



Activity report 2013

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

Publishing information

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The chamois (Rupicapra rupicapra) is a characteristic animal of the Hohe Tauern. Perfectly adapted to life in the mountains, this species prefers grass heaths interspersed with rocky terrain, above the tree line up to 3.000 m above sea level. In the summer, the chamois climb in the alpine zone upwards to the snow line, during the winter and under extreme weather conditions, they also retreat in part to the uppermost forest areas. In the winter, they also occasionally wander from the snowy shady side to the sunny side, which provides more snow-free slopes and ridges. (Photo: H. ZEILER).

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Among the large animals of the Tauern region, the diurnal chamois is most commonly observed. Both males and females have horns, the so-called “Gamskrucken”, of the bulls are more tightly curved than the does. The colouring on the back is black-brown in winter and brown-gray to rust coloured in summer. The “chamois beard” is a tuft of hair made from up to 20 cm long winter hair from the chamois’ lower neck. In summer, the food consists of grasses and herbs, in the winter also of buds, shoots and needles from dwarf shrubs and trees. Chamois frequently live in herds. (Photo: H. ZEILER).

National Parks are National Heritage Sites



The six Austrian national parks represent our national natural heritage sites. The top-ranking protection category of “National Park” includes those areas all over the world that are distinguished by their large-scale areas and closeness to nature. This means that ecosystems largely undisturbed and little or not affected by human hand have been nominated in this category. Our goal, in coordination with the IUCN protection criteria of The World Conservation Union, is to preserve this state in the six Austrian national parks for future generations.

Far beyond their protected areas, national parks also have numerous positive effects on the regions surrounding them. They are multifunctional centres: whether as environmental education sites, attraction points for visitors or as an employer for “green jobs”. Since their existence, they give valuable impulses for sustainable and innovative projects and the Austrian protected area scenery can no longer be imagined without them.

2014 will be devoted to the continuation of our offensive public relations work, in the National Parks Austria. The Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management within the framework of rural development and in cooperation with the Environmental Umbrella Organisation and the National Park administration, initiated and carried out this project, which is in its third year and could address a wide audience through a variety of activities. The publication

of a National Park Guide, formatted as a travel guide with the special features of the six National Parks, will give a better understanding to a young audience, this also includes the awarding of the National Park Research Prize. After a several-year break, this was again the focus of cooperation between the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and the National Park administration. A film feature with the good-sounding title “Sounds like Nature” and numerous other media-compatible formats of National Park themes, round off this successful awareness-raising package.

We have become a role model in the European region for other protected area administrations, within the framework of the National Parks Austria advisory board, with the results from two working groups on the bark beetle topic and hoofed game management. The annual focus of the Austrian Biodiversity Campaign – “Diversity of Life” – of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, was „Biodiversity and Health” and the “Business and Biodiversity” conference was held to appeal to the economic sector to take greater responsibility for nature.

I am looking forward to an eventful and successful year in our six wonderful National Parks and thank all National Park staff for their commitment!



DI Andrä RUPPRECHTER
Federal Minister for
Agriculture and Forestry,
Environment and
Water Management

Committed Dedication for a Successful Global Idea!



In 1913, due to the initiative by Dr. August Prinzinger, former member of the Salzburg Provincial Parliament and expert on the first US American National Parks, the Nature Conservation Park registered association purchased plots of land in the Felber and Stubach Valleys to implement something in the Hohe Tauern mountains, which existed at that time only in the United States and in Swedish-Lapland: the National Park Idea. The goal was and is, to preserve large-scale and unique ecosystems in their natural state for future generations, to scientifically research their interactions, functions, and changes and to enable people to have an impressive natural experience.

2013 was the year, in which the National Park administration duly commemorated these beginnings and put a number of measures in place which have contributed to interpreting the National Park Idea in accordance with today's standards, and carry far beyond the boundaries of the protected areas. I can look back with joy and pride on the intensive and successful year of work by our National Park administration:

The "High Mountain Wilderness" photo exhibition started the activities which impressed the public throughout the year at various locations domestically and abroad. The central focus component of "100 Years of the National Park Idea in the Hohe Tauern" was the scientific recounting of the National Park history, which was shown within the framework of a special exhibition in the Felberturm Museum and published in a series of scientific writings. The conclusion was the premiere of the National Park composition, "Homeland", where approximately 400 listeners musically envisioned the alpine landscape.

As Head of the National Park, I'm aware that in addition to the protection of nature and our commitment to its importance, uniqueness and beauty, it also has to be made accessible to all people in different ways, above all reliable data and verified findings are essential. In 2013, we successfully hosted the International Symposium for Research in Protected Areas for the 5th time and for the first time in the National Park Center in Mittersill under the umbrella of National Parks Austria. Almost 300 participants from 15 nations took the opportunity to professionally interact and network. Furthermore, at this year's partner school festival, 1.700 students and 160 teachers from our 42 partner schools obtained interesting facts about the National Park in a playful and eventfully exciting way.

The present activity report impressively shows the varied tasks and the great responsibility that our country has for the Hohe Tauern National Park as a habitat and landscape worthy of protection. I want to thank all of the staff for their great dedication and the accomplishments that the management of a national park requires. Also, at this point, I would like to thank you for the warm welcome by the board of trustees and the National Park administration, and look forward to further joint constructive work for the Hohe Tauern National Park!

Thank you Sincerely yours,



Dr. Astrid RÖSSLER
Deputy Governor

Concept

Facts and figures

The Hohe Tauern National Park is the largest National Park in the entire Alps and one of the biggest protected areas in middle Europe.

	Kernzone (km ²)	Außenzone (km ²)	Sonderschutzgebiete (km ²)	Gesamt (km ²)
Kärnten	291	113	36	440
Salzburg	507	266	32	805
Tirol	347	264		611
Nationalpark gesamt	1.145	643	68	1.856

- ▶ West-east-extension 100 km
- ▶ North-south-extension 40 km
- ▶ Sea level 1.000 m to 3.798 m
- ▶ More than 300 peaks above 3.000 m sea level
- ▶ Approx. 180 km² – almost 10% of the expanse – are still covered by glacier ice
- ▶ 279 natural mountain streams, 57 of which are glacial streams and 26 grand waterfalls rush towards the valley like life veins
- ▶ 551 mountain lakes between the size of 35 m² and 27 ha

Alpine natural and cultural landscape

In the Hohe Tauern National Park all significant alpine ecosystems are extensively preserved and undisturbed. Over a third of all Austria's plant species can be found in the National Park. Approximately 50% of Austria's mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians inhabit the Park. The National Park also offers a secure habitat to those animals, which were eradicated at the beginning of the 19th century in almost the whole of Europe.

This impressive biodiversity results from the varied climatic, geological, geomorphic, and hydrologic local conditions at high altitude and the differentiated adaption strategies of flora and fauna. A hike through the altitudinal belts from the valleys to the highest peaks of the National Park equals a journey through all climate zones from middle Europe to the Arctic.

The Hohe Tauern window – a tectonic window unique in shape and size worldwide – allows insights into the deepest tectonic layers of the Alps and is therefore the key to understanding the Alp's geological structure. Stones of various ages, developments

and chemical compositions contain a treasure of up to 200 different minerals.

The landscape of trough and hanging valleys, cirques, horns and cirque lakes, of gorges and canyons, and so on, mirrors the modelling glacial force as well as the result of weathering and erosion due to gravity, frost and water.

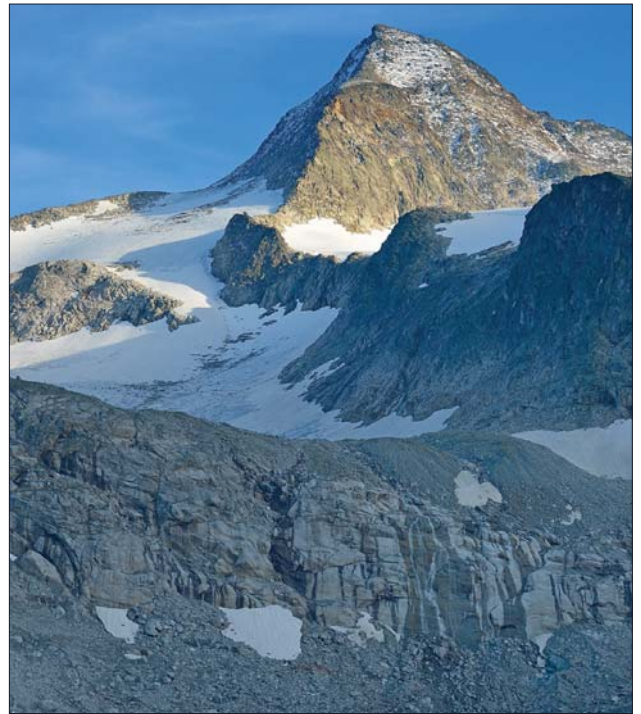
There is a harmonious changeover from natural alpine ecosystems in the core zone into cultural landscapes in the rim zone. Here a centuries-old mountain farming tradition created various biotic communities, which need to be vigorously protected.



Management in the National Park

Not only the size and the high goals for protection and conservation convert an important area into a National Park, it also requires the establishment of a professional management body. The goals of the National Park management are as varied as the alpine natural and cultural landscape, which is to be protected and revealed. Six “business areas” identify the main tasks of the National Park administration:

The central tasks of every National Park worldwide are natural region management including the preservation of cultural landscape, science and research as well as education and visitor information, as they are defined by the world conservation union (IUCN). Being aware that the Hohe Tauern National Park is not an isolated area, but is imbedded in a living National Park region, the National Park administration’s role is also to contribute to the regional development and especially to support tourism. Regarding the regional development and tourism it was possible to outsource tasks and create collective establishments and branches (including LEADER association, Holiday region NPHT GmbH), that help guarantee professional regulation.



We, the six Austrian National Parks, ...



**... protect and explore nature, inform and offer recreation.
We preserve the habitat of rare and partly endangered
animal and plant species.**

Our National Parks admit to the goals, set by the world conservation union IUCN. These are particularly:

- ▶ conservation and preservation, protection and care of the National Park declared (cultural) landscape
- ▶ free development of nature (protection of the wilderness) without human intervention
- ▶ recreation and education

... invest today in a valuable nature for tomorrow.

It is our duty to protect selected, representative areas in Austria. Our protected areas are characterized by their unique landscape and biodiversity.

To protect means:

to ensure and support natural developments, as well as to withdraw human utilization. We want to pass on to our children a piece of unspoilt nature and wilderness.

**... make nature into an adventure and offer recreation of the
highest level.**

Our visitors have an environmental interest in common. They take their time to spot, experience and enjoy the diversity of nature and the ecologic cycles. They can explore the Parks alone or together with our specially trained National Park rangers. For this we offer a wide-ranging programme.

... research for scientific based nature protection.

Due to long-term observation in the "National Park outdoor labour" our scientific research showed findings about the natural cycles in our protected areas.

... guarantee modern, cooperative nature conservation.

Our National Park administrations represent first and foremost the position of nature conservation. Highly qualified and committed employees visibly implement the National Parks' tasks and attend to public requests.

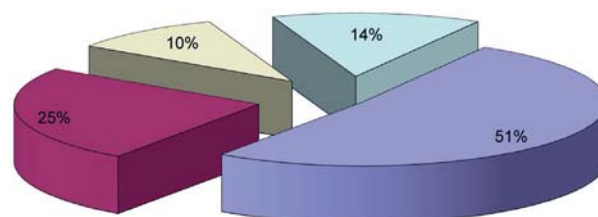
... protect little worlds and enliven the region.

Our employees cooperate with local people from the regions. We offer the chance of a lasting development of the rural area and secure long-term employment.

Budget for the National Park year 2013

Budget income 2013

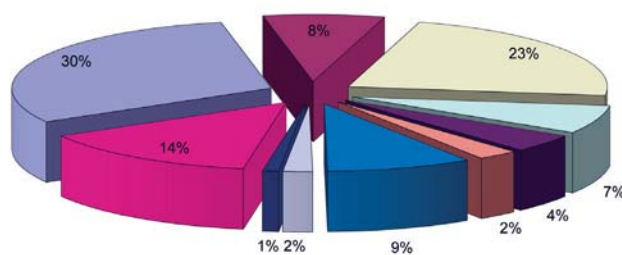
	Euro	Percent
Allocation by the province	2.040.000,00	51
Allocation by the state	980.000,00	25
Allocation by the EU	400.000,00	10
Economical activities	550.000,00	14
Total	3.970.000,00	100



- Allocation by the province
- Allocation by the state
- Allocation by the EU
- Economical activities

Budget outgoing 2013

	Euro	Percent
Education and visitor information	1.200.000,00	30
Cultural landscape	300.000,00	8
Natural region management	900.000,00	23
Science	270.000,00	7
Administration	170.000,00	4
Regional development	100.000,00	3
Tourism	360.000,00	9
National Park Council	73.000,00	2
Merchandise	40.000,00	1
Additional projects	557.000,00	14
Total	3.970.000,00	100



- Education and visitor information
- Cultural landscape
- Natural region management
- Science
- Administration
- Regional development
- Tourism
- National Park Council
- Merchandise
- Additional projects

The rounded figures mirror the budget for the year 2013, the exact absolute figures are documented in the accounts of 2013.

The National Park year 2013



10th January 2013

Start of the Year at the Holiday Fair in Vienna

It has almost become a “tradition” to begin every National Park year with a joint presentation of the Annual Visitors’ Programme by the Holiday Region and the National Park administration at the largest Austrian Holiday Fair. At the press breakfast, “The 100 Year History of the National Park Idea in Salzburg” could be especially addressed. Many comprehensive media reports soon revealed that it would be an exciting plan for 2013, to raise awareness about the connection of the worldwide National Park Idea with the developments, objectives and achievements of the Hohe Tauern National Park.



18th February 2013

The “High Mountain Wilderness” Opening in the National Park Center

The long-term employee of the National Park administration, mountain guide and photographer, Ferdinand Rieder, was internally commissioned by the National Park administration for the photographic and artistic processing for this year’s focus on the occasion of the “100 Years National Park Idea in Salzburg”. At the opening of the “High Mountain Wilderness” photo exhibition in the National Park Center in Mittersill, many local visitors from the entire National Park region showed enthusiasm that it is continually necessary for the National Park themes to not only be scientific, but also meet an emotional and artistic level, in order to continue to achieve understanding, trust and acceptance for the dedication of the National Park administration.



6th March 2013

“100 Years of the National Park Idea in Salzburg” also in Berlin

The Internationale Tourismus Börse ITB in Berlin is regarded as the largest trade fair and public exhibition of the tourism industry in Europe. The Hohe Tauern National Park Holiday Region, together with the State of Salzburg Tourism, is successful at attractively presenting the National Park and its offers each year at the fair. At a press evening with travel journalists, the implementation of the global National Park Idea and the numerous plans from the Holiday Region and National Park administration in 2013 were a topic. The continual growing number of bookings in the Summer Experience Programme shows how important professional marketing ultimately is, as well as for the implementation of the education mandate of the National Park.



21st March 2013

ORF Sneak Preview “Aufgetischt” in the National Park Center

In the summer of 2012, the filming for a new episode of the ORF television programme, “Aufgetischt”, took place in the National Park region. In the National Park itself, the Holiday Region and National Park administration placed emphasis on the “Alm Summer” and “Alpine Cultural Landscape”. The screenwriters, production and the film team successfully drew a very authentic picture of our region and the National Park, which in its natural state, does not contradict with the evolved cultural landscape. This is an essential contribution, so that the National Park management activities, in their efforts to preserve the cultural landscape, are also represented in an appealing way.



25th May 2013

Special exhibition: “100 Years of the National Park Idea” in the Felberturm Museum in Mittersill

The central focus component of the “100 Years of the National Park Idea” was the historical scientific preparation of pioneering achievements and milestones in the history of the National Park. With the first summary findings, a special exhibition was produced and shown throughout the summer in the Felberturm Museum in Mittersill. The Felberturm Museum, under the direction of Walter Reifmüller, is widely known for its interesting, annually changing special exhibitions, and so not only the physical proximity to the historic sites in the Felber and Stubach Valleys was ideal, for this recent cooperation between the National Park administration and the Museum Association.



5th June 2013

Launch of the “Climate-Glacier-Weather” at Weißsee

Within the infrastructure programme framework of the National Park administration, the National Park municipality of Uttendorf chose the theme “Climate-Glacier-Weather”. It’s hard to imagine a more ideal location, as it is right on the border to the protected area, with the Granatspitze Group glaciers within reach. After the renovation and reconstruction of the mountain station building, the ÖBB (Austrian railways) made their operating cable car available and the National Park administration set up the exhibition. The existing glacier educational paths will also be made more attractive. Dr. Wilfried Holleis and the Berghotel Rudolfshütte Ltd. were also gained as cooperation partners for the operation. The opening and commissioning will take place in the summer of 2014.



10th-12th June 2013

National Parks Austria Research Symposium in Mittersill

The National Park administration has previously organised this four times – limited to the Alpine region and in cooperation with ALPARC and ISCAR – an international research symposium. The fifth convention was convincing with numerous innovations. For the first time all eight Austrian National Parks were behind the alignment and financing; the National Park administration brought the organisations know-how and the topics were expanded from the Alpine to the European protected areas. 300 participants from 15 nations confirmed that this relaunch has proven its worth. For three days, the National Park capital of Mittersill was a professional host to this international scientific community.



11th June 2013

National Parks Austria Research Award Gala at the National Park Center

By integrating the National Parks Austria Research Award Gala in the Research Symposium Programme, the young generation of researchers, mainly undergraduates and post-graduate students, who wrote their theses on the National Parks could be brought together with experienced protected area researches and “seasoned” scientists for one evening. Magister, Magdalena Bernstein, from the Salzburg National Park region, was awarded for her work on environmental education schooling. A total of 21 prizes were awarded to participants from all the National Park regions in Austria.



12th June 2013

Opening of the “National Park 360°” in the National Park Center

The great success of the National Park Center in Mittersill which opened in 2007 made one think of an extension very soon. On behalf of the Haus der Natur, National Park Center, the Holiday Region Ltd. as well as the National Park administration, great care and diligence was taken to create a new attraction which does not replace the existing National Park Worlds but complements it appropriately. That it would end up being a worldwide first was not so obvious at the beginning. With the opening of the National Park 360°, it also became clear by the many thousands of visitors, that something unique had been created here, and through the innovational strength from Science Vision, technically perfect new ground was broken.



12th-13th June 2013

1.700 Students at the Great Partner School Festival in Mittersill

The National Park administration Partner School Festival is becoming increasingly popular. This year's event had to be extended to two mornings, due to the registrations of 1.700 students. Science, sport and fun at over 20 different stations was the central point. Another attraction was also viewing the newly opened National Park 360°. Ja! Natürlich, the exclusive sponsor of the partner school programme, again provided for the physical well-being with the generous provision of 1.700 snack bags. The Partner School Festivals are also an enrichment and a challenge within the staff of the National Park administration – all employees are involved in the organisation and management.



16th June 2013

Alpine Summer Opening at the Hochsonnberg in Uttendorf

The state's tourism industry, with its “Salzburg Alpine Summer” tourist product, is committed to a very natural and authentic alignment of summer tourism. In particular, it is well understood by the National Park Region in the Holiday Region Ltd. and the National Park administration, who together bring the visitors closer to the pristine Alpine landscape in the core zone of the protected area with the rural cultural landscape in the peripheral zone which is suitable for an exemplary implementation of the Alpine summer idea. This traditionally begins with the Alpine Summer Opening, so that thousands of visitors, mostly locals who share the enthusiasm, can be welcomed again.



19th June 2013

New Head of Department for the National Park

After the approximately one year early elections of the Salzburg State Parliament and the State Government of Salzburg; the ÖVP, Green Party and Team Stronach formed a new State Government, which was sworn in on the 19th of June. The National Park Head was taken over by the Deputy Governor, Dr. Astrid Rössler (Green), who in the past, during her entire professional career has also intensively dealt with the Environmental Advocacy to work in the Salzburg State Parliament on nature conservation issues in Salzburg. Her other departmental responsibilities are nature conservation, previously in separate departments, environmental protection, spatial planning and construction laws.



28th June 2013

Opening of the National Park “Alpine Peace Crossing” Peace Path in Krimml

Since 2007, 60 years after the flight of 5.000 Jews over the Krimmler Tauern, Dr. Ernst Löschner, in close collaboration with the municipality and the tourism association in Krimml, the municipality of Prettau in South Tyrol as well as the National Park administration initiated a peace hike under the name “Alpine Peace Crossing”. There was great success with this peace hike and thereby related peace dialogues within the framework of a conference resulted in the annual continuation. Now, the National Park administration has decided to establish an educational path on this topic, along the entire stretch of this peace hike within the National Park area. This was formally opened in the presence of the Israeli Ambassador.



4th July 2013

Press Trip into the Venediger Group Wilderness Area

The international and national media were interested in the topics of “Wilderness” as well as the “Wild Europe Initiative”, prior to the World Wilderness Congress in Salamanca, Spain, in October 2013. So, at this year’s press trip, the National Park administration paid special attention to presenting a potential wilderness area in the Venediger Group which had already been assessed by the “Wild Europe Initiative” several times as a unique opportunity. There was a relatively large amount of interest and subsequent reporting in many scientific editorials. Not only on a daily basis, but whole series, such as scientific broadcasts from Ö1 (Austrian radio station), have and continue to very well present the National Park and its importance to the European Natural Heritage.



1st August 2013

Opening of the Geo Educational Path in Untersulzbach Valley

At her first official visit to the National Park, the new Head of Department, Deputy Governor Dr. Astrid Rössler was able to open the Geo Educational Path in Untersulzbach Valley. This educational path represents an important attraction to the valley entrance, the Untersulzbach Falls and the area around the former Hochfeld copper mine. After about an hour guided hike, with fascinatingly prepared information about the geology of the Hohe Tauern and the tectonics of the Tauern Window, one reaches the Martin tunnels. And unlike any others, from here the visitors can literally “enter and advance” into geology on the Geo Educational Path. 130 m into the solid rock were deliberately staged and lit. Starting in August, many guests had the chance to appreciate this without registration and without cost.



2nd August 2013

Relaunching of the Glacier Educational Path in the Obersulzbach Valley

The incredible dynamics of glaciers in connection with global warming also cause rapid aging to features such as the Glacier Educational Path. Therefore, this year, the Austrian Alpine Association renewed its guide for the “Glacier Educational Path in Obersulzbach Valley” and the National Park administration, in cooperation with the National Park municipality of Neukirchen am Großvenediger, not only provide a safe hiking path, but also for the montage of new educational path boards, so that the many “random visitors” of the Glacier Educational Path, who at the same time take the attractive hike up to the Kürsinger Hütte, can also obtain the most important information, even without literature.



3rd August 2013

Nature Conservation Union Jubilee Hike in the Rauris Primeval Forest

The educational path through the Rauris primeval forest symbolises the strong commitment of the Austrian Nature Conservation Union with the creation of the National Park. Even before the establishment of the conservation area, an attractive educational path should show the general population that a National Park is not a reserve with prohibited access, but rather an area of protected natural jewels which should enable an impressive nature experience at the same for people. The jubilee hike, in the presence of the National Park Head of Department, took place in the Rauris primeval forest on the occasion of the 100 Years of Nature Conservation Union. Almost like a “birthday present” the National Park administration was able to present the newly designed path and a big thank you for the commitment from the ÖNB (Austrian Nature Conservation Union).



7th and 8th September 2013

National Parks Austria Village on Heldenplatz in Vienna

Every year, at the harvest festival on Heldenplatz in Vienna, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management also offers the National Parks Village a large platform, to make the many thousands of Viennese and guests aware of the Natural Heritage in Austria. All of the Austrian National Parks not only enthusiastically present their own protected areas and regions but they also show their common concerns. It is one of the best ways to bring the umbrella organisation “National Parks Austria” to life. The Hohe Tauern National Park Salzburg administration was there together with the Holiday Region Ltd., so that they could also optimally take advantage of the tourist advertising opportunities.



22nd October 2013

Universum with Hermann Maier

Old Universum productions with a new look, is how one could paraphrase the ORF strategy, in order to use the then elaborate productions more often. So, existing Universum film footage that is edited and accompanied by a well-known person is relatively inexpensive to produce. Cheaper does not mean bad and thus an entertaining hike through the Hohe Tauern came into being with the Salzburg skiing legend, Hermann Maier, where he also met for example, our mountain guide and nature photographer, Ferdinand Rieder. 770.000 viewers, respectively a range of 28% and lots of positive feedback and media reports portray an admirable resonance.



31st October 2013

Premiere of “Homeland” in the Ferry Porsche Congress Center in Zell am See

In autumn 2012, the National Park administration commissioned Otto M. Schwarz to compose a National Park composition, which would orchestrate the idea first perused in 1913 by Dr. August Prinzinger of a National Park in Salzburg, in an artistic style and manner. The resulting work, “Homeland”, addresses important aspects of the Hohe Tauern National Park – when the composer speaks, for example, about the Krimmler Waterfalls falling in three cascades to its depths, or the various glaciers of the Hohe Tauern National Park with its wild natural landscape, on one hand and its cultural landscape, on the other. The piece premiered at the district orchestra’s annual concert and was well received by approximately 400 listeners.



6th November 2013

Scientific Advisory Board in Salzburg

The Scientific Advisory Board of the National Park which was founded two years ago and filled by international as well as top-level experts, met in Salzburg for a one-day workshop about dealing with the pending and future monitoring tasks of the National Park. Monitoring is truly a great challenge in a large protected area. The state overlapping working groups’ research will intensely deal with the results from the workshop, in 2014. Long-term monitoring regarding the dynamics in flowing bodies of water on the northern and southern slopes of the Hohe Tauern has already been methodically developed and is starting on the implementation.



14th-16th November 2013

Interpädagogica in Graz

For several years, the eight Austrian National Park administrations have presented their protected areas, educational programmes and educational institutions jointly at the Interpädagogica, the largest Austrian trade fair for educators and schools. At this year’s Interpädagogica in Graz, the fair stand, which was newly developed by the Environmental Umbrella Organisation within the framework of the National Parks Austria, was effectively used. On behalf of the Salzburg National Park administration, the new compact programme booklet “In the biggest classroom in Austria” as well as the new attraction in the Science Center, the versatile “Vision Globe” were particularly well-advertised.



28th November 2013

New Scientific Writings on the “100 Years of the National Park Idea”

For the first time, a band of scientific writings from the National Park is not dedicated to a scientific topic, but a historical topic. The research project “100 Years of the National Park Idea in the Hohe Tauern” was used as an opportunity to publish the compiled results in a popular scientific way by Prof. Patrick Kupper from the Institute of History of Technology at ETH Zurich. With the publication of the new book by Tyrolia Publishers, the final point of this year’s focus was also set on the controversy of the idea, history and development of the National Park. Many interesting findings from this debate will accompany the National Park administration in the near future and join the National Park in successful development.

National Parks Austria

Web-Info: www.nationalparksaustria.at



The Austrian National Parks preserve a variety of habitats which are significant to the general public – they essentially contribute to the conservation of biological diversity. Photos above left to right: D. ZUPANC/NP Hohe Tauern Carinthia, F. RIEDER/NP Hohe Tauern Salzburg, D. MANHART/Thaya Valley, archive NP Neusiedler See – Neusiedler See; photos below left to right: E. MAYRHOFER/NP Kalkalpen, Th. STEINER/NP Hohe Tauern Tyrol, KOVACS/NP Donauauen, A. HOLLINGER/NP Gesäuse.

Umbrella Organisation and Network

All activities under the National Parks Austria umbrella organisation are coordinated within the framework of the coordination meeting under the direction of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management. Their members are representatives of the federal government as well as the National Park directors. The collectively developed annual work programmes will be decided in the respective National Park committees. In 2013, the 53rd coordination meeting was held.

Furthermore, the National Park advisory board is composed of members from the federal government, the state governments and selected environmental NGOs who evaluate the achievement of objectives and activities in an advisory capacity. Two advisory board sessions took place in 2013.

To implement the Austrian National Park strategy from 2010, the collective actions from and for the Austrian National Parks shall target further development and greater public awareness. All eight National Park administrations are actively involved on the project management level and actively involved in the various working groups. In 2013, the regional-overlapping National Park teams, among other things, dealt with the following joint activities and projects including:

Project LEGZU “Guidelines, Principles, Cooperation”

The project (2012-2014) is made up of four work packages: National Park Management, research & knowledge management, National Park Regions, as well as education, communications & marketing. In 2013, the following results, among others, were achieved:

- ▶ Kick-off-meeting, 27.-28.03.2013, establishing common objectives and tasks of each work package
- ▶ Procurement of E.C.O – Institute of Ecology, Klagenfurt for a comparative analysis of existing management plans and fundamentals of all National Parks as well as the derivation of recommendations for collective standards and guidelines to preserve biodiversity in the National Park Management, Environmental Management.
- ▶ Procurement of the Swiss National Park to adapt its online information system to the National Park research PARCS.ch for the Austrian National Parks and ongoing data collection by the administrations.
- ▶ Organisation and implementation of the 5th International Symposium for Research in Protected Areas in Mittersill
- ▶ Publication of the conference proceedings (digital version on CD-ROM) of the Symposium punctual to the date
- ▶ Procurement of the graphic designer Chloé Thomas, for the creation of a National Parks Austria “offers folder” for the joint promotion of the visitor programmes

- Strategy Workshop, 05.06.2013, to identify common objectives, potentials and obstacles as well as concrete cooperation fields and projects on a platform of the Austria National Parks' regions.

- Total Costs of Project: € 300.000,-
- Funding: Rural Development, Measure 323b National Parks

Project EMINA

The aim of the project (2013-2014) is to evaluate the Austrian National Parks based on indicators. Together with the National Park Advisory Board, appropriate indicators were identified for assessing the management in all of the eight National Park administrations. The first park-specific actual compilations will be carried out by external experts. In the summer of 2013, an international invitation to tender was conducted to find a competent contractor. The contract was awarded to the best bidding team under the leadership of EUROPARC Germany registered association. In a workshop, the project course and the content for the year 2014 were defined and decided together with all National Park administrations.

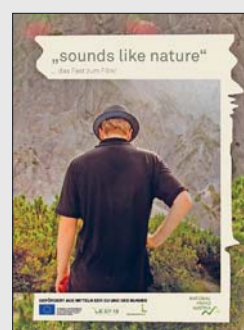
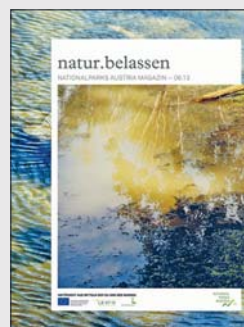
- Total Costs of Project: € 180.000,-
- Funding: Rural Development, Measure 323b National Park

Project "National Parks Austria Public Relations"

The project (2012-2014) was awarded to the Environmental Umbrella Organisation and is a public awareness campaign for the Austrian National Parks under the umbrella organisation of the National Parks Austria, with the aim to reach as many people as possible and therefore raise awareness about the National Park theme. In 2013, the following measures, among others, were implemented:

- Magazine "natur.belassen", 2nd and 3rd booklets
- Awarding the Science Prize within the framework of the 5th International Symposium of Research in Protected Areas
- National Park Guide "Austria's National Parks. Secrets, Treasures, Paradises"
- Cultural cooperation with the Museum of Art History "Museum vs. National Park? Water in the reflection of art"
- Cultural cooperation with the Belvedere "More than H₂O – Water in Art & Nature"
- Feature film "Sounds like Nature", audio-visual live show by Ritornell and Luma.Launisch
- Camerata Medica Vienna benefit concert to support the "Hemayat" aid organisation
- Conference proceedings of the 2012 annual conference "Call of the Wilderness"
- Annual Conference 2013 "Rich & Beautiful"

- Total Costs of Project: € 1.400.000,-
- Funding: Rural Development, Measure 323b National Park



International



The Hohe Tauern National Park gains large international recognition – be it in the field of science & research, nature & species protection, education & visitor information or National Park and natural region management. Therefore there were numerous visits from international delegations in 2013 as well as invitations to share our know-how in international discussions.

International delegations & meetings in the Hohe Tauern National Park

► **Wild Europe Initiative**

National Park and Environmental Management, Venediger Group wilderness area

► **5th International Symposium for Research in Protected Areas**

International research and protected area symposium on the topic of “Dynamics and conservation in protected areas – challenges for research and management”

► **CH-AT Alliance Mountain Days**

International Research Symposium on mountain research in Switzerland and Austria

► **ISCAR-P Working Group “Protected Area Research”**

Editorial session for the eco.mont – special edition with contributions from the Symposium on Research in Protected Areas

► **Scientific journalists**

Press trip on the topic of “High Mountains in Change: glacier (research) up close in the Hohe Tauern National Park”

► **German-Ukrainian delegation**

Environmental Management, Science & Research

► **Scientific Advisory Board**

3rd international meeting on the subject of “Ecological Long-term Monitoring in the Hohe Tauern National Park”

► **International students**

National Park module within the framework of the University educational course “Management of Protected Areas”, Klagenfurt

► **Varnenai municipality, Lithuania**

Tourism, LEADER programmes and projects

► **Educational Institute Niedersachsen, Germany**

Education & visitor information, infrastructure

Participation in International Events

► **Annual Bearded Vulture Meeting**

Bearded vulture annual retreat in Valle die St. Rhêmes, Aosta, Gran Paradiso National Park

► **Wilderness Excursion in Austria**

WWF field trip in the Dürrenstein wilderness area on the topic of “Wilderness and Non-intervention Management in Austria and Romania”

► **Berchtesgaden National Park**

Field trip to National Park Visitor & Education Center “Haus der Berge” in Berchtesgaden

► **International Tourism Trade Fair in Prague**

Presentation of the annual photo exhibition “High Mountain Wilderness” in front of more than 5.000 visitors at the fair

► **LINC meeting**

International LEADER event in Finland



Hohe Tauern National Park – International Cooperation

► 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.iscaralpineresearch.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

► Pan Parks

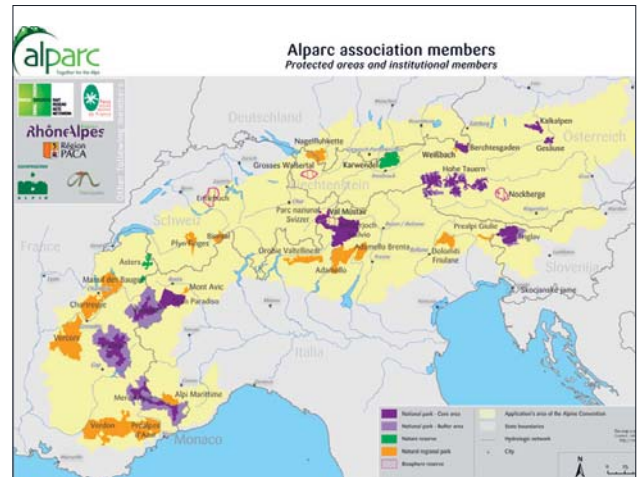
Web-Info: www.panparks.org

► VCF – Vulture Conservation Foundation

Web-Info: www.vulturefoundation.org

► Plattform Biodiversität Forschung Austria

Web-Info: http://131.130.59.133/biodiv_forschung

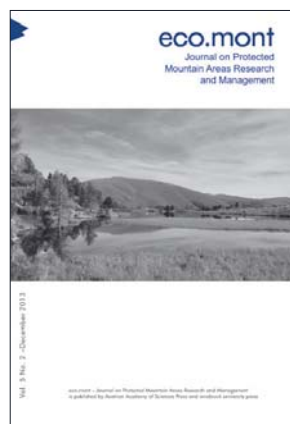


As of November 2013, there are a total of 40 protected areas from six Alpine countries that have joined the ALPARC Association. In Austria, there are eight protected areas members in this association, including the Hohe Tauern National Park. (Cartography: ALPARC).

ALPARC – Alpine Network of Protected Areas thinks alpine-wide and acts locally

In the Alpine Network of Protected Areas (ALPARC), especially the large-scale national and nature parks of the Alpine region, which have their own administration and their own budget, have been informally and voluntarily working together since 1995. They are recently supported by the ALPARC Association which was established in January 2013 to coordinate the network. The Association assumes all of the activities of the past 18 years from the Alpine Network of Protected Areas. The network was coordinated by the Protected Areas Task Force of the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention during the last six years.

The network functions as a multifunctional platform which provides knowledge, tools, methods as well as services and specifically supports the exchange of joint action of the protected areas beyond language and administrative boundaries for the implementation of the Alpine Convention. Normally, the international cooperation takes place within the framework of time and financially limited projects with concrete goals, tasks and project partners. The thematic focus is on biodiversity, ecological network, regional development and environmental education.



The University of Innsbruck and the Austrian Academy of Science are editors of the eco.mont journal.

eco.mont

The Hohe Tauern National Park is a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal on Protected Mountain Areas Research and Management “eco.mont”. The journal publishes research work on mountain protected areas and also, in addition to the presentation of scientific findings, places special emphasis on the benefits for protected area management. Each issue also contains general reports on management issues and presents one protected area in the Alpine region. Since 2013, eco.mont is listed on the online citation index database “Science Citation Index Expanded” (SCIE) by the Thomson Reuters international media corporation. The journal impact factor (JIF) currently stands at 0,306 for eco.mont. The JIF is published annually and specifies how often other journals cite articles from eco.mont. The higher the JIF, the more a journal is respected.



The ALPARC Network 2013 activity report is available online.

Web-Info: <http://de.alparc.org/nachrichten/neuigkeiten-des-netzwerks-alparc/alparc-taetigkeitsbericht-2013>

Natural region management

Griffon Vultures in the Hohe Tauern

The research project “Griffon Vultures in the Hohe Tauern” was appointed last year to Scientific Director Dr. Fulvio Genero of the vulture observatory in Lago di Cornino. The aim is to determine the current population, their living habits, spatial use dynamics and habitat preferences. Parallel to this, the historic data on the Griffon Vulture is to be processed by means of literary research.

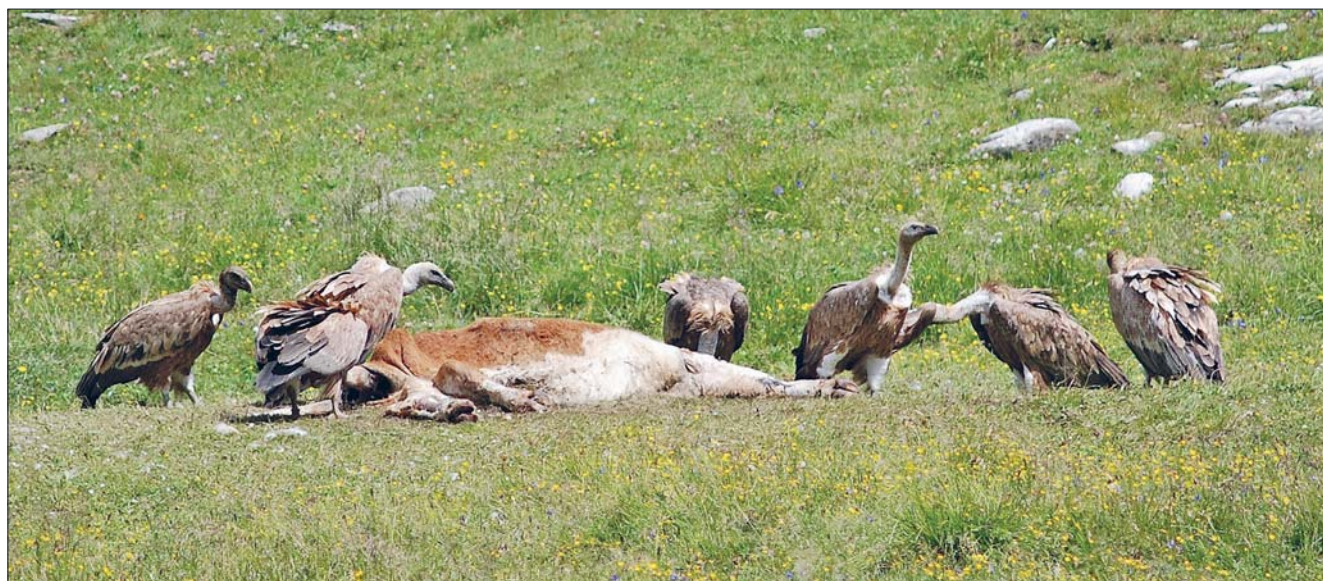
This year, four simultaneous population counts were conducted at the six known vulture roosts and all the available sightings were evaluated. In addition, it was possible to capture and mark 30 Griffon Vultures in the Lago di Cornino vulture observatory. Several of them carry satellite transmitters as well which makes it possible to precisely trace their flight patterns from Friuli and Croatia to the Hohe Tauern.

The flight of the Griffon vultures to the Hohe Tauern was late – as in the past few years – but then in great numbers. At the start of summer, they commute, sometimes on a daily basis, between Friuli, Cres and Pinzgau; they spend the height of summer in the Hohe Tauern with its sufficient feeding options. Their destination happens to almost always be the Salzburg Tauern valleys. The excellent feeding options because of heavy summer storms attracted up to 96 Griffon Vultures this year – a remarkable number!

The data from this year points out the importance of the alpine pasture for the Griffon Vultures. Grazing farm animals that die accidentally and are left on the alpine pastures and not removed serve as attractive feed for the vultures. Because of their large flight patterns, Griffon Vultures react very quickly to new food sources. Wherever there is much food, there will also be many vultures. They find new roosts equally quickly which are often in the immediate vicinity of the cadaver off which they are currently feeding. The main roosts are located in Rauris, Kaprun and Uttendorf. By mid-September, return migration for southern climes had begun; the last Griffon Vultures left the National Park on October 19th. One of the transmitter-fitted vultures left the Stubach Valley on September 15th and spent two days on the way south in the Carnic Alpine Main Crest before it flew back to Friuli and Cres.

Capturing attempts were undertaken in the Hohe Tauern National Park but were not yet successful during this year. The most recent results from the project have however resulted in much new information about the Gibbons Vulture in the Hohe Tauern. The approximate 1.000 data findings which have been retrieved provide more information today than many years of monitoring based on visual observations exclusively. In the coming year, additional data will be collected which will further deepen the knowledge about this characteristic animal form.

- ▶ Total Costs of Project: € 58.000,–
- ▶ Funding: Rural Development, Measure 323a
Nature Conservation



Wilderness Region of the Venediger Group



Based on the European wilderness policies by driving force agencies like EUOPARC, WWF, IUCN, UNESCO, PAN Parks and other environment conservation organisations within the “Wild Europe Initiative” (WEI), both in the European Parliament as well as the European Commission, the Hohe Tauern has potential and a certain responsibility to offer a valuable contribution here as well.

In adherence with the “Guidelines for the management of wilderness and wild areas in NATURA 2000” and the “Working definition of European wilderness and wild areas”, the internationally stipulated minimum standards for large areas of the wild (wilderness) were examined by experts of the Wild Europe Initiative regarding a concrete area in the Venediger Group. The results contained in the 90-page expert compilation, completed in March 2012, though not really surprising, is certainly impressive. With only very minimal changes in the current sovereign and private law agreements regarding protective status, with no additional management requirements at all and with a well-designed zoning concept, one of the most significant wilderness areas of Central Europe could be created in the kars and glacier forefields of the Krimml Achen Valley, the upper and lower Sulzbach Valley.

What is so extraordinary about this? In many national parks in the past, zones have been designated in which human usage, in particular agriculture, forestry and hunting utilisation, was not permitted. These types of zones were designated within the Hohe Tauern in the context of the application process for inter-

national recognition in the IUCN Category II (National Park) at the total sum of 90.000 hectare with 40.000 hectare in the Salzburg section alone. In most of the potential wilderness areas of Europe, especially in the forestry national parks, an intensive historic pre-existent stress upon the ecosystems is prevalent: the composition of tree species, the age distribution of trees and tree populations, the structure of tree populations and the amount of deadwood are in an altered state and will only again become “wild” after centuries without utilisation – a secondary wilderness is forming.

The opposite is true for the above-mentioned 10.000 hectare of wilderness area in the Venediger Group where the unique potential of a prime wilderness is attainable. Since the last “Little Ice Age” which ended around 1850, the glaciers have been receding continually, revealing surfaces which have never been used or altered anthropologically. The process of succession takes place here with its own dynamics. Only when these processes are given absolute freedom will the next generation have the unique chance not only to learn more about the history of vegetation in the Alps but more about the natural dynamics and self-regulating processes as well. The research questions which can only be answered in a few hundred years haven’t even been posed yet. It is an impressive project indeed, and one which a responsible national park administration could never let pass by.

The facts are clear, scientifically, but natural space management and progressive conservation for a wilderness primarily means securing natural surfaces over a long period of time. One section comprising 2.624,41 ha of the total area of the 9.730,70 ha wilderness area, the Inner Untersulzbach Valley, was given its designation as a special protected area already in 1996. The permits and prohibitions of this past ordinance must be reviewed and extended to apply to the entire land surface. Contracts are already signed with the land owners ÖBF AG and Verein Naturschutzpark, registered association, for non-utilisation to the extent of 9.137,50 hectare. For the remaining mere 593,20 ha (VNP), the issue is non-utilisation policies for hunting, a usage which was not intensive until now and restricted to shooting a very few chamois.

As a first sign of recognition for the National Park administration’s investment in the wilderness, PAN Parks has honoured the efforts which are already in place of contractual natural conservation (non-utilisation) with inclusion in the “Million Project”, which has the aim of securing around 1 million hectare of wilderness in Europe by 2015. At the 10th World Wilderness Congress in October in Salamanca, Spain, WWF, PAN Park and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management presented our aims as one of the most remarkable initiatives in Austria.

Web-Info: www.wildeurope.org

Web-Info: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/wilderness/pdf/WildernessGuidelines.pdf>

Use of Space and the Population Dynamics of Red Deer and Chamois

In 2009, the Habach Valley hunting grounds were leased by the National Park administration with the aim of establishing National Park research sites here. At the onset, the focus was on the red deer exclusively. First plans for extensive and long-term monitoring of hoofed game were discussed internally and in consultation with selected experts. The aim was to mark the red deer. With the help of satellite telemetry, use of space and activity of the wild animals were to be recorded.



The trap for marking the chamois was constructed in the Habach Valley. However, the process of chamois marking will not begin until 2014. The trap can be sprung via remote control signal and in this way enables the precise trapping of chamois – as well as ibex.

This objective was more difficult in the high mountain valley than originally assumed. It became quickly apparent that the assigned goals could not be met in this terrain by sedating individual animals that freely wander. It was thus important to find a proposition which promised more success. In addition, the capture, tagging and monitoring should be conducted as independently as possible by National Park employees in order to guarantee that optimal days or time frames could be used flexibly according to weather conditions to save unnecessary costs. Besides the red deer, chamois were also to be observed and tagged.

In this respect, professional hunters and employees were to be trained on the one hand and made familiar with the technique which is currently in use. On the other hand, a method needed to be applied which guaranteed that wild animals were kept under control during narcosis. A short-term narcosis means less stress for the animal, and the danger of injury is strongly decreased. Blood samples for genetic examinations can be taken easily and the applying of ear tags and telemetry transmitters is made more possible.



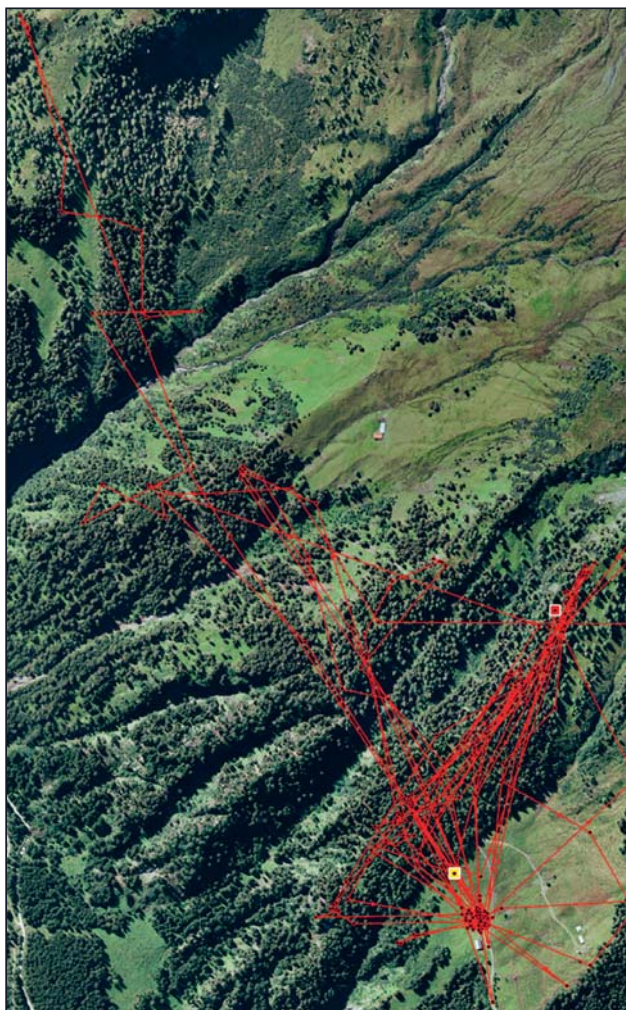
Construction of the capturing kraal in the National Park area of the Habach Valley. The interior is designed so that the red deer cannot injure themselves. The side walls are about four meters high. Wildlife enters through two openings in the kraal. The entrances can be closed again using trap doors.

That is how the decision was made for the construction of a capturing kraal at the red deer feeding station in the Rein and Habach Valleys and for traps with which the chamois could be captured live. Red deer telemetry is being implemented in Central Europe for a series of research projects. This made it relevant to collect experiences with trapping and trap devices by way of these projects.

The first mutual exchange of experiences took place with the employees of the Italian forestry federal agency in Tarvis. Forest rangers of the state agency have trapped around 150 red deer for a habitat repopulation project in Apennin. According to the reports, not a single animal was injured or killed. Three different capturing pens were examined. The Italian colleagues presented measurements and plans as well as remote closing mechanisms and security measures. The plans for the construction of trapping pens were forwarded on from the forestry management to the professional hunters of the Hohe Tauern National Park. For decades, red deer and chamois have also been trapped and tagged in the Swiss National Park.



Red deer in trapping kraal. The sedative is administered using a blowpipe. The wild animals remain completely calm in the kraal. The chief advantage of the pen is that animals which are shot with a sedative blowpipe remain in that spot. Several animals can be tagged at the same time.



Until now, eight female red deer have been equipped with telemetry transmitters. The transmitters continually deliver text messages on the positions of the animals as measured using GPS directly to the National Park administration where they are stored in the geographical information system and in data banks (Graphics: B. HOCHWIMMER).

A second exploratory trip was taken to Zerneß in order to obtain information from the Swiss National Park Management about the monitoring program of hoofed wild animals and trapping devices. There is hardly another alpine park with such long-term experience in the monitoring of hoofed animal populations. Besides a red deer trapping kraal at Ofen Pass which is adapted to the terrain, a modern chamois trap with remote control closure in Val Trupchun could also be viewed.

After this exchange of experiences with the Italian and Swiss colleagues, the construction of a local trapping kraal was begun at the feeding station in Habach Valley. This structure was completed by mid-September. Documents and permits were obtained alongside, the technical equipment (transmitter, reception unit) was purchased and a modern chamois trap was built after the Swiss model which was then flown to its designated location by helicopter. The tagging of chamois will not begin until next year, however.

The time finally came, at the end of October. The first trapping attempts were made. At this attempt, four mature animals and two calves were caught and tagged. Each animal received collar transmissions for satellite telemetry; the calves were given ear tags only. Since then, 17 red deer were caught and tagged in three trapping attempts, including eight mature animals and nine calves. It was possible to engage the efforts of the renowned wild animal ecologist Dr. Hubert Zeiler for specialised scientific guidance and project consulting. Veterinary Dr. Beatrix Neumayer of Neukirchen is responsible for providing medical support. She is also establishing a data bank in order to later conduct research projects in genetics and wildlife diseases.

The tagging of chamois and red deer provides a basis in order to better understand space use patterns and the interrelationship between national park and the surrounding area. Large wild animals are mobile and are not contained by borders. To them, the National Park is only part of their full year-round habitat. At the same time, tagged animals offer a good basis for monitoring the development and dynamics of the entire hoofed wild animal population as well as the life history of single specimens. Habitat use, activity, growth rates, refuge regions, disturbances or the influence of climate on the development of the population provide a whole array of questions which has significance for the management of a national park.



With the help of transmitted data as well as actual observations of the tagged stock, the territorial and temporal use of various living spaces can be linked to complex questions and the interrelationship between National Park and the environs can be depicted.

- ▶ Total Costs of Project: € 260.100,–
- ▶ Funding: Rural Development, Measure 323a Nature Conservation

Science and research

(Long-term) Monitoring in the Hohe Tauern National Park

The concept of monitoring is understood as the “systematic compilation of appropriate parameters in chronological order”. Which parameters are appropriate and with which frequency, duration and method system these are compiled and assessed depends on the aims and array of questions. An ecological long-term observation, for example, as represented by the monitoring of waters in the National Park, demands quite another methodical procedure than, for example, applied monitoring in regards to environment surveillance which is implemented as an early warning system with pre-defined thresholds.



The relative abundance distribution plot is an ecological vegetation data collecting method which is easily evaluated in statistical terms (Photo: K. AICHORN).

The ecological, territorial and temporal prerequisites which qualify the Hohe Tauern as an internationally important area of reference are encompassed in the two conservational categories of national park and Natura 2000: the researching of structures and functions, cause-effect interactions and changes in ecosystems need long-term perspectives, large, inter-connected spaces without human influence and a suitable set of methods.

Over the long term, the Hohe Tauern National Park as the largest alpine conservation region plans to establish an ecological long-term monitoring programme which investigates terrestrial as well as aquatic eco-systems. The overarching planning concept here is being currently developed with the internationally selected scientific council. The first workshop to identify common directional goals beyond federal state borders took place on November 6, 2013 in Salzburg.

Basic Research on the Consequences of Climate Change

The water eco-systems of the Hohe Tauern National Park are very well suited to a long-term observation of the consequences of climate changes due to the diversity of their defining characteristics, high alpine location and predominantly primordial state. Only in systems which have not been influenced by people is it possible to examine and understand natural processes, interrelations, dependencies and modifications.

Dr. Leopold Füreder, director of the research group “Flowing water ecology and nature conservation” at the Institute for Ecology at the University of Innsbruck therefore deliberately chose the Hohe Tauern National Park as an experimental region for the development and installation of a series of multi-level, interdisciplinary and long-term monitoring in alpine flowing waters. The preliminary stages, which were funded as well by the National Park, were extensive: In 1999, a detailed inventory of the waters was made. Since 2013, the results of the pilot study regarding the methods and standardisation of the water systems monitoring have been released.



Field specimens by means of Surber samplers: with it the drifting organisms are collected by placement at a precisely chosen spot for later specification in the laboratory (Photo: G. ANDRE).

In the 2013 field season, immediately following this pilot study project, the first repeat study (abiotic measurements) was added. Ongoing abiotic observations are to be repeated annually until 2016 and the survey in regards to the biology and the insect indication, once every three years.



With the help of environmental parameters and water insects, for example, the stonefly larva, the experiment will be made using decade-long collection of data, to provide evidence and understanding for the consequences of climate change on water ecosystems in the National Park (Photo: G. FRANK).

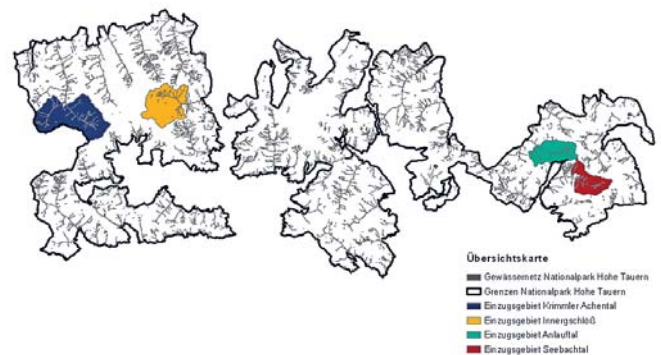
It is particularly important in the analysis and interpretation of spatial and temporal patterns, processes and causal correlation in the ecosystems to be able to fall back on data material which is as on-going and as diverse as possible. In this way, chance correlations as well as natural fluctuation and the influence of interferences like, for example, flooding, can be distinguished clearly from genuine causal interaction and variance like, for example, as a result of climate change.

In the very cold, nutrition-sparse and highly dynamic brooks of the high mountain range, there are strictly specialised insect species which react very sensitively to variance in their habitat. Perfectly adapted to the extreme temperature, nutrient and current conditions, they are also perfect environment indicators. As a result of the climate change, it can be expected that there will be great variance in glaciation, hydrology and geomorphology, which as a consequence will be linked to a marked variation in the water system ecology.

In addition to the abiotic findings, suitable indicator species were identified and defined in the pilot project. In 2014, already, three years after the first survey, the extensive inventory regarding biological and ecological data will be repeated. Besides the exact taxonomical processing of the sampled water organisms, other numerous assessment criteria are to be imple-

mented here, for example, biodiversity, population density, species composition or feeding types.

To have access to a seamless stream of data from over more than 100 years in some cases regarding climate, weather, air pollutants or glaciers is considered a safe assumption today. Adequate data streams about ecosystems, on the other hand, are few and far between and certainly not with this kind of time frame. The implementation of GM_NPHT, therefore, will provide increasingly valuable data, the longer it is in operation - in regards to continuing research, early detection as well as the whole array of applied questions which are posed by the National Park administration.



Starting point for the water monitoring are the representative reference areas which were established in the Salzburg section of the Krimmler Achen Valley and in Anlauf Valley (Map: Univ. Innsbruck).



The catchment area of the Krimml Achen Valley: the physical-chemical properties and ecological conditions clearly differ according to each surveyed stretch and altitude (Photos: G. ANDRE).

- ▶ Total Costs of Project (2013-2016): € 211.642,-
- ▶ Funding: National Park Council

Literature in the National Park Library in Mittersill:

FÜREDER Leopold (2013): Monitoring of Hohe Tauern National Park Waters (GM_NPHT) 2009-2012. Unpublished project final report, 135 pp.

Biodiversity in the National Park

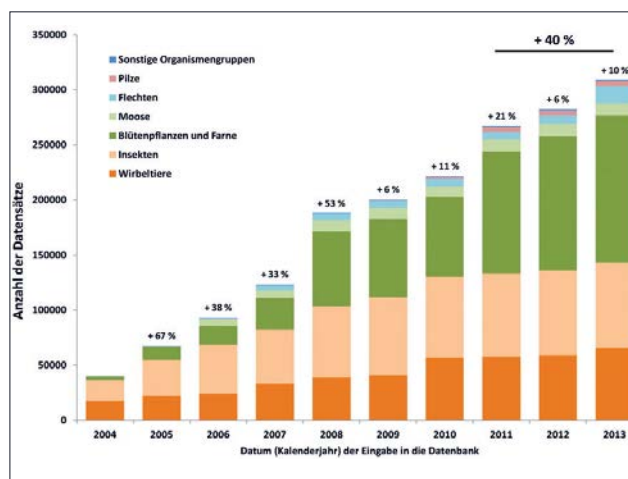
Data Bank on Diversity of Species

Since 2002, a binding cooperation between the National Park Fund of Carinthia, Salzburg and Tyrol with the “Association for Descriptive and Applied Natural Science Education – Haus der Natur” warrants the comprehensive documentation of the entire available biodiversity factual knowledge on the Hohe Tauern National Park. In the biodiversity data bank, all data regarding existence, propagation, ecology and endangering of the animal, plant and mushroom species is compiled, standardised, centrally administered, assessed and made available upon request.

With November 2013, there were 309.261 data entries registered on 10.707 different taxa (species, subspecies, hybrids, varieties) and 21.762 site locations from 507 data sources (commissioned projects, diversity days, collections, publications, expert opinions) as well as 1.181 observing persons. The amount data was thus higher by 30.042 data entries which translates to an increase of around 10%.

Development of the Data Content

The largest increase of data was found with flowering plants, ferns and fungi. Up to 2010, very few fungus varieties were represented in the data bank. The integration of the scientifically secured data from the private collection of Dr. Thomas Rücker brought about an increase from 143 to 1.157 fungus varieties in regards to the National Park region. The entire fungus herbarium is being revised at present and integrated successively into the data bank. The scientific estimate approximates around 4.000 fungus species in the Hohe Tauern, more than 2/3 of the fungus species recorded in Austria. It can be expected therefore that there will be further growth in this important documentation.



A solid basic stock of data, assimilated over a longer time period and purposefully spread over the protected area builds the basis for researching biocoenosis. This photo shows the development of data content in the National Park biodiversity data bank since 2004 (Graphics: R. LINDNER).



Spring Pholiota, Pholiota lignicola (Photo: U. KÜNKELE).

There was a growth of 444 species within flowering plants and ferns. The flora data stems for the most part from the former botanical information system of the University of Salzburg. In addition, there is a pilot study at present which endeavours to prepare the entirety of species-related data from the Salzburg biotope-mapping for inclusion in the biodiversity data bank.

The number of registered taxa has remained fairly constant over the last few years for most of the other organism groups. This is a sign of the fact that the species which exist in the area are completely known and registered, for example, the group of vertebrates, or that all the available data material until now about a group is completely integrated, for example, in regards to the group of insects. The butterflies, dragonflies or grasshoppers of the National Park are already very well documented. For most of the rest of the species group of invertebrates, by contrast, there has been no or hardly any data from the protected area since the beginning of a systematic inventory.

This underlines the corresponding importance of the Diversity Days which have been held annually since 2007 in a selected National Park valley. Notices of 27.339 finds have already been generated just from this interdisciplinary focused inventory which has led to an increase of 4.389 different taxa from 30 different species. A few ecologically important organism groups were in fact only processed because of these scientific activity events, for example cicada, algae or ciliates. And now as then, as a result of the intensive collaboration and the specialised transfer of knowledge by renowned experts in a comparatively manageable space, evidence is still found again and again for species that were unknown until now in the area of the National Park.

- ▶ Total Costs of Project: (2011-2013): € 129.767,16
- ▶ Funding: National Park Council

Revision and Digitalising of an Opiliones Collection

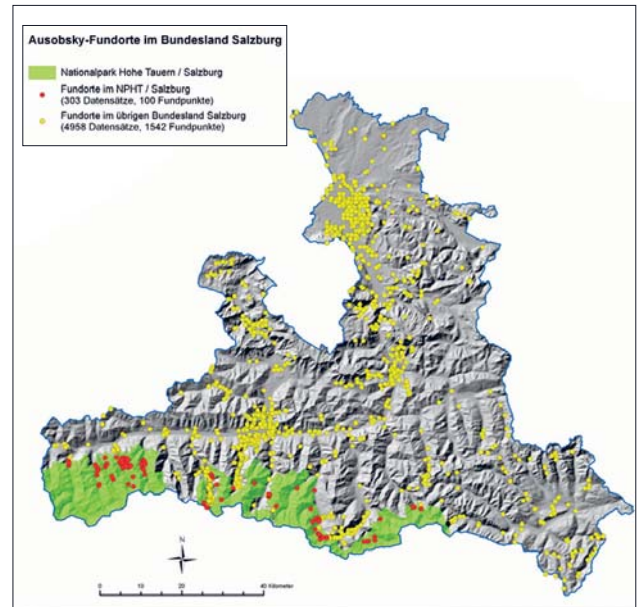
Under the scientific guidance of Dr. Christian Komposch of ÖKOTEAM – Institute for Animal Ecology and Landscape Spatial Planning, Graz, all of the evidence and data from one of the most important Opiliones collections in regards to the Hohe Tauern National Park from the 1960 and 1970 decades of Salzburg nature researcher Albert Ausobsky are currently being scientifically re-worked and digitalised.

Opiliones are an extremely diverse spider species. They are found in all types of biotopes from urban concrete jungle to the glaciers of the Hohe Tauern and thus occupy very different ecological niches. Most of the Opiliones species are very closely connected to “their” particular biotope types, structures and microclimates and react correspondingly in a very sensitive way to changing environmental conditions. This makes them an excellent biotope descriptor and bio-indicator in the conservation-specific aspects of assessment and planning.

The Data Treasury – Figures and Facts



The top 10 Opiliones species collected and classified by Albert Ausobsky, listed according to most frequently found from l-r and top to bottom: Mitopus morio, Nemastoma triste, Leiobunum limbatum, Amilenus aurantiacus, Paranemastoma quadripunctatum, Leiobunum rupestre, Oligolophus tridens, Phalangium opilio, Opilio parietinus, Rilaena triangularis (Photos: C. KOMPOSCH).



Spatial distribution of Opiliones specimens as documented by Ausobsky across the Federal State of Salzburg (Graphics: H. KOMPOSCH).

With a total of 1.642 specific locations from the whole of Salzburg Federal State, over a ten-year span and on his own, Albert Ausobsky produced a map of an entire state. He collected around 11.300 single specimens and created 5.261 data entries on index cards with detailed descriptions of the specific locations. At least 36 Opiliones from six families were documented at that time by Ausobsky. This represents 95% of the 38 species which are known in Salzburg today out of the total of 64 within Austria.

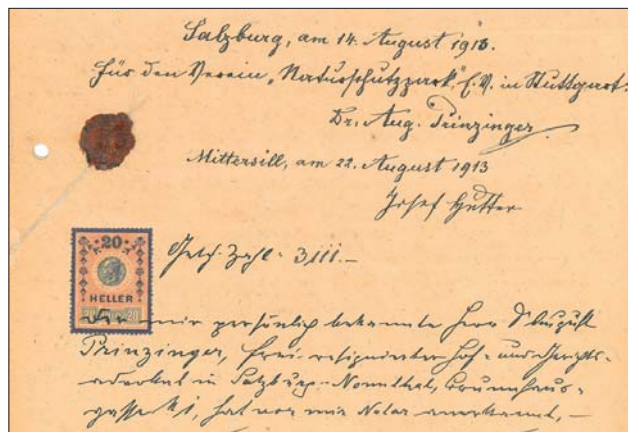
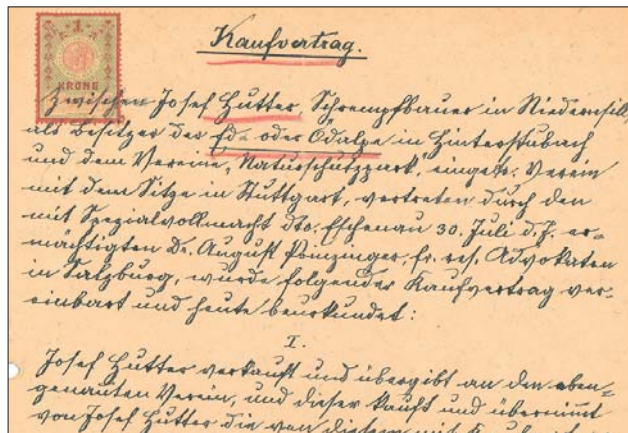
In the autumn of 2013, after precisely locating and digitalising the discovery sites and including descriptions, the scientific post-classification process of all archived individual specimens was begun according to the current taxonomy stance (revision). When the project is complete, the digitalised data will be fully integrated into the bio-diversity data bank of the National Park and all evidence transferred to the Haus der Natur collection.

- ▶ Total Costs of Project: € 15.000,-
- ▶ Funding: Rural Development, Measure 323a Nature Conservation; Haus der Natur Salzburg

Monk Vultures Sighted in the National Park

The discovery of three Monk Vultures in the National Park was a sensation. It is possible that this species of vulture nested in east Tyrol and south Carinthia until 1880 although Salzburg cannot provide any historic evidence. After its extinction at the beginning of the 20th century, there are only three recorded within the Hohe Tauern. The current Monk Vultures originate from the south of France where, years ago, this species of vulture was re-introduced.

History of the National Park



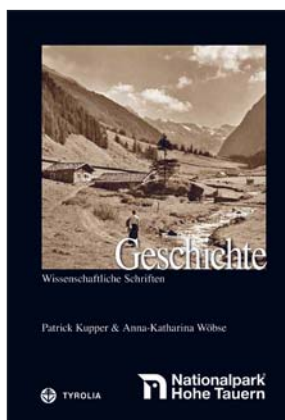
The bill of purchase for the Ödalp was formally signed on August 22, 1913 by Dr. August Prinzinger, then parliamentarian and authorised representative for the buyer, "Verein Naturschutzpark", Stuttgart, and Josef Hutter, landowner and seller (Scans: National Park Association Archive)

Under the scientific direction of the renowned environmental historian, Dr. Patrick Kupper, ETH Zurich, an international team of five researched over a year in about a dozen public and private archives in Germany and Austria in order to trace down the National Park Idea in the Hohe Tauern. The scientists also held numerous conversations with those who lived at that time as well as those active today.

The National Park in the Hohe Tauern was founded in the 1980s - more than 100 years after the first national park in the USA was created in 1882 in the spectacular volcanic region known by the name of Yellowstone. The idea of the former founding fathers to insure that this ecosystem, which is unique throughout the world, would remain intact for the coming generations so that this impressive experience of nature for be possible for all people, has since spread to each of the continents. The first European national park was founded in 1909 in Sweden-Lapland, and the first in the Alps, in 1914, in Switzerland.

Why did the idea of a national park take so many decades before it could establish itself on Austrian soil? What context parameters, actors and events play a role for the historical dimension? How far back is it possible to trace the National Park Idea in the Hohe Tauern? How did the understanding of conservation and the use of this large Alpine region change over the decades and which conflicts needed to be resolved? These and many more questions were addressed in this historic project. The fact that, in the end, the first national park to be founded in Austria as well as in the Hohe Tauern is the result of societal confrontations which stretch far back into the monarchy at the beginning of the 20th century, into the decade of the First Republic and into the time of National Socialism. In the project, this fluctuating and controversial history up to the present day has been processed and linked to European and international nature conservation history.

Despite the outstanding importance of the Hohe Tauern National Park which represents the largest protected area of its kind today in central Europe, the research literature about its history is very scarce. A well-founded presentation based on a scholarly analysis of the sources is nowhere to be found. Not even the environmental history publications of Austria in regards to the 20th century paid attention to the development of the Hohe Tauern; nor was there any positioning in an international coherence. That is why the goal was set from the very beginning to make the results of this study available to a wide public readership in the popular science format of the scientific publications of the Hohe Tauern National Park.



KUPPER Patrick & Anna-Katharina WÖBSE (2013): *Geschichte des Nationalparks Hohe Tauern. Wissenschaftliche Schriften des Nationalparks Hohe Tauern* (History of the Hohe Tauern National Park. Scientific Writings on the Hohe Tauern National Park), edited by Salzburger Hohe Tauern, Tyrolia, Innsbruck, 203 pp., 200 illustrations. With contributions by Georg STÖGER, Ute HASENÖHL, Ortrun VEICHTLBAUER, Ronald WÜFLINGER.

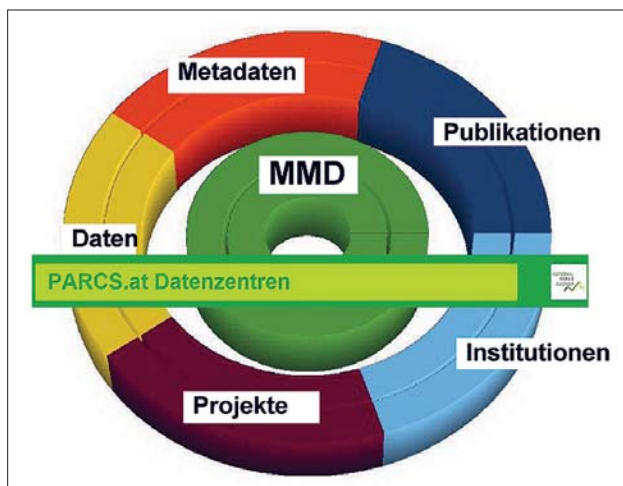
Literature in the National Park Library in Mittersill:

GISSIBL Bernhard, Sabine HÖHLER and Patrick KUPPER (eds., 2012): *Civilizing nature. National parks in global historical perspective*. Berghahn Books, 294 pp.

- ▶ Total Costs of Project: € 80.000,–
- ▶ Funding: Salzburg National Park Fund

www.parks.at – a new informational tool about the National Park

The Hohe Tauern National Park is a “long-term project” and with its 1.856 km², also a protected area of enormous size and complexity. One of the challenges which must be met in this connection is the solid management of data, information and knowledge. To this end, suitable methods, standards and tools are necessary which will enable the National Park administration to make all of the collected data about the environment available over a long period of time and in this way, also useful for future applications.



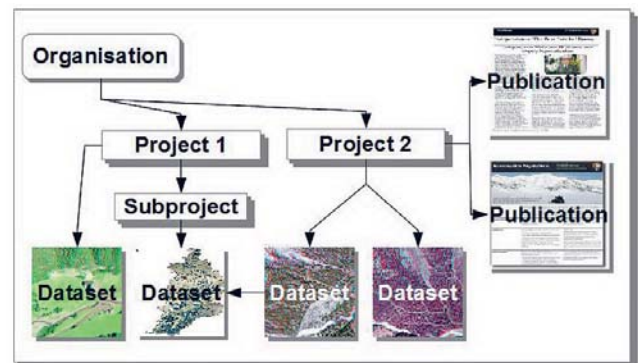
MMD means Meta-Meta-Databank. For the Austrian national parks, this is represented by the new information tool PARCS.at. The outer ring symbolises the types of information to which the MMD refers. These references are the content of the MMD (Graphics: S. IMFELD).

In contrast to knowledge which depends on interpretation, experience and insight, data does not become old. To the contrary – methodically well-researched and documented data become more valuable the older it gets. Knowledge which is considered to be valid at a particular point in time can, the other hand, be replaced or will be continually amended or extended by important new understanding. A comprehensive documentation chiefly about the research in the National Park and its results is thus an indispensable administrative task.

It has been unthinkable to do without databanks for quite a while now. Whereas specialised data banks of results like biodiversity databanks or the “geodatabanks” are set up with limited rights of use, information management focuses on the other hand on the storage and organisation of so-called meta-data. These are information building blocks which, among other things, describe the kind of result data and documents and in which form and quality they are accessible. Classic metadata collections are bibliographies, for example, which make the entirety of publications and references in regards to a particular area and/or to a selected specialised topic available in a compact form.

It is self-evident that a solid metadata record requires continuity and discipline and that its usefulness level is particularly high especially when the collection in its respective context is as complete and directly accessible as possible. A natural science bibliography about the Hohe Tauern National Park has been compiled ever since 1985. In those days, the electronic data processing technology was very limited and information was only available upon request. Decades later, this metadata collection comprises more than 13.100 researched citations by now and is freely accessible via Internet.

At present within the context of the EU co-financed project called LEGZU, there is a collaboration of all Austrian national park administrators to collate as much metadata as possible regarding the existent knowledge pool of their protected areas and to organise it with the help of the common online platform, PARCS.at. The information building blocks which are stored are primarily references to research projects and the conclusive data which are the results, then reports and publications as well as institutions, follow-up and sub-projects. It is possible to interconnect the building blocks in this online-meta-databank according to certain directives and thus depict the complex mutual relationships as well as dependencies.



The information types principally all have equal status and so inter-linked that before and after correlations are evident. The information type of Organisation/Institution additionally offers the option of portraying a hierarchical structure (Graphics: S. IMFELD).

The great benefit of this centrally-designed “scientific map” is that now, with the help of one single tool, references to all relevant (meta)data collections of the Austrian national parks can be accessed using the Internet. The National Park administration profits from this itself, on the one hand, but also all other interested target groups, like, for example, scientists, students, members of the National Park organisations or teachers. The PARCS.at platform is already accessible and is continually being upgraded with newly acquired information as well as retrospective processing.

- ▶ Total Costs of Project: € 60.000,–
- ▶ Funding: Rural Development, Measure 323b in the context of the LEGZU project



The symposium, as the established and well-respected research and protected areas conference it has become, offers the ideal platform for the indispensable personal exchange of knowledge transfer which transcends the boundaries of differing specialist fields and protected areas. This conference mode has proven its worth for the interested target groups, as reflected in the numerous submitted contributions.

5th International Symposium on Research in Protected Areas

From the 10th to the 12th of June, 2013, 277 scientific and applied field professionals from 15 nations participated in the 5th symposium in Mittersill centred on research in, for and regarding protected areas. 187 lectures by experts helped to shape the programme of this year's conference. In the framework of three parallel strands, 18 lecture blocks, two workshops and a poster session were offered. In addition, there was the option of participating in three different special excursions in the National Park which were similarly linked to current research projects.

Dates und Facts:

- ▶ **Organiser:** National Parks Austria, Hohe Tauern NP
- ▶ **Cooperating partners:** ALPARC, DANUBE parks (regional protected area networks) ISCAR, IGF-ÖAW, IAD (scientific institutions)
- ▶ **International Scientific Board:** Köck G. (Chairman), Borsdorf A., Füreder L., Herzig A., Huemer P., Plassmann G., Scherzinger W., Scheurer Th., Scott B., Siegrist D., Stöcklein B., Vogel M., Wrbka Th.
- ▶ **Specialist contributions submitted:** 195 contributions from 20 nations
- ▶ **Special topic presentations:** 187 (77 lectures, 84 posters, 21 NPA-prize winning poster, 2 films, 3 special-topic excursions)
- ▶ **Published special topic contributions:** 182 articles, 850 pages
- ▶ **Participants (subtracting last-minute cancellations):** 277 from 15 nations

Protected areas provide a significant contribution to the preservation in the natural and cultural heritage of a region. At the same time, they are important reference factors and measuring tools for changes in the dynamics, structure and function of ecosystems, for example, as a result of climate change, the structural change in agriculture or also in societal shifts, for example, in studying leisure behaviour in people.



Many of the scientific works were presented for the first time at the symposium.

The publication of the conference documentation promptly took digital form as a CD-Rom. A printed version is to follow.

In addition, selected specialist articles are to be printed in the magazine eco.mont, 6 (1).

The work of researching these processes and thus in understanding them requires the collaboration of the most diverse scientific disciplines as well as national and international cooperation of research institutions and protected area administration. To this effect, the NP administration of Salzburg initiated the first symposium already 17 years ago, which has been held four times since then at the Burg Kaprun (1996, 2001, 2005, 2009) and in 2013 on the topic of “Dynamics and Natural Protection in Protected Areas - Challenges for Research and for Management” for the first time in cooperation with the National Parks of Austria in the National Park Center in Mittersill.



In addition to the well-suited rooms in the National Park Center, a separate tent was erected for the 105 scientific posters.

An internationally-comprised scientific board organised the contextual focus and designed a fascinating programme. Among other things, the topics of biodiversity, protection of species and habitat, ecology and function of flowing water, consequences of climate change, significance of long-term research and monitoring as well as sustainable regional development were addressed. Standing in for the focus and financial support this time was not just the NP Hohe Tauern but all of the Austrian national parks, united under the umbrella organisation of the National Parks Austria.

In addition, the dates of the symposium and the “Swiss-Austrian Mountain Days”, also held in Mittersill from the 11th to 13th of June were coordinated in order to provide the researchers with the option of participating at both events. In the context of the lecture block “Mountains and their protected areas: research perspectives”, the conferences were also convened at one common event. The Mountain Days were organised by MRI, IGF, ÖAW and ICAS and centred on the topic of more concrete future collaboration in the alpine region within the “CH-AT Allianz” umbrella organisation.

- ▶ Total Costs of Project: € 55.000,-
- ▶ Funding: Rural Development, Measure 323b in the context of the LEGZU project



The symposium aims to support the dialogue between research and applied practice as well as with the interested public. To this end, an invitation was issued for a public evening lecture on the topic of “100 Years of the National Park Idea in the Hohe Tauern”.



The symposium also provided the framework this time for the bestowing of the National Parks Austria Scientific Award during a festive evening gala. Three projects with topics related to National Park Hohe Tauern were awarded and presented to all the participants in a separate poster gallery.

Web-Info: www.hohetauern.at/symposium2013

Web-Info: <http://epub.oeaw.ac.at/eco.mont-6-1>

Web-Info: www.chat-mountainalliance.eu

Web-Info: www.nationalparksaustria.at/projekt/aktionen/wissenschaftspreis-2013

Education & visitor information

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

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

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

In the commercial sector of education and visitor information, the primary goal to broadcast, communicate, create awareness for and understanding of the following agenda:

- ▶ the global National Park Idea
- ▶ the significance of the Hohe Tauern National Park as a national parks
- ▶ the ecological interconnection within high mountain ranges as well as the consequences of human interference
- ▶ the protection of nature as a societal responsibility



The combination of knowledge conveyance with direct experience and adventure is always an emphasis, since this is how active sustainable awareness can most likely be attained.

With a mixture of environmental education options for pupils, excursion programmes and modern visitor infrastructure, enthusiasm is created for the above-mentioned agenda in pupils, the local population as well as visitors from all over the world.

Visitors:	Number of persons/ participants
▶ Informative programmes, events, lectures	2.234
▶ Admission to National Park visitor institutions (minus guided tours)	643.726
▶ Guided tours (winter and summer programme, guided tours in visitor institutions)	12.544
▶ Visitors to National Park valleys	794.231
▶ Visitors to Grossglockner High Alpine Road	786.528
▶ Visitor info total	2.239.263

Besides ongoing visitor information and public relations efforts, other projects were completed in 2013, for example:

- ▶ January: Presentation of the annual programme and the events during the Jubilee Year 2103 at the Holidays Trade Fair in Vienna
- ▶ March: Presentation of the Hohe Tauern National Park at the ITB in Berlin
- ▶ June: Alpine pasture summer opening at the Hochsonnbergalm in Uttendorf
- ▶ June: Third partner school festival with 1,700 pupils in Mittersill on two days
- ▶ July: fifth excursion for the press on the topic of "High Mountain Ranges in Transition: Close up Glacier(Research) in the Hohe Tauern National Park"
- ▶ July: National Park info stand in the context of the Artist Days at Moserboden in Kaprun and at the wildlife conservation days at the Salzburg Zoo
- ▶ September: Joint public appearance of all the Austrian national parks at the harvest festival at Heldenplatz in Vienna
- ▶ October: Film showing "Universum - Hermann Maier: "Meine Heimat, die Hohen Tauern (My home, the Hohe Tauern)"
- ▶ November: Joint public appearance of all the Austrian national parks at the Interpädagogica in Graz

Education:	Participants
▶ Outdoor school excursions	8.137
▶ National Park Schools on Wheels (water module, climate module, drinking water days)	6.887
▶ Guided tours for pupils in visitor institutions	3.736
▶ Lectures	572
▶ Youth camps	54
▶ NP Lab and Science Center	1.761
▶ National Park Academy	58
▶ Partner school festival	1.710
▶ 42 Partner schools with a total number of pupils	5.730
Education total	28.645

Literature in the National Park Library in Mittersill:

THIELMANN Fabienne (2006): Der Nationalpark Hohe Tauern als Ort der Umweltbildung. Thesis, Heidelberg.
BERNSTEINER Magdalena (2011): Außerschulische Umweltbildung im Nationalpark Hohe Tauern. Thesis, Salzburg.

Further projects in regards to environmental education and visitor information:

	Number of copies
▶ National Park Magazine, three issues (sent to every Salzburg household)	613.877 Stk.
▶ Ranger Rudi – National Park report for children, four issues	20.250 Stk.
▶ Hohe Tauern News – Supplement to the Salzburger Woche in cooperation with the NPHT Holiday Region, two issues (January, July)	680.000 Stk.
▶ National Park movie commercial as trailer of movies for families and young people in various cinemas in the cities of Innsbruck, Salzburg, Klagenfurt, Bolzano, Brixen and Munich (May and June, 2013)	
▶ Premiere of “Homeland” – a National Park composition commissioned for the “100 Years of the NP Idea in Salzburg” Jubilee – at the concert by the district orchestra	

National Park Junior Ranger – summer holiday interns



After their basic training, the junior rangers are given tasks in the most diverse areas: visitor information at info stands at the entrances to the National Park valleys, as support in running youth camps or in the National Park administration as assistance in various business functions.

The Junior Ranger programme of the Hohe Tauern National Park promoted by Coca Cola was a popular holiday programme for many years for 12-15-year-old young people from the National Park regions in Carinthia, Salzburg and Tyrol. After the main sponsor dropped out, the programme has now been re-designed. Stepping in as new partner is the Sparkasse Mittersill. With financial support by this partner, the Junior Rangers have been offered not only adequate equipment but an incentive as well.



The plan is to insure that the young people not only find satisfaction with what they do for the National Park but that they gain much experience, interesting facts of interest as well as a bit of pocket money in their bank account.

The main idea with the new direction of the programme remains the same, namely, to “instil enthusiasm in local young people about the National Park as a meaningful part of their homeland”. The new aspects, in short:

- ▶ Instead of five Junior Rangers between the age of 12 and 15 years, now around 30 young people, 16 and older, could enjoy the programme. At the end of one week of basic training, the young people worked alongside National Park employees and received in return an appropriate holiday job salary.
- ▶ Beginning of August, two young National Park administration female guides came up with an intense Junior Rangers programme. During two mountain encounter days in Stubach Valley, high alpine ski tours were undertaken where the young people were able to trade ideas with each other, learning many informative facts as a “side effect” from the mountain guides regarding the protected area.

National Park Rangers

From early summer until autumn, 16 permanent hired and up to eight external Rangers worked in the Salzburg section of the National Park. They travelled to the schools of the area and taught the water or climate school modules, for example. Numerous school groups visiting the educational institutions of the National Park were mentored by the National Park Rangers. Just as popular were nature-related excursions in the protected areas which were booked according to many topics. During the summer break, the National Park Rangers guided guests and local residents through the protected areas on weekly recurring excursions.

3rd National Park Partner School Festival

In 2013, the National Park administration invited the partner schools to an annual joint school festival, the third time, in fact. Due to the avid interest shown by about 1.700 pupils, the event was extended to two days. On the 12th and 13th of June, 95 classes with 160 teachers arrived in Mittersill in and around the National Park Center and the ornamental pond, to join National Park employees in discovering the fun, learning and involvement of different exciting stations.

At 20 different stations, manned by employees of the National Park administration and partners of the National Park administration like the Wollstahl Bramberg and the Herbal Garden in Hollersbach, the children were able to try their hand at traditional games, at an animal Olympics, in tossing plates, with water games or even in constructing a Pinzgau fence. Their knowledge was tested in a National Park quiz and there were new things to learn from the National Park hunters, the Kings of the Skies, the Herb Garden Witches and in the art of felting. For the elementary school pupils, two actors from the service provider Fun Science presented the complex topic of "Ice and Climate" with an "Ice Age Show" in a way geared to children and using experiments. And the children's physical needs were not forgotten - extra energy was provided by Austria's largest organic brand, "Ja! Natürlich".

At the start of the partner school festival, the National Park Center extension was officially opened - National Park 360°. The pupils from partner schools who were participating were among the first visitors to view the new extension because a tour of the 360° Nature and Peak Experience was integrated into the festival as a separate station.



The goal among others of the partner school festival was to raise awareness already in children of how to relate to nature and the meaning of an environmentally friendly use of resources. In this way, National Parks and protected area projects can be even more deeply rooted in our society in the future.



Mittersill's Sepp Berger masters the art of constructing "Girschten" fences. He shared his know-how with the young people during the festival. The erected fence still stands right next to the National Park Center as a reminder of the partner school festival.

National Park Camps for Children and Young People



Fascinating camps are a part of the programme again in 2014. Children and young people experience a lot of fun and adventure in the National Park and learn quite effortlessly about the unique aspects of the protected area.

The NP administration organises youth camps every year for different age groups. In most cases, a self-provider cabin serves as the base camp from which excursions are taken into the high mountain ranges, wild animals are observed and much more.

In 2013, the following camps took place:

- ▶ Five-Valley Trekking: Young people with stamina (14-17 years of age) hiked for five days through five valleys in cooperation with the Austrian Alpine Association
- ▶ Austrian Alpine Association Camp with base camp in the Astenschmiede in Rauris (children from 10-14 years of age)
- ▶ Encountering Nature Camp with base camp in the Märchenkar-Hut in Rauris (Children from 8-12 years of age) in cooperation with the Friends of Nature

Partner School Programme

The partner school programme of the Hohe Tauern National Park of Salzburg has been in existence since the 2007/2008 school year. In the meantime, practically all compulsory schools of the National Park region between Krimml and Muhr are official partner schools.



The “mobile” teaching modules are ideal for partner schools at the primary and general secondary level, like “The National Park goes to school”, the water or climate teaching modules. In this way, the National Park rangers come directly to the classroom with teaching material, experiments and much more.

For its partner schools, the National Park administration provides valuable teaching material, support through National Park rangers on site, environmental education programmes like the mobile water or climate teaching modules, visits to the National Park Lab or to the National Park Science, among others things, free of charge. This is made possible through the generous support of “Ja! Natürlich”, Austria’s largest organic brand which is the sponsor of the partner school programmes up until the 2014/15 school year.

A few of the special projects with partner schools from the year 2013:

- ▶ The cooperation between the National Park administration and the Mittersill Musikum partner school provided the impetus for the premiere of the composition entitled “Homeland” by Otto M. Schwarz at the district orchestra’s annual concert. Many Musikum pupils took part in the concert.
- ▶ The three-year-long “National Parks Austria Public Relations” campaign gave pupils in the Austrian National Park regions the opportunity to produce short films with professional support and in this way, to portray the National Park from their personal perspective. The National Park administration took advantage of this opportunity as a joint venture with the School of Tourism in Bramberg. A film team from Vienna produced a modern short film in two days with the pupils – filmed with cell phones and then edited themselves.

Ranger Rudi – the National Park Report for Children



The booklet is made available to all partner schools. In addition, the National Park Report can be subscribed to by individuals (€ 10,00 for four issues) or for schools that are further away (fee depends on amount of copies) at the National Park administration.

Uschi Wimmer (graphics) and Tanja Wallner (text) are the producers of the National Park administration’s magazine for children for over five years now. The comic book figure Ranger Rudi reports to the children four times a year about what’s going on in the National Park right now.

New brochure: “Environmental education in Austria’s largest classroom”



A new brochure was printed especially for teachers, which intends to summarise the offers of the National Park administration for school classes and serve as a planning aid. The various programmes which can be booked in the indoor educational institutions (National Park Lab in Hollersbach and Science Center Mittersill) are presented as well as natural science outdoor excursions with a plethora of topics. In addition, an excerpt from the National Park Educational Paths is presented as well as the diverse National Park experiential exhibitions which are ideally suited for school excursions.

Vision Globe – new in the Science Center in Mittersill



More than 30 animations can be displayed with the globe and supplemented using extra information at an external monitor.

Environmental education is taken very seriously in the Hohe Tauern National Park. That is also evident in the fact that new programs or institutions are offered every year. One of these innovations is the Vision Globe - an interactive state-of-the-art video globe which was installed in 2013 in Mittersill at the Science Center as a supplement to the options which already exist.

The new “Vision Globe” in the National Park Science Center shows the global interconnection of many environmental topics in particular. School classes (no younger than 3rd grade) can book up to eight different modules. The Vision Globe provides supplementary explanations with six of these modules. Whether it is about tectonic plates and volcanic activity, the influence of the Gulf Stream on climate or the distribution of climate zones across the globe, including scenarios on rising sea level, everything beyond local events, taking place around the world, can be shown as animation here. Complex processes are far better connected to reality this way and are easier to understand.

- ▶ Total Costs of Project: € 85.000,-
- ▶ Funding: Rural Development, Measure 323a Nature Conservation

Voglmaierhaus

The info centre in the Voglmairhaus in Rauris has been newly renovated in collaboration with architect Andreas Zangl. Visitors can obtain an overview of the National Park easily and quickly. The info centre is found in the building of the town hall and can be visited without charge and reached barrier-free daily from 8 am to 5 pm. The Rauris municipality has taken on the responsibility for the centre.



An ibex taxidermy specimen and a large rock crystal are the heart of the info centre, and a map offers an overview of the surrounding area and suggests ideas for excursions to the various Rauris valleys.



- ▶ Total Costs of Project: € 35.000,-
- ▶ Funding: Rural Development, Measure 323B National Park

Repair and Maintenance

In 2013, paths and educational trails were serviced in many hours of hard work. Three path maintenance employees collaborated this past year among other things on the following projects:

- ▶ **Designing new National Park educational paths:**
 - National Park-APC Path for Peace, Krimmler Achen Valley
 - Geo-Educational Path of Untersulzbach Valley
- ▶ Re-designing of Glacier Educational Path in Obersulzbach Valley
- ▶ Maintenance of the Rauris Primeval Forest Educational Path, “Bachlehrweg”
- ▶ Hollersbach Valley, Woodturning studio, Wildgerlos Valley
- ▶ Construction of traps for the wilderness ecological research project (see pp. 20 -21)
- ▶ **Projects in the hunting region of Habach Valley:**
 - Wildacker Platform
 - Fazen Wall Steps
- ▶ Reading out and upkeep of the visitor census systems



During the summer of 2013, the National Park trail workers were occupied with implementing new projects and, in some cases, with the maintenance of the infrastructure already in existence.

Glacier Educational Path

The glacier educational path was begun already in 1986 in the Obersulzbach Valley as a joint initiative between the Austrian Alpine Association, the Neukirchen municipality and the National Park administration. The dissipation of the perpetual ice now requires a new concept. The aim of the educational path is to describe the history of shifts in the Obersulzbach Glacier since the middle of the 19th century so that it is understandable. The Alpine Association has published a new natural science guidebook as an aspect of the new trail concept – “Obersulzbach Valley Glacier Path”. This booklet is available at the National Park administration.



The Glacier Educational Path begins very close to the site of the tip of the glacier tongue in 1850 and demonstrates along the 20 stations how landscape changes are found in conjunction with glacier fluctuation.

- ▶ Total Costs of Project € 25.000,-
- ▶ Funding: Salzburg National Park Fund

National Park – APC Path for Peace

The Alpine Peace Crossing (APC) – a private, independent and non-profit initiative for peace – dedicates itself to the refugees of this world and is based on the Jewish exodus which was long-forgotten in the year 1947 across the Austrian Alps from Krimml to South Tyrol and even further to Genoa with the goal of reaching Palestine. The APC sees itself as a connecting link between the past and the present and organises the Krimml Peace Dialog and the APC Peace Crossing annually since 2007 in early summer, over the Krimml Tauern to South Tyrol.

In 2013, the National Park Path for Peace was inaugurated, a joint project of the Hohe Tauern National Park of Salzburg and the Alpine Peace Crossing. With seven peace signs formed like a pyramid along the historic escape route of the Jewish exodus of 1947, the past event is commemorated. A lasting monument is thus created in honour of the Jewish refugees.

- ▶ Total Costs of Project: € 25.000,–
- ▶ Funding: Salzburg National Park Fund



The path for peace begins at the Krimml waterfalls, leads to the Krimmler Tauernhaus then further to Windbach Valley and finally across the Krimmler Tauern mountains to Kasern in the Ahrn Valley of South Tyrol.

Geo Educational Path



Topic-specific educational paths combine the educational mission of the National Park with nature encounters.

In August, the geo-educational path “Glimpse in the Tauern Window” in Untersulzbach Valley near Neukirchen will be officially opened. Beginning near the Schiedhof-Inn in Neukirchen, the path leads for around two hours along the Untersulzbach waterfall to the Martin Tunnel of the former copper mine at Hochfeld.

The difficult topic of alpine geology is interestingly prepared and explained to the visitor with signboards along the educational path. A special attraction awaits the hiker at the end of the educational path. After the Untersulzbach crossing on a hanging bridge, there is an option on certain dates to follow a copper lode 130 meters into the mountain with a mining specialist as guide. The facts which are learned previously, the historic system of tunnels and a rock crystal weighing over one hundred kilos can all be experienced, up-close. More information about the summer dates in 2014 can be found at the National Park administration.

- ▶ Total Costs of Project: € 80.000,–
- ▶ Funding: Rural Development, Measure 323a Nature Conservation

Literature in the National Park Library in Mittersill:

FLOIMAIR Roland (Hrsg., 2008): Über die Berge dem Gelobten Land entgegen. Alpine Peace Crossing. Schriftenreihe des Landespressebüros. (Over the Mountains to Reach the Promised Land. Alpine Peace Crossing. Publication series from the national press office.) Series documentation Nr. 117. Salzburg.



The new panorama cinema in the National Park Center of Mittersill opens up fascinating insights and outlooks about the world of the Hohe Tauern through a unique technique not found anywhere else in the world of recording and filming. (Photo: Th. HOELL/ScienceVision).

National Park Center Extension – National Park 360°

The National Park Worlds in Mittersill count as some of the most modern national park centres in Europe. With the 360° Panorama World officially opened in June, the permanent exhibition can proudly present yet another world novelty. The two-story cylinder-shaped extension houses the exhibit “Making of National Park” on its ground floor. This is a documentation of both the work and the management of a national park behind the scenes, as well as how the 360° film was made.

On the top floor is the presentation hall with a 56 m long fully encircling screen and state-of-the-art HD projection and audio technology for 360-degree films. The Graz companies Science Vision and Pro Media have developed complex media technology just for the 360° panorama. The fascinating panorama images were captured with modern recording devices which were equipped with twelve cameras. The film transports the viewer right up onto Tauern peaks, into glacier crevasses, mountain streams, ravines or into the Rauris primeval forest. The content-related production of the Panorama World and the “Making of” exhibition is the work of Norbert Winding, director of the Natural History Museum, and the nature conservation exhibition consultant from Graz, Andreas Zangl.



The exhibition on the bottom floor shows both the activities of the National Park administration, as well as the laborious production of the 360° film.

- ▶ Total Costs of Project: € 2.800.000,–
- ▶ Funding: Rural Development, Measure 323a Nature Conservation

Conservation of the cultural landscape

The concept of a cultural landscape is described in literature in various ways and forms. The commonality, however, is the fact that the human plays the decisive role in the shaping of this landscape type. The extent and the consequences of human activity are decisively influenced by various aspects like natural space, climate, economic, social, cultural, technological, and many other general requirements. Cultural landscapes are therefore landscapes which are defined and re-shaped by humans, which are created over the course of time and are subject to constant modification.



Basic structures which are embedded in the landscape

A differentiation is made between nature-connected and nature-disconnected cultural landscapes according to the force of human influence. The peripheral zone of the Hohe Tauern National Park at the edge of the border to the Alpine primeval landscape can be considered a nature-connected cultural landscape which is predominantly pastureland by definition. The expanse of pastures which can be found today in the National Park are the result of hundreds of years of long, close-to-nature and sustainable use of the mountain region which is adapted to the internal as well as external demands of local production.

Until the middle of the 19th century, the mountain pastures had fundamental significance for the farms. Every bit of alpine pasture was systematically used. The milk cows were first let out to graze on the most productive areas and after that, the young animals, the heifers and horses. Steep slopes were reserved for sheep and goats. Tending the fields and thus the increase in production was given high priority. Farm buildings were designed simply but functionally and erected using material which was



Horses have always been significant for successive grazing in tending alpine pastures.

found on site – in most cases, wood and stone. Keeping the pasture grounds free of encroaching trees and shrubbery as well as the removal of stones was as much a part of the daily duties for alpine pasture farmers as animal husbandry and product manufacturing.



Sheep find adequate fodder on already grazed fields as well as less accessible areas

The increase in technology over the course of the 19th century caused a drastic drop in the need for agricultural labourers. The number of inhabited mountain pastures decreased as well as the amount of alpine pasture-kept animals. The construction of access roads intensified in the middle of the 20th century. Changes in the transportation-related accessibility options (pas-

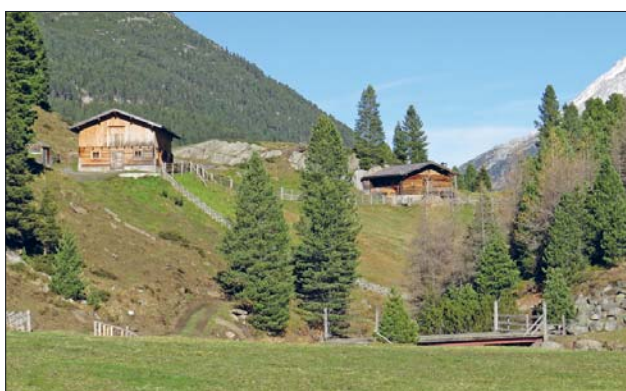


Carefully stacked dry stone walls (field stone wall)

ture paths, cable cars), further developments in the agricultural machinery technology as well as basic economic conditions often resulted in changes in the way mountain pastures were run. Milk-giving animal pastures with an on-site dairy became milk producers only with daily trips of the farmers from the mountain pasture to the collective or utility station. Dairy pastures were turned into heifer pastures. Due to the lack of workers, tending the meadows and the preservation of building substance became less of a priority. Now, in the meantime, mountain pastures are again an essential economic factor for mountain country agriculture and mountain pasture commercial value is experiencing a new boom.

Promotion of Landscape-enhancing Measures:

- ▶ 262 meters in length of traditional wood fences
- ▶ 5 pole gates
- ▶ 155 m shingle roofs
- ▶ 99 meters in length of wooden rain gutters
- ▶ 85 m natural stone walls



Rustic, historically authentic built and fully functioning mountain pasture structures

Preserving mountain pastures and their infrastructure entails great financial and personal investment. The landscape must be tended, paths laid out, cable car conveyance for materials and building forms which are typical for the region must be pre-

served in a modern way. The safeguarding of traditional yet contemporary alpine dairies, rustic building styles and the preservation of local animal breeds are promoted by the National Park. An ongoing careful relationship to nature and its respectful utilisation in the region of the National Park outer zone represents a foundation for the existence of numerous animal and plant species which are often closely connected to the regular grazing, mowing or clearing of scrubs, adapted to the conditions of each location. In order to maintain this positive interrelationship, or, in some cases, to improve and further develop it where such measures are needed, the Hohe Tauern National Park strives for a natural conservation partnership with the respective individuals who own and use the land.



Crocus blossoms in spring in the Krimmler Achen Valley

That is how a support model is created, a joint development with the protected area community of landowners for the maintenance of the cultural landscape in the National Park outer zone. Subsidies are invested in the preservation of species diversity, for aesthetic landscaping measures, the retaining of a traditional cultural style of building and/or maintaining local farm animals breeds. This alpine cultural landscape is not just a commercial sector for the mountain pasture farmers, however, but also a landscape for leisure and learning experience for the visitors to the National Park. The present landscape image of the mountain pastures is compiled from a combination of diverse landscape components. In large and in small spaces, broad expanses of grazing surfaces alternate with jutting rock formations, single trees, flowering scrubs, wet and alkaline soil meadows with a wealth of species, brooks, the sources of springing rivers as well as historically evolved building structures, typical and local, and infrastructural institutions. Taken all together, this creates an impressive show of nature to be experienced in its entirety at every season. Alpine pastures represent values like connection to nature, health, and quality, among others.

National Park region

Web-Info: www.nationalparkregion.at

The LEADER Years from 2007 until 2013

The LEADER region of the Hohe Tauern National Park is one of the largest regions in Salzburg and has enjoyed much project management success as a result of its long existence. This present period though marks a fundamental change to previous periods. The LEADER region Hohe Tauern National Park now has its seat with the National Park administration. Thus the National Park Idea has shifted to the forefront of regional development as well and is a factor in every project. During the period between 2007 and 2013, projects in the region were subsidised by the LEADER-Region Hohe Tauern National Park in an overall investment volume of more than five million euro. On the one hand, these are the classic LEADER projects, but on the other hand, a great many projects in the National Park area as well as goods transport roads were supported by LEADER.

LEADER Projects 2013

Wasenmoos



The Wasenmoos, a peat bog landscape at the Thurn Pass, is an extraordinary natural jewel. The Wasenmoos fulfils all the criteria of "wetlands of international significance" and was awarded the RAMSAR title of excellence. This title signifies that a jewel of nature is protected, on the one hand, but at the same time can be made accessible for visitors, which makes it one of the most important agreements in regards to habitat protection.



Wood bark trails lead the visitors along a fascinating mosaic of landscapes where an enormous diversity of animals and plants can be discovered. Through different measures, as in re-hydration, for example, the original character of the peat bog landscape has been re-created. It is interesting that peat was harvested here until the first half of the 20th century since the farmers needed this resource to strew in their stable. This exploitation modified nature, of course, which is explained and presented on sign boards.

A further special feature of the Wasenmoos is that there are always different moods depending on the weather. That makes every visit to the Wasenmoos interesting and varied. One can always discover something new and there is hardly a chance for boredom. 80 different species of moss, special plants like orchids, fauna like the Silver-studded Blue butterfly, the Northern Emerald Dragonfly or the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary turn this natural landscape into an extraordinary spectacle of nature.

- ▶ Location: Pass Thurn, Mittersill
- ▶ Lead partner: LEADER Region
Hohe Tauern National Park
- ▶ Project duration: July 2009 - June 2012
- ▶ Investment sum: € 130.200,-
- ▶ Amount of subsidy: 60%

Follow-up project Hollersbach Herb Garden: S'Hoiahexei Workshop



The herbal garden in Hollersbach was created as the successor to the Yves Rocher herbal fields. Herbs actually have a long tradition in Hollersbach and when Yves Rocher decided to pull up the herbal fields, an association was founded with the decision to start the herbal garden. Herbs which can be found regionally in this form are lovingly arranged in an expansive garden next to small ponds, meadows and stones. Whether toxic plants or herbs and hedgerow plants in the farm gardens, it is possible to find them all in Hollersbach and, presuming they are edible, to taste them too.



The ladies who tend the garden also offer homemade herbal teas, herbal salt or herbal vinegar for sale. Their efforts will now be intensified and the herbs professionally processed and packaged. In addition, courses are offered for those interested in knowing more about the subject. This project is a very good example of how securing traditional knowledge offers locals and guests an attractive additional option in collaboration with the Hohe Tauern National Park of the region.

- Location: Hollersbach
- Lead partner: Herbal Garden Association
- Project duration: April 2011 - April 2014
- Investment sum: € 81.000,-
- Amount of subsidy: 46%

Postalm Energy Educational Path

The Energy Educational Path at the Postalm was divided up into three construction phases and completed in 2013. At its ten stations and with interactive demo devices, informative facts are communicated on renewable energy, the climate change or about the problems related to the greenhouse effect. Using audio guides, visitors can deepen their knowledge about the topics. It is precisely these renewable energy forms like hydrogen, biogas, hydroelectric power, photovoltaic and solar energy which are not only explained but can be directly observed as well as the experience of their practical implementation.



- Location: Neukirchen – Obersulzbach Valley
- Lead partner: Ernst and Traudi Pichler
- Project duration: 2010 - 2013
- Investment sum: € 330.000,-
- Amount of subsidy: 70%

LEADER 2014 - 2020

The seven-year programme period from 2007 - 2013 is now facing its completion. Many projects are not yet at the disbursement stage but have reached the final settlement of accounts. The next period, "Rural Development from 2014 - 2020" had already commenced although many questions remain. Will the LEADER-Region Hohe Tauern National Park again apply? Where will the site of operations be located? What are the framework requirements? The board of directors of the LEADER association is presently working on the arrangements and organisation and would like to again be able to connect the site of operations to the National Park administration.

A great number of synergies and advantages have already emerged from this cooperation which should now to be taken further. But the bid to become a LEADER-Region is presumably not possible until autumn, 2014, and it is not clear yet what modified specifications in terms of organisation await the LEADER Groups.

Tourism



National Park administration – service provider for tourism

information find their place here, they are clearly designed and colour coded for convenience. With this year's programme, the guests should also get a taste for another season. Snowshoeing or ski touring to observing a stag rutting; everything can be found in this high-quality booklet.



The Hohe Tauern News, in cooperation with the Holiday Region, will create a summer and a winter issue twice a year.

The Hohe Tauern National Park Holiday Region is in close contact with the administration of the Hohe Tauern National Park. Together, many projects have been planned and implemented, such as the new 360° Nature and Peak Experience, or the Hohe Tauern News, which informs twice a year about the offers in the National Park and in the region.

Furthermore, the annual summer and winter programmes attract many guests and visitors who participate in one of the offered tours with the rangers or professional hunters. This year, this programme was consolidated for the first time. Winter and summer tours, education and visitor facilities as well as general



Glockner Bus

In 2013, this day trip was also made possible in cooperation with the tourism associations of Bruck-Fusch, Zell am See – Kaprun and Saalbach as well as the Hohe Tauern National Park Holiday Region and the Großglockner High Alpine Road. The Glockner bus ran weekly – every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday – in July and August and twice a week in May, June and September. In 2013, a total of 1.480 visitors took the Glockner bus and got information about the Hohe Tauern National Park from accompanying rangers.



Sponsors and friends

In 2013, many projects could again be implemented with the help of sponsors. It is very important to the National Park administration that the companies match the National Park philosophy and identify themselves with the goals of the National Park. The following 2013 sponsors and projects are especially worth mentioning:

Junior Ranger Programme

Thanks to the support from Sparkasse Mittersill, a new Junior Ranger Programme could be started in the summer months this year. The philosophy and objectives of the National Park, such as the most important cornerstones of history and of the corporate structure, were explained to over 30 young people, in four days. The young people are employed over the summer by the National Park administration and with their acquired knowledge can give good advice to the National Park visitors at the information huts. As a reward for their commitment and their dedication, all of the Junior Rangers received basic items (jacket, backpack, t-shirts) which were made possible through the support of the Sparkasse Mittersill.



Many thanks ...

... to all sponsors, who have supported our programmes and projects in 2013!



Supply of
snowshoes



Junior Rangers



Ranger apparel



Visitor support



Alpine pasture
conservation



Support of
wilderness areas



Verbund Climate School
of the Hohe Tauern
National Park



National Park
partner schools



Alpine ibex research
in the Hohe Tauern

JA! Natürlich

Especially in the field of education & visitor information, JA! Natürlich is a valuable partner and the main sponsor of the partner school programme. The support provided by the organic trademark made it possible to provide the 42 National Park partner schools in the region with numerous education programmes from the National Park administration for free.

Its goal is to raise awareness among the local students about the interests of the National Park. This year, the JA! Natürlich partner school festival, which is already very well-known and popular among the students, took place as part of this partner programme in Mittersill.

Organisation of the National Park administration

The various tasks of the National Park administration require an efficient and effective organisational structure. Sovereign tasks, regarding the National Park as an authority, are best positioned within the organisation of the Department of the Salzburg Provincial Government. For central tasks of the National Park administration, from the support of cultural landscapes and National Park region to natural region management, science and research as well as education and visitor information, it is practical to have a National Park Fund available, which is controlled by a curatorship with representatives from the National Park communities, landowners, Ministry of Life and the Provincial Government.

Steering Board

In 2013, three Steering Board meetings were held:

13th March, 1st August and 31st October

Steering Board Members and Substitutes:

Member of State Government Dr. WIDMANN Tina, chairwoman (until June 2013)

Deputy Governor, Dr. RÖSSLER Astrid, chairwoman (from June 2013)

Chairman ALTENBERGER Georg 1st deputy chairman

Mayor REITER Robert 2nd deputy chairman

State Parliament Vice President MOSLER-TÖRNSTRÖM Gudrun

Mag. FISCHER-COLBRIE Josef

Mayor (retired) NILL Franz

Mayor (retired) awarded Agriculturist ÖR STEINER Hans

BLAIKNER Alois

Mayor TOFERER Hans

ZEHENTNER Robert

Dr. STADLER Susanne

Mayor FREIBERGER Walter

HUTTEGGER Rupert

Representative of the Federal Government:

Mag. HASLER Viktoria

DI EHRENFELDNER Johannes



Saxifraga rudolphiana on Hoher Gang beneath the Hohe Dock (3.348 m) in the glacier forefield, the so-called "Bratschn".



The glacier mouth of Obersulzbachkees from the year 2010, in the area of the former "Türkischen Zeltstadt" at 2.202 m.

Fund Advisory Board

In 2013 two Fund Advisory Board meetings were held:

5th March and 23rd October

Fund Advisory Board Members and Substitutes:

District Commissioner HR Dr. DREXLER Rosmarie, chairwoman
ZEHEENTNER Robert
HR Dr. TRENKA Kurt
BAUERNBERGER Leo
Member of State Government DI Dr. SCHWAIGER Josef
District Commissioner Mag. WIMMER Harald
DI WESSELY August
Mayor (retired) Ing. KARLSBÖCK Norbert
Mayor Dr. VIERTLER Wolfgang
Mayor STEINBAUER Gerhard
HUBER Otmar
EMBACHER Peter
SCHARLER Anton
GEISLER Friedrich
DI BRUNAUER Johann
Regional Director Mag. HUFNAGL Dietmar
Dr. ATZMANSTORFER Edgar
Agricultural Director Dr. SOMMERAUER Otmar
Mayor NINDL Peter
DI HOLZWIESER Martin
Univ.-Prof. Dr. SLUPETZKY Heinz
DI ZIMMERMANN Mathias
HR Prof. Dr. Dr.h.c. STÜBER Eberhard
Ing. ZANDL Josef
Univ.-Prof. Dr. TÜRK Roman

Dr. GRATZ Bernhard
Congressman Mag. SCHMIDLECHNER Karl
Mag. KÖNIG Karin
Mag. WÖRISTER Christian
State Forest Director DI MITTER Michael
POSCH Wolfgang
DI Dr. GEIGER Margot
Mayor Mag. CZERNY Erich
Mayor STEINER Günter
Mayor KANDLER Ernst Josef
WÖLFLEH Johann
MEILINGER Franz
KALTENHAUSER Georg
KALTENHAUSER Siegfried
DI WIESER Siegfried
Mag. EYMANNBERGER Helmut
Mag. LAIREITER Christian
Ing. GÖSTL Rudolf
Mayor (retired) RAINER Balthasar
DI ÜBLAGGER Hannes
WÖRGÖTTER Wastl
DI HOLZWIESER Martin
Director Dr. WINDING Norbert
Provincial Hunting Assoc. Official MEILINGER Georg
Univ.-Prof. Dr. DACHS Edgar

Employees of the Salzburg National Park administration

**In 2013, 46 employees und 34 holiday workers
were employed by the National Park administration**

National Park Administration

URBAN Wolfgang, DI, MBA, National Park Director

Environmental Management

LAINER Ferdinand, DI, deputy National Park Director

EBNER Günter, professional hunter

GRUBER Bruno, professional hunter

KAUFMANN Anton, professional hunter

Science & Research

BAUCH Kristina, Mag.

HOCHWIMMER Barbara, Mag., geographical information systems

BERGER Sonja, library

Education & Visitor Information

FRITZENWANGER Birgit, BA

RIEDER Ferdinand

KALCHER Maria

ROTH-CALLIES Nina, King of the Skies House

HOFER Gerhard, show mine

HOFER Johannes, show mine

KENDLBACHER Bernhard, show mine

LERCH Johann, show mine

Regional Maintenance

HETZ Alois, Ing., Regional manager

MILLGRAMMER Hannes, path maintenance

RENDL Norbert, path maintenance

WÖRISTER Michael, civil servant (until May 2013),
path maintenance (from June 2013)

Legal Service

SCHWEIGER Ariane, Mag. Dr.

LEADER Branch Office

PLETZER Georgia, MMag.

MAYER Brigitte, Assistant

Secretarial Office

EBERL Katharina

KASERER Silvia

MAYER Veronika

DEUTSCH Julia, apprentice (until August 2013)

HERZOG Jana, apprentice (from September 2013)

Cleaning

MAIER Karin, NP administration Mittersill

REITER Barbara, King of the Skies House

National Park Rangers

ALTENBERGER Stefan

BERNERT Kurt

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

National Park Holiday Trainees

AGER Verena

AICHNER Eva-Maria

AICHNER Melanie

BACHER Magdalena

BERAUER Christian

DEUTINGER Julia

EHRHARDT Martina

FEIERSINGER Susanne

FOISNER Vera

GANDLER Johanna

GASSNER Sarah

GERMANN Felix

HOFMANN Moritz

KIRCHNER Maria

KIST Nicola

KRACKL Julia

LEHRNER Manuela

LEMBERGER Norbert

LINDNER Tanja

LÜFTENEGGER Barbara

MACHEINER Viktoria

MOLZBICHLER Christoph

NEUMAYR Hannes

PECILE Anna

PORTENKIRCHNER Sarah

RAINER Tanja

RIEDER Hildegard

SCHEIBER Antonia

SEBER Chelsea

SILBERGASSER Doris

STEINBACHER Christiane

STUTZ Petra

VOITHOFER Anna

VOITHOFER Martin

Future outlook



The year 2013 was marked by many events and activities which were dedicated to the theme: “100 Years National Park Idea in the Hohe Tauern”. The chosen main focus was right and important in, not only remembering the origins of this global idea and the very specific implementation in our region, but also in being aware of the many facets of a National Park as well as of the diverse external expectations and perspectives. However, above all, we should have realised that neither a protected area with its diverse nature, nor the “National Park Idea” nor a National Park management is something static and perpetually the same. On the contrary, nature itself and also our work in protecting and using it, is something dynamic, something living.

The amendment of the now 30 year old Salzburg National Park Act for these deliberations is also long overdue and should succeed in establishing a contemporary modern National Park management, in 2014. One in which there is no allocation of jurisdiction to the district administrative authorities and provincial government, one in which all National Park responsibilities in the National Park administration are combined and latter serves as a “one-stop-shop” for all interests about and in the National Park . Many things have happened in this direction, such as the common Holiday Region Ltd., LEADER association and the National Park administration joint offices in the National Park Center in Mittersill.

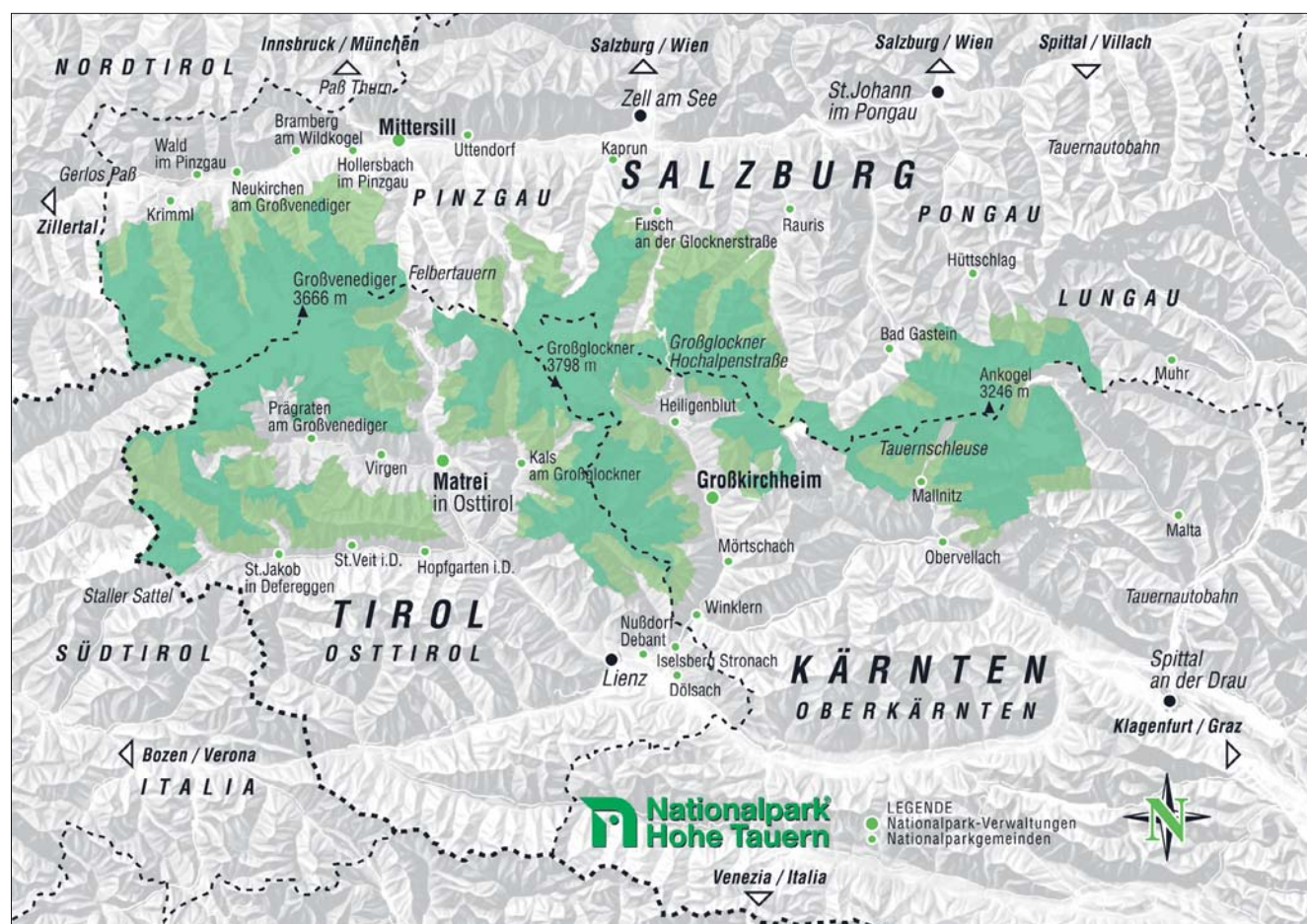
In 2014, the last instalments will be settled for the funded projects of the EU programme planning period 2007 - 2013. And we are already prepared for the upcoming period from 2014 - 2020: we have a pending need for 16 million euro and if the negotiations go smoothly, around eight million euros of additional EU funds can flow into the further development of the National Park in the coming seven years. Also, together with the municipalities of the National Park region, we are striving as a LEADER region to continue the current optimal and Austrian widely regarded collaboration. The National Park administration has returned to being an administrative office again.

The international nature conservation policy is also dynamic and alive. And so, today more and more initiatives step into the foreground which brings a process-oriented protection of the large wilderness areas into the field of vision. A high mountain national park cannot escape this responsibility of exploring the dynamics associated with climate change which is particularly fascinating because the retreating glaciers open up unique chances to observe primary wilderness almost from the beginning of the succession of the high alpine ecosystem and last but not least, to inspire people.



Dipl.Ing. Wolfgang URBAN, MBA
National Park Director

Contact



National Park administration

National Park centre

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Web-info: www.hohetauern.at



View from the Rauriser Sonnblick (3.106 m) of the southern foothills of the Hohe Tauern (Goldberg Group): Alteck (2.942 m) in the middle of the picture and right in front Windischkogel (2.837 m) both above the Goldberg glacier.