



## Focus

### In the “Cadore” to discuss upon mountain forests and ecosystem services

A two-day meeting dedicated to the management and enhancement of the role of Alpine forest in the safeguard of mountain ecosystems and as an economic resource for the development of an Alpine green economy was held in the beautiful landscape of the Dolomites, in Pieve di Cadore. The events were promoted by the Italian Presidency of the Alpine Convention 2013-2014 in collaboration with the Veneto Region and the Great Community of Cadore. On Thursday 11th the technical-scientific **meeting of the experts of the Mountain Forests Working Group** of the Alpine Convention was held, followed by a public workshop dedicated to “*The services of the Alpine forests ecosystems as a natural, economic and cultural asset for a regional and European green economy*” which, with more than 50 participants, had a great participation of public and local institutions.



The Workshop presented the results of the work of the “Mountain Forests” Working Group of the Alpine Convention that collected and aggregated data on Alpine forests ecosystem services and is working on a document on the state, threats and opportunities of Alpine mountain forests and on the value of their

products and ecosystem services in the framework of green economy. *Enrico Calvo, ERSAF Lombardia and Head of the Italian Delegation in the Mountain Forests group*, explained that the Alpine forests held a great value in terms of overall economic and social well-being, same time their value is low in terms of production and income added value (0,4% share of GDP, 0,5% share of employment). Forests cover about 45% of the entire territory of the Alpine Convention it is thus important to take account of the benefit they give to the territory. As regards the **forest planning**, *Mauro Giovanni Viti, Unit for Forests and Parks Project -Forest planning and research service - Veneto Region*, presented a report on forest management in Veneto. Forests there cover about 23% of the regional territory and are essentially individual and collective private property (about 66%); over the last 20 years, thanks to the efforts made by the Regional Forest Administration, the woodland area subject to regular planning has doubled.

Several academic entities are involved into the analysis of the value of ecosystem services provided by mountain forests, in this regard *Laura Secco, Dipartiment for the Territory and Agro-Forest Systems of the University of Padua*, presented some data from the NEWFOREX project, implemented under the 7th EU

framework Programme, in which Veneto Region is taking part. The project is a survey on Veneto citizens' inclination to payment for environmental services (PES). The survey shows that this availability is about



50/year/ha but greatly varies depending on the ecosystem service. For instance, on a large scale the demand for ES is very low (almost exclusively for recreation-tourism) and so there is scarce potential to activate PES. On the supply side, 18 collective properties and 34 municipalities of Belluno province have been interviewed, in order to gather data on the inclination to provide ecosystem services, particularly for biodiversity and hydrogeological protection.

Then *Giorgio Matteucci*, *Institute of Agro-Environmental and Forest Biology of the National Research Council*, presented the multiannual project

(2010-2015) *Managing forests for multiple uses: carbon, biodiversity and socio-economic well-being: examples from the ManFor C.BD project*. The project aims at testing the efficacy of forest management options in achieving multiple objectives (production, protection, biodiversity), at providing data, instructions and suggesting best practices and gathering data concerning the main indicators for sustainable forest management (MCPFE, 2002), with particular focus on the indicators concerning carbon cycle and biodiversity.

**Among the services provided by the Alpine forests, the regulation of hydrogeological cycle** is very important, it is thus essential to keep a high safeguard level of the function of water protection performed by Alpine forests to guarantee the sustainable supply of ecosystem services to the mountain environment. As explained by Roland Koek, University BoKu of Natural Resources and Life Science of Vienna, in Austria several Institutions and local authorities have showed great interest for the application of the concept of drinking water protection, in this regard they are working on the elaboration of payment systems for ecosystem services provided by forests.

The Federal administration of Bavaria as well has activated several measures for the safeguard of the mountain forest ecosystem in the German Alpine area.



During the workshop, *Stefan Tretter*, *Bavarian Ministry for Nutrition, Agriculture and Forests*, delivered a report on mountain forests in Germany dwelling on measures for their safeguard. Bavaria has developed a legal framework for mountain forest management: the law on forests of Bavaria has included, since more than 30 years, some particularly important rules for mountain woods. One of the main goals of the law is the conservation of the forest area growth over the last years, indeed the wood area has considerably increased. The second part of the meeting have seen a round table discussion among academic experts, representatives of local authorities and local associations. Among the participants there were: the University Consortium for Research in Socioeconomic and Environment (CURSA), the Order of agronomists and forestry of Belluno, the National Federation of Catchment Basins, the Autonomous Province of Trento, the Platform Ecological Network of the Alpine Convention, the Scientific Committee of Legambiente Friuli Venezia Giulia.

## Eastern Mountainside: the latest events

### The Alpine Convention at the Forum Alpinum 2014



The Alpine Convention participated the eleventh edition of the Forum Alpinum, the event organized by ISCAR -International Scientific Committee on Research in the Alps- which brings together organizations, institutions and associations involved in

the enhancement of the Alps.

The main theme of the Forum 2014 was the use and management of mountain resources, from a local to a macroregional level, with a focus on the Macroregional Strategy of the EU for the Alpine Region, now discussed within the European Commission following the decision of the European Council of December 2013.

At the Forum, the Alpine Convention provided several initiatives to promote the young talents from the Alps as an indispensable resource for the development and maintenance of the territory. The Permanent Secretariat presented the poster of the best young researchers awarded by the Alpine Convention, furthermore during the last session of the Forum it was held the workshop *Themes for a new Alpine research and education network built on Youth's view* promoted by the Italian Presidency of the Alpine Convention in collaboration with the University of Milano - "Mountain University" of Edolo. The workshop was an opportunity to present the **Advanced Course in Project Management for the Mountains – Methods and Tools**, designed by the Mountain University of Edolo and realised with the support of the Alpine Convention and the Italian Presidency through its task Force "New Generation".

The course is a postgraduate qualification that confers an academic degree. The purpose of the course is to train professionals of the mountain, which can support public and private agencies in the planning and implementation of projects for funding and developing business opportunities for mountain territories, through participation in national and European calls.

The course is open to graduates of any class, it will be held from November 2014 to January. **Registration is open until October 24**, for more information [www.unimontagna.it/percorsi](http://www.unimontagna.it/percorsi) - [didattici/cdp - projectmanagers management/](http://didattici/cdp-projectmanagersmanagement/).

### The UNESCO Brand, a resource for the Alps

It was launched on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September the fourth edition of the *EXPO of the Dolomites World Heritage*, the event aimed at highlighting characteristics, purpose and socio-economic impacts resulting from the inscription of the Dolomites in the World Heritage List of UNESCO. Within the rich programme of the events it was also included the participation of the Alpine Convention and, on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September, it was held a workshop promoted by the Italian Presidency on the theme ***Landscape and the UNESCO brand: an Alpine, and not only, pair***. The event had a wide audience participation, including students of the Istituto Tecnico



Economico con indirizzo Turismo "P.F. Calvi" of Belluno who had the chance to hear the points of view of several organizations involved in the management of UNESCO sites as well as University professors who deal with tourism marketing topics.

The event was opened by the *President of Longarone Fiere, Oscar De Bona* and by the *Mayor of Longarone Roberto Padrin* who outlined that the real resource of Italy, of the Dolomites as well, are their landscapes and cultural heritage and their enhancement through the UNESCO inscription could represent a real opportunity. Following, *Paolo Angelini, President of the Permanent Committee of the Alpine Convention*, thanked the North-Eastern territorial institutions (Veneto Region, Friuli Region, Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano) which have been collaborating for two years, as well as other Alpine territorial institutions, to the implementation of the Presidency programme. Angelini also reminded of the work done by the Task Force Sustainable Tourism, promoted by the Italian Presidency and lead by the Bocconi University .

Among the speakers, *Marcella Morandini, Secretary General of the Foundation Dolomites UNESCO*, spoke



about the heterogeneity of the Dolomites, a distinctive territory for its cultural and linguistic diversity and about the action of the Dolomiti UNESCO Foundation, created to interface the local institutions responsible for the administration of the territory. *Giorgio Ribaudò, University of Bologna – Rimini campus*, presented an analysis carried out on 16 Italian sites included on the UNESCO lists. The research has measured the presence (number of overnight stays) and the arrival (registrations) of tourists in the main Italian sites enrolled for at least five years, it indicates that the enrolling does not automatically generate an increase

in tourist flows of the site in question.

*Giovanni Viganò, Università Bocconi of Milan*, spoke about the analysis carried out along with other experts of the Task Force Sustainable Tourism. Starting from the assumption that tourism is an economic activity, thus competitive, the experts have tried to understand how to combine competitiveness and sustainability. Explaining that the touristic product is the destination and that the product is managed by the community, it can be claimed that competitiveness and sustainability go hand in hand. A community offers values, traditions, cultures to a touristic destination and those are the real added value of the destinations.

The Longarone event wanted to create a network for the management experiences of UNESCO sites in Italy and abroad. In this respect, the last part of the workshop presented to the public some important sites such as Langhe del Monferrato, in Piedmont, the Sicilian Aeolian islands, the important Slovenian site of Grotte di S. Canziano and then Verona.

*Stefano Sisto, Director of the Department Economy and Mountain Development of the Veneto region*, closed the event reminding of the commitment of the Veneto Region in the implementation of the Programme of the Italian Presidency and the common work pursued in these years on the different themes of the programme, particularly on sustainable tourism. Sisto emphasized that UNESCO sites shouldn't be managed and administered just in a "conservative" perspective but must be further enhanced, also creating a stronger sense of identity to the communities of the territories where they are located. In this respect, the joint work among different institutions and administrations is fundamental.

### **The Alps and the Ardennes meet in Sedan**

It was held Monday September the 15th in the castle of Sedan (France), the international seminar "*The Alps and the Ardennes: sharing of experiences between cross-border mountain areas.*" Fifteen speakers from five different countries presented to the public the experiences of cooperation between mountain cross-border territories, the seminar was jointly organized by the Italian Presidency of the Alpine Convention, the University of Reims Champagne-Ardenne and the Regional Natural Park of the Ardennes.

The seminar presented a general framework of international cooperation in mountain areas and take into consideration the specific case of the Alps and the Ardennes. Despite the differences in spatial extent, this two mountain ranges have many things in common and share many challenges in the social, economic and environmental fields. In the case of the Alps, nature protection and enhancement of the territory represented a fertile ground for cooperation among the eight countries that share these territories.



The event of Sedan was also included within the program of the Italian Presidency of the Alpine Convention that during the 2013-2014 period wanted to promote synergies and collaborations with other mountain ranges (Carpathians, Pyrenees, Balkans, Apennines, etc.), through the cooperation with institutions and mountain partnerships on the basis of the criteria laid down in the Alpine Convention. In this respect, it has been also promoted a specific Task Force, so called *Mountain Cooperation* that, in 2014,

collaborated to the promotion of several meeting on this subject, including that one of Sedan and the meeting of Sarnano.

The meeting was concluded by round table that treated of the new perspectives for the Ardennes in the framework of the European program during 2014-2020 and which highlighted the need to support existing initiatives and underwrite new one in sectors such as tourism, biodiversity and water resources management. The support of public and private actors, the dynamism of associations and civil society participation, the involvement of academia and research, as well as the generosity of foundations and other partners are key factors for the success of these initiatives. During the discussion, the continuation of initiatives to exchange experiences with other mountain regions, including the Alps, the Apennines, the Pyrenees and the Carpathians, was greeted and welcomed by many participants.

### **CIPRA Italia promotes a dialogue with mountain territories**

*The Alps beyond the crisis*, this is the title of a seminar organized by CIPRA Italy and hosted in Oulx, Val di



Susa, the past 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of September. The meeting was indented as a moment of debate between subjects that adhere to CIPRA and other that deal with models of development and protection of the Alpine region. Participants discussed new possible strategies to preserve the natural and cultural heritage of the Alpine area and support Alpine populations. New challenges for the Alpine local bodies in the managing of the territory were discussed and the speakers had a relevant exchange of opinions with the public audience on issues related to the strengthening of synergies between urban areas / plains and mountain valleys, such as the

establishment of the new metropolitan area of Turin, the only major metropolitan cities in Italy that will also include an mountain area. The Italian Presidency presented some actions and efforts undertaken by the Alpine Convention during the last two years, it participated the roundtable along with CIPRA Italia, local Authorities, *Dislivelli*, the National Institute of Urban Planning and the National Park of Gran Paradiso.

## **5th International Water Conference of Water in the Alps**

*Water in the Alps - and beyond; Adapting alpine and mountain river basins to climate change*, this is the title of the 5<sup>th</sup> Alpine Water Conference held in Trento the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> September 2014 to spread the results of the activities of the water management in the framework of the Alpine Convention. The 5th Water Conference was aimed at disseminating the results and good practices in the field of water management in a cross-border context, involving other mountainous regions, such as the Carpathians, Caucasus and Central Asia, to facilitate the creation of synergies and the exchange of experiences. Large and satisfying the participation of public, including specialist, scientists and administrators of the Alps and other mountainous regions that have shown the main results in their respective fields of international cooperation on climate change and adaptation strategies, as well as the results of some projects of European territorial cooperation.

The next issue "*Il Crinale*" will dedicate a focus to the event with the presentation of the main input come up during the two days of Trento.

## **Western Mountainside: upcoming events**

### ***Call for young journalists***

***Would you like to take part in the XIII Alpine Conference? Here you can find a link to the public selection process for young communicators (16-26 years old) to take part at the upcoming Alpine Conference and write about it. Application deadline: 1 november 2014.***