

**MANDATE OF THE  
Alpine Biodiversity Board  
FOR THE PERIOD 2023-2024  
(BETWEEN THE XVII AND XVIII MEETINGS OF THE ALPINE  
CONFERENCE)**

## 1. Introductory remarks

Importance of the issues selected and relevance of the proposed way to tackle them

The results of the previous period showed that, in the international context, it is necessary to consider the specificity of mountain biodiversity in all related strategies and at all levels.

Mountain biodiversity is not sufficiently known nor considered in biodiversity strategies, and specific actions addressing it are rather scarce.

The new mandate 2023-2024 of the ABB will mainly revolve around the results of ABB's first and second mandates, taking into due consideration the direction of the new AC MAP 2023-2030, especially related to the two thematic priority areas "Conserving and valuing Alpine biodiversity and ecosystems" and "Taking ambitious climate action". Qualitative objectives have already been identified for these thematic priorities, soon to be joined by a system to measure progress.

The ABB's 2023-24 mandate will continue working on these issues, as well as on new issues largely shaped by several recent global developments in the biodiversity domain:

- the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, which aims at bringing about a transformation in society's relationship with biodiversity, ensuring that by 2050 the shared vision of 'living in harmony with nature' is fulfilled;
- the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 (UN DER), which aims to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide;
- at the EU-level, the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 which contains specific targets, actions and commitments to protect Europe's biodiversity and put its ecosystems on a path to recovery by 2030;
- the renewal of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Alpine Convention, the Carpathian Convention (CC) and the CBD.

## 2. Objectives

Description of the objectives to be achieved until the XVIII Alpine Conference:

**Obj. 1** Contribute to the awareness on and knowledge of mountain biodiversity and its specificity at the international and national level and support its integration in international and national policies.

**Obj. 2-** Contribute to the achievement of the European biodiversity targets in the Alps and to the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 in the Alps, also making use of the monitoring of mountain biodiversity, and facilitate the exchange of information, knowledge, experiences and the lessons learned between the Parties and Observers of the Alpine Convention and other experts and interested parties.

**Obj. 3-** Contribute to implementing the two Biodiversity Pathways of the Climate Action Plan 2.0, elaborated between the ABB and the ACB: 1) "Protection and management of vulnerable and Alpine-specific landscapes and ecosystems" and 2) "Enhance transboundary cooperation and ecological connectivity".

**Obj.4-** Support the global ecosystem restoration efforts in the Alps and raise the profile of the Alps as a model region in this field.

### 3. Planned outputs

Description of the planned outputs, with reference to the objectives

In reference to Obj. 1, 2, 3:

- Advance in the development of the IT tool for the cartographic representation and monitoring of alpine biodiversity, also as a useful IT tool for an early warning system of endangered species and for spatial planning.
- Taking the Conclusions and Recommendations from the Alpine and Carpathian Biodiversity Forum into consideration.
- Organise relevant workshops/conferences (see below) to raise awareness and further the knowledge on the specificities of mountain biodiversity and publish their results in appropriate formats (e.g. policy briefs).

In reference to Obj. 2, 3, and 4:

- Disseminate the intermediate results of the planned ABB project for the construction of the IT tool to facilitate the integration of mountain biodiversity strategies into national strategies.
- Organize workshops dedicated to the main themes characterizing mountain biodiversity and to relevant biodiversity strategies (national, regional, global).
- Prepare a draft mid-term Action Plan of the AC for biodiversity that considers the evolution of the project, the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Alpine and Carpathian Biodiversity Forum and the pathways agreed with the ACB.

In reference to Obj. 4 – Support UN-DER:

- Application to become a Supporting Partner to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.
- First collection of ecosystem restoration efforts in the Alps, and communication to the UN DER.

#### 4. Work plan

Outline of the foreseen timetable (meetings and other activities, main milestones scheduled)

Among the main activities to be carried out,

In reference to Obj. 1, 2 and 3:

- Finalise the project proposal and its partnership for a forthcoming call; the project can be defined before the end of this mandate, promoting a sharing of the method and the importance of mapping for the monitoring of biodiversity at the alpine level.

In reference to Obj. 2, 3 and 4

- Organize, within the two-year period, international workshops of thematic in-depth study, with the coordination of ABB and in cooperation with other TWBs, e.g. concerning the following topics, hypothetically by country:
  - Biodiversity Monitoring in the mountains (IT / FR)
  - Biodiversity and Climate Change (AT)
  - Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (CH)
  - Biodiversity and Quality of Life (SI)
  - Biodiversity and Land Use Planning (IT/DE)
  - Mountain biodiversity in the national and EU biodiversity strategies (DE)

The ABB will coordinate the process, helping the countries as far as possible, and preparing effective formats to facilitate the drafting of a final overall report.

#### 5. Cooperation

Description of the planned cooperation with other Alpine Convention bodies and further relevant partners and processes, and the expected benefits

- Continue cooperation with other TWBs of the AC and especially with the TWB that have particular involvement with biodiversity, as ACB, WISO, Mountain Agriculture and Mountain Forestry. Collaborate with the ad hoc WG responsible for drafting the RSA 10 on Quality of Life and with ESPON.
- Cooperate to influence actions by the Contracting Parties in the international negotiations of interest for the mandate of ABB.
- Cooperate for the implementation of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the three Conventions CBD, AC, CC.
- Strengthen as much as possible the collaboration between the Alps and the Carpathians. International conventions should strengthen collaboration for the joint conservation of biodiversity at global and EU level, following the example of the implementation of the EU biodiversity strategy, the Green Deal and other EU policies in a coordinated manner. Continue the collaboration with UNEP, to

promote the specificity of mountain biodiversity at the international level to ensure that it is kept as an absolute priority in all development sectors.

- In collaboration with Mountain Partnership FAO, encourage the involvement of all stakeholders potentially interested in the protection of mountain biodiversity in order to ensure the implementation of existing international, regional and national policies, and to integrate management priorities and protection objectives.
- Strengthen the coherence between the CBD strategy and the results of the Alpine Convention's activity for the specificity of mountain biodiversity, contributing to the realization of the CBD vision of "Living in harmony with nature" by 2050, and to strengthen the coherence between international frameworks and science as well as between science and evidence-based decision making.
- Strengthen the links with EUSALP AG6 and AG7, specifically with regard to the landscape planning and ecological connectivity.
- Collaborate with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.
- Consider options for cooperation with IUCN Europe.

Opportunities for new collaborations and partnerships will be explored on a regular basis.

## 6. Communication

Description of the communication goals, targets and respective planned measures

The communication objectives will be developed during the mandate, e.g. through policy briefs and other tools, and in any case consistent with the objectives indicated in the work plan and with its results.

## 7. Link to the Multi-Annual Work Programme 2023-2030 of the Alpine Conference

Description of how the proposed objectives and activities shall contribute to some or all of the priority areas of the MAP 2023-2030 (biodiversity and ecosystems / climate action / quality of life / interlinkages, synergies, and trade-offs of the aforementioned areas)

The objectives of the ABB mandate were identified according to the priority areas and qualitative objectives of the MAP.

ABB's work aims to contribute, in all Alpine countries, to the achievement of the international objectives of protection, conservation and restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity, as well as to strengthen the biodiversity and ecosystem activities of the Alpine Convention, integrating the topic into the work of all its organs.

The ABB, with its coordination work on the issue of the specificity of mountain biodiversity, can help national, regional and local authorities to achieve the objectives set at European and international level, contributing, among other things, to better monitor the state of biodiversity in the Alps, to support the development of protected areas and to adequately protect, manage and restore priority habitats, starting from those already identified.

## **8. Chair**

The Chair will be held by Italy.