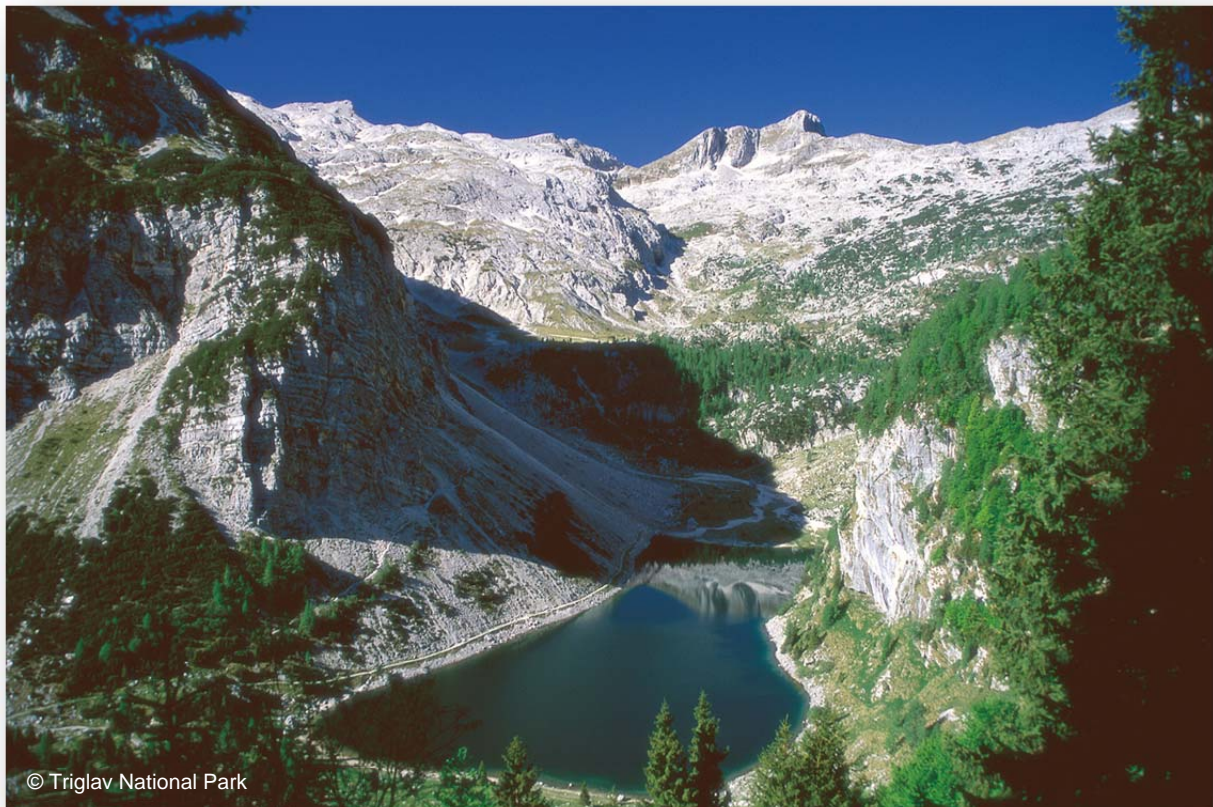


Report about site visit in the pilot area Triglav National Park



REPORT ABOUT THE SITE VISIT IN THE TRIGLAV NATIONAL PARK (SLOVENIA) ON 18– 19 NOVEMBER 2013

Organisation / (legal) structure /management of the Park

- The only National Park in Slovenia.
- Established in its modern form in 1981 and a new law concerning the designation of TNP was passed in 2010 (Zakon o Triglavskem narodnem parku (ZTNP-1), 18 June 2010). This law regulates the Triglav National Park.
- It covers 4% of Slovenia.
- The entire territory of the TNP is divided into three different protection zones (conservation areas) with different levels of protection (protection regimes):
 - 1st protection zone (31.500 ha): most strict protection regime; use of natural resources (e.g. forestry, hunting, fishing, farming (with traditional pasture as an exception)) are not allowed within this area.
 - 2nd protection zone (32.400 ha): slightly less strict regime allows some traditional activities related to the use of natural resources and together with the 1st protection zone it presents a core area of the TNP (e.g. sustainable forest management and use according to forest management plans).
 - 3rd protection zone (20.000 ha): a buffer zone where all sustainable human activities are allowed (e.g. forest management and use according to forest management plans).
- The TNP includes 37 settlements extending within its boundaries (21 villages completely, 16 partly).
- The management of the TNP is at the responsibility of the Triglav National Park Public Institution, based in Bled. The latter operates under the Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment.
- Local communities and the park's board are directly linked and both are involved in the park's management – the management plan of the park needs the approval of the local communities and the local communities need the approval of the park for building new houses inside of the park's territory.
- The annual programs of work and the TNP management plan (which is to be adopted in 2014) of the public body concerned are approved by the Slovenian government.

- The park is a very well-known tourist destination, both for local and foreign people, with more than 2.5 million visitors per year.
- The main park's activities fall in trans boundary activities with Prealpi Giulie; in improving the relation with local communities through educational activities and actions related to tourism.

Funding

- It is mainly financed by the budget of the Republic of Slovenia.
- The park is in a process of developing a TNP quality brand which will serve mainly to farmers and holders of tourist facilities. The brand will enable promotion, marketing of services and products, involvement in educational programs etc.
- Additionally, the park has transformed old mines in touristic attractions (mine tunnel Cave del Predil – Log pod Mangrtom).
- Currently, the TNP public service is experiencing serious financial problems due to a significant reduction of the basic funding from the state and the insufficient gain from self-financing programs.
- One of the main problems is the pre-financing of expenditures when participating to projects – this has provoked the request of credits from the banks.
- The commercial activities carried on by the park do not cover the basic needs of the park, provoking a diminished touristic offer with less people visiting the information centres.
- The request to local people to support the park did not work out – local people expect the park to do something for them and not the opposite.
- The commercial activities carried on by the park do not cover the basic needs of the park, causing a diminished touristic offer that ended in a diminished touristic presence.

Main projects carried on by the park

PHARE project (late 90's)

Mainly based on rangers training and the education of farmers to start environmental programs. The project helped the reconstruction of information centres and museums and provided electricity supply for mountain huts and shepherds shelters. Twenty solar panels were installed to generate power and they are still in use. The project was a very concrete help for stakeholders.

LIFE 2001-2003 – first one for the NP

The project was based on the creation of information trails close to peat bogs. This project was a big help for the park because it allowed the purchase of new equipment and the hiring of new staff.

INTERREG Italy-Slovenia with the Regional Park Prealpi Giulie

Three INTERREG cross border projects with Prealpi Giulie:

1. Eco regional co-operation on sustainable agriculture and tourism – connection of tourism
2. Management of NATURA 2000 sites
3. Climaparks (Triglav is Lead Partner)

The park did not participate in the ECONNECT project and they have not used the JECAMI tool, but they are open to learn more about it and to take in consideration its use to improve the park's governance and for the identification and prevention of natural hazards.

All the information related to previous projects can be found here:

http://www.tnp.si/get_to_know/C243/

Regional development and awareness raising

- The park serves as link between people and government and it is seen as positive as well as negative.
- The park is basically divided in two sides split by the Triglav Mountain. As an example, the TNP information centre in Trenta valley which is recognized as demographically endangered area, provides jobs for local people.
- There is a great involvement of local people in the park's offices and this promotes the protection of the environment and the collaboration among the local communities. Local people, in the majority of the cases, recognize the value of the park, the assistance provided by the government through it and its role in the protection of the ecosystem services.
- The park promotes the information of local people, organizing public consultations to get ideas for new touristic offers, to find new economic opportunities and to improve the management and governance of the park itself. They call this "bringing the park to the people".

Provided/needed ecosystem services (ESS) in the region

- Provisioning/ producing raw material and fresh water.
- Regulating of habitat and gene pool protection, soil formation and composition, water retention, natural hazard retention and nutrient regulation.
- Supporting habitats for species, habitats for genetic diversity and cultural values (spiritual/symbolic, intrinsic value of BD).
- The park promotes the ecological connectivity through local actions for connectivity and its active involvement in the Platform for Ecological Connectivity of the Alpine Convention.

Needs of/within the pilot area

The park asked for financial support to local communities but there is still the mentality of “the park has to do something for the people and not vice versa”.

Several needs have been identified during the site visits:

- GIS platform for data exchange.
- New protection zones in 2010 but absence of clear signals in the field → impossible to distinguish the end of a zone (useful e.g. for picking mushrooms).
- Payment for ESS and self-financing.
- Lack of control inside of the park.
- Conflicts between national management forest plans and the TNP Act (TNP protection zone 2 should gradually reach the same protection standards as prescribed for the protection zone 1).
- Definition of criteria for the different protection zones.
- Proposal for creation of a consortium with small forest owners to sell wood.
- Compensation systems for wildlife conflicts.
- New programs between the two sides of the park – absence of exchange during winter.
- 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).