



The Alpine Convention

General presentation

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The Alpine Convention

General information

- **The only international legal instrument for the sustainable development of the Alpine space**
- **Set of Treaties: A Framework Convention laying down general objectives and eight thematic Protocols setting out concrete provisions**
- **Contracting parties: The eight Alpine States and the EC**





The Alpine Convention

Contracting parties

- **Germany**
- **Austria**
- **France**
- **Italy**
- **Liechtenstein**
- **Monaco**
- **Slovenia**
- **Switzerland**
- **European Community**





The Alpine Convention Framework Convention

- **The scope of application (geographical, 190.000 km², 13,2 m. people)**
- **A general obligation to pursue a policy of conservation and intensified cooperation, in particular in 12 thematic areas: population and culture, land use, air quality, soil protection, water, nature protection and landscape tending, mountain farming, mountain forests, tourism, transport, energy, waste.**
- **A commitment on legal, scientific, economic and technical cooperation**
- **A common policy of research and observation**
- **An institutional structure**





The Alpine Convention

General characteristics

- **Global approach integrating the ecological, economic and social dimensions**
- **Protection but under a development perspective**
- **Connections of Alpine Space with other surrounding areas considered**
- **Participation of local and regional authorities**
- **Emphasis on the interests of the resident population**
- **Efforts required at various levels: national, regional and local**





The Alpine Convention & Protocols

FRAMEWORK CONVENTION

Mountain farming

Soil Conservation

Tourism

Energy

Transport

Mountain forests

Conservation of nature and
the landscape protection

Spatial planning and
sustainable development

Climate Change

Population and Culture





The Alpine Convention

Institutional framework

ALPINE CONFERENCE

Permanent Committee

The Compliance Committee

The Permanent Secretariat

The Working Groups / Platforms





The Alpine Convention Implementation

- **Juridical implementation through administrative decisions and court judgements**
- **Practical implementation through**
 - Common projects in the political priority fields at european, national, regional and local levels
 - Experience exchange and cooperation, in particular within the existing alpine networks
 - Information and awareness raising of the public





The Alpine Convention

Main Instruments

- **Activities of the Working Groups**
- **Multilateral projects of the Contracting Parties**
- **Activities of the Permanent Secretariat**
 - Report on the State of the Alps
 - Informing and communicating; www.alpconv.org
 - Observing and understanding; SOIA
 - Exchanging experiences
- ▶ **Cooperation with networks and other partners is essential**





The Alpine Convention

Major stakeholders

- **The Alpine Convention system is multi-layered and based on complex interaction of different stakeholders such as politics, public administrations, scientific communities, general public**
- **NGOs have a greater weight than in much other Conventions: discussion culture and requests for checking compliance**
- **Success of the Alpine Convention is strongly dependent on initiatives at regional and local level**





The Multi-Annual Work Programme 2005-2010: Four key issues

Current Activities

- **Mobility, Accessibility, Transit**

First Report on the State of the Alps on transport and mobility (2007)

- **Society, Culture, Identity**

Implementation of Declaration on Population and Culture;

- **Tourism, Leisure, Sports**

Series of thematic events of the actual Slovene Presidency highlighting the new challenges for sport and tourism in the Alps;

- **Nature, Agriculture and Forestry, Landscape**

*Action Plan on Climate Change in the Alps;
Second Report on the State of the Alps on water and water management issues (2009);*





The Alpine Convention

Mountain partnerships

- **Mountain partnerships are a long term working priority**
- **The Alpine Convention is a member of the Mountain Partnership (UNEP/FAO)**
- **Priority areas of cooperation:**
 - Carpathians
 - Balkans
 - Caucasus
 - Central Asia (Pamirs, Tien Shan)
- **Main cooperation matters**
 - Projects for the sustainable development of mountain villages and the network building of mountain villages
 - Projects for linking up protected areas





The Alpine Convention

Mountain partnerships

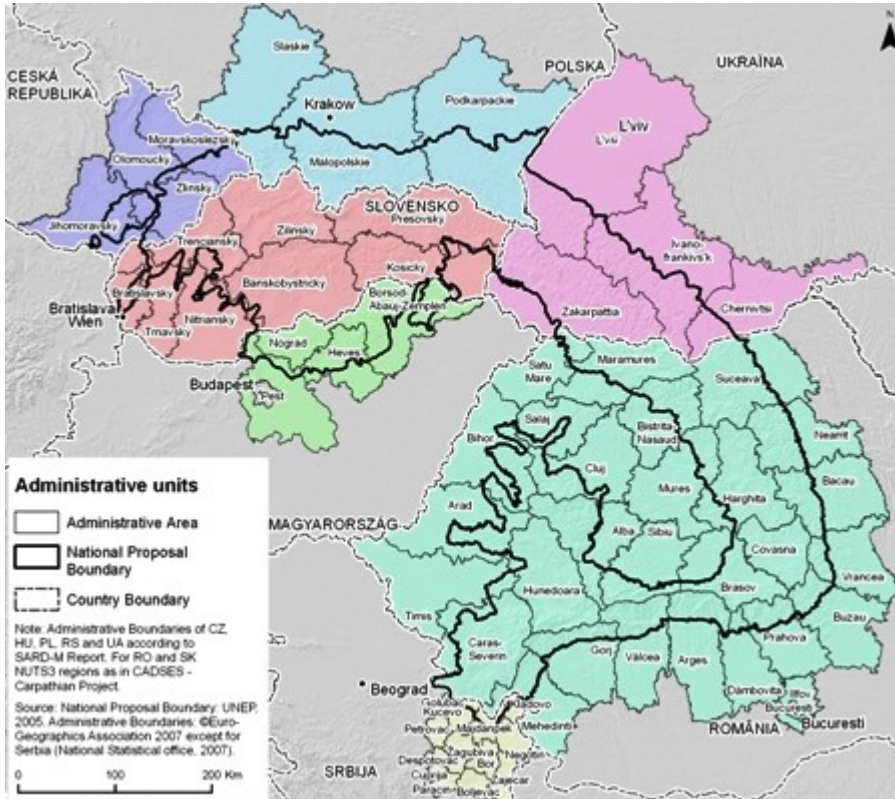
- **Mountain Regions are similar (landscape, natural resources and biodiversity, water reservoirs, climate regulators, economic, social and cultural functions)**
- **Mountain regions differ considerably (political organisation, economy, natural conditions, history and culture)**
- **Key elements of sustainable mountain development processes**
 - Treaties under international law
 - Projects and funds
 - Networks and cooperation
- ▶ **Individual approach meeting needs expressed by the concerned is essential**
- ▶ **Cooperation should incorporate bottom up and top down processes**





The Alpine Convention

Cooperation with the Carpathian Convention

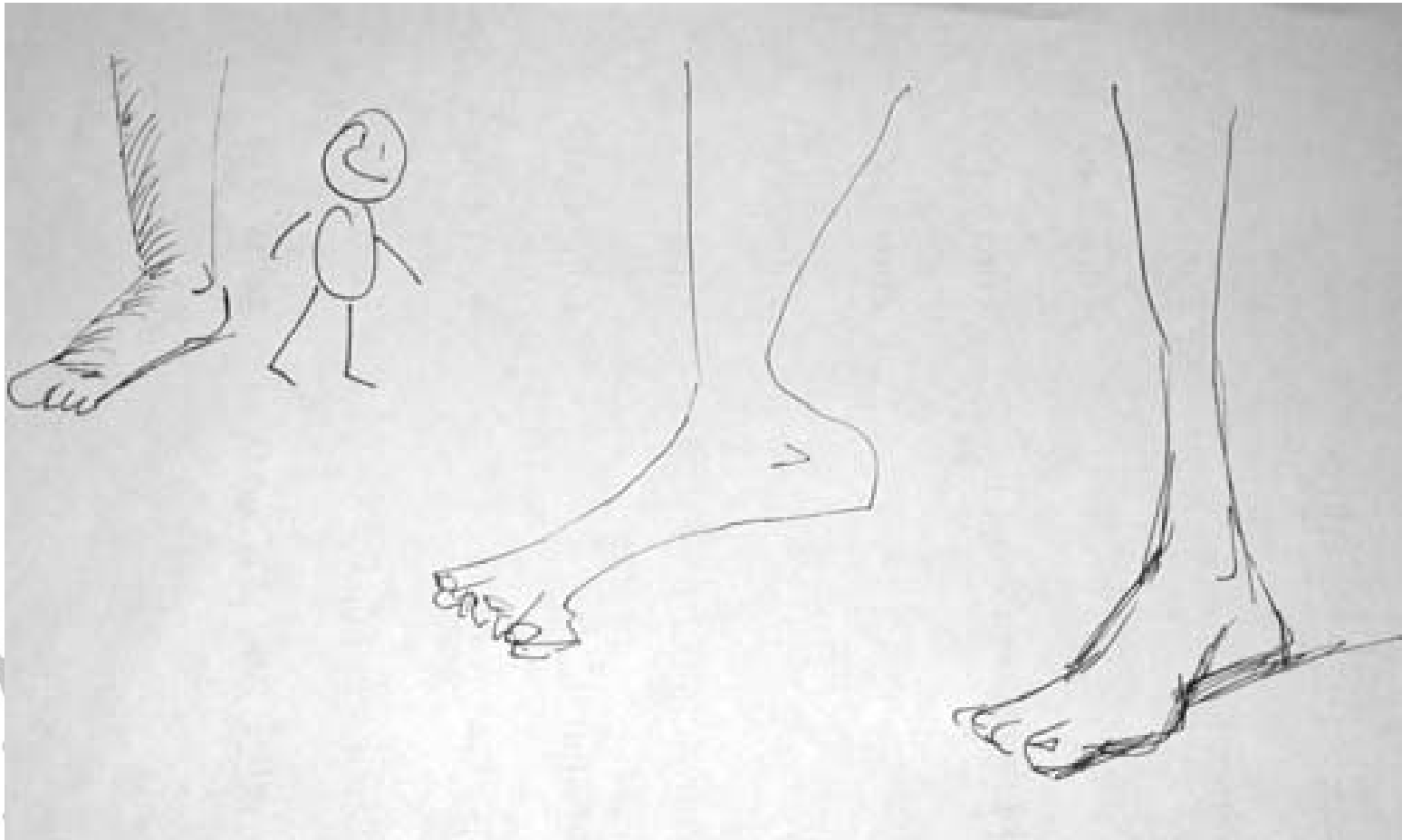


- **Signed in May 2003; in force 4 January 2006**
- **Decision Alpine Conference 2004: Permanent Secretariat starts to cooperate with the Secretariat of Carpathian Convention**
- **Memorandum of understanding between Alpine and Carpathian Conventions**
- **Main goals of MoU: exchange of information, joint projects (network of protected areas) and awareness raising on the importance of sustainable development of European mountain areas**





Next steps?





Thank you for your attention .

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