

Report about the site visit in the pilot area National Park Berchtesgaden



REPORT ABOUT THE SITE VISIT IN THE NATIONAL PARK BERCHTESGADEN (GERMANY) ON 4-5 NOVEMBER 2013

Organisation / (legal) structure / management of the park

- Located in the southeast of Germany, in the federal state Bavaria and adjoining the Austrian federal state Salzburg.
- Founded in 1978, the park covers an area of 210 square kilometres and is owned by the federal state. In addition, the park is the core and buffer zone of the biosphere region Berchtesgadener Land. The park is IUCN Category II, NATURA 2000 site (FFH- and SPA-area) and holds the EUROPEAN DIPLOMA.
- The National Park's directorate is nominated directly by the Minister of the Environment and has full power of decision of the management of the park's territory. It also functions as representative of the land owner and as lower forest and hunting authority.

The management of the park is operated on two levels:

1. The representatives of the local communities which have part of their territory inside the National Park bring their own needs and proposals to a so called communal advisory committee of the park. Each local community has its own working groups to identify the local problems to be discussed with the National Park and with other communities. The spatial planning process of the park's territory and of neighbour villages is done together with the local communities – they have an important role in the decision process and have a great interest in protecting the park.
2. The communal advisory committee of the National Park can formulate recommendations which kind of intervention has to be done in each part of the park's territory belonging to the local communities. This kind of communication stimulates a constructive cooperation among communities and the park is seen as a common value and resource.

Funding

- The state of Bavaria provides 100% of the park's budget. Third part funding (i.e. European projects) are used for special tasks (i.e. promotion and maintenance of ecological connectivity, research projects, new infrastructure etc.).
- The park promotes the creation of a National Park brand to sell local products (mainly milk and derivate) and the establishment of tourism-related private businesses.
- The park has participated in several European projects (ECONNECT, HabitAlps, GLORIA, Glochamore, Permanet, Alpencom, EUregio, greenAlps) that enabled the park for example to create bike paths, to save parts of the territory only for pastures,

improve bus connections (inside and trans-boundary), improve the communication with local communities and the scientific information and increase park's security.

Regional development and awareness raising

- The park used the results from the ECONNECT project with the JECAMI tool to improve the vertical and horizontal connectivity for wildlife inside the park as well as outside and trans boundary to the Salzburg region. This project encouraged the development of connectivity, also for educational purposes.
- The National Park Berchtesgaden promotes trans boundary co-operation - it has an unwritten agreement with the protected area "Weißbach" in Austria that led to the co-creation of public touristic bus lines to connect the two parks, to increase the public awareness and to develop common programs for nature conservation and environmental education as well as harmonized visitor programs.
- The National Park applies the German defragmentation program in order to solve potential conflicts with the wildlife and establish a regional ecological network.

Needs of / within the pilot area

- Traffic and mobility: too many exemption permits for private cars in the inner part of the park.
- Tourism impact (especially in winter time) is not yet effectively managed.
- Promotion of alternative mobility.
- Reduction of the traffic access to the park through an increase of alternative mobility offers and with educational programs.
- Farmers are sometimes affected by wildlife damages (i.e. bark beetle) and / or natural processes (i.e. windbreak, snow break) and are requested by the existing forest law to keep green land as it is. The park needs to address part of the budget for developing compensation programs.
- The area interested by the park and by the local communities is experiencing an increase of the population. This fact is stimulating the park and the communities to work together in order to identify areas for regional development and also for conservation outside the park boundaries (search for integration of needs environment / human society).
- The park needs to update its biotope mapping and to address part of the budget for environmental reports.

- Better understating of general legal framework and of the park, in order to increase the participation of the local communities to the park's governance.
- High prices of houses inside of the park → limits the development of local communities.
- No special rules (privileges) for local people (EU laws → could be discriminative).