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TOGETHER



CARPATHIAN CONVENTION

Activities + Update on WG on Climate Change

EUSDR Priority Area 4 19th Steering Group Meeting – 26 May 2020, online

UNEP Vienna Programme Office – Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention
Sabine McCallum

Photo: Sergey Ryzhkov / Wikimedia Commons

The Carpathian Convention

- A framework Convention for cooperation and multi-sectoral policy coordination
- Adopted on 22nd May 2003
- Entered in force on 4th January 2006
- Ratified by all the seven Carpathian countries
- A platform for joint strategies for sustainable development
- A forum for dialogue between all stakeholders involved
- UN Environment Vienna Office provides the Secretariat for the Carpathian Convention

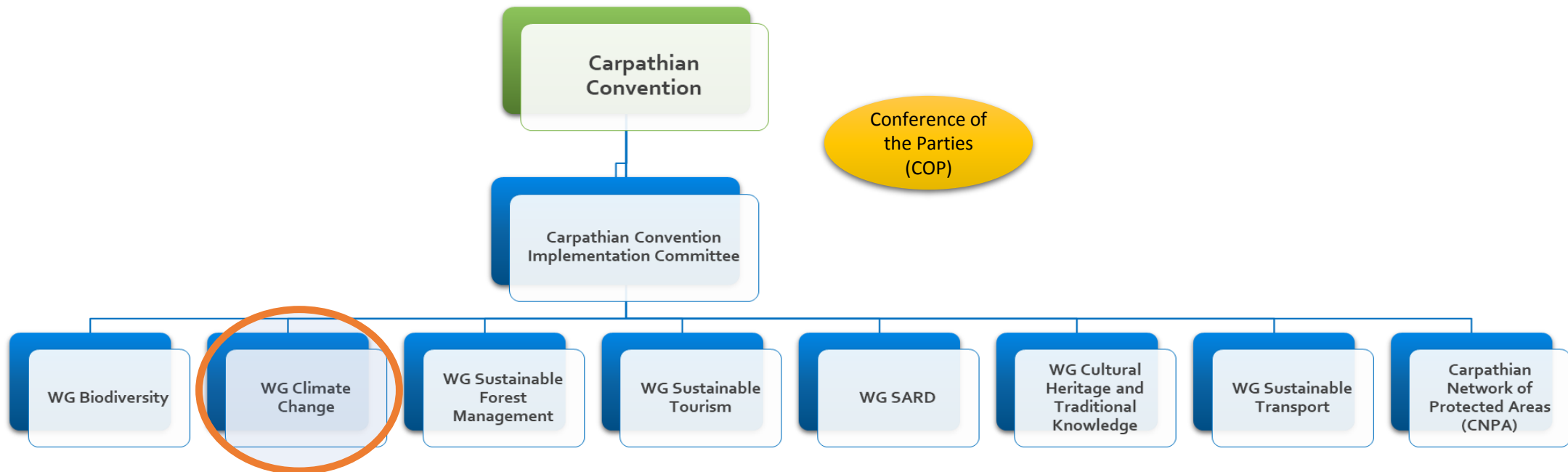


Goal:
Environmental Protection and
Sustainable Development of
the Carpathian Region



Photo: Hungarian Presidency of CC

Institutional Structure and Protocols



- Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity *in place*
- Protocol on Sustainable Tourism *in place*
- Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management *in place*
- Protocol on Sustainable Transport *in place*
- Protocol on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development *in place*
- Protocol on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge *in progress*

Projects under the Carpathian Convention on Climate Change

➤ **CARPIVIA**

Objective: Carpathian integrated assessment of vulnerability to climate change and ecosystem-based adaptation measures



➤ **CarpathCC**

Objective: Climate Change Framework Project to provide an in-depth assessment of the vulnerability of the Carpathian region to climate change and establish a diversified portfolio of sustainable adaptation measures with the active and valuable cooperation of international environmental experts.



➤ **CARPATCLIM**

Objective: to improve the basis of climate data in the Carpathian Region for applied regional climatological studies such as a Climate Atlas and/or drought monitoring, investigate the fine temporal and spatial structure of the climate in the Carpathian Mountains and the Carpathian basin with unified methods.



Climate Change Actions of the Carpathian Convention

- **FUTURE IMPERFECT** – Climate change and adaptation in the Carpathians, a publication bringing together the results of the three projects on climate change in the Carpathians, CARPATCLIM, CARPVIA and CarpathCC (2014)
- **Joint Alpine-Carpathian Statement on Adaptation to Climate Change**, jointly presented at UNFCCC COP 20 in Lima by the Czech and Italian Presidencies
- **Strategic Agenda on Adaptation to Climate Change** in the Carpathian Region finalized (2014)



MOUNTAIN ADAPTATION OUTLOOK SERIES

Outlook on climate change adaptation in the Carpathian mountains

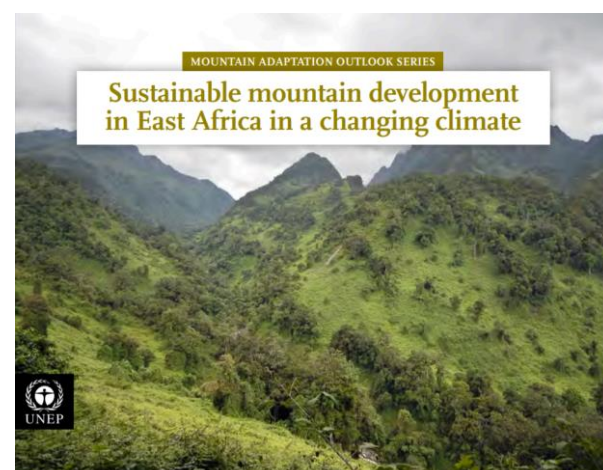
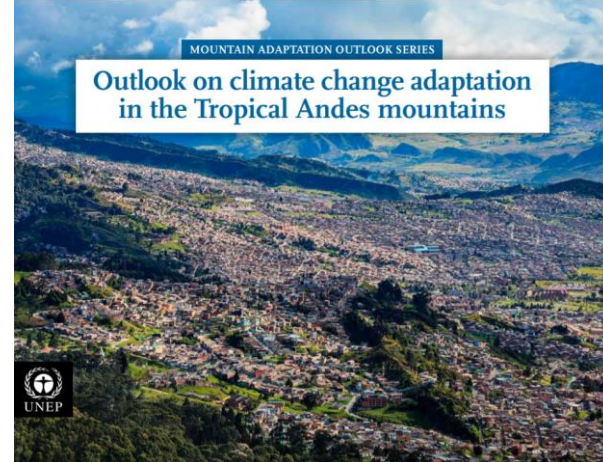
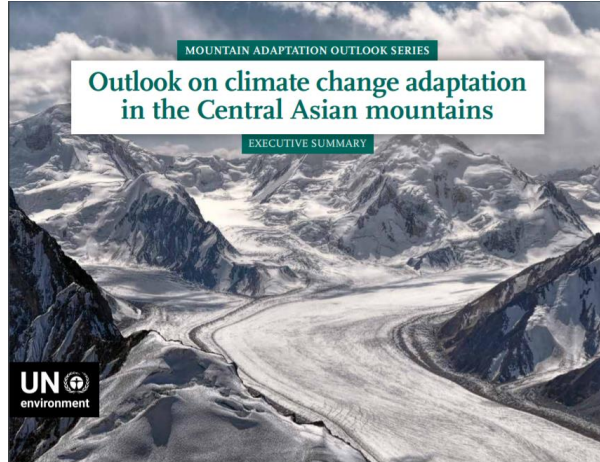
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Table of key content

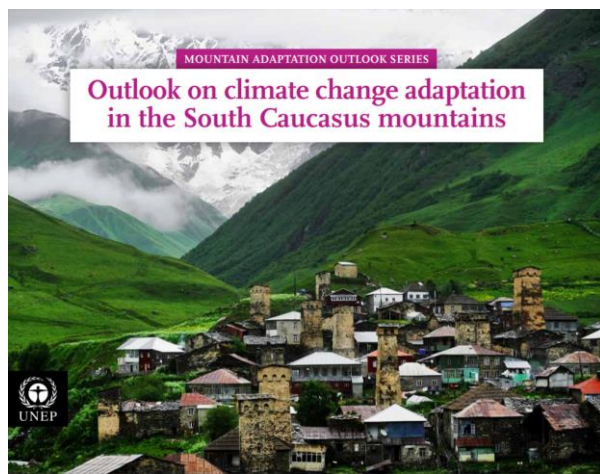
- Recommendations
- Climate change in the Carpathians
- Key risks from climate change in vulnerable sectors
- Analysis of existing adaptation policies for vulnerable sectors
- Gap analysis

WG Climate Change support:

- Szolnok, Hungary - 30 September – 2 October, 2015
- Vienna, Austria - 26-27 October, 2016



COP24 • KATOWICE 2018
UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE



UNFCCC COP24 - 11 December 2018,
Katowice, Poland - a high-level side-event
“Mountain adaptation: vulnerable peaks and people”

Launching the Synthesis Report!

Cooperation with European Environment Agency



The screenshot shows the homepage of the European Climate Adaptation Platform (Climate-ADAPT). The header features the European Union flag and the text "Climate-ADAPT - Sharing adaptation information across Europe". Below the header is a navigation bar with links: About, Database, EU policy, Countries, regions, cities, Knowledge, Network, and Help. A search bar is located on the right. The main content area includes a large image of a modern building and a section titled "About Climate Change Adaptation in Europe" which describes the platform's purpose and lists key topics. At the bottom, there are four green buttons: News, Events, Newsletter, and Latest updates, each with a corresponding icon.

Climate-ADAPT - Sharing adaptation information across Europe

European Climate Adaptation Platform

Log in

Search: Search...

About Database EU policy Countries, regions, cities Knowledge Network Help

About Climate Change Adaptation in Europe

The European Climate Adaptation Platform (Climate-ADAPT) aims to support Europe in adapting to climate change. It is an initiative of the European Commission and helps users to access and share information on:

- » Expected climate change in Europe
- » Current and future vulnerability of regions and sectors
- » National and transnational adaptation strategies
- » Adaptation case studies and potential adaptation options
- » Tools that support adaptation planning

→ Read more

New to adaptation? Use the Adaptation Support Tool

What are European countries doing?

Find case studies on adaptation in Europe

Share your information

News Events Newsletter Latest updates

Adaptation in Carpathian Mountains

by tibi — last modified 06 Oct 2017, 05:18 PM — History

General | Policy Framework | Impacts & Vulnerabilities | Adaptation Actions



Impacts & Vulnerabilities

The climatic variability will most likely be increased. The region's high vulnerability to climate change is presented further below for six sectors: water resources, forestry, wetlands, grasslands, agriculture and tourism. This section briefly presents observations and scenarios for climate change in the Carpathian region and is based on the outcomes of the previously mentioned research projects.

Read more

Selected Indicators

- Forest growth
- Storms
- Soil moisture
- Precipitation extremes
- Forest fires
- Snow cover
- Growing season for agricultural crops
- River floods

Publications & Reports

- In-Depth Study on the impacts of climate change threats on ecosystems
- The urban climate of Budapest: past, present and future
- Impacts of and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Danube-Carpathian Region
- Future Imperfect – Climate Change and Adaptation in the Carpathians

Information Portals

Search Results

- Publications and reports (4)
- Guidance (1)
- Research and knowledge projects (5)
- Case studies (2)
- Organisations (1)

Share your information



European Commission

European Environment Agency



European
Environment
Agency

European Topic Centre on
Climate Change Impacts,
Vulnerability and Adaptation

Cooperation with EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)

- Priority Area 4 [WATER QUALITY](#)
- Priority Area 5 [ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS](#)



Cooperation with ICPDR and TISZA GROUP

- **Joint Declaration** between **ICPDR** and **Carpathian Convention** on cooperation in the Tisza Basin
- Close cooperation with ICPDR on the EUSDR in the Danube area: Promotion of the implementation of the *"Guiding principles on sustainable hydropower development in the Danube Basin"* (DECISION COP4/3 par 2)
- Associates Partner in the JoinTisza Project
- High interest in further collaboration on projects for the implementation of the Declaration!



Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

- role and contribution of the Carpathian Convention

Contribution of the Carpathian Convention to the process by promoting protection and sustainable development of mountain regions

Translating the biodiversity global goals and targets at the regional level – **Carpathian Initiative for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework**

Need for reflecting **mountain biodiversity** in Post-2020 process outcome document (including possible targets and indicators) into Post-2020 discussions



Synergies and reinforcement of biodiversity-related Conventions



Carpathian Convention as the regional mechanism for implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

The Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP5)

October 2018, Lillafüred, Hungary

New **Article 12bis on Climate Change**
introduced to the Carpathian Convention

➡ Need for implementation!



Photo: Hungarian Presidency of CC

WG on Climate Change – Elevating it's Mandate

The **Working Group on Climate Change** under the Carpathian Convention

- is **one of eight thematic intergovernmental Working Groups** currently supporting the implementation of the Carpathian Convention as subsidiary bodies;
- has been **established 2011** by the Third Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP3); initially supported by the EC funded project CARPIVIA (*Carpathian integrated assessment of vulnerability to climate change and ecosystem-based adaptation measures*, www.carpivia.eu);
- represents the **main subsidiary body to strengthen it's role for mainstreaming climate change** into the Carpathian Conventions' activities and workstreams.

Suggesting to **elevate the Mandate** of the Working Group considers

- major **global policy developments** in the past years **for climate change, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development**;
- the adoption of **Article 12bis on Climate Change** as an amendment to the Carpathian Convention (COP5, 2017);
- an increasing urgency for lifting the level of ambition for climate action in order to steer **progress towards building resilience and supporting collaborative action** on climate risks and impacts in the Carpathians **on a transboundary scale**.

Proposed objectives for the reinforced Mandate

Reinforcing the Working Group with a stronger Mandate especially for **defining implementation needs and pathways for Article 12bis of the Carpathian Convention** aims at achieving, inter alia, **the following strategic objectives:**

- **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;
- **Regional cooperation and interaction are strengthened** through identifying **common priority actions** and harmonizing with national efforts on climate change in the Carpathians, and beyond;
- 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 and promoting Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA);
- **Synergies and co-benefits of climate action** are examined with concrete mitigation and adaptation measures and actions identified for transboundary cooperation;
- **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;
- **Science-policy-practice interfaces** and innovative approaches are further explored and promoted;
- Joint efforts are taken **on identifying funding opportunities** and drawing the attention of donors towards the benefits of greater regional cooperation;
- **Climate research** on both qualitative and quantitative levels is **promoted**, including fostering the application of its results;
- Instrumental and organizational tools for **sharing experience, good practice and lessons learnt** as well as scientific exchange regarding climate change in the Carpathians are improved and operational.

Suggested activities + next steps

All activities will follow a **Vision 2030 (to be approved by the COP6 in Poland; 14-16 September 2020, possible COVID-19 implications)** with complementary strategic targets for climate change mitigation and adaptation, providing an overall framework for focus and direction.

7th Meeting of the Working Group on Climate Change (15 May 2020; online) – main agenda points:

- Finalize the advanced presidency paper on Elevating the Mandate of the CC Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change
- Update the Terms of Reference for the WG on Climate Change
- Exchange on promoting climate change mainstreaming across all the Carpathian Convention Working Groups' topics and activities
- Discuss collaboration with other regional frameworks/platforms/initiatives and related institutions and organizations, especially from mountain and neighboring regions



Photo: Mircea Verghelet

Further preparations towards COP6

- Draft a **long-term Vision 2030** and elaborate a **structured Workplan on implementing Article 12bis** for the **next implementation period 2021-2023**
- Draft a proposal for **mechanisms and concrete topics to mainstream climate change in all relevant areas of activities** under the Carpathian Convention
- Develop approach(es) for **defining and promoting concrete climate actions** and **identify funding opportunities** for implementation of climate action in the Carpathians
- Identify **key actors for exchange and collaboration**, e.g. on fulfilling EU and international commitments and setting the transnational dimension for collaborative action on climate change in mountainous areas to a higher agenda



Thank you for your attention!

UNEP Vienna Programme Office
Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

www.carpathianconvention.org
<https://www.unenvironment.org/>

Photo: Klaudia Kuras