

Natura 2000 and Tourism

**Report on the International Expert Meeting at the
International Academy of Nature Conservation,
Isle of Vilm (Germany)
September 11 – 14, 2005**



Stichting

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1 INTERNATIONAL EXPERT MEETING NATURA 2000 AND TOURISM

From September 11-14, 2005 the German Bundesamt für Naturschutz (BfN) and the Stichting Recreatie, Kennis- en Innovatiecentrum organised an international expert meeting about Natura 2000 and Tourism. The meeting was held at the International Academy of Nature Conservation on the Island of Vilm in the Baltic Sea. It was a sequel to the expert meeting which the Stichting Recreatie organised last year in Houthem - Sint Gerlach on behalf of the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food quality.

The idea behind these meetings is to exchange experiences among European countries about the opportunities that Natura 2000 has to offer for tourism and recreation. At the same time participants discuss problems they have encountered while implementing Bird and Habitat directives and their preferred solutions.

During the meeting in 2004 it was decided to organise a second expert meeting at which also new EU members from Eastern Europe would be present. The Bundesamt für Naturschutz volunteered organising it and invited various participants from Eastern Europe. And they came: there were participants from eleven countries. On the first day several participants presented cases from their own countries. On top of that workshops were held, discussing collective problems such as communication, acquiring local support and monitoring. It turned out that Western and Eastern European countries had widely differing views about the links between nature and tourism.

On the second day there was an excursion on the Island of Rügen, where the chairman of the Rügen Tourism Association spoke about tourism and nature protection on the island. Afterwards the group visited the Jasmund National Park.

The participants of this expert meeting indicated in an evaluation to be quite pleased with this meeting. Next year Hungary is willing to organise a meeting on this subject in which they want to involve the Stichting Recreatie.



2 INTRODUCTION TO THEME AND GOALS OF THE MEETING

by Emile Bruls, Stichting Recreatie, Dutch Expert Centre on Leisure and Recreation



At stake at this meeting is the relationship between the comprehensive European ecological network Natura 2000 and tourism. We are here to share experiences and exchange good practices and ways of solving potential problems. Some of you are stakeholders in either nature conservation or tourism; others are policy makers or involved in the management of nature areas or tourism; and some of you are researchers, here to exchange information.

The first expert meeting on Natura 2000 and leisure, defined as tourism, outdoor recreation and nature sport was held in the Netherlands in 2004. The Stichting Recreatie organised this meeting on behalf of the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality. The meeting was attended by representatives from ministries of the Netherlands, Germany, France, Great Britain, Belgium (both Flanders and the Walloon Region) and the European Commission. One of the conclusions of last year's meeting was that it is important to communicate good practices and to have a brochure with good examples. On behalf of the Dutch Ministry the Stichting Recreatie compiled such a brochure: *Jewels in the Crown*. This booklet was distributed all over Europe, received much attention and is also accessible through several internet sites (e.g. www.stichtingrecreatie.nl; <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/home.htm>).

The participants also decided that a further meeting should be held to share experiences and ideas. The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation took the initiative to organise this present meeting. The Dutch ministry allowed the Stichting Recreatie to help them with the organisation of this event.

We have participants from some countries that were there last year: Flanders, France, Germany and the Netherlands and from new countries, either from the so called new member states, or bordering Germany: Poland, the Czech republic, Austria, Estonia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Hungary and Slovenia. Absent are participants from the European Commission, Great Britain and the Walloon region. They could not attend, due to a lack of time, but are highly interested in the results of this meeting.

And, contrary to last year, not all participants are working as government or agency officials. There are also managers and researchers.

I will be happy if, at the end of our expert meeting, we will have exchanged ideas, views, experiences and good practices, we will have had fruitful discussions, a successful excursion. And most of all we will have established a network among people and countries that are striving for a sustainable relationship between nature and tourism.



3 SUMMARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERT MEETING NATURA 2000 AND LEISURE, MAY 2004, THE NETHERLANDS

By Laura de Punder, Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality



The first international expert meeting Natura 2000 and leisure was initiated by the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality. It started with a promise of this ministry to Dutch organisations for leisure to exchange experiences with and ideas about tourism, recreation and sport in Natura 2000 sites with other memberstates. Participants of the first meeting were representatives from the European Commission (DG Enterprise and DG Environment) and several national governments (France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Belgium, and the Netherlands).

In 2000 the EC published the brochure “Sustainable tourism and Natura 2000”. In 2002 the EU environment ministers signed the El Teide Declaration, committing themselves to ‘Ensuring the needs of Natura 2000 are considered in other EU policies’. However, the EC representatives at the expert meeting (one concerned with tourism and one concerned with Natura 2000) were not optimistic: the sustainable development of European tourism was progressing slowly and Natura 2000 was not a key issue on the sustainability agenda for tourism. Besides, the two EC representatives did not know each other.

On a national level there seemed to be more cooperation between nature and leisure organisations. Examples were the Charter of cooperation between the Tourist Office and Nature Department in the Walloon region; cooperation between the Bundesamt für Naturschutz and the German Sports Association in Germany; and the legal obligation for the tourist organisation ‘VisitScotland’ to further biodiversity.

Further integration between Natura 2000 and leisure was perceived to be best promoted through management plans and communication. These themes were chosen for further elaboration in workshops.

The workshop on Communication recommended both better information for the leisure sector and assessment and evaluation of good and bad practices for policy makers at both EU and member state level. The Workshop on Management Plans recommended encouraging both local nature and leisure management and public servants to participate. Those who compile management plans must take leisure development into account and need input from tourism strategy plans.

The general conclusions of the expert meeting were:

Nature and leisure management both strive for beautiful natural areas; both benefit from leisure and nature management actions, but - due to insufficient communication - nature and leisure sometimes think they are enemies, while they could be friends.

The participants agreed that the expert meeting should be continued in 2005 and that other countries should be invited. Furthermore the results would be communicated during EU level meetings and good practices would be collected. All these agreements have been fulfilled: today we meet again with participants from new countries; the results of last year’s expert meeting were reported in the EU Habitat Committee and good practices were compiled in the brochure “Jewels in the crown”.

4 INTEGRATION OF RECREATION AND TOURISM IN NATURA 2000 MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESSES IN THE ALPINE AREA - THE ALPNATOUR PROJECT

By Prof. Dr. Ulrike Pröbstl, Institute for Landscape Development, Recreation and Conservation Planning, University of Vienna, Austria



The main objective of the AlpNatour Project is conflict resolution between nature and tourism with Natura 2000 management plans. Project partners are Austria, Germany, the Slovak Republic and Italy. The Alpine Region has a great significance for both nature and tourism. It has a high biodiversity, many rare and endangered species and a high proportion of conservation areas. The region is the most important leisure and recreation area in Europe, it attracts 120 million visitors annually and has a high economic potential. The challenge of the AlpNatour project is to develop an integrated approach of management plans that involves all current uses.

Management plans were tested on several Natura 2000 sites in the participating countries. For example Falkenstein (Germany) that attracts a lot of visitors with its rocks, lakes and the castle of 'Crazy Ludwig'. A complete management plan was made with guidelines and checkpoints for tourism. Unfortunately there was no money to make a basic inventory. It also proved difficult to locate the visitors, find out about their activities and how they disturbed nature.

On each test site different sets of methods and models for risk assessment are used and evaluated. With this information a framework for management plans will be made, including checklists with regional adaptations and best practice examples.

Conclusion of the first year is that the challenges are immense. The guidelines to develop a management plan, and the main tasks of this plan, differ in the various alpine countries. Most guidelines lack information on tourism and recreation. There is a need to define cost effective methods for data collection. The use levels concerning recreation and tourism are difficult to define (compared to other forms of land use). It is difficult to involve tourism representatives in a collaborative planning process. The need to collaborate – in their own interest – is often not perceived.

The results of the project will be presented at the congress "Tourismus und Schutzgebiete Hemmschuh oder Partner" in Vienna on November 24 -25 and on the website www.alpnatour.info.

Discussion

It is difficult to monitor the use of Natura 2000 sites by people who are not landowners: the tourists and daytrippers. Some managers use methods like airphotography and guestlists at visitorcenters, but most have no experience with visitor monitoring. Tourism should always be incorporated in management plans. Don't close paths or areas without considering how this will affect tourism.

5 **ACTIVITIES OF THE CZECH MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY OF TOURISM DEVELOPMENT**

By Martina Paskova, head of the Department of Settlements' and Human Ecology, Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic



The Ministry of the Environment supports responsible tourism as an instrument of environmental education; building up and promotion of relationships with nature; preserving traditional rural lifestyles; sustainable use of natural resources; strengthening cultural identities; and protection of the character of the landscape .

Tourism in protected areas requires monitoring, management and permanent communication with all key stakeholders. But the implementation of these methods is difficult and local people are very sceptical. It is hard to explain that they can earn money by protecting nature. They see tourists as enemies instead of partners in business. There is also a lot of resistance of foresters, developers and other government sectors against the 38 SPAs (bird areas) and 863 PSCIs (Sites of Community Interest).

Accession to the European Charter of Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas for the Bohemian Forest would provide a 'good practice'.

Lessons learned: First inform and persuade nature conservancy staff. Lack of support from your own people can harm much more than that of all other sectors together. The worst enemy of Natura 2000 is lack of credible information.

Actions: The National Biodiversity Strategy comprises of an action plan for the implementation of international guidelines for sustainable tourism. We have just started a network of regional centres of environmentally friendly tourism. These centres must show that we are not 'green terrorists' that want 'the impossible'. Other tasks of these centres are giving advice to regional and local initiatives and setting and promoting basic standards. A National System of Tourism Ecocertification for accommodations and touroperators will be implemented to stimulate the tourism sector and reduce the damage to nature and landscape.

With these measures we hope that local people will earn money in a sustainable way; get UNESCO support; and create a European network of "Geoparks" starting with the Bavarian Alps.

Discussion

A new brand like Geoparks might be seen as inflation, as there are already so many different types of protected areas. But it is necessary because the Czech people see national parks as 'green terrorism'. Branding and marketing of Geoparks must show the advantages of cooperation between nature, tourism and agriculture.

6 'RHIN VIVANT'; CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF RHINE NATURAL HABITATS

by H el ene Hasl e, Conseil r egional d'Alsace, France



The LIFE Nature Project 'Rhin Vivant' is one of the biggest Natura 2000 sites (16,000 ha). 12 partners are involved in restoring and conserving the gravel banks, reed marshes and alluvial forests of the Rhine. The project covers 5 years (2002-2006) and costs 6,231,106 euros of which 45% is subsidized by the EC.

Main actions of the plan are: Enforcement of Natura 2000 and management plans in order to obtain LIFE subsidy; 8 restoration works to refill former tributaries with water; maintenance and restoration of open habitats (dry grasslands); and a dissemination plan (communication and education).

So far, the project has been a great success. People did not know that there was nature along the Rhine. The river always had a bad name, due to the chemical plants and motorways on the banks. The Rhine Corridor is now presented as a new green destination with a logo, website, information boards, five discovery trails, a journal and a leaflet with good practices.

It was decided that the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in The Protected Areas offered the best framework for the development of sustainable tourism in the Rhine Corridor. However, the pilot application to the European Charter was rejected, because the Rhine was a network of protected areas and not a park. Therefore, in June 2005, the association "Rhin vivant" was created with a steering committee of protected area managers, local authorities and professionals in environmental protection, recreation, leisure and tourism. And with success: the 'Rhin vivant' is now a member of the European Charter!

Next step is the implementation of the action plan for sustainable tourism with financial support of the R egion Alsace. 'Rhine products' - e.g. fishing, bird watching and alluvial forest discovering - will be developed and tested. Monthly thematic workshops are held with all relevant stakeholders, including Natura 2000 working groups on the German border.

We see progress, results, big interest, motivation and synergy, but there is still a lot of work to be done.

Discussion

Co-ordination of 'Rhin vivant' means a lot of meetings all over the area. But all people involved share the same natural area and all live near the Rhine. Everybody is very enthusiastic about the new approach of the Rhine Corridor and the common working groups with Germany are very inspiring.

7 MURANSKA PLANINA NATIONAL PARK; NATURE PROTECTION AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

By Zsusana Okanikova, Envitour, Slovak Republic



The implementation of Natura 2000 and sustainable tourism in the Slovak Republic has similarities with the Czech situation, but is not seen as green terrorism. The Slovak Republic has 382 pSCIs (habitat areas), 39 pSCAs (bird areas), 9 National Parks and 16 Protected Landscape Areas (PLA).

Nature protection and sustainable tourism under Agenda 21 and EU directives are incorporated into national laws and effected by the national programme for tourism, management plans for National Parks, an order for visitors and an action plan. The order for visitors is a key measure to regulate activities that used to be prohibited. The action plan is a basis for getting money from LEADER.

Muranska Planina - a national park since 1997 - has great potential to develop sustainable tourism. The park has many rare species and well conserved nature, but no infrastructure and weak cooperation between the southern and northern part. Regional culture still exists, but is slowly dying out. Unemployment is high and tourism must be the engine for development. There is an elaborated action plan to make it a model region for the LEADER programme in Slovakia.

Target of the action plan is to develop nature friendly sustainable tourism in the park and its buffer zone as an engine for regional development (e.g. European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in the Protected Areas). The next steps are: definition of stakeholders; disseminating ideas of nature friendly tourism among them; creating products and profiting the national park as tourism friendly. Forestry has a special position amongst the stakeholders and its cooperation is very important. The local people were at first very interested in the plan and took part in meetings and committees. However, they saw tourism as a threat. A mayor asked us to develop tourism, but no facilities, as these would disturb the local people. It is good to hear at this meeting that even the older EU member states face these problems with stakeholders.

With money from Interreg 3a sustainable tourism products and packages will be developed. The UNESCO heritage caves and the breeding of semi-wild horses in the area offer possibilities for creating special products. Facilities for hiking, biking, skiing, climbing, survival horseriding and public events will be developed, as well as cottages for tourists. Information to local people, especially children, is given during National Park days, survival trips, environmental games, guided tours and exhibitions. The park also has an information centre, but due to a lack of material, money and personnel it is hardly ever open.

Discussion

The Slovak Republic is the last European country where forestry is not regulated. Hunting and poisoning of animals in national parks is common and foresters are strongly opposed to tourism. The local people need the income of tourism, but don't want facilities and disturbance. This has to be solved at political level and with a lot of communication and good practices.

8 SUSTAINABLE RECREATION IN NATURA 2000 SITES: THE PROGRESS PROJECT

By René Henkens, Alterra Research Institute, the Netherlands



“How much is too much” is a question we have been dealing with in the Netherlands for a long time. Therefore the Alterra Research Institute is working on modelling on a larger scale in the Progress Project. Progress means Promotion and Guidance for Recreation on Ecological Sensitive Sites. It is a study about the impact of recreation on ecology in the Natura 2000 sites New Forest (NF) and Fontainebleau (F), in collaboration with British, French and Dutch partners. It is financed by the EU (50%) and the partners (50%) and runs from 2003 – 2007.

Objectives of the project are:

- Protect and enhance internationally important wildlife in the areas concerned.
- Meeting the needs of the public for access and recreation.
- Develop a model to predict recreational use and the impact on ecology.
- Create a sustainable environment for both recreation and ecology.
- Spread the knowledge all over the world.

The research comprises monitoring of vegetation and fauna (mainly breeding birds), GIS analyses, interviewing and counting visitors. A new method is tracking visitors with use of GPS. Visitors are asked to take along a transmitter so that we know exactly what they do (which is often different from what they say they do). The data collection shows the actual habitat use, potential habitats, number of visitors, the visitors' needs, actual tracks they use and other behaviour. All these data are put into a model (MASOOR) and maps are produced that show the influence of recreation on the key species. With this information measures can be taken to reduce disturbance. In the Deer Leap area of the New Forest, for example, some roads are now closed to protect the habitat of the woodlark.

Results of the projects are:

- Knowledge about the impacts of recreation on nature (2 projects to quantify the project)
- Advice for both Natura 2000 sites how to combine recreation and ecology (with smarter solutions than just closing areas)
- Creating a sustainable environment for nature and recreation (managers and stakeholders can make choices for the most optimal balance)

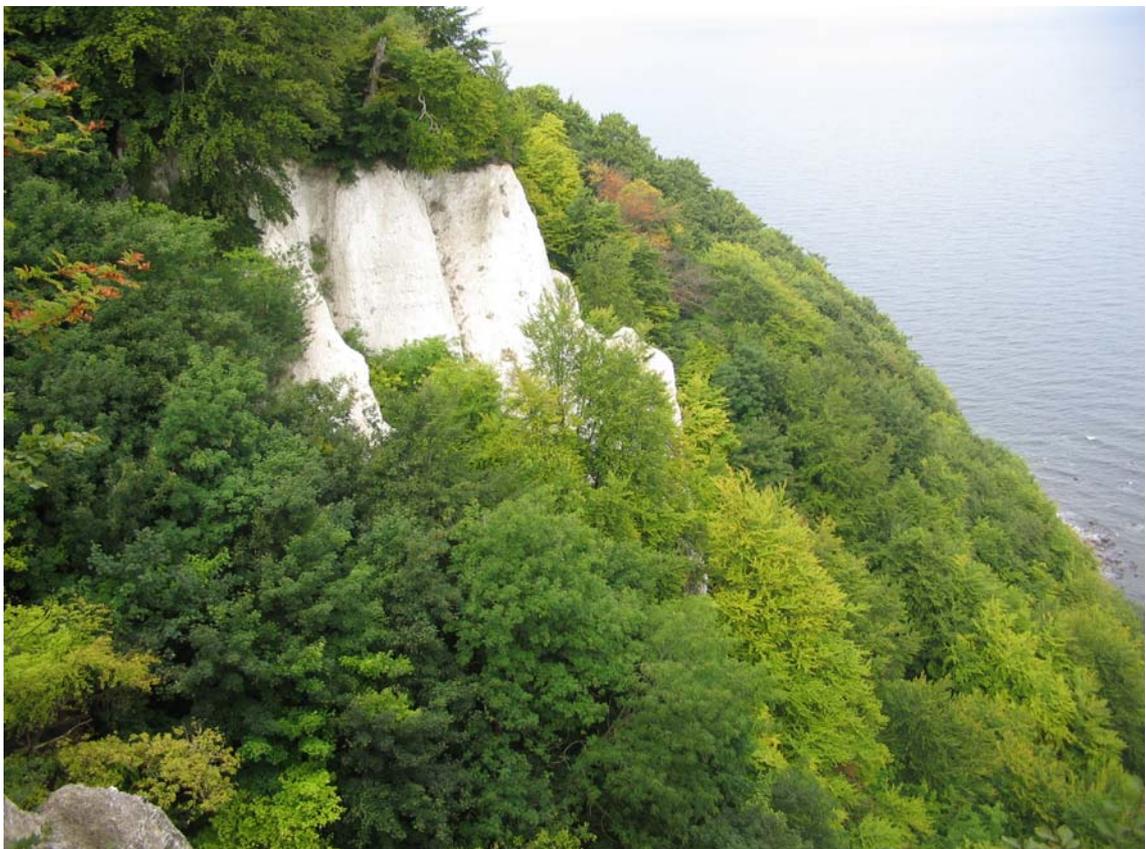
More information on this project on www.progress-eu.info

Discussion

Monitoring of visitors is year round and consists of counting in spots combined with the capacity of the car park. The recreation model is based on the number of visitors on an average day (generally the 10th busiest day in the year). To measure the disturbance of the birds, the breeding success is compared with the breeding capacity. Models are always a simplification, but they are a helpful instrument for simulation of the impact of recreation on nature. The behaviour of visitors is also important, sometimes more important than numbers, but there is not much knowledge of this topic. Park managers know which groups cause problems and zoning is the next step.

Monitoring the impact of recreation on plants is even easier, because plants grow closer to the path. In Fontainebleau the erosion is evaluated.

North European recreational behaviour is generally the same. There is not much difference between the visitors of Fontainebleau, New Forest and Dutch sites. But as there is more forest in Fontainebleau, there is less disturbance.



9 WORKSHOPS

9.1 Workshop Monitoring, risk assessment, etc. Chair: Peter Visschedijk



Problems

- How much is too much (carrying capacity).
- Not enough knowledge about recreation.
- At what level of use overcrowding becomes a problem, both for locals and tourists.
- Not enough knowledge (=firm data) about sensitivity of species.
- No general framework for research; each research uses its own data analysis.
- Different visitor groups with different goals.
- Influence from 'outside'. Natura 2000 sites have no influence on developments in the bufferzone.

Reasons

- Lack of research (e.g. impact assessment for recreational use).
- Complex problem.
- Lack of cooperation between nature protection and tourism.
- Different objectives.
- National awareness too low. Natura 2000 is an European thing. On national level you have to compete with infrastructure, housing, etc.

Solution

- Indicators for evaluation.
- Independent expert groups needed in combination with stakeholder groups (esp. locals and landowners).
- Public access to protected areas to raise awareness in combination with zoning.
- Communication: explain why.
- Show your scenarios for sustainable tourism to locals and monitor them.

Obstacles

- You need a lot of expert groups and stakeholder groups.
- European policy versus national policy.
- Differences in size and shape of Natura 2000-sites.
- Local community. They live on the site and now are told how to use it.

Discussion

There is no knowledge about the effects of recreation on the behaviour of animals. So far, research has shown no impact relation between recreation and wildlife. This kind of interdisciplinary research lacks a framework for research, is expensive and the results take 2 to 3 years. By that time some of the recreational activities researched, may be out of date.

9.2 Workshop Acceptance and communication chair: Frank Steingass



Problems

- Natura 2000 is not so easily accepted; it hinders other developments.
- Natura 2000 is unknown among (local) people.
- How to communicate with local people about Natura 2000 and tourism?
- Local acceptance and synergy.

Reasons

- Natura 2000 is top-down and tourist managers think bottom-up.
- Natura 2000 has a bad image/background.
- Unknown makes unloved, people are afraid.
- Natura 2000 communicates different messages.
- Negative image caused by politicians (message: Natura 2000 is not good, not flexible).
- So politicians are also communication target group, not only the locals.

Solutions

- Different languages of nature and tourism need translation (=key to communication).
- Natura 2000 guidelines on European level.
- Speak with the stakeholders; organise a round table conference about what they want and after that a bigger conference, etc. This process will take long, but people eventually know what they want.
- Identify good guys and bad guys.
- Direct communication to local politicians.
- Start key projects during communication process, that are done within a month.
- Success of these projects will increase interest and communication will improve.
- Time, people and money for small projects; fundraising for bigger, structural projects.
When the first park is a success in 2 years you can not compress the process for the second park, it takes time.

Obstacles

- Communication with nature sector.
Specific languages for specific target groups.
Translation (vocabulary, objectives and point of view)

Discussion

Experience with interactive planning in the Netherlands proves that it is better to allow the communication process develop freely and have no fixed idea where it has to go. Always wanting to stay within the framework that was drawn up, hinders the process.

9.3 Workshop: Cooperation with local stakeholders **chair: Martina Pásková**

Problems

Conflicts of interest and perception (conserve and use).
Investors' pressure.
Lack of money for development of sustainable tourism.
Legislation is too rigid.
Mutual misunderstanding.
No fundraising, a financial specialist is needed for protected areas.

Reasons

Lack of information.
Lack of awareness of the nature protection possibilities of sustainable tourism.
Lack of participation in the decision and legislation process.
Lack of qualification of locals.
Attitude of the authorities of protected areas.
Lack of promotion of sustainable tourism.

Solutions

Certification and accreditation (good practices in Hungary!).
Access management (do not prohibit, but make a selected points map).
Combine nature protection with agriculture and tourism.
Guidelines should be very simple (eg. water tourism guidelines in Hungary)
Meetings with locals.
Agreements campaigns.
Proper legislation.
Regulate tourists (groupwise, like in Hungary).
An ecotourism strategy in protected areas.
A consul for fundraising (for personnel, training and plans)

Obstacles

Landownership.
Expectations of various groups.

Hungary!

In this workshop Gabor presented examples of legislation, certification and guidelines from Hungary. The participants of the workshop propose an expert meeting in Hungary next year to see these best practices and learn from them.

Discussion

Investors are also stakeholders, so you need a special language to communicate with them. It helps to select investors who understand your ideas and support those. But as most investors are opportunists, it is important to turn their plans into a positive direction.



10 EXCURSION ON THE ISLE OF RÜGEN

10.1 The Tourism Association of Rügen Island

By Thomas Wuitschik, Chairman of the Rügen Tourism Association

The Tourism Association was founded in August 2001 as a coordinating and central marketing organization. It has 8 to 12 employees and a budget of approx. 1,010,000 euros in 2004. Primary objective of the Association is to gently develop tourism while focussing on quality and concerted action. Conservation of natural habitat and cultural heritage is given top priority.

Tourism is the main economic sector on Rügen, but because of many conflicting interests it is hard to get a consensus among the parties. In drafting the new vision on tourism as many parties as possible are involved, such as the Chamber of Commerce, churches, fishery, nature etc.

Until last year visitor numbers rose each year, reaching a record 1.44 million. In 2005 there was a dramatic drop in numbers of 12.8%. The reason is most probably a combination of atmosphere, image, accessibility and safety. In high season Rügen resembles Mallorca as far as crowds and atmosphere are concerned, in spite of the fact that many people visit Rügen in search of peace and quiet. In high season and on rainy days long cues form, all people wanting to go to or leave the island. That problem is being solved by building a new bridge, a new main road, better and more frequent train services, combined with Park & Ride.

Early 2005 three chalk cliffs subsided and two tourists perished. This received a lot of attention in the papers and caused cancellations. Maybe the price - quality ratio was not optimal either. But should the price come down or quality be improved?

In early and late season attention is more focused on culture tourism, architecture, chatting with fishermen, adventures and then spending the night in a luxurious hotel. The great variety is a selling point for Rügen.

Only 1.3% of tourists come from abroad, 0.8% of which from Switzerland (because of the convenient railway connection). The Netherlands come second (bird watchers), followed by Sweden (proximity). 60% of all West Germans have never visited (the former) East Germany. Promotion is therefore mainly directed at the Ruhr area, because of its visitors potential.

Discussion

Eco-tourism certification: Germans love certification. That's why eco-labels are now issued. An apartment complex near Jasmund National Park has recently started offering its guests the possibility to help preserving nature and this is a great success.

Outdoor sports: Areas attractive for outdoor sports are normally barred. Views on accessibility are slowly changing but there is still a shortage of cycle, foot and mountain bike paths. That's why many walkers and cyclists leave the paths. Mountain bike programmes shown on television, by e.g. Eurosport, don't help because they suggest that you can ride your mountain bike anywhere in vulnerable areas of natural beauty.

10.2 Jasmund National Park

With its 7,420 acres, Jasmund is the smallest national park in Germany. It comprises of a large uninterrupted beech wood and steep chalk cliff shores. Zoning and traffic calming measures are in place to protect the natural environment and the peace of the area.

There are many paths in the park, complete with signposts and information boards. The main attraction is the Königsstuhl, a 387 feet high prominent chalk cliff. Near the Königsstuhl a state of the art visitor centre was built in 2004, funded by the World Wildlife Fund and the town of Sassnitz.

The visitor centre can only be reached on foot, by bike and shuttle bus service. Visitors can leave their cars at a central car park near Hagen and transfer to the shuttle bus. An admission fee is charged for both the Königsstuhl viewpoint and the visitor centre. The visitor centre offers films, audio tours on various themes, a restaurant and a shop. From Easter to the end of October guided walks are available through the park.



11 FORMAL CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

Reviews of the participants

The presentations of the new member states were very interesting.

There are still a lot of problems to be solved. Such as, what is specific and special about Natura 2000? Piotr Dabrowski has some ideas about this and will send them to the participants.

The EU has to be invited for the next meeting. They can present an overview of what has been achieved, we can show them good practices and solutions.

A network of park managers of Natura 2000 sites and tourist managers will lead to more successful projects and good practices.

The most important issues in the workshop on communication were: “how to get tourists” and “how to get rid of tourists”. Therefore the expected synergy between nature and tourism is not achieved. Maybe at the next expert meeting the participants with too many and too few tourists should be split.

The organisation was excellent. It was an open meeting with no real objectives. There were many good ideas, but no conclusions for the EU.

At the next meeting we should make a proposition to the EU about (sustainable) tourism in Natura 2000 sites. This is not an EU theme, but has a huge effect on the Natura 2000 sites.

The focus was too much on sustainable tourism. What is special and specific about Natura 2000?

Conclusions:

The presentations were very interesting, especially from the new member states. Their experience is that tourism projects should be discussed with nature people first. There was not enough focus on Natura 2000, but the theme was broader than Natura 2000. The meeting had no objectives, so next time we have to focus more on this.

One of the participants has to take the lead to make a statement to the EU and/or a publication on what is special and specific about Natura 2000.

Barbara Engels will report about the results of this expert meeting at the conference on European Nature in Apeldoorn, the Netherlands in October 2005.

PROGRAMME

Sunday, 11th September

Arrival of participants at the Isle of Vilm

21.00 Get-together & Presentation of participants

Monday, 12th September

- 09.00 Barbara Engels (Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Germany)
Opening of the meeting
- 09.10 Emile Bruls (Stichting Recreatie) Introduction to theme and goals
- 09.20 Laura de Punder (Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality)
Summary of the expert meeting 2004
- 09.30 Ulrike Pröbstl (Institut für Bodenkultur, Universität Wien) Integration of
recreation and tourism in NATURA 2000 management planning processes
in the alpine area – The AlpNaTour Project
- 10.00 Martina Paskova (Ministry of the Environment) Case Study of the Czech
Republik
- 10.30 Hélène Haslé (Conseil Régional d’Alsace, Service Environnement) “Le Rhin
vivant” – A Life NATURE project/France
- 11.00 *Coffee break*
- 11.20 Zsusana Okanikova (Envitour) Case Study from the National Park
Muranska Planina/Slovak Republic
- 11.50 Plenary discussion
- 12.30 *Lunch*
- 13.30 Guided walk on Vilm
- 15.00 Barbara Engels/Emile Bruls Introduction to workshops
- 15.15 *Coffee break*
- 15.30 Parallel Workshop sessions
- 17.15 Presentation of the workshop results
- 17.45 Discussion
- 18.30 *Dinner*
- 20.00 René Henkens (Alterra Research Institute, the Netherlands) Sustainable
recreation in Natura 2000 sites

Tuesday, 13th September

- 08.45 Start excursion "Natura 2000 and tourism: The Rügen example"
- 09.30 Kurhaus Binz: Meeting with a representative of the Rügen tourism association
- 11.15 Arrival National Park Jasmund Walk in the national park to the Jasmund Haus, Visit to the "Königsstuhl"
- 13.00 *Lunch at Caspar's (Jasmund Haus) hosted by the BfN*
- 14.00 Visit of the Jasmund Haus or Walk in the national park
- 16.00 Departure from the National Park
- 17.15 Boat to Vilm
- 17.30 Plenary discussion
- 18.30 *Dinner*
- 20.00 Formal closure

Wednesday, 14th September

Departure from the Isle of Vilm



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