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Réunion de la Conférence alpine

Sessione della Conferenza delle Alpi

Zasedanje Alpske konference

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XVIII

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ANNEX

10 Mandate proposals of the Boards and Working Groups for the period 2025-2026

**MANDATE OF THE
Alpine Biodiversity Board
FOR THE PERIOD 2025-2026
(BETWEEN THE XVIII AND XIX MEETINGS OF THE ALPINE CONFERENCE)**

1. Introductory remarks

Importance of the issues selected and relevance of the proposed way to tackle them, including reference to the Alpine Convention and its Protocols and further strategic documents

Transnational cooperation to conserve the Alpine biodiversity, as value *per se* and natural capital of significance, is not sufficiently considered and opportunities for action are under-exploited.

The mandate 2025-2026 of the Alpine Biodiversity Board (ABB) will be based on (1) the MAP 2023-2030, addressing especially thematic priority area 1 “Conserving and valuing Alpine biodiversity and ecosystems”, (2) the results of the ABB's first three mandates, and (3) the results of the work of the Slovenian Presidency (2023-2024).

The mandate is a part of global cooperation efforts between Alpine countries for preserving biodiversity, in particular towards the implementation of:

- the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular its Goal 15
- the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation (YGP 2025).
- the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP 2026).
- the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 (UN DER), which aims to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide.
- the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Alpine Convention, the Carpathian Convention and the CBD.
- the EUSALP, mostly through its Action Groups 6 and 7
- the European Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 with specific targets, actions and commitments and particularly the EU Nature Restoration Law

2. Planned topics and activities

To achieve the first objective of the Alpine Convention MAP “Conserving and valuing Alpine biodiversity and ecosystems”, in line with the “Biodiversity in the Alps” Policy Brief of the Slovenian Presidency and the activities of the Italian Presidency, the ABB's mandate will be articulated along four main topics (Monitoring, Restoration, Connectivity and Conservation), each developed within a Core Group within the ABB, which will pave the way for an Alpine Biodiversity Action Plan 2030 to be validated at the XIX Alpine Conference.

Topic No. 0 (overarching topic): Alpine Biodiversity Action Plan

Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference (knowledge sharing, policy setting etc.)

Based on the recommendations of the Biodiversity Policy Brief, and following up on various studies and mapping efforts carried out on the corresponding topics, the ABB will elaborate an Alpine

<p>Biodiversity Action Plan (AB-AP) to achieve concrete results by 2030 and beyond in the preservation of Alpine biodiversity and the strengthening of the Alpine-wide cooperation on: <i>monitoring, restoration, connectivity and conservation issues</i>.</p> <p>To implement the action plan, cooperation areas will need to be identified, especially in cross-border areas, by targeting protected areas and their buffer zone.</p>	
<p>Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop etc.)</p>	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tentative timeline</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drafting the overall structure of the proposed Action Plan - Elaborating the Action Plan's proposal based on the four pillars: Monitoring, Restoration, Connectivity, Conservation Including listing and selection of transboundary areas according to topics for future implementation of the action plan. - TWB consultation on the Alpine Biodiversity Action Plan particularly with the ACB 	<p>2025 2026</p> <p>2026</p>
<p>Expected outputs (statement, report, brochure, exhibition etc.)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alpine Biodiversity Action Plan's proposal including preparation for implementation in transboundary pilot areas 	
<p>Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference</p>	
<p>Implementation of the Action Plan in the four-year period 2027-2030 and beyond</p>	

<p>Topic No. 1: Alpine biodiversity monitoring</p>	
<p>Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference</p>	
<p>Transnational cooperation is based on a common vision of the current state and trends of biodiversity on which to agree on priorities for action. One of the biggest challenges is the inter-operability of different biodiversity monitoring systems through the Alps.</p> <p>The AlpsLife project, which emerged from the ABB and is being developed in the period 2024-2027 within the Alpine Space Programme, aims at establishing strategic and technical coordination at Alpine level on these data issues, and on transferring the information to relevant policy processes, as the basis for collective action. The ABB, via a dedicated core group, will ensure the constant exchange of information between project partners, relevant stakeholders, and country representatives. These exchanges will ensure that the project meets concrete policy needs, essential for the dissemination and implementation of results in national public policies, but also at operational level.</p>	
<p>Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop etc.)</p>	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tentative timeline</i>
<p>Supporting the activities planned in the AlpsLife project (especially the work package 4 "Political anchoring of AlpsLife results" coordinated by CIPRA) to facilitate exchanges between political and technical needs by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encouraging the dialogue to ensure that the project activities and results are in line with the strategies of the Alpine Member States and meet national and Alpine needs and technical feasibility. - Explore the possibilities for the continuity of this line of work after the AlpsLife project 	<p>2025-26</p> <p>2026</p>
<p>Expected outputs (report, brochure, exhibition etc.)</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contribution to the implementation of AlpsLife WPs1-4 - Contribution for the Alpine Biodiversity Action Plan on <i>monitoring</i> issues - Options to ensure the legacy of AlpsLife and the continuity of this line of work
Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference
Continued exchanges on AlpsLife until the end of the project in 2027.
Contribute to the development of a solid basis leading, after 2027, to the implementation of the main recommendations arising from the project results and the continuity of this line of work
Implementation of recommendations within the Alpine Biodiversity Action Plan in the four-year period 2027-2030

Topic No. 2: Restoration: Restore the ecological functionality within the Alps	
Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference	
Ecosystem restoration is an essential element in the recovery and conservation of biodiversity. In this respect, it is essential to improve cooperation between Alpine countries by:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analysing the various restoration issues at Alpine level and possible opportunities for international cooperation. - exchanging information, existing tools and best practices - fostering synergies on cross border areas dealing with specific issues and shared ecosystems and sites. 	
Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop etc.)	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tentative timeline</i>
Workshops with EU NRL national focal points, further public actors (including regional and local actors), EUSALP (AG7), involved in restoration and/or experts to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Foster strategic exchange between Alpine countries on national restoration plans (EU countries) or strategies (non-EU) for the Alpine region with a specific focus on topics with high relevance at the Alpine level like peatlands, forests, pollinators or river connectivity 	2025-2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Foster technical exchanges on tools, best practices of restoration in the Alpine region 	2025-2026
Expected outputs (report, brochure, exhibition etc.)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular exchange in place between Alpine countries on technical and political level - Regular exchange with the other core groups - Contribution to the <i>Restoration</i> pillar of the Alpine Biodiversity Action Plan 	
Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference	
Implementation of recommendations within the Alpine Biodiversity Action Plan in the four-year period 2027-2030	

Topic No. 3: Connectivity: Enhance connectivity within the Alps and beyond

Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference (knowledge sharing, policy setting etc.)	
<p>Spatial planning approaches and strategies vary by country (with differences even at sub-national level) and the consideration given to ecological connectivities. Considering connectivity effectively would improve the long-term viability of species with a wide range distribution and would facilitate many natural processes and ecosystem services, including for example plant pollination, flood protection and resilience to climate change.</p> <p>In cases where fragmentation of connectivity areas and degradation of the green infrastructure has already occurred connectivity should be restored.</p> <p>To this end, the ABB will work closely with relevant working groups from the Alpine Convention, particularly SPSP WG Transport WG and WISO, or from other areas such as the Carpathian Convention and EUSALP, which bring together experts in this field. Projects' results already occurred or on-going in this topic will be considered as well. All together they will jointly reflect on the various solutions and recommendations available for better consideration of ecological corridors.</p>	
Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop etc.)	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tentative timeline</i>
Based on the previous projects and work done within the AC to map ecological connectivity areas in the Alpine region, for example Econnect project, PlanToConnect, large carnivores report (WISO, 2022) and the PLACE report (Ecological Network Platform, 2019) :	
1- Workshop(s) on how the Alpine Convention can support the inclusion of Alpine ecological connectivity into spatial planning documents (joint workshop ABB, AG7, SPSP WG, WISO, Transport WG)	2025
2- Workshop on exchanges of best practices on restoring Alpine connectivity (joint workshop ABB, WISO, Transport WG, AG7)	2026
Expected outputs (statement, report, brochure, exhibition etc.)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision of technical basis or guidelines to support incorporation of ecological connectivities in spatial planning documents - Regular exchange with the other core groups - Contribution to the Alpine Biodiversity Action plan on the <i>Connectivity</i> pillar 	
Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference	
Implementation of recommendations within the Alpine Biodiversity Action Plan in the four-year period 2027-2030	

Topic No. 4: Conservation: Improve status of conservation for priority species and habitats	
Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference (knowledge sharing, policy setting etc.)	
<p>The network of protected areas in the Alps should be improved, both in terms of the level of protection and the territorial coverage of the network, to provide effective protection for taxa which need specific conservation efforts. To formalise and implement concrete conservation actions at the Alpine level, priorities need to be defined first. In particular, certain ecosystems should be highlighted for their contribution to ecosystem services in the Alps and beyond.</p>	
Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop etc.)	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tentative timeline</i>
Preparation of a list of species and habitats for the Alps referring to the Nature Protocol's Art. 13 and 14 (cooperation with EEA).	2025-26

Workshop(s) to identify optimal criteria for a priority list of Alpine species and habitats, based on scientific evidence and respective national strategies	2025-26
Reflection on a more harmonious approach to Alpine conservation strategies	2025
Expected outputs (statement, report, brochure, exhibition etc.)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preliminary list of species and habitats in the Alps to meet the requirements of the Nature Protection protocol - Methodological recommendations for selecting priority species and habitats at the Alpine level - Regular exchange with the other core groups - Contribution to the <i>Conservation</i> pillar of the Alpine Biodiversity Action plan 	
Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference	
Implementation of the Alpine Biodiversity Action Plan in the four-year period 2027-2030	

3. TWB meetings schedule

Tentative dates and settings of meetings (month or quarter, online/in presence)
The overall coherence of the four Core Groups will be ensured through coordination, overseeing by the chair and at the ABB plenary meetings
For each core group: TBD with each core group leader (min 3 per year, mostly online)
ABB plenary meetings, min 2 per year

4. Cooperation

Planned cooperation with other Alpine Convention bodies and further relevant partners and processes, and the expected benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued cooperation with other TWBs of the AC and especially with the TWBs that have involvement with biodiversity, as ACB, WISO, Transport, Mountain Agriculture and Mountain Forestry, Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development. • Cooperation with the Italian presidency regarding the RSA11 on glaciers and new ecosystems that will emerge from their retreat • Cooperation with the Carpathian Convention and CBD based on the Memorandum of Cooperation, including activities at CBD COP17. • Strengthening the links with EUSALP AG6 and AG7, specifically regarding landscape planning and ecological connectivity and nature restoration. • Cooperation with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. • Evaluating options for cooperation with IUCN Europe and EEA, including cooperation around Alpine Lists of habitats and species • Cooperation with the Austrian-German CIPRA annual conference on spatial planning (beginning of 2025) • Considering IPBES assessments specifically on spatial planning and ecological connectivity • Cooperation with Biodiversa+ <p><i>Opportunities for new collaborations and partnerships will be explored on a regular basis.</i></p>

5. Communication

Communication objectives, targets and respective planned measures
<p>Promote ABB activities at the international and European levels (European Commission, EEA, Carpathian Convention, UNEP, CDB COP17-18, international mountain's events...)</p> <p>Aggregation and dissemination of information on Alpine biodiversity contribution to the targets of the GBF and the European Biodiversity Strategy</p> <p>Continued dissemination of existing spatial priorities maps (by ALPARC and others, including outside of the AC circle)</p>
Elaboration of a communication plan for the Alpine Biodiversity Action Plan

6. Link to the Multi-Annual Work Programme 2023-2030 of the Alpine Conference

Contribution of the activities to some or all of the priority areas of the MAP 2023-2030 (interlinkages, synergies, and trade-offs with the specific objectives below)
<p>MAP Priority area 1 – Biodiversity and ecosystems: <i>Contribute to the achievement of the European and international objectives to protect, preserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystems in the Alps; Strengthen the Alpine Convention's own biodiversity and ecosystem-related activities and integrate the topic into the work of all its bodies</i></p>
All activities of ABB are designed to contribute to this MAP priority area.
<p>MAP Priority area 2 – Climate action: <i>Implement the Climate Action Plan 2.0 on the way to reach climate-neutral and climate-resilient Alps by 2050; Pursue cross-sectoral activities and look for cooperation beyond the environmental and climate sector</i></p>
By its current activities and setting up an Alpine Biodiversity Action plan, the ABB will ensure the concrete implementation of the pathways 1 "Protection and management of landscapes and ecosystems" and 2 "Transboundary cooperation on ecological connectivity" of the Climate Action Plan 2.0.
<p>MAP Priority area 3 – Quality of life: <i>Further the Alpine Convention's knowledge on the quality of life of people in the Alps, acknowledging and respecting territorial and individual differences; Promote the inclusion of quality-of-life measures in public policy-making processes at all territorial levels</i></p>
The 10 th Report on the State of the Alps has evidenced the importance of biodiversity for the well-being of people in the Alps. To reinforce these synergies, the ABB will aim at including representatives of local administrations and the civil society in its activity.

7. Chair

The Chair will be held by Italy.

**MANDATE OF THE
ALPINE CLIMATE BOARD (ACB)
FOR THE PERIOD 2025-2026
(BETWEEN THE XVIII AND XIX MEETINGS OF THE ALPINE CONFERENCE)**

1. Introductory remarks

Importance of the issues selected and relevance of the proposed way to tackle them, including reference to the Alpine Convention and its Protocols and further strategic documents

The implementation of the Alpine Climate Target System 2050 and the Climate Action Plan 2.0 (CAP 2.0) will again be at the centre of the Alpine Climate Board's (ACB) activities in the 2025-2026 mandate period, building up on the results of its previous mandates. In addition to working in the sectoral logic, the ACB will continue to focus on cross-sectoral hot-spot topics: lifestyles, energy and nature based solutions.

The ACB has so far learned that implementation activities are well underway (the planned monitoring will provide a deeper understanding of the progress). Rather than initiating separate activities, it seems reasonable to support stakeholders and multipliers in their work. The ACB provides for different formats that support this community (e.g. workshops, webinars, training sessions, factsheets). This also includes continuing the work with the network of caretakers, which play a crucial role in building implementation communities and following/monitoring activities of various stakeholders in the specific sectors of the CAP 2.0.

With the aim of achieving climate-neutral and climate-resilient Alps by 2050, the ACB will continue to work on a balanced approach promoting both mitigation and adaptation.

2. Planned topics and activities

Topic No. 1: Cross-cutting topic "Lifestyles"

Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference (knowledge sharing, policy setting etc.)

Austria, as ACB chair, has submitted the project application "HumanFactor - Closing the Implementation Gap in the Alps: Putting the Human Factor at the Center of Sustainability Transitions" to a "small-scale project call" of the Alpine Space Programme (date of submission: 27 June 2024). The proposal builds on the experiences from the lifestyles training sessions of the 2023/2024 mandate in applying psychological and sociological knowledge to support sustainable transformation. If the project is accepted (information will be updated in November 2024), its implementation will be the main activity on this topic No. 1. In case the application is not successful, it is foreseen to build on the experiences gained from the previous lifestyles training sessions and the intensive work on the proposal and continue these trainings.

Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop, etc.)

Description

Tentative timeline

a. Development of tools for multipliers

Starting in spring/early summer 2025

b. Regional training sessions aimed at local multipliers

Starting late autumn 2025

c. Alpine-wide workshop or webinar to share experiences	2026
Expected outputs (statement, report, brochure, exhibition etc.)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Skillbox/skillset and manual for training session design - Report on the training sessions - Report on the workshop/webinar 	
Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference	
Continue supporting multipliers (providing updated information and reaching out to new persons) and establishing a community of practice.	

Topic No. 2: Cross-cutting topic “Energy”	
Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference	
The ACB will disseminate the examples, findings, and recommendations of the booklet on energy governance (finalised during the 2023/2024 mandate) and deepen the analysis of the frameworks and processes. The ACB will also continue to work specifically on the topic of the acceleration of renewable energy production, e.g. a follow-up of the Workshop on the NIMBY (not-in-my-backyard)-phenomenon). Core elements for this topic are the discussion and development of measures and processes for resolving land use conflicts.	
Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop, etc.)	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tentative timeline</i>
a. Thematic Workshop/Webinar (1 or 2) on the energy nexus from the booklet on energy governance	2025
b. Follow-up activity on governance/stakeholder involvement/regulatory frameworks	2025/2026
c. Follow-up activity on the NIMBY-WS	2025/2026
Expected outputs (report, brochure, exhibition, etc.)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Follow-up output on governance/stakeholder involvement/regulatory frameworks - Summary on follow-up activities on the NIMBY-topic - Overview map for the examples/good practices (e.g. Alpine Convention Atlas; EUSALP Platform of Knowledge) 	
Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference	
Development of guidelines for dealing with the NIMBY-phenomenon.	

Topic No. 3: Cross-cutting topic “Nature-based solutions (NbS)”	
Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference	

The findings from the study on NbS governance in the Alps (project of 2023/2024 mandate) will form the basis for follow-up projects in the field of NbS. The aim is to work further towards the Alpine-wide implementation of NbS, identifying common areas of action for the entire Alpine region and assessing their role and effectiveness for climate and biodiversity protection and climate adaptation. A research project will develop concrete recommendations for the implementation of nature-based climate action measures in the Alpine region including the creation of mechanisms that transcend political and sectoral boundaries. The project is planned for the period 2025-2028 and will be financed by Germany, already with a view to the German Presidency of the Alpine Convention (2027-2028). Complementary, another project will be financed by Austria, starting in 2024 and running until 2025, involving also observer organisations of the ACB. Specifically for this topic No. 3, it is planned to use synergies, e.g. with the Alpine Biodiversity Board (ABB), working on a Biodiversity Action Plan; the Italian Presidency, with its adaptation focus (glaciers/permafrost/municipal action); UNEP, with experiences and lessons learnt on NbS in other mountain areas (e.g. Caucasus, Central Asia etc.); as well as EUSALP Action Groups working in Task Forces on Water Transition and on Multifunctional Forests and Sustainable Use of Timber.

Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop etc.)	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tentative timeline</i>
a. Follow-up project on NbS governance: Desk research and collection of good practices	2025
b. Follow-up project on NbS governance: Analysis	2025 & 2026
c. Follow-up project on NbS governance: Stakeholder webinar/workshop with findings and ideas for next implementation steps	2025 & 2026
d. Activities from project starting in 2024	Autumn Winter 2024 & 2025
Expected outputs (report, brochure, exhibition, etc.)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Follow-up project on NbS governance: Input paper and interim report (including factsheets of pilot projects and governance analyses); final report about NbS governance, implementation, and monitoring; overview map - Output from second project starting in 2024 	
Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference	
Continuation and update with recommendations for prioritised implementation steps. Implementation of long-term monitoring.	

Topic No. 4: Status of climate action in the Alps
Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference
<p>The ACB will continue working on the stocktaking of climate related activities (mitigation and adaptation) in the Alps. The next update will be presented by the end of 2025, with a focus on the link to the implementation steps of the Climate Action Plan 2.0.</p> <p>The results of this monitoring exercise will support the ACB in communicating successes (already implemented steps), and especially in raising awareness for implementation gaps. Caretakers will play a stronger role for this topic.</p>

Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop etc.)	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tentative timeline</i>
a. Desk research and collection of good practices	Early 2025
b. Alignment of CAP 2.0 and stocktaking	Summer/Autumn 2025
c. Webinar/workshop with findings and ideas for next implementation steps	2026
Expected outputs (report, brochure, exhibition etc.)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report (combining stocktaking and monitoring) - Recommendations/insights on potential adjustment needs for the implementation pathways (new priorities? new topics?) 	
Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference	
Targeted update of the implementation pathways (depending on the results of the monitoring).	

Topic No. 5: Alpine Climate facts	
Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference	
<p>The ACB wants to contribute to a comprehensive up-to-date and in-depth knowledge of climate change and state of the climate system in the Alps and therefore plans to provide climate facts that shall be helpful for the Alpine Convention community and beyond.</p> <p>In order to find out what information is most requested (e.g. target group specific/for each sector of the CAP 2.0/focusing on a specific sphere), an intensive cooperation with the TWB Chairs, the Italian Presidency and the Permanent Secretariat is foreseen.</p> <p>The intention is to build the content of the factsheets on recent findings, e.g. of the Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development WG on climate scenarios.</p>	
Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop etc.)	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tentative timeline</i>
a. Enquiry about information requirements within the Alpine Convention community	TWB Chairs meeting in March 2025
b. Elaboration of factsheets	2025
c. Workshop/webinar to present the results	Summer 2026
Expected outputs (report, brochure, exhibition etc.)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Factsheets on climate change in the Alps 	
Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference	
Regular update to the state of the climate in the Alps.	

3. TWB meetings schedule

Tentative dates and settings of meetings (month or quarter, online/in presence)
At least 2 meetings of the ACB per year, of which at least 1 meeting per year in person. In addition, at least 1 caretakers' meeting per year.

4. Cooperation

Planned cooperation with other Alpine Convention bodies and further relevant partners and processes, and the expected benefits
Maintain, develop and deepen cooperation for the implementation of the CAP 2.0 with the Italian Presidency of the Alpine Convention (e.g. contribution to RSA 11), all TWBs, e.g. ABB (Biodiversity Action Plan), Mountain Agriculture and Mountain Forestry WG (work on water scarcity and link to natural hazards), Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development WG (already very close cooperation for implementation of the CAP 2.0 pathways), relevant EUSALP Action Groups (AG6, AG7, AG8, AG9), and EUSALP Task Forces on "Multifunctional Forests and the Sustainable Use of Timber" and "Water Transition" as well as international networks (e.g. the Carpathian Convention).
The ACB is open to exchange, brainstorm and use synergies with other active stakeholders. In particular, it is planned to organise an expert workshop with the X-RISK-CC cooperation project as part of a physical ACB meeting in 2025, to work together on transnational policy recommendations for climate risk management of extreme weather events. X-RISK-CC is a project of the Alpine Space Programme that supports the CAP 2.0 implementation pathways for the target areas "natural hazards" and "spatial planning".
The issue of climate change in mountain areas has gained increased attention on the global level such as the UNFCCC process, e.g. in the Nairobi Work Programme and an Expert Dialogue, as well as the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation 2025. The ACB can offer to share experiences from the Alps as appropriate with other mountain regions.
The ACB remains open to new cooperation opportunities.

5. Communication

Communication objectives, targets and respective planned measures
The main aim of the ACB's communication activities is to reach new audiences and target groups (e.g. business stakeholders, professional organisations, social institutions). Therefore, the ACB will provide its community (ACB members, caretakers and people who have already participated in one or more events of the ACB) with information/specific formats to support their outreach; e.g. Alpine climate facts (see topic No. 5), presentations and graphics.
The ACB will continue to work with successful outreach formats such as trainings (e.g. continuation of the lifestyles trainings) and webinars (external and internal) as well as new formats, such as maps. Results from the previous mandate, namely the booklet on energy and the study on NbS in the Alps, will be communicated and shared with the interested community.
The www.alpineclimate2050.org website will be further developed and updated on a regular basis (study results, regular news articles, publication of webinar results etc.). Also, continued support of awareness raising activities on mountain issues through UNFCCC COP side-events and at other events is foreseen.

6. Link to the Multi-Annual Work Programme 2023-2030 of the Alpine Conference

Contribution of the activities to some or all of the priority areas of the MAP 2023-2030 (interlinkages, synergies, and trade-offs with the specific objectives below)

MAP Priority area 1 – Biodiversity and ecosystems: *Contribute to the achievement of the European and international objectives to protect, preserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystems in the Alps; Strengthen the Alpine Convention’s own biodiversity and ecosystem-related activities and integrate the topic into the work of all its bodies*

The activities under topic No. 3, aiming at strengthening the environmental policy cooperation between the stakeholders and the ACB on issues of nature-based climate action/nature-based solutions, will contribute to the objectives in this MAP priority area. The activities under topic No. 2 will also support synergies / limit trade-offs between biodiversity conservation and climate mitigation in the field of energy. Activities under topics No. 4 and 5 will contribute to the realisation of the implementation pathways in the sector of ecosystems and biodiversity.

MAP Priority area 2 – Climate action: *Implement the Climate Action Plan 2.0 on the way to reach climate-neutral and climate-resilient Alps by 2050; Pursue cross-sectoral activities and look for cooperation beyond the environmental and climate sector*

The Climate action priority of the MAP is at the core of the ACB mandate, which addresses both specific objectives.

MAP Priority area 3 – Quality of life: *Further the Alpine Convention’s knowledge on the quality of life of people in the Alps, acknowledging and respecting territorial and individual differences; Promote the inclusion of quality-of-life measures in public policy-making processes at all territorial levels*

The activities under topic No. 1 focus on people’s behaviours and perspective to enhance the acceptance of climate action and its synergies with the quality of life.

7. Chair

The Chair will be held by Austria.

**MANDATE OF THE
LARGE CARNIVORES, WILD UNGULATES AND SOCIETY
WORKING GROUP (WISO)
FOR THE PERIOD 2025-2026
(BETWEEN THE XVIII AND XIX MEETINGS OF THE ALPINE CONFERENCE)**

1. Introductory remarks

Importance of the issues selected and relevance of the proposed way to tackle them, including reference to the Alpine Convention and its Protocols and further strategic documents

The Large Carnivores, Wild Ungulates and Society Working Group (WISO) aims at finding solutions to manage large carnivores and wild ungulates harmoniously with society. Knowing and sharing the monitoring strategies and methods, the status of the populations of large carnivores and the possibilities for their management, as well as the application of derogations to the strict protection and the evaluation of their effectiveness, the best practices for damage prevention, and the attitudes of society/stakeholders towards the presence of large carnivores represent the firm basis for the continuing work in international coordination towards increasing political and social acceptance and promotion of cohabitation between large carnivores and society in the Alpine region. WISO, in all its work, is committed to an integrated approach, combining ecological, social and economic aspects of large carnivores and wild ungulates' management. This mandate will draw the main attention on brown bear, wolf, Eurasian lynx and golden jackal.

2. Planned topics and activities

Topic No. 1: Regular updates	
Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference (knowledge sharing, policy setting etc.)	
Promote the exchange among the WISO members of information, scientific data and experiences regarding brown bear, wolf, Eurasian lynx and golden jackal, in order to support decision-making processes as well as the coordination of management actions. Updates about the actions on the EU, international and national levels (publications of studies, political decisions) will be part of this exchange.	
Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop etc.)	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tentative timeline</i>
Exchange on two meetings (in-person) with presentations	Once a year
Expected outputs (statement, report, brochure, exhibition etc.)	
Minutes of the meetings, presentations	
Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference	
Continuation of the same format in the next mandate of WISO.	

Topic No. 2: Interpretation, implementation and evaluation of the derogations of the Berne Convention and the Habitats Directive	
Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference	
Enhancing the exchange of experiences among countries regarding the management of large carnivores offers significant value to all involved. Therefore, WISO will continue to share evaluations and experiences of the derogation conditions of the Berne Convention and Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive) regarding large carnivores, as exemption to the strict protection in reducing damage to domestic animals, risks to human safety (especially in relation to the brown bear), and managing hybridisation, and sharing practices in lethal/non-lethal removal.	
Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop etc.)	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tentative timeline</i>
a. Desk research per countries and presentations at the first meeting	Spring 2025
b. Collection of practices from countries	Until spring 2026
c. Preparation of the note, presentation at the second meeting	Autumn 2026
Expected outputs (report, brochure, exhibition etc.)	
Note on the exchange of experience of the use of derogation regimes	
Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference	

Topic No. 3: Human dimension in relation to large carnivores' presence	
Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference	
In order to better understand the human dimension of the large carnivores' issues and the societal attitudes in relation to the presence of large carnivores, members of WISO will design outlines for the questionnaire which will address these issues on the Alpine level.	
Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop etc.)	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tentative timeline</i>
a. Desk research per countries, identification of target groups, preparation of outlines for the questionnaire	Until spring 2026
b. Presentation and finalisation of the outlines at the third meeting	Spring 2026
Expected outputs (report, brochure, exhibition etc.)	
Outlines for the questionnaire for a shared human dimension study	
Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference	

Implementation of the study, in the event of the acquisition of funds necessary for the realisation

3. TWB meetings schedule

Tentative dates and settings of meetings (month or quarter, online/in presence)

The Working Group will meet four times during the mandate period, with each meeting dedicated to one or two topics. The meetings will take place in spring 2025 and 2026 (in-person meetings) and in autumn 2025 and 2026 (online meetings).

4. Cooperation

Planned cooperation with other Alpine Convention bodies and further relevant partners and processes, and the expected benefits

Cooperation with the Alpine Biodiversity Board will focus on the engagement of WISO in the preparation of the Alpine Biodiversity Action Plan. WISO will cooperate with the Transport Working Group and the Alpine Biodiversity Board on the ecological connectivity issues. Closer collaboration with the EU Platform on Coexistence between people and large carnivores and its platform members will be explored, to allow WISO to follow the discussions regarding large carnivores at the European level and be actively present with its outputs and work on the Alpine level. Cooperation with Carpathian Convention to continue exchanging on common issues.

5. Communication

Communication objectives, targets and respective planned measures

- Foster dialogue with relevant Alpine stakeholders (including stakeholders from tourism, agriculture, nature protection and civil society sectors) on topics such as cohabitation – sharing the most important messages of WISO via social media (with the support of the Permanent Secretariat)
- Communication with the European Commission to share the outputs of WISO.

6. Link to the Multi-Annual Work Programme 2023-2030 of the Alpine Conference

Contribution of the activities to some or all of the priority areas of the MAP 2023-2030 (interlinkages, synergies, and trade-offs with the specific objectives below)

MAP Priority area 1 – Biodiversity and ecosystems: *Contribute to the achievement of the European and international objectives to protect, preserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystems in the Alps; Strengthen the Alpine Convention's own biodiversity and ecosystem-related activities and integrate the topic into the work of all its bodies*

WISO members will share the available monitoring methods and data for large carnivores, underlying the importance of the viability of populations per contracting parties – thus contributing to the priority area by better monitoring the state of this segment of biodiversity in the Alps.

MAP Priority area 2 – Climate action: *Implement the Climate Action Plan 2.0 on the way to reach climate-neutral and climate-resilient Alps by 2050; Pursue cross-sectoral activities and look for cooperation beyond the environmental and climate sector*

Ecosystem resilience is an essential element in adapting to climate change. Large carnivores and their proper management contribute directly to the health of Alpine ecosystems and their ability to adapt to changes.

MAP Priority area 3 – Quality of life: *Further the Alpine Convention's knowledge on the quality of life of people in the Alps, acknowledging and respecting territorial and individual differences; Promote the inclusion of quality-of-life measures in public policy-making processes at all territorial levels*

Breeders (primarily, of livestock and cattle) living in the areas with large carnivores present face different farming conditions; the set-up of protection measures against the predation could be eased with the recommendations and expert knowledge of WISO and its outputs in all three topics of the mandate.

7. Chair

The Chair will be held by Slovenia.

**MANDATE OF THE
Mountain Agriculture and Mountain Forests Working Group
FOR THE PERIOD 2025-2026
(BETWEEN THE XVIII AND XIX MEETINGS OF THE ALPINE CONFERENCE)**

1. Introductory remarks

Importance of the issues selected and relevance of the proposed way to tackle them, including reference to the Alpine Convention and its Protocols and further strategic documents

The sustainable management of Alpine territories is of great importance in environmental and social terms, even more than economic terms. The production activities that involve these territories (supply chains connected to fruits, cereals, and derived products; livestock supply chains linked to milk, cheese, meat, and processed products; supply chains of construction, carpentry and craft wood and by-products for heating purposes) are of fundamental importance for the vitality and permanence of local populations in the mountains.

At the same time, these activities constitute, on the one hand, a tangible cultural heritage in which populations recognise identifying community values, while, on the other hand, allowing diffuse maintenance and management of territories most of the time with traditional techniques, with very positive effects also on the landscape. These are actual ecosystem services whose economic value, not easy to quantify ex-ante, becomes evident ex-post in the presence of damage related to abandonment, landslides, fires, extreme weather events, and production losses, with possible risks also for the downstream territories.

Furthermore, the adoption of agricultural and forestry techniques respecting those delicate balances can reduce the risks associated with climate change, environmental degradation, and the loss of biodiversity, all issues of significant importance for achieving the sustainability objectives also targeted by the European Green Deal by 2030.

The two previous mandates completed by the Mountain Agriculture and Mountain Forests (MAMF) Working Group had a plurality of objectives in line with the implementation of the priorities of the multi-annual Work Programme of the Alpine Conference 2023-2030, which identifies biodiversity and ecosystems, climate change and quality of life in the Alps among its main objectives.

In particular, the 2021-2022 mandate tackled topics related to the evaluation of the diffusion of organic agriculture (TASK 1 Stocktaking on organic agriculture in the Alps) and its possible prospects (TASK 2 Developing organic agriculture scenarios for Alpine regions) in the Alpine Convention countries; and to the identification of the most significant value chains for the Alpine territories (TASK 3 Study on the status of value chains in mountain regions and selected sectors of agriculture and forestry).

In the 2023-2024 mandate, the topics focused on the dynamics of the abandonment of Alpine territories and the possible political and administrative interventions to counter them, the introduction of circular economy processes, and technical and technological innovations in small businesses in the Alpine area and the multifunctional activities in the mountains for the sustainability of the alpine environment (livestock, carbon farming, pastoralism, agroforestry and sustainable food systems).

These are highly strategic issues that deserve further study to better define the technical, agronomic, and forestry methods to ensure long-term sustainability of alpine primary productions and transformation systems, together with the protection of the environment, biodiversity, and an effective fight against climate change (mitigation and adaptation) so to ensure a good quality of life

for local populations.

In the current mandate, the Working Group will focus on three topics: the management and protection of water resources, opportunities and limits of information technologies (Agriculture 4.0 and Climate Smart Forestry) and the issue of land fragmentation and generation change in mountain areas. Furthermore, the WG will discuss alternative formats of delivering the WG results to the relevant stakeholders.

This mandate, therefore, has a more general objective linked to the possibility of improving the performances of agriculture and forestry in terms of sustainability and adaptation to climate change and also from an economic perspective, paying attention to the land management and social aspects of local populations. At the same time, we want to promote the adoption of production, management and conservation approaches that also protect the ecosystems in which agricultural and forestry activities occur.

2. Planned topics and activities

Topic No. 1: Managing and protecting water resources in mountain areas	
Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference (knowledge sharing, policy setting etc.)	
<p>The Working Group will delve into the evolution of the Alpine agriculture and forestry concept in reference to managing and protecting water resources in mountain areas, to contribute to an improvement of the relationship between these economic activities and the water resource.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better definition of functioning relationships between agricultural and forestry activities and the management and conservation of water; • Consideration of the role of mountain agriculture and forestry on the availability of water downstream, given that, in particular, the protection and sustainable management of forests and mountain watersheds is a key factor in ensuring water quality and prevention of floodings and damages downstream; • Mitigation and adaptation in mountain agriculture and forestry re. changes in the water cycle related to climate changes. 	
Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop etc.)	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tentative timeline</i>
Workshop with presentation and collection of good practices	October 2025
Expected outputs (statement, report, brochure, exhibition etc.)	
- Report of the Workshop with “take home” messages, outline of good practices and recommendations	
Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference	
- Potential contributions for a shared water policy and management in Alpine areas considering climate change with the double side of intensification of the water cycle and increased frequency of droughts	

Topic No. 2: Agriculture 4.0 and Climate Smart Forestry: opportunities and limits of information technologies in mountain areas

Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference

Modern technologies can represent a tool for improving and simplifying labour activities. Nevertheless, in mountain areas there could be limits and/or barriers for an effective and fruitful use of information technologies in the agriculture and forest sectors (topography, coverage of communication network, cloud cover for satellite images, small-sized properties, variable land cover/use in relatively small areas).

This topic builds on the activity performed in the 2023-2024 mandate (Workshop), focusing on the evaluation of the "Agriculture 4.0" and "Climate Smart forestry" approaches in Alpine agricultural and forestry activities for a parsimonious and efficient use of natural resources (maintenance of biodiversity and guarantee of ecosystem functionality, as well as protection of naturalness where possible).

In particular, there is the intention to explore the potential and critical issues related to using information technologies in Alpine and mountain areas.

Objectives:

- Identification of possibilities of improving the performances of agriculture and forestry in terms of sustainability and also from an economic perspective;
- Adoption of production, management and conservation approaches that also protect the ecosystems in which agricultural and forestry activities occur;
- Collaborative actions for sharing the burden and cost of advanced technologies in mountain areas.

Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop etc.)

<i>Description</i>	<i>Tentative timeline</i>
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Workshop with presentation and collection of good practices	March 2026
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Expected outputs (report, brochure, exhibition etc.)

- Report of the Workshop with "take home" messages, outline of good practices and recommendations

Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference

- In depth analysis of "Agriculture 4.0" and "Climate Smart forestry" approaches in Alpine area for the efficient use of natural resources useful for future sustainability of mountain areas

Topic No. 3: Land ownership fragmentation and generation change in Alpine areas: actions and cooperation for win-win solutions

Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference

Building up on the findings of the mandate 2023-2024 regarding depopulation and land abandonment, the Working Group will deepen the themes of the fragmentation of land and generation change existing in the Alpine areas, including the possible effects in social (abandonment, decreasing number of farms), demographic (depopulation, attractiveness for young people), and physical (lack of care of the territory, environmental risks) terms. The ultimate goal is to

evaluate the possibilities, from the legal point of view and taking into account real experiences conducted in some specific areas (Food Communities, Green Communities, Land Associations, Forest Association) to recover and merge areas once permanently used for mountain agriculture and forestry and now permanently abandoned for lack of a farmer/owner willing to carry out an economic activity.

Objectives:

- Understanding of how land ownership and management impact the socio-economy of mountain communities;
- Sharing of success stories in community-sharing of land management;
- Addressing the problems of generation change in mountain agriculture and forestry and farm succession.

Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop etc.)

Description

Tentative timeline

Workshop with presentation and collection of good practices

May 2025

Expected outputs (report, brochure, exhibition etc.)

- Report of the Workshop with “take home” messages, outline of good practices and recommendations

Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference

- Proposal for possible schemes of putting together land and properties to preserve mountain primary production, landscape protection and maintenance
- Proposal for targeting the problems of generation change (increasing attractiveness)

3. TWB meetings schedule

Tentative dates and settings of meetings (month or quarter, online/in presence)

The Working Group will continue to meet regularly to coordinate activities and maintain focus on topics and objectives of interest across individual events.

During the mandate, it is recommended that at least two meetings are organised in presence. The format of meetings is then reported for the 1st and last WG meetings and for the two proposed in presence meetings – the format of the remaining will be decided at the 1st WG meeting.

Meetings and workshops

- February 2025 – 1st WG meeting – online
- May 2025 – 2nd WG meeting
- October 2025 – 1st Workshop – Topic 1 in presence
- January 2026 – 3rd WG meeting
- March 2026 – 2nd Workshop – Topic 2
- May 2026 – 4th WG meeting – in presence

- May 2026 – 3rd Workshop – Topic 3
- June 2026 – 5th WG meeting – online

June 2026/July 2026 - finalisation of the report, elaboration of new Mandate and final approval of the results of the Working Group

Working modalities:

Considering that the Alpine territory is not homogeneous with respect to the problems highlighted above, the organization of thematic workshops lasting a maximum of one day is proposed for the activities of the Working Group.

During each thematic workshop, the aspects that most influence the identified themes will be analysed in order to allow the members of the Working Group to collect sufficient elements to draw up a report on the current state and the prospects, which can be identified in each country and the Alpine Convention area for each of the themes.

Each Delegation and Observer will be asked to identify at least two speakers (one for the agricultural sector and one for the forestry sector) who will present cases of good practice, projects and examples of activities and/or be invited to round tables.

Depending on the relevance of the theme of the individual workshops and hoping for good cooperation from the individual Delegations/Observers, the organisation of the specific event will be entrusted to one or more Delegations/Observers, under the supervision and coordination of the Working Group Chair.

After each workshop, the Delegation(s) responsible for the organization will deliver a report on the topics explored during the thematic workshop. The report will include also summary points to be considered in the WG final report/output.

The final output of WG activities will be a report edited by the various Delegations involved in the organization of the workshops, which will collect the outcomes and results that emerged during the thematic workshops. The Presidency of the Working Group will coordinate the preparation of the report, while its contents will be the responsibility of all Delegations and all Observatories.

Possible other formats of outputs will be discussed (see 5. Communication).

4. Cooperation

Planned cooperation with other Alpine Convention bodies and further relevant partners and processes, and the expected benefits

The Working Group will collaborate with bodies, groups, and initiatives within the Alpine Convention, particularly with the Alpine Climate Board (implementation of the Climate Action Plan 2.0) and the Alpine Biodiversity Board (contribution to the elaboration of the Alpine Biodiversity Action Plan). It will contribute to the activities of the Italian Presidency. As in previous periods, the WG will cooperate with further Thematic Working Bodies, also with possible common meetings on themes of shared interest. It is also planned to further explore cooperation with EUSALP, in particular with Action Group 6, which deals with agri-food and forestry issues, and to potentially involve thematic projects of the Alpine Space Programme.

5. Communication

Communication objectives, targets and respective planned measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Presentation of work programmes and results during discussions with other partners and platforms.○ Advertising of the workshops coordinated between the Working Group and local organisers.○ Publicising the Group's main events and activities through support of the Permanent Secretariat.○ Use and contribution to social media communication○ In the 1st or 2nd meeting, the WG will also discuss the format of delivering the WG results. The approach of presenting best practices is valuable but the objective is to ensure that results and messages reach the relevant stakeholders (possible formats to be discussed: reports, executive summaries, factsheets, white papers, dedicated groups, etc.).

6. Link to the Multi-Annual Work Programme 2023-2030 of the Alpine Conference

Contribution of the activities to some or all of the priority areas of the MAP 2023-2030 (interlinkages, synergies, and trade-offs with the specific objectives below)
MAP Priority area 1 – Biodiversity and ecosystems: <i>Contribute to the achievement of the European and international objectives to protect, preserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystems in the Alps; Strengthen the Alpine Convention's own biodiversity and ecosystem-related activities and integrate the topic into the work of all its bodies</i>
MAMF Topic 2. A more efficient use of resources in agriculture implies lower residues in the environment, both for fertiliser and for other chemicals (preserving biodiversity and ecosystems); Adaptation of agriculture and forestry to climate change with the help of modern technologies: preserve ecosystems. Topics 1 and 3 also respectively contribute to protecting and restoring biodiversity.
MAP Priority area 2 – Climate action: <i>Implement the Climate Action Plan 2.0 on the way to reach climate-neutral and climate-resilient Alps by 2050; Pursue cross-sectoral activities and look for cooperation beyond the environmental and climate sector</i>
Topic 1: better water management in changed climate Topic 2: reduced greenhouse gas emissions due to improved efficiency on inputs and potential reduction in crop and tree growth losses
MAP Priority area 3 – Quality of life: <i>Further the Alpine Convention's knowledge on the quality of life of people in the Alps, acknowledging and respecting territorial and individual differences; Promote the inclusion of quality-of-life measures in public policy-making processes at all territorial levels</i>
Topic 1: reduction of water losses; protection from flooding Topic 2: improved, more efficient and less heavy labour Topic 3: reduction of land fragmentation for sustainable economy, possible actions for generation change

7. Chair

The Chair will be held by Italy.

**MANDATE OF THE
Soil Protection Working Group
FOR THE PERIOD 2025-2026
(BETWEEN THE XVIII AND XIX MEETINGS OF THE ALPINE CONFERENCE)**

1. Introductory remarks

Importance of the issues selected and relevance of the proposed way to tackle them, including reference to the Alpine Convention and its Protocols and further strategic documents

Europe is still exposed to the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. These are amplified by the war in Ukraine and the high increase in the cost of living experienced by people living in the Alpine region. Utilisation requirements to ensure greater self-sufficiency with regionally produced food and animal feed, the transition to renewable energies and the continuous use of land for housing, work, tourism, trade and transport are key challenges. As a limited resource that is only renewable over generations, soil is under particular pressure in the Alpine region for reasons such as limited potential permanent settlement area due to the mountainous topography, rapidly rising temperatures, more frequent natural disasters, trend towards urbanisation, abandonment, scrub encroachment and progressive reforestation of alpine pastures, competing interests in use for less and less available land. At the same time, there is growing concern about those issues.

The Working Group sees itself as an important voice for soil as a valuable and vulnerable resource in the Alpine region. Based on the "MAP 2023-2030", the "Long-term Action Plan for Soil Protection in the Alpine Region", the "Climate Action Plan 2.0" and other strategies, results are to be achieved during the mandate period that are in line with the Soil Protection Protocol and other protocols of the Alpine Convention, orientated towards the strategies of relevant cooperation partners, and taking into account recent EU regulations concerning soil protection (e.g. Soil Monitoring Law, Nature Restoration Law).

2. Planned topics and activities

Topic No. 1: TECHNICAL EXCHANGE ON SOIL ISSUES	
Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference	
The starting point of the technical exchange on soil topics are the issues already dealt with in previous mandates. These will be expanded to include further current challenges for soil. The successful handling of all topics depends largely on the commitment and assumption of responsibility by the national delegations.	
Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop etc.)	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tentative timeline</i>
a. EU soil-related laws: Identifying and emphasising Alpine-specific challenges and discussion of possible solutions/synergies between the Alpine countries for the implementation of soil-related EU legislation (Soil Monitoring Law, Nature Restoration Law) e.g. through technical exchanges with the relevant experts from the Alpine countries (by organising meetings, workshops, connecting	2025-2026 In charge: Austria with support of the EU

the relevant experts, or preparing statements) on relevant issues such as: I. planned guidelines concerning the Soil Monitoring Law II. soil data, possibly about the models that are used	
b. Soil protection on Alpine construction sites: Identification of national and field experts (via the WG soil protection), organisation of experts' workshop(s) and exchange of best practices	2025-2026 In charge: Switzerland
Expected outputs (report, brochure, exhibition etc.)	
ad a. Relevant outcomes of technical meetings, workshops, networking, statements on EU soil regulations with focus on Alpine-specific challenges ad b. Summary document	
Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference	
Evaluation, and where relevant improvement and continuation of activities on technical exchange including dissemination of outputs	

Topic No. 2: SOIL AWARENESS RAISING	
Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference (knowledge sharing, policy setting etc.)	
<p>Soil is a limited resource that is only renewable over generations and is under particular pressure, especially in the Alpine region (as described in the introduction). These facts are still not sufficiently known and are therefore not considered, or not enough. To increase soil awareness among decision-makers, interest groups, experts and planners, but also among the general public, more appropriate measures should be taken. The measures should be geared towards the needs of the respective target groups.</p> <p>Special attention is also paid to topics that emphasise the close connection between soil and other topics of the Alpine Convention such as nature conservation, spatial planning, agriculture and forestry, climate protection and water management, tourism, transport and energy.</p>	
Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop etc.)	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tentative timeline</i>
a. Preparation of a short and focused extract document from the Long-Term Action Plan	In 2025
b. Peatland Statement: dissemination in relevant networks	2025-2026
c. Impulses for national soil protection and spatial planning coaching events together with the Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Working Group, based on the activities during the last two mandate phases	2025-2026
d. Synergies with projects, networks and programmes, such as other Thematic Working Bodies of the Alpine Convention (TWBs), Alpine Space Programme (ASP) projects, EUSALP Action Groups and the EU Mission "A Soil Deal for Europe", especially:	2025-2026

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. ASP Project SOIL:OurInvisibleAlly b. With the ABB on the future Alpine Biodiversity Action Plan c. Possibly with other TWBs on communication fact sheets d. If relevant, on soil-relevant natural hazards with PLANALP and EUSALP AG 8 e. On soil relevant topics with EUSALP AG 6 	
e. Participation in conferences, meetings, webinars, etc. and other activities that deal with soil issues relevant to the Alpine region and that are organised by other partners	2025-2026
Expected outputs (statement, report, brochure, exhibition etc.)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ad a. Brief extract from the LTAP ad b. Listing of dissemination activities of the Peatland Statement ad c. Coaching Events on national/regional/local level, organised by respective national delegations ad d. Cooperation results such as mutual feedback or involvement in respective activities, fact sheets ad e. Listing of the participation in various events 	
Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference	
Evaluation, and where relevant improvement and continuation of activities on soil awareness, dissemination of outputs	

3. TWB meetings schedule

Tentative dates and settings of meetings (month or quarter, online/in presence)
Approximately three meetings per year, some in person, some online in coordination with the national delegations

4. Cooperation

Planned cooperation with other Alpine Convention bodies and further relevant partners and processes, and the expected benefits
The Soil Protection Working Group sees itself as a platform for better and more intensive cooperation on soil issues in the Alpine region. The members of the working group represent a wide range of topics and have different access to soil-relevant networks, particularly at national or regional level in their respective countries. Even more intensive use of this potential in the future cooperation with stakeholders from different areas such as science, politics, administration, experts and planners, non-governmental organisations, but also on involving the population should be fostered. In particular, topic-specific cooperation is planned with other Thematic Working Bodies of the Alpine Convention, EUSALP action groups, the EU Mission "A Soil Deal for Europe", and with experts and stakeholders on soil-relevant provisions in the EU Soil Monitoring Law and the Nature Restoration Law.

5. Communication

Communication objectives, targets and respective planned measures
<p>Knowledge about soil as a limited resource that is only renewable over generations, its numerous functions and the associated ecosystem services as well as the important cross-links to other areas of life must be publicised and disseminated widely. In addition to the usual formats such as face-to-face and online events and printed materials foreseen under part 2, social media will be used more in the future.</p> <p>The members of the Working Group, together with their national partners and networks, will prepare technical content in such a way that different target groups such as land users, interest groups, decision-makers, the population and young people in particular are addressed.</p>

6. Link to the Multi-Annual Work Programme 2023-2030 of the Alpine Conference

Contribution of the activities to some or all of the priority areas of the MAP 2023-2030 (interlinkages, synergies, and trade-offs with the specific objectives below)
<p>MAP Priority area 1 – Biodiversity and ecosystems: <i>Contribute to the achievement of the European and international objectives to protect, preserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystems in the Alps; Strengthen the Alpine Convention’s own biodiversity and ecosystem-related activities and integrate the topic into the work of all its bodies</i></p>
<p>The two topics Soil Awareness Raising and Technical Exchange on Soil Issues will make valuable contributions to this MAP focus. A contribution on soil biodiversity to the Alpine Biodiversity Action Plan can be developed in cooperation with the Alpine Biodiversity Board.</p>
<p>MAP Priority area 2 – Climate action: <i>Implement the Climate Action Plan 2.0 on the way to reach climate-neutral and climate-resilient Alps by 2050; Pursue cross-sectoral activities and look for cooperation beyond the environmental and climate sector</i></p>
<p>The two topics Soil Awareness Raising and Technical Exchange on Soil Issues will make valuable contributions to this MAP focus. Soil is especially relevant for climate action, as soil can be part of the solution for climate change mitigation and adaptation, soil can suffer from climate change and soil can aggravate climate change when managed in an insufficient way.</p> <p>The planned dissemination of the Peatland Statement will contribute to the Climate Action Plan 2.0 Implementation Pathway “IP_S1: Preservation and sequestration of carbon in soil with a focus on peatlands, moorlands and wetlands”, while the soil and spatial planning coaching events that are to be organised within the Alpine countries contribute to “IP_S3: Supporting measures to preserve and enhance Alpine soil quality”.</p>
<p>MAP Priority area 3 – Quality of life: <i>Further the Alpine Convention’s knowledge on the quality of life of people in the Alps, acknowledging and respecting territorial and individual differences; Promote the inclusion of quality-of-life measures in public policy-making processes at all territorial levels</i></p>
<p>The two topics Soil Awareness Raising and Technical Exchange on Soil Issues will make valuable contributions to this MAP focus since vital soil is a crucial base for a good quality of life, e.g. for intact nature above the soil or for good quality food production.</p>

7. Chair

The Chair will be held by Austria.

**MANDATE OF THE
Natural Hazard Working Group (PLANALP)
FOR THE PERIOD 2025-2026
(BETWEEN THE XVIII AND XIX MEETINGS OF THE ALPINE CONFERENCE)**

1. Introductory remarks

Importance of the issues selected and relevance of the proposed way to tackle them, including reference to the Alpine Convention and its Protocols and further strategic documents

Climate change and land consumption are leading to an increase in the risk of losses and damages from natural hazards. The fragile and densely populated Alpine region is severely affected by these risks. The protection from extreme events caused by natural hazards has technical and economic limits. Reducing the risks to an acceptable level is essential and can only be achieved together with all involved parties. The basic prerequisite is the public awareness and knowledge about natural hazards, which requires successful and effective risk communication tools. In its previous mandate, the Working Group initiated the exchange and transfer of innovative and effective tools in the field of communication of natural hazards to strengthen the risk management within the member countries. In the period 2025-2026, these transfers will be completed and assessed.

2. Planned topics and activities

Topic No. 1: Pilot implementation of communication tools

Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference (knowledge sharing, policy setting etc.)

During the last mandate (2023-2024), PLANALP has compiled a collection of best practices of successful risk communication tools from all member countries. In a next step five partnerships between the countries were set up to transfer selected examples to other countries in form of pilot projects.

In this mandate phase (2025-2026), the countries will proceed with the implementation process. During implementation, the partner countries will work closely together to improve and further develop the tools and adapt them to the specific legal and societal conditions in each country.

Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop etc.)

Description

Tentative timeline

a. Natural hazard model from Bavaria transferred to Austria	Until mid of 2026
b. Educational trail from Austria and flood information website from Bavaria transferred to South Tyrol	Until mid of 2026
c. Forest and vegetation fire prevention campaign from France transferred to Austria	Until mid of 2026
d. Risk communication activities in schools from Slovenia & South Tyrol transferred to Bavaria	Until mid of 2026

e. Civil protection and schools programme from South Tyrol transferred to Slovenia	Until mid of 2026
Expected outputs (statement, report, brochure, exhibition etc.)	
- Different outputs depending on the communication tool like physical models, informational websites, open-air exhibition, educational material	
Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference	
The communication tools will be used permanently.	

Topic No. 2: Assessment of pilot projects	
Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference	
The Working Group started in the previous mandate to design a process to evaluate the success of the different pilot projects. The identification of basic assessment criteria and elaboration of an assessment sheet will be finalised, and they will be used in an evaluation campaign. Especially the process of transferring and implementing each tool will be assessed. Depending on the respective pilot project, the impact on the target group will be evaluated as well.	
Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop etc.)	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tentative timeline</i>
a. Finalising the assessment sheets	Until Q3 2025
b. Carrying out the assessment	Until end of 2026
Expected outputs (report, brochure, exhibition etc.)	
- Assessment report	
Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference	
The report will help to better assess whether the activities of the Working Group are successful or whether the working method needs to be adapted in the future. Furthermore, the results of the mandate will set an important benchmark for international and cross-border exchange on the use and applicability of communication instruments in the fields of natural hazards and climate adaptation.	

3. TWB meetings schedule

Tentative dates and settings of meetings (month or quarter, online/in presence)
Meeting Q2 2025: online or in presence Meeting Q3/Q4 2025: online or in presence Meeting Q2 2026: online or in presence Meeting Q3 2026: online or in presence

4. Cooperation

Planned cooperation with other Alpine Convention bodies and further relevant partners and processes, and the expected benefits

PLANALP will cooperate with the relevant stakeholders in order to transfer, implement and assess the communication tools and will support the Permanent Secretariat and the Presidency with their activities:

- National administrations; depending on their role in the selected best practice examples, involvement of e.g. communication divisions of the national administrations for the implementation.
- Local and regional stakeholders; support of the implementation of the communication initiatives in pilot regions/municipalities.
- EUSALP AG8 (back-to-back meetings are very rewarding and should be pursued); mutual profit from the experience and knowledge of members.
- Presidency; Support of the Italian presidency with the Report on the State of the Alps dedicated to glaciers, on the topics related to PLANALP (e.g. glacier melting and permafrost thawing).
- Alpine Climate Board; support of the implementation of the Climate Action Plan 2.0, especially for the implementation pathway IP_NH3 "Support measures to enhance individual risk precaution".

5. Communication

Communication objectives, targets and respective planned measures

The implementation of the pilot projects not only improves risk communication within the member countries, but also supports publicity and knowledge transfer of PLANALP and the Alpine Convention. Besides these activities, PLANALP members ensure to:

- Enhance the online-presentation of the group on the website of the Alpine Convention
- Cooperate with the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention for the dissemination of information through its website and social media channels.
- Promote efforts to contribute actively in conferences and expert meetings and present the work of the working group.

6. Link to the Multi-Annual Work Programme 2023-2030 of the Alpine Conference

Contribution of the activities to some or all of the priority areas of the MAP 2023-2030 (interlinkages, synergies, and trade-offs with the specific objectives below)

MAP Priority area 1 – Biodiversity and ecosystems: *Contribute to the achievement of the European and international objectives to protect, preserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystems in the Alps; Strengthen the Alpine Convention's own biodiversity and ecosystem-related activities and integrate the topic into the work of all its bodies*

By emphasising nature-based solutions, PLANALP contributes to this priority area of the MAP.

MAP Priority area 2 – Climate action: *Implement the Climate Action Plan 2.0 on the way to reach climate-neutral and climate-resilient Alps by 2050; Pursue cross-sectoral activities and look for cooperation beyond the environmental and climate sector*

PLANALP cooperates with the ACB to support the process of the implementation of the Climate Action Plan 2.0 regarding the natural hazard pathways.

MAP Priority area 3 – Quality of life: *Further the Alpine Convention’s knowledge on the quality of life of people in the Alps, acknowledging and respecting territorial and individual differences; Promote the inclusion of quality-of-life measures in public policy-making processes at all territorial levels*

PLANALP contributes to the quality of life by mitigating the risks of natural hazards to ensure that the alpine region remains liveable for future generations.

7. Chair

The Chair will be held by Germany.

MANDATE OF THE
Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Working Group
FOR THE PERIOD 2025-2026
(BETWEEN THE XVIII AND XIX MEETINGS OF THE ALPINE CONFERENCE)

1. Introductory remarks

Importance of the issues selected and relevance of the proposed way to tackle them, including reference to the Alpine Convention and its Protocols and further strategic documents

The mandate for the period 2025-2026 of the Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Working Group (SPSD WG) focusses on three thematic fields: a continuation of the process towards an Alpine Spatial Development Perspective, a continued contribution to the Climate Action Plan 2.0 on topics in the sphere of spatial planning and development as well as a territorial focus on border regions in the Alps and their governance structures.

The Alpine Spatial Development Perspective (formerly titled Alpine Spatial Planning Perspective) builds on the processes initiated during the previous mandate of the Working Group, with a focus on continuity and reflection. Its main objective is to highlight the spatial dimension of sustainable development and promote cross-sectoral and cross-border perspectives in spatial development. A key reference point is the Protocol on Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development, which emphasises the importance of cross-border cooperation to achieve harmonious and sustainable development across the Alpine region. This is further reinforced by the Territorial Agenda 2030, which advocates for "Integration beyond borders". Specifically, it calls for actions that embed stable cross-border, transnational, and interregional cooperation into macro-regional, national, regional, and local development strategies, while also supporting the creation of new strategic documents where necessary. In addition, the ESPON InTerAlp project and its results can be a relevant reference point.

The Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2.0 is at the core of the climate action priority of the Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAP) 2023-2030. The Working Group places a specific emphasis on the Implementation Pathways, particularly those outlined in the spatial planning pathway IP_SP1. Climate action aligns with the Territorial Agenda 2030, which prioritises "A Green Europe," aiming for climate-neutrality in regions and towns. Additionally, the outcomes and follow-up actions of the Tenth Report on the State of the Alps on Quality of Life in the Alps (RSA 10) are vital components of this climate agenda, ensuring that the progress made in earlier initiatives is maintained and built upon.

In the area of cross-border governance, the Territorial Agenda 2030's priority on "Integration across borders", as part of the objective for "A Just Europe," is a key focus. This priority includes actions that embed stable cross-border cooperation into regional and local development strategies while promoting co-development and the involvement of citizens across borders. Findings from the assessment study on cross-border cooperation in spatial planning carried out in the mandate 2021-2022 highlight the importance of governance that facilitates cooperation between different sectors and spatial levels, particularly at the local cross-border level. Shared approaches to territorial planning are essential in these areas. The recommendations of RSA 10 address model approaches for governance that enhance collaboration between urban and rural territories and promote spatial integration in transition areas, with a special focus on cross-border regions. The need for soft cooperation in functional areas, especially across borders, remains a critical concern, with the InTerAlp project again playing a significant role in shaping these governance frameworks.

2. Planned topics and activities

Topic No. 1: Alpine Spatial Development Perspective	
Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference (knowledge sharing, policy setting etc.)	
Alpine Spatial Development Perspective (ASDP): Continue ongoing work on the Alpine Spatial Development Perspective, deepen the analytical understanding and further concretise the spatial perspectives	
Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop etc.)	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tentative timeline</i>
a. Thematic analyses based on territorial and sectoral indicators, development of objectives and visions	until Q2/2026
b. Cartographic processing	until Q2/2026
c. Participation and feed-back-loops	until Q2/2026
d. Concretisation of political involvement, steps, and consensus building towards Alpine Conference(s)	until Q4/2025
Expected outputs (statement, report, brochure, exhibition etc.)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Territorial and sectoral results and reflections on sustainable spatial development - Mapping and developing spatial vision: Cartographic representation - Broad acceptance of ASDP results after feedback-loops and participatory elements - Concretised political process towards an Alpine spatial development perspective. 	
Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference	
Continuation and finalisation of the ASDP	

Topic No. 2: CAP 2.0 Implementation Pathway IP_SP1	
Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference	
Follow up to the CAP 2.0 and the implementation steps foreseen in IP_SP1 "Spatial Planning for Climate Action" in coordination with the Alpine Climate Board (ACB)	
Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop etc.)	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tentative timeline</i>
a. IP_SP1_Step 2 Exchange and dissemination of information and awareness raising on issues including inner-urban development, settlement development, architectural qualities of density	until Q2/2026

b. IP_SP1_Step 5 Recommendations for the biggest challenges, focussing on major challenges being perceived in several Alpine countries and identified in the process of IP_SP1_Step 3	until Q3/2025
c. IP_SP1_Step 3: Follow-up activities regarding the previous mandates' outputs on land-saving targets and challenges (e.g. data compilation)	until Q4/2025
d. Related to Activity b) linking follow-up activities arising from RSA 10, e.g. its Recommendation R 3 "Equitable and just net-zero land take", screening and compiling approaches and instruments to combat land take/achieve circular land use while simultaneously benefiting land-use related social aspects (e.g. access to affordable housing, attractive public spaces)	until Q2/2026
e. Impulses for national soil protection and spatial planning coaching events together with the Soil Protection Working Group, based on the activities during the last two mandate phases	until Q2/2026
Expected outputs (report, brochure, exhibition etc.)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Step 2: Information and awareness raising activities (e.g. best-practice collection, Online-seminar etc.) - Step 5: Trans-Alpine, transferable recommendations for selected topics - Compilation of approaches/instruments to reconcile land-saving efforts with land-use related social aspects 	
Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference	
Monitoring of activities and reflecting progress of IP_SP1 in regard to the upcoming 2030 intermediate land take targets	

Topic No. 3: Promotion of cross-border governance schemes	
Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference	
Promotion of cross-border governance schemes: The 2021-2022 mandate's assessment study has identified cross-border governance structures as a viable approach to address spatial processes with a cross-border relevance. The SPSD WG promotes these approaches through appropriate formats and events (e.g. facilitating an exchange of experience among interested Alpine regions on successful structures, topics of common interest (e.g. commuting, housing, labour market, SGI, ecological connectivity, recreation))	
Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop etc.)	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tentative timeline</i>
a. Activities to promote cross-border governance	until Q3/2026
Expected outputs (report, brochure, exhibition etc.)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report/reference material of exchanges 	
Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference	

3. TWB meetings schedule

Tentative dates and settings of meetings (month or quarter, online/in presence)

The Working Group plans 2-3 regular meetings per year with additional meetings if necessary. Meetings shall be organised physical or virtual as appropriate, with at least one meeting annually being held in presence.

4. Cooperation

Planned cooperation with other Alpine Convention bodies and further relevant partners and processes, and the expected benefits

- Continue cooperation with other Thematic Working Bodies of the Alpine Convention:
 - Impulses for national soil protection and spatial planning coaching events together with the Soil Protection Working Group, based on the activities during the last two mandate phases,
 - with the ACB on CAP 2.0 implementation pathways
 - cooperate with the ABB on its upcoming Biodiversity Action Plan, in particular in the preparation of a workshop on how the Alpine Convention can support the inclusion of Alpine ecological connectivity into spatial planning documents (joint workshop with ABB, EUSALP AG7, Large Carnivores, Wild Ungulates and Society WG WISO, Transport WG)
 - continue the exchange with the Transport Working Group. Especially following up on the joint meeting between the Transport and the Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development (SPSD) Working Groups in September 2023, an exchange on the Alpine Spatial Development Perspective is envisioned.
- Pursuing thematic cooperation with selected EUSALP Action Groups (in particular 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 and 9) as well as the Austria & Liechtenstein Presidency of EUSALP 2025 on topics of joint interest, in particular in connection to the Alpine Spatial Development Perspective
- Continue cooperation with the AlpPlan network of spatial planners, incl. general exchange and in particular exchange on the Alpine Spatial Development Perspective
- Exchange with the Alpine Space Programme and its projects in the field of spatial planning and other bodies of cross-border Interreg-Programmes e.g. to share and use existing project results and expertise.

5. Communication

Communication objectives, targets and respective planned measures

- Dissemination of the results by each member within national administrations, different planning levels and other forms of public relations.
- Systematic communication activities of the Working Group using existing communication formats (Alpine Convention website) and via related networks,
- Outreach activities to related processes and identification of future cooperation opportunities, including other Alpine Convention TWB and events, structural funds programmes, EU cooperation projects in relation to spatial development (e.g. ERDF or CAP) and/or Territorial Agenda 2030 related actions.

6. Link to the Multi-Annual Work Programme 2023-2030 of the Alpine Conference

Contribution of the activities to some or all of the priority areas of the MAP 2023-2030 (interlinkages, synergies, and trade-offs with the specific objectives below)

MAP Priority area 1 – Biodiversity and ecosystems: *Contribute to the achievement of the European and international objectives to protect, preserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystems in the Alps; Strengthen the Alpine Convention's own biodiversity and ecosystem-related activities and integrate the topic into the work of all its bodies*

The Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Working Group will continue to strengthen sustainable spatial planning and development and support the Contracting Parties integrating sectoral activities and policies through its cross-sectoral and holistic approach and by including different interest groups and stakeholders at different spatial levels.

The mandate is contributing to priority area 1 (conserving and valuing Alpine biodiversity and ecosystems) by fostering spatial connectivity of ecosystems and habitats as well as green infrastructure and building on its previous activities to link sustainable spatial planning and prudent use of soils, which are crucial for the conservation and restoration of biodiversity in the Alps. In its activities related to priority area 1, the WG seeks a cooperation with the ABB in the preparation of the Biodiversity Action Plan.

MAP Priority area 2 – Climate action: *Implement the Climate Action Plan 2.0 on the way to reach climate-neutral and climate-resilient Alps by 2050; Pursue cross-sectoral activities and look for cooperation beyond the environmental and climate sector*

The mandate addresses area 2 (taking ambitious climate action) in the form of its continued activities on concrete implementation pathways of the Climate Action Plan 2.0 in the field of spatial planning. The WG continues to follow a cross-sectoral approach through continued thematic cooperation with other TWBs like the Soil Protection WG and Transport WG.

MAP Priority area 3 – Quality of life: *Further the Alpine Convention's knowledge on the quality of life of people in the Alps, acknowledging and respecting territorial and individual differences; Promote the inclusion of quality-of-life measures in public policy-making processes at all territorial levels*

The mandate also contributes to priority area 3 (enabling a good quality of life for the people in the Alps) through its work. In addressing the social dimension of land-saving approaches, the mandate also picks up recommendations and challenges outlined in the RSA 10. Efficient and climate-sensitive spatial structures as pursued by the ASDP, activities related to the CAP 2.0 and cross-border governance schemes are beneficial for the quality of life of Alpine citizens.

7. Chair

The Chair will be held by Germany.

**MANDATE OF THE
Transport Working Group
FOR THE PERIOD 2025-2026
(BETWEEN THE XVIII AND XIX MEETINGS OF THE ALPINE CONFERENCE)**

1. Introductory remarks

Importance of the issues selected and relevance of the proposed way to tackle them, including reference to the Alpine Convention and its Protocols and further strategic documents

Transport plays an integral role in the life of people living in the Alps, and is crucial to the region's economy, and to flows of people and goods beyond the Alps. Transport also contributes substantially to the region's CO₂ emissions and is one of the sectors struggling most with decarbonisation at EU level. Environmental impacts from transport also include air pollution, noise pollution, land-use, and the fragmentation of ecological habitats, all of these intensified by the Alps' distinct topography. Furthermore, expected economic and social developments could aggravate many of these impacts in the future, without adapted policies. Solutions and technologies to mitigate such impacts already exist, ranging from a modal shift from road to rail, electrification, and other alternative fuels, to active mobility and increased use of public transport.

Alpine transport is made of three main components: crossing flows, tourist mobility, and local mobility. To different extents and in different ways, all of them impact the Alps. These three components need to be properly organised and regulated to preserve the region's natural heritage and to improve quality of life in the Alpine arc. Close cooperation is required between Alpine countries at national and regional level in both developing and enacting measures for sustainable transport. The Transport WG aims to contribute towards the objectives of the Transport Protocol, the Climate Action Plan 2.0 and to implement the Action Plan of the Simplon Alliance initiative.

2. Planned topics and activities

Topic No. 1: **Modal shift in 'vertical' public transport**

Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference

Many Alpine destinations are easily accessible only using passenger transport specific to mountain areas, such as cable cars or funiculars. While they are mostly set up for tourism purpose, they can also play an important role for local inhabitants and services. To achieve climate and pollution objectives in the Alps, it is important to consider the modal shift towards these types of transport, as well as their decarbonisation. In this mandate period, an exchange of experiences across the Alps will be initiated, to identify good practices, challenges and possible developments.

Envisaged activities

Description

Tentative timeline

<p>Seminar or workshop on the modal shift of passenger transport specific to the Alps (such as cable car or funiculars), organised in Grenoble (FR) by the French ministry of Transportation in cooperation with STRMTG (the French service for cable cars and guided transport)</p> <p>The seminar/workshop will bring together the members of the Transport WG and various stakeholders (local authorities, user representatives, industry experts, technical services, and planning departments). It will focus on the presentation of various examples and experiences in the Alpine countries, the field of use, regulatory and certification aspects, profitability and socio-economic issues, acceptance by local populations and other difficulties, and the associated challenges in terms of land planning. The scope might be extended to the issue of public transport policies in Alpine agglomerations (with a potential presentation of the Grenoble agglomeration public transport policy)</p>	<p>Spring 2026</p>
<p>Expected outputs</p>	
<p>- Minutes of the seminar/workshop and short report with recommendations.</p>	
<p>Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference</p>	
<p>- A second workshop could be organised on the same topic in a similar Alpine destination, building on the first</p>	

<p>Topic No. 2: Conference on the energy, technological and ecological transition of freight transport and logistics</p>	
<p>Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference (knowledge sharing, policy setting etc.)</p>	
<p>High Level Conference with contribution of institutions, associations and stakeholders of transport and logistics supply chains to define a strategy to promote the sustainability and the decarbonisation of the transalpine freight transport and logistics system, according to the European targets</p>	
<p>Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop etc.)</p>	
<p><i>Description</i></p>	<p><i>Tentative timeline</i></p>
<p>Conference on the energy, technological and ecological transition of freight transport and logistics in Rome (IT)</p>	<p>October 2025</p>
<p>Expected outputs (statement, report, brochure, exhibition etc.)</p>	
<p>Brochure including recommendations for the decarbonisation of transalpine transport and logistics system, to be shared primarily with regional, national and EU institutional stakeholders</p>	
<p>Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference</p>	
<p>Further development in the mandate 2027-2028.</p>	

Topic No. 3: Cycling in the Alps	
Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference	
Sustainable forms of transport are essential for achieving climate and pollution objectives in the Alps. Among these, cycling is one of the most sustainable, healthy and efficient. Cycling is a very effective means of transport for local populations and for tourists discovering a region alike. The Alps boasts some of the best cycling infrastructure in Europe, although its availability and quality varies greatly throughout the region and regional networks are sparsely connected. To remedy this and progress towards denser and better-connected cycling infrastructure in the Alps, the Transport Working Group aims to promote knowledge sharing.	
Envisaged activities	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tentative timeline</i>
Side-event in the frame of the National Cycling Conference (NRVK) in Berlin (DE)	March or April 2025
Expected outputs	
- Statements, exchange of views, discussion about the feasibility of a VeloAlpina and Alpine EuroVelo-route and cross-border cycling routes	
Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference	
Improved cooperation between stakeholders; increased attention for investment in cycling infrastructure in the Alpes	

Topic No. 4: Sustainable Tourism Mobility in the Alpine Region	
Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference (knowledge sharing, policy setting etc.)	
Sustainable tourism mobility has become an important issue in the mobility and tourism sector : The Alpine Convention (e.g. Simplon Alliance Action Plan and Climate Action Plan 2.0) and the Transport, Health, Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) have already addressed this issue in the past, with the aim of ensuring that destinations and sights are easily accessible by train and bus, using flexible mobility services, as well as by bicycle and on foot. Climate-friendly mobility services have been developed for the first and last mile, and mobility services have been established at destinations and in regions.	
Simultaneously, overtourism and congested roads in tourist regions pose significant challenges, particularly affecting guest satisfaction. Promoting sustainable tourism and encouraging arrivals without personal vehicles not only benefits the environment and local communities but also enhances the resilience of destinations from a business perspective. Combining the activities to avoid, shift and improve tourism mobility into a holistic mobility management system supports the ambition to sustainably strengthen the resilience of Alpine tourism and make Alpine tourism mobility climate friendly. This mandate is intended to pool existing knowledge, bring stakeholders together and support the exchange and transfer of knowledge.	
It will be important to identify cross-connections between tourism, mobility and climate action and to realise climate-relevant win-win situations in tourism, focusing on the corresponding implementation pathways and steps of the Climate Action Plan 2.0.	

Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop etc.)	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tentative timeline</i>
a. Identify relevant topics for the event	Winter 2024 or early spring 2025
b. Set up the agenda for the event	Spring or summer 2025
c. Hold an event focussing on current developments and key issues such as mobility management at destinations, integration of sustainable mobility services in tourism packages, ticketing and multimodal travel information (systems), and sustainable mobility labelling at destinations, Vienna (AT).	Spring 2026
Expected outputs (statement, report, brochure, exhibition etc.)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seminar/workshop report - Agreement on further cooperation and information exchange on the topic of Sustainable Tourism mobility within the Alpine Region 	
Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference	
Establishment of a platform that brings together relevant tourism, mobility and climate change stakeholders on a regular basis to mainstream sustainable tourism mobility management.	

Topic No. 5: Coordination platform for electric charging infrastructure (AFIR Report follow-up)	
Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference (knowledge sharing, policy setting etc.)	
<p>The AFIR Stakeholder Meeting in October 2023 in Innsbruck was an important event to promote cross-border cooperation between the Alpine Convention signatory states to further the implementation of the provisions of the AFIR Regulation.</p> <p>In this sense, it is proposed to pursue this cooperation within the framework of existing groups or meetings on the matter. Another stakeholder meeting could be organised, possibly in the context of the spatial and content-related objectives of the Transport Protocol of the Alpine Convention.</p>	
Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop etc.)	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tentative timeline</i>
Renewed cooperation on the AFIR Regulation implementation within the framework of existing groups or meetings	2025
Expected outputs (statement, report, brochure, exhibition etc.)	
Output depending on the chosen form of cooperation	
Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference	
Holding regular stakeholder meetings on the topic	

3. TWB meetings schedule

Tentative dates and settings of meetings (month or quarter, online/in presence)
<p>The group plans to meet three times per year. The group will aim to organise at least two physical meetings per year, if possible back-to-back with workshops of the Working Group, or other relevant events. The remaining meetings will be held online.</p> <p>Tentative calendar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Spring 2025: Berlin, WG meeting + workshop (cycling, German National Cycling Conference)- Summer 2025: (location to be decided), WG meeting- October 2025: Rome, WG meeting + conference (transition of freight transport and logistics)- Winter 2026: (location to be decided), WG meeting- Spring 2026: Grenoble, WG meeting + seminar/workshop (modal shift in 'vertical' public transport)- Summer 2026: (location to be decided), WG meeting

4. Cooperation

Planned cooperation with other Alpine Convention bodies and further relevant partners and processes, and the expected benefits
<p>The Working Group will work in close cooperation with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ EUSALP AG4 (Mobility)▪ iMONITRAF!▪ Zurich Process▪ Arge Alp▪ Interreg Alpine Space programme▪ Relevant Thematic Working Bodies of the Alpine Convention or other stakeholders depending on each of the objectives: local authorities, academics, associations etc. <p>The upcoming Alpine Biodiversity Action Plan of the Alpine Convention will seek concrete results by 2030 to preserve Alpine biodiversity and strengthen Alpine-wide cooperation on: monitoring, restoration, connectivity and conservation issues. Due to the impact of transport infrastructure on the ecological connectivity in the Alps, the Transport Working Group will cooperate with the Alpine Biodiversity Board and WISO Working Group, and identify relevant experts to jointly reflect on the various solutions and recommendations available for reconnecting spaces, and how ecological connectivity could be better included in infrastructure planification. A workshop to exchange best practices on restoring Alpine connectivity is tentatively scheduled in the first half of 2026.</p> <p>Following up on the joint meeting between the Transport and the Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development (SPSD) Working Groups in September 2023, an exchange on the Alpine Spatial Development Perspective is envisioned.</p> <p>The Chair will, as far as necessary, represent the group at high-level meetings (Alpine Conference, Permanent Committee, TWB Chairs meetings, Alpine Climate Board, MAP follow-up etc.). The group's activities will be compliant with the orientations drawn by the Alpine Climate Board.</p>

5. Communication

Communication objectives, targets and respective planned measures
Work by the group will mainly be communicated to relevant stakeholders via the organisation of workshops and the publication of written reports, including on the website of the Alpine Convention. For each report, executive summaries and infographics targeting a broader audience will be issued.

6. Link to the Multi-Annual Work Programme 2023-2030 of the Alpine Conference

Contribution of the activities to some or all of the priority areas of the MAP 2023-2030 (interlinkages, synergies, and trade-offs with the specific objectives below)
MAP Priority area 1 – Biodiversity and ecosystems: <i>Contribute to the achievement of the European and international objectives to protect, preserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystems in the Alps; Strengthen the Alpine Convention's own biodiversity and ecosystem-related activities and integrate the topic into the work of all its bodies</i>
The group will contribute to the biodiversity and ecosystems area through its contribution to the upcoming Alpine Biodiversity Action Plan, and exchanges with the Alpine Biodiversity Board where needed. The often-neglected issue of ecosystem fragmentation in transport will be considered where relevant in other activities of the group.
MAP Priority area 2 – Climate action: <i>Implement the Climate Action Plan 2.0 on the way to reach climate-neutral and climate-resilient Alps by 2050; Pursue cross-sectoral activities and look for cooperation beyond the environmental and climate sector</i>
The group will mainly contribute to the climate action priority area through topic 1, in which the promotion of low-carbon mobility is addressed, topic 2, as the conference will have a strong focus on the decarbonisation of transport, topic 3, which promotes cycling as a climate-friendly transport alternative, and topic 5, which aims to accelerate the decarbonisation of road transport through better coordination on charging infrastructure.
MAP Priority area 3 – Quality of life: <i>Further the Alpine Convention's knowledge on the quality of life of people in the Alps, acknowledging and respecting territorial and individual differences; Promote the inclusion of quality-of-life measures in public policy-making processes at all territorial levels</i>
The group will mainly contribute to the quality-of-life priority area through topic 1, as the availability of reliable and clean public transport plays an important role for difficult-to-access mountain locations, topic 2, that aims to enhance quality of live through better access to cycling infrastructure, and topic 4, which addresses issues of overtourism and congested roads due to unsustainable guest transport.

7. Chair

The Chair will be held by France.