

15th Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee

CC/CCIC15
15.01.2025

15th CCIC Recommendations

DECISION COP7/1 Implementation of the Carpathian Convention

- *The CCIC welcomes the Secretariat's support to Ukraine in developing the strategic project for the Ukrainian Carpathians, titled "Enhanced Protected Areas Network for Biodiversity Conservation and Development in Ukraine," to be submitted to the Global Environment Facility (GEF); and requests the Secretariat to enhance its support to Ukraine in the further development and execution of the GEF project. The CCIC also encourages UNEP in its prospective role as an implementing agency to strongly support the Secretariat in this role.*
- *The CCIC welcomes the regional Carpathian Day initiative, including the successes of events that took place in 2024 throughout the Carpathians. Furthermore, the CCIC invites the Parties and relevant stakeholders to organize and/or participate in a local Carpathian Day event on or around 26 September 2025.*
- *The CCIC welcomes the roadmap for future Carpathian Day operationalization as outlined in the Carpathian Day Concept Brief, including the establishment of an informal, voluntary Carpathian Day committee to coordinate Carpathian Day efforts throughout the region.*
- *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 CCIC takes note of the presentation of the "ImPossible Park Carpathians" by Robert Cyglicki of Greenpeace.*
- *The CCIC welcomes the collaboration of the Secretariat with UNIDO on developing the project "Green industrial recovery through municipality-based development in Ukraine," including the output, "Green recovery and sustainable local development in rural municipalities of the Ukrainian Carpathians promoted through partnerships and transfer of best practices." The CCIC requests the Secretariat to continue strengthening the implementation of the Carpathian Convention in Ukraine and to broaden its collaboration with UNIDO in Ukraine and the wider Carpathian region through the project implementation process. The CCIC invites the Parties and relevant stakeholders to support these processes.*

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.*
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DECISION COP7/5 Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies

- *The CCIC commends the Slovenian Presidency of the Alpine Convention for its dedicated efforts in promoting mountain biodiversity within the Alps and interregional cooperation. Furthermore, the CCIC welcomes the initiatives of the upcoming Italian Presidency to collaborate on joint activities with the Carpathian Convention, particularly in light of the renewed Memorandum of Cooperation between the two Conventions and the CBD for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).*
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DECISION COP7/6 Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

- *The CCIC thanks the Parties and the Secretariat for promoting the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework (CBF) at the global level, particularly within CBD-related processes, and invites them to further support the integration of the CBF into CBD processes, especially in light of the past CBD COP16 in Cali, Colombia and its Decisions.*
- *The CCIC invites the Parties and the Secretariat to further promote the CBF among other mountain regions and to specifically strengthen cooperation with the Alpine Convention and the CBD in light of the renewed Memorandum of Cooperation.*
- *The CCIC welcomes the contribution of the Secretariat to the Bern III Conference on Cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions for the implementation of the KMGBF, which further promoted the Carpathian Convention at the global level and among relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements and requests the Secretariat to continue its efforts in this respect.*
- *The CCIC welcomes with thanks the “Guidance Document for streamlining the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework into NBSAPs” and its “Annex I: Table with example policy actions relevant for the Carpathians” developed by the Secretariat, and encourages the Parties to make use of these relevant documents while undergoing the revisions of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans so they better reflect Carpathian Convention-related activities.*
- *The CCIC welcomes the submission of the Technical Assistance Project Preparation (TA-PP) for the LIFE Carpathian Strategic Nature Project (SNaP) and the support by the Parties; invites the Parties, relevant stakeholders and the Secretariat to collaborate on implementing the TA-PP, thereby supporting the development of the concept note and a full project proposal for the LIFE transnational Carpathian SNaP, to be submitted under the LIFE SNaP call in 2025; and supports the development of the related CBF Action Plan which shall outline the activities to be undertaken during the Carpathian SNaP implementation.*

- *The CCIC invites the Parties to identify relevant stakeholders from their countries to participate in relevant consultations for the TA-PP implementation.*
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DECISION COP7/7 Cooperation with Eurac Research

- *The CCIC expresses its profound appreciation for the longstanding and dynamic collaboration between the Secretariat and Eurac Research. Eurac Vienna Office's indispensable contributions have been instrumental in driving forward key initiatives and projects. The CCIC endorses the continuation and deepening of this successful partnership, recognizing it as a strong added value to the ongoing and future work of the Secretariat and Convention.*
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DECISION COP7/8 Strengthening science-policy-practice interface and cooperation with scientific networks

- *The CCIC welcomes the ongoing collaboration between the Secretariat and the S4C; takes note of the potential restructuring of the S4C; requests the Secretariat to continue supporting this process and recommends continuing cooperation on the S4C recommendations to the Convention and its Working Groups; and invites the Parties to continue providing feedback on how to make them more relevant and useful.*
 - *The CCIC recommends the Secretariat to closely collaborate with the S4C on organizing the 8th Forum Carpaticum conference and invites the Parties to promote the conference and encourage active stakeholder participation in their countries.*
 - *The CCIC welcomes the efforts of the Secretariat in coordinating various events relevant for implementing and raising awareness about the Carpathian Convention; invites the Secretariat to continue these efforts; and invites the Parties to facilitate coordinated actions to build on potential synergies offered by these fora.*
 - *The CCIC welcomes closer cooperation among Carpathian partners and the UNESCO Chair on Higher Education for Sustainable Development at Leuphana University Lüneburg through the ProBioTIC project; invites the Parties and the Working Groups to collaborate with the project partners to strengthen its effectiveness and relevance in implementing the Convention; and requests the Secretariat to facilitate collaboration between the project partners and the respective Convention bodies and networks.*
 - *The CCIC takes note with appreciation of the findings of the thesis, "Fuzzy Maps for Wicked Problems: An Inclusive Systems Approach to Improving Biodiversity Outcomes in the Carpathian Region," developed by Elena Fischer and further invites the Parties and the Secretariat to consider its recommendations.*
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DECISION COP7/9 Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention

- *The CCIC approves the WG Biodiversity Work Plan 2024-2026 and encourages the WG Biodiversity and relevant stakeholders to diligently implement it with support of the Secretariat.*
- *The CCIC welcomes the ongoing implementation of the LECA project and its recent achievements, particularly the joint conference of the Alpine and the Carpathian Conventions for the exchange of practices on large carnivore management, which took place 6-8 March 2024 in Brdo pri Kranju,*

Slovenia, and encourages the Parties, the WG Biodiversity, the Large Carnivores Expert Group, relevant stakeholders, and the Secretariat to actively contribute to the ongoing and planned activities that are crucial for the Carpathians and the successful implementation of the Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity.

- *The CCIC welcomes the idea of the joint strategy for the conservation of the autochthonous lynx population in the Carpathian Mountains (Carpathian Lynx Strategy) to be potentially developed under the auspices of the Carpathian Convention, the Convention on Migratory Species and Bern Convention, and invites the WG Biodiversity, the Large Carnivores Expert Group, relevant stakeholders and the Secretariat to support the process.*
- *The CCIC welcomes the reestablishment of the Carpathian Convention Large Carnivores Expert Group, extends its thanks to the Parties and Observers that have already submitted nominations for experts, and encourages the remaining Parties and other actors to act promptly in providing this information to ensure full representation of the Parties and Observers in the Expert Group.*
- *Furthermore, the CCIC invites the Large Carnivores Expert Group to actively participate in consultation processes by providing expert inputs on activities related to the implementation of the International Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity, with a particular focus on thematic guidance on monitoring harmonization, poaching investigations, and conflict prevention developed by the LECA project, as well as the development of a joint strategy for conserving the native lynx population in the Carpathian Mountains (Carpathian Lynx Strategy); and requests the Secretariat to support this process.*
- *The CCIC welcomes the recent outcomes of the NaturaConnect project and encourages the WG Biodiversity and relevant stakeholders to consider the suggested interventions in the "Review and Synthesis of Best Practices in Governance and Land-use Policies to Implement TEN-N", contribute to the further implementation of the project, and disseminate its results to relevant stakeholders at the national level with the support of the Secretariat.*
- *Furthermore, the CCIC invites the WG Biodiversity, its observers and relevant stakeholders at the national level to participate in future NaturaConnect capacity-building events.*
- *The CCIC welcomes the active cooperation of the Secretariat with ICPDR, WWF CEE and the EUSDR on the topic of ecological connectivity and recommends the Secretariat to further strengthen this collaboration.*
- *The CCIC welcomes the offer by the Czech Republic to host the next meeting of the WG Biodiversity in the first half of 2025, which could potentially be organized back-to-back with a meeting of the Large Carnivores Expert Group; invites the WG Biodiversity, the Large Carnivores Expert Group and relevant stakeholders to actively participate in the meeting, and requests the Secretariat to support its organization.*
- *The CCIC welcomes the involvement of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) in awareness-raising initiatives about the ecological importance of Carpathian protected areas, and in fostering youth engagement in environmental stewardship through the "Youth at the Top" programme.*
- *The CCIC invites the CNPA to undertake relevant activities that should improve the CNPA's governance and operations, with the support of the Parties, relevant stakeholders and the Secretariat.*
- *The CCIC welcomes the Carpathian Wetland Initiative's (CWI) organization of a five-day international course, held from 7-11 October 2024, in the Elbe River Basin wetlands of the Czech Republic, which aimed to enhance understanding, communication, and cooperation across various sectors, including land use, nature conservation, water resource management, agriculture, and forestry; thanks the Secretariat for support of participation of experts from Serbia; and encourages*

continued efforts by the CWI, with the support of the WG Biodiversity, relevant stakeholders, and the Secretariat, to advance similar initiatives in the future.

- The CCIC welcomes the submission of the “BioLine project on restoration of biodiversity and connectivity for ecological management of powerline corridors in Danube – Carpathian region” under the Interreg Danube Region Programme and encourages the WG Biodiversity and relevant stakeholders to actively support the project approval.

DECISION COP7/12 Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention

- 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 (AAP) 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 COP7/13 Sustainable Forest Management Article 7 of the Carpathian Convention

- The CCIC welcomes the offer by Slovakia to host the next meeting of the WG Sustainable Forest Management in the first half of 2025; invites the Working Group and relevant stakeholders to actively participate in the meeting; and requests the Secretariat to support its organization.
- The CCIC welcomes the suggestion by WG Sustainable Forest Management Chair – Slovakia to prioritize the new EU regulation on nature restoration at the future WG Sustainable Forest Management meeting, as the topic aligns with the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the Ministerial Declaration of the Carpathian Commitments on the impact of war in Ukraine on the environment, notably on Ukrainian forests.
- The CCIC welcomes the approval of the ForestConnect project on climate-smart forest connectivity for large carnivores in the Balkan-Carpathian-Dinaric region under the Interreg Danube

Programme, and invites the Working Groups and relevant stakeholder to actively support the project implementation and exchange with the LECA project partners to look for synergies.

- Also in the context of the above decision COP7/5, the CCIC invites WG Sustainable Forest Management to further enhance synergies between its activities and the work of other relevant international bodies and partners on forests and climate change, especially in light of the recent establishment of the Forest Risk Facility (FoRISK) under the aegis of FOREST EUROPE.
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DECISION COP7/14 Sustainable transport and infrastructure, industry, and energy **Article 8 of the Carpathian Convention, Article 10 of the Carpathian Convention**

- The CCIC welcomes the active cooperation of the Secretariat with IENE and the proposal from IENE Regional Working Group for Eastern Europe and Balkans to develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the Secretariat.
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DECISION COP7/15 Sustainable tourism **Article 9 of the Carpathian Convention**

- 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.
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DECISION COP7/17 Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning **Article 12 of the Carpathian Convention**

- The CCIC strongly values its enduring partnership with the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the valuable support on forests and climate change related work and urges the continuation of this productive collaboration by renewing the joint work plan for 2025-2026.
- The CCIC expresses its deep gratitude to the EEA for financially supporting the Secretariat's participation in the Eionet Expert Workshop on adaptation knowledge platforms. It welcomes the presence of Transnational Mountain Regions under the Climate-ADAPT platform and calls on the Secretariat to actively collaborate with the EEA in updating the Carpathian webpage on Climate-ADAPT and in enhancing efforts in raising awareness on this important initiative.
- The CCIC welcomes the active cooperation of the Secretariat with WWF CEE under the EU-funded projects contributing to the further development of CCIBIS and recommends that the Secretariat further strengthen this collaboration.
- The CCIC welcomes the update on Corine Land Cover for the Carpathian region of Ukraine, requests the Secretariat, in collaboration with the S4C, to facilitate dissemination of the dataset when it is

available, invites the Parties and Convention partners and stakeholders to make use of the dataset and invites the Secretariat to facilitate collaboration in this respect.

DECISION COP7/19 Awareness raising, education and public participation

Article 13 of the Carpathian Convention

- *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.*
- *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 further support multi-level governance projects aimed at promoting the educational and social inclusion of young people (at risk of early school leaving), 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.*