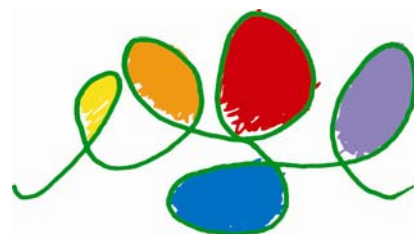


Man, Nature, Environment and Economy in harmony



Sustainability Report and EMAS Environmental Statement of the Regional Planning Association (REGIO) in the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Grosses Walsertal (A)
(English Summary of the Report in German)



Biosphärenpark
Großes Walsertal



Organisation and Contact Persons

Biosphere Reserve Management of the REGIO Großes Walsertal

Jagdbergstr. 272

A-6721 Thüringerberg

Austria

T (0043) (0)5550 20360

F (0043) (0)5550 2417-4

biosphaerenReserve@grosseswalsertal.at

www.grosseswalsertal.at

LAbg. Josef Türtscher

Chairman of the REGIO Großes Walsertal

Josef.tuertscher@landtag.cnv.at

T (0043) (0)5554 5533

Mag. Birgit Reutz-Hornsteiner

Biosphere Reserve Manager and Representative for sustainability

reutz@grosseswalsertal.at

T (0043) (0)5550 20360

The report was made considering the GRI (Global Reporting Initiative) guidelines.

Some characteristic data of the Biosphere Reserve Grosses Walsertal

Below you find some characteristic data about the region Grosses Walsertal. The EMAS certification was established for the Regional Planning association as legal representative of the Biosphere Reserve and the Management. It is not the case that all the six communities or the companies in the Grosses Walsertal were EMAS certified.

Location	In the south of Vorarlberg / Austria
Topography	Alpine valley with many gorges
Altitude	From 800 to 2704 m
6 independent communities	Thüringerberg, St. Gerold, Blons, Sonntag, Fontanella, Raggal
UNESCO Biosphere Reserce	since 10th November 2000
Surface Area	19.200 ha
Core zone	20.9 %
Buffer zone	64.4 %
Development zone	13.7 %
Protected areas	2310 ha
Percentage of area close to nature	> 90%
Inhabitants 2003	3439
Population	Walser people from canton wallis in Switzerland who immigrated in 13 th century
Farmers 2004	about 200
Farmers with Bio certification 2004	about 100
Overnight stays 2003	about 191.000
Daily commuters	About 800
Thermic solar collectors in m ²	1819m ²
Heatings with renewable energy	53%
Special awards for sustainable development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ European Renewal Village award 2002 ▪ Environment and Solar Award of 2002 ▪ Ford-Environment Award 2003 ▪ Network of alpine communities Award 2003 ▪ ARGE Alp Award 2004 	13

The Association for Regional planning (REGIO) Grosses Walsertal

- Members are the 6 communities
- Members of the steering committee are the six mayors and one chairman
- Various thematic Committee (Energy, tourism, Agriculture,.....)
- Employees of the REGIO 2004: 3

Index

Preface

The Biosphere Reserve Grosses Walsertal – Introduction

Organizational Structure and main tasks

Process organization

The Environmental and Sustainability Management System

EMAS

The EU-LIFE Project EcoMonte

Environmental Politics

Legal Compliance

What happened so far – a project report from 2000 to 2004

Awards for the Biosphere Reserve

Core indicator system and the Environmental Programme

Summary

Environment

Landscape

Farming and forestry

Energy

Other environmentally relevant aspects

Traffic

Regional planning and demography

Tourism and business

Youth, Social aspects, health and gender mainstreaming

School, Education and Culture

Unternehmen V

Glossar

Conclusion

EMAS Certification

Page 8 in the Report in German

„Taking the future in our own hands“

The Grosses Walsertal Biosphere Reserve in Austria – a living model of sustainable regional development with the participation of the local people

The Grosses Walsertal Biosphere Reserve, situated in the Western part of Austria and formed by six villages within a single alpine valley was designated as a UNESCO biosphere reserve in November 2000. The valley is a prime example of a living cultural landscape where a system of adapted mountain farming, pasture and extensive forestry has been developed. Today the mosaic of open land, forests and traditional settlements is the origin of a high animal and plant diversity. Nevertheless, as it is the case for almost all mountain landscapes, the costs and the human effort of maintaining the traditional land use systems have now become exorbitantly high. This put into question the economic, social and ecological future of the Grosses Walsertal. The six communities and the 3500 people living in the Grosses Walsertal decided “to take their future in their own hands”. A sort of help for their future development was the MAB concept. So the local communities use the MAB concept and the biosphere reserve as a mean to empower themselves to work together in meeting the challenges of the future – challenges which are shared with many other biosphere reserves all over the world.

Already two years before the designation as a biosphere reserve the preparations started – a Charter which set out a common future vision for the next years was elaborated by the local population, the first projects started. Also after the inauguration the region has always tried to make the biosphere concept visible for everyone by realizing “visible” projects, by establishing a professional regional management as a focus point and by constantly informing the local people about the backgrounds of a biosphere reserve. The intention is not just being proud on the UNESCO –Label “biosphere reserve” but to do something for the peoples’ future and to make the biosphere reserve visible in the everyday life of everybody. So the area tries to work together as well as possible – the remuneration for this effort was the award “European Prize for sustainable regional development in communities” in 2002 among 33 participants. The motto of this competition was “cross the limits”.

A spotlight on some projects realized by the six communities and their local population during the last four years:

To find a logo together a painting competition for schools was organized. A new kind of tourism development was started under the slogan “Adventure Biosphere Reserve Grosses Walsertal”, fostering environmental awareness for school classes and families. People working in tourism started to make the “biosphere reserve” visible in everyday tourism: there is a special “biosphere reserve menu” mainly made with local products and written on a menu with the logo of the biosphere reserve. The project group “enjoyers of local products” tries to strengthen the cooperation between the local producers and the restaurants and hotels in the valley. The use of renewable energies, especially timber, biomass and sun, is strongly promoted. A special service for all questions concerning renewable energy was established in the office of the regional management. A newspaper, the “Blickwinkel - point of view” serves for information and networking between the valley’s inhabitants every second month. The trade mark “Walserstolz” (Walser’s pride) was defined for the local cheese. It

helped the people to sell their cheese no longer as ordinary "mountain cheese" but as a special cheese with a guaranteed origin and quality for a better price. On the same principle the trade mark "Bergholz" (Mountain timber) is based. "The delectable box" was created to directly market local agricultural products. One other project deals with "herb tea" collected by many people of the valley and sold with the biosphere reserve label. Another project is called "Walser's particular Art" – artists of the Grosses Walsertal joined together and sell their products like felted slippers, handmade paper, ceramics, beeswax-candles and more together in the tourist offices of the valley as a different kind of souvenir. The idea of using the biosphere reserve designation to serve as a guarantee or label of quality of local products and services was realized in the selection of 34 restaurants and hotels as "partners of the biosphere reserve". They set out special criteria they have to fulfil. Using local products and informing the guests about the biosphere reserve concept are only two of the 20 criteria. The regional management is on the way to elaborate a research concept for the biosphere reserve together with some partners. To give even more information about the particularities of the Grosses Walsertal information points and signs for the core zone are planned. It is not easy to organize the money for all kind of projects, right now the region gets some funding from the European Union through LIFE-Environment for projects in the field of sustainable tourism and renewable energy.

Organizational Structure and main tasks

(All figures only in German, see report page 10-12)

The Sustainability Management System of the association of regional planning contains various tasks which are performed by different committees.

The Association for regional planning

The association was founded in 1972. Members are the six communities. Main tasks of the REGIO are the guidance and the "formation" of the future development of the region in accordance to the ecological, economic, cultural and social aspects. The REGIO is the legal representative of the Biosphere Reserve Grosses Walsertal and is certified with EMAS.

The steering committee

The steering committee decides upon the future development of the Biosphere Reserve. This means also that the Steering committee is the headship of the Sustainability Management System. The Steering Committee is responsible for the Planning and Implementation of various activities and measure, for the environmental policy, for the collection and evaluation of the core indicators.

The Biosphere Reserve Management

The Biosphere Reserve Management was established in 2000 and is with its 2 employees responsible for

- All the Biosphere Reserve tasks corresponding to the Seville Strategy
- For the strategic planning and the cooperation with partners, the committee end the implementation of various projects for sustainable development
- For the supervision of the sustainability management system
- For research and international networking
- For ambiantal education
- For public relations
- For various administrative tasks

The Thematic Committee of the REGIO

The Steering committee established some thematic workgroups:

- Agriculture and Forestry
- Environment and Energy
- Tourism
- Business
- Youth
- Social aspects
- School, Education and Culture

The Committee prepare projects for the steering committee and the Management and they also have a consultation function.

Other tasks like regional planning, Demography are matters of the communities. The partners of the REGIO from the Government and the Institute for renewable energy help the REGIO and the Management in the implementation.

Process organization

(page 13-14)

The improvement circle follows a 3 years-cyclus with defined milestones. The process organization follows the following principle:

The Biosphere Reserve Management is -besides all the other tasks of a BR management- responsible for the coordination of the Sustainability Management System, for the Core Indicators and their evaluation, the environmental policy and programme, and the environment statement. The BR manager collects the relevant data, adapts the environment policy and writes the environment statement. All this is presented every year to the steering committee. The committee of the REGIO help to collect the relevant data, the plan yearly goals and measures. The communities also help in the data collection. A responsibility list shows who is responsible for what. Every year in February the Management Review takes place. Every year in October a strategic planning workshop for the REGIO, the management and the partners takes place.

The sustainability management system in the Biosphere Reserve Grosses Walsertal

Page 15-16

EMAS – The European Eco Management and Audit Scheme

The EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) is a management tool for companies and other organisations to evaluate, report and improve their environmental performance. The scheme has been available for participation by companies since 1995 (Council Regulation (EEC) No 1836/93 of 29 June 1993) and was originally restricted to companies in industrial sectors.

Since 2001 EMAS has been open to all economic sectors including public and private services (Regulation (EC) No 761/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2001). In addition, EMAS was strengthened by the integration of EN/ISO 14001 as the environmental management system required by EMAS; by adopting an attractive EMAS logo to signal EMAS registration to the outside world; and by considering more strongly indirect effects such as those related to financial services or administrative and planning decisions.

Participation is voluntary.

The main stages of EMAS

To receive EMAS registration an organisation must comply with the following steps:

1. conduct an **environmental review** considering all environmental aspects of the organisation's activities, products and services, methods to assess these, its legal and regulatory framework and existing environmental management practices and procedures.
2. in the light of the results of the review, establish an effective **environmental management system** aimed at achieving the organisation's environmental policy defined by the top management. The management system needs to set responsibilities, objectives, means, operational procedures, training needs, monitoring and communication systems.
3. carry out an **environmental audit** assessing in particular the management system in place and conformity with the organisation's policy and programme as well as compliance with relevant environmental regulatory requirements.
4. provide a **statement** of its environmental performance which lays down the results achieved against the environmental objectives and the future steps to be undertaken in order to continuously improve the organisation's environmental performance.

The EU-LIFE Project EcoMonte

In line with the EcoMonte project the REGIO Grosses Walsertal wanted to introduce an Integrated environment management system based on the EMAS regulation in the BR Grosses Walsertal. The Integrated environment management system shall act as an evaluation and controlling instrument for the Biosphere Reserve region. As there have never been tried to introduce EMAS for an entire region this is a real pilot project.

Main objectives of the project:

- Integrated environment management based on the EMAS Regulation for the public sector in a small rural region comprising 6 communities
- Development of the relevant indicators and criteria

- Implementation of suitable measures in the public sector (community level) and in tourism so as to counteract the ecological hazards of underutilisation
- Use of renewable regional resources and development of a sustainable structure of tourism
- Evaluation and if necessary redevelopment of audit systems for regional sustainability
- Development of the 6 small project communities to achieve e5 status (energy audit)
- Application of the Austrian Ecolabel to tourism businesses and evaluation of potential for environment management for micro-enterprises (< 10 employees)
- Implementation and marketing of the Biosphere Reserve as a tourism label and implementation of the Biosphere Reserve Partner model.

In 2000 Grosses Walsertal was made one of the first Biosphere Reserves in Austria in the terms of the UNESCO document. To that extent the project is the logical continuation of initiatives taken in recent years in the field of sustainable regional development (policy document development with citizen participation, environmental orientation in agriculture, external marketing and regional use of local biomass, combined tourism/agriculture etc). The focus of this project is accordingly to provide an integrated platform for existing and future measures and model components for a defined territorial unit.

The central component is the Management and Product Concept. The main focus here is to evaluate the relevance of eco-management concepts for the sustainable development of a whole region. This goal will be achieved by developing indicators and criteria for regional environment management and sustainable quality management (including assessment of their suitability for use in comparable European regions) and implementing specific measures required to qualify for eco-management certification, e.g.:

- Exploitation of the regional potential for renewable energy
- Development of an environment- and user-friendly mobility system
- Counselling for ecolabel certification in tourism
- Development and implementation of a specific eco-friendly tourism offering
- Creation of educational offerings in the fields of energy and sustainable tourism

The results of these measures will be disseminated to optimum effect in the region and in comparable regions through appropriate public relations measures and participation in the relevant European networks and conferences (see also forms T 5 und T 6)

- Indicators/criteria for regional environment management and sustainable quality management
- Implementation of environment management and sustainable quality management
- e5 certification for the region (= 6 communities)
- 50% of regional energy requirements (excluding transport) to be met from renewable sources
- Tourism Ecolabel certification and Biosphere Reserve Partner status to be achieved by at least 20% and 40% of the relevant businesses respectively
- Establishment of an information centre, an international conference and educational offerings

Project Steering Group (PSG)

The PSG is responsible for all aspects of process and project steering. The group accordingly includes the political decision-makers in the REGIO organisation, the heads of the Future Developments Office and Department of General Environmental Protection at the Office of the Vorarlberg Regional Government, and the General Manager of the Biosphere Reserve.

The environmental problem and its significance

The central environmental problem is a growing risk of underutilisation in the region. Given the steepness of the valley slopes, proper management of the protective forests and mountain-side meadows is of existential importance. To guarantee their continued management, it is necessary to ensure the economic viability of land use in the region. The opportunities are limited, with commercial logging operations, tourism and agriculture as the main pillars of the regional economy.

Solutions are required for a number of environmental problems:

- Without suitable, sustainable and eco-friendly land use, the valley is at risk of becoming uninhabitable in part at least.
- Increased frequency of mudflows and avalanches, and enormous costs for protective structures
- Heavy commuter traffic
- Overexploitation in the few favoured locations

The project accordingly relates to the two fields "Use of biomass (timber) and (other) sources of renewable energy" and "Tourism development". They will make a major contribution to finding a solution for the central environmental problem.

Apart from that, the region's unique ecological character and importance has been confirmed by the decision to confer Biosphere Reserve status on it. This constitutes a commitment to an eco-friendly model of development.

The region involved

Grosses Walsertal is one of the small inner Alpine valleys of the Austrian Province of Vorarlberg. Starting in Walgau, it extends to the north east as far as Faschinajoch, where the Bregenz Forest area begins. The region comprises the six separate communities of Thuringerberg, St. Gerold, Blons, Raggal, Sonntag and Fontanella, with an area of approx. 200 sq.km and 3,500 inhabitants. About 60% of the working population are employed outside the valley. The main sources of employment in the valley itself are agriculture and forestry, wood processing and tourism.

Project objective and ecological results

The project focuses on the following objectives:

- The overriding objective is to achieve certification for the whole valley as a model region for integrated environment management on the basis of the following preconditions:
- Evaluation and if necessary redevelopment of audit systems for regional/local sustainability on the basis of environmental goals and indicators; development of environmental goals and a set of indicators for sustainable development suitable for use by small communities
- Use of renewable regional resources:
- This aspect primarily involves the use of timber from the forests in the valley. In addition to greater emphasis on the use of timber for construction purposes in

Vorarlberg, the forest biomass is to be utilised primarily for energy generation purposes (along with hydropower and solar energy). The goal is to meet 50% of thermic energy generation requirements (especially heating) with the help of a network of central and decentral biomass heating plants.

- Development of a sustainable structure of tourism in the Grosses Walsertal region without irreversible impacts on the natural environment:
- As a Biosphere Reserve, Grosses Walsertal is predestined for "soft" tourism with minimum impacts on the environment. In the framework of the Biosphere Reserve, tourism is to be developed in the direction of an unspoilt nature experience.
- Developments to achieve e5 status for the region (energy audit):
- e5 is an energy audit programme comprising the following fields of action: Internal organisation / Planning and approvals / Construction and plant / Supply and partnerships / Mobility and transport / Public relations and counselling. The goal is to help the region achieve at least an e2 rating (max. e5).
- Development of a regional public transport system with regular interval scheduling operated as far as possible with buses running on biodiesel (or biogas)
- At least 25% of the tourism businesses eligible for the Austrian Ecolabel
- Evaluation of the scope for environment management for micro-enterprises (< 10 employees): The aim here is to develop a kind of EMAS system that is also suitable for very small businesses.
- Implementation and marketing of the Biosphere Reserve tourism label and implementation of the Biosphere Reserve Partner concept
- Training and continuous education for parties from the region and elsewhere with an interest in the various aspects of the project:
- The goal is to establish a training centre offering courses in the fields of renewable energy and sustainable tourism
- The involvement of the inhabitants of the region in all project activities
- Establishment of an information centre to explain to visitors the specific character of the valley and provide an overview of all project activities
- Organisation of an international conference on "The Nature Experience" plus a corresponding educational offering

State of the art

- **Audit systems for communities**

The EMAS Community system has been revised and is now applicable to additional sectors (including non-industrial sectors and public administration). For Austria the e5 system represents a separate energy audit system for communities that can be integrated in EMAS.

- **Environment management systems and ecolabels in tourism**

EMAS is now applicable to the field of tourism (see above). There are also various other tourism ecolabels, including some in Austria, which offer relevant criteria and useful findings for the project.

- **Sustainable Quality Management**

- **Wood-based energy generation**

Small decentral heating plants and bigger heating plants with up to 12 MW output are now a proven technology in Vorarlberg. The Vorarlberger Kraftwerke company as the regional utility is an extremely experienced partner in this field.

- **Timber in the construction industry**

In the last few years the Vorarlberg construction industry has attracted international attention with a number of initiatives relating to the use of timber, including innovations in modular construction, which have led to a boom in the

use of timber for construction purposes (and an increase in total turnover for carpentry businesses by about 20% in 3 years).

- **Biodiesel drive for buses**

Biodiesel has been used to power buses for public transport for some time now, including services in the Vorarlberg foreland. This operating experience will prove useful for the project.

The innovative potential of the project

- **Integrated environment management for a whole region**

This is a completely new development. Although a few pilot communities have received EMAS certification, there is no precedent for a complete, clearly defined geographic region. One of the goals of the project is therefore to evaluate the applicability of EMAS, with its focus on energy, the tourism industry and public facilities, to a whole region. For this purpose criteria and indicators are to be elaborated to ensure the applicability of the project to other regions.

- **Changeover to mainly renewable sources of energy from the region**

A central criterion for the success of any environment management system is a reduction in energy consumption and simultaneous switch to renewable sources of energy. In the Grosses Walsertal region the aim is to establish an innovative model to demonstrate how energetic rehabilitation, energy-efficient construction and energy production from renewable sources can be linked to the use of regional resources (policy of short supply lines). The result will be a set of indicators for regional CO₂ reductions in line with the Kyoto goals.

- **Integrated environment management for biosphere Reserves**

Here again there is no clear precedent in Europe. In the UNESCO programme, however, there is a stress on the model function of biosphere Reserves for regions with similar structures and ecosystems. The proposed project meets this criterion.

- **Multifactor approach**

One significant innovative aspect of the project is the integration of a wide range of factors in sustainable regional development (forestry, construction industry, wood-processing trade, tourism, public administration) under the common roof of integrated environment management at the regional level. This highly pragmatic approach will make it possible to develop practicable indicators and criteria for integrated environment management and sustainable regional development.

- **Sustainable tourism as a leitmotif**

In terms of the environment tourism is extremely problematical, especially in the countries of the Alps, because it leads to major impacts in sensitive ecosystems, generates huge traffic problems, causes social disruption, and much else besides. In the proposed project all the aspects of tourism in the region (summer and winter) will be addressed from the point of view of integrated environment management and sustainability.

- **Linking environment management, employment policy and regional development**

The region is suffering from a clear shortage of employment opportunities, especially for skilled personnel. The result is a very high level of commuting (approx. 60% of the employable population) and a rural exodus of young people

in particular. The project will serve to test new and innovative sources of employment and ensure that people from the region receive the relevant training in the region (in the construction industry and related trades: refurbishment and energy-efficient construction; in tourism: combined arts and nature guides; in education: trainers for the training centre programmes; etc). The aim is to achieve a 5% reduction in the number of commuters by creating new jobs in the region.

Innovative aspects of the project:

The central leitmotif is integrated environment management for a whole region, with the ultimate goal of achieving certification on the basis of the EMAS Eco-Audit Regulation. This is the umbrella to which all other items listed in the original submission relate.

This innovative approach includes a number of interesting features such as the following:

- The goal of EMAS certification for a small region of six communities
- Specific measures in the fields of energy and tourism with the goal of sub-certification
- Linking energy and tourism through such measures as
 - An assessment of the potential for using regional biogas or biodiesel for the regional and walkers' bus services
 - Energy-saving measures and an emphasis on renewable sources of energy in tourism (especially buildings)

General involvement of the local population in the preparation and implementation of integrated environment management.

Demonstration character

The proposed project has the character of a pilot project. It is the first such project with the goal of certification on the basis of an integrated environment management system for a whole region with 6 independent communities. The formal design of the project is modelled on the criteria of the EU Eco-audit Regulation.

Direct benefits are to be expected with regard to the indicator sets created, energetic rehabilitation for existing buildings, the use of renewable sources of energy, sustainable tourism and public administration.

The parameters required for monitoring purposes will be selected and/or developed in the status quo analysis phase of the project, with subsequent data capture to continue for the full duration of the project. This will involve both data captured on a routine basis and the results of various studies and investigations performed in the last few years. The effectiveness of the project in qualitative and quantitative terms will be assessed on the basis of a full evaluation of the results relating to the defined environmental goals and indicators.

As the communities and regional authorities concerned are all represented in the steering group, the project can be expected to meet with a high level of acceptance.

In general it can be said that the project will produce Europe's first demonstration model for regional (as opposed to communal or industrial) environment management.

Dissemination plan

The dissemination of project findings and the final results is addressed in the Communications and Marketing module. This module provides for the development and implementation of a dissemination plan for the whole project.

The dissemination plan relates to a number of different target groups:

- The inhabitants of the region in their various functions as operators and beneficiaries of the environment management concept
- Decision-makers at the communal and regional levels
- Regional providers in the fields of tourism, energy, and the construction industry and related trades
- Individuals with an interest in the relevant training and continuous education
- Regions facing similar problems in the whole of Europe
- European experts involved with the individual components of the overall environment management concept (e.g. biomass, sustainable tourism, ecolabelling, etc.)

Expected results of dissemination:

Dissemination will relate primarily to the three main pillars of the EcoMonte project, i.e. energy efficiency, sustainable tourism, and training and continuous education, with the focus on the following items:

- Tourism ecolabels for micro-enterprises in rural areas
- Sustainable mobility systems for tourist and rural areas
- Regional eco-audits
- Use of regional renewable sources of energy
- Job creation through a sustainable economy, and
- related training and continuous education

Ecological cost/benefit ratio

The ecological cost/benefit ratio can be considered highly positive for a number of reasons:

- The availability of the necessary human resources in the region itself means that all aspects of project co-ordination and organisation can be handled on a very cost-effective basis.
- The integrated environment management concept involving a targeted approach to the underlying ecological problems (sensitive use of the biomass as a regional resource and simultaneous preservation of the protection function of the forests, development of sustainable tourism without the pressures of overutilisation) is an extremely cost-effective solution to development in the valley in promising sectors, especially in comparison with other methods (avalanche protection engineering works, road galleries, etc).
- The relatively low costs for the implementation of the project will generate significantly higher benefits for the region in terms of ecology (e.g. management and preservation of the sensitive mountain ecosystem) and economics (e.g. new jobs, significant increase in value-added generated in the valley).

Economic importance of the project

This will result above all from sustainable economic development in the region through

- an integrated increase in value-added from tourism in the valley thanks to the involvement of the trades, retail and agriculture

- an increase in value-added through the optimised use of timber as a regional resource (for construction and energy) both in and outside of the valley (sales)
- a reduction in the number of commuters by improving the job market situation in the valley itself
- a reduction in the number of people – especially young people – leaving the valley by improving the opportunities for skilled employees in attractive jobs there
- exploiting the potential for innovation in the region through various incentives
- protecting existing jobs and creating new ones

Prospects for success

The prospects for the project must be considered very positive for a variety of reasons:

- General involvement of the citizenry in the development of the basis policy document and the concept for the Biosphere Reserve has generated a high level of motivation and sense of new prospects.
- The leading political authorities in Vorarlberg, and especially the Governor and the Senator for Finance, have made a long-term commitment to the development process.
- Integrated environment management with the twin pillars of energy and tourism is based on solid foundations in the form of precursor measures.
- Participation in the international networks provides access to past experience elsewhere and offers a platform for the ongoing exchange of information. This reduces the risk of costly mistakes.

The ecological cost-benefit analysis will comprise four steps:

1. Definition of ecological and economic goals on the basis of an analysis of the status quo
2. Two interim evaluation reports on these goals to be prepared by external experts in the course of the project
3. Final evaluation at the end of the project on the basis of the initial goals and adjustments made in the course of the project
4. Internal controlling / monitoring throughout the project to assess the degree of goal accomplishment.

Environmental Policy (only in German, page 17))

Legal Compliance (only in German, page 18))

What has happened so far – a project report from 2000 until 2004

Page 19 ff

The starting point

Intact landscape, big nature reserves, a large amount of commuters who work in neighbouring regions, endangered local infrastructures, traditional farming methods, decreasing guest numbers ...

In 1998 everyone in Grosses Walsertal (The Great Walser Valley) agreed that to ensure a future quality of life something had to be done. It was thought that a plan was needed for regional development in Grosses Walsertal, which would make it possible for future generations to live a good quality of life in the valley.

The idea came to become a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, part of the Man And Biosphere Program (MAB), and therefore becoming part of a worldwide network of model regions for sustainable economy and living.

Man, nature and economy in harmony – how is that possible?

The promoters of the Biosphere Reserve idea knew that it was not possible to put a wrapping over the entire valley to protect the natural and cultural treasures, however everyone agreed that it was necessary to begin a development which would be equally good for nature, the economy and the people. The UNESCO program of 'Man and the Biosphere' was deemed to be the best way to meet the goals for the future of the Grosses Walsertal valley.

The MAB program is the basis for all UNESCO Biosphere Reserves across the world – it is about using nature without harming it. Biospheres reserves are not designed to be purely nature reserves where people should withdraw themselves, rather they should be places where nature is observed, explored and where treasures of the landscape are seen as resources for the development of tourism, the economy and the quality of living.

Community involvement as a success factor

In 1998 the population of Grosses Walsertal involved themselves in the idea to become a Biosphere Reserve. To be a Biosphere Reserve is a nice title but to be a model region only becomes a reality when the people of the region work actively to create their own future.

The common concept

In 1999, almost seventy Walser men and women worked on a plan to detail what the goals should be for the valley's future over the next five years. Through active participation of the people it was possible to gather significant members of the community to promote the concept of the Biosphere Reserve, this was an important aspect of its development. The "common concept" for the Biosphere Reserve was created during many evening workshops from different work groups: environment, traffic management, social issues, culture, education, farming, tourism and economics. The completion of the plan was suitably celebrated: a party was organised and all the inhabitants of the valley were invited. It was a party to emphasize the positive atmosphere in the region.

The logo

The logo for the Biosphere Reserve was not created by a professional artist. Instead a design competition in the schools of the valley was conducted.

Step by step goals and milestones

It is not only because the Walser people like to gather together for celebrations, parties are important for regional development in order to commemorate goals and milestones achieved. The official announcement as a Biosphere Reserve by the state of Vorarlberg and then the international awarding of the title as a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO were celebrated by a valley wide party in July 2001.

“Lebenswert leben“ (Quality of Life living)

In 1997, the project “Lebenswert Leben” was initiated by the Office of Future Issues within the Vorarlberg Government. This campaign aimed to build an awareness within rural communities to help themselves towards viable futures. It was not just about keeping a small village shop operating, it was far more – it was about keeping and improving the quality of living in the country regions.

Regional management office for local inhabitants and visitors

To act as a link between the region and the international network of Biosphere Reserves, a central management and information office for the Grosses Walsertal Biosphere Reserve was established in Thüringerberg in the year 2000. A fulltime manager was appointed to coordinate the various activities of the Biosphere Reserve.

From the plan to implementation

The plan, made by the people of the valley, is a document containing the aims for the following years. The success of the plan only becomes visible when the collective results of the small projects within are considered. A number of projects designed to give visual impact in different community areas gives the Biosphere Reserve a ‘realness’ for locals and visitors alike.

A few examples of projects which were successfully realised:

Der Walserstolz (The Walser Pride)

Since its settlement the Grosses Walsertal economy has been based around farming. It has not changed despite the fact that the requirements for farming are just as difficult today as they have ever been. The fields are steep and the altitude in the alps is high. To preserve mountain farming, careful farming practises were developed. The continual difficulties of farming in such terrain lead to the Walser farmers coming together to form a dairy community which jointly promoted their special cheese made from ‘silo free’ milk. Today, 180 farmers deliver their milk daily to the dairies of the valley. It would not be possible to have an economically viable farming industry in the valley without the coordinated effort of the individual dairy farmers. A 10% increase in profit was gained with the production of this cheese called ‘Walserstolz’ and 190 jobs were either saved or created. In the restaurants the cheese was added to the regular menu as a local speciality.

“Die köstliche Kiste“ (The Delicious Culinary Box)

It becomes more and more difficult to keep a mountain farming economy going. To secure the future income for the local farmers alternative possibilities had to be found. The pilot project “die köstliche Kiste” is an attempt to increase the sales and direct marketing of the valley’s farming produce. “Die köstliche Kiste” is a wooden box, made by carpenters of the valley, which is filled with local culinary specialities. The main product is the Walserstolz cheese, also included are sausages, bacon, sheep salami, dried fruit, home made schnapps and liquors, mountain herbal tea

and home made jams. These items are all produced and delivered by the farmers and their families. Also contained in the box is a brochure which gives information about the Biosphere Reserve, which is hoped will increase the awareness of buying local produce.

Environmental education in Grosses Walsertal – adventure Biosphere Reserve

A central function of Biosphere Reserves, besides protection and development, is ambiental education and research. Under the name “Abenteuer Biosphärenpark” (Adventure Biosphere reserve), ‘Experience Nature’ weeks and days are offered by professionally educated leaders. They teach the significance of culture and nature within the valley to pupils, guests and locals.

Nature as a resource – the e5 program

Solar energy and heating from biomass is big in the valley. Grosses Walsertal has set the goal to become an energy efficient region within the ‘e5 program for efficient energy’. This program was established in 1998 by the Vorarlberg Institute of Energy. At the moment seventeen councils and the region of Grosses Walsertal participate in this program. Their aim is to have an especially advanced energy policy. Every three years the individual ‘e5’ councils are tested and graded by an independent commission. Just like the ‘hats’ system of grading for restaurants, the ‘e5’ councils are graded from 1 to 5 (5e’s being the best). Aims of the program are the promotion of efficient uses of energy, the increase in use of local and renewable energy, the building and care of structures, and the creation of processes to maintain modern energy policies. To achieve these aims, there is an energy advice centre, the biomass heating facility in Faschina (which provides heating to more than 20 tourist establishments), and a firewood exchange. These are just a few methods being used. In June 2004, Grosses Walsertal was tested for the first time to grade its energy efficiency. Its result was 58% and hence was credibly awarded 3 e’s (out of a possible 5).

“Genussspechte“ (Gourmets – people with a taste for fine things)

This project was set up as a basis for closer cooperation between farming, dairies, the butchery, the bakery and the restaurants of Grosses Walsertal. Natural products of the valley which are of high quality should be offered to tourists. The meals which are marked with the Biosphere Reserve logo on the restaurant menus are made from produce which predominantly come out of the valley. A mobile dairy shop delivers to all the tourist establishments, from the smallest guesthouses to the large four star hotels.

The “Bergholz“ label

“Bergholz“ is a project designed to promote the sensible and sustainable usage of the wood in the valley and to ensure the high quality of timber treating and processing by qualified businesses. All the bigger forest owners, the six councils of the valley, and ten handcraft businesses are participating in this joint project. Besides the economic value of this project, the social effects are also very valuable. Businesses can continue to operate because skilled jobs can be guaranteed and offered.

Buses for the Alps and hiking tours

To reduce the environmental effects of excess traffic caused by individuals visiting the alpine areas in the Biopshere Reserve, a ‘Wanderbus’ (hiking bus) system was introduced. The profits generated from the fees charged for the use of these buses stay in the valley because the services are provided by local operators. The hiking

buses are also connected to the public bus network. There are even ideas to operate the hiking buses with bio-diesel.

Biosphere Reserve tourism – business partners

Local restaurants and hotels have worked out their own criteria as to how they can contribute to being part of the Biosphere Reserve. It is their aim to make the Biosphere Reserve visible and tangible for visiting tourists. Up to now, more than thirty businesses have been accredited as business partners in the Biosphere reserve. All the necessary criteria and awarded businesses are written in a brochure and each participating business has got a plaque with the Biosphere logo at their front door.

Environmental Tourism Accreditation

Tourists, who are interested in the environment, want quality compliance for ecological standards in accommodations and catering. With the "Umweltzeichen", associated businesses are motivated to use and offer more environmentally friendly products so that an ecologically sustainable economy in the Biosphere Reserve is possible. The businesses are responsible to act as role models for other businesses in surrounding areas. Four separate businesses in the valley were given the "Umweltzeichen" award. Apart from businesses, the Thüringerberg primary school was awarded alongside four other schools in the state of Vorarlberg. The St Gerold primary school and the Blons secondary school are also aiming to be accredited with this award.

Businesses offering farming excursions

Due to the increase in the number of tourists who are interested in nature, in 2004, the Vorarlberg Government's Department for Environment awarded some farming businesses in Grosses Walsertal with the title of 'Landwirtschaftliche Exkursionsbetriebe'. This scheme is part of a greater nature conservation plan created by the Austrian government. Thirty farms in Grosses Walsertal are participating and offering guided excursions.

Awards for the Biosphere Reserve Grosses Walsertal

Page 23

- European Renewal Village award 2002
- Environment and Solar Award of 2002
- Ford-Environment Award 2003
- Network of alpine communities Award 2003
- ARGE Alp Award 2004

The core indicator system - environmental and sustainability aspects and the sustainability program

Page 24 ff

Between October and December 2004, fourteen workshops with notable attendances by the REGIO, mayors and other council office bearers, and some EcoMonte participants, were held to work out a numbering system to grade the environmental achievements of the Biosphere Reserve, and as far as possible, the achievement of sustainability of the Biosphere Reserve.

Action

It was the aim of the workshops to find a numbered measuring system (core indicator system) for each area of the valley's community affairs and economic operations. Apart from that, an agreement had to be reached as to who and how the grading would be done. The basis for the assessment was provided by the LIFE EcoMonte application form, the EcoMonte analysis report, the common concepts for the population and nature reserves of the Grosses Walsertal, the draft of the EMAS Numbering Roster and the numbers to grade the sustainable development.

The workshops were facilitated by KRONOS. KRONOS and the management of the Biosphere Reserve suggested and prepared the numbering systems to the workshop groups. In the workshops priorities were set and the numbers were tested due to their ability to investigate the sustainability. Results from previous testings were also considered. The proposed numbers were then reduced to a manageable amount, and the task to select the final numbering system was set. After fourteen workshops, a suitable numbering system to assess the sustainability of the Biosphere Reserve was established. From October 2003 until June 2004, the numbering system was tested and investigated, and due to some difficulties a few numbers were omitted from the system. The environmental aspects for sustainability were investigated by the Biosphere Reserve management and the Vorarlberg Department for the Environment.

Definition of Goals – Development of measures and evaluation

Additional to the numbering systems given to each of the areas (farming, energy, traffic, supply, waste management, noise control, landscape, tourism, social issues, youth and equality, schools, education and culture) aims, further measures and responsibilities were developed for the environmental and sustainability program. A number of preservation goals were also created due to the already high sustainability status of the region (as is apparent by the UNESCO certification).

The environmental and sustainability policy of the Biosphere Reserve is a compilation of the essential contents of the common concept which was developed in 1999 and

actualised in 2004. A final analysis was conducted on the global, ecological, social and economical factors by the Vorarlberg Office for Future Issues. Based on that, a sustainability profile was established.

Direct and indirect environmental aspects

From the environmental aspects test, it was discovered that the Biosphere Reserve office in Thüringerberg possessed no direct environmental effect. The ecological supply of office stationary, coffee, etc is provided by the Vorarlberg Government's Ökoleitfaden Büro Umweltverbandes. The influence of the indirect environmental aspects was far more relevant. The Biosphere Reserve management, partly in combination with the councils of REGIO, are responsible for the indirect affects on the environment. The measuring system with the core indicators and measures provide a sustainability profile, as well as setting a basis for the development and sustainability of goals and tasks for improvement. It is the responsibility of the Biosphere Reserve management, REGIO and valley councils to work on these goals and tasks.

As to which criteria are essential the following aspects have been listed: a nature reserve plan, a population plan and the threat of under-usage of local resources. The results of these aspects led to a structure of numbers in different areas. The most important were farming, energy and tourism. To establish the sustainability management system for the Grosses Walsertal Biosphere Reserve, most attention was paid to the indirect environmental aspects of the region. Regional and usage aspects also had to be considered. Looking just at the environmental aspects would mean putting a protective wrap over the entire valley. Which of course is not what is desired: it is a balance and cooperation between man and nature which was sought and attempted as much as possible.

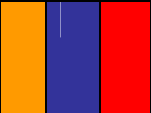
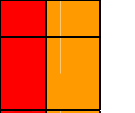

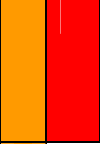

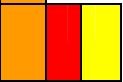
Overview

On the following pages you will find an overview of the core indicator system, the environmental and sustainability aspects, goals and tasks of the Grosses Walsertal Biosphere Reserve. In the first column the areas of: Environment; Tourism and Trade; Social, Youth, Health and Equality; and School, Education and Culture are listed. For each area there are sub headings added. For example under 'Environment' there are Landscape Characteristics; Farming and Forestry, Energy, Settlements and Population. In the second column, you will find the 'actual' numbers which belong to the areas. The numbers come from different years, hence the addition of the year is shown where applicable. In the third column, the environmental and sustainability aspects for the different topics are listed. The fourth column documents the goals for sustainability and development. Because of the excellent environmental policies and practises already in place, there were no goals set to achieve, only goals set to maintain. The fifth column contains selected tasks, and how to achieve the set goals. The sixth column details the parties responsible for carrying out the tasks. This overview is available from the Biosphere Reserve office or downloaded from the internet.

The responsible parties are as follows:

REGIO
Biosphärenparkmanagement (BSP)
REGIO Unterausschüsse (UA)
Gemeinden (G)
Sonstige (z.B. Umwelta Abteilung, Büro für Zukunftsfragen, Energieinstitut,...) (S)

Overview

Topic and number	Actual Number	Environmental and Sustainability aspects	Goals	Selected Tasks	Party Responsible	
Environment						
Landscape Characteristics						
Grading of the natural land	1988	Ecological value, variety of flowers, biotopes	Sustainability until 2008	ÖPUL - natural protection plan		
	▪ used nature			6,00%		Forest experience trail
	▪ partly used			31,00%		Main zone campaign
	▪ untouched nature			23,00%		Environmental education programs
Big scale biotopes	1988: 22.62%			Exploration projects		
Small scale biotopes	1988: 8,84%			No animals in the wild moors		
				Possibility of the extension to protected nature reserves		
Forest land in %	2000: 34.34%	Danger of an excess of timber. Forests for protection	Sustainability	Setting up of a forest discovery trail. Special reforestation projects.		
Overflow of the Lutz river.	2002: 400 l/sec	Ecological ability to function, living areas, river flow, self cleaning ability	Sustainability min. 400l/sec until 2004	Regular control checks by the V'berg government		
Water quality of the Lutz.	1998: Zwischen I und II		Sustainability until 2004			
The flow of the Lutz.	2000 : 6,76 m3/sec MQ					
Nature Reserves	2003: 12,01%		Extend until 2007	Extension of protected nature reserves.		
'Natura 2000' regions	2003: 8,15%		Sustainability until 2007	Adaptation to the core zone		
Kinds of Use	2002:		Sustainability until 2005			
▪ building	0,23%					
▪ traffic	0,73%					
▪ farming	15,10%					
▪ gardens	0,27%					
▪ vineyards	0,00%					
▪ Alps	36,67%					

▪ forest	37,35%				
▪ water	0,68%				
▪ others	9,03%				
Farming and Forestry					
Proportion of 'silo free' areas	2003: 1325,59 ha	Danger of intensive overuse. Valuable ecological areas. Farming land	Sustainability until 2007	Awareness	■ ■
				Financial attraction	■ ■
Valuable ecological areas	2003: 579.18 ha	Biodiversity.	Sustainability until 2007	Strengthen the demand for regional products.	■ ■ ■
				Awareness (eg. via competitions)	■ ■
				Sacrifice of biozides, strange food	■ ■
				ÖPUL- natural protection plan	■ ■ ■
				Farming excursion businesses	■ ■ ■
Model to work with non-farming population	■ ■ ■				
Cattle and Horses/ ha	2003: 1,03	Danger of intensive overuse.	Between 0.5 and 1.4 by 2007	Increase the direct payment for having domestic animals	■
Cultivated Alps	2003: 47	Danger of damage	Sustainability until 2007	Maintain attractiveness of the alps	■
				Promote products	■ ■
				Concrete only on needed surfaces	■ ■
				Continuation of Alp management	■ ■
Forest damage Wild animals	2003: 52,00%	Problems with wild animals	Reduce up to 40% by 2008	If problems – reduction of wild animals	■ ■
				Increase the intensity of forest usage	■ ■
				Centralising of tourist businesses	■ ■
				Public works (Excursions, Trails ...)	■ ■
Energy					
Electricity usage	2003: 3,28 MWh/E W	Usage of natural resources, global change, CO2 balance, renewable energy resources	Not more than 3300 kwh/EW and year	Hints to save energy	■ ■ ■
				Book keeping for public buildings	■ ■ ■
				Awareness	■ ■ ■
				Electricity saving project	■ ■ ■
				Energy action days	■ ■ ■
				School projects	■ ■ ■

				Energy advice centre	Red	Purple	
Ecological Electricity Production	2003: 2,70 MWh/E W		By 2015 increase up to 3300 kWh/a, .g > 10% Own usage of electricity	Generation of drinking water	Purple		
				Bio-gas plant	Dark Blue		
				'Photovoltaik' on existing roofs and new buildings	Dark Blue		
Electricity usage of public buildings	Assessm entab 2004		No exceedin g of the energy limits; more than 50% are already below the energy limit	Energy checks	Dark Blue	Purple	Orange
Heating usage of public buildings				Book keeping for public buildings	Purple	Red	Orange
				Low energy street lighting	Dark Blue	Purple	Orange
Already installed collector areas	2002: 0.53 m2/EW		0.8 m2/EW by 2010	Unified energy support	Purple	Dark Blue	Orange
				Energy advice centre	Red	Purple	
				Regular checking of solar plants	Dark Blue	Orange	
Installed Photovoltaik Capacity	2002: 0.31 KWp/E W		+ 0.1 by 2010	Energy advice centre	Red	Purple	
				Awareness of the possible usage for solar energy on old roofs on new homes	Dark Blue	Orange	
New buildings with wood heating	Evaluati on from 2004			Wood fire exchange	Dark Blue	Orange	Red
				Biomass action days	Dark Blue	Orange	Red
				Biomass logistics project	Dark Blue	Orange	
				Unified energy support	Dark Blue	Purple	Orange
New buildings with heat pumps	Evaluati on from 2004			Energy advice centre	Red	Purple	
					Red	Purple	
New buildings with electrical heating	Evaluati on from 2004			Awareness	Dark Blue	Orange	Red
				Energy advice centre	Red	Purple	
				Unified energy support	Dark Blue	Purple	Orange
New buildings with fossil fuels	Evaluati on from 2004			Energy advice centre	Red	Purple	
				Unified energy support	Dark Blue	Purple	Orange
Energy advice /	2003:		9 / 1000	Energy advice centre	Red	Purple	

1000 EW	9.56		EW per year	Attract people to get advice from the Energy advice centre	Red	Purple	
				Recommendation by council to people who want to build a new house.	Purple		
Energy efficient homes	Evaluation from 2004		Increase	Energy advice centre	Red	Purple	
				Unified energy support	Dark Blue	Purple	Orange
Conversion of alternative heating methods to wood	2003: 4		10 by 2006	Biomass action days	Dark Blue	Orange	Red
				Woodfire exchange	Dark Blue	Orange	
				Unified energy support	Dark Blue	Purple	Orange
				Common tasks for property owners(e.g.: Biomasseheizwerk Faschina)	Dark Blue	Purple	
				Biomass check for public buildings	Dark Blue	Purple	Orange
Other environmental factors							
Grading of extension to a public or co-operative water supply	2003: 78.57%	Water, Sewage	Increase of 2% by 2006	Promotion; security of water supply, quality security, health	Purple		
				Support of the supply by the council and the water office	Purple		
Grading of extension to the public canal network or a biological sewage plant	2003: 87.05%	Water, Sewage	Increase of 3% by 2006	Extend network	Purple		
				Working field with Telekom and VKW	Purple		
				Extend biological plants	Purple		
Proportion of sorted waste for recycling	2003: 59.71%	Waste and recycling Management	Increase of 2% by 2005	Keep recycling area clean	Purple	Orange	
				Better information about how to sort waste and recycle	Purple	Orange	Red
				Check the amount of waste	Purple		
Cost for a damage inquiry by the public	2003: 16.80 €		Decrease of 2 € by 2006	Renovation of old river buildings	Purple	Orange	
				Support of land and economical projects	Purple		
				Reforestation with adapted timbers	Orange	Dark Blue	
				Environmental planning	Purple	Orange	
				Fire protection for public buildings	Purple		

Hours spent on damage clean ups	2003: 779,50		Decrease of 5% by 2006	Installation of better oil spill cleaning up practises	Still open
Traffic					
KFZ per day ▪ two wheels ▪ four wheels	2000: 103 1573	Traffic, CO2, keeping the air clean, noise control, situation of commuter workers, support of ÖPNV	Decrease of 5% by 2010	Support of ÖPNV	Orange, Blue, Red
				Increased traffic surveillance	Orange
				Awareness	Orange, Blue, Red
				Support shared driving communities	Orange, Blue, Red
Number of passengers ÖPNV	2002: 784 360	Traffic, CO2, keeping the air clean, noise, situation of commuter workers, support of ÖPNV	Increase of 10% by 2010	Measures change faster, more efficient	Orange, Blue, Red
				Promote the existing offers	Orange, Red
				Awareness	Orange, Red
				Save and maintain the offer for the public transport	Orange
Number of „Wanderbus“ passengers	2003: 1378	Environment friendly offer to guests, visits to alps, minimizing individual traffic	Increase of 20% by 2005	Extend frequency and number of buses	Orange
				Marketing	Orange
Length of pavement	2003: 6350 m	Usage of land; danger of sealing; safety; measures to encourage people to walk	Increase of 100% between 2002 & 2010		Purple
Noise control	Not yet investigated			Increase of traffic surveillance	Orange
				Test of measurement rhythm	Orange
				Measure noise	Orange
				Awareness	Orange, Red, Blue
				Reduction of speed at exposed places	Orange, Yellow
Building and settlement planning					
Number of occupied buildings per habited area	2003: 879	Danger of a development sprawl Visual aesthetics	Approx. increase of 10% by 2010	Improve infrastructure	Purple
				Use building gaps	Purple
				Strengthen regional identity	Purple
Number of main residences compared to secondary residences	2003: 96.74%	Traditional building styles and structures of settlements	Approx. increase of 1% by 2010	Provide land for building	Purple
				Attractive living in the village	Purple, Blue, Orange
				Keep local shops operating	Purple, Blue, Orange
				Guide the use of public buildings	Purple

Number of renovations in a particular style	Not yet investigated			Compile questions: "what is our style?"		
				Work out a support program		
				Provide examples		
				Offer advice		
				Consider energy aspects		
Movement of population	2003: -123440		Maintain until 2010	Reduce additional taxes and fees		
				increase offers for flats to rent		
				Keep local shops operating		
Tourism and Trade						
Tourism						
Number of businesses with an award or partner business	2003: 51.61%	Making awareness to environmental topics, nature, experiential offers, regional produce, regional circulations	Approx. increase of 3% by 2004	Dialogue with the responsible people in businesses		
				Promote advantages		
				Contact businesses and keep them informed		
				Explain support		
Number of employed people in tourist businesses	2003: 132	Jobs in the region	Increase of 140 by 2007	Better information in the valley		
				Improve job description		
				Information and education of the landlords		
Number of visitors at places with environmental background	2003: 1327	Making sensitive to ecological topics	Approx. increase of 5% by 2004	Information about the public places		
				Education of landlords		
				Tourist people and BSP - working together		
				Extend environmental education offers to everybody		
				Establish environmental education places		
				Extend the „adventure“ program		
Trade						
Number of businesses with an award in regards to environmental	2003: 0	Making awareness to environmental topics,	Increase of 2 businesses by 2006	Dialogue with the responsible people in businesses		
				Promote advantages		

principles		tasks to improve environmental status in their own business		Organize excursions to accredited businesses	Red	Dark Blue	
				Introduction of more such businesses	Red	Dark Blue	
Number of jobs in the valley	2003: 268	Jobs in the valley ; sustain businesses in the valley	Approx. Increase of 5% by 2007	An exhibition of businesses in the valley	Dark Blue	Red	
Fill the available jobs with people from the valley	2003: 161			Maintain until 2004	Offer available jobs to persons in the valley first	Dark Blue	Light Purple
Number of local shops in the valley	2003: 9	Close supply; short distances	Maintain until 2006	Central biosphere voucher system	Dark Blue	Red	Light Purple
				Support for buying in the valley	Light Purple		
				Awareness of valuable living	Orange	Dark Blue	Light Purple
				Local shops	Light Purple		
				Inform the businesses	Dark Blue	Red	
Social Issues, Youth, Health, Equality							
Social issues							
Number of people in need of care, who are looked after in the valley, in relation to all those who are in need of care.	Not yet investigated	Establishment of living quality for people who are in need of care		Education of nursing personnel	Dark Blue	Light Purple	
				Investigation databases	Dark Blue		
				Establishment of „cared for living“	Dark Blue	Light Purple	
				Information platform	Dark Blue	Light Purple	Red
Youth							
Leisure opportunities for children and teenagers ▪ events ▪ institutions	Not yet investigated	Living quality	Approx. Increase of 10% by 2004 Approx. increase of 2 by 2007	Establish a youth committee	Yellow		
				Survey wishes of teenagers	Dark Blue		
				Provide a budget	Light Purple		
				Establish youth meeting points in each village	Dark Blue	Light Purple	
				Provide help to initiate self organization	Dark Blue	Light Purple	
Health							
Participation of locals with health examinations	2003: 16.80%		Increase by 2009	Health information	Dark Blue		
				Extend popular sport activities	Light Purple		
				Offer sport for seniors	Orange		
Equality							
Percentage of women in ▪ Council	2003:		Approx. Increase of 9% by	Invite women to work in the committees	Orange	Yellow	
				Provide further education	Orange	Yellow	

committees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ REGIO committees 	4.76%		2005	Offer different courses and workshops		
	2003: 13.33%		Approx. increase of 27% by 2005	Provide child care at events		
				Girls programs		
				Transpose ideas from the „Frauenförderplan“ (women supporting plan)		
Schools, Education and Culture						
Schooling						
Percentage of pupils with special needs, who attend school in the valley, in relation to all the pupils with special needs	2003: 23.08%	Living quality	Increase of 1 pupil by 2005	Information and awareness of „integration-classes“		
Education						
Percentage of school projects with sustainability (project days x participants)	2003: 9110	Making sensitive to ecological topics; awareness for the region and the Biosphere Reserve	Increase of 10% by 2004	Invite teachers to inform and give examples		
				Provide a list with projects and events related to sustainability		
				Make cost effective		
				Provide teaching material		
Culture						
Number of people in clubs		Regional harmony and cooperation, Volunteering High social value	Maintain	Introduce clubs		

Detailed description of the measures and the environmental aspects from page 35 to 48, Unternehmen V from page 49 to 50, the conclusion and the next Steps on page 51, the glossar on page 52, the contact possibilities and the available documents on the Internet on page 53 and the EMAS certificate on page 55 were not translated in this summary.