

Recommendations on the implementation of

The Framework Convention on the Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians

Elaborated during the International Conference

"Ecological and Social-economic Aspects of Ethnic Cultural and Historical Heritage Conservation in the Carpathians"

held within the XV International Hutsul Festival in Rhakiv on 2nd September 2005.

The participants are satisfied with the success of the Framework Convention on Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians and its implementation both on the international level and in Ukraine.

The Ministry for Environmental Protection of Ukraine has become more active in these terms. There has been called the Coordination Council on implementation of the Framework Convention, the conceptual state document on the Strategy of implementation is being elaborated; there also has been created the official Ukrainian web-site <http://mail.menr.gov.ua/publ/bernconven/>

The participants elaborated the following recommendations and addressed them to the government of Ukraine as well as to the communities and institutions of the Carpathian region.:

1. To support the leadership of Ukraine in the Convention's affairs. To revise and accomplish draft Strategy on the Convention's implementation and especially concerning involvement of wide public and various stakeholders. To benefit in every possible way the process of allocation of the Convention Secretariat in the Ukrainian part of the Carpathian Region.
2. To adopt the State program on development of Ukrainian mountainous territories. To speed-up the process of creation of the State General Plan of spatial management in the Carpathians. To enhance the role of GIS databases and suchlike. To improve public access to this information by establishing a network of information centers.
3. It is necessary to outline more clearly the duties of the state concerning defense of rights of ethnic nationalities of the Carpathians, on priority use of nature according to their ethnic traditions and give them legal support.

4. To consider works on preparation of the protocols on implementation of Articles 4 and 11 of the Convention to be the priority ones. To involve stakeholders to appropriate workgroups. To begin preparation of Proposals to the Protocol "On transport development in the Carpathians" with active participation of public.
5. To use possibilities provided by the valid legal base, as well as the process of decision-making by local authorities and managers of institutions concerning integration of issues of the Convention into the state and local policy.
6. To create ecological and legal mechanisms for conservation of traditional architecture, crafts and folklore and to support local initiatives. To incorporate study of local traditions into the education system within the Carpathian region. To renovate and promote traditional Carpathian agricultural activities, conserve biological diversity of domestic plants and animals.
7. To establish local registers of cultural, historical and natural heritage. To move towards integration of these thematic registers on the pan-Carpathian level, as well as towards pan-Carpathian harmonization of standards and criteria of assessment within the issues covered by the Convention. To provide the joint system of forest certification in the Carpathians.
8. To establish a joint Transcarpathian network of protected areas. Collaboration within the aforementioned network should be maintained in the way to find support of its objectives among local people. To promote keeping up to the Legislation and regulations on tourist routs within the local protected areas.
9. To extinguish controversial points in duties as for other conventions that in terms of their content somehow corelate with the Carpathian Convention (Bern, CITEC, CBD etc.). To bring the state policy as for wild carnivores into accordance with laws.
10. To implement basin-based approach into the practice of decision-making. To realize regulations on water-protection zone of mountain rivers and brooks in the Ukrainian Carpathians. To envisage administrative responsibility for river-beds destruction.
11. To support the initiative of the branch "Hutsulschyna" of the Research institute of Ukrainian country-studies of the Ministry for Education and Science of Ukraine, and to delegate this branch as the leading research institution on preparation of the Protocol on cultural heritage

12. To improve relationships with Romania – the leading partner of the Convention; to work on roads’ construction and establishment of official Ukrainian-Romanian border pass in Ivano-Frankivsk region.
13. To work on establishment of a simplified tourist pass across the Ukrainian border within the Carpathian part of the country. To promote ethnic tourism and to establish the network of state, public and private museums.
14. To promote conservation of ecologically-friendly environment. To quit use, processing and storage of chemical polluting substances within the Carpathians.
15. To disseminate information about the content and benefits of the Convention among population of the whole country. To publish and distribute Guidelines with comments on the Convention. To integrate into school programs within the Carpathian region subjects that would cover some aspects of the Convention.
16. To improve the official web-site of the Ministry for environmental protection of Ukraine, to promote public access to the official documents of the Convention in Ukrainian translation.

Propositions concerning
Draft of Rules of Procedure for the
FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE CARPATHIANS

Proposition was agreed by the participants of the Round Table
"The promotion of implementation of Carpathian Convention"
in Rhakiv, Ukraine, 2nd of September 2005.

Participants of the Round Table had proposed changes in the Rules of Procedure to make public participation and access to information more clear and evident:

1. To provide for public participation in decision making concerning Agenda (Rules 7, 9).
2. To provide for obligation of the Secretariat to learn and answer public addresses and information inquiries (Rule 23).
3. The procedure of public participating in work of the Conference of the Parties need be described in detail and clear.
4. To delete the words "within their competence or scope of activities" from Rule 35/3.
5. To provide for rule on obligatory announcement of decisions, agendas, other documents of hte Convention in the internet.

Concerning Rule 34:

6. To consider the possibility to make decisions by a qualification majority vote.
7. To provide for public participation in decision making concerning Agenda (Rules 7, 9). The subsidiary bodies should be especially available for public participation.
8. To oblige the Secretariat to examine and answer to public addresses and information inquiries (Rule 23).
9. The procedure of public participating in work of the Conference of the Parties should be more detailed and clear.
10. To withdraw the words "within their competence or scope of activities" from the Rule 35/3.
11. To provide for the rule that makes it obligatory to announce decisions, agendas and other documents of the Convention in internet

The participants expressed their remarks about Rule 34:

12. To examine the possibility of resolving by a qualification majority vote.

This document is prepared by Yuriy Wasidlow
Association „Our Home”
Translated in English by Aleksandr Kislitsyn
Association „Our Home”