

Documentation



2014 Activity Report

***Salzburg National Park Fund
Hohe Tauern***

Publication details

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The Eurasian blue tit (Parus caeruleus) inhabits deciduous and mixed woodlands characterised by a degree of coarse woody debris. It often prefers sparse stands with sunny exposures. In the more open Tauern valleys this species of tit can be found in the richly structured cultural landscape, providing it offers established deciduous stands of ash and sycamore maple, for example. Given the low proportion of deciduous and mixed woodlands in the Hohe Tauern National Park, sightings of this breeding bird are relatively infrequent. Its breeding range extends upwards to elevations of approx. 1100 m. In late summer and autumn roaming and migrating blue tits have occasionally been spotted in alder stands as high up as the tree line (photo: R. RIEDER).

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The alpine marmot (Marmota marmota) is the largest species of rodent in the Alps. Of all the mammals living in the wild in the National Park it is the one most frequently spotted. Marmots inhabit open alpine pastures in montane woodlands and on alpine meadows and boulder fields from the tree limit up to elevations of 2700 m. The marmot is a social animal and lives in family groups. Individual breeding pairs mate for life. The young remain within the group until they reach maturity, i.e. after three years at the latest (photo: R. RIEDER).

Diversity Is Our Planet's Life Insurance Policy



Around 3,800 nature protection areas worldwide bear the title 'National Park'. Of these, a total of 2,527 – 354 in Europe – are Category II certified in accordance with the guidelines of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). In Austria six of the ecologically most precious regions have been declared National Parks.

Globally, these nature protection areas cover a surface of 3.1 million km² and an average of 3.8% of each country's surface area. In Austria these six natural gems account for a share of around 3% and cover an area of approx. 2,000 km², putting us in the top third of a potential ranking.

Austria also leads the way, both internationally and at the European level, when it comes to another important factor, i.e. the preservation of biodiversity. I presented our contribution towards the protection of biodiversity at the Biodiversity Conference in South Korea. Our national biodiversity strategy was drawn up by a separate commission as part of a two-year process and unanimously adopted. The main emphasis is on containing the loss of species and genetic diversity as well as habitat degradation. But we also need to be proactive in addressing the causes of these threats.

A key element of success lies in biodiversity monitoring, i.e. keeping track of the connections between human activity and biodiversity and adopting targeted measures.

2015 will be all about even more efficient co-operation between the Austrian National Parks. The joint project entitled 'National Parks Austria PR' is to be continued. New pioneering projects are also planned in the areas of research and education. Strategically, preparing for the challenges ahead is particularly important. The Austrian National Park Strategy is to be restructured accordingly and developed further.

The six Austrian National Parks illustrate the diversity of our homeland and are showcase projects for nature conservation and biodiversity. But they are also research sites and visitor attractions and, as such, they have a positive impact on the regional economy too. All the people who work for these all-important nature protection areas do tremendous work and demonstrate their commitment day in and day out. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them, and I look forward to a successful and busy 2015.

Yours



Andrä RUPPRECHTER
Austrian Federal Minister of Agriculture,
Forestry, Environment and Water
Management

National Park Year 2014



When we think of the word 'wilderness', we usually mean areas of unspoilt nature, primeval forests, steppes, deserts, and bush land untouched by humankind. In Austria there are very few areas left that might qualify as wilderness. One of the main problems is that, in central Europe, natural dynamic processes have systematically been eliminated from the landscape. Indeed, the objectives and intents of human beings are rarely compatible with unconstrained natural development.

*So for that reason, I am delighted that plans are already in place for a wilderness area at the heart of the Hohe Tauern National Park. The bond that exists between the Hohe Tauern National Park and wilderness has also been described in the recently published study entitled *The Potential Wilderness Area Grossvenediger. A Report to the Wild Europe Initiative*. And the fact that the first European Wilderness Academy Days were held at the National Park Centre in Mittersill is further proof positive of a change in our way of thinking.*

2014 was marked by the Amendment to the National Park Act, which was passed in the autumn and came into force on 1 February 2015, replacing its 'predecessor' from 1984. In the

course of numerous meetings a positive working environment was established, with the Amendment paving the way for the future: for a modern National Park management, including a simplified administration and the implementation of European law in the amended legislation.

The Hohe Tauern National Park once again took centre stage at numerous events in 2014, affording children and teenagers a way in to this special nature protection area and its rich biodiversity. I was able to attend a number of these events in person, for instance the campaign titled 'The Hohe Tauern National Park Comes to Town'. More than 500 schoolchildren visited the TV garden at the ORF regional studio, which was a fun opportunity for them to demonstrate and broaden their knowledge of the National Park. The schoolchildren used Tibetan prayer flags to express their wishes for the future of the National Park, and those flags have adorned my office foyer ever since.

All that remains is for me to wish you, Dear Readers, Visitors, Scientists and National Park Enthusiasts, as well as all the staff at the National Park Administration a successful 2015!



Astrid RÖSSLER
Deputy Governor

New Salzburg National Park Act



After years of discussions within the decision-making bodies of the National Park the final stages of the Amendment to the 1984 National Park Act finally got underway with the debates by the constitutional and administrative committee of Salzburg's *Landtag* parliament. As a result the draft legislation put forward by Salzburg's provincial government under the auspices and departmental responsibility of Deputy Governor Astrid Rössler was able to come into force on 1 February 2015.

While the legal basis dating from 1984 was well suited for setting up and establishing Austria's first National Park, its reorientation in line with modern-day National Park management was long overdue. By its very nature any such reorientation involving all the different interests in and at the National Park had to be a compromise between the global idea of a national park and regional interests; but in any case, it was a step in the right direction.

Already under Section 1 'Basic Principles', an important step was taken from 'regional park' to internationally significant nature protection area. In the past, the introduction to the legislation had been defined almost entirely by the somewhat lofty description of the Hohe Tauern as 'a part of the Austrian Alps which, in its farmed areas, has been shaped for many

centuries by the industriousness and perseverance of its mountain farming community and has staked its claim against the forces of nature'. In future, the emphasis will also be placed on the significance of the National Park as part of the coherent European ecological NATURA 2000 network in keeping with the Fauna-Flora-Habitats Directive and the Wild Bird Directive as well as a Category II nature protection area (National Park) in accordance with the guidelines of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). It also formalises the commitment to the agreement reached between the federal provinces of Carinthia, Salzburg and Tyrol and the federal government, with which the Hohe Tauern National Park is in the interest of the state as a whole as the contribution by the Republic of Austria to the preservation of the world's natural heritage.

As with many other changes carried by the Amendment, Section 2 'Objective' also attaches importance to greater transparency and improved readability through clear structuring. The previous protection objective is to be complemented by a conservation objective based on the NATURA 2000 habitats, fauna and flora, by which the aforementioned EU Directives – overdue since 1997 – are implemented into national law. Furthermore, the education objective explicitly conveys an

education mandate on the National Park management, a mandate of the kind every national park worldwide has embodied in its legal foundations and one that has already established itself in the everyday work carried out by the National Park Administration.

Likewise highly conducive to the transparency of the National Park Act and its consistent implementation are the definitions which, similarly, have proved their worth over many years in the Salzburg Nature Conservation Act. An alignment with the Salzburg Nature Conservation Act has been carried out in this regard. Whenever a definition with references already existed, it was replaced by literally adopting the legislative text, thereby greatly contributing to better readability.

The large-scale Amendment to the Salzburg Nature Conservation Act of 1992 had given rise to a situation where certain biotopes and habitats outside the National Park were better protected than those in the outer zone of the country's largest nature protection area. That, too, has now been rectified. Alongside bodies of water, moors, and wetland areas, the situation now is that swamps, spring-fed meadows, fens, gallery forests and other associated copses along flowing and standing waters, wet meadows, dry and low-nutrient habitats, as well as glaciers and alpine barren lands are deemed explicitly as protected.

For measures which, in the outer zone, are approvable in principle, but require particular care with their implementation nonetheless, ecological building supervision can now be stipulated also in the National Park, just as it was previously outside the National Park. Flights by motorised aircraft below altitudes of 5000 m above sea level can now only be approved if they are not conducted for purposes of sport or recreation. Overflights by non-motorised aircraft for the purposes of sport and tourism are permitted, but not take-offs or landings in the National Park.

Should existing and new prohibitions, rules, and approval circumstances prove inadequate in fulfilling the obligations under the EU-NATURA 2000 Directives, the provincial government now has the possibility for the first time to use the amended law to swiftly introduce more stringent conservation measures by decree.

In keeping with the simplification of administration the coming into force of the new National Park Act means that there will now be only one, rather than four, National Park authorities as was previously the case. Previously, the district authorities of Zell am See, St. Johann and Tamsweg were responsible for the outer zone, and the provincial government for the core zone. Every single approval of mountain hut supply flights that led beyond the outer zone into the core zone had to be laboriously co-ordinated between the authorities. That is now no longer necessary: the provincial government – in the form of the

National Park Administration Department – is responsible for the entire National Park; legal recourse to the province's administrative courts contesting decisions of the provincial government is available. The duplication in party status between the province's Environmental Advocacy Office (LUA) and the Nature Conservation Officer has likewise been eliminated: the Nature Conservation Officer has been abolished for the area of the National Park, with the LUA remaining as the party in all proceedings under the National Park Act.

The National Park management obtained a better basis for its work not just in terms of its statutory powers and regulations, but also with regard to so-called private-sector tasks, which have become increasingly important in recent years, i.e. in those areas where the National Park administration operates on an 'entrepreneurial' basis. These tasks have been adapted in accordance with the practice that has emerged in recent years and been broken down into business areas. 'Natural Resource Management', 'Science & Research', 'Education & Visitor Information' are business areas that correspond to the international standards in national parks. In addition the National Park administration will continue to have an input into such business areas as 'Preservation of the Cultural Landscape' and 'Regional Development'.

The absence of a management plan for the National Park had been criticised by outside parties on a number of occasions – most recently during the evaluation of the National Parks Austria by a team from the EUROPARC Deutschland e.V. umbrella organisation. Such a plan is now required by law, including the obligation that such a plan secure international recognition in the long term.



Mission Statement

Facts & Figures

The Hohe Tauern National Park is the largest national park in the whole of the Alpine region and one of the largest nature protection areas in central Europe.

	Core zone (km ²)	Outer zone (km ²)	Special conservation areas (km ²)	Total (km ²)
Carinthia	291	113	36	440
Salzburg	507	266	32	805
Tyrol	347	264		611
Total, National Park	1145	643	68	1856

- ▶ Stretching 100 km east to west
- ▶ Stretching 40 km north to south
- ▶ Elevation above sea level: 1000 m to 3798 m
- ▶ More than 300 mountain peaks above 3000 m
- ▶ Around 180 km² – almost 10% of the surface area – are covered by glacier ice to this day
- ▶ 279 near-natural mountain streams, incl. 57 glacial streams, and 26 major waterfalls gush down into the valleys as lifelines extending from the National Park
- ▶ 551 mountain lakes between 35 m² and 27 ha

Alpine natural and cultural landscape

In the Hohe Tauern National Park all the main alpine ecosystems are preserved intact, over a large area. More than a third of all plant species known to exist in Austria are to be found in the National Park. The proportion is around 50% for mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. The National Park also provides a secure habitat for those animals considered to have been eradicated throughout most of Europe in the early 19th century.

This impressive biodiversity is the result, firstly, of the diverse climatic, geological, geo-morphological and hydrological site conditions in the high mountain region and, secondly, of differentiated adaptation strategies by the fauna and flora. Anyone hiking from the valley floor up to the highest summits in the National Park is certain to cross virtually every single climate zone from central Europe to the Arctic as they pass from one altitude to the next.

The ‘Hohe Tauern window’ – a tectonic window unique in shape and size anywhere in the world – provides insights into

the deepest nappe stacks of the Alps and is a key to deciphering the geological structure of the Alps themselves. Rocks of different ages, origins and chemical compositions conceal a treasure trove of up to 200 different minerals.

The landscape shapes of trough and hanging valleys, cirques, horns and kettle lakes, of defiles and gorges, etc., reflect the moulding force of ice age glaciers as much as the unrelenting impact of weathering and erosion caused by gravity, frost and water.

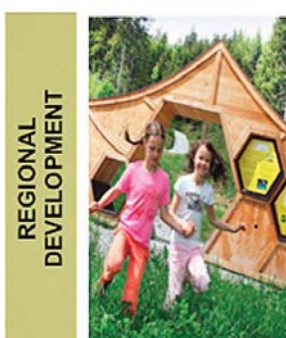
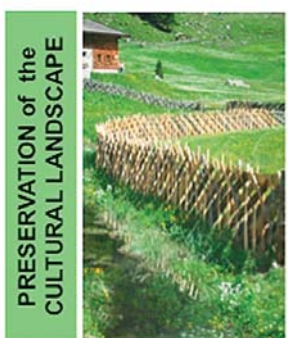
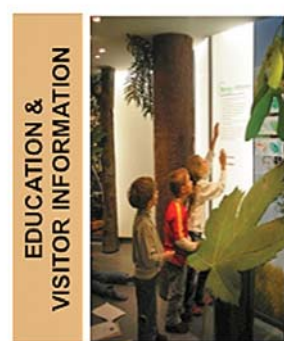
The transition from the natural alpine ecosystems within the core zone of the National Park to the cultural landscape of the outer zone is a harmonious one. Here century-old mountain farming has given rise to communities whose diverse lifestyles are to be sustained and preserved in the long term.



Management within the National Park

It is not just size and stringent protection and preservation objectives that make a nature protection area a national park, but the implementation in particular of professional management resources. The objectives of National Park management are as diverse as the natural and cultural alpine landscapes that are to be preserved, protected, and showcased. Six 'business areas' characterise the main tasks carried out by the National Park Administration:

Natural Resource Management including preserving the cultural landscape, Science & Research, and Education & Visitor Information are the main duties of any national park anywhere in the world, as set out by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). In the full awareness that the Hohe Tauern National Park does not exist in isolation, but is instead embedded within a vibrant National Park region in which people live, work, and drive the economy, it is also the National Park Administration's duty to contribute to regional development and, in particular, to devote itself to supporting the development of the tourist offer. With regard to 'Regional Development' and 'Tourism' we have succeeded in outsourcing a range of tasks and setting up shared facilities and agencies (LEADER Association, Ferienregion NPHT GmbH) with other stakeholders, ultimately guaranteeing their implementation to a high professional standard.



We, the six Austrian National Parks, pledge ...



... to protect and explore nature, inform, and offer rest and recreation. We preserve the habitats of rare animal and plant species, some of which are endangered or threatened with extinction.

Our National Parks are committed to the objectives set out by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), specifically:

- ▶ conservation and preservation, protection and nurturing of (cultural) landscapes declared as National Parks
- ▶ unconstrained development of nature (protection of the wilderness) without human intervention
- ▶ recreation and education

... to invest today in nature's precious assets for the benefit of tomorrow.

Our task is to secure and safeguard selected representative areas in Austria in the long term. Our nature protection areas are characterised by their unique landscape and diversity.

Securing and safeguarding means:

Ensuring and promoting the course of natural development, and consciously reducing the use we make of these areas.

We want to be able to pass on a piece of unspoilt nature, and even wilderness, to our children.

... to make nature an experience, and to offer the highest level of rest and recreation.

Our visitors share a common interest in nature and the environment. They choose to take time to explore,

experience, and enjoy nature's diversity and its ecological cycles. They have the opportunity to explore the Parks alone or in the company of our specially trained National Park Rangers and to avail themselves of our wide range of programmes.

... to conduct research benefiting scientifically founded nature conservation.

Thanks to long-term observations at our National Park field laboratory our scientific research gains insights into and knowledge of natural cycles and the development of our nature protection areas.

... to guarantee modern partnership-based nature conservation.

Our National Park Administrations represent the position of nature conservation first and foremost. Our highly qualified and dedicated staff carry out the tasks of the National Parks in a transparent way and attend to the concerns of the population.

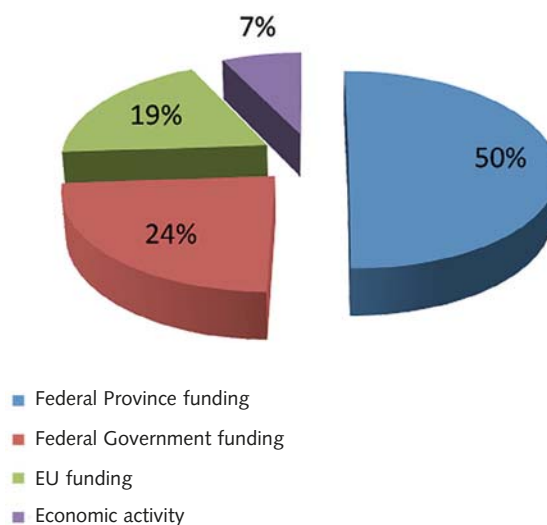
... to protect microcosms while driving the region as a whole.

Our people work hand in hand with the people who live in the regions themselves. We offer the opportunity for sustainable development of rural areas while lastingly securing jobs.

Budget for the 2014 National Park Year

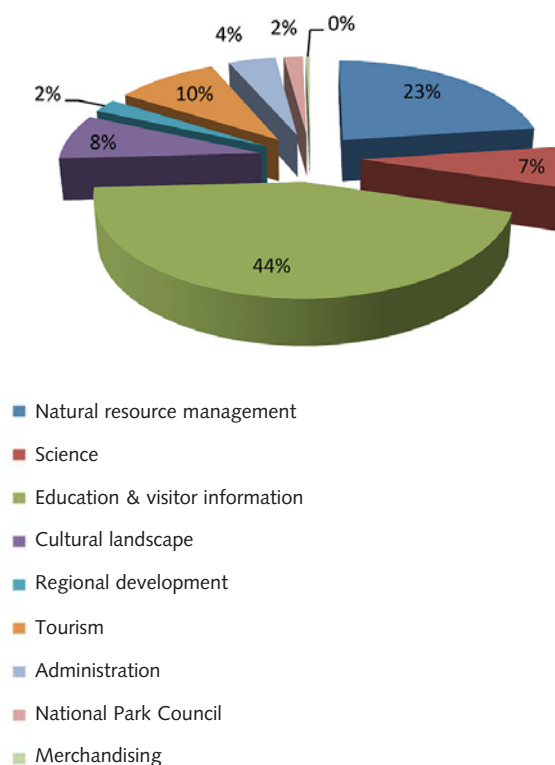
2014 budget income

	Euro	Per cent
Federal Province funding	2,084,000.00	50
Federal Government funding	980,000.00	24
EU funding	788,000.00	19
Economic activity	298,000.00	7
Total	4,150,000.00	100



2014 budget expenditure

	Euro	Per cent
Natural resource management	949,000.00	23
Science	283,000.00	7
Education & visitor information	1,844,000.00	44
Cultural landscape	315,000.00	8
Regional development	95,000.00	2
Tourism	393,000.00	9
Administration	182,000.00	4
National Park Council	73,000.00	2
Merchandising	16,000.00	0
Total	4,150,000.00	100



The figures relate to regular funding received from the federal government and the federal province and to funds from the LE programme that are not delimited by a specific period. The exact absolute figures will be set out in the official statements of account for 2014.

National Park Year 2014



16 January 2014

National Park Card at the Holiday Trade Fair in Vienna

The National Park Card is a new product that offers lots of benefits to visitors to the Hohe Tauern National Park Holiday Region who wish to make use of the tourist offers available in the region. The all-inclusive card also represents a clear commitment on the part of the tourism industry to the Hohe Tauern National Park. This aspect in particular impressed many of the travel journalists who attended the traditional press breakfast organised by the Holiday Region and the National Park Administration at Vienna's Holiday Trade Fair. National Park Director Wolfgang Urban and Holiday Region Managing Director Christian Wörister presented the new offers available with the Card for summer 2014, including more than 50 attractions and the new Nature Experience Programme organised by the National Park Administration.



30 January 2014

Commissioning of the *Könige der Lüfte* photovoltaic installation in Rauris

In 2014 a new photovoltaic installation was added to the *Könige der Lüfte* exhibition that opened in 2008. Over the course of a year this state-of-the-art technology generates exactly the amount of electricity consumed by the building. The shape of the roof, inspired by an eagle's wing, is a distinctive architectural feature; what's more, the structure chosen for the photovoltaic cells is as permeable to light as a leaf canopy. Both the Municipality and the Tourist Association are equally convinced by this harmonious blend of modern architecture and pioneering energy generation. National Park Director Wolfgang Urban, Tourist Association Managing Director Alexandra Fankhauser and Mayor Robert Reiter are all delighted by this proactive measure aimed at tackling climate change.



13 February 2014

Meeting of the National Park Council in Mauterndorf

In 2014 the Province of Tyrol took over the revolving presidency of the cross-province National Park Council from Salzburg, for a period of two years. Under Art.15a of the 1994 Agreement the Council – a body comprised of the Federal Government and the three Federal Provinces of Carinthia, Salzburg and Tyrol – decides on the joint activities to be carried out within the cross-border Hohe Tauern National Park. Unsurprisingly, projects relating to science and research as well as natural resource management are top of the list of priorities when it comes to generating added value from the co-operation. PR work and the way in which the National Park is publicised are also closely orchestrated. Around EUR 500,000 is earmarked each year for joint projects.



3 April 2014

Opening of the *Wildnis Hochgebirge* photo exhibition in Saalfelden

The initial preview events for the photo exhibition *Wildnis Hochgebirge – Bilder aus dem Nationalpark Hohe Tauern* were held at the National Park Centre in Mittersill, the Wildkogelhaus in Neukirchen am Grossvenediger, the Town Hall in Prague, and the *Haus der Natur* in Salzburg. Then the exhibition moved to the HBLW secondary college for business studies in Saalfelden. In his photographs National Park Ranger and amateur photographer Ferdinand Rieder has captured some of Nature's unique moods, delighting visitors and locals alike, but also raising awareness of the Hohe Tauern National Park. The 35 large-format photographs went on show from 3 April to 3 July 2014, giving enthusiasts three months to enjoy this artistic approach to the theme of wilderness – with admission free!



9 April 2014

First official visit to the new National Park Minister in Vienna

Andrä Rupprechter became the Austrian Federal Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management in December 2013. While competence for nature conservation and the National Parks is assigned to the federal provinces, the Republic of Austria contributes a great deal to the success of Austria's six National Parks through the agreements under Section 15a Federal Constitution Act. And so the directors of the National Parks were invited to an initial meeting just a few months after the new Federal Minister took office. The agenda included the implementation of the Austrian National Park Strategy, the PR work by National Parks Austria, the evaluation of the National Park management, and funding security.



2 May 2014

Primaeval forest educational trail in Rauris voted Themed Trail of the Year

The primaeval forest educational trail in Rauris was first created by the *Österreichischer Naturschutzbund* back in 1984, before the National Park was established. Thanks to an investment sum of EUR 60,000 it subsequently underwent a complete overhaul in 2012, with an educational trail adding new emphasis to the fascinating and unspoilt forest ecosystem. Last summer experts from the Klagenfurt-based company E.C.O. (Ecology. Communication. Organization), Institute for Ecology, were commissioned by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management to select 130 themed trails according to stringent quality criteria and then, in a further selection process, pick the best 33 trails. And so the new Rauris primaeval forest educational trail is now among the best themed trails in Austria.



8 May 2014

Conference theme in Mittersill includes Habachtal Valley research preserve

For the past four years the National Park Administration has leased and operated a research preserve of some 3,000 hectares in the Habachtal Valley in Bramberg. There it conducts research into practical issues relating to wildlife management and hunting. This is now the second year in which exclusively lead-free gun ammunition has been used for hunting, and precise records on ballistics, the impact of stress-free killing, compatibility with hunting weapons, and the repercussions on game and venison are now available for more than 100 shot animals. A long-term monitoring scheme has also been put into place, with deer and chamois fitted with GPS-GSM transmitters and calves with ear tags. The current state of progress of the research work was presented at a conference in Mittersill on May 8.



23 May 2014

Training of new National Park Rangers in Mittersill

Austria has more than 200 National Park Rangers with certified qualifications. Training takes two to three years and comprises a basic module with 136 teaching units, an advanced module with a further 120 teaching units, and 80 other non-compulsory teaching units for those not wishing to work at a National Park administration once they have completed their training. As part of the advanced module National Park Director Wolfgang Urban held a seminar at the National Park Centre in Mittersill on May 23 that focused, among others, on the objectives, legal foundations, business areas and tasks, and management of the Hohe Tauern National Park. The written and speaking exams were held in November and December respectively, with around 20 Rangers successfully completing their course.



3 June 2014

Opening of 'Glacier-Climate-Weather' at Weißsee in Uttendorf

3 June 2014 saw the official opening of the new Glacier-Climate-Weather exhibition by the National Park Administration in co-operation with the Austrian Federal Railways (ÖBB). Johann Pluy, ÖBB Division Manager in charge of traction power supply in Austria, Deputy Governor Astrid Rössler, Franz Seiser, member of the Board of Directors of ÖBB-Infrastruktur AG, Franz Nill, Mayor of Uttendorf (ret.), Christian Wörister, Managing Director of the Hohe Tauern National Park Holiday Region, and Wolfgang Urban, National Park Director, inaugurated the new attraction by symbolically cutting through a red ribbon. An open day held on June 15 was attended by some 800 visitors.



6 June 2014

Mountain guides as National Park partners

The first full-day training course on the Hohe Tauern National Park aimed at mountain guides from within the region and the Federal Province was held at the National Park Administration in early June. Its aim is to offer mountain guides a comprehensive insight into the remit, objectives and tasks of the National Park. For the guides it is also an opportunity to get to know new aspects of their home region. The first mountain guides to take part in the training course proved particularly keen and were certainly won over as partners of the National Park. National Park Director Wolfgang Urban and his team, Holiday Region Managing Director Christian Wörister, and the Chairman of the Association of Mountain Guides, Emil Widmann, look forward to good co-operation designed to benefit the concerns of both sides.



12-13 June 2014

'The National Park Comes to Town' at the ORF regional studio Salzburg

On June 12 the National Park organised a school fete in co-operation with the ORF (Austria's national public service broadcaster) to the motto of 'The National Park Comes to Town'; on June 13, it was represented at the ORF's own regional produce market, the *Schmarkerlmarkt*. ORF Regional Director Roland Brunhofer, Deputy Governor Astrid Rössler and National Park Director Wolfgang Urban welcomed around 500 schoolchildren on the first day and numerous interested guests the following day. The National Park regularly goes to various schools as part of its Partner School Programme. The Waterschool, the Climate School and the 'The National Park Comes to School' scheme are all examples of offers that can be booked by the partner schools at any time. The icing on the cake is the school fete, which is held every year.



27-28 June 2014

Alpine Peace Crossing across the Krimmler Tauern

The Alpine Peace Crossing Initiative, the Municipalities of Krimml and Kasern, and the Hohe Tauern National Park have all come together to commemorate the Jewish exodus. A 35 km themed trail along the escape route once taken by the Jews has been created by the National Park Administration to revisit these tragic events. The Alpine Peace Crossing Initiative is held every year, featuring dialogues for peace, film days, events, and a commemorative hike to Krimml. This year was no exception, the event being held for the eighth time. Deputy Governor Astrid Rössler welcomed around 200 participants. In addition to the commemorative walking tour, current issues surrounding refugees were also discussed.



28 June 2014

Hohe Tauern Ibex Day in Rauris

The hunters' association, the National Park, and the science and research communities all share a fascination for the ibex, leading to cross-border co-operation. Each year a joint meeting is held between the ibex conservancy communities from Carinthia, Salzburg and East Tyrol. On June 28 Sepp Loitfellner, head of the Hohe Tauern East ibex conservancy community, welcomed numerous participants to the anniversary event marking '25 Years of Ibex in Rauris'. Telemetry findings and the research project sponsored by Stiegl were just some of the items on the agenda. Interesting results are expected from the viewpoint markings, the studies of the interaction between ibex and the animals grazing on alpine pastures, genetic analyses, and horn measurements.



29 June 2014

Alpine summer opening at the Bürglhütte in Stuhlfelden

This year's alpine summer opening was held at the Bürglhütte in Stuhlfelden on 29 June 2014, at more than 1700 m above sea level. The many guests attending were welcomed by Deputy Governor Astrid Rössler, National Park Director Wolfgang Urban, members of Salzburg's provincial government Josef Schwaiger and Hans Mayr, the Managing Director of the National Park Holiday Region Christian Wörster, Mayor Sonja Ottenbacher, and SLT Managing Director Leo Bauernberger. A reflective ceremony comprising a liturgy of the word was complemented with music by the Tauern Brass Band Mittersill, the *Almhoagascht* and *Goasschnalzer*, *Schuhplattler* and a folk dance group. The pleasant atmosphere of this successful festive occasion certainly made up for the distinct lack of sunshine.



1 July 2014

Press trip to the Könige der Lüfte in Rauris

Interest in the event was as strong as the subsequent press coverage by many science correspondents was extensive. Indeed, the Hohe Tauern National Park and its significance for Europe's natural heritage were perfectly showcased not just in the day's news, but in entire series such as the science programmes broadcast by the Ö1 radio station. The relevant source material came from the annual press trip to the Hohe Tauern National Park, which this year took place from 30 June to 3 July 2014. This year's programme focused on the stunning species of predatory birds that contribute to preserving the biological equilibrium, their fascinating behaviour patterns, and the latest research findings on their biology and ecology.



3-4 July 2014

Association of Friends – Meeting of sponsors at the Glocknerhaus

Business and industry representatives met for the annual meeting of partners organised by the Association of Friends of the Hohe Tauern National Park at the Kaiser-Franz-Josefs-Höhe. Association Chairman Karl Stoss invited guests to the National Park Municipality of Heiligenblut for an exchange of views on the current situation and the continued commitment of Austria's business community to the National Park. In 2014 around EUR 40,000 was thus made available to National Park projects by leading businesses. The Central Bank of the Republic of Austria (*österreichische Nationalbank*) sponsors the Water Quality Monitoring research project; Milka, the Biodiversity Database; and Verbund-AG, the Climate School, to mention but a few of our sponsors and 'their' National Park projects.



6-7 September 2014

Harvest festival on Heldenplatz in Vienna

Each year at the harvest festival on Vienna's Heldenplatz the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management provides the National Parks Austria Village, a major platform for showcasing Austria's natural heritage to thousands of Viennese residents and numerous guests from all over the country and abroad. All the Austrian National Parks get a chance to present their nature protection areas and the National Park regions and to highlight their concerns and the tasks they share in common. The annual harvest festival in the Austrian capital is therefore one of the best opportunities for bringing the National Parks Austria umbrella brand to life and publicising the idea of National Parks.



19 September 2014

25 years of National Park research work from the Glocknerstrasse

Ecological research demands a great deal of field work. The high-alpine research station at 2273 m above sea level is equipped with a laboratory, binocular telescopes, a library and sleeping quarters, and is therefore an ideal research facility within the Hohe Tauern National Park. Easy to access via the Grossglocknerstrasse, it has enabled countless scientific projects on high-alpine ecology over the last 25 years. Many of the research findings have been incorporated into the National Park's education work. *Haus der Natur* Director Norbert Winding, GROHAG Board of Directors member Johannes Hörl, WWF President Bernd Lötsch, Deputy Governor Astrid Rössler, and retired *Haus der Natur* Director Eberhard Stüber were all delighted with the success of the anniversary event.



1-3 October 2014

European Wilderness Academy Days in Mittersill

The first European Wilderness Academy Days were held from October 1 to 4 at the National Park Administration in Mittersill. Many keen participants took part in the conference, which focused on issues such as wilderness protection, wilderness qualification standards, tourism opportunities, and the reintroduction of predators. Besides lectures by around 30 international experts and scientists the programme also included field trips to the Hohe Tauern National Park. The European Wilderness Film Festival held on October 2 featured international documentaries on wilderness areas all over the world, with admission free for the general public. The highlight was the personal attendance of leading wolf expert Gudrun Pflüger, who presented her film *Wolf Spirit*.



8 October 2014

Salzburg Regionality Award for the Climate School

In September 2014 the VERBUND Climate School of the Hohe Tauern National Park took part in the Education & Research Category of the Salzburg Regionality Award. It was awarded first prize by a jury of experts. The Salzburg Regionality Award commends projects that contribute towards greater quality of life in the regions of the Federal Province and was being held for the fifth time. Together with VERBUND-AG, Austria's leading power utility, the National Park Administration drew up its VERBUND Climate School Programme, an education programme aimed at schoolchildren in years 4 to 10. The lessons are taught by specially qualified National Park Rangers.



16-17 October 2014

What's new in nature education

At a seminar of the National Park Academy Katharina Bancalari, Markus Blank and Florian Tanzer gave a lecture on what constitutes high-quality nature education courses based on a wide range of methodologies. They presented new as well as tried-and-tested methodologies and discussed their practical application and impact. Participants then had the opportunity to try out many of these resources for themselves at the workshops. Besides first-hand illustrations and experiences out in the field, the programme included possibilities for presentation and interaction using social media platforms or the popular outdoor recreational activity known as geocaching. The seminar is part of the advanced modules for training as a certified National Park Ranger.



13-15 November 2014

Interpädagogica in Vienna

The *Interpädagogica* is Austria's largest trade fair on educational science and education. The *Interpädagogica* in Vienna from 13 to 15 November featured innovations in the areas of teaching, learning and work resources, equipment and facilities for schools and education establishments, and information on extracurricular education offers. This year saw 270 exhibitors and a record attendance of 17,235 visitors. The Hohe Tauern National Park is present every year at this popular trade fair, showcasing its range of offers in National Park environmental education. The National Park's experienced Rangers presented and explained the many opportunities available at Austria's largest classroom to an audience of interested teachers and parents.



5 December 2014

National Park at the Mountain Film Festival in Salzburg

From late October 2014 to late January 2015 photo enthusiasts were able to admire the successful National Park photo exhibition *Wildnis Hochgebirge – Bilder aus dem Nationalpark Hohe Tauern* in the foyer and lobby areas of the DAS KINO Salzburg Film Culture Centre. The highlight of the preview event was on December 8 at the 2014 Mountain Film Festival, with the multimedia photography journey to the Hohe Tauern National Park undertaken by amateur photographer and National Park Ranger Ferdinand Rieder. With fascinating photographs underlaid with an atmospheric soundtrack Ferdinand Rieder underscored the aesthetic and emotional access to the beauty and diversity of the largely unknown high-alpine wilderness to be found in the Hohe Tauern National Park.

National Parks Austria

Web-Info: www.nationalparksaustria.at



Austria's National Parks safeguard a multiplicity of habitats that are of significance to the general public; they are a major contributing factor to the conservation of biodiversity. Top photos from left to right: B. BAUMGARTNER/NP Donauauen, M. STEINTHALER/NP Hohe Tauern Carinthia, Neusiedler See – Seewinkel Archives F. RIEDER/NP Hohe Tauern Salzburg; bottom photos from left to right: A. ROFNER/NP Hohe Tauern Tyrol, F. SIEGHARTSLEITNER/NP Kalkalpen, F. KOVACS/NP Gesäuse, J. MÜLLER HAUSZER/NP Thayatal.

Umbrella brand and network

All activities carried out under the National Parks Austria umbrella brand are fine-tuned as part of the co-ordination sessions led by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management. Its members are comprised of representatives of the Federal Government and the National Park directors. The annual work programmes are drawn up by common consent and adopted by the respective National Park committees. Two such co-ordination sessions were held in 2014. The National Park Advisory Board, which is comprised of members of the Federal Government, the Federal Provinces and selected environmental NGOs, evaluates the extent to which objectives are met and acts in an advisory capacity. The Advisory Board held two meetings in 2014.

In keeping with the implementation of the 2010 Austrian National Park Strategy, joint measures adopted by and for the Austrian National Parks are to be carried out in a bid to target their further development and achieve greater awareness among the general public. All eight National Park Administrations are actively involved at both the project management level and in various working groups. In 2014 the cross-region National Park teams worked on the following joint activities and projects:

LEGZU Project: 'Guidelines, Principles & Co-operation'

The project (2012-2014) consists of four work packages – NP management, research & knowledge management, NP regions, and education, communication and marketing. Results achieved included:

- ▶ Guidelines for standardised management plans
Recommendation: implementation of these standards at all NPs
- ▶ Guidelines for dealing with trees that pose a hazard
Recommendation: extension of the guideline to the securing of tracks and pathways
- ▶ Guidelines for natural resource management, taking account of IUCN objectives. Recommendation: specification of 75% freedom of intervention at all NPs
- ▶ Documentation of NP achievements aimed at protecting biodiversity in Austria. Recommendation: guideline for recording biodiversity
- ▶ Establishment of the parcs.at centralised meta-meta database
Recommendations: setting up a centralised biodiversity database; drafting of a joint research agenda
- ▶ Conference proceedings on research in nature protection areas. Recommendation: positioning of Austrian NPs within international research into nature protection areas
- ▶ Brainstorming on joint marketing between the NP regions
Recommendation: development of a supraregional brand for Austrian NP regions

- ▶ Common National Parks Austria visitor programme
Recommendation: setting up a joint National Parks Austria Academy

- ▶ Total project costs: EUR 300,000
- ▶ Financing: Rural development, measure 323b National Parks

EMINA project

The aim of the project (2013–2014) is to use indicators to evaluate the Austrian National Parks. With the help of the National Park Advisory Board, suitable indicators were identified for assessing the management of all eight National Park Administrations. The first park-specific actual-value acquisitions were carried out by outside experts.

Inquiries made as part of standardised surveys among the National Park Administrations and also workshops were added as further technical fundamentals. The evaluation focused on areas of activity such as natural resource management, preservation of biodiversity, research, PR work, education, organisation, and day-to-day operations. The final report contains a description of the current situation, target variables, a SWOT analysis, and recommendations for action sorted by order of priority. Based on these results new projects are now to be formulated, with the National Parks Austria strategy updated accordingly and co-operation between the Austrian National Parks intensified further.

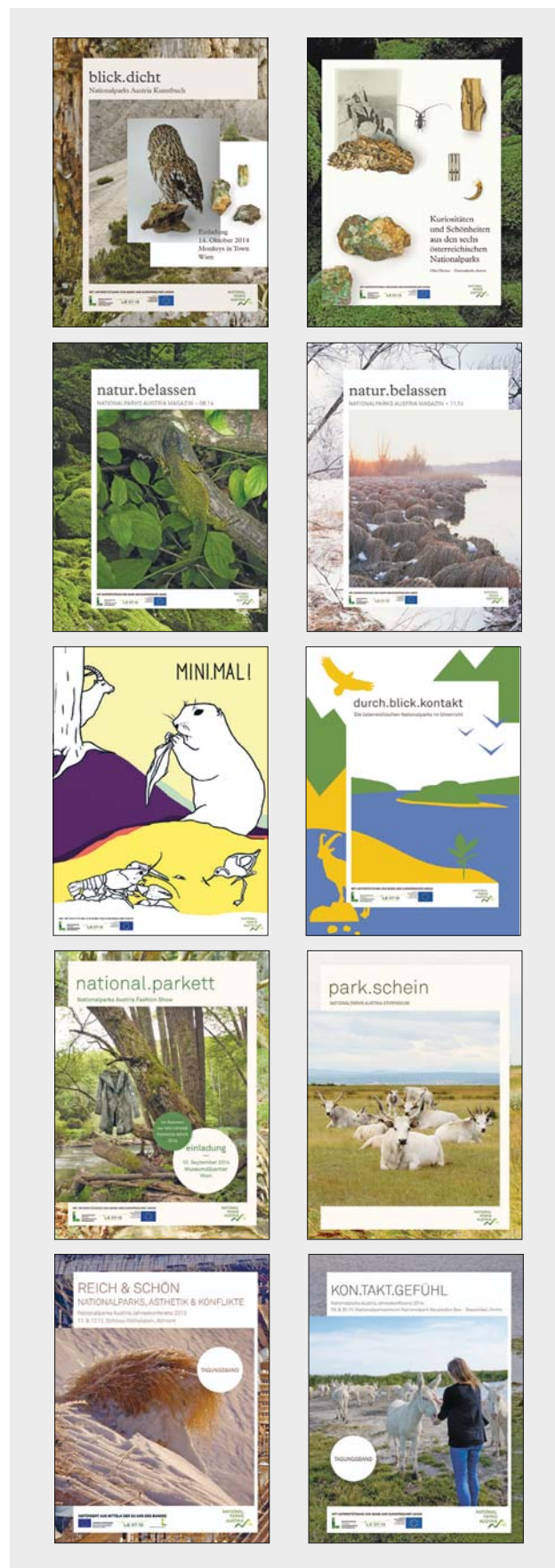
- ▶ Total project costs: EUR 180,000
- ▶ Financing: Rural development, measure 323b National Parks

‘National Parks Austria PR’ project

The project (2012–2014) was awarded to the Austrian Environmental Umbrella Organisation and is a PR campaign for the Austrian National Parks under the National Parks Austria umbrella brand; its aim is to convey the topic of National Parks to as many people as possible and raise awareness as a result. Activities carried out in 2014 included:

- ▶ *blick.dicht* art book – presentation and publication
- ▶ *natur.belassen* magazine, 4th and 5th issue
- ▶ *mini.mal* children’s colouring book
- ▶ *durch.blick.kontakt* teaching materials
- ▶ *national.parkett* fashion show, MQ Vienna Fashion Week 2014
- ▶ *park.schein* scholarship for authors and photographers
- ▶ Transcript of proceedings from the 2013 annual conference *Reich & Schön*
- ▶ *Kon.Takt.Gefühl* 2014 annual conference
- ▶ Transcript of proceedings from the 2014 annual conference *Kon.Takt.Gefühl*

- ▶ Total project costs: EUR 1,400,000
- ▶ Financing: Rural development, measure 323b National Parks



International Affairs



The Hohe Tauern National Park enjoys a great deal of recognition at the international level, whether it's in science & research, nature conservation and species protection, education & visitor information, or National Park & natural resource management. Hardly surprising, then, that there were so many visits by international delegations in 2014 and so many invitations for us to share our know-how at international debates.

International delegations & meetings at the Hohe Tauern National Park

► **8th Alpine Peace Crossing**

Internationally attended commemorative walking tour along the escape route across the Krimmler Tauern once taken by Jews, and peace dialogue

► **International science journalists**

Press trip on the theme of 'The Sovereigns of the Skies: birds of prey at the Hohe Tauern NP. Research focus on species protection'

► **1st European Wilderness Academy Days**

International convention in Mittersill on wilderness protection, wilderness qualification standards, and large predators

► **25 years of National Park research**

Anniversary event of the high-alpine research station in the Hohe Tauern National Park

► **Scientific Advisory Board**

The Scientific Advisory Board and its international members held two meetings in 2014.

► **2nd Expert Workshop**

Development of ecosystem-based interdisciplinary long-term monitoring and research programme

► **Delegation from the University of Bonn**

National Park management, natural resource management, science & research

► **Regional Development Co-operative, Tauferer Ahrntal, Italy**

National Park management, natural resource management, tourism and visitor management

► **Delegation from Georgia**

National Park management, natural resource management, National Park information centres, tourism and visitor management

Attendance at international events

► **10 Years of Forest Inventory**

Presentation of findings and data from the long-term scientific study at the Berchtesgaden National Park

► **Annual Bearded Vulture Meeting**

Annual bearded vulture meeting at the Mercantour National Park, France

► **Salzburg International Mountain Film Festival**

Presentation of the photography exhibition and lecture on *Wildnis Hochgebirge – Bilder aus dem Nationalpark Hohe Tauern*

International joint ventures

► **ALPARC, Web-Info:** www.alparc.org

► **ISCAR-P – Int. Scientific Committee on Research in the Alps for Protected Areas & Editorial Board of eco.mont**

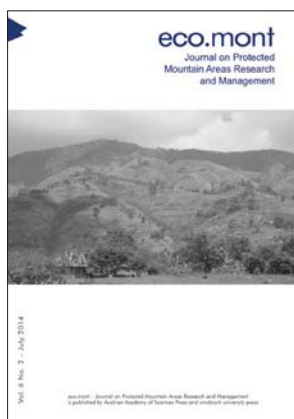
Web-Info: www.iscar-alpineresearch.org/iscar_protected_areas

Web-Info: www.oeaw.ac.at/ecomont/editorial_board.htm

► **International Bearded Vulture Monitoring (IBM)**

Web-Info: www.gyp-monitoring.com

- **EUROPARC**, Web-Info: www.europarc.org
- **IUCN**, Web-Info: www.iucn.org
- **European Wilderness Society**
Web-Info: <http://wilderness-society.org>
- **VCF – Vulture Conservation Foundation**
Web-Info: www.vulturefoundation.org
- **Platform for Biodiversity Research in Austria**
Web-Info: http://131.130.59.133/biodiv_forschung



The specialist journal *eco.mont* is published by the University of Innsbruck and the Austrian Academy of Sciences

eco.mont

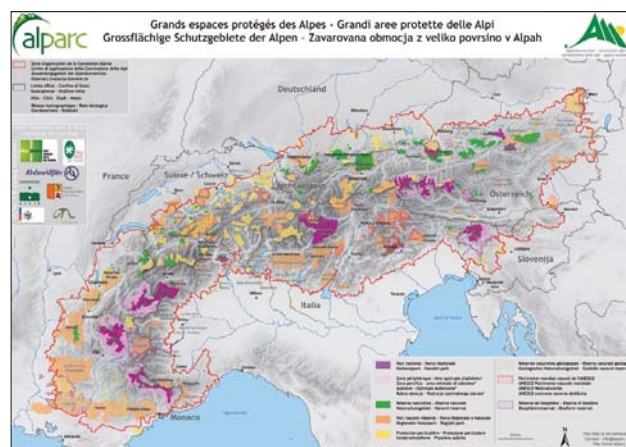
The Hohe Tauern National Park is a member of the Editorial Board of *eco.mont*, the Journal on Protected Mountain Areas Research and Management. The journal publishes research studies from protected mountain areas and, besides featuring the scientific findings, pays particular attention to their practical use for the management of nature protection areas.

Since 2013 *eco.mont* has been listed in the online citation database Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) hosted by the international media group Thomson Reuters. From Issue 1/2015 onwards the journal will also be freely available as an open access journal.

Web-Info: <http://epub.oeaw.ac.at/eco.mont-7-1>



New ALPARC postcard marking the centenary: 100 Jahre Parc Naziunal Svizzer.



As at November 2014 more than 40 nature protection areas from six Alpine countries have joined the ALPARC Association. In Austria six nature protection areas are members of the Association, including the Hohe Tauern National Park (cartography: ALPARC).

ALPARC – Alpine Network of Protected Areas think alpine-wide – act locally

ALPARC, the Alpine Network of Protected Areas, consists first and foremost of large-area national parks and nature parks of the Alpine region, each with their own administration and their own budget, that have been working together since 1995, informally and on a voluntary basis. They are assisted in their endeavours by the ALPARC Association. The Network operates as a multifunctional platform that provides knowledge, tools, methodologies and services and actively supports the exchange of joint action on the part of nature protection areas in implementing the Alpine Convention, across all language and administrative boundaries. As a rule co-operation at the international level takes place as part of projects with specific objectives, tasks and project partners, limited in both time and budget. Themes focus on biodiversity, ecological networks, regional development, and environmental education.

- 1,000 nature protection areas stretching across more than 100 hectares in the Alps
- > 100 nature protection areas with their own administrative structure
- > 40 nature protection areas are members of the ALPARC Association
- According to the Alpine Convention nature protection areas account for 25% of the alpine surface area
- > 10 million visitors a year



The 2014 ALPARC Activity Report is available online.

Web-Info:
<http://www.alparc.org/de/ressourcen/unsere-veroeffentlichungen/tatigkeitsberichte>

Natural Resource Management

Evaluation of the National Park management

‘Natural Resource Management & Biodiversity’ field of activity

As part of the EMINA project on the evaluation of the management of Austria’s National Parks the field of activity that relates to Natural Resource Management & Biodiversity was scrutinised as a key area of responsibility for any National Park. The profile of strengths and weaknesses was then derived for each National Park based on the comparison between the target status defined beforehand for Austria as a whole and the actual situation encountered on the ground.

With regard to natural resource management the following aspects among others were highlighted for the Hohe Tauern National Park:

- ▶ The proportion of the process protection area to the Park’s total surface area is 66.8% excl. derogations and 54.3% incl. derogations, which means it is currently still below the stipulations set out by IUCN and the Austrian National Park Strategy, at 75%.
- ▶ Similarly, the proportion of the process protection area to the Park’s core zone area is currently still below 75%. However, the plans to designate a wilderness area of 9,761 hectares is cited as a plus point.
- ▶ Process and habitat protection is being fast-tracked nationwide for the protection of significant species and habitats within the National Park. For essential portions of the National Park’s natural resources the National Park Administration already has the necessary basic data and is carrying out the relevant monitoring exercise.
- ▶ Even natural resources within the National Park are exposed to hazards. Particular mention is made of the fact that National Park objectives are currently inadequately reflected in the forestry, hunting, and fishing legislation, and so many measures from these sectors of economic activity are incompatible with the aspirations of a National Park. A further incompatibility has been noted between the National Park’s offers for contractual nature conservation and the agricultural funding programmes valid throughout Austria, the objectives of which are in part in serious contradiction. Similarly, the time limitations on agreements are seen as a drawback with regard to safeguarding areas in the long term and the protection objectives associated with those areas. The successful efforts aimed at the large-area leasing of hunts are seen as a positive, despite the inflated leasing prices.

- ▶ The National Park’s extremely low level of fragmentation is highlighted as a great strength.
- ▶ The fact that bodies of water and aquatic biotic communities in the National Park are comprehensively protected by the applicable statutory provisions is recognised as a key criterion. The return to near-natural conditions of the mountain torrents in the outer zone is under discussion as a need for action.
- ▶ The Hohe Tauern National Park comprises land that is preponderantly in private ownership. Extensive areas are also owned by associations. Only in the province of Salzburg are large shares of the land (28,624 hectares) owned by the Austrian state. Despite this starting point, key National Park and nature conservation objectives have been achieved since its founding: around one third of all plant species occurring in Austria and around 50% of all mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians are to be found in the National Park. In fact, it is its very size that secures a sustainable living environment for animal species with large-area habitat requirements. One of the important future tasks for the National Park will be to safeguard an unconstrained natural development of ecosystems in the long term and over the largest possible surface area.



Monitoring of indigenous brown trout



Purebred Danubian brown trout stocks have been indigenous to the Danube catchment area since the last ice age, but during last century they were almost entirely wiped out as a result of mankind's intervention into their habitat or subsequent mismanagement. As part of the National Park project, purebred stocks were still recorded in streams such as the Windbach (Krimml Achental Valley) and the Anlaufbach. Overall, very few water courses in Austria are known to carry this genetically pure strain.

Following the extreme floods of 2012 and 2014, this year the main emphasis was on the Anlaufbach, where the overall development of this indigenous stock has been monitored annually since 2004. A good stable stock was known to have developed up until 2012. After the 2012 fishery check, fish of the Danubian type were found to have survived even in the ravaged stream bed of the Anlaufbach. However, the original stock had been reduced to around 20%. Nonetheless, this breed of trout was evidently able to defy the extreme conditions prevailing in the ecosystem that occurred during this hitherto unique event.

As part of this species protection project, research work is to be carried out with regard to the impact of climate change to determine particularly for high mountain regions whether and, if so, which particular characteristics and capabilities of this genetic variety ensure its survival even when exposed to regularly recurring extreme disruptions to their habitat. The aim is also to document whether and, if so, how quickly an already decimated stock is likely to recover when such extreme events reoccur in quick succession.

Findings

The floods of 2014 further reduced the fish stocks already significantly weakened two years previously. Nonetheless it transpired that a significant share of the fish did survive. In 2012 a fish population of 41 individuals was recorded over the monitored 1120 m stretch of water in the Anlaufbach. Nearly all age categories were represented, with only one-summer fish (0+) missing.

In 2014 29 individuals were caught over the same stretch, with once again the youngest age categories having sustained the highest losses. Extreme events that occur at close intervals have a particularly dramatic impact on fish stocks, even though this indigenous strain of brown trout shows a much greater adaptability and resistance than non-native brown trout.

Given these topical events there are fears that, if such extreme floods occur more frequently, the emergence of young fish and therefore the continued existence of this indigenous species could be endangered. However, it was noted during the 2014 fishery check that, of the adult fish, all the spawners with the exception of one had already spawned. The majority of milers were still mature on 8 December 2014. What's more, spawning pits were continually noted along the sites sampled. So it is hoped that natural offspring can once again be expected over the coming year.

- Total project costs: EUR 39,000
- Financing: National Park Council, sponsor

Griffon vultures in the Hohe Tauern

During the summering period the Hohe Tauern mountains have been overflowed by griffon vultures since the dawn of time. In 2012 a three-year scientific project was launched under the guidance of Fulvio Genero, scientific director of the Lago di Cornino vulture station in Italy. Its purpose: to conduct a current stock-take, compare the stock figures with historical data, use satellite telemetry to determine the use of space and the flight paths, and carry out simultaneous counts of known cliffside roosting sites four times a year.



Findings

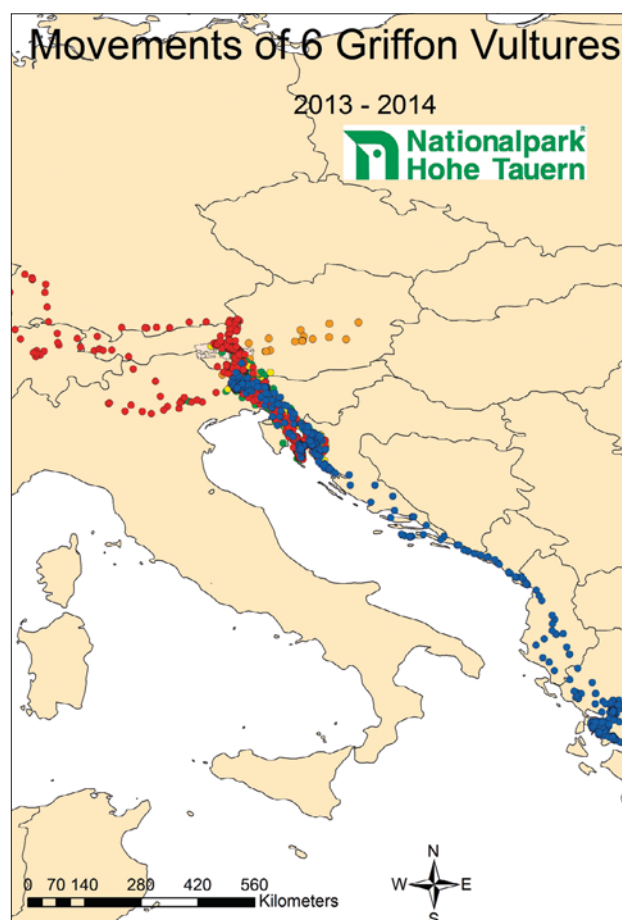
A total of 48 griffon vultures were captured, ringed and marked at the Lago di Cornino vulture station. Six were fitted with a GPS satellite transmitter so scientists could track their flight movements from Friuli and Croatia to the Hohe Tauern. The GPS data records provide far more information than four years of monitoring based solely on sightings.

Griffon vultures fly back and forth at very high speeds between Croatia, Cornino and their summering areas in the eastern Alps, feeding on any carrion they find in the area. Moreover, connections to locations as far afield as Greece have also been noted. One of the collared griffon vultures spent last winter in northern Greece and then the summer in the eastern Alps. Within Austria the main flying areas are to be found in the valleys of the Salzburg Tauern. Of a total of 2,858 positions measured from six federal provinces, 2,816 underscore this observation.

The first white-headed vulture in the Hohe Tauern arrived in Rauris on 12 May 2014. The areas most frequented are the valleys of Gastein, Rauris, Kaprun, Mühlbach and Stubach. The griffon vultures left Austria to fly south when the first snowfalls came in September. The last two griffon vultures were spotted at the Stubacher Geierwand (vulture cliff) on 19 October 2014. Within the nature protection area current numbers are estimated

at 20 to 40 individuals. However, very good foodstocks can result in up to 100 vultures flying into the Hohe Tauern in a matter of hours. Alpine farming plays an important role here in that fatally injured grazing animals should be left on the alpine pastures rather than be disposed of. Historically, summer populations have been known to fluctuate greatly. Overall, today's figures are just below the average of the last hundred years. Now that broodstocks in Croatia and Italy have recovered, an increase in the overall stock is expected over the new few years.

Many new cliffside colonies are being used alongside existing historical roosts, the proximity of each colony to active carrion sites playing a significant role. A total of 57 roosts have been identified between the Gasteinertal and Stubachtal Valleys. The historically documented roosts in the Hollersbachtal and Felbertal Valleys are currently not being used.



Griffon vultures primarily use the space between Croatia, Friuli and the Hohe Tauern, connecting also to the north (Black Forest) and the south (Greece).

- ▶ Total project costs: EUR 58,000
- ▶ Financing: Rural development, measure 323a nature conservation

Bearded vultures in the Hohe Tauern



2014 has been an exciting year – and also the most successful year – since the launch of the international species protection project for the resettlement of the bearded vulture in the Rauriser Krumltal Valley in 1986. For the first time ever, two fledglings hatched in the wild in both the Krumltal Valley and on the Katschberg before successfully flying off on their own in the summer. So far these two juvenile vultures have been developing as expected, adding to the stock of birds returned to the wild in Austria.

In addition to these wild birds two young bearded vultures were once again released into the wild in the Debanttal Valley in East Tyrol. *Kilian* and *Felix 2* were already fully fledged by late July, and they have been exploring the Hohe Tauern ever since. A pair of bearded vultures known to have been breeding on the East Tyrol side of the Hohe Tauern National Park in 2014 was ultimately unsuccessful. For the first time in many years no losses were recorded in 2014. However, two golden eagles that died in the Hohe Tauern as a result of excessively high blood lead levels prove that, despite intense efforts for the exclusive use of lead-free hunting ammunition, avoidable deaths among scavengers caused by lead poisoning still occur.

The long stay in the Hohe Tauern by the bearded vulture nicknamed *Bernd* came as something of a surprise. This juvenile bird was released in Switzerland in 2012 and reached the National Park in the spring. It appeared to remain in the Hohe Tauern at least until mid-August when the GPS transmitter ultimately failed. Such a long stay by a bearded vulture not originally released in the Hohe Tauern had never before been observed in the 29 years since the project first began.

The bearded vulture counting days carried out right across the Alps on the same day in autumn 2014 also proved particularly successful. 24 bearded vultures were confirmed for Austria, with the current population throughout the Alps put at 200 individuals and 31 breeding pairs, with a record figure of 19 pairs breeding successfully in 2014. Besides providing a precise overview of current stock levels the counting days also help to uncover previously unknown occurrences of bearded vultures.

And, last but not least, the current bearded vulture population in the Alpine region now boasts a very high productivity, with a value of 0.61. It is also satisfying to note that the mortality rate proved low in 2014. Since the start of the project a total of 128 young vultures have now hatched and fledged successfully in the wild, across the Alps. Due to problems with the bearded vulture breeding programme, only nine juveniles were released into the wild across Europe this year: besides the two in East Tyrol, a further two in Switzerland, two in France in the corridor between the Alps and the Pyrenees, and three in southern Spain. So to date, a total of 204 juveniles have been released into the wild. Until now this species protection project was concentrated solely on the Alpine region, but given this exceptionally successful trend it is to be extended to Europe as a whole with the aim of establishing a stable meta-population. More targeted releases will also help to safeguard the genetic diversity of the species.

- ▶ Total project costs: EUR 355,000
- ▶ Financing: Rural development, measure 323b National Parks

Science & Research

Evaluation of the National Park management

'Research' field of activity

As part of the EMINA project on the evaluation of the management of Austria's National Parks the Research field of activity was scrutinised as a key area of responsibility for any National Park. The profile of strengths and weaknesses was then derived for each National Park based on the comparison between the target status defined beforehand for Austria as a whole and the actual situation encountered on the ground. With regard to research the following aspects among others were highlighted for the Hohe Tauern National Park:

Positive mention was made of the fact that the Hohe Tauern National Park has in place a cross-province research concept dating from 2007 that specifies its strategic objectives. Moreover, an integrated long-term monitoring and research programme is currently being drawn up, with the three National Park Administrations of the Hohe Tauern co-ordinating their efforts in the field of research as a matter of principle. A need for action was highlighted due to the lack of a directly derived joint action plan with binding deadlines, responsibilities, and a budget underpinning the implementation of the planned research measures.

Strengths that were identified included the fact that the commissioned research is orientated as a rule on National Park and natural resource management; also, that the biodiversity days alongside the recording of the species inventory over a combined time and space have contributed to a positive public perception of the National Park. Data from research studies is already being stored in a centralised and standardised format, particularly with regard to biodiversity.

Nonetheless there is a need to catch up with the recording of species and habitats, due mainly to the fact that long-term data series are currently available for individual species only. The regular recording of the inventory trend in FFH species and habitats is mentioned as an area of particular responsibility for the National Park and the Natura 2000 nature protection area. The lack of financial resources has also been criticised, mainly in conjunction with the long-term perspective in this business area.

With regard to the co-ordination function in the area of National Park research, the fact that extensive joint ventures already exist with various national and international research facilities was singled out for particular praise; also, the fact that, in many instances, win-win situations emerge for both sides as a result. Particularly with regard to strategy development and quality assurance the National Park is assisted in this business area by an international scientific advisory committee. Moreover, the co-operation with the *Haus der Natur* was rated as exemplary for all Austrian National Parks in providing a professionally managed biodiversity database.

Research at the National Park is conducted for purposes of both fundamental and applied research. The bulk of the research findings is management-relevant and for the most part incorporated into management decisions. This is the case in particular with commissioned research. However, given the enormous size of the nature protection area, local blurring can occur the moment the area as a whole has to be taken into account, which is where random sampling and model simulations have to come into play.

Data management scored well overall. The data in particular on the flora and fauna of the nature protection area is collated without exception using georeferencing and consistently documented in accordance with the standards of the biodiversity database. A need for action was noted in the administration of the GIS data, which at present cannot be stored so that it is available centrally. It has therefore been suggested that shared data management be expanded, along with a standardisation and streamlining of all data systems and databases.

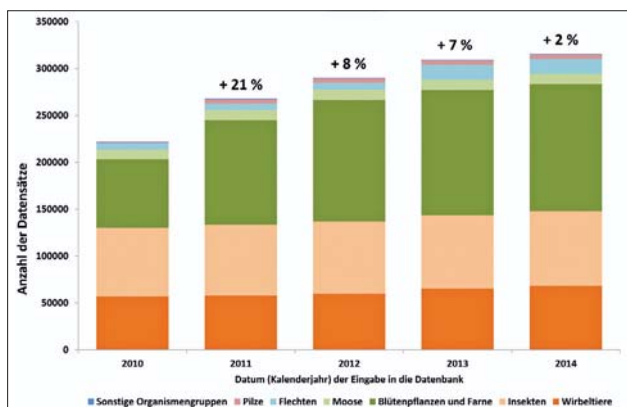
Dissemination of the research findings using a variety of publications and events was rated as exemplary, along with the consistently high quality standard. Moreover, most of the data is available free of charge and easily accessible. It was noted, however, that most of the publications were made as part of specific measures or projects and that for instance there has been no interdisciplinary treatment of selected National Park themes.

All in all, the team of evaluators gave the Hohe Tauern National Park an essentially good report for its field of activity that relates to research. The SWOT analysis and the recommendations for action can be used for constructive reflection and to go on developing what is already in place.

Biodiversity database

The biodiversity database specifically collates, standardises, administers, evaluates and provides as needed all the data on the occurrence, distribution, ecology and endangered status of animal, plant and mushroom species.

As at December 2014, 315,661 data records were registered on 11,097 different taxa (species, subspecies, hybrids, varieties) along with 23,713 sites from 528 data sources (commissioned projects, biodiversity days, collections, publications, expertises) and 1,214 observers. The data pool has therefore increased by 6,400 data records year on year, an increase of around 2%.



Data pool trend

The largest data increase (2,067 data records) was for flowering plants, followed by birds (1,570 data records) and mammals (1,367 data records). The increases among mammals are based on the intensive research conducted for the Salzburg Atlas of Mammals, which in 2014 conflated all the available data from publications and museum collections.



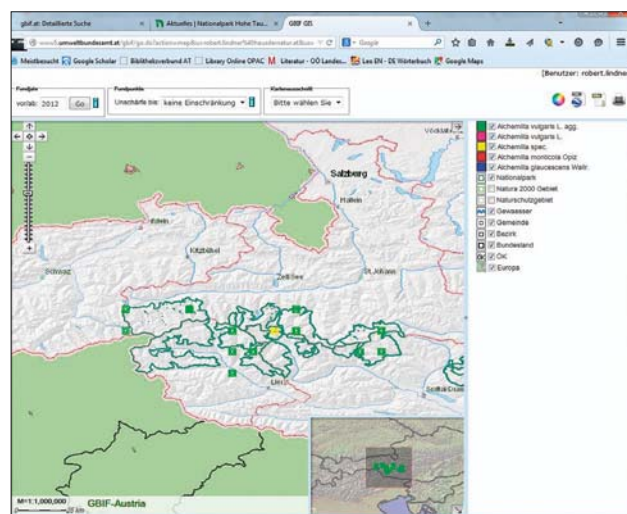
Salzburg Atlas of Mammals – all the available data on weasels (top), snow voles (top right), etc., is currently being compiled anew (photos: W. RIEDER).



During the pilot project launched in 2013 to integrate all species-related data from the Salzburg biotope mapping into the biodiversity database, the data analysis revealed that extensive data cleansing is required before the data can be definitively incorporated. The planned district-by-district review and revision of the first district, Zell am See, is to be completed in 2015 and this pool of data subsequently added to the regular main database. Overall, this initial biotope mapping alone will contribute several hundred thousand data records.

Online biodiversity database at GBIF.at

Following the complete reinstallation of the GBIF node on the *Haus der Natur* web server, the Hohe Tauern National Park was set up as an independent data provider on the GBIF portal in 2014. In an initial phase 32,437 data records were provided via this data node, from various botanical mappings as well as the biodiversity days. **Web-Info:** www.gbif.at



- Total project costs (2014-2016): EUR 120,000
- Financing: National Park Council

Alpine pasture inventory 2014



Alpine pasture resplendent with flowers at the head of the Habachtal Valley, Municipality of Bramberg, Hohe Tauern Salzburg National Park. Site-specific use is the best way of maximising biodiversity (photo: eb&p Umweltbüro GmbH).

In spring 2014 the research project on the ‘Survey of alpine pastures in the Salzburg portion of the Hohe Tauern National Park’ was put out to tender through a direct award procedure up to EUR 130,000 net in accordance with the Austrian Federal Public Procurement Act. eb&p Umweltbüro GmbH Klagenfurt/ Salzburg emerged as the best bidding contractor. The project term ran until the end of April 2015 and is co-financed through funds from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

The contract comprises a current survey of alpine pastures and a comparison of today’s findings with those from the first survey of alpine pasture use conducted in 1999-2001. Issues addressed included:

- ▶ what sort of alpine farming is currently being carried out where within the protected area?
- ▶ how has alpine farming changed over the last 15 years?
- ▶ what are the different forms of grazing and grazing intensities?
- ▶ what sort of interplays with the ecosystem result from these grazing forms?
- ▶ what management measures may be necessary?

Project modules

Surveys

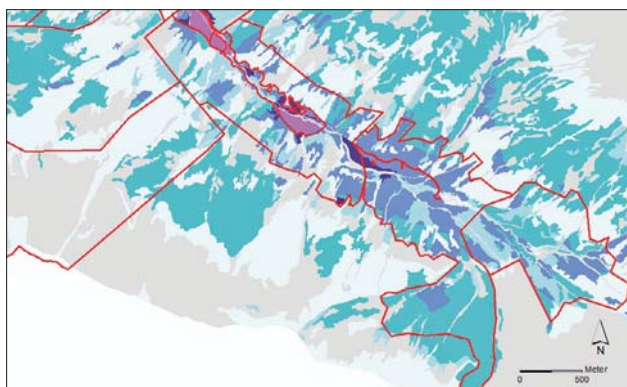
The starting point for recording alpine pastures was to conduct an extensive survey among the alpine pasture farmers themselves in spring 2014. Personal conversations and a standardised questionnaire were used to discuss and document key parameters such as determining current grazing boundaries, the actual distribution of animals driven up to the pastures (cattle, horses, sheep, goats), the existing alpine pasture infrastructure, the specific management method, and the vision for the future of alpine pasture farming operations. Participation in these interviews was voluntary. Of the 107 alpine pasture farmers in total, 91 agreed to take the time for an exchange face-to-face. 13 were contacted by post and interviewed over the phone. Throughout the process the contractors found that the farmers they interviewed were all particularly keen and willing to help.

Model simulation

In the next phase the results from the questionnaire surveys were used to create a model simulation to calculate the following topical data on the alpine pastures in the National Park and plot the data on maps:

- ▶ what pasture areas are used for cattle grazing?
- ▶ what pasture areas are used for sheep grazing?
- ▶ how high are the yields per area of pasture?
- ▶ how intensively are the alpine pastures grazed?
- ▶ how high is the density of animals per hectare per grazing period in livestock units?

The energy yield is calculated for each area of pasture using yield curves standardised throughout Austria in conjunction with each particular feed quality. The utilisation intensity is the percentage share of the yield that is actually eaten by the animals. It is indicated in percentage stages, with for example 1-10% considered as extensively grazed and >80% as intensively grazed. The livestock density indicates in livestock units per hectare how the grazing animals turned out to pasture in each case are actually distributed on the pastures.



This map illustrates the distribution of the energy yields calculated. The darker the colour the higher the energy yield and the greater the availability of high-quality feed on each pasture area (map: eb&p Umweltbüro GmbH).

Terrain surveys

In summer 2014 the results of the model simulation were verified along pre-defined routes as part of terrain surveys in all the valleys of the National Park. Each of these terrain dates were co-ordinated in advance with the alpine pasture farmers. On the one hand the FFH habitat type, its condition and the utilisation intensity were determined along transects for around 150 to 200 individual areas per National Park valley.

On the other, a total of 192 vegetation-based ecological monitoring areas were set up to observe in the long term the connections between grazing and plant species composition and record them for future spatial and time-based comparative analyses. Each monitoring area was comprised of 25 m² and was permanently located in the terrain using GPS and magnets buried in the ground. They are scattered throughout the valleys of the National Park, at different elevations and utilisation intensities. For each of these areas a complete list of all existing plant species was drawn up, including their frequency, ecological parameters and alpine pasture utilisation intensity. As a result topical data is now available on a total of 520 different plant species.

They include 27 partly protected species and 23 entirely protected species as well as 16 plant species on the Red List of threatened ferns and flowering plants in the province of Salzburg.



All the monitoring areas were measured precisely using both measuring tape and GPS. The map shows the distribution of the 192 monitoring areas in the National Park (photo and map: eb&p Umweltbüro GmbH).

In total, a surface area of 24% of the outer zone of the Salzburg portion of the Hohe Tauern National Park is used for alpine pastures. The animals grazing on these pastures consist essentially of young cattle, suckler cows and dairy cows. 4% of the outer zone is used for extensive grazing, 7% for moderately intensive grazing, with intensive use on a further 7%, which is where the majority of the growth is grazed off. In the core zone, grazing takes place on a 15% area and consists mainly of sheep. Here only 3% is used intensively, with the majority of the surface area used extensively.

Outlook

Since autumn 2014 work has been proceeding apace on compiling all the data, preparing the necessary evaluations, and carrying out a renewed revision of the model simulation based on the terrain findings. Efforts will also focus on obtaining a specific comparison of the current results with those from the survey of alpine pasture use from 1999-2001. Once the project is finished, a comprehensive report will be drawn up, complete with data and maps.

- ▶ Total project costs: EUR 152,286.09
- ▶ Financing: Rural development, measure 323a nature conservation

Initial survey of forests



*Natural silicate spruce and fir forest rich in deadwood as found in the Prossauwald/Kötschachtal Valley. Photos page 29 from top to bottom: Silicate Swiss stone pine forest in the Krimml Achental Valley, larch lactarius (*Lactarius pommensis* ROLLAND) inevitably attached to the larch (*Larix decidua*), grey alder forest in the inner Hollersbachtal Valley (photos: page 28, page 29, photo 1 and 3: G. GRUBER; page 29, photo 2: T. RÜCKER).*

In spring 2014 the research project on the ‘Survey of forests in the Salzburg portion of the Hohe Tauern National Park’ was put out to tender through a direct award procedure up to EUR 130,000 net in accordance with the Austrian Federal Public Procurement Act. The bidder consortium comprised of WLM Büro für Vegetationsökologie und Umweltplanung Klosterhuber & Partner OG Innsbruck and the Institute of Silviculture at the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences in Vienna emerged as the best bidding contractors. The project term ran until the end of April 2015 and is co-financed through funds from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

The project is aimed at obtaining, firstly, an underlying database on forest communities that has been validated on the ground and, secondly, a comprehensive overview of the occurrence and spread of current and potential forest communities in the National Park. Issues addressed included:

- ▶ what current and potential natural forest communities occur and how are they distributed?
- ▶ what is the condition of these forest communities and how do they fulfil their primary functions as forests?

- ▶ what sort of exploitation forms and intensities are currently in place?
- ▶ what sort of interplays with the ecosystem result from these forms of exploitation?
- ▶ what management measures may be necessary?

Methodology

A total of 160 sample points were recorded on the ground. A more in-depth sampling for the initial establishment of monitoring areas was carried out at 30 survey points. The samples were selected using a representative and stratified approach from a 100 x 100 m sampling grid. The stratification was based on the size of the forested area in a particular tree species mixture type for each National Park valley, the elevation, and the geology. The actual sample points were also selected according to representativeness, accessibility, location within the stand, and the maturity of the stands based on aerial photographs. It was ensured as a matter of principle that, for all the forest groups, a sufficient number of sample points was available for the analysis. Each sample area covered 625 m² (25 x 25 m). Sample plots in the area of dwarf pine and green alder shrubs covered 10 x 10 m.

Key parameters recorded at the 160 sample points included: location (incl. elevation above sea level, position, rock, soil); vegetation (incl. tree, shrub, herb layers); stand (incl. tree diameter, height, age, species, structure, deadwood); exploitation type (forest, pasture, tourism); regeneration state (incl. tree species, browsing intensity, and other game impact). The occurrence of rare tree species such as fir, beech and pine was extensively mapped. In addition the following data was also recorded at the 30 monitoring sites: for all trees within the 10 m radius plot: tree species, developmental stage and viability, vitality, diameter, deadwood (e.g. stocks/trunks, degree of decomposition), height of selected trunks per species). The monitoring areas were marked and located using their GPS position.

Initial findings (selected)

The forested area in the Salzburg portion of the Hohe Tauern National Park covers around 13,800 hectares in total. A third of this forested area is taken up by krummholz (knee timber) (19% green alder, 15% dwarf pine). Larch forests account for 13%; Swiss stone pine forests for 8%; and pure spruce forests for 11%. At 19% the majority of the high-forest stands are comprised of the spruce and larch mixture type. Around 3% consists of spruce forests with Swiss stone pine; 5% is comprised of grey alder forests, with the rare forests of valuable broad-leaved deciduous trees making up 1% of the forested areas.

Generally speaking, spruce and fir forests can be assumed as a potential forest community for the high montane altitudinal zone. Currently, however, it is only in the Kötschachtal Valley that typical spruce and fir forests are to be found over large areas, extending to exceptionally high elevations. Individual occurrences of fir trees were also noted in the subalpine level above 1800 m. Small residual stands are also be found in the Habachtal, Untersulzbachtal and Seidlwinkltal Valleys.

The main distribution area for high-altitude beech forests is on the steep lower slopes of the Fuschertal Valley, the vast majority of which are located outside the National Park. Isolated marginal relict occurrences were also found near the mouth of the Untersulzbachtal Valley. Due to the high rainfall and therefore the lack of dry sites at the high montane level, pine trees do not grow in the National Park, with the exception of two small occurrences in the Kötschachtal Valley. A relict of pine was discovered here at the boundary between high montane and low subalpine, its locally restricted growth checked on steep and exposed rocky ridges, growing alongside larch, spruce, fir and Swiss stone pine.

The absence or merely isolated occurrence of the larch in the western valleys of the National Park, mainly in the Wildgerlostal, Krimml Achenal and Obersulzbachtal Valleys, was found to be particularly striking. This gap in distribution over a large-area is consistent with findings from the neighbouring Zillertal Valley. There the role of primary

coloniser of open dwarf shrub areas is assumed over large expanses by the Swiss stone pine, to areas below its main distribution zone.

Outlook

Since autumn 2014 work has been proceeding apace on compiling all the data, preparing the necessary evaluations, and processing the results. Once the project is finished, a comprehensive report is to be submitted and presented, complete with data and maps.

- Total project costs: EUR 155,307
- Financing: Rural development, measure 323a nature conservation



Education & Visitor Information

Web-Info: www.hohetauern.at/de/bildung/bildungsprogramme.html

Web-Info: www.hohetauern.at/de/ihr-aufenthalt/highlights-was-tun/besucherzentren.html

Web-Info: www.nationalparkerlebnis.at/de/

The Education & Visitor Information business area is all about disseminating, mediating, publicising and conveying the following content:

- ▶ the global idea of the National Park
- ▶ the significance of the Hohe Tauern National Park as a nature protection area
- ▶ the ecological connections in high mountain regions and the impact of mankind's intervention
- ▶ nature conservation as a societal responsibility



Objectives such as these can only be achieved through modern environmental education and attractive visitor facilities. The content specific to National Parks is to be consolidated using contemporary educational approaches such as combining the dissemination of knowledge with visitor experiences, which in turn will result in the awareness of a need for action.

Visitors:	Number of persons/ participants
▶ Information events, other events, lectures	13,675
▶ Admissions to National Park visitor attractions (excl. guided tours)	836,771
▶ Guided tours (summer and winter programmes, guided tours at visitor attractions)	10,514
▶ Visitors to National Park valleys	623,960
▶ Visitors to the Grossglockner Hochalpenstrasse	621,773
Visitor information, total	2,106,693

Besides the ongoing visitor information and PR work, other projects were also carried out in 2014:

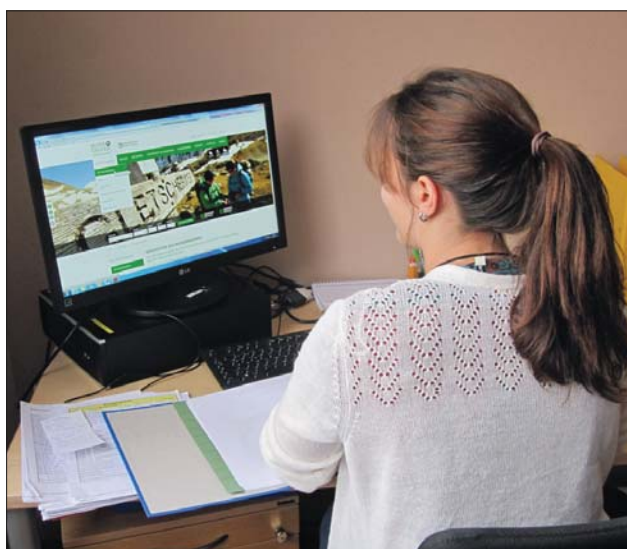
- ▶ June: Resumption of guided tours of the Hochfeld mine
- ▶ June: Opening of the 'Glacier-Climate-Weather' exhibition at Uttendorf/Weißsee
- ▶ June: 'The National Park Comes to Town' Salzburg/ORF school fete
- ▶ July: New edition of Planting at the National Park
- ▶ June: Press trip on the theme of 'Predators at the Hohe Tauern National Park'
- ▶ September: Joint presence of the Austrian National Parks at the harvest festival on Heldenplatz in Vienna
- ▶ November: Joint presence of the Austrian National Parks at the *Interpädagogica* trade fair in Vienna

Education:	Participants
▶ School excursions, outdoors	7,576
▶ Mobile National Park school (Waterschool, Climate School, Drinking Water Days)	5,006
▶ Guided tours for schoolchildren at visitor facilities	2,820
▶ NP workshop and Science Centre	1,127
▶ Lectures	139
▶ Youth camps	21
▶ 'The National Park Comes to Town' ORF school fete	500
▶ Climate School fete	1,075
▶ National Park Academy	161
▶ 44 partner schools with total number of schoolchildren	6,020
▶ Foreign delegations	46
Education, total	24,491

Other projects in environmental education and visitor information:	Circulation
▶ National Park Magazine, 1 issue (to every household in Salzburg province)	202,911 copies
▶ Rudi the Ranger – National Park Report for children, 4 issues	20,200 copies
▶ Hohe Tauern News – Special newspaper of the Salzburg Week in co-operation with the HTNP holiday region, 2 issues (January and July)	340,000 copies

Voluntary gap year on the environment at the Hohe Tauern National Park

Nicola Kist completed a voluntary environmental gap year at the Hohe Tauern National Park Administration in Mittersill from November 2013 to August 2014. The German school-leaver chose to do a voluntary placement at the Hohe Tauern National Park for a period of ten months, mediated through the youth environmental platform *JUMP*. She was remunerated with modest pocket money, with the National Park Administration providing her with her own accommodation in Uttendorf.



Nicola Kist, a trainee on a voluntary gap year on the environment, was able to broaden her knowledge of nature and the National Park.

Nicola Kist carried out a wide range of tasks. Most of the time she worked in the office, helping out the staff at the National Park Administration. Her spectrum of duties ranged from drafting texts to proofreading reports, actively contributing to the design of the new homepage, conducting research work, and lots more. Nicola also accompanied the National Park Rangers on the annual children's and youth camps, going a great job as an additional member of the support staff. During the winter months she was often at the National Park exhibition on the 'National Park Panorama Resterhöhe' in Hollersbach, telling visitors all about the mountains as well as lots of interesting facts and figures about the National Park itself. In between she attended further training courses by the *JUMP* organisation, which enabled her to broaden her knowledge of nature and conservation.

Nicola Kist blended in very well with the team at the National Park Administration, benefiting from their expertise and experience. As a result she built up a solid foundation for her science studies, which she began once her internship had ended.

National Park seasonal trainees



The Salzburg Hohe Tauern National Park is one of the region's largest employers. Alongside the 47 permanent members of staff and one person on alternative civilian service, 31 pupils and students were given the opportunity of a holiday work placement in 2014, which this year again was supported financially by the Sparkasse Mittersill as sponsor. Over the summer months of July and August the information huts at nearly all the National Park's valley entrances were therefore staffed with seasonal trainees. The young staff members were totally dedicated to the task of offering visitors and guests comprehensive information about the nature protection area and each particular valley, and handing out the latest maps.

National Park Rangers

National Park Rangers have a wide range of responsibilities. This summer they accompanied a large number of National Park visitors to the uplands of the nature protection area as part of weekly hikes and selected special tours from the National Park's Nature Experience Programme; they organised programmes for schoolchildren, e.g. the mobile Waterschool and the Climate School as well as environmental education modules at the Klausnerhaus and the Science Centre; and they each looked after one particular National Park valley and attended to regional supervision tasks. 14 National Park Rangers including two mountain and ski guides were permanently employed in summer 2014.

Our warmest thanks to all our sponsors who supported the projects of the Salzburg National Park Fund in the Education & Visitor Information business area in 2014!



Ranger apparel



National Park
seasonal trainees



Snowshoes

The National Park Comes to Town



On 12 and 13 June 2014 the National Park visited the city of Salzburg. The National Park's school fete was held on Day 1 in co-operation with the ORF (Austria's national public service broadcaster); on Day 2, the National Park took part in the ORF's regional produce market, or *Schmankerlmarkt*. Both events took place in the OB area of the ORF's regional studio.

At the school fete National Park Director Wolfgang Urban and ORF Regional Director Roland Brunhofer welcomed around 500 schoolchildren from 15 Salzburg schools. At various stations the children were able to demonstrate, expand and consolidate their knowledge of the National Park.

As with most of the National Park's educational offers, knowledge was combined with an experience factor, the aim being to create not just an understanding and an insight in the long term but also an awareness of the need for action, prompted by a sense of being 'emotionally involved'. Whether it was the game of National Park Memory, *Saututtntechn* or the Millions Show – the schoolchildren were able to try their hand at plenty of fun games featuring lots of content about the nature protection area.

Their creativity was also required when it came to making their own herb-flavoured salt and aromatic herb vinegar, not to mention personalised keyrings. What's more, they were allowed to take the finished products home with them. At the wildlife station the National Park's professional hunters used exciting visual aids to explain the way of life of typical animals found in

the high mountain ranges. It was an opportunity for the children to get up close to the animals for once. Thanks to the fete 'tomorrow's adults' were able to get to know the Hohe Tauern National Park a little better – especially those who live in urban areas. Tasty treats for the children included products by the organic brand *Ja! Natürlich* and *Milka*.

At the ORF *Schmankerlmarkt* the National Park was represented with a wide range of regional produce. Staff were also on hand to provide the interested Salzburg public with advice and information packs about the Hohe Tauern National Park.



National Park camps



The children experienced lots of adventure at the camps. Full details of the National Park camps can be found in the yearly Nature Experience Programme.

Each year the National Park Administration organises exciting and instructive mountain camps for children and teenagers of various age groups. This year's programme included the Five Valleys Trek and the Nature Experience Camp. Adventure-filled expeditions through the fascinating world of the mountains, observations of wild animals in their natural habitat, rock collecting, climbing, making things, eating meals together, and playing in the great outdoors all made for unforgettable impressions and experiences.

The Five Valleys Trek took place from 20 to 24 July 2014 in co-operation with the Austrian Alpine Club, with nine teenagers aged 14 to 17 taking part. Accompanied by National Park Rangers and seasonal trainees they hiked through five different valleys of the National Park, overnighing in four different mountain huts.

The Nature Experience Camp was held from 27 to 31 July 2014 in co-operation with the Friends of Nature. Lots of children aged 8 to 12 spent the holiday week at the Astenschmiede self-catering lodge in Rauris, from where many ventures were undertaken.

Along the way the children and teenagers were given lots of useful advice by the National Park Rangers on the proper conduct in high mountain regions; they also found out a great deal about the natural environment surrounding them and important information about the Hohe Tauern National Park.

National Park special tours

The National Park's annual programme for 2014 comprised a total of some 30 weekly hikes in both summer and winter. They took place in many of the National Park valleys, with the different themes and levels of difficulty appealing to a multitude of visitors. From an organisational point of view the aim of these particularly challenging and complex special tours is also to win over the local population to take part in a guided National Park tour. It means that, in the company of experienced National Park Rangers, people from the region also get an opportunity to find out a lot more about nature and the ties with the Hohe Tauern National Park, not to mention the mountain experience itself.

The special tours take place on various weekends during the summer and winter months and are a special treat for all mountain enthusiasts. The three mountain and ski guides employed by the National Park took the tour participants right into the heart of the National Park, way above the tree line, across terrain that is at times difficult and features the thrill of one or two mountain summits. Some of the tours lasted two days, with an overnight stay at a mountain refuge as part of the programme. All those taking part, whether on touring skis in winter or Shanks's pony in summer, were able to enjoy this exceptional National Park offer. 122 people took part in 2014 and were thrilled by the experience.



Wonderful views in the Hohe Tauern National Park. The special tours are an opportunity to follow specific trails to sites that are otherwise barely accessible on one's own.

Examples of these popular special tours include: in summer 'From Ferleiten to the Pasterze Glacier', 'From Innerschlöss to the Hollersbachtal Valley' and 'Round the Dreiherrnspitze'; in winter 'Snowshoe hiking to the Kreuzeck', '2-day ski tour of the Großvenediger' and 'Skiing across the Krimmler Tauern'.



Opening of the Glacier-Climate-Weather exhibition

In summer 2014 the National Park Administration in co-operation with the Austrian Federal Railways opened its new Glacier-Climate-Weather exhibition in Uttendorf. The attraction is located in the Weißsee glacier world at 2315 m above sea level, i.e. in a high-altitude environment alongside glaciers, sheer rock faces and mountain lakes. Intriguing and highly educational installations enable visitors to find out more about the complex themes of glaciers, the climate and the weather.

The climate in the National Park is comparable to a journey of several hundred kilometres from central Europe to the North Pole. Indeed, a hike from the valley floor up to the highest summit regions of the National Park is the equivalent, on a smaller scale, of crossing all the climate zones of central and northern Europe. So one of the aspects of the exhibition focuses on climate change and its impact on high mountain regions, e.g. receding glaciers.

This in turn is linked to another important theme of the exhibition, i.e. sustainable mobility. The railways are one of the most eco-friendly modes of transport in Austria, helping to cut up to 3.4 million tonnes of CO₂ every year.

The exhibition was designed and planned by Verdandi, with the National Park and the Austrian Federal Railways (ÖBB) investing a total of EUR 1.5 m. The ÖBB made space available at the ÖBB works-cableway building. The many interactive stations and the use of high-quality materials spread over two storeys and a total surface area of 258 m² make this exhibition particularly exciting.

Young and old alike are encouraged to try out as many things for themselves as possible. If they take their time, they'll find that two to three hours will have flown past in no time at all. The visit can also be ideally combined with a short excursion to the National Park. The exhibition is free; the only costs involved are the trip up to the exhibition on board the Weißsee Glacier Cableway.

The new visitor attraction was officially inaugurated on 3 June 2014. An Open Day was held on June 15, it was attended by no fewer than 800 visitors keen to take in the exhibition and not only find out something new but also enjoy the high-alpine setting. Meanwhile nearly every National Park municipality now has an attractive National Park visitor facility of its own, each addressing a different topic relating to the nature conservation area. And admission to most of them is free.

- Total project costs: EUR 1.5 m
- Financing: Rural development, measure 323a nature conservation; Austrian Federal Railways



Redesign of the National Park exhibition 'Life Under Water'

This National Park exhibition looks at the underwater world which even a national park set in a high mountain region has to offer. Wonderfully designed models and illustrations showcase the phenomena and correlations of life under water to visitors at the exhibition. The biology of the animals, their way of life and their fascinating strategies for adapting to extreme living conditions high up in the mountains are explained in ways that are accessible to all.



Twice a day during the summer, visitors have the possibility of exploring aquatic life in streams and pools in the company of National Park Rangers.

This visitor attraction was created in co-operation with the Ferleiten Wildlife Park and is located on separate premises within the Wildlife Park. Due to technical problems the original concept had to be redesigned, and new technical and museum-based educational solutions were developed as a result.

- ▶ Total project costs: EUR 710,000
- ▶ Financing: Rural development, measure 323a nature conservation



Könige der Lüfte photovoltaic installation



The 'eagle's wing' is not just a contemporary and highly distinctive architectural feature but also an attractive form of sustainable energy generation.

The building known as the *Könige der Lüfte*, or sovereigns of the skies, was opened in summer 2008. This popular contemporary exhibition looks at three species of predators: griffon vultures, bearded vultures, and golden eagles. Already at the planning stage for the attraction a steel structure reminiscent of an eagle's wing was under consideration for the entrance canopy. For cost reasons, however, this innovative idea could not be realised at the time. Then, at the beginning of 2014, the funds became available and the exhibition was upgraded both architecturally and in terms of energy technology.

With visitor attractions such as the Glacier-Climate-Weather exhibition and the energy-themed trail in the Obersulzbachtal Valley, the National Park is able to draw attention to climate change issues and highlight potential solutions. In this sense the roof structure itself is an active contribution. The 22 photovoltaic modules recreate a 27 m² eagle's wing and, with an output of 7.1 kWp, they are set to generate around 7000 kWp of electricity a year, equivalent to the electricity consumption of two single-family houses. In fact, it's enough to cover the annual consumption of the building itself and the exhibition technology combined.

Opening hours:

- ▶ from May 1 to October 26: daily from 10 am to 6 pm
- ▶ from late December to mid-March: every Wednesday from 4 pm to 6 pm
- ▶ Guided tours:
- ▶ available for groups, on request (duration: approx. 1 hour)

- ▶ Total project costs (photovoltaic installation): EUR 150,000
- ▶ Financing: Rural development, measure 323a nature conservation

Mountain guide partnership

The state certified mountain guides and ski guides are key partners of the Hohe Tauern National Park. In 2014 a joint venture was concluded between the National Park Administration and the Salzburg Association of Mountain Guides, providing a win-win situation for both parties.

Under the terms of the partnership the mountain guides are to complete an intensive training course on the National Park as an internationally recognised nature protection area, its objectives, tasks and projects, the global idea of a National Park, its historical development, and the many different natural resources. The experienced mountain guides will also be familiarised with many new aspects of their home region, which they can then pass on to visitors from abroad as part of their tours.

The joint venture will be publicised by the fact that the mountain guides will be entitled to use the official National Park partner logo, which also identifies them as qualified professionals in the National Park's sense. Given the many inquiries for high-alpine guided tours into the National Park, the National Park Administration will now be able to mediate preferential contracts to these qualified mountain guides. Given that the National Park wishes to raise the public's awareness of its concerns and the mountain guides for their part wish to offer guests challenging high-alpine tours up to the summits and ridges of this fascinating nature protection area, both sides will now benefit equally from the new partnership.





Evaluation of the National Park management

‘PR and Education’ field of activity

As part of the EMINA project on the evaluation of the management of Austria’s National Parks the ‘PR & Education’ field of activity was scrutinised as a key area of responsibility for any National Park. The profile of strengths and weaknesses was then derived for each National Park based on the comparison between the target status defined beforehand for Austria as a whole and the actual situation encountered on the ground. With regard to ‘PR & Education’ the following aspects among others were highlighted for the Hohe Tauern National Park:

- ▶ The Hohe Tauern National Park is consistent in its pursuit of its education concept, maintaining particular quality standards. Education offers are continually evaluated through feedback from participants.
- ▶ A multitude of education programmes are on offer. The aim is to involve the partners from the region by drawing up programmes together. Modern and innovative offers (e.g. Earth Cache) are also incorporated into the programmes.
- ▶ A visitor guidance system is established at specifically selected visitor hot spots throughout the National Park (e.g. Krimml waterfalls). Beyond that, the topography of the high mountain region itself determines a natural guidance system for visitors.

- ▶ The National Park operates a consistent guidance system and consistent signposting. Accessibility – where implementable – is a priority issue at the visitor attractions.
- ▶ The PR work at the National Park is planned with specific target groups in mind, using a broad spectrum of different media. All the municipalities in the National Park region are involved as a matter of principle so that the best possible information about the National Park offers can be made available to guests to the region via the local contact points. Acceptance of the National Park has improved continually through the consistent media work and the attractive education programme, particularly those aimed at schools in the region. Besides press releases, flyers and brochures, TV and radio features, and newsletters, lots of different events are organised for the general public, along with attendance at trade fairs and regular education events for the benefit of partner schools.

Generally speaking, it was ascertained through the evaluation that the Hohe Tauern National Park Salzburg has a very good rating for its PR & Education field of activity.

The education sector in particular has been extensively funded over many years, with much of the funding invested into setting up and expanding school partnerships, curriculum-compliant school programmes, and National Park educational facilities. There has been a very strong take-up from the 44 partner schools and also from visitors to the region for the wide range of offers available through the National Park.

Preservation of the Cultural Landscape

With a total surface area of 1,856 km² the Hohe Tauern National Park is the largest national park in the entire Alpine region. In the 1,145 km² core zones, characterised by unspoilt, original alpine ecosystems, the main management objective is to ensure the undisturbed course of natural processes. The National Park intervenes in these areas only in instances where it is aiming to reintroduce once extinct wildlife such as the ibex or the bearded vulture.

Alongside the unspoilt core zones the National Park also comprises a total of 643 km² of outer zones. Here the natural landscapes have been utilised by mankind for centuries, shaped, nurtured and preserved as species-rich cultural landscapes. The main management objectives in these outer zones is to support natural alpine farming in order to secure biodiversity.

Livestock drives in 2014

► Animals	Numbers
► Dairy cows	1,223
► Other cattle	6,133
► Horses	359
► Sheep and goats	7,217

Promotion of the National Park

Support for measures aimed at preserving the cultural landscape in the National Park is founded on three mainstays:

► **National Park premium**

This premium is tied in with driving cattle up to alpine pastures to ensure that, in the outer zone, the diversity of habitats always associated with grazing and mowing is preserved. Through alpine farming these areas are deliberately left open when, under natural conditions, they would be forested or overgrown with shrubs and bushes; here again, this represents a contribution to preserving biodiversity.

► **Promoting traditional elements of the cultural landscape**

These funds go towards encouraging the use of traditional wood shingles, building genuine Pinzgau fences and traditional dry stone structures, etc. Besides their intrinsic value as a traditional, inherited and indigenous building culture that has shaped the landscape of the Hohe Tauern for centuries, these rustic structural elements also represent a precious habitat for certain species of flora and fauna. What's more, ancient manual skills can continue to be used and passed down to the next generation.





► Preservation of autochthonous domestic breeds

It is not just wild animals that are threatened with extinction, but also ancient domestic breeds that have been kept and bred in the National Park region since time immemorial. Ancient, proven breeds in particular represent an indispensable genetic pool. Consequently, purchases of Pinzgau cattle, but also of traditional sheep and goat breeds such as the Pinzgau goat, Tauern dappled goat or Austrian striped goat are actively promoted. Attention is also drawn specifically to these local particularities and the main correlations as part of the education remit and visitor information of the National Park administration.

Purchase premiums for autochthonous domestic breeds

► Pinzgau cattle	23
► Pinzgau bulls	8
► Tyrolean mountain sheep	23
► Brown mountain sheep	1
► Pinzgau goats	3
► Striped goats	8



Agricultural-economic concepts are also undergoing change and adapting to the supraregional demands of an increasingly globalised agricultural sector. Changes and their impact even on century-old cultural landscapes in mountain regions are increasing all the time. Mechanisation, reorientation and performance optimisation in agricultural production have also affected alpine farming as it used to be. It is therefore about meeting these new challenges head-on so that, even in the future, modern alpine farming is able to exist in harmony with the preservation of a near-natural cultural landscape and a high level of biodiversity.



Wood shingles and fences funded in 2014

► Overlaid shingles, recovered	80 m²
► Overlaid shingles, new	30 m²
► Shingle roof, larch	800 m²
► Wall shingles	175 m²
► Pole fencing	506 linear metres
► Wooden roof guttering	28 linear metres
► Natural stone walls	60 m²
► Wooden water troughs	2
► Pole gates	3

National Park Region

Web-Info: www.nationalparkregion.at

In the past the Hohe Tauern National Park's business area dedicated to Regional Development was handled primarily through the association LEADER-Hohe Tauern National Park Region. The Salzburg National Park Fund took over the management in 2008 and the association was housed on the premises of the National Park Administration, thereby generating all sorts of synergies out of the National Park idea and the projects in the National Park region itself. Due to formal innovations to be implemented by all LEADER associations in Austria as of the funding period 2014-2020, the association LEADER-Hohe Tauern National Park Region is once again operating as an autonomous agency with its own staff and from its own offices.

LEADER projects for 2014



Apple pomace flour

In March 2013 Verena Olschnögger launched her innovative project entitled 'Upcycled Food' as part of her Master's thesis, working with the Bramberg orchard press, the TAURISKA association, and the Bramberger Obstsaft region of culinary produce. The project was aimed at developing a refined product based on apple pomace, a by-product obtained whenever large quantities of apples are pressed for juice. In the past, farmers and hunters would feed this highly nutritious pomace to their livestock and animals. Within a year the dedicated project team succeeded in producing apple pomace flour from the raw product, which contains a great many healthy ingredients. This new foodstuff can now be used for baking, roasting, and cooking. Biscuits made from pomace flour are already on sale. The good co-operation between all those involved has made it



possible to take a visionary idea and literally lead it to fruition. The scientifically monitored project on pomace flour, which is all about sustainability and the conservation of resources, was supported by the Salzburg National Park Fund and by LEADER.

- Project promoter: *Obst- und Gartenbauverein Bramberg*
- Project term: 2013 – 2014
- Project costs: around EUR 80,000

Oberpinzgau model business parks

The Oberpinzgau nature development strategy has shown that the often faceless business parks devoid of any cultural identity need to be adapted specifically to the region shaped by tourism, a cultural landscape of mountain farming, and the Hohe Tauern National Park. The association LEADER-Hohe Tauern National Park Region therefore launched its project on Oberpinzgau model business parks to study ways in which business parks could best be integrated into the National Park region, first and foremost from an ecologically sustainable point of view, but also aesthetically and in a way that conveys a sense of identity.

In co-operation with local municipalities and the Federal Province's Nature Conservation Department the 'Allee42 Landschaftsarchitekten' architectural practice was commissioned to draw up a number of concepts and proposals for measures based on four business parks. A whole array of real possibilities for improvement were identified: the catalogue of measures included the right choice of location, a contemporary architectural solution with regional recognition

potential, and an exterior design in harmony with the natural setting. A great deal of importance was attached for instance to the right planting, the targeted use of various micro-habitats, and structures such as wetland biotopes, near-natural hedges and lean dry sites – as well as avoiding areas that were consistently covered over and sealed.

The main design principles and tips for regionally and ecologically sustainable business parks have now been compiled into a folder. It is to act as an incentive for all the parties involved at the planning stage of a new business park to strive towards an ecologically compatible concept, given that these measures do not entail any additional costs – provided they are incorporated right from the outset. The folder can be obtained from the LEADER-Hohe Tauern National Park Region association.

Oberpinzgau nature development strategy

‘Developing and preserving diversity together’ was the motto under which this joint project by the Oberpinzgau Regional Association and the Federal Province’s Nature Conservation Department was drawn up. An innovative nationwide participatory approach was adopted in drawing up this nature development strategy. The region itself was called upon to evaluate the current state of both nature and landscape and come up with objectives for a beneficial future development.

Concurrently, a nature conservation analysis was carried out by experts at the *Haus der Natur*. Finally, both points of view were merged into a common strategy – resulting in a surprising number of overlaps.



The strategy had become necessary because, while there is consensus in principle among the regional population about nature and landscape conservation, there has often been little or no understanding for the actual measures stipulated by nature conservation. The lack of a common viewpoint was to be replaced by drawing up a nature mission statement with which both the regional population and nature conservation experts could identify.

Objectives of the nature development strategy:

- Provide assistance to regional stakeholders and municipalities with nature conservation and regional planning procedures
- Provide technical foundations for decision-making in official procedures, with the aim also of achieving a higher transparency, traceability and acceptance of nature conservation
- Clarify funding opportunities for nature conservation measures as well as potential compensatory measures

Besides the actual planning outcome the parties involved were very positive in their evaluation particularly of the openness and transparency of the communication process. It meant that new findings and insights were obtained, along with a more comprehensive understanding of the relevant requirements and points of view of the various stakeholders. Now it is a matter of guiding the nature development strategy towards implementation so that it is incorporated into future planning phases and decisions that affect the development of both nature and landscape.



Tourism

Web-Info: www.nationalpark.at

National Park – Service provider for tourism

Common homepage: www.nationalpark.at

The revamped homepage www.nationalpark.at has been up and running since the middle of the year. The innovative internet presence is a joint effort by the National Park Administration and the Holiday Region. Wolfgang Urban, Director of the Hohe Tauern National Park, and Christian Wörster, Managing Director of Ferienregion Nationalpark Hohe Tauern GmbH, pooled their resources to pack as much information as possible into a compact, clearly structured homepage – with excellent results.

Not only is the homepage simple to use, but everything is easy to find: from winter and summer activities in the region to events, hikes with National Park Rangers, general information about the National Parks – and even booking a hotel. The homepage itself contains news items from the National Park region and the latest weather forecasts. Fascinating image galleries illustrating the information texts are there to whet the appetite for more Hohe Tauern National Park.

The joint venture between the National Park Administration and the Holiday Region is also reflected in the planning and implementation of common projects such as the 360° nature and summit experience or the publication of the Hohe Tauern News twice a year.

NATIONALPARK CARD
Eine Karte für den größten Nationalpark Österreichs

Manch einer wundert sich: Was haben die Großglockner Hochalpenstraße und die Krimmler Wasserfälle mit dem Nationalparkzentrum Hohe Tauern in Mittersill gemeinsam? Mehr als man denkt! Sie alle sind Inklusivleistungen der attraktiven Nationalpark Card!



Durch Vorweisen einer gültigen Nationalpark Card, erhält der Gast während der Dauer des Aufenthaltes einmalig kostenlose (All-inclusive Leistungspartner) und/oder ermäßigte Nutzung (Bonus-Leistungspartner) zu zahlreichen Bergbahnen, Ausflugszielen, Outdoor-Aktivitäten, Sehenswürdigkeiten, Museen, Nationalpark-Ausstellungen, Schwimmbädern und vielem mehr in der ganzen Ferienregion Nationalpark Hohe Tauern.

Folder zur Nationalparkcard

Die Leistungen







BERGERLEBNIS

BADEN

MUSEEN


SPORT

NATUR

1. Mai bis 31. Oktober 2015
Über 60 Attraktionen zur Auswahl

Sommer Card

**URLAUB
À LA CARTE**



HOHE TAUERN
DIE NATIONALPARK-REGION

nationalpark.at

National Park Card

With the National Park Card, guests of the Hohe Tauern National Park Holiday Region are able to avail themselves of many all-inclusive offers and concessions; it also entitles them to take part, free of charge, in the weekly guided hikes organised by the National Park administration, among others. A total of 31,601 of these Cards were issued in 2014.

Association of Friends

Web-Info: www.tauernfreund.at

With the support of our private-sector partners, we were able once again to realise important projects in the areas of species protection, environmental education and the experience of nature in 2014. The Association of Friends of the Hohe Tauern National Park plays a pivotal role in this respect. The objective of this non-profit association is to support the development of the National Park in co-ordination with the National Park managers of the Federal Provinces of Carinthia, Salzburg and Tyrol as well as the Federal Government. This is done mainly with the help of private-sector businesses, but also some 3,000 individual members. As a co-opted member in the National Park Council the Friends act as the National Park's official sponsoring body.

2014 Partner Meeting

The annual meeting of partners was held at the Heiligenblut National Park municipality on July 3 and 4 at the invitation of *Grossglockner Hochalpenstrassen AG*. The programme included wildlife observations on the Kaiser-Franz-Josefs-Höhe and a hike along the Gamsgrube panoramic trail to the Wasserfallwinkel, and a lecture by internationally renowned extreme mountaineer Peter Habeler.

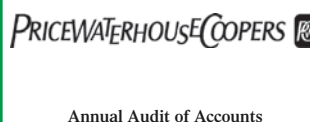
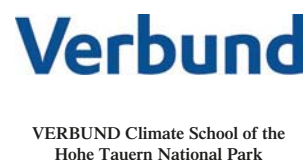
At the general assembly at Casino Baden on 3 November 2014, Chairman Karl Stoss was able to report on a positive balance, with around EUR 400,000 available to National Park projects in 2014. Also adopted at the meeting were resolutions relating to the revised sponsoring concept, a community document by the Association of Friends of the Hohe Tauern National Park and the National Park Council.



2014 partner meeting on the Kaiser-Franz-Josefs-Höhe

Many thanks ...

... to all our partners who supported our programmes and projects during 2014!



Organisation of the National Park Administration

The many tasks and duties performed by the National Park Administration require an efficient and effective organisational structure. Statutory tasks, i.e. those where the National Park administration acts as a public authority, are ideally anchored within the organisational structure of the Office of the Salzburg Provincial Government. By contrast, for the National Park Administration's core duties – from the funding of the cultural landscape and the National Park region to natural resource management, science & research, and education & visitor information – it is expedient to have a National Park Fund the steering of which is the responsibility of a Board of Trustees in which the National Park Municipalities, land owners, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, and the Provincial Government are represented on an equal footing.

Board of Trustees

**The Board of Trustees held two meetings in 2014:
March 14, October 30**

Members and substitute members of the Board of Trustees:

Deputy Governor RÖSSLER Astrid, Chairwoman
ALTENBERGER Georg, 1st Deputy Chairman
REITER Robert, 2nd Deputy Chairman (until 28.07.2014)
ENZINGER Hannes (from 30.10.2014)
MOSLER-TÖRNSTRÖM Gudrun
BERNINGER Ulrike-G.
FISCHER-COLBRIE Josef
HINTERSTOISSER Hermann
NILL Franz
LERCHBAUMER Hannes
ÖR STEINER Hans

BLAIKNER Alois
TOFERER Hans

ZEHENTNER Robert (until 28.07.2014)
COMES Hans-Peter (from 30.10.2014)
STADLER Susanne (until 28.07.2014)
KÖNIG Karin (from 30.10.2014)
FREIBERGER Walter (from 28.07.2014)
LOITFELLNER Peter (from 30.10.2014)
HUTTEGGER Rupert

Government representatives:

HASLER Viktoria

EHRENFELDNER Johannes





Fund Advisory Board

**The Fund Advisory Board held one meeting in 2014:
March 6**

Members and substitute members of the Fund Advisory Board:

DREXLER Rosmarie, Chairwoman
ZEHENTNER Robert
TRENKA Kurt
BAUERNBERGER Leo
SCHWAIGER Josef
WIMMER Harald
WESSELY August
KARLSBÖCK Norbert
VIERTLER Wolfgang
STEINBAUER Gerhard
HUBER Otmar
EMBACHER Peter
SCHARLER Anton
GEISLER Friedrich
BRUNAUER Johann
HUFNAGL Dietmar
ATZMANSTORFER Edgar
SOMMERAUER Otmar
NINDL Peter
HOLZWIESER Martin
SLUPETZKY Heinz
ZIMMERMANN Mathias
STÜBER Eberhard
ZANDL Josef
TÜRK Roman

GRATZ Bernhard
SCHMIDLECHNER Karl
KÖNIG Karin
WÖRISTER Christian
MITTER Michael
POSCH Wolfgang
GEIGER Margot
CZERNY Erich
STEINER Günter
KANDLER Ernst Josef
WÖLFLE Johann
MEILINGER Franz
KALTENHAUSER Georg
KALTENHAUSER Siegfried
DI WIESER Siegfried
EYMANNSBERGER Helmut
LAIREITER Christian
GÖSTL Rudolf
RAINER Balthasar
ÜBLAGGER Hannes
WÖRGÖTTER Wastl
HOLZWIESER Martin
WINDING Norbert
MEILINGER Georg
DACHS Edgar

Employees of the Salzburg National Park Administration

47 employees and 31 seasonal trainees worked for the National Park Administration in 2014.

National Park Administration

URBAN Wolfgang, National Park Director

Natural Resource Management

LAINER Ferdinand, National Park Deputy Director

EBNER Günter, professional hunter

GRUBER Bruno, professional hunter

KAUFMANN Anton, professional hunter

Science & Research

BAUCH Kristina

HOCHWIMMER Barbara, Geographic Information System

BERGER Sonja, library

Education & Visitor Information

KIRCHNER Maria

RIEDER Ferdinand

KASERER Silvia

ROTH-CALLIES Nina, *Könige der Läfte* facility

HOFER Gerhard, show mine

HOFER Johannes, show mine

KAVELAR Christian, show mine

BREINL Christoph, show mine

BERNERT Kurt, show mine

SCHLÄFFER Valentin, alternative civilian service (from Oct. 2014)

Area Management

HETZ Alois, area manager (until 12.08.2014)

MILLGRAMMER Hannes, trail worker

RENDL Norbert, trail worker

WÖRISTER Michael

FEDRA Alexander, alternative civilian service (from Oct. 2014)

Legal Department

SCHWEIGER Ariane

LEADER Agency

PLETZER Georgia

MAYER Brigitte, assistant

Secretariat

EBERL Katharina

KALCHER Maria

MAYER Veronika

HERZOG Jana, apprentice (until 09.06.2014)

Cleaning

MAIER Karin, NPV Mittersill

REITER Barbara, *Könige der Läfte* facility

National Park Rangers

ALTENBERGER Stefan

HEIDER Ekkehard

HOFER Herbert

HÖLZL Alexander

HUTTER Martha

KENDLBACHER Robert

KIRCHNER Maria

LERCH Stefan

MEIXNER Patrik

MUHR Hannes

NAGLMAYR Hans

SCHMUCK Herbert

SCHUH Werner

STURM Gerald

UNTERHOFER Martin (until 30.06.2014)

National Park seasonal trainees

AGER Verena

AICHNER Eva-Maria

BACHER Alexandra

BERAUER Christian

DEUTSCHMANN Claudia

DRAXL Marie-Louise

EGGER Theresa

EHRHARDT Martina

FOISNER Vera

GRANIG Melanie

GERMANN Felix

HASENAUER Leonie

HOFMANN Moritz

HOFMANN Pia

KELLNER Katharina

KIST Nicola

KRÖLL Patrick

LEMBERGER Norbert

LINDNER Tanja

LÜFTENEGGER Barbara

MACHEINER Viktoria

MÜRWALD Lukas

NEUMAYR Hannes

PECILE Anna

PORTENKIRCHNER Sarah

RAINER Tanja

SCHEER Clara

STACHL Mario

STUTZ Petra

VOITHOFER Anna

WOLLMARKER Daniela

Outlook



It was only in the final weeks of last year that a new National Park Act was adopted by Salzburg's Landtag parliament. Now it is a matter of using the new outline conditions, opportunities and instruments to take the National Park and its objectives to the next level. Through the new National Park Act the National Park Administration has been shown a great deal of trust and given new responsibilities by the body politic. Unlike most other national parks in Austria and neighbouring Europe the National Park Administration has been endowed for the first time not only with financial and informational control mechanisms, but also with all the sovereign statutory powers and jurisdictions of a public authority. All of which will greatly facilitate the management of our nature protection area.

Also embodied in the new National Park Act is the commitment to draw up a management plan that encompasses all our areas of business. Taking account of the results of the guidelines and principles drawn up by National Parks Austria and the evaluation of Austrian National Parks carried out by the EUROPARC Deutschland e.V. umbrella association, we will be working very intensively on this new medium-term planning instrument throughout 2015. Just as the management plan will have to be implemented as of 2016, new agreements relating to process protection areas will have to come into force for IUCN

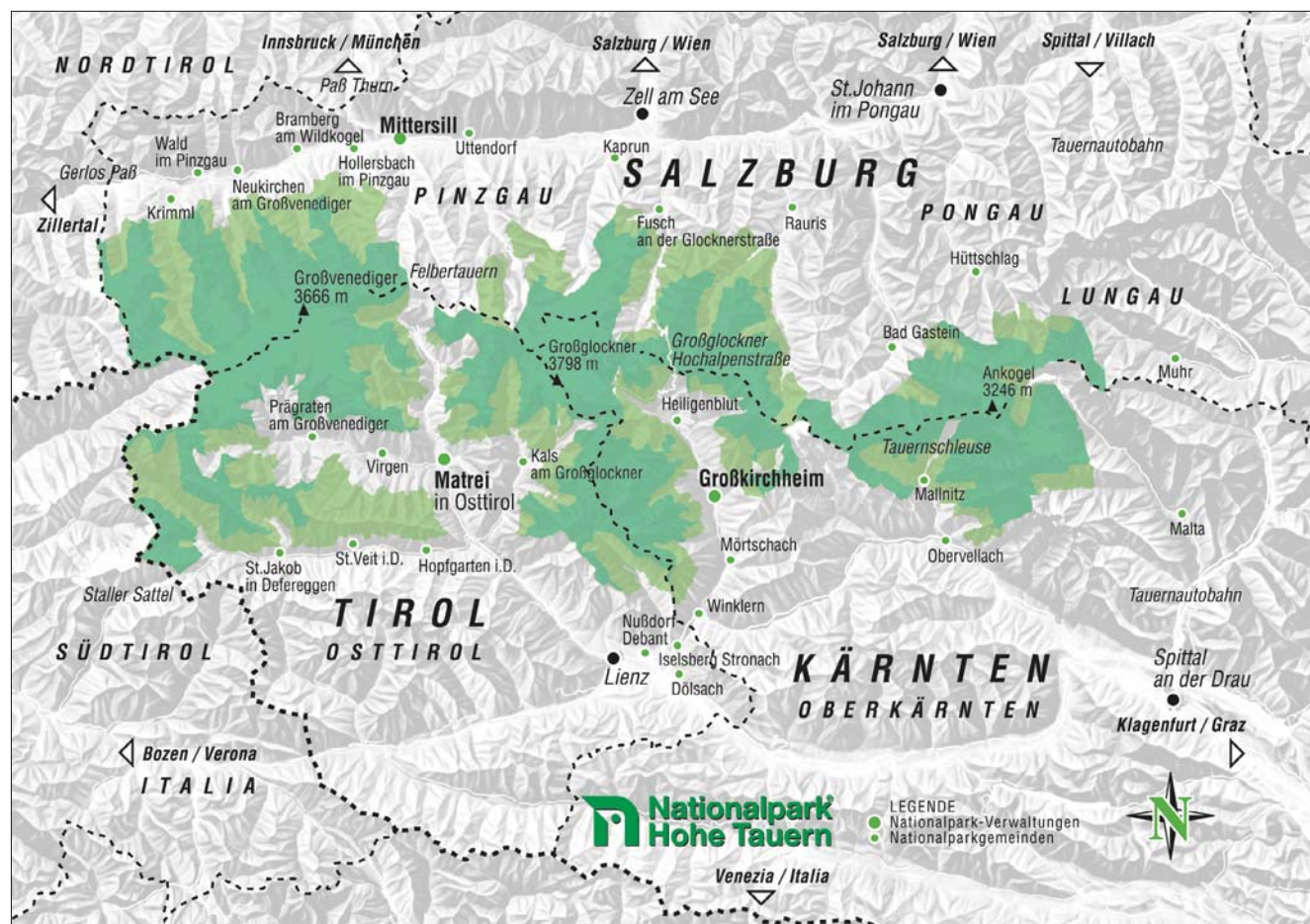
II approval. During negotiations with the land owners concerned in 2015, it will be a matter of improving and optimising from an ecological point of view the effectiveness of the land that is taken out of use, which will of course tie up a large part of the public funds deployed.

Already in years past, wilderness became more and more of a topic of debate in European nature conservation policy and, increasingly, it is set to become a task for the large European conservation areas. We are proud of the fact that, in 2014, the first Wilderness Days organised by the European Wilderness Society (EWS) were held here at the Park. The potential wilderness areas in and around the special protected area of Untersulzbachtal will again be submitted to a detailed audit by the EWS in 2015. A decisive factor in establishing a wilderness area will be not only the current unspoilt state of the area concerned, but also the way in which the natural dynamics can be secured for all future, in keeping with process protection. Whether the area is successfully secured through acquisition of ownership, long-term leasing agreements and an extension of the special protected area will also ultimately determine whether we as a National Park within the network of European protected areas continue to play a serious role in the future, too.



Wolfgang URBAN
National Park Director

Contact



National Park Administration

National Park Centre

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