

Annual Report 2013 for Krimml Falls

State: Austria, Federal State of Salzburg
Name of the area: Krimml Falls

Central authority concerned:

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I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Natural heritage (general abiotic description: geomorphology, geology and hydrogeology, habitats, flora, fauna, landscape) – Conservation situation

1.1. Environment: changes or deterioration in the environment, of natural or anthropic origin, accidental or permanent, actual or anticipated
No changes

1.2. Flora and vegetation: changes in the plant population and in the vegetational cover: presumed causes
No changes

1.3. Fauna: changes in the sedentary or migratory populations; congregating and breeding places
No changes

2. Cultural heritage and socio-economic context

2.1. Cultural heritage
2.1.1 Changes concerning cultural heritage
No changes

2.2. Socio-economic context
2.2.1 Changes concerning the socio-economic context
No changes

3. Education and scientific interest

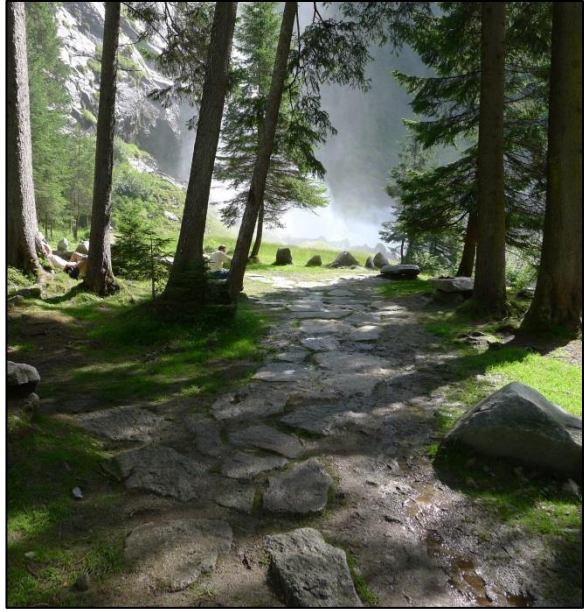
3.1. Visitors — Information policy

3.1.1 Arrangements for receiving and informing the public (building, booklets, maps, cards, etc.)

- The Krimml Falls are integrated in all public relation measures of the Hohe Tauern National Park and of the tourism company, e.g. exhibition, film, folder, leaflet, brochure, visitor center.
- On June 29th 2013, the new Wondrous Worlds of Water Krimml was opened: Together with the new Waterfall Center and a comprehensive, unique array of interactive experiences revolving around the whole theme of water, it serves as the ideal base from which to visit Krimml Waterfalls. On an exhibition area of over 460 m², visitors are greeted by an exciting aquatic adventure: the innovative Waterfall Center with Aquaszenarium, scenic terrace, WasserWunderBar and Shop, the “House of Water” exhibition, along with the Wondrous Works of Water in the outdoor area. A variety-filled, totally unforgettable day for the whole family is guaranteed.



- A new target group for the tourism in Krimml are asthmatic patients based on a medical study. The association Hohe Tauern Health was founded for the respective marketing. This association has published some booklets – see www.hohe-tauern-health.at. On this homepage there is also a button for the description of Krimml Falls with an indication of the European Diploma. We still have to keep an eye on the development of this topic. For this reason, the study on the health effects of the Krimml Falls was commissioned by the National Park Service. This year the National Park Service rebuilt the quite cure area on the right bank for people with severe asthma and installed general information on the health-promoting effects of the falls on the left bank additionally. With this measure the hitherto unsatisfactory state in this sensitive area has been landscape aesthetically improved. This could again be achieved an important step in the visitor management.



- In the summer 1947 thousands of Jewish citizens have sought refuge on the 2,634-meter-high Krimml Tauern to South Tyrol and from there to Genoa with target Palestine. The initiative "Alpine Peace Crossing", the communities Krimml and Kasern and the Hohe Tauern National Park, have since 2007 set a goal to remember. This year the National Park Hohe Tauern has built the „path towards peace“ for this international, intercultural and interreligious peace project. This new theme begins at the Krimml waterfalls, leads to the Krimml Tauern house, then on into the Windbach valley and finally over the Krimml Tauern in South Tyrol Ahrntal. Concern, hope, confidence, desire, joy, and peace are the themes of the info-pyramids. And these issues also determine the work in the National Park Hohe Tauern in the broadest sense. The National Park Idea is in the broadest sense, a global peace project, peace between man and nature.



3.1.2 Frequentation by visitors and behaviour (number, distribution in time and space)

The amount of visitors has diminished from 700.000 in 1992 to 348.623 in 2008. This year the visitor number was similar last year with 351.923. Most of the visitors come between June and September and spend only one day in this area. The means of transport used for visiting the region are mainly private cars, followed by buses and train. Most of the visitors remained on the paths. The Krimml Falls are an important excursion destination of the Austrian schools and a starting point of their field trips into the Hohe Tauern National Park. Many visitors had taken part in the excursions guided by the well-trained rangers of the Hohe Tauern National Park.

3.2. Scientific research

3.2.1 Current or completed research (observation, experimentation, identification or inventory of the species listed in the appendices to the Bern Convention...)

- The area of Krimml Falls and the Krimml valley are included in some scientific research projects of the Hohe Tauern National Park e.g. avifauna project, lichens project, monitoring of flowing waters, the history of nature conservation etc.

3.2.2 Scientific publications

No changes

4. Site description (vulnerability, protection status, ownership, documentation)

4.1. Changes in legislation or regulations

No changes

4.2. Changes in ownership title (conversion to public property, rentings, etc.)

No changes

4.3. Extension or transfer, new uses (for example, conversion into total reserve)

No changes

5. Site management (management plans, budget and personnel)

5.1. Improvements made

5.1.1 Ecological action affecting the flora and biotopes; controls of fauna

No changes

5.1.2 Protection against the elements (fire, water, regime)

No changes

5.1.3 Approaches and thoroughfares (paths, roads, car parks, signposting, fencing, etc.)

- The general maintenance work on the footpath implemented and the balustrades was renovated by the Austrian Alpine Association.
- A newly constructed playground at the way to the Krimml waterfalls has to be the nature and landscape aesthetically optimized and converted accordingly.

5.1.4 Field equipment (hides and study facilities)

No changes

5.2. Management

5.2.1 Administrative department: changes made

No changes

5.2.2 Wardens' department: changes made

No changes

5.2.3 Internal policing measures

No changes

5.2.4 Infringement of regulations and damage; legal action

No changes

II. INFLUENCE OF THE AWARD OF THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA OF PROTECTED AREAS

The award of the European Diploma is not only honourable, but it is also a challenge for the conservationists to meet the demands of protection in a responsible way. This year we could preserve the nature and the landscape of the Krimml Falls. The policies of the Hohe Tauern National Park and of the government of Salzburg adhere strongly to the idea of the protection of the Krimml Falls. These interventions were warded off only based on the regulations of the European Diploma!

Extremely keen standards are being applied to all matters connected with the Krimml Falls and their protected surroundings. The award of the European Diploma to the Krimml Falls has made the falls and the National Park well known throughout the world. This fact has been appreciated by the National Park Administration in many publications and conferences.

III. CONDITIONS AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AWARD OR RENEWAL

Progress with measures taken in order to meet the conditions and/or recommendations defined during the award or renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas.