



UNGA Report on Sustainable Mountain Development

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly (19 December 2007)

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/62/419/Add.8)]

62/196. Sustainable mountain development

Climate change (early indicators, glacier retreats, changes in seasonal runoff, with a special view on quantification) - Resolution paragraphs 3 and 8

➤ Mountains as early indicators of climate change

General Assembly resolution 62/196 requested “the scientific community, national governments and inter-governmental organizations to collaborate with mountain communities to jointly study and address the negative effects of global climate change on mountain environments”.

In response to this call, UNEP Vienna in partnership with several institutions and with the support of the Italian Government has organized the conference “Mountains as early indicators of Climate Change” which took place at Padua University on 17-18 April 2008.

➤ Glaciers

Moreover, under the auspices of the International Council for Science (FAGS/ICSU), the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IACS/IUGG), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), and the UNEP, the World Glacier Monitoring Service (WGMS) collects and compiles the basic glacier data from all parts of the world and provides information on the state and trends of glaciers in almost all mountain regions. The outcomes of this monitoring are presented in two recent publications “Global Outlook for Ice and Snow” that was published by UNEP at the occasion of World Environment Day 2007 and “Global Glacier Changes: facts and figures” released in March 2008.

➤ Lake outburst

UNEP through its facilities at Environment Assessment Program for Asia-Pacific (EAP.AP), Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, is trying to establish an operational early warning system to monitor GLOF hazards in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region. EAP.AP will implement the project in collaboration with the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Nepal. The project will implement the UNEP contribution to the establishment of an operational early warning system to mitigate natural hazards like forest fire, drought and glacier lake outburst flood. Besides, the project will help in assessing the environmental condition of the high mountainous regions. The expected outputs of the proposed study are (i) an inventory of existing glacier lakes along the Hindu Kush Himalaya; (ii) monitoring of potential risk lakes for draining; and (iii) an operational early warning mechanism for GLOF hazards.

Transboundary cooperation - Resolution paragraphs 15, 27

Cooperation on Protection and Sustainable Development of the Caucasus Mountains

The process of cooperation for the protection and sustainable development of the Caucasus Mountains is under development with support from UNEP in partnership with REC Caucasus.

A meeting of the Ministers and High-level Representatives of the Caucasus Countries - including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Russian Federation and Turkey - was held in Vaduz, Liechtenstein, in November 2007. During the meeting, the Vaduz Ministerial Statement was adopted “inviting the countries of the Caucasus region to strengthen partnerships, as appropriate, for the protection and sustainable development of the mountain regions of the Caucasus, taking into account generally



recognised principles and norms of international law" and asking UNEP to propose a road-map of the process.

As a follow-up to this meeting the Government - nominated Experts on the Caucasus Cooperation Process met in April 2009 in Bolzano, Italy upon invitation of UNEP, the Italian Ministry of Environment and the European Academy. Despite the difficult political situation in the Caucasus region, the meeting had a successful outcome, with full participation from all Caucasus countries. The Governmental representatives, in a spirit of cooperation, agreed on a revision of the background document, suggesting concrete thematic areas for intergovernmental collaboration, and jointly wrote a statement of support for the further development of the process, subject to comments and feedback by the Governments.

UNEP is working to facilitate follow-up communication among the participating Governments, to identify preferences for the future steps in establishing a cooperation mechanism.

Environmental Assessments of Mountain Ecosystems - Resolution paragraphs 13, 15 and 34

Dinaric Arc and Balkan Mountains Environment Outlook

In late 2008, UNEP ROE, through its Vienna Office, in partnership with UNEP DEWA, initiated a process which is intended to lead to the preparation of a "Dinaric Arc and Balkans Environment Outlook" (DABEO, or GEO for the Balkans). An exploratory meeting with the nine countries of the sub-region and international partners, to determine the level of interest and identify *raison d'être* and value-added of such a reporting process for the countries was therefore organized and held in Tirana, Albania on 3-5 February 2009.

Under the condition that any kind of duplication or additional workload will be avoided, the countries and potential international/regional partners, including NGOs, expressed interest and support for a DABEO reporting process, seeing both the niche and the value of such a regionally-integrated reporting process and product which will regard the natural unit of the Dinaric Arc/Balkans and thus support the facilitation of work on trans-boundary issues.

CBD Mountain Programme of Work - Resolution paragraph 26

Signing a Memorandum of Understanding between Alpine Convention, Carpathian Convention and Convention on Biological Diversity

In cooperation with the Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and in its double capacity of the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and ERC of the Mountain Partnership, UNEP Vienna has promoted the signature of a memorandum of cooperation with the Secretariat of the CBD with particular focus on the mountains.

This MOU is a landmark in the cooperation between the global and the two regional conventions within their respective and approved programmes of work, the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions becoming sub-regional platforms for the implementation of the CBD's programme of work on Mountain Biodiversity in the regions. Special focus is given on the establishment of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas in cooperation with the successfully operating Alpine one. Furthermore, the Alpine and Carpathian experiences in Integrated Mountain Ecosystems Management will be disseminated and replicated in the global frameworks of the CBD and of the Mountain Partnership (environmental governance).

BIG WIN for DINARIC ARC



A high-level event on the Dinaric Arc Ecoregion at the 9th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

At the “Big Win for Dinaric Arc high-level event” held during the CBD COP9 the representatives of the Governments of the Republic of Albania, the Federal Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, Montenegro, the Republic of Serbia, and the Republic of Slovenia as the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) signed a joint statement recognizing that “a joint and coordinated effort is needed in efficient delivery of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas obligations. Transboundary cooperation between the Dinaric Arc countries in the implementation of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas, with the aim to create well managed, and ecologically representative protected area network, is the key to safeguard the Dinaric Arc ecoregion’s exceptional natural and cultural values.” and the “importance of regional cooperation to achieve transboundary sustainable management of the South-Eastern European region, including Adriatic Sea, Dinaric Alps and Sava River Basin.”

Kailash Sacred Mountains

The Kailash Sacred Landscape (KSL) Conservation Initiative will develop and engage regional, national, local partners and other stakeholders in a consultative process whose purpose is the realization of a transboundary Regional Cooperation Framework (RCF) for implementation of the Mountain Biodiversity Goals as stated in the Mountain Biodiversity Program of Work (adopted at COP7) of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD). This two year startup phase initiative will promote and develop the framework for an integrated and participatory approach to conservation and sustainable development in the KSL. Ecosystem management approaches advocated and promoted by the CBD and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA) will be utilized to identify threats to the environmental and cultural integrity of this uniquely special and fragile region, analyze change processes and drivers of change, and to develop a knowledge base upon which to build an transboundary biodiversity and cultural conservation framework and implementation strategy.

Carpathian Convention – Resolution paragraph 29

The Framework Convention for the protection and Sustainable development of the Carpathian Mountains

The Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathian Mountains was adopted on 22 May 2003 in Kyiv, Ukraine at the Fifth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”, and is currently in force for (since 4 January 2006) and ratified by all the seven Carpathian countries: Czech Republic, Republic of Hungary, Republic of Poland, Romania, Republic of Serbia, Slovak Republic, and Ukraine.

The implementation process of the provisions of the Convention, as well as the institutional building greatly benefited from the support of the European Union Interreg IIIB CADSES “Carpathian Project” (2005-2008). The outcomes of the project include development of thematic protocols under the transnational Working Groups, as well as analysis presenting a detailed status quo of the Carpathian region which includes eight Central and East European countries.

On the occasion of the Second Conference of the Parties (COP2) held on 17-19 June 2009, in Bucharest, Romania was adopted and signed the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity. Moreover the Ministers called for the establishment of the “Carpathian Space” as a proposed financial instrument for enhancing the protection and sustainable regional development of this important mountain region in the heart of Europe.



Education - Resolution paragraph 32

Move4Nature Teacher Training Programme

The **Move4Nature Teacher Training programme on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)**, oriented towards the schools in the rural mountainous areas of the Carpathians, is being developed by the Carpathian Sustainable Education Network (CASALEN), with guidance from UNEP – ISCC, and support by the international corporate social responsibility initiative OMV Move & Help. The goal of the programme is to mainstream protection and sustainable development of the Carpathian Mountains into the teaching practices and school curriculum, by producing and distributing teaching material and training teachers to apply ESD as an interactive approach, using local resources.

Move4Nature, initiated in Romania, for the first time brought together teachers from various disciplines, school inspectorates, the Ministry of Education Research and Innovation of Romania, protected area administrations, NGOs and the private sector. The **Teacher Training**, organized in May 2009, involved more than 40 schools and more than a 100 teachers from the rural mountainous areas in six locations in Romania. Resources and information provided by the **Carpathian ESD Teacher Training Tool Kit** produced by experts from Carpathian countries in Romanian and English, to be completed with local inputs from the training participants, will guide the teachers and students to discover the resources offered and challenges faced by their local mountainous area, and to think of how to profit from local resources in a sustainable way.

The project has become an initial stage of a network involving a variety of Carpathian partners, who are planning to expand cooperation further in Romania and in other Carpathian countries.