

J. Hasitschka, T. Hübinger & D. Kreiner 2014. *Gesäuse – Landschaft im Wandel. Nationalpark Gesäuse GmbH*. 216 pages. ISBN 978-3-901990-10-6

Engaging with a landscape means taking time to reflect. Experience is needed, a trained eye, to not only recognize landscape but to understand why a given landscape is experienced as pleasant, calming, another one as restless or even disturbing. All the more experience is needed to comprehend that landscape is no static entity but an expression of ongoing change. If we want to document this change and the processes involved, we must be able to explore existing sources from the past and learn to decipher, read and interpret time inscribed in the landscape, time transformed into substance.

The problematic nature of subjective individual or general collective experience of landscape manifests itself in the obviously artificial distinction between natural and cultural landscapes. While scientists have repeatedly attempted to separate the two types of landscape, for the individual looking at the landscape the transition from one to the other is often fuzzy and defies clear distinction and delineation. And so emerges the dilemma of the term as such: the core concept of modern man in its fundamental contradiction, based as it is on a separate entity which does not exist in this form.

The authors of the present sophisticated and richly illustrated publication, edited by Gesäuse National Park, do not aim to present a solution to this dilemma. Rather, their core concern is to make diverse approaches and perspectives on the large theme of landscape accessible to a wider public, on the basis of research on a concrete area. In two large sections (*Natur im Wandel; Kulturlandschaft im Wandel*) the authors offer a concrete insight into the spatial dynamics of a concrete place. The range of diverse natural impacts that shape a landscape is presented through the examples of gravitational processes, such as avalanches, erosion, landslides, rock fall or water (river dynamics). A broader theme is covered by the section on the cultural landscape and how it has changed within the last 200 years.

Highly successful in terms of method and realization are the illustrations of change over time. These include orthophotos (from the early post-war period and the present), historical maps, cadastres and photographs. Change can be read off the comparison with new images or by thematically selected statistics, expressed visually as cartograms, e.g. to demonstrate changes in land use and living space; Figure Nr. 174/175 or 246/247). A physical map with key information on the theme and a short text on the issues introduces each section.

The volume, much more than other coffee-table books, is not just of idiographic value for a condensed representation of the region, but, by the chosen composition of the texts and the underlying comparative

method, offers much added value. It invites the reader to transfer the insights gained to other areas of the Eastern Alps, where similar processes take place in the wider context of structural changes in contemporary society. Examples are typical processes of agricultural extensification in peripheral areas with poor access or poor yield, which often result in shrub encroachment on the open cultural landscape (cf. p. 88), or the fortification and regulation of the River Enns and the related agricultural intensification. The latter has resulted in a significant loss of local biodiversity within the last hundred years (cf. p. 135).

Technical development of the Gesäuse region did not, however, immediately mean (re)intensified land use across the board. The railway (p. 172) provided quick and comfortable access to the Gesäuse for the Viennese, but spatial development at first followed and stayed close to the railway line, with only the odd divergence to the lateral valleys. The authors gave comparatively little space to the development of tourism, even though this area would provide good examples of new processes for land formation. To what extent may tourism have prevented, slowed down or even turned around any outmigration and extensification? What role did/ does tourism play in compensating for the structural change associated with modernization and at what cost? Which areas are more, which less affected and why? The book touches only lightly on such issues and invites the reader to further reflect on these themes.

All in all the volume does, however, live up to its self-proclaimed aim, set out by Verena Winiwarter in the preface, of engaging with landscape and exploring historical perspectives as well as the authors' own. They present a well-rounded image of the Gesäuse region in its landscape dynamics in a format that is accessible to a wider audience. They also invite the readers to reflect on their own perception of landscape and to readjust their appreciation of it. Maybe this eventually contributes to an interweaving of natural and cultural landscape into a whole that defies any definitive distinction.

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Nared, J. & N.R. Visković (eds.) 2014. *Managing Cultural Heritage Sites in Southeastern Europe. CHERPLAN*. 128 pages. ISBN 978-961-254-707-3

The publication *Managing Cultural Heritage Sites in Southeastern Europe* is one of the deliverables of the CHERPLAN (Enhancement of Cultural Heritage through Environmental Planning and Management) project, which aimed to provide a strong basis for ensuring compatibility and synergy between cultural heritage conservation and socio-economic growth

by fostering the adoption of a modern environmental planning approach throughout Southeast Europe (SEE). The book points to the important role cultural heritage plays in the development of areas, especially if we handle it carefully and if we are aware of its potential.

The book is the work of 29 Slovenian and foreign authors, which are briefly presented at the end of the book. It starts with a short introductory chapter and continues with a brief overview of the project CHERPLAN. There is also a description of the SEE programme and specific terms which are used in connection with cultural heritage sites. Chapter 3 gives information about international heritage protection. It presents UNESCO Protection and Development Guidelines and the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention. The next chapter underlines cultural heritage as an important driver of development and its considerable economic, social, environmental and cultural development potential. The remaining part of the book presents guidelines for 25 management issues: Preparing an Environmental Management Plan, Participatory Planning, Leading a Participatory Process, Water-Supply Challenges at Cultural Heritage Sites, Wastewater Management, Solid Waste Management in the Context of Cultural Heritage, Integrated Conservation of Cultural Heritage, Revitalization of Old City Centers, Restoration of Historic Buildings, Sustainable Management of Cultural Landscapes, Cultural Heritage as a Brand, Cultural Heritage and Natural Disaster Risk Preparedness, The Use of Geoinformatics in Cultural Heritage Management, Sustainable Transport and Cultural Heritage, The Role of Social Entrepreneurship in Revitalizing Cultural Heritage, Public-Private Partnerships in Cultural Heritage protection, Marketing Cultural Heritage, Carrying Capacity, Developing Responsible Tourism in the Countryside Using Local Culture and Cultural Heritage, and Monitoring and Evaluation in Managing Cultural Heritage. Each issue is composed of a thematic introduction, recommendations, and good-practice examples which present local traditional knowledge and experience.

To summarize, the book provides practical information on the application of environmental planning in SEE, some of it developed within CHERPLAN pilot actions and some of it defined through the experiences of other cultural sites. Finding solutions for appropriate management of cultural heritage sites is a frequently expressed need in recent discussions on cultural heritage preservation. This publication is definitely of valuable assistance to site managers in their everyday decisions by supplying them with technical knowledge and specific instructions on how to react in a given situation.

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Baur, B. & T. Scheurer (eds.) 2014. Wissen schaffen – 100 Jahre Forschung im Schweizerischen Nationalpark. Nationalpark-Forschung in der Schweiz 100/1. 395 pages. ISBN 978-3-258-07862-5

Exactly 100 years after the Swiss National Park was founded, the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT) has published a book on the results of 100 years of research within the park. 50 scientists have contributed to the book, introducing the reader to a variety of topics, from information on 60-year-old anthills or an 800-year-old soil fungus to yearly visitor rates of approx. 125 000 people in the years 2007 and 2008. The 13 chapters of the book are self-contained, but, if you read it consecutively, you will gain a deep understanding of the importance of how long-term processes in a protected environment work. Traces of past and present human activities have influenced and are still influencing the development of the park. Historically the area was used for mining, alpine pastures, hunting, logging of timber, etc. for the last 1 000 years before the foundation of the park. Ever since the park management has *managed* nature. Traces of these human activities can be found throughout the book and it is always fascinating to acknowledge how human actions can have such lasting effects on nature.

The book starts with the foundation of the park, followed by the history of the landscape, the geology and Alpine soils, the succession and the future of former meadows, the long-term studies on fauna and forests, the regulation of the deer population, hydrology, visitors, the impact of humans and ends with a conclusion on and a vision for science in the park.

The target audience of the book is not only the interested scientist but also anybody interested in the park. For further studies each chapter is equipped with a list of references. In addition the annex provides more information on literature about studies within the park. Even though the book is well illustrated with maps, figures and pictures, interactive maps available online on *Atlas des Schweizerischen Nationalparks*: <http://www.atlasnationalpark.ch/de/> make a useful addition to the different topics.

It would have been interesting to add a short description of each author to give the reader an idea of the scientific disciplines represented.

The book is available in German and French but not yet in English, which should follow to reach even more readers. For anybody interested in Alpine areas, their development and succession, the book is a valuable contribution to existing literature.

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