

# BIODIVERSITY IN THE ALPS

Annual Report 2009 CIPRA International



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SCHAAN/FL, JUNE 2010

**DEAR READER,**

\_ The biological diversity of the Alps is unique. Western Europe's largest mountain range boasts around 30,000 species of animals and 13,000 species of plants. More than a third of all European flowering plants and ferns are indigenous to the region, totaling 4,500 species. The Alpine chain separates Mediterranean southern Europe from western and central Europe with its moderate climate. This in turn gives rise to a great diversity of habitats: wide open valleys, some with very dry conditions, gentle Alpine foothills and deep gorges alternate with rugged high-mountain regions, with vast expanses of ice and scree in summit areas. The Alps are shaped by natural processes, some of which can be extremely violent, such as storms, floods, mud slides, rock falls and avalanches. While they cause destruction in the short term, they also create new habitats for fauna and flora. Such natural processes are the driving force behind biodiversity.

Yet that biodiversity in the Alps is seriously at risk. Areas the size of several dozen football pitches are disappearing every day, along with their wealth of species. The decline of traditional farming methods and the spread of industrialised agriculture also

signal the end of alpine farming, which has traditionally provided habitats for a multitude of species. The urban belts of towns and cities are eating their way further and further into the mountain landscape. The gradual process of climate change is also contributing to this negative trend. Up to 45 per cent of plant species in the Alps are threatened with extinction by 2100.

For decades now CIPRA has been committed to biological diversity in the Alps. In 2009, the year preceding the international year of biodiversity, it promoted efforts aimed at preserving the rich diversity of flora and fauna with a number of projects. The organisation's international bias plays a key role in overcoming limitations relating to people, plants and animals. Find out more about biodiversity in the Alps and CIPRA's activities in our Annual Report 2009. Happy reading!

**Dominik Siegrist**

President, CIPRA International

Director of the Berchtesgaden National Park, Michael Vogel, is working to network animals, plants and people in the Alps.



## NATURE ABHORS BORDERS

ECOLOGICAL CONTINUUM AND ECONNECT

**CIPRA sees itself as something of a networker. And this applies to nature conservation as well. It brings officials, local authorities and scientists together, regardless of national borders. After all, animal and plant migrations don't stop at border barriers either.**

“If you want to get two farmers to sit down at a table, you'll have to slay one of them first”, says Josef Hohenwarter, quoting a folk tune from his home town of Weissbach in the Salzburger Land as he pushes a vase of cowslips into the centre of the table as if to symbolise the defunct farmer. As a master baker, the 42-year-old has the irony it takes to find the brutal saying funny; but as the mayor of Weissbach he knows the truth at its core – especially if the two farmers are meant to be talking about nature conservation.

The man sitting opposite him, Michael Vogel, Director of the Berchtesgaden National Park, also laughs at the saying. Both men have agreed to meet at the Gasthof Hirschbichl right on the German-Austrian border, a rustic Stube with chequered tablecloths and walls bristling with antlers. A sandstone obelisk in front of the Gasthof marks the border between two states and also the border between a National Park, in which nature is left entirely to its own devices, and the Alpine pastures tended by Weissbach's farmers.

Josef Hohenwarter and Michael Vogel have ambitious plans: their respective territories are at the heart of the 2,000 km<sup>2</sup> pilot region of Berchtesgaden-Salzburg, in which a radical new approach in Alpine nature conservation is to be adopted. The experiment goes by the name of “Econnect” and is being subsidised by the EU in seven pilot regions (see box at page 7). Econnect aims to find ways in which a “consistent ecological continuum” might be achieved in the Alps.

The fundamental concept is that it's not enough to put individual areas under protection; instead, animals and also plants must be allowed to migrate freely between the protected areas – across borders and artificial man-made barriers such as roads, fields and settlements. Otherwise the protected areas remain islands that cannot ensure the survival of the species. Biodiversity declines as a result and, along with it, the stability of the entire ecosystem.

Michael Vogel and Josef Hohenwarter have hatched many a project together. The first was the route of the “Alpine Experience

Bus”, which takes visitors through the National Park into the Salzburger Land, and also calls in at Gasthof Hirschbichl. The second was an Alpine cheese dairy featuring a small exhibition. The contact between people across the border works well. Now it's time for the animals to follow suit. “We know far too little about the migration of amphibians, reptiles and insects across the green border”, says Michael Vogel. “Where are the barriers? Where can we restore ecological corridors?”

Visitors to the Berchtesgaden National Park are astonished that in recent years they have seen so few butterflies. And biologists who on the German side have come across decades-old droppings from horseshoe bats have been searching in vain for a current population. “Why aren't there any horseshoe bats flying across from the Salzburger Land any more?” asks Michael Vogel.

When flying from their overnight location to their hunting ground, bats use the vegetation that grows along streams and rivers to find their way. They emit ultrasound waves that bounce off trees

and shrubs. But if farmers have been clearing the trees and shrubs along river banks to extend their arable land, the bats lose their bearings. They are forced to restrict their flying and hunting radius. In extreme cases the connection between two bat populations may be broken, and each population is forced into incest and ultimate decline. So it's of little use if the overnight location and the hunting ground are situated in two different protected areas.

Amphibians need pools and lakes for spawning in summer and undergrowth for hibernating in winter. These two biotopes have to be close to each other and not separated by busy roads. Hedgehogs and red-backed shrike love the hedges and bushes that line the edge of forests. When they migrate, they carry pollen with them on their spines and feathers, thereby helping plants to propagate. Nature needs bridges and corridors.

The pilot region of Berchtesgaden-Salzburg is ten times the size of the National Park, which is Michael Vogel's responsibility. His task is to motivate the municipalities to co-operate, along with



land owners, the Provincial Offices for Environmental Protection on both the German and the Austrian side, the forestry commission, environmental associations, and the population.

And of course the farmers of Weissbach. Without their consent, for example, biologists cannot walk across Alpine pastures and count butterfly numbers. And yet particularly in Weissbach, biologists are looking for answers to the question of how well these ecologically vital meadows in the border region are connected and where heavily fertilised meadows represent a barrier: many plant species do not thrive on fertilized soil, and so the butterflies stay away.

If you ask Josef Hohenwarter why getting permission for a butterfly census might be a problem, you'll get an amused smile. Six years ago biologists made their first attempt. But the farmers of Weissbach were not amused: "We're not going to let these ecnuts turn us into a zoo!" There were even rumours of a threat of expropriation. But then, at the second attempt at the beginning of June, the farmers instantly gave their permission.

So what had happened? In two dozen meetings Josef Hohenwarter had managed to convince his farmers that they should upgrade their meadows to be legally recognized as the "Weissbach Nature Park" and as a result get better prices for their milk. In order to obtain nature park recognition, farmers may only mow

their meadows once a year; they must also dispense entirely with fertilizer, and protect ponds from cattle hoofs. Indeed, Weissbach was recognised as a Nature Park in 2007. Since then the farmers have been selling their milk for 85 cents a litre – three times more than the competition in the valley.

Josef Hohenwarter grins broadly as he sips his coffee at Gasthof Hirschbichl: "Now there are waiting lists of farmers wanting to be included in the Nature Park. We have won their support." And with it the basis for new projects. The region is to become barrier-free. That includes fish ladders at weirs, underpasses for amphibians under a busy road, and crossing points for deer at green bridges.

It's 11 am. Michael Vogel has to leave; he gets into his VW bus and drives down a steep track through spruce forests littered with fallen tree trunks rotting away. Mist shrouds the summit of the Watzmann, soaring high above the Königssee. At Aschauerweiher a dozen rangers dressed in hunting green are already waiting for him. One of their duties is to guide groups of visitors through the National Park. As part of Econnect they are to be shown how they can help to collect data on the occurrence of amphibians and reptiles in the course of their hikes. A biologist from Bavaria's programme for the protection of species „Artenhilfsprogramm Kreuzotter“ introduces the rangers to the habits



**Left and above:** Where do snakes, butterflies and salamanders like to live? A game of hide and seek teaches rangers how to gather data on the incidence of amphibians and reptiles for Econnect.

of snakes, butterflies and salamanders, then hides laminated photos along a stream, and lets the group search for themselves. "The yellow-bellied toad likes reeds," he tells them, "and the Apollo butterfly is fond of the blossoms of the Sedum album". The rangers move out and go in search of the photos. As they will do later when out and about, their task is to enter what they find on a form entitled "Unknown diversity in the Berchtesgaden National Park", together with the co-ordinates and a precise description of the site of the find.

In the late afternoon Michael Vogel returns to Berchtesgaden and drives through the narrow streets to the National Park's administrative building, a bright structure with wonderful views over the rooftops and gables of Berchtesgaden's houses, across to the slopes of the National Park. The skeleton of a golden eagle sits regally on Michael Vogel's desk. Two members of the National Park staff entrusted with the Econnect project enter and report on a conference where representatives of the seven pilot regions exchanged their experiences two years after the start of Econnect. The unanimous feedback is that the most difficult part of the project is getting the local partners to link up. Michael Vogel is not surprised by the findings. "We need the Alpine platform to be able to come up with a project such as this in the first place



**Right:** German Michael Vogel (left) and Austrian Josef Hohenwarter discuss Alpine nature conservation at the Gasthof Hirschbichl on the German-Austrian border.

and get it financed," he explains. "And then we have to implement it locally with our partners."

The foundations for the political and financial support of Econnect are to be secured through the Alpine Convention. The Ecological Network platform provides a forum for nature conservation authorities in all the Alpine states, plus organisations such as CIPRA. "In the past all we saw was our National Park. CIPRA made us realise the benefits of cross-border co-operation throughout the entire Alpine region", says Michael Vogel. "What we particularly appreciate are the incentives from best practice examples from other pilot regions and the scientific data and methodology." Econnect's influence is already being felt beyond the pilot regions. Michael Vogel regularly meets nature conservationists from the nearby Chiemgau Alps and the Tauern range. He is also preparing for a trip to South Korea. The environmental commission there is fascinated by the idea that it is not so much a matter of protecting individual nature reserves, but of establishing linking pastures, bushes, wetland areas, ponds, roof trusses, etc. "For the Koreans it's an entirely new concept".

**Tilman Wörtz (text) and Heinz Heiss (photos)**  
Zeitenspiegel Reportagen

**NETWORKING WORKS** — Since 2002 CIPRA, together with the WWF's Alpine Programme, the Alpine Network of Protected Areas (alparc) and the International Scientific Committee on Research in the Alps (ISCAR), has advocated the networking of habitats in the Alps. The "Ecological Continuum Initiative" is designed to enhance these habitats and facilitate exchanges between them. To this end the four partners not only encourage projects, but also support and network their activities. In 2009, the initiative was funded by Switzerland's MAVA Foundation for Nature to the sum of CHF 384,000 (EUR 269,000). Econnect implements the ideas of the Ecological Continuum Initiative in practical projects, in seven pilot regions across the Alps. The project is being co-financed by the European Union from September 2008 until August 2011 to the sum of CHF 4.86 million (EUR 3.2 million). The Alpine Convention's Ecological Network Platform establishes networks among those political bodies that are of relevance to the ecological continuum, including CIPRA.

[www.econnectproject.eu](http://www.econnectproject.eu) | [www.alpine-ecological-network.org](http://www.alpine-ecological-network.org)



## FEN FELLING

cc.alps

It's 7 am in early summer. A clack, clack sound drifts through the veil of mist hanging over the Ödmoos area of Bavaria. Work is already in full swing. You need to start early, as it gets very hot during the day. Stefan raises his axe and starts to hack away at the clumps of bushes. The 23-year-old is studying forestry science and works as a volunteer restoring the area's natural habitat. He has always had a keen interest in fens and bogs as diverse habitats, ever since he was a boy. And now he also knows that they make a valuable contribution to climate protection.

More than 90 per cent of the bog land in Bavaria is severely degraded. The Ödmoos area near Traunstein has also lost part of its ecological value. Stefan and his colleagues are helping out with the project set up by the Bund Naturschutz in Bayern (BN) to ensure that the bog land is able to thrive again in near-natural conditions. Indeed, only once it has achieved a sufficient size can it contribute towards protecting the climate. If all the bog land areas in Bavaria were returned to near-natural conditions, up to five million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> could be saved each year. That is the equivalent of six per cent of Bavaria's annual emissions. Intact bogs and fens are also the best – and cheapest – flood protection installations around. Why? Because they soak up water like a sponge. As a result, any settlements situated downstream are protected against flooding.

The BN's successful efforts were rewarded by CIPRA with one of its main prizes in a cc.alps competition (see box). The prize money was used in 2009 to purchase additional bog land and to finance other restoration projects. The prize winner has managed to broaden the impact of CIPRA funds. The Free State of Bavaria is subsidising bog land restoration projects to the tune of EUR 8 m via its climate programme through to 2011. As Christine Margraf of BN explains: "The prize was important not just financially,

but above all as a recognition for all the hard work and motivation of the many volunteer workers from organisations, institutes and local authorities". After winning CIPRA's award, the project became better known at an international level.

More maintenance work will also be necessary in future to preserve the vital Latschenhochmoor in Traunstein. Volunteers will regularly remove the emerging spruce, birch, Scots pine and buckthorn shrubs as they tend to draw the water from the boggy soil and prevent the bog-land vegetation from being fully exposed to the sun. Stefan's little sister Lina has also been bitten by the bog bug. She and her youth group recently took part in a field trip to the boggy marshland. Since then her favourite flower is the sundew. She has also decided to help out with the maintenance of the bog land when she's a little older so it can continue to grow and prosper.

**Serena Rauzi**  
CIPRA International

**KEEPING A COOL HEAD IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE** — With its project "cc.alps – climate change: thinking one step ahead", CIPRA is harnessing knowledge on intelligent climate protection and sustainable adaptation measures. One of its focal points is raising the awareness of all those involved. In 2009, the project received funding worth CHF 1.058m from the MAVA Foundation for Nature in Montricher/CH. CIPRA has processed the knowledge obtained and used it to compile background reports on eleven different topics including energy, transport, construction and renovation, energy self-sufficient regions and spatial planning. These CIPRA compacts are regularly posted online at [www.cipra.org/cc.alps-compacts](http://www.cipra.org/cc.alps-compacts). An international conference entitled "Cool Heads in the Hothouse!" held in Bolzano/I in April 2009 was also a great success.

[www.cipra.org/cc.alps](http://www.cipra.org/cc.alps)

# THE CHESTNUT FOREST PLAYS HOST TO A RARE GUEST

ALLIANCE IN THE ALPS  
NETWORK OF MUNICIPALITIES



The little bat somehow looked different. Filigree in form, brownish in colour, and with a ringed wing it huddled in the corner of the nesting box on the chestnut tree. Nicola Zambelli put on his gloves and pulled gently on the wing tip to examine the ring. The biologist's suspicions were confirmed: the animal was not a local but an immigrant that had sought refuge here in the Alto Malcantone, in the Italian-speaking part of Switzerland. It was a Lesser Noctule, which is on the Red List of species threatened by extinction in Europe.

Until that day in the late summer of 2001, very few inhabitants of the Ticino realised that their region's mild climate and its landscape of dense chestnut groves attracted not just tourists during the cold season, but also much quieter guests. Every year the Lesser Noctule, which is 7 cm long and weighs less than 20 g, flies more than 500 km from its summer quarters in eastern

**FRUITFUL CO-OPERATION** — The region of Alto Malcantone/CH with its 27 communities belongs to the "Alliance in the Alps network of municipalities". Through its DYNALP<sup>2</sup> programme, it financially supports projects aimed at preserving and restoring natural environments and naturally occurring species. One such project is a "Study on the ecological value of managed and neglected chestnut forests". The network of municipalities originated with an EU-funded pilot project carried out by CIPRA in 1996/97 to implement the Alpine Convention. Since 2000, CIPRA International has provided the general network secretariat and the project management for DYNALP<sup>2</sup>. Thanks to these many years of co-operation there has been a noticeable increase in the awareness of the importance of nature conservation within the network of municipalities.

[www.alpenallianz.org](http://www.alpenallianz.org)

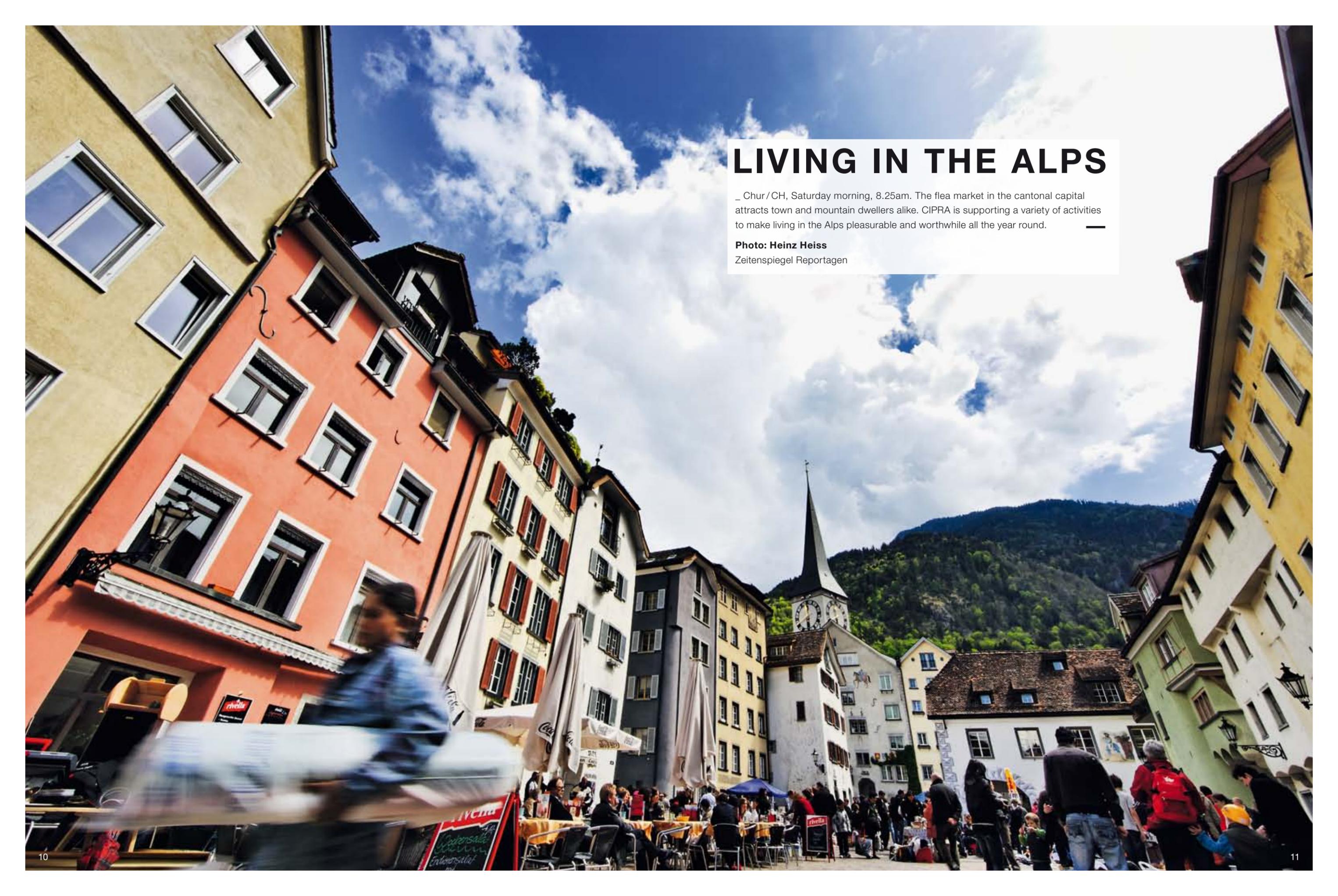
Germany to the Ticino region of Switzerland. The ring provided all the data on its travel routes. The chestnut groves in the Alto Malcantone region, which with its 27 communities is a member of the Alliance in the Alps network of municipalities (see box), are also an important habitat for birds, lizards, butterflies and dormice. The forests are of international significance in helping to preserve biodiversity. And yet they are at risk. Although they are firmly rooted in the region's tradition, their management has been declining over the past few decades.

Knowing more about bats also gives a better understanding of the ecological function of chestnut groves as a whole. Together with other experts, Nicola Zambelli regularly checks the 200 nesting boxes in seven chestnut groves throughout the region. The studies, which are part of the network's DYNALP<sup>2</sup> programme, have shown that the Lesser Noctule prefers managed chestnut forests to unmanaged ones. For the people of Ticino, this is one more reason to promote traditional management.

Seven years and 10,000 field surveys later Nicola Zambelli set off – along with the Lesser Noctule – to report on the interaction between bats, chestnut groves and the people of the Ticino. At international symposia, congresses and conferences he spoke of the bats' adventurous travels across national borders. Back home Nicola Zambelli took young and old on guided tours through the chestnut groves to show them the bats in their nesting boxes, and to give slide presentations in schools. Compared with earlier times when bats were considered unclean and were killed as a result, the Lesser Noctules now have nothing to fear from people – at least not in Ticino.

**Claire Simon**  
CIPRA International

Photo left: Bund Naturschutz Ostallgäu, Photo centre: Bund Naturschutz Traunstein, Photo right: Andreas Götz, CIPRA International



# LIVING IN THE ALPS

\_ Chur/CH, Saturday morning, 8.25am. The flea market in the cantonal capital attracts town and mountain dwellers alike. CIPRA is supporting a variety of activities to make living in the Alps pleasurable and worthwhile all the year round. —

**Photo: Heinz Heiss**  
Zeitenspiegel Reportagen



Build a passive house like the Carlo family's detached home in Schellenberg/FL, and you're acting sustainably, protecting the climate and contributing to regional development, as advocated by CIPRA across the Alps with climalp.

## DISCOVERING COMMON GROUND

climalp

— Liechtenstein is a small country, so you're always bumping into people. And although everybody sort of knows everybody else, they don't really. Energy-efficient construction is a bit like that. Or rather, it was until October 2009. It was then that CIPRA, which is better known for using its climalp project (see box) to circulate know-how on energy-efficient construction and renovation throughout the Alps, brought its own people together for a change. So for the first time virtually all the key players involved in energy-efficient construction in Liechtenstein sat around a table together. Political and local authority representatives and experts in the areas of energy, architecture, science and education exchanged their views as part of the CIPRA workshop on "Obstacles and opportunities for energy-efficient construction in Liechtenstein" and got to know their respective viewpoints. What are the obstacles to the development and expansion of energy-efficient construction in Liechtenstein? What obstacles have the biggest impact; which ones are the easiest to eliminate? How can developers be motivated to carry out the energy-efficient renovation of their buildings? The consensus was that Liechtenstein is doing rather well as far as the legislation on new builds is concerned. But there were calls to gradually tighten up the regulations to preserve this pioneering position. It was felt

that the technical development of energy-efficient new buildings had progressed at a high pace, but that it was not being followed through, either by planners and architects or by the population at large. There was a lack of technical know-how among building specialists. There was also a need for action regarding the regulations on building renovation and energy provision. And also with regard to consulting. The participants at the CIPRA meeting mentioned that there were still cases where architects would advise willing developers against an energy-optimised design. There was a need for more information and consulting so that word could get out that energy-efficient construction and living are possible, cheap and pleasant. Many participants only found out at the workshop that their fellow countrymen and women were promoting the issue of energy-efficient construction either individually or within an organisation. For example, representatives of the Liechtenstein Chamber of Architects and Liechtenstein University realised that, in terms of content and programme, they had much more in common than they had previously imagined. The key players in politics, administration, energy, architecture, science and education also realised that joint lobbying would be in everyone's interest and help bring about the vision of energy-efficient construction more quickly. CIPRA will continue to promote this exchange within Liechtenstein – as well as many other projects and activities on energy-efficient construction and renovation throughout the Alps. —

**Anita Wyss**  
CIPRA International

### FOR THE BENEFIT OF COMFORTABLE LIVING, THE CLIMATE AND THE REGIONAL ECONOMY —

CIPRA wants to use the climalp project to demonstrate to a wide audience that energy-efficient houses built using timber sourced from the region help to protect the climate and drive the regional economy. For this reason field trips are organised on a regular basis, such as the one to Vorarlberg in 2009 for representatives of municipalities in the "Alliance in the Alps" network of communities and the national association of French municipalities with forest ownership, FNCOFOR. The background report "CIPRA compact – Construction and Renovation in Climate Change", which was published in German, French, Italian and Slovenian as part of the cc.alps project (see page 8), also draws on climalp's knowledge base. The climalp project is subsidised by Liechtenstein with funding of CHF 100,000 a year.

[www.cipra.org/climalp](http://www.cipra.org/climalp)

## "BOLZANO, THE ENERGY SOURCE"

ASSOCIATION "ALPINE TOWN OF THE YEAR" - BOLZANO'S MUNICIPAL COUNCILLOR HELMUTH MORODER EXPLAINS HOW THE "2009 ALPINE TOWN OF THE YEAR" INTENDS TO ACHIEVE ITS AIM OF BEING CARBON-NEUTRAL BY 2030.

— **Bolzano has just completed its year as "2009 Alpine Town of the Year". How does it feel to be a municipal councillor of one of the first future carbon-neutral towns in the Alpine region?**

Helmuth Moroder: Very satisfying. The Climate Plan was unanimously adopted by the Municipal Council on 4 March 2010. That's an extraordinary result in itself, one I would never have dreamed of achieving. Of course it's a long-term vision, but I'm convinced the Climate Plan is one of the most important projects the town has ever adopted in its history.

**In practical terms what does the Plan actually involve?**

With its natural resources such as sunshine and its rivers Bolzano has a great source of energy; but it also has huge potential for energy savings. The Plan takes account of three aspects. By renovating existing buildings with energy-saving measures the town intends to cut energy costs by EUR 23 million a year. In the transport sector the town is banking on public transport and on people getting about on foot or by bicycle. And as for renewable energy, the Plan has some ambitious targets: photovoltaic and solar systems are to be installed on the roofs of buildings, and three run-of-river hydroelectric plants are to be built on one of the town's three rivers.

**By when can it achieve its carbon-neutral status?**

We believe that 2030 is realistic and we're relying on the positive response we've had from the local economy. Indeed, there are huge economic benefits attached to realising this objective. If we succeed in fully utilising the energy-saving potential that exists in buildings and mobility, we as a community can save a good EUR 160 million in total. It's money that can then be invested in other areas. If for example we draw up a building rehabilitation



plan, we can spend EUR 42 million a year for 20 years on energy-related rehabilitation. These funds flow into the local economy, which means contracts for businesses, tradesmen and planners among others.

**Has there been much resistance this year?**

No, there was no resistance. But since CO<sub>2</sub> cuts are interesting from an economic viewpoint, the opposition has very few arguments to put forward. The Plan is also intended as an incentive message to our citizens; after all, it sets out a method that is realistic, one that can be followed without major sacrifices.

**What does it mean for Bolzano to belong to an international network such as the "Alpine Town of the Year" Association?**

First of all, the title itself and our commitment to the "Alpine Town of the Year" Association helped us to successfully complete the drawing-up of our Plan. Secondly, as a member of the Association, we have the possibility of sharing our experiences with other municipalities. We are all having to deal with similar problems; that means we can learn from one another and use solutions that have been tried and tested elsewhere. —

**Serena Rauzi**  
CIPRA International

### TOWNS AS A KEY TO CLIMATE POLICY —

As municipal councillor of Bolzano, one of the largest towns in the Alpine region, Helmuth Moroder launched the plan to achieve carbon-neutral status. Under its terms, the "2009 Alpine Town of the Year" is aiming to be carbon-neutral by 2030. The member towns of the "Alpine Town of the Year" Association founded in 1997 contribute in a major way towards the implementation of the Alpine Convention. They are increasingly aware of their responsibility towards sustainable development and climate change. CIPRA plays a key role in this respect. It provides valuable inputs such as the international climate conference "Cool Heads in the Hothouse" held in Bolzano for a sustainable approach to climate change, as set out by the cc.alps project (see page 8 of this Annual Report). CIPRA International has been running the executive office of the "Alpine Town of the Year" Association since 2003.

[www.alpenstaedte.org](http://www.alpenstaedte.org)



## AND YET IT MOVES!

### ALPINE CONVENTION

\_ Evian/F, March 2009. A huge, windowless room with cold artificial lighting. The only link to nature inside the conference centre is a spectacular bouquet of flowers picked, it would seem, from beyond the Alps. Seated at long tables are the Environment Ministers and State Secretaries of all the Alpine states. The politicians representing the contracting states of the Alpine Convention (see box) have convened for the 10th Alpine Conference. As always, CIPRA is present as an observer organisation. The brief on this particular

morning is to adopt a climate action plan for the Alps. On the table lies a sparse document, the result of two years of preparatory work under France's chairmanship. Alpbach/A, two years earlier. After strong political pressure exerted by CIPRA, the Ministers at the 9th Alpine Conference resolved to draw up a concrete action plan within two years. This meant that CIPRA really had its work cut out. Political pressure had to be maintained, and content specified. CIPRA itself drew up a catalogue of 19 measures and demands. For instance,

it called for the passive house standard to be introduced for all new buildings, for stringent specifications relating to the renovation of existing buildings, and for improved financial subsidies. The efficiency of existing hydroelectric power plants had to be increased instead of building new installations in unspoiled river landscapes. Using examples taken from across the Alps, CIPRA showed that energy production could be tripled by renovating power plants while accompanying ecological measures improved the habitat. At a meeting between CIPRA representatives and the Liechtenstein Environment Minister ahead of the Evian conference, the idea of an architecture competition for sustainable and eco-friendly construction and renovation was floated, with prize money worth EUR 50,000. The idea of the competition was to demonstrate what sustainable construction looks like today, how it promotes the regional economy, and is gentle not just on the climate but also on people's wallets.

And indeed, the idea was approved by the Ministers and State Secretaries in Evian.

**CIPRA'S IDEOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK** \_\_\_ The Alpine Convention is a legally binding state treaty between the eight Alpine states Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Slovenia, Switzerland, and the European Union. Its objectives are the protection and sustainable development of the Alps. They are substantiated in Implementing Protocols on issues such as Transport, Energy, Conservation of Nature, Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development, etc. CIPRA called for such a set of agreements when it was founded in 1952. They were implemented in 1991.

[www.cipra.org/en/alpenkonvention](http://www.cipra.org/en/alpenkonvention)  
[www.alpconv.org](http://www.alpconv.org)

Second result: by agreement with CIPRA, Germany suggested that a study be drawn up to show how the entire Alpine region could become carbon-neutral by 2050. A grand vision to which CIPRA is fully committed. Such a study could highlight the need for action and ways of achieving a future-oriented climate policy for the Alps. This proposal was also adopted. The study is also to be substantiated by means of a large-scale international implementation project.

These two projects are the meagre outcome of the entire action plan. But at least it's something. Without CIPRA's commitment not even these small measures would have been achieved. If the Alpine Convention wants to utilise its potential for co-operation to the full, it has to become much more dynamic and practice-oriented. In other words it has to become active – only then will it do justice to the name "Action Plan".

**Andreas Götz**  
CIPRA International



## SUSTAINABLE RHINE VALLEY WITHOUT BOUNDS

NETWORK BINDING FOUNDATION SCHAAN/FL

\_ The Alpine Rhine Valley is eager to become a pilot region for climate protection. And CIPRA is to assist along the way. An initial assessment of the efforts made is to be drawn up in November 2010.

The history of the project dates back to 2005 and an invitation by the Binding Foundation in Schaan/FL to attend a symposium in Liechtenstein. Its title: "Prospects for a reasonable relationship between nature and society". A big issue, and a select group of participants. They included the Patriarch of Constantinople, a Brazilian bishop, university professors, an orangutan conservationist working in Indonesia, the owner of the world's most successful mail order company, and CIPRA. What they all had in common was that in previous years they had received the "Grand Binding Award for Nature Conservation and Environmental Protection". The Award honours outstanding achievements in preserving natural living environments. The prize money is CHF 50,000 – around EUR 35,000.

The symposium in Liechtenstein was a success. The environmentally minded thinkers gathered at the event formulated a mission statement designed to add new momentum to sustainability, "out of ethical and existential necessity". It stated that the region had to be consolidated as an identity-shaping focus of orientation and activity and strengthen people's emotional ties with nature and environment.

Together with the Alliance in the Alps network of municipalities (see page 9), CIPRA was commissioned to draw up a strategy to help the Alpine Rhine Valley – with its many campaigns and activities spread across three states – become a "model region for sustainability". The budget is CHF 35,000. Meanwhile the "Rheintalische Grenzgemeinschaft", an association of municipalities from the tri-border area of Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Austria, has also come on board. Over the past five years, workshops and other events have been held to sound out the needs of the communities and other stakeholders as well as their commitment, to gather project ideas and much more besides, always in accordance with the mission statement of sustainability. Around 50 political and business representatives met in Gamprin/FL in August 2009 to draw up a list of concrete activities. The first of those projects is to be implemented in 2010.

**Andreas Götz**  
CIPRA International

[www.cipra.org/binding](http://www.cipra.org/binding) (de/fr/it/sl)  
[www.binding.li](http://www.binding.li) (de)

**PR WORK** \_\_\_\_ CIPRA operates at an international level. The media, however, operate at a national level, especially the print media. That's why local PR work is so important for CIPRA. This requires on the one hand a uniform strategy when it comes to stating objectives and, on the other, very different approaches in each individual country.

The network once again proved its worth in 2009. At an international level a number of media concepts were drawn up and co-ordinated; at a national level these were then implemented and their impact in the media was monitored. The largest joint PR operation conducted by CIPRA was in November, ahead of the International Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, with its presentation to the media of the results of the cc.alps climate project (see page 8 of this Annual Report).

A survey among some 2,000 media representatives showed that they consult CIPRA first and foremost to obtain information on environmental issues. Another finding that we have taken to heart is that although CIPRA is important, it is known only to insiders, particularly in the German-speaking countries and Slovenia. This has strengthened our resolve to pursue and intensify our professional approach to PR work.

[www.cipra.org/de/presse](http://www.cipra.org/de/presse) (de/fr/it/sl)



**ALPSINSIGHT** \_\_\_\_ After 25 years, the erstwhile information bulletin CIPRA Info 2009 has been given a more professional makeover and a new name. As SzeneAlpen, Alpenscène, Alpinscena, Alpe na odru, CIPRA's feature magazine is now published two to four times a year and provides a topical review of the work of CIPRA International, any number of Alpine issues, and the problems and possible solutions facing the Alpine region. One characteristic of the magazine is that it addresses these issues Alpine-wide – and in the four main languages of the Alps: German, French, Italian and Slovenian.

Three issues of the magazine were published in 2009. Schengen for Flora and Fauna explained why only networked habitats are able to maintain their diversity. It is based on the Ecological Continuum Initiative (see pages 4 to 7 of this Annual Report). Mount Disney looked at how mankind uses mountains as a stage setting. In the Name of Climate Protection examined what we as human beings are doing to tackle climate change (see cc.alps on page 8). There has been a great deal of positive feedback showing how much the new AlpsInsight is appreciated by its readership.

[www.cipra.org/szenealpen](http://www.cipra.org/szenealpen) (de/fr/it/sl)

**WEB** \_\_\_\_ The Web is a key communication tool for international organisations such as CIPRA. As an information platform, the CIPRA website offers almost unlimited opportunities. It is characterised by the fact that it is posted in five languages and boasts a wealth of information. It currently features more than 78,000 individual pages with news, events and publications, and has information on projects, the Alpine Convention, CIPRA and its national representatives, and service pages for media representatives and subscribers.

The website is proving increasingly popular: in 2009 it had a third more hits than the previous year. Over 400,000 visitors clicked some 1.2 million times on pages within the www.cipra.org site. More than a quarter were from Germany, around 18 per cent from Italy and Switzerland, and between 9 and 11 per cent from France, Austria and Slovenia. More than half the hits took users to the pages of alpMedia, CIPRA's information service.

[www.cipra.org](http://www.cipra.org)

**ALPMEDIA** \_\_\_\_ CIPRA's information service is read, appreciated, passed on, sometimes criticised, and often praised. By the end of 2009, more than 24,000 people within the Alps and beyond had subscribed to the four-language newsletter. More than half the readership comes from within the German-speaking region, just under 20 per cent of our newsletters are sent out in Italian and French, and Slovenian and English readers account for around five per cent each. The Alpine-wide newsletter and the alpMedia web portal were made even more reader-friendly in 2009. alpMedia published around 300 items of news, drew attention to more than 105 events, and provided information on many new publications relating to issues that are specifically Alpine. Besides topical news, we also posted online a number of background reports on subjects such as "Energy", "Nature Conservation" and "Construction and Renovation" in the face of climate change, all complemented with additional information.

[www.cipra.org/en/alpmedia](http://www.cipra.org/en/alpmedia)

**CIPRA EXPRESS** \_\_\_\_ Since the beginning of 2009, CIPRA's in-house newsletter has been steaming its way through the Alps – promptly, directly and always with a touch of humour. "In-house" is of course meant in the broadest possible sense. The CIPRA express is dispatched two to four times a year, not just to people working at the CIPRA representative offices in the seven Alpine countries, but also to around 100 member organisations and individual members across the entire Alpine arc – ensuring that the Slovenians know what the French are currently up to, and the Germans can find out how the Italians are tackling certain issues. In this way CIPRA brings countries together, helping them to experience CIPRA as a likeable, internationally networked organisation dedicated to life in the Alps with know-how, verve and plenty of humour.

# TIME TO SHELVE THE GROWTH MODEL

YEARLY SYMPOSIUM 2009 GAMPRIN/FL "GROWTH COME HELL OR HIGH WATER?". ANDREAS GÖTZ, DIRECTOR OF CIPRA INTERNATIONAL, ON DECLINING GROWTH AND ITS REPERCUSSIONS FOR THE ALPS.



It is not enough simply to tweak the growth model previously used. What we need is a fundamental reorientation; it is crucial that growth in the West's industrial nations be reined in. And the Alps have to do their bit.

#### At its Yearly Symposium in Gamprin/FL, CIPRA formulated ten theses. What is it hoping for?

This catalogue is designed to raise people's awareness of issues such as growth, its finite nature, and potential contraction scenarios. It is intended to highlight potential areas of action for the Alps such as climate policy, regional economic cycles, spatial planning and mobility, and show that limited growth is also an opportunity. For science and the economy, the issue of contraction is no longer an unknown concept. But it still is for politics.

#### \_ CIPRA is calling for ideas on satisfaction, subsistence and happiness. What does that mean for the Alps?

Andreas Götz: There are clear limitations to the simplistic formula of wanting to achieve prosperity and quality of life through economic growth. Everyone understands that nature cannot grow indefinitely. The same is true of the economy; after all, it too thrives on natural resources and they are also limited. As sensitive ecosystems the Alps are particularly affected by ecological change – with serious repercussions on their economy and their social and cultural life.

#### CIPRA sees the Alps as a profiteer and a victim of growth. What needs to be rectified?

Our economy is based almost entirely on oil. But there is going to be less and less of that in future; in fact the amounts extracted annually will peak in a few years' time. The financial and economic crisis has accentuated the urgency for a new way of thinking and acting. There is no future, economically or ecologically, in going back to the old ways and simply doing more of the same.

“Even nature cannot grow indefinitely”

CIPRA is calling on people to address this contraction process head on. The Yearly Symposium has shown that there are no simple formulas; instead there are many possibilities for preserving the quality of life in the Alps even within a scenario of declining growth – in fact that quality of life might even improve.

#### What is CIPRA's role in all of this?

CIPRA is not afraid of tackling difficult issues. It processes the findings of science and research and makes them available to a broader audience. And so it contributes substantially to the decision-making process and helps to plot the right course so that even in fifty years' time life in the Alps will still be well worth living.



Over 200 participants and speakers take the opportunity to exchange views and learn about growth and decline at CIPRA's annual symposium in Gamprin/FL.

## CIPRA PREPARES A SEED BED FOR NEW IDEAS IN THE ALPINE REGION

\_ CIPRA addressed a broad range of issues at its Yearly Symposium entitled "Growth come hell or high water? The Alps in search of happiness" in Gamprin/FL in September. A look at the global cycles and modes of action provided the framework for the topic. CIPRA also looked at the close ties with the Alps, where those global cycles have an impact, and promoted dialogue at various levels. The Symposium was very favourably received by more than 200 participants from all the Alpine countries.

In its abstract, CIPRA also called for a fundamental reorientation of economic policy. Key elements included ecological tax reforms and a new climate change policy. It advocated replacing the prevailing compulsion for growth with regional economic cycles. Reducing overcapacity and dismantling infrastructure should no longer be taboo. Instead CIPRA wants to draw up positively charged visions for declining regions and highlight opportunities that emphasise welfare and happiness rather than growth.

CIPRA is also calling for a reversal of trend when it comes to nature and landscape use. Finally, what is also needed – besides initiative – is a future-oriented "Alpine foreign policy" that ensures suitable outline conditions and policies at a national level, in the European Union and on a global scale. The Alpine Convention can help contribute towards "global governance", i.e. a global regulatory and structural policy.

**Barbara Wülser**  
CIPRA International

[www.cipra.org/de/jf09](http://www.cipra.org/de/jf09) (de/fr/it/sl)

# THE NATIONAL CIPRA REPRESENTATIONS AND THEIR MEMBERS

Schaan  
**CIPRA Liechtenstein**  
[www.cipra.li](http://www.cipra.li)

- Botanisch-Zoologische Gesellschaft
- Fischereiverein Liechtenstein
- Liechtensteiner Alpenverein
- Liechtensteiner Forstverein
- Liechtensteinischer Imkerverein
- Liechtensteinische Jägerschaft
- Liechtensteinische Gesellschaft für Umweltschutz
- Liechtensteinischer Ornithologischer Landesverband
- Solargenossenschaft Liechtenstein
- Verkehrs-Club Liechtenstein

Additional partner organizations:

- Verein Holzkreislauf
- Liechtensteinischer Imkerverein

Interlaken  
**CIPRA Schweiz**  
[www.cipra.ch](http://www.cipra.ch)

- Pro Natura
- WWF Schweiz
- Schweizer Alpen-Club
- Schweizer Vogelschutz/BirdLife Schweiz
- Stiftung Landschaftsschutz Schweiz
- Schweizer Heimatschutz
- Verkehrsclub der Schweiz
- Alpen-Initiative
- Mountain Wilderness Schweiz
- Naturfreunde Schweiz
- Rheinaubund
- Schweizerische Greina-Stiftung
- Grimselverein
- Fondazione Uomo Natura

Grenoble  
**CIPRA France**  
[www.cipra.org/france](http://www.cipra.org/france)

- Association des amis du parc naturel régional de Chartreuse
- Centre de la Nature Montagnarde
- Fédération française des clubs alpins et de montagne
- Fédération française de montagne et d'escalade
- Fédération française de randonnée pédestre
- Fédération Rhône-Alpes de protection de la nature
- Fédération française union touristique des amis de la nature
- Mountain Wilderness France
- Parc National des Ecrins
- Parc National de la Vanoise
- Parc National du Mercantour
- Parc naturel régional de la Chartreuse
- WWF France
- Association pour le Développement en Réseau des Territoires et des Services
- Association nationale des centres et des foyers de ski de fond et de montagne
- Conservatoire des Espaces Protégés de Haute Savoie

Torino  
**CIPRA Italia**  
[www.cipra.italia](http://www.cipra.italia)

- Associazione Ambiente e Lavoro
- Club Alpino Italiano
- Dachverband für Natur- und Umweltschutz in Südtirol
- Federazione Italiana Pro Natura
- Gruppo Italiano Amici della Natura
- Gruppo Ricerche Cultura Montana
- Istituto Nazionale di Urbanistica

Kempen  
**CIPRA Deutschland**  
[www.cipra.de](http://www.cipra.de)

- Bergwacht im Bayerischen Roten Kreuz
- Deutscher Alpenverein
- Landesbund für Vogelschutz in Bayern
- Bund Naturschutz in Bayern

- Verband Deutscher Berg- und Skiführer
- Verein zum Schutz der Bergwelt
- Mountain Wilderness Deutschland
- Naturfreunde Deutschlands e.V.

Wien/Innsbruck  
**CIPRA Österreich**  
[www.cipra.at](http://www.cipra.at)

- Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Berg- und Naturwachen Österreichs
- Naturfreunde Österreich
- Österreichischer Alpenverein
- Österreichischer Forstverein
- Österreichischer Naturschutzbund
- Österreichischer Touristenklub
- Zentralstelle der Österreichischen Landesjagdverbände
- Verband Österreichischer Höhlenforscher
- Kuratorium Wald
- The nine Länder of Austria: Vorarlberg, Tirol, Salzburg, Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Steiermark, Niederösterreich, Wien, Burgenland

Ljubljana  
**CIPRA Slovenija**  
[www.cipra.org/slovenija](http://www.cipra.org/slovenija)

- 87 members

Bozen/Bolzano  
**CIPRA Südtirol**  
[www.cipra.org/de/CIPRA/cipra-suedtirol](http://www.cipra.org/de/CIPRA/cipra-suedtirol)

- Alpenverein Südtirol
- Arche B - Verein für umwelt- und menschengerechtes Bauen und Leben
- Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Vogelkunde und Vogelschutz in Südtirol
- Bund Alternativer Anbauer
- Heimatpflegeverband Südtirol
- Lia per Natura y Usanzas
- Naturfreunde Meran
- Naturtreff Eisvogel
- Plattform Pro Pustertal
- Südtiroler Gesellschaft für Gesundheitsförderung
- Südtiroler HochschülerInnenschaft
- Umweltschutzgruppe Vinschgau

- Verband Südtiroler Berg- und Skiführer
- Verbraucherzentrale Südtirol

Local groups:  
 Transitinitiative Südtirol/Sudtirolo – Umweltgruppe Andrian – Umweltgruppe Bozen – Umweltgruppe Brixen – Umweltgruppe Eppan – Umweltgruppe Jenesien – Umweltgruppe Kaltern – Umweltgruppe Olang – Umweltgruppe Salurn – Umweltgruppe Terlan – Umweltgruppe Ulten – Umweltgruppe Vahrn – Umweltgruppe Vintl – Umweltgruppe Wipptal

Photo: Heinz Heiss / Zeitenspiegel

- Italia Nostra
- Lega Italiana Protezione Uccelli
- Legambiente
- Mountain Wilderness
- Valle d'Aosta Ambiente
- WWF Italia
- Pro Natura Torino
- Parco Nazionale delle Dolomiti Bellunesi

- Parco delle Orobie Valtellinesi
- Parco Nazionale dello Stelvio
- Parco delle Alpi Marittime
- Parco Nazionale della Val Grande
- Federazione Italiana di Parchi e delle Riserve Naturali
- S.O.S. Dolomites
- Servizio Glaciologico Lombardo
- Istituto Piante da Legno e Ambiente

**Sustaining member**

- Nederlandse Milieugroup Alpen, Netherlands

## TEAM CIPRA INTERNATIONAL



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Executive Director



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project manager  
"Alliance in the Alps"



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**Caroline Begle (A)**  
Webmaster



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Data input clerk



**Kirsten Dittrich (D)**  
Layout

**Interns:**

Fabian Lippuner (CH), Catherine Frick (CH), Regina Preissler (D), Andrea Skiba (D), Lisa Alexandridou (GR), Elisabeth Mair (I)

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF CIPRA INTERNATIONAL



**Dominik Siegrist (CH)**  
President



**Helmuth Moroder (I)**  
Deputy President



**Katharina Lins (A)**  
Deputy President



**Jernej Stritih (SI)**  
Deputy President



**Josef Biedermann (FL)**  
Treasurer

## FINANCES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In 2009, CIPRA International posted income of CHF 2.879 m and expenditure of CHF 2.842 m, resulting in a profit of around CHF 37,000. Reserves totalling CHF 40,000 were also established. The bulk of the income stemmed from project revenues, although here CIPRA acted in part merely as a clearing centre for various foundations and passed on the monies to its project partners.

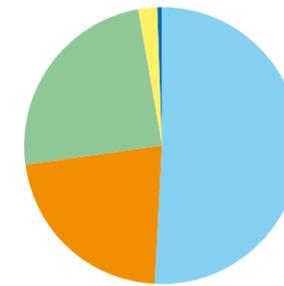
Just under one third of the expenditure went on PR and political work, which notably included the publication of the topical magazine AlpsInsight and the three-weekly alpMedia newsletter as well as political activities at the Alpine Convention and at a European level. Project work accounted for the remaining two thirds, divided more or less equally between third-party costs and fees on the one hand and wages and salaries on the other.

As at the end of 2009, CIPRA International's assets amounted to around CHF 300,000.

The annual financial statements and accounts of CIPRA International were verified by the independent auditors Revitrust AG in Schaan/FL.

**Where the money came from**

Almost half of CIPRA International's income stemmed from project revenues.

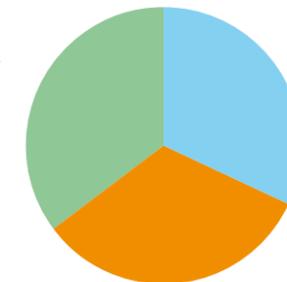


Project revenues	1,466,579 CHF
Services provided to third parties	634,288 CHF
State contributions	700,705 CHF
Membership fees	67,500 CHF
Other revenues	10,610 CHF

**Where the money went to**

The monies of CIPRA International were expended in equal parts on the areas of PR, policy and administration, material costs, fees, and wages and salaries.

PR, policy and administration	910,125 CHF
Projects: material costs/fees	930,773 CHF
Projects: wages & salaries	1,001,367 CHF



We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the MAVA Foundation for Nature in Montricher/CH, which made the largest contribution to project financing. Next were state contributions, particularly from Liechtenstein, which as CIPRA's domicile is very generous with its support and ensures that we are able to organise our activities under very good conditions. An important contribution also came from Switzerland while other states endowed the national CIPRA representatives with some very significant funding and project subsidies.

Next were services rendered to third parties such as the Alliance in the Alps network of municipalities, and the Alpine Town of the Year Association. Equally important were the contribution payments made by our member organisations, legitimising our status as an Alpine-wide network.

CIPRA would like to thank its financial backers:

**MAVA Foundation for Nature**  
[www.mava-foundation.org](http://www.mava-foundation.org)

**Principality of Liechtenstein**  
[www.llv.li](http://www.llv.li) (de)

**Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), Switzerland**  
[www.bafu.admin.ch](http://www.bafu.admin.ch)

**Aage V. Jensen - Charity Foundation**  
[www.avjcf.org](http://www.avjcf.org)

**European Union, Interreg Alpine Space Programm**  
[www.alpine-space.eu](http://www.alpine-space.eu)

**Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety**  
[www.bmu.de](http://www.bmu.de)

**French Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Maritime Affairs**  
[www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr](http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr) (fr)

CIPRA International thanks its clients:

**"Alliance in the Alps" network of municipalities**  
[www.alpenallianz.org](http://www.alpenallianz.org)

**"Alpine Town of the Year" Association**  
[www.alpenstaedte.org](http://www.alpenstaedte.org)

**Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Germany**  
[www.bfn.de](http://www.bfn.de)

**Binding Foundation Schaan/FL**  
[www.binding.li](http://www.binding.li) (de)

Photos: CIPRA International

CIPRA, the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps, is a non-governmental umbrella organisation with representatives in seven Alpine states of Germany, France, Italy, Liechtenstein, Austria, Switzerland, Slovenia and regional representatives in South Tyrol/I. It represents around 100 associations and organisations from across the Alps. CIPRA works for sustainable development in the Alps. It advocates the conservation of natural and cultural heritage, the preservation of regional diversity and solutions to cross-border issues in the Alpine region. It was founded on 5 May 1952 and is domiciled in Schaan in the Principality of Liechtenstein. CIPRA's status as a non-profit organisation is recognised by the tax authorities of Liechtenstein. Its guiding principle and its statutes can be found on the Internet at [www.cipra.org](http://www.cipra.org).

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