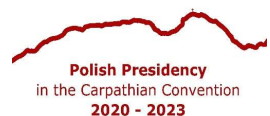




# 12<sup>th</sup> Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee Meeting 18 - 19 November 2021, Krakow, Poland



Progress Report – General  
Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention



## DECISION COP6/1 Implementation of the Carpathian Convention

### Organization of online meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic

- 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Sustainable Tourism on 15 April 2021,
- 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Climate Change on 6 May 2021
- 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Biodiversity on 19-20 May 2021

### Reporting under the Convention

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



## DECISION COP6/1 Implementation of the Carpathian Convention

### Improving functioning of the Working Groups

List of Working Group Chairs and their contacts is established

Cooperation with the WG Chairs is working very well

### Modernizing the Carpathian Convention website

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

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

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

# Next Steps

## Implementation of the Carpathian Convention

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Concrete CCIC recommendations for action (draft by the Secretariat)

- CCIC encourages the Secretariat to further consult with the UNEP DaRT Team on possible reporting on the Carpathian Convention within the DaRT and organization of a workshop for the Carpathian Convention representatives.
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## DECISION COP6/2 Cooperation with regional and local authorities and all relevant stakeholders

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### Development of the project proposal **Carpathian Bridge - participatory mechanism of the Carpathian Convention at the local level**

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

### Project objectives:

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

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

### Project partners:

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

## Next Steps

Cooperation with regional and local authorities and all relevant stakeholders

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Concrete CCIC recommendations for action (draft by the Secretariat)

- CCIC encourages the Secretariat and relevant partners to implement the Carpathian Bridge project, if awarded, and requests the Secretariat in cooperation with relevant Focal Points to ensure involvement of experts from the Parties not covered by the Visegrad Programme.
-



## DECISION COP6/3 Cooperation with the European Union

### Implementing the Road Map towards the accession of the European Union to the Carpathian Convention adopted at the COP6

#### ONGOING/ACCOMPLISHED

- Ongoing consultation between the Parties, the Secretariat and relevant actors
- 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP6) - 25 November 2020
  - The COP6 reiterates the invitation for the EU to accede to the Carpathian Convention, and adopts relevant decisions in this respect
  - Poland officially announced that the EU accession to the Carpathian Convention is the Presidency priority
- **Poland in its capacity of the CC Presidency sent the letter to the Commissioner for Environment informing about the COP6 Decisions**

#### NEXT STEPS

- ❖ Establishing a dialog with the EU Commission regarding the EU accession to the Convention (for this EU Commission should designate a focal point)
- ➔ ❖ Ministerial Conference of the Carpathian Convention - 2021, Poland (tbc)
  - official request (tbc) for the accession of the European Union to the Carpathian Convention made by the Heads of Delegations (in a form of a declaration or a letter) ideally in the presence of the Commissioner/other EU representative
- ❖ EU Environmental Council - 2021/2022
  - official request made by the Polish Presidency of the Carpathian Convention to the EU Environmental Council for the accession of the European Union to the Carpathian Convention

# Next Steps

## Cooperation with the European Union

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Concrete CCIC recommendations for action (draft by the Secretariat)

- CCIC requests the Parties to actively implement the Road Map towards the accession of the European Union to the Carpathian Convention and requests the Secretariat to support the process.
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- CCIC invites/requests the Parties to consider the introduction of/to introduce a "Regional Economic Integration Organization Clause" into the Carpathian Convention in a form of an amendment of the Convention, which shall allow for the EU accession to the Carpathian Convention (Romania asked for clarifying this proposal)
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## 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 supporting:

- Promotion of the Carpathian Convention, its objectives and ongoing activities at the UN forum
- Consideration of potential areas for future cooperation in the light of respective mandates of the Convention and UNEP strengthening programmatic cooperation

- Together with UNEP supporting implementation of the project - *Building national biodiversity information supply and demand in Pan Europe to support implementation & progress review of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework*

Project being implemented in Ukraine, funded by the European Union

Promoting the Carpathian Convention within the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

- The Carpathians proposed as the UN Decade Europe Flagship project



**Joint statement of the Carpathian Convention and its Observers welcoming the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration**

- underlining the importance of the Carpathian region and the contribution of the Carpathian Convention to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration
- issued on 5 June 2021, launching the UN Decade
- promoted on the UN/UN Decade websites

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

### Cooperation with the Alpine Convention:

- Regular contact seeking further opportunities for cooperation and common activities
- Mutual representation at relevant meetings
- Continued expert exchange with the Alpine Biodiversity Board and the Alpine Climate Board
- New - Alpine Convention Working Group on Natural Hazards proposed an exchange of experiences and knowledge between the regions on natural hazards related to the mountain areas.

- **Mountain Biodiversity Day**, 13 January 2021, was hosted by the outgoing French Presidency of the Alpine Convention in cooperation with UNEP and the Carpathian Convention

The Carpathians represented by the Polish Presidency



- **Updating the trilateral Memorandum of Cooperation between the CBD, Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention**
  - draft MoC in consultation w CBD Secretariat
  - to be signed ideally at the Carpathian Ministerial Conference in Poland 2022
- **Invitation to join the Forum Alpinum** focused on mountain biodiversity, 15-17 December 2021 in Bolzano and online

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

*UN Resolution - Nature knows no borders: transboundary cooperation – a key factor for biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use*

- adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its 75<sup>th</sup> session held on 16 April 2021
- recognizes the Carpathian Convention as a regional initiative supporting cooperation and transboundary approaches in respect to biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use
- 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 initiative

### Cooperation with the Mountain Partnership

- regularly exchange with the Mountain Partnership, especially on further strengthening the visibility of the mountain regions on the political agendas, including within the on the Post-2020 GBF and UN Decade on Restoration



### Promoting the Carpathian Convention

- **Presenting the Carpathian Convention as a good example at various meetings, including:**
  - Regional Dialogue on Governance in the Andes and Mountain Regions on 27-28 April 2021
  - Regional Dialogues on the Integral Management of Páramos and other High Mountain Ecosystems, co-organized by CONDESAN on 21 October

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

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

- collaborating with S4C in the implementation of the project, “Linking Science, Policy And People For Sustainable Carpathians”, funded by the Visegrad Fund
- supported the organization of the 6<sup>th</sup> Forum Carpaticum Conference, focused on *Linking the Environmental, Political and Societal Aspects for Carpathian Sustainability* and co-organized several sessions and workshops during the Forum
- co-organized a ceremony of signing the Memorandum of Understanding for the Cooperation between the S4C and the SNC-mt,
- 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, as well as in the summer School *IPROMO 2021 - Post COVID-19 Recovery in Mountain Areas*, organized by the Mountain Partnership
- supported the S4C in collecting and assembling recommendations for the **Carpathian Convention** and for the Research Agenda for the Carpathians
- 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

# Next Steps

Strengthening science-policy-practice interface and cooperation with scientific networks

Concrete CCIC recommendations for action (draft by the Secretariat)

- CCIC encourages the Parties, the Secretariat and other actors to consider the specific recommendations from the 6th Forum Carpaticum.
- CCIC encourages further collaboration with the Science for the Carpathians on strengthening Carpathian Convention networks, coordination and collaboration within and between them and request the Secretariat to support this process.
- CCIC requests the Secretariat to support organization of the 7th Forum Carpaticum as relevant.

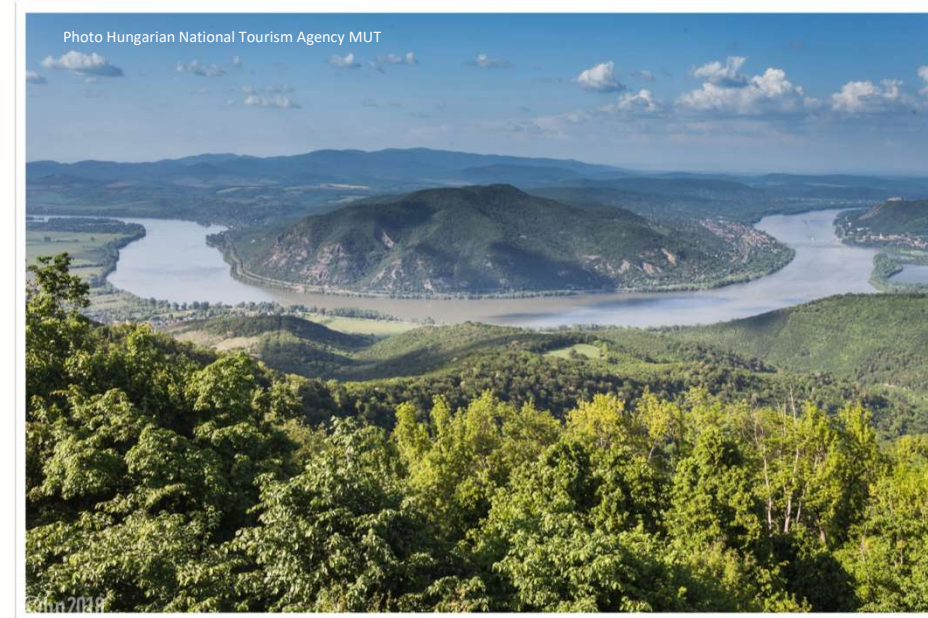
## DECISION COP6/11 Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management

Continuing cooperation with the ICPDR Tisza Group

Possible engagement in the JoinTisza follow up project – ongoing discussion

Active exchange with the EUSDR PA4 (Water)

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





## DECISION COP6/12 Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

### SARD Protocol in force !

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.

➤ Need for implementation!



## DECISION COP6/13 Sustainable Forest Management

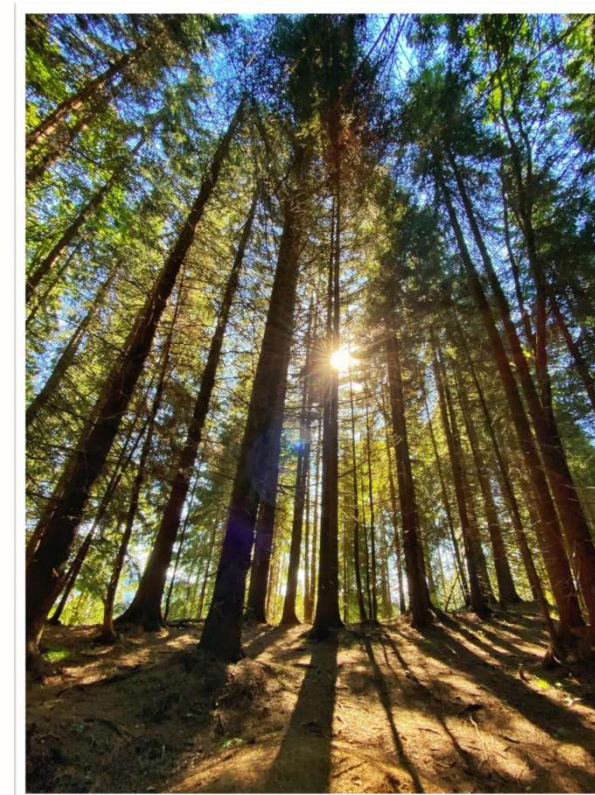
### Inventory of virgin forest in the Carpathians

Continuing cooperation with the 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.

- Official information for the Parties still needed!

### Developing the assessment of the impacts of climate change on the Carpathian forests and their ecosystem services

More info under the reporting from the WG Climate Change Chair



# Next Steps

## Sustainable Forest Management

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Concrete CCIC recommendations for action (draft by the Secretariat)

- CCIC encourages the prompt finalization of the Inventory of Virgin Forests of the Carpathians and invites all the Parties and relevant actors to support this process
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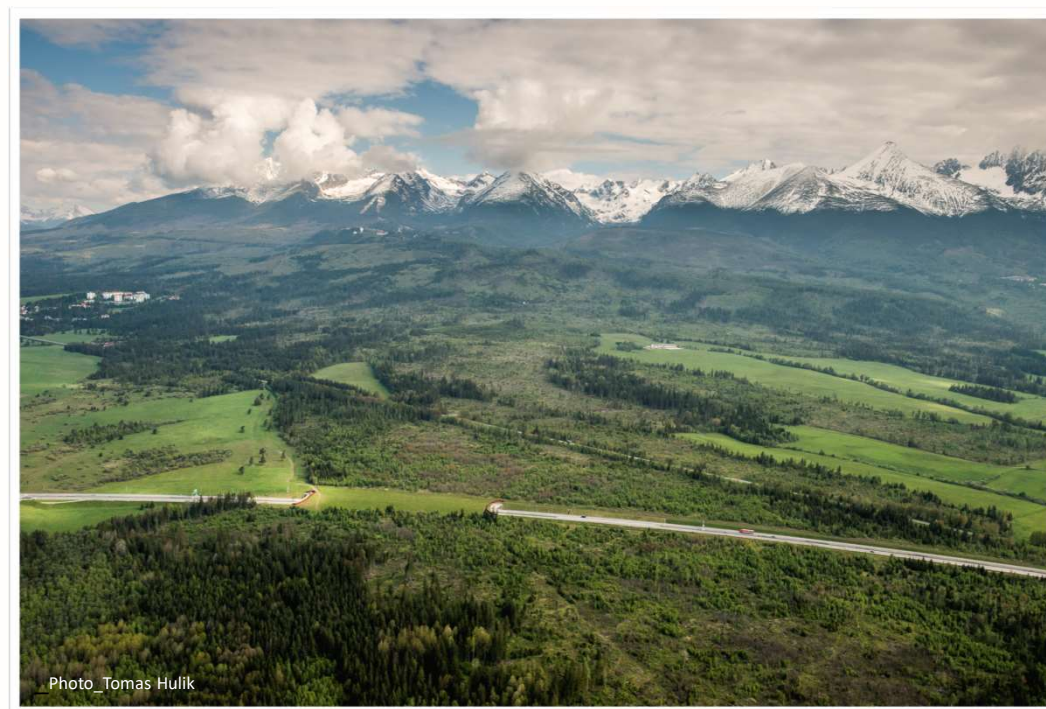


## DECISION COP6/14 Sustainable transport and infrastructure, industry and energy

### Supporting implementation of the SaveGREEN project

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

- developing the Joint Declaration between EUSDR and the Carpathian Convention focused on mainstreaming of ecological connectivity, to be presented at the EUSDR Annual Forum 2022



# Next Steps

## Sustainable transport and infrastructure, industry and energy

Concrete CCIC recommendations for action (draft by the Secretariat)

- CCIC invites the Parties and relevant stakeholders to support the process of developing the Joint Declaration focused on mainstreaming of ecological connectivity and endorsing it at the EUSDR Annual Forum 2022, if possible.
-

## DECISION COP6/16 Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge

*Carpathian Route - exploring, promoting and protecting the richness of the cultural and natural heritage of the Carpathian Region*

The project funding was cancelled in September 2020 by EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Regional Cooperation due to political reasons

- Ongoing consultation on a possibility to restore the project by the Lead Partner – the Marshal Office of the Podkarpackie Region





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

### Carpathian Integrated Biodiversity Information System (CCIBIS)

- Continuing cooperation with various partners (WWF CEE, SPECTRA, towards installation of the CCIBIS within the Carpathian Convention server.
- Continuing cooperation with the EEA for further development and integration of the CCIBIS into EU/EEA information systems.

