

What can we do?

Steps civil society can take to adapt to climate changes and minimize impact on our planet



Mitigation:

tackling the causes of climate change

Adaptation:

adjusting and preparing for change

Step 1: Preparing the ground for adaptation

Start with establishing a team, obtaining support of relevant administrative bodies, and finding resources. Then collect information and raise awareness on the need for adaptation.

Step 2: Assessing risks and vulnerabilities to climate change

A climate change vulnerability assessment for the target region will allow you to select main concerns and set up the strategic direction.

Step 3: Identifying adaptation options

Collect relevant adaptation options and best practices to address the main identified concerns.

Step 4: Assessing adaptation options

When you already know the options, assess them in terms of cost, time and effect in order to find out the preferred ones. Now you know what should be done first!

Step 5: Implementation

Develop an action plan and move forward! Support of administrative bodies and other stakeholders will help you a lot.

Step 6: Monitoring and evaluation

Monitor while implementing and evaluate at the end to be sure that the process goes as it should.

Adapted from EU guidelines on developing adaptation strategies

http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/adaptation/what/documentation_en.htm

About Climate Forum East

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Climate Forum East aims to build the capacities of the Civil Society Organizations sector in the Eastern Partnership countries to engage with the policy-making process and to contribute the political priorities in these countries in the area of environmental governance and climate change.

The specific objective is to strengthen the capacity of CSO networks to participate effectively in policy dialogue with local authorities, EU institutions and international organisations.

Duration of the project: Jan 2013 - Dec 2014.

Background: The countries of the EU Eastern Partnership (EaP) (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) are all vulnerable to natural hazards and extreme weather. Over the next century, the effects of climate change are likely to exacerbate this vulnerability; consequently, strong environmental legislation, robust adaptation measures and an active civil society are crucial to future prosperity.

Lead: Austrian Red Cross

Partners in EaP region: Armenian Red Cross, Azerbaijan Red Crescent, Georgian Red Cross, Belarus Red Cross, National Ecological Centre of Ukraine, Ecospectru (Moldova)

International project partners: Environment Agency Austria, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre on Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness, WWF International Danube-Carpathian Programme

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Austrian
Development Cooperation



Why is climate change happening?

Data shows that over past 150 years the planet has been warming at an unprecedented rate. 97%-98% of climate experts support the consensus that human activities are causing climate change (Anderegg 2010).

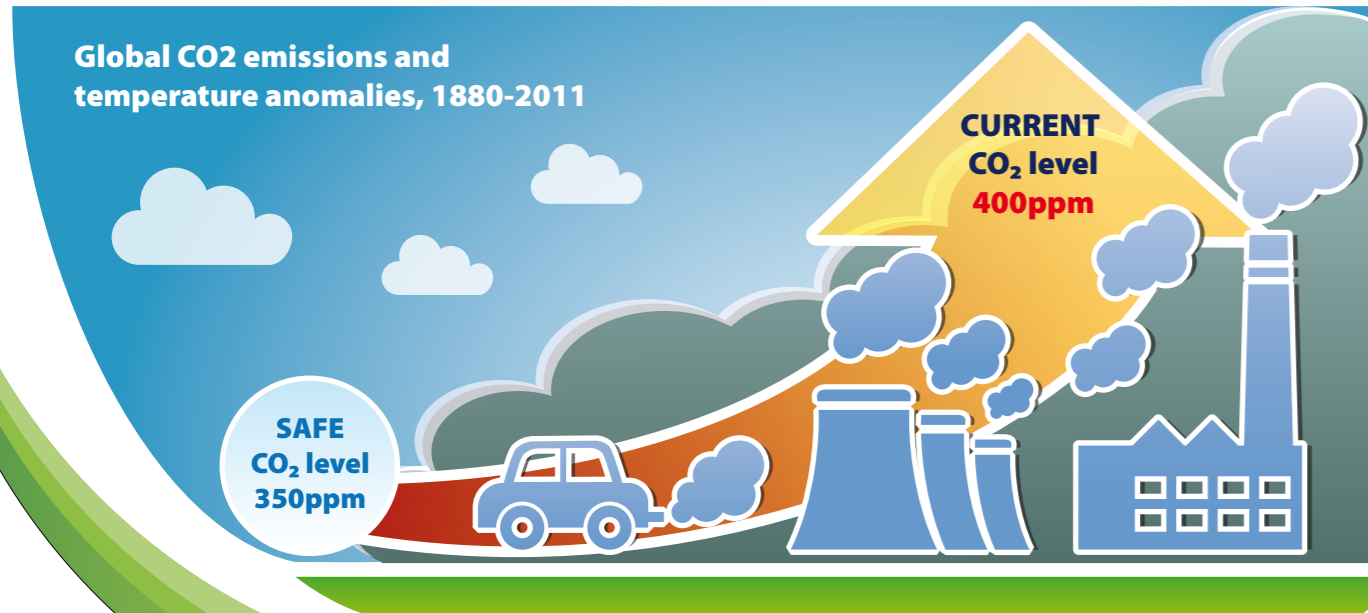
Rise in CO2
CO2 concentrations have increased by 40% since pre-industrial times, primarily from the burning of fossil fuels and secondarily from emissions from net land use change.

The increase of atmospheric CO2 causes the Earth to warm by trapping heat in the atmosphere, known as the greenhouse effect.

Despite all of this knowledge, the world has largely failed to act on reducing emissions.

The maximum "safe" limit of CO2 in the atmosphere is 350ppm, now it is more than 400 ppm and it is rising about 2 ppm per year. By 2100, the IPCC estimates it will reach a level of 500-1000 ppm by 2100 compared to 280 ppm in pre-industrial times.

<http://climate.nasa.gov/evidence>
Source: NOAA



What are the impacts of climate change?

Rising temperatures

Average global temperatures may rise by up to 4.8°C by the end of the century, say leading scientists.

Each of the last three decades has been successively warmer at the Earth's surface than any preceding decade since 1850.

In the Northern Hemisphere, 1983–2012 was likely the warmest 30-year period of the last 1400 years.



Sea level rise

Over the period from 1901 to 2010, global mean sea level rose by 0.19 m, and it may rise by as much as 0.98 m by the end of this century, if global warming is not addressed.

Increasing & intensifying climate extremes

According to the IFRC World Disasters Report 2006 the last ten years saw a double increase in the number of reported weather related natural disasters. Until 1997 this number was around 200 per year. Since then the average number has increased to 400 a year.

More frequent and intense heat waves

Heat waves can lead to heat stroke and dehydration, and are the most common cause of weather-related deaths (USGCRP 2009).



More variable and intense rainfall and greater risk of flooding



Increased maximum wind speed of storms



More frequent and intense drought



Increased risk of wildfires



Biodiversity loss



Changing risks from climate-sensitive diseases

Changes in climate may enhance the spread of some diseases:

- Higher air temperatures can increase cases of salmonella and other bacteria-related food poisoning because bacteria grow more rapidly in warm environments (USGCRP 2009)
- Heavy rainfall or flooding can increase water-borne parasites (USGCRP 2009)

• The geographic range of ticks that carry Lyme disease is limited by temperature. As air temperatures rise, the range of these ticks is likely to continue to expand northward (Confalonieri et al. 2007)



The effects of climate change will continue for decades, even even if emissions of CO2 are stopped

Can we be ready for these changes?

●●●●●▶ **YES!**