

Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians

DECISION COP4/1

Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity

Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Adopts* the format for the National Report on the Implementation of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (further referred to as “Carpathian Convention”);
2. *Adopts* the revised Strategic Action Plan for the implementation of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity;
3. *Notes* the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions “Green Infrastructure (GI) — Enhancing Europe’s Natural Capital” (COM/2013/0249) and the reference to the ecosystems of mountain ranges, including the Carpathians, that require coordinated, joined-up actions and a pan-European vision;
4. *Extends* the duration of the Medium-Term Strategy of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) until the end of the year 2020;
5. *Adopts* the Medium-Term Work Plan 2013 - 2017 of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas;
6. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the “BIOREGIO Carpathians” project, that aimed at implementing the main provisions of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity;
7. *Welcomes* and appreciate the work conducted in the frame of the BioREGIO Carpathians project towards the elaboration of Carpathian Red List of Habitats, the Carpathian Red List of Species, as well as the List of Invasive Species in the Carpathians, *calls* for their further improvement, verification and finalization for adoption, suggests the elaboration of a List of Endemic Species of the Carpathians by the Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity;
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, as well as the relevant provisions of the Biodiversity Protocol to the Carpathian Convention, and *requests* the Secretariat to coordinate the process;
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 propose possible activities on ecological connectivity, green infrastructure and landscapes in the Carpathians;
10. *Welcomes* the Declaration of the 2nd Conference of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas;
11. *Notes* the Terms of References for the CNPA Unit;
12. *Expresses* its gratitude to the World Wide Fund – Danube-Carpathian Programme (WWF DCP) for its cooperation in the organization of the CNPA Steering Committee meetings and the 2nd Conference of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas organized back to back to the Mid Term Conference of the “BIOREGIO Carpathians” project, held in Tatranská Javorina on 23 - 26 April 2013, as well as for the development of the activities related to management of protected areas in the Carpathians;

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13. *Welcomes* the cooperation with ALPARC and the ongoing cooperation with the Alpine Convention;
14. *Welcomes* the ongoing cooperation with the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention) through the Carpathian Wetland Initiative and *urges* the Parties to continue to take appropriate action on the effective protection and sustainable use of Carpathian wetlands;
15. *Welcomes* the results of the GEF Project "Improving the Financial Sustainability of the Carpathian System of Protected Areas" implemented through UNDP Romania and *encourages* the protected areas in the Carpathians to use knowledge resources made available by the project;
16. *Welcomes* the Agreement between the Secretariat and ALPARC regarding the transfer of the CNPA webpage (www.carpathianparks.org) from ALPARC to the CNPA Unit and encourages further cooperation on specific topics common to the two networks.

DECISION COP4/2 **Spatial development** **Article 5 of the Carpathian Convention**

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), promoting transboundary cooperation on sustainable tourism development in the Carpathians (CC Protocol on Sustainable Tourism Art. 20), 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;
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;
3. *Invites* the Parties to inform the Secretariat on the administrative units within which they plan to implement the Convention and its Protocols;
4. *Emphasizes* the importance of spatial planning for allocation of the development activities – namely, the keeping the empty flood prone areas for the possibility natural retention areas and the elimination/decreasing of flood effects and underground water effects in the urban areas and, in particular, restoration of river beds and flood plains as much as possible to original/natural state;
5. *Encourages* the Parties and the Secretariat to update the Strategic Action Plan for the Carpathian Area and its priority actions for the Carpathians, adopted at the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention, in accordance with the new EU Territorial Cooperation Instruments for the period 2014 - 2020, with a view of promoting it in relevant meetings at EU and international level;
6. *Encourages* the Parties to actively participate in the implementation of the already existing EU macroregional strategies, which are relevant for the Carpathians, the European Union Strategies for the Danube