

REVISED ACTION PLAN

FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOFIA DECLARATION
ON THE GREEN AGENDA FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS
2025-2030



Revision of Pillar 1: Decarbonisation and Climate Resilience of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans Action Plan 2025-2030

ORIGINAL ACTION IN THE FIRST GREEN AGENDA ACTION PLAN	ENDORSED ACTION IN REVISED GREEN AGENDA ACTION PLAN	ROADMAP	RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES	INDICATORS and Means of Verification	RATIONALE
Action 1. Align with the EU Climate Law with a vision of achieving climate neutrality by 2050	Action 1. By 2029, WB6 will adopt or update climate laws and/or other relevant regulation to align with the European Climate Law and its implementation instruments, establishing strategic frameworks for mitigation and adaptation	By 2027 each WB6 will complete a gap analysis identifying divergences between existing legal frameworks and the European Climate Law. Based on the findings, by 2028 responsible institutions will draft or revise legislation in consultation with key stakeholders. It is also advisable that, during this process, WB6 set domestic climate and energy targets that are aligned with their long-term vision of climate neutrality by 2050. By Q1 2028 updated or new climate laws and/or corresponding laws will be formally adopted. Secondary legislation and bylaws/strategic documents/action plans will be developed and adopted by 2030 to ensure practical enforcement and rollout of provisions in the updated laws.	WB6 EC support EnCS RCC support from Action 3	Indicators: - Climate law and/or corresponding law(s) adopted or updated and published. - Relevant implementing bylaws adopted and in force. Means of Verification: - Official publications of adopted climate laws and/or corresponding laws and bylaws (gazettes or official bulletins). - EnCS Implementation Report, NECPs, LTSs - GARI - Content analysis of adopted laws against EU benchmarks.	In order to align with the European Climate Law, to maintain high ambitions and consistency with the Paris Agreement and to embed the Sofia Declaration commitments, the WB6 should introduce 2050 targets aligned with their long-term vision of Climate Neutrality. Objectives set in the corresponding laws of the WB6 should include the minimum: framework for strategic planning for implementation of climate actions related to mitigation and adaptation.
	Action 2. Expanding on existing commitments under the Energy Community, the WB6 will, by the end of 2030, set up all relevant institutions and processes to ensure emission data collection under the EU Emissions Trading System in its full scope	Alignment and implementation of the MRVA legislation as in force in the EU and operationalisation of WB6 MRVA institutions and processes. This covers the following legislation: Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2066 on the monitoring and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions EUR-Lex - 02018R2066-20250101 - EN - EUR-Lex as amended. Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2067 verification of data and on the accreditation of verifiers EUR-Lex - 02018R2067-20250101 - EN - EUR-Lex as amended. Regulation 2015/757 on the monitoring, reporting and verification of carbon dioxide emissions from maritime transport, EUR-Lex - 02015R0757-20250101 - EN - EUR-Lex, as amended.	WB6 EC support EnCS (for the limited MRVA acquis in force in the Energy Community)	Means of Verification: - Enlargement Package reports - EnCS IR - Monitoring reports - In line with EnCS obligations.	In line with the EU enlargement obligations. Action is necessary to prepare the WB6 for joining the EU ETS upon accession and/or set up self-standing carbon pricing mechanism. This action recognises the MRVA obligations already established under the Energy Community, which carry a legally binding implementation timeframe

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Action 4. Prepare and implement climate adaptation strategies	Action 3. Strengthen Regional Climate Resilience through the development and implementation of WB6 Climate Adaptation Strategy	By Q4 2025: Finalise the WB6 Climate Adaptation Roadmap as the guiding framework for regional cooperation. By 2026: Develop and agree on the WB6 Climate Adaptation Strategy, including regional recommendations to strengthen climate resilience and support joint actions. By 2030: Support Strategy recommendations through regional initiatives and coordinated activities, targeted meetings, coordination, and knowledge exchange among WB6 stakeholders.	RCC, EC Climate Adapt	Indicators: - Roadmap endorsed (2025). - Strategy endorsed (2026). - Number of regional initiatives/processes/ meetings launched in line with the Strategy (by 2028). Means of Verification: - Texts of Roadmap and Strategy - Endorsement of statements/meeting records - Reports on regional initiatives. - GARI	
Action 5. Align with the EU Emissions Trading System and/or introduce other carbon pricing	Action 4. Align with the EU Emissions Trading System and/or introduce other carbon pricing	To be defined and agreed under ongoing Energy Community process	WB6 EnCS	Indicators: - Share of emissions under a pricing mechanism (%) Means of Verification: - Reporting under EnCS framework (Governance Regulation Art. 35 (2) c))	Process is in progress
Action 6: Increase opportunities for the deployment of nature-based solutions to mitigate and adapt to climate change		Reflected into action 1, 2 and 51	RCC, WB6		
Action 7: Ensure participation of WB6 in the European Climate Pact or consider the development of a similar mechanism		Deletion- reflected into Action 1 and 2			European Climate Pact is restricted to residents of EU Member States
Action 8. Review and revise, where necessary, all relevant legislation to support progressive decarbonisation of the energy sector		Deletion as action is covered by the NECP process under the Energy Community.			

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Action 9. Prepare an assessment of the socio-economic impact of decarbonisation the WB6 individual and regional level and biodiversity linkages	Action 5. By Q4 2028, each WB6 will prepare a comprehensive economic impact assessment of decarbonisation, identifying sectoral impacts, costs, opportunities, and policy measures needed to ensure a just transition	By 2026, develop a common methodology for conducting decarbonisation impact assessments, aligned with EU best practices. By 2028 each WB6 collects relevant economic, energy, and emissions data and performs modelling of decarbonisation pathways. By 2028 Prepare and publish reports outlining the economic impacts of decarbonisation, including sectoral employment effects, investment needs, and policy recommendations.	WB6 EnCS EC	Indicators: - Methodology adopted, data sets compiled; - WB6 impact modelling completed; - WB6 impact assessment reports published; Means of Verification: - Text, Methodology and Reports available and published	The RCC has supported GIZ in the development of two policy briefs, validated by RWG GAWB/WB6: <i>Mitigating Negative Social and Labour Market Impacts of the Energy Transition in the WB6 and Addressing Vulnerable Groups in the Energy Transition, with a Focus on Coal Sector Workers and Women</i> . Both documents align with GAWB objectives and provide targeted recommendations. The first brief examines labour market policies and the socio-economic impacts of the energy transition, offering policy solutions for social protection and improved energy market functioning. The second focuses on the specific needs of vulnerable groups, proposing tailored measures for up-skilling, re-skilling, and the development of qualification standards across the WB6.
Action 10. Prioritise energy efficiency and improve it in all sectors	Action 6. Implementation of the energy efficiency first (EE1st) principle across key sectors	Policy Alignment and Investment Screening (2025–2027) Introduce systematic screening of all major public policies and investments—across energy, transport, and buildings—for cost-effective energy efficiency alternatives. Empower regulators and ministries to apply this. Enforcement and Monitoring (2027–2030) Establish mechanisms to monitor, report, and enforce the principle in decision-making. Ensure that deviations from Energy Efficiency First must be transparently justified.	WB6, EnCS, Relevant ministries	Enabling legislation and number of policies, major investment projects, strategies, and investment plans that explicitly apply the EE1st principle. Means of Verification: - NECPs assessment - EnCS IR Annual reports prepared by the EnCS	To streamline the necessary actions for integrating energy efficiency into planning, policymaking, and investment decisions.

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Action 11. Transposition and Full enforcement of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. Support private and public buildings renovation schemes and secure appropriate financing	Action 7. Strengthen building energy efficiency through enforcement of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive and supporting renovation targets	EPBD enforcement: a) Ensure adoption or update of secondary legislation to enable issuance of Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) (2025) b) Increase issuance of EPCs on annual level (2025-2030) c) Strengthen enforcement mechanisms and expand training programmes for EPC certification experts (2026) Achievement of renovation targets: d) Set clear renovation trajectories and targets (2025) via NECPs & long-term renovation strategies e) Establish programmes and funding mechanisms for both private and public renovations, including the Energy Efficiency Funds currently being set up across WB6 (2026-2027). f) Track fulfilment of annual renovation targets (2025–2030)	11 a, b, c, d and f) WB6 with support of EnCS: 11 e) Energy efficiency funds or Financial Institutions in WB6	Secondary legislation adopted Number of EPCs issued Number of EPC certification experts in WB6 Existence of EPC registries and control mechanisms Clear renovation trajectories and targets adopted (via NECPs & Long-term Renovation Strategies) Programmes and funding mechanisms for public and private renovations established and under implementation Fulfilment of renovation targets Reduction of energy consumption in the residential and service sectors Means of Verification: a) and d) legal adoption of secondary legislation, NECP & LTBRs 11 b, c, e and f) EnCS IR, NECP reports, EPC registries, energy balances of WB6	The focus is shifting from transposition to implementation. Achieving building renovation targets and supporting renovation schemes for both private and public buildings is crucial for improving energy efficiency, reducing emissions, and enhancing living standards. This action aligns with the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans by addressing one of the largest energy-consuming sectors and should be backed by appropriate financing mechanisms to ensure broad implementation and social inclusiveness.
Action 12. Support private and public buildings renovation schemes and secure appropriate financing		Merged with action above			

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Action 13. Increase the share of renewable energy sources and provide the necessary investment conditions	Action 8. Establish supportive framework for investments in renewable energy projects and increase the share of renewable energy in final gross energy consumption	a) Building on the Energy Community Secretariat's ongoing efforts to streamline permitting procedures and establish RES acceleration areas, ensure active WB6 engagement to prioritise renewable energy development across the region (2025-2028) b) Accelerate grid modernisation to accommodate variable renewables through smart grid deployment and digitalisation and increased intra-regional Inter-Connections (2026-2030) c) Implementation of the training programmes and certification of installers for renewable energy technologies. (2025-2027) d) Ensure adoption or update of secondary legislation related to Sustainability and Greenhouse gas emissions saving criteria for biofuels, bio liquids and biomass fuels (2026-2027)	WB6, EnCS, TSOs	Fulfilment of the trajectory for the RES share in final energy consumption across all sectors until 2030 Means of Verification: • Energy Balances of WB6 • NECP Reports • EnCS IR	Increasing the share of renewables across all sectors—not just electricity—supports the Green Agenda by reducing emissions in heating, transport, and industry as well. Creating the right investment conditions encourages clean solutions in these areas.
	Action 9. Unlocking the decarbonisation potential of heating and cooling (H&C) sector - Increase renewables integration and waste heat utilisation in heating and cooling (H&C) sector	By Q42030 develop and implement supply-side policies and measures (PaMs) addressing the renewables and waste heat utilisation in H&C sector to increase the RES share	WB6 with support of EnCS	Relevant PaMs are included in the NECPs and/or comprehensive assessments; Increased share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption for heating and cooling. Preparation of comprehensive assessment and its notification to EnCS Adopted legislation on CBB; Number/percentage of district heating companies applying CBB Means of Verification: • NECPs; EnCS IR; Energy Balances of WB6; NECP (PR) • Official notification to EnCS; EnCS IR	Pending implementation of comprehensive assessments leaves H&C sector without a strategic planning framework. Their preparation and adoption will provide clear investment signals for decarbonisation. At the same time, full transposition and implementation of CBB is essential to improve energy efficiency, consumer trust, and enhance the financial viability of DHC systems. Current NECPs tend to focus on demand-side measures, inadvertently reducing RES share in H&C. Introducing supply-side PaMs to support renewables and waste heat is critical to reverse this trend and align with RED II targets

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Action 14. Decrease and gradually phase out coal subsidies, strictly respecting WB6 level aid rules	Action 10. Decrease and gradually phase out coal subsidies, with due consideration for the social and economic impacts, strictly respecting domestic aid rules	• Publish full coal subsidy inventory 2026-2030 • Gradually reduce subsidies with clear milestones; allow only transitional aid	WB6	• Information on policies, timelines and measures in the WB6 planned to phase out energy subsidies Means of Verification: • NECP IPR	Phasing out coal subsidies supports a fair and clean energy transition under the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans. It helps shift investments towards renewables and energy efficiency, while respecting aid rules and ensures fair competition.
Action 15. Ensure participation in the Coal Regions in Transition initiative for the Western		Deleted			
New action	Action 11.a) Setting up a dialogue on financing just transition	Mapping Needs and Financial Tools (2026–2027) Map existing and potential funding sources and align them with just transition objectives. Create a platform for an open debate on potential sources of financing and engagement of different stakeholders.	RCC/EnCS, Regional IFIs, WB6 CSOs		Action addressing the request made by the CSOs, corresponding with the WB6 request.
	Action 11b) Prepare Just Transition Plans for coal regions in transition	Develop JT Plans by Q4 2028, at the latest, aligning them with new draft NECP development (to be submitted by 1 Jan 2028)	WB6, EnCS, local authorities	In line with NECPs, drafting of JT Roadmaps/ Plans Means of Verification: • EnCS analysis	Preparing Just Transition Plans for coal regions in the Western Balkans 6 ensures that the shift away from coal is socially fair, economically inclusive, and aligned with the Green Agenda. These plans should be linked with NECPs to ensure policy coherence and long-term impact. Key areas of needed assistance include worker reskilling, social protection measures, economic diversification, and support for SMEs, and infrastructure redevelopment.

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Action 16. Develop programmes for addressing energy poverty and financing schemes for household renovation and providing basic standards of living	Action 12. Establish a comprehensive framework to identify, prevent, and reduce energy poverty in WB6	a) Define energy poverty in legislation in line with Energy Community deadlines, where applicable b) Assess the number of households in energy poverty in line with Energy Community deadlines, where applicable c) Adopt legal measures to prevent energy disconnection for energy-poor households during critical times by 2028 d) Adopt a target for the reduction of energy poverty by 2025 e) Develop and implement programmes to address energy poverty in line with Energy Community deadlines, where applicable	a) WB6 with support of EnCS b) WB6 Statistical Offices with support of Ministries, Energy Regulatory Authorities and Eurostat c) WB6 with support of EnCS d) WB6 e) WB6 with support of EnCS	Number of households in energy poverty, Target for energy poverty reduction, Number of measures implemented to reduce energy poverty through household renovation and energy efficiency measures, incl. budget allocated, and number of households reached by programmes Means of Verification: • 20 a, c and d) Legal adoption • 20 b, d and e) NECP (PR) and EnCS IR	A legal definition of energy poverty is essential for identifying energy poor households, measurable targets, and effective support programmes. Legal protections during critical times, such as winter or heatwaves, ensures basic energy access for vulnerable energy consumers. Adopting a quantified target and programmes with financing and accountability mechanisms is crucial to systematically reduce energy poverty.
Action 17. Support the development of smart transport infrastructure, promote fostering of innovative technologies	Covered with Reform & Growth Plan				
Action 18. Implement the Regional Action Plan for Rail Reforms	Action 13 a) Electrification of TEN-T Rail network	By 2030 for core network and by 2040 for extended core network: all WB6 will electrify rail TEN-T network. Activities include completion of ongoing projects and project preparation for not mature projects	WB6 for individual level actions TCPS with partners for regional actions	Indicators: • % of TEN-T rail infrastructure electrified according to TEN-T criteria Means of Verification: • TCT Development of indicative TEN-T extension of Comprehensive and Core Network in Western Balkans Six report	Part of Annex I of Transport Community Treaty that has been ratified in WB6 Parliaments, TEN-T regulation - one of TEN-T Network requirements Infrastructure readiness and fitness are not at the desired levels. The average operations speed on the TEN-T network is 50% of the design speed. 3 billion EUR has been invested in the rail infrastructure (representing 12% of total investment in TRA sector) during the last 20 years. There is a need to invest in railway projects and to ensure that those investments are green, such as electrification of railways.

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Action 18. Implement the Regional Action Plan for Rail Reforms	13 b) Rail market opening in Western Balkans Six	By Q1 2027: Draft the TCT Annex I.2 Rules applicable to Rail transport in the Market Access Regulatory Area, Interoperability Regulatory Area and Train Driver Licensing Regulatory Area, closely related to: - Directive 2012/34/EU of the European Parliament and the Council of 21 November 2012 - Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/545 of 7 April 2016 By Q4 2027: Transpose and implement the Annex I.2 Rules applicable to Rail transport in the Market Access Regulatory Area, Interoperability Regulatory Area and Train Driver Licensing Regulatory Area, closely related to: - Directive 2012/34/EU of the European Parliament and the Council of 21 November 2012 - Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/545 of 7 April 2016 aligned with EU acquis	WB6 for individual level actions TCPS with partners for regional actions	Indicators: - Regional assessment completed and - Rail market opened on the regional level and the second transitional period entered as per TCT protocols Means of Verification: - TCT Rail action plans progress report - EC progress reports	Part of Annex I of Transport Community Treaty that has been ratified in WB6 Parliaments, Part of Rail Action Plan which has been endorsed by Ministers of Transport Transport in Western Balkans Six is still road dominated, with rail modal share app.19% for freight land transport (tonne-km) and 7% for passenger land transport (pax-km). With tendency to travel by rail of only 19km per inhabitant in comparison to EU -900 km per inhabitant. In order to attract more passengers and freight, railways need to become more competitive and conduct necessary reforms which will ultimately lead to open market on Western Balkans Six level, higher competitiveness of railways and higher modal share, decreasing congestion and reducing emissions.
Action 19. Define rail freight and inland waterway transport corridors	Deleted, not relevant		NA	NA	NA
Action 20. Define an overall strategy to shift traffic from road to more environmentally friendly modes	Action 14. Update transport strategies to reflect 2050 decarbonisation commitments and Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy for WB6 and EU objectives	By Q1 2027: Draft the update of WB6 transport strategies (those Regional Partners that haven't done so in the last 3 years) and conduct consultation process By Q4 2027: Adopt the update of WB6 transport strategies	WB6 for individual level actions TCPS with partners for regional actions	Indicators: - Number of WB6 Transport Strategies updated with sustainable and smart elements. Means of Verification: - Officially adopted and published Transport Strategies - TCT Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy progress report	Part of Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy which has been endorsed by Ministers of Transport, part of recommendations in EU progress reports. Updating transport strategies is essential to align with the EU and Western Balkans Six Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy and meet 2050 decarbonisation goals. This ensures that WB6 domestic plans reflect current policy priorities, including digitalisation, multimodality, and climate resilience.

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Action 21. Identify the EU technical standards and ensure their implementation and digitalisation of all transport modes	Included in first measure, as part of Growth Plan measures		NA	NA	
Action 22. Implement the Regional Transport Facilitation Action Plan	Action deleted since it does not have too much effect on air pollution and greening		NA	NA	
Action 23. Implement the Regional Road Safety Action Plan	Action deleted since it does not have effect on air pollution and greening		NA	NA	
Action 24. Implement the Road Action Plan	Action 15. Transpose Clean Vehicle Directive	By 2027: Draft the clean vehicle legislation aligned with EU directive By 2028: Transpose and adopt the clean vehicle legislation aligned with EU directive	NA	Indicators: - Number of WB6 with transposed relevant directives/regulations related to clean vehicles transposed Means of Verification: - Officially adopted and published legislative acts - TCT Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy progress report	Part of Annex I of Transport Community Treaty that has been ratified in WB6 Parliaments, part of Green Mobility Declaration endorsed by Ministers of Transport at Green Mobility Summit in Sarajevo. The Clean Vehicles Directive mandates that public authorities procure a minimum share of clean and energy-efficient vehicles to promote decarbonisation and reduce air pollution. It sets binding targets for clean vehicle procurement, especially for buses and trucks, encouraging the uptake of electric, hydrogen, and other low-emission technologies.

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Action 25. Develop and implement climate resilience plans for Western Balkans Six transport networks	Action 16. Adopt climate resilience plans on the level of rail/road public companies	By 2026: Adopt a comprehensive climate resilience plan for the TEN-T road network, outlining priority interventions to assess and mitigate climate-related risks such as flooding, landslides, heatwaves, and extreme weather. By 2027: Adopt a dedicated climate resilience plan for the rail network, aligned with EU best practices and standards, to systematically address current and future climate vulnerabilities.	WB6 for individual level actions TCPs with partners for regional actions	Indicators: - Number of WB6 public rail /road companies with adopted climate resilience plans Means of Verification: - Published and approved climate resilience plans by road/rail public companies - TCT Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy progress report - Road and Rail Action Plan progress reports	Part of Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy and part of Road Action Plan and partly Rail Action Plan which Ministers of Transport have endorsed. Transport infrastructure in the Western Balkans Six is highly vulnerable to climate change, with flooding, landslides, high temperatures, and snowdrifts posing significant risks. A regional Vulnerability Assessment identifies that 56% of road links and 34% of railway links are highly exposed to these hazards under both 2030 and 2050 climate scenarios. The findings underscore the urgent need for substantial resilience investments to safeguard critical TEN-T transport corridors. Adopting climate resilience plans is the first step to institutionalising climate adaptation and dealing with climate proofing in a more systematic strategic way.
Action 26. Promote preparation and implementation of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans for urban areas in the Western Balkans	Action 17. Promote preparation and implementation of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans and other relevant urban mobility policies for urban nodes in the Western Balkans Six	By 2028: Prepare draft Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP) and other relevant urban mobility policies for all designated urban nodes, in line with EU guidance and legislation and regional priorities for integrated, low-emission, and multimodal urban transport. By 2029: Conduct and finalise a comprehensive consultation process with all relevant stakeholders to ensure broad ownership and alignment with community needs. By 2030: Formally adopt the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans for TEN-T urban nodes, and other relevant urban mobility policies establishing a clear roadmap for the implementation of sustainable, inclusive, and smart urban mobility solutions.	WB6 for individual level actions (namely local authorities) TCPs with partners for regional actions RCC support through LSGs Summit	Indicators: - Number of urban nodes with Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans in the Western Balkans Six prepared and adopted Means of Verification: - Officially adopted and published Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans - TCT Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy progress report - EC progress reports	Part of Annex I of Transport Community Treaty that has been ratified in WB6 Parliaments, TEN-T Regulation part of TEN-T requirements for newly added urban nodes. Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP) are essential for guiding urban nodes in the Western Balkans Six towards integrated, low-emission, and multimodal transport systems aligned with EU policy. They provide a structured framework to engage stakeholders, reflect community needs, and coordinate investments in sustainable mobility. Formal adoption of SUMP ensures a long-term roadmap for implementing smart, inclusive, and resilient urban transport solutions by 2030.

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Action 27. Define sustainable mobility solutions at the regional level including plans for deployment of alternative fuels	Action 18. a) Transpose and implement Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Regulation	By Q1 2026: Draft the legal acts that align legislation with the EU Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Regulation By Q4 2026: Adopt the legislation that aligns with the EU Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Regulation	WB6 for individual level actions TCPS (alt. fuels infrastructure), EnCS (alt. fuels supply)	Indicators: • Number of WB6 with transposed • Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Regulation Means of Verification: • Officially adopted and published legislative acts • TCT road action plans progress reports • TCT Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy progress report	Part of Annex I of Transport Community Treaty that has been ratified in WB6 Parliaments, Road Action Plan, Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy which have been endorsed by Ministers of Transport. Transposing and implementing the Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR) is crucial for accelerating the deployment of electric and hydrogen charging infrastructure across the Western Balkans Six. The regulation sets binding targets for infrastructure coverage, interoperability, and user accessibility along the TEN-T network, ensuring alignment with EU standards. Adoption of AFIR by 2026 will establish the legal foundation for consistent, integrated, and future-proof alternative fuel networks in the region.
Action 27a. Define a plan for deployment and building charging stations for electric vehicles	Action 18. b) Develop WB6 Policy Frameworks for development of Alternative Fuel Infrastructure	By 2027: Each of WB6 drafts Policy Framework according to Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Regulation aligned with EU acquis By 2028: Each WB6 adopts Policy Framework according to Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Regulation	WB6 for individual level actions TCPS with partners for regional actions	Indicators: • Number of WB6 with prepared and adopted Policy Framework Means of Verification: • Officially adopted and published legislative acts • TCT road action plans progress reports • TCT Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy progress report	Part of Annex I of Transport Community Treaty that has been ratified in WB6 Parliaments, Road Action Plan, Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy, which have been endorsed by Ministers of Transport, requirement under Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Regulation
Action 28. Increase regional cooperation in the area of alternative fuels infrastructure development	Deleted, not relevant		NA	NA	NA

Revision of Pillar 2: Circular Economy of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans Action Plan 2025-2030

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Action 29. Improve sustainability of primary production of raw materials	Action 19. Harmonise and operationalise Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes for key waste streams across the WB6 by 2030	By 2026, regional guidelines on EPR harmonisation aligned with EU directives will be drafted, and regional WB6 consultations on packaging EPR legislation using the WB6 Green and Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform will begin;		1. EPR coverage Number of WB6 with fully operational EPR schemes for key streams Target: 6/6 with packaging EPR by 2028 and EPR for WEEE in place by 2030	EPR is a proven tool to improve waste management by applying the polluter-pays principle and generating dedicated funding for recycling. Even though several WB6 have introduced EPR schemes, their implementation quality varies. Well-designed EPR schemes generate funding for separate collection and recycling, improving waste outcomes. Currently, weak governance in existing EPR systems (unclear fee collection/use) hinders performance, so strengthening oversight and consistency will enhance effectiveness and ensure producers help meet recycling targets. ² Harmonising EPR across the WB6 will raise recycling rates and reduce public costs. It also prepares the region for EU accession by meeting obligations (e.g. mandatory packaging EPR). ³
	a) By 2028, operationalise harmonised Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes for packaging in Western Balkans 6 (WB6) b) By 2030 WB6 will gradually expand and harmonise EPR systems to include Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) packaging and packaging waste, while compiling with new minimum standards of EU Waste Framework Directive (Article 8a)	By 2027, WB6 will adopt the regional EPR guidelines and establish or reform Producer Responsibility Organisations (PROs) with transparent fee systems. By 2028, WB6 will have operational packaging EPR schemes in place, and initiate regional mechanisms such as knowledge sharing platforms, return systems and joint tenders for recycling By 2028–2029, legal and technical frameworks for WEEE EPR will be developed in all WB6, supported by the establishment of dedicated collection and recycling infrastructure. By 2030, WB6 will have initiated operational WEEE EPR systems with annual reporting on performance and impact of both packaging and WEEE EPR schemes.	WB6 for individual level actions RCC with partners for regional assessment/guidelines WB6 Green and Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform serves as a forum for structured dialogue and coordination among the Working Group on Industrial Development, RWG GAWB, WB6-CIF, academia, and civil society.	2. Recycling rates of EPR-managed waste streams Percentage of packaging waste recycled Target: ≥50% by 2030 ¹ Indicators: By 2027: Regional EPR harmonisation guidelines drafted; at least 4 WB6 engaged in packaging EPR consultations. By 2028: WB6 will adopt guidelines and establish/reform PROs with transparent fee systems. By 2028: WB6 will have operational packaging EPR schemes; at least 2 regional mechanisms (e.g. joint tenders, intraregional returns) launched. By 2029: Legal and technical frameworks for WEEE EPR in place in all WB6; infrastructure development started. By 2030: WEEE EPR systems across WB6 initiated; annual reporting on packaging and WEEE EPR performance.	

¹ EU relevant targets Article 8a of the EU's Waste Framework Directive requires EPR schemes. All existing EPR schemes had to meet new minimum standards. The Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (PPWD)³ mandates the establishment of EPR schemes for all packaging by 31 December 2024. By 2025, 65% of packaging waste to be recycled and by 2030 – 70%.

² <https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/analysis/publications/municipal-waste-management-in-the-western-balkan-countries>

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				Means of Verification: - Published regional EPR guidelines - WB6 legislation and records of consultations - Meeting minutes of WB6 Green and Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform - Registration and audit reports of PROs - Documentation of regional EPR initiatives - Legal acts and infrastructure reports on WEEE systems - Annual EPR performance reports from PROs or competent ministries - Reports via GAWB Observatory and GARI	NGO feedback on the GAWB plan emphasized refocusing on materials reduction and recycling, and EPR directly supports this by incentivising producers to reduce waste and design products for recycling. Aligning with EU policies will prepare the region for the Single Market and the forthcoming requirements (like new packaging recycling targets and EPR for additional products under EU law).
Action 30. Apply an industrial ecosystem approach to attain environmentally sustainable, balanced economic recovery	Covered by CRM 2 5.5. Green Industry 5.5.1. Pilot Digital Product Passports (DPPs) at the domestic level 5.5.2. Develop guidance for implementation of Green Public Procurement (GPP) / Adopt regional voluntary Green Public Procurement criteria 5.5.3. Identify industrial symbiosis opportunities, and promote through eco-industrial parks (EIPs) in a register				
Action 31. Develop circular economy strategies looking at the entire lifecycle of products					Deleted as it is reflected in other actions

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Action 32. Make further progress in the construction and maintenance of waste management infrastructure for cities and regions	Action 20. Accelerate development of waste reduction, reuse, and recycling infrastructure across the WB6 by adopting EU-aligned Waste Management Plans, setting targets, and investing in sorting, collection and recycling systems, in line with the waste hierarchy	By 2027, WB6 will develop or update Waste Management Plans aligned with EU directives, setting targets for recycling and landfill reduction and outlining infrastructure needs. By 2030, each WB6 will establish at least one new material recovery facility or upgrade an existing recycling centre, and implement separate collection of recyclables (paper, plastic, metal, glass) in all major cities with more than 50000 inhabitants. By 2030, economic instruments (e.g. landfill taxes, incentives for sorting, and support for reuse networks) will be adopted to reduce landfilling and promote waste prevention. By 2028, regional guidelines for waste hierarchy implementation will be developed to align approaches and avoid circularity-inconsistent investments (e.g. excessive incineration). By 2029, a regional market and investment assessment will be conducted for at least two selected circular material flows to identify volumes, infrastructure needs, and profitability. By 2030, WB6 will achieve $\geq 40\%$ municipal waste recycling and reduce landfilling to $\leq 25\%$.	WB6 RCC with partners for regional assessment/guidelines WB6 Green and Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform serves as a forum for structured dialogue and coordination among the Working Group on Industrial Development, RWG GAWB, WB6-CIF, academia, and civil society.	Indicators: - Number of WB6 with updated EU-aligned Waste Management Plans - Number of new or upgraded recycling/material recovery facilities - Share of major city population with access to separate collection - Adoption of landfill taxes/incentives/reuse support schemes - Regional waste hierarchy implementation guidelines adopted - Regional circular market assessment completed (Target: 2 material flows assessed by 2029) - Average municipal waste recycling rate across WB6 (Target: $\geq 40\%$ by 2030) - Municipal waste landfilling rate across WB6 (Target: $\leq 25\%$ by 2030) Means of Verification: - Published and approved WB6 Waste Management Plans - Infrastructure project documentation and operational reports - Local self- government service records on separate collection - Official legislation/policy on economic instruments - Published regional waste hierarchy guidelines - Circular market assessment report - WB6 and regional waste statistics (reported via GAWB Observatory and GARI)	The original GAWB Action 32 stressed waste infrastructure, but it needs to be more concrete with clear targets. Around 250–500 kg of municipal waste is generated per person annually, and volumes are rising with economic growth. Most waste is landfilled, often in non-sanitary sites, while recycling and composting remain under 10% on average in the WB6.^{4,5} The EU Waste Framework Directive mandates 55% recycling of municipal waste by 2025 (60% by 2030)⁶, which WB6 are far from achieving. Without urgent investment in collection, sorting and recycling infrastructure, these targets will be far from reach and environmental and public health issues from overflowing landfills will worsen. Clear, measurable outcomes like recycling rates and deadlines make it easier to monitor and enforce progress, as recommended by civil society. Moreover, better infrastructure has immediate visible impact. By coordinating regionally (e.g. sharing successful approaches, possibly pooling resources for regional facilities), the WB6 can avoid costly mistakes and ensure meeting a baseline level of waste services.

4 <https://ecfr.eu/publication/geopolitical-greenery-how-decarbonisation-can-speed-the-western-balkans-towards-the-eu/>

5 https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/publications/reports/2024/06/western-balkans-competitiveness-outlook-2024-regional-profile_359dd5b9/170b0e53-en.pdf

6 https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/waste-and-recycling/waste-framework-directive_en

ORIGINAL ACTION IN THE FIRST GREEN AGENDA ACTION PLAN	ENDORSED ACTION IN REVISED GREEN AGENDA ACTION PLAN	ROADMAP	RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES	INDICATORS and Means of Verification	RATIONALE
Action 33. Design and implement consumer-targeted initiatives to raise awareness of citizens on waste prevention, separate collection and sustainable consumption	Action 21. Expand consumer awareness and engagement in the circular economy across WB6	By 2030, WB6 will implement coordinated and targeted public awareness campaigns to significantly increase consumer understanding and participation in the circular economy. The goal is to raise the percentage of the population familiar with the concept of the circular economy to over 60% by 2030, with a particular focus on youth, students, and urban consumers. To achieve this, a common regional awareness framework will be developed by 2026, ensuring shared branding, messaging, and structure, while allowing for local adaptation in each WB6. It will be aligned with relevant EU initiatives such as the EU Circular Economy Action Plan (COM(2020)98 final), the EU Green Week, and the new EU consumer protection measures against greenwashing and for product transparency.	WB6 RCC - regional level	Indicators: • The percentage of the population that reports awareness of the circular economy (target: over 60% by 2030, based on surveys such as the Balkan Barometer) • The number of major awareness campaigns conducted at the WB6 and regional levels • The number of participants Means of Verifications: • Campaign and event reports; media data and engagement metrics (TV, radio, social media, school outreach); and annual regional awareness surveys, including those conducted through RCC; supported by RCC's reporting tools under GARI.	Without public buy-in, even the best waste systems will underperform. The EU also emphasizes consumer empowerment – new rules ban greenwashing and require product durability info, highlighting the need for informed consumers.⁷ Currently, many people in the WB6 have low awareness of circular economy concepts and the idea is new and abstract for many citizens and business owners. Balkan Barometer surveys confirm knowledge gaps and even scepticism among businesses about the green transition. BB data for 2024 reveals varying levels of awareness of the circular economy across Western Balkans 6. On average, only 35.9% of respondents are familiar with the concept, while 57.3% are unaware, and 6.8% did not answer. Action 33 in the original plan addressed this and expanding it, with proper monitoring (e.g. tracking number of events, people reached), is needed. Quick wins can be achieved (e.g. a spike in recycling rates after a campaign), but maintaining momentum through 2030 ensures lasting behaviour change. The RCC's Western Balkans Green and Circular Economy Stakeholders Platform highlights enhancing public awareness of the circular economy's benefits as a critical need. Additionally, as policies such as eco-labelling come into play, citizens will need to be informed to participate.

7 https://energy.ec.europa.eu/news/new-eu-rules-empower-consumers-green-transition-enter-force-2024-03-27_en

ORIGINAL ACTION IN THE FIRST GREEN AGENDA ACTION PLAN	ENDORSED ACTION IN REVISED GREEN AGENDA ACTION PLAN	ROADMAP	RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES	INDICATORS and Means of Verification	RATIONALE
Action 34. Conclude and implement a regional agreement on the prevention of plastic pollution, including specifically addressing the priority issue of marine litter	Action 22. By 2030, WB6 will strive to phase out single-use plastics and integrate circular solutions for plastic packaging across WB6	By 2028: WB6 will adopt plastic pollution reduction strategies aligned with the EU Plastics Strategy. By 2028: The top 5 most littered SUPs are banned or significantly restricted in at least 3 WB6. By 2028: Functional EPR systems for plastic packaging are in place in all WB6. By 2028: 80% reduction in the availability of the top 5 SUPs in the market (compared to 2023 baseline). By 2029: At least 50% of plastic packaging is recyclable, reusable, or compostable. By 2030: 30% recycled plastic content in plastic packaging, in line with EU targets.	WB6	Indicator: Number of WB6 that transposed and implemented key anti-plastic-pollution measures from the agreement. Target: 6 out of 6 by 2028 fully implement the agreed measures Indicators: • The number of WB6 with officially adopted plastic pollution strategies. • The reduction percentage of the most commonly found SUPs on the market and in coastal litter. • The number of operational EPR systems for plastic packaging. • The share (%) of plastic packaging that is recyclable, reusable, or compostable. • The share (%) of recycled content in plastic beverage bottles. • The annual quantity (in kg/km²) of plastic litter on selected coastal and marine monitoring sites. • The number of regional reuse/refill pilot initiatives launched. • Official strategies and legal texts adopted and published in WB6 registers. • Reports and data from WB6 agencies, packaging registries, including producer compliance schemes. • RCC GAWB observatory Platform, GARI • Marine litter monitoring data collected using harmonised methodologies, including beach litter surveys and floating litter assessments. • Independent evaluation reports or EU-aligned databases	This commitment builds on the Sofia Declaration, in which WB6 acknowledged the urgency of tackling plastic pollution and pledged to conclude a regional agreement. The 2023 Regional Joint Statement on Plastic Pollution, endorsed in Tirana, further reaffirmed the need for coordinated action on both land- and sea-based sources of plastic waste. By 2030, all Western Balkans Six (WB6) will implement strategies to reduce plastic pollution, phase out the most polluting single-use plastics (SUPs), and ensure that 100% of plastic packaging placed on the market is reusable, recyclable, or compostable. This action supports the implementation of the EU Single-Use Plastics Directive (EU) 2019/904, EU Plastics Strategy COM(2018)28 final, and the EU Circular Economy Action Plan COM(2020)98 final, as well as the Barcelona Convention's Regional Plan on Marine Litter and the Regional Joint Statement on Plastic Pollution endorsed in Tirana (2023).

ORIGINAL ACTION IN THE FIRST GREEN AGENDA ACTION PLAN	ENDORSED ACTION IN REVISED GREEN AGENDA ACTION PLAN	ROADMAP	RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES	INDICATORS and Means of Verification	RATIONALE
Action 35. Further implement Smart Specialisation Strategies, place-based, innovation-led transformation agendas for sustainability	Covered with CRM 2.0 4.4.3. Facilitate implementation of Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3) common priorities in the region RCC EC, WB6, CIF, EISMEA 2025-2027 - Streamlined regional initiatives to support implementation of S3 priorities; • Supported establishment of dedicated joint Horizon Europe and Digital Europe offices; • Facilitated uptake of underperforming Cities Missions.				

Revision of Pillar 3: Depollution of Air, Water and Soil of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans Action Plan 2025-2030

ORIGINAL ACTION IN THE FIRST GREEN AGENDA ACTION PLAN	ENDORSED ACTION IN REVISED GREEN AGENDA ACTION PLAN	ROADMAP	RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES	INDICATORS and Means of Verification	RATIONALE
Action 36. Finalise the process of ratification of Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and its protocols	Deleted				
Action 36a. Support modelling to establish domestic emission reduction commitments for the five main pollutants covered by the NEC Directive and the Gothenburg Protocol under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution	Action 23. By 2030 WB6 will progress towards alignment with EU air quality standards	By 2028 , WB6 will achieve transposition of the NEC Directive	WB6, EC/RCC	Relevant indicators: - Emission reduction of five main pollutants compared to the previous year - Timely Submission of Emissions Inventory Reports - Adoption of Inventory Improvement Plan - Establish emission estimates in line with CLRTAP guidelines and guidance, notably the EMEP/EEA air pollutant emission inventory guidebook 2023 - Annual Emissions of SO₂, NO_x, NH₃, NMVOCs, PM_{2.5}; - Percentage of Emissions Reductions since 2005 (by pollutant, for the five main pollutants) Means of Verification: - WB6 reported emission inventories to assess progress in reducing emissions	Air pollution as a major environmental and health risk requires development of policy and regulation, as well as involvement of many stakeholders. The aim of this action is to contribute to the improvement of air quality and emission reduction in line with the EU air quality standards.

ORIGINAL ACTION IN THE FIRST GREEN AGENDA ACTION PLAN	ENDORSED ACTION IN REVISED GREEN AGENDA ACTION PLAN	ROADMAP	RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES	INDICATORS and Means of Verification	RATIONALE
Action 37a. Transposition of Industrial Emission Directive (new version) and its Best Available Techniques reference documents	Action 24. Increase the uptake of Best Available Techniques in accordance with the Industrial Emissions Directive	24 a) Adopt legislation to comply with the Industrial Emissions Directive and the principle of the use of BAT for the energy sector – by the end of 2026 24 b) Require operators of combustion plants to comply with the minimum requirements for combustion plants of the Industrial Emissions Directive from 2028 onwards at individual level – by 2027 24 c) Develop enabling financial and legal instruments to facilitate the investments necessary to achieve the emission reductions for compliance – by 2027	24 a) WB6 with EnCS support 24 b) WB6 24 c) WB6 with EnCS support	Measures implemented to reduce the emissions of LCPs. Indicators: - Refurbishment measures / projects carried out at large combustion plants to implement BAT Means of Verification: - LCP reports sent annually to the EnCS	Large combustion plants must meet the standards of the Industrial Emissions Directive from 1 January 2028 onwards and comply with the corresponding emission limit values at individual (plant) level.
Action 38. Establish an adequate air quality monitoring system, including through accreditation of air quality monitoring networks	Action 25. Improvement of air quality monitoring system in compliance with EU acquis	By 2027 , preparation of the roadmap for adequate air quality monitoring system: number and locations according to the siting criteria of air quality stations, monitored parameters and quality management system. By 2028 , initiating improvement of monitoring stations.	WB6	Proposed indicators: - Number of Operational Monitoring Stations per Inhabitants - Percentage of Monitoring Stations Equipped for main pollutants - Percentage of Real-time Data Reporting Stations - Number of Monitoring Sites Participating in Inter-laboratory Comparisons (QA/QC)	Improving development of the air quality monitoring system according to the Air Quality Directive.

ORIGINAL ACTION IN THE FIRST GREEN AGENDA ACTION PLAN	ENDORSED ACTION IN REVISED GREEN AGENDA ACTION PLAN	ROADMAP	RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES	INDICATORS and Means of Verification	RATIONALE
Action 39. Implement relevant EU water-related acquis (Water Framework Directive, Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and Nitrates Directive)	Action 26a. By 2030, WB6 achieve full transposition of the EU water acquis (new action)	By 2030, prepare and adopt legislation to ensure full compliance with the EU Water Acquis in particular Water Framework Directive, Urban Waste Water Directive, Drinking Water Directive, Floods Directive, Bathing Water Directive and Nitrate Directive By 2028, identify vulnerable and marginalised groups with poor access to drinking water By 2030, WB6 commit to improve access of all WB6 citizens to safe drinking water By 2030, WB6 commit to prioritise investments for access to safe drinking water for people belonging to vulnerable and marginalised groups	WB6, RCC	Relevant Indicators: • Level of transposition of the EU Water Acquis (FWD, UWWTPD, DWD, FD and ND⁸; • EC annual progress reports for each of the WB6 • Table of Concordance (ToC) of the EU acquis. • GARI, GAWB Observatory Platform.	A core requirement for implementing the depollution pillar is the full transposition and effective implementation of the EU water acquis, primarily composed of the Water Framework Directive (WFD), Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWTD), Drinking Water Directive, Floods Directive, Bathing Water Directive and the Nitrate Directive. The WFD provisions demands for international coordination, by doing so it will enhance regional stability and trust, in line with the EU's enlargement and neighbourhood policy. Protecting water sources intended for human consumption is a core requirement of the EU Drinking Water Directive. Implementing its measures will ensure safe, clean, and sustainable drinking water for all, in line with EU standards. Prioritising access to safe drinking water for vulnerable and marginalised groups will enhance their living conditions and social inclusion, thus contributing to the economic and social convergence of the WB6 with the EU.

8 Water Framework Directive, Urban Waste Sater Treatment Directive, Drinking Water Directive, Floods Directive and Nitrate Directive

ORIGINAL ACTION IN THE FIRST GREEN AGENDA ACTION PLAN	ENDORSED ACTION IN REVISED GREEN AGENDA ACTION PLAN	ROADMAP	RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES	INDICATORS and Means of Verification	RATIONALE
Action 39. Implement relevant EU water-related acquis (Water Framework Directive, Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and Nitrates Directive)	Action 26b. By 2030⁹, WB6 commit to implement actions aimed at reaching good status for all water bodies	By 2028, WB6 commit to align with the European Water Resilience Strategy - with RCC supporting the process through the development of regional recommendations. By 2027, develop and implement River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) for each river basin in WB6 covering the period of 2028-2033. By 2027, identify set of activities for cooperation on decreasing water pollution and reaching good status for all water bodies. By 2028, WB6 are committed to take Coordinated Actions for Wastewater Depollution and River Basin Protection in WB6 under RCC framework. By 2028, WB6 will develop Specific Plans for Implementation (DSIPs) of the WWTP Directive and assessment of investments needs with included blue and green infrastructure.	WB6, RCC	River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) for 2028-2033; EU annual progress reports for each of the WB6 Reports from EU funded projects Reports on the status of water bodies in the WB6 Adopted DSIPs DSIPs Investments calculation and identified deadlines GARI, GAWB Observatory Platform	In June 2025, the European Commission published its Communication on the European Water Resilience Strategy. It is essential for WB6 to follow this EU-level development and align their efforts with this strategy. Developing RBMPs in the WB6 as required by the WFD aim to prevent deterioration of waterbodies, protection of ecosystems, and achieving good status of all waters. The new cycle of RBMPs planning covers the period 202 –2033. For achieving the good status it is essential to prevent discharge of wastewater and ensure proper monitoring. WWTP Directive requires public authorities to establish monitoring of the discharged waters. Main principle of the WFD is achieving good water status through coordinated intraregional actions on wastewater depollution. It reinforces the WB6 commitments to the GAWB and EU integration by addressing shared water challenges and protecting water bodies. To align with the Green Agenda and EU water acquis, WB6 must establish agglomerations and assess investment needs, enabling the development of DSIPs for the UWWTD. Identification of territories sensitive to eutrophication is critical to determine the level of wastewater treatment.

⁹ The timeline of implementation of this Activity could be further determined for Western Balkans Six in the framework of negotiations or enlargement process.

ORIGINAL ACTION IN THE FIRST GREEN AGENDA ACTION PLAN	ENDORSED ACTION IN REVISED GREEN AGENDA ACTION PLAN	ROADMAP	RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES	INDICATORS and Means of Verification	RATIONALE
					Identification of investment needs is a critical step for reducing pollution and advancing EU integration. A comprehensive investment needs assessment for the WB6 is essential to plan, prioritise, and mobilise resources in the region for compliance with EU standards. Improving donor coordination and funding mechanisms is critical to accelerate implementation, close the investment gap, and support pollution reduction across the region
Action 40. Modernise water monitoring infrastructure and reach good status for all water bodies	Action 27. By 2030¹⁰, WB6 commit to expand and modernise water monitoring infrastructure in line with the needs identified in River Basin Management Plans	By 2028, infrastructure investments to modernise water monitoring infrastructure will be integrated into the Single Project Pipelines of WB6	WB6, RCC	Relevant Indicators: - River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) for 2028-2033 Means of Verification: - EU annual progress reports for each of the WB6 - Reports from EU funded projects - GARI, GAWB Observatory Platform	In order to determine whether the defined Programme of measures (RBMP 2021-2027) is effective and to adequately determine the status of water bodies after the six-year cycle, it is necessary to ensure adequate monitoring for reliable and comparable data. While progress has been made in establishing water monitoring infrastructure across the WB6, sustainable financing remains a common and pressing challenge, thus further financial support is needed from EU and other donors.
Action 41. Build the necessary infrastructure for wastewater treatment	Deleted the content of this action is integrated within the proposed Action 40 and DSIPs/ investment				

¹⁰ The timeline of implementation of Activity could be further determined for Western Balkans 6 s in the framework of EU negotiations or enlargement process.

ORIGINAL ACTION IN THE FIRST GREEN AGENDA ACTION PLAN	ENDORSED ACTION IN REVISED GREEN AGENDA ACTION PLAN	ROADMAP	RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES	INDICATORS and Means of Verification	RATIONALE
Action 42. Integrate soil protection in other policy areas and establish a regional soil partnership to improve knowledge exchange and identify examples of best practices for soil protection from pollution and degradation	Action 28. By 2029, integrate soil protection in other policy areas, improve knowledge exchange utilising Western Balkans Soil Partnership, and identify examples of best practices for soil protection from pollution and degradation By 2027, WB6 will complete a gap analysis identifying divergences between existing legal frameworks and the European Soil Health Law By 2029, integrate soil protection objectives into relevant policies across WB6. Strengthen the Western Balkans Soil Partnership (WBSP) as a platform for coordination and knowledge exchange	Develop regional guidelines for soil protection inclusion in the strategic planning framework.	SWG RRD WB6	Number of sectoral policies updated to integrate soil protection Means of Verification: • Official policy documents reflecting soil protection integration (agriculture, planning, environment) • Soil Health Law and bylaw on Soil Monitoring adopted or updated and published.	The Soil Health Law will set out the long-term vision to have all soils in healthy condition by 2050, to ensure protection, sustainable use and restoration of soils. Soil Health Law underpinned by an impact assessment which should analyse several aspects such as indicators and values for soil health, provisions for monitoring soils and requirements for a sustainable use of soils. Bylaws will establish monitoring, reporting, and evaluation systems. To strengthen Western Balkans Soil Partnership. This partnership aims to mobilise and involve, and thus unite all stakeholders and institutions in the region, • to identify and restore degraded soils to improve productivity and the provision of ecosystem services, in particular, the role of soils to secure healthy and sufficient food, • to contribute to social stability, water resources, protection of biodiversity, and adaptation to climate change, • to improve domestic/regional technical capacity, in particular soil monitoring and advisory, • to enhance public awareness about the importance of soil while ensuring broad stakeholder involvement, to successfully implement soil-related actions.
Action 43. Prepare and sign regional agreements on transboundary air and water pollution	Deleted based on WB6 inputs				

Revision of Pillar 4: Sustainable Agriculture of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans Action Plan 2025-2030

ORIGINAL ACTION IN THE FIRST GREEN AGENDA ACTION PLAN	ENDORSED ACTION IN REVISED GREEN AGENDA ACTION PLAN	ROADMAP	RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES	INDICATORS and Means of Verification	RATIONALE
Action 44. Align the agri-food and primary production sector with the EU standards on food safety, plant and animal health and welfare and environment, and address effluent, manure and waste management	Action 29. By 2028 , harmonise the agri-food and primary production sectors with EU legislation on food safety, health and welfare of animals, and plant health, while strengthening systems for managing effluents, manure, and waste in an environmentally sound manner	Identify gaps between current practices in WB6 and EU standards (food safety, plant/animal health and welfare, environment). Conduct needs assessments in key sub-sectors. Follow up on action plans.	SWG RRD WB6	Gap analyses completed Action plans adopted Improvements in farm-level waste, effluent, and manure management Number of farmers trained Means of Verification: - Adopted gap analysis and action plans - Inspection and compliance reports - Reports from advisory services and training records	Alignment with EU food safety and environmental standards is a prerequisite for EU accession and supports sustainable agriculture. Improved waste and effluent management reduces pollution and contributes to circular economy goals.
Action 45. Strengthen the official controls along the entire food chain and improve the traceability and labelling of food products	Action 30. By 2027 , strengthen the official controls along the entire food chain and improve the traceability and labelling of food products	Provide targeted training for inspectors, laboratory staff, and food business operators on EU official control protocols and traceability standards. Enhance awareness among producers and processors regarding compliance with EU labelling requirements. Upgrade laboratory infrastructure and strengthen testing capacity to ensure effective food safety monitoring.	SWG RRD WB6	Number of officials and businesses trained Improvements in traceability and labelling compliance Laboratory capacity strengthened Means of Verification: - Training records - Inspection and compliance reports - Laboratory upgrade and accreditation reports	Strong official controls and traceability systems improve food safety, protect consumers, and are key for accessing EU markets and delivering on the GAWB objectives.

ORIGINAL ACTION IN THE FIRST GREEN AGENDA ACTION PLAN	ENDORSED ACTION IN REVISED GREEN AGENDA ACTION PLAN	ROADMAP	RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES	INDICATORS and Means of Verification	RATIONALE
Action 46. Promote environmentally friendly (zero pollution) and organic farming and reduction of synthetic chemical products used in food production	Action 31. By 2027 , promote sustainable agricultural practices, including organic farming, to achieve zero pollution goals Advance practices that reduce the use of synthetic chemical products in agriculture and food processing	Each WB6 implement Action Plan for Organic Agriculture. Conduct awareness campaigns for farmers and consumers on the benefits of sustainable and organic farming. Integrate sustainability topics into agricultural training and extension services. Train farmers and advisors on eco-friendly practices, such as crop rotation, natural pest control, and soil health management.	SWG RRD WB6	Acceptance of organic farming practices Reduction in use of synthetic inputs Number of farmers and advisors trained Number of public awareness activities conducted Means of Verification: - Organic certification data - Each WB6 statistics on pesticide and fertiliser use - Training reports	Sustainable and organic farming reduces the environmental impact of agriculture, supports biodiversity, and aligns with zero-pollution and Farm to Fork targets.
Action 47. Cooperate with scientific, education, business and agricultural holdings to facilitate transfer to innovative and environmentally friendly technologies and farming methods	Action 32. By 2030 , cooperate with scientific, education, business and agricultural holdings to facilitate transfer to innovative and environmentally friendly technologies and farming methods by promoting AKIS approach	Support the integration of the Western Balkans Six (WB6) into the EU's SCAR AKIS platform. Conduct workshops, field demonstrations, and knowledge-sharing events to disseminate best practices. Encourage active collaboration between researchers, advisors, and farmers to jointly develop practical solutions. Enhance the skills of advisory services through training in innovative and environmentally sustainable technologies. Provide farmers with relevant, up-to-date knowledge and customised advisory support.	SWG RRD WB6	Participation in EU AKIS platform Number of joint innovation projects Number of training and knowledge-sharing events conducted Means of Verification: - Participation records - Project reports - Training and event numbers	Innovation and knowledge transfer are key for modern, competitive, and sustainable agriculture. The AKIS approach accelerates adoption of green technologies and practices.
Action 48. Devise actions to reduce waste in rural and coastal areas	Deleted				

ORIGINAL ACTION IN THE FIRST GREEN AGENDA ACTION PLAN	ENDORSED ACTION IN REVISED GREEN AGENDA ACTION PLAN	ROADMAP	RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES	INDICATORS and Means of Verification	RATIONALE
Action 49. Step up efforts for sustainable development of rural areas with implementation of LEADER	Action 33 By 2026 , step up efforts for sustainable development of rural areas in the WB6 through the implementation of LEADER, where conditions allow, complemented by broader-community driven approaches	Accreditation of the LEADER measure within the IPARD III Programme. Promote cooperation among LAGs within WB6 and with EU LEADER networks. Organise events for experience sharing and capacity building.	SWG RRD	Accreditation of LEADER measure under IPARD Number of active Local Action Groups (LAGs) Number of cooperation projects implemented Means of Verification: • IPARD accreditation records • Each of WB6 LAG databases • Project reports and LAG activity reports	LEADER strengthens local development and fosters sustainable rural areas. It empowers communities to address environmental, economic, and social challenges in line with EU rural development principles.
Action 50. Support investments in renewable energy production and technologies as well as GHG emission reductions and adaptation to climate change measures in agriculture	Action 34. By 2027 , support investments in renewable energy production and technologies as well as GHG emission reductions Support adaptation to climate change in agriculture by designing policies and action plans	Draft climate adaptation policies tailored to agricultural needs. Define clear objectives, targets, and timelines in action plans. Involve farmers, researchers, policymakers, and local communities in policy design. Promote collaboration across sectors (water, environment, agriculture). Train extension workers and farmers on climate-resilient practices. Provide technical support for adaptation measures.	SWG RRD	Number of farms supported to adopt renewable energy or climate adaptation measures Climate adaptation action plans adopted Number of farmers and advisors trained Means of Verification: • Funding programme records • Official adaptation action plans • Training reports	Supporting renewable energy and climate adaptation improves farm resilience, reduces emissions, and helps align the sector with the Green Agenda and EU climate objectives.

ORIGINAL ACTION IN THE FIRST GREEN AGENDA ACTION PLAN	ENDORSED ACTION IN REVISED GREEN AGENDA ACTION PLAN	ROADMAP	RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES	INDICATORS and Means of Verification	RATIONALE
Action 57. Set up the Western Balkans Six Biodiversity Information Hub to improve knowledge exchange and availability of information	Action 35a. Set up the Western Balkans Six Agro Biodiversity Information Hub to improve knowledge exchange and availability of information (2030) Action 35b. Support the implementation of sustainable and Close to Nature Forest Management (CNFM) 2029 Action 36c. Analysing the agricultural policy developments in the WB6 and monitoring of the EU integration process in the Negotiation Chapters 11, 12 and 13 (2030)	Identify and engage key stakeholders, including WB6 authorities, research organisations, NGOs, and farming communities. Establish clear goals, scope, and services for the information hub. Create a comprehensive concept and technical design for the platform. Select suitable digital tools and data management systems for the hub. Collect and integrate existing agro-biodiversity data from across the region. Provide training for staff and users on how to operate and utilise the hub effectively. Raise awareness about the hub among relevant audiences and stakeholders. Support knowledge sharing through workshops, webinars, and online materials. Update forest management policies to integrate Close to Nature Forest Management (CNFM) principles and align with international sustainability standards. Engage forest owners, local communities, relevant authorities and experts to raise awareness and encourage participation in CNFM.	SWG RRD	Agro Biodiversity Hub operational CNFM activities implemented Regular monitoring reports on EU integration progress (Chapters 11, 12, 13) Means of Verification: • Hub operational reports • CNFM project reports • Progress monitoring reports from responsible authorities	Agro-biodiversity monitoring and CNFM support nature conservation and climate resilience. Monitoring EU integration progress ensures transparency, policy coherence, and targeted capacity building.

ORIGINAL ACTION IN THE FIRST GREEN AGENDA ACTION PLAN	ENDORSED ACTION IN REVISED GREEN AGENDA ACTION PLAN	ROADMAP	RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES	INDICATORS and Means of Verification	RATIONALE
		Provide training and develop guidelines for forest managers and stakeholders on CNFM techniques and best practices. Implement pilot projects to demonstrate CNFM methods and share successful outcomes for broader adoption. Establish monitoring systems to track forest health, biodiversity, and sustainability indicators, and use results to improve practices. Continuously assess agricultural policy changes in the Western Balkans Six. Track advancement in fulfilling EU criteria related to Negotiation Chapters 11 (Agriculture and Rural Development), 12 (Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Policy), and 13 (Fisheries). Gather and evaluate data on the implementation of policies and compliance with EU standards. Involve key stakeholders such as relevant officials, experts, and sector representatives to gather insights and feedback. Produce regular reports outlining progress, obstacles, and recommendations. Communicate results to regional and EU institutions to aid negotiation and harmonisation processes.			

Revision of Pillar 5: Protection of Nature and Biodiversity of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans Action Plan 2025-2030

ORIGINAL ACTION IN THE FIRST GREEN AGENDA ACTION PLAN	ENDORSED ACTION IN REVISED GREEN AGENDA ACTION PLAN	ROADMAP	RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES	INDICATORS AND MEANS OF VERIFICATION	RATIONALE
Action 51. Develop and implement a Western Balkans 2030 Biodiversity Strategic Plan Action 51a. Develop a Western Balkans Biodiversity Report Action 51b. Develop a Western Balkans Biodiversity Strategic Plan	Action 36. Develop and implement a coordinated WB6 Biodiversity Strategic Plan (BSP), aligned with global and EU framework, with clear regional goals, domestic targets, measurable indicators, and defined responsibilities	The Roadmap will provide details of the following sub-actions that will be implemented under this action: - A comprehensive Western Balkans 6 State of Biodiversity Report completed by Q2 2026, which draws upon each of WB6 biodiversity strategies and action plans or similar programmatic documents, providing a robust evidence base on biodiversity status and trends to inform policy and action. By Q4 2026, WB6 Biodiversity Strategy Plan (BSP) endorsed, providing for mainstreaming biodiversity into sectoral agendas, and aligned with EU Chapter 27. [by Q4 2029] Implementation of the BSP actions by WB6 is in progress. - A report on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) in biodiversity/climate resilience informs (2026) the implementation of the BSP. From Q3 2027 till 2030 the region demonstrates progress in implementation of biodiversity priorities, and progress is transparently tracked and reported at regional level, through BDTF and GARI.	IUCN, RCC with WB6 support/inputs WB6- domestic level actions IUCN, RCC- regional level actions	Indicators: - WB6 Biodiversity Report prepared and publicly consulted - WB6 BSP drafted and publicly consulted - WB6 BSP finalised and endorsed - A report on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) in biodiversity/climate resilience produced - Progress of implementation of BSP actions (not started, in progress, completed) Means of Verification: - Text of the Biodiversity Report - Text of WB6BSP - Text of the Report on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) in biodiversity/climate resilience produced - Text of updated WB6 Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans - WB6 progress/annual reports - BDTF meeting minutes - GARI - Species Protection Index - WB6 and regional Red Lists - Number of adopted species recovery programmes - Regional and each of WB6 species strategies and action plans	At the core of this action is the development of the WB6 2030 Biodiversity Strategy Plan, which will set clear regional targets and indicators aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the EU Green Deal, and provide links to the progress on EU Chapter 27. The WB6 State of Biodiversity Report, the Biodiversity Policy Analysis in the Western Balkans 6, and a report on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) will inform this plan on biodiversity/climate resilience, which together will serve as the baseline for tracking progress and shaping regional and each of WB6 policies and plans. We also emphasize the importance of having the WB6 State of Biodiversity Report in place to establish this baseline, against which progress will be assessed.

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Action 52. Prepare nature protection and restoration plans including for marine areas	Action 37. Update nature conservation strategies and plans in WB6 to align with KMBF targets	The Roadmap will elaborate the need for WB6 to, by Q4 2028, update their nature conservation strategies and action plans to align with the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMBF), including: - Quantified objectives to expand protected and conserved areas of terrestrial and marine territory (to be defined per each WB6), and - Introduction of management effectiveness frameworks for protected areas in WB6 to be operational by Q4 2030.	WB6	Indicators: - Number of WB6 that have officially adopted updated biodiversity strategies and action plans aligned with KMBF targets - The reporting system as defined by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the global, official publication or submission of strategies - Percentage of terrestrial and marine areas designated as protected or conserved in each WB6 - Number of PAs that have introduced and operationalised a management effectiveness evaluation Means of Verification: - UNEP-WCMC World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) - World Database on Other Effective Areas-based Conservation Measures - WB6 protected area databases - Environment ministry reports - Management effectiveness tool reports in WB6 - BDTF reports - NBSAPs progress updates - Protected areas management plans and reports - GARI	This action has been revised in a way that provides greater clarity and alignment with the development and revision of NBSAPs or equivalent planning frameworks. Based on suggestions from WB6, it addresses the need for expanding and effectively managing protected and conserved areas, as this is a key commitment under the KMGBF and essential for ensuring strategic priorities are adequately reflected in domestic planning.

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Action 52. Prepare nature protection and restoration plans including for marine areas	Action 38. Each WB6 to develop and implement nature restoration plans aligned with the EU Nature Restoration Regulation and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMBF)	The Roadmap will provide details of the following sub-actions that will be implemented under this action: • By Q3 2027, WB6 will adopt Nature Restoration Plans aligned with the EU Nature Restoration Regulation and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, identifying at least three priority ecosystems in WB6 and including one pilot restoration project per ecosystem with clearly defined ecological targets. • By Q1 2028, implementation of pilot restoration projects has commenced in each WB6, with annual reporting on ecological outcomes submitted to the regional coordination mechanism under the BDTF/ RWG GAWB.	WB6	Indicators: • Number of WB6 with officially adopted Nature Restoration Plans aligned with EU and KMBF frameworks • Number of priority ecosystems identified per each WB6 in the adopted Plans • Number of pilot restoration projects defined in the Plans with specific ecological targets • Number of pilot restoration projects commenced Means of Verification: • Officially published Nature Restoration Plans (portals or gazettes) • BDTF/IUCN/GARI reports • Restoration project descriptions including ecological baselines and targets • Cross-reference with EU and KMBF target matrices • Annual WB6 Progress Reports/GARI • Regular reports to CBD on implementation of the Convention and KMBF	This is the new action. This action separates restoration planning from broader conservation strategies (Action 52) while still aligning with the EU Nature Restoration Regulation and KMBF Target 2. The first stage focuses on policy development—preparing restoration plans in each WB6, supported by guidelines or baseline reports, and including pilot actions in priority areas across WB6. The second stage focuses on policy enforcement through the implementation of these plans.

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Action 53. Develop and implement a Western Balkans Forest Landscape Restoration Plan Action 53a. Prepare Restoration Opportunities Assessment Report Action 53b. Prepare Forest Landscape Restoration Plan (including a financial plan)	Action 39. Develop and begin implementation of a WB6 Forest Landscape Restoration Plan	The text of the Roadmap will emphasize that this document will set measurable targets for restoring degraded forest areas across the region, aligned with WB6, EU commitments and the KMBF. The Roadmap will elaborate the following sub-actions that will be implemented under this action: • By Q1 2026, complete a Restoration Opportunities Assessment Report for the WB6, identifying priority forest landscapes for restoration based on ecological, social, and climate resilience criteria • By Q3 2026, develop a WB6 Forest Landscape Restoration Plan, including specific targets, timelines, priority sites, and monitoring indicators (e.g. hectares restored, biodiversity gains, carbon sequestration potential) • Starting Q1 2028 begin implementation of FLR activities in WB6, with annual progress reports submitted to the BDTF/IUCN outlining restoration outcomes and lessons learned	IUCN, RCC WB6	Indicators: • Restoration Opportunities Assessment Report developed and validated by WB6 • Number of priority forest landscapes identified in the ROAR across the region • Inclusion of ecological, social, and climate resilience criteria in the prioritisation methodology • WB Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) Plan developed and validated by WB6 • Number of FLR activities initiated per WB6 • Actions from WB6 FLR Plan included into relevant domestic policies Means of Verification: • Published WB6 Restoration Opportunities Assessment Report • Maps of priority forest landscapes with justification for selection • Methodological annex or technical documentation accompanying the ROAR • Published WB6 WB FLR Plan • Annual WB6 Progress Reports/GARI • Regular reports to CBD on implementation of the Convention and KMBF	The WB ROAR will provide a comprehensive analysis of the current state of forest landscapes across the region, including biodiversity aspects, land use, areas prone to disasters, as well as policy aspect (international commitments and gaps in relevant legislation) and financial estimations. The regional FLR Plan will provide clear actions for improving the state of forest landscapes, particularly in regional areas and regions essential for the biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation, and, thus, enhance regional cooperation in improving the state of forest ecosystems. Furthermore, the Plan will provide specific recommendations to be further applied by each WB6 FLR plans and relevant sectoral policies.

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Action 54. Analyse biodiversity benefits of Nature-based Solutions and opportunities for their integration into the development of climate and other plans Action 54a. Report on climate change and biodiversity linkages	Deleted				
Action 55. Strengthen the mechanisms for regional cooperation and strategic planning on biodiversity conservation and implementation of the commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity	Deleted				
Action 56. Reinforce the engagement with the United Nations Rio Conventions (and synergy between the three), and join efforts in preparing a regional position on a global post-2020 biodiversity agenda	Deleted				

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Action 57. Set up the Western Balkans Biodiversity Information Hub to improve knowledge exchange and availability of information Action 57a. Biodiversity Monitoring and Evaluation Framework	Action 40. Advancing Biodiversity Monitoring and Information Systems in the Western Balkans 6	The Roadmap will elaborate on the following sub-actions that will be implemented under this action: • By Q3 2027 develop regional Biodiversity Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (MEF) with guidelines for WB6 to align its own MEF with EU standards, including regionally important indicators based on EEA and GBF • By Q4 2030 regional Biodiversity MEF is used by WB6 for reporting on progress of regional and domestic strategies and actions plans • By Q3 2027 develop the Western Balkans 6 Biodiversity Information Hub. • By Q4 2027 the Western Balkans 6 Information Hub improves sharing and availability of WB biodiversity data The Roadmap will indicate that relevant data on the conservation status of crop wild relatives (CWRs), included in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, may be included (in coordination with relevant actions in P4, providing for intersectoral approach).	IUCN WB6	Indicators: • MEF developed and endorsed by WB6 • Western Balkans 6 Biodiversity Information Hub is developed and functioning with inputs from each WB6 Means of Verification: • MEF tool, guidelines for WB6, BDTF meeting minutes, GARI Means of Verification: • Online sources, BDTF WB site, BDTF meeting minutes, GARI	Both the Information Hub and MEF are of equal importance and should be considered parallel interventions in enhancing regional biodiversity monitoring and information sharing. A regional Biodiversity Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (MEF) with guidelines that will help each of WB6 to align its own MEF with EU standards, including regionally important indicators based on EEA and GBF. The MEF will facilitate regional-level access, aggregation, and use of biodiversity data in the Western Balkans 6 by building on existing domestic systems for biodiversity data collection, analyses and publishing and alignment with the European Environment Agency. The main role of the Western Balkans 6 Biodiversity Information Hub would be to improve capacities of WB6 to set up indicators, collect and publish data on biodiversity, exchange knowledge, improve collaboration on data collection and analyses, and transfer technology across the WB region. With this approach we can gradually reach the stage where a regional biodiversity database or coordination mechanism can be established to complement each of WB6 domestic and EEA systems.

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Action 58. Development of Green Infrastructure and ecosystem connectivity	Action 41. Strengthen regional ecological connectivity in the Western Balkans 6 through coordinated planning, designation of nature protected sites and implementation of green infrastructure, in line with the Natura 2000 Network	The Roadmap will elaborate on the following sub-actions that will be implemented under this action: • By Q1 2028 agree on priority measures to be taken in the WB6 • By Q4 2030 WB6 implement coordinated action for determined priority regional areas and green corridors	IUCN, WB6	Indicators: • List of priority measures for regional ecological connectivity defined and agreed by WB6 Means of Verification: • BDTF meeting minutes • Landscape connectivity index • Analysis and study report	This action focuses on regional ecological connectivity as the primary goal, with Natura 2000 network and green infrastructure as the means to achieve it. Therefore, the green infrastructure should present a network of natural and semi-natural areas designed to enhance ecosystem services and connectivity, specifically supporting protection of the keystone species' habitats (such as big carnivores). The action especially considers coordinated planning and implementation across the Western Balkans 6 through reinforcing regional cooperation, existing initiatives, and alignment with existing biodiversity policies.



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