

Research in protected areas funded by the Austrian Academy of Sciences

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Abstract

The Austrian *Man and the Biosphere (MAB)* programme, now part of the newly formed *Earth System Sciences* programme, is financed by the Austrian Ministry for Science and Research and administered by a national committee established at the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW). The Austrian MAB committee consists of renowned scientists and representatives of several Ministries and federal organizations. The national committee advises and supports those responsible for the biosphere reserves on scientific and technical issues, and coordinates and finances research activities. The work is designed to support the biosphere reserve managers in the implementation of their tasks, but also to use the areas as objects for both basic and applied research. Furthermore, the national committee is the link to the MAB office at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. The national committee has focused its scientific activities on the needs of Austrian biosphere reserves but also encourages cooperative projects with biosphere reserves in other countries.

Since 2008 the national committee has financed numerous research projects with a total budget of over 1.3 million euros. MAB-related online publications and project reports can be downloaded from the homepage of the Austrian Academy of Sciences Press (<http://epub.oeaw.ac.at/mab>).

The *Earth System Sciences (ESS)* programme integrates the former seven international research programmes and is administered by three national committees: Man and the Biosphere, Global Change, and Geo/Hydro Sciences. In the near future funding for research in protected areas (e.g. national parks, landscape conservation areas, nature conservation areas, nature parks as defined by national law, Natura 2000 areas) is also available via themed project calls. Further details can be found on the *Earth System Sciences* homepage (<http://www.oeaw.ac.at/deutsch/forschung/programme.html>).

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