



ALPENKONVENTION  
CONVENTION ALPINE  
ALPSKA KONVENCIJA  
CONVENZIONE DELLE ALPI

Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention

# ACTIVITY REPORT

1 December 2020 – 15 September 2022

Submitted to the XVII<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Alpine Conference

# LEADING THE WAY FOR SUSTAINABLE LIFE

## Foreword by the Secretary General



*Photo: Die Fotografen*

Every day during the last two years, the Permanent Secretariat has kept at the heart of its work the goal to protect and sustainably develop the Alpine region, its myriad species, unique landscapes, and the livelihoods of the people who call the Alps home.

Cooperating across sectors, countries, and languages to address the challenges we face in the Alps remains one of the greatest strengths of the Convention. This Activity Report reflects these efforts, spanning the outgoing French Presidency, the incumbent Swiss, and incoming Slovenian Presidency.

The Secretariat has been supporting the implementation of the Swiss

Presidency programme, focused on three main areas: climate, sustainable transport, and Alpine towns. This report details further numerous meetings and events we organised and attended as well as the activities and projects we implemented – often in cooperation with Contracting Parties, Observer organisations, and other partners across the Alps and beyond.

Looking back over the past two years of activities summarised in this report, I am proud at how much we have achieved despite the challenging circumstances. We have learnt valuable lessons, such as the environmental benefits of hosting online meetings, but most of all we have learnt to persevere, and to look out for each other. I look forward to continuing to work together for a better Alpine future!

**Alenka Smerkolj**

Secretary General of the Alpine Convention

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# SUPPORT TO THE BODIES OF THE ALPINE CONVENTION

Supporting the Alpine Conference, the Presidency in office, the Permanent and Compliance Committees as well as all Thematic Working Bodies is the core activity of the Permanent Secretariat, carried out in close cooperation with the Contracting Parties

and Observers. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, activities hardly slowed in this respect, on the contrary, flexible approaches were explored and adopted, also making use of the development of online tools.

## Alpine Conference



*Ministers and Observers speaking at the XVI Alpine Conference. Photos: PSAC*

The XVI Alpine Conference took place on 10 December 2020. It was the first Alpine Conference to be held online, due to the sanitary situation. The Permanent Secretariat supported the French Presidency in developing various organisational scenarios along the year and in implementing the event. Despite the delegations from the Presidency, Contracting Parties, Observers and the Permanent

Secretariat participating each from different locations, the conference ran smoothly. Two declarations, on integrated and sustainable water management in the Alps and on the protection of mountain biodiversity and its promotion at international level, were adopted, as well as the Eighth report on the State of the Alps and the Climate Action Plan 2.0. The Conference took note of the results of all Thematic Working Bodies and adopted the mandates for the next period. The Presidency was handed over to Switzerland.

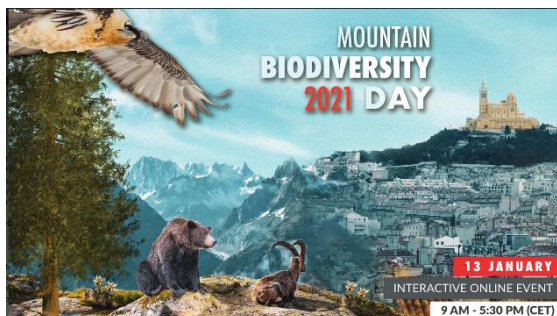
On 10 December afternoon, an interactive exchange between participants of the Alpine Conference, EUSALP Annual Forum and the Alp-Week Intermezzo was also organised.

The Permanent Secretariat is in regular exchange with the Swiss Presidency to prepare the XVII Alpine

Conference, first scheduled to take place on 7-8 September 2022 in Brig (CH) and then postponed to 26-27

October due to international meeting calendars.

## French Presidency



*Banner of the Mountain Biodiversity Day*

Although the French Presidency officially concluded with the XVI Alpine Conference, the Mountain Biodiversity Day, a global event to raise awareness and exchange on the wealth, vulnerability and protection of mountain biodiversity, which had been postponed due to the sanitary situation, was organised as a direct follow-up on 13 January 2021. Aimed at providing input in advance of the IUCN Congress 2020 and the COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the event was held online

in cooperation with the French EUSALP Presidency and jointly coordinated by ALPARC, the Permanent Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention as well as UNEP. Over 300 participants from 39 countries participated in the sessions dedicated to global mountains, the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and Alpine biodiversity.

A further product resulting from the outgoing French Presidency was the Handbook *Measuring the tourism sustainability of mountain destinations in the Alps*, prepared by an ad hoc Steering Committee coordinated by France, and which France presented to PC73 and subsequently translated in the four Alpine languages.

## Swiss Presidency

The Swiss Presidency, with the support of the Permanent Secretariat, organised several projects and events in 2021 and 2022 to implement its five-point plan.

In the area of cycling tourism, the Swiss Presidency organised the

international online conference *MoVe the Alps*. During the conference on 22 April, more than 200 participants discussed how to promote sustainable and climate-friendly cycling tourism in the Alpine region. The Permanent Secretariat provided support concerning content and communi-

cation and the Secretary General gave a welcome address. The Permanent Secretariat also provided communication support to the Swiss Presidency's *Mobility Velo* (MoVe) applied project, linking environmental education with climate-friendly mobility on four cross-border cycling tours for children and young people along the Inn (both years), the Rhine and the Lech.

The Swiss Presidency, as well as the Permanent Secretariat, together with Austria, Germany, Liechtenstein and Slovenia, also supported the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> editions of YOALIN, the youth mobility project of CIPRA Youth Council (CYC) and CIPRA International. The Permanent Secretariat supported its dissemination and created, in coordination with CIPRA International, an online map representing some chosen destinations to advertise the project. The Permanent Secretariat also participated and intervened during the closing event of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition in Innsbruck in September 2021.

The Swiss Presidency also initiated the *Climate Hour*, aimed at showing

the variety of small and large climate actions in the Alpine region, as a decentralised event on the occasion of World Environment Day, 5 June. For both the 2021 and 2022 editions, the Permanent Secretariat provided communication support, coordinated the organisation of events by the Infopoints (seven in 2021 and six in 2022) and distributed the promotional material prepared by the Presidency.

klimastunde  
heure du climat  
ura za podnebje  
ora del clima



*Banner of the Climate Hour*

Furthermore, the Permanent Secretariat organised events in Innsbruck: for the 1<sup>st</sup> edition, a scavenger hunt in Innsbruck, in cooperation with Climate Alliance Tyrol; and for the 2<sup>nd</sup> one, a reading and discussion in cooperation with the Tyrolia bookstore.





*PSAC Climate Hour events in Innsbruck: Scavenger hunt and literary evening with Fridays for Future activist Katharina Rogenhofer. Photo: PSAC (left), Tyrolia (right)*

On the topic of sustainable construction and renovation in the Alps, the Swiss Presidency held an online conference with more than 100 participants on 10 June 2021, in the context of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Constructive Alps Architecture Prize. The Permanent Secretariat provided communication support and is continuing to do so for the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the prize, which is to be awarded on 16 September 2022 in the presence of the Secretary General.

To highlight Alpine urban spaces and their climatic, environmental, and social challenges, the Swiss Presidency launched the *Climate Action in Alpine Towns* pilot in the framework of the Territorial Agenda 2030. A peer learning workshop *Climate action in Alpine towns – How to?* was organised by the Swiss Federal Office for Spatial Development ARE with the support of the Permanent Secretariat and ESPON and took place online on 18 June 2021 with about 70 participants. The Permanent Secretariat handled the logistical and technical

implementation of the workshop, which was interpreted in all Alpine languages and English. Activities for the elaboration of the Ninth Report on the State of the Alps on Alpine Towns are reported in the chapter dedicated to the SOIA.

Finally, the Permanent Secretariat assisted the Presidency in organising consultations to prepare two conferences of the Environment and Transport Ministers of the Alpine countries and the EU on the decarbonisation of transport in the Alps, on 14 January and 27 October 2022, with the view of adopting the *Simplon Alliance Alpine Action Plan*.

Beyond the statutory meetings, the Permanent Secretariat provided support to the current Presidencies for the organisation and the contents of seven Heads of Delegation meetings held online on 9 December 2020, 16 June and 7 October 2021 and on 15 February, 7-8 April, 1 July and 6 September 2022. The Secretariat also participated in eight sessions of



“Observer Dialogues” called by the Swiss Presidency on different topics. Activities related to the preparation of the new Multi-Annual Work

## Permanent Committee

The Permanent Secretariat worked closely with the Swiss Presidency to organise three meetings of the Permanent Committee (PC) in 2021 and two in 2022. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the first four had to take place virtually, on 10 March, 8 June, 16 November 2021 and 9 March 2022 respectively. Since the first online PC meeting in July 2020, the Permanent Secretariat has been able, through ongoing research and continued testing of new software, to find and optimise a setting that allows for the online participation of all Contracting Parties and Observers. In cooperation with the interpreters, interpreting technicians, and IT technicians, the Secretariat provided a functioning platform with interpretation into the four Alpine languages to allow the meetings to run as smoothly as possible.

Thanks to an improvement in the sanitary situation, the 75<sup>th</sup> PC

Programme of the Alpine Conference are detailed in the paragraph dedicated to the corresponding Thematic Working Body.

meeting was held in person (with the option to follow online) in Berne (CH) on 5-6 July 2022. This was the last PC meeting scheduled until the XVII Alpine Conference.

All PC meetings dealt with the current issues of the Presidency and the other bodies of the Alpine Convention. In addition, thematic exchanges were carried out on environmental education (PC72), Alpine biodiversity (PC73) and Climate action in the Alps (PC74), for which the Permanent Secretariat helped identify initiatives to be presented.



*75<sup>th</sup> PC meeting in Berne (CH). Photo: PSAC*

## Compliance Committee

In 2021 and 2022 the Compliance Committee held three formal meetings (on 9 March and 17 November

2021 and 11 May 2022) as well as an informal one (on 8 June 2021) – all online. The ongoing ordinary

compliance procedure, the ongoing procedure for reviewing the implementation of the Declaration on Population and Culture as well as the redesign of the ordinary compliance procedure were discussed. The Permanent Secretariat supported the Presidency both in terms of contents and organisation.

After the submission of all national reports on compliance of the Contracting Parties with the obligations under the Alpine Convention, the ongoing ordinary compliance procedure continued with the preparation of a first draft report by the Permanent Secretariat, which was discussed by the Compliance Committee. The Contracting Parties and Observers had the opportunity to come up with comments on the draft report and on suggestions for conclusions and recommendations. These statements were considered in the updated draft report, which was further developed in the meeting of the Compliance Committee in May 2022. After insertion of the last comments of the Contracting Parties and Observers, a written procedure led to the adoption of the report by the Compliance Committee. The recommendations relate to various areas, such as the continuation of the efforts towards parsimonious use of soil, better implementation of the polluter pays principle when charging the real costs of the various transport modes, and

promotion of sustainable tourism. The report was then submitted to the Permanent Committee, which also approved it, in its 75<sup>th</sup> meeting. It will therefore be presented to the XVII Alpine Conference for decision.

As foreseen in the current compliance mechanism, the selection of the topic of the next in-depth review was postponed until the recommendations from the final report of the ongoing ordinary compliance procedure are available. The implementation of the in-depth review is expected to take place under the upcoming Slovenian Presidency.

With regard to the ongoing procedure for reviewing the implementation of the Declaration on Population and Culture, only Austria, Germany, Italy and Slovenia have submitted their national reports so far. The Compliance Committee decided to publish these reports after the XVII Alpine Conference. The next steps will be discussed at the first meeting of the Compliance Committee under the Slovenian Presidency.

The Compliance Committee also continued the work started under the French Presidency to redesign the ordinary compliance mechanism. After discussing various options proposed by both the Contracting Parties and the Observers, it decided in favour of simplifying the questionnaire used for reporting and making some

minor adjustments to the procedure. In particular, the Committee agreed that Contracting Parties may involve external experts in the preparation of the national reports. In addition, the

## Thematic Working Bodies

At the XVI Alpine Conference, the seven regular Thematic Working Bodies (TWBs) were entrusted with new mandates and three new Working Groups were created: the Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Working Group, chaired by Germany, and the two ad hoc Working Groups for the preparation of the Ninth Report on the State of the Alps (RSA 9) and of the Multi-Annual Work Programme of the Alpine Conference (MAP) 2023-2030, both chaired by the Swiss Presidency.

The Permanent Secretariat, as always, published the results of the concluded period, as well as the new mandates, on the Alpine Convention website and managed the nomination process of the representatives of the Contracting Parties and Observers. It has been continuously supporting the ten TWBs operating during the Swiss Presidency by providing advice on strategic and institutional issues, offering organisational support to the Chairs (especially during the meetings), attending and contributing to all meetings, and preparing the proposals for the new mandates,

Compliance Committee can also bring in external experts to discuss the statements of the Contracting Parties and Observers to the draft synthesis compliance report.

as will be outlined in the following paragraphs. In total, 53 regular meetings of TWBs were organised – only three of them in presence due to the ongoing pandemic – as well as several coordination meetings. In addition, many of the TWBs organised workshops, conferences or webinars open to further stakeholders beyond the members and observers: in total 17 events to date, with one more planned in September. Three TWBs have scheduled one further meeting before the Alpine Conference to prepare the transition to the next mandate period.



*A fragment of the graphic recording of the TWB workshop, 25 January 2022. Illustration: Nina Dietrich*

Additionally, together with the Swiss Presidency, the Permanent Secretariat organised two online workshops for the exchange between the TWBs, on 17 June 2021 and 25 January 2022.

Structured along short interviews of the Chairs (including leaders of EUSALP AG6 and, for the first workshop, of the Green Economy editorial team and the Expert Group on the

Sustainability of Mountain Tourism Destinations) and discussions, each workshop was attended by over 60 members of the PC, TWBs and Infopoints.

### Alpine Biodiversity Board



*Photo: Pierre Adenis*

The Permanent Secretariat supported the Alpine Biodiversity Board (ABB), chaired by Italy, which met for a total of five times during the 2021-2022 mandate (21 April, 5 August and 19 October 2021, 21 January and 1 April 2022).

To address the three main objectives of its mandate, the ABB established core groups dealing respectively with the definition of a set of indicators of Alpine biodiversity, the preparation of a project proposal to be presented for EU funding, and the coverage of the international activities in the field of biodiversity. The Permanent Secretariat was actively involved in the meetings and activities of this latter core group, bringing in its knowledge of the ongoing international priorities and activities.

The Permanent Secretariat also facilitated the involvement of the ABB in the preparation of the new trilateral Memorandum of Cooperation between the Alpine, the Carpathian and the CBD Conventions (see below).

The ABB was actively involved in the Mountain Biodiversity Day (see above). As a next step, on 15-16 December 2021, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and further partners, the Board organised a public online event, the *Alpine and Carpathian Biodiversity Forum*, structured along seven thematic sections. The Secretary General gave a welcome address and the Permanent Secretariat contributed further two speaking slots, and supported the organisational, logistical and technical preparation of the event. The Permanent Secretariat also supported the Chair in establishing contacts for organizing, together with UNEP/Carpathian Convention and the Mountain Partnership, the *Mountain biodiversity 2002 – 2022* event, scheduled for 16 September 2022, and where the Secretary General is also due to speak.

## Alpine Climate Board



*New brochure of the ACB: Closing the gap on climate action.*

The work programme of the Alpine Climate Board (ACB) until the XVII Alpine Conference focuses on the implementation of the Climate Action Plan 2.0. To this effect, ten implementation communities, coordinated by one or two “caretakers” from the Contracting Parties or Observers, have been set up.

The Permanent Secretariat continued to be part of the informal core group supporting the Chair, Austria, in organising the work of the ACB, which met online five times. Five plenary meetings were held, on 26 January, 18 May and 22 September 2021 and 26 January and 4 May 2022 and one more is scheduled for 21-22 September 2022. Four exchange meetings between the caretakers and the core group took place. Furthermore, the ACB organised four webinars with guest speakers, dealing with the topics of financial options for activities, youth involvement, climate-

neutral lifestyles in the Alps, and the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, which all attracted a broader audience. The Permanent Secretariat actively participated in each of these activities, and also supported the kick-off of the Energy implementation community, by liaising with EUSALP AG9 and ALPACA.

The Permanent Secretariat also provided specific support to the communication activities of the ACB. A communication plan was drafted together with the Chair and Switzerland. The Permanent Secretariat produced a set of two graphical representations of the implementation pathways of the Alpine Climate Target System 2050, translated in five languages, and provided input and translations for a slide presentation to be used by ACB members. A series of nine articles and posts to promote the “caretaker of the month” were published on the communication channels of the Alpine Convention. The Permanent Secretariat coordinated the translation and printing as well as the financial support offered by the Principality of Monaco for the brochure prepared by the ACB *Closing the gap on climate action – Building new rope teams to support climate-neutral & resilient living in the Alps*. The Permanent Secretariat also presented the work of the ACB at the



*City-mountain cooperation: together towards carbon neutrality* conference organised by EUSALP in

Grenoble (FR) in October 2021, and at the meeting of the Soil Protection Working Group in March 2021.

### Large Carnivores, Wild Ungulates and Society Working Group (WISO)



*Lake Bled (SI), location of the WISO WG meeting. Photo: PSAC*

The Large Carnivores, Wild Ungulates and Society Working Group, chaired by Slovenia, gathered for the first time under the Swiss Presidency on 19 May 2021 at a kick-off meeting. The second and the third meetings also had to be held online, on 18

November 2021 and 15 February 2022 respectively. At last, the final meeting was organised in Bled on 20 and 21 April 2022 with a field trip.

A report on *Landscape connectivity for large carnivores and wild ungulates in the Alps* was prepared, as well as a *Short summary report about a discussion on wild ungulates management*. Reports on the coordinated management of bears and wolves in the Alps were also put together, through questionnaires aimed at verifying the implementation of the recommendations made in previous mandate periods.

### Mountain Agriculture and Mountain Forestry Working Group



*Photo: Hannes Schlosser*

The Working Group on Mountain Agriculture and Mountain Forestry, chaired by Italy, met three times in

each 2021 (28 April, 2 July and 12 November) and 2022 (19 January, 13 April and 28 April).

A first thematic workshop on *Status and perspectives of organic agriculture in the Alps* was organised online on 18 November 2021. Experts, stakeholders and local actors discussed the status quo, best practices and scenarios as well as the interrelations of organic mountain agriculture and the agroforestry sector with agritourism, conservation of agroforestry bio-



diversity and genetic selection and protection of species, as well as socio-economic developments.

A second thematic workshop on *Value chains in mountain forests and mountain agriculture: opportunities for sustainable economy and development* was organized online on 1 February 2022. It focused on the initiatives, good practices, projects, policies in the field of value chains in organic mountain agriculture and in

the forestry sector from Alpine Convention Countries, as well as on the role of value chains in sustainable economy and development in mountain areas.

At the conclusion of its current mandate, the Working Group produced two final reports: *Organic farming in the Alps: a first analysis and some development scenarios* and *Value chains in alpine regions and selected sectors of agriculture and forestry*.

### Natural Hazards Working Group (PLANALP)



*Photo: Beda Sylvester Widmer*

The Natural Hazards Working Group, in short PLANALP, chaired by Austria, held three meetings in 2021 and two more in the first half of 2022. The work of the new mandate period was kicked-off with a short coordination meeting on 25 March 2021 and continued with meetings on 21 June and 12 October 2021. The first meeting in 2022 took place on 29 March and was dedicated to the initial discussion on the upcoming mandate proposal as well as the final discussion on the

outputs of the current mandate. The meeting on 17 May 2022 was the first occasion for the Working Group members to meet again in person in Rosenheim (the hybrid setting also enabled members to take part online). Here the mandate proposal was further discussed. The meeting was organised back-to-back with the EUSALP Roadshow stop on natural hazards. As usual, a part of each meeting was dedicated to reports on past and current events regarding natural hazards in individual countries and regions. A further meeting is scheduled for 7 October 2022.

The main task of the current mandate was focusing on nature-based solutions for natural hazard risk reduction and prevention, which resulted in a policy paper with recommendations. Special attention was also given to the promotion of past

activities and results. For this purpose, the Working Group prepared a factsheet about their study on contingency planning, which will be trans-

### Soil Protection Working Group



*Photo: PSAC*

The Soil Protection Working Group is chaired by Austria, which also financed a dedicated Project Officer at the Permanent Secretariat to provide continuous support to the Chair in 2021 and 2022, including drafting documents and communicating with the group's members.

The Working Group started into its second mandate phase just two days after its adoption by the XVI Alpine Conference, by holding a technical meeting on 14 December 2020. This was crucial for using a short window of opportunity to significantly improve the representation of the Alpine area in the European wide LUCAS Soil survey 2022.

The group then met six times during this mandate phase, on 17 March, 16 June, 2-3 November 2021, 12 January, 10 March and 4 May 2022. Addi-

lated into all Alpine languages for easier communication at the national level.

tionally, two technical meetings took place on 14 December 2020 and 6 September 2021. All meetings had to be carried out in an online format. Still, the November 2021 meeting included a joint session with the Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Working Group to discuss soil functions and spatial planning, a topic on which the two groups jointly organized a public workshop. This event on *Soil functions and spatial planning in the Alps* took place in Munich on 29-30 March 2022 and was attended by the Secretary General.



*Secretary General at the panel discussion on soil-sensitive spatial planning in the Alps, Munich (DE). Photo: Christina Miller/ifuplan*

The core result of the Working Group is the *Long-term action plan for the implementation of provisions and declarations on soil protection in the specific context of the Alpine region* (LTAP), which was developed

through a collaborative process of the whole Working Group. In addition, the Permanent Secretariat coordinated two consultation processes during which the other TWBs and Observer organisations of the Convention, EUSALP AG6 and further relevant institutions were given the opportunity to hand in feedback.

Networking remained an important aspect of the Working Group's activities. The Permanent Secretariat helped prepare presentations held e.g. at the Austrian Soil Forum, an EUSALP AG6 meeting, the Geneva EUROSIL 2021, the Austrian national Committee on the Alpine Convention, the first European Soil Observatory Stakeholder Forum, the annual meeting of the Alpine Soil Partnership, the Austrian national EUSALP coordination committee, an awareness raising event about the Alpine Convention in Lower Austria as well as the workshop of CIPRA Austria about the Soil Conservation Protocol.

Alongside the Working Group's Chair, the Secretary General participated in an official side-event of the 1<sup>st</sup> New European Green Deal Festival, organised by the AGORA European Green Deal NGO on 9 June 2022, at 2.334 meters altitude over Innsbruck on the topic of [\*Soils, Seeds and Senses\*](#).

The collaboration with the Alpine Soil Partnership was pursued through mutual participation in meetings as well as joint activities such as the newly established *Alpine Soil Newsletter* (two editions in 2021, one edition in 2022 so far and one to come) and the translation of the FAO *Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management* in the missing Alpine languages German and Slovenian.

Further networking opportunities were created during Working Group meetings, where external partners as well as the ACB were present and held presentations.

### Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Working Group



Photo: PSAC

The XVI Alpine Conference established the Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Working Group, chaired by Germany, which had developed from the former ad hoc Expert Group on Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development (2015-2019). The Working Group met three times in 2021, on 8-9 March, 5 July

and 2-3 November, as well as on 17 March 2022 and is planning the last meeting of the mandate period on 22 September 2022.

The Working Group is building on the previous work of the Expert Group as well as the Alpine Climate Target System 2050. In its first mandate, it prepared an assessment study on cross-border cooperation and coordination of spatial development – particularly coordination of spatial planning and sustainable territorial development – within the Alpine Convention perimeter. This study will serve as a basis for further work of the Working Group in the upcoming years. The Working Group is also contributing to two prioritised implementation pathways of the Climate Action Plan 2.0, namely the elaboration of an Alpine wide concept of

„Spatial planning for climate protection” and the definition of Alpine wide guidelines for minimised land take and sealing. The latter is done in cooperation with the Soil Protection Working Group (see above).

In the scope of the contribution to the CAP 2.0, three dossiers were elaborated on the land take, growth and shrinking strategies and land saving targets, respectively, each with an executive summary. The Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Working Group also contributed to the elaboration of the RSA 9. Finally, the group is working on an event to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Protocol, which will most likely take place in November 2022.

### Transport Working Group



*Excursion on the Rhaetian Railway. Photo: PSAC*

The Transport Working Group, chaired by France, met on five occasions during the current mandate: on 4 March, 2 June and 28 September 2021 and 21 April and 23 June 2022. Four reports were prepared under the lead of different Contracting Parties,

dealing with the external costs of transport, sustainable mobility policies and measures, technologies for sustainable passenger transport and commuters' behaviour. The Permanent Secretariat helped keeping track of the different delegations' inputs and contributions, finding an agreement on controversial aspects, proof-reading some of the reports and adapting them to the corporate layout. Additionally, the Secretariat supported the coordination with other



ongoing processes such as EUSALP AG4. The Secretariat also promoted the involvement of the Transport Working Group in the Simplon

Alliance process and assessing the shift of some tasks from the EnvALP Working group of the Zurich Process.

### Ad hoc Working Group for the preparation of the Multi-Annual Work Programme

The current Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAP) of the Alpine Conference is ending in 2022. The Swiss Presidency led the elaboration of the fourth MAP, due to cover the period 2023-2030. To this effect an ad hoc Working Group was set up, which met four times: a kick-off meeting on

29 April 2021, two workshops on the identified priority areas (27 May 2021 on Climate action and Quality of life and 30 June 2021 on Biodiversity and Ecosystems as well as on the draft structure of the MAP) and two further meetings on 25 January and 24 May 2022.



*roadMAP workshops in Bohinj (SI) (left) and Munich (DE) (right). Photos: PSAC*

Furthermore, from 6 to 14 September 2021 the Presidency organised the *roadMAP*, a series of six regional meetings to present and discuss the MAP process, targeted at a broader circle of stakeholders: in Bolzano/Bozen (IT), Bohinj (SI), Vienna (AT), Munich (DE), Berne (CH) and Chambéry (FR). They were attended by a total of over 90 participants.

After successive consultation phases among the Working Group and Permanent Committee members, the final draft was adopted by the

Permanent Committee at its 74<sup>th</sup> meeting for submission to the Alpine Conference.

The Permanent Secretariat supported the coordination of the working group, managed the invitation and registration process to the roadMAP, and supported the consultation processes, as well as providing feedback to meeting documents and the drafts of the MAP and participating in each meeting. The Secretariat also organised the translation of the new MAP and is preparing its professional

layout and printing in time for the Alpine Conference.

Finally, the Permanent Secretariat supported the Presidency in

collecting inputs from Contracting Parties, Observers and TWBs about possible implementation activities.



# NETWORKING

The implementation of the Alpine Convention is not the task of its bodies alone, indeed many institutional levels of the Contracting Parties, the Observers, and further organisations within and beyond the Alps need to

## Contracting Parties

The Secretary General participated in numerous meetings in Ljubljana (SI) with the Slovenian Head of Delegation, further Ministry officials and other stakeholders throughout the reporting period, to discuss current issues and start preparing the Slovenian Alpine Convention Presidency 2023-2024. She met Minister Andrej Vizjak on 21 February 2022 and his successor Uroš Brežan on 22 August.



*Secretary General Ljubljana (SI) visiting Uroš Brežan, Minister for the Environment and Spatial Planning. Photo: PSAC*

In the view of the intended focus of the Slovenian Presidency on quality of life, the Secretary General also attended a panel on this topic

be involved to pool the respective efforts. Over this reporting period, the Permanent Secretariat has actively engaged in maintaining contacts with its partners and establishing new cooperations.

organised by ESPON in Bled (SI) in December 2021.



*Secretary General participating in a panel discussion on Quality of Life for ESPON in Bled (SI). Photo: ESPON*

The Permanent Secretariat also participated in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> editions of the Slovenian Alpine Convention Day, in December 2020 (to which the Secretary General gave a welcome address) and May 2021.



*Secretary General in Vaduz (LI) visiting Sabine Monauni, Deputy Prime Minister. Source: IKR*

Following to governmental changes in Liechtenstein, in August 2021 the Secretary General visited in Vaduz (LI) the new Minister in charge of the Alpine Convention, Sabine Monauni, Deputy Prime Minister and leading the Ministry of Home Affairs, Economy and Environment.

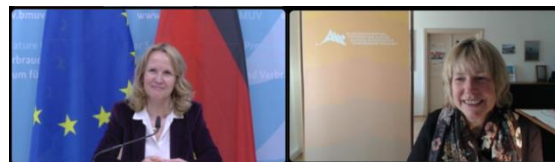
They addressed the priority topics of protection and sustainable development in the Alps, also in the view of Liechtenstein possibly taking on the Presidency of the Alpine Convention, which had to be abandoned at a later stage. A further exchange, by phone, took place in July 2022.



*High-level meeting at 2100m altitude: Secretary General with French Secretary of State Bérangère Abba and ALPARC, Col du Lautaret (FR). Photo: PSAC*

In September 2021, the Secretary General had a meeting with the French Secretary of State in charge of biodiversity, Bérangère Abba, at the Col du Lautaret (FR), to discuss the continued involvement of France in the Alpine Convention after its Presidency. Having hosted the IUCN World Congress the same month, France reiterated its commitment to the

protection of Alpine biodiversity – also as initiator of ALPARC, which was celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at this occasion.



*Videoconference between Minister Steffi Lemke and the Secretary General. Photo: PSAC*

Following the federal elections in Germany, the Secretary General met the new Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Steffi Lemke online in April 2022. The same month, the Deputy Secretary General welcomed a delegation from the Bavarian State Chancellery's training course for Administrative Leadership in the Bolzano/Bolzen operational branch office.



*The Secretary General addressing the Healing Power of the Alps conference in Bad Hofgastein (AT). Photo: Healing Power of the Alps*

Finally, the Secretary General travelled to Rome (IT) in November 2021 and September 2022 to meet the

Italian Head of Delegation to the Alpine Convention and discuss current issues.

The Permanent Secretariat also provided communication support and participated in the final event of the

## Observers

Throughout both years, the Permanent Secretariat maintained close contacts with many Observer organisations. In particular, the Secretary General held meetings with the co-presidents of CIPRA, Serena Arduino and Bianca Elzenbaumer in September 2021 in Bolzano/ Bozen and in March 2022 in Trento (IT), and with ALPARC's Director Guido Plassmann in April 2022. She gave addresses to the General Assemblies of ALPARC (January 2021 and January 2022), Alliance in the Alps (September 2021) and Alpine Town of the Year (October 2021). The Permanent Secretariat was also represented at Alliance in the Alps' international conference in June 2022.

In June 2021 the Secretary General was invited to Mallnitz (AT) to learn more about the 8A Alpine Municipalities training projects, implemented by the Austrian Alpine Club and Alliance in the Alps, and visit the new training centre at the Hohe Tauern National Park visitor centre.

series of three events of sustainable tourism organised in the follow-up of the XV Alpine Conference, the Conference *Healing Power of the Alps*, organised by Austria together with ARGE ALP in October 2021 in Bad Hofgastein.



*Meeting in Mallnitz (AT) to discuss the 8A project. Photo: PSAC*

She also took active part in the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ALPARC held in September in the cradle of the network, Le Monétier-les-Bains in Les Ecrins National Park (FR) and gave an interview published in ALPARC's Activity Report 2021.



*25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ALPARC, Le-Monétier-les-Bains (FR). Photo: PSAC*



The Permanent Secretariat also attended festivities of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Triglav National Park (SI) in 2022, and presented CIPRA International with a multilingual poetry slam performance to congratulate it on its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary in May 2022.



*Cabaret artist Markus Koschuh performing at CIPRA's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Photo: Julian Konrad.*

Furthermore, the Permanent Secretariat liaised with EUROMONTANA to schedule a presentation of the Eight Report on the State of the Alps by the Chair of the ad hoc Working Group in EUROMONTANA's online workshop *Improved mobility, improved air quality in rural and mountain areas* in March 2021.

The Permanent Secretariat participated as member in the reflection group of the Alpine Changemaker

Network, initiated by CIPRA and other partners with the aim of empowering young people to implement their ideas for social change and sustainable development in the Alps; the Secretariat attended part of the first Alpine Changemaker Basecamp in Poschiavo (CH) in July 2021. Furthermore, the Secretariat participates in the consultancy group of the CIPRA Germany project Facts4Tourism.

Finally, the Permanent Secretariat continued following the projects DuALPlus, trAILS, OpenSpaceAlps, LinkingAlps and ADO, financed under the Alpine Space Programme, in quality of observer and, in consultation with the relevant TWB chairs, provided letters of support to several project applications.



*A highlight from the first Alpine Changemaker Basecamp in Poschiavo. Photo Katharina Söldner*

## Infopoints

The seven Infopoints of the Alpine Convention continued promoting the Alpine Convention and its messages throughout the reporting period. In particular, with financial support

from France, Germany, Austria and Switzerland, they each organised events within the Reading Mountains Festival in December 2020 and 2021 and, with financial support from

the Swiss Presidency, within the Climate Hour in June 2021 and (except for Chamonix) in June 2022. The Permanent Secretariat concluded Memoranda of Understanding with the Infopoints for each event and carried out the financial management of the contributions.



*Secretary General visiting the Mojstrana Infopoint. Photo: Slovenski Planinski muzej*

In July 2021, the Secretary General was able to visit the Infopoints in Villach (AT), Tolmin (SI) and Mojstrana (SI). In August 2021, the Permanent Secretariat also attended the *Fire in the Alps* event organised by the Villach Infopoint at Dobratsch. The Deputy Secretary General participated in two webinars organised by the Domodossola Infopoint (IT) on the topics *Water, Environment and Mankind* (in March 2021) and *Tourism, Mountains and Health* (May 2021) as well as Domodossola Infopoint's Climate Hour event in June 2022. In April 2022, the Permanent Secretariat organised a workshop for the young laureates of

the *Reading Mountains 2021* award of the Domodossola Infopoint in the Bolzano/Bozen operational branch of office.



*Students from Domodossola visiting the PSAC branch office in Bolzano/Bozen. Photo: PSAC*

The Permanent Secretariat financially supported the Grand Paradis Infopoint for the organisation of the 24th and 25th editions of the Gran Paradiso Film Festival and the Giroparchi Nature and Culture Trail project. The latter received the international award of UIAA – International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation in 2021.



*The Fire in the Alps event at Nature park Dobratsch. Photo: Naturpark Dobratsch*

In 2022, the Permanent Secretariat provided each Infopoint with a personalised roll-up in the new corporate design of the Alpine Convention.

On the institutional level, in 2021 the Permanent Secretariat renewed for three further years its Memoranda of Understanding with Ars.Uni.VCO and with the Municipality of Morbegno

### Infopoints networking workshop

As the Infopoint networking workshop, planned by the Permanent Secretariat in 2020, had to be postponed for two years due to the ongoing sanitary crisis, the Secretariat, on the initiative of the Bolzano/Bozen operational branch office, first held individual virtual update meetings with each Infopoint in the spring 2021 and carried out a survey on their perception of their role, to which all but one Infopoint provided answers. Their analysis showed that the hosting organisations find their role as Infopoint useful, most of them even very useful, for their own missions, and that they also mention the Alpine Convention (mostly its concrete projects) in other contexts. While every Infopoint is different they mostly focus on information dissemination, education and awareness-raising. The interaction with the Permanent Secretariat was evaluated as very engaging. Facebook and the Alpine Convention website are the most used communication channels of the Infopoints.

The Infopoint networking workshop could finally take place in

for the operation of, respectively, the Infopoints of Domodossola and Morbegno. The renewal of the MoUs with Villach and Chamonix is in preparation.

Bolzano/Bozen in June 2022, with financial support from Austria. The lunch-to-lunch workshop was attended by representatives from the Morbegno, Domodossola, Chamonix, Tolmin and Villach Infopoints and from the Permanent Secretariat, including the Secretary General.



*Participants of the Infopoint networking event in Bolzano/Bozen. Photo: PSAC*

With the support from an external moderator for one part, the participants got to know each other, including commonalities and differences regarding the organisational setting and working manners of the respective Infopoints. Important first steps towards collaborating more actively with each other were made and five possible concrete activities in the fields of networking and joint communication were identified.



## EUSALP

During the reporting period, the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention continued its strong commitment and efforts to contribute to EUSALP – the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region – in several ways: by representing the Alpine Conven-

tion in the General Assembly (GA) and the Executive Board (EB), by co-leading the Action Group 6 (AG6) together with Land Carinthia, by participating as an active partner in the Alpo 2 project and finally as Observer in Action Groups 4 and 9.

### Representing the Alpine Convention in the EUSALP process

During the French EUSALP Presidency, which had been extended from 2020 to 2021, the Permanent Secretariat participated in the four meetings of the EB. All included joint sessions with the Board of Action Group Leaders (BAGL). These meetings paved the way for setting up a EUSALP Technical Support Structure (TSS) providing assistance for the implementation of the strategy.

Deputy Secretary General Marianna Elmi and Deputy Secretary General ad interim Wolfer Mayrhofer addressed the General Assemblies of December 2020 and December 2021, respectively. The 2021 GA entrusted Italy with the EUSALP presidency in 2022.

As regards the participation in the workshops of the Annual Fora, in 2020 the Permanent Secretariat cooperated with the Bourgogne-Franche Comté and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur regions (FR), as well as the

AlpWeek co-organisers, to schedule an afternoon focusing on youth, on 10 December, which included the presentation of the winners of the Alpine Convention Photocontest, the Young Academics Award ceremony and the exchange between youth representatives and participants of the Alpine Conference, the Annual Forum and AlpWeek mentioned earlier.

In 2021, the Permanent Secretariat was engaged in two thematic workshops, on *Territorial Brands*, *UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage* and *FAO Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems* as well as on *Spatial planning for a fair and green Alpine region*.

The Secretariat also participated in an exchange with the Swiss Presidency, the French Delegation and the French EUSALP Presidency in April 2021 and presented the work of the ACB and on the RSA 9 at the *City-mountain cooperation: together*

*towards carbon neutrality* conference organised by EUSALP in Grenoble in October 2021.



*EUSALP Annual Forum in Nice (FR). Photo: PSAC*

The five EB meetings under the Italian Presidency to date were mostly dedicated to establishing the administrative and financial framework for the TSS, the running of the Action Groups (AGs) after the end of the AlpGov 2 project as well as the Annual Fora and youth activities. It is foreseen that the TSS hosting regions Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Auvergne Rhône Alpes and Lombardy and the leaders of the AGs as well as the incoming Presidencies will be united as project partners in two successive integrated projects of the Alpine Space Programme 2021-2027.

### Activities of EUSALP Action Group 6

During the period under review the AG6 met three times online on 24-25 March 2021, 12-13 July 2021 and 9-10 December 2021 as well as once in a hybrid format in Villach on 8 June 2022 to implement its current work

The first project shall have a duration from January 2023 till December 2025. After consultation with the political level in Carinthia, in the EB and with the TSS as well as the other AG leaders, it became clear that a continuation of the shared co-lead of AG6 by the Permanent Secretariat and Carinthia should be pursued and that the stated financial needs of AG6 can be covered within the given framework of this project. Therefore, the Permanent Committee supported in its 75<sup>th</sup> meeting the continuation of the co-leadership of EUSALP AG6 by the Permanent Secretariat and Carinthia as well as the participation of the Permanent Secretariat in the corresponding governance project currently being developed.

The Annual Forum in November 2022 in Trento will include the next GA, where Switzerland will be entrusted with the EUSALP presidency in 2023. In addition, a series of workshops is planned, one of them with the involvement of the Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Working Group.

plan. Recurring items on the agenda concerned the planning of the progress of single activities, cross-sectoral themes and financing issues. The most important single activities carried out by AG6 were: the

finalisation of a study on preservation and valorisation of the diversity of Alpine natural and cultural landscapes in times of climate crisis and the EUSALP Landscape Conference on 24 May 2022 in Bolzano/Bozen focusing on land use conflicts related to renewable energy production; the second international workshop on Territorial Brands, organised in collaboration with EURAC Research on 10-11 June 2021 in Bolzano/Bozen, concentrating on small-scale Territorial Brands and their impacts on the sustainable development of the corresponding territory; the mapping of Territorial Brands; an exploratory meeting with FAO representatives on the implementation of the FAO programme on Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems in the Alpine region on 15 October 2021 in Poschiavo; and the mapping of non-wood forest products.



*EUSALP Landscape Conference in Bolzano/Bozen (IT). Photo: PSAC*

Among the cross-sectoral topics, AG6 contributed significantly to the results of the Task Force Multifunctional Forests and Sustainable Use of

Timber including a contribution to the consultation on the new EU Forest Strategy, comprehensive feedbacks to a document of the French EUSALP Presidency on nature-based solutions for the resilience of Alpine territories provided by multifunctional forests, and a workshop on *How may forest and timber practitioners as well as civil society respond to the climate crisis?* co-organised with the Italian EUSALP Presidency in Bolzano/Bozen on 6 September 2022. Furthermore, AG6 contributed substantially to the Joint Paper on Spatial Planning elaborated within the AlpGov 2 strategic priority policy area "Spatial planning". AG6 also cooperated on a case-by-case basis with other AGs. Worth mentioning is the hybrid meeting on 1 March 2022 in Paris on mountain agriculture and pastoralism organized together with AG2 and with involvement of the chairs of the Mountain Agriculture and Mountain Forestry Working Group.

AG6 also made good use of the Alpine Region Preparatory Action Fund with several approved projects. Finally, the members of AG6 were continuously informed about the priorities and opportunities for cooperation of the Alpine Space. Programme 2021-2027 and about the terms of reference of the first calls for submission of project proposals. Beyond this, AG6 carried out on 13 January 2022 a specific

online project pitch meeting to generate ideas for possible projects.

### Participation in the AlpGov 2 project

In the period covered by this report the Permanent Secretariat participated in all eight AlpGov 2 project partner meetings. These meetings often served to prepare the joint EB-BAGL sessions held shortly afterwards.

With regard to the involvement of the Permanent Secretariat in numerous other meetings for the progress of the different work packages of the project, the following main activities should be mentioned: the online workshop on impact-oriented work design in June 2021, another online workshop in October 2021 on capacity building and learning and a course in April 2022 in Munich on innovation and policy activation within the work package “Skills development and EUSALP AGs empowerment”; the definition of targets and indicators for monitoring the strategic sectoral and cross-sectoral implementation initiatives of the AGs within the work package “Strategic Steering and monitoring of implementation”; as well as the elaboration of a document summarising the policy recommendations from all AGs within the work package “Mobilising strategic target groups”. For AG6, the commitments from the political declaration on

sustainable land use and soil protection and the conclusions of the EUSALP Landscape Conference were inserted.



*EUSALP Roadshow stop in Rosenheim (DE).  
Photo: PSAC*

Moreover, the Permanent Secretariat organised the EUSALP Road Show along the topics of the AlpGov 2 strategic priority policy areas in cooperation with the other AGs as part of the work package “Communication”. The EUSALP Road Show aimed at bringing the EUSALP closer to citizens and outlining sustainable solutions for the benefit of the Alpine region. It addressed local and regional stakeholders and the civil society in a direct and easy-going way. The Road Show stops took place on 26 January 2022 in Bolzano/Bozen in the context of the kick-off of the Italian EUSALP Presidency and on 13 May together with the EUSALP Youth Council (AG4, AG9), on 3 May 2022 in Trieste in the



framework of the Digital Alps Conference (AG3, AG5), on 18 May 2022 in Rosenheim (AG8), on 24-25 May 2022 in Bolzano/Bozen back to back with the EUSALP Landscape Conference (AG4, AG6, AG7) and on 26 May 2022 in Edolo (AG1, AG2).

The final event of the AlpGov 2 project on 24 June 2022 in Trento featured presentations of the main results achieved by the project.

### Observer role in AG4 and AG9

The Permanent Secretariat continued fulfilling its Observer role in AG4 (Mobility) and AG9 (Energy), attending all but one meetings in the reporting period (five for AG4 and four for AG9) as well as the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> EUSALP



*Roadshow stop In Edolo (IT). Photo: PSAC*

As intended the Permanent Secretariat closed its activities related to the AlpGov 2 project on 30 June 2022.

Mobility Conferences. The Permanent Secretariat regularly reported on the activities of the Alpine Convention and especially the Transport Working Group (to AG4) and the Alpine Climate Board (to AG9).

## Further Alpine cooperation

### Host Cities and institutions

The Secretary General maintained regular contacts with the City of Innsbruck and met the Mayor Georg Willi several times, especially in connection with the planned renovation of the Innsbruck office. After several postponements due to administrative issues, the works started in May 2022 and are due to be completed by November 2022. In the meanwhile, the Permanent Secretariat is operating from both a smaller temporary office rented out by the Municipality of Innsbruck and home offices. The Permanent Secretariat would like to express again its gratitude towards the City of Innsbruck, but also the Province of Tyrol and Austria for making this renovation possible.

The Secretary General also had a meeting in May 2021 with the Governor of Tyrol Günter Platter. She met his deputy Ingrid Felipe at several occasions including the inauguration of Steinberg am Rofan (AT) as a Mountaineering Village in September 2021 and in the context of the outdoor exhibition (see Communication chapter). She also attended, along with further officials, the opening of the Innsbruck Festival of Early Music in August 2021, which was an excellent networking opportunity.



*Secretary General with Deputy Governor of Tyrol Ingrid Felipe and President of the Austrian Alpine Club Andreas Ermacora. Photo: PSAC/Franz Oss*

The Secretary General exchanged with the Governor of South Tyrol Arno Kompatscher at the yearly event of the Mountaineering Villages in October 2021 (see below).



*30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of EURAC Research. Photo: PSAC*

She also maintained excellent relationships with EURAC Research as



hosting institution of the Bolzano/Bozen operational branch office of the Secretariat through regular meetings with EURAC President Roland Psenner and Director Stephan Ortner.

## ARGE ALP

The Permanent Secretariat continued assuming its role as Observer in the ARGE ALP; the Secretary General virtually attended the Conference of the Heads of Government on 26 November 2021. The next Conference of

The cooperation with the municipality of Bolzano/Bozen was further developed through one of the few events held in presence within the Reading Mountains Festival 2021 (see below).

the Heads of Government will take place in the context of the celebrations of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of Arge Alp on 20 October 2022 in Tyrol.

## AlpWeek



*One of the sessions of the AlpWeek 2022 in Brig (CH). Photo: Caroline Begle*

The AlpWeek Intermezzo 2020, co-organised by several Observer organisations and the Permanent Secretariat like the last editions, took place around the XVI Alpine Conference on 9-11 December 2020. The topic was *Youth & Climate – How can young people in the Alps be involved in shaping their future?* Over 350 people registered to the programme made of 22 online sessions.

On 5-7 September 2022, the AlpWeek 2022 gathered over 110 participants in Brig (CH) on the topic *Alps in transition – Rethinking Alpine lifestyles for an ecologically, socially and economically sustainable transition*. Insight from the areas of renewable energy and landscape, demographic change, agriculture and biodiversity, and sustainable tourism were discussed in numerous sessions and field trips. The event was planned back-to-back to the initial date of the XVII Alpine Conference and was financially supported by the Swiss Presidency. Through the Permanent Secretariat, the Principality of Monaco sponsored travel fellowships for interested young people to attend AlpWeek. The Permanent Secretariat was part of the organising committee alongside

six observer organisations and two national ones, supporting the initiative, among others, by providing

### Mountaineering Villages

The active collaboration with the Mountaineering Villages continued. This successful implementation project of the Alpine Convention (linked to the Permanent Secretariat by a MoU) managed by the Alpine Associations and the many engaged inhabitants of the villages, grew significantly in 2021 and became even more international with the entry of the Swiss Alpine Club (SAC) in the network in 2021. Six new villages from Austria, Italy and Switzerland were accepted into the initiative in 2021, bringing the total to 35 villages in five Alpine countries.



*Former Deputy Secretary General Marianna Elmi at the inauguration ceremony of the new Mountaineering Villages Lavin, Guarda and Ardez (CH). Photos: Dominik Täuber*

translations. The Secretary General addressed the plenary with a video message.

The Deputy Secretary General welcomed the new Swiss Mountaineering Villages in August 2021 in Ardez and the Secretary General congratulated Steinberg am Rofan (AT) during its inauguration in September 2021.



*The Secretary General at the joining ceremony of the new Mountaineering Village Steinberg am Rofan (AT). Photos: PSAC*

The Secretary General also attended the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> annual meetings of the Mountaineering Villages, held respectively in Lungiarü in the Ladin Dolomites (IT) in October 2021 and in Johnsbach im Gesäuse (AT) in May 2022. The latter was supported financially by the Secretariat.



*2022 annual meeting of the Mountaineering Villages in Johnsbach. Photo: Andreas Hollinger/Nationalpark Gesäuse*

Furthermore, the Secretariat contributed an article about the Mountaineering Villages as case study in the UNWTO and FAO's publication *Mountain tourism – Towards a more sustainable path*, released for International Mountain Day 2021.

Finally, the Permanent Secretariat included an excursion to the Mountaineering Villages of Vals and Schmirn (AT) in the programme of the study visit organised for Hindu Kush Himalaya representatives (see below).



*Secretary General and Governor of South Tyrol Arno Kompatscher attending the 2021 annual meeting of the Mountaineering Villages in Lungiarü (IT). Photo PSAC*

### Youth Parliament to the Alpine Convention

The Permanent Secretariat continued to support the Youth Parliament to the Alpine Convention (YPAC), which remained active in 2021 and 2022 despite the pandemic's impact, on youth and schooling in general and on the organisation of the YPAC partnership in particular. This also included participation in the online preparation meetings of the respective YPAC sessions.



*Impression from the YPAC in Trogen (CH), March 2021. Photo: YPAC*



The school of Trogen (CH) organised the 2021 YPAC session from 23-26 March on the topic of *Children's rights in the Alpine region*. Carried out for the first time in an online format, the event included multiple different sessions, meetings and leisure time activities.



*YPAC delegates in Vaduz (LI). Photo: YPAC*

The Liechtensteinisches Gymnasium had to hold the 2022 YPAC session online as well, from 14-17 March 2022 on the topic *Do the major crises of the 21<sup>st</sup> century require a change of system?* However, delegates from Liechtenstein and the YPAC schools nearby were able to present the results of the intense week to politicians and experts in person on Friday 18 March, on-site in Vaduz.

## International cooperation

In this reporting period, the Permanent Secretariat seized the opportunity of the designation by the UN General Assembly of 2022 as the **International Year of Sustainable**

The Secretary General held speeches at the opening ceremonies and addressed the young Alpine parliamentarians again at the start of their General Assemblies in both years.

The Permanent Secretariat furthermore supported the involvement of YPAC students in different Alpine Convention activities such as the joint session Alpine Convention – AlpWeek – EUSALP on the afternoon of the XVI Alpine Conference or the roadMAP workshops in 2021. The Secretariat also keeps supporting YPAC by providing the server space for hosting their website and carrying out the financial management of a contribution from Germany to support the preparation meetings of the respective YPAC sessions. The Memorandum of Understanding between the Secretariat and the YPAC Association, signed in 2018, was renewed by a formal exchange of letters for a further three-year period.

**Development** to reinforce its cooperation with several international organisations dealing with mountain-specific issues.



## Carpathian Convention and UNEP

A major focus of cooperation between the Carpathian and Alpine Conventions in 2021 and 2022 was mountain biodiversity. Indeed, both Conventions co-organised three online events mentioned in the previous chapters: the *Mountain Biodiversity Day* in January 2021, the *Alpine and Carpathian Biodiversity Forum* in December 2021 and the *Mountain biodiversity 2002 – 2022* event in September 2022. This is to be seen in the context of the renewal of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between the two Conventions and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD – see next paragraph).

The Permanent Secretariat also presented the work of the Alpine Convention at two online events organised in 2021 by UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and CONDESAN

under the auspices of the Andean Mountain Initiative: the Regional Dialogue on Governance in the Andes and Mountain Regions in April and the Bridges in the Andes conference in December. In June 2022, the Deputy Secretary-General then participated in the *Mountains Connect Interregional Workshop* organised by UNEP in Vienna. He presented the work of the Alpine Convention and, together with representatives from four continents, participated in a governance simulation on the topic of resilience and adaptation to climate change.

In September 2022, the Secretary General met with UNEP representatives and the GLOMOS team in Bolzano/Bozen to explore further possible topics of cooperation.

## Convention on Biological Diversity

In 2020, the Secretariats of the Carpathian and Alpine Conventions approached the CBD Secretariat to propose renewing the trilateral MoC of 2008 in order to target it to the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Upon agreement by the CBD, the text was negotiated and the final draft of the MoC approved by the Permanent Committee in its 75<sup>th</sup> meeting. Signing will be organised after the adoption of the post-

2020 global biodiversity framework, expected at the CBD COP15 in December 2022.

The three Secretariats, alongside FAO and the Mountain Partnership and under UNEP's lead, are planning to co-host a side-event at COP15, at which the MoC will be presented.

The Permanent Secretariat has been liaising with the international partners and the Contracting Parties about the post-2020 global

biodiversity framework negotiations and co-signed a briefing note for the

### Hindu Kush Himalaya and ICIMOD

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development ICIMOD, an intergovernmental organisation of the eight Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) countries, and the Permanent Secretariat already joined forces several times in the past to raise the attention on the high impact of climate change in mountains at UNFCCC COP meetings. Again, at COP26 in November 2021 (Glasgow/UK, hybrid), ICIMOD hosted a high-level side-event co-organised with Austria, UNEP and the Permanent Secretariat under the title *Elevating adaptation action in mountains – from the Andes to the Alps, Carpathians and Hindu Kush Himalaya*, in which the Secretary General intervened.



*Webinar HKH-Alps. Photo: ICIMOD*

Thereafter, ICIMOD approached the Alpine Convention with a view of benefiting from a transfer of experience to the intergovernmental high-level Task Force of the HKH, tasked

attention of the CBD bodies in March 2022.

with assessing the feasibility of establishing a regional institutional mechanism for the protection and sustainable development of the region. The Permanent Secretariat responded positively and organised first a webinar (17 May 2022) and then a study visit to Innsbruck (23-25 June 2022) on the topic of transnational mountain governance for the HKH Task Force. The Permanent Secretariat acknowledges the participation of Austria, Switzerland and CIPRA International in the exchanges and the financial support provided by Monaco.



*HKH study visit at Helga's Alm, Valsertal (AT). Photo: PSAC*

Further cooperation steps are being discussed, starting with a joint side-event at UNFCCC COP27 in November

### Dinaric region

The transnational exchange platform for the management of large carnivores in the Dinaric region was established in 2021 in the scope of a project funded by Germany to coordinate the management of bear, wolf and lynx among the countries of the Dinaric mountains. The Secretariats of the Alpine and the Carpathian Conventions were invited to a workshop in Sarajevo in June 2022 to present the respective frameworks of their Conventions and participate in the debate with

2022 as well as a presence of the HKH in the 2022 edition of the Reading Mountains Festival.

the representatives of all involved countries (including the Chair of WISO) on drafting a possible regional agreement on the concerned topic.



*Participants of the Dinaric Platform meeting in Sarajevo (BiH). Photo: Dinaric Platform*

### Mountain Partnership

Ahead of the Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership in Aspen (USA) in late September 2022, the Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General met with the Mountain Partnership Secretariat at FAO in Rome earlier that month. At the Global Meeting, the Deputy Secretary

General will participate in a round table discussion moderated by UNEP on transboundary cooperation. The exchanges also regarded the International Year, which is coordinated by the Mountain Partnership.

### GLOMOS

Global Mountain Safeguard Research (GLOMOS) and the Permanent Secretariat are neighbours at EURAC Research, one example of the networking opportunities provided by the Bolzano/Bozen

operational branch office. The Permanent Secretariat wrote a chapter in the book *Safeguarding Mountain Biodiversity – A Global Challenge* to be published by GLOMOS in early 2023. The chapter outlines the

contribution of the Alpine Convention to the Sustainable Development

Goals in the fields of climate action, soil protection and risk governance.



# PROJECTS

Through its recurrent projects, namely the Reading Mountains Festival, the Young Academics Award and the Photo Contest, the Permanent Secretariat aims at furthering awareness on the Alpine Convention

## Reading Mountains Festival

In 2020, the Reading Mountains Festival took place for the sixth year in a row, celebrating the cultural and linguistic diversity of the Alps on the occasion of International Mountain Day, 11 December. Because of the limitations in event organisation due to the pandemic, the 2020 edition of the festival could not take place to the extent of previous ones. Still, many partners responded to the invitation and organised events online: 58 partners in seven Alpine countries (Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Slovenia, and Switzerland), as well as Spain and Poland, organised [66 events](#) all together.

Due to the sanitary situation, instead of live encounters in Innsbruck or Bolzano/Bozen the Permanent Secretariat organised four virtual events, one in each of the Alpine languages, premiered as Facebook Live events.

In 2021 also, many old and new partners responded to the invitation and organised an event as part of the 7<sup>th</sup>

beyond expert circles and engaging new stakeholders in its implementation. The Permanent Secretariat has been reacting flexibly to the sanitary situation to carry out the 2020-2022 editions.

edition of the Reading Mountains Festival. More than 60 different partners in 6 Alpine countries (Austria, France, Italy, Liechtenstein, Slovenia, and Switzerland), as well as Spain, organised [82 events](#) altogether.



*Students reading their favourite piece in the event organised for Reading Mountains 2021 by the Morbegno Infopoint. Photo: Oscar del Barba*

The Permanent Secretariat cooperated with the Municipality of Bolzano/Bozen and organised a Reading Mountains event as part of the municipality's *Un Natale di Libri* (A Christmas of Books) initiative. Unfortunately, the sanitary situation did not allow live events in Innsbruck –

the Permanent Secretariat, therefore, organised an online event with bookshop and long-time Festival partner Wagner'sche.



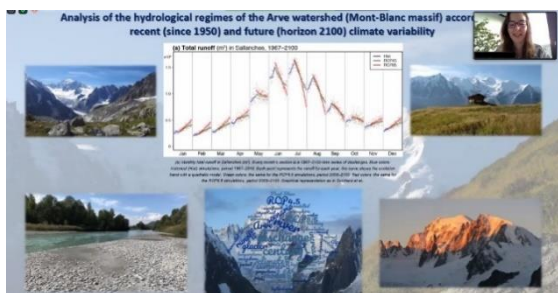
*Reading Mountains event in Bolzano/Bozen (IT). Photo: PSAC*

As in all previous editions, the Permanent Secretariat coordinated the partners and offered them support in the

form of event promotion and information also in 2020 and 2021. In addition to sending posters, bookmarks, leporellos, and stickers to registered events, the Permanent Secretariat created a dedicated [Reading Mountains Facebook page](#) for the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Festival, promoting each registered event in the language in which it was taking place.

In 2022, the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the Reading Mountains Festival will be registered as an “International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development” event. The Permanent Secretariat is again coordinating the partners and offering support as described above for the previous years.

## Young Academics Award



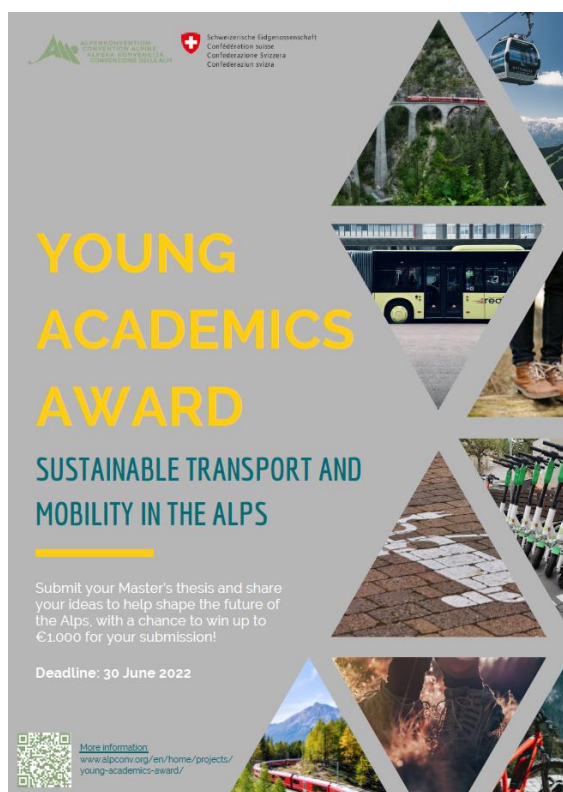
*Online presentation at the 2020 Young Academics Award ceremony. Photo: PSAC, contents: Léa Laurent*

The 5<sup>th</sup> Young Academics Awards were presented to [five students](#) from Italy, Slovenia and France, authors of selected Master theses related to the topic “Climate change and air quality, measurement and measures” in December 2020, in an online session organised by the Permanent Secretariat

back-to-back to the XVI Alpine Conference and embedded in the EUSAP Annual Forum.

Thereafter, still in connection with the SOIA activities and coordinated by the Bolzano/Bozen operational branch office, in 2021 the Secretariat launched a call for the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Young Academics Award. In coordination with the Swiss Presidency, and with the support of the Transport Working Group and ISCAR, the topic of “Sustainable mobility in the Alps” was chosen and the award strongly promoted through social media, flyers and through targeted mailings to relevant academic

institutions. The Secretariat invited again the Infopoints of the Alpine Convention to join the initiative by providing the additional “Infopoint prizes”.



*Flyer of the 2022 edition of the Young Academics Award*

## Photo Contest

Once per year, the Permanent Secretariat organises a new edition of the Photocontest and publishes a new calendar with the winning pictures. The process includes on one hand the choice of the topic, the drafting and publishing of the call, the establishment of the online platform for the applications, the organisation of the voting process, the choice of the winning pictures and of the prizes for the winners; on the other hand, the

Four Infopoints agreed on participating in this edition, awarding works with a specific relevance to their territories. The call was foreseen to be open until 30 June 2022 and the prizes to be awarded at the occasion of the XVII Alpine Conference. However, since on one hand, by early May 2022 only one application had been received, and on the other hand, organisational reasons would have made it impossible to hold the award ceremony of the project during the XVII Alpine Conference, in agreement with the Swiss presidency and with the partners in the project, it was decided to cancel this edition of the Award. The notice of the cancellation was given in good time, to the public, to partners and to the applicant. The Secretariat is evaluating options to relaunch the YAA during the Slovenian presidency.

creation of the calendar involves the definition and implementation of the layout and the shipping of the printed copies to the delegations and to many relevant individual contacts, to support ownership for the Alpine Convention and visibility in numerous offices across the Alps.

In 2021, the topic of “Alpine water bodies & their biodiversity” was chosen. The Contest attracted a total of 97 participants who submitted almost



400 pictures, among which all team members of the Swiss Presidency and Permanent Secretariat selected the winning ones.



*The flyer for the Photocontest 2022 of the Alpine Convention*

They were made public in an “Advent calendar type” social media campaign concluded on Christmas Day. In that year, the design of the calendar was made more modern, and the materials were changed, opting for a lighter, more sustainable paper which does not require the application of synthetic coating.

In 2022 the Permanent Secretariat started planning for the next edition of the Photocontest. The topic of “Alpine plays of light” was chosen, the call was drafted and published at the beginning of summer, a flyer was designed, and the project was advertised through all the available channels, including a targeted mailing to photo associations throughout the Alps.

The deadline for the submission is 3 September 2022 and applications keep coming in. The Secretariat will subsequently organise the voting system and platform and begin work on the layout of the 2023 calendar.



*Winning pictures of the 2021 Photo Contest. From left to right: Mauro Lanfranchi (1<sup>st</sup> place), Simon Kovačič (2<sup>nd</sup> place), Josef Hinterleitner (3<sup>rd</sup> place)*



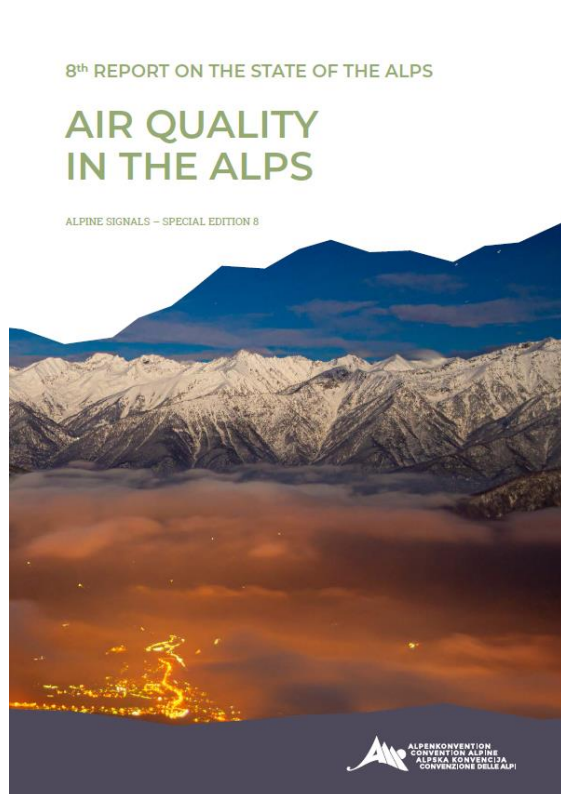
# SOIA

The main activities of the Permanent Secretariat in the framework of the System for the Observation and Information on the Alps (SOIA), coordinated as usual by the operational branch office of the Permanent Secretariat in Bolzano/ Bozen, were dedicated in this reporting period to the following: translation, layout, printing and dissemination of the Eighth

Report on the State of the Alps (RSA) on air quality; support to the ad hoc Working Group for the elaboration of the RSA 9 on Alpine towns; initial discussions about the tenth RSA on quality of life to be prepared under Slovenian Presidency; and maintenance and enrichment with content of the Alpine Convention Atlas.

## Reports on the State of the Alps

### Eighth Report on the State of the Alps "Air Quality in the Alps"



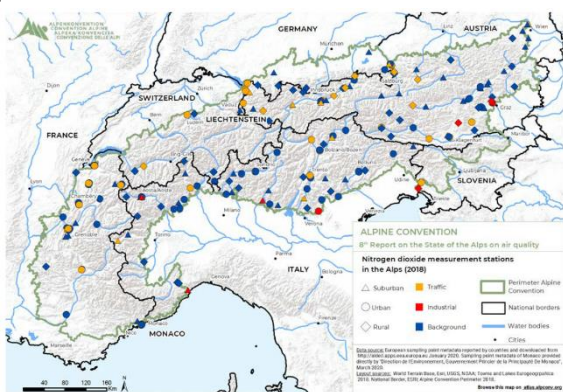
*Cover of the 8<sup>th</sup> Report on the State of the Alps on Air Quality*

After the XVI Alpine Conference gave official approval to the RSA 8 in

December 2020, the Secretariat carried out the harmonisation of the translations, layout, printing and dissemination of the report.

The linguistic harmonisation of the five different language versions was a particularly challenging task given the very technical nature of this RSA. Also, a new design for the RSA series was conceived in accordance to the renewed corporate identity of the Alpine Convention. The Permanent Secretariat also ensured all the maps, the tables and the graphs were correct and properly laid out. The resulting text was printed and shipped to the national delegations, the Infopoints and other interested people and organisations.

On 4 June 2021, the Permanent Secretariat organised on behalf of the former French Presidency an online launch event for the RSA 8: the occasion was the European Green Week, which that year had the fitting topic of “Zero pollution” and where the Secretariat obtained a slot for a “partner event”. The event was well attended, professionally moderated by a representative of the European Commission and interactive through online polls.



*One of the maps appearing on the RSA 8*

A video testimonial by the Secretary General is also featured on the [web page of the Green Week](#).

The RSA 8 was also presented at a workshop of EUROMONTANA in March, as described in the “Observers” section. Further dissemination activities included advertising the Report on the website and the social media.



*Attendance certificate for the EU Green week 2021*

## Ninth Report on the State of the Alps “Alpine Towns”



*Impression of the closing Atelier on Alpine towns in Innsbruck (AT). Photo: PSAC*

The Permanent Secretariat supported the ad hoc Working Group and its

Swiss Chair in coordinating the Group and its activities.

On the organisational side, the Permanent Secretariat assisted the Chair of the RSA 9 Working Group in running the nine Working Group meetings: seven of them took place online (9-10 February 2021, 30 March 2021, 22 June 2021, 6-7 December 2021; 21 January and 17 February 2022) and two with live participation in Innsbruck (workshop on 16-17 September 2021

and *Atelier on Alpine towns*, 7 April 2022). Several staff members participated in and contributed to these live meetings, including the Secretary General and her Deputy. Additionally, the Secretariat ensured the participation as a speaker and as a guest of one high ranking official from the City of Innsbruck. Finally, the logistics of these event were organised by the Secretariat, including the materials, the venue, the catering and the dinner.

At the same time, the Secretariat kept track of the different delegations' inputs, proposals and requests and, in general, participated in setting the timeline, steering the process as well as advising the Chair on strategic decisions and institutional aspects, and followed the whole national consultation procedure.

The Permanent Secretariat also presented the work on the RSA 9 at the EUSALP *City-mountain cooperation*:

*together towards carbon neutrality* conference mentioned above, in October 2021, and attended related meetings, like the *International Exchange on Alpine Towns* held by the Presidency in February 2022.

Concerning the Report itself, in the course of 2022 the Permanent Secretariat coordinated the proofreading process of the full English text as well as the translation of some of its parts, as indicated by the Chair. The staff of the Secretariat also conducted the necessary editorial checks on as well as linguistic and layout adjustments to the Report.

The Secretariat also investigated the copyright related aspects of the publications and tried to improve the data sharing agreements, in order to ensure the future publication in the Alpine Convention Atlas of the most relevant maps and data presented in the Report.

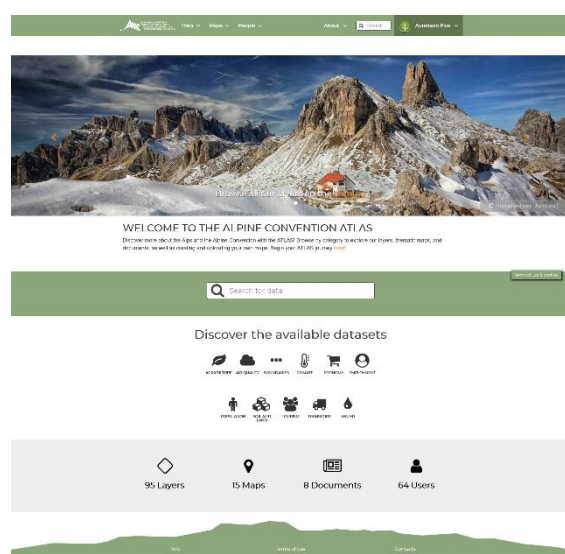
### Tenth Report on the State of the Alps on quality of life

The incoming Slovenian Presidency announced its intention to dedicate the RSA 10 to the topic of quality of life, in accordance to its identification as one of the three priority areas of the MAP 2023-2030. The Permanent Secretariat contributed to preliminary discussions with the Contrac-

ting Parties and Observers as well as the organisation of a workshop led by Slovenia in the frame of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CIPRA in May 2022 and advised Slovenia on corresponding discussion papers.

## Alpine Convention Atlas

2021 was a key year for the Alpine Convention Atlas, with all aspects finalised in the first months of the year and the Atlas officially launched in March also thanks to the valuable and longstanding contribution of EURAC Research.



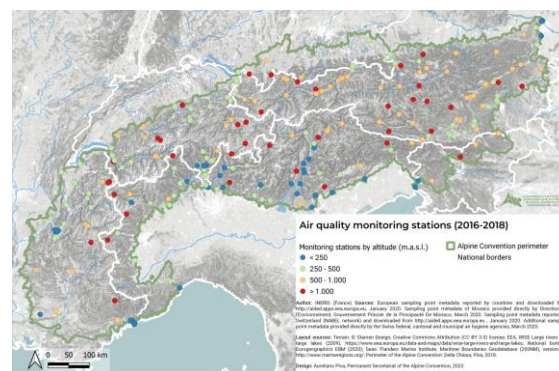
*Screenshot of the Atlas homepage*

Since then, the Permanent Secretariat has been advertising the Atlas widely through different channels including the social media, the website, journals and magazines articles, presentations in several conferences as well as a dedicated webinar which was held in the beginning of May 2021 and that was attended by more than 50 participants. In 2022, the Secretariat initiated the so-called *Map of the Month* initiative, to regularly present on the social channels selected available Alpine-wide data. The use of the Atlas was also advertised and promoted by the Permanent Secretariat within different TWBs.

On the content side, the Permanent Secretariat has been preparing new layers and maps in order to keep the platform interesting and up to date. In particular, updated EuroGeographics EBM layers with the administrative boundaries and, in cooperation with ALPARC, the map of the Alpine protected areas, will be published towards the end of the summer. The mapping activities on the Secretariat are not limited to the Atlas and include the regular creation of ad hoc maps for projects and partners.

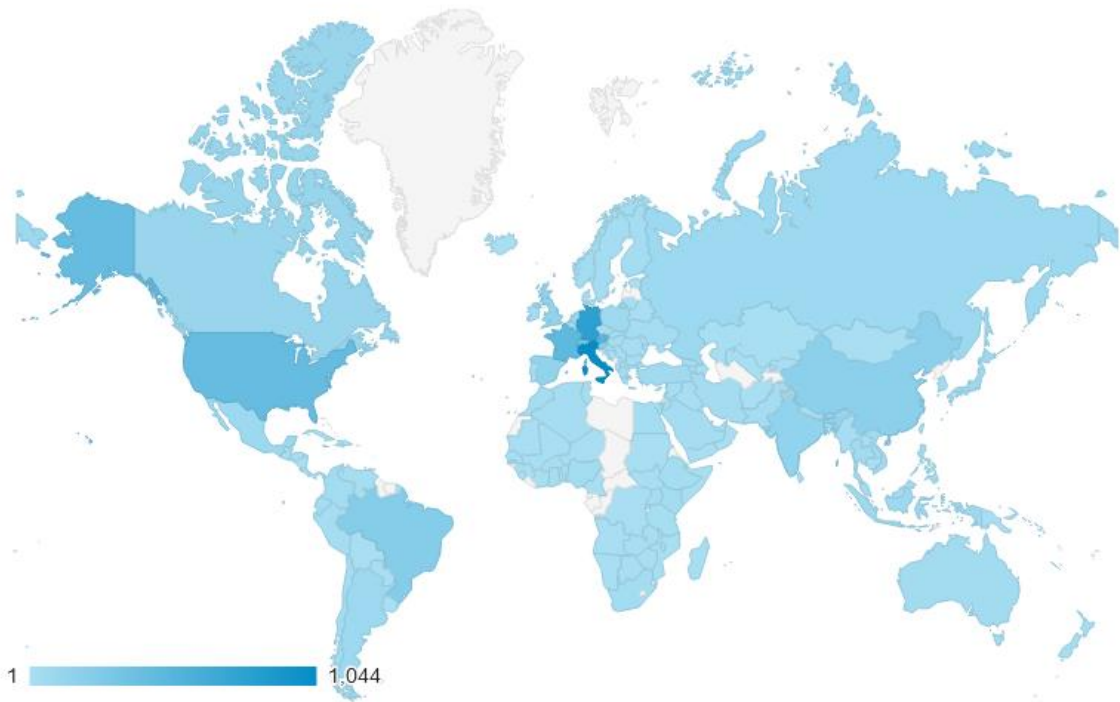
Since January 2021, the Atlas has attracted an average of approximately 80 visitors and more than 400 views per week, from 150 different countries.

The staff of the Secretariat also addresses frequent data requests received especially from researchers and students and, generally, tries to promote the dissemination of data on the Alps.



*Map of the Month of May 2022*





*Visits of the Atlas by country since January 2021*

# COMMUNICATION

The Alpine Convention has had an official Communication Strategy since 2020. The Strategy contains objectives for communicating the Alpine Convention, its work and activities. The Permanent Secretariat implements the Strategy in its daily work, both in terms of content production as well as longer term objective setting. The following sections provide an overview of some of the most important communication and outreach activities carried out in the reporting period. News stories on the Alpine Convention website as well as digital and printed media constituted one part. In addition, the Secretariat continues to carry out its own communication projects. Furthermore,

the Secretary General and her team also attended numerous fora and conferences, often in digital form, as reported in the previous sections.

The new corporate identity of the Alpine Convention is present and promoted in all areas of activity of the Permanent Secretariat. The Secretariat also provides ongoing support to the Contracting Parties and Observers for a coherent implementation of the corporate identity in all products and outputs of the Alpine Convention. The Secretariat also continues to support the Contracting Parties and Observers in communicating their activities.

## Communication cooperation

After interest was expressed at the Observer Dialogues, a “communication jour fixe” was established to facilitate information sharing between the Permanent Secretariat, the Contracting Parties and the Observers. These quarterly meetings are an opportunity to informally exchange ideas and information on the diverse communication activities of the Alpine Convention and its bodies. The

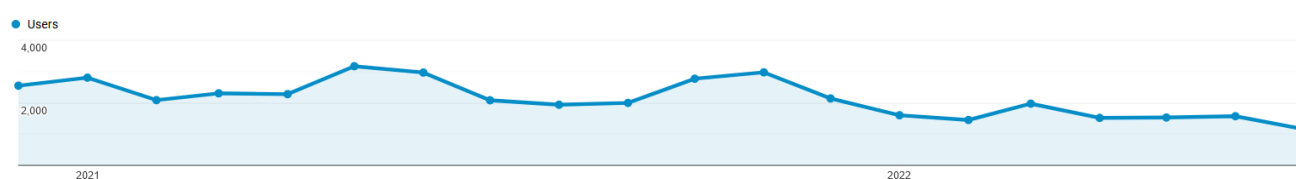
jour fixe is also a forum in which Contracting Parties and Observers can provide insights and updates on their own activities contributing to the implementation of the Convention and explore synergies for communication activities with others, starting from a more systematic relay of information on the respective communication channels, interviews etc.

## Online presence

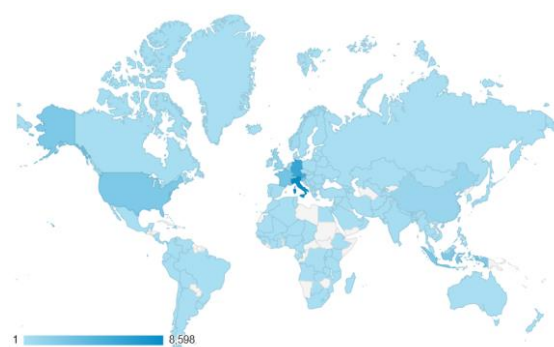
The Alpine Convention [website](#) provides a centralised collection of documents, technical information and other relevant resources to the Alpine Convention and its bodies, as well as serving as an information base for the general public. The website also hosts the different projects organised by the Secretariat such as Reading

Mountains and the annual Photo Contest.

The website remains a well-used tool for communicating ongoing work and projects and other important developments in the Alpine Convention and its bodies.

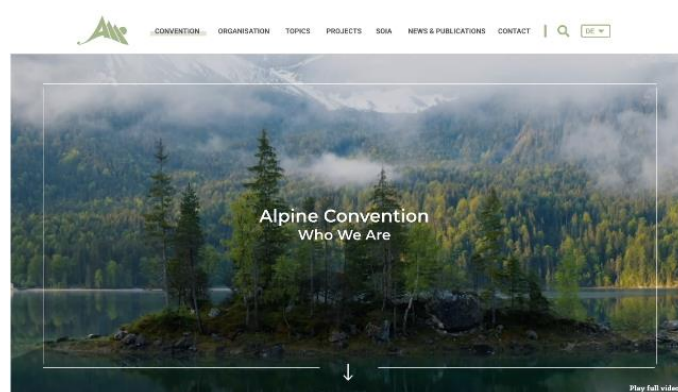


*Website visits from December 2020 – July 2022*



*Visits of the website by country from December 2020 – July 2022*

Since the launch of the new website in summer 2019, the Secretariat has been working on further increasing its attractiveness. Thanks to financial support from Germany, the decision was made to hire a company to work with the Secretariat to improve the general website experience and fully align its design to the new Alpine Convention corporate identity. In spring 2021, a new call was published and, after a suitable company



*New homepage layout*

was found, work to improve the website began in winter 2021. It is expected to conclude in late 2022.

As part of the updates to the website, and with financial support from Monaco, a new tool to explore the connections between the Alpine Convention's work and the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals was conceived. The [new interactive tool](#) allows users to browse by topic of the

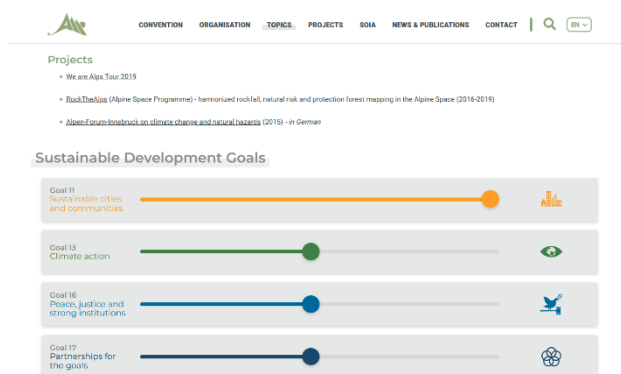
Alpine Convention and see which SDGs the topic connects to.

On other pages of the Convention website e.g. Publications, Projects or Thematic Working Bodies, sliders show the strength of connections to the various SDGs.

The Permanent Secretariat has increased its activity on its two social media channels ([Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)), which resulted in an increase of followers, reaching 1.816 on Twitter and 2.730 Facebook likes in July 2022.

The Secretariat uses these channels to promote events and interesting and important developments in the Alpine Convention and its network, to communicate Contracting Party, Observer and partner events, to spread awareness of Alpine issues, and to celebrate various International Days.

Some of the most popular posts are linked to the projects of the Secretariat, such as the Photo Contest, the new video, and International Days.



*New online tool for the visualisation of the contributions of the Alpine Convention to the SDGs*



Happy #InternationalMountainDay - this year we are celebrating by beginning the #AdventCalendar countdown for the winners of the 2021 #AlpineConvention #PhotoContest - starting with special mention to Silvio Amici 📷

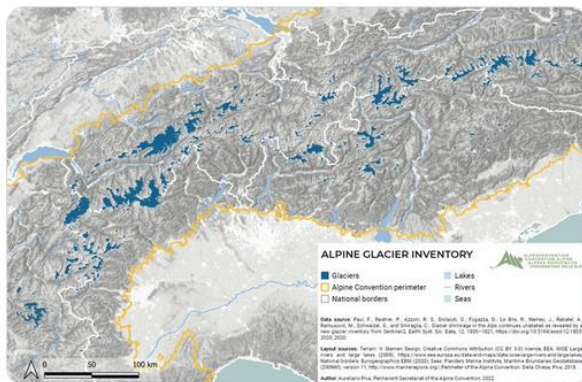
Stay tuned as we countdown the winners to Christmas 🎄 [pic.twitter.com/ElqnYgiGhV](https://pic.twitter.com/ElqnYgiGhV)



Our first #MapOfTheMonth is about #Glaciers! Based on a recent article, the map shows that #Alpine glaciers shrank by at least 15% in just over 12 years 🧐

Find out more: [bit.ly/3rTu4Sj](https://bit.ly/3rTu4Sj)

#GIS #AlpineKnowledge #Maps #AlpineData #ClimateChange

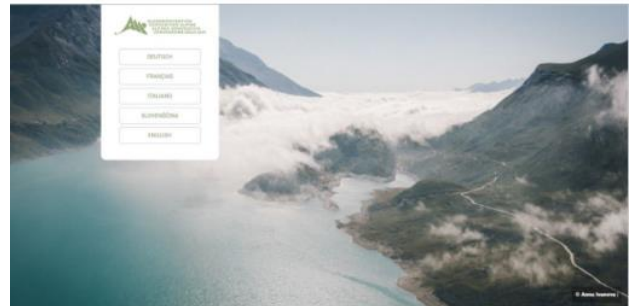


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Twitter posts on launching the Photo Contest 2021 award on International Mountain Day and the launch of the new "Map of the Month" campaign; Facebook posts on International Translation Day and on the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Mountaineering Villages

Alpine Convention  
Published by Alp Alpcnv · 30 September 2021 ·

The #AlpineConvention has four official languages: German, French, Italian and Slovenian, making it a wonderfully multilingual organisation!  
This diversity also means that, while all staff speak two or more languages, meetings often have to be simultaneously translated to ensure everyone is on the same page. This is made possible thanks to the work of our translators INTRALP Conference Interpreters and Translators! International #TranslationDay



890 115  
People reached Engagements

Alpine Convention  
Published by Alp Alpcnv · 20 May ·

"The #AlpineConvention is leading the way for #Sustainable life in the #Alps, and the #MountaineeringVillages are a wonderful example of what this looks like on the ground. These unique destinations, now present in more than half of the #Alpine countries, are a clear "yes" to the question of whether a nature-friendly and #SustainableTourism is possible in the Alps!" said Alenka Smerkolj, Secretary General of the Alpine Convention during her speech at the opening ceremony of the Bergsteigerdörfer Annual Meeting  
Taking place in Johnsbach against the beautiful background of the #Gesäuse #NationalPark, this meeting is a special one as it marks 20 years since both the Park was founded and the Alpine Convention Protocols were ratified



1,126 119  
People reached Engagements

28 3 shares

## Video



*Filming of the new Alpine Convention video on site in Slovenia. Photo: PSAC*

Another activity to raise public awareness about the Alpine Convention was concluded in 2021. The production of the new Alpine Convention video clip started in the summer of 2020, but because of unfavourable weather conditions, a part of the filming had to be postponed until summer 2021. The production of the 2-minute-video in English was concluded in November 2021. A synchronisation to the four Alpine languages has been completed and these versions will be published on the Alpine Convention's YouTube channel in the run up to the XVII Alpine Conference.

## Travelling outdoor exhibition

In 2020, cooperation with a design agency had started in order to explore the production of an outdoor exhibition which would showcase the Alpine Convention in different places. In January 2021, thanks to the support of the outgoing French

[The video](#) is full of immersive images from all around the Alps, presenting a story of the rich natural and cultural heritage of the Alps, which has to be protected and preserved through sustainable development for the future generations. The video features an original soundtrack – “Alpine Convention Theme” – which is also available in audio form on all major music streaming platforms.

The new video has performed very well, with 5.700 views to date, which makes it the most viewed Alpine Convention video content (with reference to e.g. roughly 4.500 views for all language versions of the former video in a span of five years.)



*The new Alpine Convention video on YouTube.*

Presidency, the Secretariat attended a conception workshop with the agency.

After this, the Government of Tyrol offered to financially support a project promoting the Alpine Convention among the Tyrolean inhabitants and



visitors. The Permanent Secretariat proposed to dedicate this to a pilot version of the envisaged outdoor exhibition. Upon the request from Tyrol, the Secretariat worked together with the Austrian Alpine Club and the Pro Vita Alpina Association on a common exhibition concept, which consists of the old Glockner bivouac as well as five additional side elements and is travelling to five Tyrolean district capitals from April to September 2022.



*The outdoor exhibition. Photo: Simon Schöpf/ÖAV*

The exhibition sheds light on different aspects of life in the Alps, to which the Alpine Convention contributes through its work. The exhibition elements serve as a teaser to attract visitors, with different images, key messages, and sounds. This is complemented with extended [online content](#) as well as impulse events, which are dedicated to different topics and organised in cooperation with

local partners. [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) pages were also setup to support the publicity and boost visibility of the exhibition. A presentation to the media was organised in presence of all partners on 29 August 2022.

The exhibition tour through Tyrol is concluding end of September 2022, after a final event with participation of Vice-Governor of Tyrol Ingrid Felipe on 17 September. After this, the Secretariat will explore the possibility for an adapted version of the exhibition to travel to the Alpine countries. For this, the bivouac could be replaced by a different eye-catching element imitating a cairn – a stone structure that can be found in the mountains all over the Alps.



*The Innsbruck side event with Deputy Governor of Tyrol Ingrid Felipe and Tyrolean Environmental Ombudsman Johannes Kostenzer, hosted by Markus Koschuh. Photo: PSAC*

## 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Alpine Convention

The 7 November 2021 was a special date, marking thirty years since the signing of the Alpine Convention in Salzburg (AT) – the first legally binding instrument dedicated to the protection and sustainable development of a mountain range shared by several countries.

Throughout the year 2021, the Secretariat celebrated this occasion by highlighting the Convention's anniversary during speeches, interviews, conferences, and other occasions. This continuous promotion served to showcase the successes and milestones since the Convention's founding.

A [celebratory video](#) was produced with contributions from Ministers and delegates from the Contracting Parties, Observer organisations, Infopoints and many other valuable partners from across the Alpine region. Kind and inspiring messages arrived from past and present members of the Alpine Convention family. At the Permanent Committee

meeting held a few days later, Austria commented a slideshow prepared together with the Secretariat, spanning the time since 1991. The new Alpine Convention video clip was also presented on this occasion.

The celebratory video was also advertised on the Alpine Convention social media pages, where the posts gained substantial attention.

📅 7.11.1991-7.11.2021: Today we celebrate 30 years of protection & **#SustainableDevelopment** in the **#Alps** on the **#AlpineConvention**'s birthday! ▲

📺 Want to know why the Alpine Convention is important? Listen to some present & past family members: [bit.ly/3EUelGc](https://bit.ly/3EUelGc)  
[pic.twitter.com/GO19mLeb4U](https://pic.twitter.com/GO19mLeb4U)



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*Celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Alpine Convention in social media*

## Bringing the Alpine Convention closer to the people

Besides the preparation of the travelling outdoor exhibition, the Permanent Secretariat also carried out many other outreach activities in the past years by organising or participating in the numerous meetings and events mentioned above.

Alongside these various encounters, the Permanent Secretariat supported several external initiatives to raise awareness of the Convention. To this end, the Secretariat once again provided financial support to the *Innsbruck Nature Film Festival* in 2021



and plans to do so for 2022, in return for visibility of the Alpine Convention during the festival.

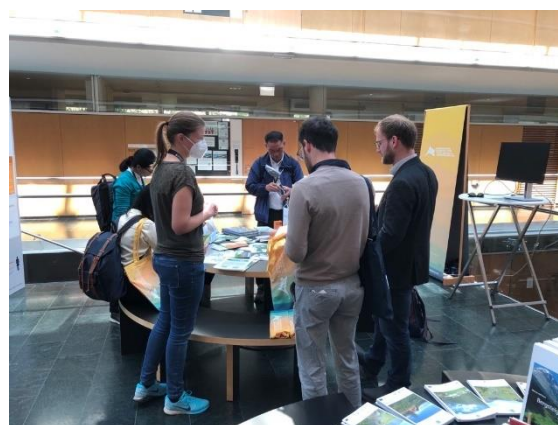


*Alpine Convention stand at the Journalismusfest in Innsbruck (AT). Photo: PSAC*

The Secretariat also participated with a stand and as financing partner in the *Journalismusfest Innsbruck*. The international festival, held for the first time in May 2022, brought together representatives of qualitative media representatives from Austria, Germany, Switzerland, and Italy.

And finally, the Permanent Secretariat had a stand again at the second edition of the Innsbruck Mountain Conference 2022, the global scientific conference on mountain research held from 11-15 September 2022.

The Secretariat sent different promotional materials to the Alpine Convention Infopoints, which were handed out at events and competitions, and provided the Contracting Parties and Infopoints with flags and banners in the new Alpine Convention Corporate identity. Finally, the Permanent Secretariat continued to distribute publications and promotional materials including ClimCards, publications, notebooks, pens etc. upon requests from the public.



*The Alpine Convention stand at the International Mountain Conference 2022 in Innsbruck (AT). Photo: PSAC*

# TEAM OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

2021 marked the end of the contract of the Deputy Secretary General, who had been working part-time since returning from parental leave in November 2020. She left the Secretariat in October 2021 after almost six years in this position and an overall seven years in the Permanent Secretariat. Following to the advertisement of the vacancy, the Legal Officer, who had been assuming the position of Deputy Secretary General ad interim, applied successfully, and was appointed by the Permanent Committee through a written procedure. He took office in January 2022 and is also continuing to handle legal issues of the Secretariat.

To respond to the increasing diversity of topics dealt within the Alpine Convention and reinforce the cross-sectoral synergies, a new position of Senior Executive Officer was created. An open selection procedure led to the promotion of one of the Secretariat's Project Officers to this position. A further call for applications to fill the vacant Project Officer position was unsuccessful and will be repeated in autumn 2022.

Throughout the reporting period, due to the ongoing sanitary crisis the team of the Permanent Secretariat

has continued operating with a reduced occupation of its premises in Innsbruck (currently the temporary office) and Bolzano/Bozen, combined with home office. Only two staff meetings were held in presence, each one combined with some much welcome social time in the Bolzano/Bozen operational branch office and above Innsbruck.

Despite this situation, the staff was successful in training four new colleagues who came to reinforce the team: the new Communications Officer was first to join in early December 2020. A new Project Assistant was appointed mid-March, while the Project Assistant supporting the French Presidency concluded her contract at the same time. Both the Personal Assistant to the Secretary General and the Project Officer supporting EUSALP went on maternity leave in the Spring and two substitutes were hired, in March and August, respectively. Thanks to continued support from Italy, the second Project Officer in the Bolzano/Bozen Office extended his contract until the end of July 2023.

The Permanent Secretariat was also able to continue offering internships to interested Master students. Three

of them were hosted in the reporting period: two under the ongoing Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Aosta Valley and one through an open call. Two new interns are due to start in October 2022. The involvement of motivated young professionals once again proved to be a mutual enrichment.

Team members of both offices shared their passion for sustainability and the outdoors through the second

enrolment of the Permanent Secretariat in the *Tirol radelt* bicycle contest. Over the spring and summer 2021, the Permanent Secretariat cycled a distance of 6.594 km and 112.470 m elevation. With 12 participants, the Permanent Secretariat came second in terms of numbers and third in terms of percentage of the team in its category! The team already matched this distance in 2022 and is still pedalling until the end of September!



*The team of the Permanent Secretariat in Bolzano/Bozen (IT). Photo: PSAC*



ALPENKONVENTION  
CONVENTION ALPINE  
ALPSKA KONVENCIJA  
CONVENZIONE DELLE ALPI