The Alpine Convention Newsletter is published quarterly by the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention.

Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention

## ALPINE CONVENTION NEWSLETTER

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Dear friends,

An active year is coming to an end. Many topics, events and efforts have kept us busy; let me reflect on just two:

Climate Change was a main focus of our work this year: our "We are Alps" tour gave hands-on insights into climate change and its implications for the Alps and symbolically connected the Alpine Convention Presidency, Germany, with the presidency of UN-Climate Convention, France; the "Alpen-Forum-Innsbruck" was specifically created with several partners to address the different faces of climate change in the Alps within a public setting; the Alpine youth formulated postulations on eco-system services in times of climate change and the Alpine municipalities met recently to share their experiences on how to cope with the responsibilities climate change brings upon them. While naturally not being the main focus of negotiations, the Alps – as mountains in general – were also present at COP21 through numerous side events, presentations, and in the discussions of the meeting as such. Together with German State Secretary Schwarzeluhr-Sutter and Bavarian Minister Scharf, I had the honour of presenting the appeal "Climate change mitigation now!" to the Conference. In my statement in the high-level segment, I called for fast and efficient action on climate change highlighting the role of the youth who will have to bear the brunt of climate change in the future.

The end of this year has also been marked by literally a literary activity: the "Reading Mountains" Initiative or let me be linguistically more precise: *brati gore – lire les montagnes – leggere le montagne – Berge Lesen*. With almost 100 events in all 8 Alpine Convention States, this initiative has clearly left a mark: our cultural heritage is not a mere afterthought to other activities; it is an essential building block of life in the Alps! One that we should cherish and celebrate! I wish to warmly thank all the many partners who organized events, the authors reading their works, the librarians presenting literature and the thousands of people who came to the events and dived into these highlands of literature. Currently a film team is working hard to capture the magic of International Mountain Day 2015 on camera. Stay tuned!

Dear friends, these remaining days of the year are also a welcome opportunity for reflection, relaxation and rejuvenation. On behalf of the entire team of the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention I wish you a wonderful Christmas time and a healthy and happy New Year 2016.

Markus Reiterer, Secretary General of the Alpine Convention



**News from the Presidency** 

Soil protection and land consumption



The protocol for soil protection of the Alpine Convention calls for qualitative and quantitative protection of the resource soil. As a contribution to the quantitative aspect of soil protection, the Bavarian State Ministry for the Environment and Consumer Protection, the Bavarian Ministry of the Interior, for Building and Transport together with the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and the Environmental Agency in Vienna organized the 5<sup>th</sup> Bavarian forum for reducing land consumption ("Flächenspar-Forum") in Bad Reichenhall from 7 to 8 October, 2015. Under the slogan "Reduce land consumption in Bavaria and Austria - a crossborder challenge", more than 100 participants discussed best-practice examples on intelligent models of reduced land consumption of municipalities and cities in Bavaria and Austria. The topics discussed reached from innovative urban planning concepts, revitalization of older one-family house areas to land management databases and rural development concepts. The examples presented came from different regions in Austria and Bavaria and inspired the participants to reflect

and adapt those ideas for their own cities and municipalities. More detailed information can be found here.

#### Virtual Alpine Observatory symposium in Salzburg

Adaptation to climate change and mitigation are very important issues for the Alpine future development. A great number of excellent research institutions joined forces and started to create the Virtual Alpine Observatory (VAO). The goal is to improve cooperation at Alpine and global level, to produce reliable forecasts on climate change impacts in the Alps and to provide specific data for global climate forecasts. VAO supports the activities of the Alpine high altitude research stations by combining their measurements. Access to other data, e.g. satellite based and to high performance computing facilities create unique research opportunities.

The research results will help to prepare the ground for political action in that field:



From 27 to 30 October, 2015 almost 100 experts from the different Alpine countries met in Salzburg for the scientific VAO symposium. The experts exchanged the most recent results of their climate research projects and agreed on further cooperation and exchange.

The booklet with abstracts and more detailed results of the VAO symposium can be downloaded here.

#### The fifties are over

With the 59<sup>th</sup> Permanent Committee meeting, the last one of the "fifties meetings" of the Committee took place in Berchtesgaden - 26 years after the 1989 first Alpine Conference took place there. The Permanent Committee i.a. discussed EUSALP, the Climate Action plan for the Alps, the implementation of the Nature Conservation protocol and the activities on the International Mountain day Initiative "Reading mountains". A decision was also taken on the project that will be supported in the scope of the Help Nepal initiative;



more than 12 000  $\in$  (provided by Germany, Liechtenstein, Intralp and existing funds of the Secretariat) were allocated to <u>EcoHimal</u> for a project in education and training in carpentry and masonry of local people in Nepal.

Furthermore the new deputy-Secretary General, Marianna Elmi, was appointed and farewell wishes were extended to the long-time chairs of Working Groups Transport, Mr Thierry Louis, and Econet, Ms Marie Odile Guth.

#### **Spatial Development in the Alps**

The Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure of Germany in co-operation with ministries responsible for spatial planning in the partner States of the Alpine Convention is organising a Stakeholder-Conference "Spatial Development in the Alps" on 28 and 29 January 2016 in Munich.

Background of the conference is the preparation of a joint Declaration of Spatial Planning Ministers on challenges and future key issues in the field of spatial planning and development. This is to support the implementation of the Protocol on Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development of the Alpine Convention.

The conference supports the exchange of experiences between relevant stakeholders from administration, associations and the civil society regarding topics of spatial development.

More information

#### Planning for the first Alpine Building Conference is running at full speed

The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety and the Bavarian Chamber of Architects are working hard on the organization of the first Alpine Building Conference with the participation of the Alpine countries (Germany, France, Italy, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Austria, Switzerland and Slovenia). The conference on exchange of experience between Alpine countries on zero-energy buildings will be held over two days from 16 to 17 March 2016 at the Kongresshaus Garmisch-Partenkirchen. The conference is aimed particularly at the regions administrative bodies (ministries, regional administrations), architects, engineers, scientific institutions, associations and societies with connections to building in the Alps and regional agencies for energy efficiency and sustainability from the Alpine countries. No participation fee will be charged for the first Alpine conference on building. Interested parties are asked to save the date now.

#### AlpWeek – Call for contributions opened!

The manifold aspects of the relationship between the Alps and the people who live, work and recreate there will be the main focus of the fourth edition of the AlpWeek "*Alps & People - Living culture!*" between 11 and 15 October 2016 in Grassau, Germany. In order to identify and showcase different approaches and sustainable development options, the organisers of AlpWeek 2016 would like to enter into a dialogue with Alpine players focusing on three main fields of action: *demography, culture and quality of life.* All interested individuals or organisations are invited to apply for running one or several of the thematic sessions, and market stands. On the AlpWeek website, you can find the <u>call for contributions</u> detailing the opportunities and the selection process.

#### **Conference on Mountain Farming**

At present preparations for the conference on mountain farming at the 19<sup>th</sup> of May 2016 are made. In Garmisch-Partenkirchen members of the mountain farming platform, mountain farmers, scientists and politicians are invited to discuss situation, challenges and future of mountain farming in the alpine region. An official invitation will follow in January 2016. Further information is available <u>here</u>.



## **News from the Secretariat**

#### "Leggere le Montagne – Berge Lesen – Lire les montagnes – Brati gore"

Under the initiative "Reading Mountains" of the German Presidency and the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention almost 100 events were organized across the Alps. The International Mountain day was celebrated with events in all 8 alpine countries, with events throughout the entire Alpine arc and beyond: from Hamburg to Rome and from Paris to Lendva. With reading mountains thousands of people celebrated International Mountain Day 2015. It is with great pleasure that we share with you the first impressions of the events in a <u>photo-gallery</u>.



#### Photo contest 2015 and calendar 2016

The topic of this year's photo-contest, organized annually by the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convection was "LIFE IN THE ALPS –



People, Arts and Culture". We were looking for pictures of the reality of the everyday life in the Alps. Participants were invited to capture the common activities of the people living in the Alps, to show generational exchange and passing of knowledge and to try to capture the emotions of life in the Alps and the Alpine Culture in making.



Thirteen winning pictures have been selected and published in the Alpine Convention's calendar for 2016. <u>Have</u> <u>a look</u>. Didn't get your copy of the calendar yet? Write us an <u>email</u>. Thanks to all the participants for first-rate photos! Stay tuned for next year's photo-contest topic!

#### WEBGIS

The Alpine Convention WEBGIS platform with improved functionalities is now online. Starting as a pilot project in 2014, the Alpine Convention Webgis application has been further improved and the data form the first, second and third Report on the state of the Alps visualised. Maps from the fifth Report on demography will follow soon. Take the opportunity and explore the new tool. Find more information <u>here</u>.

#### Young Academics Award – the 2016 edition

The call is open for the Young Academics Award of the Alpine Convention! Deadline is 30 April 2016. The 2016 edition focusses on green economy in the Alps. Check out our call for the <u>Young Academics Award</u>. The Award is organized with the support by the German Presidency of the Alpine Convention, the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and by the Infopoints of the Alpine Convention Domodossola, Grand Paradis and Morbegno (for theses from these parts of the Alps). As in the previous edition, ISCAR provides scientific support.

#### **Alpen Forum Innsbruck**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> third edition of the Alpen-Forum-Innsbruck took place on 20 October and 9 December respectively. The second meeting focussed on the topic of climate change and energy and brought together specialists, students and interested citizens at the meeting room of the Municipality of Innsbruck. The meeting was opened by Deputy Secretary General Simona Vrevc. With an active participation of the French ambassador in Austria, Pascal Texeira da Silva as well as of academics and practitioners from Tyrol, Vorarlberg and Grenoble, major aspects of the link between energy and climate were discussed. Amongst other, topics of energy saving, development of renewable energy and individual behaviour change were addressed.

The third edition of the Alpen Forum, which took place at the Tyrolean Landhaus, was opened by the president of Tyrol, Mr. Günther Platter, Ambassador Pascal Texeira da Silva and the president of Innsbruck University, Tilmann Märk, and focused on the question of climate change and tourism. The lively discussions also benefitted from the contributions among others by the co-chair of the Alpine Convention's working group on tourism, Prof. Thomas Bausch, Michael Brandl, from the Tirol Werbung, René Föger, Familien-Landhotel Stern, Obsteig and Jean Michel Bouteillé from the city of Chamonix.

# Conference "The decline of rural areas? Demographic changes in the Alps – presentation of the Fifth Report on the State of the Alps"

In the framework of the activities for the promotion of the results of the Fifth Report on the State of the Alps, the Austrian delegation has organized on 30 November and 1 December a conference in Villach on the topic of "The decline of rural areas? Demographic changes in the Alps", with the support of the Italian and Slovenian delegations and of the Permanent Secretariat. The conference has focused on three main bordering geographical areas, namely the Austrian Land of Carinthia, the Italian region Friuli Venezia Giulia and Slovenia; the demographic evolution in these regions has been presented in depth in a plenary session by Statistik Austria (Austria national statistical institute), ISTAT (Italian national statistical institute) and the Slovenian Ministry for Environment and Spatial Planning. The session has been followed by three workshops, where groups of experts have discussed the issues of new inhabitants, of the Alpine labour market and of the priorities of intervention for public service in the Alps. The conference successfully allowed creating new ideas for possible concrete intervention areas and projects and creating and consolidating networks!

#### Climate Change conference (COP21) in Paris

Climate Change conference in Paris brought about a new agreement on climate change and represents a big step forward in international climate politics. It will of course influence also the mountainous regions of the world, such as Alps.

The Alpine Convention actively participated at the COP21 with a speech of the Secretary General at the high-level segment of the meeting. In his speech, Mr Reiterer referred to the outcomes of many initiatives from the Alps that sent messages to COP; the Alpine municipalities appeal: "Climate change mitigation now!" and the resolutions of the Alpine youth. He also referred to the International Petition on Mountain ecosystems and peoples affected by climate change. The speech was given in <u>French</u>; you can find an English courtesy translation <u>here</u>.

Back-to-back to COP21 numerous meetings and contacts to state representatives, civil society, media and other international organizations dealing with mountains took place. Together with German Federal State Secretary Schwarzelühr-Sutter and Bavarian Minister Scharf, Secretary General Reiterer presented the call of the Alpine Municipalities "Climate change mitigation now!" to COP21 in a side event at the German Pavilion. Meetings with inter alia Ministers Ruprechter, Minister Amann-Marxer and Japanese Minister Marukawa also took place.

#### **Compliance Committee**

In its second meeting under German Presidency on 16 and 17 December 2015 in the monastery of Benediktbeuern, Bavaria the Compliance Committee finalized its report on the extraordinary compliance procedure regarding the landscape conservation area "Egartenlandschaft" and its draft recommendations on the application of article 11 (1) of the Protocol on Nature Protection. Furthermore the discussion on the in-depth review of the subject "Tourism" was continued and a first exchange of views on the draft guidelines for the interpretation of article 6 (3) of the Tourism Protocol concerning the balance of intensive and extensive forms of tourism in areas of high touristic usage took place. Finally the Committee started the in depth review of the subject "Thrifty use of soil" and agreed on details of its rules of procedure, such as making public decisions regarding requests for reviewing alleged failures to comply with the Alpine Convention and its

#### Alpine Convention and EUSALP

The Steering Committee meetings on 8 and 9 October 2015 in Milan and on 30 November and 1 December 2015 in Brussels were dedicated both to a clarification of the governance structure of the EUSALP and to a selection of the institutions responsible for the implementation of the Strategy. In this respect, the composition of the General Assembly, the Executive Board and the Action Groups as well as their functions and interaction were clarified. Based on their expression of interest the Alpine Convention and the Land of Carinthia were selected as leaders of the Action Group 6 "To preserve and valorise natural resources, including water and cultural resources".

On 27 November 2015, the Council of the European Union published its conclusions on the EUSALP. The Commission was invited herein to promote the involvement of the Alpine Convention in the implementation of the Strategy, with a view to building on the Convention's expertise in the protection and sustainable development of the Alps, and exploring synergies.

As the EUSALP process is moving rapidly, the next meeting of the Working Group "Macro-regional Strategy" on 12 January 2016 in Innsbruck will have to have in-depth discussion on the way forward concerning the lead of Action group 6 and corresponding questions, including a thorough planning of available resources. According to the corresponding decision of the 59<sup>th</sup> Permanent Committee, the Permanent Secretariat published a job advertisement for a project officer for EUSALP affairs.

The official launch of the Strategy will take place at the EUSALP-Kick off Conference on 25 and 26 January 2016 in Brdo, Slovenia. This event will see the constituting General Assembly and the first Executive Board meeting of the Strategy. As a key partner for the success of the EUSALP the Alpine Convention will contribute substantially to the panels foreseen.

#### Personnel changes in the Secretariat

With the new year's the Permanent Secretariat is saying good-bye to two of our colleagues; the Deputy Secretary General, Ms Simona Vrevc and the project officer, dealing mainly with the topics of Transport and Climate Change, Mr Gilles Chomat. On this occasion we would like to thank them for their hard work and wish them all the best in their new positions! On 1 January 2016, our colleague Marianna Elmi is taking over the position of Deputy Secretary General. The Secretariat will fill the vacancies as early as possible, since the calls for the new positions have already been closed. Based on the developments in the EUSALP, a new position has been open also for the coordination of this task – deadline for application: 6 January 2016. Stay tuned to meet the new staff.





News from the Working Groups and Platforms

#### WISO Platform: RowAlps reports on wolf and lynx

The WISO Platform met for the second time in this mandate period in "Centro di formazione forestale, venatoria e ambientale Latemar" in the Province of Bolzano/Bozen. At the meeting, the RowAlps reports on wolf and lynx management in the Alps were approved and will be presented as WISO documents to the Permanent Committee and Alpine Conference with a short introductory remark. During the meeting several ongoing projects on the management of large carnivores were presented – such as Life DinAlp Bear, where the Alpine dimension will be included as well, Life WolfAlps and Ulyca project (Urgent Lynx Conservation Actions). A presentation was also made on the recent bear attacks on humans in Trentino.

#### **ECONET Platform**

The fifteenth meeting of the Platform Ecological Network took place in Bled, from 30 September to 1 October 2015. It was organised by the Triglav National Park, representing the Slovenian part of the transboundary Pilot Region Prealpi Giulie-Triglav. On the first day the Platform discussed the state of implementation of its mandate, defined the evaluation process for the Pilot regions and was updated on the EUSALP process. The Permanent Secretariat gave an update on crosscutting issues. Furthermore results of two Alpine Space projects were presented: Recharge.green Project and greenAlps Project. These presentations were followed by a demonstration of the Jecami tool and a report on the results of the use of this tool in the border region between Bavaria and Austria. Practical examples of ecological connectivity issues were presented on the field trip to Pokljuka in the Triglav national park.

#### PLANALP

13 October is declared as the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction. On 13 October 2015 PLANALP held a conference on "Protection Systems against Natural Hazards - Durability through Systems Engineering?" in Munich. To celebrate the Day for Natural Disaster Reduction PLANALP members were asked to write down a word or a phrase in their mother tongue to describe what Natural Disaster (Reduction) means to them in the back to back platform meeting.



All conference related materials including

presentations and the brochure "<u>Persistence of Alpine natural hazard protection</u>" in English and German can be found <u>here</u>.

#### **Working Group Mountain Forest**

In the scope of the 30<sup>th</sup> session of the European Forestry Commission Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds, organized by the FAO in Pieve Tesino (Italy) between 22 and 24 September, the WG Mountain Forest and the Permanent Secretariat presented the main topics related to the Mountain Forests Protocol and the activities carried out by the members of the Working Group as their contribution to the

ecosystem services in the Alps.

The Working Group Mountain Forests meeting took place in Engelberg (CH) on 3 November, in the framework of the 3<sup>rd</sup> European Forest Week (Silva2015), organized by the UNECE and FAO.

The WG meeting focused on the collection of best practices and alpine examples on the ecosystem services and the protective functions of the alpine forests. The members of the Working Group also discussed how to improve communicating the high value of mountain forests to urban inhabitants, highlighting the importance of considering specific costs for forest management and conservation.

In the framework of Silva2015 the Working Group on Mountain Forests organized a public side event about the activities carried out during the first mandate by the WG and the future activities related to the new mandate 2015-2016.

#### Working on the MAP

The first meeting of the Working Group on the Multiannual Work Program of the Alpine Conference 2016 to 2022 (MAP) took place in Berlin on 16 and 17 November 2016. The Working Group thoroughly discussed the structure of the future MAP, challenges and opportunities in the Alpine region, our vision, priorities for the period 2016 to 2022. A good part of the discussion was also devoted to the general theme of the MAP which oscillated around the Alps as a sustainable living space. The discussions of the Working Group highlighted once more the idea of partnership among all relevant actors for ensuring sustainable development in the Alps. A general understanding was reached that the future MAP should also encompass a so-called Road-Map which will be elaborated for two year periods, roughly corresponding with the Convention's biannual presidencies, to provide for concrete actions.

The next meeting of the MAP Working Group is scheduled for 9 and 10 March 2016 in Munich.

#### Working Group Sustainable tourism

On 23 November the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Sustainable Tourism working group took place at the premises of the Permanent Secretariat in Innsbruck. The participants discussed several relevant activities foreseen by the mandate, in particular the issue of good practices on Alpine tourism governance and of the valorisation practices of natural capital.

#### Drafting the 6<sup>th</sup> Report on the State of the Alps

In February 2016, the members of the Ad hoc Expert Group on the 6<sup>th</sup> Report on the State of the Alps "Greening the Economy in the Alpine Region" (RSA6) will receive the first draft of the report. This will be followed by the 4<sup>th</sup> Expert Group Meeting on 16 and 17 March 2016 in Munich. The key issue of the meeting will be to discuss the first draft of the RSA6. Moreover, we will consider the results of the international workshop with the Alpine towns on 22 October 2015 in Trento, the conducted expert interviews and the results of our consultation on potential policy recommendations. Finally, we will present the first draft of the communication strategy for the report.

The results of the discussion will lead to a second draft of the RSA6. At the end of March 2016, the Expert Group members will receive the second draft and will be kindly requested to forward the results of their interministerial consultations to the chair of the Expert Group until the end of April. On this basis, the chair will produce a third draft for the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Expert Group. This meeting is expected to take place on 28 to 30 June 2016 in Berlin. The expected results are the finalization and the endorsement of the RSA6 by the Expert Group.

#### Water management Platform activities planned

The Watermanagement-Platform together with PLANALP will jointly organize a public "Workshop on Communication and Open Data". It will take place in Padua on 5 and 6 April 2016.

We would like to announce the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference "Water in the Alps" on 12 October 2016 in Herrenchiemsee (Germany) that will be part of the AlpWeek 2016.



### News from Delegations, Observers, Partners

#### **Constructive Alps Award** (Contribution by Switzerland)

At the end of October 2015 the Swiss Office Confederation, Federal for Spatial Development, the Environmental Office (ARE), and the Principality of Liechtenstein awarded, for the third time, projects in sustainable building and renovation with the "Constructive Alps award". The aim of the award is to recognize projects of good examples of ecology, building culture, society and economy - in private homes as well as in public places to promote the goals of the Alpine Convention in the field of sustainable housing, energy, etc. Over 360 projects participated in the last edition, which shows the responsible



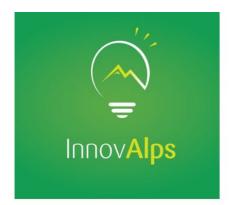
construction in the Alps. Out of these 3 main processes were awarded and the 30 best climate-friendly projects were selected to be presented in the traveling exhibition that will be show in different places around the Alps (Poschiavo, Tirano, Ljubljana etc.). Find out more about the award and see the winning projects <u>here</u>.

#### **The Matterhorn family**

(Contribution by Switzerland)

In 2015 we mark the 150 years from the first successful assent of the Matterhorn. On this occasion, the Swiss Confederation, together with the Alpine museum in Bern and many other partners prepared "The Matterhorn family" postcards, showing 16 selected (out of 237) Matterhorn double-gangers around the world that

### Innovalps project: ALPARC selects pilot regions for innovative models of regional development (Contribution by ALPARC)



ALPARC reinforces its work within the work domain "regional development and quality of life". Within the framework of the project Innovalps, the network has recently selected three pilot regions. The selected regions are the Tiroler Lech nature park, Austria, the Baronnies provençales regional nature park, France, and the Pfyn-Finges nature park in the Valais, Switzerland. They have developed integrated development strategies and pursue innovative pathways of regional development for their territories. The Innovalps project aims at highlighting these approaches and helps to encourage the exchange of knowledge and experiences between their managements and other regional stakeholders on a

transnational level. During the pilot phase of the project, a series of three workshops will enable the pilot regions to share knowledge and expertise on different dimensions - e.g. nature tourism, regional products and governance -, inspire each other and develop new ideas for action. Reflections on how to prepare the ground for innovation in protected area regions will yield valuable recommendations for other regions.

#### 21st "Danilo Re Memorial" and ALPARC General Assembly 2016

(Contribution by ALPARC)



Photo by: Peter Gruber, Hohe Tauern National Park

The 21st edition of the winter event "Danilo Re Memorial" will take place from 21 to 24 January 2016 in the Marguareis Nature Park, in Chiusa di Pesio, Piedmont, Italy.

ALPARC invites all Alpine protected areas to participate in the memorial: rangers, staff members and also directors will gather and compete in a friendly atmosphere. The memorial pays tribute to Danilo Re, an Italian ranger from Piedmont who died while in the course of his duties.

The event also offers a highly topical conference: "The wolf population in the Alps: status and conservation actions". The seminar is organised in the frame of the project LIFEWolf Alps and in accordance with the Large Carnivores, Wild Ungulates and Society (WISO) platform of the Alpine Convention.

As usual, the ALPARC General Assembly will also take place during the event, in the morning of Friday, 22 January. ALPARC invites its members, as well all the other Alpine protected areas, associations and organisations interested in discovering the activities of the network. The registration form and useful information are available on the Danilo Re website.

#### alpMonitor: tracking changes

(Contribution by CIPRA)

Through the project <u>alpMonitor</u>, CIPRA International, together with the national CIPRA branches, strongly focuses on the responsibilities modern societies have in the shift towards sustainable development. The actual objective is "the good life" in the Alps. CIPRA's approach is based upon the values of participation, solidarity and frugality.

alpMonitor acts complementary to scientific reports by actively discussing impacts and promoting solutions for selected areas of everyday life, such as nature and people, special planning, housing and working, tourism and social innovation. These areas are embedded into a topic landscape and strongly influenced by five main global trends: climate change, segmentation of the economy, increasing mobility and medialisation. alpMonitor aims to observe long-term developments in order to raise awareness on changes and to be able to take the right decisions today.

### "Climate change mitigation now!" Report on conference for municipalities in the Alps (Contribution by CIPRA)

At the conference on climate change mitigation, taking place in Benediktbeuern on the 29 and 30 October 2015, Alpine municipalities put theory into practice. Moreover organisers and around 100 participants from alpine countries jointly elaborated a declaration towards the UN climate conference demanding ambitious and binding climate deal.

The conference further emphasized on local potential and achievements in the implementation of practical measures. For example participants learned how sustainable public procurement is jointly organised in Vorarlberg, Austria or how the city of Grenoble, France succeeds in cooperating with enterprises in the field of sustainable commuter mobility.

The conference was part of the official program of the German Presidency of the Alpine Convention. It was organised by CIPRA International, the network of municipalities "Alliance in the Alps" and the "Alpine Town of the Year" association. The conference was funded by the German Federal Environmental Foundation (DBU) and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment (BMUB).

"The Declaration from the alpine municipalities supports us in the negotiations for a successful deal at the COP21", said Rita Schwarzelühr-Sutter, Parliamentary State Secretary in the BMUB at the presentation of the declaration on 10 December 2015 at the German Pavilion at the COP in Paris.

The efforts and challenges of alpine municipalities in order to implement climate mitigation and adaptation actions was furthermore the subject to a Side-Event in the evening of the 10 December regarding "Local Action Driving Transformation" at the COP21.



Rita Schwarzelühr-Sutter, Parliamentary State Secretary, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Markus Reiterer, General Secretary of the Alpine Convention, Ulrike Scharf, State Minister of the Environment in Bavaria and Andreas Pichler, Deputy Director of CIPRA International (from the left to the right) © Sascha Hilgers, BMUB

#### Enjoy the Dolomites UNESCO with Google Maps Street View!

(Contribution by Dolomites UNESCO)

Enjoy the Dolomites online, whether you're in New York, Calcutta or anywhere else. More than 50 footpaths of the nine systems that make up the Dolomites UNESCO World Heritage are mapped on the Google Map Street View: the Dal Piaz refuge on the Vette Feltrine peaks, the Mondeval plateau from the Giau pass, Prato Piazza from Braies, the Armentara meadows and the Tosa Pedrotti refuge on the Brenta Dolomites... See <u>here</u>



# **Upcoming events**

The list contains events organized in the framework of the Alpine Convention, as well as by Partners. Please bear in mind that this list may not be exhaustive.

#### January

Tuesday, 12 Jan	Working Group MRS meeting	Innsbruck, Austria
Thursday, 21 Jan Friday, 22 Jan	WISO Platform meeting	Province of Cuneo, Italy
	Opening Event Project: Living in the Alps by Alliance in the Alps	Grainau, Germany
Friday, 22 Jan to Sunday, 24 Jan		Marguareis Nature Park, in Chiusa di Pesio, Piedmont, Italy
Monday, 25 Jan Tuesday, 26 Jan	EUSALP kick-off Conference	Brdo, Slovenija
1	Stakeholder-Conference "Spatial Development in the Alps"	Munich, Germany

#### February

Tuesday, 2 Feb	tourism meeting	Milan, Italy
Wednesday, 24 Feb	Chairs of the Working Groups and Platforms meeting	Innsbruck, Austria
Tuesday, 25 Feb Friday, 26 Feb	60. Permanent Committee	Innsbruck, Austria

#### March

Thuesday, 1 Mar	AlpWeek Partner meeting	Innsbruck, Austria
Wednesday, 9 Mar Thursday, 10 Mar	MAP Ad hoc WG	Munich, Germany
Wednesday, 16 Mar Thursday, 17 Mar	Wprking Group RSA 6 meeting	Munich, Germany
Wednesday, 16 Mar	First international Alpine	Garmisch-Partenkirchen,
Thursday, 17 Mar	conference on building	Germany

#### Save the date

Conference on Sustainable Tourism in the Alps: A challenge (without alternative)	Sonthofen, Germany

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