Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (WG SARD) and Working Group on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge (WG Cultural Heritage)

Joint Work Plan and Mandate 2027–2029

While conducting their activities, the WG SARD and the WG Cultural Heritage will follow their respective Terms of Reference[1,2] and the strategic objectives established therein. As main reference documents, the Working Groups will use the relevant decisions adopted at the Carpathian Convention COP7 and COP8, in particular Decisions COP8/12 on Sustainable agriculture and rural development and COP8/16 on Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge, the Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD Protocol)[3], Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention, as well as the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework[4] and its Implementation Plan 2027–2035[5], recognized by COP8 as the strategic framework guiding the implementation of the Convention and all its Protocols.

The Work Plan is meant to guide cross-sectoral work between the WG SARD and the WG Cultural Heritage, with Carpathian pastoralism as the common leading topic, while each Action indicates, where relevant, the specific perspective and contribution of WG SARD (sustainable agriculture and rural development) and WG Cultural Heritage (cultural heritage and traditional knowledge). Cross-sectoral linkages are pursued with the Working Groups on Biodiversity, Sustainable Tourism, Sustainable Forest Management and Spatial Planning, as well as with the Carpathian ESD Expert Network (CESDEN) and the Science for the Carpathians (S4C) network.

Timeline: unless otherwise specified, the envisaged activities are to be implemented continuously/completed by COP9 in 2029.

1) Organization of work: joint meetings of the WG SARD and the WG Cultural Heritage
Action: Organize joint meetings of the WG SARD and the WG Cultural Heritage, involving other Working Groups as relevant
Mandate: DECISION COP7/12 para 6: *[…]Encourages WG SARD and WG Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge, with involvement of other WGs, if feasible, to organize a joint meeting addressing the issues of pastoralism in the Carpathians, and requests the Secretariat to support the process.* **DECISION COP7/16 para 2:** *Welcomes the proposal of closer cooperation between the WG Cultural Heritage and WG SARD on protecting and promoting traditional pastoral practices in the Carpathians, and in this respect encourages organization of a joint meeting that shall further develop cooperation activities in respect to contributing to the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists; request the Secretariat to support the process.*

[1] Terms of Reference for the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, adopted by the CC COP7 in 2023 (Decision COP7/1 para 11) - CC COP7 DOC20 - ToR for the Carpathian Convention WG SARD_FINAL.pdf
[2] Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge, established pursuant to Decision COP1/6 para 2 - CCWGToRs_DOC10.pdf
[3] Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, adopted at COP5 (Lillafüred, 2017), Decision COP5/7.
[4] Carpathian Biodiversity Framework adopted by the CC COP7 in 2023 http://www.carpathianconvention.org/cop7/docs/officialdocuments/CC%20COP7%20DOC7_Carpathian%20Biodiversity%20Framework_ADOPTED.pdf
[5] CC/COP8/1/INF/2 – Carpathian Biodiversity Framework Implementation Plan 2027-2035 http://www.carpathianconvention.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/ExCoP1-Decision_CBF-Implementation-Plan_ADOPTED.pdf

DECISION COP8/3 para 4:

Requests the thematic Working Groups to revise and implement their respective Work Plans, if applicable, in coherence with the strategic priorities and the programme of work for 2027–2029;

DECISION COP8/12 para 3:

[Approves the WG SARD Work Plan 2027-2029 in line with the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework Implementation Plan 2027-2035, and invites Parties, the WG SARD, other relevant Working Groups such as the WG Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge, and stakeholders to implement the Work Plan within their respective mandates];

Envisaged activities

- Hold at least one joint meeting of the WG SARD and the WG Cultural Heritage during 2027–2029, in an online format or in person, should one of the Parties offer to host a meeting (considering, inter alia, on the earlier offer of the Slovak Republic to host a WG Cultural Heritage meeting, Decision COP7/16 para 3)
- Consider organizing an in-person meeting back-to-back with a relevant regional event (e.g. the 9th Forum Carpaticum 2027 in Romania, a Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CCIC) meeting, or a Carpathian Day event), combined with a field visit to pastoral communities, in order to directly involve herders, pastoralists and local practitioners
- Invite the representatives of the WG Biodiversity, WG Sustainable Tourism, WG Sustainable Forest Management and WG Spatial Planning, as well as CESDEN and S4C, to the joint meetings to facilitate cross-sectoral links
- Ensure balanced representation of both Working Groups by coordinating the agenda between the Chair of the WG SARD (Romania) and the Chair of the WG Cultural Heritage (Slovak Republic), with support of the Secretariat
- Review progress in the implementation of this Work Plan at the joint meetings and report to the CCIC and to COP9 (2029)
- Consider, as appropriate, an update of the Terms of Reference of the WG Cultural Heritage, to reflect current priorities (pastoralism, intangible cultural heritage, cultural landscapes, links with education)

2) Implementation of the SARD Protocol and Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention

Action: Strengthen the implementation of the SARD Protocol, taking into consideration the focus area of Carpathian pastoralism, and the relevant Strategic priorities of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework

Mandate: **DECISION COP8/12 para 1:**

Encourages the Parties to strengthen the implementation of the SARD Protocol and possibly propose new activities for the implementation, taking into account national circumstances and priorities, with a view to supporting resilient rural livelihoods and the sustainable management of natural resources in mountain areas, in line with the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework and its Implementation Plan;

DECISION COP8/12 para 5:

[…]Requests the WG SARD, in cooperation with other relevant Working Groups and stakeholders, within their respective mandates, to:

a. prioritize activities based on evidence-based recommendations expressed in the S4C Recommendations, the Rzeszów Manifesto, and the Global Declaration of Young Pastoralists as well as the Declaration of Carpathian Herders/Pastoralists in particular those related to pastoralism, including the sustainable management of mountain grasslands, pastoral mobility, intergenerational continuity and the transmission of traditional knowledge, while supporting the implementation of the SARD Protocol for the period 2027–2029;

b. promote cooperation on cross cutting issues, including links between agriculture, biodiversity, climate change and cultural heritage;

c. identify and promote additional further opportunities for regional cooperation and knowledge exchange on pastoralism, sustainable mountain agriculture and rural development, including the exchange of experiences on relevant policy instruments, support measures for mountain farmers and pastoralists, and the development and valorisation of products originating from mountain agriculture and pastoral systems;

d. support the development of the Carpathian Pastoralism file under the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Register of Good Safeguarding Practices;

e. support a comparative analysis of the implementation frameworks in the Carpathian countries of relevant EU directives and regulations in the fields of pastoralism and biodiversity conservation, with particular emphasis on the interlinkages between pastoralism and biodiversity;

f. support mechanisms for the intergenerational transfer of pastoral and traditional agricultural knowledge by promoting the meaningful participation of mountain and pastoral communities, in particular women and youth, in the development and implementation of policies and activities related to sustainable agriculture and rural development;

DECISION COP8/12 para 3:

Invites the Parties that have not yet done so to consider acceding to the SARD Protocol, in accordance with their national procedures;

DECISION COP7/12 para 3 :

[…] request the WG SARD and involved stakeholders to build on the results and recommendations of the 6th WG SARD meeting, […] including but not limited to conducting a regional assessment and report on the status, challenges and needs of pastoralism in the Carpathian region, supporting development of pastoralism law in the Carpathians at the regional level, maintaining the traditional knowledge and heritage management, facilitating capacity building, as well as networking at the regional and international level […].

DECISION COP7/12 para 7:

Welcomes the progress made by the WG SARD in identifying further priority topics for the implementation of the SARD Protocol, including on: best practices models for short food supply chains in the mountain areas, quality schemes and certification of „Mountain Products", benefits and best practice models of associations for farmers and food producers in the mountain area, in this respect encourages the Parties, WG SARD and relevant stakeholders, with support of the Secretariat, to undertake concrete related activities.

Envisaged activities:

WG SARD perspective

- Prioritize and implement activities based on the recommendations of the S4C, the Rzeszów Manifesto[6], the Global Pastoralists' Declarations[7] and the Declaration of Carpathian Herders/Pastoralists[8]
- Build on the outputs of the project "Linking biodiversity, pastoralism, and cultural heritage through ESD in the Carpathian Region"[9] , e.g. by collecting national inputs on the respective status, challenges and needs of pastoralism in the Carpathian region, and formulating an action plan on addressing the challenges and needs.
- Facilitate exchange of experience on national legal frameworks for pastoralism, with a view to exploring principles/guidance for supporting pastoralism in the Carpathians.
- Continue work on the further SARD Protocol priority topics: short food supply chains, the optional quality term „Mountain Product", local breeds and products, and farmers' and producers' associations, including the valorisation of products from pastoral systems.
- Support intergenerational transfer of pastoral knowledge and the meaningful participation of pastoral communities, in particular women and youth (e.g. through supporting herder-to-herder exchanges, shepherding schools, apprenticeships, summer schools), taking into account the language diversity of Carpathian herders
- Closely consider S4C recommendations related to SARD when developing activities

WG Cultural Heritage perspective

- Contribute the traditional knowledge, intangible heritage and cultural landscape dimension to the regional exchange on safeguarding pastoralism in the Carpathian Region

[6] CC/COP8/12/INF/2 – Traditional farming for a better future: The Rzeszów Manifesto https://www.ur.edu.pl/en/university/news/the-rzeszow-manifesto
[7] CC/COP8/12/INF/3 – Global Declaration of Young Pastoralists add reference to: other global declarations? Women Pastoralists, etc.
[8] Declaration Of Carpathian Herders/Pastoralists on The Occasion of The Un International Year of Rangelands And Pastoralists For The Future of Extensive Livestock Farming And Pastoral Culture In The Carpathian Region

[9] http://www.carpathianconvention.org/projects_carpathian-esd-2/

- Facilitate synergies with the implementation of the Safeguarding Plan, developed as part of the international file "Transhumance, the seasonal droving of livestock" inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity
- Support recognition of informal and traditional knowledge of herders and pastoralists

Action: Strengthen the implementation of Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention on cultural heritage and traditional knowledge

Mandate: DECISION COP8/16 para 1 and 2:

Encourages Parties to strengthen the implementation of Article 11 of the Carpathian Convention, including by promoting the protection and sustainable use of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge in the Carpathian region, in line with national and regional circumstances;

Invites Parties, the Working Group on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge and relevant stakeholders, within its mandate, to:

a. facilitate the safeguarding and promotion of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge across all relevant activities related to the implementation of the Convention, in particular in the fields of biodiversity, sustainable tourism, sustainable agriculture and rural development, education for sustainable development;

b. consider and support the implementation of recommendations from Science for the Carpathians and the Baku Declaration on cultural heritage and traditional knowledge including by identifying practical measures and joint initiatives;

d. promote cooperation to safeguard transhumance and other traditional land-use practices, including by protecting routes and ensuring access for herders and shepherds, and foster joint regional initiatives in the Carpathian region;

e. explore, as appropriate, collaborations on safeguarding and sustainable management of cultural landscapes in the Carpathian region, particularly those associated with transhumance and traditional land-use practices, including through regional cooperation and joint initiatives;

f. facilitate awareness-raising and intergenerational dialogue on cultural heritage and traditional knowledge;

Envisaged activities:

WG Cultural Heritage perspective

- Integrate synergies with the safeguarding and promotion of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge into the work of the other Working Groups, in particular on biodiversity, sustainable tourism, SARD, as well as CESDEN
- Promote cooperation to safeguard transhumance and other traditional land-use practices, including the identification and protection of transhumance routes and access for herders and shepherds, and foster joint regional initiatives
- Explore collaboration on the safeguarding and sustainable management of cultural landscapes, including those associated with transhumance and traditional land use, in collaboration with ICOMOS and other relevant actors
- Facilitate awareness-raising and intergenerational dialogue on cultural heritage and traditional knowledge, including in collaboration with CESDEN
- Closely consider S4C recommendations related to Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge when developing activities

WG SARD perspective

- Contribute information on traditional agricultural practices, local breeds, pastoral infrastructure and mountain products as integral elements of the living cultural heritage of the Carpathians

Action: Facilitate support for pastoralists and traditional farming systems through the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and other policy instruments

Mandate: DECISION COP8/12 para 5:

Encourages the Parties, where appropriate, to support traditional and sustainable agricultural practices in the Carpathians, including pastoralism and extensive livestock farming systems, as forms of sustainable land management that contribute to biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, cultural heritage and food security, including through the use, in accordance with the applicable legal frameworks, of relevant instruments under the EU Common Agricultural

Policy and other relevant mechanisms, as well as through the exchange of good practices supporting the maintenance of grasslands, traditional farming practices, local breeds and pastoral infrastructure;

DECISION COP8/12 para 5 e:

e. support a comparative analysis of the implementation frameworks in the Carpathian countries of relevant EU directives and regulations in the fields of pastoralism and biodiversity conservation, with particular emphasis on the interlinkages between pastoralism and biodiversity;

DECISION COP8/4 para 4:

Invites Parties that are members of the European Union, subject to the final adoption and design of the future Multiannual Financial Framework and related programming instruments, to consider, as appropriate and within their respective competences, reflecting the specific characteristics and needs of the Carpathian region in the preparation and implementation of relevant future national or regional partnership, investment or programmes;

Envisaged activities

WG SARD perspective

- In cooperation with Euromontana, facilitate exchange of good practices on CAP Strategic Plan interventions for extensive grazing, grassland maintenance, local breeds and pastoral infrastructure
- Follow the negotiations on the post-2027 CAP and the Multiannual Financial Framework and prepare joint messages reflecting the needs of Carpathian pastoralists and mountain farmers, as appropriate
- Support a comparative analysis of the national implementation frameworks of relevant EU directives and regulations on pastoralism and biodiversity conservation, with emphasis on their interlinkages
- Exchange on approaches linking support to sustainable land use and to active herders, not only to land ownership, and on aligning sanitary regulations with traditional gastronomy

WG Cultural Heritage perspective

- Highlight the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge value of pastoral systems as a justification for targeted support measures (e.g. for transhumance, traditional products and crafts)

3) Contribution to UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage processes

Action: Follow up on the extension of the UNESCO inscription "Transhumance, the seasonal droving of livestock", in particular the implementation of its Safeguarding Plan

Mandate: DECISION COP8/16

Welcoming the submission of the multinational nomination to extend the inscription of "Transhumance - the seasonal droving of livestock"[10] on the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity coordinated by Romania, to include additional Carpathian countries, including Poland, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine among others;

DECISION COP8/16 para 4:

Invites the Parties who joined the extension of the UNESCO Representative CH List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity inscription of "Transhumance - the seasonal droving of livestock" to cooperate on the implementation of the Safeguarding measures integrated into the file;

Envisaged activities

- Follow the evaluation of the extended multinational nomination (expected in December 2026) and inform the Working Groups on its outcome

[10] https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/transhumance-the-seasonal-droving-of-livestock-01964

- Provide a platform for the Carpathian Parties participating in the extension to exchange on and coordinate the implementation of the Safeguarding Plan/measures, in close coordination with the Romanian coordinator of the file
- Identify Carpathian-wide or cross-border safeguarding activities that the Convention can facilitate, including through collaboration with CESDEN
- Share experience with Parties not involved in the inscription

Action: Support the development and submission of the Carpathian Pastoralism file to the UNESCO Register of Good Safeguarding Practices

Mandate: DECISION COP8/12 para 5:

d. support the development of the Carpathian Pastoralism file under the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Register of Good Safeguarding Practices;

DECISION COP8/16 para 3:

Contribute to UNESCO-related processes, including by supporting the development and submission of the Carpathian Pastoralism file submission to the UNESCO Register of Good Safeguarding Practices, as well as and the implementation of related safeguarding measures;

Envisaged activities

- Advance the development of a regional Carpathian Pastoralism file, ideally involving all seven Parties, for submission to the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices, building on the experience of the Transhumance extension, outcome of the project "Linking biodiversity, pastoralism, and cultural heritage through ESD in the Carpathian Region," and on the regional cooperation under the Convention.
- Identify the Coordinating Party and document Carpathian good safeguarding practices that could form the substance of the file
- Liaise with national UNESCO commissions and ICH authorities, with support of the Coordinating Party and the Secretariat

4) Cooperation with partner initiatives and Follow-up on the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) 2026 and relevant declarations

Action: Follow up on the IYRP 2026, in close cooperation with the IYRP 2026 Global Coalition and its partners

Mandate: **DECISION COP8/12**

Welcoming the significant progress made in promoting Carpathian pastoralism during the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) 2026;

DECISION COP8/12 para 7:

Invites relevant international organizations, research institutions, funding mechanisms and other stakeholders to support activities related to sustainable agriculture and rural development in the Carpathian region, and specifically related to pastoralism, including through capacity building and technical assistance, knowledge exchange, experience sharing, training, and support for the development of regional initiatives and pilot projects, subject to the availability of resources.

DECISION COP7/12 para 2

[…] invites the Parties, WG SARD and relevant stakeholders […] to use the building momentum of the IYRP to undertake relevant actions for supporting, promoting and protecting the traditional pastoral practices in the Carpathians and to highlight the relevance and contribution of the Carpathian region to this important practice at the international level.

DECISION COP7/12 para 4:

Welcomes the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and the Global International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026 Coalition […]

Envisaged activities:

- Take stock of the Carpathian contributions to the IYRP 2026 (including events, publications, Carpathian Day 2026 activities, 3rd Carpathian ESD Seminar, etc.) and present the results at the first joint meeting
- Maintain close cooperation with the IYRP 2026 Global Coalition, its European/regional support group and partners, to ensure Carpathian Region and its needs are reflected in the follow-up processes
- Further develop and sustain the network of Carpathian pastoralism experts and practitioners, including herders, women herders and young pastoralists
- Support regional initiatives and pilot projects on pastoralism and respective resource mobilization in liaison with partners and donors

Action: Follow up on declarations relevant to Carpathian pastoralism, traditional farming and mountain agriculture

Mandate: DECISION COP8/12:

Welcoming the initiative by the Carpathian pastoralism experts to draft the Declaration of Carpathian Herders/Pastoralists […] with the aim to invite endorsement by herder and pastoralist communities from the Carpathian countries;

Taking note of the key messages and recommendations of the Traditional farming for a better future: The Rzeszów Manifesto, the recommendations of the Science for the Carpathians (S4C) related to sustainable agriculture and rural development, the Global Declaration of Young Pastoralists and the Declaration of Carpathian Herders/Pastoralists;

DECISION COP8/12 para 5:

a. prioritize activities based on evidence-based recommendations expressed in the S4C Recommendations, the Rzeszów Manifesto, and the Global Declaration of Young Pastoralists as well as the Declaration of Carpathian Herders/Pastoralists […], while supporting the implementation of the SARD Protocol for the period 2027–2029;

DECISION COP8/16

Taking note of the 2025 Baku declaration on the recognition, safeguarding, and transmission of the heritage of pastoralist transhumance ,

DECISION COP8/16 para 2:

b. consider and support the implementation of recommendations from Science for the Carpathians and the Baku Declaration on cultural heritage and traditional knowledge including by identifying practical measures and joint initiatives;

Envisaged activities:

- Facilitate endorsement of the Declaration of Carpathian Herders/Pastoralists, support its translation into the Carpathian languages, consultation with national herder and pastoralist communities and networks, and the collection of endorsements
- Review the key messages of the Rzeszów Manifesto[11], the Global Declaration of Young Pastoralists[12], the Sallanches Declaration of the XIV European Mountain Convention[13] and the Baku Declaration[14], and identify those that can be translated into concrete actions under this Work Plan

Action: Cooperation with the Science for the Carpathians (S4C)

Mandate: DECSION COP8/3 para 5

[11] CC/COP8/12/INF/2 – Traditional farming for a better future: The Rzeszów Manifesto https://www.ur.edu.pl/en/university/news/the-rzeszow-manifesto
[12] CC/COP8/12/INF/3 – Global Declaration of Young Pastoralists
[13] Declaration of the XIV European Mountain Convention "From pastures to policies: ensuring the future of extensive livestock farming in mountain territories", Sallanches, France, 30 June – 2 July 2026 https://www.euromontana.org/xiii-european-mountain-convention-home/
[14] CC/COP8/16/INF/1 – Baku declaration on the recognition, safeguarding, and transmission of the heritage of pastoralist transhumance (2025)

Invites Parties, Working Groups and relevant stakeholders to closely consider and support implementation of recommendations from the Science for the Carpathians network, as relevant for the Programme of work and strategic priorities for the implementation period 2027–2029.

Envisaged activities:

- Consider the S4C Recommendations when prioritizing, planning and implementing WG SARD and WG Cultural Heritage activities
- Synergize with the S4C to contribute to the 9th Forum Carpaticum 2027 in Romania (e.g. by proposing a session on pastoralism, traditional farming and cultural heritage), and to build on the Forum outcomes
- Engage young and early career scientists and practitioners in the work of the Working Groups
- Support development and implementation of relevant projects.

Action: Cooperation with the Carpathian ESD Expert Network (CESDEN) on education and awareness raising related to SARD and cultural heritage

Mandate: DECISION COP8/8 para 3:

[…] Invites the Parties to strengthen inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral dialogue and cooperation at the national level, including between the sectors responsible for environment, education, science and culture, in support of the implementation of the Convention, following the example of the 3rd Carpathian ESD Seminar hosted by Serbia;

DECISION COP8/12 para 5:

f. support mechanisms for the intergenerational transfer of pastoral and traditional agricultural knowledge

DECISION COP8/16 para 2

f. facilitate awareness-raising and intergenerational dialogue on cultural heritage and traditional knowledge

Envisaged activities

- Strengthen links between education, awareness raising, SARD and cultural heritage in cooperation with CESDEN, in line with the education and training provisions of the SARD Protocol and the Carpathian ESD Roadmap
- Consider and disseminate the relevant outputs developed under the project "Linking biodiversity, pastoralism, and cultural heritage through ESD in the Carpathian Region", and identify follow-up actions with education authorities
- Promote educational measures for safeguarding Carpathian pastoralism and cultural heritage (e.g. shepherding schools, curricula, improving the public image of shepherds)
- Contribute to Carpathian Day celebrations with themes related to SARD and cultural heritage
- Invite CESDEN representatives to the joint meetings, and encourage cooperation between WG SARD, the WG Cultural Heritage and the ESD experts

Action: Cooperation with the Alpine Convention and its Working Group on Mountain Agriculture and Mountain Forestry (MAMF)

Mandate: DECISION COP8/5 para 4:

Encourages strengthened cooperation between the Carpathian and Alpine Conventions, including through implementation of the renewed Memorandum of Cooperation supporting delivery of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in a mountain context, notably via targeted exchange of best practices and joint activities, and welcomes the initiative of the German Presidency of the Alpine Convention to mutually exchange on experiences, challenges and perspectives at the nexus of pastoralism and biodiversity across the Alpine and Carpathian regions

Envisaged activities

- Strengthen the cooperation in fields of common interest, including institutional cooperation, the exchange of information and experience;
- Establish synergies with the Alpine Convention Mountain Agriculture and Mountain Forestry (MAMF) Working Group

- Contribute to the Alpine–Carpathian exchange at the nexus of pastoralism and biodiversity initiated by the German Presidency of the Alpine Convention and inspired by the project "Linking biodiversity, pastoralism, and cultural heritage through ESD in the Carpathian Region"

Action: Cooperation with UNESCO, ICOMOS, FAO, Euromontana and other international partners

Mandate: DECISION COP8/16 para 5:

Requests the Secretariat, subject to available resources, to:

b. strengthen coordination and collaboration with UNESCO, ICOMOS and other relevant partners at international, regional, national and local levels to safeguard and promote cultural heritage in the Carpathian region.

DECISION COP8/12 para 6:

Requests the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to:

c. facilitate cooperation with relevant international organizations, institutions and initiatives active in sustainable mountain agriculture and rural development, and specifically related to pastoralism, including through the exchange of knowledge and good practices, capacity-building and technical assistance, as appropriate;

DECISION COP8/12 para 7:

Invites relevant international organizations, research institutions, funding mechanisms and other stakeholders to support activities related to sustainable agriculture and rural development in the Carpathian region, and specifically related to pastoralism, including through capacity building and technical assistance, knowledge exchange, experience sharing, training, and support for the development of regional initiatives and pilot projects, subject to the availability of resources.

DECISION COP7/5 para 10:

Welcomes the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation between Euromontana and the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention with the objective to enhance promoting of sustainable agriculture and rural development in the Carpathians and at the EU level for the benefits to the local people in Carpathians, and recommends development and implementation of the related Work Plan.

Envisaged activities

- Maintain dialogue with UNESCO and ICOMOS on safeguarding pastoral heritage and transhumance landscapes
- Cooperate with FAO, including Pastoralist Knowledge Hub and the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) programme, as relevant
- Cooperate with the Mountain Partnership and other relevant international initiatives
- Ensure close coordination with Euromontana in implementing this Work Plan, including the follow-up on the Sallanches Declaration, exchange on mountain products, pastoral schools and European pastoral networks
- Promote Carpathian participation in international and regional events
- Facilitate and support project development and resource mobilization

5) Cross-sectoral cooperation with other Working Groups of the Carpathian Convention

Action: Cooperation with the WG Biodiversity – links between protected areas management, SARD and cultural heritage

Mandate: DECISION COP8/9, para 1 and 9:

Encourages Parties to further strengthen actions for the conservation, restoration, sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity and mainstreaming biodiversity into other sectors, with a particular focus on the effective implementation of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework and its Implementation Plan […]

Recognizing the need to promote the coexistence of human communities, economic activities, and large carnivore populations, invites all Parties to support and fund preventive and mitigation measures that reduce human-wildlife conflicts and enhance societal acceptance of large carnivore conservation.

DECISION COP8/12 para 5:

b. promote cooperation on cross-cutting issues, including links between agriculture, biodiversity, climate change and cultural heritage;

Envisaged activities

- Consider a joint session with the WG Biodiversity with the aim to collaborate on the following topics:
  a) Implementation of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework, its Strategic Objective 5 and its Implementation Plan 2027–2035, in particular on agrobiodiversity and traditional ecological knowledge
  b) The role of grazing and traditional land use in the management of protected areas and Natura 2000 sites, and the development of guidelines for protected areas and herder communities to balance grazing and conservation
  c) Exchange with the Large Carnivores Expert Group on coexistence between pastoralism and large carnivores
  d) Payment for ecosystem services and the benefits from pastoral land use for biodiversity

Action: Cooperation with the WG Sustainable Forest Management – agro- and silvopastoral systems

Mandate: DECISION COP8/13 para 6 :

Requests the WG Forest, in cooperation with other relevant Working Groups and stakeholders, within their respective mandates, to: […] d. strengthen and maintain cooperation with other relevant Working Groups, particularly on cross-cutting issues related to climate change, biodiversity and ecosystem services;

Envisaged activities

- Collaboration on agro- and silvopastoral systems, wood pastures and forest grazing
- Exchange on the role of traditional pastoral land use in fire prevention

Action: Cooperation with the WG Sustainable Tourism – cultural heritage, rural tourism and mountain products

Mandate: DECISION COP8/15 para 4 :

[Approves the WG Tourism Work Plan 2027-2029 […] and invites Parties, WG Tourism, other relevant Working Groups such as SARD, and stakeholders to implement the Work Plan within their respective mandates];

DECISION COP8/15 para and 7

Requests the WG Tourism […] to: b. promote coherence between sustainable tourism activities and other thematic areas of the Convention, including biodiversity, cultural heritage and rural development;

Envisaged activities

- Building on the recent joint pastoralism session at the WG Tourism Meeting, explore further cooperation with the WG Tourism on synergies related to pastoral heritage and transhumance
- Promote local and mountain products, local gastronomy and agritourism as sources of income for pastoral communities, building on good practices such as the Local Gastronomic Points in Romania
- Ensure that tourism development respects the authenticity of cultural heritage and the needs of herders and local communities

Action: Cooperation with the WG Spatial Planning – cultural landscapes and transhumance routes

Mandate: DECISION COP8/16 para 2:

d. promote cooperation to safeguard transhumance and other traditional land-use practices, including by protecting routes and ensuring access for herders and shepherds […]

e. explore, as appropriate, collaborations on safeguarding and sustainable management of cultural landscapes in the Carpathian region, particularly those associated with transhumance and traditional land-use practices […]

Envisaged activities

- Exchange with the WG Spatial Planning on mapping and integrating transhumance routes, pastures and cultural landscapes into spatial and land-use planning at national, regional and local levels
- Exchange on preventing land-use conflicts affecting pastoral routes and cultural landscapes