Carpathian Convention Working Group
on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge
Third Meeting
09 – 11 September 2013, Orelec, Poland

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 and UNEP/GRID Warsaw Centre
Mr. Harald Egerer, welcomed the participants of the Working Group on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge (WG Cultural Heritage) in Orelec, Poland and thanked to the Ekopsychologia Association and UNEP/GRID-Warsaw Centre for organizing the next meeting of WG Cultural Heritage.

Mr. Zbigniew Niewiadomski, on behalf of UNEP/GRID Warsaw Centre and the Carpathian Unite - mechanism of consultation and cooperation for implementation of the Carpathian Convention-project, welcomed the meeting participants.

Election of the Chair
Ms. Bozena Haczek, Polish National Focal Point, the Ministry of the Environment of Poland, was elected the chair of the meeting.

Adoption of the Agenda
The Draft Agenda was unanimously agreed by the participants.

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1 co-organized by UNEP Vienna – ISCC, Ekopsychologia Association and UNEP/GRID-Warsaw Centre within the project “Carpathians Unite – mechanism of consultation and cooperation for implementation of the Carpathian Convention”, supported by Switzerland through the Swiss Contribution to the enlarged European Union.
Update on the Carpathian Unite project – mechanism of consultation and cooperation for implementation of the Carpathian Convention – project

Mr. Zbigniew Niewiadomski, presented the Carpathian Unite project and updated the meeting participants on the status of the project implementation.

Discussion and elaboration of the final draft version of the Protocol on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge, for consideration by the CC Implementation Committee

Ms. Bozena Haczek asked for general remarks and comments on the document before analyzing it in detail.

The draft version of the Protocol was discussed by the meeting participants, some changes were proposed and a new version of the document was finalized.

Ms. Zuzana Tollrianova, Czech National Focal Point, Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic and Ms. Joanna Cicha – Kuczynska, Department for the Protection of Monuments of Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Poland explained that they are not entitled to present official position of the respective Ministries to the content of the Protocol.

Presentation of proposal of projects and initiative related to the Protocol on Cultural Heritage and discussion

Ms. Klaudia Kuras, UNEP Vienna – ISCC presented draft project proposal “Carpathian Cultural Heritage – Inventory and valorization for sustainable community development”. It was stressed by the meeting participants that a future project proposal has to ensure funds mainly for the activities indicated in the Protocol.

Next steps
The final version of the Protocol will be reviewed by UNEP Vienna – ISCC to ensure its general coherence. Furthermore, UNEP Vienna – ISCC will contact the Parties requesting possible informal legal check as to the legal consistency of the Protocol.

It was agreed that the elaborated draft version of the Protocol will be distributed to the meeting participants and National Focal Points to the Carpathian Convention for the their further consideration and approval at the national level.

Working Group decided to submit results of the last two WG Cultural Heritage meetings to the CCIC Meeting for consideration and recommendation for COP4 adoption.
Ad hoc presentation on the Carpathian Heritage Inventory (http://www.carpathian-heritage.org/) was made by Ms. Kateryna Malkova, International Charitable Organisation „Information Center „Green Dossier“, Ukraine. The Carpathian Inventory was developed within Carpathian Heritage Inventory - Pilot Actions Project, coordinated by ANPED (the Northern Alliance for Sustainability) and implemented by its members and partners in the Czech Republic (Institute for Environmental Policy and Bile Karpaty Education and Information Centre) and Ukraine (Green Dossier).

Ms. Zuzana Tolrianova announced that the Czech Republic will host the Carpathian Heritage Inventory website only until the end of February. UNEP Vienna – ISCC will check the possibility and usefulness of taking over the website. The decision on the issue will be sent to the meeting participants and National Focal Points.

UNEP Vienna – ISCC will circulate the agreed version of the Protocol and the Meeting Report in due course.

**Closure of the meeting**

Ms. Bozena Haczek closed the meeting and thanked to all participants for the valuable comments and inputs to the discussion and their contribution to the great progress, which was made during the meeting.