

FINAL 13th CCIC Recommendations 22 November 2022, Rzeszow, Poland

DECISION COP6/1 Implementation of the Carpathian Convention

- CCIC welcomes the organization of the Carpathian Ministerial Conference held on 21-22 November 2022 in Rzeszow, Poland, and its results, particularly the declaration on Carpathian Commitments for the new post 2020 global biodiversity framework implementation and the declaration on impact of the war on the environment in Ukraine and the need for cooperation and assistance. In respect to the latter declaration, CCIC *encourages* the Parties, the Secretariat and relevant stakeholder to consider and propose next steps relevant for the implementation of the declaration.
 - 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 nominations of the respective WG Chairpersons, if relevant.
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DECISION COP6/2 Cooperation with regional and local authorities and all relevant stakeholders

- 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.
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DECISION COP6/3 Cooperation with the European Union

- CCIC encourages 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.
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DECISION COP6/4 Cooperation with United Nations Environment Programme

- CCIC *welcomes* the progress made in the respect to the Decision COP6/4.
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DECISION COP6/5 Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies

- CCIC *encourages* the Parties to engage in the development and implementation of the forthcoming 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.
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DECISION COP6/6 Implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity

- CCIC *welcomes* the Ministerial Declaration on biodiversity, which presents the Carpathian Convention Commitments for the implementation of the post-2020 GBF 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 and consult on the priority actions for its implementation.
 - 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.
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DECISION COP6/7 Cooperation with Eurac Research

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

- 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.
 - CCIC invites the Secretariat to delegate its representative in the Executive Committee of S4C.
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DECISION COP6/9 Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention

- 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 requests 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

- 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.
- CCIC *welcomes* the development of the project proposal JOINTISZA 2.0 - Strengthening the long-term sustainable management of transboundary water resources in the Tisza River Basin to be submitted under the 1st call under the Interreg Danube Region Programme, and *requests* the Secretariat to contribute to the project implementation as suitable.

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

- 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

- 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 Virgin Forests of the Carpathians, with a possible extension to other degrees of naturalness, and invites EEA/ETC/DI to continue the process.
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DECISION COP6/14 Sustainable transport and infrastructure, industry and energy Article 8 of the Carpathian Convention, Article 10 of the Carpathian

- CCIC notes the information provided regarding the final conference of the SaveGREEN project and requests the Secretariat to disseminate the relevant project results.
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DECISION COP6/15 Sustainable tourism Article 9 of the Carpathian Convention

- CCIC *welcomes* 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* 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.
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DECISION COP6/16 Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention

- CCIC *encourages* the relevant actors, including the Secretariat to continue searching for opportunities allowing for redrafting and resubmission of the Carpathian Route project.
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DECISION COP6/17 Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning Article 12 of the Carpathian Convention

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

- 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.
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DECISION COP6/19 Awareness raising, education and public participation

Article 13 of the Carpathian Convention

- CCIC *welcomes* the process of establishing the Carpathian Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), Expert Network; in this respect, *encourages* the Parties, who have not done so yet, to nominate ESD experts to the network, and *requests* the Secretariat to support the process.
- CCIC invites the parties to explore the possibility of creating "Carpathians Convention Youth Focal Point" in order to increase the engagement of young people in this process.

CCIC *encourages* the cooperation among the Focal Points and the ESD Experts, including on deciding on cooperation arrangements of the Carpathian ESD Expert Network and the Carpathian Convention institutional structure by the COP7 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 Carpaticum, 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).
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