

# Implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework through the Carpathian Convention

Elena Fischer

UN Environment Programme - Vienna Office  
Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention



**eurac**  
research

# The Carpathian Mountains of central and eastern Europe are Europe's last great wilderness areas



**ECO-REGION SHARED BY 7 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES**



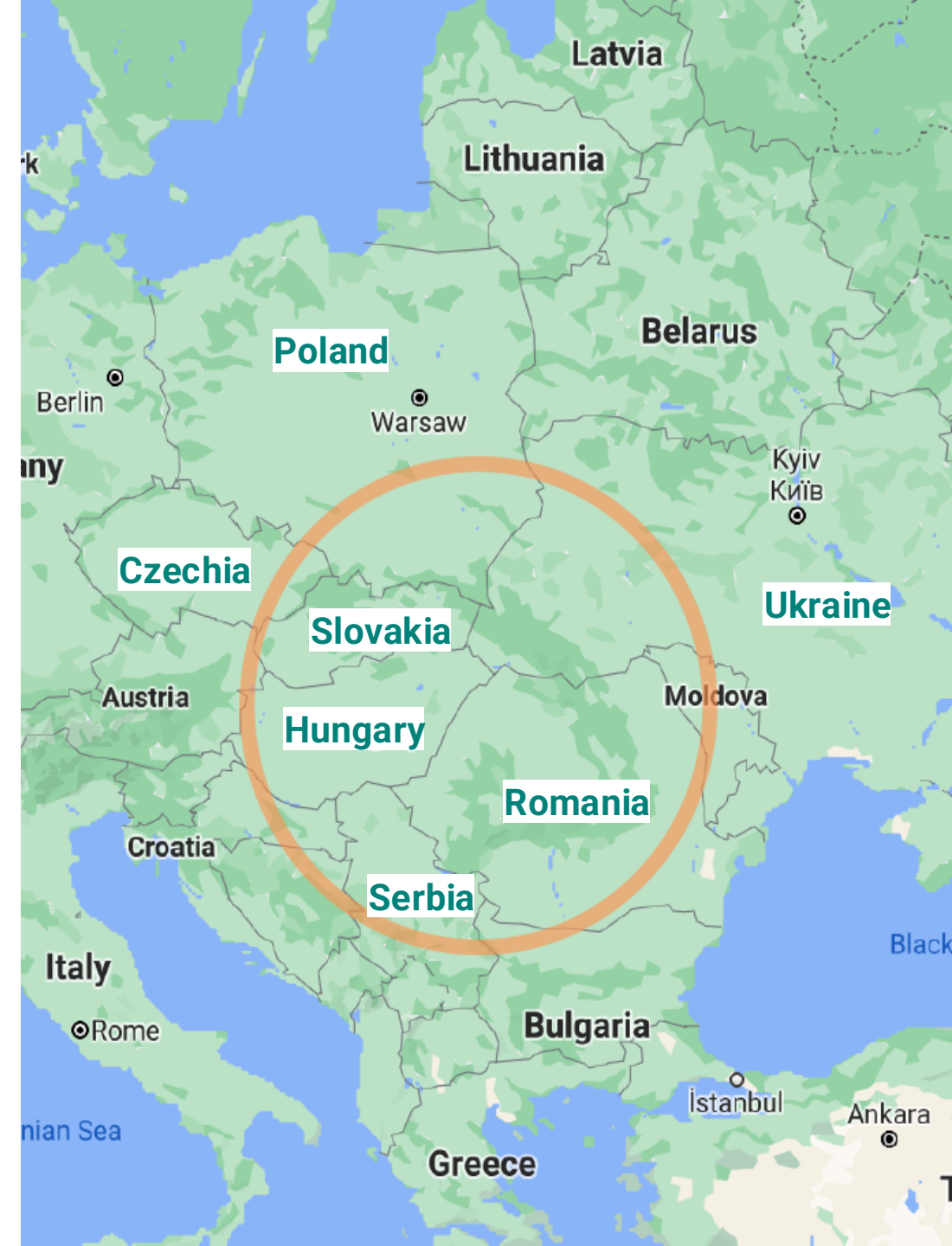
**PROVIDES ESSENTIAL ECOSYSTEM SERVICES**

Serves 17 million inhabitants, living mostly in rural areas



**CONTAINS VAST NUMBER OF PROTECTED AREAS**

Vital for a coherent European ecological network



# The Carpathian Convention was established to coordinate efforts in the Carpathian region

**GOAL:** Environmental protection and sustainable development of the Carpathian region



2001

Initiated by Ukraine

2003

Adopted and signed in Kyiv, Ukraine on 22 May 2003

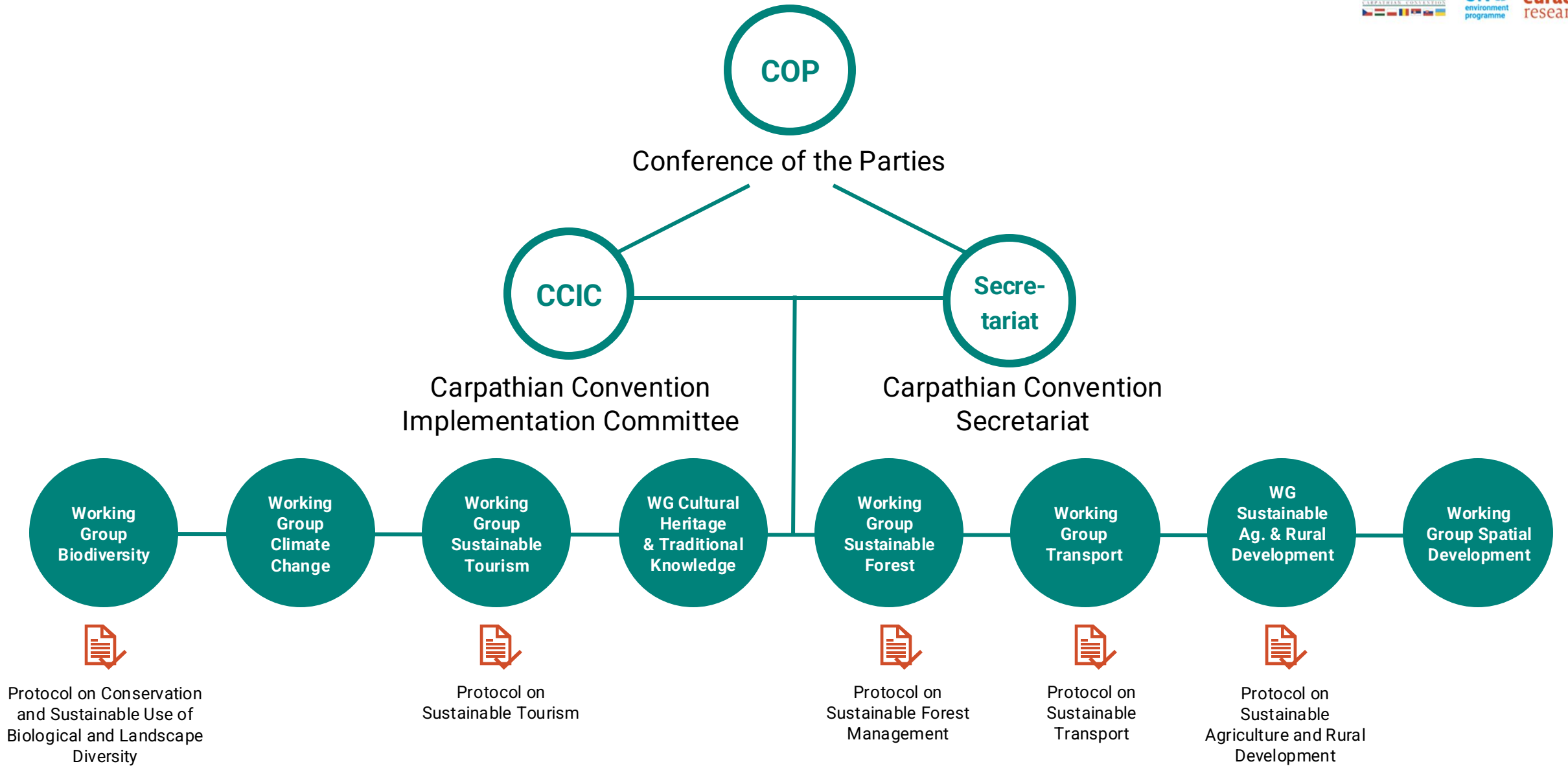
*Signed at the Fifth Ministerial Conference „Environment for Europe”*

2006

Entered in force on 4 January

# The Convention's 23 Articles include thematic sectors:

- 3 Integrated approach to the land resources management
- 4 Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity
- 5 Spatial planning
- 6 Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management
- 7 Sustainable agriculture and forestry
- 8 Sustainable transport and infrastructure
- 9 Sustainable tourism
- 10 Industry and energy
- 11 Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge
- 12 Environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning
- 12bis Climate Change
- 13 Awareness raising, education and public participation





# The Carpathian Convention facilitates cross-border and transnational cooperation

1

Framework for policy coordination

2

Platform for joint activities

3

Forum for dialogue

# The Carpathian Convention is a regional instrument for enhancing implementation of global and European policies

## Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



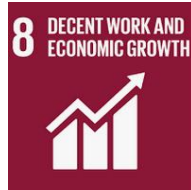
4.7



6.3, 6.5,  
6.6, 6.A



7.2, 7.A



8.4



9.1



11.4, 11.A,



12.2, 12.4,  
12.8, 12.A,



13.1, 13.2,  
13.3



15.1, 15.2, 15.3,  
15.4, 15.5, 15.7,  
15.8, 15.9, 15.A



16.7



17.14,  
17.16



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**  
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

# The Carpathian Convention is a regional instrument for enhancing implementation of global and European policies

## Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

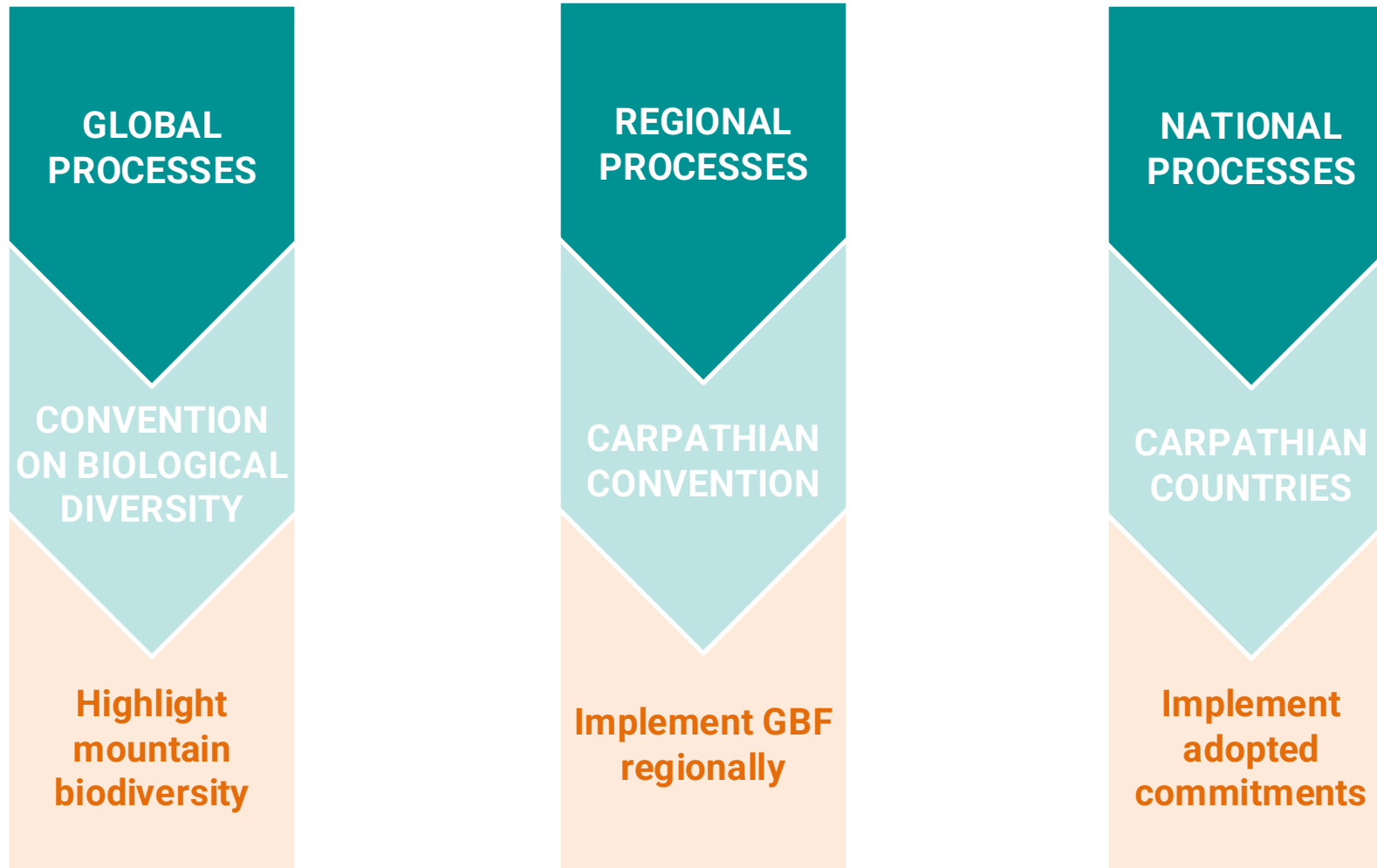
### GBF TARGETS

- 1-8** Reducing threats to biodiversity
- 9-13** Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing
- 14-23** Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming





# Implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) through the Carpathian Convention



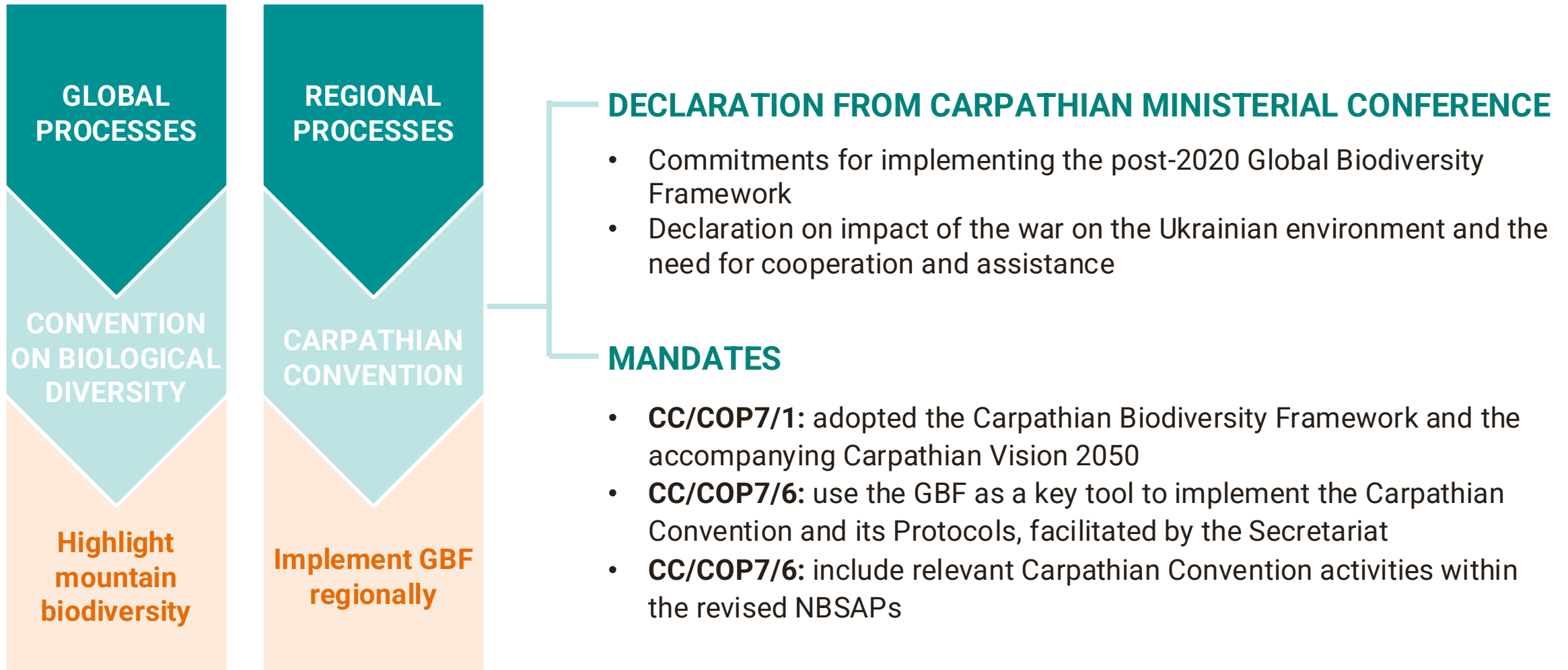
# Implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) through the Carpathian Convention



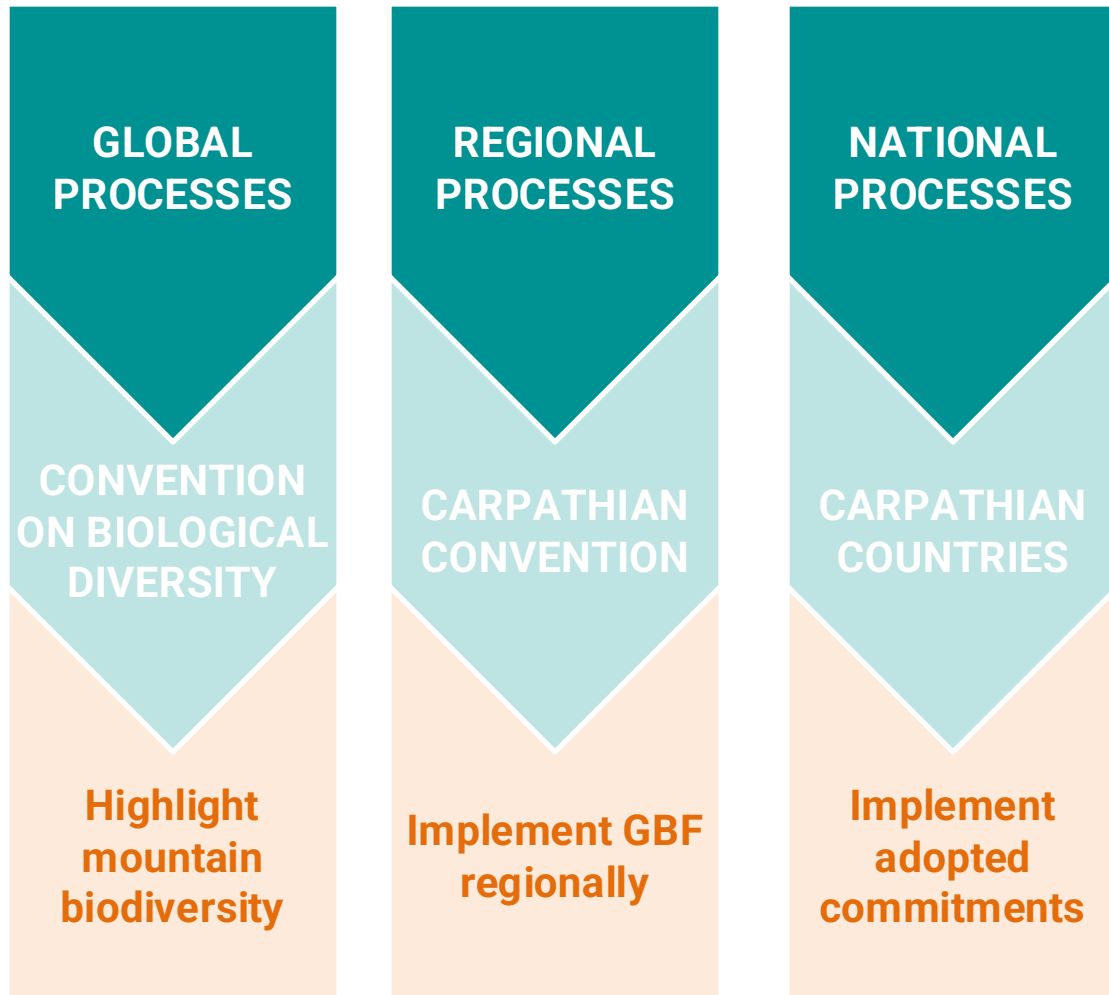
## MANDATES

- **CBD/COP/DEC/15/4:** cooperate at transboundary, regional and international levels to implement the GBF
- **CBD/COP/DEC/15/4 Annex:** work with existing mechanisms like biodiversity-related conventions to implement the GBF
- **CBD/COP/DEC/15/6:** include relevant actions from biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements into NBSAPs

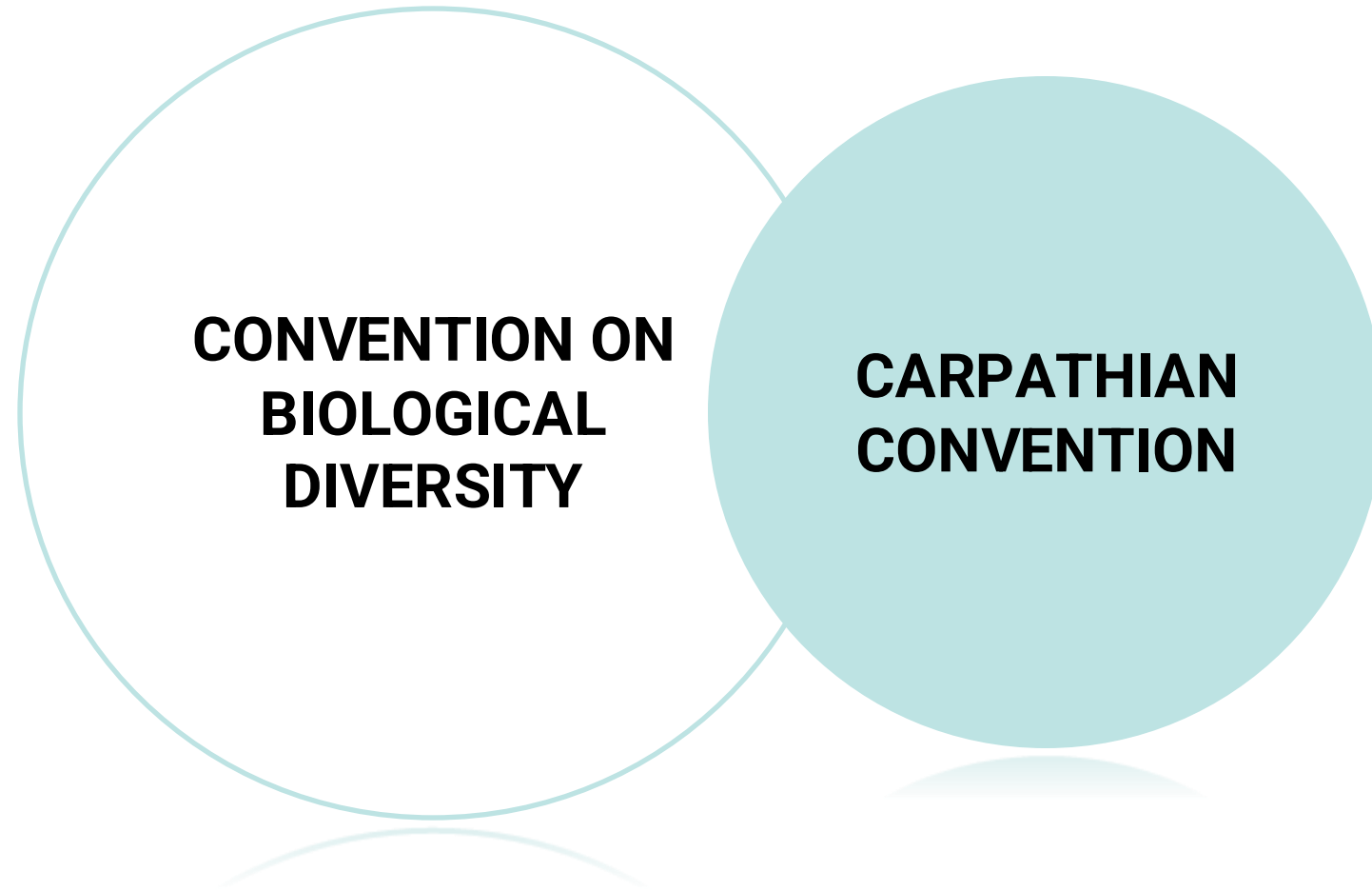
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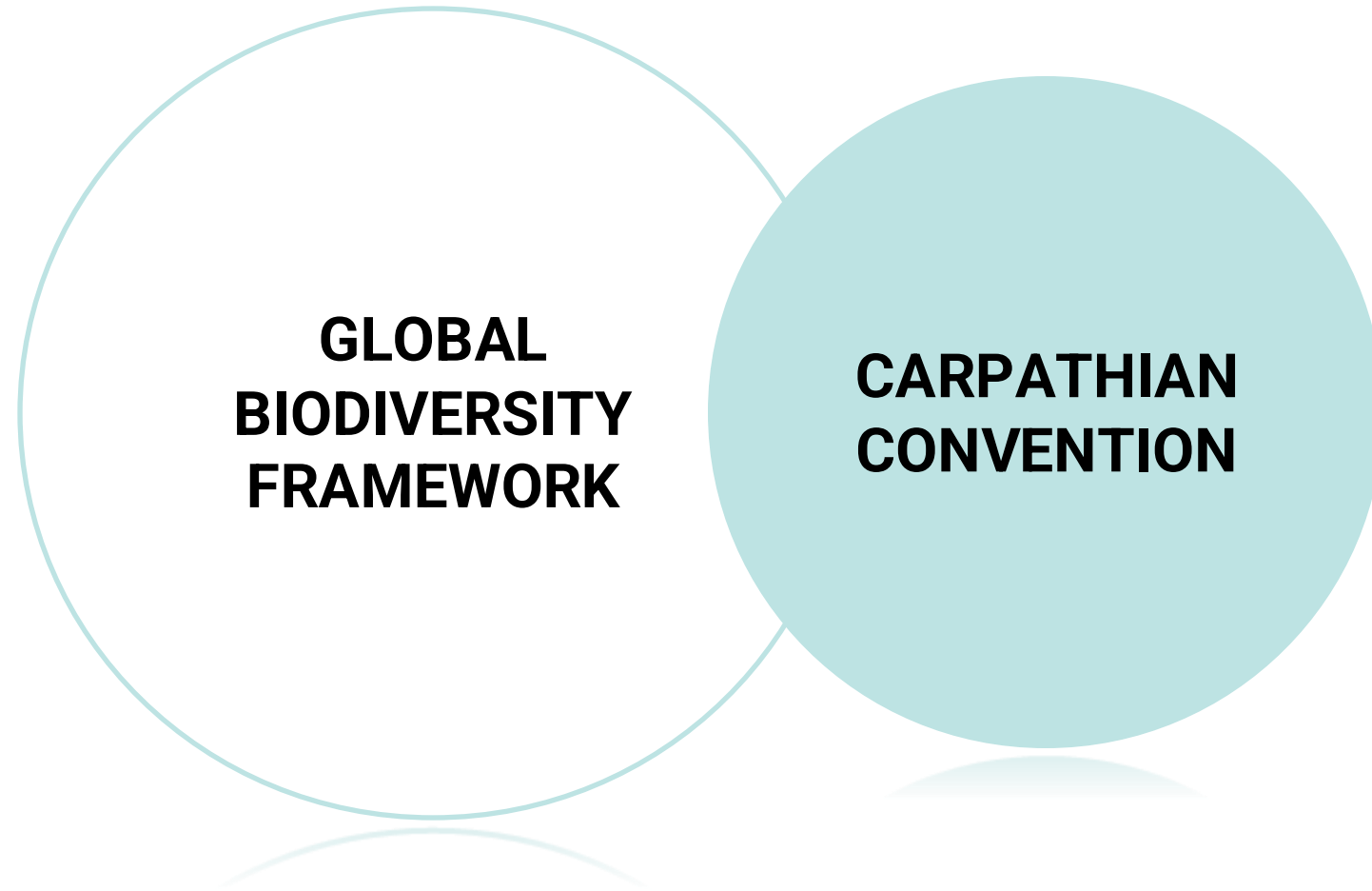
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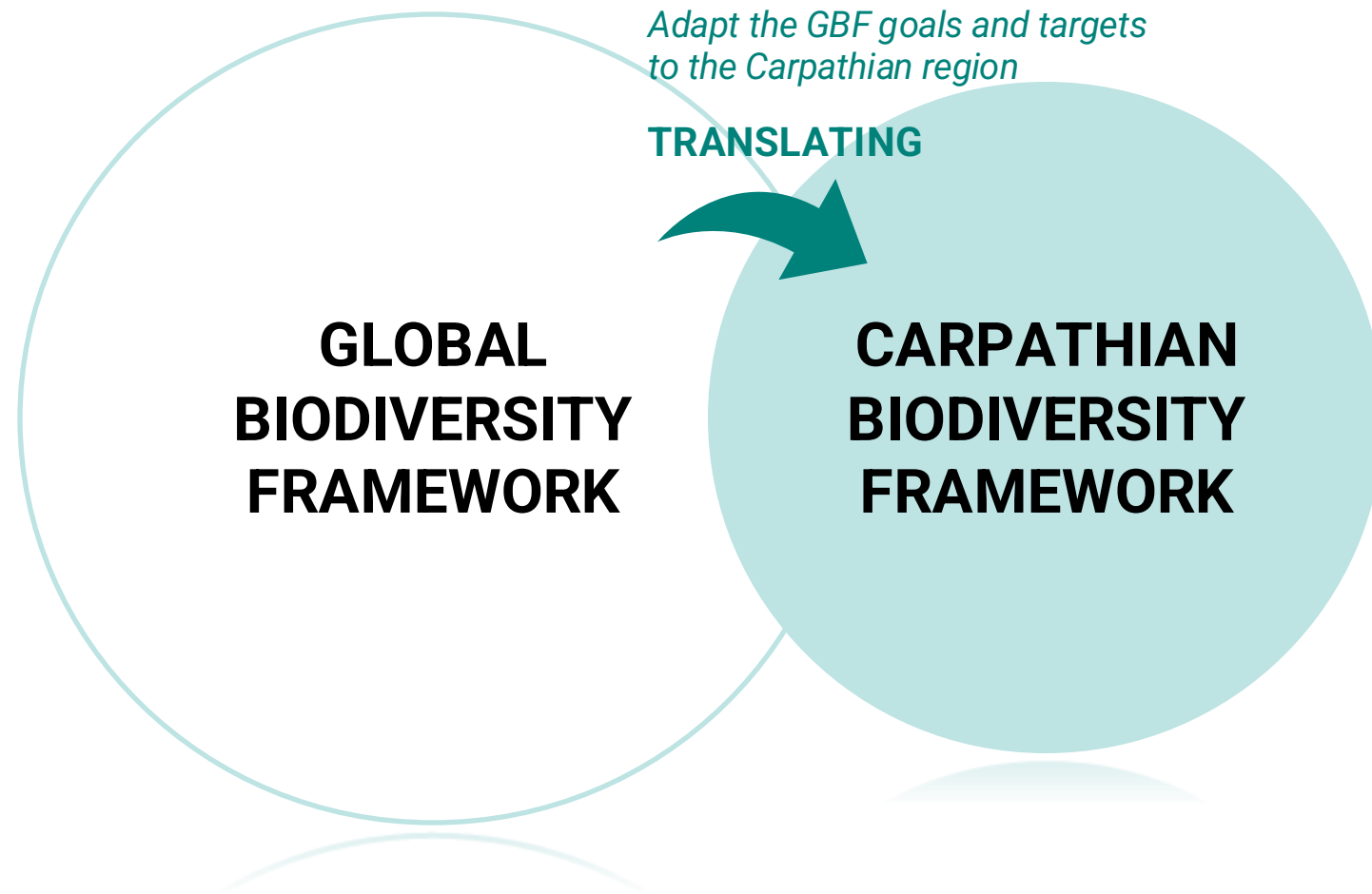
# Implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) through the Carpathian Convention



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# The Carpathian Biodiversity Framework sets a vision statement and 8 Strategic Objectives for the region

## Carpathian Vision 2050:

By 2050, the Carpathians is a thriving and sustainable region where people live in harmony with nature.

The biodiversity and natural beauty of the Carpathians are conserved, restored, and wisely used providing a healthy environment and essential ecosystems services for all people of the region and beyond.

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

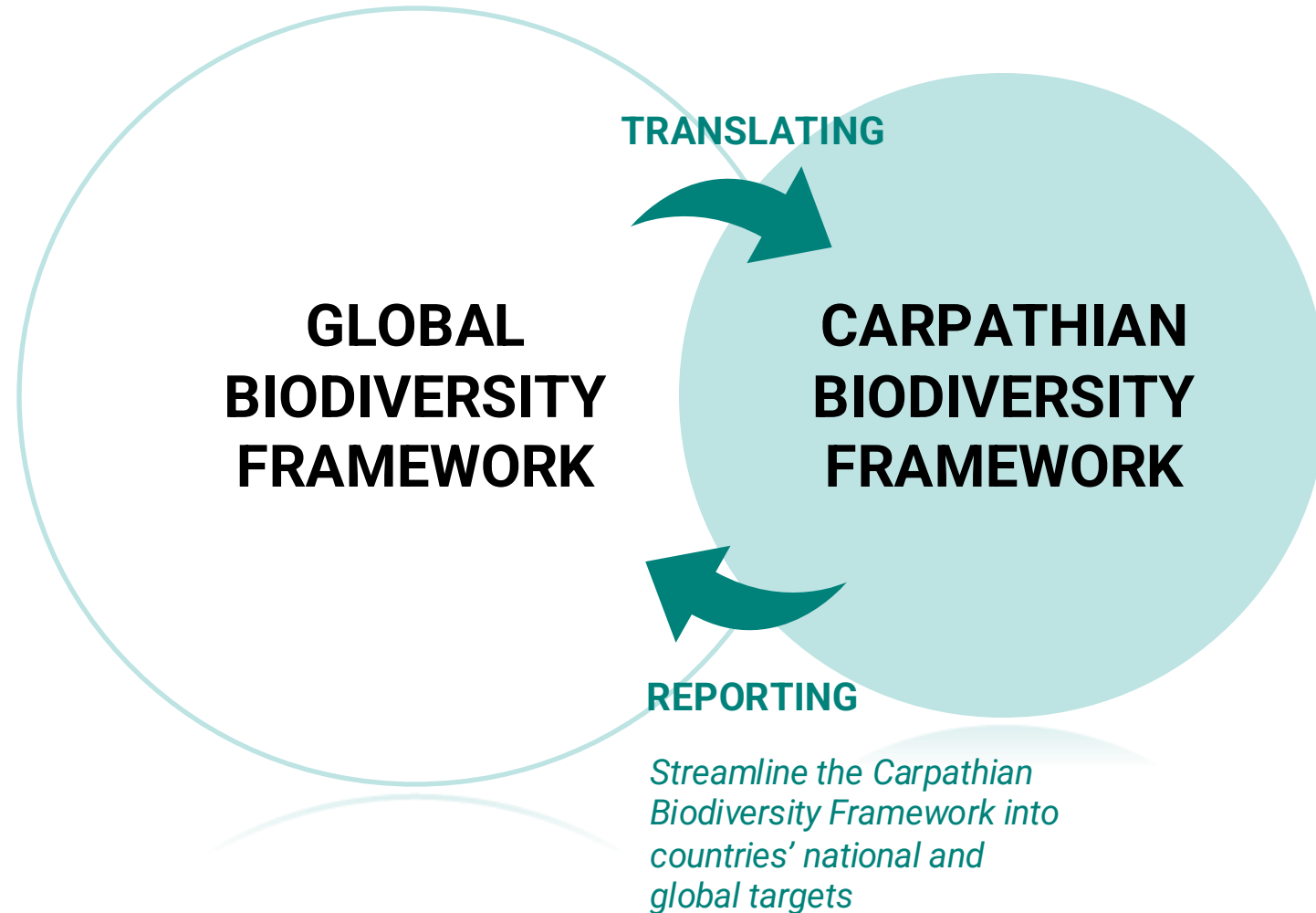
Strengthen **public awareness** about the Convention's objectives by integrating lifelong learning, global education approaches and cross-sectoral cooperation into the Convention's activities.

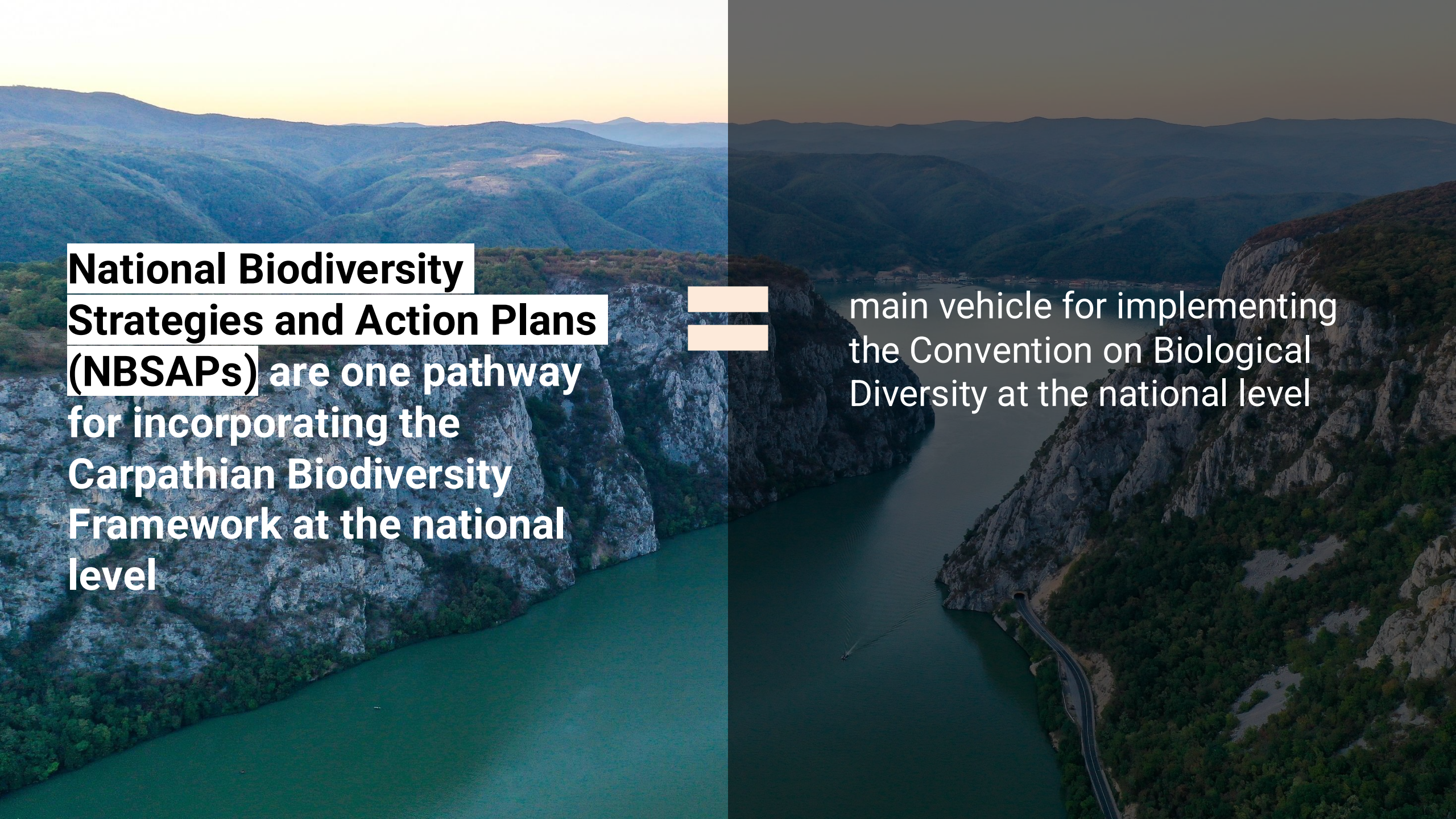
8

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.

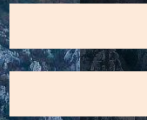


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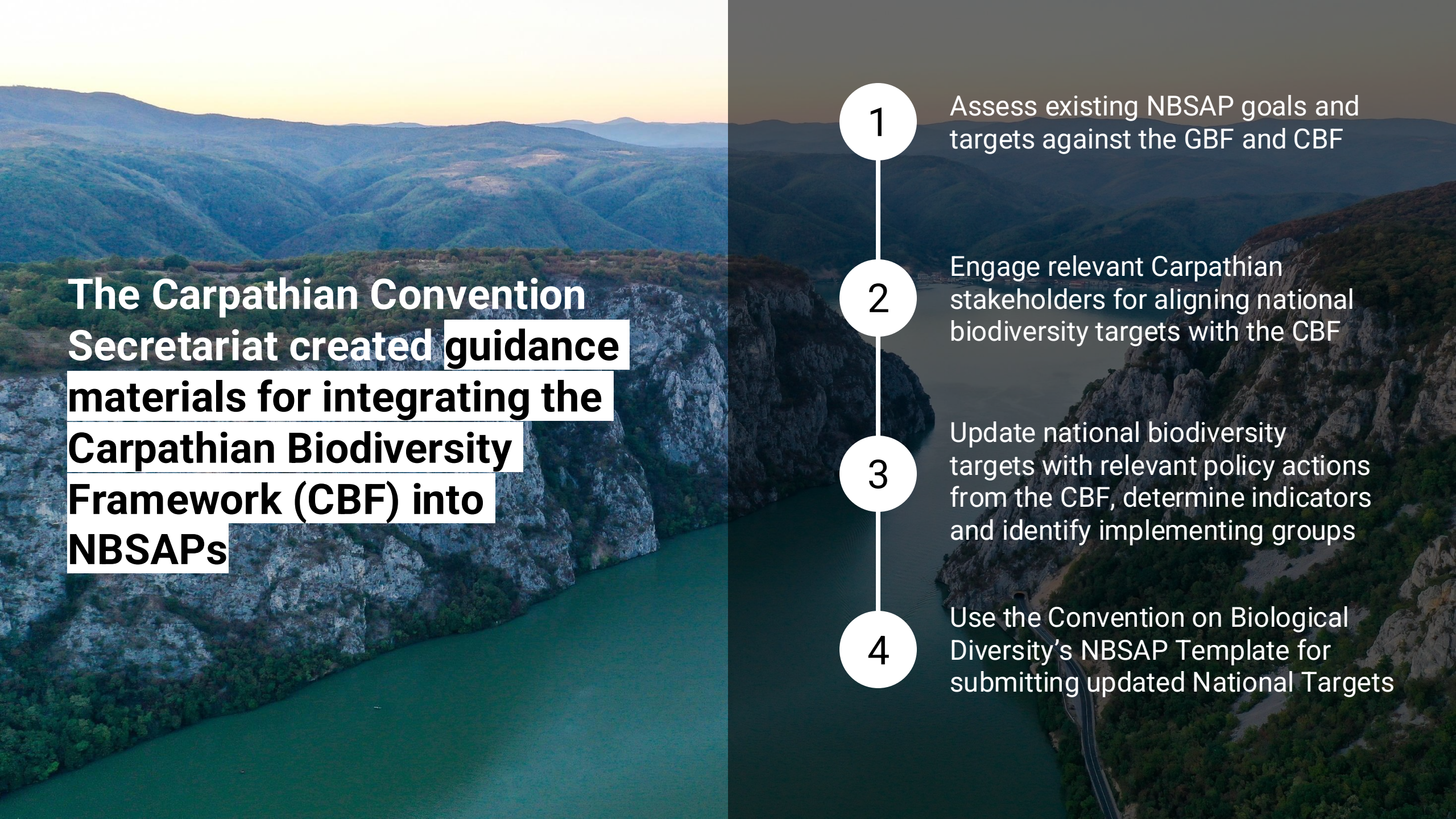




**National Biodiversity  
Strategies and Action Plans  
(NBSAPs)** are one pathway  
for incorporating the  
Carpathian Biodiversity  
Framework at the national  
level



main vehicle for implementing  
the Convention on Biological  
Diversity at the national level



**The Carpathian Convention Secretariat created guidance materials for integrating the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework (CBF) into NBSAPs**

1

Assess existing NBSAP goals and targets against the GBF and CBF

2

Engage relevant Carpathian stakeholders for aligning national biodiversity targets with the CBF

3

Update national biodiversity targets with relevant policy actions from the CBF, determine indicators and identify implementing groups

4

Use the Convention on Biological Diversity's NBSAP Template for submitting updated National Targets

The Carpathian Convention Secretariat created **guidance materials for integrating the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework (CBF) into NBSAPs**

- *Carpathian Convention Articles and Protocols*
- *CBF Annex of Policy Actions*



*Relevant for NBSAPs*

The Carpathian Convention Secretariat created **guidance materials for integrating the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework (CBF) into NBSAPs**

- *Carpathian Convention Articles and Protocols*
- *CBF Annex of Policy Actions*
- *Guidance Document's Suggested Policy Actions*

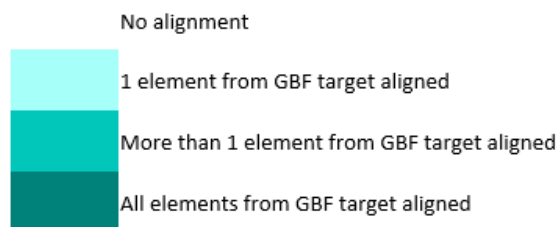


*Relevant for NBSAPs*



# The degrees of alignment are based on suggested Carpathian policy actions listed in the guidance materials

## Legend

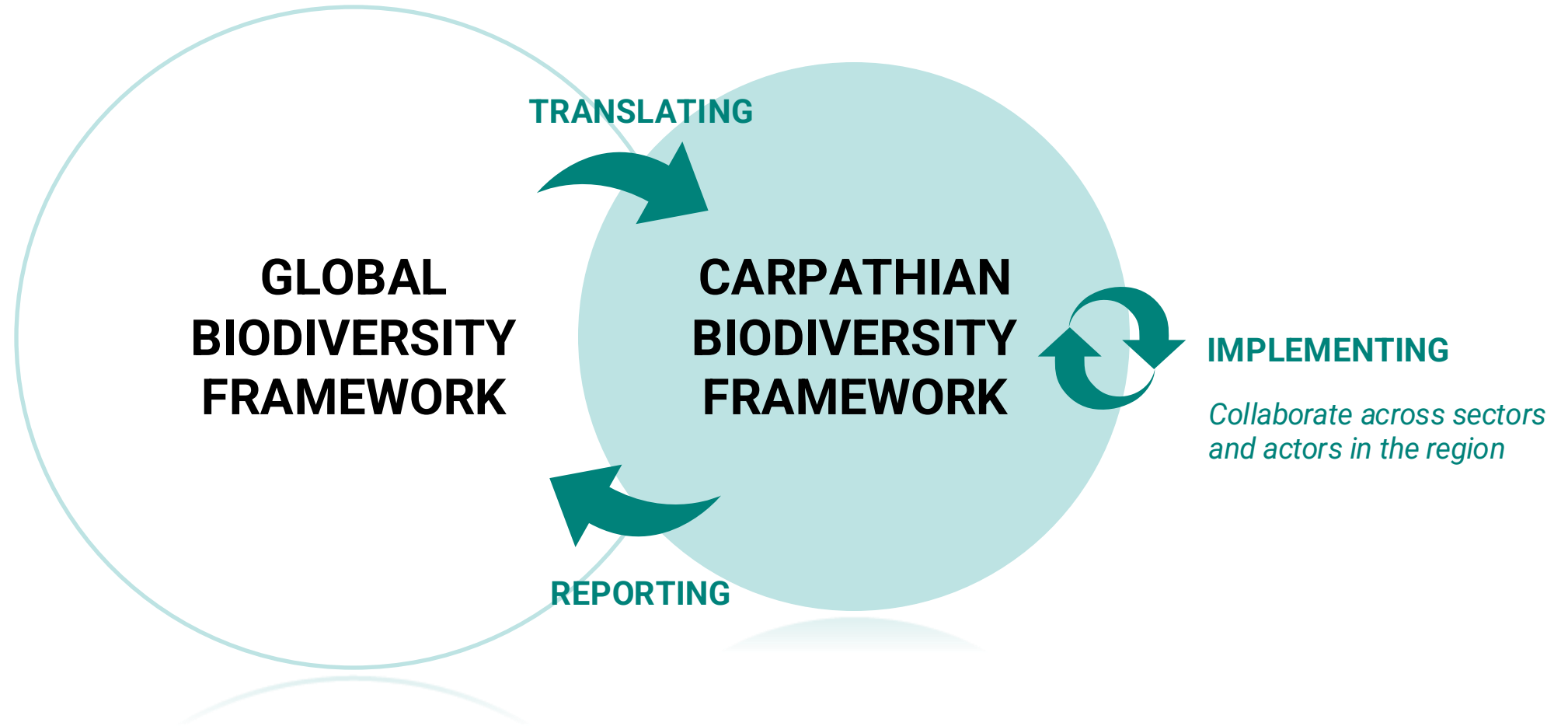


| GBF Target | CBF Strategic Objectives                |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                        |                    |
|------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
|            | Biodiversity, Connectivity, Restoration | Forests           | Tourism           | Transport         | Agriculture       | Climate Change    | Education, Cooperation | Support to Ukraine |
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## TARGET 2: Restore 30% of all Degraded Ecosystems

| SUGGESTED POLICY MEASURES AND ACTIONS relevant for the Carpathians                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | CBF OBJECTIVE ALIGNMENT | GBF TARGET ALIGNMENT & DEGREE |   |   |    | GBF GOALS | SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS & TOOLS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|----|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Improve the ecological network and habitat continuity between significant Carpathian ecosystems by restoring existing protected areas, and Ramsar Sites and creating ecological corridors to connect fragmented habitats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify degraded habitats, draft a priority list and develop programmes for restoration.</li> <li>- Update the provisional list of endangered natural and semi-natural habitat types native to the Carpathians (Carpathian Red List of Habitats).</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 1, 2                    | 2 3                           |   |   |    | A         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Protocol on Biodiversity, 8, 9, 12, 15</li> <li>- Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13</li> <li>- Updated Integrated Tisza River Basin Management Plan</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <p>Restore degraded natural forest habitats in the Carpathians, especially virgin forests, and ensure reforestation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase the use of close-to-nature silvicultural practices, which seeks to manage mixed and uneven-aged forests, by sharing best practices and improving the regulatory and legal framework for the close-to-nature forestry transition.</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- Create guidelines for managing close-to-nature forestry in Protected Areas and applicable Natura 2000 sites.</li> </ul> | 1, 2                    | 1                             | 2 | 3 | 20 | A         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Carpathian strategy for enhancing biodiversity and landscape conservation outside and inside protected areas: <a href="#">Full document</a>   <a href="#">Factsheet</a> (Centralparks)</li> <li>- <a href="#">The Carpathian Ecosystem Services Toolkit</a> (Centralparks)</li> <li>- UNEA 5.2 Resolution on End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument (UNEP/EA.5/Res.14)</li> <li>- <a href="#">Guidelines on communication between protected areas and local communities in the Carpathians</a> (Centralparks)</li> </ul> |
| <p>Identify priority actions for restoring wetlands and water-dependent habitats in the Carpathians.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 1, 7                    | 2                             |   | 3 | 7  | A         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Inventory of virgin/old growth forests in the Carpathians</a></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p>Increase involvement with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration for awareness-raising and possible upscaling of restoration activities as outlined in the Carpathian Convention.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 7                       | 2                             |   |   |    | A         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Assessment of climate change risks and impacts on the Carpathian forests and their ecosystem services</a></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <p>Consider prioritizing the restoration of Carpathian habitats in the National Restoration Plans (EU Nature Restoration Law).</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 1                       | 2                             |   |   |    | A         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Assessment of climate change risks and impacts on the Carpathian forests and their ecosystem services</a></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

# Implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) through the Carpathian Convention







## The Carpathian Biodiversity Framework can be implemented through various means

Integrate activities into NBSAPs

Mainstream biodiversity within and across sectors in Carpathian Convention bodies/mechanisms

Organize intersectoral committees and meetings at the national, regional and/or Carpathian Convention levels

Cooperate with relevant MEAs and European processes and partners

Develop and implement Carpathian strategic projects

# Develop and implement Carpathian strategic projects

## LECA, NaturaConnect, and Central Mountains

### LECA – Supporting the coexistence and conservation of Carpathian Large Carnivores

- *Developing cross-border monitoring approach and Thematic Guidance on conservation and coexistence*
- *Pilot actions on harmonized monitoring, poaching investigation, and conflict prevention measures*

### NaturaConnect – Building a resilient ecological network of conserved areas across Europe for nature and people

- *Helping EU governments and stakeholders to design a well-connected Trans-European Nature Network*
- *Case study on the Danube-Carpathian region to evaluate connectivity challenges*

### Central Mountains: From the Alps to the Carpathians – strengthening governance models for sustainable development of mountain areas in Central Europe

- *Cross-border and transnational cooperation structures in the Alps, Carpathians and Sudetes*
- *Developing a joint Alpine-Carpathian strategy and an Action Plan for Sustainable Tourism Development*



LECA



Central Mountains

# Develop and implement Carpathian strategic projects

## LIFE Strategic Nature Project (SNaP) for the Carpathians

### PURPOSE

#### Long-term, large-scale funding for some Carpathian activities

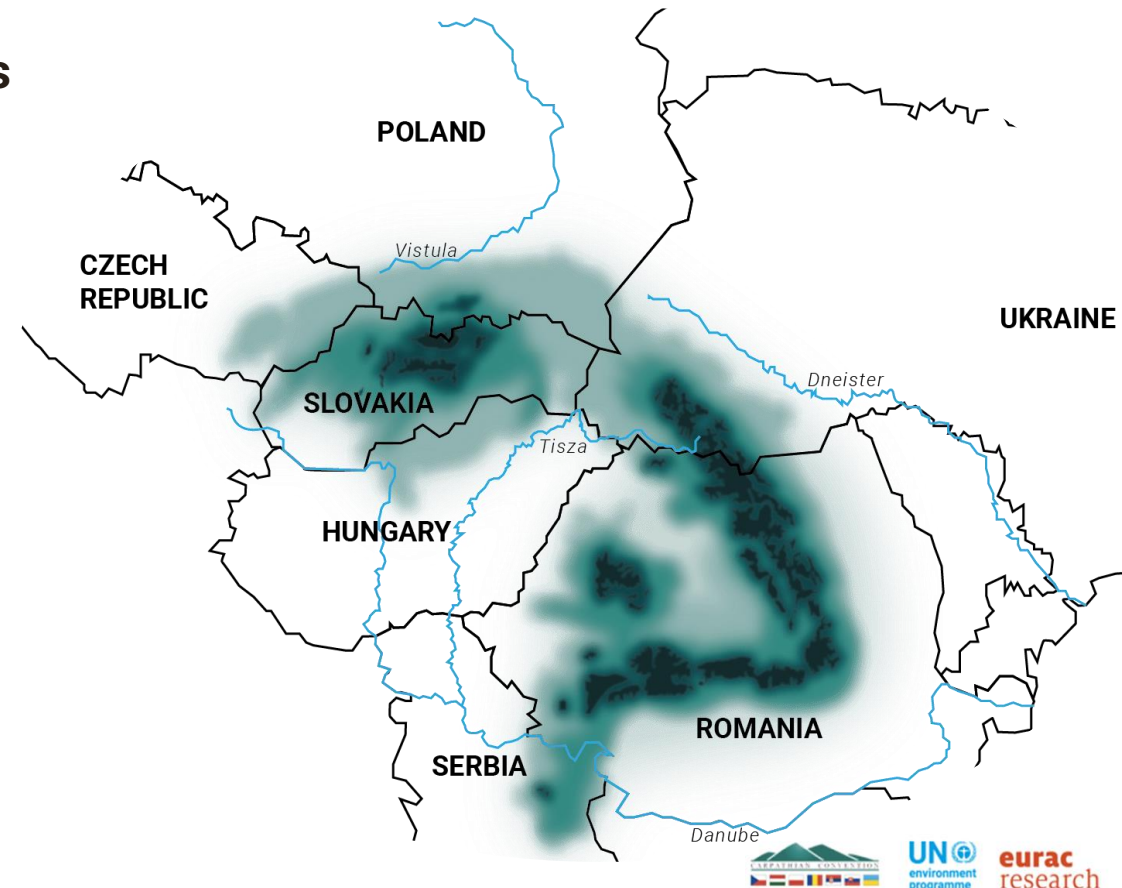
- *Carpathian Biodiversity Framework*
- *Individual countries' NBSAPs*

#### Important for transboundary and transnational activities

- *Such activities cannot be financed from national/in-country funding sources*
- *No transnational LIFE SNaPs have been implemented thus far*

#### Majority of Carpathian countries are eligible

- *Contrary to Interreg Central Europe or Danube Transnational Programmes*
- *Serbia can participate as a "third country"*



# Develop and implement Carpathian strategic projects

## LIFE Strategic Nature Project (SNaP) for the Carpathians

### THEMATIC FOCUS

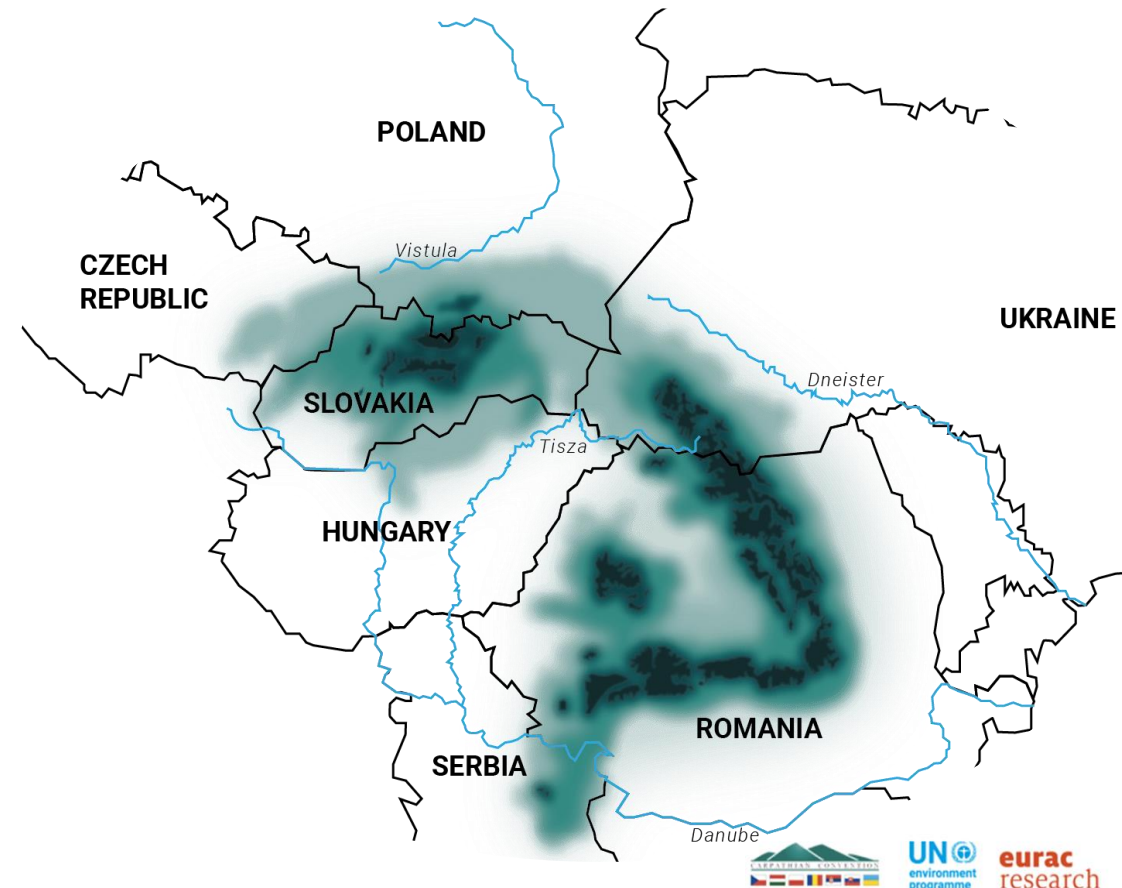
#### Align with EU environmental policies

- *EU Birds and Habitats Directives and EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030*

#### Align with CBF objectives

#### Mainstream biodiversity into other sectoral policies

- *Strategic Objective 1: extend protected areas network; set up ecological corridors; ecosystem restoration*
- *Strategic Objective 2: protect primary and old-growth forests, improve resilience of managed forests*
- *Strategic Objective 5: bring nature back to agricultural land*
- *Strategic Objective 8: cooperate with Ukraine*



Exchange knowledge and experience across mountain regions

Advocate and promote mountain ecosystems on global environmental agendas



**The Carpathian Convention provides a collaborative, multi-sectoral model for biodiversity conservation in mountain regions worldwide**

# Thank You

Elena Fischer: [elena.fischer@un.org](mailto:elena.fischer@un.org)

UNEP Vienna Programme Office Secretariat of the  
Carpathian Convention: [info.carpathianconvention@un.org](mailto:info.carpathianconvention@un.org)

[www.carpathianconvention.org](http://www.carpathianconvention.org)

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