

**ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE
ALPINE BIODIVERSITY BOARD
FOR THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE XV AND XVI MEETINGS OF
THE ALPINE CONFERENCE (April 2019 – December 2020)**

1. Overview of the mandate or relevant decision of the Alpine Conference

Summary of the main tasks according to the 2019-2020 mandate (for Working Groups) or decision ACXV/A6 of the XV Alpine Conference (for Boards)

- 1) Carry out an inventory analysis of strategies, guidelines and policy recommendations relevant to the Alpine countries on biodiversity and landscape, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, relevant EU legislation and biodiversity strategies, as well as recent research results;
- 2) Develop a system of priorities and objectives for joint action, including in the field of ecological connectivity. The Alpine Biodiversity Board will organise, inter alia, a workshop bringing together the different stakeholders to enable a dialogue between the different interests. The Alpine Conference appoints Italy to chair the Advisory Committee on Alpine Biodiversity.

2. Meetings

Summary of the meetings (date, place, main topics and outcomes)

- Preliminary informal meeting, held on 17-18 June 2019 in Rome, during which the criteria for the definition of a "form" for the establishment of the inventory, to be administered by the Presidency, the Contracting Parties and Observers, were mainly addressed. The Presidency, on the basis of the observations made during the meeting, prepared the first working documents aimed at structuring the inventory and setting up the work process:
 1. Form for the survey of national and sub-national instruments;
 2. List of international and European reference instruments;
 3. Operational structure and guidelines for the definition of an Alpine biodiversity target system.
- 1st Alpine Biodiversity Board Meeting held on 1-2 October 2019 in Gorizia, during which the documents that had been prepared following the preliminary informal meeting were

analysed, discussed and subject to approval. In particular, the integrations to the "form" and the methodology for the investigation of national and sub-national instruments, the outline of the operational structure and the guidelines that define the entire process of collection and interpretation were discussed. The members of the Alpine Biodiversity Board approved the documents and suggested details for their more effective use.

- At the 68th Permanent Committee of the Alpine Conference (14-15 November 2019, Monte Carlo), the state of the art of the Alpine Biodiversity Board's activities was presented. The Permanent Committee widely supported its involvement in the Conference on mountain biodiversity organised by the French Presidency (initially scheduled for June 2020 in Marseille on the margins of the IUCN World Congress, now postponed to January 2021, due to Covid-19).
- On 28 and 29 January 2020, the 2nd meeting of the Alpine Biodiversity Board was held in Turin, organised in conjunction with the meeting of the Alpine Climate Board (ACB) with which joint sessions were held in order to strengthen the exchange between the two bodies. At the meeting the state of the art of the Alpine Biodiversity Board's activities was presented and, in particular, the further development of the first product of the Alpine Biodiversity Board was discussed - the Report on the inventory of strategies at various levels of analysis, including the national one investigated through the "form". There was also a discussion on the dissemination activities of the 1st Workshop, scheduled for April 2020 in Italy (postponed then, due to COVID19, in July).
- The first ABB Workshop was held online on 16 July 2020, during which was presented a first draft of the Strategy Inventory Report and the results of the survey carried out in previous months were evaluated and discussed among Board members and stakeholders. From the conclusions that emerged by collecting their opinions and suggestions, it was possible to draw the elements to finalize the report that was shared with the Board members on September 15, 2020 in order to collect the various feedback. The presentation of the report was scheduled for the 70th session of the Permanent Committee of 21-22 October 2020. The proposals for the Alpine Conference's Declaration on Mountain Biodiversity and the ecological connectivity were also discussed during the workshop.

3. Activities carried out

Synthetic report on activities carried out (including outreach and communication activities)

- The activities of the Alpine Biodiversity Board mainly concerned the launch of the survey on national and sub-national instruments conducted through the filling in of the "form" by national and/or sub-national authorities and/or stakeholders with the necessary knowledge on the instruments selected as relevant for the conservation of biodiversity and landscape in the Alps. For the purpose of the survey, the members of the Alpine Biodiversity Board, as well as the Heads of Delegation and the focal points of the Alpine Convention, contributed to the identification and drafting for each country a list of experts to whom the "form" should be submitted. Specifically, the aim of the survey was

to provide an overview of the objectives - general and specific - existing at national and sub-national level with regard to Alpine biodiversity and to highlight how these objectives integrate the general principles established by the main supranational instruments and documents and within the legal framework of the Alpine Convention. The summary of this overview, in the framework of the inventory of strategies also at supranational level, has contributed to better detail and define the status of a possible system of targets for Alpine biodiversity.

- Among the activities carried out by the Board there is also participation in the elaboration of a proposal for the topics to be dealt with within the conference on Mountain Biodiversity.

4. Results and outputs

Description of main results and outputs achieved

- With the survey we were able to identify and select the most relevant tools for the Alps, assessing their current or potential applicability and extensibility in the pan-Alpine context.
- At the same time, more importantly, we have been able to identify lacks and gaps both on issues and between Alpine countries. It was possible to understand the value of the flow of information and knowledge between tools and strategies at national and sub-national level. In particular, it was possible to highlight how the supranational principles and provisions, and with them those of the Alpine Convention, have been integrated into the policies and measures adopted for biodiversity.
- In summary, the overall result of ABB's work was to define targets for Alpine biodiversity based on knowledge of the state of implementation and the current and potential effectiveness of the existing instruments. Tools for the evaluation of which a swot analysis was adopted, which made it possible to formulate proposals for recommendations and new challenges to be submitted to the Conference of Ministers.

5. Cooperation

Description of cooperation initiatives and activities with other Alpine Convention Thematic Working Bodies and other relevant bodies and processes (e.g. EUSALP)

A collaboration has been established with:

1. The Alpine Climate Board (ACB), with which, through the experts present in the Italian delegation for ACB, important exchanges of information and joint working sessions were held during the meeting of 28-29 January 2020 held in Turin. Following the joint sessions between the two boards, implementation pathways have been drawn up. You can find them published at the following link

<https://alpineclimate2050.org/pathways/ecosystems-biodiversity/>

2. The EUSALP AG7 subgroup, through the experts present in the Italian delegation of the same group and in the ecological connectivity platform of the Alpine Convention;
3. The Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity
4. The French Presidency of the Alpine Convention, the French Presidency of EUSALP, UNEP, the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and ALPARC with the organisation of the conference on mountain biodiversity in view of the forthcoming the IUCN World Congress and 15th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 15);
5. The system of the Italian Alpine protected areas SAPA, important exchanges of information were carried out through the experts present in the Italian delegation of the group itself.

6. Attachments

List of the documents attached to this report, such as papers proposed for approval by the XVI Alpine Conference (thematic reports, guidelines, statements etc.) and supporting documents (workshop proceedings, survey reports etc.).

- Report of the survey on main policies and instruments for Alpine biodiversity.