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Development of the transnational Carpathian LIFE SNaP (Strategic Nature Project): Contributions related to Forestry

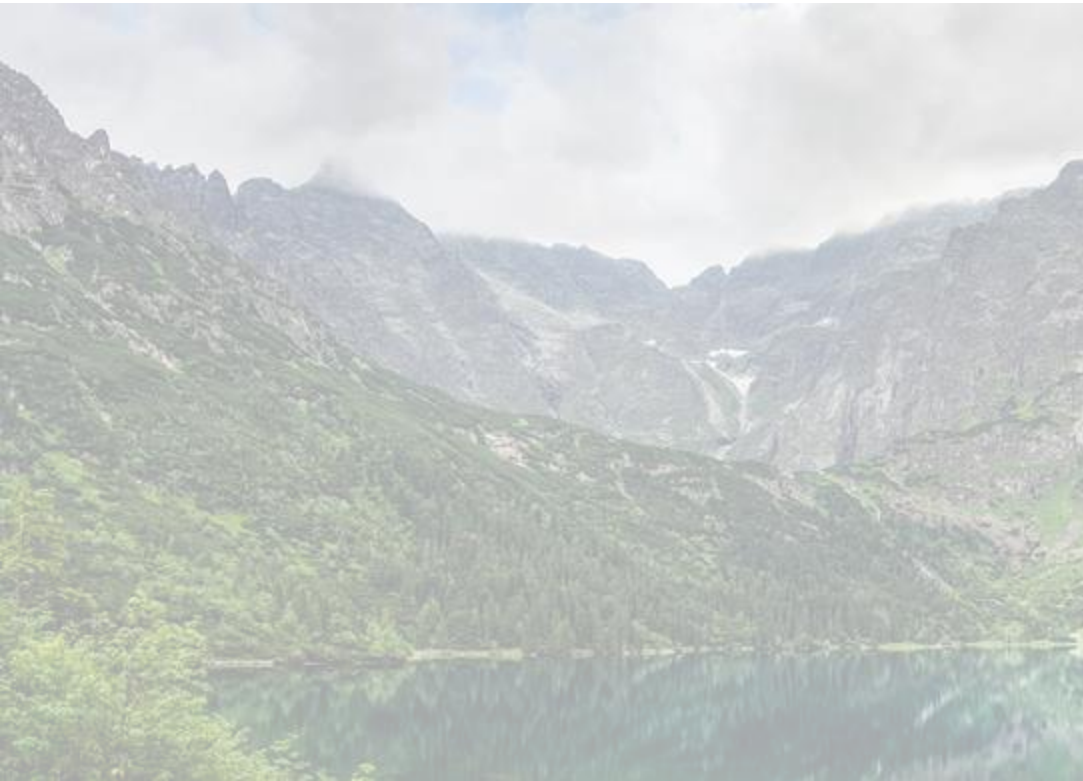
*10th Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management
28-29 April 2025, Bratislava, Slovakia*



Structure of the 1 hour session

1. **Short introduction / Orientation & Status quo**
2. **SNaP – Call 2025: An opportunity for the CC Forest Working Group**
3. **Integrating Forestry-related activities into the SNaP and CBF Action Plan**
4. **Inputs from Participants:**
 - ✓ **Short Mentimeter Session**
 - ✓ **Input Authorities**
 - ✓ **Input Observers**
 - ✓ **Discussion: Your priorities, your thoughts**

1. Short introduction / Orientation & Status quo



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



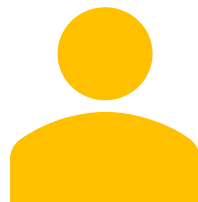
Core Drafting Team

CC Secretariat, Blue, experts, and *national coordinators

**nominated by National Focal Points*



Carpathian Convention National Focal Points

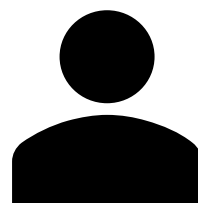


SNaP Consortium

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

**actively involved and receive a budget share*

**NGOs 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.

3. Roadmap: Involved Actors & Responsibilities

LIFE SNaP APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT

APRIL-MAY

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

JUNE

- **1st week: 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

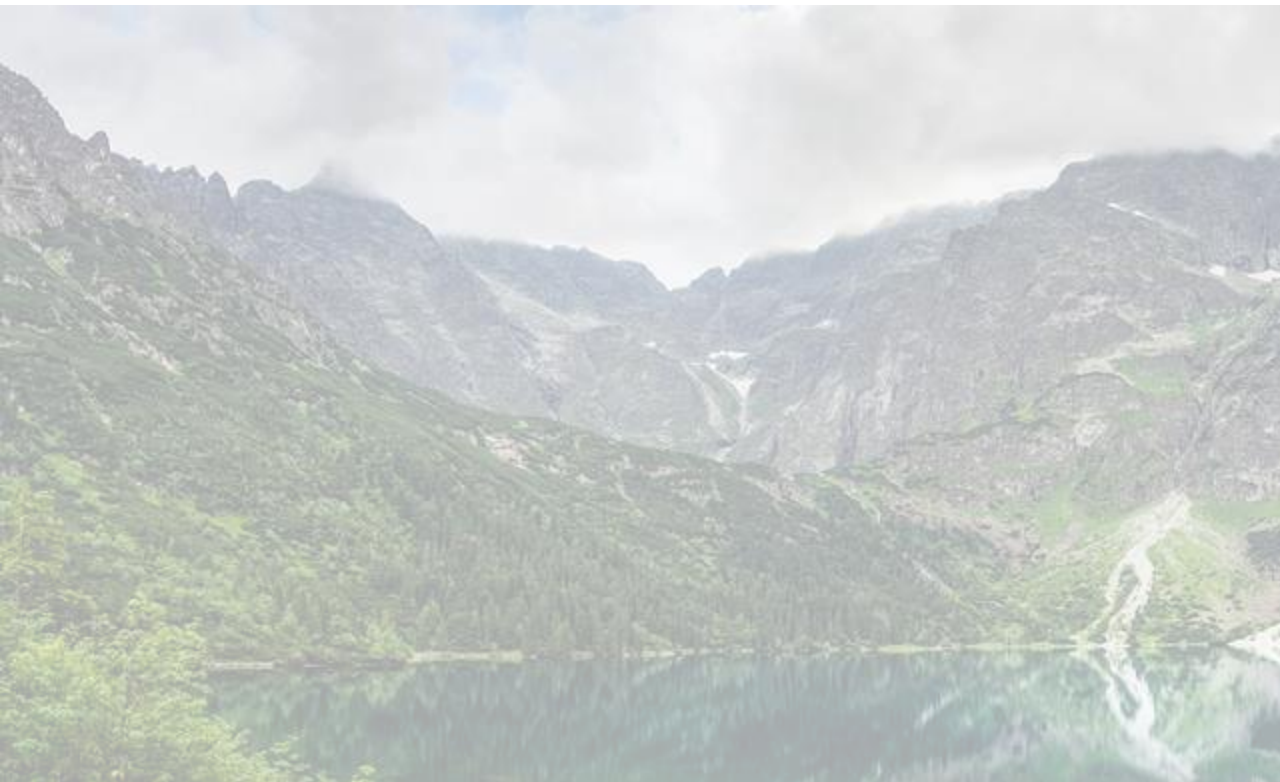


Additional Stakeholders

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.

2. SNaP – Call 2025: An opportunity for the CC Forest Working Group



**DON'T MISS
THIS
OPPORTUNITY**



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**

Why is the SNaP such a great opportunity?

You can integrate the work of the Forest WG relevant for the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework (CBF)!!!

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 Convention Biodiversity Framework Action Plan”

First “Transnational SNaP”

- The EU signalled strong interest in a transnational SNaP

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

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



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

NOW

Proposal Submission March 2026



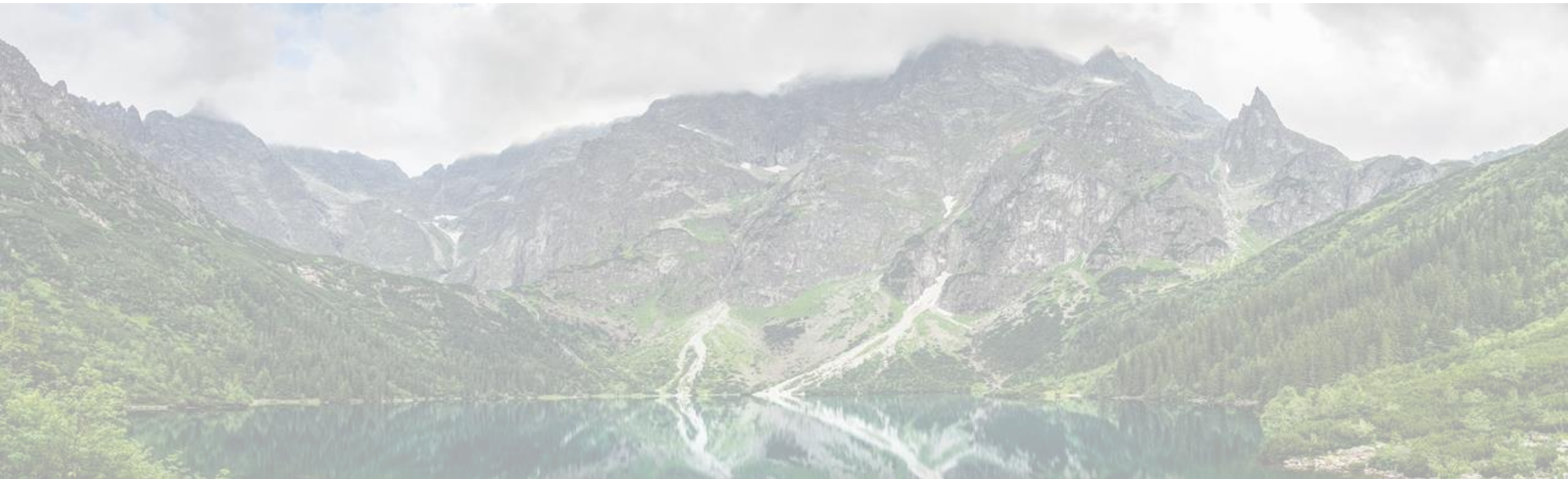
The CBF action plan is a unique opportunity to already pre-define activities that will then enter revised PAFs or future NBSAPs and NRPs

Proposed SNaP project structure

Work Package Title	Relation to the CPF SOs	
Project Management		Obligatory
Knowledge gaps		Opportunity to include research gaps
Direct Conservation & Restoration measures	1, 2, 8	Crucial WP with large number of concrete activities that lead to concrete enhancement of nature during the project lifetime.
Governance & Mainstreaming	3,4,5, 8	Activities to be implemented in the frame of the Carpathian Convention Opportunity to integrate the sectors with intermediary effect on biodiversity
Cross-cutting issues	6	Climate change effects
Capacity building & Stakeholder engagement	7, 8	
Replication & Transfer EU & Non-EU	8	
Dissemination & PR	7	
Complementary actions		Obligatory Will be integrated into other WPs
Monitoring		Obligatory

Key to success!!!!

3. Integrating Forestry-related activities into the SNaP and CBF Action Plan



Links between Forest WG activities, the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework (CBF) and the future CBF Action Plan

CBF Strategic Objective 2:

The Carpathian forests are sustainably managed and protected by, inter alia:

- improving the health and vitality of the forests;
- improving the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity;
- identifying and protecting natural, especially virgin forests;
- promoting the restoration of close-to-nature forests; and
- enhancing the role of the forest-based sector in mitigating climate change.

Cross-sectoral links with other CBF Strategic Objectives, e.g.:

- Strategic Objective 7 on education and awareness-raising
- Strategic Objective 8 on cooperation with Ukraine

Potential activities relevant for Forestry

- Activities relevant for the CBF Strategic Objective 2
 - Protection of Carpathian virgin and old-growth forests
 - Improving the health, vitality and resilience of managed forests
 - Restoration of close-to-nature forests
 - Restoration of forest habitats
- Activities relevant to Enhancing transboundary cooperation and harmonizing measures in border areas, e.g. in transboundary protected areas
- Activities relevant to Information, communication, education and awareness raising
- Activities relevant to Cooperation with Ukraine

Activities related to: Protection of Carpathian virgin and old-growth forests

- Enhance the transnational cooperation of experts
- Institutional support and capacity building, i.e. professional training and experience exchange
- Jointly update and finalize the Inventory of Virgin Forests of the Carpathians
 - possible extension to other degrees of naturalness, particularly quasi-virgin forests in the Carpathian region,
- Prepare joint proposals for the designation of new protected areas which main conservation objective to protect and conserve virgin and old-growth forests in the Carpathian region.

Activities related to: Improving the health, vitality and resilience of managed forests

- Enhance the transnational cooperation of experts,
- Institutional support and capacity building, i.e. professional training and experience exchange
- Exchange of scientific information and practical experience towards harmonizing the forest monitoring in the Carpathian region;
- Developing a joint information system on the ecological state of forests in the Carpathian region;
- Cooperate on the harmonisation of databases, and ensuring that the national results of forest monitoring are integrated in a joint information system;
- Develop guidelines for forest road and skid trail planning, design, maintenance and management in the Carpathian region

Activities related to: Restoration of close-to-nature forests

- Share best practices related to close-to-nature forestry; Increase the use of close-to-nature silvicultural practices
- Improve the regulatory and legal framework for the close-to-nature forestry transition;
- Test applications of nature-based solutions among in the forest sector;
- Enhance the development of old-growth native forests and mature stands
- Promote restoration of close-to-nature forests/ecological silviculture

Activities related to:

Restoration of close-to-nature forests 2

- Develop guidelines on:
 - the management of forests, including close-to-nature forestry in Protected Areas and, where applicable, Natura 2000 or Emerald Network sites in the Carpathian region;
 - the preservation of specific features of forest habitats in the Carpathian region
- Encourage the inclusion of relevant provisions into the forest management plans, e.g. on banning or limiting the clear-cuts, etc.;
- Enhance forest diversity by restoring mosaics of non-forest habitats such as open patches of grassland;

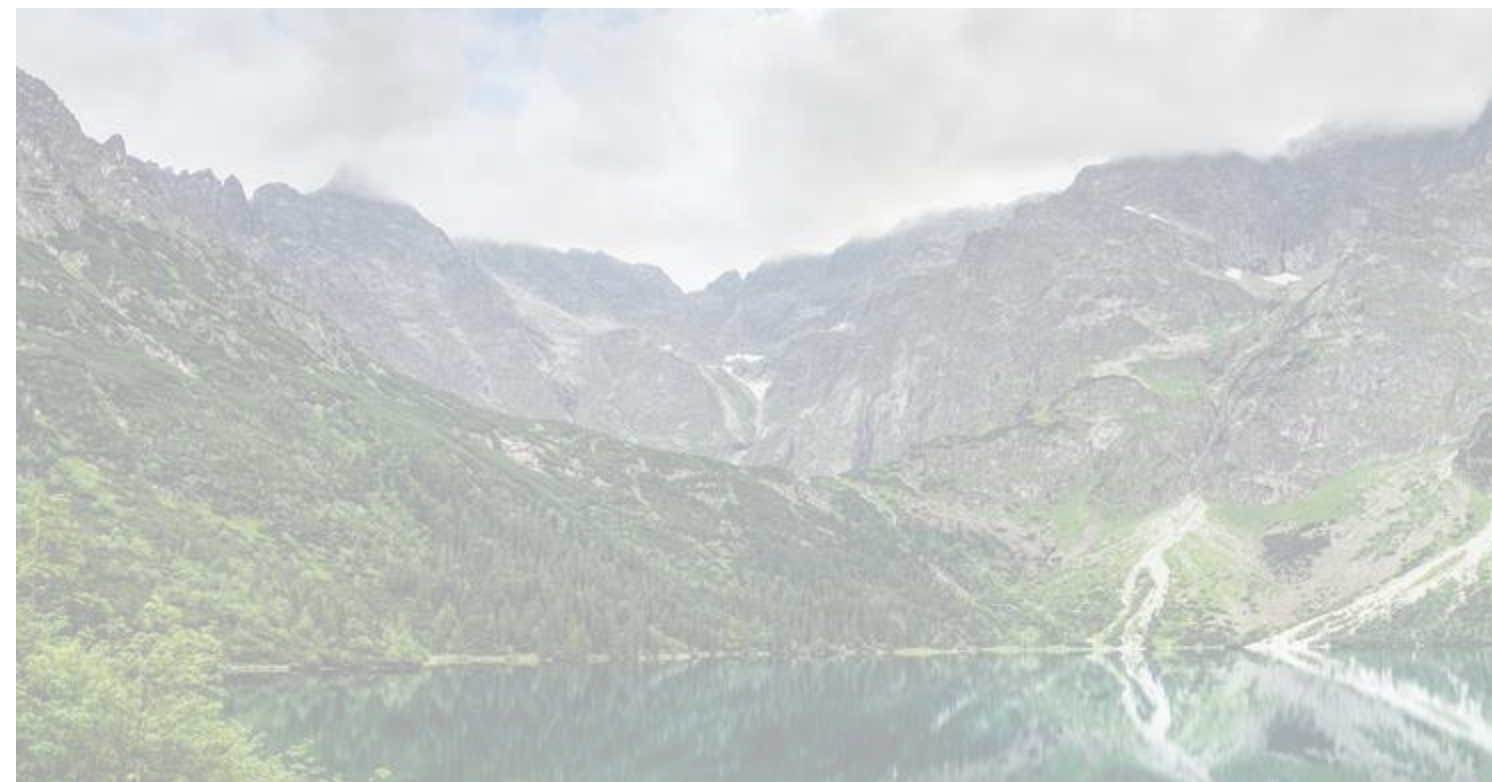
Activities related to: Restoration of forest habitats

- Jointly identify and prioritize restoration of degraded forest habitats in the Carpathian region
- Consider the restoration of the Carpathian forest habitats in the National Restoration Plans of countries of the Carpathian region;
- Elaborate feasibility studies and proposals for site-specific forest habitat restoration measures
- Jointly develop common programmes and projects for forest habitat restoration;
- Restore degraded forest areas by
 - converting non-endemic monocultures to site-specific endemic species compositions,
 - promoting natural forest regeneration, and
 - protecting and reintroducing rare native tree species in their natural ecosystems in the Carpathian region.

Activities related to: Enhancing transboundary cooperation and harmonizing measures

- Enhance the transnational cooperation of experts
- Institutional support and capacity building, i.e. professional training and experience exchange
 - Consider cooperation with Ukrainian partners
- Develop and implement joint projects (e.g. pilot demonstration projects) in transboundary protected areas (TBPAs) aimed at enhancing transboundary cooperation on:
 - Information and data exchange
 - research and monitoring
 - communication and environmental education

4. Inputs from Participants



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. The sky is filled with soft, grey clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and majestic.

Short Mentimeter Session

Mentimeter Question 1

Have a look at the criteria for the „transnational dimension“ of the SNaP:

- Common **activities of the Carpathian Convention** (push and develop existing structures)
- **Transboundary cooperation** activities (e.g. in cross-border protected areas)
- **Transnational cooperation** activities
- National activities suitable as **best practice/pilot activities**

Have a look at the Activities relevant for the CBF Strategic Objective 2

Give us some examples for activities that are in line with your countries' interests in the context of the Forestry Working Group

Mentimeter Question 2

We need to write a convincing chapter on our consortium!!!

Who would be a great (potential) project partner (not supporter, but a full partner) in the project from the viewpoint of your country?

Mentimeter Question 3

We need to write a **convincing chapter on stakeholders and supporters** (Not project partners, but actors necessary & interested in the implementation)!!!

Do also include other sectors (mainstreaming), **other governance levels** (from local to regional to national), **other types of institutions** (NGOs/Private Sector/ etc)

Who could you imagine to be a necessary or interested actor?

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. The sky is filled with soft, grey clouds. The overall tone is serene and natural.

Tour de Table: Official country representatives to the Forest Working Group

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. The sky is filled with soft, grey clouds. The overall tone is serene and majestic.

Open Discussion & Collection of further aspects

Thank You!!

