

Workshop “Traffic and visitor management in mountain areas”

Gozd Martuljek, 10. – 11. 5. 2007

Working group: Visitor management

The discussion in the working group focused on experience with various approaches to management of visitor flows. Two basic options for visitor management were considered: **offering visitor infrastructure** and **setting limits and rules of behaviour**.

Appropriate infrastructure development is in itself a means of communication with the visitors. Available roads, parking lots, trails and other visitor infrastructure attract visitors to a certain area and lack of carrying capacity discourages them. But infrastructure should be accompanied with well communicated rules of behaviour and limits. Legitimacy of these rules can be achieved through involvement of user groups in their planning. If they are well founded, the visitors exercise mutual control.

Visitor management should be based on the carrying capacity, which is usually determined by the existing infrastructure and visitor patterns. For the future objectives should be set in consultation with the relevant stakeholders based on monitoring and precautionary principle.

Common approaches and standards of visitor management and communication in different protected areas would both facilitate the work of protected area authorities and make it easier for visitors to comprehend, accept and support the measures implemented.

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