

REPORT OF CHAIR OF THE WORKING PLATFORM
“Ecological Network” on the mandate 2015-2016
Rev.1

1. Overview of mandate 2015 - 2016

Summary of the main mandate points

Main activities and outputs foreseen in the mandate are to:

- support the development of new alpine projects and targeted research on ecological connectivity
- support the Pilot Regions for Ecological Connectivity of the Alpine Convention (PR),
- implement the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Carpathian Convention
- act as an advocate and catalyst for all aspects linked to ecological connectivity in the Alpine space
- provide inputs to a comprehensive publication on the development of ecological connectivity in the Alps.

The Platform is chaired by a **German-French Co-Presidency**. The Chairperson for the mandate period 2015-2016 is Ms Bettina Hedden-Dunkhorst of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN).

2. Meetings and activities

Report on activities carried out (including meetings, conferences)

- Four **Platform meetings** (approved minutes available) were held in: Berchtesgaden (D), Bled (SI), Chamonix (F), Grassau (D). Each meeting included a field trip to a PR or PR candidate to interact on connectivity measures in practice.
- As foreseen by the procedure for the **nomination of PR**, an evaluation of each region was carried out. Besides, new potential PR were identified and proposed.
- Support was given to the development and proposals for **new alpine-wide projects**

like ALPBIONET2030 or GreenConnect.

- In the frame of the above mentioned **MoC** exchange took place with the (Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) and CBD.
- The Platform contributed to several **activities of the Alpine Convention** (inputs to RSA 6, facilitation of visits to PR for “We Alps” tour 2015 etc.) and held presentations at the EU Green Infrastructure meetings and the final conference of the recharge.green project (funded by the EU Alpine Space Programme).

3. Outputs

Description of main outputs achieved

- Statement paper on the link between ecological connectivity and climate change (attached for approval)
- Report of the evaluation of PR
- Workshop on PR, Grassau 12 October 2016 (with exhibition)
- Alpine Week Session on ecological connectivity, Grassau 13 October 2016
- Contribution to RSA 6 on link between Green Economy and ecological connectivity
- Nomination of new PR

4. Cooperation with other WGs/PFs

Description of cooperation initiatives and activities with other WGs/PFs

- Participation in WISO meetings and in workshops for Chairs of Platforms and Working Groups.
- Exchange with other Platform on Mountain Forestry.

5. Links to EUSALP

Description of concrete links and contribution to EUSALP

Member of the EUSALP AG 7.

6. Attachments

List of the attached documents

1. Statement paper on the link between ecological connectivity and climate change;
2. Report on the evaluation of PR.