www.alpine-space.eu/projects/alptrees

Austrian Research Center for Forests (BFW)
Seckendorff-Gudent-Weg 8, A-1131 Wien

Katharina Lapin: Katharina.Lapin@bfw.gv.at

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BFW. Bundesforschungszentrum für Wald

FVA

Forstliche Versuchs- und Forschungsanstalt Baden-Württemberg

KLAGENFURT AM WÖRTHERSEE

IIASA International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis

Comune di Trento

FONDAZIONE EDMUND MACH

INRA SCIENCE & IMPACT

RAZVOJNA AGENCIJA SORA d.o.o.

MARIBOR

LAMORO AGENZIA DI SVILUPPO

Cerema

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Alpine Space
ALPTREES
European Regional Development Fund

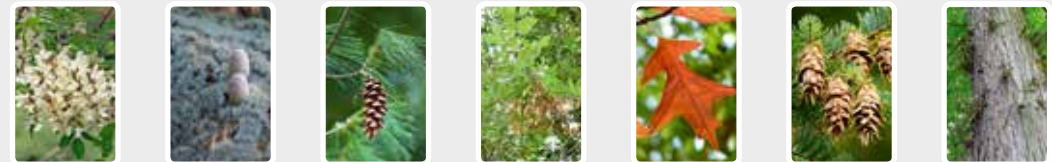EUROPEAN UNION

ALPTREES
European Regional Development Fund


Transnational cooperation for
sustainable use and management of
non-native tree species
in urban, peri-urban and forest ecosystems
in the Alpine region

Alptrees project overview

The expected benefits and potential risks of non-native trees (NNT) to European geographic regions have polarized the opinions of experts and citizens. Benefits include climate change mitigation and adaptation, contributions to bioeconomy, urban and peri-urban green infrastructure and mitigation of natural hazards. However, NNT may become invasive and thus may pose risks to native biodiversity, ecosystem functioning or socio-economy. In critical and vulnerable ecosystems such as the Alpine Space, 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 territories and forests are often region- or city-specific and rarely shared. Given the challenges in NNT management with respect to both benefits and risks, an European transnational approach is needed to qualify the role of NNT in future Alpine Space ecosystems. The objective is to provide a transnational strategy for a responsible use and sustainable management of NNT in the Alpine Space with the help of an integrated Decision Support System.
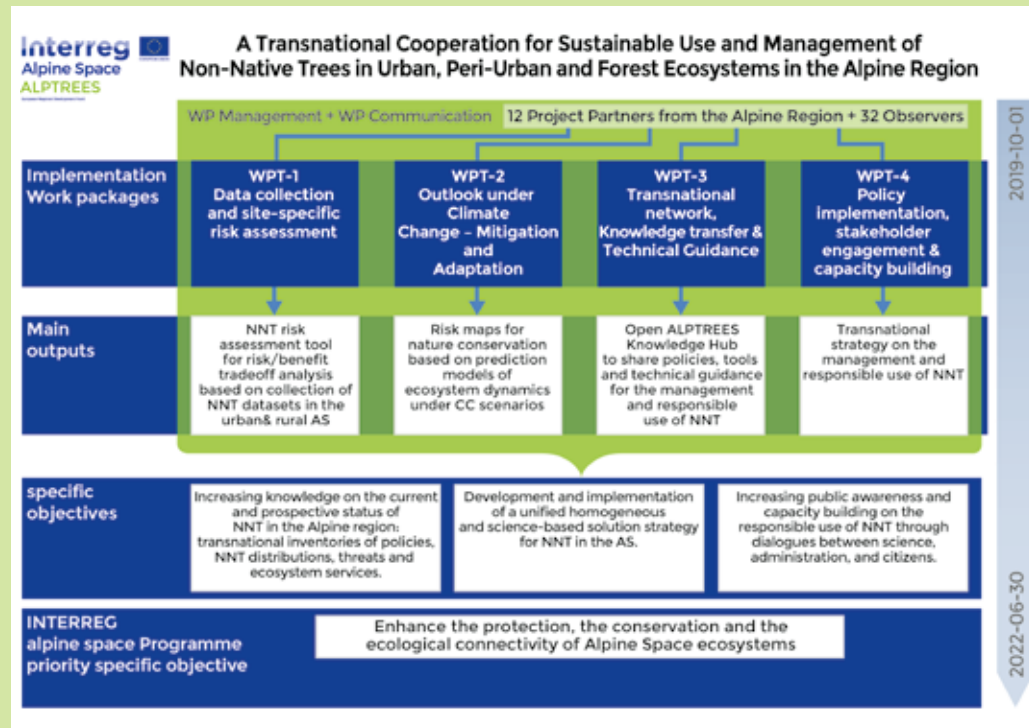
Providing guidelines for a transnational strategy

Developing a decision support system on responsible use and management of NNT species in the Alpine Space. The project fits within the context of national and regional site-derived policy, aiming to protect and enhance biodiversity to ensure ecological connectivity and cultural resources while maintaining a high level of resilience and ecosystem services across the Alpine Space.

Implementations include

▲ developing a comprehensive database, also with the involvement of citizen science on NNT species in the Alpine region including their current distribution

▲ projecting the potential distribution of NTT species in Alpine Space under climate change scenarios and anthropic pressures

▲ assessing their invasive potential in different contexts and environments also including biodiversity losses

▲ formulating management recommendations for NNT species under different climate and economic scenarios

▲ analyzing the different ecosystem services provided by NNT species to assess potential benefits and trade-offs

▲ presenting a unified transnational strategy on management and responsible use of NNT species, supported by a policy implementation plan

▲ demonstrating the applicability of transnational management strategies to policy makers, civil society and stakeholders from different sectors

▲ establishing an Open ALPTREES Knowledge Hub to share formal and non-formal learning tools and technical guidance related to the best practices of management and responsible use of NNT species

▲ improving knowledge-based decision-making tools that allow stakeholders in the sectors of forest management, nature conservation, timber industry and urban planning to distinguish between negative and positive impacts of NNT species on ecosystem services and functional needs in forests, and peri-/urban areas