

MEETING REPORT

13th Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group
on Biodiversity

13:30 – 16:30, 11 April 2022 & 09:30 – 12:30, 12 April 2022
ONLINE MEETING

DAY 1 – 11 April 2022

Session I – Introduction

Opening of the WG Biodiversity meeting and welcome remarks by the Polish Presidency

The meeting was opened by the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, Mr. Harald Egerer, Head of the UNEP Vienna Programme Office – Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention. Mr. Egerer welcomed the participants to the 13th Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity (WG Biodiversity). The Secretariat later warmly welcomed Ms. Eliška Rolfová, Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic, as the Chair of the WG Biodiversity, and Ms. Bożena Haczek, Ministry of Climate and Environment of Poland, representing the Polish Presidency of the Carpathian Convention. Ms. Klaudia Kuras, UNEP Vienna Programme Office – Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, gave the technical instructions for the smooth running of the online meeting.

Ms Bożena Haczek, Ministry of Climate and Environment of Poland, in her opening remarks conveyed the Presidency's solicitude concerning the situation in Ukraine and extended the sympathy and solidarity to the people of Ukraine and everyone affected by the war. She stressed the importance of the ongoing negotiation for the the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, to be adopted at UN Biodiversity Conference (CBD COP15) in Kunming, China later this year. The framework is built upon the recognition that its implementation will be done in partnership with many organizations at all levels to build a momentum of success and that Carpathian Convention should make a significant contribution, as it covers high biodiversity areas.

Introductory remarks by the WG Biodiversity Chair

The Chair, in her welcoming speech expressed her desire to meet everyone in-person for the next WG Biodiversity meeting... Referring to the conflict in Ukraine, she stressed that peace is an important prerequisite for any conservation activities. The Chair offered a moment of silence for the victims of the war in Ukraine and expressed her will for the Carpathian Convention to support post-war activities in Ukraine related to biodiversity conservation and restoration.

The Chair invited Mr.Volodymyr Domashlinets, Head of Fauna Protection and the CC WG Biodiversity Member, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine to provide a statement on situation in Ukraine.

Adoption of the Agenda

The Meeting Agenda was adopted without any changes.

Review of progress in the implementation of the WG Biodiversity Work Plan 2021-2033

The Chair provided a review of the progress made in the implementation of the WG Biodiversity Work Plan 2021-2023, including on: Implementing the International Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Connectivity (Action Plan on LC); Monitoring; Ecological Connectivity; Wildlife crime; Climate change; Cooperation with CNPA; Cooperation with CWI; Supporting implementation of the Post -2020 Global Biodiversity Framework; Contributing to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration; Cooperation with the European Union; and Cooperation with the Alpine Convention.

The WG Biodiversity was invited to submit comments and proposals concerning further implementation of the Work Plan.

Session II – Large carnivores and ecological connectivity

Presentation of projects relevant for the implementation of the Action Plan:

➤ **ConnectGREEN, Interreg Danube Transnational Programme – final outputs relevant for WG Biodiversity**

Mr. Cristian Remus Papp, WWF RO, offered short overview of the final results of the ConnectGREEN project, that was closed in October 2021. The main outputs include: • International Action Plan on LCs and connectivity; • Methodology for Identification of Ecological Corridors in the Carpathian Countries by Using Large Carnivores as Umbrella Species, • Guidelines on how to use

spacial planning tools in interactive management of ecological corridors, • E-learning training course on eco-corridors. All the project outputs are available on the ConnectGREEN project [website](#).

Furthermore, Mr. Papp provided conclusions and recommendation from the Project: Cooperation with multi level stakeholders (from local to international) is key • Relevant stakeholders have to be identified and involved (from local organizations and experts to universities and ministries) • Borders should not represent a barrier, despite e.g. cultural differences, but rather an advantage (for improving/ adapting/ co-creating solutions to common projects) • Stakeholder consultations should happen in every stage, from early planning to implementation, • Transdisciplinary approach is crucial to address complex issues (multiple use of land, management of conflicts) • Connection with higher level policy makers (e.g. Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, EUSDR) is important • Good personal contacts, including with representatives of international professional networks can facilitate synergies and smooth implementation • Synergies are crucial, either planned or organized on demand.

[Related presentation is available at the Carpathian Convention website - LINK](#)

➤ **SWIPE – Successful Wildlife Crime Prosecution in Europe, EU LIFE Programme – project updates**

SWIPE project aims to discourage and ultimately reduce illegally killed European wildlife, supporting the recovery of threatened European biodiversity and the health of ecosystems; Restoring and managing eco-corridors in mountains as the green infrastructure in the Danube basin. Mr. Papp presented the experts results and the latest developments within the project.

[Related presentation is available at the Carpathian Convention website – LINK](#)

➤ **SaveGREEN, Interreg Danube Transnational Programme – project updates**

Mr. Christophe Janz, WWF CEE, presented the SaveGREEN project and its objectives, which mainly focus on: knowledge/experience exchange among relevant authorities and key stakeholders increased; Cross-sectoral practices improved relevant to Green Infrastructure for integrated mitigation measures, implementation and monitoring; International and national governance framework strengthened. The SaveGREEN project shall produce the following main results: • Standardized methodology for monitoring structural and functional connectivity incl. application toolbox for fieldwork & analysis • Local cross-sectoral operational plans for each pilot area incl. preparatory actions for its implementation • Capacity building program for authorities & training events for public authorities and key players on cost/benefit analysis, SEA, EIA, etc. • Recommendations towards the integration of mitigation measures into the national and EU level policy processes • High-level Political Declaration on ecological connectivity. One of the relevant upcoming events for the project is the IENE Conference, planned for 19-23 September 2022 in Cluj Napoca, Romania.

[Related presentation is available at the Carpathian Convention website – LINK](#)

➤ **LECA – Supporting the coexistence and conservation of Carpathian Large Carnivores, Interreg Central Europe Programme – project proposal**

Mr. Martin Dula, representing the project lead partner - Mendel University in Brno - as well as the LECA project consortium, presented the project general objectives, which focus on harmonizing monitoring of large carnivores, strengthening conflict prevention and poaching investigation of large carnivores in the Carpathians. The selected pilot areas are: Beskydy-Kysuce, Tatra Mountains, eastern Carpathians, Slovak Karst-Aggtelek NP/Bukk NP The main expected results includes: • 3 Adopted Thematic Guidance (on monitoring, conflict prevention and poaching), • 4 Participatory stakeholder platforms established in the pilot areas, • 4 Endorsed cross-border strategies, • revision of Carpathian Convention "Action Plan on conservation of LCs". The project proposal is currently under evaluation of the Interreg Central Europe Programme, the results should be known later this year.

[Related presentation is available at the Carpathian Convention website - LINK](#)

In this context, it was highlighted that the WG Biodiversity will be regularly consulted throughout the implementation of the project (if approved) to ensure alignment with the International Action Plan on LC an ecological connectivity.

➤ **NaturaConnect: Designing a resilient and coherent Trans-European Network for Nature and People, Horizon Europe – project presentations**

Ms. Irene Lucius presented briefly a new project – NaturaConnect – which shall contribute to the objectives of Biodiversity Strategy 2030, particularly on creating a Transnational European Network of Nature (TEN-N) that includes a functionally connected system with ecological corridors. The project main objectives includes:

- Define blue-print for TEN-N, • Data collection to design TEN-N and a monitoring system • Engage with stakeholders & policy makers • Develop future scenarios incorporating existing climate and land-use projections • Review & disseminate best spatial planning practices & funding mechanisms. The Carpathians have been selected as the study case for the project. Further information about the activities relevant for the WG Biodiversity will be shared in due course.

[Related presentation is available at the Carpathian Convention website - LINK](#)

Stocktaking on the implementation of the International Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity

The Chair presented the activities taken for the implementation of the [International Action Plan](#), particularly in respect to the projects that have been supporting achieving of various objectives listed in the Action Plan. The Chair opened the floor for comments and suggestion regarding further implementation of the Action Plan, which can be also submitted in writing to the Secretariat.

Cooperation with the EUSDR PA6 with focus on ecological connectivity

➤ Updates on the EUSDR PA 6 activities, specifically on the topic of ecological connectivity

Mr. Florian Ballnus, EUSDR PA 6 Coordinator, delivered a presentation on the ongoing activities within the EUSDR PA6 with particular focus on the ecological connectivity. Mr. Ballnus referred to the Steering Group Meeting on Ecological Connectivity on Priority 06 (PA 06) which was conducted online on 11 November 2021. There were a series of presentations of projects from Danube River over its floodplains up to the mountain area of the Carpathians (Measures, Life Wildisland, Masterplan Bavarian Danube, LifeLine, Dare to Connect, Connect Green and Save Green. He stressed the need to actively take into account the existent high level of experience, materials, guidelines, management plans, action plans, tools, training material and capacity models that were generated in these projects and activities. PA 6 role is to act as an intermediate link between activities and policy level to facilitate its capitalization and bringing these topics forward into attention in a more focused and concentrated way. And also, to identify gaps and strengthen the networks. He also mentioned about an interesting proposal – an inventory and catalogue on elements, initiatives, and projects in ecological connectivity for combining and uniting the dots and strings and to share it among stakeholders in an available and accessible manner for their further use and upgrade, even beyond the Danube region.

➤ Introduction of the Joint Declaration on mainstreaming of ecological connectivity (being developed under SaveGREEN project)

Ms. Irene Lucius, WWF-CEE, informed WG Biodiversity participants about the draft declaration entitled “Achieving functional biodiversity in the Danube-Carpathian Region by mainstreaming ecological connectivity”, that has been developed in support of the SaveGREEN project consortium.

The overall goal of the Declaration is to develop and commit to a coordinated cross-border and cross-sector approach for spatial planning and nature conservation in the Danube-Carpathian region. The Declaration shall support raising awareness on the importance of ecological connectivity for well-being of people and nature, support safeguarding and improving ecological corridors in the region and reflecting on them in relevant EU and national environmental policies and spatial planning instruments.

Concerning the Declaration's development process, a workshop will be held in mid-May 2022 (exact date to be confirmed) in order to review and agree on the final text. The Declaration has been formally shared with the Carpathian Convention Focal Points and the WG Biodiversity for commenting by 30 April 2022. In addition, EUSDR (particularly PA4, PA5 and PA6) and ICPDR are invited to support the initiative. More information about the workshop will be circulated in due course.

Conclusions and end of the Day 1

The Chair offered a short summary of the day 1 of the meeting and adjourned the meeting until Tuesday, 12th April at 9:30.

DAY 2 – 12 April 2022

Session III – Cooperation with other organizations and bodies

Updates on CWI activities

Mr. Jan Kadlecik, Carpathian Wetland Initiative Coordinator, delivered a short presentation on the ongoing CWI activities and meetings where CWI was contributing to, among others, the Final Conference of the Centralparks project and related round table on networks of protected areas, held on 24 March 2022 in Wieliczka, Poland. Mr. Kadlecik informed about the recently submitted, in cooperation with partner organizations, projects on identification, conservation, management and restoration of not protected tiny wetlands of conservation importance (first call of the Interreg CE programme 2021-2027).

Mr. Kadlecik informed as well about the International Training Course on Wetlands Restoration, organised by the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic and the Czech Ramsar Committee, held between 18-22 October in Šumava NP, Slavkovský les PLA, Krušné hory – testing of the format with CZ and SK participants (15). Mr. Kadlecik informed as well on the capacity and

financing of the CWI, thanking for voluntary contributions made by Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. More detailed information about the ongoing and planned CWI activities can be found in the presentation delivered during the WG Biodiversity meeting.

Related presentation is available at the Carpathian Convention website - [LINK](#)

Carpathian Network of Protected Areas

➤ Updates on CNPA activities, including on the 3rd CNPA Conference

Mr. Mircea Verghelet, Director of the Piatra Craiului National Park, Chair of the CNPA Steering Committee, updated the participants on the current CNPA activities and news, including the organization of the 3rd CNPA Conference and Connect Green Final Conference on Protected Areas – Cornerstones of Ecological Connectivity in the Carpathians and Beyond held from 28 to 30 September 2021 in Visegrád, Hungary, the CNPA Steering Committee meeting in November 2021 in Krakow, Poland and in March 2022 in Wieliczka, Poland, as well as about the latest edition of the Youth at the Top 2021 event that was organized with support of the Alpine Network of Protected Areas.

Furthermore, Mr. Verghelet informed about a proposal of the last CNPA SC meeting to circulate a questionnaire to the CNPA members with questions regarding fields of operations and topics of interest for further activities under the CNPA, in addition to consulting on the idea of establishing an association for the CNPA that through its legal status would be able to apply and implement project directly. The questionnaire is being prepared by the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention in consultation with CNPA SC and EURAC Research.

Related presentation is available at the Carpathian Convention website - [LINK](#)

➤ Centralparks project under Interreg Central Europe – presentation of the main project outputs

Mr. Isidoro De Bortoli, Eurac Research, the Centralparks Lead Partner, presented the final outputs of the recently closed project Centralparks project on building management capacities of Carpathian protected areas for the integration and harmonization of biodiversity protection and local socio-economic development (Interreg CE Programme). Among the most relevant project results for consideration, use and further dissemination by the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity Members and Observers are:

- Carpathian strategy for enhancing biodiversity and landscape conservation outside and inside protected areas: [Full document](#) | [Factsheet](#)
- Strategy for local sustainable tourism development based on natural and cultural heritage of the Carpathians: [Full document](#) | [Factsheet](#)
- [Guidelines on communication between protected areas and local communities in the Carpathian – full document](#)
- [Centralparks: Carpathian Ecosystem Services Tool](#)
- Educational materials : [Centralparks - YouTube](#)

The final conference of the project took place on 23-24 March 2022 in Wieliczka, Poland.

Related presentation is available at the Carpathian Convention website - [LINK](#)

Science for the Carpathians

Mr. Lubos Halada, representing the Science for the Carpathians (S4C), presented the latest activities of the S4C initiative, including a report from the 6th Forum Carpaticum – Linking the Environmental, Political and Societal Aspects for Carpathian Sustainability (online meeting) held on 21-25 June 2021, and its recommendations relevant for WG Biodiversity. During the Forum Carpaticum a memorandum of Understanding between the S4C and the Caucasus Scientific Network was signed, which aims at supporting exchange of information and joint research activities. The MoU was developed with support of the Carpathian Convention Secretariat. The S4C recommendation for the WG Biodiversity can be find in the delivered presentation.

Mr. Harald Egerer presented briefly the S4C Research Agenda 2022-2030, more info in the presentation below. Related presentation is available at the Carpathian Convention website - [LINK](#)

Carpathian Research Network

Mr. Patrik Mráz, Charles University in Prague, representing the Carpathian Research Network (CRN), presented CRN established in 2016 with an aim to standardize manner for gathering distributional data to enable the cross-border sharing of knowledge on Carpathian Region with a special focus on endemics. Mr. Patrik Mráz invited the WG Biodiversity for the 3rd Interdisciplinary

Symposium devoted to the Biogeography of the Carpathians, Prague, Czech Republic from 12 to 14 September 2022. More information about the Symposium and the work of CRN can be found in the delivered presentation.

Related presentation is available at the Carpathian Convention website - [LINK](#)

The Secretariat made a comment on the need for integrating and synergising the work of the Carpathian Research Network with the activities of the Convention and the Science for the Carpathians. Discussion focused on the work on endemic species and potential cooperation for finalization of the Carpathina Red List of endemic species. The discussion between CRN, S4C, the WG Biodiversity Chair and the SCC shall continue in the coming months with the aim to present ideas for further joint work at the 3rd Interdisciplinary Symposium in Prague in September this year.

Post 2020 global biodiversity framework

- **Update on the process**
- **Carpathian Commitments for the Post-2020 global biodiversity framework process – discussion**

The Chair provided the overview and the latest updates on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (Post-2020 GBF) that is currently being negotiated under the auspices of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the outcomes of the Geneva meetings (SBSTTA-24, SBI-3 and OEWG-3). The Chair informed about the progress made in negotiation of the final text of the GBF, however still more time for discussion is required. In this respect, another meeting of the OEWG-4 will be organized from 21 to 26 June 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya. Furthermore, the dates of the CBD COP15/UN Biodiversity Conference in Kunming, China, are still to be confirmed by the host country – China.

The results of the negotiations are important for discussing and developing the Carpathian Commitments for the Post-2020 GBF, as requested by the CC COP6 Decisions. The Chair together with the Secretariat will consult first draft of the commitments' with the WG Biodiversity and potentially other WGs in due course.

- **Trilateral Memorandum of Cooperation between the CBD, the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention**

Ms. Klaudia Kuras, UNEP Vienna Programme Office – Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention informed the WG Biodiversity on the Secretariat's work on promoting the Carpathian Convention at the global level and within the Post-2020 global biodiversity framework process. One of the main outcomes of these activities is the renewal of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the CBD, the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention in the light of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The MoC can be considered as important instrument for GBF implementation in the Alps and the Carpathians, and sharing of good practices with other mountain regions of the world. Furthermore, it has been already recognized by the CBD Parties as example emphasizing the importance of cooperation to achieve the objectives of the post-2020 GBF, including through establishing or renewing cooperation frameworks by including its references to the SBI-3 recommendations for the CBD COP15 decisions.

The text of the MoC is being currently consulted between the Conventions and a revised version of the document shall shortly reach the CC Focal Points and the WG Biodiversity. Due to procedural requirements, the MoC will be signed only after official adoption of the post-2020 GBF, possibly at the Carpathian Ministerial Conference in Poland later in 2022. After that the WG Biodiversity shall play an important role for the implementation of the MoC.

Related presentation is available at the Carpathian Convention website - [LINK](#)

- **Presentation on ongoing cooperation with European Environment Agency**

Mr. Harald Egerer, Head, UNEP Vienna Programme Office – Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, briefly presented the ongoing cooperation with European Environment Agency, which mainly focus on updates of the official virgin (and quasi-virgin) forest inventory in the Carpathians. Further to this task, the EEA proposed to generate non-official primary and old-growth forest inventory to complement and enlarge the wide database on well conserved forest in the Carpathian mountains from trusted entities/organizations. This idea shall be further discussed at the next WG Forest meeting.

The EEA is working as well on forest connectivity assessment, which shall allow identification of potential HNV forest areas as connectors. The overall objective of the forest connectivity assessment is to identify priorities areas for restoration for co-benefits and synergies targeting climate resilience and reduction of biodiversity loss.

Related presentation is available at the Carpathian Convention website - [LINK](#)

UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

Mr. Egerer updated the group about the European Restoration Flagships (ERF) project under the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, being implemented by UNEP in cooperation UNEP-WCMC, with the aim to promote the implementation of landscape and seascape restoration programmes across Europe by illustrating the realised and potential benefits of selected initiatives and providing networking opportunities to the stakeholders. The Carpathians/Carpathian Convention were selected

as one of the European initiatives. Currently the project is analysing the benefit of restoration activities in the region, which shall be then showcased to governments and stockholders in a form of a publication as well as a dedicated workshop scheduled on 14 May 2022 (the focal points shall be invited to the workshop by the project).

Related presentation is available at the Carpathian Convention website - [LINK](#)

Alpine Convention and its Alpine Biodiversity Board – updates on cooperation activities

Due to technical problems, Mr. Paolo Angelin was not able to deliver his presentations, however in the submitted speech to the Secretariat, Mr. Angelini informed about the current activities of the Alpine Biodiversity Board, including identification of a series of indicators for mountains; Joint work on a potential target for the Alpine Convention; Contribution to reach the 2050 Alpine Climate Targets; as well as work on the development of a project proposal for monitoring ecosystems and biodiversity in the Alps, which could foresee exchange with the Carpathians.

Mr. Angelini reported on joint work with the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention for the organization of the The Alpine Carpathian Biodiversity Forum, held on 15-16 December 2021, which allowed for an open discussion with experts at national and international level about issues and critical aspects related to the protection of mountain biodiversity. Results of the conference are summarised in "Forum Conclusions and Recommendations".

Furthermore, Mr. Angielini informed about another joint activity that is organized within the frame of the International year of Sustainable Mountains that is observed in 2022. Upon initiative of the Alpine Biodiversity Board a conference is planned for June-July this year "Mountains, biodiversity 2002 – 2022: achievements and next challenges at global and regional level" in cooperation with ABB-PSAC, UNEP-SCC, Mountain Partnership Secretariat-FAO.

The event will provide an overview of the Mountains biodiversity from 2002 to 2022, focusing on the progress and the significant achievements in the past 20 years from Alpine, Carpathian and Global perspective, and the strategic approach for the future.

The main objective of the event will be to elevate mountain biodiversity and mountain ecosystems at the international environmental agendas, including the CBD and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, in line with the UN resolution and the outcomes of the ABB Forum.

More information about the agenda and registration to the event will be provided soon.

Related presentation is available at the Carpathian Convention website - [LINK](#)

AOB

No topics were raised under Any Other Business

Conclusions, next steps and closing of the meeting

In the conclusions, the Chair briefly summarised the topics discussed during the two days of the WG Biodiversity meeting and the proposed next steps to enhance the implementation of the WG Biodiversity Work Plan 2021-2023. For the ease of reference, they are included directly in the Work Plan annexed below with additional column "Next steps recommended by the WG Biodiversity at its 13th meeting/11-12 April 2022" that is highlighted in blue.

The Chair thanked the participants for their rich contribution to the meeting and the Secretariat for the excellent organization of the meeting, then the meeting was declared closed.



**Webcam Meeting Photo,
13th Biodiversity meeting,
11-12 April 2022**

Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity - Work Plan 2021 – 2023 + Next steps recommended by the WG Biodiversity at its 13th meeting/11-12 April 2022

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	Next steps recommended by the WG Biodiversity at its 13th meeting/11-12 April 2022
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	COMPLETED	Parties, WG Biodiversity, Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ WG Biodiversity is invited to provide comments and suggestions for the further implementation (including addressing possible gaps) of the International Action Plan on conservation of large carnivores and ensuring the ecological connectivity by 31 May 2022. ➤ Waiting for the evaluation of the LECA project on supporting the coexistence and conservation of Carpathian Large Carnivores, that was submitted to the 1st call of the EU Intereg CE Programme. If approved, the LECA project will bring a great contribution to the implementation of the International Action Plan on conservation of large carnivores and ensuring the ecological connectivity, in particular regarding harmonization of LC monitoring. Information about the evaluation results will be shared with the WG Biodiversity as soon as possible.
	2) Preliminary discussion on standardization of monitoring procedures of large carnivores in the Carpathians	COMPLETED	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		
<u>Action Plan on LC and connectivity</u> SO2 – Prevent habitat fragmentation and ensure ecological connectivity in the Carpathians	ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Declaration on achieving functional biodiversity in the Danube-Carpathian Region by mainstreaming ecological connectivity”, that is being developed in support of the SaveGREEN project consortium, will be further consulted with the WG Biodiversity and other partners. The first draft of the declaration was sent for comments deadline with the set for 30 April 2022. Further discussion and finalization of the declaration is foreseen at the upcoming workshop to be organized in June 2022. Information about the workshop will follow in due course.
	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	By the end of 2023	Parties WG Biodiversity Secretariat ConnectGREEN and SaveGREEN project partners	

<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>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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) 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Secretariat will share more detailed information about the project NaturaConnect - Designing a resilient and coherent Trans-European Network for Nature and People (Horizon Europe) and its activities relevant for the WG Biodiversity in due time. ➤ WG Biodiversity is invited to consider the possible best steps for use and further dissemination of the ConnectGREEN project results.
<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 style="text-align: center;">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>PartiesWG Biodiversity Secretariat SWiPE project partners</p>	

¹ http://www.interreg-danube.eu/uploads/media/approved_project_output/0001/35/02caaaf3c1c1365f76574e754ddbdc4e1af4a7a.pdf

<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>	<p>1) Participation in the implementation of the Centralparks project that gives considerable support to the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) activities</p> <p>2) Consideration, use and dissemination of the results of the project, as appropriate, including:</p> <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>3) Cooperation with the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas on relevant activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNPA Round Table/workshop at the Forum Carpaticum 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>COMPLETED</p> <p>COMPLETED (for further use)</p> <p>COMPLETED</p>	<p>Parties WG Biodiversity CNPA Secretariat Centralparks project partners</p>	<p>➤ Considering the idea of establishing an association for CNPA. The questionnaire in this respect will be sent to the CNPA Members shortly. Further consultation will be required.</p> <p>➤ WG Biodiversity is invited to consider the possible best steps for use and further dissemination of the Centralparks project results.</p>
<p>Cooperation with CWI</p>				
<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) 	<p>By end of 2023</p>	<p>Parties CWI WG Biodiversity WG Climate Change Secretariat</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 			
Supporting implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework				
DECISION COP6/6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Development of the Carpathian commitments/contribution to the implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in the Carpathians Consideration of the revision of the Strategic Action Plan for the implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol in the light of the Post-2020 GBF 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 Further consultation with UNEP and other biodiversity related conventions regarding possible synergies for the implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Consultations on and consideration of reporting on the implementation of the Biodiversity Protocol under the Data Reporting Tool for the MEAs (DaRT) 	By COP7	Parties WG Biodiversity Secretariat CBD Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat will share the revised draft of the Memorandum of Cooperation between CBD, Alpine and the Carpathian Convention for further consultation in due course. WG Biodiversity will be invited for consultation on development of the Carpathian Commitments for the post-2020 GBF implementation.
Contributing to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration				
DECISION COP6/5 para 6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of regional flagships to promote the UN Ecosystem Restoration Decade in the Carpathians. 	By COP7	Parties WG Biodiversity Secretariat Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WG Biodiversity is invited to submit examples and good practices/activities on ecosystem restoration in the Carpathians by 31 May 2022.
Cooperation with the European Union				
DECISION COP6/3 para 14, 15 DECISION COP6/3 para 9	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution to the implementation of the EU strategies and policies, especially the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. Further cooperation with the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and its Priority Area 6 (Biodiversity & Landscape) 	Ongoing	Parties WG Biodiversity Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening cooperation and further exchanging with the EUSDR PA6, including follow up on the idea of an inventory of ecological connectivity initiatives.
Cooperation with the Alpine Convention				

<p><u>DECISION COP6/5 para 5</u></p> <p><u>DECISION COP6/6</u></p> <p><u>Memorandum of Understanding between the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention</u></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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Invitation to the conference “Mountains biodiversity 2002 – 2022: achievements and next challenges at global and regional level” will be shared with the WG Biodiversity in due course.
<p>Cooperation with the Science for the Carpathians</p>				
<p>DECISION COP6/8 para 1, 2, 3,4</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Implementation of the Carpathian Convention supported with its sound scientific knowledge and expertise 2) Exchange of scientific information to support decision making processes improved, while S4C recommendations took into close consideration when prioritizing, planning and implementing Convention activities 3) Close cooperation with the S4C by among other, regular exchange of information and participation in relevant meetings in place 	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Parties WG Biodiversity S4C Secretariat</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Considering the Science for the Carpathians /6th Forum Carpathicum recommendations relevant for the WG Biodiversity; the draft recommendations were shared with the WG Biodiversity with the deadline for commenting on 28 April 2022. ➤ Welcoming the information about the S4C Research Agenda 2022-2030 and anticipating receipt of the document as soon as finalized. Further to this, the idea of developing the Carpathian Environmental Outlook as propose by the S4C Research Agenda shall be further explored. ➤ Considering the invitation to the 3rd Interdisciplinary Symposium devoted to the Biogeography of the Carpathians, Prague, Czech Republic from 12 to 14 September 2022 by the Carpathian Research Network. More information will be provided in due course. ➤ Considering synergies of work being done by the Carpathian Research Network with the activities of the Convention and the Science for the Carpathians; to continue discussion on potential cooperation for finalization of the Capetian Red List of endemic species. The discussion between CRN, S4C, the WG Biodiversity Chair and the SCC shall continue in the coming months with the aim to present ideas for further joint work at the 3rd Interdisciplinary Symposium in Prague in September this year.