

The Hohe Tauern National Park and the Alpine Network of Protected Areas are proud to provide you the conference volume to the Third Symposium for Research in Protected Areas being held at the Burg Kaprun from September 15th to 17th, 2005.

Scientists and nature conservationists use the opportunity to exchange valuable information, new ideas as well as common interests, reaching far beyond boundaries of protected areas, countries and subjects.

Encouraged by the immense success already in 1996 and 2001 and the positive feedback give us pleasure again to offer sufficient time and space for the presentation and discussion for the numerous areas of interest of current research in protected areas in an extraordinary setting.

The Idea

Supported by the co-operation of the alpine wide Interreg IIIB project ALPENCOM which is managed and led by the Alpine Network of Protected Areas and which aim is to develop effective communication strategies among the alpine protected areas, we were looking for input from the entire alpine alliance of protected areas.

Along with scientific questions, various aspects of the wide spread field between the practical purposes of management and the scientific exploration of the natural and cultural landscape of protected areas should be illustrated.

Can research in protected areas offer a socially relevant contribution to a future orientated environmental science?

Does the flood of data, as well as the current methods and standards really help the practitioners and those who are responsible?

What results does research in Protected Areas need to achieve to be useful for Protected Area Management at the best?

Did the remarkable scientific achievements of the protected areas successfully anchor in the minds of the general public?

...were questions we raised which should stimulate all participants to enrich the current discussion.

The actual conference programme was established out of all received contributions. The programme should offer a broad variety of research projects and strategies in the alpine wide alliance of protected areas. 34 speeches and 32 posters from eight different countries are presented during the conference. Sincere thanks are due to all active participants.

Take much pleasure in reading the conference volume.

**For the Hohe Tauern Nationalparkrat and
the Network of Alpine Protected Areas**

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