

Progress Report for the 16th Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee

DAY 1

Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention
UN Environment Programme - Vienna Office



eurac
research

Meeting Agenda

DAY 1

SESSION I | 9:30 – 11:00

1. Opening of the 16th CCIC meeting by the Secretariat and the Serbian Presidency
2. Welcome remarks by the Minister – Sara Pavkov, Minister of Environmental Protection, Serbia
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Report on status of ratification of the Protocols to the Carpathian Convention and the Article 12bis
5. Implementation of the Carpathian Convention: Progress Report:

5.1 Progress Report & Recommendations: COP7/1
With presentations: CARPATHIAN LIFE project; Support to Ukraine

SESSION II | 11:15 – 12:30

- 5.2 Progress Report & Recommendations: COP7/3
- 5.3 Progress Report & Recommendations: COP7/4
With presentation: Multi-Country Mountain Flagship under the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration
- 5.4 Progress Report & Recommendations: COP7/5-6

SESSION III | 13:30 – 15:30

- 5.5. Progress Report & Recommendations: COP7/7
- 5.6. Progress Report & Recommendations: COP7/8
With presentation: Forum Carpathicum 2025 and Related Recommendations for the Carpathian Convention
- 5.7. Progress Report & Recommendations: COP7/9
With presentations: Report on WG Biodiversity and Carpathian Network of Protected Areas activities; LECA project activities and updates; NaturaConnect project activities and updates; Carpathian Wetland Initiative

SESSION IV | 16:00 – 17:45

- 5.8 Progress Report & Recommendations: COP7/13
With presentations: Report on WG Forest activities; ForestConnect project activities and updates
- 5.9 Progress Report & Recommendations: COP7/12, 16
With presentations: Linking biodiversity, pastoralism, and cultural heritage through education for sustainable development project; Multifunctional farming conference; Transhumance UNESCO ICH file submission

Closure of Day 1



Meeting Agenda

DAY 2

SESSION V | 9:30 – 11:15

5. Implementation of the Carpathian Convention: Progress Report (continued)

5.10 Progress Report & Recommendations: COP7/2, COP7/15
With presentations: CSTP relevant outcomes and WG Tourism; CSTP relevant outcomes and way forward for WG Tourism

SESSION VI | 11:30 – 13:00

5.11 Progress Report & Recommendations DECISION COP7/17

5.12 Progress Report & Recommendations: COP7/18
Announcement by the Presidency
With presentation: Sharing experiences on decarbonization and just transition - LIFE IP North-HU-Trans

5.13 Progress Report & Recommendations: COP7/19
With presentation: 3rd Carpathian ESD Seminar in Serbia

6. Report by Observers. *With presentations: Report by Natalya Voloshyna, representative of the NGO Ecosphere*

7. COP8 Updates and discussion

8. Any Other Business

9. Conclusions and closure of the 16th CCIC meeting

14:00 – 16:30 | Meeting on the CARPATHIAN LIFE SNaP project development for relevant project partners and stakeholders

Statuses of ratifications of the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols

	CZECH REPUBLIC Signed / Deposited	HUNGARY Signed / Deposited	POLAND Signed / Deposited	ROMANIA Signed / Deposited	SERBIA Signed / Deposited	SLOVAKIA Signed / Deposited	UKRAINE Signed / Deposited
CARPATHIAN CONVENTION	2003 / 2005	2004 / 2009	2003 / 2006	2003 / 2006	2003 / 2007	2003 / 2004	2003 / 2004
PROTOCOL ON CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIOLOGICAL AND LANDSCAPE DIVERSITY	2008 / 2009	2009 / 2010	2008 / 2010	2008 / 2010	2008 / 2013	2009 / 2011	2008 / 2009
PROTOCOL ON SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT	2011 / 2012	2011 / 2013	2011 / -	2011 / 2013	2011 / 2015	2011 / 2013	2011 / 2012
PROTOCOL ON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM	2011 / 2012	2012 / 2013	2011 / 2012	2011 / 2014	2011 / 2015	2011 / 2012	- / 2017
PROTOCOL ON SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT	2014 / 2018	- / -	2015 / 2016	2014 / 2019	2014 / 2018	2014 / 2015	2015 / 2016
PROTOCOL ON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT	2018 / 2019	2017 / 2018	2018 / 2019	2017 / 2020	- / -	- / 2018	2017 / 2021
NEW ARTICLE ON CLIMATE CHANGE 12BIS	2017 / -	2017 / completed	2017 / completed	2017 / completed	2017 / -	2017 / -	2017 / completed

DECISION COP7/1 Implementation of the Carpathian Convention

Activity: Implement the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework (CBF) and the accompanying Carpathian Vision 2050

Implementation of CBF through the CARPATHIAN LIFE Strategic Nature Project (SNaP):

CORE OBJECTIVES:

- Safeguard Carpathian biodiversity through implementation of the CBF Implementation Plan
- Harmonise national biodiversity conservation efforts via transnational and cross-border cooperation
- Contribute to the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, EU Forest Strategy for 2030, EU Nature Restoration Regulation and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

- **Budget:** ~50 million EUR
- **Duration:** 9 years, from 2026-2035
- **Consortium:** 52 partners from all Carpathian countries
 - Coordination: Eurac Research

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

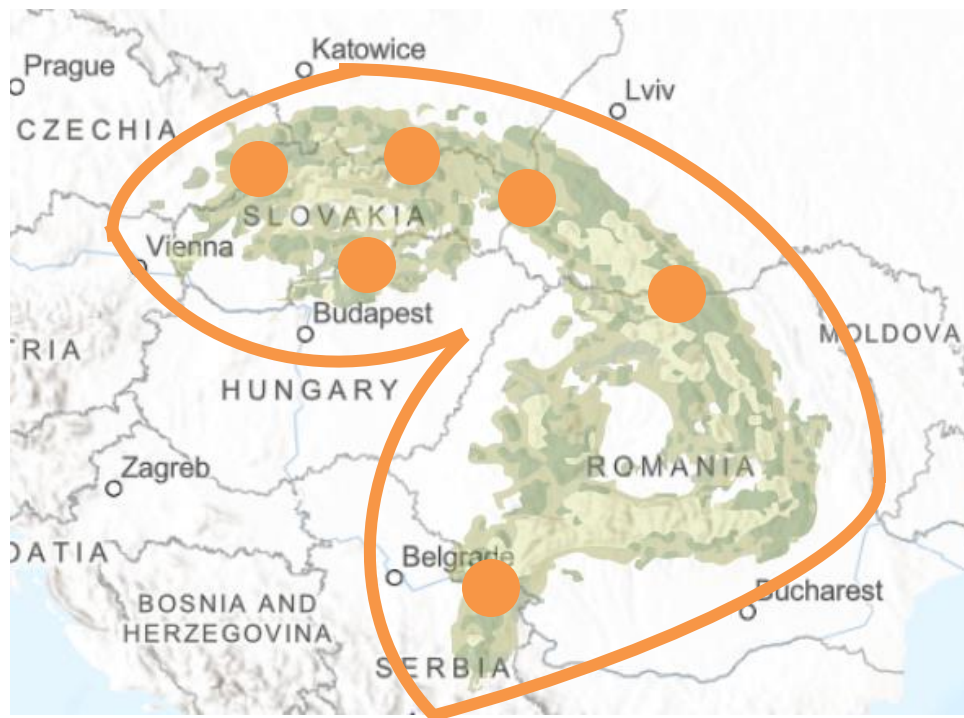
Planned activities under CBF Implementation Plan will be embedded within the following proposed CARPATHIAN LIFE work packages (WP):

- WP1: Project Management and coordination
- WP2: Ecological connectivity and nature restoration
- WP3: Water retention and wetland management and resilience
- WP4: Large carnivore conservation
- WP5: Sustainable and closer-to-nature forestry and primary and old-growth forest conservation
- WP6: Agrobiodiversity conservation and management
- WP7: Governance and mainstreaming biodiversity
- WP8: Sustainability, replication and exploitation of project results
- WP9: Complementary funds monitoring, coordination and mobilisation

DECISION COP7/1 Implementation of the Carpathian Convention

Activity: Implement the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework (CBF) and the accompanying Carpathian Vision 2050

Implementation of CBF through the CARPATHIAN LIFE Strategic Nature Project (SNaP):



CARPATHIAN-LEVEL IMPLEMENTATION

1. Transnational level: activities apply to all or most Carpathian countries

- Utilise Carpathian Convention governing bodies, networks, and platforms
- Capacity building and dissemination
- Best practice examples/pilot actions justified as planned for replication or upscaling in other Carpathian areas

2. Cross-border level: activities apply to areas located across state boundaries or the wider border zones of neighbouring countries

- Utilise Carpathian Convention governing bodies, networks, and platforms
- Capacity building and dissemination
- Best practice examples/pilot actions justified as planned for replication or upscaling in other Carpathian areas

DECISION COP7/1 Implementation of the Carpathian Convention

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DECISION COP7/1 Implementation of the Carpathian Convention

Activity: Implement the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework (CBF) and the accompanying Carpathian Vision 2050

Implementation of CBF through the CARPATHIAN LIFE Strategic Nature Project (SNaP):

CBF IMPLEMENTATION PLAN:

- CBF Implementation Plan being finalised with specific actions, targets, budget, and timelines
- Must be fully adopted before full proposal submission
 - Adoption proposed via written silence procedure before March 2026, currently under consultation with Parties

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Dec 2024: Technical Assistance Project Preparation approved
- Jan-Sept 2025: Online and in-person meetings and workshops
- 4 Sept 2025: Concept Note submitted
- Nov 2025: Concept Note approved – invited to submit full proposal
- 5 Mar 2026: Full proposal due



DECISION COP7/1 Implementation of the Carpathian Convention

Activity: Implement the Ministerial Declaration of the Carpathian Commitments on the impact of war in Ukraine on the environment

Project: GEF8 "Enhanced Protected Areas Network for Biodiversity Conservation and Development"

- Collaborative effort by the Secretariat, Ministry of Economy, Environment and Agriculture of Ukraine, the Institute of Ecology of Carpathians - National Academy of Sciences, and NGO Green Dossier
- **Focus:** Strengthen protected areas, sustainably manage key forest ecosystems, and increase climate resilience
- **Status:**
 - Project Identification Form approved by the GEF; Project Preparation Grant awarded.
 - Internal Cooperation Agreement with UNEP Ecosystem Division and the Secretariat has been signed.



Project: Ukraine's participation in CARPATHIAN LIFE SNaP proposal

- Ukrainian Partners: 14 protected areas, State Forest Resources Agency, Institute of Ecology of the Carpathians - National Academy of Sciences, Ukrainian National Forestry University, and the Ministry of Economy, Environment and Agriculture
- Opportunity to align with EU environmental acquis



DECISION COP7/1 Implementation of the Carpathian Convention

Project: "Green Industrial Recovery through Municipality-Based Development in Ukraine"

- UN-to-UN Agreement successfully signed
- SCC coordinates with UNIDO and Carpathian partners in identifying municipal needs, developing pilot activities and trainings in Ukrainian Carpathians, facilitates cooperation between Carpathian and Alpine countries and Ukraine
- Envisioned activities:
 - Pilot project in collaboration with BRS Convention: Environmentally sound plastic waste management in Ukraine (Rakhiv, Zakarpattia Oblast)
 - Training in Bolzano related to waste-management and pastoralism
 - Exchange with experts from Hungary and partners from Romania

Activity: Implement the Ministerial Declaration of the Carpathian Commitments on the impact of war in Ukraine on the environment



DECISION COP7/1 Implementation of the Carpathian Convention

Activity: Implement the Ministerial Declaration of the Carpathian Commitments on the impact of war in Ukraine on the environment

Ukrainian Carpathians Nature Recovery Dialogue: 27-28 April 2026, Vienna, Austria

- **Purpose:** Identify recovery needs, strengthen donor engagement, foster partnerships and synergies for sustainable Ukrainian Carpathians recovery
- **Participants:** Carpathian Convention Parties, donors, development agencies, UN entities, various stakeholders

General Support to Ukraine:

- Ukrainian participation at:
 - Working Group meetings (April & May 2025) and Forum Carpaticum (Sept 2025)
 - Science for the Carpathians (S4C) Scientific Steering Committee and Executive Board
- Secretariat contributed to:
 - The panel on Nature Recovery at Green Recovery Platform for Ukraine (7 April 2025) by UNEP Ukraine
 - Co-organizing the Ukraine-focused sessions at the Forum Carpaticum 2025, including the Plenary Session “Supporting Green Recovery of Ukraine,” the “Ukraine Abstract Session,” and the side event “Collaborations to Address the Needs of Ukrainian Municipalities”
- Secretariat joined Corona Carpatica International Award at the invitation of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve as a co-founding partner to promote Carpathian cultural and natural values



DECISION COP7/1 Implementation of the Carpathian Convention

Activity: Promote a regional Carpathian Day celebration

Aim: Promote Carpathian protection, sustainable development, and Carpathian Convention activities at multiple levels through the establishment of "Carpathian Day"

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Participating countries in 2025:** Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine
- **Presentation at the Forum Carpaticum 2025:** Lucia Cușnir (Retezat National Park) presented Carpathian Day to inspire regional action
- **Efforts to promote National Recognition of "Carpathian Mountains Day" in Romania**
 - Key actors:
 - Dr. Ioana Baskerville (Romanian Academy – Iasi Branch)
 - Lucia Cușnir (Retezat National Park)
 - Legislative text presented to Romanian Parliament on 18 November
 - through the Parliamentary Commission of the Chamber of Deputies and Senate Commission responsible for UNESCO relations
 - Secretariat provided supportive comments
 - Letters of Support provided by the Secretariat and the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research of Romania





CCIC Recommendations

DECISION COP7/1 Implementation of the Carpathian Convention

- The CICC *welcomes* the submission of the concept note for the “CARPATHIAN LIFE” Strategic Nature Project (SNaP) and its successful evaluation followed by an invitation to submit a full application for the second stage and *supports* the development of the related Carpathian Biodiversity Framework (CBF) Implementation Plan, outlining the activities to be undertaken during the CARPATHIAN LIFE project implementation. Recognizing the project’s crucial role in advancing the substantive implementation of the CBF and its strategic importance for the Carpathian region, the CCIC *encourages* the Parties and relevant stakeholders to actively engage in the preparation of the full project proposal and support its successful evaluation and endorsement at all levels.
- Considering the LIFE SNaP Programme requirements, the CCIC *invites* Parties to consider an exceptional adoption procedure for the CBF Implementation Plan to ensure timely compliance; *requests* the Secretariat to proceed with the relevant procedural arrangements; and *invites* the COP Bureau to assist with the process.



CCIC Recommendations

DECISION COP7/1 Implementation of the Carpathian Convention

- The CCIC *welcomes* the progress made in implementing the Set of measures - support to Ukraine within the Carpathian Convention, especially the development of the project proposal for the GEF-8 project "Enhanced Protected Areas Network for Biodiversity Conservation and Development" in Ukraine, as well as the cooperation with UNIDO on the implementation of the project "Green Industrial Recovery through Municipality-Based Development in Ukraine" in the Carpathian region; in this regard, the CCIC *requests* the Secretariat and invites relevant stakeholders to further advance on undertaking relevant measures to support Ukraine.
- The CCIC *welcomes* the proposal of organizing the conference in 27-28 April, 2026, Vienna, Austria, titled "Ukrainian Carpathians Nature Recovery Dialogue", which aims at providing an overview of recovery needs in the Ukrainian Carpathians, presenting opportunities for donor engagement, and fostering strategic partnerships to advance both short- and long-term sustainable development and resilience initiatives in the region, thereby contributing to the implementation of the *Ministerial Declaration of the Carpathian Convention on the impact of war on the environment in Ukraine* and the *Set of measures*– support to Ukraine within the Carpathian Convention; and *requests* the Secretariat and relevant partners to support the donor conference organization.

CCIC Recommendations

DECISION COP7/1 Implementation of the Carpathian Convention

- The CCIC *welcomes* the regional Carpathian Day initiative, including the events that took place in 2025 throughout the Carpathians. Furthermore, the CCIC *invites* the Parties and relevant stakeholders to organize and/or participate in a local Carpathian Day event on or around 26 September , and *encourages* organizers to consider organizing an event around the theme related to International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.
- The CCIC *welcomes* efforts of Romanian partners and support provided by the Secretariat to include the “Carpathian Mountains Day” as an official national celebration in Romania in liaison with the Parliamentary Commission of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate responsible for relations with UNESCO and *invites* Parties to consider facilitating similar initiatives.



CCIC Recommendations

DECISION COP7/1 Implementation of the Carpathian Convention

- The CCIC *welcomes* the initiative of the International Carpathian School and its celebration of the Carpathian Day in Ukraine, organized by the National Ecological Centre of Ukraine within the project “Shifting towards Ecotourism in Protected Areas through Heritage Interpretation”, and co-financed by the governments of Czechia, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia through the Visegrad Grants of the International Visegrad Fund; *requests* the Secretariat and relevant partners to continue actively engaging in these initiatives and their follow-up; and *invites* the Parties to support such efforts.
- The CCIC *welcomes* the International Award Corona Carpatica, which aims at promoting the cultural and natural values of the Carpathians as well as the principles of good international neighborliness, *acknowledges* the efforts of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve in this regard, as well as its cooperation with the Secretariat. The CCIC *takes note* of the invitation of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve to the Secretariat to join the International Award “Corona Carpatica” as a co-founding partner and *welcomes* the Secretariat’s decision to participate in this initiative.

DECISION COP7/3 Cooperation with the European Union

Activity: Support closer cooperation with the EU, its instruments, and programmes

Secretariat's Support for EU-Funded Projects

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT FOR:

- **Harmon2:** Capacity building for biodiversity in the transport sector (Interreg Danube Region Programme)
 - The project was selected for funding.
- **Utilising the potential of Aarhus Convention in facilitating effective participation and inclusion of Roma communities in the EU green transition** (European Climate Initiative/EUKI)
 - The project was selected for funding.
- **CaSuT:** Carpathian–Sudeten Transboundary Climate Assessment (Copernicus Climate Change Service)
 - The project was recently submitted.
- **CLICONForests:** CLimate mitigation through CONnecting old-growth FORESTS (EUKI)
- **RESTORA:** Understanding Resilient Ecosystems across Scales TO inform terrestrial RestorAtion targets (Horizon Europe)
 - The project was recently submitted.
- **LIFE LARCA:** Protecting grey wolves and brown bear in European landscape: Concrete actions for lasting coexistence and ecological resilience (EU LIFE Programme)
 - The project was recently submitted.

DECISION COP7/4 Cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme

Activity: Cooperation with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Event: “Vanishing Ice and Snow: Global Impacts and Regional Solutions for Resilient Mountains” at UNEA | 11 December 2025, Nairobi, Kenya

- Organized by UNEP with Austria, Colombia, Georgia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Peru, Tajikistan, and international mountain organizations
- Secretariat facilitated involvement of a Carpathian representative
- Agenda includes:
 - High-level science-policy dialogues
 - Launch of the UNEP publication “Mountains in Motion” and a new framework for assessing climate- and disaster-induced loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services
 - Awareness-raising for the International Year of Glaciers’ Preservation and International Mountain Day.

Coordination with UNEP on Secretariat's participation in CARPATHIAN LIFE project

- Secretariat consultation with UNEP Corporate Services Division's Legal Unit regarding UNEP's potential participation as a beneficiary
 - Considering formal and administrative requirements for UNEP involvement in EU-funded programmes
- Full Secretariat participation is highly essential for:
 - Effective engagement and coordination of stakeholders
 - Alignment of project activities with Carpathian Convention provisions

Multi-Country Mountain Flagship under the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

Ivan Svetozarevic
UNEP Consultant

Presentation



CCIC Recommendations

DECISION COP7/4 Cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme

- The CCIC *acknowledges* the ongoing consultations between the Secretariat and UNEP's Corporate Services Division Legal Unit regarding the Secretariat's potential participation in the CARPATHIAN LIFE project as a beneficiary, and, considering the formal and administrative requirements related to UNEP's involvement in EU-funded programmes, the CCIC *requests* the Secretariat to continue liaising with UNEP to undertake all necessary measures to facilitate the Secretariat's full participation as beneficiary in the project. The CCIC *emphasizes* that the active involvement of the Secretariat is essential to ensure effective coordination among the Carpathian Convention Parties, foster stakeholder cooperation, and guarantee full alignment of project activities with the objectives and provisions of the Carpathian Convention.
- The CCIC also *requests* the Secretariat to review and consult possible improvements of the Secretariat services arrangement within the United Nations organizational framework to allow for project implementation, e.g. CARPATHIAN LIFE project, and provide related options until COP8.

DECISION COP7/5 Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies

Activity: Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies on regional mountain governance and interregional cooperation

EURASIAN LYNX CONSERVATION STRATEGY:

- **Framework:** Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) COP14 and its adopted Concerted Action for Eurasian Lynx; Bern Convention; Carpathian Convention
- Substantial delay in developing joint Carpathian Lynx Strategy (autochthonous population conservation)
 - Draft Range-wide Strategy for Balkan Lynx (*Lynx lynx balcanicus*) 2026–2035 developed; to be submitted to CMS COP15
- **Action:** Secretariat consulting with WG Biodiversity Chair (Czech Republic) and partners on next steps



BASEL, ROTTERDAM & STOCKHOLM (BRS) CONVENTIONS COLLABORATION:

- **Identified areas for collaboration (some ongoing):**
 - **Assessment study:** Joint baseline assessment of plastic pollution in Carpathian region
 - **Pilot project:** Environmentally sound plastic waste management in Ukraine
 - **Policy and educational collaboration on waste management and Basel Convention:** facilitating contact among the respective focal points, technical collaboration in various fields, and awareness & education activities
 - **Joint webinars:** Showcasing regional experiences and solutions
 - **Event participation:** BRS presented at Forum Carpathicum 2025 on "Plastic Waste in Mountains and Glaciers"
- **Next Step:** Develop Memorandum of Understanding between Secretariats (based on recommendations)



DECISION COP7/5 Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies

Activity: Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies on regional mountain governance and interregional cooperation

PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF THE ALPINE CONVENTION (PSAC) COLLABORATION:

- Secretariat is in regular contact with the PSAC and its relevant bodies
 - Observance at the Alpine Biodiversity Board meetings
 - Met with the PSAC in Innsbruck, Austria on 18 September 2025
- Representatives of the Alpine Convention presented relevant initiatives at the 10th meeting of WG Forests and 16th meeting of WG Biodiversity



GLOBAL MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEMS INTEGRATION INITIATIVES:

- **Objective:** Integrate mountain ecosystems into global biodiversity and climate agendas (CBD and UNFCCC)
- **Networks:** Alpine Convention, Andean Mountain Initiative, East African Community Mountain Stakeholder Platform, ICIMOD, Mountain Partnership, Scientific Network for the Caucasus Mountain Region, CONDESAN
- **Key Deliverable:** Joint policy brief under Adaptation at Altitude programme with recommendations for operationalizing climate-biodiversity nexus in mountains through the conventions
 - To be presented at CBD and UNFCCC meetings

DECISION COP7/5 Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies

Activity: Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies on regional mountain governance and interregional cooperation

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Collaboration

Event: Virtual Mountain Country Roundtable | online, 13 October 2025

- **Focus:** CBD Programme of Work on Mountain Biological Diversity in Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) goals
- **Topic:** Integration of mountain biodiversity into national strategies and policies
- Serbia as the Presidency of the Carpathian Convention presented remarks

Event: Mountains at the heart of the Climate–Biodiversity Nexus: Strategic Ecosystems for Advancing Global Frameworks" | CBD SBSTTA-27 side event, Panama City, Panama, 21 October 2025

- **Purpose:** Showcase mountains' role in achieving KMGBF goals as a nexus of biodiversity and climate action, and advance CBD/UNFCCC commitments
- **Participants:** Global, regional, national, and scientific actors
- Czech Republic (Ministry of Environment) as WG Biodiversity Chair presented remarks



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

DECISION COP7/5 Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies

Activity: Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies on regional mountain governance and interregional cooperation

PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE “ANCIENT AND PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS AND OTHER REGIONS OF EUROPE”

- UNESCO World Heritage Site covers 19 member states, 5 within Carpathian Convention
- Secretariat is developing collaboration on joint initiatives, including CARPATHIAN LIFE activities

INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE | INNSBRUCK, AUSTRIA, 14-18 SEPTEMBER 2025

Secretariat co-convened the following sessions/workshops:

- **“The science-policy interface for regional mountain governance”** session, led by the Alpine Convention Secretariat
- **“Safeguarding Pastoralism in Mountain Regions: through education, awareness raising and cross-sectoral collaborations”** session, led by the Carpathian Convention Secretariat, in cooperation with Eurac Research, International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026 Coalition, Euromontana, and the Scientific Network for the Caucasus Mountain Region
- **“Innovative Approaches for Mountain Resilience”** workshop, led by the UN GLOMOS programme (Center for Global Mountain Safeguard Research)

DECISION COP7/5 Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies

Activity: Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies on regional mountain governance and interregional cooperation

UNESCO WORLD WATER ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME'S ONLINE SEMINAR SERIES | 17 SEPTEMBER 2025

- **Session Title:** "Cooperation and Participation for Preserving Mountains and Glaciers: Focus on Europe and North America"
- **Focus:** Water-related challenges in mountain areas and need for coordinated action
- Secretariat presented as prominent example of effective mountain cooperation mechanism
- **Next Steps:** Exploring further exchange and cooperation opportunities with UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme

MOUNTAINS CONNECT INTERREGIONAL WORKSHOP BY UNEP, ADAPTATION AT ALTITUDE PROGRAMME | KATHMANDU, NEPAL, 16-19 FEBRUARY 2026

- **Focus:** Regional mountain governance experiences, the benefit of mountain communities and ecosystems, in-depth capacity development, and joint action
- Previous workshop was held in 2022 in Vienna
- **Participants:** Government representatives and experts from Alps, Andes, Caucasus, Carpathians, East Africa, and Hindu Kush Himalaya
 - Carpathian Convention Parties to receive invitations soon

DECISION COP7/6 Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)

Activity: Implementing the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework (CBF) and the accompanying Carpathian Vision 2050

Promoting a regional approach to implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) by highlighting the CBF:

- As a best practice and model for implementing the KMGBF for other mountain platforms
- At the 81st Permanent Committee of the Alpine Convention side event “LIFE Projects for the Alps” (25 March, Rome, Italy) organised by the Italian Presidency of the Alpine Convention
 - Also highlighting the CARPATHIAN LIFE project

Advancing CBF implementation by developing CARPATHIAN LIFE project proposal



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**



CCIC Recommendations

DECISION COP7/5 Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies

- Further to the COP14 of the Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and its adopted Concerted Action for the Eurasian Lynx, the CCIC *recalls* the proposal of developing a joint strategy for the conservation of the autochthonous lynx population in the Carpathian Mountains (Carpathian Lynx Strategy) under the auspices of the Carpathian Convention, the Convention on Migratory Species, and the Bern Convention. In this regard, the CCIC *encourages* the Parties, the Working Group on Biodiversity, the Large Carnivores Expert Group, relevant partners, and the Secretariats of the respective Conventions to undertake the necessary steps towards its development at the earliest convenience. Furthermore, the CCIC *invites* the Secretariats of the relevant Conventions to strengthen their cooperation for this purpose.
- The CCIC takes note of the Range-wide Strategy for the Rescue and Conservation of the Balkan Lynx (*Lynx lynx balcanicus*) 2026–2035 developed as a part of the Convention on Migratory Species COP 14 Concerted Action for the Eurasian Lynx, and invites Parties, Working Group on Biodiversity, the Large Carnivores Expert and other relevant stakeholders to consult and consider the Strategy with the view on strengthening cooperation for conservation of the Eurasian lynx and its subspecies in the region.



CCIC Recommendations

DECISION COP7/5 Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies

- The CCIC *welcomes* the cooperation between the Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the Carpathian Convention and the identified initial areas of collaboration, including developing a pilot project and a joint initial assessment of plastic pollution in the Carpathian region, aiming at developing broader policy and technical collaboration. Furthermore, the CCIC *welcomes* the proposal to develop a Memorandum of Understanding or a similar document between the Conventions and *invites* the Secretariat to make necessary arrangements in this regard.
- The CICC *welcomes* the joint policy brief developed in cooperation with mountain-specific alliances and cooperation platforms, including its draft recommendations for operationalising the climate-biodiversity nexus in mountain ecosystems through both the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UNFCCC.

JOINT LUNCH

12:30-13:30

*16th Carpathian Convention Implementation
Committee Meeting*



eurac
research

DECISION COP7/7 Cooperation with Eurac Research

Activity: Activities related to the cooperation with Eurac Research

Project Cooperation

CARPATHIAN LIFE project proposal development:

- Eurac was selected by the Parties to be beneficiary of the project

IMPETUS Project Replication Workshop | 27 March 2025, Hostětin, Czech Republic

- Project: EU Horizon “IMPETUS Project-Dynamic Information Management Approach for the Implementation of Climate Change Adaptation Solutions in European Regions”
- Objective: Identify climate change risks to agricultural sector through participatory approach
- Co-organizers: Centre Veronica Hostětin, Eurac Research
- Partners: Mountain Research Initiative, Carpathian Convention , local experts
- Focus area: White Carpathians/Zlín region (selected for similarities to Italian demonstration sites)

CENTRAL MOUNTAINS Workshop on governance within the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions, scheduled for 16 December 2025 in Vienna, with the support of the Secretariat under Eurac Research leadership.

Ongoing Scientific Support

- Eurac Research continues providing scientific expertise and assistance to the Carpathian Convention through the Vienna Representing Office and in cooperation with Bolzano Research Institutes and Administrative Departments

eurac
research



CCIC Recommendations

DECISION COP7/7 Cooperation with Eurac Research

- The CCIC *expresses* its profound appreciation for the longstanding and dynamic collaboration between the Secretariat and Eurac Research. Eurac Vienna Office's indispensable contributions have been instrumental in driving forward key initiatives and projects. The CCIC *endorses* the continuation and deepening of this successful partnership, recognizing it as a strong added value to the ongoing and future work of the Secretariat and Convention.
- The CCIC *extends* its sincere thanks to Eurac Research for assuming the role of coordinator of the CARPATHIAN LIFE project proposal, in consultation with the Parties and the Secretariat, and for further developing the project proposal, and *reaffirms* the trust and confidence placed in Eurac's expertise, professionalism, and longstanding commitment to the Carpathian region.
- CCIC *thinks* Eurac Research for taking the initiative to organize the upcoming workshop on governance within the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions, scheduled for 16 December 2025 in Vienna, with the support of the Secretariat. The CCIC *encourages* broad participation of Parties and partners in the workshop and supports the use of this platform to promote the uptake of outputs from the Central Mountains project and to advance governance mechanism within the Carpathian Convention.

DECISION COP7/8 Strengthening science-policy-practice interface and cooperation with scientific networks

S4C Network Governance and Participation

S4C REPRESENTATION & WEBSITE

- Scientific Steering Committee updated with active Secretariat representation (Tamara Mitrofanenko and Eleonora Musco)
- New S4C website published and listed on Carpathian Convention webpages: <https://carpathianscience.uj.edu.pl/>
- Tamara Mitrofanenko nominated to S4C Executive Board (per CCIC recommendations)

S4C PARTICIPATION IN CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

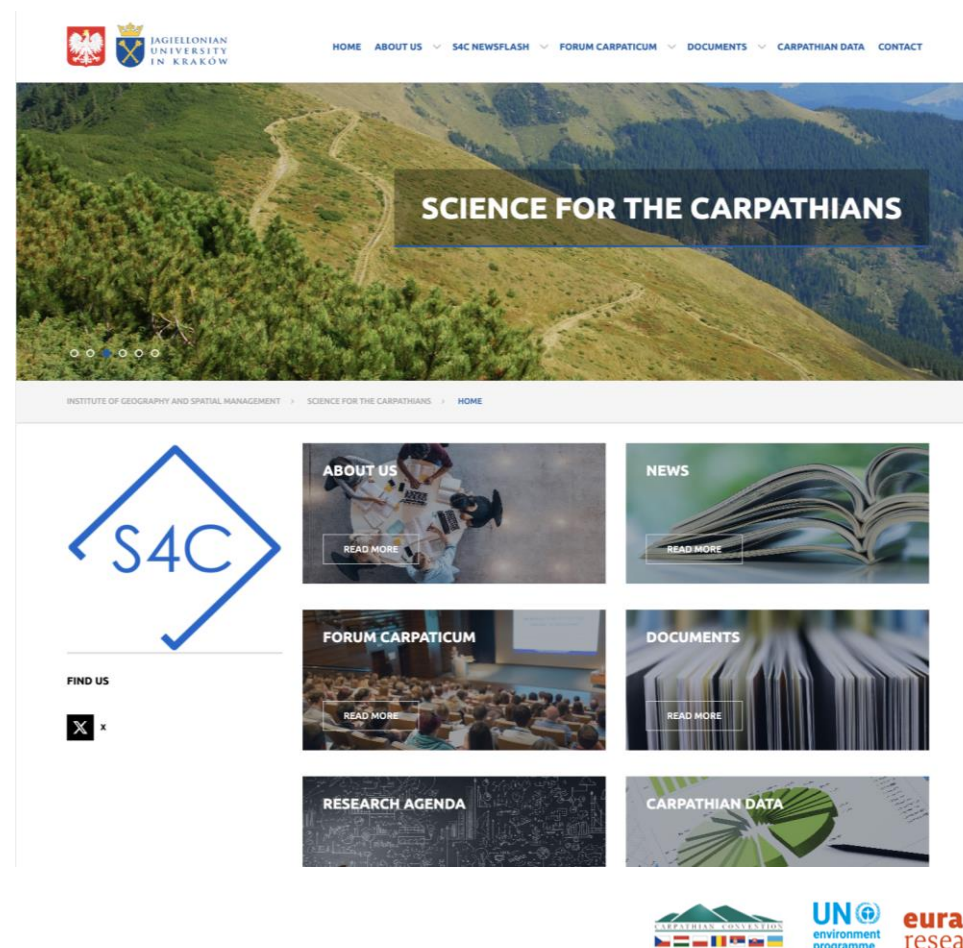
- WG Sustainable Forest Management
- WG Biodiversity
- Carpathian Education for Sustainable Development Expert Network (CESDSEN) meetings

Cooperation with Scientific Partners

SIGNED MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION:

- Signed trilateral MoC between the Secretariat and:
 - Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences, Slovakia
 - Roma Environmental Sustainability & Development Initiative – RESDI
- Signed 10 September 2025 during Forum Carpaticum in Bratislava

Activity: Strengthening the cooperation and involvement of the Science for the Carpathians (S4C) network in Convention activities



DECISION COP7/8 Strengthening science-policy-practice interface and cooperation with scientific networks

Activity: Strengthening the cooperation and involvement of the Science for the Carpathians (S4C) network in Convention activities

8th Forum Carpaticum | 9-11 September 2025, Bratislava, Slovakia

- **Secretariat role:** Co-organizer and S4C Scientific Board member
 - **Co-organized sessions on:**
 - Safeguarding Carpathian pastoralism
 - Education for sustainable development
 - Support to the Green recovery of Ukraine
 - **Side events organized:**
 - Fostering collaboration to address the needs of Ukrainian Municipalities
 - Carpathian Fair

FORUM CARPATICUM FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

- Secretariat facilitated S4C network discussions on:
 - S4C network development
 - Recommendations to Carpathian Convention
 - S4C Research Agenda update



DECISION COP7/8 Strengthening science-policy-practice interface and cooperation with scientific networks

Activity: Strengthening the science-policy-practice interface and cooperation with scientific networks

Secretariat Participation in Scientific Conferences

STUDENT CONFERENCE ON CONSERVATION SCIENCE (SCCS EUROPE) | 2-6 SEPTEMBER 2025, BALATONVILAGOS, HUNGARY

- **Organizer:** Hungarian Research Network Centre for Ecological Research of Hungarian Academy of Sciences
- **"Carpathian Day" at SCCS Europe 2025**
- **Secretariat activities:**
 - Presented Carpathian Convention, Carpathian Biodiversity Framework (CBF), and S4C collaboration
 - Engaged young and early career biodiversity researchers to provide recommendations for CBF implementation
 - Young researcher **recommendations** received on CBF Strategic Objectives, linking Biodiversity with:
 - Agriculture, Climate Change, Forestry, Tourism, Transport and Infrastructure, Education and Public Awareness



Main award received by: Andra - Claudia Neagu, PhD Student at University of Bucharest, Romania.

- Topic: Wildlife at Risk: Understanding the Drivers and Distribution of Poaching in Romania

DECISION COP7/8 Strengthening science-policy-practice interface and cooperation with scientific networks

Activity: Strengthening the science-policy-practice interface and cooperation with scientific networks

Secretariat Participation in Scientific Conferences

INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE | 14-18 SEPTEMBER 2025, INNSBRUCK, AUSTRIA

- **Secretariat co-organized workshops:**
 - "The science-policy interface for regional mountain governance" with Alpine Convention Secretariat
 - "Innovative Approaches for Mountain Resilience" with UN GLOMOS programme (Center for Global Mountain Safeguard Research)
 - "Safeguarding Pastoralism in Mountain Regions: through education, awareness-raising and cross-sectoral collaborations" led by Secretariat
- **Other activities:**
 - liaised with Network for European Mountain Research and University Centre of Excellence "Mountain University" (Unimont)

MULTIFUNCTIONAL FARMING CONFERENCE | 16-18 SEPTEMBER, RZESZÓW, POLAND

- **Secretariat role:** Collaborated with organizers; gathered recommendations to support Convention implementation
- **Relevance:** Addresses sustainable development topics critical to Carpathian region



DECISION COP7/8 Strengthening science-policy-practice interface and cooperation with scientific networks

Activity: Strengthening the science-policy-practice interface and cooperation with scientific networks

Project: “Promoting Biodiversity through Transdisciplinary Learning Interventions in the Carpathians (ProBioTIC)”

- **Partners:** Leuphana University (lead partner), Jagiellonian University
- **Collaborators:** SCCS Europe organizers
- **Supported by:** German Environmental Foundation (DBU)
- **Activities:**
 - Developed and implemented university courses on Carpathian region
 - Leuphana University, Germany and Jagiellonian University, Poland
 - Supporting participation of young scientists from Carpathian countries and Carpathian Convention presentations at SCCS Europe
 - Support participation and contributions from young scientists to the Carpathian Convention
 - Relevant for:
 - Implementation of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework
 - WG Biodiversity, WG Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, WG Tourism, CESDSEN



DECISION COP7/8 Strengthening science-policy-practice interface and cooperation with scientific networks

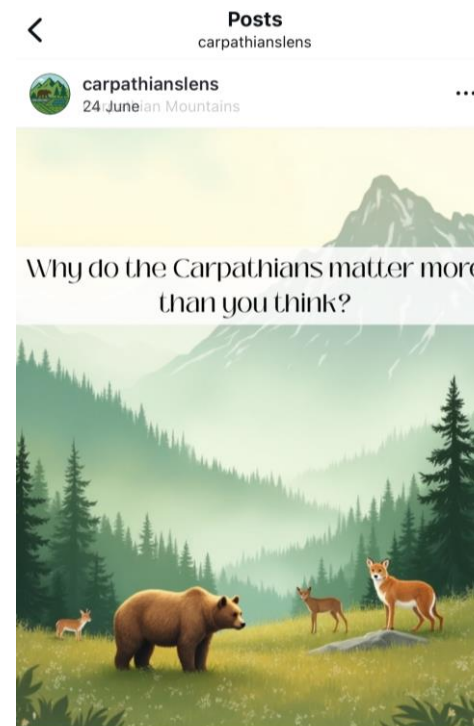
Project: “Promoting Biodiversity through Transdisciplinary Learning Interventions in the Carpathians (ProBioTIC)”

Recommendations received from young scientists at Jagiellonian University:

- Project 1 — What’s Rustling in the Carpathian Meadows?
- Project 2 — Inherited Wisdom: How Folklore of the Carpathians Can Shape Environmental Ethics
- Project 3 — The Carpathians Under the Lens
 - Instagram profile: www.instagram.com/carpathianslens
 - Youtube video:



Activity: Strengthening the science-policy-practice interface and cooperation with scientific networks



Activity: Strengthening the science-policy-practice interface and cooperation with scientific networks

Recommendations received from young scientists at Leuphana University:

- Pastoralism
- Citizen Science
- Public Attitudes toward large carnivores
- Ecotourism

◆ In the Footsteps of the Sheep How to Recognise Oscypek – Cheese from Traditional Pastoralism



And remember: Your choice to buy traditional products like this helps support pastoralist livelihoods—and plays a role in preserving biodiversity and cultural heritage!

A photograph showing three men in traditional white shirts and dark trousers, each wearing a different style of hat (a fedora, a cowboy hat, and a sombrero). They are herding a large flock of sheep on a paved road. The man on the left is holding a long stick, and the man in the middle is also holding a stick. The man on the right is holding a small object in his hand. The background is a blurred green landscape.

A person in a dark, industrial setting, possibly a furnace or smelter, with bright light emanating from a central point. The person is wearing a blue shirt and dark pants, and is standing near a large, dark, rectangular structure. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source being a bright, glowing point in the center, creating a strong contrast and casting long shadows. The overall atmosphere is dark and industrial.



try out the interactive actionbound tour about
pastoralism in the Carpathians:
<https://www.wissenschaftszentrumberlin.net/html>



Do you have feedback or questions?
This information board was created as part of
the Biodiversity Conservation and Local
Sustainability Labels Seminar of the Leuphana
University Lüneburg.
Contact: Luisa Kreitmair;
luisa.kreitmair@stud.leuphana.de

DECISION COP7/8 Strengthening science-policy-practice interface and cooperation with scientific networks

Activity: Strengthening the science-policy-practice interface and cooperation with scientific networks

Project: “Promoting Biodiversity through Transdisciplinary Learning Interventions in the Carpathians (ProBioTIC)”

Next Steps:

- **Feedback requested** on young researchers' recommendations and factsheets / policy briefs
- Presenting an updated version of recommendations at WG Tourism and WG Biodiversity
- Preparing a Tool Kit to facilitate more Transdisciplinary courses focused on addressing challenges of the Carpathian Region and Carpathian Convention stakeholders
- Planning for the next courses: **support requested with engaging stakeholders** to collaborate with the young scientists

Poland


Factsheet on biodiversity

- 01 General information about biodiversity
- 02 Challenges & approaches to conservation
- 03 Consumption
- 04 Agriculture
- 05 ESD
- 06 Policy-Science interface
- 07 Literature

Seminar: Biodiversity conservation & local sustainability labels
Names: Luisa Kreitmair, Bogusława Przybyłowska, Kevin Hecht, Xenia Elwert, Paula Mühlbauer, Teresa Knothe

A POLICY BRIEF ON BIODIVERSITY IN ROMANIA

CAROLIN BREIHZOLZ (4000375)
ROSINA HEIM (4001219)
JASMIN SPOCKL (4001203)
HELENA VOIGTS (4000418)
WASIFA NOOR (3047427)
PIA POLL (4000605)



<https://www.worldometers.info/maps/romania-map/>

UKRAINE

Biodiversity

Ukraine is home to remarkable diversity and endemic flora and fauna, as well as extensive natural landscapes and unique biotopes (Skobel et al., 2023). Historically, vast stretches of the country were dominated by steppe ecosystems, which once covered around 40% of its total territory. Today, however, only about 1% of these steppes remain intact in their original form (Dembicz et al., 2016). Despite this dramatic reduction, the remaining grassland habitats continue to harbour exceptional biodiversity, including numerous endemic and rare species. Grassland habitats are extremely important, primarily as a source of numerous ecosystem services like soil formation, countering soil and water erosion, as well as increase the resilience of ecosystems to global climate change and of natural disasters (O.o. et al., 2022). Severe threats such as habitat fragmentation, the spread of invasive plant species, land abandonment, unsustainable land use practices, overexploitation of natural resources, and physical destruction had already placed grassland habitats among the most endangered habitat types in all of Europe prior to the outbreak of war (Skobel et al., 2023).

Impact of the war

The ongoing war has transformed Ukraine's ecosystems, intensifying pre-existing ecological problems and creating new ones. Roughly one quarter of land is occupied, and ~30% of the territory is contaminated by mines, constraining land use and habitat connectivity (Topled, n.d.). Combat traffic and explosions induce mechanical, physical, and chemical soil degradation; microbial biomass and process activity decline accordingly (Solokha et al., 2024). Social-ecological impacts are pronounced: war disrupts people-nature relationships; access to essential ecosystem services has been markedly reduced, while new disservices—flooding and contamination—have emerged (Elbakidze et al., 2025). Consistent with prior conflicts, damage spans air, water, and soils, with knock-on biodiversity loss and pressures on fisheries and forests (Elbakidze et al., 2025). Despite this, private gardens and urban greenspaces are proving vital for reconnection and psychological healing (Elbakidze et al., 2025).

The war's merciless impact



Grasslands and coastal habitats of southern Ukraine



A - steppe meadows; B - grey dunes
C - sandy meadow grassland; D - desert steppes (Skobel et al., 2023)

Outlook

Despite these challenges, there is also hope. Following the mottoes "build back better" and "build back greener," Ukrainians see the chance to steer post-war reconstruction toward a more sustainable, low-carbon, and biodiversity-positive future.

8th Forum Carpathicum 2025

*Jakub Csabay, Comenius
University Bratislava*

*Joanna Zawiejska, University of
the National Education
Commission Krakow*

Presentation

CCIC Recommendations

DECISION **COP7/8 Strengthening science-policy-practice interface and cooperation with scientific networks**

- The CCIC *welcomes* progress in strengthening the Science for the Carpathians (S4C) network and the active role of the Secretariat in supporting the S4C; *requests* the Secretariat to continue its close cooperation with the S4C; and *invites* the Parties to contribute to the process, as relevant.
- The CCIC *welcomes with appreciation* the results of the 8th Forum Carpathicum 2025 and the active engagement of the Secretariat in the Forum. It *welcomes* of the recommendations to the Carpathian Convention and proposals to update the S4C Research Agenda 2030; *invites* the Parties to take the recommendations into close consideration; and *requests* the Secretariat to continue close collaboration with the S4C in this respect.



CCIC Recommendations

DECISION COP7/8 Strengthening science-policy-practice interface and cooperation with scientific networks

- The CCIC *welcomes* the Memorandum of Cooperation with Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences, Slovakia and Roma Environmental Sustainability & Development Initiative – RESDI, signed during the Forum Carpathicum 2025 in Bratislava; *requests* the Secretariat to continue active collaboration with these partners; and *invites* the Parties to contribute to the joint activities, as relevant.
- The CCIC *welcomes* with appreciation activities of the Secretariat and partners related to strengthening the science-policy-practice interface and cooperation with scientific networks, including strengthening the participation of young and early career scientists, such as through the Student Conference on Conservation Science in Hungary (SCCS Europe) and ProBioTIC project; *takes note* of the resulting recommendations relevant for the Carpathian Convention; *requests* the Secretariat to continue these efforts; and *invites* the Parties to support the process.

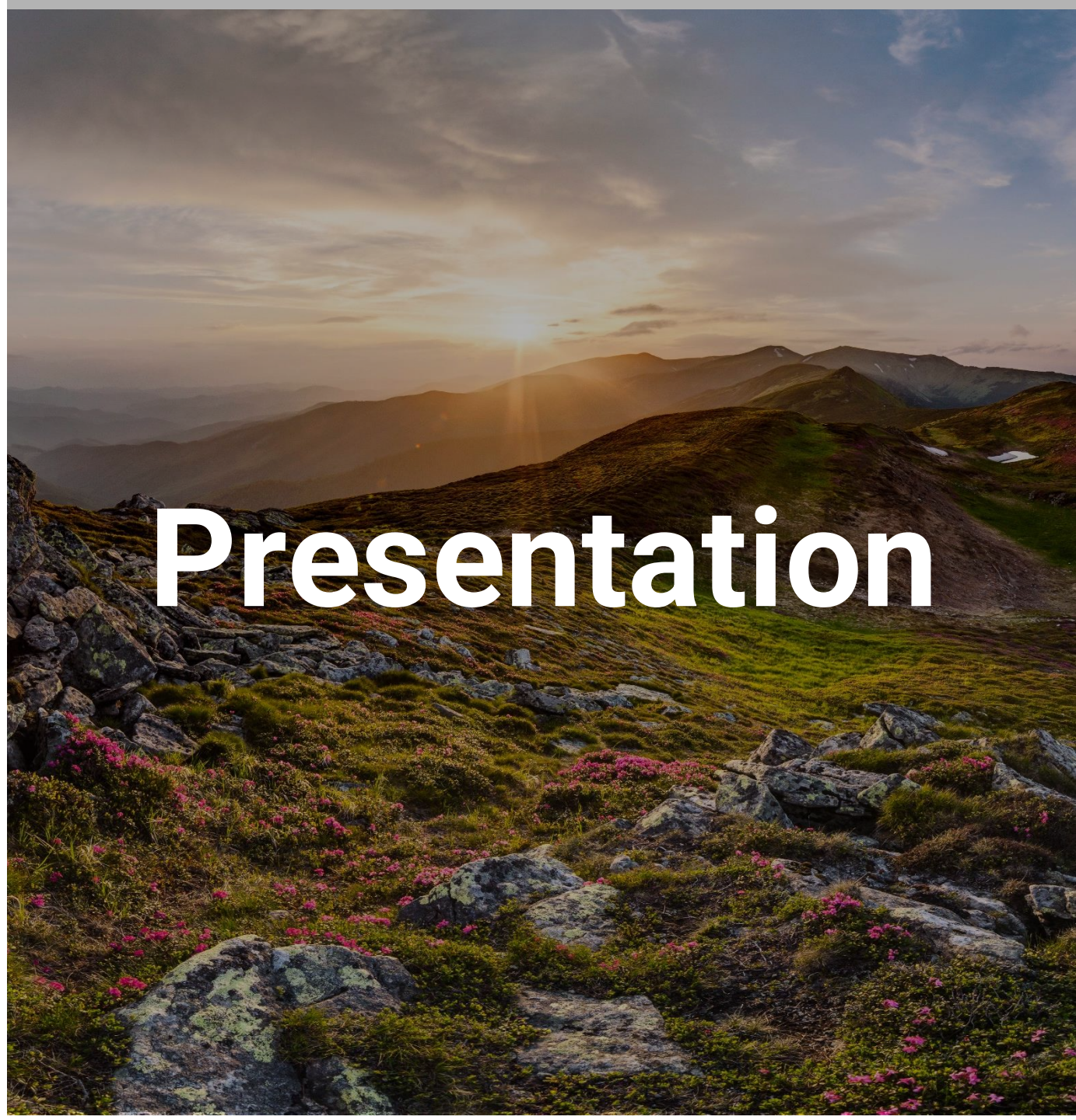
**Report on Working Group
Biodiversity activities,
including updates from the
Carpathian Network of
Protected Areas (CNPA)**

**Eliška Rolfová,
Ministry of the Environment
of the Czech Republic**

Presentation

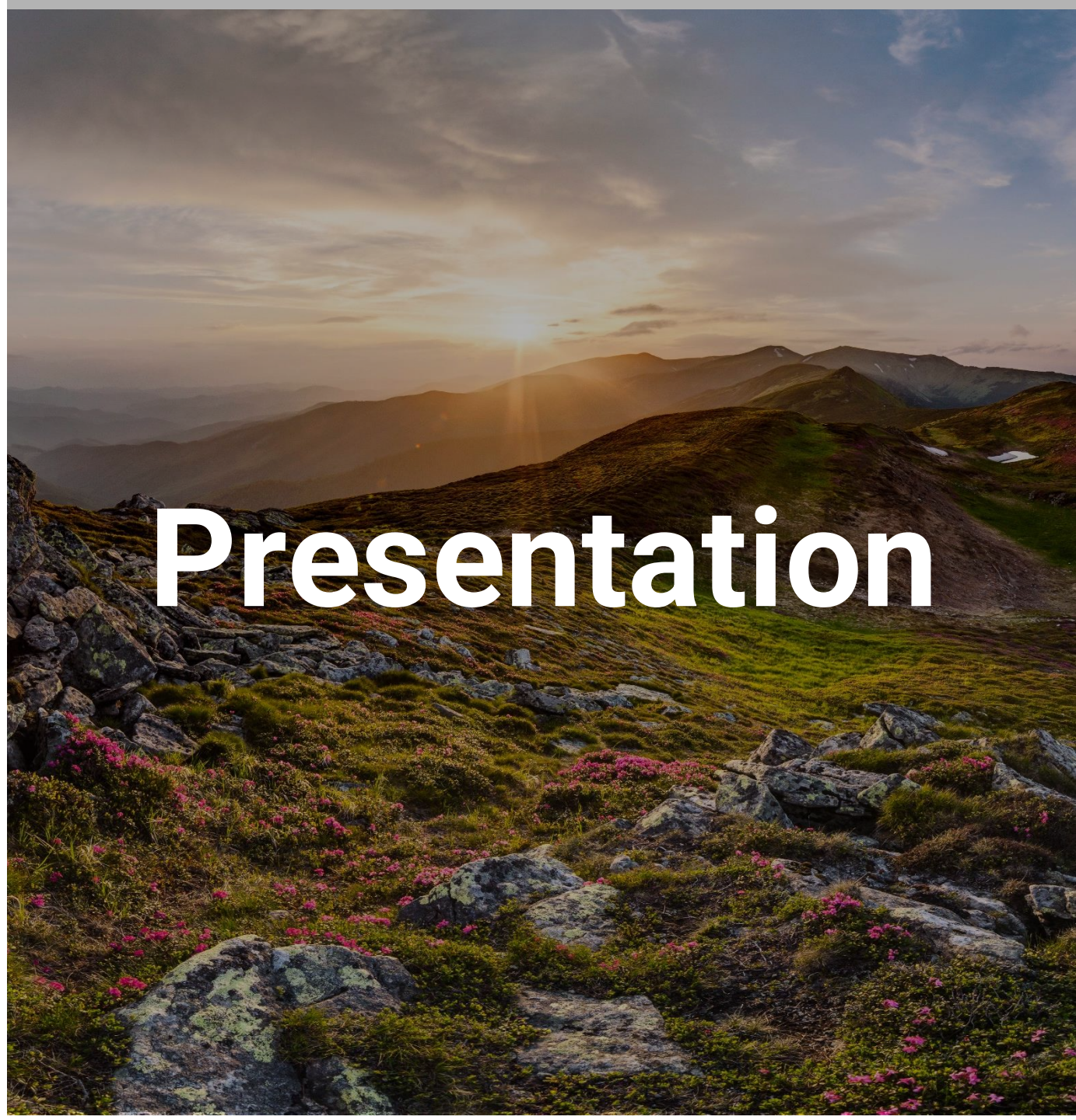
LECA project: Supporting the coexistence and conservation of Carpathian Large CArnivores

**Martin Duľa,
Mendel University in Brno /
LECA Project Lead Partner
(online)**



**NaturaConnect project:
Building a resilient ecological
network of conserved areas
across Europe for nature and
people**

**Hildegard Meyer,
WWF CEE
(online)**



Presentation

Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI)

Natália Kubicová
CWI Coordinator
(online)

Presentation



CCIC Recommendations

DECISION COP7/9 Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity

- The CCIC *welcomes* the successful organization of the 16th meeting of the Working Group on Biodiversity held in Veselí nad Moravou, Czech Republic, on 13–14 May 2025, and *commends* the Czech Republic for hosting and chairing the meeting.
- The CCIC *welcomes* the ongoing implementation of the “LECA project: Supporting the coexistence and conservation of Carpathian Large Carnivores” and *encourages* the Parties, the Working Group on Biodiversity, the Large Carnivores Expert Group, relevant stakeholders, and the Secretariat to actively contribute to the ongoing consultations and activities that are crucial for updating the International Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity in the Carpathians and its implementation.



CCIC Recommendations

DECISION COP7/9 Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity

- The CCIC *welcomes* progress made in the implementation of the NaturaConnect project, including the factsheet series on financing options for the Trans-European Nature Network (TEN-N), and *invites* the Working Group on Biodiversity, its observers, and relevant stakeholders to use available project deliverables and participate in future NaturaConnect capacity-building events.
- The CCIC *welcomes* the ongoing implementation of the “ForestConnect: Towards a Climate-smart Forest Connectivity for Large Carnivores in the Balkan-Carpathian-Dinaric Region” and encourages the Parties, the Working Group on Biodiversity, the Large Carnivores Expert Group, the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas, relevant stakeholders, and the Secretariat to actively contribute to consultations on guidelines on management of transnational mosaic habitats for large Carnivores along forest corridors and on preserving ecosystems and related services, as appropriate.

COFFEE BREAK

*16th Carpathian Convention Implementation
Committee Meeting*

15:30 – 16:00



DECISION COP7/13 Sustainable Forest Management

Activity: Implementation of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management Work Plan 2023-2026

10th Meeting of the Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management | 28-29 April 2025, Bratislava, Slovakia

- **Organizers:** Secretariat and WG Co-Chairs (Slovak Republic)
- **Documentation:** Final Agenda and Meeting Report available

KEY DISCUSSION TOPICS:

- Virgin Forest Inventory
- Criteria for identifying natural forests
- Final Assessment of climate change risks and impacts on the Carpathian forests and their ecosystem services
- EU Policy Alignment
- Nature Restriction Law
- Presentation of the EU Forest Strategy and EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030
- Ukraine Support
- CARPATHIAN LIFE SNaP project

DECISION COP7/13 Sustainable Forest Management

Activity: Implementation of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management Work Plan 2023-2026

10th Meeting of the Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management | 28-29 April 2025, Bratislava, Slovakia

COOPERATION WITH THE RELEVANT BODIES:

- Forest Europe Bonn Declaration
- Forest Risk Facility (FoRISK)
- ForestConnect project
- NaturaConnect project
- Eurac Research
- UNESCO Beech Forests Secretariat
- Alpine Convention
- **European Environment Agency (EEA)** - WG Forest invited EEA to continue joint piloting and implementation of EU Forest Monitoring Law principles in the Carpathian region
- SFRAU – State Forest Resource Agency of Ukraine
- Ukrainian protected area representatives

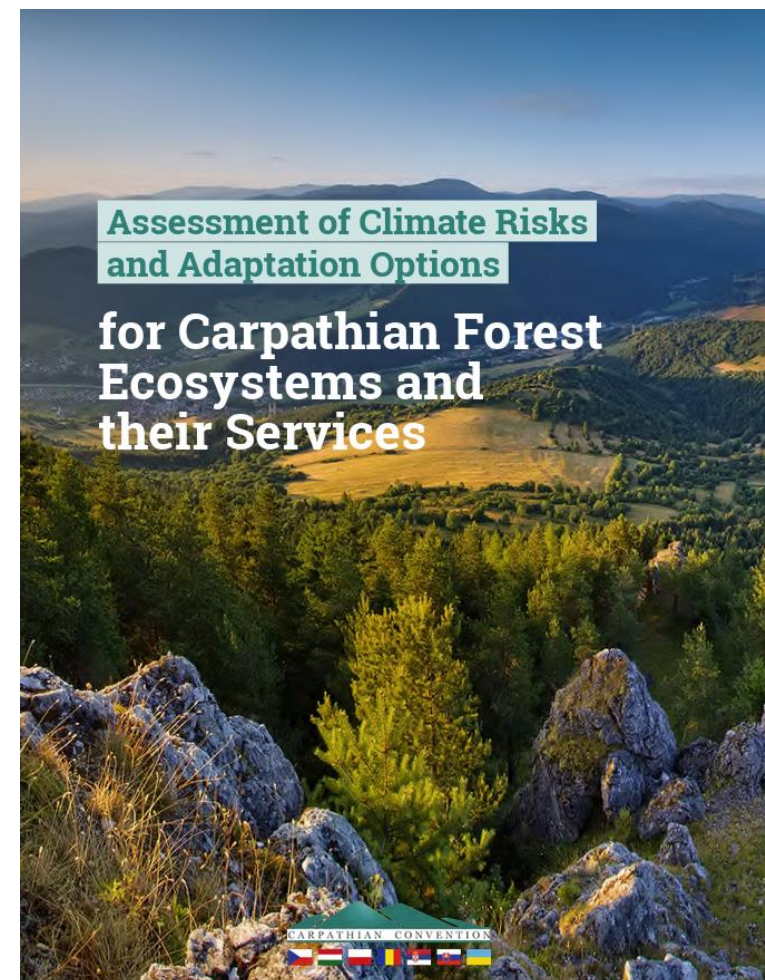


DECISION COP7/13 Sustainable Forest Management

Activity: Consider the Assessment of climate change risks and adaptation options for the Carpathian forests and their ecosystem services and implementing recommendations

After the endorsement of the "Assessment of climate change risks and adaptation options for the Carpathian forest ecosystems and their services" by the COP7, the Secretariat worked on improving the format and layout of the publication in close collaboration with the lead author, William Keeton.

The final version is now available, to be widely disseminated.



DECISION COP7/13 Sustainable Forest Management

Activity: Support implementation of the ForestConnect project on climate-smart forest connectivity for large carnivores in the Balkan-Carpathian-Dinaric region

MEETING PARTICIPATION:

- The Secretariat participated in the ForestConnect Expert Meeting (18–20 February 2025, Villach, Austria) as moderator and presented:
 - Assessment of climate change risks and adaptation options for Carpathian forest ecosystems
 - International Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ecological Connectivity
- Monthly meetings of the ForestConnect Strategic Expert Group, coordinating the Awareness and Communication Working Group
- In 2025 WG Forests and WG Biodiversity meetings, ForestConnect project partners presented to raise awareness and collect feedback

PROJECT ENGAGEMENT FOR THE CONVENTION:

- The Expert Group and its WGs are developing the Strategic Action Plan on adaptation and resilience-focused forest management for protected areas in the Carpathian, Dinaric, and Balkan regions
- Secretariat and ForestConnect project partners discussing technical upgrades of the CCIBIS system to secure continued data access for policymakers, NGOs, and researchers



**ForestConnect project:
Towards a climate-smart forest
connectivity for large
carnivores in the Balkan-
Carpathian-Dinaric region –
presentation**

**Tanya Georgieva-Schnell,
WWF Bulgaria;**

**Elisabeth Wiegele,
CUAS The Carinthia University
of Applied Sciences**

Presentation



CCIC Recommendations

DECISION COP7/13 Sustainable Forest Management

- The CCIC *welcomes* the successful organization of the 10th meeting of the Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management held in Bratislava, Slovakia, on 28–29 April 2025 and *commends* Slovakia for hosting and co-chairing.
- The CCIC *supports* the Working Group on Forests' invitation to the EEA to continue jointly working with the Secretariat and the Working Group in accordance with the renewed Work Plan 2026–2027 and to, among others, continue the development and expansion of the virgin and quasi-virgin forest inventory.
- The CCIC *welcomes* the recommendation of the Working Group on Forests to continue developing the Carpathian Forest Inventory, aligning national and EU definitions with Carpathian Convention criteria on virgin and quasi-virgin forests, and to initiate preparing the guidelines on collecting information on quasi-virgin forests in the Carpathian region; *invites* the Working Group on Forests and relevant stakeholders to contribute expertise, data, and resources to this effort; and *requests* the Secretariat to support the process in this regard.



CCIC Recommendations

DECISION COP7/13 Sustainable Forest Management

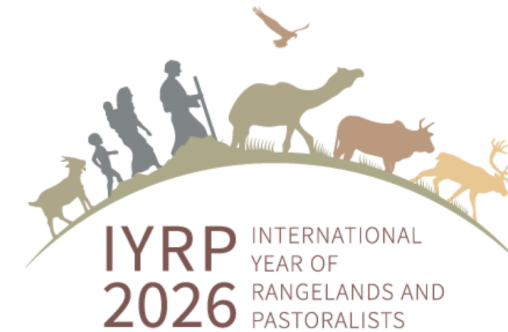
- The CCIC *supports* the Working Group on Forests' recommendation to initiate a dedicated workstream for forest-related support as a part of the broader Carpathian Convention support programme for Ukraine. In this regard, the CCIC *requests* the Secretariat and *invites* Parties, Working Group on Forests, and relevant stakeholders to support and contribute to this process.
- The CCIC *welcomes* the support of the Secretariat for the project implementation of the “ForestConnect: Towards a Climate-smart Forest Connectivity for Large Carnivores in the Balkan-Carpathian-Dinaric Region” and *invites* the relevant Working Groups and stakeholders to further contribute to the completion of the “Strategic Action Plan with Adaptation Actions and Resilience-Enhancing Forest Management Practices for Protected areas” and support its implementation, as appropriate, to accelerate climate adaptation and forest resilience efforts of the Carpathian countries.

DECISION COP7/12 Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

Activity: Supporting, promoting and protecting the traditional pastoral practices in the Carpathians

COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF RANGELANDS AND PASTORALISTS COALITION (IYRP 2026):

- Secretariat continues active exchange and collaboration
- **Participation of IYRP 2026 in Carpathian Convention:** WG Biodiversity meeting and Forum Carpaticum
- **Visibility:** Carpathian Convention represented on IYRP 2026 Europe website



Europe Policy & Conventions

IYRP coalition signs cooperation agreement with Carpathian Convention

The Carpathian Convention and its activities related to pastoralism

<https://iyrp.info/policy-conventions/europe>

DECISION COP7/12 Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

Activity: Supporting, promoting and protecting the traditional pastoral practices in the Carpathians

Project “Linking biodiversity, pastoralism and cultural heritage through education for sustainable development (ESD) in the Carpathian Region”

- **Implementation period:** December 2024 – May 2027
- **Funding:** German Federal Environment Ministry's Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP)
- **Objectives:** Link activities protecting and promoting biodiversity, pastoralism, and cultural heritage through ESD; builds on previous AAP-supported projects
- **Expert network:** Building network to collect knowledge on pastoralism's relevance to:
 - Biodiversity (traditional ecological knowledge, agrobiodiversity within CBF Implementation Plan)
 - Forest management (silvo-pastoralism for forest fire prevention)
 - Tourism and cultural heritage
 - Needs of pastoralist communities



Photo: Summer mountain transhumance in Romania
Source: Iulian Vlad, 2020, research group of Dr. Ioana Baskerville

DECISION COP7/12 Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

Activity: Supporting, promoting and protecting the traditional pastoral practices in the Carpathians

Project “Linking biodiversity, pastoralism and cultural heritage through education for sustainable development (ESD) in the Carpathian Region”

1. Better **institutional alignment** within and between the **Carpathian Convention and other international frameworks** for linking biodiversity and pastoralism
2. Support the **inscription process of Carpathian pastoral-related practices to the UNESCO ICH List**
3. Strengthened transnational multi-sectoral and transdisciplinary **cooperation and knowledge exchange** in the Carpathians for linking biodiversity and pastoralism
4. **Strengthened awareness, education and training resources** for linking biodiversity and pastoralism in the Carpathians



CONVENTION ▾ ORGANIZATION ▾ TOPICS ▾ MEETINGS ▾ PROJECTS



Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

DECISION COP7/12 Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

Activity: Supporting, promoting and protecting the traditional pastoral practices in the Carpathians

Project “Linking biodiversity, pastoralism and cultural heritage through education for sustainable development (ESD) in the Carpathian Region”

3. Strengthened cooperation and knowledge exchange for linking biodiversity and pastoralism

FORUM CARPATICUM 2025:

- **Session:** "Safeguarding Carpathian Pastoralism"
 - **Speakers:** Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine, Eurac Research
- **Keynote facilitation:** Transhumance (awareness-raising on regional importance)
- **Carpathian Fair:** Raising awareness about shepherds' products
- Proposed Pastoralism additions to **the S4C Research Agenda 2030**

CONTRIBUTION OF A DEDICATED BOOK CHAPTER ON PASTORALISM

- **Book Title:** "Barriers and opportunities to inclusion and participation of vulnerable groups in the EU Green Deal"
- **Topic:** Carpathian pastoralism; vulnerable status of herders and shepherds
- **Secretariat role:** Co-author
- **Publisher:** Routledge (TBC)



DECISION COP7/12 Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

Activity: Supporting, promoting and protecting the traditional pastoral practices in the Carpathians

Project “Linking biodiversity, pastoralism and cultural heritage through education for sustainable development (ESD) in the Carpathian Region”

3. Strengthened cooperation and knowledge exchange for linking biodiversity and pastoralism

INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE (IMC) SESSION:

- **Co-organized Session:** "Safeguarding Pastoralism in Mountain Regions: through education, awareness raising and cross-sectoral collaborations"
 - **Collaborators:** Eurac Research, IYRP 2026, Euromontana, Scientific Network for Caucasus Mountain Regions
- **Attended Session:** Mountain Transhumance under social-ecological transformations" session

FUTURE PLANS:

- Joint action to support pastoralism and transhumance with Eurac Research and Euromontana
- Considerations on how EU Common Agricultural Policy can be adjusted to meet the needs of herders and practitioners using traditional agricultural practices



DECISION COP7/12 Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

Project “Linking biodiversity, pastoralism and cultural heritage through education for sustainable development (ESD) in the Carpathian Region”

3. Strengthened cooperation and knowledge exchange for linking biodiversity and pastoralism

MULTIFUNCTIONAL FARMING CONFERENCE | 16-18 SEPTEMBER 2025, RZESZÓW, POLAND

- Output: "Traditional farming for better future: The Rzeszów Manifesto" petition by the organizers

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- LIFE ShepForBio Online Discussion Forum, 4 December, 14:00-16:00 CET
- 7th Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership “Mountains for the Future: Responsible Tourism, Thriving Communities” Andorra, 26-28 March 2026
- Global IYRP Gathering in Madrid, Spain, 9-11 April 2026
 - Young Pastoralists with inspiring personal stories
- European Mountain Convention, France, 10-11 June 2025
 - Thematic day on key aspects of extensive livestock farming and pastoral practices
 - High-level panels: how to better defend pastoralism in the next CAP and how to strengthen the territorial dimension of pastoralism in other relevant EU and pan-European policies

Activity: Supporting, promoting and protecting the traditional pastoral practices in the Carpathians



DECISION COP7/12 Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

Activity: Supporting, promoting and protecting the traditional pastoral practices in the Carpathians

Project “Linking biodiversity, pastoralism and cultural heritage through education for sustainable development (ESD) in the Carpathian Region”

4. Strengthened awareness, education and training resources for linking biodiversity and pastoralism in the Carpathians

- Support **Carpathian Day activities**, with a focus on raising awareness of Carpathian pastoralism in celebration of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026
 - Develop and translate Carpathian Day materials into Carpathian national languages
- Create a stock-take of existing **informational resources** for Carpathian herders, conservation managers and educators linking pastoralism and biodiversity and existing shepherd/herder schools in the Carpathian countries
- Create an initial overview of public school and university **curricula and how pastoralism and traditional ecological knowledge is portrayed** in the Carpathian region
 - Synergies with CESDEN
- Support **training events or workshops** for Carpathian herders and identify materials to be translated into Carpathian national languages



DECISION COP7/12 Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

Project “Linking biodiversity, pastoralism and cultural heritagethrough education for sustainable development (ESD) in the Carpathian Region”

2. Support the inscription process of Carpathian pastoral-related practices to the UNESCO ICH List

Multinational Extension File: "Transhumance - the seasonal droving of livestock" submitted to the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List of Humanity

- **Submission date:** March 2025
- **Coordinating Party:** Romania
- **Joining Parties:** Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine
- **Secretariat support:**
 - Provided support letter for nomination
 - Maintained close communication with Romanian coordinator
 - Contributed inputs incorporated into nomination file
- Carpathian region and Convention role referenced throughout file
- Carpathian Convention identified as valuable synergies for cross-sectoral solutions and regional collaboration

Future steps: Developing a regional file "Safeguarding Carpathian Pastoralism"

- for the submission to the third list of UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage: Register of Good Safeguarding Practices

Activity: Supporting the Inscription of Carpathian Pastoralism to the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List of Humanity



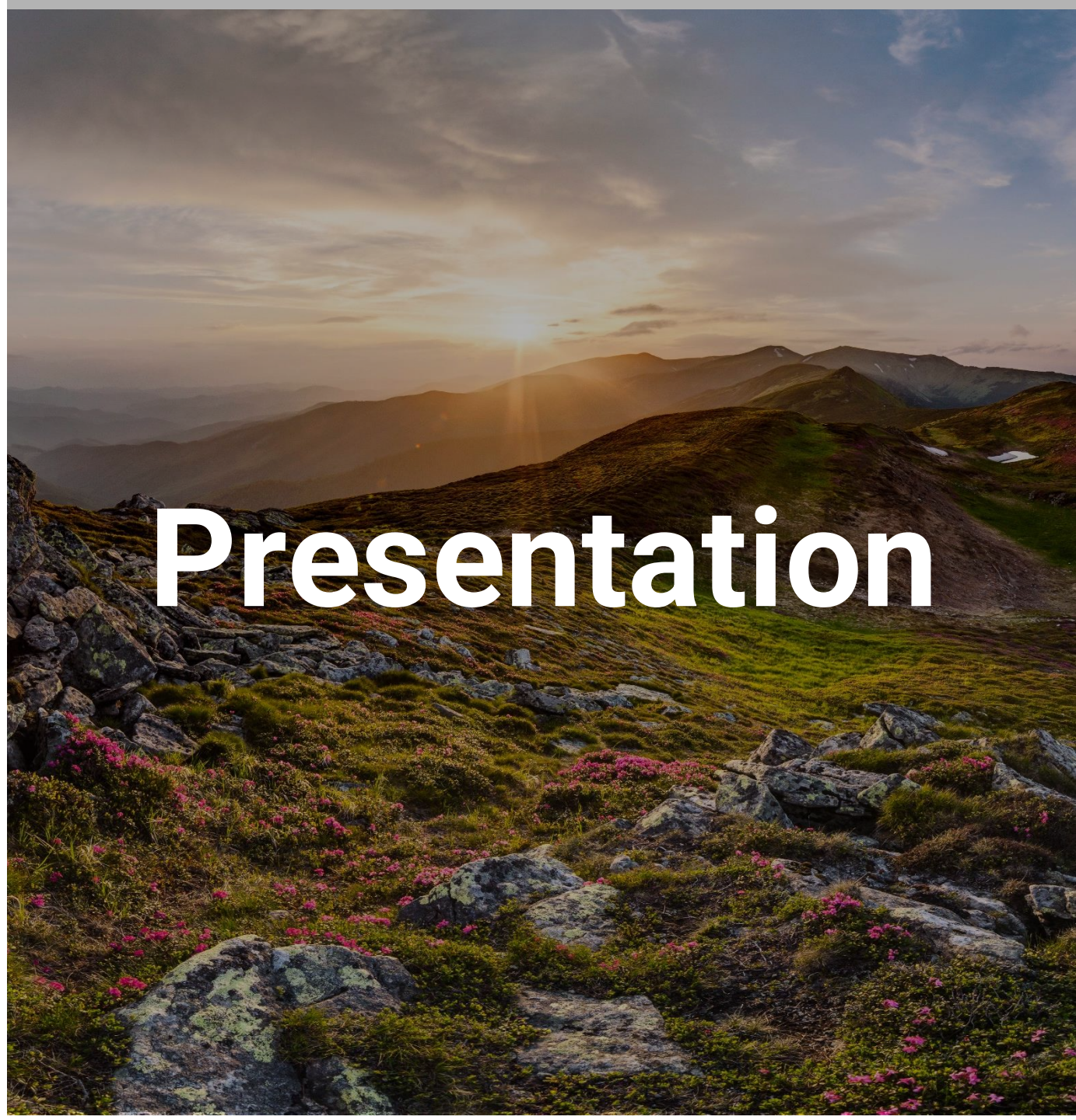
Multifunctional Farming Conference

Stephen Bramwell
Professor at the Washington
State University
(online)

Presentation

**“Transhumance - the seasonal
droving of livestock” file
submission to the UNESCO
Intangible Cultural Heritage List of
Humanity**

**Ioana Baskerville
Romanian Academy - Iasi Branch
(online)**





CCIC Recommendations

DECISION COP7/12 Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

- The CCIC *welcomes* active collaboration of the Secretariat with the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists Coalition (IYRP 2026), *requests* the Secretariat to continue coordination and collaboration with IYRP 2026 on meetings and events, as relevant, and *invites* the Parties to actively contribute and participate in IYRP2026-related events and processes, as possible and relevant.
- The CCIC *welcomes* the progress made in implementing the project “Linking biodiversity, pastoralism and cultural heritage through education for sustainable development (ESD) in the Carpathian Region” and *expresses* appreciation to the German Federal Environment Ministry’s Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP) for supporting the project, as well as *invites* the Secretariat to explore additional potential project topics within the scope of the donor’s interests.
- The CCIC *welcomes* Secretariat’s efforts in cooperating with partners to integrate and co-create knowledge in the field of pastoralism and addressing the needs of herders and shepherds in the Carpathian region and beyond, including:
 - Envisioned contribution to the chapter in a book: “Barriers and opportunities to inclusion and participation of vulnerable groups in the EU Green Deal”;
 - Planned collaborations with Eurac Research and Euromontana, including, but not limited to, addressing EU Common Agricultural Policy.



CCIC Recommendations

DECISION COP7/12 Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

- The CCIC *requests* the Secretariat to continue its efforts in the field of pastoralism and *invites* the Parties to support the process, including the facilitation of engaging relevant experts in Carpathian Convention events related to pastoralism. Furthermore, the CCIC *invites* the Parties to consider recommendations resulting from these events and collaborations, such as the “Traditional farming for better future: The Rzeszów Manifesto” and disseminate them as appropriate.
- The CCIC *welcomes* with appreciation the active engagement of the Secretariat in developing the multinational extension of the file “Transhumance - the seasonal droving of livestock under UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List of Humanity;” *thanks* Romania for coordinating the process; and *takes note of* the references to the Carpathian Convention and its role in the application file, including the subsection on Carpathian collaboration within the Safeguarding Measures. In this respect, the CCIC *invites* the Parties who joined the multinational file to-date to maintain a coordinated and unified approach within the group to enhance their visibility and influence and to actively engage in developing “shared, cross-sectoral solutions” and concrete collaborative initiatives, supported by cross-sectoral efforts to safeguard the natural and cultural heritage linked to mobile pastoralism, in order to further strengthen Carpathian Convention Parties’ collective position within the group of 16 countries, establishing them as key partners in future projects for implementing the Safeguarding Plan. The CCIC *requests* the Secretariat to actively participate in and facilitate the process.



CCIC Recommendations

DECISION COP7/12 Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

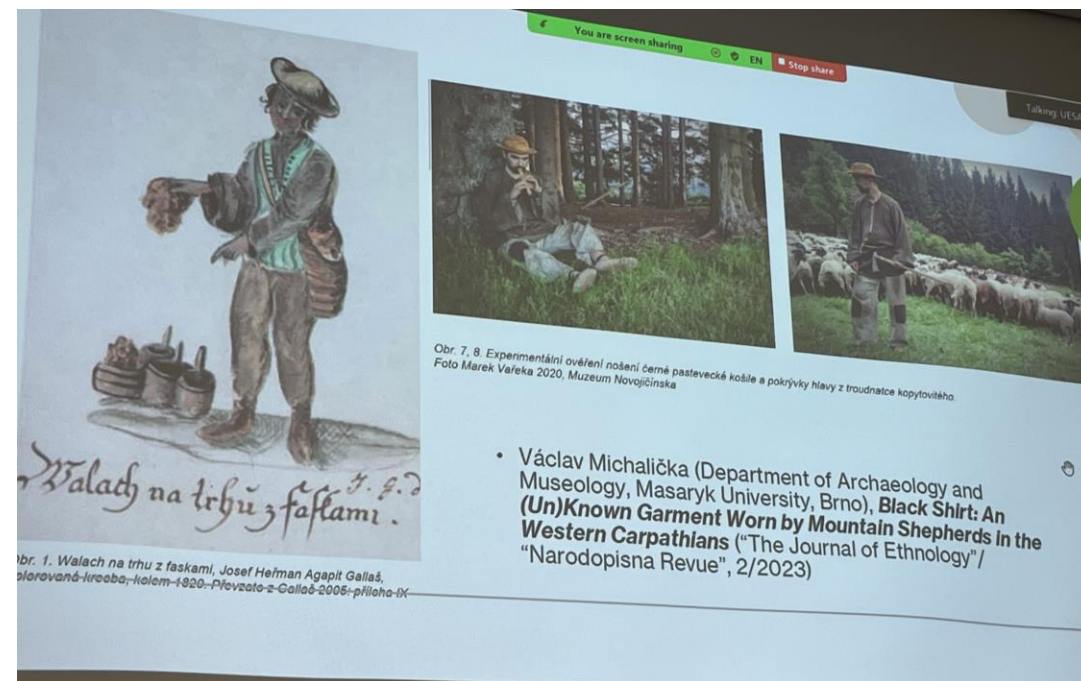
- The CCIC *encourages* the Parties to take next steps, as appropriate, toward developing a joint nomination file: "Safeguarding Carpathian Pastoralism" to the third list of UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage: Register of Good Safeguarding Practices and identifying a coordinating party to lead the nomination, *takes note* of the envisioned further steps of the process, *thanks* the Romanian coordinator of the multinational Transhumance extension for providing guidance on the process, *invites* the parties to play an active role in the process and *requests* the Secretariat to facilitate these steps.

DECISION COP7/16 Cultural Heritage and traditional knowledge

Activity: Promoting and protecting the richness of the cultural and natural heritage of the Carpathian Region, including traditional pastoral practices in the Carpathians

SEMINAR: "MAPPING CARPATHIAN INTANGIBLES: FROM VAMPIRES TO TRADITIONAL AGROECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE OF ROMANIAN PASTORAL COMMUNITIES" | 18 FEBRUARY 2025, BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA

- **Organizer:** Institute of Ethnology and Social Anthropology, Slovak Academy of Sciences
- **Presenter:** Dr. Ioana Baskerville, Romanian Academy – Iasi Branch
- **Secretariat role:** Participant and promoter through the network invitations; engaged Carpathian pastoralism experts online



DECISION COP7/16 Cultural Heritage and traditional knowledge

Activity: Promoting and protecting the richness of the cultural and natural heritage of the Carpathian Region, including traditional pastoral practices in the Carpathians

PROJECT "ICOMOS WORLD HERITAGE TRANSHUMANCE INITIATIVE: DEFINING A THEMATIC APPROACH TOWARDS SUSTAINING TRANSHUMANCE CULTURAL LANDSCAPES IN A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT"

- Collaboration with ICOMOS on Transhumance Initiative
- **Goal:** Enhance representation of transhumance cultural landscapes/sites on UNESCO World Heritage List
- Participation at expert conference "Transhumance Landscapes of Global Importance" | 23–24 June 2025 in Baku, Azerbaijan
 - Gathered feedback from Carpathian experts on draft Conference Declaration
 - Coordinated inputs with Dr. Ioana Baskerville
 - Ensured Carpathian expert input included in final Declaration
- **Outcomes:**
 - "Baku Declaration on the recognition, safeguarding, and transmission of the heritage of pastoralist transhumance"
 - **Reflection on the Importance of the Carpathian Convention:**
 - Bridging international frameworks for CH protection and safeguarding
 - Platform for integrating approaches to challenges of both cultural and natural heritage
 - Importance of Carpathian region in understanding of cultural landscapes as dynamic socio-ecological systems



Link to Baku Declaration

DECISION COP7/16 Cultural Heritage and traditional knowledge

Activity: Promoting and protecting the richness of the cultural and natural heritage of the Carpathian Region, including traditional pastoral practices in the Carpathians

CARPATHIAN FAIR AT FORUM CARPATICUM 2025 | 9-11 SEPTEMBER, BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA

- Secretariat organized a two-day side-event at Forum Carpathicum 2025, Bratislava, Slovakia
- **Purpose:** Showcase and exchange Carpathian cultural heritage practices, local products, projects and initiatives at a dedicated exhibition space visited by multiple Forum participants
- **Participants:** 8+ initiatives and communities promoting traditional products, projects, and informational materials





CCIC Recommendations

DECISION COP7/16 Cultural Heritage and traditional knowledge

- The CCIC *welcomes* active collaboration of the Secretariat and the Carpathian Convention Focal Points with Focal Points of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention, including through joint meetings and events, *requests* the Secretariat and *invites* the Parties to continue strengthening this collaboration.
- The CCIC *welcomes* collaboration of the Secretariat with International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and active engagement of the Secretariat in the project “ICOMOS World Heritage Transhumance Initiative: Defining a Thematic Approach Towards Sustaining Transhumance Cultural Landscapes in a Changing Environment,” its meetings and events, as well as providing inputs into the Baku Declaration Adopted at the Transhumance Expert Conference “Transhumance Landscapes of Global Importance.” The CCIC *requests* the Secretariat to continue building on this collaboration and *invites* the Parties to support the process.



CCIC Recommendations

DECISION COP7/16 Cultural Heritage and traditional knowledge

- The CCIC *appreciates* efforts of the Secretariat to promote the potential of the Carpathian Convention in bridging frameworks focused on the protection and safeguarding of cultural heritage and addressing cross-sectoral challenges, such as integrating cultural and natural heritage. Furthermore, the CCIC *requests* the Secretariat and *invites* the Parties to actively contribute to strengthening and fostering strategic partnerships, such as with the UNESCO conventions and UNESCO Global Geoparks, for understanding of cultural landscapes as dynamic social-ecological systems in the Carpathian region.
- The CCIC *welcomes* efforts of the Secretariat and its partners to organize a “Carpathian Fair” at the Forum Carpaticum 2025 and *invites* the Secretariat and the Parties to continue facilitating such events.

CLOSING OF THE DAY

*16th Carpathian Convention Implementation
Committee Meeting*

