

Joining forces...

We are **16 partners from 6 Alpine countries** representing national and regional administrations, scientific institutions, international umbrella organisations and local implementation partners.

We have come together in the **ECONNECT** Project in the framework of the **Alpine Space Programme** to promote a new methodology for the **conservation of the natural heritage** of the Alps.



...to restore the web of life

The Alps are an important **biodiversity hotspot** in Europe. Habitat loss and fragmentation, climate change, changes of agricultural practices and pollution, however, are posing serious threats to **biodiversity and alpine landscape**.

The creation of a **functioning ecological network** will contribute towards conserving the extraordinarily rich alpine diversity. Protection of biodiversity and natural heritage requires an **integrated approach** which reaches beyond protected areas and considers high biodiversity areas and corridors as **linking elements** in an Alpine ecological network.

What do we want to achieve...

The ECONNECT project is aimed at the **enhancement of ecological connectivity** in the Alpine space. As specified in Article 12 of the **Nature Conservation Protocol of the Alpine Convention**.

In order to achieve a comprehensive ecological network we will harmonise **geographical data**; analyse existing **physical and legal barriers**; establish a common terminology and methodology and subsequently define **migration corridors** in the Alpine arch.



...and how

We will achieve our goals by:

- Strengthening the **cooperation** between relevant institutions which implement ecological networks;
- **communicating** ecological connectivity;
- gathering and transferring **knowledge** about gaps and barriers to ecological connectivity;
- making **action plans** for implementation of measures;
- **implementation** of measures in **pilot areas**.

ECONNECT

Time schedule: September 2008 – August 2011

Budget: 3 million €; cofinanced by the Alpine Space Programme of the EU

Partners:

Lead partner

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Project Partners

Austria

Committee of the National Park Hohe Tauern, Federal Environment Agency
National Park Gesäuse, University of Innsbruck Institute for Ecology

Germany

Berchtesgaden National Park Administration

France

CEMAGREF, Council of Department of Isère, Task Force Protected Areas – Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention

Italy

Alpi Marittime Nature Park, Autonomous Region of Valle d'Aosta, European Academy of Bolzano, Ministry for the Environment, WWF Italy

Liechtenstein

International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA)

Switzerland

Swiss National Park

Observers

Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)/D, Nature Park Logarska Dolina/SI
Biosfera Val Müstair/CH, International Scientific Committee for Alpine Research (ISCAR)/CH

www.econnectproject.eu