

Platform

“Large Carnivores and wild ungulates” and the Alpine Convention

Vaduz, 22th October 2009

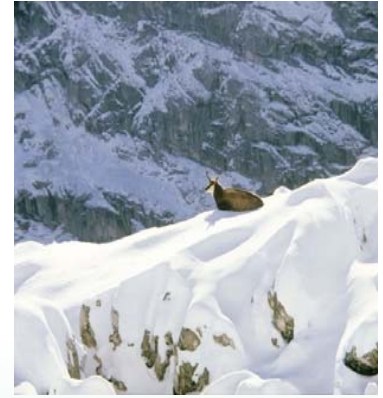
Regula Imhof, Vice-Secretary General of the Alpine Convention
Permanent Secretariat



ALPINE CONVENTION

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- The Alpine Convention
- The ecological Network activities: a model for focussed multi action in the Alpine Convention



ALPINE CONVENTION

The Convention



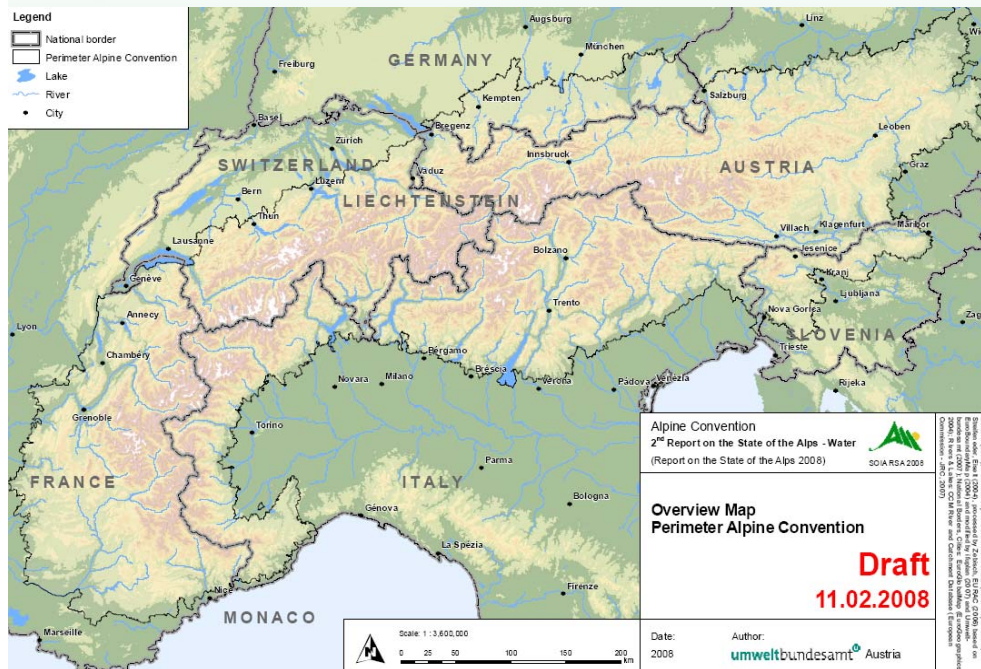
- An international treaty (convention) for the protection of the Alps,
- It was signed beginning from 1991 by the eight countries of the Alpine Arc: Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Lichtenstein, Monaco, Slovene and Switzerland and the European Community
- Every two years there is an Alpine Conference in the country holding the presidency
- Current presidency: Slovenia (2009-2010)
- The Permanent Committee and the competent administrations are the main institutions primarily responsible for the Convention implementation.
- Next meeting of the Permanent Committee: 28./29. October 2009 in Brdo
- Working groups, platforms, committees etc. support and supervise the implementation of the Convention: Platform “Large carnivores and wild ungulates”



Main Topics and Protocols: Relevance for large carnivores and wild ungulates

- Population and culture
- Spatial planning
- Air monitoring
- Soil protection
- Water management
- **Nature protection and landscape conservation**
- **Mountain agriculture**
- **Mountain forestry**
- Tourism and leisure
- Transports
- Energy
- Waste management

=> *Integrated policies and approaches for the sustainable development of the Alpine Space*



PROTOCOL „CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND THE COUNTRYSIDE,, Article 1, Objectives

The objective of this Protocol is to lay down International laws, implementing the Alpine Convention and also taking the interests of the local population into account, in order to protect, care for and, to the extent necessary, restore nature and the countryside, in such a way as to ensure the lasting and widespread functional efficiency of the ecosystems, **the conservation of countryside elements and wild animal and plant species together with their habitat**, the regenerative ability and lasting productivity of natural resources, and also the diversity, specificity and beauty of the natural and rural landscape; and also, in order to encourage cooperation between the contracting Parties for these purposes.



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PROTOCOL „CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND THE COUNTRYSIDE,,

Art. 14 Protection of the species

1. The Contracting Parties undertake to pursue the measures appropriate for **preserving the indigenous animal and plant species with their specific diversity and in sufficient populations**, particularly ensuring that they have sufficiently large habitats
2. For preparing the valid lists for the entire Alpine territory, the Contracting Parties shall indicate, within two years from this Protocol coming into effect, the species that require special protection measures since they are specifically threatened.



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PROTOCOL „CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND THE COUNTRYSIDE,, Art. 16 Reintroduction of indigenous species

1. **The Contracting Parties shall undertake to promote the reintroducing and distribution of wild, indigenous animal and plant species and also subspecies, breeds and ecotypes**, on condition that there are the necessary prerequisites and, by doing this, there is a contribution to the preservation and strengthening of those species and that no effects unsustainable to nature and the landscape, or to human activities, are caused.
2. **Scientific knowledge** is to be applied for reintroducing and distributing these species. **The Contracting Parties shall agree on common directives in this respect.** Following the reintroduction, it will be necessary to **control and, if required, regulate the development of these animal and plant species.**



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**PROTOCOL „CONSERVATION OF NATURE
AND THE COUNTRYSIDE,,**

Annex I List of materials inventoried in accordance with article 6

1.5. Use of wild animal and plant species
and/or biotopes

1.5.1. Agriculture and pasture farming (for
instance: problems/risks from the
intensification of uses and the neglect of
lands, losses and gains)

1.5.2. Forestry

1.5.3. Hunting

1.5.4. Fishing



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**PROTOCOL „CONSERVATION OF NATURE
AND THE COUNTRYSIDE,,
Annex II Priority subjects for research referred to in article 20**

D. Research into the aspects of extended territorial importance of protection and of agricultural and forestry uses.

Note: productions caring for nature, ecological rebalancing, biotope networks, extensive management, containing of the populating of game animals



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Article 13(c) Mountain Farming protocol

Article 13

Complementary nature of farming and forestry

The Contracting Parties agree that the complementary nature and partial interdependence of farming and forestry in mountain areas necessitate an integrated approach. Consequently, they shall encourage:

- (a) forestry compatible with nature both as an additional source of revenue for farms and as a sideline activity for farm workers;
- (b) consideration of the protective, productive and recreational as well as the environmental and biogenetic functions of forests, in relation to farmland, taking account of the specific local conditions and in harmony with the countryside;
- (c) regulation of grassland farming and of the game population, to avoid any intolerable damage to forests and crops.



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Mountain forest protocol, Article 2, Taking account of the objectives in other policies

The Contracting Parties undertake to also consider the objectives of this Protocol in their other policies. This primarily applies to the following areas:

- b) Populations of hoofed animals. **The hoofed animals are to be contained within limits permitting the natural reforestation of the mountains by indigenous trees**, without having to take recourse to special protective measures. **In the border areas, the Contracting Parties undertake to harmonise their measures for regulating the game animals.** To restore a system of natural selection on the hoofed species, and also in the interest of protecting nature, the Contracting Parties shall encourage the reintroduction of predators, to an extent appropriate for the general needs of the region.



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Main actors in the Alpine Convention: relevance for large carnivores and wild ungulates

- Alpine Conference
- Permanent Committee
- Compliance Committee
- Permanent Secretariat (and Task force protected areas)
- Partners (Networks of alpine communities and towns, network of protected areas, alpine pearls, via alpina, etc.)
- Official observers (accreditation by the Alpine Conference every two years)
- Platforms:
 - Large carnivores and wild ungulates
 - Water management in the Alps
 - Natural hazards (PLANALP)
 - Ecological network
- Working groups:
 - UNESCO
 - transport
 - Demography
- Expert group:
 - Elaboration RSA 3



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Role of the Platform

Political relevance of the platform because of a **ministerial decision**, Xth Alpine Conference, Evian March 2009

Integration in the Alpine Convention implies the cross-sector consideration and the **balance between conservation and management**

Preparation of **decisions for the ministers** of the Alpine Convention for the XIst Alpine Conference, Slovenia 2011



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The Ecological-Network activities: a model for focussed multi action in the frame of the Alpine Convention

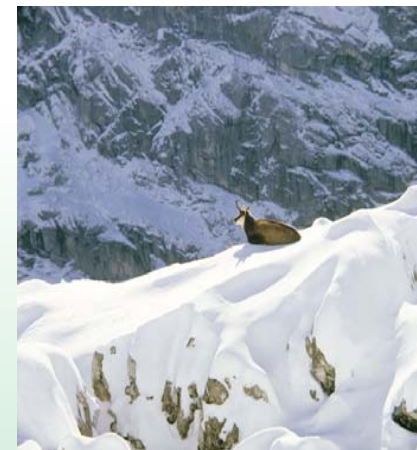
- **Regulations** in the framework convention and the protocol on Conservation of Nature and the Countryside
- **Network of protected areas:** ALPARC activities
- **Platform** “Ecological Network”
- **Multi – Partnership** (ALPARC, ISCAR, CIPRA, WWF)
- **Multi – Funding:** National funds, INTERREG, private financing (Platform, ECONNECT and Ecological Continuum)
- **Mountain Partnership** (Carpathian Convention and network of protected areas) and
- Contribution to Convention on Biological Diversity **CBD** (Memorandum of Cooperation)
- **Research activities:** ISCAR - P



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Memorandum of Understanding, 2008: Alpine Convention – Carpathian Convention – Biodiversity Convention

- 10 years ago the network of protected areas in the Alps started with the construction of an ecological network in the Alps and supported with these activities the implementation of Art. 12 of the protocol on nature protection and landscape
- Moreover the network contributes with this activity to the global network of protected areas as foreseen in the UN Convention on Biodiversity
- The Carpathian Convention aims at the elaboration of a network of protected in the Carpathians too and orients to the Alpine experience
- In 2006 the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention formulated and signed a general agreement of cooperation
- At the IXth Conference of the parties of the Convention on Biodiversity (29th May 2008) a trilateral **MoU** was signed
- The aims of the **MoU** are the institutional cooperation of the secretariats of the three conventions, exchange of information and experiences, cooperation for the implementation of the content of the conventions and their working programs as well as common projects



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Thank you for your attention

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