

National Park Plan



Impressum

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NATIONAL PARK - PLAN

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Introduction

The Hohe Tauern National Park is securing one of Austria's most valuable contributions to preserve the World Natural Heritage. This natural environment, representative of Europe, covering 180.000 ha is the largest protected area in the Alps. By protecting the genetic diversity of the flora and fauna both as wild and as cultivated forms the Hohe Tauern National Park is also making a vital contribution towards the efficient network of protected areas in Europe.

In the Hohe Tauern National Park the pristine natural landscape is ecologically linked with the sustainably managed cultivated landscape over a wide area. In this way, the exceptional ecological bio-diversity is sustainably secured in a vast, protected habitat.

The consideration of the landowners who are in the main private persons, together with historically founded rights of use which are equal to ownership characterise the structure of ownership and are of great importance for the origin and development of the Hohe Tauern National Park. The wealth of natural resources – minerals and ore, glaciers and water – gave rise to the need to fulfil economic demands and plans to develop the area using state of the art technology in the past. These were all successfully thwarted and the setting up of the Hohe Tauern National Park have made them impossible for the future. The development of the Hohe Tauern National Park is in the meantime regarded as being exemplary in the history of nature conservation.



Nature and Culture

Values for the Future

Area under planning

The area in question comprises the protected area of the Hohe Tauern National Park. In certain fields, where a division between protected area and peripheral area (permanently populated area) was not thought to be advisable (e.g. section on tourism and recreation and relaxation), the National Park region was included. The peripheral area of the Hohe Tauern National Park will be termed as “National Park region” (permanently populated area) in this paper.

The “region” comprises the 29 National Park municipalities which do not lie within the protected area (core zone, buffer zone, specially protected areas).

Table 1: The region in figures

municipalities	inhabitants	Surface area (in km²) National Park	Total surface area (in km²)
29	85,000	1,816	3,800

Table 2: The National Park protected area in figures (km²)

Surface area National Park	Surface area: core zone	Surface area: buffer zone (km²)
1,816	1,189	627

Guidelines relevant to the National Park

Model Hohe Tauern National Park

The model for the development of the Hohe Tauern National Park

International Guidelines

The present National Park plan was drawn up in accordance with the IUCN (The World Conservation Union) for Category II – National Parks with particular consideration of the Guidelines for Protected Area Management Categories (Interpretation and Application of the Protected Area Management Categories in Europe, 2000) and consideration of the UNESCO Operational Guidelines.

Action Plan for protected areas in Europe (Parks for Life)

The definition of the development targets as well as the measures required to implement them was made with due consideration of the action plan for protected areas in Europe “Parks for Life” recommended by the IUCN National Park Commission.

Alpine Convention

The agreement to protect the Alps, BGBl. No. 477/1995 implementing ordinance signed by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forest Management, the Environment and Water Management.

Basis for drawing up the National Park Plan

EDP technical foundations

- Putting together a digital cadastral map (DCM)
- Developing the Geographical Information System (GIS) “TAGIS” (Salzburg) in co-ordination with the National Park administrations of Carinthian and the Tyrol to analyse and present data pertaining to surface area

- Developing a digital data inventory using the Geographical Information System
- Developing an inventory of orthophotos to cover the entire surface area (digital aerial maps on a scale of 1:5,000) for the entire National park to form a basis for the monitoring of protected areas.

Fundamental scientific enquiry on use of Land

Fundamental scientific enquiry on wildlife ecology

Fundamental scientific enquiry on use for tourism

Legal foundations and guidelines for drawing up a National Park Plan

The legal foundations for setting up the Hohe Tauern National Park make up the Carinthian, Salzburg and Tyrolean National Park Law and the ordinances issued thereunto. Against the background of its national and international significance and commitments, the management of a national park has, however, to consider the overriding legal foundations and guidelines.

Legal foundations and guidelines for national parks and nature conservation

- Article 107 B-VG Agreement “The Heiligenblut Agreement” between the Federal States of Carinthia, Salzburg and the Tyrol on setting up the Hohe Tauern National Park
- Carinthian, Salzburg and Tyrolean National Park Law
- Article 15a B-VG Agreement between the Federal Government and the Federal States of Carinthia, Salzburg and the Tyrol on working together in matters regarding the protection and the financing and promotion of the Hohe Tauern National Park (LGBl. No. 78/1994)
- Nominating the core zone in accordance with the FFH Guidelines (Fauna-Flora-Habitat) and the Council Directive on the conservation of wild birds (92/43 /EEC and 79/409/EEC) as a Natura 2000 area.

1. TARGETS:

1.1 General principles

- Within the framework of the legal regulations of the National Park private law arrangements are to be made for de facto putting land beyond use. Should laws be affected connected with land when changing use by consensus, they are to be settled by private law arrangements.
- Laying down suitable measures also within the framework of contractual nature conservation for necessary preservation measures which conform with the requirements of the EU Council directives 79/409/EEC (the preservation of wild birds - 1979) and 92/43/EEC (the preservation of natural areas and wild fauna and flora -1992)
- Zoning according to comprehensive ecological connections in agreement with the landowners and a planned description of the land in use and the land put beyond use as well as the structure of ownership and under particular consideration connected ecosystems covering a large area.
- Consideration of the pan-ecological and biological necessities pertaining to wild game in zoning and differentiating areas. The ecological regulating measures regarding wild game have to be flexible and adjusted to the habitat of each individual type of wild game.
- The alpine public right of way as well as free access are to be treated with prime importance. In ecologically particularly precious bio-topes access may be prohibited to small areas in consensus with the landowners and leaseholders as well as after hearing the alpine clubs and societies.
- Sustainably protecting the water ecosystems (e.g. glacial streams, lakes) characteristic of the Hohe Tauern.
- Sustainably safeguarding the provincial and federal funds for contractual nature conservation measures.
- Step by step implementation of the measures by the public authorities and private bodies responsible (e.g. provincial and federal administrative offices).
- Setting up a planning inventory.
- Evaluation and reassessment at regular intervals, at least 10 years after having come into force.

1.2 Development targets for the planning period

The zoning concept of the Hohe Tauern National Park

Core zone (“Nature zone”): Category II 75% of the category II area: for free development; no use.

Core zone (Conservation zone) – 25% of the category II area: can still be used

Buffer zone – (“Cultivated zone”): Category V

National Park region (exemplary landscape in a populated environment)

The ecological development and partial goals for the nature zone (75%) and conservation zone (25%) of the core zone are to be achieved by means of measures based on contractual nature conservation.

Core zone: IUCN category II which means the free and natural development of at least 75% of the area and the preservation of the traditional cultivated landscape of at the most 25% of the area (with the possibility of a free and natural development).

Buffer zone: IUCN category V, which means man and nature working together for the sustainable management of a cultivated landscape formed by its alpine farmers and as close to nature as possible. It also means preserving the singular bio-diversity and the characteristic landscape. Sustainably protecting the water ecosystems characteristic of the Hohe Tauern (e.g. glacial streams, lakes).

National Park region: Development towards an ecologically model landscape and towards the sustainable safeguarding of the basic standard of living and economic foundation of the people living here as well as strengthening their quality of life and cultural identity.

Preserving various international awards in the National Park and the National Park region (e.g. the nature conservation diploma from the European Council for the Krimml Waterfalls).

1.3 Partial targets

1.3.1 Management of areas of unspoilt nature

Core zone: protecting the natural alpine eco-systems for the preservation and development of natural landscapes

- 75% and more of the area with free natural development
- no interfering with natural processes and laws
- active conservation of indigenous, endangered wild animals

- wildlife management in keeping with a national park
- 25% and less of the surface area with sustainable management of the cultivated landscape left as close to nature as possible for preserving the bio-diversity and the landscape and the possibility for them to develop freely and naturally

Buffer zone: supporting the harmonic interaction between nature and culture by protecting landscapes, the continuation of traditional forms of land use and methods of building and preserving social and cultural characteristic features

- the sustainable management of a cultivated landscape as close as possible to nature yet formed by its alpine farmers to preserve its unique bio-diversity and the characteristic landscape
- continuation as a model zone for the nature friendly dealing with natural resources
- buffer zone between the permanent land settlement scheme (National Park region) and the core zone
- securing the number of small but nonetheless ecologically valuable biotopes
- sustainable preservation of the functions of the alpine forest
- regulating the supply of game according to comprehensive ecological principles
- protecting the natural alpine eco systems for maintaining and developing natural landscapes

1.3.1.1 protecting species and preserving the genetic diversity

Core zone:

- preserving the unique bio-diversity and the characteristic landscape in 25% at the most of the surface area
- free natural development in 75% of the surface area

Buffer zone:

- sustainable management of a cultivated landscape as close as possible to nature yet formed by its alpine farmers
- programmes for protecting species (e.g. endangered animal and plant species including autochthonous domestic animals and cultivated plants as well as endangered habitats)

1.3.1.2 Bio-tope and wildlife management

Corresponding to the zoning, the wildlife ecological measures have to be flexible and adapted according to each individual habitat.

- Core zone** • free natural development and allowing natural succession
- 75% (Nature zone):**
- maintaining the natural dynamics of game/animals and the development of populations and a density of game/animals as close as possible to nature
 - restricting regulatory measures for hoofed game
 - preserving and supporting the number of indigenous, reintroduced types of animals

- Buffer zone and 25% of the core zone (Conservation zone):**
- preserving the characteristic flora and fauna and their communities and habitats
 - regulating the supply of game according to comprehensive ecological principles
 - preserving and/or establishing the original number and types of fish
 - preserving and supporting the number of indigenous, reintroduced types of animals

1.3.1.3 Sustainable use of resources from natural eco-systems

1.3.1.3.1 Alpine pastures

- Core zone:**
- safeguarding the free, natural development by means of contractual nature conservation measures for at least 75% (Nature zone)
 - preserving and supporting the cultivated landscape-left as close to nature as possible-by means of sustainable management for 25% at the most (Conservation zone)

- Buffer zone:**
- preserving and supporting the cultivated landscape-left as close to nature as possible-by means of sustainable forms of management

1.3.1.3.2 Forest

- Core zone** • free natural development for at least 75% of the surface area
- (Nature zone):** • preserving the alpine forest by means of sustainable forms of management and protective forest care for 25% of the surface area at the most
- Buffer zone:** • preserving the alpine forest by means of sustainable forms of management and protective forest care

1.3.1.3.3 Water

- Core zone** • protecting the glaciers and the free natural development of waters
- (Nature zone):**

- Buffer zone and 25% at the most of the core zone surface area:** • sustainable protection of the waters (e.g. glacial streams and lakes) including their eco-systems (e.g. bogs, springs etc)
- safeguarding the drinking water reserves for the good of the local inhabitants

1.3.2 Tourism, relaxation and recreation

1.3.2.1 Transport services for access, rescue services

- Core zone:** • no transport services for access
- rescue operations carried out as in the buffer zone
- Buffer zone:** • intensifying environment friendly transport services for access on existing roads and tracks and linking them up with the public means of transport network
- operations carried out by existing rescue services and prevention by means of information

National Park region: access by means of environment friendly means of transport by maintaining the infrastructure and improving the public means of transport

1.3.2.2 Accommodation

- Core zone:** • preserving the existing alpine huts, improving the environment friendly delivery of goods and disposal of waste (environment quality stamp standard) no increase in the number of beds offered

Buffer zone: • accommodation designed to meet the needs of various target groups with environment friendly delivery of goods and disposal of waste

National Park region: working together with target group orientated services

1.3.2.3 Information facilities

Core zone: • National Park and regional information at alpine huts
• maintaining and improving the information facilities

Buffer zone: • creating, maintaining and improving the information on natural and culturally historical characteristic features based on an overall concept

National Park region: creating, maintaining and improving the information on natural and culturally historical characteristic features based on an overall concept as well as alpine information and tips about transport services available for access and accommodation facilities in the National Park. Furthermore, there should be information on the touristic infrastructure through tourism organisations. Creating and maintaining or improving the National Park information points and centres

1.3.2.4 regulating the flow of visitors

Core zone: • maintaining and improving existing facilities and the system of assisting visitors (selected natural phenomena)
• arranging measures (e.g. regulatory measures for guiding tourists to attractive features, sign-posting with necessary precautions and prohibiting access to certain areas) for the sustainable protection of ecologically particularly valuable biotopes covering a small area with the landowners and leaseholders as well as after hearing the alpine clubs and societies

Buffer zone: • maintaining and improving existing facilities and intensifying the system for regulating the flow of visitors
• arranging measures for the sustainable protection of ecologically particularly valuable bio-topes covering a small area with the landowners and leaseholders as well as after hearing the alpine clubs and societies

1.3.2.5. recreation and relaxation

Core zone: • intensifying traditional alpinism as well as strengthening cultural experiences and experiences for the mind and soul

Buffer zone: • promoting tourism which is both nature and environment friendly and which in itself promotes recreation, relaxation and experiencing nature

National Park region: working together with existing tourism organisations and bodies

1.3.3 Science and research

Research crossing federal state borders and relative to the region as an instrument in achieving the management goals and for gaining knowledge about nature and the cultural area as well as for monitoring performance.

Focal points

- creating scientific foundations for National Park planning
- setting up a central documentation of the level of research
- carrying out application orientated monitoring programmes and ecological case studies
- research into socio-economic effects of the National Park
- assisting research partnerships with other national parks and working together with other research associations active throughout the Alps.

1.3.4 Environmental education

- environmental education as a key to spreading the National Park idea
- imparting understanding about ecological cycles and connections
- motivation for discovering nature actively
- directing towards environmentally fair actions and behaviour
- awakening understanding for the conservation goals of the National Park and strengthening the acceptance of the necessary measures for them
- creating an integrated understanding for the National Park region paying particular consideration to its historical and socio-cultural developments
- providing the National Park education facilities for all sectors of the population

1.3.5 Public relations

- national and international representation of the National Park and its goals
- constant presence and presentation of the National Park in public
- building up the trust, the acceptance and the reputation of the National Park
- spreading the National Park idea and gaining new partners

Final recommendation of the land owners' representatives to the National Park Board:

In order to realise the targets for securing land to achieve international recognition additional National Park funds will be necessary and would have to be provided by the Federal Government and the federal states. Furthermore, all best possible use should be made of EU resources .

Salzburg, Juli 2003

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