



**Brief statement of EEA at the Sixth Conference of Parties of the Carpathian Convention**  
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Good afternoon Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen, colleagues and partners.

I am pleased to be with you although I would have preferred a face to face meeting, thank you for inviting the EEA and its ETC to make this brief statement at the sixth conference of Parties of the Carpathian Convention. We want to thank Hungary for the leadership over the last three years and wish the best to Poland for the taking over of the Presidency.

The Carpathian Mountains are not only beautiful and of high nature and biodiversity value. The forests of the Carpathians host some of the largest continuous temperate forest ecosystems. They host some of the last areas of undisturbed virgin forests of Europe, highly valued for their biodiversity and the multitude of ecosystems services that they provide (e.g. carbon sinks).

It is also an area that is threatened by substantial changes in land use, unsustainable management and illegal logging. The protocol for sustainable forest management”, adopted by the Carpathian Convention formalises the need to preserve the richness and ensure sustainable use of the forests of the region, stating the importance of “identification and protection of natural forests, with a particular focus on virgin forests”

The Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, the EEA and its European Topic Centre on urban, land and soil have many areas of common interest such as

- Biodiversity
- Sustainable forest management and use
- Sustainable tourism
- Sustainable Transport
- Water
- Climate change

The EEA, its ETC and the CCA have worked closely, and very pleasantly, together since 2012 via a partnership agreement to sharing information and experiences in the region on the areas of mutual interest. The cooperation has taken place mostly with the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change work and the Working Group on forests.

It implied enhanced interoperability of environmental observation and data collection in the Carpathians with the European level, e.g., coordination with Copernicus and other EO tools.

Another example of joint benefits has been the identification of the HNV forest area in the Carpathian region applying a European approach setting the basis to locate, monitor, and prioritise virgin and HNV forest areas. The cooperation also allowed to further develop and refine the methodology for other European applications based on regional and national data and information. This requires work on filling data gaps, defining common attributes and harmonising definitions.

The joint work has resulted in the following development (not exhaustive)

- Development of indicators: naturalness, connectivity and fragmentation, forest cover changes);
- Support in the virgin forest inventory for better conservation;
  - Develop an Integrated Data platform to host data which is now available on the EEA webpage
  - An online visualisation tool for Carpathian forests,
  - The localisation of Virgin forest sites,
  - Upload relevant indicators allowing visual comparison and regular updates



The EEA developed a Carpathian webpage under Climate-ADAPT Platform that informs on policy framework, impacts and vulnerability, adaptation actions.

Other products include joint workshops, projects, and publications.

We experience that the work of our partnership has helped the countries to increase their bonds by setting region-wide information and increase the regional cooperation; as well as it provides the CCS and the 8 countries to a greater exposure of the knowledge in the region at EEA 39 level and harmonisation of their knowledgebase into EU and international standards for the data/ indicators (e.g. INSPIRE)

2020 has been a let's say a different and challenging year. The changed working conditions have delayed some of the plans. We are currently working on the integration of the virgin forest data integration, and also the integration of the Carpathian Countries Integrated Biodiversity Information System CIBBIS and on how to include this knowledge into the newly launched Forest Information System for Europe (FISE) (and Biodiversity Information System for Europe) in regional fact sheets and case studies.

In that way, the EEA and the CCS have jointly supported the development, the hosting and maintenance of reliable data and indicators linked to sustainable forest management at the Carpathian-wide level.

We want to thank the Secretariat of the CCS, its Member countries for the work achieved together so far. We are looking forward to continuing the partnership, finalising the current tasks and define and work on environmental issues of common interest.

Thank you, Mr President, colleagues and partners for your attention with my best wishes for a successful continuation of the work of the Carpathian Convention and our partnership under the Polish Presidency

Relevant links

KEO:

<https://sdi.eea.europa.eu/catalogue/biodiversity/eng/catalog.search#/metadata/3eb6231c-6cc3-4162-9b6f-3d3607480436>

Virgin forest layer:

<https://sdi.eea.europa.eu/catalogue/idp/api/records/571259cc-97da-45a5-acbb-d4f95a164a2b>

Integrated data platform

<http://eea.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=8dfdde9c1a1e46a7a64b98a20a1ee4d1>

CLIMAT-ADAPT:

[Adaptation in Carpathian Mountains — Climate-ADAPT \(europa.eu\)](#)

FISE

[www.forest.eea.europa.eu](http://www.forest.eea.europa.eu)

BISE

[www.biodiversity.europa.eu](http://www.biodiversity.europa.eu)