

NATREG team and students of the master course of science for the "Management of Protected Areas" at the Alpe-Adria-University of Klagenfurt on an excursion in Vellacher Kotschna



NATREG newsletter 03

October 2010

Dear readers,

Welcome to the 3rd issue of NATREG newsletter. We are happy to say that our project is in its full swing. All activities are being implemented according to the work plan and that is something we are really proud of.

The Second Evaluation Report of the project, its activities and partnership until the end of Reporting period 3.2., prepared by external expertise Meritum, shows that our project is recognised as a quality project with good aims and that so far, struggles for punctual implementation of its action bring fair results.

Since our last "meeting", three new brochures were printed and disseminated among stakeholders and as we speak, local trainings are being carried out, management plans are in preparation ... more details about what we have been doing from June until the end of October are available on the following pages prepared by partners. Let us just mention here that the challenging goal to change stakeholders' perception of protected nature from negative to positive does not seem so impossible and with a huge amount of willingness and listening it can be achieved!

The year 2010 is basically coming to an end which means that we have just a little more than seven months until the end of the project in July 2011. How to stay on schedule with all the set tasks that still need to be accomplished and how to perform these tasks in accordance with the project's high standards will be one of the main topics discussed at the 5th Steering Committee Meeting on November 9th in Graz.

In this issue:

2 What have NATREG partners been doing since late spring?

8 Joint strategy for integrated management of protected areas in South East Europe

9 Habitat networking in Styria

11 Klagenfurt NATREG partners Meeting

12 Presenting our Austrian partners

*Till next reading, develop with nature!
NATREG team*



Trying in practice different workshop methods at partner training in Klagenfurt



Workshop in the nature of the PA "Vellacher Kotschna"

Best practice study visit to the Nockberge national park

What have NATREG partners been doing since late spring?

Well, as you will see, last five months were really busy for the whole NATREG team.

At the end of June and the beginning of July, a **partnership training** was held in Klagenfurt where we were introduced with Training manual and techniques. However, there is no way around bureaucracy, so SCM and QMB meetings were held to acknowledge the work done and to establish what to do next. The last day was reserved for those the most pursuant for whom a best-practice study visit to the Nockberge national park was organised.



From May until the end of August, some **actions on bog habitats in Pohorje pilot area** were carried out, so a restoration action plan for hydrology improvements and overgrowth removal at the Klopnovška bogs and an action plan for the improvement of tourism infrastructure at the Lovrenška bogs (all within the Pohorje PA) were prepared. Part of the improvement of tourism infrastructure was already carried out by the local mountaneering society.

Meanwhile, **Italian, Croatian and Serbian brochures** were printed and disseminated among stakeholders.



Works done at Lovrenška bogs (bellow left) and at Klopnovška in PA Pohorje





SWOT workshops with foresters (left) and agricultural sector (right) delivered a lot of usable results.



Further activities also took place in the **Carinthian protected area**. Comprehensive natural research was launched in June and should be largely finished during this autumn. Ongoing individual meetings and involvement of the stakeholders intensified as well. Another important task was the presentation of the NATREG project at the 25th International Conference on Alpine Pastures held from August 18-20 in Appenzell, Switzerland.

In June, the Lead partner organised **four SWOT workshops** with representatives from forestry, game & hunting and tourism sectors who tried to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for the Pohorje pilot area.

As a result of individual SWOTs, **a joint SWOT workshop** with all relevant sectors was held in Maribor on 14 October, aiming to finish identifying and setting up a common vision and strategic objectives to be reached. The event, organised by Lead partner in cooperation with REC, was very successful. With 37 very eager participants from different sectors we updated the findings from previous SWOTs and very creatively developed a basis for creating a vision.

The didactic nature conservation game "Harmonize the interests", prepared and printed by the Lead partner, was "tested" in the field by a group of geography students and by a group of employees of the IRSNC playing it and trying their best to harmonise interests. It was also translated into English and put on the project's homepage so all partners can use it as well and on the SEE webpage.

The director of IRSNC Darij Krajčič, Ph.D., also tried the didactic nature conservation game



Working atmosphere at the joint SWOT & VISION workshop for Pohorje (up and below)





Drava at Dalekovac

On 30 August, the Institute for Spatial Planning of the Koprivnica-Križevci County organised **a boat tour to the pilot site along the Drava river from Donja Dubava to Jesenkovo.**

Besides experts from the Institute for Tourism, employees of the Institute for Spatial Planning of the Koprivnica-Križevci County and public institutions for managing protected natural values in the Koprivnica-Križevci County, involved in the NATREG project, the study visit was also attended by the director of the Institute for Nature Protection of the Republic of Slovenia Darij Krajčič, Ph.D., and the Koprivnica-Križevci County prefect Darko Koren,

On August 31st we organised **the first workshop in Novo Virje**, which was attended by 40 experts, employees of municipalities, Croatian Forests, Croatian Waters, hunting and fishing associations from the Koprivnica-Križevci County. In the name of the Lead partner, Darij Krajčič, Ph.D., expressed his welcome to all participants, followed by various presentations, including the concept of natural resources for tourism development and studies with a detailed elaboration of tourist infrastructure for the Lepa Bakovci by the Institute for Tourism Studies.

After the lectures, we organised a workshop on the topics of nature, tourism, SWOT analysis of space and environmental protection. Conclusion of the workshop was that this area should be preserved and that it has a great tourist potential which should be further developed. Through the survey, all workshop participants agreed that this area is suitable for the development of ecotourism, agriculture, hunting and fishing activities.

On the boat tour along Drava (at Legrad)



In the week from 21–24 September, the Lead partner organised in Ljubljana **a national training in the frame of WP4** where a group of experts from the firm 'Dialogue matters' from UK (Diana Pound, Jim White, Katherine Hardcastle and Bryony Pound)

trained a group of 30 people from different sectors (nature conservation, nature parks, forestry and fishery service, water management, regional center for environment, etc.) **on stakeholders' participation.** During those four days we learned about techniques of identifying stakeholders, techniques of participation and negotiating, how to prepare a good workshop and – what is probably the most important – on designing a stakeholders' participation process.

At the beginning of the training, probably none of the participants had a clear vision what we would do and learn about. However, by the end of day four, when evaluation questionnaires were given out, the training received excellent 9/10 points.



'Dialogue matters' team: Katherine Hardcastle, Jim White and Diana Pound, who's training was really a valuable experience





The presentation of NATREG at LORIST fair (left) in Novi Sad, Serbia, and at Ljubljana's Nature-Health fair (right)

Serbian partner Vojvodinašume participated at the LORIST fair, a traditional event focused on hunting, fishing and sport, this year organised for the 43rd time. The fair, which took place in Novi Sad from 28 September to 3 October, is dedicated to nature lovers and it is an opportunity to present fishing and hunting possibilities. Its focus is on business-professional presentation and it is enriched by numerous exhibitions. An important part of PE "Vojvodinašume" programme was the presentation of protected areas that are managed by the enterprise as well as the international projects, such as NATREG.

A traditional **Nature-Health fair** was held in Ljubljana from 7–10 October, at which **the Lead partner presented the NATREG project** and its goals. Also a prize drawing was organised with NATREG T-shirts, pens, walking sticks and an exercise book as a reward for answering a simple question about Pohorje.

Croatian partners also started with their WP4 trainings. The first one took place in the beginning of October in Čambina where stakeholders were presented with nature protection activities in the Koprivnica-Križevci County and later on they worked in groups discussing various topics.

The NATREG project was promoted by our Italian partners through a thematic stand, informal speeches and the delivery of project material **at the first edition of the Veneto Parks Award 2010**, held in Cà Vendramin on 8 and 9 October.

Basic information on the application of NATREG project in the Po Delta area towards the creation of one interregional park, as well as the trans-national strategy carried out by the trans-national partnership, were spread out across the wide public, mainly composed of the administrators of the other five Veneto Parks (Dolomite of Belluno and Ampezzo National UNESCO parks, Lessinia, Colli Euganei and Sile river regional parks) plus the international MA Park Authority (Camargue), stakeholders from ecological and natural associations, students and municipalities within the Po Delta area. More than 300 people took part in the event that anticipates the next regional NATREG workshop to be set up in Verona on 18 and 19 November 2010.



One of the events at Veneto Parks Award 2010

The participants of the Čambina workshop in Koprivnica-Križevci County





NATREG publications at CIPRA expert conference

Carinthian partners also attended the **annual CIPRA** (International Commission for Protection of Alps) **expert conference** in Semmering, Austria from 14–16 October. Within the general topic “the Alps in Transformation”, more than 100 participants from “Alpine countries” focused on issues of “Peripheral Regions between Wasteland and Hope”. Further efforts were dedicated to organising workshops which will take place in November 2010 and January 2011; the basic content of the workshops will be **green networks and cross-border cooperation**.

As a part of NATREG project, a nature conservation action “**Cleaning of overgrown grasslands in the Pohorje**” took place on 16 October. The campaign was attended by more than 30 participants representing government institutions (SFS and IRSNC), local authorities (municipalities Zreče and Mislinja), companies (Unitur, GG Slovenj Gradec), non-governmental organisations (mountaineering clubs, hunting clubs) and individuals. At the gathering point near the top of Mulej peak, representatives of IRSNC Gregor Danev and Jurij Gulič welcomed the participants and presented the aim of the action. The goals of the nature conservation action were: to clean overgrown plains around Mulej peak, to alert the public about the importance of pastures in the Pohorje and, finally, to establish constructive cooperation between state institutions, local authorities and individuals by reviving nature-friendly and sustainable management of grasslands in the Pohorje which would improve the habitat for numerous species of birds living in the area.

Participants of nature conservation action



Felling trees (below) and loading residues on a tractor trailer

The participants were divided into three working groups, one for each location, and were assisted by professional forest workers with chain saws. The company Unitur provided a tractor with a trailer which was used for the removal of logging residues. The work was completed in early afternoon, followed by a warm lunch (provided in collaboration with the Municipality of Zreče and the company Unitur) and socialising in good atmosphere. All participants agreed that such actions have to be repeated in the future years.



After the completion of nature conservation action, the representatives of IRSNC and SFS (regional unit Slovenj Gradec) visited the areas that were cleaned during the campaign – the work was carried out meticulously (without logging residues) – and agreed on how to clean the overgrown areas in the regional unit of Slovenj Gradec (SFS): the area near the top of Jezerski vrh and the area to the west of Rogla.



The beautiful Prilozje pond in Bela krajina, photo: Dušan Klenovšek, IRSNC

Belokranjska pogača is a hallmark of Bela krajina - it is prepared according to a special traditional recipe (bellow right)

On the 21st of October, **Regional environmental centre Ljubljana** organised a **one-day training for stakeholders from Pohorje**, namely we took them to a **site visit to Bela krajina**, a region in southeastern Slovenia.

The main purpose of this training – besides informal socialising of stakeholders from different groups, i.e. tourism workers and municipality officials – was to see good practices and project results of a particular region “live” and also to find possibilities how to implement these practices in our PA Pohorje, which we discussed at the afternoon workshop.

After quite a long journey from Maribor we first arrived at the Bela krajina Museum in Metlika where our hosts prepared a short presentation of the projects of interest: the Tourist destination Bela krajina, offering a wide range of region’s attractions; Viri življenja (Sources of life), which aims at preserving the local springs, pools and ponds; and Revitalisation of Bela krajina litter-raking forests (steljniki), through which they seek to prevent overgrowth by ferns and preserve significant cultural landscapes typical of Bela krajina. A very important common point of these projects is that the three municipalities of the region – Metlika, Črnomelj and Semič – are working together as partners.

On the way to our first location a local tourist guide joined us in the bus and explained a lot about the region, its tradition, people and nature. Or as they say: “vineyards and lowland in the heart of the vibrant countryside, the embrace of white birch trees and the call of the intact river Kolpa are a perfect place where you can forget your daily worries and relax.”

People from Pohorje are quite familiar with mowing by hand, which they demonstrated at steljniki



The steljniki (litter-raking forests) were fascinating in their beautiful colours and everyone had a chance to try out their mowing skills the old-fashioned way. Afterwards, we visited the Prilozje pond, which actually consists of two small and one large pond with beautiful surroundings and rich biodiversity that need to be preserved.

A trip to Bela krajina just wouldn’t be right if we hadn’t tried their local foods and beverages, which was also a good example of how to promote local products. Judging on the good atmosphere at this excursion (and the evaluation forms), the participants were very satisfied with the event we prepared for them, but of course, there is always room for improvement.

Belokranjska pogača

SESTAVINE ZA PRIPRAVO BELOKRANJSKE POGAČE SO:
30 dag mletih bele moke, 3 dl soljene vode, 2 žlici soli soli, 20 g masla, 1 žlica kvasca, 1 roba jaja, in 100g sladkorja

POSTOPEK PRIPRAVE:

Postopek 1:
Vse sestavine združimo v eni posodi in dobro premešamo. Za lepše mešanje v posodi zmešamo s pomočjo ročne mešalnice. Za lepše mešanje v posodi zmešamo s pomočjo ročne mešalnice. Za lepše mešanje v posodi zmešamo s pomočjo ročne mešalnice.

Postopek 2:
Za lepše mešanje v posodi zmešamo s pomočjo ročne mešalnice. Za lepše mešanje v posodi zmešamo s pomočjo ročne mešalnice.

Postopek 3:
Za lepše mešanje v posodi zmešamo s pomočjo ročne mešalnice. Za lepše mešanje v posodi zmešamo s pomočjo ročne mešalnice.

Postopek 4:
Za lepše mešanje v posodi zmešamo s pomočjo ročne mešalnice. Za lepše mešanje v posodi zmešamo s pomočjo ročne mešalnice.

Postopek 5:
Za lepše mešanje v posodi zmešamo s pomočjo ročne mešalnice. Za lepše mešanje v posodi zmešamo s pomočjo ročne mešalnice.

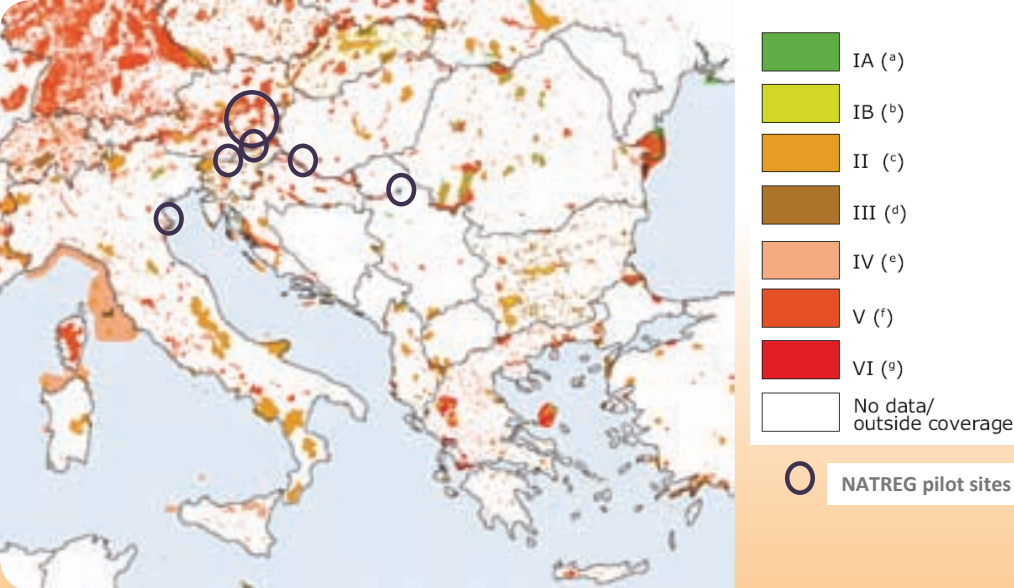
Postopek 6:
Za lepše mešanje v posodi zmešamo s pomočjo ročne mešalnice. Za lepše mešanje v posodi zmešamo s pomočjo ročne mešalnice.

Postopek 7:
Za lepše mešanje v posodi zmešamo s pomočjo ročne mešalnice. Za lepše mešanje v posodi zmešamo s pomočjo ročne mešalnice.

Postopek 8:
Za lepše mešanje v posodi zmešamo s pomočjo ročne mešalnice. Za lepše mešanje v posodi zmešamo s pomočjo ročne mešalnice.

Postopek 9:
Za lepše mešanje v posodi zmešamo s pomočjo ročne mešalnice. Za lepše mešanje v posodi zmešamo s pomočjo ročne mešalnice.

Postopek 10:
Za lepše mešanje v posodi zmešamo s pomočjo ročne mešalnice. Za lepše mešanje v posodi zmešamo s pomočjo ročne mešalnice.



Distribution of nationally protected sites (CDDA) in the SEE according to their IUCN categorization (Sources: EEA, 2010 and Dudley, 2008; adopted for JSIMPA)

Joint strategy for integrated management of protected areas in South East Europe

Gregor Danev, NATREG project manager

JOINT STRATEGY FOR INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE (JSIMPA) represents a series of documents which will help the NATREG project partners in dealing with the integrated PAs management planning.

Integrated management of PAs was first initiated by NGOs in the early 1980s (ICDPS) and means linking the nature conservation with the socio-economic development of human settlements.

Integration activities usually involve alternative income generation, i.e. from ecotourism, sustainable use of biological resources and provision of education or health services, which can have positive as well as negative consequences for nature. The objective of linking conservation and development activities is primarily to reduce threats to PAs by improving the well-being of local communities.

In late 1990s, the whole system of nature conservation has moved toward the larger scale, awholistic ecosystem approach. After looking at the PAs from the ecosystem point of view, the linkage between nature conservation and development is easier and without risking negative impacts on nature. To be confident in this approach, we have to identify and establish clear links and causation between conservation and development activities, conduct a factor analysis and put more attention on resolving conflicts and capital issues.

NATREG project partners come from organisations in various sectors (protected areas managers, other local, regional or state public and private organisations dealing with nature conservation, spatial and regional development, forestry management and other environmental issues), different South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme (SEE) countries with different history of protected areas (PAs) designation and nature conservation management.

Understanding the differences between partners and their historical background was the starting point for JSIMPA development, based on integration, participation and mutual understanding.

For this purpose JSIMPA is developing, together with other NATREG activities like Self-Assessment Analysis, knowledge capacity building trainings, workshops and meetings within the stakeholder involvement process for development of integrated management plans for pilot sites, development of PAs Training Manual (People, Parks and Money), etc. Taking into account principles of JSIMPA, the managers of PAs should be able to link nature conservation management and financing with sustainable development according to the principles of stakeholders' involvement, understanding and promoting the total economic value of certain PAs and understanding the importance of connecting the PAs into one larger nature conservation network.

importance of connecting the PAs into one larger nature conservation network.

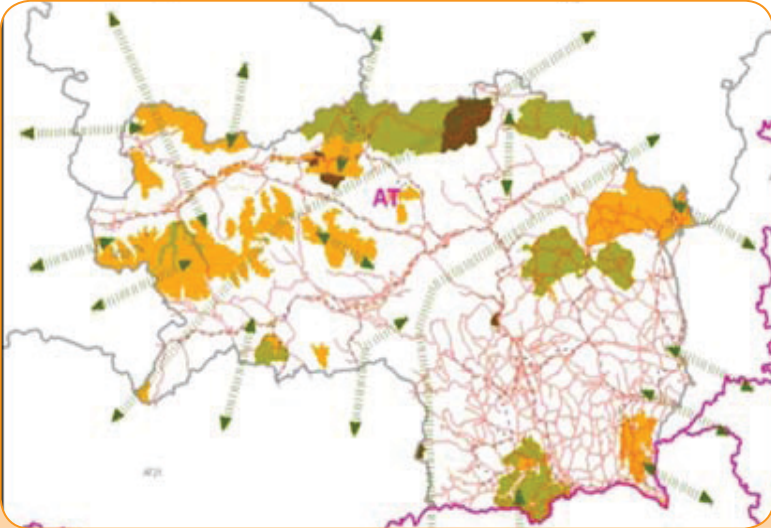
JSIMPA documents:

- Introductory Handbook on PAs Management Planning;
- Guidelines for the preparation of protected area business plan;
- Guidelines for economic evaluation of natural assets of the protected areas,
- Guidelines for regional, interregional and cross-border development strategies creating ecological corridors;
- Guidelines on stakeholder engagement in preparation of integrated management plans for protected areas.

There is no shortage of information in published documents available on the related topics. In JSIMPA we attempt to implement knowledge from existing literature and upgrade it with the expertise gained by the NATREG partnership through the management plans (MP) and the green networking strategies development process.

Introductory Handbook on PAs Management Planning aims to provide practical guidance on the integrated ecosystem management for PAs which are located within the landscapes of the SEE. In the SEE, the variety of PAs and its protection categories is very rich.

There are large forested areas, multiple use landscapes, coastal lagoons and rivers, islands, mountain ranges, some of them also include wilderness areas and reserves, extractive uses, and recreation areas. In addition to guiding the overall process of creating a management plan for a PA, this document also outlines certain minimal standards that are expected from NATREG project partners and also other managers of PAs in the SEE who will use it to make progress towards the development of integrated PAs management plans and for the fulfilment of European Union (EU) requirements. This document collects certain management planning principles and elements as proposed in different existing documents prepared by EU and international nature conservation organisations such as WWF, IUCN and others. It describes the MP development process, proposes the structure and content of the integrated MP for PA in which four guidelines provide wider information on selected topics identified as weak in the SEE area during the preparation and implementation of the NATREG project.



Protected Areas in Styria and cross-border migration axes



Large-scale connection axes

Habitat networking in Styria

Martin Wieser,

The Office of the State Govern. of Styria, Dept. 16.

In recent years, numerous protected areas were set up in European countries in accordance with the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directives. Special objectives and above all preservation measures were – and still are – specified in the management plans of the protected areas.

However, habitat requirements of native animal and plant species go beyond the protected areas (e.g. foraging, propagation, dispersion and migration). Therefore, the delimitation of protected areas by itself is far from enough to ensure biological diversity. Biological diversity can only be guaranteed if the protected areas are networked.

Therefore, land use planning must also develop and implement suitable measures outside the protected areas. In Styria, it is possible by means of so-called "regional development programmes" (decrees of the Styrian government according to the Styrian Spatial Planning Act) to define green zones and "ecological corridors" (habitat corridors) on a regional scale. Determination of green zones and habitat corridors in Styria follows the premise of multi-functionality of open spaces. Apart from the ecological habitat and connection function, open spaces also fulfil many positive functions for human beings in terms of common benefit and local recreation.

Therefore, the key open space functions with regard to delimitation of green zones and habitat corridors are:

- ecological function (vegetation, wildlife ecology)
- local recreation function
- common benefit and protective function.

The Styrian approach examines how individual protected areas and other ecologically valuable surfaces can be networked and how open spaces can be protected in a situation in which different demands for space compete with each other. A "green network" for Styria is to be proposed by modelling available data and applying a structured approach to mine expert knowledge. The elements of the green network should subsequently be incorporated in regional development programmes by defining green zones and habitat corridors ("ecological corridors").

Public relations activities in the Styrian project part are carried out on the regional level (5 workshops). Spatial "definition of habitat networking" is a comparatively recent issue. Therefore, it is necessary to get competent regional experts on board and obtain their support for a substantiated delimitation proposal.

Starting with a newly developed method for the uniform delimitation of green zones and habitat corridors throughout the province, relevant geodetic are fed into a GIS model.

Once the first results are available, the regional communication process will start with the aim of integrating additional expert knowledge and local knowledge in the project while gaining acceptance and support for the subject of habitat networking in Styria.

Project objectives

The project objective is to develop and implement an innovative method to delimit green zones and habitat corridors, to safeguard these by means of spatial planning instruments, and to carry out accompanying public relations activities.

Considering the multifunctionality of open spaces, key goals with regard to the delimitation of green spaces and networking of habitats are:

- to safeguard habitats and sanctuaries;
- to safeguard the interchange between the populations in order to prevent inbreeding and its consequences;
- to safeguard the connection axes and keep them clear in order to facilitate genetic networking, and to provide an additional withdrawal area;
- to safeguard landscapes with high (local) recreation value;
- to safeguard local recreation qualities while maintaining the area's character;
- to safeguard the connection of landscapes with high (local) recreation qualities and settlement areas;
- to keep clear areas where there is a high risk of exposure to the forces of nature;
- to safeguard climatic compensation areas in order to improve the quality of the environment.

Development and implementation of habitat networking in Styria

The habitat networking strategy consists of 2 phases. In the first phase, individual protected areas will be strategically linked by establishing large-scale connection axes. In the second phase, a detailed analysis will be carried out in individual sectors. Based on COST path analyses, existing spatial resistances will be established, regional wildlife corridors determined, important core habitats and ecologically valuable areas filtered and zones with high local recreation value will be identified.

These individual elements will then be put together in a "green network". Work will be performed on the regional scale.



Extract from the "ecological value" map



Extract from the Wildlife ecology / migration corridors

In terms of content, the focus will be on the following four sectors:

- Vegetation ecology: Preparation of a regional "ecological value" map. Based on zones with high ecological value and regionally specific detail data identified in this manner, ecologically important zones and corridors will be indicated.
- Wildlife ecology / migration corridors: Elaboration of a cross-border network of regionally important wildlife corridors.
- Local recreation: Preparation of a provincial map of local recreation value based on identifiable recreation qualities (availability of natural space etc.) and determination of demand potentials related to the residential environment (local recreation demand).
- Common benefit and protective effect: Analysis of basic data concerning the "common benefit and protective function" (retention areas, climate protection etc.) and representation on the province level.

These sector-specific partial results will be analysed in a Geographic Information System and superimposed on a uniform reference framework (100x100 m grid). The proposal for the delimitation of green zones and habitat corridors will be derived from the synthesis of sectoral results. Information about "HotSpots" and "Guidance Functions" is retained.

During regional workshops that were held in October and are jet to be held in November 2010, this proposal will be put up for discussion by regional stakeholders. Active integration of regional players is of great importance to achieve acceptance in the region and increases the quality and actuality of project results.

Extract from the resulting map





Klagenfurt NATREG partners Meeting Daniel Zollner, Klagenfurt university

The 4th NATREG project meeting took place from 30 June to 2 July 2010 in Carinthia at various locations in Klagenfurt, Bad Eisenkappel/Vellacher Kotschna and the Nockberge National Park.

On the first day the Steering Committee Meeting (SCM) and Quality Management Board (QMB) were held at the Sandwirth Hotel in Klagenfurt.

To conclude the evening, the NATREG participants followed the invitation of the City of Klagenfurt to visit the City Wineyard "Seewiese". After the presentation on urban planning and nature conservation in Klagenfurt, given by the head of the Urban Planning Department Robert Piechl, the local winemaker prepared for us a tasting of local wines.

The second and third day were dedicated to partner training issues.

We started the second day with keynote addresses and guest lectures, and continued with workshops on various topics in the field of protected area management and participation. Useful tools for the optimisation of public participation processes were imparted to the attendees.

Being the NATREG Day of the project partner Carinthia, 30 June was an appropriate occasion to hold a press conference. In addition to Carinthia Coordinator Andreas Berchtold and NATREG Project Manager Gregor Danev, a member of the Provincial Government Uwe Scheuch and the Principal of the University of Klagenfurt Heinrich C. Mayr also gave their statements and answered questions of the press.

After the completion of day's work there was a reception, hosted by the Carinthian Government in the "House of Artists" in Klagenfurt. The exhibition "natur.pur.2010" and the relaxing music provided an inspiring background for communication and international exchange.

Students and alumni of the master course of science for the "Management of Protected Areas" at the Alpe-Adria-University of Klagenfurt as well as the participants of the meeting for "Protected Area Management" conducted by "Netzwerk Land" joint the NATREG meeting participants for this evening.

On the third day of partner training the participants left Klagenfurt. After a bus trip through the mountainous landscape of the Karawanken range, the meeting carried on in the pilot area of the "Vellacher Kotschna". After the presentation of the municipality of Bad Eisenkappel-Vellach and the guest lectures, a visit to the protected area was scheduled. We carried out the outdoor trainings on the subject "Visitor guidance-visitor management" in the splendid summer weather of Vellacher Kotschna.

On the last day an excursion to the Nockberge National Park was organised for the particularly interested and committed participants. Presentations by Barbara Kircher (Carinthian alpine pasture inspector) and Norbert Kerschbaumer (Berchtold land.plan) on the subject of the Carinthian Alpine Pasture Revitalisation Programme and the visit of "best practice examples" gave the international audience an insight into the management of Alpine pastures with the focus on rural development and nature conservation.

In Vellacher Kotschna



NATREG partners are:



REGIONE del VENETO



agenzia regionale prevenzione e ambiente dell'emilia-romagna



ALPEN-ADRIA UNIVERSITÄT KLAGENFURT



REGIONALNI CENTER ZA OKOLJE Slovenija



In this issue we present Austrian project partners

- The Office of the Carinthian Government, Department 20 – Spatial Planning and Development, Department for Nature Conservation



Carinthian NATREG team

The Office of the Carinthian Government, Department 20 is a public authority responsible for the concerns of nature protection and management in Carinthia and has about 10 employees. The main department activities are management of protected areas, providing official expert opinions and contract-based nature conservation activities.

In recent years, increasing efforts were made on funding projects within the existing European programs such as INTERREG, and on the intensification of cooperation with neighboring Alpe-Adria regions.

In the NATREG project, the AKL Abt. 20 – Naturschutz has the role of a project partner. Its main tasks within the project are elaboration of the Joint Strategy for Integrated Management of protected areas, organisation of trainings and knowledge management, development of an integrated management plan for the protected area "Vellacher Kotschna" and preparation of regional and cross-border development strategies. The tasks are mainly executed by the external consultants Berchtold land.plan, E.C.O. and Ecocontact.

- The Office of the State Government of Styria, Depart. 16 – State Planning and Regional Development

The Department 16 of the Office of the State Government of Styria is responsible for the fields of spatial planning (at the state and regional level), regional development (especially EU Structural Funds programmes such as "Regional Competitiveness", "European Territorial Cooperation" and LEADER) and associated technical foundations as well as consulting service for municipalities in planning and building of technical infrastructure. Dealing with these fields in daily work leads us to great experience in development of regions with all the aspects of motivation, communication and coordination, regulation and stimulation.

In the sovereign field of Spatial Planning, the Depart. 16 prepares development programmes (regulations) for the level of the whole state area of Styria as well as at the level of the regions on the basis of the Styrian Act on Spatial Planning. Thus, the department uses spatial planning as one tool out of a set of instruments to bring up the regions in a sustainable way – or to ensure quality of life and welfare standards in regions with decreasing population.

Within the NATREG project, the key activity deals with the subject of the "Green Net" as a link between the fields of nature conservation and spatial planning. Statewide the ecological function, the recreational function and the welfare function of free spaces will be documented and evaluated within and beyond protected areas. Within the frame of spatial planning, measures to maintain the functionality of free spaces will be established.

Therefore, NATREG-Styria is a good example for the role of spatial planning on a regional scale: apart from technical implementation of spatial planning results, it also has a coordinating function within the regional government authority, for example with the fields of nature conservation, traffic and transportation planning, economy and tourism.



Styrian NATREG team

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