

FINAL AGENDA

14th Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity 22–24 May 2023, Vsetín, Czech Republic

18:00 – 21:00 Day 1 – 22 May

17:30 – 18:00 Arrival and registration of participants

18:00 – 21:00 Session I – Introduction

- 1) Opening of the WG Biodiversity meeting and opening remarks by the WG Biodiversity Chair
- 2) Welcome remarks by the Polish Presidency
- 3) Adoption of the agenda
- 4) Celebrating the International Day for Biological Diversity & 20 years since the signature of the Carpathian Convention

Joint Dinner

9:00 – 18:15 Day 2 – 23 May

9:00 – 11:15 Session II – GBF implementation in the Carpathian region – developing the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework

- 5) Presentation of the draft Carpathian Biodiversity Framework – **Mr. Harald Egerer, Secretariat**
- 6) Mainstreaming the Carpathian Convention activities into the national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) – **Ms. Eliška Rolfová, Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic**
- 7) Increasing synergies for the GBF implementation – Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between the CBD, the Alpine Convention, and the Carpathian Convention in the light of the new global biodiversity framework – **Mr. Harald Egerer, Secretariat**
- 8) Discussion

11:15 – 11:30 *Coffee break*

11:30– 13:00 Session III – Large carnivores conservation and ecological connectivity in the Carpathians – project implementation and cooperation opportunities

- 9) Presentation of projects supporting Implementation of *the Action Plan on large carnivores' conservation and ecological connectivity*¹, followed by discussion:
 - SaveGREEN – Safeguarding the functionality of transnationally important ecological corridors in the Danube basin – presenting the project results – **Ms. Hildegard Meyer, WWF CEE**
 - LECA – Supporting the coexistence and conservation of Carpathian Large Carnivores – presenting the new project – **Mr. Martin Duřa, Mendel University**
 - Information about the international summit - Achieving Coexistence between Humans and Large Carnivores, Bucharest, Romania on 27-29 September 2023 – **Ms. Liliana Virtopeanu, Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests of Romania**

¹ [International Action Plan on conservation of large carnivores and ensuring ecological connectivity \(2020\)](#)

10) Presentations of initiatives from other regions:

- Presentation of the EU Large Carnivores Platform – **Ms. Katrina Marsden, Adelphi**
- Presentation of the Large Carnivore Platform in Dinaric-Balkan-Pindos region - **Ms. Katrina Marsden, Adelphi**
- Presentation of WISO (Large Carnivores, Wild Ungulates and Society) Platform of the Alpine Convention – **Mr. Rok Černe, Slovenia Forest Service**
- Information about the proposal for listing the Eurasian Lynx on the CSM Appendix – **Mr. Urs Breitenmoser, IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group (online)**

13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch break**

14:00 – 15:30 11) NaturaConnect – Designing a resilient and coherent Trans-European Network for Nature and People:

- Presentation of the NaturaConnect project – **Mr. Piero Visconti, IIASA (online)**
- Interactive session with the meeting participants* (on spot and virtually) – **Ms. Hildegard Meyer, WWF CEE**

15:30 – 15:45 **Coffee break**

15:45 – 17:45 **Session IV – Cooperation with other organizations and bodies**

- 12) Presentation of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative - **State Nature Conservancy of Slovakia (tbc)**
- 13) Presentation of the Science for the Carpathians – **Mr. Lubos Halada, Institute of Landscape Ecology, SAS**
- 14) Presentation of the Alpine Convention – Alpine Biodiversity Board, **Mr. Paolo Angelini, Ministry Minister of Environment and Energy Security, Italy**
- 15) Presentation of the EUSDR PA6 - **Mr. Florian Ballnus, EUSDR PA6**
- 16) Presentation of the Carpathian Research Network / Follow-up to the Biogeography of the Carpathians - **Mr. Patrik Mraz, Charles University**
- 17) Presentation of the Support to Ukraine in the framework of the Carpathian Convention:
 - Ministerial Declaration of the Carpathian Convention on the impact of war in Ukraine on the environment and the need for cooperation and assistance and its implementation – **Mr. Harald Egerer, Secretariat**
 - Build Back Better for Ukraine – **Mr. Iaroslav Teleshun, WWF Ukraine**

17:45 – 18:15 **Session V – Institutional aspects**

- 18) Review of the progress in implementation of the WG Biodiversity Work Plan 2021 – 2023 and preparation of the WG Biodiversity Work Plan 2024 – 2026
- 19) Updates on COP7 organization – relevant next steps for the WG Biodiversity; reading of the draft COP7 Decisions relevant for the WG Biodiversity
- 20) AOB
- 21) Conclusions, next steps and closing of the meeting

18:30 **Joint dinner**

8:30 – 13:00

Day 3 – 24 May

Field Trip

*In this interactive session, we will bring the Carpathian Convention community closer to the NaturaConnect project, focusing on policy-related activities. These include studying the protected areas and ecological connectivity governance in the region and identifying best practices. With the aim of building a blueprint for the Trans-European Nature Network (TEN-N) across the region, we will focus on transnational aspects of extending protected areas and connecting them via ecological corridors as input to national pledges under the EU Biodiversity Strategy. To that aim, we intend to identify barriers and enablers (direct and indirect drivers) for implementing TEN-N, funding possibilities and gaps, and how to engage with the non-EU countries in the process.

The session will help NaturaConnect to deliver tools tailored to the needs of the region and elsewhere in Europe.

Session moderated by WWF-CEE
