Management plan

BIOSPHERE RESERVE
Kärntner Nockberge

TASKS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES
2015–2025

CORE ROLES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES
of the biosphere reserve
BIOSPHERE RESERVE
Kärntner Nockberge

Zonation
NAME:
Biosphere Reserve Salzburger Lungau & Kärntner Nockberge (prior Nockberge Nationalpark)

BIRTHDAY:
🌟 Recognized by UNESCO on: July 11, 2012

LEGAL BASIS:

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MAIN PLANNING GUIDELINE:
Management plan Salzburger Lungau & Kärntner Nockberge – Part Kärntner Nockberge

MUNICIPALITIES:
Krems in Kärnten
Reichenau
Radenthein
Bad Kleinkirchheim

POLITICAL DISTRICTS:
Spittal/Drau
Feldkirchen

INHABITANTS:
approx. 12,700

ALTITUDES:
2,440 m.a.s.l. (Großer Rosennock)
588 m.a.s.l. (Döbriach am Millstätter See)

MAIN LAND USES:
Agriculture, forestry, alpine pastures, tourism

MAIN TRANSPORT AXES:
Tauern Motorway, Nockalm road, Turracher road

TOTAL AREA/ZONATION:
Gesamtfläche: 48,500 ha
Nature zone/core zone
7,751,8 ha (16 %)
Transition zone
30,060,8 ha (62 %)
Buffer zone
10,693,5 ha (22 %)
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE
of the biosphere reserve

INSTITUTIONAL BODIES OF THE BIOSPHERE RESERVE FUND

In order to manage and promote the biosphere reserve the Government of Carinthia established a Biosphere Reserve Fund which has three main bodies with different functions and responsibilities.

The Biosphere Reserve Board of Trustees
Inter alia, the Board of Trustees is responsible for the issuing of funding guidelines of the biosphere reserve as well as for the resolution of the annual progress report and the annual statement of account.

Chair of the Biosphere Reserve Committee
This function is usually held by the responsible representative of the Government of Carinthia.

The Biosphere Reserve Committee
The Biosphere Reserve Committee has an advisory role to support the managing director of the biosphere reserve. Furthermore, it is responsible for the approval of funding requests.

MANAGEMENT

As of spring 2015 the management body comprises five full-time employees and two part-time employees. The staff is responsible for the management of the biosphere reserve and is fully in charge of the implementation according to the fields of action as defined in the management plan. In some cases, individual employees are able to cover several fields of action.

In order to fulfil the tasks in the field of environmental education and visitor communication, five biosphere reserve rangers support the management during the summer months. Their employment lasts for 6-8 months per year.
Already in 1995, the UNESCO Seville Strategy clearly defined biosphere reserves as places, which represent practical and concrete examples for the preservation and promotion of natural and cultural diversity as well as for sustainable development (Model and experimenting regions for sustainable development).

This ambitious objective can only work, if social, cultural, spiritual and economic needs of the local society are respected and considered and if the development is based on sound scientific foundation.

In order to meet these expectations and to promote sustainable development, the management of the biosphere reserve fulfills three key roles.

**DEVELOPING ROLE: DEVELOP & EXPERIMENT**

The biosphere reserve provides an opportunity for the region to strike out in a new direction towards a more sustainable society. Next to the preservation and furtherance of existing traditions and structures, the management puts a strong emphasis on the development and testing of completely new and innovative approaches.

Core question

Which practices in the region are unsustainable at present, and what would be a future-oriented complimentary and viable approach?

**COMMUNICATING ROLE: MEDIATE & COOPERATE**

The biosphere reserve region comprises numerous local stakeholders such as local NGOs, clubs, individuals and initiatives. The biosphere reserve serves as a hub to bring people, organizations, knowledge and ideas together in order to create an added value for the region.

Core question

Which aspects connect the region, what is the „largest common multiple“, what is its (concealed) identity?

**ORGANIZING ROLE: ORGANIZE & FUND**

The achievement of objectives set and fostering a positive development of the region requires a strong management body, which has sufficient competences, effective structures and adequate resources.

Core question

How do structures have to be organized in the 21st century in order to function properly and meet the requirements for a sustainable development?
The management plan is based on nine fields of action in total. They are the basic structure of the management plan of the biosphere reserve. Each field of action is structured as follows:

- Mission statement, objectives and indicators
- Implementation strategies
- Measures and project propositions

The objectives and packages of measures have a medium term orientation and represent a framework programme of the biosphere reserve for its work in the next ten years. Particularly individual measures may change or be adapted over time due to changes in the public support policies, due to unforeseen individual initiatives or newly opening opportunities. This is well in line with the philosophy of the management plan as long as new measures still contribute to the achievement of its objectives.

### AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY

Agriculture and forestry are key economic activities in the area Nockberge. It has shaped not only the landscape, but also its inhabitants. The cultivation and use of agriculture and forestry over centuries has contributed to the current typical cultural landscape of the region.

Thus, the conservation and further development of the agricultural and forestry sector represents a vital element of the biosphere reserve.

### NATURE & LANDSCAPES

The Nockberge represent a unique cultural and natural landscape. The biosphere reserve ensures to promote and preserve the characteristic habitats and species for future generations.
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

One of the key functions of a biosphere reserve is to promote sustainable development. The Nockberge are already well known as a tourist destination. In this sector, the biosphere reserve is one of numerous local actors. Thus, this field of action puts strong emphasis on the development of cooperations and the support of other local actors. The main objective is to become an important local actor and to create synergies and added-values with other local actors.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & SCHOOLS

The communication of knowledge and environmental education as well as education for a sustainable development are core functions and objectives of any biosphere reserve. The biosphere reserve considers itself as an active communicator, which provides target-group specific information to key target groups (particularly adults and children from the biosphere reserve region as well as visitors).

SCIENCE & RESEARCH

Science and research represent one of the core pillars of the biosphere reserve. It should extend the amount of available and relevant knowledge and support the future development of the region. The biosphere reserve acknowledges the importance of this pillar and actively supports the development of the biosphere reserve towards a space for research for a sustainable development.

COMMUNICATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS

The biosphere reserve sees itself as a regional key hub for information about sustainability and biosphere-reserve related topics. Thus, the biosphere reserve actively promotes information campaigns and frequently provides information for local residents on these topics.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

The biosphere reserve disposes of human and financial resources, which should be used most efficiently for the development of the biosphere reserve. Thus, well structured foundations and coordinated processes are preconditions for success.

ORGANIZATIONAL & COOPERATION DEVELOPMENT

In order to properly implement plans and the management plan the management body requires modern internal organizational structures, highly motivated and well trained staff, an efficient internal communication and good linkages to the regional network of stakeholders.

FINANCING & SUBSIDIES

An adequate budget is one of the preconditions for the work of the biosphere reserve and its long-term impact on the region. Thus, in order to secure sufficient and sustainable long-term funding, the biosphere reserve strives to diversify its sources of income and puts a strong emphasis on bringing additional funds into the biosphere reserve region.
The management plan follows a rather strict logical structure. Each measure contributes to the achievement of one (ideally several) objectives. Selected indicators measure if or to what extent an objective is achieved. Thus, these indicators are able to measure the progress in the implementation of the management plan. Furthermore, the biosphere reserve has a long-term monitoring concept (BRIM), which provides a set of indicators to observe and evaluate, whether the implementation of the measures have a real impact on the development of the region.
The continuous monitoring, whether the annually planned measures were implemented as foreseen and whether the predefined indicators are fulfilled, defines the efficiency of the management, but does not allow to draw conclusions on the impact of the measures. Giving the example of “Develop and modernize visitor infrastructures” it becomes obvious that it can be successfully completed but does not allow for an evaluation if it is resulting in increasing visitor numbers. With BRIM the biosphere reserve tries to bridge this „missing link“ by monitoring how the biosphere region changes over time and by evaluating how these changes link to the work of the biosphere reserve and the implementation of specific measures. The system is customized to the needs of the biosphere reserve and should document the development of the biosphere region by monitoring 12 key indicators, which cover four dimensions. It is based on a comparison of the relative development of the biosphere reserve region with a reference region with similar preconditions but without a biosphere reserve.