



CIPRA
LIVING IN
THE ALPS

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Media release: CIPRA International's 2014 Annual Report

CIPRA: in pursuit of harmony on diversity

Animals and plants have to migrate in order to reproduce. That involves crossing land that is also used by human beings. In its 2014 Annual Report, CIPRA shows how animals, plants and people all benefit from networking within the natural environment.

Roads, homes and industrial and commercial buildings – more and more green spaces are being lost to human infrastructures. The losers are the animals and plants that are dependent on open spaces and corridors. Biodiversity suffers. But so do human beings, as the green spaces are also groundwater reservoirs, recreational areas or extensive farming land. Less tangible than infrastructures but equally disruptive are the differences in legislation to be found between the countries of the Alps. Authority for spatial planning – a key sector – can be located at a local, regional or national level; on one side of a border there may be binding structure plans and on the other side vague ideas. That makes communication and the creation of cross-border corridors difficult.

Landscape diversity as a solution for all

These are some of the central findings made by the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA) in its many years of experience in the field of environmental protection and the context of projects like greenAlps. For many years, CIPRA has been working with its partners to build an ecological network for flora and fauna. In its 2014 Annual Report, CIPRA International shows why broad-based involvement is important for the protection and preservation of the rich biodiversity of the Alps and how human beings stand to benefit.

The importance of ecosystems is now being recognised not just by ecologists. Erica Zangrando, representative of the Italian Veneto Region and partner in the recharge.green project, says: "In the mountain regions, the quality of life depends on the quality of the natural resources. It is important that people should be aware of the functions of our ecosystems."



Seven Alpine countries with similar challenges

CIPRA works at many levels. It enjoys an Alpine view: with its seven national organisations in all the countries of the Alps plus a regional office, CIPRA knows what is important for the Slovenes and what annoys the French. The contributors to the Annual Report offer a variety of perspectives; they speak of a new optimism in the valleys of the Italian Alps, the work being done to protect the landscape in Germany and South Tyrol, and road traffic as a never-ending story in Slovenia and Liechtenstein.

This release and print-ready photographs can be downloaded from <http://www.cipra.org/en/media-releases>

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CIPRA, a diverse and versatile organisation

CIPRA, the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps, is a non-governmental umbrella organisation with national offices and one regional office in all seven Alpine countries, representing more than a hundred associations and organisations. CIPRA works to achieve sustainable development in the Alps; it strives to preserve the natural and cultural heritage, maintain regional diversity and bring about solutions to cross-border problems in the Alps.

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