

Joint Alpine – Carpathian Statement

On Adaptation to Climate Change

In the framework of international climate change policies, adaptation has been recognized as a priority for mountain regions, due to the fragile mountain ecosystems and the marked vulnerability of settlements, properties and people to the impacts of climate change, that can hinder a balanced development and environmental conservation.

A dialogue has been started between the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions recognizing the need to promote capacity building at the local level for designing and implementing coherent local adaptation measures and sharing the regional experience developed in the field.

The Alpine Conference and the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention

Welcoming the enduring cooperation between the Alpine and Carpathian countries, in the frame of the Alpine – Carpathian partnership, towards the promotion of sustainable development in mountain regions;

Encouraging the exchange of information between the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in relation to adaptation to climate change;

Encouraging the strengthening of the synergies between these Conventions,

Recalling the actions, activities and best practices carried out in the process of adaptation to climate change in the Alps and Carpathians;

Taking into account that fragile mountain ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and that increasing impacts on the environment and human well-being are registered;

Recalling that climate change mitigation must remain a priority, due to the high sensitivity and limited adaptation capacity of mountain areas, reducing the need for adaptation measures that have to deal with the unavoidable economic, environmental and social impacts of climate change;

Commending the European Union Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change as a fundamental framework for the countries of the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions;

Taking into account that the scope of this Statement are the mountainous areas under the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions;

The Alpine and Carpathian countries intend to implement, in the frame of their policies, the following recommendations aimed at preventing and adapting to the (increasing) impacts of climate change:

- Support research activities on climate change in mountainous areas and its dissemination to the public in order to foster scientific local adaptation strategies and measures;
- Promote integration of adaptation measures into all sectors;
- Recognize and conserve the natural functions and ecosystem services through a holistic landscape view of mountainous areas;
- Stress the importance of regional co-operation on adaptation measures in mountain regions among governments, national and local stakeholders, civil society organizations and the private sector;
- Support co-operation among countries in developing climate change adaptation strategies in mountain regions and in implementing already existing ones;
- Encourage central and local governmental agencies, civil society and academia to develop capacities to address climate change effects by elaborating national / local plans and strategies to deal with them;
- Support regional dialogue and co-operation on local adaptation measures to climate change by sharing information and promote regional coordination through regional meetings and transboundary projects;
- Enhance and support transboundary and regional exchange of best practices, know-how, experiences and measures dealing with adaptation to climate change at local level;
- Promote the creation of guidelines dealing with climate change adaptation in mountainous areas at local level by involving international, national and local governments, academia and civil society organizations;

- Support awareness raising on the effects of climate change among the population, especially among young generations, promoting mitigation and adaptation measures;
- Foster the diffusion of knowledge concerning impacts related to climate change at local level, especially in the frame of water resources, natural hazards and socio-economic balances;
- Encourage sustainable tourism in mountainous areas aiming at creating conditions for young generations to secure their professional future in the mountain regions and consequently preserve and encourage activities in those areas in the light of further sustainable development and preservation of cultural heritage and in synergy with adaptation measures.
- Enhance co-operation among local institutions and stakeholders aiming to the creation of a common knowledge on consequences and risks related to climate change;

The Alpine and Carpathian countries are aware that the threats posed by climate change are likely to increase over the next decades and intend to continue to work to enhance the enforcement of local adaptation policies and measures across the territories of the Alpine and Carpathian Convention by promoting a fruitful and continuous dialogue and sharing of experience in the field of local adaptation to climate change.