

THE CARPATHIAN CONVENTION

Questions and answers



PLAIN LANGUAGE GUIDE
book 1

**THE CARPATHIAN CONVENTION:
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

(Plain Language Guide, book 1)

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International Charity Organisation "Information Center "Green Dossier" (Kyiv),



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PREFACE

This interpretation guide-book resulted from collaboration of numerous people and organizations. During realization of the project "Carpathian Convention - Building Capacity for Implementation" in Ivano-Frankivsk region, members of a special working group were looking at opportunities to adapt experiences and practices of other regions and countries to local conditions. This publication was created as a result of discussions and analysis of practical examples. Therefore it could be useful for those who are beginning to implement the Framework Convention on protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians.

The guidebook consists of two parts.

The first part offers information on the convention, its history, purposes and objectives, peculiarities of implementation and organisations, which are involved in the process.

The second part addresses practical examples, which explain the meaning of concrete articles of the convention and describe ways of their implementation in everyday life.

We would like to express our gratitude to experts and consultants as well as all other participants of the project.

The guidebook was created by people of different occupations, ages, lifestyles, people from different parts of Ukraine and abroad. Each author has their own style and approach to specific issues. Even the same examples received different commentaries from different experts. We tried to retain these peculiarities, because the guidebook is going to be used by different people as well.

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Project partners

LEAD International's mission is to create, strengthen and support networks of people and institutions promoting change towards sustainable development. *LEAD International* seeks to achieve its mission through training and capacity building programmes. Members of the *LEAD network* and partners constitute a powerful on-the-ground global network of organisations and individuals capable of addressing sustainable development issues at all levels of society. *LEAD's* training and action network is coordinated through an international secretariat based at *Imperial College London*.



The main activities of *International Charity Organisation "Information Center "Green Dossier"* are to provide objective information on environmental and social issues through mass-media and coaching in environmental journalism; to prepare materials for own publications and various mass-media; to provide consultations and other informational services for different sectors of society, to enhance cooperation in improving the environment and the quality of life of the public.

Kosiv Centre for Public Initiatives is organized with the purpose of carrying out a charitable activity in the society's interests and people who need charitable help. The activity of the *Centre* is aimed at consolidation of efforts public organizations in the region; enhancement of constant cooperation between countries, businesses and public organizations, realization of common interests and projects.



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WHAT IS THE CARPATHIAN CONVENTION?

The framework convention on protection and sustainable development of the Carpathian region, also called the Carpathian Convention - is a multilateral agreement between Poland, Romania, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Serbia and Montenegro, Hungary and Ukraine. It was signed in May 2003 in order to take joint action on preservation, regeneration and rational resource management in the Carpathian region. This international document forms the basis for national and international cooperation and provides a platform for development and implementation of common policies, strategies, programmes and projects on sustainable development. The convention envisages close cooperation of all stakeholders: the governments, local authorities, scientific institutions, international organisations, NGOs, businesses and local communities.

In Ukraine, the ultimate responsibility for coordination and implementation of the Carpathian Convention lies with the Ministry for Environmental Protection of Ukraine, which, in fact, was a major initiator and author of the convention. In other Carpathian countries the ministries for environment also bear responsibility for the convention. In addition, the Carpathian Convention has its Interim Secretariat, formed in 2004. It is supported by the United Nations Environmental Programme, by its Regional office for Europe (UNEP-ROE) in particular, which is based in Vienna, Austria.

Drafting of the Convention, especially its official, (documental) part, was rather fast and well coordinated. All Carpathian countries showed a great interest in such international environmental document, and were ready to implement it. International experience played a crucial role in this process: the document was modelled on the Convention for the Protection and



Sustainable Development of the Alpine Region (the Alpine Convention), with its signatories Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Lichtenstein, Slovenia, Monaco and the European Union. The document entered into force in 1995.

The Carpathian Convention is a framework document, which means that all sectors of human activities in mountainous regions that require regulation, are singled out into separate blocks (clauses), that describe only general policies and general principles designed to deal with social, economic and environmental problems. A framework document is not binding. Each sector will be further covered by a Protocol, which will deal with problems and ways of their solving. For instance, it is planned to develop a Protocol on sustainable agriculture and forest management. The need for additional development of protocols and other documents, that will coordinate implementation of the Convention, is a drawback of the framework document, because it necessitates involvement of experts, as well as spending extra money and time.

The Carpathian Convention consists of the preamble (the introduction and 23 clauses, which describe its aims and objectives as well as major areas for planned activities: land resources, biological and landscape diversity, regional planning; water resources, agriculture and forest management, transport and infrastructure, tourism, industry and energy, cultural heritage and traditions, environmental awareness and public participation and implementation of the Convention. In addition, the document explains all organisational and technical issues concerning the Convention's entering into force (as well as mechanisms of enactment of the convention and protocols), holding conferences of contracting parties, making financial contributions, work of the Secretariat, joining and termination of the agreement.

An integral part of the implementation of the convention is the development, ratification and implementation of the Strategy for Convention Implementation and the Local Action Plan, which includes measures, designed for implementation of the Law of Ukraine "On Ratification of the Framework Convention on Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathian Region" at the local level. It is noteworthy that Ukraine, as a major initiator of the convention, is one of the most active Carpathian countries in the process of implementation of the convention. Our country has followed all necessary official procedures, which can make this document work - it signed the Convention (22.03.05), passed the Law of



Ukraine "On Ratification of the Carpathian Convention" ((No.1672 of 07.04.04), developed and approved the Strategy for Implementation of the Carpathian Convention. Furthermore, the Ministry for Environmental Protection has enacted a decree "On establishment of the Coordination Board on Implementation of the Carpathian Convention" (No.535 of 31.12.04). The Action Plan on Implementation of the Convention (including the local level) has been developed, a draft of the Protocol on Biological and Landscape Diversity has been developed and forwarded to the Secretariat and to the six other countries.

Ukraine spares no effort on the international scene as well. Our country's representatives are taking part in international projects in the framework of implementation of the Convention, e.g. in the development of the National Survey on Sustainable Agriculture and Development of Mountainous Settlements (SAR-M), preparation of national materials for the Carpathians Environment Outlook (CEO), analysis of development of sustainable tourism in the Carpathians. The First Conference of Contracting Parties of the Carpathian Convention (COP1) took place (on 11-13 December, 2006) in the capital of our country. Ukraine is also ready to provide a base for Convention's Permanent Secretariat (today, there is an Interim Secretariat, based in Vienna). Ukraine's main contender for hosting the conference and the permanent secretariat is the town of Brashov in Romania.

Providing a base for the Permanent Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention could become an outstanding international and political achievement for Ukraine. The fact that the Secretariat (the main official centre of a multilateral agreement) is based in a particular country, speaks about its image at the international scene, about the country's credibility, both internationally and politically. It is the Secretariat that usually hosts working meetings (ministerial, expert, etc). It is noteworthy, that Ukraine is a Party to 22 international environmental conventions, yet none of the secretariats is based in the country. Another bonus for the country (and first of all, for the town or the region) is the fact that the Secretariat employs a number of experts from different countries on a permanent basis, which means that their families live and work in the town where the secretariat is based. Moreover, frequent meetings, consultations, seminars and conferences mean business for local premises providers, hotels, restaurants, cafeterias, transport companies, technical and organisational services providers



as well. Visitors' reports about the town/ /region/country are also very important.

Since Ukraine initiated the Carpathian Convention, it presides at all official and expert meetings from the moment of its signing till the First Conference of the Contracting Parties takes place. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine is the Convention's Depository - an official body which keeps original official papers and receives ratification letters about joining the Convention.

THE ORIGIN

The governments have been aware of the value of the Carpathians, the importance of their preservation and regeneration for quite a long time. Later, the governments began to understand that it is important to combine their efforts and create a joint document for protection and sustainable development of this mountainous region. Although the Carpathian Mountains are situated in seven countries with different social and economic conditions (Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic are EU members, Romania is potentially joining the EU in 2007), the environmental problems in different countries are similar. Economic activity in such a big mountainous ecological system cannot be isolated. Therefore, directly or indirectly, it affects the neighbouring countries.

Since Ukraine gained independence, trans-boundary cooperation in the Carpathian region has been based on a number of international agreements, concluded between separate countries, with their main focus being the environmental; problems.

The following documents provide the legislative base for cooperation in the region:

- Agreement between The Government of Ukraine and The Government of Hungary on Cooperation in the Domain of Environmental Protection (13.08.92);

- Agreement between The Government of Ukraine and The Government of Poland on Cooperation in the Domain of Environmental Protection (24.01.94);



- Agreement between The Ministry for Environmental Protection of Ukraine and The Ministry for Environment of the Slovak Republic on Cooperation in the Domain of Environmental Protection (30.09.94);

- Agreement between The Ministry for Environmental Protection of Ukraine and The Ministry for Environmental Protection, Natural Resources and Forestry of the Republic of Poland (24.01.94);

- Agreement on preservation of biodiversity in East Carpathian forests between the Ministries for Environment of Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine and the Agreement between the governments of Poland, Ukraine and Slovakia on the International Biosphere Reserve "Eastern Carpathians" (1992-2000);

- Agreement between regional authorities of the borderland region of Ukraine, Poland, Hungary and Slovakia on establishment of the Association "The Carpathian Euroregion".

In Ukraine, the legislative base for solving environmental problems consists of laws and regulations in the domain of environmental protection.

An important role in protection of the Carpathians belongs to international donor organisations: the European Council, the Global Environmental Fund (GEF), The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), etc. Thanks to these organisations, a number of projects and programmes have been implemented in Ukraine.

The central point of the Convention is preservation of biological and landscape diversity in the region through development of the National Ecological Network that is to become a part of the Pan-European Ecological Network. In Ukraine, the Carpathian network of natural heritage sites, in the framework of the national ecological network, will supposedly include existing natural heritage sites of Lviv, Transcarpatia, Ivano-Frankivsk and Chernivtsi regions, trans-boundary international biosphere reserves. Furthermore, their territories will be enlarged and new sites will be added. Today, the Carpathian Convention protects such sites as the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, natural reserves "Horhany" and "Roztochchia", national parks "Synevir", "Carpathsky", "Huzulshchina", "Yavorivsky", "Sokolivsky Beskidy", "Uzhansky" and "Vyzhnytsky", regional landscape parks "Nadsyansly", "Zacharovaby Krai", "Dnistrovsky", "Polyanytsky", "Halytsky", "Huzulshchina", "Verkhniodnistrovsky Beskidy", "Znesinnya", "Chernivetsky"



and "Cheremysky". According to the Programme for formation of the National Ecological Network for 2000 -2015, the total area of protected sites in the Carpathian region should increase from 3% to 10% of the region's total land area IUCN, in cooperation with the Ministry for Environmental Protection of Ukraine and the National Environmental Centre of Ukraine, have successfully implemented the project "Supporting formation of the National Ecological Network of Ukraine in the framework of formation the Pan-European Ecological Network". The project aimed to inspire long-term preservation of biodiversity in Ukraine by means of addressing the issue of biological and landscape diversity conservation in the development of economic policies.

Protected natural sites, and especially international biosphere reserves, can become models of sustainable development - where environmental, social and economical components are balanced. Since these sites are designated for conservation, efficient use and enrichment of national cultural and natural diversity, they attract environmentally-friendly businesses and types of economic activity. Green tourism could be named as one of the examples. It assumes the full range of services in combination with preservation of the mountains' natural heritage, because these beautiful sites are "the commodity", which local residents offer to tourists and get their reward for this. It is important, though, to adopt the right approach and legalise these activities, which will enable cooperation between neighbouring regions and countries, as well as make available funding from national programmes and international donor organisations.

Implementation of isolated projects, which could not solve all environmental, social and economic problems, especially those that are global and trans-boundary, highlighted the need to create one joint international document that would concentrate the effort of all countries, international donor organisations and NGOs. In 2001, Ukraine was the first to propose a framework convention on protection of the Carpathians. The idea was supported by the United Nations Environmental Programme, which still plays a key role in implementation of the convention. Since initiating till signing of the Convention (2001-2003) there were a number of meetings and expert consultations concerning the official document. From the very beginning, the governments of Italy, Lichtenstein, Austria as well as UNEP and the Alpine Convention provided valuable financial, organisational, technical and informational support. Probably, thanks to this sup-



port, it only took three years to sign the convention, as this procedure usually takes a lot more.

The Carpathian Convention provides for conditions stipulated in other international documents: the Convention on Biodiversity, the Pan-European strategy for preservation of biotic and landscape biodiversity, the programme for Balanced Development of Mountainous Regions, decisions of Krakow conference "the Green Chain of Central and Eastern Europe" (1998), the Programme for development of econetwork in Central and eastern Europe, Bern and Landscape Conventions of the European Council, conventions of UN EEK, decisions of the Danube-Carpathian summits, initiatives of WWF, IUCN, GEF/WB etc.

FROM WORDS TO ACTION

As we can see, the Carpathian Convention is a complex international document, which requires development and adoption of a number of additional official documents (both national and international). It has a specific procedure of entering into force and specific conditions that have to be met. Therefore it's not easy to speak about implementation of the Convention when the preparation has not been fully completed. In Ukraine, a very important role at this stage belongs to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, which is the Convention's Depositary. In order to promote the Carpathian Convention and facilitate the process of implementation the Ministry for Foreign Affairs liaisons with embassies of Ukraine in the countries of the Carpathian region as well as with their embassies in Ukraine, with Ukraine's missions in international organisations, with governments of Carpathian and other European countries. Thus the governments of Italy, Lichtenstein and Austria have been engaged into to the process beside the governments of the Carpathian countries.

However, it is essential that all stakeholders or the so-called users of the convention take part in its development and implementation from the very beginning. These are local, district and regional authorities as well as residents of mountainous regions. A lot is expected from local environmental, social and economic public organisations. It is those organisation that should become an informational bridge between official bodies (and offi-



cial documents) and the local public. Their task is not easy, because information must not only be conveyed, it must be adapted to certain conditions of a certain region and communicated in a simple language, which would avoid using international terminology that is characteristic of international documents. It is very important to generate interest of local communities and attract them to the process. When individuals see their contribution into a community project, they become more energetic in their work for common good. Besides, it is a lot easier to criticise and look for results without taking one's effort to achieve them, rather than get involved directly into the project and make one's small but nonetheless important contribution.

Regional, district and local authorities can promote environmentally-balanced development, encourage conservation activities and efficient resource management at the local level.

Mandatory Action Plans for implementation of the Carpathian Convention at the local level entered into force two years ago. The responsibility or their implementation lies with the Regional State Departments of Environment and Natural Resources as well as managerial bodies of national parks and scientific institutions. They develop specific measures and allocate funding. Regional state Departments of Environment and Natural Resources can get funding from the State Fund for Environmental Protection of Ukraine through tender procedure, and from international environmental organisations through grant procedure.

The Priority directions in Action Plans at the local level:

- preparation of materials for the Carpathians Environment Outlook;
- participation in the Carpathian Convention working groups, which are to define the convention 's implementation geographical area and provide description of the region;
- actions designed to regenerate fish species of the salmon family in mountainous regions of Bukovyna;
- growing rare and valuable plants in order to recreate Carpathian biodiversity in Chernivetsky region;
- experimental research in the derivative forests of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (Transcarpathian region) in order to develop a methodology for selective and systematic cutting of trees;



- establishment of the Carpathian network of protected natural sites in the framework of formation of Ukraine's national ecological network (extending existing sites and adding new ones);
- integrated land resource management in the Carpathian region in Lviv region (based on the Regional programme for land reform in Lviv region for 2001-2005);
- implementation of the Regional programme for protection of land resources from water erosion and other types of degradation in Chernivtsi region;
- integrated water resource management in Ivano-Frankivsk region;
- development of measures for efficient mountainous forest management in Chernivtsi, Lviv, Ivan-Frankivsk and Transcarpathia regions;
- design and development of ecotrails that are to be linked with tourist networks of Poland and Slovakia;
- analysis of international experience and its adaptation to local conditions, provided it does not exceed permissible tourist and recreational pressure on mountainous forests of Ukrainian Carpathians;
- participation of representatives of scientific institutions in risk assessment, evaluation and monitoring of the state of the environment in the Carpathian region;
- renovation of the "nature's Museum", including its administrative and laboratory buildings;
- completion of the exposition of the Museum of Mountain Ecology and Management of Nature.

An important role in Implementation of the Carpathian Convention belongs to scientific institutions, laboratories, research and informational centres, educational institutions, which provide scientific and research support for the convention. These institutions can help with scientific research, project substantiation and staff training for implementation of Carpathian projects.

Since the moment the Carpathian Convention was initiated, the European Academy (EURAC) undertook to provide scientific support for the convention. EURAC is an international innovative scientific and research centre that was established in 1992 in Bolzano, Italy. It is subdivided in nine institutes: Institute for Specialised Communication and Multilingualism, Institute for Studies on Federalism and Regionalism, Institute for Minority Rights, Institute for Alpine Environment, Institute



for Regional Development and Location Management, Institute for Applied Remote Sensing, Institute for Renewable Energy, Institute for Public Management, Institute for Management and Tourism, Institute of Genetic Medicine. EURAC is the Alpine Convention's scientific secretariat. It has conducted a lot of research on conservation and sustainable development of the Alpine Mountains, and now the Carpathians as well. The academy initiated a number of consultations and implemented a number of programmes and projects related to the Carpathian Convention. Today, the academy is working at defining the Carpathian Convention implementation geographical area. Currently, the information is being accumulated and generalised, and the final version will be discussed at the meeting of Member States' experts.

Another international organisation that supports implementation of the Carpathian Convention is the Regional Environmental Centre (REC), based in Budapest, Hungary. Like EURAC, REC provides legislative support for the Convention, involves international and national environmental public organisations into its projects. EURAC and REC in close cooperation with the International Charitable Fund "Ecology. Law. Human" (Lviv) have successfully realised the project "Assessment of national, political and legislative institutional set-ups related to the Carpathian Convention".

In Ukraine, the major organisations that are engaged into conservation and regeneration of the Carpathian are the National Academy of Sciences, Institute for Biology, Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, the Institute for Ecology of the Carpathians. They carry on their work and participate in international projects aimed at implementation of the Carpathian Convention. At the local level, the scientific research on Convention-related issues is conducted by the specialised departments of national parks, biosphere reserves and regional landscape parks.

The main educational and research role on the Convention-related issues belongs to the four national universities in the Carpathian regions of Ukraine:

- Ivan Franko National University of Lviv
- Yuriy Fedkovich National University of Chernivtsi
- Uzhgorod National University
- Vasyl Stefaniuk National University of Prycarpathya



Experts-to-be are mostly trained at biological and geographical departments of the universities. Ivan Franko National University of Lviv has established a new department of Efficient Resource Management and Environmental Protection, which had its first graduation in 2003. This department trains future environmental managers who study geographical, ecological, environmental subjects as well as those related to economics and management. Students can improve their skills and knowledge and gain experience when they take placements in environmental protection institutions and protected sites, in particular in national parks of Ukraine and neighbouring Carpathian countries.

Schools, extracurricular environmental centres, theatres, etc play an important role in raising public environmental awareness at the local level. As we know, love for nature and traditions should be inspired in people from early age. If children get proper environmental education, they will spare natural resources and exercise a balanced management when they grow up. Besides, children educate their parents who have to answer their numerous questions.

A very important role in the process of moving from words to action is played by environmental public organisations of all levels: international (including donors), national, regional and local. Public organisations that are affiliated to local protected sites deserve mention. Each of them performs specific functions and makes a contribution, and there is so much to do for everyone! Of course, local public organisations should be more active because it's about their region, where their activists live. Besides, who knows better than the locals the region's problems and how to solve them? These organisations also have an important task of informing the public on implementation of the Convention. They should involve members of the public into environmental protection activities, conduct public hearings on specific issues, listen to the members of the public, sum up and forward their ideas/proposals.



THE CONVENTION ENTERS INTO FORCE

The Carpathian Convention has the same mechanism of entering into force and termination as other international conventions. It was signed on May 22, 2003. Initially six countries - Romania, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia and Ukraine - put their signatures under the document. Poland joined at the end of 2003. After signing the convention, the countries must ratify it at the national level (in Ukraine the national instrument of ratification is the Law of Ukraine) and send the ratification letter to the Depositary. In order that the Convention could enter into force, it must be ratified by more than half of the countries that signed it (4 countries in this case). According to the procedure, the Convention enters into force on the 90th day after the ratification letter from the fourth country was received. The date of entering into force is the date when the Depositary received the fourth ratification letter.

Country	Signing	Ratification	Deposit of the Instrument of Ratification
The Czech Republic	22.05.2003	13.06.2005	26.07.2005
Hungary	22.05.2003	21.05.2004	06.10.2005
Poland	25.11.2003	21.03.2006	19.06.2006
Romania	22.05.2003	13.10.2006	
Serbia and Montenegro	22.05.2003		
The Slovak Republic	22.05.2003	03.03.2004	11.05.2004
Ukraine	22.05.2003	07.04.2004	11.05.2004

Hungary became the fourth country that sent the ratification letter in October 2005. Thus, the Carpathian Convention entered into force on January 4, 2006. Since then Poland has ratified the Convention (June 19, 2006) and so has done Romania (October 13, 2006).

Any changes or amendments to the convention are posted to all countries via the Secretariat six months in advance of the session of the Convention



(the conference of Contracting Parties), during which these changes are discussed and either adopted or declined.

A similar procedure is developed for the Convention Protocols. Only a Contracting Party to the Convention can become a Party to the Protocol. Protocols are developed by all member states and also posted to others via the Secretariat six months in advance of the conference. Protocols can be signed at other international conferences.

Only one draft protocol has been developed so far - the Protocol on biological and landscape diversity. It is authored by Ukraine (the Ministry for Environmental Protection), which is a significant fact for this country. It was agreed with appropriate government bodies, scientific institutions and public organisations, translated into the English language and posted to the Convention's Interim Secretariat. The Secretariat distributed the English version among all Carpathian countries. Another draft protocol - on sustainable tourism development - is being prepared now by CEEWEB, an international NGO.

(Detailed information about the 1st Conference of Parties and its official documents is available at:

<https://www.carpathianconvention.org>)



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LIAISON AMONG THE CARPATHIAN PROJECTS

(Based on results of the international round table "Partnership for Implementation of the Carpathian Convention: Achievements and Further Actions", which took place on 13th July, 2006 in the village of Sheshory, Kosiv district, Ivano-Frankivsk region)

For the past three years the International Festival of Ethnic Music and Land-Art "Sheshory" has provided a place of meeting for environmental NGO members from Ukraine and abroad, musicians and artists, officials, rural residents and journalists, where they got together and discussed the problems of implementation of the Carpathian Convention at the local level. Their ideas and recommendations were circulated by the media and via international information networks.

The Carpathian Convention implementation programmes have already been designed and are already working in a number of countries. We aspire to learn from our colleagues, to exchange information about current activities and experience gained in other countries, to facilitate further liaison between projects and the Carpathian Convention implementation programmes, to demonstrate achievements, to bring international liaison to the attention of mass media, to promote the Carpathian Convention as an example that should be followed by other mountainous regions in the world.

The meeting in Sheshory made it obvious that the projects for sustainable development of the Carpathians, run by different organisations, are poorly interlinked. There is no informational exchange in place, projects are often not aware of the existence of other similar projects, which results in reduplication of activities and irrational use of resources. Unfortunately,



there is no informational resource, which would contain complete information about national and international organisations in the region, because their projects are supported by various bodies and programmes in different countries. The Carpathian Convention Secretariat has no appropriate database either, nor is the information collected by the local authorities and environmental offices.

It is obvious that the projects have different tasks and objectives. There are projects that research the situation in the Carpathians in general, there are scientific and theoretical developments, and there are very practical projects. The need for informational bridges between these projects is obvious. A few projects are working to establish a communications system, but lack of proper communication channels is an impediment to progress. Some regions have no e-mail access, and using the conventional mail makes the information exchange considerably slower. Libraries, which were proposed to be used as informational centres, are not popular with the public. The regional informational centres, which have been an item for discussion for over three years, never started working. Moreover, potential and supposedly interested parties have shown no real interest in establishing liaison so far.

Most recommendation that had been made at previous meetings in Sheshory have not been implemented yet. However, the problems were identified, ways to improve liaison among the projects were found (some of them are listed below), which should bring on further achievements.

LIAISON AMONG THE CARPATHIAN PROJECTS: THE LIST OF DON'TS

- do not isolate your own project;
- do not count on your own abilities only;
- do not withhold information on your activities;
- do not expect that all interested parties and groups of influence will demonstrate immediate understanding and support;
- do not use only one channel of communication;



- do not expect local communities to give immediate feedback to your achievements and start implementing your project;
- do not expect the authorities to give you a prompt support;
- do not expect mass media to pay any special attention to your project;
- do not expect a quick change in the attitude of the public to sustainable development projects.

LIAISON AMONG THE CARPATHIAN PROJECTS: THE LIST OF DO'S

- spread information about your project as actively as you can;
- use different channels of informing (mass-media, e-mail, the Internet, conventional mail, libraries, informational centres, etc.)
- improve the system of informing at all levels;
- organise on-line meetings between participants of different projects;
- make personal contacts with people who might be interested in establishing liaison;
- create a database about your current activities and achievements;
- tell about your achievements and share your problems;
- lobby official environmental bodies for creation of accessible informational resources;
- organise educational campaigns for government officials of all levels about the Carpathian projects and dissemination of information about the latter in all regions;
- support the development of sustainable green tourism, which could help to unite individual projects and establish a liaison between them;
- maintain contacts with the staff of natural parks and reserves, which should assume their role in providing educational and informational services for the public;
- when developing your project, take into account the need to conduct continuous educational work with the public;
- be patient.



THE CARPATHIAN PROJECTS (IN UKRAINIAN CONTEXT)

Carpathians Environment Outlook (KEO)

is preparing by UNEP DEWA GRID with partly co-financing by the EU Carpathian Project. It will become the basic document with scientific approach, data collection and analysis. Working groups which include scientists from all Carpathian countries set up and started their work. Publication and launch of KEO report expected in June 2007.

An "Umbrella" project

developed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in cooperation with the Italian Ministry for the Environment and Territory, European Academy (EURAC) and Regional Environmental Centre (REC), aims at establishing a sound scientific basis for decision-making and strengthening the institutional arrangements for and stakeholder participation in the implementation of the Carpathian Convention.

The ongoing project consists of

- Assessment of the policy, legal and institutional frameworks related to the Carpathian Convention, so, will have as outcomes an assessment in each of Carpathian Countries of the extent to which the national policy, legal and institutional frameworks support the implementation of the principles promoted by the Carpathian Convention. The outcome shall be used by donors as an instrument for establishing a strategic direction for financing projects related to the Carpathian Convention and it will also be an instrument for the countries to move forward on adapting their policy, institutional and legislative set-up to ensure consistency with the Convention's requirements.

- Preparation of the Carpathian Convention Handbook, targeted to local authorities in Carpathian countries. The book will investigate the synergies of the Convention with multilateral environmental agreements and will spell out the different articles of the Convention, with illustrations of the relevant practices in the Carpathian and Alpine regions. As the Carpathian agreement has been developed following the model of the Alpine Convention, stakeholders will benefit from the lessons learned during its 10 years of implementation. The handbook will be distributed to relevant stakeholders.



- Development of a regional report based on the findings of the national assessments that will summarise common priority issues in the implementation of the Convention. The regional report will include a set of comprehensive recommendations for streamlining implementation efforts targeted to donors, governments and civil society organisations. The report will be a planning tool for investments towards sustainable development of the Carpathians. The regional report will be prepared by REC and EURAC experts. It will be published by the REC in English and will be distributed to governments, international organisations, donors, NGOs, and local authorities.

- Organising in each country roll-out workshops in the national language(s) for local and regional authorities focusing on specific legal aspects of the Convention, based on the handbook. The REC and EURAC will develop the training materials and will deliver the training sessions together with national experts.

More information:

<http://www.rec.org/REC/Programs/EnvironmentalLaw/carpathian/>

Development of a Carpathian Ecological Network

The project "Strengthening the capacities of the Carpathian Eco-Region Network (CERI) in supporting the implementation of the Carpathian Convention" is running by Wageningen International (the Netherlands), CERI (Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative) , WWF-DCP (A), Bio/consult (DK) and DAPHNE (Institute of Applied Ecology, Slovakia). It aims to develop a transboundary ecological network linking hotspots for biodiversity across the Carpathians. The project was funded by the Dutch government under the BBI-Matra Program. Wageningen International holds the overall responsibility for the project implementation, CERI acts as Local Project Implementation organization. Partners in the project are Alterra (NL), DAPHNE - Institute of Applied Ecology (SK), ECNC (NL), Orbicon (DK), WWF-DCP (A) and Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention. The implementation process started in April 2006 and the project will last three years. Due to the conditions of the Netherlands government the project will focus primarily on non-EU members of the Carpathians: Ukraine, Romania and Serbia but will not be limited to these countries.

More information:

Anna Guttova - The Local Programme Manager (guttova@changenet.sk)



High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF)

"Adaptation and implementation of methodology for identification of high conservation value forests (HCVF) in Ukraine". The project is carried out by the Danube-Carpathian Programme of the World Wildlife Fund (Vienna) and is funded by Ikea.

The project's objectives:

"adaptation, approbation, and implementation of the methodology for identification of high conservation value forests (HCVF) in Ukraine as a tool for forest certification, land tenure, reforestation and preservation of the environment.

"distribution of the adapted, approved and published version to all interested parties.

Project duration: 2006-2008

More information: Oxana Stankevych ostankevych@hotmail.com

Building Capacity for Practical Participation and Implementation - Carpathian Convention in Ukraine

The goal of the project is to improve social and economical situation of local people through building capacity within key agencies and stakeholders for participation and practical implementation of the Carpathian Convention in Ukraine. It will help to increase the capacity of key stakeholders including local authorities in the region to ensure effective public participation and enhanced environmental decision-making.

Establishing effective working relationships between key stakeholder groups will ensure effective cooperation and successful implementation of practical activities to support the Carpathian Convention, provide a mechanism for support and cooperation with UNEP to implement the Carpathian Convention within Ukraine, taking into account the EECCA Strategy.

The project started in December 2005 and follows till December 2006. The project is implementing by Information center "Green Dossier" in partnership with LEAD International (UK) and NGO Center of public initiatives (Ukraine, Kosiv town) with funding from the United Kingdom "Environment for Europe Fund" and supported by the UK Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and British Council, as part of Small Environmental Project Scheme.

More information: www.dossier.kiev.ua



Practical examples of sustainable agriculture

"Implementation of environmental approaches into agriculture for sustainable development of Kosiv region" , SEPS local project financed by DEFRA, implemented by the National Nature Park "Hutsulshina" (Kosiv, Ivano-Frankivsk region of Ukraine).

The programme is designed to reduce anthropogenic pressure on the natural resources and promotes mass cultivation of medicinal plants, berries, mushrooms, Christmas trees, breeding of aboriginal livestock. Cultivation of medicinal plants and berries will reduce the loss of biomass from the natural ecosystems, including the species that are on the verge of extinction. It will help to preserve and regenerate biodiversity, produce organic products for the recreation industry and local population. It will increase productivity and profitability of agriculture (especially in mountainous regions), reduce unemployment and improve the standards of living.

More information: park <park@email.su>

Strengthening Public Participation in the Implementation of the Carpathian Convention

ANPED (Northern Alliance for Sustainability) is co-ordinating a project to facilitate public participation in the decision-making process of the Carpathian Convention. The aim is to support communities and local stakeholders, to ensure that their views and priorities are reflected in the official decision-making processes and contribute to the effective implementation of the Carpathian Convention.

Over the last years ANPED members and partners co-ordinated a programme of stakeholder consultations and roundtable events which took place in all of the seven Carpathian countries. These events brought together a broad cross-section of Carpathian stakeholders to identify their concerns and priorities for the implementation of the Convention. Their recommendations form part of ANPED's contribution to the Carpathian Convention.

The co-ordinating organisations have also undertaken investigations into the level of information known about the Convention, lobbied for its ratification, sought to stimulate interest and practical activities within each country, and established liaison with the official Convention focal points,



to consult on future plans the Convention's implementation. The ANPED project is also investigating how the cultural heritage of the Carpathians is intrinsically linked with stewardship of natural resources and sustainable development of the region.

More information: www.anped.org

The Mountain Partnership

The initiative 'International Partnership for Sustainable Development of Mountain Regions' was launched at the World Summit for Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, South Africa) by FAO, UNEP and the Government of Switzerland on behalf of the 15 member countries of the International Year of Mountain Focus Group. It covers specific themes - like policy and law, sustainable livelihoods, watershed management, research, gender, education, sustainable agriculture and rural development in mountains (SARD-M) - and different geographic areas such as the Andes, Central America and the Caribbean, Central Asia, East Africa, Europe and the Hindu Kush Himalaya.

The Mountain Partnership is hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The Secretariat is acting as a central reference point for networking and liaison for the Mountain Partnership and is collaborating closely with the Mountain Forum to deliver key information and communication services to all Partnership members.

Successful cooperation between UNEP Vienna-Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and the FAO Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountains (SARD-M) Project resulted in the strengths and weaknesses assessments of the SARD-M related policies in the Carpathians and workshop recommendations on the SARD-M policies in the Carpathian Mountains.

More information: http://mountains.unep.ch/mtn/intl_partnership.html

Conserving globally significant biodiversity and mitigation/reducing environmental risk in Ukraine's Carpathian region

According to Memorandum on Understanding between the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine and the United Nations Development Programme for the Cooperation on Sustainable Development, Environment and Energy, signed on May 25, 2004, the UNDP had prepared and the



Global Environmental Facility (GEF) approved the project proposal (PDF A) "Conserving globally significant biodiversity and mitigation/reducing environmental risk in Ukraine's Carpathians". Goal of the Project is enhancement of biodiversity conservation in the Carpathians by means of institutional capacity reinforcement, improvement of the forest management system and favoring its sustainable development, and rational use of the natural resources.

The Project corresponds with national and regional programs on forestry and agrarian industry intended to support sustainable and effective development of the sectors, to conserve biodiversity and prevent land degradation. On the local level the Project will support regional forest managerial units and forest enterprises, local authorities, communities and protected areas to provide sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation. Integrated approach streamlines the Project and the activities are elaborated in the way to combine traditional methods of protected areas management with innovative and more efficient mechanisms of biodiversity conservation in productive forests. The approach will ensure continuous harvesting of forests for commercial purposes in order to conserve and renew unique and endangered species of flora and fauna in Ukrainian Carpathians and Crimean Mountains where the biodiversity is of exceptional richness and landscapes are of high environmental importance. Also a model of sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation will be developed.

More information: <http://www.undp.org.ua/?page=projects&&projects=29>

The Central European Initiative (CEI)

is supporting activities in the field of sustainable transport under the Carpathian Convention.

EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project

makes an important scientific and financial contribution to the Work programme of the Carpathian Convention for the period of 2005-2008.

"The Carpathian Opportunity"

ecoregional initiative to create and sustain a green light for jobs and businesses in the Carpathians proposed by WWF.



WHY DO THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN THE CARPATHIAN REGION NEED THE CONVENTION?

Two days before the round table in Sheshory, the region was hard hit by the elements. Small and placid in the summer, mountain streams turned into roaring flows and destroyed around 200 bridges, damaged houses and sheds, machinery and cattle - the assets people had accumulated over the years of hard work. The estimated cost of damages in Kosiv district reached tens of millions of dollars. This often happens in mountain areas. During the round table, local people and experts tried to establish what had caused the calamity. Among the major causes they named were:

- firstly, the structure of forests had been changed - unsustainable felling and management weakened the traditional protective function of the forests.

- secondly, abandoning of old methods of protection of rivers and inefficiency of protection systems that are in place at present.

- thirdly, piles of rubbish at river banks and in the water, which multiply the destructive force of the elements.

All these causes are directly linked to the contents of the Carpathian Convention, which is designed to solve these problems and ensure sustainable development of the region.

In everyday life, people who live in the Carpathian region face numerous ecologically-, socially-, and economically-related problems that are caused by the state of the environment. The most typical problems of people of mountainous regions are listed below.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS:

Spring:

Floods that destroy river banks causing land erosion and landslides. Sudden rising of water in rivers and streams washes away river beds, flood agricultural fields, bringing stones and debris. This makes agricultural lands



useless for at least two or three years, until their owners clean them from stones. Floods also destroy houses and sheds, kill livestock.

Moreover, floods destroy roads and bridges, which are difficult to build and maintain as they are. After floods, some settlements get cut off from civilisation.

Summer:

1. Heavy rain, tornados, hail, lightning destroy crops and livestock, making traditional agriculture (e.g. hay mowing) impossible. They also destroy mountain roads, which prevents farmers from bringing hay down from the mountains.

At the same time, during heat waves, grass in mountain valleys goes dry and becomes scarce. And there is less grass in the years to come because of loss of seeds.

2. Mass tree felling (mostly illegal) destroys forests and upsets the natural balance in forests. Deforestation causes more aggressive flooding, "bare" land is more susceptible to gales and tornadoes. In addition, deforestation upsets life balance of forest population - animals and insects. Mass export of timber destroys mountain roads - heavy trucks create huge holes in the road surface (which is dangerous at the edges of precipices). Eventually the roads become unfit for use.

3. Damage caused by predators - they attack sheep, goats and cows in the mountain valleys.

4. Illegal hunting for animals, including those registered in the Red Book of Ukraine.

5. Fish poaching in mountainous rivers, especially the trout, a. very valuable species.

6. Mass gathering of forest fruit: blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, mountain cranberries and mushrooms.

Autumn:

Excess precipitation and continuous rain make it extremely difficult to gather crops (fruit and vegetables) and cause root vegetables such as potatoes, carrots, beetroot, onions and garlic to rot in the ground.



Winter:

1. Mass cutting of fir trees before Christmas holidays.
2. Due to heavy snow, remote mountainous settlements become isolated (roads get snowed over, power failure due to damage to electricity transmission lines).
3. Livestock get attacked by wild animals, who find it hard to find food during long winters.

SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL PROBLEMS:

1. Lack of jobs, unemployment, low incomes force people aged 18-55 to go abroad in search of work. Young people, especially the ones who have no higher education or skills, have to emigrate to do low-skilled and low-paid work abroad. This has negative effects on local economy, households as well as destroys marriages and deprives children of parental attention. (A lot of children are being looked after by grandparents).

2. The people who stay in unpromising villages degrade - they become addicted to alcohol and drugs. There is a lack of labourers who could be hired for seasonal agricultural work.

3. Transport problems. It seems that the transport only works for rich people these days. It is extremely difficult for an average farmer to find and to afford agricultural machinery. The public transport system is not working, the infrastructure is absent.

Most of the problems listed above are caused by neglecting environmental issues and overlooking sustainable principles in developing economic policies. The Carpathian Convention was created in order to solve those problems and empower local people and provide them with legal tools, which will allow them to create a better and sustainable life for themselves. However, it is impossible to successfully implement this document in everyday life until local people realise its importance and its role in their life. Therefore, it is vital to keep explaining the official language and the meaning of the convention in an understandable language of examples from everyday life.