The Carpathian Convention

A platform for cooperation and interaction between Carpathian science and policy

Forum Carpaticum
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Overview

1. The Carpathian region in Europe
2. The Carpathian Convention
3. The Role of Science in the Convention
1. Challenges and future developments
1. The Carpathian region in Europe
1. The Carpathians

Over 1,500 km long and up to 500 km wide
> 17 million people
> 50 million incl. surrounding forelands
Cross 7 States
Mountains and forelands cover more than 200,000 km²
but influence 450,000 km²
51.5 km³/year surface water resources
36,000 km² of protected areas
Close to 100,000 km² of natural or semi/natural forests
> 3,000 km² of virgin forests
481 endemic plant species
1. The Alps vs. the Carpathians

They share many geographic and natural features

BUT

After the middle of the 19th century, development trends bifurcated radically:

The Alpine regions are the most advanced and richest regions within rich countries (with a few exceptions)

The Carpathian regions are mostly the poorest regions within poor countries (with a few exceptions)
1. The Carpathian region

Need for an integrated and sustainable (economic) development of the whole Carpathian region

Carpathian’s natural assets as an important factor for development
1. The Danube – (Carpathian) Macro Region
2. The Carpathian Convention
2. The Carpathian Convention at a glance

- **Main objective:** Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathian region
- **7 State Parties**
- **Adoption:** 22 May 2003 in Kyiv, Ukraine
- **Entry into force:** 4 January 2006
- **3 Meetings of the COP:** 2006, 2008, 2011
- **Current presidency:** Slovak Republic
2. The Convention as an institution
2. The Convention as a legal framework

The Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians

- Biodiversity Protocol (Entered into force)
- Forest and Tourism Protocols (Adopted)
- Other Protocols to be elaborated

New possible Protocols e.g. transport and infrastructure, agriculture, cultural heritage
2. The Programme of Work 2012 -2014

- Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA)
- Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity
- Spatial Development
- Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD)
- Sustainable Forest Management
- Sustainable Industry, Energy, Transport and Infrastructure
- Sustainable Tourism
- Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge
- Climate Change
2. COP3 topics: Biodiversity and landscapes

- Continuing land use and land cover change
- Abandonment of mountain grasslands, habitat degradation, exploitation of wildlife
- Forest health (Spruce dieback)

→ Monitoring and management measures
2. Water, air pollution and hazards

- Impacts of climate change
- Natural and man-made risks and hazards
- Air and water pollution – ecosystem-level
  - Risk assessment, management, ecosystem-wide research, adaptation measures
2. Economy and development
- Sustainable Regional development

Balance protection with development

Urban vs. rural development?

- Via Carpatica idea / include protected areas in European trail
- Example tourism - evaluate scenarios: spa – ski – agro – cultural – ecological
- Role of traditional knowledge (landscapes!)

→ Enhance investment for natural resource management, projects and funding, make ESS valuation effective

Pictures: J. Kozák, J. Jaudas, M. Verghelet
3. The Carpathian Convention and the role of science
3. Article 12 – Environment assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning

- Constant and **Carpathian wide** monitoring, assessment and reporting needed
- Cooperation for **joint monitoring programmes**, harmonization of existing and development of new indicators;
- Harmonization, standardization of **data-acquisition** activities;
- Development of **early warning**, monitoring and assessment systems as well as **joint information systems**, accessible to all Parties.
- Application of specific techniques and procedures to ensure that the consequences of planned actions are taken into consideration
- **Close cooperation** of specialized institutions and local authorities needed;

*Science in the Protocols: Biodiversity (Article 19), Tourism (Article 19.3), Forests (Article 18)*
3. The science-policy interaction

Provision of data and finding for decision making;

Draw attention to urgent issues and blind spots;

Research based recommendations;

Framework for implementation of scientific findings;

Carpathian space – transnational cooperation programme for the entire Carpathian region;

Political awareness raising;
3. Science in the Carpathian Convention

**Working Groups of the Carpathian Convention**
Scientific institutions contribute as observers

**Specific projects**
Scientific institutions involved as project partners
(BioREGIO Carpathians, Carpathian Project, Alpine-Carpathian-Corridor, etc.)

**Science for the Carpathians Initiative**
Strategic partner of the Convention;
3. BIODIVERSITY

- Entry into force of Biodiversity Protocol
- Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan
- CNPA Medium Term Strategy
- Support to Carpathian Network of Protected Areas – WWF / Mava Foundation / Alpine Network / Dutch Government / UNEP

- Towards the development of a Carpathian biodiversity information system
- Towards Carpathian Red Lists of Habitat and Species
- Continuity and Connectivity
- Integrated Management of Natural Assets
3. Common Projects – BIODIVERSITY

BioREGIO Carpathians – Integrated Management of biological and landscape diversity for sustainable regional development and ecological connectivity in the Carpathians

- Continuity and connectivity
- Carpathian Joint Biodiversity Information System
- Red Lists

Partnership: 16 Partners from all the Carpathian Countries. Ministries for the Environment are observers.

Project Duration: 2011 – 2013
Budget: 2.6 Million Euros
3. European biodiversity CHM

European Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism
Integrated within BISE
Supporting the Convention on Biological Diversity

Pan European Initiatives and European Conventions

A set of Conventions are specific to Europe and its neighbouring areas.
Another set of Conventions are specific to Europe and its neighbouring areas.
The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (the Bern Convention)
The Alpine Convention
The Carpathian Convention
The European Landscape Convention

There are also some Pan-European political processes that foster international co-operation on biodiversity issues such as Forest Europe - the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) and the Pan-European Biodiversity and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS).

- Link to the Council of Europe nature page
3. Clearing-House Mechanism of the CBD

The Carpathian region boasts a stunning landscape of great beauty that is rich in both wildlife and culture. Europe’s greatest reserve of untouched forest, it serves as a refuge for brown bears, wolves, bisons, lynx, eagles and some 200 unique plants found nowhere else in the world. It also provides some of the continent’s cleanest streams and supplies of drinking water.

The Carpathians are not an isolated wilderness untouched by human activity. Many small, rural communities have adapted successfully to the mountain environment over the centuries. Although separated by national boundaries, the people of the Carpathians are in many ways united by their cultural heritage. Altogether some 16 or 18 million people call these mountains home.

Fortunately there is room enough here for both wildlife and a modern economy – as long as effective measures are taken to preserve the region’s unique biological heritage. To protect the Carpathians’ wilderness while helping its people improve their livelihoods, the region’s governments joined together in 2003 to adopt the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians.

**Principles to live by**

- The Carpathian Convention addresses the many threats facing the region’s people and natural resources. These include unemployment, poverty, unplanned building and development, over-exploited natural resources, pollution, deforestation and excessive hunting.
- The Government of the Czech Republic is collaborating with its neighbors in Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine to tackle these threats. Working together, these countries are collaborating through the Carpathian Convention to strengthen their economies while supporting isolated mountain communities.
- The Convention puts the globally agreed principles of sustainable development to work at the regional level. It promotes an economic and social development of the Carpathians that does not damage the natural environment or deplete natural resources. It advances environmental “best practices” to secure the ecological base needed for a healthy economy.
- The Convention also sets out other important principles to guide policymakers. These include the ‘polluter pays’ principle, the emphasis on public participation in decision-making, cooperation with neighboring countries, and the ecosystem approach (which involves managing biodiversity to meet the needs of both people and nature).

**Source:** http://chm.nature.cz/information/karpatska-umluva
3. The Carpathian Clearing House Mechanism

Contribution to the European Biodiversity CHM

Protected Areas in the Carpathians

Protected areas are key to preserving the Carpathians' outstanding biodiversity and in providing a broad range of services which benefit local people and society. However, there are still several valuable areas in the Carpathians which are not yet part of the ecological network, and many protected areas need to be managed more effectively.

Carpathian protected areas represent forests, mountain and meadow ecosystems which sustain an extensive and often unique range of plant and animal life. These exceptional ecosystems are the vital base for people's well-being through:

- Freshwater provision
- Air purification
- Carbon sequestration / mitigation of climate change effects
- Timber provision (Sustainable, particularly in protected areas of the types IV, V and VI according to the IUCN classification)

Other benefits include:

- Support for traditional cultures of local people
- Spectacular scenery and relaxation from urban life (for tourists)
- Tourism revenues (for travel agencies and local service providers)
- Terrain for diverse fields of research by scientific institutions

However, these benefits could be lost through some skalakidsi interests which affect the management of protected areas and the surrounding regions. Activities such as illegal logging, uncontrolled infrastructure development, and the quick extension of monoculture-focused industrial agriculture severely undermine these benefits, depriving future generations of the chance to enjoy the same quality and richness of landscapes as current generations.

http://chm.natura2000.ro/
3. CLIMATE CHANGE

CARPIVIA – CARPATHIAN INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT OF VULNERABILITY TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION MEASURES

Vulnerability assessment

Adaptation measures

Information gap analysis

Partnership: Alterra-Wageningen, ECNC, ECORZS, Grontmij, WWF-DCP

Project Duration: 2011 - 2013

Budget: Funded by the EU Commission
3. FORESTS

- **Adoption of Forest Protocol**

  The ratification procedure is ongoing in Serbia, Poland, Ukraine, Hungary and Romania. Slovakia has no information on the status (recent change in the national government).

- **Forest Strategic Action Plan** discussed; on the way to reach a final agreement by the WG members at the next WG meeting (September 2012), to be adopted by the COP4 (2014).

- Future reporting system, integration into the future Carpathian Joint Information System (based on the Biodiversity System).

- Carpathian Inventory of Virgin Forests.
3. COOPERATION –
The Science for Carpathians Initiative

Science for Carpathians Initiative S4C
Need for a Carpathian wide research approach in order to address larger-scale environmental and socioeconomic problems.

- Forum Carpaticum
- Research Agenda for the Carpathians
- Voice of Carpathian research
Signature of MoU between S4C and the Carpathian Convention

Yesterday at the Forum Carpaticum in Stara Lesna

Latest news:
Next step of collaboration concluded
3. Need for further cooperation

- Development of joint projects (S4C as catalyst)
- Fostering events on science policy interface (Forum Carpaticum)
- Dissemination of scientific knowledge to policy makers and the public
- Promote research funding at the pan-Carpathian and EU level
- Regular dialogue between the Carpathian Convention and S4C
4 Challenges and future developments
4. The challenges

• Accessibility of data
• Data comparability
• Joint approach for strategic environmental assessments and monitoring programmes
• Identification of priority areas of action
4. The players

- MRI
- Science for the Carpathians
- Regional centers and NGOs
- Carpathian Convention
- EURAC
- BioREGIO
- Carpivia
- National authorities/agencies
4. **Basic question**

Carpathian Convention Strategy / principles for “network enabled knowledge management”?
4. Questions for a Carpathian info strategy

What would be the added value of a Carpathian-wide info system / strategy?

Who are the users / beneficiaries?

Would you be willing to provide open access to data?  
Under which conditions?

Would you be interested to access open data?  
On which topic / themes?
THANK YOU

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