



WG Biodiversity Work Plan

COP7 mandate, review of the progress in implementation of the WG Biodiversity Work Plan 2021 – 2023 and preparation Work Plan 2024 – 2026

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 Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Climate Action, Environment,
Energy, Mobility,
Innovation and Technology

Ministry of the Environment
of the Czech Republic


Republic of Serbia
MINISTRY OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



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Mandate by the Carpathian Convention COP7

7th Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP7) adopted decisions dedicated to:

➤ **Implementation of the Carpathian Convention** (Decision COP7/1 paragraph 3)

“adopted the **Carpathian Biodiversity Framework** and the accompanying Carpathian Vision 2050, translating the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) at the regional level, as a comprehensive and ambitious instrument to implement transformative actions by various stakeholders in order **to achieve a vision to live in harmony with nature in the Carpathians by 2050**”.

➤ **Implementation of the Kunming- Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework** (Decision COP7/6)

➤ **Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity** (Decision COP7/9)

➤ **As well other decisions requiring cross – sectoral cooperation**



Mandate by the Carpathian Convention COP7

Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity

(Decision COP7/9) (the longest of all thematic chapters):

- **Carpathian Biodiversity Framework**
- **Large carnivores and ecological connectivity /Action Plan**
 - LECA project
 - CMS COP14 Decision on the Eurasian Lynx
 - NATURACONNECT project
 - SaveGREEN project
 - ConnectGREEN project
 - Cooperation with other regions
- **Cooperation with other initiatives**
 - Carpathian Network of the Protected Areas (including results of the Centraparks project and cooperation with other networks)
 - Carpathian Wetland Initiative
 - Science for the Carpathians
 - Alpine Biodiversity Board
- **Improving landscape protection and spatial planning**

Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity Work Plan and Mandate 2024–2026

1) Carpathian Biodiversity Framework

Support the implementation of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework

Mandate: COP7 Decision COP7/6 para 1 and COP7/9 para 2

Envisaged activities

- Act upon CBF Strategic Objective 1 while considering its connections to other Strategic Objectives, implementing ongoing activities and proposing new initiatives accordingly.
- Consider the annex of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework, which outlines actions for implementing the GBF in the Carpathian region. These actions contribute to each relevant Global Target and support the achievement of the Vision 2030 for the Carpathians and the Strategic Objective by 2030.
- Consider and integrate the results of the NaturaConnect project into the implementation of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework

Tentative timeline: by end of 2026 (to be specified)

Inclusion of the Carpathian Convention into the revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs)

Mandate: COP7 Decision COP7/6 para 2

Envisaged activities:

- Consider and use the [Guidance Document for Streamlining the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans](#) and its [Annex I: Table with example policy actions relevant for the Carpathians for more information on the process](#) while undertaking the revision of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs)

Tentative timeline: by end of 2026 or by the time of finalized revisions of NBSAPs

Support the implementation of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the CBD, the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention renewed in the light of the Global Biodiversity Framework

Mandate: COP7 Decision COP7/6 para 3

Envisaged activities:

- Initiate and support activities implementing the Memorandum of Cooperation between the CBD, the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention renewed in the light of the Global Biodiversity Framework.

Tentative timeline: by end of 2026 (to be specified)

Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity Work Plan and Mandate 2024–2026

2) Implement the International Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity
Asses the progress and revise the Action Plan
Mandate: COP7 Decision: COP7/9 para 1
Envisaged activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Assess the progress made in implementing the Action Plan and revise it, as necessary, taking into account the results of relevant projects, particularly the LECA, ForestConnect and NaturaConnect projects.
<i>Tentative timeline: by COP8 in 2026 (to be specified)</i>
Support the implementation of the LECA project
Mandate: COP7 Decision: COP7/9 para 3
Envisaged activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Contribute to the development of the thematic guidance on monitoring, poaching investigation and conflict prevention and the recommendations for the implementation of the Carpathian Convention on large carnivores by actively consulting and providing expert inputs to the documents.
<i>Tentative timeline: by COP8 in 2026 (to be specified)</i>
Support conservation of the Carpathian lynx
Mandate: COP7 Decision: COP7/9 para 19
COP7/9 para 19: Takes note of the development and submission of a proposal on Concerted Action for the Eurasian Lynx under the CMS Convention
Envisaged activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Develop, endorse and implement a Strategy for the conservation of the autochthonous population of the Carpathian lynx in Europe in close cooperation with the Range States and relevant bodies of Bern Convention and CMS to inform the development and implementation of related National Action Plans (to be further specified)
<i>Tentative timeline: to be specified</i>
Reestablish the Large Carnivores Expert Group within the WG Biodiversity
Mandate: COP7 Decision: COP7/9 para, COP7/9 para 19
Envisaged activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Update the list of Large Carnivores Expert Group within the WG Biodiversity
<i>Tentative timeline: by end of 2024 (to be specified)</i>

Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity Work Plan and Mandate 2024–2026

Increase interregional cooperation on large carnivores
Mandate: COP7 Decision: COP7/9 para 4
Envisaged activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Consider and use the results of the Joint Conference of the Alpine and the Carpathian Conventions on large carnivores, organized within the frame of the LAEC project in March 2024 in Slovenia, and based on it, suggest and develop joint activities between the Carpathian and Alpine regions, not limited to other regions, for improving the conservation and management practices of large carnivores in the respective regions and in Europe. <i>Tentative timeline: by end of 2026 (to be specified)</i>
Implement the Joint Declaration “Achieving functional biodiversity in the Danube-Carpathian Region by mainstreaming ecological connectivity
Mandate: COP7 Decision: COP7/9 para 6
Envisaged activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Initiate and implement activities supporting the implementation of the Joint Declaration “Achieving functional biodiversity in the Danube-Carpathian Region by mainstreaming ecological connectivity. <i>Tentative timeline: by end of 2026 (to be specified)</i>
Support implementation of NaturaConnect project building a resilient ecological network of conserved areas across Europe
Mandate: COP7 Decision: COP7/9 para 7
Envisaged activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Contribute to and support the project activities relevant for the Carpathians by providing expert inputs and consulting project documents and tools, as requested.- Participate and contribute to the workshops and webinars organized within the frame of the NaturaConnect project, which aims to provide relevant data and tools for establishing a robust ecological network comprising green and blue infrastructure, with consideration for potential financing mechanisms within the Carpathian region.- Promote and use the project results, as appropriate. <i>Tentative timeline: by end of 2026 (to be specified)</i>
Make use of available tools to improve ecological connectivity in the Carpathians
Mandate: COP7 Decision: COP7/9 para 5, COP7/9 para 9,
Envisaged activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Use and promote the results of the project SaveGREEN on safeguarding the functionality of transnationally important ecological corridors in the Danube region, particularly the “Methodology on Monitoring structural and functional ecological connectivity” and its related application toolbox for field data collection.- Use and promote the results of the ConnectGREEN project, particularly:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Methodology for identification of ecological corridors in the Carpathian countries using large carnivores as umbrella species• Guidelines on how to Use Spatial Planning Tool in Integrative Management of Ecological Corridors. <i>Tentative timeline: by end of 2026</i>

Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity Work Plan and Mandate 2024–2026

3) Cooperate with partner initiatives

Cooperation with the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas

Mandate: COP7 Decision: COP7/9 para 10, 12,13

Envisaged activities:

- Support better governance and operational functions of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas
- Support closer cooperation and exchange between the networks of protected areas and identifying topic of mutual importance for further work, if relevant.
- Use and promote the results of the project Centralparks while implementing the Carpathian Convention, particularly:
 - [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 in the Carpathians

Tentative timeline: by end 2026 (to be specified)

Cooperation with the Carpathian Wetland Initiative

Mandate: COP7 Decision: COP7/9 para 14

Envisaged activities:

- Support better governance and operational functions of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative
- Support development and implementation of relevant projects

Tentative timeline: by end of 2026 (to be specified)

Cooperation with the Science for the Carpathians

Mandate: COP7 Decision: COP7/8, para 2 and 3

Envisaged activities:

- Take into account the S4C Recommendations when prioritizing, planning and implementing Convention activities
- Support development and implementation of relevant projects

Tentative timeline: by end of 2026 (to be specified)

Cooperation with the Alpine Biodiversity Board

Mandate: COP7 Decision: COP7/5, para 5, COP7/6 para 3

Envisaged activities

- Strengthen the cooperation in fields of common interest, including institutional cooperation, the exchange of information and experience
- Support the development of common projects and the implementation of the recently approved EU Alpine Space project "AlpsLife - Protect Alpine Life by monitoring and managing Alpine biodiversity for the future. "Observing globally, acting locally"!", which foresee an exchange of best practices on biodiversity monitoring among mountain regions

Tentative timeline: by end of 2026 (to be specified)

Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity Work Plan and Mandate 2024–2026

4) Improving landscape protection and spatial planning

Developing relevant activities

Mandate: COP7 Decision COP7/9

Decision COP7/9: Encourages the Parties, the WG Biodiversity and relevant stakeholders to propose and develop activities and projects on landscape protection and spatial planning, which in line with the Carpathian Convention provisions, will support sustainable land management and landscape planning that optimize human activities with biodiversity protection and enhancement of measures.

Envisaged activities

- Consider development and implementation of a project or any other initiatives addressing the topics of landscape protection and spatial planning
- Organize and participate in workshops, webinar and seminar on this topic

Tentative timeline: by end of 2026 (to be specified)

Revision of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity Work Plan and 2021–2023

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	ongoing
	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	ongoing

<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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<u>Action Plan on LC and connectivity</u> SO4 – Improve law enforcement with respect to illegal killing of large carnivores	WILDLIFE CRIME 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.	By August 2023	Parties WG Biodiversity Secretariat SWiPE project partners	✓
<u>Action Plan on LC and connectivity</u> SO7 – Decrease impacts of climate change on large carnivores and their habitats	CLIMATE CHANGE 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.	Ongoing	Parties WG Biodiversity WG Climate Change Secretariat	ongoing
Cooperation with CNPA				
<u>DECISION COP6/9 para 8, 9, 10, 11 12</u>	1) Participation in the implementation of the Centralparks project that gives considerable support to the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) activities	By March 2022 (end of project)	Parties WG Biodiversity CNPA Secretariat Centralparks project partners	✓
	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 	As soon as the results are available		ongoing
	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 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 	By July 2021 by October 2021		✓

Cooperation with CWI				ongoing
DECISION COP6/9 para 13, 14, 15, 16 CWI Work and activities planned for Year 2021	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: <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 	By end of 2023	Parties CWI WG Biodiversity WG Climate Change Secretariat	
Supporting implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework				✓
DECISION COP6/6	1) Development of the Carpathian commitments/contribution to the implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in the Carpathians 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 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 4) Further consultation with UNEP and other biodiversity related conventions regarding possible synergies for the implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. 5) 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	
Contributing to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration				ongoing
DECISION COP6/5 para 6	1) Identification of regional flagships to promote the UN Ecosystem Restoration Decade in the Carpathians.	By COP7	Parties WG Biodiversity Secretariat Partners	
Cooperation with the European Union				

Cooperation with the European Union				
DECISION COP6/3 para 14, 15 DECISION COP6/3 para 9	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)	Ongoing	Parties WG Biodiversity Secretariat	ongoing
Cooperation with the Alpine Convention				
DECISION COP6/5 para 5 DECISION COP6/6 Memorandum of Understanding between the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention	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.	Ongoing	Parties WG Biodiversity Secretariat Alpine Convention Alpine Biodiversity Board	ongoing



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