

DRAFT Workplan 2021-2023

CC Working Group on Climate Change

Introduction

The Workplan for the CC Working Group on Climate Change sets out concrete activities and milestones for the implementation period 2021-2023 with regard to achieving the strategic objectives and related targets of the Long-term Vision 2030 towards combating climate change in the Carpathians.

The Carpathian Convention's vision for combating climate change is to strengthen collaborative efforts towards a zero-carbon 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 Workplan through establishing close cooperation and exchange with other thematic Working Groups.

Each activity is allied with one of the eight strategic objectives and covers the whole implementation period of 3 years. Milestones are set on a yearly basis to allow for monitoring progress.

The Workplan shall provide overall guidance for the Working Group's agenda, however each activity needs to be planned in further detail upon discussion and agreement with the WG Members, including methodological approaches and sharing responsibilities. It should be noted that not all activities might be able to be carried out in the same level of detail and effort pending on available human and financial resources as well as external funding.

DRAFT Workplan for the implementation period 2021-2023

Strategic Objective 1

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1	TARGETS
<p>Climate Action is given higher awareness and attention in mountain areas at Carpathian level in response to the EU and international commitments (UNFCCC, 2015 Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework) and obligations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <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> • <i>Identify mechanisms for all contracting Parties to include priority for the Carpathians in their respective climate strategies and action plans at all relevant levels. Harmonizing climate policies across all governance levels will ensure successful outcomes towards a zero-carbon and climate-resilient development</i>
<p>Activities 2021-2023</p>	
<p><i>Raise attention to climate change in mountain areas at the global level:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a mechanism for regular exchange 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 • Identify appropriate approaches and tools for accelerating efforts in agenda setting in accordance with a comprehensive overview of ongoing related processes in global policy, science and practice <p><i>Include priority for the Carpathians in Parties` respective climate strategies and action plans at all relevant levels:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take stock of the policy cycles of Parties` climate strategies and action plans and identify potential entry points for including mountain mitigation and adaptation measures • Exchange on existing mountain specific measures and their implementation to identify and collect suitable options for policy integration and support mutual exchange of experience 	
<p>Milestones 2021-2023:</p>	<p>Milestone attainment date(s)</p>
<p><i>M1¹ 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>December 2021, December 2022, December 2023</i></p>
<p><i>M4 Stocktaking of relevant climate strategies and action plans of all the Parties including their policy cycles is completed</i></p>	<p><i>December 2021</i></p>
<p><i>M5 Entry points at all relevant governance levels are identified for the inclusion of climate change mitigation and adaptation</i></p>	<p><i>December 2022</i></p>
<p><i>M6 Mountain specific mitigation and adaptation measures for the Carpathians are collected and shared to support mutual experience exchange</i></p>	<p><i>December 2023</i></p>

¹ Milestone 1 shall be reviewed on a yearly basis.

Strategic Objective 2

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2	TARGETS
<p>Regional cooperation and interaction are strengthened through identifying common priority actions and harmonizing with national efforts on climate change in the Carpathians, and beyond</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Exchange and collaborate on the EU and international commitments and obligations, in particular through identifying common priority areas of concern and facilitating mutual support in meeting national commitments under all climate related policy frameworks</i> • <i>Collaborate with other regional frameworks/platforms/initiatives and related institutions and organizations, especially from mountain and neighboring regions, for knowledge exchange and learning</i>
<p>Activities 2021-2023</p>	
<p><i>Exchange and collaborate on the EU and international commitments:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify commitments of the Parties under the EU and international climate related policy frameworks and prioritise common areas of concern • 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 <p><i>Collaborate with other mountain and neighboring regions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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”² programme funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) • Participate in the Adaptation at Altitude inter-regional workshop planned to take place in Vienna, Austria 2021 to discuss various regional mechanisms and processes • 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 • 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) 	
<p>Milestones 2021-2023:</p>	<p>Milestone attainment date</p>
<p><i>M1 Common areas of concern under the EU and international commitments are identified</i></p>	<p><i>December 2021</i></p>
<p><i>M2³ Methods and approaches for meeting the EU and international commitments are shared and possibly streamlined</i></p>	<p><i>December 2022 December 2023</i></p>
<p><i>M3 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>December 2023</i></p>

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

³ Milestone 2 shall be reviewed after the second and third year of the implementation period.

Strategic Objective 3

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3	TARGETS
<p>Possible areas of synergy between national and sub-national approaches are identified towards delivering successful outcomes coping with climate change, considering interlinked environmental and socio-economic opportunities and constraints</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Establish areas for transnational climate action that complement national and sub-national approaches taking into due account the interlinkages between climate, environmental and socio-economic opportunities and constraints</i> • <i>Ensure – through enhanced exchange and cooperation – to avoid unwanted overlaps between diverging national and/or regional approaches towards overall optimizing the use of human and financial resources for climate action and creating a higher impact for increasing resilience</i>
<p>Activities 2021-2023</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"> • 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 • Apply an integrated approach for developing transnational mitigation and adaptation options taking into account socio-economic and other relevant factors and their interrelations • Identify potential gaps and/or overlaps between diverging approaches at various governance levels and consolidate towards optimizing human and financial resources needed for implementation 	
<p>Milestones 2021-2023:</p>	<p>Milestone attainment date</p>
<p><i>M1 Stock-taking of national and subnational approaches is completed, including potential gaps/overlaps, and areas for transnational climate actions are identified</i></p>	<p><i>December 2021</i></p>
<p><i>M2 Methodology for integrated approaches regarding mitigation and adaptation options at transnational scale is developed</i></p>	<p><i>December 2022</i></p>
<p><i>M3 Policy elements for transnational climate actions are elaborated</i></p>	<p><i>December 2023</i></p>

Strategic Objective 4

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4	TARGETS
<p>Synergies and co-benefits of climate action are examined with concrete mitigation and adaptation measures and actions identified for transboundary cooperation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Explore a wide spectrum of concrete mitigation and adaptation measures, including ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA), to be best implemented at transboundary scale</i> • <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>
<p>Activities 2021-2023</p>	
<p><i>Explore a wide spectrum of possible mitigation and adaptation options at transboundary scale:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate and collect mountain specific measures applied in the Carpathians and other mountain regions at larger scale across all thematic topics covered by the Carpathian Convention • Establish a methodology to assess the collection of measures against measures in place in other sectoral policies with regard to their potential to provide synergies and co-benefits for overall sustainable and climate-resilient development <p><i>Select types of activities and foster application:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize and select a set of options and explore the potential for application • Develop implementation pathways for selected options 	
<p>Milestones 2021-2023:</p>	<p>Milestone attainment date²⁹</p>
<p><i>M1 Collection of mountain specific measures suitable to be applied at transboundary scale is finalised</i></p>	<p><i>December 2021</i></p>
<p><i>M2 Assessment of collected measures is completed based on agreed methodology</i></p>	<p><i>December 2022</i></p>
<p><i>M3 Set of options are prioritized along their application potential and implementation pathways are elaborated</i></p>	<p><i>December 2023</i></p>

Strategic Objective 5

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5	TARGETS
<p>Interlinkages between climate issues and other relevant areas of work of the Carpathian Convention, such as, biodiversity, forestry, tourism, agriculture, water/river basin management are established</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <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> • <i>Develop mechanisms for identifying, developing and implementing joint activities</i>
<p>Activities 2021-2023</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"> • Exchange with other thematic Working Groups on their priority topics and make suggestions for incorporating climate change considerations • 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 meeting⁴ • 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 large carnivores and their habitats and possibly further relevant topics <p><i>Develop mechanisms for identifying, developing and implementing joint activities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support regular meetings of the Chairs of all thematic Working Group for information exchange and identifying topics of mutual interest • Explore possibilities of organizing WG meetings back-to-back with other Working Groups to allow for collaborative sessions on strengthening joint activities • Discuss and agree on a timeframe for proposing and implementing joint activities 	
<p>Milestones 2021-2023:</p>	<p>Milestone attainment date</p>
<p><i>M1⁵ Regular exchange with other thematic Working Group is established and concrete topics for collaboration are agreed</i></p>	<p><i>December 2021 December 2022 December 2023</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>December 2021</i></p>
<p><i>M3 Draft assessment is completed and shared for consultation</i></p>	<p><i>December 2022</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>December 2023</i></p>

4

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

5 Milestone 1 shall be reviewed on a yearly basis.

Strategic Objective 6

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 6	TARGETS
<p>Climate research on both qualitative and quantitative levels is promoted, including fostering the application of its results</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Identify knowledge gaps and encourage transnational research needs for the Carpathians to understand better future climate and other socio-economic developments and provide a solid decision-making basis</i> • <i>Support gathering and processing research results to be taken into account for planning and policy processes</i>
<p>Activities 2021-2023</p>	
<p><i>Identify knowledge gaps and encourage transnational research needs for the Carpathians:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange on and gather information deficits on climate and other socio-economic developments needed for decision making • 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 <p><i>Support gathering and processing research results:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) • Process scientific information to be incorporated into planning and policy processes for transnational climate action 	
<p>Milestones 2021-2023:</p>	<p>Milestone attainment date²⁹</p>
<p><i>M1 Knowledge gaps/Information deficits are identified and shared with the the Science for the Carpathian initiative (S4C)</i></p>	<p><i>December 2021</i></p>
<p><i>M2 Specific climate change session was successfully held at the Forum Carpaticum 2021</i></p>	<p><i>December 2021</i></p>
<p><i>M3 Relevant research results are gathered and contacts to ongoing scientific work are established based on agreed methodology</i></p>	<p><i>December 2022</i></p>
<p><i>M4 Relevant scientific information is processed and incorporated into decision making</i></p>	<p><i>December 2023</i></p>

Strategic Objective 7

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 7	TARGETS
<p>Science - policy - practice interfaces and innovative approaches are further explored and promoted</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Foster science – policy – practice interfaces to making full use of the latest research, data and practical experiences so that decision-making is evidence-based, well supported and informed</i> • <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> • <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>
<p>Activities 2021-2023</p>	
<p><i>Foster science – policy – practice interfaces:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify relevant channels for science – policy – practice exchange (e.g. networks, webinars, meetings and events), share and ensure participation • Explore possibilities to organize an interface for the Carpathians either at a scheduled event or as a stand-alone meeting <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"> • 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”⁶ programme funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and made available at https://www.weadapt.org/knowledge-base/adaptation-in-mountains • 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) <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"> • 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) 	
<p>Milestones 2021-2023:</p>	<p>Milestone attainment date</p>
<p><i>M1⁷ Channels for science – policy – practice exchange are identified, actively used and supported</i></p>	<p><i>December 2021, December 2022, December 2023</i></p>

⁶ <https://adaptationaltitude.org/adaptation-at-altitude>

⁷ Milestone 1 shall be reviewed on a yearly basis.



<i>M2⁸ 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>December 2021, December 2022, December 2023</i>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------

⁸ Milestone 2 shall be reviewed on a yearly basis.

Strategic Objective 8

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 8	TARGETS
<p>Joint efforts are taken on identifying funding opportunities and drawing the attention of donors towards the benefits of greater regional cooperation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify funding opportunities for implementation of concrete climate action proposal in the Carpathians, support project development and cooperate on resource mobilization with relevant stakeholders and donors
<p>Activities 2021-2023</p>	
<p><i>Identify funding opportunities, support project development and cooperate on resource mobilization:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Continue collaboration with the EUSDR PA 4 and EUSDR PA 5 and support project development on integrated water/river basin management and climate change Support further development of project ideas from the Carpathian Wetland Initiative Explore and assess funding opportunities and identify implementing partners/institutions along priority topics (linked to the collection of ideas for potential cooperation with other thematic Working Groups) Engage on additional resource mobilization with potential public and private donors 	
<p>Milestones 2021-2023:</p>	<p>Milestone attainment date²⁹</p>
<p><i>M1 Project proposal for a follow-up project in the Tisza River Basin is developed and submitted</i></p>	<p><i>December 2021</i></p>
<p><i>M2⁹ Proposals on integrated water/river basin management and climate change are developed and submitted under dedicated EU Funding Instruments and Programmes</i></p>	<p><i>December 2021 December 2022 December 2023</i></p>
<p><i>M3 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>December 2021</i></p>
<p><i>M4 Potential funding opportunities including possible implementing partners/institutions are identified and assessed</i></p>	<p><i>December 2021</i></p>
<p><i>M5¹⁰ Contacts with potential public and private donors are established towards additional resource mobilization</i></p>	<p><i>December 2021 December 2022 December 2023</i></p>

⁹ Milestone 2 shall be reviewed on a yearly basis.

¹⁰ Milestone 5 shall be reviewed on a yearly basis.