



# International Action Plan on conservation of large carnivores and ensuring ecological connectivity in the Carpathians

Presented by  
Klaudia Kuras

Secretariat of the  
Carpathian Convention

12th WG Biodiversity Meeting  
May 19, 2021

Photo: Ewelina Zajac



A photograph of a brown bear standing in a forest. The bear is facing the camera, looking directly at it. It has thick brown fur and is standing on a grassy area with some fallen leaves. In the background, there are several tall trees with green foliage, and the lighting suggests it might be late afternoon or early morning, with some light filtering through the trees. The bear's expression is neutral, and it appears to be in its natural habitat.

# Introduction

The Carpathian region is one of Europe's last great wilderness areas, with exceptional levels of biodiversity, extensive tracts of old-growth forest and one of the most important and biggest large carnivore populations in Europe. It is estimated that over **7,200 brown bears**, **3,000 grey wolves**, and **2,350 Eurasian lynxes** currently existing in the Carpathian region (Chapron et al., 2014)

Photo: Tomas Hulik



# Legal background

The legal basis for the protection of large carnivores and ensuring ecological connectivity in the Carpathian region is also embodied in the **Carpathian Convention**. The relevant provisions regarding large carnivores are specified in:

- Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention
- The Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity (adopted by COP2 at 2008)
- The Strategic Action Plan for the implementation of the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity (adopted at COP3 in 2011)





A photograph of a wolf standing on a rocky outcrop in a forest. The wolf is facing left, looking down. Its reflection is visible in a pool of water below. The background is a dense forest with green foliage and tree trunks.

# Implementation

The Action Plan should be implemented taking into account:

- Report on Large Carnivore Monitoring in the Carpathian Mountains
- Differences in conservation status and management methods between the Parties
- Other strategic documents, specifically including the Joint Strategic Action Plan 2021 – 2026 for the implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Transport
- Outcomes of relevant projects, including ConnectGREEN, SaveGREEN, TRANSGREEN, EuroLargeCarnivores and others
- supported by and further contribute to the Carpathian Countries Integrated Biodiversity Information System (CCIBIS)
- revised and updated every 6 years



# Contributing to achieving of the Sustainable Development Goals

## SDG 15 Life on land



# Aim

Aiming at the maintenance of the long-term viability of large carnivores' populations in the Carpathians, while ensuring their favourable conservation status in the individual countries through transparent national processes, cross-border cooperation and a transdisciplinary approach.

Large Carnivores and  
Connectivity Action Plan





# Strategic Objectives

## SO # 1

Standardize monitoring procedures of large carnivores in the Carpathians

---

## SO # 2

Prevent habitat fragmentation and ensure ecological connectivity in the Carpathians

---

## SO # 3

Improve coexistence of humans with large carnivores





# Strategic Objectives

**SO #4**

Improve law enforcement with respect to illegal killing of large carnivores

---

**SO #5**

Improve communication and cooperation between all relevant stakeholders

---

**SO #6**

Strengthen institutional capacity-building

---

**SO #7**

Decrease impacts of climate change on large carnivores and their habitats





# Contact Us

For any questions or  
clarifications on the Action Plan

**UNEP Vienna Programme Office  
Secretariat of the Carpathian  
Convention**

---

## Website

[www.carpathianconvention.org](http://www.carpathianconvention.org)

---

## Email Address

[info.carpathianconvention@un.org](mailto:info.carpathianconvention@un.org)  
[klaudia.kuras@un.org](mailto:klaudia.kuras@un.org)