

alpMedia Newsletter

A CIPRA information service – 30.07.2009, summary 10/09-13/09
www.cipra.org/alpmedia



The "Allgäu Moor Alliance" wins the German Government's Competition for Large-Scale Nature Conservation Projects

The winners of the German government's "idee.natur – Large-scale Nature Conservation Projects and Rural Development" competition were announced at the end of June 2009. Five regions came out on top with their concepts for new large-scale nature conservation projects. Over € 50 million will be invested in these regions over the next ten years. The "Allgäu Moor Alliance" was the winner in the Moors Category.



The "Allgäu Moor Alliance" aims to protect the moors as a contribution to climate protection and flood control, species conservation and protection of agriculture.

© www.idee-natur.de

(09.07.2009) The German nationwide "idee.natur" competition was launched in July 2007 by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment and the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture. The aim of the competition was to develop new forward-looking concepts for large scale nature conservancy projects in Germany, with models for linking nature conservancy and rural development.

A total of 122 regions entered the competition. Astrid Klug of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety thinks that the large number of entries shows that the

regions could see the potential opportunities arising from close cooperation between nature conservation and regional development in rural areas.

The territory of the winning "Allgäu Moor Alliance" project covers the Bavarian rural districts of Ostallgäu and Oberallgäu and is one of the regions of Germany with the greatest expanse of moorland and litter meadows. The prize money will be used to implement planned measures (scheduled to run from July 2009 until the end of 2020). One of the principal aims is to restore the moorland ecosystems to their natural condition. 600 hectares of intact moorland are to be preserved and 300 hectares of degraded moorland will be restored to their natural wetland condition. The rural development element of the project has two main areas of emphasis: the first focuses on the agricultural use of the litter meadows and the expansion of landscape conservation as an additional support for farmers. The second focuses on nature tourism. It is primarily designed to provide incentives for the development of rural areas.

Sources: <http://www.bmu.de/naturschutz/biologische/vielfalt/doc/44407.php> (de),
<http://www.idee-natur.de/allgaeu110.html> (de)

Contents

Page 1

The "Allgäu Moor Alliance" wins the German Government's Competition for Large-Scale Nature Conservation Projects

Page 2

New version of Revue de Géographie alpine

Alpine region carbon-neutral by 2050

Further support for the Alpine ecological network

First carbon-footprint calculation for a ski school

Page 3

Dolomites named as a UNESCO World Heritage Site

eco.mont – new journal for research in protected areas

II. Report on the State of the Alps feels the pulse of the Alpine watercourses

Energy-efficient buildings under discussion

Page 4

Miscellaneous

Agenda

Oh!...

Headlines:

Page 2: New version of the bilingual Revue de Géographie alpine

The international bilingual (fr/en) Revue de Géographie alpine (Journal of Alpine Research) has recently become available online on <http://rga.revues.org> (fr/en). Three theme-based volumes appear every year, all of which are available in digital form.

Page 3: Dolomites named as a UNESCO World Heritage Site

At its 33rd meeting held on 26th June 2009 in Seville/Spain the UNESCO World Heritage Committee approved the application from the Dolomites/I to be included in the list of "Natural World Heritage Sites of universal value" thus according it the highest worldwide status for a natural site.

New version of the bilingual Revue de Géographie alpine

(09.07.2009) The international bilingual (fr/en) Revue de Géographie alpine (Journal of Alpine Research) has recently become available online on <http://rga.revues.org> (fr/en). Three theme-based volumes appear every year, all of which are available in digital form, as well as a comprehensive folder of scientific articles in French and English available for subscription in printed form. The website also provides a wide range of scientific information on the Alpine region and other European mountain areas.

The current issue of the bilingual (fr/en) Revue de Géographie alpine focuses on the topic "innovative thinking – coming up with new ideas [in the Alps]". This involves innovative schemes to meet the challenge of sustainable development in the Alps. All of the articles originated in the "Alps Week" which took place in June 2008 in the French "Pays des Ecrins" and which was organised by the International Scientific Committee for Alpine Research, the "Alliance in the Alps" network of municipalities, CIPRA, the Alpine Network of Protected Areas (ALPARC) and the Club Arc Alpin (CAA).

The Revue de Géographie alpine is the Alpine Convention's most important scientific medium.

Information: <http://rga.revues.org/> (fr/en)



The Revue de Géographie alpine is the Alpine Convention's most important scientific medium.

© <http://rga.revues.org/>

Alpine region carbon-neutral by 2050

(25.06.2009) At the 10th Alpine Conference in Evian/F in March 2009 a climate action plan was adopted, which set itself the goal of making the Alpine region a model for prevention and adjustment to climate change. At the suggestion of Germany, the action plan provides for an assessment of the conditions required to enable the Alpine region to become "carbon-neutral" by 2050.

The German Federal Ministry for the Environment has therefore commissioned a study from the Wuppertal Institut für Klima, Umwelt, Energie GmbH, in order to give the Alpine states an idea of what would need to be done to achieve this goal and suggest possible strategies. The first stage will be to look at the question of a "Carbon-neutral Alpine Area" with potential strategies and approaches being advanced in collaboration with experts from the Alpine area. An expert hearing will be conducted in Munich/Germany in September 2009 for this purpose. On the basis of the results Germany will submit a proposed course of action for implementation to the 41st Standing Committee of the Alpine Conference under the chairmanship of Slovenia in October 2009. Source: <http://www.bmu.de> (de/en)

Further support for the Alpine ecological network

(25.06.2009) CIPRA, the Alpine network of protected areas, ISCAR and the WWF have been involved in the "Ecological Continuum" project for the establishment of an ecological network covering the entire Alpine region since 2007. With new financial support from the Swiss MAVA Foundation for Nature the Consortium partners will be able to build on the successful groundwork.

In the coming months the "Ecological Continuum" project will concentrate on devising ways of raising awareness in the UN Biodiversity Year 2010 and on the further development and dissemination of the existing instruments and results already achieved. It will also promote the concept of an Alps-wide skills network. Close cooperation with the Alpine Convention Ecological Network and the ECONNECT Project will also be important. The consortium partners will also collaborate with national initiatives such as the "Trame verte et bleue" in France or the Swiss Ecological Network REN. Around € 270,000 will be available for these activities until the beginning of next year.

Further Information: <http://www.alpine-ecological-network.org/> (en)



In times of climate change it is particularly important to ensure that the landscape does not present obstacles to the passage of migratory species.

© Frank Schultze /Zeitenspiegel

First carbon-footprint calculation for a ski school

(25.06.2009) The carbon footprint of a ski school in France has been measured for the first time. In collaboration with the engineering firm "Mountain Riders" its owner, Stephane Lagarde, has calculated the internal and external greenhouse gas emissions for the "écOrider" Ski School in Chamonix/F. The calculation not only included such factors as the heating energy requirements of the premises or the ski instructors' journey to work, but also the tourists' journey, their accommodation and the grey energy of the skiing equipment. The carbon footprint measurement shows that for the 2008/2009 winter season almost 90% of emissions were attributable to the tourists' journey.

The carbon footprint measurement is used to identify and reduce the emissions resulting from the ski school's activities. Various measures have been taken or are to be implemented in the future. These include raising the awareness of tourists and encouraging them to use public methods of transport for their journey to the school and also during their stay.

The carbon footprint measurement is being followed up by the French Environment and Energy Management Agency ADEME and will be awarded a certification.

Sources and further info: <http://www.ecorider.org/> (fr/en), <http://www.mountain-riders.org/> (fr)

Dolomites named as a UNESCO World Heritage Site

(09.07.2009) At its 33rd meeting held on 26th June 2009 in Seville, Spain the UNESCO World Heritage Committee approved the application from the Dolomites/ to be included in the list of "Natural World Heritage Sites of universal value" thus according it the highest worldwide status for a natural site. The Dolomites' application for world heritage site status covers regions in five Italian provinces.

The naming of the Dolomites as a world heritage site will bring international recognition for all the regions and will also have a positive effect on tourism. At the same time however, the world heritage site designation will involve a more significant commitment to protecting the natural environment and landscape, in order to preserve them for posterity. The Dolomites have been included in the UNESCO list for their "unique monumental beauty" and not for just one partial feature, as is the case in other regions, according to the South Tyrol Provincial Minister, Michl Laimer. There can be absolutely no doubt that the Dolomites are spectacular in appearance and unique in their geology. They are a paradise for nature lovers and mountaineers and the habitat of numerous wild animals and rare plants.

Source: <http://de.alparc.org/nachrichten/neuigkeiten-der-schutzgebiete/die-dolomiten-als-unesco-weltnaturerbe> (de/it/fr/sl/en)



The application to UNESCO was submitted jointly by the Italian provinces of South Tyrol, Trentino, Pordenone, Belluno and Udine.

© pixelio / uwe vahle

eco.mont – new journal for research in protected areas

(09.07.2009) The first issue of the new journal "eco.mont – Journal of protected mountain areas research" has appeared. The journal has been established on the initiative of the Alpine Network of Protected Areas (ALPARC), the International Scientific Committee for Alpine Research (ISCAR), the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW) and the University of Innsbruck.

eco.mont will focus on research and management issues in the protected areas of the Alps, but this will not be to the exclusion of other protected mountain areas in Europe or elsewhere in the world. For example one of the nine contributions deals with forest conservation in the Tropics, others focus on the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve in Austria, long-term bio-monitoring of Alpine waters or examine question of how technical experts can be turned into multi-functional managers of protected areas.

The journal will be officially unveiled at the 4th Symposium for Research in Protected Areas to be held from 17th – 19th September 2009 at the Hohe Tauern National Park in Austria. Other fascinating contributions on research activities and results from protected areas in Europe are expected at the conference. Various excursions within the National Park will also be offered to tie in with the presentations.

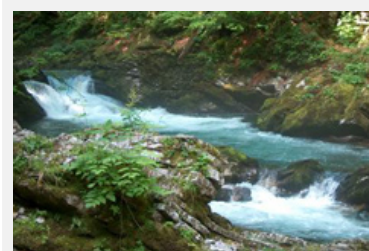
Sources: <http://www.oeaw.ac.at/ecomont> (en), <http://de.alparc.org/kalender/die-veranstaltungen-von-alparc/4.-internationales-symposium-der-forschung-in-schutzgebieten> (de/fr/it/sl/en)

II. Report on the State of the Alps feels the pulse of the Alpine watercourses

(10.06.2009) The Standing Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and an international group of experts under the joint chairmanship of Austria and Germany have compiled the 2nd Report on the State of the Alps focusing on "Water and Water Management Issues". The Ministers of the Alpine states accepted the report at the 10th Alpine Conference in Evian/F in March 2009.

The report provides detailed region-by-region information on the state of water resources, water quality and quantities in the Alps for the first time. Economic and social aspects are also highlighted as well as the impact of climate change on water resources and the role of natural hazards. The publication also provides a summary of the legal framework and the stimuli for the future. The full version of the Report on the State of the Alps in English consists of 200 pages with 120 colour reproductions. The short version is available in five languages (de/fr/it/sl/en). Both versions are available in printed form and may also be downloaded as a pdf from www.alpconv.org.

Source: http://www.alpconv.org/soia/soia03_b_de.htm (de/fr/it/sl/en)



The 2nd Report on the State of the Alps aims to stimulate the discussion on "Water and Water Management Issues".

© www.alpconv.org

Energy-efficient buildings under discussion

(10.06.2009) The Director of the Passive House Institute in Darmstadt/Germany, Wolfgang Feist, and the Director of the ClimateHouse Agency in Bolzano/I, Norbert Lantschner, have responded to questions about energy-efficient construction in interviews.

Wolfgang Feist has spoken specifically about widening the use of the passive house standard, the obstacles to implementation of existing know-how, about sustainability or political measures to promote energy-efficient construction. "The cleanest energy is the energy I don't need", says Norbert Lantschner. He also speaks about passing on knowledge and experience in Italy, the scope for energy-efficient construction and the future of construction. Both interviews can be found on the website of the CIPRA climalp Project – energy-efficient building from regional wood. Summaries and the most important statements are available for downloading in all Alpine languages and in English at <http://www.cipra.org/de/climalp> (de/fr/it/sl/en)

Miscellaneous

European Agro-Biodiversity Day

(25.06.2009) The European Agro-biodiversity Day (EAD) will take place on 29th September 2009 under the motto "Arca-Net – the European Ark Network". The main focus will be on raising public awareness of agro biodiversity, which is fundamental to the support for producers of traditional products and motivates politicians to protect national agro-biodiversity. The conference will focus on the work of various Ark farms, livestock parks, nature reserves etc. which actively promote agro-biodiversity, while demonstrating the concept to the public at the same time.

Sources: http://www.save-foundation.net/EAD/EAD_info_package_2009.doc (en), <http://www.arca-net.info> (de/fr/it/en)

New publications on transport in the Alpine area

(25.06.2009) Three publications on the outcomes of the latest study initiatives on transport in mountain regions have been recently published by the European Academy EURAC in collaboration with the Italian Ministry of the Environment. The first of these publications entitled: "SWOMM 2008 – Urban Mobility on the mountain regions" is a summary of the Scientific Workshop on Mountain Mobility and transport where diverse contributions and present ideas on how urban mobility might be organised in the mountains were collected. The second publication entitled "SWOMM 2007 – Cross-border transports in the Alpine area in the new EU-27" poses its emphasis on the recent development of transport and economic systems in Eastern Europe with a special reference to the countries of the Carpathian region. The third publication by EURAC and co-operators is a report on the "The AlpCheck Project", which wants to give an analytical contribution on the problem of road transport impact on air pollution in the Alpine Region. Source: <http://www.eurac.edu> (en)

International Competition for Mountain Photography and Film

(30.07.2009) Photographs and films on the subject of Mountain, Landscape and Nature, from the mountains of Lombardy to the world's highest peaks may now be submitted as entries for the "Orobic Film Festival" International Film and Photography Competition. The best entries in the three categories, the Mountains of Lombardy, the Landscapes of Italy and Mountains of the World will be presented at the nine-day festival in Bergamo/It. The festival runs from 5th -13th February 2010. Entries may be submitted up to 30th October 2009.

Information available at: <http://www.teamitalia.com/2008/schedaevento.asp?eventID=34> (it/en)

Why do you go hiking?

(30.07.2009) Together with the French Ramblers' Association and the French Alpine Club, the French association "Grande Traversée des Alpes" are trying to find the answer to the simple question, why do tourists go hiking on mountain and woodland paths or through dunes and deserts? Hiking enthusiasts can take part in the survey on www.itinerance-et-tourisme.com (fr/en). The results will be presented at the "Rencontres du tourisme itinérant" event taking place on 25th September 2009 in Chambéry/F. Source: <http://www.enviscope.com/17570-itinerant-tourisme-marche-montagne.html> (fr)

Agenda

Annual conference: **EUROPARC Conference 2009**. 09.09.-13.09.2009, Strömstad/SE; language: en; organiser: Europarc federation.

Information: <http://www.europarc.org/whats-on/events/2009/09/09> (en/de)

Convention: **"Developing rural policies to meet the needs of a changing world"** 13.-15.10.2009. Québec/CN; language: en; organiser: OECD.

Infos: http://www.oecd.org/site/0,3407,en_21571361_42131252_1_1_1_1_1,00.html (en)

International congress: **Mountain Tourism in Natura 2000 areas**. 22.-25.10.2009, Kudowa Zdrój/PL; language: en; organiser: International Friends of Nature.

Information: <http://www.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/wcpa/?2640/MOUNTAIN-TOURISM-IN-NATURA-2000-AREAS> (en)

International Workshop ECONNECT: **Sharing knowledge for the implementation of an ecological continuum within and beyond the Alps**. 04.-06.11.2009, Grenoble/F; language: en; organiser: Alpine Space, Cemagref, Isère conseil general, University of Innsbruck.

Information: http://www.econnectproject.eu/cms/sites/default/files/Econnect_workshop_Grenoble2009.pdf (en)

Facing Climate Change and the Global Economic Crisis. 20-21.11.2009, Bolzano/It; language: en; organiser: European Academy Bolzano (EURAC).

Information: <http://www.uibk.ac.at/smt/tourism/conference/index.html> (en)

Strange but true!

... how do you sell a skiing area that has been in the red for several years, has more debts than skiers, is outdated and on top of that so far down in the depths of the Ursern valley in Central Switzerland, that hardly any daily visitors venture there? The owners of the said area put an advertisement on an Internet auction platform: **Headline: Winterhorn Ski Area for sale. Condition: Used. Price: 250,000 CHF.** The offer registered over 55,000 clicks. Whether they were potential buyers is anyone's guess.

What is certain is that many of the Internet surfers have already dreamed of having fun in the snow in their own private ski area. But the landowner, the Ursern corporation doesn't grant such concessions. In this case it doesn't help to have the necessary wherewithal either.

Source:

<http://www.spiegel.de> (de)