

Projects and Activities on Climate Change in Mountain Areas



Third Carpathian Convention Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change

Vienna, 12 March 2014



UNEP PoW, sp: Climate Change

PoW 2014/15: Support provided to integrate ecosystem-based adaptation and supporting adaptation approaches into national and sectoral development policies, plans and strategies, and to develop legal and regulatory frameworks



Rio + 20 Conference



Para.210 “We recognize that the benefits derived from mountain regions are essential for sustainable development. Mountain ecosystems play a crucial role in providing water resources to a large portion of the world’s population; fragile mountain ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, deforestation and forest degradation, land use change, land degradation and natural disasters; and mountain glaciers around the world are retreating and getting thinner, with increasing impacts on the environment and human well-being.”



Rio + 20 Conference



Para.211 “(...) We invite States to strengthen cooperative action with effective involvement and sharing of experience of all relevant stakeholders, by strengthening existing arrangements, agreements and centres of excellence for sustainable mountain development, as well as exploring new arrangements and agreements, as appropriate.” (Reference to importance of regional cooperation: Alpine and Carpathian Convention)



Adaptation to climate change in other mountain areas

The Alpine space

The Balkans and the Dinaric Arc



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1. Political and legislative response to adaptation challenges

European Union

- European Climate Change Programmes (2000, 2005);
- European Union Action Plan on Climate Change in the Context of Development Cooperation (2004-2008);
- Green Paper on Adapting to Climate Change in Europe (2007) and White Paper on Adaptation (2009);
- Strategy for Supporting Disaster Risk Reduction in Developing Countries (2009);
- Projects co-funding (Advancing Capacity to Support Climate Change Adaptation project; Tropical Forests & Climate Change Adaptation; Adaptation & Mitigation Strategies).



1. The Alpine Space

UNEP projects in the ALPS

- 4 EU Alpine Space co-funded projects in the European Territorial Cooperation 2007-2014
- 2 running projects funded in the third call!
- All projects are approved under Priority 3: Environment and risk Prevention



1. ALPSTAR - Towards carbon-neutral Alps

Make the best practice minimum standard

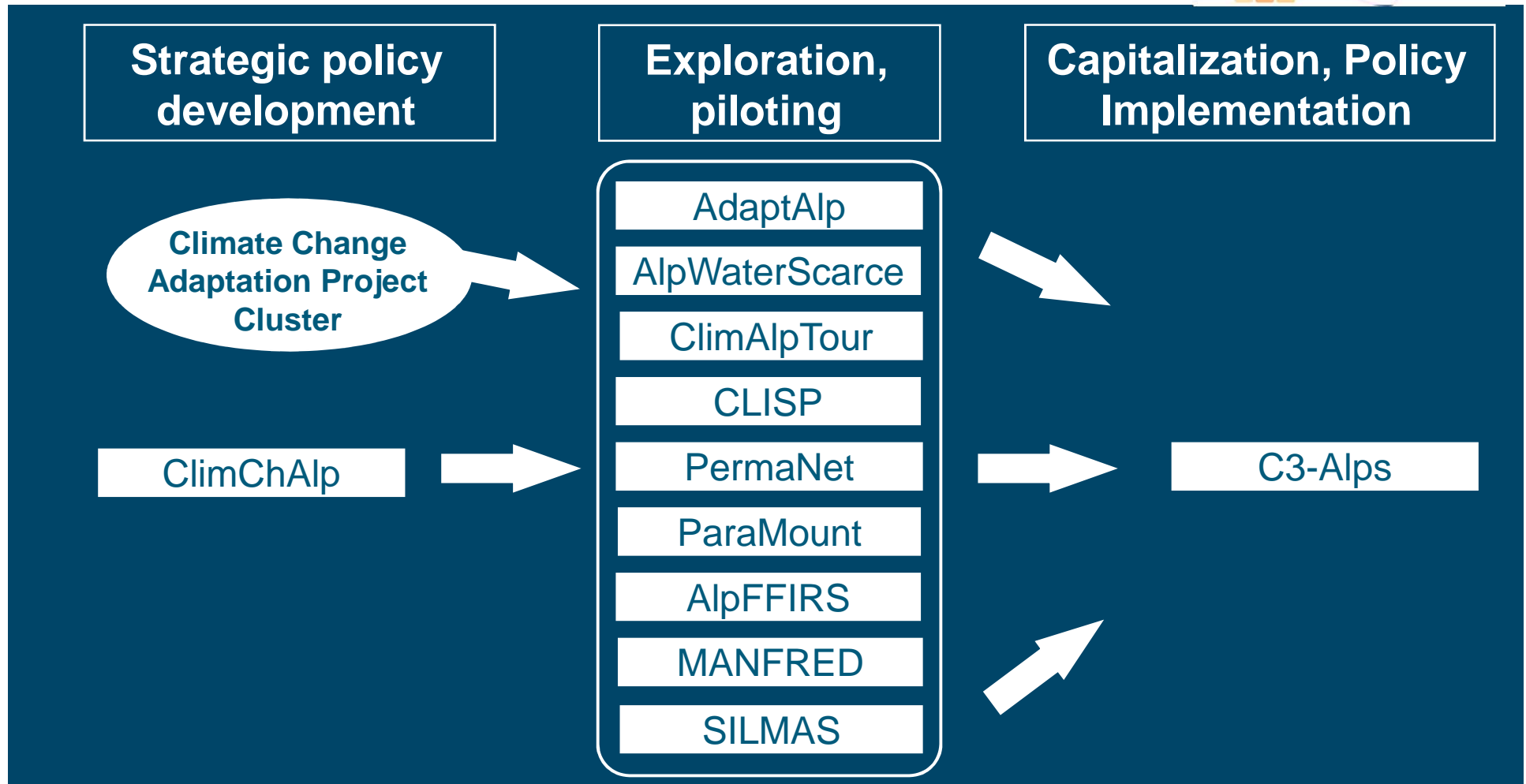


Main objectives

- Addresses the need for transnational, well-structured action to effectively manage climate change in the Alps;
- Contributes to the implementation of Alpine Convention Climate Action Plan and assures interaction with and transfer of results to policy level;
- Through establishment of good practice transfer platform project provides framework for knowledge transfer between regions, for capitalisation of results of other projects;
- In 12 pilot regions strategies and action plans toward carbon neutrality will be prepared and their implementation will start through implementation of measures.



1. C3-ALPS - Capitalizing Climate Change Knowledge for Adaptation in the Alpine Space (2012 - 2014)



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2. Initiatives in South Eastern Europe

- Disaster Risk Reduction Initiative;
- Belgrade SEE Climate Change Initiative;
- Community Civil Protection Mechanism and Civil Protection Financial Instrument;
- Civil Military Emergency Preparedness Council for South Eastern Europe;
- Regional Environmental Network for Accession;
- European Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law;
- South East European Climate Change Framework Action Plan for Adaptation;
- Environment Compliance & Enforcement Network for Accession



2. Further actions...

Research paper on adaptation to Climate Change in SEE

(February-May 2011: conducted by the Venice International University)

Objectives:

Analyze possible implications and impacts on natural resources due to the climate change effects in the SEE Region

Focus on:

Transboundary issues

Mountain areas

Human health

ENVSEC (Environment and Security) Initiative

Partnership between UNEP and UNDP, OSCE, UNECE, REC, NATO is associated partner,

Supports the Austrian and Finnish Development agencies in the identification, prevention and reduction of environmental conflicts and tensions over shared natural resources and ecosystems, sources of pollution and waste among and within the countries in the Western Balkans and their neighbors



Climate Change in the Balkans - key findings, hotspots and risks

	ALBANIA ¹	BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	CROATIA	THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA	MONTENEGRO	SERBIA
Air temperature change (last half century)	↑	↑ ²	↑	↑	↑	↑
Precipitation change (last half century)	↓	↔ ³	↓	↓	↔	↔
Extreme weather events and climate-related hazards (1990–2009)	↑	↑	↗	↑	↑	↑
Water resources availability in the future (forecast period until 2100)	↓	↓ ⁴	↓ ⁵	↓	↓	↓
Health infectious and vector-borne diseases ⁶	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Greenhouse gas emissions (in CO ₂ eq) for period observed	↓	n.a. ⁷	↗	↓	↓	↓
Policy instruments, actions and awareness	↑	↗ ⁸	↑	↑	↑	↑
Climate observation and weather services (1990–2009)	↗	↗	↑	↗	↗	↑



Climate Change in the Balkans - key findings, hotspots and risks.



Exposure and Sensitivity is relatively high, while Adaptive Capacity remains low.

Risks:

- Public health
- Water resources
- Agriculture and forestry
- Land use
- Tourism
- Coastal zones
- Energy
- Biodiversity and Ecosystems
- General socio economic situation

Eger Group

- WS on Sharing of Experiences on Adaptation to CC in Mountain Areas
- Representatives from **Pyrenees, Alps, Carpathians, Balkans, Caucasus, Central Asia**

Main Outcome:

Establishment of a platform for exchange of information and know-how and development of possible common activities

Strengthen the cooperation between science and policy makers

Global and transboundary cooperation

Importance of awareness rising and involvement of stakeholders

Information exchange on adaptation strategies

Look at existing conventions and agreements



EU instrument for stability - climate change and security

UNEP, UNDP, OSCE, UNECE, REC are conducting climate change and security assessments on Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia

- Participatory process with participation of broad stakeholders at national and regional level
- Participatory mapping exercise of climate change and security hotspots
- Training for policy makers to mainstream the findings of the assessments and climate change and security in general



“Climate change action in developing countries with fragile mountainous ecosystems from a sub-regional perspective”

**Duration: 2014-2017, Total: 1.75 Mio EUR co-financed by Austria
UNEP PoW, sp: climate change**

Objective: Support to mountainous developing countries to integrate climate change adaptation into development policies/plans/strategies

Understand vulnerabilities and impacts

Trigger policy action

Exchange of experiences with Alpine and Carpathian Convention

Main activities:

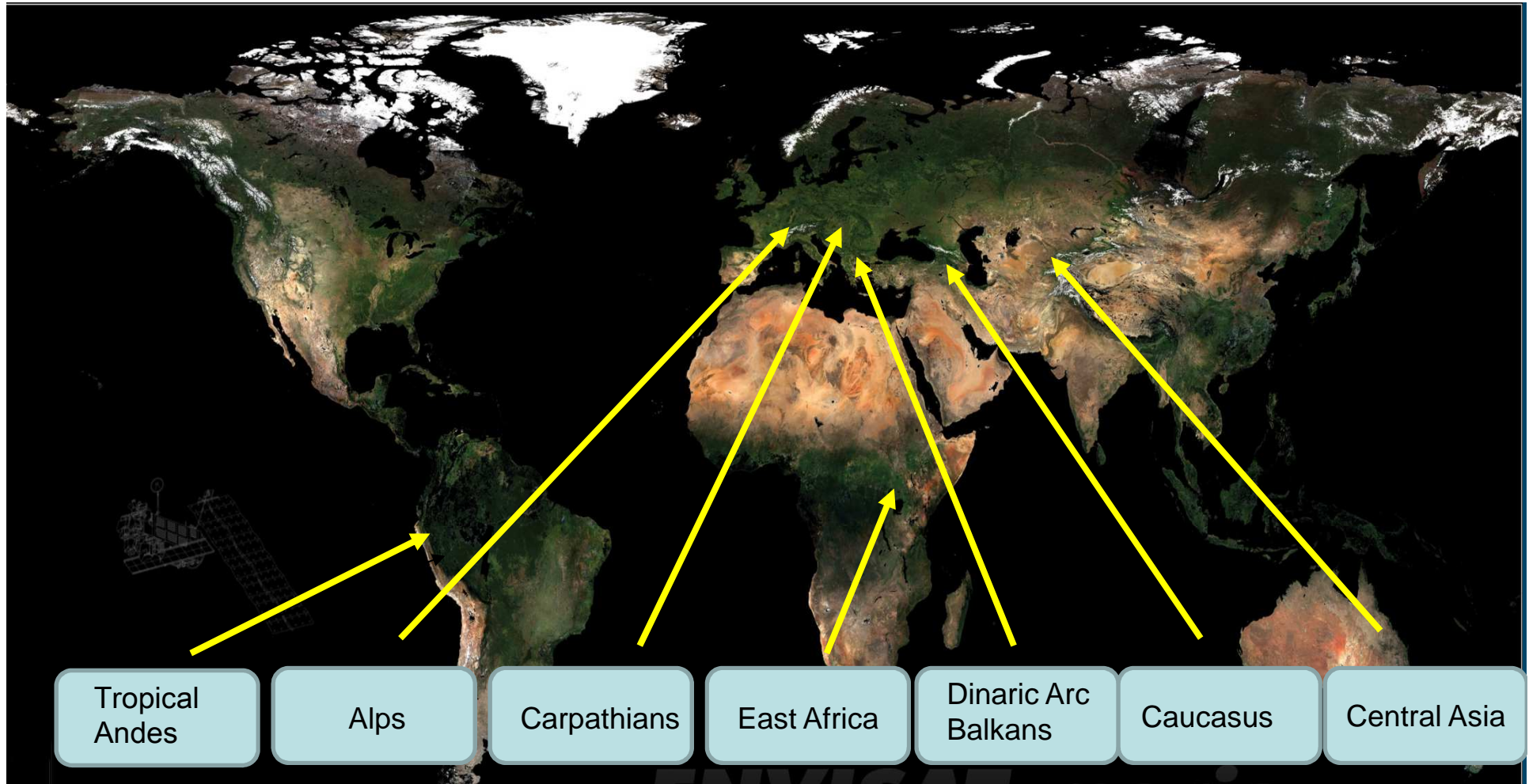
Understand and map vulnerabilities and impacts

Establish regional cooperation platforms

Develop climate change outlooks (participatory assessments)



Targeted Regions

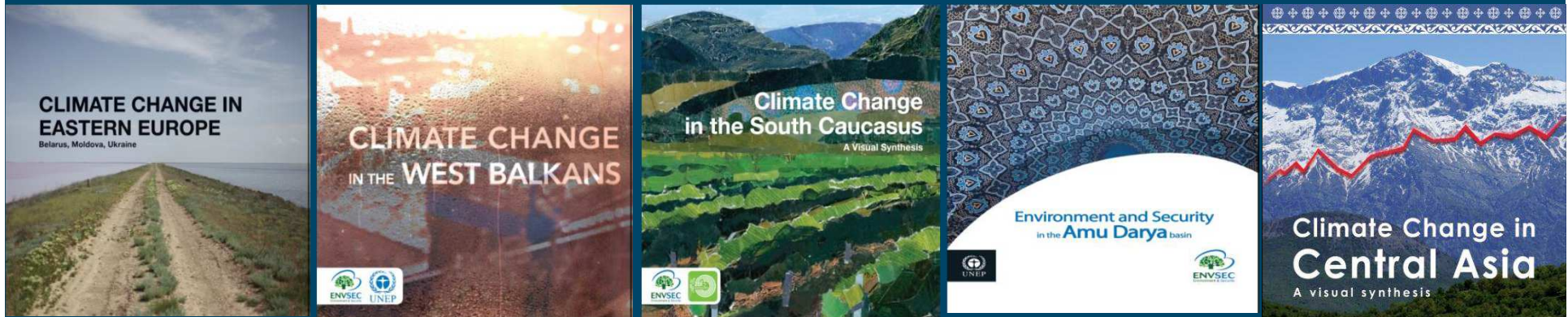


More Information...

On relevant initiatives and activities in the regions can be found on the following webpages:

www.unep.at

www.carpathianconvention.org



Thank you for your attention

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