Enhancing Synergies in Alpine Nature Restoration Planning

Online Workshop Results

4th September 2025, 9:00 – 13:00 CET

Teresa Spantzel, McKenna Davis, Dr. Benjamin Kupilas

Report

30th September 2025

Authors

Teresa Spantzel, McKenna Davis, Dr. Benjamin Kupilas
Ecologic Institute
Pfalzburger Straße 43/44
10717 Berlin

E-Mail: teresa.spantzel@ecologic.eu

This report was produced on behalf of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), with contributions from the Core Group Restoration of the Alpine Biodiversity Board of the Alpine Convention.

September 2025

Workshop organizing team

The Alpine Convention, particularly with the advisory services of its **Alpine Biodiversity Board (ABB)**, provides the regional governance and policy framework for biodiversity in the Alpine region. It facilitates cooperation among Alpine countries, develops strategies and action plans, and fosters dialogue between governments, scientists, and stakeholders to strengthen biodiversity protection and sustainable development in the Alps. During its mandate for 2025-2026, the ABB is charged with the development of an Alpine Biodiversity Action Plan (AB-AP) to 2030 and beyond. Nature restoration is one of the core areas of the ABB's work and one of the pillars of the AB-AP. The given workshop was a planned initiative under ABB's 2025-2026 mandate.

The Bundesamt für Naturschutz (BfN) is the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation - the government's scientific authority for national and international nature conservation, supporting applied research, policy advice, and the implementation of conservation measures. The BfN represents the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN) in the Alpine Biodiversity Board, where it also chairs the Core Group on Restoration. BfN served as the funding institution for organisation of the given workshop.

The Ecologic Institute is an independent think tank for environmental policy research, analysis, and consulting. Since its founding in 1995, the institute has promoted sustainable development and contributed new insights and ideas to environmental policy. Its inter- and transdisciplinary research on environmental policy, sustainable development, and socio-ecological issues provides evidence-based analyses and recommendations to decision-makers at national, European, and international levels. A particular concern is to strengthen the European and international dimensions in research, education, and environmental policy discourse.

Summary

The online workshop **"Enhancing Synergies in Alpine Nature Restoration Planning"** (4th September 2025) was convened by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) on behalf of the Alpine Biodiversity Board (ABB) of the Alpine Convention and supported by the Ecologic Institute. The aim was to address the role of transnational cooperation in implementing the EU Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR) in the Alpine region. The NRR requires Member States to submit National Restoration Plans (NRPs) by September 2026, including a section on cross-border synergies (field 4.2.11). Given the ecological interconnectedness of the Alpine region and its vulnerability to climate and land-use pressures, the workshop was designed to support EU Member States in the Alpine region in drafting coordinated contributions, while also involving and taking account of non-EU Alpine countries.

The workshop had two main aims: (1) to refine a common Alpine perspective on restoration for use in field 4.2.11(a) of the NRPs, and (2) to identify opportunities for joint cross-border and transboundary measures relevant for sections (b) and (c). The event brought together government representatives, experts, and stakeholders from eight Alpine countries as well as from the European Commission, combining plenary presentations, moderated discussions, and breakout sessions. Interactive tools were used to facilitate exchange and collaborative drafting of the NRP text field and generate new ideas for transboundary restoration collaboration.

Key outcomes included:

- **Creating a shared Alpine perspective**: Participants reviewed and refined a draft text for field 4.2.11(a), emphasizing the importance of aligning regional and national targets, strengthening references to existing cooperation mechanisms, addressing climate impacts, and highlighting priority habitats such as peatlands, forests, grasslands, and freshwater ecosystems.
- **Prioritising transboundary areas of interest**: Breakout discussions identified priority cross-border ecosystems including major lakes (e.g. Lake Constance, Lake Geneva, Lake Maggiore), river systems (Po, Drava, Rhine, Ticino), wetlands, forests, and Alpine pastures. Pressures such as climate change, habitat fragmentation, intensive land use, and tourism were recognized as common challenges.
- **Increased awareness of existing initiatives**: Participants acknowledged the role of established cross-border bodies and EU-funded programmes (e.g. Interreg Alpine Space, LIFE projects) as foundations for transnational restoration cooperation. The importance of making better use of existing project repositories was underlined.
- **Identification of future opportunities**: Participants proposed scaling up peatland restoration, improving connectivity of ecological networks, strengthening governance in shared basins, intensifying exchange in methodologies and best practices, and fostering collaboration on monitoring and data interoperability. Engagement of local actors such as farmers, protected area managers, and municipalities was considered critical for implementation.

Overall, the workshop demonstrated the added value of cross-border coordination for achieving ecological coherence and resilience in the Alpine region. The consolidated draft text developed during the workshop is intended to serve as a common resource for EU Member States' NRPs and for non-EU Alpine countries' national restoration planning approaches. Participants expressed interest in maintaining momentum through continued ABB-led dialogue, integration of workshop results into national planning, and alignment with broader Alpine and international biodiversity initiatives.

Table of contents

List of Abbreviations

ABB	Alpine Biodiversity Board
AG	Action Group
BfN	Bundesamt für Naturschutz
EC	European Commission
EUSALP	EU Strategy for the Alpine Region
CIPAIS	International Commission for the Protection of Italian-Swiss Waters (*Commissione Internazionale per la Protezione delle acque Italo-Svizzere)*
CIPEL	International Commission for the Protection of the Waters of Lake Geneva *(Commission Internationale pour la Protection des Eaux du Léman)*
ICPR	International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine
IGKB	International Commission for the Protection of Lake Constance *(Internationale Gewässerschutzkommission für den Bodensee)*
NRP	Nature Restoration Plan
NRR	Nature Restoration Regulation

1 Introduction

The adoption of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR, Regulation (EU) 2024/1991) marks a new chapter in European biodiversity policy by introducing legally-binding and time-bound restoration targets for all Member States. A key requirement of the NRR is the preparation of National Restoration Plans (NRPs) by September 2026. These plans must not only set out national priorities and measures but also demonstrate synergies across borders in line with the NRPs of other Member States. Article 14(17) explicitly encourages Member States to coordinate restoration efforts where ecosystems extend beyond national boundaries. To this end, the uniform NRP template foresees a dedicated section (field 4.2.11) for documenting cross-border cooperation, coordinated measures, and governance structures.

Cross-border cooperation is particularly relevant in the context of strengthening ecological connectivity and restoring degraded ecosystems in the Alpine region – including Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Slovenia, and Switzerland[1] – where ecological processes and habitats transcend political frontiers and demand a cooperative, transnational approach. This region is one of Europe's most ecologically valuable mountain systems, renowned for its biodiversity, cultural landscapes, and vital ecosystem services, but also highly vulnerable to climate change, land-use pressures, and habitat fragmentation. Nature restoration is a strategic priority for the Alpine Convention, directly supporting its long-standing objective of maintaining the ecological integrity and resilience of the Alpine environment. Recognizing that biodiversity does not follow administrative borders, the Alpine Convention has consistently advocated for the inclusion of a transnational dimension in the NRPs, a recommendation positively taken up by the European Commission through the dedicated section on synergies. As the Alpine region also spans non-EU Alpine countries, effective restoration planning requires identifying and tapping synergies with these neighbouring states as well, even though such coordination is not formally required under the NRR.

Against this background, the Alpine Biodiversity Board (ABB) of the Alpine Convention has committed to foster Alpine-wide strategic and technical exchange on nature restoration. As part of these efforts, the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), with support from the blue! advancing European solutions, organised a dedicated workshop on 19th November 2024. The event aimed to explore the current state of nature restoration across the Alpine countries as well as the potential for transnational cooperation.

As the follow-up step, the BfN, acting on behalf of the ABB, and supported by the Ecologic Institute, convened on 4th September 2025 an interactive online workshop on **"Enhancing Synergies in Alpine Nature Restoration Planning"**. The aim of this workshop was twofold: to facilitate the drafting of a consensual Alpine perspective on restoration and to identify potential for synergies between countries' actions. In light of the ongoing preparations of the NRPs, the workshop supported Alpine EU-member states in jointly developing contributions to field 4.2.11 of their NRPs. It provided a platform to collaboratively shape the overarching description of synergies (field 4.2.11a) and to gather proposals for cross-border and transboundary measures relevant for sections (b) and (c).

This report summarizes discussions and key outcomes of the workshop, including: a proposed text for section (a) if field 4.2.11 in the NRPs as well as joint activities relevant for sections (c) and (b), including transboundary areas of interest, ongoing restoration activities, and potential for future collaboration and joint nature restoration measures.

[1] Countries - Contracting Parties to the Alpine Convention

2 Aim and agenda of the workshop

The workshop was conceptualised to provide a structured yet interactive platform for Alpine country representatives and stakeholders to exchange knowledge, refine a joint Alpine perspective on restoration, and identify opportunities for transnational cooperation, catalysed by the EU NRR.

The composition of participants reflected the workshop's transnational and multi-stakeholder character. Representatives from **Germany, Italy, Austria, France, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Slovenia, and the European Commission (EC)** took part. The majority were government officials from ministries and agencies responsible for biodiversity and restoration, complemented by experts from research institutes, non-governmental organizations, and European or transnational bodies. This diversity ensured that discussions integrated policy perspectives, technical expertise, and practical experiences, thereby enhancing the relevance and applicability of the workshop's outputs.

The agenda, presented in Figure 1 below, was divided into two main thematic blocks. The first block focused on building a shared vision, with introductory presentations and plenary discussions centred on the draft text proposed for field 4.2.11 (a) of the National Restoration Plans (or for other national restoration strategies in non-EU Alpine countries). The second block concentrated on identifying concrete cross-border restoration actions, with participants engaging in breakout sessions on ecosystems in need of restoration and potential collaborative measures. Plenary sessions at the beginning and end of the workshop ensured a common framing and synthesis of results.

***Figure 1**: Agenda of the online workshop*

Agenda	
9:00 – 9:05	**Welcome** *McKenna Davis, Coordinator Nature-based Solutions, Ecologic Institute* *Irina Kozban, Coordinator of the Restoration Core Group of the Alpine Biodiversity Board, Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)*
9:05 – 9:15	**Introduction and setting the scene** *Jon Marco Church, Chair of the Alpine Biodiversity Board*
9:15 – 9:20	**Opening remarks from the European Commission** *Florian Claeys, Policy Officer for Nature Restoration Regulation at the Directorate-General for the Environment, European Commission*
9:20 – 9:35	**Where are we now? Restoration planning processes across the region** *McKenna Davis, Ecologic Institute*
Block 1: Building a shared vision - Crafting the Alpine perspective on restoration	
9:35 – 9:45	**Synergies in restoration planning: Presenting the draft text for the section 4.2.11(a) of National Restoration Plans** *Irina Kozban, Federal Agency for Nature Conservation*
9:45 – 10:00	**Joint reflections on how to further develop the text** *Benjamin Kupilas, Coordinator Biodiversity, Ecologic Institute*
10:00 – 10:30	**Zooming in on priority topics, gaps and opportunities**

	Benjamin Kupilas, Ecologic Institute
10:30 – 10:45	**Break**
Block 2: Identifying shared actions – Designing cross-border proposals	
10:45 – 11:05	**Towards transnational restoration: Setting the scene** *Teresa Spantzel, Biodiversity & Nature Restoration, Ecologic Institute*
11:05 – 12:15	**Exploring opportunities for concrete measures: Breakout sessions**
12:15 – 12:30	**Break**
12:30 – 12:50	**Plenary synthesis: Presentation and discussion of cross-border proposals** *McKenna Davis, Ecologic Institute*
12:50 – 13:00	**Closing and next steps** *Irina Kozban, Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)*

The working formats combined keynote speeches and presentations with interactive methods to maximize opportunities for discussion and co-creation. The text for field 4.2.11(a), previously drafted by the Restoration Core Group of the ABB, had been shared with the participants beforehand and served as the central working document.

The drafted section (a) of field 4.2.11 in the uniform format of the NRPs outlines the shared Alpine perspective on the nature restoration in the region. It serves as a common foundation for cooperation, highlighting transboundary ecosystems, planned measures, and mechanisms of collaboration. This text was discussed in a plenary session to collect feedback and refine common language. Incorporating an aligned text into all NRPs of EU Alpine countries will ensure that synergistic potential is coherently addressed at the regional level. In the non-EU Alpine countries, this draft proposal could serve, for example, as a preamble or addition to the respective national strategies on restoration.

In the second half of the workshop, participants joined breakout groups to identify and discuss priority ecosystems and relevant restoration measures. These priorities were based both on inputs provided through a preparatory survey circulated ahead of the event and on issues raised directly during the workshop discussions. The focus included measures that are already planned, are currently being implemented, or which could be developed in the future. An additional focus was to identify potential opportunities for transnational collaboration in restoring the identified priority areas. Two rounds of discussions enabled several country-mixes, with the following groupings:

Table 1: *List of Country Groups in the Breakout Sessions*

Group	Breakout Session 1	Breakout Session 2
1	Italy, Switzerland	Germany, Austria
2	France, Germany	France, Italy
3	Slovenia, Austria, Italy	Italy, Switzerland, France, Slovenia, Austria, Germany

The results of this block provided different country representatives with an opportunity to exchange in different constellations with neighbouring countries and to develop concrete ideas to feed in the national restoration planning, particularly, in the optional sections (b) and (c) of field 4.2.11 in the NRPs. In section (b), considerations can optionally be linked to specific articles of the NRR, by selecting one or more articles from the code list and providing a short description (up to 3,000 characters). If one or more articles are reported in section (b), then section (c) must also be filled in, providing further detail and elaboration.

To foster engagement throughout the workshop, digital tools were integrated in the sessions. Mentimeter was used in a warm-up to learn more about participants' backgrounds and to gain an overview of the current state of progress in developing NRPs across the EU countries, while Miro boards supported interactive exchanges and documentation in the breakout sessions (see Annex 4 for documentation).

3 Results and key takeaways

3.1 Thematic relevance and importance of transboundary cooperation for nature restoration in the Alpine region

The Alps are one of Europe's largest mountain regions and are renowned for their rich biodiversity. They host more than 40% of the habitats listed under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive and numerous species of European importance, many of which are protected under EU legislation. While providing vital ecosystem services, the Alps are highly vulnerable to climate change as well as human pressures which result in land-use changes, habitat fragmentation, pollution and biodiversity loss.

As ecological processes and ecosystems transcend national borders, effective nature restoration in the Alps requires a transboundary approach, harnessing the shared ecological, cultural, and economic values of this unique landscape. This implies coordinated action and cross-border expansion of restoration areas. While the EU Nature Restoration Regulation is not legally binding for all Alpine countries, it can serve as a valuable catalyst in addressing restoration at the pan-Alpine level.

To achieve this, the countries sharing the Alps should build on the existing regional mechanisms. The Alpine Biodiversity Board (ABB) of the Alpine Convention is a key technical and advisory body which translates biodiversity objectives into concrete, coordinated activities across the Alps. The ABB's Alpine Biodiversity Action Plan for 2027–2030 and beyond, is expected to include actions on transboundary restoration. The EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP), specifically its Action Group on Green and Blue Infrastructure (AG7), promotes ecological connectivity and restoring nature within the broader Alpine region.

ABB and EUSALP AG7 act as a platform for dialogue among policymakers, NGOs and other stakeholders. They provide technical expertise, facilitate knowledge exchange and foster collaboration. These bodies are well positioned to support the implementation of transnational aspects of National Restoration Plans and to enhance cooperation between EU Alpine Member States (Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia) and non-EU Alpine countries (Liechtenstein, Monaco, Switzerland), thus enabling concrete cross-border initiatives and projects. Additional existing cross-border cooperation mechanisms and structures as well as affiliated projects can further support the restoration synergies, including the Interreg Alpine Space Programme and transboundary river management bodies.

In the long-term, and to ensure reaching the overall EU targets, discussions on nature restoration should be extended to other parts of the Alpine biogeographical region, in particular the ecologically linked Carpathian Mountains and Dinaric Alps, as well as the adjacent Continental and Mediterranean biogeographical regions.

Within the framework of transnational cooperation, the planning and implementation of restoration measures should remain inclusive and participatory, ensuring meaningful involvement of all the relevant stakeholders, including for instance farmers, landowners, protected area managers, landscape conservation associations, and local authorities.

Key restoration priorities for the Alps, defined through joint analyses, mapping and projects, include:

- **Restoring and enhancing ecological connectivity in the broader Alpine region and with adjacent areas** to enable ecological processes, such as the migration of rare and endangered species, the facilitation of genetic exchange, and the strengthening of overall ecosystem resilience. Beyond the restoration of habitats with high biodiversity value, additional opportunities exist

in urban ecosystem areas. An important objective is the strategic planning and implementation of cross-border ecological corridors.

- **Restoring high-value terrestrial habitats**, such as peatlands, diverse types of forests, subalpine and alpine grasslands, and traditional pastures, to enhance species' protection and preserve endemism. Joint identification of priority restoration areas, along with exchange of methodologies and best practices, will increase the coherence of measures across borders. Improving soil health should be treated as an integral objective of restoration efforts.
- **Restoring floodplains and freshwater ecosystems**, to contribute to the target of free-flowing rivers, including through coordinated initiatives across shared basins like the Rhône, Po, Drava, and Danube. One of the objectives in restoration planning can be coordinated dam removal.

Alpine countries recognize that data sharing and interoperability of monitoring systems play a key role in ecosystem restoration as they support understanding of the Alpine state of conservation and thus guide the Alpine restoration efforts.

Climate change impacts on habitats and species are particularly pronounced in the Alpine region. Consideration of these impacts, for example, applying existing climate scenarios, should be integrated into restoration planning.

3.2 Proposed text for Field 4.2.11(a) of the National Restoration Plans on synergies with other Member States

In the first part of the workshop, participants discussed the draft text provided by the organizers for field 4.2.11(a) of the NRPs (see Annex 2 for the original text proposed by the organizers). The participants' comments highlighted several areas where the text could be strengthened and refined. Overall, participants stressed the need to better balance the broad Alpine perspective with references to concrete bilateral or sub-regional cooperation, including existing cross-border commissions and alliances such as the International Commission for the Protection of the Waters of Lake Geneva (*Commission Internationale pour la Protection des Eaux du Léman*, CIPEL) or the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR). They also emphasized the importance of aligning national and regional targets, ensuring close coordination with non-EU Alpine countries, and considering links to other mountain regions such as the Carpathians and the Dinaric Alps.

In terms of pressures and drivers of change, participants underlined the growing human footprint in the Alps, particularly from tourism and settlement, and the need to find compromises and adapt human activities. Climate change was seen as a critical challenge, with strong calls to highlight impacts on forests, soils, and permafrost, as well as the need for active adaptation measures. The role of Alpine soils as carbon sinks and their vulnerability to degradation was singled out as an issue of particular importance.

Thematic input was also given on ecosystems and habitats. Suggestions included clarifying references to valley forests, explicitly mentioning old-growth forests, peatlands, and pastures as priority habitats, and strengthening the transboundary dimension of terrestrial habitats to match the clear treatment of freshwater ecosystems. Participants further recommended placing greater emphasis on cultural landscapes and high nature value farming, as well as improving the evidence base of the opening section by citing the specific number of Annex I habitats and protected species present in the Alps.

In addition to commenting on the draft text, participants were also invited to identify restoration priorities in the Alpine region more generally. Participants highlighted the need to strengthen ecological

connectivity, including the potential of peri-urban and urban areas as ecological corridors, and to link this to the rethinking of infrastructure planning. Further suggestions included explicit references to Interreg projects, such as the Alpine Space Programme (ASP), as examples of transnational cooperation. Connectivity should be framed not only as a current need but also as a future challenge, given the expected shifts of species and fragmentation of habitats under climate change.

Finally, a number of comments focused on improving governance and implementation. Stakeholder engagement was seen as central, with calls to involve local actors such as farmers, forest owners, protected areas, and NGOs in cooperative planning and implementation. In addition, monitoring and data sharing should be framed more forcefully as requirements rather than aspirations, with improved interoperability and accountability mechanisms. The role of Alpine processes, such as the Alpine Convention and EUSALP, in ensuring collaborative assessments was noted, as was the need to align the Alpine Biodiversity Action Plan with global frameworks and to acknowledge its longer-term perspective beyond 2030. Participants also recommended ensuring consistent terminology with the NRR Annexes, for example by explicitly using terms such as “free-flowing rivers” and “Annex I habitats.”

The gathered comments helped refine the joint vision of the nature restoration in the Alpine region which bases on transboundary cooperation, as described in section 3.1 of this report. They also helped finalise the proposed text on restoration synergies that can be found below in Figure 2. **This text – a cross-cutting overview - is designed as a common foundation for both EU and non-EU Alpine countries to outline their cross-border cooperation.** EU Member States are encouraged to integrate this text, or its tailored version, into field 4.2.11(a) of their NRPs, while non-EU states can use it to complement their own national strategies on nature restoration. Incorporating this approach across countries would ensure coherent regional action, while still allowing each state to adapt the proposal to its national context and specify relevant partner countries. Further details and links to specific articles of the Regulation can be elaborated in field 4.2.11(b) and 4.2.11(c).

Figure 2: *Proposed text for field 4.2.11(a) of the NRPs*

a) Cross-cutting overview

The Alps host around 40% of the habitats listed in Annex I. While providing vital ecosystem services, they are highly vulnerable to climate change and human pressures. Effective and coherent nature restoration efforts in the region require coordinated action and cross-border expansion of restoration areas.

The Alpine Convention, as an international treaty among all eight Alpine countries and the European Union - including five EU Member States - provides a strong foundation for transboundary cooperation. Its technical and advisory body, the Alpine Biodiversity Board (ABB), in collaboration with the EU Strategy for the Alpine region (EUSALP) Action Group 7, supports political dialogue, knowledge exchange and stakeholder engagement. It translates biodiversity objectives into action, helps pool resources and provides expertise. The Alpine Biodiversity Action Plan for 2027–2030 and beyond is expected to include transboundary restoration actions, covering both EU Member States and non-EU Alpine countries, which is crucial for regional coherence. Other existing support mechanisms in the region include the Interreg Alpine Space Programme and transboundary river basin management bodies.

Key restoration priorities for the Alps, based on joint analyses, mapping and projects, include:

- **restoring and enhancing ecological connectivity** within the Alpine region and to the adjacent regions, inter alia for migration of rare and endangered species;

- **restoring terrestrial habitats** that hold high value at Alpine level, such as peatlands, diverse types of forests and grasslands – with due attention to Alpine cultural landscapes like pastures;
- **restoring floodplains and freshwater ecosystems**, contributing to the target of free-flowing rivers, including coordinated initiatives across shared basins like the Rhône, Rhine, Po, Drava, and Danube.

Special attention will be given to cross-border areas. Restoration planning will rely on collaborative assessments and decisions within the Alpine Convention, EUSALP and other regional mechanisms, with meaningful involvement of relevant stakeholders. Interoperable monitoring systems and data sharing will be ensured to understand Alpine ecosystems' state of conservation and to guide restoration efforts.

3.3 Identifying shared actions and designing cross-border proposals for Sections (b) and (c) of the National Restoration Plans

3.3.1 Transboundary areas of interest for nature restoration in the Alpine region

During the breakout sessions, participants identified a wide range of transboundary areas across the Alpine region that are relevant for restoration cooperation. These areas were clustered around key ecosystems and habitats such as lakes, rivers, wetlands, forests, and pastures, reflecting both ecological significance and existing cross-border collaboration. A common set of anthropogenic pressures and threats affecting these ecosystems was highlighted by the participants, including climate change, land-use change and its intensification, the abandonment of traditional land use, habitat fragmentation, river regulation, drainage of peatlands, nutrient pollution from agriculture, infrastructure development, tourism, and the spread of alien species. Participants further underlined that two complementary types of transboundary approaches should be distinguished: (1) restoration across delineated borders and (2) restoration of similar habitat types in different parts of the Alps in an aligned manner. The latter requires the sharing of methodologies and best practices as well as the establishment of common approaches to monitoring and assessment.

Several large **lakes** emerged as priority transboundary areas where cooperation is important for ecological connectivity and water quality, as well as to tackle growing anthropogenic pressures from tourism, urbanization, and agriculture. For instance, the region of Lake of Constance, situated at the borders of Austria, Switzerland and Germany, was highlighted for its peatlands, floodplains, orchards, and grasslands. The area is under severe human pressure due to drainage, intensive land use, fragmentation of habitats, agricultural runoff, nutrient pollution, pesticides, and hydropower production. In addition, Lake Geneva and Lake Maggiore face growing anthropogenic pressures from tourism, urbanization, and agriculture.

River ecosystems were frequently mentioned as critical areas for cross-border cooperation. The Po Basin, covering Italy, Switzerland, Austria, and Slovenia, was underlined for its ecological functionality and pressure from urbanization. Key threats to fragmentation of habitats and biodiversity loss include agricultural use, nutrient pollution, and alien species, highlighting the need for coordinated action. In addition, the Ticino River was highlighted as it presents the main ecological corridor connecting the Alps to the Apennines. Other important transboundary river areas include the Lower Inn, and within the transboundary Po basin, the river Lambro, which faces high anthropogenic pressure, disconnection from floodplains, and ecological fragmentation in one of the most urbanized

areas of Northern Italy near Milan. Moreover, the Upper Drava and Mur River systems (spanning Austria, Slovenia and Italy) and the Rhine-related Alpine rivers were also mentioned, with river connectivity, floodplain restoration, and ecological flows seen as pressing challenges.

Wetlands and peatlands were repeatedly named as ecosystems of concern, given their biodiversity value and role as carbon sinks. Peatland restoration and rewetting were emphasized in the wetlands of the Mercantour National Park (Italy and France) and the Isel, Mur, and Drava River systems (Austria, Slovenia, Italy). Participants highlighted threats such as land-use change, drainage, mineralisation of peat soils due to climate change, and poorly managed value chains. The need to improve land use practices and value chains for peatland products was also discussed.

Forests, including old-growth and UNESCO World Heritage Beech Forests, were highlighted as important transboundary ecosystems. Specific areas of focus included the northern Alpine forests in Germany and Austria, as well as forest ecosystems linked to biosphere reserves such as Julian Alps and adjacent areas (Slovenia, Italy, Austria). Threats discussed included fragmentation of forest patches, lack of ecological corridors, climate change, alien species, and pressures from tourism. Concerns related to climate change impacts and the need for adaptive management were strongly underlined.

Alpine pastures and grasslands were identified as particularly important ecosystems under transboundary management. The Rhaetian Triangle (Switzerland, Austria, Italy) was noted for its alpine pastures, meadows, peatlands, and floodplains. Pressures include climate change, intensive land use, tourism, transport infrastructure, loss of biodiversity, and habitat fragmentation. High-altitude grasslands were also mentioned in the context of the Mont Blanc massif and other high mountain areas affected by climate change. Participants further noted threats of land abandonment, intensification of agriculture, and loss of traditional pastoral practices, which undermine connectivity and cultural landscapes.

3.3.2 Ongoing and emerging transboundary nature restoration activities in the Alpine region

The breakout discussions showed that a broad range of cooperative initiatives and governance frameworks already exist in the Alpine region that can serve as a foundation for restoration under the EU NRR and also beyond. At the same time, participants identified a number of concrete measures that are already underway, as well as opportunities to strengthen cooperation further.

Existing cooperative frameworks

Several international commissions are already active in transboundary water and ecosystem management and provide important precedents for coordinated basin-level restoration. Examples include the International Commission for the Protection of Italian-Swiss Waters (*Commissione Internazionale per la Protezione delle acque Italo-Svizzere*, CIPAIS), which brings together national and regional actors to jointly address water quality, ecosystem restoration, and governance challenges and which includes Lake Maggiore and Lake Lugano. Since its establishment in 1978, the Commission has successfully achieved a decrease in external load of phosphorus in the waters, reducing the nutrient levels in the lake[2]. Similarly, the nine states and regions in the Rhine watershed closely co-operate through the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR)[3] to harmonize the many interests of use and protection in the Rhine area. Moreover, the International Commission for the Protection of the Waters of Lake Geneva (*Commission internationale pour la*

[2] https://www.cipais.org/web/lago-maggiore/il-lago

[3] https://www.iksr.org/en/icpr/about-us

protection des eaux du Léman, CIPEL)[4] works as a Franco-Swiss cross-border commission with the objective to maintain or restore the waters of the Lake Geneva watershed to a good quality to safeguard ecosystem services and enhance resilience. Finally, the members of the International Commission for the Protection of Lake Constance (Internationale Gewässerschutzkommission für den Bodensee, IGKB)[5] from Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Liechtenstein[6] have been working together since 1959 to document the development of the lake and identify sources of pollution. These cooperative frameworks for transboundary water management could be particularly helpful for advancing actions to restore free-flowing rivers in the region.

Cross-border initiatives and EU projects

Participants emphasised cross-border initiatives and EU-funded projects as important vehicles for practical cooperation. For example, the Interreg Alpine Space Programme is an EU-funded transnational cooperation initiative across seven Alpine countries. Its first priority is dedicated to fostering a climate-resilient and green Alpine region, addressing the strong impacts of climate change on natural, economic, and societal systems and responds to the urgent pressures facing the Alps' rich biodiversity.[7] In addition, several national LIFE projects tackle the wider Alpine region, including AMooRe which supports large-scale peatland restoration in Austria as part of implementing the national Peatland Strategy 2030+, the LIFE ARTISAN project in France that promotes nature-based solutions for climate adaptation through wetland and ecosystem restoration, and the LIFE Ticino Biosource project that aims to preserve and enhance the biodiversity heritage of Ticino Park by restoring areas that sustain priority species and other species of community interest.[8] In addition, the Ticino Landscape Restoration Plan (2021-2031) provides a collaborative effort between Italy and Switzerland to restore the ecological corridor of the Ticino River, encompassing 75 restoration actions. Lastly, the Terra Raetica (Rhaetian Land), covering regions in the border triangle of Austria, Switzerland, and Italy, established an initiative in 2007 to strengthen cooperation by providing a joint management structure and greater integration of Interreg projects across the participating regions.[9]

Concrete restoration measures

Restoration planning is already translating into tangible measures. The Po River renaturation programme targets a 37 km reduction of riverbed artificiality by 2026, while peatland rewetting is underway in the Lake Constance region. In Northern Italy, the LIFE SNAP NatConnect2030 project is strengthening ecological networks across much of the Po Basin. These examples illustrate how restoration strategies are being implemented in practice through cross-border and multi-country cooperation.

Opportunities for scaling up

Beyond these ongoing measures, participants identified promising opportunities to expand and replicate successful approaches. One example is to build on the I-SWAMP methodology for wetlands and adapt it to other Alpine contexts. The RE-PEAT Alpine Space project (currently in preparation) seeks to coordinate peatland restoration across borders by engaging landowners, governments, and stakeholders. Broader international frameworks, such as UNESCO and WMO International

[4] https://www.cipel.org/en/

[5] https://www.igkb.org/

[6] Although Liechtenstein does not border Lake Constance directly, it is connected with it hydrologically. Liechtenstein is a member of the IGKB and is thus an integral part of cooperative management of the lake.

[7] https://www.alpine-space.eu/priority-overview/priority-1-climate-resilient-and-green-alpine-region/

[8] https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/project/LIFE15-NAT-IT-000989/enhancing-biodiversity-by-restoring-source-areas-for-priority-and-other-species-of-community-interest-in-ticino-park

[9] https://www.terraraetica.eu/de/terra-raetica/willkommen.html

Years, were seen as opportunities to raise the visibility of restoration, while scientific tools such as BirdLife's Alpine-wide map of climate refugia could help prioritise measures for high-elevation species. Strengthening governance in the Po Basin and linking local restoration contracts to national strategies were also identified as avenues for deepening alignment across countries.

Cross-cutting enablers

Effective transboundary restoration depends on stakeholder engagement and robust monitoring. Participants highlighted the importance of involving farmers, forest owners, landscape managers, protected areas, and municipalities to ensure implementation on the ground. In Ticino, for instance, stakeholder mapping has already been used to identify key actors. Emerging practices such as paludiculture and multi-country cooperation frameworks like biosphere reserves were noted as catalysts and platforms for exchange and innovation. In addition, participants underlined the importance of cross-border restoration of terrestrial ecosystems to ensure ecological connectivity, particularly through the establishment of wildlife corridors that link fragmented habitats across national boundaries. Monitoring and data-sharing were also emphasised as critical to success. Suggestions included aligning monitoring of Annex I habitats between Germany and France, building on peatland monitoring in Austria, and further developing digital tools such as the AlpsLife restoration map. National forest inventories in Germany and Austria were highlighted as valuable baselines that could be better linked, while Interreg projects, particularly within the Alpine Space Programme, were seen as frameworks to improve data comparability. Participants agreed that making better use of existing repositories of best practice, such as the EUSALP AG7 Nature Restoration Project Database[10] (with more than 150 projects already mapped), would help avoid duplication, strengthen knowledge exchange, and position the Alps as a model region for ecological restoration and transition.

[10] https://www.alpine-region.eu/action-groups-publications/ag7-nature-restoration-project-database

4 Conclusions and outlook

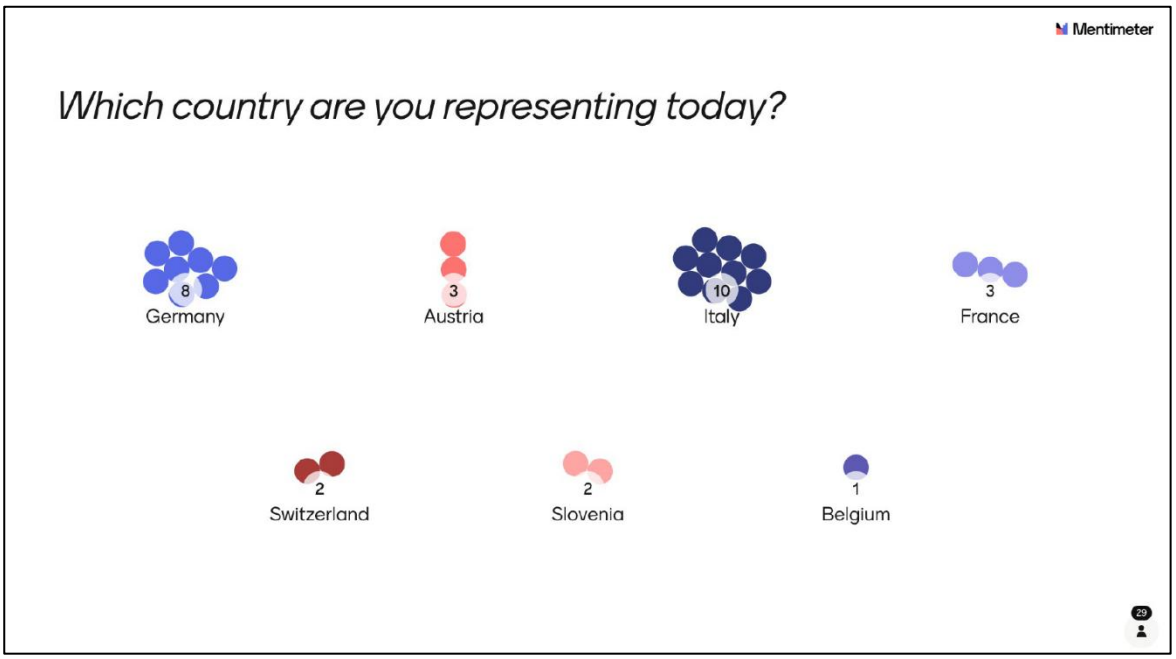
The workshop made a valuable contribution to demonstrating how restoration planning across Alpine countries can generate synergies under the EU NRR. By bringing together representatives from both EU Member States and non-EU Alpine countries, it provided a platform to jointly discuss restoration challenges, identify areas of common interest, and gather inputs for field 4.2.11 of the NRPs. The consolidated “common text” developed during the workshop is intended as a resource that can be adapted by all Alpine countries, thereby ensuring greater consistency and strengthening transboundary collaboration beyond the formal requirements of the Regulation. Participants further underlined the importance of integrating these results into national planning processes, including the reflection of identified transboundary areas and ecosystem types, explicit consideration of cross-border coordination, and references to shared governance platforms, ongoing initiatives, and repositories of best practices. This approach helps embed national measures within a broader Alpine perspective and enhances coherence across the region.

In addition, the workshop clearly demonstrated the added value of cross-border synergies. By aligning actions across shared ecosystems such as rivers, forests, wetlands, and pastures, Alpine countries can achieve greater ecological coherence, pool expertise and resources, and avoid duplication of efforts. This cooperative approach can also enhance resilience against common pressures such as climate change, land-use change, and biodiversity loss, while positioning the Alps as a model region for ecological restoration and green transition.

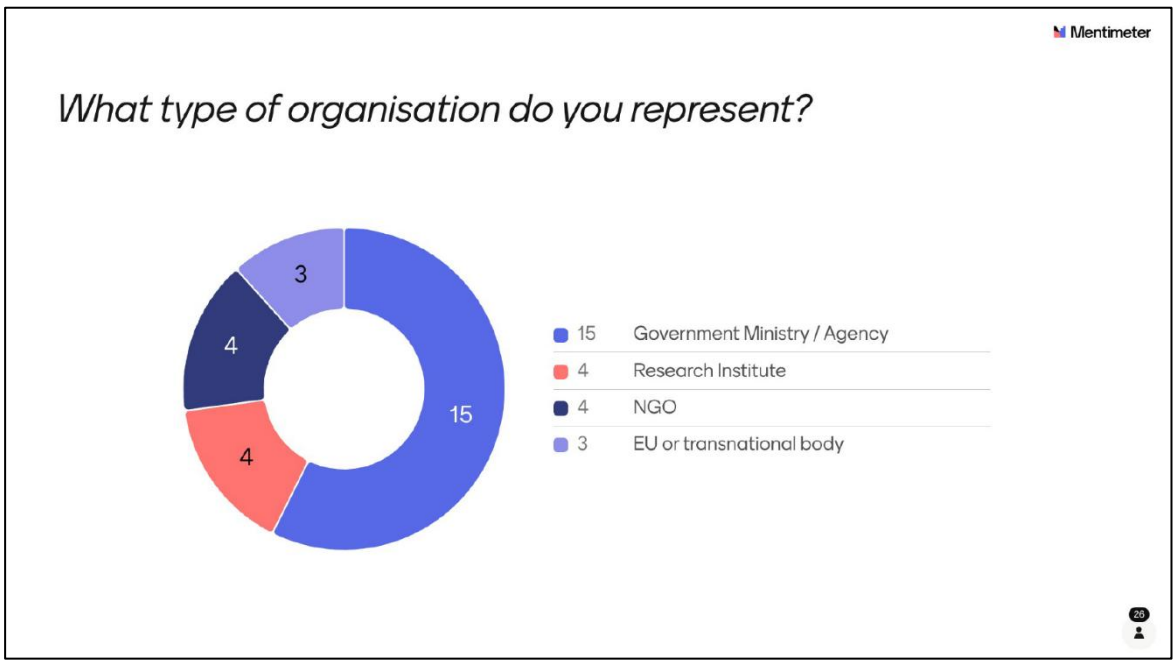
Looking ahead, participants expressed interest in maintaining the momentum through follow-up processes and exchanges. The list of participants has been shared among workshop participants and can be found in the Annex 3 of this report, providing a practical basis for following up on ideas generated during the workshop. The ABB expressed readiness to facilitate continued dialogue, whether on general issues or through more focused, topic-specific exchanges; this can be done in cooperation with other processes at Alpine and European level, e.g., the European Biodiversity partnership, IUCN Europe and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Moreover, the outcomes of the workshop can serve as an important input into the ongoing development of the Alpine Biodiversity Action Plan, ensuring that the discussions contribute not only to the implementation of the Nature Restoration Regulation but also to the long-term vision of biodiversity conservation in the Alps.

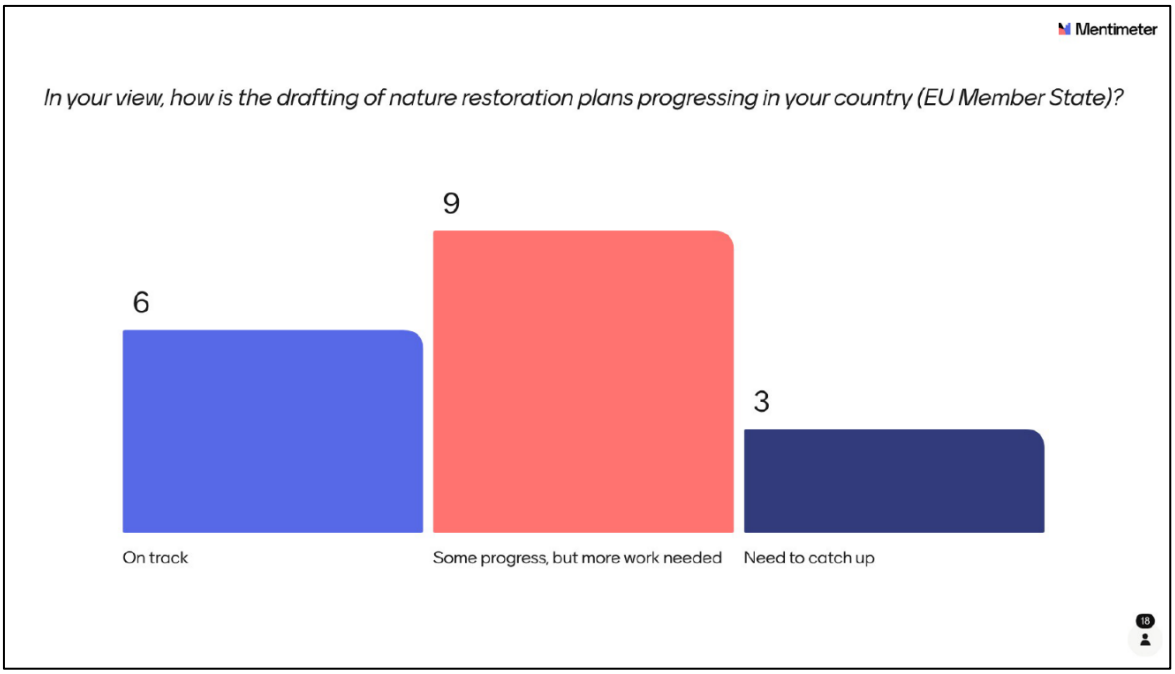
5 Annexes

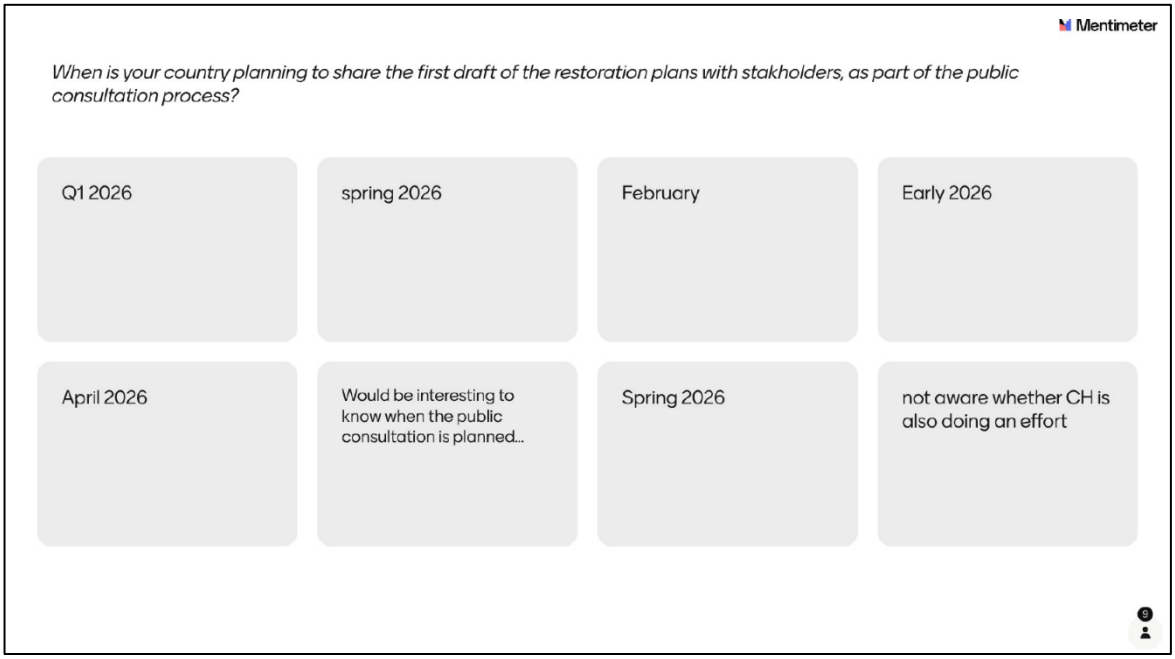
5.1 Annex 1: Survey results (Mentimeter)



*Two participants from Liechtenstein.

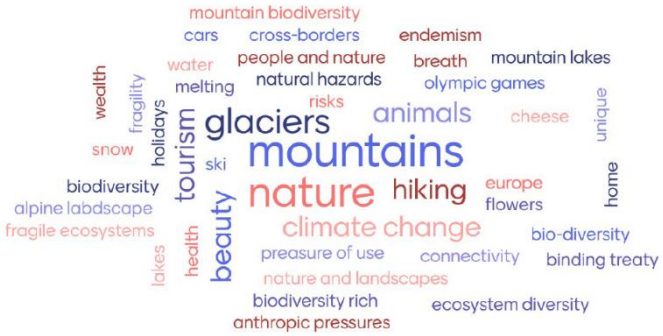



Mentimeter
In your view, how is the drafting of nature restoration plans progressing in your country (EU Member State)?
6
9
3
On track
Some progress, but more work needed
Need to catch up
18


Mentimeter
When is your country planning to share the first draft of the restoration plans with stakholders, as part of the public consultation process?
Q1 2026
spring 2026
February
Early 2026
April 2026
Would be interesting to know when the public consultation is planned...
Spring 2026
not aware whether CH is also doing an effort
9

Mentimeter

Which words come to your mind when you think of the Alpine region?



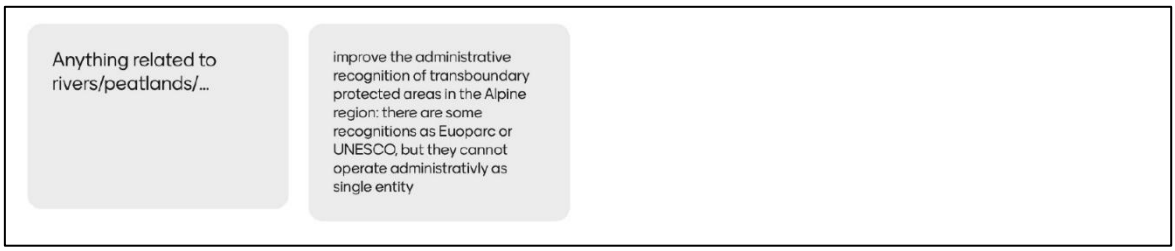
21

Mentimeter

*Which **priorities** do you see for transnational cooperation on nature restoration in the Alpine region?*

governance	river restoration and management	strenghten network	Aggregating the restoration results from all the countries, in order to have one combined contribution of the Alps to the global targets
Monitoring	financing	proper involvement of all stakeholder groups	Cros- border rivers
Governance	Sharing of data	increase communication and common projects between practitioners of different countries.	Shared guidelines for mountain habitat restoration
Alpine pastures	harmonized monitoring and enforcement	checking with neighbouring countries whether planned restoration measures in border / cross-border areas can be enhanced	rivers

Data interoperability	Start from what already exist (analyses, maps, prioritization exercises) instead of creating new studies	define cross border knowledge exchange	Invasive Alien Species management
overview on who works on what Articles of the NRP in other countries, for quicker exchange	infrastructures planning	Identify pilot transboundary areas, shared possibly between more than two countries (better if EU+non EU), where to act more urgently or in a more relevant way	Harmonized monitoring and conservation measures
Instruments to support cross-border restoration?	list of experts in each country	Joined information platform with list of projects, contacts, data...	Financial incentives as transnational cooperation projects will probably be more complicated/more expensive
Data interoperability	share approaches, examples, generate an public attitude positive to restoration	Exchanging a preliminary list of priority habitats and species with the goal of agreeing on common restoration targets	common definition of peatlands (Art 11)
combine resources for cross border monitoring and implementation projects	Address how non-EU countries harmonize with the NRR	Identifying and addressing common pressures	The obligation of EU countries to prepare NRPs as a remarkable opportunity to liaise/coordinate with non-EU countries.
cooperation on identifying the most effective approaches for special species, so that with the same amount of resources input we get more output	Clear, shared and applicable guidlines for nature conservation and restoration at Alpine scale	Guidelines already exist. Look for the existing guiding material, collections of good practices and find ways to disseminate them instead of producing new ones	restore rivers and grassland
Transnational restoration projects	Set up a Pan_Alpine governance mechanism, an Alpine restoration hub to address nature restoration at macroregional scale	The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (UN-DER) has tools available. And we can also contribute to them	in parallel to implementation the need for revision of the NRR should be checked, because important issues are missing (e.g. financing), hardly feasible or are - unintended - contraproductive.
Restoration of forest dying from scolytinae ?	how to deal with all the conflicting targets of Restoration, CC Adaptation, renewable energy, quality of life	Look at and prioritize restoration measures not only by biodiversity urgency, but also by their competitiveness co-benefits	Restoration of ecological connectivity - this (and every restoration) very complex governance (involving national/regional and local levels, integrating also different sectors not only biodiversity)


Anything related to rivers/peatlands/...
improve the administrative recognition of transboundary protected areas in the Alpine region: there are some recognitions as Euoparc or UNESCO, but they cannot operate administrativly as single entity

5.2 Annex 2: Original draft text for field 4.2.11(a) provided by the organizers

a) Cross-cutting overview

The Alps are one of Europe's largest mountain regions, renowned for their rich biodiversity and vital ecosystem services, but highly vulnerable to climate change and human pressures. Strengthening the effectiveness and coherence of nature restoration efforts in the region requires coordinated action and cross-border expansion of restoration areas.

The Alpine Convention, as an international treaty among all the eight Alpine countries, including five EU Member states, provides a solid foundation for transboundary cooperation. Primarily through its technical and advisory body - the Alpine Biodiversity Board (ABB), and in collaboration with the EU Strategy for the Alpine region (EUSALP), specifically its Action Group 7, the Convention enhances regional political dialogue and knowledge exchange. It translates biodiversity objectives into action, provides expertise, helps pool resources and facilitates stakeholder engagement. The Alpine Biodiversity Action Plan for 2027–2030 is expected to include actions on transboundary restoration across the Alpine region.

Key restoration priorities for the Alps, defined through joint analyses, mapping and projects, include:

- **restoring and enhancing ecological connectivity within the Alpine region and between this and the surrounding areas**, inter alia for migration of rare and endangered species;
- **restoring high-value terrestrial habitats**, such as high-altitude peatlands, subalpine and alpine grasslands – with due attention to periglacial environments, as well as pastures and diverse types of forests – including those in the valleys
- **restoring floodplains and freshwater ecosystems**, promoting natural river dynamics, including coordinated initiatives across shared basins like the Rhône, Po, Drava, and Danube.

Special attention will be given to cross-border areas, relying on collaborative assessments and decisions of the Alpine Conferences. Data sharing and interoperability of monitoring systems will be further improved.

5.3 Annex 3: List of participants[11]

Last Name	First name	Affiliation	Country
Arduino	Serena	CIPRA International	Italy
Aurélien	Carré	PatriNat (MNHN, OFB, CNRS, IRD)	France
Baldessari	Sofia	CREA - Consiglio per l'agricoltura e l'analisi dell'economia agraria	Italy
Bantin	Johanna	Bavarian Environment Agency (LfU)	Germany
Bartel	Andreas	Environment Agency Austria	Austria
Bartol	Blanka	Ministry for Natural Resources and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia	Slovenia
Becher	Raimund	Bavarian State Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism	Germany
Beckert	Marvin	Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)	Germany
Brandstetter	Stefanie	Federal Ministry of Agriculture	Austria
Bresadola	Michele	EURAC Research	Italy
Claeys	Florian	European Commission	Belgium
Davis	McKenna	Ecologic Institute	Germany
de Kermadec	Claire	PSAC	Austria
Gangale	Carmen	Ministry of Environment and Energy Security	Italy
Gimpl	Gerald	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management (BMLUK)	Austria
Guerini	Michele	ALPARC	France
Jost	Silvia	UVEK, ARE	Switzerland
Kozban	Irina	Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)	Germany
Kriegel	Peter	Bavarian State Ministry for Nature Conservation	Germany
Kupilas	Benjamin	Ecologic Institute	Germany
Laigle	Idaline	PatriNat	France

[11] *Affiliation presented in line with information provided in the registration forms*

Majcen	Daša	Ministry of natural resources and spatial planning	Slovenia
Masotti	Daniela	ersaf	Italy
Maturani	ANTONIO	MASE	Italy
Maure	Mathilde	EURAC Research	Italy
Maver	Marko	Ministrstvo za naravne vire in prostor	Slovenia
Öll	Hanna	CIPRA International Lab	Austria
Paletto	Alessandro	Council for Agricoltural Research and Economics (CREA)	Italy
Pegge	Marialuisa	MASE	Italy
Rheinberger	Moritz	AU/Recht	Switzerland
Rodigari	Nicolas		Italy
Serantoni	Luca	Istituto Oikos	Italy
Serena D'Ambrogi	Serena	ISPRA	Italy
Spantzel	Teresa	Ecologic Institute	Germany
Thiran	Julie	European Commission-DG REGIO	Belgium
Vaira	Elisabetta	EUSALP Technical Support Structure	France
von Wuthenau	Matthias	Ministry of Rural Areas, Baden-Württemberg, Germany	Germany
Wallner	Marion	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management (BMLUK)	Austria
Wirz	Christian	Federal Office for Spatial Development	Switzerland
Wulf	Simone	German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)	Germany

5.4 Annex 4: Results of the discussions and breakout sessions (Miro Boards)

Would it be possible to mention a work about compromises to find with increasing human pressures (increasing attractiveness of mountains areas) + human activities adaptations...

The AB-AP, with all the effort it takes to consult, prepare and align with other global instruments. can have a longer perspective and a duration beyond 2030. In other texts I have seen "2030 and beyond"

Each country can then add to this text box an explicit reference to the countries it intends to work with, based on the landscapes they share with these other countries. Beyond the overall broader Alpine region, that is to say. If space is too short, then perhaps the intro para can be deleted, as it is a given

--> Longer version / reccomendation) -

it is nicely writen text but having oactivities also on other cross border areas we have, it would need of its adaptation

--> Longer version-

mention the importance of ASP / Interreg specifically (a series of biodiversity projects)

include high value cultural habitats with depend on human use. (esp. high nature value farming)
--> possibly in longer version

+ keeping in mind the severe impacts of CC (e.g. on forests) and the necessity of adapting habitats to it actively

--> Key point for expert reflection. Covered in section 4.2.1 of the NRP. Possibly add to longer version

is it worth mentioning the "Zwischenräume" (esp. in urban agglobmerations/ peri-urban areas) and their potential for ecological connectivity?
- Already part of the NRL, to be assested its valuablity in the Alps-

rethinking infrastructures and infrastructure projects and planning
--> will be usefull to discuss this in Connectivity CG (follow up to April WS)

Better define the meaning of "regional"
How to align national restoration targets with cross border targets or regional targets?
--> Already taken into account in the text, crucial role of EUSALP-

Draft Text

a) Cross-cutting overview

The Alps are one of Europe's largest mountain regions, renowned for their rich biodiversity and vital ecosystem services, but highly vulnerable to climate change and human pressures. Strengthening the effectiveness and coherence of nature restoration efforts in the region requires coordinated action and cross-border expansion of restoration areas.

The Alpine Convention, as an international treaty among all eight Alpine countries – including five EU Member States – provides a strong foundation for transboundary cooperation. The Convention's technical and advisory body – the Alpine Biodiversity Board (ABB), in collaboration with the EU Strategy for the Alpine region (EUSALP) and its Action Group 7 – enhances regional political dialogue and knowledge exchange. It translates biodiversity objectives into action, provides expertise, helps pool resources and facilitates stakeholder engagement. The Alpine Biodiversity Action Plan for 2027–2030 is expected to include actions on transboundary restoration across the Alpine region.

Key restoration priorities for the Alps, as defined through joint analyses, mapping and projects, include:

- **restoring and enhancing ecological connectivity within the Alpine region and between this and the surrounding areas**, inter alia for migration of rare and endangered species;
- **restoring high-value terrestrial habitats,** such as high-altitude peatlands, subalpine and alpine grasslands – with due attention to periglacial environments, as well as pastures and diverse types of forests – including those in the valleys;
- **restoring floodplains and freshwater ecosystems,** promoting natural river dynamics, including coordinated initiatives across shared basins like the Rhône, Po, Drava, and Danube

Special attention will be given to cross-border areas, relying on collaborative assessments and decisions of the Alpine Conferences. Data sharing and interoperability of m… systems will be further improve…

Consider mentioning cross-border and bilateral commissions and alliances within the Alpine region, focused on shared ecosystems, esp. water bodies (CIPEL - internaitonal commission for the Protection Lake Geneva), ICPR, etc.

"restoring and enhancing ecological connectivity" now AND anticipating future impacts: won't ecological connectivity become harder to ensure as climate refuges elevate and endemic species habitats become fragmented in consequence?

aligning terminology with NRR Annex I/II (free-flowing rivers', 'Annex I habitats')

Why not mention peatlands in general?

Instead of quite a general opening "enowned for their rich biodiversity"),there could be a more evidence-based framing e.g. The Alpine region hosts over 200 Annex I habitats and more than 600 protected species under EU legislation...

Consider explicitly mentioning the importance of coordination with non - EU Alpine countries

"try to add in longer version"

Alpine soils with their carbon sink potential ie potentials (grasslands, peat, forests) vs threats eg. melting permafrost (cf. also https://www.wsl.ch/en/news/how-alpine-ecosystems-are-responding-to-climate-change-it-all-comes-down-to-the-soil/
- already present in the Law. To be detailed during our work, also under the light of Climate Change-

Question: I'm wondering whether pastures should be an independent bullet point, to make sure this specific aspect of mountain areas is well taken into account (both agricultural and high natural value land)

- we are trying to be more general. This level of detail will be more addressed in the future-

not clear why forest in the valley are mentioned besides having "diverse types of forestrs

the point on terrestrial habitats lacks the transboundary aspect, which is well included in the freshwater ecosystems part (shared basins)

-Integrated in the rephrasing of the text-

refer to old-growth forests -include in the upper note-

Coordinating (extend discussion about) restoration with other mountain regions, resp.within the Alpine biogeographical region, at least the Carpathians and the Dinaric Alps

--Longer version--
"In long term perspective and to ensure reaching EU target, discussions on restoration should be extended to include other Alpine biogeographical region, such as the Carpathians and the Dinaric Alps"

+ cooperative implementation together with farmers, forest owners, landscape conservation associations and local authorities

Consider to increase the transboundary aspect, especially in the high value terrestrial habitats, and the major involvement of local stakeholders to coordinate the restoration (such as protected areas)

Suggestion for rephrasing:
"Special attention will be given to cross-border areas, relying on collaborative assessments and decisions of the Alpine Conferences. In this regard, Alpine countries recognize that data sharing and interoperability of monitoring systems will play a key role in ecosystem restoration in the Alps"

"Data sharing and interoperability of monitoring will be improved" in fact, it MUST be improved, that should be emphasised, as well as ensuring enforcement and accountability mechanisms

Strongly agree. As it is now seems like a sentence that could be found in every proposal.

Room 1: Italy, Switzerland

1. Area of interest

*Which **transboundary area** (e.g. lake, region, basin) is of particular interest to focus on in our discussion today? For which **countries** is this area particularly relevant?*

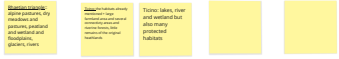
Area of interest:

Countries involved:

2. Restoration challenges

*Which specific **ecosystems and habitats** are most relevant for this area (e.g. alpine pastures, grasslands, forests, wetlands, rivers and lakes), and what are the **main restoration challenges** they face across borders (e.g., ecological connectivity)?*

Ecosystems or habitats:



Main pressures / threats:

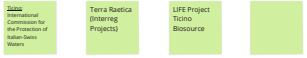
Opportunities of transboundary cooperation to address these pressures:

3. Restoration measures

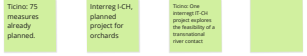
*What concrete **restoration measures** are already being implemented (or planned) in these areas, and where do you see **potential** to align or **coordinate** them with neighboring countries?*

Ongoing restoration measures (national and/or cross-border):

Restoration measures already addressed by national restoration instruments:



Planned measures (national and/or cross-border):



Existing attempts to create synergies with nature restoration instruments (inside and outside the EU):

New opportunities for cross-boundary restoration measures:

Other considerations for discussion

Potential for stakeholder engagement in upcoming restoration activities

Alignment of data and monitoring efforts across borders

Room 2: France, Germany

1. Area of interest

*Which **transboundary area** (e.g. lake, region, basin) is of particular interest to focus on in our discussion today? For which **countries** is this area particularly relevant?*

Area of interest:

- region: Biosphere reserve Julian Alps (Prealpi Giulie and Triglav National Park) and its extension to Austria (Dobratch Nature Park)
- Wetlands
- Forests
- Peatlands (rewetting, land use, value chains
- Question: Are there any actions planned in the context of UNESCO World Heritag Beech Forest?

Countries involved:

- Slovenia, Italiy, Austria
- France - LIFE Artisan project

2. Restoration challenges

*Which specific **ecosystems and habitats** are most relevant for this area (e.g. alpine pastures, grasslands, forests, wetlands, rivers and lakes), and what are the **main restoration challenges** they face across borders (e.g., ecological connectivity)?*

Ecosystems or habitats:

- assessing favorable reference area with a common methodology

Main pressures / threats:

- change in land use and its intensification --> landscape fragmentation as a threat to ecological connectivity (agriculture, infrastructure development)

Opportunities of transboundary cooperation to address these pressures:

- Exchange good practices and knowledge

3. Restoration measures

*What concrete **restoration measures** are already being implemented (or planned) in these areas, and where do you see **potential** to align or **coordinate** them with neighboring countries?*

Ongoing restoration measures (national and/or cross-border):

- French project on monitoring - managing existing monitoring schemes
- French Life Project Artisan (Wetland nature-based solutions)

Restoration measures already addressed by the national restoration instruments (NRPs or others):

Planned measures (national and/or cross-border):

Existing attempts to create synergies with nature restoration instruments (inside and outside the EU):

New opportunities for cross-boundary restoration measures:

- Build on I-SWAMP approach for wetlands to develop a similar approach

Other considerations for discussion

Potential for stakeholder engagement in upcoming restoration activities

Alignment of data and monitoring efforts across borders

- align monitoring of Annex I habitats between Germany and France, and help improving it

- Have a shared vision on nature conservation

Room 3: Slovenia, Austria, Italy

1. Area of interest

*Which **transboundary area** (e.g. lake, region, basin) is of particular interest to focus on in our discussion today? For which **countries** is this area particularly relevant?*

Area of interest:

Countries involved:

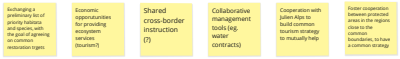
2. Restoration challenges

*Which specific **ecosystems and habitats** are most relevant for this area (e.g. alpine pastures, grasslands, forests, wetlands, rivers and lakes), and what are the **main restoration challenges** they face across borders (e.g., ecological connectivity)?*

Ecosystems or habitats:

Main pressures / threats:

Opportunities of transboundary cooperation to address these pressures:



3. Restoration measures

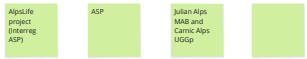
*What concrete **restoration measures** are already being implemented (or planned) in these areas, and where do you see **potential** to align or **coordinate** them with neighboring countries?*

Ongoing restoration measures (national and/or cross-border):

Restoration measures already addressed by the national restoration instruments (NRPs or others):

Planned measures (national and/or cross-border):

Existing attempts to create synergies with nature restoration instruments (inside and outside the EU):



New opportunities for cross-boundary restoration measures:

Other considerations for discussion

Potential for stakeholder engagement in upcoming restoration activities

Alignment of data and monitoring efforts across borders

Room 1: Germany, Austria

1. Area of interest

*Which **transboundary area** (e.g. lake, region, basin) is of particular interest to focus on in our discussion today? For which **countries** is this area particularly relevant?*

Area of interest:

- Nördl. Alpenvorland
- Peatland
- Lower Inn

Countries involved:

- DE, AT

2. Restoration challenges

*Which specific **ecosystems and habitats** are most relevant for this area (e.g. alpine pastures, grasslands, forests, wetlands, rivers and lakes), and what are the **main restoration challenges** they face across borders (e.g., ecological connectivity)?*

Ecosystems or habitats:

- Forest ecosystems
- Peatlands

Main pressures / threats:

- drainage and climate change lead to mineralisation of peat soils

Opportunities of transboundary cooperation to address these pressures:

- establish corridor system/forest patches

3. Restoration measures

*What concrete **restoration measures** are already being implemented (or planned) in these areas, and where do you see **potential** to align or **coordinate** them with neighboring countries?*

Ongoing restoration measures (national and/or cross-border):

- Bund-Länder-Agreement in D for "climate change mitigation by peat soil maintenance and restoration"
- Peatland monitoring
- operative programs of German Regions (i.a. Bavaria) to maintain and to rewet peatlands ongoing; new program of the federal level ("Palu") in preparation
- R&D projects for agricultural paludicultures on rewetted peatlands accomplished or ongoing; also for developping industrial products; challenges: - motivating farmers for change - establishing economically viable value chains

Restoration measures already addressed by the national restoration instruments (NRPs or others):

- Interreg A-project WINAlp 21 for identifying appropriate tree species on concrete forest sites in the Alps https://www.hswt.de/forschung/projekt/1929-winalp-21
- Peatlands: LIFE project AMOORE

Planned measures (national and/or cross-border):

- common Alpine Space project RE-PEAT-it to support all relevant actors (from landowners to governments) in peatland restoration issues (in application)

Existing attempts to create synergies with nature restoration instruments (inside and outside the EU):

New opportunities for cross-boundary restoration measures:

- stakeholder connection needed

Other considerations for discussion

Potential for stakeholder engagement in upcoming restoration activities

- NEED: link stakeholder across boarders
- Exchange of experience on paludiculture

Alignment of data and monitoring efforts across borders

- (Bundes-)waldinventuren
- AT: Peatland monitoring

Room 2: France, Italy

1. Area of interest

*Which **transboundary area** (e.g. lake, region, basin) is of particular interest to focus on in our discussion today? For which **countries** is this area particularly relevant?*

Area of interest:

- Mont Blanc (IT-FR-CH)
- Alps Maritime /Mercantour (It-Fr)
- Monviso

Countries involved:

2. Restoration challenges

*Which specific **ecosystems and habitats** are most relevant for this area (e.g. alpine pastures, grasslands, forests, wetlands, rivers and lakes), and what are the **main restoration challenges** they face across borders (e.g., ecological connectivity)?*

Ecosystems or habitats:

- River connectivity
- Peatlands
- Glaciers (can it be considered restoration?)

Main pressures / threats:

- Climate change

Opportunities of transboundary cooperation to address these pressures:

- Alpine Convention Framework
- Bilateral Meeting between countries

3. Restoration measures

*What concrete **restoration measures** are already being implemented (or planned) in these areas, and where do you see **potential** to align or **coordinate** them with neighboring countries?*

Ongoing restoration measures (national and/or cross-border):

Restoration measures already addressed by the national restoration instruments (NRPs or others):

Planned measures (national and/or cross-border):

Existing attempts to create synergies with nature restoration instruments (inside and outside the EU):

New opportunities for cross-boundary restoration measures:

- Bilateral Meeting

Other considerations for discussion

Potential for stakeholder engagement in upcoming restoration activities

Alignment of data and monitoring efforts across borders

Room 3: Italy, Switzerland, France, Slovenia, Austria, Germany

1. Area of interest

*Which **transboundary area** (e.g. lake, region, basin) is of particular interest to focus on in our discussion today? For which **countries** is this area particularly relevant?*

Area of interest:

Lake of Constance Region

Mont-Blanc massif

Higher altitudes areas because of climate change

Alpi marittime - Mercantour transbounary area

Transboundary Monviso Biosphere Reserve

Po basin

Po Basin: different river basins (Inn, Danube)

Alpi marittime regional park (IT) - Mercantour national park (FR)

Transboundary Monviso Biosphere Reserve - FR and IT

Countries involved:

2. Restoration challenges

*Which specific **ecosystems and habitats** are most relevant for this area (e.g. alpine pastures, grasslands, forests, wetlands, rivers and lakes), and what are the **main restoration challenges** they face across borders (e.g., ecological connectivity)?*

peatlands

Ecosystems or habitats:

New ice-free areas ecosystems

Lake Constance: peatland, floodplains, orchards, grassland

Alpine grasslands

alpine wetlands

glaciers and periglacial ecosystems --> but really considered as restoration? or more conservation?

Alpine rivers

lambro river/basin ecological functionality

Main pressures / threats:

Agriculture runoff, nutrient pollution

Land use change

Tourism

Intensive pasture / land abandonment

agriculture

Fragmentation (roads, hydropower)

Hydropower production

Opportunities of transboundary cooperation to address these pressures:

Lake constance: International Commission of Lake Constance (IGKB) is existing...

po basin: some projects from Autorità di bacino del fiume po (life, interreg)

3. Restoration measures

*What concrete **restoration measures** are already being implemented (or planned) in these areas, and where do you see **potential** to align or **coordinate** them with neighboring countries?*

Ongoing restoration measures (national and/or cross-border):

po river plan for restoration and biodiversity conservation (AdB Po & Others)

Lake constance: rewetting of peatlands in CH and Vorarlberg..), projects for pollinators...

Restoration measures already addressed by the national restoration instruments (NRPs or others):

could be EPL (lambro basin) (financed by pre PNNR)

Planned measures (national and/or cross-border):

rewetting of peatlands in the lake constance region

Rhine revitalisation projects (CH-AT) and LIE

Existing attempts to create synergies with nature restoration instruments (inside and outside the EU):

interreg project D.A: fiNNsieme connect

AdaPT Mont-Blanc

Life projects as p.ex. Amore

AlpsLife project, resp. UTAAs maps, restoration map

life Natconnect project 2030

New opportunities for cross-boundary restoration measures:

national restoration plans!

International Commission for the Protection of Lake Constance

There exist s a Po River District Authority

Other considerations for discussion

Potential for stakeholder engagement in upcoming restoration activities

LIFE project

Alignment of data and monitoring efforts across borders

AlpsLife project (ASP)

Repositories exist which are collecting information, e.g. restoration projects, NbS, etc --> would be good to keep these connected and not duplicating data collection ... Landscape mapping of what is available would be good as a basis for cooperation. Not needed to always make new Alpine-specific repositories. Guidelines can help to use these in a consistent way.

Important to consider which types of restoration measures we wish to promote (vs conservation), and if e.g. glaciers can be considered passive restoration?

need for collection and propagation of germplasm for restoration actions through shared protocols, identifying common source areas