The United Nations Environment Programme
Institutional structure and work in the Pan-European region

“Environmental Policy- A critical endeavor for achieving sustainable development ”
Vienna International Centre, 30 October 2015, Vienna
Overview

• UNEP as Institution;
• UNEP in the Pan-European Region;
The Mission

“To provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.”
UNEP – More than an Acronym

**WHO?**
The UN’s voice and conscience of the environment, monitoring environmental threats and proposing solutions.

**WHAT?**
We focus on seven priorities to promote greener economies and foster sustainability; UNEP is governed by the 193 member states of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA).

**WHEN?**
Established at the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, an event that recognized the links between the environment and development.

**WHERE?**
Headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, UNEP has a global portfolio with regional offices.

**WHY?**
To facilitate environmental management and create the sustainable development models needed to meet global environmental challenges.

**HOW?**
Our expertise and global reach allows UNEP to advise and guide many from governments and other UN entities to business and civil society.
Brief History

1972
UN General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) establishes UNEP;

1992
Agenda 21, adopted at the UN Conference on Environment and Development, also known as the “Earth Summit”;

1997
The Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of UNEP, adopted by the UNEP Governing Council makes UNEP the principal environment body in the UN;

2012
Rio+20 outcome document ‘The Future We Want’ in June 2012 calls for UNEP to be strengthened and upgraded;

2012
UN General Assembly establishes the highest decision-making body to UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) meaning full participation of all 193 UN member states;
The Big Seven

Climate Change

Ecosystem Management

Harmful Substances and Hazardous Waste

Environment under Review

Disasters and Conflicts

Environmental Governance

Resource Efficiency
What UNEP does

- New partnerships within civil society and the private sector
- Transfer of knowledge and technology for sustainable development
- Assessments of regional and national environmental conditions and trends
- International agreements and national environmental instruments
UNEP and MEAs

- Convention on Biodiversity (CBD)
- Convention on International Trade and Endangered Species (CITIES)
- Convention on Migratory Species;
- Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions;
Located in Geneva, with offices in Brussels, Moscow and Vienna, UNEP Regional Office for Europe (ROE) encourages closer regional cooperation, provides expertise and undertakes awareness-raising campaigns.

The Pan-European comprises 54 countries and is boundlessly diverse. While it is home to some of the wealthiest nations of the world, others continue to experience extreme poverty and environmental degradation.

Europe land area = 10 million km²
Europe population = 739 million
The Programme Office in Vienna

Established in 2004 with the main purpose of servicing the Carpathian Convention

- Focal point for environmental cooperation with Central and South-Eastern European countries;

- Coordinates the delivery of UNEP's programme of work in the region;

- Ensures UNEP’s liaison with the Secretariats of the Alpine Convention, the Mountain Partnership and other institutions based in Vienna and in the region;

- Delivers UNEP agenda on mountains: The ABC of European Mountains
UNEP’s Work in Eastern Europe
The Danube – Carpathian Region

- Largest, longest, most twisted and fragmented mountain range in Europe
- A dynamic and unique common living place
- Important for its ecological resource and cultural heritage
Major Threats

- Deforestation
- Over-exploitation of niche resources (wood and certain mineral ores)
- Land use changes (land abandonment)
- Degradation, elimination of traditional livelihoods
- Climate Change related issues
The Carpathian Region in Numbers

- 7 countries
- Length 1 500 km and up to 500 km wide
- 470 000 km\(^2\) (190 000 km\(^2\) - mountains)
- 36,000 km\(^2\) of protected areas
- 53 millions inhabitants (13.3 mln - mountains)
- Close to 100,000 km\(^2\) of natural or semi/natural forests
- 3,000 km\(^2\) of virgin forests
- 481 endemic plant species
The Carpathian Convention at a Glance

- Adopted on **22 May 2003**
- Entered in force on **4 January 2006**
- Ratified by all the seven Carpathian countries
- Current presidency: Czech Republic

**Main Goal:**
Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathian Region
The Convention as a Legal Framework

- A framework Convention for cooperation and multi-sectoral policy coordination
- A platform for joint strategies for sustainable development
- A forum for dialogue between all stakeholders involved

- Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity
- Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management
- Protocol on Sustainable Tourism

New Protocols under elaboration e.g. agriculture
The Mountain Agenda

• Cooperation with the Alpine Convention and with the Mountain Partnership;
• Creation of synergies with mountainous regions in the world;
• Supporting the political role of Mountains (Para 210-212 The Future We Want);
Thank you for your attention!

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www.unep.org/roe
The Convention as an Institution

Conference of the Parties

Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CCIC)

Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

WG Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

WG Biodiversity

WG Sustainable Tourism

WG Sustainable Transport and Infrastructure

WG Spatial Development

WG on Adaptation to Climate Change

Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) Steering Committee