



INVITATION *Alpine-wide conference on*

Water resources and alpine rivers: adaptation to the challenges of climate change

organised within
the French Presidency of the
Alpine Convention



18 & 19 February 2020, Annecy, France
Conference venue: Hotel Impérial Palace



Water resources and alpine rivers: adaptation to the challenges of climate change

The high altitude watersheds, water-producing areas on which the downstream regions largely depend, are also the first victims of climate change. Adaptation strategies must be developed in coordination with local policies and actors in order to guarantee a rational use of water resources now and in the future, and a good functional state of alpine rivers.

Building on the work already produced by the Water Management Platform of the Alpine Convention and the Alpine Climate Target System 2050 prepared by the Alpine Climate Board, this conference aims at proposing concrete pathways for future action, involving the Alpine Convention and all other relevant stakeholders in the Alps.



DAY 1

Tuesday, 18 February 2020

12:00 Welcome lunch

13:30 Welcome speeches

Alexandra Bonnet, Deputy Director of European and International Affairs and Chair of the Permanent Committee of the Alpine Conference, French Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition

Jean-Luc Rigaut, President of the Grand Annecy agglomeration and Mayor of Annecy

Martial Saddier, President of the Rhone-Mediterranean Basin Committee, Member of the Parliament

14:00 Introduction to the conference programme

Claire Simon, Val&Monti

Aude Soureillat, ASTERS - Conservatory of natural areas of Upper Savoy

14:15 Bundling forces across the Alps: the role of the Alpine Convention for the sustainable management of alpine water resources and rivers

Preserving or re-establishing healthy water systems is among the primary objectives of the Alpine Convention. To this effect, the former Water Management Platform and the Alpine Climate Board of the Alpine Convention have designed common strategies and guidelines, which will be outlined in this talk.

Alenka Smerkolj, Secretary General of the Alpine Convention

Focus topic 1: Alpine rivers in times of climate change

14:35 Overview

Impacts of climate change on alpine aquatic eco-systems

Alpine freshwater ecosystems - current status and future challenges in management and conservation.

Leopold Füreder, ISCAR, UIBK, Austria

Alpine streams in the face of climate change

This talk will present the general consensus on alpine stream response to current and ongoing climate change.

Christopher Robinson, Eawag/ETHZ, Switzerland

15:05 Inspiring practices from around the Alps

Integrated River Basin Management in the Lower Engadine

Development of strategies for a sustainable water management under changing climatic conditions – an Alpine region acts for the future.

Angelika Abderhalden, Foundation Pro Terra Engiadina and UNESCO Biosfera Engiadina Val Müstair, Switzerland

River basin management in South Tyrol: experiences, examples and perspectives

River basin management plans are integrated plans for a sustainable territorial development. Aspects such as flood protection, land use, water management and ecological requirements are taken into consideration. This presentation will tell about examples from South Tyrol and in particular the transition from a project to a process. Furthermore, examples for the implementation of concrete measures will be presented.

Willigis Gallmetzer, Provincial warning centre, Autonomous Province of Bolzano-Bozen/South Tyrol, Italy

Restoration work on the Leyse in Chambéry: For a safer and livelier river

In the plain of Chambéry, the River Leyse has historically been very constrained between containment systems which have led to the impoverishment of its biodiversity and the disappearance of areas for the proper functioning of the river. In addition, flood protection works no longer fulfil their role satisfactorily as evidenced by the many historic breaches and the very low level of protection given to highly urbanized areas. The community has therefore embarked on a major program of restoration of watercourses with the ambition of combining protection against floods and ecological restoration of the environment.

Christophe Guay, GEMAPI department of Grand Chambéry, CISALB, France

Discussion

15:55 Coffee break

16:15 Plenary discussion: further steps to guarantee a good functional state of alpine rivers

- ▶ *Based on the presentations, what issues or ideas should inspire public policies, in particular the Alpine Convention?*
- ▶ *Which further important issues or measures have not been addressed but need to be mentioned?*
- ▶ *Are there issues that are not or insufficiently treated in research or policy and need to be emphasised?*

Facilitators: Claire Simon and Aude Soureillat

The collected input will serve as a base for further work within the Alpine Convention.

17:00 Summary of the day

Ronja Wolter-Krautblatter, Bavarian Environment Agency, Germany

17:30 Field visit - renaturation of the Thiou riverbanks

City of Annecy

19:30 Dinner

at the Impérial Palace

9:00 Introduction to day 2

Claire Simon, Val&Monti

Aude Soureillat, ASTERS - Conservatory of natural areas of Upper Savoy

Focus topic 2: Management of alpine water resources and water conflicts**9:10 Overview****The future of water resources: drought at the alpine level**

Latest events (mainly in the summer 2018) have demonstrated the vulnerability of Alps to drought impacts. Although some experiences with drought monitoring and management already exist in the region, further work on these topics is planned in the frame of the Alpine Space ADO project (Alpine Drought Observatory). The ADO project will build up a coherent approach to drought management policies and complement with other relevant projects.

Felix Greifeneder, Eurac Research, Italy

9:40 Inspiring practices from around the Alps**Overview of lessons learned from integrated and prospective analysis of water scarcity risk in Western Switzerland**

Main conclusions on water scarcity modelling are drawn based on a cross presentation of two prospective studies carried out in Swiss catchments.

Marianne Milano, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Climate change adaptation plan in the Rhone-Mediterranean basin: specificities of high watersheds

Faced with a general vulnerability to climate change for water management, the question is no longer whether to act, or even how, but where and which priorities should be given for investments?

Yves Picoche, Basin Interventions and Actions, Water agency Rhône Mediterranean Corsica, France

Franco-Italian cooperation along the Roya watershed and its tributaries

A cooperation has been ongoing for numerous years between France and Italy concerning the transboundary watershed of the Roya and its tributaries including scientific monitoring of the watershed, the development of an innovative governance model within the "Transboundary Protocol of Intent for the Roya watershed and its tributaries" and measures dedicated to the impact of climate change on the water resources of the valley.

Sylvain Michelet, CARF and Marie Genevier, BRGM PACA, France

10:20 Coffee break

10:40 Discussion tables

1. **Preserving wild rivers;** facilitators: Denis Caudron, Wild rivers programme, Association of the network of labelled wild rivers and Martin Arnould, Wild Rivers Conservation Fund, France
2. **Restoration of degraded alpine rivers and maintenance of biological corridors;** facilitators: Mitja Bricelj / Lara Flis, Water and Investment Directorate, Slovenian Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning
3. **Strengthen upstream / downstream and cross-border solidarity mechanisms / Promote concerted use of the resource, optimize the resource;** facilitator: Gabriela Scanu, Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea
4. **Establishing implementation teams for the Alpine Climate Target System 2050: Networking session for identifying stakeholders and implementation partners for the water pathways of the Alpine Climate Board";** facilitators: Helen Lückge, Climonomics; Elisabeth Sötz, WWF; Katharina Zwettler, Austrian Federal Ministry for Climate Action

The collected input will serve as a base for further work within the Alpine Convention.

12:00 Conclusions and perspectives

Summary, Luca Cetara, Eurac research & Italian Delegation to the Alpine Convention

Conclusions, Alexandra Bonnet, French Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, French Presidency of the Alpine Convention

12:30 Closing lunch

Practical Information

Conference languages

There will be simultaneous translation between the Alpine languages French, Italian, German and Slovenian.

Registration

Participation to the conference is free of charge.

Please register online until 11 February 2020 using this link:

<https://www.alpconv.org/en/home/organization/presidency/water-conference-registration/>

Venue

The conference will take place at the Hotel Impérial Palace in Annecy, Allée de l'Impérial, 74000 Annecy, France, in the seminar room "Salle de l'Europe".

For environmental reasons, we encourage all participants to use sustainable means of transport. For a comparison of travel options, we recommend www.goeuro.com. If you have to travel by plane or car, we invite you to compensate your journey's greenhouse gas emissions, e.g. via www.atmosfair.de/en/home.

Rail: SNCF Gare TGV d'Annecy, www.voyages-sncf.com. Distance from the hotel: approx. 2 km / 25 min walk.

Air:

Genève-Cointrin airport, www.gva.ch, approx. 40 km; coach transfer approx. 1 h, www.transalis.fr/en, www.flixbus.com

Chambéry-Savoie airport, www.chambery-airport.com, approx. 40 km

Lyon-Saint Exupéry airport, www.lyonaeroports.com, approx. 120 km.

For further information on the city of Annecy, you can refer to en.lac-annecy.com and this [map](#).

Accommodation

Please reserve and pay for your accommodation yourself. Limited block pre-booking has been organised at the following hotels:

- Hotel Impérial Palace (venue of the meeting), www.hotel-imperialpalace.fr: single room, breakfast included: 185 €. Please book as soon as possible directly with the hotel **using the form attached**.

- Hotel Catalpa: Lac d'Annecy, 34 Avenue d'Albigny 74000 ANNECY, +33 4 50 23 02 46, hotelcatalpa@gmail.com, www.hotelannecy-lac.com/en/: single room, breakfast included: 99 €. Please book as soon as possible directly with the hotel using the keyword "Convention alpine".

Please check the respective cancellation policies of the hotels.

Field visit "renaturation of the Thiou riverbanks" on 18 February 2020

The renaturation site is located in walking distance from the conference venue Hotel Impérial Palace.
Please bring weatherproof clothing and footwear.

**This conference is being organised with the support of ASTERS
Conservatory of natural areas of Upper Savoy and Val&Monti / OXALIS
Scop SA.**