

WELTERBEGEMEINDEN WACHAU

A-3620 Spitz, Schlossgasse 3
T +43 (0) 27 13-30000-0
F +43 (0) 27 13-30000-40
office@wachau-dunkelsteinerwald.at
www.weltkulturerbe-wachau.org

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

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2019

Spitz / 10.12.2019 / IH, MB

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.noel.gv.at, www.naturland-noe.at

Authority responsible for its management:

Name: The Chairman of Verein Welterbegemeinden Wachau (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

1. 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:

Ever since these plans were abandoned and foremost, since the Wachau has received the European diploma, this condition has been fulfilled. No such plans have ever since been discussed anymore.

2. Recommendations

Recommendation #1: Secure a sustainable budget to the managing authorities to ensure the management plan can be fully implemented without relying on financial resources from projects.

The budget for the management office, including the implementation of core projects, is financed by yearly contributions of the Republic of Austria, the responsible department of the Office of the Lower Austrian Federal Government and the Welterbegemeinden Wachau association, consisting of all 15 Wachau municipalities within the World Heritage. Currently 1 ½ people are working for the immediate site management.

Recommendation #2: Encourage the setting up of a long-term institutional management frame for Wachau Protected Landscape and Jauerling – Wachau Naturpark and

Recommendation #3: Continue the implementation and updating of the Management Plan in a participatory way:

Last year, there was a change in the management of the Naturpark Jauerling-Wachau: since Mai 2019 Mathilde Stallegger is the new general manager. A new initiative in participative development of a management plan with local residents and stakeholders (Naturparkkonzept) has been started. Furthermore, the development of a nature programme for schools and families and the implementation of a network of nature guides took place. The nature park co-operates with the schools of the area and also, a project for a meadow protection program is in progress.

Recommendation #4: Continue the good practice of complex approach for forestry and wild game management (including co-operation of managing authorities in bordering administrative units):

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

Recommendation #5: Continue the good practice of maintenance and reconstruction of wine terraces:

The maintenance of the wine terraces as well as the conservation and restoration of dry-stone walls is a continuing process in the region. Thanks to a very successful wine growing business this is also main interest of the vintners.

Recommendation #6: Efforts should be continued to preserve the apricot orchards:

Still ongoing efforts like in the last years. No changes to report.

Recommendation #7: Develop an integral approach to the tourist visit management:

Together with the tourist office a project to decentralize visitor streams in Dürnstein is currently being developed. Especially the arriving situation for cabin cruise guests should be improved and alternative routes through the city and region will be featured via information and audio guides/apps.

Recommendation #8: Explore optimal solutions for preserving the landscape picture (colors of the protection nets, fences against rockslides, light pollution, Christmas tree plantations):

Still in progress.

Recommendation #9: Use more regularly the European Diploma logo on publications and appropriate infrastructures, promote the European Diploma more actively, encourage partners and stakeholders to use European Diploma logo:

Since this year's festivities for the 25th anniversary of the European Diploma the logo is again more in use and was also shown on various occasions at press releases and social media posts and of course, during the festive event on Sept. 5th, 2019.

3. 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.

No changes since last year's report.

4. 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.

5. 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 current topics.