

Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity - Work Plan 2021 – 2023

While conducting its activities, the WG Biodiversity shall act according to its Terms of Reference and follow the strategic objectives established therein. It will take into account and support implementation of relevant global and EU policies and processes, particularly the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, contributing to achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the future Global Biodiversity Framework to be adopted by the CBD COP 15.

Reference	Action	Timeframe	Actors
Implementing the International Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity (Action Plan on LC and connectivity)			
Action Plan on LC and connectivity SO 1 – Standardize monitoring procedures of large carnivores in the Carpathians DECISION COP6/9 para 2	MONITORING		
	1) Completion of work on the Report on population status of large carnivores and monitoring methods in the Carpathians	By May 2021	Parties, WG Biodiversity, Secretariat
	2) Preliminary discussion on standardization of monitoring procedures of large carnivores in the Carpathians	By July 2021	Parties, WG Biodiversity, Secretariat
	3) Development of harmonised approach to standardized monitoring system for each of the large carnivore species (brown bear, grey wolf, Eurasian lynx) in the Carpathians	By end 2023/COP7	Parties, WG Biodiversity, Secretariat
	4) Dissemination through the Carpathian Convention website and/or CCIBIS all relevant documents, including the reports on the population status of large carnivores and monitoring in the Carpathians.	By 2022 and regular updating	Secretariat

<p><u>Action Plan on LC and connectivity</u></p> <p>SO2 – Prevent habitat fragmentation and ensure ecological connectivity in the Carpathians</p> <p><u>Joint Strategic Action Plan 2021 – 2026 for the implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Transport (Transport SAP)</u></p> <p>SO2 - Ecological connectivity and wildlife-vehicle collisions are taken into account in the development of transport infrastructure</p> <p>SO3 - Fostered cooperation of all relevant stakeholders of Carpathian Convention and enhancement of stakeholder participation in spatial planning, and development of transport infrastructure</p> <p><u>DECISION COP6/9 para 1</u></p> <p><u>DECISION COP6/9 para 6, 7</u></p> <p><u>DECISION COP6/9 para 17</u></p>	<p>ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Development of a map of ecological networks for large carnivores in the Carpathians within the ConnectGREEN and SaveGREEN projects 2) Analysis and promotion of guidelines on ecological connectivity in the Carpathians, developed under the ConnectGREEN project, to support the identification, restoration and management of the ecological corridors in the Carpathians 3) Analysis and promotion of the <i>Wildlife and Traffic in the Carpathians - Guidelines on how to minimize the impact of transport infrastructure development on nature in the Carpathian countries¹</i> (relevant also for Transport SAP SO2.3) 4) Exchange of knowledge and cooperation with other mountain regions and neighbouring areas. Meeting(s) on ecological connectivity in Europe is organized and/or attended 5) Regular update and use of the Carpathian Countries Integrated Biodiversity Information System (CCIBIS) (relevant also for Transport SAP SO2.5, SO2.6 and SO2.7), including with support of the ConnectGREEN and SaveGREEN project 6) Development and use of training courses on interrelations between biodiversity and transport networks for national and local stakeholders to be developed with support of ConnectGREEN and SaveGREEN project (action of Transport SAP SO3.4) 7) Support development of a joint declaration on maintaining and restoring ecological corridors/green infrastructure to be adopted at the EUSDR Annual Forum 2022 in Ukraine within the SaveGREEN project 8) Support development and dissemination of recommendations towards integration of mitigation measures into the national and EU level processes, including mainstreaming biodiversity and ecological connectivity into policy and standardization on integrating ecological connectivity within the SaveGREEN project 9) Sharing common practices related to the application of methodologies (e.g., SEA, EIA) for the assessment of impact of transport infrastructure on ecological connectivity with support of the SaveGREEN project (action of Transport SAP SO2.4) 	<p>By the end of 2023</p>	<p>Parties WG Biodiversity Secretariat ConnectGREEN and SaveGREEN project partners</p>
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¹ http://www.interreg-danube.eu/uploads/media/approved_project_output/0001/35/02caafe3c1c1365f76574e754ddbc4e1af4a7a.pdf

<p><u>Action Plan on LC and connectivity</u></p> <p>SO4 – Improve law enforcement with respect to illegal killing of large carnivores</p>	<p>WILDLIFE CRIME</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Provision of inputs to the European report on wildlife crime prosecution pointing to policy gaps and actions to be taken for improved implementation and enforcement of wildlife crimes, 2) Dissemination of project's results and findings to key national/international stakeholders. 	<p>By August 2023</p>	<p>Parties WG Biodiversity Secretariat SWiPE project partners</p>
<p><u>Action Plan on LC and connectivity</u></p> <p>SO7 – Decrease impacts of climate change on large carnivores and their habitats</p>	<p>CLIMATE CHANGE</p> <p>Cooperation with the WG Climate Change and WG Forest on matters of cross-cutting issues and activities of common interest, such as the possible development of an assessment of climate change effects on large carnivores and their habitats, that could be linked to the assessment of the impacts of climate change on the Carpathian forests and their ecosystem services, if feasible.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Parties WG Biodiversity WG Climate Change Secretariat</p>
<p>Cooperation with CNPA</p>			
<p><u>DECISION COP6/9 para 8, 9, 10, 11 12</u></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Participation in the implementation of the Centralparks project that gives considerable support to the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) activities 	<p>By March 2022 (end of project)</p>	<p>Parties WG Biodiversity CNPA Secretariat Centralparks project partners</p>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2) Consideration, use and dissemination of the results of the project, as appropriate, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carpathian strategy for enhancing biodiversity and landscape conservation outside and inside Protected Areas • Strategy for local sustainable tourism development based on natural and cultural heritage of the Carpathians • Guidelines on communication between protected areas and local communities • Carpathian Ecosystem Service Toolkit 	<p>As soon as the results are available</p>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) Cooperation with the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas on relevant activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNPA Round Table/workshop at the Forum Carpathicum 2021 on CNPA on knowledge exchange on ecological connectivity and cooperation among mountain areas in Europe/functional models of protected areas networks in different mountain region of Europe (tbc) • 3rd CNPA conference, 28-30 September 2021 in Visegrad, Hungary 	<p>By July 2021 by October 2021</p>	

Cooperation with CWI			
<p><u>DECISION COP6/9 para 13, 14, 15, 16</u></p> <p><u>CWI Work and activities planned for Year 2021</u></p>	<p>1) Strengthening cooperation with Carpathian Wetland Initiative and relevant WGs, especially the WG Climate Change, especially in raising the importance of the Carpathian wetlands and initiating concrete activities, including development of a project proposal on relevant topics. and supporting relevant CWI activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International trainings on wetland conservation, management and restoration • Workshops on wetland conservation, management and restoration and on communication, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) • Implementation of submitted projects (if approved) • Co-organization of the EKOPLAGÁT 2023 – 16th edition of International Exhibition and Contest of Posters on environment and nature conservation 	<p>By end of 2023</p>	<p>Parties CWI WG Biodiversity WG Climate Change Secretariat</p>
Supporting implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework			
<p><u>DECISION COP6/6</u></p>	<p>1) Development of the Carpathian commitments/contribution to the implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in the Carpathians</p> <p>2) Consideration of the revision of the Strategic Action Plan for the implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol in the light of the Post-2020 GBF</p> <p>3) The revision and further implementation 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</p> <p>4) Further consultation with UNEP and other biodiversity related conventions regarding possible synergies for the implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.</p> <p>5) Consultations on and consideration of reporting on the implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol under the Data Reporting Tool for the MEAs (DaRT)</p>	<p>By COP7</p>	<p>Parties WG Biodiversity Secretariat CBD Secretariat</p>
Contributing to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration			
<p><u>DECISION COP6/5 para 6</u></p>	<p>1) Identification of regional flagships to promote the UN Ecosystem Restoration Decade in the Carpathians.</p>	<p>By COP7</p>	<p>Parties WG Biodiversity Secretariat Partners</p>
Cooperation with the European Union			

<p>DECISION COP6/3 para 14, 15</p> <p>DECISION COP6/3 para 9</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Contribution to the implementation of the EU strategies and policies, especially the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. 2) Further cooperation with the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and its Priority Area 6 (Biodiversity & Landscape) 	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Parties WG Biodiversity Secretariat</p>
<p>Cooperation with the Alpine Convention</p>			
<p>DECISION COP6/5 para 5</p> <p>DECISION COP6/6</p> <p>Memorandum of Understanding between the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Further strengthening cooperation in the fields of common interest including institutional cooperation, the exchange of information and experience, the development and implementation of common projects, and raising awareness of the significance of sustainable development of mountain areas in Europe and other mountain regions of the world; possible cooperation on improving biodiversity monitoring in the Alps and the Carpathians and exchange on Identification of a series of indicators relevant to mountain biodiversity could be considered, 2) Cooperation on the implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in the Carpathians, especially in the frame of the trilateral Memorandum of Cooperation between the CBD, the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention; raising importance of mountain biodiversity on the international agenda and strategies 3) Alpine Biodiversity Board to contribute to the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas Conference on 28-30 September 2021 in Visegrad, Hungary, also through the involvement of Alparc. 	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Parties WG Biodiversity Secretariat Alpine Convention Alpine Biodiversity Board</p>