



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

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**STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROTOCOL ON
CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF
BIOLOGICAL AND LANDSCAPE DIVERSITY
(BUCHAREST, 2008)
TO THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON THE PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
CARPATHIANS
(KYIV, 2003)**

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Pursuant to Article 21 paragraphs 1¹ and 3² of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity (hereinafter referred to as “the Protocol”) to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (hereinafter referred to as “the Convention”), adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Bucharest on 19th June 2008;

Recalling the Ministerial Declaration of the Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention³ and pursuant to Decision COP2/1 on Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity, in particular its paragraphs 2⁴ and 5⁵;

Following the Terms of Reference for the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee approved by the Bureau and endorsed by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention by its Decision COP2/13 on Programme of work and budget of the Carpathian Convention paragraph 5⁶;

Mandated by the above Terms of Reference, letter e)⁷ to carry out the function to consider, develop and recommend strategies for the achievement of the objectives of the Convention;

In order to ensure implementation of the provisions of the Protocol

The Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee recommends the following Strategic Action Plan for approval of the Bureau and adoption by the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as follows:

Within the next 12 years the Parties shall undertake the following actions:

¹ Article 21.1. „Each Party shall undertake appropriate legal and administrative measures for ensuring implementation of the provisions of this Protocol, and monitor the effectiveness of these measures.”

² Article 21.3. “The Conference of the Parties shall develop and adopt the Strategic Action Plan for the implementation of this Protocol.”

³ *We highly welcome* the adoption of the Protocol to the Carpathian Convention (hereinafter as the Biodiversity Protocol) and *call for* its ratification; *We look forward* to developing the Strategic Action Plan as an implementation tool for the Biodiversity Protocol;

⁴ Decision COP2/1 paragraph 2: “The Conference of the Parties urges Parties within the framework of the Working Group and invites other stakeholders to ensure the proper follow-up and implementation of the present decision, and takes into account the recommendations produced by the Working Group;”

⁵ Decision COP2/1 paragraph 5: “The Conference of the Parties requests the interim Secretariat to coordinate the preparation of a Strategic Action Plan for the implementation of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity, taking into account the work done under the auspices of the Working Group;”

⁶ Decision COP2/13, paragraph 5: “The Conference of the Parties endorses the terms of reference of the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee, as approved by the Bureau and annexed to the present decision (Annex I);”

⁷ Terms of Reference for the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee: “Serviced by the Secretariat, the Committee shall carry out the following functions: e) To consider, develop and recommend new and additional Protocols, strategies, or other measures and recommendations for the achievement of the objectives of the Convention;”

Objective 1 - Harmonisation of policies and strategies and integration into other sectoral policies

Pursuant to Article 4, 5 and 6 of the Protocol the Parties shall undertake:

Action 1.1. Develop, implement and harmonise in their national territory policies and strategies aiming at the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians in their national territory, or, if such policies and strategies are already in place - evaluate their effectiveness and implementation up to date.

Results expected

- a) Above mentioned policies and strategies developed and implemented.

The action clearly contributes to goal 3.1 of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) to provide an enabling policy, institutional and socio-economic environment for protected areas, specifically action 3.1.3 in harmonizing sectoral policies and laws to ensure that they support the conservation and effective management of the protected area system, and also supports its target to review and revise policies as appropriate. It further contributes to goal 2.1. of the CBD Work Programme on Mountains, supporting two actions to enhance the legal, policy, institutional and economic framework.

Action 1.2. Communicate the objectives and provisions of the Protocol to relevant international bodies responsible for, or involved in development or revision of other regional or global sectoral policies and strategies which could have influence on the conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity in the Carpathians and facilitate in-country consultations, to ensure that the objectives of the Protocol are duly taken into account in their national, regional and global policies, in particular those on environment, including climate change, spatial planning and land resources management, water and river basin management, agriculture and forestry, transport and infrastructure, tourism, industry and energy.

Results expected

- a) Integrated national policies where the provisions of the Protocol are duly taken into account adopted;
- b) Issues relevant for the Protocol adequately included in the agenda of the national inter-ministerial working groups;
- c) Regular contacts with the relevant international bodies and update on their activities ensured;
- d) Participation of at least one Carpathian representative in relevant international conference/meeting and involvement of the relevant international bodies in the conference/meetings organized within the Convention ensured;
- e) Contacts with EU institutions and bodies further developed.

Action 1.3. Ensure consultations, coordination and cooperation between the institutions, regional and local authorities, and other stakeholders concerned of each Party, to involve them in the development and implementation of national policies and the resulting measures for conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians.

Results expected

- a) Inclusion of the issues relevant for the Biodiversity Protocol in the agenda of the consultative meetings.

The EU Biodiversity Action Plan⁸ calls on all EU Member States to use opportunities and to effectively integrate biodiversity concerns into all sectoral policy frameworks (including finance programmes) and furthermore, calls for all relevant territorial plans and projects within the EU to undergo a Strategic Environmental Assessment⁹ (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment¹⁰ (EIA) that takes full account of biodiversity concerns.

⁸ European Commission, (2006): Communication from the Commission 'Halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010 – and beyond; Sustaining ecosystem services for human well-being' (EU Biodiversity Action Plan)

⁹ Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (Strategic Environmental Assessment)

¹⁰ Council Directive 85/337/EEC of 27 June 1985 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (Environmental Impact Assessment)

Objective 2 - Conservation, maintenance, restoration and sustainable use of natural and semi-natural habitats

Pursuant to Article 8 of the Protocol the Parties shall undertake:

Action 2.1. The elaboration of the Carpathian Red List of Habitats

- a) Compile and analyse scientific data, national inventories and maps of natural and semi-natural habitats in the Carpathians within the national territory of each Party;
- b) Elaboration of the proposal of the Carpathian Red List of Habitats, including endangered natural and semi-natural habitat types native to the Carpathians, which either are in danger of disappearance in their natural range, or have a small natural range following their regression or by reason of their intrinsically restricted area, or present outstanding examples of typical characteristics of the Carpathian region; to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties, and revised every twelve years.

Results expected

- a) Scientific data, national inventories and maps of natural and semi-natural habitats compiled, analysed and updated within the national territory of each Party;
- b) Carpathian Red List of Habitats elaborated.

Action 2.2. Implement measures in their national territory with the objective to ensure the long-term conservation or maintenance, restoration and sustainable use of endangered natural and semi-natural habitat types listed in the Carpathian Red List of Habitats.

- a) Evaluate the effectiveness and implementation of measures undertaken in the Carpathian region up to date with the objective to ensure the long-term conservation or maintenance, restoration and sustainable use of endangered natural and semi-natural habitat types listed in the Carpathian Red List of Habitats;
- b) Identify and assess current and potential future threats to the conservation status of endangered natural and semi-natural habitat types listed in the Carpathian Red List of Habitats, within the national territory of each Party;
- c) Elaborate guidelines for special conservation measures to be undertaken, if need be, with the objective to ensure the long-term conservation or maintenance, restoration and sustainable use of endangered natural and semi-natural habitat types listed in the Carpathian Red List of Habitats, within the national territory of each Party;
- d) Elaborate guidelines on the possible harmonisation and coordination of measures aimed at long-term conservation or maintenance, restoration and sustainable use of endangered natural and semi-natural habitat types listed in the Carpathian Red List of Habitats, to be undertaken by the Parties in the Carpathians, in particular in border areas and transboundary protected areas;
- e) Identify priorities for common actions and prepare and implement common programs and projects aimed at long-term conservation or maintenance, restoration and sustainable use of endangered natural and semi-natural habitat

types listed in the Carpathian Red List of Habitats, to be jointly undertaken in the Carpathians, in particular in border areas and transboundary protected areas.

Results expected

- a) Above mentioned guidelines elaborated, priority actions identified;
- b) Report on assessment of the identified threats drafted;
- c) Common projects elaborated and implemented;
- d) Inclusion of the foreseen activities in the agenda of the meetings of the common expert networks, such as the Working Group on Protection and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity of the Carpathian Convention (Biodiversity Working Group);
- e) Relevant existing Clearing House Mechanisms further developed.

Through all these activities the requirements outlined in European legislation and guidance of policy documents are taken into account (besides the Bird and Habitat Directives mentioned in the text, the EU Biodiversity Action Plan⁸, partially the Water Framework Directive¹¹ and its impacts on adjacent river basins as well as relevant guidance papers, forest measures under the rural development policies, the draft EU Forest Strategy and Action Plan¹², the European Landscape Convention¹³, in some cases the Common Agricultural Policy, etc.). Other European initiatives are also profiting like the assessment process of 'European Red List Species' (under the responsibility of IUCN including the assessment of the conservation status), European Clearing House Mechanism or activities related to ecosystem services and climate change. Furthermore, contributions are made to three goals of the PoWPA (goal 1.2 in integrating protected areas into broader landscapes and sectors to maintain ecological structure and function; goal 1.4 to substantially improve site-based protected area planning and management; and goal 1.5 to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to protected areas). The actions further contribute to all programme elements of the CBD Work Programme on Mountains: 1) direct actions, 2) means of implementation and 3) supporting actions for conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing.

Action 2.3. Restoration of degraded habitats

- a) Identify and prioritise degraded habitats in the Carpathians within the national territory of each Party, restoration of which is perceived conducive to achieving other objectives of this Strategic Action Plan, in particular the objective of improving and ensuring connectivity between existing protected areas;
- b) Evaluate the effectiveness of measures undertaken up to date in the Carpathians within the national territory of each Party with the objective to eliminate causes of degradation and to restore these habitats;
- c) Elaborate feasibility studies and proposals for site-specific restoration measures involving, if need be, appropriate management plans specifically designed for the

¹¹ Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy

¹² European Commission, (2006): Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on an EU Forest Action Plan, Brussels COM(2006) 302 final

¹³ Council of Europe, (2000): The European Landscape Convention (Florence Convention)

sites or integrated into other development plans, and appropriate statutory, administrative or contractual measures for habitats in the Carpathians restoration of which is perceived conducive to achieving other objectives of this Strategic Action Plan, within the national territory of each Party;

- d) Evaluate the effectiveness and added values of measures of restoration of habitats for achieving other objectives of this Strategic Action Plan, within the national territory of each Party.

Results expected

- a) Degraded habitats identified and priority list drafted;
- b) Feasibility studies, proposals for site-specific restoration measures and management plans elaborated.

Actions under objective 2 are supporting the implementation of the CBD, specifically the action 1.2.5. of the PoWPA (rehabilitate and restore habitats and degraded ecosystems, as appropriate, as a contribution to building ecological networks, ecological corridors and/or buffer zones). Furthermore, they fulfill requirements specified under the Birds¹⁴ and Habitats¹⁵ Directives and they contribute to the CBD Work Programme on Mountains, specifically action 1.2.11. to establish restoration areas where mountain biological diversity has been degraded significantly and where restoration is needed to complement and buffer the protected-area network.

¹⁴ European Parliament and Council Directive 2009/147/EC of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive) (Amendment of 79/409/EEC of 2 April 1979)

¹⁵ Council Directive 92/43/EC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive)

Objective 3 - Conservation and sustainable use of species of flora and fauna, conservation of endangered species, including endemic species and large carnivores of the Carpathians

Pursuant to Articles 11 and 12 of the Protocol the Parties shall undertake:

Action 3.1. Carpathian Red List of Species elaboration

- a) Compile and analyse scientific data, national inventories and maps concerning flora and fauna species native to the Carpathians, in particular endangered species including endemic species and large carnivores within the national territory of each Party;
- b) Evaluate the effectiveness and implementation of measures undertaken up to date with the objective to ensure the long-term conservation¹⁶ and sustainable use of species of flora and fauna native to the Carpathians, in particular endangered species including endemic species and large carnivores, in order to assess the current conservation status¹⁷ of these species in the Carpathians within the national territory of each Party, following the criteria laid down in Article 1 letter (g)¹⁸ of the Habitats Directive;
- c) Identify and assess current and potential future threats to the conservation status of the flora and fauna species native to the Carpathians, in particular endangered species including endemic species and large carnivores, within the national territory of each Party in the Carpathians;
- d) Prepare the proposal of the Carpathian Red List of Species based on compilation and analysis of scientific data and national inventories concerning endangered species, including endemic flora and fauna species native to the Carpathians,

¹⁶ With similar reservations as allowed by the Habitats Directive, Article 16: "1. Provided that there is no satisfactory alternative and the derogation is not detrimental to the maintenance of the populations of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range, Member States may derogate from the provisions of Articles 12, 13, 14 and 15 (a) and (b):

(a) in the interest of protecting wild fauna and flora and conserving natural habitats;

(b) to prevent serious damage, in particular to crops, livestock, forests, fisheries and water and other types of property;

(c) in the interests of public health and public safety, or for other imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment;

(d) for the purpose of research and education, of repopulating and re-introducing these species and for the breeding operations necessary for these purposes, including the artificial propagation of plants;

(e) to allow, under strictly supervised conditions, on a selective basis and to a limited extent, the taking or keeping of certain specimens of the species listed in Annex IV in limited numbers specified by the competent national authorities."

¹⁷ Habitats Directive, Article 11: "Member States shall undertake surveillance of the conservation status of the natural habitats and species referred to in Article 2 with particular regard to priority natural habitat types and priority species."

¹⁸ Habitats Directive, Article 1 letter (i): "conservation status of a species means the sum of the influences acting on the species concerned that may affect the long-term distribution and abundance of its populations within the territory referred to in Article 2; The conservation status will be taken as "favourable" when: population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis;"

and large carnivores¹⁹ and following internationally recognized principles and criteria²⁰, to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties, and revised every twelve years;

- e) Identify and utilise the common international expert networks as special regional mechanisms for consultations, information exchange²¹ and cooperation between the Parties.

Results expected

- a) Scientific data, national inventories and maps concerning flora and fauna species compiled, analysed and updated within the national territory of each Party;
- b) Threats concerning the flora and fauna species native to the Carpathians, in particular endangered species including endemic species and large carnivores reported;
- c) Carpathian Red List of Species elaborated;
- d) Relevant existing Clearing House Mechanisms further developed.

Action 3.2. Ensure the long-term conservation of species listed in the Carpathian Red List of Species

- a) Verify the current legal protection status of species listed in the Carpathian Red List of Species, following the relevant provisions of Articles 5²² and 6²³ of the Council Directive 79/409/EEC of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive and its amendments) and Articles 12²⁴ and 13²⁵ of the Habitats

¹⁹ e.g. by revision and updating of the "Carpathian List of Endangered Species" published by the Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative (Witkowski Z.J., Król W., Solarz W. (eds.) 2003. Carpathian List Of Endangered Species. WWF and Institute of Nature Conservation, Polish Academy of Sciences, Vienna-Krakow) and its adjustment accordingly to the geographical scope of Protocol's application

²⁰ E.g. IUCN Red List Criteria.

²¹ Habitats Directive, Article 18¹. Member States and the Commission shall encourage the necessary research and scientific work having regard to the objectives set out in Article 2 and the obligation referred to in Article 11. They shall exchange information for the purposes of proper coordination of research carried out at Member State and at Community level. 2. Particular attention shall be paid to scientific work necessary for the implementation of Articles 4 and 10, and transboundary cooperative research between Member States shall be encouraged."

²² Birds Directive, Article 5: "Without prejudice to Articles 7 and 9, Member States shall take the requisite measures to establish a general system of protection for all species of birds referred to in Article 1, prohibiting in particular: (a) deliberate killing or capture by any method; (b) deliberate destruction of, or damage to, their nests and eggs or removal of their nests; (c) taking their eggs in the wild and keeping these eggs even if empty; (d) deliberate disturbance of these birds particularly during the period of breeding and rearing, in so far as disturbance would be significant having regard to the objectives of this Directive; (e) keeping birds of species the hunting and capture of which is prohibited."

²³ Birds Directive, Article 6: "1. Without prejudice to the provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3, Member States shall prohibit, for all the bird species referred to in Article 1, the sale, transport for sale, keeping for sale and the offering for sale of live or dead birds and of any recognizable parts or derivatives of such birds."

²⁴ Habitats Directive, Article 12, points 1 and 2: "1. Member States shall take the requisite measures to establish a system of strict protection for the animal species listed in Annex IV (a) in their natural range, prohibiting: (a) all forms of deliberate capture or killing of specimens of these species in the wild; (b) deliberate disturbance of these species, particularly during the period of breeding, rearing, hibernation and migration; (c) deliberate destruction or taking of eggs from the wild; (d) deterioration or destruction of breeding sites or resting places. 2. For these species, Member States shall prohibit the keeping, transport and sale or exchange, and offering for sale or exchange, of specimens taken from the wild, except for those taken legally before this Directive is implemented."

²⁵ Habitats Directive, Article 13, point 1: "Member States shall take the requisite measures to establish a system of strict protection for the plant species listed in Annex IV (b), prohibiting: (a) the deliberate picking, collecting, cutting, uprooting or destruction of such plants in their natural range in the wild; (b) the keeping, transport and sale or

- Directive and, if need be, suggest adjustments within the national legislation of the concerned Party in order to ensure the same relevant legal conservation status of these species throughout the whole Carpathian region;
- b) Assess current and potential future threats to the conservation status of these species, taking into account their population number and dynamics, natural range, size and integrity of their natural habitat, mainstays and migratory routes, the legal conservation status of such areas, and foreseeable future threats to maintain their populations on a long-term basis, by ensuring their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution in the Carpathians within the national territory of each Party;
 - c) Evaluate the effectiveness and implementation of measures undertaken up to date in the Carpathians within the national territory of each Party with the objective to ensure the long-term conservation and recovery of species listed in the Carpathian Red List of Species;
 - d) Identify the target species from among species listed in the Carpathian Red List of Species which require special conservation measures, to be undertaken in the Carpathians within the national territory of the concerned Party;
 - e) Elaborate guidelines for special conservation measures to be undertaken, involving, if need be, appropriate management plans specifically designed for the particular species or sites, or integrated into other development plans, and appropriate statutory, administrative or contractual measures for species listed in the Carpathian Red List of Species, with the objective to ensure the long-term conservation and recovery of such species in the Carpathians within the national territory of the concerned Party;
 - f) Identify priorities for common actions and prepare proposals for common programs and projects aimed at long-term conservation, recovery and sustainable use of species of flora and fauna native to the Carpathians, in particular species listed in the Carpathian Red List of Species, in particular in border areas and transboundary protected areas;
 - g) Implement special conservation measures with the objective to ensure the long-term conservation or sustainable use and recovery of endangered species, including endemic species of flora and fauna and large carnivores native to the Carpathians, in particular species listed in the Carpathian Red List of Species, within the national territory of each Party.

Results expected

- a) List of target species elaborated;
- b) Guidelines for special conservation measures concerning the target species elaborated, priority actions identified;
- c) Implementation of special conservation measures at national, regional and local level taken by each Party;
- d) Inclusion of the foreseen activities in the agenda of the meetings of the expert networks, such as the Biodiversity Working Group;
- e) Relevant existing Clearing House Mechanisms further developed.

exchange and offering for sale or exchange of specimens of such species taken in the wild, except for those taken legally before this Directive is implemented.”

Action 3.3. Coordinate conservation measures concerning the species listed in the Carpathian Red List of Species in border areas

- a) Develop and implement, following the recommendations of the common expert networks, such as the Biodiversity Working Group, common bilateral or multilateral harmonised special conservation and if necessary recovery or reintroduction action plans for species listed in the Carpathian Red List of Species and their natural habitats, in particular when the natural habitat of the endangered species is located on both sides of the state border between the Parties;
- b) Develop and implement, following the recommendations of the expert networks, common bilateral or multilateral recovery or reintroduction projects concerning species of flora and fauna native to the Carpathians.

Results expected

- a) Above mentioned projects and action plans developed and implemented.

As partly already outlined in respective actions mentioned above, main contributions to the Habitats and Birds Directive and the European Red List of Species are expected; activities are also in line with European-wide initiatives on large carnivores (e.g. Guidelines for Large Carnivores in Europe²⁶), provisions of the Bern Convention²⁷ and goals of the PoWPA goals 1.1, 1.2. Further, these activities contribute to the CBD Work Programme on Mountains (action 1.2.2. to initiate specific activities to facilitate maintenance, protection and conservation of existing levels of endemic species) and bring major contributions to the European Environment Agency with respect to environment information and observation network (EIONET) and data and information exchange with existing global and European Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism, in particular the Carpathian Protected Areas Clearing House Mechanism. Through all these activities international, regional and local cooperation will be fostered, participatory approaches will pave the way to cooperate and therefore, helping to implement requirements of the Aarhus Convention²⁸.

²⁶ European Large Carnivore Initiative, (2007): Guidelines for Population Level Management Plans for Large Carnivores

²⁷ Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, 19.IX.1979 (Bern Convention)

²⁸ Aarhus Convention

Objective 4 - Continuity and connectivity of natural and semi-natural habitats; ecological network in the Carpathians; enhancing conservation and sustainable management inside and outside the protected areas

Pursuant to Articles 9 and 15 of the Protocol the Parties shall undertake:

Action 4.1. Identify areas to be included in an ecological network in the Carpathians

- a) Compile and analyse scientific data, national inventories and maps with the objective to identify and delineate mainstays and priority connecting corridors allowing dispersal and migration of species populations, particularly of large carnivores, and genetic exchange between such populations in the Carpathians within the national territory of each Party;
- b) Carry out the gap analysis of the current ecological networks, including protected area system ("green infrastructure"²⁹) in the Carpathians within the national territory of each Party with the focus on the continuity and connectivity of natural and semi-natural habitats in the Carpathians, with the objective to assess the level to which the current ecological networks, including protected area system ("green infrastructure") covers areas and habitats significant for biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians, in particular endangered natural and semi-natural habitat types listed in the Carpathian Red List of Habitats, mainstays, priority connecting corridors and migratory routes of species listed in the Carpathian Red List of Species;
- c) Elaborate feasibility studies and proposals for measures involving, if need be, appropriate management plans specifically designed for the sites or integrated into other development plans, and appropriate statutory, administrative or contractual measures for identified priority connecting corridors aimed at improving and ensuring continuity and connectivity of natural and semi-natural habitats in the Carpathians within the national territory of each Party, following provisions of Articles 3³⁰ and 10³¹ of the Habitats Directive;
- d) Assess the needs related to maintenance and management of the current protected area system within the national territory of each Party;
- e) Assess, if need be, in coordination and cooperation between the relevant institutions, regional and local authorities directly concerned, the feasibility of designation of new protected areas in the Carpathians in accordance with the legislation of the respective Party;

Facilitate consultations, coordination and cooperation between all relevant stakeholders, in particular regional and local authorities directly concerned, enhance conservation and sustainable management in the areas inside and

²⁹ For info see: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/info/pubs/docs/greeninfrastructure.pdf>

³⁰ Habitats Directive, Article 3, point 3: "Where they consider it necessary, Member States shall endeavour to improve the ecological coherence of Natura 2000 by maintaining, and where appropriate developing, features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora, as referred to in Article 10."

³¹ Habitats Directive, Article 10: "Member States shall endeavour, where they consider it necessary, in their land-use planning and development policies and, in particular, with a view to improving the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network, to encourage the management of features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora. Such features are those which, by virtue of their linear and continuous structure (such as rivers with their banks or the traditional systems for marking field boundaries) or their function as stepping stones (such as ponds or small woods), are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species."

outside of protected areas in the Carpathians within the national territory of each Party, in particular with the objective of improving and ensuring connectivity between existing protected areas and other areas and habitats significant for biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians, following the relevant provisions of the Birds Directive³² and the Habitats Directive³³;

- f) Apply, in cooperation with regional and local authorities directly concerned of each Party appropriate statutory, administrative or contractual measures within the national territory of each Party concerning implementation of nature conservation measures, with the objective of improving and ensuring connectivity between existing protected areas and other areas and habitats significant for biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians, in particular endangered natural and semi-natural habitat types listed in the Carpathian Red List of Habitats, priority connecting corridors, mainstays and migratory routes of species listed in the Carpathian Red List of Species located outside of protected areas and not planned to be designated as a protected area in accordance with the legislation of the respective Party;
- g) Exchange of information and experience, elaboration of guidelines on the possible harmonisation and coordination of measures and identification of priorities for common actions aimed at improving and ensuring continuity and connectivity of natural and semi-natural habitats to be undertaken in border areas in the Carpathians, in particular in transboundary protected areas.

Results expected

- a) Scientific data, national inventories and maps analysed, compiled and updated;
- b) Gap analysis of the protected area system in the Carpathians carried out, including assessment of the level to which the current protected area system covers areas and habitats significant for the biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians, in particular areas harbouring natural habitats of the Carpathians listed in the Carpathian Red List of Habitats;
- c) Areas to be included in an ecological network in the Carpathians identified;
- d) New protected areas based on the results of the gap analysis established, including transboundary protected areas where appropriate;
- e) Priority connecting corridors in border areas and natural habitats, key mainstays and migratory routes of species listed in the Carpathian Red List of Species identified and delineated;
- f) Methodology for the creation of the ecological network, based on existing similar experiences, developed;

³² e.g. Birds Directive, Article 4, point 4.: "In respect of the protection areas referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, Member States shall take appropriate steps to avoid pollution or deterioration of habitats or any disturbances affecting the birds, in so far as these would be significant having regard to the objectives of this Article. Outside these protection areas, Member States shall also strive to avoid pollution or deterioration of habitats"

³³ Habitats Directive, Article 3, point 3: "Where they consider it necessary, Member States shall endeavour to improve the ecological coherence of Natura 2000 by maintaining, and where appropriate developing, features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora, as referred to in Article 10."

Habitats Directive, Article 10: "Member States shall endeavour, where they consider it necessary, in their land-use planning and development policies and, in particular, with a view to improving the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network, to encourage the management of features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora. Such features are those which, by virtue of their linear and continuous structure (such as rivers with their banks or the traditional systems for marking field boundaries) or their function as stepping stones (such as ponds or small woods), are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species."

- g) Catalogue of measures including all the already existing measures of national and regional legislations developed, taking into account the results and experiences of ongoing projects;
- h) Tools of ecological connectivity developed, linking protected areas where necessary or beneficial;
- i) Pilot areas defined, defined measures applied, tested and adapted;
- j) Measures aimed at improving and ensuring continuity and connectivity of natural and semi-natural habitats harmonized and coordinated, to be undertaken in border areas in the Carpathians, in particular in transboundary protected areas;
- k) Priority common actions identified;
- l) Financial programmes to submit project proposals identified and project proposals prepared;
- m) Lessons learned on experience exchange and specific efforts to integrate protected areas into broader landscapes, as well as sector plans and strategies.

These actions under objective 4 are clearly supportive to the PoWPA goal 1.2 in integrating protected areas into broader landscapes and sectors so as to maintain ecological structure and function are well covered by foreseen activities and will lead to the target that by 2015, all protected areas and protected area systems are integrated into the wider landscape, and relevant sectors, by applying the ecosystem approach and taking into account ecological connectivity and the concept, where appropriate, of ecological networks. Also the CBD Work Programme on Mountains makes in two actions (1.2.4 and 2.1.7) a reference to ecological integrity and connectivity. Main contributions are also expected to the implementation of the NATURA 2000 network and the Bern Convention, therefore safeguarding Europe's most important habitats and species; and furthermore, to the European assessment process with respect to endangered and threatened species (European Red List). In planning and establishing ecological networks and corridors infrastructure has to be taken into account and there is the need to apply the EU Directives on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). In addition, such activities require the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders and are therefore contributing to the implementation of the Aarhus Convention.

Objective 5 - Prevention of introduction of invasive alien species and/or genetically modified organisms threatening ecosystems, habitats or species, their control or eradication

Pursuant to Article 13 of the Protocol the Parties shall undertake:

Action 5.1. Develop, taking into account Article 22 letter (b)³⁴ of the Habitats Directive their national policies and/or strategies targeted at the prevention of introduction or release of invasive alien species and/or genetically modified organisms which are likely to have adverse environmental impacts that could affect the biological diversity, ecosystems, habitats or species of the Carpathians in their national territory; or, if such policies and/or strategies are already in place - evaluate their effectiveness and implementation up to date

Results expected

- a) Above mentioned national policies and strategies developed and implemented.

Action 5.2.

- a) Assess current and potential future threats to the biological diversity, ecosystems, habitats or species of the Carpathians caused by introduction or release of invasive alien species and/or genetically modified organisms within the national territory of each Party;
- b) Support the evaluation of the effectiveness and implementation of measures with the objective to prevent introduction or release of invasive alien species and/or genetically modified organisms which are likely to have adverse environmental impacts that could affect the biological diversity, ecosystems, habitats or species of the Carpathians undertaken in the Carpathian region up to date;
- c) Support elaboration of guidelines on harmonisation and coordination of measures and identification of priorities for common action with the objective to prevent introduction or release of invasive alien species and/or genetically modified organisms and if need be, aiming at control or eradication of such species within the national territory of each Party.

Results expected

- a) Assessment on current and potential future threats carried out;
- b) Above mentioned guidelines elaborated and measures adopted at national, regional and local level.

These actions are supporting objective 5 of the EU Biodiversity Action Plan (to substantially reduce the impact on EU biodiversity of invasive alien species and alien

³⁴ Article 22 letter (b) of the Habitats Directive: "In implementing the provisions of this Directive, Member States shall: (b) ensure that the deliberate introduction into the wild of any species which is not native to their territory is regulated so as not to prejudice natural habitats within their natural range or the wild native fauna and flora and, if they consider it necessary, prohibit such introduction. The results of the assessment undertaken shall be forwarded to the committee for information;"

genotypes) and to the PoWPA goal 1.5 to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to protected areas. Additionally, it's in line with Article 22 (b) of the Habitats Directive and the Bern Convention as mentioned in Action 8.1 and with Action 1.1.4 of the CBD Work Programme on Mountains to develop strategies specific to mountains ecosystems to prevent the introduction of invasive alien species and, when they have been introduced, control and eradicate their negative impacts on mountain biological diversity.

Objective 6 - Supporting cooperation under the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas

Pursuant to Articles 7, 14 and 20 of the Protocol the Parties shall undertake:

Action 6.1. In each Party update the list of protected areas being part of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (further CNPA) for recognition by the Conference of the Parties

Results expected

- a) List of protected areas designated as members of the CNPA updated.

Action 6.2. Ensure that each Party provides designated CNPA National Focal Points with relevant work environment and allocates resources with the objective to facilitate the CNPA NFP task³⁵ to ensure cooperation in the management of protected areas within and between the Carpathian countries, facilitate communication with and among CNPA members in each Party, support participation in CNPA meetings organised in each Party, support participation of the CNPA NFPs in the work and meetings of the CNPA Steering Committee³⁶, and in CNPA Conferences

Results expected

- a) Identification of resources allocated;
- b) Organization of CNPA Steering Committee meetings and CNPA Conferences;
- c) Participation in CNPA Steering Committee meetings and in CNPA Conferences.

Action 6.3. Encourage the protected area administrations to take part in the cooperation within the CNPA, and to designate a communication Focal Point/contact person in each administration of protected areas being member of the CNPA with the objective to facilitate communication among CNPA members and the CNPA NFP in each Party

Results expected

- a) Communication Focal Point / contact person designated in each administration of a protected area being member of the CNPA.

Action 6.4. Support cooperation and coordination among CNPA members in each Party, by providing resources allowing involvement in cooperation under the CNPA, in particular participation of representatives of CNPA members in CNPA meetings organised in each Party, and in CNPA Conferences

³⁵ Decision COP1/4 para 12.: "The Conference of the Parties decides to establish the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas, constituting a thematic network of cooperation of mountain protected areas in the Carpathian region, and to designate one CNPA Focal Point in each Party to start up and encourage cooperation in the management of protected Areas within and between the Carpathian countries"

³⁶ Decision COP1/4 para 13.: "The Conference of the Parties decides to establish the CNPA Steering Committee composed of the CNPA Focal Points of each country"

Results expected

- a) Resources for the participation of representatives of CNPA members in CNPA meetings and in CNPA Conferences identified and provided.

Pursuant to Articles 14, 20 and 21 of the Protocol the Parties shall undertake:

Action 6.5. Update the terms of reference for the CNPA Steering Committee and for the CNPA Unit, for adoption by the Conference of the Parties.

Results expected

- a) Terms of Reference of the CNPA Steering Committee updated and adopted by the COP;
- b) Terms of Reference and internal rules of procedure for the CNPA Unit elaborated and adopted by the COP.

Action 6.6. Adopt the CNPA Medium Term Strategy and support implementation of the resulting CNPA Work Plans³⁷, with the objective to encourage and support cooperation of protected area administrations under the CNPA, in particular exchange of experience, skills, knowledge and data among network members under the thematic common working groups and common projects undertaken by this network

Results expected

- a) CNPA Medium Term Strategy adopted and implemented;
- b) CNPA Work Plans adopted and implemented.

Action 6.7. Involve CNPA members in the work on implementation of the other objectives of this Strategic Action Plan, also by including representatives of CNPA members

Results expected

- a) Participation of CNPA members in the common expert networks, such as the Biodiversity Working Group meetings ensured.

³⁷ Decision COP2/1 para 7. "The Conference of the Parties requests the interim Secretariat in cooperation with CNPA Steering Committee, with the support of the ALPARC and Task Force of Protected Areas of the Alpine Convention Secretariat and in collaboration with the other CNPA partners, to prepare a Work Plan and Medium Term Strategy for CNPA, and invites the Protected Areas Conference to consider and provide inputs to the documents"

Objective 7 - Development and implementation of management plans or conservation measures

Pursuant to Article 17 of the Protocol each Party shall undertake:

Action 7.1. Develop and implement management plans or conservation measures with the objective to ensure the long-term conservation, maintenance or restoration, continuity and connectivity, and sustainable use of natural and semi-natural habitats, restoration of degraded habitats as well as long-term conservation and sustainable use of species of flora and fauna native to the Carpathians, taking into account guidelines resulting from implementation of this Strategic Action Plan

Action 7.2. Assess the effectiveness of the implementation of management plans or conservation measures aiming at protection and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians

Results expected

- a) Above mentioned management plans and conservation measures developed and implemented.

Objective 7 is in line with the PoWPA goal 1.4 to substantially improve site-based protected area planning and management and with the EU Biodiversity Action Plan; the CBD Work Programme on Mountains mentions appropriate planning and management mechanisms are in a number of actions; it also fulfills requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directives, the Water Framework Directive, the Ramsar and the Bern Conventions.

Objective 8 - Consultation, harmonisation and coordination of measures undertaken in border areas

Pursuant to Articles 7, 16, and 20 of the Protocol the Parties shall undertake:

Action 8.1. Consult, harmonise and coordinate measures undertaken in border areas in the Carpathians within the national territories of the neighbouring Parties, and coordinate common actions, programs and projects jointly implemented by neighbouring Parties, in particular in transboundary protected areas, aimed at:

- a) Ensuring the long-term conservation, maintenance and sustainable use of natural and semi-natural habitats, in particular endangered natural and semi-natural habitat types listed in the Carpathian Red List of Habitats, and securing their continuity and connectivity and restoration of degraded habitats;
- b) Ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainable use of species of flora and fauna characteristic to the Carpathians, in particular conservation of endangered species listed in the Carpathian Red List of Species, and/or endemic species and large carnivores and reintroduction of threatened species;
- c) Supporting harmonization as well as development and implementation of management plans aiming at protection and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians, and achieving common standards for protection and sustainable use of habitats and species;
- d) Prevention of introduction or release and, if need be, control or eradication of invasive alien species or genetically modified organisms which might threaten ecosystems, habitats or species native to the Carpathians;
- e) Enhancing conservation and sustainable management of biological and landscape diversity in the areas outside of protected areas;
- f) Development and promotion of coordinated scientific research programs and projects.

Results expected

- a) Joint actions, programmes and projects implemented;
- b) Development of integrated and harmonized management plans supported;
- c) Inclusion of the above mentioned activities in the Agenda of the expert networks meetings.

Action 8.2. Encourage cooperative arrangements and agreements between administrations responsible for protected areas being parts of transboundary protected areas with their counterparts in the neighbouring Party, in particular on the harmonisation of their management objectives and measures applied

Results expected

- a) New cooperative arrangements established and the existing ones enhanced.

Action 8.3. Promote that regulations of each Party include allocation of the budgetary and other domestic resources for transboundary cooperation in protected areas, and support efforts of administrations responsible for protected areas towards

raising external funding³⁸ for common projects and programs which are conducive to achieving the objectives of this Strategic Action Plan to be jointly undertaken in transboundary protected areas in the Carpathians

Results expected

- a) Budgetary and other domestic resources identified and allocated;
- b) External funding identified and proposal for common projects prepared.

Action 8.4. Support common actions jointly undertaken by administrations responsible for protected areas, in particular in transboundary protected areas in the Carpathians with the objectives:

- a) To ensure the conservation of the endangered species listed in the Carpathian Red List of Species and, as may be necessary, recovery of those species and their natural habitats in transboundary protected areas in the Carpathians, where the natural habitat of the endangered species is located on both sides of the state border between the Parties;
- b) To improve and ensure continuity and connectivity of endangered natural and semi-natural habitat types listed in the Carpathian Red List of Habitats.

Results expected

- a) Joint actions among administrations responsible for protected areas in the Carpathians facilitated.

Action 8.5. Encourage the expansion of existing transboundary protected areas or creation of new transboundary protected areas in the Carpathians, by granting the legal protective status in accordance with the legislation of each respective Party to priority connecting corridors in border areas, based on the outcomes of the gap analysis of the current protected area system, and delineation of priority connecting corridors in border areas

Results expected

- a) Legislation and measures aimed at granting legal protective status to transboundary protected areas and to priority connecting corridors in border areas adopted.

These activities are contributing to the PoWPA's goal 1.3 in strengthening regional networks, specifically 1.3.1 to collaborate with other Parties and relevant partners to establish effective regional networks of protected areas, particularly in areas identified as common conservation priorities (e.g. large mountain systems, large remaining natural forest areas and critical habitat for endangered species), and establish multi-country coordination mechanisms as appropriate to support the establishment and effective long term management of such networks. The CBD Work Programme on Mountains outlines a specific goal related to border areas (Goal 2.3. to establish regional and transboundary collaboration and the establishment of cooperative agreements). Furthermore, activities are in line with the EU Biodiversity Action Plan and support the implementation of EU policies specifically related to institutional capacity building. The close cooperation with stakeholders supports the implementation of the Aarhus Convention and the Ramsar Convention.

³⁸ e.g. from the EU InterReg bilateral or multilateral Neighbourhood Programs

Objective 9 - Development of compatible monitoring systems and a joint information system

Pursuant to Articles 7, 18, 19 and 20 of the Protocol the Parties shall undertake:

Action 9.1. Cooperate with scientific and other relevant institutions on:

- a) Elaboration of guidelines on harmonisation of environmental monitoring programmes of the Parties in the Carpathians, in particular those concerning habitats and species native to the Carpathians, with the objective to ensure data comparability;
- b) Preparation of the proposals for common monitoring programs to be jointly undertaken in the Carpathians by the Parties, in particular those concerning endangered natural and semi-natural habitat types listed in the Carpathian Red List of Habitats and species listed in the Carpathian Red List of Species.

Results expected

- a) Above mentioned guidelines elaborated;
- b) A common monitoring programme established.

Action 9.2. Cooperate to develop a joint information system on the state of biological and landscape diversity in the Carpathians, based on the relevant existing Clearing House Mechanisms, including national results of the public research provided by the Parties and results of the common scientific programs and projects jointly undertaken in the Carpathians by the Parties

Results expected

- a) A joint biodiversity information system established.
- b) Relevant existing Clearing House Mechanisms further developed.

Three goals of the PoWPA are covered within these actions; goal 1.4 to substantially improve site-based protected area planning and management including monitoring programmes, goal 4.1 developing and adopting minimum standards and best practices for national and regional protected area systems (specifically contributing to action 4.1.2 to develop and implement an efficient, long-term monitoring system) and goal 4.3 assessing and monitoring protected area status and trends; the actions further contribute to the CBD Work Programme on Mountains – several actions under Goal 3.1 (to develop work on identification, monitoring and assessment of mountain biological diversity) are dealing with aspects related to monitoring and databases; its also supporting substantial areas of the EU Biodiversity Action Plan, contributing to the implementation of the Nature Protection Directives specifically related to species protection and research and providing information to the European assessment of 'Red List of Species'; major contributions to the European Environment Agency with respect to environment information and observation network

(EIONET) and data and information exchange with existing global and European Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism, in particular the Carpathian Protected Areas Clearing House Mechanism.

Objective 10 - Coordination of scientific research

Pursuant to Articles 19 and 20 of the Protocol the Parties shall undertake:

Action 10.1. Develop in each Party and continuously update a directory of scientific institutions and database of scientific research undertaken in its territory with regard to conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians; and cooperate on development and continuous updating of the common directory of such scientific institutions and common database of such scientific research

Results expected

- a) Scientific research common database and directory established and updated on the Convention web site.

Action 10.2. Cooperate with scientific and other relevant institutions on:

- a) Exchange of information and experience on methods for data collection, verification, processing and management aimed at development of inventories of species and habitats of the Carpathians;
- b) Development of the coordinated regional inventories of species and habitats of the Carpathians, combining outcomes of inventories already prescribed by this Strategic Action Plan;
- c) Elaborating suggestions on the possible harmonisation and coordination of scientific research projects and programmes with regard to conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians, as well as promotion of comparability and complementarity of research methods and related data-acquisition methods;
- d) Identification of priorities for common actions aimed at harmonisation and coordination of scientific research with regard to conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians;
- e) Identification of funding programmes and preparation of proposals for common scientific programs and projects perceived as conducive to achieving the objectives of the Protocol, other than those already included in this Strategic Action Plan, to be jointly undertaken in the Carpathians by the Parties;
- f) Exchange of information on strategies and policies of the Parties aiming at conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity in the Carpathians.

Results expected

- a) Research, scientific and technical cooperation at national, regional and international levels encouraged and improved, interdisciplinary research promoted;
- b) Funds to submit common scientific projects identified and projects prepared and developed.

Action 10.3. Encourage cooperative arrangements and/or agreements between scientific and other relevant institutions of the Parties and networks (e.g. Forum Carpathicum³⁹) with regard to conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians, in particular on the harmonisation of monitoring systems, the provision and harmonisation of databases, and undertaking common research programs and projects in the Carpathians, to be potentially supported from external funding sources⁴⁰

Results expected

- a) New cooperative agreements and arrangements established and existing ones enhanced.

Action 10.4. Cooperate on dissemination of scientific research results which are related to the objectives of this Strategic Action Plan, in particular of common scientific programs and projects jointly undertaken in the Carpathians by the Parties.

Results expected

- a) Workshops and Conferences organized, publications developed, results included in the Carpathian Convention and national websites;
- b) Effective coordination of research in supporting the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives specifically related to species protection and research and providing up-dated information to the European assessment of 'Red List of Species' and to relevant databases.

³⁹ For info see: <http://www.forumcarpathicum.org/>

⁴⁰ Habitats Directive, Article 18: "1. Member States and the Commission shall encourage the necessary research and scientific work having regard to the objectives set out in Article 2 and the obligation referred to in Article 11. They shall exchange information for the purposes of proper coordination of research carried out at Member State and at Community level. 2. Particular attention shall be paid to scientific work necessary for the implementation of Articles 4 and 10, and transboundary cooperative research between Member States shall be encouraged."

Objective 11- Ensuring implementation of the Strategic Action Plan

Action 11.1. The Parties shall take all the needed actions to ensure the implementation of the Protocol in cooperation with the relevant expert networks for the activities within the scope of their competences

Action 11.2. Appoint and delegate relevant experts to common expert networks conducive to achieving the objectives of this Strategic Action Plan, support and coordinate the work of these networks in order to ensure implementation of the provisions of this Strategic Action Plan.

Results expected

- a) Relevant experts appointed to the Biodiversity Working Group and other expert networks.

Action 11.3. The Parties shall submit to the Secretariat three months prior to each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties a three years report on activities aimed at implementing the Protocol and their effectiveness, on the basis of the format elaborated by the Biodiversity Working Group on the basis of the proposal of the Secretariat covering the description of measures mentioned in Objectives 2, 3, 4 and 5, especially:

- a) Current legal protection status of species listed in the Carpathian Red List of Species;
- b) Current and potential future threats to the conservation status of species listed in the Carpathian Red List of Species;
- c) Policies and strategies mentioned in Objective 5, Action 5.1.;
- d) Guidelines and measures mentioned in Objective 5, Action 5.2.

Results expected

- a) Three years report on activities aimed at implementing the Protocol and their effectiveness drafted and updated;
- b) Submission of the Report to the Secretariat;
- c) Report submitted and considered by the Conference of the Parties.

Objective 12 - Prevention of environmental damages

Pursuant to Article 22 of the Protocol the Parties shall undertake:

Action 12.1. Ensure the exchange of information on measures aimed at prevention of environmental damages or for compensation of inevitable negative impacts on the biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians, taking into account relevant provisions⁴¹ of the Habitats Directive, the Environmental Liability Directive⁴² and the Espoo Convention⁴³.

Results expected

- a) Cooperation networks meetings organised;
- b) Inclusion of the above mentioned activities in the Agenda of the Biodiversity Working Group.

⁴¹ Habitats Directive, Article 6, points 3 and 4: "3. Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.

4. If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, the Member State shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted. Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species, the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest."

⁴² Directive 2004/35/CE of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 on environmental liability with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage

⁴³ Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo, 1991)

Objective 13 - International cooperation

Pursuant to Article 7 of the Protocol the Parties shall undertake:

Action 13.1. Cooperate on establishing, maintenance and continuous updating of the common directory⁴⁴ of institutions and organisations, both national and international, active in their countries with regard to conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians, and encourage cooperative arrangements and agreements between such institutions and organisations domiciled in different Parties.

Results expected

- a) Common directory on the Convention web site established, maintained and regularly updated;
- b) New cooperative arrangements and agreements elaborated and adopted.

Action 13.2. Cooperate on facilitating international cooperation between regional and local authorities in the Carpathians, in particular in border areas and transboundary protected areas, also by encouraging conclusion and supporting common implementation of cooperative agreements between regional and local authorities, taking into account the European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities⁴⁵

Results expected

- a) New cooperative agreements between regional and local authorities adopted and common implementation of the existing ones ensured.

All actions are in line with the CBD requirements in promoting regional cooperation frameworks and contribute to the PoWPA goal 1.3, to establish and strengthen regional networks, transboundary protected areas and collaboration between neighbouring protected areas across national boundaries and to goal 3.2, to build capacity for the planning, establishment and management of protected areas. All relevant EU policy documents ask for improved cooperation (supporting measure no. 3 of the EU Biodiversity Action Plan: building partnerships for biodiversity; the revised Sustainable Development Strategy⁴⁶, etc.). These activities are also contributing to the PoWPA's goal 1.3 in strengthening regional networks and are in line with European initiatives, like the 'Strategy Towards Climate Change, Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity'⁴⁷, the IMPEL network⁴⁸, etc.). Also the CBD Work Programme on Mountains promotes cooperation, with an emphasis to integrated transboundary cooperation.

⁴⁴ for instance an online directory, using the Convention website, maintained and updated by the interim Secretariat

⁴⁵ Council of Europe, Madrid (1980) European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities, Strasbourg, Council of Europe, No 106. The Appendix to this Convention contains guidelines in the form of "Model and Outline Agreements, Statutes and Contracts on Transfrontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities"

⁴⁶ Council of the European Union, (2006): Renewed EU Sustainable Development

⁴⁷ EU Ad Hoc Expert Working Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change (2009): Towards a Strategy on Climate Change, Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity

⁴⁸ IMPEL

Objective 14 - Consideration of traditional knowledge and practices

Pursuant to Article 23 of the Protocol the Parties shall undertake:

Action 14.1. Facilitate consultations of the Biodiversity Working Group with the Working Group on cultural heritage and traditional knowledge as well as other experts networks, under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee, in order to ensure that the cultural heritage of the Carpathians, in particular the traditional land-use, landscape and land resource management practices, the use of local breeds of domestic animal and cultivated plant varieties are preserved

Results expected

- a) Participation of the expert networks in the Working Group on cultural heritage and traditional knowledge and vice-versa ensured;
- b) Regular contacts among these bodies and other expert networks ensured.

This objective is supporting the implementation of the World Heritage Convention⁴⁹ and the Ramsar Convention.

⁴⁹ UNESCO, (1972): Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention)

Objective 15 - Education, information and public awareness

Pursuant to Article 24 of the Protocol the Parties shall undertake:

Action 15.1. Undertake harmonised informative and educative campaigns for the public, regarding the objectives, measures and implementation of this Strategic Action Plan

Results expected

- a) Conferences and Workshops organized, publications drafted and published, trainings organised;
- b) Information related to the Protocol in the national web sites ensured;
- c) Information on Carpathian Convention included in educational curricula;
- d) Information on Carpathian Convention included in national awareness raising strategies.

Action 15.2. Ensure the access of the public to the information related to the implementation of this Protocol

Results expected

- a) Detailed communication plan elaborated.

The action covers the supporting measures no. 4 of the EU Biodiversity Action Plan (building public education, awareness and participation for biodiversity) and contributes to the PoWPA goal 3.5 and the related goal 3.5. of the CBD Work Programme on Mountains to strengthen communication, education and public awareness.

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

CBD	.....	Convention on Biological Diversity
CNPA	.....	Carpathian Network of Protected Areas
COP	.....	Conference of the Parties
CWI	.....	Carpathian Wetlands Initiative
EIA	.....	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIONET	.....	Environment Information and Observation Network
EU	.....	European Union
ISCC	.....	Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention
IUCN	.....	International Union for Conservation of Nature
NFP	.....	National Focal Point
PAs	.....	Protected Areas
PoWPA	.....	Programme of Work on Protected Areas
SEA	.....	Strategic Environmental Assessment

Relevant documents and web links

European Union

Council Directive 2009/147/EEC of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (**Birds Directive**)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index_en.htm

Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (**Habitats Directive**)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm

Council Directive 85/337/EEC of 27 June 1985 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (**Environmental Impact Assessment**)

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/eia-legalcontext.htm>

Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (**Strategic Environmental Assessment**)

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/sea-legalcontext.htm>

Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (**Water Framework Directive**)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html

Directive 2004/35/CE of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 on environmental liability with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage (**Environmental Liability Directive**)

<http://eurex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2004:143:0056:0075:EN:PDF>

European Commission, (2006): Communication from the Commission 'Halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010 – and beyond; Sustaining ecosystem services for human well-being', Brussels COM(2006) 216 final (**EU Biodiversity Action Plan**)

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/index_en.htm

European Commission, (2006): Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on an EU Forest Action Plan, Brussels COM(2006) 302 final

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/fore/action_plan/com_en.pdf

European Commission, (2008): The European Union's Biodiversity Action Plan 'Halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010 – and beyond', Brochure

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/info/pubs/docs/brochures/bio_brochure_en.pdf

EU Ad Hoc Expert Working Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change (2009): Towards a Strategy on Climate Change, Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity; Discussion paper

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/climatechange/>

Council of the European Union, (2006): Renewed EU Sustainable Development; DOC 10917/06

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eussd/>

European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL)

<http://impel.eu/>

Conventions

Council of Europe, (2000): The European Landscape Convention (**Florence Convention**)

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/landscape/default_en.asp

Council of Europe (1979): Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural habitats (**Bern Convention**)

<http://conventions.coe.int/treaty/en/Treaties/Html/104.htm>

UNECE, (1991): Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (**Espoo (EIA) Convention**)

<http://www.unece.org/env/eia/eia.htm>

Relevant declarations, resolutions, decisions and documents with regard to the UN (1992): Convention on Biological Diversity (**Biodiversity Convention**) and its Programme of Work (PoW) on Mountain Biodiversity and Protected Areas

<http://www.cbd.int/>

UNECE, (1998): Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (**Aarhus Convention**)

<http://www.unece.org/env/pp/>

UNESCO, (1972): Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (**World Heritage Convention**)

<http://whc.unesco.org/archive/convention-en.pdf>

UNEP, (2003): Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians

<http://www.carpathianconvention.org>

The Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) (**Ramsar Convention**)

<http://www.ramsar.org>

Databases

European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET)

<http://www.eionet.europa.eu/>

Database European Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism

<http://biodiversity-chm.eea.europa.eu/information/indicator/F1090245995>

Database European Red List, downloads of IUCN Red List Reports

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/redlist/>

Others

European Large Carnivore Initiative, (2007): Guidelines for Population Level Management Plans for Large Carnivores

http://www.lcie.org/Docs/LCIE%20IUCN/POP_%20draft_070507.pdf