
**First Extraordinary Meeting
of the Conference of the Parties
to the Carpathian Convention
(ExCoP1)**

CC/ ExCoP1/ADOPTED

DECISIONS

**First Extraordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties
to the Carpathian Convention (ExCoP1)**
24-27 February 2026 (written, electronic process)

LIST OF DECISIONS:

DECISION ExCoP1/1

The Conference of the Parties

Adopts the **Carpathian Biodiversity Framework Implementation Plan 2027–2035**, set out in the annex to the present decision, as an integral component of the **Carpathian Biodiversity Framework (CBF)**, with the objective of operationalising the CBF and guiding its implementation in the Carpathian region; *requests* the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee to review progress in the implementation of the CBF Implementation Plan, and *requests* the Secretariat to support its implementation by facilitating cooperation among Parties, Working Groups, relevant stakeholders and key partners.



ANNEX

**First Extraordinary Meeting
of the Conference of the Parties
to the Carpathian Convention
(ExCoP1)**

CC/ ExCoP1/DOC3/ADOPTED

Carpathian Biodiversity Framework Implementation Plan 2027 – 2035

The Carpathian Biodiversity Framework Implementation Plan 2027–2035 is an integral component of the **Carpathian Biodiversity Framework (CBF)**, which was officially adopted by the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP7) to the Carpathian Convention in October 2023. It was adopted with its Annex—a comprehensive compilation of tasks and activities for supporting the implementation of the CBF and, by extension, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The CBF Annex is designed as a rolling document, serving as a guide to the Parties in mainstreaming biodiversity into sectors, topics and activities relevant for implementing the Carpathian Convention and its Protocols. Within this context of the rolling process, the CBF Implementation Plan will be considered as an update to the Annex, translating the adopted CBF’s objectives into concrete actions and timelines. It was developed in consultation with key actors and stakeholders across the region, specifically the Parties to the Carpathian Convention and indicated partners involved in the preparation of the CARPATHIAN LIFE project.

In this context, the CBF Implementation Plan will be considered as an official document under the Carpathian Convention, with the objective of operationalising the CBF and serving as a guiding framework for the implementation of the CARPATHIAN LIFE project and potential future projects. In this regard, the CBF Implementation Plan is intrinsically linked to the implementation of the CARPATHIAN LIFE project, and potentially other projects, and is envisaged to facilitate coordinated action among the Parties and partners in support of the Convention’s biodiversity objectives.

Its adoption constitutes a collective expression of intent and commitment by the Parties to enhance cooperation and strategic alignment under the Convention, and not an establishment of any legally binding or financial obligations.



1. INTRODUCTION - THE CARPATHIAN BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

The [Carpathian Biodiversity Framework \(CBF\)](#) is a strategic instrument to guide the conservation and sustainable use of nature and biodiversity across the Carpathian region. It recognises that the Carpathians, as one of Europe's most significant mountain ranges and a biodiversity hotspot, require coordinated, long-term action to secure their natural capital and diversified landscape for future generations. The CBF builds upon global, European, and regional policy frameworks, ensuring coherence with international commitments and regional needs.

The CBF is firmly anchored in the framework of the **Carpathian Convention**, adopted in 2003 as the only subregional multilateral environmental agreement for the protection of the entire Carpathian mountain region. The Convention and its thematic Protocols—on biodiversity, forests, tourism, transport, and sustainable agriculture—provide the legal and institutional basis for coordinated environmental governance in the Carpathians.

The holistic and integrated approach of the Carpathian Convention recognises that halting and reversing biodiversity loss requires transformative action across all sectors. In this spirit, the CBF complements and operationalises the Convention's Biodiversity Protocol, while also strengthening linkages with other thematic areas of the Convention. For instance, it connects with the Forest Protocol by promoting sustainable forest management and the restoration of natural forest ecosystems, and with the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Protocol by integrating biodiversity into agricultural landscapes and traditional farming systems. By providing an overarching framework, the CBF brings coherence to biodiversity-related provisions across all Protocols and guides the pursuit of the eight Carpathian Strategic Objectives by 2050 in line with the Carpathian Vision 2050, and in close cooperation with all relevant stakeholders.

The Strategic Objectives of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework

The CBF articulates **eight Strategic Objectives** that guide collective action in the region. Briefly, they are:

1. Coordinate efforts on conservation, maintenance and sustainable use of natural and semi-natural habitats;
2. Sustainably manage and protect Carpathian forests;
3. Cooperate on making tourism sustainable to maximize benefits and mitigate negative impacts;
4. Develop transport and related infrastructure sustainably by implementing environmentally friendly transport models and systems;
5. Maintain Traditional Knowledge on traditionally cultivated land and sustainable agriculture practices;
6. Strengthen regional resilience through climate change mitigation and adaptation;
7. Strengthen public awareness about the Convention's objectives by integrating lifelong learning, global education approaches and cross-sectoral cooperation into the Convention's activities;
8. Cooperate with Ukraine on protecting and sustainably developing the Carpathian region to address the direct and indirect impacts of the war in Ukraine on the region.

These objectives reflect the holistic approach of the CBF, recognising that nature and biodiversity conservation cannot be achieved in isolation, but requires systemic approaches across sectors and borders throughout the entire landscape.

2. CBF ALIGNMENT WITH GLOBAL, EU, AND REGIONAL FRAMEWORKS

Linkages to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

The CBF directly contributes to the implementation of the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)**, adopted at the COP15 to the CBD in 2022. The KMGBF sets ambitious global targets for 2030 and by aligning with these targets, the CBF ensures that regional biodiversity actions in the Carpathians are globally relevant and contribute to collective efforts to halt and reverse biodiversity loss. In particular, the CBF provides a regional mechanism to translate the KMGBF goals and targets into tailored measures, actions, and practices that respond to the unique ecological and socio-economic realities of the Carpathians.

Alignment with EU Policies and Legislation

As five of the seven Carpathian countries are EU Member States and the remaining two—Ukraine and Serbia—are EU candidate countries working toward alignment with EU policies, the CBF serves as a regional translation of the EU Directives and other policies and legislation. It fosters policy coherence and provides a collaborative platform for advancing joint EU commitments within the Carpathians. In this context, the CBF supports cooperation with Serbia and Ukraine by facilitating exchanges and capacity building for developing national frameworks for nature restoration aligned with EU standards.

A) Alignment with the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

The CBF resonates strongly with the **EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 “Bringing nature back into our lives”**, which seeks to put Europe’s biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030, focusing on expanding protected areas, restoring ecosystems, and mainstreaming biodiversity across other sectoral policies.

Commitments of the EU Member States, as explicitly outlined in the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, and fully consistent with the CBF Strategic Objective 1 include:

- Expanding the protected area network to cover at least 30% of the land and 30% of the sea in the EU, and increasing the coherency of the Trans-European Nature Network by setting up ecological corridors to prevent genetic isolation, allow for species migration, and maintain and enhance healthy ecosystems and their services;
- Granting strict legal protection to one-third of protected areas (10% of EU land and 10% of EU sea), which should include all the EU’s remaining primary and old-growth forests, as well as significant areas of wetland, peatland and grassland ecosystems;
- Ensuring effective management of all protected areas by defining clear conservation objectives and measures and monitoring them appropriately;
- Bringing back at least 10% of agricultural land under high-diversity landscape features, which will also help to ensure connectivity among habitats and species migration;
- Restoring terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems, contributing to the restoration of 25,000 km of free-flowing rivers and increasing the quantity, quality and resilience of forests as a preventive measure also for the water protection;
- Enhancing the enforcement of existing legislation to prevent deterioration in conservation trends and statuses of protected habitats and species, and to achieve favourable status of at least 30% of currently threatened species and habitats.

B) Alignment with the EU Forest Strategy for 2030

The CBF Strategic Objective 2 is fully in line with the new EU Forest Strategy for 2030, which includes several biodiversity-related commitments and actions. In particular, the Strategic Objective aligns with the initiative to place all remaining primary and old-growth forests under strict legal protection, which will require inventorying and mapping their areas. EU Member States are expected to urgently engage in completing this mapping and monitoring and to prevent their deterioration until the protection regime is formally applied. Another relevant commitment in the EU Forest Strategy includes efforts to protect, restore and enlarge EU forests to combat climate change, reverse biodiversity loss and ensure resilient and multifunctional forest ecosystems. The Strategy also supports the promotion of non-wood forest-based bioeconomy, including ecotourism.

C) Alignment with the EU Nature Restoration Regulation

The CBF directly contributes to the implementation of the recently adopted Nature Restoration Regulation, particularly relevant during the 2021–2030 UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. In this context, the CBF provides a strategic framework that can support the development and implementation of national nature restoration plans and measures, where there may be synergies and overlaps with the goals, restoration targets, and actions identified for specific habitats and species under the CBF.

For the Carpathian region, the most relevant provisions of the Nature Restoration Regulation include:

- Article 4, concerning the restoration of terrestrial, coastal and freshwater ecosystems (although until 2030, the priority should be given to restoration measures within Natura 2000 sites);
- Article 9, concerning the restoration of natural river connectivity and related floodplains;
- Article 11, concerning the restoration of agricultural ecosystems;
- Article 12, concerning the restoration of forest ecosystems.

D) Alignment with the EU Common Agricultural Policy

The CBF also contributes to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), which aims to support farmers and sustain rural livelihoods and landscapes by improving agricultural productivity, food affordability, agricultural employment, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and the sustainable management of natural resources. In particular, the CBF Strategic Objective 5 contributes to the CAP's objectives on:

- contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation, including by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing carbon sequestration;
- fostering sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air, including by reducing chemical dependency;
- contributing to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, enhancing ecosystem services and preserving habitats and landscapes;
- attracting and sustaining young and new farmers and facilitating sustainable business development in rural areas;
- promoting employment and growth, including social inclusion and local development in rural areas, as well as the circular bio-economy and sustainable forestry;

Alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and linkages with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements

The CBF is fully consistent with the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 15 (Life on Land), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation). The Carpathians provide essential ecosystem services—such as clean water provision, carbon storage, soil fertility, and disaster risk reduction—that are vital for the well-being of local communities and societies beyond the region. By embedding nature and biodiversity protection within the sustainable development



paradigm, the CBF highlights the interdependencies between ecological integrity, human well-being, and long-term economic prosperity.

Furthermore, the CBF complements and supports the implementation of other global and regional agreements, including, the Convention on Migratory Species, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Bern Convention, the World Heritage Convention, the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement, as well as the relevant agreements and instruments under the Council of Europe, including the Landscape Convention, the Bern Convention, and the Reykjavik Declaration. Namely, the CBF directly contributes to the Strategic Plan for the Bern Convention for the period to 2030 and its four goals, as all seven Carpathian countries are also parties to the Bern Convention. By establishing synergies with these and other relevant agreements, the CBF enhances the visibility of the Carpathians within the international community and secures broader support for regional biodiversity action.

3. PRIORITIES FOR 2027-2035: STRATEGIC ACTION AREAS (TARGETS), ACTIONS AND TIMELINE

The first **CBF Implementation Plan** for the period **2027–2035** is designed to translate the Strategic Objectives into concrete actions. The Carpathians are a transboundary mountain range shared by seven countries, and their nature and biodiversity does not recognise political borders. Joint planning, coordinated monitoring, shared knowledge, and harmonised policies are all required to achieve meaningful progress.

Consequently, the CBF Implementation Plan's activities focus on (1) **transnational cooperation**, where nature and biodiversity activities are coordinated and/or harmonised by all or most Carpathian countries; and (2) **cross-border cooperation**, where nature and biodiversity activities are most needed in areas located across state boundaries or the wider border zones of neighbouring countries. The Plan deliberately focuses **on specific nature and biodiversity challenges and territorial priorities currently perceived as most urgent** by Carpathian countries and stakeholders. These include, among others:

- Ecological connectivity
- Large carnivore protection and conservation
- Sustainable and closer-to-nature forestry and primary and old-growth forest conservation
- Agrobiodiversity conservation and management, including traditional landscapes, pastoralism and pollinator protection
- Water retention management and resilience, including peatlands and wetlands protection and restoration

Funding for Implementation

Due to the complexity and wide scope of activities identified in the CBF Implementation Plan, as well as the specific territorial context of the Carpathians—where the region is shared among several Parties with differing geographical coverage and national circumstances—it has not been possible to provide meaningful and adequately detailed figures related to the funding needs of individual activities at this stage.

Nevertheless, the implementation of the CBF Implementation Plan is expected to rely predominantly on external sources of funding, complemented by national efforts related to the implementation of the Carpathian Convention and its CBF. In particular, the **CARPATHIAN LIFE** project is expected to play a key role in supporting the implementation of the CBF Implementation Plan. Additional support is envisaged through a range of international and regional financing instruments and programmes, including, inter alia, the EU LIFE Programme, Interreg Programmes, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the European Climate Initiative (EUKI), as well as other relevant bilateral and multilateral funding mechanisms.

Should the **CARPATHIAN LIFE** project not receive funding, the CBF Implementation Plan will not impose any financial obligations on the Parties. In such a case, the CBF Implementation Plan will serve primarily as a strategic reference and planning document, guiding future project development, fundraising initiatives, and the alignment of ongoing regional and national activities with the overarching goals of the CBF.

Priorities for 2027 – 2035: Strategic action areas (targets), actions and timeline and alignment

CBF Strategic Objective	Strategic Action Area	Action	Timeline (years)	Alignment with and contribution to:
CBF Strategic Objective 1 Conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Carpathians is enhanced, by harmonized and coordinated efforts and cooperation on conservation, maintenance and sustainable use of natural and semi-natural habitats and securing habitat continuity and connectivity; restoration of degraded habitats; conservation and sustainable use of species of flora and fauna characteristic to the Carpathians, especially endangered or endemic species and large carnivores; and conservation and restoration of wetlands and fresh water ecosystems.	Ecological connectivity maintenance and restoration in the Carpathian region	1.1) Identify and update ecological corridors and critical areas for large carnivore movement across state borders by implementing a joint monitoring system (camera trapping, telemetry, genetics) to enhance their ecological connectivity. Complete model-based and field-validated corridor mapping for large carnivores in select cross-border pilot areas.	2027-2032	Carpathian Convention Biodiversity Protocol Art. 9 EU Biodiversity Strategy
		1.2) Support building the coherent Trans-European Nature Network by identifying connectivity needs and priority areas for designating new protected areas, including raising the legal protective status of existing protected areas. Map and protect particularly large, coherent landscapes with wilderness features and terrestrial and aquatic ecological corridors between protected areas, especially Natura 2000 sites and other natural sites of international and national importance.	2027-2033	EU Nature Restoration Regulation Art. 4, 9, 19 KMGBF Targets 1,2,3 International Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity
		1.3) Enhance monitoring of ecological connectivity between significant Carpathian ecosystems by using identified indicator species for specific habitats to update, refine, and expand existing ecological corridors. Prioritize the improvement of current corridors and restoration of key fragmented corridor sections to increase habitat connectivity and support species movement.	2027-2033	
		1.4) Improve, maintain and implement river and riverine habitat connectivity by inventorying and assessing the ecological impacts of artificial barriers to the connectivity of surface waters, identifying barriers for removal, preparing feasibility studies for restoring natural river dynamics and connectivity, and implementing the identified restoration measures.	2027-2035	
		1.5) Develop habitat restoration plans (based on the National Restoration Plans) for priority areas identified based on ecological value, connectivity, and threat levels, while integrating climate resilience and ecosystem services. Implement direct on-site habitat restoration measures and provide transboundary coordination. Provide data input to National Restoration Plans.	2027-2035	
		1.6) Conduct institutional and operational capacity building, experience exchange and training related to the ecological corridors and related restoration work, using best practice examples in suggested topics.	2030-2035	
	Conservation of native Carpathian species, including threatened species and in particular large carnivores	1.7) Improve the coexistence of humans with wolves by evaluating wolves' roles as providers of ecosystem services to establish a "Carpathian Coexistence Standard" for reducing livestock depredation and restoring and enhancing valuable forest and non-forest habitats.	2027-2035	Carpathian Convention Protocol on Biodiversity Art. 8, 11, 12, 16 EU Biodiversity Strategy
		1.8) Improve the coexistence of humans with brown bears by developing a model of integrated waste management inside and around protected areas to reduce food attractants and bear incidents.	2027-2034	EU Nature Restoration Regulation Art. 4, 10, 12
		1.9) Improve the effectiveness of poaching prevention and law enforcement for brown bears, wolves, and lynxes by harmonising	2027-2034	KMGBF Targets 1,2,3, 4

		investigation protocols, improving cooperation among relevant authorities, building institutional and operational capacities (e.g. trainings) and awareness-raising actions and campaigns.		International Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity
		1.10) Ensure the conservation and recovery of endangered and native Carpathian species, including endemic species, especially species whose natural habitats are transboundary, through regional guidance, monitoring, and direct implementation of species-specific measures.	2027-2035	
	Control and eradication of Invasive Alien Species	1.11) Prevent the introduction or release of and eradicate or control invasive alien species, which are likely to have adverse environmental impacts.	2027-2035	Carpathian Convention Protocol on Biodiversity Art. 13 EU Biodiversity Strategy KMGBF Target 6
	Water retention maintenance and restoration, including peatlands and wetlands in the Carpathian region	1.12) Identify priority areas for water retention maintenance and restoration and restore wetlands and water-dependent habitats, including peatbogs, through direct on-site wetland restoration measures and wetland monitoring plans.	2027-2035	EU Biodiversity Strategy EU Nature Restoration Regulation Art. 4
		1.13) Conduct consultations, awareness-raising, and trainings among key stakeholders related to peatland and wetland protection and restoration, including relevant authorities, and ensure close cooperation with the Carpathian Wetland Initiative.	2029-2035	KMGBF Targets 2, 3, 7
		1.14) Assess the vulnerability of wetlands to climate change to identify wetlands of highest priority for restoration and propose and implement direct on-site measures for climate adaptation and mitigation.	2027-2035	
		1.15) Evaluate the dynamics and drought risk of water retention in forests and improve their water retaining capacity through targeted on-site measures, such as constructing water retaining structures.	2027-2033	
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.	Primary and old-growth forests conservation in the Carpathian region	2.1) Develop a unified, science-based framework for identifying and mapping old-growth forests, including establishing structural thresholds and conducting field inventories, for consistent monitoring of old-growth forests.	2027-2030	Carpathian Convention Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management Art. 8, 9, 10, 13, 16 EU Biodiversity Strategy
		2.2) Establish a joint database of old-growth forests.	2027-2030	EU Forest Strategy
		2.3) Conserve and identify potential stands of old-growth forests to ensure their connectivity.	2027-2035	EU Nature Restoration Regulation Art. 12
		2.4) Monitor old-growth forests through indicator species, field surveys, and data validation schemes to ensure their protection and identify key ecological corridors connecting old-growth forests.	2027-2035	KMGBF Targets 1, 2, 3, 8, 20
		2.5) Conduct capacity-building activities, experience exchange, awareness-raising and citizen science campaigns to support and popularize the conservation of old-growth and primeval forests.	2029-2035	
		2.6) Investigate financial tools and socioeconomic instruments supporting old-growth forest conservation to incentivise their protection while ensuring the welfare of local communities.	2027-2032	
	Sustainable and closer-to-nature forestry in the Carpathian region	2.7) Enhance the resilience, nature and biodiversity, and climate-adaptation capacity of forests through sustainable and closer-to-nature forest management to improve native forest composition and natural forest dynamics. Ensure the increasing trend of indicators for forest	2027-2035	

		ecosystems specified in the Nature Restoration Regulation and provide data input to Nature Restoration Plans.		
		2.8) Conduct capacity building, experience exchange and training related to closer-to-nature forestry.	2030-2035	
		2.9) Apply climate-resilient forest management practices proposed in the Assessment of climate change risks and impacts on the Carpathian forests and their ecosystem services.	2027-2035	
		2.10) Develop guidelines for preventing forest fires.	2027-2030	
CBF Strategic Objective 3				
Tourism in the Carpathians is sustainable, thanks to enhanced cooperation that maximizes the positive benefits of tourism for biodiversity, ecosystems, and economic and social development, while mitigating negative ecological, environmental and socio-economic impacts from tourism.	Mitigation of negative impacts from tourism on nature and biodiversity / protected areas in the Carpathian region	3.1) Prevent, mitigate or compensate adverse impacts of tourism on biological and landscape diversity through monitoring campaigns, awareness-raising, and knowledge-sharing.	2027-2035	Carpathian Convention Protocol on Sustainable Tourism Art. 12, 13, 18, 21, 22 KMGBF Targets 1, 19
		3.2) Ensure sustainable tourism management in protected areas by introducing technical measures and infrastructural solutions for nature protection.	2029-2035	
		3.3) Prevent and mitigate adverse impacts of overtourism in protected areas by providing policy recommendations and conducting consultations with policymakers to explore needed legal and administrative measures.	2027-2033	
CBF Strategic Objective 4				
Transport and related infrastructure in the Carpathians is developed sustainably with the objective to contribute to the overall sustainable development of the region while avoiding, minimizing and, where necessary, mitigating or compensating negative environmental and socio-economic impacts of transport and related infrastructure development, including through, inter alia, development and promotion of environmentally friendly transport models and systems, particularly in environmentally sensitive areas.	Mitigation of negative impacts from urbanisation in the Carpathian region	4.1) Assess the urbanisation pressure and the effectiveness of spatial planning in maintaining ecological connectivity within and between protected areas, including biosphere reserves.	2027-2032	Carpathian Convention Art. 5
		4.2) Halt biodiversity loss caused by urbanisation and improve the conservation status of target species by maintaining and installing nature-protection infrastructural solutions, such as greenways, bird flight diverters, or fish passages.	2027-2035	
		4.3) Ensure active involvement of spatial planning authorities to achieve positive impacts for nature and biodiversity within and around protected areas and, where possible, in municipalities, including strengthening the environmental impact assessment process and drafting recommendations for supporting spatial planning and greening cities.	2027-2035	
CBF Strategic Objective 5				
The agriculture sector in the Carpathians, including traditionally cultivated land, is maintained and developed sustainably. Traditional	Agrobiodiversity conservation and management in the Carpathian region	5.1) Support, conserve and protect traditional land management approaches and practices and maintain and restore traditional cultural landscapes with significant economic, ecological and sociocultural features for the Carpathians, such as grasslands, wooded pastures, and traditional orchards.	2027-2035	Carpathian Convention Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Art. 9, 12 EU Biodiversity Strategy

knowledge and sustainable agriculture practices are maintained, enabling rural communities to flourish while preserving the natural resources and cultural heritage of the Carpathians.		5.2) Maintain and restore grasslands, wooded pastures, and agrobiodiversity, and promote their sustainable use and the related traditional ecological knowledge.	2027-2035	EU Nature Restoration Regulation Art. 10, 11 KMGBF Targets 1, 9, 10, 13
		5.3) Catalogue, map and promote traditional land management practices, and engage stakeholders and local communities in traditional practices.	2027-2035	
		5.4) Analyse the CAP schemes in relation to the CBF Strategic Objectives and Nature Restoration Regulation and promote nature-positive subsidies to be implemented in national CAP schemes of the Carpathian countries that are EU Member States.	2027-2032	
		5.5) Promote pollinator-friendly management practices on agricultural land through direct on-site measures, capacity-building, knowledge-sharing, and awareness-raising campaigns.	2027-2035	
		5.6) Close knowledge gaps, map, and monitor populations of endemic bee species in the Carpathians and develop guidelines for preventing their hybridisation to support their conservation.	2027-2035	
		5.7) Preserve, maintain and promote the traditional ecological knowledge related to pastoral practices in the Carpathians, including traditional low-intensity agricultural practices and grazing of traditional ruminants.	2027-2035	
CBF Strategic Objective 6 The resilience of the Carpathian region is strengthened through climate change mitigation and through increased regional adaptation actions within the Carpathian Convention activities.	Climate change mitigation and adaptation in the Carpathians	6.1) Mainstream climate change considerations in all relevant sectors, such as forestry, tourism, transportation, water management, spatial planning and agriculture.	2027-2035	Carpathian Convention Article 12bis Carpathian Convention Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management, Article 14 Action Plan 2030 accompanying the Long-term Vision 2030 towards combating climate change in the Carpathians EU Biodiversity Strategy KMGBF Targets 2, 3, 4, 8, 11
		6.2) Test, collect and implement best practices for applying nature-based solutions (NbS) for climate mitigation and adaptation in relevant sectors.	2027-2035	
CBF Strategic Objective 7 Awareness about the objectives and main sustainable development aspects of the Carpathian Convention is strengthened among the general public in the Carpathians. Lifelong learning and global education approaches are integrated into the Carpathian Convention activities and cross-sectoral cooperation and synergies across projects are enhanced, bridging together local and regional actors and strengthening	Awareness raising and education	7.1) Establish outreach programmes targeting local and regional authorities, universities and other relevant stakeholders to increase their awareness of the importance of the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathian region and of the Convention's activities.	2027-2035	Carpathian Convention Art. 13 Carpathian Convention Protocol on Biodiversity Art. 6, 24 KMGBF Targets 3, 14, 16, 20, 21
		7.2) Engage local communities in the protection of significant Carpathian species and habitats and build experts' capacities and address knowledge gaps in their conservation.	2027-2035	
		7.3) Organise events and campaigns linking education with implementing the CBF, by engaging the Carpathian Education for Sustainable Development Expert Network and organising Carpathian Day celebrations.	2027-2035	
	Strengthening regional partnerships	7.4) Partner with protected areas in the Carpathian region, scientific, and educational networks and improve the institutionalization and/or collaboration within and between these networks.	2027-2035	

partnerships towards sustainable development of the Carpathians.		7.5) Collaborate with protected areas and other relevant stakeholders in nature and biodiversity protection to exchange best practices and experiences among the engaged parties and partners.	2027-2035	
		7.6) Facilitate cooperation between institutions and regional and local authorities in the Carpathians to encourage shared responsibility and develop and enhance synergies when implementing nature/biodiversity-related policies.	2027-2035	
	Cross-sectoral facilitation	7.7) Organise Working Group (WG) meetings, including biodiversity, forests, sustainable agriculture and rural development, to facilitate expert exchange across the Carpathians among multi-level stakeholders.	2027-2035	
		7.8) Organise cross-sectoral WG meetings linking nature/biodiversity with sustainable agriculture and rural development, cultural heritage, forestry, tourism, spatial planning and other relevant sectors.	2027-2035	
		7.9) Promote stakeholder cooperation in exchanging best practices, common activities, and experiences on environmental protection, conservation and restoration by organising professional trainings and conferences among protected areas and cross-sectoral trainings.	2027-2035	
		7.10) Promote intersectoral cooperation and synergies between stakeholders by strengthening the science-policy-practice interface to enhance the implementation of the Carpathian Convention.	2027-2035	
		7.11) Ensure coherency and coordination between the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and EU and national nature/biodiversity-related commitments and agreements.	2027-2035	
		7.12) Enhance regional data systems and environmental reporting, including the Carpathian Countries Integrated Biodiversity Information System (CCIBIS), to support centralized data sharing and monitoring, promote policy integration, and facilitate adaptive management.	2027-2032	
		7.13) Assess and promote the integration of biodiversity and nature protection into other sectors and EU programmes, such as forestry and agriculture.	2027-2035	
CBF Strategic Objective 8 Cooperation with Ukraine on protecting and sustainably developing the whole Carpathian region is strengthened to better address the direct and indirect impacts of the war in Ukraine on the Carpathians, particularly on the natural environment and nature protection services.	Cooperation with Ukraine	8.1) Support the active participation of Ukraine in the Carpathian Convention activities, especially on nature and biodiversity protection.	2027-2035	
8.2) Provide trainings, webinars, and twinning programmes to support building the capacities of relevant stakeholders in Ukraine for the benefit of Ukraine and the Carpathian region, especially protected areas.		2027-2035		
8.3) Enable Ukraine to implement the environmental commitments of various international frameworks (e.g. EU biodiversity and environmental policies and KMGBF) and foster adjusting Ukrainian policy development and implementation towards EU standards.		2027-2035		

4. GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION OF THE CBF IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The effective delivery of the CBF Implementation Plan requires clear governance and coordination mechanisms, grounded in the institutional architecture of the Carpathian Convention. These mechanisms ensure ownership by the Parties, coherence across sectors, and continuity of action at the regional level.

Role of the Carpathian Convention Bodies

The Parties to the Carpathian Convention are the competent authorities responsible for advancing the implementation of the CBF Implementation Plan at both the policy level and on-the-ground. By reflecting its objectives and actions in their national policies, strategies, and programmes, the Parties help bring nature and biodiversity priorities into mainstream decision-making. At the same time, Parties will facilitate direct implementation through their own concrete actions by the relevant state agencies and/or identifying and actively engagement with a wide range of actors across the Carpathian region.

The National Focal Points to the Carpathian Convention are an important bridge between the regional framework and national implementation. They help facilitate communication among state ministries, agencies, and stakeholders, while also bringing national perspectives, priorities, and progress into the shared Carpathian dialogue. In doing so, they support the alignment of the CBF Implementation Plan with national biodiversity strategies and action plans, EU processes where relevant, and broader international commitments. The National Focal Points to the Carpathian Convention should closely collaborate and exchange information with national focal points to other Multilateral Environmental Agreements, in particular the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Ramsar Convention, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Bern Convention, and CITES, in order to ensure coherence and a synergistic approach to implementation.

The Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CCIC) will act as the main monitoring body for the overall implementation of the CBF Implementation Plan. This subsidiary body of the Convention will review the progress on the Plan's implementation and possibly recommend corrective actions, revisions, or adjustments.

The thematic Working Groups of the Carpathian Convention will function as the main mechanism for mainstreaming biodiversity objectives across sectors. These groups, specifically the Working Group on Biodiversity, the Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management, the Working Group on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, the Working Group on Climate Change, the Working Group on Sustainable Tourism and the Working Group on Sustainable Transport and the Working Group on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge —provide a ready-made platform for sectoral engagement.

Through the Working Groups, biodiversity-related priorities of the CBF Implementation Plan can be integrated into discussions on various topics. This approach ensures that nature and biodiversity is not addressed in isolation, but is systematically embedded across the thematic areas of the Convention. The Working Groups also create space for dialogue between governments, experts, and stakeholders, helping to harmonize approaches and share experiences across the region.

The Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention coordinates the governance of the CBF Implementation Plan by facilitating cooperation among Parties and Working Groups as well as with relevant expert and scientific networks, providing technical support, mobilizing resources and partnerships, and ensuring visibility at regional, EU and global levels. As custodian of the process, it helps maintain continuity across the CBF Implementation Plan cycles and supports the translation of commitments into action.

5. REPORTING, MONITORING AND REVISIONS

As the main monitoring body for the CBF Implementation Plan, the CCIC will meet annually to review its progress and provide recommendations on further implementation.

The Secretariat, in coordination with the Parties, project partners and key stakeholders, will prepare and submit an **annual progress report** on the implementation of the CBF Implementation Plan to the CCIC for its review and guidance. These reports will provide an overview of achievements, challenges, and lessons learned, ensuring transparency and accountability in the implementation process.

The CCIC will not only review progress but also oversee the periodic revision and adjustment of the CBF Implementation Plan, where necessary. This includes assessing the relevance of actions, identifying emerging

priorities, and recommending refinements to maintain alignment with the Carpathian Convention, its Protocols, COP decisions and relevant global and regional frameworks. Any substantive changes required for subsequent phases of implementation will be considered and formally approved by the CCIC, ensuring that the CBF Implementation Plan remains a dynamic and responsive instrument.

Every three years, progress on the Implementation Plan will be presented to the **Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention**. This process will allow the Parties and broader stakeholders to review achievements, assess challenges, and provide the necessary strategic guidance to ensure effective implementation. By anchoring the CBF Implementation Plan within the COP's agenda, the process strengthens political ownership, maintains high-level commitment, and helps align biodiversity action in the Carpathians with broader regional and global priorities.

To facilitate effective monitoring and reporting of the CBF Implementation Plan, the Parties may consider developing an annex that provides operational definitions, methodological guidance and, where appropriate, indicative indicators related to selected targets, actions and key concepts. The Annex would serve as technical guidance and remain adaptable to evolving scientific evidence, regional priorities and global biodiversity commitments.