



# How climate change has been addressed by forest policy in the WB region

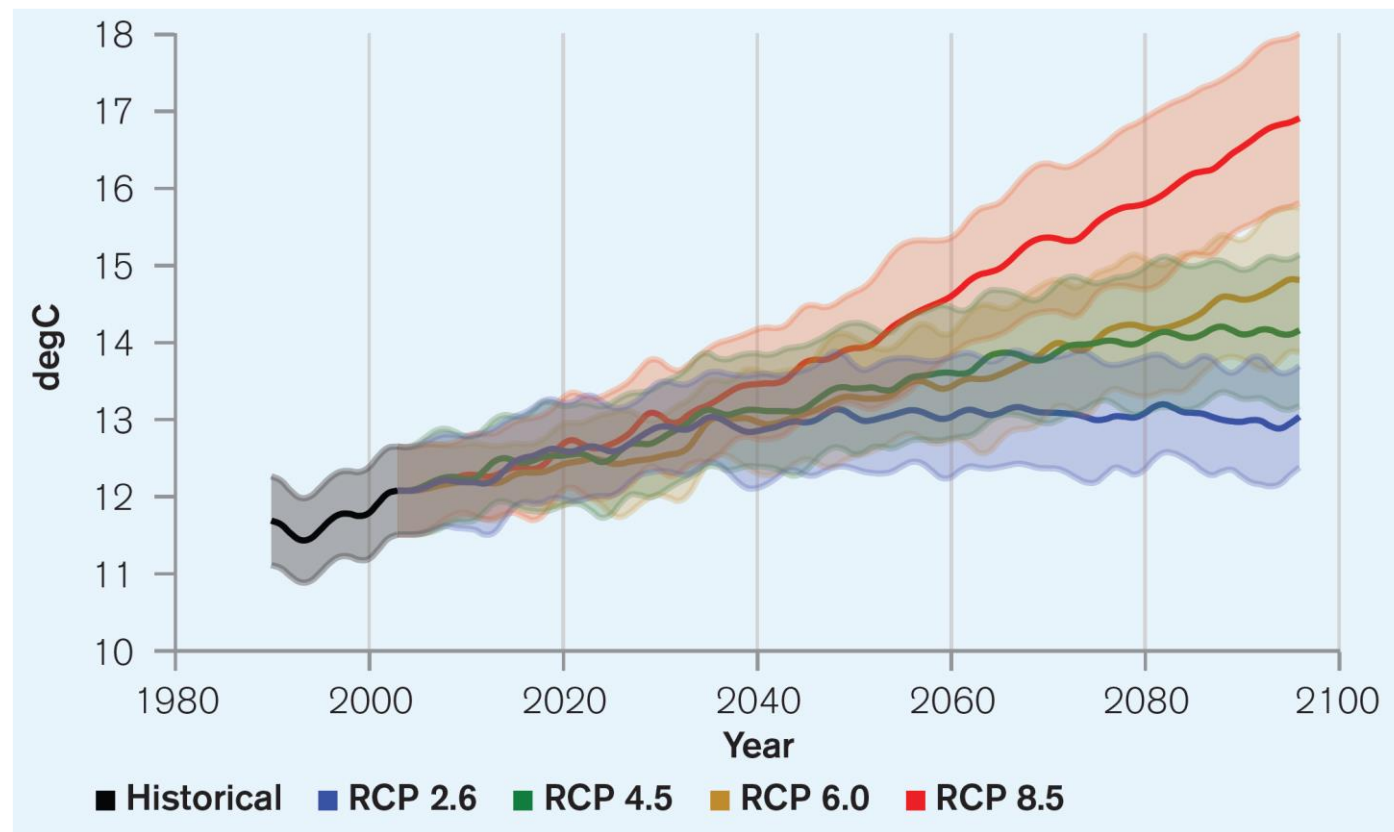
**Country: ALBANIA**

13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> of November,  
Skopje, North Macedonia

## Climate change impacts for forestry

Changes in key forest parameters like temperature

Historical and projected average temperature for Albania from 1986 to 2099





## Climate change impacts for forestry

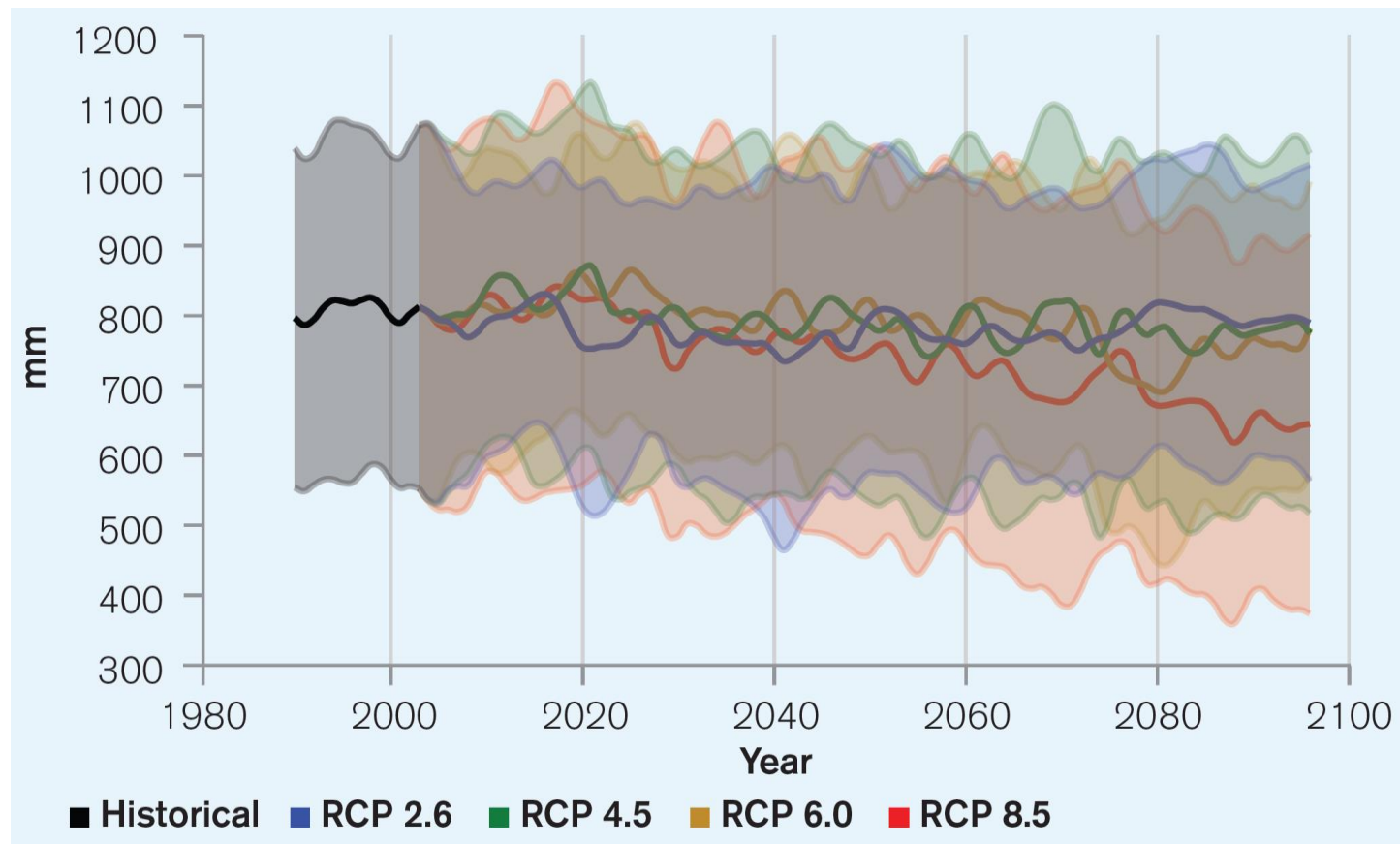
Changes in key forest parameters like temperature

- Temperatures are projected to continue to increase across Albania's with an increase of 2.4°C to 3.1°C during June to August
- Across all emission scenarios, temperatures will continue to increase for Albania throughout the end of the century
- Under a high-emission scenario, average temperatures will increase rapidly by mid-century
- Countrywide projected warming trends, coupled with decreased rainfall, are likely to lead to water stress for the country's drier areas
- Projected temperature changes indicate that more hot days and heat waves will occur, also increases risks of drought and greater fire risks

## Climate change impacts for forestry

Changes in key forest parameters like precipitation

### Annual average precipitation in Albania for 1986 to 2099





## Climate change impacts for forestry

Changes in key forest parameters like precipitation

- The changing dynamics of rainfall in Albania, remain somewhat uncertain
- Albania will continue to experience a high degree of inter-annual rainfall variability.
- A decrease in precipitation is expected (<10%), with the largest decreases occurring from June to September
- However, projected trends suggest a tendency towards milder winters, warmer springs and hotter and drier summers and Autumns
- Annual average precipitation is low and is expected to decrease slightly by the of the century under a high emissions scenario of RCP8.5.

## Addressing Forestry in the National Climate Change Action Plans

# ALBANIA

## NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLAN (NAP) APPROACH:

**Mainstreaming climate change adaptation into relevant sector plans and policies, strategically applying a climate lens to incorporate adaptation priorities into the overarching National Strategy for Development and Integration**

In 2014, the Albanian government established the **Inter Ministerial Working Group on Climate Change (IMWGCC)**, which coordinates all institutions involved in climate change mitigation and adaptation processes and facilitates the integration of climate change into relevant new and existing policies, programs and activities. The IMWGCC includes 15 members representing key ministries and is chaired by the Ministry of Environment, which also holds the lead function for NAP development and implementation.

Albania launched its NAP process in 2015, undertaking a participatory stocktaking workshop to identify and assess institutional arrangements, policies and capacities to improve overall coordination. It also sought to assess existing climate change information and identify gaps and development needs. The national strategy on climate change and two action plans—the NAP document and the national mitigation plan—are expected to be adopted in 2018.

### KEY OBSERVED & ANTICIPATED CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

Heatwaves



Floods



Drought



Rainfall variability



Increasing temperatures



Pests and crop failure



### PRIORITY SECTORS FOR ADAPTATION

Agriculture



Forestry



Tourism



Energy



Settlements



Water





## Addressing Forestry in the National Climate Change Action Plans

### ■ National Adaptation Planning (NAP) to Climate Change in Albania (2019)

*“FOREST” mentioned 5 times*

- In relation to adaptive measures in agricultural sector
- In relation with PES as financial instrument

*“FORESTRY” mentioned 3 times*

- In relation to adaption actions in agriculture

*“AFFORESTATION” mentioned 2 times*

- In relation to adaption actions in coastal ecosystems



## Addressing Forestry in the National Climate Change Action Plans

### ■ Albania Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC, 2021)

Planned adaption measures includes:

- ⇒ *Institutional adaption measures*
- ⇒ *Livelihood adaption measures*
- ⇒ *Risk Reduction and Management for Resilience*

In total are foreseen:

- ⇒ *76 Adaption Measures for the forest sector*
- ⇒ *65 of them with “Very High” priority level*

## **Addressing Forestry in the National Climate Change Action Plans**

### **■ National Fourth Communication to UNFCCC (2022)**

Following measures are foreseen for the forestry sector:

- ⇒ Implementation of agro-forestry practices on agriculture lands
- ⇒ Implementing new afforestation areas
- ⇒ Improving management and monitoring to prevent wildfires
- ⇒ Improve fuelwood combustion through improving technology efficiency
- ⇒ Improve forest biomass utilization
- ⇒ Improve the sustainable forest management
- ⇒ Improve forest management by managing pests and diseases



## Role of Forestry in other sectorial policies

### ■ Strategy for Agriculture, Rural development and Fisheries “2021-2027”

*Recognize the role of SFM in climate change mitigation/ adaptions, biodiversity protection and rural development*

### ■ National Energy and Climate Plan,

There are two Policies and Measures related to forestry, namely:

- (i) (G-LF1) Increasing the natural carbon sink capacity of forestry and pastures*
- (ii) (G-LF2) Environmentally friendly forest management*

## Is climate change recognized by forest policy ?

### ■ “ON THE POLICIES OF THE FOREST SECTOR IN ALBANIA -2030”

- ⇒ the main forest sector policy document approved by the Albanian Government 28.12.2018
- ⇒ the objective is to efficiently to build Albania’s climate resilience through appropriate climate change adaptation and mitigation actions
- ⇒ the degree of integration of adaptation issues into the Policy Document for Forests in Albania **was evaluated as weak** (NAP Progress report)

### ■ Law No. 57/2020 “On Forests”

- ⇒ Mentions climate change but not adaptation to climate change specifically

**Forest policy  
measures for climate  
change mitigation  
and adaptation**



## ■ "ON THE POLICIES OF THE FOREST SECTOR IN ALBANIA -2030"

### Policy Statement No. 3 "FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF THE FOREST SECTOR":

Action 3.3: Attracting donor funds and contribution to climate change ...

### Policy Statement No. 5 "KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM & HUMAN CAPACITIES":

5.1 Focusing on applied and innovative research ..., setting up a Balkan Research Center in Albania (within funds for wide-ranging projects on climate change)

**Forest policy  
measures for climate  
change mitigation  
and adaptation**



## **Policy Statement No. 6 "INFRASTRUCTURE & TECHNOLOGY":**

⇒ ALFIS, NFI, Forest monitoring

## **Policy Statement No. 7 "USE OF WOOD FOR ENERGY & INDUSTRY":**

## **Policy Statement No. 10 "FOREST PROTECTION":**

⇒ Wildfires protection measures  
⇒ Pests & diseases control measures

## **Policy Statement No. 12 "FOREST REGENERATION":**

⇒ Natural regeneration  
⇒ Afforestation/reforestation measures



## **National System for Climate Change data MRV**

- A national system for climate change data measurement reporting and verification (MRV) needs to be established
- At present, the establishment of a national MRV system in compliance with the UNFCCC and EU acquis requirements is one of the policy objectives of the Albanian National Climate Change Strategy and National Mitigation Plan 2021- 2030
- Law no.155/2020 “On climate change” (2021) defines the national MRV of climate change data, and determines the general institutional arrangements related to it



## **National System for Climate Change data MRV**

- A package of sub-legal acts pursuant to the law needs to be prepared, consulted, endorsed and proposed for adoption to the Council of Ministers within July 2025
- it includes national methods, administrative structures, procedures and data sharing processes, and the sub-legal act specifically regulating the system
- At the same time, the technical capacities of the national stakeholders to implement the system need to be built



## **Gaps in current forest policy regarding climate change challenges**

- Forest policy not harmonized with the National Climate Change strategy and action plan
- The right time to review it with a focus on addressing the CC challenges and under a cross-sectorial approach
- Make functional ALFIS (Albanian Forest Monitoring and Information System)
- Strongly support basic research in forestry, including research infrastructure and human capacities
- Adopt a “Close to Nature” Forest Management approach

## Next steps

### EU4FORESTS

#### ⇒ **PRIORITY AREAS**

*IPA III Window 3 – Green Agenda and Sustainable Connectivity*

*IPA III Thematic Priority 1: Environment and climate change*

- (i) direct impact on bringing Albania environmental protection standards and climate change policies in line with EU requirements and policy priorities and
- (ii) directly contributes to the related indicator: Greenhouse gas emissions.

## Next steps

### EU4FORESTS

#### ⇒ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

*Main SDG: GOAL 13 – Climate Action:*

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

*GOAL 15 – Life on Land:*

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.