



# LEVERS Major levers in climate change adaptation in Austria

ACRP 15<sup>th</sup> Call, Nov 2023 – Oct 2025



ACRP 05

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## Project Objectives

- Identifying key risks for Austria**, in strong coordination with the ongoing **Second Austrian Assessment Report (AAR2)** and using the **burning ember methodology** from IPCC AR6 WGII Chapter 16.
- Co-developing adaptation pathways with local adaptation stakeholders for three representative case study regions in Austria**, discussing which sequence of adaptation bundles provide the best adaptation lever and why, considering existing path dependencies.
- Developing a hands-on guidance** on how the approach of combining burning-embers and adaptation pathways can be applied in other adaptation regions in Austria and beyond.

## Key Research Questions

- Which (bundles of) **measures should be prioritized for implementation** because they are particularly **effective and feasible** and therefore have the greatest lever?
- How can **windows of opportunity**, such as budget cycles or planning processes, be used best?
- What is the **best timely sequencing** of measures, including the consideration of **lead times**?
- When does a measure become **ineffective or infeasible** (adaptation limit) and should therefore be replaced by more transformational measures?

## Approach

### WP2 Identification of Key Risks

- Existing knowledge on climate change impacts and risks are evaluated and the key risks for Austria are derived.
- Top-down information from IPCC AR6 and the First EU Climate Risk Assessment by the EEA is combined with a bottom-up identification and clustering of key risks in AAR2.

### WP3 Priorization of Adaptation Options and Combinations

- For the identified key risks, adaptation measures and bundles are prioritized based on the available scientific synthesis on effectiveness and feasibility.

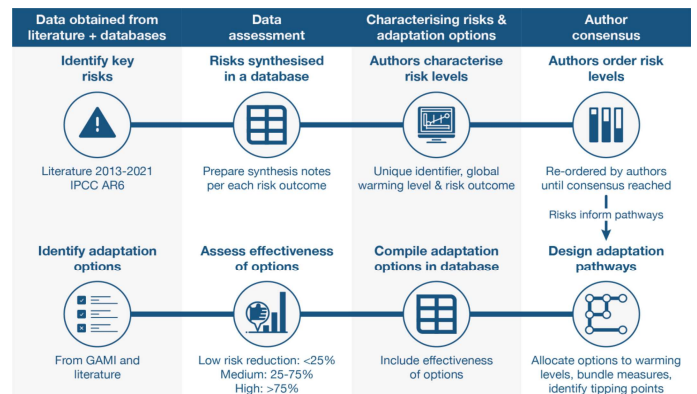
### WP4 Adaptation Pathways for Case Studies

- Three representative regions: Retzer Land, StadtLandSee Bruck/Kapfenberg/Tragöß/St. Lorenzen, and city of Linz.
- Adaptation pathways with a time sequence of adaptation measures and bundles will be developed in case study workshops using future workshops and backcasting.

### WP5 Upscaling to Austria and Lessons Learned

- Adaptation pathways will be transferred to other Austrian regions.
- A hands-on guidance will be developed and policy recommendations will be derived.

## Method



## First Results

### Preliminary List of 4 Representative Key Risks for Austria:

- Mortality and morbidity of people due to heat.
- Loss in agriculture and forestry and ecosystem disruptions due to combined heat and droughts.
- Water scarcity, including lack of snow, to tourism and other sectors (energy, industry, water).
- Impacts of riverine and pluvial floods and mass movements on people, infrastructure and the economy.

## Next Steps

- March/April 2024:** Data extraction on key risk evaluation completed.
- March/April 2024:** Design and conceptualization of stakeholder workshops and stakeholder integration.
- April/May 2024:** Burning embers workshops with 3-5 experts jointly with APCC Core Key Risk Team (online) & in person consolidation meeting.
- June 2024:** Submission of burning embers to AAR2.
- Sep 2024:** Workshop on effectiveness, feasibility and prioritization of adaptation options.
- Dec 2024/Jan 2025:** Stakeholder workshops in case study regions.



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