

**ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE  
ALPINE BIODIVERSITY BOARD  
FOR THE PERIOD 2023-2024  
(BETWEEN THE XVII AND XVIII MEETINGS OF THE ALPINE CONFERENCE)**

**1. Overview of the mandate given by the XVII Alpine Conference**

Summary of the objectives according to the 2023-2024 mandate

- **Obj. 1** Contribute to the awareness on and knowledge of mountain biodiversity and its specificity at the international and national level and support its integration in international and national policies.
- **Obj. 2-** Contribute to the achievement of the European biodiversity targets in the Alps and to the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 in the Alps, also making use of the monitoring of mountain biodiversity, and facilitate the exchange of information, knowledge, experiences and the lessons learned between the Parties and Observers of the Alpine Convention and other experts and interested parties.
- **Obj. 3-** Contribute to implementing the two Biodiversity Pathways of the Climate Action Plan 2.0, elaborated between the ABB and the ACB: 1) "Protection and management of vulnerable and Alpine-specific landscapes and ecosystems" and 2) "Enhance transboundary cooperation and ecological connectivity".
- **Obj.4-** Support the global ecosystem restoration efforts in the Alps and raise the profile of the Alps as a model region in this field

**2. Meetings**

Summary of the meetings held (date, place, main topics and milestones)

- **1<sup>st</sup> ABB meeting**, March 2, 2023 – Hybrid meeting – Rome, Italy:

Proposal of work programme 2023-2024; thematic discussion on Ob.1; update on biodiversity monitoring and mapping project; report of past workshops and proposal of future ones; presentation of Transnature - Biodiversa+ project.

- **2<sup>nd</sup> ABB meeting**, June 15, 2023 – Online meeting:

Proposal (later implemented) by CG3 of the "Crossroad Biodiversity" workshop in collaboration with ERSAF, on the results of Gestire2000 and the issues of restoration and ecological connectivity; participation of UNEP and noted the intention of the Carpathian Convention to implement the Global Biodiversity Framework with a Carpathian-specific Framework; presentation of the AlpsLife project structure, with an in-depth discussion of the main tasks of each Working Package, by ALPARC.

- **3<sup>rd</sup> meeting**, January 30-31, 2024 – Gorizia, Italy:

Update on the status of each Member Country on EU Nature Restoration Law and discussion on methodological approach for cooperation; discussion on the International Year of Glaciers with emphasis on permafrost and emerging post-glacial ecosystems.

- **4<sup>th</sup> ABB meeting**, June 12, 2024 – Kranjska Gora back-to-back with the Alpine Biodiversity Conference and Forum Alpinum:

Presentation of biodiversity ambitions of the future Italian Presidency; discussion on the recommendations proposed during the conservation, restoration and connectivity sessions of the Alpine Biodiversity Conference; first review of draft mandate for 2025-2026.

- **5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> ABB meetings**, July 19 and September 9, 2024 – online meetings:

Discussion and validation of the ABB mandate 25-26.

### 3. Activities carried out

Activities carried out with their outputs and results, highlighting their contributions to the relevant priorities of the [Multi-Annual Work Programme 2023-2030](#)

- **"Addressing the Loss of Biodiversity in the Alpine region: Exchange on Implementation of National, European and Global Biodiversity Strategies,"** April 17, 2023 (online meeting)

The overall objective was to highlight the role of biodiversity in addressing the multiple challenges in the Alpine region, especially climate change. An overview of existing or currently updated NBSAPs of Contracting Parties was provided to better understand what measures have been and are being taken and how these align with global goals. Tools and activities from European organisations (European Environment Agency, Biodiversa+, Carpathian Convention) useful for increasing Alpine-wide cooperation, connecting partners, or providing funding to act jointly for biodiversity were discussed.

- **"Quality of life and biodiversity,"** September 27, 2023 (Bolzano, Italy)

Collaboration with the Ad Hoc Working Group for the 10th RSA on Quality of Life. Raising awareness of the importance of biodiversity and the potential of its ecological and cultural services to benefit humans in general. One of the main objectives was to better understand how the preparation of efficient National Biodiversity Action Plans and Strategies can help bridge gaps between thematic areas and further develop the guidance found in the European Biodiversity Framework and related documents on the role of biodiversity in people's daily.

- **"Alpine biodiversity through the Climate Lens: Nature-based solutions (NbS), biodiversity data and best practices,"** October 5, 2023 (online meeting)

An overview of the link between (loss of) biodiversity and climate change with focus on the exchange of information on climate impacts in the Alps and discussion on the need to harmonize biodiversity data at the pan-Alpine level. Completed networking activities and identification of synergies and interfaces between ACB and ABB. Afterwards, presentation of results on the topic and discussion of proposed best practices.

- **Workshop "Crossroads biodiversity,"** October 10-11, 2023 (Milan, Italy)

The workshop proposed an analysis and presentation of best practices derived from Gestire2000. A link was established with the Life Strategic Nature project on the need for ecological network between the Italian alpine regions, "NatConnect2030". The workshop specifically discussed the main governance processes, conservation and restoration issues, monitoring and how to engage the private sector. It also looked at how the actions and aspirations in the region can be aligned with the European and global biodiversity targets, with a particular focus on the EU Nature Restoration Law.

Based on these discussions, a final document has been prepared and been released, summarizing the key messages.

- **"Biodiversity and Land Use Planning"** December 4, 2023 (online meeting)

Integration of biodiversity concepts and soil functionality knowledge into administrative policies and land use planning. Grasslands and peatlands, due to their biological richness, were proposed as proxies for soil capacity to provide ecosystem services and identification of tools for land use assessment. Renewed call for transboundary cooperation, especially in information exchange and increasing ecological connectivity among member states.

- **"The EU Forest Strategy 2030 and Alpine Biodiversity Board of Alpine Convention for the Alpine Biogeographic Region"** April 8, 2024 (Torino, Italy)

The event focused on the crucial topic of sustainable forest management, with an emphasis on biodiversity conservation, through the presentation and discussion of the European Commission's guidelines published in 2023. By sharing knowledge and best practices from various Alpine countries, the workshop sought to improve understanding of sustainable forest management and promote ongoing cooperative actions

- **Proposal and endorsement of the Interreg Alpine Space project "AlpsLife"**, submitted and been approved, which aims to generate a **pan-Alpine-scale biodiversity monitoring framework** critical to the implementation of individual national strategies
- **Drafting and dissemination to the Heads of Delegation of a Concept Note to highlight the opportunities for transnational collaboration among Alpine countries offered by the EU Nature Restoration Law** and reiterate ABB's position as well as its potential role in addressing these issues.

#### 4. Cooperation

Cooperation developed with other Alpine Convention bodies and further relevant partners and processes, and resulting benefits

During its two-year period, the *Alpine Biodiversity Board* has committed itself to:

- Maintain collaboration with key biodiversity working groups, such as **MAMF** and **WISO**, to foster the flow of data and knowledge on the specificity of mountain biodiversity and to take note of its importance at the societal level as well.
- Increase efforts with the **Alpine Climate Board** to integrate MAP pathways and in particular to address impacts on the most vulnerable alpine landscapes and biodiversity by climate change.
- Working closely with the Biodiversity Working Group of the **Carpathian Convention** on GBF implementation. This also contributed to the signature of a new Memorandum of Cooperation with AC and the CBD on biodiversity issues presented in Belgrade, Serbia, in October 2023.
- Establish contacts with **various national organisations and regional or local bodies**, while strengthening synergies with the AGs of **EUSALP**
- Collaborate with the EU on the dissemination of its EU Directives and Good Practices and expose the benefits of their implementation for non-EU Member Countries as well. (Ex. Forestry Workshop).

## 5. Communication

Communication measures and outreach activities carried out, specifying their respective target groups

- The main means of communication (in addition to direct contact and bilateral meetings with stakeholders) were the overcited workshops and reports of the various activities carried out. Each event was open to the public, in-person and/or remotely, to encourage participation and sharing experiences and ideas to the widest possible type of stakeholders including students, technical experts, policymakers, local/national/international authorities, and other stakeholders.

## 6. Attachments

List of the documents attached to this report, such as papers proposed for approval by the XVIII Alpine Conference (thematic reports, guidelines, statements etc.) and supporting documents (workshop proceedings, survey reports, communication materials etc.).

- [AlpsLife project summary](#)
- [Workshop report](#) *Addressing the Loss of Biodiversity in the Alpine region: Exchange on Implementation of National, European and Global Biodiversity Strategies*
- Concept Note *The EU Nature Restoration Law and its significance in terms of cooperation in the Alps*
- Report by the Chair *Cross-cutting biodiversity issues*