



**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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**CARPATHIAN NETWORK OF PROTECTED AREAS (CNPA)
MEDIUM TERM STRATEGY**

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Introduction:

According to the Terms of Reference (ToRs), the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) constitutes a regional thematic network for cooperation of mountain protected areas in the Carpathians. The CNPA shall have the objective to contribute to the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians, and in particular to accomplishing the goals listed in Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention (CC), and supporting the work and activities of the Working Group of the CC on conservation of biological and landscape diversity.

The above provides the legal mandate for the CNPA and its member protected areas to contribute to and be involved in implementation of the first thematic Protocol to the Framework Convention - the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity (Bucharest, Romania, 19 June 2008), as well as any other relevant future Protocols to the Framework CC or any relevant international agreements, legal instruments and initiatives.

The CNPA shall contribute to the implementation of the CC in close cooperation with the bodies of the Convention, e.g. the Working Group on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity or the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CCIC). Moreover, the Network shall encourage cooperation between the Carpathian protected areas, designated as members of the CNPA, and with protected area networks of other regions.

In addition to CNPA's contribution to the implementation of the CC, all activities should further:

- contribute to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), specifically to the Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) and the CBD Work Programme on Mountains;
- should be in line with and should take use of relevant EU policies, regulations, strategies, initiatives and assessment processes (e.g. Habitats¹ and Birds Directives², EU Biodiversity Action Plan³, Strategy Towards Climate Change, Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity⁴, European Red List of Species, SEBI2010 – Streamlining European Biodiversity Indicators, etc.);
- in terms of data and information, activities should contribute to the European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET), which is under the responsibility of the European Environmental Agency (EEA) and relevant Clearing House Mechanisms.

¹ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive)

² Council Directive 79/409/EEC of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive)

³ 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

⁴ EU Ad Hoc Expert Working Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change (2009): Towards a Strategy on Climate Change, Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity; Discussion paper

Resulting from the CNPA ToRs, the objectives of the CNPA are as follows:

OBJECTIVE 1. Promotion of cooperation on protection, restoration of nature and sustainable use of natural resources, preservation and promotion of the cultural heritage of the Carpathians;

OBJECTIVE 2. Promotion of sustainable livelihoods and sustainable development of the Carpathians;

OBJECTIVE 3. Implementation of the relevant provisions of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity;

OBJECTIVE 4. Implementation of decisions and recommendations undertaken by the bodies established under the Carpathian Convention as well as of other applicable relevant international legal instruments.

The objectives are developed in detail indicating concrete deadlines and bodies involved:

OBJECTIVE 1 - Promotion of cooperation on protection, restoration of nature and sustainable use of natural resources, preservation and promotion of the cultural heritage of the Carpathians

Action 1.1. Institutional development and operational capacity building⁵

The activity contributes to the PoWPA goal 1.3: to establish and strengthen regional networks, transboundary protected areas (TBPAs) 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.

Results Expected

By 2012:

- a) Organisational structure of the network and its permanent arrangement designed and approved by COP3 (Third Conference of the Parties)⁶ (CNPA Steering Committee (CNPA SC), CCIC, Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention (ISCC));
- b) ToRs and internal rules of procedure for the CNPA SC, the CNPA Unit and the Protected Area Conferences elaborated and adopted (CNPA SC, CCIC, ISCC);
- c) CNPA, its mission⁷, goals and bodies officially recognized by the Governments, regional and local authorities, protected areas, national and international organisations and research institutions, and other stakeholders relevant for the natural and cultural heritage protection and promotion and for the sustainable development in the Carpathians (Contracting Parties (CPs), Protected Areas (PAs));
- d) All Parties adequately involved and providing support to the common activities of the CNPA, the CNPA SC and operations of the CNPA Unit (CPs);
- e) Feasible Medium Term Work Plan (MTWP) for the CNPA resulting from the developed Medium Term Strategy (MTS), to be periodically revised and updated (CNPA SC, ISCC, partners);
- f) Short term work plans (STWP) for the CNPA, and for the CNPA Unit developed (CNPA SC, ISCC, PAs, CNPA Unit);

⁵ For reasons of coherence and efficiency, the CNPA support structure will be integrated and made part and parcel of the structure servicing the Convention and its Protocols, through projects or otherwise

⁶ Decision COP2/1 para 6. "The Conference of the Parties takes note of the proposal for a permanent arrangement for the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) established under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CCIC) and submitted for further consideration and decision by COP3, and requests the CNPA Steering Committee to further discuss and elaborate that proposal taking into account results of the Protected Areas Conference to be held on 23-24 September 2008 (in Brasov, Romania)"

⁷ As formulated at the 2nd CNPA Partnership SC meeting in 2003 held in Smolenice, the Slovak Republic: "The CNPA mission is to contribute to the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians. The CNPA is a tool for the implementation of the Carpathian Convention, by enhancing the cooperation of Carpathian protected areas with each other and with other mountain regions of Europe. The CNPA is a network of protected areas promoting cooperation, representing the interests of Carpathian PAs to national and international authorities and organisations"

- g) Common database of Carpathian protected areas developed, continuously maintained, improved and updated, and common activities conducted under the CNPA (CNPA Unit, PAs);
- h) Protected Areas Conferences regularly organized (CNPA SC, CNPA Unit, PAs).

Action 1.2. Communication within the network

The communication is the principal priority of the network for a better cooperation between the protected areas, for a better coordination of common projects as well as for an intensive involvement of local population. The activity is in line with the CBD-PoWPA (goal 1.3), strongly supports measures of the EU Biodiversity Action Plan³ and helps to implement the Aarhus Convention⁸.

The main tasks include:

- developing effective means of internal communication within the CNPA, in order to facilitate communication and exchange of information and experience between CNPA Members;
- developing effective means of external communication of the CNPA with the general public, in order to promote the objectives of the CC and improve public access to information on the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians, promote the objectives of the CNPA and the idea of cooperation on protection, restoration of nature and sustainable use of natural and cultural resources as well as cultural heritage protection, sustainable livelihoods and sustainable development of the Carpathians, to promote the common vision and identity for the Carpathian protected areas, and raise environmental awareness.

Results Expected

By 2015:

- a) Each administration responsible for protected areas being members of the CNPA to have designated communication focal points / CNPA contact persons (PAs);
- b) Common CNPA public relations and communication strategy developed (CNPA SC, CNPA Unit, partners);
- c) Common design and graphical corporate identity of the CNPA and internal rules, related to e.g. the use of the CNPA official logo by the CNPA bodies and members, developed (CNPA SC, CNPA Unit);
- d) The rights and responsibilities related to the maintenance of the CNPA internet website by the CNPA Unit formally acquired (CNPA SC, CNPA Unit);
- e) CNPA internet website designed by the Alpine Network of Protected Areas (ALPARC) developed and improved, and its exchange platform continuously developed (CNPA Unit, partners);
- f) Format and organisational arrangements for the internal electronic CNPA newsletter / bulletin developed and the newsletter periodically distributed to the CNPA Members and partner organisations (CNPA Unit, partners);

⁸ UNECE (1998): Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)

- g) Common contact/address directories of the Carpathian PAs and other relevant partners for cooperation developed and regularly updated (PAs, CNPA Unit, partners);
- h) Effective products for the general public (books, brochures, exhibits, posters etc.) elaborated, raising the general awareness of the Carpathian nature protection (CNPA Unit, PAs, ISCC, partners).

Action 1.3. Common fundraising from external sources for activities of the network

External financing resources for the activities of the CNPA are necessary and should be raised through common fundraising from EU (European Union) funds and/or other funding mechanisms and programmes. Foreseen actions support the CBD-PoWPA goal 3.4 to ensure financial sustainability of protected areas and national and regional systems of protected areas and further contribute to European policies, e.g. the EU Action Plan to 2010 and beyond.

Results Expected

By 2012:

- a) Internal rules for the CNPA in place, related to conducting fundraising activities on behalf of the CNPA, describing responsibilities of the different CNPA bodies (CNPA SC, ISCC, CNPA Unit);
- b) The most urgent activities from the current work plan/s selected as common priorities for the CNPA Members, for which external co-funding is perceived indispensable (CNPA SC);
- c) Initial proposals for common programs and/or projects prepared, consulted and jointly submitted to the potential external funding sources (CNPA SC, CNPA Unit, ISCC, PAs).

Action 1.4. Exchange of information, experience, skills, knowledge and data among network members, including through the CNPA working groups

Goal 3.5 of the PoWPA to strengthen communication, education and public awareness and goal 4.4 ensuring that scientific knowledge contributes to the establishment and effectiveness of protected areas and protected area systems are covered through these CNPA actions; Articles 18 and 22 (c) under the Habitats Directive¹ on research and information exchange are also enclosed. With respect to data and information exchange planned activities will contribute to existing European and global databases, e.g. European Community Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism established under the European Environmental Agency, the World Database on Protected Areas, etc.

Results Expected

By 2015:

- a) Professional exchanges, trainings, seminars, workshops and conferences organized, with topics corresponding to the different protected areas management issues (CNPA Unit, ISCC, PAs, partners);
- b) Study tours and visits organized (CNPA Unit, ISCC, PAs);

- c) Joint scientific and research projects and programmes coordinated and facilitated, including the development of coordinated regional inventories of species and habitats of the Carpathians (CPs, PAs, CNPA Unit, ISCC, partners);
- d) Directory of scientific institutions and database of scientific research undertaken with regard to conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians and the associated cultural heritage and traditional knowledge developed and updated (CPs, PAs, CNPA Unit, partners);
- e) Compiled and analyzed scientific data, inventories and maps of habitats (natural, semi-natural and degraded habitats), of wild flora and fauna species populations and corridors and of monitoring results on the invasive species non-native to the Carpathians, and environmental impacts of their introduction or release in the Carpathian region available (CNPA Unit, PAs, partners);
- f) Monitoring systems aiming at comparability and complementarity of research and data-acquisition methods harmonized, databases harmonized and provided (CPs, CNPA Unit, partners);
- g) Work of the CNPA thematic working groups established, coordinated and facilitated (PAs, CNPA SC, CNPA Unit, ISCC, partners);
- h) Handbooks, guidelines published and virtual tools and information database platform available on the website (CNPA Unit, ISCC, partners);
- i) Priorities for common actions identified and proposals for common programs and/or projects on nature conservation and restoration issues developed in border areas, in particular in trans-boundary protected areas (CNPA Unit, PAs, partners);
- j) The Carpathian Countries Protected Areas Clearing House Mechanism (CCPACHM) used and operated as part of the CNPA work programme (CPs, PAs, CNPA Unit, partners);
- k) Development, testing, review and promotion of best practices on planning and management, governance and participation supported (CPs, PAs, CNPA Unit, partners).

Action 1.5. Support for the activities of common thematic working groups under the CCIC and for common communication actions and cooperation with other bodies and mountain areas established

The CNPA will further benefit from the appropriate established network of institutions created under the CC umbrella which brings together national authorities, international organizations and conventions, non-governmental organisations and other observers. The cooperation with and consultation of local communities within the protected areas and their surrounding regions will be strengthened in order to involve them in the decision processes.

These activities are 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'⁴ and the EU Biodiversity Action Plan³. Close cooperation with the stakeholders supports the implementation of the Aarhus Convention⁸ in providing access to information, public participation and decision-making and further contributes to the CBD Work Programme on Mountains.

Results Expected

By 2012:

- a) Outcomes of a survey conducted by ALPARC in 2003 on possible topics for the CNPA common thematic working groups verified/updated by repeated survey indicating current interests of the CNPA Members (PAs, CNPA Unit, ISCC, partners);
- b) Activities of (and possible involvement in) the common thematic working groups established and supported under the CCIC and exchange of experience, skills, knowledge and data (PAs, CNPA Unit, ISCC, partners, CPs) facilitated;
- c) Additional linkages established in the framework of European initiatives, such as NATURA 2000 and Emerald Network / PEBLDS and Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI), where also the Carpathian protected areas are strongly involved (PAs, CNPA Unit, CNPA SC, ISCC, partners);
- d) Cooperation with the ALPARC maintained and strengthened (PAs, CNPA SC, CNPA Unit, ISCC, partners);
- e) External cooperation with other neighbouring mountain regions (the Balkans and the Caucasus) developed and sharing experience on nature protection in other mountain areas facilitated (PAs, CNPA Unit, CNPA SC, ISCC, partners);
- f) Continuous collaboration with international and Carpathian Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) (e.g. the WWF-DCP, IUCN, CERI - Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative) and with other international organisations and institutions supported and strengthened (PAs, CNPA SC, CNPA Unit, ISCC, partners);
- g) Cooperation for climate change mitigation and for integration of the adaptation measures in the protected areas planning and management strategies (PAs, CNPA SC, CNPA Unit, ISCC, partners, CPs) established.

Action 1.6. Making recommendations on expansion of the existing and/or creation of new protected areas and creation of ecological networks

The creation of a spatial network should be achieved through the creation of an ecological network of protected areas beyond their borders and biotope connections. The CNPA shall cooperate with the leading bodies of running projects in order to include within these plans also the protected areas, which are key territories for the biological diversity. Besides the ecological continuum within the Carpathian range, a connection between the Alps and the Carpathians is necessary to allow the natural migration between the two mountain ranges. The ecological network must contribute to the implementation of the CC in the field of nature protection and of the ecological processes. By allowing the migration of species to other bioclimatic zones or levels, the ecological continuum, bases of which will be established by the pilot areas, will contribute to the mitigation/prevention of impacts of global climate change.

Goal 1.1 of PoWPA to establish and strengthen national and regional systems of protected areas and 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. Main contributions are expected to the implementation of the NATURA 2000 network under the Habitats¹ and Birds Directives² and therefore safeguarding Europe's most important habitats and species; and furthermore, to the European Assessment Process with respect to endangered and threatened species

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(European Red List). In planning and establishing new protected areas there is a relation to the EU Directives on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)⁹ and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)¹⁰.

Results Expected

By 2015:

- a) 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; 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 (CNPA Unit, CPs, PAs, partners, ISCC);
- b) Establishment of new protected areas based on the results of the gap analysis, including transboundary protected areas where appropriate (CNPA Unit, PAs, partners);
- c) Methodology for the creation of the ecological network developed, based on existing similar experiences (CNPA Unit, PAs, partners);
- d) 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 (CNPA Unit, PAs, partners);
- e) Tools of ecological connectivity developed, linking protected areas where necessary or beneficial (CNPA Unit, PAs, partners);
- f) Pilot areas defined, defined measures applied, tested and adapted (CNPA Unit, PAs, partners);
- g) 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 trans-boundary protected areas (CNPA Unit, PAs, partners);
- h) Priorities for common actions identified and proposals for common programs and projects prepared (CNPA Unit, PAs, partners);
- i) Lessons learned on experience exchange and specific efforts to integrate protected areas into broader landscapes, as well as sector plans and strategies (CNPA Unit, PAs, partners).

⁹ 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)

¹⁰ 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)

OBJECTIVE 2 - Promotion of sustainable livelihoods and sustainable development of the Carpathians

Action 2.1. Promoting protected areas as model for sustainable development and trans-boundary cooperation

The action supports two PoWPA goals (1.2 and 1.3, see above) and is generally in line with the European Sustainable Development Strategy¹¹ and with the provisions of the Nature Protection Directives. It covers the supporting measures 4 of the EU Biodiversity Action Plan (Building public education, awareness and participation for biodiversity). It also makes contributions to global conventions, like the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage¹² and the Aarhus Convention.

Results Expected

By 2012:

- a) Core themes for education, awareness and communication programs relevant to protected areas identified (PAs, CNPA SC, CNPA Unit, partners);
- b) Strategies and programs of education and public awareness on the importance of protected areas in terms of their role in biodiversity conservation, cultural heritage and traditional knowledge and sustainable socio-economic development promoted and encouraged (PAs, CNPA SC, CNPA Unit, partners);
- c) Information mechanisms directed at target groups, such as the private sector, policy makers, development institutions, community-based organizations, the media and the general public promoted and encouraged (PAs, CNPA SC, CNPA Unit, partners).

Action 2.2. Fostering participatory processes

Through promoting equity and benefit-sharing, enhancing and securing involvement of indigenous/local communities and relevant stakeholders activities under this action are implementing the goal 2.1 and 2.2 of the PoWPA. In addition, requirements outlined in the Aarhus Convention are fulfilled.

Results Expected

By 2012

Participatory process involving local communities and relevant stakeholders as part of site-based planning, in accordance with ecological, cultural and socio-economic data required to develop effective planning processes (CPs, PAs, CNPA Unit, partners).

¹¹ Council of the European Union (2006): Renewed EU Sustainable Development; DOC 10917/06

¹² UNESCO (1972): Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage

OBJECTIVE 3. Implementation of the relevant provisions of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity

In order to implement the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity the Parties should establish a number of different consultative and coordinative bodies, as well as expert/scientific teams, both in-country and common (international) ones. The work of international bodies and teams undertaken under the auspices of the CC would most probably be co-financed from the Convention budget. The CNPA and its member protected areas should contribute to the work of such bodies and expert teams.

Action 3.1. Article 8: Conservation, maintenance, restoration and sustainable use of natural and semi-natural habitats

Requirements outlined in European legislation and guidance of policy documents are taken into account (e.g. Habitats¹ and Birds Directives², EU Biodiversity Action Plan, partially the Water Framework Directive¹³, it impacts on adjacent river basins and the relevant guidance papers, forest measures under the rural development policies, the draft EU Forest Strategy and Action Plan¹⁴, the European Landscape Convention¹⁵, in some cases the Common Agricultural Policy, etc.). Other European initiatives are also profiting like the assessment process of 'Red List Species', or activities related to ecosystem services and climate change. Furthermore, contributions are made to three goals of the PoWPA (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).

Results Expected

By 2015:

- a) Input of the CNPA Members into elaboration of proposal of the list of endangered natural and semi-natural habitat types native to the Carpathians (Carpathian Red List of Habitats)¹⁶ provided, taking into account the uneven distribution of such habitats throughout the Carpathian region (CNPA SC, CNPA Unit, PAs, ISCC, partners);
- b) Input of the CNPA Members to evaluation of the effectiveness and implementation of measures undertaken in the Carpathian region provided (CNPA SC, CNPA Unit, PAs, ISCC, partners);

¹³ 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)

¹⁴ 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

¹⁵ Council of Europe, (2000): The European Landscape Convention

¹⁶ Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity, Art. 8. para 1: "The Conference of the Parties shall adopt a list of endangered natural and semi-natural habitat types native to the Carpathians (Carpathian Red List of Habitats)." 12

- c) Harmonized and coordinated measures set in place aimed at long-term protection, maintenance, restoration and sustainable use of natural and semi-natural habitats to be undertaken in border areas in the Carpathians, in particular in trans-boundary protected areas; priorities for common actions identified and proposal for common programs and/or projects developed (CNPA SC, CNPA Unit, PAs, ISCC, partners);
- d) Economic opportunities and markets identified at local, national and international levels for goods and services produced by protected areas and/or reliant on the ecosystem services that protected areas provide (CNPA SC, ISCC, PAs, CPs, partners);
- e) Input of the CNPA Members for the inventory and promotion of traditional knowledge, cultural and spiritual aspects, related to the sustainable use of natural and semi-natural habitats, for the support of the nature conservation efforts (PAs).

Action 3.2. Article 11: Conservation and sustainable use of species of flora and fauna. Article 12: Conservation of endangered species including endemic species, and large carnivores of the Carpathians

Like in the previous action, main contributions to the Habitats¹ and Birds Directive² 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 Population Level Management Plans for Large Carnivores in Europe) and goals of the PoWPA (goals 1.1, 1.2).

Results Expected

By 2015:

- a) Input of the CNPA Members to the elaboration of the list of endangered or endemic flora and fauna species native to the Carpathians (Carpathian Red List of Species), following similar criteria as laid down in Article 1 letter (g) of the Habitats Directive (CPs, CNPA SC, partners) provided;
- b) Contribution of the CNPA Members to the evaluation of the current legal protection status of species listed in the Carpathian Red List of Species, in line with relevant provisions of Articles 5 and 6 of the Council Directive 79/409/EEC of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive) and Articles 12 and 13 of the Habitats Directive (CPs, CNPA SC, partners) provided;
- c) Contribution of the CNPA Members to the up-to-date evaluation of the effectiveness of the implementation of measures undertaken in the Carpathian region, to ensure the long-term protection and sustainable use of species of flora and fauna native to the Carpathians (CPs, PAs, CNPA SC, partners) provided;
- d) Inputs of CNPA Members provided for the assessment of the 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, key 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 (CPs, PAs, CNPA SC, partners);
- e) Target species requiring special conservation measures concerning particular species and/or its habitat identified (CPs, PAs, CNPA SC, partners);

- f) Activities aiming at reintroduction of native species of fauna and flora coordinated (CPs, PAs, CNPA SC, partners);
- g) Input of the CNPA Members provided into elaboration of the Guidelines for special protection and conservation measures involving, if needed, appropriate management plans specifically designed for the particular species and/or sites or integrated into other development plans, and appropriate statutory, administrative or contractual measures elaborated for identified target species, with the objective to ensure the long-term protection and/or recovery of such target species (CPs, PAs, CNPA SC, partners);
- h) Measures aimed at long-term protection and sustainable use of species of flora and fauna native to the Carpathians harmonized and coordinated, in particular concerning target species identified by particular CPs, to be undertaken in border areas in the Carpathians, in particular in trans-boundary protected areas; by including natural habitats, key mainstays and migratory routes of these species in the proposed trans-frontier Carpathian Ecological Network; priorities for common actions identified and proposals for common programs and/or projects prepared (CPs, PAs, CNPA SC, CNPA Unit, partners);
- i) Bilateral or multilateral harmonised protection and conservation measures, and, if necessary, recovery action plans for species listed in the Carpathian Red List of Species and their natural habitats developed and implemented, especially when the natural habitat of the endangered species is located on either side of the state borders between the Contracting Parties (CPs, PAs, CNPA SC, CNPA Unit, partners);
- j) Input of the CNPA Members for inventory and promotion of traditional knowledge, cultural and spiritual aspects related to the sustainable use of species of flora and fauna, for the support of the nature conservation efforts (PAs).

Action 3.3. Article 13: Prevention of the introduction of invasive alien species and/or genetically modified organisms threatening ecosystems, habitats or species, their control or eradication

The action is supporting the objective 5 of the EU Biodiversity Action Plan (to substantially reduce the impact on EU biodiversity of invasive alien species and alien genotypes) and the Council conclusions of June 2009¹⁷, and the PoWPA goal 1.5, to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to protected areas. Additionally, it is in line with Article 22 (b) of the Habitats Directive¹.

Results Expected

By 2015:

- a) Input of the CNPA Members into the assessment of current and potential future threats to the biological diversity, ecosystems, habitats or species of the Carpathians caused by introduction or release of invasive species non-native to the Carpathians provided (CPs, PAs, CNPA Unit, partners);
- b) Inputs of the CNPA Members into the evaluation of the effectiveness and implementation of measures undertaken in the Carpathian region up to date provided (CPs, PAs, CNPA Unit, partners);

¹⁷ A mid-term assessment of implementing the EU Biodiversity Action Plan and Towards and EU Strategy on Invasive Alien Species – Council conclusions (11412/09 of 25 June 2009) 14

- c) Priorities for common actions identified and proposals for common programs and projects prepared (CPs, PAs, CNPA SC, CNPA Unit, partners);
- d) Harmonized and coordinated measures taken in border areas in the Carpathians, in particular in trans-boundary protected areas (CPs, PAs, CNPA SC, CNPA Unit, partners).

Action 3.4. Article 18: Compatible monitoring and information systems. Article 19: Coordinated scientific research and exchange of information

Two relevant goals of the PoWPA are covered within this action; goal 4.1 developing and adopting minimum standards and best practices for national and regional protected area systems and goal 4.3 assessing and monitoring protected area status and trends; it is also supporting substantial areas of the EU Biodiversity Action Plan³, 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.

Results Expected

By 2015:

- a) Environmental monitoring systems in the Carpathians harmonized, in particular those concerning habitats and species native to the Carpathians, with the objective to ensure data comparability, common monitoring programs prepared to be jointly undertaken in the Carpathians by the Contracting Parties, especially those concerning habitats listed in the Carpathian Red List of Habitats and species listed in the Carpathian Red List of Species (CPs, PAs, CNPA Unit, partners);
- b) Joint information system on the state of biological and landscape diversity in the Carpathians developed, including information on national results of the public research and results of the common scientific programs and projects jointly undertaken in the Carpathians (CPs, PAs, CNPA Unit, partners);
- c) Research, scientific and technical cooperation related to protected areas at national, regional and international levels encouraged and improved, interdisciplinary research promoted, to improve the understanding of the ecological, cultural, social and economic aspects of protected areas (CPs, PAs, CNPA Unit, partners);
- d) Dissemination of scientific information from and on protected areas promoted through a clearing-house mechanism (CPs, PAs, CNPA Unit, partners);
- e) Working partnerships with appropriate organizations and research institutions developed and strengthened, leading to an improved understanding of biodiversity in protected areas (CPs, PAs, CNPA Unit, partners);

OBJECTIVE 4. Implementation of decisions and recommendations undertaken by the bodies established under the Carpathian Convention as well as of other applicable relevant international legal instruments

Action 4.1. Preparing reports, opinions and recommendations for the CCIC for further submission to the Conference of the Parties and the relevant bodies established under the Carpathian Convention

The action supports goal 1.1 of the PoWPA in strengthen national and regional systems of protected areas.

Results Expected

By 2015:

CCIC regularly informed on results of the CNPA work (CNPA SC, CNPA Unit, ISCC).

Action 4.2. Liaising and cooperating with other bodies established under the Carpathian Convention as well as with other relevant international, regional and national organizations under the guidance of the CNPA Steering Committee and coordination of the CCIC, thus building upon the vast experience and knowledge available

Through strengthening regional networks, transboundary protected areas (TBPAs) and collaboration between neighbouring protected areas across national boundaries it contributes to the goal 1.3 of the PoWPA and supports the implementation of EU policies specifically related to institutional capacity building.

Results Expected

By 2015:

- a) Developed means for, and if needed concluded agreements on establishing and maintaining official working contacts with bodies established under the CC, the ISCC, and organisations supporting the activities of the CNPA (CNPA SC, CNPA Unit, ISCC, partners);
- b) Common interest of protected areas being members of the CNPA represented at meetings held within the framework of the CC, as well as to national and international authorities (e.g. the European Commission), organisations and institutions (CNPA SC, CNPA Unit, ISCC, PAs).

List of Acronyms

ALPARC	Alpine Network of Protected Areas
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CC	Carpathian Convention
CCIC	Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee
CCPACHM	Carpathian Countries Protected Areas Clearing House Mechanism
CNPA	Carpathian Network of Protected Areas
COP	Conference of the Parties
CPs	Contracting Parties
CWI	Carpathian Wetlands Initiative
EEA	European Environmental Agency
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIONET	Environment Information and Observation Network
EU	European Union
ISCC	Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention
MTS	Medium Term Strategy
MTWP	Medium Term Work Plan
PAs	Protected Areas
PoWPA	Programme of Work on Protected Areas
SC	Steering Committee
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEBI	Streamlining European Biodiversity Indicators
STWP.....	Short Term Work Plan
TBPAs.....	Transboundary Protected Areas
TORs	Terms of Reference
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

ANNEX:

Relevant Documents and Web Links

EU Documents

Council Directive 79/409/EEC of 2 April 1979 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

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 (**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 (2009): A mid-term assessment of implementing the EU Biodiversity Action Plan and Towards an EU Strategy on Invasive Alien Species – Council conclusions; 11412/09

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/pdf/council_concl_0609.pdf

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

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

Conventions

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

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

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

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

UNEP (1992): The Convention on Biological Diversity

<http://www.cbd.int>

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

<http://www.carpathianconvention.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

The Delos Initiative (2004)

<http://www.med-ina.org/delos/index.htm>