

MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

Between

The Convention on Biological Diversity

And

The Alpine Convention

And

The Carpathian Convention

...2023

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 Kunming-Montreal 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 utilisation 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 organisations 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 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP-15), 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 global goals for 2050 and 2030 global targets which are the integral part of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

Recalling the Programme of Work on Mountain Biological Diversity approved by the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP-7), which constitutes a set of actions addressing characteristics and problems that are specific to mountain ecosystems;

Also recalling the Programme of Work on Protected Areas approved by CBD COP-7, which comprises a set of actions addressing protected areas, constituting an important tool of preservation of mountain ecosystems;

Recognising 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 Article 2 (2f) of the Alpine Convention, which concerns nature protection and landscape conservation, and the Protocol on Nature Protection and Landscape Conservation to the Alpine Convention that entered into force in 2002, and *recognising* the work of the Alpine Convention’s Thematic Working Bodies relevant to the topic of biodiversity, in particular the Alpine Biodiversity Board (ABB);

Recalling Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention, which concerns conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity, and the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity to the Carpathian Convention that entered into force in 2010, and *recognising* the work of the Carpathian Convention’s Working Groups relevant to the topic of biodiversity, in particular the Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity;

Recalling further the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions signed at the COP-1 of the Carpathian Convention in Kyiv in 2006, and *recognising* 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;

Recognising the role played by the Alpine and the Carpathian Conventions in promoting the importance of the mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity which provides services and benefits essential for human well-being, economic activity and sustainable development, while *calling* for further coordinated efforts in emphasising the key role of the mountains and the need for their protection in global political agendas;

Considering that the integrated approach of the Alpine and the Carpathian Conventions towards sustainable development constitute a good instrument to mainstream biodiversity within and across sectors, in line with the mainstreaming objectives of the CBD¹, [in particular the long-term strategic approach to biodiversity mainstreaming adopted at the CBD COP15/17²];

Recognising that both the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions provide regional mechanisms for the implementation of the CBD and its Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in the Alps and the Carpathians, translating the the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to the regional level and thus enhancing implementation in both regions as well as, indirectly, by the European Union (hereinafter “EU”);

Recalling decision 14/30 of the CBD COP-14³ and decision 15/13 of CBD COP-15⁴, which recognise the importance of cooperation among biodiversity-related and other conventions, and encourage 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 implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

Also recalling decision COP6/6 of the Carpathian Convention COP-6, which recognises the role of the Carpathian Convention as a regional mechanism for the implementation of the global biodiversity framework in the Carpathians, and welcomes the revision of the trilateral Memorandum of

¹ References to relevant CBD decision will be added here (decisions XIII/2, XIII/3 and 14/3)

² <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-17-en.pdf>

³ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-14/cop-14-dec-30-en.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-17-en.pdf>

Cooperation between the CBD, the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention in the light of the global biodiversity framework, *furthermore recalling* the Ministerial Declaration of the Carpathian Convention on Carpathian Commitments for the implementation of the new global biodiversity framework adopted on 22 November 2022;

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

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically SDG 15, to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss, 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 (hereinafter “UN”) General Assembly resolution No. 77/172 on *Sustainable mountain development* adopted in December 2022, which recognises 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 UN conventions and other relevant global forums, including the process related to the global biodiversity framework, and stresses the importance of regional and transboundary collaboration as means of implementation; and *welcoming* the proclamation of the period 2023–2027 as *Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions* in said resolution, as well as the related proclamation of the year 2022 as *International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development* by the UN General Assembly in resolution No. 76/129 in December 2021;

Recalling further the UN Decade on Ecosystem 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;

Appreciating that the Secretariats of the CBD, of the Alpine Convention and of the Carpathian Convention are collaborating in the context of the Mountain Partnership, and together with their constituencies are working for the sustainable development in mountain regions, including by facilitating, where appropriate, the development of regional platforms and legal tools for cooperation;

Welcoming the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 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 habitat restoration and nature protection including strict protection and the integration of ecological corridors to build coherent networks, forests and water ecosystems;

Welcoming further EU environmental policies and programmes, including the Birds Directive, the Habitat Directive and the related Natura 2000 network, the Water Framework Directive, the European Green Deal and relevant EU Strategies, as well as the biodiversity ambition through the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027, aiming at preserving, protecting and improving the quality of the environment, addressing climate change and biodiversity and, more in general, supporting the 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 within and 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;

Recognising that mountains are particularly strongly affected by climate change and provide sensitive indications of this process through phenomena, such as modifications to biological diversity, windstorms, 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 minimise 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 objective of the present Memorandum is to enhance the cooperation between the CBD, the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention (hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Conventions”), acting through their Secretariats (hereinafter collectively referred to as “the Secretariats”), with regard to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal 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 Secretariats will:

1. enhance synergies and cooperate to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, aiming at achieving its 2050 Vision and corresponding global goals for 2050 and 2030 global targets in the Alpine and the Carpathian regions and in cooperation with other mountain regions, if applicable;
2. exchange information on matters and activities of mutual relevance to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and their respective Programmes of Work, including especially the thematic fields of cooperation specified in paragraph 5 of this Article;
3. identify, implement and promote activities, including joint activities, within their respective mandates, to enhance contribution to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its global goals for 2050 and 2030 global targets;
4. further facilitate the implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Mountain Biological Diversity and its contribution to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

5. consider especially cooperation on the following thematic fields:
 - a. Enhancement or restoration of ecological connectivity of natural and semi-natural habitats to safeguard and restore mountain biological diversity and related ecosystem services
 - b. Strengthening of networks of protected areas
 - c. Improvement of the sustainable management and protection of large carnivores
 - d. Improvement of the conservation of native species and management of invasive species
 - e. Improvement of the protection of wilderness areas, old growth forests and other vulnerable mountain zones, also through effective management of protected areas
 - f. Strengthening of synergies between biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation
 - g. Promotion of nature-based solutions including ecosystem-based approaches to achieve multiple benefits, including for climate change adaptation, mitigation, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development, respecting social and environmental safeguards
 - h. Support to and promotion of ecosystem restoration
 - i. Support to and promotion of soil biodiversity
 - j. Support to the conservation, restoration and management of a functional network of water bodies and wetlands, including at transboundary level
 - k. Promotion of the role of mountain ecosystems in providing crucial ecosystem services
 - l. Promotion of environmentally friendly agriculture and food chains
 - m. Promotion of spatial planning for integral landscapes and the avoidance of urban sprawl
 - n. Strengthening of monitoring of mountain biodiversity.
6. exchange experiences and best practices on issues of relevance for their mandates, including exchange with other mountain regions of the world;
7. jointly promote mainstreaming biodiversity within and across sectors, as appropriate, to

enhance the implementation of the Conventions;

8. further strengthen exchange and collaboration in the field of communication and awareness-raising, highlighting the economic, ecological and social benefits of enhanced mountain biodiversity, and promoting its inclusion into global and regional political agendas and programmes;
9. endeavour to cooperate in fundraising for mountain-to-mountain partnership programmes, such as on training, research and technical support to assist in the effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Programme of Work on Mountain Biological Diversity and other international commitments, where applicable;
10. 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, at the local, national, regional and global levels:

Article III

Organisation of the Cooperation

1. The Secretariats 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 Secretariats will regularly assess progress with respect to the implementation of this Memorandum, at least annually, through joint Secretariat meetings.
3. The Secretariats 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, as well as, where relevant, seek the active involvement of these bodies in the cooperation process.

Article IV

Focal Points

1. The Secretariats 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 Secretariats will encourage Parties 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 V

Use of Logos

1. No Secretariat shall use the names, acronyms or official logos of one of the other Secretariats without a written permission of the Secretariat concerned.
2. Any use of names, acronyms or official logos shall be in accordance with rules and policies that apply to the Secretariat concerned and only in connection with this Memorandum.

Article VI

Dispute settlement

1. The Secretariats shall use their best efforts to promptly settle through direct negotiations any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of or in connection with this Memorandum or any breach thereof. Any such dispute, controversy or claim which is not settled within sixty (60) days from the date the concerned Secretariat has notified the other Secretariats of the nature of the dispute, controversy or claim and of the measures which should be taken to rectify it, shall be resolved through consultation between the Executive Heads of each of the Secretariats.

Article VII

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, by giving six-months' written notice to the other Secretariats.

Signed this _____ day of _____ 2023 at _____

**On behalf
of the CBD**

**On behalf
of the Alpine Convention**

**On behalf of the Carpathian
Convention**
