

Trip Report

Settlements visited: Klagenfurt, Mallnitz, Upper Molltal /Carinthia/, Gosdorf, Sulmtaler /Stiria/ (Austria), Bled (Slovenia)

Protected Areas visited: National Park Nockberge, Hohe Tauern National /Carinthia/, Park Natura 2000 area Grenzmuur, Nature Park Sudsteirishes Weinland /Stiria/ (Austria), Triglav National Park (Slovenia)

Departure Date: 27 October 2010, time: 05:40AM

Arrival Date: 2 October 2010, time: 04:40AM

Background

During Inception workshop on 8 February 2010 has been agreed that in terms of experience sharing not only be Georgia, but also other countries from which the project will strive to learn. After negotiations with responsible representatives from Austria, Belarus and Georgia Austria was chosen for study tour for following reasons: (i) the country has different types of protected areas which are managed with wide community participation; (ii) proposed protected areas cover similar mountainous biomes in Carinthia and Styria; (iii) host organization's (headed by Umweltbüro Klagenfurt) co-financing (organization of study tour, transportation, guidance and translation) will exceed EUR20,000.00.

On August 10 UNDP Resident Representative invited governors of Syunig and Vayots Dzor marzes to nominate 2 persons for study tour in Austria, 27 September - 1 October 2010; request for nomination of 5 persons was send to the Minister of Nature Protection on August 18. In addition, key person from organization responsible for implementation of Component 1, Programme Associate and Project Manager were included in the delegation.

The list of participants with contacts is attached as an Annex 1.

Activities

27 September 2010

- 05:40-11:15

Departure from Zvartnots airport and arrival to Klagenfurt (Austria)

- 12.30-13.00

Registration in the Sandwirth hotel

- 14.00-16.30

Meeting in the office of the Federal Government of Carinthia

1. Introduction and welcome speeches by officers of Carinthian Government
2. Introduction of Armenian delegation, their expectations from the study tour.
3. Dr. Kurt Rakobitsch: Presentation Network of Protected Areas in Carinthia. Introduction. Financing of protected areas, distributed by national and local sources.
4. Questions and answers

- 16.15-18.00

Meeting in the Office of Umweltbüro Klagenfurt GmbH

1. Presentation of the program
2. Technical and organizational questions
3. Wishes and expectations of participants

-18.00-20.00

Guided shopping tour in Klagenfurt

28 September 2010

- 08:30-09:30

Departure from Klagenfurt and arrival to Bled (Slovenia)

- 09:30-12.30

Meeting in the Information Center of Triglav National Park with administration of Triglav NP and Director of Nature park of Julian Prealps (Italy)

1. DI Dr Daniel Bogner: Presentation of “Eco Regio Alpe Adria: Sustainable regional development in National Park Nockberge, Triglav National Park and Nature park of Julian Prealps”.
2. Stefano Santi: Presentation Designing management and business plans in Nature park of Julian Prealps (Italy) with a view to make use of local income-generation activities
3. Davorin Koren: Presentation Development of mechanisms for local income-generation and business opportunities related to rational use of resources in Triglav National Park.
4. Mojca Smolej: Presentation Public awareness and outreach programs in Triglav National Park
5. Questions and answers
6. Mojca Smolej: Guided excursion through Information Center
7. Buffet lunch

- 13:00-14:30

Departure from Bled (Slovenia) and arrival to National Park Nockberge

- 14.45-16.00

Meeting in the Office of National Park Nockberge

1. Heinz Mayer: Presentation Visitor support, public relations and press relations in National Park Nockberge
2. Michael Jungmeier, manager of E.C.O.: Presentation Establishment of Biosphere reserve in Nockberge NP
3. Questions and answers

- 16.15-17.00

Walk over the path Nockalmstrasse in National Park Nockberge

-17.15-19.30

Tour to local farmer and dinner

Farmer: Lecture Income generating activities in the mountain farm situated in protected area.

19.30-21.30

Departure from farmer's house and arrival to Klagenfurt

29 September 2010

08.00-10:00

Departure from Klagenfurt and arrival to Gosdorf and Trummer Lahn, Styria, Austria

10:00-12.30

Assessment of riverbed expansion in Natura 2000 area Grenzmur

1. Welcome words on behalf of Government of Styria by Manuela Weissenbeck
2. Welcome words on behalf of district Radkersburg by Dietmar Tschiggerl
3. Peter Partl: Introduction INTERREG project „Living space Lower Murtal“
4. Oliver Rathschüler: Introduction INTERREG project „Measures Lower Murtal“
5. Dr. Reinhold Turk: Assessment of expansion of riverbed of transboundary Mur River (Austria-Slovenia)
6. Visit to tower in Gosdorf within the scope of riverbed expansion

12:30-13:00

Departure from Gossdorf and arrival to Nature Park Südsteirisches Weinland

13:00–15:00

Lunch in „Sulmtaler Hendl“

1. Georg Zöhler: short statement Regional Specialities
2. Informal talks

15:00–16:00

Visit to the Sulmtaler Huhn farm

Georg Zöhler: introduction of traditional poultry farm

16:00–17:00

Visit to visitors center of Nature Park Südsteirisches Weinland

1. Welcome words by Peter Tschernko
2. Thomas Puch: The history of Nature Park Südsteirisches Weinland
3. Peter Hoffmann: Guided excursion through Information Center

17:00-19:30

Day finalization in wine tavern

1. Time for informal talks
2. Birthday celebration of S. Adamyan

19:30-21:30

30 September 2010

8:00-10:00

Departure from Klagenfurt and arrival in Mallnitz

10:00-13:00

Meetings in the BIOS Information Center of Hohe Tauern National Park

1. Welcome words by Günther Novak and Mag. Günter Mussnig
2. Mag. Günter Mussnig: Presentation to National Park and Tourism – Partner Organizations
3. Discussion with BGM Novak on the topic Hohe Tauern National Park – Tourism - Rural areas
4. Excursion through BIOS Information Center
5. Angelika Staats: Guiding walk on Nature Experience Trail Seebachtal

13:00-14:00

Lunch in Partner Hotel Alber (Restaurant Almstube)

1. Short welcome and introduction by region chairperson Mea Alber

2. Alber Junior: Presentation National Park Partners and Tauern Alpin Economic benefit

14:00-15:30

Transfer to Upper Mölltal and arrival to Kaiser Franz Josefs Höhe

15:30-18:30

Kaiser Franz Josefs Höhe

1. Welcoming by National Park Director Peter Rupitsch
2. Visit to Wilhelm-Swarovski-watching tower
3. Meeting with responsible of Großglockner Hochalpenstraße
4. Discussion about management of National Park and Glocknerstraße
5. Climate Change and Glacier
6. Feeding marmots

18:30-20:30

Kaiser Franz Josefs Höhe and arrival to Klagenfurt

1 October 2010

09:30-11:00

Wrap-up Meeting in the Umweltbüro Klagenfurt

Open Discussion: environmental topics in Armenia, possibilities for cooperation

11:00-16:00

City walk in Klagenfurt

16:30-16:45

Transfer to Klagenfurt Airport

18:15-04:40 (October 2)

Departure from Klagenfurt and arrival in Yerevan

Outcomes

Overall, the study tour was extremely useful. In Particular, participants learn about:

1. The multiple-use purpose of protected areas;
2. Financing of protected areas, distributed by national and local sources;
3. Establishment of management units at protected areas;
4. Community participation in protected area management;
5. Clauses on alleviation of potential conflicts between various national, regional and local interests engaged in protected area management;
6. Biodiversity conservation models adopted at protected areas;
7. Creation of protected areas and improvement of their management through:
 - 7.1 community discussions on the proposed protected areas,
 - 7.2 zonation of protected areas and boundaries for each zone;
 - 7.3 management units,
 - 7.4 engagement of communities in the management of the protected areas,
 - 7.5 having the sites officially gazette, and boundaries marked.
8. Designing a multiple-use protected area spatial plan;

9. Designing management and business plans with a view to make use of local income-generation activities, accounting principles, budgeting and grant writing:
 - 9.1 costing operational and capital needs,
 - 9.2 identifying the revenue sources from the central budget,
 - 9.3 development of mechanisms for local income-generation
 - 9.4 development of business opportunities related to rational use of resources,
 - 9.5 adapting the staffing tables and management plans to the scenario in which revenues are optimally matched with the cost needs;
10. Sustainable tourism activities in protected areas;
11. Conflict management;
12. Public awareness and outreach;
13. Special education programs for pupil of different ages;
14. Special information for disable persons
15. Information centers design;
16. Developing partnership: partner organizations for protected areas.

Future Steps

Armenian and Austrian counterparts agreed that exchange visit is important to know better each other and to achieve continuous cooperation on environmental issues and in protected area conservation in particular. Preliminary dates for return visit of Austrian counterparts in Armenia are third decade of May, first decade of June 2011. Austrian delegation will consist of representatives of (i) federal governments of Carinthia and Styria, (ii) heads of communities, (iii) protected areas administrations, including Triglav NP (Slovenia) and Julian Prealps Nature Park (Italy), and (iv) main organizers (Umweltbüro Klagenfurt GmbH, Freiland Environmental Consulting Civil Engineers Ltd., REVITAL Civil Engineers Ltd.).

Detailed schedule and topics to be discussed will be submitted to Austrian colleagues in mid-December. Prior to this all participants will submit to Project Manager their suggestions and expectations in written.

Karen Jenderedjian



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UNDP-GEF Medium Size Project
Development of Protected Area System in Armenia
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ANNEX 1

List of participants of study tour (Austria, Klagenfurt, 27 September – 1 October, 2010)

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Organizers

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Priv.-Doz. Mag. Dr. Gregory Egger	executive director
DI Dr Daniel Bogner	executive director
M.MSc Arpine Jenderedjian	manager of international projects

Freiland Environmental Consulting Civil Engineers Ltd.

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DI Hans Jörg Raderbauer	executive director
DI Oliver Rathschüler	executive director
DI Peter Partl	landscape planner

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DI Klaus Michor	executive director
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Governmental Organizations

Federal Government of Carinthia

Department 20 - Spatial Planning

Dr. Kurt Rakobitsch	Sub-department Manager Local and Regional Development and Nature Parks EU Programme Affairs
DI Angermann Michael	Spatial Impact Assessment Strategic Environmental Planning Regional Planning
DI.Mag. Wagner Johann	Protected Areas Management

International Nature Conservation Affairs

Regional Government of Carinthia

Günther Novak

Mayor of Mallnitz, National Park region

Federal Government of Styria

Dr. Reinhold Turk

Establishment of Natura 2000 area (Faunistic), Department of Nature Conservation

Dipl.-Ing. Manuela Weissenbeck

Speaker for Regional Planning and Support in South-West Styria, Department of Spatial and Regional Planning

Franz Kortschak

Head of BBL Feldbach, Department of Flood protection

Regional Government of Styria

Dietmar Tschigge

Chairman of Water Association, Water Supply district of Radkersburg, Project management

Georg Zöhrer

Project manager of Sulmtaler chicken (EU project), ex-mayor of Sulmtal.

Protected Areas

Nature Park South Styrian Wine Land

Peter Tschernko

Chairman of Nature Park South Styrian Wine Land

Thomas Puch

Executive director of Nature Park South Styrian Wine Land

Peter Hoffmann

Manager of Nature Park Visitors Center

National Park Nockberge

Heinz Mayer

Visitor support, public relations, press relations

Triglav National Park

Davorin Koren

director of National Park

Mojca Smolej

manager of information center in Bled

Nature park of Julian Prealps

Stefano Santi

director of Nature Park

Hohe Tauern National Park

Mag. Günter Mussnig

Head of Tourist Department

Angelica Staats

Educational and training programs, Rangers

DI. Peter Rupitsch

Director of National Park

ILLUSTRATIONS



Presenting gifts after meeting in Carinthian Federal Government



Directors of Triglav National Park (Slovenia) and Julian Prealps Nature Park (Italy) with translator



Walk over the path Nockalmstrasse in National Park Nockberge



Dinner in farmer's house with local specialties



Introducing INTERREG project „Living space Lower Murtal“



Group picture on the entrance of visitors center of Nature Park Südsteirisches Weinland



In the shop of Information Center (BIOM) of Triglav National Park



Group photo during the walk on Nature Experience Trail Seebachtal



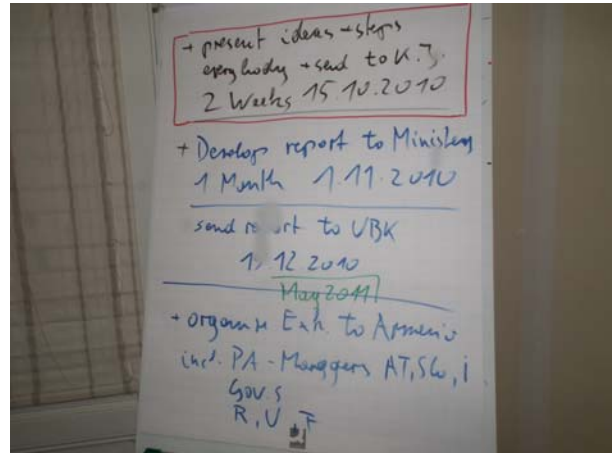
Interviewing Director of Hohe Tauern National Park



Glacier in Hohe Tauern National Park is drastically melting



Feeding marmots



Main outcome of wrap-up meeting: exchange visit of Austrian delegation in May 2010



Directors of Environmental Consulting Klagenfurt with Translator and Project Manager



The Dragon, symbol of Klagenfurt