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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-fourth session

**Cairns, Australia
27 November – 2 December 2000**

Information Document: Report of the Regional Thematic Expert Meeting on Potential Natural World Heritage Sites in the Alps, Hallstatt, Austria, 18 to 22 June 2000

SUMMARY

In accordance with the decision of the twenty-third session of the World Heritage Committee in December 1999, an expert group met in Hallstatt, Austria from 18 to 22 June 2000 to review potential natural World Heritage Sites in the European Alps. The group consisted of representatives from six States Parties from the Alpine region, representatives from IUCN and WCPA, several regional NGOs (CIPRA, CIAMP, ÖGNU) and the World Heritage Centre. The list of participants is included as Annex I. The meeting was held at the invitation of the Austrian authorities and was financially supported from the World Heritage Fund. Specific recommendations to the World Heritage Committee, States Parties in the region, the Alpine Convention and to the European Union were made.

Action by the Committee: The Committee may wish to take note of the report and the recommendations made.

**Report of the Regional Thematic Expert Meeting on
Potential Natural World Heritage Sites in the Alps, Hallstatt, Austria,
18 to 22 June 2000**

Introduction

The Expert Meeting on potential natural World Heritage sites in the Alpine Region was held in Hallstatt (Austria) from 18 to 22 June 2000 at the kind invitation of the Government of Austria. The meeting was organized by the Austrian Commission for UNESCO, the environmental association Umweltdachverband ÖGNU, in close collaboration with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, thus implementing the decisions by the twenty-third session of the World Heritage Committee. The agenda of the meeting is provided as Annex I to this document.

Twenty-five experts representing six States Parties from the Alpine region, representatives from IUCN and WCPA, several regional NGOs (CIPRA, CIAMP, ÖGNU) and the World Heritage Centre attended the meeting (see list of participants in Annex II).

In opening the meeting, the Mayor of the city of Hallstatt, *Mr. Peter Scheutz*, warmly welcomed all participants to the World Heritage cultural landscape of Hallstatt-Dachstein. He informed that the history and identity of the site was rooted in salt production, but that today new perspectives were needed, such as the development of tourism. He wished the meeting every success.

Ms. Silvia Stöber, Minister for Nature Preservation and Health of the Government of Upper Austria, welcomed the theme of the expert meeting and announced the designation of “Dachstein Nature Protected Area”. She underlined the importance that the first cultural landscape in the Alps had been designated in this region.

Mr. Hans Horcicka, Director of the Austrian Ministry of Education Science and Culture, provided an overview of the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in Austria. Although Austria signed the Convention only in 1992, it had paid the contribution on a voluntary basis for twenty years. He pointed out that five cultural sites were already included in the World Heritage List and that other nominations were under way, such as the cultural landscape of the Wachau. He suggested that the meeting prepare standards for the whole Alpine range.

Ms. Gabriele Eschig, Austrian Commission for UNESCO, conveyed greetings from *Mr. Fritz Unterpertinger*, Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, who unfortunately was unable to attend the meeting. She was glad to note that the meeting was attended by representatives from all States Parties to the World Heritage Convention in the region and that the meeting was held in a World Heritage site. She thanked all organizers and contributors, including the Mayor of Hallstatt, the Federal Ministries, NGOs and private enterprises (Geospace, Dachsteinbahnen, Salinen Austria) for their support and participation.

She then announced the election of the chairpersons of the sessions and informed the participants that *Mr. Jim Thorsell* had agreed to act as Rapporteur.

Ms. Mechtild Rössler, UNESCO World Heritage Centre, conveyed greetings from the Director-General of UNESCO and the Director of the World Heritage Centre. She pointed out that mountain areas ranged high on the agenda of UNESCO at the eve of the International Year of the Mountains proclaimed by the United Nations for 2002 (as per UN General Assembly Resolution, UNESCO,

together with FAO, UNEP and UNDP, is requested to prepare the International Year of Mountains). Ms. Rössler then provided an overview over the Global Strategy for a representative World Heritage List both for natural and cultural heritage. She pointed out differences in the implementation of the Convention in Europe and other world regions. World Heritage Natural sites have been inscribed from nearly all mountain ranges of the world with the exception of the Alps. She informed the participants of previous initiatives, including the 1982 IUCN "World's Greatest Natural Areas", the WCPA "Identification Study for European Natural sites" (1997/98) and the existing tentative lists. These lists showed hardly any natural areas or cultural landscapes and would require updating. She presented the draft terms of references for the meeting including the review of scientific criteria for the identification of outstanding natural sites in the European Alps, a comparative evaluation of high mountains areas in Europe, a screening of existing tentative lists to achieve a comparative framework on the Alps, a discussion of issues in relation to transboundary nominations and an analysis of the relationship with other relevant regional and international conventions in particular the Alpine Convention and the draft European Landscape Convention.

Mr. Andrej Sovinc, on behalf of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), highlighted the main problems of protected areas in Europe today, which include air pollution, tourism pressures and the failure of integrated management and planning. He informed the participants that work was under way to provide basic standards for transboundary co-operation which will be made available through WCPA and Europarcs. The 1997 Action Plan of Parks for Life was primarily established to ensure an adequate and well-managed system of protected areas in Europe. WCPA members are more and more involved in World Heritage activities, in particular the monitoring of the state of conservation of properties.

Mr. Andreas Weissen, President of CIPRA International, presented the work of the CIPRA Committees in all Alpine States since its foundation in 1952. Following an initiative from Germany, the Alpine Convention had been established in 1991, and is signed by eight States and the European Community. It came into force on 6 March 1995 as a framework treaty outlining principles. A number of protocols have been prepared or are under consideration, including on the biosphere (soil, air, water etc.), population and culture, maintenance and sustainable use and the protection of nature. Currently 7 of 12 protocols are signed, but not yet ratified. The text of the Convention and the protocols are available on CIPRA's homepage: www.cipra.org. For the purpose of this meeting, articles 10 and 11 of the protocol are most relevant and are included in Annex III of this report. The basic philosophy of the Alpine Convention is to contribute to awareness building about the rich Alpine heritage, to promote its sustainable use, to support initiatives in the region, to enhance a network of protected areas in the Alps to ensure transboundary co-operation and to contribute to networks of communes and of scientists.

During the discussion it was pointed out that there were considerable gaps in the implementation of this Convention, as the culture protocol has not been prepared, protocols have not been ratified, and that there is no permanent secretariat and no financial means (fund) for implementing the Convention. However, first steps for cross-boundary collaboration have been undertaken and groups such as the "Espace des Aires Protégées" or the "Alliances des Alpes" have been created.

Case studies

Mr. Albin Debevec (Slovenia) presented the case of the World Heritage site of Skocjan Caves inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1986. The site comprises 413 ha of cave systems in the sub-mediterranean region with subterranean rivers and endemic species. The Slovenian Parliament adopted in 1996 a special law on the protection, research and development of the region, the

implementation of the World Heritage Convention and the extension of the site. The management plan has been prepared embedded in an overall protection and development programme. A number of schools both in Slovenia and Italy collaborate in awareness building programmes.

The discussion focussed on a possible transboundary extension with Italy. The Italian representative pointed out that the site of Zone Carsiche: risorgenza del Timavo e Grotta Gigante” in the Trieste province has been included on the tentative list of his country.

Prof. Hubert Trimmel (Austria) presented the case of the Dachstein region, and pointed out that the glacier is the most eastern of all Alpine glaciers. The site could have been inscribed for both its natural and cultural values. The Dachstein caves are visited by 120.000 tourists per year and the area needs a vast protection system, in particular for the surface waters, which is going to be achieved through additional protection and within the framework of the Natura 2000 programme.

During the discussion it was mentioned that the site still needed a management plan and although this had been a requirement for the inscription, no management plan had been prepared as yet due to problems with private ownership (cablecars, forests).

The paper by *Ms. Katarina Nováková (Slovakia)* on the “Karst and National Park of Aggtelek (Hungary/Slovakia) – An example for transfrontier cooperation “ was presented by the Chairperson of the session, Mr. Harald Plachter. It was pointed out that differences in the protection of the site exist, such as a National Park on one side of the border and a landscape protected area on the other. In particular, a common strategy for water protection is considered to be essential. The representative from Austria informed the participants that in federal systems (as exists in Austria) problems with the responsibilities of agencies at different levels of governments can be encountered.

Mr. Emmanuel de Guillebon (France) presented the case of the Parc de la Vanoise (France), which is bordering the site of Gran Paradiso (Italy). The site itself covers 50,000 ha whereas the bufferzone comprises 145.000 ha. Most of it is communal land, however 15% of it is in private ownership, although no permanent inhabitants live within the site. The area displays a great geological and landscape diversity and is an example of the geological and geomorphological history of the Alps. The park is rich in flora and fauna as well as in its cultural heritage as one of the passages of the Alps. For the Italian side a management plan is under preparation. A management plan exists for the French part, which is being updated at a five years’ interval). It covers four major themes: biological diversity conservation, harmony of landscapes, discovery and use of the milieu, and visitor management.

Mr. Jim Thorsell (IUCN) presented a global overview of mountain World Heritage sites in order to provide a broad alpine perspective. A total of 35 mountain ranges are included in the World Heritage List as well as 8 individual mountains, which is approximately 30% of the natural and mixed World Heritage sites. Most of these are more than a million ha in size. Often mountain areas are serial sites (e.g. Kamchatka volcanoes). However, the World Heritage List is only made for the sites of “outstanding universal values”, and for example the List comprises currently only three mountain sites from the Andean region or from the Himalayas. Therefore a global overview has to carefully review each region. In the case of the Alps the following points have to be taken into consideration: 1. That the Alps are a small region in terms of the scale of other mountain ranges; 2. Levels of significance of different parks range from international-regional-national to local but it is only internationally important sites which are considered of World Heritage calibre; 3. different values (biological diversity, geological values etc.) as described by the criteria of the Operational

Guidelines have to be considered, as well as issues of integrity (size/boundaries, legal protection, human use, modifications and management). Therefore only a few selected sites may be considered. Based on field visits to all major parks in the Alps and on the literature, the following five sites might be considered as worthy of consideration for nomination as natural or mixed sites: The Berner Oberland and the Aletsch Glacier, the Mont Blanc area, the Dolomites (Brenta?), the Matterhorn and the Hohe Tauern. No scientific or systematic assessment however, has been undertaken and he pointed out that the above shortlist is based on personal impressions.

Mr Harald Plachter (Germany) in his paper on “European High Mountain Areas: recent focus for the World Heritage Convention”, stressed that the World Heritage List reflects that Europe has no pristine nature and that human influence reaches into the high mountain areas. The variation in high mountain areas due to human intervention resulted in outstanding features in landscape ecosystems and sophisticated land use patterns. This is a chance under the unifying approach of the World Heritage Convention. The main characteristics for the European high mountain areas are that they are the exclusive habitat of alpine species, the biogeographical differentiation, the high altitude landscapes of impressive beauty, the globally significant types of vegetation, the geological history and grasslands ecosystems, the early human population and the cultural diversity as well as the trade routes and associative and spiritual values. From these features a comparative selection in the Alps can be made, considering in particular their representation in serial sites, including samples of ecological adaptation as well as special sites (routes, salt production and scenic beauty).

Mr Gilles Landrieu (France) presented a case study of the Mercantour National Park (France) and the adjacent site of Alpi Maritimi (Italy), which illustrates a very steep gradient from the highest point of 3,140 m to sea level over a horizontal distance of only 30km. This results in a unique flora and fauna with 2,000 plant species ranging from an arctic to the Mediterranean ecosystem. The rich cultural heritage can be seen in terraced systems, mountain villages and interchange through trade routes as well as the sophisticated pastoral system. At the same time, the mythical character of the region can be also illustrated by the 37.000 drawings and codified signs, often representations of other natural elements.

Mr Meinrad Küttel (Switzerland) gave an overview of the Swiss contribution to the World Heritage List and the possibility of nominating the *Jungfrau-Aletsch* region for its variety of plants and its scenery, the Glarus for its geological structure of key alpine formations and the Monte St. Giorgio as rich fossil site from the Middle Triassic era. The Swiss Federal Council will announce the nomination of the Jungfrau-Aletsch-Bietschhorn area in the very near future, although the process had been initiated twenty years ago. The problem lies also in the willingness of all stakeholders to contribute to such a world heritage application and to define the boundaries of such an area to which both the region and the cantons could agree.

Mr Pasquale Malara (Italy) presented the activities in Italy and informed the participants about a seminar held in Turin to consult on the Alpine region. 18 provinces are involved with a special status of two areas. Taking the whole alpine arc into consideration, which is shared by 6 countries, clusters of sites need to be taken into consideration and therefore the tentative lists need to be reviewed. The objective would be to identify sites within the region, which could be natural, but also mixed natural-cultural as was pointed out in previous interventions. In Italy, areas above 1,600m are already protected by law, which means practically all areas above the forest line are protected.

The discussion of the participants focussed mainly on the question of outstanding universal value of such a selection of sites and the new approach proposed by Italy. They also reviewed the different

legal aspects, such as the protection above 1,600m, the “loi montagnard” in France and the Swiss regional planning which includes anthropogenic elements.

Mr Harald Kremser (Austria) presented the case of the Hohe Tauern National Park, which has different layers of protection, including Ramsar site, European Bird Sanctuary and a NATURA 2000 area. The management plan was set up in collaboration with IUCN. The site consists of a glacial landscape with grindlers, glacial pools and heaps, typical for the biogeographical area with pioneer vegetation on mighty sediments.

Mr. Hans-Peter Schönlaub (Geological Survey of Austria) described the Carnic Alps Geopark, as a “PR gag of our Earth History”. It displays the early geological evolution of the Alps, unique on earth, in itself a textbook in geology. The “geotrail” project presents this history to the general public and is therefore an example for the proposed “Geoparks programme of UNESCO”.

The participants highlighted the contribution of the Alpine region to the understanding of the geological history of the earth and plate tectonics as well as the need for international programmes to protect the neglected earth heritage.

Mr. Otto Leiner (Austria) illustrated the Karwendel Alpine Park with a picture and sound show used for the general public which was well appreciated by all participants. The park with its 920 square km, is one of the largest nature reserves in the Eastern Alps and is in particular interesting for its geological history of the Wetterstein limestone. It is an area of extensive rainfall with characteristic 2,000m deep valleys.

Mr. Janez Bizjak, (Slovenia) presented the Triglav National Park, including the Fucinarske planine, and explained that the management plan (1995 to 2010) has now been completed. The site is owned to 52 % by the states, whereas 28% belongs to communities and private owners. Its characteristics are the high mountain karst with all its phenomena including karstic sources, which produce fresh drinking water, the “gold of the mountain” and certainly a major capital for the 21st century. The forests form a corridor for many migratory species and the diversity of the landscape can be also seen in its cultural heritage at the crossroads of different Mediterranean influences.

Ms. Barbara Ehringhaus (Comité International des Associations pour la Protection du Mont Blanc) informed the participants about the activities of her association for the protection of the Mont Blanc (France/Switzerland/Italy), a potential World Heritage candidate. The strong factors of the area are its unique natural beauty and exceptional combination of landscapes shared by three countries. Its summit is the "roof of the Alps" with 4,807m. The core zone encompassed 80,000ha and the maximal area with bufferzone would be about 300,000ha. The cultural values have to be noted: the people share the same language of franco-provincial origin and local rituals, traditions and agriculture have been preserved. The mountains have been a sportive (the cradle of alpinism) and scientific challenge (mountain research). However, protection of the whole area is not ensured and tourism has increased considerably. The awareness campaigns of the NGOs began during the 200th anniversary of the first ascension in 1986 and a “Mont Blanc Park” was proposed in 1991.

During an extensive discussion the participants pointed out the strength of the Alpine system, such as its unique geological and geomorphological history and natural beauty, as well as the weaknesses of the Alpine system, including the legal protection both of flora/fauna and protected areas, noise and air pollution, transboundary traffic and lack of international protection. The different presentations and review of approaches (theoretical/practical) which covered not only the natural -, but also the cultural aspects of the Alpine region, resulted in fruitful discussions and

exchange of views. As an outcome, two working groups formulated the following recommendations, addressing matters related to the World Heritage Convention and the Alps to the States Parties both of the World Heritage and the Alpine Convention, to the European Union and to the World Heritage Committee.

Recommendations

A. General Background of the Alpine Arc

The group of experts considered that although the Alpine Arc as defined in the Alpine Convention represents a small area on a world scale, it nevertheless has considerable importance for humanity as a whole, not only with regard to nature and landscapes, but also as concerns culture and civilisations linked to the mountain. It is a veritable open-air geological museum, a relict territory of more than a thousand receding glaciers, a mosaic of very diverse natural landscapes of great beauty with exceptional biological diversity. Thus, this area shaped by seven millennia of unique agricultural, forestry and pastoral practices is also an extraordinary natural laboratory of evolution. This is why it deserves to be listed as UNESCO World Heritage, not only because of its most exceptional elements which in themselves constitute sites of universal value, but also in regard to a number of particularly rich sites which, considered as an entity, are exemplary of the entire ensemble.

B. Recommendations concerning the legal, transborder, scientific and management context of the protected areas

- 1- The Member States to the Alpine Convention implement the principles of the Convention, draft and ratify all its protocols, especially those which concern nature protection and the maintenance of landscapes (particularly Articles 10 and 11) as well those concerning Transalpine traffic (Article 2 of the Framework Convention). The World Heritage Committee is encouraged to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the partners of the Alpine Convention to enable the sharing of common objectives in the protection of natural and landscape heritage.
- 2- The States Parties are encouraged to update their tentative lists as quickly as possible so as to include the Alpine Arc, emphasising its general characteristics (see introduction), as well as a selection of chosen sites for which they should highlight their exceptional value, specific criteria, integrity and representivity with regard to the essential wealth of the Alpine Arc.
- 3- For the other natural sites that could not be retained in this selection, the States are encouraged to have recourse to other programmes of UNESCO or other organizations (Biosphere Reserves, Geoparks, etc.) or other legal instruments (European Landscape Convention).
- 4- The States, scientific organs and NGOs are encouraged to assemble all their pertinent information relating to natural and landscape heritage, as well as the cultural elements directly linked to natural heritage so as to build up a common reference data base which would enable the justification of each particular site proposed in the tentative lists. The Alpine Network of Protected Areas (based in Gap, France) created through the Alpine Convention, could play a coordination role in this initiative.

- 5- The transborder natural sites are encouraged to collaborate and to set up common management procedures. The States are encouraged to put at the disposal of these sites specific means, and notably staff to organise and implement the common management initiative. The sites which are representative of the universal value of the Alpine Arc should comprise one single nomination for inscription to the World Heritage List which should, as foreseen in the Convention, be represented by the governments concerned.
- 6- The sites presented by the States Parties on their tentative lists should benefit from the best possible legal protection, taking into account the nature of their heritage and with the obligation to preserve their integrity.

The European Union and the countries signatory to the Alpine Convention are encouraged to propose measures for the harmonization of national rights which favour the creation of international legal structures for the common management of transborder sites.

- 7- The management plans for the proposed sites should set clear objectives based on a detailed description of the elements which constitute their universal value and foresee protective, restoration and management measures of their territory, including measures to regulate the tourism pressure to a level adapted to the capacity of the site.
- 8- Considering its position within the Alpine Arc, Liechtenstein is encouraged to ratify the World Heritage Convention without delay.

C. Recommendations concerning the participation of local communities

In the states concerned, political responsibilities are distributed at different administrative levels (state, regions, communities). This requires additional processes of co-ordination and communication in nominating and recommending sites for the World Heritage List. Such coordination should be taken into account and relevant representatives should be involved from the beginning of the nomination process.

This requires in particular: (a) an improved and more detailed information on the aims and objectives of the World Heritage Convention including the procedure and quality standards for nominations, which should be provided to all relevant decision-makers of the state parties. (b) In line with UNESCO's general principles, a bottom-up process of nomination should be supported, which includes, providing information to local communities, encouraging a participatory process of decision-making, ensuring support for local initiatives, enhancing the identification of local communities with the nomination, and "their" World Heritage site, supporting local responsibility for the state of conservation and development of the site, encouraging co-ordination between the involved local communities at all social and political levels.

The expert group came to the conclusion, that the nomination of alpine natural World Heritage sites is an extraordinary complex process due to a number of reasons, including the complexity and diversity of the sites, interactions between culture and nature, several states parties sharing this area, already existing Conventions and other legal instruments, as well as diverse governmental and non-governmental initiatives for the protection and development of the Alps. The co-ordination and revision of national tentative lists would require additional efforts. The expert group encourages States Parties to ask the National Commissions for UNESCO to assist and facilitate this task.

Furthermore, the National Commissions should be more involved in the national and local decisions concerning nominations.

D. Recommendations concerning regional economic development

Securing long-term sustainable development, regional economic development should be promoted in such a way as to maintain and respect the local identity of the given World Heritage site. Such a development has to take into account historical background, cultural identity and traditions.

Regional products and the use of regional resources should contribute to the local cultural identity and economy. This should result in a greater diversity of economic development and not only a development focusing exclusively on tourism.

E. Nature/culture interactions

More than in other mountain areas of the world, the landscapes of the Alps originate from close interactions between people and nature, local communities and their environment. This must be taken into account in the selection and evaluation of potential World Heritage sites and the updating of tentative lists.

Contributions to the implementation of the World Heritage Convention from the Alpine region should consider both natural sites and cultural landscapes. This experts concluded that there are some natural sites in the Alps which may meet the natural heritage criteria of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

Natural sites in the Alps should preferably be surrounded by an intermediate zone which first of all buffers the World Heritage site against human impacts, secondly serves as a link between the natural site and the surrounding cultivated areas and thirdly directs development in the sense of sustainability.

ANNEX I

Agenda of the Regional Thematic Expert Meeting Potential Natural World Heritage Sites in the Alps

Hallstatt/Salzkammergut, Austria
Kultur- und Kongresshaus (Seestrasse)

June 18 – 22, 2000

Sunday, June 18th,

Arrival

from 3.p.m.onward : Registration at Kongresshaus

6 p.m. Guided tour of the World Heritage Site Hallstatt (departure from Kongresshaus)

Monday, June 19th,

8.30 a.m. Full day trip to the World Heritage site Hallstatt-Dachstein-Salzkammergut Cultural Landscape

- ◆ Dachstein Cave Park
- ◆ Cave Museum Schönbergalm
- ◆ Dachstein-Plateau

(Please, take warm clothes, firm shoes, rain protection)
Guided by *Hubert Trimmel*

3 p.m. Return from excursion

4.p.m. Registration for late arrivals

5.p.m. Opening of the conference in the Kultur- und Kongresshaus Hallstatt
Welcomes :
Mayor of Hallstatt *Peter Scheutz*
Government of Upper Austria *Silvia Stöger*; Minister for the Protection of Nature and Health
Ministry of Education, Science and Culture *Hans Horcicka*
Austrian Commission for UNESCO *Gabriele Eschig*

Election of Bureau

Chair: Gabriele Eschig

The global strategy for a representative World Heritage List for the European Region – *Mechtild Rössler* (UNESCO World Heritage Center) - Duration approx.**20 minutes** , followed by questions

IUCN-Parks for Life Action Plan : Programs and implementation
Andrej Sovinc (IUCN Parks for Life European Coordinator) - Duration approx.**20 minutes**, possibility of raising questions

The Alpine Convention : Perspectives for Alpine Protection Areas
Andreas Weissen (CIPRA International, President) – Duration
approx. **20 minutes**, possibility of raising questions

8 p.m. Reception offered by the Government of Upper Austria

Tuesday, June 20th,

9 a.m. Chair: Harald Plachter
Presentation of the identification study „Potential Natural World Heritage Sites
in Europe“ : *M.Rössler* (UNESCO World Heritage Center) – Duration
approx. **10 minutes**, possibility of raising questions

Presentation of existing Central European natural sites and cultural landscapes
inscribed on the World Heritage List : Experiences and Perspectives :

- ◆ Skocjan Caves and Park (Slovenia) : *Albin Debevec* (Director of Skocjanske Jame – Park)
- ◆ Hallstatt-Dachstein-Salzkammergut (Austria) : *Hubert Trimmel* (Umweltdachverband ÖGNUM/CIPRA Austria)
- ◆ Karst and National Park of Aggtelek (Hungary/Slovakia) – An example for transfrontier cooperation : *Katarina Nováková* (Director, Center of Preservation of Cultural Landscape and Natural Heritage).

The written presentation was summarized by Harald Plachter

- La Vanoise (France) *Emmanuel de Guillebon*

Duration : approx. **10 minutes each**, possibility of raising questions

A Global Overview of Mountain World Heritage Sites with suggestions on Prospects
for the Alps: *Jim Thorsell* (IUCN/WCPA) – Duration
approx. **20 minutes**, possibility of raising questions

12 – 1.30 p.m.

Lunch offered by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

Chair: Emmanuel de Guillebon

1.30 p.m. European High Mountain Areas : recent focus for the World Heritage Convention : *Harald Plachter*, Germany – **20 minutes**

Presentations by representatives from States Parties and/or competent organizations in the Alps :

- ◆ National Parc Mercantour (France) : *Gilles Landrieu*
- ◆ Cultural Value of the ‘Arc Alpin’ (Turin, Italy) : *Pasquale Bruno Malara*
- ◆ Jungfrau-, Aletsch-, Bietschhorngebiet (Switzerland) : *Meinrad Küttel* (Head of Section „Protected Areas“, Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape)
- ◆ Hohe Tauern – National Park (Austria) : *Harald Kremser* (Chairman, Council for National Park Hohe Tauern)
- ◆ Carnic Alps Geopark (Austria) : *Hans-Peter Schönlaub* (Geological Survey of Austria)
- ◆ Karwendel Alpine Park : *Otto Leiner* (Province of Tyrol, Department for the Protection of Nature)

- ◆ Triglav National Park, incl.Fucinarske planine(Slovenia) : *Janez Bizjak*, (Director ,Triglav National Park)
 - ◆ Mont Blanc (France/Switzerland) : *Ms.Barbara Ehringhaus* (Comité International des Associations pour la Protection du Mont Blanc)
- Duration approx. **10 minutes each** , possibility of raising questions

7 p.m. Dinner offered by the Austrian Commission for UNESCO

Wednesday, June 21st

9 a.m. Working session

- ◆ Working Group I (*Chair: A.Weissen*)
 - *Transboundary sites, cooperation
 - *Tentative lists: a common tentative list for the Alps
 - *Serial nominations
 - *Series of ecosystems
 - *Management plans
 - *Legal Protection/ framework
- ◆ Working Group II (*Chair: E. Ruoss*)
 - a) Participation of local people in management and planning
 - b) Economic development and tourism infrastructure
 - c) Nature/culture interaction
natural/ cultural landscape
cultural heritage and traditions in the Alps ('transhumance')
 - d) Site and pufferzone

12 – 1.30 p.m.
Lunch break

1.30 p.m. Continuation of Working groups

5 p.m. *Chair: Gabriele Eschig*
Presentation of results
Adoption of the Recommendations
Closure of the conference

Thursday, June 22nd

Half-day trip (optional) :

- ◆ Salt Mine Hallstatt or
 - ◆ Koppenbrüller Cave
- (Celebrations of Corpus Christi – procession on Lake Hallstatt)

Departure

ANNEX II

List of participants / Liste des participants

“Potential Natural World Heritage Sites in the Alps”

18-22 June 2000
Hallstatt/Salzkammergut, Austria
Kultur- und Kongresshaus

A. ALPINE STATES / ETATS ALPINS

Host country : AUSTRIA / Pays hôte : AUTRICHE

Delegates:

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Delegates:

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ANNEX III

Extract (articles 10 and 11) of the Protocol "Protection de la nature et entretien des paysages" (du 20 Décembre 1994) of the Alpine Convention

Article 10 Protection de base

(1) Les Parties contractantes s'efforcent, dans l'ensemble de l'espace alpin, en tenant compte des intérêts de la population résidente, de réduire les contraintes et détériorations subies par la nature et les paysages. Elles font en sorte que toute utilisation ayant un effet sur l'espace, ménage la nature et les paysages. Elles prennent en outre toute mesure appropriée à la conservation et, si besoin est, à la restauration d'éléments caractéristiques des paysages naturels et semi-naturels, de biotopes, d'écosystèmes et de paysages ruraux traditionnels.

(2) Etant donné que l'agriculture et la sylviculture jouent un rôle décisif dans la réalisation de mesures de protection de la nature et d'entretien des paysages, la protection, la conservation et la gestion de biotopes semi-naturels méritant d'être protégés sont à assurer partout où cela convient, sur la base d'accords conclus avec les propriétaires ou exploitants en vue d'un mode d'exploitation approprié. Dans ce but les instruments d'encouragement conformes aux règles du marché, telles les incitations économiques ou les compensations, sont particulièrement adaptés.

(3) A titre de complément des moyens accordés à la protection de la nature, les mesures de promotion et de soutien pour l'agriculture et la sylviculture ainsi que pour d'autres utilisations de l'espace sont à engager de manière renforcée, afin d'atteindre ces objectifs.

Article 11 Aires protégées

(1) Les Parties contractantes s'engagent à conserver, à gérer, et, le cas échéant, à agrandir les aires protégées existantes dans le but pour lequel elles ont été créées, ainsi qu'à désigner, dans la mesure du possible, de nouvelles aires protégées. Elles prennent toute mesure appropriée pour éviter la détérioration ou la destruction de ces aires protégées.

(2) Elles s'attachent, de plus, à promouvoir la création et la gestion de parcs nationaux.

(3) Elles encouragent la création d'autres zones protégées et de zones non aménageables, garantissant la priorité aux espèces de faune et de flore sauvages. Elles oeuvrent afin de garantir dans ces zones l'absence de nuisances susceptibles de gêner le libre déroulement des processus écologiques caractéristiques de ces espèces, et réduisent ou interdisent toute forme d'utilisation non compatible avec le déroulement des processus écologiques dans ces zones.

(4) Les parties contractantes examinent dans quelle mesure seront rémunérées, conformément au droit national, les prestations particulières fournies par la population résidente.

ANNEX IV

Map of Alpine Network of Protected Areas (1995, updated: 2000)

