

Tagung der Alpenkonferenz
Réunion de la Conférence alpine
Sessione della Conferenza delle Alpi
Zasedanje Alpske konference

XIII

TOP / POJ / ODG / TDR

A4

DE

OL: EN

ANLAGE/ANNEXE/ALLEGATO/PRILOGA

3



PLATFORM “ECOLOGICAL NETWORK”

- ALPINE CONVENTION -

REPORT TO THE ALPINE CONFERENCE

MANDATE PERIOD 2013-2014

The Platform Ecological Network of the Alpine Convention acts as facilitator for the cooperation of a wide range of different stakeholders that share the common goal of implementing an Alpine ecological network. The Platform was created in 2007 as interface between different groups (e.g. experts, scientists, decision makers, representatives of pilot regions) on different levels and has since then been working according to the mandates provided for a 2-year period by the Ministers of the Alpine Countries at the Alpine Conferences. At the beginning of the Platform activities, France and Germany took turns in chairing the Platform. For the last mandate period 2013-2014 it was decided to have a joint French-German presidency under a French chair.

1. Evaluation of the current mandate

All activities of the Platform aim at reaching the establishment of an alpine ecological network, a coherent network of interlinked natural spaces in order to guarantee a sustainable protection of Alpine biodiversity as stated in the Alpine Convention. As this task is not a short-term action, but a long-term vision, all smaller activities of the Platform contribute to this overall goal.

According to the mandate the pilot areas were a central point for the Platform work: two of the Platform meetings held during this mandate period took place in officially nominated pilot regions for ecological connectivity, one in the Ecoregion Prealpi-Giulie (I) and one in the Département Isère (F). These meetings were the occasion for the Platform members to see and discuss the achievements of the work on ecological connectivity reached by the pilot regions and to intensify the link to specific implementation projects. For all Platform meetings additional practical workshops were proposed in addition in order to improve the participation of the different types of experts in the Platform work: a workshop for the joint development of needs and expectation for future Alpine projects on the topic of ecological connectivity, a workshop together with scientists to start the

process of answering the 50 most important questions linked to ecological connectivity in the Alps¹ (project supported by the Platform during the 2009-2011 mandate), a workshop coorganised with the greenAlps project “Keys for regional biodiversity policy implementation”.

Furthermore, the Platform intensified the exchange with the WISO Platform of the Alpine Convention by exchanging meeting protocols and taking part in Platform meetings and conferences. The WISO Platform was invited to get involved as a partner in a conference organised by the Platform Ecological Network and ALPARC on the topic of “Wildlife and connected habitats” that will take place in Austria in December 2014.

Together with the Carpathian Convention, the Alpine Convention was invited to participate in the meetings of the Working Group “Green Infrastructure and Restoration” of the European Commission. The Alpine Convention was represented in the WG by the Platform Ecological Network.

The Platform actively worked on communicating the efforts of improvement of Alpine ecological connectivity through the Platforms section on the Alpine Convention homepage and at different occasions such as the large conference held in April 2013 by the BioREGIO project and the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas in Tatranska Javorina (SK).

The landscape aspect that was added to the Platforms activities in the last mandate was integrated in the activities via the ecosystem service approach and is also currently outlined in the two Alpine space projects recharge.green and greenAlps, in which the Platform participates as observer.

Concerning the functioning of the Platform there have been several changes among the official country representatives of the Platform in this period leading to a reduction of participation in group activities at the beginning of the mandate period. The missing representatives have now been replaced (except for Austria) and the cooperation between group members could be reinforced at the last Platform meeting.

The new mandate will take charge of the continuation of ongoing activities and also of a strong involvement in the macroregion strategy development, the participation in the development of the European Green Infrastructure with the European Commission and working on the link between ecological connectivity and Green Economy. The mandate has been developed in cooperation with the Platform members.

2. Meetings and events

Platform meetings

18/06/2013, 11th meeting of the Platform “Ecological Network” of the Alpine Convention, Prato di Resia (Italy)

¹ <http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0053139>

27/03/2014, 12th meeting of the Platform “Ecological Network” of the Alpine Convention, Innsbruck (Austria)

30/09/2014, 13th meeting of the Platform “Ecological Network” of the Alpine Convention, Grenoble (France)

Events

19/06/2013, International Workshop “Alpine Ecological connectivity - project development”, Prato di Resia (Italy)

26 - 27/03/2014, International Workshop “Take advantage of land-use change for improving connectivity”, Innsbruck (Austria)

29/09/2014, Transsectoral Workshop on successful implementation of measures to improve ecological connectivity: frame conditions at a regional level, Grenoble (France)

3. Annex

- I) MINUTES of the 11th meeting of the Platform “Ecological Network” of the Alpine Convention
- II) MINUTES of the 12th meeting of the Platform “Ecological Network” of the Alpine Convention
- III) MINUTES of the 13th meeting of the Platform “Ecological Network” of the Alpine Convention



**ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE PLATFORM „ECOLOGICAL NETWORK“
- ALPINE CONVENTION -**

**18TH JUNE 2013
ITALY, PRATO DI RESIA, PARCO NATURALE PREALPI GIULIE**

MINUTES (18/06 /2013)

ANNEXES

- 1 List of Participants
- 2 Agenda of the Meeting
- 3 Document copy: “Remarks of the Italian Delegation”

Welcome

Welcome to all participants by the president of the Nature Park Prealpi Giulie M. Stefano di Bernardo and the Director of the Nature Park Stefano Santi as well as the Platform presidency Ms Marie-Odile Guth. The Platform presidency underlines that this meeting takes place in an official pilot region for ecological connectivity of the Alpine Convention. The director of the Nature Park expresses his wish to archive an enlargement of the pilot region across the border to the Slovenian side, in order to form a larger transboundary pilot region.

01: Introduction, Agenda, Time Schedule

The participants approved the proposed agenda.

02: Approval of minutes of 10th Platform Meeting

The Minutes of the 10th Platform meeting in Zernezz have been adapted according to the Italian comments; the final version will be sent to all Platform members.

03: Organisation of next mandate period 2013-2014

The Platform will be led by a joint presidency shared between France and Germany with a French president. The coordination of the activities was entrusted to ALPARC.

04: Work programme

The activities foreseen for the new mandate period 2013-2014 were presented and discussed with the Platform members.

- According to the mandate, the Platform will support the coordination between national ecological network approaches and other initiatives aiming at realising an alpine ecological network. In this regard the role of the Platform should be to provide a frame for the projects and activities that tend to improve ecological connectivity in the Alps by defining some priority topics that projects should be focused on. The Platform should then support the development of such projects. The participants agreed on following topics of priority:
 - Natura 2000 (as this is a subject of concern in all countries with a variety of different concerns, in Switzerland this would be the Emerald sites)
 - Wetlands (and riverine systems)
 - Renewable energies (and their impact on connectivity)
 - Forests and pastures (abandonment)
 - Climate change (influence of change on biodiversity and shift of species distribution)

- The alpine pilot regions will remain in the centre of the Platforms activity. According to the mandate their activities should be valorised. Therefore the meetings of the Platform will take place if possible in the pilot regions.

As the long-time aim is to build up a network of connectivity areas over the Alps in order to really implement an alpine ecological network the Platform will try to motivate new pilot regions to join, a call for candidatures of pilot regions will therefore be organised. If possible some new regions should be nominated at next Alpine Conference. So sites such as the transboundary pilot region Haut Valais/Ossola or the Rhine valley have already expressed their interest.

The pilot area of Nature Park Prealpi Giulie should be enlarged across the border to Slovenia but maybe also on the Italian side (including the Tarvisio forest). Support should be given by the Platform to the Slovenian partners for the evaluation process.

- The cooperation with the Carpathians should go on as agreed in the MoU. At the 2nd General Assembly of Carpathians Protected Areas that took place in Slovakia in April 2013, a workshop on the topic of “project development” was organised by the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and ALPARC and a project is currently being prepared on the topic of Natura 2000 between Carpathian and Alpine protected areas. This project should be presented within the new LIFE Programme. According to the discussed priorities for Platform activities, the Platform will support this project.
- The exchange between the different Platform and Working groups of the Alpine Convention is crucial in order to create synergies. According to the Platform members the work of following Platform is of particular interest and linked to ecological connectivity: Energy, Mountain Forests, Mountain Agriculture, WISO, Transports and Water. So far some Platform members already are present at the meetings of these Platforms and can therefore represent the Platform “Ecological network” in these Working groups (Example CIPRA in the WISO Platform, ALPARC in the Energy Platform). As the Platform presidency cannot personally insure the presence at each of the other Platform’s meetings this seems to be a good solution. Therefore, in the future the Platform presidency will communicate the information of the meetings among the members asking for the possibility of some members to assist. The presidency of the other Platforms will be informed and invited to the meetings of the Platform “Ecological network”.
- The Platform should help making the results and achievements of past activities on ecological connectivity in the Alps more visible. Tools like the “catalogue of measures” are recognised to be very valuable instruments and should be made known to all actors involved in this topic in the Alps. The Platform should therefore propose a “tool pool” bringing together all different tools and make them known. The Platform presidency and members will present this and the activities done in this field at alpine and international events.

- Communication: the content concerning the Platform “Ecological network” has been transferred from the www.alpine-ecological-network.org Homepage to the official side of the Alpine Convention. From now on all information about the Platform will be available there. The Platform presidency will keep this page up to date.

05: Protection of alpine landscapes

The platform members briefly presented the activities on landscape protection in their country.

06: Connectivity analysis

The connectivity analysis realised during the last Platform presidency is now finalised and has been translated in French, Slovenian and Italian. The report is available on Platforms’ Homepage:

<http://www.alpconv.org/en/organization/groups/WGEcologicalNetwork/default.html>

Based on the results of this analysis Bavaria stated working more in detail about the border area between Bavaria and Austria, the results of this work will be presented at the next meeting.

07: Workshop “one out of fifty”

During the French presidency of the Platform Ecological Network of the Alpine Convention 2009-2011 the Platform launched a common project with a large group of alpine scientist and research institutions in order to define the 50 most relevant question in relation to ecological connectivity in the alpine area. This research project, that was realized under the lead of Prof. Chris Walzer for the Veterinary Institute of the University of Vienna (also lead partner of the ECONNECT Project at this time), followed a methodology proposed by Bill Sutherland. The Platform presidency was closely involved in the organization and the realization of the project and gave an important financial support. The Ecological Continuum Initiative acted as main facilitator for the realization of the project.

The results of this research project were published in January 2013 in the scientific open access journal PLOS ONE (online access):

<http://dx.plos.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0053139>

A list of 50 important questions could be identified in the frame of this research project with the contribution from almost 150 scientists and practitioners. Now that the questions are identified, it is time to address the task of responding to them.

The proposed workshop aims at starting this response process in close cooperation with the Ecological Continuum Initiative. The members of the Platform ecological network as well as experts for all alpine countries are invited to select the questions

that seem of particular interest for the alpine process of ecological connectivity that should be addressed in priority. According to the selected questions the Platform presidency and the Continuum Initiative partners (in particular ISCAR) will invite a group of experts and recognized scientists of the concerned thematic field to a common workshop. The workshop will be the occasion to present the “state of the art” concerning the knowledge of the concerned question, to identify the exact gaps of knowledge and how to address them and start the responding process.

The results of the workshops would be integrated in a scientific publication (published for example in the journal *eco.mont*) or in a specific report on the selected question.

08: Recharge.green

Karen Schillig presented the project activities of the Recharge.Green project and the results archived so far. For some of the activities planned by the project some additional data is needed. The participants agreed to give their support for the collection of this data.

The mid-term conference of the project will take place the 12th and 13th November 2013 in Brig (CH), the Platform members are invited to take part in this conference.

News about the project can be found in the projects' newsletter. You can subscribe to the newsletter on the project homepage: <http://www.recharge-green.eu/fr/service-dinformation/bulletin/>

09: Short Film “For hermits and fire salamanders – How municipalities connect habitats in the Alps”

The short Film realised by CIPRA in the frame of the Ecological Continuum Initiative was presented to the Platform members. All members agreed on the interest of the film that will be shown in several pilot regions.

10: Miscellaneous

Next Platform meeting

The next Platform meeting will be organised in spring 2014. The National Park Kalkalpen from the Pilot Region Kalkalpen/Gesäuse offered to host this meeting. Some topics that should be addressed during the next meeting are:

- Presentation of a new pilot region candidate : Alps-Rhine Valley
- Presentation of new methodologies proposed by the Italian delegation

Outlook and closure

After having thanked all participants for this constructive and interesting meeting the Platform presidency closed the 11th meeting of the Platform Ecological Network.



11th Meeting Platform "Ecological Network" of the Alpine Convention

18th of June 2013, Prato di Resia, Italy

List of participants

TITRE	NOM	PRENOM	ORGANISATION	ADRESSE	TEL / FAX	EMAIL
Gospod	ARIH	Andrej	TRIGLAVSKI NARODNI PARK	Cesta Ljubljanska 27 SI - 4280 BLED	+386 (0)4 / 57 80 200 +386 (0)4 / 57 80 201	triglavski-narodni-park@trp.gov.si andrej.arh@trp.gov.si
Mme	GUTH	Marie - Odile	MIGT 7	2, Route d'Oberhausbergen F - 67070 STRASBOURG 1	+33 (0)3 88 13 05 00 +33 (0)3 88 13 05 05	webmestre-dreal-alsace@developpement-durable.gouv.fr marie-odile.guth@developpement-durable.gouv.fr
M.	KOHLER	Yann	TASK FORCE ESPACES PROTEGES SECRETARIAT PERMANENT DE LA CONVENTION ALPINE ALPARC	Maison des parcs et de la montagne 256, rue de la République F - 73000 CHAMBERY	+33 (0)4 79 26 55 00 +33 (0)4 79 26 55 01	info@alparc.org yann.kohler@alparc.org
M.	PLASSMANN	Guido	TASK FORCE ESPACES PROTEGES SECRETARIAT PERMANENT DE LA CONVENTION ALPINE	Maison des parcs et de la montagne 256, rue de la République F - 73000 CHAMBERY	+33 (0)4 79 26 55 00 +33 (0)4 79 26 55 01	info@alparc.org guido.plassmann@alparc.org
Sig.	SANTI	Stefano	ENTE PARCO NATURALE DELLE PREALPI GIULIE	Piazza del Tiglio, 3 I - 33010 RESIA (UD)	+39 0433 / 53 534 +39 0433 / 53 129	info@parcoprealpijulie.org; stefano.santi@parcoprealpijulie.it
Sig.	SANTOLINI	Riccardo	UNIVERSITA DI URBINO - FACOLTA DI SCIENZE E TENOLOGIE	Dipartimento delle Scienze per l'Uomo, l'Ambiente e la Natura Campus Scientifico - Sogesta	+39 +39	riccardo.santolini@uniurb.it
Frau	SCHILLIG	Karen	CIPRA INTERNATIONAL - COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA PROTECTION DES ALPES	Im Bletscha 22 FL - 9494 SCHAAN	+423 237 53 53 +423 237 53 54	international@cipra.org k.schillig@cipra.org
Sig.	TRIVELLINI	Guido	WWF - EUROPEAN ALPINE PROGRAMME	Via Orseolo 12 I - 20144 MILANO (MI)	+39 02 / 83 13 31 +39 02 / 83 13 32 02	lombardia@wwf.it guido.trivellini@wwf.it
Herr	VOGEL	Michael	NATIONALPARK BERTCHTESGADEN	Doktorberg 6 D - 83471 BERTCHTESGADEN	+49 (0)8652 / 96 86 0 +49 (0)8652 / 96 86 140	poststelle@npv-bgd.bayern.de michael.vogel@npv-bgd.bayern.de

MARTINI BARDOLAI	GRIZIANO	MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE	V. Sola 20 COMELICO SUPERIORE (BI)	+38 3487824685	benben@libero.it
KRITSCH Christoph C. Schul	Nationalpark Kallalpen	Nationalpark Kallalpen	Nationalparkallee 1	+43664 88342360	christoph.krutsch@kallalpen.at
PIERPAOLO ZANICHETTA	REGIONE FRIULI VG	REGIONE FRIULI VG	VIA SABARDINI 31 UDINE	0432 555592	PIERPAOLO.ZANICHETTA@REGIONE.FG.IT



11th Meeting of the Platform “Ecological Network” of the Alpine Convention in Prato di Resia, Italy

The meeting will be held in English.

Agenda

	18.06.2013
9h00	01: Introduction, Agenda, Time Schedule <i>M.-O. GUTH – Platform presidency, MEDDE</i>
9h15	02: Approval of minutes of 10th Platform Meeting <i>M.-O. GUTH, MEDDE</i>
9h30	03: Organisation of the mandate period 2013-2014 <i>M.-O. GUTH, MEDDE</i>
9h45	04: Platform Work Programme for 2013-14 <i>M.-O. GUTH, MEDDE</i> - <i>Presentation of the activities foreseen in the mandate period 2013-2014</i> <i>all</i>
10h30	Coffee break
10h45	Cont. 04: Platform Work Programme for 2013-14 <i>M.-O. GUTH, MEDDE</i> <i>all</i>
12h30	Lunch
14h00	05: Protection of alpine landscapes – national instruments <i>all</i>
14h45	06: Presentation Connectivity analysis <i>Country representative Germany</i> - Overview about the results of the connectivity analysis realised under the last presidency and discussion on further use of this work
15h30	07: Workshop “one out of fifty” <i>Y. Kohler, ALPARC</i> Presentation of the planned expert workshop for the follow up of the publication “The 50 Most Important Questions Relating to the Maintenance and Restoration of an Ecological Continuum in the European Alps”
16h15	08: project Recharge.green <i>Recharge.green project partner</i> - <i>Presentation of the current project activities to the Platform who is observer of this project</i>
16h40	09: presentation of the short Film “For hermits and fire salamanders – How municipalities connect habitats in the Alps” realised by CIPRA in the frame of the Ecological Continuum Initiative
17h00	closure of the meeting

11TH MEETING OF THE PLATFORM “ECOLOGICAL NETWORK” OF THE ALPINE CONVENTION

REMARKS OF THE ITALIAN DELEGATION

In view of the 11th meeting of the Platform “Ecological Network” in Prato di Resia (June 18th), the Italian delegation would like to make a few remarks to the suggested agenda, in line with the position previously taken in the framework of the Platform “Ecological Network”, and related to the harmonization of Mandates of Working Groups and Platforms of the Alpine Convention, as proposed and discussed in occasion of the 51th and 52nd Permanent Committees.

2. Approval of minutes of 10th Platform meeting (Zernez, 27th-28th June 2012)

The Italian delegation would like to add a clarification to the TOP 03 decision of the Zernez minutes “Support of the pilot regions” , considering the new role of Alparc.

The Presidency underlined the offer to contact the Task Force Protected Areas for supporting the evaluation processo of pilot regions, the Triglav NP is invited to contact the TFPA at any time, “so as defined in the new role that has been given to Alparc (considering that is not any more a Task Force).

3. Organization of the Mandate period 2013/2014

In order to harmonize the objectives of the Platform with the ones included in the Multiannual Programme (MAP) and Strategic Action Plan (SAP), and where possible with the general objectives of the Italian Presidency, the proposal of the Italian Presidency foresees, as a priority, to pursue the following objectives within the Platform: promotion of the themes of forests, protected areas and enhancement of ecosystem services.

This scope of harmonization should be effectively followed by means of the priorities highlighted in the same document, and synthetized below:

P1) interface function for issues and coordination works related to the connectivity for ecosystem functions and biodiversity (including the protection of the functions and ecosystem services) in the Alps;

P2) assistance and support to the activities of the pilot regions in accordance the objectives of the Platform;

P3) Strengthening of the themes of the Platform “Ecological Network” through collaboration and exchange activities with other WGs and Platforms.

On this purpose, on June 26th in Cortina, during the 53rd PC, the Italian Presidency organized a coordination meeting between the Presidents of the WGs and the Platforms (coordinated by the Italian Focal Point Mr. Antonio Ballarin Denti).

6. Presentation of Connectivity analysis

Prof. Santolini already reported his point of view (TOP5a, page 6 of the Zernez minutes), as well as criticisms and opportunities linked to this work during the last Platform meeting. The Italian delegation deems that the both the work on connectivity analysis and the previous one conducted by Italy regarding indicators and ecological functions are of equal importance and they should be jointly developed, as the two works are seen as strongly integrated. In particular, the two mentioned works can deal with both simple ecological connectivity and also ecological functions, since there are proven methodologies that emphasize the ecological and functional performance of the territories.

This can be eventually developed thanks to a functional ecological network that make use of other methods already implemented, as for example the one by EURAC and UNIURB, published in 2012 and used in the current LIFE "MGN" project on analysis of ecosystem services. On this purpose, the Italian delegation asks that to these new methodologies will be given the opportunity to show their contents in a specific item on the agenda of the 12th meeting of the Platform "Ecological Network".

7. Workshop "one out of fifty"

The Italian delegation agrees to this initiative and it is available to actively participate to further activities. A fruitful and active collaboration is currently taking place between University of Urbino and Eurac Research regarding the ecological functionality of territories and the functional potential of ecological networks (not only at structural level). On this purpose, some scientific publications are work in progress, as well as European projects.

8. Project "Recharge.green"

It is worth mentioning that also other interesting initiatives coming from Italy and abroad should be equally taken in consideration for future collaborations.



**TWELFTH MEETING OF THE PLATFORM „ECOLOGICAL NETWORK“
- ALPINE CONVENTION -**

**27TH MARCH 2014
AUSTRIA, INNSBRUCK, PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF THE ALPINE
CONVENTION**

MINUTES (14/04 /2014)

ANNEXES

- 1 List of Participants
- 2 Agenda of the Meeting

Welcome

Welcome to all participants by the Platform presidency Ms Marie-Odile Guth. The Platform presidency thanks the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention to host this meeting.

Introduction, Agenda, Time Schedule

The participants approved the proposed agenda.

The Minutes of the 11th Platform meeting in Prato di Resia have been approved by the participants; the final version will be send to all Platform members.

01: Workshop “Take advantage of land use change for improving connectivity”

All present Platform members assisted to the Workshop. The Summary of the Workshop will be send to all Platform members.

02: ETC greenAlps project

The French Ministry of Environment as president of the Platform Ecological Network is an observer to the greenAlps project. The details of the project as well as first results were presented by Guido Plassmann. The project is part of the last call of the Alpine Space Program and will last until November 2014.

The greenAlps Project has the aim to shape the framework for a sustainable and efficient European nature and biodiversity conservation policy for the Alps. It relies on key projects covering essential issues how to best conserve alpine biodiversity and ecosystems, e.g. ECONNECT, recharge.green, SILMAS, SHARE, etc. These projects, linked to different aspects of nature conservation, are interrelated and further integration of their results in policy strategies is based on the valuation of ecosystem services and on a reliable definition of the carrying capacity of Alpine natural habitats. An intact alpine biodiversity calls for long-term oriented spatial and land use planning, new ways of cooperation and a precautionary approach of other key sectors. The successful governance model of pilot areas working beyond protected sites will help to verify the practicability of the proposed strategies and their possible implementation in European policies.

In the frame of the Project two international events are foreseen to which the Platform could contribute:

- A meeting with specific members of DG Regio in Brussels to inform the about the topics and main results of greenAlps.

- An information session during the Alpine Conference in November 2014. This session should be the occasion to inform interested participants of the Conference (head of delegations, important alpine actors) about the results of greenAlps. This means that this proposal should be included to the agenda of the Conference (Cécilia Maronnier from the Permanent Secretariat).

The results of the greenAlps project should also be presented to the Permanent Committee in November 2014 before the Alpine Conference. This possibility should be discussed by the Platform presidency with the Permanent Committee at their next meeting in Brescia in June. It could be a recommendation by the Platform to present the results also in an adapted form to the Ministers at the Conference and also underline the link to the macro-regional strategy at this occasion.

03: European Green Infrastructure

The European Green Infrastructure (GI) Concept was presented to the participants by Yann Kohler.

The representative of Switzerland M. Vögeli informed the Platform members about a study published last year in Switzerland explaining how much surface is needed to maintain biodiversity (http://www.biodiversity.ch/downloads/Flaeichenbedarf_Bericht_Forum_Biodiversitaet.pdf). In order to protect the 30% of the countries surface needed for this purpose 3 solutions were advanced: an improvement of the quality of the existing protected areas, an enlargement of the surface of protected areas (5%) and an implementation of ecological infrastructure by spatial planning.

In the past the Alpine Convention was invited to participate to the discussion of the DG Environment Expert group on Green Infrastructure together with the Carpathian Convention. The work of this GI Work group has now started again and the Alpine and Carpathian Convention were invited to participate to the work meetings of this group. The Platform Ecological network proposes that the representation of the Alpine Convention to this working group should be insured by the Platform Ecological Network (Platform Coordinator).

04: Strategic orientation

According to the missions defined at the first Platform meeting in 2007 and the following mandates given to the Platform by the Alpine Conference it is its duty to launch and motivate networks and institutions to work on the topic of ecological connectivity and to support actively projects by helping the interested partners and institutions to get involved in the projects and to get the projects started. Furthermore the Platform is a place for information gathering and exchange and it insures the link to the Alpine Convention.

The Pilot regions of the Alpine Convention should be stronger involved in the Platform activities. They are always invited to participate to the meetings. Nevertheless the possibility to make the meetings more interesting for the pilot

regions should be analysed, for example by organising the meetings with two different parts: one part giving room to presentations and excursions in order to foster the exchange of experiences between pilot regions and a second part reserved to the Platform topics and the discussions. The Platform should be a place where ideas (on projects, activities) are born and where the states can express their needs concerning the international cooperation on the topic of ecological connectivity.

05: Macro regional strategy

On 19 December 2013, the European Council invited "the Commission, in cooperation with Member States, to elaborate an EU Strategy for the Alpine Region by June 2015".

A steering committee led by DG Regio is working on the elaboration of the strategy according to three pillars: territorial development, transport, nature. The work of the subgroups of the Committee on these topics should be finalized for summer 2014 and will be followed by a consultation round.

In autumn 2014 the action plan for the strategy should be developed in order to be presented to the European Council at the end of 2014.

It was decided by the Permanent Committee in March 2014 to integrate "ecological connectivity" as important element to the work in the frame of the third pillar on nature and biodiversity.

The Platform will participate to the development of the Macro-regional strategy. The reports of the meetings of the sub-group should be shared with all Platform members.

06: Contribution to alpine projects

The topic of connectivity is well represented in the new Alpine Space program 2014-2019. The Platform Ecological Network should actively support projects proposals dealing with ecological connectivity and related topics in the frame of the next calls. These projects cannot be on nature conservation only anymore but must also strongly consider the aspect of human wellbeing.

In the frame of the greenAlps project the involved pilot area Prealpi Giulie/NP Triglav as unofficially expressed their wish to extend the existing pilot regions Prealpi Giulie across the border to the area of the Triglav National Park. The actors of this area should address an official "declaration of interest" to this enlargement of the pilot regions to the Platform. The Platform can then support the area to do the needed steps to become an official pilot region (nomination procedure). In this case a side event should be foreseen at the next Alpine Conference for this nomination.

07: Next mandate period

Germany and France would be glad to continue their French-German co-presidency for this Platform with a German Platform president.

Possible topics for the next period mandate could be:

- Continue the participation to the macro-regional strategy development and implementation
- Continue the cooperation with the Carpathians and the CBD (Memorandum of Cooperation)
- A possible actualization of the publication giving an overview about the situation of ecological connectivity in the Alps
- Work on green Economy and the link to ecological connectivity
- Work with the alpine Pilot regions
- Work on European Green Infrastructure

A written proposal will be send to all Platform members for feedback in order to have the mandate ready to be approved by the ministers at the Alpine Conference.

08: Miscellaneous

In order to foster the exchange between the different Platforms of the Alpine Convention a representative from the Platform Ecological Network will take part in the next WISO Platform meeting the 2nd, 3rd and 4th of July in Venzone (Italy). Furthermore the reports and results of the work of the other Platforms that have been identified as important for the Platform ecological network should be circulated to all Platform members.

The *next meeting of the Platform Ecological network* will take place in Grenoble (France) the 30th September 2014. The meeting itself will take place in the morning; the afternoon will be reserved to a field trip to the pilot region Isère to present some of the results of their project "Path of life".

The 13th and 14th of October 2014 will take place the *final conference of the greenAlps project* in Chambéry (France).

Closure

After having thanked all participants for this constructive and interesting meeting the Platform presidency closed the 12th meeting of the Platform Ecological Network.



12th Meeting of the Platform “Ecological Network” of the Alpine Convention in Innsbruck, Austria, 27/03/2014

List of participants

TITEL	NAME	FIRST NAME	ORGANISATION	ADDRESS	TEL / FAX	EMAIL
Mme	CROYAL	Anne - Sophie	CONSEIL GENERAL DE L'ISERE	7 Rue Fantin Latour - Hôtel du Département B.P. 1096 F - 38022 GRENOBLE Cedex 01	+33 (0)4 / 76 00 38 38 +33 (0)4 / 76 00 39 30	 as.croyal@cg38.fr
Sig.	FAVILLI	Filippo	EUROPÄISCHE AKADEMIE BOZEN / ACCADEMIA EUROPEA DI BOLZANO	Drususallee, 1 / Vialle Druso, 1 I - 39100 BOLZANO / BOZEN	+39 0471 / 055 055 +39 0471 / 055 059	info@eurac.edu filippo.favilli@eurac.edu
Sig.ra	FRITTOLI	Serena	EUROPÄISCHE AKADEMIE BOZEN / ACCADEMIA EUROPEA DI BOLZANO	Drususallee, 1 / Vialle Druso, 1 I - 39100 BOLZANO / BOZEN	+39 0471 / 055 055 +39 0471 / 055 059	info@eurac.edu serena.frittoli@eurac.edu
Mme	GUTH	Marie - Odile	MINISTÈRE DE L'AGRICULTURE, DE L'ALIMENTATION, DE LA PÊCHE, DE LA RURALITÉ ET DE L'AMÉNAGEMENT DU TERRITOIRE	2, Route d'Oberhausbergen F - 67070 STRASBOURG 1	+33 (0)3 88 13 05 00 +33 (0)3 88 13 05 05	webmestre-dreal-alsace@developpement-durable.gouv.fr marie-odile.guth@developpement-durable.gouv.fr
Herr	KOHLER	Yann	ALPARC - LE RESEAU ALPIN DES ESPACES PROTEGES	Maison des parcs et de la montagne 256, rue de la République F - 73000 CHAMBERY	+33 (0)4 79 26 55 00 +33 (0)4 79 26 55 01	info@alparc.org yann.kohler@alparc.org
Mme	MARONNIER	Cecilia	STÄNDIGES SEKRETARIAT DER ALPENKONVENTION	Goldenes Dachl Herzog-Friedrichstr. 15 A - 6020 INNSBRUCK	+43 (0)512 / 588 589 12 +43 (0)512 / 588 589 20	info@alpconv.org cecilia.maronnier@alpconv.org
Mme	PAILLET	Isabelle	MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉCOLOGIE, DU DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE ET DE L'ÉNERGIE	Tour Pascal B F - 92055 LA DEFENSE	+33 (0)1 40 81 21 22 +33 (0)1 42 19 19 06	 isabelle.paillet@developpement-durable.gouv.fr
Herr	PLASSMANN	Guido	ALPARC - RESEAU ALPIN DES ESPACES PROTEGES	Maison des parcs et de la montagne 256, rue de la République F - 73000 CHAMBERY	+33 (0)4 79 26 55 00 +33 (0)4 79 26 55 01	info@alparc.org guido.plassmann@alparc.org
Sig.	SANTOLINI	Riccardo	UNIVERSITA DI URBINO - FACOLTA DI SCIENZE E TENOLOGIE	Dipartimento delle Scienze per l'Uomo, l'Ambiente e la Natura Campus Scientifico - Sogesta	+39 +39	 riccardo.santolini@uniurb.it
Herr	VÖGELI	Matthias	BUNDESAMT FÜR UMWELT - ABTEILUNG NATUR UND LANDSCHAFT	 CH - 3003 BERN	+41 (0)31 / 322 93 87 +41 (0)31 / 324 75 79	info@bafu.admin.ch matthias.voegeli@bafu.admin.ch
Gospa	WIESER	Antonija	CIPRA INTERNATIONAL - COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA PROTECTION DES ALPES	Im Bretscha 22 FL - 9494 SCHAAN	+423 237 53 53 +423 237 53 54	international@cipra.org antonija.wieser@cipra.org



12th Meeting of the Platform “Ecological Network” of the Alpine Convention in Innsbruck, Austria

The meeting will be held in English.

Agenda

	26-27.03.2014	
	Workshop “Take advantage of land use change for improving connectivity”	
	27.03.2014	
13h30	Welcome to the meeting, approval of the Minutes and the agenda	<i>M.-O. GUTH, MEDDE</i>
13h45	01: Summary and analysis of the workshop results and perspectives for the Platforms work	<i>Thomas Scheurer, ISCAR</i>
14h15	02: Presentation of the first results of the greenAlps project	<i>Guido Plassmann, ALPARC</i>
14h45	03: The European Green Infrastructure concept Overview about its implementation in the Alpine Countries	<i>Yann Kohler, ALPARC all</i>
15h15	04: Strategic orientation of the future Platforms work	<i>Discussion</i>
15h45	Coffee break	
16h00	05: Integrating “ecological connectivity” as topic in the European marco regional strategy for the Alps discussions	<i>Discussion</i>
16h20	06: Contribution of the Platform to alpine wide projects on ecological connectivity	<i>Discussion</i>

17h15	07: Preparation of the next mandate period	<i>M.-O. GUTH, MEDDE all</i>
17h45	08:Miscellaneous Upcoming events, dates,...	<i>M.-O. GUTH, MEDDE all</i>
18h00	closure of the meeting	
19h30	Common dinner	