



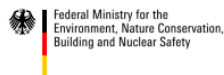
Meeting Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Tourism

Bratislava
Slovakia
12 – 14 May 2014

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MEETING REPORT OF THE FIFTH MEETING
OF THE CARPATHIAN CONVENTION WORKING GROUP
ON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

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EDITORS:
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Martina Voskarova
Michael Meyer



I. Attendance

The Fifth Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Tourism was attended by governmental delegates of five out of seven Carpathian Countries (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Serbia and Slovakia), NGOs, as well as tourism experts and observers.

21 participants from the following countries attended the meeting: the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine, Austria, Bulgaria and Germany.

II. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting opened at 14:00 on Monday, May 12, 2014.

The opening remarks were made by Mr. Rastislav Rybanič General Director, Ministry of the Environment, on behalf of Ms. Ivana Magátová, General Director, Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development, Slovakia, as well as of the Slovak Presidency of the Carpathian Convention.

Welcome speech and organizational information was provided by Ms. Pavlína Mišíková, Focal Point for the Carpathian Convention, Ministry of Environment, Slovakia.

Mr. Harald Egerer, the Head of UNEP Vienna - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (UNEP Vienna - ISCC), thanked the participants for attending the meeting and proposed Ms. Mišíková to chair the meeting, which was accepted by the Parties.

The Agenda of the meeting was adopted together with the proposal to add a discussion on the scope of Carpathian area and drafted map on the third day of the meeting.

III. The Sustainable Tourism Strategy for the Carpathians

Mr. Michael Meyer, Ecological Tourism in Europe (E.T.E.) presented an overview of the process of drafting the Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development of the Carpathians and informed them about the current Fourth Draft. The strategy is divided into two parts – the core document and the Background Document.

Mr. Egerer emphasized the need for having a common platform on the issue of sustainable tourism, as the discussion will be also ongoing at the upcoming 5th Innovations Forum and

1st Carpathian States Tourism Forum held in Rzeszow, Poland on May 27 – 28, 2014. He also expressed the will of Slovakia to take action for the implementation and common promotion of products based on the example of the Visegrad Group and common promotion of 16 East-Central European countries in China.



Ms. Mišíková then encouraged the participants to give their comments on the 4th Strategy draft and state what parts they feel would be ready for adoption so the text can be improved as much as possible.

The conclusion of the first working day was moving of parts of the core document of the Strategy to the Background Document and the Parties expressing their readiness to welcome the Background Document as it is at the fourth Conference of the Parties, to be held in Mikulov, the Czech Republic 23 – 26 September 2014.

The next two days were dedicated to the proposal on the 5th Draft. All paragraphs were discussed and consensus was reached among the Parties. The outcomes are reflected in the final 5th Draft of the Strategy.

Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Sustainable Tourism and List of Draft Decisions for COP4 were reviewed and points were added in accordance to the need of the Strategy. The changes were accepted by the participants.

IV. Defining the Scope of Application for the Strategy for Development of Sustainable Tourism of the Carpathians: The first draft of the map and the list of administrative units

The Working Group discussed the draft map of scope of application for the Strategy for Development of Sustainable Tourism of the Carpathians (see attached). The Working Group concluded that along with administrative units, the map should include the geographical scope of the Carpathians as it is currently defined by the Party. The geographical scope of the Carpathians defines the core area for implementing the actions outlined in the strategy, while the administrative borders are useful for decision making, resource allocation and monitoring purposes.

The Working Group decided to develop two maps that may be useful during the implementation of the strategy:

1. A map of local administrative units on LAU1 level in EU countries, “raions” in Ukraine and municipalities in Serbia that also features the geographical scope of the Carpathians. Such map may be helpful when involving the authorities and stakeholders into project development and implementation and when action is needed for decision making and implementation on the smallest administrative level.
2. A map of administrative units at NUTS3 or NUTS2 level, “oblast” in Ukraine and districts in Serbia that also features the geographical scope of the Carpathians. Such map would be useful when action is needed on the regional decision level, and whenever the interlinkage of the Carpathians with surrounding areas is important (e.g. for optimizing transport infrastructure).



In the light of the decision of the Working Group the Interim Secretariat requests the Parties:

- a) to review the list of administrative units provided below;
- b) to provide the Interim Secretariat with a vector file of a country map with LAU1 level administrative units (currently such map is available for Ukraine only, though not yet included into the map presented below);
- c) to provide the Interim Secretariat with a vector file of the geographical scope of the Carpathians as it is currently defined by the Party.

For the maps the preferred vector file format is SVG. If not available, AI, CRD PS, EPS can be provided.

V. Other matters

Parties received a Briefing note on tourism stakeholders consultations that are due to be organized with the tourism business sector in each of the Carpathian countries in cooperation of the NFP, National Tourism Agency and project country experts.

Mr. Michael Meyer informed the participants that in case the strategy will be adopted at COP 4 in September, the CC-WGST would convene its 6th meeting latest in November (venue suggested in Serbia) in order to discuss the first steps of implementation of the strategy.

VI. Closure of the meeting

The meeting was closed with remarks by Ms. Mišíková and Mr. Egerer at 12:00pm on May 14, 2014.



Annex I

List of Participants

Nr.	Name	Organization	Country
Government officials			
1	Zuzana Tollrianová	Ministry of the Environment, NFP	CZ
2	Gabor Kiss	Ministry of Rural Development	HU
3	Karol Biedrzycki	Ministry of Sport and Tourism	PL
4	Pavĺina Mišková	Ministry of the Environment, NFP	SK
5	Marián Bujna	Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic	SK
6	Lenka Šprochová	Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic	SK
7	Dáša Szabóová	Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic	SK
8	Ivana Avramov Bjelica	Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunication	SRB
UNEP - ISCC			
9	Harald Egerer	UNEP Vienna - ISCC	AUT
10	Klaudia Kuras	UNEP Vienna - ISCC	AUT
11	Eleonora Musco	UNEP Vienna / EURAC	AUT



Nr.	Name	Organization	Country
Observers			
12	Valentyn Voloshyn	Foundation for Uzh River Valley Ecotourism Development	UA
13	Ivan Svetozarevic	NP Djerdap/Tourism bussiness Vavel	SRB
14	Martina Voskárová	Ökologischer Tourismus in Europa (Ö.T.E.) e.V.	SK
15	Michael Meyer	Ökologischer Tourismus in Europa (Ö.T.E.) e.V.	GER
16	Ján Roháč	Ekopolis Foundation	SK
17	Adela Talpes	Greentourism Ecological Association	RO
18	Constantin Serban	Greentourism Ecological Association	RO
19	Kristina Vilimaite	CEEweb for Biodiversity	HU
20	Emil Vaklinov	Rhodope mountains without borders	BG
21	Andrea Hagovská	TIRA/Tatry2020	SK