

Press release 03 ALPBIONET2030 - October 09, 2017

Ecological connectivity and trans-alpine wildlife and habitat management are the two key topics which are addressed from October 09-13 in the cross-border area of the Julian Prealps Nature Park (IT) and the Triglav National Park (SI). Different workshops and conferences will take place, either organized by the INTERREG VB project ALPBIONET2030 (financed by the Alpine Space Programme) or the EU Platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores (Europarc).

The Triglav National Park together with the Nature Park of the Julian Prealps have participated together in several EU funded projects (e.g. recharge.green, greenAlps, etc.). All projects had the goal to harmonize the cooperation between the two protected areas across the Italian-Slovenian border. The most recent transnational cooperation activity takes place within the ALPBIONET2030 project, which is co-funded by the EU Alpine Space Programme (project budget 2.65 million Euro) and has been running from November 2016 to October 2019.

On October 11, 2017 the partners of the ALPBIONET2030 project, which are different research institutions, regional authorities, interest groups and protected area administrations from all Alpine countries will meet in the Info Centre Dom Trenta of the Triglav National Park in the Soca Valley. They will discuss the next steps of cooperation towards a better cooperation for creation of ecological connectivity and for managing alpine wildlife and as well conflicts with human activities. Beside the meetings within the Alpbionet2030 project, there are a few more events during the week of Oct 9 to 13. They all contribute to develop a reasonable handling of alpine wildlife management and integration of stakeholder positions. During this week, the region of Triglav – Prealpi Giulie will be visited by many alpine wildlife and nature conservation experts and interesting examples from the region will be discussed and visited.

The programme of the week will start with a particular workshop dedicated to young people in high schools of the Prealpi Giulie region, informing them on the project's activities and carrying out a survey on their perception of wildlife including large carnivores. Moreover the following events and workshops will take place either in Trenta (SI) or in Venzone (IT):

- Workshop for defining the spatial categories of Strategic Alpine Connectivity Areas (SACA) from Oct 09/10 in Trenta
- Workshop on transnational wildlife management in Trenta (Oct 10)
- Workshop for forensic experts in Venzone (Oct 12)
- Workshop for stakeholders on human-nature conflicts in Venzone (Oct12)
- Regional workshop of the European Platform on Large Carnivores, starting at the evening of the 12 October (12 to 14 October) at Prealpi Giulie Nature Park

Ecological connectivity is the basis of Alpine and global habitat and species protection. However, with the fact of different regions having different tools to measure and improve biodiversity, it becomes a main issue to realize an integrative concept for the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity within the Alps, which is one of the most beautiful and unique European landscapes, rich in valuable habitats and structures, but endangered by over-exploitation and development.

The overall objective of the ALPBIONET2030 project is to consolidate and enhance transnational cooperation in the field of nature conservation while providing a harmonized concept of preserving natural habitats and common planning tools to realize a high level of ecological connectivity for biodiversity conservation.