



The Carpathian Convention and the conservation of cultural heritage in the region

Report from the meeting

Date: 26th June 2007 from 9: 45 to 12:30 p.m.
Time: The regional office of the Zlín region, Tomáš Baťa street 21, Zlín

The main goal of the meeting was the discussion on the cultural and natural heritage as a contribution to the implementation of the Carpathian Convention in the Czech Republic. Participants: organizations and people with the interest in the Carpathian convention – delegates of the local administration, scientific and technical institutions in the field of culture, environment, NGOs, and independent interested people in this field. The list of participants is part of this report.

10:00 – 11:15

Introductory presentations

The meeting was opened by Mr. Tomáš Kažmierski from Regional Environmental Centre CT. After his introductory speech, Ms. Jana Brožová, the National Focal Point for the Carpathian Convention from the Ministry of the Environment provided basic data on the Carpathian Convention and the latest development at the national as well as international level. She summarized the outcomes from the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the CC, which was held from 11 to 13 December 2006 in Kyiv. The meeting adopted a set of decisions which are binding for Parties. She introduced the approved “Schedule of fulfillment of decisions and obligations arising from the COP 1 Decisions at the Czech Republic level”. She informed about the First meeting of the working group on cultural heritage and traditional knowledge, which will be held on 27th to 28 August 2007 in Venice, Italy.

She answered a question from Mr. Hrabec from the Jihomoravský region, explaining that despite of the fact we are still talking about protected landscape areas in the Czech Republic to be part of the Carpathians, the area of Czech Carpathians is much wider and really – according to the delimitations - includes other parts. We all have to try to make them more visible in the process of implementation.

Mr. Kažmierski had a presentation highlighting the positives of the CC for the region. He talked also about the regional brands/labels which guarantee origin, originality and relation to the concrete region and they aim to make the local producers more visible. There are two brands/labels – mainly the “Made in the Beskydy region” and the “Bile Karpaty Tradition”. He stressed that the cooperation does not end with creating such labels, but that the regions and their representatives wants to launch their own projects and make new activities.

11:15 – 12:30

Discussion to the cultural, natural and historical heritage of the Carpathians and its protection from the stakeholder's point of view

Ms. Barbora Šafářová from the Institute for eco-policy summarized the oral Terms of Reference of this group in her presentation. Participants were divided into two groups having to answer the same questions::

- 1) What is and can be understood as “Carpathian heritage”?
- 2) What – among the heritage is the most endangered from the participants point of view?
- 3) How to enhance the protection of CH?

The Carpathian heritage is: cultural as well as natural heritage. Both are closely connected and mutually influencing each other. The landscape feature- typical for Carpathians has a dominant forest features with typical trees and meadows. The natural environment is characterized by high diversity. The pasturage as a long lasting phenomenon has created the landscape for centuries. Other management techniques are closely linked. The settlement is typical for that region as well. It is now endangered by the change of life-style and the change of use of dwelling and other houses for recreational purposes.

Following features are – from the participants' point of view part of the CH. First 7 in bold are the most endangered:

Nature and the biodiversity

Traditional folk architecture

Folk crafts

Landscape features – the typical mosaic

Traditional way of management – agriculture and pasturage

Spontaneous folk music and folk groups

The way of settlements and historical features of the landscape – the life-style

Regional traditional local variants, genetic resources (fruit, vegetable) and breeds (e.g. sheep)

Traditional industry

Culture

Dialect and literature

The “VIP in the region”

Historical buildings

Places with spiritual potential

Look-out towers

Springs

There was a debate among participants on the border line between the living and moderate (not living) folk culture which can be seen in some museums, fairs and in some folk groups which are focused mainly on tourism and not so much on the historical point. They agreed that it is crucial to support mainly the spontaneous activities to conserve and preserve the diversity of folk forms. On the other hand, many of them stressed that it is necessary to see the culture in its traditional development.

The natural development of the folk culture is the preservation of peoples' behavior throughout the year, their customs and activities (including the attendance at markets, churches visiting, wearing folk costumes etc.) On the other hand the challenge is the low awareness concerning the importance of the region as well as the missing solidarity and weak persuasion of local people that they want to make the region visible. The absence of legal mechanism, gaps in regional and strategic planning which does not respect the landscape originality has been called as another danger for the CH. Missing and inadequate is the awareness for children and the regional and local authorities

concerning the use of EU funds and other financial resources. Another danger for CH is caused by various investments and tourist offers which benefit is only for tourists and not for the nature, landscape and traditions.

13:30 – 16:30 Meeting of the Working group for Carpathian Heritage (CH)

Ms. Safarova and Mr. Sacha from the Education and Information Center Bile Karpaty were chairing the discussion; Mr. Sacha was nominated as a technical leader of the group.

The main aim of the working group whose members were delegated from technical institutions, cultural and information centers, delegates of public authorities at the regional, local and republic level is to contribute to the establishment of the List of Carpathian heritage in the Czech Republic (traditions, celebrations, history) as a part of sustainable development of Carpathians. The purpose is to define the criteria for development of the list, possible ways of presentation and use for the business sector, public authority and local communities. Outcomes from the meeting will be taken to the First meeting of the working group for cultural heritage and traditional knowledge under the CC which will meet 27-28 August 2007.

The first step was to assess the current state of play of CH and its protection. First of all they agreed that CH is all what is unique and what cannot be found anywhere else. The assessment was done through presentation of case-studies and lessons learned from the region. Most of cases were from the positive side than from negative ones. This was a proof that there are lot of projects in the region and that in the field of CH protection we don't need to start from scratch. The following examples were presented:

<i>Project name/organisation</i>	<i>Project description and the assessment of the protection and support for heritage</i>
White Karpaty needs a manager (UNDP project)	The support of the sheep and goats pasture and improvement of conditions for sustainable management and the well-being of local people, options for tourism sector, workshops of cheese home-making.
Tradition Slovácko – micro-region Ostrožsko	Producing and sustaining of folk-costumes which support the use of folk-costumes and their use during many occasions and celebrations in the region.
Horňácké celebrations and Horňácké echoes	Unique festival, where you can find only folk-groups and artist from the region, which consists of 9 towns/villages and presents the specificity of the region
Luhačovské Zálesí - castle	The castle is in forlorn conditions. It was offered for sales- despite the fact it was still the property of The national institute of folk culture. It was bought by the municipality and only the initiative of local people saved this property. This is the example of inconsistency and non-systematic approach when mapping and registering the heritage and monuments to the state register
Muchovice Area o.s. Beskydčan	Mountain enclave under Lysá hora Mts. The environmental education project in the field through concrete activities such as the path through forest, how the forest work, traditional livelihood, horse-riding, life in the water, etc., project with minimum adverse effects on nature with minimum investments and sustainable operation
Folk dance group “Gruník”	Example of spontaneous folk youth assemblage (songs, rhymes, pasture scenes, etc.) which prefer every day meetings of young people rather than festivals and public performances. Donors and sponsors are missing to

<i>Project name/organisation</i>	<i>Project description and the assessment of the protection and support for heritage</i>
	donate small activities and actions.
Biological reserve Vlčí prameny in White Carpathians	The landscape management, the targeted protection of white Carpathians meadows rich of fauna, flora and orchids
Kopanice Bílé Karpaty	Dispersed houses and meadows – the problem is in the timing of scything and cutting grass (mainly in the protected areas). When the timing is too early it does not help the fauna and flora.
Hostýn and Podhostýnsko – Czech/Moravian association for environmental protection	Reconstruction of meadows under the Hostyn town, museum of St. Hostyn has been recently opened – we can see the history of a wanderer/pilgrim place and the natural/scientific exhibition of Hostyn town and region
Veronica o.s.,” Traditiono of White Carpathians, Modrá municipality, Nivnice	projects for the gene-fund protection - Traditional local variants (fruit, vegetable)
Kunovice village	The town hall runs 7 folk dance groups, folk school, organizes woodcarving workshops and other activities
Modrá village	open-air folk museum and educational programmes for schools – traditional crafts, ceramic museum, educational programmes for mayors how to sustainable manage its cities, the gene bank of willow trees, the reconstruction of all fishponds.
Buchlovice	The renewal of old knights rout

Many people highlighted its efforts in the gene-fund protection - Traditional local variants. s. Brozova has therefore promise to invite Dr. Karel Jan Štolc, Guarantor of the National Program on Conservation and Utilization of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture from the Ministry of Agriculture for the next meeting of this working group (November 2007, Uherske Hradiste).

In the last part of the meeting the criteria and the creation of the list of CH was discussed (see the chart below). It was stressed that the list should represent the Carpathian values and enhances the prestige of the region. Further it should evaluate tangible as well as non-tangible heritage, support and promote the cultural development and to contribute to the diversity of Carpathian region. The list should look for what is common in all Carpathian countries and should be based on the bottom-up approach and should be accepted by local people and co-created by stakeholders. It is necessary to set the criteria and to create mechanisms for the List development and its use always together - with stakeholders. There was a debate on pros' and cons' on List of Carpathian heritage based on UNESCO criteria. More arguments were for having the list as broad and open as possible to let to include what should be included because of its general importance and the importance giving by the local people against to the opinion to present what is the “best-seller” and unique. The list should help to finance the Carpathian heritage and to motivate locals in awareness of the environment uniqueness. The “conservation approach” (cultural values which should be protected) as well as the “development approach” (to motivate the regional development on the basis of sustainable development) should be applied while developing the List.

Outcomes from the working groups at the stakeholders meeting

Zlín, 26th June 2007

Questions for working groups:

- 1) What do you mean by Carpathian heritage, what can be understood as this?
- 2) What are the most endangered features of the CH from your perspective?
- 3) What are the priorities of the CH /their parts for the future?

Group No. 1 : Leader: Tomáš Kažmierski + **Group No. 2** (leader: Barbora Šafářová)

Carpathian heritage and its components	The most endangered ¹	Priority protection ²	Who can help, who should/could be involved in the protection process, who can take care
Landscape (environment)/landscape character-features	3	yes	State administration, local farmers, NGOs
Traditional folk - customs	1	yes	Local people, municipalities, The national institute of folk culture, museums, "microregions", fellowships, folk groups
Nature, e.g. the forests - the species composition, the way of management, Conservation of the richness of biodiversity	5		State administration, NGO
Traditional/folk architecture, traditional urbanism;	5		State administration, architects, open-air folk museums, museums, The National Institute for the Preservation of Historical Monuments
Folk crafts, The diversity of regional folk culture	5	yes	Municipalities, organizes of fairs and markets
Folklore, "still living folklore" (dialect, former literature)	1	yes	NGO – folk groups, local people, municipalities, The national institute of folk culture, culture, museums, "microregions", fellowships, folk groups
Regional "celebrity"			The region, municipality, towns, schools, libraries, regional media
Places with spiritual potential/ values (the column of crucifixion, chapels, statues, pilgrimage places)	2		The National Institute for the Preservation of Historical Monuments, municipalities, churches, local people
Archeological excavation places			Archeological institute, NGO
Local Products (goods)			Local producers, salespersons, the events organizers such as (fairs, markets, celebrations, etc.)

¹ Number of points from the group members

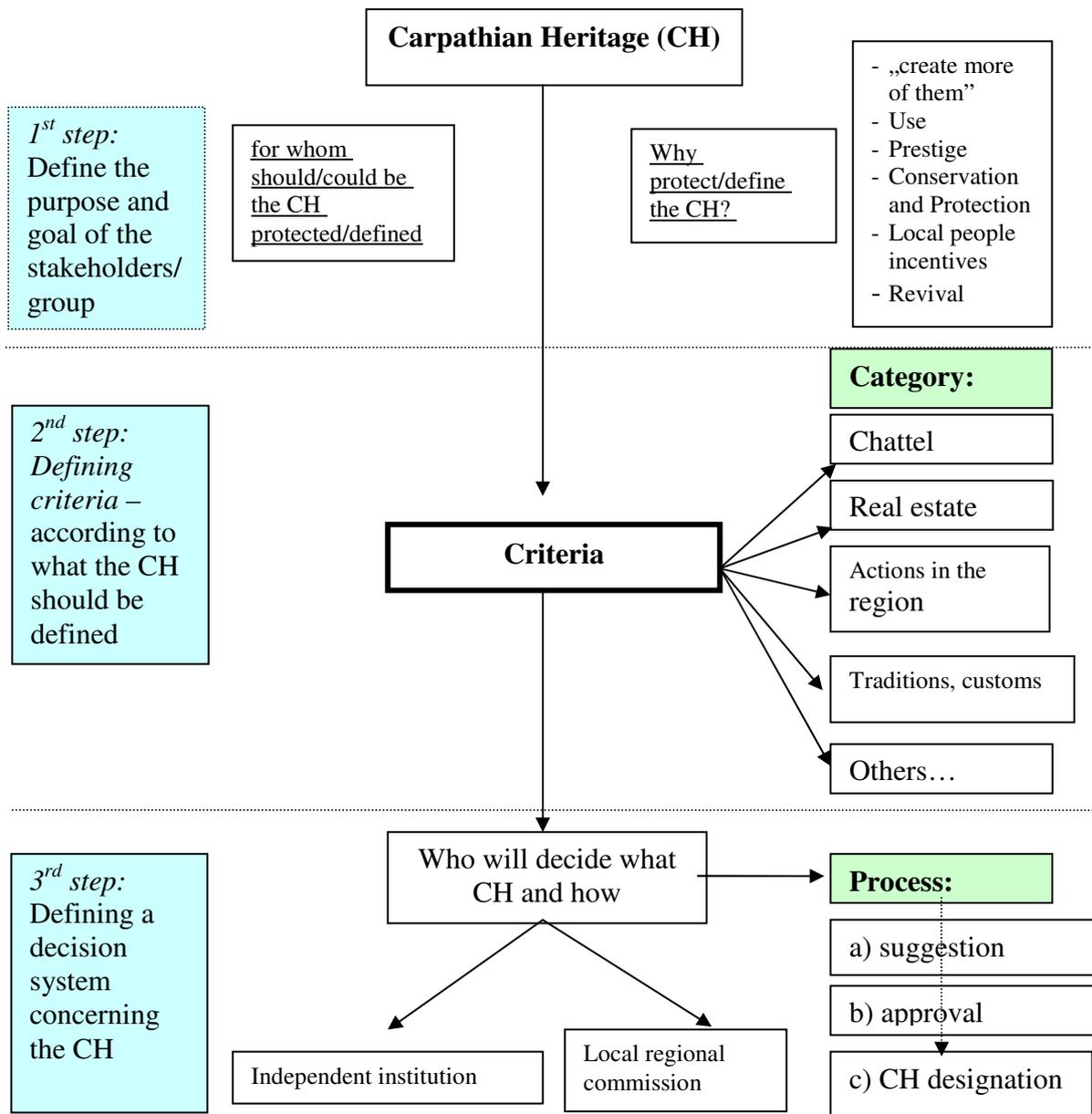
² On what should we focus in the future, what is not dealt currently, and things – nobody takes care currently

Historical buildings,			Owners, municipalities, The National Institute for the Preservation of Historical Monuments
The history of the region, Historical cultural and natural characteristics of the region			Museums, libraries, Archives, schools, historical artistic groups
Traditional local variants, genetic resources (fruit, vegetable) and breeds (e.g. sheep)		yes	Farmers, local people, NGO, the farmers associations, state administration – the Administration of Protected Landscape Areas
„Traditional“ industry such as textile industry, glass production/making, shoemaking, etc...			LAG – Local Action Group (NGO), businessman/ enterpriser, state administration, the region, municipality
Traditional management in the landscape (agriculture, solitary cottager's management, pasturage)	3	yes	Farmers, breeders, agriculturists, field owners, municipality
Dialect and literature	1	yes	Folk communities, , The national institute of folk culture, municipalities, local people, NGO, schools,
Lookout/observation towers			Tourists (NGO), municipalities, the property/building owners
„Goddess from Kopanice region ” - mystery Wisewomen – called as goddess in the local dialect. They have lived in the Kopanice region for a long long time and their activities attracted people not only from the region but also from far-away villages. The legend says that they can heal a person not only using medicinal/ curative herbs, but also to find lost or stolen things or to give good advice in the partnership relations. People look for them for a protection against bewitch – as many people believe on this.			Writers, media, museums
Wells/springs			Municipalities, property owners, local people

Danger for those CHs

- Absence of legal and legislative mechanisms – hard to enforce the “good will” e.g. in the spatial planning
- Low/ poor awareness, on the options on how to get money from the EU funds, etc. who to speak with...
- The mutual communication of all these bodies/authorities is poor.

The summary of outcomes from both groups – how to define the Carpathian Heritage and what is the process from the beginning to the designation (labeling)



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