

Meeting of the Carpathian Convention
**Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and
Landscape Diversity¹**

6 – 7 March 2013, Vienna, Austria

Final Report

Opening of the meeting

The head of the UNEP Vienna Office – Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (UNEP Vienna – ISCC), Mr. Harald Egerer, opened the meeting.

Welcome and opening remarks by UNEP Vienna – ISCC

Mr. Harald Egerer welcomed the participants in the Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity (Biodiversity WG) meeting at Vienna International Centre.

Election of the Chair

Mr. Jan Kadlecik, Head of Department of International Treaties of the SNCSR, was elected chair of the meeting.

Adoption of the Agenda

The Draft Agenda was unanimously agreed by the participants.

Update on the BIOREGIO Carpathians project by Piatra Craiului National Park

Mr. Mircea Verghelet, Director of the Piatra Craiului National Park, presented the BIOREGIO Carpathians project and updated the meeting participants on its status of implementation.

¹ Organised within the SEE BIOREGIO Carpathians project – WP 7

Presentation of WPs BIOREGIO Carpathians interim output documents by the respective WP Leaders and discussion

Ms. Eva Jelinek, UNEP Vienna – ISCC, updated the meeting participants on the progress of Work Package 2 – “Communication activities” of the BIOREGIO Carpathians project. In particular Ms. Jelinek presented the updated web page of the project and its functions (<http://www.bioregio-carpathians.eu>).

Mr. Jan Kadlecik gave an update on the current state of the activities related to Work Package 3 – “Database development”, of which one of the main objectives is the elaboration of a Carpathian Red List of Species and Habitats as well as a Carpathian List of Invasive Alien Species. Mr. Kadlecik informed the meeting participants that all national Lists should be prepared before the end of May 2013.

Ms. Hildegard Meyer, WWF Danube Carpathians Programme (WWF DCP), presented the progress of Work Package 4 – “Integrated management of Carpathian natural assets and protected areas” and *inter alia* informed the meeting participants about the current status of data collection regarding the study on Common Integrated Management Measures (CIMM). Ms. Meyer stressed that experts from Poland and Ukraine are still missing in the WP 4 Working Groups.

Ms. Meyer informed the meeting participants about the Carpathian Parks Day which will be organized in 25 parks across the Carpathians in May 2013 within the WP 7 of the project. It was decided to organize this event within the Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the adoption of the Carpathian Convention.

Mr. Christian Hoffman, EURAC Research, made a presentation on the current activities undertaken within Work Package 5 – “Continuity and connectivity”.

Mr. Harald Egerer updated the meeting participants on the current meetings and activities related to Work Package 7 – “Intergovernmental platform and stakeholder involvement”. Mr. Egerer announced that the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP4) will be held in Mikulov, Czech Republic, from 24 to 26 September 2014. The meeting participants were also informed that the Working Group on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge will be held in Zakopane, Poland from 14 to 16

May 2013, and that WWF is organizing a Workshop regarding the elaboration of a common definition of virgin forests in Romania in June 2013.

Finally Mr. Egerer acknowledged and announced the ratification of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity to Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Biodiversity Protocol) by Serbia on 13 January 2013.

Presentation of the updated paper version of the Biodiversity Protocol Implementation Report Format by UNEP Vienna – ISCC and discussion

The updated paper version of the Biodiversity Protocol Implementation Report Format was presented by Mr. Egerer.

Poland made a general proposal to divide the Report Format into two parts – an obligatory part and an additional reporting part. It was stressed by Poland that Objective 2, 3, 4 and 5 should be obligatory. In response to this, Ukraine suggested to highlight the parts of Report Format mentioned by Poland in order to stress their importance as well as obtain more details and information from the Parties, but not to divide the Report Format. The proposal of Ukraine was accepted by the meetings participants. It was also decided to number the questions included in the Format Report in order to facilitate future reporting.

The meeting participants also agreed that as long as the Report Format is under elaboration logos of BIOREGIO Carpathians project will be used, however in the final official version for adoption by COP 4 they will be removed.

Afterwards the meeting participants further discussed the content of the Report Format. Mr. Egerer suggested then to launch a preliminary reporting procedure before COP 4 in order to verify its effectiveness and functionality.

Presentation of the updated version of the MoU on the Carpathian Integrated Biodiversity Information System by UNEP Vienna – ISCC and discussion

Mr. Egerer presented the updated version of Memorandum of Understanding on the Carpathian Integrated Biodiversity Information System (MoU) with extensive comments from EURAC research. It was suggested by Mr. Egerer to include to the MoU an annex which will

consist in a list of currently existing information systems in the Carpathians all accessible from the Carpathian Convention website.

Mr. Giacomo Luciani, EURAC Expert Team – ISCC, explained to the meeting participants the main difference between the first version of MoU and the new one with the EURAC comments, and underlined that the above mentioned annex might be a compromise ensuring linkages between the first and second version of MoU.

The meeting participants acknowledged and appreciated further work on the MoU, nonetheless it was announced that all the meeting participants are welcome to provide their comments or amendments to the document.

UNEP Vienna - ISCC will provide all the meeting participants with revised text of the MoU with annex in due time.

Presentation of the Workshop “Exchange of ideas for future cooperation” to be organized at the Second CNPA Conference by UNEP Vienna – ISCC and discussion on possible BIOREGIO Carpathians follow – up projects

Mr. Luciani presented the Workshop on exchange of ideas for future cooperation between Carpathian PAs (and PAs from other mountain regions) to be organized within the Second CNPA Conference and the related template to be filled in by participants of the Workshop with information on possible project ideas to be discussed.

Mr. Egerer informed the meeting participants about the online registration procedure for the CNPA Conference and the Workshop on the website <http://www.carpathianparks.org/conference2013/>.

Any other business - next steps

The meeting participants agreed that before COP 4 an additional Biodiversity WG meeting is not needed.

The meeting participants were also kindly invited to take part in the BIOREGIO Carpathians Mid Term Conference, which will be held on 23 of April 2013 in Tatranská Javorina, Slovakia back to back with the CNPA Conference.

Poland, on behalf on the Carpathians Unite project, offered to host a next Biodiversity WG meeting in Poland possibly together with a meeting of the WG on Spatial Development. The host will cover all expenses related to the above mentioned meetings.

Mr. Luciani informed Serbia that the participants in the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Transport requested to have the next Transport WG meeting in Vienna and not in Serbia as originally foreseen.

Mr. Luciani informed also that BIOREGIO Carpathians project has been considered for labelling from the EU Strategy for the Danube Region Priority Area 6 (Biodiversity) Steering Group, which emphasise the contribution of the project to the implementation of the Strategy.

The ISCC will circulate the revised versions of the Biodiversity Protocol Implementation Format and of the MoU on the Carpathian Integrated Biodiversity Information System for possible further comments and inputs from the meeting participants.

Closure of the meeting

Mr. Jan Kadlecik closed the meeting and thanked all the participants for their contribution to the meeting.

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CIMM	Common Integrated Management Measures
CNPA	Carpathian Network of Protected Areas
COP 4	Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
SNCSR	State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic
UNEP Vienna – ISCC	United Nations Environment Programme Vienna Office - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention
WG	Working Group
WP	Work Package
WWF DCP	WWF Danube Carpathian Programme