



Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management

23-24 April 2012, Donji Milanovac, Serbia

FINAL MEETING REPORT

Opening of the meeting

Mr. Harald Egerer, Head of UNEP Vienna – ISCC, opened the meeting.

Welcome by Ministry of Environment, Mining and Spatial Planning of Serbia

Mr. Radislav Momirov, Head of Department for nature conservation of the Ministry of Environment, Mining and Spatial Planning of Serbia, host of the meeting, welcomed the participants.

Opening remarks by UNEP Vienna – ISCC

Mr. Harald Egerer recalled the main activities in the field of forest developed within the Carpathian Convention, the adoption of the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management to the Carpathian Convention (Forest Protocol), the new mandate of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management (Forest WG) and informed the participants about the meeting objectives.

Election of the Chair

Mr. Rafal Nowicki, Senior Inspector of the Ministry of the Environment of Poland was elected Chair of the Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management. Mr. Nowicki invited Mr. Harald Egerer, Head of the Interim Secretariat, to co-chair the meeting together with him.





Adoption of the Agenda

The Draft Agenda was unanimously agreed by the participants.

State of signature and ratification of the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Forest Protocol)

All the seven Parties to the Carpathian Convention have signed the Forest Protocol. The ratification procedure is ongoing in Poland, Serbia, Ukraine, Hungary and Romania. The Slovak representative had no information on the status of ratification of the Forest Protocol in Slovakia due to recent change in the national Government.

Presentation of the BIOREGIO Carpathians project

Mr. Mircea Verghet, Director of the Piatra Craiului National Park, presented BIOREGIO Carpathian project, within which the meeting has been organised. Mr. Harald Egerer underlined the importance to develop a similar project aimed at implementing the main provisions of the Forest Protocol.

Presentation of projects and initiatives related to the Forest Protocol

“Carpathian Red List of Forest Habitats”

Mr. Ivor Rizman, Head of forest Survey department of the National Forest Centre Slovakia, presented the ongoing activities within the BIOREGIO Carpathians project related to the elaboration of a Carpathian Red List of Forest Habitats.

“Forest protection and management in the Carpathian ecoregion – challenges and opportunities, and the role of the Carpathian Convention, Forestry Protocol and Strategy”





Mr. Andreas Beckmann, Managing Director of WWF DCPO and Mr. Costel Bucur, Forest Programme Coordinator of WWF DCPO, underlined in their presentation on forest protection and management in the Carpathians the importance of having common agreed criteria for definition of virgin forests in the Carpathians and underlined that this issue will be dealt within the BIOREGIO Carpathians project WP 4.

“Framework contract for in-depth assessments of vulnerability of environmental resources and ecosystem-based adaptation measures. The CarpathCC project”

Mr. Szalai Sandor, associated professor of the Szent Istvan University, Hungary, presented the CarpathCC project, focusing on the parts relevant for the forest field.

Presentation of the draft Strategic Action Plan for the Implementation of the Forest Protocol (Forest Protocol SAP) by UNEP Vienna – ISCC and discussion on the document

Mr. Harald Egerer explained that the draft Forest Protocol SAP has been elaborated mainly on the basis of the Forest Protocol and the Strategic Action Plan for the Implementation of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity (Biodiversity Protocol SAP). As for the Biodiversity Protocol Implementation Report, the Forest Protocol SAP will be the basis for the future Forest Protocol Implementation Report.

He informed the participants that the Forest Protocol SAP has been elaborated with the inputs of WWF DCPO and that some of the comments received from observers have been included in the document. Czech Republic has sent comments on the document that were taken into account during the meeting discussion.

Mr. Rafal Nowicki asked for general remarks and comments on the document before analyzing it in detail.





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

Next steps

It was agreed that UNEP Vienna – ISCC will finalize and circulate the new version of the Forest Protocol SAP for possible comments and feedbacks, as well as the meeting report.

WWF DCPO will prepare draft common criteria for definition of virgin forests within the group of experts established within the BIOREGIO Carpathians WP 4 to be discussed at a meeting of the WG that shall be held in Poland in 2013 of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management.

The next meeting probably will be held in September 2013 in Poland. Two main objectives of this meeting will be to reach a final agreement by the WG members on the Forest Protocol SAP to be adopted by the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP 4) in 2014 and to discuss the draft common criteria for definition of virgin forests and to plan next steps for the elaboration of a common list of virgin forests in the Carpathians.

It was agreed to submit the paragraph of the Forest SAP related to climate change (Objective 15) to the members of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change for their possible comments and feedbacks.

Closure of the meeting

Mr. Harald Egerer and Mr. Rafal Nowicki thanked all the meeting participants and the Serbian Ministry of Environment, Mining and Spatial Planning to host the meeting and closed the meeting.

