
**Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the
Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable
Development of the Carpathians**

CC/COP7/DOC3/ADOPTED

DECISIONS

Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (COP7)

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DECISION COP7/1

Implementation of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. On the momentous occasion of the 20th anniversary of the signing and the adoption of the Carpathian Convention, *wholeheartedly commends* the remarkable progress achieved in the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols over the past two decades, however, *encourages* the Parties to intensify their efforts towards advancing implementation at both the national and regional levels in a balanced way, and *invites* all relevant stakeholders to contribute to further progress on achieving the objectives of the Carpathian Convention.
2. *Recognizing* the risks of the ongoing biodiversity crisis for the environment and for humanity of the Carpathians and the challenges posed by the war in Ukraine on the Carpathian region; *welcomes* the organization of the Carpathian Ministerial Conference held on 21-22 November 2022 in Rzeszow, Poland, and its two Declarations, namely: *the Ministerial Declaration of the Carpathian Convention on Carpathian Commitments for the implementation of the new post 2020 global biodiversity framework* and *the Ministerial Declaration of the Carpathian Convention on the impact of war in Ukraine on the environment and the need for cooperation and assistance*.
3. Further to the *Ministerial Declaration of the Carpathian Convention on Carpathian Commitments for the implementation of the new global biodiversity framework*, adopts the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework and the accompanying Carpathian Vision 2050, translating the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) at the regional level, as a comprehensive and ambitious instrument to implement transformative actions by various stakeholders in order to achieve a vision to live in harmony with nature in the Carpathians by 2050.
4. Further to the *Ministerial Declaration of the Carpathian Convention on the impact of war in Ukraine on the environment and the need for cooperation and assistance*, *welcomes* the Set of measures to address the environmental consequences of the direct and indirect impacts of the war in Ukraine on the Carpathians, *invites* the Parties and relevant stakeholders to cooperate in the implementation while *requests* the Secretariat to coordinate the process and for this reason develop a Carpathian Convention participation/cooperation support project.
5. In respect to the DECISION COP7/1 para 4, *welcomes* the development of the project proposal "Support for transboundary cooperation of nature protection services in Polish and Ukrainian parts of the Carpathian region" submitted to the Interreg NEXT Poland-Ukraine 2021-2027 Programme led by the Association for the Development and Promotion of Podkarpacie "Pro Carpathia", as a concrete example of cooperation and assistance supporting the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration.
6. *Invites* the Parties to consider additional voluntary contributions in support of Ukraine through the Carpathian Convention mechanism or through other means, including bilateral support.

7. *Recognizing* the effectiveness and practicality of the online meetings for the implementation of the Programme of Work of the Carpathian Convention, initiated as a response to the COVID – 19 pandemic, *encourages* the Parties and the Secretariat to further organize the meetings in this format, along with the physical meetings, while the format of the meeting should be chosen on the basis of economic efficiency and substantive needs.
8. *Encourages* making further efforts in establishing a comprehensive and practical reporting system for the implementation of the Carpathian Convention and all its Protocols, taking into consideration already existing or incoming reporting under the revised National Biological Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), assuming the inclusion of the Carpathian Convention relevant provisions in the NBSAPs, or use of supporting tools such as Data Reporting Tool for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (DaRT) developed by UNEP.
9. *Welcomes* the improvement in functioning of the Carpathian Convention Working Groups by establishing the role of the Chairpersons leading the thematic work of the respective Working Groups in cooperation with the Secretariat, and *encourages* the Parties to continue this process for enhancing the implementation of the Convention and supporting cooperation and exchange of information among WGs and other relevant actors.
10. In respect to the DECISION COP7/1 para 8, *further welcomes* taking or continuing leading role of the WGs by the respective Parties as follows: WG Biodiversity – Czech Republic; WG Forest – Slovak Republic; WG Climate Change – Serbia; WG SARD – Romania; WG Tourism – Poland; WG Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge – Slovak Republic; WG Spatial Planning – Slovak Republic; and *requests* the CCIC to regularly assess, evaluate and guide the process, and make the necessary adjustments, as appropriate.
11. *Adopts* the revised Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Sustainable Tourism, the Working Group on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, the Working Group on Biodiversity, and the Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management.
12. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue taking all the necessary efforts, in collaboration with the Parties and stakeholders, to mobilize financial means for the development and implementation of projects to foster the implementation of the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols.
13. *Invites* the Parties to further solicit support for the implementation of the Carpathian Convention from the European Territorial Cooperation (Interreg) funds, the EU LIFE, the Horizon Europe, European Neighbourhood Instrument, Eastern Partnership, the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance, Visegrad Fund, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) cohesion funds, EEA and Norway Grants, and other relevant instruments.
14. *Welcomes* the idea of establishing the Carpathian Day to further promote the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians and the Carpathian Convention activities at various levels; *invites* the Parties, relevant stakeholders, and the Secretariat to contribute to the process, as appropriate.

15. *Welcomes* the launching of the new Carpathian Convention website that shall provide a modern and user-friendly platform for all stakeholders interested in activities of the Carpathian Convention; in this respect *thanks* the Secretariat for the efforts and its voluntary contributions.
16. *Welcomes and appreciates* organization of the following meetings of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CCIC) and Carpathian Convention Working Groups: the 12th CCIC meeting held on 18-19 November 2021 in Krakow, Poland; the 13th CCIC meeting, held on 22 November 2023 in Rzeszow, Poland; the 14th CCIC meeting held on 14-16 June 2023 in Mszana Dolna, Poland; the 10th meeting of the Working Group on Sustainable Tourism (WG Tourism) held on 15 April 2021 in an online format; the 12th meeting of the Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity (WG Biodiversity) held on 19-20 May 2021 in an online format; the 5th meeting of the Working Group on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (WG SARD), held on 17 March 2022 in an online format; the 13th meeting of the WG Biodiversity held on 11-12 April 2022 in an online format; 8th meeting of the Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management (WG Forest) held on 10-12 October 2022 in Levice, Slovakia; the 6th meeting of the WG SARD, held on 26-27 April 2023 in Vatra Dornei, Romania; 9th meeting of the WG Forest held on 16 May 2023 held in an online format; 14th meeting of the WG Biodiversity held on 22-24 May 2023 in Vsetin, Czech Republic.

DECISION COP7/2

Cooperation with regional and local authorities and all relevant stakeholders

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Encourages* the Parties to promote and support the comprehensive implementation of the Carpathian Convention at the regional and local levels, across all sectors in order to stimulate a higher level of consideration of and contribution to the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathian region, ensuring the wellbeing of both present and future generations residing in the area.
2. *Calls upon* regional and local authorities, as well as all relevant stakeholders, to actively and wholeheartedly participate in the implementation process of the Carpathian Convention, fostering a sense of ownership of the convention and its activities undertaken in the Carpathian region.
3. *Welcomes with appreciation* the approval and implementation of the new project CentralMountains (Interreg Central Europe) led by the Rzeszów County, Poland, on strengthening governance models for sustainable development of mountain areas in Central Europe, and *encourages* the Parties and relevant stakeholders to contribute to the project implementations, as appropriate, particularly in respect to the envisioned by the project “Alpine-Carpathian joint strategy for community led sustainable development of mountain areas

in Central Europe” and “Alpine-Carpathian toolbox for active involvement of citizens and youth in decision making processes”, and requests the Secretariat to support the process.

4. *Appreciates* the development of the project proposal “Carpathian Bridge – participatory mechanism of the Carpathian Convention at the local level”, which aims at establishing closer cooperation between the Carpathian Convention and relevant local stakeholders, in line with the Polish Presidency priority, and *encourages* the Secretariat and involved partners to resubmit the proposal to suitable funding programme, including to International Visegrad Fund.
5. *Recommends* taking additional steps to develop projects and outreach programmes aimed at local and regional authorities, universities and other relevant stakeholders to enhance their understanding of the significance of protecting and sustainably developing the Carpathian region, as well as the activities undertaken by the Convention, emphasizing the crucial role of biodiversity in promoting the wellbeing of both humanity and the environment.
6. *Welcomes* the organization of the stakeholder’s engagement meetings in respect to the Carpathian Convention held at the national level.¹

DECISION COP7/3

Cooperation with the European Union

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes and strongly encourages* more substantive cooperation with the institutions and agencies of the European Union, including with the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, especially DG REGIO and DG Environment, DG AGRI, DG DEVCO, DG NEAR, the European Parliament, the European Committee of Regions, and the European Environment Agency, in order to simultaneously support achieving the objectives of the key EU environmental policies and strategies and the objectives of the Carpathian Convention.
2. Recognizing the significant role of the Carpathian Convention as a regional mechanism facilitating and reinforcing the implementation of European environmental policies in the Carpathians, as well as supporting the integration of European environmental standards for EU candidate countries, *reiterates* its invitation to the European Union to become a Party to the Carpathian Convention, as well as *calls upon* for enhanced collaboration between the Convention and EU institutions for fostering joint efforts addressing the pressing challenges of biodiversity loss and ecosystem restoration, with mutual benefits for both the interconnected processes and the well-being of the people and nature in the region and in Europe.

¹ Detailed information about the stakeholder’s engagement meetings will be added to the COP7 Progress Report.

3. *Encourages* the Parties to revise and implement, if appropriate, the Road Map towards the accession of the European Union to the Carpathian Convention and *requests* the Secretariat to support the process.
4. *Reiterates* its invitation for the Parties to consider the introduction of a “Regional Economic Integration Organization Clause” into the Carpathian Convention in a form of an amendment of the Convention, which shall allow for the EU accession to the Carpathian Convention, *requests* the Secretariat to consult with the European Commission for this purpose.
5. *Welcomes* the active promotion of the Carpathian region at the European level through the Interregional Group “Carpathians” of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR), chaired by the Marshal of the Podkarpackie Region, Poland, and *encourages* further cooperation on topics of mutual interest, supporting the sustainable development of the Carpathian region and the implementation of the Carpathian Convention.
6. *Welcomes* the continuing cooperation with EU Macro-Regional Strategies, especially the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) based on the Memoranda of Cooperation with respecting EUSDR Priority Areas (EUSDR PA1b “Mobility I Rail-Road-Air”, EUSDR PA2 “Sustainable Energy”, EUSDR PA4 “Water Quality”, EUSDR PA 05 “Environmental Risks” and EUSDR PA 06 “Biodiversity & Landscape”), *welcomes* the Policy report *Biodiversity cross-cutting issues through Priority Areas of the European Strategy for the Danube Region*² and *requests* the Secretariat to further facilitate this cooperation and contribute to the implementation of the revised EUSDR Action Plan³.
7. *Takes note* of “Analysis of selected economic, social and spatial conditions of the development of the Carpathian Macro-region”⁴ and “the Executive summary of actions and projects of the Carpathian Strategy based on the results of the Carpathians 2020 Diagnosis, analysis of stakeholder needs developments in establishing the Macroregional Strategy for the Carpathians”⁵, commissioned by the Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of Poland.
8. *Welcomes* the opening of the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework and financed by it the Interreg Central Europe Programme and Interreg Danube Region Programme and while greatly appreciating the funding opportunities provided by these Programmes, *calls upon* the Parties to promote greater recognition of the Carpathian region and its challenges and characteristics of a mountain region within their future programming processes and programme priorities.
9. *Welcomes* efforts made by the Parties, the Secretariat and relevant stakeholders to use the opportunities of the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework for advancing the implementation of the Carpathian Convention through timely preparations of project proposals, and *encourages* to further consider relevant EU funding opportunities, including Horizon Europe, relevant Interreg programmes, including the Interreg A – Cross-border cooperation, as

² [Biodiversity-cross-cutting-issues-through-PAs-of-the-EUSDR.pdf \(danube-region.eu\)](https://danube-region.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/EUSDR-ACTION-PLAN-SWD202059-final.pdf)

³ <https://danube-region.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/EUSDR-ACTION-PLAN-SWD202059-final.pdf>

⁴ [Analysis of selected economic, social and spatial conditions of the development of the Carpathian Macro-region - executive summary](#)

⁵ [Executive summary of actions/projects of the Carpathian Strategy based on the results of the Carpathians 2020 Diagnosis, EU Strategy for the Alpine Region and analysis of stakeholder needs](#)

well as development and implementation of a Carpathian strategic project (e.g. LIFE Strategic Nature Project (SnaP)) to tackle challenges of the Carpathian region, while enhancing the cooperation process for the purpose of the harmonious and sustainable development of the region and Europe.

10. *Commends* the highly successful Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union, held from 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022, and its role in ensuring in environmental protection within various European and global process, including the adoption of the ground-breaking Kunming – Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
11. *Invites* the forthcoming Hungarian and Polish Presidencies of the Council of the European Union, to be held from 1 July to 31 December 2024 and 1 January to 30 June 2025 respectively, to support promoting the Carpathian Convention and its objectives at the EU level.
12. *Welcomes* the relevant EU environmental policies and strategies, such as the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the EU Forest Strategy for 2030⁶, and *invites* the Parties and relevant stakeholders to contribute to realization of the relevant strategic actions, including building a coherent network of protected areas, as a true Trans-European Nature Network, with effective management of all protected areas and with strict protection for areas of very high biodiversity and climate value, including remaining EU primary and old-growth forests, as well as strengthening the EU legal framework for nature protection, which will contribute to achieving the Carpathian Convention objectives.
13. *Welcomes with appreciations* the cooperation with the European Environment Agency on the implementation of the Carpathian Convention based on the Partnership Agreement between the Carpathian Convention Secretariat and the EEA and their renewed Work Plan 2023-2025; and *invites* the EEA to continue providing services supporting the development and implementation of policies and tools addressing the environmental issues relevant for the Carpathians and simultaneously the European Union.

DECISION COP7/4

Cooperation with United Nations Environment Programme

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the Resumed Session of the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA-5.2), particularly the Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals⁷, the Resolution on Nature-based Solutions for

⁶ The EU Biodiversity Strategy and EU Forest Strategy for 2030, being a European Commission's Communication, is not legally binding and does not impose legal obligations on EU Member States.

⁷ <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/39728/UNEP-EA.5-HLS.1%20-MINISTERIAL%20DECLARATION%20OF%20THE%20UNITED%20NATIONS%20ENVIRONMENT%20ASSEMBLY%20AT%20ITS%20FIFTH%20SESSION%20-%20English.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

supporting sustainable development (UNEP/EA.5/Res.5)⁸ and the Resolution on End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument (UNEP/EA.5/Res.14)⁹, *invites* the Parties to consider these outcomes while implementing the Carpathian Convention, and further *requests* the Secretariat to support the process.

2. *Takes note* of the organization of the 6th Session of the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA-6), scheduled to take place from 26 February – 1 March 2024 in Nairobi, which shall focus on “Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution” as per defined theme; *welcomes with appreciation* the initiative to strengthen the contribution and participation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) Secretariats and their governing bodies in UNEA, while providing an opportunity for dialogue amongst the MEAs and with Member States and stakeholders; in this respect, *further welcomes* the idea of inclusion of a supplementary item on “Cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements” in the provisional agenda of the UNEA-6, and *invites* the Secretariat and UNEP to support the process.
3. *Reiterates* the invitation of greater engagement of Major Groups and Stakeholders from the Carpathian Region in the UNEA and its preparatory process, and *request* the UNEP Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention to support such engagement.
4. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme to build on the ongoing Bern Process and continue to strengthen cooperation and coordination among biodiversity-related conventions contributing to effective and efficient implementation of the GBF by facilitating the process for cooperation among Parties to the relevant biodiversity-related conventions, and while *recognizing* that Carpathian Convention is a viable vehicle for the implementation of the GBF, *encourages* better consideration of regional convention and initiatives in the process; in that regard acknowledges the organization of the Bern III Conference on Cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions for the implementation of the GBF, scheduled to take place from 22 – 26 January 2024 in Bern, Switzerland organized by UNEP in close collaboration with the Secretariat of the CBD and Switzerland, with the objective to identify opportunities for MEAs collaboration in implementing the GBF at all appropriate levels, make recommendations on further steps to strengthen cooperation and collaboration, and share practical experiences on synergies in implementing MEAs.
5. *Notes with appreciation* the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention’s engagement and contribution to UNEP’s synergies project “Realizing Synergies for Biodiversity”, as a Steering Committee member, *acknowledging* that the project was extended to a second phase in June 2023.

⁸ <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/39864/NATURE-BASED%20SOLUTIONS%20FOR%20SUPPORTING%20SUSTAINABLE%20DEVELOPMENT.%20English.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

⁹ <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/39764/END%20PLASTIC%20POLLUTION%20-%20TOWARDS%20AN%20INTERNATIONAL%20LEGALLY%20BINDING%20INSTRUMENT%20-%20English.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

6. *Takes note* that the Secretariat collaborated with UNEP's Data Reporting Tool for MEAs, by making the Carpathian Convention Protocol on Biodiversity available in DaRT which provides an entry point for the Parties to make interlinkages between their NBSAPs, the goals and targets of the Carpathian Convention Protocol on Biodiversity and that of the GBF.

DECISION COP7/5

Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes and supports* further cooperation with other conventions and international bodies, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention), the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention), the European Landscape Convention, the Council of Europe, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the United Nations Forum on Forest (UNFF) the Global Environment Facility (GEF) FOREST EUROPE - the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, the European Association of Mountain Areas (EUROMONTANA), the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), the Visegrad Group; GRID Arendal, UNEP/GRID Warsaw, the Mountain Research Initiative, the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA), the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), CEEweb for Biodiversity (CEEweb), the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), the European Federation for Hunting and Conservation (FACE) *appreciates* the efforts made by the Secretariat in this process and *encourages* participation of the Secretariat in relevant meetings in order to establish and maintain close links and enhance synergies, where appropriate, between the relevant international actors and the Carpathian Convention;
2. *Encourages* the Parties and relevant stakeholders to actively pursue greater coherence and synergies in the implementation of the Carpathian Convention and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, as well as to promote and undertake mutually supportive efforts and approaches that aim to enhance cooperation and coordination among these agreements, including in their national strategies and action plans.
3. *Welcomes* the proclamation and the results of the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022, which recognized the need for conserving mountains and provided a

unique opportunity to raise awareness on the role of mountains and mountain people for the planet and sustainable development, including for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and *appreciates* the efforts made by the Parties, relevant actors and the Secretariat to contribute to the process.

4. *Welcomes* the United Nations General Assembly resolution (UNGA, RES/77/172)¹⁰ on “Sustainable Mountain Development” adopted in December 2022, proclaiming the period of 2023–2027 as Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions in order to enhance the awareness of the international community of the problems of mountain countries and to give new impetus for addressing the challenges of mountain countries; in this respect, *invites* the Parties, within their mandates, to engage in the development and implementation of the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions; and *requests* the Secretariat to assist the process.
5. *Welcomes* the close cooperation with the Alpine Convention on various topics, particularly in respect to the organization of series of events promoting mountain biodiversity, including the Mountain Biodiversity Day on 13 January 2021, the Alpine and Carpathian Biodiversity Forum on 15-16 December 2021, and the conference Mountain Biodiversity 2002-2022: achievements and next challenges at global and regional level on 16 September 2022, *thanks* the Alpine Convention Permanent Secretariat and the Alpine Biodiversity Board, the Secretariat and other partners for facilitating the preparations and *invites* them to further strengthen the cooperation in fields of common interest, including institutional cooperation, the exchange of information and experience, the development and implementation of common projects, and raising awareness of the significance of sustainable development of mountain areas in Europe and other mountain regions of the world.
6. *Encourages* the Focal Points to the Convention to continue to increase their efforts to coordinate with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements and their national counterparts for other MEAs as well as with institutions and agencies working to address the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and SDGs.
7. *Welcomes* the UN Decade on Ecosystems Restoration 2021 – 2030, as well as the Joint Statement by the Carpathian Convention welcoming the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration reaffirming the commitment to international cooperation for ensuring an environmentally sustainable future and preservation of the exceptional natural values of the Carpathian region, thus, supporting the long-term objective of the UN Decade to ensure healthy ecosystems for the benefit of people and nature, and *requests* the Secretariat to continue working with FAO and UNEP in its implementation.

¹⁰ <https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2FRES%2F77%2F172&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False>

8. *Further welcomes* the Multi-Country Mountain Flagship as one of the first 10 World Restoration Flagships of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, celebrating the success story of mountain restoration efforts in Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, and Uganda and Rwanda, appreciates the efforts by the involved partners and *invites* the Secretariat and UNEP to consider follow up activities.
9. *Welcomes* the signing of the Joint Declaration between UNIDO and the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention for achieving mutually beneficial development results in the field of inclusive and sustainable industrial development for the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathian region; and *requests* the Secretariat to facilitate the implementation process.
10. *Welcomes* the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation between Euromontana and the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention with the objective to enhance promoting of sustainable agriculture and rural development in the Carpathians and at the EU level for the benefits to the local people in Carpathians, and *recommends* development and implementation of the related Work Plan.
11. *Welcomes* the organization of the interregional workshop Mountains Connect, under the auspices of the Adaptation at Altitude programme, on 20-22 June 2022 in Vienna, Austria, which aimed at fostering effective interregional exchange and action learning on the manifold approaches and mechanisms for mountain regional governance, attended by stakeholders and decision-makers from the Andes, the South Caucasus, the East African Community Partner States, the Hindu Kush Himalaya, the Alps and the Carpathians, *appreciates* the organizational efforts by the UNEP and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) with the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention Secretariat, and *invites* the relevant partners to consider and further involve the Carpathian Convention in follow up activities.
12. *Invites* the Parties and the Secretariat to further share knowledge and best practices of the Carpathian Convention in regional mountain governance with other mountain regions, and in this respect *appreciates* the consultations and exchange with the Hindu Kush Himalaya and ICIMOD as well as the Andes and the Andean Mountain Initiative, in this respect, *invites* the relevant actors to consider further strengthening of the interregional cooperation through relevant measures, such as a joint Memorandum of Cooperation.
13. *Welcomes* the organization of the 6th Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership in Aspen, Colorado, US and *thanks* to Romania and its National Agency of the Mountain Area the Carpathian Convention for representing the Carpathians at the session on transboundary cooperation highlighting the benefits of cooperating within the Carpathian Convention that includes sharing experience and knowledge on various topics related to sustainability and environmental protection.

DECISION COP7/6

Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Recognizing* that the Carpathian Convention provides a regional mechanism for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its new Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in the Carpathians to advance on addressing biodiversity loss and ecosystem restoration with benefit to all interlinked processes, *welcomes* the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework and *requests* the Parties to use it as a key tool to implement the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols contributing to the achievement of the Global Biodiversity Framework, by taking joint and synergistic actions with the involvement and cooperation of all relevant actors and stakeholders; and *requests* the Secretariat to facilitate the implementation process.
2. *Invites* the Parties to include the relevant aspects of the Carpathian Convention activities within the revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) under the CBD, to mutually strengthen the implementation of both conventions, help avoiding isolated approaches and making the best use of limited financial and human resources.
3. *Welcomes* the signing of the trilateral Memorandum of Cooperation between the CBD, the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention renewed in the light of the Global Biodiversity Framework, which shall enhance synergies and initiate common activities for the implementation of the new framework and guide the way for effective mountain biodiversity protection in the Alpine and Carpathian regions and beyond, supporting experience and knowledge sharing with other mountain regions of the world, in this respect, *invites* the Parties, the relevant Secretariats and stakeholders to initiate implementation activities and support the process.
4. *Welcomes with appreciation* the active role of the Secretariat in the process of developing the Global Biodiversity Framework by promoting the Carpathian Convention, increasing importance of regional approaches for the successful GBF implementation, and building partnerships and synergies with relevant actors and processes, including the CBD Secretariat, *requests* the Secretariat to continue active engagement in the GBF implementation process.
5. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Secretariat and other partners, particularly UNEP, in raising the importance of mountain biodiversity within the Global Biodiversity Framework process and other global environmental agendas, through undertaking consultations on the subject within the GBF related meetings, including the organization of the CBD COP15 high-level side event “Celebrating International Year of Mountains - ensuring mountain biodiversity protection within the post-2020 GBF implementation”, held on 14 December 2022 in Montreal, Canada, and *invites* the Secretariat and UNEP to continue the process.

6. Further to the DECISION COP7/6 paragraph 5, *encourages* the Parties to take active role in promoting the importance of mountain biodiversity within the CBD and GBF processes, and consider establishing of and participation in an informal group of like-minded mountain biodiversity countries, which shall provide a forum for consultation and cooperation to promote the group's interest and priorities related to protection of mountain biodiversity and sustainable development of mountain regions, as well as strengthen the voice of the mountain countries presenting joint views for better consideration of needs, challenges and opportunities of the mountain biodiversity within the CBD meetings and consultation processes; in this respect, *invites* the Secretariat, UNEP and the CBD Secretariat to support the process.
7. *Calls on* the Parties and the Secretariat to take actions to enhance synergies, coherence and effective cooperation among the biodiversity related Conventions and other relevant initiatives and process in a manner fully consistent with their mandates and priorities to strengthen the contribution of these instruments to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
8. *Take notes* that the Data Reporting Tool for MEAs (DaRT) can support Parties in revising their NBSAPs and aligning them with the GBF, readily identifying interlinkages between their NBSAPs, the goals and targets of Carpathian Convention Protocol on Biodiversity and that of the GBF.¹¹

DECISION COP7/7

Cooperation with Eurac Research

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Expresses* its gratitude for the scientific support capacities offered by Eurac Research, for the continuous assistance in the implementation of the Carpathian Convention through the Vienna Representing Office, and for its long-lasting presence within the Secretariat, *invites* Eurac Research to further support achieving the objectives of the Carpathian Convention and continuing the fruitful established cooperation.
2. *Acknowledges* the role of Eurac Research in supporting the development and execution of numerous projects focused on the implementation of the Carpathian Convention, *encourages* further cooperation with Eurac Research in this respect.
3. *Welcomes* the renewal of the annex to the Memorandum of Cooperation between UNEP Vienna Office-Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and Eurac Research.

¹¹ DaRT is available to support parties for NBSAPs alignment through the [GEF GBF Early Action Support Project's technical support and capacity-building development](#)

DECISION COP7/8

Strengthening science-policy-practice interface and cooperation with scientific networks

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the continuous efforts of the Secretariat to strengthen science – policy – practice interface in order to enhance the implementation of the Carpathian Convention, , including stronger collaboration with the Science for the Carpathians (hereinafter S4C) network, and *requests* further actions by the Secretariat in this respect.
2. *Welcomes* stronger involvement of the S4C in the implementation of the Convention, based on the Memorandum of Understanding, its contribution to the COP6 and COP7, other relevant Convention meetings, *recognizes* the effort by the Secretariat, the S4C and respective Carpathian Convention working groups to coordinate activities and *requests* the Secretariat to pursue closer collaboration with the S4C.
3. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the 6th Forum Carpaticum: “Linking the Environmental, Political and Societal Aspects for Carpathian Sustainability, held on 21-25 June 2021 in Brno, Czech Republic, and the 7th Forum Carpaticum “Carpathian Futures – Critical Transitions”, held on 25-29 September 2023, Kraków, Poland, *thanks* the S4C for the elaboration of the recommendations for the Carpathian Convention, *invites* the S4C to further support the Carpathian Convention with its sound scientific knowledge and expertise, and *requests* the Secretariat and the Parties to take S4C recommendations into close consideration when prioritizing, planning and implementing Convention activities.
4. *Welcomes* the S4C Interdisciplinary Winter School 2022 “Sustainable development in hot spots of nature and tourism in the Carpathians,” organized by the S4C in Kraków-Zakopane, Poland, *recognizes* inputs provided by the Secretariat to the Winter School and *encourages* S4C, the Parties and the Secretariat to provide more such opportunities for inter-disciplinary exchange and learning about the Carpathian region.
5. *Welcomes* the “Research Agenda for the Carpathians 2022-2030”, elaborated by the S4C based on the results of the Forum Carpaticum 2021, *recognizes* the active role of the Secretariat in facilitating the Research Agenda development and *encourages* strong collaboration from the parties and the Secretariat with the S4C on the implementation of the Research Agenda.
6. *Welcomes* the chapter “Science-policy-practice collaborations towards sustainable development in the Carpathian Region,” co-authored by the S4C members and the Secretariat, to be published in the volume “Safeguarding Mountain Social-Ecological Systems: a Global Challenge”, edited by Schneiderbauer, S., Szarzynski, J, Shroder, J, Fontanella Pisa, P. as part of the Elsevier’s Hazards and Disasters Series and *invites* the Secretariat and the S4C to pursue further such collaborative efforts of promoting the Carpathian region.

7. *Acknowledging* the benefits of integrating transdisciplinary approaches into Convention activities as well as networking and exchange with other mountain regions, *welcomes* the sessions “Discussing transdisciplinary practices for global mountain sustainability: opportunities, challenges and experiences” and “Supporting cooperation within and among regional scientific mountain networks – does EU policy play a role?” co-organized by the Secretariat, S4C and other actors at the International Mountain Conference 2022, held in Innsbruck, Austria, on 11-15 September 2022 and *encourages* S4C and the Secretariat to further explore tools for more effective networking and co-creation of knowledge and solutions for the Carpathian region.
8. *Encourages* further collaboration with the S4C on strengthening the Carpathian Convention’s networks, coordination and collaboration within and between them and requests the Secretariat to support this process.
9. *Recognizes* the support provided by the German Federal Environment Ministry’s Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP), the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and the German Environment Agency, through the project “Strengthening the ESD network in the Carpathian Convention via science-policy-practice interface”, to the implementation of the Convention, including activities supporting science – policy – practice interface and *requests* the Secretariat to continue cooperation with these agencies.
10. *Welcomes* the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Cooperation between the S4C and the Scientific Network for the Caucasus Mountain Region (SNC-mt), as well as follow up on the MOU via Networking workshops, including that held at the 3rd Caucasus Mountain Forum, on July 4-6 2023 in Kutaisi, Georgia, *recognizes* the efforts of the Secretariat to facilitate this process and *requests* the Secretariat to continue fostering scientific exchange between the Carpathians and other regions.
11. Encourages the Secretariat to continue collaborating with the Science for the Carpathians on the establishment of respective S4C Working Groups, if relevant, and on coordinating mutual exchange between the S4C experts and the Convention Working Groups.
12. *Mandates* the Secretariat to delegate its representative to the Executive Committee of S4C.

DECISION COP7/9

Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity
Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity in the Carpathians 2021-2026 with support of relevant projects, *encourages* the Parties, the WG Biodiversity and other stakeholders,

with support of the Secretariat, to further implement the Action Plan, to assess the progress made by COP 8 and suggest possible revision of the Action Plan, with the consideration of relevant project results, for the consideration by the COP 8.

2. *Welcomes* the implementation of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity Work Plan 2021–2023 and *requests* the WG Biodiversity to revise it for the following implementation period 2024-2026 taking into account the provisions of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework; in this respect *invites* the Parties, WG Biodiversity, relevant other Working Groups and stakeholders, with support of the Secretariat, to implement it.
3. *Welcomes with appreciation* the approval and implementation of the new project LECA (Interreg Central Europe) led by the Mendel University in Brno, Czech Republic, on supporting the coexistence and conservation of the Carpathian large carnivores, and *encourages* the Parties, WG Biodiversity and relevant stakeholders to contribute to the project implementation particularly, to the envisioned by the project thematic guidance on monitoring, poaching investigation and conflict prevention, as well as the “Recommendations for the implementation of the Carpathian Convention on large carnivores” to be taken into consideration in the revised Action Plan as per DECISION COP7/9 paragraph 2; *requests* the Secretariat to support the process.
4. *Welcomes* the exchange on large carnivores’ conservation and management practices and perspectives, particularly with the Dinaric-Balkan-Pindos Large Carnivore Platform region and the Platform Large Carnivores, Wild Ungulates and Society (WISO) of the Alpine Convention, and *invites* the relevant stakeholders to organize an interregional workshop on the topic for knowledge sharing and identifying possible synergies and cooperation opportunities.
5. *Welcomes* the results of the project SaveGREEN (Interreg Danube Transnational Programme), led by WWF CEE, on safeguarding the functionality of transnationally important ecological corridors in the Danube region, particularly the “Methodology on Monitoring structural and functional ecological connectivity” and its related application toolbox for field data collection and *encourages* their use.
6. *Welcomes* the endorsement of the Joint Declaration “Achieving functional biodiversity in the Danube-Carpathian Region by mainstreaming ecological connectivity”¹² as the basis for upcoming work on connectivity in the region in collaboration with the EUSDR PA4, PA5 and 6, and the ICPDR, *invites* the Parties, WG Biodiversity and relevant stakeholders, together with the Secretariat, to support the process and initiate related activities.
7. *Welcomes with appreciation* the approval and implementation of NaturaConnect project (EU Horizon Europe) led by the International Institute of Applied System Analysis (IIASA), Austria, on building a resilient ecological network of conserved areas across Europe, including supporting development of the Trans-European Nature Network (TEN-N), *encourages* the

¹² [Joint Declaration «Achieving functional biodiversity in the Danube-Carpathian Region by mainstreaming ecological connectivity»](#)

Parties, WG Biodiversity and relevant stakeholders to support the project implementation, and to promote and use the results of the project, as appropriate *welcomes* closer collaboration with the ICPDR, WWF-CEE, WWF Hungary, WWF Romania and the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU) within the frame of the NaturaConnect project and its Danube-Carpathian case study, and *requests* the Secretariat to support this process.

8. Further to DECISION COP7/9 paragraph 10, *encourages* the Parties, WG Biodiversity and relevant stakeholders to consider and integrate learnings from the NaturaConnect project into the implementation of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework and the revision of the Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity in the Carpathians 2021-2026, as appropriate.
9. *Welcomes* the results of the ConnectGREEN project (Interreg Danube Transnational Programme, led by WWF Romania, on restoring and managing ecological corridors in mountains as the green infrastructure in the Danube basin, and *encourages* the Parties, WG Biodiversity and relevant stakeholders to consider and use them, as appropriate, while implementing the Carpathian Convention, particularly:
 - Guidelines for the Identification, Conservation, Restoration, and Management of Ecological Corridors in the Carpathian Ecoregion¹³
 - Methodology for identification of ecological corridors in the Carpathian countries using large carnivores as umbrella species¹⁴
 - Guidelines on how to Use Spatial Planning Tool in Integrative Management of Ecological Corridors¹⁵
10. *Welcomes and endorses* the results of the project Centralparks (Interreg Central Europe Programme) led by Eurac Research, on building management capacities of Carpathian protected areas for the integration and harmonization of biodiversity protection and local socio-economic development, including the support given to the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) activities, and *encourages* the Parties, WG Biodiversity and relevant stakeholders to consider and use them, as appropriate, while implementing the Carpathian Convention, particularly:
 - Carpathian strategy for enhancing biodiversity and landscape conservation outside and inside Protected Areas
 - Strategy for local sustainable tourism development based on natural and cultural heritage of the Carpathians
 - Guidelines on communication between protected areas and local communities in the Carpathians
 - Carpathian Ecosystem Services Toolkit produced by the Centralparks project.

¹³ [https://www.interreg-](https://www.interreg-danube.eu/uploads/media/approved_project_output/0001/48/8970ecbfce8e1efb26e6d89be922dca9285d973e.pdf)

[danube.eu/uploads/media/approved_project_output/0001/48/8970ecbfce8e1efb26e6d89be922dca9285d973e.pdf](https://www.interreg-danube.eu/uploads/media/approved_project_output/0001/48/8970ecbfce8e1efb26e6d89be922dca9285d973e.pdf)

¹⁴ https://www.interreg-danube.eu/uploads/media/approved_project_output/0001/46/b06b6e925fd510bee8d1ca23fff5b03424c513fa.pdf

¹⁵ [https://www.interreg-](https://www.interreg-danube.eu/uploads/media/approved_project_output/0001/46/4bf6e34e0cc88332516e33e95333685adf014665.pdf)

[danube.eu/uploads/media/approved_project_output/0001/46/4bf6e34e0cc88332516e33e95333685adf014665.pdf](https://www.interreg-danube.eu/uploads/media/approved_project_output/0001/46/4bf6e34e0cc88332516e33e95333685adf014665.pdf)

11. *Welcomes* the organization of the conference “Protected Areas - Cornerstones of Ecological Connectivity in the Carpathians and Beyond” together with the 3rd Conference of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas, held on 28-30 September 2021 in Visegrad, Hungary, *welcomes* the Conference Declaration¹⁶ and appreciates the support given by the ConnectGREEN and Centraparks projects.
12. *Welcomes* the organization of the conference “Transnational cooperation for the sustainable future of the Carpathian region” - final conference of the Centralparks project, held on 23-24 March 2022 in Wieliczka, Poland, and *thanks* the Secretariat and Eurac Research for organizing the round table discussion between the protected area networks, including the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas, the Alpine Network of Protected Areas, the DANUBEPARKS, the Parks Dinarides and the Carpathian Wetland Initiative, on the significance of networks for effective protected area management and nature-based sustainable development, and based on the discussion results, *encourages* closer cooperation and exchange between the networks and identifying topic of mutual importance for further work.
13. *Recognizing* the support given by the Centralparks project to CNPA, *welcomes* the recommendations of the CNPA Steering Committee meeting¹⁷, held on 18 November 2021 in Krakow, Poland, the outcomes of the CNPA SC meeting, held on 24 March in Wieliczka, Poland, and subsequent CNPA questionnaire 2022 that resulted in great interest expressed by CNPA Members in establishing an association of protected areas in the Carpathians, to provide better governance model for CNPA, in this respect, *invites* the CNPA SC, and relevant protected areas, to consider making necessary arrangements with support of the Secretariat.
14. *Appreciating* the work of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI) in strengthening synergies between the Ramsar Convention and the Carpathian Convention, *welcomes* close cooperation of CWI with the Secretariat and relevant WGs, especially the WG Biodiversity and the WG Climate Change, in raising the importance of the Carpathian wetlands and initiating concrete activities, including development of a project proposal on relevant topics, *encourages* the relevant WGs and the Secretariat to support the process and the project’s implementation, if successful, and *invites* the Parties, the CWI Board, CNPA SC and relevant stakeholders, with support of the Secretariat, to make arrangements for better governance model for CWI, and to update the Terms of Reference of the CWI accordingly.
15. *Welcomes* and *appreciates* the organization of the training course on wetlands restoration in cooperation by the Carpathian Wetland Initiative and the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic and the Czech Ramsar Committee, held on 18-22 October 2021 and 2-6 October 2023 in the Czech Republic.
16. *Welcomes* the voluntary contribution made by Hungary and the Slovak Republic to the Carpathian Wetland Initiative, and *encourages* other Parties to do so as well.

¹⁶ http://www.carpathianconvention.org/tl_files/carpathiancon/Downloads/00%20NEWS/810CPA%20Conference%20DeclarationFinal.pdf

¹⁷ http://www.carpathianconvention.org/tl_files/carpathiancon/Downloads/03%20Meetings%20and%20Events/Others/CNPA%20Steering%20Committee%20meeting/104MinutesCNPASteering%20CommitteemeetingRecommendationsFINAL.pdf

17. *Welcomes* the designation of the new Ramsar site *Iron Gates Natural Park – Djerdap* and encourages other Parties to consider designation of new Ramsar sites in the Carpathian region.

Encourages the Parties, the WG Biodiversity and relevant stakeholders to propose and develop activities and projects on landscape protection and spatial planning, which in line with the Carpathian Convention provisions, will support sustainable land management and landscape planning that optimize human activities with biodiversity protection and enhancement of measures.

18. *Takes note* of the implementation of the project SWiPE (EU LIFE Programme) led by WWF Bulgaria on successful wildlife crime prosecution in Europe, and *invites* the Secretariat to facilitate dissemination of the project results, specifically the training materials on wildlife crime prosecution and investigation, the national wildlife crime reports that feature policy recommendations, best practices in prosecution of wildlife crime cases and pilot cases concerning aspects of tackling wildlife crime and the European report on wildlife crime.
19. *Takes note* of the development and submission of a proposal on Concerted Action for the Eurasian Lynx under the CMS Convention.

DECISION COP7/10

Spatial planning

Article 5 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Encourages* the WG Spatial Development and relevant stakeholders to propose and develop activities addressing spatial planning issues in the Carpathians, particularly in the border areas, and *requests* the Secretariat to support the process.

DECISION COP7/11

Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management

Article 6 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the organization of the session titled "Partnerships for community action to increase river resilience" at the International River Symposium, that was successfully held on 27-30 November 2022 in Vienna, Austria and online, presenting the challenge of plastic pollution in the Tisza River in cooperation with Plastic Cup and the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme Tid(y)Up project, appreciates the cooperation between the Secretariat, UNEP and

ICPDR in this respect and encourages further common activities, including development of a joint project on combating plastic pollution in the Tisza River and other relevant topics.

2. *Welcomes* the development of the project proposal JOINTISZA 2.0, to be submitted under the Interreg Danube Region Programme 2021-2027, on strengthening the long-term sustainable management of transboundary water resources in the Tisza River Basin, and *invites* the Secretariat to contribute to the project implementation, if required.
3. Encourages intensifying of cooperation between the Carpathian Convention bodies and ICPDR and particularly, the ICPDR Tisza Group on topics of mutual importance.

DECISION COP7/12

Sustainable agriculture and rural development
Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the ratification and entry into force of the Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (hereinafter SARD Protocol) for Ukraine, *invites* the remaining *Party* to accede to the Protocol, *encourages* all Parties to actively implement the provisions of the SARD Protocol for balanced implementation of the Carpathian Convention, and *requests* the WG SARD and the Secretariat to support the Parties in this process.
2. *Welcoming* the United Nations General Assembly Resolution (RES/76/253) declaring 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP), and *recognizing* the importance of the Carpathian Pastoralism, *invites* the Parties, WG SARD and relevant stakeholders, with support of the Secretariat, to use the building momentum of the IYRP to undertake relevant actions for supporting, promoting and protecting the traditional pastoral practices in the Carpathians and to highlight the relevance and contribution of the Carpathian region to this important practice at the international level.
3. Further to the DECISION COP7/12 paragraph 2, *welcomes* the prioritization of the Carpathian pastoralism as a leading topic for the WG SARD activities, and further *request* the WG SARD and involved stakeholders to build on the results and recommendations of the 6th WG SARD meeting, and to continue process of identifying and implementing relevant activities for cooperation within the framework of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, including but not limited to conducting a regional assessment and report on the status, challenges and needs of pastoralism in the Carpathian region, supporting development of pastoralism law in the Carpathians at the regional level, maintaining the traditional knowledge and heritage management, facilitating capacity building, as well as networking at the regional and international level, in this respect *invites* the Secretariat and relevant partners, particularly the National Agency of the Mountain Areas Romania, the Centre for Ecological Research and Euromontana to support the process.

4. *Welcomes* the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and the Global International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026 Coalition, *mandates* the Secretariat to sign it at the earliest convenience.
5. *Invites* the Parties, relevant Working Groups and stakeholders to explore possibilities to inscribe the Carpathian pastoralism in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List of Humanity and *requests* the Secretariat to support the process.
6. Furthermore, *encourages* WG SARD and WG Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge, with involvement of other WGs, if feasible, to organize a joint meeting addressing the issues of pastoralism in the Carpathians, and requests the Secretariat to support the process.
7. *Welcomes* the progress made by the WG SARD in identifying further priority topics for the implementation of the SARD Protocol, including on: best practices models for short food supply chains in the mountain areas, quality schemes and certification of „Mountain Products”, benefits and best practice models of associations for farmers and food producers in the mountain area, in this respect *encourages* the Parties, WG SARD and relevant stakeholders, with support of the Secretariat, to undertake concrete related activities.
8. *Thanks* the Romanian National Agency of the Mountain Areas for its strong involvement in coordinating the activities of the WG SARD and for its determination to continue leading the work of this WG.

DECISION COP7/13

Sustainable forest management

Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Recognizing* the importance of the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (hereinafter Forest Protocol), further *encourages* all Parties to actively participate in implementation of the provisions of the Forest Protocol and share expertise for balanced implementation of the Carpathian Convention, and *requests* the WG Forest and the Secretariat to support the Parties in this process.
2. *Welcomes* the development of the Inventory of Virgin Forests of the Carpathians, based on officially reported data by the Parties, which shall strengthen protection of one of the last remaining virgin forests in Europe, and in this respect contribute to the efforts at the European level, *appreciates* the contribution of European Environment Agency (EEA), the European Topic Centre on Urban, Land, and Soil Systems (ETC-ULS) and of the Secretariat to the process.
3. Further to the DECISION COP7/13 paragraph 1, adopts the Criteria and indicators for selection of quasi-virgin forests in the Carpathians, and further *invites* the Parties to consider extending the Inventory of Virgin Forests of the Carpathians to other degrees of naturalness particularly quasi-virgin forests, as well as the WG Forest, relevant stakeholders, and especially the European

- Environment Agency (EEA) to cooperate on and contribute to the process with support of the Secretariat.
4. *Welcomes* the implementation of Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management - Work Plan 2023 – 2026 implementing the Forest Protocol and its Strategic Action Plan, and *encourages* the Parties, WG Forest, relevant stakeholders and the Secretariat to continue the implementation process.
 5. *Welcomes* the development of the Assessment of climate change risks and adaptation options for the Carpathian forests and their ecosystem services, *appreciates* the contributions of the Expert Group consisting of representatives of the Working Group on Climate Change and the Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management, and overall coordination of the Secretariat, to the development process, in this respect *encourages* the Parties, relevant WGs and stakeholders to consider and act on proposed policy recommendations, taking into account specific conditions of the Parties.
 6. Further to the DECISION COP7/13 paragraph 4, *welcomes* the organization of a special session and workshop on forest ecosystem vulnerabilities to climate change in the Carpathians, held during the 6th Forum Carpathicum, on 21 June 2021 in online format, by Mr. William Keeton, University of Vermont and Member of the Science for the Carpathians, and the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, which initiated the development of the above-mentioned Assessment.
 7. *Takes note* of the development of the project proposal ForestConnect “Towards a Climate-smart Forest Connectivity for Large Carnivores in the Balkan-Carpathian Region” (Interreg Danube Region Programme), and *encourages* the Secretariat and the WG Forest, the WG Biodiversity, WG Climate Change and CNPA to support the development of a Strategic Action Plan with adaptation actions and resilience-enhancing forest management practices for protected areas.
 8. *Welcomes* the cooperation established with Forest Europe with regards to the support to Ukraine and the contribution by the Secretariat to the report prepared in regard to the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration: “Supporting the recovery and sustainable management of Ukrainian forests and its forest sector” endorsed by Forest Europe signatories on 30 August 2022, and in this regard *encourages* the Parties, WG Forest, and the Secretariat to further conduct activities that have a potential to contribute to the recovery and sustainable management of Ukrainian forests and the forest sector.
 9. *Welcomes* the cooperation with FAO on forests related activities and support to Ukraine and *encourages* the Secretariat to find synergies with FAO in the context of its EU funded project for Ukraine named “Inclusive, Competitive and Sustainable Value Chain Functioning and Development in agriculture, fisheries and forestry (ICSDAFF)”, and specifically on the Carpathian project output on “Multipurpose Forest Management Plan (MPFMP), developed and implemented for the local forestry authorities and forestry-based value chains, promoted within the scope of the MPFMP”.
 10. *Commends* the documentary film about close-to-nature forest management in the Carpathians produced by the Forest Management Institute of the Czech Republic in cooperation with other

partners, which intends to support the implementation of the Forest Protocol in frame of the Carpathian Convention by raising awareness and sharing knowledge on close-to-nature forest management.

DECISION COP7/14

Sustainable transport and infrastructure, industry and energy
Article 8 and 10 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Recognizing* the importance of the Protocol on Sustainable Transport to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (hereinafter Transport Protocol), *invites* the remaining Party to accede to the Protocol and further *encourages* all Parties to actively implement the provisions of the Transport Protocol for achieving balanced implementation of the Carpathian Convention, and *requests* the WG Transport and the Secretariat to support the Parties in this process.
2. *Reiterates* the request to implement the Joint Strategic Action Plan (SAP) 2021 – 2026 for the implementation of the Transport Protocol and *encourages* the Parties, WG Transport and relevant stakeholders to initiate relevant activities with support of the Secretariat.

DECISION COP7/15

Sustainable tourism
Article 9 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Recognizing* the importance of the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (hereinafter Tourism Protocol), *invites* all Parties to actively implement the provisions of the Tourism Protocol for achieving balanced implementation of the Carpathian Convention, and *requests* the WG Tourism and the Secretariat to support the Parties in this process.
2. *Welcomes* the progress made by the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform (CSTP) and its Centres, particularly on creating and expanding the cooperation network that is crucial for further implementation of the Carpathian Convention in the field of sustainable tourism, in this respect *appreciates* the opening of the CSTP Centre Slovakia established in cooperation between the Ministry of Environment of Slovakia and the Association of Towns and Communities of Slovakia.
3. Further to the DECISION COP7/15 paragraph 2, *welcomes* the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat and the CSTP Centre Poland, and *invites* the CSTP Centre Romania, the CSTP Centre Ukraine, the CSTP Centre Slovakia to proceed with the signing, if all formal requirements are met, at the earliest convenience.

4. Further to the launching of the CentralMountains project, *welcomes* the project activities which aim at improving cooperation and governance systems of the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform and its Centres, in this *respect* requests the CSTP, WG Tourism and the Secretariat to support the process.
5. *Thanks* the CSTP Center Poland a for coordinating the activities of the CSTP in 2021 – 2023 and further welcomes the proposal by Poland to continue the coordinating role of CSTP for the next implementation period 2024 – 2026 during the Serbian Presidency of the Carpathian Convention.
6. *Notes* the implementation of the “Cooperation of V4+ rural tourism actors through social and digital innovation project” under the Visegrad Fund, the “Etno Carpathia” project under the cross-border Interreg Poland-Slovakia Programme and the project “Thematic Trail Trigger” under the Interreg Europe Programme, and *encourages* the CSTP to share the results of the projects.
7. *Welcomes* “Strategy for local sustainable tourism development based on natural and cultural heritage of the Carpathians” developed with support of the Centralparks project, and *encourages* the Parties, WG Tourism, WG Biodiversity and relevant stakeholders to consider and implement while implementing the Carpathian Convention.

DECISION COP7/16

Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge
Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Acknowledging* the crucial role cultural heritage plays in fostering sustainable socio-economic development within the Carpathian region, *encourages* the Parties, WG Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge and relevant stakeholders to undertake relevant activities supporting the implementation of the Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention.
2. *Welcomes* the proposal of closer cooperation between the WG Cultural Heritage and WG SARD on protecting and promoting traditional pastoral practices in the Carpathians, and in this respect *encourages* organization of a joint meeting that shall further develop cooperation activities in respect to contributing to the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists; *request* the Secretariat to support the process.
3. *Appreciates* the kind offer of the Slovak Republic to host the next meeting of the WG Cultural Heritage and *requests* the Secretariat to coordinate and facilitate its organization.
4. *Encourages* the WG Cultural Heritage and relevant actors, including the Secretariat, to further consider redrafting and resubmission of the project “Carpathian Route - exploring, promoting and protecting the richness of the cultural and natural heritage of the Carpathian Region” to the suitable funding programmes, if possible.

DECISION COP7/17

Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning
Article 12 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Appreciates* the ongoing cooperation between the Carpathian Convention and the EEA, based on the Partnership Agreement and the related Work Plan, particularly on integration and further development of the Carpathian Convention data platform within the EEA information systems, including the Forest Information System for Europe and possibly the Biodiversity Information System for Europe, which will allow for better access to the relevant information on the Carpathian topics and for increasing visibility of the Carpathian region at the European Union level, and, in this respect, *requests* the Secretariat and EEA to further support this process.
2. *Appreciates* the support of the SaveGREEN project in revising and maintaining Carpathian Countries Integrated Biodiversity Information System (CCIBIS) and *encourages* the Parties to share relevant publications, maps and other information on the website to further develop CCIBIS in order to allow access available data sets, information on local and regional administrations, outcomes of projects and other relevant data for the implementation of the Carpathian Convention.
3. *Welcomes* with appreciation the launching of the programme "EU for the Environment: Water Resources and Environmental Data"(2021-2024) and particularly its activity on land monitoring in Ukraine, namely the national implementation of the pilot project "Creation of the standard European database Corine Land Cover (CLC) of the Carpathian region for an area of 27,000 km², being implemented by the Austrian Environment Agency, *invites* the relevant stakeholders and the Secretariat to assist the process, if relevant, and consider follow up activities.

DECISION COP7/18

Climate Change
Article 12bis of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the ratification of the amendment to the Carpathian Convention, the Article 12bis on Climate Change, and its entry into force for Hungary, Poland, Romania and Ukraine, *encourages* the other Parties to complete the ratification process, further *encourages* the Parties to implement the provisions of the Article 12bis to strengthen the consideration of climate change in the implementation of the Convention activities; in this respect, *requests* the WG Climate Change, relevant stakeholders, together with the Secretariat, to support the process.

2. *Noting with concern* the lack of progress in the implementations of the “Long-term Vision 2030 towards combating climate change in the Carpathians” and its corresponding Implementation Framework 2030, *calls upon* the Parties, the WG Climate Change and relevant stakeholders, with support of the Secretariat, to take the necessary actions to ensure proper implementation.
3. Further to the DECISION COP7/18 paragraph 2, *requests* the WG Climate Change to revise the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Climate Change Work Plan 2021 – 2023 for the following implementation period 2024-2026, taking into account the provisions of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework and further relevant developments; in this respect *invites* the WG Climate Change, relevant other Working Groups and stakeholders, with support of the Secretariat, to implement the amended Work Plan.
4. *Encourages* the Parties, WG Climate Change and relevant stakeholders to promote Nature-based Solutions (NbS)¹⁸ in the Carpathians with a special focus on Ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) and disaster risk reduction, and undertake relevant activities, possibly including: integrating provisions for NbS/EbA into policy, strategy and planning frameworks; developing an assessment on NbS/EbA in the Carpathians with a collection of best practices; developing a joint project on NbS/EbA, e.g. on wetlands restoration in cooperation with CWI, Ramsar Convention and ICPDR; considering inclusive approaches of NbS/EbA to promote diversified livelihoods with climate and biodiversity benefits, ecosystem restoration and climate-smart agriculture and forestry; organizing outreach and awareness-raising campaigns for communities, civil servants, students; and *requests* the Secretariat to support the process.
5. *Reiterates* the invitation to further develop close cooperation and explore joint activities with the other thematic Working Groups of the Carpathian Convention in order to ensure incorporation of climate change consideration into all relevant Convention’s topics and activities.
6. *Welcomes* the cooperation between the WG Climate Change and the WG Forest for the development of the Assessment of climate change risks and adaptation options for the Carpathian forests and their ecosystem services, and *encourages* the Parties, the above-mentioned WGs and relevant stakeholders to undertake necessary next steps to implement proposed policy and practice recommendations.
7. Considering the high exposure and fragility of mountains to climate change, *welcomes* the efforts made by relevant actors, including UNEP, the Alpine Convention, ICIMOD, and the Mountain Partnership to increase visibility of mountain related topics within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change by, among others, organizing relevant events, including the side event “Elevating adaptation action in mountains” at the UNFCCC COP26 in 2021 and the side event “Mountains connect – Collaboration and partnership across mountain ranges” at the UNFCCC COP27 in 2022, *thanks* the Polish Presidency for representing the

¹⁸ As defined in the UNEA Resolution “Nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development” (UNEP/EA.5/Res.5).

Carpathians at the relevant events, and invites other Parties, especially the Serbian Presidency and relevant partners to continue the process.

8. Further to the DECISION COP7/18, *appreciates* the initiative of the Government of Andorra under the frame of the Mountain Partnership to facilitate and strengthen collaboration of mountainous countries to give mountain ecosystems` vulnerability to climate change the needed importance under the UNFCCC process, and organizing a ministerial meeting at the UNFCCC COP27 in 2022 and its follow up request of including an item on mountains in the agenda of the upcoming UNFCCC COP28; in this respect, *invites* the Parties to contribute to the process.

DECISION COP7/19

Awareness raising, education and public participation
Article 13 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Acknowledges* the fruitful follow up by the Polish Presidency on the initiative by the Hungarian Presidency in advancing Education for Sustainable Development (hereinafter ESD) for the implementation of the Carpathian Convention.
2. *Welcomes* the Carpathian Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Expert Network as a cross-sectoral network of diverse actors: official nominated Governmental experts, NGO practitioners, teachers and academic experts, thus facilitating cross-thematic linkages, expanding and strengthening Convention networks, and communication within the Convention and awareness-raising about the Convention, *encourages* the Parties, who have not done so yet, to nominate Carpathian ESD experts to the network, and *requests* the Secretariat to support the process, furthermore *invites* the Carpathian Troika to continue collaborating on supporting the Carpathian ESD Expert Network and its activities.
3. *Encourages* the cooperation among the Focal Points and the ESD Experts, as relevant, including within Convention Working Groups, on strengthening cross-sectoral linkages in the Convention Programme of Work and strengthening communication within the Convention, its stakeholders and to the outside.
4. *Invites* the Parties to explore the possibility of establishing "Carpathians Convention Youth Focal Point" in order to increase the engagement of young people in this process.
5. *Welcomes* the "Recommendations for the Establishment of the Carpathian ESD Expert Network, developed by the S4C Carpathian Convention Network Expert, Ms. Marta Vetier in close collaboration with the Secretariat and with inputs by the Parties and relevant partners; and further *invites* the Parties and the Secretariat to consider the Recommendations.

6. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the second Carpathian ESD Seminar, held in Zakopane, Poland, on 28-30 September 2022, *acknowledges* the important role of the Ministry of Climate and Environment of Poland, as well as the Secretariat, in co-organizing the Seminar, *recognises* the support provided by the German Federal Environment Ministry's Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP), the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and by the German Environment Agency, and *requests* the Secretariat and *invites* the Parties to consider the recommendations elaborated at the Seminar, including providing support to the Carpathian ESD Experts in following up on the outputs and recommendations received at the Seminar, particularly on organization of a Carpathian Day.
7. *Welcomes* the Side Event "ESD Expert Network in the Carpathian Region", held within the 9th Environment for Europe (EfE) Conference on 5th October 2022, Nicosia, Cyprus as well as the presentation of the Carpathian ESD Expert Network at the High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries, as part of the 9th EfE, and *thanks* the Carpathian Troika and the Secretariat for close collaboration on promoting the Convention at the 9th EfE Conference.
8. *Welcomes* the fruitful implementation of the project "Strengthening the ESD network in the Carpathian Convention via science-policy-practice interface", including, in addition to the activities mentioned above, 1) the presentation of ESD-related activities of the Convention at the 11th World Environmental Education Congress, 4-8 March 2021 in Prague, Czech Republic, 2) Carpathian Side Event to the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region "Enhancing nature conservation with ESD expertise: towards a transdisciplinary approach in the Carpathian region, integrating quality education and sustainable development governance" jointly elaborated by the Ministry of Human Capacities and Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary the Secretariat and the S4C and held virtually on April 6, 2022, 3) exchange on ESD during the 12th CCIC, held in Krakow, Poland, and *requests* the Secretariat to support development of follow-up activities and projects, building on the progress to-date.
9. *Welcomes* the process of developing the Vision and Strategy for Carpathian ESD by the Carpathian ESD Experts in collaboration with the Secretariat and *invites* the Parties to provide inputs and support this process, as relevant.
10. *Acknowledges* the relevance of highlighting cross-sectoral linkages during Working Group meetings, such as including "Reflections from the Carpathian ESD Experts – relevant links between ESD and SARD activities" into the Agenda of the 6th Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD), held on 26-27 April 2023 in Vatra Dornei, Romania, and *invites* the Secretariat and the Parties to continue efforts in this respect, in collaboration with the Carpathian ESD Expert Network.
11. *Welcomes* collaboration among the Carpathian ESD Experts on the development of joint activities, including the workshop on Learning Landscapes at the Interpret Europe Conference, held in Sighisoara, Romania on May 12-14, 2023 and the "Carpathian Scan" project, following up on ESD priorities and recommendations co-developed by the Carpathian ESD Expert Network at the Second Carpathian ESD Seminar and other events and *requests* the Secretariat and the Parties to further support such collaborative efforts.

12. *Welcomes* the Carpathian ESD Session and Workshop, organized in collaboration by the Secretariat and the S4C during the 7th Forum Carpaticum “Carpathian Futures – Critical Transitions”, held on September 24-29 in Krakow, Poland, *takes note* the recommendations elaborated at the Session and Workshop, and *requests* the Secretariat and *invites* the Parties to consider these recommendations in cooperation with relevant stakeholders.
13. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue its liaison with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Steering Committee on ESD and UNESCO as relevant, and to explore collaboration with the Global Education Network Europe (GENE).
14. *Invites* the Serbian Presidency of the Carpathian Convention to continue supporting ESD activities as a necessary tool to enable long-term sustainable development in the Carpathians.

DECISION COP7/20

Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Recalling* its Decision COP6/20 on the Programme of Work and budget of the Carpathian Convention.
2. *Having considered* the report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the Programme of Work¹⁹ (CC/COP7/DOC6 – Progress Report).
3. *Takes note* of the balance statement of the Trust Fund of the UN Environment Programme - Vienna Office – Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention.
4. *Encourages* the Parties to continue to finance their participation in meetings related to the implementation of the Programme of Work, and/or to share their expertise through their participation in online consultations and through providing leadership to the Working Groups.
5. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to facilitate the online consultations and information sharing by making available the appropriate tools, procedures and processes.
6. *Approves* the Programme of Work for 2024 – 2026 of the Carpathian Convention as in Annex 1²⁰ and *mandates* the CCIC to revise and periodically update it.
7. *Adopts* the Budget for 2024, 2025 and 2026 for the Carpathian Convention as in Annex 2²¹.
8. *Calls upon* the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention to actively promote and service the implementation of the Programme of Work and the implementation of COP Decisions.
9. *Decides* that each Party will contribute to the Trust Fund on a yearly basis in accordance with the attached scale of assessment as in Annex 3²².

¹⁹ [CC/COP7/DOC6 – Progress Report](#)

²⁰ Annex 1 is available at the page 33.

²¹ Annex 2 is available at the page 39.

²² Annex 3 is available at the page 40.

DECISION COP7/21

Administration and financial management of the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Expresses* its gratitude to the Executive Director of UNEP for assuming responsibility for administering the Trust Fund for Administering and Meeting the Objectives of the Framework Convention for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians and related Protocols.
2. *Decides* to extend the Trust Fund for three years until the 8th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention in 2026 and *requests* UNEP to continue to administer the Trust Fund until that date in accordance with the Terms of Reference adopted by the third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
3. *Decides* that the Programme of Work – Budget for 2024, 2025 and 2026 of the Carpathian Convention as approved in Decision COP7/20 shall be used as the budget of the Trust Fund for these years.
4. *Requests* UNEP to continue delegating the necessary administrative authorities to the Head of the Secretariat in Vienna in line with the Rules and Regulations of the United Nations (paragraph 15 of decision COP3/14).
5. Furthermore, *taking into account* paragraph 13 of the approved Terms of Reference of the Trust Fund contained in Annex 4 of Decision COP3/14, *requests* to maximize the use of the 13% Programme Support Costs for the benefit of the Convention and the functioning of the Secretariat, applying the equal standards for all MEA Secretariats.
6. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue consulting with the United Nations, UNEP and the European Union competent bodies and programmes, in order to implement a solution enabling the Secretariat to participate again in relevant EU Programmes, including Horizon Europe, Interreg or LIFE, in order to analyse and remove current obstacles.

DECISION COP7/22

Location of Permanent Secretariat

The Conference of the Parties

Reiterates the Decision COP5/17 regarding reviewing the issue of the location of the Permanent Secretariat.

DECISION COP7/23

Date and venue of the Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Decides* to accept the generous offer of the Government of Ukraine to convene the Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP8) in the end of 2026, if this, however, is not possible, the Rules of Procedure for the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention²³ shall apply, *requests* the Secretariat to make the necessary arrangements, in consultation with the host Government and the COP Bureau.
2. *Requests* the Secretariat to undertake the necessary preparation in consultation with all interested partners and stakeholders.
3. *Invites* all interested partners to make a financial contribution to the organization of the Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention.

DECISION COP7/24

Presidency of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Expresses* its gratitude for the successful Presidency of Poland to the Carpathian Convention, *welcomes* the new Presidency of Serbia and its priorities, namely, as thematic priorities: biodiversity and a regional approach for the implementation of the GBF in the Carpathians, wetlands management and restoration – focus on transboundary Ramsar sites and protected areas management and networks, as well as strategic priorities: strengthening interregional cooperation and strengthening cooperation with the EU, and *encourages* close cooperation of the Carpathian Troika consisting of the previous, current and future Presidencies in order to maximise the results of common efforts.

²³ [Rules of Procedures for the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention](#)

**Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the
Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable
Development of the Carpathians**

CC/COP7/DOC3/ADOPTED

Annex 1 (DECISION COP7/20)

Programme of Work of the Carpathian Convention by sectors, 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2026

COP7 DECISIONS	ACTIVITY	ACTORS
Implementation of the Carpathian Convention		
DECISION COP7 Para/1 para 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the Ministerial Declaration of the Carpathian Convention on Carpathian Commitments for the implementation of the new global biodiversity framework Implement the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework and the accompanying Carpathian Vision 2050 	Parties Relevant WGs Secretariat
DECISION COP7 Para/1 para 4,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the Ministerial Declaration of the Carpathian Convention on the impact of war in Ukraine on the environment and the need for cooperation and assistance, Implement the Set of measures to address the environmental consequences of the direct and indirect impacts of the war in Ukraine on the Carpathians Support development and implementation of relevant projects 	Parties, Secretariat
DECISION COP7/1 para 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider comprehensive and practical reporting system for the implementation of the Carpathian Convention and all its Protocols, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consultation on the inclusion of the Carpathian Convention relevant provisions in the revised NBSAPs possible use of supporting tools such as Data Reporting Tool for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (DaRT) developed by UNEP 	Parties, Secretariat
DECISION COP7/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote of the Carpathian Day, is possible 	Parties WGs Secretariat,
Cooperation with regional and local authorities and all relevant stakeholders		
DECISION COP7/2 para 1,3,4,5		Secretariat Relevant WGs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support implementation of relevant project, including the CentraMountains, which encourage cooperation and involvement of the regional stakeholders and promote awareness raising 	
DECISION COP6/2 para 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize of the stakeholder's engagement meetings 	Parties Secretariat
Cooperation with the European Union		
DECISION COP7/3 para 2, 3, 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support closer cooperation with the European Union, its instruments, and programmes 	Parties Secretariat
Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies		
DECISION COP7/4 para 2, 3,4,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue cooperation with UNEP, including on greater engagement by the Carpathian Convention in the activities of the United Nations Environmental Assembly and UNEP's process 	Parties Secretariat
Cooperation with United Nations Environment Programme		
DECISION COP7/5 para 2,4,7,12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance coherence and synergies in the implementation of the Carpathian Convention and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements Strengthen cooperation with various partners Engagement in the development and implementation of the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions Contribution to the UN Decade on Ecosystems Restoration 2021 – 2030 Support further exchange on regional mountain governance with other mountain regions and strengthening interregional cooperation through relevant measures, such as a joint Memorandum of Cooperation 	Parties Secretariat
Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework		
DECISION COP7/6 para 1, 2,3, 6,7,8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support regional implementation of the GBF including through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework include the relevant aspects of the Carpathian Convention activities within the revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) support the implementation of the renews Memorandum of Cooperation between the CBD, the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention renewed in the light of the Global Biodiversity Framework further promote the importance of mountain biodiversity within the CBD and GBF processes, and consider establishing of and participation in an informal group of like-minded mountain biodiversity countries 	Parties Relevant WGs Secretariat

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - enhance synergies, coherence and effective cooperation among the biodiversity related Conventions and other relevant initiatives and process - Consider making use of Data Reporting Tool for MEAs (DaRT) 	
Cooperation with Eurac Research		
DECISION COP7/7 para 1, 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue fruitful cooperation with Eurac Research and encourage further project development with support of Eurac Research 	Secretariat Eurac Research
Strengthening science-policy-practice interface and cooperation with scientific networks		
DECISION COP7/8 para 2, 3 5, 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the S4C recommendations and the Research Agenda for the Carpathians 2022-2030 when prioritizing, planning and implementing Convention activities. • Support stronger involvement of the S4C in the Convention activities. • Support collaboration with the S4C on strengthening the Carpathian Convention's networks, coordination and collaboration within and between them. 	S4C Secretariat Parties
Biodiversity		
DECISION COP7/9 para 1, 2,3, 4,5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further implementation of the Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity, including through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting implementation of the LECA project on supporting the coexistence and conservation of the Carpathian large carnivores - Support implementation of the NaturaConnect project - Revising the Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity - Exchanging with other regions on relevant topics • Further use of relevant project results, including of the Centralparks, ConnectGREEN, SAVEGREEN and others. • Revise the Working Group on Biodiversity Work Plan 2021–2023 • Support relevant activities implementing the Joint Declaration "Achieving functional biodiversity in the Danube-Carpathian Region by mainstreaming ecological connectivity • Support work and better governance of the Carpathian Network of the Protected Areas • Support work and better governance of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative 	Parties WG Biodiversity CNPA CWI Secretariat
Spatial Planning		

DECISION COP7/10 para 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support making proposal and development of activities addressing spatial planning issues in the Carpathians, particularly in the border areas 	Parties Secretariat
Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management		
DECISION COP7/11 para 1, 2, 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support activities addressing plastic pollution in the Carpathian watercourses Support intensifying cooperation between the Carpathian Convention bodies and ICPDR and particularly, the ICPDR Tisza Group on topics of mutual importance, including through various projects 	Parties Secretariat Relevant WGs
Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development		
DECISION COP7/12 para 2, 3, 5, 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support activities related to supporting, promoting and protecting the traditional pastoral practices in the Carpathians, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and implement concrete activities within the WG SARD establish close cooperation with the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) and its partners and contribute to IYRP explore possibilities to inscribe the Carpathian pastoralism in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List of Humanity Support implementation of further priority topics for the implementation of the SARD Protocol, including best practices models for short food supply chains in the mountain areas, quality schemes and certification of „Mountain Products”, benefits and best practice models of associations for farmers and food producers in the mountain area 	Parties WG SARD Secretariat
Sustainable Forest Management		
DECISION COP7/13 para 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible extension of the Inventory of Virgin Forests of the Carpathians to other degrees of naturalness particularly quasi-virgin forests Implementation of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management - Work Plan 2023 – 2026 Consideration of the Assessment of climate change risks and adaptation options for the Carpathian forests and their ecosystem services and implementation of recommendations Support further close cooperation with relevant partners, including FAO, Forest Europe Support development and implementation of relevant projects 	Parties WG Forest Secretariat
Sustainable Transport		
DECISION COP7/14 para 1, 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of the Joint Strategic Action Plan (SAP) 2021 – 2026 for the implementation of the Transport Protocol 	Parties WG Transport

		Secretariat
Sustainable tourism		
DECISION COP6/15 para 2, 3, 4, 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the cooperation and activities within the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform Support implementation of relevant projects, including the CentralMountains Consider the Strategy for local sustainable tourism development based on natural and cultural heritage of the Carpathians” while undertaking related activities (Centralparks result). 	Parties WG Tourism CSTP Secretariat
Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge		
DECISION COP7/16 Para 2, 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support activities promoting and protecting the richness of the cultural and natural heritage of the Carpathian Region, including traditional pastoral practices in the Carpathians 	Parties WG Cultural Heritage Secretariat
Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning		
DECISION COP7/17 para 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support further cooperation between the Carpathian Convention and the EEA on the implementation of the Carpathian Convention Contribute and support further development of the Carpathian Countries Integrated Biodiversity Information System (CCIBIS) 	Secretariat Relevant WGs
Climate Change		
DECISION COP7/18 para 2, 3, 4, 5, 6,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement of the “Long-term Vision 2030 towards combating climate change in the Carpathians” and its corresponding Implementation Framework 2030 Revise the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Climate Change Work Plan 2021 – 2023 Promote of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) in the Carpathians with a special focus on Ecosystem-based adaptation Consider the Assessment of climate change risks and adaptation options for the Carpathian forests and their ecosystem services and implementation of recommendations 	Parties WG Climate Change Secretariat
Awareness raising, education and public participation		



<p>DECISION COP6/19 Para 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the Carpathian Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Expert Network as a cross-sectoral network of diverse actors, including through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - strengthening cross-sectoral linkages in the Convention Programme of Work and strengthening communication within the Convention, its stakeholders and to the outside. - possibility of establishing "Carpathians Convention Youth Focal Point" in order to increase the engagement of young people in this process, - considering the "Recommendations for the Establishment of the Carpathian ESD Expert Network", - considering the recommendation of the second Carpathian ESD Seminar - supporting development of follow-up activities and projects based on the results of the project "Strengthening the ESD network in the Carpathian Convention via science-policy-practice interface" - liaising with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Steering Committee on ESD and UNESCO 	<p>Parties Secretariat Carpathian ESD Expert Network S4C Relevant WGs</p>
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Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the
Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable
Development of the Carpathians

CC/COP7/DOC3/ADOPTED

Annex 2 (DECISION COP7/20)

Budget and Counterpart Contribution to the Trust Fund

Carpathian Convention Trust Fund - Budget	2024	2025	2026	2024 - 2026
	USD	USD	USD	USD
Staff and Other Personnel Costs	200,310	200,310	200,310	600,930
General Operating and Other Direct Costs	28,200	28,200	28,200	84,600
Total Direct Cost	228,510	228,510	228,510	685,530
13% PSC	29,706	29,706	29,706	89,119
GRAND TOTAL	258,216	258,216	258,216	774,649

Voluntary Contributions to the Carpathian Convention Trust Fund and Projects	2024	2025	2026	2024 - 2026
	USD	USD	USD	USD
Staff and Other Personnel Costs	71,692	71,692	71,692	215,076
Office costs	10,600	10,600	10,600	31,800
Total Direct Cost	82,292	82,292	82,292	246,876
13% PSC	10,697	10,697	10,697	32,091
GRAND TOTAL	92,989	92,989	92,989	278,969

	EUR	USD
NaturaConnect project	100,000	107,296
Other expected project	100,000	107,296
Other expected project	60,000	64,377
TOTAL	260,000	278,969

Exchange rate 1. June 2023: 1 USD = 0,932Euro

Annex 3 (DECISION COP7/20)

SCALE OF ASSESSMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS BY STATE PARTIES TO THE TRUST FUND FOR
THE THREE YEARS 2024 - 2025 - 2026 FOR
THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CARPATHIANS
(EURO)

The contributions by the Parties as specified below will be used for funding the administration of the Convention and its Protocols, including the functioning of its Secretariat

Contracting Party	Year 2024	Year 2025	Year 2026
Czech Republic	33 000	33 000	33 000
Hungary	33 000	33 000	33 000
Poland	33 000	33 000	33 000
Romania	33 000	33 000	33 000
Serbia	22 000	22 000	22 000
Slovak Republic	33 000	33 000	33 000
Ukraine	33 000	33 000	33 000
TOTAL	220 000	220 000	220 000

Abbreviations

AAP – German Federal Environment Ministry’s Advisory Assistance Programme

AARHUS CONVENTION - Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

BERN CONVENTION - Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

BOKU – University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences

CBD – Convention on Biological Diversity

CCIBIS - Carpathian Integrated Biodiversity Information System

CCIC - Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee

CEEweb – CEEweb for Biodiversity

CIC - International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation

CMS - Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

CNPA - Carpathian Network of Protected Areas

CNPA SC - Carpathian Network of Protected Areas Steering Committee

COP - Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention

CoR – European Committee of the Regions

CSTP - Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform

CWI - Carpathian Wetland Initiative

DANUBEPARKS - Network of Protected Areas along the Danube River

DG REGIO - Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy

DG Environment – Directorate-General for Environment

DG AGRI – European Commission Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development

DG DEVCO – Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

DG NEAR - Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations

DaRT – Data Reporting Tool for Multilateral Environmental Agreements

EbA – Ecosystem-based Adaptation

EfE – Environment for Europe

EEA - European Environment Agency

ESD - Education for Sustainable Development

ETC-ULS – European Topic Centre on Urban, Land, and Soil Systems

EU – European Union

EUROMONTANA - European Association of Mountain Areas

EUSDR - EU Strategy for the Danube Region

FAO – Food and Agriculture Organisation

FACE – European Federation for Hunting and Conservation

FOREST EUROPE - the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe

Forest Protocol - Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management to the Carpathian Convention

GEF – Global Environment Facility

GENE – Global Education Network Europe

GMBA - Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment

ICPDR – International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River

IIASA – International Institute of Applied System Analysis

IYRP – International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists

ICIMOD – the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development

MEA – Multilateral Environmental Agreement

NBSAP – National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan

NbS – Nature-based Solutions

Ramsar Convention - Convention on Wetlands of International Importance

SAP – Strategic Action Plan

SARD – Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

WG SARD – Working Group of Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

SDC – Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

SDG – Sustainable Development Goal

SNaP – LIFE Strategic Nature Project

S4C – Science for the Carpathians network

SNC-mt - Scientific Network for the Caucasus Mountain Region

TEN-N – Trans-European Nature Network

Tourism Protocol - Protocol on Sustainable Tourism to the Carpathian Convention

Transport Protocol - Protocol on Sustainable Transport to the Carpathian Convention

UNCCD - United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

UNDP - United Nations Development Programme

UNGA – United Nations General Assembly

UNEA – United Nations Environmental Assembly

UNECE – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

UNEP - United Nations Environment Programme

UNEP-WCMC - UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre

UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNFCCC – United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

UNFF – United Nations Forum on Forest

UNIDO - United Nations Industrial Development Organization

WG Biodiversity - Carpathian Convention Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity

WG Climate Change - Carpathian Convention Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change

WG Forest - Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management

WG SARD - Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

WG Spatial Development - Carpathian Convention Working Group on Spatial Development

WG Transport - Carpathian Convention Working Group on Transport

WG Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge - Carpathian Convention Working Group on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge

WG Tourism - Carpathian Convention Working Group on Tourism

WISO – Wild Ungulates and Society

WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature

WWF - CEE – WWF Central Eastern Europe