

COMMON STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2014-2020 & BIODIVERSITY

green  lps



SUMMARY REPORT OF THE ETC ASP
GREENALPS PROJECT



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INTRODUCTION AND FRAMEWORK

As part of the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) greenAlps project within the Alpine Space ('call 5 capitalization project'), activity 5.1.3, we analysed how EU financing instruments in the Common Strategic Framework¹ (CSF) could help to fund EU biodiversity and nature conservation goals. The assumption behind this is that EU cohesion funds in particular, namely the European Fund for Regional Development (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the Cohesion Fund (CF), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), can substantially contribute towards financing biodiversity goals by mainstreaming them within major EU structural funds. The Common Strategic Framework provides guidance and helps to harmonise the objectives that should be achieved by the various EU cohesion policy funds.

A particular role can be played by those ETC programmes that are financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and are therefore also subject to the CSF. ETC projects can be seen as specific instruments for organising cooperation between regions and countries and dealing with the strategic aspects of such cooperation. The goal is to improve the knowledge base, share tools, harmonise procedures and develop a common understanding of what is at stake in a given subject field. Around 2.5% of total ERDF funding is allocated to transnational cooperation. Normally there is no funding for concrete implementation measures such as the construction of ecological infrastructures, but the strategic orientation of ETC programmes allows for investment plans to be influenced. The investments themselves may then be financed through other funds (e.g. Interreg A, or EU structural funds for countries where EU Structural Fund Objective 1 (to promote the development and structural adjustment of regions whose development is lagging behind) and EU Structural Fund Objective 2 (to support the economic and social conversion of areas experiencing structural difficulties) apply.

Within the operational programmes of EU structural funds, the priority for thematic funding has been largely focussed on sectoral policies in various Alpine countries. This sectoral approach has been questioned by analyses undertaken within the ASP project ECONNECT² (2008-2011) dealing with ecological connectivity in and for the Alps, since the success of nature and biodiversity protection is closely linked to the strategies and actions of other relevant sectors (e.g. transport, agriculture, forestry, energy and infrastructure).

An investigation into the sectoral approaches of the Alpine Space Programme 2014-2020 will be needed in order to identify attractive starting points for linking to biodiversity protection and/or obligations to prevent further damage to the natural capital of the Alps.

1 COM (2012) 496: financial instruments covered by the Common Strategic Framework include the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the Cohesion Fund (CF), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

2 For more information on project results: www.econnectproject.eu

Within the context of the present report, the vision of the ETC ECONNECT project (2008-2011) remains valid, namely that:

.....
“Larger tracts of interconnected and permeable landscapes in undisturbed and human-dominated landscapes maintain more biodiversity than fragmented landscapes, which enables regeneration and renewal to occur after ecological disruption. ...”
.....

*“Functioning ecological processes are the foundation for the adequate provision of ecosystem services. This implies that:
Active adaptive management and governance of resilience must not be limited to individual elements of an ecological network (corridors, core zones), but must necessarily be applied to the entire territory (matrix) and across all sectors of society, while enabling non-exclusive, multi-functional spaces for sustainable economic and recreational activities in the Alpine communities.”⁵*
.....

For this reason, it is essential to mainstream biodiversity conservation efforts and activities in sectors other than nature conservation. This particularly applies to those sectors dealing with economic activity and spatial development.

Desk-based research into existing biodiversity and ecological connectivity policies, strategies and documents highlighted the 2013 position paper of the European Network of Environmental and Managing Authorities (ENEA) – Working Group on 2014-2020 Cohesion Policy & Biodiversity: 'Integration of biodiversity and Natura 2000 in partnership agreements and operational programmes 2014-2020'. (see ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/pdf/ENEA%20BiodivFINAL%2002042013.pdf)

The position paper largely covers the main objective of activity 5.1.3 and is therefore used as a basic source of information for this report.

In order to respond to the basic assumption formulated above, this report consists of a two-step approach:

- firstly, a summary of the ENEA position paper
- secondly, comments on specific aspects relating to the Alps.

STEP 1

SUMMARY OF THE ENEA POSITION PAPER

The ENEA position paper provides an analysis of the integration of biodiversity topics into cohesion policy programming (ERDF, CF and ESF). In particular, it covers public administrations that are involved in the programming activities of EU funding schemes by preparing partnership agreements or operational programmes. The authors of the ENEA paper describe their motivation as follows:

- to promote biodiversity in an optimum manner
- to improve the mainstreaming of biodiversity within the cohesion policy
- to elaborate proposals for integrating biodiversity into different thematic objectives within different EU funds.

As a result of its work, the ENEA-MA working group formulated eight key statements on how best to integrate biodiversity funding into the 2014-2020 programming frameworks, which will be explained in this report.

The timing of the position paper has been well adapted to the programming processes of the various EU funding schemes for the 2014-2020 programming period. For territorial cooperation within the Alpine Space, the process of developing the Operational Programme (OP, now known as the Cooperation Programme) will soon be finished. The Operational Programme is due to be submitted to the EU-COM by summer 2014.

EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020 and its investment-related targets

The aim of EU cohesion policy is to remove any disparities in economic and social development that may exist between different Member States. This goal is to be reached by providing the EU structural and investment funding to less developed regions in order to promote the social, regional and economic development of those areas. The cohesion policy has therefore become an essential instrument in the European transition and integration process. The adoption of structural fund regulations has paved the way for allocating around € 351.8 billion⁴ for investment in the EU's poor regions via various structural fund instruments. Priority is given to funding projects involving research and development, innovation, energy efficiency and renewable energies, SME support, poverty reduction, the fight against unemployment and job creation.

At an EU level, it is widely recognised that investing in biodiversity, nature and ecosystem services is no luxury, but is crucial for much employment within the EU-27, with one sixth of jobs being linked to the environment.⁵ Many enterprises are involved in so-called green responsibility actions, addressing and attracting highly-qualified green jobs. They can be seen as economic drivers and major pillars for innovation within the EU-27.

Funding for biodiversity has been programmable in the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF), Cohesion Fund (CF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). The EU Cohesion Policy's thematic objective number six includes the support of biodiversity and is therefore the best way of securing investments via operational programmes.

4 ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/what/future/index_en.cfm - 2014-08-01

5 The EU biodiversity objectives and the labour market (2012) in ENEA position paper (2013)

The EU2020 Biodiversity Strategy is considered an important part of the 'Europe 2020 Strategy for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth', in particular as part of the Resource Efficiency Flagship Initiative. Implementing the EU Biodiversity Strategy is possible in many different fields of EU cohesion policy through the use of different structural funds. There are important links to economic sectors over and above nature protection, for example the innovation sector, sustainable regional development, social inclusion and health care.

Taking a closer look at the EU Biodiversity Strategy shows that many of its six targets and 20 actions have links with investment-related activities that benefit from EU structural funding⁶. National objectives and strategic documents for 2014-2020 should be closely examined in order to ensure maximum synergy with the objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy.

Generally speaking, two different approaches are foreseen by the EU-COM: the first approach is to directly support conservation measures in European protected areas (Natura 2000 network), which corresponds to target 1 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy "To safeguard the EU's most important habitats and species".

The second approach provides the option of organising protection beyond protected areas by combining biodiversity protection with other objectives such as mitigation of climate change, flood protection and the provision of ecosystem services. The second approach corresponds to targets 2, 3 and 5 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy:

- **Target 2** "To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider EU countryside"
- **Target 4** "To reinforce the compatibility of regional and territorial development with biodiversity in the EU"
- **Target 5** "To substantially reduce the impact on EU biodiversity of invasive alien species".

For both approaches the general objective applying to all EU policies remains valid, namely that expressed in target 10 "To substantially strengthen the knowledge base".

The following examples from the 2007-2013 funding period illustrate the options that exist within the EU Biodiversity Strategy:

- **Target 1** Improving the conservation status of species and habitats (completing the establishment of the Natura 2000 network; adequate financing, elaborating management plans; providing specific training programmes)
- **Target 2** Maintenance and enhancement of ecosystems and their services with a specific commitment to establish green infrastructure and restore 15% of degraded ecosystems. The following aspects are of particular importance in relation to other EU funding mechanisms:
 - › restoration priorities in the EU by 2014;
 - › green infrastructure strategy/projects and maintenance of ecosystem services through better use of targeted funding
 - › funding for the 'no net loss initiative' and developing a methodology for 'biodiversity proofing' (of projects, plans and programmes) by the Commission
- **Target 3** Integration of biodiversity goals into agriculture and forestry
 - › maximising the share of agricultural and forestry land that is covered by biodiversity-related measures in the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), enhancing direct payments for environmental public goods in CAP;
 - › improved targeting of rural development for biodiversity protection including the targets of rural development strategies and programmes
- **Target 4** Sustainable use of fisheries resources and good environmental status of marine waters
- **Target 5** Control invasive alien species and their pathways.

⁶ For more details on goals and related actions: biodiversity.europa.eu/policy/biodiversity-strategy-plan - 2014-08-01

Why invest in biodiversity and ecosystem services?

According to the ENEA position paper, biodiversity protection and the provision of ecosystem services is considered to extend far beyond nature protection. For example, investments in this field create spin-offs in socio-economic areas, e.g. regional (sustainable) tourism. These benefits support the EU-2020 strategy on jobs and growth, the innovation strategy as well as the territorial agenda. Examples of these economic cascades include job creation in green areas; supporting rural development including local economies; promoting the attractiveness of a region; promoting sustainable tourism and new innovative approaches towards cooperation between actors. It includes strategies for business responsibilities in environmental and sustainability-related areas and placing obligations on enterprises and their ecological footprints.

The EU recognises the importance of biodiversity as one of the main sources of human welfare and has formulated the following vision on biodiversity policy and status for 2050:

“By 2050, European Union biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides – its natural capital – are protected, valued and appropriately restored for biodiversity’s intrinsic value and for their essential contribution to human well-being and economic prosperity, and so that catastrophic changes caused by the loss of biodiversity are avoided.”

(European Commission – European Environment Agency (2014): Biodiversity Policy.

Online publications: biodiversity.europa.eu/policy)

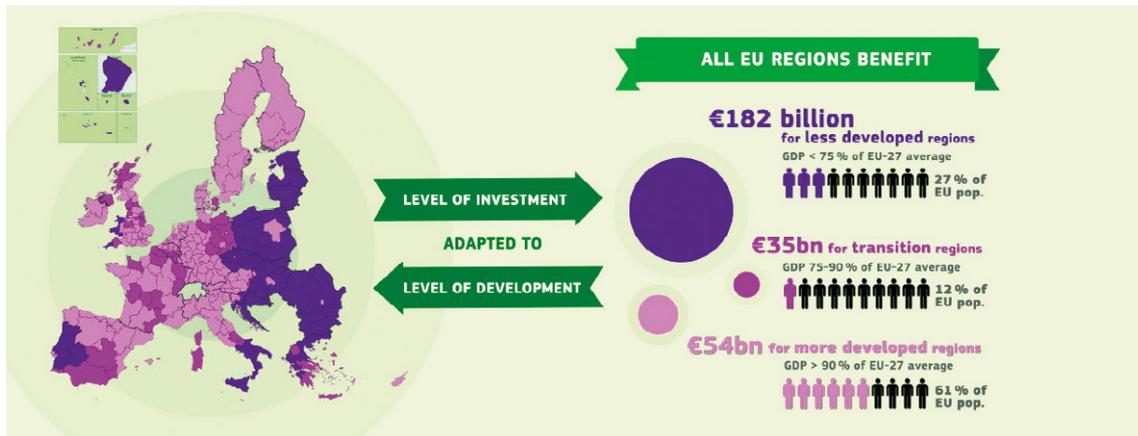
The 2014-2020 financing framework for biodiversity and Natura 2000

Beyond structural funds, existing financing opportunities for biodiversity are still available, e.g. the new LIFE programme for the management of the Natura 2000 network and European biodiversity as a whole. Other options, developed a priori for supporting the Europe 2020 Strategy for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth, include the funding schemes of the 'Horizon 2020' programme covering both European research and economic activities, which can be closely linked there. However, the LIFE programme will remain the main funding programme and pillar for biodiversity topics. The thematic area of “biodiversity and nature” within the sub-programme covering the environment will be used to finance environmental and nature conservation topics with actions/best practices to “halt biodiversity loss and restore ecosystem services”.

A big gap nevertheless remains in the integration of biodiversity topics as mandatory elements in the EU’s main structural fund investment programmes. This integration takes place e.g. in line with national strategies such as the Prioritised Action Frameworks (PAF) based on Article 8 of the Habitat Directive. PAFs are intended to provide information on how best to implement Natura 2000 national goals and investments in all EU countries. They should be used to harmonise the goals for cross-border protected areas (Natura 2000), but could also be used indirectly to better coordinate complementary nature conservation strategies (e.g. at a national or regional level).

EC legislative proposals under the CSF provide a wide range of instruments for supporting the funding of biodiversity protection in all EU member states (and regions). Some of these instruments directly support protection measures whereas others have an indirect impact, e.g. by supporting the provision of ecosystem services. It is also stated that “in more developed regions⁷ and transition regions⁸ the amount available for biodiversity investments is likely to be significantly less than in less developed regions⁹.” Figure 1, which is extracted and adapted from an infographic poster on the reformed EU Cohesion Policy, shows how structural funding will be distributed among EU regions in the funding period 2014-2020.

Figure 1 - Overview of EU structural funds regions 2014-2020



Source: Adapted from EC Regional Policy - Cohesion policy 2014-2020: “A reformed Cohesion Policy for Europe” (extracts) ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/what/future/index_en.cfm

It should be emphasised, however, that most financing opportunities do not include mandatory biodiversity targets. In most cases there is even a competition for funds between other thematic areas of investment and biodiversity protection (e.g. flood protection and transport).

The ENEA report underlines that, for developed regions, there is a strong thematic focus and mainstreaming of ERDF funds on small and medium enterprises (SMEs), energy and innovation (thematic objective 5). Synergies between thematic objectives in operational programmes have been carved out and need to be integrated in order to support the financial investment opportunities for biodiversity. This particularly relates to developed regions, where “the ring-fencing of the majority (80%) of ERDF allocations to energy, SME development and innovation risks limiting the support available for biodiversity investments.”¹⁰ There is only one ‘transition region’ (see Figure 1) in the Alpine area (Franche-Comté), which will have greater access to structural funds and thus could invest more into biodiversity conservation, if it chooses to.

The position paper explicitly stresses the role of the Managing Authorities [of EU programmes, e.g. the Alpine Space as a territorial cooperation zone]. For example, they are in a position to call for the effective tracking of funds supporting natural capital and protection within operational programmes. And they can issue calls for projects that specifically focus on biodiversity issues.

Tables 1 and 2 on the following pages give an overview of the funding options that the CSF provides for biodiversity topics.

7 156 regions where GDP per capita is above 90% of the EU-27 average
 8 51 regions where GDP per capita is between 75% and 90% of the EU-27 average
 9 64 regions where GDP per capita is less than 75% of the EU-27 average
 10 (2013) ENEA position paper, p.03

Table 1 - Biodiversity funding opportunities within ERDF 2014-2020

Overview of opportunities for the funding of biodiversity-related interventions by ERDF

Thematic Objectives	Investment Priorities (relevance)	Possible activities promoting biodiversity
ERDF		
1 Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	(a) enhancing research and innovation infrastructure (R&I) and capacities to develop R&I excellence and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest (indirect)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ developing the infrastructure background of biodiversity and climate research; ▪ developing innovation activities related to biodiversity (bio-indication); ▪ developing concepts and solutions for Green Infrastructure linked to eco-innovation;
2 Enhancing access to and use and quality of ICT	(c) strengthening ICT applications for e-government, e-learning, einclusion and e-health (indirect)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ developing the ICT background for e-government applications in the management of Natura 2000 sites and protected areas; ▪ developing ICT applications for promoting training opportunities and capacity building for planning and implementing green infrastructure solutions ; ▪ developing e-tools for linking health benefits and inclusion to biodiversity solutions;
3 Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs	(a) promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms (indirect)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ developing biodiversity related businesses (e.g. developing sustainable tourism products); ▪ promoting the competitiveness of SMEs for Green Infrastructure solutions in local and regional markets;
5 Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management	(a) dedicated investments for adaptation to climate change (indirect)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ developing green infrastructure to ensure local/regional adaptation to climate change
	(b) promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems (indirect)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ecosystem based solutions to flood protection (e.g. re-opening/restoring floodplains, improving water-retention of landscapes and urban areas), forest fires, landslides, etc.

ERDF

<p>6</p> <p>Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency</p>	<p>(b) addressing the significant needs for investment in the water sector to meet the requirements of the environmental acquis (indirect)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> investments to improve water quality and to ensure the good ecological status of surface waters ecosystem-based solutions for waste water treatment, mitigating droughts and preserving the drinking water table;
	<p>(c) protecting, promoting and developing cultural and natural heritage (indirect)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> infrastructure developments to ensure the protection of natural values of cultural significance (e.g. historical gardens, earth fortifications, improvement of green urban areas etc.); investment in visitors' infrastructure;
	<p>(d) protecting biodiversity, soil protection and promoting ecosystem services including NATURA 2000 and green infrastructures (direct)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> site restoration and on-site management interventions; management planning; control of invasive species; reducing impacts of fragmentation and damages of linear structures, creating and maintaining ecological corridors as part of green infrastructures; public awareness on Natura 2000; land purchase; monitoring Natura 2000 sites; investment in ex-situ conservation infrastructure; procurement of management machinery and equipment; administration infrastructure;
	<p>(e) action to improve the urban environment, including regeneration of brownfield sites and reduction of air pollution (indirect)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> planning, developing, implementing and monitoring elements of green infrastructure; in urban and peri-urban areas;
<p>10</p> <p>Investing in education, skills and lifelong learning by developing education and training infrastructure</p>	<p>NA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> developing nature education infrastructure; developing training kits and capacities for green infrastructure solutions;

Table 2 - Biodiversity funding opportunities within CF and ESF 2014-2020

Overview of opportunities for the funding of biodiversity-related interventions by CF and ESF

Thematic Objectives	Investment Priorities (relevance)	Possible activities promoting biodiversity
CF		
5 Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management by	(a) dedicated investments for adaptation to climate change (indirect)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> developing green infrastructure to ensure local/regional adaptation to climate change;
	(b) promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems (indirect)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ecosystem based solutions to flood protection (e.g. re-opening/restoring floodplains, improving water-retention of landscapes and urban areas), forest fires, landslides, etc.;
6 Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	(c) protecting and restoring biodiversity, including through green infrastructures (direct)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> site restoration and on-site management interventions; investments to control of invasive or non-native species; investments to reduce the impacts of fragmentation and damages of linear structures, creating ecological corridors (green infrastructure); land purchase; investment in ex-situ conservation infrastructure; procurement of management machinery and equipment; administration infrastructure;
ESF		
8 Promoting employment and supporting labour mobility through	(a) Access to employment for jobseekers and inactive people, including local employment initiatives and support for labour mobility (indirect)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> support to local employment initiatives related to natural values; promote green infrastructure solutions in disfavoured areas and maximising low and high skilled job creation for planning, implementing and monitoring green infrastructure
	(c) Self-employment, entrepreneurship and business creation (indirect)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> developing small-scale businesses based on local natural values and on restoration opportunities;
11 Enhancing institutional capacity and efficient public administration	(a) Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance (indirect)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> developing the institutional capacity of public nature conservation and management bodies; develop institutional capacity for integrated spatial planning, long-term and sector-overarching management of green infrastructure; develop institutional capacity for better involvement of general public in integrated projects.

Table 3 - Biodiversity funding opportunities within EAFRD

Overview of opportunities for the funding of biodiversity-related interventions by EAFRD

EAFRD measures	Relevance	Possible contribution
CF		
Investments in physical assets (art.18)	direct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> non-productive investments linked to the achievement of agriand forest-environment commitments, biodiversity conservation status of species and habitats as well as enhancing the public amenity value of a Natura 2000 area or other high nature value area;
Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art. 21)	direct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> drawing up and updating of protection and management plans relating to NATURA 2000 sites and other areas of high nature value; investing in green infrastructure solutions in rural areas (e.g. with eco-system based solutions for water treatment, landscape rehabilitation or village renewal);
Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art. 22)	indirect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> improving forest habitats and supporting the conservation of forest biodiversity;
Afforestation and creation of woodland (art. 23 /art. 22,1a)	indirect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> increasing landscape diversity, contribution to green infrastructure, supporting of forest biodiversity (may be negative when done on high nature value farmland or grasslands);
Establishment of agro-forestry systems (art.24/art. 22,1b))	indirect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> increasing landscape diversity, contribution to green infrastructure, supporting of forest biodiversity (may be negative when done on high nature value farmland or grasslands);
Improving the resilience and environmental value of forests (art. 26/art. 22,1d))	direct/ indirect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> improving forest habitats and supporting the conservation of forest biodiversity; reducing fragmentation of forests;
Agri-environmental and climate payments (art. 29)	direct/ indirect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> application of biodiversity-friendly farming practices application of environmentally friendly farming practices reducing pressure on biodiversity;
Organic farming (art. 30)	indirect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> reducing pressure on biodiversity originating from intensive agriculture;
Natura 2000 and WFD payments (art. 31)	direct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> application of farming methods supporting on-site Natura 2000 objectives; application of coherence actions according to Art. 10 HD;
Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints (art. 32)	indirect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> application of biodiversity-friendly farming methods on areas subject to special nature conservation conditions;
Forest-environmental payments and payments for climate services and forest conservation (art.35)	direct/ indirect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> application of biodiversity-friendly forest management practices.

STEP 2

CONCLUSIONS ON UNDERTAKING BIODIVERSITY-RELATED PROJECTS IN THE ALPINE SPACE PROGRAMME IN 2014-2020

To sum up the previous chapters and discussions of the transnational work carried out by the greenAlps project, we have formulated some recommendations on how to obtain substantial funding for biodiversity topics in the Alps.



According to the classification of the EU Structural and Investment Funds Regulations¹¹, all Alpine regions belong to the 'developed regions' except one (Franche-Comté, which is a 'transition region'). This means that access to structural and investment funding is more difficult than in less developed regions and requires integrated project approaches and cooperation with other relevant sectors in order to achieve positive effects for biodiversity protection. It will therefore become increasingly important for regions and institutions (in their capacity as potential beneficiaries) to be aware of the need for cooperation, exchange and joint efforts.

It will be useful to initiate a more intensive dialogue with investment-related sectors (e.g. settlement development, tourism, energy and transport) in order to raise their awareness of the need for biodiversity.

There is a direct link to spatial planning and the development of human settlements, in view of the demographic trends in the Alps and in Europe as a whole. It is very important to prepare strategies for systematically incorporating biodiversity and nature conservation within spatial planning and settlement development.

Tourism is one of the main sources of income for many Alpine regions and at the same time is one of the main investors in the Alps. It depends heavily on beautiful landscapes – the interconnections between nature/biodiversity protection and the availability of beautiful landscapes should be made very clear and new fields of cooperation sought.

Biodiversity conservation has to be implemented on the ground – therefore it is essential to factor in sufficient manpower to provide strategic results at a grass-roots level, specifically tailored to suit regional conditions. This refers to both the administrative and investment-related elements of conservation and protection measures.

The needs of nature and biodiversity protection are very often not clear to the wider public – awareness and understanding must be raised. Staffing and funding are therefore needed to 'translate' these needs in order to convince people. The model role of the Alps and the European Union as a trendsetter in global sustainability may help to develop new ideas and concepts and establish cornerstones in this respect.

Investment priorities must not as a rule take precedence over nature conservation and biodiversity priorities, given the intrinsic value of biodiversity and the extreme vulnerability of Alpine landscapes.

11 To be found at ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/information/legislation/index_en.cfm

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greenAlps – connecting mountains, people, nature

The greenAlps project has screened EU biodiversity policies and results from other EU projects and assessed their relevance for current and future nature conservation strategies in the Alpine Space. It has drawn on this analysis and experiences gathered from local stakeholders in pilot areas to reveal opportunities for, and also obstacles to, an effective strategy for the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources in the Alpine Space. The project ran from September 2013 to November 2014. It was co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund in the frame of the European Territorial Cooperation Programme Alpine Space.

This publication recommends ways of channelling funding into biodiversity conservation in the Alps within the EU Common Strategic Framework 2014-2020. Together with other project publications, it can be downloaded from

www.greenalps-project.eu

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connecting mountains people nature



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