



PILOT ACTIONS FINAL REPORT

D.T2.5.1 - Söltkäler Nature Park... (PP04)

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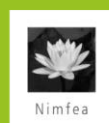




Table of Contents

1. Introduction.....	2
1.1. Participatory processes.....	2
1.2. Developed Strategy.....	3
2. Pilot Action Design Phase.....	3
2.1. Monitoring Activities.....	3
2.2. Forecasted Managing Activities.....	4
2.3. Expected results.....	5
2.4. Pilot Action Workplan.....	6
3. Pilot Action Implementation Phase.....	6
3.1. Monitoring activities and achieved results.....	6
3.2. Implemented Managerial Activities.....	12
3.3. Deviation from the forecasted workplan activities.....	15
4. Achieved Results.....	16
4.1. Touristic pressure reduction.....	17
4.2. Tourist experience improvement.....	17
4.3. Socio-Economic Benefits.....	17
5. Conclusion.....	18
6. Appendix.....	19



1. Introduction

Before tourism is starting to increase in our region it is important to develop anticipatory measures to protect nature the best possible way. The basic idea is to get an idea of the tourist flows, to get a general idea about the impacts for wildlife habitats and to take measures in advance. In addition nearly the whole nature park is natura 2000 area with lots of endangered species, which have to be maintained in a favourable conservation status. Therefore it is necessary to create awareness about the special habitats and to draw attention to where the tourists go. There are three main goals set which are reducing the impacts of tourists, in particular with visitor stream management measurements, raising awareness of inhabitants and tourists about the sensible ecosystem and maintaining the alpine pastures. Since the alpine pastures have multiple functions, offering additional alpine meadows for the cattle, offering a perfect structured habitat for lots of endangered species (fauna and flora), saving a little additional income with special alpine products for the farmers, saving pastures for wildlife game, and additionally offering a very important tourist role and are therefore an economic factor for nearly all inhabitants of the Nature Park. Therefore it is a main goal to keep them well and in perfect small scale structures. After all, they are the flagship and tourist attraction of a region.

1.1. Participatory processes

During the workshop on the spot, which was held in July 2018, the basic processes of the pilot actions were discussed and the main approach and needs of the Nature Park defined. Two main actions were agreed upon and discussed in detail. These are: monitoring/management of tourists and raising awareness of inhabitants and tourists. Both actions are divided in several subgroups to get better results.

The development of the management plan and the action plan occurred in collaboration with local actors in form of three meetings/events, then the pilot actions started:

1. Kick-off CEETO project in Naturpark Sölktaier
2. Workshop on the spot with Luca Lietti
3. Teaser film making with Marcel Gallaun
4. Pilot actions
5. Workshop series (future dialogue and more)

Further measures for sustainable tourism in the nature park were also discussed. The participants discussed the essential needs and the specific features of the Naturpark Sölktaier, which were also implemented in the action plan started 2018 as well as the five year management plan which was initiated the beginning of 2019. In July 2018, the regions were selected which, in the opinion of the management of the nature park, require monitoring in order to achieve clarity about visitor flows. The monitoring was coordinated with the landowners, who are also important stakeholders. Finally, four sites were agreed for an electronic visitor counting. Not only the monitoring of visitor flows is an essential part of the pilot actions, but also that awareness of the nature and the wildlife habitats to be protected is created and raised within the Nature Park. This is provided with various information materials as well as the practical transfer of knowledge for inhabitants and externals via a series of workshops.

The transfer of knowledge, which relates in particular to the special features of the Sölktaier Nature Park, is part of the CEETO project. The aim too is to increase awareness of the inhabitants to live in a special environment, to preserve it and to present it to other people. Additionally they should raise the sense of



community and working together for all local stakeholders. The workshops take place on various topics, such as effects of global warming on our home gardens or nutritious landscapes. The events have been very well received by the locals and interested guests.

1.2. Developed Strategy

The elaboration of the strategy and the action plan inevitably focuses at this moment on the implementation of the pilot actions foreseen in the CEETO project with the aim of continuing over time the involvement of operators and tourists for the development of other actions aimed at the sustainable tourism.

The objectives and actions described in the following chapters have been developed within the CEETO project with a participatory process in summer 2018 and 2019 with six meetings in Großsölk and Kleinsölk with local stakeholders. They met to share ideas and set a focus on what should be done to reach a sustainable tourism in the Naturpark Söltkäler.

There are three main goals set, in particular with visitor stream management measurements, the raising awareness of inhabitants and tourists about their special region and the need to protect it and maintaining the alpine pastures. Our main focus lays on the maintenance and management of the alpine pastures in summer. After all they are the flagship of the Nature Park and tourist attraction of a region. In winter we have only ski-tour and snow-shoe-hiker- tourists, whose impact in wildlife should be limited. The Nature Park has the obligation to obtain several endangered species because of the European guidelines for Nature 2000 areas. So we wanted to start 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. In this project the landowners, other rights holders, tourism experts, alpine clubs and many other stakeholders must be involved. We want to give a clear overview in the Nature Park Söltkäler about necessary resting areas of the animals and their special habitats, as well as about routes for tourists and hikers. 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 bring better information for tourists and so brings an effective visitor guidance like the completely adapted ski tour folder in winter 2018/2019.

2. Pilot Action Design Phase

2.1. Monitoring Activities

The monitoring program should evaluate the human impact in the region on leading endangered species of several sensitive habitats (div. grouse species) and find the relative frequency in the different valleys using counting visitors. Additionally the abundance of wildlife should be verified and constantly reviewed, even the different impacts on different species during the year.

For visitor monitoring, it was planned to install four light barriers at different places which are common destinations for day trips and hikes. The counting serves as a basis for an annual comparison as well as a numerical comparison with the visitor counting of the valleys within the Nature Park and with the numbers of Schladming-Dachstein, which is the holding tourism organization in this area.

To get informations about tourism activities in winter it was also planned to observe the frequency of ski tours over winter by mapping ski tracks, but due to the high snow conditions and the avalanche situation in winter 2018/19, this activity could not be carried out.

So there was the idea to evaluate the contents of the summit books to have an overview of peaks with high or low tourist frequency. So it could be possible to collect some data also about winter season.

Short-term measures also included ongoing monitoring of the impact of people/tourists on the environment and wildlife. This includes on-site inspections in summer as well as in winter, using the Swarovski spotting scope and in winter the avalanche equipment. This type of observation allows to determine the effects on a very large area. The avalanche equipment is needed in winter to move in the area in the dangers of winter in the form of avalanches. The affected areas are usually very exposed and nobody should move there without this safety system. Part of the status quo is to determine the current habitat for the two "mountain chickens" black grouse and ptarmigan in order to exclude negative developments. These species serve as indicator species in alpine habitats.

To get the knowledge of the habitat quality for different species, habitat models were developed (black grouse and ptarmigan) and for chamois. The informations of landowners and hunters were gathered too to prepare a map of wildlife rest areas. In addition to the habitat models selected areas were visited to find evidence of presence or absence and to verify the model.

For the research of motivation of guests in Sölk­täler Nature Park placemats were created and laid out in restaurants and alpine huts to be filled in.

2.2. Forecasted Managing Activities

Management activities in winter:

Our new folder for ski-tourists shall guide the ski tourists as well as inform them about their environment and their impact on wildlife. Recreation areas for wildlife are begged not to be entered. There is no ban to enter these areas but informed people should avoid them because of their respect of wildlife. Topics like "you are entering my living room" shall raise awareness about other living creatures in this hard environment in winter and their habitats. Some feeding stations are definitely forbidden to enter.

Additionally signs in special hot spots of the routes, where tourists might take the wrong direction, try to guide them the right way. Their positions were planned together with land owners and hunters.



Figure 1: Signs shall show the right route or wrong route at special hot spots - all only requests without bans.

Management activities in summer:



In summer a booklet for alpine huts and some hiking routes should keep the visitors on the perfect hiking routes and lead them to the alpine huts. They have also informations about wildlife and botanic specialities.

The placemats for summer tourists were designed that they also could work as measures for raising awareness. Informations about the alpine pasture and alpine wildlife animals and their needs were placed beside the questions for motivations and paned activities of the visitors in the Nature Park.

Several workshops were held for raising awareness of the locals, especially about alpine meadows, the local fauna and flora, cultivating them, protecting them and the traditional work like mowing with the traditional scythe or potential measures to protect herds against the wolf, which is slowly coming back in our area.

2.3. Expected results

Monitoring:

We got most quantitative data from our tourist counters, the summit books, some about the intensity of use of ski routes, but additionally qualitative data from our placemates. We have qualitative data about the habitats of some endangered animals and little knowledge about quantitative use of wildlife of habitats.

The records of the counters are complete for 2018 and 2019, this means continuous data series on all movements. The data are helpful in determining the quantitative use of the hiking trails in the nature park.

Management:

The data are basics for further development of area-wide spatial planning of different zones. Visitors can be guided by suggestions, correctly advertised paths and, above all, clearly marked paths. But also recreation zones for wild animals can be designated and communicated accordingly.

The data from the counters and from the summit books should enable a status quo analysis of summer and winter use. From this, future management strategies will be derived. If, for example, a route appears to be a busy route in a season where a species actually needs rest, appropriate management measures can be taken (that could perhaps be a request not to enter an area before 8 o'clock in the morning)

The pilot action is 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 overview of tourists. Put differently, the new ski tour folder, 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 wildlife and their habitats on site.



2.4. Pilot Action Workplan

The first stated workplan was executed step by step as shown below. The graphic shows a more detailed view of the actions, which are all finished by the end of November 2019.

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 (pilot 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

Fig. 2: Timetable for the pilot action

3. Pilot Action Implementation Phase

3.1. Monitoring activities and achieved results

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 visitors go - very interesting, as there are some hikes in the Sölktales Nature Park that can be walked from different directions as well as summit crossings are possible.

After collecting all data during the two seasons 2018 and 2019 the data were formatted in diagrams. This allows an overview of the distribution of visitors over the individual summer months, differences between the years, but also an impression of much and less visited areas.

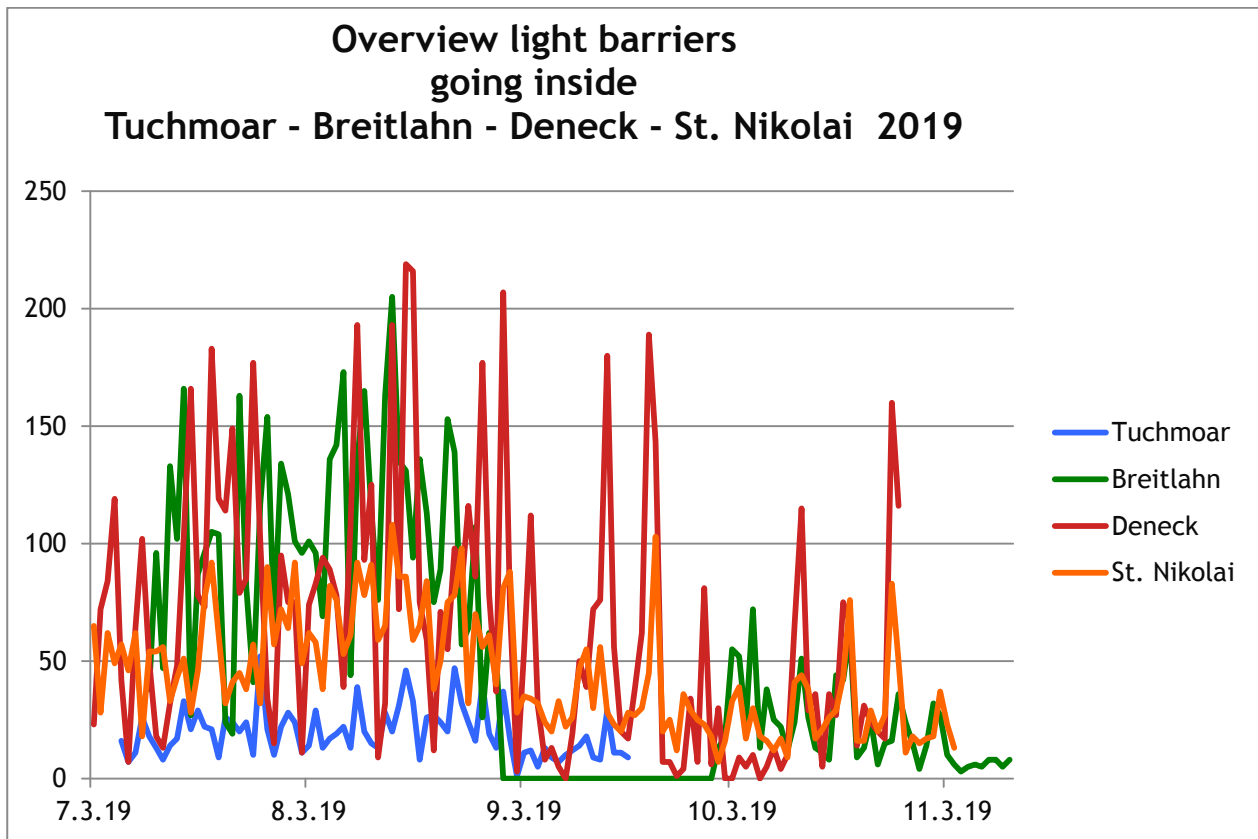


Figure 3: Utilisation of pathes in different valley of the Park


The summit books were evaluated over a period of one year, sometimes a little bit longer (2018 to September 2019) if possible. This evaluation took place in summer and autumn 2019. The data enable comparisons of days, seasons and years, which can then be compared with the tourism hotspots of the region (Schladming-Dachstein). The data allows a distinction between peaks visited by many and few guests and also differences between summer and winter ascents. From this, seasonally less touristically used regions within the nature park can be determined and it is possible to preserve these areas preventively as resting areas and not to promote tourism there (in consultation with the land owners).

As an example, the Gumpeneck serves as an "all-season mountain", as can be seen in Figure 4 (each grid square symbolizes one day, the green marked ones are frequented by visitors) and on the other hand the Hangofen shows nearly no winter tourism activities.



Gumpeneck (2226 m)

	days/month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Aug.18	16	No data																														
Sep.18	21																															
Okt.18	18																															
Nov.18	15																															
Dez.18	11																															
Jan.19	10																															
Feb.19	19																															
Mär.19	9																															
Apr.19	5																															
Mai.19	4																															
Jun.19	27																															
Jul.19	25																															
Aug.19	2	No data																														

 Days with visitors

Hangofen (2056 m)

	days/month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Jul.18	15																															
Aug.18	16																															
Sep.18	8																															
Okt.18	12																															
Nov.18	7																															
Dez.18	6																															
Jan.19	0																															
Feb.19	1																															
Mär.19	1																															
Apr.19	1																															
Mai.19	0																															
Jun.19	6																															
Jul.19	16																															
Aug.19	2	No data																														


 Days with visitors

Figure 4: Summit books of Gumpeneck and Hangofen: all year use against only summer use (each grid square symbolizes one day, the green marked ones are frequented by visitors)

As the property is privately owned, the permission of the respective landowner was obtained for the installation of the counters. This was positive in any case. Also for collecting the data from the summit books, an attempt has been made to get also older summit books. On some peaks there were books replaced very short time ago so it was not possible to get all the data we needed.

For the habitat models for black grouse and ptarmigan, the data basis were parameters such as Styria-wide data on vegetation, exposure, orography, elevation model, rock cover, etc. For example, for ptarmigan the elevation model, the land cover and the distance to forest explain 84% of its occurrence probability. These two models were created for a visitor stream management project for the whole area by the University of Agriculture in Vienna. The Nature park was allowed to use the data as a basis for wildlife management measures.

A search for evidences of presence (droppings) of different grouse species was made in late spring 2019 in some selected areas.

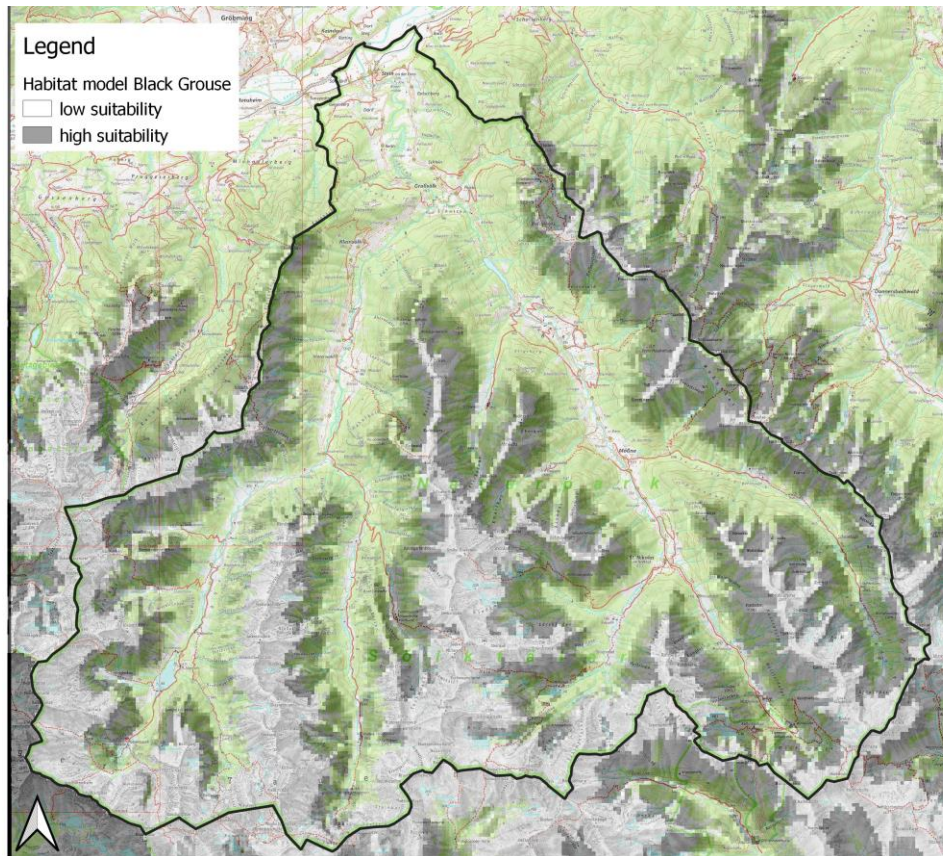


Figure 5: Black grouse: The dark grey shadows show high potential habitats of Black grouse occurrence (representation of a suitable habitat). The green line is the border of Söltkäler nature park.

The areas with high suitability for black grouse are located in the alpine area of the forest line, the alpine meadows, altitude of approximately 1800 to 2100 m. The light gray surfaces are the higher mountain areas which includes the good habitats for the ptarmigan. The green areas are the valleys with the villages, fields and forests.

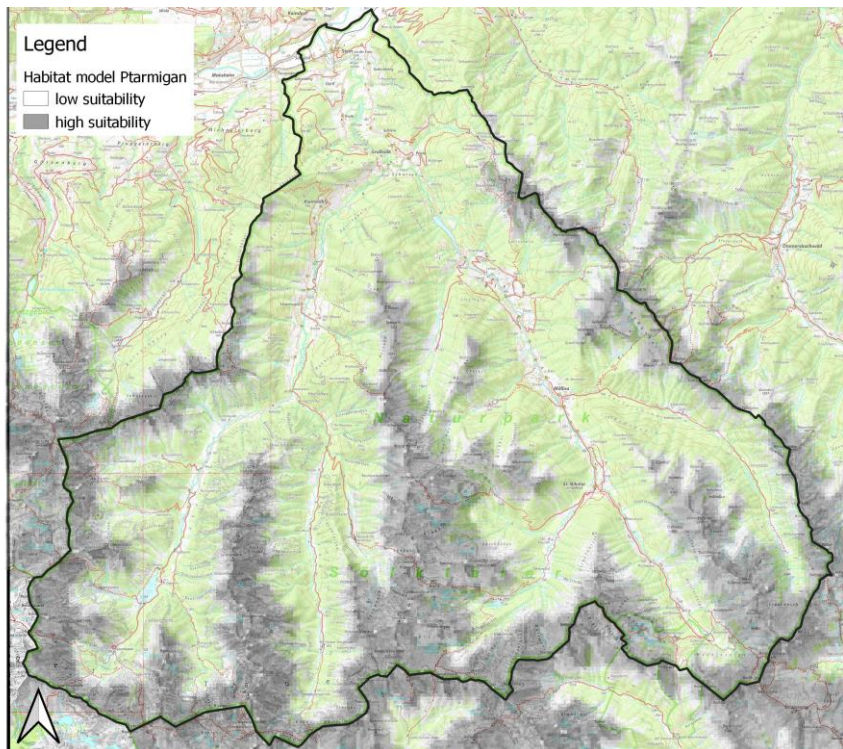


Figure 6: Ptarmigan: Dark grey areas on the highest peaks of the nature park are habitats with high suitability for Ptarmigan.

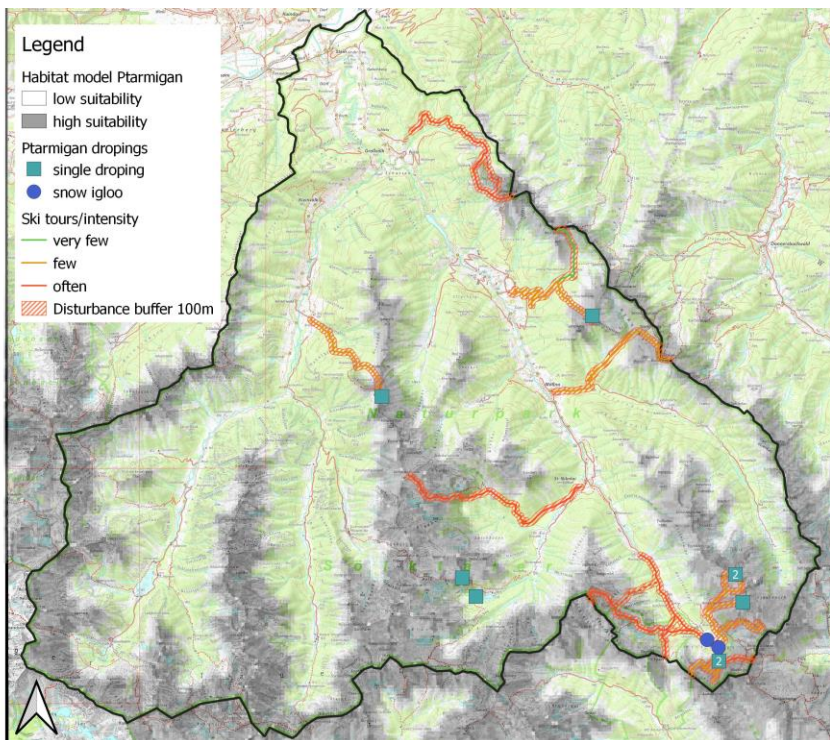


Figure 7: Modell for ptarmigan and ski tour routes in Sölktalet nature park

With the basic data of visitor counting, evaluation of the summit books and the knowledge of the different wildlife habitats it was possible to make an analysis using the Geographical Information System. Several figures show the overlay of ski routes and wildlife habitats and where recreation zones for wildlife are necessary.

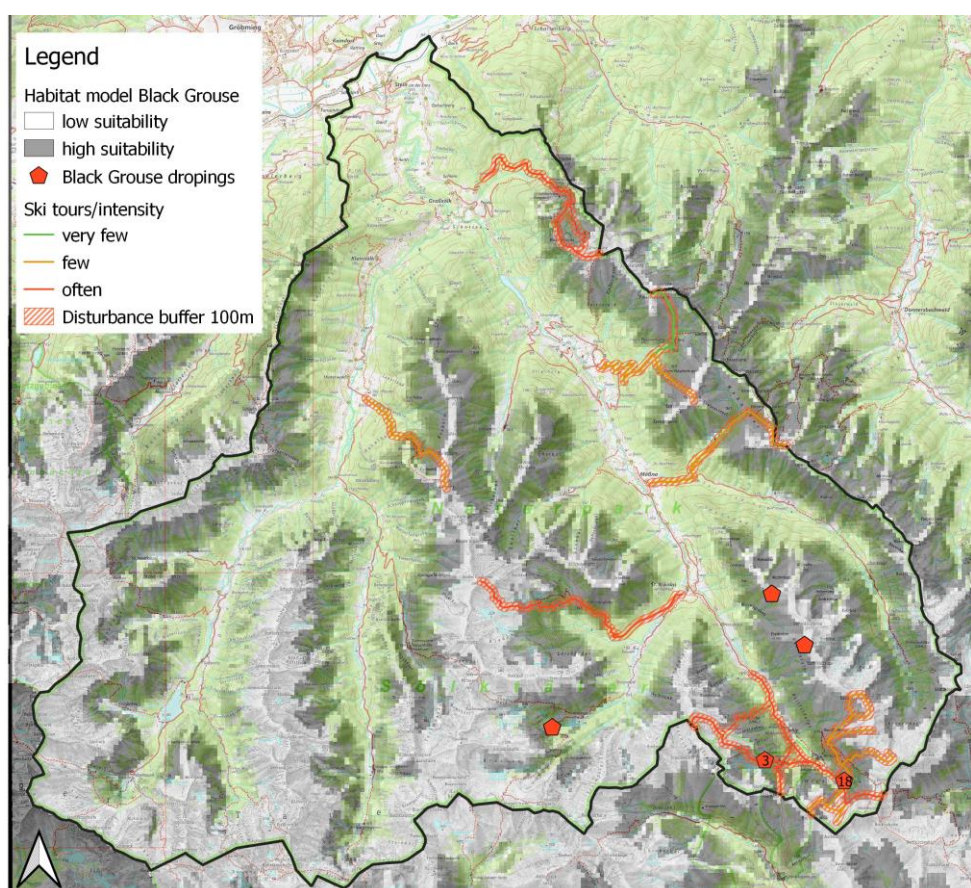


Figure 8: Modell for black grouse and ski tour routes in Sölktäler nature park

The illustrations also show the frequency of ski tours (very few, few or often). A buffer of 100 m around the routes can be seen as a measure for the so-called disturbance drag: within this area the habitat of black grouse and ptarmigan is probably less frequently used than predicted in relation to habitat quality.

The large number of grouse records in the south of the Sölktäler nature park along intensively used routes can be explained by the phenomenon of the staggered time window: most of the records were droppings in snow caves (igloo), where both species like to spend the night. If the hikers are not too early in the morning, the birds are no longer there. So both can perhaps work together: attractive routes and still respect and consideration for wildlife animals.

The sustainability of the results is given by a transferability of the results. This can serve as a basis for a further investigation, for example of the habitats of wild animals. In 2018, for example, another project "Regional.Netz.Natur" was launched for the whole district. This project aims to bring together all stakeholders involved in the use of nature. A superior network for the entire region has been established.



On the one hand, this should provide a platform for the exchange of opinions and information, and on the other hand, it should provide a basis (figures, facts, and data) that is recognized by everyone for various visitor guidance projects. Within the framework of this project, wildlife habitats of sensitive game species were modelled. With the participation of wildlife biologists from the nature park, potential winter habitats of chamois were modelled, for example, on the basis of presence data in winter. These can be made available as a decision basis for quiet zones. The nature park will use these data in the planning of zoning within the framework of the five-year management plans.

In addition, the locations of deer feedings and official wildlife rest zones were located in the nature park. These are included in the zoning and were already taken into account during winter management. The data are also used as the basis for a 5-year management plan.

The primary aim is to control tourist flows in endangered regions and additionally their awareness to learn and appreciate the added value of nature through the measures introduced in the pilot actions.

To ensure, that the targets of the overall CEETO project, action plan with all pilot actions and the management plan will be achieved, ongoing meetings are planned to discuss further steps, the current working steps and the general progress of the project. Besides, there is the possibility for short term meetings with the focus on strategic planning and developing the future management plan. If it is necessary to involve the important stakeholders and landlords, they will be invited to the meetings to bring in their input and opinions.

Additional qualitative data came from the placemats. They showed the highest values of one - day - tourists. It should be a goal for the next years to increase overnight - stays in the nature park to increase regional tourist development.

3.2. Implemented Managerial Activities

Generally two main managerial activities were implemented. The one was raising awareness for visitors and locals in Söltkätler nature park, the other was the guidance of visitors based on the data of the habitat models and the knowledge of the stakeholders involved in this issue.

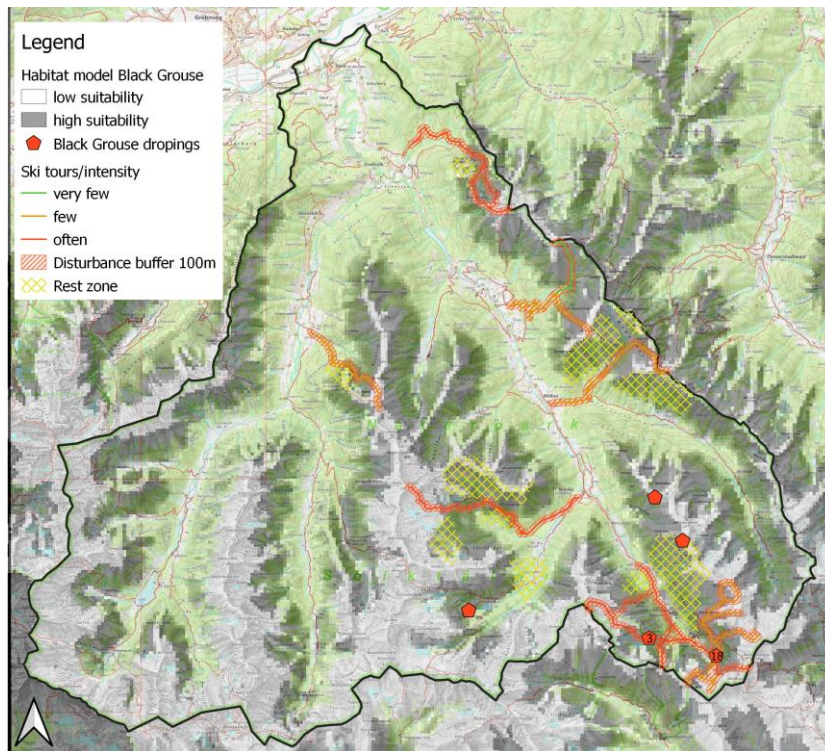


Figure 9: The map with ski routes and rest areas for wildlife show: mostly voluntary - rest zones allow enough space for ski routes, so that both can be together in the same space, human being and wildlife animal.

For winter seasons a ski tour folder was produced with information for the guests about wildlife animals and their habitat needs. This folder also is an instrument for the guidance of visitors, which offers attractive ski routes but also the graphic presentation of rest areas for wildlife animals with the request not to enter these areas. It also gives reasons why wildlife is particularly endangered in winter and how the human impact on them can be kept as low as possible.



Figure 10: An excerpt from the ski tour folder: Always with information about wildlife animals and the alpine pasture.



Raising awareness also took place in 10 workshops open for everybody in connection with the value of alpine pasture and alpine farming. So especially locals should be pointed out to the special environment, its protection and how to cultivate and work with it and how to present it to tourists.

For summer also the leaflet (400 distributed) with information about sustainable tourism was produced as part of the CEETO-project, but also a folder with an overview of hiking trails and managed alpine huts (as mentioned above).

In order to promote the sustainable tourism offer of the park and to sensitize tourists to a conscious visit, the following ideas/activities of “communication and awareness” are foreseen and will be discussed with stakeholder for the final implementation.

Sustainable and near natural tourism offers and a corresponding information needs to be prepared, communicated and easily accessible. Information materials have to contain not only events and guided tours and special features of the region, but also information about the appropriate behaviour in nature. Topics like visitor steering and a holistic experience as well as the sustainable management if issues, related to tourism and leisure time (trash, transport, overnight stays, etc.) need to be considered within the information materials.

	Topic	Referee	Date	Location	Notes	participants	done / remaining
1	alpine and pastoral agriculture and new ideas to recultivate	Thomas Schranz	November 9th 2018	Kultursaal St. Nikolai	general lecture and podium discussion, new ideas how to support farmers for ongoing cultivation of alpine pastures	16	done
2	property ownership conference	Naturpark Sölktaier	November 14th 2018	Sölkstube	information and discussion light barriers	3	done
3	future dialogue	ECO Institute	April 12th 2019	Restaurant Hubertus	presentation and evaluation, development of future measurements and strategies	16	done
4	effects of global warming on our home gardens	Klaus Wanninger	May 11th 2019	Schloss Großsölk	presentation and observation of the development of vegetation	31	done
5	safety when leading groups	Uwe Grinzinger	May 13th 2019	Schloss Großsölk	lecture about safer guiding of groups, planning of tours, checking weather conditions, legal conditions etc.	9	done
6	nutritive landscape	Michael Machatschek	June 22nd 2019	Sölkstube	presentation of different forms of land use	12	done
7	diversity of alpine pastures in the Sölktaier Nature Park - botany as the main theme	Klaus Spadinger	July 6th 2019	Kaltenbachalm	day event, understanding and presenting of alpine meadows	11	done
8	shrew in alpine pastures - small wildlife	Christine und Stefan Resch/Apodemus	July 13th 2019	Schloss Großsölk	half day event, understanding and presenting of small wildlife	0	did not happen due to a lack of participants
9	marmot and snowmouse	Christine und Stefan Resch/Apodemus	August 28th 2019	St. Nikolai	introduction in alpine wildlife and their needs	8	done
10	first aid on solo alpine hiking tours	Klemens Fraunbaum	October 3rd 2019	St. Nikolai	first aid under alpine conditions for guides, hiker, hunters, farmer etc.	8	done

Tab. 1: List of workshops done for implementation of pilot action “raising awareness”.

9 of the 10 planned workshops held for “raising awareness” - “gemeinsam drüberschauen” were held to different topics (s. list above).

The most important event for the region was the “future dialogue”, held in April 2019. Interested locals were invited and discussed general topics for the region and how to go on with them. The Workshop was moderated by “E.C.O.” an office specialized for creating management plans for protected areas. The three topics discussed were filtered from an questionnaire of the youth in the region (young people from 14 up to 29 years), which was presented at the workshop. The event can be seen as the beginning of participatory working on the 5 years management plan for the nature park.



Figure 11: Lisa Wolf from “E.C.O” moderating the future dialogue.

3.3. Deviation from the forecasted workplan activities

The snow masses in winter 2018/2019 prevented the monitoring in the way the nature park wanted to carry out. As it is mentioned in 3.3 (management activities) it was mostly not possible to map the tracks of ski tour activity to get exact data about the frequency of tourism activity in winter. Instead of this the summit books were evaluated to get some information about visitors in wintertime. For sure there is a dark figure in the summit books, because not everybody writes into the book (only the entries could be counted). The assumption is that the dark figure is slightly higher in summer than in winter. Deviations from the real number are probable, but the ratio between summer and winter remains quite similar.

Furthermore, there is a dark figure for the light barriers, as it is not possible to distinguish between two people walking besides each other. This is counted as one person. This is especially the case with wider



paths, as it is with St. Nikolai, Tuchmoar and Breitlahn. Only the ways to Deneck and Mössnakar are narrow enough to allow passing by only one visitors after another. This has to be taken into account that a certain percentage has to be added to the data obtained.

In both summers there was also the problem that one light barrier at Broadlahn was reversed after a week so that no data were recorded anymore

The placemats handed out 2019 had no return. Presumably their nice look was a reason for tourists to take them altogether.

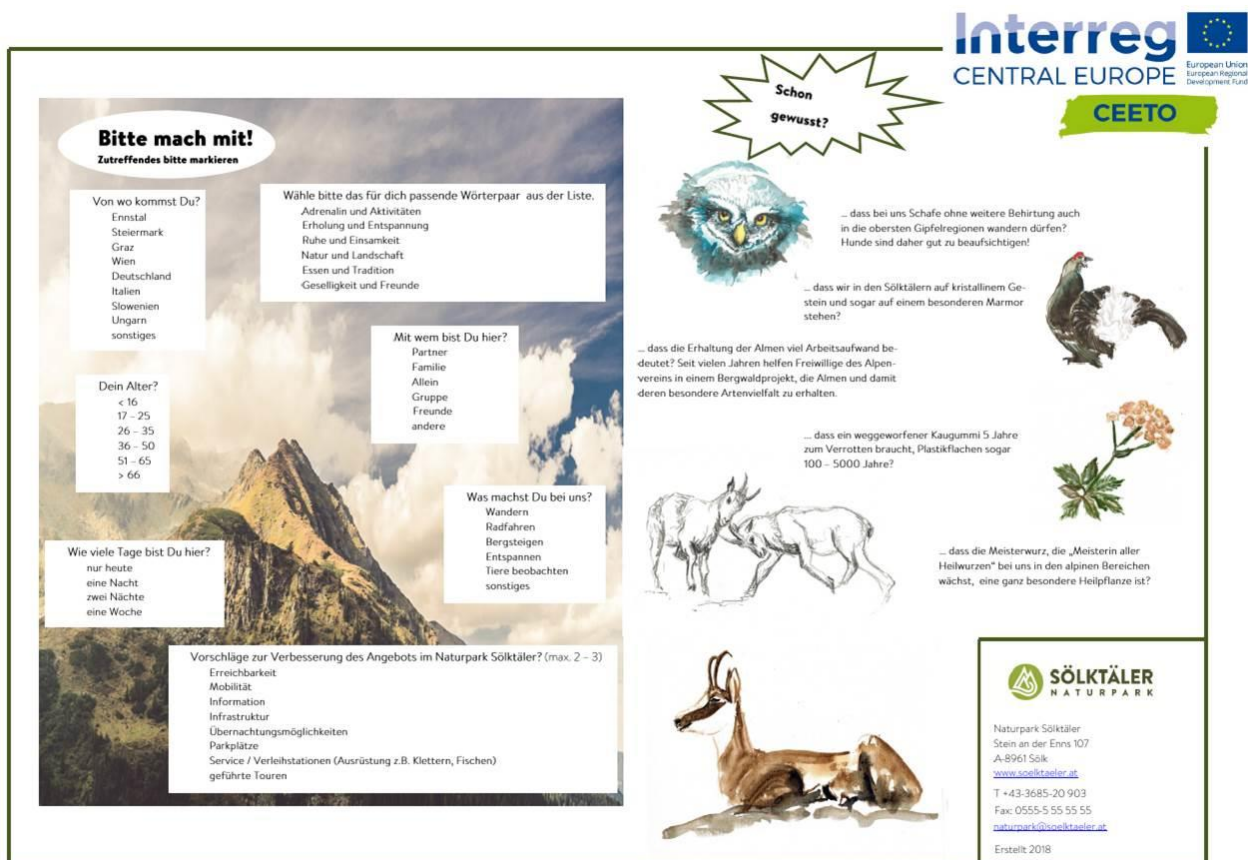


Figure 12: Placemats for tourists with questionnaires (left) and some informations about fauna and flora (right) distributed at huts, restaurants, landlords.

The hand counting of tourists in St. Nikolai was not repeated 2019. The high workload and costs, which were not recognised by CEETO, did not allow for repetition.

4. Achieved Results



4.1. Touristic pressure reduction

The monitoring data of tourists, skiers and populations of wildlife animals are essential for achieving the goals of sustainable tourism in the protected area with the main aim to keep and steer the guests in the right trails and routes. The monitoring results are used to assess whether the defined objectives have been achieved or whether any necessary corrective action needs to be taken. They are a perfect basis for an area-wide spatial planning management measures.

Since the touristic pressure in the nature park is still low and will automatically increase in the next years (part of a intensive touristic use in the whole region around) the area in the park can be planned spatially now for the future. This is much more efficient than trying to regulate an already high and unguided touristic stream.

4.2. Tourist experience improvement

In context with monitoring and management measures the knowledge of tourists about the importance of alpine meadows, their preservation, sensitive habitats and the need of wildlife animals was permanently improved. At the hand counting station at St. Nikolai people were informed and it was discussed with them (2018). Placemates were made for information for tourists and about their motivations. The two folders (“Ski tours” and “hiking and alpine huts”) gave lots of informations about the nature park, correct behaviour to decrease human impacts and to raise awareness for preservation of the cultivated landscape etc. The workshops for inhabitants should increase their knowledge about nature and the needs of fauna and flora and make them ambassadors of the nature park and its concerns.

4.3. Socio-Economic Benefits

Socio-Economic benefits were mainly expected from the workshops for the locals. They should learn about their environment, how to protect it, how to present it for tourists and what they can present and raise touristic awareness to preserve for future.

Socio-economic awareness will be presumably generated also from our summer - folder which tries to guide tourists to the alpine huts. Also the winter folders which were dispensed in the whole region Schladming - Dachstein can attract tourists and train their environmentally friendly behavior as well.

Generally the implementation of the management plan with the aims of raising awareness of the locals and support the preservation of the alpine meadows will give a significant input for socio-economic benefits of the region.

However, it can be said in advance that the main objective of the pilot actions is to reduce the impact of human activity on wildlife, their habitats and preservation of the environment. In general, the results of the entire data (quantitative from visitor countings, bird population; qualitative from questionnaires) are interpreted and serve as basis for the target-performance comparison of the five year strategy for nature preservation also for socio-economic benefits for the locals.



5. Conclusion

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 a 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.

Our winter folder was praised not only by the locals. It is seen as a very good example for tourist management in the whole region and neighbour areas asked for the allowance for imitation.

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 enthrall 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 reziprocally. 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 extends. 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 an long term conex. 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 continuous.

Totally the whole project gave good initiations and impacts for the further development. We have good basics now, which can be used and build on it in the future.



6. Appendix

The orange dots mark the locations of the light barriers (visitor counting spots), but apparently the counters only worked during the summer months.

