

"Results of the national park evaluation projects in Germany and Austria from the perspective of visitor management"



 Quality management in protected areas is currently a topic of intense national and international debate among nature conservationists. Why is the development of a quality management strategy – which is a tried and tested instrument to increase efficiency in the business world – relevant for the National Nature Landscapes and in particular for the German and Austrian national parks?

 National parks are of considerable global importance for the conservation of the national and international nature heritage. They represent an internationally acknowledged form of protected area and are listed as an independent category by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). German national parks differ in terms of their development history, size, and starting conditions. The administrations of the national parks are subordinate to the individual German laender, which explains some of the differences relating to the financial frameworks and the staffing arrangements.

- National parks find themselves having to cope with increasingly complex tasks – from nature conservation, through research, to education and regional development. Therefore it is important for them to work efficiently and to constantly improve management methods.
- 1. Development of visions as the basis for the formulation of quality goals
- 2. Survey of the status quo in the 14 national parks
- 3. Development of fields of action including relevant criteria and standards
- 4. Formulation of a catalogue of questions with indicators to examine the standards

Vision and philosophy

 "National parks are the pearls of nature internationally and in Germany, in which 'nature can be nature'. They are characterised by unique undisturbed landscapes, wildness, and a natural variety of species. They represent our most important natural heritage, today and for future generations. They let us all experience how it is when people do not change nature. Visitors can have a great experience, without disturbing nature"

The ten fields of action

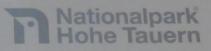
- 1. Framework conditions
- 2. Protection of natural biological diversity and dynamics
- 3. Organisation
- 4.Management
- 5. Cooperation and partners
- 6. Communication
- 7.Education
- 8. Experiencing nature and recreation
- 9. Monitoring and research
- 10. Regional development

BUNDESMINISTERIUM FÜR LAND- UND FORSTWIRTSCHAFT, UMWELT UND WASSERWIRTSCHAFT

> Die Unterzeichneten bekennen sich zur gemeinsamen Umsetzung der

ÖSTERREICHISCHEN NATIONALPARKSTRATEGIE

NATIONALPARK HOHE TAUERN TIROL



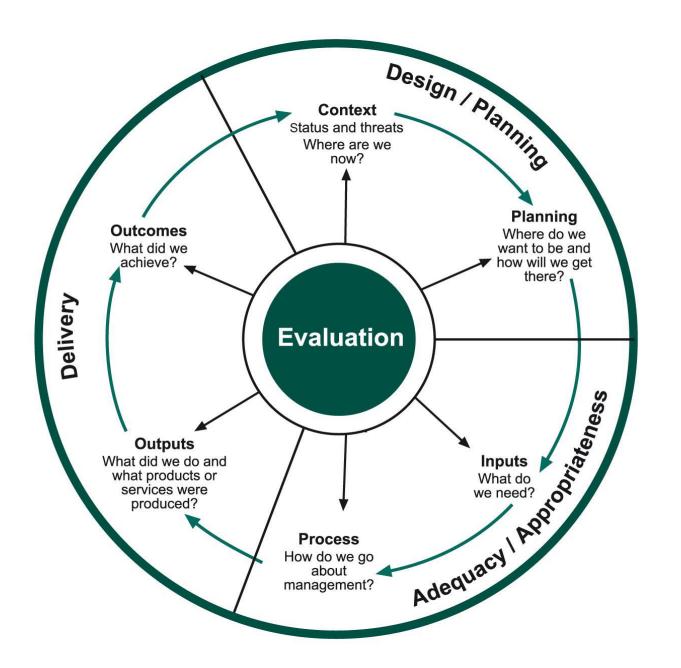


LH-Stv.

Der Bundesminister

Wien, am 21. Juni 2010

Direktor
Di Hermann Stotter



Schematic diagram of the evaluation the national parks	2010												2011								
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	
Filling-in of questionnaire (National Park)																					
Write report in coordination with National Park (Agency)								/													
Feedback to report to EUROPARC Germany (Committee)																					
Travel arrangements (EUROPARC Germany)																					
Site visits to Parks (Committee)																					
Writing chapters of Committee report (Committee)																					
Compilation and editing Committee report (EUROPARC Germany)																					
Review of first version of Committee report (Committee)																					
Editing Committee report (EUROPARC Germany)														1							
Review of second version of Committee report (Committee)																					
Editing Committee report (EUROPARC Germany)																					
Approval of third version of Committee report (Committee)																					
Editing Committee report (EUROPARC Germany)																					
Review of Committee report by National Park																					
Final editing of Committee report (EUROPARC Germany)																					

Strengths of German national parks

- High acceptance of national parks within the region due to commitment and good communication of national park administrations and staff members
- Legal certainty and planning framework is guaranteed
- Most national parks do have the 75% process protection zone regulation fixed in their management plan/ ordinance
- The German national parks are mostly reaching the minimum size of 10.000 ha and present areas of high importance
- Basic funding is ensured through the respective federal state
- Nearly all national parks have a good infrastructure
- All national parks do have a management plan
- Good programs for nature experience and environmental education

Weaknesses of German national parks

- Financial and personal resources are insufficient
- Only a few national parks have reached 75% of process protection zone already
- Still some management and resource usage within the process protection zone
- Most national parks still have to manage high hoofed game populations
- More weaknesses than strengths in the field of research, monitoring and evaluation
- Administrations do not have all official authorisation needed for the realisation of the protection purpose.







Besucherbereich Johnsbachsteg - Visitor area



In diesem Besucherbereich kannst du die erfrischende Enns - das Rückgrat des Nationalparks - ihre Schotterbänke und Ufer genießen. Bitte halte dich zum Schutz des Flussuferläufers und anderer gefährdeter Arten an die Abgrenzung. Für das Auto steht der Parkplatz "Weidendom" zur Verfügung.

This visitor area offers recreation on gravel banks at the Enns river the spine of the National Park. Please stay behind the marked borderline to save the common sandpiper and other endangered species. Park your car at the parking place "Weidendom".



Das Entzünden von Lagerfeuer ist im Nationalpark nicht gestattet. Du bist aber herzlich eingeladen, die Feuerstelle beim Besucherbereich Gstatterboden unterhalb des Campingplatzes zu nutzen. Dort steht auch

kostenloses Brennholz bereit.

Campfires are prohibited in the National Park. But you are cordially invited to use the fire place at the meadow below the campsite at Gstatterboden where firewood is allocated for free.



Der Nationalpark Gesäuse ist ein Europaschutzgebiet, ein Teil des europäischen Natura-2000 Netzwerkes. Es ist dazu erklört worden, well es einige der europaweit am meisten gefährdeten Arten und Lebensräurne birgt. Alle 27 Staaten der EU arbeiten über das Natura-2000 Verbundsystem zusammen, um Europas Reichtum an Tieren, Pflanzen und Landschaften zu bewahren.



LIFE-Natur-Projekte sind Management-Programme für NATURA-2000-Schutzgebiete. LIFE kofinanziert seit 1992 Umweltinitiativen innerhalb der Europäischen Union und einiger Drittländer zwischen dem Mittelmeer und der Nordsee.

Die Nationalpark Gesäuse GmbH führt das LIFE-Projekt "Management von Wald und Wildfluss im Gesäuse" durch.



























NATURBAUSTELLE: WALDUMWANDLUNG

LIFE-PROJEKT: NATURSCHUTZSTRATEGIEN FÜR WALD UND WILDFLUSS

EU-Projekt:

LIFE05/NAT/AT/

000078

Projektdauer: Gesamtkosten: 2005 bis 2010 2.363.205 Euro

EU-Zuschuss:

50 Prozent

Die Wälder im Nationalpark, wurden durch jahrhundertelange Holzwirtschaft verändert. Wirtschaftswälder sind zum Teil nicht naturnah und risikoanfällig. Das betrifft vor allem Fichtenforste. Daher sind Umwandlungsmaßnahmen erforderlich, um bald wieder natürliche Bergmischwälder zu erhalten. Diese selten gewordenen Naturwälder sind ein wichtiger Lebensraum für aussterbende Tiere und Pflanzen.

Wir bitten für die kurzfristigen Maßnahmen um Ihr Verständnis.

Weitere Informationen:



Nationalpark Gesäuse GmbH, Weng, Tel. 03613 21000 Projektkoordination LIFE-Gesäuse Tel. 0664 825 2310





Steiermärkische Landesforste Admont, Tel. 03613 2403



Dieses Gebiet ist ein Teil des europäischen Natura 2000 Netzwerkes. Alle 25 Staaten der EU arbeiten über das Natura 2000 Verbundsystem zusammen, um Europas Reichtum an Tieren, Pflanzen und Landschaften zu bewahren.



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- Wildernes is not the opposite to culture.
- Wildernes is the opposite to captivated.

Vandana Shiva

Alternative Nobel Price











Conclusion

- Trails for nature experience respecting nature protection
- Use more than one language
- Uniform marked system of trails and information
- Environmental/wildernes education concept and evaluation
- More courage for wildernes and less forestry and hunting

