



## **ALPINE CONVENTION**

**Press Conference 17th June 2009**

Second contribution to the Report on the State of the Alps

### **“Water and water management issues”**

Challenges and way for the future

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**President of the ad-hoc Expert Group**



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# Genesis

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- **IXth Alpine Conference, Alpbach (November 2006)**

"Water" was chosen as the theme for the second contribution to the RSA; Co-Presidency Austria-Germany

- Almost **two years of intensive work** from the Expert Group with the involvement of observer organisations

- **Munich Water Conference (October 2008)**

Presentation and broad discussion about the provisional results with the involvement of NGOs, scientists and stakeholders. Results of the discussion were then incorporated

- **Xth Alpine Conference, Evian – Report finalised (2 Versions)**

- Full version in English – approx. 240 pages
- Short versions translated in all languages of the Alpine Convention
- Extensive map materials and case studies



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# Report Contents

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- **Extensive depiction of the state of waters** in the Alps with a general description of the conditions, current activities and consequences, and processing of social and economical aspects
- **Protection from natural hazards**
- **Climate change+consequences on the water regime**
- **Existing rules in the water sector**
- **Challenges for the future, recommendations**



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# The principal challenges

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On the basis of **national contributions** and case studies from the Alpine States and in the course of the **discussions in Munich**, the **principal challenges** for water management in the Alpine space were identified .

**More particularly, these are:**

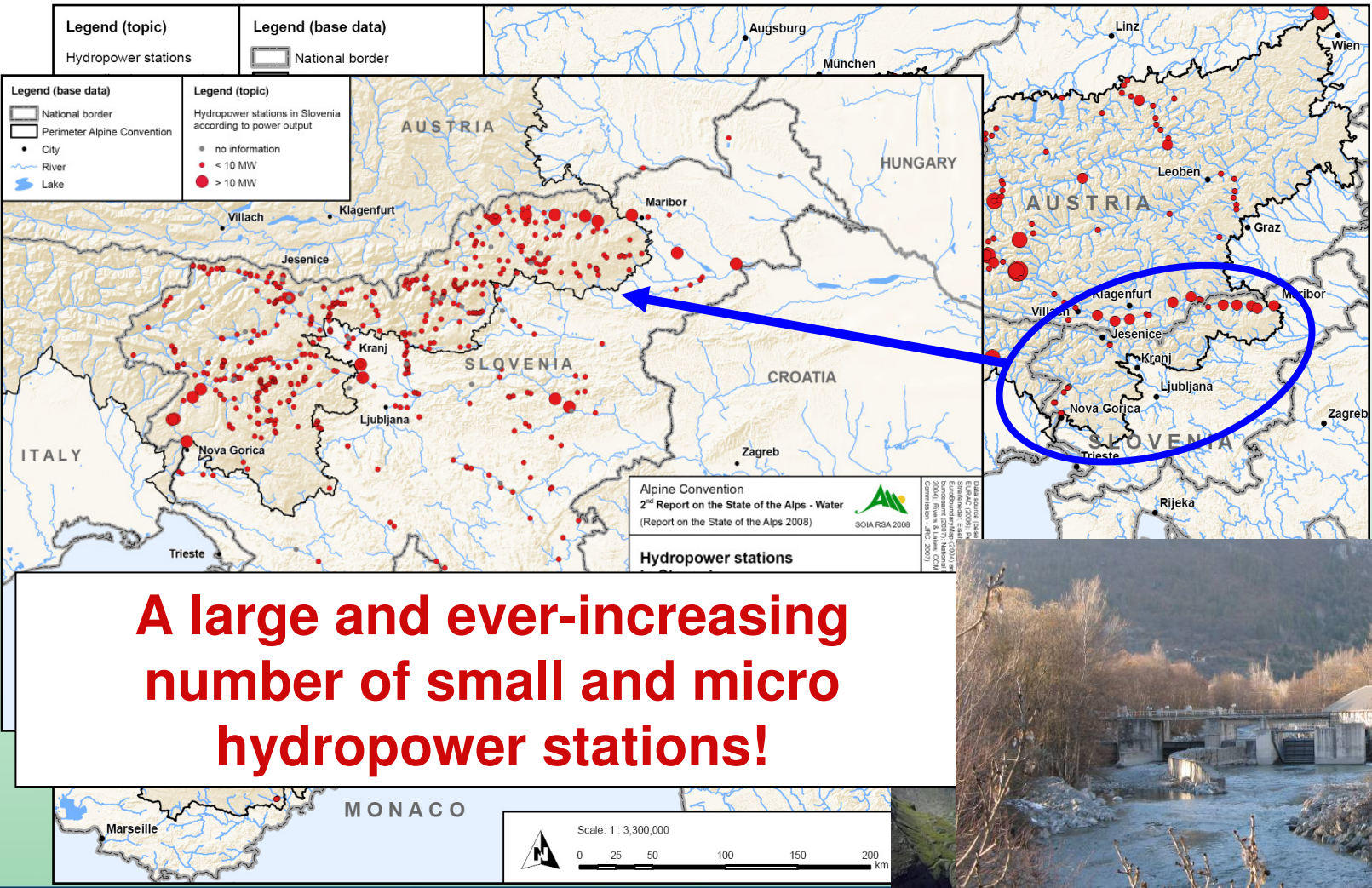
- Impairment of the streams through the exploitation for water power and flood control
- Adaptation to climate change



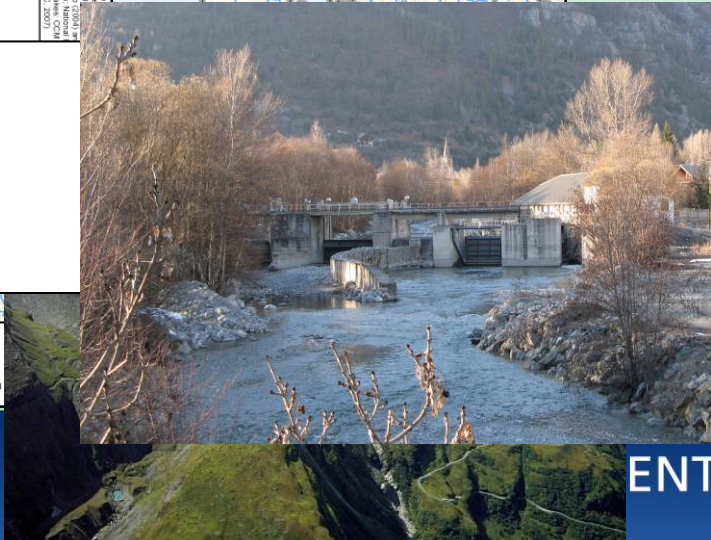
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# Exploitation for water power



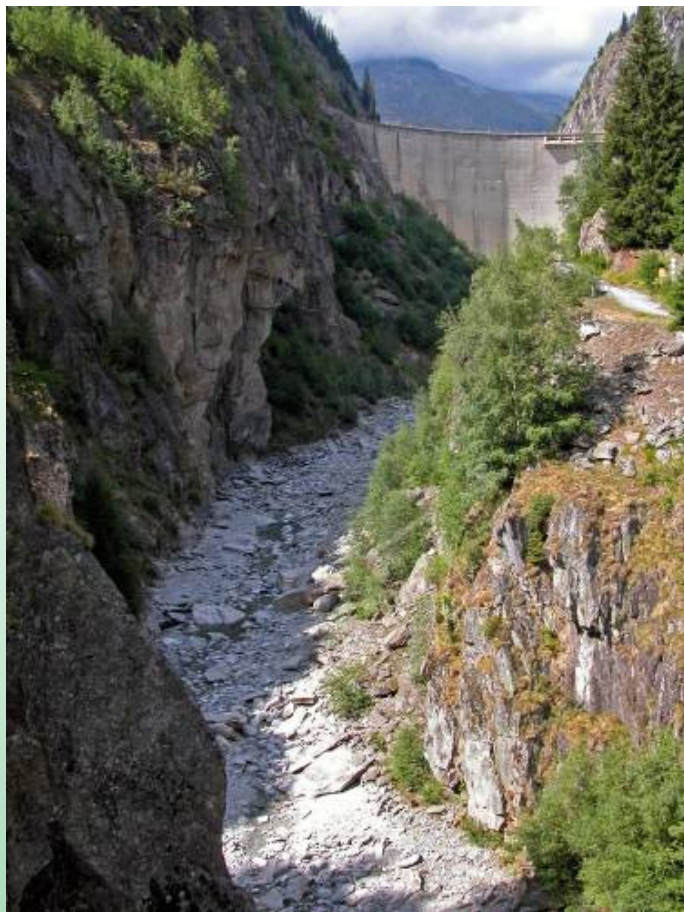
**A large and ever-increasing number of small and micro hydropower stations!**



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# Consequences on streams



Water for the ecosystem?



Surge and low-water phase resulting from peak power generation

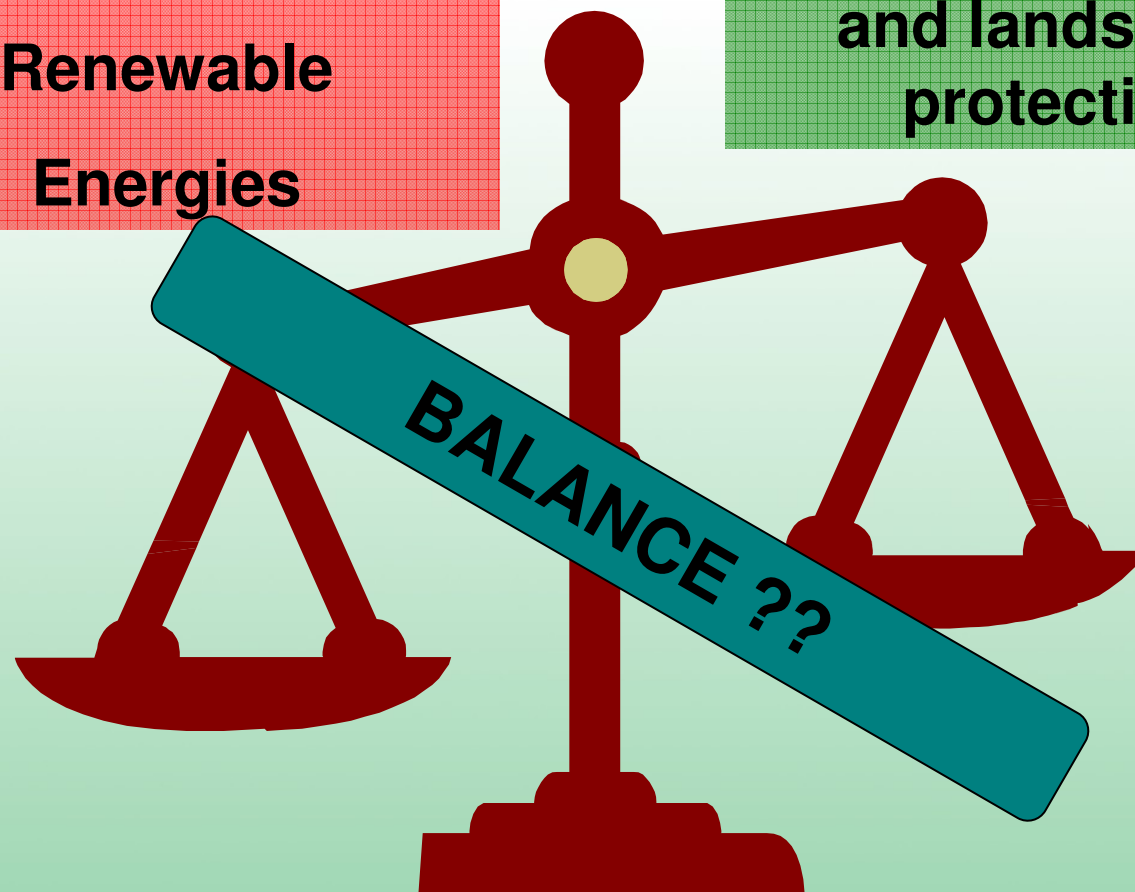


# Balancing of interests?

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**Production of  
Renewable  
Energies**

**Environment, nature  
and landscape  
protection**



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# Effects of climate change

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“Pasterze” in the Großglockner (Austria) 1900 and 2000





# Adaptation to the consequences of climate change

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## Foreseen changes:

- Increased risk for natural hazards
- Reinforced appearance of droughts and water scarcity
- Reinforced demand for water and energy, both in summer and in winter
- Changes in the water regime and in the availability of water from smaller outflow of glaciers and snow cover, which will have consequences on the water supply, production of hydropower....



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# The way forward...

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- **Best possible implementation of the existing laws** (EU Directive, Protocols of the Alpine Convention, National legislation)
  
- **Creation of a “Water management platform in the Alpine space”**
  - Exchanges of examples of best practice
  - Analysis of water management plans in the Alpine space taking into consideration Alpine specificities
  - Recommendations for the balanced use of small hydro power generation



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# Water – Treasure of the Alps

Be cautious and use sustainably in order to protect and preserve for future generations

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