



**Tagung der Alpenkonferenz**

**Réunion de la Conférence alpine**

**Sessione della Conferenza delle Alpi**

**Zasedanje Alpske konference**

**TOP / POJ / ODG / TDR**

**IX**

**15**

**SL**

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**OL: DE**

## **MEDNARODNA GORSKA PARTNERSTVA**

**A Poročilo Stalnega asekretariata**

**B Predlog sklepa**

### **Priloge:**

- Priloga 1: Resolucija konference gorskih vasi, Biškek, 2005
- Priloga 2: Memorandum of Understanding med Karpatsko in Alpsko konvencijo
- Priloga 3: Opomnik sestanka o ustanovitvi Zveze kavkaških občin, Chiora, 2006

## A Poročilo Stalnega sekretariata

VIII. Alpska konferenca leta 2004 v Garmischu je glede vprašanja gorskih partnerstev sprejela naslednji sklep:

“Alpska konferenca

1. sprejema v vednost poročilo predsedstva Stalnega odbora o napredku prizadevanj pogodbenic v okviru gorskega partnerstva,
2. pozdravlja gorska partnerstva, ki so jih pogodbenice sklenile na območju gorskih regij Karpati, Kavkaz, Srednja Azija, in opozarja, da je nadaljnji razvoj obstoječih gorskih partnerstev dolgoročna prednostna naloga v Večletnem programu dela,
3. prosi Stalni sekretariat za začetek sodelovanja z začasnim sekretariatom Karpatske konvencije,
4. sprejema odločitev, da se uporaba izkušenj, pridobljenih v alpskem procesu, omogoči pri oblikovanju Kavkaške konvencije,
5. načrtuje pristop Alpske konvencije k Svetovnemu gorskemu partnerstvu (Global Mountain Partnership) in Stalni odbor pooblašča, da o tem odloči na podlagi poročila Stalnega sekretariata, ki bo predstavil obveznosti in posledice, povezane s pristopom, ter kadrovske in finančne vire, ki so potrebni za udeležbo.“

### 1. Gorsko partnerstvo (Mountain Partnership)

- **Pristop h Gorskemu partnerstvu**

Stalni sekretariat je na 31. seji Stalnega odbora predložil poročilo o posledicah članstva Alpske konvencije v Gorskem partnerstvu, tj. krovni organizaciji držav, meddržavnih organizacij in „major groups“ ter nevladnih organizacij, ki na podlagi 13. poglavja Agende 21 in 42. člena Akcijskega načrta, sprejetega v Johannesburgu 2002, sodelujejo z namenom, da bi na svetovni ravni pospešili trajnostni razvoj gorskih območij. Iz omenjenega poročila je po eni strani razvidno, da Alpska konvencija kot taka izpolnjuje merila članstva v Gorskem partnerstvu in bi lahko brez dodatnih stroškov izpolnjevala iz tega izhajajoče obveznosti pri nadaljnjem sodelovanju, ki ga že leta goji na območju Karpatov, Kavkaza in Srednje Azije. Po drugi strani se je pokazalo, da dodatna korist, ki se lahko doseže s pristopom Alpske konvencije kot meddržavne ustanove, občutno presega korist, ki jo ima sedaj od članstva večina njenih pogodbenic in organizacij s statusom opazovalk, med drugim tudi zato, ker je Alpska konvencija z izrabo sinergij delujoče mreže resnično dosegla možnost sooblikovanja v Gorskem partnerstvu in bi tako pristop h krovnemu združenju okrepil njeno prepoznavnost v mednarodnem pogledu.

V skladu z mandatom, ki mu je bil na tej podlagi podeljen na 31. seji Stalnega odbora, je Stalni sekretariat izjavil, da za Alpsko konvencijo 3. marca 2006 pristopa h Gorskemu partnerstvu (Mountain Partnership). V skladu s pooblastilom je bila poleg tega prva skupna dejavnost v okviru Gorskega partnerstva konferenca o gorskih vaseh, ki je potekala novembra 2005 v Biškeku.

- **Konferenca o gorskih vaseh v Biškeku 2005**

Med 15. in 18. novembrom 2005 so se v kirgiškem glavnem mestu Biškek prvič na skupni konferenci zbrali predstavniki gorskih občin na območju Alp, Altaja, Karpatov, Kavkaza in Srednje Azije (Pamir, Tjanšan). Skupaj 150 poslancev občin, nevladnih organizacij, držav in meddržavnih organizacij ter strokovnjakov z okoljskega področja in področja razvojnega sodelovanja je razpravljalo o tem, kako bi lahko okrepili svoja prizadevanja za trajnostni razvoj na krajevni ravni na vseh šestih gorskih območjih.

Izvedbo konference so finančno omogočile Nemčija, Francija, Italija, Liechtenstein, Avstrija, Švica in Slovenija in v skladu s pooblastilom jo je v sodelovanju s Central Asian Mountain Partnership CAMP, lokalno organizac skupne značilnosti in raznovrstne možnosti za sodelovanje gorskih občin. Srečanje so ocenili kot zelo obetaven začetek tesnega sodelovanja in sprejeli resolucijo s priporočili za nadaljnje sodelovanje in krepitev vloge lokalne samouprave v obliki intenzivne izmenjav ijo za razvojno sodelovanje, ki jo financira švicarska država, in Zvezo srednjeazijskih gorskih občin AGOCA organiziral Stalni sekretariat.

Predstavniki sodelujočih gorskih območij so lahko kljub različnim okvirnim pogojem in življenjskim razmeram ugotovili pomembne e izkušenj med gorskimi območji (priloga 1), ki so jo naslovili na vlade držav z gorskimi območji, Združene narode in druge mednarodne organizacije, pogodbenice Alpske konvencije, Gorsko partnerstvo in njegove članice, civilno družbo in druge zainteresirane strani.

- **Strukturiranje sodelovanja v okviru Gorskega partnerstva**

V skladu z nalogo, ki mu jo je na 31. seji poveril Stalni odbor, je Stalni sekretariat na 32. seji Stalnega odbora predložil poročilo o strukturiranju sodelovanja v okviru Gorskega partnerstva. Iz tozadevnega sklepa, ki je bil sprejet na 32. seji Stalnega odbora, izhaja, da so vsebinske prednostne naloge v okviru skupnega delovanja Gorskega partnerstva pogodbenic Alpske konvencije izvajanje projektov trajnostnega razvoja vasi, nadaljnji razvoj zveze srednjeazijskih gorskih občin ter vzpostavitev omrežja občin na območju Kavkaza in Karpatov in podpora pri uveljavljanju mrež zavarovanih območij na prednostnih območjih

sodelovanja. Iz sklepov VII. in VIII. Alpske konference o gorskih partnerstvih sledi, da so bili za prednostna območja sodelovanja z Alpsko konvencijo določeni Karpati, Kavkaz in Srednja Azija (Pamir in Tjanšan).

Po novem poročilu Stalnega sekretariata, ki je vsebovalo predloge za vzpostavitev inštitucij in usposabljanje kadrov (capacity building) ter spodbujanje učinkovitega upravljanja (good governance) na prednostnih območjih sodelovanja Alpske konvencije je bilo na 33. seji Stalnega odbora sodelovanje v okviru Gorskega partnerstva konkretizirano v tem smislu, da so bile pogodbenice, opazovalci in mreže zaproseni, da v okviru svojih možnosti nudijo podporo dejavnostim na prednostnih območjih sodelovanja Alpske konvencije na skupnih področjih delovanja. To velja, denimo, za projekte, ki so namenjeni tako vzpostavljanju inštitucij (capacity building) kot tudi organiziranju konferenc in seminarjev ter izdajanju publikacij. S tem bo v smislu učinkovite rabe virov pozornost usmerjena na že obstoječe strukture sodelovanja, ki so se doslej v praksi že obnesle.

- **Druga gorska območja**

10. oktobra 2006 so se sestali predstavniki narodnega parka Gran Paradiso in narodnega parka Sagarmatha (Nepal). Srečanje, ki so soorganizirali ICIMOD, EURAC in UNEP s podporo italijanskega zunanjskega ministrstva je prvi prispevek Mountain Partnership k iniciativi o biodiverziteti.

## **2. Nadaljnji razvoj obstoječih gorskih partnerstev**

- **Težiščna prireditev v okviru 32. seje Stalnega odbora**

V okviru 32. seje Stalnega odbora je 4. aprila 2006 v Bolzanu potekala težiščna prireditev avstrijskega predsedstva, na kateri so bile po pregledu dejavnosti, ki jih pogodbenice izvajajo na prednostnih območjih sodelovanja, izdelane pobude za srednjeročno oblikovanje sodelovanja med gorskimi regijami v okviru Gorskega partnerstva. Pri tem se je izkazalo, da je treba pripraviti zasnovo delovanja, ki bo usmerjena v potrebe gorskega sveta, in da tekoče delovanje tematskih čezmejnih mrež ustvarja dodano vrednost. Občine in organizacije civilne družbe bi morale na mestu samem sodelovati pri konkretnih projektih, saj aktivna udeležba krepi njihovo soodgovornost in prizadevanja za trajnostni razvoj gora. Poleg tega ni nujno, da je pogoj za čezmejno sodelovanje med gorskimi regijami sklenitev konvencije. Namesto nje se lahko za smiselne izkažejo tudi drugi instrumenti sodelovanja. Zlasti še na politično občutljivih gorskih območjih se ponuja čezmejno sodelovanje na lokalni in regionalni ravni.

- **Neformalno ministrsko srečanje na dan pred začetkom IX. Alpske konference**

Na povabilo avstrijskega predsedstva Alpske konference je 8. novembra 2006 potekalo neformalno ministrsko srečanje, ki je bilo posvečeno mednarodnim gorskim partnerstvom. Predstavitve Omrežja občin „Povezanost v Alpah“, Mreže zavarovanih območij v Alpah in projekta Via Alpina so nudili priložnost za izmenjavo izkušenj o trajnostnem razvoju v gorskih regijah z ministricami in ministri z obstoječih območij sodelovanja in iz drugih gorskih regij sveta.

- **Karpati**

Na zaprosilo VIII. Alpske konference v Garmischu leta 2004 k TDR 12 št. 3 je Stalni sekretariat začel sodelovati z začasnim sekretariatom Karpatske konvencije. 2. avgusta 2005 in 30. januarja 2006 so potekali delovni razgovori, na katerih je bilo sklenjeno, da se začne pripravljati besedilo Memoranduma of understanding (MoU) med obema konvencijama. Ta dogovor naj bi na podlagi dosedanjih skupnih točk med dejavnostmi obeh sekretariatov kot prednostna področja delovanja obravnaval oblike sodelovanja na področju odnosov z javnostmi in povezovanja zavarovanih območij ter skupnih prireditev v okviru Gorskega partnerstva.

V skladu z mandatom, ki mu ga je na svoji 32. seji podelil Stalni odbor, je Stalni sekretariat na 33. seji Stalnega odbora predložil osnutek memoranduma. Skladno s tozadevnim sklepom, sprejetim na 33. seji Stalnega odbora, je nato Stalni sekretariat dokončno izdelal osnutek besedila, ki je bil poslan v podpis obema predsedujočima državama in obema sekretariatoma, in ga je Stalni odbor nato predložil Alpski konferenci v pregled (gl. prilogo 2).

Kot prispevek k uresničevanju mreže zavarovanih območij na območju Karpatov je Mreža zavarovanih območij v Alpah leta 2006 organizirala dve strokovni konferenci - na Slovaškem in v Romuniji, ki so ju finančno podprli Francija, Monako in Nemčija.

Italija je v času poročanja nadaljevala sodelovanje z državami članicami Karpatske konvencije tako s podpornimi dejavnostmi na institucionalni in znanstvenoraziskovalni ravni kot tudi z organiziranjem številnih srečanj ekspertov, da bi si ti lahko med seboj izmenjali izkušnje.

- **Kavkaz**

V okviru projekta „Trajnostni razvoj gorskih regij na območju Kavkaza – Lokalna agenda 21“, ki ga finančno podpirata Nemčija in Lihtenštajn, njegovo delovanje pa usklajujeta regionalna okoljska centra za južni Kavkaz (RECC) in Rusijo (RREC), so bili v času poročanja oblikovani razvojni programi za osem kavkaških gorskih vasi po vzoru Agende 21, ki jo je treba sedaj začeti izvajati. 6. avgusta 2006 so se v gruzijskem kraju Chiora zbrali predstavniki omenjenih vasi iz Armenije, Azerbajdžana, Gruzije in Rusije ter sklenili, da bodo po vzoru

Omrežja občin „Povezanost v Alpah“ ustanovili čezmejno omrežje gorskih vasi (gl. prilogo 3). Stalni odbor je zaprosil pogodbenice, opazovalce in mreže, naj preverijo, kako bi lahko podprli prošnjo za finančno pomoč pri ustanovitvi mreže kavkaških gorskih občin, ki jo je predložil RECC. Avstrija, Nemčija in Švica se zavezujejo, da bodo v ta namen prispevali vsak 5.000 evrov.

Decembra 2005 je Italija skupaj z UNEP in Evropsko akademijo Bolzano organizirala strokovni posvet, ki je bil posvečen nastanku pravnih instrumentov čezmejnega sodelovanja za varstvo in trajnostni razvoj na območju Kavkaza in h kateremu sta vsebinsko prispevala tudi Nemčija in Liechtenstein.

- **Srednja Azija**

Rezultat vzpostavljenih stikov, poglobljenih v času konference o gorskih vaseh v Biškeku leta 2005, je bil študijski obisk predstavnikov AGOCA v Alpah spomladi 2006. Ob tej priliki je bila v okviru 32. seje Stalnega odbora organizirana ključna prireditev, na kateri so bile predstavljene dejavnosti Zveze srednjeazijskih gorskih občin, na programu pa so bili tudi spoznavni razgovori z Omrežjem občin „Povezanost v Alpah“, CIPRO International, sekretariatom Gorskega partnerstva in Centrom za razvoj in okolje Univerze v Bernu. Pri prihodnjih dejavnostih AGOCE bo poudarek na njeni institucionalni krepitvi.

Švica, Liechtenstein in Nemčija so skupaj s CIPRO International in Omrežjem občin „Povezanost v Alpah“ v času, ki ga obravnava to poročilo, nadaljevali s svojimi prizadevanji za spodbujanje razvoja zveze srednjeazijskih gorskih občin.

### **3. Razširitev prednostnih območij sodelovanja na balkansko regijo**

Izhodišče za razmišljanje o tej točki je treba iskati v dejstvu, da se Italija skupaj z UNEP in Evropsko akademijo v Bolzanu že dlje časa zavzema za izmenjavo izkušenj z balkanskimi državami s ciljem, da se pri morebitnem sodelovanju na Balkanu uporabijo strokovno znanje in izkušnje, pridobljene v okviru partnerstva med Alpami in Karpati na področju pravnih instrumentov čezmejnega sodelovanja pri varstvu in trajnostnem razvoju gorskih regij.

Zaradi evropske perspektive balkanskih držav, raznovrstnega ekološkega sodelovanja balkanskih pogorij z Alpami in Karpati ter zaradi pomena, ki ga čezmejno sodelovanje ima za ohranjanje miru v regiji, bi lahko širitev prednostnih območij sodelovanja na Balkan odprla zanimive perspektive za skupni prispevek alpskih držav h Gorskemu partnerstvu. Zato je Stalni odbor na svoji 32. seji tudi priporočil širitev prednostnih območij sodelovanja Alpske konvencije na balkansko regijo.

## **B Predlog sklepa**

Alpska konferenca

1. sprejema v vednost poročilo Stalnega sekretariata in se z njim strinja,
2. prednostna območja sodelovanja Alpske konvencije razširi na balkansko regijo,
3. čestita udeležnim državam, da je 4. januarja 2006 začela veljati Karpatska konvencija,
4. potrdi predloženo besedilo Memoranduma of Understanding (MoU) o sodelovanju med Karpatsko in Alpsko konvencijo in
5. pooblašča prihodnje predsedstvo Alpske konference ter Stalni sekretariat, da podpišeta MoU.



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**IX**

**TOP / POJ / ODG / TDR**

**15**

**EN**

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**OL: EN**

**ANLAGE/ANNEXE/ALLEGATO/PRILOGA**

**1**



# THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNANCE IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

International Conference in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan  
15th-18th November 2005

Organised by the Alliance of Central Asian Mountain Communities (AGOCA)

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## RESOLUTION

On future exchange and collaboration within the framework of the Mountain Partnership

## RECOMMENDATIONS

On strengthening the role of local governance through the exchange of experience among mountain regions

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**We, the participants of the International Conference on “The Role of Local Governance in Sustainable Development”** - representatives of mountain villages from Central Asia, the Alps, the Caucasus, the Carpathians, the Altai and the Mongolian mountain regions; representatives of governmental, non-governmental, international and scientific organisations,

*noting* the important role of local governance in sustainable development, and different activities at village level

*supporting* the objectives and missions and recognising the experience of the Mountain Partnership, the Alpine Convention, the Carpathian Convention, the Local Agenda 21, the networks of communities in the Alps and in Central Asia and the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA),

*being ready* to contribute to long-term cooperation and exchange of experience between communities and sustainable development of mountain regions,

*considering* that it is time for sustainable development in mountain regions the innovative ideas should be transferred at community level and strengthen networks of communities at international level,

*encouraging* non-governmental and governmental organisations, international and donor organisations and local communities towards activities for the sustainable development of mountain regions,

*recognising* the new framework that the Mountain Partnership is providing to sustainable mountain development,

*having discussed and exchanged experience* about the potentials, good practices and defined factors of success of addressing problems and using the potentials of local governance in sustainable development,

*Have come up with the following*

## RECOMMENDATIONS

**To the governments of all mountainous countries, the United Nations organisations, the contracting parties of the Alpine Convention, civil society, international organisations, the Mountain Partnership and its members and other bodies involved in the sustainable development of mountain regions**

On the importance of partnership, exchange and cooperation between different mountain regions concerning the following issues:

### *General Recommendations*

- The transfer of positive experience among different mountain regions should be strengthened. The Mountain Partnership is requested to promote an initiative for increasing cooperation and exchange between mountain villages, starting with Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries.
- Civic education and education in all fields of sustainable development should be promoted as a precondition for active participation in social and political life, conflict resolution, local economic development and the sustainable use of natural resources.
- Scientific research and transfer of technologies and approaches on mountain regions and mountain issues should be further promoted

### *On decentralisation as a condition for local (self-) governance in the field of sustainable development*

- Legal training of the population to raise awareness and increase initiative.
- Establishing community organizations, public hearings to control the activities of the local (self-) governance bodies and the reimbursement of expenditures paid to the village deputies during session work are important features of functioning decentralization and therefore should be promoted
- Financial means and competence at local governance level should be promoted as they are the basis for local development and an incentive for action.

### *On the importance of tolerance, cooperation and reliable dialogue structures in sustainable development*

- Local governance bodies should be involved in dialogue in conflict situations.
- Projects in the field of developing mountain communities need to be accompanied by an analysis of conflict issues in order to prevent possible negative consequences, which could reduce the level of tolerance and cooperation.
- Mechanisms of dialogue and collaboration between local and central governance bodies and other relevant stakeholders should be established to sustain communities' response to the conflicts endangering sustainable development.

### *On the role of local (self-) governance in sustainable socio-economic development*

- Promoting mountain products and socially and ecologically sustainable tourism can bring financial opportunities in the development of mountain regions.
- An insurance system and/or subsidies can support and promote farming in mountain regions

*On the role of local (self-) governance in the management of natural resources*

It is necessary

- To support and implement inter-regional initiatives.
- To support and implement local initiatives on strengthening cooperation between users of pastures and other natural resources, through the creation of associations, initiative groups etc., as well as mechanisms for their collaboration with other partners.
- To include local plans and initiatives into the process of state planning and promote the participation of local governance bodies in the development and implementation of strategies for the sustainable management of natural resources, and in the development of a legislative base for the use of natural resources.
- To use and disseminate soil-, water- and nature conservation technologies and approaches.

*On the importance of information for local communities*

- It is necessary to develop the ability of the mountain population to precisely define information needs and to use available information to find locally adapted solutions.
- Information centres are needed for local communities.

*On the role of women in sustainable development*

It is necessary

- To support women's initiatives.
- To raise women's knowledge of economic issues through conducting educational programmes.
- To encourage the exchange of women's experiences from different regions

*On the role of alliances/conventions in the political process*

- Conventions and alliances can be useful instruments for cooperation, if they are developed in a 'bottom-up' process involving all the stakeholders.
- Political awareness is a condition for successful 'bottom-up' processes. This requires civic education.

*We express our gratitude for the organisation of, and financial support to, the conference to:*

- The Permanent Committee and Secretariat of the Alpine Convention
- The German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Protection and Nuclear Safety
- The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- The Alpine Alliance
- The International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA)
- The Alliance of Central Asian Mountain Communities (AGOCA)
- The Central Asian Mountain Partnership (CAMP)
- The Centre for Development and Environment (University of Bern, Switzerland) (CDE)
- The Mountain Partnership

## **Annex:**

### **Concrete Recommendations Elaborated in the Section Work During the Conference**

#### *On decentralisation as a condition for local (self-) governance in the field of sustainable development*

- Social mobilization has to be enhanced through establishing village organizations
- The knowledge of citizens about their own rights has to be improved
- Initial capital should be given to local (self-) governance bodies (e.g. for the creation of a local development fund) as an impetus for action
- Transparency in the use of funds at all levels of governance has to be increased
- The legal culture has to be improved through legal training of the population (e.g. about citizens' rights and responsibilities) in order to raise awareness and increase initiative
- Public hearings to control the activity of local (self-) governance bodies have to be undertaken
- Expenditures paid out by deputies during sessions have to be reimbursed

#### *On the importance of tolerance, cooperation and reliable dialogue structures in sustainable development*

- Educational programmes, including methodological publications, on the analysis and resolution of conflict situations at local level have to be initiated and supported (mediation, negotiation process, maintenance of procedures for conflict resolution etc.)
- International organizations should involve local governance bodies in the initiatives to construct a dialogue in conflict situations as a priority factor for sustainable development
- Structures for timely intervention in and resolution of conflict situations and building cooperation have to be promoted and supported
- Assistance in the transfer of positive experience of managing conflict situations between different countries and regions at different levels (local, regional, national) is necessary
- Local governance bodies and public authorities should consider interethnic and clan factors in the development of local communities, including issues of the poly ethnic composition of local governance

#### *On the role of local (self-) governance in sustainable socio-economic development*

- Local communities have to be informed about legislation
- Information about the recreational potential of mountain regions has to be disseminated and nature has to be conserved in order to use this potential
- Tourism has to be developed and promoted
- A media organ about and for mountain regions is necessary
- The population and local (self-) governance bodies have to learn from the negative experience of others
- Partnerships between regions and between villages of one region, as well as learning of the experience of other mountain communities have to be promoted
- Donors have to be invited to invest directly on local level and to the local governance
- Mountain products have to be promoted
- Special privileges, e.g. an insurance system, for agriculture in high mountain regions are necessary
- Specific laws about the development of mountain regions have to be developed
- Scientific research on mountain regions is necessary
- Special structures to support local governance have to be created

*On the role of local (self-) governance in the management of natural resources*

- The support of initiatives for the conservation of the agro-biodiversity is necessary
- Local initiatives for the control of the use of natural resources have to be promoted and supported
- Mechanisms for local monitoring and evaluating the impact of management of natural resources on the environment with the involvement of local communities have to be supported

*On the role of women in sustainable development*

- The level of transparency and accountability of all development programmes has to be increased in order to motivate the participation of locals
- Policies and programmes aimed at the empowerment of women have to be promoted
- Educational programmes should be launched to enable women to fully utilize their energies in managing of their economies
- Income-generating projects have to be organised, women's initiatives supported and self-employment encouraged
- Micro-credit systems for women are necessary
- The local potential has to be included in both planning and implementation processes of development programmes
- Local awareness about the important role of women in promoting sustainable development has to be generated
- Regional and international alliances between sectors have to be fostered and the possibilities to share experience with women from various regions promoted

*On the role of alliances/conventions in the political process*

- Conventions and alliances can be helpful instruments of cooperation, if they respond to the needs of the local populations
- Conventions and alliances cannot be imposed on the population in a top down process, but they have to be developed in a process in which the stakeholders (civil society, regional and local authorities, science, economy etc) are involved
- Political consciousness is a condition for the involvement of stakeholders and for successful bottom up processes. It requires political education.
- Guarantees for the respect of the needs and interests of the population need strong political lobbying by the stakeholders
- The process of the development of conventions and alliances needs financial resources



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**ANLAGE/ANNEXE/ALLEGATO/PRILOGA**

**2**



## **Memorandum of Understanding for the cooperation between the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention**

In consideration of the fact that the Alps and the Carpathians represent living and economic areas of particular European interest,

In consideration of the fact that the Alps and the Carpathians are characterised by a multifaceted nature, culture, history as well as a particular ecological sensitivity and, in particular through the EU enlargement, are coming closer in many fields,

Recalling the valuable example of the sharing of experience process between Alpine and Carpathian Countries since 2001,

In consideration of the fact that the Alpine States keep supporting the development of the Carpathian Convention<sup>1</sup> in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme - Regional Office for Europe (UNEP-ROE), and also appreciating the ongoing cooperation between the Alpine Convention<sup>2</sup> and the Alpine Network of Protected Areas with the Carpathian Convention in the field of conservation of biological and landscape diversity,

In consideration of the fact that the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the Adoption and Signature of the Carpathian Convention<sup>3</sup> requested "the Regional Office for Europe of the United Nations Environment (UNEP) to continue to service the Convention process, also through the provision of interim secretariat support",

In consideration of the fact that the VIIth Alpine Conference declared its readiness to further develop the existing mountain partnerships in the Carpathians, Caucasus and Central Asia and that the VIIIth Alpine Conference decided to include these mountain partnerships as a long-term key point in the multi-annual work programme of the Alpine Conference 2005 – 2010,

Noting the work of UNEP Vienna – Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention in its function as environmental focal point in the Mountain Partnership Secretariat on sub-regional mountain cooperation worldwide in the framework of the Mountain Partnership, including the mountain regions of the Carpathians, of South Eastern Europe, of the Caucasus, and of the Himalaya – Karakoram – Hindukush,

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<sup>1</sup> Framework Convention on the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians

<sup>2</sup> Convention on the protection of the Alps

<sup>3</sup> Kyiv, 22 May 2003

In consideration of the fact that, after the Carpathian Convention came into force on 4 January 2006, the UNEP Vienna - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, is engaged to follow its implementation and to coordinate its operations with those of other competent international bodies and conventions,

In consideration of the fact that the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention was requested by the VIIIth Alpine Conference to initiate collaborating with the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention,

The Alpine Conference and the Conference of the Parties of the Carpathian Convention acting through their Secretariats have reached the following understanding:

## **I – Duration**

This **Memorandum of Understanding<sup>4</sup> (MoU)** may be reviewed at any time in writing by mutual consent and may be cancelled by either side subject to six months notice in writing.

## **II – Goals**

Endeavouring the strengthening of cooperation between the Alpine and the Carpathian Conventions in fields of common interest, this MoU is aimed at providing a durable basis for the collaboration between the Bodies of the two Conventions in the field of information and experience exchange. Besides this, another objective is the development and implementation of common projects. The collaboration is aimed in the long term at strengthening the awareness of the significance of a sustainable development of mountain areas in Europe.

## **III – Collaboration fields**

Common activities should be developed in regular meetings between the Bodies of the two conventions and especially of their Secretariats, which should be held at least once a year. Collaboration should include all the issues examined by both Conventions and, especially, the following collaboration areas:

- Spatial planning and sustainable development
- Sustainable and integrated water and river basin management
- Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity
- Sustainable mountain agriculture
- Sustainable forestry in mountain areas
- Soil protection
- Sustainable tourism
- Sustainable transport and infrastructure
- Industry and energy
- Air pollution control

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<sup>4</sup> „Memorandum of Cooperation“ in UN terminology



- Waste management
- Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge
- Environmental assessment/information, monitoring and early warning
- Awareness raising, education and public participation

Due to the already existing collaboration, a significant role may be played especially by the following themes:

### **1. Work with the general public**

In the sense of an active information and communication policy, both Secretariats should harmonise their work with the general public with the aim of increasing the level of knowledge of the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention at local, regional, national and European level, and should thereby promote a long-term stable balance between the protection of the environment and the social, cultural and economic development in both mountain areas within the context of European integration.

### **2. Collaboration in the field of protected areas**

The Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and the UNEP Vienna - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention should continue with their efforts for enhancing networks of protected areas in the Alps (ALPARC) and in the Carpathians (CNPA) as well as the ecological linking-up between the two mountain ranges. They should work closely together on the issue of conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity.

### **3. Common activities in the framework of the Mountain Partnership**

Both sides should intensify their collaboration within the framework of the Mountain Partnership by presenting their collaboration as an example for other mountain regions. The implementation of specific common events may contribute to achieve this objective, also in the field of local collaboration and an agreed presence of the Secretariats at third party events.

## **IV – Commitment**

Both sides declare that within the scope of this collaboration they are ready to mutually inform each other of the work of the relevant Bodies of the convention in an appropriate way. The information exchange will take place through the respective Secretariats.

**V – Effectiveness**

This MoU will take effect at the day of the signature by both sides.

For the Carpathian Convention:

For the Alpine Convention:

<p>UNEP Vienna – Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention</p> <p>The Presidency of the Conference of the Parties of the Carpathian Convention</p>	<p>Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention</p> <p>The Presidency of the Alpine Conference</p>
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**Tagung der Alpenkonferenz**  
**Réunion de la Conférence alpine**  
**Sessione della Conferenza delle Alpi**  
**Zasedanje Alpske konference**

**IX**

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**ANLAGE/ANNEXE/ALLEGATO/PRILOGA**

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## MEMORANDUM

We, the undersigned representatives of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia and Russia, present in the village of Chiora, Georgia on August 06, 2006, express our adherence to the principles of the sustainable development of mountain areas, and considering the experience and centuries-old social-economic and cultural relations among various regions of the Caucasus, express our willingness to collaborate in the framework of establishment of the **ALLIANCE OF MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES OF THE CAUCASUS**.

We apply to international organisations, governments of the Alpine Convention countries and governments of the Republic of Armenia, the Azerbaijan Republic, Georgia and the Russian Federation with a request to support in implementation of the goals of the Alliance addressing social, economic and environmental problems at the local level and promoting mutually beneficial transboundary cooperation and exchange of experience in the Caucasus.

Representatives of mountain communities of:

<b>The village of Sis</b>	Şamaxı rayonu, Azerbaijan
<b>The village of Yeniol 2</b>	Ismayılı rayonu, Azerbaijan
<b>The village of Shvanidzor</b>	Meghri District, Syunik Marz, Armenia
<b>The village of Yelpin</b>	Eghegnadzor District, Vayots Dzor Marz, Armenia
<b>The community of Shatili</b>	Dusheti District, Mtskheta-Mtianeti Region, Georgia
<b>The village of Chiora</b>	Oni District, Racha-Lechkhumi Region, Georgia
<b>The village of Stur-Digora</b>	Iraf District, Republic of the Northern Ossetia- Alania, the Russian Federation
<b>The village of Elbrus</b>	Elbrus District, Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, the Russian Federation

*Chiora, Georgia, August 6, 2006*