



Arbeitskreis Wachau

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MISSION OF ARBEITSKREIS WACHAU

Our common goal is to preserve and enhance the natural and cultural landscape of the Wachau valley with its cultural and historic sites, its richness of nature and the freely running river as the central elements. We take into consideration the continuing small-scale structures and the resources provided by the landscape. Citizens and visitors of all ages and social classes shall be made part of this effort. We want to encourage them to participate actively in creating a positive environment for and living up to these aims. Additionally we want to provide means to make it easy to feel why it is important to support a sustainable development for the cultural landscape of the Wachau valley.

1. Settlement structure, building and monument protection

- 1.1 Keeping the closed village structures. Taking into concern traditional settlement building structures while developing new forms and building functions which meet up to the needs of our times.
- 1.2 Preserving the cultural heritage by conservation of built monuments and keeping up the typical village structures, at the same time considering up-to-date ways of use.

2. Nature and landscape protection

- 2.1. Preserving, re-implementing and developing the typical variety of species and habitats of the Wachau valley and especially the freely flowing river habitat of the Danube and its side arms.
- 2.2. Preserving the freely flowing river Danube as such and protecting the valuable bank zones.

3. Traffic

- 3.1. Optimizing traffic in a way that enhances the quality of life by reducing noise and pollution and by supporting alternative means of traffic (bicycle, ship).
- 3.2. Keeping up the existing railroad through the valley ("Donauuferbahn") as an attractive alternative to individual car traffic.

4. Wine growing

- 4.1. Emphasizing the essential role of wine growing for the region.
- 4.2. Preserving wine growing in the mountains and the typical stone terraces as the landscape element which is most significant of the Wachau.
- 4.3. Supporting and steadily enhancing the quality of wine coming from the Wachau.
- 4.4. Supporting ecologically adjusted forms of wine growing.

5. Fruit growing

- 5.1. Promoting fruit growing, especially apricot farming, because of its importance for the local economy and landscape.
- 5.2. Preserving the various fruit tree species around the farms and their economic use because of their significance for the rural landscape.

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WELT-
KULTURERBE



EUROPÄISCHES
NATURSCHUTZDIPLOM



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6. Agriculture and forestry

- 6.1. Emphasis on ways of forestry which fit to the specific needs of the local environment. Preserving and protecting the natural and almost natural forests. Keeping up and enhancing bio-diversity of the forests by at the same time considering their economic and recreational value.
- 6.2. Preserving the local variety of land use forms because of its significance for bio-diversity and landscape. Supporting all the responsible within this field.

7. Man and landscape, quality of life and creating awareness

- 7.1. Preserving and developing the Wachau as a good living area for its inhabitants by using it moderately, taking into consideration mutual history and awareness for the specialities of this cultural and natural landscape.
- 7.2. Strengthening regional awareness in terms of deepening its common identity and implementing it in schools and adult education.
- 7.3. Keeping up social infrastructure, especially the large multitude of associations, which is typical of the region.

8. Infrastructure

- 8.1. Preserving and enhancing the small-scale infrastructure in order to maintain the high quality of living and the living area itself.
- 8.2. Supporting the increase of the population's awareness for the value of the current infrastructure and for the necessary change in customer behaviour.

9. Tourism

- 9.1. Supporting "soft tourism" as one of the most important economic fields of the region.
- 9.2. Developing highly qualitative tourist products.
- 9.3. Mediating between the interests of the local population and those of the tourists, always taking into account the protection of cultural landscape and nature.

10. Arts and culture

- 10.1. Emphasizing the duality of river and landscape, man and nature as a way of inspiration for arts and artists.
- 10.2. Developing the artistic and cultural heritage. Being open towards new ideas.