

DECISIONS

Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (COP5)

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We, the Ministers and High Officials of the Czech Republic, Hungary, the Republic of Poland, Romania, the Republic of Serbia, the Slovak Republic and Ukraine, being responsible for implementation of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (hereinafter referred to as the Carpathian Convention) and having met in Lillafüred, Hungary on 12 October 2017, representing the Parties in the Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP5);

Recognizing that the Carpathians still harbour one of the most important large carnivores populations in Europe, *welcoming* the outcomes of the conference on Large Carnivore's Protection held in October 2016 in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm, Czech Republic, which clearly presented a need for enhanced cooperation and common regional approach for the conservation and sustainable management of the Carpathian population of large carnivores, and also demonstrated a significant potential and interest from different stakeholders on this matter, including among others the EU Platform on Coexistence between People and Carnivores, the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation, World Wide Fund for Nature, the International Union for Conservation of Nature;

Acknowledging the Cancun Declaration on mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for well-being, made by ministers at the high-level segment of the United Nations Biodiversity Conference, Cancun, Mexico, December 2016, convinced that integrating biodiversity in forestry, agriculture, and tourism sectors is closely connected to the objectives of the Carpathian Convention;

Being aware of the importance of agriculture and rural development for the Carpathian region in terms of economy, social aspects, environment, natural and cultural heritage, *following* the Decision of the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Mikulov, 2014 (COP4/4 paragraph 5), and *appreciating* the development of the Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development;

Acknowledging the outstanding environmental value and importance of the Carpathian forests, which represent some of Europe's most significant remaining areas of old growth and natural forests, and *underlining* the need to protect and raise public awareness on the importance of maintaining these values, and for this reason *supporting* the elaboration of inventories of virgin forests in the Carpathians and other relevant activities in the Carpathian region;

Stressing the importance of promoting proper implementation of the Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in line with the principle of subsidiarity, across the Carpathian region; all actions should be carried out in a coherent, integrated and effective manner, in close cooperation with other partners and stakeholders, to accelerate efforts in all dimensions throughout the region encouraging exchange of best practices;

Acknowledging that the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2017 the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, emphasizing the potential of sustainable tourism to significantly contribute to the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals, the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform has been established in order to foster and enhance sustainable tourism development in the Carpathians giving opportunities to further close cooperation with Carpathians stakeholders;

Acknowledging the Paris Agreement adopted at the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21 UNFCCC) held in December 2015, and recognizing the special vulnerability of mountain ecosystems to climate change, paying particular attention to the actions focusing on climate change mitigation and adaptation, and for this reason supporting

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the introduction of a new article to the Carpathian Convention on Climate Change, which will give a significant recognition to this matter, and a clear mandate for undertaking needed actions in this respect.

Have decided as follows:

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DECISION COP5/1
Implementation of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Work, in particular the results achieved by the Working Groups, but *notes*, that apart of the areas with good progress in the implementation of the Carpathian Convention there are areas where the progress has been less satisfactory, and *reiterates* the need to implement all the articles of the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols in a balanced way;
2. *Welcomes* the idea of a comprehensive National Report on Implementation of the Carpathian Convention covering all the Protocols and other relevant sectors (in line with Article 14, paragraph 2a of the Convention, Article 28 of the Biodiversity Protocol, Article 25 of the Forest Protocol and Article 32 of the Tourism Protocol) with the aim to indicate strong and weak areas of the implementation and to suggest further steps, and in this respect, *requests* the Secretariat to develop guidelines and reporting template in consultation with the Parties, to be approved by the COP;
3. *Encourages* the Parties to promote, at the national level, efficient and consistent processes for implementation of the Carpathian Convention, including information, involvement and capacity building of relevant stakeholders and civil society, and in this regard *welcomes* the establishment of the national Carpathian committees in Poland and Slovakia;
4. *Recommends* the Secretariat to develop projects establishing outreach programmes targeting local and regional authorities, universities and other relevant stakeholders to increase their awareness of the importance of the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathian region, and of the Convention's activities;
5. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to promote the Carpathian Convention and sustainable mountain development in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals.
6. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue taking all necessary efforts, in collaboration with the Parties and stakeholders, to mobilize financial means for development and implementation of projects in order to foster the implementation of the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols;
7. *Invites* the Parties to further solicit support for the implementation of the Carpathian Convention from European Territorial Cooperation funds, the International Visegrad Fund, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) cohesion funds, Norway grants, LIFE, European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument, Eastern Partnership, and Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance, and other relevant instruments;
8. *Welcomes* and *appreciates* organization of the following meetings of the Carpathian Convention Working Groups: the Sixth meeting of the Working Group on Sustainable Tourism (hereinafter WG Tourism), held on 24 – 26 November 2014 in Belgrade, Serbia; the Third meeting of the Working Group on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (hereinafter WG SARD) held on 20 – 22 April 2015 in Stara Planina Serbia; the Seventh meeting of the WG Tourism held on 18 – 20 May 2015 in Aggtelek, Hungary; the Fourth meeting of the Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change (hereinafter WG Climate Change) held on 30 September – 2 October 2015 in Szolnok, Hungary; the Eight meeting of the WG Tourism held on 12 – 14 April 2016 in Brasov, Romania; the Fifth meeting of the Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management (hereinafter WG Forest) held on 26 – 27

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September 2016 in Brasov, Romania; the Fifth meeting of the WG Climate Change held on 27 – 28 October 2016 in Vienna, Austria; the Sixth meeting of the WG Forest held on 16 – 18 May 2017 in Sopron, Hungary and the Ninth meeting of WG Tourism held on 12 – 14 September 2017 in Brasov, Romania;

9. *Welcomes* the first joint meeting of the Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity (hereinafter WG Biodiversity) and the Working Group on Spatial Development (hereinafter WG Spatial Development), held on 22 – 24 October 2014 in Kluszkowce, Poland, *appreciates* support given by Ekopsychologia Association and UN Environment/GRID-Warsaw Centre within the project *Carpathians Unite – mechanism of consultation and cooperation for implementation of the Carpathian Convention*, supported by Switzerland through the Swiss Contribution to the enlarged European Union, resulting in project ideas that were further developed and submitted as TRANSGREEN and ConnectGREEN projects and recognizes potential benefits of joint meetings of the Working Groups;
10. *Welcoming* the joint meeting of WG Biodiversity and WG Spatial Development as a good example of enhancing synergies and ensuring the integration of the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols, *requests* the Working Groups to liaise and cooperate, as appropriate.

DECISION COP5/2 Cooperation with the European Union

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Expresses* its gratitude to the European Commission, especially the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) for given support and organization of the Expert Workshop on Macro-regional Strategies and Mountain Dimension, Brussels, 25 November 2015, *notes* the initiative of the Polish Government for the development of the EU Macroregional Strategy for the Carpathian Region, and *requests* the Secretariat to monitor the process;
2. *Welcomes* the ongoing cooperation with the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (hereinafter EUSDR) and signed, in this respect, Memoranda of Cooperation between the Secretariat and EUSDR PA1b “Mobility I Rail-Road-Air” in June 2016, with EUSDR PA4 “Water Quality” in August 2016 and EUSDR PA2 “Sustainable Energy” in November 2016; and *encourages* further common activities;
3. *Welcomes* the “Workshop on balancing bioenergy production and sustainable forest management in Mountain Areas” organized by the EUSDR PA 2 “Sustainable Energy” on 17 May 2017 in Sopron, Hungary, back to back with the WG Forest meeting as a good example of common activities and strengthened cooperation between the EUSDR and the Carpathian Convention and appreciates the support given by the Sopron University and the Secretariat in this respect;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to promote the integration of Carpathian priorities into the related Transnational “European Territorial Cooperation” (ETC) Programmes (in particular the Danube Transnational Programme and the Central Europe Programme, as well as – to

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limited extent - Baltic Sea Region Programme) for the period 2014-2020, as well as other relevant funding programmes, and *calls upon* the Parties to further cooperate with European Union bodies in further promoting the Carpathian region within existing EU macroregional strategies;

5. *Notes* the inauguration of the interregional group “Carpathians” within the Committee of the Regions, and *requests* the Secretariat to coordinate with the group.

DECISION COP5/3 Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* and supports further specific cooperation with international conventions and international bodies, including the Convention on Biological Diversity; the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat; the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters; the European Landscape Convention; the Council of Europe; the Committee of the Regions, European Environment Agency, the UN Environment; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); European Association of Mountain Areas (EUROMONTANA); the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR); the Central European Initiative; the Visegrad Group; the Regional Environmental Centre (REC); GRID Arendal, GRID Warsaw; the Mountain Partnership; Eurac Research;
2. *Welcomes* the cooperation with the Alpine Convention in the framework of the concluded Memorandum of Understanding, and *requests* the Secretariat to continue to strengthen the cooperation with the Alpine Convention in fields such as institutional cooperation, the exchange of information and experience, the development and implementation of common projects, collaboration on implementation of the Conventions and their respective Programmes of Work, the implementation of the Programmes of Work of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on Protected Areas and on Mountain Biodiversity and collaboration in the field of protected area networks in the Alps and the Carpathians;
3. *Welcomes* outcomes of the Mountain Week organized during Expo 2015 in Milan, Italy, which was initiated by the Ministry of the Environment of Italy in collaboration with the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention, promoting sustainable mountain development and mountain products from all around the world and *thanks* to the Czech Republic for organizing a seminar on Climate Change Adaptation in Mountain Regions as a part of the event;
4. *Welcomes* the cooperation with the Alpine Convention on the organization of the Conference *The Role of Women in Mountain Regions*, held on 18 - 19 April 2017 in Alpbach, Austria, which focused on the unique role of women in mountain regions, examining their indispensable contribution to the protection, preservation and development of these regions, and *encourages* the Secretariat to continue the cooperation in order to implement the Final Declaration of the Conference and its recommendations, raise awareness on the topic and present this initiative in various international fora, among which the World Mountain Forum in 2018;

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5. *Welcomes* the cooperation between the Secretariats of the Carpathian and Alpine Conventions and the Regional Academy on the United Nations (RAUN) in mentoring a group of researchers for the development of a study on women's access to natural resources, participation in natural resource preservation and management in mountain areas, to be presented at the RAUN 2017 - 2018 Conference on *Women and Girls in a Changing World: Prospects and Challenges*, in January 2018 in Vienna, Austria, and *requests* the Secretariat to follow the process;
6. *Appreciates* invitation and support of the Alpine Network of Protected Areas to members of the CNPA for organization of the Youth at the Top events in 2016 and 2017 within the collective project of ALPARC and Educ'Alps, and *encourages the* Parties and the CNPA members to join the initiative in the future;
7. *Supports* the establishment and implementation of programmes to foster the further experience exchange between the Alps, Carpathians and other mountain regions, *requests* the Secretariat to implement the required activities and promote partnerships with other mountain regions, including interregional cooperation, and *invites* UN Environment, all interested partners and donors, to participate in and to contribute to the process.

**DECISION COP5/4
Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity
Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention**

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Reiterating* paragraph 7 of decision COP4/1 on Carpathian Red List of Habitats, the Carpathian Red List of Species and the Lists of Invasive and Endemic Species in the Carpathians, *notes with concern* the lack of progress in finalization of the Red Lists, *further notes* that for some Parties more work and projects are needed in order to complete them, *calls upon* the Parties to submit the official comments and/or positions on the Lists to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (hereinafter CCIC) for consideration at its next meeting, as a step forward in achieving the implementation of Article 8 and 12 of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (hereinafter Biodiversity Protocol);
2. *Taking into account* the difficulties of the Parties to complete the adopted format of National Report on the Implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol, *approves* the decision of the CCIC to adopt the simplified format of the report, *welcomes* the submission of the report by the Parties and the summary of the reports prepared by the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (hereinafter Secretariat) and *requests* the CCIC at its next meeting to further consider its conclusions with the aim to strengthen the implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol in the future;
3. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the Conference on Large Carnivores' Protection held on 18-21 October 2016 in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm, Czech Republic, namely the *Declaration on the Management and Protection of Large Carnivores in the Carpathians*, that among others, *calls*

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the WG Biodiversity, with support of the Secretariat, for elaboration of an International Action Plan for the Conservation and Sustainable Management for the Carpathian Populations of Large Carnivores, and *expresses* its gratitude to the Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic for organization of the event, as well as to the German Federal Environment Ministry's Advisory Assistance Programme for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and other countries neighbouring the European Union, for their support;

4. *Mandates* the WG Biodiversity to prioritize its work on Large Carnivores for the next implementation period, and *welcomes* support offered by WWF, Eurac Research, the Sapienza University of Rome and European Wildlife Society in this respect;
5. *Welcomes* the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (hereinafter CIC), and *requests* the WG Biodiversity and the Secretariat to work together with the CIC through a work plan for concrete activities, including possible harmonization of methodologies for the population based monitoring of large carnivores, to be carried out within this collaboration;
6. *Taking into account* the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 adopted by the 10th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in particular its headline Aichi Target 9 devoted to invasive alien species, the Recommendation No. 99 (2003) on the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species, adopted by the Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) on 4 December 2003 and the Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species, *considers* that invasive alien species are a great concern for the biological diversity and *requests* the WG Biodiversity to explore the relevance of this topic for the Carpathians, and suggest possible actions for the consideration of the CCIC at its next meeting;
7. *Welcomes* the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat and the Association of Natural Protected Areas Administrations (hereinafter ANPAA) signed on 20 June 2016, which aims at assisting the Secretariat with servicing the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas Unit (hereinafter CNPA Unit), and *encourages* the ANPAA to restore active communication with the CNPA Focal Points for carrying out concrete activities in order to implement the CNPA Medium – Term Strategy;
8. *Welcomes* the Memorandum of Cooperation signed between the CNPA, ALPARC and DANUBEPARKS on 12 October 2016; and *encourages* further cooperation on ecological connectivity, exchanges on protected areas matters, education and other specific topics common to the three networks;
9. *Recognizing* that Carpathian wetlands provide a wide range of ecosystem services that are important *inter alia* for water supply, biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, *acknowledging* that wetlands belong to the most vulnerable habitats in the Carpathians, *notes* the existing synergies between the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (hereinafter Ramsar Convention) and the Carpathian Wetland Initiative (hereinafter CWI), *invites* the CWI to enhance cooperation and to mobilize resources in support of appropriate action on the effective conservation, restoration, management and sustainable use of Carpathian wetlands, as well as on development of education and training in these topics;
10. *Welcomes* and *supports* development of ConnectGREEN project, which focuses on the identification and management of ecological corridors in the context of spatial planning in the Danube-Carpathian region, submitted under the second call of the INTERREG Danube Transnational Programme (DTP) and appreciates the foreseen involvement of the WG

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Biodiversity and the WG Spatial Development, especially in respect to the development of a strategy on the identification, preservation, management of ecological corridors focusing on large carnivores' needs in the Carpathian region; *welcomes* the cooperation with WWF as the Lead Partner, *requests* the Secretariat to follow the process and, if successful, to participate in it by providing expertise through an agreement with the Lead Partner;

11. *Welcomes* the final Assessment of the Wild for DC project, developed by the Secretariat with the support of the EUSDR Technical Assistance Facility for Danube Region Projects (hereinafter TAF-DRP) addressing Priority Area 06-Biodiversity and Landscape, in cooperation with WWF Danube - Carpathian Programme (hereinafter WWF DCP), the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (hereinafter ICPDR) and the Institute of Biology Bucharest - Romanian Academy, *requests* the Secretariat to disseminate the results of the Assessment and to work on project development on wildlife crime prevention, in cooperation with WWF DCP, WG Biodiversity and relevant stakeholders.
12. *Recognizing* specifically the importance of preventing illegal killing of wild birds and *taking into account* the international efforts in increasing and supporting synergies and cooperation among biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, *requests* the WG Biodiversity to prepare a proposal of possible joint activities with the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), for the consideration by the CCIC.

**DECISION COP5/5
Spatial development
Article 5 of the Carpathian Convention**

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Recalling* paragraph 3 of decision COP4/2, *welcomes* the detailed information provided by the Parties on the administrative units within which they implement the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols, *encourages* the Parties with support of the Secretariat to publish and disseminate this information, including to local and regional stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Carpathian Convention in the region;
2. *Recalling* paragraph 1 and 2 of decision COP4/2 reiterates the importance of cooperation of spatial planning / development local and regional authorities of the Carpathian countries on issues relevant for spatial planning to achieve the territorial cohesion of the Carpathian region, and the crucial role of local and regional administrations and their spatial planning/development authorities in the successful implementation of the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols and *invites* them to pursue and strengthen their efforts, and to cooperate among each other.

**DECISION COP5/6
Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management
Article 6 of the Carpathian Convention**

The Conference of the Parties

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1. Welcomes the Joint Declaration of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River - Tisza Group and the Framework Convention on the Protection and the Sustainable Development of the Carpathians on the sustainable development of the Tisza River Basin within the Carpathian Region signed at the Danube Annual Forum on 29 October 2015 in Ulm, Germany, and encourages enhanced joint programming with the ICPDR, *inter alia*, on climate change adaptation, agriculture or water nexus;
2. Welcomes the approval of the JOINTISZA Project - Strengthening Cooperation between River Basin Management Planning and Flood Risk Prevention to Enhance the Status of Waters of the Tisza River Basin funded by the INTERREG Danube Transnational Programme, appreciates the role of the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention as the Associated Strategic Partner (hereinafter ASP), and requests it to participate in it by providing relevant expertise.

**DECISION COP5/7
Sustainable agriculture and rural development
Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention**

The Conference of the Parties

1. Adopts the Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (hereinafter SARD Protocol), invites the Parties to sign and ratify the Protocol, encourages the Parties, pending the ratification and entry into force of the Protocol, to undertake, whenever possible, actions taking into account its provisions, and appreciates the work conducted by the WG SARD, as well as the expertise provided by the Eurac Research to the development process of the SARD Protocol;
2. Requests the WG SARD to prepare and prioritize strategic actions taking into account the provisions of the SARD Protocol;
3. Reiterates the calls for enhanced cooperation through the Secretariat with the ICPDR on sustainable agriculture and rural development.

**DECISION COP5/8
Sustainable forest management
Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention**

The Conference of the Parties

1. Takes note of further progress made in preparing the inventory of virgin forests¹, appreciates the work done by the WG Forest and the European Environment Agency (hereinafter EEA)

¹ Article 7 (k) of the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management to the Carpathian Convention

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- involved in the process, and asks the Parties, with support of the WG Forest and other relevant stakeholders, to complete the inventory of virgin forest before the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (hereinafter COP6);
2. *Welcomes* progress made on typology of natural forests², *requests* the WG Forest to continue this work, *recommends* the WG Forest to propose voluntary guidelines for the sustainable management of natural forests in the Carpathian region, implementing, *inter alia*, Article 11 of the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management to the Carpathian Convention (hereinafter Forest Protocol);
 3. *Recommends* the WG Forest to strengthen its cooperation with the WG Climate Change to facilitate the implementation of Article 14 of the Forest Protocol;
 4. *Takes note* of the threat that illegal logging in some Parties poses to the natural capital of the Carpathian region, including virgin and natural forests in both existing protected and non-protected areas, and *calls on* the Parties to take urgent and forceful measures to address this problem, *acknowledges* the socioeconomic issues related to illegal logging, and *invites* the WG Forest to compile and disseminate information on illegal logging in the Carpathian Mountains as well as to recommend measures for addressing this problem that take into account socioeconomic issues.

**DECISION COP5/9
Sustainable transport and infrastructure, industry and energy
Article 8 and 10 of the Carpathian Convention**

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* ratification of the Protocol on Sustainable Transport to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (hereinafter Transport Protocol) by the Slovak Republic, Ukraine and Poland, and *encourages* the ratification of, or accession to, the Protocol by the Parties which have not yet done so;
2. *Recommends* the Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Infrastructure, Industry and Energy (hereinafter WG Transport) with support of the TRANSGREEN project, to develop a Strategic Action Plan for fostering the implementation of the Transport Protocol, *invites* other Working Groups and relevant stakeholders to support the process;
3. *Recalling* paragraphs 4 and 8 of decision COP4/5, *welcomes* approval of the TRANSGREEN project – *Integrated Transport and Green Infrastructure Planning in the Danube-Carpathian Region for the Benefit of People and Nature* funded by the INTERREG Danube Transnational Programme, and *appreciates* the support given to the activities by the WG Transport, as well as the WG Biodiversity and the WG Spatial Development, *welcomes* the cooperation with WWF as the Lead Partner, and *requests* the Secretariat to participate in the project by providing expertise through an agreement with the Lead Partner;
4. *Welcomes* cooperation and experience sharing with the Balkan region through the project *ClimaProof - Enhancing Environmental Performance and Climate Proofing of Infrastructure Investments in the Western Balkan Region from an EU integration perspective*,

² Article 7 (e) of the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management to the Carpathian Convention

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including the use of the methodological approaches to high resolution, downscaled and bias corrected climate scenarios developed as part of the activities of the project.

**DECISION COP5/10
Sustainable tourism
Article 9 of the Carpathian Convention**

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the progress made in establishment of the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform (CSTP) by signature of the memorandum by Romania, Ukraine and Poland initiating the cooperation, *appreciates* the efforts made by the Parties directly involved in the process, and *encourages* all the Parties to actively participate in implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism to the Carpathian Convention (hereinafter Tourism Protocol) and the Strategy for the Sustainable Tourism Development of the Carpathians, and *requests* the Secretariat to elaborate collaborative agreements with the centers;
2. *Welcomes* cooperation with Ecological Tourism in Europe (ETE) and CEEweb for Biodiversity implementing the project Support for the implementation of the Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development of the Carpathians, and *appreciates* the financial support of the Federal Environment Agency (UBA) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety and the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, provided to ETE for this purpose;
3. *Welcomes* the Set of Indicators for measuring the positive and negative effects of tourism in the Carpathians, developed within the same project, and *invites* the WG Tourism to consider the Set of Indicators as a useful source for the implementation of Article 24 of the Tourism Protocol;
4. *Takes note of* the organization of the Workshop on the Implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism to the Carpathian Convention into the National Law on 12 – 13 December 2016 in Vienna, Austria, funded by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and acknowledges involvement of the ETE and the Secretariat in related preparations to the Workshop;
5. *Welcomes* the approval of the project CARPATHIAN TOURISM: Cooperation of V4 Countries, financed by the Visegrad Fund which aims at empowering local entrepreneurs to improve handicraft workshops as tourism services and to increase quality and visibility of other rural tourism initiatives, which contributes to the implementation of Article 11 of the Tourism Protocol;
6. *Appreciates* the activities undertaken by the Association of the Carpathian Euroregion Poland in cooperation with Swiss partners, and other stakeholders in the Carpathian region, in the area of creating the Carpathian brand CARPATHIA, and *invites* the CSTP and its centers to further elaborate on the development of the common Carpathian brand.

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DECISION COP5/11
Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge
Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the organization of the international conference *Benefits Beyond Inscription: Leveraging the UNESCO Brand for Sustainable Tourism Development in Central European Regions* held on 5 May 2017 in Bardejov, the Slovak Republic, especially with reference to the panel discussion on World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism in the Carpathians and its conclusions;
2. *Notes* the paper *World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism in the Carpathians* outlining the natural and cultural heritage in the region and its potential for development of sustainable tourism, and recommendation for closer cooperation with relevant partners in this respect;
3. *Welcomes* the concept of promoting the World Heritage Sites in the Carpathians with an aim to support sustainable tourism development in the region, *requests* the Secretariat to take needed actions in this respect in close cooperation with the Working Group on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge (hereinafter WG Cultural Heritage), and potentially with the WG Tourism;
4. *Noting* the lack of progress made regarding the implementation of paragraph 4 of Decision COP4/7, *welcomes* the proposal by Hungary to host the next meeting of the WG Cultural Heritage, *requests* the WG Cultural Heritage to identify priorities for the implementation of Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention and to propose next steps to the CCIC, including the possibility of the development of a redrafted Protocol on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge.

DECISION COP5/12
Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning
Article 12 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Requests* the Secretariat to explore possibilities of cooperation with the ICPDR and the EUSDR on environmental safety/accidental prevention control in order to facilitate implementation of Article 12 of the Carpathian Convention;
2. *Requests* the Secretariat to further develop, with support of the TRANSGREEN project and possible future projects, the Carpathian Countries Integrated Biodiversity Information System (hereinafter CCIBIS), as an information system accessible to all the Parties, gathering available data sets, information on local and regional administrations, outcomes of projects and other relevant data;

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3. *Welcomes and appreciates* the ongoing Partnership between the Carpathian Convention and EEA on the implementation of the Carpathian Convention, based on the Partnership Agreement and related Joint Work Plan;
4. *Reiterates the paragraph 5 of decision COP4/8*, inviting the Parties to engage respective European Environment Information and Observation Network (hereinafter EIONET) Focal Points in the implementation of Article 12 of the Carpathian Convention;
5. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the Forum Carpaticum 2016: Future of the Carpathians: Smart, Sustainable, Inclusive, held on 28 – 30 September 2016 in Bucharest, Romania, that were presented at the COP5, *invites* the Science for the Carpathians (hereinafter S4C) initiative to further support the Carpathian Convention with its sound scientific knowledge and expertise.

DECISION COP5/13 Climate Change Article 12bis of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Adopts* the following amendment to the Carpathian Convention: After Article 12 *Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning* to introduce a new article reading:

Article 12bis Climate Change:

The Parties, taking into consideration the vulnerability of fragile mountain ecosystems and exposure of key economic sectors and mountain communities to climate change, and the key role mountains play for other geographical areas, shall:

- a. pursue policies aiming at climate change mitigation in all sectors relevant to the Convention having in mind their interactions,*
 - b. pursue policies aiming at climate change adaptation by promoting research and scientific cooperation, cross-sectoral integration, transnational cooperation, awareness raising, public participation and cooperation of all stakeholders, and foster local adaptation planning processes and the implementation of actions, especially in the most vulnerable areas and sectors, and*
 - c. undertake integrated measures to reduce the risks and minimise the adverse effects of climate change, especially of extreme weather events;*
2. *Invites* the Parties to ratify this amendment and whenever possible to begin the implementation of the new Article 12bis by further development of climate change related activities in the Carpathian region, and *recommends* the WG Climate Change to prepare and prioritize strategic actions in this respect;
 3. *Appreciates* the work conducted so far by the WG Climate Change and relevant partners, and the generous support of Hungary to the WG Climate Change and its activities;

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4. *Welcomes* the Outlook on Adaptation Responses to Climate Change for the Carpathians and *appreciates* the work conducted by the WG Climate Change and relevant partners;
5. *Welcomes* the inclusion of the Carpathian region into the European Climate Adaptation Platform (hereinafter Climate-ADAPT Platform).

**DECISION COP5/14
Awareness raising, education and public participation
Article 13 of the Carpathian Convention**

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the Side Event held during the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on 9 December 2016 in Cancun, Mexico, *inter alia* launching of the *Mountain Biodiversity for our Wellbeing* online platform and strengthening awareness of the need for integrated approaches for ecosystem management in mountain regions based on examples of solutions shared by the stakeholders from the Carpathians, *thanks* the Slovak Republic, at that time the Presidency of the Council of EU, and the Secretariat and UN Environment for the efforts made in this respect, *invites* the Parties and other stakeholders to get actively involved in development and promoting of the online platform, and *requests* the Secretariat to support the process;
2. *Welcomes* the proposal of the Hungarian Presidency to organize a seminar in 2018/2019 on the issues on environmental and sustainable development education and awareness raising in kindergartens and schools with the aim of exchanging best practices in the Carpathian region and exploring of further cooperation, and *requests* the Secretariat to support the process;
3. *Reiterating* interest in further cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (hereinafter UNECE) Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), *requests* the Parties, the Secretariat and relevant partners, among others the UNECE and S4C, to consider common activities on awareness raising, for instance, establishing contest for school students and/or young scientists with reference to the Carpathian matters;
4. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the Lifelong Learning project Innovation in Rural Tourism (InRuTou), which included Carpathian Convention partners from Poland, Romania and Ukraine and had a vocational learning component for sustainable rural tourism development, notes organization of the Networking Event of a project that took place on 15 July 2015 in Vienna, Austria, and *invites* the relevant stakeholders and the Secretariat to develop a follow up project;
5. *Welcomes and appreciates* the activities on awareness raising undertaken by the Secretariat, such as involvement in organization of the Model United Nations Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development (MUNESD) arranged for students on 18 – 22 April 2016 in Vienna, Austria, which took the Carpathian Convention and its COP as an example of negotiation process of an environmental agreement, as well as of the students visits, especially of the Carpathian countries, and *invites* the Secretariat to continue these activities.

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DECISION COP5/15 Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Recalling* its Decision COP4/14 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 Work (CC_COP5_DOC6_COP5 Progress Report);
3. *Takes note* of the balance statement of the Trust Fund of the UN Environment, Vienna Programme 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 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 2018 – 2020 of the Carpathian Convention as in [Annex 1]³, and *mandates* the CCIC to revise and periodically update it.
7. *Adopts* the Budget for 2018, 2019 and 2020 for the Carpathian Convention as in [Annex 2]⁴;
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 3⁵.

DECISION COP5/16 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 UN Environment 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 Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention in 2020 and *requests* UN Environment to continue to

3 Annex 1 is contained at the page 23 of the COP5 Decisions document.

4 Annex 2 is contained at the page 32 of the COP5 Decisions document.

5 Annex 3 is contained at the page 34 of the COP5 Decisions document.

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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 2018, 2019 and 2020 of the Carpathian Convention as approved in Decision COP5/15 shall be used as the budget of the Trust Fund for these years;
4. *Request* the Executive Director of UN Environment to inform the Parties of the measures taken in relation to its request to delegate 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% PSC for the benefit of the Convention and the functioning of the Secretariat, applying the equal standards for all MEA Secretariats, and *requests* UN Environment to provide further information to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee on the planned implementation of its new Standard Management procedure for the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention;
6. *Requests* the Secretariat to consult with the United Nations and the European Union competent bodies and programmes, and prepare a report on the participation of the Secretariat in projects funded by EU Programmes, in particular EU ERDF funds, analysing current obstacles, in order to implement a solution enabling the Secretariat to participate again in relevant EU Programmes, in particular Interreg.

DECISION COP5/17 Location of Permanent Secretariat

The Conference of the Parties

Recalling the paragraph 4 of decision COP4/16 and *taking into account* that there were no developments on this issue since the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP4), *decides* to review the issue of the Secretariat location and relevant requirements at a next meeting of the COP, if consensus has been reached.

DECISION COP5/18 Date and venue of the Sixth 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 the Republic of Poland to convene the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP6) in 2020, and *requests* the Secretariat to make the necessary arrangements, in consultation with the host Government and the CCIC;

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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 Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention.

**Decision COP5/19
Presidency of the Carpathian Convention**

The Conference of the Parties

Expresses its gratitude for the successful Presidency of the Czech Republic to the Carpathian Convention, *welcomes* the new Presidency of Hungary and its priorities as presented at the presidential statement with particular attention to climate change, awareness raising and education, environmental safety, cultural heritage, sustainable agriculture and rural development, 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.

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Abbreviations

- ALPARC** - Alpine Network of Protected Areas
- ANPAA** - Association of Natural Protected Areas Administration
- ASP** – Associated Strategic Partner
- CBD** – Convention on Biological Diversity
- CCIBIS** - Carpathian Integrated Biodiversity Information System
- CCIC** - Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee
- 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 Unit** - Carpathian Network of Protected Areas Unit
- COP** - Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention
- 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
- DCP** - Danube-Carpathian Programme
- DTP** - Danube Transnational Programme
- EEA** - European Environment Agency
- EIONET** - European Environment Information and Observation Network
- ERDF** – European Regional Development Fund
- ESD** - Education for Sustainable Development
- ETC** - European Territorial Cooperation
- ETE** - Ecological Tourism in Europe
- EU** – European Union
- EUROMONTANA** - European Association of Mountain Areas

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EUSDR - EU Strategy for the Danube Region

FAO – Food and Agriculture Organisation

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

ICPDR – International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River

IUCN - International Union for Conservation of Nature

LIFE – the EU's Funding Programme for the Environment and Climate Action

MUNESD - Model United Nations Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development

PA – Priority Area

PSC – Programme Support Cost

Ramsar Convention - Convention on Wetlands of International Importance

RAUN - Regional Academy on the United Nations

REC – Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe

SDC – Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

TAF- DRP – Technical Assistance Facility for Danube Region Projects

Tourism Protocol - Protocol on Sustainable Tourism to the Carpathian Convention

Transport Protocol - Protocol on Sustainable Transport to the Carpathian Convention

UBA - Federal Environment Agency of Austria

UNDP- United Nations Development Programme

UNECE – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNFCCC – United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

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

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WG Spatial Development - Carpathian Convention Working Group on Spatial Development

WG Tourism - Carpathian Convention Working Group on Tourism

WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature

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Annex 1 (DECISION COP5/15)

Draft Programme of Work of the Carpathian Convention, 1 January 2018 – 31 December 2020

Topic	Activities	Actions to be undertaken
Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CCIC) and Conference of the Parties (COP)	<p>Development of documentation for COP, including documentation on sectoral issues, integrated reports, strategies/ strategic action plans/protocols for priority issues,</p> <p>Meeting reports and recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 6th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP6) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secretariat, in close cooperation with the Parties, shall prepare comprehensive information and documentation for the 6th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention – COP6, including guidance and overview of the implementation and work conducted under thematic Working Groups, review of MoUs, agreements and other relevant initiatives under the Convention, - Secretariat, in consultation with the host government and the CCIC, shall make all necessary arrangements and preparations for the organization of the COP6.
Implementation of the Carpathian Convention	<p>Development of a comprehensive National Report on Implementation of the Carpathian Convention covering all the Protocols and other relevant sector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secretariat shall develop guidelines and reporting template in consultation with the Parties, to be approved by the COP, -
	<p>Other activities related to implementation of the Carpathian Convention deriving from the COP5 Decisions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parties shall promote, at the national level, efficient and consistent processes for implementation of the Carpathian Convention, including information, involvement and capacity building of relevant stakeholders and civil society, - Secretariat shall develop projects establishing outreach programmes targeting local and regional authorities, universities and other relevant stakeholders to increase their awareness of the importance of the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathian region, and of the Convention's activities,

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secretariat shall continue to promote the Carpathian Convention and sustainable mountain development in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, - Secretariat shall continue taking all necessary efforts, in collaboration with the Parties and stakeholders, to mobilize financial means for development and implementation of projects in order to foster the implementation of the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols, - Parties shall further solicit support for the implementation of the Carpathian Convention from the relevant financial instruments.
Cooperation with the European Union	Activities related to the cooperation with EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secretariat shall further engage in common activities with the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region and respective Priority Areas, - Secretariat shall continue promoting the integration of Carpathian priorities into the related Transnational "European Territorial Cooperation" (ETC) Programmes for the period 2014-2020, as well as other relevant funding programmes, - Parties shall further cooperate with EU bodies in further promoting the Carpathian region within existing EU macroregional strategies, - Secretariat shall monitor development of the EU Macroregional Strategy for the Carpathian Region, - Secretariat shall coordinate with the interregional group "Carpathians" within the Committee of the Regions.
Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies	Activities related to cooperation with other conventions or international bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secretariat shall continue to strengthen the cooperation with the Alpine Convention in fields such as institutional cooperation, the exchange of information and experience, the development and implementation of common projects,

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		<p>collaboration on implementation of the Conventions and their respective Programmes of Work, the implementation of the Programmes of Work of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on Protected Areas and on Mountain Biodiversity and collaboration in the field of protected area networks in the Alps and the Carpathians,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secretariat shall continue the cooperation with the Alpine Convention on implementation of the Declaration of the Conference The Role of Women in Mountain Regions and its recommendations, raise awareness on the topic and present this initiative in various international fora, among which the World Mountain Forum in 2018; - Secretariat shall further follow cooperation between the Secretariats of the Carpathian and Alpine Conventions and the Regional Academy on the United Nations (RAUN) in mentoring a group of researchers for the development of a study on women's access to natural resources, participation in natural resource preservation and management in mountain areas, to be presented at the RAUN 2017 - 2018 Conference on Women and Girls in a Changing World: Prospects and Challenges, in January 2018 in Vienna, Austria, - Parties and the CNPA members shall consider joining the organization of the Youth at the Top events in the future, - Parties shall support the establishment and implementation of programmes to foster the further experience exchange between the Alps, Carpathians and other mountain regions, - Secretariat shall implement the required activities and promote partnerships with other mountain regions, including interregional cooperation; UN Environment, all interested partners and donors, shall participate in and contribute to the process,
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secretariat shall further represent the Carpathian Convention in the external relations, and further cooperate and share experience with relevant partners and projects.
Biodiversity	Finalization of the Carpathian Red Lists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parties shall submit the official comments and/or positions on the Lists - CCIC shall consider the submission by Parties - Parties shall consider undertaking further actions in case of needed additional work to complete the Red Lists
	Consideration of the National Reports on the Implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CCIC shall consider the conclusions of the summary of the reports prepared by the Secretariat with the aim to strengthen the implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol in the future. - Parties / WG Biodiversity shall take steps in order to strengthen the implementation, as proposed by the CCIC
	Development of International action plan for the conservation and sustainable management for the Carpathian populations of large carnivores	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WG Biodiversity shall prioritize its work on Large Carnivores - WG Biodiversity, with support of the Secretariat, shall elaborate an International Action Plan for the Conservation and Sustainable Management for the Carpathian Populations of Large Carnivores
	Harmonization of methodologies for the population based monitoring of large carnivores	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WG Biodiversity and the Secretariat shall work together with the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation through a work plan for concrete activities, including possible harmonization of methodologies for the population based monitoring of large carnivores
	Relevance of the topic on Invasive Alien Species for the Carpathians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WG Biodiversity shall explore the relevance of this topic for the Carpathians, and suggest possible actions for the consideration of the CCIC at its next meeting - WG Biodiversity / Parties shall take actions as proposed by the CCIC.
	Carpathian Network of Protected Areas and its further	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ANPAA shall restore active communication with the CNPA

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	activities	<p>Focal Points,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CNPA shall carry out concrete activities in order to implement the CNPA Medium – Term Strategy, - CNPA shall further cooperate with ALPARC and DANUBEPARKS on ecological connectivity, exchanges on protected areas matters, education and other specific topics common to the three networks.
	Activities on the Carpathian wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CWI shall enhance cooperation with Ramsar Convention - CWI shall mobilize resources - CWI shall take appropriate action on the effective conservation, restoration, management and sustainable use of Carpathian wetlands - CWI shall take appropriate action on development of education and training in these topics
	Activities on wildlife crime prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secretariat shall disseminate the results of the Assessment of the Wild for DC project to relevant international initiatives with a view to support synergies, - WG Biodiversity shall prepare of proposal of possible joint activities with the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) for the consideration by the CCIC, - Secretariat shall work on project development on wildlife crime prevention, in cooperation with WWF DCP, WG Biodiversity and relevant stakeholders.
	Support for ConnectGREEN project (if successful)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WG Biodiversity shall involve in project activities, especially in respect to the development of a strategy on the identification, preservation, management of ecological corridors focusing on large carnivores' needs in the Carpathian region, - Secretariat shall follow the process and participates in it by providing expertise through an agreement with the

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		Lead Partner.
Spatial Development	Activities related to the local administrative units (LAU) within which the Parties implement the Convention and its Protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parties with support of the Secretariat shall publish and disseminate this information, including to local and regional stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Carpathian Convention in the region.
Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management	Cooperation with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, including the Tisza Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secretariat shall explore possibilities for enhanced cooperation with the ICPDR/Tisza Group on with a special focus on climate change adaptation, agriculture or water nexus, - Secretariat shall continue providing relevant expertise to the JOINTISZA project.
Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development	Implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD Protocol)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parties shall undertake, whenever possible, actions taking into account the provisions of the SARD Protocol, - WG SARD shall prepare and prioritize strategic actions taking into account the provisions of the SARD Protocol, - Secretariat shall enhance cooperation with ICPDR on sustainable agriculture and rural development.
Sustainable forest management	Finalization of the inventory of virgin forest in the Carpathians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parties, with support of the WG Forest and other relevant stakeholders, shall complete the inventory of virgin forest before the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention.
	Activities related to the natural forest in the Carpathians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WG Forest shall continue work on typology of natural forests, - WG Forest shall propose voluntary guidelines for measures unifying methodologies for the sustainable management of natural forests in the Carpathian region, implementing, <i>inter alia</i>, Article 11 of the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management to the Carpathian Convention.
	Strengthening cooperation with WG Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WG Forest shall strengthen its cooperation with the WG Climate Change to facilitate the implementation of

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	Activities on prevention of illegal logging in the Carpathians	<p>Article 14 of the Forest Protocol.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parties shall take urgent and forceful measures to address the problem of illegal logging in the Carpathians, - WG Forest shall compile and disseminate information on illegal logging in the Carpathian, as well as to recommend measures for addressing this problem that take into account socioeconomic issues.
Sustainable transport and infrastructure, industry and energy	Implementation of the Transport Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WG Transport, with support of the TRANSGREEN project, shall develop a Strategic Action Plan for fostering the implementation of the Transport Protocol, other Working Groups and relevant stakeholders are invited to support the process, - Secretariat shall continue to participate in the TRANSGREEN project by providing expertise through an agreement with the Lead Partner.
Sustainable tourism	Implementation of the Tourism Protocol and the Strategy for the Sustainable Tourism Development of the Carpathians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parties shall actively participate in implementation of the Tourism Protocol and the Strategy for the Sustainable Tourism Development of the Carpathians, - Secretariat shall elaborate collaborative agreements with the centers of the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform (CSTP), - CSTP and its centers shall further elaborate on the development of the common Carpathia brand, - WG Tourism shall consider the Set of Indicators for measuring the positive and negative effects of tourism in the Carpathians as a useful source for the implementation of Article 24 of the Tourism Protocol.
Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge	Promotion of the World Heritage Sites in the Carpathians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secretariat, in close cooperation with WG Cultural Heritage and potentially WG Tourism, shall take necessary action to develop the concept of promoting the World Heritage Sites in the Carpathians with an aim to support sustainable

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	Future priorities of the WG Cultural Heritage	<p>tourism development in the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WG Cultural Heritage shall identify priorities for the implementation of Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention and shall propose next steps to the CCIC, including the possibility of the development of a redrafted Protocol on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge.
Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning	Activities related to implementation of the Article 12 of the Carpathian Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secretariat shall explore possibilities of cooperation with the ICPDR and the EUSDR on environmental safety/accidental prevention control in order to facilitate implementation of Article 12 of the Carpathian Convention, - Secretariat shall further develop, with support of the TRANSGREEN project and possible future projects, the Carpathian Countries Integrated Biodiversity Information System (CCIBIS), as an information system accessible to all the Parties, gathering available data sets, information on local and regional administrations, outcomes of projects and other relevant data, - Parties shall consider engaging of respective European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET) Focal Points in the implementation of Article 12 of the Carpathian Convention.
Climate Change	Implementation of the Article 12bis of the Carpathian Convention on Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parties shall begin the implementation of the Article 12bis by further development of climate change related activities in the Carpathian region, - WG Climate Change to prepare and prioritize strategic actions in this respect.
Awareness raising, education and public participation	Activities related to implementation of the Article 13 of the Carpathian Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parties and other stakeholders shall get actively involved in development and promoting of the Mountain Biodiversity for our Wellbeing online platform, and the Secretariat shall support the process,

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secretariat shall support organization of a seminar in 2018/2019 on the issues on environmental and sustainable development education and awareness raising in kindergartens and schools with the aim of exchanging best practices in the Carpathian region and exploring of further cooperation, as proposed by the Hungarian Presidency, - Parties, the Secretariat and relevant partners, among others the UNECE and S4C, shall consider common activities on awareness raising, for instance, establishing contest for school students and/or young scientists with reference to the Carpathian matters, - Secretariat and relevant stakeholders shall consider development of a follow up project of the Lifelong Learning project Innovation in Rural Tourism (InRuTou).
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Annex 2 (Decision COP5/15)
Budget and Counterpart Contribution to the Trust Fund (1), (2)

Carpathian Convention Trust Fund - Budget	220 000 EUR	220 000 EUR	220 000 EUR	660 000 EUR
	2018	2019	2020	2018 - 2020
PERSONNEL				
Staff (3) (Harald Egerer)	72 390	72 390	72 390	217 171
Expert (4) (Kludia Kuras)	25 000	25 000	25 000	75 000
Team Assistant (5) (Inti Blasberg)	26 300	26 300	26 300	78 900
TRAVELS, MEETINGS				
Travel on official mission (6)	21 500	21 500	21 500	64 500
Meetings, workshops etc. (7)	21 500	21 500	21 500	64 500
OFFICE COSTS				
Office costs (8)	28 000	28 000	28 000	84 000
DIRECT COST TO TRUST FUND	194 690	194 690	194 690	584 071
Programme Support Cost (13%)	25 310	25 310	25 310	75 929
GRAND TOTAL	220 000	220 000	220 000	660 000

(1) Budget is estimated as an average of the three years, bearing in mind that staff costs have yearly increases and also spending on meetings and travel will be variable between the years

(2) Budget is an indicative estimate because it depends on exchange rate fluctuations between the US Dollar and the Euro

(3) 80% of UN P.4 position in Vienna

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- (4) Programme assistant
 (5) 50% of a regular G.4 Team Assistant in Vienna
 (6) Estimated minimum amount to be able to operate, represent Secretariat, organize and participate in meetings etc.
 (7) Estimated minimum amount to cover participation, costs related to meetings, coffee breaks, hospitality in VIC or outside etc.
 (8) Contribution to office costs of Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (shifting gap to the project funds)

Voluntary contribution to the Carpathian Convention Trust Fund and project ⁽¹⁾	33 000 EUR	33 000 EUR	33 000 EUR	99 000 EUR
	2018	2019	2020	2018 - 2020
PERSONNEL				
Staff	8 200	8 200	8 200	24 600
Expert	7 091	7 091	7 091	21 273
Team Assistant	550	550	550	1 650
OFFICE COSTS				
Office costs	10 000	10 000	10 000	30 000
MISCELLANEOUS				
Co-financing	5 000	5 000	5 000	15 000
DIRECT COST TO TRUST FUND	30 841	30 841	30 841	92 523
Programme Support Cost (7%)	2 159	2 159	2 159	6 477
GRAND TOTAL	33 000	33 000	33 000	99 000

(1) Confirmed contribution of TRANSGREEN project. Further projects can be included once approved (e.g. ConnectGREEN)

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Annex 3 (DECISION COP5/15)

**SCALE OF ASSESSMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS BY STATE PARTIES TO THE TRUST FUND FOR
THE THREE YEARS 2018 - 2019 - 2020 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 2018	Year 2019	Year 2020
The 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
The Slovak Republic	33 000	33 000	33 000
Ukraine**	33 000	33 000	33 000
TOTAL	220 000	220 000	220 000

* 18.500 if Serbia doesn't confirm increase

** 21.500 assessed contribution, 8.500 voluntary contribution with a possible increase to 11.500