

Progress Report for the 15th Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee

Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention
UN Environment Programme - Vienna Office



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Meeting Agenda

DAY 2

SESSION III | 10:00 – 11:15

5.5 Progress Report & Recommendations: COP7/12, 16

With presentations: Transhumance UNESCO ICH file extension; Carpathian Pastoralism UNESCO ICH file proposal; Green and Inclusive Agricultural Policy in Ukraine project activities and updates

5.6 Progress Report & Recommendations: COP7/19

SESSION IV | 11:30 – 13:00

5.7 Progress Report & Recommendations: COP7/2, 15

With presentations: Central Mountains project activities and updates; Sustainable Tourism Development in Ukraine

6. Presentation: Establishing a Peace Park between Romania and Ukraine

With presentation of the CCIC Recommendation

7. Presentation: “The ImPossible Park Carpathians” – Proposal to Safeguard Critical Carpathian Forest Areas

8. CC COP8 Updates and Discussion

9. Any Other Business

10. Conclusions and Closure

DECISION COP7/12 Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

Activity: Support activities related to supporting, promoting and protecting the traditional pastoral practices in the Carpathians

Collaboration with International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP 2026) Coalition

- Ongoing exchange and joint efforts with IYRP 2026 contact points to promote Carpathian Convention and Pastoralism
- Prepared an information brief for IYRP 2026 Europe website
- Collaborated with IYRP 2026 Coalition on events focused on pastoralism

Event: Empowering Pastoralist Women in Mountain Areas: Navigating Environmental and Gender Challenges (March 2024)

- Hybrid event on amplifying voices of rural women and girls from mountainous regions
- Co-organized with NGO Committee on the Status of Women Vienna and partners, supported by Eurac Research and IYRP 2026

Event: Multifunctional Farming Conference (September 2025)

- Provided feedback on conference concept and shared information with IYRP 2026 and S4C
- Experts from Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia in biodiversity, pastoralism, and traditional ecological knowledge engaged in the scientific committee



DECISION COP7/12 Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

Activity: Support activities related to supporting, promoting and protecting the traditional pastoral practices in the Carpathians

New Project Proposal: Linking Biodiversity, Pastoralism, and Cultural Heritage through ESD

- Focus on connections between pastoralism, biodiversity, and education in the Carpathian region
- Approved by the German Federal Environment Ministry's AAP as a follow-up to prior ESD network project

Collaboration with ICOMOS on Transhumance Initiative

- ICOMOS project aims to sustain transhumance cultural landscapes and increase UNESCO World Heritage representation
- Secretariat informed Parties, WG SARD, and pastoralism experts; collaborating with Romania's UNESCO ICH National Focal Point
- Potential synergies with Carpathian Convention efforts, aligned with COP7 Decisions on pastoralism

Follow up on prioritization of Carpathian Pastoralism

- Collaboration with Romanian coordinators of the Transhumance file to be submitted to the UNESCO ICH
- Facilitation of discussion on a joint Carpathian Pastoralism file – **a proposed way forward from Carpathian experts**

“Transhumance - the seasonal droving of livestock” UNESCO ICH file

Ioana Baskerville

Romanian Academy, Iasi Branch

Proposal for Carpathian Pastoralism UNESCO ICH file

Zlatica Csontos Šimoňáková

Ministry of Environment of Slovakia

Green and inclusive agricultural policy in Ukraine project

Tamara Malkova

Information Center “Green Dossier”

Presentations

CCIC Recommendations

DECISION COP7/12 Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

The CCIC welcomes the active **collaboration between the Secretariat and IYRP 2026**, and recommends continuing this fruitful cooperation through joint events and projects.

The CCIC welcomes the event “Empowering Pastoralist Women in Mountain Areas: Navigating Environmental and Gender Challenges,” held on 12 March 2024, and recommends further dialogue and **exchange on pastoralism and its related gaps and needs, particularly about the role of pastoralist women** in the Carpathians.

The CCIC welcomes the submission of the draft project application “**Linking biodiversity, pastoralism and cultural heritage through education for sustainable development (ESD) in the Carpathian Region,**” with thanks to the German Federal Environment Ministry’s Advisory Assistance Programme for its support in the application process; *invites* the Parties to actively support the implementation of the project upon its envisioned approval by the donor; and *requests* the Secretariat to coordinate the implementation of the project.

The CCIC thanks Romania for its leadership in the extension process of the multinational file „**Transhumance – the seasonal droving of livestock**” under the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List of Humanity, *welcomes* the active participation of the Secretariat in the process, *requests* the Secretariat to further facilitate this process, and *invites* the Parties to join the file extension as well as to consider cooperation on developing and submitting a **joint Carpathian pastoralism file**.

The CCIC welcomes the established dialogue with the **ICOMOS Transhumance Initiative** team, *requests* the Secretariat to continue liaising with the Initiative and exploring synergies to benefit the Carpathian region, and *invites* the Parties to collaborate on identifying and strengthening mutual learning and synergies with this process.

DECISION COP7/19 Awareness raising, education and public participation

Activity: Support the Carpathian Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Expert Network

Strengthening the Carpathian ESD Expert Network

- Completed project “Strengthening the ESD network in the Carpathian Convention” with full report submitted, funded by Germany’s AAP
- Relunched Carpathian ESD Expert Network (Dec 2023), gathering inputs on vision, mission, and priorities for 2024-2026
- Created digital resources for better exchange with the Carpathian ESD Expert Network (CESDEN)
 - *Carpathian ESD webpage with resource-sharing feature, launched Jan 2024*
 - *Database of Carpathian ESD experts, with updated focal points from Romania and Slovakia; Czech Republic collaboration established*
- Collaborations strengthened:
 - *UNESCO Chair on Higher Education for Sustainable Development at Leuphana University Lüneburg*
 - *UNECE SC ESD*
 - *Cyprus contribution to CESDEN implemented by a Slovak network Špirála*



Events: Carpathian ESD-related events supported by the Secretariat

- Presentation for Young and Early Career Geographers Working Group (Feb 2024)
- Youth, Entrepreneurship, and ESD Forum in Cyprus (June 2024)
- Educational festival Steps Forward in Košice, Slovakia (Nov 2024)



DECISION COP7/19 Awareness raising, education and public participation

Activity: Support the Carpathian Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Expert Network

Future Plans and ESD Network Development

- Online meetings following the ESD Festival in Slovakia (with a focus on Youth participation)
- Following up on ESD expert nominations (Hungary, Poland, Serbia, Ukraine)
- Preparing for 3rd Carpathian ESD Seminar in Serbia (2025)
 - Link with Pastoralism education
- Exploring collaboration with UNESCO ESD-Net, with Romania and Czech Republic already engaged
- Continued work to support Carpathian ESD goals through events, reports, and the UNECE ESD Strategy
 - Representing CESDEN at the UNECE SC meeting in Geneva (May 2025)
 - ESD - Pastoralism session at Forum Carpathicum 2025



CCIC Recommendations

DECISION COP7/19 Awareness raising, education and public participation

The CCIC welcomes the outcomes of the project “**Strengthening the ESD network in the Carpathian Convention via science-policy-practice interface**,”; thanks the German Federal Environment Ministry’s Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP) for supporting the process; welcomes the active participation of the project partners; invites the Parties to continue building on the project outcomes to strengthen ESD activities in the Carpathian region; and requests the Secretariat to continue coordinating the Carpathian ESD Expert Network and follow-up activities.

The CCIC welcomes the development of the **Carpathian ESD webpage and ESD Carpathian expert database** as important tools for facilitating ESD collaborations across the region, and requests the Secretariat to continue supporting these developments.

The CCIC encourages the Parties to facilitate current **nominations of governmental ESD experts to the Carpathian ESD Expert Network** and connect with relevant ESD experts and networks in their respective countries.

The CCIC welcomes with appreciation the 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 in 2023-2025; requests the Secretariat to **coordinate the Carpathian ESD activities with Špirála and the UNECE SC ESD** and furthermore invites the Parties to support this process.

The CCIC appreciates the **educational festival “Steps Forward - New Approaches to ESD in the Carpathians and Beyond”** and Špirála’s efforts in leading its organization; acknowledges the event’s contribution to strengthening networks between ESD experts from Slovakia and experts from other Carpathian countries.



CCIC Recommendations

DECISION COP7/19 Awareness raising, education and public participation

*The CCIC invites the Secretariat to continue facilitating synergies, knowledge exchange and networking among **Carpathian ESD experts**.*

*The CCIC welcomes closer **cooperation with the UNECE SC ESD and UNESCO ESD-Net**; requests the Secretariat to continue its efforts towards this end, and invites the Parties to support networking and synergies with these international processes, as relevant.*

*The CCIC welcomes the Secretariat's efforts in strengthening the **participation of youth and young professionals in implementing the Carpathian Convention**; requests the Secretariat to continue this work and invites the Parties to support these efforts.*

*The CCIC welcomes the idea of **organizing the 3rd Carpathian ESD Seminar in Serbia in 2025**, invites the Parties and requests the Secretariat to cooperate with Serbia on organizing the Seminar and to build upon the developments of the Carpathian ESD Expert Network.*

COFFEE BREAK

*15th Carpathian Convention Implementation
Committee Meeting*



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

Activity: Support implementation of relevant projects, including Central Mountains

Secretariat supporting Central Mountains: From the Alps to the Carpathians project (Interreg Central Europe Programme)

- Focuses on governance models for sustainable mountain development
- **Key deliverable:** *Joint Strategy Report for community-led sustainable development*, emphasizing participatory governance, developed with Eurac Research
 - Report framework assists community-based cross-border initiatives in participatory governance, integrating insights from Alpine and Carpathian regions
 - Secretariat presented the Joint Strategy Report at the 15th WG Biodiversity meeting (June 2024) and invited feedback from Carpathian stakeholders for inclusion in the final strategy document, to be completed by the project's end

Interreg
CENTRAL EUROPE



Co-funded by
the European Union

Central Mountains

DECISION COP7/15 Sustainable Tourism

Activity: Support the cooperation and activities within the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform and implementation of Central Mountains

Potential inclusion of Ukraine as a CSTP Center, pending ongoing governmental consultations



Central Mountains project

Anna Buk

Euroregion Karpacki

Sustainable Tourism Development in Ukrainian Carpathians

Mariana Oleskiv

*State Agency for Tourism Development
of Ukraine*

Presentations

CCIC Recommendations

DECISION COP7/2

*Cooperation with regional
and local authorities and all
relevant stakeholders*

The CCIC welcomes the Report on the “**Joint Strategy for community-led sustainable development in mountain areas of Central Europe,**” developed under the Central Mountains project;

invites the relevant bodies and stakeholders of the Carpathian Convention to **contribute to the finalization of the Strategy**, which aims to enhance local stakeholder involvement in the decision-making process for the sustainable development of the Carpathians;

and requests the Secretariat to further support this process.



CCIC Recommendations

DECISION COP7/15 Sustainable Tourism

The CCIC takes note of the “**Action Plan for sustainable tourism development in the Carpathians,**” developed by the Central Mountains project, and recommends its consideration by the WG Sustainable Tourism, as well as by the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform.

The CCIC welcomes the activities of the **Central Mountains Work Package 2 pilot action**, aimed at enhancing the cooperation framework within the Carpathian Sustainable Tourism Platform (CSTP); encourages CSTP Centers to collaborate on relevant initiatives; and requests the Secretariat's support in facilitating this process.

The CCIC welcomes the proposal to **expand the CSTP with a representative/center in Ukraine** and invites the relevant partners and the Secretariat to take the necessary steps to finalize this process.

Peace Park between Romania and Ukraine

Gabriel Paun, Agent Green

Marcel Mindrescu, Geoconcept

Presentation

CCIC Recommendations

DECISION COP7/1 Implementation of the Carpathian Convention

*The CCIC welcomes the idea of establishing a new **transboundary protected area between Romania and Ukraine** with the observance of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Carpathian Convention and the applicable national legal frameworks,*

and invites the Parties, relevant stakeholders and the Secretariat to support the process;

*it further **mandates** the Secretariat to **sign a Memorandum of Cooperation** with the initiators in order to strengthen the process.*

“The ImPossible Park Carpathians”

Robert Cyglicki
Greenpeace Central & Eastern Europe

Presentation

Carpathian Convention COP8

Discussion on the next *Presidency* of the Carpathian Convention and *Location* of the 8th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP8)



Thank You

UNEP Vienna Programme Office

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