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Development of the transnational Carpathian LIFE SNaP (Strategic Nature Project): Moving on with the Proposal Preparation

*16th Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity
13 May 2025, Veselí nad Moravou, Czech Republic*



Structure of the 2 hour session

20 min // Presentation of the Carpathian LIFE SNaP Proposal

20 min // Interactive Session: Consortium & Stakeholder for the Carpathian LIFE SNaP

15 min // Presentation: Introduction to the Carpathian LIFE SNaP concept Note

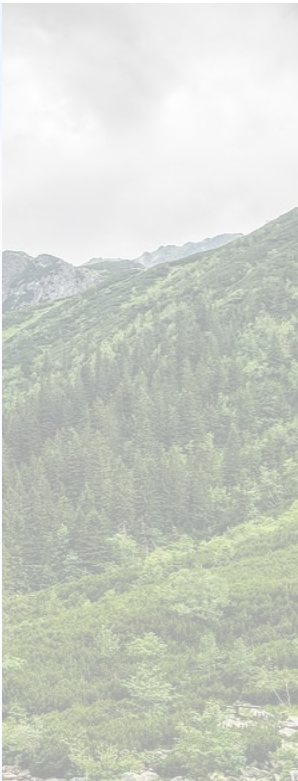
50 min // Interactive Session: Workshop (Rotating Market Place) of the Carpathian LIFE SNaP

20 min // Presentation: Workshop Summary & Next Steps

1. Presentation of the Carpathian LIFE SNaP Proposal



**DON'T MISS
THIS
OPPORTUNITY**



What is a SNaP under the LIFE programme?

Strategic nature projects (SNAPs)

- SNAPs aimed at supporting full implementation of:
 - prioritised action frameworks (PAFs) for Natura 2000;
 - other plans or strategies (international, national, regional or multiregional) to implement EU nature/biodiversity policy with measurable actions/targets and clear timeline/budget.
- SNAPs requirements:
 - mobilisation of funding from other EU and national funds;
 - capacity building;
 - may implement direct conservation measures;
 - nature authorities must be involved (applicant/asoc. beneficiary).



What is needed for which application phase?

Step 1: Develop the LIFE SNaP **Concept Note**

- Deadline: presumably 4th September 2025
- **Needed elements:**
 - General chapters
 - Consortium composition
 - Summary of future workplan
 - Support letters
 - Rough budget

Step 2: Develop the LIFE SNaP **Full Proposal**

- Deadline: approx. March 2026
- **Needed elements:**
 - Details of work plan (where, what, etc.)
 - Detailed budget

Deadline: **September 2025**

Deadline: **March 2026**

Involved Actors



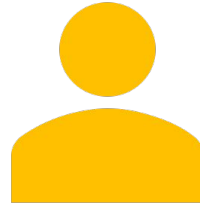
Core Drafting Team

CC Secretariat, Blue, experts, and *national coordinators

**nominated by National Focal Points*



Carpathian Convention National Focal Points

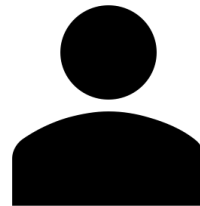


SNaP Consortium

Relevant authorities (e.g. conservation, forest management and regional/municipal public authorities, and academic institutions)

**actively involved and receive a budget share*

**NGOs or Academia are not excluded, but authorities/institutions must bear the main responsibility for SNaP implementation*



Additional Stakeholders

Representatives of other sectors impacting nature and biodiversity (e.g. local communities, NGOs, CSOs, grassroots organizations, farmers, etc.)



Carpathian Convention Networks

Science for the Carpathians, Carpathian Education for Sustainable Development Expert Network, Carpathian Network of Protected Areas, etc.

Why is the SNaP such a great opportunity?

You can integrate the future work for the implementation of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework (CBF)!!!

*** The SNaP will allow to ensure EU co-financing for actions that may later be included in the PAFs, NBSAPs and NRPs of respective Parties**

Available budget

- 15-50 M EUR (compared to approx. 1- 4 M EUR for “Standard Action Projects”)

Timespan & Flexibility

- Up to 10 years of implementation phase;
- Revolving programming implementation in successive phases

Based on adopted plans or strategies

- Carpathian Biodiversity Framework adopted at COP7
- We aim to have the approved “Carpathian Biodiversity Framework Action Plan”

First “Transnational SNaP”

- The EU signalled strong interest in a transnational SNaP

How are the SNaP, the CBF Action Plan & PAFs/NBSAPs/NRPs connected?

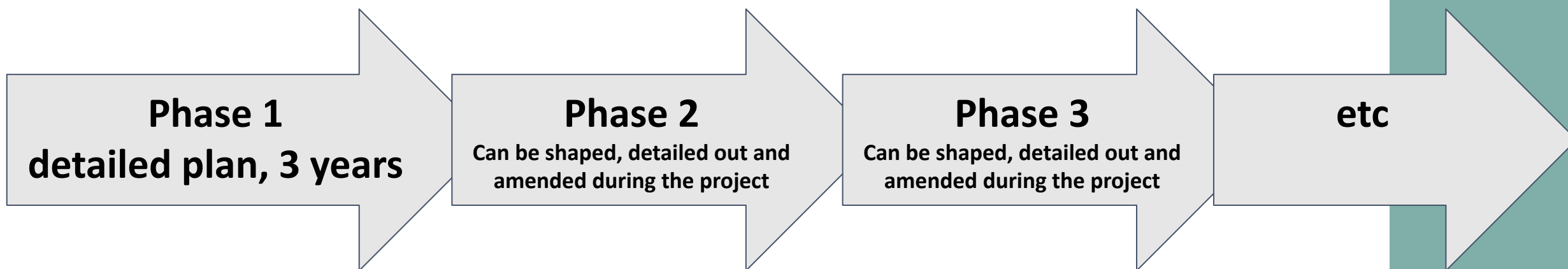
LIFE SNaP DEVELOPMENT PROCESS:

- We have to develop the SNaP and resulting CBF Action Plan NOW in 2025
- Utilize existing governance structures and consultation mechanisms of the Carpathian Convention to mainstream nature and biodiversity into other sectoral policies of the involved countries
- Harmonize the transnational LIFE SNaP proposal preparation with other biodiversity-related processes/commitments:
 - National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan revisions
 - Prioritised Action Frameworks
 - National Restoration Plans
 - Global Biodiversity Framework and Carpathian Biodiversity Framework
 - EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030



What, if we can't anticipate what activities we need to budget until 2037?

Don't worry! **A SNaP works in Phases!!!**



Considering their complexity, SNaPs will be implemented based on a **revolving programming mechanism** structured in phases (i.e. Phase 1, Phase 2, etc.). Each phase should normally last at least 3 years, to reduce administrative burden.

What are the relevant success criteria?

A strong consortium

The international consortium of beneficiaries (partners) of the Carpathian LIFE SNaP should primarily include the territorially competent authorities responsible for nature and biodiversity conservation, which implement the relevant EU policies or legislation in the Carpathian region.

- We strive for a maximum of 20 partners

A wide range of supporters with clear expectations

- A high number of strong supporting statements

SNaP activities trigger further investments/funds

- Could be achieved through a strong focus on mainstreaming of Biodiversity objectives into other sectors

What are the relevant success criteria?

Measurable and accountable results with a Transnational Dimension

- Common activities aimed at **strengthening the mechanisms of the Carpathian Convention** for transnational cooperation
- **Transboundary cooperation activities:** joint activities with a geographical scope limited to areas located across the state boundaries (in particular transboundary protected areas) or wider border zones, areas or regions of neighbouring Parties
- **Transnational cooperation activities:** coordinated and/or harmonised activities undertaken by all or only some of the Parties, but without a clear transboundary context
- **Priority activities** at the scale of a single country, the inclusion of which in a transnational project can be justified as e.g. a **demonstration of best practices or a pilot project**

Possible Roles in the project partnership

Official ROLES IN THE GRANT AGREEMENT (GA)

- **Coordinating Beneficiary** = contact point towards granting authority
 - Signs the GA
- **Beneficiaries** = other entities that participate as beneficiaries
 - Sign the GA (accession form)
- **Affiliated entities** = similar to beneficiaries. Legal/capital link (beyond implementation of the action), but respective beneficiary remains responsible
 - Do NOT sign the GA
- **Associated partners** = implement certain tasks but do not have the right to charge costs nor claim contributions
 - Do NOT sign the GA

ADDITIONAL KEY ACTORS

- **Supporters** = Edit support letters to be attached to the application
- **Stakeholders** = Further actors crucial to implement activities
 - Dedicated chapter in the application

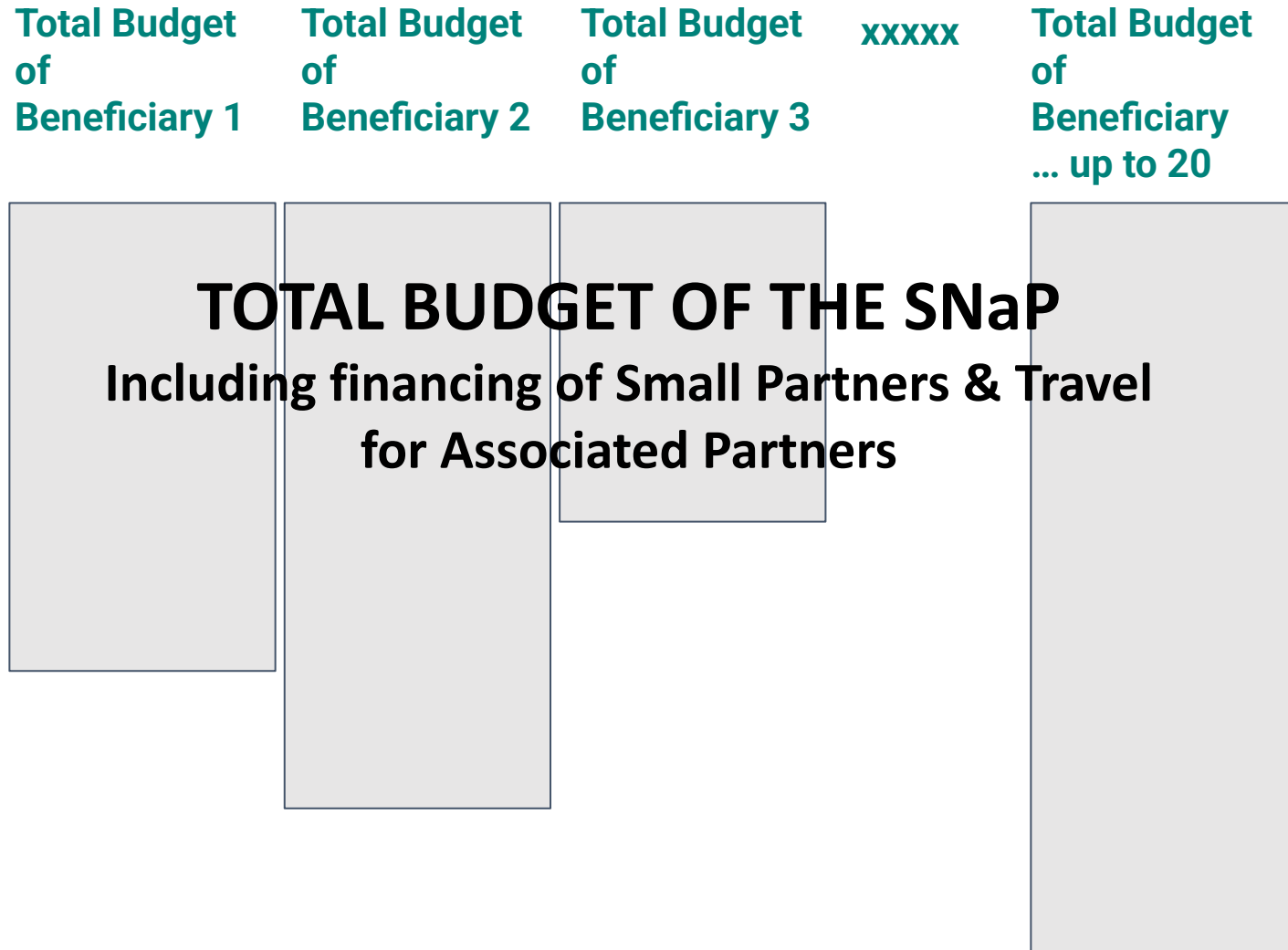
More practical perspective: How can an entity participate?

- **Beneficiaries & Coordinating Beneficiary & Affiliated entities** = Partners that have their Budget and pay their own contribution / key authorities that implement PAFs/NBSAPs, NRPs, etc.
 - **“Small partner”** = No official role in the Grant Agreement, but... for Beneficiaries, it is possible to create a “third party financing”, that allows small amounts to regional or local actors.
- **Associated Partners** = Relevant, but do not have their own budget

ADDITIONAL KEY ACTORS

- **Supporters** = Edit support letters to be attached to the application
- **Stakeholders** = Further actors crucial to implement activities
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How is the budget composed?



Type of expenditure financed by the programme (Partners or “grant beneficiaries”)

Beneficiaires and Affiliated parties

A. Personnel costs

(A.1 Employees, A.2 Natural persons under direct contract, A.3 Seconded persons, A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries, A.5 Volunteers)

- B. Subcontracting costs

- C. Purchase costs

(C.1 Travel and subsistence, C.2 Equipment, C.3 Other goods, works and services)

- D. Other cost categories

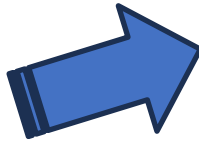
(D.1 Financial support, D.2 Land purchase)

E “Indirect costs”

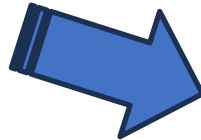
A wide variety of cost categories is eligible

(Financial) opportunities and support for those that are non-partners

Associates,
stakeholders,
“small partners”
Other supporters
(i.e
non-recipients of
the LIFE grant)



“Financial support to third parties” in the form of **grants, prizes** or similar forms of support (up to 200.000 EUR total and 60.000 EUR per recipient or duly justified). Requirements: to detail an objective and transparent selection procedures and what can be funded.



Mobilisation and use of other complementary funds “triggered” by the SNaP. SNaPs should also include a mobilisation and coordination mechanism for additional funding sources for the complementary measures (EU, national, private, etc.). **It can be an opportunity to be an active part of these “complementary actions”.**



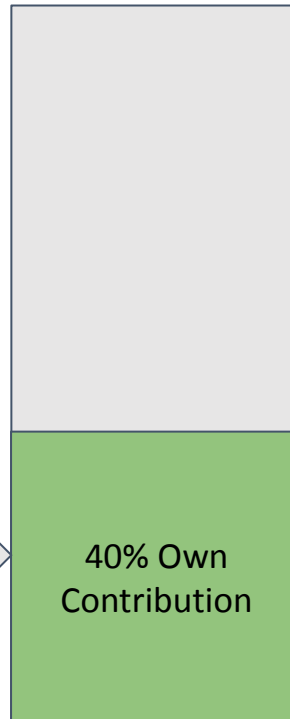
(Not financial support):

- relevant stakeholders can participate in training actions to improve their skills to manage the complementary funding mobilized
- Beneficiaries of other services provided

From the viewpoint of each beneficiary

**Let's arrange
bilateral meetings to
clarify details!!**

**Total Budget
of
Beneficiary 1**



Participates
in the
different
work
packages

Work Package Title
Project Management
Knowledge gaps
Direct Conservation & Restoration measures
Governance & Mainstreaming
Cross-cutting issues
Capacity building & Stakeholder engagement
Replication & Transfer EU & Non-EU
Dissemination & PR
Complementary actions
Monitoring

How are the SNaP, the CBF Action Plan & PAFs/NBSAPs/NRPs connected?

NOW

Proposal Submission March 2026



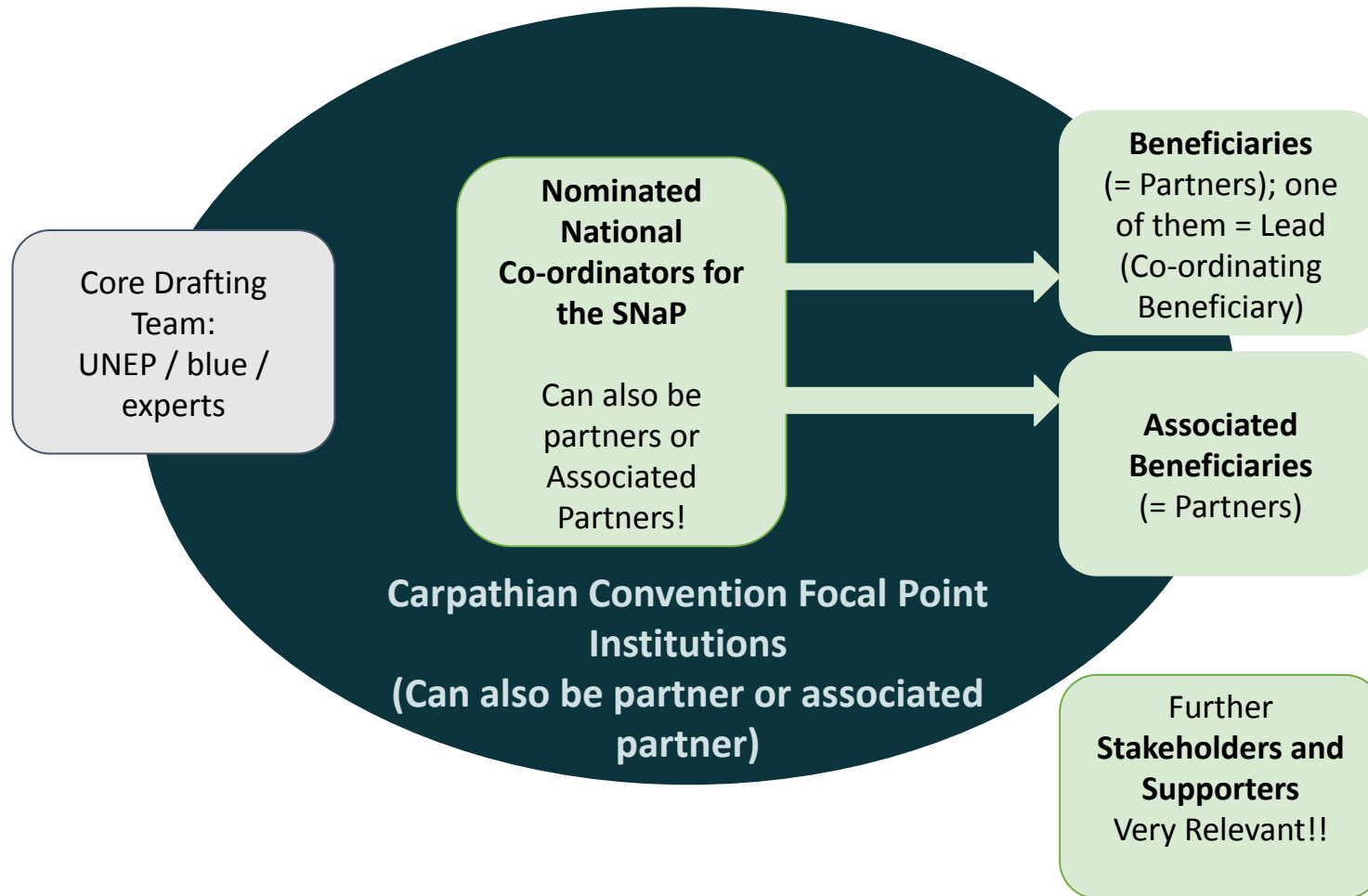
The CBF action plan is a unique opportunity to already pre-define activities that will then enter revised PAFs or future NBSAPs and NRPs

2. Interactive Session: Consortium & Stakeholder for the Carpathian LIFE SNaP

A scenic landscape photograph of a mountain valley. In the foreground, a calm lake reflects the surrounding green forested slopes and the jagged, rocky peaks of the mountains in the background. A narrow road or path winds through the valley, leading towards the mountains. The sky is filled with soft, grey clouds.

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How is the consortium built up?

















SNaP Consortium

Relevant authorities (e.g. conservation, forest management and regional/municipal public authorities, and academic institutions)

**actively involved and receive a budget share*

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Nominations so far: We still have empty seats to fill

Approx. 3 “seats/country”	CZ	PL	HU	RO	RS	SK	UA
Inter- national Organi- sations?	M. o Env.		M.o Agric.	Rom- silva Nat. forest Administration		M. o Env.	National Academy of Science Inst. Eco.
			Bükk National Park Directorate	Research & Development Institute for Wildlife and Mountain Resources			
			Dona- Ipoly National Park Directorate				

The questions

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 Mentimeter

Which organisations or institutions should be project partners/beneficiaries in the LIFE SNaP/CBF Action Plan for implementation? **Include CountryCode**

Which additional stakeholders should be involved in its implementation (not as project partners)? **Include CountryCode**

Which local, regional, or international organisations are most critical?
Include CountryCode

Which specific networks or partnerships should be strengthened? **Include CountryCode**

Join mentimeter Session

Please indicate the abbreviation of your country

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3. Presentation:

Introduction to the Carpathian LIFE SNaP Concept Note



What is needed for which application phase?

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Deadline: **September 2025**

Deadline: **March 2026**

Proposed SNaP project structure

Work Package Title	Alignment with CBF Strategic Objectives (SO)
Project Management	
Knowledge Gaps	
Direct Conservation & Restoration Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SO 1: Enhance biodiversity conservation, restoration, and sustainable use in the Carpathians through coordinated efforts on habitat maintenance, species protection, and ecosystem restoration. • SO 2: Sustainably manage and protect Carpathian forests by enhancing forest health, conserving biodiversity, protecting virgin forests, restoring natural forests, and mitigating climate change. • SO 8: Strengthen cooperation with Ukraine to protect and sustainably develop the Carpathian region, addressing war impacts on the environment and nature protection services.
Governance & Mainstreaming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SO 3: Ensure sustainable tourism in the Carpathians by enhancing cooperation to maximize benefits for biodiversity, ecosystems, and development, while mitigating negative impacts. • SO 4: Develop sustainable transport and infrastructure in the Carpathians to support regional development, while minimizing and mitigating negative environmental and socio-economic impacts, especially in sensitive areas. • SO 5: Sustainably maintain and develop Carpathian agriculture, preserving traditional practices, natural resources, and cultural heritage to support thriving rural communities. • SO 8
Cross-cutting Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SO 6: Strengthen the Carpathian region's resilience through climate change mitigation and increased regional adaptation actions.
Capacity Building & Stakeholder Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SO 7: Strengthen public awareness of the Carpathian Convention's sustainable development objectives, integrate lifelong learning and global education, and enhance cross-sectoral cooperation to support regional partnerships. • SO 8
Replication & Transfer EU and non-EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SO 8
Dissemination & Public Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SO 7
Complementary Actions	
Monitoring	

Work Package Title	Relation to the CPF SOs
Project Management	
Knowledge gaps	
Direct Conservation & Restoration measures	1, 2, 8
Governance & Mainstreaming	3,4,5, 8
Cross-cutting issues	6
Capacity building & Stakeholder engagement	7
Replication & Transfer EU & Non-EU	8
Dissemination & PR	7
Complementary actions	
Monitoring	

1. *Thematic clusters and concrete activities to be included in the CBF Action Plan*

It is important to collect specific activities that are implementable within the timeframe of the proposed project (8-10 years). During the workshop, WG Biodiversity members and observers will be asked the following questions:

- What topics or challenges should be addressed in the CBF Action Plan (according to CBF Strategic Objectives 1, 2, 5 and 8 - see Annex I)?
- What practical solutions and approaches can be implemented within the project timeframe to address these challenges?

2. *Dissemination and replication based on best practices*

Activities in the CBF Action Plan must be disseminated and/or replicated across different sectors, governance levels, and/or types of target groups. During the workshop, WG Biodiversity members and observers will be asked:

- How could activities be disseminated and/or replicated to various sectors, governance levels, or stakeholders?
- For certain activities, what kind of dissemination could be employed, e.g. pilot projects, experience exchanges, communication activities, etc.?

3. *Mainstreaming biodiversity into other sectors*

Activities in the CBF Action Plan should influence and be shaped by programmes of other sectors. Such activities can be aimed at strengthening mechanisms of the Carpathian Convention for transnational cooperation and consultations, and at enhancing the implementation of the Convention. This includes activities utilizing Carpathian Convention mechanisms for mainstreaming nature and biodiversity conservation aspects into other sectoral policies. During the workshop, WG Biodiversity members and observers will be asked:

- Which sectors are of highest priority—and most feasible—for mainstreaming biodiversity within the Carpathian region?
- How do you imagine the input of such activities to other sectors?
- Which mechanisms of the Carpathian Convention can be utilized for mainstreaming activities?



Thematic clusters so far

Cluster “species” (transnational population??)

Cluster “habitats” (connected??)

Cluster “habitats”

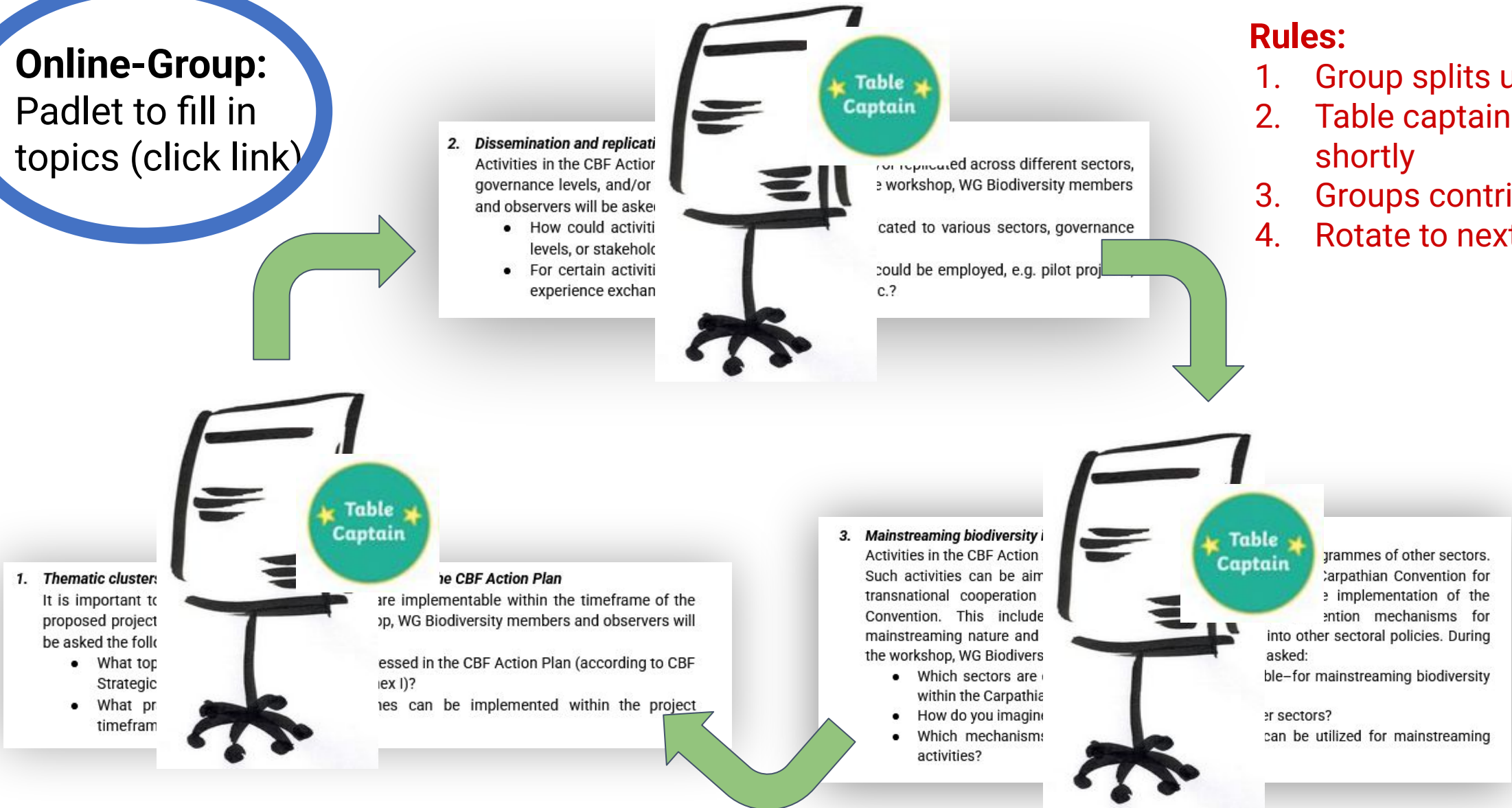
Cluster “very concrete activity e.g. fencing, etc.” that needs to be assigned to another cluster

4. Interactive Session: Workshop (Rotating Market Place) of the Carpathian LIFE SNaP

Online-Group:
Padlet to fill in
topics (click link)

Rules:

1. Group splits up in 3
2. Table captain introduces shortly
3. Groups contribute 15 min
4. Rotate to next station



5. Presentation: Workshop Summary & Next Steps



3. Roadmap: Involved Actors & Responsibilities

LIFE SNaP APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT

APRIL-MAY

- Set up structure
- Compile all activities
- Set up consortium

JUNE

- **4-6 June: SNaP Workshop**
- Draft Concept Note
- Draft budget framework
- Draft support letters
- Draft CBF Action Plan

JULY-AUGUST

- Finalize CBF Action Plan

SEPTEMBER 4th

- **Submit Concept Note with support letters**

SEPTEMBER – MARCH

- Detailed Workplan
- Detailed Budget

MARCH 2026

- Submit Full Proposal (if Concept Note is accepted)



Core Drafting Team



SNaP Consortium

CARPATHIAN COUNTRIES' CONTRIBUTIONS

APRIL-MAY

- Create menu of possible activities (including national priorities)
- Set up consortium
- **28-29 April: Forest Working Group**
- **13-14 May: Biodiversity Working Group**

JUNE

- Contribute to Concept Note
- Contribute to budget framework
- Contribute to support letters
- Contribute to CBF Action Plan

JULY-AUGUST

- Finalize CBF Action Plan
- **Identify additional stakeholders to be involved in SNaP activities**

SEPTEMBER

- Submit support letters

MARCH 2026

- Approve Full Proposal



CC National Focal Points



CC Networks



Additional Stakeholders

Each country forms a stakeholder group comprised of:

- NGOs, IGOs;
- local action groups, social groups and grassroots organizations, informal networks;
- community and local opinion leaders;
- local businesses, landowners, farmers, tourism entrepreneurs;
- tourists visiting the Carpathian region;
- media and general public.

Special offer by the preparatory project (TA-PP): A preparatory workshop

Registration opens soon.

When: June 4-6

Where: Cracow, Hotel Galaxy

The project covers:

Accommodation for up to 20 people (approx. 2 potential partners/Focal Points/Coordinators per country, core team & 2 observers) possibly double rooms.

Dinner, Lunch, Breakfast

Thank You!!

