



Carpathians Unite – mechanism of consultation and cooperation for implementation of the Carpathian Convention

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*First Joint Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Groups
on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity
and on Spatial Development
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Introduction to the meeting:

- the reasons for selecting Pieniny Mts. as the meeting venue
- the aims of the first ever joint meeting of the two CC Working Groups (in the light of the Convention, its thematic Protocols, and COP Decisions)

Why do we meet in Pieniny Mts. ?

In March 1924 the League of Nations / Société des Nations (replaced in 1946 by the United Nations Organization)

requested Czechoslovakia and Poland to agree upon the exact delineation of the state border (in particular its section along the Dunajec river – which you might see on Friday)



and sign a protocol facilitating economic relations (e.g. land-use rights) of the local communities and inhabitants of the border „region of Jaworzyna”:

Par sa résolution du 12 mars 1924 le Conseil de la Société des Nations a fixé le tracé de la frontière polono-tchécoslovaque dans la région de Jaworzina et a reconnu la nécessité d'établir un protocole destiné à régler les intérêts des communes et des populations limitrophes de cette partie de la frontière.

Two months later Czechoslovakia and Poland signed a bilateral Protocol (Kraków, 6 May 1924)

PROTOKÓŁ

obrad odbytych w Krakowie w dniach 25 kwietnia 1924 r. do 6 maja 1924 r. między Komisarzem Polskim i Czeskosłowackim przy Międzynarodowej Komisji Delimitacyjnej Polsko-Czeskosłowackiej.

PROTOKOL

o poradách konaných v Krakově ve dnech 25. dubna 1924 až 6. května 1924 mezi komisařem polským a československým při mezinárodní rozhraničovací komisi československo-polské.

which additionally recommended the Governments to „conclude as soon as possible” two new international agreements:

Art. II a) Convention on tourism

which would enable and facilitate the development of tourism in the whole mountain border zone of the neighbouring countries

- a) Konwencji turystycznej, któraby umożliwiła i ułatwiła na całym górskim pograniczu polsko-czeskosłowackim rozwój turystyki, przede wszystkim przez zniesienie trudności paszportowych, ułatwienia komunikacyjne i t. d.
- a) dohodu o turistice, umožňující a ulehčující v celém horském pohraničí československo-polském rozvoj turistiky, především odstraněním pasových potíží, usnadněním komunikací a t. d.

Art. II b) Convention on nature park
following the example of the Convention between
the USA and Canada
on „*establishing areas reserved for culture,
fauna and flora, and local landscape*”
in the border territories of neighbouring countries

b) Konwencji o parku przyrodniczym (rezewat), któryby wzorem analogicznej konwencji między Stanami Zjednoczonymi Ameryki a Kanadą, stworzył na pograniczu polsko-czeskosłowackim rejonu zastrzeżone dla kultury fauny i flory, oraz charakteru krajobrazu miejscowego.

dohodu o přírodním parku (reservace), kterým by dle vzoru analogické dohody mezi Spojenými Státy Americkými a Kanadou vytvořeny byly v pohraničním pásmu česko-slovensko-polském okrsky, vyhražené kultuře místní fauny i flory i rázu krajiny.

The idea of concluding the two above conventions, concerning border areas in the Carpathians explicitly expressed and inscribed in the Kraków Protocol in May 1924 (over 90 years ago) materialized in May 2003, with the signature of the Carpathian Convention having much broader substantive scope and much broader geographical scope (involving seven Carpathian countries)



CARPATHIAN CONVENTION



However, the idea of transnational cooperation on the protection of culture, nature and landscape in border zones of neighbouring countries by establishing transboundary protected areas has successfully been implemented much earlier:

Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park at the US-Canadian border (World's first transboundary protected area) was designated on 16 June 1932.

while the designation of the **bilateral nature park in Pieniny Mts.** – the first transboundary protected area in Europe, established on the basis of the Kraków Protocol (1924) Art. II b)

was jointly celebrated in Szczawnica and Červený Kláštor **only a month later, on 17 July 1932.**



Particularly important for the implementation of the Carpathian Convention

is the transboundary cooperation of relevant **public administration and spatial planning authorities** of neighbouring Parties

on spatial planning of **border areas**

which is emphasized in CC Article 5 on spatial planning:

CC Art. 5 para 2: The Parties shall aim at
coordinating spatial planning in bordering areas,
through developing **transboundary and/or regional**
spatial planning policies and programmes,
enhancing and supporting co-operation between
relevant regional and local institutions.

CC Art. 5 para 3:

In developing spatial planning policies and programmes, particular attention should, *inter alia*, be paid to:

- (a) transboundary transport, energy and telecommunications infrastructure and services,
- (b) **conservation and sustainable use of natural resources,**
- (c) **coherent town and country planning in border areas,**
- (d) preventing the cross-border impact of pollution,
- (e) integrated land use planning, and environmental impact assessments.

CC Art. 9 (on sustainable tourism)

recommends the Parties to develop coordinated or joint management plans for **transboundary or bordering protected areas**, and other sites of touristic interest.



The Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP2) to the Carpathian Convention (Bucharest, 2008)

adopted the first thematic protocol to the Framework Convention:

Protocol on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity



The CC Working Group on Biodiversity is responsible for the implementation of the Protocol on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity following the **Strategic Action Plan** adopted by COP3 in 2011.

It should be noted, that the official process for this Protocol has been faster, and so far more successful than under the Alpine Convention:

Alpine Convention Protocol **Conservation of nature and countryside**

1994-2000 signature

2002 entry into force (A, D, FL)

2004 entry into force for SLO

2005 entry into force for MC and F

2013 entry into force for Italy

by 2014 (20 years since signature)
not yet ratified by CH and EU

Carpathian Convention Protocol **on biological and landscape diversity**

2008-2009 signature

2010 entry into force (CZ, HU, PL, UA)

2011 entry into force for RO and SK

2011 Biodiv. SAP adoption

2013 entry into force for SRB

in 5 years since signature **ratified by,**
and in force for all Parties

CC Protocol on conservation and sustainable use
of biological and landscape diversity

***Article 5 Integration of the objectives of conservation
and sustainable use of biological and landscape
diversity of the Carpathians into sectoral policies***

1. The Parties shall take into consideration the objectives of this Protocol in their other policies, **in particular on spatial planning and land resources management**, water and river basin management, agriculture and forestry, transport and infrastructure, tourism, industry and energy.

CC Protocol on conservation and sustainable use
of biological and landscape diversity

**Article 9 *Continuity and connectivity of natural
and semi-natural habitats, ecological network
in the Carpathians***

3. The Parties shall cooperate on establishing
an ecological network in the Carpathians,
composed of protected areas and **other areas
significant for biological and landscape diversity** of
the Carpathians and for coherence of the network.

CC Protocol on conservation and sustainable use
of biological and landscape diversity

**Article 15 *Enhancing conservation and sustainable
management in the areas **outside of protected areas*****

Implementation requires the integration of the
objectives of the Protocol into spatial planning,
in particular at regional and local levels

– in close cooperation of spatial planning
and nature conservation authorities.

CC Protocol on conservation and sustainable use
of biological and landscape diversity

**Article 16 *Consultation, harmonisation and
coordination of measures undertaken in border areas***

Objective: to improve and ensure the ecological
continuity and connectivity of habitats

which requires **cooperation of spatial planning
and nature conservation authorities
of neighbouring Parties.**



The Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP3) to the Carpathian Convention (Bratislava, 2011)

adopted next two thematic protocols:

- Protocol on sustainable forest management
- Protocol on sustainable tourism

The Protocol on sustainable forest management

entered into force in 2013 for five Parties:
the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania,
the Slovak Republic, and Ukraine

(ratification by Poland and Serbia is pending)

and is accompanied by the Strategic Action Plan
for its implementation, adopted by COP4 in 2014.

The Protocol on sustainable tourism

entered into force in 2013 for four Parties:
the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland,
and the Slovak Republic

will enter into force for Romania on 11 Nov. 2014
(ratification by Serbia and Ukraine is pending)

and is accompanied by the Strategy
for its implementation, adopted by COP4 in 2014.

The Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP4) to the Carpathian Convention (Mikulov, Sept. 2014)

adopted the fourth thematic protocol:

- **Protocol on sustainable transport**

signed by four Parties: the Czech Republic, Romania, Serbia and the Slovak Republic (signatures by Hungary, Poland and Ukraine, and ratifications pending).

Each of the Protocols to the Convention
contains an Article

on the integration of the objectives of the Protocol
into sectoral policies of the Parties,

in particular on **spatial planning and land resource
management.**

Simultaneously, the spatial planning policy
integrates and harmonizes all other sectoral
policies listed in the Convention.

Therefore, cooperation of the Parties on spatial planning / development and integration of the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols **into the spatial planning and regional development policies** of the Parties

is an indispensable pre-requisite for the implementation of the Convention and its thematic protocols.



The role of spatial planning is also emphasized in the **EU Green Infrastructure Strategy**



Green Infrastructure (GI)

— Enhancing Europe's Natural Capital

(Communication from the Commission, Brussels, 6.5.2013 COM (2013) 249 final)

GI: a **strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features** designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services.

It incorporates green spaces (or blue if aquatic ecosystems are concerned) and other physical features in terrestrial (including coastal) and marine areas. On land, GI is present in rural and urban settings.

How is a Green Infrastructure built up?

In practice, one of the most effective ways of building a Green Infrastructure is through spatial planning. This enables interactions between different land uses to be investigated over a large geographical area.

Strategic level spatial planning will help to:

- **locate the best places** for habitat enhancement projects (e.g. involving restoration or re-creation of habitats) to help reconnect healthy ecosystems, improve landscape permeability or improve connectivity between protected areas;
- **guide infrastructure developments** away from particularly sensitive nature areas and instead towards more robust areas where they might additionally contribute to restoring or recreating GI features as part of the development proposal; and
- **identify multi-functional zones** where compatible land uses that support healthy ecosystems are favoured over other more destructive single-focus developments.



DECISION COP4/2 Spatial development: *The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Reiterates* its call upon **spatial planning / development local and regional authorities** of the Carpathian countries

to continue the cooperation on issues relevant for spatial planning to achieve the territorial cohesion of the Carpathian region,

in particular on **coordinating spatial and management planning in bordering areas** (CC Art. 5.2; Art. 5.3; Art. 9.2),

DECISION COP4/2 Spatial development (*para 1 continued*)

(in particular on) **promoting transboundary cooperation on sustainable tourism development in the Carpathians**
(CC Protocol on Sustainable Tourism Art. 20),

DECISION COP4/2 Spatial development (*para 1 continued*)

(in particular on) **consultation, harmonization and coordination of measures undertaken in border areas** for the conservation of the biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians (Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity Art. 16),

including inputs and support to the development and implementation of relevant projects;

DECISION COP4/2 Spatial development - *The Conference of the Parties*

2. Recognizes

the crucial role of local and regional administration and their **spatial planning / development authorities** in the successful implementation of the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols

and invites them to pursue and strengthen their efforts and to **cooperate among each other**;

DECISION COP4/1 *The Conference of the Parties*

8. *Encourages* the cooperation with the **European Landscape Convention** and *recommends* the Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity to guide and coordinate the implementation of the Carpathian Convention in this field (...)

9. *Welcomes* the idea of organizing **joint meeting** of the Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity, and other relevant Working Groups in order to develop the proposed possible activities on **ecological connectivity, green infrastructure and landscapes in the Carpathians**;



Therefore, the objective of this first ever joint meeting of CC WGs is to:

- ensure the communication,
- identify potential synergies,
- encourage cooperation, in particular undertaking joint activities by the two Working Groups;
- as well as to encourage cooperation of authorities responsible for nature / landscape conservation, and spatial planning, at national, regional, transboundary and local levels

with the overall objectives to:

- facilitate the implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol and its Strategic Action Plan
- and contribute to achieving the greater territorial cohesion of the Carpathian region.

Which could be a long walk in the Carpathian snow, but definitely not a „mission impossible” !



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„Gazeta Wyborcza” (Cracow)

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