

# Action Plan 2030 accompanying the Long-term Vision 2030 towards combating climate change in the Carpathians

## *Carpathian Convention Working Group on Climate Change*

### Introduction

The Action Plan accompanying the Long-term Vision 2030 towards combating climate change in the Carpathians sets out concrete activities and milestones for the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Climate Change with regard to achieving the strategic objectives and related targets of the vision.

*The Carpathian Convention's vision for combating climate change is to strengthen collaborative efforts towards a climate-neutral path that delivers climate-resilient and sustainable development in the Carpathians*

The vision promotes mainstreaming of climate change considerations in all relevant areas of activities under the Carpathian Convention which is specifically reflected in the Action Plan through establishing close cooperation and exchange with other thematic Working Groups.

The Action Plan shall provide overall guidance for the Working Group's agenda and related Workplans for the upcoming implementation periods starting 2021. Each activity is allied with one of the seven strategic objectives and are intended to be accomplished by 2030. Milestones shall be set on a yearly basis to allow for monitoring progress.

The WG CC shall prioritize tasks and activities under the Strategic Objectives and **elaborate concrete Workplans for the implementation periods of each 3 years<sup>1</sup>**, including methodological approaches, sharing responsibilities and identifying concrete actors for implementation. Prioritization and planning for selected activities in further detail will take into account available human and financial resources as well as external funding for implementation, however still aiming for a balanced approach towards progress on all Strategic Objectives to be met by 2030.

<sup>1</sup> Suggested Strategic Objectives and related targets to be considered in the Workplan of the WG CC for the upcoming implementation period 2021-2023 are included in Annex 1 of the Action Plan.

## Action Plan 2030

### Strategic Objective (SO) 1

SO 1	TARGETS
<p><b>Climate Action in mountain areas is given higher attention through targeted outreach and by fostering collaboration with other mountain and neighboring regions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Develop approaches to raise the attention to climate change in mountain areas at the global level (e.g. at designated events; through national representation of the Parties under global commitments; through targeted communication and outreach activities)</i></li> <li>• <i>Collaborate with other regional frameworks/platforms/initiatives and related institutions and organizations, especially from mountain and neighboring regions, for knowledge exchange, common developments and learning</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Activities</b></p>	
<p><i>Raise attention to climate change in mountain areas at the global level:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a mechanism for regular exchange of information on meetings/events, global policy processes and other outreach channels suitable for highlighting the importance of combating climate change in mountain areas and ensure respective participation of WG Members</li> <li>• Identify appropriate approaches and tools for accelerating efforts in agenda setting in accordance with ongoing related processes in global policy, science and practice</li> </ul> <p><i>Collaborate with other regional frameworks/platforms/initiatives and related institutions and organizations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage with the targeted mountain regions (Tropical Andes, Hindu Kush Himalaya, East Africa, South Caucasus) through the “Adaptation at Altitude – Taking Action in the Mountains”<sup>2</sup> programme funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)</li> <li>• Participate in the Adaptation at Altitude inter-regional workshop planned to take place in Vienna, Austria 2021 to discuss various regional mechanisms and processes</li> <li>• Establish contact and regular exchange with bodies/entities/networks of further mountain and neighboring regions, including lowland areas depending on key environmental services mountain systems provide</li> <li>• Explore opportunities with the Alpine Climate Board for collaboration on topics of mutual concern (e.g. along the Implementation Pathways of the Alpine Climate Target System 2050)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Milestones</b></p>	<p><b>Milestone attainment date(s)</b></p>
<p><i>M1<sup>3</sup> Climate action in mountain areas at Carpathian level is actively promoted by the Members of the WG on Climate Change guided by a regularly updated overview of relevant meetings/events, global policy processes and other outreach channels</i></p>	<p><i>Tbd</i></p>

<sup>2</sup> <https://adaptationataltitude.org/adaptation-at-altitude>

<sup>3</sup> Milestone 1 shall be reviewed on a yearly basis.



<p><i>M2 Partnerships and contacts with other regional mechanisms and processes are established (e.g. Alpine Climate Board, Himalayan Council, East African Community)</i></p>	<p><i>Tbd</i></p>
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## Strategic Objective (SO) 2

SO 2	TARGETS
<p><b>Regional cooperation and interaction among the Parties of the Carpathian Convention are strengthened through identifying common priority actions and harmonizing them with ongoing regional and national efforts on climate change in the Carpathians</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Identify common priority areas of concern and facilitate mutual support in meeting national commitments stemming from EU and international agreements under all climate related policy frameworks<sup>4</sup> through information exchange and collaboration</i></li> <li>• <i>Identify mechanisms for all contracting Parties to duly consider the Carpathians in their respective climate and other related strategies and action plans at all relevant levels. Harmonizing climate policies across all governance levels will ensure successful outcomes towards a climate-neutral and climate-resilient development</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Activities</b></p>	
<p><i>Exchange and collaborate on the EU and international commitments:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify commitments of the Parties under the EU and international climate related policy frameworks and prioritize common areas of concern</li> <li>• Exchange on methods and approaches (e.g. for data collection, reporting) used to meet the EU and international commitments and streamline where feasible and meaningful</li> </ul> <p><i>Duly consider the Carpathians in Parties` respective climate strategies and action plans at all relevant levels:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take stock of the policy cycles of Parties` climate and other related strategies and action plans and identify potential entry points for including mountain mitigation and adaptation options, where relevant</li> <li>• Exchange information on mechanisms for policy integration and support mutual exchange of experience</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Milestones</b></p>	<p><b>Milestone attainment date</b></p>
<p><i>M1 Common areas of concern under the EU and international commitments are identified</i></p>	<p><i>Tbd</i></p>
<p><i>M2 Methods and approaches for meeting the EU and international commitments are shared and possibly streamlined</i></p>	<p><i>Tbd</i></p>
<p><i>M3 Relevant climate and other related strategies and action plans and respective entry points at all relevant governance levels are identified for the inclusion of climate change mitigation and adaptation</i></p>	<p><i>Tbd</i></p>

<sup>4</sup> In particular: UNFCCC, 2015 Paris Agreement; Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction; 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework; European Green Deal

### Strategic Objective (SO) 3

SO 3	TARGETS
<p><b>Possible areas for transnational climate action in the Carpathians are identified with concrete options for climate change mitigation and adaptation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Establish areas for transnational climate action that complement national and sub-national approaches taking into due account the interlinkages between climate, environmental, nature conservation and socio-economic opportunities and constraints</i></li> <li>• <i>Ensure – through enhanced exchange and cooperation – to avoid potential overlaps between diverging transnational, national and/or regional approaches towards overall optimizing the use of human, informatic and financial resources for climate action and creating a higher impact for increasing resilience</i></li> <li>• <i>Explore for a wide spectrum of concrete mitigation and adaptation options, including ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) and nature-based solutions (NbS), to be best implemented at transboundary scale</i></li> <li>• <i>Identify and select types of activities that provide synergies and generate co-benefits with other sectoral policies and cross-cutting topics of sustainable development and foster respective application</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Activities</b></p>	
<p><i>Identify areas for transnational climate action in synergy with national and sub-national approaches and optimize the use of human and financial resources:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take stock of national and sub-national approaches for climate action and identify those areas where transnational action at the level of the Carpathian Convention would prove beneficial</li> <li>• Apply an integrated approach for developing transnational mitigation and adaptation options taking into account socio-economic and other relevant factors and their interrelations</li> <li>• Identify potential gaps and/or overlaps between diverging approaches at various governance levels and consolidate towards optimizing human and financial resources needed for implementation</li> </ul> <p><i>Explore for a wide spectrum of possible mitigation and adaptation options at transboundary scale:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate and collect mountain specific mitigation and adaptation options applied in the Carpathians and other mountain regions at larger scale across all thematic topics covered by the Carpathian Convention</li> <li>• Establish a methodology to assess the collection of options against measures in place in sectoral policies with regard to their potential to provide synergies and co-benefits for overall sustainable and climate-resilient development</li> </ul> <p><i>Select types of activities and foster application:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritize and select a set of options and explore the potential for application</li> <li>• Develop implementation pathways for selected options</li> </ul>	

Milestones	Milestone attainment date
<i>M1 Stock-taking of national and subnational approaches is completed, including potential gaps/overlaps, and areas for transnational climate actions are identified</i>	<i>tbd</i>
<i>M2 Collection of mountain specific mitigation and adaptation options suitable to be applied at transboundary scale is finalized</i>	<i>tbd</i>
<i>M3 Set of options are prioritized along their application potential and implementation pathways are elaborated</i>	<i>tbd</i>

## Strategic Objective (SO) 4

SO 4	TARGETS
<p><b>Interlinkages between climate issues and other relevant areas of work of the Carpathian Convention are taken into account</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Strengthen close cooperation and exchange with the other thematic Working Groups of the Carpathian Convention to ensure mainstreaming of climate action and information exchange in all relevant areas of work</i></li> <li>• <i>Develop mechanisms for identifying, developing and implementing joint activities</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Activities</b></p>	
<p><i>Strengthen close cooperation and exchange with the other thematic Working Groups of the Carpathian Convention</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exchange with other thematic Working Groups on their priority topics and make suggestions for incorporating climate change considerations</li> <li>• Further explore the preliminary collection of ideas for potential cooperation with other thematic Working Groups, recommended by the WG on Climate Change at its 7th meeting<sup>5</sup></li> <li>• Engage with the Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management and the Working Group on Biodiversity for undertaking a comprehensive assessment of the impacts of climate change on the Carpathian forests and their ecosystem services, including climate change effects on large carnivores and their habitats and possibly further relevant topics</li> </ul> <p><i>Develop mechanisms for identifying, developing and implementing joint activities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support regular meetings of the Chairs of all thematic Working Group for information exchange and identifying topics of mutual interest</li> <li>• Explore possibilities of organizing WG meetings back-to-back with other Working Groups to allow for collaborative sessions on strengthening joint activities</li> <li>• Discuss and agree on a timeframe for proposing and implementing joint activities</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Milestones</b></p>	<p><b>Milestone attainment date</b></p>
<p><i>M1<sup>6</sup> Regular exchange with other thematic Working Group is established and concrete topics for collaboration are agreed</i></p>	<p><i>tbd</i></p>
<p><i>M2 Methodology for the comprehensive assessment of the impacts of climate change on the Carpathian forests and their ecosystem services is developed</i></p>	<p><i>tbd</i></p>
<p><i>M3 Draft assessment is completed and shared for consultation</i></p>	<p><i>tbd</i></p>
<p><i>M4 Assessment of the impacts of climate change on the Carpathian forests and their ecosystem services is finalized and published</i></p>	<p><i>tbd</i></p>

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[http://www.carpathianconvention.org/tl\\_files/carpathiancon/Downloads/03%20Meetings%20and%20Events/Working%20Groups/Adaptation%20to%20Climate%20Change/7%20WG%20CLIMATE%20CHANGE/iPreliminary\\_ideas\\_for\\_collaboration\\_with\\_other\\_WGs\\_Annex%202\\_26062020.pdf](http://www.carpathianconvention.org/tl_files/carpathiancon/Downloads/03%20Meetings%20and%20Events/Working%20Groups/Adaptation%20to%20Climate%20Change/7%20WG%20CLIMATE%20CHANGE/iPreliminary_ideas_for_collaboration_with_other_WGs_Annex%202_26062020.pdf)

6 Milestone 1 shall be reviewed on a yearly basis.

## Strategic Objective (SO) 5

SO 5	TARGETS
<p><b>Climate research on both qualitative and quantitative levels is promoted, including fostering the application of its results</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Identify and close knowledge gaps and encourage transnational research needs for the Carpathians to improve the understanding of future climate and other socio-economic developments and provide a solid decision-making basis</i></li> <li>• <i>Support gathering, processing and harmonizing research results to be taken into account for planning and policy processes</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Activities</b></p>	
<p><i>Identify and close knowledge gaps and encourage transnational research needs for the Carpathians:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exchange on and gather information deficits on climate and other socio-economic developments needed for decision making</li> <li>• Actively engage with the Science for the Carpathian initiative (S4C) on transnational research needs and contribute to the organization a specific climate change session at the next Forum Carpaticum, held 2021 in Brno, Czech Republic</li> <li>• Strengthen further the cooperation with ICPDR, especially the Tisza Group and engage in developing a proposal for a follow-up project in the Tisza River Basin</li> <li>• Continue collaboration with the EUSDR PA 4 and EUSDR PA 5 and support project development on integrated water/river basin management and climate change</li> <li>• Support further development of project ideas from the Carpathian Wetland Initiative</li> </ul> <p><i>Support gathering, processing and harmonizing research results:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and agree on an approach to gather relevant research results and seek to establish contact to ongoing scientific work (linked to the information deficits identified)</li> <li>• Process scientific information to be incorporated into planning and policy processes for transnational climate action</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Milestones</b></p>	<p><b>Milestone attainment date</b></p>
<p><i>M1 Knowledge gaps/Information deficits are identified and shared with the Science for the Carpathian initiative (S4C) and a specific climate change session was successfully held at the Forum Carpaticum 2021</i></p>	<p><i>tbd</i></p>
<p><i>M2 Project proposal for a follow-up project in the Tisza River Basin is developed and submitted</i></p>	<p><i>tbd</i></p>
<p><i>M3 Proposals on integrated water/river basin management and climate change in mountains and connected low-land areas are developed and submitted under dedicated EU Funding Instruments and Programmes</i></p>	<p><i>tbd</i></p>
<p><i>M4 Project proposal on the impacts of climate change on Carpathian wetlands and recommendations for planning and policy responses is developed and submitted</i></p>	<p><i>tbd</i></p>
<p><i>M5 Relevant research results are gathered and contacts to ongoing scientific work are established</i></p>	<p><i>tbd</i></p>
<p><i>M6 Relevant scientific information is processed and incorporated into decision making</i></p>	<p><i>tbd</i></p>



## Strategic Objective (SO) 6

SO 6	TARGETS
<p><b>Science - policy - practice interfaces and innovative approaches are further explored and promoted</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Foster science – policy – practice interfaces to making full use of available data, relevant research and practical experiences so that decision-making is evidence-based, well supported and informed</i></li> <li>• <i>Focus on finding and showcasing practical and innovative approaches for sustainable and climate-resilient mountain development (within the Carpathian region and beyond) to support mutual action learning</i></li> <li>• <i>Improve and operationalize effective tools for sharing experience, good practice and lessons learnt as well as for scientific exchange regarding climate change in the Carpathians</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Activities</b></p>	
<p><i>Foster science – policy – practice interfaces:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify relevant channels for science – policy – practice exchange (e.g. networks, webinars, meetings and events), share and ensure participation</li> <li>• Explore possibilities to organize an interface for the Carpathians either at a scheduled event or as a stand-alone meeting</li> </ul> <p><i>Focus on finding and showcasing practical and innovative approaches for sustainable and climate-resilient mountain development</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute to and make use of the collection of innovative approaches for climate change adaptation in mountains undertaken by the global “Adaptation at Altitude – Taking Action in the Mountains”<sup>7</sup> programme funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and made available at <a href="https://www.weadapt.org/knowledge-base/adaptation-in-mountains">https://www.weadapt.org/knowledge-base/adaptation-in-mountains</a></li> <li>• Regularly share and exchange on new/innovative approaches in the Carpathians (e.g. bottom up initiatives led by NGOs, women and community-based organizations, national/regional policies and strategies, and innovations by the private sector)</li> </ul> <p><i>Improve and operationalize effective tools for sharing experience, good practice and lessons learnt as well as for scientific exchange:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an approach for regular exchange of experience and good practice for climate action in the Carpathians (e.g. webinars applying story-telling technique in different presentation formats, showcasing good practices as quarterly highlights on the Carpathian Convention’s website)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Milestones</b></p>	<p><b>Milestone attainment date</b></p>
<p><i>M1<sup>8</sup> Channels for science – policy – practice exchange are identified, actively used and supported</i></p>	<p><i>tbd</i></p>

<sup>7</sup> <https://adaptationataltitude.org/adaptation-at-altitude>

<sup>8</sup> Milestone 1 shall be reviewed on a yearly basis.



<i>M2<sup>9</sup> Continuous exchange on practical and innovative approaches for sustainable and climate-resilient mountain development is set up using appropriate tools for sharing experience and mutual learning</i>	<i>tbd</i>
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<sup>9</sup> Milestone 2 shall be reviewed on a yearly basis.

## Strategic Objective (SO) 7

SO 7	TARGETS
<p><b>Joint efforts are taken on identifying funding opportunities and drawing the attention of donors towards the benefits of greater regional cooperation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify funding opportunities for implementation of concrete climate action proposals in the Carpathians (linking to financing single or combined activities proposed under Strategic Objectives 2-6), support project development and cooperate on resource mobilization with relevant stakeholders, organizations and donors</li> </ul>
<p><b>Activities</b></p>	
<p>Identify funding opportunities, support project development and cooperate on resource mobilization:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore and assess funding opportunities and identify implementing partners/institutions, in particular for implementing single or combined activities suggested under Strategic Objectives 2,3,5 and 6 and along priority topics (linked to the collection of ideas for potential cooperation with other thematic Working Groups for implementing Strategic Objective 4)</li> <li>Engage on additional resource mobilization with potential public and private donors</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Milestones</b></p>	<p><b>Milestone attainment date<sup>29</sup></b></p>
<p><i>M<sup>10</sup>1 Potential funding opportunities including possible implementing partners/institutions are identified and assessed</i></p>	<p><i>tbd</i></p>
<p><i>M<sup>2</sup>11 Contacts with potential public and private donors are established towards additional resource mobilization</i></p>	<p><i>tbd</i></p>

<sup>10</sup> Milestone 1 shall be reviewed on a yearly basis

<sup>11</sup> Milestone 2 shall be reviewed on a yearly basis.

## ANNEX 1 - Suggested Strategic Objectives and related targets to be considered in the Workplan of the WG CC for the upcoming implementation period 2021-2023

The following selection of Strategic Objectives and related targets are suggested for the WG CC to consider as a minimum to include in the **Workplan for the upcoming implementation period 2021-2023**, further defining the proposed associated activities and deciding on milestones for implementation:

Strategic Objective (SO) No.	Targets	Activities	Milestones
SO 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Raise attention to climate change in mountain areas at the global level</i></li> <li>• <i>Collaborate with other regional frameworks/platforms/initiatives and related institutions and organizations</i></li> </ul>	Cf. associated activities in the Action Plan; to be further planned in detail	Tbd
SO 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Identify common priority areas of concern and facilitate mutual support in meeting national commitments stemming from EU and international agreements under all climate related policy frameworks<sup>12</sup> through information exchange and collaboration.</i></li> </ul>	Cf. associated activities in the Action Plan; to be further planned in detail	Tbd
SO 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Strengthen close cooperation and exchange with the other thematic Working Groups of the Carpathian Convention to ensure mainstreaming of climate action and information exchange in all relevant areas of work</i></li> <li>• <i>Develop mechanisms for identifying, developing and implementing joint activities</i></li> </ul>	Cf. associated activities in the Action Plan; to be further planned in detail	Tbd
SO 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Identify and close knowledge gaps and encourage transnational research needs for the Carpathians to improve the understanding of future climate and other socio-economic developments and provide a solid decision-making basis</i></li> </ul>	Cf. associated activities in the Action Plan; to be further planned in detail	Tbd
SO 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Focus on finding and showcasing practical and innovative approaches for sustainable and climate-resilient mountain development (within the Carpathian region and beyond) to support mutual action learning</i></li> </ul>	Cf. associated activities in the Action Plan; to be further planned in detail	Tbd

<sup>12</sup> In particular: UNFCCC, 2015 Paris Agreement; Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction; 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework; European Green Deal

SO 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Identify funding opportunities for implementation of concrete climate action proposal in the Carpathians (linking to financing single or combined activities proposed under Strategic Objectives 2-6), support project development and cooperate on resource mobilization with relevant stakeholders, organizations and donors</i></li> </ul>	Cf. associated activities in the Action Plan; to be further planned in detail	Tbd
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