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

*Review of the implementation by the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention*

**OBJECTIVE 1 - Promotion of cooperation on the 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 building**

**To establish and strengthen regional networks, transboundary protected areas (TBPAs) and collaboration between neighboring protected areas across national boundaries and to goal 3.2: to build capacity for the planning, establishment and management of protected area**

Expected results	Achieved results
<p>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);</p> <p>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);</p>	<p>COP3 (2011)</p> <p>DECISION COP3/1 para 6: Adopts the revised Terms of Reference of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas Steering Committee;</p> <p>COP4 (2014)</p> <p>DECISION COP4/1 para 11: Notes the Terms of References for the CNPA Unit;</p> <p>COP5 (2017)</p> <p>DECISION COP5/4 Para 7: Welcomes the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat and the Association of Natural Protected Areas Administrations (hereinafter ANPAA) signed on 20 June 2016, which aims at assisting the Secretariat with servicing the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas Unit (hereinafter CNPA Unit), and encourages the ANPAA to restore active communication with the CNPA Focal Points for carrying out concrete activities in order to implement the CNPA Medium – Term Strategy;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Need for updating the CNPA ToRs</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Need for reviewing the MoC between the Secretariat and the CNPA UNIT</b></li> </ul>
<p>c) CNPA, its mission, 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));</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Need for assessment by the CNPA SC and the Parties</b></li> </ul> <p>In Slovakia the activities of the CNPA and the Carpathian Convention are included in the Annual Report on State of the Environment (information provided by Slovakia)</p>
<p>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);</p>	<p>Not all the Parties represented in the CNPA SC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Need for establishing the CNPA SC Members in all</b></li> </ul>

	Parties
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);	<p>DECISION COP4/1 para 5: Adopts the Medium-Term Work Plan 2013 - 2017 of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas;</p> <p>The Medium-Term Work Plan 2013 – 2017 expired and has not been revised or updated since then.</p> <p>➤ <b>Need for updating/rethinking the Medium-Term Work Plan and related Medium Term Strategy</b></p>
f) Short term work plans (STWP) for the CNPA, and for the CNPA Unit developed (CNPA SC, ISCC, PAs, CNPA Unit);	Not realized
g) Common database of Carpathian protected areas developed, continuously maintained, improved and updated, and common activities conducted under the CNPA (CNPA Unit, PAs);	<p>A common database Carpathian protected areas was created under the BioREGIO project (ended in 2014) and made available on the CNPA website. Recently the list of Carpathian protected areas has been updated under the Centralparks project, with a reservation that some of the new PAs included into the updated list have not yet officially been nominated by the Parties as the CNPA member areas.</p> <p>➤ <b>Need for verifying the list of CNPA members by the Parties, and nominating new member areas</b></p>
h) Protected Areas Conferences regularly organized (CNPA SC, CNPA Unit, PAs).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1<sup>st</sup> CNPA Conference organized on 22-25 September 2008 in Poiana Brasov, Romania</li> <li>- 2<sup>nd</sup> CNPA Conference organized on 22-26 April 2013 in Tatranská Javorina, Slovakia</li> <li>- 3<sup>rd</sup> CNPA Conference to be organized on 29 September 2021</li> </ul> <p>With support of the Centralparks project 2 CNPA SC round tables were organized in December 2020 and July 2021.</p> <p>➤ <b>Need for more regular organization of the CNPA Conferences</b></p>
<p><b>Action 1.2. Communication within the network:</b></p> <p><b>Communication is the principal priority of the network for better cooperation between the protected areas, for better coordination of common projects as well as for an intensive involvement of local population</b></p>	
a) Each administration responsible for protected areas being members of the CNPA to have designated communication focal points / CNPA contact persons (PAs);	<p>➤ <b>Need for the verification by the CNPA SC members</b></p> <p>In Slovakia all CNPA member administrations have the contact person designated and communicated to the CNPA chair, the Carpathian Convention Secretariat and the CNPA database (information provided by Slovakia)</p>

<p>b) Common CNPA public relations and communication strategy developed (CNPA SC, CNPA Unit, partners);</p>	<p>In 2011 ALPARC prepared a Concept of communication strategy for the Protected Areas of the CNPA, however, its use of is unknown</p> <p>➤ <b>Need for revision of the concept of communication strategy, possible update and use</b></p>
<p>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);</p>	<p>The CNPA logo is created.</p> <p>Other elements of common design and graphical corporate identity of the CNPA and internal rules are not in place.</p>
<p>d) d) The rights and responsibilities related to the maintenance of the CNPA internet website by the CNPA Unit formally acquired (CNPA SC, CNPA Unit);</p>	<p>Achieved</p> <p>DECISION COP4/1 para 16: Welcomes the Agreement between the Secretariat and ALPARC regarding the transfer of the CNPA webpage (<a href="http://www.carpathianparks.org">www.carpathianparks.org</a>) from ALPARC to the CNPA Unit.</p>
<p>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);</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>The CNPA website is currently being relaunched and updated with support of the the Centralparks and ConnectGREEN projects.</p>
<p>f) Format and organizational arrangements for the internal electronic CNPA newsletter/bulletin developed and the newsletter periodically distributed to the CNPA Members and partner organisations (CNPA Unit, partners);</p>	<p>Centralparks project supported circulation of a regular newsletter to the CNPA members, however, the content was focused mainly on the project activities.</p> <p>➤ <b>Need for establishing the internal CNPA newsletter functioning independently from the financial support by the external and time-limited projects.</b></p>
<p>g) Common contact/address directories of the Carpathian PAs and other relevant partners for cooperation developed and regularly updated (PAs, CNPA Unit, partners);</p>	<p>The general contacts of the Carpathian PAs are added to the common database, however, division between the list (and possibly map) of CNPA Members should separate from the contact list while considering uploading this information online/on the CNPA website. The contact list shall perhaps be kept for internal use.</p> <p>➤ <b>Need for revision and possible updates of the contact lists</b></p> <p>➤ <b>Need for separating the list of CNPA Member and their contacts if posting on the website</b></p> <p>➤ <b>Need for considering establishing a contact list of relevant partners for cooperation</b></p>
<p>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).</p>	<p>Centralparks project produced some communication materials</p> <p>➤ <b>Need for more systematic contribution to the</b></p>

	awareness-raising on the Carpathian nature protection
<p><b>Action 1.3. Common fundraising from external sources for activities of the network</b></p> <p>External financing resources for the activities of the CNPA are necessary and should be raised through common fundraising from EU 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.</p>	
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);	Not realized
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);	Not realized
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).	Not realized
<p><b>Action 1.4. Exchange of information, experience, skills, knowledge and data among network members, including through the CNPA working groups</b></p> <p>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 Directive<sup>1</sup> 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.</p>	
a) Professional exchanges, trainings, seminars, workshops and conferences organized, with topics corresponding to the different protected areas management issues (CNPA Unit, ISCC, PAs, partners);	Not realized
b) Study tours and visits organized (CNPA Unit, ISCC, PAs);	Not realized
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,	Not realized

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);	Not realized
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);	Partly realized within ConnectGREEN project – Map of Ecological Network (consulted also with PAs administrations)
f) Monitoring systems aiming at comparability and complementarity of research and data-acquisition methods harmonized, databases harmonized and provided (CPs, CNPA Unit, partners);	Not realized
g) Work of the CNPA thematic working groups established, coordinated and facilitated (PAs, CNPA SC, CNPA Unit, ISCC, partners);	Not realized
h) Handbooks, guidelines published and virtual tools and information database platform available on the website (CNPA Unit, ISCC, partners);	Not realized
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);	Not realized
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);	Carpathian Integrated Biodiversity Information System is established (CCIBIS) and operating with support of relevant projects.
k) Development, testing, review and promotion of best practices on planning and management, governance and participation supported (CPs, PAs, CNPA Unit, partners).	Not realized

**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'<sup>4</sup> and the EU Biodiversity Action Plan<sup>3</sup>. Close cooperation with the stakeholders supports the implementation of the Aarhus Convention<sup>8</sup> in providing access to information, public participation and decision-making and further contributes to the CBD Work Programme on Mountains.

<p>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);</p>	<p>➤ Need for consideration of new survey</p>
<p>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;</p>	<p>Not realized</p>
<p>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);</p>	<p>Partly established by exchange between CNPA and CWI, which is facilitated by the Carpathian Convention meetings (CCIC, Working Group on Biodiversity), CNPA is partner to CWI Board</p> <p>➤ <b>Need for further consideration of this action</b></p>
<p>d) Cooperation with the ALPARC maintained and strengthened (PAs, CNPA SC, CNPA Unit, ISCC, partners);</p>	<p>Memorandum of Cooperation signed between the CNPA, ALPARC and DANUBEPARKS on 12 October 2016</p> <p>Youth at the Top events organized annually by some Carpathian protected areas in cooperation with ALPARC</p> <p>➤ <b>Need for consideration of common activities of the Networks in the frame of the MoC and initiating new ones</b></p>
<p>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);</p>	<p>Not realized, however, attempts to establish cooperation with other neighbouring mountain regions have been made.</p> <p>➤ <b>Need for further actions in terms of facilitating cooperation and exchange with other neighbouring mountain regions</b></p>
<p>f) Continuous collaboration with international and Carpathian Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

<p>(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);</p>	<p>Cooperation with DANUBEPARKS and ALPARC on the project Three Networks, two macro-regions, one vision – Development of Green Infrastructure to foster ecological connectivity between Danube, Carpathian and Alps (ERDF, 2018-2019)</p> <p>➤ <b>Need for stronger and substantive cooperation with other organization</b></p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Not realized</p>
<p><b>Action 1.6. Making recommendations on the expansion of the existing and/or creation of new protected areas and creation of ecological networks</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 Habitats<sup>1</sup> and Birds Directives<sup>2</sup> and therefore safeguarding Europe's most important habitats and species; and furthermore, to the European Assessment Process with respect to endangered and threatened species (European Red List). In planning and establishing new protected areas there is a relation to the EU Directives on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)<sup>9</sup> and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)</p>	
<p>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);</p>	<p>Not realized</p>
<p>b) Establishment of new protected areas based on the results of the gap analysis, including transboundary protected areas where appropriate (CNPA Unit, PAs, partners);</p>	<p>Not realized</p>



c) Methodology for the creation of the ecological network developed, based on existing similar experiences (CNPA Unit, PAs, partners);	Not realized
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);	Not realized
e) Tools of ecological connectivity developed, linking protected areas where necessary or beneficial (CNPA Unit, PAs, partners);	ConnectGREEN, SaveGREEN and TRANSGREEN and Centralparks (Carpathian strategy for enhancing biodiversity and landscape conservation outside and inside protected areas by Centralparks) projects supported development of tools of ecological connectivity, however not to full extend.  ➤ <b>Need for consideration and review of the projects results, as well need for further development of tool for ecological connectivity development</b>
f) Pilot areas defined, defined measures applied, tested and adapted (CNPA Unit, PAs, partners);	Not realized
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);	Partly realized within methodological approaches in the ConnectGREEN project for large carnivores as umbrella species
h) Priorities for common actions identified and proposals for common programs and projects prepared (CNPA Unit, PAs, partners);	Not realized
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).	Not realized

## 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 Strategy<sup>11</sup> 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 Heritage<sup>12</sup> and the Aarhus Convention.

a) Core themes for education, awareness and communication programs relevant to protected areas identified (PAs, CNPA SC, CNPA Unit, partners);	Not realized
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);	Not realized
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).	Not realized

### 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.

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).	<p>A tool for fostering participatory processes has been elaborated by the Centralparks project, Strategy...</p> <p>➤ <b>Need for consideration and use of the existing tools and development of further instruments and initiatives supporting the processes</b></p>
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### 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. Habitats<sup>1</sup> and Birds Directives<sup>2</sup>, EU Biodiversity Action Plan, partially the Water Framework Directive<sup>13</sup>, 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 Plan<sup>14</sup>, the European Landscape Convention<sup>15</sup>, 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).

<p>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) provided, taking into account the uneven distribution of such habitats throughout the Carpathian region (CNPA SC, CNPA Unit, PAs, ISCC, partners);</p>	<p>The work on the establishing the Carpathian Red List of Habitats has been put on hold.</p>
<p>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);</p>	<p>Not realized</p>
<p>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);</p>	<p>Not realized</p>
<p>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);</p>	<p>Not realized</p>
<p>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).</p>	<p>Not realized</p>

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

<p>Like in the previous action, main contributions to the Habitats<sup>1</sup> and Birds Directive<sup>2</sup> 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).</p>	
<p>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;</p>	<p>The work on the establishing the Carpathian RedList of Habitats has been put on hold.</p>
<p>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;</p>	<p>Not realized</p>
<p>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;</p>	<p>Not realized</p>
<p>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);</p>	<p>Not realized</p>
<p>e) Target species requiring special conservation measures concerning particular species and/or its habitat identified (CPs, PAs, CNPA SC, partners);</p>	<p>Not realized</p>
<p>f) Activities aiming at reintroduction of native species of fauna and flora coordinated (CPs, PAs, CNPA SC, partners);</p>	<p>Not realized</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>Not realized</p>

<p>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);</p>	
<p>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);</p>	<p>Partly realized within the ConnectGREEN project for target species large carnivores and development of the map of ecological network in the Carpathians</p>
<p>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);</p>	<p>Not realized</p> <p>To certain extent realized through cross-border projects (LIFE, Interreg) e.g. on butterflies and their habitats, birds</p>
<p>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).</p>	<p>Not realized</p>
<p><b>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</b></p> <p>The action is supporting 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 2009<sup>17</sup>, 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 Directive<sup>1</sup>.</p>	
<p>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);</p>	<p>Not realized</p>

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);	Not realized
c) Priorities for common actions identified and proposals for common programs and projects prepared (CPs, PAs, CNPA SC, CNPA Unit, partners);	Not realized
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).	Not realized
<p><b>Action 3.4. Article 18: Compatible monitoring and information systems. Article 19: Coordinated scientific research and exchange of information</b></p> <p>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 Plan<sup>3</sup>, 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.</p>	
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);	Not realized
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);	<p>Partly realized by establishing the Carpathian Integrated Biodiversity Information System.</p> <p>➤ <b>Need for further development of the CCIBIS, especially on adding information on national results of the public research and results of the common scientific programs and projects jointly undertaken in the Carpathians</b></p>
c) Research, scientific and technical cooperation related to protected areas at national, regional and international levels encouraged and improved.	Science for the Carpathians Initiatives support research and scientific cooperation in the region, however, no clear

interdisciplinary research promoted, to improve the understanding of the ecological, cultural, social and economic aspects of protected areas (CPs, PAs, CNPA Unit, partners);	connection is established with CNPA
d) Dissemination of scientific information from and on protected areas promoted through a clearing-house mechanism (CPs, PAs, CNPA Unit, partners);	Not realized
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);	Not realized

**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.

CCIC regularly informed on results of the CNPA work (CNPA SC, CNPA Unit, ISCC).	<p>CNPA SC Chair regularly provides oral updates to the CCIC and to the WG Biodiversity.</p> <p>➤ <b>Need for consideration of formal written report and recommendations for the CCIC for further submission to the COP and other relevant CC bodies</b></p>
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**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.

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);	Not realized
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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).

No information available