The Agreement on the functioning of the International Biosphere Reserve "Eastern Carpathians" and Coordination Council of International Biosphere Reserve "Eastern Carpathians" of 15 November 2013

1. International Biosphere Reserve "Eastern Carpathians" (IBR "Eastern Carpathians"), created in 1992, based on the Polish and Slovakian protected areas and enlarged in 1998 to include areas in Ukraine, registered by the Committee of UNESCO within “Man and the Biosphere” program is part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR).

2. IBR "Eastern Carpathians" consists of following protected areas:
   a) in Poland
      - Bieszczady National Park with head office in Ustrzyki Górne,
      - San Valley and Cišniańsko-Wetliński Landscape Parks - managed by Landscape Parks Management Board with head office in Dukla.
   b) in Slovakia
      - Poloniny National Park with head office in Stakcina.
   c) in Ukraine:
      - Uzhanskyi National Nature Park with head office in Wielkie Berezne,
      - Nadsansky Regional Landscape Park with head office in Borynia.

3. The above-mentioned institutions for the nature conservation, in terms of organization and financial functioning are based on the legal provisions applicable independently in each country.

4. These institutions have their own administrations, departments responsible for conservation and education, and independent of the Park, Advisory Board or Social Council.

5. The employees of these institutions perform tasks based on existing work plans or conservation plans, created on the basis of the relevant provisions of the national law.

6. Work or conservation plans are created with the participation of the public and stakeholders, and their contribution in developing of plans is regulated by national law.

7. Directorate of National Parks and Landscape Parks are supported by Advisory Boards, appointed on the basis of national law, which in addition to conservation experts include representatives of the local government and other organizations.

8. Goals of National and Landscape Parks management are generally consistent with the objectives of the biosphere reserve, which facilitates their realization.

9. The process of Consensus and a Common Policy development in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development is supported by meetings of IRB "Eastern Carpathians" protected areas Management which, depending on requirements are held several times a year.
10. Every year in Ustrzyki Dolne, (over past 20 years) international conference is held in order to facilitate the exchange of information between the scientific communities of Polish, Slovak and Ukrainian parts of MRB "Eastern Carpathians". Results are published a scientific journal "Annals of Bieszczady".

11. There are also workshops and training in the field of nature conservation, environmental education, protection of cultural heritage and the tourism management.

12. In order to streamline common activities related to the implementation of the cross-border biosphere reserve management goals, the Directors of all protected areas appoint, on the 15.11.2013, Coordination Council of IBR "Eastern Carpathians" - consisting of:

from Poland:
- Director of the Bieszczady National Park
- Deputy Director of the Bieszczady National Park
- Director of Carpathian Landscape Parks in Krosno
- National Coordinator
- Representative of Scientific Advisors

from the Slovak Republic:
- Director of the Poloniny National Park
- Director of Forest and Agriculture State Enterprise in Ulic
- National Coordinator
- Chairman of district Hunting Lodge in Humenne
- Chairman of Forest and Agriculture Land Owners Cooperative Ruske in Snina

from Ukraine:
- Director of the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park
- Deputy Director of the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park
- Director of the Nadsansky Regional Landscape Park
- National Coordinator
- Representative of Scientific Advisors

13. Coordination Council of IBR "Eastern Carpathians" may develop joint plans and programs according to management goals of IBR - provided the unanimity of all parties.

14. The scope and means of cooperation must respect legal standards existing in each country.

15. For the compliance with the National Laws during the implementation of joint projects responsible are:

- In Poland - Polish institutions forming IBR "Eastern Carpathians",
- In Slovakia - Slovak institutions forming IBR "Eastern Carpathians",
- In Ukraine - Ukrainian institutes forming IBR "Eastern Carpathians".

16. Meetings of the Coordination Council of the IBR "Eastern Carpathians" will be held at least once a year, alternately in one of the countries.
17. The chairman of the meeting will be director of the institution which is the "host" of the meeting.

18. Place and date of the next meeting of the Coordination Council is determined at an earlier meeting of the Coordination Council of the IBR "Eastern Carpathians".

19. The cost of one or two-day meetings are paid by the institution which is the "host".

20. Three independent protocols in Polish, Slovakian and Ukrainian language will be prepared by national coordinators of IBR "Eastern Carpathian" from each meeting of the Coordination Council. These protocols, along with translation in English, will be immediately sent to the "host".

21. Based on these protocols the "host" will prepare two documents in English: "Synthetic protocol of mutual agreements" and "Synthetic protocol of discrepancies" that will be submitted for review and signature by all the members of the Coordination Council. Any disagreements will be discussed using emails before signing them.

22. "Synthetic protocol of mutual agreement" signed by all the members of the Coordination Council will be considered as the valid document and will provide a basis for joint actions.

23. The Coordination Council will guide the preparation of a joint report to UNESCO for periodic review of IBR "Eastern Carpathians".

24. Joint periodic report will be examined and assessed by Coordination Council of IBR "Eastern Carpathians". Positive evaluation will be confirmed by signatures of Directors of six institutions forming IBR "Eastern Carpathians".

25. Amendments to this Agreement may be made only on the basis of unanimous approval of the members of Coordination Council.

26. The Agreement was concluded on 15 November 2013, in Lutowiska, at a meeting of directors of National and Landscape Parks forming IBR "Eastern Carpathians" and other members of the Coordination Council of the IBR "Eastern Carpathians" and it will be valid until 15 November 2023 year, which is confirmed by the following signatures:

from Poland:

- Director of the Bieszczady National Park
- Deputy Director of the Bieszczady National Park
- Director of Carpathian Landscape Parks in Krosno
- National Coordinator
- Representative of Scientific Advisors
from Slovakia:

- Director of the Poľoniny National Park
- Director of Forest and Agriculture State Enterprise in Ulíč
- National Coordinator
- Chairman of district Hunting Lodge in Humenne
- Chairman of Forest and Agriculture Land Owners Cooperative Ruske in Štnina

from Ukraine:

- Director of the Uzhanskyi National Nature Park
- Deputy Director of the Užanski National Park
- Director of the Nadsansky Regional Landscape Park
- National Coordinator
- Representative of Scientific Advisors