

134th Session of the Committee of Ministers (Luxembourg, 13-14 May 2025)

Action Plan on the Environment

Background

The 4th Summit committed the Council of Europe to strengthening its work in the field of the environment, including its human rights aspects with the aim of making it a visible priority for the Organisation, as laid out in Appendix V of the Reykjavík Declaration on “The Council of Europe and the environment”. As a follow-up, the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers established an Ad Hoc Multidisciplinary Group on the Environment (GME), including member States as well as Participants and Observers representing a wide range of bodies and institutions, international intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations.

The GME was entrusted with the preparation of “a draft Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment and a related Action Plan for its implementation in accordance with the Reykjavík Declaration, focusing on areas where the Council of Europe has a comparative advantage and/or unique legal instruments and expertise, ensuring an inclusive consultation process, and leveraging synergies with partners and stakeholders with a view to providing added value”.

As the Strategy on the Environment, this Action Plan has been informed by: a) the challenges and needs identified by the GME, b) the exchanges of views held with key stakeholders and c) the Compendium on the Council Europe’s environment activities (GME(2024)2rev). It shows the actions undertaken and planned by various Council of Europe sectors, bodies and institutions as a follow-up to the to the Reykjavík Declaration and as a contribution to the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment. Their integration in the Programme of Activities follows their respective decision-making processes and is to be considered in the context of the Organisations’ Programme and Budget cycle.

Approach

Each action in this Action Plan is allocated to one of the five strategic objectives, even if it may be contributing to achieving other objectives as well. Information on the expected results, internal and external partners is also provided. In line with the Council of Europe’s commitment towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, each strategic objective identifies the most relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)¹ to be considered.

Two separate sections (on mainstreaming and on coordination and communication) are added to ensure visibility of the efforts deployed to implement these important aspects of the 4th Summit’s mandate.

This Action Plan is designed as a living tool allowing for the integration of new actions as they emerge. By clearly outlining concrete steps for implementation, the Action Plan also serves as a practical tool to track progress and facilitate reporting.

¹ Goal 1. No Poverty, Goal 2. Zero Hunger, Goal 3. Good Health and Well-being, Goal 4. Quality Education, Goal 5. Gender Equality, Goal 6. Clean Water and Sanitation, Goal 7. Affordable and Clean Energy, Goal 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth, Goal 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, Goal 10. Reduced Inequality, Goal 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities, Goal 12. Responsible Consumption and Production, Goal 13. Climate Action, Goal 14. Life Below Water, Goal 15. Life on Land, Goal 16. Peace and Justice Strong Institutions, Goal 17. Partnerships for the Goals.

Strategic Objective 1

Integrating human rights considerations in environment-related strategies, instruments, legislation, policies and actions, and vice versa.



Action 1.1

Examination of the implementation of the Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)20 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on human rights and the protection of the environment.

Expected Results:

- The Committee of Ministers is informed of developments at national level covered by the provisions of CM/Rec(2022)20.
- Member States are encouraged to make further efforts, where necessary and possible, to implement the provisions of the recommendation in national strategies, legislation, policy, and practice.
- Human rights, both substantive and procedural, are better protected at national level in the environmental context.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

Steering Committee on Human Rights (CDDH); Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights (Commissioner), Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations of the Council of Europe (CINGO).

External Partners:

OHCHR, European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

Action 1.2

Adoption by PACE of reports with a major environment dimension (Right to housing; Guidelines for a sustainable and socially fair energy transition; Food security in times of crises; Right to water and sanitation) including draft resolutions addressed to member States and draft recommendations addressed to the Committee of Ministers.

Expected Results:

- The Committee of Ministers takes into account PACE recommendations.
- National parliaments address the issues raised by PACE and take steps to implement its recommendations.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

PACE, European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR), CDDH.

External Partners:

National parliaments, UN Special Rapporteur on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food, UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, CSOs.

Action 1.3

Organisation of events to promote reports on environment in national parliaments and raise awareness among parliamentarians on the right to a healthy environment, CoE legal instruments and monitoring mechanisms: events in selected national parliaments in follow-up to the Assembly's resolutions on environment related issues, visit of the Tournée du Climat et de la Biodiversité at PACE.

Expected Results:

National parliamentarians are better informed to take action at national level, ensuring proper follow-up to PACE Resolutions.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

PACE, PACE Parliamentary Network for a healthy environment, CINGO.

External Partners:

National parliaments, FAO, UN Special Rapporteur on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, CSOs.

Action 1.4

Targeted questions are included in the context of the European Social Charter's regular and ad hoc reporting procedures on: 1) impact of environmental degradation and climate change on social rights; 2) measures taken by the States Parties to address this impact.

Expected Results:

- Increased knowledge and visibility of impact of the environmental degradation on social rights.
- Increased knowledge and visibility of actions that States Parties are taking or could take to limit that impact, especially for persons and groups in vulnerable situations.
- Development of standards on social rights and climate change/other environmental degradation issues providing overall guidance on measures to be taken to ensure protection of rights at stake through conclusions, statements of interpretation, ad hoc reviews by the ECSR.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

ECSR, Governmental Committee of the European Social Charter and the European Code of Social Security (GC).

External Partners:

Third parties (CSOs, including Youth organisations, social partners, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), and Equality Bodies) submitting comments on the States' reports.

Action 1.5

Support States Parties in implementing ESC rights taking into account their environmental dimension and the need to protect the rights of persons in vulnerable situations and/or exposed to discrimination, including through co-operation activities in different States Parties.

Expected Results:

- Better implementation and increased protection of rights at national level.
- Increased awareness among duty bearers and beneficiaries/rights holders.
- Strengthened accountability of duty bearers.
- Exchange of best practices to inspire action.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

ECSR, GC.

External Partners:

CSOs, including Youth organisations, NHRIs, Equality bodies, social partners, Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB).

Action 1.6

A study prepared by Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) on the impact of the triple planetary crisis of pollution, climate change and loss of biodiversity on persons exposed to discrimination on the grounds covered by CDADI and measures to prevent and alleviate such impact.

Expected Results:

Identification of the impact of the environmental crisis on members of the minority groups which fall under the mandate of the CDADI: migrants and people with a migration background, Roma and Travellers, ethnic, linguistic and national minorities, as well as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons, and whether they are disproportionately affected by this crisis.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

CDADI, Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM), European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), CINGO.

External Partners:

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA); European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI) and European Network of Equality Bodies (Equinet); Amnesty International; European Network Against Racism (ENAR); Ligue Internationale Contre le Racisme et l'Antisémitisme (LICRA); European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI); European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERAC); European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC); Assembly of European Regions (AER); ILGA Europe; academic, professional and business communities.

Action 1.7

Support education and capacity-building on the environment, the triple planetary crisis, and the interlinkage between sustainable development and respect for human rights (children, young people, legal professionals, businesses, civil society, administrations at all levels of governance, etc.). Promote and strengthen educational and awareness-raising activities, using both formal and non-formal methodologies.

Expected Results:

Access created to tailored resources for education and learning aimed at, and with, children and youth concerning environmental issues, embedding environmental rights and climate justice within programmes on education for democratic citizenship and human rights education, such as the Human Rights Education Youth Programme.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

Joint Council on Youth (CMJ), Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ), European Youth Centres, CINGO.

External Partners:

CSOs, including Youth organisations.

Action 1.8

Support the implementation of the CM/Rec(2024)6 of the Committee of Ministers on young people and climate action in member States, by raising awareness, building capacity, and providing funding opportunities to youth civil society

Expected Results:

- In member States, authorities responsible for youth are informed of the Recommendation, with its translation into several national languages supported by the Council of Europe.
- Member states are encouraged to take actions as appropriate in line with the CM Recommendation to ensure meaningful participation in climate-related decision-making processes by engaging in dialogue with young people and by establishing accessible consultation mechanisms.
- Thanks to the funding received from the European Youth Foundation (EYF), youth civil society organisations and young people are empowered to participate, take action and support climate action in line with the CM Recommendation.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

Joint Council on Youth, Advisory Council on Youth, European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ), European Youth Foundation, European Youth Centres.

External Partners:

European Youth Forum, national and international youth CSOs, national ministries and agencies responsible for youth.

Strategic Objective 2

Strengthening good democratic governance



Action 2.1

Collection of good practices in Council of Europe member States on publication of information relating to the environment by public authorities on their own initiative as well as upon request.

Expected Results:

Member States are better informed about practices which comply with international standards on transparency in the public sector as regards environmental information, notably the Tromsø and the Aarhus Conventions.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

CDDH, Council of Europe Access Info Group.

External Partners:

Monitoring bodies of the Aarhus Convention, CSOs.

Action 2.2

Building upon the analysis of existing frameworks, development of a guidance document “Applying the Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture (RFCDC) to Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)”

Expected Results:

Education policymakers, educators at the pre-primary, primary and secondary school levels; and non-formal educators working with learners of all ages are better equipped to apply the RFCDC to ESD.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

Steering Committee for Education (CDEDU).

External Partners:

Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe, European Students' Union, Federation for European Education, Lifelong Learning Platform, Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions.

Action 2.3

Development of the "Education in times of emergencies and crisis toolkit" (EDURES), a policy-making tool for education actors that aims to strengthen the resilience and responsiveness of education in the face of crises and emergencies, ensuring the continuation of quality education and mitigating impact of crises and emergencies on vulnerable groups.

Expected Results:

The EDURES toolkit will enable public authorities to assess the resilience of education systems and to identify areas of improvement. More broadly, it will ensure that interventions in education complement emergency and resilience planning at the community level, allowing for collaboration between all community actors.

Council of Europe bodies:

CDEDU.

External Partners:

Albania, Italy (Friuli-Venezia-Giulia region), ISIG (Institute of International Sociology in Gorizia, Italy).

Action 2.4

Development of a European Space for Citizenship Education to sustain democracy through quality citizenship through a two-year co-creation process. Education for Sustainable development will be part of this new European Space. The result will be considered at the next Standing Conference of Ministers of Education in 2026/2027.

Expected Results:

- The new European Space for Citizenship Education will foster a higher level of commitment to democratic values and principles in member States, facilitating the promotion of quality citizenship education and international cooperation with this aim.
- Member States will be better equipped to prepare active and responsible citizens and to address current and emerging challenges.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

CDEDU, Education Policy Advisors Network (EPAN), PACE and at a later stage, other CoE bodies.

External Partners:

German Ministry of Foreign Affairs; civil society networks, including Democracy and Human Rights Education in Europe (DARE), teacher and student organisations, CSOs, academics and research institutes including the IEA (International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement).

Action 2.5

Preparation of a study on equal participation of women and men in political and public decision-making, which will include a focus on decision-making in environmental matters.

Expected Results:

Enhanced understanding of equal participation of women and men in decision-making, including on environmental matters.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

Gender Equality Commission (GEC), CINGO, Steering Committee on Democracy (CDDEM), PACE.

External Partners:

CSOs, including Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE) Network, University Women of Europe, European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE).

Action 2.6

Address the impact of the triple planetary crisis of pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss on European Social Charter (ESC) rights, social equity, climate justice at the High-Level Conference on the ESC.

Expected Results:

- Provision of guidance to States Parties.
- Increased awareness and strengthened accountability.
- Increased exchange of good practices.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

ECSR, GC, CM, PACE, Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (Congress), CINGO, Advisory Council on Youth, other relevant CoE bodies.

External Partners:

EU, UN, ILO, CSOs, social partners, NHRIs and Equality Bodies.

Action 2.7

Preparation of a set of tools, such as videos and other child-friendly educational material for youth and children on the European Social Charter rights related to the environment.

Expected Results:

Tools developed contribute to empowering children and youth, to improving their effective and safe access to justice, and their participation in decision making processes.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

ECSR, GC, Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF), Advisory Council on Youth, Joint Council on Youth, PACE.

External Partners:

EU, UN, Youth CSOs, NHRIs.

Action 2.8

Promote inclusive dialogue and meaningful participation with civil society, social partners, in the context of transition to a green economy and other environment-related matters through conferences, seminars, discussions, reports and studies with the active participation of civil society organisations and social partners. Promote civil society and social partner's involvement in decision-making, including in impact assessment processes.

Expected Results:

Increased participation of rights holders in the design, implementation and evaluation of measures adopted in the context of transition to a green economy and other environment-related matters.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

ECSR, GC, CINGO, PACE.

External Partners:

EU, ILO, CSOs, social partners.

Action 2.9

Follow-up and reflection on the possible revision of the CM Recommendation (2016)3 on human rights and business with the aim of considering the incorporation of corporate environmental responsibility requirements.

Expected Results:

National parliamentarians are in a position to ensure proper follow up to Resolution (2396)2021 on Anchoring the right to a healthy environment: need for enhanced action by the Council of Europe.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

PACE, Parliamentary Network for a healthy environment, CINGO.

External Partners:

UNDP, OECD, Member States, International organisations (including ICC), CSOs.

Action 2.10

Development of a tool for member States' judicial administrations to integrate sustainability practices in their functioning, taking also into consideration digitalised practices and their impact on the environment.

Expected Results:

Recommended practices are taken by judiciaries contributing to a decrease in the environmental impact of member States' courts functioning.

Council of Europe bodies involved: European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ).

Action 2.11

Setting up a specific CEPEJ evaluation exercise on environmental justice (including related to effective access to justice and remedies in environmental issues, efficiency of justice in environment-related cases, execution of judgments).

Expected Results:

Progress achieved at national levels concerning environmental justice is monitored.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

CEPEJ.

External Partners:

Member States (through national correspondents).

Action 2.12

Preparation of a draft Additional Protocol to the European Charter of Local Self-Government – a Protocol dedicated to environmental protection at local level.

Expected Results:

Submission to the CM of a recommendation on the adoption of an Additional Protocol to the European Charter of Local Self-Government.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

Congress, Council of Europe body to be decided by the CM.

Action 2.13

Adoption and implementation of a report on “Water resources under stress: towards better local and regional governance”.

Expected Results:

Provide guidance to member States to ensure that local and regional governments have the knowledge and tools required to work together to address water resource issues including flooding, water shortages and water pollution.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

Congress.

External Partners:

National, regional and local authorities in the member States.

Action 2.14

Adoption and promotion of the implementation of a Report on coastal erosion.

Expected Results:

- Help ensure that local and regional authorities are aware and equipped to put in place adaptation and mitigation strategies and actions for living resiliently with coastal erosion in our changing climate, and in the context of multilevel governance.
- Guidance for approaches promoting shared responsibilities and collaboration in risk management between national and local authorities as they respond to the threat / reality of coastal erosion.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

Congress.

External Partners:

National, regional and local authorities in member States.

Strategic Objective 3

Supporting and protecting Environmental Human Rights Defenders, Environmental Defenders and Whistle Blowers



Action 3.1

Protection of environmental human rights defenders: Examination of the implementation of the relevant provisions in the Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)20 to member States on human rights and the protection of the environment.

Expected Results:

- The Committee of Ministers is informed of developments at national level covered by the provisions of CM/Rec(2022)20.
- Member States are encouraged to make further efforts, where necessary, to implement the provisions of the recommendation relating to environmental human rights defenders.
- Member States' consultation and co-operation with environmental human rights defenders is enhanced.
- The use, where appropriate, of the Private Office procedure on human rights defenders interacting with the Council of Europe.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

CDDH; PACE, Commissioner, Private Office, CINGO, Advisory Council on Youth.

External Partners:

OHCHR, ENNHRI, CSOs, including Children and Youth organisations.

Action 3.2

Follow-up meeting between PACE and the Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders under the Aarhus Convention on action by national parliaments.

Expected Results:

National parliamentarians receive further guidance to support human rights defenders and follow-up to Resolution 2396(2021) on Anchoring the right to a healthy environment: need for enhanced action by the Council of Europe and to Resolution 2554 (2024) on protecting women human rights defenders in Europe.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

PACE, Parliamentary Network for a healthy environment, CINGO.

External Partners:

Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders under the Aarhus Convention.

Action 3.3

Organisation of the pre-event to the Conference of the Presidents of Parliaments on Youth for Planet Protection: A Call to Action.

Expected Results:

Presidents of the national parliaments take into account young people's voices to develop national policies for a sustainable future.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

PACE, Advisory Council on Youth.

External Partners:

Presidents of Parliaments, Environmental Human Rights Defenders, Climate Activists.

Action 3.4

Support to member States in the implementation of the Recommendation CM/Rec(2024)6 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on young people and climate action, particularly in relation to protecting the rights of human rights defenders.

Expected Results:

Member States are encouraged to make further efforts, where necessary, to implement the provisions of the recommendation relating to environmental human rights defenders so that the latter can carry out their important role in accordance with the fundamental rights enshrined in the ECHR, in particular freedom of expression (Article 10), freedom of assembly and association (Article 11) and the right to a fair trial (Article 6), as well as the provision of free, accessible legal and judicial support in instances of arrest, and respect of the rights to prohibition of torture, a fair trial and the principle of no punishment without law. In particular, member States are encouraged to ensure the equitable and just treatment of young people following an assessment of policies and practices, by providing the necessary training to and protocols for police and law-enforcement agencies in particular with regard to the distinctive forms of gatherings, demonstrations and advocacy efforts favoured by environmental defenders.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

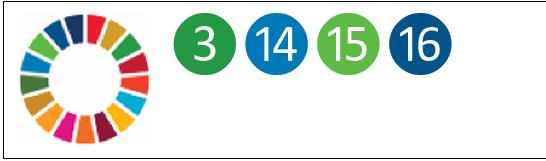
CDEJ, Advisory Council on Youth.

External Partners:

Agencies responsible for Youth, CSOs, European Youth Forum, NHRIs.

Strategic Objective 4

Preventing and prosecuting environment-related crimes



Action 4.1

Promotion of the signature, ratification and implementation of the CoE Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law.

Expected Results:

- The CoE Convention on the protection of the environment through criminal law enters into force following ten ratifications (including eight member States).
- Within a year of the entry into force of the Convention, the monitoring body (the Committee of the Parties) starts working, strengthening co-operation between the Parties to ensure proper and effective implementation of the Convention.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

PACE, Parliamentary Network for a healthy environment, Committee of experts on the protection of the environment through Criminal Law (PC-ENV), European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC).

External Partners:

Member States, EU, CSOs.

Action 4.2

The provision of guidance for the development of comprehensive policies and national strategies for the prevention and prosecution of environment-related crimes.

Expected Results:

- Design, promotion and implementation of interventions to provide guidance for the development of national strategies, resulting in at least five national strategies developed by the end of 2027.
- The guidance clearly identifies measures to be taken by different actors and agencies to ensure an effective response to environmental-related crimes. Since administrative and criminal law enforcement are complementary and interdependent, a clear understanding of what might be the criminal and administrative measures in response to environmental crime are to be set out, and co-operation between all criminal and administrative law enforcement authorities should be promoted to ensure such an effective response.
- Examples of effective strategies on combatting environmental-related crimes will be provided, including setting of objectives and priorities, roles and responsibilities of competent authorities, resources needed, and mechanisms of regular evaluation of results, and links with international networks working on matters directly relevant to the prevention and prosecution of environment-related crimes.

Council of Europe bodies Involved:

CDPC, Consultative Council of European Judges, Consultative Council of European Prosecutors.

External Partners:

National authorities, international organisations (e.g. UNODC), EU as a partner and donor, CSOs involved during the negotiations of the Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law.

Action 4.3

Development of cooperation on the role of judges and prosecutors in environment-related cases.

Expected Results:

- Increased number of trained and specialised judges and prosecutors in environment-related cases.
- A clear and more uniform understanding of the role played by judges and prosecutors in environment-related cases in order to maximise the professionalism and effectiveness of the enforcement chain, performed by means of co-operation mechanisms to exchange best practices and information.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

CDPC, Consultative Council of European Judges, Consultative Council of European Prosecutors (CCPE), legal professional networks.

External partners:

Judiciary, Law Enforcement authorities, Judges' and Prosecutors' Academies and Legal Professionals Networks such as the European Judicial Training Network, and European Judicial network, EuroJust.

Action 4.4

Exploring measures to enhance corporate accountability.

Expected Results:

Measures are explored through co-operation and information-sharing, with the aim to provide for a common pan-European approach to ensure/enhance corporate accountability, and fight impunity minimizing the risk of forum shopping.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

CDPC.

External Partners:

National authorities, International Organisations (including ICC, UNODC), CSOs.

Strategic Objective 5

Protecting wildlife, ecosystems, habitats and landscapes



Action 5.1

Launching the 9th Session of the Landscape Award (2025-2026) and awarding a new project.

Expected Results:

- Through the award, awareness is raised on the importance of landscapes, and exemplary practices in the implementation of the Landscape Convention will be show-cased.
- Greater public participation in the decision-making process concerning landscape policies is encouraged.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

Standing Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP).

External Partners:

National, regional and local authorities, CSOs, local communities.

Action 5.2

Adoption and promotion of the implementation of a Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers on “Landscape and Health”.

Expected Results:

- Political recognition of the strong connection between landscape and health.
- The Parties to the Council of Europe Landscape Convention receive guidance on how to integrate landscape and health considerations in their policies, as well as other policies with possible direct or indirect impact on the landscape and health.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

CDCPP.

External Partners:

UNESCO, OECD, OSCE, EFTA, ALECSO, UNECE, ICCROM, Professional Associations/Foundations, CSOs.

Action 5.3

Informal Ministerial Conference on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Landscape Convention.

Expected Results:

- Strengthening of the Landscape Convention and alignment with the priorities outlined in the Reykjavík Declaration.
- Showcasing the Convention's successes inspires action within member States and helps to outline the Convention's future trajectory.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

CDCPP.

External Partners:

Italian Ministry of Culture, local and regional authorities.

Action 5.4

Preparation and adoption of a draft Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers on "Landscape, a living environment".

Expected Results:

- Defining what constitutes a 'living environment,' with consideration of democratic participation and the balance between rights related to landscape and the environment.
- Provision of guidance for enhancing the involvement of local communities in planning and management of land-use, increasing the adaptability of landscape to natural hazards, the preservation and restoration of natural habitats.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

CDCPP, CINGO.

External Partners:

UNESCO, OECD, OSCE, EFTA, ALECSO, UNECE, ICCROM, Professional Associations/Foundations, CSOs, including Youth organisations.

Action 5.5

Reinforcing the impact of the Bern Convention, in particular in the context of the case-file system.

Expected Results:

- Specific recommendations from individual Case Files are followed up and acted upon;
- Cases are resolved and closed within a reasonable timeframe, taking into account any advice provided by the Standing Committee.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

Standing Committee of the Bern Convention.

External Partners:

European Commission, Civil Society Complainants.

Action 5.6

Development of guidelines and considering adoption of a recommendation by the Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement on strengthening public access to information and public participation in decision-making.

Expected Results:

The guidelines and a recommendation will assist member States in enhancing public access to science-based information and promoting inclusive public participation in decision-making processes related to reducing vulnerability, as well as improving protection and preparedness against major natural and technological hazards.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

Committee of Permanent Correspondents and network of scientific centres to the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement, CINGO, Joint Council on Youth.

External Partners:

UN Disaster Risk Reduction, European Commission (DG ECHO), CSOs, including Youth organisations.

Action 5.7

Preparation of a study to assess the relevance of the animal welfare conventions.

Expected Results:

- The study will present the status and added value of the existing CoE conventions on farming, transport and experimentation of animals.
- The results will guide decisions concerning the promotion of these conventions.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

Future Intergovernmental Multidisciplinary Committee / Secretariat.

External Partners:

EU, OIE, CSOs.

Action 5.8

Promote the implementation of the measures included in the Report on “Local and regional responses to natural disasters and climate hazards: from risk preparedness to resilience”.

Expected Results:

Guidance prompts coordination of all levels of governance in member States to work in solidarity to ensure the preparedness, information and coordination required to mitigate the impact of natural disasters and climate hazards.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

Congress.

External Partners

National, regional and local authorities in the member States.

Action 5.9

Support for the implementation of the recommendations included in the report on “Fostering a circular economy at local and regional levels”.

Expected Results:

Local and regional governments are guided and better able to promote the circular economy as a model for longevity and the proper use of natural resources at sub-national level. The objective is to address environmental and economic sustainability and strengthen the realisation of human rights by promoting equitable resource distribution, fostering inclusive participation in economic opportunities, and supporting healthier environment.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

Congress.

External Partners:

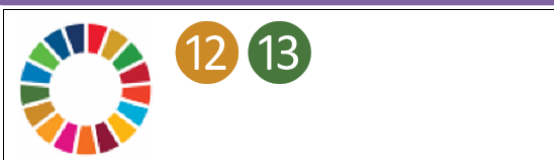
Local and regional authorities in the member States.

Mainstreaming of Environmental objectives and concerns in Council of Europe governance and operations

Action M.1

Implementation of the Road map for sustainable development and carbon footprint reduction within the Council of Europe and of the Action Plan for sustainable development within the Council of Europe.

- CM(2024)178 : Road map for sustainable development and carbon footprint reduction within the Council of Europe: presentation of the carbon footprint, carbon trajectory and action plan
- Action Plan for sustainable development and carbon footprint reduction within the Council of Europe.

**Expected Results:**

More sustainable practices and reduced carbon footprint thanks to changes in consumption patterns, travel policy, purchasing goods and services policy, choice of materials, energy efficiency, etc.

CoE bodies involved:

Directorate General of Administration (DGA) in cooperation with relevant services (Sustainable Development Study Group (GEDD)).

Coordination, consultation and communication



Action C.1

Development of a specific web pages on the Environment.

Expected Results:

Access to environment-related standards, policies and developments is facilitated.

CoE bodies involved:

Secretariat of the Reykjavík Process, Directorate of Communications and other sectors concerned.

Action C.2

Publication of a (ISBN) book featuring key aspects of the Council of Europe work in the field of the environment (key treaties, case law and decisions of monitoring bodies, key recommendations, the Strategy, etc.).

Expected Results:

Increased visibility of Council of Europe work in this field.

Council of Europe bodies involved:

Directorate of Communications, Secretariat of the Reykjavík Process, other sectors concerned.

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ALECSO	Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization
CCPE	Consultative Council of European Prosecutors
CDADI	Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion
CDCPP	Standing Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape
CDDEM	Steering Committee on Democracy
CDDH	Steering Committee for Human Rights
CDEDU	Steering Committee for Education
CDEJ	European Steering Committee for Youth
CDENF	Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child
CDPC	European Committee on Crime Problems
CEB	Council of Europe Development Bank
CEPEJ	European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice
CINGO	Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations of the Council of Europe
CM	Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe
CMJ/CCJ	Joint Council on Youth/Advisory Council on Youth
CoE	Council of Europe
Commissioner	Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights
Congress	Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DARE	Democracy and Human Rights Education in Europe
DGA	Directorate General of Administration
ECHR	European Convention on Human Rights
ECMI	European Centre for Minority Issues
ECRI	European Commission against Racism and Intolerance
ECSR	European Committee of Social Rights
EDQM	European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & Health Care
EDURES Toolkit	Education Resilience in times of emergencies and crisis toolkit
ENAR	European Network Against Racism
ENNHRI	European Network of National Human Rights Institutions
EQUINET	European Network of Equality Bodies
ERAC	European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture
ERRC	European Roma Rights Centre
ESC	European Social Charter
ESD	Education for sustainable development (UNESCO's education sector)
EU	European Union
EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement	European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement
EYF	European Youth Foundation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCNM	Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities
FRA	European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
GC	Governmental Committee of the European Social Charter and the European Code of Social Security
GEC	Gender Equality Commission
GEDD	Sustainable Development Study Group

GME	Ad hoc Multidisciplinary Group on the Environment
ILO	International Labour Organization
LICRA	Ligue internationale contre le racisme et l'antisémitisme
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
OSCE/ODIHR	Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
PACE	Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
PC-ENV	Committee of experts on the protection of the environment through Criminal Law
RFCDL	Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture
SDGs	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime