

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

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

Berchtesgaden/D  
15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> October 2009

Number of module	Title of presentation	Name of chairman/Structure	Language of the presentation	Contact (telephone, email, etc...)	Supports/Tools (power point presentation, photos, etc...)	Language of the supports/tools
4	The Vision of an Alpine-Carpathian-Pyrenean Corridor	Mircea Verghelet	English	+421 48 4722024, +421 917 631 004 jan.kadlecik@sops r.sk	PP-Presentation	

Concept of building of networks of protected areas in mountain regions in Europe and ecological networks between them is a long-term vision of the coordinating bodies on international level (e.g. UNEP, CBD) and on regional levels (ALPARC, CNPA). Protected areas play a key role in building of ecological networks. The vision of connections with mountain areas is best developed in the Alpine and Carpathian mountain regions (e.g. the text of the Carpathian Convention and its Protocol on biodiversity). This was included also in the CNPA Medium-term Strategy, Work Plan 2010-2015 and in the Alpine-Carpathian Cooperation Action Plan.

There are also other regional initiatives and projects which support this idea, such as the Ecological Continuum project (ALPARC, CIPRA, ISCAR, WWF), Cantabric-Pyrenees-Alps Great Mountain Corridor, the Carpathian Wetland Initiative (in cooperation with the Ramsar Convention), Alpine-Carpathian Corridor project (Programme of crossborder cooperation Slovak Republic - Austria), Carpathian EcoRegion Initiative (CERI) projects on ecological networks in the Carpathians, Danube River Network of Protected Areas, proposal for project ECONET-C (Ecological Continuum for the Carpathians, UNEP, WWF, CNPA), etc. The challenge for Europe (recognized by CBD, ALPARC, UNEP) is “From trans-border cooperation to trans-mountain cooperation”. The ALPARC and CNPA offer the opportunity of “networking between networks” and the exchange of experience between protected areas of mountain regions, including Pyrenees, Apennines, Balkan mountains. The Alpine and Carpathian Conventions should be taken as examples for experiences and lessons learned on regional cooperation that could be replicated in other regions. The future projects should be more practically oriented, using regional funding mechanisms and communication and harmonisation with CBD and other international treaties and their programmes should be intensified.

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