



Report from Stakeholder Meeting in Hungary

Location: 5th December, 2005, Miskolc, Hungary

Hosted by: CEEWEB in cooperation with REC and Green Action Hungary

Agenda of the Meeting

- 9:00 – 9:30** Registration
- 9:30 – 10:00** Opening of the meeting, and presentation of the agenda (Green Action, CEEWEB, REC)
- 10:00 - 10:30** The Carpathian Convention and its implementation
Dana Carmen Romanescu (REC, Environmental Law Programme)
- 10:30 – 11:00** Carpathian Convention: tasks and priorities in Hungary
István Pomázi (Ministry of Environment and Water)

- 11:00 – 11:20** Coffee break

- 11:20 – 12:00** The status of the Carpathian Convention in Hungary; results of the review

- 12:00 - 13:00** Lunch

- 13:00 – 15:00** Working Groups and reporting back the results (WG Environment, WG Impacts and Tools)
- 15:00 – 15:30** Recommendations and notes in connection with the review of the Convention
- 15:30 – 16:30** Public participation in the implementation of the Carpathian Convention involving the stakeholders into the decision making
- 16:30 – 17:00** Closing of the meeting

Discussion:

A) Format of the discussion

There were two Working Group discussions covering the following topics:

Working Group Environment:

Biodiversity and cultural heritage and traditional knowledge (art. 4 and art. 11), sustainable and integrated water/river basin management, sustainable agriculture and forestry (art. 6 and 7)

Working Group Impacts and Tools:

Impacts: transport and infrastructure, tourism, industry and energy (art. 8, 9 and 10)

Tools: Integrated approach to the land resources management, spatial planning, Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning, Awareness raising, education and public participation (art. 3, 5, 12 and 13)
Each WG received a piece of paper with the text of the relevant articles and the following questions:

1. Please list the issues that need to be further addressed/corrected in the current draft national assessment.
2. Please list the main achievements and obstacles in the sectors covered by the WG.
3. Please list priority areas of action for implementation of principles provided for in the respective articles of the Convention.
4. Please list your main expectations from the Convention.

B) Narrative summary of the discussion (with key points and specific questions or topics that were raised).

Hereafter we report the result of the stakeholder meeting and the additional information from the questionnaires.

The WGs and the questioned stakeholders have overlooked the related articles of the Convention and has come to following general conclusions:

- There is a need for collecting information on real problems that occur in the region instead of institutional and legal details
- The WG members would like to get much more concrete information on the Convention and on results (this information was the same in the questionnaire)
- There is a need for improvement of public access to information on national languages
- They would like to be involved in the implementation process and they are open for cooperation in this respect

The specific comments were the following:

Biological and landscape diversity, sustainable use of resources

- Unsustainable life style has to be changed; consumerism has to be reduced in order to sustain traditional local life styles
- Limiting harmful technical sports, like cross motor sport
- Building capacity at local authorities
- Fund raising for development projects
- Solving the problem of no cooperation between different authorities and institutions
- Giving priority to bottom-up decision process instead of top-down (e.g.political) decisions
- Paying attention to social dimensions like depopulation of villages
- Developing cooperation along the borders by better coordination and harmonisation of interests
- Lowering the industrial pollution
- Paying more attention to :
 - Controlling and supervising
 - Rationalising legislation
 - Taking into account social aspects as well

Cultural heritage, traditional knowledge

- It is top priority for Hungary!
- Stop aging and depopulation
- Stop consumerism and non-sustainable life style models
- Preferring local knowledge, bottom-up decisions based on local knowledge
- Lack in funds and subsidies for preserving cultural heritage
- Hopefully there is a narrow layer in society who are committed to sustainability
- There is a need for:
 - Ensuring subsidies and continuity both in institutional and financial terms
 - Appreciation of local knowledge and its documentation and use!
 - Promoting paradigm shift in people's mind

Sustainable and integrated river basin management

- It is top priority for Hungary!
- The river basin management plan should be made by local experts (not expensive foreign experts)
- The drinking water reserves are defined differently along the borders: e.g. River Bódva is drinking water according Hungarian authorities, but not according to Slovakian authorities, that leads to different environmental limit values in legislation
- No inconsistency in legislation: e.g. opposite principles in water management and conservation legislation
- Should be prediction or early warning in international context (avoiding late or lost information)
- Opposite interests of the countries in water management
- Modernizing the indication and measuring system
- Attention should be paid to:
 - Ensuring correct information
 - Harmonising the interests
 - International cooperation

Sustainable agriculture and forest management

- Problems:
 - The traditional land use systems are not profitable today without enormous subsidies
 - The logic of market and the need for competitiveness does not benefit the sustainable agriculture
 - Not clear and consistent legislation, too much contradiction
 - Many opposite interest between the sectors and also inside the sectors (e.g.: forest management has to produce profit but also has to provide the natural resource!)
- Positive: there are nice plans and good slogans
- Attention has to be paid to:
 - Clear and unambiguous legislation
 - Harmonising the interests
 - Commitment towards sustainability (in practice not only in principle!)

C) List of outcomes

List of priorities

- Conserving cultural heritage and diversity, traditional knowledge
- Applying sustainable and integrated river basin management practices
- Enhancing environmental safety
- Integrated river basin management
- Conserving biological and landscape diversity (3 National Parks are affected)
- Sustainable economic development
- Environmental education

List of recommendations

- Holistic view and integrated approach during the implementation
- Next steps identified by the group
- Announcement of the Carpathian Convention
- Defining the geographical scope of the Carpathian Convention
- Preparation for the COP1
- Preparation for the Protocols
- There are many useful relationships of the stakeholders that should be used by implementing the Convention
- There are already institutions that are working for the goals of the Conventions, it would be wise to contact them
- It would be important to involve teachers and pedagogists into the process
- The implementation of the Convention should be well-coordinated, the stakeholders need technical guidance and consultation

Next plans for the project

- Follow-up the history of the Convention and the news from the COPs
- Keeping in touch with the National Focal Point of the Convention
- Distributing information on CEEWEB website on the Convention and on the preparation for the COP and on the COP itself
- Promoting the Cultural heritage protocol
- Preparing a publication on the Convention in Hungarian

The stakeholders agreed that the CC is too general, so they do not expect to much benefit from the implementation process. However they believe that the CC will help implementing the already existing principles, like early warning, prevention, polluter-pays and so on.

The stakeholders fear that the Carpathian Convention will have no real effects, so the nice ideas will not be translated into action and the Convention will not be implemented. The most important expectations that were mentioned were the better environmental safety and concrete, action-oriented information on the future Protocols of the Convention.

Participant List: Hungarian stakeholder list for the evaluation of the implementation of the Carpathian Convention.

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