

## **RESOLUTION**

### **International Scientific Conference**

**“Primeval and Ancient Beech Forests of Europe: Problems of Conservation and Sustainable Use”**

**(Rakhiv, Ukraine, 16-22 September 2013)**

International Scientific Conference “Primeval and Ancient Beech Forests of Europe: Problems of Conservation and Sustainable Use” was supported by UNESCO, in the context of the recommendations of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee (35COM 8B.13) in connection with the formation of a UNESCO World Heritage Site “Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany”, Decree of the President of Ukraine on sustainable development and improvement of mountain settlements which are located in the scope of beech primeval forests, the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine “On approval of the action plan for the conservation and development of the Ukrainian part of the natural WH site “Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians”, and is dedicated to the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Carpathian State Nature Reserve and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve organized at this institution.

In the frame of the Conference the European Seminar “Primeval Beech Forests – a Common Natural Heritage of Europe”, the session of Ukrainian-Slovak-German Management-Committee on comprehensive management of the World Heritage site “Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany” and the Ukrainian-German Working Group on Protected Areas took place, as well as an international friendship evening meeting “Primeval Beech Forests unite the people of Europe” and excursion to the Uholka Beech Primeval Forests of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve were organized.

The conference was attended by scientists, government representatives, environmental organizations and the public from Ukraine, Germany, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Switzerland, Romania, Austria, Italy, Spain, Great Britain and other countries, with participation of about 150 persons in total.

The Minister of Ecology and Nature Resources of Ukraine Oleg Proskuriakov and the Head of the Transcarpathian Regional State Administration Oleksandr Ledyda addressed greetings to the participants of the Conference.

During the Plenary, Poster and 4 Sectional sessions, namely “The present state of inventory and research of the primeval and ancient beech forests”, “The role of the primeval and ancient beech forests for biodiversity conservation”, “The importance of the primeval and ancient beech forests for the global climate changes mitigation and implementation of sustainable forest use models” and “Using of the primeval and ancient beech forests in the scientific, educational and ecotourism purposes”, 73 reports and messages were presented and discussed. The Volume of Proceeding of 378 pages was published.

On the base of the reports and discussions the participants of the Conference:

1. Note the significant role of Ukraine in the conservation of primeval and ancient beech forests of Europe, express gratitude to the staff of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and personally to Prof. Fedir Hamor for many years of hard work on the study and preservation of the unique natural values of the Carpathians, for their special contribution to designation of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage site “Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany”, promoting environmental cooperation in Europe for many years.

2. Value the innovative projects of the Administration of CBR for the specific decision of the President and the Government of Ukraine on issues of sustainable development and improvement of mountain settlements that are located in the area of Ukrainian-Slovak-German World Heritage Site “Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Europe”. It is recommended to use this experience in other interested countries.

3. Invite the Governments of Ukraine, Slovakia and Germany to speed up the signing of Memorandum between the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, Federal Ministry of the Environment, Natural Conservation and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic concerning the Cooperation on the Protection and Management of the joint World Heritage property “Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany”, as well as to organize search of finance for the construction of the International Educational and Research Centre of beech primeval forests and sustainable development of the Carpathians and creating a network of environmental education centres in every part of this globally important Natural Site.

4. Express deep concern at the situation with regard to the conservation of the Slovak part of the Ukrainian-Slovak-German World Heritage Site “Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany”, and hope that the Government of the Slovak Republic will implement the World Heritage Committee Decision adopted in Phnom Penh.

5. Propose to use additional steps as to the search of financial sources for the preservation of the primeval and ancient beech forests of Europe and for the preparation of common transnational projects of this research and monitoring, implementation of the obtained scientific knowledge in the practice of sustainable forest management.

6. In order to exchange the experience, increase the intellectual capacity and the qualification of scientific and business staff as well as local government activists, they recommend creating a Twin Cities Association and environmental agencies that protect and study the primeval and ancient beech forests of Europe.

7. Believe that the expansion of Ukrainian-Slovak-German UNESCO World Heritage Site “Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany” with global areas of old-growth beech forests in other European countries, will be another important step in preserving these unique forest ecosystems.

8. Recommend the Ukrainian-Slovak-German Joint Management Committee on the comprehensive management of the World Heritage site “Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany” and the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve to initiate establishment of an international scientific periodical publication “Primeval and ancient forests diversity and conservation”. to expand the promotion of environmental, ecological and social values of primeval and old-growth forests, involving all forms of media as well as to prepare a documental film “Primeval beech forests of Europe” with comments on Ukrainian, Slovak, German and English.

9. Recommend to prepare a common Ukrainian-Slovak-German monograph in order to show the present state of the research of primeval beech forests of the Carpathians and the ancient beech forests of Germany diversity and the perspectives for their protection and conservation.

10. For biodiversity conservation in Eastern Europe, taking into the consideration the exceptional value of the Podolian Upland beech forests that grow on the eastern limit of the range of beech, it is recommended to address an appeal to the President of Ukraine with the proposal of a moratorium on their cutting and to initiate the target program for their environmental research and comprehensive inventory.

11. Express their appreciation to the Organizing Committee for the excellent organization of this important international scientific meeting.