

Platform „Ecological Network“ of the Alpine Convention

Tools for the realisation of the Ecological network



Yann Kohler

Task Force Protected Areas,

France

Tools for the alpine ecological network

The Continuum
Project



Platform
Ecological
Network

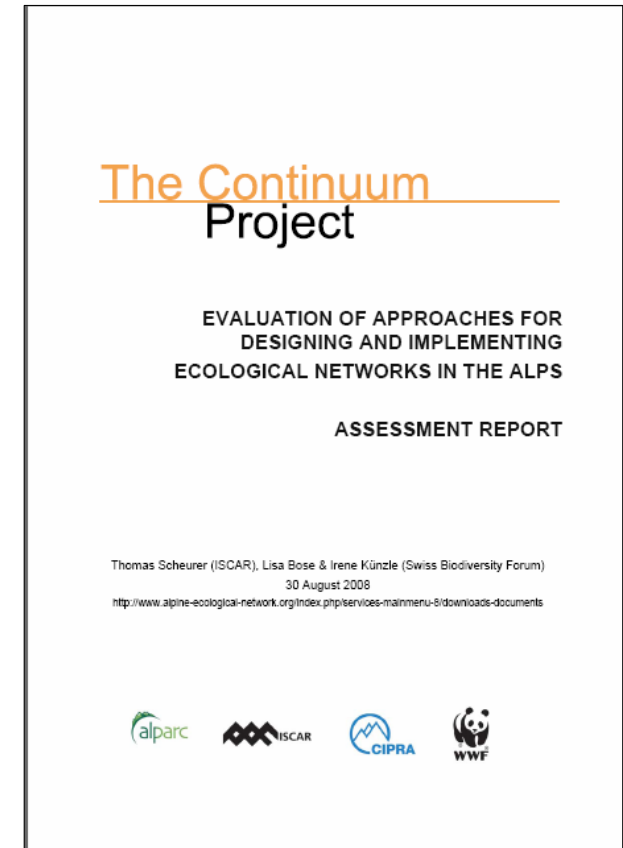
- Methodology
- Planning/Implementation
- Communication



Methodology

- Common alpine methodological framework:

Evaluation of the 4 most important approaches by a large group of scientists, development of an common basis for the alpine pilot regions



Methodology

- Glossary

The Continuum
Project

2. Glossary

Terms	Definition	German	Italian	French	Slovenian
barrier	An area of unfavorable habitat, or other physical obstacle, that separates two areas of favorable habitat, e.g. oceans in the case of terrestrial organisms, or a cereal monoculture in the case of woodland organisms.	Barriere	barriera	barrière	bariera
biodiversity	Variation of life at all levels of biological organization. Biodiversity is a measure of the relative diversity among organisms present in different ecosystems. "Diversity" in this definition includes diversity within a species and among species, and comparative diversity among ecosystems.	Biodiversität	biodiversità	biodiversité	biološka raznovrstnost
biotope	A biotope is an area of uniform environmental conditions providing a living place for a specific assemblage of plants and animals.	Biotoop	biotopo	biotope	biotop
biotope network	The target of biotope network is the protection, regeneration and development of functioning ecological interactions in the territory. Thereby the ecological and spatial-functional requirements of native species to their living space are in the foreground. Network systems shall provide genetic exchange between populations, animal migration as well as natural spread and recolonisation. ¹	Biotoopvernetzung	rete di biotopi	réseau de biotopes	mreža biotopov
buffer zone	The buffer zone surrounds the core area and is intended to protect the strictly protected core area against immediate outside influences.	Pufferzone	zona cuscinetto	zone tampon	tamponsko območje
bypass flume	Bypass flumes are built to avoid a obstruction in a river or a waterway, like a dam in a relative wide-ranging way. They are designed as near-natural waterways to ensure the migration of fishes and other water animals.	Umgehungsgerinne	canale d'aggiramento	canal de contournement, canal de dérivation	prehodni kanal
climate change	Climate change refers to the variation in the Earth's global climate or in regional climates over time. It describes changes in the variability or average state of the atmosphere over time scales ranging from decades to millions of years. These changes can be	Klimawandel	cambiamento climatico	changement climatique	podnebna sprememba

¹ http://www.bfn.de/0311_biotopverbund.html#4927



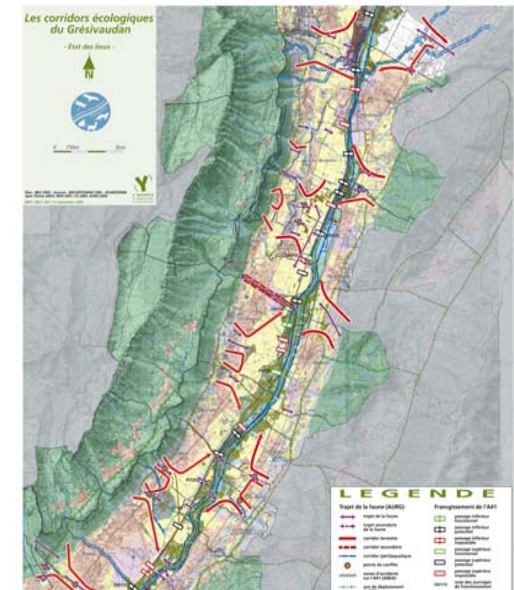
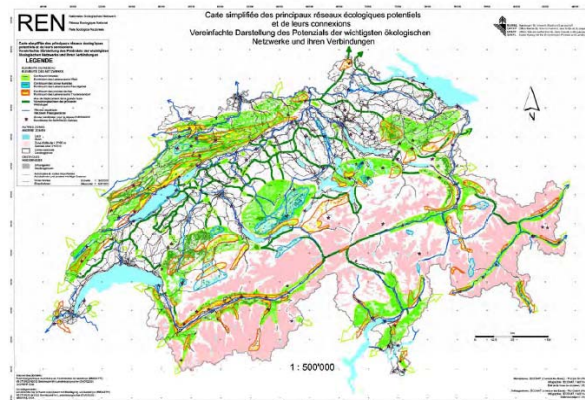
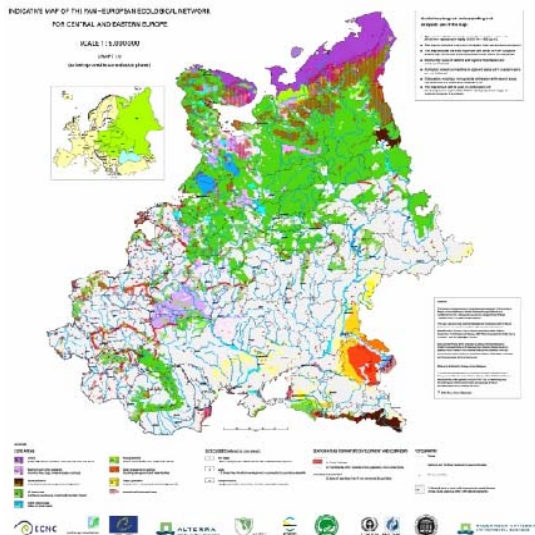
Methodology

- Guidelines for pilot regions
- Definition of common species
- Definition of indices



Planning/Implementation

- Common work on GIS analysis



Planning/Implementation

- Catalogue of measures

The catalogue of measures is designed as a tool for the pilot regions:

- Listing measures to improve ecological connectivity
- Giving an overview about all different sectors
- Ideas, examples,...
- Contacts, resources, bibliography



Planning/Implementation

- Measures in all different sectors :
 - General guidelines of measures for the alpine space
 - Protected Areas: extension, special contractual measures, new creations
 - Agriculture and forestry: agro-environmental measures
 - Physical planning and infrastructure: local and based on impact studies
 - All adapted to the local situation and in cooperation with the stakeholders and politically responsible persons



Planning/Implementation

- Nomination of pilot regions :
 - criteria / questionnaire
 - concept for nomination process
 - benefits for the pilot regions
 - list of funding and political instruments supporting ecological network activities



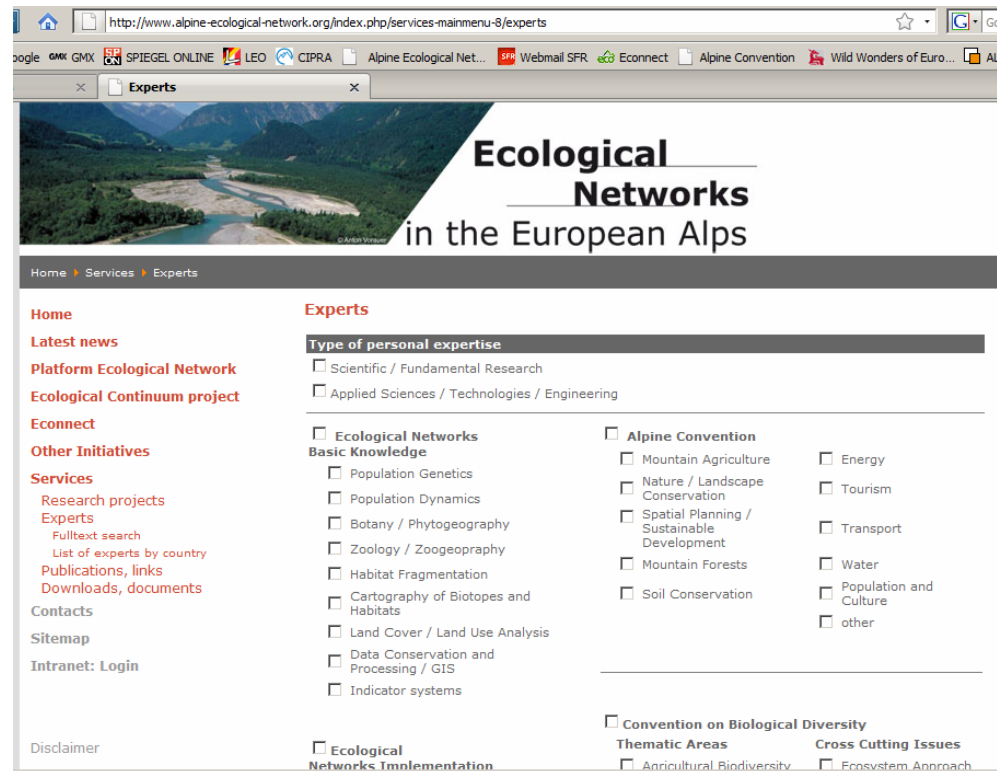
Planning/Implementation

- Contribution for ecological network :
 - For being nominated a region has to be especially active in
 - supporting an ecological network in the Alps and promoting sustainable development in their own region
 - Nominated regions have to achieve improvements to retain the label „pilot region“ longer than four years
 - The label „pilot region“ supports communication of the idea of ecological network
 - Increasing number of pilot areas leads to an alpine wide network of regions with ecological connectivity



Planning/Implementation

- Experts search data base



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://www.alpine-ecological-network.org/index.php/services-mainmenu-8/experts>. The page features a header image of a mountain valley with a river and the title "Ecological Networks in the European Alps". Below the header, there is a navigation menu with "Home", "Services", and "Experts". The main content area is titled "Experts" and contains a search form with the following options:

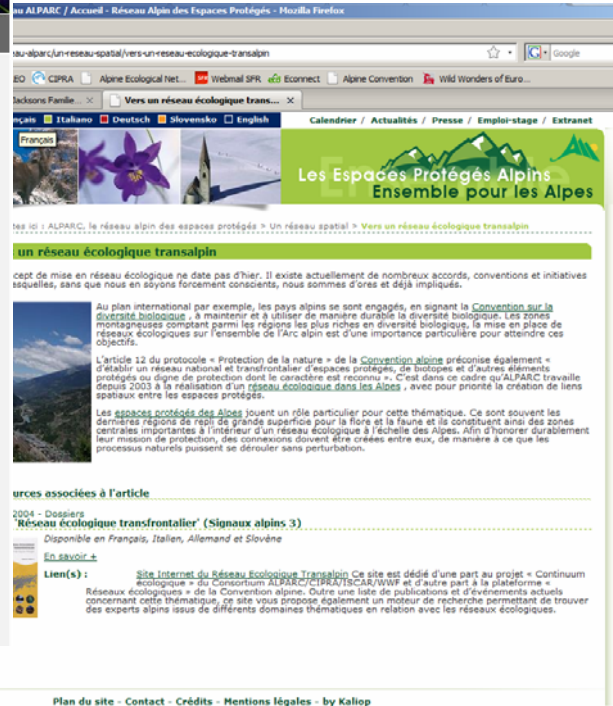
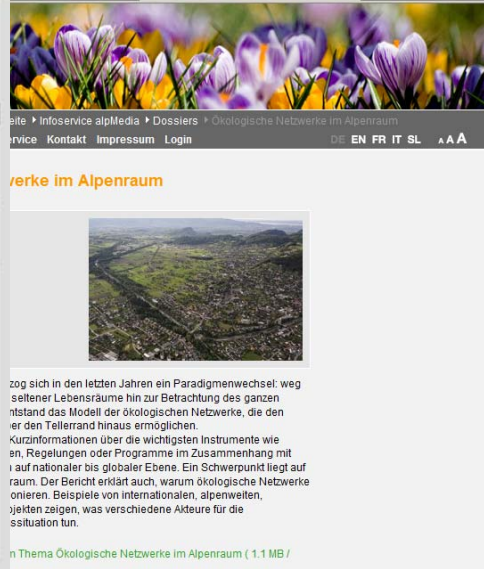
- Type of personal expertise**
 - Scientific / Fundamental Research
 - Applied Sciences / Technologies / Engineering
- Ecological Networks Basic Knowledge**
 - Population Genetics
 - Population Dynamics
 - Botany / Phytogeography
 - Zoology / Zoogeography
 - Habitat Fragmentation
 - Cartography of Biotopes and Habitats
 - Land Cover / Land Use Analysis
 - Data Conservation and Processing / GIS
 - Indicator systems
- Alpine Convention**
 - Mountain Agriculture
 - Nature / Landscape Conservation
 - Spatial Planning / Sustainable Development
 - Mountain Forests
 - Soil Conservation
 - Energy
 - Tourism
 - Transport
 - Water
 - Population and Culture
 - other
- Convention on Biological Diversity**
 - Thematic Areas**
 - Agricultural Biodiversity
 - Cross Cutting Issues**
 - Ecosystem Approach
- Ecological Networks Implementation**

On the left side of the page, there is a sidebar menu with the following items:

- Home
- Latest news
- Platform Ecological Network
- Ecological Continuum project
- Econnect
- Other Initiatives
- Services
 - Research projects
 - Experts
 - Fulltext search
 - List of experts by country
 - Publications, links
 - Downloads, documents
- Contacts
- Sitemap
- Intranet: Login

At the bottom left, there is a "Disclaimer" link.

Communication



www.alpine-ecological-network.org

CIPRA Dossier

www.alparc.org

Communication

- Regular information



Newsletter 1, March 2009

Econnect Project: Nature without frontiers
Connecting habitats and protected areas all over the Alps is the new conservation frontier; an ambitious international project funded by the EU in the framework of the Alpine Space Programme aims at establishing an Alps-wide ecological network.

The Econnect project will bring a major and innovative contribution to the conservation of the Alps' outstanding biodiversity. Sixteen partners from six Alpine countries have come together to promote a dynamic approach to conserving the natural heritage of the Alps.

The project became operational in September 2008 and will run until the end of August 2011.

The activities of the Econnect project contribute to the implementation of the Alpine Convention (Art. 12 Nature Conservation Protocol) which is binding for the signatory states according to international law.

Contents:

MEETING	2
NEWS FROM WORK PACKAGES AND PILOT REGIONS	2
Internal and external communication for supporting ecological connectivity	2
Spatial data management as basis for defining barriers and corridors	3
Identification of ecological anthropogenic barriers	3
Workshop on legal frameworks for transboundary cooperation of alpine protected areas	4
Improving ecological networks on the ground in pilot regions	5
Transfer of knowledge on all levels in and outside the Alps	5

Project Partners

Lead partner: University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna; Research Institute of Wildlife Ecology (FIWI) (A)
Other partners: University of Innsbruck, Institute of Ecology (A) Umweltbundesamt GmbH (A) National Park Gastein GmbH (A) National Park Hohe Tauern (A) Italian Ministry of Environment (I) European Academy of Bolzano (I) WWF Italy (I) Nature Park Alpi Marittime (I) Autonomous Region Valle d'Aosta (I) General Council of the Department of Isère (F) Task Force Protected Areas of the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention (F) Scientific research centre CEMAGREF (F) National Park Berntshögden (DE) CIPRA International (LI) Swiss National Park (CH)

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Contact:
University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna
Research Institute of Wildlife Ecology
Savoyenstrasse 1, A - 1160 Wien
www.fwiw.at



The Continuum Project

March '08 Newsletter

The Continuum Project

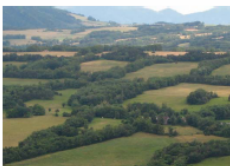
Financed by the Swiss MAVA Foundation for Nature

In June 2007 ALPARC, CIPRA, ISCAR, and WWF have initiated a 19-month project to lay the foundations for the long-term implementation of a coherent ecological network in the Alps. A joint alpine set of methodologies for connecting important areas and a catalogue of possible measures to enhance connectivity will be developed. In addition, four pilot regions were chosen across the Alpine arc to carry out first concrete implementation actions by 2009. These activities will include, for example, zoning measures, protected area enlargement based on the needs of ecological systems, creation of ecological corridors and sustainable use agreements with farmers, foresters, hunters or tourism operators. One crucial part of the efforts is to be seen in informing decision makers at the local, regional, national and international level on the importance of the ecological continuum. This is to be seen as a pre-condition for considering biodiversity aspects appropriately in planning and policy decisions. For this, also a profound and coherent communication strategy is prepared. Ultimately, the Continuum Project will provide the foundation for the work of the Platform "Ecological Network" of the Alpine Convention to further develop regional and cross-boundary connectivity projects within the Alps.

Completed activities

Evaluation of approaches for establishing ecological networks

In a first step the Continuum Project evaluated and assessed methodological approaches currently used or proposed for establishing ecological networks. Four approaches – the Pan-European Ecological Network approach (PEEN), the Swiss Ecological Network (REN), the Ecoregion approach by WWF, the Protected Area approach by ALPARC – have been assessed by 16 experts (scientists and members of the Platform Ecological Network) following a questionnaire. The suitability of the 4 approaches differs clearly regarding aims, scale, data need and implementation. The results of the expert assessment have been verified in a workshop on December 10-11, 2007 in Zurich (Switzerland) and recommendations on priorities (where ecological networks are most needed), on the methodology (what are the most appropriate approaches regarding different goals) and on the procedure (how to develop regional projects on ecological networks) have been developed. All recommendations will be summarized in an assessment report and can be seen on the webpage of the Ecological Network in the Alps: <http://www.alpine-ecological-network.org> by the end of March.



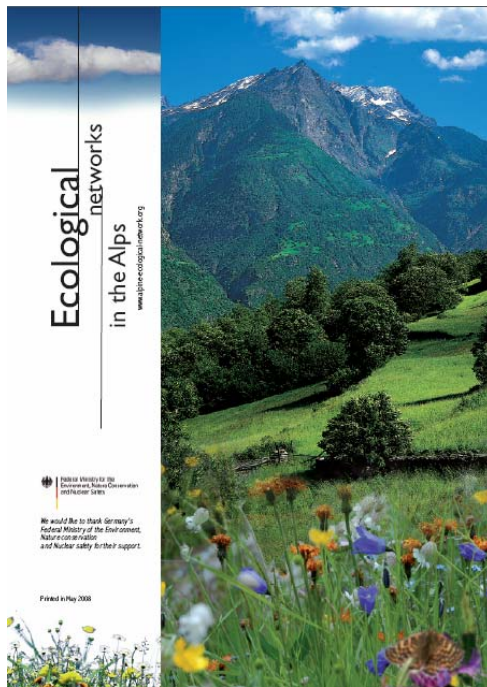
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alparc ISCAR CIPRA WWF

The Ecological Continuum Project was selected June 2007 by ALPARC (Alpine Network of Protected Areas), CIPRA (International Convention of the Alps), ISCAR (International Scientific Committee Alpine Research) and the European Alpine Programme of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) with the aim of establishing a coherent ecological network between important areas for nature conservation in the Alps. The project is financed by the Swiss National Foundation for Nature.

Communication

- Tools for communication with a larger public



Ecological Networks in the European Alps

Connecting systems...
 recreation areas
 better air quality
 protection against avalanches

...to living networks
 ...with us

...changing

The Alpine landscape...
 ...a mosaic of different habitats. Meadows, woodlands, water courses and open prairie, but also farming infrastructures such as ditches, terraces and hedges. Incredibly varied spaces occur alongside one another and are inhabited by the most diverse species. In the course of a year or a life cycle, the different elements of the landscape provide animals with shelter or food, as well as reproduction and wintering sites.

The incessant increase of infrastructure, the intensive land use and the growing pressure of urbanisation cause habitats to shrink, fragment into smaller, isolated areas, or disappear altogether. If living space becomes too small, or if connections to other areas are cut off, the survival chances of species decrease rapidly. This can lead to the disappearance of populations.

other initiatives. A joint Alpine methodology and a catalogue of measures to enhance connectivity have been developed, pilot regions have been chosen. In the frame of the Alpine Convention the Platform Ecological Network was established in 2007. It provides an important link between policy makers, the scientific community and practitioners, animating the political discussion to support the Alpine connectivity initiatives. ECONECT, a project of the EU's ETC Alpine Space Programme, connects 16 partners from six Alpine countries. ECONECT aims at bringing forward the implementation of ecological networks in pilot regions until summer 2011.

During their migrations some animals cover long distances and sometimes must overcome obstacles. Therefore linking the different ranges and resources is of key importance for the survival of populations and species.

www.alpine-ecological-network.org

Nationalpark Berchtesgaden | alparc

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
 "Ecological network in the Alps - a response to climate change that will conserve biodiversity?"

Berchtesgaden/D
 15th - 16th October 2009

PROGRAMME

The meeting, organized by the National Park of Berchtesgaden (D) and the Alpine Network of Protected Areas - ALPARC, coordinated by the Task Force Protected Areas of the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, aims to identify the link between global warming and the loss of biodiversity. It is held within the next decades. Central Europe and especially the Alpine space have to take into account enormous changes of the composition of species and habitats in our latitudes. The establishment of an ecological continuum facilitating migration in altitude but mainly in a south-north transect may be one of the answers we can develop from today on.

Nevertheless the most important effect of such an ecological network would be the spatial increase of refuges for the most endangered species and habitats by linking suitable natural and semi-natural spaces in the Alps and ensuring as well migration corridors to our neighbouring countries and especially in the Carpathians, the Apennines, the Jura and the Central Massif in France.

The meeting place is the Congress centre "Kuhhaus" of Berchtesgaden in the town centre. Please contact the hotel by yourself for your room reservation. Practical information will be provided on a separate document. An excursion is proposed on Friday the 16th of October. Please inform us if you wish to participate in the excursion in your definitive registration before September 10th.

ecconnect | Alpine Convention

Task Force Protected Areas | Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention
 00211 - 4 79 25 25 99 | alpine@alpine-convention.org | www.alpine-convention.org

Thank you for your attention!

Yann Kohler

Coordination of the Platform Ecological Network

Task Force Protected Areas
Permanent Secretariat of the
Alpine Convention
256, Rue de la république
73000 Chambéry, France

Tel. 0033 4 79 26 55 07

yann.kohler@alparc.org

Alpine Ecological Network

www.alpine-ecological-network.org

