

# Alpine Biodiversity Board

## Concept note Alpine and Carpathian Biodiversity Forum

### 15-16 December 2021

#### Background

The XV Alpine Conference established the Alpine Biodiversity Board (ABB) in order to comply with the requirements of the Protocol to the Convention on Nature Protection and Landscape Conservation.

During its initial mandate in 2019-2020 the Board undertook a stock-taking analysis of the relevant biodiversity and landscape strategies, guidelines and policy recommendations of the Alpine countries as well as the results of recent research activities. Besides, the Board was entrusted to develop a system of priorities and targets to identify joint actions to address several issues and in particular the ecological connectivity. The assessment performed highlighted a gap in defining effective actions and measures to protect mountain biodiversity.

Following the outcomes of ABB's initial mandate, the Ministers Parties to the Convention, identified the following additional actions to be performed by the ABB during the following two years (2021-2023) until the XVII Alpine Conference:

1. Identification of a series of indicators relevant to mountain biodiversity, complementing and updating the indicators of the “Ecological Network” platform. The ABB has already identified 25 indicators, which are not specific for mountain biodiversity, but could be utilized in combination with the available information and studies on the atypical habitats (Carta degli Habitat<sup>1</sup>).
2. To develop a project combining the available cartographic data and the set of indicators identified (e.g. Cohesion or LIFE project).
3. To assess the impact of climate change on mountain biodiversity
4. To organise actions at several institutional levels to urge the importance of a specificity of mountain biodiversity both at international, regional and national strategies.

The Alpine-Carpathian Biodiversity Forum complements and reinforces the positions and conclusions of the “Declaration of the XVI Alpine Conference on the Protection of Mountain Biodiversity and its Promotion at International Level” adopted by the XVI Alpine Conference.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.isprambiente.gov.it/it/servizi/sistema-carta-della-natura>

It should also complement and reinforce the S4C<sup>2</sup> – Science for the Carpathians initiative and the Forum Carpathicum, established in 2008, connecting scientists in Central Europe, defining research priorities for the region and enhancing international collaboration with partners from outside the Carpathians.

The main purpose of the Alpine-Carpathian Biodiversity Forum (hereafter the Forum) is to open a discussion with experts at national and international level about issues and critical aspects related to the protection of mountain biodiversity.

In particular, the inputs and best practices shared will contribute to improve and strengthen the collaboration among partners relevant for the protection of the mountain biodiversity, and to provide a joint and effective response to the main critical aspects identified. The results of the discussions will flow into the work of the ABB.

The event will be structured in seven sessions over 2 days.

- **DAY 1 – 15 December 2021:** the first day of the event will be dedicated to the institutional greetings and to the first two sessions on the alpine biodiversity indicators and to the presentation best practices and criticisms related to monitoring of the mountains biodiversity, biodiversity and ecosystem services,
- **DAY 2 – 16 December 2021:** the second day of the event will be dedicated to the presentations of the sessions on governance and connectivity, the relations between climate change and mountain biodiversity and to the Forum's main conclusions.

The event will be as interactive as possible. To ensure the active participation of the participants several questions and live polls will be made during the presentations, the results will be provided on a diagram in real-time. The inputs will be provided in anonymous form. The conclusions of the surveys will be elaborated and will contribute to build up the Forum's conclusions, which will be presented during the last day of the Forum.

The event will be moderated by Mr Paolo Angelini ABB Chair.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://carpathianscience.org/about/>

Preliminary Agenda of the event			
<b>Title</b>	Alpine Carpathian Biodiversity Forum		
<b>Objective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To discuss with experts at national and international level about issues and criticisms related to the protection of mountain biodiversity;</li> <li>To strengthen the collaboration among partners relevant for the protection of mountain biodiversity,</li> <li>To define a joint and effective response to the main criticisms identified</li> </ul>		
<b>Location</b>	The event will be held virtually		
<b>Dates</b>	15-16 December 2021		
<b>Partners</b>	ABB Alpine Convention, Eurac Research, UNEP Vienna Programme Office - Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, Federparchi, ALPARC, Carpathian Network of protected Areas (CNPA), EUSALP (TBC) <sup>3</sup>		
<b>Language</b>	Interpretation in English, French, German, Italian and Slovenian will be provided. The Power Point Presentation should be submitted to the organisers in English.		
DAY 1 – 15 December 2021			
Time	Item	Speaker	Description
09:00-09:15	Opening	P. Angelini – ABB Chair, Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition (IMET)	Event opening and welcome message of the ABB Alpine Convention
09:15-10:00	Partners welcome messages	<p>A. Smerkolj - Secretary General of the AC</p> <p>H. Egerer – UNEP Head Vienna Office - Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention</p> <p>G. Sammuri – President Federparchi / Europarc</p> <p>R. Psenner – President Eurac Research</p> <p>R. Cattaneo – Regional Minister for Environment and Climate of Lombardy Region / EUSALP</p>	Welcome messages from the Forum Partners: Secretariat AC, UNEP Vienna Programme Office Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, Federparchi, Eurac Research, EUSALP, ALPARC, CNPA
10:00-10:20	Introductory session	P. Angelini – ABB Chair, IMET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction to the meeting</li> <li>Overview of the Forum agenda</li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup>Alpine Convention: <https://www.alpconv.org/en/>

EURAC: <https://www.eurac.edu/en>

Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention: <http://www.carpathianconvention.org>

Federparchi: <http://www.federparchi.it>

ALPARC: <https://alparc.org/>

Carpathian Network of protected Areas (CNPA) <https://carpathianparks.org>

EU Strategy for Alpine Region <https://www.alpine-region.eu>

			• Methodology
10:20-10:30	Break		
10:30-10:50	Session 1: Indicators of Alpine biodiversity	R. Santolini – Italian Delegation ABB B. Carlson - French Delegation ABB	Presentation of the activities and results of the ABB – Core Group n. 1 on the definition of a set of indicators of Alpine Biodiversity. During the presentation several criticisms with regards to the identification of the set of indicators will be presented, the audience is invited to participate providing inputs.
10:50-11:40	Discussion – Session 1	All participants	Interactive discussion with the participants
11:40-11:50	Break		
11:50-12:10	Session 2: Monitoring mountain biodiversity	M. Tomasella - Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, Italian system of the Alpine Protected Areas <sup>4</sup> I. Kuhn - Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, UFZ <sup>5</sup> (TBC)	Presentation of the existing Mountain biodiversity monitoring: best practices and main criticisms
12:10-13:00	Discussion – Session 2	All participants	Interactive discussion with the participants
13:00-14:30	Lunch		
14:30-14:50	Session 3: Cartographic / mapping tools as support to the biodiversity monitoring	P. Genovesi / L. Laureti – Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) <sup>6</sup> A. Piva - Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, Atlas Team	The importance of the cartographic mapping tools in developing the mountain biodiversity monitoring system: best practices e.g.: the “ <i>Carta della natura</i> ”
14:50-15:40	Discussion – Session 3	All participants	Interactive discussion with the participants
15:40-15:50	Break		

<sup>4</sup> Sistema Aree Protette Alpine (SAPA) <http://www.arecprotette-sapa.it>

<sup>5</sup> Helmholtz-Zentrum für Umweltforschung GmbH – UFZ - <https://www.helmholtz-hida.de/en/>

<sup>6</sup> Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale (ISPRA) - <https://www.isprambiente.gov.it/en/istitute>

15:50-16:10	Session 4: The links between climate change and mountain biodiversity	W. Keeton – University of Vermont <sup>7</sup> and Member of the Science of Carpathians Initiative  H. Hojesky – Chair of the Alpine Climate Board of the AC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best practices and main criticisms.</li> <li>• Assessment of climate change risks and impacts on the Carpathian forest ecosystems, as a tool supporting knowledge and experiences sharing on effective adaptation responses for long-term conservation of the Carpathian forests, including identification of the restoration needs in the Carpathians</li> </ul>
16:10-17:00	Discussion – Session 4	All participants	Interactive discussion with the participants
<b>DAY 2 – 16 December 2021</b>			
09:00-09:30	Session 5: Mountain biodiversity Governance	B. Hedden-Dunkhorst - Federal Agency for Nature Conservation <sup>8</sup>  N. Morelle - Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention & K. Kuras – UNEP Vienna Programme Office - Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention  R. Godek - Member of Strzyzów District Council & P. Wais Podkarpackie Voivodeship	<p>The role of the main stakeholders in the protection of mountain biodiversity.</p> <p>The importance of the Alpine / Mountain biodiversity the necessary steps to be undertaken for its recognition at international, regional and national level.</p>
09:30-10:10	Discussion – Session 5	All participants	Interactive discussion with the participants
10:10-10:20	Break		
10:20-10:40	Session 6: Connectivity and mountain biodiversity	C. Teofili - Federparchi  H. Mayer – WWF Central and Eastern Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best practices and main criticisms</li> <li>• Albionet project</li> <li>• Bringing results and experience of the TransGREEN, ConnectGREEN and SaveGREEN, focused on ecological connectivity.</li> </ul>

<sup>7</sup> Professor of Forest Ecology and Forestry at the University of Vermont - <https://www.uvm.edu>

<sup>8</sup> Bundesamt für Naturschutz - <https://www.bfn.de>

			Promoting idea of joint declaration on mainstreaming ecological connectivity.
10:40-11:30	Discussion – Session 6	All participants	Interactive discussion with the participants
11:30-11:40	Break		
11:40-12:00	Session 7: Biodiversity and Ecosystem services	R. Santolini – Italian Delegation ABB F. Favilli - Eurac Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best practices and main criticisms.</li> <li>• Carpathian Toolkit for Assessment of Ecosystem Services / Centralparks project</li> </ul>
12:00-12:50	Discussion – Session 7	All participants	Interactive discussion with the participants
12:50-14:20	Lunch break		
14:20-16:20	Conclusions	P. Angelini – Chairperson ABB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summary of the previous sessions</li> <li>• Main conclusions and way forward</li> </ul>