

# Stakeholder participation in the pilot region „Northern Limestone Alps/Eisenwurzen/ Gesäuse/Dürrenstein“ (A)

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## Pilot region - characteristics

- History „Cultural heritage Eisenwurzen“
- Landscape „Limestone Alps“

„High rocks and walls of limestone and dolomit together with forested hills of soft stones“

Wet, cold atlantic climate

- Landuse: >80 % forest, spruce-fir-beech-forest  
Highly structured cultivated landscape
- Protected areas: > 200.000 ha





# Network of partner - TYPE of participatory approach

- **Start workshop** 1th October 2008, Admont - INFORMATION & CONSULTATION
- **Information events** in the 3 provinces: Upper Austria, Lower Austria, Styria in January and February 2009 - INFORMATION
- **Interviews and talks** with **170 stakeholder** from the pilot region: May - September 2009 - CONSULTATION

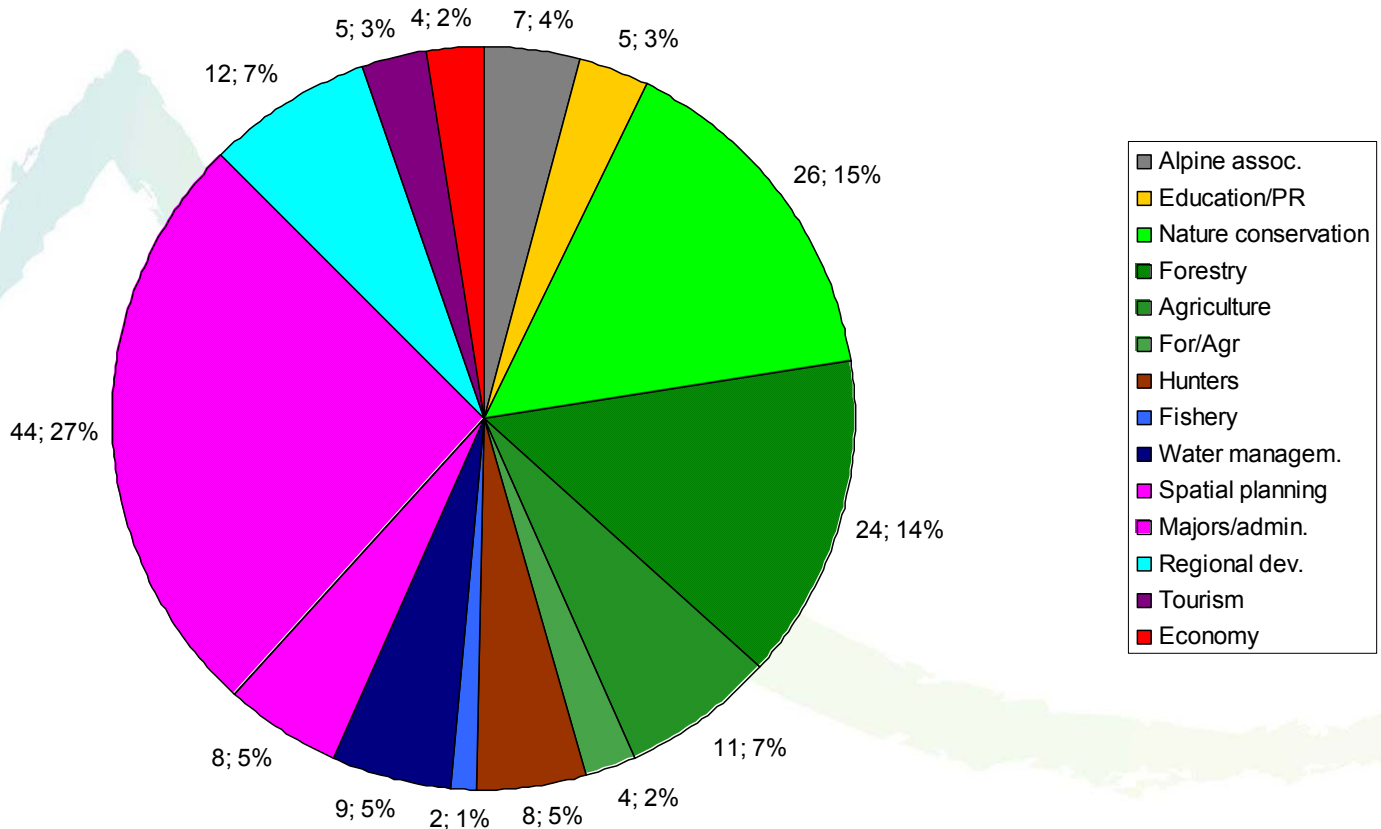


# Network of partner - TYPE of participatory approach

NEXT steps:

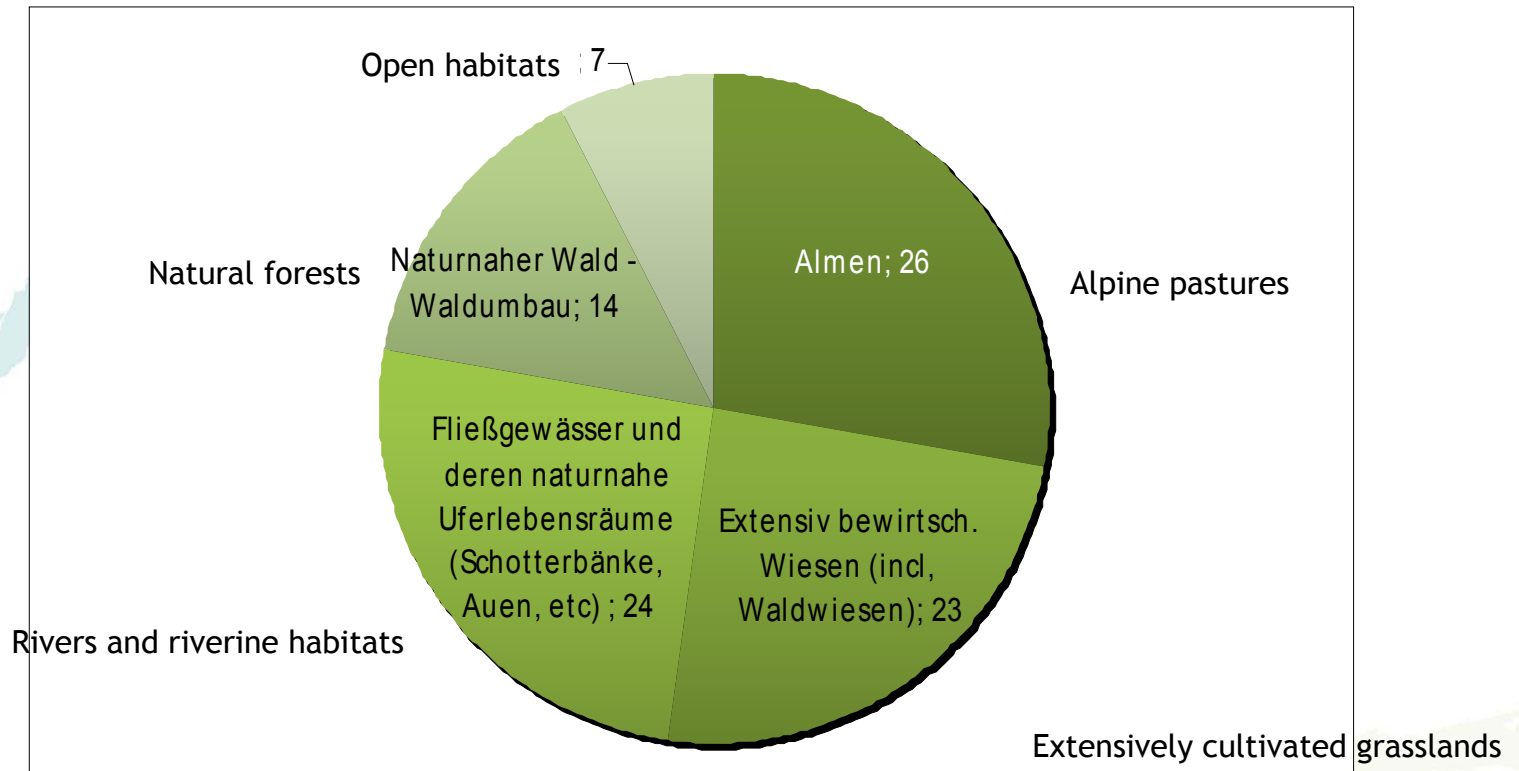
- **Presentation** of results - 9th December 2009 - INFORMATION
- Installation of 4 **working groups** - CONSULTATION & CO-DETERMINATION
- Selection of potential **partners and co-operations** - CONSULTATION & CO-DETERMINATION

# Stakeholder-Interviews - SECTORS (n = 169)





# Stakeholder-Interviews - HABITATS for ecological connectivity

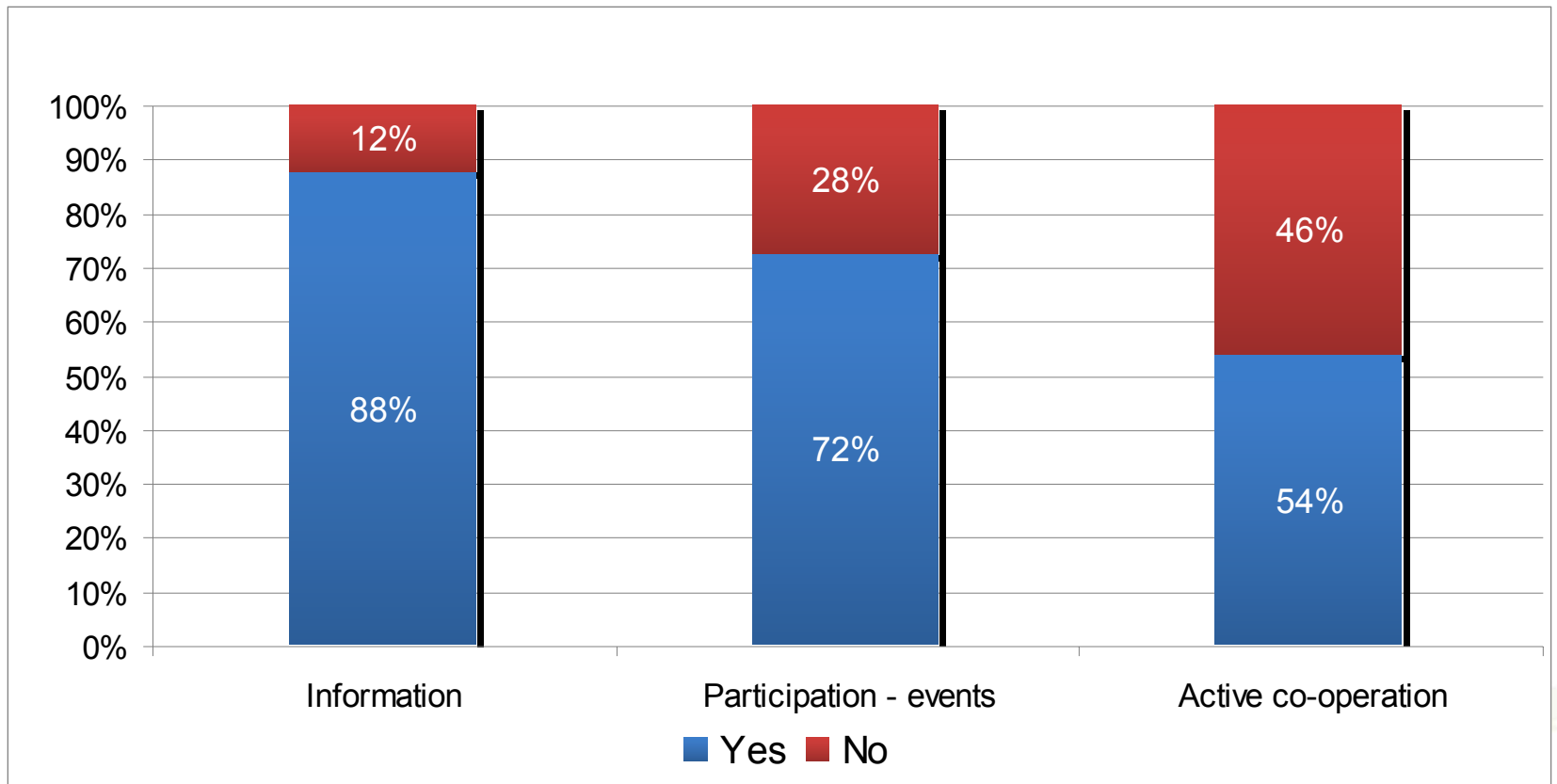


# Network of partner - OUTCOMES of participatory approach

## 😊 SUCCESS: WHAT - WHY

- 😊 Regional information events in **smaller groups** -shorter duration
- 😊 Interviews and talks with stakeholders to get their **personal opinion and knowledge**
- 😊 **Co-operation with existing structures/groups**, e.g. office for regional development
- 😊 High **interest** to participate within ECONNECT

# Stakeholder-Interviews - INTEREST





# Network of partner - OUTCOMES of participatory approach

## ☹️ PROBLEMS: WHAT - WHY

- ☹️ Criticism: no clear target - message within ECONNECT
- ☹️ Criticism: **participatory approach too late**
- ☹️ People are sick of projects/working groups/meetings - **need of practical approach, implementation**
- ☹️ **General problems/refusal** of “nature conservation” (Natura 2000, etc.)
- ☹️ Existing **prejudices/experiences** on projects in Austria: e.g. Brown bear - hunters - WWF

# Four working groups

- **“Rivers”** rivers - lowland forests - gravel banks - tamarisk - brown trout - bullhead - grayling - otter ...
- **“Natural Forests”** forestry - cells of natural forest - big predators - capercaillie - woodpeckers - Red deer ...
- **“Alpine pastures - extensively used grasslands”** alpine pastures - black grouse - butterflies - orchids ...
- **“Communication”** exchange of experience and expert knowledge - public relations - regional development - tourism



