



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.: General
10 October 2024

English only

Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity Sixteenth meeting

Cali, Colombia, 21 October–1 November 2024

Item 13 of the provisional agenda*

Cooperation with international organizations and bodies established under other conventions

Carpathian Biodiversity Framework: a regional instrument for enhancing the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and mainstreaming biodiversity conservation**

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Executive Secretary is pleased to provide herewith, for the information of participants in the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a report on the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework by the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention.
2. In its decision [15/13](#), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity invited the bodies of other biodiversity-related conventions and relevant multilateral environmental agreements, as well as international organizations and other relevant programmes, to formally endorse the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework through their own governance processes, as appropriate, in order to support its operationalization and contribute to the transparency and monitoring progress in its implementation.
3. The present report summarizes the activities conducted by the Carpathian Convention in support of the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at the regional level following the adoption of the Framework in December 2022. The document presents relevant information on the process leading up to the development and adoption of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention in October 2023, as well as further support in streamlining the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework into national biodiversity strategies and action plans.
4. The report is provided in the form and language in which it was received by the Secretariat.

* CBD/COP/16/1.

** The present document is being issued without formal editing.



Carpathian Biodiversity Framework: A regional instrument for enhancing the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and mainstreaming biodiversity conservation

I. INTRODUCTION

The Carpathian mountain region in central-eastern Europe is home to rich ecosystems and outstanding biodiversity, stretching across seven countries: Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine. To cooperate on environmental protection and sustainable development of the Carpathian region, the seven Carpathian countries adopted and signed the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention) in May 2003. Activities of the Convention are guided by its articles, which focus on various thematic sectors, and is the only multi-level governance mechanism for the entire Carpathian region and the second sub-regional treaty-based regime in the world focusing on mountain protection and sustainable development, following the Alpine Convention.

As a multilateral environmental agreement, the Carpathian Convention is a regional instrument for enhancing implementation of global and European policies, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), at the Carpathian level.

Carpathian Convention Article 4 and its Protocol on Biodiversity mandate safeguarding biodiversity and landscape diversity in the Carpathians. Thus, the Carpathian Convention is well-positioned to address pressing environmental challenges in the region and beyond, aided by its various strategic partnerships, including with the CBD, the Alpine Convention, and a broad network of stakeholders. By prioritizing biodiversity as the key underlying element for sustainable development, the Carpathian Convention serves as a model for **mainstreaming biodiversity** into other sectors. It can therefore strengthen the global biodiversity movement by serving as a role model for other regions facing similar challenges, particularly in mountainous areas.

II. CARPATHIAN BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

In December 2022, Parties to the CBD adopted the GBF at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15). Not only does the GBF give a relevant framework to guide global action on nature and biodiversity protection until 2030, but the CBD COP15 decisions call on Parties to work with existing mechanisms and processes at varying levels and invites biodiversity-related conventions to contribute to implementing the GBF (CBD/COP/DEC/15/4 paragraph 5 and Annex paragraph 7q).

As all Parties of the Carpathian Convention are also signatories to the CBD, the GBF provides an opportunity to align global and regional objectives. This enabled the Carpathian Convention to fulfill the above provisions and become the first region in the world **to apply the GBF at the regional level through the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework**.

The [Carpathian Biodiversity Framework](#), adopted at the 7th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention in October 2023, translates the GBF global goals and targets into tangible, transformative actions at the Carpathian level to halt and reverse biodiversity loss. It is accompanied by the Carpathian Vision 2050, which reflects the global vision of living in harmony with nature and includes a set of 8 Strategic Objectives for the Carpathian region that correlate with the thematic articles and protocols of the Carpathian Convention.

Integral to the creation and adoption of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework was the establishment of an informal consultation group consisting of Carpathian Convention and CBD Focal Points from the Carpathian countries, aided by the Carpathian Convention Secretariat. Under the leadership of the Czech Republic, Chair of the Working Group on Biodiversity, and the Polish Presidency of the Carpathian Convention, this group fostered information and expertise exchange, while also harmonizing approaches between the two conventions. As a result, the Carpathian Convention adopted the CBF, which has since been recognized globally within CBD framework as a model for aligning regional and global biodiversity commitments and actions.

The implementation of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework, including the Carpathian Vision 2050 and its Strategic Objectives will greatly contribute to achieving the goals and targets of the GBF, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the European Union (EU) Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. Currently, the implementation of the CBF is led by the Serbian Presidency of the Carpathian Convention.

To empower the Carpathian countries in implementing the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework, the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework outlines several Means of Implementation, which include the following among others:

- A. Integrate and mainstream conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity of the Carpathians, as well as other activities of the Carpathian Convention, into national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), across sectors and other policies, including transborder policies, in particular related to spatial planning and land resources management, water and river basin management, agriculture and forestry, transport and infrastructure, tourism, industry and energy.
- B. Establish national and/or regional intersectoral committees and organize intersectoral meetings in the framework of the Carpathian Convention to ensure full integration of biodiversity into relevant sectoral policies, planning and development processes.
- C. Strengthen synergies and cooperation with other relevant multilateral agreements, regional and European processes and partners, while ensuring active involvement of various stakeholders.
- D. Support the development, coordination and implementation of projects under relevant. Funding opportunities, including EU programmes, such as the Horizon Europe, relevant Interreg programmes and relevant international, national or private financial resources, as well as support development and implement of a Carpathian strategic project (e.g. LIFE Strategic Nature Project (SNaP)), if feasible.

The following subsections provide further details on the above Means of Implementation.

A. DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDANCE MATERIALS FOR STREAMLINING THE CARPATHIAN BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK INTO NBSAPS

The Carpathian Convention Secretariat actively supports the Parties in implementing the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework at the national level by integrating the Framework's objectives and policy actions into national strategies and existing reporting mechanisms, such as National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

Since NBSAPs shall be revised in light of the new GBF, such a process will help ensure more streamlined and harmonized implementation of both the Carpathian Convention and Convention on Biological Diversity by:

- Avoiding isolated approaches and maximising limited financial and human resources (CC/COP7/6 paragraph 2);
- Furthering the alignment, scaling and implementation of the GBF at the regional and national levels (CBD/COP/DEC/15/4 Annex paragraph 7q);
- Including relevant actions for implementing other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements in their revised NBSAPs (CBD/COP15/DEC/15/16 paragraph 23);
- Uplifting the Carpathian Convention as an exemplary model for effectively adapting and implementing global and European policies, building upon the momentum of being the first region in the world to apply the GBF at the subregional level (the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework).

Towards these aims, the Carpathian Convention Secretariat created [a guidance document for streamlining the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework into NBSAPs](#) in close consultation with both the Carpathian Convention and the CBD Focal Points, ensuring a collaborative and informed approach. The overarching goal of the guidance document is to prompt Carpathian countries to consider the unique environmental and sustainable development objectives within the Carpathian region as they formulate their national targets and indicators, policy measures and means of implementation.

Drawing from the Convention on Biological Diversity's NBSAP template, the guidance document provides a suggested series of steps for integrating the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework into the process for revising national targets in light of the GBF:

1. Preliminarily assess existing national biodiversity goals and targets in the NBSAP and other national biodiversity policies against the GBF and Carpathian Biodiversity Framework;
2. Identify and engage relevant sectors, government agencies, and stakeholder groups, including those engaged in Carpathian networks, to assess the alignment of national biodiversity targets with the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework;
3. Revise and update national targets with relevant policy measures and actions from the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework, determine indicators and identify implementing groups;
4. Consider using the Convention on Biological Diversity's NBSAP Template for Submitting Updated National Targets.

A series of suggested sub-steps, including recommended networks and strategic documents to consider, are provided for each of the four steps. Additionally, a compilation of example policy measures and actions derived from the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework, its annex and Carpathian Convention Protocols are included in the guidance document's Annex I.

The Carpathian Convention Secretariat and the Chair of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity – Czech Republic have closely collaborated to elicit consultations on the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework-NBSAP process and strengthen synergies between the Carpathian Convention and the CBD Parties.

B. ESTABLISHED INTERSECTORAL COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS .

As evidenced by the successful consultation process in the creation and adoption of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework, intersectoral committees and meetings at the national and/or regional level are critical for fully mainstreaming biodiversity considerations into relevant sectoral policies, planning and development processes.

Since its adoption, the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework has been regarded as a key strategic document within the sectoral workstreams of the Carpathian Convention. It serves as a guiding reference for all relevant activities, including project development, ensuring that biodiversity remains a fundamental consideration in action plans, activities, and other strategies.

Further intersectoral consultations and meetings under the Carpathian Convention are planned, offering an excellent platform for mainstreaming biodiversity into various sectors.

C. STRENGTHENED COOPERATION WITH OTHER CONVENTIONS AND PROCESSES

To further strengthen GBF implementation efforts, the **CBD, the Alpine Convention, and the Carpathian Convention** renewed the [trilateral Memorandum of Cooperation](#) in light of the new GBF to guide the way for effective mountain biodiversity protection in the Alpine and Carpathian regions and support experience and knowledge sharing with other mountain regions of the world.

The development of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework played a pivotal role in fostering dialogue and collaboration between the CBD and the Carpathian focal points. This process facilitated better understanding of each other's priorities and objectives, laying the foundation for a more synergistic approach to biodiversity conservation. Moreover, it established a framework for ongoing cooperation, ensuring regular exchange between the Secretariats of the CBD and Carpathian Convention. This continuous communication is crucial for aligning regional efforts with global biodiversity goals.

A direct result of this strong partnership has been the successful promotion of regional approaches to GBF implementation in other mountain regions, especially in the Alpine region, as the Alpine Convention is currently developing a regional instrument following the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework's pioneering.

The Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention continues to promote a regional approach to implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), further strengthening both global and regional processes and fostering synergies.

For instance, the Carpathian Convention support the exchange of knowledge and experience with other mountain regions of the world, particularly the Andes. Within this process, the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework and its regional approach towards the implementation of the KM- GBF, has been one of the main topics of cooperation. This and other topics were thoroughly discussed during the study visit of the Andean delegation to the Carpathian Convention, which took place in June 2023 in Poland.

D. PURSUIT OF FUNDING FOR IMPLEMENTING THE CARPATHIAN BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

The Carpathian Convention Secretariat, mandated by the Parties to facilitate the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework implementation process, actively supports the development of short- and long-term projects for fulfilling the objectives of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework.

Towards this end, the Secretariat, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, is developing a long-term and large-scale project focused on transboundary and transnational activities for nature and biodiversity conservation in the Carpathian region. The project aims to further align the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework's strategic objectives with the GBF goals and targets to support effective implementation of both instruments. More tangibly, the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework's Annex, with its example Carpathian policy measures and actions outlined according to each relevant GBF target, may be revised to become a specific action plan to guide a joint transnational project.

This project would ideally enhance the common identity of the Carpathian region and offer valuable resources to address the financial and formal deficiencies in the Carpathian area that arise from the absence of EU-level instruments dedicated to the Carpathian region.

III. CONCLUSION

The Carpathian Convention Secretariat continues to promote a regional approach to implementing the GBF, effectively meeting local and regional needs for global benefit. By aligning global and regional objectives, the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework ensures the effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) at the regional level, making the Carpathians the first region globally to adopt such an approach. This Framework not only translates global biodiversity goals into actionable strategies but also strengthens cooperation among Carpathian countries, harmonizing their efforts with broader European and international policies; thus, making it crucial for preserving the unique biodiversity of the Carpathian region.

As a model for regional biodiversity conservation, it underscores the importance of collaborative, multi-sectoral approaches to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, setting a precedent for other mountainous regions worldwide.

ANNEX I: Linked Relevant Documents

[Carpathian Biodiversity Framework](#)

[Carpathian Convention Guidance Document for Streamlining the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework into NBSAPs](#)

[Trilateral Memorandum of Cooperation between the CBD, Alpine Convention and Carpathian Convention](#)
