



Sustainable Agriculture
and Rural Development
MOUNTAIN POLICY PROJECT



Activities in Europe

United Nations Environment Programme (Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention)

Overall objective: To support the interim implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians established under the Mountain Partnership.

Promoting the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians

In 2001, the Government of Ukraine requested the UNEP/ROE (Regional Office for Europe) to support a regional cooperation process aiming at the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians, a major transboundary mountain range shared by the seven countries of the region (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovak Republic and Ukraine). The Office of UNEP Vienna - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (ISCC) opened on 1 May 2004. In addition to the Carpathian Convention and the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas, the Office ensures UNEP's liaison with the Secretariats of the Alpine Convention and the Danube Protection Convention and other organizations based in the region. UNEP Vienna ISCC provides an environmental focal point in the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (hosted by FAO). So far, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovak Republic and Ukraine have ratified the Carpathian Convention which entered into force on 4 January 2006.

Implementing strategies to promote sustainable agriculture

UNEP Vienna ensures the full integration of the Carpathian Convention process into the Mountain Partnership, promoting international cooperation and exchange of experience and best practices between mountainous regions of the world. With the financial support of Switzerland, UNEP Vienna also assists the Partnership in accessing UNEP's global network of broad environmental knowledge and expertise, and the international community at large. The Carpathians are shared by seven Central and Eastern European Countries, four of which have recently joined the European Union. The Visegrad Group Countries - Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia - recently requested the European Commission to adhere to the Carpathian Convention and support its further development and implementation. This added a new, promising dimension to the efforts of governments and the international community to safeguard and protect the rich natural environment and cultural heritage of the region, and to ensure a development process which is environmentally sound and sustainable in the long run.



Strengthening SARD-M policies for sustainable development between European mountain territories

The United Nations Environment Programme's Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, as partner of the SARD-M Project, is implementing activities in the Carpathian Mountains with the collaboration of Euromontana, an alliance for sustainable development between European mountain territories. The Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovak Republic and Ukraine are participating.

Performing policy assessments in the Carpathians

The Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, completed in 2003 by the seven Carpathian countries, provides a framework for cooperation and an integrative platform for multi-sectoral policy coordination, including sustainable agriculture within the scope of Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention.

The development of policies for sustainable development is an **iterative process** that allows for the national and local levels to act in a coordinated and participatory manner to develop coherent policies that balance the economic, social and environmental objectives of sustainable development. Given that SARD is a process that involves **multiple sectors strongly linking agriculture and rural development and stakeholders at all governance levels**, the assessments will pay attention to the opinions of the different components of society at various levels, i.e. national and decentralized levels of government and civil society, including the private sector, and also take into consideration the multi-sectoral nature of SARD.

Within this framework, UNEP has performed the following activities to assess the strengths and weaknesses of mountain policies, including social, economic, environmental, legal, institutional aspects related to SARD principles.

▲ Study at the national level in the Slovak Republic, a new European Union Member State, Romania, an accession country, and Ukraine, a country neighbouring the European Union. The study entails a review of relevant documents, interviews with key persons within government structures and civil society organizations at national and decentralized levels.

▲ Production of a report including the country surveys, a synthesis of the regional policy strengths and weaknesses, workshop recommendations and proposals for follow-up activities at the country and/or Carpathian Mountain levels. This document will be published and reproduced for distribution among interested parties.

The activity outputs have been presented in a workshop on the Strengthening of SARD-M Policies for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (October 24 in Liptovský Mikuláš, Slovak Republic). This workshop has been organised by UNEP - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention in collaboration with Euromontana to share the findings of the analysis, assess the recommendations and identify follow-up activities.

Contact Information

▲ Regional Focal Point

Contact: Harald Egerer

Address:

UNEP – Interim Secretariat of the
Carpathian Convention
JOE 25 - Vienna International Centre
PO Box 500
1400 Vienna, Austria

Phone: (+43) 1 26060-4545

Fax: (+43) 1 26060-6730

E-Mail: harald.egerer@unvienna.org

Website: www.carpathianconvention.org

▲ SARD-M Team

Contact: Dominique Legros

Address:

Sustainable Development Department
Food and Agriculture Organization of the
United Nations (FAO)
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy

Phone: (+39) 06 570-54204

Fax: (+39) 06 570-53250

E-mail: dominique.legros@fao.org

Website: www.fao.org/sard/sard-m