

Climate-ADAPT use case 2 — the Carpathians

Using country information from Climate-ADAPT to develop a Carpathian transnational region page and to feed into international adaptation policies

Climate-ADAPT features used: countries/regions/cities (country pages Map Viewer and individual pages)

Sector: adaptation in general

Governance level: transnational

Biogeographical region or macro-region: Continental/Alpine/Pannonian

Policy stage: policy development

The challenge

The Carpathian Mountains are the second longest mountain system in Europe, covering an area of about 210 000 km² shared by seven countries (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine), five of which are EU Member States. Land abandonment, habitat conversion, fragmentation, deforestation, unsustainable forestry and agricultural practices, and pollution are resulting in losses of landscape and species diversity. Climate change, causing changes in precipitation patterns, snow cover and temperature, intensifies these processes. At the Fourth Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention in 2014, the Strategic agenda on adaptation to climate change in the Carpathian region ⁽¹⁴⁾ was adopted. By adopting the strategic agenda, the Conference called upon the contracting parties, local and regional authorities and other stakeholders of the Carpathian region to formulate policies and design strategies to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention ⁽¹⁵⁾, established in May 2004, hosted at the United Nations Environment Programme, supports the Convention process, including the Working Group on Climate Change Adaptation ⁽¹⁶⁾. One of the key actions of the working group is to provide a common platform for the Carpathian region to enable information-sharing and mutual learning among the Carpathian countries, as well as cooperation with other transnational regions in Europe. Furthermore, the working group supports the development of an 'Outlook on climate change adaptation in the Carpathian Mountains', which is planned to be launched at the Fifth Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention in October 2017. The outlook is part of the Mountain Adaptation Outlook series, launched in Paris at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP 21 in 2015; these are UN-led policy assessments at supra-national level on incorporating climate change adaptation into national development policies and plans in selected mountain regions.

The approach

By providing concise and comparable country information based on reporting under the Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 525/2013, the MMR), Climate-ADAPT adds value for adaptation at transnational levels. The Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention used the content of the individual Climate-ADAPT country pages of the five Carpathian countries in the EU to take stock of existing policies and programmes to provide an assessment of climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation at transnational level (the Carpathian Outlook) for the entire area of the Carpathian Convention. The drop-down menu at the top of the interactive Map Viewer on the 'Country information' introduction page ⁽¹⁷⁾ allowed the information for each country to be found quickly. The overview of the national

⁽¹⁴⁾ http://www.carpathianconvention.org/tl_files/carpathiancon/Downloads/03%20Meetings%20and%20Events/COP/2014_COP4_Mikulov/Follow%20Up/DOC12_Climate%20Change%20Strategic%20Agenda_FINAL_26Sep.pdf

⁽¹⁵⁾ <http://www.carpathianconvention.org/secretariat.html>

⁽¹⁶⁾ <http://www.carpathianconvention.org/wg-climate-change.html>

⁽¹⁷⁾ <http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/countries-regions/countries>

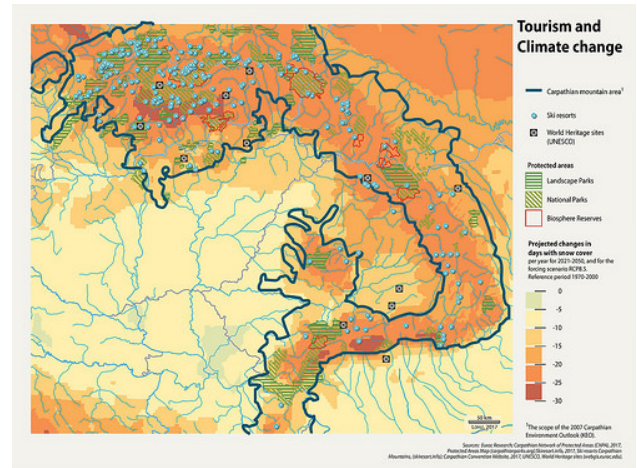
adaptation policies and links to key policy documents on the summary page ⁽¹⁸⁾ for the selected country provided the information in one place. The Secretariat valued the content that has been approved at national government level based on reporting under the MMR as trusted information that is updated annually by the EEA member countries on a voluntary basis. Because of the fact sheet character of the pages, the information presented is comparable across all countries covered by the Carpathian Convention. The 'Download page as PDF' button at the bottom of each country page facilitated easy export of the content for further use in the assessment document.

Currently, general information on adaptation in the Carpathian region is available on the Climate-ADAPT 'Central Europe' page ⁽¹⁹⁾. To provide more detailed information about adaptation in the Carpathian Mountains on Climate-ADAPT, a new page is being developed by the Secretariat using the same structure as the 'Baltic Sea Region' page ⁽²⁰⁾. The Secretariat collects additional and more mountain-specific information on climate change, impacts, vulnerabilities and existing adaptation action. The descriptive country information provided on the Climate-ADAPT country pages is concise and was therefore used as the basic information that was sent to the countries in a pre-filled questionnaire.

Future plans

Because of the lack of publications in English available online, the 'Transnational regions' page on the Carpathian Mountains does not yet include many links to further information. To further support cooperation at transnational level beyond the funding of research projects, the Secretariat plans to regularly update the page and to provide more links to key documents and further sources of information at transnational, national and sub-national levels on the new Carpathian Mountains page.

Figure A2 Projected changes in snow cover in the Carpathian Mountains (top) and a photograph showing the lack of snow in a ski resort in the Carpathian region, Stara Planina in Serbia (bottom)



Source: Top image © Carpathian Environmental Outlook; Bottom image © Eleonora Musco.

⁽¹⁸⁾ <http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/countries-regions/countries/hungary>
⁽¹⁹⁾ <http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/countries-regions/transnational-regions/central-europe>
⁽²⁰⁾ <http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/countries-regions/transnational-regions/baltic-sea-region/adaptation/general>