

PILOT AREAS FOR TESTING NEW MODELS OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN PROTECTED AREAS

Italy www.parcodeltapo.it/ Po Delta Regional Park

Weaknesses

Some areas of the park are under high tourist stress compared to others. Likewise, there are some areas which are particularly sensitive to tourist flows, but the movement of tourists inside the park are not well known yet.

Needs

To better understand the movements that tourists make in the park and which are the main areas visited in order to develop a strategy that allows to adjust the visits according to the season and relocate tourist flows to areas of equal attractive to reduce pressure on the environment. This is useful to produce a comprehensive monitoring plan identifying the actions to implement in case of critical situations. In addition, this plan can be the first step towards the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas.



Alto Appennino Modenese Regional Park <http://ambiente.regione.emilia-romagna.it/parchi-natura2000/aree-protette/parchi/aamo>

Weaknesses

In the park there are two lakes with similar problems regarding tourist flows, in which high tourist affluence is concentrated in a very short period of time. In addition, these problems are connected with car parking spaces and mobility. There is also a significant problem with tourist flows because in one of the lakes the impacts are very dangerous for the biodiversity present in the area.

Needs

The objective is not only to reach a seasonal adjustment of the tourist



flows whilst maintaining the benefits coming from the tourist activities, but also to improve a series of tools able to discourage dangerous behaviours for the environment and biodiversity.

Appennino Tosco Emiliano National Park www.parcoappennino.it/

Weaknesses

There two main areas of interest are the mountain area Pietra di Bismantova and Lagdei Piana, which are subject to a high frequency of visits in a very short period of time during the year. Both locations are easy to reach by car and therefore highly attractive places for visitors from the cities nearby, which creates parking and mobility problems. These places are appreciated just for their recreational use, not considering the natural value they offer and the impact tourism is causing on them. The main problem is the behaviour of visitors which is not always adequate.

Needs

The objective in this pilot area is to control these tourist flows, distributing the affluence of tourist on a broader period of time through a seasonal adjustment, consolidating income and avoiding to reduce the tourist flows, as these places are the main destinations in the National Park. Moreover, this can be very useful to implement the second part of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas.



Germany www.biosphaerenreservat-suedostruegen.de UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Southeast Ruegen

Granitz Forest Area

Weaknesses: In the Biosphere Reserve Southeast Rügen we focus on two areas. The first area is the Granitz, a forest area (including valuable nature protection core zones) which is highly frequented by tourist. The forest is easily accessible via an old railway, an electronic „tourist-train“ (on wheels), as well as via foot, on bike, on horse-carriage and by car. This area is being used for recreational purposes, while the natural value of the forest and impacts caused by tourist are often neglected.



Needs: Within this possible pilot area the objective is to control and steer tourism flows. The goal is to move visitors off illegally formed side trails onto the main forest path, alleviating some pressure on the flora and fauna in the forest.

Zicker Mountains

Weaknesses: The second area for the pilot action are the Zicker Mountains. These pictures mountains are part of the cultural landscape and highly frequented by tourists as well as locals for recreational activities. There are two entrance ways to the mountains which can be reached by car, bike and on foot. The mountains are a nature protection area however rules of proper behaviour (no mountain biking, dogs have to be on a leash) are often ignored by visitors.



Needs: The objective for this area is to gain a better understanding of tourism flows and steer tourist towards a more sustainable behaviour. The goal is to inform tourist about the natural value of the area.

Austria www.lungau.org UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Salzburger Lungau

Weaknesses and needs

As a Biosphere Reserve is also a model region for sustainable development and the tourism sector is one of the most important economic sectors in the region, there is a need and a necessity to further develop the tourism in a sustainable way. The cooperation between the management body of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Salzburger Lungau and the regional tourism sector is very low up to now. Within the CEETO project this cooperation should be improved and enhanced and on the basis of a comprehensive monitoring and survey visitor flows should be visualised and new near-natural and environmental friendly and high qualitative tourism offers, which are contributing to the protection of nature and the increase of the local socio-economic wellbeing, should be created/existing tourism offers should be improved. This should happen through.



Soelktaeler Nature Park www.soelktaeler.at

Weaknesses

In comparison with the unique landscape and lots of touristic highlights there are only weak possibilities to stay overnight in the area. Additionally there are only few offers for guided tours and other activities which bring awareness of the natural landscape to locals and tourists. The number of rooms and appartements to rent sink, often aged landlords stop rental of rooms. Young people don't see their future in Sölktaeler and leave for working outside the Naturpark. On the other hand tourism grows like everywhere and opens up new routes or paths often ignoring wildlife habitats or interests of locals.

Needs

Naturpark Sölktaeler has two parts of urgent needs: Locals need more awareness of their countryside. They need an upgrading of their knowledge how to work with nature and how to present nature and working with other people. This applies not only to landlords. There is too a need for a program with guided tours for special themes with nature, wildlife, habitats, needs of wildlife etc. We have only few old guides and have an urgent need of new young guides. We are thinking now of a program to train new guides and other locals - even hunters - how to present nature and how to work with nature. The program (called "gemeinsam drüberschauen") shall be established at "Styrian Nature Parc Academy", an organization located beside our office and equipped with a licence to teach. In the recently held questionnaires for the locals we asked for their demands and have further ideas of special themes. The second Austrian PP, Biosphärenpark Lungau has a border with us and comparable habitats. Therefore they will hold the workshops together with us to get more participants.



Slovenia www.parkstrunjan.si Strunjan Landscape Park

Weaknesses

The Bay of Strunjan is especially vulnerable because of the daily impact of marine tourism, especially by unregulated anchoring and mooring. The main problem are permanent illegal moorings which damages the underwater meadows and other sea bottom habitat types. In the high season (summer) there is also high frequency of temporary illegal moorings.



Needs

The objective is to establish sustainable visiting of the marine area of the park. The goal is to obtain a solution for the regulation of illegal moorings (study on ecological moorings) and develop series of tools to discourage dangerous behaviour for the environment and biodiversity.

Croatia www.pp-medvednica.hr/ Nature Park Medvednica

Weaknesses

The ski centre, one of the main attractions of the Park, is missing a comprehensive monitoring programme. On one hand, the cable car from Zagreb to the mountain top is not functioning since 2007. On the other hand, during the winter season (skiing season) the traffic congestions due to the lack of parking lots are frequent, collapsing the only road that leads to the top of the mountain and originating vehicle stoppage lines up to 5 km long. In this occasions, there is no alternative way to reach the top, not even for the mountain rescue teams, police or emergency vehicles.



Needs

To tackle this problems, it is necessary to design and test a monitoring scheme for the ski centre. Furthermore, it is necessary to establish a monitoring group composed by experts and relevant stakeholders, to identify the indicators for carrying out the monitoring programme, and to design adequate visitor flow management solutions. To end with, it is needed to solve the existing traffic problems by conducting visitor surveys, installing car counters on two major roads and cameras in the parking areas and deploying a system to communicate the availability of parking spaces.

