



Summary of the 1st Expert Workshop on drought risk management in the Alps in Ajdovscina

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MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE
E DELLA TUTELA DEL TERRITORIO E DEL MARE

THE
ALPINE
CONVENTION
IS THE FIRST
INTERNATIONAL
TREATY FOR
THE PROTECTION
AND PROMOTION
OF THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
OF A CROSS-BORDER
MOUNTAINOUS
REGION

italian delegation
alpine convention



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
**MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT
AND SPATIAL PLANNING**



Alpine Convention...working groups (ie. thematic working bodies)

- ☐ **thematic bodies** support the Alpine Convention's work on different topics related to sustainable development.
- ☐ their responsibility consists **in studying ongoing developments and in developing recommendations and implementing instruments.**
- ☐ these bodies are generally **set for a two-year term** and may work in subgroups for specific topics.



Alpine Convention thematic working bodies

❑ thematic working bodies
related to the Alpine Convention

❑ their respective
development

❑ these bodies are
subgroups for specific topics.

The screenshot shows the Alpine Convention website with a green header and a blue navigation bar. The main content area features a large image of a mountain stream with the text 'Photo: Branko Balasko'. Below the image is the title 'WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE ALPS PLATFORM' and 'Presidency: Italy & Slovenia'. The text describes the platform's objectives and its role in water management. A sidebar on the right lists the 'Thematic working bodies' including the Transport Working Group, Natural Hazards Platform-PLANALP, Ecological Network Platform, Water Management in the Alps Platform, Large Carnivores, Wild Ungulates and Society Platform-WISO, Macro-regional Strategy for the Alps Working Group, Mountain Agriculture Platform, Mountain Forest Working Group, Sustainable Tourism Working Group, Alpine Climate Board, Green Economy Advisory Board, and Ad-hoc Expert Group on Spatial Planning.

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Photo: Branko Balasko

WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE ALPS PLATFORM
Presidency: Italy & Slovenia

Water is one of the 12 main issues listed within the Alpine Convention in Article 2. However, this specific issue has not yet been covered by a specific protocol. The objective of the Alpine Convention concerning water management is to preserve or re-establish healthy water systems, in particular by keeping lakes and rivers free of pollution, by applying natural hydraulic engineering techniques and by using water power in such way so that the interests of both the indigenous population and the environment are served alike.

The Alpine Convention instituted a platform on water issues at the X. Alpine Conference in 2009 after the adoption of the second Report on the State of the Alps on „Water and Water Management Issues“. The Platform follows the objectives and recommendations identified in this report. In addition the Action Plan on Climate Change in the Alps, adopted at the X. Alpine Conference, contains several issues related to water management, such as, for example, to reinforce implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive, to prevent water shortages and to develop plants according to the ecology of water courses. More specifically the Action Plan requires prompt and collective action from all Contracting Parties of the Alpine Convention to limit the impact of climate change, particularly by developing guidelines for the

Thematic working bodies

- » Transport Working Group
- » Natural Hazards Platform-PLANALP
- » Ecological Network Platform
- » **Water Management in the Alps Platform**
- » Large Carnivores, Wild Ungulates and Society Platform-WISO
- » Macro-regional Strategy for the Alps Working Group
- » Mountain Agriculture Platform
- » Mountain Forest Working Group
- » Sustainable Tourism Working Group
- » Alpine Climate Board
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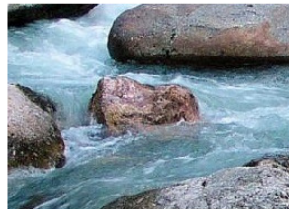
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THE CONVENTION ORGANIZATION

Alpine Conference Presidency Contra
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MEMBERS OF WATER MANAGEMENT PLATFORM

| Name | Organization | Country | Email |
|---------------------|---|----------|--------------------------------------|
| Presidency | | | |
| Paolo Angelini | Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea | Italy | angelini.paolo(at)minambiente.it |
| Luka Štravs | Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning | Slovenia | luka.stravs(at)gov.si |
| Members | | | |
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| Karl Schwaiger | Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Environment and Water Management | Austria | karl.schwaiger(at)bmlfuw.gv.at |
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| Benoit Terrier | Rhone-Mediterranean and Corsica Water Agency | France | benoit.terrier(at)eaumc.fr |
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| Tobias Hafner | Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection | Germany | tobias.hafner(at)stmuv.bayern.de |
| Christian Wanger | Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection | Germany | christian.wanger(at)stmuv.bayern.de |
| Raffaele Rocco | Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste Autonomous Region | Italy | r.rocco(at)regione.vda.it |
| Rudolf Pollinger | Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen | Italy | rudolf.pollinger(at)provinz.bz.it |
| Andrea Bianchini | EURAC Research | Italy | bianchini.minambientest(at)gmail.com |

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2017-2018 mandate for the platform „Water Management in the Alps“

- ☐ **Focus 1:** **How to face drought periods in the Alpine Region:** from the analysis of climate data (rain/snow patterns and scenarios) to the strategic planning

- ☐ **Planned activities:**
 - ☐ **Expert hearing and exchange of experiences and good practices,** particularly in terms of impact of 2015 drought;
 - ☐ **Conference** to stimulate the exchange and the disseminating of good practices and to raise awareness;



Workshop „Drought risk management in the Alps“

14. September 2017, in Ajdovščina, Slovenia

Topics of the workshop:

- ☐ the **current situation** in drought risk management in the Alpine region;
- ☐ **past drought events**, that caused considerable damages;
- ☐ **measures for drought risk management** that have already been implemented in the past and turned out to be effective;
- ☐ systems for **monitoring and modelling** of drought events;
- ☐ examples of **good practices and experiences** which can be used as good basics for future drought risk management activities.



Workshop „Drought in the Alps“

14. September 2017, in Ajdovščina,

Topics of the workshop:

- ☐ the current situation in drought-prone region;
- ☐ past drought events, that can be avoided;
- ☐ measures for drought risk management implemented in the past and present;
- ☐ systems for monitoring and early warning;
- ☐ examples of good practices and lessons learned as good basics for future drought management.



DROUGHT RISK MANAGEMENT IN THE ALPS EXPERT WORKSHOP & 2ND WATER MANAGEMENT PLATFORM MEETING

September, 14th (Thursday) & 15th (Friday)
Ajdovščina, Slovenia

14.09.2017 (THURSDAY) – EXPERT WORKSHOP AND EXCURSION

Venue: Ajdovščina Municipality, Cesta 5. maja 6a, 5270 Ajdovščina

10:00 – 14:00 Drought Risk Management in the Alps Expert Workshop (moderators: Paolo Angelini & Luka Stravs)

10:00 – 10:15 Christian Schilling (AT- BMLFUW) – Drought management in Austria
10:15 – 10:30 Hannah Berger (DE- LfU & StMUV) – New challenges in drought management in Northern Bavaria
10:30 – 10:45 Dr. Giuseppe Fragola (IT – Eastern Alps District) – Droughts management in the Adige river basin
10:45 – 11:00 Lara Flis (SI- MOP) – Drought Risk Management in Slovenia
11:00 – 11:30 Discussion
11:30 – 12:00 Coffee Break
12:00 – 12:15 Gregor Gregorič (SI - ARSO) – Drought Monitoring in Slovenia
12:15 – 12:30 Mira Kobold (SI - ARSO) – Hydrological droughts in Alpine regions of Slovenia
12:30 – 12:45 Florjana Ulaga, Peter Frantar (SI - ARSO) – River flow regimes and discharge trends in Slovenian Alps
12:45 – 13:00 Peter Frantar, Urška Pavlič (SI - ARSO) – Possible use of water balance model mGROWA as water scarcity indicator
13:00 – 13:15 Andreja Sušnik (SI - ARSO) – DriDanube (Drought Risk in the Danube Region) project
13:15 – 13:30 Jože Papež, Silvana Batič (SI - Hidrotehnik d.d.) – Life ViVaCCAdapt project - Adapting to the impacts of climate change in the Vipava Valley
13:30 – 14:00 Plenary Discussion

14:00 – 15:00 Quick Lunch (Hotel & Casino Gold Club Ajdovščina)

15:00 – 19:00 Excursion/ Field Trip

15:00 – 17:00 Part 1 - Vogršček Water & Drought Management Reservoir (Silvana Batič, Jože Papež,
17:00 – 19:00 Part 2 - Good (Small) Hydropower Practices in Slovenia (Alida Rejec)

20:00 – Dinner (Hotel & Casino Gold Club Ajdovščina)





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<http://www.alpconv.org/en/organization/groups/WGWater/WSHDrought.html>



Photo: Branko Balasko

Expert Workshop on Drought Risk Management in the Alps

Ajdovščina, 14 September 2017

Experts from Austria, Germany (Bavaria), Italy and Slovenia presented their experiences and activities related to drought risk management. Topics of the workshop were the current situation in drought risk management in the Alpine region, past drought events, that caused considerable damages and some measures for drought management that have already been implemented in the past and turned out to be effective. Systems for monitoring and modelling of drought events, examples of good practices and experiences which can be used as good basics for future drought risk management activities were presented as well. In discussion it was brought out that due to climate change this kind of events might occur even more frequently in the future. Main conclusions were that droughts cause consequences in the height of billions of eur, that prevention measures are mostly dispersed through different sectorial documents (water management, agriculture, nature, water supply, etc.) and that more comprehensive and focused approach is needed.

- **Drought management in Austria**
By Christian Schilling
- **New challenges in drought management in Northern Bavaria**
By Hannah Berger
- **Management of water scarcity in the Adige river basin: the case of 2017 drought**
By Dr. Giuseppe Fragola
- **Drought Risk Management in Slovenia**
By Lara Flis
- **Drought Monitoring in Slovenia**
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- **Hydrological droughts in Alpine regions of Slovenia**
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WORKSHOP SUMMARY

1. We regionally observe drought periods in the alpine river basins as they recently happened in summer 2015 in large parts of Europe. Due to climate change, these events will probably occur even more often in future (less rain in summertime, mid-flows are decreasing, higher fall discharges etc.).
2. There are areas with abundant water resources in the Alps and there are lowland areas (still in the Alpine perimeter), where the effects of droughts have been recognized.
3. Drought issue is mentioned in documents of the EU and regional cooperation, but there is no legal document about drought management on EU level nor are droughts included in the Alpine Convention protocols.



WORKSHOP SUMMARY

4. It was discussed that legal framework and strategic management of droughts are needed (drought risk management plans etc.) and that the implementation of measures is important.
5. Some of the implemented measures for drought management, which turned out to be effective, were presented.
6. Important work has been done on monitoring and modelling of drought events, however data needs for models and predictions are extensive and in some cases upgrades of data collections and documentation of drought events are necessary. There are different types of droughts (not only agricultural) and a lot more information and experience on how to quantify these situations is necessary (e.g. common rules for thresholds).



WORKSHOP SUMMARY

7. Existing knowledge, best practices, guidelines and information by research observatories can be used as a good basis for the future international cooperation and for supporting local actions regarding the drought risk management in the Alpine region.
8. The importance of raising awareness (including the role of media) on drought risk was emphasized. Especially communication about measures for preparedness with effective graphics demonstration is very important.





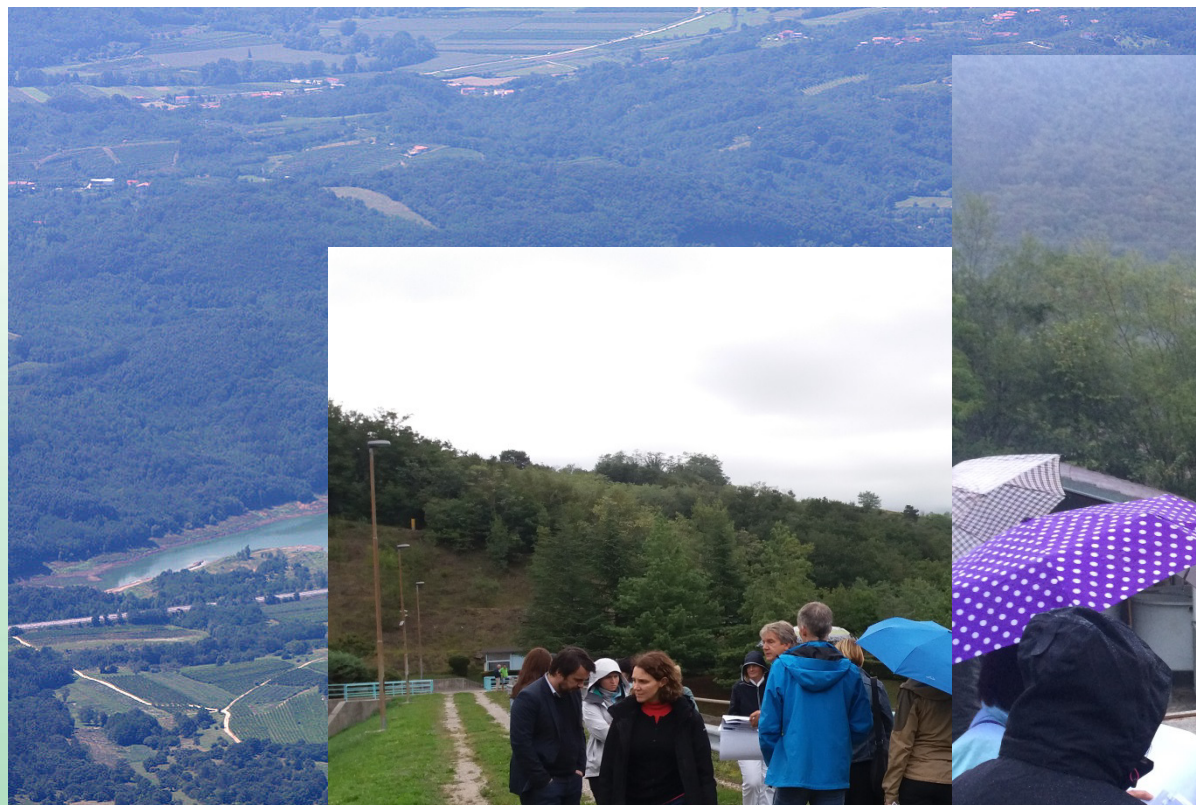
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MORE INFORMATION:

Please visit the webpage of the Alpine Convention

<http://www.alpconv.org/en/organization/groups/WGWater/default.html/>

THANK YOU!



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