

The Mandate 2019-2020 of the Alpine Biodiversity Board of the Alpine Convention for the development of a System of targets for the conservation of the biodiversity, the landscape and the ecological connectivity of the Alps

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BIODIVERSITY & NATURE CONSERVATION

The Alps are home to more than 30,000 animal and 13,000 plant species. Almost 30% of the Alpine area is protected, but many species roam over larger distances. Therefore, we need to provide so-called ecological corridors and “steppingstones”. It is important that the whole territory remains permeable and livable for all species. Large carnivores (wolf, bear and lynx) and wild ungulates (ibex, chamois, red deer, etc.) are an important part of the Alpine imagery and ecosystem but may enter into conflict with human activities such as pastoralism, forestry and hunting. Sustainable wildlife management requires that we balance and harmonize the various interests. Well-balanced solutions have to be sought in cooperation with all involved actors (Article 2, 2f of the Framework Convention).

<https://www.alpconv.org/en/home/topics/biodiversity-nature-conservation/>

PROTOCOLS AND THEMATIC WORKING BODIES

**PROTOCOL ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
ALPINE CONVENTION OF 1991 RELATING TO NATURE
PROTECTION AND LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION**

**PROTOCOL
"NATURE PROTECTION AND LANDSCAPE
CONSERVATION"**



Alpine Biodiversity Board



**Large Carnivores, Wild Ungulates
and Society Working Group - WISO**



**Natural Hazards Working Group -
PLANALP**



**Ecological Network Platform (2006-
2019)**

ALPINE BIODIVERSITY BOARD

The Alpine Biodiversity Board was established by the XV Alpine Conference (Innsbruck, April 2019) and the Presidency 2019-2020 was entrusted to Italy.

The aim of the Board is to undertake a stock-taking analysis of relevant biodiversity and landscape strategies, guidelines and policy recommendations for Alpine countries, including the Convention on Biological Diversity and relevant EU legislation and biodiversity strategies as well as the results of recent research. Furthermore, the Board is entrusted to develop a system of priorities and targets for joint action, including in the field of ecological connectivity. To this end, the Alpine Biodiversity Board serves as a platform to inter alia bring together different stakeholders in order to enable a dialogue among the different interest.

In implementation of its mandate, the Work programme 2019-2020 of the Alpine Biodiversity Board will focus on the following main activities:

- ① Stocktaking analysis of relevant instruments.**
- ② Set of priorities and targets for joint action.**
- ③ Organization of workshop activities.**

ACTIVITY 1

Stocktaking analysis of relevant instruments.

① Survey on national and sub-national instruments

② Review and analysis of supra-national legal framework

**OUTPUT 1:
STOCKTAKING REPORT**

ACTIVITY 2

Set of priorities and targets for joint action.

Operational structure and guidelines for the definition of an Alpine biodiversity target system

**OUTPUT 2:
REPORT ON PRIORITIES
AND TARGETS**

ACTIVITY 3

Organization of workshop activities.

Work in progress

**OUTPUT 3:
WORKSHOP REPORT**



SURVEY ON NATIONAL AND SUB-NATIONAL INSTRUMENTS

ON
GOING

What will the survey explore?

The survey will explore the **framework of national and sub-national instruments** that the Alpine countries apply for the biodiversity (land and freshwater) and landscape conservation, and where applicable ecological connectivity, and consider relevant to the Alps.

What instruments does the survey collect?

The instruments could be **both legally binding and non-binding** but must be established by one or more public institutions (i.e. policies, strategies, programs, regulations, conservation measures, spatial and landscape plans, protected areas management plans, water resources management tools, action plans, etc.). Therefore, projects results and research activities have been left out of this survey.

What is the aim of the survey?

The survey aims to identify and select the **most relevant instruments to the Alps**, in the areas mentioned above, in order to analyze their current or potential applicability and extensibility in the pan-alpine context. It also intends to highlight the **gaps in the current scenario of instruments** and how each Alpine country address them.



SURVEY ON NATIONAL AND SUB-NATIONAL INSTRUMENTS

ON
GOING

What information will the survey provide?

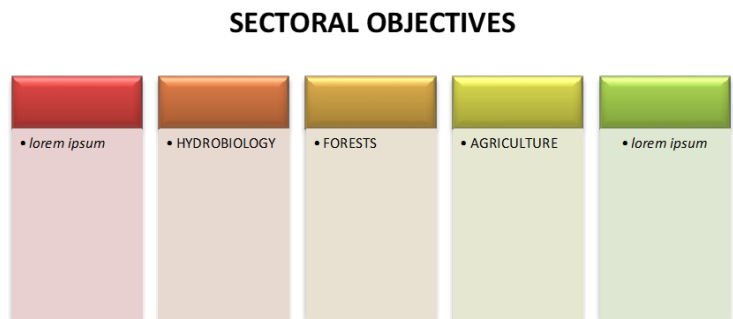
The survey purpose is to provide an **overview of the objectives - general and specific** - existing at national and sub-national level with reference to the Alpine biodiversity, and to highlight **how these objectives integrate the general principles** established by the main supranational instruments and documents and within the legal framework of the Alpine Convention. The summary of this overview, within the stock-taking analysis, should contribute to detail and define the whole Alpine Biodiversity Target System.

Furthermore, the survey analysis should contribute to the **knowledge on the implementation status and current and potential effectiveness** of the instruments.

Moreover, it should indicate how these instruments could provide **useful indications to define sectorial priorities**, in line with the main topics addressed and dealt with on a transnational and multi-sectoral level within the context of the Alpine Convention.

OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE AND GUIDELINES FOR THE DEFINITION OF AN ALPINE BIODIVERSITY TARGET SYSTEM

DRAFT



COMMUNICATION

- **ROOF:** refers to the legal framework at international, European and Alpine level of strategic guidelines and instruments relevant to the Alpine biodiversity.
- **GENERAL PRINCIPLES:** guide and frame the actions of the Alpine Convention in the field of biodiversity and landscape.
- **OVERALL STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:** define intents and visions and guide the actions in the following phases.
- **SECTORAL OBJECTIVES:** aim to articulate the general objectives in the individual sectors, making them operational.
- **RECOMMENDATIONS:** define implementing measures for the sectoral objectives.
- **COMMUNICATION:** applies to all the operational levels and includes proposals for specific activities and debates during meetings with stakeholders.



SURVEY ON NATIONAL AND SUB-NATIONAL INSTRUMENTS

ON
GOING

Some of the questions of the form are:

- Indicate whether **the scope** of the instrument is the conservation and/or the monitoring of the biodiversity and/or another one...
- Indicate if the instrument foresees **indirect actions** relevant to biodiversity...
- Highlight **the specific objectives/characteristics** of the instrument relevant to the Alpine arc...
- Indicate whether the instrument contribute to **the harmonization** of existing biodiversity/landscape/ecological connectivity data and how...
- What is your opinion on **the effectiveness** of the instrument? What should be changed to increase its effectiveness...
- Specify **the drivers of the biodiversity loss** (e.g. invasive species) that the instrument deals with...
- Indicate **the activities** concerned by the instrument related to the following sub-topics of the Biodiversity and Nature Conservation sector: species, habitat, landscape and/or ecological connectivity...
- ...



SURVEY ON NATIONAL AND SUB-NATIONAL INSTRUMENTS

ON
GOING

The experts that will be involved in filling the form:

- Ministry for the Environment
- National and Regional Agencies for the environmental protection
- Regional territorial entities
- River basin authorities
- National and Regional park management bodies
- environmental associations
- professional bodies
- networks
- ...

The compilers are identified and involved with the support of the Members and Observers of the Board, as well as the Focal Points and the Head Delegation of the Alpine Convention.



SAPA NETWORK

System of the Italian Alpine protected areas

ORIGIN

The SAPA is a network that brings together **local authorities in the Italian Alpine Region engaged in the field of nature protection** and promotion of sustainable development. Its **establishment in 2014** was promoted together with the local authorities and coordinated by the Italian Delegation to the Alpine Convention – Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea as an additional board to the national board supporting the Italian delegation and thus implementing the national Law 50/2012 which ratifies some of the Protocols of the Alpine Convention.

<http://www.areeprotette-sapa.it>

LOCAL AUTHORITIES OF SAPA NETWORK

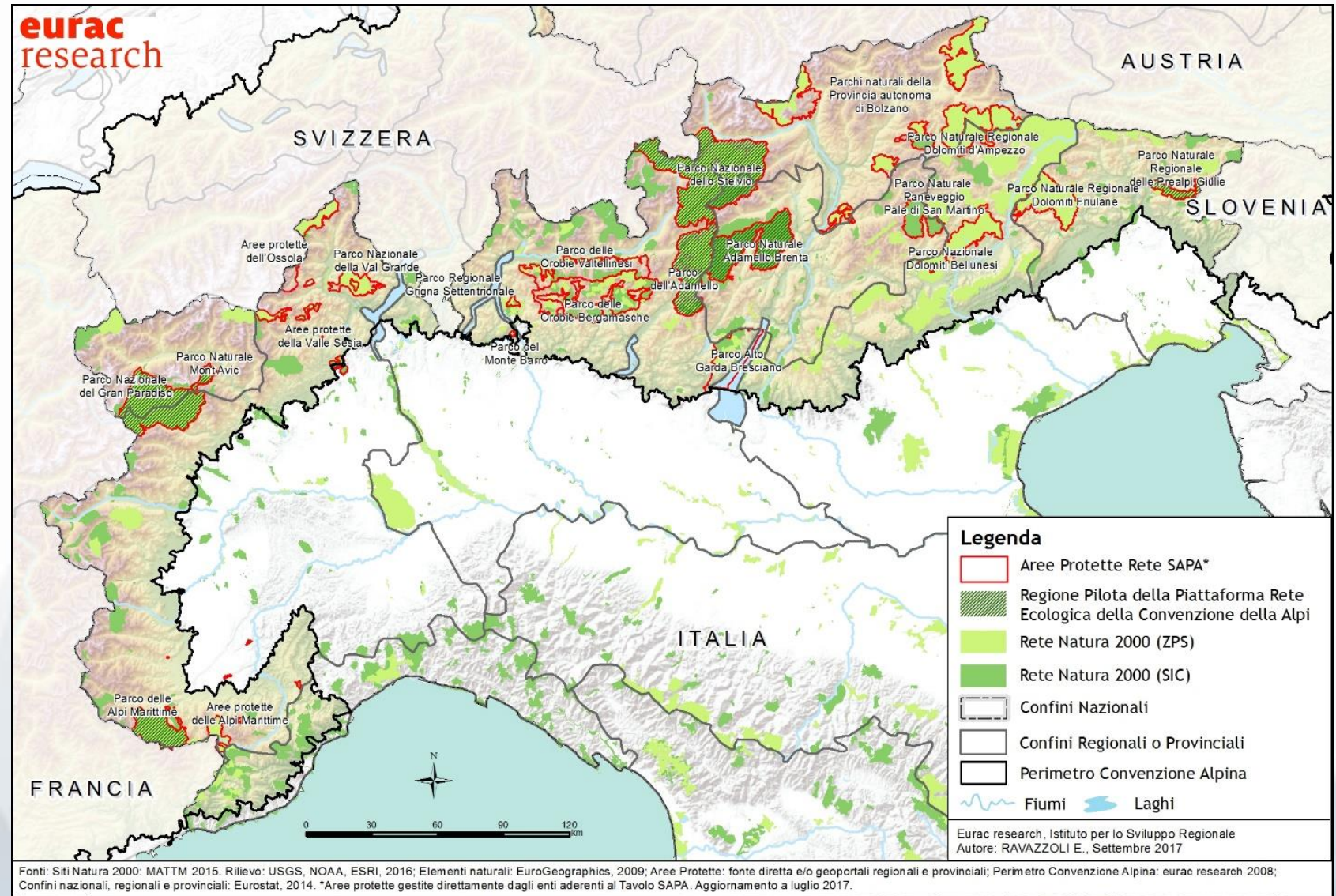
- 7 Regions
- 2 Autonomous Provinces
- 19 Protected areas Management bodies

PROTECTED AREAS OF SAPA NETWORK

- 52 Protected Areas
- 792.420 ha among national, natural and regional parks, and natural and regional reserves
- 467 Natura 2000 sites
- 1.633.191 ha among SCIs and SPAs

PROTECTED AREAS IN THE ITALIAN ALPS

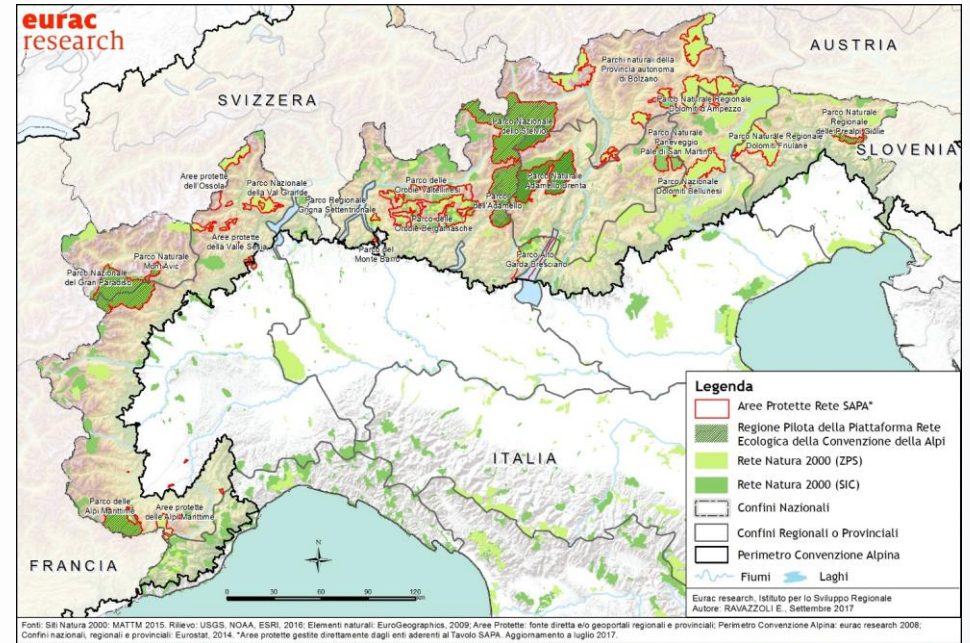
- 145 Protected Areas
- 1.604.570 ha among national, natural and regional parks, and natural reserves, UNESCO sites and particular protection areas
- 605 Natura 2000 sites
- 1.941.355 ha among SCIs and SPAs



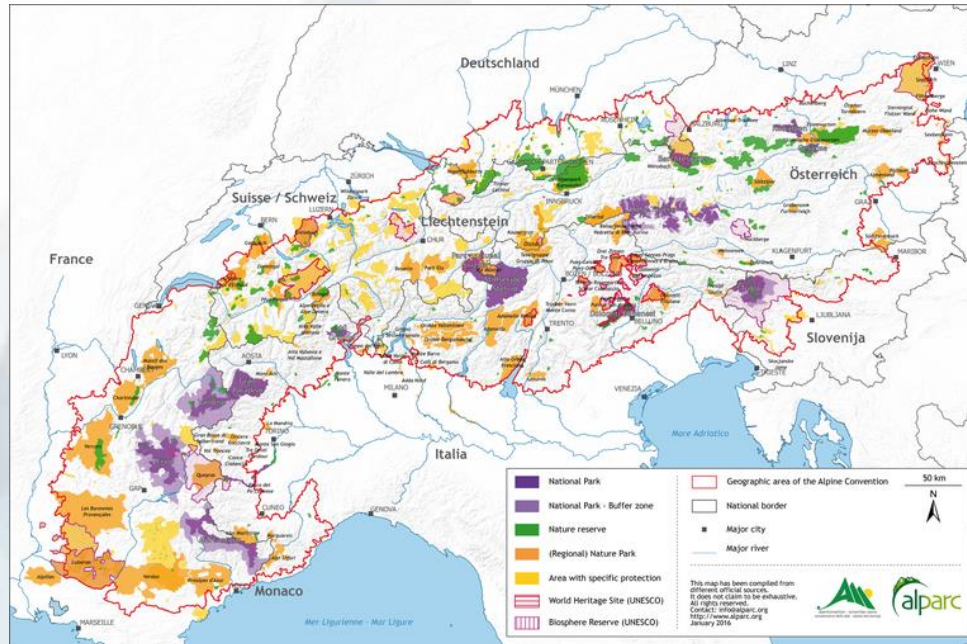
MISSION

“...responds to the need for better coordination between Italian Alpine protected areas, favoring the **collaboration between managing bodies of protected areas, in order to facilitate their participation in cross-border and international networks.** It plays a fundamental role in the implementation of the objectives of the Alpine Convention and its Protocols, among which [...] **the main reference is the Protocol “Nature Protection and landscape conservation”...**”

SAPA (2014)



ALPARC (1995)



CNPA (2006)

MONITORING THE BIODIVERSITY IN THE ALPINE REGION: STRATEGIES AND PERSPECTIVES OF HARMONIZATION



The 2nd Report of the SAPA Network "**Monitoring the biodiversity in the Alpine region: strategies and perspectives of harmonization**" is a further step forward on the harmonization of methods for biodiversity monitoring in the Alps.

The report includes contributions from the Network and scientific bodies (such as ISPRA, Federparchi and Eurac Research), under the **coordination of the Italian Delegation to the Alpine Convention – Italian Ministry for the Environment**, supported by the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention.

The report is divided into three thematic sections that provide a basis for the harmonization of biodiversity monitoring within the SAPA Network.

MAIN CONTENTS OF THE 2ND REPORT

PART 1: BIODIVERSITY MONITORING METHODOLOGIES

Analyzes the most significant procedures and protocols for monitoring biodiversity adopted by the Italian Alpine Regions and the protected areas of the SAPA Network. The analysis allowed to **highlight existing supra-regional experiences on harmonization** that can be the basis for a common path within the SAPA Network.

PART 2: EXPERIENCES IN BIODIVERSITY MONITORING

Presents the results of the SAPA Network Expert Workshop (Milan, 8 May 2019) on sharing experiences on biodiversity monitoring. The workshop allowed to **identify a selection of future priority actions** for the Network as a preliminary step to the definition of a **common and shared system for monitoring, reporting and assessing biodiversity** for the Alpine biogeographical region.

PART 3: STRATEGIES FOR HARMONIZING BIODIVERSITY MONITORING

Promotes a draft agreement, which, by way of example, identifies the terms of the collaboration between the members of the Network, aimed in particular to set the ground for identifying suitable methods for sharing data among institutions.

**SUPRA REGIONAL
EXPERIENCES ON
HARMONIZATION**








**ANNEX 1:
EXPERIENCES COLLECTION**

**ANNEX 2:
DRAFT AGREEMENT FOR
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND
BIODIVERSITY MONITORING**

DRAFT AGREEMENT FOR COLLABORATION

HYPOTHESIS A	The underwriters maintain their already programmed monitoring objectives on species, habitats and other topics, and commit to adopt the National standards and to allow the sharing and comparison of the data collected.
HYPOTHESIS B	The underwriters identify a new set of monitoring objectives based on an ecoregional strategy, or in any case on a larger scale of their strict competence, and commit to adopt measures for data harmonization .
HYPOTHESIS C	The underwriters decide to align with existing objectives and protocols , such as the agreements between the Alpine national parks and that of the UNESCO Dolomites Foundation, but also those of specific projects such as BIODIVALP, LIFE GESTIRE, LIFE + TEN, etc.

SUPRA-REGIONAL EXPERIENCES ON HARMONIZATION

EASTERN ALPS		<p>BioSTREAM Project</p> 	 <p>REGIONE AUTONOMA FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA</p>	  <p>PROVINCIA AUTONOMA DI TRENTO REGIONE DEL VENETO</p>
CENTRAL ALPS	<p>LIFE GESTIRE Project</p> 		<p>WHOLE ITALIAN ALPS</p>	
WESTERN ALPS	<p>BIODIVALP Project</p> 		<p>MONITORING THE CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE ALPINE AREA</p> 	

WHAT NEXT

PAST DATES

- ✓ Preliminary informal meeting (Rome, 17-18 June 2019): *presentation and discussion of the work programme*
- ✓ SAPA Network meeting (Belluno, 12 July 2019): *presentation of the 2nd Report and the activities of the Alpine Biodiversity Board*
- ✓ 1st Meeting (Gorizia, 1-2 October 2019): *presentation and discussion of the first working documents*
- ✓ 68° Permanent Committee (Monaco, 14-15 November 2019): *presentation of the state of art*

NEXT MAIN DATES

- ☐ **2nd Meeting (January 2020)**
- ☐ **69° Permanent Committee (April 2020)**
- ☐ **1st Workshop (April 2020)**
- ☐ **IUCN World Conservation Congress (Marseille, 11-12 June 2020)**
- ☐ **SAPA Network meeting (July 2020)**
- ☐ **2nd Workshop (September 2020)**
- ☐ **Permanent Committee and Alpine Conference (December 2020)**

INVITATION

The **SAPA Network meeting (July 2020)** will focus on two main issues:

- The advanced stage of the activities of the **Alpine Biodiversity Board**
- Presentation and implementation of the Agreement for scientific research and biodiversity monitoring in the framework of the **SAPA Network**

The Italian delegation to the Alpine Convention is pleased to welcome to the SAPA Network meeting in July a delegation representing the Carpathian Convention to contribute to the discussions and share experiences and ongoing activities. This invitation will be formalized by the Head of the Italian delegation to the Alpine Convention.

THANK YOU!

