



Pastoralism in the Carpathians and the Carpathian Convention - Introduction

6th meeting of the CC Working Group on SARD, 26-27 April 2023

UNEP Vienna Programme Office - Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention



Pastoralism

- Traditional practice of animal husbandry and livestock mobility
 - Livestock mobility can take different forms: grazing within village territory, vertical mobility to mountain pastures and back, long-range seasonal migrations
- Cultural heritage and cultural landscape management in the Carpathians region.
- *One of the most sustainable production systems on the planet, which plays a major role in safeguarding ecosystems and biodiversity in natural grasslands and rangelands*



- Ivaşcu, C.M. and Iuga, A. 2022. Chapter 9 Contemporary Transformation of the Pastoral System in the Romanian Carpathian: A Case Study from Maramures Region. In: Bindi, L. [Grazing Communities: Pastoralism on the Move and Biocultural Heritage Frictions](#), Berghahn Books, Brooklyn NY
- IUCN and UNEP. 2014. Pastoralism and the green economy – a natural nexus?
https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/13708/policy_brief_2014___english.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=
- Johnsen, K.I., M. Niamir-Fuller, A. Bensada, and A. Waters-Bayer. 2019. A case of benign neglect: Knowledge gaps about sustainability in pastoralism and rangelands. United Nations Environment Programme and GRID-Arendal, Nairobi and Arendal, www.grida.no.

Pastoralism at Global Level

- UN Decades of Family Farming 2019-2028 and on Ecosystem Restoration, 2021-2030
- Resolution UNEA 4/15 “Innovations in Sustainable Rangelands and Pastoralism”
 - “invites all relevant stakeholders to raise awareness and promote innovative solutions for sustainable management of rangelands and pastoralism taking into account traditional knowledge on sectors such as agro-pastoralism...agroforestry, agriculture, renewable energy and ecotourism”
 - calls on UNEP to “to “support, upon request and subject to the availability of resources, those countries undertaking regional assessments of the status of, and conditions and trends in, rangeland, pastoral land and pastoralism”
- Transhumance in the Alps and in the Mediterranean inscribed on the **UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage** of Humanity in 2019.
- ***2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists***

Carpathian Convention & Pastoralism

- **Article 7 - Sustainable agriculture and forestry, para 1.** calls on the Parties to “maintain the management of land traditionally cultivated in a sustainable manner [...]”.
- **Article 11 - Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge calls for preservation of the** “traditional [...] land-use patterns”.
- **The Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD), Article 1,** calls on the Parties to “cooperate especially on:
 - g) Implementing measures for preserving and promoting traditional farming practices and the related traditional knowledge;
 - d) Promoting the sustainable and/or extensive agro-environmental practices, land resource management practices [...] to protect biological and traditional cultural landscape diversity, natural and semi-natural habitats including grasslands and protected areas”.

Carpathian Convention & Pastoralism

- **The SARD Article 9, *Protection and management of traditional cultural landscapes***, states that:

1. The Parties shall take measures for the protection and management of traditional cultural landscapes of the Carpathians [...] in particular grasslands [...] and the related traditional ecological knowledge.

2. The Parties shall support the maintenance and application of traditional, low-intensity agricultural practices and forms of management of cultural landscapes, traditional ruminants grazing.”



<https://www.unesco-centerbg.org/en/2021/05/31>

Carpathian Convention & Pastoralism

The SARD Article 12

Traditional knowledge and practices

calls on the Convention Parties to “[...] take measures for the preservation and promotion of traditional farming practices, small agricultural holdings, cultural landscapes, traditional ecological and agricultural knowledge [...] which represent significant economic and social features of the rural cultural patrimony of the Carpathians”.



<https://www.unesco-centerbg.org/en/2021/05/31>

Knowledge Gaps

- **Lack knowledge on traditional land-use management and governance in local communities in the Carpathians**
- **Decline of knowledge exchange and skill transfer between generations, and threats to traditional livelihoods**
- The S4C Research Agenda for 2030 recommends to work on “Preservation of cultural landscapes, traditional land-use patterns, local agricultural practices and breeds” (p. 54) as well as “Strengthen[ing] the link between the protection and valorisation of cultural heritage and climate mitigation (p.51)
- Research and expertise on pastoralism is available in [Romania](#), [Poland](#), [Hungary](#).
- A transdisciplinary study conducted [throughout the Carpathians](#) identified that **Romanian and Ukrainian Carpathians “have the best maintained traditional grasslands and grassland management practices**

S4C Research Agenda 2022–2030



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Cudlin, P; Zawiejska, J; Mitrofanenko, T; Mazsa, K; Melnykovich, M, S4C Research Agenda 2022–2030, 77; S4C Science for the Carpathians; Global Change Research Institute CAS, Brno, Czech Republic

Carpathian Pastoralism projects & ideas

- [Project Carpathian Sheep Transhumance 2013](#)
 - recreating the historical transhumance of the Vlach shepherds, of aprox.1400 km through Romania - Ukraine - Poland - Slovakia - Czech Republic, intrinsically linked with settlement of and development of common pastoral culture in the Carpathians.
- [Project The Carpathians connect - Traditional shepherding](#)
 - implemented by GRID Warsaw in 2018 - December 31, 2021 and focused on Carpathian good practices of active nature protection through traditional pastoralism practices.
- Activities originally planned under the “**Carpathian Route**” project:
 - 1) a **Study visit and workshop in Romania**, focused on revitalisation of pastoral traditions and practices of the Carpathian shepherds, through exchange of knowledge and experiences on pastoral practices and traditions in the Carpathians
 - 2) **Publication of a “Compendium of good pastoral practices”**, compiling good practices and lessons related to traditional pastoral economy, pastoral traditions and culture, and traditional pastoral local products.



Carpathian Pastoralism towards IYRP 2026 - ideas

- **Identifying resources to conduct a regional assessment and report** on the status, conditions and trends, as well as needs of pastoralism in the Carpathians.
 - lack of data and understanding of pastoralism at the global level
 - integrate pastoralism & its impact on ecosystem health and livelihood resilience into the national, regional and international frameworks
- Collaboration with S4C - i.e. starting with a **session on Forum Carpathicum 2023 in Krakow, Poland**



<https://carpathianculture.eu/about-the-project-wallachian-culture-trail/>

Carpathian Pastoralism towards IYRP 2026 - ideas

- **Linking work of Carpathian Convention WGs** on SARD, Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge, Sustainable Tourism, Spatial Development, Biodiversity, and Climate Change
- Activities organized by the WG on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge, can focus on Pastoralism:
 - **organization of an Seminar/Webinar**, perhaps back to back with a WG meeting, **highlighting links with cultural heritage, TEK** in the Carpathians, including intergenerational and gender aspects.
 - WG on Cultural Heritage can consider the potential for Carpathian pastoralism to be recognised at the international level, as part of the **UNESCO World Intangible Cultural Heritage, and take steps in this direction**



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Carpathian Pastoralism towards IYRP 2026 - ideas

- Focusing Carpathian Day / Carpathian Week activities of the Carpathian ESD Expert Network on Pastoralism, and implementing other activities to promote this important traditional and sustainable practice.
- Considering other Capacity Building and awareness-raising activities
- Integrating Pastoralism topics into Summer Schools and other higher education activities
- Organizing a study tour / visits between herders?



https://eu4ukraine.eu/en/whats-happening-en/stories-en/producers-of-traditional-ukrainian-cheese-go-for-growth-with-eu-support-en.html#pgcSgb-b10-8_55239



Thank you for your
attention!

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