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**Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the  
Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable  
Development of the Carpathians**

CC/COP7/DOC7/ADOPTED

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# **Carpathian Biodiversity Framework, including a Carpathian Vision 2050**

## **FINAL**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Carpathians, a mountain range of great global significance, are a hub of biodiversity and nature in Europe. They harbour some of Europe's last remaining natural forests, which offer vital habitats to a diverse range of endangered species, including the largest populations of large carnivores. In addition, the Carpathians are home to the headwaters of major rivers, making them an integral part of the continent's ecosystem. The region provides essential ecosystem services to millions of people who reside in the area and beyond, contributing to the health and well-being of diverse landscapes.

The Carpathian Convention, a multinational environmental agreement, was established in 2003 by seven countries in the region – Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, and Ukraine – to protect the natural and cultural heritage of the area while promoting sustainable development in the Carpathians.

The Carpathian Convention brings together these seven countries in a unique partnership, providing a framework for cooperation and policy integration across multiple sectors. It also serves as an open forum for stakeholders and the public to participate in developing and implementing transnational strategies, programs, and projects for environmental protection and sustainable development.

Carpathian Convention Article 4 and its Protocol on Biodiversity mandate safeguarding biodiversity and landscape diversity in the Carpathians. Thus, the Carpathian Convention is well-positioned to address pressing environmental challenges in the region and beyond, aided by its various strategic partnerships, including with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Alpine Convention, and a broad network of stakeholders.

By prioritizing biodiversity as the key underlying element for sustainable development, the Carpathian Convention serves as a model for mainstreaming biodiversity into other sectors. It can therefore strengthen the global biodiversity movement by serving as a role model for other regions facing similar challenges, particularly in mountainous areas.

### **MANDATE FOR REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

**The 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention** (25 November 2020, online) by its Decision COP6/6 paragraph 1 recognized the Carpathian Convention as the regional mechanism for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its new Global Biodiversity Framework in the Carpathians, including translating the Global Biodiversity Framework's Global 2050 Goals and 2030 Global Targets to the regional level. The Decision gave the Parties and the Secretariat a strong mandate to engage in the process of implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework.

Furthermore, the Decision COP6/6 paragraph 2 welcomed “the revision of the trilateral Memorandum of Cooperation between the CBD, the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention in the light of the Global Biodiversity Framework, which shall be considered as a useful instrument for enhancing synergies and initiating common activities for the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework,” while the Decision COP6/6 paragraph 5 welcomed the idea of developing the Carpathian Commitments for the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework in the form of a Political Declaration.

This process was further strengthened by adopting the Ministerial Declaration of the Carpathian Convention on Carpathian Commitments for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework implementation, on November 22, 2022, committing the Parties to:

- examine the possible contribution of the Carpathian region to the implementation of global goals and targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework,
- develop and implement a **revised Strategic Action Plan to the Carpathian Convention Protocol on Biodiversity** that will reflect the agreed Global Biodiversity Framework, which shall be a comprehensive and ambitious instrument to implement transformative actions by various stakeholders in order to achieve the CBD 2050 vision to live in harmony with nature in the Carpathians,
- sign and implement the renewed **Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between the CBD, the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention in the light of the new global biodiversity framework**, to enhance synergies and initiate common activities for the implementation of the new framework,
- mainstream biodiversity within and across sectors by using the integrated approach of the Carpathian Convention.

In order to ensure that the new Strategic Action Plan to the Carpathian Convention Protocol on Biodiversity facilitates mainstreaming biodiversity within and across sectors, as underlined in the Ministerial Declaration, this document supplements it with provisions related to other thematic areas of the Convention. This extended document is entitled the **Carpathian Biodiversity Framework**.

## CONTRIBUTION TO THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), adopted at the CBD COP15 in December 2022, gives a relevant framework to guide global action on nature and biodiversity protection until 2030. The CBD COP15 decisions call on Parties to cooperate at the transboundary, regional and international levels (CBD/COP/DEC/15/4 paragraph 5), and with the support of intergovernmental and other organizations (CBD/COP/DEC/15/4 paragraph 4) in implementing the framework. Furthermore, the GBF stresses that “enhanced collaboration, cooperation and synergies between the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols, other biodiversity-related conventions, other relevant multilateral agreements and international organizations and processes, in line with their respective mandates, including at the global, regional, subregional and national levels, would contribute to and promote the implementation of the global biodiversity framework in a more efficient and effective manner” (CBD/COP/DEC/15/4 paragraph 7(q)).

As all Parties of the Carpathian Convention are signatories to the CBD, the GBF provides an opportunity to align global and regional objectives, while simultaneously contribute to the achievement of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030<sup>1</sup> and its goals. The umbrella of the global biodiversity process as well as the regional perspective is particularly relevant for the Carpathians where two out of seven Carpathian

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<sup>1</sup> The EU Biodiversity Strategy, being a European Commission's Communication, is not legally binding and does not impose legal obligations on EU Member States.

countries are currently the EU candidate countries (Serbia and Ukraine) and therefore, working on close alignment with the EU acquis is expected. Integrating the GBF, EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the Carpathian Convention and its strategic documents will help the Carpathian countries to jointly address biodiversity loss and ecosystem restoration, with benefit to all interlinked processes and ultimately for the benefit of people and nature.

To further strengthen implementation processes, the CBD Parties should include relevant actions implementing their commitments and recommendations under other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements to which they are a Party to in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national reports (CBD/COP15/DEC/15/6 para 23a). Thus, the inclusion of relevant Carpathian Convention activities in the **national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) of the Carpathian countries** should be taken into account in order to mutually strengthen the implementation of both the Carpathian Convention and CBD, avoid isolated approaches, and maximise limited financial and human resources.

In addition, prioritising biodiversity protection in their agendas, the CBD, the Alpine Convention, and the Carpathian Convention, have renewed the trilateral Memorandum of Cooperation in light of the GBF. This shall enhance synergies and initiate common activities for implementing the GBF. The renewed MoC will also provide direction for effective mountain biodiversity protection in the Alpine and Carpathian regions and beyond supporting experience and knowledge sharing with other mountain regions of the world.

The implementation of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework (CBF), including the Carpathian Vision 2050 and its Strategic Objectives will greatly contribute to the achievement of the GBF and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## PURPOSE AND CARPATHIAN VISION 2050

The **Carpathian Biodiversity Framework (CBF)** is a vital tool to comprehensively implement the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols. It envisions the Carpathians as a model mountain region where sustainable development and the preservation of the natural environment go hand in hand. In this regard, the CBF aims to foster joint activities for main priority areas of cooperation, creating synergies with all important regional, European and global climate, biodiversity and sustainable development objectives and platforms.

The CBF shall help to achieve the Carpathian Convention's general objectives of the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians by pursuing the following **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.**

Considering the holistic and integrated approach of the Carpathian Convention and recognizing that halting and reversing biodiversity loss require transformative actions across and within various sectors, to achieve the **Carpathian Vision 2050**, all Parties to the Carpathian Convention, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, shall pursue the following comprehensive **Carpathian Strategic Objectives** by 2050, in line with the Convention and its Protocols:

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

Conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Carpathians is enhanced, by harmonized and coordinated efforts and cooperation on conservation, maintenance and sustainable use of natural and semi-natural habitats and securing habitat continuity and connectivity; restoration of degraded habitats; conservation and sustainable use of species of flora and fauna characteristic to the Carpathians, especially endangered or endemic species and large carnivores; and conservation and restoration of wetlands and fresh water ecosystems<sup>2</sup>.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

The Carpathian forests are sustainably managed and protected by, inter alia, improving the health and vitality of the forests; improving the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity; identifying and protecting natural, especially virgin forests; promoting the restoration of close-to-nature forests; and enhancing the role of the forest-based sector in mitigating climate change<sup>3</sup>.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

Tourism in the Carpathians is sustainable, thanks to enhanced cooperation that maximizes the positive benefits of tourism for biodiversity, ecosystems, and economic and social development, while mitigating negative ecological, environmental and socio-economic impacts from tourism<sup>4</sup>.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4

Transport and related infrastructure in the Carpathians is developed sustainably with the objective to contribute to the overall sustainable development of the region while avoiding, minimizing and, where necessary, mitigating or compensating negative environmental and socio-economic impacts of transport and related infrastructure development, including through, inter alia, development and promotion of environmentally friendly transport models and systems, particularly in environmentally sensitive areas, and<sup>5</sup>.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5

The agriculture sector in the Carpathians, including traditionally cultivated land, is maintained and developed sustainably. Traditional knowledge and sustainable agriculture practices are maintained, enabling rural communities to flourish while preserving the natural resources and cultural heritage of the Carpathians<sup>6</sup>.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 6

The resilience of the Carpathian region is strengthened through climate change mitigation and through increased regional adaptation actions within the Carpathian Convention activities<sup>7</sup>.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 7

Awareness about the objectives and main sustainable development aspects of the Carpathian Convention is strengthened among the general public in the Carpathians. Lifelong learning and global education approaches are integrated into the Carpathian Convention activities and cross-sectoral cooperation and

<sup>2</sup> Main reference document: [Carpathian Convention Biodiversity Protocol Article 1 on General objective and principles](#)

<sup>3</sup> Main reference document: [Carpathian Convention Sustainable Forest Management Protocol, Article 1 on General objective and principles](#)

<sup>4</sup> Main reference document: [Carpathian Convention Sustainable Tourism Protocol, Article 1 on General objective and principles](#)

<sup>5</sup> Main reference document: [Carpathian Convention Sustainable Transport Protocol Article 1 on General objective and principles](#)

<sup>6</sup> Main reference document: [Carpathian Convention Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Protocol, Article 1 on General objective and principles](#)

<sup>7</sup> Main reference document: [Carpathian Convention Art. 12bis](#) and the [Long-term Vision 2030 towards combating climate change in the Carpathians](#)

synergies across projects are enhanced, bridging together local and regional actors and strengthening partnerships towards sustainable development of the Carpathians<sup>8</sup>.

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 8

Cooperation with Ukraine on protecting and sustainably developing the whole Carpathian region is strengthened to better address the direct and indirect impacts of the war in Ukraine on the Carpathians, particularly on the natural environment and nature protection services<sup>9</sup>.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

- Integrate and mainstream conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians, as well as other activities of the Carpathian Convention, into national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), across sectors and other policies, including transborder policies, in particular related to spatial planning and land resources management, water and river basin management, agriculture and forestry, transport and infrastructure, tourism, industry and energy.
- Establish national and/or regional intersectoral committees and organize intersectoral meetings in the framework of the Carpathian Convention to ensure full integration of biodiversity into relevant sectoral policies, planning and development processes.
- Strengthen synergies and cooperation with other relevant multilateral agreements, regional and European processes and partners, while ensuring active involvement of various stakeholders.
- Strengthen cooperation for and implementation of the Set of measures to address the environmental consequences of the direct and indirect impacts of the war in Ukraine on the Carpathians.
- Support the development, coordination and implementation of projects under relevant funding opportunities, including EU programmes, such as the Horizon Europe, relevant Interreg programmes and relevant international, national or private financial resources, as well as support development and implement of a Carpathian strategic project (e.g. LIFE Strategic Nature Project (SNaP)), if feasible

<sup>8</sup> Main reference document: [Carpathian Convention COP6 Decisions \(Decisions/COP6/9\)](#), [Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee recommendation from 2022](#), and the [Carpathian Convention Art. 13 on Awareness raising, education and public participation](#)

<sup>9</sup> Main reference document: [Ministerial Declaration of the Carpathian Convention on the impact of war in Ukraine on the environment and the need for cooperation and assistance](#), adopted in November 2022 in Rzeszow, Poland

**ANNEX: a comprehensive compilation of tasks and activities contributing to the implementation of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework, and in extension, to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, to guide Parties in their implementation of the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols (a rolling document)**

**Carpathian Convention relevant activities to implement the GBF and CBF by 2030**

This column lists actions for implementing the GBF in the Carpathian region, translating each relevant Global Target according to the Carpathian Convention and its CBF by 2030. The following actions were selected according to the current Carpathian Convention Programme of Work, COP6 Decisions, existing strategies and action plans. Some actions that are not yet embedded in the Carpathian Convention instruments might be submitted to the COP7 for consideration as a part of the new PoW. This annex is a rolling document, subject to regular revision and updates.

**Reference documents**

➤ Implement the Joint Strategic Action Plan 2021 – 2026 for the implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Transport:

**Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

TARGET 1

**Carpathian Convention:**

Carpathian Convention  
Art. 5, Art. 6

Protocol on  
Sustainable Transport  
- Article 4 -

- a) Conduct trainings on ecological connectivity and sustainable spatial planning in the Carpathians, including transboundary cooperation (stressing the necessity of protection of migration corridors in spatial planning, especially when building new transport infrastructure).
- b) Develop a Carpathian code of good practice in spatial planning and recommendations from positive case studies for spatial planning authorities, so that ecological connectivity and the protection of areas of high biodiversity importance are enhanced.
- c) Develop a transboundary project on producing harmonized spatial plans for selected border communities of neighbouring Parties (pilot studies).
- d) Organize cross-sectoral meetings of WG Biodiversity, WG Spatial Planning, WG Transport regularly.
- e) Act on the [detailed recommendations for the implementation of the Carpathian Convention Protocol on Sustainable Transport](#)
- f) Consider and contribute to the implementation of the [Guidelines how to minimize the impact of transport infrastructure development on nature in the Carpathian countries](#).

g) Contribute to the implementation of the [State of the Art Report and Gap Analysis in the field of environmentally friendly transport infrastructure development \(TRANSGREEN project\)](#).

h) Contribute to the implementation of the [Handbook of Best Practices for Planning and Implementing Mitigation Measures regarding Landscape Connectivity](#) (SaveGREEN project).

- Exchange the best available information on the science and engineering of forest transport infrastructure bilaterally and multilaterally. Such scientific and technical exchanges will focus on the development of guidelines for forest road and skid trail planning, design, maintenance, and management in the Carpathians, including economic, ecological, and operational considerations.
- Mainstream ecological connectivity objectives into spatial and development planning in the fields of transport, energy, river basin management, and tourism, including training and research.
- Promote and ensure integrated water resource management and preservation and climate change adaptation as core principles of spatial planning, especially for protecting water-dependent biodiversity and habitats.
- Halt future land use changes by developing and responding to scenarios of climate change and demographic change.
- Support traditional land management approaches in the Carpathians by mapping and understanding their practices.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Consider the restoration of the Carpathian habitats in the National Restoration Plans across the Carpathian countries (EU Nature Restoration Law)</li> <li>➤ Develop a project proposal for restoring degraded habitats in the Carpathians</li> <li>➤ Identify and prioritise degraded habitats in the Carpathians within the national territory of each Party, restoration of which is conducive for achieving other objectives of the Biodiversity Protocol, to improve connectivity between existing protected areas; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expected Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Identify degraded habitats and draft a priority list;</li> <li>b) Expand feasibility studies, proposals for site-specific restoration measures and management plans</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Update the provisional list of endangered natural and semi-natural habitat types native to the Carpathians (Carpathian Red List of Habitats)</li> <li>➤ Map further and protect virgin and natural forest in the Carpathians and extend the Inventory of Virgin Forest of the Carpathian of other degrees of naturalness, including natural forest</li> <li>➤ Identify and prioritise degraded forest habitats in the Carpathians, restoration of which is necessary for improving and ensuring connectivity between existing protected areas</li> <li>➤ Promote restoration of close-to-nature forests/ecological silviculture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. To encourage the synergy between science and practice in close-to-nature forestry, ensuring wider integration into professional education and advancing training programmes for the forestry staff;</li> <li>b. To improve the regulatory and legal framework for the close-to-nature forestry transition, which seeks to manage mixed and uneven-aged forests by planting non-invasive species that are resilient to climate change, gradually withdrawing from clear-cutting, and modernising equipment of state-owned forestry enterprises and the relevant road network;</li> <li>c. To prioritise forests for the implementation of close-to-nature forestry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expected Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Establish programmes for protecting and reintroducing rare native forest tree species in their natural ecosystems;</li> <li>b) Share best practices related to close-to-nature forestry among the Carpathian countries;</li> <li>c) Increase the number of areas where close-to-nature forestry is applied</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Restore and safeguard ecological connectivity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Further implement and revise, as appropriate, the International Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity</li> <li>b. Use the <a href="#">Methodology for the Identification of Ecological Corridors in the Carpathian Countries by Using Large Carnivores as Umbrella Species</a></li> <li>c. Use the <a href="#">Methodology for Standardised Monitoring of Ecological Corridors</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Reintroduce species native to the Carpathians.</li> <li>➤ Strengthen cooperation with the Carpathian Wetland Initiative on wetland conservation, restoration and maintenance. Identify priority actions for wetland restoration and develop and implement common long-term projects for conservation, maintenance, restoration and sustainable use of wetland habitats and species to be jointly undertaken in the Carpathians, particularly in border areas and transboundary protected areas</li> <li>➤ Increase involvement with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration for awareness raising and possible upscaling of restoration activities in line with the provisions of the Carpathian Convention and in consultation with the Parties</li> </ul>	<p><b>Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:</b></p> <p>TARGET 2</p> <p><b>Carpathian Convention:</b></p> <p>Carpathian Convention Art. 4</p> <p>Protocol on Biodiversity, Art.4, Art.8, Art.10 - Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management. Art. 10, Art 13,</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Include the Carpathians in countries pledges for several targets in the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, including the expansion of protected areas by 30%, if relevant</li> <li>➤ Help build the Trans-European Nature Network (within the NaturaConnect project) to ensure conservation of protected areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) contribute to mapping of large, coherent landscapes with wilderness features and terrestrial and aquatic ecological corridors between protected areas, especially Natura 2000 sites and other natural sites of international and national importance</li> <li>b) further activities to be added within the project implementation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Strengthen the management of existing protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:</b></p> <p>TARGET 3</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ support identification and designation of additional protected areas and OECMs, while supporting the effective management of existing ones, to bridge gaps in the regional ecological corridor system, as requested by the EU Biodiversity Strategy:</li> <li>➤ Strengthen the Carpathian Network of the Protected Areas:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Ensure sound and effective governance of the CNPA, by establishing an association supporting the CNPA operations,</li> <li>b. Establish thematic working groups within the CNPA to focus on substantive work of the Network,</li> <li>c. Develop and implement common projects and programmes to enhance cooperation and joint actions among CNPA Members, particularly in transboundary protected areas in the Carpathians,</li> <li>d. Encourage the expansion of existing transboundary protected areas or creation of new transboundary protected areas in the Carpathians,</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Consider and contribute to the implementation of the Carpathian strategy for enhancing biodiversity and landscape conservation outside and inside protected areas: <a href="#">Full document</a>   <a href="#">Factsheet</a> (Centralparks)</li> <li>➤ Consider and contribute to the implementation of the Strategy for local sustainable tourism development based on natural and cultural heritage of the Carpathians: <a href="#">Full document</a>   <a href="#">Factsheet</a> (Centralparks)</li> <li>➤ Consider and contribute to the implementation of the <a href="#">Guidelines on communication between protected areas and local communities in the Carpathian – full document</a> (Centralparks)</li> <li>➤ Consider and contribute to the implementation of the <a href="#">Carpathian Ecosystem Services Tool</a> (Centralparks)</li> <li>➤ Strengthen cooperation between relevant networks of protected areas, particularly CNPA, ALPARC, DANUBEPARKS and Parks Dinarides on topics of common interest, especially on ecological connectivity, exchanges on protected areas management, education and other topics</li> <li>➤ Update the inventory of virgin forest in the Carpathians regularly, and extend it of other degrees of naturalness, particularly natural forests, according to the Carpathian Convention definitions and criteria</li> <li>➤ Cooperate on development of ecological network, habitat continuity and connectivity in the Carpathians in regard to wetlands, including integrating the management of Ramsar Sites, designating new Ramsar Sites (including transboundary sites), expanding existing sites, and maintaining and restoring wetlands</li> <li>➤ Improve the management and sustainable use of wetlands in the Carpathians</li> </ul>	<p><b>Carpathian Convention:</b></p> <p>Protocol on Biodiversity Art. 9, Art.14</p> <p>Forest Management – Art. 10</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Implement and review, if necessary, the International Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity, particularly to:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Standardize monitoring procedures of large carnivores in the Carpathians</li> <li>b) Improve coexistence of humans with large carnivores</li> <li>c) Improve law enforcement with respect to the illegal killing of large carnivores</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Support implementation of the LECA project on supporting the coexistence and conservation of the Carpathian large carnivores, particularly to:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Consult, adopt and implement thematic guidance monitoring large carnivores</li> <li>b) Consult, adopt and implement thematic guidance on poaching investigation</li> <li>c) Consult, adopt and implement thematic guidance on human – wildlife conflict prevention</li> <li>d) Consult, adopt and implement recommendations for the implementation of the Carpathian Convention on large carnivores</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Update the provisional list of the Carpathian Red List of Species, if possible</li> <li>➤ Support the co-existence of wildlife and pastoralism in the Carpathians</li> </ul>	<p><b>Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:</b></p> <p>TARGET 4</p> <p><b>Carpathian Convention:</b></p> <p>Protocol on Biodiversity Art.11, Art.12</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Implement and review, if necessary, the International Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity, particularly to:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Improve law enforcement with respect to the illegal killing of large carnivores</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Take into account the results of the project SwiPE on successful wildlife crime prosecution in Europe</li> <li>➤ Consider the recommendations of the report <a href="#">Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime in the Danube-Carpathian Region</a>)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:</b></p> <p>TARGET 5</p>



	<p><b>Carpathian Convention:</b></p> <p>Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, Art. 12</p>
<p>Possible action on IAS to be discussed with the WG Biodiversity</p>	<p><b>Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:</b></p> <p>TARGET 6</p> <p><b>Carpathian Convention:</b></p> <p>Protocol on Biodiversity Art.13</p>
<p>➤ Address plastic pollution issues and the cross-border impact of pollution, particularly in the transboundary rivers, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Strengthen cooperation between countries in the Tisza River basin to find common solutions on monitoring, controlling and preventing plastic pollution in the river, as a possible demonstration case.</li> <li>b) Establish effective partnerships at various levels (e.g. public, private, civil society) to increase community and stakeholder action at the local level to protect, restore and sustain river ecosystem health.</li> </ul> <p>➤ Consider the UNEA 5.2 Resolution on End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument (UNEP/EA.5/Res.14) while implementing the Carpathian Convention</p>	<p><b>Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:</b></p> <p>TARGET 7</p> <p><b>Carpathian Convention:</b></p> <p>Carpathian Convention Art. 5, Art. 6</p>
<p>➤ Implement the <a href="#">Implementation Framework 2030</a> accompanying the <a href="#">Long-term Vision 2030 towards combating climate change in the Carpathians</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Implement the policy recommendations proposed by the <i>Assessment of climate change risks and impacts on the Carpathian forests and their ecosystem services</i> (translate the recommendations into project proposals, if possible)</li> <li>➤ Identify, promote and implement nature-based solutions for climate mitigation and adaptation, especially in transboundary areas across the Carpathian region</li> <li>➤ Test and collect best practices for applying nature-based solutions in the forest sector</li> <li>➤ Assess the vulnerability of Carpathian wetlands to climate change to identify wetlands most at risk to climate change impacts, and propose and implement measures for climate adaptation and mitigation</li> </ul>	<p><b>Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:</b></p> <p>TARGET 8</p> <p><b>Carpathian Convention:</b></p> <p>Carpathian Convention Art.12bis</p>

	Forest Management – Art. 14
<p>Actions to be further proposed, if relevant</p>	<p><b>Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:</b></p> <p>TARGET 9</p> <p><b>Carpathian Convention:</b></p> <p>Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, Art. 12</p>
<p>➤ Support and promote Carpathian pastoralism towards the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP), 2026</p> <p>➤ Undertake activities realizing the priority topics for the implementation of the SARD Protocol</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Models for farm-to-fork/short-food supply chains best practices</li> <li>b) Quality schemes and certification of „Mountain Products”</li> <li>c) Associations for farmers and food producers in the mountain area to share benefits and best practice models</li> </ul> <p>To be further developed, if relevant</p>	<p><b>Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:</b></p> <p>TARGET 10</p> <p><b>Carpathian Convention:</b></p> <p>Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, Art. 9, Art. 11, Art. 15</p>
<p>➤ Promote nature-based solutions (NbS) and/or ecosystem-based approaches in the Carpathians by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Preparing an assessment on NbS in the Carpathians and its benefits, including a collection of best practices</li> <li>b) Adapting national legislation to prioritise the implementation of NbS</li> <li>c) Developing joint activities/projects on NbS, e.g. on wetlands restoration with CWI, Ramsar Convention and ICPDR</li> <li>d) Considering NbS in other sectors, such as agriculture (certain agro-ecological practices) and grassland and natural forest restoration</li> <li>e) Conducting outreach and awareness-raising campaigns on NbS and the related benefits for communities, civil servants, students</li> </ul>	<p><b>Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:</b></p> <p>TARGET 11</p> <p><b>Carpathian Convention:</b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Mainstream biodiversity within and across sectors by using the integrated approach of the Carpathian Convention             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Establish national interregional committees in the Carpathian countries to ensure full integration of biodiversity into relevant sectoral policies and planning and development processes</li> <li>b) Organize regular intersectoral meetings within the framework of the Carpathian Convention</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:</b></p> <p>TARGET 14</p> <p><b>Carpathian Convention:</b></p> <p>Protocol on Biodiversity Art.5</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Support the Carpathian Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Expert Network by incorporating their recommendations, including:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Exchanging experiences and sharing best practices in eco-education</li> <li>b) Creating Carpathian Convention-related materials for schools, universities, and parks</li> <li>c) Creating a database of ESD experts to help increase ESD in quality education</li> <li>d) Producing a representative (National Geographic Style) map of the Carpathians, with information on nature protection and culture, to be sold across the Carpathian countries so that visitors in protected areas and other tourist destinations or educational initiatives can get the holistic picture of the region</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Organize and celebrate Carpathian Day/Carpathian Week in each Carpathian country to highlight Carpathian biodiversity via educational and awareness-raising activities.</li> <li>➤ Collaborate with protected areas and other biodiversity stakeholders to exchange best practices and experiences among the engaged parties and partners</li> <li>➤ Liaison further with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Steering Committee on ESD as relevant, and explore collaboration with the Global Education Network Europe (GENE)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:</b></p> <p>TARGET 16</p> <p><b>Carpathian Convention:</b></p> <p>Carpathian Convention Art. 13; Protocol on Biodiversity Art. 24 -</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Increase financial resources, whether national, international, public, or private funds, to further implement the Convention</li> </ul>	<p><b>Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:</b></p> <p>TARGET 19</p> <p><b>Carpathian Convention:</b></p> <p>Protocol on Biodiversity Art. 21, Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management – Art. 20; Protocol on Sustainable Tourism – Art. 27;</p>

	<p>Protocol on Sustainable Transport – Art. 17; Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, Art. 19</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Strengthen capacity building and knowledge sharing</li> <li>➤ Develop joint scientific research programmes relevant for the Carpathians and other mountain regions (Carpathian Horizon project)</li> <li>➤ Strengthen scientific research and monitoring capacities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:</b></p> <p>TARGET 20</p> <p><b>Carpathian Convention:</b></p> <p>Protocol on Biodiversity Art. 18, Art. 19; Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management Art. 18, Art. 19; Protocol on Sustainable Tourism - Art 19; Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, Art. 17</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ensure efficient and consistent implementation of the Carpathian Convention at the national level, especially when raising awareness about the Carpathian Convention and its activities among relevant governmental entities, practitioners and the general public</li> <li>➤ Promote and support the implementation of the Carpathian Convention across sectors at the regional and local level, encouraging active engagement from regional and local authorities and other stakeholders</li> <li>➤ Establish outreach programmes targeting local and regional authorities, universities and other relevant stakeholders to increase their awareness of the importance of the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathian region and of the Convention's activities</li> <li>➤ Promote strategic cooperation of the Carpathian countries as a key factor for sustainable development of the Carpathians</li> <li>➤ Establish and implement projects to foster more exchange between the Alps, the Pyrenees, the Caucasus Mountains, the Carpathians and other mountain regions</li> <li>➤ Strengthen science-policy-practice interface to enhance the implementation of the Carpathian Convention by creating synergies between its stakeholders and promoting inter-sectoral cooperation, such as stronger collaboration with the Science for the Carpathians network</li> </ul>	<p><b>Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:</b></p> <p>TARGET 21</p> <p><b>Carpathian Convention:</b></p>

- Consider the Science for the Carpathians (S4C) Research Agenda for the Carpathians 2022 – 2030 recommendations.
- Support and strengthen stronger participation of S4C in Carpathian Convention activities, and closer collaboration between S4C and the Convention Secretariat, Focal Points, Working Groups (WG) and other partners.
- Support stronger collaborations with other mountain research networks, such as the Scientific Network for the Caucasus Mountain Region (SNC-mt)<sup>1</sup>, the International Scientific Committee on Research in the Alps (ISCAR), and the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI)
- Develop and promote the Carpathian Countries Integrated Biodiversity Information System (CCIBIS)
- Collaborate with the European Environment Agency and other relevant partners and stakeholders to ensure access to best available data, information and knowledge

**Protocol on Biodiversity** Art. 18, Art.19, Art. 24;

**Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management** Art. 18, Art. 19, Art 21;

**Protocol on Sustainable Tourism**  
- Art 18, Art. 19,

**Protocol on Sustainable Transport** – Art. 18;

**Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development**,  
Art. 17, Art. 16, Art. 20