



## **MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION**

**Between**

**The Convention on Biological Diversity**

**And**

**The Alpine Convention**

**And**

**The Carpathian Convention**

**..., 2021/2022**

The Convention on Biological Diversity (hereinafter referred to as the CBD), the Framework Convention for the protection of the Alps (hereinafter referred to as the Alpine Convention) and the Framework Convention for the Protection and the Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (hereinafter referred to as the Carpathian Convention);

*Reaffirming* their willingness to cooperate, set out in the Memorandum of Cooperation signed between the CBD, the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention in Bonn on 29 May 2008, and acknowledging that this new Memorandum of Cooperation (hereinafter “Memorandum”) shall reflect the need for enhancing synergies between the Conventions and their common activities in the context of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and its implementation;

*Recalling* the objectives of the CBD, namely the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources;

*Recalling* further that the CBD stresses the importance of and the need to promote international, regional and global cooperation among States, intergovernmental organizations and the non-governmental sector and desires to enhance and complement existing international arrangements for the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components;



*Considering* the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework [adopted] at the CBD COP15, its 2050 Vision of living in harmony with nature, where: “By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people,” and the corresponding 2050 Goals and 2030 Action Targets;

*Recalling* the programme of work on Mountain biological diversity approved by the 7<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD, which constitutes a set of actions addressing characteristics and problems that are specific to mountain ecosystems;

*Recalling* the Programme of Work on Protected Areas approved by COP7 of the CBD, which comprises a set of actions addressing protected areas, constituting an important tool of preservation of mountain ecosystems;

*Recognizing* that the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention are binding international legal instruments for the protection of the environment and the sustainable development of mountain regions with an integrated approach;

*Recalling* Art. 2 (2f) of the Alpine Convention and the Protocol on Nature Protection and Landscape Conservation to the Alpine Convention that entered into force in 2002 and reflects the CBD principles;

*Recalling* Art. 4 of the Carpathian Convention and the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity to the Convention that entered into force in 2010 and reflects the CBD principles;

*Recalling* the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions signed at the COP1 of the Carpathian Convention in Kiev in 2006 and *recognizing* the successful cooperation between the Alpine and the Carpathian Conventions on the protection of the environment and the sustainable development of mountain regions that constitutes a good example and a role model for other mountain regions and shall inspire further collaboration and knowledge exchange among relevant actors;



*While recognizing* the role that the Alpine and the Carpathian Conventions play in promoting the importance of the mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity that provides services and benefits essential for human well-being, economic activity and sustainable development, *calling* for further coordinated efforts in emphasizing the key role of the mountains and the need for their protection in global political agendas;

*Considering* that the nature and integrated approach of the Alpine and the Carpathian Conventions towards sustainable development constitute a good instrument to mainstream biodiversity into other sectors, in line with the *CBD Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity for well-being*, adopted at CBD COP13, in Mexico 2016;

*Recognizing* that both the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions provide regional mechanisms for the implementation of the CBD and its Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in the Alps and the Carpathians, translating its global goals and targets to the regional level and thus enhancing their implementation in both regions as well as, indirectly, by the European Union;

*Recalling* the Decision 14/30 of the COP14 to the CBD, which recognizes the importance of collaboration and cooperation among biodiversity-related and other conventions and encourages consideration of actions for enhanced synergies between them, in order to address issues related to the three objectives of the CBD, as well as to the development and implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;

*Recalling* the Decision COP6/6 para 1 and 2 of the Carpathian Convention COP6, which recognizes the role of the Carpathian Convention as a regional mechanism for the implementation of the upcoming Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in the Carpathians, and welcomes the revision of the trilateral Memorandum of Cooperation between the CBD, the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention in the light of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, which shall be considered as a useful instrument for enhancing synergies and initiating common activities for the implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;



*Recalling* the decision ACXVI/B3 of the XVI Alpine Conference of the Alpine Convention, which approves the “Declaration on the protection of Mountain Biodiversity and its Promotion at international level” inviting the Contracting Parties, among others, to recognise the integration of mountains as vulnerable ecosystems in the ongoing negotiations related to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and invites the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention to further pursue negotiations with the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and the Secretariat of the Convention Biological Diversity in view of the renewal of the joint Memorandum of Cooperation;

*Recalling* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically SDG 15 Life on Land and its target 15.4 that calls for ensuring by 2030 the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development;

*Recalling* the United Nations General Assembly resolution UNGA resolution No. 74/227 on *Sustainable mountain development* adopted in December 2019, which recognizes the role of the Alpine and the Carpathian Conventions in promoting constructive new approaches to integrated, sustainable mountain development and providing a forum for dialogue among stakeholders and encourages Member States and all relevant stakeholders to consider, as appropriate, mountain-related issues in the processes of the United Nations conventions and other relevant global forums, including the process related to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;

*Recalling* the UN Decade on Ecosystems Restoration 2021 – 2030 aiming to massively scale up the restoration of degraded and destroyed ecosystems as a proven measure to fight climate change and enhance food security, water supply and biodiversity;

*Welcoming* the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and especially its objectives concerning old-growth forests (particularly relevant in the Carpathians), land take (particularly relevant in the Alps), as well as all the aspects that are of particular relevance in both Alpine and Carpathian regions, such as those regarding strict protection, forests and water ecosystems;



*Welcoming further* EU environmental policies and programmes, including the Birds Directive, the Habitat Directive, Natura 2000, the European Green Deal and relevant EU Strategies, aiming at preserving, protecting and improving the quality of the environment, addressing climate change and supporting sustainable development of Europe;

*Stressing* the need for better engagement of regional and local authorities, local communities, civil society and other stakeholders in the implementation of the three Conventions, which will require awareness raising activities to communicate the value of biodiversity for the human well-being and nature across the sectors and levels, including local, regional, national and global;

*Emphasizing* the importance of ecological connectivity and the protection of habitats and wildlife for ensuring healthy ecosystems of the mountain regions;

*Recognizing* that mountains are particularly strongly affected by climate change and provide sensitive indications of this process through phenomena, such as modifications to biological diversity, the retreat of mountain glaciers, flash floods and changes in seasonal run-off, which are impacting major sources of freshwater in the world, and *stressing the need* to undertake actions and share solutions to minimize the negative effects of these phenomena, develop adaptation measures and prevent the loss of biological diversity;

Have agreed to cooperate under this new Memorandum of Cooperation as follows:

## **Article I**

### **Objective**

1. The common objective of the CBD, the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention, acting through their Secretariats (hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Conventions”) is to leave the future generations with rich biodiversity; the Conventions aim at joining and bundling their forces with closer cooperation to fulfil this requirement.



2. The objective of the present Memorandum is to enhance the cooperation between the Conventions, with regard to the implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in the Alpine and the Carpathian regions, and to strengthen experience sharing with other mountain regions of the world.

## **Article II**

### **Areas of Cooperation**

The Conventions will:

1. enhance synergies and cooperate to support the implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, aiming at achieving its 2050 Vision and corresponding 2050 Goals and 2030 Action Targets in the Alpine and the Carpathian Regions,
2. exchange information on matters and activities of mutual relevance to the implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, including especially the thematic fields of cooperation specified in para 4 of this Article;
3. identify, implement and promote activities, including joint activities that, within their respective mandates, could make an enhanced contribution to the achievement of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and its 2050 Goals and 2030 Action Targets, as well as related indicators;
4. consider especially cooperation on the following thematic fields:
  - a. Ecological connectivity
  - b. Networks of protected areas
  - c. Sustainable management and protection of large carnivores
  - d. Improvement of species conservation and management of invasive species;
  - e. Synergies between biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and

- adaptation;
  - f. Protection of wilderness areas, old growth forests and other vulnerable mountain zones;
  - g. Nature-based-solutions;
  - h. Ecosystem restoration
  - i. Intact network of bodies of water and wetland conservation;
  - j. Environmentally friendly agriculture and food chains;
  - k. Harmonizing reporting, targets and indicators.
5. exchange experiences and best practices on issues of relevance for their mandates, including exchange with other mountain regions of the world;
  6. collaborate on and jointly promote mainstreaming biodiversity into all sectors, as appropriate, to enhance the implementation of the Conventions;
  7. cooperate to further promote the importance of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, and their inclusion into global and regional political agendas and programmes;
  8. cooperate to promote active participation of all the relevant stakeholders, including youth, women, NGOs, local authorities, local communities and the private sector, in conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and sustainable mountain development;
  9. cooperate to raise awareness of the Conventions, their respective Programmes of Work and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and of the need for whole-of-society engagement to implement them, also in the view of contributing to sustainable development, including the need for activities at the local, national, regional and global levels.

### **Article III**

#### **Organization of the Cooperation**





1. The Conventions will cooperate, as appropriate, on the preparation of the meetings of their respective governing and subsidiary bodies and invite each other to relevant meetings, subject to the applicable procedures.
2. The Conventions will regularly assess progress with respect to the implementation of this Memorandum, at least annually, through joint Secretariat meetings.
3. The Conventions will report on the implementation of this Memorandum to their respective governing and other competent bodies, as appropriate, and will seek further guidance on institutional cooperation and possible new areas of cooperation.

#### **IV. Programme of work on Mountain Biodiversity**

1. The Secretariats will especially cooperate to facilitate the enhancement or restoration of continuity and connectivity of natural and semi-natural habitats.
2. The Secretariats will step up efforts to protect wilderness areas, old growth forests and other vulnerable zones in mountainous areas.
3. The Secretariat will further strengthen exchange and collaboration towards raising greater awareness for and enhancing mountain biodiversity.
4. The Secretariats will collaborate to meet EU and international commitments, in particular regarding the efforts to combat climate change.
5. The Secretariats will endeavour to cooperate in fundraising for joint projects, such as on training and support, where applicable, to developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition to assist in the effective implementation of the programme of work on mountain biodiversity, and call upon the Environmental Reference Centre of the Mountain Partnership to support these efforts.
6. The Secretariats will cooperate in collecting, reviewing, evaluating and sharing, through the Clearing House Mechanism and other means, existing information about the role of mountain ecosystems in producing and maintaining freshwater resources, and about the consequences





of climate change and desertification on mountain biological diversity.

## **Article V**

### **Focal Points**

1. The Conventions agree that focal points for the implementation of this Memorandum will be appointed by the respective Heads of the Secretariats among their staff.
2. The Conventions will encourage Member States to collaborate, among others, by fostering the exchange between the Focal Points of the Conventions and the focal points for the implementation of this Memorandum.

## **Article VI**

### **Effectiveness, Amendment and Termination**

1. This Memorandum replaces the Memorandum of Cooperation signed on 29 May 2008 and takes effect upon signature by all sides.
2. The CBD, the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention, represented by their respective Secretariats, may, by mutual agreement, review and amend this Memorandum.
3. This Memorandum may be terminated by the CBD, the Alpine Convention or the Carpathian Convention, represented by their respective Secretariat, via giving a six-month written notice to the other Secretariat.

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2021/2022 at \_\_\_\_\_

**On behalf  
of the CBD**

**On behalf  
of the Alpine Convnetion**

**On behalf of the Carpathian  
Convention**

