

Annex 3

Summary of Country Reports

The following summary lists the information obtained from contracting parties of the Alpine Convention on activities related to ecological networking. The information was recorded on the basis of the following six questions.

Question I: Legislative framework applied that are relevant to ecological networks

	A	B
	on international scale (that applies in your country, e.g. agreements, EU directives and similar international commitments)	on national scale (what national law applies and is relevant to establishing ecological networks)
Austria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * NATURA 2000 network * Habitats Directive * Birds Directive * Water Directive * Berner Convention * Ramsar Convention * CBD * resolution H-2 MCPFE * PEEN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Federal law: Forest, water and road law; * Country law: execution of nature conservation, hunting, fishing, spatial planning
France	-	-
Germany	Federal	Bavaria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * State Development Plan (LEP), objectives and principles BI – Bavaria-wide biotope network; * Art. 1a Para. 2 No. 3 – Networking of habitats of animals living in the wild and plants; * Art. 1a Para. 2 No. 4 – Protection of the Bavarian Alps; * Art. 13 f Bavarian Nature Conservation Act – Biotope network as well as species and biotope protection programme
Italy (preliminary)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Creation of the Natura 2000 Network, as provided by Directive 92/43/EEC of the Council of 21 May 1992 on the "Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora", commonly known as the "Habitat" Directive. The Directive was translated into Italian law in 1997 by means of Presidential Decree No. 357 of 8 September 1997, amended and supplemented by Presidential Decree No. 120 of 12 March 2003. * activities undertaken are intended to improve existing knowledge of the natural environment across the country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Programme launched to define and develop a national ecological network * Within the framework of this programme the Ministry of the Environment commissioned a study on the Ecological Network of Italian vertebrates (concluded in 2002) * Mapping of a network of areas possessing different ecological characteristics and differing nature conservation priorities, and the highlighting of any connections between these key areas, for the purpose of preventing any further fragmentation of the habitats and proliferation routes of vertebrate animals
Lichtenstein	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Alpine Convention * Ramsar * Bonn * CBD * Member in Interreg projects of the EU * Links to EU legislative framework and network <p>Note: Liechtenstein is not member of the EU, so the implementation differs from the one in EU countries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Law of Nature- and Landscape Protection * Law on Forests * Agricultural legislation
Monaco	<i>This question is not relevant at the scale of MONACO</i>	<i>This question is not relevant at the scale of MONACO</i>

Slovenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Council Directive 79/409/EEC of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds (OJ L 103, 25. 4. 1979) * Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (OJ L 206, 22. 7. 1992) 	<p>Zakon o ohranjanju narave - uradno prečiščeno besedilo /ZON-UPB2/ (Ur.l. RS, št. 96/2004)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Uredba o habitatnih tipih (Ur.l. RS, št. 112/2003) * Uredba o ekološko pomembnih območjih (Ur. l. RS, št. 48/2004) * Uredba o posebnih varstvenih območjih (območjih Natura 2000) (Ur. l. RS, št. 49/2004, 110/2004, 59/2007) * Pravilnik o presoji sprejemljivosti vplivov izvedbe planov in posegov v naravo na varovana območja (Ur.l. RS, št. 130/2004, 53/2006) * Acts on designation of particular protected areas
Switzerland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Closely linked to the EU legislative framework and network * Involved in the „Emerald“-Network as an equivalent to the NATURA 2000 network, in PEEN and the CBD * In detail, implementation differs from implementation in EU countries 	<p>The following areas are most relevant for connectivity on a national scale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ecological compensation in agriculture: based on the ECO-Quality-Regulation (ÖQV/SR-Nr: 910.14) concrete standards are set for connectivity. The regulation also arranges for payments for connectivity measures. * Spatial Planning: the national ecological network (REN) has to be taken into account according to the Spatial Planning Law (Art. 13 RPG). * Flood protection: in the framework of the law and the regulation for hydraulic engineering standards on the national level are in place for flood protection measures and renaturation. Directives arrange for the amount of payments to the cantons. Bonuses are paid to cantons if connectivity concepts such REN are taken into account when planning the measures. * Forests: In the framework of the Swiss Forest programme (BAFU 2004) the importance of connectivity for forests is highlighted. Based on the Forest Law the Bund has formulated implementation regulations for the inclusion and the payments for connectivity

Question II: Projects and programmes to enhance ecological connectivity

	A	B	C
	Large scale projects / programmes	Local projects / programmes (best case examples)	Transboundary projects
Austria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Reintroduce the Bearded vulture into the Alps * Alpine-Carpathian-Corridor specifically for red deer etc. * "green bridges" for motorways * Austrian bear management plan * Large carnivores in the Alps (Alparc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Local projects, Connectivity on several levels: * Reintroduce the Bearded vulture into the Alps; Reintroduce the local trouts; Protection of amphibs e.g. tunnels; Wildlife management for red deer, chamois and ibex; Program for hedges, meadows with scattered trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Econnect – Interreg Alpine Space; * Platform „Ecological Networks“ * Continuum project (Mava Stiftung) * Task Force Alparc * Transboundary Nationalpark Neusiedler See with Hungary and NP Thayatal with NP Podyjí (Czechia) * Transboundary cooperation NP Berchtesgaden (Germany) with PN Weißbach * Transboundary protected area NP Hohe Tauern, PN Rieserferner-Ahrn (I) and PN Zillertaler Hauptkamm * Transboundary protection of great bustard
France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * "Trame verte et bleue" green and blue scope (similar to ecological network; ecological corridors) * Second stage from 2009 to 2012 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * French federation of regional nature parks (implementing ecological networks within the regional nature parks) e.g. Oise-Pays de France, Scarpe-Escaut, Pilat, Caps et marais d'Opale, Haut Languedoc, Lorraine, etc. * Projects of the <i>régions</i> Nord-Pas de Calais, Alsace, etc. * Projects of the <i>département</i> Isère (ecological connections into the Western Alps) * Gresivaudan valley, ecological corridors (pilot sector to implement the alpin ecological network) * Projects in the <i>Massif Central</i> (assure a connection with the massifs of the Alps and that of Pyrennees) 	-

Germany	<p>Bavaria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Bavarian biodiversity strategy (Council of Ministers' decision of 01.04.2008); * State-wide biotope network project within the "BayernNetz Natur" programme; * Programmes furthering nature conservation, agriculture and forest farming as well as water management 	<p>Bavaria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 350 BayernNetz Natur projects implemented throughout Bavaria (biotope network projects) 	<p>Bavaria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Projects in the Alpine border area between Bavaria and the Lands of Salzburg, Tyrol and Vorarlberg
Italy (preliminary)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Collaboration between the <i>Parco Nazionale Mercantour</i> and the <i>Parco Naturale delle Alpi Marittime</i> since the creation of the <i>Parco Naturale</i> in 1980 * 1988 an official partnership agreement (<i>charte de jumelage</i> or twinning charter) was signed => intensive co-operation has taken place between the two protected areas in all fields, including the Interreg "Mercantour – Maritime Alps Protected Cross-Border Area" project and joint monitoring activities, relating in particular to the ibex, bearded vulture and wolf * The EU funded Bioitaly project was launched by the Ministry of the Environment through the Servizio Conservazione della Natura [nature conservation department] specifically to implement Habitat Directive 92/43 of 21 May 1992 and in accordance with the provisions of Law no. 394 "Framework law on protected areas" of 6 December 1991 * The first phase was formally completed on 30 June 1995 * drawing-up of an initial official list of areas of Community interest to be submitted to the European Commission under the terms of the Directive * The list was updated in December 1995 * The second phase, concluded in December 1997 (completion of the census of areas and the Bioitaly data sheets (for SIN and SIR)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Veneto Region: Rete Ecologica Comunale [Municipal Ecological Network] Project: the intention is to combine environmental sustainability (i. e. the protection and exploitation of knowledge and historical and rural memory) with strategic planning aimed at fulfilling human needs. The rete ecologica can be seen as an innovative form of sustainable local planning which integrates the requirements of conservation with those of development. * Piedmont Region: Conservation of natural heritage includes establishment of the Natura 2000 Network * Protection of the Natura 2000 Network Sites is compulsory under the terms of current legislation (Presidential Decrees 357/97 and 120/2003). * Lombardy Region: The recently approved Planning Document of the Lombardy Region's Piano Territoriale Regionale [Regional Territorial Plan], or PTR, provides at Point 1.5.1 for the creation of a Rete Ecologica Regionale [Regional Ecological Network] or RER 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * ECONNECT (2008-2011) Alpine Space ETC Project: The Italian Ministry of the Environment is working with the Valle d'Aosta Region, the <i>Parco Alpi Marittime</i>, the European Academy of Bolzano, WWF Italy, and other Alpine partners to analyse and devise strategies from both naturalistic-ecological and judicial perspectives to establish ecological corridors between the various protected areas of the Alps, through study of a series of zones identified as pilot areas and the subsequent devising of a joint strategy to be applicable throughout the Alpine arc
Lichtenstein	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * International (Liechtenstein and neighbouring countries – Switzerland, Austria, Germany) * IRKA, International Governmental Commission for the Alpine River Rhein, Renaturalisation Projects * Regional Nets of Biotops between Liechtenstein and the Canton of St. Gallen, Switzerland 	<p>National:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * ENL Project: Developing Concept for Nature and Agriculture * Forestal protected areas in Liechtenstein * Programme: Hedges in the agricultural areas 	<p>See II a</p>
Monaco	-	<p><i>This question is not relevant at the scale of MONACO</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Monaco is supporting the International alpine network and its actions toward interconnectivity * Monaco is also supporting trans-boundary relations between Parc du Mercantour (France) and Parco degli Alpi Maritimi (Italy) * Conservation of alpine migratory species (the Prince Albert II of Monaco foundation for the Environment, involved in the activities above)
Slovenia	<p>Operational programme - Natura 2000 management programme, adopted by the Government in 2007 is the main framework instrument for Natura 2000 implementation. Together with the assessment procedure they are the main tools for enhancing connectivity and coherence of the network.</p>	<p>No data available</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Projects on large carnivores (brown bear, lynx and wolf) with Italy, Austria and Croatia * Projects on Drava and Mura river * Co-operation with Croatia on the southern dinaric border of Slovenia. * Translocation of brown bear to the French Pyrenees
Switzerland	<p>Relevant programmes: Landschaftskonzept Schweiz (LKS, 1997) and „Landschaft 2020“ (2003)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Carried out in the cantons. Connectivity is included on various levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Transboundary projects along the Rhine * Geneva region with France include connectivity * Kanton Aargau with Baden-Württemberg (Germany) for large mammals

Question III & Question IV:

	III) Examples for concrete measures to enhance ecological connectivity	IV) Funding sources for ecological networks
Austria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Spatial planning for wildlife management * Renaturation of streams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Public funding * EU funding * Privat sponsorship * Some projects are funded by NGOs or associations (e.g. hunting)
France	<p>Among the studied measures, we can indicate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * the restoration of the continuities of streams by destruction of former certain dams to restore the migration of fishes; * the obligation to maintain or to create strips with wild herb and plants of at least 5 m along all the streams and river 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A budget (calculation in progress) will be allocated by the state to the implementing the green and blue weft
Germany	<p>Bavaria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 350 BayernNetz Natur projects in cooperation with local authorities, responsible authorities, NGO's, agricultural and forest farmers, churches at county level * Cross-border Nature Park Nagelfluh between Bavaria and Vorarlberg* Cross-border nature reserve Karwendel, FFH/SPA between Bavaria and Tyrol* Cross-border nature reserve Allgäuer Hochalpen (All-gäu High Alps), FFH/SPA, between Bavaria and Vorarlberg * National Park Berchtesgaden and nature reserve Salzburger Hochalpen (Salzburg High Alps) 	<p>Bavaria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Focus of funding on BayernNetz Natur * Programmes furthering nature conservation, agriculture and forest farming, water management * EU funding programmes * The foundation Bayerischer Naturschutzfonds * Altogether approx. 210 million € per annum * Sponsors such as foundations and companies
Italy (preliminary)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Piedmont Region: * An ecological functionality modelling, identifies areas of ecological connection (green ways) between different areas at regional level (1:100,000) * the region has also set up Contratti di Fiume [River Contracts] at regional level for safeguarding their water and land ecosystems * The regional context was analysed 	<p>Generally speaking, funding for ecological network activities can be obtained through the following channels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European projects • Regional funding • Funding associated with measures for farming and specifically the Programma Sviluppo Rurale [Rural Development Programme] • Banks and foundations associated with them
Lichtenstein	See II b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The government is funding NGO's for Nature restoration projects * Private funding of NGO's for network programs
Monaco	See II c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * National budget provide each year a support to the international alpine protected areas network though the alpine convention budget.
Slovenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * As natural corridors are mostly still in place, the efforts are more streamlined to the preservation of existing corridors then enhancing connectivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Integrative approach is basic principle for national Natura 2000 implementation, thus financial burden of the network is in hands of each sector (e. g. forestry, agriculture...). In case of investments we are practising the Poluters-Pay principle * Some funding is related to particular projects
Switzerland	<p>Best practice example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Inthyamon (Kanton Freiburg): aims at implementing ÖQV and REN * Local activities in the framework of connectivity projects in agriculture (ÖQV) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Public funding * Some projects are funded by NGOs or associations (e.g. hunting) * Public funding is available for ÖQV, forest projects or hydraulic engineering projects. Bonuses are paid for realising connectivity.

Question V & Question VI

	V) Perspectives for future activities (suggestions)	VI) Other relevant information on national scale
Austria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Based on the existing experiences participatory processes (from the beginning of each project), good communication and bonus payments (see above) are indispensable * Implementation of Econnect and continuum project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Biooffice data base (biodiversity) * Biotop mapping * Land use mapping
France	-	-
Germany	Bavaria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Strengthening the alpine biotope network in the border area between Bavaria, Salzburg, Tyrol and Voralberg * Coordination among the Alpine FFH/SPA areas close to borders, management plans * Cross-border fauna management for large carnivores such as bear, wolf and lynx in the Alpine region 	Bavaria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 13 % of the state surface secured for nature conservation as nature reserve, purchased land or as Special Protected Area * Digital information system for nature conservation - FIS Natur. Nature conservation authorities throughout Bavaria have PC access to digital cadastral maps, topographic maps, aerial/ortho-photos, data of species and biotope mapping, pro-ected areas etc.
Italy (preliminary)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Establish regional laws in all regions aimed at the safeguarding of biodiversity and management of the Natura 2000 Network sites, given that current laws are insufficiently specific and do not contain clear guidelines for proper territorial governance * It is therefore necessary to render in a more uniform way the legal framework relevant to the Natura 2000 Network in order to guarantee the same degree of attention is paid by all Italian regions that form part of the Alpine arc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Piedmont: Has established 123 SCIs and 51 SACs covering an area of 279,056, corresponding to approximately 11% of the regional territory * Valle d'Aosta: In Valle d'Aosta the Natura 2000 network currently has 28 SCIs and 5 SACs covering 30% of the regional territory * Lombardy: Has established 193 SCIs and 66 SACs covering an area of 372,068 corresponding to 15.6% of the regional territory * Veneto: Has established 128 Natura 2000 Network sites, with 67 SACs and 102 SCIs, which variously overlap. The total surface area is 414,628 hectares (22.5% of the regional territory) with the SACs covering 359,835 hectares and the SCIs 369,656 hectares * Trento and Bolzano: In the Autonomous Province of Trento 152 Sites of Community Importance and 19 Special Areas of Conservation have been identified * Friuli Venezia Giulia: The Region has created its own network of 62 SCIs and 7 SACs covering 18% of the regional territory * Liguria: As many as 125 SCIs (99 land and 26 marine) and 7 SACs have been established in the territory of Liguria
Lichtenstein	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Long-time realisation of the projects mentioned in II * Expanding information of the public on all kind of nature projects and ecological facts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Existing: Large database on inventories of species and landscapes; * Developing: National wide monitoring and creation of databases compatible with the datas of other european copuntries (especially with EEA)
Monaco	-	-
Slovenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Most efforts are planned in implementing of existing systems (Natura 2000 and Protected areas) including connectivity between core areas. Emphasise is on preserving existing connections rather than in building new ones 	Network is presented on two interactive atlases: http://gis.arso.gov.si/atlasokolja/profile.aspx?id=Atlas_Okolja_AXL@Arso http://www.naravovarstveni-atlas.si/ISN2KJ/
Switzerland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Based on the existing experiences participatory processes (from the beginning of each project) , good communication and bonus payments (see above) are indispensable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * GIS-Layersfor REN have been revised. Mistakes have been corrected and the handling has been improved * At present, a survey on the implementation of REN on canton level is starting