

CNPA Questionnaire 2022

Large mountain ranges of Europe, such as the Carpathians, run across a number of countries, irrespective of political borders. They harbour enormous biodiversity values of the common European and global importance. However, natural areas shared by neighbouring countries are not only a common treasure but also a common responsibility.

Protected areas networks allow for a more effective and harmonized management of the shared natural heritage, habitats and species, as well as for joint preservation and promotion of cultural values of the region. Neighbouring countries, which often have different levels of technical expertise, knowledge, capacity and financial resources, can benefit by combining their respective strengths through transboundary cooperation.

The Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) established in 2006 constitutes a regional thematic network of cooperation of mountain-protected areas in the Carpathians. As an official instrument of the Carpathian Convention, CNPA aims at contributing to the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians, and in particular to achieve the goals listed in Article 4 of the [Carpathian Convention](#) and its [Protocol on Biodiversity](#).

The CNPA Steering Committee composed of representatives designated by the governments of all Carpathian countries is currently tasked with reconsidering the governance structure of the CNPA and preparing a new Action Plan for the network, so the network is fit and fully operational for a year of cooperation to come.

In order to support CNPA Steering Committee in these ambitious tasks, we kindly ask you, the representative of a Carpathian protected area - CNPA members – to answer the below questionnaire until **the June 6th 2022**. This would greatly help to design the future of the network according to your needs and expectations.

The questionnaire includes questions regarding networking and thematic cooperation (PART I) and questions on establishing the CNPA Association (PART II).

Thank you in advance for your support and contribution!

Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

QUESTIONNAIRE

PART I – Networking and thematic cooperation (multiply choice)

Question 1. Which activities do you perceive as the most important tasks for the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas with regard to communication:

- Facilitating communication among the CNPA Members (internal)
- Maintaining the common Carpathian Protected Areas website (external)
- Establishing and maintaining joint CNPA Facebook account (external)
- Facilitating communication by distributing electronic internal newsletter (internal)
- Publishing common informational materials on Carpathian issues for the general public (external)
- Developing a common CNPA communication strategy (internal)

Question 2. Which activities do you perceive as the most important tasks for the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas with regard to cooperation:

- Maintenance and updating of the common Carpathian Protected Areas database (internal)
- Establishing, co-ordinating and facilitating thematic working groups (internal)
- Facilitating exchange of knowledge and promoting best practices within CNPA and with other networks/partners (external)
- Co-ordinating and facilitating cooperation with other mountain ranges and protected area networks in Europe (external)
- Facilitating cooperation on nature conservation with Carpathian non-governmental organisations (external)
- Maintaining directories of protected areas and other relevant partners for cooperation (internal)

Question 3. Which activities do you perceive as the most important tasks for the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas with regard to capacity building:

- Organising CNPA conferences, seminars, workshops, webinars
- Organising study visits for PAs employees and local population
- Organising professional trainings for PAs employees

Other suggestions:.....

Question 4. Which activities do you perceive as the most important tasks for the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas with regard to fundraising and project implementation:

- Lobbying, fundraising and coordinating joint projects, preparation of joint applications INTERREG and other available relevant programs and funds
- Facilitating and implementing joint projects

Other suggestions:.....

Question 5. Which activities do you perceive as the most important tasks for the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas in regard to the CNPA representation:

- Representing the common interest of Carpathian protected areas at Conferences of Parties and other meetings held within the framework of the Carpathian Convention
- Representing the common interest of Carpathian protected areas to national and international authorities, European Union and international organisations and institutions

Other suggestions:.....

Question 6. Topics for the CNPA thematic cooperation. Which topics would you consider as the most relevant for thematic cooperation of the CNPA?

- Ecological connectivity and conservation and monitoring of large carnivores
- Ecosystems restoration
- Climate Change
- Sustainable forest management
- Water management, wetlands conservation and restoration
- Other no-forest habitats conservation, management and restoration
- Sustainable tourism
- Sustainable mobility in sensitive areas
- Environmental education and strengthening cooperation and communication with local

communities

- Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge

Question 7a. Interest in training. Would your protected area be interested in staff training on the following topic?

- Ecological connectivity and conservation and monitoring of large carnivores
 Ecosystems restoration
 Climate Change
 Sustainable forest management
 Water management, wetlands conservation and restoration
 Other no-forest habitats conservation, management and restoration
 Sustainable tourism
 Sustainable mobility in sensitive areas
 Environmental education and strengthening cooperation and communication with local communities
 Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge

Other, please specify:

Question 7b. Interest in training. Would you be interested in hosting a training for the CNPA in your protected area?

- Yes No

PART II - Establishing CNPA Association

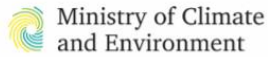
Considering the benefits of well functioning network of protected areas, as well as a number of activities that the network shall undertake to achieve them, it is necessary to reconsider the governance model of the CNPA. The current one, based on a political agreement, however with no financial commitment or personnel, has been proven ineffective for the past years. In this respect, and in order to maximise the opportunities that cooperation of the protected areas can bring, the CNPA Steering Committee agreed to open a discussion on changing the legal status of CNPA, e.g. to association, which would allow the Network to, among others, fundraise and directly apply for projects in order to provide adequate personnel and resources for realizing the objectives of CNPA. Please note that such model has been applied successfully for other networks in Europe, including ALPARC, DANUBEPARKS or Park Dinarides. In this respect, please answer the following questions regarding establishing an association that would service the CNPA:

Question 8. The idea of the association. Should an association (with legal personality), that would undertake activities of CNPA, be established?

- Yes No

Question 9. Interest in joining association. Would your Protected Area be interested in being a member of the association?

- Yes No



Question 10. Legal aspects. Is it legally and administratively possible for your Protected Area to join an association?

Yes No

Question 11. Membership fee. Would your PA be in a position to contribute a membership fee to an association?

Yes No

Question 12. Fee amount. If you answered yes to question 11, please indicate what annual amount you would be willing to pay to support the association:

- 50 euros
- 100 euros
- 200 euro
- 500 euros