



Activity report 2012

*Salzburg National Park Fund
Hohe Tauern*

Publishing information

Cover picture:

The Mayfly Beatis alpinus is widely spread. Its larvae are found in high numbers in Alpine streaming waters between altitudes of 200 and 2600m. Their generation cycle is very adaptable: The period of time that this species needs for the development from the egg via the larva phase to the adult insect, depends strongly on water temperature and altitude. In lower altitudes two generations are generated per year, in middle altitudes one and in high altitudes it is only one every two years. This characteristic and its constant appearance in alpine streaming waters are used for scientific observation and modelling of long-term changes.

(Text and photo: L. FÜREDER).

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*The Perla Grandis is a member of the Stonefly family of insects (Perlidae) and their larvae are relatively conspicuous because of their size and colourful appearance. They populate streaming waters in the lower areas of the Hohe Tauern National Park. As an artful predator they feed on other water insects. This conspicuous species have a great significance for water monitoring, because any change in major environmental factors such as the climate will cause them to disperse differently.
(Text and photo: L. FÜREDER).*

The National Parks' value to nature and people



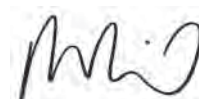
The National Parks constitution holds an important emphasis in Austrian environmental politics. The Austrian National Parks have established themselves as a showcase of Austria's nature conservation. Now the National Parks have a multifarious significance – they have developed themselves into multifunctional, regional centres and bring added value to the region. They showcase nature conservation activities, provide environmental education centres, research sites and centres of attraction for visitors.

This year the National Park focused on strengthening cooperation and developing trend-setting innovations. The six Austrian National Parks have initiated many new projects and accomplished them in close cooperation. It reveals for the first time – that the Austrian National-Park-Strategy and the cooperation under the National Parks Austria umbrella brand has been fruitful. Among the most important projects to have started this year, are the restructuring of public relations and the evaluation of the National-Park-Management using collectively defined standards.

With these projects the National Parks' value to nature and people shall be more transparently illustrated and better conveyed to the public.

One goal among others is to increase the profile of the National Parks Austria umbrella brand within all groups and to strengthen the National Parks' position as competence centres for nature conservation. Recognition and a consistent appearance are significant factors. I am certain, that we are on the right way with this.

Also, research within the National Parks has made positive advancements, including establishing a collective research strategy and the new conception of the National-Park-Science-Prize. In June 2013 young scientists who support the National Parks with their work, will again be awarded the prize to value their performance. Alongside research in natural science, themes from social and economic science will be considered. I wish the Hohe Tauern National Park the best in accomplishing all of their future tasks. Many thanks to the National Park staff, who carry out their work with great commitment.



DI Niki BERLAKOVICH
Federal Minister

National Park Year 2012



Clauses of our Salzburg National Park law state that not only the financial performance, but also the activities of the Salzburg National Park fund have to be reported in detail to the provincial government and the provincial parliament. As head of the curatorship and the responsible Member of the Provincial Government, I delight in having this commitment.

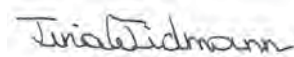
Also in 2012 there are no business areas of our National Park administration, which did not experience new impulses and did not develop towards a solid enhancement. Therefore, the following pages are not only the implementation of a lawful obligation to report, but supply all those interested in the National Park with a statement about the various social and economical performances of the National Park administration.

Not only was the National Park administration challenged at a functional level in 2012, but also the provincial government as the strategic controller. In the first half of the year the amendment of the Salzburg National Park law, technically and legally

well prepared by many experts, was finalized by the governing parties so that the assessment audit was undertaken in autumn. I am very positive, that I will be able to present a ready to be voted proposal to the provincial government and the provincial parliament in the first quarter of 2013.

Then, after 25 years, the first Salzburg National Park law will be reformed so that there are new and modern long term frame conditions for a good further development of middle Europe's largest protected area. To implement the further development of our National Park a law and a committed National Park administration will nevertheless not be enough.

A big wish of mine is to strengthen the involvement of all pressure groups and to continue the good cooperation between landowners, hunters and nature protection organisations. An "open space" event on 5th April 2013 at the National Park centre in Mittersill will be a good opportunity to discuss important themes.



*Dr. Tina WIDMANN
Member of the Provincial Government*

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.

	core zone (km ²)	rim zone (km ²)	special protected area (km ²)	total (km ²)
Carinthia	291	113	36	440
Salzburg	507	266	32	805
Tyrol	347	264		611
National Park total	1.145	643	68	1.856

- ▶ West-east-extension 100 km
- ▶ North-south-extension 40 km
- ▶ Sea level 1000 m to 3798 m
- ▶ More than 300 peaks above 3000 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 35m² 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.



<p>NATURAL REGION MANAGEMENT</p>		<p>SCIENCE & RESEARCH</p>		<p>EDUCATION & VISITOR INFORMATION</p>	
<p>PRESERVATION of the CULTURAL LANDSCAPE</p>		<p>REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT</p>		<p>TOURISM</p>	

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.

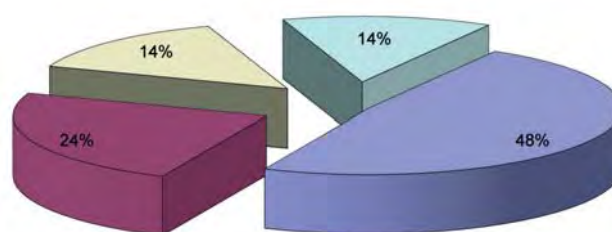
... protect little worlds and enliven the region.

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 2012

Budget income 2012

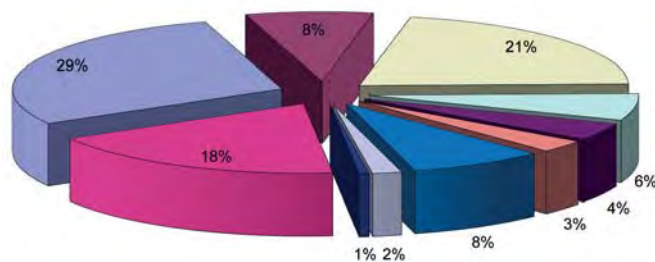
	Euro	Percent
Allocation by the province	2.020.000,00	48
Allocation by the state	996.000,00	24
Allocation by the EU	600.000,00	14
Economical activities	560.000,00	14
Total	4.176.000,00	100



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

Budget outgoing 2012

	Euro	Percent
Education and visitor information	1.200.000,00	29
Cultural landscape	320.000,00	8
Natural region management	900.000,00	21
Science	260.000,00	6
Administration	170.000,00	4
Regional development	120.000,00	3
Tourism	340.000,00	8
National Park Counsel	73.000,00	2
Merchandise	25.000,00	1
Projects	768.000,00	18
Total	4.176.000,00	100



- Education and visitor information
- Cultural landscape
- Natural region management
- Science
- Administration
- Regional development
- Tourism
- National Park Counsel
- Merchandise
- Projects

The rounded figures mirror the budget for the year 2012, the exact absolute figures are documented in the accounts of 2012.

The National Park year 2012



12th January 2012

National Parks Austria as Climate Active partners

The six Austrian National Parks became, in line with the holiday fair in Vienna, partners in the climate active initiative by the Ministry of Life. Niki Berlakovich promised special support for National Park activities, which contribute to the active climate protection and to raise awareness about it. There is a large field of climate protection activity in the coming years, like climate school, exhibitions and educational footpaths, renewable energy in National Park buildings and the promotion of climate friendly travel in and to the National Park region.



1st February 2012

Meeting of the National Park Counsel in Mittersill

The National Park Counsel is the highest decision board concerning provincial matters that overlap the three cooperating provinces. In 2012 and 2013 Salzburg has the presidency. At the very beginning, Tina Widmann, the responsible Member of the Provincial Government, invited the Federal Minister and her governmental colleagues from Carinthia and Tyrol into the National Park centre in Mittersill. Organizational, budgetary and legal questions have been discussed as well as the collective appearance of the National Park. The National Park directors received numerous duties including the re-launch of the homepage, a press trip and to research bearded vultures and the Alpine ibex.



1st February 2012

New info points for National Park partners

The use of the first generation visitor information system (BIS) comes to an end. In cooperation with Günter Berger from “Design am Berg” the National Park administration has created modern and attractive info points for partner companies. The prototype has been introduced and started at the Sonnberghof in Mittersill. The Plexiglas boards and the touch screens all have the same design and basic information and leave plenty of space for individual focuses. The number of modules is also flexible. In the following months many hotels and tourism facilities were interested in the info points and had them designed for themselves.



8th March 2012

National Park experience at Europe's biggest tourism fair in Berlin

The ITB Berlin is Europe's biggest professional and public fair in the tourism industry. The holiday region Hohe Tauern National Park is successful at presenting the National Park attractively at the fair each year. The adventure programmes of the National Park and its adventure infrastructure facilities were presented at a press evening for travel journalists by the National Park mountain guide Ferdinand Rieder and holiday region director Christian Wörister. The growing number of bookings for the summer adventure programme shows the importance of professional marketing also for the implementation of the education duty of the National Park.



21st March 2012

Scientific advisory board at the "Haus der Natur" in Salzburg

The scientific advisory board, collectively established by the three National Park administrations Carinthia, Salzburg and Tyrol, had its first meeting at the "Haus der Natur" in Salzburg. Renowned national and international scientists voluntarily advised the National Park management in its field science and research free of charge. Projects in the "largest outdoor labour" are especially elaborate and need careful proofing in terms of scientific relevance, urgency and practicability. The Member of the Provincial Government, Dr. Tina Widmann, personally complemented the chairman, Prof. Dr. Leopold Füreder and demonstrated her particular support of natural scientific research in the National Park.



5th-6th June 2012

VERBUND climate-school-festival in Kaprun

The first climate-school-festival in line with the sponsor project VERBUND-climate-school took place at the factory premises of the electricity provider VERBUND in Kaprun. More than 1600 students visited the many interesting climate-school-stations over the two days. DDr. Karl Gollegger represented the highest VERBUND management and together with works group leader Helmut Biberger, Mayor Norbert Karlsböck and Member of the Provincial Government, Dr. Tina Widmann, concluded the festival by sending the students into a hopefully climate friendly future. Impressed by the National Park administration employees' commitment to convey climate protection in line with the education duty, the VERBUND extended the cooperation for a further three years.



17th June 2012

Alp summer opening on the Palfneralm in Rauris

Summer in the Salzburg Alps is already renowned among the many offers of the province to visitors. 2012 was the countywide opening in the Seidelwinkel valley in Rauris. The Palfneralm is not only in the Hohe Tauern National Park, it was also nominated in 2007 as the first "Alm of the Year", a project sponsored by Milka to support environmentally sustainable cultivation of Alps in the National Park. Salzburg Governness Gabi Burgstaller and Member of the Provincial Government Dr. Tina Widmann were present to open the Alp summer. Together with Milka boss Andreas Kutil and Milka ski star Michaela Kirchgasser, they thanked the twenty-plus "model alms" of the past five years from Carinthia, Salzburg and Tyrol for their commitment.



28th June 2012

PTS Mittersill hands over renovated Lathe Room in the Wildgerlos valley

In 2006, the Polytechnic School Mittersill became the first of 40 current partner schools in the National Park region. Each year the National Park administration and partner school directors consider new cooperation projects that are interesting and preferably manual. An almost derelict lathe room at the Trisslalm in the Wildgerlos valley has been renovated under the guidance of area manager Hans Lerch, the teaching staff of the PTS and employees of the National Park administration. Everything from the water wheel to the lathe has been renovated, so it is once again possible to shape bowls out of pine wood from the valley with the power of water. The lathe room is open to visitors from summer 2013 in line with the National Park administration's adventure programme.



28th June 2012

“Holler” (Elder) in the Klausner house in Hollersbach

The Elder is a frugal and widely adapted shrub and is very common in middle Europe. It is also name-giving for the National Park village of Hollersbach. The historic Klausner house in the centre of Hollersbach has for many years, accommodated the National Park workshop and also has Josef Stöckl and Andrea Rieders' Hollersbach adventure herbal garden on its doorstep. This was a good reason for the National Park administration to make a small but exquisite exhibition around the Elder. Dr. Tina Widman, Member of the Provincial Government and Mayor Günther Steiner opened the exhibition and were immersed in the world of scents, pictures and fascinating stories about the Elder.



29th June 2012

Remake of the educational path in the ancient forest in Rauris

It was the first theme path in the Hohe Tauern National Park. In the 1980s, the Salzburg group of the Austrian Nature Conservation Union had already started to bring visitors closer to nature conservation and the National Park idea in a fascinating and adventurous way in the ancient forest of Rauris in Kolm-Saigurn. After 25 years the goal was the same, but the greater technical, didactic and financial potential encouraged the National Park administration to conduct a big relaunch of this first National Park educational path. The path was opened by Hans Kutil; president of the nature conservation union, “Haus der Natur” director Dr. Norbert Winding and Dr. Tina Widmann; Member of the Provincial Government.



30th June 2012

Tibet focus at the Alpine Peace Crossing

Since 2007, 60 years after the emigration of over five-thousand Jews over the Krimmler Tauern (pass) to Genoa and on to Palestine, has a memorial hike named the “Alpine Peace Crossing” taken place. Every year it has a different focus in context with similar refugee fates worldwide. In Tibet, ‘flight’ in ice and snow is a daily occurrence. And so this was a special, touching matter at the “APC 2012”. Tibetan monks raised prayer flags at the Krimmler Tauern. Worldwide National Parks, including the Himalayas, are also peace projects as forms of reconciliation between mankind and nature.



4th July 2012

Press trip on the tracks of diversity

Biodiversity in science, research, natural region management and experience pedagogy was the theme of a multi-day press trip through the Hohe Tauern National Park. The start was an introduction to the biodiversity data base of the National Park at the National Park centre in Mittersill. The programme followed with excursions into the valleys and to the biodiversity hotspots in the National Park. As a result of the National Park administration's commitment, over the year various articles have been published in prominent science sections of renowned newspapers, in scientific journals and reports have been broadcasted on national and international radio and television. The goal of future yearly press trips is to gain the lasting interest of specialized journalists.



9th July 2012

Hohe Tauern in art at the Salzburg Museum

Since the 19th Century, nature, mountains and the landscape of the Hohe Tauern have not only had scientific interest but have also inspired artists of all fields from poetry, music and the visual arts. A special exhibition of artwork about the Hohe Tauern took place in the Salzburg Museum from July to December. Museum Director Dr. Erich Marx and Member of the Provincial Parliament Dr. Tina Widmann pushed the exhibition and arranged further cooperation and special activities during the exhibition. After the "Festivals of Nature" in 2011 that corresponded with the opening of the Salzburg Festival, this was another important step to bring the National Park closer to the Salzburg residents.



13th-15th July 2012

Biodiversity days in the Hollersbach valley

70 scientists of various nature-scientific fields have put the Hollersbach valley literally under the microscope. The reason for these biodiversity days, held every year in a different part of the protected area, is not systematic monitoring but to gain a flash of the actual biodiversity condition in a close area. These days are also not an order for research from the National Park administration. The National Park only provides the frame conditions from accommodation and valley taxis to digital maps and assistance. Researchers work at their own expenses. Various species have been discovered or rediscovered this way.



27th July-5th August 2012

Species conservation days in Hellbrunn und Schönbrunn

The theme of species conservation is also ever present in Austrian zoos. Similarly, the National Parks are involved in an attractive and well visited programme of species conservation days. A long and professional cooperation exists, particularly with breeding and release projects, for example the bearded vultures or the ibex in the Hohe Tauern. The National Park administration were present on the action days at the Salzburg zoo Hellbrunn as well as the Schönbrunn zoo in Vienna, to bring visitors closer to the natural habitats and also the required action for conservation and protection of these areas.



11th August 2012

National Park “smart-viewer” at the Rester-height

To reach non National Park visitors and enthuse them for the National Park idea by building an extraordinary viewing platform in an extraordinary place, was already the goal with the installation of the National Park gallery at 3000 m above sea level on the Kitzsteinhorn. The Rester-height in the Salzburg grassy mountains near Mittersill offers a unique overview of the Hohe Tauern National Park. Instead of conventional panorama boards, the National Park administration in cooperation with the Kitzbühler Alpen panorama gondola installed a panorama platform with the recently invented “smart-viewer” as an information platform and to help orientation. Member of the Provincial Government, Dr. Tina Widmann and head of the panorama gondola Franz Wieser held the opening.



11th August 2012

Salzburg local railway with National Park locomotive

Several sets of wagons named after upper Pinzgau villages and two locomotives with the names “Land Salzburg” and “Pinzgau” already run on the route between Zell am See and Krimml. The SLB (Salzburg local railway) was again looking for an over-regional identity for the new locomotive purchased in 2012. The name “Nationalpark Hohe Tauern” shall express this identity and shall be a sign of the good cooperation between the Holiday Region Hohe Tauern National Park, the National Park administration and the Salzburg local railway. Spokesman of the board Dr. Leo Schitter, Mayor Dr. Wolfgang Viertler and Member of the Provincial Government Dr. Tina Widmann enjoyed themselves after the blessing of the locomotive by Dean Tobias Giglmaier at the beginning of Mittersill’s yearly town festival.



14th September 2012

School activity “The National Park goes to the city”

Every year the schools of the National Park region are able to enjoy a big National Park event especially designed for schools, with either the Partner School or Climate School Festival. To also offer schools from the City of Salzburg and the Flachgau and Tennengau regions the opportunity of an event, the National Park administration packed up all the equipment from natural rock bowling to the National Park millionaire wheel and set up stations for 600 students in the courtyard and rooms of the Salzburg Museum. Member of the Provincial Government Dr. Tina Widmann was present at various stations and at lunch-time she was able to say goodbye to students and teachers enthused by the National Park idea.



15th September 2012

National Park for Salzburg residents

The Saturday after the school event “The National Park goes to the city”, the National Park employees once more used parts of the stations already set up in the Mozart Square and the Salzburg Museum. The reason was for a Salzburg Day to bring “their” Hohe Tauern National Park into the city for the Salzburg residents. Loyal partners from the “Wollstadt” and the “Kräutergarten” to the “Wilde Natur” and the “Jaidbachalm” were present. During this successful festival a touring exhibition about the various functions of the National Park administration was opened in the foyer of the Salzburg Museum. It was a bridge to the National Park for the visitors of the Hohe Tauern exhibition until the end of 2012.



26th September 2012

Trisslalm is “Alm of the year 2012”

After five successful years of searching for the “Alm of the Year”, supported by Kraft Foods – Milka, this project came to an end in 2012. At a commemorative event in Vienna the Trisslalm has been awarded “Alm of the Year 2012”. Federal Minister Niki Berlakovich, responsible for agriculture as well as the Austrian National Parks, complemented the winner together with the President of Kraft Foods Austria Andreas Kutil. The Trisslalm is located in the Wildgerlos valley and is owned by the Eberharter family from Zillertal. At the Trisslalm is also the Lathe-room refurbished by the PTS Mittersill in line with the partner school project. With the focus on biodiversity Milka will support further alm projects of the National Park.



15th October 2012

Bavarian Minister of State on exchange of experience

Member of the Provincial Government Dr. Tina Widmann and Mayor Dr. Wolfgang Viertler were able to welcome a special guest to the National Park centre in Mittersill. The Bavarian Minister of State Dr. Marcel Huber is politically responsible for the well-known protected areas; Bavarian Forest National Park and Berchtesgaden National Park among others. The successful integration of the National Park and the National Park management in economic and regional development was of special interest during an exchange of experience with curatorship members, mayors, landowners and National Park directors that lasted several hours. A visit to the award-winning “National Park Worlds” adventure exhibition completed the visit.



22nd-24th November 2012

Experimental pedagogy at the Interpädagogica in Salzburg

For many years the eight Austrian National Park administrations collectively represent their protected areas, educational programmes and educational facilities as “Austria’s largest class room” at the Interpädagogica; the largest Austrian fair for pedagogues and schools. With this the goal of the National Parks Austria that every student in Austria shall at least once during their school time visit a National Park and learn about the significance of these large protected areas as Austria’s nature legacy is moving closer to being achieved. Member of the Provincial Government Dr. Tina Widmann used this opportunity to distribute the awards for a Freecard school competition about the National Parks in Austria.



29th November 2012

Final spurt of 360° National Park in Mittersill

More than a year ago the ground-breaking ceremony presented the expansion of the National Park centre in Mittersill to the public for the first time. Now the project is in the final stage; the opening is on the 12th June 2013. After the completion of the construction and the finishing of the majority of the filming in crevasses, above waterfalls, in mountain streams and between ancient forest giants; all involved parties are sure it will be something unique and incomparable and unmistakable in the field and variety of existing adventure exhibitions in Europe. First impressions have been presented already to the decision-making bodies of the National Park. The reports beyond the region already show that the right way has been taken.

National Parks Austria

Web-Info: www.nationalparksaustria.at

Web-Info: www.nationalparks.or.at



The Austrian National Parks preserve a variety of habitats, which are significant for the general public – they contribute essentially to the conservation of biological diversity. (Photos above left to right: D. MANHART/NP Thayatal, M. KURZTHALER/NP Hohe Tauern Tyrol, archive NP Neusiedler See – Seewinkel, D. ZUPANC/NP Hohe Tauern Carinthia; photos below left to right: G. PUNZ/NP Kalkalpen, F. RIEDER/NP Hohe Tauern Salzburg, B. KURTH/NP Donauauen, archive NP Gesäuse).

Umbrella brand and network

Austria features a huge diversity of ecosystems and natural and cultural landscapes, which are preserved by a broad list of protection and advancement actions as well as by sustainable use. The National Parks Austria represent many large scale protected areas including the glacial high mountains, alpine cultural landscapes, various coniferous and deciduous forest ecosystems, river floodplains as well as the pannonian dry grassland and therefore have a crucial significance for the preservation of the national nature legacy.

All the activities of the National Parks Austria are verified in line with the coordination meeting under the direction of the Ministry of Life. The members are representatives of the Federal Government as well as the National Park directors. The collectively developed work programmes for the year are agreed in the particular National Park boards. In 2012 three coordination meetings (50th to 52nd) have been held.

Further the National Park advisory board – existing of members of the Federal Government, the Provincial Government and chosen environment NGOs – evaluates the target course and acts advisably. Two meetings of the advisory board took place in 2012.

Activities and projects 2012

In 2012 the National Parks Austria attended, amongst others to the following activities and projects:

EU-project LEGZU “guidelines, principles, cooperation”

To implement the Austrian National Park strategy there shall be collective actions for further development of the National Parks in Austria. In 2012 for the fields; species & habitat protection, research & science management as well as cooperation & exchange the project LEGZU has been drawn, which is co-funded by EU appropriation.

The three-year project is made up of four work packages: National Park & knowledge management, National Park regions as well as education and communication & marketing. End of 2014 the following results amongst others shall be available:

- ▶ Collective management standards & guidelines to conserve the biodiversity in the National Parks
- ▶ Conference transcript to the International Symposium for Research in Protected Areas that will take place from 10th-12th June 2013 in Mittersill.

Web-Info: www.hohetauern.at/symposium2013

- ▶ Collective, public research meta database

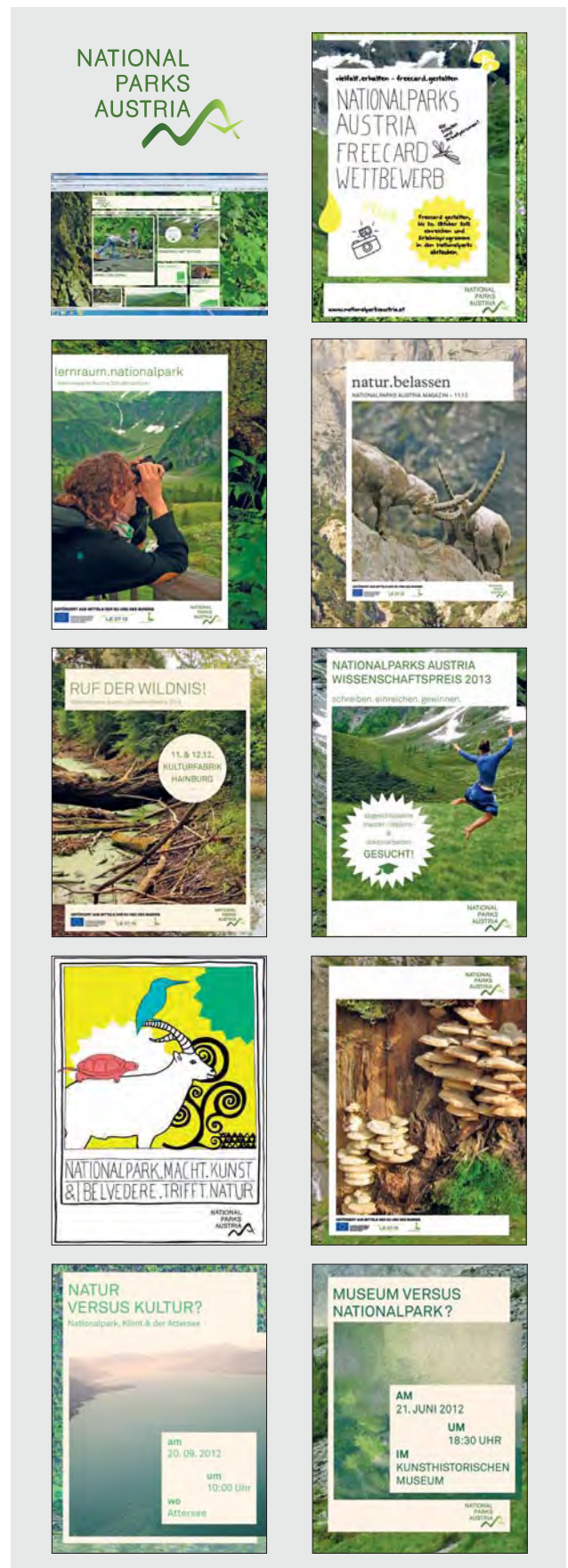
- ▶ “Nature Capital Report” about the ecosystem attainments of the National Parks Austria
- ▶ Online platform of the National Park regions
- ▶ Collective advertising of the NP Austria’s visitor programme
- ▶ Development of NP overlapping packages

Awareness offensive of the National Parks Austria

A study, carried out in 2012, about the image of the National Parks shows that the population is in fact proud of the native natural landscapes, but is not aware of the various efforts of the National Parks for the conservation and organisation of this legacy. Under the umbrella brand “National Parks Austria” a three-year public campaign was started with the target to sensitise as many people as possible for the National Park theme. The running body for the project is the Environment Governing Body.

In 2012 amongst others the following actions have been implemented:

- ▶ Development of a new NP Austria logo and a consistent NP Austria design
- ▶ Production of a consistent NP Austria folder
- ▶ Modernisation of the NP Austria internet appearance:
Web-info: www.nationalparksaustria.at
- ▶ Production of a NP Austria image film on the theme “Wilderness in the heart of Europe – Austria’s National Parks” in the ORF series Universum
- ▶ NP Austria school leaflet “study room.national park”
- ▶ NP Austria magazine “naturally.left”, 1st booklet
- ▶ Call for proposals for the NP Austria scientist award. The granting of the award by the Federal Minister will be on the occasion of the 5th Symposium for Research in Protected Areas on 11th June 2013 in Mittersill.
- ▶ Realisation of a NP Austria Freecard creative competition with presentation ceremony of the three best “do it yourself post cards” at the Interpädagogica 2012 in Salzburg
- ▶ Carry out the NP Austria year conference about the theme “call of the wilderness!”
- ▶ Establishment of culture cooperation:
 - (1) with the Belvedere to the theme “national park.makes.-culture & belvedere.meets.nature” in the way of classroom workshops to gain understanding about nature including presentation ceremony for the best student artworks about leading animals and plants from the National Parks,
 - (2) with the Museum of Historic Arts to the theme “Museum versus National Park? Nature and culture between completion and divisiveness” in the way of an interdisciplinary direction through the landscape painting of various eras and
 - (3) with the tourism region Attersee to the theme “Nature versus culture? National Park, Klimt & the Attersee” as panel discussion and with a following workshop to the clarification of the role of landscape painting for nature.



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 2012 as well as invitations to share our know-how in international discussions.

International delegations & meetings in the Hohe Tauern National Park

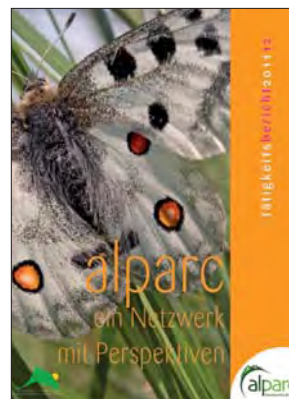
- ▶ **Foresters from China; University of Natural Resources and Life sciences, Vienna**
National Park and natural region management
- ▶ **Wild Europe Initiative**
National Park and natural region management, wilderness area
- ▶ **Study Group from Thailand**
Natural region management, science & research, environmental education
- ▶ **Education workshop Innsbruck; Training Institute Niedersachsen; University of Oldenburg (Institute for Biology and Environmental Sciences)**
Education & visitor information, infrastructure
- ▶ **Visitors worldwide**
Alpine Peace Crossing Krimmler Tauern:
Focus Tibet, people and nature
- ▶ **Experts Alps-wide**
2nd international workshop of ALPARC to “Mountain Environmental Education in Alpine Protected Areas”:
Education & visitor information
- ▶ **Biologists from neighbouring countries**
National Park day of richness of species in the Hollersbach valley: Biodiversity
- ▶ **Scientific advisory board**
2nd international meeting: Science & research, long-term monitoring
- ▶ **Science journalists**
Press trip: Biodiversity, science & research

Participation at international events

- ▶ **11th Europe’s Wilderness Days, PAN Parks**
Year conference, Archipelago National Park (FI)
- ▶ **Annual Bearded Vulture Meeting**
Bearded vulture year conclave in Brunnen (CH)

- ▶ **Activity week “Planet under Pressure”**
Special theme guidance on the occasion of “Rio 20+”
- ▶ **Danilo Re Ranger Olympics**
Expert conference about “Hiking paths of the Alps: signposting, maintenance and safety” & sportive competitions in the Parco Naturale Adamello Brenta (I)
- ▶ **Nature conservation park union e. V. (VNP)**
Specialist excursion to the Nature Park Lüneburger Heide (D)

Hohe Tauern National Park – International cooperation



Since 1995 the large-scale National and Nature Parks of the Alps work together informally and voluntarily in a network of alpine protected areas (ALPARC). The activities of the programme period 2011-2012 can be found in the current activity report. Web-Info: www.alparc.org

- ▶ **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
- ▶ **Biodiversity research Austria platform**
Web-Info: http://131.130.59.133/biodiv_forschung

European wilderness politics



Since the 2009 Wilderness Conference in Prague, under the Czech EU Council Presidency, wilderness has been a fixed component of every agenda of the European nature conservation politics. To protect wilderness development in the core zones of National Parks, management sanctions are already established with fixed criteria to be accepted as a category II National Park of the IUCN. This leads to goal conflicts in the management in those National Parks, which at the same time are designated as “NATURA 2000” areas under the European Nature Conservation directive, the Bird Protection directive and the Fauna-Flora-Habitat Conservation directive. The European nature conservation directives prohibit deterioration and include the obligation to guarantee good conservation status, which may also act against a natural dynamic.

Initiated by this goal conflict in Europe’s largest natural region and protected areas, in 2012 the European Union reacted by releasing “guidelines for the management of wilderness and wild areas in NATURA 2000”. These differed explicitly from the obligations of the European nature conservation principles in the matter of the preservation of wilderness in large-scale protected areas like National Parks.

Wilderness politics is certainly more than a new interpretation of decades-old nature conservation principles. Therefore EUROPARC, WWF, IUCN, UNESCO, PAN Parks and other nature conservation organisations work together in the “Wild Europe Initiative” (WEI), to preserve the existing potential of wilderness in Europe for the coming generations. With the



WILD
EUROPE



2014 International
Year of Wilderness

paper; “A working definition of European wilderness and wild areas”, also released in 2012, exact minimum standards for large (wilderness) and small (wild areas) wilderness areas have been defined. Under the lead management of PAN Parks the “million project” has been started, with the goal to guarantee until 2015 one million hectares of wilderness in Europe.

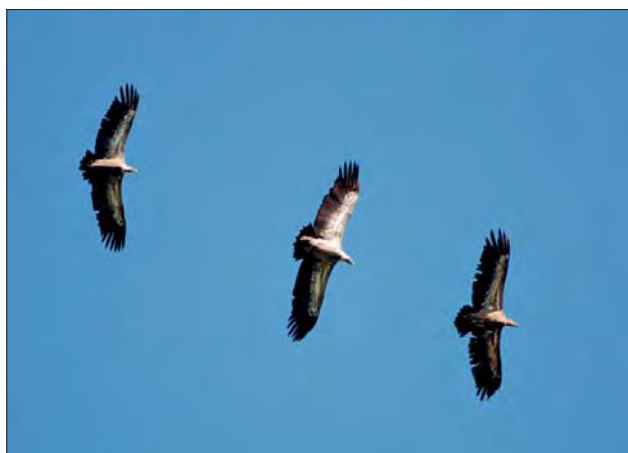
International and particularly European nature conservation politics must deal with the issue of wilderness more intensively in the years ahead. Already in 2013 “Wild 10” will hold the 10th Wilderness Congress in Salamanca, Spain and 2014 shall be proclaimed; the Year of the Wilderness. This dynamic that has started in Europe does not stop at our National Parks. Incidentally, this is nothing new; in 1964 the United States congress under President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the well known “Wilderness Act”. There are also parallels to the history of the National Park idea that also originated in the USA in 1872. It took a few decades until the first European National Parks were established in Sweden 1909.



Natural region management

Griffon vulture in the Hohe Tauern

During the alpine farming period, the Griffon vultures have been flying in the Hohe Tauern National Park since time immemorial. Traditionally, the most significant Griffon vulture sleeping walls are in the Salzburg Tauern valleys. The breeding of 'our' vultures mainly occurs in Croatia, but some also come from Serbia, Macedonia, Bulgaria, France and Spain, and for about 20 years from Friuli, Italy. Currently, about 30 to 40 Griffon vultures are flying in the Hohe Tauern in summer. 20 years ago there were many more. Therefore the National Park has started the project to track the reason for this decline.



The Hohe Tauern is the only area in middle Europe, where wild Griffon vultures inhabit regularly over the summer. This large raptor has never bred here. In contrast to other raptors they can often be spotted in groups. (Photo: M. KNOLLSEISEN).

Recording the current population has been started this year with five synchronic counts at the six most significant Griffon vulture sleeping places. In addition, all available sightings have been analysed. In the coming year the counts shall be repeated. Further radio markings with GPS-GSM satellite radios as well as the marking of Griffon vultures are planned, to gain new details about their habits, their flight patterns and their habitat preferences. There is also the intention to analyse the existing basic food resources as well as researching possible lead contamination of the Griffons. Alongside this, historic data about the Griffon vulture frequency shall be retrieved through literature investigation and then compared with the number of animals driven up to the alpine pastures.



Equipped with GPS-GSM satellite radios exact data from six Griffon vultures about air activity, altitude and sleeping places shall be collected (Photo: F. GENERO).

This summer never more than 30-35 birds were detected. Previous primary sleeping places in the Rauris valley were hardly used. In some seasons many are flying in Kaprun but in other seasons none. It turned out that the "vulture wall" in the Stubach valley with 15 to 21 visitors was the main sleeping place this year. The first vultures reached Salzburg at the beginning of June and the last two left the National Park on 17th October. Counts conducted at the same time in the Lago di Cornio nature conservation area in Friuli, Italy showed further rising numbers: in September the highest number to date of 181 vultures was counted. There are even more in the western Alps: just fewer than 1500 Griffon vultures were registered there on 17th August 2012 at the Alps-wide Griffon vulture count day.

The Griffon vultures are a perfect bioindicator group for the nativeness of habitats and for the sustainable use of natural resources by humans. Therefore their recording and documentation is particularly important. The data is integrated in the biodiversity data base and in the monitoring of the "Natura 2000" area and provide a valuable foundation for a conservation concept of this Europe-wide protected bird species.

- ▶ Project overall costs (2012-2013): € 58.000,-
- ▶ Funding: rural development, nature conservation action

Alpine ibex telemetry – area behaviour of the Alpine ibex



With the help of telemetry and animals with distinctive horns main migration routes could be drawn. The mountain ridges outside the National Park are significant stepping stones to network the Alpine ibex within the National Park but also with the rest of the Alps (Map: G. GREßMANN).

The project “Alpine ibex telemetry” was started in 2005 under the scientific direction of the Research Institute for Wildlife Science and Ecology and in cooperation with the Swiss National Park, to keep records about the Alpine ibex population around the Großglockner.

From 2005 to 2010 ten ibex and one goat were equipped with 13 GPS-GSM radios. Alongside relatively static animals with an action field of only a few 100ha, long distance ‘hikers’ were identified. Ibex “Rupert” wandered about 600 km within a year and the size of his moving territory was about 13,600 ha. The eastern Tyrol winter location of Ibex “Helmut” was, as the crow flies 11.5km away from his summer location at the Kürsinger hut. Alpine ibex prefer, especially in winter south orientated slopes with a gradient of 35°, sporadically up to 70°. Sometimes the overwinter survival areas are outside the National Parks.

The vertical dispersion shows a pattern with the maximum in September/October and the minimum in April/May between 1800 and 3200 m above sea level. The Alpine ibex reacts very quickly to environmental influence with the change of location up to 500 vertical meters in a day. The habitat models show that the National Park and its direct surrounding offer large districts suitable for Alpine ibex habitat. These are commensurate with the habitats where the Alpine ibex are actually found, where they overwinter successfully and reproduce. High mountain locations play a major role in the networking. Glaciers are unsuitable habitats, but they can be crossed by the ibex easier than the valleys.

This project gained valuable findings about the seasonal area use and has enabled unique insights into the activity behaviour of the Alpine ibex in the Hohe Tauern. In the Hohe Tauern there are no separated Alpine ibex colonies, the existing part populations are linked closely together. The animals are mobile and use pass crossings and ridges to migrate within the National Park and over provincial borders. Overwintering and possibilities to integrate are important factors for a secure and healthy Alpine ibex population in the Hohe Tauern. The Alpine ibex does not know any territory, National Park or provincial borders; therefore it overlaps a number of legal norms. To optimize management it is necessary for wilderness ecological space planning to overlap territories and provinces and to coordinate existing wilderness ecological space planning concepts.



- ▶ Project overall costs: € 55.000,-
- ▶ Funding: National Bank sponsoring, National Park Counsel

Monitoring of the autochthonic Brook trout

In 2002 the National Park started the species conservation project of autochthonic trout with the Interreg-project "TroutExamInvest". Genetic pure Brook trout of the Danube type were found in the Wind and Anlauf brooks. Pure-bred Danube originating Brook trout were caught and the spawn extracted. The eggs, brood and young fish were fostered at the University of Innsbruck and then released into the respective refuge waters.



Floodwaters, that bring vast quantities of fine-particle glacier sand, are deadly for the fish. Nevertheless resistant Brook trout survived such a natural phenomenon in the Anlauf valley.

Anlauf brook

After the floodwater in August 2012, the impact on the autochthonic fish population and whether the fish had survived the catastrophe were assessed. Fish population in the Anlauf brook was investigated above and below the weir in a stretch of about 2020 m. Surprisingly Brook trout could be caught. The biggest loss (up to 94.2%) was in the weir basin as a result of the high quantity of fine-particle sediment and mudflats. In 2009, a large number of marked autochthonic Brook trout were released below the weir. The aim therefore, was to catch surviving marked fish and release them again above the weir between the "Steg Korntauern" and the "Ochsenboden".

The floodwater had significant damage to the fish population in the Anlauf brook, but did not kill it off completely. This shows that the autochthonic Brook trout have the ability to deal with extreme events. Notably, small and large fish survived this natural phenomenon.



At the control-fishing in the Wind brook some large trout up to 37 cm in length were caught (Photo: N. MEDGYESY).

Wind brook

Since the last control-fishing in 2008, the progress of the fish population was examined again this year. It was found that the highly located Wind brook provides very suitable waters for brook trout. Fish of various ages were caught at all thirteen probe locations along the 1850 m long control stretch. The majority of adult spawners were about to release their spawn and the first millets had already assembled at the spawning grounds. The high number of young fish especially, is direct evidence that all requirements for the continued survival of the autochthonic Brook trout are provided in the Wind brook. The natural reproduction and the survival of the brood and the young fish are even possible in this extreme location, where the water temperature for many months is close to freezing.



Control-fishing is only carried out in areas where there are no fish above spawn substrate, no fish pairs or no fresh spawn pools (Photo: N. MEDGYESY).

- ▶ Project overall costs: €4.500,-
- ▶ Funding: Salzburg National Park Fund

European Diploma of Protected Areas for the Krimml Waterfalls extended

The Krimml Waterfalls form the north-west corner of the Hohe Tauern National Park and mark the entrance into one of the most spectacular National Park valleys. They are closely connected with National Park history and earlier were the cause of conflict between utilization interests and nature conservation. Already in 1899 the construction of a water power station was planned. At the time local people and many Salzburg residents, supported by Dr. August Prinzinger, campaigned for the preservation of this nature spectacle and for the establishment of a Hohe Tauern National Park. This and repeated intensions of the energy industry to use the water mass of the Krimml Waterfalls for electricity production and destroy them, was successfully defeated.



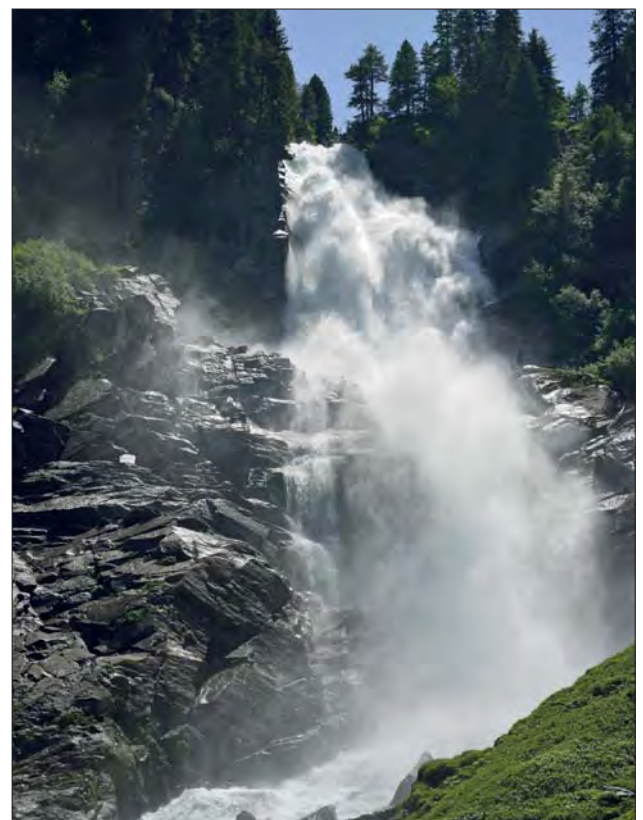
The European Diploma of Protected Areas of the Council of Europe is an award for outstanding natural features. Currently there are 114 European Diploma areas in 26 countries; three of them are in Austria. The period of validity of this title is limited and is only granted again if recommendations are complied with and the conservation status therefore guaranteed.

One milestone for the conservation of this natural feature was the award of the European Diploma of Protected Areas in 1967. In 1984 the Krimml Waterfalls – as already demanded at the turn of the century – were integrated in the Hohe Tauern National Park. With the nomination as Natura 2000 area in 1997 and the international recognition of the National Park by the IUCN in 2006 there is an additional European and world wide protection.

The Council of Europe has with the decision of the Council of Ministers on the 20th June 2012 extended the award for the Krimml Waterfalls for another ten years, attendant on eight recommendations: Amongst others there shall be an integration into a management plan of the Hohe Tauern National Park, research projects about biodiversity shall be carried out and further efforts shall be made to protect the natural beauty and to avoid adverse effects on the high landscape quality. The European Council highly values continuation of cooperation with local facilities, landowners, the community and the Austrian Alpine Association as the upholder of the Waterfall path.

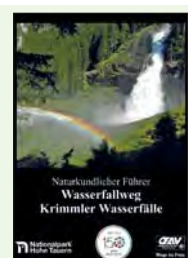


The Krimml Waterfalls have an iconic value to the National Park. Their biological diversity, the impressive natural spectacle and their role as a place of healing and as world renowned tourist attraction mirror their aesthetic, ecological, constitutional and economic significance. The re-award of the European Diploma of Protected Areas is a high recognition of the previous contribution to the conservation of the Krimml Waterfalls, the work of the National Park administration, the nature conservation and the local stakeholders. This award is commitment and duty for the future.



NEW EDITION in the National Park library in Mittersill:

AUSTRIAN ALPINE ASSOCIATION
(Ed., 2012): Waterfall path Krimml Waterfalls, published in the series of nature study guides for the Hohe Tauern National Park, 4th edition, 178 Pages



Science and research

Web-Info: www.hohetauern.at/Forschung

Documentation of research in 2012

The Hohe Tauern National Park is a “long-term project”. Many natural processes and changes are very slow and therefore cannot be directly observed. Special methods and instruments are required. One of the biggest challenges is to keep the data about the natural region in the Hohe Tauern as well as the resultant knowledge available and make it useable for other generations. Current and adequate research documentation is therefore a crucial prerequisite.

This is impossible without a database. Alongside the specific field database of biodiversity that provides bundled and location-dependent information about appearance, distribution, ecology and endangerment of plant, animal and fungi species of the protected area, are current online-meta-databases.

Meta data or Meta information is data, which holds information about attributes of other data, but not the data itself. Currently there are three Meta databases available for the integration of existing knowledge:

- ▶ Media database
Web-Info: www.hohetauern.at/bibliothek
- ▶ Bibliography
Web-Info: <http://bibliographie.hohetauern.at>
- ▶ Project database
Web-Info: www.hohetauern.at/Forschung/online-Datenbank

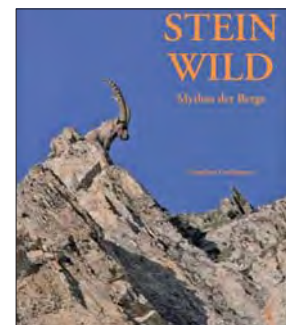
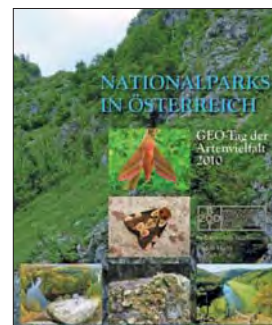
In line with the multi-year National Parks Austria project LEGZU, that contains amongst others the science management of the Austrian National Parks, these services shall be integrated, and also enhanced and extended in terms of specific field data.

New publications in the National Park library in Mittersill

Research findings and conference volumes about the Hohe Tauern National Park are regularly released. Together with its own publications, scientific findings shall be published in renowned scientific journals. ‘eco.mont’ for example, publishes research from mountain conservation areas and values the presentation of scientific findings and their benefits for conservation area management. Every edition also contains general reports about management issues and presents one protected area in the Alps. Two editions are released every year.



The journal is published as printed and online versions. The publisher is the University of Innsbruck and the Austrian Academy of Sciences.



In 2012 the findings of the Austrian-wide day of biodiversity from the National Parks have been published to the Year of Biodiversity, 2010.



The National Parks self-publish, for example, project reports and documentations from international specialist conferences.

Diploma theses in the National Park library:

THIELMANN Fabienne (2006): The Hohe Tauern National Park as place for environmental education. Thesis, Heidelberg.
BERNSTEINER Magdalena (2011): Out-of-school environmental education in the Hohe Tauern National Park. Thesis, Sbg.

100 years of National Park and nature conservation history in the Hohe Tauern

In spring 2012 the research project “100 years of National Park and nature conservation history in the Hohe Tauern” was awarded to historian Dr. Patrick Kupper, ETH Zurich, and his five-member team from Austria and Germany. The project content is specialist research, critical editing of sources and (popular-) scientific presentation of the diverse history of the first 100 years of ideas and initiatives for the establishment of a large-scale nature and landscape conservation area in the Hohe Tauern, imbedded in the global 20th Century history of nature conservation.



Yearly report of the Nature Conservation Park Union for the year 1913 (Scan: archive Nature Conservation Park Union e.V.).

In 1913, due to an initiative by Dr. August Prinzinger, a Salzburg resident, the Stuttgart based German-Austrian Nature Conservation Park Union used donation funds to buy 1005 hectares of land in the Stubach and Amer valleys. The new landowners at the time had an extraordinary plan and an ambitious goal: above all nothing shall happen in the purchased area. The principle plan for the project was: “a perfect, undisturbed freedom” for nature and in the long-term to re-establish the “primitive state”, as written in a brochure at the time.

This purchase of land marked the beginning of the Hohe Tauern National Park. From this small area, which was almost lost to the building of power stations, developed the largest National Park of middle Europe and the Alps in the 20th Century. Central research questions that will be answered with the help of detailed source analysis and interviews of witnesses include the roles of the protagonists, the significance of boundaries and exclusions and the forms of opposition and conflicts, which arose while the conservation area was being established.

The ownership relations and the traditional rights of use are also topics of the investigation, as are the relationships between the various stakeholders. What democratisation processes, operating strategies and involvement procedures occurred? How did the various interests for the area like science, alpinism, tourism, power industry, traffic, hunting, forestry and agriculture correspond with each other? What were the breaks caused by war and politics? What were the consistencies lasting these breaks?



Picture postcard from 1920 with the Dorfer Oed in the Stubach valley, which was bought by the Nature Conservation Union in 1913 for long-term protection (Scan: archive Nature Conservation Union e.V.).

In 2012 the project team was occupied particularly by archive and library investigations, but also on-site investigation in the area. The 100 years have been divided into six eras: initial phase (up to 1918), interwar period (1918-1938), National Socialism and occupation (1938-1950), new start for a National Park (1950-1971), establishment of the Hohe Tauern National Park (1971-1992) and present time (1992-today) and are to be presented in the jubilee year 2013 to the broad public in the framework of a special exhibition on the occasion of the 5th Symposium for Research in Protected Areas at the Felberturm museum in Mittersill as well as in printed form.

- ▶ Project overall costs: €80.000,-
- ▶ Funding: Salzburger Nationalparkfonds

New publication in the National Park library in Mittersill:

KUPPER Patrick (2012): Create Wilderness: A trans-national story of the Swiss National Park, published in the series of National Park research in Switzerland, 371 pages, Haupt-Verlag.



AVIFAUNA – Stocktaking for Natura 2000 completed

The goal of the project was to gain, for the first time, accurate data about the populations of chosen galliformes, owls and woodpeckers for the Salzburg and Carinthia National Park regions. The accuracy of the calculated population maps and stock figures are more precise than ever before because of the complex research design.

In total 12 bird species listed in Appendix I have been investigated:

- ▶ Stratified selection and habitat investigation at >650 habitat spots
- ▶ Assignment of >130 representative reference areas
- ▶ Extensive stock mapping (direct and indirect proof) within the reference areas by 2-3 passageways
- ▶ Creation of habitat and population models with the help of the MaxEnt computer programme
- ▶ Projection of stock figures on the principle of habitat parameters gained from the field

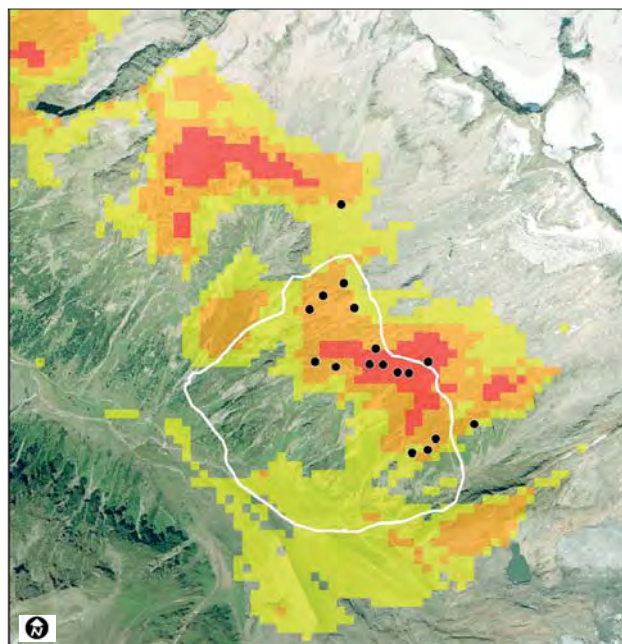
Findings

Next to the 12 target species, coincidence observations of about 74 other bird species in the area have been listed and integrated into the National Park biodiversity database. In total 1159 datasets of the target species have been collected. The most evidence was collected for the Snow grouse and the least for the Red-backed shrike.

The projections of stock figures are based upon the excellent capture efficiency in the reference areas and therefore demonstrate accuracy never before reached. Next to the exact stock figures a population map has been made for each of the 12 bird species on the basis of the habitat parameters, which have been found in the research area. Because there are no quantitative comparable figures from earlier years of the area, the evaluations of the stock trends correspond with over-regional results and local habitat changing. Of particular interest will be the

development of the Snow grouse as this species has the option in the Hohe Tauern National Park to migrate to higher altitudes because of climate change in contrast to other areas.

For the precise assessment of future stock development the monitoring of a representative selection of current reference areas has to be established. From the management's point of view there is particular need of action in those areas suitable for the Capercaillie, the Hazel grouse and the White-backed woodpecker as well as the transition zone between the high montane and the sub-alpine layers for the Black grouse and Rock partridge.



Population map for the Snow grouse (Grafik: M. LUMASEGGER)

- ▶ Project overall costs: €355.341,15
- ▶ Funding: rural development, nature conservation action; Interreg IV Austria-Italy programme, National Park Fund Carinthia

Species	Population	Stock Salzburg National Park ¹	Stock in Salzburg ²
Capercaillie	dispersive	30-40 territories, trend: declining	up to 1.000 territories
Black grouse	widely spread	420-540 territories, trend: stable	up to 1.000 territories
Snow grouse	widely spread	2300-3100 territories, trend: +/- stable	up to 10.000 territories
Hazel grouse	dispersive	140-180 territories, trend: +/- stable	up to 1.000 territories
Rock partridge	dispersive	200-300 territories, trend: +/- stable	up to 100 territories
Three-toed woodpecker	spread	105-115 territories, trend: +/- stable	up to 1.000 territories
Grey-headed woodpecker	dispersive - rare	65-75 territories, trend: declining	up to 1.000 territories
Black woodpecker	dispersive	20-25 territories, trend: stable - increasing	up to 1.000 territories
White-backed woodpecker	fragmented	1-5 territories, trend: +/- stable	up to 100 territories
Boreal owl	spread	55-70 territories, trend: +/- stable	up to 1.000 territories
Eurasian pygmy owl	spread	55-70 territories, trend: +/- stable	up to 1.000 territories
Red-backed shrike	fragmented	5-10 territories, trend: strongly fluctuating	up to 1.000 territories

¹ current data from field investigation supported projection with very high significance
² estimated data from the Red List of endangered breeding birds of the province of Salzburg 2012

Natural region analysis of Natura 2000 subjects of protection completed

The aim of the natural region analysis was the identification, order of priorities and placing of actions, which are necessary for the security of a favourable conservation status of the Natura 2000 subjects of protection as per the FFH-directives within the National Park.



A small-area mosaic of various FFH-habitats is distinctive to the landscape of the Hohe Tauern National Park (Foto: S. Aigner).

With the help of statistical evaluation and the analyses of existing GIS and specialist data and of literature and expertise, in total 32 Appendix I habitat types as well as 17 Appendix II animal and plant species of the Salzburg and Carinthia National Park regions have been investigated, illustrated and analysed area-wide in the form of maps.

For the assessment of the conservation status per subject of protection, utilisation intensity in the area and the sensibility of the subject of protection for utilisation have been correlated with each other by expert rules.

Findings

About three quarters of the Salzburg National Park areas are FFH-habitat types: 37,610 Ha in the core zone and 22,399 Ha in the rim zone. With 14%, the FFH-habitat type, species-rich mat grass is the most common followed by 13% of the type boreo-alpine grassland. About 10% are the type permanent glaciers, 7% each are the types silicate rocks, silicate scree and acid soil spruce forest.

The major parts of the Alm and forest areas are cultivated in adaption to the location. A high intensity of intervention is found particularly in the active soil sites of the lower regions around the Alm centres as well as near tourist infrastructure.

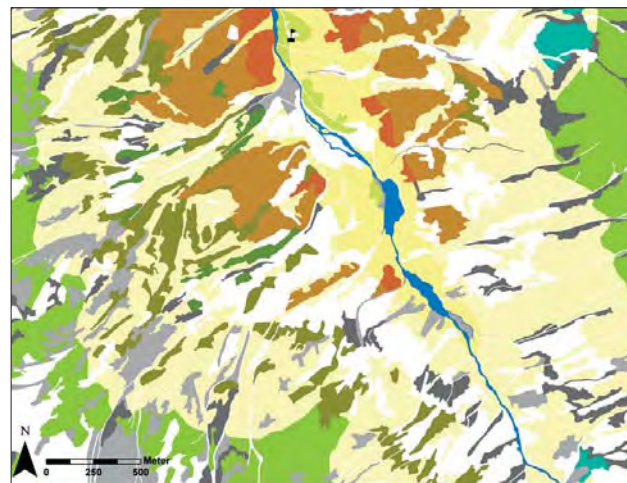
The majority of the FFH-habitat types show conservation status A (excellent). There is need of action at the mat grass of the lower regions, selected low-level moors and calcareous (mountain) grassland.

Classification of the FFH-species: Marsh fritillary – conservation status A (excellent), Lesser horseshoe bat – B (good), European otter, bullhead – C (limited), bear, wolf, lynx, yellow-bellied toad, mouse-eared bad, und *Buxbaumia viridis* – D (population not significant). For further moss, cypripedium calceolus and barbastele no statements are possible because of insufficient data.

As a control of the conservation status of FFH-habitat types, 24 zoological index species from six species groups have been identified: Alpine shrew, cicadas, Heteroptera, Ground beetle, spiders, Opiliones. These species spend their entire life or relevant developing states in the particular habitats, respond sensitively to changes and are therefore very good indicators.

The action catalogue contains clear instructions for subject-specific adaption of cultivation for nature conservation as well as justified documentation of the research demand including project drafts.

All findings and original data are available via a password secured SQL-database. The point data to the investigated proof of species in the area have been integrated in the biodiversity database.



Valley floor along the Habach: species-rich mat grass (yellow), forest mosaic (brown), mountain pine (dark green) and dwarf shrub heather (olive green). In the high regions is mainly boreo-alpine grassland (green) with silicate scree and silicate rock (grey). White fields are no FFH-habitats (Grafik: N. MERKAC).

- ▶ Project overall costs: € 119.528,30
- ▶ Funding: Rural development, nature conservation actions, Interreg IV Austria-Italy programme, Carinthia National Park Fund

Biodiversity in the National Park



Great variety of habitus of the domestic opiliones fauna: species of the families Sironidae, Cladonychiidae, Nemastomatidae, Ischyropsalididae, Trogulidae, Phalangidae, Sclerosomatidae (Fotos: C. KOMPOSCH).

Opiliones – variety of shapes and fascination

Opiliones populate almost every habitat and are versatile in form of appearance and survival strategies: tiny ground inhabitants, which are flat like a board and plastered with soil particles, exemplars with over-length jaw claws, which can open thin snail shells or delicate climbers on overhang rock faces, which with 15 cm span widths are among the biggest arthropods of Europe – all of them can be found in the Hohe Tauern National Park from the montane to the nival layers, if one knows where and how.

The Salzburg natural scientist Albert Ausobsky knew where and how and between 1964-1974 assembled a unique collection of opiliones fauna of the Hohe Tauern National Park. Within the project this exceptionally valuable documentation, which contains thousands of meticulously managed index cards and an extensively detailed, labelled record collection, is digitised and taxonomically brought to the current scientific status.

First findings show, that this precisely locatable data, as a window into the zoological past of the National Park, is a significant contribution to today's nature conservation management. Further, more than 400 proofs testify the existence of seven endemic species. Therefore this collection contributes significantly to the knowledge about endemism in Austria.

- ▶ Project overall costs: € 15.000,-
- ▶ Funding: Rural development, nature conservation action; "Haus der Natur" Salzburg

Database of biodiversity

Since 2002, all available data about animal, plant and fungus species of the National Park are centrally collected and administrated in the biodiversity database in the "Haus der Natur" in Salzburg.

As of October 2012, 279,219 data sets about 10,564 taxa (species, subspecies, hybrids, varieties) from 450 different data sources (appointed projects, days of biodiversity, collections, publications, surveys) have been registered. In comparison to the previous year the data stock has been increased by 49,792 data sets (22%). At the National Park days of biodiversity 26,144 data sets (9%) have been collected. Since 2007, 4,633 different taxa have been registered at these focus listings.

The biggest increase of data volume applies to the flowering plants, ferns and fungi. The plant data comes mainly from the Botanic Information System, which was administrated up to 2010 by the University of Salzburg and is now by the "Haus der Natur". The fungus data comes from the private herbarium of Dr. Thomas Rucker, which is also being gradually integrated into the biodiversity database.

- ▶ Project overall costs (2011-2013): € 129.767,16
- ▶ Funding: National Park Counsel

National Park day of biodiversity in the Hollersbach valley

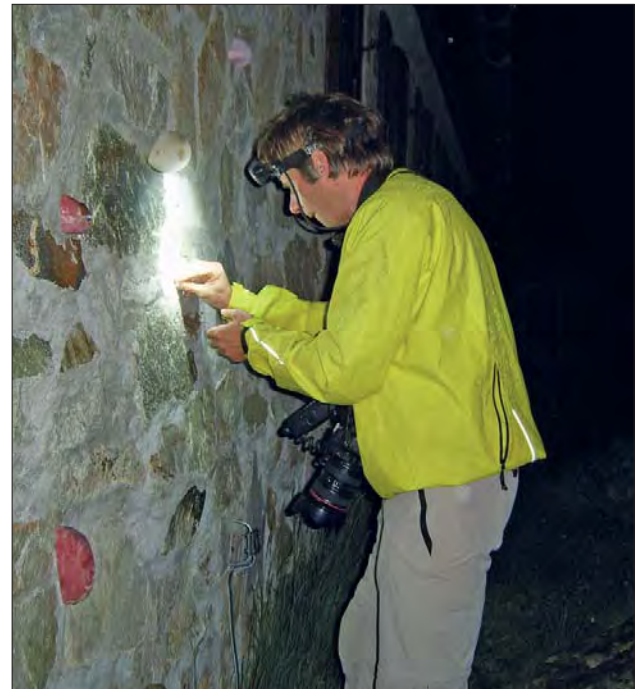
From the 13th to 15th July 2012, the 6th National Park day of biodiversity took place. Every year these 48-hour inventory-takings are in another National Park valley and the goal is to collect as much scientific data for biodiversity as possible in various habitats.

On this occasion 70 national and international biologists dealt with mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles, Caddisflies, dragonflies, Heteroptera, cicadas, butterflies, Dipteral, Hymenoptera, beetles, spiders, water molluscs, vascular plants, lichen and fungi. In particular, many invertebrate species groups are investigated for the first time in the area on biodiversity days.

As with every species inventory carried out in the National Park, this time there were also successful new proofs of evidence in the conservation area, even in bad weather – with the *Sophronia humerella* found in the well investigated species group of butterflies. 15 of the 44 cicada species, which were found in the Hollersbach valley, are new for the entire province of Salzburg. With the *Tyromyces kmetii* there was also among fungi a new proof of evidence for the province.

These results show that a targeted biodiversity field research in the area is essential for the required knowledge of the natural environment in this over-regional significant National Park, if its biodiversity shall be preserved for future generations. The days of biodiversity deliver first data, which after the completion of the elaborate identification work is fully integrated into the biodiversity database of the National Park. In addition this data offers the opportunity for the important scientific exchange of information.

- ▶ Project overall costs: € 10.000,-
- ▶ Funding: National Park Counsel



The experts have had successful findings under rocks, on rock faces and hut walls, in the fissure system of alpine scree, between high bushes, green alder and dwarf shrubs (Foto: H. KUDRNOVSKY).



Photos above from left to right: *Dicranopalpus gasteinensis* – the “antlers” of this high alpine inhabitant of scree is formed by his sensing devices (Photo: C. KOMPOSCH); *Cixius heydenii* – First proof of evidence for the province of Salzburg, caught with a spoon-net on alder and willow (Photo: G. KUNZ); *Horwathia lineolata* – Endemic to the Alps, where this Heteroptera species solely nourishes from *Cyperaceae* and *Luzula* (Photo: B. KOMPOSCH).

Photos below from left to right: *Phyllobius alpinus* – This emerald green scaled bug is found particularly on green alder; *Tipnus unicolor* is only a few millimetres long and is found in barns and Alm huts, but also outside in marmot dens or bumble bee nests; *Oreina cf. Speciosa* – This metallic shining leaf bug occurs on *Apiaceae* of alpine high bushes (Fotos: S. AURENHAMMER).

Waters monitoring: three-year pilot project completed



The samples from the testing sectors were always taken upstream. Every single probe was characterised by depth, medium flow speed as well as by photo (Foto: A. MÄTZLER).

The goal was to develop the methodology for a long-term observation system of high alpine streaming water concerning climate change and its consequences.

With the help of the integrative approach, that shall collect data about abiotic and biotic parameters of the waters over a long time-period and allow analyses about their interaction, the predicted changes of the waters ecosystems and the involved consequences – for example for the food chain – shall be correctly and completely recognized and documented for further scientific questions.

Findings

In total nine research areas in the sectors of the glacial gathering ground have been established: Krimmler Achen valley and Anlauf valley at the north side, Seebach valley and Gschlöß valley on the south side. Each base facility contains one research area near the glacier and one below the natural tree line with and without glacier inflow per investigated water sector.

Over a three year period, field and labour work has been carried out. In the synopsis lies the characterization of the territorial and temporal patterns of the hydrology, glaciology, geomorphology, ecology and biodiversity of the Hohe Tauern National Park typical streaming waters.

Concerning the intended significance of the long-term observations the clean taxonomic handling of the collected samples of macrobenthos – organisms that live at the bottom of waters and are visible to the naked eye – is important. In total > 400,000 individuals from 18 different species groups have been dealt with. Considerably more individuals have been found in the side streams above and below the tree line than in the glacial stream sectors at the same altitude.

The investigated waters are dominated by larvae and pupae from the group of Chironomidae. As the second most common group the larvae of various mayfly species has been found. Further, the habitat collective contains in particular the early life stage of stonefly, copepod, Clitellata, roundworm, net-winged midge and black fly species. In comparison, the caddisflies have been found less frequently, but they still have an important functional role as predators, detritus devourer and disintegrators.

A representative part of the collected material has been examined to distinguish which substrate type shall be investigated at which time in line with the long-term monitoring. The analyses have shown that the best results for suitable individuals and stages of life are achieved at the end of June in the substrate types Mega, Macro and Mesolithal – so that is in the area of chunky blocks to sediments >6 cm.

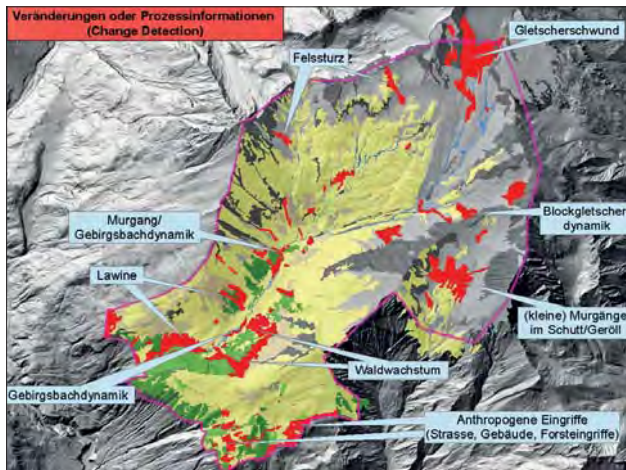


Sorted samples and affixed in alcohol (Foto: TISCHLER).

Whilst the abiotic parameters shall be collected constantly and repeatedly during the year with data loggers and water samples, a periodic recording of the indicator species groups seem sufficient to be able to conduct meaningful comparisons of the ecological relevant structures (species composition, diversity, colonisation density) and functions (composition of feeding types, disruption sensitivity, resilience).

- ▶ Project overall costs: € 186.194,-
- ▶ Funding: Rural development, nature conservation action; National Park Council

CC-HABITALP: methodical-technical pilot project completed



Various photo material about various landscape types was tested in practice (Grafik: R. HALLER).

The goal of project CC-HABITALP was to develop a digital photogrammetric method to detect changes in landscape level with the help of aerial images. Therefore this project was based on the experiences and the aerial image interpretation key of the Interreg III Project HABITALP.

Landscapes in the National Park are protected in their entirety and natural processes are allowed. These natural events lead to changes, which conform to the conservation goals or lead to conflicts. The subject of the project was how these landscape changes of large, natural areas can be recognised and recorded as expedient data sets to be comparable over region and time.

Findings

Central to all area-wide change inventories with the help of the CC-HABITALP procedure is a homologous initial inventory. Only if the reference data fulfil the necessary level of thematic and regional accuracy, can the aerial image visible changes be quantitatively documented and statistically analysed over periods.

Within the project various aerial images (CIR, RGB, panchromatic) and data from different periods and conservation areas have been used – on one hand for the theoretical further development of the interpretation key and on the other hand for its test in practise. The method is now calibrated so it can be used Alp-wide for long and short time intervals. Depending on which dynamic exists due to local utilisations and natural conditions, a mapping of changes in Alpine large-scale conservation areas shall be carried out in 10 – 20 year intervals.

In addition to the inventory, the new interpretation key displays various time spans and the associated process information. A Geo-database (relational database management system)

guarantees the ideal thematic, project and process orientated structuring and organisation of the vast extent of various data from a change mapping.

For the 13 km² big test area in the Hohe Tauern National Park two aerial images from 1998 (CIR) and 2009 (RGB) have been compared:

- ▶ Differentiation of 998 different landscape units are seen on the areal image
- ▶ On 6 % of the area landscape relevant changes have been recognised and measured
- ▶ The changes are results of: avalanches, landslides, rock glacier dynamic, de-glaciation but also through human use (e.g. forestal intervention, construction, collapsed buildings)

The project has shown that the recording of landscape changes by aerial image interpretation is a suitable method. However, the demands for the interpreter and the technical appliances are huge. The development of the remote sensing will continue. A future requirement is to examine if and which technical advancements (higher definition, automatic analysis methods) could be integrated profitably in the CC-HABITALP method.



The interpretation key and the mapping instruction alone are not sufficient for the successful interpretation. The calibration of the interpretations with the reality in the research area is an essential learning process.

- ▶ Project overall costs: € 142.000,-
- ▶ Funding: National Park Council, further project partners

Education & visitor information

Web-Info: www.nationalparkerlebnis.at

Web-Info: <http://www.hohetauern.at/de/ihr-aufenthalt/unsere-baumeister/besucherzentren.html>

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

The goal within the education and visitor information business field is to create awareness and understanding and spread and convey the following contents:

- ▶ The world-wide National Park Idea
- ▶ The significance of the Hohe Tauern National Park as a conservation area
- ▶ The ecological correlations in high alpine areas and the consequence of human interference
- ▶ Conservation of nature as social responsibility



To create lasting awareness of actions, the imparting of knowledge is combined with adventure.

The mixing proportion of environmental education and visitor facilities shall inspire students, locals and visitors from all over the world for the above mentioned contents.

Visitors:	Number of persons/ participants
▶ Information activity, events, presentations	3.088
▶ Entries National Park visitor facilities (without guided tours)	607.163
▶ Guided tours (winter & summer programme, guided tours in the visitor facilities)	14.691
▶ Visitors National Park valleys	810.108
▶ Visitors Großglockner high Alpine road	803.913
▶ Visitor info in total	2.238.963

Next to the current visitor information and public relations, further projects have been carried out in 2012, for example:

- ▶ June: First school festival of the VERBUND Climate School of the Hohe Tauern National Park in Kaprun with about 1,800 students from Salzburg, Carinthia and Tyrol

- ▶ July: Fourth press trip on the theme “Versatile life – biodiversity in the Hohe Tauern National Park”
- ▶ July: Due to the success of the first broadcasting in April 2011 the report in the “Österreichbild” “Working in Paradise – National Park Ranger in the Hohe Tauern” has been broadcasted again
- ▶ September: National Park as visitor of the city of Salzburg – festival for students from the city in the Salzburg Museum and public festival for Salzburg residents and visitors at the Mozart square
- ▶ October: Broadcasting of Universum: “Wilderness in the Heart of Europe” – introduction of the six Austrian National Parks

Education:	Participants
▶ School outdoor excursions	9.107
▶ Mobile National Park school (Water School, Climate School, Drinking Water Days)	5.583
▶ Guided tours for students in visitor facilities	3.984
▶ Presentations	624
▶ Youth camps	51
▶ NP workshop (Hollersbach) and Science Centre (Mittersill)	1.883
▶ National Park Academy	45
▶ 42 partner schools with total number of students	5.949
Education in total	30.064



In October the new designed website www.hohetauern.at went online as well as the new adventure gateway www.nationalparkerlebnis.at.

Further projects in the area of environmental education and visitor information:

	Print run
▶ Hohe Tauern Magazin, 3 issues (to every Salzburg household)	614.822 copies
▶ Ranger Rudi – National Park report for children, 4 issues	20.600 copies
▶ Insert print National Park summer programme in the magazine „Platzhirsch“ (June issue)	19.100 copies
▶ Hohe Tauern News – special newspaper of the “Salzburger Woche” in cooperation with the Holiday Region Hohe Tauern National Park (June)	300.000 copies
▶ National Park cinema advert placed in the opening credits of two family/youth films in all cinemas in Salzburg, Carinthia and Tyrol (May and June, 2 weeks each)	
▶ Production of the folder “Exhibitions and Educational Paths”	
▶ The naming of a locomotive of the Pinzgau local railway with “Nationalpark Hohe Tauern”	

National Park Junior Rangers

In 2012, the last part of the Coca Cola Junior Ranger Programme has, for now taken place. Due to the sponsoring agreement between the three National Park administrations and Coca Cola Hellenic Austria, a total of 120 young people were able to successfully complete their three-year training to become a Junior Ranger. Experienced National Park rangers have imparted the knowledge necessary for a daily ranger’s job to the Junior Rangers. Next to the authentic transfer of knowledge, the training programme also had room for fun and adventure.



The great finish for the Junior Rangers in Salzburg this year was the ascent of the Großvenediger in the middle of July. All 11 young people managed the ascent of Salzburg’s highest mountain.

Trainee in the Hohe Tauern National Park

Also in the summer 2012, almost 30 trainees were employed by the Salzburg region of the Hohe Tauern National Park. The majority of them were based in the info huts at the valley entrances to inform visitors about the National Park, its history, specialities, hiking options, overnight possibilities and lots more. Some trainees helped with the National Park camps or in the National Park education facilities.

Five young trainees worked in administration and supported the National Park administration team in education and visitor information, research, administration and marketing. Since October another young trainee has been employed for ten months in the National Park administration – completing a “voluntary environment year”.



Trainees and the National Park can only benefit from each other. The young people bring a lot of creative ideas and commitment and gain insight in the work structures and processes of the National Park administration.

National Park ranger

During the summer, More than 20 rangers work temporarily in the Salzburg part of the National Park. Constant advanced and further training for the rangers make sure, that students and visitors of the National Park are enthused for the National Park idea with experience of nature and adventure.

Climate School festival

On the 5th and 6th June 2012 the premises of the VERBUND in Kaprun were dominated by children. In total 1,815 students signed up for this big event by the VERBUND Climate School of Hohe Tauern National Park. The festival was organised by the Salzburg National Park administration and offered more than 20 different stations, which were attended by National Park rangers, VERBUND employees and the Gorge Association Kaprun.



103 school classes with 180 staff members came from Carinthia, Salzburg and Tyrol to the festival.

There was a lot to learn and explore at the stations; “climate millionaire wheel” or “where does the food come from”. Also, the festival did not lack fun and activity, for example at the “natural rock bowling” or during a hike through the Sigmund Thun Gorge. The children from Salzburg, Carinthia and Tyrol participated enthusiastically. One goal of the festival was to highlight what children can do for climate protection and the beneficial effects this can have on their environment.



Fun, exciting and educational stations awaited the participants at the first Climate School festival.

The National Park goes to the city



Some students got a guided tour through the special exhibition “The Hohe Tauern – art and Alpine history”.

In line with the two-day festival on 14th and 15th September 2012, the project “The National Park goes to the city” took place in cooperation with the Salzburg Museum. On the Friday more than 30 classes from the city of Salzburg followed the invitation to have a look into “Austria’s biggest classroom”, the Hohe Tauern National Park. Although not in the usual environment but in the Salzburg Museum in the “Neue Residenz”. There were great activities on offer at 15 different stations: to craft a wooden pendant, gain knowledge about herbs, learn about medical plants and the King of the Skies or score at the National Park Millionaire Wheel and much more.

The Saturday offered an attractive programme for all age groups at the festival on the Mozart square. Next to the opening of the National Park touring exhibition at the Salzburg Museum, visitors were able to gain information about the various activities of the Hohe Tauern National Park and purchase products of the region. Handicraft and adventure stations were arranged for children and everybody could learn about the felting technique. Entrance into the Salzburg Museum, on this day was free of charge for festival visitors.



The goal of the activity “The National Park goes to the city” was to communicate the diversity of the National Park to Salzburg residents who do not live in the National Park region.

Ranger Rudi – the National Park report for children

The children's newspaper of the National Park administration has now been published for four years. Uschi Wimmer (graphics) and Tanja Wallner (words) create four issues of the magazine each year with the comic figure Ranger Rudi, who reports to the children what is currently happening in the National Park.



A single person (€ 10 per 4 issues) and school classes (price depending on number of copies) can subscribe to the National Park report at the National Park administration.

Partner school programme of the Hohe Tauern National Park

42 schools of the National Park region with about 6,000 students are official partner schools of the Hohe Tauern National Park. The National Park administration offers these schools free of charge valuable teaching materials, mentoring of a National Park ranger on-site, environmental education programmes like Water School or Climate School, visits in the National Park workshop or Science Center. This is possible because of the generous support of Austria's biggest organic brand "Ja! Natürlich" – it is sponsoring the partner school programme until the school year 2014/15.



Special projects of partner schools from the summer semester:

- ▶ March: Concert of the class "Musical Early Learning" of the Musikum Mittersill as well as the drumming group of the Caritas day centre and the student brass orchestra in the National Park centre in Mittersill.
- ▶ June: Ceremonial opening of the renovated lathe hut at the Trisslalm in the Wildgerlos valley. More than 30 students of the Polytechnic School Mittersill, their teachers and the National Park administration have collectively refurbished the lathe hut in the last three years and it is now working again.

National Park camps for children and youth

Every year the National Park administration is organising youth camps for various ages. Most often a self-supplying hut is the base camp – this is the start point for high alpine hikes, wildlife observation or rock crystal searches.

In 2012 the following camps took place:

- ▶ First winter camp in the snowy Hüttwinkl valley in Rauris
- ▶ Five-valley-trekking: eight persistent young people hiked on five days in five valleys
- ▶ ÖAV Camp with base camp at the Astenschmiede in Rauris
- ▶ Climate camp in Rauris



National Park camps offer a combination of thrilling experiences, hikes, adventure and fun together with information about wildlife and plants in the largest National Park in Austria.

With the train into nature experience



During the comfortable journey with the Pinzgau Local Railway visitors enjoy the view of the National Park region.

The Pinzgau Local Railway operates hourly between Zell am See and Krimml and links more than half of the National Park towns. For several years, the Salzburg Local Railway (SLB) with the Pinzgau Local Railway and the Hohe Tauern National Park have worked together to offer the visitors of the National Park a travel alternative.

Many National Park exhibitions and meeting points for National Park excursions are accessible with public transport and the stops of the Pinzgau Local Railway are often very near. The start and finish times of the excursions are, if possible, coordinated with the railway timetables. Since 2012 one locomotive has the name “Nationalpark Hohe Tauern”. Alongside the SLB, the National Park administration works together with other partners from the economy (for example Gletscherbahnen Kaprun AG, Wild- und Freizeitpark Ferleiten, and more). Every partner contributes their strengths to offer an impressive nature experience for many people – according to the world wide National Park idea.

National Park show mine at the Hochfeld

For almost half a millennium copper ore has been mined in the Untersulzbach valley in Neukirchen am Großvenediger. After a long standstill, at the end of the 1980s Hans Lerch organised the development of the historic copper mine into a show mine. Under the lead of skilled miner Rudl Hutz, under difficult working conditions the mainly declined mine was restored within a few years into an interesting visitor attraction.

Until 2011, the association “Future Council Hohe Tauern National Park Neukirchen” was responsible for the mine’s operation and safety. In June 2011, the Salzburg National Park Fund took over the show mine completely, to bring with this facility, the difficult themes of mountain formation and rock composition

of the Alps closer to the visitors in a comprehensible way. On the main ridge of the eastern Alps – therefore in the Hohe Tauern National Park – a geologic rarity is found, the so called Tauern window, which was made permanently accessible for visitors with the National Park show mine Hochfeld and is presented by the latest nature pedagogic knowledge.



The show mine can only be visited with a guided tour – every Wednesday and Friday from the beginning of June to the end of September.



Literature in the National Park library Mittersill:

LEANDOWSKI Klaus et al. (2006): Mining in the Untersulzbach valley – an almost forgotten world, self-publishing Future Council Hohe Tauern National Park, Neukirchen.

Restoration and maintenance

The maintenance of hiking and educational paths and other National Park facilities require many hours of work. This year three path workers, Hannes Hofer, Norbert Rendl und Hannes Millgrammer, contributed among others to the following projects:

- ▶ Krimml Tauern path restoration
- ▶ Restoration of the long-distance hiking trail from the Kürsinger hut to the Obersulzbach pass (path 914)
- ▶ Maintenance of the Hollersbach stream educational path
- ▶ Renovation and restoration of rock fences in Rauris – collective projects with the Polytechnic School Mittersill
- ▶ Maintenance of the National Park show mine, Hochfeld
- ▶ Building of concrete basements for the National Park info huts (for example Wildgerlos and Felber valleys)
- ▶ Fence making on the Piffkar
- ▶ Fitting and maintenance of the visitor counting systems



In summer 2012 three path workers, one community service worker and four temporary asylum seekers were occupied in maintaining the current infrastructure in the National Park and implementing new projects.

On an initiative of Provincial Government member Tina Widmann, who has responsibility for the “Hohe Tauern National Park” department as well as for “Integration and Primary Care”, the National Park administration was able to employ four asylum seekers in summer for various maintenance tasks. Asylum seekers are generally excluded from the occupation market according to the non-resident occupation law. They are allowed, among others to take only temporary positions as seasonal workers in tourism. Since 2012 they can also take up temporary community work for towns and institutions.

Literature in the National Park library Mittersill:

MAYER Hannes et al. (1987): Ancient forest remains, natural forest reservations and natural forests worthy of protection in Austria. Institution for forestry – University of Natural Recourses and Life Sciences, Vienna.

Redevelopment of the Ancient Forest in Rauris



In summer 2013 guided tours through the Ancient Forest in Rauris will again be offered – information at the National Park administration.

More than 30 years ago the nature educational path “Rauris Ancient Forest” had been created on Austrian State Forestry territory in an initiative of the Nature Conservation Union and was opened in 1980 – before the National Park had been established. In 2012 this experience path was redeveloped and redesigned by the National Park administration. At eleven stations on the path, visitors learn about animals and plants of the Rauris Ancient Forest and gain information about natural characteristics. At the forest museum, the “Jungle book” provides information about the forest’s sounds and inhabitants that especially enthralls the children.



The educational path at the Rauris Ancient Forest has been established in cooperation with the Salzburg Nature Conservation Union, the Austrian State Forestry and the “Haus der Natur”. Layout and design were by exhibition planner Andreas Zangl and the content was by the “Haus der Natur”.

- ▶ Project overall costs: €59.900,-
- ▶ Funding: rural development, nature conservation action

Exhibition “Elder in the Klausner House”

On 28th June the exhibition “Elder in the Klausner House” was opened. In two exhibition rooms the Elder plant can be experienced with all senses. A scent shower enables the sweet scent of the Elder, which engulfs the villages from May to July to be smelled. Further, visitors learn about the dispersal of Elder and the contribution of the bees, different types of Elder, components of the Elder plant, fruits and colour of the Elder and recipes with Elder and much more.

On the first floor of the Klausner House in Hollersbach is the National Park workshop, where students learn about and experience things of the National Park. In the herbal garden at the doorstep many herbs are cultivated and are used to produce high grade herbal products by the Herbal Garden Club. These products are presented in line with the Elder exhibition and can be purchased.



The comic figure, the “Little Elder Witch” leads through the exhibition and completes the display boards with nice anecdotes.



- ▶ Project overall costs: € 120.000,—
- ▶ Funding: Salzburg National Park Fund

Spectacular insights and outlooks

In June 2013 it is happening: the biggest and most popular National Park centre in Austria opens a new attraction. On the north side of the existing exhibition a two-storied cylinder has been raised, the entrance and exit have been integrated in the exhibition area.



The new 360-degree National Park World will not only offer visitors a unique nature and mountain peak experience, but will also assure the Europe-wide unique feature position of the National Park centre.

The extension will accommodate Europe’s unique 360° panorama cinema, in which currently 2.8 million Euros are invested. For the filming a rig with eight cameras was built in the USA, which was roped down into crevasses, plunged into mountain streams or hovered above waterfalls and it will provide a spectacular 360°-experience.



Since summer 2012, the Salzburg National Park visitor facilities and an extract of the educational paths are combined in the brochure “Exhibitions & Educational Paths”. The booklet can be ordered from the National Park administration.

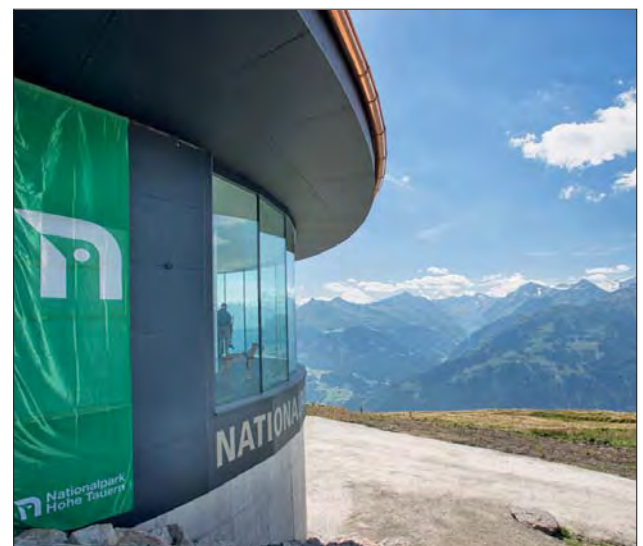


Visitors have a good overview of the 80,500 ha Salzburg National Park – the view reaches from the western Reichen Spitze via the Großglockner to the Granatspitz and Somblick group.

National Park panorama Resterhöhe

On 11th August 2012, the unique panorama window was opened as another infrastructure facility of the Hohe Tauern National Park at the Resterhöhe, the top station of the Panorama Gondola in Hollersbach-Mittersill at an altitude of 1,900m. Next to the conservation of the world’s natural ecosystems, a significant component of the world wide National Park idea is to offer an impressive nature experience to a maximum number of people. The well-used cable cars of the region are for many people the only way to experience the lower and high alpine mountains. At the top stations of the gondolas, visitors are stunned by the unique panorama of the glacier-covered 3000m high mountains of the Hohe Tauern.

In cooperation with the owner of the Panorama Gondola the decision for an extension of the top station in shape of a semi-circular panorama window was made. Visitors can move a flat screen on a rail inserted in the floor and, depending on their position at the window, receive explanation about the peaks of the Hohe Tauern and other information. The design of this NP exhibition with the large glass front was inspired by elements of “Google Earth” and has been planned by Andreas Zangl.



Whilst the National Park Gallery at the Kitzsteinhorn reaches above the rim zone of the National Park, the panorama window at the Kitzbühler Alps north of the Hohe Tauern offers an impressive overview of the conservation area.

- ▶ Project overall costs: €510.000,-
- ▶ Funding: rural development, nature conservation action

Conservation of the cultural landscape



Native craft: New well trough from old stone-pine wood.

Today's alpine farming leads back to the large-scale clearance of mountain forest in the tributary valleys and above of permanently populated areas in the middle-ages. The century-long extensive use of alpine pastureland favoured the development of species rich plant communities on the alpine pastures. Climate worsening in the 16th and 18th centuries, the lack of manpower during the First World War and the change of structure in farming after the Second World War had lasting influences on the cultivation of high, steep and difficult to use alpine pastureland.



Outdoor milking at the Trisslalm – the milk cows graze almost all summer long at the Salzboden in the upper Wildgerlos valley.

The growth of the forest and scrub encroachment increases pressure on reduced pastureland in the favoured areas. Today, intensification due to drainage and mechanical manuring leads to a species loss on the alpine pastureland, once praised for their species diversity. The open alpine pastures are also recreation and adventure areas for people. Therefore, a goal of the Hohe Tauern National Park is to further and support the traditional alpine farming in the National Park rim zone. Next to the preservation of a species rich fauna and flora the National Park also puts effort into the maintenance of native building culture, forms of fences and the support of local domestic animals.

- ▶ 1.252 m² shingle roofs and shingle walls
- ▶ 220 running metres of traditional fence
- ▶ 100 m² natural rock walls

Cattle diversity at the Windbachalm



The herdsmen of the Windbachalm in the Krimml Achen valley with their five cattle breeds.

At the Windbachalm in the Krimml Achen valley several rare cattle breeds are found. Along with Pinzgau cattle and the Fleckvieh cattle, the Pustertal Pied, Tyrolese brown cattle and Tux cattle also graze there.

This year Josef Wechselberger, farmer from Gerlos and native from Krimml, spent his seventieth summer on the Windbachalm and he is an enthusiastic cattle breeder.



The fully operating lathe room at the Trisslalm in the Wildgerlos valley with the turning lathe from the 17th century seems like a craft museum.

Trisslalm – Alm of the year 2012

The Trisslalm in the Wildgerlos valley was awarded “Milka-Alm of the Year”. It is located at 1584m above sea level and measures 569ha and has been owned by the family since 1912. 63 cattle graze on the pasture that includes 26 milk cows, which are milked outdoors in summer. A converted lorry with a trailer serves as the milking parlour. One part of the milk is used for homemade products, which are offered to hungry hikers.



Josef Steiner alias Dettl Sepp is making a pine bowl on the turning lathe that he renovated.

A special feature at the Trisslalm is the old lathe hut, where over centuries bowls have been made out of pine wood with the help of water power. Unfortunately the hut and the turning lathe deteriorated; therefore employees of the National Park administration, in cooperation with the students of the Polytechnic School Mittersill, refurbished the lathe hut and the turning lathe with water channel and water wheel. In the coming summer demonstration woodturnings will be offered.

Environment building site Bräualm

Furthermore, the students of the Polytechnic School Mittersill had a go at pasture and natural rock wall maintenance in the Kruml valley. Rocks have been cleared from large avalanche areas at the Bräualm and used for the maintenance of the natural rock walls. During this opportunity, alpine grassland has been “cleaned” to enhance further cultivation.



Students of the Polytechnic School Mittersill clear alp-grassland and maintain the natural rock wall.

Both projects, the lathe hut and pasture maintenance Bräualm, have been funded by the Milka-sponsoring “Frei-Raum-Alm”.

National Park region

Web-Info: www.nationalparkregion.at

Regional development

The LEADER region Hohe Tauern National Park is Austria's only LEADER region, which is integrated in a National Park administration and therefore also strongly involved in National Park issues. This means that in terms of allowed funding, up to October 2012 the LEADER region Hohe Tauern National Park has submitted projects with an investment volume of more than 5.3 million and they have been granted.

This equates to a funding intensity of 2.5 million, which are on average 40%. Most projects are co-funded by the province of Salzburg, some of them, like the energy education path or the Schmitten vistas, are co-funded by the state, which means 50% of funding is from the province or state and 50% from European Union resources.

Due to these promises of high support for the LEADER region Hohe Tauern National Park, in autumn 2012 the funding was contained, because other LEADER regions in Salzburg used considerably less, but shall also get the chance to gain EU capital for projects. Therefore in the LEADER year 2011/2012 only a few projects could be submitted and were granted.

LEADER projects 2012

In the following a selection of funding projects are introduced:



Celtic village, Uttendorf

50 years ago in 1962, in the parish of Uttendorf, Pinzgau a housing development was built and in the process 463 graves from the Hallstatt period were found and laid open. At the time nobody suspected the huge significance of the discovery. Finds like ceramic and metal grave goods testify important and far reaching trade links.

Thanks to EU funding (Interreg and LEADER) as well as active financial support by the Salzburg National Park Fund, the Province of Salzburg, the community of Uttendorf and the Tourism Association among others, today we have a small but exquisite museum at the Stoanabichl, in which a community, weaving, pottery and store house, a herb spiral and a tree circle are shown. During guided tours, visitors gain an insight into the world of the Celts, their customs, rituals and mythology. The Stoanabichl – a place to dwell, meditate, pause and relax.

- ▶ Location: Uttendorf
- ▶ Project running body: Future Council Hohe Tauern National Park, Uttendorf
- ▶ Project duration: 2010
- ▶ Investment sum: € 154.000,-
- ▶ Funding amount: 48.69%

Wonderfully wanderable

Because of this project, for some time everything in Mittersill-Hollersbach-Stuhlfelden has been about hiking. How shall it be different in this beautiful hiking region? In the north the Kitzbühler Alps embellish green, juicy alpine pastures and in the south 3000m peaks of the Hohe Tauern National Park reign.

15 certified hiking hosts offer quality, service and wellbeing. The hiking establishments are in the region's most beautiful natural areas and the routes begin at the house owned hiking starting grounds. The hiking shuttle-bus takes visitors to the particular starting points and picks them up afterwards at the finish of the tour. Equipment such as backpacks, poles, and drinking bottles are provided free of charge, and maps as well as a hiking info station encourage tour planning and discussion.

The guided hiking programme is distinguished by the professional expertise of the National Park rangers and the local mountain guides, who induct visitors into the secrets of nature – whether on idyllic pasture and forest paths or on narrow, stony high alpine trails.

- ▶ Location: Region Mittersill/Hollersbach/Stuhlfelden
- ▶ Project running body: Mittersill +
- ▶ Project duration: 2012-2013
- ▶ Investment sum: € 158.000,-
- ▶ Funding amount: 51,39%

Cross-country skiing region Hohe Tauern National Park

The Project: “Cross-country skiing region Hohe Tauern National Park” is an ideal addition to ski tourism in winter and is particularly attractive for hikers. On the cross-country skiing tracks it is possible to enjoy wonderful landscapes without long queues at lift stations and getting off the beaten track. The cross-country skiing tracks are mainly installed through meadows and sometimes on field or hiking paths. In case keen cross-country skiers or skaters have no equipment available they may have a look at offers in sport and ski hire shops. Important for this project was the provision of linked cross-country skiing tracks, which at the same time reveal the landscape.

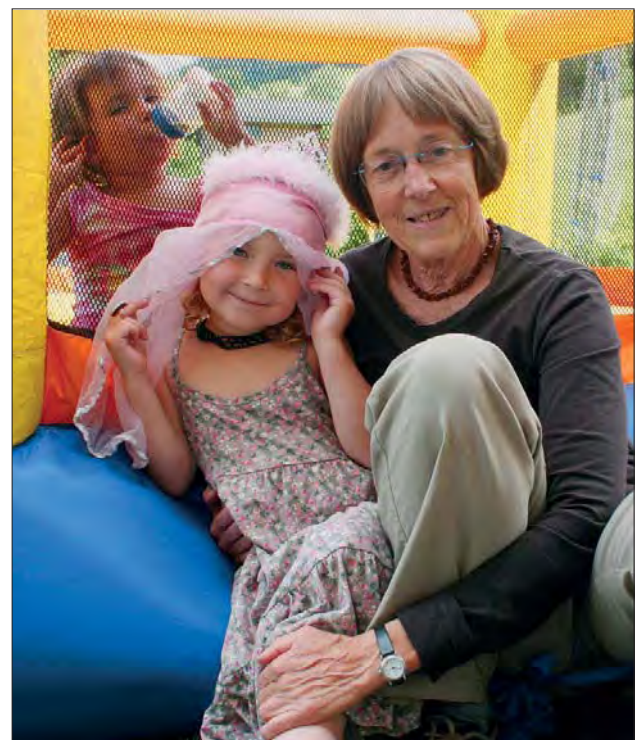


The cross-country skiing region Hohe Tauern National Park makes the use of the track clear to visitors with good sign posting. Furthermore, the cross-country skiing is adapted to the needs of the winter sportspersons. For hikers the tracks are flat, for sporty cross-country skiers medium to high level is available, with the option of small gradient or downhill sections. Racers may enjoy the tracks with a gradient up to 20% and perfect conditions. The cross-country skiing region Hohe Tauern National Park offers something for every cross-country skier.

- ▶ Location: all National Park towns in Salzburg
- ▶ Project running body: Holliday Region Hohe Tauern National Park
- ▶ Project duration: 2010-2012
- ▶ Investment sum: € 25.000,-
- ▶ Funding amount: 50%

Request grandma and family help Pinzgau

The compatibility of job and family life with children is not always easy in Pinzgau – the organisation of child care is especially difficult on weekends and at margin day times, in particular if there are no grandparents on hand for child care. Many women work in trading, in care or tourism.



Within the project a coordinator is employed to clarify in advance the ideas and requirements of the families and “request grandmas”. The best matching caregivers will be placed with the families and first contacts are accompanied. Caregivers and families make the final decision if they will get along and want to engage with the “request grandma relationship” – the pre-selection and the placing happens with best knowledge and intension but there is no guarantee.

- ▶ Location: Pinzgau
- ▶ Project running body: LEADER region Hohe Tauern National Park
- ▶ Project duration: 2011-2014
- ▶ Investment sum: € 21.000,-
- ▶ Funding amount: 100%

Tourism

National Park administration – service provider for tourism



The Holiday Region Hohe Tauern National Park and the Hohe Tauern National Park administration have a very good cooperating relationship. Together they plan and implement many projects, for example the new 360° nature and peak experience, which will open in June 2013, or the Hohe Tauern news, which twice a year informs about the offers of the National Park and the Region. Further, the Holiday Region takes care of the Hohe Tauern National Park marketing and the professional designing. The yearly winter and summer programme encourages many visitors to take part in a tour with a National Park ranger and for the summer programme in particular, it is the goal to arrange new highlights in terms of visitor care.

Glockner bus



Due to the cancelled operation of the public service post bus from Zell am See to the Kaiser Franz Josefs Höhe, a new attractive offer for the Großglockner High Alpine Road has been established. A day trip programme has been started in cooperation by the Holiday Region, tourism association Großglockner Zellersee and tourism association Zell am See-Kaprun with the coach company Vorderegger.

A special feature of this excursion for guests and locals is the support of the tour by a National Park ranger. The bus keeps stopping along the way for little walks, guided tours through the exhibitions and glances through binoculars. In summer 2012, in July and August, the trip was operating twice a week with only two cancellations due to bad weather. On average 45 people were on the coach. In 2013 this offer shall be extended and intensified.

Visitor counting system

The Hohe Tauern National Park with its many valley entrances and majestic peaks has a great appeal for hikers from all over the world. It is a fact that many people visit the Hohe Tauern National Park, but the exact numbers shall be known by the newly installed visitor counting system. At every valley entrance from Krimml to Muhr one of the systems has been installed and captures every person, who hikes, bikes or drives into the National Park. Dogs are not counted.



Info points

To bring the highlights and attractions of the Hohe Tauern National Park even closer to the guests, info points have been designed in 2012, which are presented in hotels, inns and at tourism associations of the region to inform their guests. In early summer eight establishments have been assembled with these information units. The costs for the info points are shared equally by the Hohe Tauern National Park and the establishments.

Sponsors and friends

In 2012, many projects were implemented with the help of sponsors. It is very important for the National Park administration, that the companies match the National Park philosophy and identify themselves with the goals of the National Park. In 2012 the sportswear company 2117 was added as a new sponsor to the current cooperation partners. 2117 produces and sells ECO wear from recycled textiles and pushes sustainability in this sector. 2117 supports the Hohe Tauern National Park at the conservation of wilderness areas.

Partner meeting 2012

The partner meeting of the Friends of the Hohe Tauern National Park Association along with a National Park excursion took place on the 6th and 7th July in the National Park town Mauterndorf. Not only were project presentations and a collective dinner on the programme, but also a visit to the newly designed water view path “Nature-Power-Path” Umbal falls in Prägarten and a horse carriage tour through the Gschlöss valley. On the invitation of the VERBUND AG another partner meeting took place on 15th November in Vienna, where the yearly general meeting was also carried out.



Since 1993 the “Association of the Friends of the Hohe Tauern National Park”, founded by Klaus J. Jacobs, supports many projects, which would not be realisable with resources from the public authorities alone. Between € 400,000,- and € 500,000,- are sponsored yearly by notable companies for National Park projects. With the money, projects from the areas of species conservation, education, research as well as school and youth programmes can be implemented.

Many thanks ...

... to all sponsors, who have supported our programmes and projects in 2012!



Supply of snow shoes



Coca Cola junior rangers



Ranger wear



Visitor care



Alm 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 National Park

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.



The member of the National Park curatorship, appointed by the National Park communities, Mayor Leonhard Madreiter completed his office on 31st December 2012. Mayor Madreiter officiated for more than 20 years with commitment and interest for the National Park and was the 2nd deputy chairman from the beginning.

Mayor Robert Reiter will now follow him in this function. Robert Reiter already acted as substitute member of the National Park curatorship since 1994. At Mayor Madreiter's leave, Member of the Provincial Government Dr. Tina Widmann gave appreciation for his contribution and complimented Mayor Reiter on his follow-up.

Curatorship

**In 2012 two curatorship meetings were held:
15th March, 24th October**

Curatorship members and substitutes:

Landesrätin Dr. WIDMANN Tina, chairwoman
Convenor ALTENBERGER Georg, 1st deputy chairman
Bgm. MADREITER Leonhard, 2nd deputy chairman
2. Landtagspräsidentin MOSLER-TÖRNSTRÖM Gudrun
Mag. FISCHER-COLBRIE Josef
Bgm. NILL Franz
Bgm. (retired) ÖR STEINER Hans

BLAIKNER Alois
Bgm. REITER Robert
BR ZEHENTNER Robert
Dr. STADLER Susanne
Bgm. FREIBERGER Walter
HUTTEGGER Rupert

Representative of the State:
Mag. ZACHERL-DRAXLER Valerie

Reg.-Rat KRAMMER Anton

Fund advisory council

In 2012 two Fund advisory council meetings were held:
8th March, 22nd October

Fund advisory council members and substitutes:

BHF HR Dr. DREXLER Rosmarie, chairwoman
BR ZEHENTNER Robert
HR Dr. TRENKA Kurt
BAUERNBERGER Leo
DI Dr. SCHWAIGER Josef
BH Mag. WIMMER Harald
DI WESSELY August
Bgm. Ing. KARLSBÖCK Norbert
Bgm. Dr. VIERTLER Wolfgang
Bgm. STEINBAUER Gerhard
HUBER Otmar
EMBACHER Peter
SCHARLER Anton
GEISLER Friedrich
DI BRUNAUER Johann
Bezirksstellenleiter Mag. HUFNAGL Dietmar
Dr. ATZMANSTORFER Edgar
KAD Dr. SOMMERAUER Otmar
Bgm. NINDL Peter
DI HOLZWIESER Martin
Univ.-Prof. Dr. SLUPETZKY Heinz
DI ZIMMERMANN Mathias
HR Prof. Dr. Dr. hc STÜBER Eberhard
Ing. ZANDL Josef
Univ.-Prof. Dr. TÜRK Roman

Dr. GRATZ Bernhard
LAbg. Mag. SCHMIDLECHNER Karl
Mag. KÖNIG Karin
Mag. WÖRISTER Christian
LFD DI. Mitter Michael
POSCH Wolfgang
DI Dr. GEIGER Margot
Bgm. Mag. CZERNY Erich
Bgm. STEINER Günter
Bgm. KANDLER Ernst Josef
WÖLFLEER Johann
MEILINGER Franz
KALTENHAUSER Georg
KALTENHAUSER Siegfried
DI WIESER Siegfried
Mag. EYMANNBERGER Helmut
Mag. LAIREITER Christian
Ing. GÖSTL Rudolf
Bgm. RAINER Balthasar
DI ÜBLAGGER Hannes
WÖRGÖTTER Wastl
DI HOLZWIESER Martin
Direktor Dr. WINDING Norbert
BJM MEILINGER Georg
Univ.-Prof. Dr. DACHS Edgar



After 26 years of service in the National Park administration, regional manager Engineer Hans Lerch retired on the 30th November 2012. Often referred to as “primary rock of the National Park” Engineer Lerch was a member since the first hour and significantly contributed to the installation, presentation and the high regard of the Hohe Tauern National Park in the National Park region. He will be succeeded by Engineer Alois Hetz.

Professional hunter Josef Hörl was for more than eight years committed to and competently active for the Salzburg National Park Fund. He also retired and his work for the National Park ended on the 30th November 2012. At the leave of Engineer Lerch and Professional hunter Hörl, National Park Director Graduate Engineer Wolfgang Urban appreciated their contribution and welcomed Engineer Hetz into the National Park team.

Employees of the Salzburg National Park administration

In 2012, 52 employees and 29 holiday workers have been employed in the National Park administration.

National Park Director

URBAN Wolfgang, DI, MBA, National Park Director

Natural region management

LAINER Ferdinand, DI, deputy National Park Director

EBNER Günter, professional hunter

GRUBER Bruno, professional hunter

HÖRL Sepp, professional hunter (until November 2012)

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, House King of the Skies

BLAIKNER Alois, show mine

HOFER Gerhard, show mine

HOFER Hannes, show mine

KENDLBACHER Bernhard, show mine

LECHNER Alfred, show mine

LERCH Christa, show mine

Regional maintenance

LERCH Hans, Engineer, Regional manager (until November 2012)

HETZ Alois, Engineer, Regional manager (from November 2012)

HOFER Hannes, path maintenance

MILLGRAMMER Hannes, path maintenance

RENDL Norbert, path maintenance

SCHÖSSER Thomas, civil service (until August 2012)

WÖRISTER Michael, civil service (from September 2012)

Legal service

SCHWEIGER Ariane, Mag. Dr.

LEADER branch

PLETZER Georgia, MMag.

MAYER Brigitte, Assistant (from May 2012)

Office

EBERL Katharina

KASERER Silvia

MAYER Veronika

GAGGL Matthias, Lehrling (until Juli 2012)

DEUTSCH Julia, Lehrling (from Juli 2012)

Cleaning

MAIER Karin, NP administration, Mittersill

REITER Barbara, House King of the Skies

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 workers

AGER Verena

AICHNER Eva-Maria

AICHNER Melanie

ANGERMANN Angelika

BACHER Magdalena

BLUMTHALER Julia

EDER Stefan

GANDLER Johanna

GASSNER Andrea

GASSNER Sarah

HAUSER Lisa

KRACKL Julia

LEHRNER Manuela

LEMBERGER Norbert

LOCHNER Birgit

LÜFTENEGGER Barbara

MADER Eva

MOSSER Nico

PECILE Anna

PLEIKNER Maximilian

RADLWIMMER Maria

RAINER Tanja

SCHEIBER Antonia

SCHWAIGER Doris

SILBERGASSER Doris

STOCK Kathrin

STUTZ Petra

VAN LOON Erik

VOITHOFER Martin



Future outlook



In 2013 we celebrate a jubilee in the National Park, which is not recognised as such by most people. Exactly 100 years ago, in 1913, 1000Ha of land was bought in the Hohe Tauern in the Stubach, Ammer, and Felber valleys, with the intention of establishing a conservation area, modelled after the already existing and well-known National Parks in the USA. The acquirer of the land was the Nature Conservation Park Union Stuttgart-Hamburg, which had been established a few years earlier. Initiator and the actual nature conservation pioneer was Dr. August Prinzinger, who at the time was a Member of the Salzburg Provincial Parliament. The seed of the world-wide National Park idea was sown in the Hohe Tauern, but as we know, it was brought to fruition much later.

We in the National Park administration have decided to celebrate this jubilee year not with extravagant festivals and ceremonies, but instead interesting projects shall be a testimony to the National Park pioneers.

With Prof. Patrick Kupper from the Institute of Technical History at the ETH Zurich, we have found an historian who will not only make a new documentation of the mile-stones of the National Park's history, but will bring them into context with the entire Salzburg, Austrian and European nature conservation history and put them in relation to the parallel social and eco-

nomie development in our National Park region. In our "scientific writings" and in a special exhibition at the Felberturm museum in Mittersill the results will be presented to the interested public.

In the middle of June 2013 the National Park present age will be very lively. 200 scientists from 24 nations will meet for a research symposium in the National Park capital Mittersill, and at this occasion the award of the National Parks Austria research prize will take place. From the scientific meeting follows a smooth transition to the partner school festival, where the National Park present age will meet the future – namely children and youth. The absolute highlight will be the opening of the National Park 360° nature and peak experience. At Europe's unique nature and mountain peak experience in 360° film projection; past, present and future will meet at the same time.

The National Park idea and the high alpine wilderness of the Hohe Tauern have touched people emotionally from all periods and have often been artistically interpreted. We already work together with one of our partner schools, the Musikum Mittersill, to present the National Park symphony for brass orchestra "Homeland", which was specifically composed by Otto M. Schwarz, for a world premiere at the closing of the jubilee year at the end of October 2013.

Dipl.Ing. Wolfgang URBAN, MBA
National Park Director



Southerly view from the Rauris Sonnblick (3105m) immediately after sunset towards the Goldbergspitze (3072m) and further in the distance on the right, the Sandkopf (3090 m).