

Management of Protective Forests

Storm "VAIA"

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Innsbruck, 26th September 2019

Protective Forests in Austria

- 1.2 Mio. ha forests with protective function (forest development plan)
 - 56 % stable protective forest stands
 - 76 % of protection forest in yield show browsing damage
 - 864.000 ha object-protecting forest
- 300.000 ha urgent need for action



[Source: ÖWI 2018]



source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QYmDwo7ld7E>

Storm event „VAIA“ 2018

- 27. - 29. October 2018
- Feuersang (Tauern): 198 km/h
- Carinthia:
 - 3200 ha wind thrown
 - 1.6 Mio. m³ damaged



Storm event „VAIA“ 2018

- Increase of ...
 - rockfall
 - erosion
 - woody debris
 - avalanches





Project “Lesachtal”

- windthrown area ~ 1 340 ha
- Steep slopes > 28°
- 3 categories with different protection goals
 - I) Protection for settlement
 - II) Protection for main road
 - III) Forest engineering measures





Project “Lesachtal”

- Total costs: **€ 28 Mio.**
- 2019 - 2034
- Technical protection measures:
 - 7454 m steel snow bridges
 - 1590 m rock fall protection nets
 - 5479 snow glide tripods



Project “Lesachtal”

- Forestry measures:
 - Cable logging (52 500 m³)
 - Afforestation (mixed cultures)
 - Maintenance
 - Prevention of bark beetle
- Further measures:
 - Root plates
 - Game fences
 - Forest roads
 - Game monitoring system



Are we able to handle such storm events?

- Reactive system
- High costs for forest management
- Settlement pressure
- Forest/game problem
- + Technical know-how
- + Financial capacity
- + Cooperation between stakeholders
- + Forward-looking forest management



Thank you!

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