

# Implementation of the Carpathian Convention: progress and prospects

Report by the Secretariat

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Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

Carpathian Convention COP7  
11-13 October 2023, Belgrade





# 20 Years of the Carpathian Convention

2003 – 2023







# 20 Years of the Carpathian Convention

*Assessing Progress, Inspiring Action, and Shaping the Future*

## Reaching milestones

5 Protocols in place

-  Biodiversity
-  Sustainable Forest Management
-  Sustainable Tourism
-  Sustainable Transport
-  Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

## Building partnerships and awareness

An ever-expanding stakeholder network

Dedicated group of partners

Over 150 conference, working groups meetings, workshop

## Mobilizing actions

Translating provisions and instruments into actions on the ground

Supporting development and implementation of dozens of projects

## Inspiring change

Carpathian Biodiversity Framework

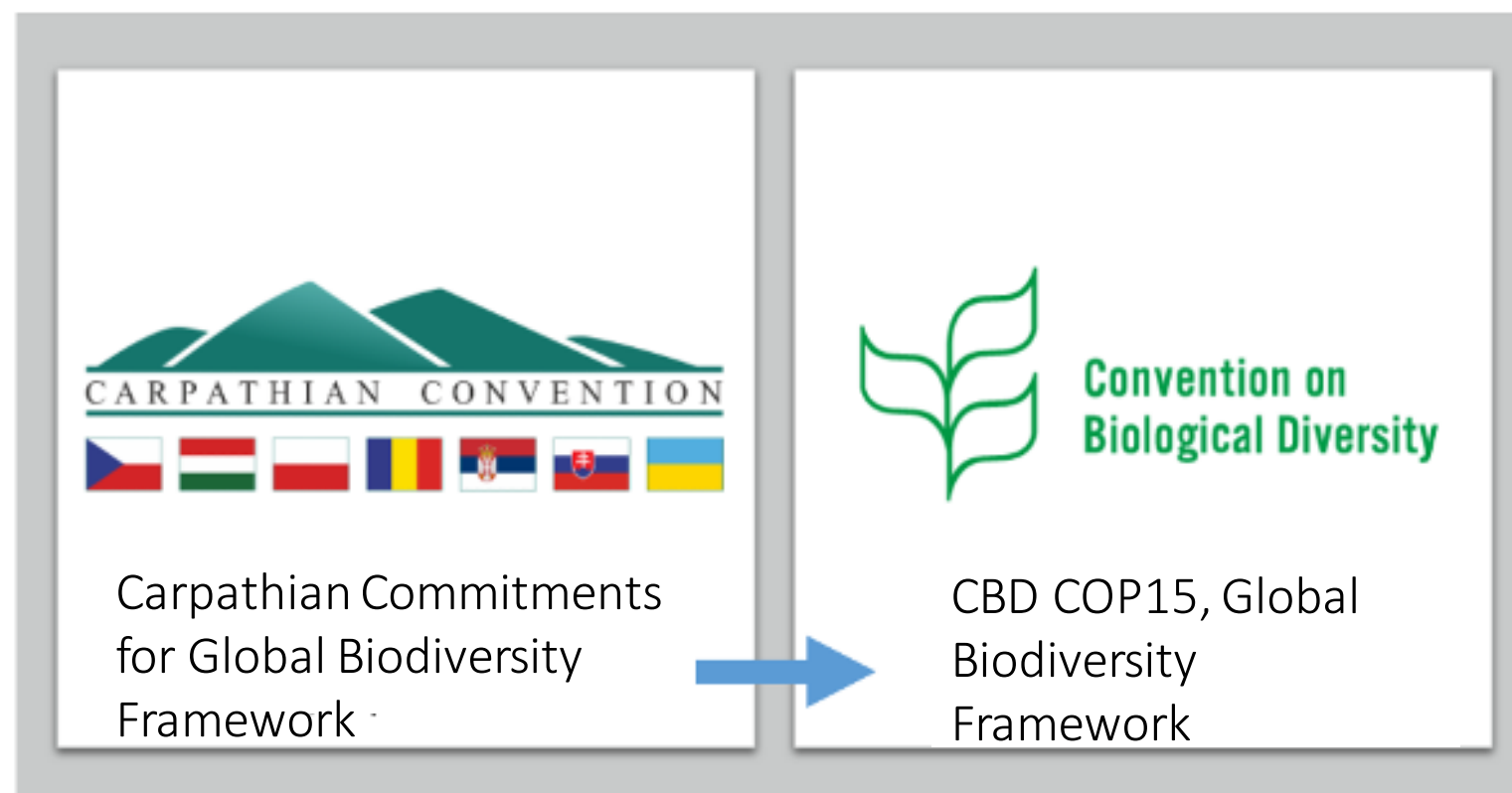
Vision 2050

# Carpathian Convention –

regional instrument for enhancing implementation of global and European policies



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**  
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



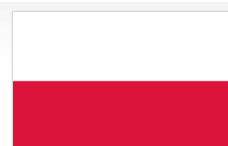


# 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP6)

2020, ONLINE

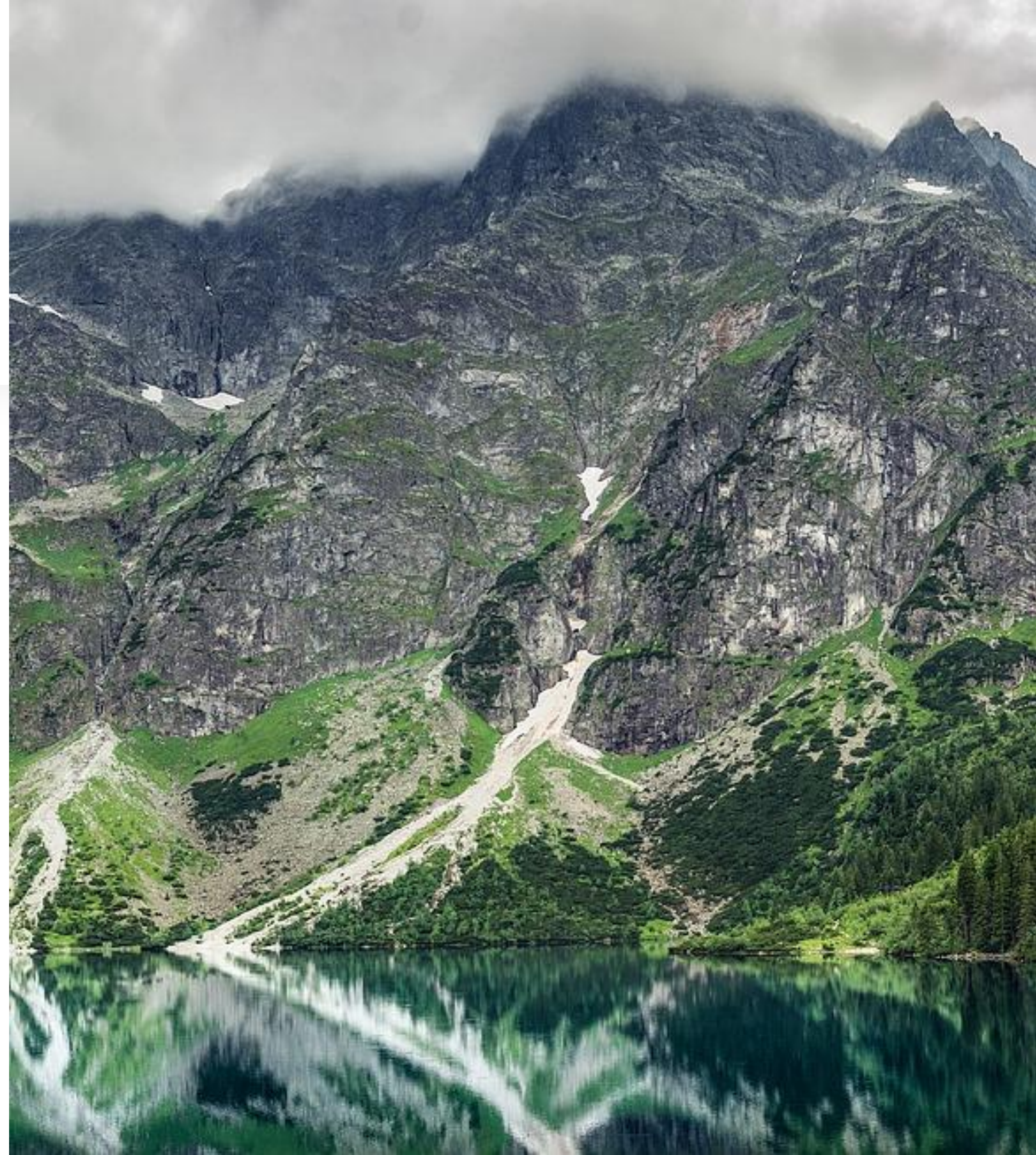
One of the first online COPs in the COVID-19 pandemic reality!

Initiated the very successful Polish Presidency of the Carpathian Convention



Adopted various strategic documents, including:

- International Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity in the Carpathians
- Long-term Vision 2030 towards combating climate change in the Carpathians
- Joint Strategic Action Plan 2021 – 2026 for implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Transport





# Carpathian Ministerial Conference

21-22 November 2022 Rzeszów, Poland

The Carpathian Ministerial Conference marks a milestone in regional cooperation!

High-level representatives of the 7 Carpathian Convention Parties gathered to discuss the most pressing challenges of the region – biodiversity protection and the crisis in Ukraine.

Declarations adopted at the Conference:

- **Declaration on Carpathian Commitments for the new post-2020 global biodiversity framework implementation**
- **Declaration on the impact of the war on the environment in Ukraine and the need for cooperation and assistance**





# **DECISION COP7/1 Implementation of the Carpathian Convention**



# Improving the functioning of the Working Groups

Table indicating the Carpathian Convention Working Groups and the Parties taking the leading role of them for the period of 2021 – 2023 (from COP6 to COP7)

Establishing the role of Working Group Chairs proved to be successful

- Parties more involved in establishing priorities for the Working Groups' priorities
- Parties taken greater ownership on the dedicated activities
- Close and effective cooperation with the Secretariat

Name of the Working Group	Leading role
WG on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity	
WG on Spatial Development	?
WG on Agriculture and Rural Development	
WG on Sustainable Forest Management	
WG on Sustainable Industry, Energy, Transport and Infrastructure	
WG on Sustainable Tourism	
WG on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge	
WG on Adaptation to Climate Change	



# WG and CCIC Meetings organized in the implementation period 2021 - 2023

## 2021

- 10th Meeting of the Working Group on Sustainable Tourism on 15 April 2021, online,
- 8th Meeting of the Working Group on Climate Change on 6 May 2021, online,
- 12th Meeting of the Working Group on Biodiversity on 19-20 May 2021, online,
- 12th CCIC meeting on 18-19 November 2021 in Krakow, Poland,

## 2022

- 5th Meeting of the Working Group on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development on 17 March 2022, online,
- 13th Meeting of the WG Biodiversity on 11-12 April 2022, online,
- 8th Meeting of the Working Group on Sustainable Forest on 10-12 October 2022, Levice, Slovakia,
- 13th CCIC Meeting on 22 November 2023 in Rzeszow, Poland,

## 2023

- 6th meeting of the WG SARD, on 26-27 April 2023, Vatra Dornei, Romania,
- 8th meeting of the WG Forest, 16 May 2023, online,
- 14th meeting of the WG Biodiversity, 22-24 May 2023, Vsetin, Czech Republic,
- 14th CCIC meeting on 14-16 June 2023 in Mszana Dolna, Poland.



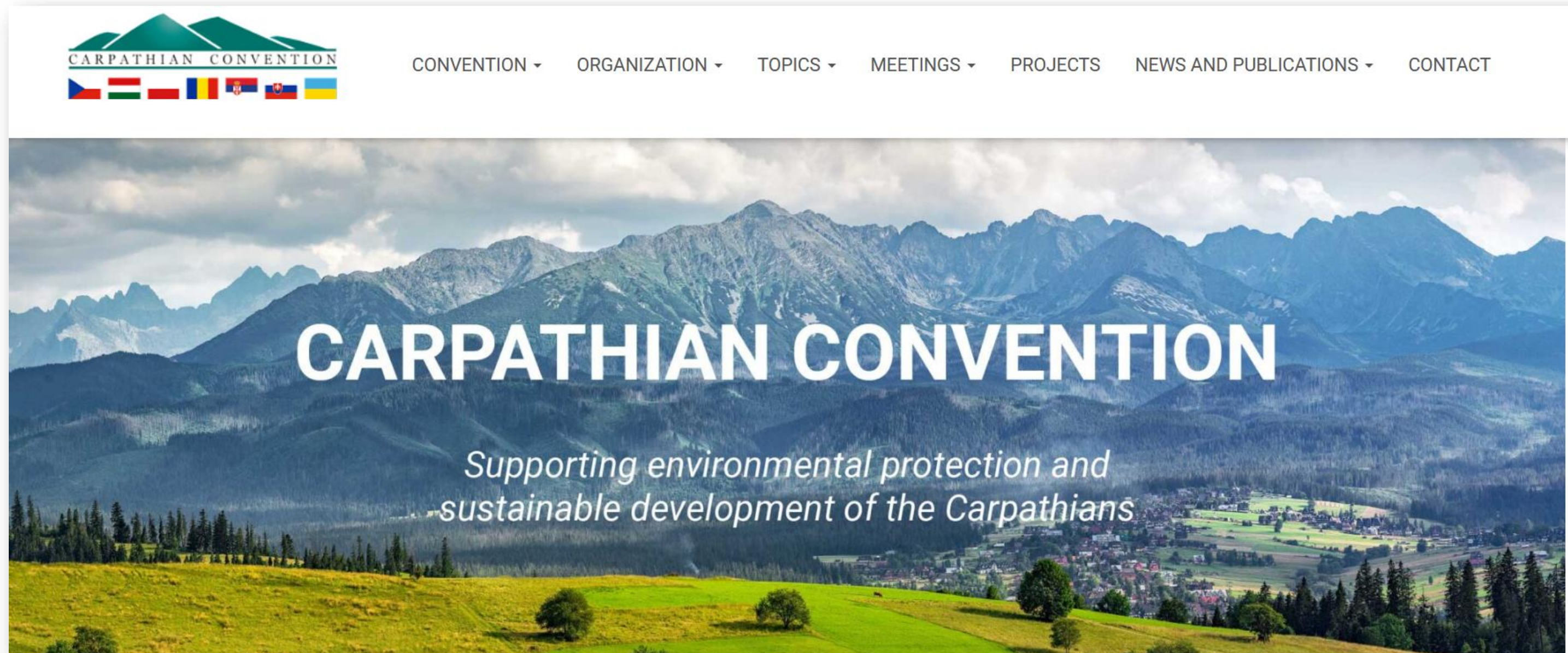
# Launch of the new Carpathian Convention website

Better visibility for the stakeholders

Promote the Carpathians and the Carpathian Convention to the general public

Enhanced accessibility to relevant information and documents

Create opportunity for easy exchange





**DECISION COP7/2 Cooperation with regional and local authorities  
and all relevant stakeholders**



# Support in development and implementation of the new flagship project

**Interreg**  
CENTRAL EUROPE



Co-funded by  
the European Union

Central Mountains

## Central Mountains:

**From the Alps to the Carpathians  
– Improving cooperation among  
mountainous regions**

Project duration: April 2023 –  
March 2026.

Project budget: 2 330 000 EUR

**Strategic cooperation with The Association of  
the Carpathian Euroregion Poland**



## Project objectives:

Enhance cooperation among the stakeholders of the Alps-Carpathians mountains following, including the development of the **Alpine-Carpathian joint strategy for community-led sustainable development of mountain areas in Central Europe,**

Strengthening the capacities of Alpine-Carpathian stakeholders, including the development of the **Alpine-Carpathian toolbox for active involvement of citizens and youth in decision-making processes**

Improving governance system of the **Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform**

## Project partners



Lead partner  
**Rzeszów County**

Project partner



**Association of the Carpathian Euroregion Poland**



**Association of Towns and Communities of Slovakia**



**Carpathian Foundation-Hungary**



**Association of Regional Brands**



**Foundation of Landscape Protection**



**Eurac research**



**Institute of International Sociology of Gorizia**



**EGTC Alpine Pearls ltd**



**CIPRA International Lab**



**Brasov County**



**DECISION COP7/4 Cooperation with United Nations Environment Programme**





# LET'S REVIVE OUR MOUNTAINS

Join #GenerationRestoration



## Promoting the Carpathian Convention within the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

**Joint statement** of the Carpathian Convention and its Observers welcoming the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration,

The Carpathians promoted in the 10 World **Restoration Flagships** of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration:

- **Multi-Country Mountain Flagship** celebrating the success story of mountain restoration efforts in Kyrgyzstan, **Serbia**, Uganda and Rwanda



**DECISION COP7/5 Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies**



# Cooperation with the Alpine Convention

- Regular contact seeking further opportunities for cooperation and common activities
- Mutual representation at relevant meetings
- Continued expert exchange with the Alpine Biodiversity Board and the Alpine Climate Board
- Exchange with the Platform Large Carnivores, Wild Ungulates and Society (WISO) of the Alpine Convention



## Joint meetings

- Mountain Biodiversity Day, 13 January 2021
- Carpathian Biodiversity Forum on 15-16 December 2021
- Mountain Biodiversity 2002-2022: achievements and next challenges at global and regional level on 16 September 2022





# Carpathian Convention recognized in the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions



“Nature knows no borders: transboundary cooperation – a key factor for biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use” adopted in 2021 (A/RES/75/271)

“Sustainable Mountain Development” adopted in 2022, with a focus on proclaiming the period of 2023–2027 as Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions (A/77/443/Add.11)



# Supporting the exchange on mountain governance

## Presenting the Carpathian Convention as a good example at various meetings and exchange, including:

- Regional Dialogue on Governance in the Andes and Mountain Regions on 27-28 April 2021,
- Regional Dialogues on the Integral Management of Páramos and other High Mountain Ecosystems, co-organized by CONDESAN on 21 October,
- Exchange with the Hindu Kush Himalaya and ICIMOD, June 2022,
- Interregional workshop Mountains Connect, under the auspices of the Adaptation at Altitude programme, on 20-22 June 2022 in Vienna, Austria,
- Exchange with the Hindu Kush Himalaya and ICIMOD, June 2022,
- The Andes and the Andean Mountain Initiative, June 2023,
- The 6th Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership in Aspen, Colorado US, by Romania and its National Agency of the Mountain Areas
- **From the Carpathians to the Andes – exchange on regional approaches to sustainable mountain development, 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee, 14-16 June 2023, Mszana Dolna, Poland**





# **DECISION COP7/7 Cooperation with Eurac Research**



# Cooperation with Eurac Research

eurac  
research

Continuing strong strategic cooperation

Close cooperation on project development  
and implementation

Renewing the annex to the Memorandum of  
Cooperation between UNEP Vienna Office-  
Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention  
and Eurac Research

Mountain Innovation Fair upcoming!





**DECISION COP7/8 Strengthening science-policy-practice interface  
and cooperation with scientific networks**



# Strengthening the cooperation with the Science for the Carpathians



Close collaboration strengthening science – policy – practice interface

Facilitating regular exchange and inputs of S4C to the CC Working Group meetings

Supported organization of the **Forum Carpaticum 2021**

- 21-25 June 2021, Online

Co-organized a ceremony of signing the Memorandum of Understanding for the Cooperation between the S4C and the SNC-mt

Supported organization of the **Forum Carpaticum 2023**

- 26-28 September 2023 in Krakow, Poland

➤ **Research Agenda for the Carpathians 2022-2030**

➤ **S4C recommendations for the Carpathian Convention**

➤ **Secretariat delegates its representative to the Executive Committee of S4C**





**DECISION COP7/6 Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal  
Global Biodiversity Framework**



# Supporting implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Secretariat actively involved in the process, promoting the Carpathian Convention and the importance of mountain biodiversity

Renewed **Memorandum of Cooperation** (MoC) between the CBD, Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention

Ministerial Declaration of the Carpathian Convention on **Carpathian Commitments** for the implementation of the new global biodiversity framework

development of the **Carpathian Biodiversity Framework** and the accompanying Carpathian Vision 2050

Exchange between CC and CBD NFP on their update of NBSAPs, including on reflection of the CC and mountain biodiversity (30 March 2023)



**2020 UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE**

**COP 15** - CP/MOP 10 - NP/MOP 4

Ecological Civilization-Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth

KUNMING – MONTREAL



**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**



# **DECISION COP7/9 Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity**



# Implementing the International Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity

- Priority actions: harmonisation of monitoring, wildlife crime, ecological connectivity
- Report on population status of large carnivores and monitoring methods in the Carpathians (CIC/BOKU, 2021)
- **Development and implementation of the project LECA**

## LECA – Supporting the coexistence and conservation of Carpathian large carnivores: Interreg Central Europe

Project duration: April 2023 – March 2026.

Project budget: 2 930 000 EUR

Strategic cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic

Ministry of the Environment  
of the Czech Republic

## Project objective:

harmonise international monitoring of large carnivores, prevent human-wildlife conflicts and poaching

## JOINT CONFERENCE

of Alpine and Carpathian Conventions for more effective management of large carnivores, 1Q 2024 in Slovenia

Interreg  
CENTRAL EUROPE



Co-funded by  
the European Union

LECA



Lead partner

Mendel University in Brno

Project partner



WWF Poland



WWF Slovakia



World Wildlife Fund for Nature Hungary



Technical university in Zvolen



Bükk National Park Directorate



Tatra National Park



State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic



Friends of the Earth Czech Republic, Carnivore Conservation Programme



Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic



Zarand Association



Slovenia Forest Service

# Other projects supporting the Carpathian Convention work on biodiversity

**ConnectGREEN:** Restoring and managing ecological corridors in mountains as the green infrastructure in the Danube basin (Interreg Danube Region Programme 2018–2021)

- Guidelines for the Identification, Conservation, Restoration, and Management of Ecological Corridors in the Carpathian Ecoregion
- Methodology for identification of ecological corridors in the Carpathian countries using large carnivores as umbrella species – final document
- Guidelines on How to Use Spatial Planning Tools in Integrative Management of Ecological Corridors



**SaveGREEN:** Safeguarding the functionality of transnationally important ecological corridors in the Danube basin

(Interreg Danube Region Programme 2020–2022)

- Methodology on Monitoring structural and functional ecological connectivity
- Local cross-sectoral operational plans , CCIBIS, Capacity building program & training
- Joint Declaration on Achieving functional biodiversity in the Danube-Carpathian Region by mainstreaming ecological connectivity, endorsed by the Carpathian Convention, ICPDR, and EUSDR





# Other projects supporting the Carpathian Convention work on biodiversity

**Centralparks:** Improving integrated environmental management capacities of protected area administrations

(Interreg CE Programme; 2019–2022)

- Carpathian strategy for enhancing biodiversity and landscape conservation outside and inside protected areas
- Strategy for local sustainable tourism development based on the natural and cultural heritage of the Carpathians
- Guidelines on communication between protected areas and local communities in the Carpathian – full document
- Centralparks: Carpathian Ecosystem Services Tool



**NaturaConnect:** Designing a resilient and coherent Trans-European Network for Nature and People

(Horizon Europe; 2022–2026)

- contributing to the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy, with focus on connectivity;
- Carpathians as a case study



# Carpathian Network of Protected Areas - strengthening governance and cooperation



3<sup>rd</sup> CNPA Conference CNPA Conference, 29 September 2021, Visegrad, Hungary (back-to-back with the ConnectGEEN Final Conference)

Several meetings of the CNPA Steering Committee on strengthening the governance system of the network

CNPA Questionnaire 2022 – great interest in establishing a CNPA association

Panel discussion Round Table: “The significance of Protected Area Networks for effective protected area management and nature-based sustainable development in the Carpathians and beyond”, 24 March 2022, Wieliczka, Poland (Centralparks Final Conference)





# Carpathian Wetland Initiative - supporting cooperation

CWI organized 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

CWI close cooperation with the Secretariat and relevant WGs, especially the WG Biodiversity

CWI involved in various project development and implementation



# **DECISION COP7/12 Sustainable agriculture and rural development**



# Prioritizing topics for cooperation

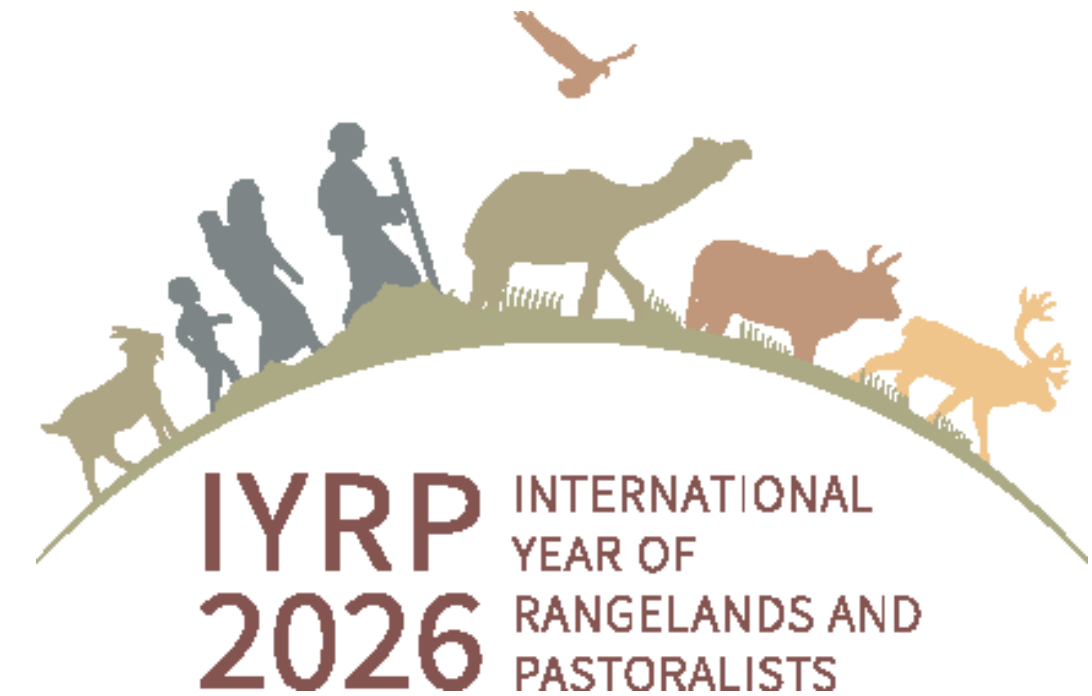
**Protocol on Sustainable agriculture and rural development in force for almost all Carpathian Convention Parties!**

Main priority topic for implementation:

**Promoting and protecting traditional pastoral practices in the Carpathians**

- Cooperation with the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, 2026
- Cooperation with Euromontana
- Considering the inscription of the Carpathian pastoralism in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List of Humanity

**Strategic cooperation with the National Agency of Mountain Area**



# **DECISION COP7/13 Sustainable forest management**



# Development of the Inventory of Virgin Forests in the Carpathians

European Environment Agency  
European Topic Centre on Urban,  
Land and Soil Systems



Virgin Forest Inventory of the Carpathians, version draft June 2023

[Open in Map Viewer Classic](#)

Strategic activity of the CC Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management

Developed in close cooperation with the with European Environment Agency and the European Topic Center on Urban, Land and Soil System (EEA/ULS)

Official data submitted by the Parties to the Convention based on the criteria developed by the WG Forest

Shall ensure protection of precious forest of the Carpathians

Development of the new criteria:  
**“Criteria and indicators for selection of quasi-virgin forests in the Carpathians” to be adopted by the COP7**

Legend

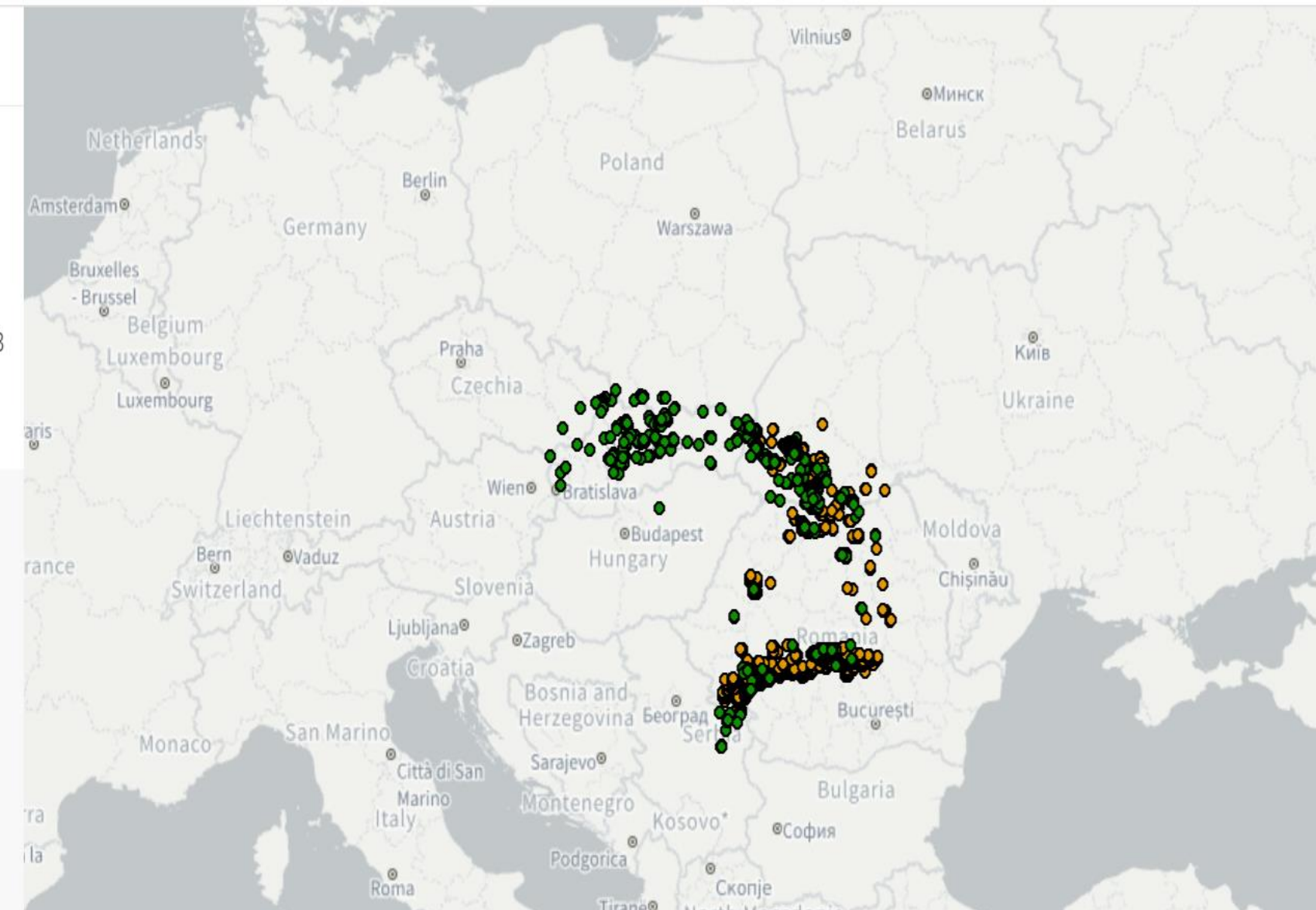


CC\_VirginForestInventory

CC\_VirginForest\_June2023



CC\_QuasiVirginForest\_June2023



# Assessment of climate change risks and adaptation options for the Carpathian forests and their ecosystem services

Recommended by the COP6 and a part of the Long-term Vision 2030 for combating climate change in the Carpathians

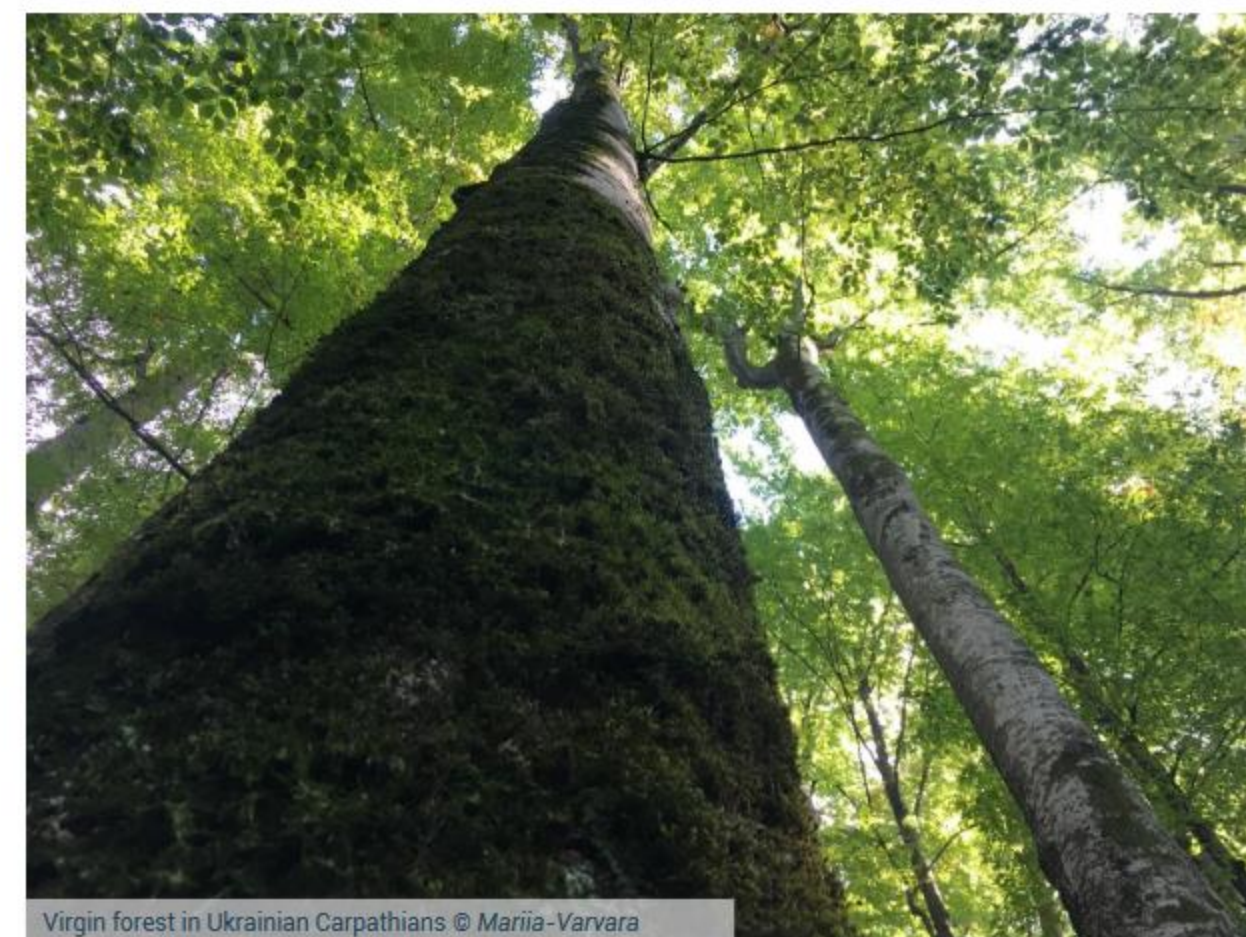
Developed by the Secretariat with a support of prof. William Keeton, Vermont University, based on the inputs from the Carpathian Expert Group (WG Forest + WG Forest)

To be presented at the COP7 with a special focus on policy recommendations presented to the political level

Provides relevant policy recommendation that will be table at the WGs meeting for further action

Need for forest dedicated projects to implement them

## ASSESSMENT OF CLIMATE RISKS AND ADAPTATION OPTIONS FOR CARPATHIAN FOREST ECOSYSTEMS AND THEIR SERVICES



Virgin forest in Ukrainian Carpathians © Mariia-Varvara



# **DECISION COP7/15 Sustainable tourism**

# Building the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform

**Interreg**  
CENTRAL EUROPE



Co-funded by  
the European Union

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Central Mountains

CentralMountains project will help improving the governance and cooperation of the CSTP

Detailed report to be provided by the CSTP Coordinator



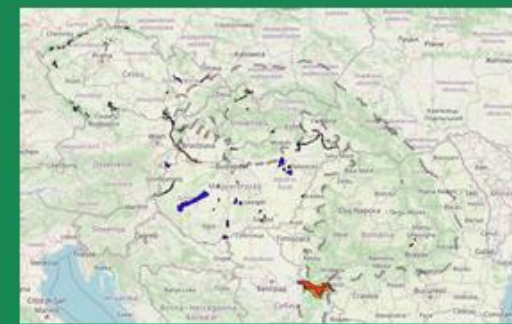
**DECISION COP7/17 Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning**

# Carpathian Integrated Biodiversity Information System (CCIBIS)

Welcome  
Carpathian Countries Integrated Biodiversity Information System  
CCIBIS



Modernization and upgrade of the CCIBIS thanks to the SAVEGREEN project



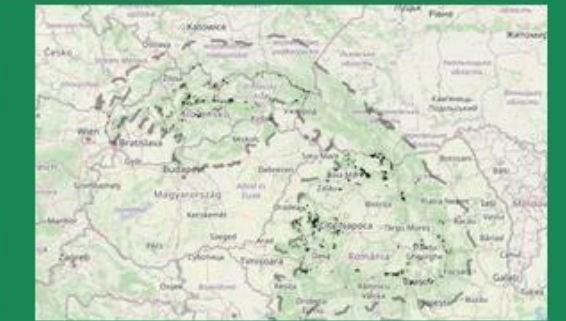
Carpathian Wetlands



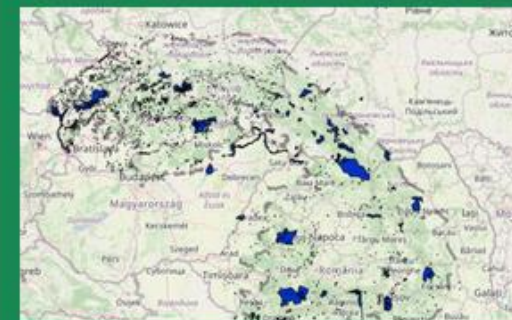
Ecological Corridors



NATURA 2000 Sites



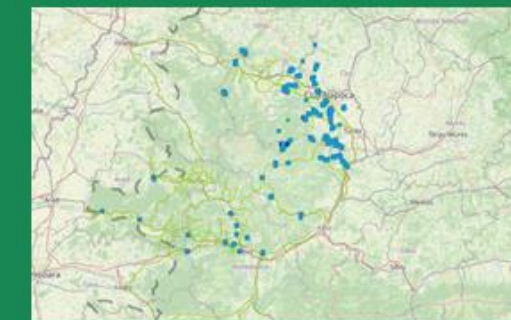
Old Growth Forests



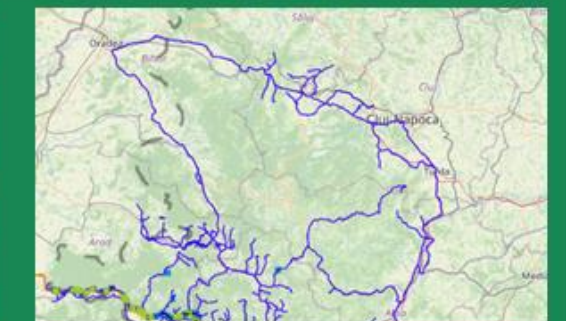
Other Protected Areas



Orographical Units



Apuseni-Djerdap Pilot Area  
[ConnectGREEN]



Arad-Deva Pilot Area  
[TRANSGREEN]



# **DECISION COP7/17 Climate Change**

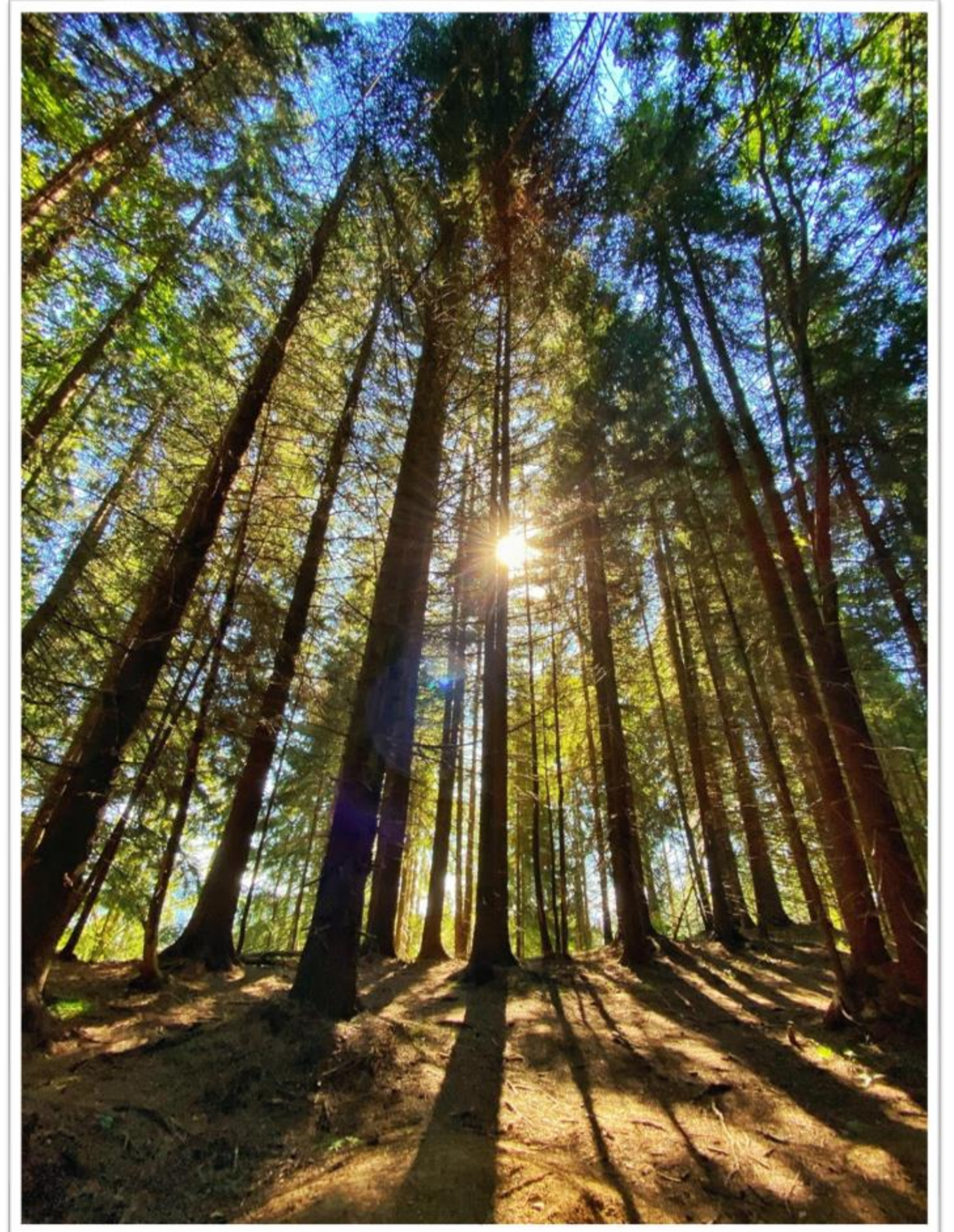


# Implementing the new article on Climate Change

Article 12bis on Climate Change in force since 5 August 2021 for Hungary, Poland, Romania and Ukraine !

Working Group on Climate Change supported the development of the Assessment of climate change risks and adaptation options for the Carpathian forests and their ecosystem services

Need for revising and implementing the Working Group on Climate Change Work Plan 2021 – 2023





**DECISION COP7/19 Awareness raising, education and public participation**

# Carpathian Convention activities on Education for Sustainable Development

Implementing project “**Strengthening the ESD network in the Carpathian Convention via science-policy-practice interface**”, funded by the German Federal Environment Ministry’s Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP)

Building a network of ESD experts from the Carpathian region

Co-creating recommendations for strategies and actions on how best to integrate ESD into Carpathian Convention activities and vice-versa

**2<sup>nd</sup> Carpathian Seminar on Education for Sustainable Development**, 28-30 September, Zakopane, Poland, 2022

**9<sup>th</sup> Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference**, 5-7 of October 2022, Nicosia, Cyprus - Side event: ESD Expert Network in the Carpathian Region

