BUNDESMINISTERIUM
FÜR NACHHALTIGKEIT
UND TOURISMUS

WILDBACH- UND LAWINENVERBAUUNG

ExtremA

ENGAGE
Geomorphological Systems
& Risk Research

universität
wien

ExtremA 2018

A review of extreme natural hazard events in the Austrian Alps

Challenge Extreme Events

Extreme natural hazards events are difficult to predict. Consequently, preparing for extreme events is challenging and extreme events have a high potential to evolve into natural disasters. The design and implementation of risk reduction strategies and measures often represent a great challenge for all stakeholders involved.
However, planning for extreme natural hazard events is becoming increasingly important, especially with climate model projections indicating an increased likelihood of occurrence. Robust, clear, and easily accessible information on natural hazards, their potential for extreme events and possible consequences are a valuable tool for decision makers tasked with the design of appropriate risk management practices in a constantly changing world.

Debris flow in Afritz, Carinthia, August 2016
© Photo: BMNT/ WLV

Rockslide destroyed protection tunnel, East Tyrol, 2013
© Photo: Martin Mergili

The Project

To increase the currently available information on extreme natural hazard events in the Austrian Alps, the project "ExtremA 2018" was launched by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism in cooperation with the working group ENGAGE – Geomorphological Systems and Risk Research of the Vienna University's Institute for Geography and Regional Research.

The Aim

The ExtremA 2018 project aims to compile the current knowledge on extreme natural hazard events in the Austrian Alps, their causes and consequences, as well as possible climatic and societal influences in a comprehensive, scientifically robust, yet easily understood assessment report. Leading national and international experts are compiling information for event documentation and state of the art reports on their specific fields of expertise. Natural hazards covered include meteorological, hydrological, gravitational, and geophysical processes, their interactions, as well as societal aspects of extreme natural hazard events, such as land use, vulnerability, and economic considerations. The assessment report is intended to be a valuable information resource for stakeholders and decision makers and, as such, shall support the political discourse on appropriate management of risk associated with future extreme natural hazard events in the Austrian Alps.

Avalanche in Gschnitz valley, Tyrol, February 2009
© Photo: BMNT/ WLV

Forest fire in Neunkirchen, Lower Austria, August 2013
© Photo: Mortimer Müller

The Report

For widest possible access for interested readers, the assessment report will be published as Open Access Book by Vienna University Press both in hard copy and as a digital version available for download online. Although the assessment report will be predominantly in German, an English-language executive summary of the report, as well as English-language abstracts of the individual chapters will inform international readers of key findings.

Report structure and contributing experts are listed on the back.
Further information can be found on extrema.univie.ac.at.

V7, Mai 2019

BUNDESMINISTERIUM
FÜR NACHHALTIGKEIT
UND TOURISMUS

WILDBACH- UND LAWINENVERBAUUNG

ENGAGE
Geomorphological Systems & Risk Research

universität wien

ExtremA 2018

A review of extreme natural hazard events in the Austrian Alps

Report in German, out Autumn 2018
see also extrema.univie.ac.at

Abkürzungen: AIT … Austrian Institute of Technology; AlpS … AlpS GmbH; BAW … Bundesamt für Wasserwirtschaft; BFW … Bundesforschungszentrum für Wald; BM.I … Bundesministerium für Inneres; BMNT ... Bundesministerium für Tourismus und Nachhaltigkeit; BOKU … Universität für Bodenkultur Wien; Erkudok … Erkudok Institut der Kammerhof Museen Gmunden; EURAC … eurac Research; GBA … Geologische Bundesanstalt; IGS … IGS - Institut für geprüfte SicherheiteGen; Land OÖ … Land Oberösterreich; LFVT ... Landes-Feuerwehrverband Tirol; LWD KTN … Lawinenwarndienst Kärnten; LWD STMK&NÖ … Lawinenwarndienst Steiermark&Niederösterreich; LWDT … Lawinenwarndienst Tirol; ÖAW … Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften; TU Wien … Technische Universität Wien; TUM … Technische Universität München; UBA … Umweltbundesamt; WIFO … Österreichisches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung; ZAMG … Zentralanstalt für Meteorologie und Geodynamik

V7, Mai 2019