

DECISION COP7/9 Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity

Event: 15th WG Biodiversity Meeting (17-18 June 2024 in Vienna, Austria)

- Updates from the Carpathian Convention COP7, preparation of the WG Biodiversity Work Plan 2024 – 2026
- Large carnivores' conservation in the Carpathians: implementation of the International Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity in the Carpathians
- Carpathian Biodiversity Framework / LIFE Carpathian Strategic Nature Project
- Cooperation with other organizations and bodies: Carpathian Network of Protected Areas, Carpathian Wetland Initiative, EUSDR PA6
- Cooperation with other projects relevant for the WG Biodiversity

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Activity: Further implementation of the Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity, including through relevant projects

- **Project LECA (Supporting the coexistence and conservation of Carpathian Large Carnivores**
- **Proposal to develop joint strategy for the conservation of the autochthonous lynx population in the Carpathian Mountains**

Recommendations:

- to review and provide inputs to the draft thematic guidances on monitoring harmonization, poaching investigation and conflict prevention, being developed within the LECA project
- to develop the Carpathian Lynx Strategy
- to reestablish the Large Carnivores Expert Group to support the work of WG Biodiversity on large carnivores

Reestablishment of Large Carnivores Expert Group (LC Expert Group)

- Secretariat issued notification to reestablish LC Expert Group
- Parties requested to confirm or appoint representatives; observers invited to join
- Aims to support cooperation and expert consultations on large carnivore conservation in the Carpathians
 - *LECA (harmonized monitoring, poaching investigation, and conflict prevention)*
 - *development of a Joint Strategy for conserving the native lynx population in the Carpathian Mountains*

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Activity: Further implementation of the Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity, including through relevant projects

- **NaturaConnect project on building a resilient ecological network of conserved areas across Europe for nature and people**

Event: Joint Stand at EUSDR Annual Forum 2024 (June 2024)

- Co-organized by Secretariat, ICPDR, and WWF CEE in Vienna
- Focused on biodiversity and ecological connectivity in the Danube-Carpathian region
 - Highlighted the “Joint Declaration on Achieving Functional Biodiversity in the Danube-Carpathian Region” (endorsed July 2022)
 - Promoted projects like EU Horizon Europe NaturaConnect and Interreg Danube Region ForestConnect

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Activity: LIFE Carpathian Strategic Nature Project – Project idea as a unique opportunity for the Carpathians

Implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework at the regional level, with a focus on the Carpathians and the adopted Carpathian Biodiversity Framework

- Presentation of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework and streamlining the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework into the national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs)
- Global Biodiversity Framework – importance of the regional approaches for its implementation (CBD Secretariat)
- Examples from the Alps, with a focus on Austria: implementation of the GBF and the Alpine Biodiversity Protocol
- LIFE Carpathian Strategic Nature Project – project idea as a unique opportunity for the Carpathians

Recommendations:

- to develop the LIFE SNAP for the Carpathians, which will support implementation of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework

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Activity: Activities related to cooperation with other conventions and international bodies

Alpine Convention

- Alpine Biodiversity Conference: developing Policy Brief on Biodiversity in the Alps (conservation, connectivity and restoration)
- Conservation of Alpine Biodiversity: Workshop on Restoration as a tool for transboundary cooperation

CBD COP 16

- CBD/COP/16/INF/23, Carpathian Biodiversity Framework: a regional instrument for enhancing the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and mainstreaming biodiversity conservation
- Side-event: Global mountain governance: importance for building synergies between Biodiversity conservation and Climate Change adaptation

Recommendations:

- to further enhance synergies and strengthening cooperation with other conventions on relevant topics, namely the CBD, Alpine Convention, CMS and Bern Convention

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Activity: Support work and better governance of the Carpathian Network of the Protected Areas

Supporting Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) activities

- Activities promoting youth engagement in environmental stewardship
- "Youth at the Top" Program
 - Annual event held on 18-19 July
 - 2024 theme: "Alpine Flowers and Pollinator Insects"



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Activity: Support work and better governance of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative

Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI) Priorities for 2024

- Integrate wetland services and benefits across Carpathian Convention activities, Protocols, WGs, and CNPA
- Support regional “sponges” projects with Wetlands International and ecological connectivity projects
- Collaborate on designating new Ramsar Sites and strengthening Ramsar Site managers’ network
- Expand networking with partners and EUSDR PA6
- Share experiences on restoration planning and nature-based solutions
- Offer trainings and capacity-building activities
- Partner with European Coalition of RRIs and Danube Wild Islands RRI
- Implement new operational structure as an association, update Terms of Reference, and fundraise



Event: CWI's 5-Day International Wetlands Course (October 2024)

- **Location:** Elbe River Basin wetlands, Czech Republic
- **Aims:** Promote cross-sectoral understanding, communication, and cooperation in wetland conservation and management
- **Target audience:** Experts, scientists, project managers, state officials, foresters, farmers, and nature conservation personnel



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Activity: Support the approval of the BioLine project

Proposal for the “BioLine project on restoration of biodiversity and connectivity for ecological management of powerline corridors in Danube – Carpathian region”

- Project on biodiversity restoration and connectivity in powerline corridors across the Danube-Carpathian region
- Led by SOS/BirdLife Slovakia with 22 partners from seven countries
- Focuses on ecological management of powerline corridors to promote habitat connectivity and safe energy distribution
- **Key Goals and Partnerships:**
 - *Aligns with Carpathian Convention’s objectives, Carpathian Biodiversity Framework (CBF), and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration*
 - *Joint meeting planned between WGs Biodiversity and Energy for guidance document endorsement on ecological corridor management*

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Activity: Revise the Working Group on Biodiversity Work Plan 2021–2023

Updated WG Biodiversity Work Plan (2024-2026)

- Revised [Work Plan](#) now available for CCIC consideration

Event: Next WG Biodiversity Meeting (spring 2025)

- Scheduled for Spring 2025, to take place in the Czech Republic
- Potential back-to-back format with the Large Carnivores Expert Group meeting
- Agenda aligned with 2024-2026 Work Plan; details to be confirmed with WG members

LECA project

Martin Duľa

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Lead Partner*

Carpathian Lynx Strategy

***Urs Breitenmoser, IUCN SSC Cat
Specialist Group
Jochen Krebsühl, Lynx Institute***

NaturaConnect project

Hildegard Meyer
*World Wildlife Fund – Central Eastern
Europe*

Interreg
CENTRAL EUROPE

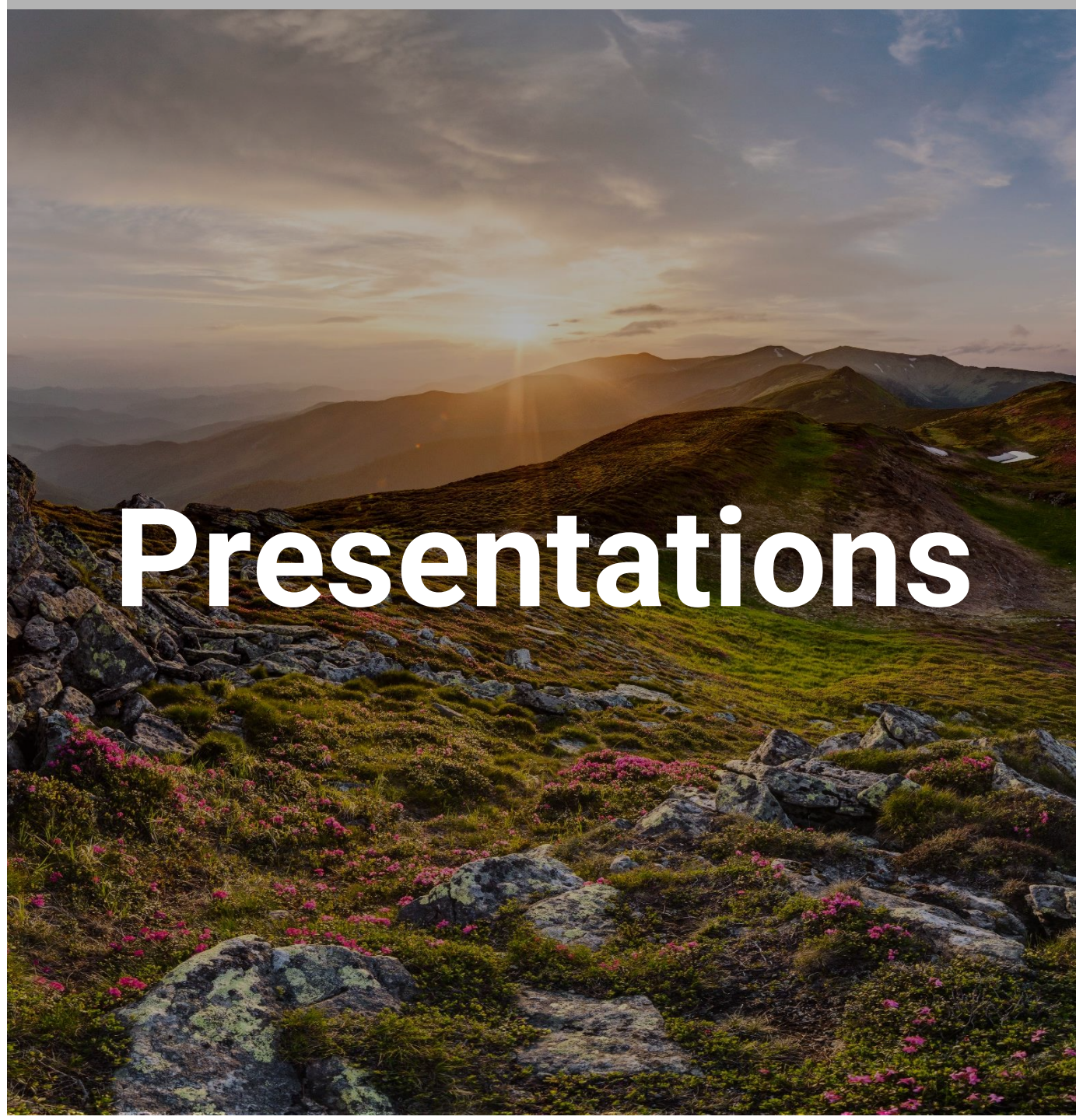


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