

### AlpsLife

The Alps are a global biodiversity hotspot threatened by climate and land-use change. Additionally, the lack of Alpine-wide coordination reduces the effectiveness of conservation efforts. The main challenge arises from the variety of biodiversity monitoring schemes existing at different levels in different Alpine countries. Coherent ecological indicators are key to defining priority areas and to supporting decision-making processes, enhancing the action of Alpine protected areas. The AlpsLife project promotes science-based strategies for preserving and restoring Alpine biodiversity. Relying on EU-wide relevant indicators, it combines existing biodiversity monitoring schemes and data sources to ensure the interoperability of results at the Alpine level. The outputs are then checked on the ground, adjusting them to the needs of Alpine protected areas and policymakers. This allows for a better understanding of Alpine biodiversity trends and the implementation of appropriate cross-border management measures.

Alparc website: <https://alparc.org/alpslife> Project website: <https://www.alpine-space.eu/project/alpslife/>



### LifeAlpsNature

Hotspots for biodiversity, tourism & outdoor activities: how do they go together? A challenge for the Alpine Protected Areas covering 30 % of the Alpine territory. Ecologically fragile alpine sites are exposed to overcrowding and naturebased activities (NBA), which impact species by fragmenting or destroying their habitats and disturbing their reproduction phases. Biodiversity loss from NBA, a trend observed across the Alps, requires region-wide solutions. LiveAlpsNature analyses the impact of NBA on alpine biodiversity, develops innovative biodiversity-friendly solutions for visitor management based on the One-Health approach, and then directly implements and evaluates them in Alpine Protected Areas. Open source data will be made available for dissemination across digital platforms. By involving local stakeholders, LiveAlpsNature addresses the increase in tourism by guiding pro-ecological behavioural changes to reduce impacts on biodiversity and create sustainable nature-based activities. Alparc website: <https://alparc.org/fr/livealpsnature> Project website: <https://www.alpine-space.eu/project/livealpsnature/>



### ForumAlpinum 2024

The proceedings of ForumAlpinum 2024 are now available, <https://forumalpinum.org/proceedings/>. They contain the abstracts of the more than 40 contributions presented during the conference. You can also find a small photo gallery of the event on the ForumAlpinum website.

### IMC – Innsbruck Mountain Conference 2025

The MC will take place from 14–18 September 2025 in Innsbruck, Austria. IMC builds upon the previous mountain conferences and aims to continue this scientific conference series exclusively targeted towards mountain-research. Hosted in the Alps, IMC provides an excellent opportunity for experts from different disciplines to discuss mountain-related issues in a cross-disciplinary setting with flexible session formats. The key goals of the conference are to synthesize and enhance our understanding of mountain systems, in particular their response and resilience to global change.

More information: <https://imc2025.info/>

### UNESCO mission to Bhutan to establish the kingdom's first biosphere reserve

Günter Köck, member of the editorial board of eco.mont and representative of the World Network of Mountain Biosphere Reserves, joined a UNESCO mission to help Bhutan establish its first biosphere reserve (BR). The team included Miguel Clüsener-Godt (former UNESCO Ecology Director) and Sishtri Kumar (UNESCO Delhi). Bhutan's government sought UNESCO's assistance due to its lack of experience in creating BRs. Funded by the UNESCO Earth Network, the mission consulted Bhutanese authorities, private stakeholders, and international representatives, including the Austrian Ambassador in Delhi and the UNESCO Delhi office. Two workshops with the Forestry Department covered zoning options and the process of preparing a BR nomination dossier following MAB guidelines.

During a field visit to the proposed BR site, the Climate Science Literacy Exhibition was launched at Lamperi Visitor Centre. Featuring 27 posters tied to the 17 SDGs, it aims to educate locals and tourists on climate science.

The mission team received very positive feedback and is optimistic the nomination will be ready for submission to UNESCO by September 2025.



*Official launch of the Climate Science Literacy Exhibition at the Visitor's Centre in Lamperi. From left to right: Pabi Mongar, Tshering Pem (both Dept. Forestry), Srishti Kumar (UNESCO Team), Günter Köck (UNESCO Team), Sangay Dorji (Dept. Forestry), Miguel Clüsener-Godt (UNESCO Team), Mr. Passang (GBCL). © UNESCO Mission Team*