Alpine Convention

International treaty for the protection and sustainable development of the Alps

Taja Ferjančič, Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention
Alps

- Inhabitants: 14 million
- Territory: 190,600 km²
- 120 million tourists/year

- Nature
- Drinking Water
- Economy
- Habitat
- Cultural Landscape
- Tourism
Aims of the Alpine Convention

• Promoting sustainable development in the Alpine area;

• protecting the interests of the people living in the Alps;

• embracing the environmental, social, economic and cultural dimensions of the Alps.
Short history:

1991: signing of the Framework Convention;
1995: Convention enters into force in all the countries;
2002: 8 Protocols enter into force;
2003: establishment of the Permanent Secretariat.
## Member States percentage of Area and Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member State</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>28.7%</td>
<td>23.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italia</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
<td>30.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>21.4%</td>
<td>18.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monaco</td>
<td>0.001%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lihtenstein</td>
<td>0.008%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ALPS</strong></td>
<td>190.600 km²</td>
<td>14 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The map visualizes the regions of the ALPS countries.
Linguistic and cultural diversities
The Convention is a framework that sets out the basic principles of all the activities of the Alpine Convention and contains general measures for the sustainable development in the Alpine region.

In the Protocols, concrete steps to be taken for the protection and sustainable development of the Alps are set out.

Signed and ratified Protocols are legally binding in the Contracting party.
Nature of the Alpine Convention and its Protocols

• Focus on cooperation (in particular, on research);

• environmental protection considering development perspective;

• efforts required at various levels: national, regional and local (most important).

• Dynamic aspect: implementation requires a continuous effort from the Contracting Parties.
Main Instruments of the Alpine Convention

- Activities of the Working Groups;
- multilateral projects of the Contracting Parties;
- activities of the Permanent Secretariat;
  - informing and communicating;
  - observing and understanding;
  - exchanging experiences.

→ Cooperation with networks and other partners is essential.
Alpine Convention Organigram

ALPINE CONFERENCE

PERMANENT COMMITTEE

PLATFORMS

WORKING GROUPS

PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

Environmental Minister

Focal Points

Compliance Committee

OBSERVERS
Permanent Secretariat

Established: 2003
Office in: Innsbruck (A);
Branch Office in Bolzano/Bozen (I)

The main tasks:
• Administrative and technical support to the bodies of the Alpine Convention;
• public relations (communicating and disseminating information about the Convention, its protocols and their achievements);
• co-ordination of the Alpine research projects;
• facilitating the implementation of the Convention and the compliance with its protocols;
• observation and information system for the Alps (SOIA),
• translating and interpreting.
Observers

Exchange of information, experience and good practices in order to implement the Objectives of the Alpine Convention:

- AEM
- Alpe Adria
- Arge Alp
- Alpine Town of the Year
- CIPRA International
- Club Arc Alpin
- Euromontana
- FIANET
- International Steering Committee of the Network of Protected areas
- IUCN
- Managing Authority of the European Cooperation Programme Alpine Space
- Pro Mont Blanc
- UNO/UNEP-ROE
- ISCAR
Old age index

[Map showing the old age index in the Alpine region]
Farm abandonment
Overnight stays
Cooperation

• Cooperation with local authorities
• Cooperation with EU level (EEA, Alpine Space Programme…)
• Cooperation with alpine networks (Alliance in the Alps, Alpine town of the year, Via Alpina…)
• International Cooperation (Mountain Partnership, The United Nations Conference of Sustainable development “Rio+20,…)
• Regional Cooperation (Carpathian Convention, AGOCA…)}
Thank you for your attention!

www.alpconv.org

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