



14th Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee Meeting

14-16 June 2023, Mszana Dolna



Progress Report - WG Forest

WG Forest Chair, Slovakia – SCC on behalf

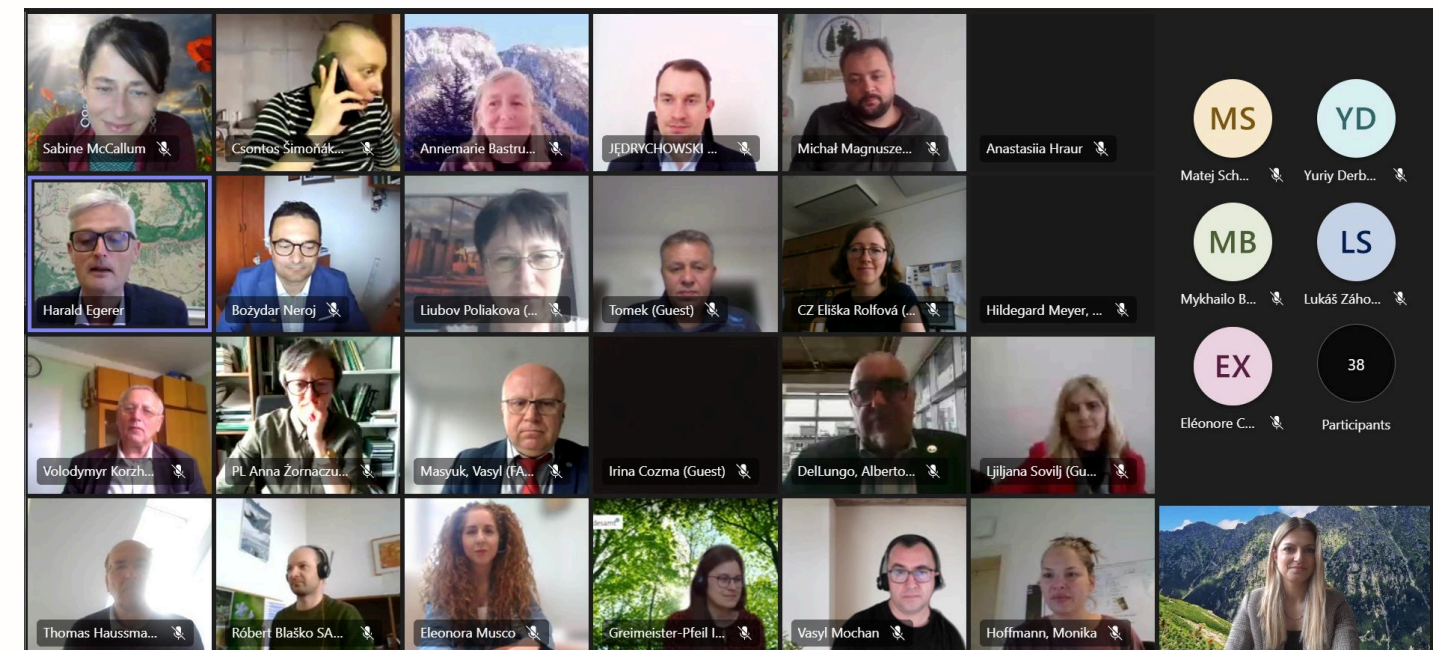


Photo: [krystianwin](#)

Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management (WG Forest) meetings

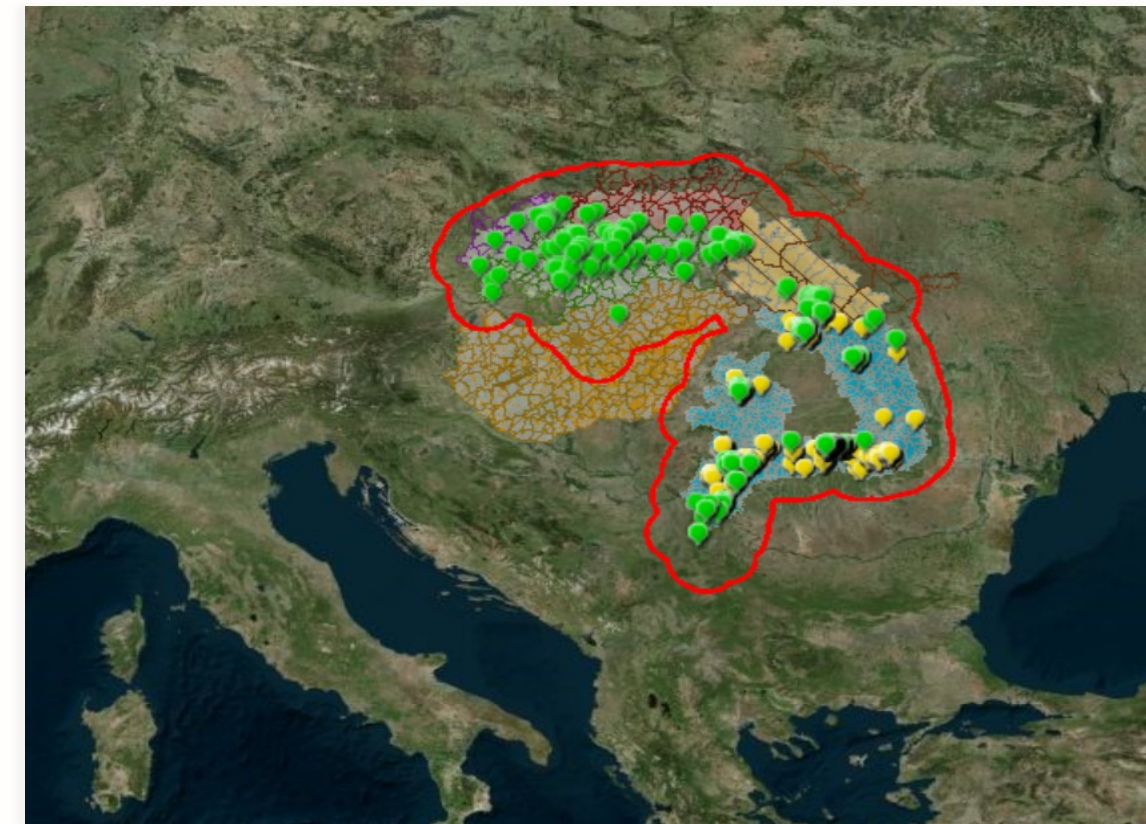
➤ 8th meeting of the Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management (WG Forest) held on 10-12 October 2022 in Levice, Slovakia

➤ 9th meeting of the WG Forest held on 16 May 2023 held in an online format



DECISION COP6/13 Sustainable Forest Management

- ❖ Implementing the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management, including the development of the Inventory of Virgin Forests of the Carpathians, which shall support the protection of the most precious forest areas of Europe
- **Status of the Carpathian Virgin Forests Inventory:** upcoming inclusion of data from Ukraine and Poland.
- **Updated Baseline:** The revised baseline by EEA of the Inventory is planned for completion in summer, in time for consultation and presentation at the COP7 in October 2023.
- **Proposed Next Steps:** Creation of a non-official layer on virgin and quasi-virgin forests, an update of the Inventory according to new definitions on natural/old growth forests, and a potential workshop to be organized in 2024 with the involvement of the EEA, ETC BE, SCC, WG Forests.
- Link to the map:
<https://maps.eea.europa.eu/EEAViewer/?appid=151024dc3c4d43848accc4cf7b5c63e0>



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Definition and criteria of natural forests:

- **First Alternative Note:** Developed considering the definition of "virgin forest" in accordance with the Carpathian Convention, the Forest Protocol, and its action plan.
- **Second Alternative Note:** Developed in line with the Carpathian Convention and the European Commission Guidelines for defining, mapping, monitoring, and strictly protecting EU Primary and Old-Growth Forests.
- **Proposal for a Third Alternative Note:** The Secretariat proposed developing a third note based on the Romanian proposal, to be circulated before the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CCIC) meeting (still pending), scheduled for 14 - 16 June 2023 in Mszana Dolna, Poland.

DECISION COP6/13 Sustainable Forest Management

DECISION COP6/18 Climate change

❖ Developing an assessment of the impacts of climate change on the Carpathian forests and their ecosystems services – further process :

- This initiative was recommended at the 6th meeting of the Carpathian Convention Conference of the Parties (COP6, 2020) and is part of the Implementation Framework 2030 for combating climate change in the Carpathians.
- **Approach:** Analysis was done by coding survey responses to highlight frequent risks, impacts, and adaptation responses.
- **Triangulation Method:** This allowed for the identification of top concerns, presented as findings.
- **Assessment of CC:** altered disturbance regimes, drought risks, altered hydrologic regimes & flood risks, declines in forest growth and productivity, altered species composition and distribution.
- the Secretariat consolidated feedback and provided an updated/expanded version to the **CCIC meeting**
- the Secretariat will further prepare the assessment for **publication and approval by the CC COP7 in October 2023**