

Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians¹ (CC COP8)

Vienna, Austria
1 – 3 December 2026

Provisional agenda

COP8 DAY 1 | 1 December 2026 (afternoon)

SESSION I - Organizational Matters

1. Opening of the CC COP8 – Secretariat
2. Welcome by the Outgoing Presidency – Serbia
3. Welcome by the Incoming Presidency – Ukraine
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Organizational Matters
 - a) Election of Officers
 - b) Review of credentials
6. Status of ratifications and contributions - the Depositary and the Secretariat:
 - a) Protocol on Biodiversity
 - b) Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management
 - c) Protocol on Sustainable Tourism
 - d) Protocol on Sustainable Transport
 - e) Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development
 - f) New Article 12bis on Climate Change
 - g) Status of the contributions

SESSION II– From COP7 to COP8: Achievements, Lessons Learned and the Way Forward for Sustainable and Resilient Carpathians

7. Presentation of the Progress Report
8. Moderated Reflection by Working Group Chairs and key implementation partners
9. Observers input - Exchange of views on achievements, challenges, lessons learned and future needs

¹ COP8 serves also as the Meeting of the Parties to the: Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity, Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management, Protocol on Sustainable Tourism, Protocol on Sustainable Transport, Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

SESSION III - Review of the COP8 Decisions

10. Consideration and finalization of draft COP8 decisions, related documents and the COP8 Ministerial Declaration, including:

- a) DECISION COP8/1 - Implementation of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework
- b) DECISION COP8/2 - Support for the Implementation of the Carpathian Convention in Ukraine
- c) DECISION COP8/3 - Programme of work and strategic priorities for the implementation period 2027–2029
- d) DECISION COP8/4 - Cooperation with the European Union
- e) DECISION COP8/5 - Cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme and other multilateral environmental agreements and international bodies
- f) DECISION COP8/6 - Cooperation with Eurac Research
- g) DECISION COP8/7 - Strengthening the science–policy–practice interface
- h) DECISION COP8/8 - Stakeholder engagement, education, awareness raising and public participation
- i) DECISION COP8/9 - Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity (*Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention, Biodiversity Protocol*)
- j) DECISION COP8/10 - Spatial planning (*Article 5 of the Carpathian Convention*)
- k) DECISION COP8/11 - Sustainable and integrated water and river basin management (*Article 6 of the Carpathian Convention*)
- l) DECISION COP8/12 - Sustainable agriculture and rural development (*Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention, SARD Protocol*)
- m) DECISION COP8/13 - Sustainable forest management (*Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention, Forest Protocol*)
- n) DECISION COP8/14 - Sustainable transport, infrastructure, industry and energy (*Articles 8 and 10 of the Carpathian Convention, Transport Protocol*)
- o) DECISION COP8/15 - Sustainable tourism (*Article 9 of the Carpathian Convention, Tourism Protocol*)
- p) DECISION COP8/16 - Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge (*Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention*)
- q) DECISION COP8/17 - Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning (*Article 12 of the Carpathian Convention*)
- r) DECISION COP8/18 - Climate change (*Article 12bis of the Carpathian Convention*)
- s) DECISION COP8/19 - Implementation, reporting, compliance and institutional arrangements under the Carpathian Convention
- t) DECISION COP8/20 - Budget, financial arrangements and resource mobilization for the Carpathian Convention
- u) DECISION COP8/21 - Administrative and Secretariat matters
- v) DECISION COP8/22 - Presidency of the Carpathian Convention
- w) DECISION COP8/23 - Date and venue of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
- x) COP8 Ministerial Declaration

11. Reports by the Observers²

² As provided for under Rule 35 (Participation of Observers) of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention.

COP8 DAY 2 | 2 December 2026 (full day)

SESSION IV. Looking Ahead: Shaping the Future of Sustainable and Resilient Carpathians

12. Carpathian Conversations: Collaborative Dialogues

Under the Ukrainian Presidency (2026-2029), the following priority themes will guide regional cooperation under the Carpathian Convention:

- a) Strengthening the position of the Carpathians and the Carpathian Convention at the European level;
- b) Balancing economic development with environmental protection;
- c) Advancing biodiversity conservation and ecosystem integrity through the implementation of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework;
- d) Strengthening climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction through sustainable water and land management.

These interactive sessions are meant to dive deeper into each topic from multiple expert perspectives and identify potential solutions and actions for the implementation under the Carpathian Convention in the coming years.

Overall Structure of the Dialogues

- Introduction to the priority theme and its relevance for the Carpathian region.
- Expert interventions representing different perspectives, including policy, science, implementation, stakeholder engagement, and regional cooperation.
- Moderated discussion among panelists to explore key challenges, opportunities, and practical solutions.
- Interactive exchange with participants, allowing for questions, comments, and sharing of experiences.
- Identification of key messages, recommendations, and potential actions to support the implementation of the Ukrainian Presidency priorities under the Carpathian Convention.
- Concluding reflections on future cooperation and strategic directions for a sustainable and resilient Carpathian region.

SESSION V - Stakeholder Forum

13. Strengthening partnerships - presentations of new partnerships

14. Poster session (TBC)

COP8 DAY 3 | 3 December 2026 (morning)

SESSION VI - Stakeholder Dialogue on the Ukrainian Carpathians

15. Interactive Dialogue on identifying Priorities and Partnerships for the Ukrainian Carpathians

This session will provide an opportunity to reflect on the needs, priorities, and opportunities for cooperation in the Ukrainian Carpathians, bringing together governments, stakeholders, development partners, and experts in a collaborative exchange. The results will be presented at the High-Level Session on Ukraine in the afternoon.

COP8 High-Level Segment | 3 December 2026 (afternoon)

SESSION VII - Opening of the COP8 High-Level Segment

- Opening and setting the scene by the Secretariat
- Address by Serbia, outgoing Presidency
- Symbolic handover of the Presidency
- Address by Ukraine, incoming Presidency

SESSION VIII - High-Level Roundtable on Sustainable and Resilient Carpathians

1. High-Level Roundtable on Sustainable and Resilient Carpathians

- Chair's introduction
- Ministerial interventions by Parties
- Observer interventions
- Summary by Chair

2. High-Level Roundtable on support to Ukraine, Solidarity, Environmental Protection and Regional Cooperation

- Chair's introduction
- Ministerial intervention by Parties
- Observer interventions
- Summary by Chair

SESSION IX - Adoption of COP8 Outcomes and Closure

- Report by the COP8 Rapporteur
- Adoption of COP8 Decisions and COP8 Ministerial Declaration
- Closing statements
- Official closure of the COP8
- Group photo