

## **WORK PROGRAMME OF THE *Alpine Biodiversity Board (ABB)* for the period 2021-2022 until the XVII Alpine Conference**

### **1. Introductory statement**

The long-term objective of the Alpine Biodiversity Board (ABB) is to propose goals and priorities for joint action on biodiversity matters in the Alps. The ABB relates in principle to the protocol on "Nature Protection and Landscape Conservation" and builds upon the work of the relevant thematic working bodies and the Alpine Climate Board. In the medium-term, the ABB undertakes a stocktaking analysis of relevant biodiversity and landscape strategies, guidelines and policy recommendations for Alpine countries, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, relevant EU and national legislation and biodiversity strategies as well as the results of recent research.

Findings of the previous mandate period have shown that in the international context, mountain areas are still not sufficiently considered in biodiversity strategies. Closely related to that, an absence of specific actions on mountain biodiversity was identified. The ABB aims at addressing these problems by emphasizing the need of a specificity for the biodiversity of mountain areas on an international level and working closely with other bodies of the Alpine Convention on the development of specific targets and actions within the Alps and the Alpine Convention.

The World Conservation Congress of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is a key step in identifying the main strategic guidelines to protect nature in the face of climate change and its impacts on ecosystems and habitats. To make the case for the Alps the ABB will demonstrate the specificity of the biodiversity of mountain areas in at least one of the upcoming international events on biodiversity and insist on developing specific recommendations. The ultimate goal is to reflect the consequences of climate change with more specific attention to biodiversity in mountain areas and to propose objectives that relate to the new challenges for Alpine biodiversity. For these activities, the ABB plans to collaborate with the French Presidency of the Alpine Convention and the French Presidency of EUSALP, UNEP, the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and ALPARC. Additionally, the Alpine Climate Board (ACB) of the Alpine Convention developed implementation pathways for the Alpine Climate Target System 2050, including pathways on ecosystems & biodiversity.

### **2. Objectives**

Based on these developments, we propose to consider the following objectives as the work agenda for the ABB during the next two years until the XVII. Alpine Conference:

- Identification of a series of indicators relevant to mountain biodiversity, complementing and updating the indicators of the "Ecological Network" platform. The indicators may serve as a starting point for a more comprehensive and joint monitoring in the Alpine countries.
- To organize actions at several institutional levels to urge the importance of a specificity of mountain biodiversity both in international and national strategies.

- Jointly work on a potential target for the Alpine Convention that includes vulnerable/threatened ecosystems such as mountains, also through the planning of a specific funded project (e.g. LIFE project).
- Contribute in reaching the 2050 Alpine Climate Targets by working closely with the Alpine Climate Board on implementing the Pathways IP\_Eco1: “Protection and management of vulnerable and Alpine specific landscapes and ecosystems”, and IP\_Eco2: “Enhance transboundary cooperation on ecological connectivity”.

### 3. Chair

The chair will be held by Italy.