



REPORT ON MANAGEMENT TOOLS IMPLEMENTATION

D.T2.3.2 - Naturpark Sölktales (PP04)

Ver. 1.0
12/2019





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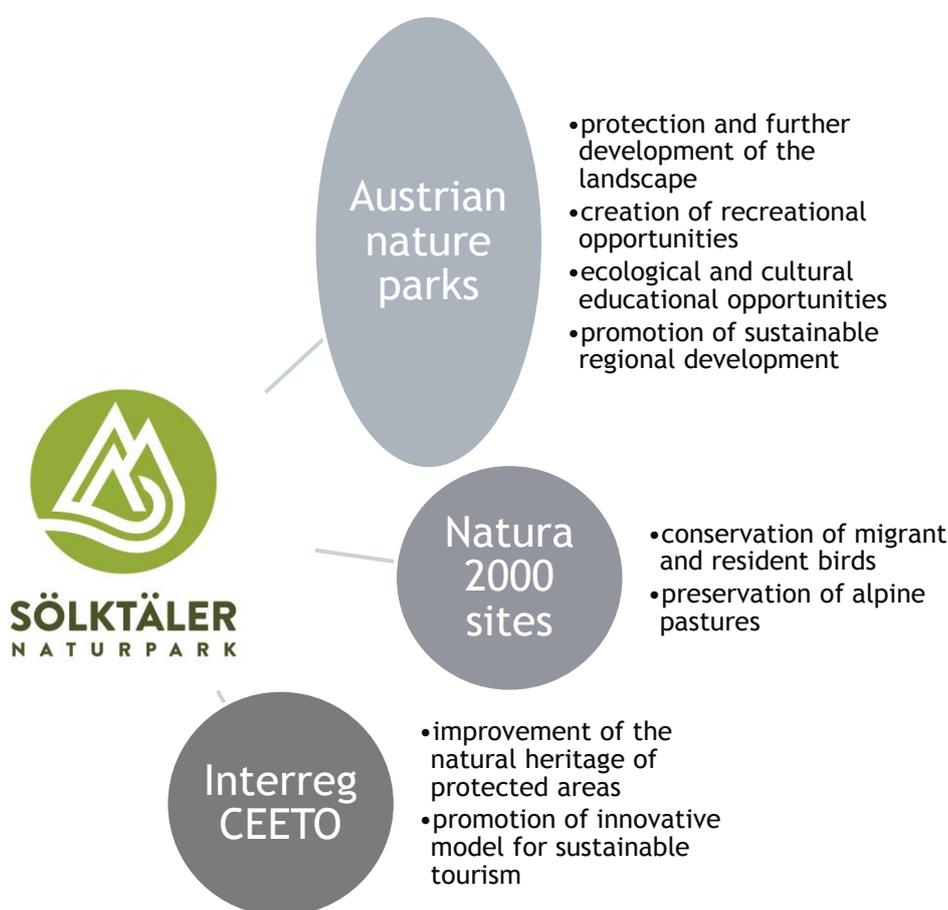
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1. General information

1.1 - General introduction to the Action Plan and strategic objectives

The action plan fundamentally describes the geological conditions as well as special features of the Söltkäler Nature Park. At the beginning the current tourism situation is presented. This already shows that in the future it will be more and more important to take visitor guidance measures at a very early stage in order to preserve the natural habitat in the best possible way, which exists due to the different biodiverse influences. On this basis the strategy of the nature park was defined, which unites the principles of the nature parks Austria, Natura 2000 and CEETO. On this basis, the action plan was drawn up, which also contains detailed descriptions of the various pilot actions and the associated measures.



Based on this a strategy for the Söltkäler Nature Park was developed. The strategy of the next five years will pursue a qualitative increase in tourism. This leads to an intensification of regional development, conservation of biodiversity as well as the planning and guidance of tourist streams. With assistance of visitor management these goals can be achieved. This includes zones for the tourist purpose and undisturbed habitats of wildlife.

In order to unite these parallel movements pilot actions take place in the Naturpark Söltkäler. The pilot actions explained in the following chapters help to create and maintain an awareness of nature as well



as wildlife and habitats for the locals and guests. Often no consideration is given to the fact that, for example, quiet zones are an important place of retreat for the animals and that this, including a certain buffer zone, is granted to the animals and should therefore be avoided. However, the two movements are not mutually incompatible. In other words, the aim is to create a common ground between tourism and wildlife. The pilot actions are used to determine the status quo and will be evaluated at the end of the five years and also in between as short term measures. The status quo can be used as base of a target-performance comparison. As short-term goals, small measures can be set that allow better control of tourists. Put differently, the ski tour folder, which was redesigned in winter 2018/2019 (described in more detail in the pilot action of raising awareness), is already a result of the previous status quo analysis and contains as a result already changes of the routes and extensions of the rest zones as well as informative contents about the habitats of the animals on site.



1.2 - Forum (update)

The forum was used as an internal exchange for ideas, suggestions and improvements. This also includes the Future Dialogue, which was moderated by “E.C.O.”, an office specialized for creating management plans for protected areas. This event was one of the most important ones because it can be seen as the beginning of participatory working on the 5 years management plan for the nature park. Regular internal exchanges and discussions are held with important people.



1.3 - Stakeholders involvement in the Action Plan

Initially, a list of stakeholders was drawn up which included all stakeholders concerned. These were clustered (locally and regionally) and with the most important from each group (e.g. landowners, entrepreneurs, employees of the community, alpine farmers, farmers, important private persons etc.). From this list persons were selected again and again, who helped in the conversion of the different actions and measures.



2. Sustainable Tourism Action Plan

2.1 - How would you assess your overall progress towards in sustainable tourism, bearing in mind where you started?

The nature park is no high tourism - location at the moment. So significant reductions of touristic streams were not expected. But with all the collected data a basic program could be started to get an area-wide spatial planning which foresees zonings for the protection of wild animals and zones for more intense touristic input. Intensive touristic streams may be easier planned before they increase. Management measures can be planned active and not only as a reaction to touristic streams.

Working together with most of the stakeholders was no big problem in the little community in the past. Everybody knows each other and most people have more than one activity in local clubs etc. It was more difficult to enthral the locals for new activities. The implementation of workshops and seminars with the local stakeholders brought a good working together for the future. Motivations and interests were recognized reciprocally. Some locals became aware of the need of a long term planning. The interest for the concerns of the nature park were very low but could be increased a little bit. It was out on its way. The workshops for the locals were visited to different extend. Often participants came from neighbour villages and not only from the community of the nature park. But also these workshops have to be seen in a long term context. It takes time to get people to accept these activities and to see their one advantage. But the activities will go on in the next years and the acceptance will raise continuously.

After all, Sölkttäler Nature Park is on a good way to finish the actions stated in the workplan.

2.2 - Have the actions provided for in the plan so far been implemented? If not, why?

Yes, they were all implemented and participating stakeholders are working on the implementation of different actions. The actions were divided into continuous actions short-, medium- and long-term actions.

2.3 - What were your most positive achievements? And the main challenges you still face?

One of the greatest achievements is the Winter Ski Tour Folder (10.000 pieces in total), which is very well received by guests, and the Future Dialogue.

The challenges we still face are that, based on visitor guidance in the Sölkttäler Nature Park, an area-wide spatial planning which divides the region into zonings for the protection of wildlife animals, habitats and also those for tourism and other uses is planned.

2.4 - Describe the monitoring you have undertaken of the results of your Action Plan.

The counting with the electronic visitor counters takes place in the following periods: August to November 2018 and July to November 2019. Electronic visitor counters from Elektro Wolf were used. These are similar to a light barrier and count the movements through this barrier. A distinction is made in the direction of the movement. In other words, it is possible to differentiate in which direction the



Tasks	2018		2019				2020	
	3/4	4/4	1/4	2/4	3/4	4/4	1/4	2/4
1 Monitoring and Management Plan (pilote action)								
1.1. Preparation of visitor survey								
1.2. Conduction out of visitor survey (light barriers and human resources, ev. booklets of mountain tops)	★							
1.3. Data analysis and evaluation								
1.4. Rock Ptarmigan and ski tourism - Data Charging								
1.5. Data analysis and evaluation								
1.6. Questionnaire - Alpine huts and landlords								
1.7. Data analysis and evaluation								
1.8. Ski tour tourism booklet and establish locally status quo		★						
2 Raising Awareness - locals and tourists (pilot action)								
2.1. Future dialogue I youth								
2.2. Future dialogue II stakeholder								
2.3. 10 Workshops "gemeinsam drüberschauen"								
2.4. Approval of the action plan				★				
2.5. Data analysis and evaluation								
3 Sustainable Tourism Action Plan								
3.1. Workshop on the spot								
3.3. Data analysis and evaluation								
3.4. Formal approval of the Action Plan				★				


 Milestone


 workshop


 finished


 work in progress

First version of workplan

Tasks	2018						2019											
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monitoring and Management Plan (pilote action)																		
Screening of visitor counters and wildlife monitoring																		
Data analysis regularly																		
Data analysis and evaluation																		
Ski tour tourism booklet and establish locally status quo																		
Summit books data acquirement																		


 finished

Updated Version of workplan



3. Management tools/procedures

3.1 - What management tools/procedures have you used? (not only in your Pilot Actions)			
According to the methods mentioned in the CEETO Inventory (D.T1.2.1), the following possibilities were selected for the measures and actions carried out:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Car counting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous analysis Simplicity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Little precise data Needs calibration and maintenance Where the machines arrive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowing the seasonality of flows Limit use in sensitive areas Reduction of environmental impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Person counting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous analysis Simplicity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs calibration and maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counting tourists Identify critical points Limit use in sensitive areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interview 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simplicity Adaptive Different types of information collected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long time needed Interviewer discrepancy. Sampling required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitors profile Know favourite places Assessing the acceptability of the solutions to be adopted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surveys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simplicity Adaptive Different types of information collected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long time needed Interviewer discrepancy. Sampling required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitors profile Know favourite places Assessing the acceptability of the solutions to be adopted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GPS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simplicity Accuracy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Influenced by signal coverage Invasive. Sampling required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get travel information Identify critical points Limit use in sensitive areas
The data quality is high except for the counts, but the primary purpose of counting is to get an overview of the number of visitors. A profiling was created via the surveys (placemats) as well as the intentions			



of the visit to the nature park.

3.2 - Cooperation with other competent bodies in the implementation of management activities

As authority of Sölktales Nature Park we are the competent body in terms Sölktales Nature Park. We cooperate with tourism stakeholders to assess and develop the management activities relevant for our situation.

3.3 - Assessment of strengths/weaknesses about management tools/procedures used

In relation to all methods used there are some discrepancies depending on e.g. who conducts the interviews and surveys, as the motivation of the interviewer might be very different from another. Furthermore, these methods are very people and time intensive in terms of development, preparation, implementation as well as analysis. To be able to use the collected data to derive dependable conclusions, a big enough dataset is needed (statistically sound).

In relation to the person counting (if done manually) this can be very faulty as it can easily happen to miscount. However, electronic counting systems are also far from fool proof. These have to be correctly calibrated and they cannot distinguish two persons walking next to one another or an agricultural vehicle from a person. Hence, even there some margin of error has to be dealt with.

3.4 - Have you identified other innovative tools/procedures?

Counting of summit book entries to get a better view of visitor streams. For detailed description please see point 2.5



4. Implemented Action(s)

4.1 - Action 1 monitoring of cattle in alpine spaces

A) Brief description of the action (tools/procedures): GPS monitoring of sheep and cattle in alpine spaces to find them easier and get information intensity of grazing as well as influence on the habitat quality of wildlife.

B) Strategic reference objective: Preserving alpine spaces

C) Monitoring tools and management procedures activated: GPS transmitters for cattle and HIS (habitat suitability index) recordings in grazing areas

D) Stakeholder involvement: Farmers, landowners

E) Specific results: Abandonment of alpine meadows is reduced, habitat quality of endangered alpine species is preserved.