



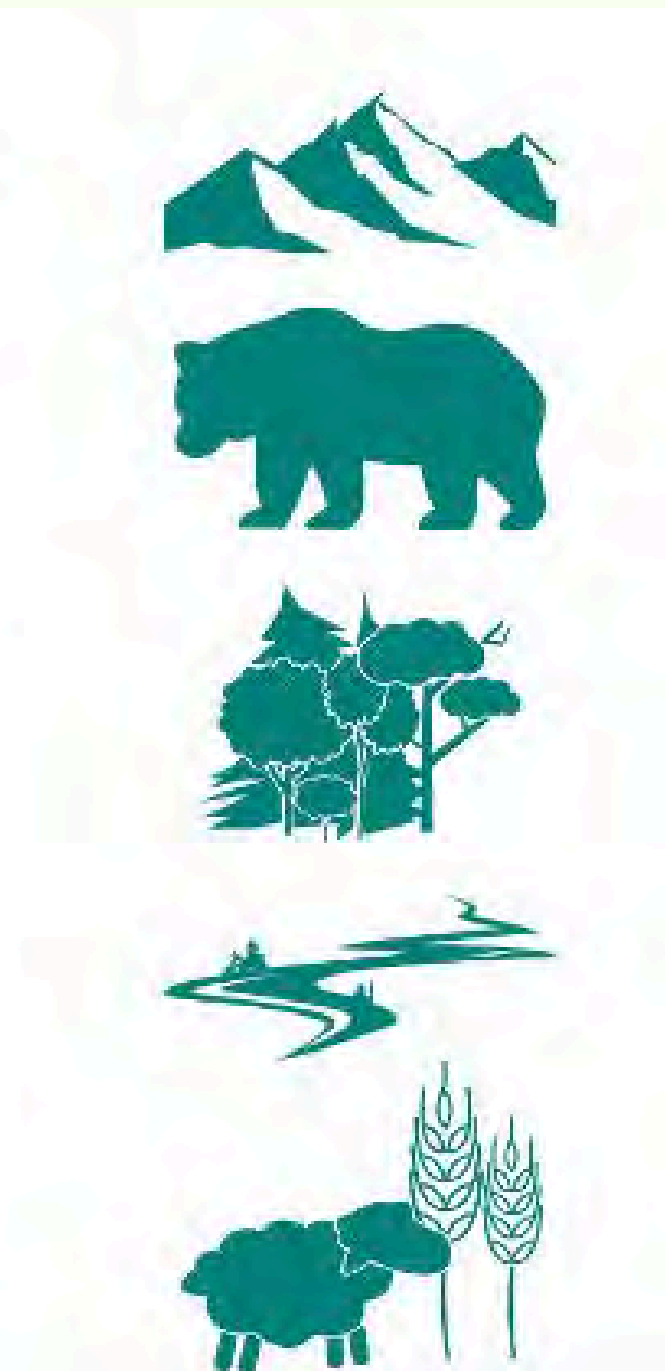
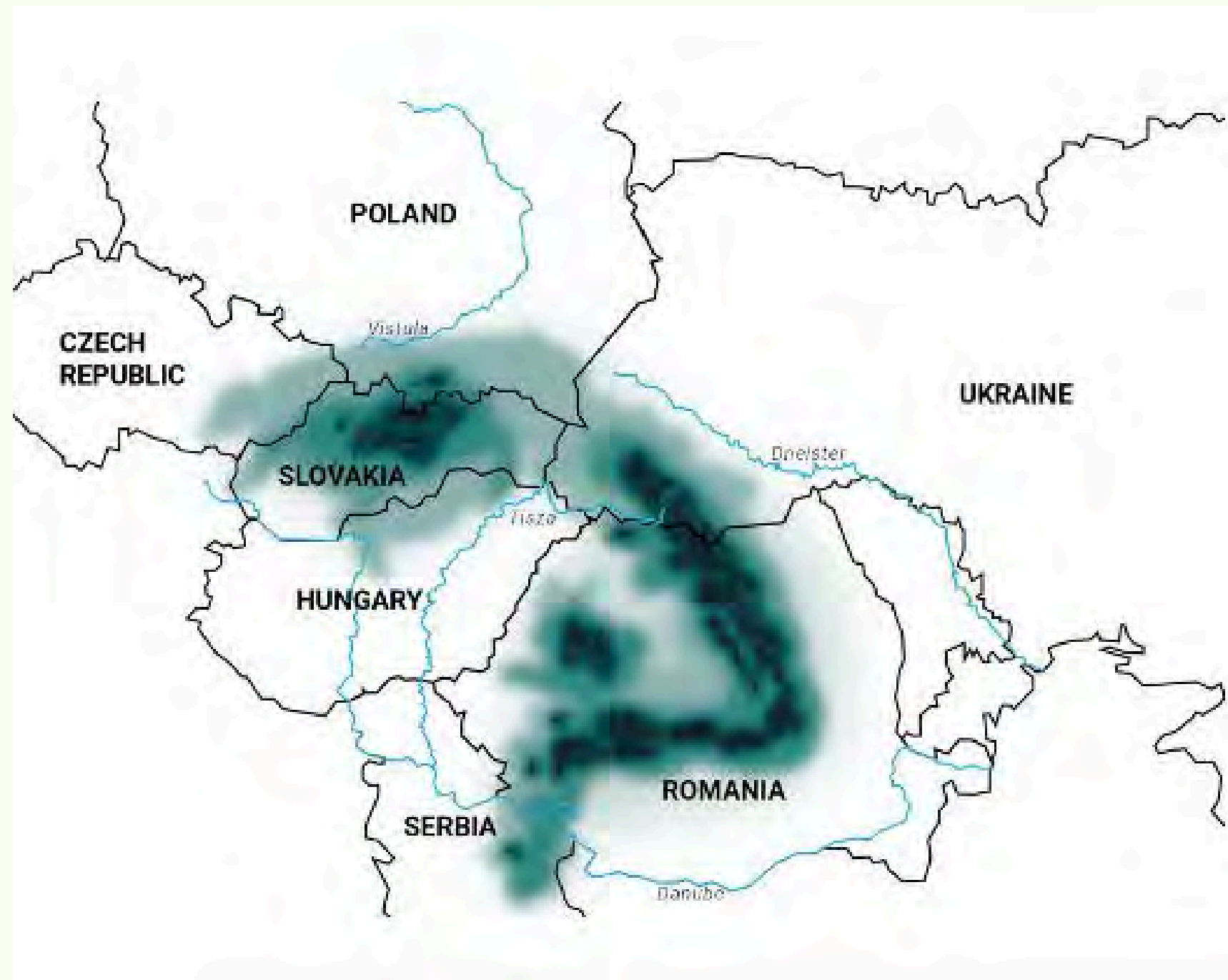
INTRODUCING THE

Carpathian ESD Expert Network

Tamara Mitrofanenko & Boglárka Kurka Ivanegová

The Carpathian Region

A Hotspot for Biological and Cultural Diversity



The second largest mountain range in Europe.

Europe's largest population of large carnivores.

Last remaining virgin forests in Europe.

Major rivers start in the Carpathians.

Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge.

Importance of education and awareness raising.

The Carpathian Convention

The Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians

- Established in 2003; Ratified in 2006 by all 7 Carpathian countries
- A framework & forum for:
 - regional cooperation
 - multi-sectoral policy coordination
 - partnership and stakeholder engagement
- A regional instrument for enhancing the implementation of global and European policies.



THE GLOBAL GOALS

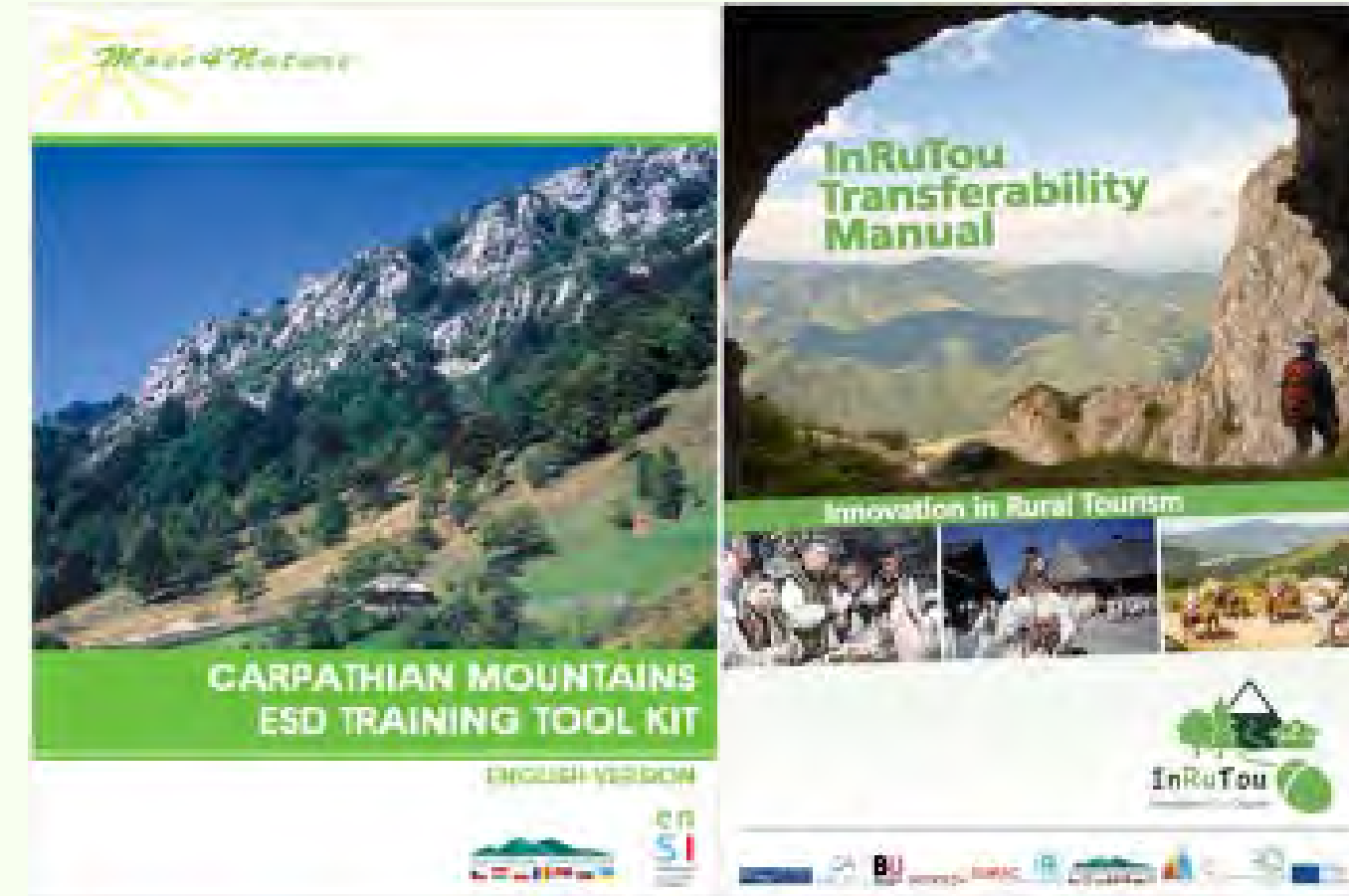


Convention on
Biological Diversity



The Carpathian Convention & ESD

- **Article 13 - Awareness raising, education and public participation**
 - ESD-related projects and materials of the Secretariat
- **ESD was identified as priority under the 2017-2020 Hungarian Presidency of the Convention**
 - Regional Carpathian ESD Seminars initiated in 2019
- **ESD Chapter added to the regional Research Agenda 2030**
 - Science4Carpathians network 
- **Carpathian ESD Expert Network established**
 - formal recognition by COP7 in 2023
- **Education integrated into the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework**
 - CBF Strategic Objective 7





Vision of the Carpathian ESD expert network

A thriving and interconnected Carpathian region, where ESD advances respect for its diverse natural and cultural heritage, fosters a Carpathian identity and builds sustainable relationships between people and nature.



Mission of the Carpathian ESD expert network

We promote ESD-focused networking and collaborations that aim to improve the quality of life, strengthen local economies and communities, and protect natural and cultural heritage in the Carpathians.



Objectives

- **Strengthen network infrastructure and management:** Secure resources for network administration and management.
- **Support Carpathian ESD networking and collaboration:** Establish and maintain platforms for communication and collaboration among ESD experts. Actively seek out and promote, existing ESD initiatives and best practices in the Carpathians.
- **Pilot projects promoting sustainability and a Carpathian identity through ESD:** Establish and maintain platforms for communication and collaboration among ESD experts. Actively seek out and promote, existing ESD initiatives and best practices in the Carpathians.
- **Advocate for ESD policies in Carpathian Countries:** Understand how ESD policy manifests on the ground in the Carpathian countries and engage in policy advocacy to integrate ESD principles.
- **Build and strengthen partnerships:** Actively seek out partnerships with other organizations, networks and stakeholders (Carpathian and beyond) who share similar goals.



Activities

- **Research project aiming** to identify (i) the key ESD stakeholders, (ii) prevalent forms of ESD that are practised or implemented (activity types, target groups etc.) and (iii) assess the accessibility of ESD is in the Carpathian context.
- **Find common identity themes and narratives** on relating the importance of the Carpathians to ESD learners across the region.
- **Co-develop ESD programs based on a holistic, pan-Carpathian view**, with a special focus on transboundary issues.
- **Identify synergies with the implementation of the UNECE ESD Strategy** and propose a roadmap of joint activities.
- **Networking and best-practice sharing with other regional initiatives** (Alpine Networks (ALPARC), Danube Networks (DANUBEPARKS), Mediterranean ESD Network etc.).

A photograph of a forest path with mossy rocks and ferns. The path is made of large, flat stones and is surrounded by dense green vegetation, including ferns and moss. The background shows a dense forest of tall trees.

Research themes

Collaborative research of scientists/experts on ESD from Carpathian countries focused on:

- **the scope SD themes and methods** in education materials, content of formal education on environment and conservation/protection, sustainable development, ethnic and ethnographic groups and cultural heritage in school curricula across the Carpathian region
- **the implementation of the sustainable development education content and teaching methods in teacher training academic programmes** (awarding professional qualifications) across the Carpathian region (a comparative study)
- Carpathian students' and teachers' **attitudes towards various aspects of sustainable development and heritage protection**

2024 activities



Meetings UNECE ESD and Carpathian Convention NFPs to find synergies



Represent CESDEN at the UNECE SC Steering Committee



Travel stipends to the 2024 Cyprus ESD Forum - June 27 and 28



2 expert online events (format TBD) focusing on the UNECE priority themes and learning from Cypriot experts (September/ October)



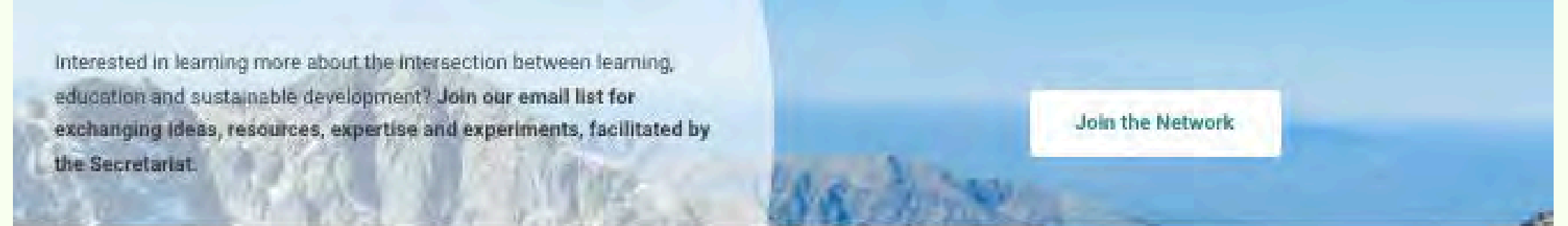
In-person networking event and conference in Slovakia (travel stipends, accomodation)

CARPATHIAN ESD WEBPAGE:

www.carpathianconvention.org/topics/awareness-raising-education-and-public-participation/esd/

Upcoming events:

- June 3, 2024 - Carpathian Day Consultation Event
- September 26, Carpathian Day celebrations
- Carpathian ESD Seminars
 - Fall 2024 in Slovakia
 - Spring 2025 in Serbia



Have questions about ESD efforts in the Carpathians or the Carpathian ESD Expert Network? Email the coordinator of the Carpathian ESD Expert Network in the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention.

Carpathian ESD Expert Network Activities



Carpathian ESD Seminars

The Carpathian ESD Network has held 2 ESD seminars since 2019. These conferences bring together international experts and practitioners for sharing recent projects, presenting research, and developing joint activities relevant to the Carpathians.



Resource Sharing

The Carpathian ESD Expert Network is a forum for sharing knowledge, best practices, curriculum and other resources. Click here to see upcoming events, educational materials, news and other resources that members of the network have shared.

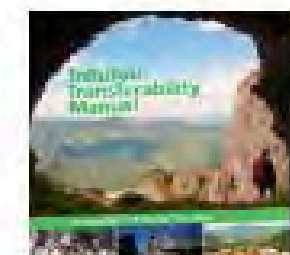
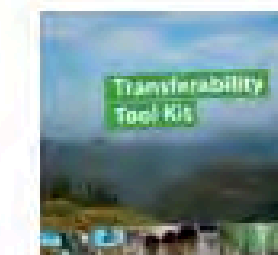
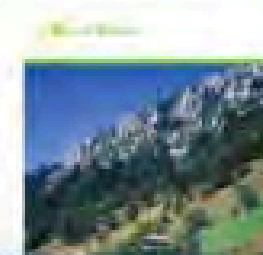


Carpathian Day

Celebrate the Carpathians through Carpathian Day, a yearly celebration of our diverse and common identities, landscapes, heritage and love for the Carpathian region.



Carpathian Educational Materials



Let's stay in touch!



Tamara Mitrofanenko

Email: Tamara.mitrofanenko@un.org

Contact the Carpathian Convention:

Klaudia Kuras

UNEP Vienna Programme Office

Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

info.carpathianconvention@un.org;

klaudia.kuras@un.org

www.carpathianconvention.org

www.unenvironment.org