

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

Nature-Biodiversity

WHY?

Climate change will put strong additional pressure on alpine biodiversity, because mountain areas are particularly sensitive. Changes in ecosystem structure and unexpected interactions between species can become more common in the future and lead to loss of genetic resources. Conservation and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems can be successful measures to help biodiversity and societies to adapt to climate change.

Raise awareness on the significance of biodiversity for climate change adaptation

- Improve understanding of how climate impacts will affect ecosystems
- Improve understanding of how actions in other sectors (including adaptation) may affect species, ecosystems and the services they deliver

HOW?

Integrate climate change in environment protection concepts

- Protection plans to enhance biodiversity when the climate is changing are only successful when we take dynamic changes in nature into account
- Improve migration possibilities, e.g. through linking biotopes

Improve knowledge through researching the effects of climate change on ecosystems and biodiversity

- Improve knowledge and exchange of knowledge about the effects of climate change on the three levels of biodiversity (diversity of genes, species and living environment)
- Study the current and potential future consequences of climate change for biodiversity by pursuing and promoting the approaches already initiated in networks of protected areas





RESTORATION OF THE ÖDMOOS PEAT BOG

Peat bogs are particularly varied biotopes. They support highly specialised species of flora and fauna like hawker dragonflies and the fen orchid, which could hardly survive without such ecosystems. In addition to their relevance for biodiversity, these biotopes also play a positive role through their ability to bind large quantities of greenhouse gases and store water. Peat bogs absorb precipitation like a sponge and then gradually release the water into the surrounding area. They accordingly play an important role in the context of flood protection. At Ödmoos, a heavily degraded peat bog in Bavaria, the land is being cleared of trees and shrub cover so as to restore the wetland and its key functions.

[Further information \(de/en/fr/it/sl\)](#)



MOUNTAIN FOREST INITIATIVE

The central aim of the “Mountain Forest Initiative” is to stabilize and sustainably adapt the Bavarian mountain forests to climate change. For this purpose, 30 projects were identified in areas with special climatic risks. Integrated master plans were developed for these projects, which include different silvicultural measures like thinning, planting and natural regeneration and hunting and pasture management for the reduction of browsing damage. The pilot measures are planned and initiated in agreement with the land owners and local stakeholders. This strong focus on participation renders the process transparent – a crucial factor for the success of the projects. [Further information \(de\)](#)

WHO?

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



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

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THE ALPS

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.