Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity Work Plan and Mandate 2027–2029[1]

While conducting its activities, the WG Biodiversity will follow its Terms of Reference[2] and the strategic objectives established therein. As main reference documents, the Working Group will use the relevant decisions adopted at the Carpathian Convention COP8, the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework[3] and its Implementation Plan[4], which outlines the Vision 2050 for the Carpathians and the Strategic Objectives, as well as comprehensive tasks and activities to achieve it, while contributing to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Timeline: unless otherwise specified, the envisaged activities are to be implemented continuously/completed by COP9 in 2029.

1) Implementation of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework
Action: Support the implementation of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework and its Implementation Plan
Mandate: DECISION COP8/1 para: 1. Recognizes the **Carpathian Biodiversity Framework, including its 2050 Vision and its Implementation Plan 2027-2035**, as the strategic framework guiding the implementation of the Carpathian Convention and all its Protocols; 2. Agrees that activities under the Convention and its Protocols should be implemented in coherence with the objectives, principles and long-term vision set out in the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework and its Implementation Plan 2027-20355; 3. Recognizes the efforts undertaken to develop the CARPATHIAN LIFE project, submitted under the EU LIFE Strategic Nature Project, as a key initiative supporting the practical implementation of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework Implementation Plan 2027-2035; 4. [Encourages Parties and relevant stakeholders to actively support and engage in the implementation of the CARPATHIAN LIFE project and related initiatives;] 5. Requests the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to support the coherent implementation of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework, including its Implementation Plan 2027-2035 by facilitating coordination among Convention bodies, promoting synergies across thematic areas and supporting resource mobilization. DECSION COP8/9 para 1: Encourages Parties to further strengthen actions for the conservation, restoration, sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity and mainstreaming biodiversity into other sectors, with a particular focus on the effective implementation of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework and its Implementation Plan, in line with national priorities.
Envisaged activities - Act upon CBF Strategic Objective 1 while considering its connections to other Strategic Objectives, implementing ongoing activities and proposing new initiatives accordingly

[1] The proposed Work Plan is solely based on the draft CC COP8 decisions and is therefore subject to further revision as negotiations progress.
2 Terms of Reference for the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape (WG Biodiversity) adopted by the CC COP7 in 2023
http://www.carpathianconvention.org/tl_files/carpathiancon/Downloads/03%20Meetings%20and%20Events/Working%20Groups/Biodiversity/12%20meeting/13010WG%20Biodiversity%20ToR%202021FINAL.pdf
[3] Carpathian Biodiversity Framework adopted by adopted by the CC COP7 in 2023
http://www.carpathianconvention.org/cop7/docs/officialdocuments/CC%20COP7%20DOC7_Carpathian%20Biodiversity%20Framework_ADOPTED.pdf
[4]CBD Implementation Plan http://www.carpathianconvention.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/ExCoP1-Decision_CBF-Implementation-Plan_ADOPTED.pdf
[5] CC/COP8/1/INF/2 - Carpathian Biodiversity Framework Implementation Plan 2027-2035

- Support development and implementation of relevant projects and activities in line with the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework Implementation Plan, which outlines actions as potential priorities for implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in the Carpathian region. These actions contribute to relevant Global Targets and Goals and support the achievement of the Vision 2030 for the Carpathians and the Strategic Objective by 2030

- Support the development and implementation of the LIFE Strategic Nature Project (SNaP) for the Carpathians by providing technical expertise, scientific input, and policy guidance to the relevant project activities.

Action: Inclusion of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework into the revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs)

Mandate: DECISION COP8/5 para 8:

Invites the Parties, as appropriate and in accordance with national circumstances, to reflect relevant elements of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and national reports, developed under the Convention on Biological Diversity, using the *Guidance Document for Streamlining the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans*[6];

Envisaged activities:

- Support the Parties and respective bodies in integrating the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework into NBSAPs revisions, where such revisions are ongoing

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

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

Mandate: DECISION COP8/5 para 4;

Encourages strengthened cooperation between the Carpathian and Alpine Conventions, including through implementation of the renewed Memorandum of Cooperation supporting delivery of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in a mountain context, notably via targeted exchange of best practices and joint activities, and welcomes the initiative of the German Presidency of the Alpine Convention to mutually exchange on experiences, challenges and perspectives at the nexus of pastoralism and biodiversity across the Alpine and Carpathian regions.

Envisaged activities:

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

2) Implementation of the revised International Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity in the Carpathians 2027 – 2035

Action: Support the implementation of the Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity in the Carpathians 2027 – 2035

Mandate: DECSION COP8/9 para:

[6] CC/COP8/5/INF/8 - Guidance Document for Streamlining the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

2. *Adopts* the revised International Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity in the Carpathians 2027 – 2035[7], and *invites* Parties, the Working Group on Biodiversity, Large Carnivore Expert Group, and other relevant Working Groups and stakeholders to support its implementation;

5. Endorses/acknowledges the outputs of the LECA project relevant to the implementation of the Carpathian Convention and its instruments related to large carnivore conservation, in particular the Thematic Guidances on (i) poaching investigations, (ii) conflict prevention, and (iii) monitoring and population management , and invites the Working Group on Biodiversity, its Large Carnivores Expert Group and relevant stakeholders to consider and make use of these guidances, as appropriate, in the context of their further activities;

6. Acknowledges the outputs of the NaturaConnect project, including its policy recommendations relevant to the implementation of the Carpathian Convention and its related instruments with regard to enhancing ecological connectivity and prioritised areas for wilderness and restoration in the Carpathians and beyond, and invites the Working Group on Biodiversity and relevant stakeholders to consider and make use of them, as appropriate, in the context of their further activities.

7. Acknowledges the outputs of the ForestConnect project relevant to the implementation of the Carpathian Convention and its instruments related to improving ecological corridors and habitats for large carnivores, in particular, the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) with Adaptation Actions and Climate Resilience-Enhancing Forest Management practices for protected areas and other project results , and invites the Working Group on Biodiversity, its Large Carnivores Expert Group and relevant stakeholders to consider and make use of the SAP, as appropriate, in the context of their further activities.

Envisaged activities:

- Support the implementation of the Action Plan through the provision of technical expertise, promotion of transboundary cooperation, facilitation of knowledge exchange, development of policy recommendations, and monitoring of conservation and connectivity measures aimed at ensuring viable large carnivore populations and resilient ecological networks across the Carpathian region;
- Support the development of relevant initiatives and project for the implementation of the Action Plan;
- Consider and make use of the results of relevant projects, particularly the LECA, ForestConnect and NaturaConnect projects.

Action: Support the implementation of the joint strategy for the conservation of the autochthonous lynx population in the Carpathian Mountains (Carpathian Lynx Strategy)

Mandate: DECISION COP8/9 para 3

Adopts the Carpathian Lynx Strategy, welcomes the establishment of a Carpathian Lynx Strategy Implementation Group to support and coordinate its implementation, and invites Parties, the Working Group on Biodiversity, Large Carnivore Expert Group, and stakeholders to support the implementation of the Strategy;

DECSION COP8/5:

Welcoming the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) at its 14th meeting[8], including the Concerted Action for Eurasian Lynx[9], that specifically calls for the preparation of a joint strategy for the conservation of the autochthonous lynx population in the Carpathian Mountains (*Carpathian Lynx Strategy*) under the auspices of the CMS, the Carpathian Convention, and the Bern Convention;

3. *Encourages* enhanced cooperation between the Carpathian Convention, CMS and the Bern Convention to support coordinated conservation efforts across the Carpathian region, including through active contributions to the implementation of the Carpathian Lynx Strategy.

[7] CC/COP8/9/DOC/1 - International Action Plan on Conservation of Large Carnivores and Ensuring Ecological Connectivity in the Carpathians 2027 – 2035
[8] CC/COP8/5/INF/1 - Proposal for the Inclusion of the Eurasian Lynx (Lynx lynx) in Appendix II and Balkan Lynx (Lynx lynx balcanicus) in Appendix I of the CMS Convention
[9] CC/COP8/5/INF/2 – Concerted Action for the Eurasian Lynx (Lynx lynx) Proposed for Listing on Appendix II of the CMS Convention

Envisaged activities: - Support the implementation of the Carpathian Lynx Strategy by providing scientific, technical, and policy expertise; promoting transboundary cooperation and knowledge exchange; and facilitating the development and implementation of coordinated conservation measures to ensure the long-term viability and genetic integrity of the Carpathian lynx population. - Enhancing synergies and strengthening cooperation between the Carpathian Convention, CMS and Bern Conventions, to form a strategic partnership for the lynx conservation, and possibly other relevant species in the future

3) Cooperation with partner initiatives
Action: Cooperation with the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA)
Mandate: DECISION COP8/9 para 8 *Encourages* Parties, the CNPA, the Working Group on Biodiversity and relevant stakeholders, to revitalize cooperation, advance the establishment of the CNPA as a formal association, and strengthen its role in supporting knowledge exchange and the implementation of the Carpathian Convention and its biodiversity-related instruments;
Envisaged activities: - Support the revitalization of CNPA through facilitating cooperation and knowledge exchange among protected areas, providing technical input to the establishment of the CNPA as a formal association, strengthening capacity-building and networking activities, promoting the implementation of biodiversity-related instruments of the Carpathian Convention, and enhancing the visibility and strategic role of the CNPA in regional biodiversity conservation.
Action: Cooperation with the Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI)
Mandate: DECISION COP8/9 para 9 *Encourages* Parties, CWI relevant Working Groups and stakeholders to further strengthen cooperation and develop actions aimed at enhancing water retention capacities and the maintenance and restoration of wetlands and peatlands in the Carpathian region.
Envisaged activities: - Support enhanced cooperation by facilitating knowledge exchange, promoting the conservation, restoration, and sustainable management of wetlands and peatlands; - Support better governance and operational functions of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative; - Support development and implementation of relevant projects.
Action: Cooperation with the Science for the Carpathians (S4C)
Mandate: DECSION COP8/3 para 5 Invites Parties, Working Groups and relevant stakeholders to closely consider and support implementation of recommendations from the Science for the Carpathians network, as relevant for the Programme of work and strategic priorities for the implementation period 2027–2029.
Envisaged activities: - Consider the S4C Recommendations when prioritizing, planning and implementing Convention activities - Support development and implementation of relevant projects.

Action: Cooperation with the Alpine Convention and its Alpine Biodiversity Board
Mandate: DECISION COP8/5 para 4: Encourages strengthened cooperation between the Carpathian and Alpine Conventions, including through implementation of the renewed Memorandum of Cooperation supporting delivery of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in a mountain context, notably via targeted exchange of best practices and joint activities, and welcomes the initiative of the German Presidency of the Alpine Convention to mutually exchange on experiences, challenges and perspectives at the nexus of pastoralism and biodiversity across the Alpine and Carpathian regions
Envisaged activities - Strengthen the cooperation in fields of common interest, including institutional cooperation, the exchange of information and experience; - Coordinate and cooperation on the regional implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.