

Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve

Periodic Review 2015 – 2025

September 2025



INTRODUCTION

The UNESCO General Conference, at its 28th session, adopted Resolution 28 C/2.4 on the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. This text defines in particular the criteria for an area to be qualified for designation as a biosphere reserve (Article 4). In addition, Article 9 foresees a periodic review every ten years, based on a report prepared by the concerned authority, on the basis of the criteria of Article 4 and forwarded to the secretariat by the State concerned. The text of the Statutory Framework is given in the third annex.

The form which follows is provided to help States to prepare their national reports in accordance with Article 9 and to update the data available to the Secretariat on the biosphere reserve concerned. This report should enable the International Coordinating Council (ICC) of the MAB Programme to review how each biosphere reserve is fulfilling the criteria of Article 4 of the Statutory Framework and in particular the three functions. It should be noted that it is requested, in the last part of the form (Criteria and Progress Made), to indicate how the biosphere reserve fulfills each of these criteria.

The information presented on this periodic review will be used in a number of ways by UNESCO:

- (a) for examination of the biosphere reserve by the International Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves and by the Bureau of the MAB International Coordinating Council;
- (b) for use in a world-wide accessible information system, notably for the UNESCO-MABnet and publications, facilitating communication and interaction amongst persons interested in biosphere reserves throughout the world.

Kindly indicate if any part of this report should remain confidential.

The form consists of three parts:

- Part one is a summary highlighting the main changes in the biosphere reserve during the reporting period.
- Part two is more descriptive and detailed, referring to the human, physical and biological characteristics as well as to the institutional aspects.
- Part three consists of two Annexes (A): the first Annex (A.1) will be used to update the directory of biosphere reserves on the MABnet. The second annex will be used to provide promotion and communication materials of the biosphere reserve (A.2).

The third annex comprises the Statutory Framework for the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Please provide as many quantitative data as possible as well as supporting documentation to complete the information provided, especially:

- Map(s) clearly showing the zonation (see in particular 2.3.1);
- The legal texts for the different zones.

The form should be completed in English, French or Spanish. Two copies should be sent to the Secretariat, as follows:

1. The original hard copy, with the original signatures, letters of endorsement, zonation map and supporting documents. This should be sent to the Secretariat through the Official UNESCO channels, i.e. via the National Commission for UNESCO and/or the Permanent Delegation to UNESCO.
2. An electronic version (on diskette, CD, etc.) of the periodic review form and of maps (especially the zonation map). This can be sent directly to the MAB Secretariat:

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PART I: SUMMARY

- a) **Name of the biosphere reserve:** Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve
- b) **Country:** Austria
- c) **Year of designation:** 2005
- d) **Year(s) of periodic review(s):** First review in 2015, this is the second review.
- e) **Previous recommendation(s) made by the International Co-ordinating Council (MAB- ICC), if applicable:**

At the twenty-eighth session, held in Lima, Peru, from 18 to 19 March 2016, the following recommendation was made:

„The Advisory Committee recommended that the report is used as model for periodic review report for the World Network of Biosphere Reserves and commended the participatory approaches in implementing sustainable development and nature conservation, as well as the management of a biosphere reserve close to a capital city.“

- f) **What follow-up actions are completed and if not completed/initiated, please provide justifications.**

Due to this very gratifying and motivating feedback, the Wienerwald BR continues to be a prime example of the integration of an urban agglomeration area into a biosphere reserve. Numerous international delegations were able to get an idea of this and the BR Management continues to welcome them with great pleasure.

- g) **Update on the implementation of measures to achieve the objectives of the biosphere reserve.**

Founded in 2006, „Biosphärenpark Wienerwald Management GmbH“ (where appropriately referred to as "BR Management" in this report) works in the following four pillars to achieve its goals:

Natural area management – management and monitoring of core zones (forest nature reserves), contributions to the conservation of the species-rich Wienerwald meadows and wine-growing landscapes, recording and assessment of water bodies in the Wienerwald BR: since 2015, 16 projects have been implemented by BR Management in the areas of landscape conservation, protected area management, promotion of biodiversity and recording of water bodies.

Environmental education, awareness-raising – BR school lessons, guided nature tours for children, young people and adults, training of BR educational partners, information and networking events: since 2015, 14 projects in the areas of environmental education in schools, environmental communication, education and training and public relations have been implemented by the BR Management.

Regional development – establishment of a network of partner companies from agriculture, tourism, socio-economics, crafts and services; Cooperation and strategic coordination with other regional initiatives (tourism, „Leader“ regions, climate and energy model regions, urban-perimeter management, ...); BR Ambassadors in the municipalities/districts: 39 partner companies, 65 BR Ambassadors and approx. 40 network partners (members of the Regional Forum/Participation Advisory Board) cooperate in implementing the biosphere reserve's goals in the region.

Research, monitoring – ongoing observation of nature, preparation of reports, coordination of and participation in research projects, 'Research Mornings' for science communication, annual 'Biodiversity Day' and participation in citizen science activities: Since 2015, more than 50 theses by students (bachelor's, master's, PhD) and over 40 research and monitoring projects from various research programmes (MAB, Earth System Sciences, Austrian Science Fund, etc.) have been completed or supported by BR Management.

In total, the activities in the four pillars directly involved over 64,000 children/young people and almost 130,000 adults, and reached approximately 700,000 people through media work.

h) Briefly describe the process by which the current periodic review has been conducted:

This periodic review was prepared by the management of Wienerwald BR and the relevant employees and confirmed by the Supervisory Board of BR Management. Progress was reviewed and discussed in numerous meetings of the advisory bodies as well as within the framework of various projects. In addition, a regional participation process with an online survey for the Strategy 2025 – 2035 was launched in 2025, the (preliminary) results of which have been incorporated into this report.

i) Area and spatial configuration:

	Nomination form 2005	Proposed changes (if any)
Area of terrestrial Core Area(s)	5,576 ha	5 442 ha (no real changes, but fixes and provision of more accurate GIS data)
Area of terrestrial Buffer Zone(s)	20,102 ha	32,571 ha
Area of terrestrial Transition Area(s)	79,866 ha	67,632 ha
Area of marine Core Area(s)	-	
Area of marine Buffer Zone(s)	-	
Size of marine Transition Area(s)	-	

j) Human population of the biosphere reserve:

	Nomination form 2005	At present (please state date of census or other source)
Core Area(s) (permanent and seasonally)	0	0

Buffer Zone(s) (permanent and seasonally)	0 (no data available)	Ca. 1,000 (as of 1. 1. 2024)
Transition Area(s) (permanent and seasonally)	250,000 (was less in retrospect; more accurate data has since become available)	240.000 (as of January 1, 2024, in reality an increase here as well, as data is now more accurate)

A total of 885,000 people live in the Biosphere Reserve region, i.e. in all Lower Austrian Biosphere Reserve municipalities and Vienna Biosphere Reserve districts with a share of the Wienerwald BR. In addition, around 145,000 people have a secondary residence in the region. Settlement in the Wienerwald BR is concentrated on settlement axes, such as the Vienna Valley (Wiental), the old Western Railway line (alte Westbahn) and on the marginal areas. Settlement density is particularly high in the eastern part of Vienna's urban area, along the *Thermenlinie* between Vienna-Döbling and Leobersdorf, and in the northern area around Klosterneuburg.

The population in the BR region has grown by 7.4% over the last ten years, which corresponds to approximately 61,000 people. Within the boundaries of the Wienerwald BR, approximately 241,000 people currently have their primary residence (data available as of 1 January 2024), based on grid data (100 m grid). In the last report, this figure was given as 272,500, as only this estimate was available at the time. Grid data (100 m grid) has now been available since 2018, which enables a much more accurate delimitation and counting of population data within the BR boundaries. According to this data, 233,000 people lived within the BR boundaries in 2018, which represents an increase of approximately 3.4% between 2018 and 2024 (source of grid data: Office of the Lower Austrian Provincial Government, Department of Spatial Planning and Transport Affairs, March 2025).

In absolute terms, growth has been recorded in all age groups (under 10-year-olds, 20–64-year-olds, 65-year-olds and older). In relative terms, the proportion of the 65+ generation has increased, while the other age groups have decreased proportionally.

In the buffer zone, there are agricultural and forestry farm buildings, some of which are also used as residences. In total, around 1,000 people live there.

k) Budget (main sources of funds, special capital funds) and international, regional or national relevant projects/initiatives carried out or planned.

Budget in the Nomination form 2005	Current budget
800,000,- €	800,000,- € - Own resources from the States of Vienna and Lower Austria ca. 650,000,- € funding raised from EU and national programmes Sum appr. 1,45 Mio €

As stipulated in the agreement between the two Federal States (agreement under Article 15a of the Federal Constitution Law), an amount of € 800,000 is provided by the States of Vienna and Lower Austria for the ongoing operation of BR Management. These funds are used to co-finance subsidy projects (EU Rural Development Programme, EU Interreg Programme, and national funding schemes).

- 1) **International, regional, multilateral or bilateral framework of cooperation. Describe, where applicable, the contribution of the biosphere reserve to achieve objectives and developing mechanisms that contribute to the implementation of international or regional bilateral or multilateral agreements, conventions, etc.**

The BR Management regularly cooperates with various organisations, supports numerous declarations and strategies and belongs to regional, national and international networks:

International, e.g.:

UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, UNESCO Global Action Programme "Education for Sustainable Development", Paris Climate Agreement, Alpine Convention, Convention on Biological Diversity, EU Biodiversity Strategy until 2030, Natura 2000, European Water Framework Directive, Bern Convention, Bonn Convention, EU Forest Strategy.

Regular participation in the Euro-MAB for exchange with other biosphere reserves. Regular (project-related) cooperation with partners in neighbouring countries, such as: Dolni Morava BR (CZ), National Geopark Little Carpathians (*Geopark Male Karpaty*, SK), Black Forest BR (*Biosphärenreservat Schwarzwald*) (D), *Berchtesgardener Land BR* (D), *BP Biosfera Engiadina Val Müstair* (CH), etc.

National, e.g.:

Austrian Biodiversity Strategy 2030, Austrian Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change, Austrian Agri-Environmental Programme (ÖPUL), Austrian Bioeconomy Strategy, Austrian Climate Strategy 2050, Austrian Tree Convention Forum (Forum Baumkonvention), Austrian Forest Strategy.

Cooperation with / participation in:

MAB National Committee – participation in meetings, Regular jour fixe with the Austrian biosphere reserves (Großes Walsertal, Nockberge-Lungau, Murtal) – joint strategies and projects, Tree Convention Forum (*Forum Baumkonvention*), Bioeconomy Austria Network, “*Zukunftsraum Land*” Network (Austrian Rural Development Network), Nature Parks Austria, National Parks Austria

Regional, e.g.:

Nature Conservation Concept of Lower Austria, Vienna Species and Habitat Protection Programme “*Netzwerk Natur*”, Vienna Forest and Meadow Charter, Guideline for the Development and Renewal of Towns, Municipalities, Cities, and Regions in Lower Austria, Implementation Concepts of Climate and Energy Model Regions, Implementation Concepts of Climate Change Adaptation Regions, Local Development Strategies of EU LEADER Regions, Small-Scale Regional Development Concepts, Regional Spatial Planning in Lower Austria, Urban Development Plan of Vienna, Wienerwald Declaration, Wienerwald Tourism Strategy, Tourism Strategy of the City of Vienna, Lower Austria Climate and Energy Programme 2030, Vienna Climate Roadmap.

Cooperation and participation, as well as regular coordination meetings (e.g. regional joint fixed and regional forum) with:

Lower Austrian Village and Town Renewal Programme, Nature Conservation Association (Naturschutzbund) of Lower Austria and Vienna, Landscape Conservation Associations; Nature Parks Föhrenberge, Purkersdorf, and Sparbach; Danube Wetlands National Park (Nationalpark Donauauen); Thaya National Park; Regional Management Lower Austria; LEADER Management Units; Climate Model Regions; Municipal Departments of the City of Vienna (Climate, Forestry and Agriculture, Environmental Protection, Vienna Water, Urban Planning); Departments of the Office of the State Government of Lower Austria (Spatial Planning, Nature Conservation, Hydraulic Engineering, Science and Research); Wienerwald Tourism Ltd.; Fruit and Wine-Growing Schools of Krems and Klosterneuburg; Wienerwald BR Partner Enterprises; Wienerwald BR Educational Partners; Core Zone Landowners' Network; Environmental Education Network; Energy and Environment Agency of Lower Austria; Environmental Counselling Vienna (Umweltberatung Wien); Chamber of Agriculture; Chamber of Commerce; Winegrowers' Associations.



CR BPWW/N. Novak

PART II: PERIODIC REVIEW REPORT

1. BIOSPHERE RESERVE:

1.1 Year designated: 2005

1.2 Year of first periodic review and of any following periodic review(s) (when appropriate): 2015

1.3 Follow-up actions taken in response to each recommendation from the previous periodic review(s) (if applicable), and if not completed/initiated, please provide justifications.

At the twenty-eighth MAB-ICC session, held in Lima, Peru, from 18 to 19 March 2016, the following recommendation was made:

„The Advisory Committee recommended that the report is used as model for periodic review report for the World Network of Biosphere Reserves and commended the participatory approaches in implementing sustainable development and nature conservation, as well as the management of a biosphere reserve close to a capital city.“

Due to this very gratifying and motivating feedback, the Wienerwald BR continues to be a prime example of the integration of an urban agglomeration area into a biosphere reserve. Numerous international delegations were able to get an idea of this and the BR Management continues to welcome them with great pleasure.

1.4 Other observations or comments on the above.

1.5 Describe in detail the process by which the current periodic review has been conducted:

1.5.1 Which stakeholders were involved?

The report was prepared by BR Management and acknowledged by the Supervisory Board of the company. The preparation of the present evaluation report involved the BR Management team, the Biosphere Reserve Coordinator of Lower Austria, as well as the Supervisory Board of BR Management. In addition, representatives of the MAB National Committee, the Scientific Advisory Board, and the Regional Forum of the Wienerwald BR were engaged in the process.

The Scientific Advisory Board is composed of experts from various research institutes in the fields of natural sciences, social sciences, spatial planning, and economics. The Regional Forum consists of regional political representatives, representatives of other regional initiatives and organizations (Climate Model Regions, micro regions, LEADER regions, Energy and Environment Agency, Environmental Counselling Vienna, Nature Parks, Village and Town Renewal, Tourism, etc.), as well as representatives of the Chambers of Agriculture and Commerce.

An important role is also played by additional institutional partners such as the Department for Spatial Planning and Transport Affairs of the State of Lower Austria, the Climate, Forestry and Agriculture Department of the City of Vienna, the Nature Conservation Department of the State of Lower Austria, the Environmental Protection Department of the City of Vienna, and the Austrian Federal Forests (*Österreichische Bundesforste, ÖBf AG*).

Further results and content were generated through various surveys conducted within the framework of research projects. In the ENESUS research project, six potential partner enterprises were examined with regard to their relationship to the BR Management network and their relevance to their own operations, while an additional 15 enterprises were involved in workshops. In the MultiBios research project (focusing on climate risk management in biosphere reserves in Austria, Germany, and Switzerland), 11 land users were included. A master's thesis explored, on a pilot basis, three municipalities and the influence of the Wienerwald BR on local soil policy, including interviews with the mayors.

Within the framework of several other research projects, the results of which were integrated into the evaluation, stakeholder surveys, survey platforms, and face-to-face interviews were conducted (e.g. research projects *User Conflicts*; *Public Perception and Evaluation of Ecosystem Services in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve*; *BioPV – Photovoltaics, Humans and the Biosphere*, etc.).

In addition, following the participatory process carried out in 2014, a new participatory process for the Strategy 2025–2035 was launched. This process is currently ongoing, and the results developed so far have been incorporated into the report (see 7.7.1).

1.5.2 What methodology was used to involve stakeholders in the process (e.g. workshops, meetings, consultation with experts)?

Workshops with the Regional Forum, the Scientific Advisory Board, and partner enterprises (e.g. within the framework of the ENESUS project); Meetings with the Supervisory Board of BR Management; Meetings of the Scientific Advisory Board; Interviews with land users, partner enterprises, and municipal representatives; Consultations with the coordinating departments of the States of Vienna and Lower Austria; Network meetings with nature conservation partners and water experts (within the framework of relevant projects); Network meetings of partner enterprises; Online surveys and workshops in the context of developing the strategy for the next ten years.

1.5.3 How many meetings, workshops, etc. occurred throughout the process of conducting this review?

Within the framework of the formats mentioned above, the following activities took place: 3 workshops with regional stakeholders; 4 meetings with the Supervisory Board; 2 meetings with the Scientific Advisory Board; 20 interviews with enterprises, land users, and municipal representatives; annual meetings with core zone landowners (forest enterprises); ongoing consultations with the coordinating specialist departments (at least 20); 2 network meetings each with nature conservation partners and water experts; 1 network meeting of partner enterprises; 2 internal retreats with staff members; 1 online survey (ongoing until the end of September 2025).

1.5.4 Were they well attended, with full and balanced representation?

(Describe participation and stakeholders).

In the above-mentioned committees and the networks already described, the following persons or stakeholder groups are represented:

Scientific Advisory Board: representatives of various research institutions from natural sciences, social sciences, spatial planning, and economics;

Regional Forum: representatives from regional politics, regional initiatives and organizations (climate model regions, micro-regions, LEADER regions, Energy and Environment Agency, Environmental Consulting Vienna, nature parks, Village and Town Renewal, Wienerwald Tourism), as well as representatives of the Chambers of Agriculture and Commerce;

Partner enterprises: organic farmers engaged in direct marketing, tourism enterprises, social enterprises, craft businesses;

Core zone landowners: representatives of the forestry sector;

Departments of the Governments of Lower Austria and Vienna: spatial planning, environmental and nature conservation, forestry, agriculture;

Nature conservation partners: NGOs in the field of nature conservation and landscape conservation and maintenance

Educational partners: professionals and organisations from the fields of environmental education, natural area management, nature interpretation, nature parks, agriculture, and forestry.

This list illustrates that over the past ten years the Wienerwald BR network has been further expanded and its relationships with stakeholders from all sectors of society have been deepened.

The report was prepared by the BR Management under the direction of the executive management. Inputs and feedback were provided by all divisions of the BR Management team, as well as by the Supervisory Board of BR Management and by representatives of the responsible departments of the States of Lower Austria and Vienna.



Photos: Network meetings 2022 and 2023, CR BPWW/N. Novak

2. SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE BIOSPHERE RESERVE DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS:

2.1 Brief summary overview: Narrative account of important changes in the local economy, landscapes or habitat use, and other related issues. Note important changes in the institutional arrangements for governance of the biosphere reserve area, and changes (if any) in the coordinating arrangements (including the biosphere reserve organization/coordinator/manager) that provide direction for the biosphere reserve. Identify the role of biosphere reserve organization/coordinator/manager in initiating or responding to these changes.

Forest:

In the forests of the Wienerwald BR, the impacts of the climate crisis are clearly evident. Particularly along the so-called *Thermenlinie*, pine forests (*Pinus nigra*) are experiencing dieback. Scientific studies suggest that this is a complex disease resulting from the interaction between fungal infection and drought stress. It is worth noting in this context that these forests have also been heavily shaped by human influence in terms of species composition, consisting almost entirely of artificial plantations. In the emerging natural regeneration, broadleaf tree species predominate.

However, reduced tree vitality (e.g., crown thinning) can also be observed in other forests within the Biosphere Reserve. Ash dieback continues unabated, leading to a significant reduction in the proportion of ash trees. Naturally, this tree species would be expected along watercourses or at fresh, moist sites in the northern Wienerwald. The partial dieback of beech trees and the cessation of their evapotranspiration during hot summers also represent a current challenge.

Overall, societal interest in forests and their functions appears to have increased, and forest owners at various levels (e.g., including municipal forests) are beginning to address the issue of sustainable forest management - beyond mere timber yield sustainability. The alignment of management concepts with the needs of user groups (outside of forestry) is becoming a particular focus, especially in municipal forests.

In the core zones subject to process protection, windthrow and ice breakage have once again left a significant mark on the landscape since the last reporting period. As documented in the scientific literature, windthrow gaps frequently act as starting points for further forest degradation. The impacts of the climate crisis on non site-adapted spruce stands are also evident in the core zones, where widespread dieback is occurring. Overall, however, it can be noted that the core-zone forests, as long-lasting ecosystems, are still relatively young to moderately aged in their current stage. A broader forest-ecological dynamic was therefore not yet to be expected.

A newly emerging challenge for the Wienerwald BR, where there has so far been little practical experience, is the increasing risk of forest fires, particularly in pine stands.

In order to provide the interested public with insights into the challenges of forest management in times of climate crisis, excursions and an information event were organized. For professional exchange on the topic of forest fires, and to visit the largest forest fire area in Austria, an excursion was arranged specifically for the core-zone landowners

Open Land:

Based on the analysis of the open-land mapping in Lower Austria (2011 – 2014) and the biotope type mapping of Vienna (2022 – 2024), a comprehensive description of the current status of open-land habitats was prepared for the entire Wienerwald BR. The natural area data were

compiled into reports for each municipality in Lower Austria and each district of Vienna that lies within the Biosphere Reserve. These municipal reports also include proposed measures aimed at improving open-land habitats. The reports were presented in the respective municipalities and districts. The objective was, on the one hand, to familiarize municipalities with the diversity of habitats at their doorstep and, on the other hand, to raise awareness of the importance of caring for this natural heritage, as well as to provide guidance on how such care can be implemented.

For agricultural land, direct contact was established with the farmers managing the areas. During on-site visits, specific guidance was provided on the conservation of meadows and pastures, and their special ecological value was highlighted. Furthermore, discussions were held with farmers and landowners regarding measures they could implement on their land to maintain or improve its condition.

To preserve and restore ecologically valuable open-land habitats and their characteristic species, landscape management activities were carried out by the BR Management with volunteers from the general public, companies, and school classes. Since 2015, a total of 2,800 people have actively participated in such activities. In the school projects alone, more than 15,200 children in Vienna and Lower Austria took part, implementing extensive management measures on the sites while also gaining knowledge about these special habitats. Landscape management activities carried out by partner organizations also involved a large number of volunteers – in line with the principle of participation by the local population and community initiatives.

In March 2018, the five partners - Wachau World Heritage Site, Thayatal National Park, Donauauen National Park, Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve, and Dürrenstein Wilderness Area - established the working group *ARGE Big Five Volunteer* for a joint cooperation project. As part of this project (2018–2021), several joint volunteer camps were organized. At these camps, international volunteers from around the world participated in landscape management activities.

Between 2011 and 2014, a comprehensive open-land mapping was carried out, the results of which have since been updated in the course of preparing municipal reports. A subsequent Master's thesis (Kapitany, E., 2021) confirmed both habitat loss and the deterioration of the conservation status of wet meadow sites in the European protected area (Natura 2000) "Wienerwald-Thermenregion." In order to counteract this negative development, the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve Management was officially entrusted by the Lower Austrian Nature Conservation Department in 2023 with the management of this European protected area. This step was based on the almost identical spatial overlap of the Wienerwald BR with the "Wienerwald-Thermenregion" protected area. Thus, excellent local knowledge and the expertise of a well-established and widely networked institution in the region could be relied upon. By consolidating information and partner networks, measures can now be better coordinated, and synergies more effectively utilized.

In the first project phase (2023–2024), wet meadows with particular management needs were selected. For the designated management areas, covering a total of 25,5 hectares, management concepts were developed in consultation with landowners and land users in order to achieve site-appropriate (re)cultivation of these valuable wetland habitats. In addition, on 11 individual sites with a total area of 2 hectares, concrete measures were implemented by external landscape maintenance companies, including shrub clearing and mowing of heavily overgrown meadows.

The BR Management is also a project partner in the initiative "Restoration of Dry Grassland Habitats 2024–2034." The project aims at restoring and reconnecting dry grassland habitats, which are highly endangered and strictly protected both in Austria and across the EU, within the

Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve and the Wienerwald-Thermenregion Natura 2000 site. Project partners include the Landscape Conservation Association Thermenlinie, Wienerwald, Wiener Becken, as well as the municipalities of Bad Vöslau, Pfaffstätten, and Baden. In the municipalities of Bad Vöslau, Pfaffstätten, and Baden, the envisioned landscape is a park-like mosaic of dry and semi-dry grassland areas interspersed with solitary trees, groups of trees and shrubs, as well as hedgerows - developed step by step over a period of ten years. (see also 2.2.4, 4.2).

Autumn crocus (*Colchicum autumnale*) is becoming an increasing challenge for farmers. Its leaves and seed capsules enter the hay during mowing, and the highly toxic compound colchicine remains present even after drying. As a result, the sale of hay from the Wienerwald meadows is becoming increasingly difficult. At the same time, many of the region's meadows are exceptionally species-rich. It is therefore important to weaken autumn crocus through control measures without endangering the biodiversity of these grasslands. After several scientific studies on the issue and its management had already been carried out in the Wienerwald, practical field trials for regulating the poisonous plant were initiated by the *Heubörse Wienerwald* („Wienerwald Hay Exchange“) in cooperation with the Wienerwald BR Management. Twelve farmers from the Wienerwald took part in the trials (see also 4.2, 5.3).

As part of the **fruit tree initiative** of the BR Management, more than 1,800 fruit trees and 1,000 hedge shrubs have been planted in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve since 2015. Through the annual Fruit Tree Days, the local population was offered a thematic educational programme – including information on old fruit varieties, their identification, pruning, and nature-friendly maintenance. In cooperation with the Austrian Federal Forests and the partner enterprise “*Tafel Österreich*” (a non-profit organization dedicated to preventing food waste), the first harvest from the planted fruit trees was collected. The yield was donated to charitable purposes.

In the **vineyard landscapes** of the Biosphere Reserve, around 80 additional linear meters of dry stone walls have been constructed over the past ten years within the framework of dry stone walling courses offered by BR Management. On 5 December 2024, Austria was officially inscribed on the UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage for the Art of Dry Stone Walling.

Economic Development

In order to promote the production of regional products and to gain multipliers within the region, the **network of partner enterprises** has been continuously expanded. In 2020, the guidelines for partner enterprises were revised in a participatory process together with the businesses, based on the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.

In addition to the original partner enterprises from the sectors of agriculture with direct marketing as well as gastronomy and accommodation, social-economic enterprises and craft businesses have since joined. Currently, a total of 39 partner enterprises are listed as ambassadors of the regional economy within the Wienerwald BR. A more detailed overview of economic developments can be found in Chapter 5.3.

A special focus is placed on the Biosphere Reserve Wine Award “DER WEIN”, which annually evaluates wines from ecologically sustainable wineries in the form of a blind tasting and presents awards at a dedicated event. Due to the steady increase in organic wine producers, this initiative continues to grow in popularity. To further enhance regional outreach and networking, a cooperation with the Wine Forum Thermenregion has been established.

Since the region, particularly in the immediate vicinity of Vienna and along its eastern border (Southern Railway, Southern Motorway), is subject to strong economic dynamics, continuous

adaptation processes are required. Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, the increased pressure on the landscape from recreational visitors made it necessary to consider visitor management and compensatory measures for the landscape. The BR Management therefore actively contributes to the development of a recreation strategy and to joint initiatives with the Climate Model Region Thermenlinie. Another project within the framework of the Interreg Slovakia–Austria Programme (European Regional Development Fund) has been addressing since 2024 the question of how biodiversity can be maintained and enhanced in dynamically developing regions. The valorization of nature conservation and biodiversity as drivers for sustainable regional development are the central themes here.

In order to provide a general overview of key regional data and their development, the BR Management published for the first time in 2020 a socio-economic study: https://www.bpww.at/sites/default/files/download_files/EB-regoekonomischeAnalyse-20200424_4.pdf

Institutional Changes

Since 2015, there have once again been personnel changes within the administration of the BR Management. In particular, this includes three changes in executive management as well as the development of the staff to currently a total of eleven employees. In addition, there were personnel changes in the General Assembly and in the Supervisory Board of BR Management (see also 7.2). Furthermore, the Scientific Advisory Board and the Regional Forum as a participatory body were established. Likewise, the Wienerwald Tourism Association has integrated the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve into its tourism strategy and, in cooperation with the Biosphere Reserve Management, has developed relevant offers.

2.2 Updated background information about the biosphere reserve.

The Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve covers an area of 105,645 hectares and extends across 51 municipalities in Lower Austria and seven districts of Vienna. Around 885,000 people live in this region. Its uniqueness lies in the diversity of nature, culture, and sustainable land use on the outskirts of the metropolis of Vienna – as the only biosphere reserve in Europe that is partly located within a city of over one million inhabitants. In addition to the metropolitan area of Vienna and the associated suburbanization, the region is shaped by three small towns with more than 20,000 inhabitants each (Klosterneuburg, Baden, Mödling), as well as numerous smaller settlements. Sixty percent of the municipalities have less than 5,000 inhabitants.

The Wienerwald is the largest contiguous deciduous mixed forest in Central Europe. The location of such an extensive forest area right next to a major city is unique. The diverse climatic and geological conditions in the Wienerwald are responsible for the wide variety of vegetation types. Within the BR, more than 20 forest types can be found – dominated by beech and oak-hornbeam forests – as well as over 17 types of meadows. The Wienerwald is home to more than 2 000 plant species and approximately 150 breeding bird species. On the warm slopes of the Wienerwald, viticulture shapes the open cultural landscape. This landscape, rich in structures such as fruit trees, hedgerows, and stone walls, provides habitats for numerous rare and endangered species of flora and fauna.

The Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve contains four nature parks covering a total of 10 796 hectares, while 7,342 hectares are designated as nature conservation areas. Large parts of the region are protected as landscape conservation areas and as Natura 2000 sites under the European Habitats Directive, covering 81% of the biosphere reserve area (849 km²).

The Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve is managed by the *Biosphärenpark Wienerwald Management GmbH*, based in Tullnerbach. Its goal is to protect nature where habitats and species require conservation, while at the same time developing the region as a living space for responsible economic activity and sustainable lifestyles. The projects and initiatives carried out are intended to address all aspects of sustainability, integrating ecological, economic, and social dimensions.

Total area: 105,645 ha

Core area(s): 5,442 ha

Buffer zone(s): 32,571 ha

Transition area(s): 67,632 ha

Altitudinal range (metres above sea level): 160-890 m above sea level

Political administrative levels: Federal States of Lower Austria and Vienna

Lower Austria:

5 District administrations (Baden, Mödling, Tulln, Lilienfeld und St. Pölten-Land). The following 51 municipalities in Lower Austria belong to the Vienna Woods BR (in alphabetical order):

Alland, Altenmarkt an der Triesting, Altlenzbach, Asperhofen, Baden, Bad Vöslau, Berndorf, Brand-Laaben, Breitenfurt bei Wien, Brunn am Gebirge, Eichgraben, Gaaden, Gablitz, Gießhübl, Gumpoldskirchen, Guntramsdorf, Hainfeld, Heiligenkreuz, Hinterbrühl, Hirtenberg, Judenau-Baumgarten, Kaltenleutgeben, Kaumberg, Klausen-Leopoldsdorf, Klosterneuburg, Königstetten, Kottlingbrunn, Laab im Walde, Leobersdorf, Maria-Anzbach, Maria Enzersdorf, Mauerbach, Mödling, Neulengbach, Neustift-Innermanzing, Perchtoldsdorf, Pfaffstätten, Pottenstein, Pressbaum, Purkersdorf, Sieghartskirchen, Sooß, St. Andrä-Wördern, Traiskirchen, Tulbing, Tulln, Tullnerbach, Weißenbach an der Triesting, Wienerwald, Wolfsgraben, Zeiselmauer-Wolfsgraben

Vienna:

Districts: 13 (Hietzing), 14 (Penzing), 16 (Ottakring), 17 (Hernals), 18 (Währing), 19 (Döbling) und 23 (Liesing).

Major ecosystem type: **Forest** (approx. 70,000 ha) – oak mixed forests, beech forests, black pine forests, and maple-lime mixed forests.

Open land – meadows (e.g. tall oat-grass meadows, false brome meadows, purple moor-grass meadows, fens and spring habitats, traditional orchard meadows, dry and semi-dry grasslands), pastures, arable land, viticultural landscapes, and water bodies.

Bioclimatic zone: Subcontinental climate with cold winters and hot, dry summers, with annual precipitation ranging from 584 to 1,000 mm (annual precipitation totals 2015–2024, Geosphere Austria, 2025). Temperatures range from –7 to +28 °C (temperature trends 2015–2024: monthly mean air temperature, Geosphere Austria, 2025).

2.2.1 Updated coordinates (if applicable). If any changes in the biosphere reserve's standard geographical coordinates, please provide them here (all projected under WGS 84):

Cardinal points:	Latitude	Longitude
Most central point:	48°08'28'' N	16°04'56'' E
Northernmost point:	48°21'05'' N	16°15'28'' E
Southernmost point:	47°55'52'' N	16°10'47'' E
Westernmost point:	48°15'33'' N	16°22'13'' E
Easternmost point:	48°02'44'' N	15°47'40'' E

2.2.2 If necessary, provide an updated map on a topographic layer of the precise location and delimitation of the three zones of the biosphere reserve. Map(s) shall be provided in both paper and electronic copies. Shape files (also in WGS 84 projection system) used to produce the map must also be attached to the electronic copy of the form.

The map of the Biosphere Reserve Wienerwald zonation is attached to this review as well as the shape files in the electronic version.

If applicable, also provide a link to access this map on the internet (e.g. Google map, website):

https://www.bpww.at/sites/default/files/download_files/BPWW_Karte_Zonierung_2021.jpg

<https://biodiversity.unesco.org/portal/site?id=4902>

2.2.3 Changes in the human population of the biosphere reserve.

In total, 885,000 people live in the Biosphere Reserve region, i.e. in all Lower Austrian Biosphere Reserve municipalities and Viennese districts that are part of the Wienerwald BR. In addition, around 145,000 people have a secondary residence in the region.

The population in the Biosphere Reserve region has grown by 7.4% over the past ten years, which corresponds to around 61,000 people. Within the boundaries of the Wienerwald BR, approximately 241,000 people currently live with their main residence (available data as of January 1, 2024, based on 100 m grid data). In the previous report, this figure was given as 272,500, as at that time only this estimate was available. Since 2018, however, grid data (100 m grid) have been accessible, which allow for a much more accurate delineation and counting of population data within the BR boundaries. Accordingly, in 2018, 233,000 people lived within the BR boundaries, which represents an increase of about 3.4% between 2018 and 2024. (Source of grid data: Office of the Government of Lower Austria, Department of Spatial Planning and Transport Affairs, March 2025).

In absolute terms, population growth has been recorded across all age cohorts (children under 10, individuals aged 20–64, and those aged 65 and older). In relative terms, however, the proportion of the 65+ generation has increased, while the share of the other age groups has declined.

Within the buffer zone, there are agricultural and forestry buildings, some of which are also used as residences. In total, approximately 1,000 people live in this area.

2.2.4 Update on conservation function, including main changes since last report.

(Note briefly here and refer to 4 below).

In the core zones, no significant changes have occurred since the last reporting period. The core zone areas remain stable and are contractually regulated. To enable monitoring of conditions and developments within the core zones, a permanent sample point network has been established. A first repeat-survey of the woody vegetation has been completed and prepared for the interested public. The content can be downloaded (see Annex II Promotion and Communication Materials) or ordered as a printed edition.

It is worth noting, in connection with the protective function of forest habitats, that numerous forest owners have voluntarily set aside so-called stepping stone biotopes, old-growth islands, or old-growth cells from forestry use. This approach has also been reflected in Austrian forest policy instruments, where the Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests (*BFW*) launched the ‘Stepping Stone Biotopes’ project. On a voluntary basis, forest owners were able to designate forest areas they were willing to withdraw from management. Following expert assessment by the BFW and the project partners, agreements were concluded with landowners for the temporary suspension of forest management in suitable areas.

Due to the designation of buffer zones (Pflegezonen), the rezoning of these areas into building land in Lower Austria is now only possible in justified exceptional cases and under very restrictive conditions. In 2019, the buffer zones were expanded from 19% to 31% of the total BR area. The Vienna buffer zone is predominantly designated as a landscape protection area and as a protection zone „Wald- und Wiesengürtel“ (forest and meadow belt), with a de facto construction ban.

To preserve and restore ecologically valuable open-land habitats and their characteristic species, landscape management activities were carried out by the BR Management with volunteers from the general public, companies, and school classes. Since 2015, a total of 2,800 people have actively participated in such activities. In the school projects alone, more than 15,200 children in Vienna and Lower Austria took part, implementing extensive management measures on the sites while also gaining knowledge about these special habitats. Landscape management activities carried out by partner organizations also involved a large number of volunteers – in line with the principle of participation by the local population and community initiatives.

Between 2011 and 2014, a comprehensive open-land mapping was carried out, the results of which have since been updated in the course of preparing municipal reports. A subsequent Master’s thesis (Kapitany, E., 2021) confirmed both habitat loss and the deterioration of the conservation status of wet meadow sites in the European protected area (Natura 2000) “*Wienerwald-Thermenregion*.” In order to counteract this negative development, the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve Management was officially entrusted by the Lower Austrian Nature Conservation Department in 2023 with the management of this European protected area. This step was based on the almost identical spatial overlap of the Wienerwald BR with the “*Wienerwald-Thermenregion*” protected area. Thus, excellent local knowledge and the expertise of a well-established and widely networked institution in the region could be relied upon. By consolidating information and partner networks, measures can now be better coordinated, and synergies more effectively utilized.

In the first project phase (2023–2024), wet meadows with particular management needs were selected. For the designated management areas, covering a total of 25,5 hectares, management concepts were developed in consultation with landowners and land users in order to achieve site-appropriate (re)cultivation of these valuable wetland habitats. In addition, on 11 individual sites with a total area of 2 hectares, concrete measures were implemented by external landscape maintenance companies, including shrub clearing and mowing of heavily overgrown meadows.

The BR Management is also a project partner in the initiative “Restoration of Dry Grassland Habitats 2024–2034.” The project aims at restoring and reconnecting dry grassland habitats, which are highly endangered and strictly protected both in Austria and across the EU, within the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve and the *Wienerwald-Thermenregion* Natura 2000 site. Project partners include the Landscape Conservation Association Thermenlinie, Wienerwald, Wiener Becken, as well as the municipalities of Bad Vöslau, Pfaffstätten, and Baden. In the municipalities of Bad Vöslau, Pfaffstätten, and Baden, the envisioned landscape is a park-like mosaic of dry and semi-dry grassland areas interspersed with solitary trees, groups of trees and shrubs, as well as hedgerows - developed step by step over a period of ten years.

The following measures are being implemented within the framework of the project:

- Clearing of mainly secondary black pine (*Pinus nigra*) forests on an area of 3.48 hectares
- Conservation measures with exemptions from the Austrian Forest Law, such as grazing and shrub removal, for forests with special habitats in accordance with § 32a (1) of the Forest Law, on an area of 3.23 hectares (in this case: development of downy oak (*Quercus pubescens*) scrubland in a mosaic with dry and semi-dry grasslands)
- Forest management measures to improve both the silvicultural and ecological condition of forest areas on 27.83 hectares, thereby enabling actions in favor of semi-dry and dry grasslands.

For this project, the BR Management and its project partners were awarded the Schöffel Nature Conservation Prize of Lower Austria.

2.2.5 Update on the development function, including main changes since last report. (Note briefly here and refer to 5 below).

In 2020, the guidelines for **partner enterprises** were revised in a participatory process with the businesses, based on the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals. To the first partner enterprises from the fields of “agriculture with direct marketing” and “gastronomy and accommodation,” additional businesses from other sectors were added as a result of this process, particularly social enterprises and craft businesses (see 5.1). In total, 39 partner enterprises are currently listed as “ambassadors” for the regional economy in the Wienerwald BR.

Since 2015, several projects on the topic of **meadows and pastures** have been carried out. Until 2018, farmers managing species-rich meadows and pastures in the region were honored annually and supported in the marketing of their products. For some meadows, optimal management and maintenance measures were developed together with the farmers. With the “*Heubörse Wienerwald*“ („Wienerwald Hay Exchange“) - an association of farmers for the marketing of high-quality hay for regional riding and horse-stable businesses - measures for the ecological control of autumn crocus (*Colchicum autumnale*) were developed and implemented (see also 4.2, 5.3).

In connection with regional products and direct marketing, several projects were initiated, supported, and implemented.

Each year, the best **region-typical wines** (produced either organically or according to the guidelines of ÖPUL (Austrian Agri-Environmental Programme) or “Nachhaltig Austria” (Austrian sustainability label for wine) in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve continue to be awarded (see 5.3). On the dry grassland areas of the Thermenlinie, grazing of ecologically valuable sites with sheep has been further implemented in cooperation with an agricultural partner farm, along with the marketing of organic lamb (see 4.2).

The BR Management continues to handle the funding process for **fruit tree** orders for farmers, thereby promoting the replanting of old, endangered varieties of site-appropriate fruit trees and hedge shrubs. Each year, a dedicated Fruit Tree Day has been organized in both Vienna and Lower Austria. Over the past ten years, this initiative has resulted in the planting of approximately 1,800 fruit trees (see 4.3).

In 2019, a Regional Forum (**Participation Advisory Board**) was established to improve regional coordination. This body is composed of representatives from politics, regional initiatives (such as Climate Model Regions, LEADER Regions, and micro regional associations), as well as relevant initiatives and departments of the Federal States of Vienna and Lower Austria. Its aim is to coordinate different regional development priorities, identify joint initiatives, and work together towards achieving shared objectives. The forum convenes once a year.

In 2018, a **Scientific Advisory Board** was established for the first time. It is composed of representatives from various disciplines, thereby covering all relevant topics within the Wienerwald BR. The board meets twice a year to coordinate research questions and priorities relevant to the Wienerwald BR and provides recommendations for the region’s development from a scientific perspective.

2.2.6 Update on logistic support function, including main changes since last report.

(Note briefly here and refer to 6 below).

An extensive information and participation programme, including information stands, excursions, biosphere school lessons, the Biosphere Reserve game, annual Biodiversity Days, landscape management activities, information leaflets and books on habitats in the Wienerwald BR has reached a total of 820,000 adults and 64,400 children and young people over the past ten years.

The training of Wienerwald BR Educational Partners has also continued over the last decade. Since 2015, around 150 educational partners have been trained, and the activities of active partners are published annually in a dedicated programme.

With the establishment of the Regional Forum as a participation council and the Scientific Advisory Board, cooperation with other regional initiatives as well as with universities and research institutions has been significantly strengthened.

In 2019 and 2020, the Wienerwald BR Infopoints were updated with a new, contemporary design. At 10 locations across the region, people can now access information about the UNESCO MAB Programme, the Wienerwald BR, and the natural areas on-site.

The “Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve Future Concept 2020” has been further developed between 2020 and 2025, incorporating contributions from the Regional Forum, the Scientific Advisory Board, as well as internal workshops with staff and the Supervisory Board. Currently, a regional participation process is underway to prepare the Strategy 2025–2035. The timeframe was deliberately chosen to align both with the periodic review cycle and with the expected transition

in autumn 2025 from the Lima Action Plan to the Hangzhou Strategy and Action Plan 2026–2035.

2.2.7 Update on governance, management and coordination, including changes since last report (if any) in hierarchy of administrative divisions, coordination structure.

(Note briefly here and refer to 7 below).

In 2019, a Regional Forum (Participation Advisory Board) was established to improve regional coordination. This body is composed of representatives from politics, regional initiatives (such as Climate Model Regions, LEADER Regions, micro regional associations, tourism, etc.), and relevant initiatives and departments of the States of Vienna and Lower Austria. Its purpose is to align different regional development priorities, identify joint initiatives, and work collaboratively toward achieving shared goals. The Forum meets at least once a year. Similarly, in 2018, a Scientific Advisory Board was established for the first time. It is composed of representatives from different disciplines, thereby covering all topics relevant to the Wienerwald BR. The Advisory Board meets twice a year to discuss research questions and priorities of relevance to the Wienerwald BR and to provide scientific recommendations for the region's development.

During the reporting period, there were two changes in management. The current managing director has been in office since July 2019.

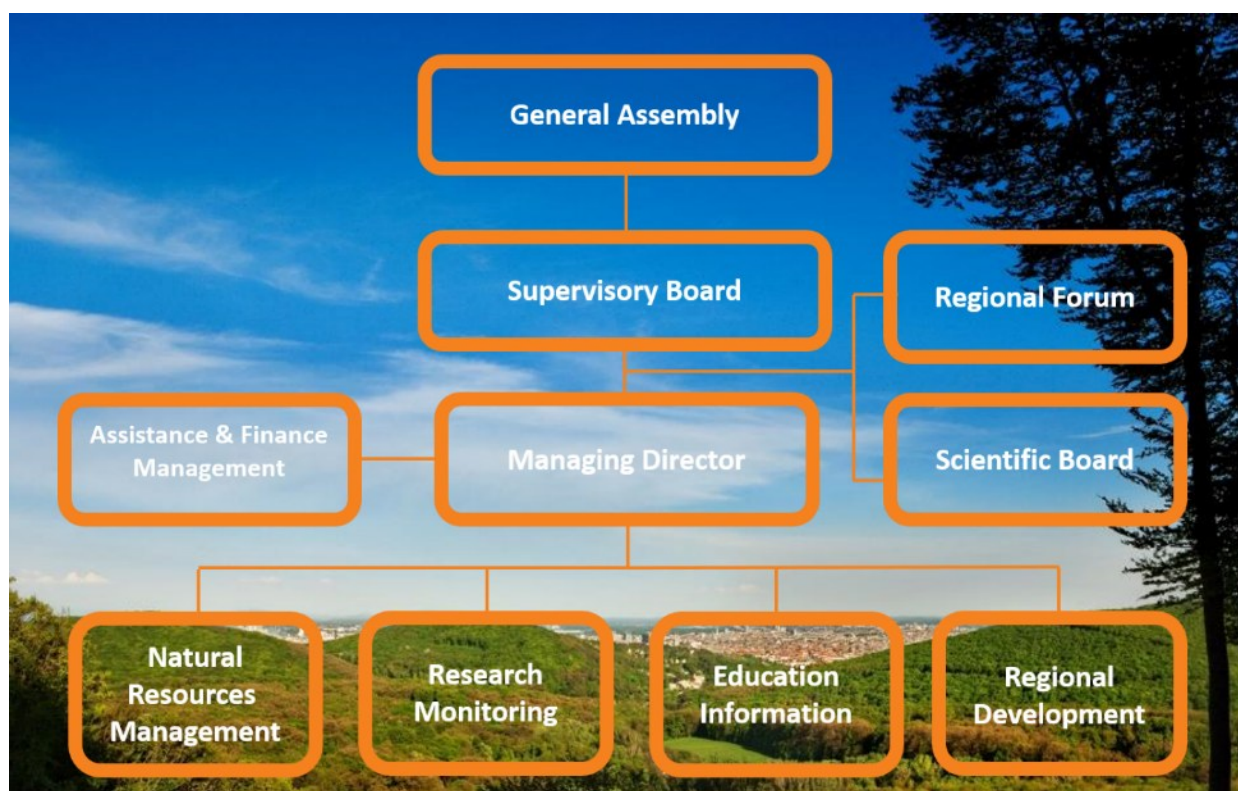


Fig.: Organizational Structure of BR Management (Biosphärenpark Wienerwald Management GmbH)

2.3 The authority/authorities in charge of coordinating/managing the biosphere reserve:

(Comment on the following topics as much as is relevant).

The owner of the „*Biosphärenpark Wienerwald Management GmbH*“ is the „Association Lower Austria – Vienna, Common Development Areas“ (*Verein Niederösterreich Wien – gemeinsame Entwicklungsräume*). This association itself is owned by the Federal States of Vienna and Lower Austria. The City-Suburban Management for Vienna and Lower Austria is also based within this association, creating synergies.

The General Assembly of the *Biosphärenpark Wienerwald Management GmbH* consists of the respective responsible regional politicians from Vienna and Lower Austria (two persons). The Supervisory Board is composed of four members: two nominated by Vienna and two by Lower Austria.

The coordinating regional departments are the Department of Spatial Planning and Transport Affairs within the Office of the Provincial Government of Lower Austria (Dept. RU7), and the Forestry and Agricultural Enterprise of the City of Vienna (MA 49).

2.3.1 Updates to cooperation/management policy/plan, including vision statement, goals and objectives, either current or for the next 5-10 years

The key themes and objectives for the Wienerwald BR are defined in state legislation in both Vienna and Lower Austria. Since the last periodic review, there have been no changes to these overarching objectives. The mission statement likewise remains valid.

The “Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve Future Concept 2020” has been continuously supplemented and further developed between 2020 and 2025, incorporating contributions from the Regional Forum, the Scientific Advisory Board, as well as from internal workshops with staff and the Supervisory Board.

A regional participatory process is currently underway to develop the Strategy 2025–2035, with a focus on participation and governance. The timeframe was deliberately chosen, as it coincides with the next periodic review cycle and, furthermore, in autumn 2025 the Lima Action Plan is set to be replaced by the *Hangzhou Strategic Action Plan 2026–2035*.

The current objectives and measures up to 2030 are summarized as follows:

The future strategy of the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve for 2030 is based on four key priorities:

- Natural area management
- Research and monitoring
- Education, information, and communication
- Regional development

Its aim is to further develop the Biosphere Reserve – in line with UNESCO’s mandate – into a model region for sustainable development and the protection of unique natural resources.

In the field of **natural area management**, our focus lies on measures that protect and conserve the region’s natural resources and ecosystems, while also ensuring their sustainable development where necessary. By supporting the sustainable use of land, water, and forests, we aim to safeguard biodiversity and maintain the ecological integrity of the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve. Measures to preserve endangered species and habitats play a central role in this context.

Research and monitoring are crucial for expanding knowledge about the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve and for making well-informed decisions. We coordinate a range of scientific studies designed to improve the understanding of ecological processes, regional economic and spatial planning dynamics, the impacts of climate change, and long-term developments within the biosphere reserve region. Through these research collaborations and the monitoring of ecological indicators, we are able to provide a solid knowledge base that supports evidence-based decision-making and the adaptation of measures to changing environmental conditions.

Education, information and communication play a vital role in fostering awareness and appreciation of the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve. Through comprehensive educational programmes, guided excursions, and informative events, we strengthen awareness of the region's unique natural heritage and the importance of treating our environment with care. We design information and education initiatives for the general public, schools, and other stakeholder groups. Targeted campaigns and events communicate the significance of protecting nature and promoting the sustainable use of our resources. This work is supported by a our network of biosphere reserve education partners.

In the field of regional development, we work closely with municipalities, stakeholders, and regional initiatives in and around the biosphere reserve to promote sustainable development across the region. We cooperate on projects that strengthen tourism, agriculture, forestry, and other economic sectors while respecting the protection of nature. Our partner enterprises are pioneers in sustainable business practices and contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Promoting local identity and culture is also an integral part of our strategy.

The Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve 2030 Future Strategy reflects our commitment to becoming a model region for sustainable development, in line with UNESCO's mandate and the agreement between the States of Lower Austria and Vienna.

The implementation measures in the biosphere reserve are guided by the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>). The Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve strives to take as many of these global goals as possible into account in its projects.

2.3.2 Budget and staff support, including approximate average annual amounts (or range from year-to-year); main sources of funds (including financial partnerships established (private/public), innovative financial schemes); special capital funds (if applicable); number of full and/or part-time staff; in-kind contribution of staff; volunteer contributions of time or other support.

Currently, the BR Management employs 6 full-time and 5 part-time staff members. In addition, one employee works on a marginal basis as a cleaner. The staff members are responsible on the one hand for daily organizational and subject-specific tasks, and on the other hand act as project leaders or coordinators for research and implementation projects in their respective fields (see organizational chart 2.2.7).

Each year, we are also supported by a young person completing a Voluntary Environmental Year. In addition, two to three interns as well as numerous contract workers and freelancers are engaged annually – primarily for information events, guided tours, and educational activities.

Within the reporting period, more than 2,700 volunteers and over 15,000 pupils took part in hands-on activities and school projects (such as landscape management operations) organized by

the BR Management. In total, this amounts to over 72,000 hours of volunteer work. Through school excursions and lessons, around 49,000 children and young people were involved, contributing nearly 100,000 hours to awareness-raising within the Biosphere Reserve.

Furthermore, partner organizations, nature parks, and public institutions play an equally important role in providing valuable educational and participatory activities in the region, supported by large numbers of additional volunteers.

The basic budget, provided in the form of shareholder contributions from the States of Vienna and Lower Austria, amounts to €800,000 per year. For the implementation of projects, additional funding is secured from EU programmes (such as the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, Interreg), the MAB research programme, as well as from other national funding schemes (e.g. Landscape Fund, Forest Fund, Biodiversity Fund, etc.).

Income and Expenditure of BR Management 2015–2024 in €:

Year	Positions	Income	Expenditure
2015		1 464 528,55	1 539 723,30
	Shareholder Contributions	800 000,00	
	Other Income, Grant-Funded Projects	664 528,55	
	Material Costs, Projects		646 871,83
	Personnel Costs		628 651,77
	Operating Costs and Public Relations		264 199,70
2016		1 494 351,27	1 407 440,51
	Shareholder Contributions	800 000,00	
	Other Income, Grant-Funded Projects	694 351,27	
	Material Costs, Projects		528 448,77
	Personnel Costs		618 954,63
	Operating Costs and Public Relations		260 037,11
2017		1 588 023,88	1 525 466,73
	Shareholder Contributions	800 000,00	
	Other Income, Grant-Funded Projects	788 023,88	
	Material Costs, Projects		667 093,73
	Personnel Costs		563 539,51
	Operating Costs and Public Relations		294 833,49
2018		1 538 658,58	1 424 188,36
	Shareholder Contributions	800 000,00	
	Other Income, Grant-Funded Projects	738 658,58	
	Material Costs, Projects		571 259,34
	Personnel Costs		533 766,43
	Operating Costs and Public Relations		319 162,59

2019	1 347 273,44	1 141 264,95
Shareholder Contributions	800 000,00	
Other Income, Grant-Funded Projects	547 273,44	
Material Costs, Projects		295 541,45
Personnel Costs		569 601,26
Operating Costs and Public Relations		276 122,24
2020	1 261 516,73	1 338 985,35
Shareholder Contributions	800 000,00	
Other Income, Grant-Funded Projects	461 516,73	
Material Costs, Projects		448 817,18
Personnel Costs		662 273,21
Operating Costs and Public Relations		227 894,96
2021	1 417 044,21	1 349 562,18
Shareholder Contributions	800 000,00	
Other Income, Grant-Funded Projects	617 044,21	
Material Costs, Projects		440 863,72
Personnel Costs		671 032,96
Operating Costs and Public Relations		237 665,50
2022	1 467 992,31	1 563 948,88
Shareholder Contributions	800 000,00	
Other Income, Grant-Funded Projects	667 992,31	
Material Costs, Projects		632 102,67
Personnel Costs		755 412,79
Operating Costs and Public Relations		176 433,42
2023	1 498 104,90	1 546 748,27
Shareholder Contributions	800 000,00	
Other Income, Grant-Funded Projects	698 104,90	
Material Costs, Projects		529 325,42
Personnel Costs		788 628,96
Operating Costs and Public Relations		228 793,89
2024	1 616 232,78	1 689 830,52
Shareholder Contributions	800 000,00	
Other Income, Grant-Funded Projects	816 232,78	
Material Costs, Projects		652 229,16
Personnel Costs		858 751,75
Operating Costs and Public Relations		178 849,61

The State of Lower Austria also maintains a performance contract with the Austrian Federal Forests (*ÖBf AG*). Under a cooperation agreement with the State of Lower Austria, the Austrian Federal Forests provide extensive services for the Wienerwald BR. They are also involved in the development and implementation of numerous research and natural area projects. Revenues generated in the course of these activities are recorded in a trust account and can, if necessary, be released by the State of Lower Austria for biosphere reserve projects.

Revenues arise, for example, in connection with legally required trail maintenance in core zones, recognition fees for guided tours and excursions, or in relation to natural area projects. In Vienna, the Environmental Protection Department (MA 22) and the Forest and Agriculture Department of the City of Vienna (MA 49) provide services for the Biosphere Reserve Wienerwald beyond the obligations stipulated in the agreement according to Article 15a of the Federal Constitutional Act (BVG).

2.3.3 Communications strategy for the biosphere reserve including different approaches and tools geared towards the community and/or towards soliciting outside support.

The main goal of the BR Management's communication is to reach residents, stakeholders, and decision-makers in the region. The three primary channels for this communication are the newspaper ("*Das Blatt in Ihrer Hand*"), the electronic newsletter, and the website (see 6.5.1 ff).

On specific occasions, press releases are sent to a distribution list of about 300 journalists from regional and national media. In addition, various events (either organized by the BR Management or other organizations) are used primarily to inform the public. Municipal newspapers and official bulletins of the district authorities are also provided with information, and project-related cooperation with regional media is established.

An annual activity report and a programme brochure provide information on the work of the BR Management and offer details about relevant guided tours and educational programmes in the region (see 6.5.1 and 5.9).

Folders (e.g.):

An annual programme folder provides an overview of activities taking place in the Wienerwald BR, such as events, guided tours, excursions, and openings, which are offered either by the BR Management itself or through more than 100 education partners, Wienerwald BR partners, institutions, and associations.

A general overview of the characteristics, goals, and measures of the Wienerwald BR was compiled in an informational folder titled "*Wir leben Vielfalt*" (until 2019). Since 2020, the folder "*Biosphärenpark Wienerwald – A Biosphere Reserve on the Edge of a Metropolis*" has provided this information.

In addition, each of the 37 core zones has its own folder, describing the nature conservation-related features, characteristic species, location, and description of the respective core zone. A separate brochure, published in 2024, provides information on monitoring in the core zones. Additionally, electronic profiles with comments from regional stakeholders are available for all core zones: <https://kernzonen.bpww.at/>.

During the reporting period, more than 70 folders, brochures, and books were produced and distributed at events, provided to municipalities, districts, and partner institutions, or sent on

request (e.g., fruit tree action folders, *Der Wein*, *Biosphere Volunteer*, *50 Things You Must Do Before You Are 12 ½ Years Old*, watercourse free cards, hiking map – the 30 most beautiful routes, etc.).

Biosphere Reserve Ambassadors:

As important communication partners, multipliers, and contacts in municipalities and districts, the Biosphere Reserve Ambassadors were appointed in 2013. These individuals act as an information hub between their respective municipality/district and the BR Management. Currently, a total of 65 ambassadors are listed (see also 6.5.1).

Publications (e.g.):

As part of a publication series, in addition to the books mentioned in the previous reporting period, a small-format, popular science publication was produced for each of the following topics. These publications are distributed at events, provided to interested individuals, and can also be requested free of charge from the BR Management:

- *Meadows and Pastures in the Wienerwald* – revised edition (2018)
- *Dry Grasslands in the Wienerwald* – revised edition (2020)
- *Watercourses in the Wienerwald* (2024)



Additionally, for each “Biodiversity Day” from 2015 to 2021 (with further editions planned), a dedicated publication highlighting important and interesting species observations and research results was issued under the title “*Nature in ...*”. These publications are distributed to interested people in Lower Austria through the respective municipalities and in Vienna via district authorities and other partner organizations. The aim is to inspire local communities to appreciate the nature in their living area and to promote conservation:

- *Nature in Breitenfurt* (2015)
- *Nature in the Lainzer Tiergarten* (2016, 2018)
- *Nature in Alland* (2017)
- *Nature in Pressbaum* (2019)
- *Nature in Währing* (2020)
- *Nature in Eichgraben* (2021)

Events:

Biodiversity Day

For the 19th time, the BR Management organized the “Biodiversity Day” in 2025. The goal is to explore natural areas alternately in a municipality in Lower Austria or a district in Vienna and to engage the local population with the region’s native biodiversity. The event takes place with

financial and logistical support from the respective municipalities, local stakeholders, and partner organizations of the BR Management. The annual Biodiversity Day has been funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

Since 2014, the Biodiversity Day has been organized as a sustainable and environmentally friendly event. Measures include accessibility via public transport, extensive waste reduction, energy and water saving, the use of eco-friendly materials, and a wide range of seasonal organic foods from the region, all aimed at making the Biodiversity Day an eco-event (see www.oekoevent.at/).

Scientific Component:

The goal for scientific participants and experts is to record as many species as possible within 24 hours in a selected area. The species survey conducted by the volunteer experts begins on Friday and continues on Saturday. A special focus on Friday is the search for nocturnal animals (e.g., bats, moths). Initial data are collected during the event itself. For species groups that require more extensive identification work, such as laboratory analysis, the data are entered into the database over the following months. The results are also published in a popular science format and made available to the respective municipality.



Photo: Over 100 experts voluntarily assist with species surveys, CR BPWW / N. Novak

Festival of Biodiversity:

This event offers nature tours (day and night) with experts, where participants can observe rare animals such as bats and moths or watch the experts at work. The following day, a large family festival takes place, featuring an extensive educational and entertainment programme, numerous information booths on local biodiversity, a plant market with rare garden varieties, a colorful children's programme, regional delicacies, and a competition. Various activities allow participants to experience the wonders of the local flora and fauna up close (all photos CR BPWW / N. Novak).



Biosphere Reserve Cup

The Biosphere Reserve Cup is a team event where groups of three to ten people of varying ages complete ten stations related to the Wienerwald BR, testing their knowledge, skills, and creativity. The event was first held in 2015 as part of the open day at the school and BR office location, Norbertinum. Its main goal is to engage families with the Wienerwald BR and its diverse themes. Since then, the Biosphere Reserve Cup has been held annually by the BR Management in cooperation with the Austrian Federal Forests (*ÖBf AG*). Other regular partners include: BirdLife Austria, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU University), Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Institute of Wildlife Ecology at the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, Sparbach and Purkersdorf Nature Parks, KFFÖ – Coordination Center for Bat Protection and Research in Austria, MTB Trail Center Hohe Wand Wiese, and partner businesses of the Wienerwald BR.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the event was held as an online quiz. Since 2023, a cooperation with the Austrian Federal Monuments Office (Österreichisches Bundesdenkmalamt) has allowed the use of its Educational Center for Traditional Crafts at Kartause Mauerbach to explore synergies between the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of traditional craftsmanship and the UNESCO Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve.

Networking Event

Annually (since 2019, held online during the COVID-19 pandemic), a networking meeting takes place with the aim of presenting and discussing various aspects of a “model region for sustainable development.” This event is primarily aimed at representatives of municipalities and Vienna districts, ambassadors, partner businesses, education partners, and our network of experts. Awards and honors for special contributions to the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve are often presented during these events.



CR BPWW/N. Novak

Social Media:

Wienerwald BR is represented on Facebook, Instagram and Youtube. Numerous videos, reels, and other posts regularly inform about the activities.

Infopoints:

At 10 locations in the region, information points provide information about the worldwide network of UNESCO BRs, the Wienerwald BR and about the respective situation and the natural environment at the location. These Infopoints were renewed and updated in 2020 and 2021. Other information boards spread across the region (e.g. at more frequented railway stations) also provide information about the BR and are adapted in form to the respective situation on site.



CR BPWW/A. Weiss

See also 6.5.1

2.3.4 Strategies for fostering networks of cooperation in the biosphere reserve that serve as connections (“bridging”) among diverse groups in different sectors of the community (e.g. groups devoted to agricultural issues, local economic development, tourism, conservation of ecosystems, research and monitoring).

The BR Management works regularly with a wide range of stakeholders and strategically uses various opportunities to present the Wienerwald BR, raise its visibility, and encourage people to commit to its goals.

The following committees contribute to the strategy of integrating the objectives of the Wienerwald BR into different sectors and establishing the necessary connections:

Participation Advisory Board – Regional Forum

In 2019, a Regional Forum (Participation Advisory Board) was established to improve regional coordination. This body is composed of representatives from politics, regional initiatives, as well as relevant initiatives and departments of the States of Vienna and Lower Austria. Its goal is to align the various regional development priorities, identify joint initiatives, and work collaboratively towards achieving the objectives. The Forum meets at least once a year.

Scientific Advisory Board

In 2018, a Scientific Advisory Board was established for the first time, composed of representatives from various disciplines, thereby covering all relevant topics in the Wienerwald BR. The Board meets twice a year to coordinate research questions and priorities relevant to the Wienerwald BR and to provide recommendations on the region’s development from a scientific perspective. Joint workshops of the Scientific Advisory Board and the Regional Forum serve to “build bridges” between science and regional development.

Regions Jour fixe of the Regional Management (Lower Austria)

At the „Regions Jour fixe“, a wide variety of actors in regional and community development meet regularly (three to four times a year) to coordinate, learn from each other and explore cooperation projects. The BR Management is represented in two of these regional committees (NÖ-Mitte, NÖ-Industrieviertel). Other representatives are: Regional Tourism Management, Micro Regions, LEADER Regions, City-Surrounding Area Management Lower Austria – Vienna, Climate Model Regions, Energy and Environment Agency, Village and Urban Renewal Campaign, Nature in the Garden Campaign, Healthy Community Campaign, etc.

Mountain Bike Platform

The Wienerwald mountain bike network was developed and implemented with the participation of the BR Management. To coordinate current developments, needs for action, improvements to the route, avoidance of conflicts of use, etc., the Mountain Bike Platform meets at least twice a year. In addition to BR Management, the following are represented: Wienerwald Tourism, regional MTB associations, representatives of the major forest owners (Austrian Federal Forests, Klosterneuburg Abbey, Forestry and Agriculture Department of the City of Vienna, etc.). The role of the BR Management in this committee is, among other things, to balance the needs of local recreation and nature conservation.

Research Morning

Since 2019, the "Research Morning" has been held annually. Various research projects (from research funding programmes, master's theses, PhD theses, etc.) and monitoring results in the Wienerwald BR will be presented and discussed. This event is open to the public and will continue to be offered in the coming years.

BR Ambassador

The Biosphere Reserve Ambassadors were appointed in 2013 as important communication partners, multipliers and contact persons in the municipalities/districts. These people act as an information hub between their respective municipality/district and the BR Management. Currently, a total of 65 ambassadors are listed (see also 7.5).

2.3.5 Particular vision and approaches adopted for addressing the socio-cultural context and role of the biosphere reserve (e.g. promotion of local heritage resources, history, cultural and cross-cultural learning opportunities; cooperation with local population; reaching out to recent immigrant groups, indigenous people etc.).

The Wienerwald BR region is a densely populated area with highly diverse subregions. Socio-cultural and intercultural activities are not a core competence of the BR Management, as there are specific offers and dedicated organizations for this, particularly in the urban areas.

Where possible, the BR Management cooperates with socio-economic employment enterprises in the region. For example, the stakes and tree guards used in the fruit tree campaign are produced by the partner enterprise *Ökogarten Mödling (Arge Chance)*, while pastries for events are baked by the partner enterprise *Dorfgemeinschaft Wienerwald*.

Many of the BR Management's initiatives are aimed directly at the local population. Excursions, nature tours, and events such as the "Day of Biodiversity" or the *Biosphere Cup* engage local residents of all age groups.

Through the "Biosphere Volunteers" programme, young people from across the Wienerwald BR are particularly encouraged to discover and care for nature in the region. Working together and experiencing visible results fosters a sense of belonging to the region and contributes to a feeling of community.

Numerous international visits by stakeholders from other (biosphere) regions and research groups from around the world also contribute to socio-cultural exchange (see 6.6 ff.).

Projects and measures in the socio-cultural field include, for example:

Dry Stone Wall Construction:

The BR Management continues to offer annual training courses on dry stone wall construction. This traditional craft, which consists of building masonry by laying and wedging stones without the use of cement, has been practiced for centuries. Dry stone walls are extremely durable (lasting for several hundred years) and provide valuable habitats and shelter for numerous animal species in the region. The three-day practical courses are carried out in cooperation with the *Krems School of Viticulture and Fruit Growing* and take place at a local winery. Participants acquire the fundamental skills required for constructing supporting walls on slopes or embankments using dry stone techniques – from the foundation to the coping. Over the past ten years, around 160 participants have used approximately 80 tons of material to build about 80 linear meters of dry stone walls. The courses are designed to encourage further construction, and many participants have already applied the skills they acquired in their own projects. In 2024, Austria was added to the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List for the "Art of Dry Stone Constructions."

Viticultural Landscapes and the Orchard Tree Initiative

The traditional cultural landscape of orchard meadows is addressed through projects such as the *Orchard Tree Initiative*, *Orchard Day*, and pruning workshops. Old fruit tree varieties are

highlighted, and their planting and preservation are actively promoted. Within the framework of the initiative, these varieties can be purchased. Experts provide information on the ecological significance, proper pruning, and care of orchard trees (see 4.2 and 4.3). Dedicated pruning and grafting courses further support the professional maintenance and conservation of orchard meadows. Within the framework of the competition *DER WEIN*, the focus is placed on regionally typical grape varieties as well as sustainable wine production (see also 4.3 and 5.3). Various projects and excursions foster awareness and knowledge about viticultural heritage and the wine-growing landscapes of the region.

Traditional Crafts

Since 2023, the annual BR Cup has included a cooperation with the Austrian Federal Monuments Office. At its *Education Center for Traditional Crafts* in the Charterhouse Mauerbach, synergies between the Intangible UNESCO Cultural Heritage *Traditional Crafts* and the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Wienerwald can now be utilized. The BR Cup takes place during the open day at the Charterhouse Mauerbach. On this occasion, various traditional craft techniques are demonstrated and also integrated into the skill and quiz parcours of the Biosphere Reserve Cup. Through this cooperation, it has been possible to particularly attract a younger audience.

Wienerwald Festival

In 2023, the *Wienerwald Festival* Association was founded to regularly organize the Wienerwald Festival. Traditional folk music from the region as well as contemporary music and theatre productions will be performed at various venues in the Wienerwald BR. The BR Management is a cooperation partner and accompanies the festival, among other things, as part of the "Musical Hike".



Photo: At the Wienerwald Festival 2023, CR Theresa Pewal, www.wienerwald-festival.at

2.3.6 Use of traditional and local knowledge in the management of the biosphere reserve.

Some activities and offerings from the annually published programme folder of the BR Management focus on traditional processing techniques or traditional knowledge (e.g., “Scything for Home Use,” “Edible Landscape,” “Wild Herb Walks,” “Spinning on the Spinning Wheel”).

Other noteworthy projects and initiatives in this context include:

Wienerwälderin of the Year:

From 2015 to 2019, on International Women's Day (March 8), the BR Management annually highlighted a woman who made a special contribution to sustainability, awarding her the title "Wienerwälderin of the Year."

Biosphere Reserve Ambassadors:

Appointed in 2013, the BR Ambassadors serve not only as information hubs but also bring important regional and local knowledge that is highly valuable for the Wienerwald BR.

Meadows, Dry Grasslands, Vineyards:

The characteristic cultural landscapes of the Wienerwald were among the reasons for its designation as a BR. Preserving these cultural landscapes relies on the traditional knowledge of local residents and land managers, for example through initiatives and projects focused on the management of meadows and dry grasslands or through our annual awards for sustainably produced wines. Local traditional knowledge also contributes to the future development of the Wienerwald BR.

2.3.7 Community cultural development initiatives. Programmes and actions to promote community language, and, both tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Are spiritual and cultural values and customary practices promoted and transmitted?

The BR Management does not run its own programmes or initiatives specifically aimed at promoting cultural heritage. Regional customs and traditions are maintained and practiced by the respective municipalities, associations, and religious institutions. Of particular importance are the Augustinian Canons Monastery of Klosterneuburg (www.stift-klosterneuburg.at) and the Cistercian Abbey of Heiligenkreuz (www.stift-heiligenkreuz.org). The latter has gained international recognition through the release of CDs featuring Gregorian chants (e.g., <https://www.klosterladen-heiligenkreuz.at/produkt/chant-for-peace/>).

An example of the preservation and promotion of cultural development are the dry stone wall construction courses offered by the BR Management, particularly in the area of traditional vineyard landscapes. These courses contribute to the promotion of regional traditions and artisanal skills (see 2.3.5). Another example is the cooperation with the *Information and Training Center for Monument Preservation* at the Charterhouse Mauerbach in the context of the annual BR Cup (see 2.3.3).

In the BR region, there are numerous elements of intangible cultural heritage that have been submitted and recognized to UNESCO, such as:

Wiener Würstelstandkultur (Viennese sausage stand culture)
 Wissen und Praktiken der Hufschmied*innen (Knowledge and practices of farriers)
 Streuobstanbau in Österreich (Orchard farming in Austria)
 Die Klang- und Spieltradition österreichischer Blasmusikkapellen (Sound and musical performance practice of Austrian brass bands)
 Das Handwerk der österreichischen Zuckerbäckerei (Craft of Austrian confectionary)
 Das Freihandschmieden (Freehand blacksmithing)

Das Trockensteinmauern (Dry Stone Walling)
 Odlatzbia Oröwen im Wiesenwienerwald (Adlitzbeere abrebeln)
 Hauerkrone und Hiatabaum in Neustift am Walde (The Vintner's Crown and the guardian tree in Neustift am Walde)
 Das Buchbinderhandwerk (Craft of bookbinding)
 Wiener Heurigenkultur (The Culture of the Viennese "Heuriger")
 Stegreifspiel der Tschauner Bühne (Improvisatory theatre on the Tschauner-Bühne)
 Wiener Walzer - gespielt, getanzt, gesungen (The Viennese Waltz – played, danced, and sung)
 Wiener Kaffeehauskultur (Viennes coffeehouse culture)
 Klassische Reitkunst und die Hohe Schule der Spanischen Hofreitschule (Classical Horsemanship and the High School of the Spanish Riding School Vienna)
 Perchtoldsdorfer Hütereinzug (The Vineyard Guards' Procession in Perchtoldsdorf)
 Wiener Dudler (The Viennese Dudler)

The BR Management primarily supports the art of dry stone walling and traditional orchard farming in Austria through its own activities. Other elements of intangible cultural heritage are also locally restricted to specific locations within the Wienerwald region, such as the *Odlatzbia Oröwen* in the „Wiesenwienerwald“ (spreading the service tree seeds, *Elsbeere/sorbus torminalis*), the *Perchtoldsdorfer Hütereinzug*, or the *Hauerkrone und Hiatabaum* in Neustift am Walde.

2.3.8 Specify the number of spoken and written languages (including ethnic, minority and endangered languages) in the biosphere reserve. Has there been a change in the number of spoken and written languages? Has there been a revitalization programme for endangered languages?

In the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve, German is the official written language. The spoken language is “Austrian,” a variant of German, with various regional dialects. For decades, the Wienerwald BR region has experienced immigration, primarily from Germany, Turkey, the former Yugoslav republics, Syria, and Afghanistan, which has also influenced the ongoing natural evolution of the German language. However, most newcomers to the region come from Vienna itself.

2.3.9 Management effectiveness. Obstacles encountered in the management/coordination of the biosphere reserve or challenges to its effective functioning.

In the Wienerwald BR-region, 885,000 people live across 51 municipalities in Lower Austria and 7 districts of Vienna. Reaching all of them with our objectives and motivating them to participate in the BR activities is one of the greatest challenges within the management's responsibilities. Furthermore, the Wienerwald BR spans two Federal States and encompasses numerous relevant organizations and interest groups active in the region which require coordination and networking of diverse interests and activities. Establishing the Regional Forum as a Participation Advisory Board in recent years has represented an important step in this regard.

Another challenge lies in the regional governance system, which is primarily carried by the states of Vienna and Lower Austria. The municipalities of Lower Austria and the districts of Vienna have no formal authority to approve work priorities, making regional or local anchoring of objectives more difficult and sometimes limiting residents' sense of connection and identity with the biosphere reserve.

The Wienerwald BR region is shaped both by its proximity to the metropolis of Vienna and its surrounding “commuter belt”, resulting in highly urban-oriented areas, and by very rural areas

with small villages and agriculturally dominated landscapes. These differences create diverse expectations and requirements for the management of the Wienerwald BR, which must be addressed accordingly. This challenge has remained unchanged since the last periodic review (see also 7.4 ff).

2.4 Comment on the following matters of special interest in regard to this biosphere reserve: (Refer to other sections below where appropriate).

2.4.1 Is the biosphere reserve addressed specifically in any local, regional or/and national development plan? If so, what plan(s)? Briefly describe such plans that have been completed or revised in the past 10 years.

In 2019, the "Regulation on the Core and Buffer Zones of the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve" was renewed in Lower Austria. Since then, 31% of the area of the biosphere reserve has been designated as a buffer zone.

Three LEADER regions (EU Programme for the Strengthening of Rural Areas) with different focal points extend into the area of the Vienna Woods BR: "Donauland – NÖ-Mitte", "Elsbeere-Wienerwald" and "Triestingtal +". These regions have also defined priorities and topics related to the biosphere reserve in their regions and set them out in their strategies 2023 – 2027. The LEADER managers are also participants in the Regional Forum.

The Austrian Climate Fund has also recognized the potential of regions. Within the Biosphere Reserve, seven so-called Climate and Energy Model Regions as well as two Climate Change Adaptation Regions are active. Their strategies include goals that also serve the Biosphere Reserve. Regional representatives cooperate with the Biosphere Reserve management and are part of the Regional Forum.

The Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve is also integrated into the tourism strategy for the Wienerwald. Numerous collaborations and joint product developments have resulted from this. The Biosphere Reserve is likewise part of Vienna Tourism's sustainable tourism marketing, which increasingly emphasizes green spaces.

The association *Niederösterreich Wien – Gemeinsame Erholungsräume* is not only the shareholder of the *Biosphärenpark Wienerwald Management GmbH* but also responsible for regional management in the Vienna metropolitan area. Together, in 2024, they developed and published a "Recreation Strategy," aimed at the further development of recreational offerings in the region around Vienna, and specifically within the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve.

As part of Vienna's urban development, the BR Management was involved in the preparation of the 2035 Urban Development Plan (the "Wien Plan"). Likewise, during the Regional Planning process in Lower Austria, the Biosphere Reserve was taken into account. The result of this planning is the development of Regional Spatial Planning Concepts, including the definition of settlement boundaries. The preceding concept, the "Green Ring," identified the Biosphere Reserve as a distinct and important measure for safeguarding green spaces in and around Vienna.

At the national level, the Austrian Biosphere Reserves are included in the Strategic Plan 2023 – 2027 for the implementation of the European Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and are primarily addressed in the area of nature conservation and natural space management.

Furthermore, the biosphere reserves are part of the Biodiversity Strategy Austria 2030+ and the strategies derived from it by the States of Lower Austria and Vienna.

2.4.2 Outcomes of management/cooperation plans of government agencies and other organizations in the biosphere reserve.

In the Biosphere Reserve Wienerwald region, numerous organizations are active. The following provides a brief overview of the currently most important organizations for cooperation with the Biosphere Reserve Wienerwald and their activities within the BR area:

Government organisations/actions at the federal level

Austrian Environment Agency – www.umweltbundesamt.at: Cooperation on planning and implementing the EU Restoration Regulation.

GBIF Austria – www.gbif.at: Since 2024, the Wienerwald BR is a data provider, supplying species occurrence records.

Climate and Energy Fund – www.klimafonds.gv.at: Collaboration with Climate Fund model regions; project-based and strategic cooperation (e.g., within the Regional Forum).

Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests (BFW) – www.bfw.gv.at: Joint projects, for example on wild fruit in the Wienerwald BR.

Federal Schools (Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Climate, Environment, Regions and Water Management – [link](#)):

University of Agricultural and Environmental Pedagogy: Cooperation in developing the “Regions on Board” course, ongoing collaboration on student projects, and guest lectures.

Viticulture School Klosterneuburg: Cooperation and joint organization of events such as the 2023 Biodiversity Day in Klosterneuburg.

Horticulture School Schönbrunn: Temporary cooperation within the framework of the Tree Convention Forum (baumkonvention.at).

Austrian Federal Forests – www.bundesforste.at: Ongoing collaboration with the “Biosphere Reserve Team” on environmental education, guided tours, school programmes, info stands, research and monitoring projects, and joint core-zone action days.

Universities and research institutions: University of Vienna, BOKU University (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences), University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna – various research projects, student projects, and master theses.

Scientific Advisory Board members: BOKU University, University of Vienna, Austrian Academy of Sciences, University of Klagenfurt.

Governmental organizations in Lower Austria and Vienna (state level)

Energy and Environment Agency Lower Austria (Energie- und Umweltagentur NÖ): Collaboration on the management of protected areas and nature parks in the Wienerwald BR;

advice on climate protection, energy saving, renewable energy in municipalities; initiative “Wir leben nachhaltig” (We live sustainably).

NÖ-Regional: Mobility management and consultation on sustainable mobility solutions in municipalities; support for building international contacts within Interreg programmes (European Regional Development Fund).

NÖ Village and Town Renewal (Dorf- und Stadterneuerung): Advisory services for sustainable municipal development and citizen participation, town center development, social development, and funding guidance.

Natur im Garten: Advice and promotion of biodiversity and species richness in municipalities and urban areas.

Climate Alliance Lower Austria (Klimabündnis NÖ): Guidance and support for climate protection measures in businesses, municipalities, and educational institutions; certification programmes for Climate Alliance municipalities, enterprises, and schools.

Nature Conservation Department, Lower Austria (Naturschutzabteilung Land NÖ): Coordination of nature conservation funding; management of the Wienerwald-Thermenregion EU protected area (Natura 2000) as a joint project.

Forestry and Agriculture Department, City of Vienna (MA 49): Coordination of Wienerwald BR affairs in Vienna, joint project implementation, public relations, strategic development, representation on the Supervisory Board.

Environmental Protection Vienna (Umweltschutz Wien): Coordination of nature conservation funding in Vienna and alignment of conservation priorities in the Viennese part of the Wienerwald BR.

Environmental Consulting Vienna (Umweltberatung Wien): Advice and initiatives on ecological living, corporate environmental protection, and sustainability in Vienna.

City-Suburb Management NÖ–Vienna (Stadt-Umland-Management NÖ–Wien): Joint focus on recreation, settlement development, and mobility in the region.

Wienerwald Tourism Company (Wienerwald Tourismus Gesellschaft): Integration of the Wienerwald BR into tourism strategy, joint product development, continuous coordination on hiking, mountain biking, nature experiences, and culinary offerings.

Regional and local organisations

Climate and Energy Model Regions (KEM) / Climate Change Adaptation Regions (KLAR): Ongoing coordination, collaboration, and joint setting of priorities (see Climate and Energy Fund above).

Small Regions (Kleinregionen): Ongoing coordination, collaboration, and joint priority-setting.

LEADER Regions: Ongoing coordination, collaboration, and joint priority-setting.

Landscape Management Association Thermenlinie-Wienerwald-Wiener Becken, Naturschutzbund, other local initiatives: Ongoing coordination and collaboration on nature conservation, landscape management measures, invasive species control, environmental education, and renaturation projects.

Nature Parks: Ongoing coordination, collaboration, and joint priority-setting on nature conservation, landscape management, invasive species control, and environmental education; the BR Management contributes to strategy development for three nature parks (Föhrenberge as lead partner, Sparbach, Purkersdorf/Sandstein Wienerwald).

Chamber of Agriculture: Ongoing coordination and joint initiatives in direct marketing, nature conservation, protected area management, and environmentally friendly agriculture.

Chamber of Commerce: Occasional collaboration and coordination.

Core Zone Owners: Regular exchange and monitoring of developments in core zones; participation in excursions.

2.4.3 Continued involvement of local people in the work of the biosphere reserve. Which communities, groups, etc. How are they involved?

The BR Management organizes a series of regular meetings to involve the public, stakeholders, and key partner organizations in its work.

Regular meetings are held with the landowners of the core zone areas, with regional development and nature conservation organizations active in the region, and with the Austrian Federal Forests as the largest forest owner in the area.

Particular importance is given to the Biosphere Reserve Ambassadors, appointed in 2013, who act as contact persons and communication hubs between the BR Management and the local population (see 7.5).

Many of the initiatives and organizations come together in the Regional Forum to coordinate joint work for the Wienerwald BR (see above – 2.3.4., 2.4.2.).

Project-based activities also actively involve students, schoolchildren, and adults (e.g., clubs, company employees) in outdoor management activities (e.g., dry grassland maintenance actions, Biosphere Volunteers, invasive species management). Mayors and district heads are regularly contacted and involved in these processes.

Additionally, our BR education partners and regional partner businesses are regularly informed about the Biosphere Reserve and actively involved in educational work (see 5.9).

As part of the project “Strategy for the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve 2025–2035,” more than 400 people were engaged through an online survey, and around 100 people participated directly in workshops to contribute to the further development of the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve (see 7.7.1).

2.4.4 Women's roles. Do women participate in community organizations and decision-making processes? Are their interests and needs given equal consideration within the biosphere reserve? What incentives or programmes are in place to encourage their representation and participation? (e.g. was a "gender impact assessment" carried out?) Are there any studies that examine a) whether men and women have different access to and control over sources of income and b) which sources of income do women control? If so, provide reference of these studies and/or a paper copy in an annex.

Women participate equally in daily life in the Biosphere Reserve region as men. Currently, there are ten female mayors among the 51 Lower Austrian municipalities, three female district heads among the seven Vienna districts, and 24 female Biosphere Reserve Ambassadors among the 56 appointed ambassadors. For the first time, a woman has been appointed head of the Magistrate Department 49, the Forest and Agriculture Department of the City of Vienna (since May 2025). This department serves as the coordinating authority for the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve in Vienna.

At present, one of the four members of the Supervisory Board of the *Bioshärenpark Wienerwald Management GmbH* is female. Among the 12 current team members, nine are women. The head of the cooperation team of the Austrian Federal Forests is female, and in the past ten years, 18 female interns have worked at the BR Management.

The educational work of the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve in schools and on excursions is carried out mainly by women. In the annual training programmes for education partners, the proportion of women is 90%.



Photo: Certification of educational partners, CR BPWW/N. Novak

2.4.5 Are there any changes in the main protection regime of the core area(s) and of the buffer zone(s)?

There have been no changes regarding the protection status of the core zones and the buffer zones. The core zones are designated as nature reserves in Lower Austria and as landscape protection areas in Vienna. Approximately 80% of the buffer zones are located within Natura 2000 protected areas and are maintained by the land users and landowners. All legally relevant matters are regulated in the respective core zone and buffer zone regulations of each Federal State. In July 2019, a new buffer zone regulation was issued for the Lower Austrian part of the

Wienerwald BR. This increased the proportion of buffer zones within the total area of the biosphere reserve from 20% to 31%.

2.4.6 What research and monitoring activities have been undertaken in the biosphere reserve by local universities, government agencies, stakeholders and/or linked with national and international programmes?

The following research and monitoring projects, carried out in the Wienerwald over the past ten years, are known to the BR Management:

Title	Author	Completion Year	Start Year	Web
LTER-CWN - Long-Term Ecosystem Research Infrastructure for Carbon, Water and Nitrogen	Austrian Research Centre for Forests (Bundesforschungszentrum für Wald)		1995 ongoing	web
Combining Remote Sensing Data for Habitat Mapping and Monitoring on a Regional Scale – the SEMONA RELOADED Project	Anna Iglseder, Michael Lechner, Markus Immitzer, et al		2022	web
Evaluation of Measures to Guide Mountain Bikers in Core Zones of the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve (Evaluierung von Maßnahmen zur Lenkung von MountainbikerInnen in Kernzonen des Biosphärenpark Wienerwald)	ÖBf AG (funded via service contract with Lower Austria), Wienerwald BR Management		2023	
Photovoltaics, Humans and the Biosphere: A transdisciplinary approach fostering Alpine resilience - BioPV	Christa Hainz-Renetzeder, Patrick Scherhauer, et al		2023	web
MetaFung - Biodiversity Survey of Fungi and Soil Arthropods (MetaFung - Biodiversitätserhebung Pilze und Bodenarthropoden)	A. Urban, et al		2024	web
Management Plans for the Core Zones of the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve (Managementpläne für die Kernzonen des Biosphärenpark Wienerwald)	BPWW Management GmbH (BR Management)	2015		web
BIOS – Regeneration and Deadwood Dynamics (BIOS – Verjüngungs- und Totholzdyamik)	Hochbichler, E.	2015		web
Deadwood Succession – Life in Deadwood (Totholz Sukzession – Leben im Totholz)	W. Holzinger, et al	2015		web
Attitudes and Satisfaction of Ethnic Groups Regarding the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve: A Pilot Study Towards the Integrative Function of Peri-Urban Protected Areas	Muhar, A., Höglhammer, A., Stokowski, P., Schauppenlehner, T., Renner, J., Yalcintepe, E.	2015		web

Title	Author	Completion Year	Start Year	Web
Deadwood Succession in Lainzer Tiergarten (Totholz Sukzession Lainzer Tiergarten)	A. Urban	2015		web
Health Spaces - Biosphere Reserve Landscapes and Their Importance for Health: Analysis of the Potential of the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve Regarding Quality of Life and Subjective Wellbeing (Health Spaces - Biosphärenpark Landschaften und ihre Bedeutung für die Gesundheit)	Arnberger A., Alex B.	2016		web
Biosphere People - Attitudes of the Local Population towards the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve (Biosphere People - Einstellung der lokalen Bevölkerung zum Biosphärenpark Wienerwald)	R. Eder, A. Arnberger, et al	2016		web
ADAPT 2W - Impact of Climate Change on the Forests in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve (Einfluss des Klimawandels auf die Wälder im Biosphärenpark Wienerwald)	ÖBf AG (funded via service contract with Lower Austria)	2017	ongoing monitoring of test area	web
Biosphere Reserve Integrated Monitoring Based on Social and Environmental Ecosystem Services - BRIMSEN	T. Wrška, C. Brandenburg, et al	2019		web
EO4Forest	M. Immitzer	2019		web
Small Agricultural Enterprises Between Sustainability and Globalization (Landwirtschaftliche Kleinbetriebe zwischen Nachhaltigkeit und Globalisierung)	M. Groier, I. Machold, E. Loibl	2019		web
ENESUS - Experimental Networks for Sustainability: Urban Biosphere Reserves as Engines of Transformation	Martin Coy, Birgit Macher, Armin Kratzer, Ute Ammering, Norbert Weixlbaumer	2020		web
Field Trials to Regulate Autumn Crocus on Ecologically Valuable Meadows in the Wienerwald Region (Praxisversuche zur Regulierung der Herbstzeitlose auf naturschutzfachlich wertvollen Wiesen in der Region Wienerwald)	H. Rötzer	2022		web
Transforming Grasslands to Achieve Insect Diversity Restorative Goals and Human Well-Being (DivRESTORE)	Thomas Frank, Raja Imran Hussain, Ronnie Walcher, et al	2022		web
Conservation under Climate Change: Challenges, Constraints and Solutions	Zulka, K. P., Baumgartner, C., Bieringer, et al	2022		web

Title	Author	Completion Year	Start Year	Web
Perception and Reality of Recreational User Conflicts in the UNESCO Wienerwald BR	R. Eder, A. Arnberger, H. Preisel	2022		web
Land Cover Classification and Monitoring of the Austrian Biosphere Reserves Based on Satellite Data (BRmon)	Michael Lechner, Markus Immitzer	2022		web
NATURE-BASED ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS, Management Against Invasive Alien Plants - NABIS	Stephan Hörbinger, Elisabeth Wiegele, et al	2022		web
SALBES - Scenarios for Agricultural Landscapes' Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services	T. Wrbka, et al	2022		web
MAXIMAL: Maximization of C-Sequestration and Impacts on Other Forest Management Goals (MAXIMAL: Maximierung der C-Speicherung und Auswirkungen auf andere Zielsetzungen der Waldbewirtschaftung)	Thomas Kainz, Christian Hochauer, Manfred J. Lexer	2023		
Eco-Morphological River Mapping (Ökomorphologische Gewässerkartierung)	ÖBf AG (funded via service contract with Lower Austria), Wienerwald BR Management	2024		web
Baseline Monitoring in the Core Zones of the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve (Basismonitoring in den Kernzonen des Biosphärenpark Wienerwald)	BPWW Management GmbH		ongoing	web
Wild Fruit Management in Austria as an Opportunity for Forestry and Biodiversity in Times of Climate Change (Management von Wildobst in Österreich als Chance für Waldbau und Biodiversität in Zeiten des Klimawandels)	Konrad H., Andres L., Afifi L., Aspalter S., Falk W., Grabner M., et al.	2024		web
Recording, Management, and Representation of Biodiversity in the Protected Areas of Lower Austria (Erfassung, Verwaltung und Darstellung der Biodiversität in den niederösterreichischen Großschutzgebieten)	Sandra Aurenhammer, et al	2024		web
Butterfly Fauna in the "Waldandacht" Area in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve Core Zone (Schmetterlingsfauna im Gebiet „Waldandacht“ in der Biosphärenpark Wienerwald - Kernzone)	Peter Buchner	2024		

Title	Author	Completion Year	Start Year	Web
Forest Orchid Monitoring in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve (Waldorchideen-Monitoring im Biosphärenpark Wienerwald)	Norbert Novak	2024		web
ServeToPe - Management of Ecosystem Services in the Wienerwald (ServeToPe - Steuerung von Ökosystemleistungen im Wienerwald)	Katrin Karner, Martin Schönhart, et al	2024		web
STRATEGY FOR LOCAL RECREATION - Visitor Management in the Vienna Metropolitan Area (STRATEGIE NAHERHOLUNG - Besucher*innenlenkung im Agglomerationsraum Wien)	Beatrix Schiesser, Christiane Brandenburg, Ursula Liebl, et al	2024		web
Multihazards in Biosphere Reserves: Management of Multiple Hydro-Climatic Risks to Improve Social-Ecological Resilience - MultiBios	Veronika Gaube, Thomas Thaler, et al	2025		web
Blick ins Dickicht, Citizen Science, Hazel Dormouse (<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>)	ÖBf AG (funded via service contract with Lower Austria)		ongoing	web
BirdLife Bird Monitoring in the Core Zone Hoher Lindkogel (BirdLife Vogelmonitoring in der Kernzone Hoher Lindkogel)	ÖBf AG (funded via service contract with Lower Austria)		ongoing	web
Bat Monitoring (Fledermausmonitoring)	ÖBf AG (funded via service contract with Lower Austria)		ongoing	
ArtenReich Streuobstwiese - Citizen Science	ÖBf AG (funded via service contract with Lower Austria)		ongoing	web
Day of Biodiversity, Scientific Part (Tag der Artenvielfalt, wissenschaftlicher Teil)	BPWW Management GmbH		annually since 2005	web
Ural Owl Reintroduction (Habichtskauz Wiederansiedlung)	Zink R, et al		ongoing	web

Over the past 10 years, the following bachelor's, master's and PhD theses have been written or started in cooperation with the BR Management. The overview includes both completed and ongoing work. Through cooperation with the *Lower Austria Thesis Exchange*, additional scholarships have been secured for successful theses (<https://sciencecenter.noe.gv.at/>).

Topic	Last Name	First Name
Challenges in the use of regional, sustainable food in gastronomy in the Biosphere Reserve Wienerwald (Herausforderungen in der Verwendung regional,	Aumüller	Sofie

Topic	Last Name	First Name
nachhaltiger Lebensmittel in der Gastronomie im Biosphärenpark Wienerwald)		
Habitat modeling for the hazel dormouse in Austria (Habitatmodellierung für die Haselmaus in Österreich)	Bökenbrink	Alexa Mirjam Katja
A sustainable society – Urban biosphere reserves as model regions for sustainable development (Eine nachhaltige Gesellschaft - Urbane Biosphärenparks als Modellregion nachhaltiger Entwicklung)	Böswirth	Moritz
Genetic population structure in the crested newt contact zone in Vienna (Triturus carnifex, T. dobrogicus, Salamandridae)	Czurda	Janis
Morphological analysis of Triturus carnifex and Triturus dobrogicus larval populations near Vienna (Morphologische Analyse von Triturus carnifex und Triturus dobrogicus Larvenpopulationen in der Nähe Wiens)	Pircher	Costa
Orchard cultivation in the Wienerwald BR: Variety of fruit trees, conservation measures, challenges and potential (Streuobstanbau im Wienerwald BR: Obstsortenvielfalt, Erhaltungsmaßnahmen, Herausforderungen und Potenziale)	Barvinek	Hannah
Sustainable municipal development in the context of biosphere reserve policy using soil protection as an example (Zukunftsfähige Gemeindeentwicklung im Kontext der Biosphärenpark-Politik am Beispiel des Bodenschutzes im Biosphärenpark Wienerwald)	Brumen	Vanessa
Comparison of motivations and behavioral patterns of mountain bikers and e-mountain bikers in the Wienerwald region (Vergleich der Motivationen und Verhaltensmuster von MountainbikerInnen und E-MountainbikerInnen in der Region Wienerwald)	Hellmann	Claudia
Working title: Occurrence of deadwood beetles in selected core zones of the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve (Arbeitstitel: Vorkommen von Totholzkäfern in ausgewählten Kernzonen des Biosphärenpark Wienerwald)	Ploner	Sebastian
Effects of land use management on habitat development and plant diversity of wet grasslands in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve	Kapitany	Elias
Meadows of the Austrian Federal Forests in the Wienerwald – current status and changes (Wiesen der Österreichischen Bundesforste im Wienerwald - aktueller Zustand und Veränderungen)	Kellerer	Simon
Biodiversity development of the core zones in the Wienerwald BR (Biodiversitätsentwicklung der Kernzonen im Biosphärenpark Wienerwald)	Kirchner	Christina

Topic	Last Name	First Name
Tree species classification and biodiversity assessment in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve using Sentinel-2 satellite data (Baumartenklassifikation und Biodiversitätsbewertung im Biosphärenpark Wienerwald unter Verwendung von Sentinel-2 Satellitendaten)	Lechner	Michael
A closer look into the living room of birds: Vertical stratification of the avian community in relation to forest management in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve	Maislinger	Michaela
Bird diversity in relation to forest management in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve	Szekeres	Eva-Teresa Raphaela
“Nature conservation in transition? Protected areas near major cities – opportunities and risks due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic” (Naturschutz im Wandel? Schutzgebiete in Großstadtnähe – Chancen und Risiken durch die SARS-CoV-2-Pandemie)	Plecak	Christian
Comparative Analysis of Airborne Laser Scanning and Image Matching Point Clouds in Forestry: Enhancing Temporal Resolution using Machine Learning	Schimpl	Lorenz
Protection-usage conflict in large protected areas using the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve as an example (Der Schutz-Nutzen-Konflikt in Großschutzgebieten am Beispiel des Biosphärenparks Wienerwald)	Sulzgruber	Theresa
Tree microhabitats in the core zone “Hollergraben” of the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve and their potential for biodiversity monitoring (Baummikrohabitate in der Kernzone „Hollergraben“ des Biosphärenpark Wienerwald und ihr Potential für das Biodiversitätsmonitoring)	Wenger	Vera
Energetic use of biomass from ecological, economic, social and political perspectives (Die energetische Nutzung von Biomasse aus ökologischer, ökonomischer, sozialer und politischer Sicht)	Eireiner	Christina
Working title: Bats – Forest management effects (Arbeitstitel: Fledermäuse - Waldbewirtschaftungseffekte)	Horacek	Nadja
Forest Management and Bat Activity: Examining the Role of Vegetation Complexity and Forest Types	Eder	Natalie
Working title: Bats – Forest management effects (Arbeitstitel Fledermäuse - Waldbewirtschaftungseffekte)	Dammert	Lea Zoe
Working title: Studies on Great Tits (Arbeitstitel Untersuchungen zu Kohlmeisen)	Derntl	Marlene

Topic	Last Name	First Name
Effects of forest management on bats in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve between 2023 and 2025 (Effekte der Waldbewirtschaftung auf Fledermäuse im Biosphärenpark Wienerwald zwischen 2023 und 2025)	Deschauer	Julia
Working title: Studies on Great Tits (Arbeitstitel Untersuchungen zu Kohlmeisen)	Schneider	Stefanie
Life history of great tits (Parus major) in relation to different forest management regimes in the Vienna Woods Biosphere Reserve, Austria	Liball	Katharina
Vectors as health risk for great tits nestlings in relation to different forest management regimes in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve	Kirchmair	Robin
Working title: Studies on Great Tits (Arbeitstitel Untersuchungen zu Kohlmeisen)	Kuhn	Isabell
Working title: Studies on Great Tits (Arbeitstitel Untersuchungen zu Kohlmeisen)	Brunken	Jessie
Working title: Studies on Great Tits (Arbeitstitel Untersuchungen zu Kohlmeisen)	Hack	Jadzia
Food provisioning activities of great tits (Parus major) is driven by forest type	Suß	Lionora Anna Luise
Topic	Last Name	First Name
Working title: Studies on the MZB constructed section of the Wienfluss (Arbeitstitel Untersuchungen MZB verbauter Teil Wienfluss)	Engelke	Henrik
Rehabilitation of long-term unemployed people in social housing through nature conservation projects (Rehabilitation langzeit Arbeitssuchender Menschen in sozialen Wohneinrichtungen durch Naturschutzprojekte)	Hollerer	Anna
Didactic methods for teaching biodiversity: A case study with educators of the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve (Didaktische Methoden zur Vermittlung von Artenvielfalt: Eine Fallstudie mit Pädagog*innen des Biosphärenparks Wienerwald)	Egger	Vanessa
Factors influencing biodiversity in deciduous forest-dominated ecosystems (Einflussfaktoren auf die Biodiversität in laubwalddominierten Waldökosystemen)	Ette	Jana-Sophie
Analysis of open-land surveys (Auswertungen Offenland-Erhebung)	Ferch	Alina
Survey of rare tree species using systematic adaptive cluster sampling (Erhebung seltener Baumarten mittels systematic adaptive cluster sampling)	Hahn	Florian
Studies on the condition and development of selected dry grassland habitats in the Biosphere Reserve Wienerwald (Untersuchungen zu Zustand	Hofer	Jacqueline

Topic	Last Name	First Name
und Entwicklung ausgewählter trockener Grasland-Lebensräume im Biosphärenpark Wienerwald)		
Individual tree segmentation and classification of 13 tree species in a heterogeneous forest using LiDAR data (Individual Tree Segmentation and Classification of 13 Tree Species in a Heterogenous Forest using LiDAR Data)	Kopecky	Kevin
Working title: Studies on crayfish occurrence in the Wienerwald BR (Arbeitstitel Untersuchungen zu Krebsvorkommen im Wienerwald BR)	Kreiner	Paul
Detection of deadwood from terrestrial laser scanning data (Detektion von Totholz aus Daten des terrestrischen Laserscannings)	Las	Marcin
Population ecological study of Cordulegaster bidentata in the Lainzer Tiergarten (Populationsökologische Studie zu Cordulegaster bidentata im Lainzer Tiergarten)	Pinter	Julia Marie
Cordulegaster heros (Insecta: Odonata) in the Lainzer Tiergarten: Ecology and population dynamics (Cordulegaster heros (Insecta: Odonata) im Lainzer Tiergarten: Ökologie und Populationsdynamik)	Mayer	Magdalena
Use of multi-temporal Sentinel-2 data for land cover and tree species classification in the Biosphere Reserve Wienerwald (Verwendung multitemporaler Sentinel-2 Daten für die Landbedeckungs- und Baumartenklassifikation im Biosphärenpark Wienerwald)	Neuwirth	Martin
Development of deadwood availability in selected core zones of the Biosphere Reserve Wienerwald and its relationship with biodiversity (Entwicklung des Totholzangebots in ausgewählten Kernzonen des Biosphärenparks Wienerwald und dessen Zusammenhang mit der Artenvielfalt)	Preisinger	Matthias
Wells and the associated issue of clean groundwater and drinking water in the Biosphere Reserve Wienerwald (Brunnen und die damit verbundene Problematik des sauberen Grund- und Trinkwassers im Biosphärenpark Wienerwald)	Rattenschlager	Florian
Influence of green infrastructures on the occurrence of selected bird species in the cultural landscape of the Wienerwald (Einfluss Grüner Infrastrukturen auf das Vorkommen ausgewählter Vogelarten der Kulturlandschaft im Wienerwald)	Richter	Maximilian
Orchids in dry grassland areas compared to forest orchids in the Pannonian region in Austria (Orchideen in Trockenrasengebieten im Vergleich zu Waldorchideen im Pannonikum in Österreich)	Riegler	Sabine

Topic	Last Name	First Name
Influence of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic on the perception and use of green and open spaces in the city of Vienna and surrounding areas (Einfluss der SARS-CoV-2-Pandemie auf die Wahrnehmung und Nutzung von Grün- und Freiräumen in der Stadt Wien und Wien-Umland)	Tansil	Donna
Motives for purchasing regional food from partner businesses of the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve – A Means-End Chain Analysis (Motive für den Einkauf regionaler Lebensmittel bei Partnerbetrieben des Biosphärenparks Wienerwald - Eine Means-End-Chain Analyse)	Vrljanović	Tea
Genetic structure of <i>Anisandrus dispar</i> and <i>Xyleborinus saxesenii</i> in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve	Weißhäupl	Teresa
(Peri)urban Biosphere Reserves as Model Regions of Sustainable Development: São Paulo Greenbelt and Wienerwald Biosphere Reserves (This PhD thesis was successfully submitted for the MAB Young Scientists Award 2023 on the initiative of the Wienerwald BR Management)	Pereira Sato	Danilo
Working title: Biodiversity Day in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve – A social science perspective (Arbeitstitel: Tag der Artenvielfalt im Biosphärenpark Wienerwald - Eine sozialwissenschaftliche Betrachtung)	Gramschek	Jasmin
Sustainable and holistic – Educational offerings on nature conservation and biodiversity for primary school students at out-of-school learning sites such as the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve (Nachhaltig und ganzheitlich - Bildungsangebote zu den Themen Naturschutz und Artenvielfalt im Primarstufenbereich an außerschulischen Lernorten wie dem Biosphärenpark Wienerwald)	Hachleitner	Anne

2.4.7 How have collective capacities for the overall governance of the biosphere reserve (e.g. organization of new networks of cooperation, partnerships) been strengthened?

The collective capacities have been strengthened over the past 10 years through the following cooperation networks:

In 2018, the **Scientific Advisory Board** (Wissenschaftsbeirat) was established for the first time. It consists of representatives from various disciplines, covering all relevant topics in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve (BR). The board meets twice a year to coordinate research questions and priorities relevant to the Wienerwald BR and to provide recommendations for regional development from a scientific perspective. Joint workshops of the Scientific Advisory Board and the Regional Forum (Regionalforum) create “bridges” between science and regional development.

In 2019, a **Regional Forum** (Participation Advisory Board) was established to improve regional coordination. This body is composed of representatives from politics, regional initiatives (Climate Model Regions, LEADER regions, micro regions, tourism, chambers of agriculture, etc.) and relevant initiatives and departments of the Federal States of Vienna (Wien) and Lower Austria (Niederösterreich). Its goal is to coordinate the different regional development priorities, identify joint initiatives, and work together toward achieving objectives. This forum meets at least once a year.

The network of **partner enterprises** was repositioned and expanded in 2020. In a joint participatory process, new guidelines were developed, based on the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

An important milestone in 2020 was also the integration of the Wienerwald BR into the current **tourism strategy** for the Wienerwald. Coordinated offerings in nature experiences, hiking, mountain biking, culinary experiences, as well as joint participation in public events, are the positive outcomes.

The Wienerwald BR Management is also actively involved in the Vienna–Lower Austria City-Region Management (Stadt-Umland-Management Wien – Niederösterreich). Contributions from the BR Management are regularly made at the annual City-Region Conference and City-Region Forums. In 2025, the recreation platform (Plattform Naherholung) was founded by the City-Region Management, in which the BR Management actively participates.

At the **regional “Jour fixe” meetings (Regions Jour fixe)** of the Regional Management, various stakeholders in regional and municipal development meet regularly (three to four times a year) for coordination, mutual learning, and exploring opportunities for cooperation projects. The Biosphere Reserve (BR) Management is represented in two of these regional committees (Lower Austria Central / *NÖ-Mitte*, and Lower Austria Industrial Quarter / *NÖ-Industrieviertel*). Other participants include: regional tourism managements, micro regions, LEADER regions, City-Region Management Lower Austria–Vienna (*Stadt-Umland Management Niederösterreich – Wien*), Climate Model Regions, the Energy and Environment Agency (*Energie- und Umweltagentur*), the Village and Town Renewal initiative (*Aktion Dorf- und Stadterneuerung*), the “Nature in the Garden” initiative (*Aktion Natur im Garten*), the “Healthy Municipality” initiative (*Aktion Gesunde Gemeinde*), etc.

The network of mountainbike trails in the Wienerwald (Mountainbikenetz Wienerwald) was developed and implemented with the involvement of the Biosphere Reserve (BR) Management. To coordinate current developments, needs for action, improvements to trail routing, prevention of user conflicts, etc., the **Mountainbike Platform** meets at least twice a year. Besides the BR Management, participants include Wienerwald Tourism (*Wienerwald Tourismus*), regional MTB associations, and representatives of major forest owners (Austrian Federal Forests / *Österreichische Bundesforste*, Klosterneuburg Monastery / *Stift Klosterneuburg*, and the Forestry and Agricultural Department of the City of Vienna / *Forst- und Landwirtschaftsbetrieb der Stadt Wien*). The role of the BR Management in this body is, among other things, to balance the needs of recreation and nature conservation.

Another important format is the **meeting of core zone landowners** which takes place annually. Current topics include forest management, nature conservation, and, more recently, natural hazard management. The partnerships strengthened through these meetings significantly support the work of the BR Management in the fields of core zone development and sustainable forest management in commercial forests.

In 2013, the **Biosphere Reserve Ambassadors** were appointed as important communication partners, multipliers, and contacts within municipalities and districts. These individuals act as information hubs between their respective municipality/district and the BR Management. Currently, a total of 56 ambassadors are listed. They are invited once a year to a networking meeting and are also the first addressees for all further events organized by the Wienerwald BR Management.

Currently (2025), a **participation process** is underway to develop the **future strategy** for the next reporting period (2025–2035). All of the above-mentioned groups are invited to take part in the workshops. An online survey complements this process and enables broader participation across the entire region.

In addition, there are regular coordination meetings and joint initiatives involving all Austrian biosphere reserves.

2.4.8. Please provide some additional information about the interaction between the three zones.

The zones of the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve (BR) are dispersed throughout the region. 37 core zones represent a mosaic of different forest types. All these core zones are excluded from forestry use and were previously, for the most part, commercial forests. By monitoring the now natural forest development, conclusions can be drawn for climate-adapted forest management in the transition zones.

Another form of interaction between the zones is created by the recreational infrastructure. The network of hiking, riding, and mountain biking trails runs through all zones. Users of this infrastructure are required to behave in accordance with the specific zone in which they move. For example, in the core zones it is not permitted to leave official hiking trails. All core zones are surrounded by a buffer zone. Additional buffer zones are found as riparian strips along watercourses and in open land, again dispersed throughout the entire region, and often directly adjoining the settlement areas of the transition zone.

This close interlinking also facilitates natural exchange for migrating species and benefits species that require different habitats for their development.

For the local population, the interconnection of zones makes it easier to experience nature close to where they live. This also contributes positively to raising awareness of nature and biodiversity “on the doorstep.” This is precisely where the BR Management’s educational work comes in.

Furthermore, landscape management initiatives involving schoolchildren and volunteers often take place in the buffer zones, but they serve as a model for sustainable activities in the transition zones – for example natural gardening.

The buffer zones are areas that cannot be designated as building land. By demarcating the buffer zones from the transition zones, a contribution is also made to more sustainable spatial planning. In the framework of the regional spatial planning concept (*Regionale Leitplanung*), which defines regional settlement boundaries, due consideration had to be given to the buffer zones (see 9. Supporting Documents, (4)).

2.4.9 Participation of young people. How were young people involved in the organizations and community decision-making processes? How were their interests and needs considered within the biosphere reserve? What are the incentives or programmes in place to encourage their participation?

In the Wienerwald BR youth participation primarily takes place at the levels of information and consultation, as well as through concrete hands-on activities. A dedicated youth body that makes binding decisions and is involved in their implementation does not exist for the Wienerwald BR, nor is it provided for in the biosphere reserve laws of Vienna and Lower Austria. However, within the framework of the Strategy 2025–2035 process, existing governance structures will be evaluated and realigned. Youth participation will also be taken into account in this process.

Children and young people are first addressed through information and educational work. For example, the BR Management offers every third primary school class in the Lower Austrian municipalities a free biosphere reserve lesson. Among other things, pupils can playfully learn about the design and management of a biosphere reserve. The *Biosphere Reserve Game* is also played with youth groups (e.g. during the Youth Climate Conference, see photo below, CR BPWW/A. Weiß) and with adults. The insights gained from these activities are then integrated into the work of BR Management.



A wide range of additional teaching materials on the Wienerwald BR are published by the BR Management and can be used in educational work in schools (<https://www.bpww.at/de/themenseiten/angebote-fuer-schulen>).

In addition, guided tours, excursions, and lectures (e.g., at universities) are offered for young people on various focus topics. The discussions and experiences generated during these activities also contribute to shaping the orientation of BR Management (see section 6.4).

In 2019 and 2023, on the initiative of BR Management, young people from the Wienerwald region were sent to the MAB Youth Forum in Germany. From this experience, a “Youth Round Table (Jugendstammtisch)” emerged, which meets as needed and advises BR Management on relevant measures and initiatives.

Since 2016, it has been possible to complete a “Voluntary Environmental Year (*Freiwilliges Umweltjahr*)” at BR Management. This programme is aimed at young people who want to gain

relevant experience and who subsequently also engage in events and activities within the Wienerwald BR. These young people are also invited to the Youth Round Table if they are interested.



Photo: Delegation from the Wienerwald BR at the MAB Youth Forum 2023, CR Pfälzerwald BR

Further participation formats with and by young people are implemented by regional partner organizations. Since these partner organizations also support the objectives of the UNESCO Wienerwald BR, these initiatives can ultimately also be considered as contributions to participation within the Wienerwald BR. One example is the initiative of the LEADER Region Elsbeere-Wienerwald, which covers part of the Wienerwald BR.: https://www.elsbeere-wienerwald.at/Jugend_Elsbeere_Wienerwald

In some Vienna BR districts there are dedicated children's and youth parliaments, where interested young people can plan and develop concrete ideas and visions for "their" district and bring new perspectives into politics. Together with the responsible district authorities these ideas are reviewed for feasibility, and concrete steps for implementation are initiated (e.g.: <https://www.wiengestalten.at/landkarte-partizipation/kinder-und-jugendpartizipation/>).

3. ECOSYSTEM SERVICES:

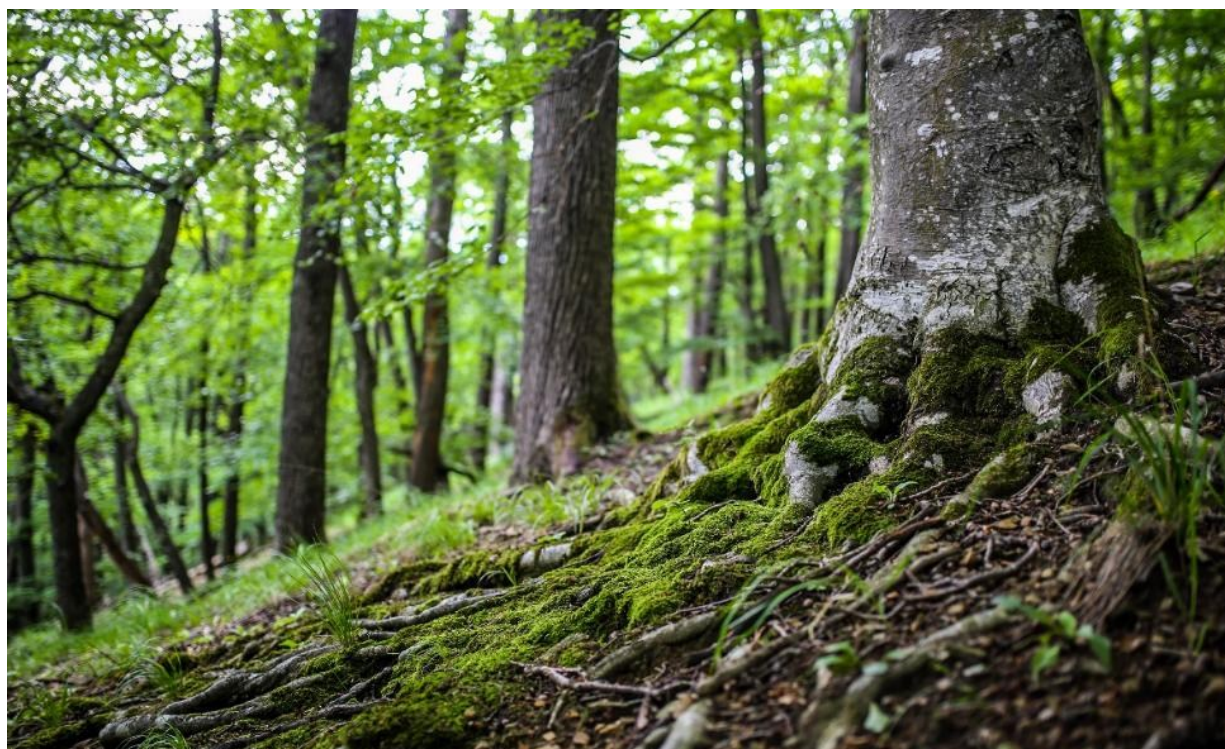
3.1 If possible, provide an update in the ecosystem services provided by each ecosystem of the biosphere reserve and the beneficiaries of these services.

(As per previous report and with reference to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Framework and The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) Framework (<http://millenniumassessment.org/en/Framework.html> and <http://www.teebweb.org/publications/teeb-study-reports/foundations/>)).

There have been no changes in the last 10 years

Forest	Ecosystem services		Beneficiaries of the services
	Supporting services (ecosystem services that are necessary for the production of all other ecosystem services)	Nutrient dispersal and cycling	Forestry
		Seed dispersal	
		Primary production	
	Provisioning services (products obtained from ecosystems)	Pharmaceuticals, biochemicals and industrial products	Pharmaceutical industry, energy providers, households
		Biomass fuels	
	Regulating services: “benefits obtained from the regulation of ecosystem processes”	Carbon sequestration and climate regulation	Forestry, beekeepers
		Crop pollination	
		Pest and disease control	
	Cultural services: “non-material benefits people obtain from ecosystems through spiritual enrichment, cognitive development, reflection, recreation and aesthetic experiences”	Cultural, intellectual and spiritual inspiration	Communities, universities, research institutes, tourism, operators
		Recreational experiences (including ecotourism)	
		Scientific discovery	

Arable land	Ecosystem services		Beneficiaries of the services
	Supporting services	Nutrient dispersal and cycling	farmers
		Seed dispersal	
		Primary production	
	Provisioning services	Food, crops	Communities, farmers, pharmaceutical industry, energy providers
		Pharmaceuticals, biochemical, and industrial products	
		Biomass fuels	
		Crop pollination	
	Cultural services	Cultural, intellectual and spiritual inspiration	Communities, universities, research institutes, tourism operators
		Recreational experiences (including ecotourism)	
		Scientific discovery	



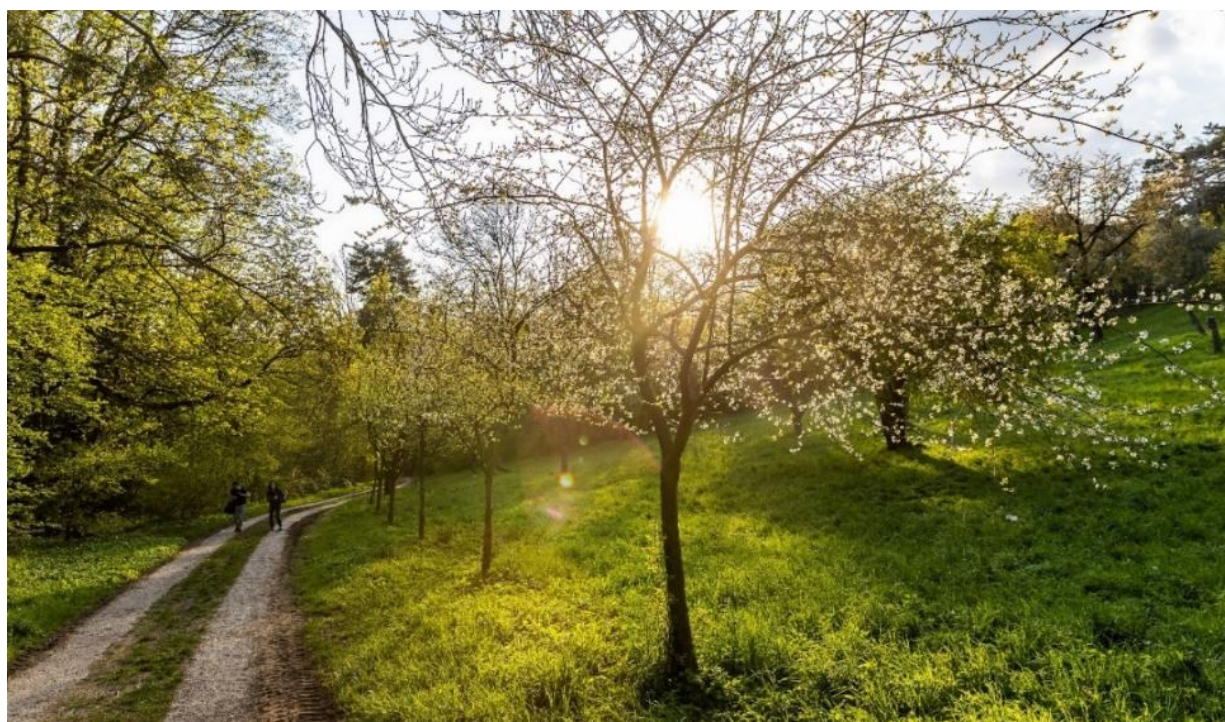
CR BPWW/N. Novak

Vineyards	Ecosystem services		Beneficiaries of the services
	Supporting services	Nutrient dispersal and cycling	Wine producers
		Seed dispersal	
		Primary production	
	Provisioning services	Food, crops	Communities, wine producers
	Regulating services	Carbon sequestration and climate regulation	Wine producers, communities
		Purification of water and air	
		Crop pollination	
		Pest and disease control	
	Cultural services	Cultural, intellectual and spiritual inspiration	Communities, universities, research institutes, tourism operators
		Recreational experiences (including ecotourism)	
		Scientific discovery	



CR BPWW/N. Novak

Grassland	Ecosystem services		Beneficiaries of the services
	Supporting services	Nutrient dispersal and cycling	farmers
		Seed dispersal	
		Primary production	
	Provisioning services	Food	Communities, farmers, energy providers
	Regulating services	Carbon sequestration and climate regulation	farmers, communities, beekeepers
		Purification of water and air	
		Crop pollination	
	Cultural services	Cultural, intellectual and spiritual inspiration	Communities, universities, research institutes, tourism operators
		Recreational experiences (including ecotourism)	
		Scientific discovery	



CR BPWW/N. Novak

Body of flowing water	Ecosystem services		Beneficiaries of the services
	Supporting services	Nutrient dispersal and cycling	Farmers, fishers,
		Seed dispersal	
		Primary production	
		Water supply	
	Provisioning services	Fish, water	Communities, farmers, fishers, energy providers
		Hydro-power for Micro Hydro Units	
	Regulating services	Climate regulation	farmers, communities, nature conservation
		Corridor-function	
		Flood prevention	
	Cultural services	Cultural, intellectual and spiritual inspiration	Communities, universities, research institutes, tourism operators
		Recreational experiences (including ecotourism)	
		Scientific discovery	



CR BPWW/N. Novak

3.2 Specify if there are any changes regarding the indicators of ecosystem services that are being used to evaluate the three functions (conservation, development and logistic) of the biosphere reserve. If yes, which ones and give details and update.

We are not aware of any changes.

3.3 Update description on biodiversity involved in the provision of ecosystems services in the biosphere reserve (e.g. species or groups of species involved).

Neobiota:

The invasive species Himalayan Balsam (Drüsen-Springkraut, *Impatiens glandulifera*), Canadian and Giant Goldenrod (Kanada- und Riesen-Goldrute, *Solidago canadensis*, *S. gigantea*), Tree of Heaven (Götterbaum, *Ailanthus altissima*), and Japanese Knotweed (Japan-Staudenknöterich, *Fallopia japonica*) continue to spread in the Wienerwald. Not yet widespread, but locally invasive, are among others the Princess Tree (Blauglockenbaum, *Paulownia tomentosa*) and Giant Hogweed (Riesen-Bärenklau, *Heracleum mantegazzianum*). Due to their dominance and rapid spread, plant species diversity—and with it the resilience of ecosystems—is reduced. Ecosystem services are particularly affected in the area of flood protection, since for example knotweed destabilizes riverbanks of smaller streams in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve and prevents the establishment of natural woody vegetation. In the long term, the ree of Heaven could also cause economic damage, as it displaces valuable hardwoods such as oak (*Quercus*) or beech (*Fagus*).

Since 1 January 2015, Regulation (EU) No. 1143/2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species has been in force. On 14 July 2016, the first list of invasive alien species of Union concern pursuant to Regulation No. 1143/2014 was published in the Official Journal of the European Union. This list entered into force on 3 August 2016.

The list of invasive alien species of Union concern has since been updated by Implementing Regulations (EU) 2017/1263, 2019/1262, and 2022/1203. According to the Regulation, listed species may not be intentionally introduced into the territory of the Union, kept or bred, transported into, within or out of the Union, placed on the market, released into the environment, or used or exchanged. EU Member States are obliged to eradicate invasive alien species of Union concern or, in the case of widely spread species, to control their further spread. For most obligations, exemptions can be granted by the competent authorities of the Member States or by the European Commission.

Among the so-called Invasive Alien Species (IAS) occurring in the Wienerwald are Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), and Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*). Since July 2025, the knotweed species *Fallopia japonica*, *Fallopia × bohemica*, and *Fallopia sachalinensis* have also been included on the Union list.

Habitat Restoration:

Within the framework of numerous projects, measures are being implemented to protect, conserve, and restore valuable natural assets. Through landscape management activities, endangered open-land habitats are preserved and improved in their condition, including Semi-natural calcareous dry grasslands (FFH type 6210, *Naturnahe Kalk-Trockenrasen*), Molinia meadows (FFH type 6410, *Pfeifengraswiesen*), Lowland hay meadows (FFH type 6510, *Magere Flachland-Mähwiesen*), and Calcareous fens (FFH type 7230, *Kalkreiche Niedermoore*). For

many FFH habitat areas, there is an urgent need to improve their conservation status, as highlighted by the most recent Article 17 Report. In addition, habitats of FFH Annex II species such as the Large Copper (*Lycaena dispar*), Great saw-grass grasshopper (*Saga pedo*), Adriatic Lizard Orchid (*Himantoglossum adriaticum*), and Large Pasque Flower (*Pulsatilla grandis*) are being specifically promoted.

The non-managed forest core zones within the Wienerwald BR are gradually developing into valuable habitats with increasing shares of old-growth and deadwood. Around 80% of these areas are classified as FFH habitats, including Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests (FFH type 9130, *Waldmeister-Buchenwald*), Medio-European limestone beech forests with Orchids (FFH type 9150, *Mitteleuropäischer Orchideen-Kalk-Buchenwald*), Galio-Carpinetum oak-hornbeam forests (FFH type 9170, *Labkraut-Eichen-Hainbuchenwald*), and Pannonian woods with *Quercus pubescens* (FFH type 91H0, *Pannonische Flaumeichenwälder*). The abundance of deadwood benefits several FFH Annex II species, including the European Stag Beetle (*Lucanus cervus*), Hermit Beetle (*Osmoderma eremita*), Rosalia Longicorn (*Rosalia alpina*), Great Capricorn Beetle (*Cerambyx cerdo*), and various bat species.

Climate Impact of the Wienerwald:

The diversity of tree species and the presence of 33 forest types make the Wienerwald more resilient to climate change than many other, less species-rich forests. Especially in times of climate change, the ecosystem service of a stable forest area is of enormous importance for a metropolitan region. A short study on specific aspects of the welfare effects of the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve (E. Pötzelsberger, BOKU University, 2020; A. Jäger, 2020) reached the following conclusions:

More than one billion liters of water evaporate daily in summer from the billions of leaves in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve. The enormous amount of evaporation energy required for this is withdrawn from the air - resulting in a cooling effect in the forest. Assuming the capacity of a 2,500 W air conditioning unit to cool 25 m² of living space, the cooling effect of the Wienerwald is equivalent to 23 million such air conditioning units.

The forest area of 64,000 ha in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve produces 716,800 tons of oxygen per year. Assuming a generously estimated oxygen requirement of 1 kg O₂ per person per day, the Wienerwald thus covers the oxygen demand of around 2 million people - remarkably, exactly the combined population of Vienna and the Wienerwald region.

3.4 Specify whether any recent/updated ecosystem services assessment has been done for the biosphere reserve since its nomination/last report. If yes, please specify and indicate if and how this is being used in the management plan.

The nature-spatial data necessary for the submission documents for recognition as a BR were compiled based on already existing reports and studies. However, in order to be able to compare the impacts of the BR on nature in the region over the years or decades in the future, it is necessary to collect baseline data for later comparisons. For this reason, the following surveys have been conducted in recent years: repeat surveys of the baseline monitoring in the core zones, surveys of butterflies and saproxylic beetles in selected core zones, waterbody mapping in the Lower Austrian part of the Wienerwald BR, including identification of waterbody-associated occurrences of neophytes, and renewed assessments of selected open-land sites to verify the results of the open-land surveys from 2011–2013.

4. THE CONSERVATION FUNCTION:

[This refers to programmes that seek to protect biodiversity at landscape and site levels and/or ecological functions that provide ecosystem goods and services in the biosphere reserve. While actions to address this function might be focused on core area(s) and buffer zone(s), ecosystem dynamics occur across a range of spatial and temporal scales throughout the biosphere reserve and beyond.]

4.1 Significant changes (if any) in the main habitat types, ecosystems, species or varieties of traditional or economic importance identified for the biosphere reserve, including natural processes or events, main human impacts, and/or relevant management practices (since the last report).

For Austria in general, the report according to Article 17 of the European Habitats Directive (2013–2018) provides the following information on changes in habitat types and species:

Trends:

With regard to the trend in conservation status, it is apparent that for those with a favorable assessment, a stable trend predominates; only in a few cases are further improvements reported. In contrast, for the unfavorable-bad category, negative trends clearly predominate, with a very high proportion of unknown trends.

Conservation status at the biogeographical level:

Both for species and habitat types, the proportion of conservation features in favorable condition is higher in the alpine region than in the continental region. This finding is largely related to the distribution of nature conservation goods. Habitats that are naturally less intensively used (rocks and scree, heaths and shrubs, bogs, etc.) are predominantly located in the alpine region.

Conservation status by species groups:

An evaluation of systematic groups shows that mammal species (ungulates, rodents, predators grouped as ‘other mammals’, with bats evaluated separately) have relatively the best conservation status compared to other species. In contrast, species from the groups amphibians, reptiles, fish & crustaceans, and beetles were assessed the worst.

Pressures and Threats:

In the Article 17 report, the main pressures and threats to the conservation features were identified. For habitat types, the most frequently cited pressure is the impact of invasive species. This is particularly significant for freshwater habitats (3230, 3270), grasslands (6130, 6190, 6210, 6240, 6250, 6260, 6430, 6440), and forest habitats (9160, 91E0, 91F0, 91G0, 91H0, 91I0, 91L0, 91M0). Other commonly reported pressures primarily affect open habitats, especially heathlands, grasslands and bogs through conversion to forest or afforestation, abandonment of grassland management, and natural succession. Additional significant pressures include mineral extraction, nitrogen deposition, transport infrastructure, hunting and fishing, and climate change.

For species, the most frequently cited pressure is the physical alteration of water bodies. This may also be related to the fact that many fish species are listed in the annexes of the Habitats Directive. Other commonly mentioned pressures include impacts from agriculture (agrochemicals, abandonment of grassland management, land-use changes, destruction of landscape elements), infrastructure development (transport infrastructure, settlement construction), recreational activities, and hydropower use.

In addition to these general trends for Austria, there are positive changes in various habitat types in the Wienerwald BR through various projects in which threatened or rare habitats are being restored or newly created.

Forest:

The cessation of management on over 5,500 ha of core zone areas has laid the foundation for the development of the “primeval forests” of tomorrow. The core zones contain a substantial amount of deadwood, which provides valuable habitat for a variety of organisms. Veteran trees also offer structurally rich habitats for species such as bats and saproxylic beetles.

Throughout the forests of the Wienerwald BR, the impacts of the climate crisis and changes in climatic conditions are evident. This is most noticeable in anthropogenically influenced spruce monocultures, which are dying due to storms, heat, drought, and bark beetle infestations - a phenomenon observable across the entire BR. Ash trees have also been severely reduced in both abundance and former widespread occurrence due to a fungal disease originating from Asia.

About ten years ago (or more), tree species such as Douglas fir and Red oak were primarily considered climate-resilient and desirable for future forest stands. Today, however, most forest managers in the Vienna Woods favor a mix of various native tree species of different ages. Depending on silvicultural treatment, this approach can be interpreted as a form of continuous forest management or, at the very least, aims to achieve a tree-species-diverse, multilayered forest stand.

Open Land:

To conserve and restore ecologically valuable open-land habitats with their characteristic species, the biosphere reserve management has carried out landscape management activities with volunteers from the public, local businesses, and school classes. Many volunteers were also involved in landscape management actions organized by partner organizations, fostering public participation and engagement of local initiatives (see 4.2).

As part of the project “*Restoration of Dry Grassland Habitats 2024–2034*”, nearly 7 hectares of dry grassland are being restored through the clearance of secondary black pine forests and continued management measures such as shrub removal and grazing. Over the past 10 years, approximately 80 meters of valuable habitat for species such as the Green Lizard (*Lacerta viridis*) have been created through dry stone wall building courses. The “*Orchard Tree Action*” enabled the planting of around 1,800 trees, including old and endangered fruit varieties, as well as hedgerow shrubs.



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4.2 Describe the main conservation programmes that have been conducted in the biosphere reserve over the past ten years as well as current on-going ones. Note their main goals and the scope of activities, e.g. biotic inventories, species-at-risk, landscape analyses, conservation stewardship actions. Cross reference to other sections below where appropriate.

Due to limited budgetary resources, the biosphere reserve management does not run its own conservation funding programmes. However, numerous national and EU funding programmes are utilized. Third-party projects are supported by the biosphere reserve management through logistical or personnel assistance as well as knowledge transfer.

The most important funding programme for the Wienerwald BR is the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). Most projects of the BR Management are financed through this programme, as it also supports very concrete implementation and educational measures.

Of particular significance for research projects is the Austrian MAB research programme, which is coordinated by the MAB National Committee at the Austrian Academy of Sciences and funded by the Federal Government.

Over the past ten years, the following (research) projects in the area of the Conservation Function have been financed through this and other funding programmes:

Forest:

KMM - Core Zone Management (*Kernzonenmanagement*) and WKB - Forest Core Zone Biodiversity in The Wienerwald BR (*Wald-Kernzonen-Biodiversität*)

Within the framework of these projects, tasks and activities in the biosphere reserve's core zones have been carried out over the past 10 years, beyond the ongoing management of natural areas and coordination with landowners. In the KMM project, which partly took place during the COVID-19 pandemic, numerous (online) presentations on the core zones were offered and received with great enthusiasm by the public. For example, in 2022, information sessions on the core zones were held in Altenmarkt an der Triesting, Wolfsgraben, and Penzing. As part of so-called *Core Zone Action Days*, staff engaged directly with visitors in the Mauerbach, Hoher Lindkogel, and Troppberg core zones. Whether on foot, by bicycle, or running, visitors were approached and invited to brief conversations in which they were informed about proper behavior while mountain biking or visiting natural areas in general.

Digital Core Zone Profiles

In 2022, digital profiles were created for the 37 core zones of the Vienna Woods Biosphere Reserve. These profiles, available at kernzonen.bpww.at, provide insights into the “primeval forests of tomorrow.” The profiles summarize key facts, brief descriptions, maps, statements, species portraits, and information on vegetation, deadwood, and behavioral guidelines. When used on a mobile device with location enabled, users can even be geolocated and get an overview of officially marked and available trails. Two informational folders were also produced (see below and Annex II – Promotion and Communication Materials).

Basic monitoring in the core zones:

To scientifically monitor and document the conditions and developments of the core zone forests, a long-term observation system was established in the core zones. Approximately every ten years, the same points in the forests are revisited, and measurements are repeated. Comparing these data allows conclusions to be drawn, for example, regarding changes in deadwood quantities. The recordings were made in the form of a so-called permanent “sample inventory”. Data was collected at grid-shaped sample points and then extrapolated to the entire area. The parameters collected are: existing tree species, age, tree height and diameter as well as soil cover and the presence of deadwood. This inventory is also the basis for current and future research projects. The results of these scientific observations were presented in 2022 in the folder “*Natural Areas Evolving – Core Zones in the Vienna Woods Biosphere Reserve*”. Additionally, the folder “*The Cradle of the Forest – Deadwood and its Importance for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*” was produced.

In the WKB project, the brochure “The primeval forest on the doorstep” was also released. This gives an insight into the fascinating diversity of natural forests and their processes. With a lot of illustrative photo material and graphics, readers learn a lot of interesting facts about the changes in the core zones over the last 20 years. Particular attention was paid to the topics of deadwood, the prevailing biodiversity, rare animal, plant and fungal species, measurement methods and the forest of the future. One chapter is also dedicated to the oldest and mightiest „jungle trees“ in the region.

In order to raise awareness among those seeking recreation, the *Core Zones Action Days* already mentioned above were continued. Together with the landowners Austrian Federal Forests, Klosterneuburg Abbey and the Forestry and Agricultural Department of the City of Vienna, recreation seekers were invited to discussions directly on site and informed about the special

features of the respective area. Once again, there were major differences in knowledge about the Vienna Woods Biosphere Reserve in general and the rules of conduct required on site.

One challenge in the Wienerwald BR is that the region is intensively used for (local) recreational purposes. Visitors in the natural areas often engage in activities that, in their current form, are not fully in line with legal regulations. This may be due to several factors, including insufficient or lack of knowledge, a lack of identification with conservation goals, continuation of established traditions, or the expression of a misunderstood sense of personal freedom. The approach of the BR Management, which is not an authority and does not have powers like sworn forestry or conservation officials, focuses on knowledge transfer and awareness-raising. In addition to various publications and presentations of the core zone natural areas in both analog and digital formats, lectures and direct dialogue with the public are central. Through this mixed-method approach, the aim is to achieve a change in the behavior of recreational visitors.

Evidence Preservation and Biodiversity Monitoring in the Core Zones of Vienna and Lower Austria

The core zones of the Wienerwalds BR are intended - according to UNESCO's objectives - to contribute to the conservation of biological diversity, to serve as reference areas for observing ecosystems disturbed by humans, and to provide sites for research. By applying process-oriented conservation, they are to develop into the "primeval forests of tomorrow." Since 2003, no forestry use has taken place in these areas.

To ensure documentation and provide long-term monitoring of the development of the core zones and the changes in biodiversity - thus also fulfilling UNESCO's research objectives - a biodiversity monitoring programme was established by the BR Management in 2012, following a comprehensive mapping of the vegetation communities in the core zones in 2011. The programme covers studies of 13 organism groups at selected sampling points within the core zones, with comparative sampling points set up in managed forests. The first monitoring surveys took place in 2012 and 2013, covering the following groups: mosses, vascular plants, lichens, fungi, land snails, spiders, harvestmen, pseudoscorpions, ground beetles, saproxylic beetles, amphibians, birds, and bats. Explanatory habitat parameters were also recorded, including detailed surveys of deadwood and forest structure. Over the past 10 years, synergies have been used to repeat surveys of selected organism groups. For example, repeat surveys of saproxylic beetles were carried out within the project *Recording, Management and Presentation of Biodiversity in Lower Austria's Large Protected Areas* (see project description below).

A project submitted for funding in 2025 aims to repeat surveys of ground beetles and bats. Additionally, between November 2022 and November 2024, butterfly surveys were carried out in one of the core zones.

Reintroduction of the Ural Owl in the Wienerwald BR and the Dürrenstein Wilderness Area

Since 2007, the reintroduction of the Ural owl (*Strix uralensis*) has been led by a research team at the Research Institute of Wildlife Ecology of the University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna. The aim is to bring this large owl back to Austria's forests, where it became extinct in the mid-20th century due to habitat loss and illegal persecution. Today, the establishment of protected areas and the gradual shift toward sustainable forest management have once again improved living conditions for the Ural owl.

On this basis, the reintroduction initiative was recommended by an international delegation of experts in autumn 2006. The chosen release sites were the Wienerwald BR and the "Dürrenstein

Wilderness Area” (*Wildnisgebiet Dürrenstein*). These ecologically valuable forest areas provide excellent prospects for survival. The goal was to establish small founding populations around the release sites, connect them with existing populations abroad, and safeguard the owl’s habitats. A renewed presence of the species in the Alps could create a link between populations south of Austria (Slovenia, Italy) and those to the north (Germany, Czech Republic). Individual owls moving between these populations would help maintain gene flow within the European metapopulation, thereby securing the long-term survival of this rare owl species.

The release of young owls followed a method first tested in the Bavarian Forest National Park (where a successful reintroduction has taken place since the 1970s): the juveniles, together with their parents, were transferred into aviaries at the release sites. In late summer, the cages were opened, allowing the juveniles to fly into their new habitat, while the parent birds remained for some time in the aviary to strengthen the location fidelity of the young. To evaluate project progress, continuous monitoring of the released owls was essential. The birds were therefore fitted with transmitters, enabling their movements to be tracked at all times. In addition, a high-tech nest box system was developed, allowing for effective monitoring of breeding activities. Since the beginning of the project, more than 100 Ural owls have been successfully released in the Wienerwäld BR, with over 39 successful breeding events documented in the wild.

Today, in 2025, a more or less stable Ural owl population has established itself in the Wienerwäld BR. Each year, successful wild breeding is recorded, and the attractiveness of the core zones as natural nesting sites - beyond the use of artificial nest boxes - continues to increase. To further stabilize the population and enhance its resilience to changing climatic conditions, current efforts focus on broadening the genetic base of the population. Juveniles from selected breeding networks are being introduced and released into the wild.

Soil Monitoring

As part of the project, several key questions were addressed: Which characteristics are associated with different soil types? How does water availability for plants change? What is the nutrient supply at different sites? These and many other pieces of information - essential for both nature conservation and forest management - are being generated through the *Soil Monitoring* project. Soil analyses also allow conclusions to be drawn about the potential natural vegetation. The surveys, which began in the core zones, were expanded to include forest areas managed by the Austrian Federal Forests, thereby providing a comprehensive overview of the entire Wienerwäld BR.

Methodologically, the project followed the existing sampling network of the core zone basic monitoring. At specific sampling points, soils were analyzed both in the field and chemically in the laboratory to determine their properties and composition. This pioneering, area-wide initiative in the Wienerwäld BR establishes the foundation for long-term soil monitoring.

In line with the project’s objectives and scientific recommendations, the current surveys serve as a reference baseline. Repeat surveys are planned only after 90 years, reflecting the slow nature of soil-related changes.

Wild Fruit Trees

The aim of this project was to investigate the genetic diversity of the Service Tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), Wild Service Tree (*Sorbus domestica*), and Wild Pear (*Pyrus pyraster*) in Austria. In total, nearly 2,000 samples of these tree species were collected and analyzed using molecular methods by the Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape (BFW – *Bundesforschungszentrum Wald*) in cooperation with the Association for

Regional Propagation of Woody Plants (RGV – *Regionale Gehölzvermehrung*), the Austrian Federal Forests, and the BOKU University. The Wienerwald BR plays a particularly important role within the distribution range of these species.

The results show that the service tree in the Wienerwald BR still exhibits high levels of genetic diversity and that its populations are well connected. The wild service tree, however, is much rarer and is already suffering from a loss of genetic diversity. Here, it is especially important to use propagation material from high-quality genetic sources. In the case of the wild pear, strong regional differences were observed. To determine the exact causes, further studies are required. One possible explanation is genetic mixing and hybridization between wild pear and cultivated pear.

Overall, the Wienerwald BR represents a very important resource for the genetic diversity of these tree species. Nevertheless, it is essential to ensure their natural regeneration or, where necessary, support their establishment through planting.

Stepping Stones

This project can be described as a mobility support programme for Hazel Dormice (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) and weasels, assistance in finding spawning sites for frogs and toads, and a housing initiative for birds and bats - an all-inclusive package for biodiversity! Measures were implemented where they seemed most urgently needed: hedgerows were planted along the edges of monotonous conifer stands; new wetland habitats were created in places where migration distances between ponds were too long for amphibians; and finally, numerous young deciduous trees were marked prior to the first thinning, ensuring their preservation as habitat trees in the long term.

Forest Orchids

Of the approximately 75 native orchid species in Austria, some grow exclusively in forests. These forest orchids have a high indicator value and mark nearly intact forest areas. The Austrian Orchid Conservation Network (ÖON) submitted a project proposal to the Forest Fund, which was approved. Since spring 2022, experts have been active in the Wienerwald BR, documenting occurrences of ten selected forest orchid species, such as Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium calceolus*), Pale Orchid (*Orchis pallens*), and Red Helleborine (*Cephalanthera rubra*). Using geographic information systems, the currently approximately 400 recorded data points are being cross-referenced with parameters such as geology, slope, canopy cover, and tree species composition. This allows the creation of maps showing occurrence probabilities, which can help to more effectively locate the target species. In turn, this makes it possible to draw conclusions about the species' ecological requirements as well as population development. The ultimate goal is to preserve - and where possible, enhance - forest biodiversity.

Part of the project is also the "Schöpfleben" natural forest reserve in the core zone "Hoher Lindkogel". The area was mapped in great detail in 1995 and has not been used for forestry in the meantime. In August 2022, the points were again examined by the Federal Research Centre for Forests using the same methodology.

In order to achieve a concrete benefit from the mapping, a joint working meeting was held with landowners and their representatives. The aim was to present on the one hand what special features occur in the local forests - of which the people working in the forest often know nothing - and on the other hand to work together on protection strategies. To this end, the workshop discussed with the foresters what and how best protective measures can be taken on so-called hot spot areas. The results: The landowners receive geodata that will be integrated into internal

information systems (taken into account as a note in future forest management plans), analogue and digital maps for storage and supplementation in the forest operations and in addition, the selected hot spots on the area have been marked with paint spray.



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Recording, Management and Presentation of Biodiversity in Lower Austria's Large Protected Areas

The joint project of the four largest protected areas in Lower Austria – the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve, Donau-Auen National Park, Thayatal National Park, and the Dürrenstein-Lassingtal Wilderness Area – focused on the systematic recording, management, and presentation of biodiversity. The project was successfully completed in 2024.

Impressive results:

Many highly endangered species, such as the longhorn beetle *Plagionotus detritus* and the flat bark beetle *Cucujus cinnaberinus*, still find refuge and suitable habitats in these large protected areas. Within the framework of this cooperation project, which was funded by the EU's Rural Development Programme, these particularly valuable habitats were examined in detail.

Between spring 2022 and summer 2024, specialists conducted surveys of saproxylic beetles (species dependent on dead and decaying wood) in all four protected areas using different methods. In total, 10,582 individuals belonging to 882 beetle species were collected and identified. Among them were very rare species such as the Variable Chafer (*Gnorimus variabilis*), which is mainly associated with old oak trees – a habitat that has largely disappeared outside of protected areas due to forestry practices. Another remarkable finding was the Berlin Jewel Beetle (*Dicerca berolinensis*), of which 16 specimens were recorded. This species favors forests with a high proportion of hornbeam and beech and depends on the continuous availability of large-dimension standing and lying deadwood. Particularly noteworthy was the detection of 46 so-called primeval forest relict species - beetles whose occurrence is restricted to natural or

near-natural forests. These results impressively underline the high conservation value and ecological significance of the diverse habitats provided by Lower Austria's four largest protected areas.

The final presentation of the project took place on October 7, 2024, at the Natural History Museum in Vienna.

MetaFung - Biodiversity Survey Fungi and Soil Arthropods

The aim of this project is to conduct a comparative inventory of (soil) fungi and microarthropods using innovative eDNA metabarcoding technologies, as well as to assess the contribution of these groups to soil carbon pools in Austria's large protected areas. Through environmental DNA (eDNA) extracted from soil samples, these cryptic groups of organisms can be detected. The comparison is designed to include various representative habitats across multiple protected areas in order to record their natural diversity of (soil) fungi and microarthropods. By applying soil eDNA metabarcoding in representative habitats of Austria's large protected areas, the project aims to partially close the gap between observed biodiversity and actual biodiversity of fungi and microarthropods.

BiKoS – Biodiversity, Cooperation and Synergies in the Lower Austrian Large Protected Areas:

In this project of the four largest protected areas in Lower Austria - Vienna Woods BR, Donau-Auen National Park, Thayatal National Park and Dürrenstein-Lassingtal Wilderness Area, challenges in the natural environment are addressed and joint solution strategies are developed. The implementation of the project will start in 2025 and insights into how identical challenges are dealt with in "the other" protected areas, e.g. visitor management, will also enrich the project partners. As part of the project, it is also planned to carry out repeat recordings of ground beetles and bats in selected core zones of the Vienna Woods Biosphere Reserve.

Open Land:

Biosphere Volunteer 2 and Sustainable Meadow Management and Nature Conservation Planning in the Open Land of the Vienna Woods BR:

Under these two project titles, tasks and activities for the preservation of the valuable cultural landscape have been carried out in the last 10 years.

Under the motto "Together for our nature", measures were implemented in the Vienna Woods Biosphere Reserve to preserve valuable open land habitats. The special thing is that these landscape conservation missions were carried out together with the population, i.e. schools, associations, companies and volunteers. During the landscape conservation operations, together they cut and chopped out bushes, mowed reeds, removed mowed material from the areas and built new hiding places for emerald lizards & co, and also fought neophytes – non-native plant species that spread invasively and displace the original flora.

Since 2015, a total of 2,800 people have been active in landscape conservation operations of the BR Management. More than 15,200 children in Vienna and Lower Austria worked in the BR Management's school nature maintenance campaigns and were thus able to implement comprehensive care measures on the areas, as well as impart knowledge about these special habitats. A large number of volunteers were also involved in landscape conservation campaigns by partner organisations – in the sense of the participation of the population and local initiatives.



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In addition to landscape conservation efforts, specialized excursions were also offered to nature-interested residents. To inspire the public to protect and preserve the valuable open-land habitats on their doorstep and to demonstrate the natural treasures of the Wienerwald, lectures were also held in the Biosphere Reserve municipalities and districts.

For land owned by farmers, contact with the farmers was sought. During on-site visits, specific advice was given on the conservation of meadows and pastures, and their special characteristics were highlighted. Furthermore, discussions were held with the farmers on the measures they could take on their land to improve or maintain its condition.

In addition to the hands-on activities, a summary of the natur-spatial data available on the respective municipality or district was compiled for all biosphere reserve municipalities and districts in the years 2018 to 2022. Special nature conservation features on meadows, pastures, forests and water bodies and exciting animal species were pointed out. The reports were presented to the municipalities and are published on the website of the BR Management. Furthermore, some reports were made available on the Internet as digital, interactive municipality and district reports. The content has been specially prepared for the medium of the Internet. In addition to text blocks and images, interactive maps (e.g. exploring the open land on the digital map) and diagrams are intended to make the topics tangible in a "playful" way.

Big Five:

The five largest protected areas in Lower Austria – the Wachau World Heritage Communities Association, the Thayatal National Park, the Donauauen National Park, the Dürrenstein Wilderness Area and the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve – cooperated in the organisation of volunteer camps as part of a project. In cooperation with SCI (Service Civil International), young people from numerous countries helped with biotope maintenance! Three two-week camps were held each year in the five protected areas, and the programme was designed in rotation across all areas. The participants worked on a voluntary basis, and the project partners provided accommodation and food as well as professional support as part of the project.

Protected area management and wet meadow management in the Wienerwald-Thermenregion European Nature Reserve:

Since February 2023, the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve Management has been commissioned by the state of Lower Austria to manage the protected area for the European nature reserve "Wienerwald-Thermenregion". In this role, it takes on the task of a competent, regional contact point for various user and interest groups on topics relating to the European protected area and Natura 2000. At the same time, a first project, with the support of the State of Lower Austria and the European Union, is to be used to take measures to preserve endangered habitats, animal and plant species. For example, valuable wetland habitats are being revitalised and their condition improved. In doing so, the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve Management ensures the involvement and coordination of all relevant stakeholders such as landowners and land managers.

In the first project 2023-2024, wet meadows with a special need for action were selected. For the defined maintenance areas with a total area of 25.5 hectares, maintenance concepts were developed in coordination with the property owners and the land managers in order to achieve a site-appropriate (re)management of the valuable wetland habitats. In addition, implementation measures (woodland felling, mowing of heavily fallowed meadows) were carried out by external landscape service providers on 11 individual plots with a total area of 2 hectares.

Restoration of Dry Grassland Habitats 2024 – 2034

The BR Management is also involved in the project "*Restoration of Dry Grassland Habitats 2024 – 2034*." Project partners are the Landscape Conservation Association Thermenlinie, Wienerwald, Wiener Becken, and the municipalities of Bad Vöslau, Pfaffstätten, and Baden. The project's goal is the restoration and reconnection of dry grassland habitats, which are severely threatened and strictly protected in Austria and across the EU, within the Wienerwald BR and the Natura 2000 site Wienerwald-Thermenregion, in the municipalities of Bad Vöslau, Pfaffstätten, and Baden. The target vision is a park-like landscape - i.e., dry and semi-dry grasslands in a mosaic with attractive individual trees, groups of trees and shrubs, and hedgerows - developed gradually over a ten-year period.

Across the EU, dry and semi-dry grasslands are strictly protected as FFH habitats in Natura 2000 sites. The results of the most recent Austrian Article 17 monitoring report (2013–2018), which EU Member States are required to submit regularly, were poor: these habitat types showed an unfavorable-bad conservation status with a deteriorating trend (habitat type 6210) as well as an unfavorable-inadequate status (habitat types 6190, 6110). As an EU Member State, Austria is obligated to conserve these habitats and restore them to a favorable status. There is an urgent need for action.

Restoration and reconnection are essential to ensure the long-term survival of these strictly protected and highly endangered dry grassland habitats. Many of the existing dry grassland areas in the project region are currently too small and too isolated from one another, meaning that populations of many rare species cannot be sustained over the long term. Their numbers are too low, leading to genetic problems such as inbreeding, and in some cases, necessary grazing measures to maintain the habitat cannot be implemented.

Planned project measures include:

- Clearing primarily secondary black pine forests on an area of 3.48 hectares
- Management measures with exemptions from the Forestry Act, such as grazing and shrub removal, for forests with special habitats under § 32a para. 1 of the Forestry Act on an area of 3.23 hectares (in this case: development of downy oak scrubland in a mosaic with dry and semi-dry grasslands)

- Forest management measures to improve the silvicultural and ecological condition of forest areas on 27.83 hectares, in order to enable measures in favor of semi-dry and dry grasslands.

For this project, the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve Management and its project partners received the *Schöffel Nature Conservation Award of Lower Austria* (see also 2.2.4).



CR BPWW/N. Novak

Practical Trials for the Control of Autumn Crocus (*Colchicum autumnale*) on ÖPUL Conservation Grasslands

The meadows of the Wienerwald are colorful and species-rich. While they were once used to produce hay for Vienna's numerous carriage horses, today riding stables are the main buyers. The autumn crocus is becoming an increasing challenge for farmers. Its leaves and seed capsules are harvested along with the grass, and its highly toxic substance colchicine remains in the hay even after mowing. As a result, the sale of hay from Wienerwald meadows is becoming increasingly difficult.

At the same time, many of the region's meadows are exceptionally species-rich. It is therefore essential that control measures weaken the autumn crocus without endangering the biodiversity of the meadows. After several scientific studies on the problem and management of autumn crocus had already been carried out in the Wienerwald, the *Heubörse Wienerwald* (Wienerwald Hay Exchange), together with the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve Management, initiated practical field trials for the regulation of this poisonous plant. Twelve farms from the Wienerwald BR participated in these trials. The results can be found here: https://www.bpww.at/sites/default/files/download_files/DW-421615-20221202-Endbericht%20Herbstzeitlose.pdf

Forest and Open Land:

Amphibians in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve

All 20 amphibian species native to Austria are listed on the Red List of Threatened Species of Austria and are strictly protected.

Today, amphibian terrestrial and aquatic habitats are often separated by roads, insurmountable walls, and settlements with numerous traps (e.g., swimming pools, basement shafts, stairwells). In addition, spawning waters have been and continue to be filled in or stocked with fish that consume eggs and larvae. Goldfish and red-eared slider turtles also pose a serious problem for amphibians, and through stream regulation, calm, gently flowing sections that serve as habitats are disappearing.

In the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve, amphibian habitats have been surveyed using GPS and mapped. It is already evident that artificially created habitats play an important role in amphibian conservation. More than 100 such small water bodies have already been mapped on land managed by the Austrian Federal Forests, and now areas belonging to other landowners are to be surveyed. Identifying the spawning sites of frogs and other species provides the basis for conservation projects for this highly threatened group of animals. As part of the project, private individuals, municipalities, and road maintenance authorities were also invited to actively participate by reporting amphibian sightings online.

Waterbody Mapping in the Wienerwald BR

During the development of the *Biosphere Reserve Future Concept 2020*, it became clear that while comprehensive natural environment data had already been collected for core zones and open land, water habitats had not yet been systematically studied. The Biosphere Reserve Management therefore took on the challenge of collecting essential baseline data on flowing waters. In cooperation with the State of Lower Austria, the Biosphere Reserve Management, and the Austrian Federal Forests, approximately 1,700 kilometers of rivers and streams in the Wienerwald BR were mapped, supplemented by existing data from 2015–2017. The surveys, conducted between May 2017 and November 2019, primarily collected data on hydromorphology and recorded riparian neophyte vegetation. Based on the findings, initial improvement measures were already implemented by the Austrian Federal Forests in impaired river sections.

Waterbodies as „Lifelines“ in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve

The project aimed to complete and consolidate waterbody data to gain an overview of the current ecological knowledge status of the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve. Another goal was to raise awareness among the local population of the importance of waterbodies as ecological lifelines. The project “*Waterbodies as Lifelines in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve*” was one of the first conservation projects in the Wienerwald BR to focus exclusively on aquatic habitats.

Due to the high diversity of waterbodies in the Wienerwald, it was necessary to establish a sound data basis to effectively address knowledge gaps in future projects. The outcome is a unified presentation of the structural condition of the entire river network in the Wienerwald BR. Based on these results, measures can be taken to improve degraded water sections. In addition, relevant hydrochemical data for flowing waters and the largest standing waters were researched and compiled, and discharge and water temperature data from existing gauging stations were collected. Data on the biological quality elements according to the EU Water Framework Directive (aquatic invertebrates, benthic algae, macrophytes, and fish) provided an overview of the ecological condition of the Wienerwald’s rivers and streams. Another objective was to

document the occurrence of all water-related species with a protection status. The results were summarized in tables and displayed in GIS-based maps, providing a valuable foundation for the planning of further necessary activities in the Wienerwald's aquatic systems.

Raising public awareness is an important objective in the Wienerwald BR. To make the world of waterbodies accessible to interested people, excursions with riverbank cleanups were organized. Participants were able to learn more about the stream ecology of the Wienerwald and help remove litter from riverbeds and banks. Postcards featuring illustrations of characteristic aquatic species and thought-provoking quotes about rivers and streams provided a low-threshold introduction to the topic "*Waterbodies in the Wienerwald.*" Two networking meetings with representatives from the City of Vienna and the State of Lower Austria were also held to present and discuss project content and results.



CR BPWW/N. Novak

Neobiota in the Biosphere Reserve:

As part of a nature conservation project, the Austrian Federal Forests (*Österreichische Bundesforste, ÖBf*) together with their project partners addressed the topic of neobiota both on a theoretical and a practical level. The main goal of the project was to test various methods for containing particularly invasive neophytes on selected ÖBf sites, in order to determine how these areas could be cleared of these species most efficiently and what financial resources such activities would require. The trial plots continue to be maintained. Stands of tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*, *Götterbaum*) have been fought for several years using the wilt fungus *Verticillium nonalfalfae* ("Ailantex").

4.3 In what ways are conservation activities linked to, or integrated with, sustainable development issues (e.g. stewardship for conservation on private lands used for other purposes)?

As part of **landscape management activities**, the local and regional population - including schools, associations, and companies - is actively involved in conservation measures. Under professional guidance, all participants contribute to the restoration and maintenance of valuable habitats (see also 4.2).

Until 2018, the annual *Wiesenmeister* (**Meadow Champion**) award recognized sustainable land managers, strengthening their role and raising public awareness of the link between regional products and meadow conservation, thereby ensuring that farmers also benefited economically from their efforts (see also 5.3).

Since 2023, the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve Management has been responsible for managing the **Natura 2000** site “*Wienerwald-Thermenregion*.” In addition to general protected area management, the project primarily focuses on the preservation and improvement of particularly endangered wet meadow habitats within the Natura 2000 site. The particularly urgent need for action in wetland habitats lies in the fact that these are marginal-yield sites which, due to their characteristics (e.g., location, small size, growth potential, soil conditions, etc.), can hardly be managed using conventional agricultural practices or maintained solely through agri-environmental subsidy programmes. As a result, only a few farmers remain willing to actually manage wet meadows. Beyond ÖPUL funding, additional incentives or added value must therefore be offered for habitat management. To preserve wetland habitats, close cooperation takes place with regional farmers, the Lower Austrian Nature Conservation Department, the Chamber of Agriculture, the Wienerwald Hay Exchange, and other stakeholders.

Since 2011, within the framework of the **wine award DER WEIN**, each prize-winning winery has also been assigned a particular animal or plant species from its vineyards as a form of “patronage,” which it protects and preserves through sustainable vineyard management. The goal is to raise awareness among vineyard managers and also among visitors to the traditional wine taverns (*Heurigen*) about the influence of vineyard management on biodiversity. The assignment of species to the winegrowers is based on the flora and fauna found in their cultivated vineyards.

Fruit Tree Initiative and Fruit Tree Day: For a long time, vineyard peaches, almonds, cherries, apples, cornels (*Cornus mas*), walnuts, service trees, and wild service trees were cultivated in the traditional viticultural landscape, in orchards, and also as avenues. Today, fruit trees have become rare in vineyards and, more generally, throughout the Wienerwald. The BR Management supports winegrowers and farmers, as well as municipalities and all other landowners of agricultural land in the Wienerwald BR in Lower Austria and in the buffer zone in Vienna, in planting new fruit trees. Together with the State of Lower Austria, the City of Vienna, the district chambers of agriculture, and other relevant organisations, fruit trees and native hedgerow shrubs are provided for planting. Since 2015, more than 1,800 standard fruit trees and 1,000 native hedgerow shrubs have been planted through this initiative.

In recent years, annual Fruit Tree Days have also been held, centered around regional fruit. Local tree nurseries offer region-specific fruit trees for purchase and provide visitors with advice on variety selection, planting, and care. Experts identify apple or pear varieties that visitors bring from their gardens. Culinary delicacies, fruit juices, and regional wines from the Wienerwald, along with an extensive children’s and entertainment programme, form the supporting framework of the event.



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4.4 How do you assess the effectiveness of actions or strategies applied?

(Describe the methods, indicators used).

The effectiveness of actions or strategies is continuously evaluated internally by BR Management, even if, due to the very different projects and processes, there is currently no defined process for this. The number of successfully completed or implemented projects as well as the number and extent of the areas that have been restored or maintained are analysed. The effectiveness of events is measured, for example, by the number of visitors (e.g. Biodiversity Day, Fruit Tree Day, various educational offers), the success of hands-on activities by the number of helpers, the hours worked by the volunteers (e.g. dry grassland maintenance, meadow maintenance) and the area worked.

4.5 What are the main factors that influenced (positively or negatively) the successes of conservation efforts in the entire biosphere reserve? Given the experiences and lessons learned in the past ten years, what new strategies or approaches will be most effective for conservation for sustainable development?

The influencing factors have not changed significantly in the last ten years and can be described as follows:

The strong fragmentation of the area due to streets and urban sprawl, the high pressure of use due to intensive leisure and recreational use, as well as the many different usage interests that collide in the region in general, are seen as a negative influence on nature conservation tasks. The size of the area also makes it difficult to implement nature conservation tasks in some cases, as not all areas can be worked on equally.

The affluent, educated and interested population, which is mainly at home in Vienna's outskirts and the immediate suburbs of the city, has a positive effect. The location allows access to numerous potential partner farms for various cooperations and also produces career changers who settle in the Vienna Woods, e.g. as farmers. The proximity to numerous secondary schools, universities and research institutions creates access to young, interested people on the one hand, e.g. for guided tours, lectures and hands-on activities, and on the other hand also provides valuable research data and results.

An advantage is also seen in the large number of different landowners, which entail different orientations of cultivation. In this way, goals that are more compatible with the protected area can be pursued in some cases than in normal, large-scale commercial forests. For example, the areas of MA 49 (Forestry and Agricultural Department of the City of Vienna) are primarily managed from the point of view of recreation and nature conservation.

The EU funding programme (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development - EAFRD) provides access to funding for nature conservation issues and provides great financial support for the projects in the biosphere reserve.

The strategy of the BR Management for the best possible support of nature conservation tasks is to raise awareness and educate for sustainable development. Information measures such as guided tours, school lessons and excursions are intended to awaken an understanding of nature and its interrelationships and thus achieve a change in behaviour.

4.6 Other comments/observations from a biosphere reserve perspective.

The good cooperation with regional and local political decision-makers (city councilor, state councilor, mayors, district heads) as well as with the representatives of the supervisory board of the BR Management is important and responsible for the success of the initiatives and projects in the nature conservation sector in the region. The close cooperation with the MAB National Committee makes many research projects possible.

5. THE DEVELOPMENT FUNCTION:

[This refers to programmes that address sustainability issues at the individual livelihood and community levels, including economic trends in different sectors that drive the need to innovate and/or adapt, the main adaptive strategies being implemented within the biosphere reserve, and initiatives to develop certain sectors such as tourism to complement and/or compensate for losses in other markets, employment, and community well-being over the past ten years]

5.1 Briefly describe the prevailing trends over the past decade in each main sector of the economic base of the biosphere reserve (e.g. agriculture and forest activities, renewable resources, non-renewable resources, manufacturing and construction, tourism and other service industries).

Agriculture and Forestry

In the agriculture and forestry sector, the share of employment has been steadily declining. For example, in Kaumberg - the municipality in the Wienerwald with the highest share in this sector - 14.5% of the 15 - 64 age group were still employed in agriculture and forestry in 2015, whereas

by 2022 this figure had dropped to only 8.8%. In general, the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve reflects the wider trend: fewer but larger farms with increasing use of machinery. Unprofitable land is being abandoned.

Given the great landscape diversity in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve, its preservation poses a considerable challenge. Since traditional farmland and managed forests play an important role for both the landscape and biodiversity, reduced use and management increase the risk of land becoming overgrown and meadows losing their species richness. On the other hand, there is a positive trend toward new forms of farming. These include more direct marketing of diversified products, market gardening, socio-economic enterprises with small farms and gardens, as well as a rise in organic farming.

In viticulture in particular, the trend toward further ecological practices is noticeable. Among the winegrowers participating in the wine award *DER WEIN*, there has been an increase in organically managed vineyards. The move toward greater regional identity, local autochthonous varieties, and higher quality is a positive development.

Industry and Crafts

In industry and crafts, the share of employment has remained relatively stable in recent years. In 2022, this share ranged from 36% in Weissenbach an der Triesting to 7.3% in Vienna-Währing. The larger enterprises in the region are in the food sector (e.g., Vöslauer – Ottakringer (mineral water, beer), NÖM Baden (milk, dairy products), Fleischwaren Berger, Sieghartskirchen (meat, sausages), Schlumberger GmbH (sparkling wine, spirits) in Vienna-Döbling) and in the metal processing industry (e.g., Wittmann Battenfeld GmbH, Kottlingbrunn; Leobersdorfer Maschinenfabrik GmbH; Berndorf Band GmbH). Numerous small and medium-sized enterprises are active in the construction sector and related trades.

Despite the dominance of forests in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve, no significant timber industry has developed. Wood from the Wienerwald is mainly used by wood fiber producers, sawmills, the pulp and paper industry, as well as the wood products, furniture, and construction industries. A portion of the harvested wood is also used for heat and power generation in biomass power plants.

Services

Unsurprisingly, the service sector accounts for the largest share of employment. The dominance of the City of Vienna and its surrounding area is very evident here. In 2022, Weissenbach an der Triesting had 61.5% of its employed population working in services, while Vienna-Währing recorded 92.5%, representing the two extremes within the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve.

In the tourism sector, overnight stays have increased slightly compared to 2015. However, the record figure of more than 3 million overnight stays achieved in 2019 in the municipalities and Vienna districts belonging to the Wienerwald BR has not been matched since. In 2024, around 2.65 million overnight stays were recorded. The Wienerwald Tourism Association (Lower Austria) focuses on nature experiences, culture, culinary, and health, while Vienna Tourism (*Wiener Tourismusverband*) emphasizes art and culture as well as Vienna's role as a meeting destination.

Renewable Energy and Resources

Thanks to federal subsidies, recent years have seen a strong increase in photovoltaic systems, both in private households and in community installations. Numerous renewable energy communities have established themselves in order to be able to trade the climate-friendly

electricity generated within the community. In 2021, the legal framework for this was created at the federal level in Austria. As of July 2025, 38 energy communities in the Wienerwald BR are registered with the Austrian Coordination Office for Energy Communities (energiegemeinschaften.gv.at). A portion of the wood harvested in the Wienerwald is also used as a renewable energy source for heat and electricity generation in biomass power plants and private households.

Partner Enterprises

To strengthen regional products, services, and offers, as well as to increase and safeguard economic value creation in the region, the BR Management is continuously expanding its partner network of producing, processing, and marketing enterprises. As of July 2025, 39 partner enterprises are listed as “ambassadors” of the regional economy in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve. The 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) form the basis for the criteria for partner enterprises, which were developed through a participatory process in 2020.

5.2 Describe the tourism industry in the biosphere reserve. Has tourism increased or decreased since nomination or the last periodic review? What new projects or initiatives have been undertaken? What types of tourism activities? What effect have these activities had on the economy, ecology and society of the biosphere reserve? Are there any studies that examine whether designation of the area as a biosphere reserve has influenced the number of tourists? Please provide the bibliographic information of any studies and/or a paper copy in an annex.

The strongest indicator of tourism activity is the number of overnight stays in the region. Compared to 2015, a slight increase in overnight stays can be observed. However, the record result of more than 3 million overnight stays in 2019 (the “*pre-COVID level*”) in the municipalities and Vienna districts belonging to the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve has not been reached again. In 2024, around 2.65 million overnight stays were recorded.

The focus areas of the *Wienerwald Tourismus GmbH* (Lower Austria) are nature experiences, culture, culinary arts, and health. Joint product development with the BR Management has taken place on topics such as nature experiences and mountain biking. Further areas of focus - such as hiking, fair behavior in nature, and regional food- are regularly coordinated and jointly presented on suitable occasions. The Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve is also anchored in the regional tourism strategy (<https://www.wienerwald.info/der-wald>).

Vienna Tourism (*Wiener Tourismusverband*) emphasizes art and culture as its core offering, as well as Vienna’s role as a meeting destination. Vienna Tourism has also developed a sustainability mission statement and promotes the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve under the heading “*See & Experience*” (<https://www.wien.info/de/sehen-erleben/rund-um-wien/wienerwald-365900>).

To date, it has not been possible to determine the extent to which the Biosphere Reserve status has increased tourist numbers. However, the growing number of international delegations visiting the Wienerwald BR for study purposes has certainly contributed to an increase in visitor numbers.

5.3 When applicable, describe other key sectors and uses such as agriculture, fishing, forestry. Have they increased or decreased since the nomination or the last periodic review? What kind of new projects or initiatives have been undertaken? What effect have they had on the economy and ecology of the biosphere reserve, and on its biodiversity? Are there any studies that examine whether designation as a biosphere reserve has influenced the frequency of its activities? If so, provide the bibliographic information of these studies and/or a paper copy in an annex.

In the agriculture and forestry sector, the share of employment has been steadily declining. For example, in Kaumberg - the municipality in the Wienerwald with the highest share in this sector - 14.5% of the 15 - 64 age group were still employed in agriculture and forestry in 2015, whereas by 2022 this figure had dropped to only 8.8%. In general, the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve reflects the wider trend: fewer but larger farms with increasing use of machinery. Unprofitable land is being abandoned.

The largest areas within the Biosphere Reserve are used for forestry, but in the northwest there are extensive contiguous arable land areas (10% of the Wienerwald BR), in the southwest grassland use dominates (11.9%), and in the east, from Klosterneuburg via Döbling to Bad Vöslau, viticulture (1.6%) plays a significant role (Source: AMA 2020b). In Vienna, the Nussberg and Maurerberg vineyards are part of the Wienerwald BR and are known for the Viennese specialty “*Gemischter Satz DAC*.” The Thermenregion winegrowing area (*Thermenregion DAC*) covers 2,181 hectares of vineyards and stretches from the outskirts of Vienna along a chain of hills with the Anninger as its highest elevation, down to the south of Baden. The most important grape varieties are the indigenous *Zierfandler* (also called *Spätrot*) and *Rotgipfler*, while in the south red wine varieties such as *Sankt Laurent* and *Pinot Noir* dominate.

Given the great landscape diversity in the Wienerwald BR, its preservation poses a considerable challenge. Since traditional farmland and managed forests play an important role in the landscape and biodiversity, reduced use and management increase the risk of land becoming overgrown and meadows losing their species richness.

On the other hand, there is a positive trend toward new forms of farming: more direct marketing of diversified products, market gardening, socio-economic enterprises with small-scale agriculture and horticulture, as well as an increase in organic farming. In viticulture in particular, the trend toward further ecological practices is especially noticeable.

Projects and Activities in Open Land

Wiesenmeister – Meadow Partners

From 2006 to 2018, the “*Wiesenmeisterschaft*” (Meadow Championship) annually recognized the most ecologically sustainable meadows, pastures, and orchards in the Wienerwald, showcasing their managers, while also including evaluation criteria such as commitment to direct marketing and educational activities. The aim was to highlight the work of farmers in preserving landscapes and ecologically valuable habitats and species, and to raise awareness among the general public. At the same time, the population - as “meadow partners” - was encouraged to appreciate the value of meadows and to behave responsibly as visitors. For this reason, meadow tours were organized in cooperation with farmers from the respective “Wiesenmeister” municipalities/districts for the local population and for all school classes. Although the championship itself could not be continued, the excursion programme still exists. Currently, “Meadow Action Days” are organized to raise awareness among people about the value of meadows and appropriate visitor behavior.

Wienerwald Hay Exchange

Another initiative is the “*Heubörse Wienerwald*” (Wienerwald Hay Exchange). This is an association of hay-producing farms to improve hay marketing for the growing number of horse farms in the region. Most hay meadows are supported under the Austrian Agri-Environmental Programme (ÖPUL) with funding from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. This ensures ecological management and contributes positively to biodiversity. A separate project on the management of the problematic plant *Colchicum autumnale* (autumn crocus) was carried out by the BR Management in cooperation with the Hay Exchange and financed by the Lower Austrian Landscape Fund. The results of the project and the study (Rötzer, Steurer, Zipper: *Practical Trials for the Regulation of Autumn Crocus on ÖPUL Conservation Grasslands*) are available at: <https://www.bpww.at/de/herbstzeitlose>.

A new initiative links the conservation of increasingly rare wet meadows with improved marketing of the biomass harvested from these areas. Various utilization options are being discussed and applied to make the management of these sites economically viable. A workshop with farmers already took place in 2025, and another is planned for autumn 2025.

Biosphere Reserve Wienerwald – DER WEIN

The annual wine award “*DER WEIN*” aims, on the one hand, to connect the Wienerwald with the theme of wine, since its eastern and northern foothills host excellent vineyards within a diverse and livable landscape. On the other hand, the award seeks to strengthen the region-specific wine varieties from the three wine-growing regions of the Biosphere Reserve: Thermenregion and Wagram/Großlage Klosterneuburg in Lower Austria, and Vienna.

To promote sustainable viticulture and create a unique feature compared to other wine awards, since 2017 only wines produced organically, or under the standards of ÖPUL (Austrian Agri-Environmental Programme) or Sustainable Austria (*Nachhaltig Austria*), have been eligible for submission. At the award ceremony for the best wines, the winegrowers also adopt “patronage” of a particular species occurring in their vineyards. In this way, viticulture is directly linked with biodiversity.

Projects and Initiatives - Forest

Over the past ten years, considerations and challenges of climate-adapted forest management have become clearly evident. Pilot sites for **climate-adapted forest management** were established and implemented as part of the completed project “*ADAPT II Wienerwald*”, in cooperation with BOKU University, the Austrian Federal Forests, and the BR Management. At different locations, possible management recommendations developed by the Institute of Silviculture at BOKU University were applied. The goal of these measures is to promote tree species diversity.

At one site, for example, a formerly beech-dominated stand is being converted into a mixed deciduous forest with shares of pine (*Pinus sylvestris*). The tree species mix represents a form of risk minimization in times of climate crisis. Other large enterprises in the region, such as the Forestry and Agricultural Department of the City of Vienna, are also addressing the challenges of the climate crisis. Differences in objectives compared to the Austrian Federal Forests (*ÖBf AG*) explain varying approaches to forest management. While *ÖBf AG* is legally bound to economic sustainability and profit orientation, the City of Vienna prioritizes forest conservation to continuously fulfill welfare functions. This results in guidelines atypical for standard forestry practices, such as recognizing the equal value of all tree species and reducing forest management interventions to only what is necessary to maintain and improve resilience. A wide variety of tree

species is intended here as well to minimize risks, and forest management is pursued more strongly in the spirit of continuous-cover forestry. Both enterprises primarily rely on natural regeneration, emphasizing the genetic diversity of old trees and the use of epigenetic aspects.

A comparatively recent factor considered in commercial forests is **deadwood**. While a few years ago deadwood was valued almost exclusively as an element of biodiversity, today it is increasingly recognized as a crucial element of water retention. Empirical trials and field observations have confirmed its sponge-like water storage capacity, which has now been integrated into forestry practice.

A central challenge, addressed beyond the boundaries of the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve, has been the **issue of tree liability** in Austrian forests. No legal changes have yet been made for forests, but among Austrian legal experts, the significance of trees and forests in times of climate crisis is being increasingly acknowledged. For trees outside forests, the Austrian National Council has passed a liability relief in favor of tree owners. The BR Management is actively involved in this issue through the “Baumkonvention” (Tree Convention) platform and contributes to organizing events to ensure that knowledge and the latest legal insights are translated into practice (see also <https://baumkonvention.at/>).

In recent years, numerous Climate and Energy Model Regions (KEM) and Climate Change Adaptation Model Regions (KLAR!) have also recognized the importance of forests within their scope. In various constellations and forms of cooperation, efforts have first focused especially on municipalities and **community-owned forests**. The level of knowledge and opportunities for participation vary widely. In most cases, partnerships for knowledge transfer and awareness-raising are preferred and recognized as future fields of joint action. Municipalities with significant forest holdings have usually established clearer structures. However, in discussions - and especially before on-the-ground measures are implemented - municipal decision-makers still express noticeable concerns about possible “complaints from recreation seekers.” The shared goal must be to implement technically necessary and meaningful forest management measures to meet the future challenges of climate change.

Since 1994, Austria has awarded the **National Prize for Exemplary Forest Management**. In 2022, the *National Forest Prize* appeared in a new format with six new categories and a diverse jury of experts. The Austrian National Forest Prize is awarded to enterprises and projects distinguished by innovative and sustainable initiatives. Depending on the category, the prize emphasizes ecological, economic, and social sustainability, as well as economic viability and value creation. With the redesign of the award and the introduction of the category “*Sustainable Forestry*”, the jury was also newly appointed. The Wienerwald BR Management serves as one of four jury members for this category.

5.4 How do economic activities in the biosphere benefit local communities?

Internal:

Wherever possible, the BR Management commissions regional businesses for production or services (e.g., buffets, catering, printed materials, bus rentals) and also purchases beverages, wines, flowers, or gifts from regional suppliers and producers. Likewise, BR events (e.g., wine awards, information sessions, festivals, retreats) are held at Biosphere Reserve partner businesses or other enterprises in the region. Partner businesses are promoted in BR media and personally recommended within the region. BR education partners also come from the region, and their

work is supported by promoting their guided tours and excursions in the programme folder as well as on the website and other media (e.g., newspaper, newsletter) (see 5.9).

Landscape conservation through agricultural and forestry management:

Mowing and grazing of meadows and pastures, along with sustainable forestry, are prerequisites for preserving the characteristic Wienerwald landscape, which also serves various recreational and leisure purposes. Local and regional products offered directly by farmers or in farm shops are also an important economic factor. This makes the region attractive for visitors and has a positive impact on local tourism businesses.

Prosperous region:

The dominant economic sectors (see 5.1) in this highly prosperous peri-urban region are not directly influenced by BR Management, nor is there a dedicated programme for them. Enterprises are owned by individual entrepreneurs, companies, associations, or international corporations. Jobs are plentiful both within the Wienerwald BR and nearby, with intensive commuter flows between Vienna and the surrounding area. Accordingly, regional tax revenues are also high, benefitting municipalities and the region to some extent. However, there are considerable differences among municipalities, as they vary in the number of businesses and jobs available. The City of Vienna and the municipalities along the eastern BR boundary (along the railway and highway from Vienna to the south) are generally better equipped.



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5.5 How do you assess the effectiveness of actions or strategies applied?

(Describe the methods, indicators).

The BR Management does not have any special tools to measure effectiveness in the area of the development function. However, the effectiveness of measures and activities in this area is assessed, for example, via feedback forms during guided tours and excursions.

BR Management's support for regional economic projects can be measured by the independence and success of the respective initiatives. It is essential to leave 100% responsibility for the activities and their implementation with the people involved. This motivates them to act sustainably in their own interest, promotes their own initiative even more strongly and makes the best possible use of the biosphere reserve resources brought in for technical and logistical support. The "Wienerwald Weiderind" project, which was still going well in 2015, was unfortunately not viable, and the initiative has already been discontinued.

5.6 Community economic development initiatives. What programmes exist to promote comprehensive strategies for economic innovation, change, and adaptation within the biosphere reserve, and to what extent are they implemented?

As already mentioned under 5.4., the Wienerwald BR Management does not have its own programme for the promotion of economic initiatives. This is done primarily at the level of the States of Vienna and Lower Austria or at the national level. For example, the cluster initiatives in Lower Austria (<https://www.ecoplus.at/vernetzen>), the offers of the Energy and Environment Agency of Lower Austria (<https://www.enu.at/>) or the offers of the Vienna Business Agency (<https://wirtschaftsagentur.at/>) and OekoBusiness Vienna (<https://unternehmen.oekobusiness.wien.at/>). Other initiatives are supported by the Austrian Climate and Energy Fund (Climate Model Regions, <https://www.klimafonds.gv.at/>), the LEADER programme (<https://www.zukunftsraumland.at/themen/leader/leader-in-oesterreich/>) as well as the Biodiversity Fund (<https://www.biodiversitaetsfonds.com/>) and the Forest Fund (<https://www.waldfonds.at/>). Some of these programmes are actively addressed by the BR Management, mediated or used in their own projects.

In addition, there are various regional and local actions, programmes and initiatives of various partner organisations in the BR region, which are networked in the Regional Forum or Participation Advisory Board of the Wienerwald BR (see 2.3.4).

The BR Management sets an example in its own sphere of activity and, for example, from the very beginning attached importance to printed matter sustainably produced in the region. Only sustainably managed partner wineries and sustainably produced wines are awarded.

Likewise, at the "Day of Biodiversity" and other events of its own, extensive activities are set to make it an eco-event (see 2.3.3 and <http://www.oekoevent.at/>) or a "clean festival" (<https://sauberhaftefeste.at/>).

5.7 Local business or other economic development initiatives. Are there specific “green” alternatives being undertaken to address sustainability issues? What relationships (if any) are there among these different activities?

In order to strengthen the regional, sustainably produced products, offers and services in the region, the BR Management is successively expanding the partner network. As of July 2025, 39 partner companies are listed as "ambassadors" for the regional economy in the Wienerwald BR. The 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the basis for the criteria for partner companies developed in 2020. A focus is also placed on socio-economic enterprises that operate ecologically, economically and socially sustainably. The BR Management is thus creating and advertising an offer for sustainable consumption in the region. Cooperation between the partner companies is supported and the companies are regularly networked by the BR Management (see photo, networking event for partner companies 2024).



CR BPWW/N. Novak

A common platform has been created with the initiative "More regionality for your guest" of the Wienerwald Tourism Association. Regional businesses and tourism businesses are networked in order to promote a sustainable and regional range of food in domestic tourism businesses. The partner companies of the Wienerwald-BR are involved accordingly.

The award of sustainable wines in the region and the DER WEIN competition have already been mentioned several times in this report (see e.g. 5.3).

Also worth mentioning at this point are the activities of the regional initiatives cooperating with the BR Management (LEADER, climate model regions, etc.). These are often dedicated to sustainable economic development, often in connection with climate protection and biodiversity. In particular, the LEADER programme (Liason entre Actions de Développement de l'Economie Rurale) is a funding instrument created by the European Union for the "linking of actions for the development of the rural economy" and thus for the strengthening and further development of rural areas. The European Union has been supporting model projects in rural areas since 1991 with the LEADER approach (see 2.4.1).

Further initiatives at the level of the States of Vienna and Lower Austria as well as at the national level are already described under 5.6.

5.8 Describe the main changes (if there are any) in terms of cultural values (religious, historical, political, social, ethnological) and others, if possible with distinction between material and intangible heritage.

(c.f. UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage 1972 and UNESCO Convention for the Safeguard of the Intangible Cultural Heritage 2003 (http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=13055&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html and http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=17716&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)).

The importance of the historical-cultural heritage is high, both in its intangible and material value (see 2.3.5 – 2.3.7). There have been no changes in recent years in terms of appreciation and importance.

5.9 Community support facilities and services. What programmes in/for the biosphere reserve address issues such as job preparation and skills training, health and social services, and social justice questions. What are the relationships among them and with community economic development?

Throughout Austria, special governmental and non-governmental organisations deal with vocational education and training, health care and social equality. The BR Management offers the following education, training and information opportunities in the region:

Biosphere Reserve Education Partners - Training for Educators:

Since 2008, BR Management has been offering training in the field of further education on the subject of biosphere reserves for people who are already active in educational work (e.g. nature guides, tourist guides, forest educators). In the course of the 5-day training, the participants learn the basics of the Vienna Woods Biosphere Reserve, its goals and tasks in a theoretical part. Within the framework of several excursions, companies from a wide variety of economic sectors are visited and the idea of a model region for sustainability is made tangible and comprehensible on the basis of these examples. As a final thesis, the future BR education partners are planning their own guided tour with suitable Wienerwald BR inputs. The written documents for the BR training are constantly revised and made available in a folder. A total of around 150 educational partners have been trained since 2015. The offers of the active educational partners will continue to be combined in an annual programme.

Guided tour programme of the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve:

Since 2009, educational, excursion and activity offers have been collected annually from the circle of certified BR education partners and published annually in a comprehensive programme booklet for visitors and the population. In the 2025 visitor programme, 27 educational partners are offering over 224 activities and guided tours.

Dry stone wall construction:

As part of the "Dry Stone Wall Construction" project, courses are offered for practical learning of the construction of dry stone walls (see 2.3.5.).

Partners:

With the deliberate expansion of the network of partner companies to include socio-economic companies, the BR Management supports the integration of people with disabilities or people with difficulties in finding place in the regular labour market. This makes an active contribution to the integration of these people into the learning and working process.

Other examples:

Furthermore, Biosphere Reserve employees regularly give lectures as part of various courses at universities or colleges. Subject-specific excursions are also offered for students, university students or research groups from Austria and abroad.

5.10 What indicators are in place to assess the effectiveness of activities aiming to foster sustainable development? What have these indicators shown?

Currently, there are no separate indicators to measure the effectiveness of sustainable development activities. In such a very dynamic urban region that is so strongly dependent on external conditions, it is not possible to attribute relevant effects to BR status alone. At the national and regional level, there are numerous programmes that serve the goals of the Wienerwald BR, but are not directly implemented by the BR Management.

Currently, however, an Austria-wide set of indicators is being discussed in a working group within the framework of the MAB National Committee.

Monitoring instruments at the national level are used to monitor basic data and developments. These are, for example:

<https://www.statistik.at/atlas/>

<https://klimadashboard.at/>

<https://www.energiemosaik.at/karten>

<https://www.resy-dashboard.at/>

5.11 What are the main factors that influenced (positively or negatively) the success of development efforts in the entire biosphere reserve? Given the experiences and lessons learned in the past ten years, what new strategies or approaches will be most effective?

The involvement of the City of Vienna has a positive effect on the activities and efforts within the development function of the Wienerwald BR, as the geographical proximity facilitates access to research institutions, potential sponsors and cooperation partners. The activities and programmes of the two States of Lower Austria and Vienna as well as national programmes with a focus on sustainable development also provide support for the model region (see 5.6, 5.7).

The population of the region tends to be well educated and there is an increased willingness to deal with the topic of sustainability (at least theoretically), which can create an understanding of the goals and tasks of the Vienna Woods Biosphere Reserve. The numerous organisations and institutions active in the region mean a large number of activities and programmes for the further development of the region, especially in the areas of regional development, climate protection, climate change adaptation, nature conservation, education, tourism, mobility and energy.

However, many different regional decision-makers, landowners and administrative units also mean a high coordination effort for all organisations active in the region. A platform for this will be created in the Regional Forum (Participation Advisory Board) of the Wienerwald BR. In the current strategic development for the next 10 years, "**cooperation**" and **joint "governance"** are therefore being pushed as the main thrust and seem to be the most effective way.



Photos: Strategy workshop with regional cooperation partners, 2025, CR BPWW/A. Weiss

6. THE LOGISTIC FUNCTION:

[This refers to programmes that enhance the capacity of people and organizations in the biosphere reserve to address both conservation and development issues for sustainable development as well as research, monitoring, demonstration projects and education needed to deal with the specific context and conditions of the biosphere reserve.]

6.1 Describe the main institutions conducting research or monitoring in the biosphere reserve, and their programmes. Comment on organizational changes (if any) in these institutions over the past ten years as they relate to their work in the biosphere reserve.

As can be seen under 2.4.6 and 6.2, numerous research and monitoring projects have been and are taking place in the Wienerwald BR. The researchers and other cooperation partners in relevant activities can be assigned to the following institutions:

- BOKU University (Universität für Bodenkultur Wien / University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna) (www.boku.ac.at/)
- Universität Wien (University of Vienna) (www.univie.ac.at/en/)
- Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften (Austrian Academy of Sciences) (www.oeaw.at/)
- Umweltbundesamt (Environment Agency Austria) (www.umweltbundesamt.at)
- Geosphere Austria (Geosphere Austria) (<https://www.geosphere.at/>)
- Hochschule für nachhaltige Entwicklung Eberswalde (Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development) (<https://www.hnee.de/en/>)
- Tiergarten Schönbrunn (Schönbrunn Zoo) (www.zoovienna.at/e/)
- Naturhistorisches Museum Wien (Natural History Museum Vienna) (www.nhm-wien.ac.at)
- Museum Niederösterreich – Haus für Natur (Museum of Lower Austria – House of Nature) (<https://www.museumnoe.at/en/haus-fuer-natur>)
- Land Niederösterreich, Amt der NÖ Landesregierung, Abteilung Wissenschaft und Forschung – Themenbörse (State of Lower Austria, Office of the Provincial Government, Department of Science and Research – Project Exchange) (<https://www.themenboerse.at/>)
- Stadt Wien – Magistratsdirektion der Stadt Wien, Büro des Magistratsdirektors, Bereich Wissenschaft, Forschung und Wirtschaftsstandort – Plattform für Abschlussarbeiten (City of Vienna – Office of the City Director, Department of Science, Research and Business Location – Platform for Theses) (<https://stp.wien.gv.at/abschlussarbeiten/app/#/abschlussarbeiten/app/home>)
- Forst- und Landwirtschaftsbetrieb der Stadt Wien (Municipal Department of Forestry and Agriculture of the City of Vienna) (<https://www.wien.gv.at/kontakte/ma49/index.html>)
- Veterinärmedizinische Universität Wien (University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna) (<https://www.vetmeduni.ac.at/>)
- Bundesforschungs- und Ausbildungszentrum für Wald, Naturgefahren und Landschaft (Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape – BFW) (<https://www.bfw.gv.at>)
- Österreichische Bundesforste (Austrian Federal Forests) (<https://www.bundesforste.at/>)
- Obst- und Weinbauschule Klosterneuburg (College for Viticulture and Pomology, Klosterneuburg) (<https://www.weinobst.at/>)
- Bundesdenkmalamt Restaurierwerkstätten Baudenkmalpflege Kartause Mauerbach (Austrian Federal Monuments Authority – Restoration Workshops, Carthusian Monastery of Mauerbach) (<https://www.baudenkmalpflege.at/>)

- Institut für angewandte Systemanalyse (IIASA), Laxenburg (International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Laxenburg) (<https://iiasa.ac.at/>)
- Donau-Universität Krems (University for Continuing Education Krems / Danube University Krems) (<https://www.donau-uni.ac.at/>)
- Universität Klagenfurt (University of Klagenfurt) (<https://www.aau.at/>)
- Fachhochschule Kärnten (Carinthia University of Applied Sciences – UNESCO Chair for Sustainable Development) (<https://www.fh-kaernten.at/weiterbildung/unesco-chair>)
- Universität Innsbruck (University of Innsbruck) (<https://www.uibk.ac.at/>)

The BR Management does not operate any research institutions itself and has no organizational influence on the above-mentioned ones. However, any changes in the organization are not relevant for the work in the Wienerwald BR, as the research institutes in this region are very consistent and any changes do not affect the quality of cooperation.

6.2 Summarize the main themes of research and monitoring undertaken over the past ten years and the area(s) in which they were undertaken in order to address specific questions related to biosphere reserve management and for the implementation of the management plan (please refer to variables in Annex I).

(For each specific topic provide reference citations. Provide the full citations alphabetically by lead author at the end of Section 6 or in a separate annex).

Title	Authors	Topic/Content	zone
Habichtskauz Wiederansiedlung; Ural Owl Reintroduction	Zink, R.	See section 4.2	Core zone, Buffer zone
ABOL - Austrian Barcode of Life;	N. Szucsich	Genetic diversity	Core zone, Transition zone, Buffer zone
ACORN - Saatgutquellen für anpassungsfähige Eichenwälder im Klimawandel; Acorns - Seed Sources for Climate-Adapted Oak Forests	S. Jansen	Study of genetic diversity of oak and its potential under climate change	Core zone, Buffer zone
ADAPT 2W - Einfluss des Klimawandels auf die Wälder im Biosphärenpark Wienerwald; ADAPT 2W - Impact of Climate Change on Forests in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve	M. J. Lexer	Recommendations for forest management under climate crisis	Buffer zone
ADAPT 2W - Einfluss des Klimawandels auf die Wälder im Biosphärenpark Wienerwald - Pilotflächen; ADAPT 2W - Impact of Climate Change on Forests in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve – Pilot Areas	M. J. Lexer et al.	Establishment of pilot plots with ongoing monitoring for excursions and discussions	Buffer zone

Title	Authors	Topic/Content	zone
Amphibien im Wienerwald, Citizen Science mit Schulklassen; Amphibians in the Wienerwald – Citizen Science with School Classes	ÖBf AG	Amphibian monitoring with educational activities for school classes	Buffer zone
ArtenReich Streuobstwiese - Citizen Science; Species-Rich Orchard Meadows – Citizen Science	ÖBf AG funded via service contract with Land NÖ;	Species documentation in orchard meadows by citizen scientists	Transition zone, Buffer zone
Attitudes and satisfaction of ethnic groups regarding the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve: A pilot study towards the integrative function of peri-urban protected areas;	Muhar, A., Höglhammer, A., Stokowski, P., Schauppenlehner, T., Renner, J., Yalcintepe, E.	Attitudes and satisfaction of ethnic groups regarding the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve	
Basismonitoring in den Kernzonen des Biosphärenpark Wienerwald; Core zone Basic Monitoring in the Wienerwald BR	BPWW Management GmbH	Monitoring of woody vegetation states and developments	Core zone
Besucherfrequenzen in ausgewählten Waldbereichen des Wienerwald BR mit Fokus auf Nutzung durch MTB; Visitor Frequencies in Selected Forest Areas of the Wienerwald BR with Focus on Mountain Bike Use	A. Arnberger et al.	Quantification of non-consensual use to develop management strategies	Core zone
BiKoS – Biodiversität, Kooperation und Synergien in den NÖ Großschutzgebieten - Erhebungen von Fledermäusen in ausgewählten Kernzonen; BiKoS – Biodiversity, Cooperation and Synergies in the Lower Austrian Large Protected Areas – Bat Surveys in Selected Core zones	tbd	Survey and comparison of bat occurrences across protected areas; initial surveys available in BR	Core zone
BiKoS – Biodiversität, Kooperation und Synergien in den NÖ Großschutzgebieten - Laufkäferkartierungen in ausgewählten Kernzonen; BiKoS – Biodiversity, Cooperation and Synergies in the Lower Austrian Large Protected Areas – Ground Beetle Surveys in Selected Core zones	tbd	Survey and comparison of ground beetle occurrences across protected areas; initial surveys available in BR	Core zone

Title	Authors	Topic/Content	zone
BIOS – Verjüngungs- und Totholzodynamik; BIOS – Regeneration and Deadwood Dynamics	E. Hochbichler	Light requirements for regeneration and decomposition rates of beech and oak deadwood	Buffer zone
Biosphärenpark Wienerwald Kernzonen Basis-Monitoring, Wiederholungsaufnahme 2017-2019; Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve Core zones Basic Monitoring, Repeat Survey 2017-2019	E. Hochbichler, Z. Trailovic	Evaluation of conditions and developments	Core zone
Biosphärenpark Wienerwald Kernzonen Basis-Monitoring, Wiederholungsaufnahme 2020-2022; Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve Core zones Basic Monitoring, Repeat Survey 2020-2022	E. Hochbichler, Z. Trailovic, J. Jägersberger	Evaluation of conditions and developments	Core zone
Biosphärenpark Wienerwald Kernzonen Basis-Monitoring, Zusammenfassung der Erhebungen 2017-2019 und 2020-2022; Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve Core zones Basic Monitoring, Summary of Surveys 2017-2019 and 2020-2022	E. Hochbichler, Z. Trailovic, J. Jägersberger	Comparative evaluation of conditions and developments across all BR core zones	Core zone
Biosphere People - Einstellung der lokalen Bevölkerung zum Biosphärenpark Wienerwald; Biosphere People – Attitudes of the Local Population Towards the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve	R. Eder, A. Arnberger, et al.	Attitudes of the local population towards the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve	
Biosphere Reserve Integrated Monitoring based on Social and Environmental Ecosystem Services - BRIMSEN;	T. Wrba, C. Brandenburg, et al.	Integrated monitoring of biosphere reserves based on social and environmental ecosystem services	Transition zone, Buffer zone
BirdLife Vogelmonitoring in der Kernzone Hoher Lindkogel; BirdLife Bird Monitoring in the Core zone Hoher Lindkogel	ÖBf AG funded via service contract with Land NÖ;	Ongoing bird monitoring on standardized routes	Core zone
Blick ins Dickicht, Citizen Science, Haselmaus Muscardinus avellanarius; Glimpse into the Thicket – Citizen Science, Hazel	ÖBf AG funded via service contract with Land NÖ;	Monitoring hazel dormouse populations with citizen scientists	Buffer zone

Title	Authors	Topic/Content	zone
Dormouse Muscardinus avellanarius;			
CLIFF - CLimate Fit Forests, Krankheiten und Schädlinge an Baumarten für den klimafitten Wald der Zukunft; CLIFF – Climate-Fit Forests, Tree Diseases and Pests for Future Climate-Resilient Forests	Federal Research Centre for Forests, BOKU University	Challenges in forest protection for selected tree species	Buffer zone
ClimBee: Über den Einfluss des Klimawandels auf wildlebende Bestäuber; ClimBee: Impact of Climate Change on Wild Pollinators	B. Pachinger	Effects of climate warming on wild bee community composition	Core zone, Transition zone, Buffer zone
Combining Remote Sensing Data for Habitat Mapping and Monitoring on a Regional Scale – the SEMONA RELOADED Project;	A. Iglseder, M. Lechner, M. Immitzer, et al.	Use of satellite data for habitat mapping and regional monitoring	Buffer zone
Conservation under Climate Change: Challenges, Constraints and Solutions;	Zulka, K. P., Baumgartner, C., Bieringer, et al.	Challenges for nature conservation under climate change	Buffer zone
ENESUS - Experimental Networks for Sustainability Urban Biosphere Reserves as engines of transformation;	M. Coy, B. Macher, A. Kratzer, U. Ammering, N. Weixlbaumer	Network analysis in biosphere reserves to enhance sustainability	Buffer zone
EO4Forest;	M. Immitzer	Use of satellite data to assess land cover and tree species composition	Core zone, Buffer zone
Erfassung, Verwaltung und Darstellung der Biodiversität in den niederösterreichischen Großschutzgebieten - Totholzkäferkartierungen; Recording, Management and Presentation of Biodiversity in the Lower Austrian Large Protected Areas – Deadwood Beetle Mapping	S. Aurenhammer, et al.	Discussion and comparison of deadwood beetle surveys in Lower Austrian protected areas	Core zone
ERNI MTB - Empfehlungen MTB-Konzepte; ERNI MTB – Recommendations for Mountain Bike Concepts	F. Heckl et al.	Wienerwald BR as a model region for sustainable mountain biking; experiences and discussion for nationwide implementation	Buffer zone

Title	Authors	Topic/Content	zone
Evaluierung von Maßnahmen zur Lenkung von MountainbikerInnen in Kernzonen des Biosphärenpark Wienerwald; Evaluation of Measures to Guide Mountain Bikers in Core zones of the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve	ÖBf AG funded via service contract with Land NÖ; , Wienerwald BR Management	Testing measures to manage mountain biking in core zones and prevent conflicting use	Core zone
Feuersalamander; Fire Salamander	B. Rojas et al.	Occurrence, behavior, and studies of a typical species of the Wienerwald BR	Core zone, Transition zone, Buffer zone
Feuersalamander - Untersuchungen zum Vorkommen von Bsal im Biosphärenpark Wienerwald; Fire Salamander – Studies on Bsal Occurrence in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve	B. Rojas et al.	In-depth analysis of pathogen occurrence	Core zone, Transition zone, Buffer zone
Fledermaus-Monitoring an ausgewählten Standorten im Biosphärenpark Wienerwald; Bat Monitoring at Selected Locations in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve	ÖBf AG funded via service contract with Land NÖ;	Monitoring in cooperation with hunting associations lookout posts; and ponds	Buffer zone
Förderung und Sicherung artenreicher Weideflächen im pannonischen Raum Ostösterreichs mit Schwerpunkt auf Dungkäfer koprophage Scarabaeidae; Promotion and Protection of Species-Rich Pastures in the Pannonian Region of Eastern Austria with Focus on Dung Beetles coprophagous Scarabaeidae;	V.I.N.C.A. - Institute for Nature Conservation Research and Ecology GmbH	Dung beetle diversity, food web network, and biodiversity maintained through grazing	Transition zone, Buffer zone
FORSITE II - Erarbeitung der ökologischen Grundlagen für eine dynamische Walddtypisierung in Oberösterreich, Niederösterreich und im Burgenland; FORSITE II – Development of Ecological Basis for a Dynamic Forest Typology in Upper Austria, Lower Austria, and Burgenland	H. Vacik	Recommendations for forest management under climate change	Buffer zone
GELEA - Gewässer als Lebensadern im Biosphärenpark Wienerwald;	BPWW Management GmbH	Overview of running waters, available data, and	Core zone, Transition zone,

Title	Authors	Topic/Content	zone
GELEA – Water Bodies as Lifelines in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve		recommendations for future measures	Buffer zone
Health Spaces - Biosphärenpark Landschaften und ihre Bedeutung für die Gesundheit: Analyse des Potenzials des Biosphärenparks Wienerwaldes hinsichtlich Lebensqualität und subjektivem Wohlbefinden; Health Spaces – Biosphere Reserve Landscapes and Their Importance for Health	Arnberger, A., Alex, B.	Analysis of the potential of Wienerwald BR landscapes regarding quality of life and subjective wellbeing	
HOBO - Waldbewirtschaftung im Klimawandel - Sicherung der Bodenfunktionen von Waldökosystemen durch standortsgerechte Holzernte; HOB0 – Forest Management under Climate Change: Securing Soil Functions of Forest Ecosystems through Site-Appropriate Timber Harvest	K. Katzensteiner	Study of different timber harvesting methods considering soil	Buffer zone
Hydromorphologische Gewässerkartierung; Hydromorphological Watercourse Mapping	ÖBf AG funded via service contract with Land NÖ; , Wienerwald BR Management	Mapping all running waters including occurrence of neophytes along them	Core zone, Transition zone, Buffer zone
Ingenieur-biologische Maßnahmen an Fließgewässern gegen Neophyten; Engineering-Biological Measures on Watercourses Against Neophytes	S. Hörbinger	Method testing for neophyte control	Transition zone, Buffer zone
Land cover classification and - monitoring of the Austrian Biosphere Reserves based on satellite data BRmon;	M. Immitzer, M. Lechner	Satellite-based land cover and monitoring in Austrian biosphere reserves	Core zone, Transition zone, Buffer zone
Landwirtschaftliche Kleinbetriebe zwischen Nachhaltigkeit und Globalisierung; Small Agricultural Farms Between Sustainability and Globalization	M. Groier, I. Machold, E. Loibl	Small farms balancing sustainability and globalization	
LTER-CWN - Long-Term Ecosystem Research Infrastructure for Carbon, Water and Nitrogen;	Federal Research Centre for Forests	Long-term observation plot within EU network	Buffer zone

Title	Authors	Topic/Content	zone
Management von Wildobst in Österreich als Chance für Waldbau und Biodiversität in Zeiten des Klimawandels; Management of Wild Fruit in Austria as an Opportunity for Forestry and Biodiversity in Times of Climate Change	H. Konrad, L. Andres, L. Afifi, S. Aspalter, W. Falk, M. Grabner, et al.	Genetic diversity of service tree, wild pear, and sorbus; potential under climate change	Transition zone, Buffer zone
MAXIMAL: Maximierung der C-Speicherung und Auswirkungen auf andere Zielsetzungen der Waldbewirtschaftung; MAXIMAL – Maximization of Carbon Storage and Impacts on Other Forest Management Goals	M. J. Lexer, T. Kainz, C. Hochauer	Forest management aimed at maximizing carbon storage; recommendations	Buffer zone
MetaFung - Biodiversitätserhebung Pilze und Bodenarthropoden; MetaFung – Biodiversity Survey of Fungi and Soil Arthropods	A. Urban, et al.	Fungal and soil arthropod diversity in Austrian protected areas	Core zone
Monitoring in Steinbrüchen im Biosphärenpark Wienerwald; Monitoring in Quarries in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve	ÖBf AG	Quarries as secondary habitats; species monitoring; measures to maintain open habitats	Buffer zone
Multihazards in Biosphere Reserves Management of multiple hydro climatic risks to improve the social ecological resilience - MultiBios;	V. Gaube, T. Thaler, et al.	Natural hazard management in biosphere reserves	Transition zone, Buffer zone
MykoResi - Resiliente Wälder durch Erhalt und Förderung von Mykorrhizapilzen; MykoResi – Resilient Forests through Preservation and Promotion of Mycorrhizal Fungi	M. Mayer	Occurrence and function of mycorrhizal fungi in forest ecosystems	Core zone, Transition zone, Buffer zone
NATURE-BASED ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS, Management against invasive alien plants - NABIS;	S. Hörbinger, E. Wiegele, et al.	Method testing for control of invasive alien plants	Transition zone, Buffer zone
OptForEU - Smart decisions for sustainable forest management;	M. Neumann et al.	Optimization of forest management for carbon storage and climate-resilient forests	Buffer zone
Perception and Reality of Recreational User Conflicts in the UNESCO Wienerwald BR;	R. Eder, A. Arnberger, H. Preisel	Identification of location-specific user conflicts	Buffer zone

Title	Authors	Topic/Content	zone
Photovoltaics, Humans and the Biosphere: A transdisciplinary approach fostering Alpine resilience - BioPV;	C. Hainz-Renetzeder, P. Scherhauser, et al.	Acceptance of open-space photovoltaic installations in BR	
Praxisversuche zur Regulierung der Herbstzeitlose auf naturschutzfachlich wertvollen Wiesen in der Region Wienerwald; Practical Trials to Control Autumn Crocus in Ecologically Valuable Meadows in the Wienerwald Region	H. Rötzer	Managing toxic autumn crocus in hay meadows	Transition zone, Buffer zone
SALBES - Scenarios for Agricultural Landscapes' Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;	T. Wrabka, et al.	Scenarios for agricultural landscapes' biodiversity and ecosystem services	
Schmetterlingsfauna im Gebiet „Waldandacht“ in der Biosphärenpark Wienerwald - Kernzone; Butterfly Fauna in the “Waldandacht” Area in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve – Core zone	P. Buchner	Monitoring occurring butterfly species	Core zone
ServeToPe - Steuerung von Ökosystemleistungen im Wienerwald; ServeToPe – Management of Ecosystem Services in the Wienerwald	K. Karner, M. Schönhart, et al.	Ecosystem services	all zones
STRATEGIE NAHERHOLUNG - Besucher*innenlenkung im Agglomerationsraum Wien; Recreation Strategy – Visitor Management in the Vienna Agglomeration	B. Schiesser, C. Brandenburg, U. Liebl, et al.	Visitor management and recreation planning	all zones
Tag der Artenvielfalt im Biosphärenpark Wienerwald - Artennachweise, Fundverwaltung; Day of Biodiversity in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve – Species Records and Database Management	BPWW Management GmbH	Biodiversity and species diversity	Core zone, Transition zone, Buffer zone
Totholz Sukzession – Leben im Totholz; Deadwood Succession – Life in Deadwood	W. Holzinger, et al.	Studies on deadwood beetles	Core zone

Title	Authors	Topic/Content	zone
Totholz Sukzession Lainzer Tiergarten; Deadwood Succession Lainzer Tiergarten	A. Urban	Studies on fungal diversity	Core zone
Transforming grasslands to achieve insect diversity restorative goals and human well-being DivRESTORE;	T. Frank, R. I. Hussain, R. Walcher, et al.	Benefits of flower strips for biodiversity and human perception	Transition zone, Buffer zone
Vogel-Diversität im Biosphärenpark Wienerwald; Bird Diversity in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve	S. Renner	Studies focused on great tits	Core zone, Buffer zone
Waldorchideen-Monitoring im Biosphärenpark Wienerwald; Forest Orchid Monitoring in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve	N. Novak	Monitoring species presence and protection for hotspots	Core zone, Transition zone, Buffer zone
Wissensvermittlung und -generierung zu Biodiversität am Beispiel des Tag der Artenvielfalt; Knowledge Transfer and Generation on Biodiversity Using the Example of the Day of Biodiversity	E. Aarden	Study of how biodiversity knowledge is created and conveyed	Buffer zone
WiWaKonKlim - Anpassung der zukünftigen Baumartenmischung des Wienerwaldes an mögliche Konsequenzen des Klimawandels aufgrund historischer Trockenstressreaktionen, ermittelt anhand von Standorts-, Boden- und Jahrringanalysen; WiWaKonKlim – Adapting Future Tree Species Mixture of the Wienerwald to Possible Climate Change Consequences Based on Historical Drought Stress Responses Using Site, Soil and Tree-Ring Analyses;	T. Berger et al.	Stress response of tree species under climate crisis	Core zone, Transition zone, Buffer zone
Bewirtschaftungsplan Wiesen Naturschutzgebiet Lainzer Tiergarten; 2024 – 2027; Management Plan for Meadows, Lainzer Tiergarten Nature Reserve 2024–2027;	Forest and Agriculture Department of the City of Vienna	Management plan for meadows in Lainzer Tiergarten Nature Reserve	Transition zone
Biodiversitätsvergleich extensive Ganzjahresweide – Magere Flachland-Mähwiese; 2023-2024; Biodiversity Comparison of	Forest and Agriculture Department of the City of Vienna	Biodiversity comparison between pasture types	Transition zone

Title	Authors	Topic/Content	zone
Extensive Year-Round Pasture vs. Lowland hay meadows 2023–2024;			
Erhebungen der Artenvielfalt im Wildrindergehege Lainzer Tiergarten Pilze, Käfer; 2021–2023; Species Diversity Surveys in the Wild Cattle Enclosure Lainzer Tiergarten Fungi, Beetles; 2021–2023;	Forest and Agriculture Department of the City of Vienna	Species diversity in the wild cattle enclosure	Transition zone



Photo: Research Morning – Bringing research results to people, CR BPWW/M. Kreiner

6.3 Describe how traditional and local knowledge and knowledge from relating to management practices have been collected, synthesized and disseminated. Explain how such knowledge is being applied to new management practices, and how and if it has been integrated into training and educational programmes.

The traditional knowledge of the construction of **dry stone walls** using the laying stone technique without binders is passed on in the courses offered.

The art of **scythe mowing** is increasingly being forgotten in Austria. One of the educational partners offers courses on scythe mowing for home use, in which he also reports on the different scythes and the correct sharpening technique.

As part of the **meadow championship**, the farmers managing the most beautiful meadows, pastures and orchards were awarded for their sustainable management until 2018. Meadow management is based on traditional knowledge and experience.

The **Schöpfklause Timber Drift and Forestry Museum** (*Holztrift- und Forstmuseum Schöpfklause*) in Klausen-Leopoldsdorf offers a very good overview of the construction and

operation of Europe's largest log drifting plant and forest use in past centuries (<https://www.holztriftmuseum.at/>) with the help of photos, plans, models and many exhibits.

Other museums in the Wienerwald also deal with old, traditional knowledge and skills, such as the **Wienerwald Museum** in Eichgraben (<https://www.wienerwaldmuseum.at/>), with which there are regular cooperations. Currently (July 2025) as part of the 20th anniversary of the recognition of the Wienerwald BR by UNESCO.

Individual offers from the annual programme folder of the BR Management also deal with old crafts and traditional knowledge with the aim of passing this on through practical application (see 5.9).

In the diverse biosphere reserve region, there are small, traditional craft businesses such as the partner company *Drechslerei Gutscher* (Woodturning) in Alt Lengbach (<http://www.drechslerei-gutscher.at/>) or the bookbinder and BR education partner *Dieter Halama* (<https://www.dieter-halama.at/buchbinden/>). As a partner company and educational partner, they are part of the Wienerwald BR network.

6.4 Environmental/sustainability education. Which are the main educational institutions (“formal” – schools, colleges, universities, and “informal” services for the general public) that are active in the biosphere reserve? Describe their programmes, including special school or adult education programmes, as these contribute towards the functions of the biosphere reserve. Comment on organizational changes (if any) in institutions and programmes that were identified in the biosphere reserve ten or so years ago (e.g. closed down, redesigned, new initiatives). Refer to programmes and initiatives of UNESCO Associated Schools networks, UNESCO Chairs and Centers where applicable.

There are currently 11 UNESCO schools in the Wienerwald BR region (nine in Vienna and two in Lower Austria). ÖKOLOG schools are schools that firmly embed environmental education and sustainability in their school programmes and everyday school life. There are currently 57 ÖKOLOG schools in the region (22 in Vienna and 35 in Lower Austria), compared to 39 in 2015.

The Austrian Ecolabel certifies schools and teacher training colleges that place particular importance on educational quality. These schools emphasize a strong commitment to environmental protection and sustainable and social school development. Organic, regional food, and health promotion are other key topics for the Ecolabel schools. There are currently 11 of these in the region, compared to just one in 2015.

Furthermore, many schools have joined one of the numerous "Focus Schools" initiatives, such as "Healthy School," with more than 30 in the Wienerwald BR. Many of these schools regularly participate in programmes run by the BR Management. For example, every third elementary school class can get a "Biosphere Reserve lesson." Furthermore, some schools are involved in landscape conservation projects organized by the BR Management as part of the "Biosphere Volunteers" initiative.



Photo: Certificate for exemplary nature conservation work, CR BPWW/J. Scheiblhofer

Over the past 10 years, the following key educational projects have been further developed and implemented by the BR Management:

Teaching Materials:

As early as 2005, the BR Management developed a folder of teaching materials for primary schools and lower secondary schools in the Wienerwald region. At this age level, it is particularly possible to open up positive emotional connections to nature and the region. Lower secondary school also allows children to engage with habitats and their diversity. In addition, conservation concepts can be addressed, and perspectives for the future can be developed. This can be done within regular lessons, such as geography and biology, but also through interdisciplinary projects. The materials are updated as needed and made available to schools as downloads, such as a lapbook: <https://www.bpww.at/de/artikel/das-lapbook-ein-interaktives-klappbuch>. The folder contains information on all topics for teachers, so that older students and adults can also learn a lot about the Wienerwald BR.

Additional materials developed in recent years include an explanatory video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OeLcCJzL7rE>), a school poster, and a small children's booklet. A popular brochure is the bucket list "50 Things You Must Do Before You Are 12 ½": https://www.bpww.at/sites/default/files/download_files/DW-431515-20200617-50Dinge-Webversion.pdf. An overview of all our educational materials can be found on our website: <https://www.bpww.at/de/themenseiten/information-fuer-schulen>.



Fig: School poster

Biosphere Reserve Game:

The game was already developed on the occasion of the 2011 Meadow Championship by the Austrian Federal Forests and the Working Group Vegetation Ecology and Landscape Planning GmbH (AVL) and is suitable for use in school classes as well as in adult education. With the game, the complex topic of "biosphere reserve" can be made vivid and "comprehensible" in the truest sense of the word. On the green playing field, a landscape with mountains, lakes, settlements, fields, roads, etc. is built. The players then zone the development, maintenance and core zone of their biosphere reserve. In doing so, they take on different roles, such as recreational users or farmers, and try to design the landscape according to their respective needs. Another game is "ECOGON Biosphärenpark". An existing strategy game was adapted together with the four Austrian BRs and released in 2025.



Photo: Strategy game ECOGON Biosphärenpark, CR BPWW/A.Weiss

Educational networks:

The BR Management is particularly active in two educational networks:

Netzwerk Umweltwissen Niederösterreich (Network Environmental Knowledge Lower Austria):

An association of currently 255 environmental education institutions, institutions and organizations that work together on a voluntary basis and in accordance with the principles laid down in the declaration. This network, which is unique in Austria, is supported by the State of Lower Austria (<https://www.umweltwissen.at/>).

Biosphere Reserve Education Network: All educational partners of the Wienerwald BR belong to this network.

Other examples:

The BR Management also offers guided tours on various topics (meadow, water, etc.) for school classes as part of various projects (e.g. Biodiversity Day, Biosphere Volunteer).

6.5 How do you assess the effectiveness of actions or strategies applied?

(Describe the methods, indicators).

The effectiveness of offerings for visitors or school classes, as well as the annual training provided for educators, is measured, among other things, by the number of participants. Additionally, feedback forms are completed during various events by participants, in which the content and quality of the knowledge conveyed are evaluated.

Other indicators include the number of media reports about the Wienerwald BR or a BR event, the number of research projects conducted in the region, and the number of international groups guided through the Wienerwald BR as part of professional excursions.

6.5.1 Describe the biosphere reserve's main internal and external communication mechanisms/systems

Biosphere Reserve Media:

The main goal of the communication of the BR Management is to reach the residents, stakeholders and decision-makers in the region. The main means of communication are the newspaper "Das Blatt", the electronic newsletter and the website, which are geared towards this goal.

The newspaper "Das Blatt":

In the last 10 years, two issues of the newspaper have been produced and published annually. The edition is 15,000 copies. More than 6,700 of them will be sent directly to subscribers and the rest will be distributed at events and through partner organizations. The newspaper can be ordered and subscribed to by phone, email or online.



Wir feiern 20 Jahre!

Newsletter:

See 6.5.3

Website:

See 6.5.2

Other means of communication:

In the following, other means of communication that are important for public relations work are listed and described as examples:

Infopoints:

Instead of a central visitor centre, decentralised information points were used due to the size of the BR region. An Infopoint consists of one to three elements that are modelled on segments of a hemisphere in their appearance in order to emphasise the global importance of the biosphere reserves. On both sides, the individual elements contain information on the Wienerwald BR, on locally occurring, special habitats, animal and plant species as well as special projects that are of particular relevance at the site. A total of six info points were set up in Lower Austria and five info points in Vienna. These were updated and redesigned in 2020 (see 2.3.3).

Marking of the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve outer border in Lower Austria:

In order to make the outer border of the Vienna Woods Biosphere Reserve visible on site, special welcome boards have been set up on all major roads leading into the region in Lower Austria. They welcome those entering and say goodbye to those who drive out. At the same time, they also indicate Wienerwald landscape conservation area (*Landschaftsschutzgebiet Wienerwald*). A total of around 30 welcome boards have been set up in Lower Austria (photo).



CR BPWW

Annual report:

In the last ten years, there has been an annual report on the past working year in the form of an activity report. It contains the mission BR Management, project examples, short descriptions of the activities carried out, an overview of the events, the contact persons and basic information on the budget and the committees of the BR Management.

Biosphere Reserve information boards:

In addition to the info points, information boards are also installed in various places in the region, such as in the course of updating the info points at the more frequented railway stations in the region.

Core zone folders, core zone boards and supplementary boards:

For each core zone, a separate folder was already designed in the previous reporting period, which briefly describes the respective core zone and points out the necessary do's and don'ts. In addition to the official identification of the individual areas as core zones and nature reserves, additional panels have been installed at more frequented locations. These provide more detailed information on routes in the core zone as well as on one or two special animal or plant species occurring in the core zone. Visitors are asked to give priority to nature and to behave accordingly considerably. In the course of creating digital core zone profiles, an additional QR code was pasted (<https://kernzonen.bpww.at/>).

Folder:

Rules of Conduct in the Forest: In 2015, a separate folder on forest behavior was created. It covers numerous uses in the Wienerwald (e.g., hiking, mountain biking, timber harvesting, wildlife management, cross-country skiing) and provides information on the zoning of the Biosphere Reserve. This important information is still being distributed.

Biosphere Volunteer: This folder promotes volunteer activities for landscape conservation.

Educational Offers in the Wienerwald BR: A folder that summarizes the numerous environmental education offers.

Deadwood: A separate folder that describes and raises awareness of the value of deadwood and the natural cycle of living and dying trees.

Core Zones in the Wienerwald BR: This provides an overview of the results of the core zone monitoring.

WINE Folder: For the annual awards ceremony for sustainably produced wines, this folder provides an overview of the wine-growing regions, the region's typical varieties, and the participating winemakers. An insert describes the annual winners.

Wienerwalds BR Guided Tour Programme: See 5.9

Advertising Materials:

Over the past 10 years, a number of promotional materials have been produced, such as fabric bags, calendars, and various stickers. Furthermore, seed bags were produced and filled with marigold seeds at a social-economic employment company. The orange-flowering marigold is the floral ambassador of the Wienerwald BR. A current edition of the seed bags is filled with seeds from flowers and flowering perennials typical of the region.

Uniforms:

To ensure a common, visible external appearance for BR Management employees, white, black, and orange polo shirts, T-shirts, and shirts with orange or white embroidered BR logos have been produced over the years.

Biosphere Reserve Ambassadors:

The Biosphere Reserve Ambassadors, appointed in 2013, are an essential communication hub for communication with the municipalities and districts (see also 7.5). They are mainly informed by email about important news, pass this information on to the municipalities and give the BR Management feedback from the region.

Events are also important places of communication in order to reach the population and interested persons directly, whereby a distinction is made between external events at which the BR Management is represented, e.g. with an information stand, and own events. Annual events of the BR Management were, for example, the Day of Biodiversity, the Fruit Tree Day, the wine award and an annual networking event for all partners and the public.

In order to achieve coverage of BR topics in the local and regional media, press releases are sent to a distribution list of about 300 journalists from regional and national media on a case-by-case basis. The municipal newspapers and the official journals of the district administrations are also regularly supplied with up-to-date information on the biosphere reserve.

External communication:

For external communication, BR Management primarily uses the networks of the MAB National Committee and UNESCO.

BR Management regularly participates in the meetings of the Austrian MAB National Committee and reports on current topics and projects. In addition, the Wienerwald BR has been represented at every EuroMAB meeting since its recognition and has participated in numerous other MAB events (see also 6.6). The network of the Austrian BRs meets regularly to exchange ideas and jointly develop topics relevant throughout Austria.

6.5.2 Is there a biosphere reserve website? If so, provide the link.

There is a comprehensive website on all topics and activities in the Wienerwald BR in German and a reduced version in English, which mainly contains basic information and some selected project descriptions.

The German version can be found at: www.bpww.at

The English version can be found at: www.bpww.at/en

6.5.3 Is there an electronic newsletter? How often is it published? (provide the link, if applicable).

The electronic newsletter is published at least four times a year and is sent to approximately 4,500 recipients. Special editions of the newsletter are also sent out for specific events (e.g., the announcement of "Biodiversity Day," Biosopere Volunteer). The newsletter can also be ordered and subscribed online: <https://www.bpww.at/de/artikel/bpww-newsletter>

6.5.4 Does the biosphere reserve belong to a social network (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)? Provide the contact.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bpww.at>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/biosphaerenpark_wienerwald/

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/@bpww>

6.5.5 Are there any other internal communication systems? If so, describe them.

Apart from the regular meetings with various partner organisations described above (see 2.3.4) and the biosphere reserve media described above, there are no other communication systems.

6.6 Describe how the biosphere reserve currently contributes to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves and/or could do so in the future.

The Wienerwald BR Management cooperates with colleagues from the MAB network on various occasions.

The Wienerwald BR was regularly involved in the EURO-MAB meetings and the BR Management actively participated in the workshops and discussions. For example, in 2022 in Carinthia/Austria with the topics of tourism and mountain biking, research funding and urban development - demographic change. In 2024, the topics of natural hazard management, research

on sustainable tourism, circular economy and good examples of research strategies were actively worked on by BR Management staff.

Employees of the BR Management also took part in other international events. For example, in the BR Flusslandschaft Elbe in Lenzen, Germany on the topic of participation or in the BR Appennino Tosco-Emiliano on the topic of agriculture and climate change.

There is also a regular exchange with the BR Institute of the Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development (*Hochschule für nachhaltige Entwicklung Eberswalde – HNEE*). In 2021 and 2023, excursion groups from Eberswalde University of Applied Sciences were welcomed in the Wienerwald BR. A workshop on research collaborations was enriched in 2024 with a presentation and a lecture by the Wienerwald BR Management. A contribution by the Austrian MAB National Committee for a workshop in autumn 2025 was initiated by the Wienerwald BR Management. Representatives from BRs and research institutions from Europe and Asia take part in these events at Eberswalde University.

There is a closer exchange with the BR Dolni Morava in the Czech Republic, which is also the closest BR outside of Austria to the Wienerwald BR.

Numerous delegations from Germany, France, Slovakia, Japan, Lithuania, Brazil, etc. have been received in recent years to get an impression of the Wienerwald BR and to exchange experiences.

In recent years, the BR Management has also sent young people from the Wienerwald BR to the MAB Youth Forum hosted by the National Natural Landscapes of Germany (*Nationale Naturlandschaften Deutschlands*).

Currently (August 2025), the BR Management is represented in an Austrian working group that is preparing a contribution and a workshop for the World Conference of Biosphere Reserves (WCBR) in Hangzhou, China. Participation in this world conference in September 2025 is planned. Thus, a direct contribution to the "World Network of Biosphere Reserves" can also be made.

6.6.1 Describe any collaboration with existing biosphere reserves at national, regional, and international levels, also within regional and bilateral agreements.

There is close cooperation between the Austrian biosphere reserves Wienerwald, Großes Walsertal, Kärntner Nockberge, Salzburger Lungau, and Südliches Murtal. Regular meetings take place at the sessions of the Austrian MAB National Committee, as well as ongoing coordination on common issues such as criteria for partner enterprises, biosphere reserve indicators, and project collaborations. Reciprocal visits, knowledge transfer, and joint research projects further strengthen this cooperation.

A joint project within the framework of the European Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Slovakia - Austria (Interreg SK-AT) supports the cooperation between the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve and the Male Karpaty Geopark (Little Carpathians). Through this cooperation, the Male Karpaty Geopark is establishing the strategic foundations for a future membership in the global network as a UNESCO Geopark, which are also positioned as model regions for sustainable development. As part of this project, a joint study trip to the Minett Biosphere Reserve in Luxembourg is currently being prepared, scheduled to take place in October 2025.

A dedicated research programme of the Austrian Academy of Sciences supports research collaboration between Austrian biosphere reserves and reserves in Germany and Switzerland - for example, currently with the Schwarzwald and Berchtesgadener Land Biosphere Reserves (Germany), as well as the Biosfera Engiadina Val Müstair and Entlebuch Biosphere Reserves (Switzerland).

For further international activities, see section 6.6 above.

6.6.2 What are the current and expected benefits of international cooperation for the biosphere reserve?

The benefits of international cooperation lie in supporting the strategic orientation and further development of the biosphere reserve. Reciprocal visits promote awareness of the importance of international networking for exchanging ideas, best-practice examples, and mutual learning.

International exchange and collaboration in the fields of education, research projects, and sustainable regional development contribute to a better understanding of systemic interrelationships and to the continuous improvement of the biosphere reserve management's own activities.

6.6.3 How do you intend to contribute to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves in the future and to the Regional and Thematic Networks?

The Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve management intends to continue its active engagement in the networks and cooperations described above. We are pleased to contribute our expertise in natural area management, environmental education, research cooperation, and sustainable regional development in the future as well.

We support study trips for our biosphere reserve staff, seminars and workshops, as well as participation in relevant thematic discussion groups. We also continue to offer to host delegations from other biosphere reserves.

A contribution to and participation in the WNBR World Conference in Hangzhou, China, in September 2025 is currently in preparation.

Looking ahead, involvement in the establishment of a network for “Urban Biosphere Reserves” is under consideration. Initial reflections on this have already taken place.



Photo: Presentation of research activities in the Wienerwald BR at the University for Sustainable Development Eberswalde, Germany; CR Alberto Hernandez Salinas

6.7 What are the main factors that influenced (positively or negatively) the success of activities contributing to the logistic support function? Given the experiences and lessons learned in the past ten years, what new strategies or approaches will be favored as being most effective?

For the logistical function, proximity to the metropolitan area of Vienna is an advantage, particularly due to the research institutions located there. However, the dynamics of population development driven by the city's pull effect pose major challenges in spatial and transport planning. On the other hand, this also generates dynamic and positive input through an increasingly environmentally conscious society.

The size of the region and its large population make communication about the work and responsibilities in a Biosphere Reserve more difficult, which presents a challenge in day-to-day operations. Research in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve continues to focus primarily on nature conservation. Access to funding and financial support for projects in the fields of economic and social sustainability is often lacking. In the absence of suitable funding for these thematic priorities, the BR Management tends to focus where funding opportunities are more easily available - namely in the field of nature conservation. This reinforces the disadvantage that the Wienerwald BR is often perceived as merely a nature conservation project.

One approach currently being developed within the framework of the strategy for the next ten years until 2035 is to strengthen cooperation with relevant regional initiatives and stakeholder groups. The guiding principle here is to “burst our own bubble” and to connect with other “bubbles.”

6.8 Other comments/observations from a biosphere reserve perspective.

None

7. GOVERNANCE, BIOSPHERE RESERVE MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION:

[Biosphere reserve coordination/management coordinators/managers have to work within extensive overlays of government bodies, business enterprises, and a “civil society” mix of non-governmental organizations and community groups. These collectively constitute the structures of governance for the area of the biosphere reserve. Success in carrying out the functions of a biosphere reserve can be crucially dependent upon the collaborative arrangements that evolve with these organizations and actors. Key roles for those responsible for the biosphere reserve coordination/management are to learn about the governance system they must work within and to explore ways to enhance its collective capacities for fulfilling the functions of the biosphere reserve.]

7.1 What are the technical and logistical resources for the coordination of the biosphere reserve?

Currently, the biosphere reserve management employs 6 full-time and 5 part-time staff members, equivalent to 9 full-time positions. One additional person is marginally employed as a cleaner. The biosphere reserve management office consists of five rooms for 2–3 employees each, a meeting room for up to 20 people, a kitchen, and two large storage rooms with an archive and library. At the same location, the schools have a lecture hall and a large multipurpose hall that can be rented for events.

The office is fully equipped with desktop computers, laptops, and a tablet device, and has printers, copiers, a telephone system, and broadband internet access. In addition, two cameras and two GPS devices are available, and all staff members are provided with a company mobile phone.

The biosphere reserve management also owns various event equipment such as roll-ups, beach flags, banners, small event tents, as well as different tools for participatory and landscape management activities, along with a company bicycle.

Geodata Infrastructure:

For geodata management, the BR Management uses a combination of open-source and proprietary software. Data is stored internally on the servers of the BR Management. Existing data is kept on a file server as well as in a relational database system.

Geodata processing is carried out, among other tools, with the GIS application QGIS and the database management system PostgreSQL (including the PostGIS extension). Increasing emphasis is placed on open, non-proprietary, and platform-independent standards, such as the GeoPackage (GPKG). Tailor-made applications have been developed for specific purposes, such as the Wienerwald BR Species Data Database and various web maps integrated into websites. Development and maintenance of these applications are handled internally.

Geodata Inventory:

The biosphere reserve management administers and processes internal geodata - created in the course of management activities - as well as data from external partners. It acts both as a data provider and a data recipient. Depending on origin, spatial reference, and thematic area, data may be available either comprehensively or only for specific sub-areas of the Wienerwald BR.

Key data providers include, among others, the Federal States of Lower Austria and Vienna, municipalities and municipal districts, landowners, administrative bodies, authorities, experts or specialist groups, and scientific institutions.

Depending on availability and update frequency, geodata is obtained via various web services/APIs (WMTS, Vector Tiles, WMS, WFS, etc.). These include, in particular, Austria's administrative base map (basemap.at) and OpenStreetMap (openstreetmap.org).

For administrative purposes and project implementation, the BR Management has access to a broad range of specialist data, such as administrative boundaries, cadastral data, zoning, protected areas, species records, land cover, vegetation, geology and soil data, elevation data, base maps, orthophotos, rivers and streams, as well as diverse habitat data for forests, open land, water, settlements, transport and trail infrastructure, recreation and leisure use, etc.

7.2 What is the overall framework for governance in the area of the biosphere reserve? Identify the main components and their contributions to the biosphere reserve.

The "*Biosphärenpark Wienerwald Management GmbH*" is a non-profit company, founded in 2006 by the association "*Verein Niederösterreich – Wien – Gemeinsame Entwicklungsräume*" (Association Lower Austria-Vienna – Common Development Areas). Since the association is supported in equal parts by Lower Austria and Vienna, representatives of the two countries form

the company's committees in equal parts. The General Assembly is formed by the provincial politicians from Lower Austria and Vienna responsible for the biosphere reserve (two persons). The Supervisory Board consists of two members each nominated by the States of Lower Austria and Vienna (four persons). The cooperation and the content orientation are regulated by the biosphere reserve laws of the Federal States.

7.3 Describe social impact assessments or similar tools and guidelines used to support indigenous and local rights and cultural initiatives (e.g. CBD Akwé:Kon guidelines, Free, Prior, and Informed Consent Programme/policy, access and benefit sharing institutional arrangements, etc.).

Not applicable

7.4 What (if any) are the main conflicts relating to the biosphere reserve and what solutions have been implemented?

The biggest challenges lie in the size and diversity of the region. With 240,500 direct inhabitants and more than 600,000 additional residents in the immediate surroundings, the area of the biosphere reserve is relatively densely populated. Informing the population about the Wienerwald BR is already a major task. Even more challenging is actively involving them in shaping it. There are countless different uses of the landscape, natural areas, and the region as a whole, all of which need to be aligned with the objectives and responsibilities of a biosphere reserve. The BR Management seeks to reach those directly affected through various projects and to involve them in its activities.

7.4.1 Describe the main conflicts regarding access to, or the use of, resources in the area and the relevant timeframe. If the biosphere reserve has contributed to preventing or resolving some of these conflicts, explain what has been resolved or prevented, and how this was achieved for each zone?

There are several areas of conflict regarding the use of natural resources in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve. Many of these classic fields of conflict were already described in the last Periodic Review.

Agricultural use – Recreational use:

Although entering or driving on meadows is not permitted, this ban is largely ignored and not respected by the general public during recreational activities. This complicates the management of meadows, particularly mowing, for farmers. Meadows contaminated with dog feces can no longer be used by farmers, as the hay is no longer suitable for feeding livestock. For land managers, the loss of a mowing cycle represents a considerable economic loss. To raise awareness of these issues, the BR Management organizes meadow tours and meadow action days. During these action days, visitors are directly addressed and informed about the areas of conflict. In our experience, this is the most effective approach.

Conflicts of use in the forest:

Conflicts of use also repeatedly arise between forestry, recreational use, and wildlife management. The brochure *“Rules of Conduct in the Forest”* therefore remains relevant and is continually distributed. During the core zone action days, visitors are informed on site at the edges of the core zones and educated through dialogue about appropriate behavior. A dedicated platform of various relevant stakeholders meets regularly to address conflicts with mountain bikers. This approach enables continuous improvement of the regional offer while also fostering better understanding within the mountain biking community.

7.4.2 Describe any conflicts in competence among the different administrative authorities involved in the management of the area comprising the biosphere reserve.

The different administrative units within the two Federal States of Lower Austria and Vienna require a certain degree of coordination. However, the areas of responsibility of the states and the specialist departments of the state administrations are clearly defined. Part of the management task of the biosphere reserve administration is therefore to act as a mediator. In general, the coordination mechanisms work very well.

The numerous programmes offered by organizations and institutions active in the region sometimes overlap (spatially and thematically), which also requires good coordination in order, on the one hand, to avoid duplication and, on the other hand, to make the best possible use of the resources available in the region. Coordination of these programmes with the biosphere reserve management takes place on an ongoing basis and within the framework of the Regional Forum (Participation Advisory Board).

7.4.3 Explain the means used to resolve these conflicts, and their effectiveness. Describe its composition and functioning, resolution on a case-by-case basis. Are there local mediators; if so, are they approved by the biosphere reserve or by another authority?

Coordination with the governing bodies of the BR Management takes place on an ongoing basis. Supervisory Board meetings are held four times a year with the BR Management. In these meetings, the upcoming budget (liquidity planning), projects, and work programme are discussed and approved, and the current financial situation, activities, and projects are reviewed. The General Assembly takes place once a year, approving the balance sheet of the previous year and granting discharge to the BR Management and Supervisory Board.

The BR Management is in constant contact with the relevant departments of the Federal States, and coordination and resolution of conflicts usually occur quickly and without complication.

7.5 Updated information about the representation and consultation of local communities and their participation in the life of the biosphere reserve:

To enable the participation of mayors and district heads within a formal framework, a Regional Advisory Board was established in 2009, as proposed in the agreement pursuant to Art. 15a BVG. This board includes all 51 mayors of Lower Austrian municipalities and the seven district heads of Vienna. The board meets on an ad hoc basis but cannot adopt binding resolutions.

As early as 2013, BR Ambassadors were appointed to serve as intermediaries between the municipalities and their citizens. In addition, the BR Management has organized several

information events in municipalities and districts, and has also used municipal events to report on current developments in the biosphere reserve and to exchange information.

In 2019, a Regional Forum was established as a Participation Advisory Board, which is convened at least once a year. It consists of representatives of various regional organizations and of the relevant specialist departments of the Federal States of Vienna and Lower Austria (see 2.3.4, 7.5.2).

Regular coordination and joint projects with nature conservation organizations in the region also bring their concerns and ideas into the biosphere reserve management.

As part of the development of the strategy for the next ten years, municipal representatives were specifically invited to contribute their perspectives on the further orientation of the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve (see 7.7.1).

7.5.1 Describe how local people (including women and indigenous people) are represented in the planning and management of the biosphere reserve (e.g., assembly of representatives, consultation of associations, women's groups).

The entire local population has the opportunity at any time to contact a BR Ambassador or the BR Management directly with any concern. The goal of the biosphere reserve management is to respond to all inquiries within a few days, at least with a brief acknowledgment. Women are addressed equally in all areas, just like men. In the biosphere reserve bodies, women and men are also invited and addressed on an equal basis. An important accompanying body is the Regional Forum, which serves as a Participation Advisory Board.

7.5.2 What form does this representation take: companies, associations, environmental associations, trade unions (list the various groups)?

The following are invited to the Regional Forum, which serves as a Participation Advisory Board:

- Three LEADER regions: <https://www.donau-noe-mitte.at/>, <https://www.elsbeere-wienerwald.at/>, <https://www.triestingtal.at/>
- Six climate and energy model regions or climate adaptation regions: <https://www.klimaundenergiemodellregionen.at/>, <https://klar-anpassungsregionen.at/>
- Three nature parks: <https://www.naturparke-niederoesterreich.at/>
- Abteilung Raumordnung und Gesamtverkehrsangelegenheiten, Land Niederösterreich (Department of Spatial Planning and Overall Transport Affairs, State of Lower Austria)
- Abteilung Naturschutz, Land Niederösterreich (Department of Nature Conservation, State of Lower Austria)
- Abteilung Umweltschutz, Stadt Wien (Department of Environmental Protection, City of Vienna)
- Abteilung Stadtplanung und Stadtentwicklung, Stadt Wien (Department of Urban Planning and Urban Development, City of Vienna)
- Stadt-Umland Management Niederösterreich – Wien (City–Surroundings Management Lower Austria – Vienna)
- Forst- und Landwirtschaftsbetrieb der Stadt Wien (Forestry and Agricultural Department, City of Vienna)
- Wienerwald Tourismus Gesellschaft (Wienerwald Tourism Company)
- Dorf- und Stadterneuerung Niederösterreich, NÖ-Regional (Village and Town Renewal Lower Austria, NÖ-Regional)

- Umweltberatung Wien (Environmental Advice Vienna)
- Energie- und Umweltagentur Niederösterreich (Energy and Environment Agency of Lower Austria)
- Landwirtschaftskammer Wien (Chamber of Agriculture Vienna)
- Landwirtschaftskammer Niederösterreich (Chamber of Agriculture Lower Austria)
- Wirtschaftskammer Niederösterreich (Chamber of Commerce Lower Austria)
- Aktion „Natur im Garten“ (“Nature in the Garden” Initiative)
- Bundesdenkmalamt – Informations- und Weiterbildungszentrum Baudenkmalpflege – Kartause Mauerbach (Federal Monuments Office – Information and Training Center for Monument Conservation – Kartause Mauerbach)
- Five selected political regional representatives

In addition, there is a Scientific Advisory Board:

<https://www.bpww.at/de/artikel/wissenschaftlicher-beirat>)

7.5.3 Indicate whether there are procedures for integrating the representative body of local communities (e.g., financial, election of representatives, traditional authorities).

The thematic areas from which members of the aforementioned advisory boards are to be selected are described in a joint agreement between the Federal States of Vienna and Lower Austria. Members are proposed by the BR Management, voted on by the Supervisory Board, and confirmed by the General Assembly.

7.5.4 How long-lived is the consultation mechanism (e.g., permanent assembly, consultation on specific projects)?

The committees are convened once or twice a year. Individual meetings and agreements are held as needed.

7.5.5 What is the impact of this consultation on the decision-making process (decisional, consultative or merely to inform the population)?

The advisory boards have an advisory and recommending character, which can have an impact on decisions. Formally, in the current governance system, binding decisions can only be made by the Supervisory Board and the Annual General Assembly.

7.5.6 At which step in the existence of a biosphere reserve is the population involved: creation of the biosphere reserve, drawing up of the management plan, implementation of the plan, day to day management of the biosphere reserve? Give some practical examples.

During the planning phase of the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve, decision-makers and stakeholders were involved through specialized advisory forums (e.g., forest, open land). In the course of designating core zone areas, the landowners of these areas were actively included, as were participants in the preparation of management plans for the individual core zones. For the detailed planning of the buffer zones, the municipalities were closely involved to ensure that spatial planning aspects could be considered optimally from the beginning. For the development of the strategy and management plan, in addition to the advisory bodies mentioned above, other decision-makers, interest groups, and residents (via an online survey) are also involved (see 7.7.1).

In the daily administration of the Wienerwald BR - and thus the implementation of the management plan - the public is engaged through educational programmes, guided tours and

excursions, citizen science projects, photography competitions, public information stands, and public events.



CR BPWW/N. Novak

7.6 Update on management and coordination structure:

7.6.1 Describe any changes regarding administrative authorities that have competence for each zone of the biosphere reserve (core area(s), buffer zone(s) and transition area(s))? If there are any changes since the nomination form/last periodic review report, please submit the original endorsements for each area.

There have been no changes in responsibilities since the last Periodic Review.

7.6.2 Update information about the manager(s)/coordinator(s) of the biosphere reserve including designation procedures.

The *Biosphärenpark Wienerwald Management GmbH* is led by a managing director. The selection of this person takes place through a hearing procedure, during which the Supervisory Board selects three candidates. This three-person proposal is then submitted to the General Assembly, which makes the final decision. Since July 2019, Andreas Weiß has held this position.

7.6.3 Are there any changes with regard to the coordination structure of the biosphere reserve? (if yes, describe in details its functioning, composition and the relative proportion of each group in this structure, its role and competence.). Is this coordination structure autonomous or is it under the authority of local or central government, or of the manager of the biosphere reserve?).

There have been no changes in the organizational structure since the last Periodic Review.

7.6.4 How has the management/coordination been adapted to the local situation?

What is special about the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve is that it spans two Austrian Federal States. The federalist principle is very strong in Austria, and the states, for example, have their

own nature conservation laws and their own spatial planning laws. Nevertheless, it has been possible to establish a joint management structure, which is funded 50% by each state.

The coordination mechanisms and advisory bodies have already been described above.

7.6.5 Was the effectiveness of the management/coordination evaluated? If yes, was it according to a procedure?

No separate evaluation procedure has been conducted since the last report. In 2022, a joint audit was carried out by the Audit Offices of Vienna and Lower Austria. This included a review of financial management as well as a qualitative assessment. No objections were raised.

The work of the management is also assessed by the Supervisory Board, which meets four times a year. A quarterly activity report and a controlling report serve as the basis for this assessment. Financial management is presented in the form of an annual balance sheet and audited by an independent auditor.

7.7 Update on the management/cooperation plan/policy:

7.7.1 Are there any changes with regard to the management/cooperation plan/policy and the stakeholders involved? If yes, provide detailed information on process for involvement of stakeholders, adoption and revision of the plan.

Within the framework of the “*Zukunftskonzept Biosphärenpark Wienerwald 2020*” (Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve Future Concept 2020), work priorities and concrete projects for the years up to 2020 were developed and defined through a participatory process. This Future Concept was internally evaluated in 2021 and subsequently further developed with the staff of the biosphere reserve management and through workshops with the Regional Forum for the period 2021–2030.

However, in light of the expected Hangzhou Strategic Action Plan 2026–2035 from the “5th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves (WCBR),” a complementary strategy for 2025–2035 is currently being developed with a focus on participation and governance. The advantage of this approach is that this period aligns with the reporting period for the next periodic review and also corresponds to UNESCO’s planning timeframe for the MAB programme.

The development is taking place throughout 2025, involving all stakeholders in the form of workshops and an online survey for the general population. A specific focus is placed on the involvement of young people, with support from students of the University of Vienna, Department of Geography. The coordination and adoption of this plan will be carried out by the advisory and decision-making bodies of the BR Management.

Additional management plans exist for the core zones of the Wienerwald BR as a basis and planning tool for the landowners.

7.7.2 Describe contents of the management/cooperation plan (provide some examples of measures and guidelines). Is the plan binding? Is it based on consensus?

The 2030 Future Strategy for the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve is based on four main priorities:

- Natural Area Management

- Research and Monitoring
- Education, Information, and Communication
- Regional Development

It aims to make the biosphere reserve a model region for sustainable development in accordance with UNESCO's mandate and to protect its unique natural resources.

Examples for Natural Area Management:

Climate Change and Forests

- Initiatives for climate-resilient forests, primarily targeting municipalities. Based on climatic and site-specific conditions, management scenarios for municipal forests in the Wienerwald BR are presented, showing a range of possible approaches.
- Research projects on forest drought.

Preservation of Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity

- New partnerships and expansion of a protected area network for Natura 2000 management, in cooperation with relevant regional initiatives. The BR Management coordinates activities and presents the initiatives on a shared platform, establishing nature conservation partners.
- Maintain open-land areas at priority sites: The goal is to improve conservation status annually at five sites with local initiatives.
- Address water bodies as the “third major habitat”: Utilize hydromorphological mapping, harmonize water body data, and discuss and implement joint measures; develop relevant offers for municipalities, such as excursions, guided tours, and small-scale interventions to improve water quality and retention.

Examples for Research and Monitoring:

- Following the “Science Link” model, the BR Management aims to establish a dedicated position for research coordination, secure funding, and optimize knowledge transfer by defining target groups.
- By 2030, support 50 theses and research projects from various disciplines (e.g., sustainability, economics, sociology). Municipalities, LEADER regions, micro regions, and other regional initiatives will be involved in defining research questions. The ratio of natural sciences to social sciences should be 70:30; timeframe: long-term, until 2030.

Knowledge Transfer

- An annual *Research Morning* will be held to facilitate knowledge transfer and information exchange.
- Presentation of Master's and PhD theses in a dedicated format. Strengthened collaboration with institutes represented on the Scientific Advisory Board.

Data Collection

- Continuously collect mapping and monitoring data in cooperation with other relevant organizations; timeframe—ongoing.

Examples for Education, Information, and Communication:

Anchoring Education for Sustainable Development in Curricula and Schools

- Strengthen the education partner network's connection to the Wienerwald BR; encourage exchange among partners. BR Management organizes joint activities (excursions, courses, projects); timeframe: short-term, 1 year.
- Organize a free outdoor programme for 30 school classes per year; timeframe: short-term, 3 years.
- In 80% of schools in the Wienerwald BR (third grade of primary school), one lesson will be conducted; timeframe: long-term, until 2030.

Reaching and Informing New Target Groups

- Establish a youth forum, involving young people in decision-making and project development.
- Organize one excursion per year for BR Ambassadors and interested residents (approx. 30 participants).
- Initiate "municipal championships" to highlight municipalities' and Vienna districts' contributions to the success of the Wienerwald BR.
- Secondary schools (ISCED Level 2) have not yet been addressed; initial activities will target this age group.

Examples of Regional Development:

Strengthening the Partner Network of BR Partner Enterprises

- BR Management has consolidated its role as a platform provider in the network. Twice a year, events are offered for existing or prospective partner enterprises (excursions, lectures, or workshops).
- By 2030, at least six cooperation projects between partner enterprises will be initiated.
- Link nature conservation and enjoyment to the orchard meadow habitat, market and sell certain products under the Wienerwald BR brand, and use established formats to bring BR wines directly to consumers.
- For existing and potential partner enterprises: excursions, lectures, workshops;

Supporting Sustainable Economic Practices in the Wienerwald BR

- Promote the criteria for BR partner enterprises.
- Build cooperation with various economic initiatives and business organizations: present Wienerwald BR to these organizations, ensure regular coordination of activities, and participate in relevant networks for the biosphere reserve region (e.g., [Bioeconomy Austria](#)).
- Initiate and accompany regional economic studies to provide basics and arguments for regional, sustainable economic cycles - for example, in the bioeconomy sector.

The plan is not legally binding and cannot acquire legal force. Its follow-up and implementation can therefore only proceed in consensus with regional partners and stakeholders. Only the legally established regulations for the core zones and maintenance zones are binding.

7.7.3 Describe the role of the authorities in charge of the implementation of the plan. Describe institutional changes since the nomination form/last periodic review report. Please provide evidence of the role of these authorities.

The implementation of measures is the responsibility of the BR Management. Depending on the measure, different authorities are involved. In natural area management, for example, there is close cooperation with the nature conservation departments of the states of Lower Austria and Vienna. Questions of spatial planning and settlement activities are addressed with the Spatial Planning Department of the State of Lower Austria and the Department of Urban Development and Planning of the City of Vienna.

An important institutional partner is the Forestry and Agricultural Department of the City of Vienna, which also serves as the coordinating department for Vienna. Many measures in Vienna are implemented in cooperation with this department. The department responsible for the Wienerwald BR in Lower Austria is the Spatial Planning Department of the State of Lower Austria. Regarding responsibilities and general division of tasks, nothing has changed since the last report.

7.7.4 Indicate how the management plan addresses the objectives of the biosphere reserve.

The developed thematic priorities and project ideas were assigned according to the three functions of the biosphere reserve (Conservation, Development, Logistics). The preparation of the plan was based on the Lima Action Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 2025–2035 strategy, which is currently being developed, aims to implement the contents of the “Hangzhou Strategic Action Plan 2026–2035,” as far as they are known.

7.7.5 What are the progresses with regard to the guidelines of the management/cooperation plan/policy?

Partial implementation of the “*Zukunftskonzept Biosphärenpark Wienerwald 2020*” (Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve Future Concept 2020) has already taken place. An internal evaluation in 2021 showed that some proposed measures had already been implemented by other organizations, while no funding could be found for others. Overall, approximately 65% of the measures from this concept and the follow-up plan have been initiated or are still ongoing.

7.7.6 Were there any factors and/or changes that impeded or helped with the implementation of the management/coordination plan/policy? (Reluctance of local people, conflicts between different levels of decision-making).

A constraining factor in recent years has been inflation. Due to the unchanged core funding of the BR Management (without indexation), the use of external funding programmes has increasingly become necessary. This has led to a focus on “funding programmes” rather than on UNESCO objectives. The goals for UNESCO Biosphere Reserves are hardly or not at all embedded in the relevant national and European funding programmes.

The COVID-19 crisis also represented a significant turning point. In particular, in the area of recreational and local leisure use, the management of recreational facilities had to be reorganized, as suddenly far more people were using “nature.”

Helpful for the general development toward sustainability is the further expansion of renewable energy sources and cooperation with the climate model regions. Additionally, an increased awareness of sustainability can be observed. Terms such as biodiversity and species protection

have also become more familiar. Supportive programmes such as the Austrian Biodiversity Fund and the Forest Fund have been very helpful in this regard. The increased perception of the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve as a “large air conditioner” for the region and the city of Vienna is also a driving force and a confirmation of the work of the BR Management.

7.7.7 If applicable, how is the biosphere integrated in regional/national strategies? Vice versa, how are the local/municipal plans integrated in the planning of the biosphere reserve?

(Please provide detailed information if there are any changes since the nomination form/last periodic review report).

The Wienerwald Declaration and the Wienerwald Landscape Protection Area (in Lower Austria) and the “*Schutzgebiet Wald- und Wiesengürtel*” (Forest and Meadow Belt Protected Area in Vienna) provide a strategic and spatial regional basis for the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve.

The core zones of the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve are legally protected in both Federal States: in Lower Austria as nature protection areas and in Vienna as landscape protection areas.

In Lower Austria, the designation of buffer zones was carried out in coordination with the relevant departments of the state government and the municipalities. In Vienna, the zoning of the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve has been considered in land-use planning, and the interests of the biosphere reserve must be taken into account when assessing the public interest during the preparation of land-use plans. The buffer zones are all located within the Vienna “*Schutzgebiet Wald- und Wiesengürtel*” and landscape protection areas and are therefore dedicated to recreation and public health, as well as agricultural and forestry uses. They are protected under both the Vienna Building Code and the Nature Conservation Act.

The Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve is embedded in the European Natura 2000 network, as the majority of the reserve’s area (around 80%) is simultaneously designated as a Natura 2000 protected area.

In 2019, the “Ordinance on the Core and Buffer Zones of the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve” was renewed in Lower Austria. Since then, 31% of the biosphere reserve’s area has been designated as buffer zones.

Three LEADER regions (EU programme to strengthen rural areas) extend into the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve, each with different priorities: “Donauland – NÖ-Mitte,” “Elsbeere-Wienerwald,” and “Triestingtal +.” These regions have defined priorities and topics related to the biosphere reserve in their 2023–2027 strategies. The LEADER managers also participate in the Regional Forum.

The Austrian Climate Fund has also discovered the regions for itself. Within the biosphere reserve area, seven so-called Climate and Energy Model Regions and two Climate Adaptation Regions are active. These regions have likewise formulated goals in their strategies that serve the BR. Regional representatives cooperate with the biosphere reserve management and are part of the Regional Forum.

In the 2025 tourism strategy for the Wienerwald, the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve is also anchored. Numerous collaborations and joint product developments have resulted. The Wienerwald BR is also part of Vienna Tourism’s sustainable tourism marketing, which increasingly emphasizes green spaces.

The association *Niederösterreich Wien – gemeinsame Entwicklungsräume* is not only the shareholder of the *Biosphärenpark Wienerwald Management GmbH* but also hosts the regional management of Vienna and its surroundings. Together, a “Strategy for Local Recreation” was developed and published in 2024. This strategy guides the targeted further development of recreational opportunities in the region around Vienna, specifically within the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve.

In the field of urban development, the BR Management was involved in the preparation of the 2035 City Development Plan (*Der Wien-Plan*). Similarly, the biosphere reserve was taken into account in the Regional Master Planning (*Regionale Leitplanung*) process in Lower Austria. The planning has resulted in the creation of regional spatial planning concepts, including the definition of settlement boundaries. The preceding Green Ring concept, (*Grüner Ring*), identified the biosphere reserve as a key measure for safeguarding green spaces in and around Vienna.

At the national level, the Austrian BRs are included in the 2023–2027 Strategy Plan for implementing the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), primarily addressing nature conservation and natural area management. Furthermore, the biosphere reserves are part of Austria’s Biodiversity Strategy 2030+ and the derived strategies of the Federal States of Lower Austria and Vienna (see also 2.4.1).

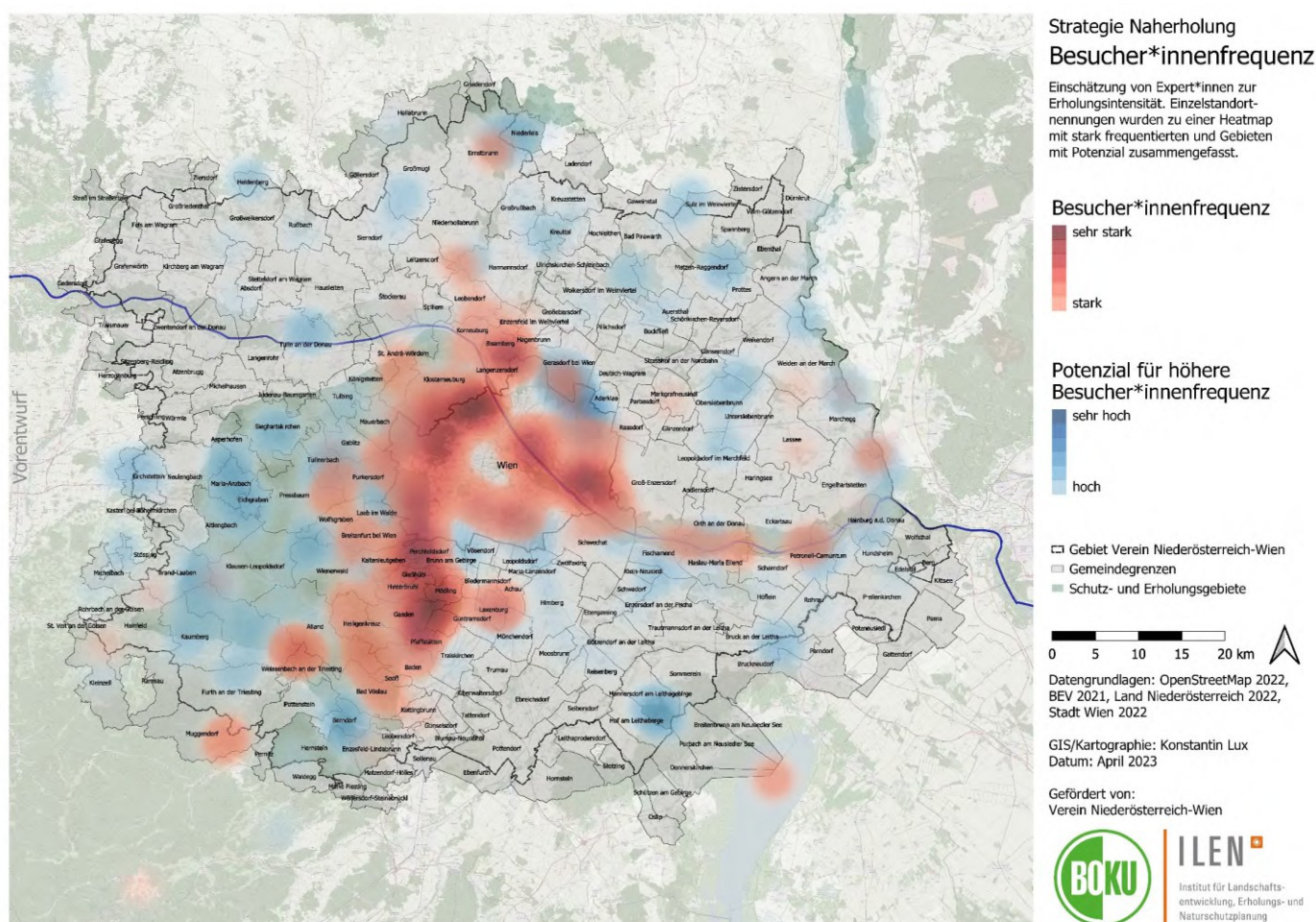


Fig.: Strategy for Local Recreation – Heatmap Hotspots and Cool Spots of Visitor Frequency around Vienna

8. CRITERIA AND PROGRESS MADE:

[Conclude by highlighting the major changes, achievements, and progress made in your biosphere reserve since nomination or the last periodic review. How does your biosphere reserve fulfill the criteria. Develop justification for the site to be a biosphere reserve and rationale for the zonation. What is lacking, and how could it be improved? What can your biosphere reserve share with others on how to implement sustainable development into practice?]

Brief justification of the way in which the biosphere reserve fulfills each criteria of article 4 of the Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves:

1. "Encompass a mosaic of ecological systems representative of major biogeographic region(s), including a gradation of human interventions".

(The term "major biogeographic region" is not strictly defined but it would be useful to refer to the Udvardy classification system (http://www.unep-wcmc.org/udvardys-biogeographical-provinces-1975_745.html)).

Concentrated in a small area, the Wienerwald contains a great number of different habitats some of which are of Europe-wide significance. Various biogeographical subsections of the nemoral zonobiome adjoin here: elements of the continental biogeographical region with Pannonian character can be found here, and elements of the alpine biogeographical region are also present.

Jointly with various geological circumstances, a distinct differentiation in altitudes and the coincidence of various climate zones, this was the foundation for the evolution of various natural forest types. Despite overtones of use for commercial forestry, the Wienerwald is the largest contiguous beech forest area remaining in existence in present-day Europe. Apart from dominant beech forests, the downy-oak forests on the BR's eastern boundary and the submediterranean pine forests with autochthonous European black pine (*Pinus nigra*) are of European importance. There are also small areas of various special forest communities such as 'summit' green ash forests, alder mire forests and alluvial stands.

As a result of human activity, the contiguous forest created by nature has been thinned in the course of centuries. This anthropogenic intervention is the very reason for the existence of the typical cultural landscape of the Wienerwald with its diverse open-space habitats. They are most estimable in terms of nature conservation. In wide areas of the Wienerwald, extensive meadows and pastures characterise the landscape. They have evolved from centuries of management. Particularly distinctive are the meadows which are cut once or twice maximum per year, some of which are grazed even after mowing – ranging from fertile meadows to rough pasture and wet meadows.

In moist to wet locations, molinia meadows and alkaline fens evolved, which used to be harvested for animal bedding or litter. Eastern-European-type steppes and calcareous brome-fescue dry grasslands are to be found at the eastern boundary of the BR. Locally present dry grassland areas are particularly species-rich, because they used to be managed as pasture land. Old vineyards and orchards, areas marked by intensive agricultural use, a dense network of streams and a great variety of structural elements are local enhancements of the diverse landscape. In the limestone area of Karbonat-Wienerwald in the south and east of the area, you can find bizarre rock formations and more than 250 caves ranging from large to micro-size.

Human activity has left even stronger marks on habitats in residential areas. In the BR area, they range from built-up urban areas to more widely distributed properties with gardens and a mosaic of scattered habitations in rural areas. A great range of gardens with various degrees of utilisation, parks and orchard meadows near farmsteads make important contributions to biological diversity.

The dense system of flowing waters in the Wienerwald ranges from ditches that are temporarily filled with water, both in the forest and in open-land areas, to streams and minor rivers. They all drain into the Danube. In parts they are still semi-natural. However, streams have been built over, entrenched or straightened, especially in residential areas, and in some cases, they have been converted to underground canals. Static waters are not common in the Wienerwald. The largest of these is the *Wienerwaldsee*, which was created by damming the river *Wien* (*Wienfluss*).

2. “Be of Significance for biological diversity conservation”.

The Wienerwald is characterised by being the ‘meeting point’ (ecotone) for several different biogeographical regions, altitudes and climate zones. The traditional forms of management such as forestry, agriculture and viticulture have contributed to shaping the region. The almost contiguous forest became a mosaic of different landscapes characterised by various types of use. Consequently, the Wienerwald was able to evolve into a region which is particularly rich in biodiversity.

In the European protected area Wienerwald-Thermenregion, 27 habitat types of European significance are found, according to Annex I of the Habitats Directive (FFH Directive). In addition to the extensive, contiguous beech forests, Austria’s largest stands of Pannonian downy oak forests (Habitat Type 91H0*) and sub-Mediterranean pine forests with endemic black pine (Habitat Type 9530*) are of particular European importance.

On non-forested areas, notable habitats include calcareous fens, patchy calcareous pioneer grasslands, moor grass meadows, and fescue-calcareous dry grasslands. As part of the open-land survey, 127 different biotope types were identified, and in the baseline survey of the core zones, 18 forest communities and 34 syntaxonomic units (including sub-associations) were recorded, of which two were newly recorded for the Wienerwald. A comprehensive inventory of the forests in the Wienerwald has not yet been conducted.

The Wienerwald is home to numerous Habitats Directive (FFH) species for which the Article 17 report indicates particular conservation needs, such as the European ground squirrel (*Spermophilus citellus*), Italian crested newt (*Triturus carnifex*), yellow-bellied toad (*Bombina variegata*), European stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus*), hermit beetle (*Osmoderma eremita*), Alpine longhorn beetle (*Rosalia alpina*), great capricorn beetle (*Cerambyx cerdo*), scarce large blue (*Phengaris teleius*), dusky large blue (*Phengaris nausithous*), the Austrian heath snail (*Helicopsis striata austriaca*), Adriatic lizard orchid (*Himantoglossum adriaticum*), and large pasque flower (*Pulsatilla grandis*).

Furthermore, there are 26 bird species in the Wienerwald with populations of national significance, which are listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive as requiring protection. High-level conservation objectives have been assigned to the following bird species: corn crane (*Crex crex*), woodlark (*Lullula arborea*), red-breasted flycatcher (*Ficedula parva*), middle spotted woodpecker (*Dendrocopos medius*), black stork (*Ciconia nigra*), white-backed woodpecker (*Dendrocopos leucotos*), and collared flycatcher (*Ficedula albicollis*).

The high biodiversity and the large number of rare species and habitat types are also due to the many different management practices and intensities. Especially extensive management practices have created valuable habitats. The conservation of these areas and the maintenance of nature-friendly management practices therefore remain an important objective.

3. “Provide an opportunity to explore and demonstrate approaches to sustainable development on a regional scale”.

(Including examples or learning experiences from putting sustainable development into practice).

Even before designation as a biosphere reserve, the Wienerwald region was already involved in diverse initiatives, projects and co-operative ventures with communities, companies and organisations which were striving for sustainable development and were active in reaching this goal.

The BR Management develops pilot projects and initiatives to demonstrate various approaches to sustainable development in the region. Involving the local population and regional partners is an important aspect of this work. Examples of such initiatives have already been described extensively in the previous chapters.

With the wide range of pilot projects and initiatives developed in recent years, the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve continues to demonstrate that it is worthy of this designation.

What has been new since the last report is the increased cooperation with other regional initiatives when it comes to sustainability. The collaboration with Wienerwald Tourism is also a successful example. The *Wienerwald Tourismus Gesellschaft* has now formally incorporated the Wienerwald BR into its strategy and employs a dedicated staff member responsible for sustainability. Together, we have also developed and implemented a network of mountain bike routes that integrates nature conservation and recreational use in a sustainable way. Another example is the increasing number of partner businesses offering residents of the region opportunities for sustainable consumption.

4. “Have an appropriate size to serve the three functions of biosphere reserves”.

The Wienerwald BR covers an area of 105,645 hectares.

Areas of the Biosphere Reserve Zones:	Area [ha]	in % of BR area
Total area of the Wienerwald BR	105.645	
Total core zone area	5,442	5
Total buffer zone area	32,571	31
Transition zone	67,632	64

5. Appropriate zonation to serve the three functions

Transition Zone (proportion 64%)

The Transition Zone is the space dedicated to habitation, commercial and recreational activity in the BR. Here, management practices are to be developed that meet the needs of both people and nature - serving as a model for the entire country. This includes environmentally and socially responsible tourism as well as the production and marketing of regional, eco-friendly products.

Buffer Zone (proportion 31%)

The buffer zone in the Wienerwald is dedicated to the conservation of habitats created by human usage (e.g. meadows, pastures, vineyards). This zone can boast an astonishingly high species diversity resulting from use by humans and livestock. In order to maintain these areas, it is essential to continue their use or conservation. Notably, buffer zones also serve to screen the core zone from adverse effects.

Core Zone (proportion 5%)

The core zone is kept as free as possible from human influence allowing evolution to take its course. The Wienerwald BR's core zones are exclusively forest areas; the 37 individual areas enjoy legal protection either as nature protection areas (in Lower Austria) or protected landscapes (in Vienna).

6. “Organizational arrangements should be provided for the involvement and participation of a suitable range of inter alia public authorities, local communities and private interests in the design and the carrying out of the functions of a biosphere reserve”.

To involve decision-makers and opinion leaders, there is the Regional Forum as a participatory advisory board, a Scientific Advisory Board, the Supervisory Board, and the General Assembly. In addition, several thematic regular meetings take place, such as networking meetings or the core zone landowners' meetings (see 2.3.4). The biosphere reserve ambassadors, appointed in 2012, also make an important contribution to engaging the public and promoting participation (see 7.5).

As a coordination body for all matters concerning the Wienerwald BR, the *Biosphärenpark Wienerwald Management GmbH* (BR Management) was established. It is available to everyone for all questions and concerns.

7. Mechanisms for implementation:

a) Mechanisms to manage human use and activities

Human use and activities in the buffer zones are regulated by a number of existing legal and planning instruments.

- In forest buffer zones, the provisions of the Austrian Forestry legislation and the provincial nature conservation laws are of particular importance.
- For open-land buffer zones, planning instruments from spatial planning law (regional spatial planning programmes, zoning plans, and local development plans) as well as nature conservation law (landscape protection status and Natura 2000 protection status) are especially relevant.
- Compensation and subsidy systems for environmentally friendly agriculture introduce extensive regulations regarding the quality and scope of management and maintenance measures.

Through various projects, further management measures concerning human influence are being implemented (see especially 5.3 and 4.2).

b) Management policy or plan

With the agreement pursuant to Art. 15a of the Austrian Federal Constitutional Law (BVG) between the States of Lower Austria and Vienna, a treaty exists that clearly defines the objectives and tasks of the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve. It serves as the foundation for developing the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve into a model region for sustainability.

Both Lower Austria and Vienna have passed their own Biosphere Reserve Acts, which provide the legal framework for the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve in the two Federal States. In addition, the zoning of the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve has been established in each state by means of a specific zoning ordinance.

Each individual core zone area has been legally secured through a contract with the landowners, and a separate management plan has been developed for each, providing a defined framework for management measures in the core zone (see 9. Supporting Documents, (4) Updated list of land use and management/cooperation plans).

A mission statement provides the guiding framework for the daily work of the staff of the BR Management. For strategy and management plan, see also section 7.7.

The legal documents are compiled in 9. Supporting Documents, (3).

c) Authority or mechanism to implement this policy or plan

The agreement pursuant to Art. 15a of the Austrian Federal Constitutional Law (BVG) between Lower Austria and Vienna forms the legal basis for all further actions in connection with the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve. Among other things, it stipulates that the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve is to be established and managed in such a way that

- its international recognition by UNESCO is obtained and permanently maintained;
- it serves as an instrument for the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of natural resources;
- it functions as a model region for the realization of the following objectives at the regional level:
 - Conservation: contribution to the preservation of landscapes, ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity;
 - Development: promotion of ecologically, economically, and socio-culturally sustainable development;
 - Education and Research: support and promotion of environmental education and training, research, and monitoring;
- the contracting parties, in their capacity as private legal entities, take into account the objectives of the Wienerwald Declaration.

For strategy and management plan, see also section 7.7.

The legal documents are included in the annex (9. Supporting Documents, (3) Updated list of legal documents).

To implement management plans and strategies, the “*Biosphärenpark Wienerwald Management GmbH*” (BR Management) was established in 2006.

d) Programmes for research, monitoring, education and training

In the Biosphere Reserve region, there are numerous research and educational institutions (see also 6.1), as well as research and monitoring activities (see 2.4.6). The BR Management is a member of the “Network Environmental Knowledge Lower Austria” and offers its own training programme on the topic of the Biosphere Reserve. In addition, diploma and thesis students are supported in carrying out their research within the Wienerwald BR.

Does the biosphere reserve have cooperative activities with other biosphere reserves (exchanges of information and staff, joint programmes, etc.)?

At the national level:

There is a close cooperation between the Austrian BR's Wienerwald, Großes Walsertal, Kärntner Nockberge and Salzburger Lungau as well as Südliches Murtal. Regular meetings are held in conjunction with the Austrian MAB National Committee, and common topics, such as criteria for partner companies, BR indicators, and project collaborations, are regularly discussed. Mutual visits and know-how transfer, as well as joint research projects, strengthen this collaboration.

At the regional level:

A joint project within the framework of the European Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Slovakia–Austria (Interreg SK-AT) supports the cooperation of the Wienerwald BR with the Male Karpaty Geopark (Little Carpathians). Through this cooperation, the Male Karpaty Geopark is establishing the strategic foundations for a future application to join the worldwide network as a UNESCO Global Geopark, which are also positioned as model regions for sustainable development. As part of this project, a joint study trip to the Minett BR in Luxembourg is currently being prepared and will take place in October 2025.

A dedicated research programme of the Austrian Academy of Sciences supports research collaboration among Austrian BRs together with BRs from Germany and Switzerland. Current examples include cooperation with the Schwarzwald and Berchtesgadener Land BRs (Germany), as well as with the Biosfera Engiadina Val Müstair BR and the Entlebuch BR (Switzerland).

Within the World Network:

The Wienerwald BR was regularly involved in the EURO-MAB meetings and the BR Management actively participated in the workshops and discussions. For example, in 2022 in Carinthia/Austria with the topics of tourism and mountain biking, research funding and urban development - demographic change. In 2024, the topics of natural hazard management, research on sustainable tourism, circular economy and good examples of research strategies were actively worked on by BR Management staff.

Employees of the BR Management also took part in other international events. For example, in the BR Flusslandschaft Elbe in Lenzen, Germany on the topic of participation or in the BR Appennino Tosco-Emiliano on the topic of agriculture and climate change.

There is also a regular exchange with the BR Institute of the Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development (*Hochschule für nachhaltige Entwicklung Eberswalde – HNEE*). In 2021 and 2023, excursion groups from Eberswalde University of Applied Sciences were welcomed in the Wienerwald BR. A workshop on research collaborations was enriched in 2024 with a presentation and a lecture by the Wienerwald BR Management. A contribution by the

Austrian MAB National Committee for a workshop in autumn 2025 was initiated by the Wienerwald BR Management. Representatives from BRs and research institutions from Europe and Asia take part in these events at Eberswalde University.

There is a closer exchange with the BR Dolni Morava in the Czech Republic, which is also the closest BR outside of Austria to the Wienerwald BR.

Numerous delegations from Germany, France, Slovakia, Japan, Lithuania, Brazil, etc. have been received in recent years to get an impression of the Wienerwald BR and to exchange experiences.

In recent years, the BR Management has also sent young people from the Wienerwald BR to the MAB Youth Forum hosted by the National Natural Landscapes of Germany (*Nationale Naturlandschaften Deutschlands*).

Currently (August 2025), the BR Management is represented in an Austrian working group that is preparing a contribution and a workshop for the World Conference of Biosphere Reserves (WCBR) in Hangzhou, China. Participation in this world conference in September 2025 is planned. Thus, a direct contribution to the "World Network of Biosphere Reserves" can also be made.

Obstacles encountered, measures to be taken and, if appropriate, assistance expected from the Secretariat:

None

Main objectives of the Biosphere Reserve:

Describe the main objectives of the biosphere reserve integrating the three functions and the sustainable development objectives for the coming years.

The agreement pursuant to Art. 15a of the Austrian Federal Constitutional Law (BVG) between Lower Austria and Vienna stipulates that the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve is to be established and managed in such a way that

- its international recognition by UNESCO is obtained and permanently maintained;
- it serves as an instrument for the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of natural resources;
- it functions as a model region for the realization of the following objectives at the regional level:
 - Conservation: contribution to the preservation of landscapes, ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity;
 - Development: promotion of ecologically, economically, and socio-culturally sustainable development;
 - Education and Research: support and promotion of environmental education and training, research, and monitoring;
- the contracting parties, in their capacity as private legal entities, take into account the objectives of the Wienerwald Declaration.

This contractual foundation remains valid and continues to form the substantive framework for BR Management.

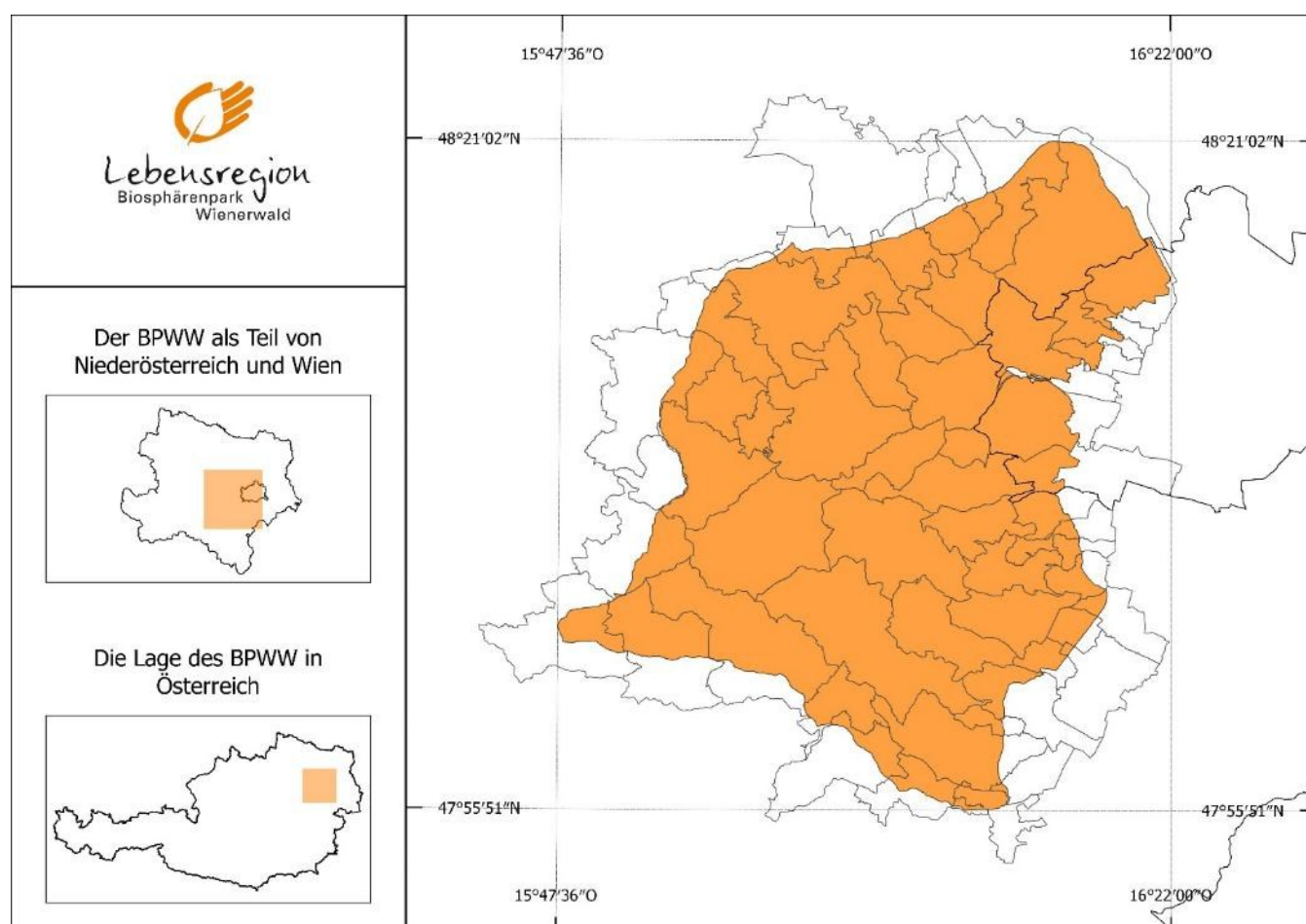
9. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

[List of the annexes submitted with periodic review report.]

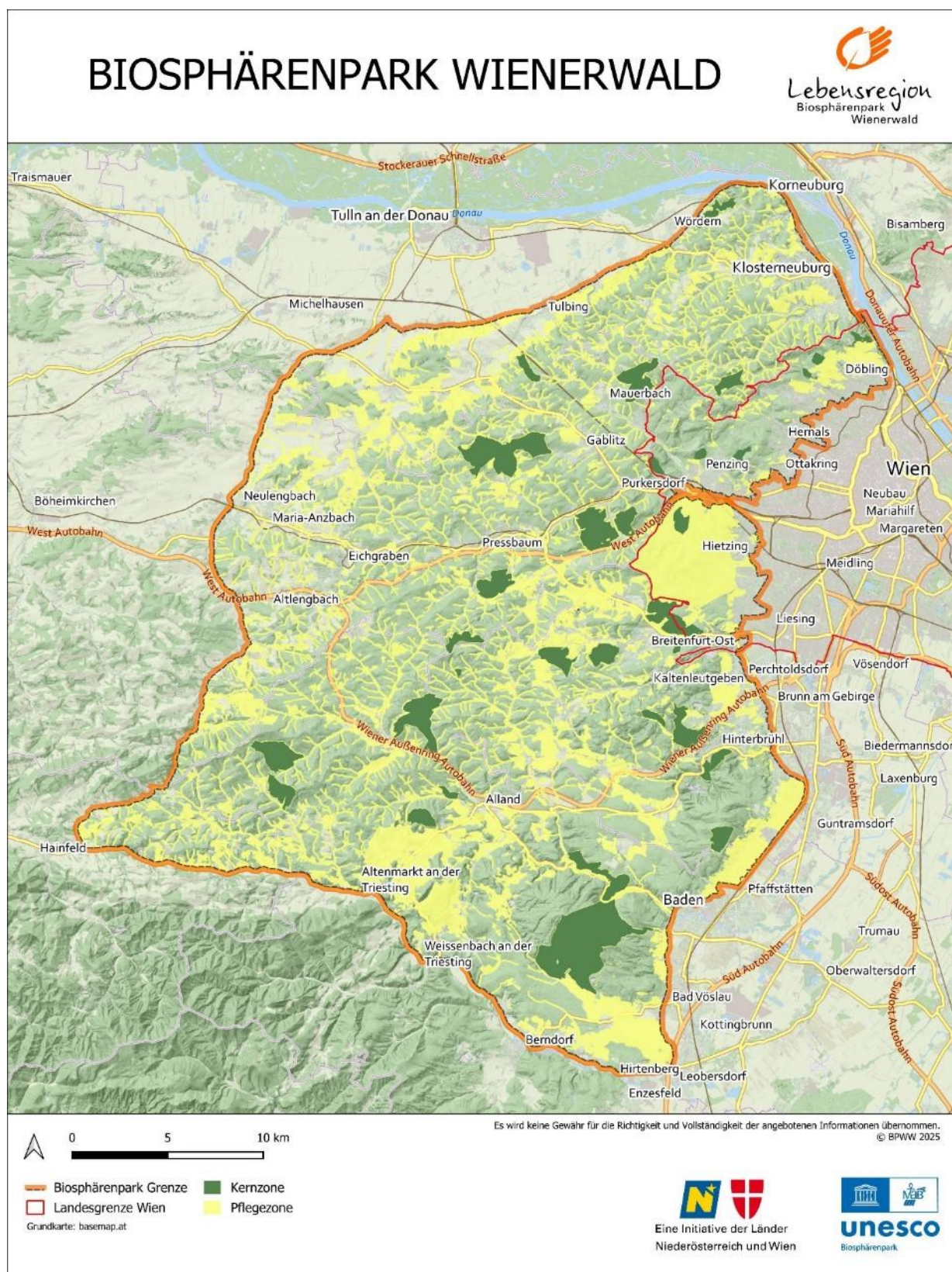
(1) Updated location and zonation map with coordinates

[Provide the biosphere reserve's standard geographical coordinates (all projected under WGS 84). Provide a map on a topographic layer of the precise location and delimitation of the three zones of the biosphere reserve (Map(s) shall be provided in both paper and electronic copies). Shapefiles (also in WGS 84 projection system) used to produce the map must also be attached to the electronic copy of the form. If applicable, also provide a link to access this map on the internet (e.g. Google map, website...)].

Wienerwald BR centroid, WGS84 coordinates: LON 16.106598, LAT 48.142792



Zonation map:

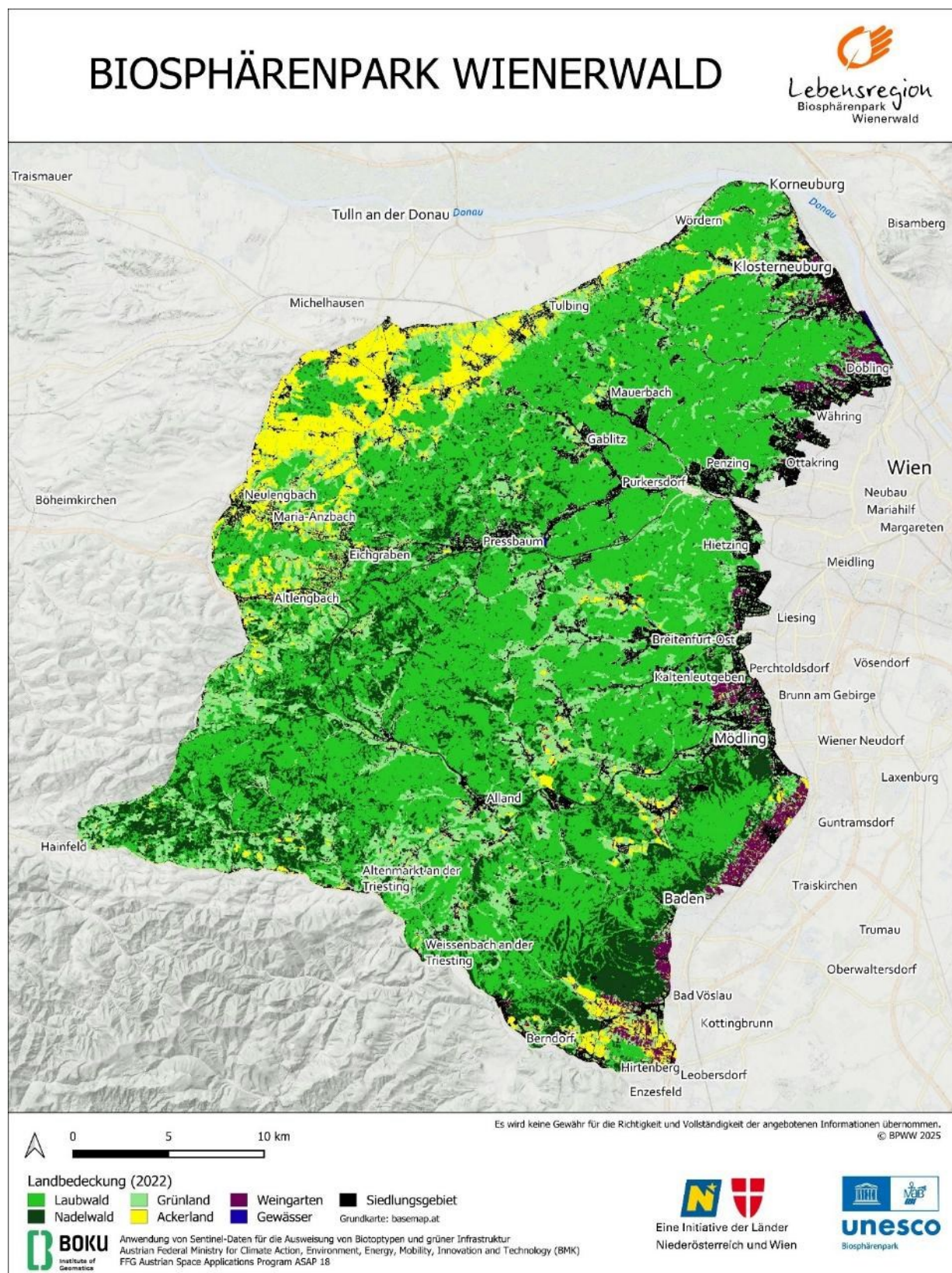


Kernzone = core zone

Pflegezone = buffer zone

(2) Updated vegetation map or land cover map

[A vegetation map or land cover map showing the principal habitats and land cover types of the biosphere reserve should be provided, if available.]



As part of various projects and collaborations with BOKU University, Institute of Geomatics, a land cover map of the Wienerwald BR was created. This activity was financially supported, among others, by a project funded by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (*Österreichische*

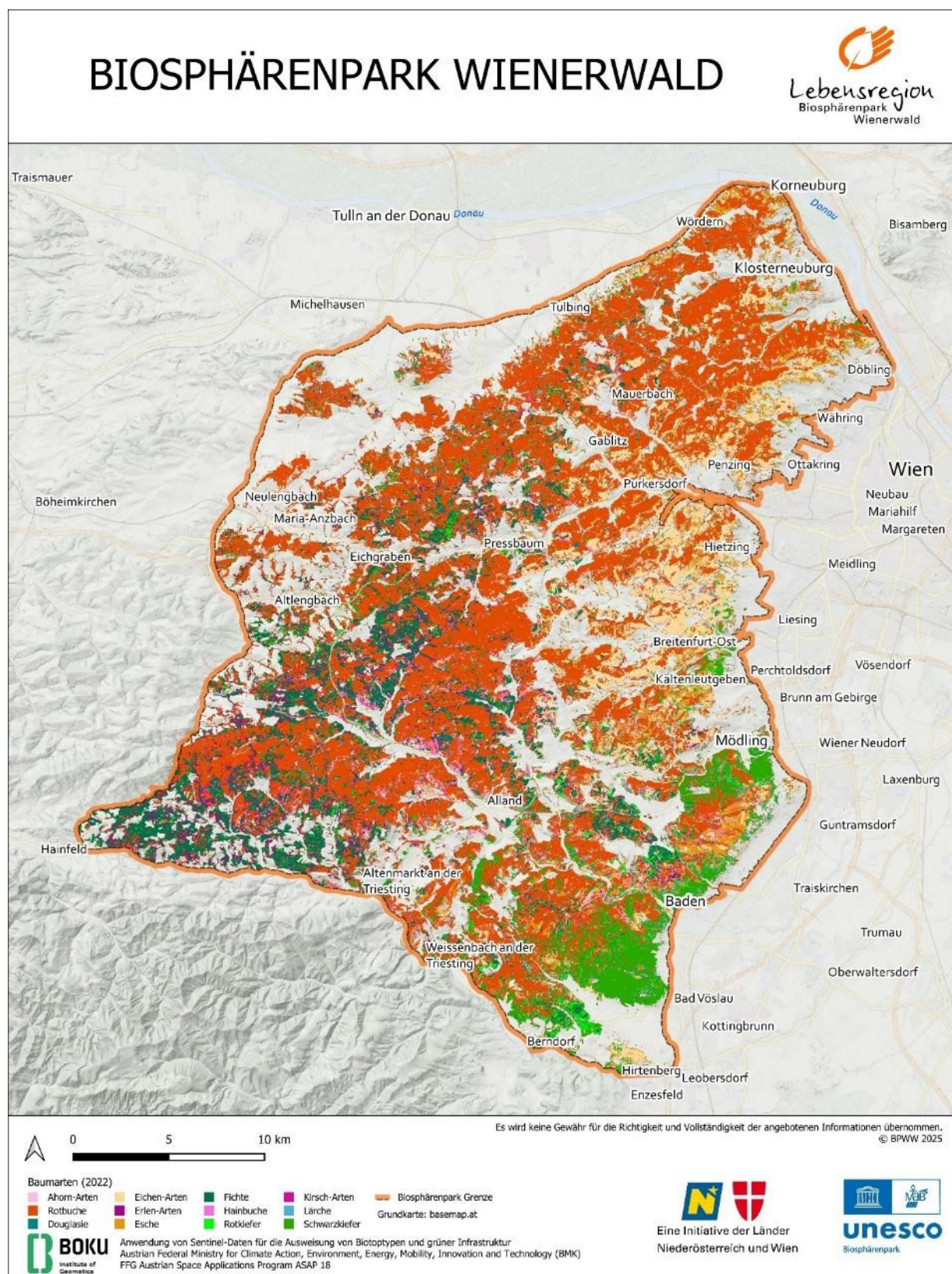
Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft). The further development and transfer of the findings to the other biosphere reserves in Austria were made possible through a research call initiated by the Austrian MAB National Committee. The maps are based on freely available imagery from the European space programme *Copernicus* and the use of Sentinel-2 satellite data. For the classification of land cover, the following categories were selected: deciduous forest, coniferous forest, grassland, arable land, vineyards, water bodies, and settlements (see map above).

Land Cover Category	Area [ha]	Area share [%]
Arable land	8,068.33	7.68%
Water bodies	67.24	0.06%
Grassland	17,782.39	16.93%
Deciduous forest	53,371.81	50.81%
Coniferous forest	14,141.73	13.46%
Settlements	9,000.41	8.57%
Vineyards	2,609.84	2.48%
Total	105,041.75	100.00%

When interpreting the different land cover categories, it is important to note that the calculated areas and proportions are based on satellite data derived from a “bird’s-eye view.” This means, for example, that the definition of forest according to the Austrian Forestry Act results in a different set of statistics for the Biosphere Reserve, or that areas defined as settlements under spatial planning legislation may differ from those indicated here as settlement areas. In this context, any potential reuse or comparison of data and regions should carefully take into account the definition of the respective categories.

The advantage of delineating land cover based on Sentinel-2 data is that the data are globally available and allow for objective, evidence-based comparisons. Moreover, the chosen approach provides a stable definition of each category, ensuring that any socio-politically motivated changes between land cover categories remain objective and transparently traceable. This also enables future comparative analyses of land cover, including changes over time.

Tree Species Composition in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve

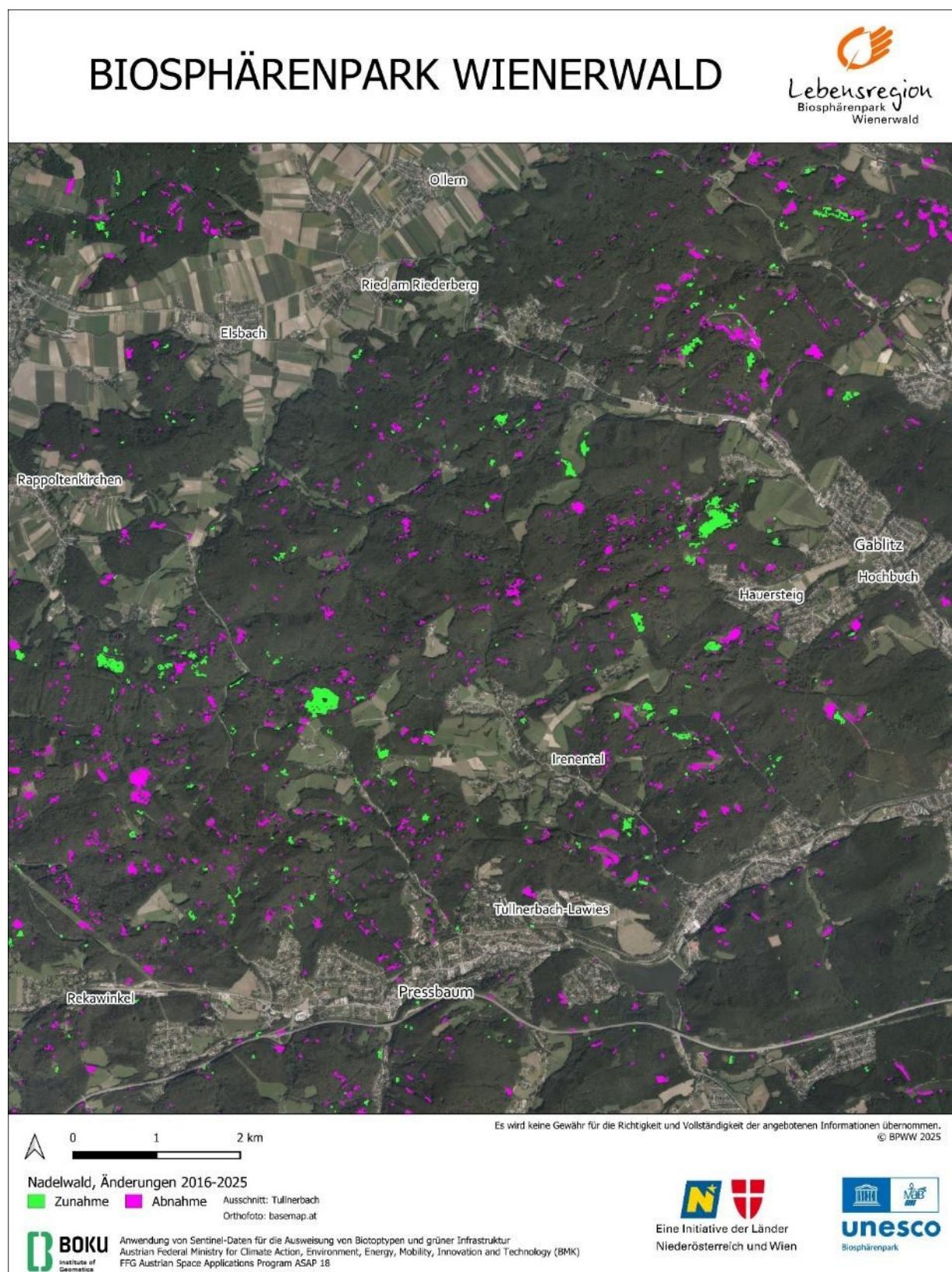


With over 50% of the area, European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) accounts for the largest share of all tree species in the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve. It is followed by oak species. The naturally occurring native oaks in the biosphere reserve pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), sessile oak

(*Quercus petraea*), Turkey oak (*Quercus cerris*), and downy oak (*Quercus pubescens*) - as well as the introduced red oak (*Quercus rubra*), cannot be distinguished based on Sentinel-2 data.

Tree Species	Area [ha]	Area Share [%]
European Beech (Rotbuche)	33,762.88	50.14%
Oak Species (Eichen-Arten)	8,700.80	12.92%
European Spruce (Fichte)	6,756.08	10.03%
Black Pine (Schwarzkiefer)	4,461.89	6.63%
Ash (Esche)	3,698.41	5.49%
Alder Species (Erlen-Arten)	3,192.03	4.74%
Larch (Lärche)	2,163.79	3.21%
Hornbeam (Hainbuche)	1,804.18	2.68%
Red Pine (Rotkiefer)	1,625.56	2.41%
Douglas Fir (Douglasie)	600.16	0.89%
Maple Species (Ahorn-Arten)	522.05	0.78%
Cherry Species (Kirsch-Arten)	47.36	0.07%
Total (Gesamtergebnis)	67,335.19	100.00%

Change in Tree Species Composition at the Level of Coniferous and Deciduous Forests



Forests are long-lived ecosystems and can be considered relatively stable habitats in Central Europe, where large-scale changes - except for events such as forest fires or the introduction of organisms that cause widespread die-off of certain tree species - are comparatively rare.

As discussed in this report, it is noticeable that forest management in the Wienerwald BR is increasingly oriented toward the challenge of changing climatic conditions. To illustrate potential effects of altered forest management on changes in tree species composition, change maps of coniferous forests were created in cooperation with the BOKU University, Institute of Geomatics.

As an example, the change in coniferous forests in the Tullnerbach region (office location of the BR Management) is shown on the map above. It should be noted that the map and the analyses represent first-developed models, which will be further refined and validated on the ground.

In all subareas of the Wienerwald BR, a shift from coniferous forests to deciduous forests can be observed. In particular, spruce forests are decreasing in area. This is caused not only by damage events such as storms but also by mass outbreaks of bark beetles. The regeneration of these newly unforested areas often occurs naturally, and in some cases is supplemented with the planting of deciduous trees. This trend can be interpreted as a response of forest management to the climate crisis. In the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve region, oak species and especially mixed forests are considered particularly stable.

Where increases in coniferous forests occur, there is often a shift toward Douglas fir, a tree species promoted as stable by the forestry sector in times of climate crisis. This trend was particularly noticeable until around 2019 in the Wienerwald BR. Today, European silver fir is gaining importance in the western Wienerwald. In general, firs are considered “climate-resilient tree species”.

(3) Updated list of legal documents (if possible with English, French or Spanish synthesis of its contents and a translation of its most relevant provisions)

[If applicable update the principal legal documents since the nomination of the biosphere reserve and provide a copy of these documents.]

Folgende Bestimmungen und Dokumente wurden seit dem letzten Bericht verändert:

Reference Number	Document Name	Document Titel	Date
01	Gesellschafts-vertrag	<i>Declaration to form a limited company</i> Erklärung über die Errichtung einer Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung	07. 06. 2021
02	Firmenbuch-auszug	<i>Companies register</i> Firmenbuchauszug	20. 06. 2025
03	Zonenverordnung	<i>Enactment of core and buffer zones of the biosphere reserve</i> Verordnung über die Kern- und Pflegezonen des Biosphärenpark Wienerwald - NÖ https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/eli/lgb/NI/2019/53/20190702	25. 06. 2019

ERKLÄRUNG

ÜBER DIE ERRICHTUNG EINER GESELLSCHAFT MIT BESCHRÄNKTER HAFTUNG

§ 1 Firma und Sitz der Gesellschaft

1. Der „Verein Niederösterreich - Wien, gemeinsame Entwicklungsräume“ errichtet hiemit eine Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung unter der Firma **Biosphärenpark Wienerwald Management Gesellschaft m.b.H.** -----
2. Der Sitz der Gesellschaft befindet sich in Tullnerbach. -----

§ 2 Zweck der Gesellschaft

1. Die Gesellschaft, deren Tätigkeit nicht auf Gewinn gerichtet ist, bezweckt
 - den Schutz von Ökosystemen und Landschaften des Wienerwalds,-----
 - die Erhaltung der biologischen und kulturellen Vielfalt und der genetischen Ressourcen, -----
 - die Entwicklung und Förderung von ökologisch, wirtschaftlich und soziokulturell nachhaltigen Formen der Landnutzung,-----
 - die Förderung von Forschung, Umweltbeobachtung und Bildungsaktivitäten für besseres Verstehen von Wechselwirkungen zwischen Mensch und Natur.
2. Der Unternehmensgegenstand soll durch die, in den Abs. 3 und 4 angeführten ideellen und materiellen Mittel erreicht werden. -----
3. Als ideelle Mittel dienen -----
 - a) der Betrieb und die Weiterentwicklung des Biosphärenpark Wienerwald im Sinne der Vereinbarung gemäß Artikel 15a B-VG zwischen den Ländern Niederösterreich und Wien, des Landes-Gesetzes über den Wiener Teil des Biosphärenparks - Wienerwald, und des NÖ Biosphärenpark Wienerwald Gesetz, -----
 - b) die offizielle Repräsentation des Biosphärenpark Wienerwald, insbesondere die Kontaktpflege mit den Stellen der UNESCO, dem nationalen MAB Komitee, in- und ausländischen Biosphärenreservaten und anderen nationalen und internationalen Institutionen sowie den Gebietskörperschaften; -----
 - c) die Erstellung eines Leitbildes für den Biosphärenpark Wienerwald unter Berücksichtigung vorhandener Stadt- und Regionalentwicklungspläne;-----
 - d) die Mitarbeit an beziehungsweise die Erstellung von weiter führenden Konzepten (zum Beispiel: Tourismus, Offenland) sowie die laufende Kontrolle ihrer Umsetzung und Einhaltung;-----

- e) die Koordinierung des Naturraummanagements und erforderlichenfalls die Erstellung von Konzepten dazu;-----
 - f) die Koordinierung und Dokumentation der wissenschaftlichen Forschung und der laufenden Umweltbeobachtung (Monitoring);-----
 - g) die Initiierung, Unterstützung und die Durchführung von Projekten; -----
 - h) die Koordinierung beziehungsweise Durchführung von Informations- und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit; -----
 - i) der Aufbau und die Betreuung von Partizipationsinstrumenten und -prozessen; -----
 - j) die Entwicklung und Koordination der biosphärenparkbezogenen Bildungsarbeit sowie der Besucherinformation und -betreuung; -----
 - k) die Erstellung eines Konzeptes zur Kennzeichnung des Biosphärenparks Wienerwald; -----
 - l) die Erstellung eines Konzeptes zur Verwendung und Verwertung der zu AZ. AM 3547/2004, Register Nr. 219 690, des Österreichischen Patentamtes registrierten Wort-Bildmarke; -----
 - m) die Zuwendung von Mitteln (insbesondere Wirtschaftsgüter und wirtschaftliche Vorteile) an begünstigte Einrichtungen iSd § 4a Abs 3 bis 6 EStG und des § 4b EStG zur unmittelbaren Förderung derselben Zwecke wie jene der Gesellschaft; -----
 - n) die Erbringung von Lieferungen oder sonstigen Leistungen gegen Entgelt, aber ohne Gewinnerzielungsabsicht gegenüber Körperschaften, deren Tätigkeit dieselben Zwecke wie jene der Gesellschaft fördert. Die Erbringung dieser Lieferungen oder sonstigen Leistungen darf höchstens 25 % der Gesamttätigkeit der Gesellschaft ausmachen. -----
4. Als materielle Werte dienen -----
- Subventionen und Beiträge, -----
 - Zuschüsse des Gesellschafters, -----
 - Spenden und andere Zuwendungen, -----
 - Einnahmen im Zusammenhang mit Veranstaltungen und Publikationen, -----
 - Erträge aus gesellschaftseigenen Unternehmungen, -----
 - Erträge aus der Vermögensverwaltung (zB Zinsen, sonstige Kapitaleinkünfte, Einnahmen aus der Vermietung und Verpachtung etc), ---
 - Sponsorengelder und Werbeeinnahmen, -----
 - Erträge aus der Verwertung der registrierten Wort-Bildmarke. -----
5. Die Gesellschaftsmittel müssen ausschließlich und unmittelbar für die in Absatz 1 genannten Zwecke verwendet werden. -----

§ 3 Unternehmensgegenstand

- (1) Gegenstand des Unternehmens sind: -----
- a) der Betrieb und die Weiterentwicklung des Biosphärenpark Wienerwald im Sinne der Vereinbarung gemäß Artikel 15a B-VG zwischen den Ländern Niederösterreich und Wien zur Errichtung und zum Betrieb eines Biosphärenparks Wienerwald, des Landes-Gesetzes über den Wiener Teil des Biosphärenparks - Wienerwald, und das NÖ Biosphärenpark Wienerwald Gesetz, -----
 - b) die offizielle Repräsentation des Biosphärenpark Wienerwald, insbesondere die Kontaktpflege mit den Stellen der UNESCO, dem nationalen MAB Komitee, in- und ausländischen Biosphärenreservaten und anderen nationalen und internationalen Institutionen sowie den Gebietskörperschaften; -----
 - c) die Erstellung eines Leitbildes für den Biosphärenpark Wienerwald unter Berücksichtigung vorhandener Stadt- und Regionalentwicklungspläne; -----
 - d) die Mitarbeit an beziehungsweise die Erstellung von weiter führenden Konzepten (z. B.: Tourismus, Offenland) sowie die laufende Kontrolle ihrer Umsetzung und Einhaltung; -----
 - e) die Koordinierung des Naturraummanagements und erforderlichenfalls die Erstellung von Konzepten dazu; -----
 - f) die Koordinierung und Dokumentation der wissenschaftlichen Forschung und der laufenden Umweltbeobachtung (Monitoring); -----
 - g) die Initiierung, Unterstützung und die Durchführung von Projekten, -----
 - h) die Koordinierung beziehungsweise Durchführung von Informations- und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit; -----
 - i) der Aufbau und die Betreuung von Partizipationsinstrumenten und -prozessen, -----
 - j) die Entwicklung und Koordination der biosphärenparkbezogenen Bildungsarbeit sowie der Besucherinformation und -betreuung; -----
 - k) die Erstellung eines Konzeptes zur Kennzeichnung des Biosphärenparks Wienerwald; -----
 - l) die Erstellung eines Konzeptes zur Verwendung und Verwertung der zu AZ. AM 3547/2004, Register Nr. 219 690, des Österreichischen Patentamtes registrierten Wort-Bildmarke. -----
- (2) Die Gesellschaft ist berechtigt, zur Erfüllung ihres Unternehmensgegenstandes wirtschaftliche Geschäftsbetriebe zu unterhalten, jedoch müssen diese so beschaffen sein, dass die Erreichung des gemeinnützigen Gesellschaftszweckes dadurch nicht vereitelt oder gefährdet wird. Erträge aus derartigen wirtschaftlichen Nebenbetrieben dürfen nur für die in diesem Vertrag bestimmten gemeinnützigen Zwecke verwendet werden. -----
- (3) Bank- und Börsengeschäfte sind nicht Unternehmensgegenstand. -----

§ 4 Stammkapital

1. Das Stammkapital der Gesellschaft beträgt € 100.000,- (in Worten: Euro einhunderttausend). -----
2. Dieses Stammkapital wird vor Eintragung im Firmenbuch vom Gesellschafter voll und bar einbezahlt. -----

§ 5 Beginn und Dauer der Gesellschaft

Die Gesellschaft beginnt mit dem Tage der Eintragung ins Firmenbuch und wird auf unbestimmte Zeit errichtet. -----

§ 6 Organe der Gesellschaft

Die Organe der Gesellschaft sind die Geschäftsführung, die Generalversammlung und der Aufsichtsrat. -----

§ 7 Geschäftsführung

1. Die Gesellschaft hat einen, zwei oder mehrere Geschäftsführer. Sie wird, wenn nur ein Geschäftsführer bestellt ist, durch diesen selbständig vertreten. -----
2. Sind mehrere Geschäftsführer bestellt, wird deren Vertretungsbefugnis mit dem Bestellungsbeschluss geregelt. In diesem Fall ist die Vertretung der Gesellschaft auch durch einen Geschäftsführer in Gemeinschaft mit einem Prokuristen, der zur Mitzeichnung der Firma berechtigt ist, zulässig. -----
3. Der Geschäftsführer erhält für seine Dienstleistungen ein von der Generalversammlung zu beschließendes Gehalt, dessen Höhe im Dienstvertrag geregelt ist. Im Dienstvertrag sind auch alle näheren Bestimmungen über das Dienstverhältnis enthalten. -----

§ 8 Aufsichtsrat

1. Die Gesellschaft hat einen Aufsichtsrat. Dieser überwacht die Geschäftsführung sowie die Wirksamkeit des Internen Kontrollsystems. Weiters obliegen ihm die Aufgaben gemäß dem Gesetz über die Gesellschaften mit beschränkter Haftung. -----
2. Seine Mitglieder werden durch Gesellschafterbeschluss bestellt. Die Anzahl der gewählten Aufsichtsratsmitglieder beträgt vier Personen. -----
3. Sein Vorsitzender und dessen Stellvertreter werden durch Gesellschafterbeschluss bestellt. -----
4. Ein Aufsichtsratsmitglied kann ein anderes schriftlich mit seiner Vertretung bei einer einzelnen Sitzung betrauen; ein so vertretenes Mitglied ist bei der Feststellung der Beschlussfähigkeit einer Sitzung nicht mitzuzählen. Das Recht, den Vorsitz zu führen, kann nicht übertragen werden. -----
5. Der Aufsichtsrat fasst seine Beschlüsse bei der Anwesenheit von mindestens drei seiner Mitglieder. Zur wirksamen Beschlussfassung ist

- Einstimmigkeit erforderlich. -----
6. Eine Beschlussfassung im Umlaufverfahren oder in einer Videokonferenz ist zulässig, wenn kein Aufsichtsratsmitglied diesem Verfahren widerspricht. -----
 7. Der Aufsichtsrat beschließt seine Geschäftsordnung selbst. -----
 8. Neben den im Gesetz vorgesehenen zustimmungspflichtigen Geschäften bedürfen folgende Geschäftsfälle der Zustimmung des Aufsichtsrates: ---
 - a. Investitionen mit einer Höhe von mehr als € 10.000,00 (Euro zehntausend) im Einzelnen und mehr als € 30.000,00 (Euro dreißigtausend) im Geschäftsjahr, -----
 - b. die Aufnahme und Gewährung von Darlehen und Krediten ab einer Höhe von € 50.000,00 (Euro fünfzigtausend), -----
 - c. Erstellung eines Vorschlages für die Wahl des Abschlussprüfers. --
 9. Falls die Geschäftsführung aus mehreren Personen besteht, hat sie eine Geschäftsordnung und eine Geschäftseinteilung zu erstellen, die dem Aufsichtsrat zur Genehmigung vorzulegen ist. -----
 10. Den Mitgliedern des Aufsichtsrates steht keine Aufwandsentschädigung zu. -----

§ 9 Generalversammlung

1. Die Gesellschafterbeschlüsse werden in Generalversammlungen gefasst. Die Beschlussfassung im schriftlichen Wege ist zulässig. -----
2. Die Generalversammlung besteht abwechselnd je Sitzung aus jenen beiden Vorstandsmitgliedern des Vereins Niederösterreich-Wien / Gemeinsame Entwicklungsräume (Gesellschafter), die im jeweiligen Bundesland für Umweltschutz beziehungsweise den Biosphärenpark Wienerwald zuständig sind. -----
3. Innerhalb der ersten sechs Monate des Geschäftsjahres findet einmal jährlich die ordentliche Generalversammlung statt. -----
4. Die Einberufung einer Generalversammlung erfolgt durch die Geschäftsführung unter Bekanntgabe der Tagesordnung mittels eingeschriebenen Briefs, dessen Postaufgabe spätestens zwei Wochen vor dem vorgesehenen Termin zu erfolgen hat. Die Generalversammlung findet am Sitz der Gesellschaft oder in Wien oder einem anderen Ort in Niederösterreich, an dem ein Notar seinen Amtssitz hat, statt. Bei Einverständnis des Gesellschafters oder seines Vertreters kann eine Generalversammlung auch ohne gesonderte Einberufung stattfinden und können dort Beschlüsse gefasst werden. -----
5. Der Vorsitzende hat darauf zu achten, dass über den Inhalt der Generalversammlung - falls es keiner notariellen Beurkundung bedarf - ein Protokoll geführt wird. Nach Beendigung der Generalversammlung hat er das Protokoll zu unterfertigen und dafür zu sorgen, dass eine Protokollsabschrift dem Gesellschafter zugesandt wird.

Gesellschafterbeschlüsse sind in das Protokollbuch einzutragen.-----

§ 10 Rechnungslegung, Bilanz und Verwendung des Bilanzgewinnes

1. Das Geschäftsjahr ist das Kalenderjahr. Das erste Geschäftsjahr beginnt mit der Eintragung in das Firmenbuch und endet mit Jahresultimo. -----
2. Die Beschlussfassung über die Verwendung des Reingewinnes ist unter Beachtung der vertraglichen Bestimmungen und der gesetzlichen Vorschriften alljährlich der Generalversammlung vorbehalten. -----
3. Die Gesellschaft strebt keinen Gewinn an, sondern nur einen unter Berücksichtigung der ihr zufließenden Gesellschaftermittel, Subventionen und Sponsorleistungen, Spenden sowie Erträgen aus Vermietungen, Veranstaltungen und Publikationen und ähnlichen Erträgen kostendeckenden Betrieb. Ein unter Berücksichtigung dieser Mittel nach Ausgleich mit vorgetragenen Verlusten vorhandener Gewinn darf nicht ausgeschüttet werden, sondern ist auf neue Rechnung vorzutragen oder einer Rücklage zuzuführen, die nur zur Erfüllung der gemeinnützigen Tätigkeit der Gesellschaft verwendet werden darf. -----

§ 11 Bekanntmachungen

Sämtliche Bekanntmachungen der Gesellschaft erfolgen durch Übersendung eingeschriebener Briefe an den Gesellschafter unter der der Gesellschaft bekannten Adresse. -----

§ 12 Auflösung und Liquidation

Im Falle der freiwilligen Auflösung, bei behördlicher Auflösung der Gesellschaft oder bei Wegfall des bisher begünstigten Gesellschaftszwecks erhalten die Gesellschafter nicht mehr als ihre einbezahlten Kapitalanteile und den gemeinen Wert ihrer Sacheinlagen, der nach dem Zeitpunkt der Leistung der Einlagen zu berechnen ist. Das verbleibende Vermögen ist ausschließlich und unmittelbar für gemeinnützige Tätigkeiten gem. §§ 34ff BAO zu verwenden und darf nur an Organisationen übertragen werden, die solche Zwecke gem. §§ 34ff BAO verfolgen. -----



FB

Stichtag 20.6.2025	Kurzinformation	FN 287108 v
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Letzte Eintragung am 27.06.2024 mit der Eintragsnummer 37
zuständiges Gericht Landesgericht St. Pölten

Der folgende Rechtsträger ist per 20.06.2025 im Firmenbuch aufrecht
eingetragen.

FIRMA

- 1 Biosphärenpark Wienerwald
Management Gesellschaft m.b.H.

RECHTSFORM

- 1 Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung

SITZ in

- 1 politischer Gemeinde Tullnerbach

GESCHÄFTSANSCHRIFT

- 1 Norbertinumstraße 9
3013 Tullnerbach

GESCHÄFTSFÜHRER/IN (handelsrechtlich)

- H Dipl.Ing. Andreas Weiß, geb. 03.07.1965
28 vertritt seit 01.07.2019 selbständig

----- VOLLZUGSÜBERSICHT -----

Landesgericht St. Pölten

- 1 eingetragen am 30.12.2006 Geschäftsfall 18 Fr 3957/06 s
Antrag auf Neueintragung einer Firma eingelangt am 21.12.2006
28 eingetragen am 05.07.2019 Geschäftsfall 18 Fr 1952/19 g
Antrag auf Änderung eingelangt am 02.07.2019

----- BUSINESS REGISTER INTERCONNECTION SYSTEM IDENTIFIKATION -----

zum 20.06.2025 gültige EUID: ATBRA.287108-000

	Datum/Zeit	2025-06-20T09:35:12+02:00
	Hinweis	Dieses Dokument wurde elektronisch signiert. Auch ein Ausdruck dieses Dokuments hat die Beweiskraft einer öffentlichen Urkunde.
	Prüfinformation	Informationen zur Prüfung des elektronischen Siegels bzw. der elektronischen Signatur und des Ausdrucks finden Sie unter: http://kundmachungen.justiz.gv.at/justizsignatur

03 – Enactment of core and buffer zones of the biosphere reserve in Lower Austria, updated in 2019 (no changes in Vienna since last report)

LANDESGESETZBLATT

FÜR NIEDERÖSTERREICH

Jahrgang 2019

Ausgegeben am 2. Juli 2019

53. Verordnung: Kern- und Pflegezonen des Biosphärenpark Wienerwald 2019

Die NÖ Landesregierung hat am 25. Juni 2019 aufgrund § 3 Abs. 3 des NÖ Biosphärenpark Wienerwald Gesetz, LGBl. 5760-0, verordnet:

Verordnung über die Kern- und Pflegezonen des Biosphärenpark Wienerwald 2019

§ 1

Abgrenzung der Kern- und Pflegezonen

Lage, Bezeichnung und Ausmaß der Kern- und Pflegezonen sind in den Anlagen 2 bis 11 dargestellt. Die Pflegezonen an Gewässern gelten mit jeweils 50 m beiderseits der Gewässerachse als festgelegt, sofern sich aus der Darstellung in den Anlagen 2 bis 10 keine größere Breite ergibt.

§ 2

Auswirkungen auf die örtliche Raumordnung

(1) In Kernzonen ist die Widmung von Flächen als Bauland oder als Verkehrsfläche im Sinne des NÖ Raumordnungsgesetzes 2014, LGBl. Nr. 3/2015 in der geltenden Fassung, unzulässig. Bei Umwidmungen von Flächen innerhalb von Kernzonen sind nur die Grünlandwidmungsarten Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Ödland/Ökofläche und Freihalteflächen zulässig.

- (2) In Pflegezonen darf eine Widmung von Flächen als Bauland nur dann festgelegt werden, wenn
- a) dies der Verbesserung der Siedlungsstruktur dient (z. B. Schließung der Baulandlücken, Abrundung von Siedlungsgebieten) und
 - b) im Gemeindegebiet die beabsichtigte Widmung sonst nicht möglich ist.

(3) In Pflegezonen sind nur die Grünlandwidmungsarten Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Land- und forstwirtschaftliche Hofstelle, Grüngürtel, Erhaltenswerte Gebäude im Grünland, Friedhof, Parkanlage, Ödland/Ökofläche, Wasserfläche und Freihalteflächen zulässig.

§ 3

Schlussbestimmung

Mit Inkrafttreten dieser Verordnung tritt die Verordnung über die Kern- und Pflegezonen des Biosphärenpark Wienerwald, LGBl. 5760/1, außer Kraft.

NÖ Landesregierung

Pernkopf

Landeshauptfrau-Stellvertreter

See also: <https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/eli/lgb/N/2019/53/P2/LNO40042565>

(4) Updated list of land use and management/cooperation plans

[List existing land use and management/cooperation plans (with dates and reference numbers) for the administrative area(s) included within the biosphere reserve. Provide a copy of these documents. It is recommended to produce an English, French or Spanish synthesis of its contents and a translation of its most relevant provisions.]

The following land-use, management and cooperation plans have been modified or added since the last report (see Annex: Supporting Documents/4-management-cooperation-plans):

Reference Number	Document Name	Document Titel	Date
01	Criteria-partner-companies	Criteria for partner companies based on the UN SDGs	12. 2021
02	Self-Assessment-partner-company	Self assessment template for partner company	03. 2020
03	Contract-Partner-company	Contract with partner company	04. 2024
04	Managementplan-Corezone-example-Baunzen	Managementplan for core zones, example core zone Baunzen	2015
05	Cooperation-LPV-Thermenlinie	Cooperation plan BR-Management with Landscape Maintenance Association „Thermenlinie-Wienerwald-Wiener Becken“ and municipalities	2024
06	Landuse-programme-Lower-Austria	Regional Spatial Planning Programme, example district St. Pölten-Land	01. 2025
07	wien-plan	Urban Development Plan Vienna 2035	2025

(5) Updated species list (to be annexed)

[Provide a list of important species occurring within the proposed biosphere reserve, including common names, wherever possible.]

The most frequently observed and documented species during the Biodiversity Days 2015 – 2021 (later species lists from 2022 – 2025 are not yet fully available):

taxon	name_de	class	phylum	kingdom
Fringilla coelebs	Buchfink	Aves	Chordata	Animalia
Turdus merula	Amsel	Aves	Chordata	Animalia
Sylvia atricapilla	Mönchsgrasmücke	Aves	Chordata	Animalia
Dendrocopos major	Buntspecht	Aves	Chordata	Animalia
Parus major	Kohlmeise	Aves	Chordata	Animalia

<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Kleiber	Aves	Chordata	Animalia
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Star	Aves	Chordata	Animalia
<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Ringeltaube	Aves	Chordata	Animalia
<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Rotkehlchen	Aves	Chordata	Animalia
<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Singdrossel	Aves	Chordata	Animalia
<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Zilpzalp	Aves	Chordata	Animalia
<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	Großes Ochsenauge	Insecta	Arthropoda	Animalia
<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Stieglitz	Aves	Chordata	Animalia
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Zaunkönig	Aves	Chordata	Animalia
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Edel-Esche	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Wiesen-Knäuelgras	Liliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	Hausrotschwanz	Aves	Chordata	Animalia
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Schwarz-Holunder	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Feld-Ahorn	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hainbuche, Edel-Hainbuche	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
<i>Colchicum autumnale</i>	Herbstzeitlose	Liliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Spitz-Wegerich	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Groß-Brennnessel	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Gewöhnlich-Waldrebe, Gewöhnliche Waldrebe	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
<i>Quercus cerris</i>	Zerr-Eiche	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Samt-Honiggras	Liliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Rot-Klee	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Echt-Nelkenwurz	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	Glatthafer	Liliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
<i>Picus viridis</i>	Grünspecht	Aves	Chordata	Animalia
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Berg-Ahorn	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Mäusebussard	Aves	Chordata	Animalia
<i>Campanula persicifolia</i>	Wald-Glockenblume, Pfirsichblättrige Glockenblume	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Rot-Buche	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Stink-Storachschnabel	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
<i>Apus apus</i>	Mauersegler	Aves	Chordata	Animalia
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Einkern-Weißdorn	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
<i>Filipendula vulgaris</i>	Knollen-Mädesüß, Klein-Mädesüß	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
<i>Rutpela maculata</i>	Gefleckter Schmalbock	Insecta	Arthropoda	Animalia
<i>Corvus corone cornix</i>	Nebelkrähe	Aves	Chordata	Animalia
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Wiesen-Kammgras	Liliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
<i>Corvus corone corone x cornix</i>	Raben-/Nebelkrähe	Aves	Chordata	Animalia
<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Goldammer	Aves	Chordata	Animalia

Lathyrus pratensis	Wiesen-Platterbse	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Lotus corniculatus	Wiesen-Hornklee	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Hedera helix	Gewöhnlich-Efeu	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Gryllus campestris	Feldgrille	Insecta	Arthropoda	Animalia
Campanula patula	Wiesen-Glockenblume	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Trisetum flavescens	Wiesen-Goldhafer	Liliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Columba oenas	Hohltaube	Aves	Chordata	Animalia
Trifolium repens	Kriech-Klee, Weiß-Klee	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Fragaria vesca	Wald-Erdbeere	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Hypericum perforatum	Echt-Johanniskraut	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Lysimachia nummularia	Pfennigkraut	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Ligustrum vulgare	Gewöhnlich-Liguster	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Dryocopus martius	Schwarzspecht	Aves	Chordata	Animalia
Galium aparine	Weißes Klett-Labkraut	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Impatiens parviflora	Klein-Springkraut	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Prunella vulgaris	Klein-Brunelle	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Falco tinunculus	Turmfalke	Aves	Chordata	Animalia
Bromus erectus	Aufrecht-Trespe	Liliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Cirsium arvense	Acker-Kratzdistel	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Taraxacum officinale agg.	Artengruppe Gewöhnlicher Löwenzahn	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Falco tinnunculus	Turmfalke	Aves	Chordata	Animalia
Parus caeruleus	Blaumeise	Aves	Chordata	Animalia
Corvus corone	Aaskrähe	Aves	Chordata	Animalia
Cornus sanguinea	Rot-Hartriegel	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Juglans regia	Echt-Walnuss	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Alliaria petiolata	Lauchkraut	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Carex sylvatica	Wald-Segge	Liliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Prunus avium	Vogel-Kirsche	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Medicago lupulina	Hopfen-Schneckenklee	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Quercus petraea	Trauben-Eiche	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Briza media	Mittel-Zittergras	Liliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Medicago lupulina	Hopfen-Schneckenklee	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Aegopodium podagraria	Geißfuß	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Allium ursinum	Bär-Lauch	Liliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Artemisia vulgaris	Echt-Beifuß	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Euphorbia cyparissias	Zypressen-Wolfsmilch	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Securigera varia	Gewöhnlich- Buntkronwicke	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Euonymus europaeus	Gewöhnlich- Spindelstrauch	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Brachypodium sylvaticum	Wald-Zwenke	Liliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Crepis biennis	Wiesen-Pippau	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae

Monachoides incarnatus	Rötliche Laubschnecke	Gastropoda	Mollusca	Animalia
Lolium perenne	Dauer-Lolch	Liliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Ajuga reptans	Kriech-Günsel	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Ranunculus repens	Kriech-Hahnenfuß	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Tragopogon orientalis	Großer Wiesen-Bocksbart, Orientalischer Bocksbart	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Cuculus canorus	Kuckuck	Aves	Chordata	Animalia
Hirundo rustica	Rauchschwalbe	Aves	Chordata	Animalia
Melanargia galathea	Schachbrettfalter	Insecta	Arthropoda	Animalia
Vanessa cardui	Distelfalter	Insecta	Arthropoda	Animalia
Anagallis arvensis	Acker-Gauchheil	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Convolvulus arvensis	Acker-Winde	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Acer platanoides	Spitz-Ahorn	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Wiesen-Ruchgras	Liliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Brachypodium pinnatum	Fieder-Zwenke	Liliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Calamagrostis epigejos	Schilf-Reitgras	Liliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Carex flacca	Blau-Segge	Liliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Clinopodium vulgare	Wirbeldost	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Galium verum	Echtes Labkraut	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Glechoma hederacea	Echt-Gundelrebe	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Ranunculus acris	Scharf-Hahnenfuß	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Stachys sylvatica	Wald-Ziest	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Arion vulgaris	Spanische Wegschnecke	Gastropoda	Mollusca	Animalia
Poa trivialis	Graben-Rispe	Liliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae
Potentilla anserina	Gänse-Fingerkraut	Magnoliopsida	Tracheophyta	Plantae

A complete species list is available as an Excel file in the electronic annex (Supporting Documents/5-updated-species-list/).

(6) Updated list of main bibliographic references (to be annexed)

[Provide a list of the main publications and articles of relevance to the proposed biosphere reserve.]

“Alte Mühlen Mahlen Heute Anders: Das Hotel Höldrichsmühle Kombiniert Tradition Mit Einer Modernen Naturlandschaft. Zum Erfolgsrezept Gehören Die Familie, Franz Schuberts 220. Geburtstag, Ferdinand Waldmüller Und Der Biosphärenpark Wienerwald.” 2017. Hotel & Touristik, no. 1: 20.

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For further publications of research and monitoring reports, see: 2.4.6, 6.2

See also electronic annex: Supporting Documents/6-bibliography/

(7) Further supporting documents.

Future Strategy 2030 – see electronic annex: Supporting Documents/7-further-supporting-documents

10. ADRESSES

10.1 Contact address of the proposed biosphere reserve:

[Government agency, organization, or other entity (entities) to serve as the main contact to whom all correspondence within the World Network of Biosphere Reserves should be addressed.]

Name: _____ **Biosphärenpark Wienerwald Management GmbH**
Street or P.O. Box: _____ **Norbertinumstrasse 9**
City with postal code: _____ **3013 Tullnerbach**
Country: _____ **Austria**
Telephone: _____ **+43 2233 54 187**
E-mail: _____ **office@bpww.at**
Web site: _____ **www.bpww.at**

20.2. Administering entity of the core area(s):

Name: *siehe oben* _____
Street or P.O. Box: _____
City with postal code: _____
Country: _____
Telephone: _____
E-mail: _____
Web site: _____

20.3. Administering entity of the buffer zone(s):

Name: *siehe oben* _____
Street or P.O. Box: _____
City with postal code: _____
Country: _____
Telephone: _____
E-mail: _____
Web site: _____

20.4. Administering entity of the transition area(s):

Name: *siehe oben* _____
Street or P.O. Box: _____
City with postal code: _____
Country: _____
Telephone: _____
E-mail: _____
Web site: _____

Annex I to the Biosphere Reserve Periodic Review, January 2013
MABnet Directory of Biosphere Reserves

Administrative details

Country: Austria

Name of BR: Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve

Year designated: 2005

Administrative authorities: Biosphärenpark Wienerwald Management GmbH

Main Contact: DI Andreas Weiß

Contact address *(Including phone number, postal and email addresses):*

Norbertinumstraße 9, A-3013 Tullnerbach

T 02233 54 187-0

M 0676/ 812 20 401

E aw@bpww.at

I www.bpww.at

Social networks: <https://www.facebook.com/bpww.at>, <https://www.youtube.com/@bpww>
https://www.instagram.com/biosphaerenpark_wienerwald/

Description

General description:

The Wienerwald BR covers an area of 105,645 hectares and extends across 51 communities in Lower Austria and seven municipal districts in Vienna. Some 885,000 people live in this region. The uniqueness of this region is characterised by the diversity of nature, culture and sustainable management on the margins of the City of Vienna – the only terrestrial biosphere reserve in Europe part of which is located in a megacity with millions of inhabitants. Apart from the city of Vienna and concomitant suburbanisation, the region is characterised by a few small towns with more than 20,000 inhabitants and numerous small villages. It should be noted that 60% of communities have less than 5,000 inhabitants. Mödling, Baden and Klosterneuburg each have more than 20,000 inhabitants.

The Wienerwald is one of the largest contiguous mixed deciduous forests in Central Europe. The location of such a large expanse of forest on the edge of a big city is unique. The range of climatic and geological conditions in the Wienerwald is the reason for its great diversity of vegetation types. The Biosphere Reserve has more than 20 forest types – with beech, oak and hornbeam dominating – and more than 17 types of meadow. There are more than 2,000 plant species and approx. 150 species of breeding birds in the Wienerwald. The sun-blessed hills of the Wienerwald in this open cultural landscape are characterised by viticulture. This landscape is rich in structures such as fruit trees, hedges and stone walls thus providing habitats for numerous interesting and endangered animal and plant species.

The Wienerwald BR has four nature parks within its boundaries, and major parts of the region are designated as protected landscapes and Natura 2000 sites respectively.

The Wienerwald BR is administered by Biosphärenpark Wienerwald Management GmbH from its HQ in Tullnerbach. This management team aims at protecting nature and conserving the habitats and species that need this protection, at the same time as developing the region in a way to make it excel in responsible management and actions. The sample projects and initiatives carried out are intended to cover as far as possible all aspects of sustainability, i.e. ecology, economy and social concerns.

Major ecosystem type: **Forest** (approx. 70,000 ha) – oak mixed forests, beech forests, black pine forests, and maple-lime mixed forests.

Open land – meadows (e.g. tall oat-grass meadows, false brome meadows, purple moor-grass meadows, fens and spring habitats, traditional orchard meadows, dry and semi-dry grasslands), pastures, arable land, viticultural landscapes, and water bodies.

Bioclimatic zone: Subcontinental climate with cold winters and hot, dry summers, with annual precipitation ranging from 584 to 1,000 mm (annual precipitation totals 2015–2024, Geosphere Austria, 2025). Temperatures range from –7 to +28 °C (temperature trends 2015–2024: monthly mean air temperature, Geosphere Austria, 2025).

Location (latitude & longitude):

Cardinal points:	Latitude	Longitude
Most central point:	48°08'28" N	16°04'56" E
Northernmost point:	48°21'05" N	16°15'28" E
Southernmost point:	47°55'52" N	16°10'47" E
Westernmost point:	48°15'33" N	16°22'13" E
Easternmost point:	48°02'44" N	15°47'40" E

Total Area (ha): 105.645

Core area(s): 5.442

Buffer zone(s): 32.571

Transition area(s): 67.632

Different existing zonation: none

Altitudinal range (metres above sea level): 160-890 m Seehöhe

Zonation map(s) (refer to section 2.2.2): see 9. Supporting Documents

Main objectives of the biosphere reserve

Brief description

The management regime aims at protecting nature and conserving the habitats and species that need this protection within the region, at the same time as developing the region in a way to make it excel in responsible management and actions. The sample projects and initiatives carried out are intended to cover as far as possible all aspects of sustainability, i.e. ecology, economy and social concerns.

The key goals of the Wienerwald BR are as follows:

- Sustained maintenance of its international recognition granted by UNESCO.
- Conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of natural resources
- Model region for achieving the following goals at regional level:
 - contributing to conserving landscapes, ecosystems, species and genetic diversity;
 - fostering ecologically, economically and socio-culturally sustainable development;
 - supporting and fostering environmental education and training, research and monitoring.

Research

Brief description

Research is carried out in the fields of zoology, botany, agriculture and forestry, spatial and landscape planning as well as social and economic sciences.

In recent years, the focus has been on natural assets and preservation of evidence in order to obtain basic data about the region and to create a basis for later comparative studies. However, climate change, climate adaptation and leisure and recreational use are also current research topics. Research projects of the last ten years concern, for example:

- open land surveys and biotope mapping
- biodiversity
- impacts of climate change on forest ecosystems
- climate change adaptation
- ecosystem services
- recreational use and local recreation
- participation processes and networks
- and much more, see 2.4.6 and 6.2

Monitoring

Brief description

Apart from research projects in the disciplines mentioned above, there are monitoring projects taking place on an on-going basis, e.g.:

- core zone monitoring
- biodiversity monitoring in the core zones
- soil monitoring
- bird monitoring
- bat monitoring

Specific variables (fill in the table below and tick the relevant parameters)

Abiotic		Biodiversity	
Abiotic factors		Afforestation/Reforestation	X
Acidic deposition/Atmospheric factors		Algae	
Air quality		Alien and/or invasive species	X
Air temperature		Amphibians	X
Climate, climatology	X	Arid and semi-arid systems	
Contaminants		Autoecology	
Drought	X	Beach/soft bottom systems	
Erosion		Benthos	X
Geology	X	Biodiversity aspects	X
Geomorphology		Biogeography	X
Geophysics		Biology	X
Glaciology		Biotechnology	
Global change	X	Birds	X
Groundwater		Boreal forest systems	
Habitat issues	X	Breeding	X
Heavy metals		Coastal/marine systems	
Hydrology		Community studies	X
Indicators	X	Conservation	X
Meteorology		Coral reefs	
Modeling		Degraded areas	X
Monitoring/methodologies		Desertification	
Nutrients		Dune systems	
Physical oceanography		Ecology	X
XPollution, pollutants		Ecosystem assessment	X
Siltation/sedimentation		Ecosystem functioning/structure	X
Soil	X	Ecosystem services	X
Speleology		Ecotones	X
Topography		Endemic species	X
Toxicology		Ethology	
UV radiation		Evapotranspiration	
		Evolutionary studies/Palaeoecology	
		Fauna	X
		Fires/fire ecology	
		Fishes	X
		Flora	X
		Forest systems	X
		Freshwater systems	
		Fungi	X
		Genetic resources	X
		Genetically modified organisms	
		Home gardens	X
		Indicators	X
		Invertebrates	X
		Island systems/studies	
		Lagoon systems	
		Lichens	X
		Mammals	X
		Mangrove systems	
		Mediterranean type systems	
		Microorganisms	X

		Migrating populations	X
		Modeling	X
		Monitoring/methodologies	X
		Mountain and highland systems	
		Natural and other resources	X
		Natural medicinal products	X
		Perturbations and resilience	
		Pests/Diseases	
		Phenology	X
		Phytosociology/Succession	X
		Plankton	
		Plants	X
		Polar systems	
		Pollination	
		Population genetics/dynamics	
		Productivity	X
		Rare/Endangered species	X
		Reptiles	
		Restoration/Rehabilitation	X
		Species (re) introduction	X
		Species inventorying	X
		Sub-tropical and temperate rainforest	
		Taxonomy	X
		Temperate forest systems	X
		Temperate grassland systems	X
		Tropical dry forest systems	
		Tropical grassland and savannah systems	
		Tropical humid forest systems	
		Tundra systems	
		Vegetation studies	X
		Volcanic/Geothermal systems	
		Wetland systems	
		Wildlife	X

		Integrated monitoring	
Agriculture/Other production systems	X	Biogeochemical studies	
Agroforestry	X	Carrying capacity	X
Anthropological studies		Climate change	X
Aquaculture		Conflict analysis/resolution	X
Archaeology		Ecosystem approach	X
Bioprospecting		Education and public awareness	X
Capacity building		Environmental changes	X
Cottage (home-based) industry		Geographic Information System (GIS)	X
Cultural aspects	X	Impact and risk studies	X
Demography	X	Indicators	
Economic studies		Indicators of environmental quality	
Economically important species		Infrastructure development	
Energy production systems	X	Institutional and legal aspects	
Ethnology/traditional practices/knowledge		Integrated studies	
Firewood cutting	X	Interdisciplinary studies	
Fishery		Land tenure	
Forestry	X	Land use/Land cover	X
Human health	X	Landscape inventorying/monitoring	X
Human migration	X	Management issues	X
Hunting	X	Mapping	X
Indicators	X	Modeling	
Indicators of sustainability	X	Monitoring/methodologies	
Indigenous people's issues		Planning and zoning measures	X
Industry		Policy issues	X
Livelihood measures		Remote sensing	X
Livestock and related impacts	X	Rural systems	X
Local participation		Sustainable development/use	X
Micro-credits		Transboundary issues/measures	
Mining		Urban systems	X
Modeling		Watershed studies/monitoring	
Monitoring/methodologies			
Natural hazards	X		
Non-timber forest products	X		
Pastoralism			
People-Nature relations	X		
Poverty			
Quality economies/marketing			
Recreation	X		
Resource use	X		
Role of women	X		
Sacred sites	X		
Small business initiatives	X		
Social/Socio-economic aspects	X		
Stakeholders' interests	X		
Tourism	X		
Transports	X		

Annex II to the Biosphere Reserve Periodic Review, January 2013

Promotion and Communication Materials for the biosphere reserve

Provide some promotional material regarding the site, notably high quality photos, and/or short videos on the site so as to allow the Secretariat to prepare appropriate files for press events. To this end, a selection of photographs in high resolution (300 dpi), with photo credits and captions and video footage (rushes), without any comments or sub-titles, of professional quality – DV CAM or BETA only, will be needed.

In addition, return a signed copy of the following Agreements on Non-Exclusive Rights for photo(s) and video(s).

Promotion and Communication Materials

NEWSPAPER			
Year	Number	Titel	Link
2016	1	Freizeitnutzung im Biosphärenpark	Click here to View
2016	2	Mach mit im Biosphärenpark Wienerwald	Click here to View
2017	1	Gesundheit und Natur	Click here to View
2017	2	Bildung im Biosphärenpark Wienerwald	Click here to View
2018	1	Die Zukunft der Mobilität	Click here to View
2018	2	Artenvielfalt	Click here to View
2019	1	Schauplatz Wald	Click here to View
2019	2	Gelebte Nachhaltigkeit	Click here to View
2020	1	Wir sind Biosphärenpark Wienerwald	Click here to View
2020	2	Von Weingärten, WinzerInnen und Weinen	Click here to View
2021	1	Hotspot Wienerwald - Wiese	Click here to View
2021	2	regional - nachhaltig - Partnerbetrieb	Click here to View
2022	1	Tourismus & Naherholung	Click here to View
2022	2	Biodiversitätskrise	Click here to View
2023	1	Nachhaltigkeit (er)forschen	Click here to View
2023	2	KlimaWANDEL	Click here to View
2024	1	Wasser - Welten	Click here to View
2024	2	Lebensraum Garten - so geht Biodiversität	Click here to View
2025	1	Wir feiern 20 Jahre	Click here to View

BOOKS			
Year	Number	Titel	Link
2015	1	NATUR IN BREITENFURT	Click here to view
2016	1	NATUR IM LAINZER TIERGARTEN	Click here to view
2017	1	NATUR IM ALLAND	Click here to view
2018	1	NATUR IM LAINZER TIERGARTEN	Click here to view
2019	1	NATUR IN PRESSBAUM	Click here to view
2020	1	NATUR IN WÄHRING	Click here to view
2021	1	NATUR IN EICHGRABEN	Click here to view
2015	1	Wanderbuch 1	Click here to view
2018	1	Wanderbuch 2	Click here to view
2020	1	Unterwegs im Biosphärenpark Wienerwald - Die schönsten Routen	Click here to view
2015	1	WÄLDER IM WIENERWALD	Click here to view
2015	1	WEINBAULANDSCHAFTEN IM WIENERWALD	Click here to view
2018	1	Wiesen und Weiden im Wienerwald	Click here to view
2020	1	Trockenrasen im Wienerwald	Click here to view
2024	1	Gewässer im Wienerwald	Click here to view

FOLDER & Brochures			
Year	Number	Titel	Link
2024	1	Der Urwald vor der Haustür	Click here to view
2021	1	BILDUNGSANGEBOTE IM BIOSPHERENPARK	Click here to view
2022	1	NATURRÄUME ENTWICKELN SICH	Click here to view
2022	1	DIE WIEGE DES WALDES	Click here to view
2020	1	BIOSPHERENPARK WIENERWALD	Click here to view
2023	1	DER WEIN	----
2023	1	BIOSPHERE VOLUNTEER	----
2022	1	50 Dinge	Click here to view
2020	1	15 Jahre - 15 Projekte	Click here to view

Videos			
Year	Number	Titel	Link
2016	1	Biosphärenpark Wienerwald - Entdecke die Vielfalt	Click here to view
2016	1	Biosphärenpark Wienerwald - 10 Jahre "Tag der Artenvielfalt"	Click here to view

2016	1	Biosphärenpark Wienerwald - Tag der Artenvielfalt 2016	Click here to view
2016	1	Biosphärenpark Wienerwald - ExpertInnen	Click here to view
2016	1	Biosphärenpark Wienerwald - Wiesenmeisterschaft	Click here to view
2016	1	Biosphärenpark Wienerwald - Tag der Artenvielfalt - Nachtführungen	Click here to view
2016	1	Biosphärenpark Wienerwald - Tag der Artenvielfalt - Infostände	Click here to view
2016	1	Biosphärenpark Wienerwald - Nachhaltige Veranstaltung	Click here to view
2016	1	Biosphärenpark Wienerwald - Tag der Artenvielfalt - Kinder- und Familienprogramm	Click here to view
2016	1	Biosphärenpark Wienerwald - Kulinarik und Partnerbetriebe	Click here to view
2020	1	Biosphärenpark Wienerwald - Rezept - Räucherfischsalat	Click here to view
2020	1	Biosphärenpark Wienerwald & ÖBB - Biosphere Volunteer - Taglesberg	Click here to view
2021	1	Biosphärenpark Wienerwald - Die vinophile Weiberwirtschaft	Click here to view
2021	1	Biosphärenpark Wienerwald - Herr Fritz	Click here to view
2021	1	Biosphärenpark Wienerwald - St. Laurent Rosé & Zierfandler Anning	Click here to view
2021	1	Biosphärenpark Wienerwald - Weingut Cobenzl	Click here to view
2021	1	Biosphärenpark Wienerwald - ried modler	Click here to view
2021	1	Biosphärenpark Wienerwald - Zweigelt premium 2018	Click here to view
2021	1	Biosphärenpark Wienerwald - Sweet Eighteen	Click here to view
2021	1	Biosphärenpark Wienerwald - Biosphere Volunteer - Gemeinsam für unsere Natur	Click here to view
2021	1	Biosphärenpark Wienerwald - 906 Jahre	Click here to view
2022	1	Biosphärenpark Wienerwald - Biosphere Volunteer - Einfach erklärt	Click here to view
2022	1	Biosphärenpark Wienerwald - DER WEIN	Click here to view
2022	1	Biosphärenpark Wienerwald Partnerbetrieb - Drechslerei Gutscher	Click here to view

2023	1	Biosphärenpark Wienerwald - 150 Jahre Rettung des Wienerwaldes	Click here to view
2023	1	TEASER: Fließgewässer als Lebensadern in Klausen-Leopoldsdorf	Click here to view
2023	1	TRAILER: Fließgewässer als Lebensadern in Klausen-Leopoldsdorf	Click here to view
2023	1	Fließgewässer als Lebensadern in Klausen Leopoldsdorf	Click here to view
2023	1	Mit dabei am Tag der Artenvielfalt 2023 in Klosterneuburg	Click here to view
2025	1	Bastelanleitung Springfrosch	Click here to view
2025	1	Bastelanleitung Schwarzstorch	Click here to view
2025	1	Flipped Classroom im Biosphärenpark Wienerwald - Ein flexibles Lernangebot für die Sekundarstufe I	Click here to view
2025	1	Lebensraum Wienerwaldwiese - ExpertInnen im Gespräch, Teil 1	Click here to view
2025	1	Lebensraum Wienerwaldwiese - ExpertInnen im Gespräch, Teil 2	Click here to view
2025	1	Lebensraum Wienerwaldwiese - ExpertInnen im Gespräch, Teil 3	Click here to view

ANNUAL REPORTS

Year	Number	Titel	Link
2015	1	TÄTIGKEITSBERICHT 2015	Click here to view
2016	1	TÄTIGKEITSBERICHT 2016	Click here to view
2017	1	TÄTIGKEITSBERICHT 2017	Click here to view
2018	1	TÄTIGKEITSBERICHT 2018	Click here to view
2019	1	TÄTIGKEITSBERICHT 2019	Click here to view
2020	1	TÄTIGKEITSBERICHT 2020	Click here to view
2021	1	TÄTIGKEITSBERICHT 2021	Click here to view
2022	1	TÄTIGKEITSBERICHT 2022	Click here to view
2023	1	TÄTIGKEITSBERICHT 2023	Click here to view
2024	1	TÄTIGKEITSBERICHT 2024	Click here to view

GUIDING PROGRAMM

Year	Number	Titel	Link
2015	1	PROGRAMM 2015	-
2016	1	PROGRAMM 2016	-
2017	1	PROGRAMM 2017	-

2018	1	PROGRAMM 2018	-
2019	1	PROGRAMM 2019	-
2020	1	PROGRAMM 2020	0
2021	1	PROGRAMM 2021	Click here to view
2022	1	PROGRAMM 2022	Click here to view
2023	1	PROGRAMM 2023	Click here to view
2024	1	PROGRAMM 2024	Click here to view
2025	1	PROGRAMM 2025	Click here to view
FREECARDS			
Year	Number	Titel	Link
2024	1	Alpen-Kammolch	----
2024	1	Koppe	----
2024	1	Steinkrebs	----
2024	1	Gestreifte Quelljungfer	----
2024	1	Da läuft einem das Wasser im Wienerwald zusammen	----
2024	1	!Stille Wasser sind gar nicht so still!	----
2024	1	Da fließt noch viel Wasser den Wienerwald hinunter	----
2024	1	Unseren Quellen kann man vertrauen	----



Annex III to the Biosphere Reserve Periodic Review, January 2013

The Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves

Introduction

Within UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme, biosphere reserves are established to promote and demonstrate a balanced relationship between humans and the biosphere. Biosphere reserves are designated by the International Co-ordinating Council of the MAB Programme, at the request of the State concerned. Biosphere reserves, each of which remains under the sole sovereignty of the State where it is situated and thereby submitted to State legislation only, form a World Network in which participation by the States is voluntary.

The present Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves has been formulated with the objectives of enhancing the effectiveness of individual biosphere reserves and strengthening common understanding, communication and co-operation at regional and international levels.

This Statutory Framework is intended to contribute to the widespread recognition of biosphere reserves and to encourage and promote good working examples. The delisting procedure foreseen should be considered as an exception to this basically positive approach, and should be applied only after careful examination, paying due respect to the cultural and socio-economic situation of the country, and after consulting the government concerned.

The text provides for the designation, support and promotion of biosphere reserves, while taking account of the diversity of national and local situations. States are encouraged to elaborate and implement national criteria for biosphere reserves which take into account the special conditions of the State concerned.

Article 1 - Definition

Biosphere reserves are areas of terrestrial and coastal/marine ecosystems or a combination thereof, which are internationally recognized within the framework of UNESCO's programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB), in accordance with the present Statutory Framework.

Article 2 - World Network of Biosphere Reserves

1. Biosphere reserves form a worldwide network, known as the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, hereafter called the Network.
2. The Network constitutes a tool for the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components, thus contributing to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other pertinent conventions and instruments.
3. Individual biosphere reserves remain under the sovereign jurisdiction of the States where they are situated. Under the present Statutory Framework, States take the measures which they deem necessary according to their national legislation.

Article 3 - Functions

In combining the three functions below, biosphere reserves should strive to be sites of excellence to explore and demonstrate approaches to conservation and sustainable development on a regional scale:

- (i) conservation - contribute to the conservation of landscapes, ecosystems, species and genetic variation;
- (ii) development - foster economic and human development which is socio-culturally and ecologically sustainable;
- (iii) logistic support - support for demonstration projects, environmental education and training, research and monitoring related to local, regional, national and global issues of conservation and sustainable development.

Article 4 - Criteria

General criteria for an area to be qualified for designation as a biosphere reserve:

1. It should encompass a mosaic of ecological systems representative of major biogeographic regions, including a gradation of human interventions.
2. It should be of significance for biological diversity conservation.
3. It should provide an opportunity to explore and demonstrate approaches to sustainable development on a regional scale.
4. It should have an appropriate size to serve the three functions of biosphere reserves, as set out in Article 3.
5. It should include these functions, through appropriate zonation, recognizing:
 - (a) a legally constituted core area or areas devoted to long-term protection, according to the conservation objectives of the biosphere reserve, and of sufficient size to meet these objectives;
 - (b) a buffer zone or zones clearly identified and surrounding or contiguous to the core area or areas, where only activities compatible with the conservation objectives can take place;
 - (c) an outer transition area where sustainable resource management practices are promoted and developed.
6. Organizational arrangements should be provided for the involvement and participation of a suitable range of inter alia public authorities, local communities and private interests in the design and carrying out the functions of a biosphere reserve.
7. In addition, provisions should be made for:
 - (a) mechanisms to manage human use and activities in the buffer zone or zones;
 - (b) a management policy or plan for the area as a biosphere reserve;

- (c) a designated authority or mechanism to implement this policy or plan;
- (d) programmes for research, monitoring, education and training.

Article 5 - Designation procedure

1. Biosphere reserves are designated for inclusion in the Network by the International Co-ordinating Council (ICC) of the MAB programme in accordance with the following procedure:

- (a) States, through National MAB Committees where appropriate, forward nominations with supporting documentation to the secretariat after having reviewed potential sites, taking into account the criteria as defined in Article 4;
- (b) the secretariat verifies the content and supporting documentation: in the case of incomplete nomination, the secretariat requests the missing information from the nominating State;
- (c) nominations will be considered by the Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves for recommendation to ICC;
- (d) ICC of the MAB programme takes a decision on nominations for designation. The Director-General of UNESCO notifies the State concerned of the decision of ICC.

2. States are encouraged to examine and improve the adequacy of any existing biosphere reserve, and to propose extension as appropriate, to enable it to function fully within the Network. Proposals for extension follow the same procedure as described above for new designations.

3. Biosphere reserves which have been designated before the adoption of the present Statutory Framework are considered to be already part of the Network. The provisions of the Statutory Framework therefore apply to them.

Article 6 - Publicity

- 1. The designation of an area as a biosphere reserve should be given appropriate publicity by the State and authorities concerned, including commemorative plaques and dissemination of information material.
- 2. Biosphere reserves within the Network, as well as the objectives, should be given appropriate and continuing promotion.

Article 7 - Participation in the Network

- 1. States participate in or facilitate co-operative activities of the Network, including scientific research and monitoring, at the global, regional and sub-regional levels.
- 2. The appropriate authorities should make available the results of research, associated publications and other data, taking into account intellectual property rights, in order to ensure the proper functioning of the Network and maximize the benefits from information exchanges.

3. States and appropriate authorities should promote environmental education and training, as well as the development of human resources, in co-operation with other biosphere reserves in the Network.

Article 8 - Regional and thematic subnetworks

States should encourage the constitution and co-operative operation of regional and/or thematic subnetworks of biosphere reserves, and promote development of information exchanges, including electronic information, within the framework of these subnetworks.

Article 9 - Periodic review

1. The status of each biosphere reserve should be subject to a periodic review every ten years, based on a report prepared by the concerned authority, on the basis of the criteria of Article 4, and forwarded to the secretariat by the State concerned.

2. The report will be considered by the Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves for recommendation to ICC.

3. ICC will examine the periodic reports from States concerned.

4. If ICC considers that the status or management of the biosphere reserve is satisfactory, or has improved since designation or the last review, this will be formally recognized by ICC.

5. If ICC considers that the biosphere reserve no longer satisfies the criteria contained in Article 4, it may recommend that the State concerned take measures to ensure conformity with the provisions of Article 4, taking into account the cultural and socio-economic context of the State concerned. ICC indicates to the secretariat actions that it should take to assist the State concerned in the implementation of such measures.

6. Should ICC find that the biosphere reserve in question still does not satisfy the criteria contained in Article 4, within a reasonable period, the area will no longer be referred to as a biosphere reserve which is part of the Network.

7. The Director-General of UNESCO notifies the State concerned of the decision of ICC.

8. Should a State wish to remove a biosphere reserve under its jurisdiction from the Network, it notifies the secretariat. This notification shall be transmitted to ICC for information. The area will then no longer be referred to as a biosphere reserve which is part of the Network.

Article 10 - Secretariat

1. UNESCO shall act as the secretariat of the Network and be responsible for its functioning and promotion. The secretariat shall facilitate communication and interaction among individual biosphere reserves and among experts. UNESCO shall also develop and maintain a worldwide accessible information system on biosphere reserves, to be linked to other relevant initiatives.

2. In order to reinforce individual biosphere reserves and the functioning of the Network and sub-networks, UNESCO shall seek financial support from bilateral and multilateral sources.
3. The list of biosphere reserves forming part of the Network, their objectives and descriptive details, shall be updated, published and distributed by the secretariat periodically.