

MANDATE OF THE WORKING GROUP *on Natural Hazards (PLANALP)* for the period 2021-2022 until the XVII. Alpine Conference

1. Introductory remarks

After the devastating avalanches and floods of 1999, the Alpine Conference established a working group to develop common strategies and activity fields on the level of the parties to the Alpine Convention. Based on the recommendations of this working group, PLANALP was appointed by the Ministers at the VIII Alpine conference in 2004.

PLANALP stands for an Alpine wide exchange of experts on disaster risk reduction of natural hazards with a focus on practice and governance issues. The thematic working body analyses existing natural hazard and risk management mechanisms in the Alps, identifies good practices, challenges and potential solutions and thereby contributes to improved management of natural hazards and risks in the Alpine region.

2. Objectives

Description of targets

1. Identify nature-based solutions (NBS) for the reduction of risks and prevention of major disasters related to natural hazards in the Alpine region and collect best practice examples; taking into account the principles of biodiversity, sustainability and climate change adaptation.
2. Knowledge transfer and exchange of good practices in disaster risk reduction of natural hazards within the Alpine region (regular). Disseminate and communicate about the results and findings of the 7th Report on the State of the Alps and the study on challenges and synergies in contingency planning and raise awareness on these topics.

3. Tasks

Description of outputs

1. Presenting and communicating the concept of innovative nature-based solutions for natural hazards and risk management as well as examples from the Alpine region in several media (Web, digital, print).
2. The outputs for the second objective will depend on the peer groups. The WG takes in account the need to use various dissemination methods and tools, each of them tailored to the respective topic and peer group. Potentials tools will be interactive workshops, training programs and online-information.

Work plan

Meeting Spring 2021
Meeting Autumn 2021
Meeting Spring 2022
Finalising Publication/Communication (task 1) summer 2022
Meeting Autumn 2022
Organize a first Workshop/Training/Webinar (or similar activity) with experts from the Carpathian Convention to establish cooperation on the topic of natural hazards.

4. Cooperation

Cooperation with other Working Groups/Boards and partners

PLANALP will cooperate with other platforms on a case by case basis by inviting experts from relevant bodies such as:

- EUSALP AG8 (e.g. continuing to hold back-to-back meetings).
- EUSALP AG6 (esp. with respect to AG6's report on nature-based solutions in the field of water management)
- Carpathian Convention
- Alpine Climate Board
- Experts on Risk Communication
- FAO/EFC Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds
- IUFRO/Unit 8.03.00 - Natural Hazards and Risk Management
- National Administrations
- NGO's
- Further relevant stakeholders for each topic.

5. Communication

Communication activities of the Working Group

PLANALP members ensure that the results produced and "mountain issues" in general are disseminated and well reflected with special attention to:

- Diversify the communication methods in order to efficiently reach the relevant peer groups.
- Cooperate with EUSALP AG8 on communication efforts.
- Enhance the online-presence of the group and use different web solutions to disseminate information.
- Cooperate with the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention for the dissemination of information through its website and social media channels.
- Promote efforts to contribute actively to conferences and expert meetings and present the work of the WG.
- For the work on nature-based solutions: Focus on the cooperation with and communication to NGO's and the partnership with the private sector.
- Build synergies with the EU strategies advocating for nature-based solutions.

6. Link to the Multi-Annual Work Programme of the Alpine Conference

Contribution to and coherence with the Multi-Annual Work Programme 2017-2022 of the Alpine Conference as well as the Convention and its Protocols

Within the topics of PLANALP, several points of the Multi-Annual Work Programme of the Alpine Conference for 2017 – 2022 are integrated by focussing on the changing processes such as climate change but also on risks that emerge through e.g. demographic change, transport infrastructures or tourism to enhance the resilience of societies.

7. Chair

The chair will be held by Austria.