

Dear participants of the Symposion,

It is a great pleasure for me that following the successful research symposia in the years 1996 and 2001 this year Kaprun Castle once again hosts the encounter of scholars from the vast field of protected areas research.

I am very proud to be the member of the Salzburg provincial government responsible for the largest protected area in the Alpine Space. Our endeavours in the field of nature conservation in the Hohe Tauern National Park require extensive ecological know-how which needs continuous adjustment on the basis of research findings. The appropriateness of targeted public funding, too, has to be justified and confirmed on the basis of scientific findings. And finally society is ready to protect only what it deems to be valuable. This assessment, again, is based on the unprejudiced knowledge of scientific facts and ecological interrelations.

In addition to the aspect of conservation, in my national park policy I've always been advocating the use of the park. It becomes increasingly clear that it is in this very field that research work and its findings can provide valuable input. Socioeconomic aspects have become topics of increasing interest for scientific analysis in protected areas research.

Research works in the fields of natural, social and economic sciences alike make an irreplaceable contribution to the further development of protected areas management in the Hohe Tauern National Park on a sound basis. And this is our ultimate goal when it comes to strengthening the position of the Hohe Tauern National Park as a recognized model region for sustainable development.

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in charge of national park policy***

ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

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