

## WELTERBEGEMEINDEN WACHAU

A-3620 Spitz, Schlossgasse 3  
T +43 (0) 27 13-300 00-0  
F +43 (0) 27 13-300 00-40  
office@wachau-dunkelsteinerwald.at  
www.weltkulturerbe-wachau.at

ZVR-Zahl: 686289920  
IBAN: AT16 2022 8003 0032 0991  
BIC: SPKDAT21XXX

# ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2020

Spitz / 10.12.2020 / IH

State: Austria

Name of the area: Wachau

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas:  
Awarded 1994, last renewal: 2019

### Central authority concerned:

Name: Land Niederösterreich Federal Government of Lower Austria), Department of Nature Protection (RU5),  
Dipl.-Ing. Brigitta Mirwald  
Address: A-3109 St. Pölten, Austria, Landhausplatz 1, Building 16  
Tel.: +43-2742-9005-15278  
Fax: +43-2742-9005-15220  
e-mail: post.ru5@noel.gv.at  
www: www.noe.gv.at, www.naturland-noe.at

### Authority responsible for its management:

Name: The Chairman of Welterbegemeinden Wachau Association (World Heritage Municipalities Wachau Association), Dr. Andreas Nunzer, MA  
Manager of Welterbegemeinden Wachau, Ingeborg Hödl, MA  
Address: A-3620 Spitz, Austria, Schlossgasse 3  
Tel.: +43-2713-30000-0  
Fax: +43-2713-30000-40  
e-mail: office@wachau-dunkelsteinerwald.at  
www: www.weltkulturerbe-wachau.at

### Conditions:

**Condition #1: Abandon definitively the scheme to build a dam on the Danube at Dürnstein, as well as a similar scheme within and immediately downstream from the area covered by the diploma:**

*Since the Wachau has received the European diploma this condition has been fulfilled. There are no plans whatsoever regarding the constructions of dams on the Danube in the Wachau.*

## Recommendations:

- 1. guarantee a sustainable budget for the managing authorities to ensure that the management plan can be fully implemented without relying on financial resources from projects;**

*The management staff as well as the core projects are financed by yearly contributions of the Republic of Austria, the responsible department of the Office of the Lower Austrian Federal Government and the membership fees of the Welterbegemeinden Wachau association.*

- 2. encourage the setting up of a long-term institutional management framework for the Wachau Protected Landscape and Jauerling-Wachau Naturpark**

*The Wachau Protected Landscape ([www.weltkulturerbe-wachau.at/en/](http://www.weltkulturerbe-wachau.at/en/)) as well as the Naturpark Jauerling ([www.naturpark-jauerling.at](http://www.naturpark-jauerling.at)) both have implemented a long-term institutional management framework.*

- 3. ensure the implementation and updating of the management plan in a participatory way;**

*An extensive evaluation is considered for 2022, at the earliest (5 years Management Plan Wachau World Heritage), together with stakeholders of the European Diploma area.*

- 4. continue the good practice of a global approach to forestry and wild-game management (including co-operation with managing authorities in bordering administrative entities);**

*No major changes to the previous year. The positive co-operation with these institutions is ongoing.*

- 5. continue the good practice of maintenance and reconstruction of terrace vineyards;**

*No changes to report.*

- 6. continue efforts to preserve the apricot orchards;**

*No changes to report.*

- 7. develop an integral approach to tourist management;**

*Due to the ongoing Corona pandemic the current touristic campaign is focused on sustainable outdoor activities such as hiking and biking alongside the cultural landscape of the Danube.*

- 8. explore optimal solutions for preserving the appearance of the landscape (colors of the protection nets and barriers against rockslides, light pollution and Christmas tree plantations);**

*No changes to report.*

- 9. use the European Diploma logo more regularly on publications and appropriate infrastructure, promote the European Diploma more actively, encourage partners and stakeholders to use the European Diploma logo.**

*The European Diploma logo is used on all relevant mailings, correspondence and public relations affairs as well as logo tags are installed in certain locations and on various official buildings (city halls, etc.).*

## Site Management:

List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

*The big reconnection project LIFE+Wilderness Wetland Wachau (LIFE+ Auenwildnis Wachau) was enlarged until the end of the year 2022. However, the construction work for the 1,6 km long sidearm started in autumn 2020. Nearly 1 km side arm is already dugged out.*

*The Danube islands near Schönbüchel (20 ha) became nature conservation areas this year. Also, the island Pritzenau near Rossatz (over 30 ha) should become nature conservation in the next years. At the moment construction works for the side arm are being done.*

*The restoration of autochthonous alluvial forests has also been continued. Until now 5100 Black Poplar were planted in the region and 20.000 of neophytes like Robinia, Acer negundo and Ailanthus altissima were reduced. 40 breeding ponds for amphibia especially Bombina bombina and Triturus dobrogicus have been created within the last years, 7 more ponds will be realized in Rossatz this winter.*

**Boundaries:**

Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

*No changes.*

**Other information:**

List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

*No changes.*