

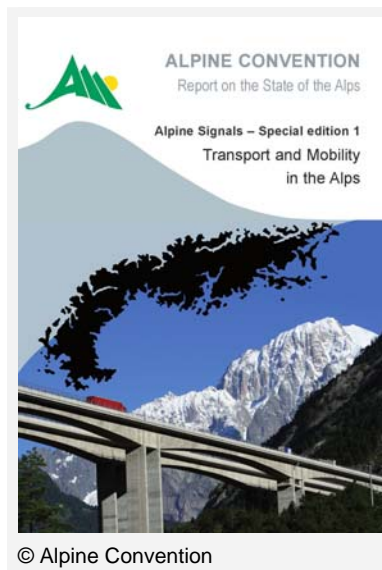
alpMedia Newsletter

A CIPRA information service – 31.08.2007, summary 14/07-17/07
www.cipra.org/alpmedia



Alpine Convention: First Report on the State of the Alps focuses on transport and mobility

(2.8.2007) The Alpine Convention has just published the first issue in its new series of publications entitled "Reports on the State of the Alps".



As Marco Onida, Secretary General of the Alpine Convention explains, the Report provides for the first time an alpine-wide overall view on the issue of Transport and Mobility in the Alps, one which is borne jointly by all eight member states of the Alpine Convention. He adds that the Report also provides base data that can now be used instead of the national data which in the past has often differed widely, for instance on transit traffic on the Brenner. Mr Onida also sounds a word of caution about expectations. He said the Report also contained recommendations whose approaches were not new, such as the idea of moving HGV traffic to the rail network. Readers might also search in vain for a recommendation concerning the construction of the Brenner base tunnel. Regula Imhof, Mr Onida's deputy, emphasised that the publication

clearly highlighted the differing effects of different transport policies. She expressed the hope that the Report signed by eight Ministers of the Environment would contribute towards ensuring that the common traffic problems faced by the Alpine countries reached a wider audience in Brussels.

With the Report on the State of the Alps the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention has implemented a project adopted by the Ministers of the Environment of the Alpine states and the EU at the 8th Alpine Conference in 2004: namely to provide the general public at regular intervals with comprehensive information on developments in the Alps. The Reports are also important instruments in the joint implementation of the Alpine Convention. The objective of sustainable development in the Alps is the focal point, which is why the Report addresses not just ecological but also economic and social issues. The publication is already available in English and can be downloaded at http://www.alpenkonvention.org/page9_en.htm. Translations into French, German, Italian and Slovenian will be available soon. The second Report on the State of the Alps, which will be looking at the issue of water, is to be published in 2008. Source: <http://derstandard.at/Text/text/?id=2946997> (de)

Contents

Page 1

Alpine Convention: First Report on the State of the Alps focuses on transport and mobility

Page 2

Maps of the Alps available for download from the EURAC Project homepage

BergBuchBrig

Acqua alta alpina – Conference and trade fair on climate change

NENA: getting together, exchanging views and establishing an alpine-wide enterprise network

Page 3

Successful environmental campaign aimed at protecting the Alps

First special edition of the Geo.Alp magazine

Tackling climate change with bare facts

Gymnaestrada 07: Exemplary sustainability

Page 4

Miscellaneous

Agenda

Oh!...

Headlines:

Page 2: Maps of the Alps available for download from the EURAC Project homepage

The homepage of the project entitled AGRALP – Development of Mountain Areas has been restructured and greatly expanded to offer some 200 theme-based maps for downloading. All the information is available in English, German and Italian.

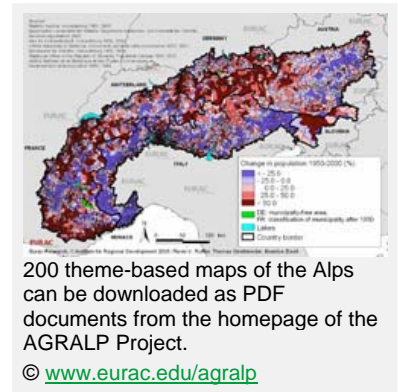
Page 3: Successful environmental campaign aimed at protecting the Alps

Last weekend some 40 "high fires" burned throughout the alpine region to draw attention to a sustainable future for the Alps. On August 11 fires were lit in Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Italy and Kyrgyzstan as a symbol of a better quality of life in the alpine region.

Maps of the Alps available for download from the EURAC Project homepage

(17.8.2007) The homepage of the project entitled AGRALP – Development of Mountain Areas (<http://www.eurac.edu/agralp>) has been restructured and greatly expanded to offer some 200 theme-based maps for downloading. All the information is available in English, German and Italian. Besides information about the project itself the homepage provides a comprehensive overview of developments in agricultural structures and demographics at the community level over the past few decades throughout the territory of the Alpine Convention (which includes some 6,000 municipalities) and the individual national territories of Convention member states. A multitude of demographic and above all agricultural data can be retrieved via the internet atlas. It illustrates how the Alps have changed over the past few decades. The data is based on an extensive database of official census figures collated over the past decades. The AGRALP Project is carried out by the Institute for Regional Development and Location Management of the European Academy Bolzano (Eurac Research).

Source and information: <http://www.eurac.edu/agralp> (de/it/en)



BergBuchBrig

(30.8.2007) *Montagnalibri*, the international mountain-book fair, is to be held for the second time in Brig in the Valais/CH from 25 to 28 October 2007. BergBuchBrig presents over 1,000 new books from 30 countries in a variety of languages. All the specialist books, literary works, picture books, guides, etc., relate to the world of the mountains. For over twenty years *Montagnalibri* has featured new publications about the mountains as part of the Trento Film Festival held every May. This year visitors to Trento were able to browse through 950 books by 300 publishers from 30 countries. *Montagnalibri* is designed as an itinerant exhibition which, in Italy, also travels to Bolzano and Belluno as well as Trento. In 2006 the exhibition crossed the border for the first time and travelled to Brig in Switzerland. There the exhibition is complemented with new publications from 2007. Besides the exhibition itself there is a vast supporting programme that includes readings, presentations, discussions, slide shows and film screenings. So BergBuchBrig is much more than a book fair; it is a multimedia festival that celebrates nature, culture and leisure activities in the mountains. Source and information: <http://www.bergbuchbrig.ch> (de/fr/it/en)

Acqua alta alpina – Conference and trade fair on climate change

(2.8.2007) The organisers of acqua alta alpine invite politicians, experts and interested laymen and women to a conference in Salzburg/A from 24 to 30 October which focuses on climate change and its impact on the Alpine region. The event's primary objective is to intensify the dialogue between different experts and representatives from the world of business, politics and science. The programme includes numerous presentations and discussions by international experts. Eight main topics relating to the Alpine region are to be addressed at the conference: Hazard Perception and the Impact of Climate Change; Prevention and Precaution; Natural Hazards; Communication and Tourism; Conservation Measures in Community Practice; Risk and Disaster Management; and International Projects. Registration for the conference also entitles participants to visit the trade fair and take part in several workshops.

Source and registration: <http://www.acqua-alta-alpina.at/> (de/en)



NENA: getting together, exchanging views and establishing an alpine-wide enterprise network

(19.7.2007) Through its NENA Project, CIPRA International is pursuing the goal of setting up a network of innovative and sustainable enterprises in the Alpine region. To strengthen this Alpine-wide network and plan future action programmes together, a large-scale event is to be held in Bregenz/A from 26 to 28 September.

CIPRA has already organised two international NENA workshops. On May 11 and 12 around twenty participants discussed value-added chains revolving around timber, and also eco-friendly construction, while visiting businesses and premises in Chur/CH and Vorarlberg/A. On June 28 and 29 around 80 participants met in Grenoble/F for an exchange of views on topics such as "Financing Renewable Energies" and "Large-scale Photovoltaic Power Plants" following a co-operation venture between CIPRA International, *Rhônealpennergie Environnement* and the Grenoble Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The two workshops proved that other people often encounter similar problems and that processes that are considered unrealistic may already have been successfully implemented elsewhere. The participants were also able to establish contacts which will enable future co-operation ventures.

The findings of the workshops and more information on the Bregenz event can be found at <http://www.nena-network.net/> (en). The NENA Project is funded through the EU's INTERREG IIIB programme.

Successful environmental campaign aimed at protecting the Alps

(17.8.2007) On August 11 some 40 "high fires" burned throughout the alpine region to draw attention to a sustainable future for the Alps. Fires were lit in Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Italy and Kyrgyzstan as a symbol of a better quality of life in the alpine region. High fires such as these have been lit every year since 1986 as an international symbol of solidarity towards the preservation of the natural and cultural legacy of the alpine region and against the destruction of the Alps as an ecosystem, thus focusing each year on a burning issue of relevance to the Alps. Each year the campaign has called for the immediate relocation of transit traffic to the rail network.

The two largest events of this kind this year included "Fire in the Alps" organised by Switzerland's Alpine Initiative on the Furka Pass/CH, attended by more than 200 people, and the fire at the Dobratsch in Carinthia/A.

The campaign, which takes place every year during the second weekend in August, is co-ordinated by CIPRA Switzerland.

Sources: <http://www.alpeninitiative.ch> (de/it/en); <http://kaernten.orf.at/magazin/panorama/lifestyle/stories/212104/> (de)

Information: <http://www.feuerindenalpen.org> (de/fr/it/en); <http://www.cipra.org/ch> (de)



One of many watch-fires lit as part of the campaign.

© www.feuerindenalpen.org

Tackling climate change with bare facts

(30.8.2007) Switzerland's Aletsch Glacier was recently the scene of an unusual protest action. Around 600 people gathered on the Alps's largest glacier to draw attention to the impact of climate change - by stripping off completely. The participants, who had travelled from all over Europe, were positioned on the Glacier in a variety of ways by photographers and five camera crews, and photographed from all sorts of angles.

The action, which was initiated by US photographer Spencer Tunick and the environmental protection agency Greenpeace, sought to establish a symbolic link between the vulnerability of the human body and that of the rapidly receding glaciers. According to the environmentalists the impact of the climate change brought on by humankind demands prompt and courageous decisions. The Aletsch Glacier, which is some 23 km long, lost around 115 metres of its total length between 2005 and 2006 alone. Forecasts indicate that most glaciers will have disappeared by 2080 unless radical measures to combat climate change are adopted swiftly and decisively.

Sources: <http://www.umweltschutz-news.de/index.php?menuecms=123&objektid=1876&nl=1883> (de),

http://www.krone.at/index.php?http%3A/wcm.krone.at/krone/S25/object_id_76238/hxcms/ (de)



600 volunteers faced the bare facts on the Aletsch Glacier on behalf of climate protection.

© Greenpeace/Wuertenberg

Gymnaestrada 07: Exemplary sustainability

(19.7.2007) "SUSPORT" (Sustainability & SPORT) is the name given to the environmental and sustainability concept for organisers of sporting events which has been drawn up by the organisers of the World Gymnaestrada 2007 together with the Swiss Federal Gymnastics Festival 2007.

From 8 to 14 July the World Gymnaestrada attracted some 22,000 participants from 50 nations to the small town of Dornbirn in Vorarlberg/A, which successfully carried the day against a multitude of rivals. The organisers believe they owe their successful bid among other things to the sustainability concept. The EU Commission's Interreg-IIIa Project is all about the sustainable co-operation of regions in the international border area along Lake Constance, and the conceptual formulation and implementation of large-scale events for the benefit of the region while protecting the environment and nature. Besides mobility and transport, accommodation, energy balance and waste prevention, the concept also addresses cultural and social issues. Sources and information: <http://www.wg2007.com/> (de/en);

http://www.interreg.ch/news/d_A269A300481646DBB89DCF4133F1C7D4.htm (de/fr)

First special edition of the Geo.Alp magazine

(17.8.2007) The first special edition of the Geo.Alp magazine is dedicated to the papers contributed to the 8th International Symposium on the Cultural Heritage in the Mining and Geo-Sciences, which was held in Schwaz in northern Tyrol/A in 2005. The theme of the event included early geological research activities in the alpine region and the work of leading geologists from the Tyrol. The special edition of Geo.Alp, which is available in German and English, contains 16 contributions by 24 authors from five countries, which deal with subjects such as the first edition of a geological map of Tyrol dating from 1808 or the objectivity of scientific work in the early 19th century. The next editions of Geo.Alps, to be published annually, are to focus on the subjects of geology, mineralogy, palaeontology and historical aspects of geological research in the Alps. Geo.Alp has been jointly published since 2004 by the Museum of Nature South Tyrol and the Institute for Geology and Palaeontology of at the University of Innsbruck/A. Source: http://www.provinz.bz.it/lpa/news/news_d.asp?art=180334&HLM=1 (de/it)

Miscellaneous

Mountain Wilderness: 20 years of mountain protection work worldwide

(2.8.2007) The mountain protection organisation Mountain Wilderness celebrated its 20th anniversary on 31 July and 1 August with an ascent of Mont Dolent in the Mont Blanc mountain range. With its symbolic ascent, Mountain Wilderness sought to speak out in favour of improving protection for the Mont Blanc range. In nine countries and regions that include various alpine countries, Belgium, Spain and Pakistan the members of Mountain Wilderness are committed to preserving unspoilt mountain regions, raising the awareness of mountain users with regard to their responsibilities, and solving the problems that arise in connection with adventure tourism.

Source and information: <http://mountainwilderness.org> (en/fr/de/sl und andere)

New publications: Risk management and 100 years of *Géographie Alpine*

(19.7.2007) The five chapters of the current edition of the *Revue de Géographie Alpine* look at risk management systems of urban alpine areas as well as early warning systems and crisis management strategies at regional policy level. The authors analyse examples taken from France, Italy, Slovenia and Mexico. Bibliography: *Revue de Géographie Alpine/Journal of Alpine Research*; ISSN 0035-1121 Institut de Géographie Alpine, Grenoble (fr,en).

To mark its 100th anniversary the *Institut de Géographie Alpine* has also issued a publication containing articles from the magazines dating back to 1913. The Institute's activities over the years are showcased along with explanations of various scientific approaches which have influenced the Institute and which remain valid to this day. Bibliography: "Ces Géographes qui écrivent les Alpes. Une relecture de la *Revue de Géographie Alpine* à travers le siècle" – FOURNY Marie-Christine, SGARD Anne, 2007 (fr).

Re-ordering back issues of "Mountain Research and Development"

(30.8.2007) All the back issues from 2000 to 2006 of "Mountain Research and Development" (MRD), the leading journal devoted to the world's mountains, can now be re-ordered simply and inexpensively. The editorial department of the quarterly journal is located at the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) of the University of Berne/CH; the publishers are the United Nations University (UNU) in Tokyo and the International Mountain Society (IMS). MRD contains well-researched, peer-reviewed scientific articles by authors from all over the world. The journal networks numerous institutions and researchers working on the subject of mountain research and development, and makes a valuable contribution to sustainable development in mountain areas around the world.

Source and information: <http://www.mrd-journal.org> (en).

Agenda

European meeting: **Transnational territorial co-operation area programmes (2007–2013): Alpine Space, Central Europe, South East European Space and Mediterranean Programme**; 4-5.10.2007; Slovenia; languages: en, sl; organisers: Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning of Slovenia-Directorate for European affairs and investments.

Information: <http://www.interreg.mop.gov.si/> (sl/en)

Workshop: **8th Workshop on Alpine Geological Studies**; 10-12.10.2007, Davos/CH; language: en; organisers: Geological Institute, Bonn University.

Information: <http://www.geologie.uni-bonn.de/Alpshop07> (en)

Conference: **3rd Global Change Research Networking Meeting for European Mountains**; 18-19.10.2007, Innsbruck/A; language: en; organisers: Mountain Research Initiative MRI.

Information: <http://mri.scnatweb.ch/> (en)

International Workshop: **3rd International Seminar on Mountain Tourism**; 25-28.10.2007, Sucha Beskidzka/Poland; language: en; organisers: Friends of Nature International.

Information:

http://www.nfi.at/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=99&Itemid=26 (de/fr/en)

International congress: **Mountain Sport & Health**; 18.-20.10.2007, Rovereto/I; languages: it, en; organisers: Research Center in Bioengineering and Motor Sciences (CeBiSm), Universitàten Brescia, Trento, Udine and Verona.

Information: <http://www.form.unitn.it/cebism/> (it/en)

Oh!...

...Anyone who thought the Brenner Base Tunnel (BBT) would solve the problems caused by the constantly growing volume of HGV traffic will be interested in the latest announcements from Brussels. During a visit in Tyrol the EU Co-ordinator for the project, Karel van Miert, stated that the aim of the BBT was "to slow down the growth in HGV transit traffic across the Brenner". From this one can conclude that people will have to put up with more uncurbed noise, exhaust fumes and pollutants year after year until the scheduled completion of the Tunnel (which even the optimists do not think will be before 2015). Then, according to the objectives of the current transport policy, the annual growth in the madness should "slow down" as the result of enormous investments and years and years of construction measures.

Source: CIPRA Austria, *The Alpine Convention* No. 46, Summer 2007