

## Submitted Abstract

ID IMC22-FSAbstr- 542

<b>First Author</b> First Name Last Name	Hubert (1) Job
<b>Submitting Author</b> First Name Last Name	Hubert Job
<b>Correspondence</b>	hubert.job@uni-wuerzburg.de
<b>Co-Authors</b> >> E-Mails will be not listed	Marius, Mayer (2)
<b>Organisations</b>	1: Julius-Maximilians-University Würzburg, Germany 2: University of Innsbruck, Austria
<b>Country</b>	Austria
<b>Region</b>	Western Europe
<b>Title</b>	Safeguarding Alpine Open Spaces Through Spatial Planning And Protected Areas: An Overview.
<b>Keywords</b>	Open Spaces, Spatial Planning, Protected Areas, Tourism, European Alps
<b>Type</b>	List Of Focus Session
<b>Focus Session ID</b>	56

>> SYNTHESIZE MOUNTAINS OF KNOWLEDGE <<

## Abstract

In the Alps, large-scale protected areas exist now for more than a century and spatial planning instruments seek to prevent development of ecologically sensitive areas for about half a century, depending on the respective country. However, it remains open for discussion whether both approaches have succeeded in preserving significant parts of the Alps from intensive human development so that these areas still generate their considerable ecosystem services for people living in the Alps and their forelands. This is of utmost importance given that the Alps are not only one of the most densely populated and developed mountain areas worldwide but also the mountain range with the highest tourism intensity.

Therefore, this contribution aims at providing an introduction into the focus session “Connecting protected areas - safeguarding open spaces in mountain areas by spatial planning“ by

- a) highlighting why Alpine open spaces are relevant, endangered and need additional safeguarding on top of the existing network of protected areas.
- b) explaining why protected areas alone cannot provide the necessary open spaces in the Alps, especially not in densely populated valleys where several human land uses overlap.
- c) giving an overview of existing spatial planning approaches to safeguard open spaces respectively to reduce the fragmentation of open spaces by limiting settlement/ infrastructure development and further land take. We will concentrate on the Bavarian ‘Alpenplan’ (Germany) and the Tyrolean ‘Ruhegebiete’ (Austria) but also mention known approaches from the other Alpine countries and regions.
- d) exemplifying to what extent both protected areas and spatial planning approaches were able to safeguard open spaces and to resist to development projects, with a specific focus on tourism development projects in alpine and high-alpine altitudes.
- e) showcasing how the areas covered by spatial planning approaches overlap with the protected area network to demonstrate that they provide additional and sometimes more strict protection compared to the weaker protected area categories.
- f) critically discussing and comparing the strengths and weaknesses of protected areas and spatial planning approaches to safeguard alpine open spaces including avenues of future research about this topic.

We argue that these approaches applied in the Alps could serve as best-practice examples for other mountain areas around the globe (Himalayas, Andes, Caucasus, Carpathians etc.) where the level of development is still less intense compared to the Alps and where mountain tourism destinations are still in the phase of growth and spatial expansion.