



Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Sustainable Tourism

Mandate

The First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP1) to the Carpathian Convention (Kyiv, Ukraine, 11-13 December 2006) in its Decision COP1/10 para 2 decided “to support the establishment of a Working Group on sustainable tourism under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee”(CCIC), a subsidiary body of the Convention, established pursuant to Decision COP1/3 para 4.

The Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 2) to the Carpathian Convention (Bucharest, Romania, 17 - 19 June 2008) in its Decision COP2/6 para 1 welcomed “the work of the Working Group on Sustainable Tourism invited Parties and stakeholders to ensure the proper follow-up”, in para 2 invited “Parties and other stakeholders to continue to take part in the preparatory work towards the development of a Protocol and Strategy on Sustainable Tourism, and requested the interim Secretariat to further coordinate and service them in the process”; and in Para 3 called “upon Parties and invites relevant institutions to support the development of future projects/programmes (including the “Via Carpatica”)”;

The Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP3) to the Carpathian Convention (Bratislava, 25-27 May 2011) adopted the revised Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Sustainable Tourism, requests the Secretariat and recommends the World Tourism Organization to continue the development of the sustainable tourism strategy with the involvement of relevant stakeholders and the support of the national tourism agencies, welcomed the cooperation with and assistance by the UNWTO, ETE, CEEWEB, EURAC, UNEP, etc., in particular related to the development of the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians and of projects aimed at its implementation, and adopted the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians;

The Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP4) to the Carpathian Convention (Mikulov, Czech Republic, 23 – 26 September 2014) by its Decision COP4/6 para 3 adopted the Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development of the Carpathians, welcomed the Background Document and took note that the Strategy aims at the implementation of relevant paragraphs of the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism adopted at COP3.

Tasks

The Working Group (WG) shall aim at supporting the Parties to the Carpathian Convention towards their cooperation for the implementation of Article 9 on sustainable tourism and other related Articles of the Carpathian Convention. Pursuant to Decision COP2/6 para 2 and 3, the main goals of the Working Group is to guide the implementation of the Strategy for sustainable tourism development, to support the implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism, Decision COP4/6, COP4/14, Programme of Work of the Carpathian Convention 2015 - 2017 and the development of future projects and programmes.

Field of activities

1. The Protocol on Sustainable Tourism and the Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development of the Carpathians Sustainable Tourism Strategy

The Working Group shall coordinate and guide the implementation of the Strategy for the Sustainable Tourism Development of the Carpathians.

2. Contribution to the follow-up platform

The Working Group shall provide its guidance and recommendations for the identification and development of follow-up projects in the area of sustainable tourism.

List of results

- Relevant provisions of the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism and its Strategy implemented
- Common website of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Tourism developed, maintained and kept up to date
- National, regional and local stakeholders involved in the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism and its Strategy implementation, experience with this process and stakeholder involvement is shared on the Carpathian level
- Inputs for CCIC and COP of the Carpathian Convention and other WGs, if relevant, proposed;
- WG Progress Report for submission to COP prepared in cooperation with the Secretariat;
- Development of report format on the implementation of the Protocol of Sustainable Tourism and its Strategy initiated;
- Inputs for follow-up actions and projects provided and information on possible funding resources actively shared by the members of the WG
- Cross-border cooperation in sustainable tourism enhanced, especially using available funding resources such as Goal2Recommendations and inputs to the Carpathian Convention Information System provided
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Composition and organization of work

The Working Group is composed of persons nominated by the Parties through the National Focal Points for the Carpathian Convention. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties, the meetings of the Working Group are open for observers.

Working Group members shall strive to consult the activities of the WG with their national, regional and local stakeholders (public administrations, NGOs, private sector etc.), transmit the stakeholder's view to other WG members when necessary and to ensure the stakeholders' involvement in the implementation.

One or more Parties shall provide leadership to the Working Group and shall together with the Secretariat coordinate the implementation of the WG's programme of work and COP4 decisions.

Working Group members shall share their expertise and take active part in online consultations, coordinated by the Secretariat and the leadership of the Working Group.

At each meeting, the Working Group shall elect its Chair and Co-Chair; the Secretariat shall act as rapporteur. In conducting its business, the Working Group shall base itself on the applicable Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties.

The Working Group shall meet as necessary. Agenda of the meeting and background documents shall be made available to the WG members at least one month prior the Working Group meeting.

The Working Group will report to the Conference of the Parties through the CCIC.

Observers such as the Association of the Carpathian Euroregion Poland, CEEweb for Biodiversity, Ecological Tourism in Europe (ETE), European Wilderness Society, Greentourism Ecological Association, State Nature Conservancy, WWF DCP are welcome to provide inputs to the Working Group.

All Working Group meetings are conducted in English, unless otherwise decided. Participants may bring interpreters at their own expenses.

The Parties hosting Working Group meetings bears the costs of meeting rooms and equipment related to organization of a meeting, unless otherwise decided.

Meeting participant cover their respective travel and accommodation expenses, unless otherwise decided.

Coordination and cooperation with other WGs and stakeholders

The Working Group shall exchange information and foster communication with other relevant WGs of the Carpathian Convention (e.g. Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity, Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management, Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Working Group on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge, Working Group on Agriculture and Rural Development) and might seek cooperation with other interested institutions and stakeholders within or beyond the Carpathian Convention. Special emphasis shall be given to development of cross-border partnerships and cooperation.