

Dear colleagues and partners,

We are very glad to welcome you to the first transalpine Symposium of research in protected areas and the third Symposium organised about Research in the Hohe Tauern National Park. It was a wish from numerous protected areas managers to have an intensive exchange about research in the natural and protected areas of the Alps. That's why we are very satisfied to have a competent and well experienced partner for the organisation of this event with the Hohe Tauern National Park. The Symposium is part of ALPENCOM, a communication and exchange project between alpine protected areas and for public information within the INTERREG III B Alpine Space Programme.

It is the first time that this transboundary cooperation in research of and in mountain protected areas is organised as well with the contribution of numerous international experts. We hope that the Symposium will increase the awareness of the importance of internationally harmonised research programmes. The establishment of a basement for the use of common tools and methods as well as the comparison of the results of the research activities of our parks and protected areas is one of the goals of this event. We hope to create a larger transparency of the ongoing and planned research activities and to give a large overview about research and management activities in the protected areas. The cooperation of the alpine protected areas in scientific fields will be as well a very important contribution to the Alpine Convention which is defining in the Nature Protection Protocol some research priorities for the protected areas.

We wish a very pleasant, interesting and future orientated exchange and constructive discussions to all the participants of the Symposium.

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Director

Alpine Network of Protected Areas

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