

Joint action for the Alps - conserve, connect and restore

Alpine Biodiversity Conference, 12 June
ForumAlpinum 2024, 13-14 June

Kranjska Gora, Slovenia



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND SPATIAL PLANNING



ALPENKONVENTION
CONVENTION ALPINE
ALPSKA KONVENCIJA
CONVENZIONE DELLE ALPI
Slovensko predsedovanje Alpski konvenciji 2023-2024
Slovenian Presidency of the Alpine Convention 2023-2024



Alpine Biodiversity Conference by the Slovenian Presidency of the Alpine Convention

The aim of the Alpine Biodiversity Conference is to present the Alpine Convention's efforts to strengthen biodiversity conservation as a contribution to the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) adopted in 2022. Moreover, the goal is to gather feedback and proposals for forward-looking activities from relevant policymakers, experts, scientists, and representatives of Alpine networks. The Slovenian Presidency of the Alpine Convention will present a draft Policy Brief which will serve as a basis for an in-depth interactive discussion between participants on the three areas of conservation, connectivity, and nature restoration. The conference will also bring in views from the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Carpathian Convention as a contribution to the implementation of the Memorandum of Cooperation signed between the three Conventions.

PROGRAMME

TUESDAY, 11 June 2024

Arrivals and accommodation

20:30 Screening of the film "V kraljestvu Zlatoroga" (In the Kingdom of Zlatorog)

WEDNESDAY, 12 June 2024

9:00 - 17:00 Alpine Biodiversity Conference

Moderation: *Blanka Bartol, Slovenian Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning*

9:00 - 9:30 **Welcome**

Mayor of Kranjska Gora, *Henrika Zupan*

State Secretary in the Slovenian Ministry for Natural Resources and Spatial Planning, *Miran Gajšek*

Secretary General of the Alpine Convention, *Alenka Smerkolj*

Chair of the Alpine Biodiversity Board of the Alpine Convention, *Paolo Angelini*

9:30 - 10:30 **Global Biodiversity Framework and policy inputs**
Convention on Biological Diversity, *David Cooper* (video message)
Carpathian Convention, *Harald Egerer*
Youth Parliament to the Alpine Convention
The Alpine Convention implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework – Policy Brief, *Peter Skoberne, Slovenian Presidency of the Alpine Convention*

10:30 - 11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00 - 12:30 **Parallel interactive sessions with policy and expert inputs**

Workshop 1: Fostering the conservation of biodiversity in the Alps

The workshop will touch on several issues of conservation in the Alps: the conservation of habitats, species, and ecosystem services, as well as related management practices or challenges, both in protected areas and beyond. The state of play in protected areas and some conservation opportunities will be presented in two inputs as impulses for discussion. Recommendations for the Policy Brief will be elaborated during the discussion.

Moderation: *Andrej Arih, Triglav National Park*

Rapporteur: *Claire de Kermadec, Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention*

Inputs:

Alpine Parks – for more biodiversity protection on the horizon 2030 and beyond, *Guido Plasmann, ALPARC*

Retreat of the glaciers as a conservation opportunity?
Pierre-Édouard Guillain, French Ministry of Ecological Transition

Workshop 2: Ensuring connectivity between the core Alps and their surroundings

The workshop will focus on the connectivity concept, highlighting it from two perspectives: the spatial aspect of connectivity, which will be illustrated by experiences and proposals from the first input, and the possible implementation of ecological connectivity into (international) policies and spatial planning frameworks, illustrated by the second input. Recommendations for the Policy Brief will be elaborated in the discussion to follow.

Moderation: *Nadja Penko Seidl, University of Ljubljana*

Rapporteur: *Nathalie Morelle, Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention*

Inputs:

Mapping of priority connectivity areas for spatial planning in the Alpine Space, *Peter Laner, Eurac Research*

Spatial planning for green infrastructure and ecological connectivity, *Constantin Meyer, AlpPlan – Alpine Spatial Planning Network*

Workshop 3: Restoring nature and habitats in the Alps

The workshop will focus on current actions, experiences and ideas regarding the key components of restoration in the Alps. These include the legal framework and policies, implementation measures suitable for various ecosystems and going beyond national borders, the social dimension, and funding. The workshop will combine short inputs with discussions in plenary and groups. Messages or recommendations for the Policy Brief will be the outputs of the workshop.

Moderation: *Bettina Hedden-Dunkhorst, German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation*

Rapporteur: *Irina Kozban, German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation*

Inputs:

Enhancing forest restoration in Slovenia to support close-to-nature management and preserve biodiversity, *Aleš Poljanec and Andrej Breznikar, Slovenian Forest Service*

Making people part of ecosystem restoration, *Irina Kozban, German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation*

Example of stakeholder engagement approach, *Günther Schreder, University for Continuing Education Krems*

Funding opportunities for nature restoration in the Alps, *Matteo Decostanzi, Interreg Alpine Space Programme*

12:30 - 14:00 *Lunch*

14:00 - 15:30 **Continuation of the workshops**

15:30 - 15:45 *Coffee break*

15:45 - 16:45 **Panel discussion and reflections**

Presentation of key messages from the workshops by the moderators

Alpine Biodiversity Board of the Alpine Convention, *Paolo Angelini*

Working Group on Biodiversity of the Carpathian Convention, *Eliška Rolfová*

EUSALP Action Group 7 on Ecological Connectivity and Green Infrastructure, *Miro Kristan*

French Ministry of Ecological Transition, *Pierre-Édouard Guillain*

16:45 - 17:00 **Conclusions and way forward**

Closing of the conference

19:30

Official reception

Address by the President of the Permanent Committee of the Alpine Conference, *Emil Ferjančič*

Address by the Director of Triglav National Park, *Tit Poročnik*, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Triglav National Park

Address by former ISCAR Managing Director, *Thomas Scheurer*, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of ForumAlpinum



ForumAlpinum 2024: The Alps – a Refuge for Bio- and Geodiversity?

by ISCAR

The ForumAlpinum 2024 will focus on biodiversity and geodiversity that are under severe threat worldwide and especially in sensitive ecosystems like the Alps. This ForumAlpinum will identify hotspots of bio- and geodiversity, their monitoring and management in the Alps, analyse land-use conflicts and their impact on bio- and geodiversity, and assess the relevance of bio- and geodiversity protection in the regional, national or international context to discuss possible solutions.

PROGRAMME

THURSDAY, 13 June 2024

8:00 *Registration*

9:00 - 18:30 **ForumAlpinum - ISCAR Scientific Conference**

Room: Plenary room

Moderator: *Irma Potočnik Slavič*

9:00 - 9:15 **Welcome, introduction, and keynote speakers**

Janez Nared, ISCAR President

Alenka Smerkolj, Secretary General of the Alpine Convention

Valerie Braun, Chair of the Scientific Board of ForumAlpinum 2024

9:15 - 9:45 **Keynote 1: Kurt Hanselmann**

The value of science is not just what you find out, but who cares about it

9:45 - 10:15 **Keynote 2: Špela Čonč**

Linking bio- and geodiversity: importance of landforms for the ecology and conservation of the Eurasian Lynx (*Lynx lynx*)

10:15 - 11:00 *Coffee break*



11:00 - 12:30 **Interactive parallel sessions**

Grazing/Alpine pastures

Room: Planica A

Chair: *Andrea Omizzolo*

Bacterial and fungal diversity of Alpine pastures

Giulio Galla, Nadine Praeg, Theresa Rzehak, Matthias Scholz, Filippo Colla, Julia Seeber, Paul Illmer, Heidi C. Hauffe

Climate change effects on agronomic performance and biodiversity in Alpine pastures

Bernd Panassiti, Jörg Ewald, Martina Hofmann, Christina Hartung, Sebastian König, Sebastian Seibold

Vegetation dynamics since 1953 in a part of the Stelvio National Park (Italy)

Katharina Ramskogler, Lèon Lepesant, Erich Tasser

Tourism

Room: Planica B

Chair: *Cristina del Biaggio*

PEMS: People experience of mountain soundscapes

Balandino Di Donato, Iain McGregor

Overtourism or inadequate dispersal – applicative testing of a new monitoring method in Bohinj Lake area, Slovenia

Pija Lapajne, Matevž Premelč, Klemen Strmšnik, Aleksandra Krajnc, Matjaž Harmel

The development of ecotourism and biodiversity conservation in the Albanian Alps

Mirela Tase, Manjola Xhaferri

Biodiversity I

Room: Plenary room

Chair: *Andrej Arih*

A century of rewilding affects mountain biodiversity at different spatial scales

Sonja Wipf, Ruedi Haller, Stefanie Gubler

AtlasFloraAlpina – a new flora online-atlas for the entire Alpine arc

Stefan Eggenberg, Sylvain Abdulhak, Alessio Bertolli, Jörg Ewald, Philippe Juillerat, Adrian Möhl, Brigitte Marazzi, Filippo Prosser, Branko Vreš, Thomas Wilhalm

Eastern Alpine Basophilic Scots Pine and Black Pine Forests in Triglav National Park, Slovenia: Distribution, Vegetation, and Stand Characteristics

Matija Klopčič, Andreja Nève Repe, Matjaž Guček, Andrej Rozman, Valerija Babij, Aleš Poljanec



The Long-Term Biodiversity Index (LBI) – A new tool for monitoring and planning the restoration of abandoned mining areas and landfills
Tobias Köstl, Hanns Kirchmeir

Long-term changes in bio/geodiversity of the Julian Alps – a consequence of climate fluctuations or human influence?
Nina Caf, Maja Andrič

12:30 - 14:00 *Lunch break*

14:00 - 15:30 **Interactive parallel sessions**

New technologies

Room: Planica A

Chair: *Lea Reusser*

Unlocking Nature's Secrets: Digital Twins, eDNA and AI in nature conservation – A glimpse into the BioMONITec Project
Vanessa Berger

Remote sensing for monitoring restoration efforts in Alpine areas
Manuela Hirschmugl, Florian Lippl, Petra Miletich, Corinna Hecke, Larissa Posch, Hanns Kirchmeir

Conceptualising the management of conservation areas: The launch of IPAM Toolbox 2.0

Michael Jungmeier, Vanessa Berger, Hanns Kirchmeir, Dariia Strelnikova

Digital Trails: Harnessing Outdoor and Fitness App Data for Sustainable Tourism Management in Sensitive Ecosystems

Lilia Schmalzl, Isidoro de Bortoli, Karolina Taczanowska

Datafication in outdoor recreation and tourism – emerging potential of Big Data for sustainable management of nature trails in the context of bio- and geodiversity

Karolina Taczanowska, Fruzsina Stefan, David Ganhör, Kamil Choromański, Dariusz Gotlib, Mariusz Ciesielski

Biodiversity and culture / Historic changes

Room: Plenary room

Chair: *Christian Rohr*

Landscape features as the cornerstones of landscape character, identity, and biodiversity

Nadja Penko Seidl, Barbara Kostanjšek, Mojca Golobič

Study Circles to reinforce existing values regarding biodiversity

Daniela Ribeiro, Mateja Šmid Hribar, Patricija Rejec

Dynamics of ecosystem services in response to land use and climate change: A case study in the Italian Alps

Clara Tattoni, Paolo Zatelli, Gianluca Grilli, Marco Ciolli



The Alps: Green or Colourful? From Early-Modern to Post-Modern
Attitude to Meadows
Žiga Zwitter

Water resources & Geodiversity

Room: Planica B

Chair: *Leopold Füreder*

Let's go! Valorisation of spring habitats in an inner-Alpine region
Angelika Abderhalden, Stefanie von Fumetti

Long-term research on springs and springbrooks in the UNESCO
Biosfera Engiadina Val Müstair
Stefanie von Fumetti, Angelika Abderhalden

Warming alpine streams: differential vulnerabilities of aquatic
invertebrates
Georg H. Niedrist, Leopold Füreder

Increasing population trends of non-native fishes in rivers of the
Eastern Alps
Georg H. Niedrist, Andreas Hilpold, Petra Kranebitter

Mountain pasturing and quality of water sources in the
Kamniško-Savinjske Alps
Natalija Špeh, Anja Bubik

Valuing geodiversity in Alpine environments: selected case studies
from Slovenia
Borut Stojilković

15:30 - 16:30 **Coffee break & Poster session**

Posters

Second homes and resilient communities in Alpine resorts –
A geographical approach to multi-local inhabitant footprints in
France, Switzerland, Italy, Austria and Slovenia
Quentin Benoît Guillaume Drouet

Potential of OpenStreetMap for proactive, digital visitor guidance
in ecologically sensitive areas
*David Ganhoer, Karoline Zsak, Manuel Steinbauer, Arne Schwietering,
Fruzsina Stefan, Karolina Taczanowska*

Detection of forest stress from European spruce bark beetle attack in
northern Italy through remote sensing techniques
Matteo Giomo

Plant communities of mountain pastures in the Berchtesgaden region
Christina Hartung, Bernd Panassiti, Jörg Ewald

'I need this water as a driving force' – Introduction of hydroelectric
infrastructure in the villages below the Karawanks, 1904–1908
Sara Šifrar Krajnik

Footprints in the Julian Alps: Identifying hiking hotspots
Jasna Sitar

16:30 - 18:00 **Interactive parallel sessions**

Spatial planning

Room: Planica B

Chair: *Hubert Job*

Alpine Spatial Planning Perspectives: Green infrastructure, energy, and spatial development

Dominik Bertram, Tobias Chilla, Markus Lambracht

A tailored and trans-scalar approach to face the Alpine region's challenges

Luisa Pedrazzini

Planning without planning: Do renewable energy projects endanger open spaces in the Alps while undermining spatial planning frameworks?

Marco Pütz, Arthur Schindelegger, Hubert Job, Constantin Meyer

Monitoring tourism flow to high-altitude mountain and protected areas in the Alps: A cartographic and spatio-market planning methodology

Ahmed Shams

Climate change and the Alpine quality of life: Questioning the status quo of spatial planning in the Alps and its functionality to tackle long-term water security

Kerstin Ströbel

Ecosystem services & connectivity

Room: Planica A

Chair: *Daniela Ribeiro*

Microplastics contamination in high mountain lakes – case of Triglav National Park

Matej Kovač, Andrej Kržan, Irena Mrak

Priority ecological connectivity areas for spatial planning interventions – An in-depth analysis of a potential ecological network and of human barriers in the EUSALP area

Peter Laner, Andrea Omizzolo, Filippo Favilli

Can the concept of ecosystem services help in the management of protected areas?

Ilona Rac, Anže Japelj, Suzana Vurunić, Mateja Šmid Hribar

Finding open spaces: a consensus-based mapping for Swiss mountain regions

Matteo Riva, Felix Kienast, Adrienne Grêt-Regamey



Biodiversity II

Room: Plenary room

Chair: Roland Psenner

Saving Dinaric–SE Alpine Lynx Population as contribution to lynx conservation in the Alps

Rok Černe, Miha Krofel, Urša Fležar, Maja Sever, Tilen Hvala, Matej Bartol, Tomaž Skrbinšek, Miha Marenče, Lado Bradač, Aleš Pičulin, Maruša Prostor

Impact of hybridisation on *Lepus timidus* and *L. europaeus* gut microbiota in the Italian Alps

Lara Marinangeli, Giulio Galla, Barbara Crestanello, Nadine Praeg, Theresa Rzehak, Francesco Nonnis-Marzano, Julia Seeber, Paul Illmer, Heidi Christine Hauffe

Conservation and sustainable management of the Alpine ibex in the cross-border area of the Julian Alps

Andreja Nève Repe, Andrej Arih, Marco Favalli, Maruša Prostor, Jernej Javornik, Aleš Poljanec

More than meets the eye: unravelling anthropic land-use impacts on skin microbiota of an opportunistic amphibian species

Lucia Zanovello, Giulio Galla, Matteo Girard, Stefano Casar, Irene Lo Prest, Paolo Pedrin, Giorgio Bertorelle, Heidi Christine Hauffe

18:00 - 18:30 **Report to the plenary, short reflections and conclusions**

Closure of the conference

FRIDAY, 14 June 2024

8:30-13:00/
8:30-15:00 **Forum Alpinum Excursions (Registered participants only)**

8:30-13:00 **Radovna River valley**

Itinerary (bus and short walks):

Zgornja Radovna: visit of the Pocar Homestead, short walk to the hummocky meadow;

Mojstrana: coffee break; Slovenian Alpine Museum in Mojstrana: visit of the museum and Alpine Convention Infopoint.

The **Pocar Homestead** is a museum-style house, which is considered as one of the oldest homesteads in the Triglav National Park. It also includes an information point, an exhibition and an event space. Pocar Homestead is a cultural monument of national importance.



In 2006, the Triglav National Park received the Europa Nostra Diploma for the Pocar Homestead (European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage in the category of architectural heritage).

The **Slovenian Alpine Museum** illustrates the development and the history of Slovene mountaineering, climbing, and mountain rescue, interwoven with educational and conservational content. Its rich collection of historical objects and artefacts, diversity of photographic, film, book, and museum archives, and an extensive museum library, provide clear insights into the powerful, lasting impact of mountains and mountaineering on Slovenian culture.

8:30-15:00 Soča River valley

Itinerary (bus and short walks):

Stari Tamar (Old Tamar)–Šupca (vista)–the source of the Soča River (short walk);

Trenta: coffee break; visit of the Dom Trenta (Triglav National Park Information Centre); short lunch break;

Soča River – the Great Gorge (short walk); Predil pass.

Stari Tamar – Šupca: an area located along the Tamar River, which is a tributary of the Soča River. The area is attractive to visitors due to its historical significance and well-preserved nature. Šupca offers panoramic views of the Soča Valley and the Julian Alps.

The Dom Trenta is the cultural and social centre of the sparsely populated village Trenta. It presents the cultural landscape, rich ethnological heritage, nature and past life in Trenta, as well as the peculiarities of the Triglav National Park.

Soča River – Great Gorge: also known as the “Emerald Beauty”, the Soča River is renowned for its striking turquoise color, which is the result of the river’s unique limestone bed. It originates in the Trenta valley and flows through the picturesque Julian Alps, carving its way through the stunning landscapes of the Triglav National Park. The Great Gorge is a breathtaking natural wonder of the Soča River with its stunning depth and clear, emerald-green waters and with the dramatic and picturesque landscape of surrounding rocks and cliffs.



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UNIVERZA V LJUBLJANI
Filozofska fakulteta



ACCOMPANYING ACTIVITIES:

12 June 2024
at 17:15
in the Vršič room
(3rd floor)

DINA Project presentation: Coexistence with large carnivores and concern for nature protection – the example of the Municipality of Pivka

The municipality of Pivka is located in the southwestern part of Slovenia in the Karst region of the Dinaric mountains, where as much as 70 % of the municipality is covered by forest. The area contains several Natura 2000 areas and nature is well preserved in the region. Ten years ago, the municipality recognised the wealth of nature here and founded the Pivka intermittent lakes Landscape Park with the aim of protecting special living environments and species as well as water sources in the Pivka Basin.

A great deal of emphasis and activities were focused on awareness-raising and communication activities related to the protection of nature, large carnivores, and how to coexist with them. There are two interpretive centres dedicated to nature in the municipality, the Ecomuseum of the Pivka intermittent lakes and the Dina Centre for Large Carnivores. In the latter, in addition to informing about large carnivores through various activities and guided tours, visitors can learn about nature conservation measures to achieve a successful coexistence of the local population and large carnivores.

During this presentation, communication and awareness-raising activities related to large carnivores and nature protection will be shared, as well as measures taken by the Municipality of Pivka for nature conservation and coexistence with large carnivores.

Speakers:

Tadej Kogovšek, Municipality of Pivka, Pivka intermittent lakes Landscape Park,
Helena Šneberger Mandelj, Dino Pivka Center for Large Carnivores

12-13 June 2024
at the Foyer Planica
(4th floor)

Children's Art Exhibition celebrating Triglav National Park

Throughout its existence, the Triglav National Park Public Institute has been collaborating with schools in organising activities that promote a responsible attitude towards nature and the conservation of cultural heritage. We pay great attention to children's environmental education, ensuring they become responsible visitors to the Triglav National Park and develop a respectful relationship with nature and cultural heritage. Through exploration, children learn the most about nature. We aim for every child to visit Slovenia's only national park at least once, believing that genuine contact with nature fosters responsible behaviour towards the environment and people in adulthood.

To celebrate the park's anniversary, local primary school children have created artworks to extend their congratulations. These pieces reflect their understanding and appreciation of the park's beauty and importance.

12-13 June 2024
on the staircase
of the Ramada Hotel

Exhibition of the "Youth and Life in the Alps" project posters

The project aimed at raising awareness and encouraging young people, from four Jesenice region high schools, to protect the Alpine environment in which they live.