

**REPORT OF THE
 Working group Mountain Forest
 on the 2016-2019 mandate**

1. Overview of 2016-2019 mandate or relevant decision of the Alpine Conference

Brief summary of the main activities according to the 2016-2019 mandate or relevant decision of the Alpine Conference

- Organization and chair of the 4 meetings of the working group.
- Collection of policies and best practices on the role of alpine forests on the path to a sustainable economy as contribution of the forest sector to the green economy (first report of the mandate).
- Description of the interdependencies between the protective mountain forests and the protected sectors of " freshwater provision" and "flood protection" (second report of the mandate).
- Participation in communication events.

2. Meetings

Summary of the meetings

- 27th- 28th April 2017 – Tolmezzo (Udine) – Italy.
- 23th- 24th October 2017 - Bad Reichenhall – Germany.
- 28th- 29th June 2018 - Santo Stefano di Cadore (Belluno) – Italy.
- 12th- 13th December 2018 - Ljubljana – Slovenia.

3. Activities carried out

Report on activities carried out (including meetings, conferences)

The mandate was implemented through the organization of the 4 working group meetings, two per year. The meetings of the working group were associated with events that allowed participants to see situations related to the mandate of the Alpine Convention and to take contact with local alpine situations and local institutions.

In particular:

- 30th and 31st of January Vienna (Austria). The presidency of this working group on mountain forests participated at the beginning of the mandate 2017-2018 at the coordination meeting of the chairpersons of the working groups and platforms i, promoted by the Austrian presidency of the Alpine Convention.
- 2nd March 2017 Brescia (Italy). In order to allow better dialogue and interchange between the different components of the Alpine Convention, platforms and working groups, this presidency participated in the meeting promoted Italian Coordination Table of the Alpine Convention.
- 27th April 2017 Tolmezzo (Italy): the first meeting of the working group was held in Tolmezzo as this city was the site of the Alpine cities of 2017 <http://www.alpenstaedte.org/en>.
- 28th April 2017 Visit in Pesarina Valley (Italy) to enable members of the working group to a local reality of wood short chain from the forest to finished products: the case of the wood company network "12tomeny" www.12tomeny.net/en/ that with its wooden house built with the short and certified environmental chain has been selected in 2018 among the best practices in a project for the EUSALP on alpine wood and also included in a road show between France, Switzerland, Germany, Italy and Slovenia.
- 24th October 2017 Bad Reichenhall (Germany) For the second meeting of the working group, the planning of its was made to coincide with the date of the conference about "Flood protection through protection forests in the Alpine Region" organized by Bavarian State Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry and Bavarian State Ministry of Environment and Consumer Protection. In this conference the presidency of the mountain forests working group held its own presentation referring to the first contents about one of the two reports covered by the mandate 2017-2018.
- 22th -23th February 2018 Bolzano (Italy) With regard to specific communication

actions, the presidency of the working group for the mountain forests of the Alpine Convention participated in the XV Convention of the Italian Association of Agricultural Scientific Societies, at the University of Bolzano. On this occasion a roll-up was presented and exhibited illustrating a work carried out by the presidency of the Alpine forests working group of the Alpine Convention and the Italian environment ministry on the situation of effective application in Italy of the provisions of the Protocol on Forests of the Alpine Convention .

- 28th June 2018 - Santo Stefano di Cadore (Belluno) – Italy For the third meeting of the working group, the planning of its was made to coincide with the date of the conference about “the silviculture in the alpine forests - green economy and functions of environmental protection” organized by Italian Delegation to the Alpine Convention. In this conference the presidency of the mountain forests working group held its own presentation referring to The Protocol of the Mountain forests of the Alpine Conventionand, the National board on wood supply chain and the new Italian forestry law.
- 29th June 2018 - Santo Stefano di Cadore (Belluno) – Italy. To give the members of the working group the opportunity to know the local forester realities, were planned two visits: the one about “the silviculture in Comelico Valley: types treatments in disetaneous and monoplane forests” and the second one “When the forest becomes intrisve. The evolution of the forest in the last 60 years. Advantages and disadvantages”.
- 13th December 2018 - Kranjska Gora– Slovenia. To give the members of the working group the opportunity to know the local forester realities, were planned, within the “coordination meeting” of the Interreg Alpine Space project “GreenRisk4Alps some visits between Ljubljana and Kranjska Gora, to observe the consequences of recent rockfall and torrential activity (villeage of Belca), challenging management of woody debris in the river bad and large amounts of bed load transport (Pišnica river), a short vist to the Municipality Kranjska Gora.

4. Results and outputs

Description of main results and outputs achieved

- The two reports provided for by the mandate were made and some events were organized with the local realities in which the participants were informed about the aims, objectives and activities of the mountain forests working group and the alps convention in general. In this sense, the objective of making a reality known as the one of the Alpine Convention not known in detail has been achieved.
- Another goal achieved was the involvement of the Republic of Slovenia, which also actively participated in the organization of events, while a first contact was possible with France, but no contributions were made to the organization of events and the preparation of the reports. The common work of Germany, Austria and Italy is consolidated and very good. Now it is necessary to work to identify better synergies and achieve greater and further involvement of the partners, especially those who have never been present at the group's initiatives.

5. Cooperation

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

- 5th – 6th October 2017 – Gmunden (Austria). On behalf of the Chair of the Alpine Convention's Working Group on the 'Macro-regional Strategy for the Alpine Region, the presidency of the working group on mountain forest participated to the joint Exchange Workshop of the working bodies of the EUSALP and the Alpine Convention under the overarching theme "Generating innovations through sustainable use of Alpine resources". The main objectives were:
 - to facilitate a structured exchange between the Working Groups/Platforms of the Alpine Convention and the Action Groups of EUSALP based on their current mandates, work plans and activities;
 - to identify cooperation potentials, possible synergies and needs for cooperation and, in an outlook on the next working period, to explore possible joint future projects and activities;
 - to identify possible options how to further continue with the organisation of exchange and cooperation between AC and EUSALP.
- 10th – 11th September 2018 – Vienna. The Austrian Presidency of the Alpine

Convention and Chair of the Working Group 'Macro-regional Strategy for the Alpine Region organized the 2nd Exchange Workshop of the working bodies of the EUSALP and the Alpine Convention. The presidency of the working group on mountain forest participated and discussed in more detail the challenging need for a better alignment of the different working programs, action plans and cooperation opportunities of the "Alpine Family". The discussions have concerned the five thematic priorities of the Multiannual Work Programme 2017-2022 (MAP):

- ✓ Priority 1: Focusing on people and culture
- ✓ Priority 2: Taking action on climate change
- ✓ Priority 3: Conserving and valuing biodiversity and landscape
- ✓ Priority 4: Greening the economy
- ✓ Priority 5: Promoting sustainable transport

Having assumed the mandate, from different bodies, of chair of the working group for the mountain forests 2017-2018 on behalf of the European Group of territorial cooperation Euregio without borders and that of member of EUSALP in the action group 2 (focus on "bioeconomy" and "alpine wood"), on behalf of the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia, I have seen how much greater synergy is still needed between these two bodies for a successful joint work.

The meetings allowed to compare ideas and points of view. It is however necessary to make these meetings more finalized and frequent, also through systems such as Skype conference or web conferences, to optimize time and to try to realize also concrete and common initiatives on the territory, making it understand (doing even more than the amount that already is done), the importance and usefulness of these organizations that promote the sustainable use of the Alpine territory and the surrounding areas.

6. Attachments

List of the documents attached to the report

- 27th April 2017 – Tolmezzo (Udine) - Italy minutes of meeting of the WGMF.
- 23thOctober 2017 - Bad Reichenhall – Germany conference presentation.
- 24thOctober 2017 - Bad Reichenhall – Germany minutes of meeting of the WGMF.
- 28thJune 2018 - S. di Cadore (Belluno) – Italy minutes of meeting of the WGMF.
- 28thJune 2018 - S. di Cadore (Belluno) – Italy conference presentation.

- 13th December 2018 - Ljubljana – Slovenia minutes of meeting of the WGMF.
- REPORT 1 Interdependencies between the protective mountain forests and the protected sectors of " freshwater provision" and "flood protection"
 - part 1: Interdependence between mountain forests and freshwater provision (coordination by Enrico Calvo)
 - part 2: Interactions between mountain forests and flood protection (coordination by Stefan Tretter with collaboration of Francesco Della Giacoma)
- REPORT 2 contribution of the forest sector to the green economy (coordination Rinaldo Comino with collaboration Luca Cetara).