

PROGRESS REPORT 2022 BY THE SECRETARIAT

based on the Programme of Work of the Carpathian Convention 2021-2023¹

All the documents mentioned in the Progress Report are available on the 13th Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee meeting website under BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS ²

DECISION COP6/1 Implementation of the Carpathian Convention

1. The development of the Carpathian Convention Vision 2050 shall be reconsidered due to the ongoing war in one of the Carpathian Convention Contracting Parties - Ukraine. The Secretariat shall consult further with the Parties on the next steps in this respect.
2. The Secretariat maintains contact with the UNEP Team developing the [Data Report Tool for MEAs](#) (DaRT) in regard to a possible inclusion of the Carpathian Convention into the reporting tool DaRT. Currently the Carpathian Convention Protocol on Biodiversity is added into the DaRT, showcasing that reporting on the regional conventions and strategies will be possible under DaRT. The 12th CCIC recommended further consultation with the DaRT team on using this reporting tool for the Carpathian Convention reporting obligation. However, upon an advice of the Parties, before taking further steps it should be understood what role DaRT will have within the official reporting under the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
3. Further to the COP6/1 para 6 and 7 on establishing the role of the Working Group Chairs, the Secretariat maintained the list of Working Group Chairs and their contacts, based on the nominations received by the Parties. There is currently a vacancy on the position of the WG Climate Change Chair due to recent passing of prof. Sandor Szalai.
4. The Secretariat assisted in the development of several projects, which should support implementation of the Carpathian Convention, namely:
 - 1) **LECA – Supporting the coexistence and conservation of Carpathian Large Carnivores**, Interreg Central Europe Programme, submitted under the first call of the Interreg Central Europe (more info see page 12),
 - 2) **Central Mountains: From the Alps to the Carpathians** – strengthening governance models for sustainable development of mountain areas in Central Europe, submitted under the first call of the Interreg Central Europe (for more info see page 19),
 - 3) **MARTI – Management and Restoration of Tiny Areas of Conservation Importance**, submitted under the first call of the Interreg Central Europe (for more info see page 15).

¹ Annex 1, p.26

² Link to the 13th CCIC meeting website: <http://www.carpathianconvention.org/eventdetailccic/events/id-13th-ccic-meeting.html>

5. The following meetings of the Working Groups were held in 2022: 5th meeting of the Working Group on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development on 17 March 2022 (online meeting) 13th Working Group on Biodiversity on 11-12 April 2022 (online meeting) and 8th Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management on 10-12 October 2022 in Levice, Slovakia (physical meeting). More information about the WG meetings is available in the respective thematic sectors.

Furthermore, upon the invitation of the Polish Presidency, the Secretariat has undertaken preparation for the Carpathian Ministerial Conference on 21-22 November 2022 in Rzeszow, Poland, which will allow for high-level discussion on topics that are highly relevant from the regional and international perspective. The programme of the Conference will focus on two main subjects: 1) the biodiversity in the Carpathians with regards to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, giving particular attention to the role of the Carpathian Convention in implementing the framework and 2) the situation in Ukraine with regard to direct and indirect impacts of the war on the environment and possible measures needed to address their consequences. The Conference will witness the adoption of the Ministerial declaration on biodiversity, which should serve as the Carpathian Convention Commitments for the future post-2020 GBF implementation in the Carpathians as well.

Furthermore, Poland will host the 13th Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee to be organized back-to-back to the Ministerial Conference on 22-23 November 2022.

6. The Secretariat has continued working on modernizing the Carpathian Convention website, which shall help in reorganizing and updating the content of the website and providing a fresh and user-friendly interface. The website should relaunch by the end of the year.

Concrete CCIC recommendations for action (draft by the Secretariat)

- CCIC, while providing its guidance, *requests* the Secretariat to assist in the development of the Carpathian Convention Vision 2050, to be adopted by the COP7.
- CCIC *encourages* the Secretariat to further monitor the developments on the [Data Report Tool for MEAs \(DaRT\)](#) and to consult with the relevant partners in order to examine its possible usability and effectiveness for the reporting the Carpathian Convention.
- CCIC *invites* the Parties to provide updates on their nomination of the respective WG Chairpersons, if relevant.

DECISION COP6/2 Cooperation with regional and local authorities and all relevant stakeholders

1. The project proposal “**Carpathian Bridge - participatory mechanism of the Carpathian Convention at the local level**”, submitted to the International Visegrad Fund aiming at establishing closer cooperation between the Carpathian Convention and relevant local stakeholders, was not awarded by the Programme.

2. The Secretariat continues to support the involvement of the local level in the implementation of the Carpathian Convention, including by increasing the number of stakeholders at the regional and local level as well as by consulting the involvement of representatives of the regional and local level in various projects and activities.

Concrete CCIC recommendations for action (draft by the Secretariat)

- CCIC *encourages* the Secretariat and relevant partners to consider a revision and resubmission of the Carpathian Bridge project to the International Visegrad Programme or other programmes.

DECISION COP6/3 Cooperation with the European Union

1. The Secretariat together with the Polish Presidency have continued to foster closer cooperation between the European Union and the Carpathian Convention, including the desired accession of the EU to the Carpathian Convention as a Party, especially in the light of the [Road Map towards the accession of the European Union to the Carpathian Convention](#), which was adopted at the COP6. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has substantially hindered the implementation of the Road Map. Furthermore, the request for designating a contact person in the European Commission regarding the cooperation between the Carpathian Convention and the European Union has not been fulfilled.
2. The Secretariat has been invited to attend the meeting of the Carpathian Interregional Group operating under the auspices of the Committee of the Regions (CoR) on 25 November 2021, to present the main conclusions of the 12th Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee. Furthermore, the Polish Presidency participated in the next meeting of the Carpathian Interregional Group on 12. October 2022 in Brussels, Belgium, informing about the forthcoming Carpathian Ministerial Conference to be held in Poland on 21-22 November 2022, and its planned outcomes.
3. The Secretariat took part in the panel discussion on challenges and opportunities for the Carpathian macro-region in the context of the EU Green Deal, which was held on 9. March 2022 online in the framework of the 3rd EU Macro-regional Strategies Week.
4. The Secretariat has been involved in activities of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, especially by active participation in the meetings of Priority Areas 4 (Water), the Priority Areas 5 (Environmental risks) and Priority Areas 6 (Biodiversity).
5. Furthermore, the Secretariat co-organized the [side event: Achieving functional biodiversity in the Danube-Carpathian Region by mainstreaming ecological connectivity – How to make it happen?](#), which was held online within the 11th EU Strategy for the Danube Region Annual Forum on 18. October 2022. The Side Event explained why ecological connectivity is important for people and nature, how it can be safeguarded with the support of regional bodies, and how it is linked to EU policies. The side event was related to the recently endorsed [Joint Declaration on Achieving functional biodiversity in the Danube-Carpathian Region](#)

[by mainstreaming ecological connectivity](#)", by the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) "Water Quality" Priority Area (PA) 4, "Environmental Risks" PA 5, "Biodiversity, Landscapes, Quality of Air and Soils" PA 6, the Carpathian Convention, and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), all of whom committed themselves to action.

Concrete CCIC recommendations for action (draft by the Secretariat)

- CCIC *reiterates* the request for the Parties to actively implement the *Road Map towards the accession of the European Union to the Carpathian Convention* and requests the Secretariat to support the process.
- CCIC *reiterates* its invitation for the Parties to *consider* the introduction of a "Regional Economic Integration Organization Clause" into the Carpathian Convention in a form of an amendment of the Convention, which shall allow for the EU accession to the Carpathian Convention.

DECISION COP6/4 Cooperation with United Nations Environment Programme

The Secretariat continues participating in the meeting of the UNEP Focal Points for Multilateral Environmental Agreements, allowing for the promotion of the Carpathian Convention, its objectives and ongoing activities, as well as the consideration of potential possibilities for future cooperation in the light of the respective mandates of the Convention and the objective of UNEP to strengthen programmatic cooperation.

Concrete CCIC recommendations for action (draft by the Secretariat)

- CCIC *welcomes* the progress made in respect to Decision COP6/4.

DECISION COP6/5 Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies

1. The Secretariat has been in regular contact with the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and its relevant bodies, including the Alpine Biodiversity Board, seeking further opportunities for cooperation and joint activities. The representatives of both Secretariats were invited and present in most of the meetings of the Conventions.
2. The Secretariat has been regularly exchanging information with the Mountain Partnership, especially in light of the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022, which was [proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly on 16 December 2022](#) (A/RES/76/129). The resolution was proposed by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and sponsored by 94 governments aiming at creating visibility for sustainable mountain development and fostering further collaboration to protect and conserve these precious ecosystems. The resolution encourages Member States, international and regional organizations and all relevant stakeholders to highlight the importance and value of mountains' ecosystems. It was initiated on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the International Year of Mountains and the first Global

Mountain Summit that adopted the Bishkek Mountain Declaration in 2002. The 2002 International Year of Mountains witnessed crucial steps taken towards establishing the Carpathian Convention. Next year, as part of the resolution's implementation, the Kyrgyz Republic will promote an initiative for the adoption of a five-year action plan for the sustainable development of mountain regions at the United Nations forum.

3. With reference to the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021 – 2030](#), that was launched on 5. June 2021 – the World Environment Day – and the Carpathian [joint statement welcoming the new UN Decade](#), the Secretariat has been promoting the Carpathians as part of the call for flagship projects to be promoted under the UN Decade. Positive results of the consultations are expected to be available soon.
4. The implementation of the project “*Building national biodiversity information supply and demand in Pan Europe to support implementation & progress review of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework*”, in which Ukraine is a recipient country, is delayed due to the ongoing war in Ukraine. The project is financed by the European Commission-DG Environment, and it aims to support CBD Parties in Pan-Europe for having suitable information on biodiversity to implement and progress report regarding the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the biodiversity dimension of the SDGs. The Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, involved in the development of the project proposal, will continue to facilitate the involvement of Ukraine in the project implementation, whenever possible.
5. UNEP and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention Secretariat organized a 3-day interregional exchange [workshop Mountains Connect](#) on regional governance in mountain areas under the auspices of the [Adaptation at Altitude](#) programme on 20-22 June 2022 in Vienna, Austria. The aim of the workshop was to foster effective interregional exchange and action learning on the manifold approaches and mechanisms for regional governance, especially regarding enhancing climate resilience in mountains. The event was attended by stakeholders and decision-makers primarily from the Andes, the South Caucasus, the East African Community countries and the Hindu Kush Himalaya – as well as mountain governance institutions such as ICIMOD, CONDESAN, Sustainable Caucasus, and ARCOS including the representatives of the Alpine Convention, and the Carpathian Convention. The [take-aways of the workshop](#) are available on the programme resource page.
6. On 15-16 December 2021, the Alpine and Carpathian Biodiversity Forum took place that provided a platform for discussion with national and international experts about issues related to the protection of mountain biodiversity. The event also strengthened the collaboration among relevant partners for the protection of mountain biodiversity and to define a joint and effective response to the main challenges identified. The [conclusions and recommendation](#) of the event were circulated via the Carpathian Convention channels.
7. On the 16 September 2022, the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and its Alpine Biodiversity Board, the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and the Mountain Partnership Secretariat jointly organized an [event "Mountain Biodiversity 2002-2022: achievements and next challenges at global and regional level"](#), which was held against the backdrop of the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022. During the event, the invited speakers shared their perspective on mountains biodiversity ranging from 2002 to 2022, an overview of the progress and significant achievements in the past 20 years as well as their outline for a strategic approach for the future. The conclusions of the event should be available shortly.

8. The Carpathian Convention was represented at the [6th Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership in Aspen, Colorado US](#). Thanks to Romania and its National Agency of the Mountain Area the Carpathian Convention was presented at the session on transboundary cooperation during which the representatives of different mountain regions of the world discussed best practices to strengthen regional dialogue for sustainable mountain development. The session focused on several transboundary cooperation agreements relating to mountains, such as the Alpine and the Carpathian Convention and the Andean Mountain Initiative, and considered best practices and lessons learned on how to protect biodiversity, water resources, enhancing economic development and infrastructure. Romania highlighted the benefits of cooperating within the Carpathian Convention that includes sharing experience and knowledge on various topics related to sustainability and environmental protection, as well as connecting with an extended network of stakeholders.

Concrete CCIC recommendations for action (draft by the Secretariat)

- CCIC *encourages* the Parties to engage in the development and implementation of the five-year action plan for the development of mountain regions in the framework of the 2022 International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development; and *requests* the Secretariat to assist the process.
- CCIC *welcomes* the UN Decade flagships projects and *encourages* the Parties and other stakeholders to further contribute to the process, and *requests* the Secretariat to assist further.

DECISION COP6/6 Implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

1. Following the mandate received by the Carpathian Convention COP6 (Decision COP6/6) on implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) , as well as considering the Convention's work on raising the importance of mountain biodiversity within the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and other global political agendas, the Secretariat together with the Chair of the WG Biodiversity, the Czech Republic and the Polish Presidency have continued the consultations on the role and contribution of the Carpathian Convention on the upcoming global biodiversity framework currently being negotiated under the auspices of the Convention on Biological Diversity. While the final draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (post-2020 GBF) has not been reached yet, the Polish Presidency proposed to develop general Carpathian Convention Commitments for the future post-2020 GBF implementation. This should serve the Convention and its Parties to prepare for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP15 to be held on 7-19 December 2022 in Montreal, Canada, where the Secretariat is expected to deliver a statement presenting the Carpathian Convention role and contribution to the process of the CBD. The draft Ministerial declaration/Carpathian Convention Commitments include revision of the

In regards to the consultations with stakeholders, the Secretariat delivered a [presentation](#) that presented the possible role and contribution of the Carpathian Convention to the post-2020 GBF process at the 13th meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity, the Alpine-Carpathian Biodiversity

Forum, and [another presentation](#) at the Mountain Biodiversity 2002-2022 conference. The secretariat also had other regular meetings with stakeholders.

2. The [trilateral Memorandum of Cooperation \(MoC\) between the CBD, Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention in the context of the implementation of the upcoming post-2020 global biodiversity framework](#) was updated and approved by all three Conventions. As agreed, the MoC will be signed after the adoption of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework on the next suitable occasion. The new MoC shall be considered as a solid and relevant instrument for enhancing synergies amongst the Conventions and support common activities on topics of mutual interest.
3. Further to the COP6/6 Decisions, the Secretariat continues following the negotiation and development process of the post-2020 GBF, including participating in relevant CBD meetings and consultations. In this respect, the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention has established regular and effective contact with the CBD Secretariat in order to maximize the effort of both Conventions on promoting conservation of the mountain biodiversity.
4. UNEP, CBD, the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS Network), Mountain Partnership Secretariat, and the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention submitted a joint application to organize a hybrid high-level side event on mountain biodiversity at CBD COP15. This side event will highlight the efforts undertaken to elevate mountain biodiversity and the need for its protection within the post-2020 outcomes and will give insights into supporting science-policy processes and products. Further, the side event will provide a platform for dialogues and an exchange of views among high-level representatives from countries working towards the protection of mountain biodiversity. Consequently, preliminary ideas will be collected for a roadmap on how to address mountain biodiversity within the post-2020 GBF implementation. As a best-practice example, the renewed trilateral MoC between the CBD, the Carpathian and Alpine Conventions, will be presented as well as the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, key flagships. Poland, as the Polish Presidency, is a co-host of the event.
5. The Secretariat's involvement in the post-2020 GBF contributes as well to raising the importance of mountains and mountain biodiversity on global political agendas. In this regard, the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention together with UNEP, the Mountain Research Initiative, the Global Biodiversity Mountain Assessment, Mountain Partnerships and also member states, cooperate further to mainstream mountains in environmental discussions by for example promoting the two mountain policy briefs ([1.0](#) and [2.0](#)) and promote a [set of indicators](#) that are considered important to safeguard mountain biodiversity.

In addition, a [Briefing note – Mountains in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework](#) was produced by UNEP, that among , highlights indicators (with a focus on headline indicators) that are considered key for monitoring and safeguarding mountain biodiversity. The note is based on a previously compiled “set of indicators considered important to safeguard mountain biodiversity” which was produced to inform the virtual SBSTTA-24 meeting in May/June 2021.

Whereas the current draft of the post-2020 GBF does not aim for action on specific ecosystems levels, the monitoring framework offers an opportunity to integrate indicators that are key to monitor and track

progress on the health of specific ecosystems. Based on the indicator set, that has been handed in to SBSTTA-24 as an [INF doc](#), it seems that a reference to mountains in the monitoring framework will remain valid.

Furthermore, the Secretariat would like to emphasize that the current post-2020 GBF draft recognizes the importance and need for integration of relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant international processes, on various levels, including on a regional level, that is represented by, among others, the Alpine and the Carpathian Conventions. In order to ensure efficient and effective implementation of the post-2020 GBF, through the strengthening or establishment of cooperation mechanisms.

Further promotion of the important role of mountain conventions and regional mechanisms within the process is highly recommended. Statements of mountain countries can play an important role in making sure that the need to protect mountains as part of ecosystems is highlighted continuously and that the CBD's actions in this regard are welcomed.

In this respect, the following background documents and information on the Convention's involvement in Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework were prepared and circulated in order to support a fruitful discussion:

- Carpathian Convention's role and contribution to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework - [assumptions by the Secretariat](#)
- Advocating for mountains in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity - [insights from Mountain Biodiversity Day held on 13 January 2021](#)
- Policy briefs ([Elevating Mountains](#) and [Elevating Mountains 2.0](#)) presenting latest scientific findings on the importance of mountain areas to decision-makers for the protection of biodiversity on a global scale
- [Indicators for Elevating Mountains](#) in the Post-2020 GBF - identified indicators that are considered effective for safeguarding mountain biodiversity and ecosystem integrity are proposed within the draft [Post-2020 GBF Monitoring Framework](#)

Concrete CCIC recommendations for action (draft by the Secretariat)

- CCIC *welcomes* the Ministerial Declaration on biodiversity, which presents the Carpathian Convention Commitments for the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and *invites* the Parties, the relevant WGs and stakeholders to implement the Commitments; further *requests* the Secretariat to support the process.
- CCIC *welcomes* and *approves* the updated trilateral Memorandum of Cooperation between the CBD, the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention in the light of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and requests the Secretariat to sign it on the next suitable occasion.
- CCIC *reiterates* its request to the Secretariat to further promote the Carpathian Convention within the CBD and as part of the ongoing Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework process, including by contributing to

the organization of the mountain side event at the CBD COP15 Part 2 and by embracing other opportunities to increase the awareness of the Carpathian Convention objectives and its work.

DECISION COP6/7 Cooperation with Eurac Research

Eurac Research, through the Vienna Representing Office and in cooperation with Bolzano Research Institutes and Administrative Departments, continued providing scientific support capacities and assistance to the Carpathian Convention, also through the development and execution of projects focused on the implementation of the Convention. Currently, the Eurac Research and the Secretariat are discussing possible updating the work plan annexed to the Memorandum of Cooperation between UNEP Vienna-SCC and Eurac Research.

Concrete CCIC recommendations for action (draft by the Secretariat)

- CCIC *welcomes* the progress made in the respect to the Decision COP6/7.
- CCIC *welcomes* the idea of updating the work plan annexed to the Memorandum of Cooperation between UNEP Vienna-SCC and Eurac Research.

DECISION COP6/8 Strengthening science-policy-practice interface and cooperation with scientific networks

1. The Secretariat is continuing its efforts to strengthen the science-practice-policy interface and pursue closer collaboration with the Science for the Carpathians (hereinafter S4C) network.

The Secretariat supported S4C in the implementation of the project, “Linking Science, Policy and People For Sustainable Carpathians”, funded by the Visegrad Fund, developed and submitted by the S4C in collaboration with the Secretariat. The project has been successfully completed in February 2022, and the report has been submitted and approved by the Visegrad Fund. The project outcomes include:

- [S4C recommendations to the Carpathian Convention, based on the 6th Forum Carpaticum](#) (June 21-25, 2021), presented at the 12th CCIC meeting and available on the Convention’s website,
 - S4C Interdisciplinary Winter School “[Sustainable development in hot spots of nature and tourism in the Carpathians](#)”, which took place between 1-4 February in Poland;
 - Development and publication of the “S4C Research Agenda 2022-2030”, which covers a wide range of topics- including those newly introduced, based on the recommendations received by the participants of the 6th Forum Carpaticum such as: Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Tourism; Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge; Education for Sustainable Development; Participatory research, multi-actor dialogues and knowledge co-production; Social innovation to promote sustainable development; Green energy and energy efficiency, etc.
2. The Secretariat continued the implementation of the project “Strengthening the ESD network in the Carpathian Convention via a science-policy-practice interface,” funded by the German Federal Environment Ministry’s Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP), in collaboration with the S4C. In addition to supporting the 6th Forum Carpaticum, the project is assisting the collaboration of the Secretariat and

S4C on a science-policy-practice interface in Education for Sustainable Development, for example at the 11th World Environmental Education Congress (Prague, Czech Republic, 14-18 March, 2022), and at the Second Carpathian ESD Seminar (Zakopane, Poland, 28-30, September 2022).

3. The Secretariat facilitated the drafting of the chapter “Science-policy-practice collaborations towards sustainable development in the Carpathian Region” in the publication “Safeguarding Mountain Social-Ecological Systems: A Global Challenge”, to be published by the Elsevier’s Hazards and Disasters Series.
4. The Secretariat is facilitating the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Cooperation between the S4C and the Scientific Network for the Caucasus Mountain Region (SNC-mt). Specifically, it coordinated two plenary sessions at the International Mountain Conference (IMC), in collaboration with the SNC-mt, which took place on September 11-15 in Innsbruck, Austria, and facilitated S4C’s inputs in the sessions, as well as represented S4C at one of them:
 - Session “Discussing transdisciplinary practices for global mountain sustainability: opportunities, challenges and experiences”, co-organised in collaboration with SNC-mt, GLOMOS, Eurac Research Interdisciplinary Centre for Mountain Research, University of Lausanne, Mountain Research Initiative and CONDESAN, and following the workshop on inter- and transdisciplinary research institutions on mountains held in Switzerland in October 2021, at which the Secretariat presented its collaboration with S4C.
 - Session “Supporting cooperation within and among regional scientific mountain networks – does EU policy play a role”, organized in collaboration with SNC-mt, International Scientific Committee for Alpine Research (ISCAR), Network for European Mountain Research (NEMOR) and the Mediterranean Islands Mountain Network (MountMed Institute).

Based on the latter session, the Secretariate cooperated with SNC-mt to submit an application to the MRI for a Synthesis Workshop at the Caucasus Mountain Forum, in order to facilitate further collaboration between the S4C, SNC-mt and other scientific networks in mountainous regions.

5. Based on discussions at the two sessions conducted at the International Mountain Conference, the Secretariat proposed inputs for the Declaration, to be adopted at the European Mountain Convention, and communicated them to Euromontana:

I. Calling for support to Mountain Scientific Networks:

Scientific networks in the European mountain regions play an essential role in linking scientists across disciplines and borders, supporting links between science, policy and practice and providing a knowledge base for smart and future-oriented decision-making. The networks and collaboration between them offer potential for learning across mountain regions, creating science-based partnerships and exchanging expertise and best practices to create and promote sustainable solutions for the challenges of the changing world. This is particularly important for regions experiencing climate change-induced instabilities, political and socio-economic turbulences and armed conflicts. In addition to Euromontana, the International Scientific Committee for Alpine Research (ISCAR), Science for the Carpathians (S4C) Network, the Scientific Network for the Caucasus Mountain Region (SNC-mt), the Network for European Mountain Research (NEMOR) and the Mediterranean Islands Mountain Network (MountMed Institute)

are actively working on this arena. Yet, most of these networks face several challenges and need to be reinforced.

Therefore, we call for more recognition and promotion of scientific networks in the European mountainous regions as agents for change, through establishing a sustainable resource base/ funding opportunities to continue their work, including:

- (a) supporting coordination and exchange between academia and practitioners, both within and between these networks, to better inform decision-makers in the regions,
- (b) supporting young scientists' engagement in the networks' activities,
- (c) facilitating science - practice - policy interface to create joint solutions for sustainable development.

II. Calling for support to transdisciplinary processes and institutions in mountainous regions:

We call for active engagement of institutions and actors in transdisciplinary research practices as means to foster co-production of knowledge that support smart and sustainable development of mountainous regions; This active engagement requires multiple types of support, which can include: 1) training and capacity-building to engage in transdisciplinary research and teaching, 2) funding for the implementation of transdisciplinary approaches, and 3) facilitating the integration of research results into policies and practice, among others.

6. The Secretariat continues inviting Carpathian scientists and S4C colleagues to meetings and events, as well as to elaboration of projects, in order to integrate their knowledge, and to follow-up on the recommendations produced by the network.
7. In order to facilitate closer links between the Carpathian Convention parties and the S4C network, as well as to enable opportunities for more active membership in the S4C network, creation of thematic working groups under the S4C network have been proposed. Such S4C Thematic groups may act as expertise reference points for the Working Groups of the Carpathian Convention. Moreover, due to the closer collaboration by the Secretariat staff and the S4C, the S4C has come forward with the proposal to include the Secretariat representative in the Executive Committee of the Network. The S4C Executive and Scientific Steering committee will inform the Secretariat as soon as progress is made in this respect.

Concrete CCIC recommendations for action (draft by the Secretariat)

- CCIC *encourages* the Parties, the Secretariat and other actors to consider the specific recommendations from the 6th Forum Carpathicum.
- CCIC *encourages* further collaboration with the Science for the Carpathians on strengthening the Carpathian Convention`s networks, coordination and collaboration within and between them and *requests* the Secretariat to support this process.
- CCIC *requests* the Secretariat to support the organization of the 7th Forum Carpathicum as relevant.

- CCIC encourages the Secretariat to continue collaborating with the Science for the Carpathians (S4C) on the establishment of respective S4C Working Groups, if relevant, and on coordinating mutual exchange between the S4C experts and the Convention Working Groups.

DECISION COP6/9 Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity

Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention

1. In close cooperation with the Chair of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity (WG Biodiversity) – Czech Republic, the Secretariat organized the **13th Meeting of the Working Group on Biodiversity on 11-12 April 2022** via an online format ([final meeting agenda](#)).

The WG Biodiversity meeting reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the [Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity - Work Plan 2021 – 2023](#). Particularly, the WG Biodiversity received updates on relevant projects implementation, as well as on reviewed steps taken for the implementation of the [International Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity](#) (adopted by COP6, 2020).

Furthermore, the WG Biodiversity reviewed and discussed cooperation with relevant organization and bodies, such as the Alpine Convention, the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas and the Carpathian Wetland Initiative, etc. Special attention was given to the ongoing Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the role and contribution of the Carpathian Convention to this process ([final meeting report](#))

2. The Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic together with the Secretariat supported the development of a project proposal – *LECA – Supporting the coexistence and conservation of Carpathian large carnivores* that was submitted the first call of the Interreg Central Europe 2021-2027. The project aims at the harmonizing monitoring of large carnivores, strengthening conflict prevention and poaching investigations of large carnivores in the Carpathians. The selected pilot areas are: Beskydy-Kysuce, Tatra Mountains, eastern Carpathians, Slovak Karst-Agtelek NP/Bukkk NP. The main expected results include:
 - 3 Adopted Thematic Guidance (on monitoring, conflict prevention and poaching),
 - 4 Participatory stakeholder platforms established in the pilot areas,
 - 4 Endorsed cross-border strategies,
 - revision of the Carpathian Convention under “Action Plan on conservation of LCs”. The project proposal is currently under final evaluation of the Interreg Central Europe Programme, the results should be known by mid-December. The project, if awarded, will greatly contribute to the implementation of the International Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and on Ensuring Ecological Connectivity.
3. The Secretariat is involved in the new Horizon Europe project - [NaturaConnect: Designing a resilient and coherent Trans-European Network for Nature and People](#), which shall contribute to the objectives of the Biodiversity Strategy 2030, particularly on creating a Transnational European Network of Nature (TEN-N) that includes a functioning connected system with ecological corridors. The project’s main objectives include:
 - Define a blue-print for TEN-N,
 - Data collection to design TEN-N and a monitoring system
 - Engage with stakeholders & policy makers
 - Develop future scenarios that incorporate existing climate and land-use projections
 - Review & disseminate the best spatial planning practices & funding mechanisms. The Carpathians have been selected as the case study for the project. Further information about the activities to the WG Biodiversity will be shared in due course.

4. The WG Biodiversity and the Secretariat assisted in the development of the “[Joint Declaration on Achieving functional biodiversity in the Danube-Carpathian Region by mainstreaming ecological connectivity](#)”, that has been developed by support of the SaveGREEN project consortium.

The overall goal of the Declaration was to develop and commit to a coordinated cross-border and cross-sector approach for spatial planning and nature conservation in the Danube-Carpathian region. The Declaration shall raise further awareness on the importance of ecological connectivity for the well-being of people and nature, support safeguarding and improvement of ecological corridors in the region and reflects on them in light of relevant EU and national environmental policies and by considering relevant spatial planning instruments.

In order to finalize the development of the declaration, a dedicated workshop was held on 28 June 2022 in order to review and agree on the final text. The Declaration was endorsed by the Carpathian Convention, ICPDR, EUSDR (particularly PA4, PA5 and PA6). The [Joint Declaration](#) was the subject of discussion at the recent [side event organized within the 11th EUSDR Annual Forum](#) on 18 October 2022..

5. The project consortium under Lead Partner – Eurac Research, with the support of the Secretariat, successfully finalized the implementation of the [Centralparks project](#) (Interreg CE Programme) that focused on building management capacities of Carpathian protected areas for the integration and harmonization of biodiversity protection and local socio-economic development.

In addition to the previous communication at the project implementation level, two project results are expected to be formally endorsed by the Parties at the 7th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, to be held in 2023, namely:

- *Carpathian strategy for enhancing biodiversity and landscape conservation outside and inside protected areas:* [Full document](#) | [Factsheet](#)

The strategy shall provide guidance for preparing or updating protected area management plans, for local or regional planning documents concerned with nature and landscape conservation, land-use, and spatial development (in line with Convention Biodiversity Protocol Article 17). The target audience of the strategy are local and regional stakeholders, including protected area administrations, nature conservation and landscape protection agencies and other nature and landscape conservation bodies and authorities, as well as local communities, and their municipal and regional authorities.

- *Strategy for local sustainable tourism development based on natural and cultural heritage of the Carpathians:* [Full document](#) | [Factsheet](#)

The strategy shall provide guidance for local and regional stakeholders, including managers of Carpathian protected areas, local communities and their authorities, and local entrepreneurs in the tourism sector, to prepare or update protected area visitor management plans and local or regional planning documents related to tourism development, natural and cultural heritage conservation, and land-use.

The WG Biodiversity and other stakeholders are invited to consider, use and further disseminate the other main results, including:

- [Guidelines on communication between protected areas and local communities in the Carpathian – full document](#)
- [Centralparks: Carpathian Ecosystem Services Tool](#)

The final conference of the Centralparks project took place on 23-24 March 2022 in Wieliczka, Poland under the theme “Transnational cooperation for the sustainable future of the Carpathian region” ([agenda of the Conference](#)).

As a part of the final conference, on 24 March 2022 the Secretariat with support of the Eurac Research and the Chair of the CNPA SC, organized a round table session on the significance of Protected Area Networks for effective protected area management and nature-based sustainable development in the Carpathians and beyond. The session was attended by representatives of various networks of protected areas, including CNPA, ALPARC, DANUBEPARKS, Parks Dinarides and the Carpathian Wetland Initiative. The round table was organized to explore the opportunities of transnational cooperation and networking for an effective management of protected areas beyond borders. Through this session, the networks of protected areas were invited to exchange information on their modus operandi, as well as to inspire each other by sharing information on activities and cooperation experiences in order to maximize their potential, initiate joint activities and closer cooperation. As a follow up, the Secretariat prepared a table containing the relevant information, which shall serve as source of information for the networks, particularly for the CNPA to consider the needed governance improvements ([Centralparks Final Conference - Round table follow up - table](#)).

6. Thanks to the support of the Centralparks projects, several meetings related to the CNPA were organized:

- CNPA Steering Committee (SC) on 18. November 2021 in Krakow, Poland (within the 12th CCIC meeting) – [more information](#), where the CNPA SC agreed to several recommendations (see [CNPA Steering Committee meeting, 18 November 2021, Krakow, Poland – Meeting report + recommendations](#))
- CNPA SC on 24 March 2022 (within Centralparks final conference), where the CNPA SC discussed the implementation of the recommendations from the Krakow meeting. As a result of the discussion on establishing a better governance model for CNPA, the members of CNPA SC agreed to assess the idea of establishing an association as a new model for the CNPA and verify the willingness of the CNPA members to join it. The Secretariat together with the support of Eurac Research was tasked to develop a questionnaire addressed to the CNPA members about the association, as well as about other relevant topics of future cooperation within the CNPA.
- The [CNPA questionnaire 2022](#) with support of the Secretariat and the CNPA SC, was circulated to the CNPA members for feedback. The CNAP questionnaire 2022 [results were presented](#) and discussed at the CNPA SC meeting that was held on 30 June 2020 in an online format. Overall positive feedback of the CNPA members (80 responses and nearly 90% in favor of establishing an association with legal personality for the CNPA) encouraged the CNPA SC to agree on the following next steps (CNPA SC [meeting report](#)):
 - The CNPA SC decided to work further on the idea of establishing an association of protected areas in the Carpathians;
 - The Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, in cooperation with the CNPA SC, will prepare an analysis of the legal situation in each Carpathian country for joining the association, an analysis of establishing an association in each Carpathian country, collecting and analyzing statutes of other networks of protected network, and an analysis of possible partners and funding programs to establish an association;
 - Further dissemination of the Centralparks project;
 - Next meeting of the CNPA SC should be scheduled for October/November 2022 in order to discuss the results of the undertaken analysis;

Currently, the Secretariat is undergoing the above-mentioned analysis.

7. The CNPA Chair, provided relevant updates on the CNPA activities during the the 13th WG Biodiversity meeting – [presentation](#).
8. The Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI) provided updates on the ongoing activities of CWI at the 13th WG Biodiversity meeting – [presentation](#).

Furthermore, the Carpathian Wetland Initiative and the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic, with support of the Secretariat, have been involved in the development of the project proposal – MARTI - Management and Restoration of Tiny Areas of Conservation Importance that was submitted the 1st call of the Interreg Central Europe. The project's main results include the development of a tiny wetland areas preservation action plan for the Danube region and developing a training program for wetland restoration. If successful, the Secretariat will be supporting linkages between the project results and the UN decade of restoration as one anchoring point, as well as supporting communication and dissemination.

9. UNEP, in collaboration with the Secretariat, commissioned a [report on options and opportunities for ecological powerline corridor management with possible transboundary effect](#). The focus area of the report is Slovakia, while the examples provided by the report can represent preparedness of various system operators across Europe in terms of businesses individual contributions to the global sustainable development efforts (full report).
10. UNEP and the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention are supporting the development of a project proposal to be submitted under the first call of the Danube Region Programme 2021-2027 in cooperation with the energy distribution networks across the E.ON Group in Europe, relevant NGOs and universities in the Carpathian region. The project, led by SOS/BirdLife Slovakia, aims at creating healthy ecosystems and restoring biodiversity under the high-voltage corridors in forests subject to Natura 2000 but also outside forests in Natura 2000 areas.

Concrete CCIC recommendations for action (draft by the Secretariat)

- CCIC *encourages* the WG Biodiversity to further implement the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity - Work Plan 2021 – 2023 and *requests* the Secretariat to assist the process.
- CCIC *welcomes* the development of the project proposal – *LECA – Supporting the coexistence and conservation of Carpathian large carnivores*, and *invites* the WG Biodiversity, the Secretariat and relevant partners to support implementation of the project, if awarded.
- CCIC *welcomes* the project *NaturaConnect: Designing a resilient and coherent Trans-European Network for Nature and People* and *invites* the WG Biodiversity, the Secretariat and relevant partners to support the implementation of the project.
- CCIC *encourages* the Parties and the relevant stakeholders to undertake actions indicated in the *Joint Declaration on Achieving functional biodiversity in the Danube-Carpathian Region by mainstreaming ecological connectivity*, and *asks* the Secretariat to provide assistance, if relevant.

- CCIC recommends the Carpathian Strategy for enhancing biodiversity and landscape conservation outside and inside protected areas by the Centralparks project for implementation under the Carpathian Convention and the COP7 endorsement.
- CCIC welcomes the recommendations of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas Steering Committee and the idea of establishing a CNPA association. In this respect the CCIC invites the CNPA SC and the Secretariat to assist the process.

DECISION COP6/11 Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management Article 6 of the Carpathian Convention

UNEP, as both a co-coordinator of the UNEP Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and as the global custodian for SDG indicators relating to protection and restoration of freshwater ecosystems (6.6.1), addressing water quality and pollution (6.3.2) and integrated water resources management (6.5.1), is organizing, together with the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, a session within the [International River Symposium](#), to be held in hybrid format in Vienna and online on 27-30 November 2022. The session titled "Partnerships for community action to increase river resilience" will feature a discussion on developing effective partnerships on various levels to increase action of the community and stakeholders at the local level to protect, restore and sustain the health of the river's ecosystem. In relation to the Carpathian region, the challenge of plastic pollution in the Tisza River will be presented, highlighting the partnerships that have resulted in strong community action like the [Danube Region Programme Tid\(y\)Up project](#).

Concrete CCIC recommendations for action (draft by the Secretariat)

- CCIC welcomes the organization of the session titled "Partnerships for community action to increase river resilience" International River Symposium, to be held in hybrid format in Vienna and online on 27-30 November 2022, presenting the challenge of plastic pollution in the Tisza River will be presented

DECISION COP6/12 Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention

In close cooperation with the Chair of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (WG SARD) – Romania, the Secretariat organized the **5th Meeting of the Working Group SARD on 17 March 2022** in via an online format ([final meeting agenda](#) / [final meeting report](#))

The main objective of the WG SARD meeting was a discussion and consideration of topics/activities to be undertaken by the WG SARD for advancing on the implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, that is in force for almost all Parties (only Serbia is not yet a Party to the Protocol). The [document with the topics for cooperation was proposed by the WG SARD Chair – Romania](#), and was open for comments of the other Parties. After following online consultations and approval by the WG SARD, priority topics for the implementation of the SARD Protocol within the ongoing implementation period (until the end of 2023 with a possibility for extension) were agreed:

1. Best practice models: Short food supply chains – Farm to fork

2. Quality schemes and certification of „Mountain Products”
3. Associations for farmers and food producers in the mountain area - benefits and best practice Models

The Parties presented at the meeting provided national updates on the SARD Protocol implementation.

The WG SARD reviewed and recommended the updated [Terms of Reference](#) for its operations.

Concrete CCIC recommendations for action (draft by the Secretariat)

- CCIC *welcomes* the agreed priority topics for the implementation of the SARD Protocol, *encourages* the WG SARD to undertake concrete related activities and *requests* the Secretariat to support the process.
- CCIC approves the updated Terms of Reference for WG SARD

DECISION COP6/13 Sustainable forest management Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention

1. In close cooperation with the Chair of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management (WG Forest) – Slovakia, the Secretariat organized the **8th Meeting of the Working Group Forest on 10-12 October 2022** in Levice, Slovakia ([final meeting agenda](#)).

The meeting focused mainly on discussion regarding the **finalization of the Inventory of the virgin forest in the Carpathians** and its possible extension to other degree of naturalness of the Carpathian forests. Another relevant issue discussed was the development of the **Assessment of climate change risks and impacts on the Carpathian forests and their ecosystem services**. In addition, the participants received inputs from the **Science for the Carpathians** to consider as part of WG Forest work in the future. Eventually the WG Forest was tasked to develop a WG Forest Work Plan 2023 – 2026 guiding the implementation of the Forest Protocol and its Strategic Action Plan ([final meeting report](#)).

The Chair together with the Secretariat facilitated a discussion on further activities of the WG Forest that should be included in the new [WG Forest Work Plan for 2023 – 2026](#). It was recommended to continue fulfilling the tasks given by the COP6 and in particular to finalize the Inventory of virgin forest in the Carpathians by integrating the comments and updates from the Parties. In this regard the WG was instructed to collect the missing information from Ukraine and Poland (Poland didn't provide sufficient information on geolocations, which are necessary to integrate the information into the Inventory).

Regarding the extension of the inventory (second layer) to other degrees of naturalness, particularly natural forests, it was agreed that further discussion regarding the definition and the criteria is needed. The Secretariat offered to prepare a background document to facilitate the discussion. The WG Forest agreed to call for another WG Forest meeting to be held online, which should be dedicated to working out a definition of the natural forest in the Carpathians.

Regarding the Assessment of the impacts of climate change on the Carpathian forest, the draft document will be circulated to the WG Forest again for comments and further inputs. In addition, further individual consultations with relevant Parties/experts will be conducted to obtain missing information.

Regarding the S4C recommendations, while the relevant recommendation for the WG Forest will be added to the Work Plan, the most significant topic for further consideration are forest roads and related knowledge exchange.

Furthermore, the topic of forest restoration and connectivity shall be further developed, as well as considering possibilities of support for Ukraine.

All suggested topics for future WG Forest Work Plan should be integrated and finalized by the Secretariat and sent to the WG Forest to provide comments and further suggestions, especially considering that the WG Forest representatives from Hungary, Romania and Serbia were missing at the meeting.

Once the WG Forest Work Plan, is agreed by the WG Forest, it will be sent out to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee for its consideration.

WG Forest considered the updated [Terms of Reference](#) for the WG Forest operations.

As next steps the following was agreed:

- The WG Forest Work Plan 2023-2026 will be consolidated by the Secretariat and circulated to the WG Forest for comments and further suggestions,
- Once finalized the WG Forest Work Plan 2023-2026 will be sent to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee for consideration,
- WG Forest recommended the updated Terms of Reference for approval;
- Regarding the Inventory of virgin forest, the EEA/ETC/DI will integrate comments by the Parties and will collect the missing information from Ukraine and Poland,
- WG Forest asked the EEA/ETC/DI to continue supporting the WG Forest work, particularly the development of the inventory of virgin forest in the Carpathian, with a possible extension to other degrees of naturalness,
- The Secretariat will prepare a background document for to discuss definitions and criteria of other degrees of naturalness - particularly of the natural forests in the Carpathians - to be included in the Inventory.
- The 9th meeting of the WG Forest (online meeting) will be organized next to discuss the definitions of other degrees of naturalness, particularly of natural forests in the Carpathians (date to be confirmed),
- The 10th meeting of the WG Forest (physical meeting) will be held in 2023 in Slovakia (date to be confirmed),
- A draft of the Assessment of the impacts of climate change on the Carpathians will be circulated to the WG Forest again for comments and further inputs. In addition, further individual consultations with relevant parties/experts will be conducted to obtain missing information.

Concrete CCIC recommendations for action (draft by the Secretariat)

- CCIC *encourages* the prompt finalization of the Inventory of Virgin Forests of the Carpathians and *invites* all the Parties and relevant actors to support this process;
- CCIC *welcomes* the idea of extending the Inventory of Virgin Forests of the Carpathians to the other degree of naturalness, particularly to natural forest, and *invites* the WG Forest, relevant partners and the Secretariat to cooperate closer in this regard;

- CCIC *welcomes* the WG Forest Work Plan 2023-2026 and *invites* the WG Forest, relevant partners and the Secretariat for a smooth implementation
- CCIC *approves* the updated Terms of Reference for the WG Forest;
- CCIC *appreciates* the support of the EEA/ETC/DI provided to the WG Forest work, particularly regarding the development of the Inventory of the virgin forest in the Carpathian, with a possible extension to other degrees of naturalness, and invites EEA/ETC/DI to continue the process.

DECISION COP6/14 Sustainable transport and infrastructure, industry and energy Article 8 of the Carpathian Convention, Article 10 of the Carpathian Convention

1. The Secretariat is involved in the implementation of the project [SaveGREEN- 'Safeguarding the functionality of transnationally important ecological corridors in the Danube basin'](#) funded by the EU Danube Transnational Programme (project duration: 1 July 2020 -30 November 2022).

The project aims to foster cross-sectoral and transnational cooperation, as well as building a comprehensive know-how towards the development of concrete solutions aimed at improving, restoring and preserving the functionality of key ecological corridors in the Carpathian, Alpine and Balkan mountain valleys.

The project's final conference is scheduled to be on 6 - 7 December 2022 in Vienna, Austria. More information about the final results of the project will be shared in due course.

One of the main results of the projects with the involvement of the Carpathian Convention was the endorsement of the "[Joint Declaration on Achieving functional biodiversity in the Danube-Carpathian Region by mainstreaming ecological connectivity](#)."

Concrete CCIC recommendations for action (draft by the Secretariat)

- CCIC *notes* the information provided regarding the final conference of the SaveGREEN project and *requests* the Secretariat to disseminate the relevant project results.

DECISION COP6/15 Sustainable tourism Article 9 of the Carpathian Convention

1. The Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform (CSTP) - Centre Poland together with the Secretariat, initiated the development of the project proposal "*Central Mountains: From the Alps to the Carpathians – strengthening governance models for sustainable development of mountain areas in Central Europe*", submitted in light of the first call of the [Interreg Central Europe](#). This project proposal was initiated by partners from various countries largely within the framework of the Carpathian and the Alpine Conventions, coordinated by the CSTP - Centre Poland/Association Carpathian Euroregion Poland and the Rzeszów County. The project partners include:

- Rzeszow County (LP)
- Association Carpathian Euroregion, Poland
- Association of Towns and Communities, Slovakia
- Carpathian Foundation, Hungary
- Association of Regional Brands, Czech Republic
- Foundation of Landscape Protection, Poland
- Brasov County, Romania
- Eurac Research, Italy
- CIPRA International, Austria
- Institute of International Sociology, Italy
- Alpine Pearls Associations, Austria

As part of its objectives, the project shall:

- Enhance cooperation across the stakeholders of the Alps-Carpathians mountains following a strategic, participative, multi-level and multi-sectoral approach (public, private, non-governmental)
- Piloting new models and structures for transnational and cross-border cooperation in the context of the mountain areas in Central Europe to solve sustainable development challenges together
- Strengthening the capacities of Alpine-Carpathian stakeholders to improve governance across borders and mobilize policy makers in the implementation of transnational development strategies.

Following the previous CCIC recommendations, the project shall improve the governance, operations and cooperation of the CSTP.

Considering the importance of the project's activities for the implementation of the Carpathian Convention, in the context of involvement of local and regional stakeholders, the following Ministries agreed to become associated project partners:

- Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic,
- Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine
- Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Tourism of Romania
- Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic
- Ministry of Climate and Environment of Poland

The project proposal successfully passed the "relevance filter" as decided by the Central Europe programme Monitoring Committee on 13 September 2022. Consequently, the project proposal is currently subject to full assessment. The Monitoring Committee's decision on the selection of project proposals to be funded will be based on the outcomes of the full assessment and is expected for mid-December 2022.

2. The Secretariat was informed about the opening of the Office for Sustainable Tourism and Rural Development for the Carpathian Region in Slovakia, which shall enhance the implementation of the Carpathian Convention on a national level in Slovakia and will be also operating within the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform, creating the third official CSTP Center (after Poland and Romania). The opening of the new CSTP Center – Slovakia is based on the agreement between the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic and the Association of Towns and Villages in Slovakia. The Secretariat will consult with the involved partners on further process, including signing of a memorandum of cooperation with the CSTP Centre Slovakia and the Secretariat.
3. There are ongoing discussions between the CSTP Coordinator, the Secretariat and the Ukrainian side regarding fulfilling the formalities related to formal establishing of the CSTP – Centre Ukraine.
4. More updates on the activities, including the ongoing projects and events, will be shared shortly.

Concrete CCIC recommendations for action (draft by the Secretariat)

- CCIC *welcomes* the development of the *Central Mountains: From the Alps to the Carpathians – strengthening governance models for sustainable development of mountain areas in Central Europe* and *encourages* the relevant partners and the Secretariat to support its implementation, if awarded.
- CCIC *welcomes* the opening of the Office for Sustainable Tourism and Rural Development for the Carpathian Region in Slovakia, which shall be operating as part of the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform as the third official CSTP Center – Slovakia, *requests* the CSTP Coordinator and the Secretariat to follow the process and finalization of related formalities.
- CCIC *encourages* further the CSTP Centers and the Secretariat to progress in making the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform fully operational.
- CCIC *recommends* *the Strategy for local sustainable tourism development based on natural and cultural heritage of the Carpathians* produced by the Centralparks project for implementation under the Carpathian Convention and the COP7 endorsement.

DECISION COP6/16 Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention

No updates regarding a possible resubmission of the *Carpathian Route - exploring, promoting and protecting the richness of the cultural and natural heritage of the Carpathian Region*, due to lack of suitable funding. However, the Secretariat is monitoring the situation. The project funding was cancelled in September 2020 by EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Regional Cooperation for political reasons.

Concrete CCIC recommendations for action (draft by the Secretariat)

- CCIC *encourages* the relevant actors, including the Secretariat to continue searching for opportunities allowing for resubmission of the Carpathian Route project.

DECISION COP6/17 Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning Article 12 of the Carpathian Convention

1. The Secretariat continues to cooperate closely with the European Environment Agency (EEA) and its European Topic Centers on providing support for the Carpathian Convention's activities, including on operations focused on forests, climate change adaptation, biodiversity and ecological connectivity as well as on the integration of common information systems. Currently, the Secretariat is in discussions with the EEA regarding the work plan 2023-2024.

2. In cooperation with relevant partners and particularly with support of the SaveGREEN project, the Secretariat has undertaken necessary steps towards improving the Carpathian Integrated Biodiversity Information System (CCIBIS) and installing it within the Carpathian Convention website.

Concrete CCIC recommendations for action (draft by the Secretariat)

- CCIC *welcomes* the cooperation with the European Environment Agency (EEA) and its European Topic Centres and *invites* to continue efforts to provide support for the Carpathian Convention's activities within the Work Plan 2023 -2024; the CCIC *requests* the Secretariat to support the process.
- CCIC *encourages* the Secretariat and relevant partners to make further progress in improving the CCIBIS, including by installing it within the Carpathian Convention website.

DECISION COP6/18 Climate change Article 12bis of the Carpathian Convention

1. The Article 12bis on Climate Change is in force for Hungary, Poland, Ukraine and Romania since 2021.

Ratification of the Article 12bis by the remaining parties will support us in further engaging and undertaking activities combating climate change in the Carpathian region and will further strengthen the activities and tasks of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Climate Change (WG Climate Change).

2. Following the 12th CCIC recommendation and in line with the [Long-term Vision 2030 towards combating climate change in the Carpathians](#), the Secretariat together with nominated experts continue to work on the development of the *Assessment of the impacts of climate change on the Carpathian forests and their ecosystems services*.

The process was initiated by the [workshop at the Forum Carpathicum June 2021](#), and was followed by the [first expert group meeting](#) in November and a subsequent survey allowing for a detailed discussion of the key impacts and risks that the forest ecosystems are facing as well as adaptation responses in the Carpathian region. Finally, a draft structure for the assessment was filled out with more in-depth information (see the full assessment's [background/synthesis document](#)). Preliminary conclusions of the assessment include:

- 1.) Climate change effects on disturbances such as fire, wind, insects, and pathogens are of fundamental importance for forest ecosystems and biodiversity.
- 2.) Climate change effects on drought and flood frequency and intensity are also of great concern
- 3.) Effective adaptation responses are critical, e.g.
 - Restore landscape heterogeneity to increase system resilience
 - Adaptive forest management approaches
 - Reforestation and endemic species restoration
 - Anticipating novel ecological communities of the future

The current draft of the assessment was presented at the recent 8th meeting of the WG Forest (October 2022, Levice, Slovakia), where a discussion on open issues and gaps was held.

As the next step in developing the assessment, the Secretariat will hold further individual consultations with relevant parties/experts to obtain missing information. Furthermore, the WG Forest and WG Climate Change will receive an additional request to review and comment on the current synthesis document.

Early next year, the nominated experts should receive a first draft of the assessment for review.

Concrete CCIC recommendations for action (draft by the Secretariat)

- CCIC encourages the finalization of the *Assessment of the impacts of climate change on the Carpathian forests and their ecosystem services* to be presented at the COP7, and further requests the nominated experts and the Secretariat to support this process.
- CCIC encourages the WG Climate Change to implement the WG Climate Change Work Plan 2021 – 2023.

DECISION COP6/19 Awareness raising, education and public participation Article 13 of the Carpathian Convention

1. The Secretariat, in collaboration with S4C, continues to implement the project “Strengthening the ESD network in the Carpathian Convention via science-policy-practice interface”, which has been funded by the German Federal Environment Ministry’s Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP).

The project is contributing to the establishment of the Carpathian ESD Expert Network, based on the [recommendations received at the First Carpathian ESD Seminar](#), organized in Budapest, Hungary on 16-18 April 2019, as well as on [the recommendations received from ESD-related discussions](#) at the 6th Forum Carpathicum.

Among other project activities, an S4C Expert on Carpathian Convention networks produced a report, with recommendations for the development of the ESD Network, and its integration into the Carpathian Convention’s structure, based on document analysis, interviews of ESD experts, and several workshops, including the participatory inputs collected at the “Workshop on strengthening networks within the Carpathian Convention” and ESD-related discussions at the inter-sectoral session by UNEP GRID/Warsaw, which took place during the 12th CCIC meeting, held in December 2021. [The report and recommendations for the establishment of the Carpathian ESD Expert Network](#) has been shared with the Carpathian Convention parties and partners, and is available on the Convention website.

2. The Secretariat, together with ESD experts from Poland (S4C) and Hungary (Ministry of Interior) co-organized a Dialogue Session “Linking education with local and regional sustainable development challenges – opportunities and challenges in the Carpathian region” at the World Environmental Education Congress, which took place in Prague on 14-18 March 2022.

3. Based on the recommendations of the 12th CCIC, the Parties have been invited to provide nominations of ESD Experts to the Carpathian ESD Expert Network. Nominations have been received from Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia to-date.
4. The Secretariat, in close collaboration with the Polish Presidency of the Convention, co-organized the Second Carpathian ESD Seminar, which took place in Zakopane, Poland, on 28-30 September, 2022. Experts from all Carpathian Countries, representing governmental, academic, protected area and civil society institutions took part in the Seminar and reiterated their interest in collaborating on ESD in the Carpathian region. Several collaborative project ideas have emerged, and recommendations for developing a database of ESD Experts, projects and materials have been made by several experts. The report of the [2nd Carpathian ESD Seminar](#) will be available on the Carpathian Convention website.
5. The Secretariat, in close collaboration with the nominated ESD expert from the Ministry of Interior of Hungary, organized a virtual workshop “Towards a transdisciplinary approach in the Carpathian region, implementing the Carpathian Convention and UNECE Strategy for ESD 2021-2030”, which took place in April 2022 as part of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in the UNECE Region. The workshop participants discussed how the Carpathian Convention can contribute to the implementation of the four strands of the UNECE ESD Strategy in the Carpathian region, including: 1) Whole education and ESD; 2) Whole institution approach: communities of transformational learning; 3) Digital Education, ICT and ESD; 4) Entrepreneurship, employment, innovation and ESD.
6. The Secretariat, with facilitation from the nominated ESD expert at the Ministry of Interior of Hungary and in close collaboration with the Polish Presidency of the Convention, promoted the Carpathian Convention achievements in the field of ESD at the 9th Europe Environment Ministerial Conference and the 3rd High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries, in Cyprus 5–7 October 2022.

The Secretariat, in collaboration with the governments of Hungary, Poland and Serbia co-organized the side event “ESD Expert Network in the Carpathian Region”, which took place on 5 October 2022, and included contributions from high level governmental panellists from Hungary and Serbia, a video message from the government of Poland, and a presentation by the chair of the S4C network. Supportive messages from the government of Slovakia and the NGO sector in Serbia have been received at the Side Event ([report from the Side Event “ESD Expert Network in the Carpathian Region”](#)).

The Secretariat provided an intervention at the High-level Meeting of Education Ministries, informing the delegates about the Carpathian Convention, the creation of the Carpathian ESD Expert Network, and expressing readiness for further collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). After the intervention on behalf of the Secretariat, the representatives of the Global Education Network Europe (GENE) expressed interest in the Carpathian ESD Network and suggested exchange and collaboration.

Concrete CCIC recommendations for action (draft by the Secretariat)

- CCIC *welcomes* the process of establishing the Carpathian Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), Expert Network; in this respect, *requests* the Parties, who have not done so yet, to nominate ESD experts to the network, and *requests* the Secretariat to support the process.

- CCIC *encourages* the cooperation among the Focal Points and the ESD Experts, including on deciding on the integration of the Carpathian ESD Expert Network into the Carpathian Convention institutional structure by the COP 7 of the Carpathian Convention.
- CCIC *invites* the Carpathian Troika to continue collaborating on supporting the Carpathian ESD Expert Network and its activities.
- CCIC *invites* the Secretariat to support the Carpathian ESD Experts in following up on the outputs and recommendations received at the Second Carpathian ESD Seminar, particularly on organization of a Carpathian Day.
- CCIC *requests* the Secretariat to continue the implementation of the project “Strengthening the ESD network in the Carpathian Convention via science-policy-practice interface”, including via organizing an ESD Workshop and Session at the 7th Forum Carpathicum, as well as identifying new project opportunities to continue to work on ESD Network.
- CCIC *welcomes* the Side Event “ESD Expert Network in the Carpathian Region”, held within the 9th Environment for Europe Conference on 5th October 2022, Nicosia, Cyprus and *thanks* the Carpathian Troika and the Secretariat for its organization.
- CCIC *requests* the Secretariat to continue its liaison with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Steering Committee on ESD as relevant, and to explore collaboration with the Global Education Network Europe (GENE).

Annex 1

Programme of Work of the Carpathian Convention by sectors, 1 January 2021 – 31 December 2023 - CCIC 2022 RECOMMENDATIONS (to be added once approved by the CCIC)

COP6 Decisions	Activity	Expected outcomes	Actors	Status of implementation	CCIC 2022 Recommendations (to be added once approved)
Implementation of the Carpathian Convention					
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	Secretariat	To be further undertaken	
		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	Parties, UNEP Secretariat	Ongoing	
		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 WGs	To be further undertaken	
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	Ongoing	

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	Secretariat	Completed	
		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	WGs Chairpersons Secretariat	Ongoing	
		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	WGs Chairpersons Secretariat	Ongoing	
		3.4) WGs Chairpersons' reporting to the CCIC on the activities undertaken by the WGs in place	WGs Chairpersons,	Ongoing	
		3.5) WGs Chairpersons' guiding the implementation of the WG's activities in place	WGs Chairpersons,	Ongoing	
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	Ongoing	
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	Ongoing	

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	Secretariat, Parties WGs Chairperson s	Ongoing	
		6.2) Relevant documents, including, documentation on sectoral issues, integrated reports, strategies/ strategic action plans/protocols for priority issues developed	Secretariat, Parties WGs	Ongoing	
		6.3) Meeting reports, including the Progress Reports on implementation of the Carpathian Convention developed	Secretariat	Ongoing	
		6.4) CCIC recommendations developed and implemented	Secretariat, Parties WGs	Ongoing	
Cooperation with regional and local authorities and all relevant stakeholders					
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	Ongoing	
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 sustainable development of	8.1) Project on establishing outreach programmes developed	Secretariat	Ongoing	

	the Carpathian region, and of the Convention's activities				
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	To be further undertaken	
Cooperation with the European Union					
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	Ongoing	
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	Parties Secretariat	Ongoing	
		11.2) Joint address to the EU institution to join the Convention as a Party	Parties Secretariat	To be further undertaken	
		11.3) Introducing a "Regional Economic Integration Organization Clause" into the Carpathian Convention considered	Parties Secretariat	To be further undertaken	
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	Ongoing	

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	Ongoing	
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	Ongoing	
COP6/3 para 11	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;	15.1) Relevant consultations undertaken	Secretariat	Completed	
COP6/3 para 12	16) Considering the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) period 2021-2027 as an opportunity for advancing the implementation of the Carpathian Convention	16.1) Consultation with the Parties and relevant stakeholders undertaken	Parties Secretariat	Ongoing	
		16.2) Preparations of project proposals for relevant calls for proposals supported	Parties Secretariat	Ongoing	
	17) Contributing to the implementation of the EU	17.1) Exchange of information and relevant consultation undertaken	Parties Secretariat	Ongoing	

COP6/3 para 14, 15	strategies and policies, especially the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, new EU Forest Strategy post-2020, and the European Green Deal				
Cooperation with United Nations Environment Programme					
COP6/4 para 5	18) Encouraging activities enhancing synergies and programmatic cooperation between UNEP and the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention	18.1) Potential areas for future cooperation in the light of respective mandates and the latest scientific information identified	Secretariat UNEP	Ongoing	
COP6/4 para 6	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	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	Parties Secretariat UNEP	Ongoing	
COP6/4 para 7	20) Engaging Major Groups and Stakeholders from the Carpathian Region in the UNEA and its preparatory process	20.1) Relevant consultation undertaken and support given	Secretariat UNEP	To be further undertaken	

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	Ongoing	
Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies					
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	Completed	
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	Ongoing	
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,	Secretariat	Ongoing	
		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	Ongoing	
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	Ongoing	

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	Secretariat	To be further undertaken	
		26.2) Expert support on issues of common interest ensured	Secretariat	To be further undertaken	
		26.3) Promoting of activities of common interest at the EU and Carpathian level in place	Secretariat	To be further undertaken	
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	Secretariat	Ongoing	
		27.2. Common activities identified and supported	Secretariat	To be further undertaken	
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	To be further undertaken	
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	Ongoing	
Implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework					
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,	30.1) Further promotion of the Carpathian Convention at the global level in respect the Post-2020 GBF in place	Secretariat	Ongoing	
		30.2) further consultation with UNEP and other biodiversity related conventions	Secretariat	Ongoing	

	translating the Global 2050 Goals and 2030 Action Targets to the regional level, including promoting mountain biodiversity	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	Parties Secretariat	Ongoing	
		30.4) Action Plan for the implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in the Carpathians developed	Parties Secretariat	To be further undertaken	
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	Ongoing	
Cooperation with Eurac Research					
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	Ongoing	
Strengthening science-policy-practice interface and cooperation with scientific networks					
COP6/8 para 1, 2, 3, 4	33) Strengthening science – policy – practice interface, in order to enhance the implementation of the Carpathian Convention via	33.1) Implementation of the Carpathian Convention supported with its sound scientific knowledge and expertise	S4C Secretariat Parties	Ongoing	

	creating synergies between its stakeholders and promoting inter-sectoral cooperation, such as stronger collaboration with the Science for the Carpathians network	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;	S4C Secretariat Parties	Ongoing	
		33.3) Close cooperation with the S4C by among other, regular exchange of information and participation in relevant meetings in place	S4C Secretariat Parties	Ongoing	
		33.4) Further projects supporting science – policy – practice interface developed and implemented	S4C Secretariat Parties	Ongoing	
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	Completed	
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	Ongoing	
COP6/8 para 7	36) Elaborating the Memorandum of Understanding for the Cooperation between the Science for the Carpathians Network (S4C) and the Scientific	36.1) Scientific exchange between the Carpathians and other regions further fostered	Secretariat S4C	Completed	

	Network for the Caucasus Mountain Region				
Biodiversity					
COP6/9	GENERAL		Parties WG Biodiversity Secretariat		
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	Ongoing	
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	Completed	
COP6/9 para 3	39) Cooperation with the WG Climate Change	39.1) Cooperation between WG Biodiversity and WG Climate Change strengthened	Parties WG Biodiversity WG Climate Change Secretariat	Ongoing	
		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	Parties WG Biodiversity WG Climate Change Secretariat	Ongoing	

		Carpathian forests and their ecosystem services			
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	Completed	
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	Parties WG Biodiversity CNPA Secretariat	Completed	
		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”	Parties WG Biodiversity CNPA Secretariat	Ongoing	
COP6/9 para 9, 10, 11 12	42) Cooperating with the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA)	42.1) Communication and sharing relevant strengthened	CNPA WG Biodiversity Parties	Ongoing	
		42.2) Results of the project <i>Three Networks, Two macroregions, One vision - development of Green Infrastructure to foster ecological connectivity between Danube, Carpathians and Alps</i> shared	CNPA WG Biodiversity Parties	Completed	
		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	CNPA WG Biodiversity Parties	To be further undertaken	

		connectivity, exchanges on protected areas management, education and other specific topics common to the three networks			
		42.4) 3rd Conference for the Carpathian Protected Areas in 2021 organized	CNPA WG Biodiversity Parties	Completed	
COP6/9 para 13,14,1 5, 16	43) Cooperating with Carpathian Wetland Initiative	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,	CWI W Biodiversity WG Climate Change Secretariat	Ongoing	
COP6/9 para 17	44) Implementing the <i>SwiPE-Successful Wildlife Crime Prosecution in Europe</i> under the EU LIFE Programme 2019 call, led by WWF CEE	44.1) Activities relevant for the Carpathian Convention further consulted with relevant partners, communicated and supported, if possible	Secretariat WG Biodiversity	Ongoing	
Spatial Development					
COP6/1 0 para 1	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	45.1) The Map of administrative units disseminated, if appropriate	Parties Secretariat	To be further undertaken	

COP6/10 para 2	46) WG Spatial Development consider future activities	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	WG Spatial Development Secretariat	To be further undertaken	
Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management					
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	Parties Secretariat Relevant WGs	Ongoing	
		47.2) Development and implementation of the JoinTisza - follow up project supported	Parties Secretariat Relevant WGs	Ongoing	
		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	Ongoing	
Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development					
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"	Parties WG SARD Secretariat	Completed	

		48.2) Close cooperation with other WGs in place, if applicable	Parties WG SARD Secretariat	To be further undertaken	
		48.3) Meeting of the WG SARD organized in Hungary	Parties WG SARD Secretariat	To be further undertaken	
		48.4) The new EU Common Agriculture Policy considered while implementing the SARD Protocol	Parties WG SARD Secretariat	To be further undertaken	
Sustainable forest management					
COP6/1 3 para 2, 3, 4	49) Implementing the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management, including development of the Inventory of Virgin Forests of the Carpathians, which shall support the protection of the most precious forest areas of Europe	49.1) Inventory of Virgin Forests of the Carpathians finalized	Parties WG Forest Secretariat	Ongoing	
		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	Parties WG Forest Secretariat	Ongoing	
		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	Parties WG Forest Secretariat	Ongoing	
		49.4) Workshop on close-to-nature forest management for the Carpathian countries organized with support of the Czech Republic and Slovakia	Parties WG Forest Secretariat	To be further undertaken	
COP6/1 3 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,	Secretariat WG Forest WG Climate	Ongoing	

			including, if possible, climate change effects on large carnivores and their habitats developed	WG Biodiversity S4C		
COP6/1 3 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	51.1)	Organization of the session supported	Secretariat	Completed	
		51.2)	WG Forest and the WG Climate Change to participate and contribute to the session	WG Forest WG Climate Change S4C	Completed	
COP6/1 3 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	To be further undertaken	
Sustainable transport and infrastructure, industry and energy						
COP6/1 4 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	To be further undertaken	
COP6/1 4 para 3	54) Promoting results of the TRANSGREEN project funded by the INTERREG Danube Transnational Programme and led by WWF CEE	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	Parties WG Transport Secretariat	Ongoing	

		implementing the Carpathian Convention			
COP6/1 4 para 4	55) Implementing SaveGREEN project on safeguarding the functionality of transnationally important ecological corridors in the Danube region, approved by the INTERREG Danube Transnational Programme	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	Parties WG Transport WG Biodiversity Secretariat	Ongoing	
Sustainable tourism					
	GENERAL		Parties WG Tourism CSTP Secretariat		
COP6/1 5 para 1, 2, 3, 4	56) Implementing the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism, including functioning of the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform (CSTP) and its country Centres	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	WG Tourism CSTP CSTP Centre Poland CSTP Centre Romania, CSTP Centre Ukraine Secretariat	Ongoing	
		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	CSTP Centre Poland CSTP Centre Romania, CSTP Centre Ukraine Secretariat	Ongoing	

		56.3) Regular meetings between Secretariat and CSTP organized	CSTP CSTP Centre Poland CSTP Centre Romania, CSTP Centre Ukraine Secretariat	Ongoing	
		56.4) Meeting of the WG Tourism organized in Romania, or in other country offering hosting the meeting	WG Tourism CSTP CSTP Centre Romania, Secretariat	To be further undertaken	
		56.5) CSTP is successfully coordinated by the CSTP Centre Poland	CSTP CSTP Centre Poland	Ongoing	
COP6/1 5 para 7	57) Implementing the Centralparks project, funded by the INTERREG Central Europe Programme and led by Eurac Research,	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	Parties WG Tourism CSTP Secretariat	Ongoing	
Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge					
COP6/1 6 Para 1, 2	58) Implementing the Road Map to achieve the objective of the Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention	58.1) Activities of the Road Map implemented	Parties WG Cultural Heritage Secretariat	To be further undertaken	
		58.2) Meeting of the WG Cultural Heritage organized in Slovakia	Parties WG Cultural Heritage Secretariat	To be further undertaken	

COP6/1 6 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	Ongoing	
Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning					
COP6/1 7 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	Ongoing	
COP6/1 7 para 2	61) Further developing of the CCIBIS s 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	Ongoing	
Climate Change					

COP6/1 8 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	Parties WG Climate Change Secretariat	Ongoing	
		62.2) Long-term Vision 2030 towards combating climate change in the Carpathians and the corresponding Workplan for the implementation period 2021-2023 is developed and implemented and considered while implementing the Carpathian Convention	Parties WG Climate Change Secretariat	Ongoing	
		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)	Parties WG Climate Change Secretariat	Ongoing	
		62.4) Regional cooperation is strengthened, common priority actions identified and harmonized with national efforts on climate change in the Carpathian region;	Parties WG Climate Change Secretariat	Ongoing	
		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	WG Climate Change WG Forest WG Biodiversity Secretariat	Ongoing	

		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	Parties WG Climate Change WG Forest WG Biodiversity Secretariat		
		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.	Parties WG Climate Change WG Forest WG Biodiversity Secretariat	Ongoing	
		62.8) Nature-based solutions for climate mitigation and adaptation, to be best implemented at transboundary scale across the Carpathian region, identified and promoted	Parties WG Climate Change WG Forest WG Biodiversity Secretariat	Ongoing	
Awareness raising, education and public participation					
COP6/19 Para 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	63) Promoting Education for Sustainable Development while implementing the Carpathian Convnetion	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	Parties Secretariat S4C	Ongoing	

		63.2) Project “Strengthening the ESD network in the Carpathian Convention via science-policy-practice interface” is submitted for consideration of the German Federal Environment Ministry’s Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP) and, if successful, implemented.	Parties Secretariat	Ongoing	
		63.3) Respective ESD session and workshop are organized at the 6th Forum Carpaticum strengthening cooperation with the ESD experts from the Carpathians, as well as involving ESD experts in an inter-sectoral project meeting planned by UNEP GRID/Warsaw.	Secretariat	Completed	
		63.4) 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, including but not limited to, 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 9th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference and the 3rd High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries, in Cyprus on 5 – 7 October 2022.	Parties Secretariat	Completed	
		63.5) Promoting ESD-related activities of the Carpathian Convention at the relevant meeting and fora, including UNESCO World Conference on	Parties Secretariat	Ongoing	

			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						
COP6/2 3 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	Ongoing	
Presidency of the Carpathian Convention						
COP6/2 3 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	Carpathian Troika Secretariat	Ongoing	
		65.2)	Ministerial Conference of the Carpathian Convention in 2021 in Rzeszow, Poland is organized	Presidency Secretariat	Ongoing	

