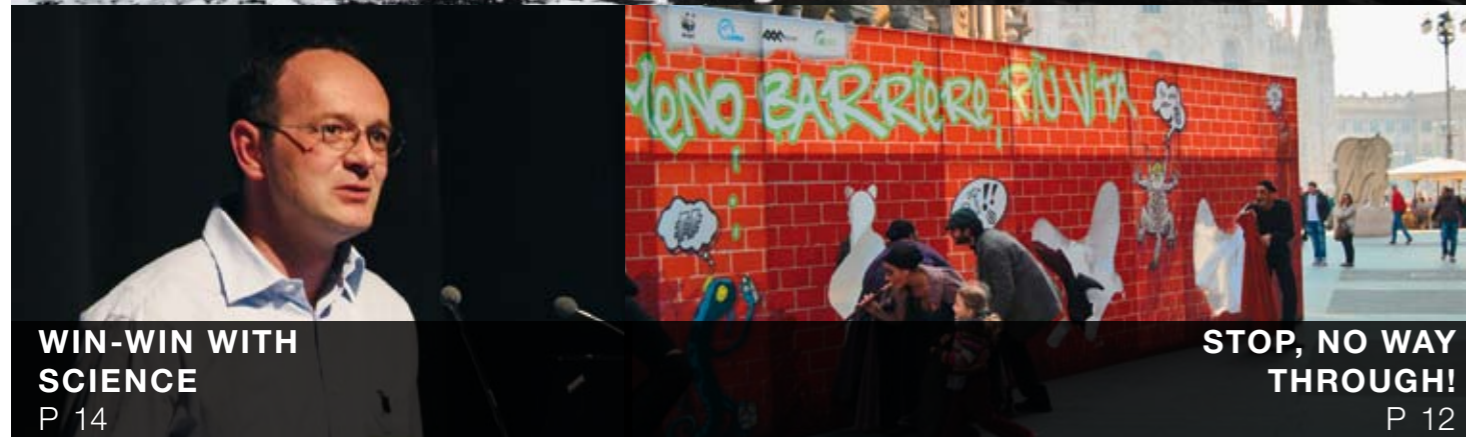


BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Annual report 2010 CIPRA International



CIPRA



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SCHAAN/FL, APRIL 2011

DEAR READER

_ Lighthouses are built to help guide ships. At night their beacons provide an orientation point that helps captains to navigate safely to their port of destination. It is for that same reason that CIPRA regularly features its "beacon projects", and this Annual Report focuses mainly on the area of Construction and Living. What course have we charted? Our objective is to build aesthetic homes, using timber as a regionally sourced building material, providing a healthy climate indoors and, since they use only a minimum of energy, benefitting the climate outdoors. It is our response to a pressing problem. Indeed, it is estimated that around half the energy worldwide is expended on constructing, utilising and disposing of buildings. With enormously high emissions of harmful CO₂ as a result.

Our vision also extends beyond just minimising consumption. Plusenergie buildings, which generate more energy than they consume, are soon to be mass produced. Homes as mini-power plants. For that we need "climactects", visionary architects capable of combining aesthetic designs with protecting the Earth's atmosphere. The Konstruktiv architecture award co-founded by CIPRA commends the best of these specialists. These are our

beacons that combine the sensible with the sensuous – and plagiarism in any shape or form is certainly welcome! (see page 4) For that same reason CIPRA last year once again organised a number of very successful field trips to view exemplary projects. It has been our experience that the spark of enthusiasm is very infectious, igniting innovative ideas among municipalities and planners (see page 8).

As advocates of the Alpine environment we set the course whenever political leaders go astray. For example, in some regions the majority of building subsidies are used for new builds, with only a small proportion allocated to renovations. And yet the biggest wasters of energy are old, badly insulated buildings. Renovating these buildings would be a huge contribution to climate change mitigation. Here CIPRA is calling for a complete rethink. So we invite you on a journey, past our beacons and model homes, right across the Alps – enjoy!

Dominik Siegrist
President CIPRA International

SENSE AND SENSUALITY

ALPINE CONVENTION

Climate change mitigation in construction and renovation is tantamount to providing for the future; it also makes economic sense. Better still, the Konstruktiv architecture award shows how sustainable construction can also become a sight for sore eyes. CIPRA co-initiated the award in order to publicise exemplary solutions. Imitations expressly permitted!



“Sometimes, when he’s designing a municipal building, the mayor will ask him what sort of timber he’s planning to use. Johannes Kaufmann then usually replies with a question of his own: “Well, what sort of trees do you have in your local forest?”

You could say that Austrian architect Johannes Kaufmann is conservative, despite the ultra-modern buildings he designs. “I’m very much a fan of the thought: how did our forefathers do it?” says Kaufmann. “They went into the forest and had a look at the sort of wood they had. And then they looked at the best way to cut the trunks to make sure they felled as few trees as possible.”

Nowadays, he believes, the tendency among many developers is to saw any old cross-section out of a trunk. A vast amount of waste wood is then “transported hundreds of miles by road so that, somewhere or other, crates can be made out of it”. In Kaufmann’s view it’s this sort of wastage that goes against the grain. The 43-year-old comes from an old family of carpenters

in Austria’s Bregenzwald; he never attended university. After his carpenter’s apprenticeship he worked as a draughtsman for a number of renowned firms of architects before getting his master’s certificate as a carpenter and builder and setting up his own business. Today Johannes Kaufmann is a figurehead of Vorarlberg’s innovative timber construction movement. And an award-winning one at that. One of his buildings has been commended by the jury of Konstruktiv, the Liechtenstein Award for Sustainable Construction and Renovation in the Alps co-initiated by CIPRA. The architect and the municipality received the first prize worth EUR 25,000 for the planning and construction of the Raggal municipal building in Vorarlberg. The judges’ decision was swayed by the way in which the timber structure combines stringent, almost purist beauty with high energy efficiency.

The cubic structure now adorns Vorarlberg’s landscape, which for centuries has remained virtually unchanged. Farmhouses and hamlets lie dotted about the steep slopes of the Grosses

Walsertal. Some 700 years ago, the forefathers of today’s inhabitants fled the hunger and poverty of Switzerland’s Valais region, but the fertile land down in the valley was already widely settled. The new settlers had to go further up and clear the forest where meagre soil and steep slopes held the promise of only a modest livelihood. The walls of the old farmhouses are supported by mighty beams. The widely projecting gable roofs are designed to withstand heavy loads of snow. Often the façades are protected against the battering storms by a carapace of shingle, each farmstead a fortress against the ravages of time. So the new municipal building is all the more surprising. No tall gable here to defy the ferocious weather. Instead, the timber cube nestles modestly into the slope, at pains almost not to attract attention.

However, this did not in any way disturb the international jury of renowned architects and architectural critics – on the contrary. For the Konstruktiv award, sustainability also means respecting the landscape and the culture, as expressed by the municipi-

Invitingly warm: Raggal’s new municipal building uses very little heating energy. While the cuboid shape creates a contrast, timber is a traditional building material in Vorarlberg.

pal building. Above it, Raggal’s vicarage, church and primary school are grouped around the village’s old linden tree. From the square, the perennial gathering point for the community’s mountain farmers, the view extends far down to the valley. Across to the Walserkamm, the mountain chain overlooking the valley, the protective forest above the scattered houses, and the deep ravines cutting into the sloping meadows. The first time Johannes Kaufmann stood beneath the linden tree, he realised: “Nothing must ever come in the way of this wonderful view.” Contrary to the municipality’s stipulations, which required a conventional gable roof, Kaufmann presented his modern design with a gently sloping pitched roof – and won the tender.



Top left: The municipal building blends in with the slope. **Bottom left:** A building that's open to all and sundry. **Centre and right:** Felix Näscher (Liechtenstein), CIPRA Director Andreas Götz, architect Johannes Kaufmann (from left).

Werner Asam, who heads the local council, recalls the discussions they had about the entries that were submitted for the competition: "Initially we all tended to favour the more conventional designs." The councillors reviewed each model in turn. In his draft design Kaufmann had grouped most of the rooms on a single level. Immediately to the left of the entrance was the tourist office; to the right the municipal office, separated only by glass: transparency as the key element, for both the spatial design and the administration. Adjoining behind the offices is the Walserstüble, where groups and associations are able to meet and get together. The only room on the first floor is the municipal council's assembly hall, which boasts extensive views. In the competing drafts the offices were all spread out over three or four storeys.

"Although we were all laymen in architectural terms," says Werner Asam, "we soon began to realise the modern design's special quality." Plus there was another argument that no local politician could fail to ignore: promoting the regional economy. The community's own forests would supply the silver fir and spruce trees. The felling and wood processing would provide work for the woodcutters, sawyers, joiners and carpenters in the valley. Wood chips, also from the local forests, are used to heat not just the offices, but also the vicarage, the church, the school and some private homes, too, via district heating. And the insulation concept inspired by passive-house technology would also provide a good energy balance.

COMMITTED TO SUSTAINABILITY

___ The Alpine Convention is an international state treaty under which the eight Alpine states Germany, Austria, France, Italy, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Switzerland and Slovenia as well as the EU are committed to sustainable development. The set of agreements came about as a result of pressure from CIPRA, which also advocates a climate action plan. The Liechtenstein Award for Sustainable Construction and Renovation in the Alps is a further development of that plan. It is financed by Liechtenstein and organised by CIPRA and Liechtenstein University.

www.cipra.org/en/alpine-convention | www.constructive.li (de/fr/it/sl)

Photo Krone Hittisau: Adolf Bereuter / Bader Bernardo Architekturbüro, Dornbirn

On a November day in 2010 Johannes Kaufmann accompanied around the premises two men who felt a particular kinship with his design and ecological ideas. One was Andreas Götz, the Director of CIPRA International, whose organisation has long advocated a more sustainable approach to construction and renovation in the Alps. The other was Felix Näscher, Head of the Liechtenstein Office for Forests, Nature and Landscape, who together with CIPRA wanted to encourage innovative building concepts. As they toured the premises the two men remembered how everything had begun with a huge disappointment. In March 2009 the Ministers of the Environment of the Alpine States presented their "action plan for climate change in the Alps", a plan initiated by CIPRA. It was a bitter disappointment. "That paper did not in any way meet the challenges posed by climate change," says Andreas Götz. CIPRA had suggested a far broader concept to the ministers, with concrete measures and objectives for alleviating climate change

and mitigating its impact. The Alps should become a "model region for climate change mitigation". It meant that oil-fired heating systems would be banned in new builds and that the passive-house standard would be introduced across the board. All these proposals were missing from the action plan. "It's a meaningless paper with a few random measures," says CIPRA's Director. "To a large extent it's an abstract concept that is not tailored to the Alps," agrees Felix Näscher.

CIPRA's criticism of the ministers' plan prompted Felix Näscher to come up with a project. Together with CIPRA he came up with the idea of the Konstruktiv architecture award. While the Liechtenstein Office raised the prize money, CIPRA with its know-how and its network helped to organise and publicise the competition. Applications poured in from all over the Alpine region.

"Very few developers know exactly what sort of building they want," explains Felix Näscher. "Essentially it's the architect who determines what comes out at the end." That's why the competition was intended to show developers and planners alike that "exciting architecture and energy efficiency are compatible". Andreas Götz also stresses that energy can be saved during construction itself. "It makes a huge difference whether I expend a lot of energy manufacturing and shipping building materials such as concrete and steel or whether I source natural raw materials locally," he says, pointing through the panoramic windows at the forests on the valley slope opposite. Not to mention the fact that when wood as the raw material comes from small-scale sustainable forest management "it also reflects our identity," as

Felix Näscher remarks with reference to the old farmhouses of the Walsertal. "It's something we had lost sight of." As a building material wood had been regarded as a symbol of backwardness. "But here we are, sitting here, and we can see just how modern the concept of building with wood can be!"

The ecological specifications were ambitious. A genuine passive house could not, however, be built at this location. No rays of sunshine get through during the winter months. "For me it's not a matter of dogma," says Johannes Kaufmann, listing his standards: triple glazing, ecological materials, and an air-tight building shell. "The most important thing for me is to build intelligent buildings in which people feel at ease." And that's something genuinely palpable in this municipal building. For instance the off-white wall panelling. The panels of silver fir were made without wood preservative and merely sanded down. The workplaces in the offices are filled with light; the materials used are healthy, and they smell good, too. At the end of the visit Andreas Götz comments: "For me this building confirms that climate change mitigation and sustainable solutions do not mean sacrifices; instead, it's all fun and sensuality."

Bernd Hauser (Text) and Heinz Heiss (Photos)
Zeitenspiegel Reportagen



ORCHESTRATED TIMBER RENOVATION

Second place in the Liechtenstein Award for Sustainable Construction and Renovation in the Alps went to a 170-year-old timber structure in Austria's federal province of Vorarlberg. The Gasthof Krone in Hittisau is an exemplary illustration of how to renovate and upgrade an old building in terms of energy efficiency and, at the same time, enhance its character. 29 artisanal businesses from the Werkraum Bregenzerwald association contributed their regional handicraft skills. The timber itself was locally sourced, with the heating being provided by the nearby biomass heating plant.

www.krone-hittisau.at

INFECTED WITH GOOD IDEAS

CLIMALP / "ALLIANCE IN THE ALPS"

Ideas spread like viruses. They infect someone, who in turn infects someone else, and if they are good and strong, they spread like an epidemic. Energy-efficient construction is one such viral idea. On 14 September 2009 one could observe how it leapt from Vorarlberg to the French department of Savoie. Austria's westernmost federal province is widely regarded as a centre for innovative timber construction. Concentrated here are a strikingly large number of architects, sawmills and carpenters who use wood as a traditional building material but in an ecologically advanced way – a large-scale workshop for creating a forest-sourced living environment.

Anyone interested in knowing how to build in both an aesthetic and an energy-saving way should go there. Which is precisely what CIPRA did, together with the Alliance in the Alps network of municipalities, which it co-initiated. They invited 30 municipal representatives from the French Alps to see for themselves the benefits of timber houses that consume almost no energy. And there are plenty of them in the region. In Austria only one house in twenty is built of wood; in Vorarlberg it is one house in five.

Some of the participants on the excursion were from Saint Martin de Belleville, considered one of the wealthiest municipalities in France due mainly to tourism. Four million overnight stays, mostly in winter, for a resident population of only 3,000 inhabitants. The weather there can be cold, bitterly cold, at altitudes ranging between 650 m and 3500 m above sea level. So would it be possible to build there, too, in a way that lightens the burden on both the environment and the household budget? The French local politicians were sceptical. Indeed, up until then, there was not a single energy-efficiency building in the town.

Then came the excursion and, with it, the infection. It consisted of a mix of knowledge, gathered as part of CIPRA's climalp project, and the enthusiasm of the Austrian timber builders. Back in Savoie again, the delegation members' infectious enthusiasm spread to their colleagues. The municipal council of Saint Martin de Belleville resolved that its new day nursery should be a "beacon" for energy-efficient architecture. It was officially opened at



Strikingly aesthetic: the day nursery centre in Saint Martin de Belleville uses a minimum of heating energy.

the end of 2010. It complies with the Minergie standard, i.e. the most rational possible use of renewable energies. With the ball now well and truly rolling, the tourist information building was also upgraded to the state of the art in energy efficiency. All this in keeping with the guiding principle of the municipality, which in 2007 signed the national charter for the sustainable development of tourist resorts in the mountains and joined the Alliance in the Alps network in 2009.

There's no stopping the spread of good ideas. Saint Martin de Belleville is planning to pass on the concept of energy efficiency to other municipalities as it is still little known in France. That is why last year local Savoie politicians invited 70 of their colleagues to the mountain village to show how energy can be saved in construction. The chain of transmission continues, entirely in keeping with climalp and CIPRA's intentions. Indeed, their aim is to be as contagious as possible.

CLIMATE JOINT VENTURES

The French municipality of Saint Martin de Belleville is a member of the Alliance in the Alps network of municipalities. It supports communities and regions with a sustainable approach to climate change. Since 2000 CIPRA International has provided the network's secretariat and managed its implementation projects.

Through the climalp project CIPRA demonstrates that energy-efficient houses built using regionally sourced timber help to mitigate climate change. Joint field trips to showcases with the Alliance in the Alps network promote the transfer of know-how. climalp is subsidised by Liechtenstein with funding of CHF 75,000 a year.

www.alpenallianz.org | www.cipra.org/climalp (de/fr/it/sl)

BRIDGES ACROSS MOUNTAINS

ALLIANCE OF CENTRAL ASIAN MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES

Sometimes the toughest challenges can be presented in the most tender way. On the plate in front of Antonio Zambon is a sheep's head, braised for hours so that the meat is lovely and tender, eyes included. Expectantly, the Kyrgyz hosts watch their visitor from distant Italy. Quite a quandary. This rustic delicacy is not exactly to his taste; then again, the gesture is intended to honour him as the delegation's oldest member.

"In Central Asia respect for age and social cohesion is still intact," says Antonio Zambon, 59, formerly mayor of Budoia and Vice President of the Alliance in the Alps network of municipalities. This is in contrast to the roads, schools, public buildings and private houses which, following the collapse of socialism, are in a deplorable state. With negative consequences, also for the environment. Because the houses are poorly insulated and the stoves antiquated, much of the heat energy is simply wasted during the harsh winters. On average people spend up to half their household budget on fuel.

International co-operation is to provide relief. Through personal contacts, CIPRA Director Andreas Götz and the alpine network of municipalities began to visit Kyrgyzstan in 2002. At a conference held there, mayors from Italy and Austria reported on the

importance of exchanges between communities in the Alps, and how well they work. Antonio Zambon explained to his Kyrgyz, Tajik and Kazakh audience how his hometown was learning from projects in other communities: "It was new for them. Our biomass plant for example is inspired by a model in Vorarlberg, as is the school canteen, which serves organic food." CIPRA's basic idea of networking communities faced with similar problems in order to benefit from the solutions of others was a convincing one. The Alliance of Central Asian Mountain Communities (AGOCA) was founded unanimously.

The two community networks have been working together ever since. The key issue is how energy can be used in the most efficient way. "We can be of help here mainly with technical know-how," says Zambon. But financial aid is also provided. In Kyrgyzstan around EUR 650 is enough to insulate an entire house. CIPRA has been assisting its Central Asian partners ever since Director Andreas Götz first helped to get the project up and running seven years ago; the Alliance in the Alps also helps with words (on efficient stoves and alternative energies) and deeds (access to sponsors). AGOCA has learnt a great deal from its European partners. Inter-community excursions, in the Alps and Central Asia, are an important means of passing on successful methods for improving energy efficiency.

At first there were of course a few misunderstandings. "In Central Asia people see the future as a time where there will be as many new streets, dams and houses as possible. So at first they would shake their heads when we pointed out that too much infrastructure destroys the landscape," reports Zambon. It took a while before his counterparts realised that the sort of rampant development the Alps has experienced could one day become a problem for them too. So the European partners provide assistance with a difficult balancing act between preservation and development, between traditional values and the modern.

Zambon, for his part, achieved this feat. A diplomatic solution emerged for the sheep's head on his plate at the banquet in Kyrgyzstan: he tasted a morsel, then handed the dish to the elder member of the host family.



Top: Antonio Zambon (second from left) with colleagues from the Alliance of Central Asian Mountain Communities.

Bottom: Mutton is prepared in honour of the European guests.

Photo climalp: Saint Martin de Belleville. Photos Alliance of Central Asian Mountain Communities: Andreas Götz / CIPRA International

WHERE MIGHT THE BEAR BE?

ECOLOGICAL NETWORKS

Around 30 to 50 brown bears live in small, isolated populations in the Alpine region (shaded red). Current studies show that there are many other habitats in which the bear could theoretically settle (shaded yellow). Numerous other animal and plant species are to be preserved and their habitats reclaimed. That is why CIPRA is campaigning to network their precious natural environments.

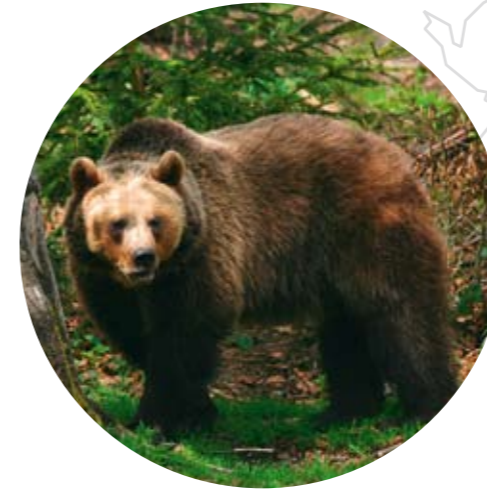


Threat _ Bears, wolves and lynx are returning to their ancestral haunts in the Alps. However, man must once again learn how to live alongside these wild animals. It may be legal for bears such as "JJ3", who had become a risk to the people of the Swiss Grisons region, to be shot (photo: Museum). However we do need management plans for protecting groups of animals and preventing litter bins from becoming feeding places.

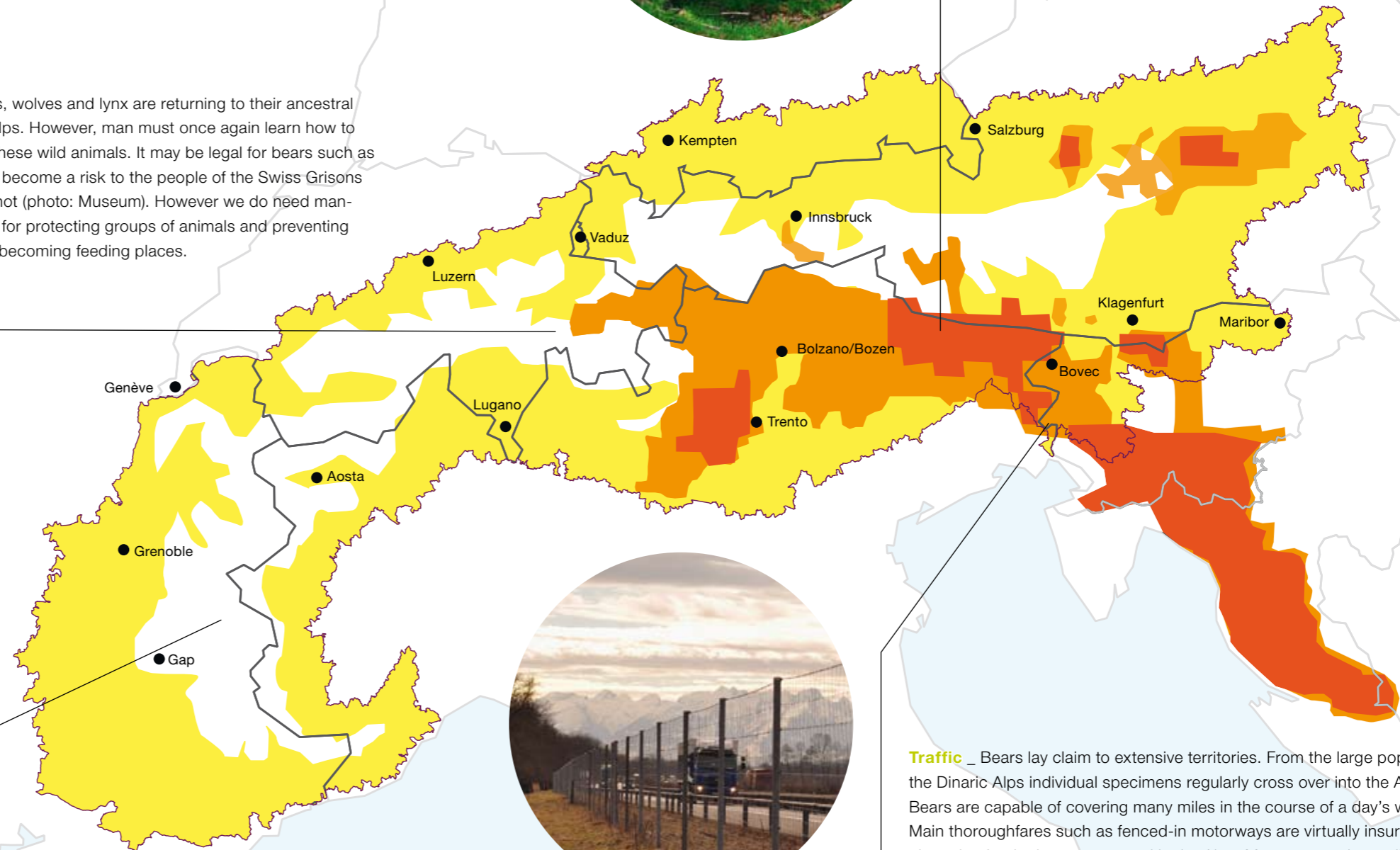


Uplands _ Higher regions without vegetation are not a suitable habitat for brown bears. They provide no cover, and their ridges and crests are almost insurmountable. Bears prefer regions that are also more easily accessible to man, such as agricultural and forest areas. Yet conflicts can arise whenever *Ursus arctos* and *Homo sapiens* share living space.

SOURCES MAP **Possible distribution:** "Distribution and Connectivity of the Brown Bear in the Alps". Draft act. 2010, Johannes Signer / Econnect - "Habitat selection: Recent models and their application illustrated with data from brown bears in the alps region". 2008, Denise Güthlin / Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, **Actual distribution:** KORA/LCIE 2007 (adapted), www.kora.ch/sp-ois PHOTOS **Traffic:** Caroline Begle/ CIPRA International, **Habitat:** ALPARC, Guido Plassmann, **Uplands:** Alexandre Druhen / CIPRA International, **Threat:** Bündner Naturmuseum



Habitat _ In Europe brown bears live mostly in forested, sparsely populated mountain regions. Places to hibernate are important for them, as are densely overgrown areas that provide cover and sufficient food, mainly vegetarian. In areas where they are frequently disturbed, bears become crepuscular and nocturnal. In uninhabited regions they are also diurnal. The brown bear, one of the most intelligent species, is regarded as curious and adaptive.



Traffic _ Bears lay claim to extensive territories. From the large populations in the Dinaric Alps individual specimens regularly cross over into the Alpine region. Bears are capable of covering many miles in the course of a day's wanderings. Main thoroughfares such as fenced-in motorways are virtually insurmountable obstacles for the largest mammal in the Alps. Measures such as wildlife crossings can provide a remedy.

■ **ACTUAL** _ Permanent bear population
 ■ **CAN** _ Occasional bear sightings
 ■ **POSSIBLE** _ Potential bear habitats (criteria: land use, distance to roads and settlements, slope, altitude)

STOP, NO WAY THROUGH!

ECOLOGICAL CONTINUUM INITIATIVE / ECONNECT

_ Autumn 2010. In the heart of Vienna, Zurich, Munich, Ljubljana, Lyon and Milan a wall some 13 metres in length blocks the way for pedestrians. At the same time, in six cities of the Alpine states, CIPRA is protesting publicly against the fragmentation of habitats. The campaign is called The Wall and it is jointly organised with the network of protected areas (Alparc), the international research committee (ISCAR) and the WWF's Alpine Programme. The organisers' aim is to draw attention to the negative impact of roads, settlements and intensively farmed areas. They disrupt the trails used by animals and plants. Disrupted habitats are one

of the main causes for the loss of biodiversity in the Alpine region. To counter this trend, the organisers pooled their resources and set up the Ecological Continuum Initiative, which is funded by the MAVA Foundation for Nature. They are also committed to the Alpine-wide implementation project Econnect; for its participation CIPRA receives financial support from Liechtenstein.

www.alpine-ecological-network.org

www.econnectproject.eu

Photos: Ecological Continuum Initiative

Milan, Via Mercanti _ Death traps for frogs and toads: even quiet minor roads represent insurmountable barriers for amphibians. Every year thousands of animals fall victim to road traffic. Small tunnels under roads are one remedy, and they can also be used by other species.

Munich, Karlstor _ Barriers and bridges: the red wall, symbolising the fragmentation of natural habitats, gives passers-by a genuine sensation of what barriers mean for migrating species.



Vienna, Schwedenplatz _ The campaign points out that there are 270,000 km of roads in Austria. Biodiversity is also at risk because every day the natural environment is reduced by an area equivalent in size to 27 football pitches.

Ljubljana, Stritarjeva Street _ Leon Kebe of CIPRA Slovenia speaking to representatives of the media: "When the territories used by animal populations become fragmented, the result is a depletion of biodiversity, and in extreme cases the disappearance of individual species."

Lyon, Place St. Jean _ The holes in this 13 m wall symbolise the fact that there are solutions to the problem of habitat fragmentation. Ecological corridors can maintain links between animal populations.

Zurich, Niederdorf _ "A prominent victim" of man-made obstacles is the salmon. In Switzerland it died out in the 1950s. And while fish ladders alongside dams would have prevented its extinction, they are rare.

WIN-WIN WITH SCIENCE

CC.ALPS CLIMATE PROJECT



Swiss economic geographer Bruno Abegg has been working with CIPRA for three years. A scientist and a political organisation – how can that work? “It is a clash between two ways of thinking,” says the 45-year-old, which is precisely what he finds so exciting. As the scientific director of the cc.alps project he examines the way in which regions, communities and businesses in the Alps are responding to climate change. CIPRA campaigns to ensure that climate response measures are sustainable. “My research work has always been application-oriented,” says Abegg, “which is why it’s important to me that my findings flow into practical work for the environment.”

Partnerships with science have been part and parcel of CIPRA’s concept since its founding almost 60 years ago. Abegg’s research on climate change for example has been published in CIPRA compacts (see page 18). Its purpose is to place the organisation’s political demands on a sound scientific basis. “It’s a question of credibility.” So is it all about mutual benefit? “Yes, although we do operate within a sphere of conflicting priorities.” Scientists are used to analysing the full complexity of a given topic. By contrast lobbying is about simplifying and, in some cases, about sounding alarms. Reconciling the two requires mutual trust. In the compacts the political demands were kept clearly separate from the scientific facts. “But each of the

researchers involved had to decide whether or not, on the basis of the findings, he or she was prepared to stand behind the demands.” Abegg’s specialist field, economic geography, is able to give answers when it’s a matter of adapting to climate change. For example in tourism. “The majority of decision makers in ski resorts want everything to stay just as it is.” They want winter-sports enthusiasts, ideally masses of them, to remain as the main source of income. “But that means the resorts remain dependent on the snow.” Something which in the future will be an unreliable commodity. The cc.alps research teams have noted that, in many places, the response has been very one-sided, i.e. even more snow cannons and developing slopes at even higher altitudes. Previously unspoilt areas are to become part of the alpine ski circus. So it’s not just conflicts with nature conservation that are foreseeable. “New developments scarcely make economic sense either; they are expensive and often not worthwhile for the municipalities concerned,” says Abegg, explaining one of the key findings of his research.

There are other ways. Outstanding examples of how climate change mitigation can be “taken one step further” have been commended by CIPRA in a competition held across the Alps. For the competition Bruno Abegg’s team drew up a simplified evaluation matrix. “It enabled us to show which measures really are sustainable.” For him, this is yet another example of how a long-standing relationship between science and environmental organisation can be extremely fertile. —

KEEPING A COOL HEAD IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

With its project “cc.alps – climate change: thinking one step ahead!” CIPRA is harnessing and disseminating the knowledge available on intelligent climate protection and sustainable adaptation measures. And one of the focal points is raising the awareness of those concerned and the key players.

In 2010 CIPRA showcased a number of successful examples as well as some poorly conceived ones. These examples were publicised among decision makers and the media. CIPRA experts addressed issues such as energy self-sufficient regions and tourism and published background reports on various aspects of climate change mitigation (see compacts page 19). CIPRA also offered a more resolute alternative to the woolly decisions adopted by the international community in Cancùn, Mexico: the Alps are to become a model region in matters of climate protection – climate-neutral by 2050!

www.cipra.org/cc.alps

“NO TOWN CAN AFFORD TO IGNORE CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION”

“ALPINE TOWN OF THE YEAR” ASSOCIATION



Hubert Buhl talks about towns that are pioneering climate change mitigation, environmental role models, and an award capable of changing entire communities.

You are the mayor of the German town of Sonthofen, which was voted Alpine Town of the Year in 2005, and now also President of the Association itself – what are your plans?

We want to strengthen co-operation between towns. We also want to improve synergies with other organisations managed by CIPRA, for instance the Alliance in the Alps network of municipalities. We want to bring about a situation where every town is able to use the positive and negative experiences of other towns to make better progress.

You want to get towns to implement the Alpine Convention’s objectives. What does that entail?

In some cases the Alpine Convention is virtually unknown in the countries in which it has acquired legal force, let alone a practical reality. To raise the public’s awareness of it, we have already organised two conferences with the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, and both were well attended. What I find encouraging is that the Alpine towns in our network are taking on a pioneering role in implementing the Convention. In Sonthofen for instance it is an integral part of the town’s core image.

Homes are responsible for one third of total CO₂ emissions. What can towns contribute to climate change mitigation?

A great deal. Most of the population in the Alps now lives in towns and cities. So with more people now living closer together, it is easier to improve energy efficiency, for example by us-

ing district heating from renewable sources. Many communities also support energy-saving renovation measures for buildings.

Bolzano, which is also a member of your Association, aims to be carbon-neutral by 2030. How can you persuade other towns to pursue similarly ambitious objectives?

I know of a number of towns that are currently having some very intensive discussions about the idea of a carbon-neutral status. The topic itself is a focal point of the Association’s activities over the next few years. We want to use Bolzano’s important groundwork and adapt its programmes so that other towns are in turn able to adapt them to their own requirements.

You work together with 13 quite dissimilar towns from seven countries involving four languages. That all sounds rather complicated.

When people genuinely want to work together, then obstacles such as these are easily overcome. What’s important is what we have in common, the fact that all these towns are situated in the Alps and face similar problems. What’s more, we have the support of CIPRA, which is our executive office – a precious mediator and bridge builder in every respect.

Why should a community compete for the title of Alpine Town of the Year?

The title clearly signals that the town in question is a forward-thinking one, one that proactively tackles environmental issues. It can certainly be a plus point when it comes to location marketing, highlighting its strengths in terms of business and living environment. Even today my town still benefits from the award. Sonthofen was in a difficult economic situation at the time. The title contributed to a spirit of optimism that helped us out of the trough. —

THE ALPINE TOWNS AS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND ENERGY-EFFICIENT CONSTRUCTION

Economic, environmental and social demands are not mutually exclusive. Since 1997 towns in the Alpine region that implement all three of these aspects of sustainability in an exemplary manner, in keeping with the Alpine Convention, are awarded the title of Alpine Town of the Year by an international jury. The award-winning towns work together as part of an association whose executive office is managed by CIPRA. As part of a climalp field trip in April 2010, the Alpine Towns visited award-winning energy-efficient buildings in Bolzano, among others, and in so doing exchanged knowledge and experiences.

www.alpenstaedte.org



WERNER KONOLD

Grand Binding Award 2004, Professor for Landscape Management in Freiburg/D

“CIPRA’s biggest success, for me, is that for many years now it has been operating across borders, throughout the entire Alpine arc. Bringing so many languages and cultures together is a terrific communication achievement. I could imagine CIPRA expanding its sphere of influence beyond the Alps – good examples of sustainable development could also inspire other mountain regions in Germany for example.”



MARTIN SCHNEIDER-JACOBY

Grand Binding Award 2010, Project Manager for the Euronatur Foundation in Radolfzell/D

“Our two organisations have something in common: the international bias of our everyday work. I’m very impressed by the fact that CIPRA’s website is consistently multilingual – for me that’s exemplary when it comes to networking. We need to show the whole of Europe and especially the Alps that civilisation and economic prosperity are very much compatible with an unspoilt environment and nature.”



MICHAEL SUCCOW

Professor for biology and agricultural science, recipient of numerous awards for his work establishing large-scale nature reserves in East Germany, eastern Europe and Asia

“CIPRA began publicising the idea of sustainable development in the Alps very early on. In my view it’s a successful model that could now be extended to highly complex areas elsewhere in the world, for example the Caucasus. The problems there are similar: large populations, disputes over natural resources, and distribution problems. And why shouldn’t CIPRA also act as a trail-blazer in other mountain regions?”



EVA PONGRATZ

Member of the Board of Trustees of the Binding Foundation, formerly Managing Director of the EUROPARC Federation, the umbrella organisation for large protected areas in Europe

“As EUROPARC’s Managing Director I worked very closely with CIPRA. Without it sustainable development in the Alps would not have had the same momentum. If I could utter a personal wish, it would be for people to do even more political lobbying so this process can be accelerated! I know it’s a tough job convincing decision makers in industry and politics, but it’s very worthwhile.”

OUTSIDE POINTS OF VIEW



In 2001 CIPRA was presented with the Grand Binding Award. How do other award winners, members of the Foundation Board and the Board of Trustees view the work and significance of CIPRA? Seven prominent figures voiced their views at the 25th annual award ceremony in November 2010.

www.binding.li (de)
www.cipra.org/binding (de/fr/it/sl)

KLAUS TÖPFER

Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Earth System Analysis and Sustainable Solutions, former environment minister of Germany and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme

“The Alpine Convention would certainly never have happened without CIPRA. It brought together highly committed and knowledgeable figures who really know regional matters well and who, through their close ties with civil society, are able to contribute towards ensuring that the issues at hand are not brushed aside at a political level any longer. It is a fundamental characteristic of democracies that awareness-raising among the public can

also help shape the political process. These processes do not just occur from top to bottom, but also quite the contrary – from bottom to top. In that respect CIPRA’s role and significance in society’s commitment and resulting actions – or lack thereof – within the Alpine region cannot be overestimated.”



JAKOB VON UEXKÜLL

President of the World Future Council, which he founded, and also founder of the “Alternative Nobel Prize” (Right Livelihood Award)

“I always read CIPRA’s publications such as AlpsInsight or the Annual Report on the subject of biodiversity with great interest. I find its commitment over many years to sustainable development in the Alps is very judicious. It is important to find ways and means of harmonising nature with the economy and social issues. And the fact that CIPRA showcases examples of best practice is, I think, particularly inspiring.”



PETER GOOP

Lawyer and philanthropist in Liechtenstein, President of the Binding Foundation

“The Alps are one of our most important natural resources. It is comforting to know that CIPRA is committed to its cause right across the Alpine arc. One of its greatest successes is the Alpine Convention. And it’s not just politics on a grand scale that’s important, but also local projects and how they network right across the Alps. It’s something CIPRA has understood and does very well, for instance through the Alliance in the Alps network of municipalities.”

CIPRA'S COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

CIPRA gathers, sorts, edits and publicises information across the Alps and beyond. In doing so, it makes use of various co-ordinated communication channels. Year after year these information rings continue to grow.

ALPS INSIGHT ___ CIPRA's feature magazines were once again much in demand in 2010. The two issues addressed topics that many people believe are of great relevance. With its feature Growth come hell or high water? The Alps in search of happiness, CIPRA took an in-depth look at the 2009 Yearly Symposium. The scenario examines the impact of globalisation on the Alps and how to counter the contraction process in marginal regions – assuming there is the political will to do so. The feature Mega-projects – your money or your life? looks at who and what purposes benefit from large-scale projects in the Alps – and who pays for them. This key topic comes at a time when several resorts in the Alps are competing to stage the Olympic Games. In the discussion CIPRA raises the issue of true costs.

www.cipra.org/szenealpen

WEB ___ For an international NGO such as CIPRA, a website is an important tool. It is also something of an information hub for the Alps; indeed, nowhere else is such a diversity of topics available in five languages: news from across the Alpine region, events, publications, service pages for the media, video interviews with experts, references to the Alpine Convention, details of CIPRA projects, and information on the organisation with its national representatives. With around 60,000 individual pages and several thousand PDF files available for download, the website is certainly in-depth.

2010 once again saw plenty of activity on www.cipra.org. Around 300,000 visitors clicked their way through pages just under one million times. And since 2010 the website has also become a gateway to the social network. CIPRA is now also on Facebook so it can network and discuss actively with like-minded users.

www.cipra.org
www.facebook.com/CIPRA.org

ALPMEDIA ___ CIPRA's newsletter in five languages is read, appreciated, commented on, and also picked up on by other media. First published nine years ago, it now reaches more than 25,000 subscribers in the Alps and beyond. More than half the readership comes from within the German-speaking region; just under 20 per cent of our newsletters are sent out in Italian and French; and Slovenian and English readers account for five per cent each. Last year the alpMedia newsletter published around 230 items of news, drew attention to more than 80 events, and provided information on many new publications relating to issues that are specifically Alpine.

The newsletter is rounded off by an information service through which more detailed news, references to publications or events on topical issues, and CIPRA compacts (see on the right) can be accessed via the CIPRA website.

www.cipra.org/alpmedia

COMPACTS ___ CIPRA's compact series saw the publication of several feature magazines that take a critical look at climate response measures. Programmes such as these need to be planned and executed in harmony with nature, society and the economy. Based on scientific findings, CIPRA formulates its positions and political demands on each topic. The latest issues deal with Energy Self-sufficient Regions and Tourism at a Time of Climate Change. Some of CIPRA's key demands in this respect are that:

The vision of energy self-sufficiency must be comprehensive. This means not just relying on renewable sources, but also on an efficient and cost-conscious approach to energy.

The objective of energy self-sufficiency must not be used as an excuse for developing the last remaining stretches of near-natural waterways.

In view of climate change and its impact municipalities and regions, particularly those at lower altitudes, need to find new ways of reducing their dependency on skiing and winter tourism.

Other compacts deal with topics such as construction and renovation, regional planning, natural hazards, nature conservation, agriculture, forestry, and water.

www.cipra.org/cc.alps-compacts

YEARLY SYMPOSIUM ___ Since CIPRA's founding in 1952 mountain enthusiasts, academics, networkers and journalists have convened in a different alpine country every year to find out more about topical issues and engage in discussions. In 2010, CIPRA's Yearly Symposium on The Alps Adapting to Change – Peripheral Regions Between Wasteland and Hope was held by CIPRA Austria. From 14 to 16 October 2010 around 150 participants gathered in Semmering to discuss the opportunities and risks posed by developments in peripheral regions and how they can be given new momentum.

www.cipra.org/de/jf2010 (de/fr/it/sl)

THE NATIONAL CIPRA REPRESENTATIONS AND THEIR MEMBERS

Schaan

CIPRA Liechtenstein

www.cipra.li

- Botanisch-Zoologische Gesellschaft
- Fischereiverein Liechtenstein
- Liechtensteiner Alpenverein
- Liechtensteiner Forstverein
- Liechtensteinischer Imkerverein
- Liechtensteinische Jägerschaft
- Liechtensteinische Gesellschaft für Umweltschutz
- Liechtensteinischer Ornithologischer Landesverband
- Solargenossenschaft Liechtenstein
- Verkehrs-Club Liechtenstein

Additional partner organisations:

- Verein Holzkreislauf
- Liechtensteinischer Imkerverein

Interlaken

CIPRA Schweiz

www.cipra.ch

- Pro Natura
- WWF Schweiz
- Schweizer Alpen-Club
- Schweizer Vogelschutz/BirdLife Schweiz
- Stiftung Landschaftsschutz Schweiz
- Schweizer Heimatschutz
- Verkehrsclub der Schweiz
- Alpen-Initiative
- Mountain Wilderness Schweiz
- Naturfreunde Schweiz
- Rheinaubund
- Schweizerische Greina-Stiftung
- Grimselverein
- Fondazione Uomo Natura

Grenoble

CIPRA France

www.cipra.org/france

- Association des amis du parc naturel régional de Chartreuse
- Centre de la Nature Montagnarde
- Fédération française des clubs alpins et de montagne
- Fédération française de montagne et d'escalade
- Fédération française de randonnée pédestre
- Fédération Rhône-Alpes de protection de la nature
- Fédération française union touristique des amis de la nature
- Mountain Wilderness France
- Parc National des Ecrins
- Parc National de la Vanoise
- Parc National du Mercantour
- Parc naturel régional de la Chartreuse
- WWF France
- Association pour le Développement en Réseau des Territoires et des Services
- Association nationale des centres et des foyers de ski de fond et de montagne
- Conservatoire des Espaces Protégés de Haute Savoie

Torino

CIPRA Italia

www.cipra.org/italia

- Associazione Ambiente e Lavoro
- Club Alpino Italiano
- Dachverband für Natur- und Umweltschutz in Südtirol
- Federazione Italiana Pro Natura
- Gruppo Italiano Amici della Natura
- Gruppo Ricerche Cultura Montana
- Istituto Nazionale di Urbanistica

Kempton

CIPRA Deutschland

www.cipra.de

- Bergwacht im Bayerischen Roten Kreuz
- Deutscher Alpenverein
- Landesbund für Vogelschutz in Bayern
- Bund Naturschutz in Bayern
- Verband Deutscher Berg- und Skiführer
- Verein zum Schutz der Bergwelt
- Mountain Wilderness Deutschland
- Naturfreunde Deutschlands e.V.

Vienna/Innsbruck

CIPRA Österreich

www.cipra.at

- Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Berg- und Naturwachen Österreichs
- Naturfreunde Österreich
- Österreichischer Alpenverein
- Österreichischer Forstverein
- Österreichischer Naturschutzbund
- Österreichischer Touristenklub
- Zentralstelle der Österreichischen Landesjagdverbände
- Verband Österreichischer Höhlenforscher
- Kuratorium Wald

• Austria's nine states: Vorarlberg, Tirol, Salzburg, Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Steiermark, Niederösterreich, Wien, Burgenland

Ljubljana

CIPRA Slovenija

www.cipra.org/slovenija

- 109 individual members

Bozen/Bolzano

CIPRA Südtirol

www.cipra.org/de/CIPRA/cipra-suedtirol

- Alpenverein Südtirol
- Arche B - Verein für umwelt- und menschengerechtes Bauen und Leben
- Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Vogelkunde und Vogelschutz in Südtirol
- Bund Alternativer Anbauer
- Heimatpflegeverband Südtirol
- Lia per Natura y Usanzes
- Naturfreunde Meran
- Naturtreff Eisvogel
- Plattform Pro Pustertal
- Südtiroler Gesellschaft für Gesundheitsförderung
- Südtiroler HochschülerInnenschaft

- Umweltschutzgruppe Vinschgau
- Verband Südtiroler Berg- und Skiführer
- Verbraucherzentrale Südtirol

Local groups:

Transitinitiative Südtirol/Sudtirolo – Umweltgruppe Andrian – Umweltgruppe Bozen – Umweltgruppe Brixen – Umweltgruppe Eppan – Umweltgruppe Jenesien – Umweltgruppe Kaltern – Umweltgruppe Olang – Umweltgruppe Salurn – Umweltgruppe Terlan – Umweltgruppe Ulten – Umweltgruppe Vahrn – Umweltgruppe Vintl – Umweltgruppe Wipptal

Photos: Darko Todorovic

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Claire Simon, Deputy Director (F/D)
Andreas Götz, Executive Director (CH/I)



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Anita Wyss, Project manager climalp, alpMedia (CH)



Claudia Pfister, Project manager "Alliance in the Alps" (CH)
Kirsten Dittrich, Layout and project team member (D)
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Barbara Wülser, Communication manager (CH)
Verena Cortés, Communication team member (FL/A)

Not in the photo: **Bruno Abegg**, cc.alps climate impact expert (CH), **Lisa Alexandridou**, Project team member cc.alps, "Alliance in the Alps" (D/GR), **Marie Billet**, French-language editorial assistant (F), **Tanja Mähr**, Data input clerk (A)
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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF CIPRA INTERNATIONAL



Dominik Siegrist
President (CH)



Helmut Moroder
Deputy President (I)



Katharina Lins
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Marjeta Keršič-Svetel
Deputy President (SI)



Josef Biedermann
Treasurer (FL)

Photos Team: Darko Todorovic, Photos executive committee: CIPRA International

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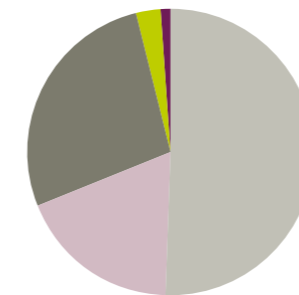
In 2010, CIPRA International posted an income of CHF 2,477 million and expenditure of CHF 2,389 million, resulting in a profit of around CHF 88,000. The bulk of the income stemmed from project revenues, although here CIPRA acted in part merely as a clearing centre for various foundations and passed on the monies to its project partners.

Just under one third of the expenditure went on PR and political work, which notably included the publication of the topical magazine AlpsInsight and the three-weekly alpMedia newsletter as well as political activities at the Alpine Convention and at a European level. Project work accounted for the remaining two thirds, divided more or less equally between third-party costs and fees on the one hand and wages and salaries on the other.

At the end of 2010, CIPRA International's assets amounted to around CHF 380,000. The annual financial statements and accounts of CIPRA International were verified by the independent auditors Revitrust AG in Schaan/FL.

Where the money came from

Almost half of CIPRA International's income stemmed from project revenues.

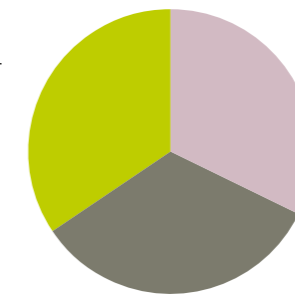


Project revenues	1,257,367 CHF
Services provided to third parties	454,611 CHF
State contributions	671,130 CHF
Membership fees	67,500 CHF
Other revenues	26,499 CHF

Where the money went to

The monies of CIPRA International were expended in equal parts on the areas of PR, policy and administration, material costs, fees, and wages and salaries.

PR, policy and administration	771,299 CHF
Projects: material costs/fees	797,147 CHF
Projects: wages & salaries	820,543 CHF



We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the MAVA Foundation for Nature in Gland/CH, which made the largest contribution to project financing. Next were state contributions, particularly from Liechtenstein, which as CIPRA's domicile is very generous with its support and ensures that we are able to organise our activities under very good conditions. An important contribution also came from Switzerland while other states endowed the national CIPRA representatives with some very significant funding and project subsidies.

Next were services rendered to third parties such as the Alliance in the Alps network of municipalities, and the Alpine Town of the Year Association. Equally important were the contribution payments made by our member organisations, legitimising our status as an Alpine-wide network.

CIPRA would like to thank its financial backers:

MAVA Foundation for Nature, Gland/CH

www.mava-foundation.org

Principality of Liechtenstein

www.llv.li (de)

Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), Switzerland

www.bafu.admin.ch

Foundation Assistance, Vaduz/FL

H.E.M. Foundation, Vaduz/FL

Gerda Techow Foundation, Vaduz/FL

Binding Foundation Schaan/FL

www.binding.li (de)

Aage V. Jensen - Charity Foundation, Vaduz/FL

www.avjcf.org

Fürstl. Foundation Commerce Guido Feger, Vaduz/FL

CIPRA thanks its clients:

"Alliance in the Alps" network of municipalities

www.alpenallianz.org

"Alpine Town of the Year" Association

www.alpenstaedte.org

CIPRA Liechtenstein

www.cipra.li

Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Germany

www.bfn.de

University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna/A

www.boku.ac.at

Platform Ecological Network, c/o french Ministry for the Environment

www.alpine-ecological-network.org/platform

CIPRA, the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps, is a non-governmental umbrella organisation with representatives in the seven Alpine states of Germany, France, Italy, Liechtenstein, Austria, Switzerland, Slovenia and regional representatives in South Tyrol/I. It represents around 100 associations and organisations from across the Alps. CIPRA works for sustainable development in the Alps. It advocates the conservation of natural and cultural heritage, the preservation of regional diversity and solutions to cross-border issues in the Alpine region. It was founded on 5 May 1952 and is domiciled in Schaan in the Principality of Liechtenstein. CIPRA's status as a non-profit organisation is recognised by the tax authorities of Liechtenstein. Its guiding principle and its statutes can be found on the Internet at www.cipra.org.

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CIPRA
LIVING IN
THE ALPS

