



Draft Terms of Reference for the Working Group on sustainable tourism *(Submitted for consideration and approval of COP1 Bureau /Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee)*

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”, a subsidiary body of the Convention, established pursuant to Decision COP1/3 para 4.

Aim and tasks

The Working Group (WG) will 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 COP1/10 para 2, the main goal of the Working Group is the elaboration and negotiation of a strategy for the future tourism development of the Carpathians and of a draft tourism protocol.

Field of activities

1) Draft Tourism Protocol

Pursuant to Decision COP1/10 para 2, the Working Group will elaborate and negotiate the Draft Tourism Protocol.

2) Tourism Strategy

Pursuant to Decision COP1/10 para 2, the Working Group will elaborate and negotiate a strategy for the future tourism development of the Carpathians. The Tourism Strategy will outline the measures that are necessary for the implementation of the Tourism Protocol and therefore will be finalised after the final draft of the Tourism Protocol is developed.

3) Contribution to the follow-up platform



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

List of results

- Strategy for the future tourism development of the Carpathians with Annexes
- Draft of the Tourism Protocol with Annexes
- Proposed inputs for COP2 of the Carpathian Convention, such as inputs to a ministerial declaration to be considered by COP2
- Information documents for COP2, such as draft Tourism Protocol and outline of the Tourism Strategy
- WG Progress Report for submission to COP2
- A list of follow-up actions and proposals

Composition and organization of work

The participation in the Working Group on sustainable tourism is open-ended. The members of the Working Group are delegated by the Parties to the Carpathian Convention and may represent different sectors (economy, environment, tourism, etc.).

The Working Group will take into account the inputs of stakeholders, including governments at all levels, international and non-governmental organisations and initiatives, as well as indigenous peoples, local communities, the private sector and other stakeholders shall be involved to contribute to the actions related to the future cooperation under the Carpathian Convention and its implementation in the framework of sustainable tourism, also by using the means of electronic consultation.

The Working Group elects its chair, co-chair and rapporteur to guide its proceedings.

The Central and East European Working Group for the Enhancement of Biodiversity (CEEWEB) provides continuous inputs to the Working Group.

The Working Group will meet at least twice between COP1 and COP2 and its meetings will be financially supported by the EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project. The tentative schedule of the Working Group is as follows:

1. First Meeting – April 2007, Czech Republic;
2. Reporting to the Carpathian Convention Extended Bureau Meeting – October 2007;
3. Reporting to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee Meeting – April 2008;
4. Second Meeting – April 2008, Poland.;



Coordination and cooperation

According to Decision COP1/3 “Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention”, the Secretariat is requested to ensure a continuous exchange and inter-linkage between the work and activities under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee and the work and activities under the EU INTERREG IIIB CADSES Carpathian Project.

Scientific contributions and background information

The Working Group will benefit inter alia from the inputs provided by:

1. Carpathian Environment Outlook (KEO), which will provide a holistic and integrated assessment of the current state and future trends of the Carpathian environment;
2. Handbook on the Carpathian Convention prepared in the framework of the Umbrella Project financed by the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS) and implemented by the Regional Environmental Centre (REC) in partnership with the European Academy (EURAC);
3. National assessments of the policy, legislative and institutional frameworks related to the Carpathian Convention, available in English and national-language versions, prepared in the framework of the Umbrella Project financed by IMELS;
4. Preparatory and accompanying activities of the INTERREG IIIB CADSES “Carpathian Project”; this project will provide inputs to the WG through, inter alia:
 - Background document “Sustainable Tourism Opportunities in the Carpathians” prepared by CEEWEB
 - Methodology and tools for tourism infrastructure in margin and remote areas (methodology and tools) / Via Carpatica
 - Developing professional skills in tourism – tools and methods, Handbook for local authorities and development actors
 - Carpathian Cultural, Historic and Social Topography