



Memorandum of Cooperation
Between
The Convention on Biological Diversity
And
The Alpine Convention
And
The Carpathian Convention

The Convention on Biological Diversity (hereinafter referred to as the CBD), represented by its Presidency and its Executive Secretary, the Alpine Convention, represented by its Presidency and its Secretary General, and the Carpathian Convention represented by its Presidency and the Head of the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention;

Recalling the objectives of the CBD namely the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources;

Recalling the programme of work on Mountain biological diversity approved by the 7th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD which constitutes a set of actions addressing characteristics and problems that are specific to mountain ecosystems;

Recalling the programme of work on Protected Areas approved by COP7 of the CBD which constitutes a set of actions addressing protected areas that constitutes an important tool of preservation of mountain ecosystems;

Recognizing that the Framework Convention for the protection of the Alps (hereinafter referred to as the Alpine Convention) and the Framework Convention for the Protection and the sustainable





development of the Carpathians (hereinafter referred to as the Carpathian Convention) are binding international legal instruments for the sustainable development of mountainous regions with an integrated approach;

Recalling the Protocol on Conservation of Nature and Landscape to the Alpine Convention, that entered into force in 2002 and reflects the CBD orientations laying down the framework for regional cooperation on this subject;

Recalling art. 4 of the Carpathian Convention "Conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity" which reflects the CBD principles and constitutes a solid basis for cooperation among the countries on this topic;

Noting with appreciation the negotiation among the Contracting Parties of the Carpathian Convention of a protocol on Biological and Landscape Diversity and calling for its early conclusion;

Recalling the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions signed at the COP1 of the Carpathian Convention in Kiev in 2006 with its collaboration themes including collaboration in the field of protected areas;

Underlining that cooperation will lead to better implementation of the CBD in the Contracting Parties which are also Parties to the Alpine Convention or the Carpathian Convention, thus benefiting also indirectly the implementation of the CBD by the European Community.

Recognizing that both the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions are platforms for regional cooperation for the protection of the environment and the sustainable development in mountain regions;

Appreciating that the Secretariats of the CBD, of the Alpine Convention and of the Carpathian Convention are collaborating in the context of the Mountain Partnership and, together with their





constituencies are working for the sustainable development in other mountain regions, including by facilitating, where appropriate, the development of regional platforms and legal tools for cooperation;

Recognizing the role of UNEP Vienna also as the Environmental Reference Centre of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat;

Recalling further that the CBD stresses the importance of, and the need to promote international, regional and global cooperation among States and intergovernmental organizations and the non governmental sector, and desires to enhance and complement existing international arrangements for the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components;

Recalling further decision VI/27 of the COP to the CBD which acknowledges the important role that regional and subregional mechanisms and networks play in promoting the implementation of the CBD, providing fora for the preparation of regional inputs to the meetings of the CBD and for translating COP decisions into regional actions;

Recalling also decision VII/26 of the COP to the CBD, which recognized that enhanced cooperation and improved coordination at national level will be important in efforts to meet the CBD biodiversity 2010 Target; and urged further enhanced cooperation between the CBD and all relevant international conventions, organizations and bodies, strengthening and building on existing cooperative arrangements to enhance synergies and reduce inefficiencies, in a manner consistent with their respective mandate, and resources;

Have reached the following understanding:



I. Institutional Cooperation

1. The CBD, the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention acting through their Secretariats (hereafter “the Secretariats”) will cooperate, as appropriate, for the preparation of the meetings of their respective governing and subsidiary bodies and invite each other to relevant meetings, subject to the applicable procedures.
2. The Secretariats will inform their respective Member States/Contracting Parties of their co-operative activities, with a view of promoting synergies at national level.
3. The Secretariats will cooperate in promoting exchanges of experiences and best practices on issues of relevance for their mandate, including, as appropriate, through the Clearing House Mechanism of the CBD.
4. The Secretariats will cooperate, in the framework of the Mountain Partnership, to promote participatory sustainable mountain development with all the relevant stakeholders including youth, women, NGOs, local authorities, local communities and the private sector.

II. Exchange of information and experience

The Secretariats agree to exchange information on matters of mutual relevance including, as appropriate:

- a. Scientific and technical information including ongoing consultations, discussions, and fact-finding processes on new and emerging issues;
- b. Technical guidance to the Conventions and to the sustainable mountain development in general;
- c. Components of the programmes of work implemented under the Conventions that are of mutual interest, including in particular the programme of work on protected areas and the activities of networks thereof, invasive alien species, plant conservation wetland conservation and management and adaptation to climate change;

- d. Activities related to monitoring status and trends of relevant components of biodiversity regarding global and European targets.

III. Collaboration on the implementation of the Conventions and their respective Programme of Work

1. The Secretariats will cooperate, as appropriate, in the organization of regional meetings and facilitating the reporting of the implementation of the programme of work on mountain biodiversity.
2. The Secretariats will cooperate, as appropriate, to support the implementation of the CBD, the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention in Europe and the achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity Target.
3. The Secretariats will explore the possibility of collaboration on the implementation of relevant programmes of work, including those mentioned under II. paragraph c above.

IV. Programme of work on Mountain Biodiversity

1. The Secretariats will endeavour to cooperate in fundraising for joint projects, such as on training and support, where applicable, to developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition to assist in the effective implementation of the programme of work on mountain biodiversity, and call upon the Environmental Reference Centre of the Mountain Partnership to support these efforts.
2. The Secretariats will cooperate in collecting, reviewing, evaluating and sharing, through the Clearing-house Mechanism and other means, existing information about the role of mountain ecosystems in producing and maintaining freshwater resources, and about the consequences of climate change and desertification on mountain biological diversity.
3. The Secretariats will especially cooperate in order to facilitate the creation of continuity and connectivity of natural and semi-natural habitats.

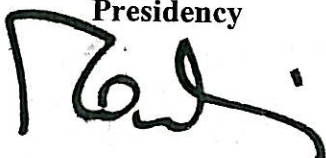
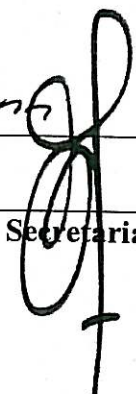
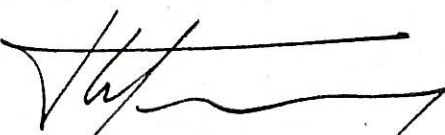
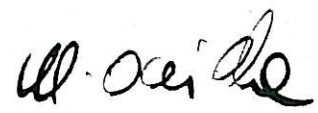
V. Reporting

1. The Secretariats will report on the implementation of this Memorandum to their respective governing bodies according to the respective applicable procedures and, as appropriate, will seek further guidance on possible new areas of co-operation.

VI. Effectiveness, Amendment and Termination

1. This Memorandum will take effect upon signature by all sides.
2. The CBD, the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention represented by their respective Presidencies and Secretariats may, by mutual agreement, review and amend this Memorandum.
3. This Memorandum may be terminated by the CBD, the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention represented by their respective Presidency and Secretariat giving a six month written notice.

Signed this 29 day of July 2008 at Bonn

CBD	Presidency 	Secretariat 
Alpine Convention	Presidency 	Secretariat 
Carpathian Convention	Presidency 	Secretariat 