



Sustainable development in the Carpathians: from local needs to international rules

(The international round table for implementation of the Carpathian convention in the framework of the International world music and land art festival “Sheshory-2005”
July 13 2005, Village of Sheshory, Kosiv district, Ivano-Frankivsk region, Ukraine)

Objectives:

- 1) to support the Carpathian Convention implementation in parts of Articles 8 Sustainable Tourism and Article 11 Cultural Heritage and Traditional.
- 2) to raise public awareness on the Carpathian Convention and public participation in its implementation.
- 3) to involve non-environmental structures into the process.
- 4) to recognize a strong link between the loss of cultural heritage and the loss of biodiversity.

Tasks:

- 1) to inform the participants about implementation of the Carpathian Convention in Ukraine and other countries as well as provide information about national and international projects
- 2) To share experience, to analyze together achievements and needs.
- 3) To discuss possible actions that need to be taken for implementation of the Carpathian Convention and involvement of the public into this activity.
- 4) To work out recommendations about development of balanced tourism and preservation of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge.

Event description

The round table started with an unplanned action – presentation of the exhibition “100% Natural. Exercises on the nature”. The exhibition was put on by a Romania-based public organisation “Bukovyna” and introduced by Romeo Sandulesku, the General Consul of Romania in the city of Chernivtsi. Before the beginning of the round table Mr. Sandulesku, Loreta Kautes and Costel Calinescu, representatives of the public organisation “Bucovina” had a meeting with Yaroslav Mykhaylyshyn, first deputy head of Kosiv state administration and Tamara Malkova, director of “Green Dossier”. The meeting was focused on establishing twinning relationships between Kosiv and one of towns in Romania as well as forming a partnership between the two museums and collaboration between environmental NGOs in Ukraine and Romania.

The participants of the round table were provided with information about implementation of the Carpathian Convention, about actions that had been taken during the year, about international projects. It was also suggested that they should discuss proposals put forward by the 4th “Green Platform” conference. The participants of the round table received a Greeting Message from Harald Egerer, head of the Carpathian Convention Secretariat where the latter described the progress made and outlined prime tasks.

Maria Potabenko and Georgiy Bondaruk, experts of the UNDP/GEF project “Preservation of unique biological diversity and reduction of the negative impact on the natural environment of the Ukrainian Carpathians and the Crimean Mountains” highlighted major goals and objectives of the project that is designed to promote sustainable forest management and preservation of unique diversity of flora and fauna in mountainous forests of Ukraine. The project experts invited all interested parties to join them and expressed their hopes about further effective partnership.

Links between different clauses of the Carpathian Convention, the need to preserve biodiversity, cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and development of environmentally balanced tourism, achievements and problems were the main topic of discussion brought up by representatives of Romania-based NGO “Bucovina”, Bojan Jotsov, journalist from Bulgarian radio, Olexiy Lytvynenko, an artist from Kiev and residents of Kosiv region.

Olga Sokolova, head of the Tourism Department of Ivano-Frankivsk Regional State Administration highlighted the objectives that must be worked towards by the state tourism authorities. Oksana Dovhun, head of Kosiv District Tourism Association “Huzulia” focused around country tourism, which undergoes intensive development in Kosiv district.

The future of the National park “Huzulshchyna”, which includes the village of Sheshory as well, caused heated debates among the participants of the round table. Public environmental organisations are concerned that the regional and district authorities might be planning to close down the park. The situation was made clear at the press-conference that took place after the round table. Roman Tkach, head of Ivano-Frankivsk Regional State Administration and Mychailo Tsyok, head of Kosiv District State Administration said that communities of five villages refuse to become a part of the park. There are also problems with park management. At the moment regional and district authorities are studying these problems but close down of the park is not being considered at all. The participants of the round table are convinced that such structures as park “Huzulshchyna” should be made more significant as centres of educational activities. It is structures like this one that they should become cultural and educational centres, they should promote development of environmentally-friendly tourism, which must bring economic dividends to local residents without harming the nature.

The participants of the round table got back to the conclusions that had been made at the such-like meeting during the festival last year. They admitted that the same tasks remain burning and they should continue working at them.

The participants supported the proposals put forward by the “Green Platform” and agreed that the public must take part in developing the Carpathian Convention protocols.

After the round table the regional and district authorities and the General Consul of Romania held a heated press-conference.

The round table was held by Information centre “Green Dossier” in partnership with the “Centre for Public Initiative” (Kosiv) in the framework of the ANPED (Northern Alliance for Sustainability) project “Strengthening Public Participation in the Implementation of the Carpathian Convention”, with support of OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

Recommendations

of the international round table “Sustainable Development in the Carpathians: from local needs to international rules”

(in the framework of the International world music and land art festival “Sheshory-2005”

(July 13, 2005, the village of Sheshory, Kosiv district, Ivano-Frankivsk region)

- at the time when European countries undergo integration processes in the EU it is important to preserve uniqueness of different cultures and avoid losing local peculiarities of each region and each country.
- It is necessary to take into account ecological features of each country.
- At the same time common interests should be considered in protection of biodiversity in the Carpathian region.
- Development of tourism is necessary for the economy and improvement of social standards of local residents, but it must be environmentally-aware, it must consider the needs of preservation of biodiversity and cultural heritage.
- Country green tourism should become a foundation for preservation of the traditional way of life and cultural heritage in regions.
- Preservation of wildlife in the Carpathians remains a burning problem. Development of tourism, forest management and different types of small enterprise should not make a negative influence on wild life.
- The attitude to forests and forest management should be based on the balanced approach.
- Reserve areas and national parks should play a key role in environmental education and popularisation of environmentally-friendly tourism.
 - o National parks and reserves should establish educational and information centres that would promote environmental principles and at the same time would not halt natural life and development;
 - o There should be formed a country-wide information and education system in reserve areas;
 - o Public awareness about the state and objectives of reserve areas should be raised continuously. People should get objective information and local communities should be involved into these activities.
- The role of public organisations should increase at all levels
 - o It is necessary to develop mechanisms of public influence on government bodies and improve their partnership;
 - o To promote development of the voluntary movement for nature protection.
- Sustainable development of regions should incorporate interests of government bodies, local communities and business, which will facilitate economic progress, create new jobs and result in development of transport and energy infrastructures without harming the environment
- Preservation of traditional knowledge, promotion of traditional crafts, and attention to craftsmen who are still working in the region is one of the most pressing tasks both for the authorities and public organisations. Support for existing museums and collections, establishment of new ones, inclusion of these objects into tourist routes, informing and development of special projects (e.g. creation of a hutsul village) – these actions rank high in their importance.
- Involving artists into promotion of environmentalism and sustainable development is a good way of raising public awareness. The festival of artists and musicians promotes tourism and inspires young people’s respect for traditional heritage, helps to support and develop them.
- The law on ethnic and cultural reserves needs practical implementation

What needs to be done in order to carry out these recommendation:

- to have more information about each other by means of
 - o setting up information networks
 - o joint projects
 - o meetings
 - o working experience exchange between experts from different countries, their participation in events in other countries
 - o cultural events (the festival)
 - o promotion of Ukrainian culture
- to organise information exchange and involve residents of other parts of Ukraine into protection of Carpathian traditions and development of the region
- to establish information centres (in Kosiv, in particular) which will have specialised press editions
- to foster experience of other countries and regions and spread it in neighbouring countries
- to promote development of environmentally-friendly households (special attention should be paid to waste management), to advertise advanced technologies
- to intensify the information campaign on the Carpathian Convention
- to mount educational campaigns on environmentally-friendly tourism
- to initiate and support green tourism education and training
- to support the proposals of the “Green Platform” on participation of the public in development of the Carpathian Convention protocols.

Questions to colleagues from the Carpathian region countries

1. What organizations in your country deal with issues of cultural heritage preservation?
2. What organizations deal with the Carpathian Convention implementation?
3. How does the Carpathian Convention link environmental culturological organizations?
4. What is the legislation for preservation of cultural heritage like?
5. What can we learn from you?
6. What would you like to learn from others?
7. How would you draw up a tourist route in your country:
 - a. What cultural objects what you include into the route?
 - b. How can those objects attract the tourists?
8. What cultural heritage (objects) in your country need immediate protection?
9. What do you do to protect them?