

“FUTURE IN THE ALPS” IS LOOKING FOR ANSWERS TO SIX QUESTIONS



Zukunft in den Alpen
Avenir dans les Alpes
Futuro nelle Alpi
Prihodnost v Alpah
Future in the Alps

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The Future in the Alps Project is borne by the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA) and financed by the MAVA Foundation for Nature Conservation. Through the Project, CIPRA is contributing towards sustainable development in the Alpine region and the implementation of the Alpine Convention.

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THREE PROJECT PARTS: GATHERING KNOWLEDGE, PROVIDING KNOWLEDGE AND APPLYING KNOWLEDGE

The Future in the Alps Project is based on six fundamental issues compiled jointly by the Project's core team and by outside experts. They are to be addressed in the **three separate parts of the Future in the Alps Project**.

For each issue the existing knowledge from research and practice is to be gathered in **alpKnowhow**. The collated data is based on both study work (specialist literature, media, etc.) and discussions with researchers, project managers and key players from the Alpine regions. A rating system developed as part of the Future in the Alps Project is to be used to select the knowledge base. The knowledge base and the examples of good practice are to be pooled and then interpreted and summarised in keeping with the six issues of the Future in the Alps Project. The knowledge obtained in this way is to be made available in a database.

The alpKnowhow contents will then be used to compile **alpService** offers that are made available to anyone involved in research and practical work. The existing knowledge will be implemented in several languages for projects and networks closely related to actual practice. For this purpose there are plans to provide an interactive database-supported internet site and to organise conferences, seminars, teaching and learning aids, further training courses for players from the regions, and a Third Alpine Report.

The **alpPerformance** part of the Project represents the actual implementation and activity level of Future in the Alps, and is to be borne by project managers and players from the regions. Using existing or planned pilot projects supported and monitored by alpService, alpPerformance is to put the knowledge gained from Future in the Alps into practice and also to generate new practical knowledge for sustainable development in the Alps. Networks such as the "Alpine Enterprise" are to be created so that enterprises in the Alpine region that adopt an innovative and sustainable approach to their business activities are able to achieve a deeper exchange of knowledge and experience, close business relations and new co-operation ventures over the term of the Project.



TEAMWORK FOR FUTURE IN THE ALPS

The six issues are to be addressed in small teams. Each issue is to comprise a detailed concept that defines the situation as it currently stands in each case, the tasks to be addressed, the objectives and target groups, the cross-references to other the issues, and the detailed steps and products, complete with schedule and costing. The questions are also to be processed using a glossary, a rating system for selecting the knowledge and examples of good practice, and a list of outline conditions and scenarios for the teams to use in their research and synthesis work. The research questions that emerge from the discussion of the six project issues are to be forwarded to the interested agencies and bodies. The six questions and the tasks to be addressed in Future in the Alps are summarised over the next few pages.

Each of the six issues that make up the Future in the Alps Project has theme-related cross-references to the other issues. Issue 5 (New Forms of Decision Making) and Issue 6 (Repercussions of Policies and Instruments) in particular are very much interlinked. The teams addressing Issues 1 to 4 and their related tasks will therefore explicitly include the topics of Issues 5 and 6. The teams addressing Issues 5 and 6 will then collate, complement and summarise the results. The core team of the Future in the Alps Project acts as an important interface and ensures a regular exchange between the teams processing the six issues.



ISSUE 1: REGIONAL VALUE ADDED

How can endogenous potential for creating product and service chains with a high regional value added be used successfully?

Task 1: To publicise successful regional value-added chains and co-operation ventures

The Future in the Alps Project compiles examples of good practice into successful regional value-added chains and networks that make use of economic, cultural and natural endogenous resources. How can the landscape be developed to advantage in this context? The value-adding chains and networks under consideration range from the extraction of raw materials to the processing and marketing, and include examples from different economic sectors such as trade and industry, agriculture and tourism, as well as cross-sector examples. The examples of good practice are analysed with regard to their success factors, and the results then circulated throughout the Alps.

The examples of good practice obtained then provide the basis for establishing the “Alpine Enterprise”, a network of enterprises in the alpine region which adopt a sustainable and innovative approach to their activities. The network will include a wide range of players such as agricultural and commercial enterprises, tourist enterprises, sanctuary administrations, and many more. The Alpine Enterprise network is to enable its participating players a deeper exchange of knowledge and experience, close business relations, and new co-operation ventures, beyond the term of the Project itself.

Task 2: To analyse potential for regional value added and generate concepts for the future

To ensure that innovative projects can be initiated and specifically promoted, Future in the Alps is also gathering knowledge on the economic potential available for regional value added and the outline conditions under which it is available in the Alps. How can endogenous resources be lastingly and sustainably developed to advantage? We'll be incorporating current research findings, expert knowledge and practical knowledge from Task 1, and highlighting successful economic structures for the future across the Alps. In doing so Future in the Alps intends to contribute towards ensuring that promotion regulations implemented by politics and administrative agencies are oriented towards a



sustainable future.



ISSUE 2: GOVERNANCE CAPACITY

What is it – other than economic and ecological aspects – that prompts people to stay in the Alps or to move to the Alps? How can we consolidate the governance capacity of individuals and communities?

Besides economic considerations and environmental aspects, social factors also play an important role in people's decisions either to stay in the Alps or to move there in the first place. A functioning community system comprising health care facilities, child minding and assistance for old people, educational establishments, cultural events, etc., allows people to realise themselves and their lives within the community. All these factors contribute towards making people "feel at home" in a given location.

How can the governance capacity of individuals and communities be preserved or even improved, in both urban and rural regions? What is the significance of regional identities in this context?

In Issue 2 the Future in the Alps Project focuses on gathering and disseminating knowledge and examples of good practice relating to the aforementioned issues. The knowledge compiled is used to formulate conclusions that can be taken into account in the Population and Culture Chapter of the Alpine Convention.



ISSUE 3: PROTECTED AREAS

Under what circumstances do large protected areas represent instruments of sustainable development and at the same time suitable instruments for protecting natural diversity?

Task 1: To raise the awareness of how protected areas contribute towards regional development

By collecting and analysing examples of good practice Future in the Alps is to highlight the conditions under which protected areas can contribute towards regional value added, and make this knowledge available throughout the Alps. At the focal point are cross-sector co-operation projects by the protected area management with tourism, agriculture, commercial enterprises, and other regional value-added sources. Future in the Alps differentiates the examples it collects according to the type of region and the category of protection. The examples of good practice are used to identify and compile successful development strategies for protected areas. What economic and ecological changes can be brought about and controlled by protected areas? The answers to these questions are designed to help align promotion regulations in politics and administration with the sustainable development of protected areas.

Task 2: To showcase the benefits of large-scale protected areas and their networking in preserving biodiversity

By collating and processing projects and examples Future in the Alps is to determine the contribution which protected areas and large-scale protected areas in particular – and their networking through ecological channels – can make towards preserving biodiversity. In a concerted action the WWF, the Network of Alpine Protected Areas, the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps and the International Scientific Community for Alpine Research identified those regions which are to be protected as a matter of priority due to their outstanding biological diversity. How do these priority nature conservation regions overlap with existing protected areas, and how can they be better included in the planning of future protected areas? The results obtained from addressing these issues will be published throughout the Alps, enabling the assessment and development of large-scale protected areas aimed at successfully promoting biodiversity.



ISSUE 4: LEISURE, TOURISM AND COMMUTER MOBILITY

How are mobility and the development of regional structures connected? What solutions are there to fast growing leisure, tourism and commuter mobility?

Task 1: To highlight the connection between mobility and the development of regional structures

Future in the Alps is to gather and process current knowledge on the subject of mobility in the Alps, focusing on the question of how mobility and the development of regional structures in the Alpine region are connected. Future in the Alps is to circulate the existing knowledge throughout the Alps.

Task 2: To raise the awareness of key players and the general public for sustainable mobility solutions

Future in the Alps is to gather examples of good practice within and outside the Alps involving leisure, tourism and commuter mobility. What do successful formulas for 'a slower pace' look like? How can key players and the general public be made more aware of sustainable mobility solutions? The Project aims to use this knowledge to bring about changes in behaviour among key players in politics and administration, planners and the general public, and to contribute towards improving the significance of sustainable forms of mobility in the Alps. The examples will be processed and published throughout the Alps.



ISSUE 5: NEW FORMS OF DECISION MAKING

What new forms of decision-making are the most promising with regard to sustainable development when it comes to negotiating regional planning demands?

Task 1: To highlight the significance of participation and new decision-making processes

How can new forms of decision making be used to arrive at sustainable solutions, particularly when it comes to negotiating the demands of regional planning in terms of sustainable development? Future in the Alps is to summarise the current standard of knowledge with regard to participation and publish the findings throughout the Alps. Special emphasis is to be placed on the issues of “decision making” and “good governance”.

Task 2: To publicise and implement new forms of decision making

Future in the Alps is to gather examples of good practice for new forms of decision making and participation. The examples are to be selected in accordance with their topical relevance to Issues 1 to 4 and 6. Examples of new regional compensatory models are also to be highlighted. By processing the examples of good practice Future in the Alps intends to contribute towards ensuring that new forms of decision making, participation and good governance are applied more effectively in the Alps when negotiating the demands of regional planning.



ISSUE 6: IMPACT AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES AND INSTRUMENTS

What sort of impact do policies and instruments have on future regional development? How should these policies and instruments be adapted to contribute more effectively to sustainable development? How can policy assessment and research processes be improved to help reduce the gap between recommendations and practical implementation?

Task 1: To highlight the impact of policies and the scope available to players

With Issue 6 Future in the Alps again sums up the current level of knowledge available on the impact of policies and instruments on future regional development in the Alpine region, and proposals on how to adapt it. What sort of scope do which players have? How is this scope utilised? What are the possibilities and the limitations of political controllability? Future in the Alps will use the answers to these questions to help clarify the scope available to the various players in the Alpine region, to communicate this knowledge clearly, and as a result bring about changes in behaviour among key players in politics and administration.

Task 2: To shape policy recommendations in a practical way

The Future in the Alps Project is to use selected projects to examine how policy evaluations and recommendations made to politics and administration can be shaped from applied research work so they can be adopted more effectively by those they are intended for and put into practice. How should policy evaluation processes be shaped to maximise the benefits to those involved (i.e. those contracting the evaluation, those evaluated, those evaluating)? How can the action knowledge of those involved be mobilised? How should research processes be shaped so that the results and recommendations can be put into practice? What can researchers and practitioners each contribute? The analysis is to focus on current policy evaluation and research projects relating to the topics of Issues 1 to 5.