

## 7<sup>th</sup> CIPRA Summer Academy: The Alps in three weeks

The 7<sup>th</sup> Summer Academy of the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA) is taking place from 16 August to 3 September. For anyone interested in the Alps as a region this education course provides a detailed insight. The lectures and project work on topics related to the Alps are designed to offer a more comprehensive view of the Alps. The issues studied range from mobility and tourism to regional development, agriculture and forestry, energy and climate change [more on page 1](#)

### The Role of NGOs in Mountain Regions

The conference book of the 2002 Yearly Symposium of the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA) in Schaan/Liechtenstein has just been published. Marking the occasion of CIPRA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary the Symposium focused on the role of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in mountain regions... [more on page 2](#)

### Preserving priority areas of the Alps

At the UN Conference on Biological Diversity in Kuala Lumpur the WWF presented a study identifying 23 priority areas of the Alps. The alpine study in five languages was drawn up by the WWF, the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA), the Network of Alpine Protected Areas and the International Scientific Committee for Alpine Research (ISCAR) with the help of a hundred experts from 90 institutions and bodies [more on page 3](#)

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Besides the lectures working groups are to be set up to develop projects on the subject of local recreation in the region of Liechtenstein – Werdenberg/CH. The area covered by the project comprises around 65,000 inhabitants and 45,500 jobs. The project work is to examine ways in which to use local recreation measures to enhance the region's appeal for those who live there, and how to raise the quality of life and the potential for the region's economy.

The event is to take place on the premises of the Liechtenstein University of Applied Sciences in Vaduz. It is aimed at all participants who are interested in an interdisciplinary transnational approach to issues relating to the Alps and have a university or higher education degree or professional experience in the relevant fields. The course languages are German and English, with simultaneous interpreting provided for the lectures. The deadline for registration, which can be made at <http://www.cipra.org> (de/fr/it/sl), is 31 May; the web site also has more details of this training and education event, including the course programme.

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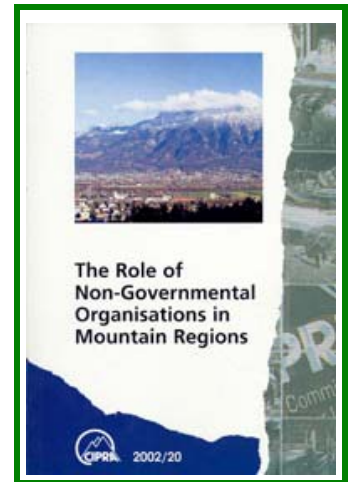
## The Role of NGOs in Mountain Regions

(15.01.2004) The conference book of the 2002 Yearly Symposium of the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA) in Schaan/Liechtenstein has just been published. Marking the occasion of CIPRA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary the Symposium focused on the role of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in mountain regions.

The publication is entitled "The Role of Non-Governmental Organisations in Mountain Regions" and features real examples from, among others, France, Austria, Italy, Tajikistan and Nepal, illustrating the different ways in which NGOs focus and conduct their activities in different mountain areas of the world.

The 80-page volume is available in five languages (German, English, French, Italian and Slovenian) and can be ordered from the CIPRA International Executive Office for a handling fee of EUR 10.30 plus shipping costs.

To order: [http://www.cipra.org/f/formulare/grosse\\_schriften\\_bestellung.htm](http://www.cipra.org/f/formulare/grosse_schriften_bestellung.htm) (fr)



## "Green" holidays in the Alps for Dutch tourists

(12.02.2004) From this summer several Dutch tour operators, including the TUI subsidiary Holland International and the hiking and cycling holiday specialists SNP, are offering "Green Package Tours" to Switzerland and Austria. Holidaymakers can book their hiking and leisure holidays in car-free tourist resorts directly with their travel agent. The tour operators are offering the sustainable holiday trips in co-operation with the Community of Car-free Tourism Destinations in Switzerland and the Austrian joint venture *Sanfte Mobilität* [Gentle Mobility]. Travel to the holiday resort can also be arranged by car train.

The idea of sustainable package holidays in the Alps was launched by the Dutch Alpine Platform NAP as part of the "Alps 2005" project. The NAP groups together the Netherlands Board of Tourism, the Mountaineering and Climbing Association, the Ski Association and the Dutch Environmental Group NMGA.

Source and information: <http://www.alpenplatform.nl/actueel/nieuws.htm> (nl), <http://www.hollandinternational.nl/home> (nl), <http://www.snp.nl> (nl)

## Extended mountain stays are good for you

(15.01.2004) Mountain air has a beneficial effect also on patients with cardiovascular problems. The optimum effect is achieved at altitudes of 2000 metres above sea level and after a minimum stay of three weeks. These are the findings of a study recently published by Thomas Becker of Cologne University.

The ascent from the lowlands triggers a slight stress reaction and speeds up both pulse and breathing. Blood pressure rises only slightly, however. After a phase of acclimatisation of around seven days the pulse begins to settle and the blood pressure is lowered. On average the pulse rate drops to 85% of its values at lowland levels. Gentle mountain hikes over differences in altitude of up to 500 metres are an effective training for treating cardiovascular disorders. After a stay of at least three weeks and a regimen of gentle walks and little stress the positive repercussions can last for up to eight months after the return to the lowlands.

Source: <http://www.uni-koeln.de/pi/i/2003.216.htm> (de)

Gentle hiking in the mountains as part of a fitness programme



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## Third Arge-Alp book award

(15.01.2004) The *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Alpenländer* (Arge Alp) Working Group is to present its book award for the third time at the Arge Alp Book Festival on June 5, to be held in Trento/I, the Alpine Town of the Year 2004. Ten books by authors from Arge-Alp countries (11 regions in Germany, Italy, Austria and Switzerland) are in contention. You can vote for your own favourite book up until April 15. Voting ballots are available from libraries and bookshops in participating countries. The aim of Arge Alp is to strengthen contacts and communication between the countries. Its book award is a means of publicising literature from other countries among the Arge Alp countries.

Source and information: <http://www.argealp.net> (de/it)

## Preserving priority areas of the Alps

(12.02.2004) At the UN Conference on Biological Diversity in Kuala Lumpur the WWF presented a study identifying 23 priority areas of the Alps. The alpine study in five languages was drawn up by the WWF, the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA), the Network of Alpine Protected Areas and the International Scientific Committee for Alpine Research (ISCAR) with the help of a hundred experts from 90 institutions and bodies. It is based on an analysis of the main habitats for mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, insects and flora as well as freshwater ecosystems.

The report was hailed as a model for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in large mountain regions and a contribution towards the implementation of the Alpine Convention. The regions identified are not to be put entirely under protection; instead adapted measures for their sustainable use are to be drawn up together with local interest groups.

The authors of the study have called upon the UN Conference to adopt the Action Plan for extensive protection of all the mountain regions of the world.

All bodies or individuals working in the field of biodiversity in one of the 23 regions are invited as part of a Call for Participation to state their interest to take part in elaborating and implementing an action plan on biodiversity conservation.

Study (pdf, 2851 kb): [http://www.alpmedia.net/pdf/Publ\\_Alps\\_Natural\\_Heritage.pdf](http://www.alpmedia.net/pdf/Publ_Alps_Natural_Heritage.pdf) (en), Call for participation (pdf, 161 kb): [http://www.alpmedia.net/pdf/Participation\\_Biodiversity\\_Alps.pdf](http://www.alpmedia.net/pdf/Participation_Biodiversity_Alps.pdf) (en)

## Questionnaire on best practice in protected area management

(15.01.2004) Experts and people working in protected areas are invited to take part in a questionnaire on best practice in protected area management. The survey is at the core of the Interreg IIIB-CADSES "IPAM" project (Integrative Protected Area Management). Its purpose is to use the exchange of experience to elaborate and improve tools for the planning and management of protected areas. Those who take part in the questionnaire can win one-week study trips to protected areas in Austria, Italy, Slovenia and Croatia, an invitation to a presentation at an international conference or the possibility of publication in an internationally accessible expert system. Questionnaire and information: <http://www.ipam.info/inquiry> (en)

## Minority languages of the Alps take to new media

(15.01.2004) In the past learning the Romansh language nearly always meant having to go through German. But since the end of last year Lia Rumantscha, the umbrella organisation for all Romansh associations, has posted an online English-Romansh dictionary called "myPledari" on the internet for free use. Expressions in all the written languages of Romansh (Rumantsch Grischun and five idioms) can be entered and searched for. At present the database contains some 4300 entries and is to be expanded. Electronic documents are also to be retrievable in both languages in future.

Words in the Gröden-Ladin language and German can be looked up on a CD ROM. The Ladin cultural institute Micura de Rü presented the new CD ROM in mid-December. In addition to 21,000 entries in German the CD also features illustrations for many of the words and the correct pronunciation as well as information on spelling and grammar. The CD ROM is available from the Cultural Institute or from bookshops at a price of EUR 16.00.

Sources and information: <http://www.mypledari.ch> (en/romanisch), 18.12.2003 <http://www.liarumantscha.ch> (de/en/romanisch), <http://www.ladinia.net/micura/go.html> (de/it/en/ladinisch), [http://wai.provinz.bz.it/lpa/news/detail\\_d.asp?artc\\_id=64386](http://wai.provinz.bz.it/lpa/news/detail_d.asp?artc_id=64386) (de)

## Centre for nanotechnology in the French Alps

(12.02.2004) The first European network for nanobiotechnology, Nano2life, is being co-ordinated in Grenoble/F since February 2. So after Paris Grenoble is now the second largest research centre in France, with 18,200 people working in 200 laboratories.

Nano2life aims to co-ordinate research, training and communication between science and industry. Europe is to assume a leading role in nanobiotechnology against the backdrop of worldwide competition. The partners participating in the project are from Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Slovenia, among others.

Sources and information: French Atomic Energy Commission 02.02.2004

<http://www.cea.fr/fr/actualites/articles.asp?annee=2004&id=509> (fr),

Micro and Nanotechnologies Bulletin Vol. 4/No. 2 and 3, p. 12

<http://www.imt.ro/MNT/Default.htm> (en)

The "Highland Nanotechnology Zone" in Grenoble





## New waste prevention initiatives in Europe

(26.02.2004) The City of Vienna has set up "Scarabeo 2004", the first ever European Youth Competition on Waste Prevention and Separation. Until May 15 young people from more than forty countries can submit projects on ways of preventing and separating waste. The projects are to be long term and transferable. For applications: <http://www.scarabeo2004.net> (de/fr/it/en/sp)

Two new web sites have recently gone online featuring information from all over Europe on the issue of waste. The European Topic Centre on Waste and Material Flows provides an online database at <http://waste.eionet.eu.int/wastebase/prevention> (en) with around 90 initiatives for waste prevention from 14 countries (including Germany, Italy and Austria). <http://www.wastesolutions.org> (en) for its part has advice, information and tools for implementing sustainable waste management and a forum for posting projects.

The Autonomous Province of Bolzano/I recently kicked off its own initiative entitled "Less is More". Eight projects are part of the campaign for waste prevention aimed at consumers and manufacturers. Project examples: Online second-hand exchange mart, the use of recycled paper and toners and separated waste collection in public offices, the use of recycled paper in schools, awareness-raising events for pupils, mobile wash-up service for festivals, environmental quality seal for the food trade, vouchers for washable nappies. Information: <http://www.provinz.bz.it/trend> (de)

One year after introducing waste separation in households the Italian province of Turin is able to report favourably on the results: In some municipalities the share of separately collected waste is over 50%, compared with around 20% in some cases one year ago. Source: Provincia Torino 20.02.2004

Separating waste – A topical issue in the Alps



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## Natura 2000 List for EU mountain regions approved

(15.01.2004) The list of Natura 2000 protected areas in mountain regions of the EU was approved by the European Commission at the end of 2003. It covers 959 nature sites in the Alps, the Pyrenees, the Apennines and the Fennoscandian mountains, which under the Council Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna are considered to be of European importance. 452 of the sites are in Italy, 230 in France, 103 in Austria and 43 in Germany. The Natura 2000 network is to ensure the protection of endangered animals, plants and habitat types, and thus contribute towards halting the decline of Europe's biodiversity.

The next step for the Alpine network is now the designation of all the sites by the Member States under their national law. This includes the granting of an appropriate national protection status and establishing the necessary management regime. For a number of habitat types and species the Member States still need to complete the list with further site proposals.

Source and information:

[http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/42|0|RAPID&lg=EN](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/42|0|RAPID&lg=EN) (en)

## Agenda

**World Sustainable Energy Days 2004**; 04-07.03.2004, Wels/A; includes the European Pellets Conference, Green Electricity Forum, Exhibition & trade fair "Energiesparmesse"; organisers: *Oberösterreichischer Energiesparverband* [regional energy agency for Upper Austria]; Information:

[http://www.esv.or.at/aktuelles/WEST/index\\_e.htm](http://www.esv.or.at/aktuelles/WEST/index_e.htm) (en)

3rd European Conference on Green Power Marketing: **opportunities arising from international green power trading on the European market**; 18.-19.03.2004, Lausanne/CH; organiser: Green Power Marketing GmbH; conference languages: de/fr/en; Information:

<http://www.greenpowermarketing.org> (de/en)

International concert festival: **Snow and Symphony**; 26.03.-04.04.2004, St. Moritz/CH; organiser: The St. Moritz Music Festivals; Information:

<http://www.stmoritzfestival.ch> (de/en)

## Oh!...

... As of May the Austrian holiday region of Fügen in the Ziller valley is offering a special deal for newly-weds and romantic couples. Guests who decide to tie the knot, announce their engagement or celebrate their wedding anniversary at one of the many chapels and churches, can choose from a wide range of special offers that includes wedding carriages, a special wedding cable-car ride, firework displays, etc. "Weddings and other commitments made in this region simply last longer," claims the advertisement.

Source:

<http://www.newsaktuell.ch/d/stor.y.htm?nr=100472078> (de)