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PLATFORMA »EKOLOŠKO OMREŽJE«

A Poročilo predsedstva (Nemčija)

B Predlog sklepa

Priloge

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Priloga 2: List of Participants of Platform Meetings held in 2007/2008 and List of Further Members and Associates

Priloga 3: Summary of Country Reports

Priloga 4: Organisational Structure of the Platform »Ecological Network«

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A Poročilo predsedujoče članice Nemčije

1 Vzpostavitev Platforme

Na IX. Alpski konferenci v avstrijskem Alpbachu novembra 2006 so se ministri odločili z vzpostavitvijo Platforme za ekološko povezanost okrepiti napore za vzpostavitev čezmejne ekološke povezanosti. Že pred tem sklepom so od leta 2002 potekale prve dejavnosti za vzpostavitev ekološke povezanosti, vključno z izdelavo študije izvedljivosti (»Alpski signali št. 3«), z Omrežjem zavarovanih območij v Alpah. Sklep je v skladu z 122. členom Protokola Alpske konvencije Varstvo narave in urejanje krajine (vzpostavitev nacionalne in vsealpske ekološke povezanosti) in 3. členom (mednarodno sodelovanje). Dne 29. marca 2007 je bila v Münchnu pod predsedovanjem Nemčije (Zvezni urad za varstvo narave) uradno ustanovljena Platforma za ekološko povezanost. Na X. Alpski konferenci bo predsedovanje prešlo na Francijo.

2 Cilji in naloge Platforme

Cilj Platforme je, poleg udejanjanja Protokola Varstvo narave in urejanje krajine, prispevati k vzpostavitvi globalnega omrežja zavarovanih območij. Vzpostavitev globalnega omrežja zavarovanih območij je eden izmed osrednjih ciljev Konvencije o biotski raznolikosti (CBD). Vse pogodbenice Alpske konvencije so tudi članice Konvencije o biotski raznolikosti.

Platforma se pri tem trudi podpirati udejanjanje konkretnih ukrepov povezovanja v omrežje. Ponuja možnost za čezmejno pripravo ukrepov in zasnov ter s tem koristi usklajevanju prek državnih meja. Poleg tega je pomemben vmesnik med strokovnjaki in politiko, od lokalne do mednarodne ravni.

S povezovanjem zavarovanih območij, biotopov in drugih objektov, ki jih je vredno zavarovati (vključno z območji NATURA 2000 in omrežjem Emerald) naj bi se prispevalo tudi k varovanju vrst v alpskem območju. To je predvsem pomembno v povezavi s podnebnimi spremembami in vse večjo izgubo biotske raznolikosti. Poleg tega bi bilo potrebno spodbuditi in udejanjiti relevantne raziskave ter vključiti rezultate v sistem SOIA. Končno pa je tudi pomembno, z načrtnim delom z javnostjo poudariti pomen ekološkega povezovanja.

Tako npr. trenutno pripravljamo katalog ukrepov, ki kaže, kako je potrebno življenjske prostore ohraniti, ponovno vzpostaviti in povezati. Ta katalog ukrepov združuje že preverjene inštrumente za spodbujanje povezanosti pomembnih življenjskih

prostorov za ohranitev biotske raznolikosti. Udejanjanje in nadaljnje testiranje krajinsko pomembnih ukrepov se izvaja z izborom in spodbujanjem pilotnih regij.

Z odobritvijo dveh v udejanjanje usmerjenih projektov v zadnjih dveh letih, projektom »Ecological Continuum« (subvencionira ga švicarski sklad za varstvo narave MAVA) in projektom »ECONNECT« programa INTERREG (subvencionira ga program za alpsko območje Evropske unije) so prvič na voljo finančna sredstva, ki omogočajo tudi udejanjanje konkretnih ukrepov. Zaradi sodelovanja med temi projekti in Platformo obstaja možnost seznaniti nosilce odločitev z znanstvenimi izsledki ter povezati lokalno raven z mednarodno.

3 Način dela in struktura

Platformo sestavljajo strokovnjaki iz vladnih organizacij ter iz pomembnih nevladnih organizacij in visokih šol (priloga 2). Poleg tega smo bili prepričani, da je pomembno, povabiti v Platformo tudi predstavnike zavarovanih območij. Nadaljnje člane vabi tudi predsedstvo Platforme. Predlogi za to pa lahko pridejo iz celotne platforme. Platforma se srečuje v rednih presledkih (najmanj 1 krat letno), poleg tega se izmenjujejo informacije prek elektronske pošte in spletne strani, ki smo jo v vmesnem času vzpostavili. Na 2. srečanju Platforme (v aprilu 2008 v Chambéryju) sta bili v okviru Platforme ustanovljeni dve delovni skupini – DS za pilotne regije (8 članov) in DS za komunikacijo (6 članov). Člani delovnih skupin so na srečanju Platforme ponudili svoje sodelovanje oziroma jih je predsedstvo imenovalo. Za sodelovanje znotraj delovnih skupin so se pokazale telefonske konference za izredno primerne.

Predsedstvo Platforme ima datoteko z naslovi, v kateri je trenutno 80 zainteresiranih oseb z različnih področij (politika, znanost, upravljanje zavarovanih območij itd.). Del teh oseb so aktivni člani Platforme, ki se udeležujejo tudi njenih srečanj (glejte tabelo 1 in prilogo 2), drugi koristijo le elektronsko pošto predsedstva in spletno stran kot vir informacij.

Tabela: 1: Srečanje in število udeležencev na dosedanjih treh srečanjih Platforme

Datum	Kraj	Število udeležencev
29.03.2007	München (DE)	25
16.04.2008	Chambéry (FR)	16
11.12.2008	Berchtesgaden (DE)	23

Predsedstvo Platforme

Platformi je v preteklih dveh letih predsedovala Nemčija (Zvezni urad za varstvo narave), predsedovanje bo z X. Alpsko konferenco prešlo na Francijo. Za pripravo predaje predsedovanje je bilo 15. januarja 2009 v Berlinu delovno srečanje med Nemčijo in Francijo.

4 Dejavnosti Platforme

4.1 Izmenjava znotraj Platforme

Za izmenjavo znotraj Platforme so osrednjega pomena redna srečanja najmanj enkrat letno. Dne 11.12.2008 je bilo v Berchtesgadnu tretje srečanje Platforme (glejte prilogo 1: Zapisnik seje ter http://www.alpine-ecological-network.org). Cilj srečanja je bila izmenjava informacij in mnenj o tekočih in načrtovanih dejavnostih ter pobudah znotraj Platforme ter priprava predaje predsedovanja Franciji in mandata za drugo fazo Platforme. Rezultate razprave smo vključili v 5. poglavje (Predlogi za nadaljnji mandat) tega poročila.

Potem ko smo že na prvi seji Platforme dobili pregled nad položajem ekološkega povezovanja v vseh pogodbenicah, so vse pogodbenice pripravile poročila o stanju v svoji državi na temelju standardiziranega vprašalnika (Poročila: glejte prilogo k poročilu Platforme za 38. sejo Stalnega odbora Alpske konference). Predsedstvo je za to pripravilo povzetek (glejte prilogo 3).

4.2 Sodelovanje z drugimi pobudami

Mandat, ki je bil podeljen Platformi, zahteva »sodelovanje in usklajevanje z vsemi znanimi projekti na temo »ekološka povezanost«, »ekološki ali biološki koridorji« na mednarodni, nacionalni in regionalni ravni« (glejte tabelo 2, 5. poglavje). Različne dejavnosti bi bilo potrebno čim bolje med seboj uskladiti. V zadnjih dveh letih smo vzpostavili predvsem sodelovanje z naslednjimi projekti in pobudami.

4.2.1 Projekti, usmerjeni v udejanjanje: projekt »Ecological Continuum« in »ECONNECT«

Idejni projekt »Ecological Continuum«, ki ga je financiral švicarski sklad za varstvo narave MAVA in ki je trajal 18 mesecev, se končuje januarja 2009. Trenutno pripravljajo prošnjo za nadaljevanje projekta. Projekt obdeluje konzorcij, ki ga sestavljajo: ALPARC, CIPRA International, ISCAR in alpski program pri WWF-u. Projekt je močno usmerjen v udejanjanje ekološke povezanosti v pilotnih regijah. V okviru projekta razvijajo npr. zgoraj omenjeni katalog ukrepov. Vsi partnerji v konzorciju so zastopani v Platformi.

Dne 1. septembra 2008 so pričeli s projektom ECONNECT v zvezi z ekološko povezanostjo v Alpah, ki ga subvencionira program Evropske unije za alpsko območje. V tem vsealpskem projektu sodeluje 16 partnerjev, tako iz državnih, kot tudi nevladnih in znanstvenih organizacij. Projekt raziskuje med drugim pravne vidike za udejanjanje ekološke povezanosti v Alpah in se angažira na področjih upravljanja podatkov in komunikacij, itd. Predsedstvo Platforme je v okviru začetnih prireditev projekta predstavilo Platformo in podpira projekt v funkciji opazovalca.

4.2.2 Listina »Memorandum of Cooperation« o sodelovanju s CBD-jem in Karpatsko konvencijo

Od 19.-30. maja 2008 je bila v Bonnu 9. konferenca pogodbenic CBD-ja. V okviru konference smo organizirali spremljevalno prireditev o dejavnostih v zvezi z ekološkim omrežjem v Alpah, pri kateri so sodelovali pomembni udeleženci. Spremljevalno prireditev smo izkoristili tudi za podpis listine »Memorandum of Cooperation« (MoC) med Alpsko konvencijo, Karpatsko konvencijo in CBD-jem na temo »Varstvo in trajnostna raba biotske raznolikosti«.

Da bi MoC podkrepili s konkretnimi dejavnostmi, je bila v okviru Svetovnega kongresa za ohranitev narave (WCC) Svetovne zveze za ohranjanje narave (IUCN), ki je bil od 04.-15. oktobra 2008 v Barceloni, organizirana delavnica na temo »Establishing Ecological Networks - from the Alps to the Carpathians and beyond«. Cilj delavnice je bil, razpravljati o izkušnjah in izzivih pri vzpostavljanju ekoloških omrežij v vsem svetu in pokazati možne rešitve za premostitev problemov. Rezultate delavnice bo IUCN povzel v brošuri o WCC-ju, ki jo bo izdal.

Predstavnica Karpatske konvencije je na 3. srečanju Platforme v Berchtesgadnu predstavila rezultate projekta za vzpostavitev informacijskega sistema o biotski raznolikosti v Karpatih. Sklenjeno je bilo, da bomo tudi v prihodnje vabili na srečanja Platforme predstavnike Karpatske konvencije, da bi ustvarili temelj za tesnejše sodelovanje.

4.2.3 EU komisija: Generalni direktorat za okolje

V razgovoru z Generalnim direktoratom za okolje (DG ENV B - Protecting the Natural Environment) Evropske komisije v juniju 2007 smo se dogovorili za redno izmenjavo mnenj. Predvsem pri vzpostavljanju ekološke povezanosti in omrežja NATURA 2000 v Alpah bi lahko izkoristili sinergije. Pri tem je pomembna izmenjava izkušenj in medsebojna pomoč, predvsem na področjih upravljanja varovanih območij in spremljanja. Nadaljnje skupne teme so podnebne spremembe in biotska raznolikost ter upravljanje velikih plenilcev. Sodelovanje bi lahko potekalo prek izvedbe skupnih prireditev, priprave smernic itd. Kot inštrument za financiranje bi lahko izkoristili predvsem program Evropske unije »LIFE«. Sodelovanje bomo še podrobneje konkretizirali. Vsi so pozdravili udeležbo predstavnika Evropske unije na 3. srečanju Platforme.

4.2.4 Vseevropsko ekološko omrežje (PEEN) Sveta Evrope

Dne 18. oktobra 2008 je predsedstvo Platforme za ekološko povezanost obvestilo Odbor strokovnjakov za razvoj vseevropskega ekološkega omrežja (PEEN) o aktualnem stanju dejavnosti. Ekološka povezanost v Alpah predstavlja pomemben element za implementiranje vseevropskih ekoloških omrežij. Cilj redne izmenjave mnenj s PEEN-om je poleg informiranja in navezovanja stikov predvsem identificiranje vmesnikov z dejavnostmi PEEN-a. Predlagano je bilo, da bi na konferenci v Španiji, ki jo organizira Svet Evrope v letu Združenih narodov o biotski raznolikosti 2010, predstavili dejavnosti pri vzpostavljanju ekološke povezanosti v Alpah.

4.3 Strokovno-vsebinske teme

Za poglabljanje strokovno-vsebinskih tem je bil na 2. srečanju Platforme prvič sprejet sklep o vzpostavitvi dveh delovnih skupin v okviru Platforme.

4.3.1 Pilotne regije

Dogovorjeno je bilo, da lahko regije, ki si posebej prizadevajo za ekološko povezanost, kandidirajo kot »pilotne regije« in so lahko kot takšne nominirane. S to pobudo naj bi zavarovana območja močneje vključili v Alpsko konvencijo, zaradi pozitivnega učinka reklame zaradi nominacije za pilotno regijo pa jih s tem tudi podprli. Z možnostjo, da te regije odlikujemo, pa bi lahko druge regije spodbudili, da prav tako sprejmejo ukrepe za ekološko povezanost. Za podporo tej pobudi je bila ustanovljena »delovna skupina za pilotne regije«. Skupina je pričela z delom v septembru 2008. Cilj skupine je, pripraviti zasnovo za izbor in tekoče imenovanje pilotnih regij ter spodbujati in spremljati postopek imenovanja.

4.3.2 Komunikacija

Delovna skupina je bila ustanovljena tudi za področje komunikacije, ki je prvič zasedala prav tako v septembru. Smatrali smo, da je to za prvo fazo Platforme

pomembno, da bi Platformo in dejavnosti na projektih na področju ekološke povezanosti približali širšemu občinstvu, poleg tega pa, da bi razpravljali o interni potrebi po komunikaciji in primernem ravnanju. Na področju komunikacije smo izvedli naslednje dejavnosti:

- skupno s projektom »Ecological Continuum« smo razvili spletno stran o ekološkem povezovanju v Alpah (http://www.alpine-ecological-network.org);
- prav tako skupno s projektom »Ecological Continuum« smo pripravili informativno brošuro za lokalne nosilce odločitev in za strokovno občinstvo;
- DS Platforme za komunikacijo razvija trenutno strategijo za področje komunikacije.

Na naslednjem srečanju Platforme se bomo odločili, ali je potrebno, da ta delovna skupina nadaljuje z delom.

5 Predlogi za nadaljnji mandat

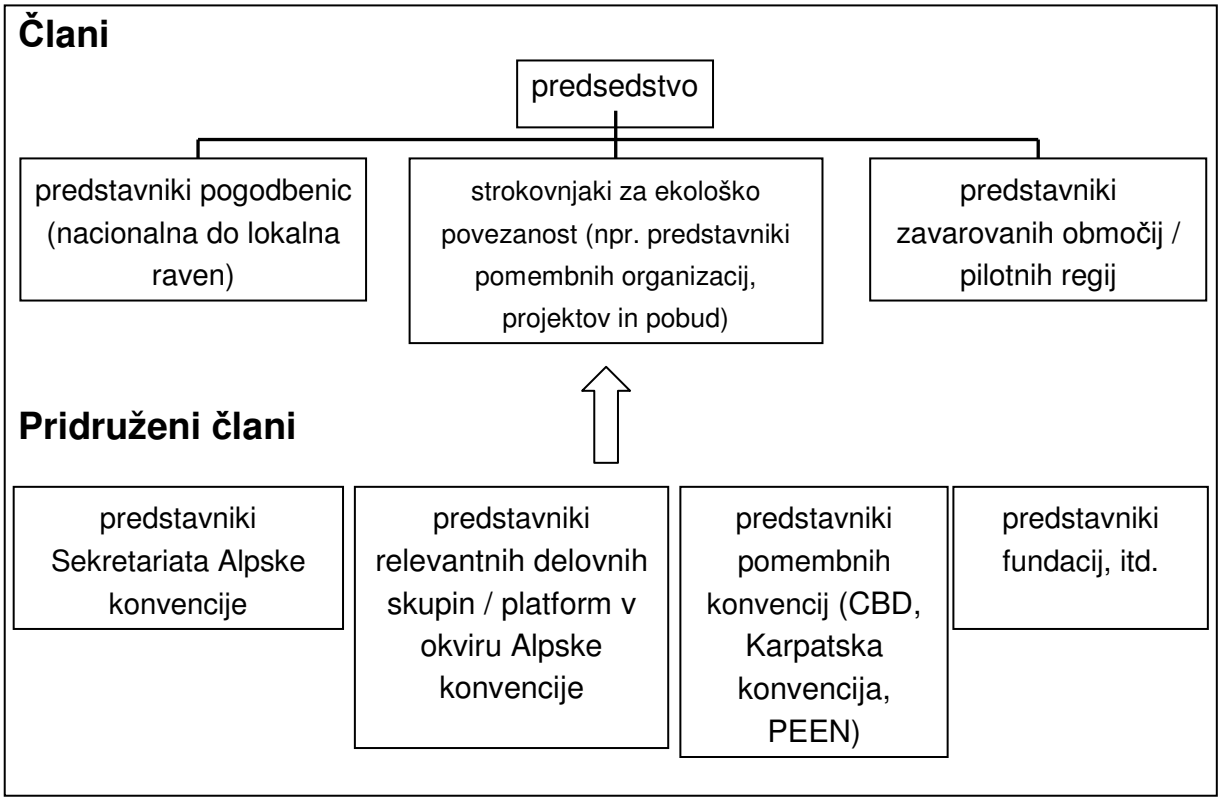
Mandat Platformi za ekološko povezanost, ki ji ga je IX. Alpska konferenca podelila, je bil omejen na obdobje do X. Alpske konference. Zaobsega naslednja področja: podpora pri pripravi znanstvenih osnov za vzpostavitev ekološke povezanosti, udejanjanje, usmerjeno v projekte, ter delo z javnostjo. Specifične naloge, navedene v mandatu, so navedene v tabeli v točki 5.3. Zaradi svoje sestave je Platforma posebej primerna, da deluje kot vmesnik med strokovnjaki, lokalnimi akterji in nosilci odločitev na različnih ravneh, vključno z mednarodno ravnijo. Glede tega izpolnjuje Platforma »nišno funkcijo«. Da bo ta vidik lahko predstavljal v naslednjem mandatu težišče, predlagamo naslednjo strukturo.

5.1 Struktura

V organizacijskem načrtu, ki se nahaja spodaj v besedilu, razlikujemo med »člani« in »pridruženimi člani«. Posebno funkcijo med člani ima glede na svoje naloge (glejte spodaj) predsedstvo Platforme. Člane lahko razporedimo v tri kategorije:

- predstavniki pogodbenic
- predstavniki pomembnih organizacij, projektov in pobud
- predstavniki pilotnih regij in zavarovanih območij

K temu pridejo še pridruženi člani, katerih naloga je, da dajejo na voljo specifične ekspertize oziroma informacije in vzpostavijo povezavo med »deležniki«.



S to organizacijo je povezana naslednja razširitev v primerjavi z dosedanjim mandatom:

- Razdelitev med člane in pridružene člane pojasnjuje pristojnosti (glejte spodaj).
- Zavarovana območja in pilotne regije se izrecno omenjajo kot člani; to v dosedanjem mandatu ni bilo tako in to ustreza vedno večjemu pomenu, ki ga imajo pilotne regije za udejanjanje ukrepov ekološke povezanosti.
- Vključevanje predstavnikov drugih pomembnih delovnih skupin in platform Alpske konvencije zagotavlja povezovanje z drugimi protokoli in dejavnostmi Alpske konvencije.
- Listina »Memorandum of Cooperation«, ki so jo v maju 2008 podpisale Alpska konvencija, Karpatska konvencija in CBD, bo udejanjena z vključevanjem predstavnikov konvencij.

Organizacijskega načrta nimamo za dokončnega, temveč bi ga morali po potrebi ažurirati in dopolniti z novimi skupinami. Smotrno bi bilo npr. močneje upoštevati prostorske in krajinske načrtovalce, pri čemer bi moralo strokovno težišče dela Platforme ostati na področju varstva narave.

5.2 Pristojnosti

5.2.1 Predsedstvo

- Vmesnik do politične ravni, npr. poročanje organom Alpske konvencije, sodelovanje z Evropsko unijo in Svetom Evrope, udejanjanje sodelovanja s CBD-jem in Karpatsko konvencijo
- Organizacija in vodenje srečanj Platforme in po potrebi tudi delovnih skupin v okviru Platforme (trenutno DS za komunikacije, DS za pilotne regije)
- Upravljanje spletnih strani: http://www.alpine-ecological-network.org/, ki zadevajo Alpsko konvencijo
- Status opazovalca v projektu »ECONNECT«
- Svetovanje predlagateljem nadaljnjih projektov v zvezi z ekološko povezanostjo v Alpah in po potrebi njihovo usklajevanje
- Identifikacija in vabila drugim članom in pridruženim članom v Platformo

5.2.2 Člani (glejte prilogo 2)

- Predstavniki pogodbenic (predstavniki držav): udeležba predstavnikov držav na srečanjih Platforme (najmanj en predstavnik bi se srečanj moral udeleževati, lahko tudi prek zastopnika) in podpora pri dosegi strokovnih rezultatov. Posredovanje rezultatov dela akterjem v lastni državi in prizadevanje, da se tudi predstavniki drugih sektorjev seznanijo z delom Platforme. Nacionalni predstavniki so vmesnik do nacionalnih uprav in nosilcev odločitev.
- Strokovnjaki za ekološko povezanost: izmenjava znanja in izkušenj za načrtovanje in udejanjanje ukrepov ter podpora pri odgovorih na konkretna strokovna vprašanja.
- Predstavniki pilotnih regij in varovanih območij: vključevanje lokalnih in regionalnih pogojev ter potreb v Platformo ter izmenjava izkušenj o izvedljivosti ukrepov.

5.2.3 Pridruženi člani (glejte prilogo 2)

- Predstavniki Stalnega sekretariata Alpske konvencije: povezava Alpske konvencije in pobud, ki potekajo pod njenim okriljem.
- Predstavniki drugih delovnih skupin in platform Alpske konvencije: izmenjava informacij o skupnih temah.
- Predstavniki drugih konvencij: izmenjava informacij o sprejetih in načrtovanih ukrepih za vzpostavitev ekološke povezanosti oziroma globalnega omrežja zavarovanih območij
- Predstavniki fundacij, itd.: vključevanje spodbujevalnih vidikov in potrebe po raziskavah.

5.3 Stanje obdelave dosedanjega mandata

Stanje obdelave posameznih točk dosedanjega mandata je prikazano v naslednji tabeli. Če je bilo delo opravljeno v okviru drugih pobud / projektov, je to navedeno.

Tabela 2: Dosedanji mandat Platforme za ekološko povezanost: Stanje obdelave in nadaljnji načrti

Naloge v skladu z mandatom	Stanje obdelave	Nadaljnji načrti
1. Priprava skupne terminologije in metodologije za udejanjanje ekološke povezanosti z vključevanjem strokovnjakov	Na voljo je poročilo »Evaluation of approaches for designing and implementing ecological networks in the Alps« (pripravil projekt »Ecological Continuum«)	popularizacija poročila
2. Priprava kataloga ukrepov za udejanjanje ekološke povezanosti, vključno s predlogi za spremljajoče delo z javnostjo	Na voljo je osnutek kataloga (pripravil projekt »Ecological Continuum«)	nadaljevanje in morebitna objava v »Alpskih signalih«
3. Opredelitev kazalcev za kontrolo uspeha pri udejanjanju ekološke povezanosti	To trenutno poteka v okviru projekta »Ecological Continum« in projekta »ECONNECT«	usklajevanje rezultatov in priprava nadaljnjih kazalcev
4. Delo z zainteresiranimi teritorialnimi skupnostmi (pilotne regije) in lokalnimi akterji za konkretno udejanjanje in vzpostavitev povezav med zavarovanimi območji in območji z veliko raznolikostjo vrst s ciljem vzpostavitve ekološke povezanosti na lokalni in regionalni ravni	Prvi uspehi doseženi, predvsem v pilotnih regijah, v okviru projekta »Ecological Continuum« in »ECONNECT«; pričeli z imenovanjem pilotnih regij	nadaljevanje dela
5. Identifikacija regionalnih, nacionalnih in nadnacionalnih virov financiranja za ukrepe za udejanjanje ekološke povezanosti	Iskali predvsem možnosti subvencioniranja s strani Evropske unije; projekt programa INTERREG (ECONNECT), v katerem	EU LIFE slediti razpisom in po potrebi vlagati predloge projektov; prek Platforme

		sodelujejo številni člani Platforme odobren	zaprositi npr. za sofinanciranje držav članic Alpske konvencije
6.	Spodbujanje spremljajočih študij za udejanjanje ekološke povezanosti na celotnem območju Alp na temelju zavarovanih območij in rezultatov pilotnih regij	Pogodba o delu podeljena, delovna skupina vzpostavljena: zasnova za izbor in imenovanje pilotnih regij	poziv k prijavi interesa, redna imenovanja in spremljanje drugih pilotnih regij; po potrebi pridobivanje sredstev za pripravo novih študij
7.	Sodelovanje in usklajevanje z vsemi znanimi projekti na temo »ekološka povezanost«, »ekološki in biološki koridorji« na mednarodni, državni in regionalni ravni	Izmenjava mnenj in sodelovanje z različnimi projekti, pomembnimi pobudami Evropske unije in Sveta Evrope ter Karpatsko konvencijo in CBD-jem; prizadevanja, da se število članov Platforme in partnerjev poveča.	nadaljevanje in razširitev teh dejavnosti

Dodatno k mandatu smo izvajali predvsem na področju komunikacije dejavnosti, da bi ekološko povezanost popularizirali med širšo javnostjo (glejte poglavje 4.3.2).

5.4 Predlogi za mandat za obdobje X. do XI. Alpska konferenca

Prvo fazo Platforme imamo lahko za fazo vzpostavitve, v kateri je šlo predvsem za to, da opozorimo na Platformo in njene možnosti, da pridobimo člane in pridružene člane ter spodbudimo prve aktivnosti. Z odobritvijo dveh obsežnih projektov na področju ekološke povezanosti v Alpah v fazi vzpostavitve Platforme (projekt »Ecological Continuum« in »ECONNECT«) so sedaj na voljo sredstva za pripravo temeljev in za udejanjanje konkretnih ukrepov. Za Platformo, kot stalno inštitucijo v okviru Alpske konvencije, se je zato izkristalizirala naslednja **glavna vloga**:

- kot vmesnik za sodelovanje akterjev na področju raziskav in razvoja z nacionalnimi in mednarodnimi političnimi nosilci odločitev ter upravami (posredovanje rezultatov raziskav in potrebe po delovanju nosilcem odločitev);

- kot »možganski trust« za identifikacijo nadaljnjih korakov za vzpostavitev ekološke povezanosti v Alpah;

- kot pobudnik in posrednik pri razvoju novih čezalpskih projektov ter pri vključevanju čezalpskih zasnov v nacionalne / regionalne projekte ter pri vključevanju nacionalnih omrežij v vsealpske zasnove in projekte.

Ta vloga izhaja iz edinstvene sestave članov in pridruženih članov Platforme, za kar bi si morali tudi v prihodnje prizadevati.

Iz navedenega mandata za prvo fazo Platforme izhajajo naslednje nadaljnje naloge:

- nadaljevanje kataloga ukrepov za udejanjanje ekološke povezanosti in podpora pri uporabi kataloga;
- razvoj kazalcev za kontrolo uspešnosti pri udejanjanju ekološke povezanosti;
- imenovanja novih pilotnih regij na temelju izdelane zasnove za izbor in imenovanje ter pomoč pilotnim regijam (npr. strokovno spremljanje postopkov za zgledno udejanjanje ukrepov povezovanja v omrežje, s katerimi so pričeli v pilotnih regijah);
- iskanje možnih virov financiranja za ukrepe za udejanjanje ekološke povezanosti ter identificiranje in priprava predlogov za skupne projekte znotraj Platforme;
- nadaljevanje izmenjave mnenj in sodelovanje z različnimi projekti, pomembnimi pobudami Evropske komisije in Sveta Evrope ter Karpatsko konvencijo in CBD-jem.

Poleg tega predlagamo za obdobje X. do XI. Alpske konference naslednje dejavnosti:

- prispevati k nadaljnjemu udejanjanju listine »Memorandrum of Cooperation« med Alpsko in Karpatsko konvencijo ter CBD-jem;
- izkoristiti leto 2010 kot leto biotske raznolikosti Združenih narodov za okrepljeno popularizacijo dejavnosti za ekološko povezanost v Alpah (npr. z udeležbo na konferencah in prireditvah);
- dokumentirati dosedanje rezultate dejavnosti za vzpostavitev ekološke povezanosti kot module za njeno udejanjanje v seriji »Alpski signali« in tako v jezikih Alpske konvencije s tem seznaniti širšo javnost;
- udejanjati strategijo na področju komunikacij in ažurirati spletno stran;
- spodbuditi usklajevanje različnih pobud na področju upravljanja podatkov (EU, ECONNECT, projekt Ecological Continuum, SOIA, itd.) in npr. organizirati delavnico za izmenjavo izkušenj;
- razvijati omrežje pilotnih regij;

- da bi zagotovili posebno funkcijo Platforme kot vmesnika do nosilcev odločitev, bi prosili predvsem pogodbenice, da se udeležujejo srečanj Platforme (morebiti tudi z zastopniki);
- nadaljnja konsolidacija članstva znotraj Platforme;
- za predsedovanje, ki bo sledilo francoskemu predsedovanju Platformi, bi morali čim prej pridobiti eno pogodbenico.

B Predlog sklepa

Stalni odbor

1. se seznani s poročilom o dejavnostih Platforme »Ekološko omrežje« pod predsedovanjem Nemčije in se zahvali Platformi za opravljeno delo,

2. odobri mandat Platforme, predlagan za obdobje do XI. Alpske konference,

3. prosi pogodbenice, da podprejo postopek identificiranja pilotnih regij Platforme,

4. vabi predstavnike držav pogodbenic, da se udeležijo sestankov Platforme,

5. priporoča Alpski konferenci, da sprejme naslednji sklep:

»Alpska konferenca

1. se seznani s poročilom o dejavnostih za obdobje 2007/2008, ki ga je predložila Platforma »Ekološko omrežje« pod predsedovanjem Nemčije v prilogi na znanje in se zahvali Platformi za opravljeno delo,

2. podaljša mandat Platformi »Ekološko omrežje«, ki ga je sprejela IX. Alpska konferenca v letu 2006, do XI. Alpske konference z naslednjimi poudarki:

   - nadaljevanje priprave kataloga obstoječih ukrepov za udejanjanje ekološkega omrežja;

   - identificiranje kazalcev za nadzor uspeha pri udejanjanju ekološke povezanosti;

   - imenovanje pilotnih regij

   - iskanje drugih možnih finančnih virov za ukrepe za udejanjanje ekološke povezanosti in identifikacija ter po potrebi priprava predlogov za skupne projekte znotraj platforme;

- udejanjanje komunikacijske strategije Platforme (znotraj okvira komunikacijske strategije Sekretariata) in ažuriranje spletne strani ter priprava ustrezne dokumentacije o ekološkem omrežju (če možno v seriji „Alpski signali“);

- Platforma bo pripravila predlog o svoji sestavi in strukturi, ki ga bo po pravilih potrdil Stalni odbor;

- Izbrati eno pogodbenico za predsedovanje Platformi po francoskem predsedovanju po letu 2011;

- spodbujanje usklajevanja različnih pobud v sodelovanju s SOIA za področje upravljanja podatkov (EU, ECONNECT, projekt Ecological Continuum, itd.), npr. organizacija delavnice za izmenjavo izkušenj;

- nadaljevanje izmenjave in sodelovanja z različnimi projekti, pomembnimi pobudami Evropske komisije in Evropskega sveta ter Karpatske konvencije in Konvencije o biotski raznolikosti (CBD);

- izkoriščanje leta 2010 kot leta biotske raznolikosti Združenih narodov za okrepljeno opozarjanje na dejavnosti v zvezi z ekološko povezanostjo v Alpah (npr. s sodelovanjem na konferencah in prireditvah);

- nadaljnja podpora izvajanju Memoranduma o sodelovanju med Alpsko in Karpatsko konvencijo ter CBD-ja;

3. naroča Stalnemu odboru in Platformi »Ekološko omrežje«, da nadaljuje s svojim delom v skladu s sprejetim mandatom in o tem poroča XI. Alpski konferenci,

4. poveri Franciji predsedovanje Platformi »Ekološko omrežje« za obdobje 2009 do 2011.«

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ANLAGE/ANNEXE/ALLEGATO/PRILOGA

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ANNEX 1

ALPINE CONVENTION

THIRD MEETING OF THE PLATFORM „ECOLOGICAL NETWORK“

- ALPINE CONVENTION -

11TH DECEMBER 2008

BERCHTESGADEN, KONGRESSHAUS

MINUTES (23/1 /2009)

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1 Aim of the Meeting and Participants

The third meeting of the Platform "Ecological Network" of the Alpine Convention was held in Berchtesgaden (Germany) on 11 December 2008. On 12 December 2008 an excursion to the National Park - organised by the Park Administration - was offered. The meeting was organised based on a decision by the second platform meeting, held in Chambéry in April 2008, primarily:

- to prepare the handing over of the platform chair to France,
- to discuss a future mandate of the platform, to be included in the report to the 39th Permanent Committee and the X. Alpine Conference, but also
- to exchange information on recent activities carried out by platform members, relevant events, etc.

The meeting was attended by 30 participants, including the incoming platform chair, the Vice Secretary General of the Alpine Convention, the German Focal Point of the Alpine Convention, 5 country representatives (Austria, Germany, Switzerland, France, Liechtenstein), a representative of the European Commission as well as representatives of protected areas, and representatives of NGOs (list of participants: see Annex 1).

2 Report on Recent Platform Activities and Related Activities

The platform chair reported on the following activities carried out since the second meeting:

- Two working groups of the platform were established and started their work (WG communication, WG pilot regions).
- A Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between the Alpine Convention, the Carpathian Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was signed at the 9th CBD Conference of the Parties, held in Bonn in May 2008.
- Building on the MoC, a workshop was organised by the platform and held at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona in October 2008. The workshop aimed to present experiences with ecological networking in Alps, the Carpathians and the Himalaya Hindu-Kush region and to exchange lessons learned.
- The platform was presented at the meeting of the Committee of Experts for the Development of the Pan-European Ecological Network (PEEN) held in October 2008 in Strasbourg.
- The platform was introduced at the kick-off meetings (Innsbruck and Vienna) of the ECONNECT project, a project supported by the Alpine Space Programme of the European Union. Close cooperation between the platform and ECONNECT is intended.
- For the nomination of pilot regions of the Platform "Ecological Network" - as discussed at the second platform meeting - a contract was awarded to CIPRA

International to provide technical support for the selection and nomination process (see below).

The Vice Secretary General of the Alpine Convention reported of a meeting on research priorities held with ISCAR, where a research agenda had been developed. The idea is to use ecological networking activities in the Alpine regions as best practice model for interdisciplinary research. Potential funding opportunities will now be identified.

3 Cooperation with the EU Commission

In a meeting between representatives of the Platform "Ecological Network", the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and the EU Commission, Directorate General for the Environment in June 2007 (see minutes of the second platform meeting), cooperation and regular information exchange was agreed upon. In particular, exploiting synergies in relation to the establishment of NATURA 2000 sites in the Alpine region and the establishment of a network of protected areas was envisaged. The representative of the EU reaffirmed the interest to cooperate and invited the platform to become an observer to the European Habitats Committee and other relevant working groups.

The EU COM representative highlighted climate change and large carnivores as important common thematic issues. The added value of multilateral engagement is seen in the promotion, support and coordination of efforts and by facilitating knowledge exchange and promoting examples of best practice. This could be achieved by facilitating projects, organising conferences and developing guidelines. A potential instrument for financial support by the EU is LIFE. Project proposals could be coordinated by the presidency of the platform. Important criteria for support through LIFE are that measures are innovative and carried out on site and that they are included in the EU Biodiversity Action Plan (a project covering the whole Alpine arc would fulfil this criterion).

Larger research projects could be funded e.g. through the EU supported by INTERREG Programme (like the ECONNECT project) and by funds from European Research and Technological Development.

4 Cooperation with Other Initiatives

4.1 Management of large carnivores

A representative of an Alpine wide Working Group on the management of large carnivores and their prey animals introduced the topic to platform members. The group proposed to establish a platform under the Alpine Convention at the 38th meeting of the Permanent Committee. The platform could integrate different sectors and land user groups, thereby facilitating the dialogue between land users and conservationists, in order to improve acceptance of large carnivores among land users. Once established, it is proposed that the new platform and the Platform "Ecological Network" should cooperate closely and send a representative to platform meetings.

4.2 Data management

As indicated by the representative of the Secretariat of the Alpine Convention SOIA (System for the Observation and Information on the Alps) does not only serve as a permanent database for Alpine data from different projects beyond their term, but also brings together different institutions and experts working in the Alpine region and provides information to the greater public. In this respect, one basic activity of the Secretariat is the publication of a report on the State of the Alps on the basis of indicators (see http://www.alpconv.org/soia/index_en.htm). Data management is also considered as an important component for the establishment of an ecological network by platform members (compare minutes of previous platform meetings). The above mentioned ECONNECT project has developed a work package dealing with data management. Besides, different EU activities with relevance for data management related to ecological networking exist (e.g. INSPIRE, SEBI 2010, CORINE Land Cover). Yet, further coordination of these different activities seems to be important. The platform could serve as a facilitator in this respect. The platform chair will discuss this issue with the Secretariat of the Alpine Convention in order to elicit the potential for cooperation. The EU representative suggested close cooperation with the EEA and to use harmonised methods and indicators in order to facilitate the exchange of data.

4.3 Evaluation of approaches for designing and implementing ecological networks in the Alps

A report with the above mentioned title had been finalized recently. The report was compiled as part of the Ecological Continuum Project and is available on the website (http://www.alpine-ecological-network.org). Four different methods to develop and implement ecological networks were evaluated to test the suitability of different approaches for application in pilot regions. The study showed that a unique concept for planning an integral, Alpine wide ecological network does not exist. Furthermore the results showed that existing concepts often lack practical information on how to establish ecological networks. Additionally, there is an implementation problem: concepts are often not being translated into practical measures, and there is frequently not sufficient validation in practice and not enough integration of stakeholders.

4.4 Ecological Continuum and ECONNECT projects

The Ecological Continuum pre-project runs until the end of 2008. A proposal for a main project is currently drafted by the Consortium of partners. The ECONNECT project (budget: 3.2 million €, term of contract: 3 years, 16 partners) started in September 2008 and is currently the largest project concerning protected areas in the Alpine region. Both projects work with “pilot regions” where connectivity measures are implemented on site. The pilot regions consist of protected area plus surrounding non-protected areas as stepping stones for connectivity. In the Ecological Continuum main Project a competence network shall be established, the implementation in the existing pilot regions supported as well as the implementation in further pilot regions initiated (for the selection and nomination of pilot regions, see 5.1 below). Besides connectivity shall be improved in sites where barriers have been identified.

The **catalogue of measures** that has been developed in the context of the Ecological Continuum Project provides a toolkit for pilot regions and may also be used for

evaluating their ecological effectiveness and economic feasibility. The catalogue will soon be available on the website of the alpine ecological network. Plans are to update it regularly.

4.5 Conventions and agreements

As part of the MoC mentioned above, a representative of a project supported by the Carpathian Convention participated in the platform meeting and presented a project currently implemented by WWF. The project aims to establish a joint Carpathian Biodiversity Information System on species and habitats and to support organisations in the region. Corridors are being modelled electronically, considering also costs and threats. Ultimately, management recommendations will be developed (see www.carpates.org/dbu_index.html). The participants of the meeting agreed that cooperation between representatives from the Carpathian region and the platform should be continued and institutionalised.

Although the CBD was not represented at the meeting, cooperation possibilities within the MoC were discussed. It was suggested to propose the establishment of an Alpine-Carpathian ecological network as in the next mandate of the platform and to invite a representative of the Secretariat of the CBD to become an associate to the platform.

As mentioned above, the platform was represented at the last yearly meeting of the Committee of Experts for the Development of the Pan-European Ecological Network. In 2010 (UN year of biodiversity), a comprehensive European conference on ecological networks will be organised by the Council of Europe and the EU COM in Spain. The platform should use this forum to raise awareness for ecological networking activities in the Alps.

5 Platform Internals Including Organisational and Strategic Matters

5.1 Pilot regions: selection, nomination and follow-up process

Since the last platform meeting, two working groups (WG) have been established. The "**WG pilot regions**" elaborates a concept for selecting and nominating pilot regions, which are especially active in establishing an Alpine ecological network. Cooperation with pilot regions already takes place in the Ecological Continuum and ECONNECT projects, but a criteria system for the selection is missing. The six pilot regions of the two projects shall be rewarded for their particular engagement and already be nominated at the X. Alpine Conference, following a nomination process. The nomination is considered as a possibility to raise awareness for the need of ecological networking among decision makers and the public. For pilot regions the nomination provides an opportunity to gain publicity for their work. The WG with support of experts elaborates a criteria-based selection concept, also regarding a follow up-process, for which several alternatives (depending on available resources by the nominating body) shall be proposed. More pilot regions can be nominated in future - on the basis of the full set of criteria - thereby extending the network step by step.

5.2 Communication within the platform

The "**WG communication**" made suggestions for further development of the website and elaborated a communication strategy, which will be available soon. The communication strategy defines modes and aims of communication by target group. The WG also discussed the question which documents may be put online (published), the following proposals were made: only information that has been adopted by the Permanent Committee may be published. Instead of a list of platform members, the new organisation chart shall be published.

5.3 Membership and handing over of platform chair

A draft organisation chart of the platform was presented amended by participants (Annex 3). The role of the platform as an expert working group was reconfirmed, as well as its important function to connect the project level to the political level. A discussion on the role of country representatives in the platform reaffirmed their importance as scientific/technical experts within national administrations. Furthermore, country representatives should serve as links to the political level within their countries, but also help to increase the acceptance and understanding of measures related to ecological networking among other stakeholders, thereby facilitating better communication and lobbying within countries. All member states should be represented in the platform meetings, and in case of absence nominate a representative.

For the handing over of the platform chair to France information, including a list of follow up activities will be made available and a meeting of the current with the future chair arranged in January.

In order to document the achievements and steps of establishing an ecological network in the Alps, the compilation and publication of available documents had been discussed. The "Alpine signals" were suggested as a potential publication series. The platform chair will further elaborate this suggestion.

6 Closure of the Meeting

The platform chair thanked the guest speakers from the EU COM and the representatives from the WG on large carnivores and the Carpathian Convention for their extremely relevant and interesting contributions, and all platform members and associates for their presentations and inputs and the constructive discussions.

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Annex 2

Participant List of the 2007 / 2008 Meetings of the Platform Ecological Network - Alpine Convention

Platform Members and Associates

- C - Representatives of contracting parties / country representative
- E - Experts in ecological networking
- P - Representatives of pilot areas / protected areas
- A - Associate

Name	Organisation	Member Status	Email	1st Meeting (29 March 2007, Müchen)	2nd Meeting (16 April 2008, Chambéry)	3rd Meeting (11 December 2008, Berchtesgaden)
Böttcher, Marita	Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)	E	boettcherm@bfn.de	x		x
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Callec, Arnaud	Department Isere	P	a.callec@cg38.fr	x		
Calvi, Christina	Provincia di Alessandria	C	christina.calvi@provincia.alessandria.it		x	
Church, Jon	EURAC Research	E	jonmarco.church@eurac.edu o. jon.church@eurac.ed	x	x	
Fasel, Michael	Amt für Wald, Natur und Landschaft Abteilungsleiter Natur und Landschaft	C	michael.fasel@awnl.llv.li	x		x
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Scheurer, Thomas (replacing Antonio Righetti BAFU at the 2nd meeting)	ISCAR Bern	E	scheurer@scnat.ch	x	x	
Schuster, Hans-Dieter	Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Umwelt, Gesundheit und Verbraucherschutz Referat Grundsätze	C	hans-dieter.schuster@stmugv.bayern.de	x		x
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List of Further Members and Associates

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Couturier, Marie-Joelle	Ministére de l´eclogie, du développement et de l´aménagement durables	A	

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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	* NATURA 2000 network * Habitats Directive * Birds Directive * Water Directive * Berner Convention * Ramsar Convention * CBD * resolution H-2 MCPFE * PEEN	* Federal law: Forest, water and road law; * Country law: execution of nature conservation, hunting, fishing, spatial planning
France	-	-
Germany	Federal	Bavaria: * 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)	* 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	* 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	* The Alpine Convention * Ramsar * Bonn * CBD * Member in Interreg projects of the EU * Links to EU legislative framework and network Note: Liechtenstein is not member of the EU, so the implementation differs from the one in EU countries	* Law of Nature- and Landscape Protection * Law on Forests * Agricultural legislation
Monaco	*This question is not relevant at the scale of MONACO*	*This question is not relevant at the scale of MONACO*

Slovenia	* 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)	Law on nature conservation - consolidated version /ZON-UPB2/ (Ur.l. RS, št. 96/2004) * Regulation of habitat types (Ur.l. RS, št. 112/2003) * Regulation of the ecologically important areas (Ur. l. RS, št. 48/2004) * Regulation of specific areas of protection (Natura 2000) (Ur. l. RS, št. 49/2004, 110/2004, 59/2007) * Rules on the assessment of the acceptability of the effects of implementation of plans and interventions in the nature in protected areas (Ur.l. RS, št. 130/2004, 53/2006) *Acts on designation of particular protected areas
Switzerland	* 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	The following areas are most relevant for connectivity on a national scale: * 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	* 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)	* 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; Programm for hedges, meadows with scattered trees	* 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 proteced area NP Hohe Tauern, PN Rieserferner-Ahrn (I) and PN Zillertaler Hauptkamm * Transboundary protection of great bustard
France	* "Trame verte et bleue" green and blue scope (similar to ecological network; ecological corridors) * Second stage from 2009 to 2012	* 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 *régions* Nord-Pas de Calais, Alsace, etc. * Projects of the *département* Isère (ecological connections into the Western Alps) * Gresivaudan valley, ecological corridors (pilot sector to implement the alpin ecological network) * Projects in the *Massif Central* (assure a connection with the massifs of the Alps and that of Pyrennees)	-

Germany	Bavaria: *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	Bavaria: * 350 BayernNetz Natur projects implemented throughout Bavaria (biotope network projects)	Bavaria: * Projects in the Alpine border area between Bavaria and the Lands of Salzburg, Tyrol and Vorarlberg
Italy (preliminary)	* Collaboration between the *Parco Nazionale Mercantour* and the *Parco Naturale delle Alpi Marittime* since the creation of the *Parco Naturale* in 1980 * 1988 an official partnership agreement (*charte de jumelage* 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))	* **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	* ECONNECT (2008-2011) Alpine Space ETC Project: The Italian Ministry of the Environment is working with the Valle d'Aosta Region, the *Parco Alpi Marittime*, 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	* International (Liechtenstein and neighbouring countries – Switzerland, Austria, Germany) * IRKA, International Governmental Commission for the Alpine River Rhein, Renaturisation Projects * Regional Nets of Biotops between Liechtenstein and the Canton of St. Gallen, Switzerland	National: * ENL Project: Developing Concept for Nature and Agriculture * Forestal protected areas in Liechtenstein * Programme: Hedges in the agricultural areas	See II a
Monaco	-	*This question is not relevant at the scale of MONACO*	* Monaco is supporting the International alpine network and its actions toward interconnectivity * Monaco is also supporting transboundary 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	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.	No data available	* 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	Relevant programmes: Landschaftskonzept Schweiz (LKS, 1997) and „Landschaft 2020" (2003)	* Carried out in the cantons. Connectivity is included on various levels	* 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	* Spatial planning for wildlife management * Renaturation of streams	* Public funding * EU funding * Privat sponsorship * Some projects are funded by NGOs or associations (e.g. hunting)
France	Among the studied measures, we can indicate: * 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	* A budget (calculation in progress) will be allocated by the state to the implementing the green and blue weft
Germany	Bavaria: * 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)	Bavaria: * Focus of funding on BayernNetz Natur * Programmes furthering nature conservation, agriculture and forest farming, water management * EU funding programmes * The foundation Bayrischer Naturschutzfonds * Altogether approx. 210 million € per annum * Sponsors such as foundations and companies
Italy (preliminary)	* 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	Generally speaking, funding for ecological network activities can be obtained through the following channels: • 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	* The government is funding NGO's for Nature restoration projects * Private funding of NGO's for network programs
Monaco	See II c	* National budget provide each year a support to the international alpine protected areas network though the alpine convention budget.
Slovenia	* As natural corridors are mostly still in place, the efforts are more streamlined to the preservation of existing corridors then enhancing connectivity	* 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	Best practice example: * Inthyamon (Kanton Freiburg): aims at implementing ÖQV and REN * Local activities in the framework of connectivity projects in agriculture (ÖQV)	* Public funding * Some projects are funded by NGOs or associations (e.g. hunting) * Public funding is available for OQV, 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	* 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	* Biooffice data base (biodiversity) * Biotop mapping * Land use mapping
France	-	-
Germany	Bavaria: * 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: * 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-tected areas etc.
Italy (preliminary)	* 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	* **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	* Long-time realisation of the projects mentioned in II * Expanding information of the public on all kind of nature projects and ecological facts	* Existing: Large database on inventaries 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	* 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 then 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	* Based on the existing experiences participatory processes (from the beginning of each project) , good communication and bonus payments (see above) are indispensable	* 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

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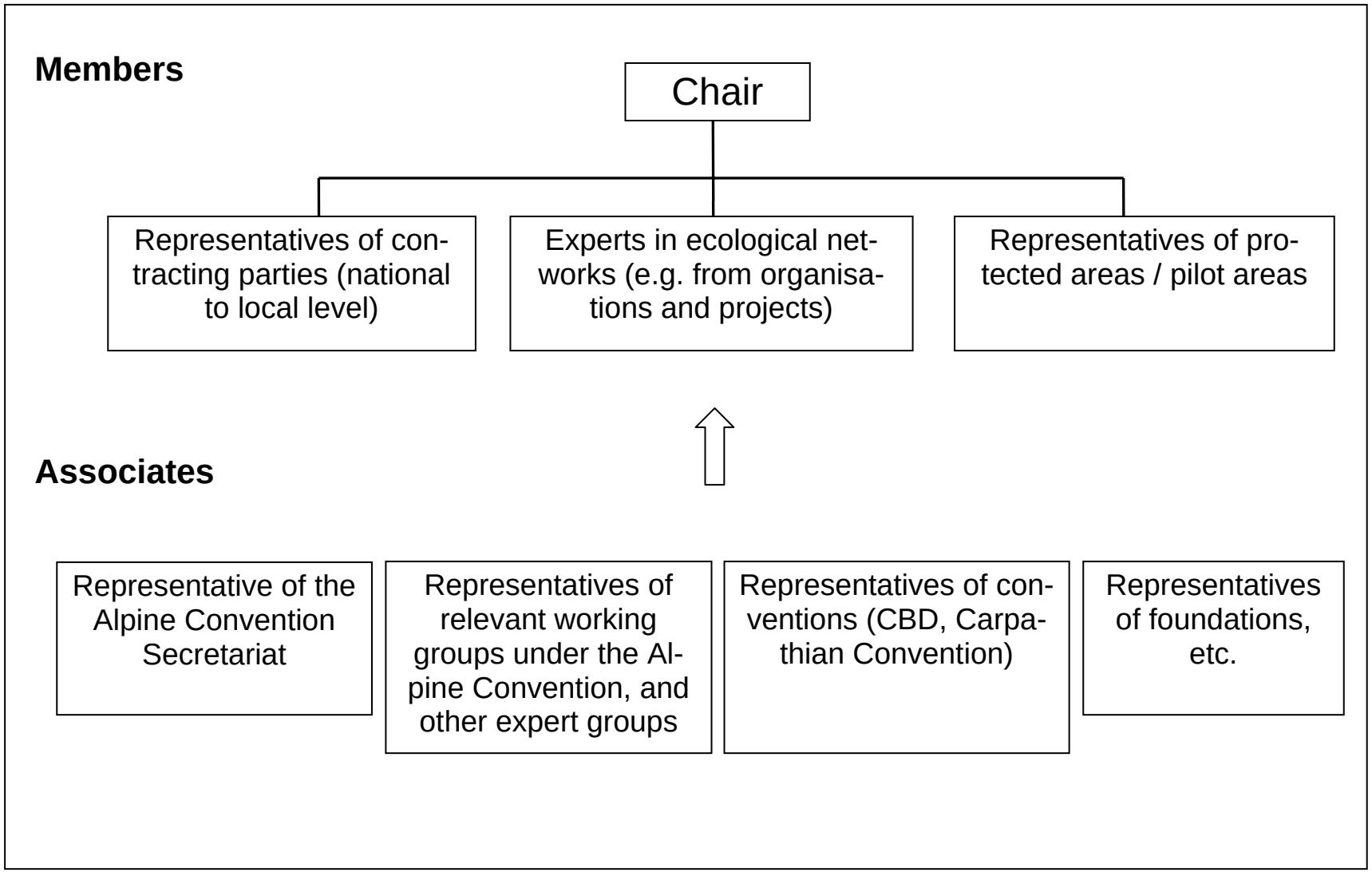
Annex 4

Organisational Structure of the Platform „Ecological Network”



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Annex 5

List of Pilot Regions to be Nominated

- The transboundary area Berchtesgaden – Salzburg

The pilot region Berchtesgaden/Salzburg lies along the Austrian-German border and comprises parts of the Free State of Bavaria (Germany) as well as the „Bundesland" Salzburg (Austria). Several great protective areas are situated in this region: the national park und biosphere reserve Berchtesgaden as well as the nature reserve in the „eastern Alps of Chiemgau", the natural park Weißbach, the nature reserves „Kalkhochalpen" and „Tennengebirge". Several cooperative projects already exist in this region and on their basis further cooperation can be established (e.g. data exchange, collective research, etc.). Due to the region being ecologically highly important and part of one bio-geographical area, further cooperation towards interlinked biotopes is important.

- The french Departement Isère

The *Département Isère* lies in the French region of the Rhône-Alps. The region is characterised by densely populated valleys of the outer Alps. Especially in the valleys there is a need for action to avoid the development of a continuous settlement belt from Valance to Geneva is give. The valleys are important migration routes for the entire Alpine region, especially for migratory birds. Furthermore they play an important role for local migration of selected species in between the numerous mountains and the large protected areas in this region (National Park Les Ecrins, Natural Parks Vercors, Chartreuse, Bauges).

The Departement Isère works on ecological networking since 1996. In 2001 a map of the ecological networks of the region was produced. Since then several activities have been carried out to implement the indentified networks (green bridges and tunnels, speed limits on important road sections, public relations, consideration during planning processes). The department now aims to integrate its action into a wider alpine frame. Experiences made in the region and outcomes of work done so far can be shared with other pilot regions.

- The region „Northern limestone Alps/Eisenwurzen/Gesäuse/ Dürrenstein"

The project region is shaped by its common history of the cultural area "Eisenwurzen" and its more than 800 years of utilization. Even today the region builds a common cultural and economic space. It touches three „Bundesländer" as well as several protected areas. The region is characterised by vast areas with a low settlement density and a low degree of fragmentation, a large share of forest (>80 %), a densely structured cultural landscape and rich biodiversity. This region is also important as a

connection to other alpine parts as well as to the neighbouring massifs of the Carpathian Mountains.

During a first workshop in October 2006, a common initiative for building an ecological network was founded by the protected areas of the region.

- The Rhaethian Trinangel (Engadin/Southtyrol/Trentino/Tyrol)

This pilot region is situated in the Italian-Swiss borderland. Two areas are particularly important in this region: The first one along the Adige-valley from the Po-Plains over the central Alps up to the Engadin/ Inn-Valley (here migration paths from the east and south exist). Aspects of networking are of particular importance in the densely populated and intensively used Adige-valley (fruit-growing).

The second important area is to develop a connection between the existing protected areas like the Swiss National Park and the National Park Stilfserjoch, the Biosfera Val Müstair, the Natural Park Kaunergrat, Adamello and Adamello Brenta as well as the south Tyrolean Natural Park.

The first workshop with participants from all involved countries and from different affected sectors (agriculture, forestry, spatial planning, nature conservation, etc.) took place in October 2008. The ecological network shall be promoted by strong international cooperation and by the coordination of different sectors.

- The area of "Hohen Tauern"

In this region the south Tyrolean Natural Parks as well as the National Park "Hohe Tauern" build the largest cohesive protected network area in the Alps. Therefore this region is central for the alpine arc and an important intersection between the northern Alps and the southeast foothills in Slovenia which are specifically important for the large birds of prey. This area also represents the transition from the greater areas of the dolomites to the "Hohen Tauern".

- South-east Alps – Mercantour/Alpi Marittime

This pilot region is located at the southwest end of the alpine arc in the French region Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur and the Italian region Liguria and Piedmont.
The Natural Park Alpi-Marittime on the Italian side and the National Park Mercantour on the French side together build one geographical unit. Both regions are also close to each other culturally, so that one can speak of a single local unit. Therefore the transboundary cooperation in this region has a long tradition. The area plays an important role as a connection to the other Italian mountain ranges (Apennines).

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Annex 6

Overview of Publications and other Material relevant for the Establishment of an Ecological Network in the Alps

The following literature (sorted by types of publication and the year of publication) shall give a general overview of existing publications on the Alpine Convention and topic related activities. The list has no claim for completeness.

Reports on Alpine Ecological Networks:

- Evaluation of approaches for designing and implementation ecological networks in the Alps. Assessment report. The Continuum Project, 2008.
- Establishing an Alpine Ecological Network, BfN-Skripten 210, 2007.
- WWF Final report „Final technical report of the main potential connectivity areas of the Alps“, 2006.
- Grenzübergreifender Ökologischer Verbund, Alpensignale 3, 2004.
- Nationales ökologisches Netzwerk REN. Schlussbericht. Eine Vision für einen landesweit vernetzten Lebensraum, Schweiz, 2004 (national ecological network REN, final report, a vision for a countrywide living space, in German and French).

Brochures:

- Ecological networks in the Alps, brochure in German, French, Italian, Slovenian and English, May 2008.
- The Alpine Carpathian Cooperation of Protected areas, brochure. 2007.
- WWF, ALPARC, CIPRA, ISCAR – brochure „The Alps: a unique natural heritage“, and preliminary works including maps. 2004.

Further material:

- Creating ecological networks in the pilot regions. Strategic implementation guidelines. Continuum Project, 2008.
- The Pan-European Ecological Network: taking stock, Council of Europe, 2007 (in English and French)
- CIPRA dossier in cooperation with the BMU (Berlin) and ALPARC: „Ökologische Korridore in den Alpen“, 2006. (Ecological corridors in the Alps, in German, French, Italian, Slovenian and English) online version http://www.cipra.org/en/alpmedia/dossiers/13 of the dossier includes a more exhaustive list on publications, links and news in several languages.

- Diverse decisions of the Alpine Convention regarding this topic (Bozen 2004, Villach, Galtür 2005, Bozen, April 2006).
- Mehrjähriges Arbeitsprogramm der Alpenkonvention (Perennial work program of the Alpine Convention), 2005, in German, French, Italian and Slovenian.
- WWF Ecoregion Conservation Plan for the Alps, 2005.
- ALPARC Study „Ökologischer Verbund“, Alpensignale 3 der Alpenkonvention, 2004. In German, French, Italian and Slovenian.
- ALPARC conference files of the 4th international conference of the alpine protective areas: „Alpine Schutzgebiete – Knoten der Ökologie und der Kommunikation“, 2003. In German, French, Italian and Slovenian.
- Protokoll Naturschutz und Landschaftspflege der Alpenkonvention (protocol „Conservation of nature and the countryside“ of the Alpine Convention), 1991.
- Aktivitäten der EU-Mitglieder unter den Alpenländern im Rahmen von NATURA 2000 sowie Aktivitäten der Schweiz und Liechtensteins zum Smaragd-Netzwerk(activities of the EU-members in the alpine countries in the context of NATURA 2000, as well as activities of Switzerland and Lichtenstein fort he „Smaragd“ Network)
- ECONNECT Project proposal. Alpine Space JTS, Munich.
- “European Green Belt”, der die Gebiete entlang der Grenzen der früheren Machtblöcke in Europa vernetzt (darunter auch Slowenien/Italien) (“European Green Belt”, which connects the areas along the former power blocks (incl. Slovenia and Italy).