

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

CC/COP6/DOC3/ADOPTED

DECISIONS

Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (COP6)

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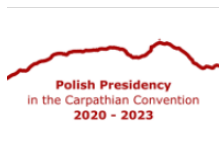
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DECISION COP6/1 Implementation of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Work of the Carpathian Convention and *reiterates* the need to implement all the articles of the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols in a balanced way;
2. *Recognizing* the impact of the COVID – 19 pandemic on the implementation of the Programme of Work of the Carpathian Convention, appreciates the smooth transition to the virtual mode of working undergone by the Secretariat, especially in organization of relevant meetings and consultation including the 6th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention, in this respect *adopts* the Operating Procedures for the Virtual Meetings that should be considered as the supplementing document to *the Rules of Procedures for the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention*;
3. *Takes note of* the efforts made towards elaborating a comprehensive reporting system on the implementation of the Carpathian Convention and all its Protocols, especially the efforts of the Secretariat to prepare draft guidelines and a reporting template, and to include the reporting of the Carpathian Convention under the global Data Reporting Tool for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (DaRT), currently under development by UNEP;
4. *Encourages* the Parties to make use of the Data Reporting Tool, as appropriate, and in this respect, *requests* the Secretariat and invites UNEP to support the process towards a successful reporting system for the Carpathian Convention, which shall lead to harmonized knowledge management and national reporting, limiting the reporting burden of the Parties to the extent possible and increasing transparency and value of data collection and analysis;
5. *Encourages* the Parties to undertake necessary efforts to ensure efficient and consistent implementation of the Carpathian Convention at the national level, especially in regard to raising awareness about the Carpathian Convention and its activities among relevant governmental entities and supporting smooth implementation of the Carpathian Convention in all relevant sectors;
6. *Welcomes* the document “Improving functioning of the Carpathian Convention Working Groups”, which proposes establishing a role of the Chairperson of each existing Working Group (WGs), in order to enhance the implementation of the Convention and support cooperation and exchange of information among WGs and other relevant actors, hence, *encourages* the Parties to take the leading role of at least one WGs, with strong support of the Secretariat, and *requests* the Secretariat to update the Terms of Reference for the relevant WGs in this respect;
7. In respect to the above Decision COP6/1 para 6, *further welcomes* taking leading role of the WGs by the respective Parties as follows: WG Biodiversity – Czech Republic; WG Forest –

Slovakia; WG Climate Change - Hungary; WG SARD - Romania; WG Tourism - Poland; WG Transport - Poland; WG Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge - Slovakia; WG Spatial Development (open); and requests the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CCIC) to regularly assess, evaluate and guide the arrangements, and make the necessary alterations, as appropriate, and *invites* the Parties to consider taking the leading role of WG that is open;

8. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue taking all the necessary efforts, in collaboration with the Parties and stakeholders, to mobilize financial means for the development and implementation of projects in order to foster the implementation of the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols;
9. *Invites* the Parties to further solicit support for the implementation of the Carpathian Convention from the European Territorial Cooperation funds, the International Visegrad Fund, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) cohesion funds, EEA and Norway Grants, LIFE, European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument, Eastern Partnership, the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance, and other relevant instruments;
10. *Welcomes and appreciates* organization of the following meetings of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee and Carpathian Convention Working Groups: the 9th CCIC meeting held on 17 – 19 December 2018 in Vienna, Austria; the 10th CCIC meeting, held on 11 – 13 December 2019 in Budapest, Hungary; the 11th CCIC meeting, held in a virtual format on 8 October 2020, the 5th meeting of the Working Group on Cultural Heritage Traditional Knowledge (WG Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge), held on 4 – 5 April 2018 in Szentendre Skanzen and Budapest, Hungary; the 8th meeting of the Working Group on Sustainable Transport + IENE Workshop, held on 16 -17 May 2018 in Budapest, Hungary; the 4th meeting of the Working Group on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (WG SARD), held on 27 September 2018 in Vatra Dornei, Romania; the 9th meeting of the Working Group on Sustainable Transport, held on 1 – 2 April 2019 in Budapest, Hungary; the 9th meeting of the Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity (WG Biodiversity) organized back to back with the EUSDR PA2 Workshop on minimising the negative impacts of power lines on birds, held on 29 – 31 May 2019 in Ostrava, Czech Republic; the 7th meeting of the Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management (WG Forest), held on 27 – 28 June 2019 in Zvolen, Slovakia; the 7th meeting of the Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change (WG Climate Change) organized back to back with the Climate Data Store (CDS) training, held on 8 – 9 October 2019 in Budapest, Hungary; the 10th meeting of the WG Biodiversity organized back to back with workshop on large carnivores monitoring and conservation in the Carpathians, held on 25 – 28 November 2019 in Coltesti, Romania; the 11th meeting of the WG Biodiversity organized online on 10 March 2020, the 10th meeting of the Working Group on Sustainable Transport, organized online on 11 March 2020, and the 7th meeting of WG Climate Change organized online on 15 May 2020.

DECISION COP6/2

Cooperation with regional and local authorities and all relevant stakeholders

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Encourages* the Parties to promote and support implementation of the Carpathian Convention across the sectors at the regional and local level, in order to foster greater consideration of and contribution to the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathian region for the wellbeing of the current and future generations living in the Carpathian region;
2. *Invites* the regional and local authorities and relevant stakeholders to actively engage in and contribute to the process of implementation the Carpathian Convention in order to foster strong ownership of the convention and its activities undertaken in the Carpathian region;
3. *Welcomes* the ongoing cooperation with the regional governments of the Carpathians, especially the Podkarpackie Region of Poland and the Brasov County of Romania and their strong engagement in promoting the objectives and activities of the Carpathian Convention among local communities and stakeholders, and, in this respect, *encourages* the other regional and local authorities to follow this good example of cooperation;
4. *Reiterates* the recommendation to the Secretariat to develop projects supporting 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, especially in the context of the importance of biodiversity for the wellbeing of human and nature;
5. *Welcomes* the 2nd Carpathian Days of Good Neighbourhood - Meeting of the Carpathian Regions organized by the Marshal's Office of the Podkarpackie Region of Poland on 8-10 August 2019 in Muczne, Poland, and the initiative to organize the 3rd conference in 2021, possibly in conjunction with the Carpathian Ministerial Conference to be held in 2021 in Poland, and *invites* the Parties and all relevant stakeholders to participate in the future meetings promoting strategic cooperation of the Carpathian countries and regions as a key factor for sustainable development of the Carpathians.

DECISION COP6/3

Cooperation with the European Union

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes and encourages* further substantive cooperation with the EU institutions and agencies, including with the Council of the European Union, the European Commission,

especially DG REGIO and DG Environment, DG AGRI, DG DEVCO, the European Parliament, the European Committee of Regions, and the European Environment Agency;

2. *By reiterating* the previous COP Decisions (DECISION COP1/13 para 7, DECISION COP2/11 para 12, DECISIONS COP3/10 para 5) inviting the European Union to join the Carpathian Convention as a Party, *invites* the Parties to jointly address the EU institutions to consider acceding to the Carpathian Convention, being convinced that the accession will contribute to fostering implementation of the Convention and the EU acquis at the regional and the EU level;
3. In this respect, *invites* the Parties to implement the Road Map for the EU accession to the Carpathian Convention, *appreciates* the active role of the Secretariat in promoting the process, especially at the EU level, and *requests* the Secretariat to further facilitate this process;
4. *Invites* the Parties to consider introducing a "Regional Economic Integration Organization Clause" into the Carpathian Convention, making it possible for the EU to become Party to the Convention, and *requests* the Secretariat to consult with the European Commission for this purpose;
5. *Welcomes* the support by the Members of the European Parliament in promoting the Carpathian Convention in various fora at the EU level and invites to further promote the Carpathians and activities and initiatives relevant for the region, including the EU accession to the Convention;
6. *Appreciating* the UNEP Executive Director's intervention at High-Level Meeting between UNEP and the European Commission on 2 March 2020 informing the European Commission about the Parties' intentions for EU accession to the Carpathian Convention, and *invites* UNEP to further support the process at high-level;
7. *Welcomes* the cooperation with the Interregional Group "Carpathians" of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR), chaired by the Marshal of the Podkarpackie Region, Poland, and *requests* the Secretariat to continue cooperation with the CoR Group "Carpathians" on topics of mutual interest, supporting the sustainable development of the Carpathian region;
8. *Welcomes* the paragraph 34 of the Opinion on Macro-regional strategy for the Carpathian region adopted at the 137th Plenary Session of the European Committee of the Regions in December 2019, which acknowledges the positive impact of the Carpathian Convention, the importance of its objectives and their convergence with the EU's priorities, calls on the European Commission to take action towards the EU joining this Convention as a party, and points out that the EU is already a party to the Alpine Convention;
9. *Welcomes* the ongoing cooperation with EU Macro-regional Strategies, especially the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) based on the Memoranda of Cooperation with respecting EUSDR Priority Areas (EUSDR PA1b "Mobility I Rail-Road-Air", EUSDR PA2 "Sustainable Energy", EUSDR PA4 "Water Quality", EUSDR PA 05 "Environmental Risks" and EUSDR PA 06 "Biodiversity & Landscape") and *requests* the Secretariat to further facilitate this cooperation and contribute to the implementation of the revised EUSDR Action Plan;

10. *Takes note of* the developments in establishing the Macroregional Strategy for the Carpathians, in particular the first meeting of the *Carpathian Executive Board*, held on 20-22 February 2020 in Krasiczyn Castle that agreed on common goals and further steps towards adopting the Strategy, and in this respect *requests* the Secretariat to further follow this process;
11. *Requests* the Secretariat to further promote the integration of Carpathian priorities into the relevant Transnational "European Territorial Cooperation" (ETC) Programmes (in particular the Danube Transnational Programme and the Interreg Central Europe) within the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) period 2021-2027, as well as other relevant funding programmes, and *calls upon* the Parties to promote the establishment of the ETC Programme dedicated to the Carpathian region at the EU level;
12. *Requests* the Parties, the Secretariat and relevant stakeholders to consider the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) period 2021-2027 as an opportunity for advancing the implementation of the Carpathian Convention through timely preparations of project proposals for relevant calls for proposals, addressing the needs and challenges of the Carpathian region, while being in line with the Cohesion Policy principles and contributing to the regional development of Europe;
13. *Welcomes* the support given by the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, held from 1 January to 30 June 2019, in promoting the Carpathian Convention at the EU level;
14. *Welcomes* the new EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the ongoing developments of the new EU Forest Strategy post-2020 and *invites* the Parties and relevant stakeholders to contribute to achieving the EU Strategies through implementing the Carpathian Convention and its objectives;
15. *Welcomes* the European Green Deal a new growth strategy of European Union that addresses key climate and environmental-related challenges of today.

DECISION COP6/4

Cooperation with United Nations Environment Programme

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Acknowledges* that closer cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention will enhance implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development including the Sustainable Development Goals;
2. *Notes* with appreciation the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention's regular contributions to the UNEP Executive Director's quarterly report to the Committee of Permanent Representatives of UNEP highlighting the key achievements and policy developments of the Carpathian Convention;

3. *Welcomes* UNEP's initiative to consult Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) including the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention on the development of the new UNEP medium-term strategy for 2022 – 2025 and the related programme of work, to ensure that the Conventions' priorities are taken into consideration in the programmatic work of UNEP;
4. *Welcomes* the continued work of the "MEAs Focal Points Network" for enhancing communication and cooperation among the MEA Secretariats as well as the Secretariats of MEAs and UNEP;
5. *Encourages* activities to enhance synergies and programmatic cooperation between UNEP and the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, and *requests* the Secretariat, with support of UNEP, to identify potential areas for future cooperation in the light of their respective mandates and the latest scientific information;
6. *Encourages* greater engagement by the Carpathian Convention, in the activities of the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA) by inter alia taking part in structured dialogues and informal events relating to Multilateral Environment Agreements in order to strengthen programmatic cooperation between UNEP and the Convention, and *requests* the Secretariat to support such initiatives;
7. *Invites* greater engagement of Major Groups and Stakeholders from the Carpathian Region in the UNEA and its preparatory process, and *request* the UNEP Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention to support such engagement;
8. *Invites* UNEP to participate in the regional forums of ministers of environment, and in the Ministerial Conference of the Carpathian Convention to be held in Poland in 2021, if feasible, and *requests* the Secretariat to facilitate the process.

DECISION COP6/5

Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes and supports* further cooperation with international conventions and international bodies, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention), the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention), the European Landscape Convention, the Council of Europe, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the UN Environment Programme World Conservation

Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), FOREST EUROPE - the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, the European Association of Mountain Areas (EUROMONTANA), the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), the Visegrad Group; GRID Arendal, GRID Warsaw, the Mountain Research Initiative, the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA), the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), especially WWF CEE and WWF Romania; the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), *appreciates* the efforts made by the Secretariat in this process and *encourages* participation of the Secretariat in relevant meetings in order to establish and maintain close links and enhance synergies, where appropriate, between the relevant international actors and the Carpathian Convention;

2. *Supports* the idea of designating 2022 as the International Year of Mountains and *encourages* the Secretariat to liaise with the lead agency FAO as well as with UNEP in this respect;
3. *Welcomes* the United Nations General Assembly resolution ([UNGA resolution No. 74/227](#)) on “Sustainable Mountain Development” adopted in December 2019, which notes with appreciation the Carpathian Convention and the recent adoption of the Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, as well as the entry into force of the Protocol on Sustainable Transport, which promote constructive new approaches to integrated, sustainable mountain development and provide a forum for dialogue among stakeholders;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue promoting the Carpathian Convention and sustainable mountain development in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals;
5. *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 and its Secretariat in fields of common interest, including institutional cooperation, the exchange of information and experience, the development and implementation of common projects, and raising awareness of the significance of sustainable development of mountain areas in Europe and other mountain regions of the world;
6. *Welcomes* the upcoming UN Decade on Ecosystems Restoration 2021 – 2030 aiming to massively scale up the restoration of degraded and destroyed ecosystems as a proven measure to fight climate change and enhance food security, water supply and biodiversity and, in this respect, *calls upon* the Parties to make strong commitments to achieve transformational ecosystem restoration, and *requests* the Secretariat to support the process, including via consultation with UNEP on possible activities;

7. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the UN Summit on Biodiversity held on 30th of September 2020, at the margins of the United Nations General Assembly, calling for increased resolve to protect biodiversity for sustainable development, as well as the Leaders' Pledge for Nature as an ambitious commitment of world leaders, including heads of state and government from some Parties to the Carpathian Convention, to reverse biodiversity loss by 2030;
8. *Appreciating* the work of Euromontana on increasing the importance of the mountain areas at the EU and international levels, *adopts* the Memorandum of Cooperation between Euromontana and the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and recommends implementation of the related Work Plan;
9. *Encourages* the Secretariat to strengthen cooperation with the Danube River Protection Convention and discuss possible further common activities with the ICPDR Secretariat;
10. *Welcomes* the celebration of the International Mountain Day, especially the high-level event "Mountain adaptation: Vulnerable peaks and people" held on 11 December 2018 at the 24th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change of the Parties (UNFCCC COP24) in Katowice) Poland, and *thanks* UNEP and Poland for organizing the event;
11. *Supports* the establishment and implementation of projects to foster further experience exchange between the Alps, the Pyrenees, the Caucasus Mountains, the 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* the UNEP, all interested partners and donors to participate in and to contribute to the process.
12. *Appreciates* the awarding of the Carpathian Convention with the prestigious WWF "Gift to the Earth" Award, *expresses its gratitude* WWF CEE for its continued support and contribution to the work of the Carpathian Convention, especially demonstrated by the implementation of numerous projects focused on environmental protection and sustainable development of the Carpathian and great cooperation with the Secretariat, *invites* WWF CEE to further support achieving the objectives of the Carpathian Convention, and *requests* the Secretariat to further support this cooperation.

DECISION COP6/6

Implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Recognizing* the role of the Carpathian Convention as a regional mechanism for the implementation of the upcoming Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in the Carpathians, translating the Global 2050 Goals and 2030 Action Targets to the regional level, *welcomes* the

active engagement of the Secretariat in the process of elaborating the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and *requests* the Secretariat to continue contributing to the process, including by increasing visibility of the Convention at the international level and preparing of relevant documents on the role and contribution of the Carpathian Convention to the Post-2020 Framework, to be announced at the CBD COP15 in China;

2. *Welcomes* the revision of the trilateral Memorandum of Cooperation between the CBD, the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention in the light of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, which shall be considered as a useful instrument for enhancing synergies and initiating common activities for the implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and in this respect, *mandates* the Secretariat to sign the revised MoC;
3. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Parties, especially Hungary and Poland, the Secretariat, UNEP and relevant partners in raising the importance of mountain biodiversity within the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and other global political agendas, including undertaking consultations on this subject within the meetings of the CBD Open-Ended Working Group on Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and preparation of relevant documents and policy briefs, and *requests* further support and actions in this respect;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat to further consult with UNEP and other biodiversity related conventions regarding possible synergies for the implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, including possible contribution and involvement of the Carpathian Convention;
5. *Welcomes* the idea of developing the Carpathian Commitments for the implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in the form of a Political Declaration, *encourages* the Parties to adopt the Declaration prior or at the CBD COP15, and *requests* the Secretariat to further facilitate the process;

DECISION COP6/7

Cooperation with Eurac Research

The Conference of the Parties

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

DECISION COP6/8

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

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Secretariat to strengthen science – policy – practice interface, in order to enhance the implementation of the Carpathian Convention via creating synergies between its stakeholders and promoting inter-sectoral cooperation, such as stronger collaboration with the Science for the Carpathians (hereinafter S4C) network, as well as the elaboration and implementation of the project “Integrating nature protection and sustainable tourism development in the Carpathian region via science- policy-practice interface” and *requests* further actions by the Secretariat in this respect;
2. *Welcomes* stronger involvement of the S4C in the implementation of the Convention, based on the Memorandum of Understanding, its contribution to the COP5 and other Convention events, *recognizes* the effort by the Secretariat and the S4C to coordinate activities and *requests* the Secretariat to pursue closer collaboration with the S4C;
3. *Acknowledging* the benefits of integrating transdisciplinary approaches into Convention activities, *welcomes* the special session within the 9th meeting of the WG Biodiversity co-organized by the S4C and the Secretariat on improving exchange of scientific information to support decision making processes; and *encourages* S4C and the Secretariat to further support the process in relevant sectors and explore tools for more effective co-creation of knowledge and solutions for the Carpathian region;
4. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the 5th Forum Carpaticum: Adaptation to Environmental and Social Risk in the Carpathian Mountain Region, held on 15 – 18 October 2018 in Eger, Hungary *thanks* the S4C for the elaboration of the main recommendations for the Carpathian Convention, *invites* the S4C to further support the Carpathian Convention with its sound scientific knowledge and expertise and *requests* the Secretariat and the Parties to take S4C recommendations into close consideration when prioritizing, planning and implementing Convention activities;
5. *Welcomes* the information about the 6th Forum Carpaticum that will focus on Linking the Environmental, Political and Societal Aspects for Carpathian Sustainability to be held in 2021 in Brno, Czech Republic, *notes* the relevance of the workshop “Towards a stronger role of universities in shaping sustainable development of the Carpathian region”, to be co-organized by the Secretariat and the S4C, and *invites* the Parties and relevant stakeholders to take an active part in the Forum;
6. *Recognizes* the support provided by the German Federal Environment Ministry’s Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP), the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and the German Environment Agency to the implementation of the Convention, including but not

limited to the project “Integrating nature protection and sustainable tourism development into the Carpathian region via science- policy-practice interface,” and *requests* the Secretariat to continue cooperation with these agencies;

7. *Welcomes* the elaboration of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Cooperation between the Science for the Carpathians Network (S4C) and the Scientific Network for the Caucasus Mountain Region (SNC-mt), *recognizes* the efforts of the Secretariat to facilitate this process and *requests* the Secretariat to continue fostering scientific exchange between the Carpathians and other regions.

DECISION COP6/9

Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity

Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Adopts* the International Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity and *encourages* the Parties, the WG Biodiversity and other stakeholders, with support of the Secretariat, to ensure smooth implementation of the Plan;
2. *Welcomes* the contributions of the WG Biodiversity and of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) to the development of the *Report on population status of large carnivores and monitoring methods in the Carpathians* that shall support harmonization of monitoring of large carnivores in the Carpathians, in accordance with the Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity, and *requests* the WG Biodiversity and relevant partners to support this process;
3. *Encourages* the Parties and WG Biodiversity to further explore topics for collaboration with WG Climate Change and WG Forest, inter alia, and if possible, an idea of an assessment of climate change effects on large carnivores and their habitats, that could be linked to the assessment of the impacts of climate change on the Carpathian forests and their ecosystem services;
4. *Welcomes* the Workshop *Towards the standardization of monitoring procedures for large carnivore’s populations in the Carpathian*, organized within the Fifth Forum Carpaticum on 15 October 2018 in Eger, Hungary, organized by the Secretariat and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation in cooperation with partners;
5. *Welcomes* the support of WWF CEE and WWF Romania given to the work of the Carpathian Convention on large carnivores through the implementation of the ConnectGREEN and EUROLARGEARNIVORES projects, including the organization of the Workshop on large carnivores monitoring and conservation in the Carpathians, held back-to-back with the meeting of WG Biodiversity held on 25 – 28 November 2019 in Coltesti, Romania;

6. *Welcomes* the implementation of the project ConnectGREEN - *Restoring and managing ecological corridors in mountains as the green infrastructure in the Danube basin*, funded by the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme; *encourages* the Parties to promote and use the results of the project, as appropriate, *thanks* the WWF Romania and other partners, especially CEEweb for continued support in implementing the project;
7. *Recognizes* the importance of the ecological connectivity in the Carpathians for biodiversity preservation and adaptation to future environmental conditions, *invites* the Parties and relevant WGs to make use of the existing instruments, including relevant project results, as appropriate, for adequate managing and protecting the Carpathian natural heritage and restoring the ecological connectivity, and to undertake necessary actions in this respect;
8. *Welcomes* the ongoing implementation of the Centralparks project, funded by the INTERREG Central Europe Programme and led by Eurac Research, that gives considerable support to the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) activities, *encourages* CNPA, WG Biodiversity and the Secretariat to further support its implementation and *encourages* the Parties to contribute to and use the results of the project, as appropriate; and *takes note of* the activities of the Centralparks project, especially “the Carpathian strategy for enhancing biodiversity and landscape conservation outside and inside Protected Areas”;
9. *Requests* members the CNPA to further strengthen communication and sharing of relevant information with the CNPA Focal Points and relevant partners;
10. *Takes note of* the implementation of the project “Three Networks, Two macroregions, One vision - development of Green Infrastructure to foster ecological connectivity between Danube, Carpathians and Alps”, and requests the Chair of the CNPA Steering Committee to share the result of the project;
11. *Welcomes* the cooperation between the ALPARC, DANUBEPARKS and CNPA under the Memorandum of Cooperation of 2016, in particular cooperation under the ALPBIONET2030 project resulting in the elaboration of “Recommendations and Action Plan ALPS-DANUBE-CARPATIANS cooperation for ecological connectivity”, and *encourages* further cooperation on topics of common interest, especially on ecological connectivity, exchanges on protected areas management, education and other specific topics common to the three networks;
12. *Welcomes* the initiative to organize the 3rd Conference for the Carpathian Protected Areas in 2021 in Visegrad with the support of the ConnectGreen and Centralparks projects, and *encourages* the Parties, CNPA, WG Biodiversity and the Secretariat to support its organization as appropriate;
13. *Appreciating* the work of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI) in strengthening synergies between the Ramsar Convention and the Carpathian Convention, *welcomes* close cooperation of CWI with the Secretariat and relevant WGs, especially the WG Biodiversity and the WG Climate Change, in raising the importance of the Carpathian wetlands and initiating concrete activities,

including development of a project proposal on relevant topics, *encourages* the relevant WGs and the Secretariat to support the process and the project's implementation, if successful;

14. *Welcomes* and *appreciates* the organization of international courses on Sustainable agriculture in wetlands, held on 22-27 September 2019 and on wetland restoration planned on 5-9 October 2020 (postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic), both in the Czech Republic by CWI and the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic;
15. *Welcomes* the designation of the new Ramsar sites, wetlands sites of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, in the Carpathians in Poland, Romania and Ukraine, and encourages other Parties to consider designation of new Ramsar sites in the Carpathian region;
16. *Welcomes* the voluntary contribution made by Hungary and the Slovak Republic to the Carpathian Wetland Initiative, and *encourages* other Parties to do so as well;
17. *Welcomes* the approval of the project SwiPE-Successful Wildlife Crime Prosecution in Europe under the EU LIFE Programme 2019 call, led by WWF CEE with support of the Secretariat; and *requests* the Secretariat to further discuss joint activities among UNEP, UNODC and WWF CEE for the project implementation.
18. *Welcomes* the establishment in 2019 of Polish-Ukrainian Biosphere Reserve "Roztocze" and the initiative to designate a Ukrainian-Romanian Transboundary Biosphere Reserve in the Maramures Ridge of the Carpathian Mountains;

DECISION COP6/10

Spatial development

Article 5 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note of* the map of Carpathian administrative units¹ which presents information received from each Party on the administrative units where the Parties implement or plan to implement the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols, as appropriate, and which Parties may disseminate for information purposes among local and regional stakeholders possibly involved in the implementation of the Carpathian Convention in their respective territories, as appropriate, with the note that the map of Carpathian administrative units does not imply any opinion concerning Article 1 – "Geographical Scope" of the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols, or the definition of the Carpathian region, and *thanks* the Parties and the Secretariat

1 http://www.carpathianconvention.org/carpathian_administrative_units.html

for the efforts in establishing the map and the European Environment Agency for providing the crucial technical support.

2. *Encourages* the WG Spatial Development to consider for its future activities the relevance of the revision of Territorial Agenda of the European Union, the Urban Agenda for the EU and Leipzig Charter of Sustainable European Cities.

DECISION COP6/11

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

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the cooperation with the ICPDR Tisza Group in the frame of 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”, and *appreciates* the important role of the EUSDR PA 4 and EUSDR PA 5 in this respect; *encourages* the further strengthening of this cooperation in the areas of common interest, including development and implementation of joint, coordinated and complementary activities and projects, exchange of information, and awareness raising of the local communities in the Tisza River Basin;
2. *Welcomes* the results 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, *invites* the relevant partners to develop a follow up project involving the ICPDR Tisza Group and the Carpathian Convention; and *requests* the Secretariat and relevant WGs to participate in it by providing relevant expertise; *welcomes* the related Tid(y) up project - (F(ol)low the Plastic from source to the sea: Tisa-Danube - integrated action plan to eliminate plastic pollution of rivers) recently supported by the INTERREG Danube Transnational Programme and *encourages* its implementation;
3. *Encourages* enhanced cooperation through the Secretariat and relevant WGs with the ICPDR on climate change adaptation, agriculture or water nexus, or other relevant topics.

DECISION COP6/12

Sustainable agriculture and rural development
Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the ratification of the Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (hereinafter SARD Protocol) and its entry into force for the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland Slovakia and Romania, *invites* the other Parties to accede to the Protocol, *encourages* the Parties to implement the provisions of the SARD Protocol and *requests* the WG SARD to support the Parties in this process;
2. *Requests* the WG SARD to further prioritize strategic actions for the implementation of the SARD Protocol, while considering the table “Towards Implementation of the SARD Protocol” developed at the 4th WG SARD meeting, and *encourages* closer cooperation with other WGs in this respect;
3. *Express its appreciation* to Hungary for its efforts in initiating an active implementation of the SARD Protocol, *welcomes* the proposal of Hungary to host the next meeting of the WG SARD, and *requests* the Secretariat to facilitate its organization;
4. *Invites* the Parties and the WG SARD to consider the new EU Common Agriculture Policy while implementing the SARD Protocol.

DECISION COP6/13

Sustainable forest management

Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Expresses* its concern about negative impacts on Carpathian forests, especially increasing severity and frequency of storms, fires, drought, outbreaks of pests and diseases, including invasive species, partly due to climate change, that affect the ability of forests to fulfil their multiple functions and *emphasizes* the role of multifunctional and sustainable forest management in ensuring forest ecosystems resilience.
2. *Encourages* the WG Forest to continue its work on identification and protection of natural and virgin forests, on promotion of close to nature forestry, and on forestry and climate change in order to implement the respective Objectives of the Strategic Action Plan, undertake relevant actions and propose concrete activities in this respect with the support of the Secretariat and relevant partners;
3. *Takes note* of the progress in development of the Inventory of Virgin Forests of the Carpathians, appreciates the support of European Environment Agency (EEA), the European Topic Centre on Urban, Land, and Soil Systems (ETC-ULS), as well as other relevant actors, and *invites* them, and relevant research institutes of the Parties, to continue cooperation and knowledge sharing with the Carpathian Convention and the WG Forest to achieve the implementation of Article 10 of the Forest Protocol;
4. *Welcomes* the proposal of the Czech Republic and the support offered by Slovakia to organize a workshop on close-to-nature forest management for the Carpathian countries, and *requests* the Secretariat to facilitate its organization;

5. *Appreciates* the strengthened cooperation between the WG Forest and the WG Climate Change and WG Biodiversity, facilitating the implementation of Article 14 of the Forest Protocol, welcomes the idea of collecting information from the Parties with the goal of assessing the impacts of climate change on the Carpathian forests and their ecosystem services, including, if possible, climate change effects on large carnivores and their habitats, in that regard *recognizes* the complexity of the issue and wide range of ecosystem services Carpathian forests provide to the society, and *requests* the relevant Working Groups and partners to support the development of such assessment, and the Secretariat to facilitate the process;
6. *Welcomes* the kind proposal to organize a session on forest ecosystems and resource vulnerabilities to climate change in the Carpathian Mountain Region during the 6th Forum Carpathicum, to be held in 2021 in Brno, Czech Republic, *expresses* its gratitude to the University of Vermont and the Science of the Carpathians for the proposal, and *invites* the WG Forest and the WG Climate Change to participate and contribute to the session
7. *Recognizing* that illegal logging, despite its varying significance across the Parties, is an important and complex issue in the Carpathians, which can have trans-boundary effects that require international cooperation, *requests* the Parties and relevant partners to exchange of information and coordinate efforts to address the problem taking into account already existing mechanisms and platforms, as appropriate.

DECISION COP6/14

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

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the ratification and the entry into force of the Protocol on Sustainable Transport to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (hereinafter Transport Protocol) for the Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Serbia, the Slovak Republic and Ukraine, and *encourages* the ratification of, or accession to, the Protocol by the Party which has not yet done so;
2. Adopts the Joint Strategic Action Plan (SAP) 2021 – 2026 for the Implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Transport (Transport SAP), expresses its appreciation to the WG Transport and the relevant partners, especially WWF CEE and CEEweb for their crucial contributions, with support of the TRANSGREEN project, and Eurac Research for the support in its development, and *encourages* the Parties and involved actors to implement the provisions of the Transport SAP accordingly;
3. *Welcomes* the Declaration “Pathways to Greener Transport Infrastructure” adopted by the final conference of the TRANSGREEN project organized on 25 June 2019 in Bucharest, Romania, under the aegis of the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the Presidency of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, *further welcomes* the successful implementation of the TRANSGREEN project, *appreciates* the efforts made by the project

partners, especially the Lead Partner, WWF CEE in contributing to safer and environmentally-friendly road and rail networks in the mountainous regions of the Danube Basin with a special focus on the Carpathian Mountains; and *invites* the Parties to make use of the project results, especially “Wildlife and Traffic in the Carpathians - Guidelines how to minimize impact of transport infrastructure development on nature in the Carpathian countries”;

4. *Welcomes* the new project SaveGREEN on safeguarding the functionality of transnationally important ecological corridors in the Danube region, approved by the INTERREG Danube Transnational Programme, building on the key results of the previous INTERREG projects important for the Carpathians, TRANSGREEN and ConnectGREEN; *welcomes* the cooperation with WWF CEE as the Lead Partner, and *requests* the Secretariat and relevant Working Groups to participate in the project implementation by providing expertise through an agreement with the Lead Partner, especially in regard to support for mainstreaming of ecological connectivity into EU and global policies through cooperation among macro-regional strategies and other processes, and strengthening of cross-sectoral cooperation among key players, promotion of project results in the Danube-Carpathian basin and beyond, and capacity building at the national level.
5. *Welcomes* the Workshop on minimising the negative impacts of power lines on birds organized by the EUSDR PA 2 “Sustainable Energy” on 29 May 2019 in Ostrava, Czech Republic, back-to-back with the WG Biodiversity 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 government of the Czech Republic.

DECISION COP6/15

Sustainable tourism

Article 9 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Noting* the limited progress in the implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism, *invites* the Parties, the WG Tourism, the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform (CSTP) and the Secretariat to consider and propose next steps allowing for revitalization of the WG Tourism activities;
2. *Invites* CSTP to share information on its activities with the WG Tourism and the Secretariat on a regular basis and *requests* that the CSTP reports become an integral part of the overall Carpathian Convention Progress Report in the future;
3. *Invites* the relevant actors to proceed with the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat and: CSTP Centre Poland, CSTP Centre Romania, CSTP Centre Ukraine, if all formal requirements are met, at the earliest convenience, and in this respect encourages the Secretariat and CSTP to organize a virtual meeting between involved actors to discuss further steps of cooperation;

4. *Thanks* the CSTP Center Romania for coordinating the activities of the CSTP in 2017 – 2020 and invites the CSTP Center Poland to take the coordinating role for the next implementation period 2021 – 2023 during the Polish Presidency of the Carpathian Convention;
5. *Welcomes* the proposal of Romania, or other Parties, to organize the next meeting of the WG Tourism and *requests* the Secretariat to facilitate its organization in due course;
6. *Notes* the implementation of the “Cooperation of V4+ rural tourism actors through social and digital innovation project” under the Visegrad Fund, the “Etno Carpathia” project under the cross-border Interreg Poland-Slovakia Programme and the project “Thematic Trail Trigger” under the Interreg Europe Programme, and *encourages* the CSTP to share the results of the projects;
7. *Takes note of* the activities of the Centralparks project, especially the “Strategy for local sustainable tourism development based on natural and cultural heritage of the Carpathians”.

DECISION COP6/16

Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge
Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Appreciates* the support of Hungary in revitalizing the activities of the WG Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge, especially in respect to implementation of the Road Map to achieve the objectives of the Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention, and *invites* Parties to build on this momentum and consider undertaking further activities;
2. *Appreciates* the kind invitation by Slovakia to host the next meeting of the WG Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge and *requests* the Secretariat to coordinate and facilitate its organization;
3. *Recognizes* that cultural heritage plays a significant role in the sustainable socio-economic development of the Carpathian region, *welcomes* the development of the project “Carpathian Route - exploring, promoting and protecting the richness of the cultural and natural heritage of the Carpathian Region” approved in the frame of the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Regional Cooperation, and *expresses its support* for the implementation of the project as the flagship project for the Carpathian Convention; *takes note with grave concern of* the cancellation of the project grant, *emphasizes* the importance of the Carpathian Route project for cultural cooperation across borders, mutual understanding, combatting discrimination, and promoting equality and human rights throughout the region, and *invites* the Financial Mechanism Committee of the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Regional Cooperation to reconsider its decision.
4. *If the above-mentioned project is realized, requests* the WG Cultural Heritage to support the implementation of the Carpathian Route project, acting as the Steering Committee of the project.

DECISION COP6/17

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

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Appreciates* the ongoing Partnership between the Carpathian Convention and the EEA on the implementation of the Carpathian Convention, based on the Partnership Agreement and related Joint Work Plan, *welcomes* the successful cooperation in various fields, especially the generous offer by the EEA to integrate and possibly further develop the Carpathian Convention data platform in the EEA information systems, that will allow for better access to the relevant information on the Carpathian topics and for increasing visibility of the Carpathian region at the European Union level, and, in this respect, *requests* the Secretariat and EEA to support this process;
2. *Expresses its appreciation to* UNEP GRID/Warsaw for supporting and maintaining the CCIBIS and *requests* the Secretariat to install and maintain CCIBIS within the Carpathian Convention website as an information system accessible to all the Parties and stakeholders, gathering available data sets, information on local and regional administrations, outcomes of projects and other relevant data, allowing for continuous ownership by and direct linkages with the Carpathian Convention, *takes note of* progress in developing the CCIBIS and *encourages* its further development, with support of SaveGREEN project and possible future projects;

DECISION COP6/18

Climate Change
Article 12bis of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Encourages* the Parties, which have not done it so far, to ratify the amendment to the Carpathian Convention, (Article 12bis on Climate Change), adopted by Decision COP5/13, in order to strengthen the consideration of climate change in the implementation of the Convention activities;
2. *Appreciates* the efforts made by the Hungarian Presidency to reinforce the WG Climate Change with a stronger mandate, and approves its updated Terms of Reference, and in this respect, *welcomes* the Presidency Paper proposing a structured step-by-step approach for strengthening networking between relevant actors and collaboration on climate change in the Carpathians;
3. *Adopts* the “Long-term Vision 2030 towards combating climate change in the Carpathians”, defining strategic objectives and related targets for implementing Article 12bis, *acknowledges* the elaboration of the corresponding Implementation Framework 2030 and *requests* the WG

Climate Change to develop a Workplan for the implementation period 2021-2023 based on this Framework;

4. Further requests that the Workplan referred to in COP6/15 para 3 prioritizes and further elaborates relevant activities from the Implementation Framework 2030 including core elements such as milestones, timelines, responsibilities and expected results, and *calls upon* the WG Climate Change to undertake necessary efforts for the implementation of the documents;
5. *Encourages* the Parties to promote sustainable climate change measures in mountain areas at Carpathian level in response to EU and international commitments (EC European Green Deal; UNFCCC, 2015 Paris Agreement; Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction; 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework);
6. *Invites* the Parties to strengthen regional cooperation and interaction through identifying common priority actions and harmonizing with national efforts on climate change in the Carpathian region;
7. *Invites* the WG Climate Change to further develop/establish close cooperation and explore joint activities with the other thematic Working Groups of the Carpathian Convention in order to ensure incorporation of climate change consideration into all relevant Convention's topics and activities, and in this respect welcomes the preliminary ideas for potential topics for collaboration of the WG Climate Change with other Carpathian Convention Working Groups, recommended by the WG Climate Change at its 7th meeting²;
8. Specifically *encourages* the WG Forest and the WG Biodiversity and partners to jointly further develop with the WG Climate Change an assessment of the impacts of climate change on the Carpathian forests and their ecosystems services, including, if possible, climate change effects on large carnivores and their habitats, and requests the Secretariat to facilitate the process.
9. *Encourages* the Parties and the WG Climate Change in close cooperation with other WGs, to identify and promote nature-based solutions for climate mitigation and adaptation, to be best implemented at transboundary scale across the Carpathian region.

DECISION COP6/19

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

The Conference of the Parties

² [Link to the document on Preliminary ideas for potential topic for collaboration of the WG Climate Change with other Carpathian Convention Working Groups](#)

1. *Acknowledges* the leadership of the Hungarian Presidency in advancing Education for Sustainable Development (hereinafter ESD) as one of its priority topics for the implementation of the Carpathian Convention;
2. *Welcomes* the session “Education on the Sustainable Carpathians” and the workshop “Education for Science and Society in the Carpathians” co-organized by the Secretariat and the S4C during the 5th Forum Carpaticum “Adaption to Environmental and Social Risk in the Carpathian Mountain Region”, *acknowledges* the recommendations elaborated as a result of the workshop, and *requests* the Secretariat and the Parties to act upon these recommendations in cooperation with relevant stakeholders;
3. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the first Carpathian ESD Seminar, held in Budapest, Hungary, on 16-18 of April 2019, *acknowledges* the important role of the Ministry of Human Capacities and the Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary, as well as the Secretariat, in co-organizing the workshop, *recognises* the support provided by the German Federal Environment Ministry’s Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP), the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and by the German Environment Agency, and *requests* the Secretariat and the Parties to act upon the recommendations elaborated at the Seminar, in cooperation with the relevant stakeholders;
4. *Takes note of* the elaboration of the project “Strengthening the ESD network in the Carpathian Convention in cooperation with Leuphana University Lüneburg via science-policy-practice interface” and its submission for consideration of the German Federal Environment Ministry’s Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP);
5. *Welcomes* follow-up activities on ESD, planned by the Secretariat in cooperation with the Parties and stakeholders, including a respective session and workshop at the 6th Forum Carpaticum, initiating of cooperation with the ESD experts from Leuphana University Lüneburg, as well as involving ESD experts in an inter-sectoral project meeting planned by UNEP GRID/Warsaw, *acknowledges* facilitation by UNEP GRID/Warsaw in this respect, and *requests* the Secretariat to follow-up on further planning and implementing these activities;
6. *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, as well as promoting the Carpathian achievement in the field of ESD at the international level including at the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, including the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries, in Cyprus on 5 – 7 October 2022;
7. *Takes note of* the application for a workshop “Emerging collaboration: ESD in the Carpathian Convention Network” at the UNESCO World Conference on ESD (postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic), jointly elaborated by the Ministry of Human Capacities and Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary, the Secretariat and the S4C, aimed at presenting the Carpathian ESD

activities and raising awareness about the Carpathian Convention, encourages the relevant actors and the Secretariat to continue facilitating such activities in the future;

8. *Encourages* the Secretariat and the Parties to present ESD-related activities of the Carpathian Convention at the 11th World Environmental Education Congress, planned to take place on 4-8 Oct 2021 in Prague, Czech Republic, via organization of a side-event or a Conference session, in order to enhance the visibility of ESD-related work of the Convention and to encourage networking of the Carpathian ESD experts at the international level;
9. *Invites* the Polish Presidency of the Carpathian Convention to continue supporting ESD activities as a necessary tool to enable long-term sustainable development in the Carpathians.

DECISION COP6/20

Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Recalling* its Decision COP5/15 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 Work³ (CC/COP6/DOC6);
3. *Takes note* of the balance statement of the Trust Fund of the UN Environment Programme - Vienna Office – Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention;
4. *Encourages* the Parties to continue to finance their participation in meetings related to the implementation of the Programme of Work, and/or to share their expertise through their participation in online consultations and through providing leadership to the Working Groups;
5. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to facilitate the online consultations and information sharing by making available the appropriate tools, procedures and processes;
6. Approves the Programme of Work for 2021 – 2023 of the Carpathian Convention as in Annex 14 and *mandates* the CCIC to revise and periodically update it.
7. *Having considered* the experience gained during COVID-19 pandemic, *agrees* that some of the Carpathian Convention meetings might be organized in an online format following Operating Procedures for the Virtual Meetings - the supplementing document to the “Rules of Procedures for the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention”, and *requests* the Secretariat to support the relevant organization of the meetings;
8. *Adopts* the Budget for 2021, 2022 and 2023 for the Carpathian Convention as in Annex 25;

³ [Link to the document](#)

⁴ Annex 1 is contained at the page 29

⁵ Annex 2 is contained at the page 44

9. *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;
10. *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 3⁶.

DECISION COP6/21

Administration and financial management of the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Expresses* its gratitude to the Executive Director of UNEP for assuming responsibility for administering the Trust Fund for Administering and Meeting the Objectives of the Framework Convention for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians and related Protocols;
2. *Decides* to extend the Trust Fund for three years until the 7th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention in 2023 and *requests* UNEP to continue to administer the Trust Fund until that date in accordance with the Terms of Reference adopted by the third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
3. *Decides* that the Programme of Work – Budget for 2021, 2022 and 2023 of the Carpathian Convention as approved in Decision COP6/20 shall be used as the budget of the Trust Fund for these years;
4. *Request* the Executive Director of UNEP 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% Programme Support Costs for the benefit of the Convention and the functioning of the Secretariat, applying the equal standards for all MEA Secretariats, and *requests* UN Environment Program 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.

⁶ Annex 3 is contained at the page 45

DECISION COP6/22

Location of Permanent Secretariat

The Conference of the Parties

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

Decision COP6/23

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

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Decides* to accept the generous offer of the Government of the Republic of Serbia to convene the Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP7) in the end of 2023, and *requests* the Secretariat to make the necessary arrangements, in consultation with the host Government and the CCIC;
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 Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention.

Decision COP6/24

Presidency of the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Expresses* its gratitude for the successful Presidency of Hungary to the Carpathian Convention, *welcomes* the new Presidency of Poland and its priorities as presented at the presidential statement to promote the EU accession to the Carpathian Convention and closer cooperation with the local and regional level, 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.
2. *Expresses its appreciation* to Poland for the kind proposal to organize the Ministerial Conference of the Carpathian Convention in 2021 in Rzeszow, Poland, which will allow for a physical meeting of the Carpathian community and political debate on important global and regional topics that are relevant for the Carpathian region, and in this respect, *requests* the Secretariat to support the process.

Abbreviations

ALPARC - Alpine Network of Protected Areas

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

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

CBD – Convention on Biological Diversity

CCIBIS - Carpathian Integrated Biodiversity Information System

CCIC - Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee

CEEweb – CEEweb for Biodiversity

CIC - International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation

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

CNPA - Carpathian Network of Protected Areas

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

DTP - Danube Transnational Programme

EEA - European Environment Agency

ERDF – European Regional Development Fund

ESD - Education for Sustainable Development

ETC - European Territorial Cooperation

EU – European Union

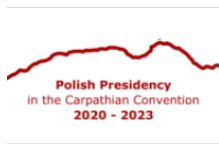
EUROMONTANA - European Association of Mountain Areas

EUSDR - EU Strategy for the Danube Region

FAO – Food and Agriculture Organisation

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

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



GMBA - Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment

ICPDR – International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River

IUCN - International Union for Conservation of Nature

PSC – Programme Support Cost

Ramsar Convention - Convention on Wetlands of International Importance

REC – Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe

SDC – Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

Tourism Protocol - Protocol on Sustainable Tourism to the Carpathian Convention

Transport Protocol - Protocol on Sustainable Transport to the Carpathian Convention

UNCCD - United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

UNDP - United Nations Development Programme

UNECE – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

UNEP - United Nations Environment Programme

UNEP-WCMC - UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre

UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNFCCC – United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

UNIDO - United Nations Industrial Development Organization

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

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

WG Forest - Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management

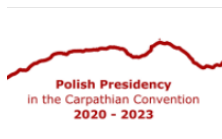
WG SARD - Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

WG Spatial Development - Carpathian Convention Working Group on Spatial Development

WG Tourism - Carpathian Convention Working Group on Tourism

WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature

WWF - CEE – WWF Central Eastern Europe



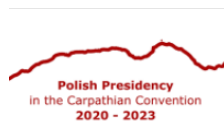
Annex 1 (DECISION COP6/20)

Programme of Work of the Carpathian Convention by sectors, 1 January 2021 – 31 December 2023

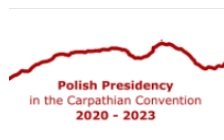
COP6 Decisions reference	Activity	Expected outcomes	Actors
Implementation of the Carpathian Convention			
DECISION COP6/1 para 3, 4	1) Consideration of the most useful and effective reporting formats/systems for comprehensive National Report on Implementation of the Carpathian Convention covering all the Protocols and other relevant sector	1.1) Consultations with the Parties, WGs and relevant partners undergone 1.2) Consultations on making use of the Data Reporting Tool for MEAs to support the process towards a successful reporting system for the Carpathian Convention undergone 1.3) Successful reporting format or system for comprehensive National Report on Implementation of the Carpathian Convention covering all the Protocols and other relevant sector established	Secretariat Parties, UNEP Secretariat Secretariat, Parties WGs
DECISION COP6/1 para 5	2) Ensuring efficient and consistent implementation of the Carpathian Convention at the national level, especially in regard to raising awareness about the Carpathian Convention and its activities among relevant governmental entities and supporting smooth implementation of the Carpathian Convention in all relevant sectors	2.1) Relevant action undertaken at the national level in regard to implementation of the Carpathian Convention and its awareness raising	Parties
DECISION COP6/1 para 6, 7	3) Improving functioning of the Carpathian Convention Working Groups	3.1) List of WGs Chairpersons elaborated, circulated and kept up to date 3.2) Regular communication among the WGs Chairpersons and Focal Points for information exchange (at the meeting of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee, COPs) in place 3.3) Regular contact with Secretariat regarding implementation of the WG's activities in place, including substantial support in organization of the WG meeting, including suggesting topics for a meeting agenda, charging of the WG meeting in close cooperation with the Secretariat	Secretariat WGs Chairpersons, Secretariat



		3.4) WGs Chairpersons' reporting to the CCIC on the activities undertaken by the WGs in place 3.5) WGs Chairpersons' guiding the implementation of the WG's activities in place	
DECISION COP6/1 para 8	4) Mobilizing financial means for development and implementation of projects in order to foster the implementation of the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols;	4.1) Consultations on possible financial means undergone, possible financial sources identified, projects development and implementation supported	Secretariat, Parties WGs
DECISION COP6/1 para 9	5) Soliciting support for the implementation of the Carpathian Convention from the relevant financial instruments	5.1) Relevant consultations undergone, support form relevant programmes and institutions received	Parties Secretariat
DECISION COP6/1 para 2, 10	6) Organization of the CCIC and WG meetings	6.1) CCIC and WGs meetings organized considering organization of online meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic 6.2) Relevant documents, including, documentation on sectoral issues, integrated reports, strategies/ strategic action plans/protocols for priority issues developed 6.3) Meeting reports, including the Progress Reports on implementation of the Carpathian Convention developed 6.4) CCIC recommendations developed and implemented	Secretariat, Parties WGs Chairpersons Secretariat, Parties WGs Secretariat Secretariat, Parties WGs
Cooperation with regional and local authorities and all relevant stakeholders			
DECISION COP6/2 para 1, 2, 3	7) Encouraging promotion and support for the implementation of the Carpathian Convention across sectors at the regional and local level, including active engagement of regional and local authorities and other stakeholders	7.1) The local and regional level actively involved	Parties
DECISION COP6/2 para 4	8) Establishing outreach programmes targeting local and regional authorities, universities and other relevant stakeholders to increase their awareness of the importance of the protection and	8.1) Project on establishing outreach programmes developed	Secretariat



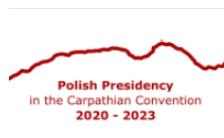
	sustainable development of the Carpathian region, and of the Convention's activities		
DECISION COP6/2 para 5	9) Promoting strategic cooperation of the Carpathian countries and regions as a key factor for sustainable development of the Carpathians.	9.1) Organization of the events promoting strategic cooperation supported and promoted	Secretariat Parties
Cooperation with the European Union			
DECISION COP6/3 para 1	10) Encouraging substantive cooperation with the EU institutions and agencies, including with the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, especially DG REGIO and DG Environment, DG AGRI, DEVCO, the European Parliament, the European Committee of Regions, and the European Environment Agency	10.1) Cooperation with relevant EU institutions promoted and strengthened	Parties Secretariat
DECISION COP6/3 para 2, 3, 4	11) Inviting the EU to join the Carpathian Convention	11.1) Road Map toward the EU accession to the Carpathian Convention implemented 11.2) Joint address to the EU institution to join the Convention as a Party 11.3) Introducing a "Regional Economic Integration Organization Clause" into the Carpathian Convention considered	Parties Secretariat
DECISION COP6/3 para 7	12) Continuing cooperation with Interregional Group "Carpathians" of the European Committee of the Regions	12.1) Exchange of information and support on topics of mutual interests continued	Secretariat
DECISION COP6/3 para 9	13) Continuing cooperation with EU Macro-regional Strategies, especially the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and its Priority Areas	13.1) Participation in the relevant meetings and exchange of information continued	Secretariat
DECISION COP6/3 para 10	14) Following development of the EU Macroregional Strategy for the Carpathians	14.1) Participation in the relevant meetings and exchange of information continued	Secretariat



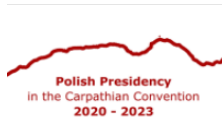
<p>DECISION COP6/3 para 11</p>	<p>15) Further promoting the integration of Carpathian priorities into the relevant Transnational "European Territorial Cooperation" (ETC) Programmes (in particular the Danube Transnational Programme and the Interreg Central Europe) within the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) period 2021-2027, as well as other relevant funding programmes, and calls upon the Parties to promote establishing of the ETC Programme dedicated for the Carpathian region at the EU level;</p>	<p>15.1 Relevant consultations undertaken</p>	<p>Secretariat</p>
<p>DECISION COP6/3 para 12</p>	<p>16) Considering the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) period 2021-2027 as an opportunity for advancing the implementation of the Carpathian Convention</p>	<p>16.1) Consultation with the Parties and relevant stakeholders undertaken 16.2) Preparations of project proposals for relevant calls for proposals supported</p>	<p>Parties Secretariat</p>
<p>DECISION COP6/3 para 14, 15</p>	<p>17) Contributing to the implementation of the EU strategies and policies, especially the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, new EU Forest Strategy post-2020, and the European Green Deal</p>	<p>17.1) exchange of information and relevant consultation undertaken</p>	<p>Parties Secretariat</p>
<p>Cooperation with United Nations Environment Programme</p>			
<p>DECISION COP6/4 para 5</p>	<p>18) Encouraging activities enhancing synergies and programmatic cooperation between UNEP and the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention</p>	<p>18.1) Potential areas for future cooperation in the light of respective mandates and the latest scientific information identified</p>	<p>Secretariat UNEP</p>
<p>DECISION COP6/4 para 6</p>	<p>19) Encouraging greater engagement by the Carpathian Convention, in the activities of the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA) by inter alia taking part in structured dialogues and informal events relating to Multilateral Environment Agreements in order to strengthen programmatic cooperation between UNEP and the Convention, and requests the Secretariat to support such initiatives</p>	<p>19.1) Taking part in structured dialogues and informal events relating to Multilateral Environment Agreements in order to strengthen programmatic cooperation between UNEP and the Convention in place and supported</p>	<p>Parties Secretariat UNEP</p>
<p>DECISION COP6/4 para 7</p>	<p>20) Engaging Major Groups and Stakeholders from the Carpathian Region in the UNEA and its preparatory process</p>	<p>20.1) Relevant consultation undertaken and support given</p>	<p>Secretariat UNEP</p>



DECISION COP6/4 para 8	21) UNEP to participate in the regional forums of ministers of environment, and in the Ministerial Conference of the Carpathian Convention to be held in Poland in 2021, if feasible	21.1) Relevant consultation undergone and invitations sent	Secretariat
Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies			
DECISION COP6/5 para 2	22) Supporting designation of 2022 as the International Year of Mountains	22.1) relevant consultations and cooperation with involved actors undertaken	Secretariat
DECISION COP6/5 para 4	23) Continuing promoting the Carpathian Convention and mountain development in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals;	23.1) Adequate actions taken to promote the Carpathian Convention as a regional tool for the implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development	Secretariat
DECISION COP6/5 para 5	24) Strengthening cooperation with the Alpine Convention	24.1) Institutional cooperation, the exchange of information and experience, the development and implementation of common projects in the fields of common interest strengthened, 24.2) Activities related to raising awareness of the significance of sustainable development of mountain areas in Europe and other mountain regions of the world undertaken	Secretariat
DECISION COP6/5 para 6	25) Making strong commitments under the UN Decade on Ecosystems Restoration 2021 – 2030 and taking appropriate actions in this respect	25.1) Appropriate actions consulted and undertaken, if possible	Parties Secretariat UNEP
DECISION COP6/5 para 8	26) Implementing the Memorandum of Cooperation between Euromontana and the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and related Work Plan	26.1) Regular exchange of information and support in organizing relevant meetings and events in place 26.2) Expert support on issues of common interest ensured 26.3) Promoting of activities of common interest at the EU and Carpathian level in place	Secretariat



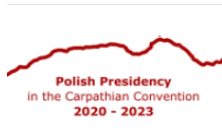
DECISION COP6/5 para 9	27) Strengthening cooperation with the Danube River Protection Convention and discuss possible further common activities with the ICPDR Secretariat;	27.1 Regular exchange of information in place 27.2 Common activities identified and supported	Secretariat
DECISION COP6/5 para 11	28) Establishing and implementing projects to foster further experience exchange between the Alps, the Pyrenees, the Caucasus Mountains, the Carpathians and other mountain regions,	28.1) Relevant activities implemented; partnerships with other mountain regions, including interregional cooperation promoted, all interested partners and donors to participate in and to contribute to the process invited	Secretariat
DECISION COP6/5 para 12	29) Cooperating further with WWF CEE on achieving the objectives of the Carpathian Convention	29.1) Regular exchange of information and support in project development and implementation	Secretariat WWF
Implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework			
DECISION COP6/6 para 1, 3, 4, 5, 6	30) Promoting the Carpathian Convention as a regional mechanism for the implementation of the upcoming Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in the Carpathians, translating the Global 2050 Goals and 2030 Action Targets to the regional level, including promoting mountain biodiversity	30.1) Further promotion of the Carpathian Convention at the global level in respect the Post-2020 GBF in place 30.2) further consultation with UNEP and other biodiversity related conventions regarding possible synergies for the implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in place 30.3) the Carpathian Commitments for the implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in a form of a Political Declaration developed 30.4) Action Plan for the implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in the Carpathians developed	Secretariat Secretariat Parties Secretariat Parties Secretariat
DECISION COP6/6 para 2	31) Revising the trilateral Memorandum of Cooperation between the CBD, the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention in the light of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, as a useful instrument for enhancing synergies and initiating common activities for the implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework	31.1) the trilateral Memorandum of Cooperation signed and implemented	Secretariat



Cooperation with Eurac Research			
DECISION COP6/7 para 1, 2	32) Continuing fruitful cooperation with Eurac Research	32.1) Further projects focused on implementation of the Carpathian Convention developed and implemented	Secretariat Eurac Research
Strengthening science-policy-practice interface and cooperation with scientific networks			
DECISION COP6/8 para 1, 2, 3, 4	33) Strengthening science – policy – practice interface, in order to enhance the implementation of the Carpathian Convention via creating synergies between its stakeholders and promoting inter-sectoral cooperation, such as stronger collaboration with the Science for the Carpathians network	<p>33.1) Implementation of the Carpathian Convnetion supported with its sound scientific knowledge and expertise</p> <p>33.2) Exchange of scientific information to support decision making processes improved, while S4C recommendations took into close consideration when prioritizing, planning and implementing Convention activities;</p> <p>33.2) Close cooperation with the S4C by among other, regular exchange of information and participation in relevant meetings in place</p> <p>33.3) Further projects supporting science – policy – practice interface developed and implemented</p>	S4C Secretariat Parties
DECISION COP6/8 para 5	34) Organization of 6th Forum Carpaticum that will focus on Linking the Environmental, Political and Societal Aspects for Carpathian Sustainability to be held in 2021 in Brno, Czech Republic	34.1) Organization of a workshop “Towards a stronger role of universities in shaping sustainable development of the Carpathian region” supported	Secretariat S4C
DECISION COP6/8 para 6	35) Strengthening cooperation with German Federal Environment Ministry’s Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP), the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and the German Environment Agency supporting the implementation of the Convention, including but not limited to the project “Integrating nature protection and sustainable tourism development into the Carpathian region via science- policy-practice interface	35.1) Further project developed and implemented, if possible	Secretariat S4C
DECISION COP6/8 para 7	36) Elaborating the Memorandum of Understanding for the Cooperation between the Science for the Carpathians Network	36.1) Scientific exchange between the Carpathians and other regions further fostered	Secretariat S4C



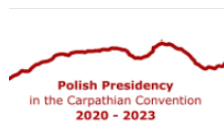
	(S4C) and the Scientific Network for the Caucasus Mountain Region		
Biodiversity			
DECISION COP6/9 para 1	37) Implementing of the International Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity	37.1) Action Plan being implemented; relevant consultation undertaken and meeting of the WG Biodiversity organized whenever possible in order to support the implementation of the Action Plan	Parties WG Biodiversity Secretariat
DECISION COP6/9 para 2	38) Finalizing of the Report on population status of large carnivores and monitoring methods in the Carpathians while implementing the International Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity	38.1) Harmonization of monitoring of large carnivores in the Carpathians supported	Parties WG Biodiversity Secretariat
DECISION COP6/9 para 3	39) Cooperation with the WG Climate Change	39.1) Cooperation between WG Biodiversity and WG Climate Change strengthened 39.2) Possible common activities identified and consulted, including possible cooperation on, inter alia, and if possible, development of an assessment of climate change effects on large carnivores and their habitats, that could be linked to the assessment of the impacts of climate change on the Carpathian forests and their ecosystem services	Parties WG Biodiversity WG Climate Change Secretariat
DECISION COP6/9 para 6, 7	40) Implementing the project <i>ConnectGREEN - Restoring and managing ecological corridors in mountains as the green infrastructure in the Danube basin</i> funded by the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme and led by WWF Romania	40.1) Results of the project promoted and considered while implementing the Carpathian Convention,	Parties WG Biodiversity Secretariat
DECISION COP6/9 para 8	41) Implementing the Centralparks project, funded by the INTERREG Central Europe Programme and led by Eurac Research, that gives considerable support for of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) activities	41.1) Activities of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) strengthened 41.2) Project implementation further supported, including contribute to and use the results of the project, as appropriate, including “the Carpathian strategy for enhancing biodiversity and landscape conservation outside and inside Protected Areas” 41.3)	Parties WG Biodiversity CNPA Secretariat



<p>DECISION COP6/9 para 9, 10, 11 12</p>	<p>42) Cooperating with the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA)</p>	<p>42.1) Communication and sharing relevant strengthened</p> <p>42.2) Results of the project Three Networks, <i>Two macroregions, One vision - development of Green Infrastructure to foster ecological connectivity between Danube, Carpathians and Alps</i> shared</p> <p>42.3) Further cooperation between ALPARC, DANUBEPARKS and CNPA under the Memorandum of Cooperation of 2016, in place, especially on topics of common interest, especially on ecological connectivity, exchanges on protected areas management, education and other specific topics common to the three networks</p> <p>42.4) 3rd Conference for the Carpathian Protected Areas in 2021 organized</p>	<p>CNPA WG Biodiversity Parties</p>
<p>DECISION COP6/9 para 13, 14, 15, 16</p>	<p>43) Cooperating with Carpathian Wetland Initiative</p>	<p>43.1) Cooperation of CWI with the Secretariat and relevant WGs, especially the WG Biodiversity and the WG Climate Change strengthened, especially in raising the importance of the Carpathian wetlands and initiating concrete activities, including development of a project proposal on relevant topics</p>	<p>CWI W Biodiversity WG Climate Change Secretariat</p>
<p>DECISION COP6/9 para 17</p>	<p>44) Implementing the <i>SwiPE-Successful Wildlife Crime Prosecution in Europe</i> under the EU LIFE Programme 2019 call, led by WWF CEE</p>	<p>44.1) Activities relevant for the Carpathian Convention further consulted with relevant partners, communicated and supported, if possible</p>	<p>Secretariat WG Biodiversity</p>
<p>Spatial Development</p>			
<p>DECISION COP6/10 para 1</p>	<p>45) Taking note of the map of Carpathian administrative units which presents information received from each Party on the administrative units where the Parties implement or plan to implement the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols</p>	<p>45.1) The Map of administrative units disseminated, if appropriate</p>	<p>Parties Secretariat</p>
<p>DECISION COP6/10 para 2</p>	<p>46) WG Spatial Development consider future activities</p>	<p>46.1) WG Spatial Development considered for its future activities the relevance of the revision of Territorial Agenda of the European Union, the Urban Agenda for the EU and Leipzig Charter of Sustainable European Cities</p>	<p>WG Spatial Development Secretariat</p>



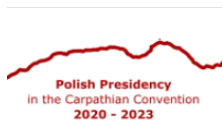
Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management			
DECISION COP6/11 para 1, 2, 3	47) Cooperation with the ICPDR Tisza Group in the frame of the <i>Joint Declaration of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River - Tisza Group and the Framework Convention on the Protection and the Sustainable Development of the Carpathians on the sustainable development of the Tisza River Basin within the Carpathian Region</i>	47.1) Cooperation in the areas of common interest strengthened, including development and implementation of joint, coordinated and complementary activities and projects, exchange of information, and awareness raising of the local communities in the Tisza River Basin 47.2) Development and implementation of the JoinTisza - follow up project supported 47.3) Cooperation between the relevant WGs with the ICPDR on climate change adaptation, agriculture or water nexus, or other relevant topics enhanced	Parties Secretariat Relevant WGs
Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development			
DECISION COP6/12 para 1, 2, 3, 4	48) Implementing the Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development	48.1) Strategic actions for the implementation of the SARD Protocol prioritized, while considering the table "Towards Implementation of the SARD Protocol" 48.2) Close cooperation with other WGs in place, if applicable 48.3) Meeting of the WG SARD organized in Hungary 48.4) The new EU Common Agriculture Policy considered while implementing the SARD Protocol	Parties WG SARD Secretariat
Sustainable forest management			
DECISION COP6/13 para 2, 3, 4	49) Implementing the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management, including development of the Inventory of	49.1) Inventory of Virgin Forests of the Carpathians finalized	Parties WG Forest Secretariat



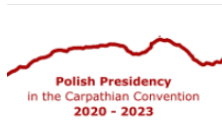
	Virgin Forests of the Carpathians, which shall support the protection of the most precious forest areas of Europe	<p>49.2) Work on the identification and protection of natural and especially virgin forests, promotion of close to nature forestry, and on forestry and climate change continued</p> <p>49.3) Successful cooperation with EEA on fulfilling the objectives of Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management, especially in developing the Inventory of Virgin Forests of the Carpathians continued</p> <p>49.4) Workshop on close-to-nature forest management for the Carpathian countries organized with support of the Czech Republic and Slovakia</p>	
DECISION COP6/13 para 5	50) Strengthening cooperation with WG Climate Change and WG Biodiversity	50.1) An assessment of the impacts of climate change on the Carpathian forests and their ecosystems services, including, if possible, climate change effects on large carnivores and their habitats developed	Secretariat WG Forest WG Climate WG Biodiversity S4C
DECISION COP6/13 para 6	51) Organizing a session on forest ecosystems and resource vulnerabilities to climate change in the Carpathian Mountain Region during the 6th Forum Carpathicum, to be held in 2021 in Brno, Czech Republic	<p>51.1) Organization of the session supported</p> <p>51.2) WG Forest and the WG Climate Change to participate and contribute to the session</p>	Secretariat WG Forest WG Climate Change S4C
DECISION COP6/13 para 7	52) Recognizing that illegal logging, despite its varying significance across the Parties, is an important and complex issue in the Carpathians, which can have trans-boundary effects that require international cooperation	52..1) Information exchanged and efforts coordinated to address the problem of illegal logging in the Carpathians	Parties WG Forest Secretariat
Sustainable transport and infrastructure, industry and energy			
DECISION COP6/14 para 1, 2	53) Implementing the Protocol on Sustainable Transport, including implementation of the Joint Strategic Action Plan (SAP) 2021 – 2026 for the Implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Transport (Transport SAP)	53.1) Transport SAP implemented and taken into account while implementing the Carpathian Convention, relevant consultation undertaken and meeting of the WG Transport organized whenever possible in order to support the implementation of the Action Plan	Parties WG Transport Secretariat



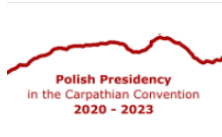
<p>DECISION COP6/14 para 3</p>	<p>54) Promoting results of the TRANSGREEN project funded by the INTERREG Danube Transnational Programme and led by WWF CEE</p>	<p>54.1) Project results, especially “Wildlife and Traffic in the Carpathians - Guidelines how to minimize impact of transport infrastructure development on nature in the Carpathian countries” are promoted and considered while implementing the Carpathian Convention</p>	<p>Parties WG Transport Secretariat</p>
<p>DECISION COP6/14 para 4</p>	<p>55) Implementing SaveGREEN project on safeguarding the functionality of transnationally important ecological corridors in the Danube region, approved by the INTERREG Danube Transnational Programme</p>	<p>55.1) Project implementation supported, especially in regard to support for mainstreaming of ecological connectivity into EU and global policies through cooperation among macro-regional strategies and other processes, and strengthening of cross-sectoral cooperation among key players, promotion of project results in the Danube-Carpathian basin and beyond, and capacity building at the national level</p>	<p>Parties WG Transport WG Biodiversity Secretariat</p>
<p>Sustainable tourism</p>			
<p>DECISION COP6/15 para 1, 2, 3, 4</p>	<p>56) Implementing the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism, including functioning of the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform (CSTP) and its country Centres</p>	<p>56.1) Communication improved and Information on CSTP activities regularly shared by CSTP with WG Tourism and the Secretariat, reporting on CSTP activities become a regular part of the Progress Report</p> <p>56.2) Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat and: CSTP Centre Poland, CSTP Centre Romania, CSTP Centre Ukraine signed and implemented, if all formal requirements are met</p> <p>56.3) Regular meetings between Secretariat and CSTP organized</p> <p>56.4) Meeting of the WG Tourism organized in Romania, or in other country offering hosting the meeting</p> <p>56.5) CSTP is successfully coordinated by the CSTP Centre Poland</p>	<p>Parties WG Tourism CSTP CSTP Centre Poland CSTP Centre Romania, CSTP Centre Ukraine Secretariat</p>
<p>DECISION COP6/15 para 7</p>	<p>57) Implementing the Centralparks project, funded by the INTERREG Central Europe Programme and led by Eurac Research</p>	<p>57.1) Strategy for local sustainable tourism development based on natural and cultural heritage of the Carpathians, targeted at the local and regional authorities, communities and other relevant stakeholders in the Carpathian region noted while implementing the Carpathian Convention</p>	<p>Parties WG Tourism CSTP Secretariat</p>



Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge			
DECISION COP6/16 Para 1, 2	58) Implementing the Road Map to achieve the objective of Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention	58.1) Activities of the Road Map implemented 58.2) Meeting of the WG Cultural Heritage organized in Slovakia	Parties WG Cultural Heritage Secretariat
DECISION COP6/16 para 3, 4	59) Implementing the Carpathian Route - exploring, promoting and protecting the richness of the cultural and natural heritage of the Carpathian Region" approved in the frame of the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Regional Cooperation	59.1) if the project is realized, implementation of the project activities supported	Parties WG Cultural Heritage Secretariat
Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning			
DECISION COP6/17 para 1	60) Continuing successful cooperation between the Carpathian Convention and the EEA on the implementation of the Carpathian Convention	60.1) Carpathian Convention data platform in the EEA information systems developed and relevant information from CCIBIS integrated	Secretariat
DECISION COP6/17 para 2	61) Further developing of the CCIBIS by the Secretariat to install as an information system accessible to all the Parties and stakeholders, gathering available data sets, information on local and regional administrations, outcomes of projects and other relevant data, allowing for continuous ownership by and direct linkages with the Carpathian Convention, and encourages the further development of CCIBIS, with support of SaveGREEN project and possible future projects;	61.1) CCIBIS installed and maintained within the Carpathian Convention website a 61.2) CCIBIS further developed with support of SaveGREEN project and possible future projects	Secretariat
Climate Change			
DECISION COP6/18 para 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	62) Ratifying and implementing Article 12bis on Climate Change	62.1) Article 12bis on Climate Change ratified by all the Parties 62.2) Long-term Vision 2030 towards combating climate change in the Carpathians and the corresponding Workplan for the implementation period 2021-2023 is	Parties



		<p>developed and implemented and considered while implementing the Carpathian Convention</p> <p>62.3) Sustainable climate change measures in mountain areas promoted at Carpathian level in response to EU and international commitments (EC European Green Deal; UNFCCC, 2015 Paris Agreement; Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction; 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework)</p> <p>62.4) Regional cooperation is strengthened, common priority actions identified and harmonized with national efforts on climate change in the Carpathian region;</p> <p>62.5) Close cooperation and exchange with the other thematic Working Groups of the Carpathian Convention is established in order to ensure incorporation of climate change consideration into all Convention's topics and activities</p> <p>62.6) Preliminary ideas for potential topics for collaboration of the WG Climate Change with other Carpathian Convention Working Groups are further explored and implemented, if possible</p> <p>62.7) An assessment of the impacts of climate change on the Carpathian forests and their ecosystems services, including, if possible, climate change effects on large carnivores and their habitats is developed in cooperation of WG Climate Change, WG Forest, WG Biodiversity, if possible.</p> <p>62.8) Nature-based solutions for climate mitigation and adaptation, to be best implemented at transboundary scale across the Carpathian region, identified and promoted</p>	<p>Parties WG Climate Change WG Forest WG Biodiversity Secretariat</p>
<p>Awareness raising, education and public participation</p>			
<p>DECISION COP6/19 Para 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9</p>	<p>63) Promoting Education for Sustainable Development while implementing the Carpathian Convention</p>	<p>63.1) Recommendations elaborated by the Carpathian ESD Seminar and the workshop "Education for Science and Society in the Carpathians" at the 5th Forum Carpathicum are considered and acted upon, follow up activities undertaken, including project development and implementation</p>	<p>Parties</p>



		63.2) Cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is strengthened, and common activities are considered	Secretariat S4C
		63.3) Promoting ESD-related activities of the Carpathian Convention at the relevant meeting and fora, including UNESCO World Conference on ESD (date tbc), the 11th World Environmental Education Congress (October 2022)	
Date and venue of the Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention			
DECISION COP6/23 Para 1, 2, 3	64) Preparations for the 7 th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention	64.1) All necessary arrangements and preparations for the organization of the COP7 are made, in consultation with the host government and the CCIC	Secretariat Parties
Presidency of the Carpathian Convention			
DECISION COP6/23 Para 1, 2	65) Implementing the priorities of the Polish Presidency of the Carpathian Convention to promote the EU accession to the Carpathian Convention and closer cooperation with the local and regional level	65.1) The Carpathian Troika cooperate closely on implementation of the Convention, including the Polish Presidency's priorities 65.2) Ministerial Conference of the Carpathian Convention in 2021 in Rzeszow, Poland is organized	Carpathian Troika Secretariat

Annex 2 (DECISION COP6/20)

Budget and Counterpart Contribution to the Trust Fund				
Carpathian Convention Trust Fund - Budget	2021	2022	2023	2021 - 2023
	USD	USD	USD	USD
Staff and Other Personnel Costs	200,310	200,310	200,310	600,930
General Operating and Other Direct Costs	28,200	28,200	28,200	84,600
Total Direct Cost	228,510	228,510	228,510	685,530
13% PSC	29,706	29,706	29,706	89,119
GRAND TOTAL	258,216	258,216	258,216	774,649
Voluntary Contributions to the Carpathian Convention Trust Fund and Projects	2021	2022	2023	2021 - 2023
	USD	USD	USD	USD
Staff and Other Personnel Costs	48,735	48,735	48,735	146,206
Travel and Meetings	27,500	27,500	27,500	82,500
Transfers and Grants	29,000	29,000	29,000	87,000
Office costs	10,600	10,600	10,600	31,800
Total Direct Cost	115,835	115,835	115,835	347,506
7% PSC	8,108	8,108	8,108	24,325
GRAND TOTAL	123,944	123,944	123,944	371,831
	EUR	USD		
SAVEGreen	32,000	37,559		
Carpathian Route*	238,000	279,343		
CENTRALPARKS	32,000	37,559		
CONNECTGREEN	14,800	17,371		
TOTAL	316,800	371,831		
*Still in process				
Exchange rate 1. October 2020: 1 USD= 0,852 Euro				



Annex 3 (DECISION COP6/20)

SCALE OF ASSESSMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS BY STATE PARTIES TO THE TRUST FUND FOR
THE THREE YEARS 2021 - 2022 - 2023 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 2021	Year 2022	Year 2023
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