



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

with the participation of experts of the Carpathian Region and Alpine Convention

12 – 13 March 2014, Vienna, Austria

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 Ms. Elfriede-Anna More, Head of the Department for International Environmental Affairs, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management of Austria, which hosted the meeting, welcomed the participants to the third Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change (CC WG Climate Change)¹.

Mr. Ewald Galle, Austrian National Focal Point for the Alpine Convention, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management of the Republic of Austria and Mr. Paolo Angelini, President of the Permanent Committee of the Alpine Convention, Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS) also representing the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention (PSAC), continued the opening remarks pointing out the strong collaboration between the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions.

Mr. Sandor Szalai, Coordinator of the CARPATCLIM project and the Working Group representative of Hungary, was elected chair of the meeting and moderator. The meeting Agenda was adopted with some minor modifications.

An introduction round of the meeting participants was held.

¹ The Working Group Meeting is co – financed by the European Commission – DG Environment under the CARPATCLIM project



Presentations²

Several presentations on projects and initiatives in the field of climate change and climate change adaptation were held by the participants from the Carpathians and from the Alps.

Mr. Pier Carlo Sandei (UNEP Vienna – ISCC) presented the UNEP activities concerning adaptation to climate change in the Alps, Balkans, Dinaric Arc and Carpathians and informed the meeting participants of a new project carried out by UNEP and financed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management of Austria, called “Climate change action in developing countries with fragile mountainous ecosystems from a sub-regional perspective”, targeting different mountain regions: Tropical Andes, Alps, Carpathians, East Africa, Dinaric Arc and Balkans, Caucasus and Central Asia.

Mr. Luca Cetara, Head of the Scientific Secretariat of the Italian Presidency of the Alpine Convention, presented the outcomes of the projects on climate change in the Alps financed under the Alpine Space Programme and the activities carried out by the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea in the framework of the Alpine Convention.

Professor Antonio Ballarin-Denti, Italian National Focal Point to the Alpine Convention, underlined the importance of having an integrated adaptation strategy for the Alpine Region and the planned way forward for reaching it.

Mr. Jacques Delsalle, member of the European Commission, DG Environment, presented the EC 2009 White paper on Adapting to Climate Change, the preparatory action on climate in the Carpathian region and the new European policies through which it will be possible to develop follow up activities related to the climate change projects in the Carpathians.

Presentation of the CARPATCLIM, CARPIVIA and CarpathCC projects and their results

Mr. Sandor Szalai and Ms. Saskia Werners, Alterra Wageningen University and Research centre, Lead Partner of the CARPIVIA project, as well as Mr. Endre Dobos, University of Miskolc and Mr. Istvan Zsuffa, VITUKI Hungary Ltd, presented the results of the CARPATCLIM, CARPIVIA and CarpathCC projects. These projects are closely linked and are financially supported by the EU.

Ms. Werners, in particular, showed the contribution of the three projects to the preparatory action "Climate of the Carpathian Basin" approved by the European Parliament and to the EU Information System on Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation (EU Clearinghouse) and the benefits for national and regional authorities of the Carpathian Region.

² The projects presentations are available on the Carpathian Convention website (www.carpathianconvention.org)



Strategic Agenda

The Climate Change Adaptation Strategic Agenda for the Carpathian Region (Strategic Agenda) was presented by Mr. Harald Egerer in terms of structure and broad content. Mr. Egerer proposed to the meeting participants a way forward concerning the adoption of the Strategic Agenda.

It was agreed that the ISCC will integrate the last comments received by Czech Republic on the Strategic Agenda and will update the document. The updated document will be circulated to the Working Group members and the meeting participants for possible further general remarks before the final adoption by the Conference of the Parties (COP4) in Mikulov, Czech Republic, on the 23-26 September 2014.

Joint Alpine - Carpathian Message on Climate Change and on the Adoption of Guidelines on Climate Change Adaptation at Local Level

The second day of the WG started with a fruitful discussion on the purpose of a joint Alpine-Carpathian message and on how to present the joint effort to the UNFCCC COP20 in Lima.

Mr. Harald Egerer and Mr. Pier Carlo Sandei presented the first draft of the joint Alpine-Carpathian message on Adaptation to Climate Change.

Mr. Sandei underlined the importance of presenting this joint message during the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP 20 meeting in Lima, December 2014, ensuring more visibility to, climate change local adaptation measures and to mountain activities during this global event.

During the meeting the draft joint message was discussed in detail. The document was modified according to the comments and remarks made by the Working Group members, the French and Italian representatives of the Alpine Convention and the other meeting participants.

The message will be structured by taking into account two different dimensions: an internal Alpine-Carpathian Partnership dimension and an external one, which will include also other partnerships with mountain countries and the involvement of various stakeholders.

Mr. Egerer suggested a roadmap for the adoption of the joint message. This first draft will be brought to the attention of the Alpine Convention 55th Permanent Committee in Gorizia, Italy, on the 20-21 March 2014, and the revised version, with the Alpine country comments and inputs, will be further discussed in an informal e-mail exchange between the Alpine and the Carpathian Conventions (“e-contact group”) with the goal to finalize the draft text by mid-May 2014.





Mr. Egerer explained that the message should be adopted or welcomed by the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP 4) in Mikulov, Czech Republic, on 23-26 September 2014 and by the XIIIth Alpine Conference, which will be held in Torino, Italy, on 21 November 2014. During both Ministerial Conferences the Presidencies of the respective “sister” Conventions will be mutually represented.

The main goal is to present the Alpine-Carpathian message to the UNFCCC COP 20 in Lima, in December 2014, and to mainstream the role of mountains by involving the UNFCCC Secretariat and the Polish Presidency of the UNFCCC to enhance attention toward mountainous regions in the official UNFCCC proceedings (COP report).

Mr. Egerer underlined also that an involvement of the European Commission - DG Environment will be highly appreciated and in this light the presentation of the declaration during both, the Global Landscape Forum and at the Mountain Pavilion in Lima, will be suitable.

Next steps and closure of the meeting:

As agreed, the ISCC will circulate the new draft of the Strategic Agenda with the integration of the comments of Czech Republic before the end of the month. The ISCC will circulate in due time also the new draft of the Alpine-Carpathian joint message together with the meeting report and the list of participants of the Working group meeting.

Seen the success of the meeting, the high participation and the good results of the three projects on climate change in the Carpathians (CARPATCLIM, CARPIVIA and CarpathCC), Mr. Egerer suggested to prepare a publication on Climate Change in the Carpathians.

Mr. Egerer summarized the main outcomes of the meeting and made the concluding remarks. Mr. Szalai and Mr. Egerer thanked the participants for their contribution to the Workshop and the Working Group meeting discussion and welcomed further cooperation in the field. Mr. Szalai declared the meeting concluded.



LIST OF ACRONYMS:

CARPIVA	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
COP 20	20th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
EC	European Commission
EEA	European Environment Agency
ISCC	Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention
PSAC	Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VITUKI	Environmental and Water Management Research Institute