

MEETING REPORT

13th Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee
22 November 2022, 16:00 – 19:00
Hotel Bristol, Rzeszów, Poland

Opening of the 13th CCIC meeting by the Secretariat and welcome remarks by the Polish Presidency

The 13th Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CCIC) meeting was opened by Mr. Harald Egerer, the Head of the UNEP Vienna Programme Office – Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, welcoming the participants and thanking the Polish Presidency of the Carpathian Convention for organizing the meeting. Ms. Bożena Haczek, Ministry of Climate and Environment of Poland – the representative of the Polish Presidency and the Chair of the 13th CCIC meeting delivered short welcome remarks and presided the meeting.

Adoption of the agenda

The Agenda was adopted without any changes.

Report on status of ratification of the Protocols to the Carpathian Convention and the Article 12bis

The Secretariat gave a short overview on the status of ratifications, encouraging the Parties to take necessary actions to fulfill the ratification obligations. Serbia informed about the ongoing process of ratification of the Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, as well as of the Article 12bis on climate change. Furthermore, Slovakia is finalizing the ratification of the Article 12bis as well.

[Information on the status of entry into force of protocols and Article 12bis to the Carpathian Convention are available on the Carpathian Convention website.](#)

Addressing the situation in Ukraine – discussion on possible support for Ukraine as a follow up of the Ministerial Conference

The CCIC members reflected on the Ministerial Carpathian Conference and its outcomes, specifically on the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration of the Carpathian Convention on the impact of war on the environment in Ukraine and the need for cooperation and assistance. First ideas for fulfilling the provisions of the declaration were exchanged, however, it was agreed that more time for reflection and internal consultation on possible assistance to Ukraine under the umbrella of the Carpathian Convention will be needed. Further discussions on this topic will be organized under the leadership of the Polish Presidency with support of the Secretariat.

Updates on implementing the Road Map towards the accession of the European Union to the Carpathian Convention

Poland provided a short updates on the steps taken in respect to establish closer cooperation with the European Commission, including the invitation letters to join the Ministerial Carpathian Conference.

The CCIC suggested to arrange meetings once the new head of the Biodiversity Unit, DG Environment in the European Commission will be established. Furthermore, consultation on the margins of the CBD COP15 were also encouraged.

The CCIC suggested further to consider the inclusion of the Ministerial Carpathian Conference and its outcomes under the AOB of the upcoming EU Environment Council, to be held on 20 December 2022.

Implementation of the Carpathian Convention: Progress Report – presentation of and discussion about main current activities with the view of the COP7 preparations

The Secretariat presented the current status of the main ongoing activities that required further discussion or guidance in regard to their finalization/advancement towards the COP7. The detailed Progress Report has been made available prior to the meeting. Among the discussed at the meeting topics were:

- **Development of the Vision 2050 for the Carpathians**

The CCIC agreed to launch a consultative process for the development of the Vision 2050 for the Carpathians, where support to Ukraine shall have a prominent place. The Vision should be adopted at the COP7 as one of the main highlights of the Conference. The Secretariat shall consult further with the Parties on the next steps in this respect.

- **Implication of the crisis in Ukraine on the Carpathian Convention**

The CCIC discussed the implications of the crisis in Ukraine on the current implementation of the the Carpathian Convention. Furthermore, the Secretariat stressed the importance of developing a project that could provide institutional support for Ukraine, allowing for proper participation in the Carpathian Convention meetings and consultations.

The Secretariat informed about consultation with Ukraine on holding the COP8 Presidency in 2026.

- **Post-2020 global biodiversity framework - Implementing the Carpathian Commitments**

The CCIC considered the Ministerial Declaration on the Carpathian Commitments for the implementation of the coming post-2020 global biodiversity framework and discussed implementation of its provisions.

In this respect, the CCIC discussed the timeline for the development of a revised Strategic Action Plan to the Carpathian Convention Protocol on Biodiversity, which will require consultation involving the Working Group on Biodiversity.

Regarding the revised [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, the CCIC was informed by the Secretariat that the MoC will be signed after official adoption of the post-2020 GBF. The Secretariat is in consultations with other secretariats on identifying an appropriate occasion for the signature, as well as on possible priority actions for the implementation of the MoC.

Furthermore, the CCIC discussed on possibilities of reflecting/aligning the Carpathian Commitments for the implementation of the coming post-2020 global biodiversity framework into the National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans (NBSAPs) to be revised by the Parties in accordance to the adopted post-2020 GBF. Further discussion on this topic are required.

The above mentioned topics will be tabled at the next meeting of the Working Group on Biodiversity to be organized in close cooperation with the WG Biodiversity Chair – Czech Republic.

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

The CCIC was invited to further consider [S4C recommendation – 6th Forum Carpathicum](#), as well as the new S4C Research Agenda while further implementing the Carpathian Convention. The S4C Research Agenda will be released soon. Furthermore, the Secretariat informed that the 7th Forum Capaticum will be held in September 2023 in Krakow, Poland. Once further information will be available, the CCIC will be invited to promote and involve relevant stakeholders in the 7th Forum Capaticum.

- **Implementation of International Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity in support of projects**

The CCIC was informed about the current projects, that will further support the implementation of the Action Plan, namely: project proposal – LECA – Supporting the coexistence and conservation of Carpathian large carnivores that was submitted to the first call of the Interreg Central Europe 2021-2027 (awaiting final evaluation) and the NaturaConnect: Designing a resilient and coherent Trans-European Network for Nature and People Horizon Europe project (approved).

These projects will be further presented at the next WG Biodiversity meeting.

- **Endorsement of the Carpathian strategies developed by the Centralparks project**

The CCIC was invited to recommend for COP7 endorsement two Carpathian strategies that were developed by the Centralparks project in consultation with the WG Biodiversity, namely:

- ✓ Carpathian strategy for enhancing biodiversity and landscape conservation outside and inside protected areas: [Full document](#) / [Factsheet](#)
- ✓ Strategy for local sustainable tourism development based on natural and cultural heritage of the Carpathians: [Full document](#) / [Factsheet](#)

The Secretariat will send official notification on that topic.

- **Establishing a CNPA association**

The Secretariat provided updates on the ongoing discussion related to the establishment of the CNPA association that would support the operations of the CNPA. The Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, in cooperation with the CNPA SC, has been preparing 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 areas, and an analysis of possible partners and funding programs to establish an association. As soon as the analyses are ready, the Secretariat will organize a meeting of the CNPA SC in order to discuss the results and propose next steps.

- **Strengthening operations of the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform**

The CCIC was informed about the opening of the new CSTP Centre-Slovakia/Office for Sustainable Tourism and Rural Development for the Carpathian Region in Slovakia, as well as about the new project proposal Central Mountains: From the Alps to the Carpathians – strengthening governance models for sustainable development of mountain areas in Central Europe”, submitted in under the first call of the Interreg Central Europe, which shall support establishing proper governance system for CSTP. The information about the approval of the project will be available mid-December 2022.

- **Finalization of the Assessment of the climate change impacts on the Carpathian forests**

The CCIC received updates regarding the development of the Assessment of the climate change impacts on the Carpathian forests including the needed next steps for its finalization before the COP7. The background document and the draft structure of the Assessment is available - [Assessment of climate change risks and impacts on the Carpathian forests and their ecosystem services – Background document](#).

- **Establishing of the Carpathian ESD network**

The CCIC received updates on the creation of the Carpathian ESD Experts Network and were invited to consider the recommendations of the [Second Carpathian ESD Seminar](#), particularly on organization of a Carpathian Day. Nominations for the Carpathian ESD Expert Network have been received from Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia to-date.

- **Promotion of the UN Decade on Ecosystems Restoration and involvement of the UN Decade flagship projects**

The CCIC was informed about the activities related to the UN Decade on Ecosystems Restoration and involvement of the Carpathian Convention in the UN Decade flagship projects. The Secretariat submitted a joint multi-country mountain restoration proposal to the World Restoration Flagship initiative under the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The initiative – based in Serbia representing Carpathians, Kyrgyzstan representing Central Asia, Uganda and Rwanda representing Virunga region– is presenting restoration activities relevant for the mountain biodiversity. 10 of inaugural flagships of its Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, will be announced at the Restoration Day, 13 December 2022, at the CBD COP15. The Secretariat will inform about the results of the joint mountain proposal.

- **Revision of the WG Chairpersons' list**

The CCIC was invited to provide updates on the nominations of the WG Chairpersons' if relevant. The CCIC shall consider the Chairmanship for the next implementation period – to be announced at the COP7.

Preparations for the COP7, updates on location and date of the CC COP7

Serbia informed about the ongoing preparations for the COP7 that will take place in October or November 2023 in Belgrade or in the area of Djerdap National Park. Concrete information about the date and location will be circulated by the end of the year by the Secretariat.

Revision and approval of the 13th CCIC recommendations

The 13th CCIC recommendations were adopted with minor changes proposed by the Czech Republic.

AOB

Romania informed about the intention to organized the 6th meeting of the Working Group SARD in April 2023 in Vatra Dornei, Romania. Furthermore, Slovakia confirmed the interest in holding the 9th Working Group Forest in the second half of 2023. In addition, the WG Biodiversity should be organized in the 1st quarter of 2023 and the 14th CCIC in 2nd quarter. The Secretariat will compile a list of planned events and will circulate to the FPs together with the 13th CCIC follow up. The Chair kindly encouraged the Parties to consult with the Secretariat first on the intentions to organize a WG meeting, taking into account the limited capacity of the Secretariat.

Conclusions and next steps

The Chair asked the Secretariat to prepare a short meeting report and circulate it together with the adopted 13th CCIC recommendations and the list of planned meetings in 2023.

Closure of the 13th CCIC meeting

The Chair thanked the participants for their cooperative spirit and contribution to the meeting discussions and announced the 13th meeting of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee closed.