



**MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION BETWEEN
THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT (PSAC) OF THE ALPINE CONVENTION
AND THE ALPARC ASSOCIATION**

The Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention (hereafter, PSAC), represented by its Secretary General, and

The ALPARC Association (hereafter ALPARC), represented by its President

In the following referred to as “the signatories”

Recalling the Decision of the XIIth Alpine Conference (Dec. XII/A7, paragraph 3) and all related decisions concerning the future of the Task Force Protected Areas;

Whereas the Alpine Convention Protocols and in particular its Protocol “Conservation of Nature and Countryside” are legally binding instruments of international law with the aim of ensuring the long-term sustainable development and conservation of the Alps;

Whereas the main mission of ALPARC is to actively participate to the implementation of the Alpine Convention, in particular by assisting the managers of protected areas, the territorial collectivities and the stakeholders in their mission for the protection and sustainable development of their respective territories;

Whereas by Decision VII/2 of the Alpine Conference, the PSAC was set up as a concrete step for the implementation and development of the Alpine Convention and its Protocols;

Whereas since 1995 ALPARC, which has the status of an Observer to the Alpine Conference, takes initiatives at the level of better coordination of international activities of the alpine protected areas and as such serves the implementation of certain provisions of the Alpine Convention and its Protocols, in particular Art. 12 of the Protocol on Nature protection and that it is in the interest of the Alpine Convention that these initiatives are continued;

Underlining that being the Alpine Convention a multi-level governance tool, it is important that diverse initiatives of implementation of the Alpine Convention are developed on the Alpine territory involving actors at all levels, including the protected areas;

Underlying that a fruitful cooperation between the PSAC and ALPARC favours the coherence of nature protection policies in the different alpine States on the level of protected areas and their regions.

Have reached the following understanding:

I. AIMS

This Memorandum of Cooperation aims at providing a durable basis for the cooperation between the signatories in fields of common interest, in particular with reference to the Protocol on Nature and Landscape protection.

II. SPECIFIC COOPERATION FIELDS

1. Regular exchange of information:

- Regular exchange of information on the respective activities, work programmes and strategies.
- Organization of *ad hoc* coordination meetings at least once a year. More frequent coordination meetings may be organized depending on the availability of resources. The signatories recognize that, being ALPARC an observer to the Alpine Conference and the Permanent Committee (as well as to the Working Groups and Platforms), the meetings of such bodies represent an occasion of organizing coordination meetings.
- The exchange of information should also allow for a better coordination of the development of the respective work programmes and strategies before they are decided upon as well as of their implementation.

2. Participation to events and networks:

Mutual invitation to participate to events of common interest. In particular, with reference to each others' organisation and activities in the frame of initiatives which involve other

implementation networks of the Alpine Convention. The actual participation to specific events will depend on the availability of resources and capacities.

3. *Communication:*

Each signatory should give the other signatory adequate visibility. In particular:

- Creation of a specific web page on the Alpine Convention site dedicated to the implementation of this Memorandum of Cooperation, containing also a direct link to the web site of ALPARC and to the web sites of the protected areas members of ALPARC, under the condition of reciprocity.
- Creation of a specific web page on the ALPARC web site dedicated to the implementation of this Memorandum of Cooperation also containing a direct link to the web site of the Alpine Convention.
- ALPARC recommends each of its members to include on its respective web site the logo of the Alpine Convention and a link to its web site.
- The signatories should give adequate visibility to this Memorandum of Cooperation and its implementation through their social networks communication tools.
- Use the logo of the other signatory for giving visibility to initiatives of common interest in compliance with the respective regulations on the use of the respective logos and notification of their use to the other signatory without delay.
- Joint development of common corporate identity and communication tools in relation to activities implementing this Memorandum of Cooperation, in compliance with the respective regulations on the use of the respective logos.
- The PSAC should host an information point (stand) for displaying information and distribution of materials in its offices of Innsbruck and Bolzano/Bozen, to be provided by ALPARC subject to the availability of means.
- ALPARC recommends each of its protected areas members to have a stand for displaying information and for distribution of material about the Alpine Convention, to be provided by the PSAC subject to the availability of resources .

4. *Development and implementation of projects of common interest:*

ALPARC, within the availability of resources, endeavors, as appropriate, to develop and carry out projects which are in the direct interest of the Alpine Convention. The PSAC, as appropriate and within the availability of resources, endeavors to support projects it considers to be in its interest, in order to enhance their status, including:

- signing observer declarations in the frame of European Territorial Cooperation and other transnational mountain-related projects;
- promoting project proposals in view of helping identifying and motivating new potential partners and co-financers.

ALPARC refers to the support provided by the PSAC in every activity and initiative relating to such projects on the basis of jointly developed communication actions.

The signatories should, as appropriate and within the respective availability of resources, organize joint events.

Within the limits of available human resources, the signatories should regularly exchange know-how in view of benefitting from each others' sectoral experience and, as adequate, develop projects of common interest.

5. *Use of offices:*

If necessary and depending on the availability of capacities, each signatory should be able to use the meeting rooms of the other signatory for the organization of meetings and should benefit from the logistic assistance of the respective staff.

III. REPORTING

Report, once a year, in writing to the other signatory about the measures undertaken on the basis of this Memorandum of Cooperation as well as the information received on the development and implementation of the respective work programmes in view of its transmission to the respective decision-making bodies.

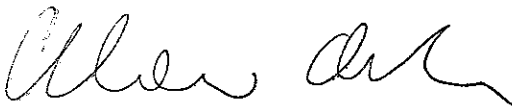
IV. EFFECTIVENESS

This Memorandum of Cooperation will take effect upon signature from both sides. Its duration is unlimited but each signatory may terminate it by informing the other signatory in writing with a prior delay of 3 months.

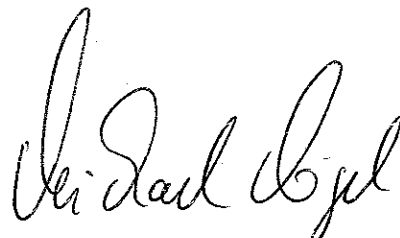
V. AMENDMENTS

The signatories may, by mutual consent and in writing, review and amend this Memorandum of Cooperation on the basis of the experience gained in implementing it.

Innsbruck/Berchtesgaden, ~~28~~²⁹ February 2013



The Secretary General of the Alpine Convention
Marco Onida



The President of the ALPARC Association
Michael Vogel