

**ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE
Mountain Agriculture and Mountain Forestry
Working Group
FOR THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE XV AND XVI MEETINGS OF
THE ALPINE CONFERENCE (April 2019 – December 2020)**

1. Overview of the mandate or relevant decision of the Alpine Conference

Summary of the main tasks according to the 2019-2020 mandate (for Working Groups) or decision ACXV/A6 of the XV Alpine Conference (for Boards)

ACTIVITY 1: Focus on **climate-friendly and climate-resilient mountain agriculture and sustainable management of mountain forests** in order to contribute to the **operationalization of the Alpine Climate Target System**, building on experience gained, good practices and shared knowledge in the Alpine region concerning the effects of climate change.

ACTIVITY 2: Exchange on the **relation between mountain agriculture, mountain forestry, tourism and biodiversity** by highlighting initiatives and projects dealing with this relation;

ACTIVITY 3: Participate in the **implementation of the Green Economy Action Program (GEAP)** through the support to implementing actions in relevant fields for mountain farming and forestry, especially eco-innovation, regional development, valorizing ecosystems and biodiversity, and living and working in a green economy.

ACTIVITY 4: Develop co-operative and innovative solutions for sustainable rural-urban relationships by highlighting **best practice examples related to the promotion of sustainable social economy models in the Alps**. This includes sustainable regional products and **local value added chains** in particular in the field of forestry and agriculture.

2. Meetings

Summary of the meetings (date, place, main topics and outcomes)

The first meeting took place in Turin on 8 and 9 October 2019 (lunch to lunch) and the following topics were addressed:

- Presentation of the MAMF WG's mandate and its tasks/outputs

- **ACTIVITY 1:** Presentation of the methodology and template to meet the mandate objectives
- **ACTIVITY 2:** Input on the topics of the multi-thematic Workshop and first ideas on the organization of the workshop and stakeholder involvement
- **ACTIVITY 3:** Discussion on the future modality for the development of the activity of Green Economy Action Program Initiatives collection
- **ACTIVITY 4:** Members are encouraged to think about potential inputs for next meetings
- A small workshop was held to implement one of the activities in synergy with the Alpine Climate Board
- Presentation of the timetable and workplan for the next months
- Final Report: Short discussion on the proposal of the Table of Contents

During the meeting several experts intervened who provided thematic inputs for the reflections / discussions of the members on the various activities.

The main **meeting outputs** were the following:

- 1) Finalization / acceptance of the template for the start of the activity 1
- 2) Reflections on the potential setting of activity 3 in view of the next meeting
- 3) Reflections on the potential setting of activity 2

A detailed report of the meeting shared with the members was edited.

The second meeting took place online on the Teams web platform and included two morning sessions on May 14-15, 2020. The meeting was characterized by **round-video tables** that allowed a continuous and satisfactory exchange by all members. present.

The objectives of the meeting were as follows:

- Discussions on the results of **ACTIVITY 1:** presentation of the initiatives by the Members and discussion on the solutions for collecting missing contributions
- Presentation of the structure of the **First Chapter of the report** drawn up by the Italian Delegation also on the basis of the contributions of the first activity
- Detailed Presentation on **ACTIVITY 3:** methodology, templates and guidelines for compilation
- Thematic presentation on **ACTIVITY 4:** a proposal of paper and roadmap for a future activity in the next MAMF mandate

- Fixing the next steps for **Workshop**: discussion on the organization of the WS

During the meeting, the GEB leader intervened to provide input to members for carrying out Activity 3. Several members presented the initiatives with which they contributed to activity 1.

The main **meeting outputs** were the following:

- 1) Solutions and support for missing contributions in ACTIVITY 1 were provided
- 2) The finalization date of the report reviewing (and Activity 1) was set
- 3) The deadline for collecting at least one initiative for activity 3 was set.
- 4) Proposal for a half / one day virtual workshop where each country can contribute in three different forms was accepted:
 - video interview uploaded on a specific youtube platform and transmitted to the WS
 - presentation by an expert during the videoconference
 - brief presentation of an elaborate paper

Members will also be able to choose a topic to explore.
- 5) A calendar for WS organization is proposed.
- 6) It was agreed to send a proposal form for the collection of topic and method proposals for the Workshop
- 7) A calendar for delivery and review of final report was accepted

Minutes and a detailed informal note of the meeting were shared with the members.

Members have been given the option to choose whether or not to have another meeting at the end of July in relation to the needs of the activities in progress.

A **virtual workshop** took place on 11 September on the ZOOM platform and hosted on air in the hall of Longarone Fiere (see below).

3. Activities carried out

Synthetic report on activities carried out (including outreach and communication activities)

ACTIVITY 1

Starting from the example of the activity of the Climate Advisory Board in the last mandate, MAMF aimed to collect initiatives through a template to be filled in by the experts appointed

by the Parties and observers to the Convention. The activity included three steps

- 1 **Synthesis of main national laws and initiatives for climate change mitigation/adaption**
- 2 **Collection of initiatives/good practices**
- 3 **Synthesis of collection and recommendations focusing to the contribution to the operationalization of the Alpine Climate Target System**

The structure and contents of activity 1 is illustrated in greater detail:

- Step 1 (first section of the template): collection of information on relevant policies in the Alpine countries, related to mitigation and adaptation (Legal basis of general and sector planning tools section)
- A step 2 (second and third section of the template): collection and specific description of the initiative (s) (Initiative / Good practice for sustainable management of climate change in the forest and agriculture sectors section), and identification of the role of the Alpine Convention in the initiative (objectives achieved, opportunities for promotion, etc.)
- An optional step where providing suggestions of recommendations for the dissemination and improvement of the initiative

Activity 1 develops in close synergy with the work of the Alpine Climate Board, which has included in its mandate a direct involvement of other WGs in the specific cooperation activities, one of which (Workshop on ACB) took place on the opening of the second day of the first MAMF meeting.

ACTIVITY 2

The workshop was organised, as agreed at the second MAMF meeting, as an online short event in the month of September 2020. This facilitated the involvement of experts, who can make a video of their speech before the workshop and allowed for the collection and storage of the workshop materials to be used in the Final MAMF Report. Additionally, the video workshop was a highly sustainable event.

To facilitate the organization of the event, we sent a short "**Workshop proposal form**" a few months before. After the collection of member's suggestions and availability to provide concrete contributions to it, we sent out a **draft agenda in the first ten days of August**.

This form helped MAMF WG to identify:

STEP 1

- The topics on which the participants will deliver their contribution and their link to the requirements of the mandate of the MAMF WG
- The relation between mountain agriculture, mountain forestry, tourism and biodiversity analysed in the contribution

STEP 2

- the way in which the contributions will be delivered (e.g. video interview with an expert, report by an expert at the workshop, presentation of good practices)

STEP 3

- possible stakeholders / experts / bodies and organization potentially involved

STEP 4

- Possible channels to stream the event and promote the workshop contents and results.

ACTIVITY 3

The A3 aimed at managing the collection of activities (through a template) envisaged for the WG in full coherence to the GEAP in order to ease the assignment of each single initiative to a specific action field, sub-topic, and concrete actions as in the GEAP.

Moreover, for describing the initiatives collected in the MAMF WG we used the same categories adopted for the actions in the GEAP aiming at achieving tables that can be directly compared, and inter-connected to the actions listed in the GEAP.

Such an approach aimed to help demonstrate that the initiatives selected by MAMF WG are fit to implement the actions reported in the GEAP. **Aim of the work was to show how and to what extent a sample of initiatives identified in the framework of the MAMF WG implement the Actions collected in the GEAP in the domains of agriculture and forest management in the Alps.**

The methodology adopted by MAMF WG in the activity for selecting relevant initiatives developed as follows:

1. Provide an assessment of the consistency of an initiative to the macro action field as set by the GEAP;

- 1.1. check if the initiative is consistent with the inspirational topics recalled by the GEAP for each macro action field and identify the action field

2. **Identify which action(s) of the GEAP the initiative participates to implement;**
 - 2.1. check type of activity and the description of the GEAP's action to determine the relevance of the initiative in implementing the GEAP action, or a part of it
3. **Provide a more detailed description of the activity** you selected by supplying as much information as possible for each of the relevant fields, by filling in the attached template in all the listed categories

In summary, the process described above was synthesized in a **tree diagram**. **Attached tables were also provided for carrying out the various steps of the activity.**

The **template** has been developed consistently with the one used for the GEAP actions. It is organised in four sections, all referred to initiatives in the two macro-areas of mountain agriculture and forests:

1. Identification of the initiative;
2. Implementation of GEAP actions;
3. Focus on the initiative and in-depth description.

Identification of the role of AC in the development and transferability of initiative

Together with the templates of A1 and A3, in-depth documents on the methodology used and guidelines for compilation were always provided

ACTIVITY 4

In the MAMF meeting in May the proposal was made to carry out this activity as a road map or a proposal document. Due to the reduced times determined by the COVID emergency and the large commitment required by the other activities of the mandate, it was decided to develop and implement this task in the next MAMF mandate.

COMMUNICATION

In both tasks, during the structuring phase of the activities, the MAMF WG interacted with the Alpine Climate Board and the Green Economy Board for a comparison on the methodology and the template.

All materials have been subject to a **review phase** by the members before the formal start of the activity. In each communication, the link of the **MAMF cloud** was provided.

Copies of any formal communication sent to members and all respective attached documents are sorted into individual folders on the MAMF cloud.

4. Results and outputs

Description of main results and outputs achieved

ACTIVITY 1: For the first activity, the output was the elaboration of **the first chapter of the final report** dedicated to the collection of initiatives aimed at adapting agriculture and forestry to climate change on the basis of experiences gained to contribute to the implementation of the Alpine Climate Target System 2050.

The chapter contains an overview on climate change in the Alps and the role of the Alpine Convention in the fight against it with a focus on the forestry and agricultural sectors. The activity of the MAMF group is then analyzed and presented and the methodology applied is described, showing the parallels with the structure of the Climate Target System 2050 and outlining the principles with which in the future it is possible to identify and apply initiatives aimed at implementing the Climate Target System.

Within the chapter, for six Alpine countries (Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Slovenia) the following is illustrated:

- a picture of the main adaptation and mitigation strategies present both at national and local / alpine level, with a focus on the sectors of interest.
- the impacts, vulnerabilities and resilience of climate change, with a focus on the sectors of interest
- a collection of initiatives appropriately described in all qualitative and quantitative aspects followed by a reference to:
 - which objectives of the Alpine System's objectives for climate 2050 contributes and how
 - the potential role of the Alpine Convention in the transferability / implementation / enhancement of the initiative and appropriate recommendations

Finally, through the information gathering work of the quick workshop in the first meeting and the activity carried out in parallel by the ACB, some pathways have been collected in the two sectors that can be studied in depth in the next mandate.

ACTIVITY 3: For the second activity, the output was the elaboration of the **second chapter of the final report** dedicated to the overview/collection of actual and proposed initiatives across the Alps consistent with the actions envisaged by the Green Economy Action Program, in the relevant fields.

In the second chapter of the report there is a collection of initiatives across the Alps consistent with the actions envisaged by the Green Economy Action Program.

The general framework in which the green economy is presented, especially at the Alpine level, is presented as a highly multisectoral and transversal theme, able to embrace the two sectors of interest (forestry and agricultural) at multiple levels (including those of sustainable management, tourism and biodiversity protection).

After a quick analysis of the structure and objectives of the GEAP, the methodology adopted by the MAMF for the collection of initiatives useful for the implementation of the GEAP itself is presented, underlining the strong correlation between the survey method structured by the MAMF and the one adopted in the GEAP.

In the four fields of action required by the task, countries have collected their own initiatives. Through the template they selected initiatives consistent with the activity. For each initiative is therefore reported:

- the GEAP action (s) that can implement
- the consistency aspects with respect to the GEAP, its fields of action and its topics
- a detailed description of the initiative, in economic terms, of targets and stakeholders, following the same descriptive categories present in the GEAP
- the reasons that make it an initiative capable of implementing a specific action (results and socio-economic and environmental impacts)
- the present or potential role of the Alpine Convention, following the same descriptive categories present in the GEAP
- a general reference to the implementation of the initiative with respect to the EU Green Deal

ACTIVITY 2:

The output for this activity was to **involve stakeholders and encourage them to take into account existing interdependencies between mountain forestry and agriculture, tourism and biodiversity.**

On 11 September 2020, MAMF organized a **virtual workshop** from 9:30 am to about 1:30 pm entitled "Mountain forestry and mountain agriculture for enhancing biodiversity and tourism".

The Workshop took place online on the ZOOM platform with simultaneous Italian-English translation and vice versa.

The event was broadcast live and hosted in ROOM B. Costantini at the "Fair and Festival of the Forests" in Longarone Fiere (11-13 September 2020, LONGARONE-<https://www.longaronefiere.it/fiera-festival-forests>) where in addition to a rich program of events and exhibitions, the fair dedicated a space to the Alpine Convention event.

The event included three sessions of thematic interventions moderated by experts from the various sectors:

- **SESSION 1:** Mountain food biodiversity & alpine tourism
- **SESSION 2:** Green economy and sustainable value-chains for mountain agriculture and forests
- **SESSION 3:** Alpine natural capital for green development of the farming and forestry sectors

The sessions included moments of discussion and reflection aimed at creating new synergies and channels of interest and exchange in the forest, agriculture, tourism and biodiversity protection fields.

The workshop aimed to involve project partners as well as startups, experts from the various Alpine countries of the Alpine Convention, the scientific collaboration of important bodies operating in the Alpine and non-Alpine territory, the research academy of Bolzano Eurac Research, and participation of the institutions and the Ministry of the Environment itself together with the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention.

In addition to the institutional greetings, several experts showed their presentations or sent video interviews and video clips projected during the event.

Short abstracts, introductions to the work of the experts and web links and videos were collected for the event and then collected in the MAMF report.

5. Cooperation

Description of cooperation initiatives and activities with other Alpine Convention Thematic Working Bodies and other relevant bodies and processes (e.g. EUSALP)

- Cooperation with ACB: quick workshop in the first MAMF meeting and elaboration of the pathways in the two sectors of interest
- Cooperation with GEB leader and Green Economy Editorial Board: feedback on the development of A3 and participation in the second meeting for thematic inputs on the activity

6. Attachments

List of the documents attached to this report, such as papers proposed for approval by the XVI Alpine Conference (thematic reports, guidelines, statements etc.) and supporting documents (workshop proceedings, survey reports etc.).

- 1) *MAMF Report 2019-2020 (Chapter 1,2,3 for A1, A2 and A3)*
- 2) *Poster Longarone Fiere Workshop MAMF (11 September 2020)*