

Information Sheet



proMontBlanc – France, Italy, Switzerland

In brief

proMontBlanc is an umbrella organisation with the aim of protecting the Mont Blanc Massif. It is a multinational organisation covering Italy, France and Switzerland. The project has been awarded EUR €25,000 in funds to allow it to upgrade an indicator list, collect and process data and publish reports. The indicators will help to measure environmental and sustainability indicators in the Mont Blanc Massif. The 54 indicators will gradually be extended to 80 in total and will measure such issues as glacier condition, biodiversity, forests, ski lifts, tourism and vehicle traffic. The data will be collected in France, Italy and Switzerland and will be processed by via a database. An international scientific committee will publish their analysis every three years.

The Project

The Mont Blanc Massif is an exceptional natural monument - it is the highest Massif in the whole of the Alps and its granite rocks tell the geological history from before the birth of the Alps. Within the Mont Blanc Massif all forms of glaciers are present with a total surface area of 175.000km²; natural life is found at all altitudes - flora and fauna – from the mild temperate valleys at 600m to the nearly arctic conditions of the high mountain between 2500 to 4800m.

Even though it is an exceptional natural monument, it is also the only great massif in the world that lacks official protection and it is under threat from climate change, pollution, infrastructure, overcrowding, too much traffic in its valleys, property development etc.

The state of health of the Massif and its surrounding territories is critical. The Thermometer of Mont Blanc will be the first instrument to measure its fever and watch over it.

The project will increase knowledge about the issues concerning the Mont Blanc Massif it will create a thermometer of Mont Blanc to measure its state of health, to reach greater understanding of where action must be taken and will lead to the creation of a data bank and publication of a three nations report.

The Organisation

proMontBlanc is an umbrella group bringing together the Swiss, Italian and French Alpine clubs, the World Wild Fund for Nature, Mountain Wilderness, FRAPNA (Fédération Rhône-Alpes de la Protection de la Nature), ARSMB (Association pour le respect du site du Mont-Blanc), ADMB (Associazione per la Difesa del Monte-Bianco), Vivre en Tarentaise, the Swiss Landscape Foundation and the Federations for Mountains, Climbing and Trekking. proMontBlanc is set up to pursue the objectives decided by its members involving the environmental protection of Mont Blanc.

proMontBlanc aims to encourage and help local groups make the correct management choices according to the principles of the Alpine Convention. It invites the millions of members of its associations to adopt forms of tourism and alpinism that are socially and environmentally sustainable. Encourages the local population to become involved in their own future. Reminds the three governments (Italy, France and Switzerland) of their joint responsibilities. Presses the European Union to apply its environmental policy to the highest summit in Europe and its surrounding territory and petitions UNESCO to include this mythical mountain in its World Heritage list.

Primary mission:

International protection for the Mont Blanc Massif.

www.pro-mont-blanc.org