



# Alpine Convention

## Water Platform and Platform on Natural Hazards

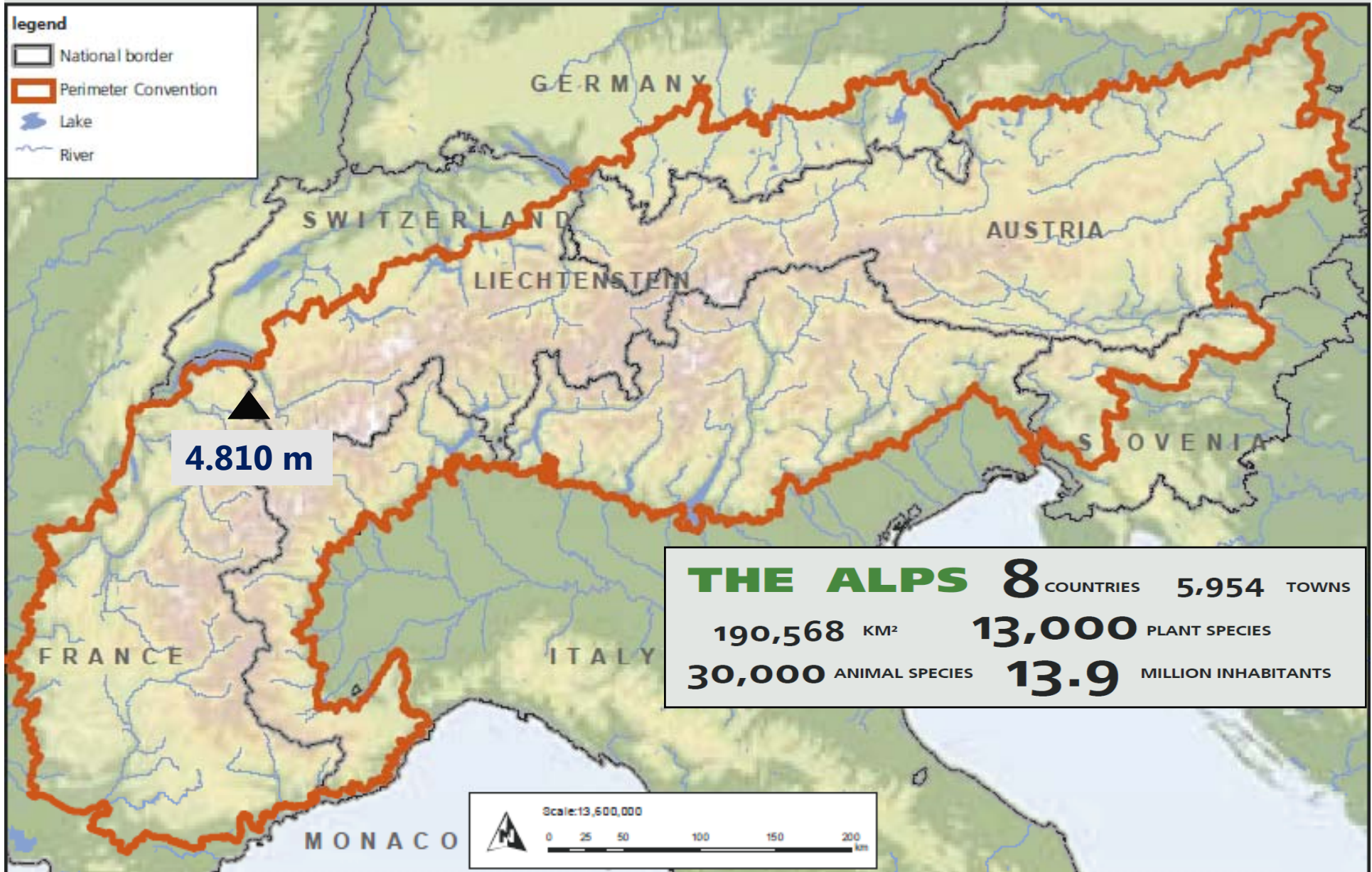
Flood directive (2007/60/CE) and  
Water framework directive (2000/60/CE)  
in the Alpine context

**Rudolf HORNICH**

Styrian Federal State Government  
Watermanagement, Ressources and  
Sustainability



# ALPINE CONVENTION





# ALPINE CONVENTION

**legend**

- National border
- Perimeter Convention
- Lake
- River



Alps are often affected by the European general weather situation – for example the Vb-weather situation.



## Specific problems

## Bed load

FD 2007/60/EC: Art. 2

*“flood” means the temporary covering by water of land not normally covered by water. This shall include floods from rivers, mountain torrents, ....*

The discharge processes are affected by sediments and bed load material, which not only cause great damage but also cause problems with cleanup efforts due to the huge amounts of rubble and debris mass.





## Specific problems

Huge amounts of driftwood, that is carried along, aggravate the flood situation. Log jams lead to uncontrolled discharge and, consequently, to great damage in residential areas.

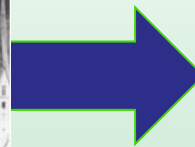


## Drift wood



## Specific problems

## settlement



source: Rudolf-Miklau

Dynamic development of municipalities in Alpine areas due to tourism and economic growth, also in areas endangered by natural hazards. An enormous increase of damage potential in hazard-prone areas took place within the last decades.



The Alpine arc links eight countries: Austria, France, Germany Italy, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Slovenia and Switzerland. It is a home for about 14 million people and it is visited by millions of tourists. Therefore many common challenges and questions of development have to be discussed through a responsible international coordination of spatial planning, transport, energy, tourism policy, water management and other measures.

For these reasons, the Ministers of the Alpine States met in October 1989 and decided to draft an agreement for the protection and sustainable development of the Alps.

The Convention on the Protection of the Alps, namely “The Alpine Convention“, was signed on 7. 11. 1991 in Salzburg (A) by Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and the EU (Slovenia signed the convention on 29 March 1993 and Monaco became a party on the basis of a separate additional protocol). The Convention entered into force on 6<sup>th</sup> March 1995.



The Alpine Convention is an international treaty between the Alpine countries (Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Slovenia and Switzerland) as well as the EU, aimed at promoting sustainable development in the Alpine area and at protecting the interests of the people living within it. It embraces the environmental, social, economic and cultural dimensions.

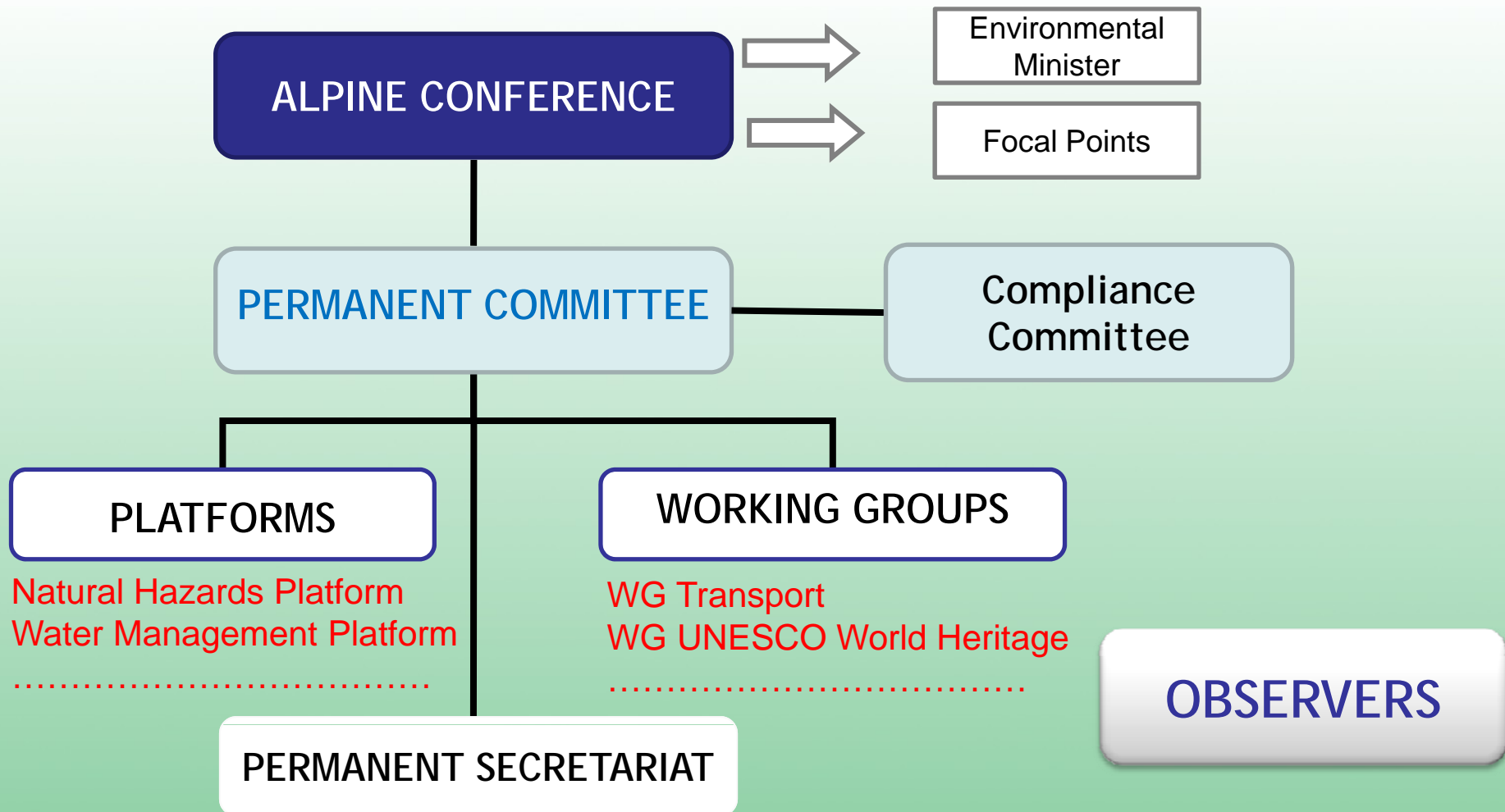
The Alpine Convention is the first convention for the protection of a mountain region worldwide that is binding under international law.

The current presidency of the Alpine Convention is held by Italy (2013 - 2014) and implemented by the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, in accordance with the local authorities in the Alps.





# Alpine Convention Organigram





# Water Management Platform

President: Riccardo Rigon/Italy

The Alpine Convention instituted a platform on water issues at the X. Alpine Conference in 2009 after the adoption of the second Report on the State of the Alps on „Water and Water Management Issues“. In addition the Action Plan on Climate Change in the Alps, adopted at the X. Alpine Conference, contains several issues related to water management, such as, for example, to reinforce implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive, to prevent water shortages and to develop plants according to the ecology of water courses.



# Water Management Platform

President: Riccardo Rigon/Italy

The main objectives of the Water management Platform are:

- communications and raising awareness on the water management issues in the Alps;
- serve as a network of experts;
- spread the common understanding on issues related to climate change and natural hazards;
- presentation of best practices and strategies for the adaptation to climate change and water management;
- close cooperation with partners and other working groups.



MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE  
E DELLA TUTELA DEL TERRITORIO E DEL MARE

## Water Management Platform

### MANDATE 2013 - 2014



Platform Water Management in the Alps continues to act as a network of experts in order to **organize workshops** on specific, challenging and upcoming water management aspects concerning a broad range of Alpine Countries.

- **Local adaptation plans to climate change for water management: experiences and strategies in place.**
- **Prevention of hydrological risks in the alpine area: the flood risk and the EU Directive 2007/60.**
- **River management and geological processes.**



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## Water Management Platform

### Activities of the MANDATE 2013 - 2014



- 5th International Water Conference "Water in the Alps - and beyond; Adapting alpine and mountain river basins to climate change", Trento 25-26<sup>th</sup> September 2014
- First official collaboration between the two platforms (Water and Planalp) was carried out in Brescia on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2013
- Public Workshop on "Water and risk management facing climate change: towards the local adaptation", Brescia 10<sup>th</sup> October 2013
- Experiences and paths in the implementation of the Flood Directive (2007/60/EC) in Alpine areas, Aosta, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2013
- Expert meeting on "Water Change in Climate Change: threat or opportunity? Changing business in a changing climate", Alpine Spring Festival, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2013



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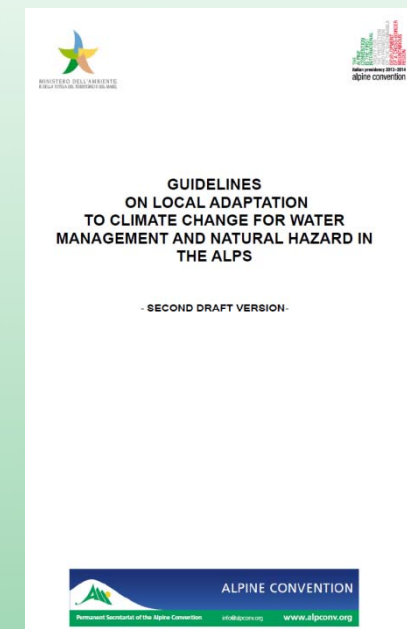
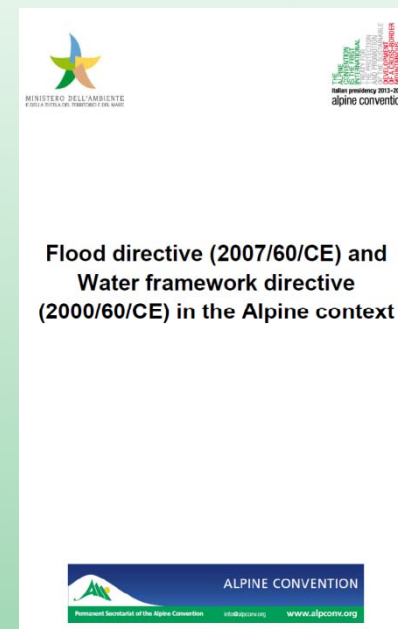
## Water Management Platform

### Activities of the MANDATE 2013 - 2014



Two documents were prepared:

a document on the “**Application of the Flood Directive 2007/60 in Alpine Countries**”, stressing the interferences with the 2000/60/EC Directive and suggesting case studies, and a document on the “**Guidelines on Local Adaptation to climate change in the Alpine Countries**”, aimed at proposing potential adaptation actions and describing initiatives present at local level.





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## Water Management Platform Preliminary MANDATE 2015 - 2016



The following themes are part of the Mandate Proposal 2015 – 2016:  
*(subject to the final agreement of the Water Management Platform and the Permanent Committee)*

- **Fluvial geomorphology**: a) Space needed for alpine rivers including concept of erodible corridors. b) New tools for sediment monitoring/management, with a focus on flood protection in small alpine basins
- **Dialogue between the Water Framework Directive and the Flood Directive**: integrate and disseminate a good-practices-collection of joint application of the two directives
- **Cross-cutting issues**:
  - **Communication** of water related issue, dissemination of solutions and getting feedbacks from the population in Alpine areas
  - **Open data**: highlight the state of the art of hydrological and water data collection and its release for the public in different countries (Workshop or other suitable activity)



# Natural Hazards Platform

President: Maria Patek/Austria

The Natural Hazards Platform of the Alpine Convention (called hereafter PLANALP) was set up in 2004 to develop common strategies designed to prevent natural hazards in the Alps as well as to exchange on adaptation strategies. The extent of the damage caused by such hazards is constantly increasing and the reasons well known. Measures agreed across the whole Alpine region therefore make sense and in some fields are urgently needed.

## **The main objectives of the Natural Hazards Platform are to:**

- discuss concepts for an integrated reduction of natural hazards;
- identify “best practices”;
- implement the subsequent measures;
- intensify the cross-border exchange of experience.





## Natural Hazards Platform - PLANALP

### MANDATE 2013 - 2014

#### Three sets of activities:

1. Evaluation of the concepts of an integral risk management regarding protection against natural hazards
1. Knowledge transfer of good practice examples in Alpine countries
3. Conception and implementation of recommendations to:
  - Risk Governance (paying particular attention to gender aspects) and climate change
  - Life-cycle management of protection measures against natural hazards
  - Flood risk management plans with focus on alpine areas



## Natural Hazards Platform - PLANALP

### RESULTS

- Evaluation of the concepts of an integral risk management regarding protection against natural hazards as well as knowledge transfer of good practice examples continues in the work of the Platform
- Conception and implementation of recommendations to the following topics:
  - Continuous knowledge exchange between platform members topics: risk governance and climate change, close cooperation with the Water Management Platform
  - Knowledge exchange on the topic of *life-cycle management of protection measures against natural hazards* took place within the meetings. A brochure will be compiled by November 2014.
  - Conference on the topic of the *implementation of flood risk management plans* and the challenges in Alpine areas was held in March 2014; corresponding proceedings were provided.



## Other specific issues

## Climate change

Effects of climate change are an important topic for the Alps.

The rise of temperature causes additional and new hazards – e.g. Permafrost. As climate warms, permafrost thaws. This leads to new dangerous situations which have to be addressed in FRM: Deglaciation, slope failures and possible flood waves caused by broken dams of glacial lakes (e.g. CH)

### Consideration of CC in FRMP - adaptation strategies



Alpine strategy for adaptation to climate change in the field of natural hazards

Developed by the Platform on Natural Hazards of the Alpine Convention PLANALP



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra  
Sveiz  
Confederaziun

Federal Department for the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (MTE)



Alpine Convention  
Convenzione delle Alpi  
Convenção das Alpi  
www.alpconv.org



## Natural Hazards Platform - PLANALP

### **NEXT MANDATE**

For the next two years the PLANALP would like to focus on the following topics:

1. Knowledge transfer and exchange of good natural disaster risk reduction practices within the Alpine region (regular)
2. Implementation of flood (risk) management plans – Implementing integrated risk management into disaster management with a better implication of response and preparedness by information availability and knowledge transfer (2016)
3. Stimulating the dissemination and use of quality standards for natural hazard and risk mitigation in the Alpine region (2015)
4. The role of women in natural hazard management focussing on the Alpine region (2015/16)



## Summary

Protection against natural hazards and the handling with water has always had a great significance in the Alpine areas.

Concerning flood protection in Alpine countries apart from technical safety measures there were also early non-technical measures (e.g. hazard zone maps) used for protection as well as a basis for planning and decision making in land use planning for some time.

The EU Floods Directive shifts the focus on flood risk management – thus not only on structural measures. Hence, flood risk management plans with regard to the specific circumstances in alpine regions and the requirements of the WFD are a crucial basis for the security and future development of alpine living spaces.



Thank you for  
your attention !