

Governance Types in Austria

Natura 2000 Gebiete Österreichs - Nationale Liste



- Grenze kontinental - alpin
- Bundesländergrenzen
- Gebiet gemäß Habitat-Richtlinie (SCI, pSCI)
- Gebiet gemäß Vogelschutzrichtlinie (SPA)



tiris
www.tiris.gv.at

- **Strong federal system**, 9 „Bundesländer“ (provinces), responsible for nature protection, 9 responsible politicians (Landesräte); responsible for designation of the sites;
- Areas in Natura 2000 sites of Austria **are owned by private land owners (farmers, foresters)** and communities, no state-owned site except several areas in sites (esp. rivers and riverbanks, forests)
- **Art 6(3) and 6(4):**
 - AA Projects (without EIA): responsible is **provincial government**/expert and legal expert coming from there
 - EIA projects (incl. AA): responsible is **ministry of infrastructure** in cooperation with the province, expert and legal expert coming from ministry.

Management structures and management types in Austria

- ca. 45 site-managers in Austria, 1 – 10 sites/site manager
- No specific austrian-wide training for the site managers
- Gaps in communication between all site managers
- Most of the site-managers are employed by the provincial government, some of them (e.g. Lower Austria) employed by an association, funded by the provincial government. Provinces give less backing to the site managers in sensible situations (e.g. important decisions on site-level)
- No permanent steering groups for Natura 2000 sites in Austria
- Management plans exist – but not for each site, quality is very different, assessment now in Styria (one province), how to carry out userfriendly managementplans.
- Agricultural habitats: contracts with ministry of Agriculture („ÖPUL“, AEM of Austria), managed by the site manager
- Forest habitats: some contracts with ministry of Agriculture (and Forestry), but many activities are voluntary, because foresters dont want to take part in the Rural Dev scheme (INVECOS).
- Site managers inform and organize these contracts.
- There a lot of small and bigger projects funded by Art. 20 RD, where site managers support different activities (public awareness, investments, studies, ...) in the site.