

PROGRESS REPORT 2021 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 12th Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee meeting website under BAGROUND DOCUMENTS²

DECISION COP6/1 Implementation of the Carpathian Convention

1. 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. At the moment, the Carpathian Convention Protocol on Biodiversity is added into the DaRT, showcasing that reporting on the regional convention and strategies will be possible under DaRT. Upon request of the Carpathian Convention Parties, the Secretariat could consult further on organizing a hands-on workshop for the Focal Points or other representatives on functionalities of the DaRT, which should allow for better understanding how the reporting tool works, and whether it would be useful for the reporting under the Carpathian Convention.
2. Further to the COP6/1 para 6 and 7 on establishing the role of the Working Group Chairs, the Secretariat established a list of Working Group Chairs and their contacts, based on the nominations received by the Parties. The list was circulated to the Focal Points and the Working Group Chairs.
3. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Secretariat continues organizing the meetings in an online format, including the 10th Meeting of the Working Group on Sustainable Tourism on 15 April 2021, 8th Meeting of the Working Group on Climate Change on 6 May 2021 and the 12th Working Group on Biodiversity on 19-20 May 2021. More information about the WG meetings are available in the respective thematic sectors.

Furthermore, upon the invitation of the Polish Presidency, the Secretariat has undertaken preparation for a physical meeting of the 12th Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee to be organized in Krakow, Poland on 18-19 November 2021 in Krakow, Poland.

4. The Secretariat has been 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 first draft of the website was presented at the 12th CCIC meeting.

¹ Annex 1, p.25

² Link to the 12 CCIC meeting website: <http://www.carpathianconvention.org/eventdetailccic/events/id-12th-meeting-of-the-carpathian-convention-implementation-committee.html>

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

1. Further to the Decision COP6/2 para 4 and following the Priorities of the Polish Presidency of the Carpathian Convention, the Secretariat supported development of the project proposal “**Carpathian Bridge - participatory mechanism of the Carpathian Convention at the local level**”, which was successfully submitted to the International Visegrad Fund on 30 September 2021 by the project lead partner – Ecopsychology Society, Poland. The project aims at establishing closer cooperation between the Carpathian Convention and relevant local stakeholders.

The Secretariat provided the key assistance in drafting and coordinating the project proposal and will continue supporting the project implementation, if successful, however, it was illegible to join the consortium under the Visegrad Programme. Furthermore, the Visegrad Programme does not cover all the Carpathian Parties (Romania and Serbia outside of the programme scope), nevertheless, the Secretariat will try to ensure the involvement of relevant actors from all the Parties, hopefully with kind support of the Focal Points considering the importance of the project objectives.

Short description of the project:

The project will address critical gaps in awareness about the Convention objectives and its relevance for the region, hence, gaps in the implementation of Convention at local/regional levels. The project aims at establishing a mechanism involving local and regional authorities and stakeholders in the Convention. This would be a crucial step in strengthening participatory sustainability governance at the local level, helping to better understand how to integrate Convention issues into local and regional policy agenda and vice versa. Best practices of participatory implementation from Carpathian countries will be collected and exchanged. Furthermore, networking and consultation workshops will be conducted to facilitate long-term inclusion of locally/ regionally active individuals and organizations. Brochures about the Convention in English and Carpathian languages will be updated and circulated.

Planned activities:

1. **Preparatory Exchange Workshop** (online) - initiate exchange focused on the available information and education materials, stakeholder networks, and the mechanism of participatory governance and collaboration between the local level and the Convention.
2. **Carpathian Leader Workshop in Poland** - organized by the partners for Carpathian Leaders from Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland and Ukraine (each project partner will identify 2 Carpathian Leaders representing 1) local authority and 2) civil society organization. Potentially, identified leaders from Serbia and Romania will also be invited), where series of designated thematic workshop will be held.
3. **Information Brochure on the Convention** - Concise information and promotion brochure about the Carpathian Convention will be created based on the project consultation process, and on the feedback from the local stakeholders and Carpathian Leaders. The brochures will be made available in English and Carpathian Languages in print and electronic format. The brochures will serve as a communication and educational tool about the Carpathian Convention at the local level.

4. **Carpathian Leaders local consultations in the partner countries Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Ukraine** - Each Carpathian leader, participating in the workshop, will be tasked with consulting local and regional self-governments, nongovernmental organizations and other relevant actors on the results of the workshop, collecting feedback to the suggested mechanism /model, and communicating the feedback to the partners.
5. **Participatory mechanism of the Carpathian Convention at the local / regional level** - A participatory mechanism will be co-developed based on the exchange during the workshops, and based on the feedback collected by the Carpathian Leaders from the local and regional stakeholders, and on the following consultations. The resulting proposed draft mechanism will be communicated to the Carpathian Convention Focal Points, and an online consultation will be organized with support of the Secretariat. Based on the feedback received from the Focal Points, the final version of the mechanism will be agreed on and the final version will be sent to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee for possible consideration of the CC COP. The mechanism will include provisions related to awareness-raising, education, sharing of knowledge and collaboration.
6. **Database of local leaders/stakeholders** - Based on the networking, dissemination, and pilot activities conducted in the project, a database of local leaders/stakeholders will be created. The Carpathian Leaders, who participated in the trainings, will constitute part of the Convention advisory group of local and regional stakeholders. Other active and interested local and regional actors identified during the project will also be invited to join the advisory group.

Project partners:

1. Ekopsychology Society – PL / **Lead Partners**
2. Education and Information Center Białe 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

Duration: 18 months, starting from 1/02/2022, if awarded.

DECISION COP6/3 Cooperation with the European Union

1. The Secretariat together with the Polish Presidency have actively continued promoting 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.

In his capacity as President the Carpathian Convention, the Minister of Climate and Environment of Poland, Mr. Michał Kurtyka, issued a letter to the EU Commissioner on Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, Mr. Virginijus Sinkevičius, informing about the decisions taken by Carpathian Convention COP6 (COP6/3) on

cooperation with the European Union, reiterating the invitation for the European Union to join the Carpathian Convention as Party. Furthermore, Minister Kuryka kindly requested for designation of a contact persons from the European Commission side for consultation regarding the cooperation between the Carpathian Convention and the European Union.

The Secretariat suggested Focal Points sharing the letter by the Polish Presidency with respective colleagues, especially the Permanent Representations to the European Union for awareness raising about this topic and further lobbying.

2. The Secretariat has been invited to attend the two meetings of the Interregional Group “Carpathians” of the Committee of the Regions (CoR), which is chaired by the Mr. Wladyslaw Ortyl, Marshal of the Podkarpackie Region, Poland. The first meeting of the Group, organized on 27 November 2020, allow the Secretariat to inform the meeting about the COP6 and its Decisions relevant especially on the cooperation at the EU level. The second meeting was organized on 10 February 2021.
3. The Secretariat has been involved in activities of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, especially through active participation in the meetings of Priority Areas 4 (Water), and Priority Areas 6 (Biodiversity). Specifically, the Secretariat was invited to deliver a presentation on the current activities of the Convention at the 22nd PA4 Steering Group meeting to be held online on 19 October, and to deliver a presentation on activities related to ecological connectivity at the 16th PA6 Steering Group meeting to be held in the end of October/beginning of November.

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 promoting the Carpathian Convention, its objectives and ongoing activities, as well as consideration of potential areas for future cooperation in the light of respective mandates of the Convention and UNEP strengthening programmatic cooperation.

DECISION COP6/5 Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies

1. The Secretariat has been in regular contact with the Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and its relevant bodies, including the Alpine Biodiversity Board and the Alpine Climate Board, seeking further opportunities for cooperation and common activities. The representatives of both Secretariats were mutually invited and present in most of the meetings of the Conventions. Recently, the Secretariat was approached by the Alpine Convention Working Group on Natural Hazards with a proposal to exchange the experiences and knowledge between the regions on natural hazards related to the mountain areas.
2. On 13 January 2021, the Mountain Biodiversity Day was hosted by the outgoing French Presidency of the Alpine Convention in cooperation with the French Presidency of the EU-Strategy for the Alpine Region

(EUSALP). The event was jointly coordinated by the Alpine Network of Protected Areas (ALPARC), the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, as well as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The one-day event offered a platform for discussions between experts and representatives from mountain regions all over the world, working in the field of biodiversity, with a strong focus on mountains. The main goal is to share experiences, identify shared challenges and showcase best-practice examples and solutions from various regional perspectives. The event hosted a session on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, which allowed for discussion on the main challenges mountain regions face in protecting their unique biodiversity and the necessary steps to strengthen the role of mountains in the Post-2020 GBF. The Polish Presidency of the Carpathian Convention represented the Convention in the session by participating in the panel discussion on Post-2020 GBF. The [summary of the event](#) was circulated through the Carpathian and other channels.

3. The Secretariat has been regularly exchanging information with the Mountain Partnership, especially in regard to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, in order to strengthen the visibility of the mountain regions on the political agendas.
4. With reference to the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021 – 2030](#), that was launched on 5 June 2021 – the World Environment Day – the Carpathian Convention and its Stakeholders issued a [joint statement welcoming the new UN Decade](#) and underling the importance of the Carpathian region and the contribution of the Carpathian Convention to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. As the result, the UNEP published an [article](#) on the UN Decade website.
5. The United Nations General Assembly at its 75th session held on 16 April 2021 adopted the resolution entitled **["Nature knows no borders: transboundary cooperation – a key factor for biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use"](#)** that was recently adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its 75th session held on 16 April 2021. The resolution put forward by the Kyrgyz Republic, together with 60 state co-sponsors ([press release by the Kyrgyz Republic](#)), focuses on **transboundary cooperation in environmental conservation, including the preservation of ecological connectivity for wildlife**. The resolution recognizes the Carpathian Convention as a regional initiative supporting cooperation and transboundary approaches in respect to biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use. The resolution can bring further impetus for the Carpathian Convention work on biodiversity and ecological connectivity in the Carpathian region, and, moreover, initiate further exchange and cooperation with various actors and initiatives, including under the forthcoming UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.
6. The implementation of the *"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 COVID-19 pandemic. The project is financed by the European Commission-DG Environment and it aims at supporting CBD Parties in Pan-Europe to have suitable information on biodiversity for implementation and progress reporting for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the biodiversity dimension of the SDGs. In Ukraine, project activities will be coordinated with the ongoing reporting efforts foreseen under the Carpathian Convention, which are supported by the European Environment Agency as well. The Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention,

being involved by UNEP in the development of the project proposal, will continue to facilitate the involvement of Ukraine in the project implementation.

7. The Carpathian Convention was invited to attend the Regional Dialogue on Governance in the Andes and Mountain Regions on 27-28 April 2021 that was organized by the Technical Secretariat of the Andean Mountain Initiative (AMI) at CONDESAN and UNEP ROLAC, under the auspices of the Andean Mountain Initiative. The aim was to provide a space for the exchange of ideas and experiences that can feed the processes undertaken by the AMI, and to promote a constructive dialogue with other international mountain platforms. In this respect, the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention delivered a presentation on the history, governing structure and thematic areas of work of the Convention, while the Polish Presidency of the Convention took part in the panel discussion.
8. On October 21, 2021, the Secretariat will present Carpathian Convention as an instrument of participatory governance of a mountain region during an exchange about Governance, participation and integrated territorial management of mountain regions. This event constitutes part of a series of Regional Dialogues on the Integral Management of Páramos and other High Mountain Ecosystems, co-organized by CONDESAN (non-governmental organization working for the conservation of mountain ecosystems and the well-being of rural communities in the Andean region), the Humboldt Institute and UNEP.

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, but also 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 – Czech Republic, invited the **stakeholders for a discussion on the role and contribution of the Carpathian Convention** to the upcoming global biodiversity framework currently being negotiated under the auspices of the Convention on Biological Diversity. For this reason, the Parties and the Secretariat used the **12th Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity** as a forum for initiating a discussion on the topic.

In this respect, the 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 for the protection of biodiversity on a global scale to decision-makers
- [Indicators for Elevating Mountains in Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#) - identified indicators that are considered effective for safeguarding mountain biodiversity and ecosystem integrity proposed within the draft [Post-2020 GBF Monitoring Framework](#)
- [Date Reporting Tool for MEAs](#) (DaRT) – tool that could be considered useful for streamlining reporting of various biodiversity-related conventions, including the regional ones, such as the Carpathian Convention and specifically its Protocol on Biodiversity
- Draft trilateral Memorandum of Cooperation between the Carpathian Convention, Alpine Convention and the CBD prepared in the light of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework – [draft in consultation with the CBD Secretariat](#)

The Secretariat prepared a [presentation](#) that shortly presenting possible role and contribution of the Carpathian Convention to the Post2020 process

2. The trilateral [Memorandum of Cooperation](#) between the CBD, Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention has been updated in the context of the implementation the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and now undergoing consultation with the CBD Secretariat. The new MoC shall be considered as a solid and relevant instrument for enhancing synergies among the Conventions, and support common activities on topic of mutual interest. The trilateral MoC shall be signed after the adoption of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, possibly at the next suitable event planned under the Polish Presidency of the Carpathian Convention.
3. Further to the COP6/6 Decisions, the Secretariat continues following the negotiation and development process of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, including participation in relevant CBD meetings, such as Third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework held online on 23 August – 3 September 2021, the Twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation held online on 3 May to 13 June 2021, the Informal Session in preparation for SBI-3 held online on 8-12 March 2021.
4. The Secretariat's involvement in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, contributes as well to raising the importance of mountains and mountain biodiversity at the 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, joined forces with the view of mainstreaming mountains into the discussions, which have resulted so far in the publication of two mountain policy briefs ([1.0](#) and [2.0](#)) and a [set of indicators](#) that are considered important to safeguard mountain biodiversity.

Whereas the current draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework does not aim for action at specific ecosystems level, the monitoring framework offers an opportunity to integrate indicators that are key to monitor and track progress on the ecosystem 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 has been picked up.

For the two indicators listed below, a disaggregation by mountains is explicitly proposed in the headline indicator document:

- A.0.1 Extent of selected natural and modified ecosystems (i.e. forest, savannahs and grasslands, wetlands, mangroves, saltmarshes, coral reef, seagrass, macroalgae and intertidal habitats)
- 3.0.1 Coverage of Protected areas and OECMS (by effectiveness).

The indicator "Species Habitat Index", which was considered as another indicator that is relevant to mountain biodiversity, also remained in the selected set of headline indicators.

Mountains were also featured in a [GEO BON Webinar on Supporting Implementation of Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#).

The explicit reference to mountain ecosystems and necessity to disaggregate indicators on mountain relevant scales can be considered a positive development. It will be crucial that upcoming discussions at the resumed OEWG-3, SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3 discussions in January 2022 emphasize again that indicators to assess and monitor mountain biodiversity are crucial to protect mountain biodiversity, and as such, it is essential that the reference to mountains will remain in the monitoring framework. Thus, the Secretariat would like to encourage the Convention Parties and other stakeholders to use potentially upcoming windows of opportunity to emphasize the importance of such indicators.

Furthermore, the Secretariat would like emphasized that the current GBF draft recognizes the importance and need for integration of relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant international processes, at various levels, including at regional level, that is represented by, among others, the Alpine and the Carpathian Convention, in order to ensure efficient and effective implementation of the GBF, including through the strengthening or establishment of cooperation mechanisms.

Further promoting 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 continuously highlighting the need to protect mountain ecosystems and to welcome the CBD's actions in this regard.

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

1. The Secretariat is continuing its efforts to strengthen science-practice-policy interface and pursue closer collaboration with the Science for the Carpathians (hereinafter S4C) network.

The Secretariat is closely collaborating with S4C in the implementation of the project, "Linking Science, Policy And People For Sustainable Carpathians", funded by the Visegrad Fund, which aims at strengthening collaboration within S4C and between S4C and the Convention, and which has been developed and submitted in collaboration by the S4C and the Secretariat as the result of the project

“Integrating nature protection and sustainable tourism development in the Carpathian region via science-policy-practice interface”.

The Secretariat developed and received funding from the German Federal Environment Ministry’s Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP) for the follow-up project, “Strengthening the ESD network in the Carpathian Convention via science-policy-practice interface” in collaboration with the S4C. The follow-up project has supported participation of 39 Convention stakeholders, scientists and practitioners in the 6th Forum Carpathicum Conference, which took place virtually in June 21-25, 2021.

Furthermore, the Secretariat has provided staff support to the S4C in the organization of the 6th Forum Carpathicum Conference, focused on *Linking the Environmental, Political and Societal Aspects for Carpathian Sustainability* and co-organized several sessions and workshops during the Forum. Despite the virtual format of the Conference, the Secretariat facilitated using inter- and transdisciplinary methods for participatory knowledge co-creation by the participants of the Forum. The [Programme](#) and [Book of Abstracts](#) of the Forum can be found on the conference [website](#).

The planned workshop “Towards a stronger role of universities in shaping sustainable development of the Carpathian region” has been integrated into a Plenary session, in order to promote wider participation in the discussion, and contributed to a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities of strengthening science-practice-policy interface in the region. Based on the results of this process, the Secretariat and the S4C have been invited to discuss collaboration between the Convention and the S4C at several conferences and events, including: 1) The International Transdisciplinary Conference, which took place virtually on September 13-16, 2021, 2) Workshop on inter- and transdisciplinary research institutions, which will take place in hybrid format (based in Bramois, Switzerland), on 21-22 October 2021, 3) a Webinar dedicated to integration of inter-and transdisciplinary approaches in Carpathian and Caucasus regions, planned for October 29, 2021, to be co-organized in collaboration with the S4C and the Scientific Network for the Caucasus Mountain Region (SNC-mt).

2. The Secretariat co-organized a ceremony of signing the Memorandum of Understanding for the Cooperation between the S4C and the SNC-mt, the elaboration of which it coordinated. The ceremony took place on September 24, 2021, during Forum Carpathicum, and facilitated two discussions on concrete collaboration efforts between the networks. Both the S4C and the SNC-mt published press-releases about the MOU signing.
3. The Secretariat facilitated participation of an S4C lecturer in a Caucasus Summer School, organized by the SNC-mt, which took place on 20-24 September 2021, focused on disaster risk management, identifying and assessing mountain hazards and their causes. Another S4C representative provided a lecture for the summer school *IPROMO 2021 - Post COVID-19 Recovery in Mountain Areas*, organized by the Mountain Partnership.
4. The Secretariat continues integrating Carpathian scientists and S4C colleagues into meetings and events, as well as elaboration of projects, in order to integrate their knowledge, and follow-up on the recommendations produced by the network.

5. The Secretariat supported the S4C in collecting and assembling recommendations for the Carpathian Convention and for the Research Agenda for the Carpathians. The final recommendations will be available at the Carpathian Convention website.
6. In order to facilitate closer links between the Carpathian Convention parties and the S4C network, as well as enable opportunities for more active membership in the S4C network, creation of thematic working groups under the S4C network has been proposed. Such S4C Thematic groups could act as expertise reference points for the Working Groups of the Carpathian Convention. The proposal is currently being considered by the S4C Executive and Scientific Steering committees. Moreover, due to the closer collaboration by the Secretariat staff and the S4C, the S4C has proposed including the Secretariat representative in the Executive Committee of the Network.

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 **12th Meeting of the Working Group on Biodiversity on 19 – 20 May 2021** in an online format ([final meeting agenda](#)).

The WG Biodiversity meeting was focus on various topics under the mandate of the Working Group, including on conservation of large carnivores and related ecological connectivity in the Carpathians, 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 will be given to the ongoing Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the role and contribution of the Carpathian Convention to this process ([final meeting report](#)).

The [Report on population status of large carnivores and monitoring methods in the Carpathians](#), which shall support implementation of the [International Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity](#), has been made available prior and presented during the WG Biodiversity meeting by the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation/BOKU University.

The presentation was followed by an important discussion on the harmonization of large carnivores monitoring in the Carpathians that was led by the WG Biodiversity Chair – Czech Republic, as one of the main priority actions for the implementation of the WG Biodiversity Work Plan. The WG Biodiversity was invited to send further comments on harmonization of large carnivores monitoring, which shall be considered at the next meeting if the WG Biodiversity.

The meeting discussed and reviewed:

- Terms of Reference for the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity – [Final draft](#)
- draft Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity - Work Plan 2021 – 2023 – [Final draft](#)

The documents will be considered by the 12th CCIC meeting.

2. On 28-30 September 2021, the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) Steering Committee, WWF, CEEweb for Biodiversity, and Eurac Research organised the International Conference “**Protected Areas - Cornerstones of Ecological Connectivity in the Carpathians and Beyond**” in Visegrád, Hungary, both physically and virtually ([Press Release of the Conference](#)).

The conference shed light on the recent environmental developments in the Carpathians and highlighted the importance of cross-sectoral collaboration for the identification, conservation and restoration of ecological connectivity in one of Europe's largest mountain ranges and beyond. Key stakeholders working in and around protected areas, came together to share knowledge, exchange experience and discuss new tools to improve and safeguard ecological connectivity.

The three-day event hosted the **3rd Conference of the Carpathian Network of the Protected Areas**, which offered a platform to present best practices of protected areas management and facilitate a dialogue on further strengthening cooperation between and within the protected areas in the Carpathians and other regions. Please find attached the [detailed Minutes of the 3rd CNPA Conference](#), that were prepared by the Centralparks project.

Please note, that besides the presentations by the CNPA Steering Committee and the representatives of the Protected Areas in the Carpathians, the Secretariat prepared a presentation on the CNPA status quo and the need for revisiting the strategic CNPA documents and discussing the way forward for the Network. Please follow the link to the [Presentation](#) and the draft [Review of the CNAP Medium Term Strategy implementation](#).

As discussed during the CNPA Conference, the Secretariat will compile proposed recommendations and the feedback received during the conference, then will submit it to the CNPA SC for its consideration. Based on the recommendations, the CNPA SC should agree on next steps for CNPA during its next meeting, in the margins of the 12th meeting of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (18-19 November 2021 in Krakow, Poland). More information about the next CNPA SC meeting will be shared with the Members soon.

The Conference in Visegrad also witnessed the **closing of a Carpathian Convention flagship project – [ConnectGREEN - Restoring and managing ecological corridors in mountains as the green infrastructure in the Danube basin](#)**, funded by the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme, where various successful project results and outputs were presented. The main outputs that should be considered by the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity and other actors are:

- Methodology for identification of ecological corridors in the Carpathian countries using large carnivores as umbrella species – [final document](#)
- Guidelines on how to Use Spatial Planning Tool in Integrative Management of Ecological Corridors – [final document](#)
- Set of recommendations developed together with spatial planners to avoid/minimize fragmentation of ecological corridors and Natura 2000 sites – [final document](#)

The **Protected Areas - Cornerstones of Ecological Connectivity in the Carpathians and Beyond Conference adopted a [Conference Declaration](#)**, where the participants agreed to call on the European Commission, the European Parliament and the national governments of the Danube-Carpathian region to drive the efficient management of ecological corridors to avoid further deterioration, restore their functionality and reverse habitat fragmentation. One of the paragraphs of the Declaration states that,

recognizing that the Carpathians are a major element of the EU's ecological network, encourage the EU to accede to the Carpathian Convention as a holistic instrument to foster ecological connectivity”.

3. The Secretariat further support the implementation of the [Centralparks - Building management capacities of Carpathian protected areas for the integration and harmonization of biodiversity protection and local socio-economic development](#)”, supported by the Interreg Central Europe Programme, that gives considerable support for the CNPA.

The project developed relevant documents that should support work of the CNPA, 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, local or regional planning documents, concerning nature and landscape conservation, land-use, and spatial development (in line with Convention Biodiversity Protocol Article 17). The target audience of the draft strategy are the 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, preparing or updating protected area visitor management plans, local or regional planning documents related to tourism development, natural and cultural heritage conservation, and land-use.

Both proposed documents 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.

- Guidelines on communication between protected areas and local communities in the Carpathian – [full document](#)
- *Carpathian Ecosystem Services Toolkit* – to be available soon.

Within the project implementation two CNPA Steering Committee meetings were organized (02.12.2010 – [more information](#), 19.07.2021 – [more information](#)), both meetings were supported by the Secretariat, Centralparks and ConnectGREEN projects.

The final conference of the Centralparks project is scheduled to take place on 23-24 March 2022 in Wieliczka, Poland. The Secretariat with the WG Biodiversity Chair and the Polish Presidency is considering organization of the 13th WG Biodiversity meeting back-to-back the Centralparks final conference on 22 March 2022.

The CNPA Chair, provided relevant updated on the CNPA activities during the he 12th WG Biodiversity meeting – [presentation](#).

4. The Carpathian Wetland Initiative provided the [annual report for 2020 and Work Plan for 2021](#). Further updates on the ongoing activities of CWI were presented within the 12th WG Biodiversity meeting – [presentation](#).

DECISION COP6/11 Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management Article 6 of the Carpathian Convention

1. The Secretariat continued expressing interest in participating in the JointTisza follow up project, to be developed by the ICPDR Tisza Group and submitted within the next calls of the Interreg programme of the Multiannual Financial Framework of the European Union.
2. The Secretariat was invited to present the Carpathian Convention activities at the EUSDR PA4 (Water) Steering Group meeting on 19.10.2021 online.

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

The Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development to the Carpathian Convention entered into force on 01.01.2020 for the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and the Slovak Republic. Furthermore, the Protocol is in force for Romania since 18.01.2021 and, lastly, for Ukraine since 28.04.2021. This information are also available on the Carpathian Convention [website](#).

DECISION COP6/13 Sustainable forest management Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention

1. Based on the Partnership Agreement, the Secretariat continues working with European Environment Agency and the European Topic Center on Urban, Land and Soil System (EEA/ULS) on finalizing the Inventory of virgin forest in the Carpathians. The lack or partial lack of official information from some of the Parties hinders finalization of the inventory, which initially was supposed to be finalized prior to COP6.
2. Further to the COP6 Decisions, the Secretariat initiated collecting information regarding the development of the assessment of the impacts of climate change on the Carpathian forests and their ecosystem services, in cooperation with the Working Group on Sustainable Forest and Working Group on Climate Change and other relevant experts. The Secretariat requested the Focal Points to nominate relevant experts that could support this process. More information and updates on the assessment are available in the section Decision COP6/18 Climate Change.

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 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 Carpathian, Alpine and Balkan mountain valleys. It will cover these areas due to the overlapping concentration of both human activities and critical points for wildlife migration, which renders high degrees of conflict. The project expects that, through the improvement of cross-sectoral cooperation in the fields of nature conservation, natural assets management (i.e. wildlife, forests, water), transport, and land use/spatial planning, it will enhance GI coherence in the Carpathian, Alpine and Balkan mountain valleys. It will do so by planning and implementing coherent integrated mitigation measures to minimize the negative impact of economic development. The main project implementation updates:

One of the project activities relevant for the Carpathian Convention focuses on supporting the mainstreaming of ecological connectivity into EU and global policies through cooperation among macro-regional strategies. In this regard, a Joint Declaration by the project, and ideally the EUSDR, the Carpathian Convention and ICPDR, is being prepared. The Joint Declaration should include references the relevant activities of EUSDR, the Carpathian Convention and ICPDR on ecological connectivity. The first draft will be shortly circulated to relevant actors for consultation. The Joint Declaration should be adopted at the EUSDR Annual Forum in autumn 2022, if possible.

Furthermore, the SaveGRREN is progressing on developing a capacity programme for strengthening of cross-sectoral cooperation among key players and implementing the project results. The draft material is available soon for consultation, s if the Parties and relevant stakeholders are interested.

Towards the end of the project, national capacity training events for public authorities and key stakeholders will be organized in the participating countries, where will be sought support for the adaptation of the programme to national needs, advertising of the events and dissemination of the capacity programme in respective countries.

The Monitoring methodology for structural and functional connectivity to assess structural and functional ecological connectivity is being tested in the project countries. Feedback will improve the application by the end of December this year.

2. The Secretariat circulated the [Recommendations on funding interventions for promoting green infrastructure from EU to regional, national and local level](#), developed by the SaveGREEN project – The Recommendations to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee, the Working Group on Biodiversity and the Working Group on Sustainable Transport.

DECISION COP6/15 Sustainable tourism

Article 9 of the Carpathian Convention

1. Further to the Decision COP6/15 on sustainable tourism, the Secretariat in close consultation with the Chair of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Tourism (WG Tourism) – Poland, organized the 10th Meeting of the WG Tourism on 15 April 2021 in an online format, as a first step in revitalizing activities of the WG Tourism with a strong support of the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform (CSTP). This meeting allowed for consideration and discussion on relevant priorities and ideas for organization of work of the Convention's bodies and initiatives involved in the implementation of the

Protocol on Sustainable Tourism for the current implementation period 2021 – 2023 ([final meeting agenda](#) | [final meeting report](#)).

In this respect, two relevant documents were presented at the meeting:

- Draft Work Plan for CSTP for the period 2021 – 2023, which was proposed by the CSTP- Centre Poland (currently the coordinator of the CSTP) - [draft document](#)
- updated Terms of Reference for the WG Tourism proposed by the Secretariat in cooperation of the WG Tourism Chair – Poland – [Final draft](#)

The documents were circulated prior to the 12th CCIC meeting.

During the 10th WG Tourism meeting, the Parties provided updates on the implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism.

3. The Secretariat has been in regular contact with the CSTP Coordinator - CSTP- Centre Poland. More detailed report on the CSTP activities will be added shortly.
4. On 27th of February 2021, during the Conference of the "Europe of the Carpathians", a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the CSTP - Centre PL/Carpathian Euroregion - Poland and the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention for the coordination of sustainable tourism development in the Carpathians. The signing of the MoC with the CSTP - Centre RO/Brasov County Council will follow in due course. The Secretariat is in consultation with the Ukraine Focal Point in order to clarify to situation with the CSTP-Centre Ukraine.
5. The Secretariat facilitated preparation and submission of two Carpathian case studies for the publication co-produced by The Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) and the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) on mountain tourism as a driver of sustainable development, aimed at marking the "Sustainable Mountain Tourism" theme of the International Mountain Day 2021. One of the case studies, based on the project "Cooperation of V4+ rural tourism actors through social and digital innovation", lead by Humtour, has been selected for the publication, while the other, based on links between local products and tourism development in Ukraine, provided by Green Dossier, has been selected for the 'further reading' section on the publication website.

DECISION COP6/16 Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention

Currently there are undergoing consultations regarding possibilities for bringing the *Carpathian Route - exploring, promoting and protecting the richness of the cultural and natural heritage of the Carpathian Region* back on the path of implementation. The project funding was cancelled in September 2020 by EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Regional Cooperation due to political reasons. More information will be shared with Focal Points, WG Cultural Heritage and relevant stakeholders whenever possible.

DECISION COP6/17 Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning Article 12 of the Carpathian Convention

1. The Secretariat continues discussing with European Environment Agency (EEA) about further development and integration of the Carpathian Integrated Biodiversity Information System ([CCIBIS](#)), created and developed under EU Interreg Programme Projects, into EU/EEA information systems.
2. In cooperation with relevant partners, the Secretariat has undertaken necessary steps toward eventual installing of CCIBIS within the Carpathian Convention website.
3. The Secretariat continues cooperation with the EEA with operational priorities focused on forests, climate change adaptation, biodiversity and ecological connectivity and there is a strong interest in further developing of the common activities.

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

1. Upon the finalization of all internal procedures, the amendment to the Carpathian Convention - Article 12bis on Climate Change adopted at the Carpathian Convention COP5 - entered into force for Hungary, Poland, Ukraine and Romania on 5 August 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 of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Climate Change (WG Climate Change) in its tasks.

2. In collaboration with Hungary – the Chair of the WG Climate Change, the Secretariat organized the 8th Meeting of the WG Climate Change was held on 6 May 2021 in an online format ([final meeting agenda](#))

After successful adoption of the [Long-term Vision 2030 towards combating climate change in the Carpathians](#) by the Carpathian Convention COP6, the Secretariat together with the WG Climate Change Chair – Hungary, invited the WG Members and stakeholders for a discussion on future journey regarding the implementation of relevant climate actions in the Carpathians in support of the Article 12bis on Climate Change. In this respect, the 8th WG Climate Change meeting deliberated on a WG Climate Change Work Plan 2021 - 2023 that sets out concrete activities and expected results for the implementation period 2021-2023 with regard to achieving the strategic objectives and related targets of the Long-term Vision. Suggested activities and their wording were selected from the accompanying [Implementation Framework 2030](#), that provides overall guidance for the Working Group's agenda and related Workplans for the upcoming implementation periods starting 2021 up to 2030. Furthermore, the Secretariat provided information on the development of the assessment of the impacts of climate change on the Carpathian forests and their ecosystems and related events (for more detailed information see point 3 of this section.).

The meeting facilitated an exchange on ongoing/planned projects and initiative that are relevant for the Carpathians or for cooperation with other mountain regions ([full meeting report](#)).

Further to the discussions at the 8th WG Climate Change meeting, the WG Climate Change Members were asked to take a coordinating role of a Specific Objective within the WG Climate Change Work Plan 2021 – 2023 Specific Objectives, or indicating contribution to a specific activity. The respond to this request has been limited ([final draft of the Work Plan 2021 – 2023](#)).

3. Further to the Decisions of the Carpathian Convention COP6 (DECISION COP6/13 para 5. and DECISION COP6/18 para 8.) encouraging the development of an assessment of the impacts of climate change on the Carpathian forests and their ecosystems services by relevant Convention Working Groups and partners , the Secretariat took the initial steps.

As announced at the 8th WG Climate Change, the very first engagement for developing the assessment of the impacts of climate change on the Carpathian forest was planned at the Forum Carpaticum within [the Special Session and Workshop on Forest ecosystem vulnerabilities to climate change in the Carpathians](#) organized by Dr. William Keeton, University of Vermont and Member of the Science for the Carpathians, and the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention on 22 June 2021, in an online format.

In this respect, prior to the Special Session and Workshop, the Secretariat requested the Focal Points of the Carpathian Convention to nominate experts to be involved in this activity, providing expertise and knowledge on both climate change and forest ecosystems and management. This approach allowed for establishing an informal subgroup/expert group of the Working Group on Climate Change and the Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management that supports the development of the assessment and shall at the same time strengthen cooperation between these topics under the Carpathian Convention.

The Workshop should be considered as the kick-start for development of a comprehensive assessment on climate change impacts on the Carpathian forests and their ecosystem services, where the participants' valuable input to the workshop is key for gathering and assessing existing information on the widespread consequences of climate change on Carpathian forest ecosystems, including environmental, economic and cultural benefits these forests provide. The region-wide assessment shall not only identify common climate risks and related impacts, but most importantly share knowledge and experiences on effective adaptation responses for long-term conservation. Additionally, it should foster collaboration on ecosystem restoration needs in line with the Long-term Vision 2030 towards combating climate change in the Carpathians and the accompanying implementation framework, adopted at Carpathian Convention COP6.

The Workshop was facilitated by Ms. Sabine McCallum, Senior Strategic Advisor and Climate Change Expert representing the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and Prof. William Keeton, University of Vermont, who informed that the workshop aims to gather and synthesize information from previous assessments undertaken in the Carpathian countries, the current status-quo of responses to climate impacts and resulting risks to forest ecosystems, as well as challenges and opportunities to cope with current and future climate variability.

Referring to the stock-taking of available information with regard to climate impacts and risks affecting forest ecosystems and respective adaptation responses, the designated country experts were requested to deliver presentations on the several questions, which were shared prior to the workshop. The Workshop report provides a detailed overview of the Workshop, together with the information provided by the country experts.

The [Report](#) provides a detailed overview of the Workshop on Forest ecosystem vulnerabilities to climate change in the Carpathians .

In further communication, the Secretariat informed about the next steps regarding the development of the Assessment:

- [July/August 2021](#): Together with sending the Draft Workshop Report, nominated experts and participants are invited to provide additional references to existing studies/ report / assessments, good practice examples and any further information that can be relevant for the assessment
- [September 2021](#): The Carpathian Convention Secretariat together with Prof. William Keeton will undertake an analysis of the data/information collection and draft a table of contents for the assessment
- [November 2021](#): 1st meeting of the informal subgroup/expert group of the Working Group on Climate Change and the Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management to discuss the data/information analysis and agree on the table of contents (i.e., scope and issues to be covered by the assessment)
- [December 2021](#): Drafting chapters for the assessment and possibly further information gathering (according to the agreed scope)
- [\(date tbd\)](#): 2nd meeting of the informal subgroup
- [Spring 2022](#): First draft of the assessment available

The Secretariat will continue informing the relevant Working Groups and experts on further steps toward developing the Assessment of the impacts of climate change on the Carpathian forests and their ecosystems services.

4. UNEP and partners of the [Adaptation at Altitude programme](#) are planning the interregional workshop “Mountains Connect” in Vienna, Austria for representatives from the Andes, Hindu Kush Himalaya, East Africa and the South Caucasus for mutual action learning and exchange. For preparation and in consultation with the donor SDC and the implementing partner University of Geneva, the project team decided to build an online knowledge hub, i.e. the creation of a Virtual Mountain Governance Multiverse (VM-GEM) sharing regional governance experiences in mountains. Representatives from the Alpine Climate Board and the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Climate Change will be invited to share their experiences and work as well as to learn from other mountain regions around the globe. The workshop was originally planned for December 2021. Together with the partners, the project team decided to postpone the interregional workshop to 2022, most likely June, due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and related travel restrictions and quarantine rules.

DECISION COP6/19 Awareness raising, education and public participation

Article 13 of the Carpathian Convention

1. The Secretariat, in collaboration with S4C, integrated recommendations from the Carpathian ESD Seminar and the workshop “Education for Science and Society in the Carpathians”, which took place at the 5th Forum Carpaticum, into development and implementation of 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 aims at:

- building collaboration between the Carpathian Convention partners and Leuphana University Lüneburg, to facilitate ESD and learning for sustainability transformations in the Carpathian region,
- building a network of ESD experts from the Carpathian region, in order to enable regular exchange and carry out similar tasks to those of a Carpathian Convention Working Group, including following up on ESD-related recommendations available to-date, development and implementation of projects, as well as elaboration of policies, and providing recommendations to the Carpathian Convention.
- co-creating recommendations for strategies and actions on how best to integrate ESD into Carpathian Convention activities and vice-versa, using a more rigorous reflection process and state-of-the-art knowledge about learning processes and transdisciplinary methods.

As part of the project activities, ESD activities and discussions were organized at the 6th Forum Carpaticum, Linking the Environmental, Political and Societal Aspects for Carpathian Sustainability, including a dedicated session and workshop in order to bring together and strengthen cooperation among the ESD experts from the Carpathians:

- During the Forum Plenary (June 23, 2021), the Keynote Presentation was given by Dr. Lydia Katter-Wettstädt from Leuphana University Lüneburg on the topic of “ESD in sustainable regional development. Approaches to Implementation,” which concluded with the following recommendations for the Carpathian region: 1) Identify synergies of different activities, 2) Analyse and value status quo to deliver and support fitting formats, 3) Use Inter- and Transdisciplinary, multi-actor, multi-professional approaches, 4) Use ESD to inform, empower, engage, discuss and develop solutions in various thematic fields of the Carpathian Convention.
- The Keynote was followed by a poll, meant to find out the awareness about, engagement and Interest in ESD among the Forum participants, conducted by Mónika Réti, Ministry of Human Capacities of Hungary.
- Information about the World Environmental Education Congress 2022 (WEEC), planned to take place in March 2022 in Prague, Czech Republic, was provided by the organizer of WEEC 2022, in order to invite interested Carpathian participants to take part.
- The Session “Best practices of education for sustainable development in the Carpathians and other mountainous regions” took place on June 23, 2021.
- The ESD Workshop “Towards the Carpathian ESD Expert Network: Integrating Education for Sustainable Development into the activities of the Carpathian Convention” took place on June 24, 2021, during which the participants, including Convention Focal Points, scientists, teachers and ESD practitioners discussed: 1) the Challenges for the integration of ESD into the Carpathian Convention, 2) Elements of a vision and a strategy and 3) Recommendations.

All discussions and recommendations of ESD events at the 6th Forum Carpaticum were summarized and included into a report [“Towards the Carpathian ESD Expert Network: Integrating Education for Sustainable Development into the activities of the Carpathian Convention”](#), which is made available at the Convention website.

Based on the recommendations received and challenges identified at the Forum Carpaticum, with respect to ESD and Convention Networks, the Secretariat followed up by engaging an S4C Expert on Carpathian Convention networks, to help understand the challenges and strengths of the existing Convention networks and provide recommendations for the development of the ESD Network, and its integration into the Carpathian Convention structure.

The ESD experts who took part in the Forum discussions, have been invited to join follow-up discussions on the ESD Network, planned for November 2021, including the Workshop on strengthening networks within the Carpathian Convention, integrated into the CCIC programme, as well as the joint inter-sectoral session planned by UNEP GRID/Warsaw.

Based on the ESD discussions at the 6th Forum Carpaticum, the Secretariat, together with ESD experts from Poland and Hungary, co-authored and submitted an abstract to the 11th World Environmental Education Congress, planned in Prague in March 2022.

2. The Secretariat collaborated with the ESD expert at the Ministry of Human Capacities of Hungary on integrating information about the first Carpathian Convention Seminar on Education for Sustainable Development, which took place on 16 -18 April 2019 in Budapest, Hungary, into the Hungarian intervention to the UNESCO World Conference on ESD, which took place in May 2021. The secretariat also supported the Ministry of Human Capacities and Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary in elaborating an application for a workshop titled “Emerging collaboration: ESD in the Carpathian Convention Network” at the UNESCO Conference. However, due to the organizational challenges, the interventions proposed and planned by Hungary could not take place.
3. Based, on the results and recommendations of the First Carpathian Convention ESD Seminar, as well as recommendations received from the S4C network in the field of ESD, the Secretariat is closely collaborating with the Polish presidency of the Convention to co-organize the Second Carpathian Convention ESD Seminar in 2022.
4. The Secretariat continues close collaboration with the ESD expert at the Ministry of Human Capacities of Hungary, in order to strengthen Cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), and to plan promoting the Carpathian achievement in the field of ESD at the 9th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference and the 3rd High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries, in Cyprus on 5 – 7 October 2022. Support by the Polish Presidency in this respect will be highly appreciated.
5. The Secretariat promoted awareness about the Convention by presenting it at the PROMO Summer School on Mountain Ecosystems and Resource Management, which took place on 19-28 September 2021, virtually. The Summer School was coordinated by partners in Canada and Ukraine, and co-organized by [several international partners](#). Harald Egerer, the Head of the Secretariat, provided one of the [high level inaugural speeches](#). The Convention was presented by the Secretariat on Sept 26, 2021, during the Technical Session 7.1 on [Mountain-Based Conventions: SDGs & Mountains: Mountain Sustainability](#).

Annex 1

Programme of Work of the Carpathian Convention by sectors, 1 January 2021 – 31 December 2023 - CCIC 2021 RECOMMENDATIONS (the recommendation will be added to the annex once approved by the CCIC)

COP6 Decisions	Activity	Expected outcomes	Actors	Status of implementation	CCIC 2021 Recommendations
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	
		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	
			Secretariat	Completed	

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			
		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 the relevant financial instruments	5.1) Relevant consultations undergone, support form relevant programmes and institutions received	Parties Secretariat	Ongoing	
				Ongoing	

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		
		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	
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	Completed	

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 REGIO and DG Environment, DG AGRI, DEVCO, the European Parliament, the European Committee of Regions, and the European Environment Agency	10.1) Cooperation with relevant EU institutions promoted and strengthened	Parties Secretariat	Ongoing	
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	
		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	
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	
	13) Continuing cooperation with EU Macro-regional Strategies,	13.1) Participation in the relevant meetings and exchange of information continued	Secretariat	Ongoing	

COP6/ 3 para 9	especially the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and its Priority Areas				
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 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;	15.1 Relevant consultations undertaken	Secretariat	Ongoing	
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		
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	To be further undertaken		
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	Ongoing	
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	
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	
		27.1 Regular exchange of information in place	Secretariat	Ongoing	

COP6/ 5 para 9	27) Strengthening cooperation with the Danube River Protection 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	
		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	Ongoing	
		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	
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		
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 the Science for the Carpathians network	33.1) Implementation of the Carpathian Convnetion supported with its sound scientific knowledge and expertise	S4C Secretariat Parties	Ongoing	
		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	
		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	
		33.4) Further projects supporting science – policy – practice interface developed and implemented	S4C Secretariat Parties		

COP6/ 8 para 5	34) Organization of 6th Forum Carpathicum 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 Network (S4C) and the Scientific Network for the Caucasus Mountain Region	36.1) Scientific exchange between the Carpathians and other regions further fostered	Secretariat S4C	Completed	
Biodiversity					
COP6/9	GENERAL		Parties WG Biodiversity Secretariat		

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	
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 infrastructure in the Danube basin</i> 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	Ongoing	

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	Ongoing	
		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	
COP6/ 9 para 9, 10, 11 12	42) Cooperating with the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA)	42.1) Communication and sharing relevant strengthened	CNPA WG Biodiversity Parties	Ongoing	
		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	CWI W Biodiversity WG Climate Change Secretariat	Ongoing	

		and initiating concrete activities, including development of a project proposal on relevant topics,			
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	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</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	Parties Secretariat Relevant WGs	Ongoing	

para 1, 2, 3	<i>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>	awareness raising of the local communities in the Tisza River Basin			
		47.2) Development and implementation of the JoinTisza - follow up project supported	Parties Secretariat Relevant WGs	Ongoing	
		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/ 12 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	To be further undertaken	
		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					
COP6/ 13	49) Implementing the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management, including	49.1) Inventory of Virgin Forests of the Carpathians finalized	Parties WG Forest Secretariat	Ongoing	

para 2, 3, 4	development of the Inventory of Virgin Forests of the Carpathians, which shall support the protection of the most precious forest areas of Europe	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	
		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	
		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	Ongoing	
COP6/ 13 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/ 13 para 6	51) Organizing a session on forest ecosystems and resource vulnerabilities to climate change in the Carpathian Mountain Region during the 6th Forum Carpathicum, to be held in 2021 in Brno, Czech Republic	51.1) Organization of the session supported	Secretariat	Completed	
		51.2) WG Forest and the WG Climate Change to participate and contribute to the session	WG Forest WG Climate Change S4C	Completed	
COP6/ 13 para 7	52) Recognizing that illegal logging, despite its varying significance across the Parties, is an important and complex issue in the	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	

	Carpathians, which can have trans-boundary effects that require international cooperation				
Sustainable transport and infrastructure, industry and energy					
COP6/ 14 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/ 14 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/ 14 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	

Sustainable tourism					
	GENERAL		Parties WG Tourism CSTP Secretariat		
COP6/ 15 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	
		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	
		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/ 15 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	
Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge					
COP6/ 16 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/ 16 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	
Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning					
COP6/ 17 para 1	60) Continuing successful cooperation between the Carpathian Convention and	60.1) Carpathian Convention data platform in the EEA information systems developed	Secretariat	Ongoing	

	the EEA on the implementation of the Carpathian Convention	and relevant information from CCIBIS integrated			
COP6/ 17 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	
Climate Change					
COP6/ 18 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	
		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	Parties WG Climate Change Secretariat	Ongoing	

		Paris Agreement; Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction; 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework)			
	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 consideration into all Convention's topics and activities	WG Climate Change WG Forest WG Biodiversity Secretariat	Ongoing	
	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 ecosystems 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	

		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 while implementing the Carpathian Convnetion	63.1) Recommendations elaborated by the Carpathian ESD Seminar and the workshop "Education for Science and Society in the Carpathians" at the 5th Forum Carpaticum are considered and acted upon, follow up activities undertaken, including project development and implementation	Parties Secretariat S4C	Ongoing	
		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 Carpaticum 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 Environment Ministers, in Cyprus on 5 – 7 October 2022.	Parties Secretariat	Ongoing	
		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	Ongoing	
Date and venue of the Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention					
COP6/23 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	

Presidency of the Carpathian Convention				
COP6/ 23 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