

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

DAY 2

Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention  
UN Environment Programme - Vienna Office



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# 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.

*Report by Natalya Voloshyna, representative of the NGO Ecosphere*

7. COP8 Updates and discussion

8. Any Other Business

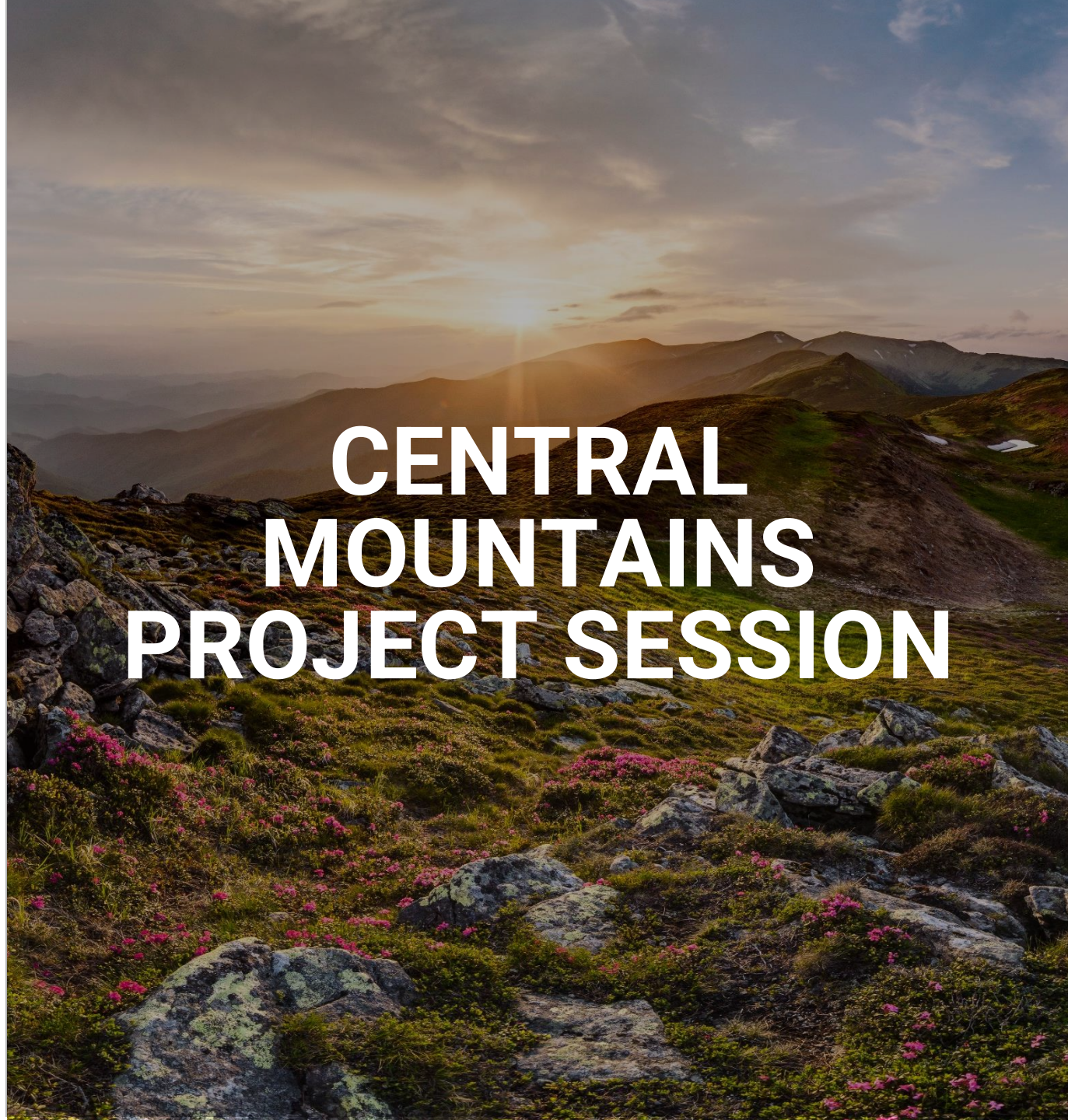
9. Conclusions and closure of the 16th CCIC meeting

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



**Strengthening Governance  
and Stakeholder Participation  
under the Carpathian  
Convention through the  
Central Mountains project**

**CENTRAL  
MOUNTAINS  
PROJECT SESSION**







# CCIC Recommendations

***DECISION COP7/2  
Cooperation with regional  
and local authorities and all  
relevant stakeholders***

- The CCIC *welcomes* the ongoing implementation of the Central Mountains project and *recommends* further consultations and possible consideration of its recent outcomes—including “Alpine - Carpathian Toolbox for Participation in Central European Mountain Areas”, “Toolbox for identifying, creating and developing Cross-Border Functional Areas in Central Europe” and “Strengthened framework for fostering collaboration among civil society organizations in the Carpathian region”—for integration into the implementation of the Carpathian Convention, as they can contribute to strengthening governance and enhancing stakeholder engagement in the Carpathian region.
- The CCIC *invites* the Secretariat to develop a draft Memorandum of Cooperation with the Carpathian Civil Society Platform to support greater integration of civil society organization perspectives and expertise into policymaking and implementation of the Carpathian Convention.



# CCIC Recommendations

## DECISION COP7/15 Sustainable Tourism

- The CCIC *appreciates* the contribution of the “Central Mountains” project toward strengthening governance of the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform and in this respect *welcomes* proposed instruments such as “Action Plan for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Carpathians” for Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, and Romania and related “CSTP Work Plan” and “Cross-Border Working Teams” to foster thematic in-depth pan-CSTP cooperation. In this regard, the CCIC *invites* the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Tourism to consider the proposed documents within the implementation of the Tourism Protocol and other Carpathian Convention provisions.
- The CCIC *welcomes* the proposal to organize the 11th Working Group on Sustainable Tourism meeting back-to-back with the final conference of the Central Mountains project, scheduled on 11–12 March 2026 in Rzeszów, Poland; *appreciates* the contribution of the Central Mountains project and support of relevant partners including the Association of the Carpathian Euroregion and the Brasov County Council; and in this respect, *requests* the Secretariat to support the process.
- The CCIC *welcomes with appreciation* the recent signature of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of Economy, Digitalization, Entrepreneurship and Tourism of Romania and the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, formally recognising the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Centre in Braşov as part of the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform.



# COFFEE BREAK

11:15-11:30

*16th Carpathian Convention Implementation  
Committee Meeting*





# COFFEE BREAK

11:15-11:30

*16th Carpathian Convention Implementation  
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# Proposed Recommendations

## Potential Additional Recommendations

- The CCIC *takes note of* the recommendation by the Science for the Carpathians (S4C) to address challenges of river and wetland restoration and water management specific to vulnerable mountain environments and communities in the Carpathian region, as well as the initiative of S4C to support this process, taking into account other relevant regional and international processes and frameworks. In this regard, the CCIC requests the Secretariat to consult with the Parties and stakeholders on the most suitable approach.
- The CCIC welcomes the recommendation of the S4C, based on the Forum Carpaticum 2025 expert input, to explore intersectional vulnerabilities in the Carpathian region, invites the Secretariat to consider how vulnerable groups can be better included as active participants in the existing and future activities of the Working Groups and projects under the Carpathian Convention, in order to facilitate their meaningful participation, and invites the Parties to support this process.



# DECISION COP7/17 Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning

**Activity: Cooperation between the Carpathian Convention, the EEA and EU-funded projects**

## Cooperation with the European Environment Agency (EEA)

### WORK PLAN RENEWAL

- Secretariat met with EEA in June 2025 on continued collaboration and renewal of the 2026–2027 Work Plan. Discussed:
  - Virgin Forest Inventory and EU Forest Monitoring Law, and harmonisation of criteria for virgin and quasi-virgin forests
  - Application of EU Nature Restoration Regulation, with Carpathians as potential pilot
  - Strengthened cooperation with WG Climate Change
  - Further integration of CCIBIS into EEA platforms
- Renewed work plan covers forests, climate adaptation, biodiversity, connectivity, and information systems

### CORINE LAND COVER (CLC) DATABASE FOR THE CARPATHIANS

- Collaboration with EEA and Austrian Environment Agency on new CLC dataset
- Covers 27,000 km<sup>2</sup> of the Carpathian region in Ukraine
- Results presented at Forum Carpaticum 2025
- Data published on the EEA website



**European  
Environment  
Agency**



# DECISION COP7/17 Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning

**Activity: Cooperation between the Carpathian Convention, the EEA and EU-funded projects**

## Carpathian Integrated Biodiversity Information System (CCIBIS)

### Improvements to CCIBIS Through EU Projects

- CCIBIS strengthened through NaturaConnect (Horizon Europe) and ForestConnect (Interreg Danube)
- Ongoing enhancements to the Carpathian biodiversity information system







# CCIC Recommendations

***DECISION COP7/17***  
**Environmental  
assessment/ information  
system, monitoring and  
early warning**

- The CCIC *expresses* its appreciation for the long-standing partnership between the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the Carpathian Convention, and the valuable support on forests and climate change related work and *encourages* the renewal of the joint Work Plan for 2026–2027 to continue this productive collaboration.
- The CCIC *welcomes* the active cooperation of the Secretariat with relevant stakeholders under the EU-funded projects contributing to the further development of CCIBIS and *recommends* that the Secretariat further strengthen the platform, in consultation with EEA and relevant experts.
- The CCIC *acknowledges* the ongoing efforts of the “ForestConnect: Towards a Climate-smart Forest Connectivity for Large Carnivores in the Balkan-Carpathian-Dinaric Region” for technological updates based on open-source solutions and upscaling the CCIBIS with new technological tools that will allow stakeholders to continue using the data.



# **DECISION COP7/18 Climate Change**

**Announcement by the Presidency and the Chair of the  
Working Group on Climate Change – Ministry of  
Environmental Protection of Serbia**



# Sharing experiences on decarbonization and just transition - LIFE IP North- HU-Trans

***Zsuzsa Piskóti***  
***Head of the Coal Commission***  
***Secretariat***  
***(online)***

# Presentation



# DECISION COP7/19 Awareness raising, education and public participation

**Activity: Support the Carpathian Education for Sustainable Development Expert Network as a cross-sectoral network of diverse actors**

**Event:** Meeting of the Carpathian Education for Sustainable Development Expert Network organization (CESDEN) | 30 January 2025, Online

- Organized in cooperation with Boglarka Kurka Ivanegova, Špirála– Network of Environmental Education Providers in Slovakia
- **Focus:** youth involvement, facilitation further knowledge exchange, and discussing plans for 2025



**Event:** International Carpathian School autumn session | 25 September 2025, Online

- **Event:** Carpathian Day celebration in Ukraine
- **Organizer:** National Ecological Centre of Ukraine
- **Project:** "Shifting towards Ecotourism in Protected Areas through Heritage Interpretation"
- **Funding:** Visegrad Grants (Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia)
- **Secretariat role:** Welcome remarks





# DECISION COP7/19 Awareness raising, education and public participation

**Activity: Support the Carpathian Education for Sustainable Development Expert Network as a cross-sectoral network of diverse actors**

## Cooperation with the UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

**REITERATION OF SUPPORT FROM CYPRUS FOR THE CARPATHIAN ESD EXPERT NETWORK (CESDEN)**

**20TH UNECE STEERING COMMITTEE ON ESD | 28–30 MAY 2025, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

- Panel discussion on 20th anniversary of UNECE ESD Strategy (invitation by Cyprus Chair) - highlighted Carpathian Convention's role in implementing Strategy; acknowledged Cyprus support for CESDEN
- Update on CESDEN's activities
- Reflections on the outcomes of the Cyprus UNECE Forum on ESD: Empowering Youth for Sustainable Futures relevant for the Carpathian Region

**SYNERGIES BETWEEN UNECE SC ESD, CYPRUS CHAIR AND SERBIAN PRESIDENCY**

**PRESENTATION OF THE WHOLE-INSTITUTION APPROACH TOOLKIT | 18 NOVEMBER 2025, ONLINE**



# DECISION COP7/19 Awareness raising, education and public participation

**Activity: Support the Carpathian Education for Sustainable Development Expert Network as a cross-sectoral network of diverse actors**

## Project: "Empowering Roma Communities in the Green Deal"

- **Lead:** Comenius University
- **Funding:** European Climate Initiative (EUKI)
- **Countries:** Hungary, Slovakia
- **Secretariat role:** Advisory Board
- **Vision:** Aarhus Platform for Roma communities in the Carpathian region

## Project: "ProBioTIC" educational activities

- UNESCO Chair "Higher Education for Sustainable Development"
- Poland (Jagiellonian University): Educational materials on Carpathian meadows(invited to integrate into CESDEN webpage)
- **Tool Kit on Transdisciplinary Learning Interventions**

## Event: Forum Carpaticum 2025 ESD Session organization

- **Speakers:** experts from Poland, Romania, Czech Republic, Leuphana University Lüneburg (presented ProBioTIC university courses and student projects)
- **Output:** Carpathian ESD Roadmap (translated by Špirála)
  - coherent set of actionable measures aligned with Carpathian Convention mandate and CESDEN priorities





# DECISION COP7/19 Awareness raising, education and public participation

**Activity: Support the Carpathian Education for Sustainable Development Expert Network as a cross-sectoral network of diverse actors**

## Draft Carpathian ESD Roadmap 2030

### PILLAR 1

#### STRATEGIC AND CONCEPTUAL FOUNDATIONS

##### **Activity 1 – Develop a Carpathian ESD White Paper**

- How international ESD priorities can be contextualized within the Carpathian region

##### **Activity 2 – Develop a Unified Interpretive Strategy for the Carpathians**

- Define a shared educational narrative for the Carpathians

### PILLAR 2

#### KNOWLEDGE BASE ON CARPATHIAN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS

##### **Activity 3 – Strengthen the Knowledge Base on ESD and Carpathian Priorities in Formal Education**

- How the key themes, values, and challenges of the Carpathian region are reflected in national curricula and teacher education

##### **Activity 4 – Identify entry points for integrating sustainability and Carpathian priorities into skills development in Vocational and Lifelong Learning Systems in the Carpathian Countries**

### PILLAR 3

#### EXCHANGE, CAPACITY BUILDING, AND VISIBILITY

##### **Activity 5 – Document and Showcase Carpathian ESD Good Practices**

##### **Activity 6 – Facilitate CESDEN Meetings and Knowledge Exchange**

##### **Activity 7 – Support and Promote Annual Carpathian Day Celebrations**

### PILLAR 4

#### ENABLING CONDITIONS AND LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY

##### **Activity 8 – Enhance Enabling Conditions and Sustainability Mechanisms for Carpathian ESD Initiatives**

- To strengthen the long-term sustainability and cross-border cooperation of ESD initiatives
- Through improved access to resources, innovative funding models, removal of institutional barriers

# DECISION COP7/19 Awareness raising, education and public participation

## Next Steps:

- **Updating nominations of ESD Experts** to CESDEN, as necessary
  - Ideally in coordination with UNECE / UNESCO ESD frameworks
- **Further Strengthening Youth Participation:**
  - Inviting youth, students, and early-career researchers to participate in Carpathian Convention events (WG meetings, CCIC, COPs)

## Upcoming Events:

- **ESD-NET Europe-North America Regional Workshop**
  - Bucharest, Romania, 21-23 January 2026
- **WIA Tool Kit Workshop**
  - Czech Republic, February 2026
- **3rd Carpathian ESD Seminar**
  - Serbia 2026

**Activity: Support the Carpathian Education for Sustainable Development Expert Network as a cross-sectoral network of diverse actors**





# 3rd Carpathian ESD Seminar in Serbia

*Ministry of Environmental  
Protection of Serbia and the  
Secretariat*

# Presentation





# CCIC Recommendations

## ***DECISION COP7/19 Awareness raising, education and public participation***

- The CCIC *welcomes* active collaboration of the Secretariat with the UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), including via the Carpathian ESD Expert Network, *invites* the Parties to actively build on this and other synergies between Carpathian Convention and ESD-related frameworks, including but not limited to, UNESCO ESD-net and Global Education Network Europe, and to strengthen the visibility of these synergies by linking them more closely with national education policies and frameworks of the Carpathian countries. The CCIC *requests* the Secretariat to continue facilitating this process.
- The CCIC *encourages* the Secretariat and the Parties to further promote a joint Carpathian approach to education for sustainable mountain development, and to consider developing a common framework for mountain ESD activities, potentially connected with the UNESCO ESD-Net and ESD for 2030 initiatives.
- The CCIC *welcomes with appreciation* continuous support of the Republic of Cyprus and its kind facilitation by the Chair of the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD for the Carpathian ESD Expert network and its activities since 2023; *requests* the Secretariat to continue collaborating with the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth of the Republic of Cyprus as relevant and coordinating the Carpathian ESD activities with Špirala and the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD; and *invites* the Parties to continue supporting this process.





# CCIC Recommendations

## *DECISION COP7/19* *Awareness raising, education and public participation*

- The CCIC *encourages* the Parties to facilitate up-to-date nominations, as necessary, of governmental ESD experts to the Carpathian ESD Expert Network and connect with relevant ESD experts and networks in their respective countries. The CCIC *supports* the continuation and expansion of the Carpathian ESD Expert Network and *encourages* closer collaboration among schools, universities and protected areas to promote cross-border educational initiatives in the region.
- The CCIC *welcomes* the focus on youth and Secretariat's efforts in strengthening the participation of youth and young professionals in implementing the Carpathian Convention and in developing innovative educational initiatives that contribute to raising awareness and building capacities for sustainable mountain development across the Carpathian region, such as through collaboration with the "ProBioTIC Project: Promoting Biodiversity Through Transdisciplinary Learning in the Carpathians," active participation in the Student Conference on Conservation Science in Hungary (SCCS Europe) and in the International Carpathian School; *encourages* the continuation of such initiatives, particularly those fostering cooperation between educational institutions, local communities and protected areas; *requests* the Secretariat to continue efforts in this respect and *invites* the Parties to support these efforts.



# CCIC Recommendations

## ***DECISION COP7/19*** ***Awareness raising, education*** ***and public participation***

- The CCIC *welcomes* the active engagement of youth and young professionals in activities related to the Carpathian Convention and contributions provided by them. It furthermore *requests* the Secretariat and *invites* the Parties to explore and provide opportunities for active participation and meaningful engagement of youth and young professionals in Carpathian Convention meetings and events, as relevant.
- The CCIC *welcomes* the Secretariat's participation in the Advisory Board of the EUKI project "Empowering Roma Communities in the Green Deal" and the aims of the project, including establishing an Aarhus Platform for Roma communities in the Carpathian region.
- The CCIC *welcomes* activities and events co-organized by the Secretariat and its partners, including Špirála - the Slovak Network of Environmental Education Providers, in the framework of the Carpathian ESD Expert Network, including, but not limited to, the ESD Session at the Forum Carpaticum 2025 Conference. The CCIC *requests* the Secretariat and *invites* the Parties to continue coordinating and supporting such activities, and to consider resulting recommendations.





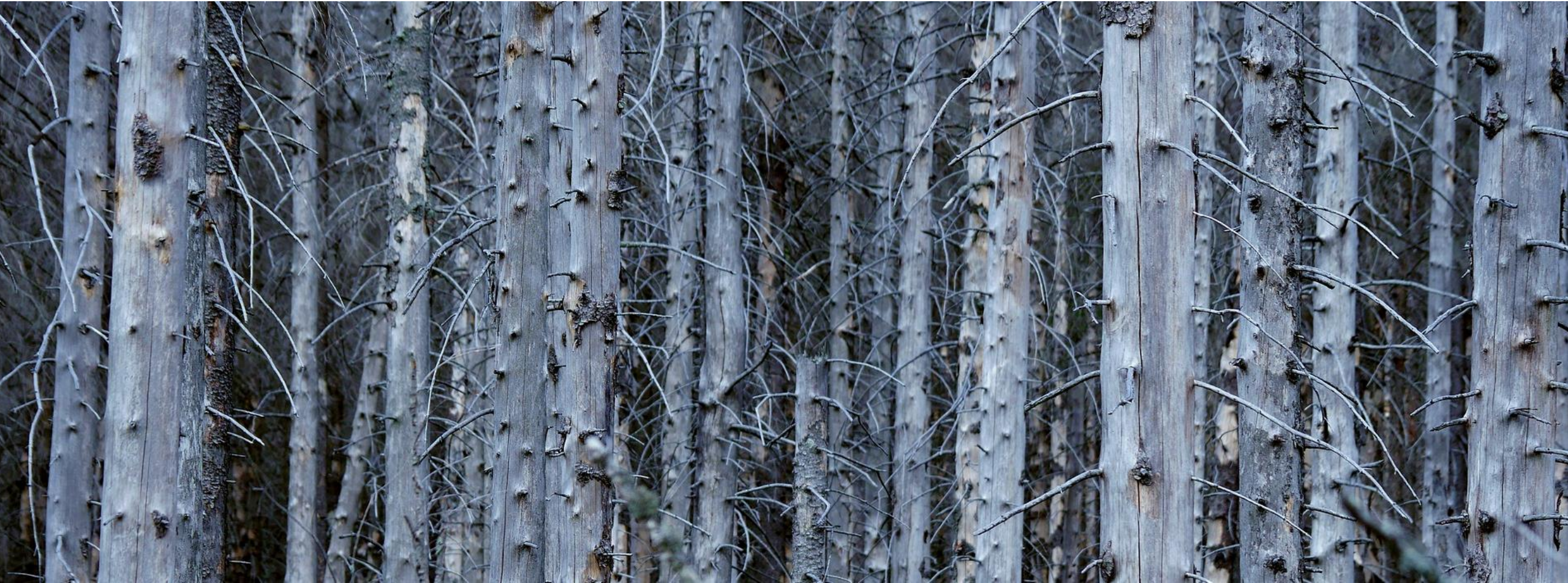
# CCIC Recommendations

***DECISION COP7/19***  
***Awareness raising, education  
and public participation***

- The CCIC *welcomes* the Carpathian ESD Roadmap, developed by Špirala with the aim to translate the policy recommendations gathered during the Session of the Carpathian ESD Expert Network at the Forum Carpaticum 2025 into a coherent set of actionable measures.
- The CCIC *welcomes* close collaboration between the Serbian Presidency and the Secretariat on the organization of the 3rd Carpathian ESD Seminar in Serbia in spring 2026, *invites* the Parties and *requests* the Secretariat to continue cooperation with Serbia on organizing the Seminar and to build upon the developments of the Carpathian ESD Expert Network and the UNECE SC ESD.

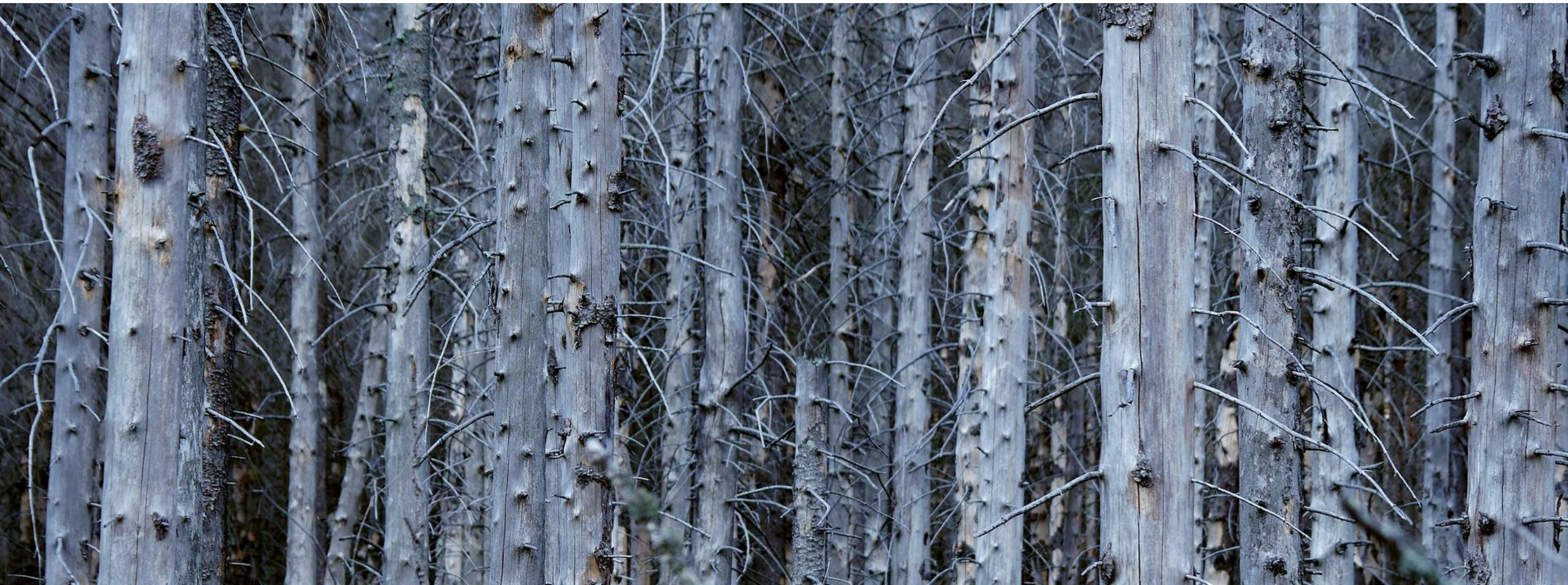


# Report By Observers



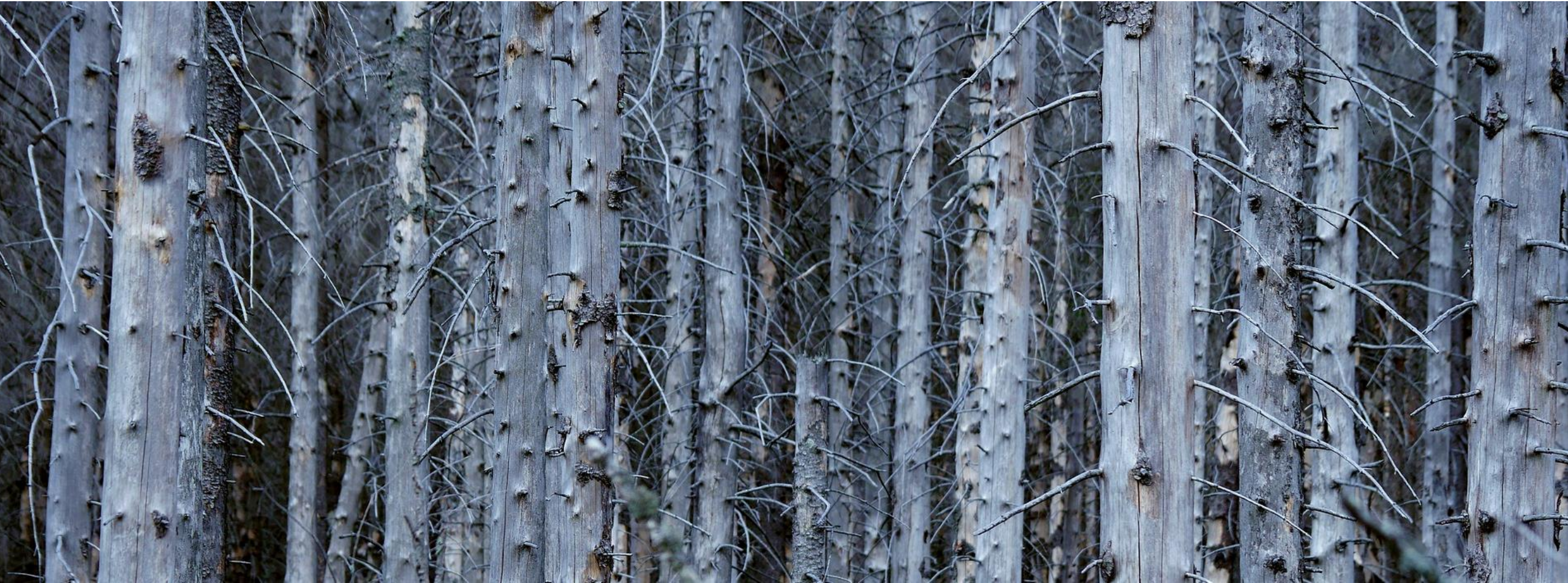


# Carpathian Convention COP8 Updates





# Any Other Business





# Thank You

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