

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

26-27 March 2012, Banska Bystrica, Slovakia

FINAL REPORT

Day 1, 26 March 2012

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 by State Nature Conservancy of Slovak Republic (SNCSR)

Mr. Michal Adamec, on behalf of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (SNCSR), host of the meeting, welcomed the participants.

Opening remarks by UNEP Vienna – ISCC

Mr. Harald Egerer informed the participants about the recent and upcoming meetings of the Carpathian Convention and invited them to present themselves.

Election of the Chair and adoption of the Agenda

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

The Draft Agenda was unanimously agreed by the participants.

Presentations:

Mr. Zbigniew Niewiadomski, UNEP/GRID-Warsaw, presented the “Carpathians Unite – Mechanism of Consultation and Cooperation for Implementation of the Carpathian Convention” project. The Biodiversity Working Group highly welcomed the project and

¹ Organised within the SEE BIOREGIO Carpathians project – WP 7

recommended to provide the Carpathian Convention's patronage to it. 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.

Update on the outcomes of the BIOREGIO Carpathians WP 3 meeting and presentation of the proposed draft methodologies for the elaboration of the Carpathian Red List of Species and Habitats and List of invasive alien species by SNSCR - Discussion on the draft methodologies

Mr. Jan Kadlecik presented the draft methodology for the establishment of a Carpathian Red List of Species, Mr. Ivor Rizman, National Forest Centre Slovakia (NFC), for the establishment of a Carpathian Red List of Forest Habitats and Ms. Gojdicova, SNSCR, for the establishment of a List of Invasive Alien Species.

The Working Group members generally agreed on the proposed draft methodologies.

As for the List of invasive alien species, it should preferably be accompanied and justified by the assessment of the possible adverse environmental impact of particular species listed (as recommended by the Strategic Action Plan for the Implementation of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity - Biodiversity Protocol SAP - in Action 5.2), in order to facilitate the identification of target invasive alien species in relation to which each Party should undertake specific measures (pursuant to the Biodiversity Protocol, Art. 13 para 2.).

It has also been recommended to enhance the cooperation of the Parties on the early warning on occurrence of new invasive alien species, which could have adverse environmental impacts on the Carpathians, but may not yet appear on the List.

Mr. Kadlecik underlined the importance of the support of the WG members in the elaboration of the lists and Mr. Egerer stressed that the elaboration of the lists is requested by the Biodiversity Protocol to the Parties to the Carpathian Convention.

On the possible support from the WG members to the elaboration of the lists it was agreed the following:

- SNSCR, in cooperation with UNEP Vienna – ISCC, will send to the WG members a questionnaire on existing available data, publications and databases in their respective countries relevant for the elaboration of the lists together with a background document on what information SNSCR already has, which database it uses and which experts are already involved in the elaboration of the lists (possibly before 1st of April). SNSCR will include in the ToRs for the experts that will work on the lists the need to interact and communicate with WG members and will prepare and send to the WG members a template for the lists.
- The WG members, on the basis of their capacity, agreed to provide the data and information requested, to identify and indicate possible experts to be involved in the

elaboration of the lists (on the basis of the SNSCR request these experts should speak English, have an overall overview of status of habitats and species at international level and they should be one per topic) and to look for possible additional funding for the development of this activity (possibly before 30 April).

- The WG members will be the contact persons for communication and interaction between the SNSCR, the other BIOREGIO Carpathians partners and the involved experts on one side and the Ministries on the other.

Day 2, 27 March 2012

Discussion on the draft methodologies for the development of a Carpathian Joint Biodiversity Information System

Mr Jan Seffer, DAPHNE – Institute of Applied Ecology, presented to the meeting participants the outcomes of the BBI/Matra “Development of an ecological network for the Carpathians” project.

UNEP Vienna – ISCC proposed the elaboration of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the interested organisations for the establishment of a Carpathian Joint Biodiversity Information System interlinking existing information systems and those that will be developed within the BIOREGIO Carpathians project.

It was agreed that initially the MoU will be signed by UNEP Vienna - ISCC, European Academy Bolzano (EURAC), DAPHNE, SNSCR, WWF DCP, GRID Warsaw, NFC, but will be opened to other partners and its scope can be widened to other topics than biodiversity.

Presentation of the proposed draft format of the Biodiversity Protocol Implementation Report by UNEP Vienna – ISCC and discussion on the document

Mr. Harald Egerer explained that the draft format of the Biodiversity Protocol Implementation Report has been created mainly on the basis of other existing reports (NATURA 2000, Ramsar Convention, Convention on Biological Diversity, Alpine Convention, etc...) and the Biodiversity Protocol SAP.

He proposed the creation of an online reporting, according to the comments received from Czech Republic, as soon as the template will be agreed.

The draft format was discussed by the meeting participants and some changes were proposed and a new version of the document was agreed.

Next steps

It was agreed that UNEP Vienna – ISCC will send the revised format of the Biodiversity Protocol Implementation Report, the draft meeting report and the MoU to the WG members and the other meeting participants for possible further comments in two weeks and they will send their comments before the end of the month of April 2012.

He reminded to the meeting participants that EURAC, in cooperation with UNEP Vienna – ISCC, will organise on 30 May 2012 the Workshop “From data to knowledge, from knowledge to action – The role of science in the Carpathian Convention (with a focus on the Biodiversity Protocol)” within the next Forum Carpathicum 2012 (30 May – 2 June 2012, Stara Lesna, Slovakia) and that the next Biodiversity WG meeting is planned for the month of November 2012.

Closure of the meeting

Mr. Jan Kadlecik closed the meeting and thanked all the participants on behalf of the SNCSR.