

We would like to thank all our partners in this project:



CLIMATE CHANGE, NATURAL HAZARDS AND GOVERNANCE

3-4 April 2019

In and around Innsbruck (AT)
on the occasion of
the XV Alpine Conference

The "Climate Change, Natural Hazards and Governance" tour

Extreme weather events, natural disasters and failure of climate-change mitigation and adaptation. These are the most likely current threats according to the Global Risks Report 2019, recently presented at the World Economic Forum in Davos. Call it coincidence or call it pioneering work, in the past two years the Alpine Convention, under Austrian Presidency, focused its activities on – exactly – natural hazard risk governance and climate change.

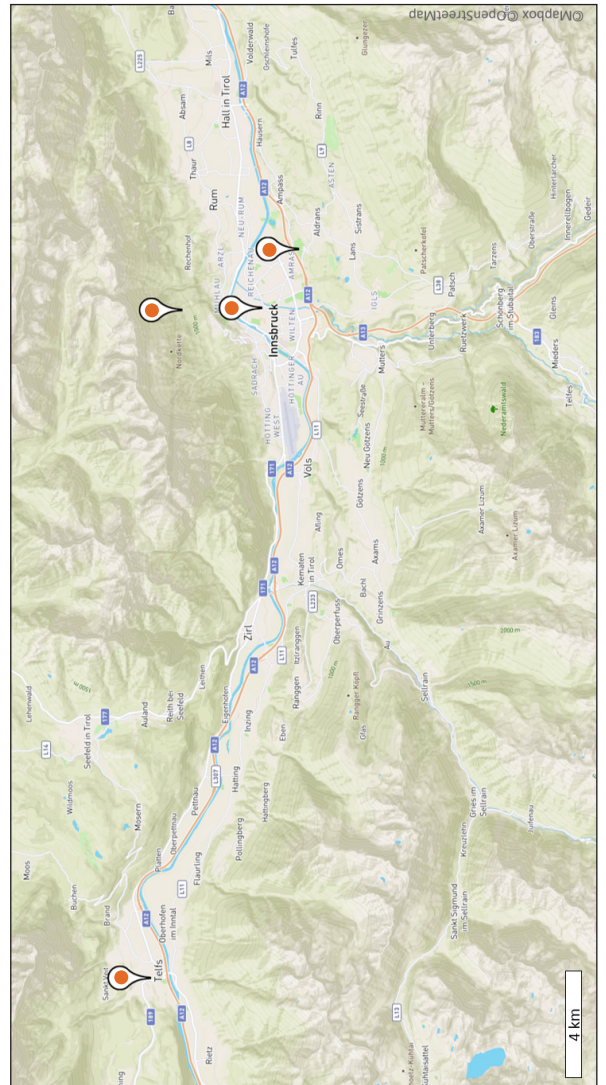
This is why we chose to focus the 6th edition of the We are Alps tour on these topics. This year the tour is held as "Compact" edition on the occasion of the XV Alpine Conference. Tyrol's Capital, Innsbruck will be the "base camp" for the series of excursions, demonstrating how the issues are approached, taking into account the particularities of the Alpine natural features.

The tour is known for its sustainable way of traveling and the close, personal encounters with local Alpine partners, who are experts in their field. During this interactive journey, we aim at raising awareness on current opportunities and challenges within the Alpine region and on the role played by the Alpine Convention in supporting the eight Alpine countries in the sustainable development and protection of the Alps.

I wish all participants lots of inspirational moments in the Alps!

Ambassador Markus Reiterer
Secretary General of the Alpine Convention

Itinerary of the tour

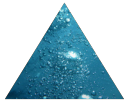


Telfs - Arzler Alm

River and snow: dealing with the risks from water

A 500m long side arm of the Inn River will be the setting of our first excursion in the morning. This renaturation in Telfs West aims at improving the habitats of animals and plants, and at the same time increasing retention areas to mitigate the exposure for settlements in case of floods. The train will bring us back to Innsbruck, where we will witness the consequences of the heavy snowfall last winter at the Arzler Alm and discuss the risks and governance of natural hazards in the Alps. Change of setting for the evening, where we will meet the participants of the XV Alpine Conference and the AlpWeek at the official reception.

- 8.45 Meeting point: Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, Golden Roof
Briefing on the tour
- 9.30 Travel by train to Telfs, visit of the river renaturation and flood protection site
- 12.00 Travel by train to Innsbruck, lunch
- 13.43 Bus drive to Hungerburg
- 14.00 Hike to Arzler Alm (300 m elevation difference), visit of the avalanche site and discussion about natural hazard risk governance
- 17.00 Cable car to Innsbruck Congress, free time
- 19.00 Meeting point: Hofburg courtyard -
Reception of the Austrian Alpine Convention Presidency



About the Declaration of Innsbruck

By signing the “Declaration of Innsbruck” on 4 April 2019, the XV Alpine Conference will adopt an Alpine Climate Target System for climate-neutral and climate-resilient Alps by 2050. Strong measures are to be taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the Alpine region, in accordance with the Paris Agreement and to such an extent that the Alps become climate-neutral by 2050. At the same time, climate change adaptation is necessary in all domains. All this requires cross-sectoral approaches and transnational cooperation.

Further, the Declaration of Innsbruck will adopt the 7th Report on the State of the Alps dealing with “Natural Hazard Risk Governance”. Natural hazards pose an omnipresent threat to the living environment in the Alps, as Alpine areas are particularly prone to, e.g. river floods, avalanches and rockfall – all the more in times of climate change. Consequently, natural hazards pose important constraints on spatial planning. The report provides an overview on the risk governance concept and implementation, considering the distinctive characteristics of the mountain landscape in the Alpine states and illustrated with good practice examples. It formulates concrete recommendations for enhancing natural hazard risk governance.



Tantegert forest - AlpWeek Intermezzo

Moors: a vital contribution to climate change mitigation

The Tantegert moor above Innsbruck, near the Ambras Castle, was drained between 1960 and 1970: one could even play football there at the time. Then it was abandoned and nature regained territory, but what is a moor without water? Thanks to careful renaturation, the Tantegert moor now is home for numerous amphibians such as various species of frogs and toads and accessible on a barrier-free hiking trail. Down from the forest, we will exchange with the promoters of inspiring, visionary initiatives for the Alps, before attending the announcement of the results of the XV Alpine Conference.

- 7.50 Meeting point: Goldene Krone Hotel -
Walk to the bus stop, bus drive to Ambras Castle
- 8.30 Excursion to Tantegert forest moor renaturation project
- 10.00 Bus drive back to the city centre
- 10.15 AlpWeek Intermezzo “Tomorrow in the Alps”: projects showcase (Pecha Kucha) and discussions in the market place
- 12.15 Light lunch
- 13.00 Press conference of the XV Alpine Conference
- 13.30 Farewell and individual travel home



About the Alpine Conference

The “Alpine Conference” is the Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Alpine Convention. The high-level representatives of the eight Alpine countries and the European Union usually meet every two years, together with the Observers of the Alpine Convention. As the political decision-making body, the Alpine Conference discusses the objectives and defines the strategy for the implementation of the Alpine Convention.

The XV Alpine Conference is hosted in the capital of Tyrol, Innsbruck (AT) on 4 April 2019. The Conference will focus on climate change in the Alps, natural hazards risk governance and the sustainable use and protection of Alpine soils. The meeting will be chaired by the Austrian Minister for Sustainability and Tourism, Ms. Elisabeth Köstinger. It will be concluded by the transmission of the Presidency of the Alpine Convention from Austria to France for the next two years.

The Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention strives for all its events to be designed, organized and carried out with high sustainability standards. The XV Alpine Conference of the Alpine Convention is certified as Green Event Tirol!

