



Carpathian Convention COP6 updates on implementation 2018-2020

The Carpathians

are one of Europe's largest mountain ranges – and home to the most stunning ecosystems with unique natural and cultural diversity, spanning across seven countries throughout Central and Eastern Europe. With their exceptional level of biodiversity, they provide habitat to the one of the largest numbers of big carnivores including brown bears, lynx and wolves in Europe. This ecoregion currently faces unprecedented changes, thus requiring urgent attention and protection measure.

The Carpathian Convention

provides a cooperation and governance framework to guarantee protection and sustainable development of the entire Carpathian region. Signed as subregional treaty in May 2003, this unique partnership unites seven countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine) and stakeholders from the region sharing a common vision to:

- ❖ improve the quality of life
- ❖ strengthen local economies & communities
- ❖ conserve natural values & cultural heritage



COP-6

On 25 November 2020, the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP6) – the main political body of the Convention - takes place virtually to strengthen actions for the sustainable development of the Carpathian region. A set of decisions will be adopted guiding the implementation of the Convention 2021 – 2023 period.

At COP6, Poland will assume a three-year Presidency of the Carpathian Convention, which will be held with a priority to strengthen cooperation with local and regional level as well as with the European Union, leading towards desired EU accession to the Carpathian Convention.

Enhancing ecological connectivity in the Carpathians

The Carpathian region with its great last areas of wilderness is home to one of the biggest large carnivore populations in Europe, including brown bears, grey wolves, and Eurasian lynxes. When living in landscapes dominated by humans, these wildlife species often face a multidimensional problem, ranging from human caused mortality to habitat loss and fragmentation.

The development of transport infrastructure in the Carpathian region has endangered their habitats and led to significant ecosystem fragmentation limiting dispersal and the genetic exchange of wildlife. Ecological connectivity is a bridge to preserving biodiversity and determining factor for the survival and migration of species and adaptation to future environmental conditions, such as climate change.

The Carpathian Convention provides tools for adequately managing and protecting Carpathian natural heritage and restoring the ecological connectivity in a form of transboundary Action Plans to be adopted at the Carpathian Convnetion COP6:



[International Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Connectivity in the Carpathians](#)

[Joint Strategic Action Plan 2021 – 2026 for the Implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Transport](#)



Photo: Tomas Hulik

This important work is especially supported by following projects:



Photo: Andrzej-Czaderna



Protecting precious forests in the Carpathians

The Carpathian region hosts some of most precious old-growth forests in Europe. Due to their functions of carbon sinks, they are extremely relevant for addressing climate change. In a joint effort to protect these “green jewels” and conserve them for future generations, the Carpathian Convention is developing the Inventory of the Virgin Forest – in close cooperation with its Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management and the European Environment Agency.

Long-term Vision 2030 towards combating climate change

The Carpathian Convention’s vision for combating climate change is to strengthen collaborative efforts towards a climate-neutral path that delivers climate-resilient and sustainable development in the Carpathians. During the COP6, the Parties will adopt the Long-term Vision 2030 and its Action Plan, which shall significantly support achieving the objectives of the EU Green Deal and the Paris Agreement.



Photo: Mircea Verghelet

The Carpathian Convention – a platform for translating global and European policies to local action in the Carpathian region



The coming decade will be critical for halting biodiversity loss and reversing ecological degradation by reaching the objectives of the **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration**.



As a **regional instrument**, the **Carpathian Convention** plays an important role in **supporting implementation of global and European policies** in the Carpathian region, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Convention on Biological Diversity and its future Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (Post-2020 GBF), the European Green Deal, the EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy and others.



The Carpathian Convention is enhancing its cooperation with the Alpine Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity, to strengthen its implementation in the Alps and in the Carpathians, and **to share this experience with other mountain regions of the world**.



For this purpose, the Carpathian Convention is signing a **new Memorandum of Cooperation** with the CBD and the Alpine Convention in the context of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.



Science for the Carpathians



The [Science for the Carpathians](#) (S4C) network, established in 2008, connects scientists across disciplines and national boundaries, promotes research focused on the needs of the Carpathian region and fosters dialogue between research, policy, and practice. S4C regularly participates in Convention events, prepares recommendations for policy and practice, based on the recent research results, and communicates them to the Convention Secretariat and the Parties.

The [5th Forum Carpaticum](#) – a biennial international conference organized by the S4C - was held on 15-18 October 2018 in Eger, Hungary. The scientific recommendations for the conference will be presented at the Carpathian Convention COP6.

The next Forum will take place in Brno, Czech Republic, on 21-25 June 2021 and will focus on “Linking the Environmental, Political and Societal Aspects for Carpathian Sustainability”.

S4C plays an important role in integrating Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) into the work of the Convention. The first Carpathian ESD Seminar took place in Budapest, Hungary, in April 2019, co-organized by the government of Hungary, the Convention Secretariat and the S4C. It brought together teachers, NGOs, academic and governmental experts, and served as the first step towards formation of the Carpathian ESD expert community.

Cooperating with key stakeholders and partners for the benefits of both people and nature

The Carpathian Convention provides a platform for dialogue and cooperation for stakeholders from the region and beyond. During the last years, the partnerships brought tangible results and benefits in terms of raising awareness on the importance of sustainability, strengthening the role of civil societies in improving natural resources governance and conservation as well as implementing crucial projects to achieve the objectives of the Carpathian Convention.





Cooperating with key stakeholders and partners for the benefits of both people and nature

Beyond policy development and alignment, the Carpathian Convention has also facilitated the development and supported the practical implementation of protocols and action plans, including the [TRANSGREEN project](#) - funded by the EU Interreg Danube Transnational Programme and led by WWF within the framework of the Carpathian Convention. The TRANSGREEN project received the European Natura 2000 Award for Excellence in Nature Protection 2020. It has brought together stakeholders from the transport and environment sector to identify and develop best-practice solutions to address conflicts between linear infrastructure and ecological corridors.

In 2018, WWF presented the "Gift to the Earth" - its [highest award](#) - to the Carpathian Convention in recognition of the essential role that the Convention has played in facilitating action by its seven members and relevant stakeholders to promote sustainable development in the Carpathians and serving as a model for cross-border cooperation.



Photo: Tomas Hulik

More information

Carpathian Convention website - [LINK](#)

COP6 website - [LINK](#)

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