Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians[1] (CC COP8)

Vienna, Austria
1 – 3 December 2026

Meeting Venue: Vienna International Center
Building C, Room: CR1 (second floor)

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

DAY 1	1 December 2026 | 12:15 – 18:00 CET
11:00 – 12:00	**Closed Meeting of the Carpathian Convention National Focal Points**
12:15 – 13:00	**Cultural Programme Opening (Rotunda of C Building, 1st floor)**
SESSION I	**Organizational Matters**
13:15 – 13:45	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

[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 II	**From COP7 to COP8: Achievements, Lessons Learned and the Way Forward for Sustainable and Resilient Carpathians**
13:45 – 14:45	7. Progress Report a) Presentation by the Secretariat, including: - Advancing the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework and the CARPATHIAN LIFE Strategic Nature Project by the Secretariat - Large Carnivores: International Action Plan and the Carpathian Lynx Strategy - Pastoralism - Sustainable Tourism - Education for Sustainable Development - Plastic Waste Assessment - Support to Ukraine - Mountain Restoration Assessment - Serbia Flagships
14:45 – 15:15	**Coffee Break**
15:15 – 16:00	b) Moderated Reflection by Working Group Chairs and key implementation networks
16:00 – 16:45	c) Observers input - Exchange of views on achievements, challenges, lessons learned and future needs
SESSION III	**Review of the COP8 Decisions**
16:45 – 17:30	8. 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

17:30 – 17:45 9. Reports by the Observers[2]

17:45 – 18:00 10. Opening of the Poster Exhibition (in front of CR1)

18:00 – 20:00 **Reception for the COP8 participants (Coffee corner of the CR1)**

[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.

DAY 2	2 December 2026 | 8:45 – 18:30 CET
8:45 – 9:00	**Opening of the COP8 DAY 2**
SESSION IV	**Looking Ahead: Shaping the Future of Sustainable and Resilient Carpathians**
	11. Carpathian Conversations: Collaborative Dialogues: **Objective:** These interactive dialogues will explore the four priority themes of the Ukrainian Presidency (2027-2029), bringing together policymakers, experts, and stakeholders to discuss challenges, opportunities, and actions for their implementation under the Carpathian Convention. Detailed session programmes will be made available in due course. The four below priorities will be discussed:
9:00 – 10:15	a) Strengthening the position of the Carpathians and the Carpathian Convention at the European level
10:15 – 11:30	b) Balancing economic development with environmental protection
11:30 – 13:00	**Lunch Break / Parallel Side Events** • From Strategy to Action: Implementing the Carpathian Lynx Strategy **(CR1, 2nd floor, 11:30 – 12:30)** • Carpathian Resilience: Biodiversity Conservation and the Socio-Economic Integration of Communities **(C0229, 2nd floor, 11:30 – 12:30)**
13:00 – 14:15	c) Advancing biodiversity conservation and ecosystem integrity through the implementation of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework
14:15 – 15:30	d) Strengthening climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction through sustainable water and land management
15:30 – 16:00	**Coffee Break / Poster Exhibition Session (in front of CR1)**
SESSION V	**Stakeholder Forum**
16:00 – 17:00	12. Strengthening Partnerships – Presentations of new partnerships and signing of cooperation agreements: a) Programme of Collaborative Work 2026–2027 between the Carpathian Convention Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions b) Memorandum of Cooperation between the Carpathian Convention Secretariat and Špirála; c) Memorandum of Cooperation between the Carpathian Convention Secretariat and the Infrastructure and Ecology Network Europe (IENE);

d) Memorandum of Cooperation between the Carpathian Convention Secretariat and Carpathian Foundation;
e) Memorandum of Cooperation between the Carpathian Convention Secretariat and Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences, Slovakia and Roma Environmental Sustainability and Development Initiative – RESDI (presentation)
f) Memorandum of Cooperation between the Jagiellonian University in Kraków and the Carpathian Convention Secretariat (presentation)

SIDE EVENTS

17:00 – 18:30 **Parallel Side Events**

- Connecting the Carpathians: Turning NaturaConnect Science into Action **(CR1, 2nd floor, 17:00 – 18:15)**
- Film Presentation and Discussion: Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in Times of War **(CR3, 7th floor, 17:00 – 18:30)**

DAY 3	3 December 2026 | 9:00 – 18:30 CET
SESSION VI	**Stakeholder Dialogue on the Ukrainian Carpathians**

9:00 – 11:30 **13. From Recovery to Action: Identifying Priorities and Partnerships for the Ukrainian Carpathians**

Objective: This session will examine recovery priorities for the Ukrainian Carpathians, ongoing initiatives in Ukraine, the engagement of international partners and the role of the Carpathian Convention in the process. Through an interactive dialogue, participants will identify priority actions, partnership opportunities, and key recommendations for coordinated recovery efforts.

a) Ukraine's recovery priorities for the Ukrainian Carpathians
b) Role of the Carpathian Convention: mandate and ongoing projects in Ukraine
c) International partners' engagement and priorities in the Ukrainian Carpathians
d) Interactive dialogue "Ukrainian Carpathians Nature Recovery Dialogue"
e) Key messages and the way forward

11:30 – 12:30 **Lunch Break**

SESSION VII **Opening of the COP8 High-Level Segment**

12:30 – 13:00 14. Opening and setting the scene by the Secretariat

15. Address by Serbia, outgoing Presidency

16. Symbolic handover of the Presidency

17. Address by Ukraine, incoming Presidency

SESSION VIII	**High-Level Roundtable**
13:00 – 15:00	**18. High-Level Roundtable – "Sustainable and Resilient Carpathians: Solidarity, Recovery and Regional Cooperation"** a) Chair's introduction b) Ministerial statements by Parties c) Interventions by observers, international organizations and development partners d) Interactive discussion and exchange among Ministers and partners e) Chair's summary
SESSION IX	**Adoption of COP8 Outcomes**
15:00 – 15:15	19. Report by the COP8 Rapporteur 20. Adoption of COP8 Decisions and COP8 Ministerial Declaration 21. Closing statements and official closure of COP8 COP8 group photo
15:15 – 15:30	**Coffee Break**
SIDE EVENT	**Official Side Event of the Ukrainian Presidency (CR1)**
15:30 – 18:30	**Carpathian 8: Unlocking Investment Opportunities in the Carpathian Macro-region: Private Capital, Public Partnerships and Regional Cooperation** **Objective:** The side event will explore how sustainable investment, economic cooperation and financing mechanisms can contribute to the objectives of the Carpathian Convention, balancing economic development with environmental protection. Building on the outcomes of the C8 Summit in Bukovel, the discussions will focus on identifying investment opportunities, addressing barriers to cross-border cooperation and defining practical steps for further regional cooperation. The following topics will be discussed: • Regional investment platform and the role of the Carpathian Investment Coalition. • Where to Invest: Investment opportunities in manufacturing, energy, agri-food processing and tourism.

- How to Deliver: Cross-border logistics, barriers, risk mitigation and financing instruments.
- Next steps for regional investment cooperation and development of a joint C8 action plan.

19:00 – 21:00	**High-level reception** (invitation only) VIC Restaurant, Mozart Room (conference premises)