



# 14<sup>th</sup> Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee Meeting

## 14-16 June 2023, Mszana Dolna



Progress Report – General

Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention



Photo: [krystianwin](#)



# DECISION COP6/1 Implementation of the Carpathian Convention

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# Carpathian Ministerial Conference

21-22 November 2022 Rzeszów, Poland

The Carpathian Ministerial Conference marks a milestone in regional cooperation!

High-level representatives of the 7 Carpathian Convention Parties gathered to discuss the most pressing challenges of the region – biodiversity protection and the crisis in Ukraine.

Declaration adopted at the Conference:

- **Carpathian Commitments for the new post-2020 global biodiversity framework implementation,**
- **Declaration on the impact of the war on the environment in Ukraine and the need for cooperation and assistance.**



# Carpathian Vision 2050

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- By 2050, the Carpathians is a thriving and sustainable region where people live in harmony with nature,
- The biodiversity and natural beauty of the Carpathians are conserved, restored, and wisely used providing a healthy environment and essential ecosystem services for all people of the region and beyond.



**Carpathian Biodiversity Framework** is a tool supporting transformative actions across and within various sectors to implement the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols, setting out a vision for the Carpathians as a model mountain region for sustainable development and preservation of the natural environment

- aims at fostering joint activities in main priority areas of cooperation
- allows for synergies with important regional, European and international objectives: CBD's Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, 2030 the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, SDGs of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development
- help to achieve the Carpathian Convention's general objectives of the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians
- **Mainstreaming of the Carpathian Convention into the revised National Biological Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)!**
  - a game changer for the Convention
  - an opportunity for streamlined reporting



## DECISION COP6/1

# Implementation of the Carpathian Convention

## Reporting under the Convention

Possible inclusion of the Carpathian Convention into the Data Reporting Tool for MEAs (DaRT) – need for consideration.



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## Carpathian Convention

Table indicating the Carpathian Convention Working Groups and the Parties taking the leading role of them for the period of 2021 – 2023 (from COP6 to COP7)

Name of the Working Group	Leading role
WG on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity	
WG on Spatial Development	?
WG on Agriculture and Rural Development	
WG on Sustainable Forest Management	
WG on Sustainable Industry, Energy, Transport and Infrastructure	
WG on Sustainable Tourism	
WG on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge	
WG on Adaptation to Climate Change	

## DECISION COP6/1 Implementation of the Carpathian Convention

### Improving the functioning of the Working Groups

- A list of Working Group Chairs was established,
- Cooperation with the WG Chairs is working very well.

# DECISION COP6/1 Implementation of the Carpathian Convention



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## Modernizing the Carpathian Convention website

Reorganizing and updating the content of the website and providing a fresh and user-friendly interface,

To be ready by the COP7.





# DECISION COP6/1 Implementation of the Carpathian Convention

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## WG Meetings organized in the implementation period 2021 - 2023

- 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Sustainable Tourism on 15 April 2021, online,
- 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Climate Change on 6 May 2021, online,
- 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Biodiversity on 19-20 May 2021, online,
- 12<sup>th</sup> CCIC meeting on 18-19 November 2021 in Krakow, Poland,
- 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development on 17 March 2022, online,
- 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the WG Biodiversity on 11-12 April 2022, online,
- 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Sustainable Forest on 10-12 October 2022, Levice, Slovakia,
- 13<sup>th</sup> CIC meeting on 22 November 2023 in Rzeszow, Poland,
- 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the WG SARD, on 26-27 April 2023, Vatra Dornei, Romania,
- 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the WG Forest, 16 May 2023, online,
- 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the WG Biodiversity, 22-24 May 2023, Vsetin, Czech Republic,
- 14<sup>th</sup> CCIC meeting on 14-16 June 2023 in Mszana Dolna, Poland.

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

**Central Mountains: From the Alps to the Carpathians – Improving cooperation among mountainous regions** - development and approval of a new project under the Interreg Central Europe Programme.

Project duration: April 2023 – March 2026.

Project budget: 2,330.00 EUR





Co-funded by  
the European Union

Central Mountains

### Project objectives:

Enhance cooperation among the stakeholders of the Alps-Carpathians mountains following, including the development of the **Alpine-Carpathian joint strategy for community-led sustainable development of mountain areas in Central Europe,**

Strengthening the capacities of Alpine-Carpathian stakeholders, including the development of the **Alpine-Carpathian toolbox for active involvement of citizens and youth in decision-making processes.**

### Project partners:

- 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,

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

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Development of the project proposal  
**Carpathian Bridge - participatory mechanism of the Carpathian Convention at the local level**  
**- NOT FUNDED**

- Submitted to the International Visegrad Fund on 30 September 2021
- Lead Partner - Ecopsychology Society, Poland
- Duration: 18 months, starting from 1/02/2022, if awarded.

### Project objectives:

Increasing awareness about the Convention objectives and its relevance for the region and establishing a mechanism involving local and regional authorities and stakeholders in the Convention and:

- Relevant workshop at local and regional level - **Carpathian Leader Workshop,**
- Carpathian Leaders local consultations,
- Participatory mechanism of the Carpathian Convention at the local / regional level,
- Information Brochure on the Convention,
- Database of local leaders/stakeholders.

### Project partners:

1. Ekopsychology Society – PL / Lead Partners
2. Education and Information Center Bílé Karpaty – CZ
3. Technical University in Zvolen - SK
4. Humtour LLC. – HU
5. International Charitable Organisation “Information Center “Green Dossier - UA
6. Tourism Development Centre for High Tatras Area - SK

## DECISION COP6/4 Cooperation with United Nations Environment Programme

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### **The Secretariat continues participating in the meeting of the UNEP Focal Points for Multilateral Environmental Agreements supporting:**

- Promotion of the Carpathian Convention, its objectives and ongoing activities at the UNEP and UN at large,
- Contributes to the consultation on the organization of the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA-6), scheduled to take place from 26 February – 1 March 2024 in Nairobi and particularly on strengthening the contribution and participation of MEAs Secretariats and their governing bodies in UNEA, which results in possible inclusion of a supplementary item on “Cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements” in the provisional agenda of the UNEA-6,
- Involving the Carpathian Convention in the Bern Process, which is focused on strengthening cooperation and coordination among biodiversity-related conventions contributing to an effective and efficient implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework, recognizing that the Carpathian Convention is a viable vehicle for the implementation of the GBF.

## DECISION COP6/4 Cooperation with United Nations Environment Programme

### Promoting the Carpathian Convention within the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

- Joint statement of the Carpathian Convention and its Observers welcoming the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration,
- The Carpathians promoted in the 10 World Restoration Flagships of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration - selected Multi-Country Mountain Flagship celebrating the success story of mountain restoration efforts in Kyrgyzstan, **Serbia**, Uganda and Rwanda.



## DECISION COP6/5 Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies

### Cooperation with the Alpine Convention:

- Regular contact seeking further opportunities for cooperation and common activities,
- Mutual representation at relevant meetings,
- Continued expert exchange with the Alpine Biodiversity Board and the Alpine Climate Board,
- Exchange with the Platform Large Carnivores, Wild Ungulates and Society (WISO) of the Alpine Convention.

#### Joint meetings

- Mountain Biodiversity Day, 13 January 2021
- Carpathian Biodiversity Forum on 15-16 December 2021,
- Mountain Biodiversity 2002-2022: achievements and next challenges at global and regional level on 16 September 2022.



## DECISION COP6/5 Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies

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### Carpathian Convention recognized in the UNGA Resolution on:

- “Sustainable Mountain Development” adopted in 2021,
- “Sustainable Mountain Development” adopted in 2022, with a focus on proclaiming the period of 2023–2027 as Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions,
- “Nature knows no borders: transboundary cooperation – a key factor for biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use”.



## DECISION COP6/5 Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies

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### Supporting the exchange on mountain governance

➤ **Presenting the Carpathian Convention as a good example at various meetings, including:**

- Regional Dialogue on Governance in the Andes and Mountain Regions on 27-28 April 2021,
- Regional Dialogues on the Integral Management of Páramos and other High Mountain Ecosystems, co-organized by CONDESAN on 21 October,
- Interregional workshop Mountains Connect, under the auspices of the Adaptation at Altitude programme, on 20-22 June 2022 in Vienna, Austria,
- Exchange with the Hindu Kush Himalaya and ICIMOD, June 2022,
- The Andes and the Andean Mountain Initiative, June 2023,
- The Carpathian Convention was represented at the 6th Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership in Aspen, Colorado US by Romania and its National Agency of the Mountain Areas.



## DECISION COP6/8 Cooperation with Eurac Research

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- Continuing strong strategic cooperation,
- Close cooperation on project development and implementation,
- Renewing the annex to the Memorandum of Cooperation between UNEP Vienna Office-Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and Eurac Research.

**eurac**  
research

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

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## Strengthening the cooperation with the Science for the Carpathians:

- A great collaboration for strengthening science – policy – practice interface,
- Regular exchange and inputs of S4C to the CC Working Group meetings,
- Close cooperation for the organization of the Forum Carpaticum 2021 - Linking the Environmental, Political and Societal Aspects for Carpathian Sustainability and co-organized several sessions and workshops during the Forum (21-25 June 2021),
- Co-organized a ceremony of signing the Memorandum of Understanding for the Cooperation between the S4C and the SNC-mt,
- Supporting organization of the Forum Carpaticum 2023 to be held on 25-29 September 2023 in Krakow, Poland.

Research Agenda for the Carpathians 2022-2030,

S4C for the elaboration of the recommendations for the Carpathian Convention,

Secretariat shall delegate its representative to the Executive Committee of S4C.

# DECISION COP6/11 Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management

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## International River Symposium

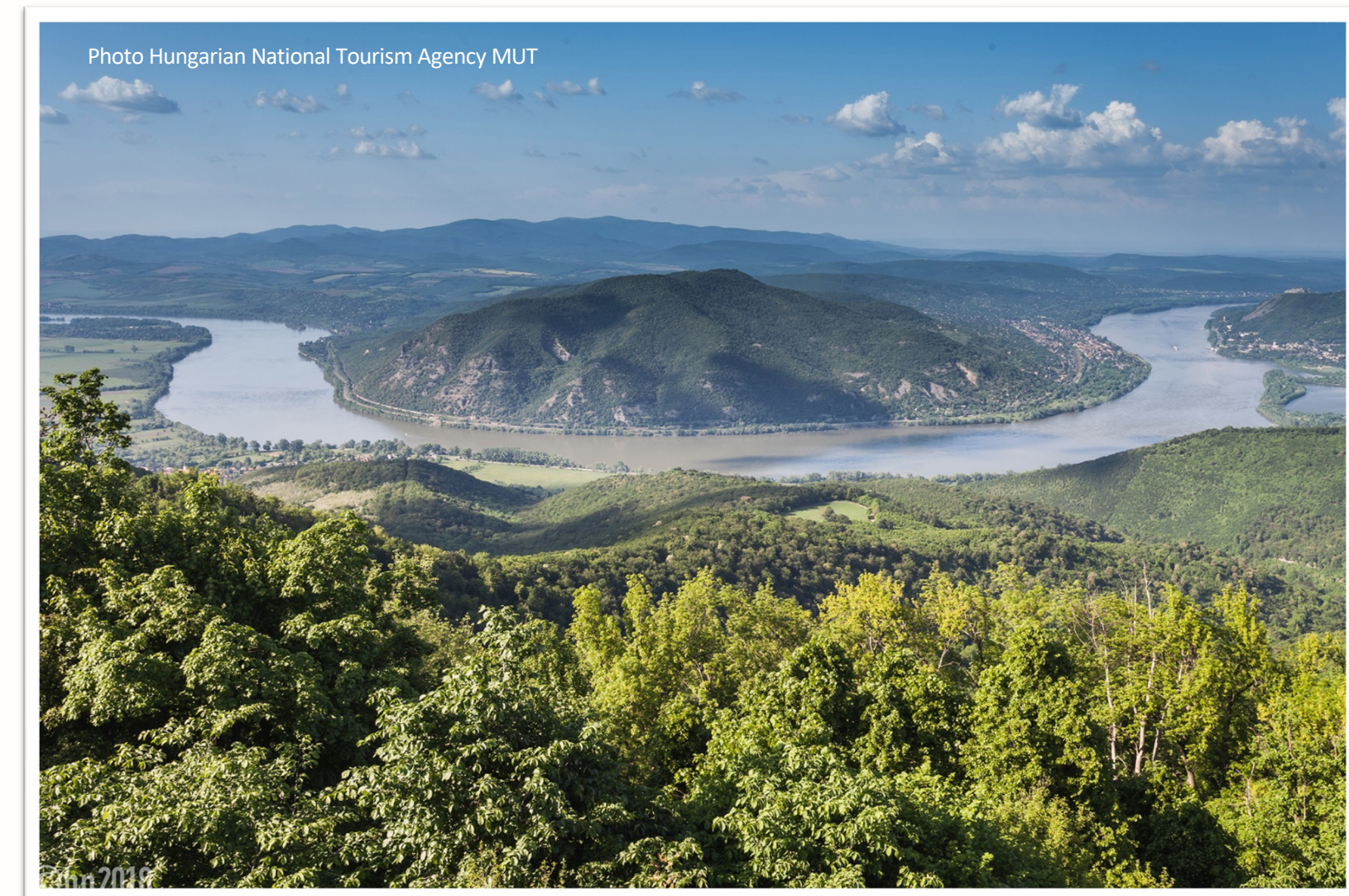
Secretariat co-organized a session within the International River Symposium, Vienna, Austria 27-30 November 2022. on "Partnerships for community action to increase river resilience". Concerning the Carpathian region, the challenge of plastic pollution in the Tisza River was presented, highlighting the partnerships that have resulted in strong community action like the [Danube Region Programme Tid\(y\)Up project](#).

## Active exchange with the EUSDR PA4 (Water)

Secretariat was invited to present the Carpathian Convention activities at the EUSDR PA4 (Water) Steering Group meeting on 19.10.2021 online.

## Continuing cooperation with the ICPDR Tisza Group

Possible engagement in the JoinTisza follow-up project – ongoing discussion.



## DECISION COP6/14 Sustainable transport and infrastructure, industry and energy

### Supporting implementation of the SaveGREEN project

- The results of the project were presented at the last WG Biodiversity meeting,
- One of the main results of the projects with the involvement of the Carpathian Convention is the “Joint Declaration on Achieving functional biodiversity in the Danube-Carpathian Region by mainstreaming ecological connectivity presented at the EUSDR Annual Forum 2022,

Follow-up activities are in consultation with the EUSDR PA6 and WWF.



Photo\_Tomas Hulik

## DECISION COP6/17 Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning

### Carpathian Integrated Biodiversity Information System (CCIBIS)

- Thanks to the support of the SaveGREEN project, the Carpathian Integrated Biodiversity Information System (CCIBIS) has been greatly improved,
- Continuing cooperation with the EEA for further development and integration of the CCIBIS into EU/EEA information systems.



## DECISION COP6/18 Climate change

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### ➤ 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the WG Climate Change, 6 May 2021, ONLINE:

Implementation of the Long-term Vision 2030 towards combating climate change in the Carpathians, adopted by the Carpathian Convention COP6



WG Climate Change Work Plan 2021 - 2023 setting out concrete activities and expected results for the implementation period 2021-2023

Supporting consultations on the development of an assessment of the impacts of climate change on the Carpathian forests and their ecosystems services

Strengthening cooperation with other initiatives

- Alpine Climate Board
- ICPDR Tisza Group
- Carpathian Wetland Initiative
- Global EbA Fund
- Forum Carpaticum
- UNFCCC COP26

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

## Carpathian ESD: Update

- **Nominations of governmental ESD Experts to the Network by Convention Parties**

Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia

❓ Expecting soon: Serbia

- **Second Carpathian ESD Seminar**

28-30 September, Zakopane, Poland, 2022

building collaborations and identifying joint actions: Carpathian Day and more

Several follow up activities by the experts



## Carpathian ESD: Update

- **9th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference 5-7 of October 2022, Nicosia, Cyprus**

Side event: ESD Expert Network in the Carpathian Region:

Hungary, Serbia and Poland: positive messages of endorsement

Interventions at High-level session of Education ministers

Synergies with Global Education networks

- **Global Education Congress, 3-4 November 2022, Dublin, Ireland**





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

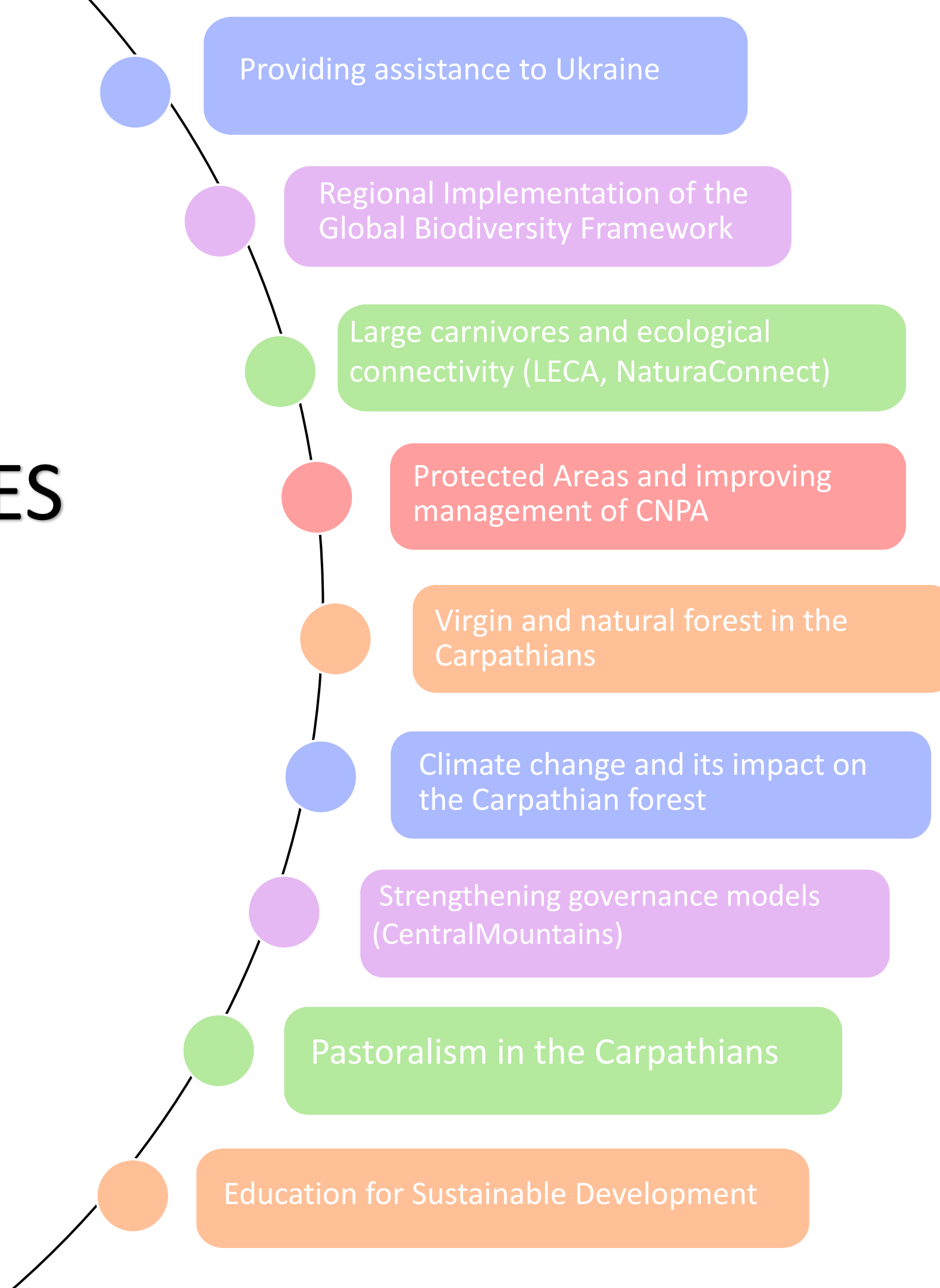
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## Carpathian ESD: Update

- **ESD Reflection and linkages at the WG SARD meeting, April 2023**
- ☐ Caucasus Mountain Forum, 4-6 July 2023
  - S4C represented, cross-regional ESD Session
- ☐ Forum Carpathicum, September 25-29, 2023
  - ESD Workshop and Session
- ☐ Recommendation on Integrating the ESD Expert Network into the Carpathian Convention: envisioned at COP 7
- ☐ Follow up project development - based on recommendations
  - links with Carpathian Pastoralism, Biodiversity strategy, Support for Ukraine, Serbian Presidency priorities?



# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2024-2026



Strengthening regional cooperation