



Carpathian Convention: Protection, Conservation, and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources of the Carpathians

Workshop “Sustainable Development of Objects of the Nature Reserve Fund of Ukraine”

Harald Egerer | UNEP Vienna Programme Office - Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

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Carpathian Mountains of central and eastern Europe are Europe's last great wilderness areas



ECO-REGION SHARED BY 7 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

5 EU Members: Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia

2 non-EU Members: Serbia, Ukraine



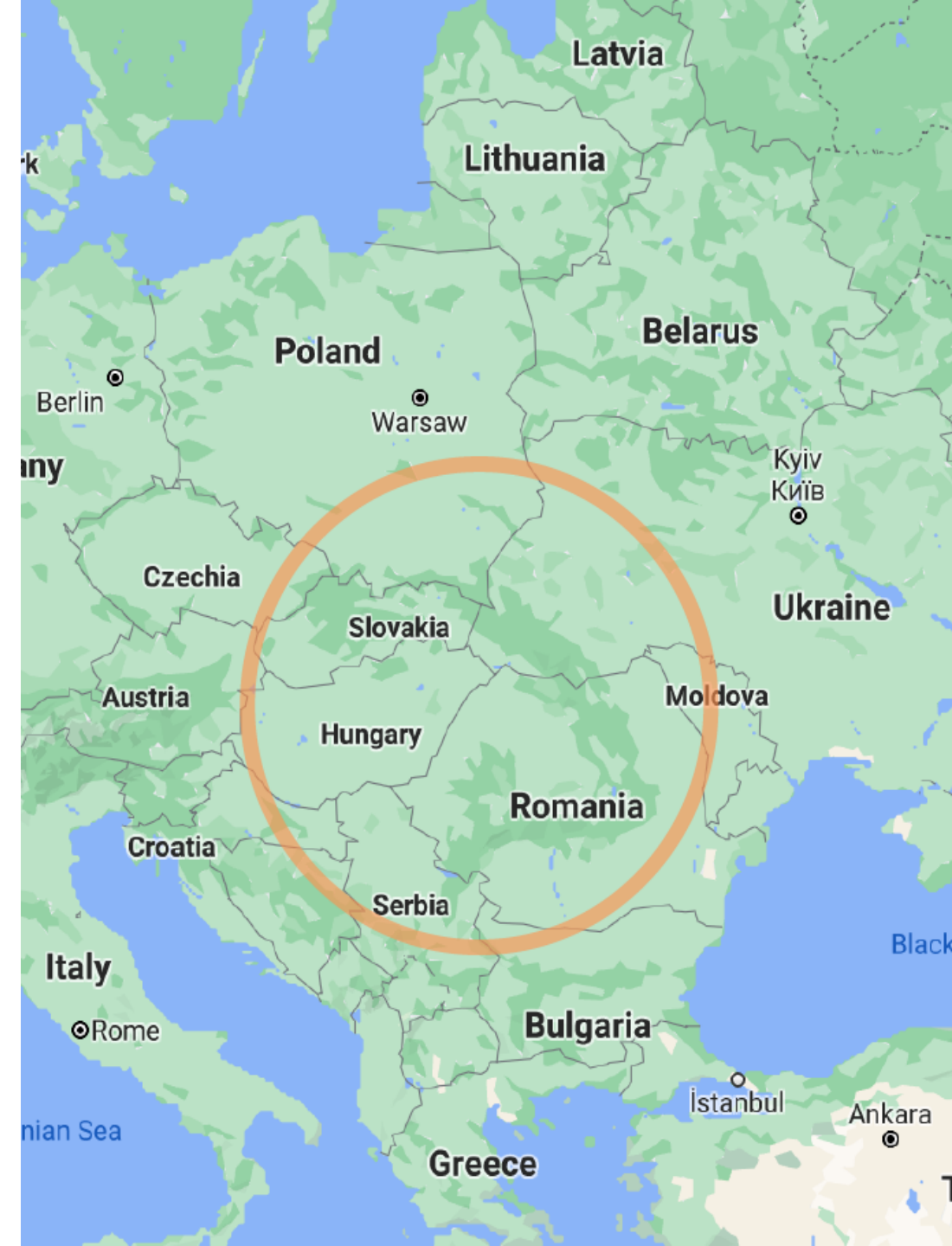
PROVIDES ESSENTIAL ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Serves 17 million inhabitants, living mostly in rural areas



CONTAINS VAST NUMBER OF PROTECTED AREAS

Vital for a coherent European ecological network





GOAL: Environmental protection and sustainable development of the Carpathian region

Carpathian Convention was established to coordinate efforts in the Carpathian region

2001

Initiated by Ukraine

2003

Adopted and signed in Kyiv, Ukraine on 22 May 2003 ("**Kyiv Convention**")

Signed at the Fifth Ministerial Conference „Environment for Europe”

2006

Entered in force on 4 January

The Carpathian Convention facilitates cross-border and transnational cooperation

1

Framework for policy coordination

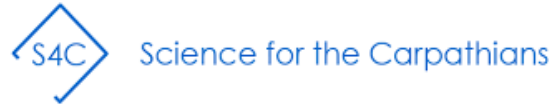
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Platform for joint activities


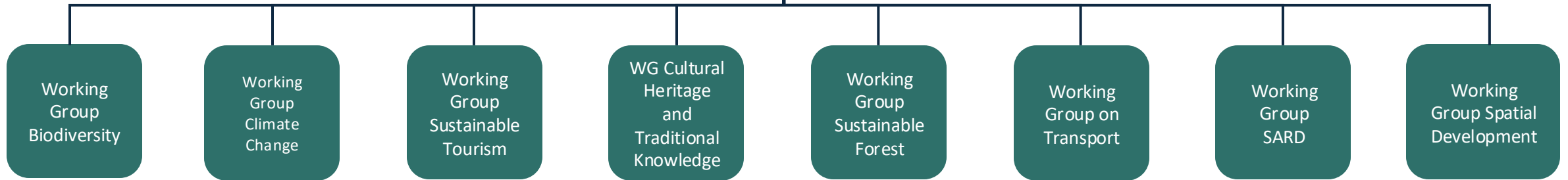
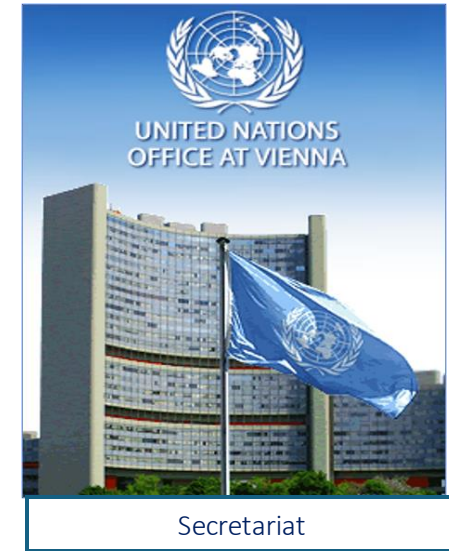
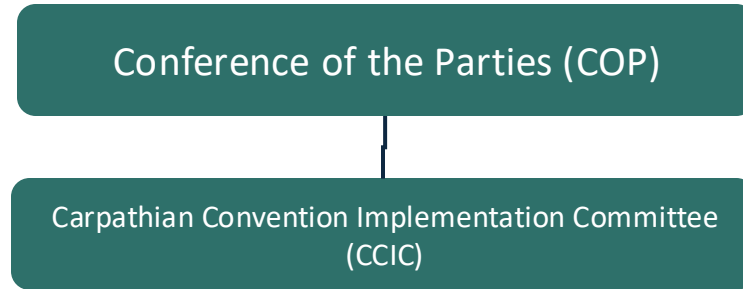
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Forum for dialogue

Institutional Structure of the Convention



ESD Expert Network



Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity



Protocol on Sustainable Tourism



Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management

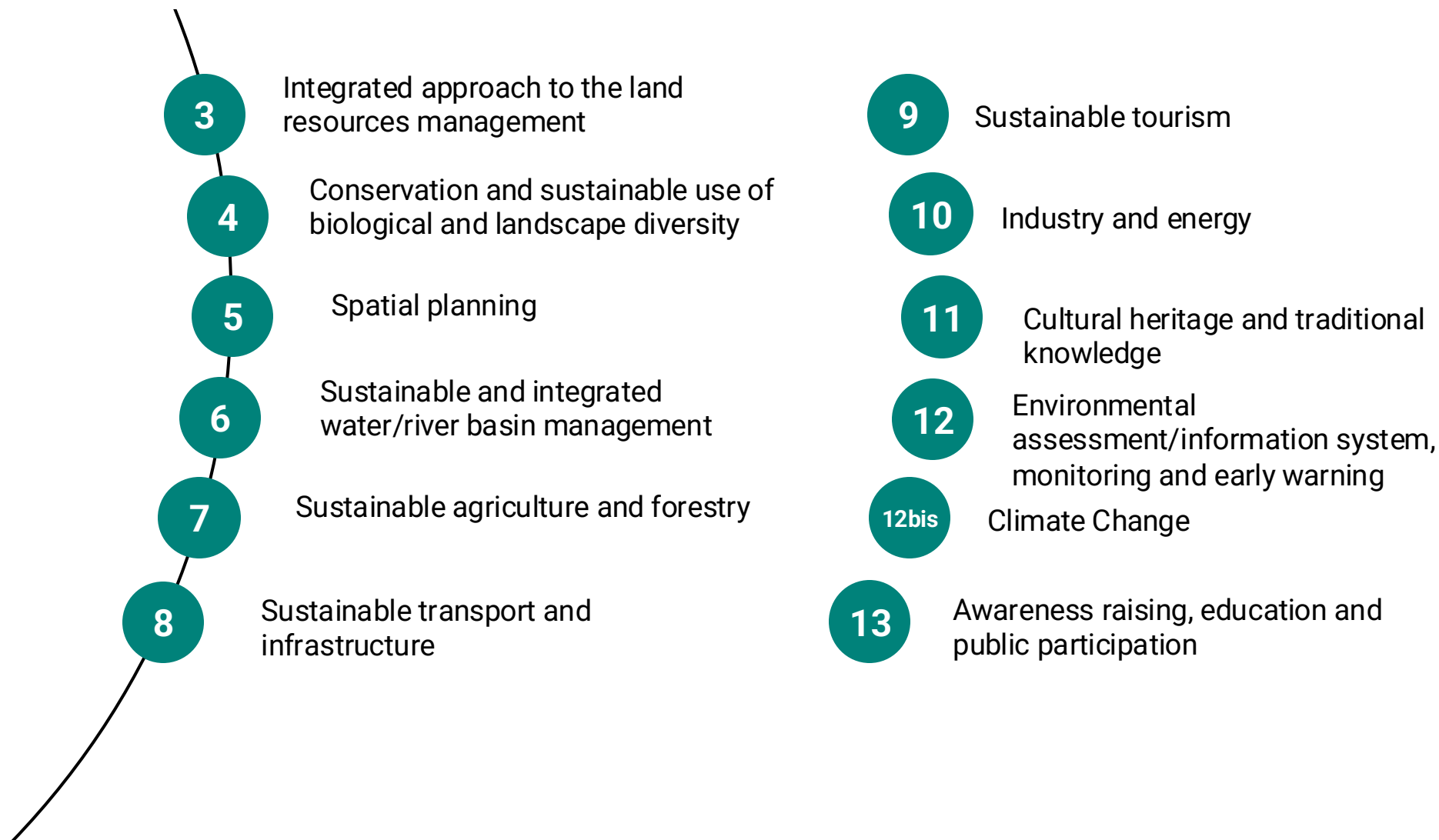


Protocol on Sustainable Transport



Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

The Convention's 23 Articles include thematic sectors:



Active involvement of Parties and stakeholders

- 7 meetings of the Conference of the Parties
- 14 meetings of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee
- 14 meetings of the Working Group on WG Biodiversity
- 10 meetings of the Working Group on Working Group on Sustainable Transport
- 10 meetings of the Working Group on Sustainable Tourism
- 10 meetings of the Working Group on Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change
- 9 meetings of the Working Group on Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management
- 5 meetings of the Working Group on Cultural Heritage Traditional Knowledge
- 6 meetings of the Working Group on Working Group on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

and various workshops, trainings and seminars



The Carpathian Convention is a regional instrument for enhancing implementation of global and European policies



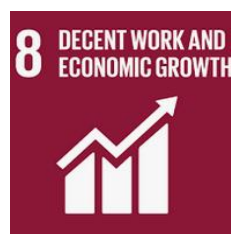
4.7



6.3, 6.5, 6.6,
6.A



7.2, 7.A



8.4



9.1



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



11.4, 11.A,



12.2, 12.4,
12.8, 12.A,
12.B



13.1, 13.2,
13.3



15.1, 15.2, 15.3,
15.4, 15.5,
15.7, 15.8, 15.9,
15.A



16.7



17.14,
17.16

The **Carpathian Biodiversity Framework** is a tool to implement the Carpathian Convention and GBF by supporting transformative actions across and within sectors

Carpathian Vision 2050:

By 2050, the Carpathians is a thriving and sustainable region where people live in harmony with nature.

The biodiversity and natural beauty of the Carpathians are conserved, restored, and wisely used providing a healthy environment and essential ecosystems services for all people of the region and beyond.





**The Carpathian
Convention is a regional
instrument for enhancing
implementation of global
and European policies**

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

Reducing
threats to
biodiversity

Targets 1-8

Meeting
people's needs
through
sustainable use
and benefit-
sharing

Targets 9-13

Tools and
solutions for
implementation
and
mainstreaming

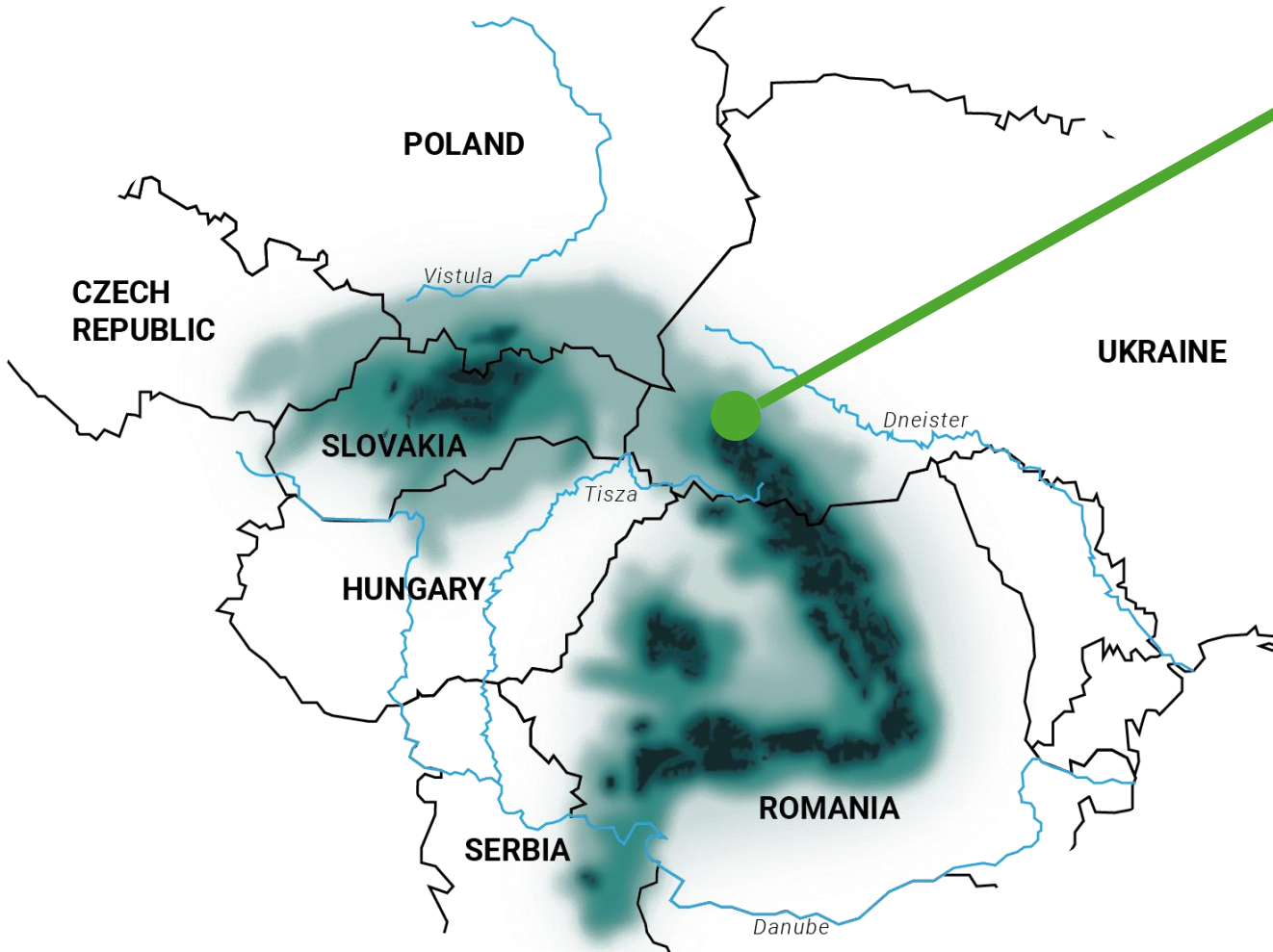
Targets 14-23

The Role of Ukraine in the Carpathian Convention

Ukraine's central position within the Carpathian region makes its involvement crucial for the success of regional integration. **Ukraine's inclusion in the Convention provides several opportunities:**

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND BIODIVERSITY

The Ukrainian Carpathians is home to diverse ecosystems, old-growth forests, and species that require coordinated transboundary efforts for their preservation. Ukraine helps maintain **vital ecological corridors** that connect with neighboring countries, crucial for wildlife like large carnivores.



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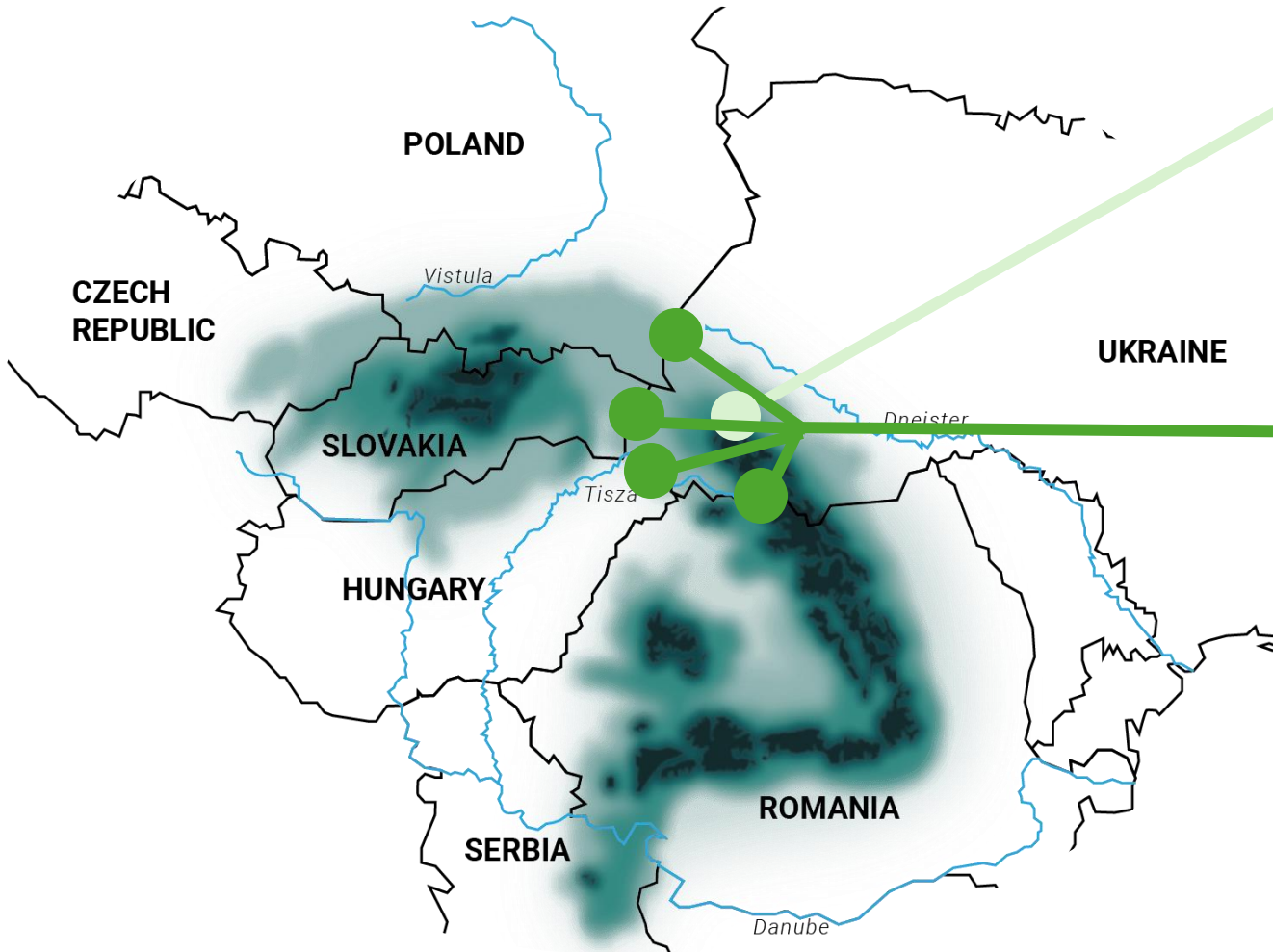
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CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

Cross-border projects that focus on biodiversity, sustainable tourism, rural development, etc. not only foster **environmental sustainability** but also contribute to **economic growth** in Ukraine's western regions.



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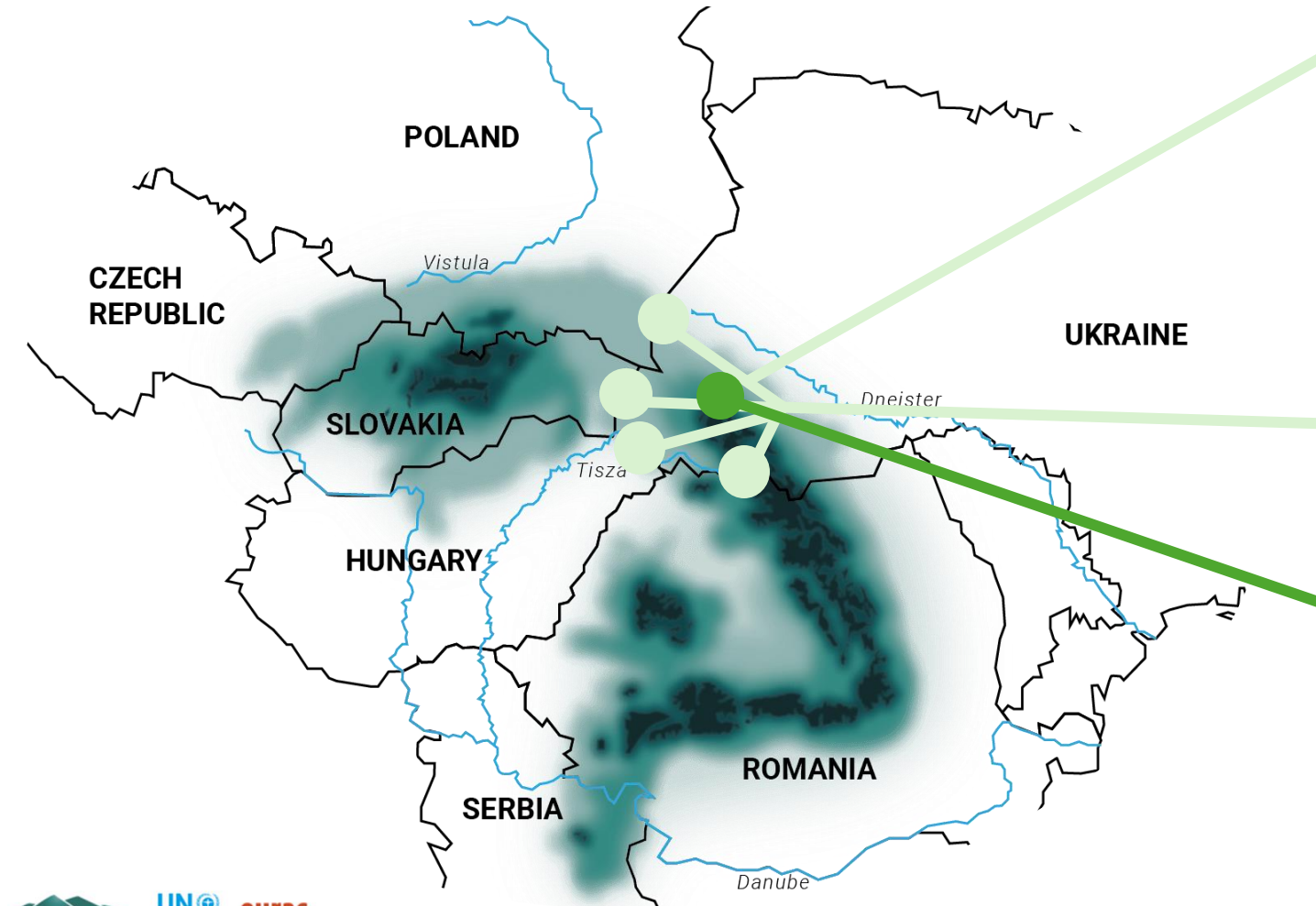
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ALIGNMENT WITH EU ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS

Through the Convention, Ukraine aligns itself more closely with EU standards in areas like **biodiversity, climate change mitigation, and water management**. This alignment is particularly important as Ukraine works toward deeper integration with the EU, especially after its 2022 application for EU membership.



The role of the Carpathian Convention in strengthening the EU integration of Ukraine

THE CARPATHIAN CONVENTION SERVES AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE EU AND CARPATHIAN COUNTRIES

Harmonizing legislation and management practices across borders deepens European integration by:

1

Creating shared environmental standards

*Promoting **EU environmental standards** and policies among non-EU members, contributing to a cohesive environmental policy framework in the region*

2

Boosting cross-border cooperation

*Fostering **joint projects** (e.g. ecological corridor management, large carnivore management, biodiversity conservation) between Carpathian countries, which are important for economic and environmental stability*

3

Strengthening EU influence in Eastern Europe

Providing a platform for the EU to extend its influence into non-EU states, facilitating their alignment with European norms, values, and practices

Set of measures to address the environmental consequences of the direct and indirect impacts of the war in Ukraine on the Carpathians



Examples of strategic projects supporting the Ukrainian Carpathians

EU LIFE Programme – LIFE Carpathian Transnational Strategic Nature Project (SNAP)

- Possible source of **long-term (up to 10 years) large-scale funding (up to 50 m EUR)** for some activities planned in the Carpathian region as envisioned in the **Carpathian Biodiversity Framework (CBF)**
- Particularly important for **transboundary and transnational activities**
- **Ukraine is fully eligible for LIFE Programme**
- Great opportunity for Ukraine in terms of **capacity building in applying for LIFE project and other EU funding opportunities**
- Great opportunity for **Ukraine's alignment with the EU acquis on environment**
- **Regionally important for assisting in implementing the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030** (and CBF) on:
 - extending the network of protected areas
 - enhancing the protected area network coherence by setting up ecological corridors
 - implementing EU nature restoration targets for species and habitats
 - restoring ecosystems
 - enhancing protection of the primary and old-growth forests
 - improving the health and resilience of managed forests
 - bringing nature back to agricultural land



Examples of strategic projects supporting the Ukrainian Carpathians

UNIDO “Green industrial recovery through municipality-based development in Ukraine” project

Goal of the project is to contribute to green industrial recovery through municipality-based innovative partnerships in Ukraine and strengthen the capacity of public sector and government institutions at the national and municipality levels to facilitate green industrial recovery.

Carpathian Convention Secretariat will assist UNIDO in implementation of the “Green industrial recovery through municipality-based development in Ukraine” at Carpathian region of Ukraine through:

- Coordinating with Carpathian Convention Working Groups and networks
- Engaging in joint events with Convention parties, partners, and stakeholders
- Strengthening cooperation between Carpathian and Alpine countries and Ukraine
- Promoting sustainable development efforts in Ukraine



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

Progress by innovation



Facilitating a “Carpathian Peace Park” between Ukraine and Romania








The park will aim to protect and preserve biodiversity, landscape and cultural heritage, offering the possibility to carry out scientific research, recreation and tourism activities

Initial consultation conducted on both sides for establishing a transboundary natural park with the observance of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Carpathian Convention and the applicable national legal frameworks

Aims to strengthen and improve bilateral relations between the two nations and its communities, which will create a platform for **better common management of Carpathian natural resources**, such as water, biomass and soil

Exact area for the Park yet to be decided yet; however, the **consultations take into consideration the following Protected Areas in Ukraine:**

-  *Carpathian National Nature Park*
-  *Cheremoskyi National Nature Park*
-  *Hutsulshchyna National Nature Park*
-  *Verkhovynskyi National Nature Park*
-  *Vyzhnytskyi National Nature Park*

Science for the Carpathians (S4C) and Carpathian ESD Expert Network

Integration of Ukrainian experts into the networks

- S4C Executive Board member from Ukraine: Mariana Melnykovich

2025 S4C Project: Carpathian School 2025 - "Carpathians through the Future: Ecotourism through Heritage Interpretation":

- Cooperation between academia institutions and initiatives in Ukraine, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, and Hungary.
- One-year program with Ukrainian students with study tours to 4 countries and students' project development
- Goals of the project are:
 - o to motivate young researches to promote **sustainable ecotourism** in Ukrainian National Parks
 - o Analysis and dissemination of best practices of heritage interpretation
 - o Strengthening environmental collaboration in Carpathian region

Carpathian networks in the fields of science and education for sustainable development (ESD)



Strategic projects supporting the Ukrainian Carpathians. GEF

Global Environment Facility (GEF) - Enhanced protected areas network for biodiversity conservation and development in Ukraine

The project aims at:

- biodiversity conservation through a strengthened Protected Areas network and the sustainable management of key forest ecosystems
- increasing resilience to climate change
- creating opportunities for sustainable development in the region, in particular, for vulnerable communities of mountain settlements
- project's objectives and expected results are also aligned with the relevant articles and protocols of the Carpathian Convention ratified by Ukraine
- UNEP is the implementing agency for this project. Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine will be the executing agency, where UNEP through its Secretariat of Carpathian Convention will support the national executing entity within the project.



Strategic projects supporting the Ukrainian Carpathians

**Global Environment Facility (GEF) -
Enhanced protected areas network for
biodiversity conservation and
development in Ukraine**

Three project components:

- Strengthening the adaptive capacity and economic frameworks of the PAs and virgin and old-growth forests in the Ukrainian Carpathians
- Enhancing the effective, sustainable, and climate-resilient management of protected areas and virgin and old-growth forests in the Ukrainian Carpathians, while ensuring benefits for local communities
- Scaling up the sustainable management and use of natural resources and biodiversity conservation across the Carpathian PA network

Current state of the project development – approval of the Project Preparation Grant to start development of Full Project Proposal.



Strategic projects supporting the Ukrainian Carpathians

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Overview of Ukrainian Protected Areas for the information:

	Protected Area	IUCN Category	Size	Administrative Region/Oblast
1	Cheremos'kyi National Nature Park	II	7, 117.5 ha	Chernivtsi
2	Vyzhnytskyi National Nature Park	II	11,238.0 ha	
3	Gorgany Nature Reserve	Ia	5,344.2 ha	Ivano-Frankivsk
4	Hutsulshchyna National Nature Park	II	32,271.0 ha	
5	Syniohora National Nature Park	II	10,866.0 ha	
6	Verhovynskyi National Nature Park	II	12,022.9 ha	
7	Carpathian National Nature Park	II	50,495.0 ha	
8	Boykivshchyna National Nature Park	II	12,240.0 ha	Lviv
9	Korolivski Beskydy National Nature Park	II	8,997.0 ha	
10	Skolivski Beskydy National Nature Park	II	32,684.0 ha	
11	Carpathian Biosphere Reserve	II	66,417.4 ha	Zakarpattia
12	Synevyr National Nature Park	II	40,777.0 ha	
13	Uzhanskyi National Nature Park	II	46,147.3 ha	
14	Zacharovanyi kray National Nature Park	II	6,101.0 ha	
Total			342,718.30 ha	



global
environment
facility
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

Further steps for the 8th Conference of Parties of Carpathian Convention

DECISION COP7/23

Date and venue of the Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Decides to accept the generous offer of the Government of Ukraine to convene the Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP8) in the end of 2026,*

If this, however, is not possible, the Rules of Procedure for the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention shall apply, *requests* the Secretariat to make the necessary arrangements, in consultation with the host Government and the COP Bureau.

2. *Requests* the Secretariat to undertake the necessary preparation in consultation with all interested partners and stakeholders.

3. *Invites* all interested partners to make a financial contribution to the organization of the Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention.

How to participate in the Carpathian Convention Mechanisms



Carpathian Convention
Website

Engage in Working Group Meetings:

- WG Sustainable Forest Meeting in April, Slovakia (TBC)
- WG Biodiversity Meeting & Large Carnivore Expert Group Meeting in May, Czech Republic (TBC)
- 3rd Carpathian ESD Seminar in June, Serbia (TBC)
- 16th Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CCIC) Meeting Serbia (TBC)

Other meetings for 2025:

- Workshop on CBF Action Plan development for the LIFE Carpathian SNaP in June, Poland (TBC)
- Forum Carpaticum 2025, 9-11 Sept, Bratislava, Slovakia (*call for sessions is open*)

Join the Carpathian networks: Science for Carpathians (S4C), Carpathian ESD Experts, Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA)

Thank you for your attention!

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Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

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