adopt the terms of reference for the IU.

Hereby the GA, SC and IU are created.