

THIRD STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING TO THE CARPATHIAN NETWORK OF PROTECTED AREAS

SIBIU

3-4 April 2008

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 3rd Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) was held in Sibiu, Romania, on 3-4 April 2008.

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

1. Jana URBANČÍKOVÁ Bile Karpaty Education and Information Centre EIC, Czech Republic
2. Mircea VERGHELET National Forest Administration, Romania
3. Jan KADLECIK State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic
4. Igor IVANENKO Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine.

The following **observers** also participated:

1. Erika STANCIU WWF DCP
2. David STROBEL WWF DCP
3. Csaba DOMOKOS WWF DCP
4. George PREDOIU CERI
5. Piotr KRZAN Tatra National Park PL

The CNPA Steering Committee meeting followed the one for the PA4LP SG on the 3rd and 4th of April. The agenda included a joint meeting with the CCIC members, on the evening of the 3rd of April.

We would like to thank to WWF DCP for the organizational and financial help provided for the CNPA SC meeting.

Unfortunately, there were 3 country representatives missing (Poland, Hungary and Serbia), and this fact is causing delays and gaps in the decisions of the CNPA SC.

The agenda for the CNPA SC included several topics, linked to the future activities and developments of the CNPA. Each topic was discussed and completely agreed among the present SC members, and the SC activities were developed in a teamwork and cooperation environment.

The following topics were discussed:

1. Side event for COP 2, Bucharest, 17-19 June 2008 – The Pristine Forests - Treasures of the Carpathians

Taking into consideration the proposal made by Erika Stanciu, with the help of WWF DCP, a CNPA side event will be organized during COP2, and the subject will be the pristine forests in the Carpathians and the celebration of the World Heritage Sites in Slovakia and Ukraine. The aim of the side event and the message for the Carpathian Countries will be to generate a commitment for the protection of the virgin forests in the Carpathian Mountains. The event will entail an introduction, the presentation of the WHS, Government Commitments (if any), cocktail. The event will also include the spreading of leaflets, postcards, posters, presentation of an UA film on the topic, the Romanian pristine forests study, a material by Daphne on the topic.

The participants also agreed that they will try to have a work meeting during COP2 for analyzing some draft documents (see Annex 6).

2. The first PA Conference (Assembly), Brasov, September 2008

Using the opportunity of the organization of the Europarc Conference in September 2008 in Brasov, the first CNPA Conference (Assembly) will be organized. The Conference will be attended by the CNPA SC members, the CNPA partners, the Carpathian PAs administration representatives, other interested representatives.

The meeting will be held for 2 full days (23rd and 24th of September), and will include the activities presented in Annex 1. The participants will then be able to attend the Europarc Conference and the post-conference field trips.

The draft documents for the strategy and action plan will be prepared with the help of the Alpine Network of Protected Areas and presented to the CNPA SC.

3. Future CNPA institutional arrangements

The topic was intensively discussed by the participants, and the initiative was based on a document sent by the Alpine Network of Protected Areas (Alparc) and was presented to the participants by the Romanian representative (Annex 2), as a follow-up of the discussions during the former meeting of the CNPA SC held in Budapest last autumn. The result was a much shorter document – CNPA Institutional Arrangements (Annex 3). The rest of the details will be prepared by the Romanian representative, and presented to the next SC meeting, as an annex to the main document.

The document was also presented to the CCIC in the evening of the 3rd of April and their conclusion was that the findings could be presented as an information document for COP2. On the other hand, the CNPA SC present members were surprised to find out that the CCIC already discussed and reached to a conclusion on the CNPA future structures, prior to the presentation of the SC findings.

The document (Annex 3) will be subject of observations and inputs from the 3 missing SC members (PL, HU and SE).

4. GEF Project Proposal

The Romanian representative presented a GEF PIF (project identification form) document proposal, compiled by the UNDP regional office from Bratislava, entitled: Improving the Financial Sustainability of the Carpathian System of Protected Areas (Annex 4). There were several observations made by the Slovak representative, and the new data will be sent by email and included in the document. The project is part of the Romanian GEF allocation and more details and consultations with the CNPA SC will be provided during the project preparation phase, in the proposal will be successful.

5. The CNPA work plan

The WWF DCP representative, Mr. David Strobel showed the proposal made by UNEP in 2007, which contains activities for the 2009-2012 period (Annex 5). The participants agreed

that in this moment, because the only CNPA structure is the SC, there are not enough means (human and financial) for such an ambitious program. This is why the participants decided to create a much more realistic work program (Annex6), which is meant to be accomplished by the CNPA SC during the meetings, and also by the country representatives, through voluntary work.

April 26 2008