

PROJECT INFORMATION

Linking biodiversity, pastoralism and cultural heritage via Education for Sustainable Development in the Carpathians

Updated: December 2024



Summer mountain transhumance
in Romania

Source: Iulian Vlad, 2020,
research group of Dr. Ioana Baskerville

Background

The Carpathian Mountains rely on traditional pastoralism to maintain biodiversity-rich landscapes and support local communities, including local economies and cultural traditions. However, pastoral practices face challenges like land fragmentation, knowledge gaps and misinformation, rural depopulation as well as a lack of educational resources and exchange. In response, the Carpathian Convention, a regional treaty that promotes sustainable development and environmental conservation, intends to facilitate cross-sectoral collaboration to safeguard pastoralism by raising awareness and addressing relevant technical and policy issues.

Project details

This project aims to advance the Carpathian Convention's goals by linking biodiversity conservation, pastoralism and cultural heritage through Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) – and thus enabling synergies between activities in these three fields. The project seeks to foster transnational and multisectoral cooperation, increase awareness of pastoralism and traditional ecological knowledge, assess the state of educational resources and training structures for pastoralists and educators as well as improve alignment between the Convention and the relevant EU and global frameworks. Its outputs will include a regional expert group, stocktakes, information materials and events, contributions to platforms on pastoralism and biodiversity as well as recommendations for Convention's policies. The project will utilize existing regional networks of experts and protected areas to focus on the intersection of pastoralism, biodiversity and ESD. It will bring cross-sectoral collaboration into the Convention's working groups and support civil society, including vulnerable groups involved in biodiversity-pastoral activities.

Project countries: Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine

Duration: 12/2024 – 05/2027

Beneficiaries, inter alia: Actors engaged in ESD, pastoralism and biodiversity in the Carpathians, National Focal Points of the Carpathian Convention and of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

Implementing organisations, inter alia: Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention at the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), Science for the Carpathians network, Carpathian Network of Protected Areas

Project number: 37 24 51 0100

Thematic management:

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Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP)

for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and other countries neighbouring the European Union – a programme of the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection

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