

EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR PROTECTED AREAS

Annual report for the year 2005

Berchtesgaden National Park



Nationalpark
Berchtesgaden

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2005
(Statistical data based on 2004)

State: Germany

Name of the area: Berchtesgaden National Park

Central authority concerned:

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I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Natural heritage-Conservation situation

- 1.1 Environment: changes or deterioration in the environment, of natural or anthropic origin, accidental or permanent, actual or anticipated

No change

- 1.2 Flora and vegetation: changes in the plant population and in the vegetational cover: presumed causes

No change

- 1.3 Fauna: changes in the sedentary or migratory populations; congregating and breeding places

No changes

2. Cultural heritage and socio-economic context

- 2.1 Cultural heritage

- 2.1.1 Changes concerning cultural heritage:

No change

- 2.2 Socio-economic context

- 2.2.1 Changes concerning the socio-economic context:

No change

3. Education and scientific interest

3.1 Visitors – Information policy

3.1.1 Arrangements for receiving and informing the public:

Information policy of Berchtesgaden National Park has been continued like the years before. The publication for the national park newspaper which appears twice a year will be continued (see appendix 1 and 2). Two brochures for the winter- and summer-programme “Hiking 2005” (“Wandern 2005”) and “Hiking 2005/2006” (“Wandern 2005/2006”) are enclosed (see appendix 3 and 4)

In the summer season 2005 a special program concerning current research projects of the National Park were presented to the public.

Appendix 5 shows a list of publications and some information on current cooperation.

In 2004 272 excursions for groups like school classes, kindergarten groups, specialists, etc. took place — page 36 of appendix 6 gives a review. Another 191 excursions took place within the scope of the summer and winter hiking programme (please see page 21 appendix 6).

There are now four regular afternoon-groups with around 60 children, which is a good chance for sustainable education with young local people. Therefore a new project started to develop a concept of age structure, organisation and suitable contents for these youth groups.

Since 2005 Berchtesgaden National Park takes part in the Interreg IIIb project ALPENCOM as one of 11 partners of the alpine states. The main task of this project is to work out a communication strategy for alpine protected areas. Berchtesgaden National Park is workpackage leader of workpackage 5, within a 3-D flight through the alps as a innovative module for the information centres will be developed.

Also a long planned project for the innkeepers of the mountain huts was put into practice. Information material like books, leaflets, research reports and a board game for families were given to the mountain huts as mountain huts are important partners and multiplier of National Park objectives. Further a round table has been initialized.

Following changing exhibitions took place in the information centre National Park House

Geoart – Photo exhibition (1.6. – 18.9.05)

Leica-Photo exhibition (6.10. –28.11.05)

Another project is to relaunch the homepage of Berchtesgaden National Park. First steps have been taken in 2005. The new web presence will be completed next spring.

3.1.2 Frequentation by visitors and behaviour:

In the year 2004 the visitors program was evaluated like the previous years (appendix 6). The report for 2005 is under preparation.

4071 visitors took part in the hiking programme (page 22 appendix 22), 6280 made a guided excursion in the National Park altogether (page 36 appendix 6). The number of visitors to the three national park information centres with staff was about 99,000 (details see appendix 6 page 11).

3.1.3 Special visits:

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|-----------|-------|--|
| February | 2005: | Visit of delegation of Hungarian Ministry for Environment (Secretary of State; Head of Department) |
| June | 2005: | Visit of Delegation of Polish Ministry for Environment (Head of Department for International Affairs; Head of Department for European Programmes)

Excursion with delegation of European Forestry Association |
| July | 2005: | Meeting and excursion with Advisory Council and Scientific Board of WWF Germany

Meeting and excursion with German Scientific Board for Global environmental change (WBGU)

Visit of German Federal Minister for Environment |
| September | 2005: | Visit of responsible persons for forest management and Natura 2000 in Muranska Planina National Park, Slovakia |
| October | 2005: | Visit of member of parliament of Nordrhein-Westfalen |

3.2 Scientific research

3.2.1 Current or completed research:

In 2005 the integrated environmental monitoring following the example of the cross-boundary Biosphere Reserve Rhön has been continued. A project for modelling the area-wide snow cover and snow precipitation in high alpine regions will be part of the entire model. A new automatic meteorological gauging station was installed in cooperation with the 'Bayerischer Lawinenwarndienst' in the central part of the National Park as main gauging station. The project on impact of global change on high alpine vegetation has been finished. One site in the international project "Global Observation Research Initiative in Alpine Environments" was established at the Hochscheibe peak. The interpretation and change detection in the HABITALP project on the basis of Colour Infrared Aerial photos between 1997 and 2003 will be finished at the end of the year. Sectoral monitoring projects like census of chamois in national park, surveillance of bark beetle, surveillance of vegetation pasture by game, phenological monitoring and water springs were continued. They will be involved into the integrated environmental monitoring. The project on woodpecker has been finished. Appendix 7 lists all projects financed from national park funds or other sources. A project to establish a botanical database on the basis of the National Park Geographic Information System started. Another project of gathering information about plant species in the eastern part of Berchtesgaden National Park and beetle and spider species in the high alpine region was realised.

3.2.2 Scientific publications:

In the series "Research Reports" two new issue

- Standortkarte Nationalpark Berchtesgaden (Nr. 49)
- Geomorphologie (Nr. 50)

has been published. A copy of it you can find enclosed (appendix 8 and 9).

4. Site description

4.1 Changes in legislation or regulations:

In consequence of the subordination of Berchtesgaden National Park to the Bavarian Ministry for Environment, Health and Consumer protection an amendment of the ordinance is currently under preparation.

4.2 Changes in ownership title:

No change

4.3 Extension or transfer, new uses:

No change

5. Site management

5.1 Improvements made

5.1.1 Ecological actions affecting the flora and biotopes; control of fauna

Following the 2004 finalised concept for forest development in Berchtesgaden National Park implementation measures (cutting spruce and planting beech and silver fir) has been continued as well as reduction of forest grazing and the game management in the management zone.

5.1.2 Protection against the elements:

No change

5.1.3 Approaches and thoroughfares:

Model management plan „Barrierefreiheit“ („Access for all“)

Since June 2005 a project cares as well about possibilities to access the park area as about movement within the park for handicapped or old people and families. The project is financed by “Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt” (that can be translated as “German Federal Foundation for Environment”) together with the Bavarian Ministry for Environment, Health and Consumer Protection and it is carried out via the association “Friends of Berchtesgaden National Park e.V.”. (two press releases please see appendix 10).

5.1.4 Field equipment:

No change

5.2 Management

5.2.1 Administrative department: changes made

No change

5.2.2 Wardens' department: changes made

No change

5.2.3 Internal policing measures

No special actions taken

5.2.4 Infringement of regulations and damage; legal action

From October 2004 until End of October 2005, 23 violations were registered, of these:

- 8 fines
- 10 citations with fines
- 5 citations without fines

II. INFLUENCE OF THE AWARD OF THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA OF PROTECTED AREAS

The European Diploma of Protected Areas promotes regional acceptance as well as national and international recognition for the park. Even by lobbying on different political levels it has been an helpful and important argument. The recommendations support the management of the park in certain aspects.

III. CONDITIONS AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AWARD OR RENEWAL

1. Restructuring of unnatural forests
Transform uniform conifer forests into mixed woodlands please see site management.
2. Tourism, sporting and recreational activities
 - Since may 2005 the Interreg III a project "Euregional Recreational Area Berchtesgaden National Park / Salzburger Kalkalpen" cares about recreational usage within the national park and its surrounding region. Berchtesgaden National Park is lead partner of this Interreg project. Data and information relevant for recreational use will be collected and analysed before intensifying conceptual work on topics like offers for environmental education or visitor guidance. The infrastructural elements sometimes are outside the protected area, but they attract visitor flows crossing the national park and the German-Austrian border. So data and information about recreation have to be built up in a transnational harmonised database. Results of the project are able to

support e.g. a transfrontier concept for signposting in cooperation with local stakeholders like the Austrian and German Alpine Association.

- The measures of the project which is called "Skiing environment-friendly will again be implemented in the forthcoming season. An extension on snowshoeing as a modern and growing kind of recreational use is at the time getting discussed within a diploma thesis.
- In autumn 2005 a very special action to strengthen the partnership with the sports sector took place. The professional climber Thomas Huber went into an eagles nest and collected rests of food to analyse the behaviour of the animals in the last season. (please see appendix 11 – or <http://www.alpin.de/newsarchiv/news/c2baf0b4-039a-4e41-a742-a8ca5617c98f>)

3. Military uses

Due to increasing number of military uses within the national park area a meeting with the commander of the brigade is under preparation.

4. International cooperation

Head of Berchtesgaden National Park Administration is still President of the Alpine Network of Protected Areas. One long term goal of the Alpine Network of Protected Areas is to give the network a spatial dimension by linking neighbouring protected areas and establishing ecological corridors. The members of the Alpine Convention commissioned the Alpine Network of Protected Areas to analyse transboundary connectivity and give first precise measurement suggestions. The results of the study please find in appendix 12. Berchtesgaden National Park and its surrounding region has been one of eight example regions worked out in the before mentioned study.

In November 2005 an international seminar for establishing a transboundary ecological network of protected areas in the alps took place in Berchtesgaden. (see appendix 13). Further step of implementation will be to analyse the current situation on a regional and local level in a transfrontier approach.

5. Centre for environmental education

The planning progress of the centre for environmental education is proceeding.

6. Climatic change

- GLORIA-Project. This project observes climate change in mountain regions. Worldwide on about 50 summits plots for vegetation observation are installed following a standardised method – 2 of them are located in Berchtesgaden National Park.
- GLOCHAMORE-project: Global change in Mountain Regions (<http://mri.scnatweb.ch/content/category/3/10/31/>)
The National Park participated during the whole programme from 2003 to 2005. At the open science conference in Perth, Scotland (United Kingdom), 2nd to 6th October 2005 a declaration was elaborated on behalf of an initiative of UNESCO and the participating mountain protected areas manager (appendix 14). The declaration was brought into the plenary and explained by Dr. Michael Vogel. The declaration was accepted unisono.

7. Job security – no changes

8. Return of the lynx

In October 2005 Berchtesgaden National Park became member of the large carnivore working group of the Alpine network of Protected Areas.