



IN TUNE WITH DIVERSITY

CIPRA, the International Commission for the Protection of the Alp, is a non-profit, non-governmental umbrella organisation with national and regional branches in Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Slovenia and Switzerland. It represents about a hundred member organisations. CIPRA works for sustainable development and the preservation of natural and cultural heritage, the maintenance of regional diversity and cross-border problem solving in the Alps. It was founded on 5th May 1952 and is headquartered in Schaan, in the Principality of Liechtenstein.

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THE CIPRA REPRESENTATIONS AND THEIR MEMBERS

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SOUTH TYROL Alpenverein Südtirol • Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Vogelkunde und Vogelschutz in Südtirol • Baubiologie Südtirol • Bund Alternativer Anbauer • Heimatpflegeverband Südtirol • LIA per Natura y Usanzas • Naturfreunde Meran-Südtirol • Naturtreff Eisvogel • Plattform Pro Pustertal • Südtiroler Gesellschaft für Gesundheitsförderung • Südtiroler HochschülerInnenschaft • Umweltschutzgruppe Vinschgau • Local groups Andrian, Bozen, Eisacktal, Eppan, Jenesien, Kaltern, Nus-Schlern, Olang, Rasen-Antholz, Salurn, Terlan, Ulten, Vahrn, Wipptal

GERMANY Bergwacht im Bayerischen Roten Kreuz • Bergwaldprojekt e.V. • Bund Naturschutz in Bayern e.V. • Deutscher Alpenverein e.V. • Gesellschaft für ökologische Forschung e.V. • Landesbund für Vogelschutz in Bayern e.V. • Mountain Wilderness Deutschland e.V. • NaturFreunde Deutschlands e.V. • Ökologischer Jagdverband e.V. • Verband Deutscher Berg- und Skiführer • Verein zum Schutz der Bergwelt e.V.

SUSTAINING MEMBER Nederlandse Milieugroup Alpen, Netherlands

FRANCE Association des Amis du Parc Naturel Régional de Chartreuse • Association la Grande Traversée des Alpes • Association Nationale des Centres et Foyers de ski de fond et de montagne • Association pour le Développement en Réseau des Territoires et des Services • Asters, Conservatoire départemental des espaces naturels de Haute-Savoie • Centre de la Nature Montagnarde • Comité régional Rhône-Alpes de la Fédération Française de la Randonnée pédestre • Fédération Française de Montagne et d'Escalade • Fédération Française des Clubs Alpains et de Montagne • Fédération Française Union Touristique des Amis de la Nature • Fédération Rhône-Alpes de Protection de la Nature • Mountain Wilderness France • Parc National de la Vanoise • Parc National des Écrins • Parc National du Mercantour • Parc Naturel Régional de Chartreuse • Réseau d'Éducation à l'Environnement Montagnard Alpin • Union Régionale Vie et Nature de la région Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur • WWF France

SLOVENIA 132 individual members

LIECHTENSTEIN Botanisch-Zoologische Gesellschaft Liechtenstein-Sarganserland-Werdenberg • Fischereiverein Liechtenstein • Liechtensteiner Alpenverein • Forstverein Liechtenstein • Liechtensteiner Jägerschaft • Liechtensteinische Gesellschaft für Umweltschutz • Imkereiverein Liechtenstein • Liechtensteinischer Ornithologischer Landesverband • Solargenossenschaft Liechtenstein • Verkehrs-Club Liechtenstein

SWITZERLAND Alpen-Initiative • Aqua Viva • Grimselverein • Mountain Wilderness Schweiz • Naturfreunde Schweiz • Pro Natura • Schweizer Alpen-Club • Schweizer Vogelschutz SVS/BirdLife Schweiz • Schweizerische Greina-Stiftung • Stiftung Landschaftsschutz Schweiz • WWF Schweiz (associate member)



SCHAAN/LI, APRIL 2015

DEAR READER,

__In November I succeeded our long-serving President Dominik Siegrist. It is an honour for me to take on this challenge.

Biodiversity, the variety of life on our planet, is now a household term. If you take a look at species statistics, however, the picture is less encouraging. Species are disappearing, habitats are being destroyed or broken up, and every year more of our countryside is being consumed while biodiversity declines.

Since its foundation in 1952, CIPRA has been working in support of biological diversity. With projects and activities at various levels, from local to international, the organisation brings relevant actors together, thereby helping to network ecosystems and establish a political basis for the protection of biodiversity – with the objective of transforming lip service into action. You can read more about all of this on the following pages.

I look forward to working towards these goals with your support and hope this report provides you with food for thought!

Katharina Conradin

President, CIPRA International



Differing perspectives:

To succeed, you first need to understand other people's views.

OUR GREEN LUNGS ARE RUNNING OUT OF AIR

Animals and plants have to migrate in order to reproduce. That involves crossing land used by human beings. Ecological networking therefore needs the support of a variety of stakeholders. CIPRA brings them together.

__On a flip-chart placed on the table, Ueli Strauss draws two parallel lines in blue – representing the Alpine Rhine – and then adds two black lines on either side of the river to indicate the Swiss and Austrian motorways: insurmountable obstacles for many animals and plants. The onlookers' eyes follow his hands. Two transverse green lines appear, and Strauss fills in the space between them. This is a wildlife crossing, a green bridge. "The Swiss cantonal development plan specifies legally binding links between green areas," says the Director of the Spatial Planning Office of the Swiss Canton of St. Gallen. On the Vorarlberg side, he adds, links have been defined but they are not legally binding.

Some thirty municipality representatives and experts from a variety of fields including spatial planning, nature protection, hunting and climate change mitigation from Liechtenstein, Vorarlberg and Switzerland have gathered on this autumn afternoon at the invitation of CIPRA International to attend a workshop on the subject of habitat networking for flora and fauna in the Alpine Rhine Valley.

Participants' expectations vary: Ernst Albrich of the Vorarlberg Hunting Association is there "to listen and learn"; Martin Strele of the Vorarlberg Verein für Bodenfreiheit (Freedom for Land Association) is "looking for allies"; Oliver Müller of the Liechtenstein Office of the Environment is hoping "to develop a cross-border planning base", and Ueli Strauss is focusing on "striking a balance between various interests in the border region".

Wide range of perspectives

The workshop is a product of the international greenAlps project, which has been created to examine and utilise results from on-going and completed projects, process them and make them available to stakeholders at a regional, national and international level with the aim of improving the general framework for efficient and sustainable European environmental policies to protect and preserve the natural environment in the Alps (Biodiversity & Landscape, p.11).

CIPRA International was responsible for public relations and the coordination of publications and organisation of events, including the final conference held in Chambéry, France, in November 2014 and the workshop held in the Alpine Rhine Valley in October. The project ran until the end of 2014 and was co-financed by the European Fund for Regional Development's Alpine Space programme, the Liechtenstein government and the Paul Schiller Foundation.

The many users and uses of land

Differences in legislation in the countries of the Alps are a major obstacle on migration routes for flora and fauna. More tangible obstacles exist in the form of roads, residential areas, and commercial and industrial buildings. Today's infrastructure is encroaching more and more on green areas. The increasingly technical character of agriculture is another reason why our green lungs are running out of air. In addition to flora and fauna, which are dependent on green areas and the corridors that link them, human beings are among the losers too, as these green lungs also act as groundwater reservoirs, recreational areas and/or extensive farming land.

On a map of the Alpine Rhine Valley, the workshop participants are shown the location of the region's green lungs by Heiner Schlegel of the Renat spatial development agency. "They are highly diverse. Some are to be found within the lake basin," he says, indicating a hatched area on the shore of Lake Constance, "while some lie between mountain slopes, and others are land improvement



**Where are
the green lungs?**

Maps form
the basis for planning
and discussion.

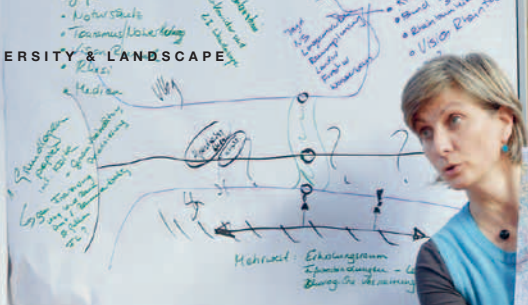


Ueli Strauss calls for better
cross-border collaboration (left).



Solutions are discussed and outlined
in small groups (left and above).





Katrin Löning identifies obstacles in the landscape and in people's minds.

Katrin Löning identifies obstacles in the landscape and in people's minds.



Discussions between professionals lead to new ways forward (top and right).



sites or flood plains.” The hatched areas on the map are connected by blue lines: rivers, the arteries that bring life to the green lungs.

Most of the corridors between habitats include land that has multiple users and rarely enjoys any form of protection. All too often, proposed land uses are defended with the public interest argument. Mario Broggi, former President of CIPRA International, puts it like this: “Public interest is the sum of the individual interests involved, and the landscape today looks correspondingly fragmented.”

Building an Alps-wide network

For the participants one thing is clear. Before the natural environment can be networked, people need to network with each other across borders and different disciplines, with spatial planners playing a key role. They have to strike a balance between conflicting demands in terms of land use. But Alpine countries organise their spatial planning systems in different ways. In Switzerland, the cantons settle many questions in their development plans, while in Vorarlberg decisions are taken at a local level – and Liechtenstein has no spatial planning legislation at all.

What should be the benefits of a piece of land? Who is entitled to make use of it? When is compromise required? Some strategies and guidelines have already been developed to help answer such questions, but the problem lies in implementing them. This is one of the conclusions reached by the greenAlps project. The greenAlps team, comprising nine partners from six Alpine countries, communicated their findings in the form of recommendations for policy-makers and the Alpine Space programme. With these recommendations and other publications, projects and activities, CIPRA – together with its partners – is working towards the creation of an Alps-wide ecological network. CIPRA's contribution includes participation in the Alpine Convention's Ecological Network Platform (Alpine Policy, p.15) and support for local authorities via the Alliance in the Alps network of municipalities (Cities, Towns & Villages, p.13).

“Allies: hunters, nature protection organisations, the tourist trade, local recreation facility providers, the media...” This is what Katrin Löning of the Austrian Institute of Ecology writes in green on the flip-chart. Michael Vogel, President of the Alpine Network of Protected Areas, points to the green bridge next to it. “Can pedestrians use it, too?” he asks. Now that's an idea – people by day and deer by night a combined wildlife corridor and pedestrian bridge with added value for everyone!



NATURE HOLDS MANY SECRETS.

*Aurelia Ullrich-Schneider,
Project Manager Biodiversity & Landscape, CIPRA International*



USING THE LANDSCAPE, PROTECTING DIVERSITY

BIODIVERSITY & LANDSCAPE

— The variety of landscapes, species and genetic material continues to decline in the Alps. Strategies and guidelines for the protection of biodiversity are frequently not implemented effectively. In key sectors such as agriculture, energy and transport, opposing goals are often pursued. As the link between these sectors, spatial planners must ensure that biodiversity and ecological networking are not sacrificed to individual interests.

For the protection of biodiversity to be seen as a relevant social objective, it is necessary to communicate the value of functioning ecosystems. This has been one of CIPRA's objectives since its foundation in 1952. CIPRA also supports municipalities, which – as small but decisive units – have an important role to play in the long-term preservation of biodiversity.



In mountain areas, the quality of life is closely connected to the quality of natural resources. Therefore it is important to improve people's knowledge of the services supplied by our ecosystems. This task should be better integrated into future international cooperation activities and policies from the local to the European level.

Erica Zangrando, Veneto Region/I, Department of Economics and Development of the Mountain Region, recharge.green project partner



PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

- The **greenAlps** project highlights the opportunities for and obstacles to an effective strategy for the preservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources in the Alpine space. CIPRA International was responsible for communications and for organising the final conference. In the Alpine Rhine Valley, CIPRA contributed to enhanced cross-border cooperation with a workshop and a report on the relevant actors, projects and publications.
- CIPRA is also responsible for communications for the **recharge.green** project, which is designed to develop methods for striking a balance between the benefits of renewable energy and the services provided by ecosystems.
- As part of the **dynAlp-nature** programme run by Alliance in the Alps, CIPRA is supporting cooperation projects for the protection of Alpine biodiversity involving 23 member municipalities (Cities, Towns & Villages, p.13).

PREVENTION AND MITIGATION: NECESSARY AND USEFUL

CLIMATE & ENERGY



The Alpstar project has initiated a process that is now irreversible. Never before have so many employees at Hilti, a model company for the project, come to work without using their cars, and never before have so many people participated in the company's cycling competitions. Alpstar shows how commuters can be motivated to adopt eco-friendly mobility habits.

Willi Nowak, Executive Director of Verkehrs-Club Österreich (VCO)

— In the Alps, construction and housing accounts for around one third of final energy consumed, as does transport, and these areas are largely responsible for global warming. The consequences of climate change, including heavy rain and prolonged periods of drought, have a particularly severe impact on the ecologically sensitive areas of the Alps, bringing change to the environment, society and the business community. Solutions such as sustainable construction, sustainable mobility and the implementation of mitigation measures not only reduce carbon emissions, but can also help to create value in the region. CIPRA brings stakeholders together and motivates local, regional and national authorities to adopt sustainable measures – in order to reduce the pace of climate change and mitigate its consequences.



PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

- As part of the **C3-Alps** project, CIPRA has translated scientific findings on climate change mitigation into practical measures, and elicited action from decision-makers in the worlds of politics and business.
- With its **MountEE** and **climalp** projects and the **Constructive Alps** architecture competition, CIPRA is showing how tomorrow's buildings can save energy or even generate more energy than they consume.
- For the **Alpstar** project, CIPRA cooperated with local authorities and businesses in the Alpine Rhine Valley to motivate commuters to travel to work by bus, train or bicycle. For these activities, CIPRA and its project partners were awarded the 2014 VCO Award.
- The **Alpine Dialogue** is CIPRA's contribution to the sufficiency debate, i.e. the question of what is really needed to enjoy a good life.

MY HOUSE, MY TOWN, MY COUNTRY, OUR ALPS

CITIES, TOWNS & VILLAGES

__ Municipalities are connected in a variety of ways. National associations provide access to professional advice. Questions of transport and agriculture are often addressed in regional groupings. Many things concern the Alps in their entirety: animals are not aware of national borders; tourists want mobility throughout the region; and the consequences of climate change apply to the whole area. To respond to present and future challenges, municipalities have often developed innovative solutions.

CIPRA ensures that such ideas and the people involved are brought together – so that good examples from all corners of the Alps can be adopted elsewhere.



Cooperation between the municipalities of the Alps is essential if we are to draw attention to the challenges, interests and needs of these regions and communicate them at a European level. Networking also enables us to learn from one another. Joint projects in particular help our municipalities develop.



PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

• **Alpine Town of the Year Association** CIPRA on the jury since its creation in 1997 and responsible for running the office since 2003. 2014 completion of the Alpstar project. Goal: to make the Alps and its towns and cities a role model for carbon neutrality. • **Youth Shaping Alpine Municipalities** Project run by CIPRA and the Alpine Town of the Year Association with the objective of promoting youth involvement at the level of local government (Young people, p.13). • **Alliance in the Alps network of municipalities** Association of about 300 municipalities in the Alps. CIPRA was involved in the foundation of the organisation in 1997 and has had administrative responsibility since 2000 including managing the **dynAlp-nature** programme. As part of this programme, CIPRA is supporting four joint projects for the protection of Alpine biodiversity involving 23 member municipalities.

Lucio Vaira, Municipality of Ostana/IT, member of the Alliance in the Alps network and a project community in the dynAlp-nature programme

THE FUTURE STARTS TODAY

YOUNG PEOPLE



Young people are creative, persistent, unpretentious and far-sighted. That is what they bring to the adult world. In return they need adult attention and respect so as to gain their confidence. Young people's participation in decision-making processes strengthens their identity, their relationship with the environment and their awareness of the importance of the sustainable use of natural resources.

Eva Šabec,

Treasurer, CIPRA Youth Council, Ljubljana/SI

__ Today's young people are tomorrow's citizens and politicians. They are the key to a sustainable future. Municipalities have an important role to play in involving the next generation in democratic processes; they constitute the most immediate learning environment after the family. And yet, once young adults have left school, their opportunities to get involved in democracy and politics are very limited.

CIPRA supports young people, local authorities and youth organisations in terms of participation, networking and greater youth involvement. In a dialogue with decision-makers, young people find their place in society, and adults gain insights into the thinking of the next generation. —



PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

- **Youth Alpine Dialogue** 36 young people make videos of interviews on the subject of mobility in the Alps. Training in participation and mobility for the CIPRA Youth Council, which functions as a steering group. Alps-wide Web platform for youth involvement and environmental education. Thirteen partners with CIPRA International as the lead partner.
- **Youth Participation in the Alps** A report on youth participation in the countries of the Alps. March 2014 • **Youth Parliament to the Alpine Convention** Support for the Youth Parliament in Chamonix/F with regard to the basic idea, public relations and networking with politicians. Mentoring in political lobbying throughout the year.
- **Youth Shaping Alpine Municipalities** Joint project run by CIPRA and the Alpine Town of the Year Association with the goal of promoting youth involvement at the municipal level (Cities, Towns & Villages, p.13).

TRANSNATIONAL AND PARTICIPATORY

ALPINE POLICY

__ Natural life and economic activity do not come to a halt at political borders. However, for governments, authorities and civil society, it is difficult to create cross-border structures in order to promote sustainable development. The Alpine Convention is a suitable instrument for shaping this transnational political process.

Since its foundation in 1952, CIPRA has been encouraging associations, politicians and authorities to participate in a shared sustainable vision for the Alps. CIPRA's call for a transnational response to common challenges and the early involvement of all stakeholders is as relevant today as it ever was, especially in the context of the new Macro-Regional Strategy for the Alps.



I share with CIPRA the conviction that the involvement of all the regions of Europe is essential if we are to achieve the goals of the European project. That is why it is important to establish a genuine dialogue with local and regional actors and with civil society. This will enable us to make progress in the direction of sustainable and participatory development.

Michel Lebrun,
President of the EU's
Committee of the Regions



PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

- **Alpine Convention** Participation in the Alpine Conference, the Standing Committee, the Compliance Committee and various work groups and platforms: Transport, Ecological Network, Large Carnivores, Wild Ungulates and Society, Alpine Macro Region, Energy, Water Management and Mountain Agriculture. Submission of a request to the Compliance Committee. (CIPRA Germany, p. 20)
- **Macro-regional Strategy for the Alps** Participation in subject-specific working groups, national and international strategy development events and the on-line consultation process. Various statements of opinion and position papers.
- **A political voice** High-visibility contributions to current debates on subjects such as the Winter Olympics, large carnivores and a modal shift for freight (Communication & Networking, p.17).

U-TURN FOR TRANSPORT

TRANSPORT & MOBILITY



A modal shift from road to rail presupposes cooperation between the countries and regions of the Alps. They need to implement a common transport policy including instruments such as an Alpine crossing exchange and locally adapted highway regulations, capacities and infrastructures.

We are listening to civil society's demands to participate in the future of the Alps. A dialogue between public authorities, businesses and civil society is essential for the success of such a project.

Bernard Soulage,

Vice President of the Rhône-Alpes Region

__ The impact of traffic is especially evident in the narrow valleys of the Alps. Amongst other things, it was the rapid increase in traffic in the 1990s that led to the decision to establish the Alpine Convention. In the meantime the traffic has multiplied; there is a constant stream of goods and people being moved the length and breadth of the Alps. We are now hearing calls for new infrastructures. But from scientific studies and prognoses one thing is clear – if we are to exploit the ecological and social benefits of rail compared with road transport, which is currently at a competitive advantage, supporting measures are essential. Through its project and communications activities, CIPRA offers a forum for an open dialogue between ministries, transport operators and civil society – so that effective measures can be developed and implemented throughout the Alps.



PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

• **Objective Alps-wide information** CIPRA focuses on the interrelationships between various transport projects and so offers an Alps-wide perspective. • **Commuter mobility** For the Alpstar project, CIPRA has cooperated with businesses such as Hilti and with local and regional authorities in the Alpine Rhine Valley to motivate commuters to travel to work by bus, train or bicycle. (Climate & Energy, p.12). • **From road to rail** With its workshops and networking activities, CIPRA is promoting a modal shift. One activity in 2014 was a study visit to the Gotthard Base Tunnel with politicians and journalists from France and Switzerland and representatives of the Swiss Alpine Initiative organisation. The opportunities and requirements for establishing an Alpine crossing exchange were discussed.

THE WORTH OF WORDS

COMMUNICATION & NETWORKING

__The Alpine region is doing comparatively well, although – here too – we are witnessing developments that could jeopardise social and ecological equilibrium and hence the quality of life. In today's media, information from the Alps has to compete for people's attention with news from war-torn regions, developments on the stock exchange, the latest slimming diets and ground-breaking inventions. And readers need to be able to put this information into context as quickly as possible. Only then will they be able to process the facts and act on them.

We have a responsibility for the world in which we live. CIPRA has set itself the task of keeping the people in the Alps and beyond informed about developments and inspiring them with sustainable solutions.



The issue of 'Alps Insight' on the subject of Alpine policy offers a wealth of information on a pressing topic that is of great importance for us all. All I can say is: once again, the journey is the reward, meaning that CIPRA repeatedly succeeds in making us – and I mean the whole population – appreciate the importance of this complex subject.

Marlies Amann-Marxer,
Minister of the Principality
of Liechtenstein



PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

- **"AlpsInsight"** issue entitled "Quo Vadis? Why we need a reorientation of Alpine policy" (in French, German, Italian and Slovene). 15,000 copies
- **"alpMedia"** newsletter Ten issues in French, German, Italian, Slovene and English. 25,000 subscribers
- **www.cipra.org** All-round information platform on subjects relating to sustainable development in the Alps. French, German, Italian, Slovene and English. 30,000 individual pages, 530,000 visits
- **Social media** Multi-lingual profiles on Facebook and Twitter
- **CIPRA's annual conference** "Living well in the Alps! Creative responses to the scarcity of resources", Annecy/F, 13-15 November 2014
- **Media activities** relating to various subjects such as the Winter Olympics, large carnivores and the European Strategy for the Alps.



LANDSCAPE IS NOT RENEWABLE.

Mario Broggi, Past President, CIPRA International

NEW FORMAT, NEW CONTENT

CIPRA Italy In 2014, CIPRA Italy created a new format for work on its territory: a Development Workshop for the Alps. It provides actors targeting innovative solutions in the Alpine regions with a platform for contact and discussion with CIPRA Italy, its member organisations and the research community. The workshop was developed from ideas put forward by the new Board, whose members were elected together with Federica Corrado as the new President at the beginning of 2014.

The first workshop, in September, lasted two days and was held in Oulx in the Susa Valley, a valley with many contradictions but also great potential. The programme included information on current demographic trends and projects for the restoration of intact landscapes and the rehabilitation of rural buildings as well as discussions on new forms of rural life, farming and tourism, and new services for the community.

These current changes are an expression of a sense of new departures in the Alps, leading to new forms of spatial planning. It is important for CIPRA Italy to fully understand them so that the organisation can draw up new strategies, not only to contribute to the preservation of the natural and cultural heritage but also to preserve the Alps as the home of the Alpine population. That involves intensifying contacts with other associations, institutions and the business and research communities. The presence of over a hundred people at the first development workshop and their active involvement show that the format is attractive, and further events – in other Alpine valleys perhaps – are envisaged.

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HOW MUCH PROTECTION FOR PROTECTED AREAS?

CIPRA Germany The Alps are a bastion of biodiversity, a function that will become even more important in the future as rising temperatures endanger the survival of many species at lower altitudes. What is – literally – more concrete and more immediately apparent than climate change are the consequences of the growing demands placed on natural resources, with the last near-natural waterways threatened by plans for new hydropower schemes and land use increasing for the construction of homes, commercial and industrial buildings and roads. It was against this background that in 2013 CIPRA Germany presented a position paper on the energy transition that attracted considerable attention throughout the Alps.

The preservation of biodiversity presupposes a habitat network of an adequate size. Even then, experience shows that protected areas are not immune to new land-use demands and a subsequent relaxation of rules. In this context CIPRA Germany, in collaboration with CIPRA International, submitted the case of a specific protected area – the Egartenlandschaft nature conservation area in the district of Miesbach – to the Alpine Convention's Compliance Committee. This was because the original regulatory notice had been changed twenty times, most recently for a beer filling plant, a livestock auction hall, a hotel complex complete with golf course, and another 85-hectare golf course.

And yet the Alpine Convention's Nature Conservation Protocol specifies that protected areas are to be managed in such a way that the defined level of protection is maintained and that they must be extended for that purpose where necessary, while any impairment of or damage to protected areas is to be avoided. The question that CIPRA Germany is putting to politicians at a federal, regional and district level is how the animals, plants and biodiversity of the Alps are to be safeguarded without a well-managed network of protected areas.

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Bone of contention: Golf course and hotel in the Egarten nature conservation area.



SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT POLICY FOR AN IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE

CIPRA Liechtenstein On Liechtenstein's doorstep, in the Austrian town of Feldkirch, the planning process is currently underway for a gigantic road construction project in the form of the Feldkirch Urban Tunnel. To put an end to the current stop-start crawl through the city centre, vehicles in future are to be distributed to the four points of the compass via a four-legged tunnel. This will lead to an increase in car traffic at all levels – local, alpine and transalpine – as the tunnel will create a shorter link between two motorways, the Swiss A13 and the Austrian A14.

The road network in the Alpine Rhine Valley is already as well developed as it needs to be. According to the Alpine Convention's Transport Protocol, public transport is to be promoted to ensure that the beautiful valleys, towns and villages of the Alps are not inundated by traffic. Discussions held at the 2014 annual CIPRA conference in Annecy/F show that many of CIPRA's members are facing similar problems.

Two member organisations of CIPRA Liechtenstein, namely the Liechtensteinische Gesellschaft für Umweltschutz and the Verkehrs-Club Liechtenstein, have official status as parties in the current environmental impact assessment (EIA). They submitted their opinions on the planned tunnel in July 2014. Handling the mass of data relating to the EIA and the official documents was only possible thanks to close cooperation between the two organisations and with citizens' action groups in Liechtenstein and the Austrian region of Vorarlberg.

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Divided but not conquered:

The Feldkirch Urban Tunnel would only shift the traffic problem elsewhere.





GOURMET ALPINE EVENING

CIPRA Switzerland What do a custodian of a mountain hut, a brewer and a mountain hay-maker have in common? They are all running innovative projects in the mountains. On International Mountain Day on 11 December, CIPRA Switzerland together with the Swiss Alpine Museum, the Swiss Alpine Club and Mountain Wilderness Switzerland organised a gourmet evening in the Alpine Museum in Bern. In addition to general networking, the event was an opportunity to highlight the importance of the Alps and learn about the opportunities and risks of development in mountain areas. —

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Plenty of ideas: Hut custodian Claudia Drilling, mountain guide Rita Steiner and Director of the Alpine Museum Beat Hächler (from top left).



WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE FUTURE OF THE ALPS

CIPRA Austria In terms of policymaking for the Alps, 2014 was an eventful year. The stage was set for the development of a macro-regional Alpine strategy to find transnational solutions to problems encountered throughout the Alpine space and develop innovative projects specifically targeted at the Alps, and progress was made in defining the terms of reference. The debate was initially dominated by representatives of the EU, national governments and the regions involved; the Alpine Convention and civil society were for a long time excluded from the process.

CIPRA Austria ran the Alpen.Leben project (Life in the Alps) to strengthen the role of the Alpine Convention and civil society in the process and to emphasise their importance. The results related to ways of integrating the Alpine Convention into the macro-region – as an established instrument for protecting the Alpine habitat – and the need to take into account the precautionary principle and the ecological, economic and demographic limits to the resilience of the Alpine space. The project also focussed on the role of civil society and the scope for participation in both the strategy development and the implementation phase. Another aspect addressed was the flexibility that CIPRA Austria considers essential with regard to the geographical scope of a macro-region for the Alps. The physical products of the process include a project report in English and German, which is available from CIPRA Austria.

WWW.CIPRA.AT

REDUCING ROAD TRAFFIC IS A LONG DISTANCE RACE

CIPRA Slovenia We face many problems relating to excess traffic, especially in cities. It causes air pollution and noise, and hampers land use. Public transport is a good alternative and has many positive aspects, of which we occasionally need reminding. Using public transport saves space, money and sometimes also time, establishes connections with other people and maintains flexibility.

Measures are being taken at a national level, albeit slowly. Unfortunately sometimes only penalties can improve matters. In 2013, the European Commission warned Slovenia that it was contravening European legislation due to high levels of fine particulate pollution. And road traffic is the main cause of this.

Changing habits is not a simple task, and the effects can take years to become apparent. For the last six years, CIPRA Slovenia has published a booklet containing the timetables for all public transport in the Slovenian Alps – even though this should be a job for the government. There is no other single source for this kind of information. The booklet is used by tourists and local residents.

But the booklet has another role as well – to emphasise the importance of sustainable mobility in the Alps. This small but effective project has been successful thanks to the co-operation of 18 different partners. The booklet has become larger each year as new routes have been introduced. In 2014 we registered 37 routes for buses, trains, cable cars and boats, and included one international route to Austria.

WWW.CIPRA.ORG/SLOVENIJA

NEW MODELS FOR A BETTER LIFE

CIPRA France The western economic model consumes the natural resources of three planet Earths. And it is spreading to developing countries – we are their role model. The challenge is therefore clear: to replace our “more and more” approach with “better and better”. This requires the development of an economy for the common good with a focus on the needs of human beings and nature.

The 2014 annual CIPRA conference in Annecy, which was organised by CIPRA France and CIPRA International, saw a lively debate on this subject. Hugues de Jouvenel reminded the meeting that the future is not predetermined, but offers alternatives and that each one of us can help shape it. It is important to think in scenarios so as to have a certain freedom of action and not be forced simply to accept change. Change presupposes innovation, and that comes from the

regions and their inhabitants. Politicians must listen to them in order to facilitate positive change.

There is no transport system and no energy generation system that does not have an impact on the world's natural resources. Moderation is the only solution if we are to minimise the use of resources. This is why we must rethink fundamental socioeconomic concepts such as indicators of wealth, values and market regulation systems and learn to make better use of what we have.

The conference also included a discussion on the Macro-Regional Strategy for the Alps, which offers a unique opportunity to implement certain aspects of the Alpine Convention. However, this process also involves the risk of negative developments – the macro-region, as a product of the Treaty of Lisbon, is also subject to the growth paradigm. In the absence of appropriate protective measures, there is a risk that more and more natural and agricultural resources will be consumed. Sufficiency, a collaborative economy and the involvement of local stakeholders are just a few of the key issues for CIPRA France's work in 2015 and for the exchange of good practice between the various regions of the Alps.

WWW.CIPRA.ORG/FRANCE

Focussing on the needs of humans and nature: Participants at Annecy discuss new models for living.



Photo: Antoine Berger

VICTORY FOR LANDSCAPE PROTECTION

CIPRA South Tyrol The controversial application to build a wind farm on the Sattelberg near the Brenner Pass was rejected in a final appeal heard by the Italian Council of State in Rome. This represents a major victory for the environmental protection associations and the Alpine clubs on both sides of the Brenner, who took the matter to court. In its judgement, the Council of State agreed with the concerns formulated on several occasions by CIPRA South Tyrol as the umbrella association for the protection of nature and the environment, the Südtiroler Alpenverein, the Club Alpino Italiano, the Österreichischer Alpenverein and the Club Arc Alpin as the umbrella association for mountaineering clubs in the Alps and accepted the argument that the construction and operation of nineteen wind turbines at an altitude of 2,500 metres above sea level in the midst of the Alpine lands-

cape and on a bird migration route of European significance cannot be justified in terms of the energy transition. This gratifying outcome is the result of close cooperation between the Alpine clubs and environmental associations; together they have succeeded in preserving a piece of our unique landscape. In its judgement, the Council of State in particular criticised the Regional Government of South Tyrol for ignoring the negative opinion formulated by the Office of Environmental Impact Assessments and for taking too little account of the views submitted by public and private organisations and authorities in Italy and Austria. The judgment also underlines the fact that the Italian constitution recognises the landscape as an environmental asset worthy of protection. This is a groundbreaking judgement for European environmental law in that the Council of State recognises the right of the Austrian Alpine Club to call on an Italian court in the case of an environmental issue with cross-border implications. The club's status as a party to the proceedings also applies to other cross-border projects that have a major impact on the environment. The NGOs hope that this judgment in final appeal proceedings means that the Brenner wind farm project is now a thing of the past.

WWW.CIPRA.ORG/DE/CIPRA/SUEDBTIROL

The Sattelberg will remain unspoiled:
the wind farm has been legally blocked.



A full-page photograph of a lynx walking towards the viewer in a dry, grassy field. The lynx has a tawny coat with dark spots and is looking directly at the camera.

**WE HAVE A
RESPONSIBILITY
FOR ALL SPECIES
AND HABITATS.**

Claire Simon, Executive Director, CIPRA International

BALANCED YEAR-END FINANCIAL POSITION THANKS TO BROAD-BASED SUPPORT

__Economic changes make it increasingly difficult to maintain adequate funding for environmental protection work. That applies very much to CIPRA's core activities, namely awareness building and communications at an international and political level. At the same time, the challenges and processes in the field of sustainable development are becoming increasingly complex. They call for a high degree of professionalism and short reaction times. CIPRA International is meeting these challenges through internal adjustments and new partnerships so as to increase our freedom of action.

We would like to thank all those people and organisations who placed their trust in us and supported our work in 2014. It is thanks to their contributions that we have been able to close the financial year with an almost balanced financial position, with revenues of about 1.686 million Swiss Francs and expenditures of 1.69 million. The deficit was approximately 3,700 Swiss Francs.

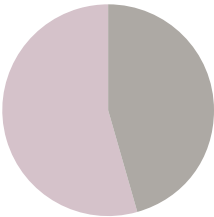
Our sponsors and clients have increased in number from 11 to 24 since 2009. For CIPRA International, all forms of support lend legitimacy to its activities. Liechtenstein, as CIPRA's legal domicile, provides about one third of the organisation's funds, and that makes it possible for us to work for sustainable development throughout the Alps.

Almost half of our funds goes to communications and political work. That includes our media work, publication of the "Alps insight" magazine and our "alpMedia" newsletter, and political activities in the context of the Alpine Convention and the European Strategy for the Alps. The other half is employed for our project work and services, which initiate and support the implementation of sustainable strategies and solutions.

At the end of 2014, CIPRA International's assets amounted to 293,527 Swiss Francs. The full financial statements including the balance sheet will be made available on www.cipra.org following their approval by the Assembly of Delegates in autumn 2015.

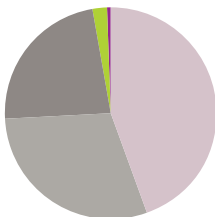
Where does the money go?

Administration, communications, political work CHF 774,421 ●
Projects, services CHF 915,800 ●



CIPRA INTERNATIONAL'S THANKS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND CONTRACTS GO TO

LIECHTENSTEIN WWW.LLV.LI (DE) • **ALPINE TOWN OF THE YEAR ASSOCIATION** WWW.ALPENSTAEDTE.ORG/EN • **INTELLIGENT ENERGY EUROPE** WWW.EC.EUROPA.EU/ENERGY/INTELLIGENT • **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR MUNICH AND UPPER BAVARIA/D** WWW.HWK-MUENCHEN.DE (DE) • **ALLIANCE IN THE ALPS NETWORK OF MUNICIPALITIES** WWW.ALPENALLIANZ.ORG/EN • **GERDA TECHOW CHARITABLE FOUNDATION** • **AAGE V. JENSEN - CHARITY FOUNDATION, VADUZ/LI** WWW.AVJCF.ORG • **CIPRA GERMANY** WWW.CIPRA.DE (DE) • **NON-PROFITMAKING FOUNDATIONS IN LIECHTENSTEIN** • **EU YOUTH IN ACTION PROGRAMME** WWW.AHA.LI (DE) • **PAUL SCHILLER FOUNDATION, ZURICH/CH** WWW.PAUL-SCHILLER-STIFTUNG.CH (DE) • **STIFTUNG FÜRSTLICHER KOMMERZIENRAT GUIDO FEGER, VADUZ/LI** • **CANTON ST. GALLEN/CH** WWW.SG.CH (DE) • **VALÜNA FOUNDATION, VADUZ/LI** • **VIA ALPINA** WWW.VIA-ALPINA.ORG • **FEDERAL MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, NATURE CONSERVATION AND NUCLEAR SAFETY, BERLIN/D** WWW.BMUB.BUND.DE (DE) • **ICF INTERNATIONAL CHARITABLE FOUNDATION, VADUZ/LI** • **HEIDEHOF FOUNDATION, STUTTGART/D** WWW.HEIDEHOF-STIFTUNG.DE (DE) • **ALPINE INITIATIVE** WWW.ALPINE-INITIATIVE.CH • **VILLAGE OF PLANKEN/LI** WWW.PLANKEN.LI (DE) • **FEDERAL OFFICE OF SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT** WWW.ARE.ADMIN.CH • **CIPRA FRANCE** WWW.CIPRA.ORG/FRANCE (FR) • **TOWN OF CHAMONIX/FR** WWW.CHAMONIX.FR (FR) • **ALPSINSIGHT SUPPORTERS**



Where does the money come from?

- **Services to third parties** CHF 754,078
- **Government subsidies** CHF 500,000
- **Project contributions, donations, sponsorship** CHF 389,441
- **Membership fees** CHF 37,500
- **Other income** CHF 5,410



Photo: Martin Walser

CIPRA INTERNATIONAL Executive Board Christian Baumgartner, Josef Biedermann, Katharina Conradin (President from Nov), Damiano Di Simine, Dominik Siegrist (President until Nov), Jernej Stritih **International Office** Christina Bachner, Caroline Begle, Petra Beyrer, Jakob Dietachmair, Magdalena Holzer, Bettina Hug, Anita Konrad, Lisa Lienert, Anna Mehrmann, Wolfgang Pfefferkorn, Nicoletta Piersantelli, Carole Piton (until April), Eva Posch (until Sept), Madeleine Rohrer, Karen Schillig (until May), Claire Simon (Managing Director), Katharina Spannraft (until April), Aurelia Ullrich-Schneider, Antonija Wieser, Barbara Wülser **CIPRA ITALY Board** Gianni Cametti, Luigi Casanova, Federica Corrado (President), Carlo Gubetti **Office** Francesco Pastorelli (Director) **CIPRA LIECHTENSTEIN Executive Director** Rainer Kühnis (until June) **Board** Josef Biedermann, Manfred Biedermann, Benno Büchel, Caroline Egger, Michael Fasel, Thomas Gloor, Peter Jäger, Wolfgang Nutt, Georg Sele, Nadine Walser **Office** Monika Gstöhl (Director from May), Andrea Matt (Director until May), Cornelia Mayer, Claudia Ospelt-Bossard **CIPRA AUSTRIA Committee** Christian Baumgartner, Liliana Dagostin, Peter Haßlacher (Chairman), Michael Proschek-Hauptmann, Christine Pühringer, Gottfried Schindlbauer, Walter Tschon **Office** Elena Beringer, Hemma Burger-Scheidlin (Director), Josef Essl **CIPRA FRANCE Board** Jean-Loup Berthez, Alain Boulogne (President), Michel Burgeat, Hélène Denis, Adrien Devos, Patrick Le Vaguères (Honorary President)



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LIVING IN
THE ALPS

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