

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 who's dedicated activity is highly appreciated.
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 as the second ministerial declaration on impact of the war on the environment in Ukraine and the need for cooperation and assistance.:

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

- 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.

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

- 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).

- 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

- 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

- 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 primely 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

- 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.

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 Strategic Action Plan to the Carpathian Convention Protocol on Biodiversity.

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

- 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.

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

- 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 Carpathicum](#) (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 2022 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 2022 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

- 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 Carpaticum, 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.

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 CNPA 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/November2022 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

- 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

- 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

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

- 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

- 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

- 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 Rzeszow 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
- Ministry of Sport and Tourism of Poland, which is cooperating with the project as associated organisation by dissemination of most relevant project's results via ministry dissemination channels such as website, newsletter, events, etc.

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. On December 12, 2022, a meeting of the Task Force of the Carpathian Convention at the Ministry of Sport and Tourism will be organized. Gathered, among others will be informed and will discuss the implementation of CC by the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform - Centrum Polska.
5. Detailed report by CSTP Poland

Institution building (Priority area I)

In 2022, clear progress was made in expanding the basic structure of cooperation on the Slovak side. After changes in the Statute of the Association of the Carpathian Euroregion Poland, 14 local governments from Slovakia joined the organization by October 2022. Among them are both towns and municipalities in eastern Slovakia from the Carpathian area. It is assumed that by the end of the year another 10 local governments will join the Euroregion. Between September and October, 12 Ukrainian local governments joined the Carpathian Euroregion, including large cities such as Stryi, Drohobych and Sambir. Strengthening the organizational foundations of the Euroregion will have a positive impact on the actual possibilities of achieving the objectives of the CSTP in the future.

In July 2022, the Ministry of the Environment sent information to the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention about entrusting the function of the CSTP Slovakia to the Association of Towns and Villages of Slovakia (ZMOS). Thus, another Centre was created within the CSTP network. Currently, CSTP Poland and ZMOS are preparing a work plan for 2023.

Cross-border Functional Areas (Priority area I)

Another field of structural activities is the issue of creating Cross-border Functional Areas in the Carpathian Region. In this regard, from November 2021 teams responsible for the preparation of the Strategy will be established, on the basis of which cross-border Integrated Territorial Investments will be designed. It is expected that due to the specificity of cross-border areas in the Carpathian Region, sustainable tourism will be the main development profile in the CBFA. It was agreed with foreign partners that starting from January 2023, the development of strategies for each of the CBFAs will begin.

Small Project Fund INTERREG PL-SK 2021-2028 (Priority area I)

On the 23th of October 2021 the Polish-Slovak Working Group on the INTERREG PL-SK 2021-2027 Program made a decision related to the system of implementation of small project funds on the Polish-Slovak border. On the basis of this decision, the Association of the Carpathian Euroregion Poland will be responsible for managing the fund in the priority 4.6 "Increasing the role of culture and tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation". This means an opportunity to financially support public sector and non-governmental entities from the field of implementation of projects supporting sustainable tourism. The Euroregion plans to open the first call for proposals in the second quarter of 2023.

Cooperation with higher education institutions in the Carpathian region (Priority area I)

In 2022, the Carpathian Euroregion established the Scientific Council of the Carpathian Euroregion. The council consists of professors – representatives of universities from Krakow (Jagiellonian University, University of Agriculture, Cracow University of Technology) and from Katowice (Academy of Physical Education). The Council is headed by prof. Andrzej Szarata - Dean of the Faculty of Civil Engineering of the Cracow University of Technology. The role of the Council is to support the Euroregion and the CSTP in the field of analyses, research and projects.

Carpathian Tourism Observatory (Priority area II)

In the second priority area the Association of the Carpathian Euroregion Poland performs intensive conceptual and organizational activities. The establishment of a professional Carpathian Tourism Observatory (CTO) is a goal of strategic importance. In this respect the Association of the Carpathian Euroregion Poland cooperates with the Institute of Tourism/ HES-SO Valais -Wallis in Sierre, Switzerland, which developed and implemented the Territorial Model of Tourism Observatory (<https://www.tourobs.ch/>). In Poland, the main partners of the Association of the Carpathian Euroregion Poland are the Statistical Office in Rzeszow and the Cracow University of Technology. The Statistical Office, using its resources, experience and cooperative ties with statistical offices of the Carpathian countries, supports the CSTP in developing the functionality and architecture of the CTO system. "In the years 2018-2020 the Statistical Office in Rzeszow, together with 7 European countries, implemented the international project ESSnet Big Data II: Workpackage J - Innovative tourism statistics. The aim of the project was to create, based on the integration of data from various sources, the concept of a prototype system for monitoring changes in tourism. In the course of the project, the model was developed to link data sources in the field of tourism for both the demand side (related to tourist travels) and the supply side (related to accommodation facilities). The prototype uses data from statistical and administrative sources, as well as from websites obtained using the author's web scraping method. As a result of the analysis of online resources, high information potential of booking and airline websites was demonstrated, which have a large amount of data changing in real mode. On their basis, among other things, quick estimates in the field of tourism were prepared and the space-time disaggregation method of travels of Polish residents to overseas countries was developed. The solutions can be used and developed as part of the tasks performed by the Carpathian Tourism Observatory". In 2022, the Euroregion started cooperation with VISA in the preparation of schemes for the use of information from payment cards for the Observatory.

EtnoCarpathia Project (Priority area III)

Source of funding:

- European Regional Development Fund, Cross-border Cooperation Program Interreg V-A Poland-Slovakia 2014-2020.
- Financed by the National Institute of Liberty - Civil Society Development Center from the funds of the Civic Organization Development Program for the years 2018-2030 (until the end of 2021).

Completion period: 01.11.2019-31.10.2022.

Project Partners:

- Municipal Cultural Center in Vranov (PP1)
- District Museum in Rzeszow (PP2)

Total value of the project: EUR 844,701.74 EUR (100%), SEKP: EUR 515,370.00

Idea and short description of the project:

The main idea of the project was to develop and promote the cultural heritage of the Polish-Slovak borderland through the development of the EtnoCarpathia tourist product based on the resources of the Carpathian culture. Traditional folk culture of the ethnographic groups existing in the area of the borderland until World War II is an important factor of tourism development in the Carpathian Mountains. Therefore, the activities planned in the project were aimed at increasing the attractiveness and recognizability of the borderland through the use of cultural heritage resources of 7 Carpathian cultures

from Poland and Slovakia (Pogorzans, Dolinians, Lemkos, Boykos, inhabitants of former Šariš, Zemplin and Zamagurie regions). The EtnoCarpathia product was developed under a common, already existing international Carpathian brand and offers tourists the opportunity to get to know the authenticity and multiculturalism of the Polish-Slovak part of the Carpathian Mountains, diverse crafts and unique traditions. As part of the project, the website <https://etno.visitcarpathia.com/> was created. It is a compendium of knowledge about 7 cultures of the Polish-Slovak borderland and a promoting tool of the tourist product. It is a pro-development instrument which is constantly updated with new content and may include information about ethnographic cultures of other Carpathian countries in the future. The website is also connected with a dedicated mobile app. Moreover, the inventory of ethnographic resources was carried out and publications were created. The CarpathiaEtnoDesign competition for young designers was organized, which was the opportunity to meet "old and new", combining traditional design and modern trends, and also actively involved young people in the project. Handicraft workshops (Lemko necklaces (krywulka), Boyko necklaces (sylvianka), felting, cross-stitch embroidery) addressed to all enthusiasts of Carpathian crafts or local artists, photography workshops on product photography or those concerning modern marketing tools, as well as information meetings on the creation and importance of territorial brands. In addition, the project was promoted during events like EtnoWeekend, study tour of Polish and Slovak journalists and bloggers, an international conference.

"Between the Fiords and the Carpathian Mountains - the platform for the exchange of experiences in tourism education" (Priority area III)

Source of funding: "Education" program under the Norwegian and EEA funds in Poland (Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area - Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway)

Completion period: 01.02.2022-31.01.2024

Project Partners:

- Bronislaw Markiewicz State Higher School of Technology and Economics in Jaroslaw (PWSTE)
- Association of the Carpathian Euroregion Poland
- Nord University

Total value of the project: EUR 229,370.00 (100%), SEKP: EUR 36,585.00

Idea and short description of the project:

The project aims to increase the quality of higher and secondary vocational education in tourism in the border area of the Polish part of the Carpathian Euroregion, using Norwegian models. The activities of the project will ensure raising the level of knowledge both of students, pupils (thanks to new curricula at the professional level) and people working in the tourism sector (participation in quality circles). Through the organization of periodic meetings, cooperation between the education and tourism sectors in the region will be strengthened. On the other hand, through the transfer of knowledge and innovation, ensured by ongoing cooperation with the Norwegian partner and participation in the study visit, local entrepreneurship of the sector will be strengthened. The project will also influence the strengthening of professional competences of the region's tourism sector staff and managers, as well as will ensure the exchange of good practices. Innovative elements of the project will include professional education programs in tourism on the basis of Norwegian models and ensuring the implementation of "Carpathia" brand strategy. In addition, the project will include innovative meetings such as co-creations stimulating cooperation between students and representatives of the tourism sector and meetings such as quality circles aimed at raising the level of knowledge of people involved in management and service of the tourism sector in the Carpathian Euroregion. Groups of target recipients of the project include: staff and students of the PWSTE, staff and students of secondary vocational schools, representatives of the tourism sector (tourist organizations, associations, facilities, departments of offices), tourists visiting the border area of the Carpathian Euroregion, teaching staff from other vocational schools in the project area, centers and sections related to the development of education, as well as local governments from border areas.

Concrete CCIC recommendations for action

- 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.

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

- CCIC *encourages* the relevant actors, including the Secretariat to continue searching for opportunities allowing for redrafting and 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

- 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

- 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

- 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.

- CICC 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 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 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).

Annex 1

Programme of Work of the Carpathian Convention by sectors, 1 January 2021 – 31 December 2023 - CCIC 2022 RECOMMENDATIONS

| 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 | 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. |
| | | 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 | Ongoing | CCIC invites the Parties to provide updates on their nominations of the respective WG Chairpersons, if relevant. |
| | | 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 | 5.1) Relevant consultations undergone, support form relevant programmes and institutions received | Parties Secretariat | Ongoing | |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|--|---------------------------------------|---------|---|
| | the relevant financial instruments | | | | |
| 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 Chairpersons | 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 | |
| | | | | | <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> |

| 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 the Carpathian region, and of the Convention's activities | 8.1) Project on establishing outreach programmes developed | Secretariat | Ongoing | 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. |
| 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 | 10.1) Cooperation with relevant EU institutions promoted and strengthened | Parties Secretariat | Ongoing | |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|---------------------|--------------------------|--|
| | REGIO and DG Environment, DG AGRI, DEVCO, the European Parliament, the European Committee of Regions, and the European Environment Agency | | | | |
| 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 | 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. |
| | | 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 | 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 |
| 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 | 15.1) Relevant consultations undertaken | Secretariat | Completed | |

| | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---------------------|---------|--|
| | 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; | | | | |
| 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 | |
| COP6/3 para 14, 15 | 17) Contributing to the implementation of the EU strategies and policies, especially the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, new EU Forest Strategy post-2020, and the European Green Deal | 17.1) Exchange of information and relevant consultation undertaken | Parties Secretariat | Ongoing | |
| 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 | CCIC welcomes the progress made in the respect to the Decision COP6/4. |
| 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 | 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. |
| | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|------------------|---|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 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 | CCIC welcomes the UN Decade flagship projects and encourages the Parties and other stakeholders to further contribute to the process, and requests the Secretariat to assist further. |
| 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 | 27.1 Regular exchange of information in place | Secretariat | Ongoing | |

| | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---------------------|--------------------------|--|
| | Convention and discuss possible further common activities with the ICPDR Secretariat; | 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, translating the Global 2050 Goals and 2030 Action Targets to the regional level, including promoting mountain biodiversity | 30.1) Further promotion of the Carpathian Convention at the global level in respect the Post-2020 GBF in place | Secretariat | Ongoing | 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. |
| | | 30.2) further consultation with UNEP and other biodiversity related conventions regarding possible synergies for the implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in place | Secretariat | Ongoing | |
| | | 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 | Completed | 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. |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| | | 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 | 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. |
| 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 | 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. |
| 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 creating synergies between its stakeholders and promoting inter-sectoral cooperation, such as stronger collaboration with | 33.1) Implementation of the Carpathian Convention supported with its sound scientific knowledge and expertise | S4C Secretariat Parties | Ongoing | CCIC encourages the Parties, the Secretariat and other actors to consider the specific recommendations from the 6th Forum Carpathicum. |
| | | 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 | 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. |

| | | | | | |
|---------------|---|--|-------------------------|-----------|--|
| | the Science for the Carpathians network | 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 | CCIC requests the Secretariat to support the organization of the 7th Forum Carpaticum, as relevant. |
| | | 33.4) Further projects supporting science – policy – practice interface developed and implemented | S4C Secretariat Parties | Ongoing | 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 |
| 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 | 36.1) Scientific exchange between the Carpathians and other regions further fostered | Secretariat S4C | Completed | |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|---|--|--|-----------|--|
| | Network (S4C) and the Scientific Network for the Caucasus Mountain Region | | | | |
| Biodiversity | | | | | |
| COP6/9 | GENERAL | | Parties WG Biodiversity Secretariat | | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> |
| 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 | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> |
| 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 Carpathian forests and their ecosystem services | Parties WG Biodiversity WG Climate Change Secretariat | Ongoing | |
| COP6/9 para 6, 7 | 40) Implementing the project <i>ConnectGREEN - Restoring and managing ecological corridors in mountains as the green</i> infrastructure in the Danube basin 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 | 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. |
| | | | CNPA WG Biodiversity | Ongoing | CCIC welcomes the recommendations of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas Steering Committee and the |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|--------------------------|---|
| COP6/9 para 9, 10, 11 12 | 42) Cooperating with the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) | 42.1) Communication and sharing relevant strengthened | Parties | | idea of establishing a CNPA association. In this respect, the CCIC invites the CNPA SC and the Secretariat to assist the process. |
| | | 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 connectivity, exchanges on protected areas management, education and other specific topics common to the three networks | CNPA WG Biodiversity Parties | To be further undertaken | |
| | | 42.4) 3rd Conference for the Carpathian Protected Areas in 2021 organized | CNPA WG Biodiversity Parties | Completed | |
| COP6/9 para 13,14,15, 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 | | | | | |
|---|---|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| COP6/10 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 | 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. |
| | | 47.2) Development and implementation of the JoinTisza - follow up project supported | Parties Secretariat Relevant WGs | Ongoing | 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. |
| | | 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 | | | | | |
| COP6/1 2 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 | Ongoing | 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. |
| | | 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 | | | | | |
| GENERAL | | | | | 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. |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|--|--------------------------|---|
| 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 | 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. |
| | | 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 | 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. |
| | | 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 | 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. |
| | | 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, including, if possible, climate change effects on large carnivores and their habitats developed | Secretariat WG Forest WG Climate WG Biodiversity S4C | Ongoing | |
| 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 | 51.1) Organization of the session supported | Secretariat | Completed | |
| | | | WG Forest WG Climate Change | Completed | |

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|--------|--|---|--------------------------|--|
| | Carpaticum, to be held in 2021 in Brno, Czech Republic | 51.2) | WG Forest and the WG Climate Change to participate and contribute to the session | S4C | | |
| 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 implementing the Carpathian Convention | Parties WG Transport Secretariat | Ongoing | |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|---------|--|
| 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 | CCIC notes the information provided regarding the final conference of the SaveGREEN project and requests the Secretariat to disseminate the relevant project results. |
| Sustainable tourism | | | | | |
| 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 | 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. |
| | | 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 | CCIC encourages further the CSTP Centers and the Secretariat to progress in making the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform fully operational. |

| | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--------------------------|---|
| | | 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 | 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. |
| 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 | CCIC encourages the relevant actors, including the Secretariat to continue searching for opportunities allowing for redrafting and resubmission of the Carpathian Route project. |
| 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 | 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. |
| 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 | CCIC encourages the Secretariat and relevant partners to make further progress in improving the CCIBIS, including by installing it within the Carpathian Convention website. |

| 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 | CCIC encourages the WG Climate Change to implement the WG Climate Change Work Plan 2021 – 2023. |
| | | 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 | WG Climate Change WG Forest WG Biodiversity Secretariat | Ongoing | |

| | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|---------|---|
| | | consideration into all Convention's topics and activities | | | |
| | | 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 ecosystem 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 | 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. |
| | | 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 | 63.1) Recommendations elaborated by the Carpathian ESD Seminar and the workshop "Education for Science and Society in the Carpathians" at the 5th Forum | Parties Secretariat S4C | Ongoing | 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 |

| | | | | | |
|--|--|-------|--|---------------------|--|
| | while implementing the Carpathian Convention | | | | <p>ESD experts to the network, and requests the Secretariat to support the process.</p> <p>CICC 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.</p> <p>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 COP 7 of the Carpathian Convention.</p> <p>CCIC invites the Carpathian Troika to continue collaborating on supporting the Carpathian ESD Expert Network and its activities.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>CCIC requests the Secretariat to continue its liaison with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Steering Committee on ESD as</p> |
| | | 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 Carpathicum 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 | Parties Secretariat | Completed |

| | | | | | |
|--|---|---|-------------------------------|-----------|---|
| | | Environment Ministries, in Cyprus on 5 – 7 October 2022. | | | relevant, and to explore collaboration with the Global Education Network Europe (GENE). |
| | | 63.5) Promoting ESD-related activities of the Carpathian Convention at the relevant meeting and fora, including UNESCO World Conference on ESD (date tbc), the 11th World Environmental Education Congress (October 2022) | Parties Secretariat | Completed | |
| 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 | Serbia informed about the organization of the COP7 in October/November in Serbia, most likely in Belgrade. Concrete date and location will be shared as soon as possible. |
| 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 | |