



United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة • 联合国环境规划署
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ



Project co-financed by the EU



Sustainable Agriculture
and Rural Development
MOUNTAIN POLICY PROJECT



**First meeting of the Working Group
on conservation and sustainable use of biological
and landscape diversity**
9 July 2007, Vienna, Austria

WG-SARDF-3
May 2007

Draft Terms of Reference for the Working Group on sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry

*(submitted by the Secretariat to the 1st Meeting of the Working Group on sustainable
agriculture, rural development and forestry for revision)*

Mandate

The First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP1) to the Carpathian Convention (Kyiv, Ukraine, 11-13 December 2006) by its Decision COP1/7 para 3 decided “to support the establishment of a Working Group on sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee”, a subsidiary body of the Convention established pursuant to Decision COP1/3 para 4.

Aim and tasks

The Working Group will aim at supporting the Parties to the Carpathian Convention in their cooperation for the implementation of Article 7 on sustainable agriculture and forestry and other related Articles of the Carpathian Convention.

Furthermore, WG shall consider and consolidate the background documentation made available to it by the EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project and the UNEP Vienna ISCC - FAO SARD-M (Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountainous Regions) Project.

WG shall provide recommendations for possible development of a draft of the SARD-M Strategy and / or Protocol for the Carpathian region for submission to the Bureau of COP1 / Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee.

Field of activities

1. The Working Group will focus on sustainable agriculture and rural development issues, including forestry, and in this regard will benefit from the outputs provided by the EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project and UNEP Vienna ISCC - FAO SARD-M Project.



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2. The Working Group shall consider making a proposal on the development of appropriate policy instruments such as a Protocol and or / regional strategy on SARD to the Bureau of COP1 and prepare recommendations to the Bureau in this regard.
3. The Working Group will evaluate the outputs of the national and regional assessments on SARD-M policies, institutions and processes in the Carpathian countries, will formulate its recommendations for improvements/development of SARD-M policies and prepare proposals for follow-up activities at the country and/or the Carpathians levels.
4. The Working Group will provide its guidance and recommendations for the identification and development of the follow-up projects in the area of sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry to COP1 Bureau.

List of results:

- Proposal for the draft Protocol and or / regional strategy on SARD submitted to the Bureau of COP1 and its Terms of Reference;
- Recommendations for improvements/development of SARD-M policies and proposals for follow-up activities at the country and/or the Carpathians levels;
- Proposed inputs for COP2 of the Carpathian Convention, such as inputs to the ministerial declaration to be considered by COP2;
- A list of follow-up actions and proposals.

Composition and organization of work

The Working Group is composed of the experts designated by the National Governments of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention and is open for observers.

The Working Group will meet twice a year and its meetings will be financially supported by the EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project. The tentative schedule of the Working Group is as follows:

1. First Meeting – 9 July 2007, Vienna, Austria;
2. Second Meeting – 12 November 2007;
3. Reporting to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee Meeting – before COP2.

Coordination and cooperation

According to Decision COP1/3 “Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention”, the Secretariat is requested to ensure a continuous exchange and inter-linkage between the work and activities under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee and the work and activities under the EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project, including support of functioning of the Working Group on sustainable agriculture, rural development and forestry.

The Working Group will cooperate with FAO SARD-M Project providing its scientific and expert backstopping as in relation to the draft Protocol and or / regional strategy on SARD



and in drafting the recommendations for the identification and development of follow-up projects in the area of sustainable agriculture and rural development.

The Working Group will benefit from cooperation with FAO SEUR on matters related to sustainable forest management. FAO SEUR will, inter alia, contribute to the Working Group by identifying linkages between forest land use and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Carpathian region.

The Working Group will exchange information and foster communication with other relevant Working Groups of the Carpathian Convention (e.g. Biodiversity Working Group, Working Group on Spatial Planning) and will seek cooperation with other interested constituencies beyond the Carpathian Convention.

Scientific contributions and background information

The Working Group will benefit from the inputs provided by:

1. Carpathian Environment Outlook (KEO), which will provide a holistic and integrated assessment of the current state and future trends of the Carpathian environment;
2. Handbook on the Carpathian Convention prepared in the framework of the Umbrella Project financed by the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS) and implemented by the Regional Environmental Centre (REC) in partnership with the European Academy (EURAC);
3. National assessments of the policy, legislative and institutional frameworks related to the Carpathian Convention, available in English and national-language versions, prepared in the framework of the Umbrella Project financed by the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS) and implemented by the Regional Environmental Centre (REC) in partnership with the European Academy (EURAC); e versions, prepared in the framework of the Umbrella Project financed by IMELS;
4. National (seven countries) and regional SARD-M policies, institutions and processes assessments conducted in the framework of UNEP Vienna ISCC – FAO SARD-M Project; Brief summary of SARD-M policy assessments conducted in Romania, Slovakia, and the Ukraine can be found on the SARD-M website:
<http://www.fao.org/sard/common/ecg/2361/en/CarpathianShortSummaryOctober2006EN1.pdf>
5. Specific Carpathian Project inputs to the Working Group, to be prepared by UNEP GRID Warsaw in cooperation with partners, will include, inter alia:
 - Report on the Current State of Forest Resources in the Carpathians;
 - Report on challenges and priority for adapting the management of Carpathians forests to new environmental and socio-economic conditions;
 - Other deliverables: publications, databases, documents and maps for state, forest administrations, Ministries of Environment and non-governmental organizations for improvement of forestry management in state and private forests and national parks. Innovative modern silviculture methods of implementations for stands conversion and "continuously cover forestry" for trees cutting – implemented.
6. FAO SARD-M database containing documents (policy studies, partners' experiences, case studies, etc.) concerning social, economic, environmental and institutional



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policies for sustainable agriculture and rural development in mountain regions
(http://www.fao.org/sard/sard-m/orgdb/policy_query.jsp)

7. Other related documentation:

- Information on SARD-M policy assessments conducted in various mountain regions of the world:
<http://www.fao.org/sard/en/sardm/Communi/materials/index.html>