



## Background document – projects relevant for the Carpathian Convention WG Biodiversity Annex1

<b>Project title:</b> <i>ConnectGREEN - Restoring and managing ecological corridors in mountains as the green infrastructure in the Danube basin</i>	
<b>Funding:</b> <i>INTERREG Danube Transnational Programme</i>	<b>Project description:</b> The main objective of the project is to maintain and improve the ecological connectivity between natural habitats, especially Natura 2000 and other protected area categories of transnational relevance in the Carpathian ecoregion through identification of ecological corridors, reconciliation of nature conservation and spatial planning practices, as well as capacity building of protected areas' staff and development of management measures by using active stakeholder engagement processes.
<b>Duration:</b> <i>01.06.2018 - 31.05.2021</i>	
<b>Project website:</b> <i><a href="http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/connectgreen">http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/connectgreen</a></i>	
<b>ERDF Project partners:</b>  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. WWF DCP Romania (Lead Partner) (RO)</li> <li>2. National Institute for Research and Development in Constructions, Urban Planning and Sustainable Spatial Development (RO)</li> <li>3. Piatra Craiului National Park Administration (RO)</li> <li>4. WWF International Danube-Carpathian Programme (AT)</li> <li>5. Nature Conservation Agency (CZ)</li> <li>6. Silva Tarouca Research Institute for Landscape and Ornamental Gardening (CZ)</li> <li>7. CEEweb for Biodiversity (HU)</li> <li>8. Szent Istvan University (HU)</li> <li>9. State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (SK)</li> <li>10. Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava - SPECTRA Centre of Excellence of EU (SK)</li> <li>11. Institute of Architecture and Urban &amp; Spatial Planning of Serbia (RS)</li> <li>12. National Park Djerdap (RS)</li> </ol>	<b>Associated and IPA project partners</b>  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic(CZ)</li> <li>2. Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic (CZ)</li> <li>3. Bukk National Park Directorate (HU)</li> <li>4. Ministry of Environment of Romania (RO)</li> <li>5. Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia (RS)</li> <li>6. Ministry of Transport and Constructions of the Slovak Republic (SK)</li> <li>7. Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine (UA)</li> <li>8. Danubeparks – Danube River Network of Protected Areas (AT)</li> <li>9. Alpine Network of Protected Areas – ALPARC (FR)</li> <li>10. Park Dinarides – Network of Protected Areas of Dinarides (ME)</li> <li>11. Institute of Architecture and Urban &amp; Spatial Planning of Serbia (RS)</li> <li>12. National Park Djerdap (SR)</li> </ol>
<b>Activities relevant for the WG Biodiversity:</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Methodology for identifying ecological corridors – support the use and implementation of the methodology in each country; consider it for the development of the Strategy on ecological connectivity</li> <li>➤ State of the Art Report on the existing planning systems and their application for ecological corridor identification and management – analyse and use it when developing the Strategy</li> <li>➤ GAP analysis report on the identification of the needs for improving the planning processes and tools – analyse and use it when developing the Strategy</li> <li>➤ Set of recommendations developed together with spatial planners to avoid/ minimise fragmentation of ecological corridors and Natura 2000 sites – <b>support to implement the recommendation in the Carpathian countries</b></li> </ul>	

- Ecological connectivity related database under the CCIBIS – **promote and support the use of the database**
- Database with all relevant spatial information in each pilot site – **for information**
- Maps with the distribution of target species, core areas, ecological corridors and critical barrier sites in each pilot areas – **for information**
- Strategy on the identification, preservation and management of eco-corridors – **active involvement expected for the development of the strategy.**

**Meetings relevant for the WG Biodiversity:**

- Meetings of the Working Group that will be created for the development of the Strategy on ecological connectivity
- International Workshop to validate the map of core areas and eco-corridors and present the Guidelines on harmonizing the interests between nature conservation and different land uses (period 5)
- Meetings (2) with other relevant PA professional networks for networking and preparing the final conference (periods 4&5)
- Final Conference (back to back with the “CNPA” Conference) – April or May 2021.

Active participation is expected in the development of the Strategy on ecological connectivity.

<b>Project title:</b> <i>TRANSGREEN - Integrated Transport and Green Infrastructure Planning in the Danube-Carpathian Region for the Benefit of People and Nature</i>	
<b>Funding:</b> <i>INTERREG Danube Transnational Programme</i>	<b>Project description:</b> TRANSGREEN aims to contribute to safer and environmentally-friendly road and rail networks in mountainous regions of the Danube Basin with a special focus on the Carpathian Mountains. It will do so by improving planning frameworks and developing concrete environmentally-friendly and safe road and rail transport solutions taking into account elements of Green Infrastructure, in particular ecological corridors.
<b>Duration:</b> <i>01.01.2017 -30.06.2019</i>	
<b>Project website:</b> <a href="http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/transgreen">http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/transgreen</a>	
<b>ERDF Project partners:</b>  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. WWF International Danube-Carpathian Programme, Lead partner, AT</li> <li>2. Friends of the Earth Czech Republic, branch Olomouc, CZ</li> <li>3. Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic, CZ</li> <li>4. Transport Research Centre, CZ</li> <li>5. CEEweb for Biodiversity, HU</li> <li>6. Association "Milvus Group", RO</li> <li>7. WWF Danube Carpathian Programme, RO</li> <li>8. National Motorway Company, SK</li> <li>9. The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic, SK</li> <li>10. SPECTRA Centre of Excellence of EU – Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, SK</li> </ol>	<b>Associated and IPA project partners:</b>  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Austrian Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology, AT</li> <li>2. Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic, CZ</li> <li>3. National Infrastructure Developing Private Company Limited, HU</li> <li>4. Polish Ministry of Infrastructure and Construction, PL</li> <li>5. Romanian Ministry of the Environment , RO</li> <li>6. Republic of Slovenia Ministry of Infrastructure, SI</li> <li>7. Transcarpathian Regional State Administration - Department of Ecology and Natural Resources, UA</li> <li>8. Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, UA</li> <li>9. Romanian Ministry of Transport, RO</li> </ol>
<b>Activities relevant for the WG Biodiversity:</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Development of the Sustainable Transport Strategic Action Plan and its adoption at COP6 – <b>to be adopted by the Carpathian Convention</b></li> <li>➤ Guidelines on integrated transport infrastructure development at COP6 – <b>to be welcomed by the Carpathian Convention</b></li> </ul>	
<b>Meetings relevant for the WG Biodiversity:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Possible joint meeting of the Transport, Biodiversity, Spatial Planning WGs in Autumn 2019, to finalize the Sustainable Transport Strategic Action Plan</li> </ul>	

Project title: <i>Centralparks - Building management capacities of Carpathian protected areas for the integration and harmonization of biodiversity protection and local socio-economic development.</i>	
Funding: <i>INTERREG Danube Transnational Programme</i>	<b>Project description:</b> CENTRALPARKS aims at improving management capacities of protected areas. Project will support nature protection and local sustainable development, improve integrated environmental management capacities and policies, enhance transnational cooperation, and mitigate current threats and pressures to biodiversity. CENTRALPARKS promotes joint actions for integrated management of biodiversity, including joint transnational thematic task forces, involving experts from Carpathian countries. The project will reconcile nature conservation and local socio-economic development, raise support and involvement of local communities. It will develop and test innovative environmental management tools, such as the ESS Toolkit, and laser scan surveying method for habitat evaluation and management planning. CENTRALPARKS encourages transnational networking, aims at harmonizing approaches at the international level, and will facilitate the harmonization of measures undertaken in border areas and transboundary-protected areas. Policy support documents and tools shall be endorsed by the Carpathian Convention, facilitating uptake to the policy level, and implementation in a long-term perspective.
Duration: <i>01.04.2019 - 31.03.2022</i>	
Project website: <a href="https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/Centralparks.html">https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/Centralparks.html</a>	
<b>ERDF Project partners:</b>  1. European Academy of Bolzano/Bozen (Eurac Research), IT (Lead Partner) 2. The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic, SK 3. NFA-Romsilva-Piatra Craiului National Park Administration R.A., RO 4. Ekopsychology Society, PL 5. Danube-Ipoly National Park Directorate HU 6. Pronatur NGO, SK 7. European Wilderness Society, AT 8. Education and Information Centre of BÍlé Karpaty Mountains, CZ	<b>Associated and IPA project partners:</b>  1. Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea – IMELS, IT 2. Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, SK 3. Ministry of Environment of Poland, PL 4. Ministry of Environment of Romania, RO 5. Danube Parks, AT 6. CEEweb for Biodiversity, HU 7. European Beech Forest Network, DE 8. Ministry of Ecology and Natural and Resources of Ukraine, UA
<b>Activities relevant for the WG Biodiversity:</b> ➤ Strategy for enhancing biological and landscape diversity conservation outside and inside protected areas, the integration of Carpathian protected areas into broader landscapes, the maintenance and improvement of ecological connectivity in areas surrounding PAs (e.g. PAs buffer zones) and within PAs. This Strategy, targeted at Carpathian PA administrations, shall aim at the implementation of the CC Protocol on conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity (Bucharest, 2008), in particular its Articles 9 (on continuity and connectivity), Art. 15 (enhancing conservation and sustainable management outside PAs), and Art. 6 (involvement of local authorities). The draft Strategy shall be tested under pilot actions (in HU and PL, 2020-2021), - <b>to be submitted for endorsement by the Carpathian Convention</b> ➤ Strategy for local sustainable tourism development, based on natural and cultural heritage of the Carpathians, perceived as an asset, important location factor, and driver for sustainable local socio-economic development, which shall allow avoiding potential use conflicts (e.g. with tourism development). This Strategy, targeted at Carpathian PA administrations and local communities / municipality authorities, shall aim at the implementation of the CC Protocol on sustainable tourism (Bratislava, 2011), in particular its Articles 11 (enhancing tourism contribution to sustainable development of local economy), Art. 12 (managing tourist traffic for the benefit of the environment and sustainable local economic	

development) and Art. 6 (involvement of local authorities). The draft Strategy shall be tested under pilot actions (in PL and SK, 2021) – **to be submitted for endorsement by the Carpathian Convention**

- Guidelines on communication between protected areas and local communities in Carpathians - innovative management tool, aimed at the more effective communication of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development objectives to the local communities, and at the re-conciliation of nature protection with the local socio-economic development, thus raising the awareness and support of local communities for their protected areas. The Guidelines shall aim at the implementation of the Carpathian Convention Art.2.2 (public participation and stakeholder involvement), Art. 13 (awareness raising, public participation), and CC Biodiversity Protocol Art. 6 (involvement of local authorities). Draft Guidelines shall be tested under pilot training for Polish Carpathian PA managers (PL, 2021) - **to be submitted for endorsement by the Carpathian Convention**
- Cooperation exchange on nature conservation management planning: workshop presenting LiDAR (laser scan technique), evaluation of LiDAR scan results and feasibility study, development of forest state evaluation toolkit, forest state evaluation protocol, grassland habitats state evaluation protocol, Habitats Mapping Guidelines – **for information**
- Integrated nature conservation management planning (pilot action in Duna-Ipoly NP, HU) – incl. testing LiDAR laser scan study on 2 habitat types (mountainous and river valley), habitat mapping, forest state evaluation, grassland state evaluation, forest fauna evaluation, and nature conservation management plan for Börzsöny Mountains – **for information**
- Carpathian Ecosystem Services Toolkit (CEST) - adapted for the Carpathian/Central European conditions as a supporting tool for completing and using ESS assessment for decision making for PAs managers and public authorities, available in English and 4 Carpathian/Central European languages (CZ, HU, PL, SK). CEST activities include the joint development of the state of the art/gap analysis of policies accounting for selected Ecosystem Services, roadmap for engagement of national and regional expert stakeholder in CE target countries, the Carpathian Ecosystem Service Toolkit, and the step-by-step guide for using the CEST; as well as CEST trainings for participants from SK, CZ and HU – **for information**

#### **Meetings relevant for the WG Biodiversity:**

- 17-18 June 2019, Banska Bystrica (Slovak Republic) – 1st meeting of the thematic transnational task force (TTTF), to be composed of representatives of all 7 Parties to the Carpathian Convention, facilitating knowledge and experience exchange of Carpathian protected area managers and experts for joint development of the Carpathian strategy for enhancing biodiversity and landscape conservation outside and inside PAs.
- 24-26 June 2019, Czerwienne (Poland) – 1st meeting of the thematic transnational task force (TTTF), to be composed of representatives of all 7 Parties to the Carpathian Convention, facilitating knowledge and experience exchange of Carpathian protected area managers and experts for joint development of the strategy for local sustainable tourism development based on natural and cultural heritage of the Carpathians.
- 26-28 June 2019, Czerwienne (Poland) – 1st meeting of the thematic transnational task force (TTTF), to be composed of representatives of all 7 Parties to the Carpathian Convention, facilitating knowledge and experience exchange of Carpathian protected area managers and experts for joint development of the Guidelines on communication between protected areas and local communities in Carpathians.
- June/July 2019 (tbd), (Slovak Republic) – 1st meeting of the thematic transnational task force (TTTF), to be composed of representatives of all 7 Parties to the Carpathian Convention, facilitating knowledge and experience exchange of Carpathian protected area managers and experts for joint development of the Carpathian Ecosystem Services Toolkit.
- late October/early November 2019 (tbd), Orelec (tbc) (Poland) – 2nd Centralparks Project Partners' meeting.
- End 2020: CNPA national roundtable session will be organized during the 5th PP in CZE to gather relevant stakeholders, re-evaluate results and findings and strengthen cooperation project approach. Facilitating endorsement and support of strategic documents by CC.
- End 2020: Mid-term Conference in CZ.
- February 2022: Final Conference

**Project title: EUROLARGECARNIVORES - Improving human coexistence with large carnivores in Europe through communication and transboundary cooperation**

**Funding:** LIFE programme  
Environmental Governance and Information

**Duration:** 01.09.2017 – 28.02.2022

**Project website:**  
<https://www.eurolargecarnivores.eu/en/>

**ERDF Project partners:**

1. World Wide Fund For Nature Germany
2. elmauer institute
3. Società Cooperativa Sociale Eliante Onlus
4. Forstliche Versuchs- und Forschungsanstalt Baden-Württemberg
5. World Wide Fund for Nature Austria
6. World Wide Fund for Nature Adria
7. World Wide Fund for Nature Switzerland
8. Umweltorganisation WWF International Danube-Carpathian Programme
9. World Wide Fund for Nature Spain
10. World Wide Fund for Nature Finland
11. World Wide Fund for Nature France
12. WWF Világ Természeti Alap Magyarország Alapítvány
13. World Wide Fund for Nature Norway
14. World Wide Fund for Nature Poland
15. Fundacja WWF Polska
16. WWF Mediterranean Foundation
17. WWF Programul Dunare Carpati Romania

**Project description:**

1. The project EUROLARGECARNIVORES proposes a stakeholder oriented information and learning approach to ensure effective implementation of population based conservation strategies for the large carnivores (LC) brown bear (*Ursus arctos arctos*), wolf (*Canis lupus*), Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*) and wolverine (*Gulo gulo*). The ambitious approach is made possible through the first time comprehensive cooperation of most of the major European WWF institutions on this topic. It will cover the entire EU territory.
2. Consequently, EUROLARGECARNIVORES will strive to improve transboundary cooperation and population level management of large carnivores in Europe by achieving the following sets of general objectives:
3. - Boost awareness among local and national authorities and introduce communication tools that are customized to the geographical and cultural situation.
4. - Inform and actively engage key-actors in a consensus-driven approach on their needs and responsibilities.
5. - Develop cross-border, interdisciplinary pathways to engage formerly passive actors and bring new perspectives and knowledge to LC management.
6. - Contribute to an EU-wide common understanding of stakeholder-oriented population based LC conservation strategies.
7. - Contribute to the implementation of the DG Environment's policy paper "Key actions for large carnivore populations in Europe".
8. - Give added value to existing Large Carnivore (LIFE and other programmes) projects by promoting their results and sharing best-practices.
9. - Provide local stakeholders such as farmers with direct engagement opportunities and custom-fit learning experiences through a trusted peer to peer approach.

**Activities relevant for the WG Biodiversity:**

- Overview on existing projects and successful instruments – **for information**
- Stakeholder analysis based on the principles of inclusiveness and transparency – **for information**
- EU wide data collection on social, economic and ecological impacts of LC based on existing information – **for information and dissemination**

- Establishing a long-term, interactive exchange platform on instruments and best practice examples that includes all relevant authorities and stakeholders, maintained by WWF – **for information and dissemination**
- Promoting case studies/best practices on implementation of trans-boundary monitoring of LC populations within the EU – **contribute to the discussions on harmonizing the methodologies for monitoring LCs in the Carpathians**
- Fostering national and transnational information exchange and trans-boundary cooperation
- Motivating and engaging stakeholders in continuous dialogue and collaborative activities
- Initiating and facilitating peer-to-peer exchange of livestock protection measures between farmers – **for information and dissemination of the Guidelines for effective livestock-protection.**

#### Meetings relevant for the WG Biodiversity:

- Transboundary workshop on (1) harmonizing the methodologies for monitoring LCs and (2) on reducing poaching – 11-14 November 2019 (the 2 workshops will be organized back to back)
- Final project conference – beginning of 2022.

<b>Project title: <i>Three Networks, two macroregions, one visions - development of Green Infrastructure to foster ecological connectivity between Danube, Carpathians and Apls</i></b>	
<b>Duration:</b> 01.09.2018 – 31.08.2019	<b>Project description:</b> Mountain regions in the Alps and the Carpathians as well as the Danube floodplain represent some of the most important (semi) natural areas in Central and South-East Europe. Economic development is increasing constantly in this area, causing growing impact of habitat fragmentation and making genetic exchange between wildlife populations difficult.
<b>ERDF Project partners:</b>  LP - Duna-Ipoly Nemzeti Park Igazgatóság HU PP - Stadt Ingolstadt AT	The richness in bio-geographic regions qualifies Central and South-East Europe as model for corridor functionality and the establishment of Trans-European Network for Green Infrastructure (TEN-G). Facing the leading role of Protected Areas to foster habitat connectivity, in 2016, the Protected Area Networks (DANUBEPARKS, ALPARC, CNPA) formed the "ADC Net". Their MoC - elaborated under the patronage of EUSDR PAC6 and EUSALP AG7, signed under the Alpine Convention - aims for the realization of common actions towards ecological networks in and among their respective regions, but still waiting for consequent implementation.
<b>Associated and IPA project partners:</b>  AP1 ALPARC - The Alpine Network of Protected Areas AP2 Carpathian Network of Protected Areas Unit – AAANP RO P3 DANUBEPARKS - Danube River Network of Protected Areas AT	"Three Networks, two macro-regions, one vision" is now to: - strengthen this strategic cooperation - anchor ADC Net better on policy level - identify joint best-practice actions to improve ecological connectivity - elaborate an Interreg-project proposal to better connect the Alps and the Carpathians through the Danube - qualify the Networks for future leading roles in the main project - deliver good practice for cooperation among the EU-macro regions: on site, on operational and on policy level Two Protected Areas at the linkage of Danube and Alps, respectively, Danube and Carpathians, are responsible for the operational implementation. The project set-up and implementation involve both EUSDR PAC6 and EUSALP AG7.
<b>Activities relevant for the WG Biodiversity:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Harmonization of the approach of ALPARC, CNPA, DANUBEPARKS</li> <li>➤ development of transnational tools on eco-connectivity (e.g. Jecami)</li> <li>➤ definition of pilot regions at the interface of the tree bio-regions: tributary rivers could serve as model for Green Infrastructure to connect the Alps and the Carpathians with the Danube (most larger tributary rivers are cross-border riverine corridors, a transnational management approach should be developed)</li> <li>➤ strengthen Protected Areas and Natura 2000 as core sites within trans-European eco-corridors: contribution to ongoing political discussions to establish new Protected Areas, often located at Alpine/Carpathian tributary rivers (e.g. 3rd National Park in Bavaria including Isar mouth; Podunajsko National Park (SVK) at the Danube and cross-border river Morava; ROM/UK/MD: trilateral biosphere reserve at the Prut, coop MDD)</li> <li>➤ Policy work: boost TEN-G, jointly by the PA Networks, PAC6, AG7, EU commission working group on TEN-G</li> </ul>	
<b>Meetings relevant for the WG Biodiversity:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ no data for now</li> </ul>	