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Alterra Wageningen UR
in co-operation with
ECORYS
ECNC
Grontmij
WWF-DCP

TO		
Members Carpathian Convention		<input type="checkbox"/> At your request
		<input type="checkbox"/> As agreed
FROM		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For your information
Saskia Werners (CARPIVIA Project)		<input type="checkbox"/> For approval
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For further handling
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thank you for your attention
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DATE	ENCLOSURE(S)	SUBJECT
July 2011	0	Background note Adaptation Working Group Carpathian Convention

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Within Wageningen UR, Alterra and Wageningen University's department of Environmental Sciences co-operate closely in research and education with regard to our green living environment.

1 Background

The Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP3) to the Carpathian Convention (Bratislava, Slovenia, 2011) approved the Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change by its Decision COP3/xx. This Working Group aims to support the Parties to the Carpathian Convention by providing advice on adaptation to climate change in the Carpathian region. The working group will debate the available information on vulnerability to climate change impacts in the Carpathian Region, and provide guidance and recommendations for the development of policy proposals in line with the objectives of the Carpathian Convention and the European Commission's White Paper on Adapting to Climate Change.

The working group is invited to cooperate with other relevant institutions like the ICPDR (International Convention for the Protection of the Danube Region). In addition, the European CARPIVIA project offers to support the working group by providing access to state-of-the-art information on vulnerability in the Carpathian region and on potential adaptation measures. The CARPIVIA project is funded by the European Commission under the preparatory action 'Climate of the Carpathian Basin' approved by the European Parliament. In 2010 the European Commission proposed this work to provide benefits to national and regional authorities in the Carpathian Region.

The CARPIVIA project aims to assess the vulnerability to climate change of the main ecosystems and ecosystem based production systems in the Carpathian region. It will produce an inventory of climate change impacts and ecosystem-based adaptation measures. The project will run from 2011 to 2013.

More information: www.carpivia.eu

2 Background CARPIVIA Project

In August 2010 the European Commission, DG Environment, invited the submission of tenders for the award of a service contract for "The integrated assessment of vulnerability of environmental resources and ecosystem-based adaptation measures". Wageningen University and Research Centre was awarded the contract with its partners ECNC, ECORYS, Grontmij and WWF-DCP.

The CARPIVIA project firstly aims to assess the vulnerability of the Carpathian region primarily to climate change. Based on this vulnerability assessment an inventory will be made of the potential and already implemented adaptation measures. A framework to assess the vulnerability and adaptation measures in the region will be provided. The focus will be on ecosystem-based adaptation measures. Results of the project will be disseminated by a dedicated website, by cooperation with key regional stakeholders, and through presentations at workshops and conferences in the region.

The main objectives of the present project are:

- To gather, in a structured way, information on vulnerability to climate change impacts in the Carpathian Basin, and on that basis identify and assess potential adaptation measures, with a particular focus on ecosystem based approaches. The level of analysis will be based on the availability of data and information from external project;
- To identify knowledge gaps to be filled in by additional field research or case studies. The latter will be executed by a parallel separate framework contract for in-depth assessments of vulnerability of environmental resources and ecosystem-based adaptation measures;
- To contribute to on-going national or regional adaptation strategies or related policy processes, and to the EU Knowledge Base on Climate Vulnerability and Adaptation (among others via the Adaptation Clearinghouse of the EU).

3 Preliminary Planning for Adaptation working group

Oct 2011	Invitation to participants of the Carpathian Convention to nominate members for the Adaptation working group	Secretariat
Nov 2011	Interviews with participants to assess their expectations and opinions. Special attention to what impacts of climate change are (un)acceptable	CARPIVIA
Late Jan 2012	First adaptation working group meeting (location: Vienna (tbc)) Input: summary interim report The main goal is to identify:	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts of climate change that are of particular relevance for the Carpathian Convention • Adaptation measures that are of particular relevance for the Carpathian Convention <p>These impacts and adaptation measures can be appraised in more detail by the CARPIVIA project. Results of which will be the input of a second session of the working group.</p>	
30 May-2 June 2012	<p>Presentation of CARPIVIA results at the 2nd Forum Carpaticum. Possibility to meet with working group members as appropriate</p>	
Autumn 2012	<p>Consultation of working group members on progress of CARPIVIA support studies</p>	
Early 2013	<p>Second adaptation working group meeting (location: tbd) The main goal is to formulate policy recommendations with respect to adaptation to the impacts of climate change. Recommendations are to benefit national and regional authorities of the Carpathian Region and the Carpathian Convention in particular.</p>	

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