

Background The Alps are particularly affected by climate change. Temperatures in this region increased at more than twice the global average rate in the last century, and further warming is already unavoidable. Consequences may include thawing of permafrost, melting glaciers and extreme events

such as heavy precipitation and long periods of drought. Climate change will bring major changes to your economy, environment and society. Adverse consequences can be reduced or avoided, and future development potential safeguarded, through adaptation. It's time to take action now!



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General

Energy

Health

Spatial
Planning

Biodiversity

Natural
Hazard

Agriculture

Water

Forestry

Tourism

General

WHY?

Climate change is happening, and further warming is already unavoidable today. The Alps as a unique and very sensitive area are more vulnerable to changing climatic conditions than other European regions. Inaction will inevitably increase future vulnerability and cause high damages and costs. Adapting to climate change is therefore indispensable to guarantee a balance between economic interests, local population needs and environmental concerns.

Be aware that climate change affects all sectors

- All economic sectors, natural systems and their life-sustaining ecosystem services will be increasingly affected by climate change: rapid and foresighted interventions are urgent for adaptation
- Develop multi-sectorial and coherent adaptation strategies and coordinate actions across sectors and levels

HOW?

Exploit opportunities by well-planned adaptation

- All adaptation measures need to be tailored to local climate change impacts
- Put emphasis on adaptation measures that generate benefits independent of climate change (“win-win”), are robust under different climatic futures (“no regret”), and allow multiple options for development.

Cooperate, participate and engage

- Implementing adaptation requires inclusion of stakeholders and cooperation of relevant actors across sectors, levels and borders
- Integrate adaptation concerns in existing instruments, policies and structures; consider new instruments, where necessary and appropriate





STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

The development of the Austrian adaptation strategy has been designed as a participatory, multi-sectorial and interdisciplinary process. There has been a breadth and depth of involvement as local authorities, federal states, and NGOs were not only consulted, but also participated in drafting parts of the policy document. Participation included federal ministries and offices, interest groups representing cities and municipalities, NGOs, large business companies, service providers and insurance companies, via “informal workshops”, series of sectorial stakeholder workshops, written consultation rounds, and an online consultation of the public. The intensity level of participation went far beyond consultation, because stakeholders were actively involved in the policy drafting process. [Further information \(de/it/fr/sl\)](#)



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COMMUNICATE CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

Good communication is necessary when informing and persuading people that they are ready to meet the challenges of climate change. Complex correlations however make it difficult to get messages across in a simple, clear manner. The Guideline "Overcoming Communication Challenges" offers seven steps to show how these challenges can be mastered in practice, and how all stakeholders can be motivated to take action. [Further information \(en\)](#)



You can take action now!

Together with

- National and regional administration
- Researchers and experts on climate change adaptation
- Civil society organizations such as NGOs
- Entrepreneurs



Download this factsheet and share it

Service Further measures, tools, practical examples and information on how to adapt to climate change can be found at www.c3alps.eu

Contact Environment Agency Austria
Dept. Environmental Impact Assessment and Climate Change
c3-alps@umweltbundesamt.at

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international@cipra.org

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About C3-Alps The C3-Alps initiative is conducted by a transnational consortium of 17 partners from all Alpine countries. The partnership combines authorities responsible for climate adaptation policies on national and regional levels and expert institu-

tions that support national and European adaptation strategies. C3-Alps is coordinated by the Environment Agency Austria and is co-funded by the Alpine Space programme, through the European Regional Development Fund – European Territorial Cooperation.