

[Draft 1]

## **Strategic Action Plan**

### **for implementation of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians**

Pursuant to Article 22 and Article 23 point 4 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 (22 May 2003, Kyiv, Ukraine; hereinafter referred to as “the Framework Convention”),

in order to ensure implementation of the provisions of this Protocol the Contracting Parties to the Protocol adopt the following Strategic Action Plan for 2008(9) - 2013(14)<sup>1</sup> as follows:

Beginning from the year 2008(9) until 2013(14) the Contracting Parties shall undertake the following actions:

#### **Objective 1. Harmonisation of policies and strategies**

Pursuant to Article 2 of the Protocol the Parties shall:

**Action 1.1.** Develop their national policies and/or strategies targeted at the Carpathians, aiming at conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity 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. *[Timeframe – TBD]*

**Action 1.2.** Establish a special regional mechanism<sup>2</sup> for consultations between the Contracting Parties, to be tasked with carrying out analysis, comparison and elaborating suggestions and/or guidelines on the possible harmonisation of national policies and/or strategies targeted at the Carpathians, either those being developed or those already implemented by the Contracting Parties. *[Timeframe – TBD]*

#### **Objective 2. Integration into other sectoral policies**

Pursuant to Article 3 of the Protocol the Parties shall:

**Action 2.1.** Establish a special in-country consultation mechanism/platform<sup>3</sup> to facilitate communication and ensure that the objectives of the Biodiversity Protocol are duly taken into account in their other national policies, in particular those on spatial planning and land resources management, water and river basin management, agriculture and forestry, transport and infrastructure, tourism, industry and energy. *[proposed timeframe for establishment - 1 year]*

**Action 2.2.** Communicate the objectives of the Protocol to their Representatives to international bodies (e.g. the United Nations, the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of Europe) responsible for development and/or revision of sectoral policies and strategies adopted at the regional (e.g. the European Union) and/or the global scale, or those capable to influence such policies and strategies. *[proposed timeframe – 1 year]*

#### **Objective 3. Participation of regional and local authorities**

Pursuant to Article 4 of the Protocol the Parties shall:

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<sup>1</sup> editorial note: depending on the date of adoption

<sup>2</sup> e.g. common international expert network “Carpathian Policy Task Force”

<sup>3</sup> involving e.g. national representatives to the Carpathian Policy Task Force, experts designated to different thematic Working Groups under the Convention, and specialists from Ministries concerned

**Action 3.1.** Design and establish a mechanism for consultations, coordination and cooperation between the institutions and regional and local authorities directly concerned of each Contracting Party, to facilitate their involvement in preparation and implementation of national policies of each Contracting Party for conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians, and the resulting measures. *[Timeframe – TBD]*

#### **Objective 4. International cooperation**

Pursuant to Article 5 of the Protocol the Parties shall:

**Action 4.1.** Cooperate on establishing and continuous maintenance of the common directory 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/or agreements between such institutions and organisations, in particular between institutions and organisations having the same or similar mission, domiciled in different Contracting Parties. *[Timeframe – unlimited, continuous action]*

**Action 4.2.** Cooperate on removing obstacles to international cooperation between local authorities in the Carpathians, in particular in border areas and transboundary protected areas, also by encouraging signing and implementation of cooperative agreements, as envisaged in the European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities<sup>4</sup> of 21 May 1980 (Madrid, Spain). *[Timeframe – unlimited, continuous action]*

#### **Objective 5. Protection, maintenance, restoration and sustainable use of natural and semi-natural habitats**

Pursuant to Article 8 of the Protocol the Parties shall:

##### **Action 5.1.**<sup>5</sup>

- a) Compile and analyse scientific data, national inventories and maps of habitats (natural, semi-natural, and degraded habitats) in the Carpathians within the national territory of each Contracting Party;
- b) Evaluate the effectiveness and implementation of measures undertaken up to date with the objective to ensure the long-term protection, maintenance, restoration and sustainable use of natural and semi-natural habitats, in order to assess the current conservation status<sup>6</sup> of these habitats in the Carpathians within the national territory of each Contracting Party, following criteria laid down in Article 1 letter (e)<sup>7</sup> of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive);
- c) Identify and assess current and potential future threats to the favourable conservative status of the natural and semi-natural habitats in the Carpathians within the national territory of each Contracting Party;
- d) Elaborate guidelines for special protection and conservation measures to be undertaken, if need be, with the objective to ensure the long-term protection, maintenance, restoration and sustainable use of natural and semi-natural habitats in the Carpathians within the national territory of each Contracting Party.

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<sup>4</sup> Council of Europe (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".

<sup>5</sup> e.g. by establishing a national group of experts on habitats, to cooperate with the national group of experts on flora and fauna species

<sup>6</sup> Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, 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."

<sup>7</sup> Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, Article 1 (e): "conservation status of a natural habitat means the sum of the influences acting on a natural habitat and its typical species that may affect its long-term natural distribution, structure and functions as well as the long-term survival of its typical species within the territory referred to in Article 2. The conservative status of a natural habitat will be taken as "favourable" when its natural range and areas it covers within that range are stable or increasing, and the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable as defined in (i);"

*[Timeframe – TBD]*

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

**Action 5.2.** Establish and support the work of the common international expert network “Carpathian Habitats Task Force” as a special regional mechanism for consultations, information exchange<sup>8</sup> and cooperation between the Contracting Parties, to cooperate with the Carpathian Species Task Force, and to be tasked under this action with:

- a) exchange of information and experience on methods for ensuring the long-term protection and sustainable use of natural habitats; maintenance, restoration and sustainable use of semi-natural habitats;
- b) compilation and analysis of scientific data, inventories and maps of habitats (natural, semi-natural and degraded habitats) in the Carpathians;
- c) elaboration of the proposal of the list of the priority/target natural habitats of the Carpathians (Carpathian List of Endangered Natural Habitats), including in particular natural habitats 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, following similar criteria as laid down in Annex III to the Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive), adopted to the Carpathian region and taking into account the uneven distribution of such habitats throughout the Carpathian region, to be adopted by the Contracting Parties, and revised every ten years;
- d) evaluation of the effectiveness and implementation of measures undertaken in the Carpathian region up to date with the objective to ensure the long-term protection and sustainable use of natural and semi-natural habitats in the Carpathians, in particular concerning those listed in the list of the priority/target natural habitats of the Carpathians (Carpathian List of Endangered Natural Habitats);
- e) elaborating suggestions/guidelines on the possible harmonisation and coordination of measures aimed at long-term protection, maintenance, restoration and sustainable use of natural and semi-natural habitats, to be undertaken in the Carpathians, in particular in border areas and transboundary protected areas;
- f) identification of priorities for common actions aimed at long-term protection, maintenance, restoration and sustainable use of natural and semi-natural habitats, to be undertaken in the Carpathians, in particular in border areas and transboundary protected areas;
- g) preparation of the proposal for common programs and/or projects on long-term protection and sustainable use of natural habitats; maintenance or restoration, and sustainable use of semi-natural habitats to be jointly undertaken in the Carpathians by the Contracting Parties.

*[Timeframe – TBD]*

### **Objective 6. Ensuring continuity and connectivity of natural and semi-natural habitats**

Pursuant to Article 9 of the Protocol the Parties shall:

#### **Action 6.1.**

- a) Carry out the gap analysis in current protected area system in the Carpathians within the national territory of each Contracting Party;
- b) Identify and delineate priority connecting corridors, to allow dispersal and migration of wild species populations, and genetic exchange between such populations in the Carpathians within the national territory of each Contracting Party;
- c) Elaborate feasibility studies and proposals for measures involving, if need be, appropriate

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<sup>8</sup> Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, 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."

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 Contracting Party, in line with provisions of Articles 3<sup>9</sup> and 10<sup>10</sup> of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive). *[Timeframe – TBD]*

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

**Action 6.2.** Support the work of the Carpathian Habitats Task Force on:

- a) exchange of information and experience on methods for improving and ensuring continuity and connectivity of natural and semi-natural habitats;
- b) carrying out gap analysis in current protected area system in the Carpathians and identification and delineation of priority connecting corridors in border areas, and in particular in transboundary protected areas in the Carpathians, to allow dispersal and migration of wild species populations, and genetic exchange between such populations in the Carpathians across the state borders of respective neighbouring Contracting Parties;
- c) elaborating suggestions/guidelines on the possible harmonisation and coordination of measures 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;
- d) identification of priorities for common actions aimed at improving and ensuring continuity and connectivity of natural and semi-natural habitats, to be undertaken in the Carpathians, in particular in border areas and transboundary protected areas;
- e) preparation of the proposal for common programs and/or projects on improving and ensuring continuity and connectivity of natural and semi-natural habitats to be jointly undertaken in the Carpathians by the Contracting Parties.

*[Timeframe – TBD]*

### **Objective 7. Restoration of degraded habitats**

Pursuant to Article 10 of the Protocol the Parties shall:

#### **Action 7.1.**

- a) Identify<sup>11</sup> degraded habitats in the Carpathians within the national territory of each Contracting 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 Contracting Party with the objective to eliminate reasons 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 sites or integrated into other development plans, and appropriate statutory, administrative or contractual measures for identified habitats to be restored in the Carpathians within the national territory of each Contracting Party;

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<sup>9</sup> Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, 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.”

<sup>10</sup> Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, 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.”

<sup>11</sup> basing on outcomes of Action 5.1. a) and Action 6.1.

- d) Evaluate the effectiveness of measures undertaken in habitats in the Carpathians identified under point a) within the national territory of each Contracting Party.  
*[Timeframe – TBD]*

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

**Action 7.2.** Support the work of the Carpathian Habitats Task Force on:

- a) exchange of information and experience on methods for restoration of degraded habitats;
- b) elaborating suggestions/guidelines on the possible harmonisation and coordination of measures aimed at restoration of degraded habitats to be undertaken in border areas in the Carpathians, in particular in transboundary protected areas;
- c) identification of priorities for common actions aimed at restoration of degraded habitats, to be undertaken in the Carpathians, in particular in border areas and transboundary protected areas;
- d) preparation of the proposal for common programs and/or projects on restoration of degraded habitats to be jointly undertaken in the Carpathians by the Contracting Parties.  
*[Timeframe – TBD]*

### **Objective 8. Protection and sustainable use of species of flora and fauna**

Pursuant to Article 11 of the Protocol the Parties shall:

**Action 8.1.**<sup>12</sup>

- a) Compile and analyse scientific data, national inventories and maps of wild flora and fauna species populations and corridors allowing dispersal and migration of wild species populations, and genetic exchange between such populations in the Carpathians within the national territory of each Contracting Party;
- b) Evaluate the effectiveness and implementation of measures undertaken up to date with the objective to ensure the long-term protection<sup>13</sup> and sustainable use of species of flora and fauna native to the Carpathians, in order to assess the current conservation status<sup>14</sup> of these species in the Carpathians within the national territory of each Contracting Party, following criteria laid down in Article 1 letter (i)<sup>15</sup> of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive);
- c) Identify and assess current and potential future threats to the favourable conservation status of the flora and fauna species native to the Carpathians within the national territory of each Contracting Party in the Carpathians;

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<sup>12</sup> e.g. by establishing a national group of experts on flora and fauna species, to cooperate with the national group of experts on habitats

<sup>13</sup> with similar reservations as allowed by the Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, 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 breedings 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."

<sup>14</sup> Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, 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."

<sup>15</sup> Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, 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;"

- d) Elaborate guidelines for special protection and conservation measures to be undertaken, if need be, with the objective to ensure the long-term protection of flora and fauna species native to the Carpathians within the national territory of each Contracting Party in the Carpathians.

*[Timeframe – TBD]*

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

**Action 8.2.** Establish and support work of the common international expert network “Carpathian Species Task Force” as a special regional mechanism for consultations, information exchange<sup>16</sup> and cooperation between the Contracting Parties, to cooperate with the Carpathian Habitats Task Force, and be tasked under this action with:

- a) exchange of information and experience on methods for ensuring the long-term protection and/or recovery, and sustainable use of species of flora and fauna native to the Carpathians, in particular of endangered or endemic species and large carnivores;
- b) compilation and analysis of scientific data, inventories and maps of wild flora and fauna species populations and corridors allowing dispersal and migration of wild species populations, and genetic exchange between such populations in the Carpathians;
- c) evaluation of the effectiveness and implementation of measures undertaken in the Carpathian region up to date with the objective to ensure the long-term protection and sustainable use of species of flora and fauna native to the Carpathians;
- d) elaborating suggestions/guidelines on the possible harmonisation and coordination of measures aimed at long-term protection and sustainable use of species of flora and fauna native to the Carpathians, to be undertaken in the Carpathians, in particular in border areas and transboundary protected areas;
- e) identification of priorities for common actions aimed at long-term protection and sustainable use of species of flora and fauna native to the Carpathians, in particular in border areas and transboundary protected areas;
- f) preparation of the proposal for common programs and/or projects on ensuring the long-term protection and/or recovery, and sustainable use of species of flora and fauna native to the Carpathians, to be jointly undertaken in the Carpathians by the Contracting Parties.

*[Timeframe – TBD]*

### **Objective 9. Protection of endangered species, endemic species and large carnivores**

Pursuant to Article 12 of the Protocol the Parties shall:

**Action 9.1.** Cooperate on preparation of a list of endangered or endemic flora and fauna species native to the Carpathians (Carpathian Red List of Species), in particular large carnivores, to be adopted by the Contracting Parties, and revised every ten years. This task will be allocated to and accomplished by the Carpathian Species Task Force, based on revision and continuous updating of the “Carpathian List of Endangered Species”<sup>17</sup> published by the Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative and its adjustment accordingly to the geographical scope of Protocol’s application, following similar criteria as laid down in Article 1 letter

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<sup>16</sup> Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, 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.”

<sup>17</sup> 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

(g)<sup>18</sup> of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

*[Timeframe – TBD]*

### **Action 9.2.**

- a) Verify the current legal conservation status of species listed in the Carpathian Red List of Species once this list is adopted by the Contracting Parties, in line with relevant provisions of Articles 5<sup>19</sup> and 6<sup>20</sup> of the Council Directive 79/409/EEC of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive) and Articles 12<sup>21</sup> and 13<sup>22</sup> of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and, if need be, suggest adjustments within the national legislation of the concerned Contracting Party in order to ensure the same relevant legal conservation status of those species throughout the whole Carpathian region.
- b) Verify the current conservation status of species listed in the Carpathian Red List of Species, and assessment of current and potential future threats to the favourable 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 within the national territory of each Contracting Party;
- c) Evaluate the effectiveness and implementation of measures undertaken up to date in the Carpathians within the national territory of each Contracting Party with the objective to ensure the long-term protection and/or recovery of endangered species, endemic species and in particular large carnivores listed in the Carpathian Red List of Species;
- d) Identify the target species requiring special conservation measures concerning particular species and/or its habitat, to be undertaken in the Carpathians within the national territory of each Contracting Party;
- e) Elaborate guidelines for special protection and conservation measures to be undertaken, involving, if need be, appropriate management plans specifically designed for the particular species and/or sites or

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<sup>18</sup> Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, Article 1 letter (g): “species of Community interest means species which, within the territory referred to in Article 2, are: (i) endangered, except those species whose natural range is marginal in that territory and which are not endangered or vulnerable in the western palearctic region; or (ii) vulnerable, i.e. believed likely to move into the endangered category in the near future if the causal factors continue operating; or (iii) rare, i.e. with small populations that are not at present endangered or vulnerable, but are at risk. The species are located within restricted geographical areas or are thinly scattered over a more extensive range; or (iv) endemic and requiring particular attention by reason of the specific nature of their habitat and/or the potential impact of their exploitation on their habitat and/or the potential impact of their exploitation on their conservation status.”

<sup>19</sup> Council Directive 79/409/EEC of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds, 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.”

<sup>20</sup> Council Directive 79/409/EEC of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds, 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.”

<sup>21</sup> Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, 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.”

<sup>22</sup> Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, 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 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.”

integrated into other development plans, and appropriate statutory, administrative or contractual measures for identified target species, with the objective to ensure the long-term protection and/or recovery of such target species in the Carpathians within the national territory of each Contracting Party.

*[Timeframe – TBD]*

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

**Action 9.3.** Support work of the Carpathian Species Task Force on:

- a) exchange of information and experience on methods for ensuring the long-term protection and/or recovery of species listed in the Carpathian Red List of Species once this list is adopted by the Contracting Parties;
- b) compilation and analysis of scientific data, inventories and maps of mainstays and migratory routes of populations of species listed in the Carpathian Red List of Species for the whole Carpathian region;
- c) evaluation of the effectiveness and implementation of measures undertaken in the Carpathian region up to date with the objective to ensure the long-term protection and/or recovery of species listed in the Carpathian Red List of Species;
- d) elaborating suggestions/guidelines on the possible harmonisation and coordination of measures aimed at long-term protection and/or recovery of species listed in the Carpathian Red List of Species, to be undertaken in the Carpathians, in particular in border areas and transboundary protected areas;
- e) identification of priorities for common actions aimed at long-term protection and/or recovery of species listed in the Carpathian Red List of Species, in particular concerning target species identified by particular Contracting Parties, in particular in border areas and transboundary protected areas;
- f) preparation of the proposal for common programs and/or projects on ensuring the long-term protection and/or recovery of species listed in the Carpathian Red List of Species, to be jointly undertaken in the Carpathians by the Contracting Parties, in particular by including natural habitats, key mainstays and migratory routes of these species in the proposed transfrontier Carpathian Ecological Network.

*[Timeframe – TBD]*

Pursuant to Article 12 point 3 of the Protocol the Parties shall:

**Action 9.4.** Develop and implement, following the recommendations of the Carpathian Species Task Force, bilateral or multilateral harmonised special protection, conservation and if necessary recovery action plans for species listed in the Carpathian Red List of Species and their natural habitats, in case when the natural habitat of the endangered species is located on both sides of the state border between the Contracting Parties.

*[Timeframe – TBD]*

**Objective 10. Prevention of introduction, control or eradication of alien invasive species and/or genetically modified organisms**

Pursuant to Article 13 of the Protocol the Parties shall:



**Action 10.1.** Develop, in line with Article 22 letter (b)<sup>23</sup> of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive) their national policies and/or strategies targeted at the prevention of introduction or release of invasive species non-native to the Carpathians 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. *[Timeframe – TBD]*

**Action 10.2.**

- a) Evaluate the effectiveness and implementation of national policies and/or strategies of each Contracting Party targeted at the prevention of introduction or release of invasive species non-native to the Carpathians and/or genetically modified organisms;
- b) Assess 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 and/or genetically modified organisms within the national territory of each Contracting Party;
- c) Elaborate suggestions/guidelines on the necessary measures to be undertaken aiming at prevention of introduction or release of invasive species non-native to the Carpathians and/or genetically modified organisms considered as having the adverse environmental impacts, and, if need be, aiming at control or eradication of such species in the Carpathians within the national territory of each Contracting Party.

*[Timeframe – unlimited, continuous action]*

**Action 10.3.** Undertake necessary measures aiming at prevention of introduction or release of invasive species non-native to the Carpathians and/or genetically modified organisms considered as having the adverse environmental impacts, and, if need be, aiming at control or eradication of such species in the Carpathians within the national territory of each Contracting Party.

*[Timeframe – unlimited, continuous action]*

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

**Action 10.4.** Support the work of the Carpathian Species Task Force and the Carpathian Habitats Task Force on:

- a) exchange of information and experience on methods for prevention of introduction or release, control or eradication of invasive species non-native to the Carpathians 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,
- b) compilation and analysis of scientific data, inventories and monitoring results on the invasive species non-native to the Carpathians and/or genetically modified organisms, and environmental impacts of their introduction or release in the Carpathian region;
- c) 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 and/or genetically modified organisms;
- d) evaluation of the effectiveness and implementation of measures undertaken in the Carpathian region up to date with the objective to prevent introduction or release of invasive species non-native to the

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<sup>23</sup> Article 22 letter (b) of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora: "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;"

Carpathians and/or genetically modified organisms which are likely to have adverse environmental impacts as described under point a);

- e) elaborating suggestions/guidelines on the possible harmonisation and coordination of measures aimed at prevention of introduction or release of invasive species non-native to the Carpathians and/or genetically modified organisms which are likely to have adverse environmental impacts as described under point a) to be undertaken in the Carpathians, in particular in border areas and transboundary protected areas;
- f) identification of priorities for common actions aimed at prevention of introduction or release of invasive species non-native to the Carpathians and/or genetically modified organisms which are likely to have adverse environmental impacts as described under point a), in particular in border areas and transboundary protected areas;
- g) preparation of the proposal for common programs and/or projects on prevention of introduction or release of invasive species non-native to the Carpathians and/or genetically modified organisms which are likely to have adverse environmental impacts as described under point a), to be jointly undertaken in the Carpathians by the Contracting Parties.

*[Timeframe – unlimited, continuous action]*

### **Objective 11. Establishing ecological network**

Pursuant to Article 14 of the Protocol the Parties shall:

**Action 11.1.** Carry out the analysis of the protected area system in the Carpathians within the national territory of each Contracting Party, and:

- a) assess the needs related to maintenance and management of the current protected area system;
- b) assess the level to which the current protected area system covers areas and habitats significant for biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians, in particular those harbouring priority/target natural habitats of the Carpathians listed in the Carpathian List of Endangered Natural Habitats<sup>24</sup>; priority connecting corridors in border areas<sup>25</sup> as identified, delineated and recommended by the Carpathian Habitats Task Force; degraded habitats<sup>26</sup>, restoration of which is perceived conducive to achieving other objectives of this Strategic Action Plan; and natural habitats, key mainstays and migratory routes of species listed in the Carpathian Red List of Species, as identified, delineated and recommended by the Carpathian Species Task Force;
- c) if need be, assess, in coordination and cooperation between the institutions and regional and local authorities directly involved, the feasibility of designation and management of new protected areas in the Carpathians in accordance with the legislation of the respective Party.

*[Timeframe – 5 years]*

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

**Action 11.2.** Encourage cooperative arrangements and/or agreements between administrations of protected areas of each Contracting Parties being parts of the transboundary protected area with their counterparts in the neighbouring Contracting Party, in particular on the harmonisation of their management objectives and measures applied in an transboundary protected area, and ensure that regulations of each Contracting Parties allow allocation of the budgetary and other domestic resources for transboundary cooperation in protected areas, under special budget lines.

*[Timeframe – unlimited, continuous action]*

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<sup>24</sup> please refer to Action 5.2. letter c)

<sup>25</sup> please refer to Action 6.2 letter b)

<sup>26</sup> please refer to Action 7.1.letter a)

**Action 11.3.** Assess, if need be<sup>27</sup>, in coordination and cooperation between the institutions and regional and local authorities directly involved, the feasibility of extending existing transboundary protected areas in the Carpathians, and/or designation and management of new transboundary protected areas in the Carpathians, in particular by granting the legal protective status in accordance with the legislation of the respective Party to priority connecting corridors in border areas<sup>28</sup> linking protected areas located in border areas of two or more Contracting Parties.

*[Timeframe – 5 years]*

**Action 11.4.** Support efforts of protected area administrations towards raising external funding<sup>29</sup> for common projects and/or programs which are conducive to achieving the objectives of this Strategic Action Plan to be jointly undertaken in transboundary protected areas in the Carpathians.

*[Timeframe – unlimited, continuous action]*

**Action 11.5.** Cooperate on development of the concept for the proposed transfrontier Carpathian Ecological Network, as well as guidelines/suggestions for its implementation and functioning.

*[Timeframe – 5 years]*

**Action 11.6.** Cooperate on development of the common list, database and map of areas to be potentially proposed for inclusion into the transfrontier Carpathian Ecological Network, in particular protected areas in the Carpathians, and areas and habitats significant for biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians located outside of the already protected areas including priority/target natural habitats of the Carpathians listed in the Carpathian List of Endangered Natural Habitats<sup>30</sup>; priority connecting corridors in border areas<sup>31</sup> as identified, delineated and recommended by the Carpathian Habitats Task Force; degraded habitats<sup>32</sup>, restoration of which is perceived conducive to achieving other objectives of this Strategic Action Plan; and natural habitats, key mainstays and migratory routes of species listed in the Carpathian Red List of Species, as identified, delineated and recommended by the Carpathian Species Task Force.

*[Timeframe – 5 years]*

**Action 11.7.** Officially designate the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas Focal Point in each Contracting Party to start up and encourage cooperation in the management of protected areas within and between the Carpathian countries.

*[Timeframe – 1 year]*

**Action 11.8.** Encourage and support cooperation of protected area administrations under the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas, 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.

*[Timeframe – unlimited, continuous action]*

## **Objective 12. Enhancing conservation and sustainable management in the areas outside of protected areas**

Pursuant to Article 15 of the Protocol the Parties shall:

**Action 12.1.** Design and establish within existing institutional framework of each Contracting Party a mechanism for consultations, coordination and cooperation between the institutions and regional and local authorities directly concerned, with involvement of other local stakeholders, to facilitate and

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<sup>27</sup> basing on the assessment conducted under Action 11.1. b)

<sup>28</sup> please refer to Action 6.2 letter b)

<sup>29</sup> e.g. from the EU InterReg III A bilateral or multilateral Neighbourhood Programs.

<sup>30</sup> please refer to Action 5.2. letter c)

<sup>31</sup> please refer to Action 6.2 letter b)

<sup>32</sup> please refer to Action 7.1.letter a)

enhance conservation and sustainable management in the areas outside of protected areas in the Carpathians within the national territory of each Contracting 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, in line with relevant provisions of the Council Directive 79/409/EEC of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds<sup>33</sup> (Birds Directive) and the Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora<sup>34</sup> (Habitats Directive).*[Timeframe – 2 years]*

**Action 12.2.** Apply, in cooperation with the institutions and regional and local authorities directly concerned of each Contracting Party appropriate statutory, administrative or contractual measures within the national territory of each Contracting Party, in particular those concerning implementation of special nature protection measures prescribed in management plans for areas significant for biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians located outside of protected areas in the Carpathians, including priority/target natural habitats of the Carpathians listed in the Carpathian List of Endangered Natural Habitats<sup>35</sup>; priority connecting corridors in border areas<sup>36</sup> as identified, delineated and recommended by the Carpathian Habitats Task Force; degraded habitats<sup>37</sup>, restoration of which is perceived conducive to achieving other objectives of this Strategic Action Plan; and natural habitats, key mainstays and migratory routes of species listed in the Carpathian Red List of Species, as identified, delineated and recommended by the Carpathian Species Task Force.

*[Timeframe – unlimited, continuous action]*

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

**Action 12.3.** Support work of the Carpathian Species Task Force and the Carpathian Habitats Task Force on:

- a) exchange of information and experience on methods and incentives for enhancing conservation and sustainable management in the areas outside of protected areas;
- b) preparation of the proposal for common programs and/or projects on enhancing conservation and sustainable management in the areas outside of protected areas, to be jointly undertaken in the Carpathians by the Contracting Parties.

*[Timeframe – unlimited, continuous action]*

### **Objective 13. Consultation, harmonisation and coordination of measures undertaken in border areas**

Pursuant to Article 16 of the Protocol the Parties shall:

**Action 13.1.** Establish on the basis of the Protocol bilateral Commissions for Transboundary Cooperation on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity of the Carpathians, composed of representatives of neighbouring Contracting Parties including their representatives to the

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<sup>33</sup> e.g. Council Directive 79/409/EEC of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds, 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**”.

<sup>34</sup> Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, 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.”

Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, 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.”

<sup>35</sup> please refer to Action 5.2. letter c)

<sup>36</sup> please refer to Action 6.2 letter b)

<sup>37</sup> please refer to Action 7.1.letter a)

Carpathian Habitats Task Force and the Carpathian Species Task Force, to consult harmonise and coordinate measures aimed at:

- a) ensuring the long-term protection and sustainable use of natural habitats; maintenance or restoration, and sustainable use of semi-natural habitats; improving and ensuring continuity and connectivity of natural and semi-natural habitats; restoration of degraded habitats;
- b) ensuring the long-term protection and/or recovery, and sustainable use of species of flora and fauna native to the Carpathians, in particular of endangered or endemic species and large carnivores;
- c) development and implementation of management plans aiming at protection and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians;
- d) prevention of introduction or release and, if need be, control or eradication of invasive species non-native to the Carpathians 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;
- e) enhancing conservation and sustainable management in the areas outside of protected areas;

undertaken in border areas in the Carpathians within the national territories of the neighbouring Contracting Parties, in particular in an transboundary protected area; or, if other relevant similar bilateral Commissions are already in place, ensure that the objectives of this Strategic Action Plan are duly taken into account within the scope of competence of such Commissions.

*[proposed timeframe – 1 year]*

#### **Objective 14. Development and implementation of management plans**

Pursuant to Article 17 of the Protocol each Party shall:

**Action 14.1.** in accordance with the legislation of the respective Party, and in coordination and cooperation between the institutions and regional and local authorities directly involved, develop and implement in the Carpathians within the national territory of each Contracting Party management plans for protected areas, where guidelines and recommendations of the Carpathian Habitats Task Force and the Carpathian Species Task Force shall duly be taken into account; or in case a management plan for a particular protected area is in force - adjust such management plan accordingly.

*[Timeframe – 5 years]*

**Action 14.2.** in accordance with the legislation of the respective Party, and in coordination and cooperation between the institutions and regional and local authorities directly involved, develop and implement in the Carpathians within the national territory of each Contracting Party management plans for other areas and habitats significant for biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians located outside of the already protected areas, in particular:

- a) priority/target natural habitats of the Carpathians listed in the Carpathian List of Endangered Natural Habitats<sup>38</sup>;
- b) priority connecting corridors in border areas<sup>39</sup>, as identified, delineated and recommended by the Carpathian Habitats Task Force;
- c) degraded habitats<sup>40</sup>, restoration of which is perceived conducive to achieving other objectives of this Strategic Action Plan;
- d) natural habitats, key mainstays and migratory routes of species listed in the Carpathian Red List of

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<sup>38</sup> please refer to Action 5.2. letter c)

<sup>39</sup> please refer to Action 6.2 letter b)

<sup>40</sup> please refer to Action 7.1.letter a)

Species, as identified, delineated and recommended by the Carpathian Species Task Force; and harmonised with management plans for protected areas located in the proximity of such areas or to be connected by such areas, where guidelines and recommendations of the Carpathian Habitats Task Force and the Carpathian Species Task Force shall duly be taken into account.

*[Timeframe – 5 years]*

Pursuant to Article 19 of the Protocol the Parties shall:

**Action 14.3.** Support work of the Carpathian Habitats Task Force and the Carpathian Species Task Force on exchange of information and experience on methods for development, implementation and assessing effectiveness of management plans aiming at protection and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians.

*[Timeframe – TBD]*

### **Objective 15. Development of compatible monitoring systems and a joint information system**

Pursuant to Article 18 of the Protocol the Parties shall:

**Action 15.1.** Support work of the Carpathian Species Task Force and the Carpathian Habitats Task Force on:

- a) elaborating suggestions/guidelines on harmonisation of environmental monitoring programmes of the Contracting 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 proposal for common monitoring programs to be jointly undertaken in the Carpathians by the Contracting Parties, in particular those concerning habitats listed in the Carpathian List of Endangered Natural Habitats<sup>41</sup> and species listed in the Carpathian Red List of Species<sup>42</sup>.

*[Timeframe – 5 years]*

**Action 15.2.** Cooperate to develop a joint information system on the state of biological and landscape diversity in the Carpathians, including national results of the research provided by the Contracting Parties and results of the common scientific programs and/or projects jointly undertaken in the Carpathians by the Contracting Parties, in particular resulting from the work of the Carpathian Species Task Force and the Carpathian Habitats Task Force.

*[Timeframe – 5 years]*

### **Objective 16. Coordination of scientific research**

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

**Action 16.1.** Develop in each Contracting 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 and database of such scientific research.

*[Timeframe – unlimited, continuous action]*

**Action 16.2.** Support work of the Carpathian Species Task Force and the Carpathian Habitats Task Force

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<sup>41</sup> please refer to Action 5.2. c).

<sup>42</sup> please refer to Action 9.1.

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/or 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) preparation of the proposal for common scientific programs and/or projects perceived as indispensable for achieving the objectives of this Protocol, other than those already included in this Strategic Action Plan, to be jointly undertaken in the Carpathians by the Contracting Parties.

*[Timeframe – unlimited, continuous action]*

**Action 16.3.** Encourage cooperative arrangements and/or agreements between scientific institutions of the Contracting Parties 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 sources<sup>43</sup>.

*[Timeframe – unlimited, continuous action]*

**Action 16.4.** Cooperate on dissemination of scientific research results which are related to the objectives of this Protocol, in particular of common scientific programs and/or projects jointly undertaken in the Carpathians by the Contracting Parties.

*[Timeframe – unlimited, continuous action]*

### **Objective 17. Ensuring implementation of the Protocol**

Pursuant to Article 21 of the Protocol the Meeting of the Protocol (or, should the Protocol be ratified by all CFC Parties – the Conference of the Parties) shall:

**Action 17.1.** Designate the Working Group on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”) established by the 1<sup>st</sup> Conference of Parties to the Framework Convention under the Implementation Committee of the Framework Convention (hereinafter referred to as “the Implementation Committee”) as the body responsible for implementation of this Protocol.

*[Timeframe – 6 months]*

**Action 17.2.** Support, through fiscal and/or financial measures implementation of the provisions of the Protocol and this Strategic Action Plan in the Carpathians within the national territory of each Contracting Party.

*[Timeframe – unlimited, continuous action]*

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<sup>43</sup> Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, 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.”

**Action 17.3.** Support efforts towards raising external funding for projects and programs which are conducive to achieving the objectives of this Protocol, in particular those to be jointly undertaken in the Carpathians by the Contracting Parties.

*[Timeframe – unlimited, continuous action]*

Based on the provisions of the Protocol and this Strategic Action Plan the Working Group shall:

**Action 17.4.** Develop the Terms of Reference for the Carpathian Habitats Task Force<sup>44</sup> and the Carpathian Species Task Force<sup>45</sup>.

*[Timeframe – 6 months]*

### **Objective 18. Prevention of environmental damages**

Pursuant to Article 22 of the Protocol the Parties shall:

**Action 18.1.** Designate the Carpathian Policy Task Force<sup>46</sup> as the body responsible for ensuring the harmonisation of legal measures between the Contracting Parties, aimed at prevention of environmental damages or for compensation of inevitable negative impacts, in particular for protected areas and other areas and habitats significant for biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians located outside of the protected areas, proposed for inclusion into the transfrontier Carpathian Ecological Network; with the objective to establish a common system to assess the direct and indirect impact of projects and activities likely to have adverse environmental impacts that could affect the biological diversity, ecosystems, habitats or species of the Carpathians, in line with relevant provisions<sup>47</sup> of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive). *[Timeframe – 5 years]*

### **Objective 19. Consideration of traditional practice**

Pursuant to Article 23 of the Protocol the Parties shall:

**Action 19.1.** Facilitate consultations of the Carpathian Habitats Task Force and the Carpathian Species Task Force established for the purpose of implementation of this Strategic Action Plan with the Working Group on cultural heritage and traditional knowledge under the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee, in order to ensure that the cultural heritage of the Carpathians, in particular the traditional land-use and land resource management practices, are duly taken into account when implementing this Protocol, in line with the relevant provisions<sup>48</sup> of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive).

*[Timeframe – unlimited, continuous action]*

### **Objective 20. Education and information**

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<sup>44</sup> established under Action 5.2.

<sup>45</sup> established under Action 8.2.

<sup>46</sup> please refer to Action 1.2.

<sup>47</sup> Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, 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.”

<sup>48</sup> Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, Article 2. point 3: “Measures taken pursuant to this Directive shall take account of economic, social and cultural requirements and regional and local characteristics.”



Pursuant to Article 24 of the Protocol the Parties shall:

**Action 20.1.** Undertake harmonised informative and educative campaigns for the public, regarding the objectives, measures and implementation of this Protocol.

*[Timeframe – unlimited, continuous action]*

**Objective 21. Monitoring of compliance with obligations**

Pursuant to Article 25 of the Protocol the Parties shall:

**Action 21.1.** Agree upon the outline format for reporting on measures taken under this Protocol and the effectiveness of the measures taken, to be regularly submitted to the Meeting of the Protocol.

*[proposed timeframe – 2 years]*