



TransParcNet Meeting 2020

9th of December
9 - 16:30 CET Online



Transboundary Protected Areas:
cooperation in COVID time

Workshop 1

*COVID time and transboundary
cooperation*

Framework and experiences

Daniele Piazza
Protected Areas of Ossola
Binntal Veglia Devero Transboundary
Park

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Programme of the workshop

<i>FRAMEWORK AND EXPERIENCES</i>		
<i>Introduction, framework, aim of the workshop.</i>	<i>Daniele Piazza</i>	<i>10'</i>
<i>Changes in tourism and visitors' attendance patterns, numbers and behaviour</i>		
<i>Complications for staff in practical transboundary cooperation</i>		
<i>Key note Speaker 1</i>	<i>Jakub Kašpar</i>	<i>15'</i>
<i>Key note Speaker 2</i>	<i>Mojca Smolej</i>	<i>15'</i>
<i>Presentation of open questions and debate</i>	<i>Jakub Kašpar</i>	<i>10'</i>
<i>Break</i>		<i>10'</i>
<i>DISCUSSION</i>		
<i>Open discussion</i>	<i>All</i>	<i>40'</i>
<i>CONCLUSIONS</i>		
<i>Major findings and conclusions</i>	<i>Daniele Piazza/Jakub Kašpar</i>	<i>15'</i>

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COVID emergency triggered changes in tourism and visitors' patterns and behaviours

Some investigations at european level:

Survey launched by ALPARC (Network of Alpine Protected Areas) involving 18 alpine PAs from alpine countries (summer 2020)



1. What are the main factors for which tourists come in your park region?
2. Do you think that Covid19 leads to a rising demand for nature-based tourism and physical activity in preserved nature? Please explain.
3. How do you raise awareness for more sustainable outdoor sports activities?

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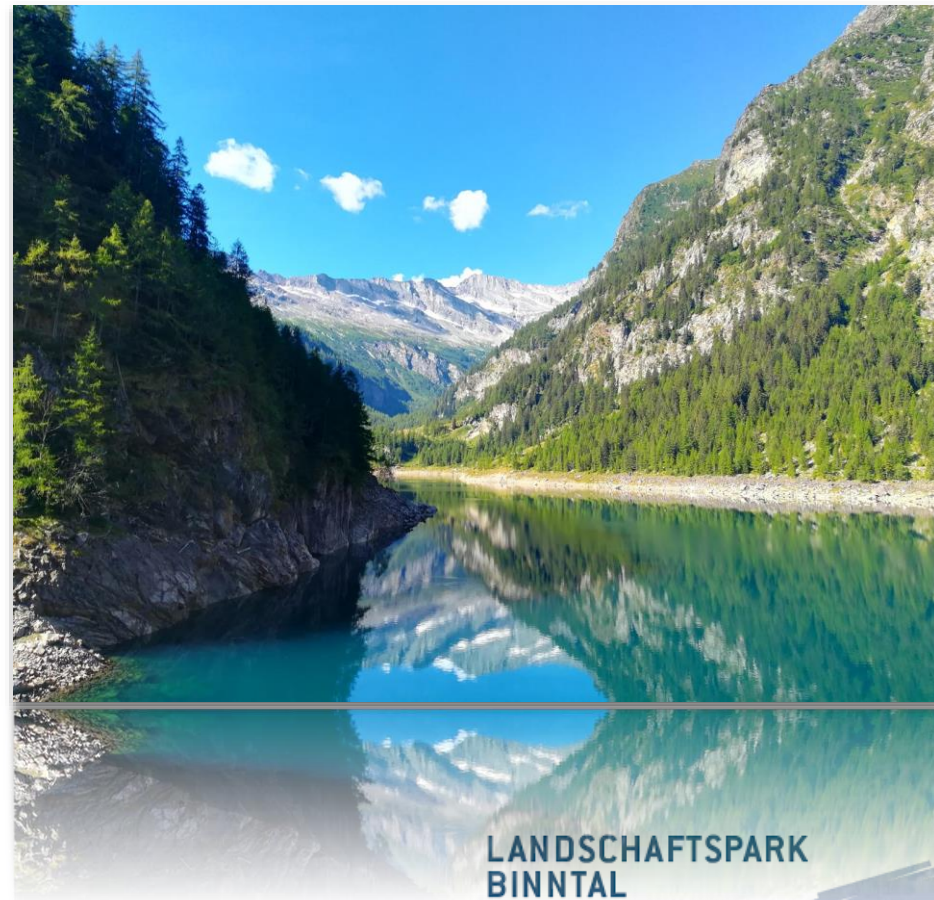


COVID emergency triggered changes in tourism and visitors' patterns and behaviours

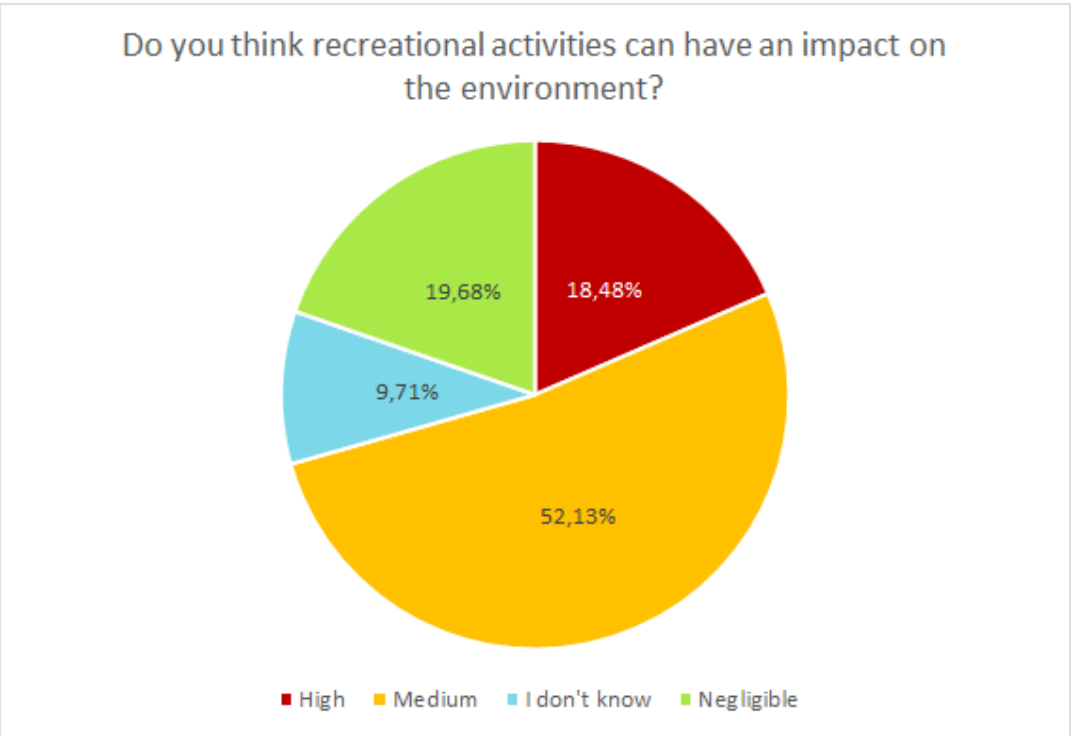
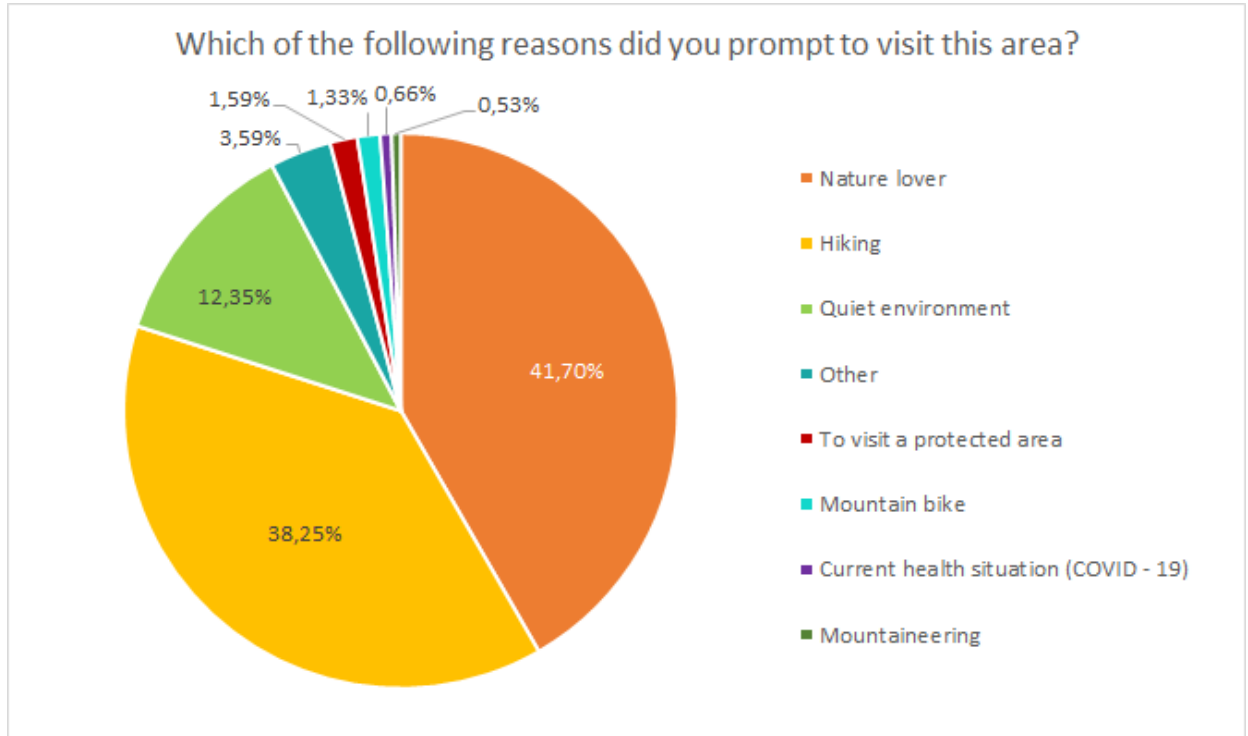
Some investigations at local level:

Survey launched by Ossola Protected Areas:

- interviews over 31 days (july - september).
- 753 questionnaires randomly collected.
- general data (profile) + 17 questions.



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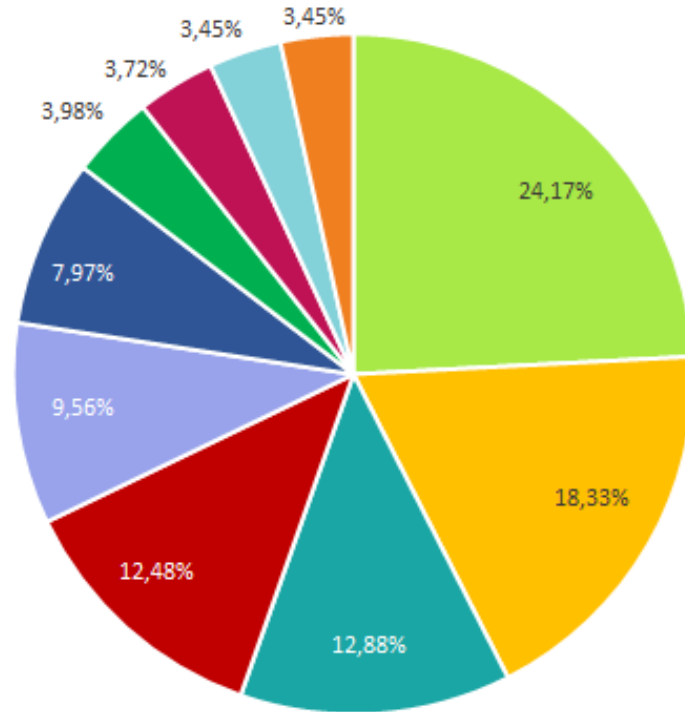


Data from local survey, july - september, 2020, Ossola Protected Areas

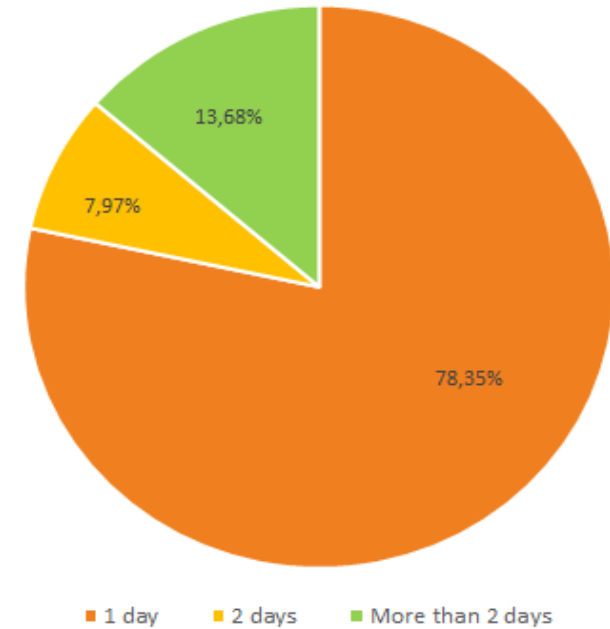


Which of the following initiatives should be offered to those who visit this area?

- On-site information about environment (notice boards, panels)
- Preparation of signaled tracks
- Control of the activities inside the protected area
- Information via web/social network
- Organization of guided tours with Naturalistic/Alpine Guides
- Preparation of equipped rest areas
- None of the initiatives indicated above
- Regulation of the activity
- Holiday packages (e.g. excursion + sojourn/gastronomy, weekend/2 days packages, etc.)
- Production of illustrative and didactic material (brochures, fliers)



How long do you plan to remain?



Data from local survey, July - September, 2020, Ossola Protected Areas

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COVID emergency triggered changes in tourism and visitors' patterns and behaviours

Some findings at european and at local level:

- Visitors searched for easy-to-reach areas, natural beauties, outdoor activities. **More local visitors and less tourists from abroad.**
- COVID emergency boosted the **demand for open spaces, outdoor activities and sports at local level.** PAs meet the rising demand for “natural” social distancing, safety and health.
- **More “newcomers”:** slight awareness of environmental issues (one day tours, “hit and run”).
- A widespread effort in **setting up/improving awareness raising campaigns** in order to cope with the situation.

... **how about the forthcoming WINTER SEASON? Are we ready?**

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Complications in transboundary cooperation

~~EXCURSION~~

~~WORKSHOP~~

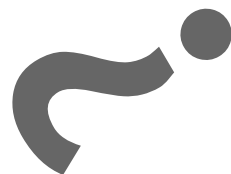
~~JOINT
MONITORING &
PLANNING~~

UNCERTAINTY

~~TRANS
PARK NET
MEETING~~

~~INITIATIVE~~

~~ANNUAL MEETING~~



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Complications in transboundary cooperation

- Some findings at european level:
- Less cross border exchanges?
- Higher pressure of visitors at local level?
- Programmes, projects and joint initiatives (e.g. joint planning) slowed down?
- Lower incomes from joint initiatives/activities and for local operators?
- Lower impact of environmental education, training courses?
- COVID affects staff engagement, language issues, digital participation?

...back to normal or towards a NEW NORMAL?

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We are looking forward to hear about your experience during the following discussion!

Thank you for your attention!

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