

**Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management**  
**04 – 06 September 2013, Rzeszow, Poland**  
**DRAFT MEETING REPORT**

Opening of the meeting

Mr. Pier Carlo Sandei, on behalf of UNEP Vienna – ISCC, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants of the Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management in Rzeszow, Poland. Further he thanked to the Ministry of the Environment of Poland for organizing the meeting.

Welcome by the Ministry of the Environment of Poland

Mr. Lukasz Wrobel, Department of Forestry and Nature Conservation Head of Department for Nature Conservation of the Ministry of the Environment of Poland, host of the meeting, welcomed the participants.

Opening remarks by UNEP Vienna – ISCC

Mr. Pier Carlo Sandei informed the participants about the meeting objectives.

Election of the Chair

Mr. Lukasz Wrobel was elected the Chair of the meeting.

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)

Mr. Sandei informed the meeting participants that the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management to the Carpathian Convention, adopted and signed at the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP3, Bratislava, May 2011), will enter into force for the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, Romania and Ukraine on 21 October 2013, and for Hungary on 6 November 2013. After the deposit of ratification instruments by the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, Ukraine and Romania, and in accordance with the provision of the Article 21 of the Convention, the necessary number of instruments of ratification needed for the entry into force was established.

## Update on the BIOREGIO Carpathians project

Mr. Sandei presented BIOREGIO Carpathian project, within which the meeting has been organized, and updated the participants on its status of implementation.

## 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. Pier Carlo Sandei 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). He informed the participants that the current version of the Forest Protocol SAP was elaborated during the last Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management, held in Donji Milanovac, Serbia 23-24 April 2012.

Mr. Sandei 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 finalized.

It was agreed that UNEP Vienna ISCC will check the order and general coherence of the document. Further more it was suggested by the meetings participants to consider Action 11 of the SAP during the next WG on Sustainable Tourism.

Mr. Volodymyr Korzhov, Ukrainian Research Institute for Mountain Forestry anticipated a possible request to include in the SAP a provision on forests road. The proposal received the support of the other delegations. The request should be formalized in the coming weeks with an email to the Secretariat

#### Presentation of the draft document on common criteria for definition of virgin forests by WWF DCP and discussion of the document

Mr. Costel Bucur and Mr. Radu Vlad, WWF DCP presented the draft document on common criteria for definition of virgin forests and explained that the preparation of the document was agreed at the previous WG on Forest in April 2012.

The draft document on common criteria for definition of virgin forests was discussed by the meeting participants and a new version of the document was agreed.

#### Presentation of proposal for projects and initiatives related to the Forest Protocol and discussion

Mr. Pier Carlo Sandei presented briefly possible future project “Bioenergy AC – Sharing best available technologies and promoting Partnership for sustainable biomass use for Energy between the Alps and the Carpathians”. The project was submitted in December 2011 under the 4th Call of the South East Europe Programme but the Monitoring Committee (MC) approved the application under conditions, due to the limited availability of ERDF

resources at the time of the decision. Nevertheless, it was suggested to submit again the project under the new European Transnational Cooperation Danube Programme 2014-2020 (first Calls expected end 2014).

Mr. Martin Price representing European Topic Centre for Spatial Information and Analysis, European Environmental Agency, made the countries aware of the ongoing discussion between the Secretariat and the EEA on a possible support to the Convention and in particular in the forestry sector, which needs to be finalized in the coming weeks.

Mr. Volodymyr Korzhov, delivered a presentation on the possible improvement of forest use as a factor for preventing climate change, next Mr. Zinoviy Broyde (Centre "EcoResource", Ukraine) made a presentation "From Alpine through Carpathian to the European Mountain Convention – Ukrainian proposal for the Carpathian Convention Forestry Action Plan implementation.

### Next steps

It was agreed that UNEP Vienna – ISCC will finalize and circulate the new version of the Forest Protocol SAP and the draft document on common criteria for definition of virgin forests for possible comments and feedbacks, together with the meeting report.

The documents shall undergo a review by the Secretariat to ensure the formal consistency to the other SAP's developed in the framework of the Convention as well as a English proofreading. The outcome of the Working Group will be submitted by the Secretariat to the next meeting of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (Prague, February 2014) for consideration and recommendation for COP4 adoption.

### Closure of the meeting

Mr. Pier Carlo Sandei and Mr. Rafal Wrobel thanked all the meeting participants and closed the meeting.