

Second Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change

24 October 2012, Eger, Hungary

MEETING REPORT

Opening remarks, election of the chair, adoption of the Agenda

Mr. Harald Egerer, Head of UNEP Vienna – Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (UNEP Vienna – ISCC), and Mr. Sandor Szalai, Coordinator of the CARPATCLIM project and the Working Group representative of Hungary, welcomed the participants to the Second Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change meeting (CC WG Climate Change)¹. Mr Sandor Szalai was elected chair of the meeting and moderator.

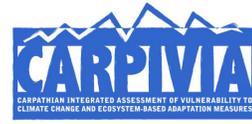
The meeting Agenda was adopted with some modifications. Since most of the participants have already attended the presentation of CARPATCLIM, CARPIVIA and CarpthCC projects at the Workshop on sharing of experiences on adaptation to climate change in mountain areas the day before, these presentations were cancelled to leave more time for the discussion.

An introduction round of the meeting participants was held. The Czech Republic representative could not participate in the meeting but delivered some comments on the Climate Change Adaptation Strategic Agenda for the Carpathian Region (Strategic Agenda) before the meeting.

Summary of the main outcomes of the Workshop “Sharing of experiences on adaptation to climate change in mountain areas” and introduction

After a short summary of the outcomes of the above mentioned Workshop the terms of reference of the Working Group were presented to the audience and Mr. Szalai stressed that the CARPATCLIM project should be mentioned next to CARPIVIA as supporting project in the new terms of reference of the Working Group that will be submitted to COP 4, that will be held in Czech Republic in 2014. Ms. Saskia Werners (Alterra Wageningen University and Research centre) summarized the main outputs that have to be delivered by the Working Group on the basis of what has been agreed at the First Meeting of the Working Group (which took place in Brussels in February 2012): the Strategic Agenda, the pilot version of the Carpathian climate change information system and the communication strategy. These outputs will be submitted to COP 4 for adoption.

¹ The Working Group Meeting is co – financed by the CARPATCLIM project



Strategic Agenda

The Strategic Agenda was presented by Ms. Werners. First the Strategic Agenda was discussed in terms of structure and broad content, later every paragraph was discussed in detail together with the Strategic Agenda Matrix. The document was modified according to the comments and remarks made by the Working Group members and the other meeting participants.

As general comments it was proposed to include in the document an introduction to the Strategic Agenda focused on the current institutional framework related to the climate change sector in the Carpathians, a glossary and a list of abbreviations. Furthermore it was considered important to include also a time table with relevant events and initiatives held at different level (EU, national, regional, etc...) within which decisions relevant for climate change in the Carpathians will be taken. The main reason for such a time table is that the main purpose of the Strategic Agenda would be to promote the identified priorities for the Carpathian Regions to decision makers. Planning of the activities proposed in the Strategic Agenda was also considered important. The ISCC suggested to add an implementation timeline to the Strategic Agenda for discussion at a next meeting of the Working Group. All these proposals were accepted by the meeting participants and will be included in the document.

In general the document was accepted by the Working Group members and it was agreed that further specific comments and remarks will be sent by the meeting participants to the ISCC **before 10 November 2012**.

The ISCC will integrate the inputs received and will circulate the updated document to the Working Group members and the meeting participants for possible further general remarks before the end of November.

Carpathian climate change information system

Furthermore Ms. Werners presented the pilot version of the Carpathian climate change information system and asked the Working Group members and the other meeting participants to provide outputs and case studies from other relevant projects and initiatives to be included in the system. Mr. Egerer underlined the importance to further strengthen the link to the European Climate Adaptation Platform managed by the European Environment Agency (EEA) and stated that the ISCC will present a proposal for the management of the Carpathian climate change information system after the end of the CARPIVIA project, at least for a temporary period.

Communication

Concerning the communication part, Mr. Henk Zingstra (Alterra Wagening University), proposed to the Working Group members and the other meeting participants to produce as output of the Working Group a booklet on climate change and adaptation in the



Carpathians, communicating the results of the Working Group and (o.a.) the CARPATCLIM, CARPIVIA and CarpathCC projects to a larger audience instead of the communication strategy that cannot be developed within the CarpathCC project.

The Working Group members and the other meeting participants agreed on this proposal and Ms. Lesya Nikolayeva, ZOI Environment Network, offered the expertise for the preparation of such a booklet. Mr. Egerer underlined that the booklet should be similar to those already developed by ZOI in Eastern Europe and Caucasus. The proposal of ZOI will be considered by the CARPIVIA, CarpathCC and CARPATCLIM project lead partners previous submission by ZOI of a table of content of the publication and a budget proposal.

Ms. Masha Khovanskaia, REC, underlined also the need to elaborate a standard joint presentation of the three projects or the work of the Working Group to be presented in the events/initiatives relevant for adaptation of climate change in mountain areas.

Finally Mr. Stevan Lilic (Faculty of Law University of Belgrade) offered to set up the “Eger Group” Facebook page for exchange of information between the meeting participants and other interested people.

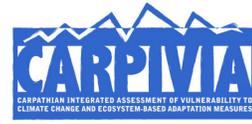
Next steps and closure of the meeting:

As agreed the meeting participants will send their inputs to the Strategic Agenda before 10 November 2012 and the ISCC will circulate the new version of the document before the end of the month. The ISCC will circulate in due time also the reports and the list of participants of the Workshop and the Working group meeting.

Ms. Nikolayeva will send to the three projects lead partners the proposal for the booklet and Mr. Lilic will contact Ms. Werners, Mr. Szalai and the ISCC in order to coordinate for the set up of the Facebook page

Mr. Szalai summarized the main outcomes of the meeting and gave the floor to Mr. Egerer, for concluding remarks. Mr. Szalai and Mr. Egerer thanked the participants for their contribution to the Workshop and the Working Group meeting discussion and, underlining the success of the meeting, welcomed further cooperation in the field.

Mr. Szalai declared the meeting concluded.



LIST OF ACRONYMS:

CARPIVIA	Carpathian Integrated Assessment of Vulnerability to Climate Change and Ecosystem – Based Adaptation Measures
CarpathCC	Climate Change in the Carpathian Region
CARPATCLIM	Climate of the Carpathian Region
CC WG Climate Change	Carpathian Convention Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change
COP 4	Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention
EEA	European Environment Agency
ISCC	Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention
REC	Regional Environmental Center
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme