

FUTURE IN THE ALPS

**ALPKNOWHOW OPEN QUESTIONS
FROM SYNTHESIS REPORT ANNEX 2**



CIPRA

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

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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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 About 'Future in the Alps'

"Future in the Alps" is a broad-based knowledge management project aimed at promoting sustainable development in the alpine region. The project is organised by CIPRA, the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps, and financed by the MAVA Foundation for Nature Conservation. The aim of Future in the Alps is to get people, businesses and institutions to network in order to exchange and implement know how and information, and as a result create new incentives for sustainable development in the Alps. The Project is a contribution by CIPRA to the implementation of the Alpine Convention. The project started in summer 2004 and ends in 2007.

Future in the Alps promotes new and existing initiatives aimed at achieving a harmonious balance between nature conservation, the needs of the population and economic objectives. Practical experience and the latest research findings are collated, evaluated and processed for further application in the project phase alpKnowhow. alpService makes the results available to a multitude of players. Sustainable pilot projects that apply this knowledge are in turn supported and monitored. alpPerformance brings together players who adopt an innovative and sustainable approach to their economic activities, to form part of an "Alpine Enterprise".

The 'Future in the Alps' Project is based on six fundamental issues compiled jointly by the Project's core team and by outside experts:

- Regional Value Added
- Governance Capacity
- Protected Areas
- Mobility
- New Forms of Decision Making
- Policies and Instruments

Further information on Future in the Alps is available at www.cipra.org/future.

1.2 alpKnowhow – the knowledge base for alpService

For each issue addressed in Future in the Alps the existing knowledge from research and best practice has been gathered in alpKnowhow. The collated data is based on both study work (specialist literature, media, etc.) and discussions with project managers and key players from the Alpine regions realised by six expert teams. A rating system developed as part of the Future in the Alps Project has been used to select the knowledge base. The knowledge base and the examples of good practice have been pooled, interpreted and summarised in keeping with the six issues of the Future in the Alps Project.

As the results of the work by some 40 experts from all the alpine countries in alpKnowhow, the main products from the knowledge gathering and processing activities are published on www.cipra.org/future.

For each of the six key issues a **work report** completed with appendices, the **main publications** selected for the specific issue, and **examples of best and good practice** from different alpine countries are available in English language.

The **synthesis report** summarises the results and conclusions from all six themes. Other products include a **project related glossary** (Annex 1 of the synthesis report) and a list of **research questions** (Annex 2 of the synthesis report).

The alpKnowhow contents are used to compile alpService offers that are made available to anyone involved in research and practical work. The existing knowledge is implemented in several languages for projects and networks closely related to actual practice. For this purpose Future in the Alps provides an interactive database-supported internet site at www.cipra.org/future and organises conferences, seminars, further training courses for players from the regions and will publish a Third Alpine Report.

1.3 Open Questions resulting from alpKnowhow

Annex 2 of the synthesis report consists of still **unanswered research questions** either having been identified during the compilation stage of Future in the Alps or emerging from the analyses carried out by the alpKnowhow expert teams. They will be spread to the scientific community in order to invoke new projects dealing with those questions.

The questions are stated in the following chapters sorted according to the six key issues of Future in the Alps. For all questions links to the questions of the Research Agenda to the multi-annual work programme of the Alpine Conference 2005-2010 (in work; see chapter 3) are proposed.

2 OPEN QUESTIONS RESULTING FROM 'FUTURE IN THE ALPS'

2.1 Regional value added (Theme 1)

The expert analysis of successful value added chains generated the following questions dealing with the future economic development of alpine regions:

2.1.1 *Networks and co-operation:*

What is needed to enhance co-operation between local stakeholders from alpine regions? Networks and co-operations among different local and also supra-regional stakeholders are needed to guarantee economic efficiency and know-how exchange with partners. Still individual action and competition hinder stakeholders in co-operation. Whether this is a specific alpine problem due to large geographical and cultural peculiarities is not clear.

Proposed link to research agenda: 2d

2.1.2 *Unique selling points and labels:*

How can the regional alpine unique selling points be identified, defined and implemented? How to prevent the establishment of many weak regional labels instead of a few strong supra-regional quality labels? A unique selling position is very important for the successful development of alpine regions. The creation of regional quality labels has gained importance in recent years and will be even more important for the future. With an increasing number of regional labels the competition within alpine regions will advance and weaken the effect of the different labels.

Proposed link to research agenda: no direct link, additional topic

2.1.3 *Competitiveness and distribution of local products:*

How to enhance the competitiveness of local resources with cheaper raw material coming from the international market (for example, rye, wood, herbs, etc)? How is regional value added related to accessibility and mobility and what are the influences on spatial development? How to develop a sustainable transports network for the distribution of

local products? The installation of long networks seems crucial for the distribution of the local alpine products to bigger markets (see also 2.4 Mobility: sustainable transport systems in mountain regions).

Proposed link to research agenda: 1b

2.1.4 Sustainable use of local resources:

What is the carrying capacity of alpine ecosystems with regard to a sustainable use of local resources? What are the possible alternatives of development for some alpine areas, whose endogenous resources are inevitably compromised? Local and endogenous resources such as mineral and water are crucial for the future economic development in the Alps. Still there is the lack of scientific knowledge about the carrying capacity of alpine ecosystems, particularly with regard to indicators and reference parameters for their sustainable use.

Proposed link to research agenda: 4b

2.2 Governance Capacity (Theme 2)

There is a strong need of comprehensive analyses on the importance of social capital for attractiveness of Alpine regions. Sociological surveys and case studies investigating the relationship between social capital and regional attractiveness are required. Research should focus on the relationship between local social cohesion and other aspects such as:

2.2.1 Geo-culture; territorial features:

Is there any evidence that territorial features (topography, remoteness, climate, landscapes etc.) affect social cohesion and if yes to what extent?

Proposed link to research agenda: 2b

2.2.2 Economy; provision with local infrastructures and services:

To what extent is social cohesion fostered by local/regional economy? What is the impact on social cohesion by shutting down local services and infrastructures? Are there new innovative ways to compensate the loss of local services and infrastructures?

Proposed link to research agenda: 2b

2.2.3 *Society; external relations, impact from tourism; cultural identity; gender issues; social stratification and income distribution:*

How and in which cases does tourism support or distort social cohesion and cultural identity? Considering gender issues and the role of women, what are the ways to foster women participation in local economy and society? Analyses on the relation between cultural identity and social cohesion are needed as well as research on rural poverty and social exclusion.

Proposed link to research agenda: 3b

2.2.4 *Policy; political tradition; local governance capacity; interaction between the different level (local, regional, national, international) of governance processes:*

What is the effect of democratic respectively hierarchical systems and authoritarian political traditions on social cohesion and good governance? How to combine local governance processes with regional, national and global policy systems? What are the interdependences between local and global governance processes? How can social cohesion on the different levels (local, regional, national) be balanced?

Proposed link to research agenda: 2c, (3e)

2.3 Protected Areas (Theme 3)

Large protected areas are being established in order to protect alpine biodiversity and at the same time enhance sustainable regional development. That involves the need of assessing the biodiversity in Alpine protected areas, quantifying the value added and developing appropriate tools and instruments:

Proposed link to research agenda: 2c, (3e)

2.3.1 *Distribution of protected areas; categorisation:*

Is alpine biodiversity sufficiently protected by the existing protected areas? The sufficiency of the protected areas' network in the Alps could be assessed by means of a gap analysis. The "hotspots" for Alpine conservation, as already drawn up by previous studies are to be related to landscape parameters such as landuse, aso. The resulting priority areas for conservation should be compared to the existing network of protected

areas. With regard to the priority areas and the priority requirements for conservation the sufficiency of the existing (multiple, overlapping, aso.) categories should be assessed on the Alpine level. For both steps, gap analysis and category check, the existing data about protected areas in the Alps should be reviewed.

Proposed link to research agenda: no direct link, additional topic, (4d)

2.3.2 *Monitoring system:*

What kind of monitoring is needed to assess the effect of management measures in protected areas? Proper, but simple monitoring systems (standardised, site-oriented, goal-oriented, technology-based) should be implemented in the long-term. The evaluation of biodiversity on different spatial levels provides a very vast field for research.

Proposed link to research agenda: no direct link, additional topic, (4d)

2.3.3 *Quantification of value added*

What amount of added value is created by protected areas? There is a need for concrete data about added value caused by protected areas in respect to regional development. Research should encompass all parts of a regional economy (tourism, products, services).

Proposed link to research agenda: no direct link, additional topic

2.3.4 *Know-how transfer*

How can exchange of knowledge and experiences between different protected areas be ensured in order to promote successful development? There is a need for transferable procedures and integrative approaches in protecting biodiversity and at the same time enhancing sustainable regional development.

Proposed link to research agenda: no direct link, additional topic

2.4 Mobility (Theme 4)

Long term research on the impacts of the transport systems on regional development, and comparison between regions inside and outside the Alps to distinguish landscape effects are needed. Research on the impacts of transport systems on the spatial structure should not only consider economic indicators but also regard social aspects.

2.4.1 *Effects of accessibility:*

Why are some regions successful despite low accessibility? Why are some regions not successful despite high accessibility? What is the importance of social capital in this context? Due to the fact of small scale differences in accessibility caused by the landscape barriers in the Alps the question of distributional effects should be a special topic for the assessment of transport system investments. A widely accepted set of rules for integrating indirect network effects in assessment tools is needed. Additionally we recommend collecting good practice examples of regions with low accessibility and positive regional performance.

Proposed link to research agenda: 1b

2.4.2 *Transport performance; low scale mobility:*

What are the requirements for successful implementation of local low scale mobility concepts in terms of creating appropriate pedestrian, bicycle and public transport systems? Can regional product and service chains save transport volume and contribute to modal shifts from car trips to environmental friendly modes (public transport, bike, walking)?

Proposed link to research agenda: 1d

2.4.3 *Evaluation of Best Practice Examples:*

How sustainable are the projects? Clarify the effectiveness of the projects. What are the main results concerning mobility (modal shift, changes in kilometric performance)?

Precise know-how of investment, maintenance and operation costs as well as the funding: Can Best Practice Examples be multiplied as regards the need for public funding?

Why aren't there any Best Practice Examples dealing with commuter transport? Are there

regions inside or outside the Alps where f. e. the existing public transport system can be considered as good practice compared to other regions? Bench marking of public transport performance in Alpine regions or valleys might help to clarify this question.

Proposed link to research agenda: 1c, (1d)

2.5 New Forms of Decision Making (Theme 5)

Research is especially needed on the successful implementation of new forms of decision making in negotiation processes and their effect on conflict solving and co-operation:

2.5.1 Implementation into existing processes:

How can the recommended standards for new forms of decision making be implemented into existing processes? Who are the key players? What steps would have to be taken?

How to appreciate existing – and often widely accepted – forms of decision making while at the same time trying to introduce new forms of opinion building and decision making which are more fair and transparent?

How to effectively bring "superior" interest (like e.g. security or a clean and healthy environment) in locally dominated negotiation processes?

What is the adequate territorial level of procedures? Which differences and similarities are there between e.g. deciding on contradictory local projects, working out a regional development concept or organising communication between different national authorities?

Proposed link to research agenda: 2c

2.5.2 Effect on conflict solving and co-operation

Which are the economic, social and ecological impacts of decisions taken by using new forms of decision making compared to non-participatory procedures?

Which are the actual 'hot spots' concerning land use conflicts in the Alps and which procedures should be implemented to solve these conflicts?

Proposed link to research agenda: 2c

2.5.3 Improving decision making; capacity building:

How can the upgrading of the decision making culture be achieved? How to educate, motivate and enhance capacity for active and responsible participation in decision making? Who should be educated? What could be the frameworks, programs, contents, methods?

How to improve representativeness and legitimacy of participatory decision making procedures?

How to deal with decision making in the view of increasing immigration? Will our (i.e. western/European) model for successful decision making work equally well in a mixed community, where members have very diverse cultural and political backgrounds?

How to deal with decision making increasingly influenced by processes of globalisation and international standardisation?

Proposed link to research agenda: 2c

2.6 Policies and Instruments (Theme 6)

There is little knowledge on the impact of different policies on future regional development. The question of how to close the implementation gap of sustainability-oriented policy recommendations and how to improve the co-operation between researchers and practitioners is still not fully answered and needs to be differentiated.

2.6.1 Impact of policies and instruments; policy development:

What impact has the regional and national „policy culture“ on policy development and it’s impact? What are specific aspects with regard to policy development in alpine regions compared to non-alpine regions? What impact do “non public policies” have?

What sort of impact do policies and instruments have on future regional development? Strategies and measures of contradicting objectives such as regional value added and environmental risks should be considered.

How should these policies and instruments be adapted to contribute more effectively to sustainable development? Referring not only to public policy level.

How can the different actors make better use of their room for manoeuvre?

Proposed link to research agenda: 2c

2.6.2 *Implementation gap; specification of policy sectors:*

Where does the implementation gap of sustainability-oriented policy recommendations appear, what is it which is not sufficiently implemented? The implementation gap may appear differently in specific policy sectors, and it may apply to the following issues: policy aims formulated in policy documents, policy recommendations given in evaluation studies, policy recommendations resulting from other research work. Analyses of case studies could reveal the roles of the different actors, their institutional context and scope and the hindrances for learning processes and policy implementation.

Proposed link to research agenda: 2c

2.6.3 *Transdisciplinary approach:*

Especially the subject of policy recommendations resulting from research work, and thus the question how to improve the co-operation between researchers and practitioners is still not answered and implies transdisciplinary approaches in science.

Proposed link to research agenda: no direct link, additional topic

2.6.4 *AlpTechnologies*

What is the potential of new technologies (ICT, transportation, aso.) for a sustainable Alpine development? What new technologies might be relevant for the future of the Alps? How could they be implemented and with which partners? Can co-operative decision-making throughout the Alps be supported by virtual communication tools? Is there a technical solution to bridge the gap between public and individual transport systems?

Proposed link to research agenda: no direct link, additional topic

18 April 2007

Karin Hindenlang

Links to Research Agenda by Wolfgang Pfefferkorn, 4 May 2007

3 TOPICS OF THE RESEARCH AGENDA TO THE MULTI-ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME (MAP) OF THE ALPINE CONFERENCE 2005 – 2010 (DRAFT, MAY 2007)

The MAP is available on www.alpenkonvention.org (de), www.conventionalpine.org (fr), www.convenzionedellealpi.org (it), www.alpskakonvencija.org (sl)

Key issue 1: Mobility, Accessibility, Transit, Traffic (Chapter 2.1. MAP)

- 1a. Development of mobility patterns over time
- 1b. Regional and urban development in the context of accessibility
- 1c. Impacts of traffic and related infrastructures: evaluation and monitoring
- 1d. Steering of transport: instruments and their impacts

Key issue 2: Society, culture, identity (Chapter 2.2. MAP)

- 2a. Individual well-being
- 2b. Social cohesion – social dynamics – cultural identities
- 2c. Regulation in territorial transformation and management
- 2d. Multi-level capacity in actor-networks

Key issue 3: Tourism, leisure, sports (Chapter 2.3. MAP)

- 3a. Evaluation of competitiveness of existing and new touristic models in the context of globalization
- 3b. Relationships between culture and tourism in touristic areas
- 3c. Interactions between urbanisation and alpine tourism
- 3d. Sustainable management of winter stations
- 3e. Governance and co-operation in alpine tourism: developing policy-based and agent-based approaches (How to organize tourism within and among touristic areas?)
- 3f. Potentials and strategies of sustainable nature-based tourism and sports in the

Alps

- 3g. Touristic transport infrastructures in high mountain areas

Key Issue 4A: Land use, spatial planning, protection (Chapter 2.4. MAP)

- 4a. Influence of management strategies and cultivation methods on landscape functions and ecosystem services
- 4b. Influence of land use changes on biodiversity (genetic, species, habitat, landscape)
- 4c. Interactions between social life-styles, land use changes and landscape structures
- 4d. New approaches to identify, develop and and monitor ecological connectivity areas

Key Issue 4B: Global change, natural risks, resource management

- 4e. Regional Climate change in the Alps: prediction and scenarios
- 4f. Global Change effects on vulnerability and natural risks in Alpine regions
- 4g. Governance and management of water resources in changing water cycles