

## ***Plenary Session 3:***

### **Biodiversity benefits for and from the Alps**

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Moderators:

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#### **Concept:**

Biodiversity is an essential element in ecosystem functioning and services for both alpine regions and metropolises. Today, the main interactions between alpine regions and metropolises are social and economic ones: City dwellers perceive and make use of the values and benefits of alpine biodiversity in differentiated ways ("heidiland" / wilderness / local products) and affect it e.g. as tourists, sportsmen or hunters. Urbanisation and urban lifestyles in the Alps threaten biodiversity provided, e.g., by traditional land use. At the same time, however, biodiversity hot spots are also found in large cities and the inhabitants of metropolises have become aware of the value of a natural environment and the ecosystem services it provides.

Conservation of biodiversity has become a complex task in changing environments. To what extent do ecosystem services in lowland depend upon alpine biodiversity and what kind of services have already been impaired by biodiversity loss. What will be the modes for control of biodiversity in a complex environment? What policies will be needed and how alpine regions and metropolises will cooperate? Such questions will be highlighted by the invited speakers. Moreover, in 2010 biodiversity topics attract special attention due to the UN year of biodiversity