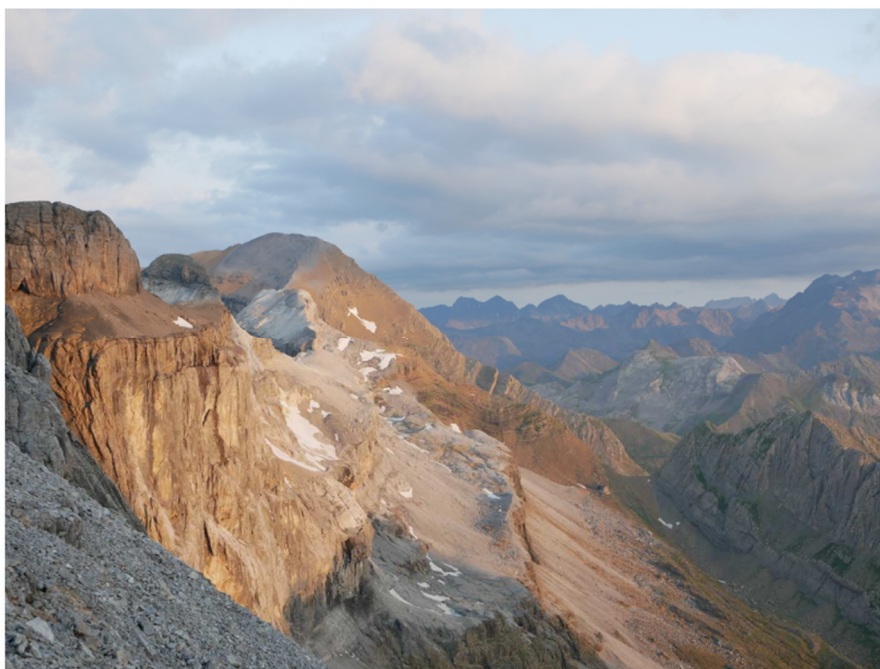


## Using Transnational regions pages from Climate-ADAPT to develop transboundary adaptation strategy in the Pyrenees

- **Climate-ADAPT features used** Transboundary regional studies, transnational regions section, country profiles, mountain areas sector, indicator-based reports
- **Sector:** Environmental Management and Regional Cooperation
- **Governance level:** Transboundary (multinational)
- **Biogeographical region:** Alpine
- **Macro-region:** Southwestern Europe
- **Policy stage:** Strategy Development and Implementation

### The challenge

The Pyrenean Observatory for Climate Change (OPCC), an initiative steered by the Community of the Pyrenees Working Group (CTP), aims to understand and adapt the Pyrenees bioregion to the impacts of climate change. The Pyrenees is a mountainous bioregion that is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change (large changes of spatial expansion and thickness of snow cover, reduction and pressure on water resources, vulnerability of forest ecosystems and agriculture to dry conditions, risk of forest fires, etc.). Seven national and regional climate change policies in three countries converge in this territory: two EU Member States, France (Aquitaine and Occitanie), and Spain (Aragon, Catalonia, the Basque Country, and Navarre), and Andorra. Most of these policies do not sufficiently take into account the mountainous nature of the territory, and the cross-border focus. This motivated a cross-border strategy on climate change for the entire Pyrenees Mountain region. The strategy aimed at filling gaps in knowledge about the impact of climate change on the Pyrenees and boosting cross-border cooperation for climate change adaptation in the mountain areas to maximise the scope of actions.



*Figure 1: Multi-degradation of soils in the Pyrenees. Source: OPCC.*

### The approach

In 2022, the consortium embarked on the journey to develop a [transboundary adaptation strategy](#) at the scale of the bioregion. This strategy hinged upon a comprehensive meta-analysis of

publications concerning adaptation in transboundary zones within Europe with a similar focus in terms of biogeography or climate change issues. [Using the Transnational regions section](#), Climate-ADAPT facilitated this meta-analysis by enabling easy access to identify all transboundary regions, along with projects and publications linked to adaptation in these areas, such as for the Danube River and the Baltic Sea as well as mountain areas such as the Alps and the Carpathian Mountains.

	ALPS	CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS	BALTIC SEA	DANUBE RIVER
<b>Level</b>	Alpine Convention EUSALP macro-region	Carpathian Convention	Council of the Baltic Sea States EUSBR macro-region	Danube River Protection Convention EUSDR macro-region
<b>Timescale</b>	Alpine climate target system 2050	Long-term vision 2030 for the fight against CC + Action Plan 2023	Baltic 2030 Action Plan (CBSS) EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region 2019-2024	Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2020 - 2027
<b>Contents</b>	Mitigation - Adaptation by sectors	Mitigation - Adaptation for sectors of the Convention	Mitigation - Adaptation by thematic areas of the EUSBR	Adaptation to water issues
<b>Governance</b>	Alpine Conference CC Regions and States and Local Alpine City Player Thematic Group	COP - CC Group States Thematic groups of the Convention	States and regions Thematic groups of the Convention EUSBSR stakeholders	States of the Danube EUSDR stakeholders

Figure 2: Table summarising the characteristic features of other European climate change strategies. Source: OPCC - EPICC

This wealth of information on the transnational regions pages helped inform the structure of the strategy, notably in pinpointing key themes for focus and approaches to foster cooperation by studying models of international conventions (e.g. Alpine and Carpathian convention), strategies (e.g. Climate change adaptation strategy 2020-2027 for the Danube River), or examples of cooperation mechanisms (e.g. Alpine Climate Board). Subsequently, reports were generated, drawing inspiration from indicator-based assessment reports on historical and anticipated climate change effects and their impact on ecosystems and society, such as the [indicator based-assessment](#) published by the European Environment Agency (EEA) in 2017.

The utilisation of Climate-ADAPT in this context exemplifies how the platform has provided a central resource catalogue and reference, shaping the contours of strategic approach to climate change adaptation within transboundary and mountainous territory of Pyrenees and beyond.

## Future plans

The cross-border adaptation strategy for the Pyrenees is being deployed and multiple adaptation actions are implemented in the bioregion. Although the support of Climate-ADAPT is no longer necessary, the following gaps were identified.

From the OPCC's perspective, Climate-ADAPT could be further enhanced by addressing gaps in case studies concerning mountain territories and transboundary scales, as well as providing more instances of nature-based solutions (NbS) relevant to typical mountain risks like rockfalls, flash floods, and forest management.

OPCC also suggests that for regions or local entities initiating their adaptation journey, Climate-ADAPT could improve its [EU funding section](#) by providing access to a streamlined process to identify European financial aid suitable for their projects. Specifically, for transboundary regions, a

compendium of potential INTERREG projects, with ready abstracts of mounted projects, could significantly facilitate the structuring and funding of their adaptation measures.