The International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA) is an autonomous, non-profit umbrella organisation committed to the protection and sustainable development of the Alps. It has an international executive office in Liechtenstein, seven national agencies in the Alpine states and one regional agency in South Tyrol. As a network operating across the Alps, CIPRA represents around 100 organisations and institutions as well as individual members.

WHO WE ARE

Living, working, loving, praising, dying, singing, hiking and celebrating – we want life in the Alps in all its facets to remain attractive and rewarding. Not just for people today, but also for future generations. An intact natural environment, cultural identity, social justice and economic security are the foundations of our livelihoods. We believe that long-term economic viability has to be predicated on ecological and social sustainability, which is why we advocate the protection of the Alps and their sustainable development. Our objective is to implement lifestyles and economic systems that are mindful of nature and of natural resources – so that this roof garden at the heart of Europe continues to flourish and prosper.
In 1996 CIPRA helped bring about the founding of the Alliance in the Alps network of municipalities. Since then it has been driving its further development forward, carrying out its projects, and providing administrative services. CIPRA also runs the executive office of the Alpine Town of the Year Association, founded in 1997, and implements its projects.

Incentives for Towns, Cities and Municipalities
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1995 Gold Environmental Award from the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Alpenländer Arge Alp working group.


1998 Gold Star from the European Federation of the Associations of Tourism Journalists for efforts towards sustainable development in tourism.

1999 Grand Binding Award for Nature Conservation and Environment Protection from Binding Foundation Schaan/FL.

2002 Co-founding of the Alliance of Central Asian Mountain Communities modelled on the Alliance in the Alps network of municipalities.

2003 Alp Web Award 2002 from the Club Alpino Italiano.

2003 Co-founding of the Alliance of Central Asian Mountain Communities modelled on the Alliance in the Alps network of municipalities.

2003 CIPRA encourages others to take action. Through a wide variety of projects it demonstrates how this can be done: building houses that generate more energy than they consume; creating corridors so that animals and plants are able to move and reproduce freely; assisting with climate change mitigation and adapting to climate change without harming nature. Learning from and with others is the motto.

1952 An Umbrella Over The Alps
Since its founding in 1952 CIPRA has been bringing people and organisations together across cultural, geographic, political and language divides, people who are committed to sustainable development in the Alps; it has done so as an umbrella organization since 1975. Its members include more than 100 associations, organisations and individuals.

1975 - 1992 Establishment of CIPRA agencies in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, Slovenia, Liechtenstein, Italy and South Tyrol.

1991 Politically Motivated
CIPRA strives to lend more weight to Alpine policy on the international stage. 1991 was a milestone year, with the signing of the Alpine Convention. CIPRA sits on the Alpine Convention’s committees as an official observer, contributing ideas and a basis for discussion on topical issues, and expresses critical views on a range of positions, strategies and action plans.

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2006 In calling for an action plan CIPRA has put climate change on the agenda of the Alpine Convention.


2009 Sustainability Award from the Royal Dutch Mountaineering and Climbing Club.

2010 CIPRA initiated the Konstruktiv architecture award together with the Principality of Liechtenstein.

2012 Publication of compacts, background reports on addressing climate change issues.

Since 2004 CIPRA has put climate change on the agenda of the Alpine Convention.

2010 / 2011 Publication of compacts, background reports on addressing climate change issues.


2010 CIPRA initiated the Konstruktiv architecture award together with the Principality of Liechtenstein.

Since 1984 Publication of the Alpinsicht magazine, formerly CIPRA Info.