ALPTREES

Providing tools for the sustainable use and management of non-native tree species in the alpine space

- AS priority area: Environment and Risk Prevention
- Duration: 2019-10-01 - 2022-06-30
- Project webpage

Project partners

- **Lead partner:** Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape, Austria (BfW)**Contact person:** Katharina Lapin E-Mail
- Municipial authorities of the provincial capital Klagenfurt on Lake Wörth
- International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis
- Forest Research Institute Baden-Wuerttemberg (FVA)
- National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment (INRAE)
- Centre For Studies and Expertise on Risks, Environment, Mobility, Urban and Country Planning

- Slovenian Forestry institute
- Municipality of Maribor
- Development Agency Sora
- LAMORO Development Agency
- Edmund Mach Foundation
- Municipality of Trento

Project summary

The expected benefits and potential risks of non-native trees (NNT) to European geographic regions have polarised the opinions of experts and citizens. Benefits include adaptation to climate change (CC), contributions to bioeconomy, urban&peri-urban green infrastructure and mitigation of natural hazards by NNT, while risks involve NNT invasiveness and effects on native biodiversity. In critical and vulnerable ecosystems such as the Alpine Space (AS), such risks and benefits must be carefully considered before management decisions are made. Experiences in the management of NNT in urban areas, peri-urban, rural terreories and forests are often country-/city-specific and thus rarely shared. Given the challenges in NNT management with respect to both benefits and risks, a transnational approach is needed to qualify the role of NNT in future AS ecosystems. The objective is to provide a transnational strategy for a Decision Support System on responsible use and management of NNT in the AS. The project fits within the context of national and regional site-derived policy aiming to protect & enhance biodiversity to ensure ecological connectivity and cultural resources while maintaining a high level of resilience and ecosystem services (ES) across AS. Implementations include:developing a comprehensive database on NNT; predicting the current and potential

distribution of NNT in AS under CC scenarios; determining their invasive potential; analysing the different ES provided by NNT to assess the tradeoffs between risks and benefits. ALPTREES will formulate management recommendations for NNT under different climate and economic scenarios through stakeholder meetings, policy briefs, a handbook of lessons learned and transnational pilot actions for best management practices. An innovative output of the project is the Open ALPTREES Knowledge Hub, that will support the transnational and interdisciplinary knowledge transfer.

Keywords

- non-native tree species
- biodiversity
- knowledge transfer

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Last update: **2020/11/13 15:10**