

Adaptation to climate change in Austria: “Forests”

Final Report

December 2012



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Wirtschaft, Familie und Jugend



StartClim2011

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Final Report

Project Leader

Institute of Meteorology
Department of Water, Atmosphere and Environment
BOKU - University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Helga Kromp-Kolb

Contracting Parties

**Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water
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Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research

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Austrian Federal Ministry of Health

Austrian Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs, Family and Youth

Austrian National Bank

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Administrative Coordination

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Vienna, December 2012

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Abstract

StartClim has been engaged with the topic of adaptation to climate change since 2008.

In the light of the international year of forests, StartClim2011 focussed on the adaptation to climate change with regard to the theme “forests” in Austria. Accordingly, the projects support and contribute to the climate change adaptation strategy for Austria.

The work presented herein highlights increases in forest damage under changing climate conditions and the effects on the ecosystem functions and services of forests. Addressed also are the considerable potential and inevitable adaptations for silviculture which should be undertaken to ensure forest sustainability for the future.

Climatic influence on voltinism and spread of the spruce bark beetle, *Ips typographus*, in alpine areas

The aim of this study was to investigate the influence of microclimatic site and stand conditions on the dynamics of population density of the spruce bark beetle, *Ips typographus*, in a valley end of the Wilderness Area Dürrenstein without the influences of protective forestry measures. An analysis of the beetle's population density, in which the number of infested trees during the years 2003-2011 was examined together with the developmental influencing factors (temperature and irradiance) as well as crucial predisposing factors on site and stand level, was performed.

The results of this retrospective analysis show that high amounts of trees killed by bark beetles only occurred after extreme events, such as the avalanche in 2009, where massive amounts of potential breeding material was available. No direct or delayed relationship between temperature conditions during the vegetative period or the calculated number of potential generations and new infestations of trees was found. Of the total area of the Wilderness Area Dürrenstein, the south facing slopes were in notably higher predisposition classes. Grid cells for which the predisposition model PAS calculated a high risk level due to high percentages of spruce trees, stand age and storm vulnerability, terrain morphology, and snow damage were preferably infested. Bark beetle flight direction and distance were examined by treating infested spruce logs with fluorescent powder. More than 50% of all marked bark beetles were recaptured within a radius of 100m from the hatching site, predominantly in a south-westerly direction. 93% were recaptured within a radius of 500m. Although the mean monthly temperatures from May to August 2012 were 1.8°C above the climate normal period of 1971-2000 (climate station Mariazell), only one generation with one sister brood developed in the study area. The extent to which the areas predicted temperature increase of +1.1°C - 2°C (2021-2050) and +3°C - 3.9°C (2050-2071) will influence the until now predominantly univoltine development of *Ips typographus* requires further investigation.

Analysing Austria's forest disturbance regime as basis for the development of climate change adaptation strategies

Disturbance frequency and magnitude have increased considerably in Austria's forests in recent decades. Both climatic changes as well as changes in forest structure and composition have contributed to this intensification. Wind, bark beetles, and snow are the most important disturbance agents in Austria, damaging 3.1 Mill. m³, 2.2 Mill. m³, and 0.6 Mill. m³ on average per year, respectively, in the period 2002 to 2010 (i.e. in total 33.7% of the total harvest level in the same period). In addition, scenario analyses point towards a further increase of disturbance damage under changing climate conditions, with the potential to negatively impact important ecosystem services such as timber production, the protection against gravitational hazards, and the sequestration of carbon.

The objectives of this study were to improve the quantitative understanding of Austria's disturbance regime in the context of developing adaptation strategies in forest management. We analysed the spatio-temporal variation of wind, bark beetle, and snow damage at the

level of forest districts (n=72) for the years 2002 to 2010. Results show that a considerable portion (21.1% - 44.0%) of the spatial variation in disturbance damage in Austria could be explained by predisposing factors. Many of these factors can be either directly (e.g., through managing stand structure and composition) or indirectly (e.g., via a reduction of stem damage and alternative silvicultural systems) influenced by forest management. The most important factor for all three disturbance agents was tree species composition (i.e. the proportion of Norway spruce and/or conifers).

In contrast to predisposing factors, management was found to have only a minor potential influence on inciting factors of disturbance damage, which explained an additional 11.1% and 23.1% of the variation and were mainly related to weather indicators and disturbance interactions. The findings of the current study suggest that rising temperatures and an increasing variation in precipitation could further intensify disturbance regimes. This climate sensitivity underlines the importance of disturbance-focused climate change adaptation measures in order to sustainably fulfill important ecosystem functions and services also in the future. The current study highlights spatial as well as methodological hotspots in this regard, and documents the considerable potential of silvicultural measures in disturbance management (e.g., via the promotion of diverse and site-adapted stands), but also underlines the importance of considering the long lead times of adaptation in forest management.

Effects of soil drying on the transpiration of Austrian tree species

In order to avoid desiccation and ensuing damage to tissues, plants are able to adjust transpiration during periods of soil drying through adjustments of stomatal conductance. This protective regulatory mechanism, however, affects the uptake of carbon dioxide (i.e., photosynthesis), dry matter accumulation and thus timber yield, the near-surface climate and the water balance of ecosystems and landscapes. Within the frame of StartClim2011.C differences between European tree species in their response to soil drying were investigated. To this end a meta-analysis of the literature on this topic was combined with a drought experiment using potted tree seedlings.

The literature survey showed that while a large number of studies have been published on this topic, only a small percentage (ca. 20%) contained data that could be used in the meta-analysis. As a consequence, data were available only for a small number of tree species and an even smaller number of plant water relations parameters, which eventually prohibited drawing defensible conclusions about differences between tree species in their response to soil drying. The drought experiment showed that coniferous tree species reacted more cautiously to developing soil water shortage than deciduous tree species. Coniferous tree species down-regulated stomatal conductance at the very early stages of drought, which caused them to be less affected by xylem embolism as compared to deciduous tree species. Depending on the intensity and duration of drought periods and the root-exploitable soil volume, the coniferous tree species' strategy of dealing with drought periods appears superior compared to deciduous tree species. This conclusion however needs further corroboration by studies on adult trees in their natural environment. If confirmed, the results of this study imply that coniferous tree species may gain importance for reforestation in Austria in the future. The results of this and additional future studies are expected to lead to improved forest management strategies (selection of tree species and varieties for reforestation, management techniques, etc.) under changing environmental conditions.

Adapting Austrian forestry to climate change: Assessing the drought tolerance of Austria's autochthonous tree species

One option that has been muted as a potential climate change adaptation strategy for Forestry is the introduction of non-autochthonous provenances or non-native species which are thought to be better adapted to the projected changes in climate. However, such action should only be considered once autochthonous reproductive material has been proven to be inferior. If potentially adapted autochthonous provenances exist, utilisation of these sources

would allow forestry in Austria to avoid (potentially unnecessary) ecological uncertainty and changes to the forest sector associated with large scale introductions of exotic species.

As warmer and drier summers are expected for Austria, this study investigates the existence of potentially drought adapted provenances within the Austrian populations of 22 tree species of silvicultural and ecological importance. By calculating mean ecological indicator values of site moisture from vegetation relevés of the Austrian Vegetation Database this study demonstrates the range in moisture conditions tolerated by Austrian tree species. The sites were also analysed in terms of aspect and elevation to investigate non-climatic effects on site moisture conditions. Furthermore, the 10th percentile was taken as the cut off value to identify the dry sites inhabited by each of the respective species (i.e., the driest 10%). These sites represent the locations of potentially drought tolerant provenances and thus potentially useful sources of reproductive material in fostering climate change adaptation. For potential users interested in the locations of the provenances identified here, the data used and generated by this project will be made available upon request.

1 The StartClim research programme

The StartClim climate research programme is a flexible instrument. Because of the short project duration it can react quickly to topical aspects of climate and climate change. It is financed by a donor consortium consisting of nine institutions (see page 4).

StartClim addresses the topic of adaptation to climate change since 2008. It provides valuable contributions to the development and implementation of an Austrian strategy in this regard.

The projects in StartClim2011 focus on adaptation to climate change with regard to the theme "forests". Different aspects which are of great importance for the adaptation to climate change for forests are investigated. The projects investigate voltinism and the spread of the spruce bark beetle in alpine areas, the increase of disturbance in Austria's forests, the effects of soil drying on the transpiration of Austrian tree species, and the drought tolerance of Austria's autochthonous tree species.

The StartClim2011 report contains an overview of the results in German and English along with separately bound documentation in which the individual projects are described in detail by the respective project teams. All reports and documents about StartClim2011 will be made available for download at <http://www.austroclim.at/startclim>, the StartClim website. A limited number of CDs with all StartClim reports and folders with a short summary will also be published.

2 StartClim2011.A: Climatic influence on voltinism and spread of the spruce bark beetle, *Ips typographus*, in alpine areas

High amounts of potential breeding materials are essential for mass outbreaks of the spruce bark beetle. This is often present after storms, snow damage or avalanche events. If these are followed by warm and dry weather conditions, a rash population increase of the beetle can be triggered. Apart from the beetle's high reproductive capacity, climatic conditions mainly influence the development and the number of generations per year. In order to estimate the risk of bark beetle outbreaks and to initiate control measures in good time, it is necessary to have knowledge about the vulnerability of the stands and sites to disturbances through extreme weather events (predisposition). It is also crucial to have knowledge about the possible number of beetle generations per year (voltinism of the beetle) as well as their dispersal behaviour.

The aim of this study was to investigate the influence of microclimatic site and stand conditions on the dynamics of population density of the spruce bark beetle, *Ips typographus*, without the influences of protective forestry measures in a valley end of the Wilderness Area Dürrenstein. An analysis of the beetle's population density, in which the number of infested trees during the years 2003-2011 was examined together with the developmental influencing factors (temperature and irradiance) as well as predisposing factors at site and stand level, was performed. The spruce bark beetle's dispersal was studied after infested logs had been treated with fluorescent powder and the beetles were then captured in pheromone traps placed around the hatching site at different distances. The findings of this project served to simulate a scenario about the beetle's dispersal at a projected warming of +1.6°C and +3.4°C.

The results of the retrospective analysis show that high amounts of trees killed by bark beetles only occurred after extreme events such as the avalanche in 2009, after which massive amounts of potential breeding material was available. No direct or delayed relationship between temperature conditions during the vegetative period or the calculated number of potential generations and new infestations of trees was found. Even the exceptionally warm summer of 2003 did not result in a rise of the beetle's population density. Of the total area of the Wilderness Area Dürrenstein the south facing slopes were in notably higher predisposition classes. 423 of the 3788 grid cells (30x30m) were infested by the spruce bark beetle during the period from 2003 to 2011. Grid cells where the predisposition model PAS calculated a high risk level due to high percentages of spruce trees, stand age, storm vulnerability, terrain morphology, and snow damage were preferably infested (Fig. 1). 1478 spruce bark beetles marked with fluorescent powder were caught in the eleven pheromone traps in the Hundsau area (Fig. 2). This represents a capturing rate of approximately 22% of the beetles from the hatching site. More than 50% of all marked bark beetles were recaptured within a radius of 100m from the hatching site, predominantly in a south-westerly direction. 93% were recaptured within a radius of 500m.

Although the mean monthly temperatures from May to August 2012 were 1.8°C above the climate normal period of 1971-2000 (climate station Mariazell), only one generation with one sister brood developed in the study area. The extent to which the areas predicted temperature increase of +1.1°C - 2°C (2021-2050) and +3°C - 3.9°C (2050-2071) will influence the until now predominantly univoltine development of *Ips typographus* requires further investigation.

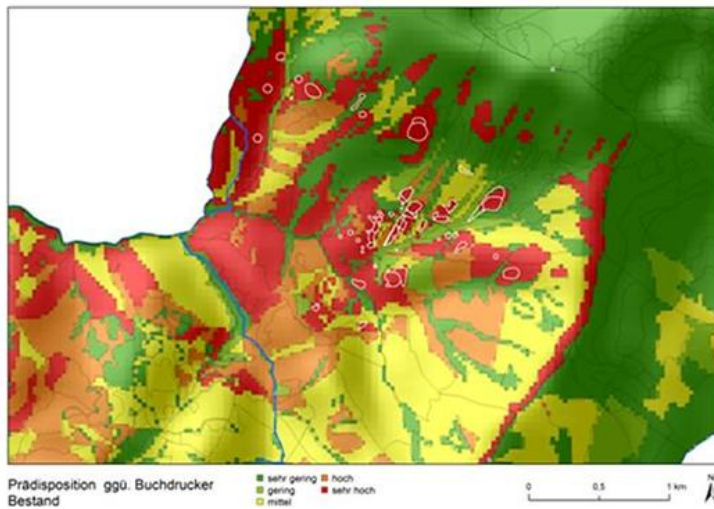


Fig. 1: Classification of the study site “Hundsau“ in predisposition classes. White borders: Areas that were infested by *Ips typographus* from 2003 to 2011.

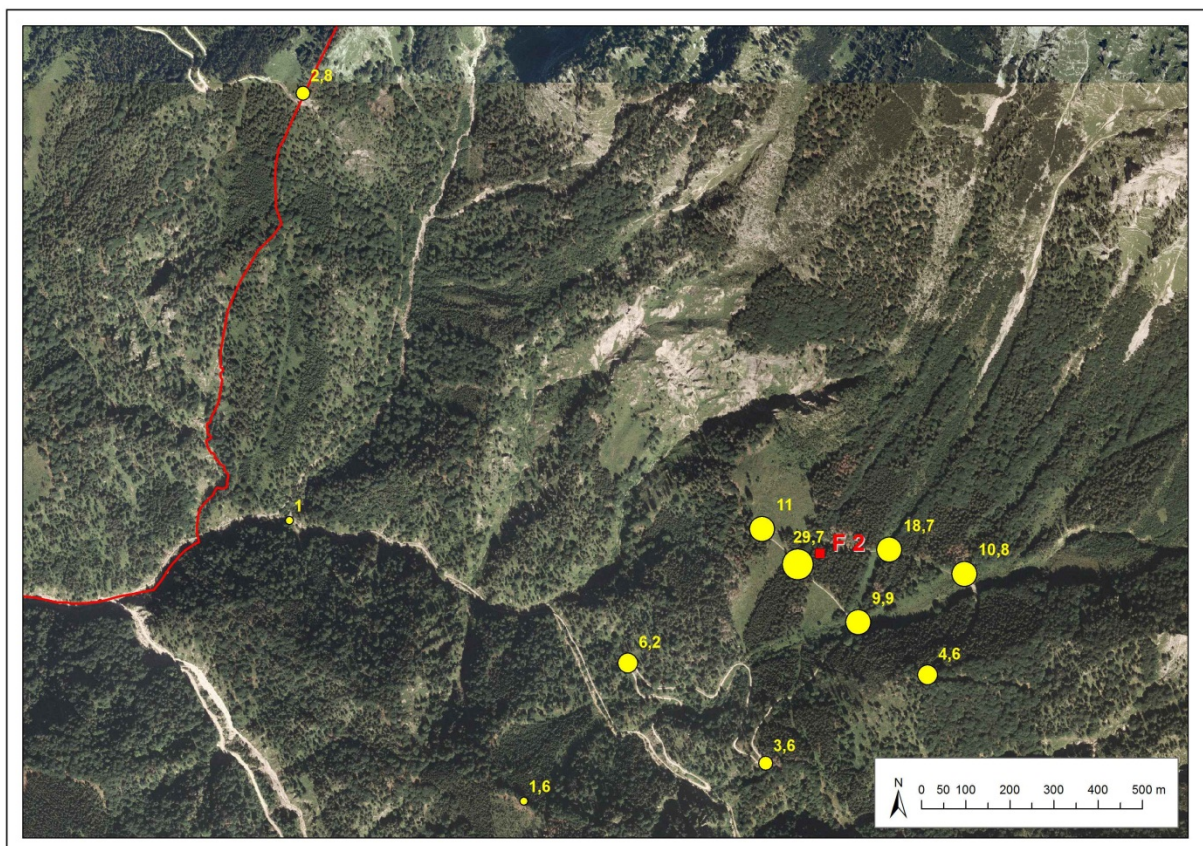


Fig. 2: Trap rate of marked spruce bark beetles during the test period 13.06.2012 to 30.08.2012 in the Hundsau area expressed in percentage per pheromone trap. F2= Hatching point of marked bark beetles.

3 StartCim2011.B: Analysing Austria's forest disturbance regime as basis for the development of climate change adaptation strategies

Disturbance frequency and magnitude have increased considerably in Austria's forest ecosystems in recent decades. Both climatic changes as well as changes in forest structure and composition have contributed to this intensification. Wind, bark beetles, and snow are the most important disturbance agents in Austria, damaging 3.1 Mill. m³, 2.2 Mill. m³, and 0.6 Mill. m³ on average per year, respectively, in the period 2002 to 2010 (i.e. in total 33.7% of the total harvest level in the same period). In addition, scenario analyses point towards a further increase of disturbance damage under changing climate conditions, with the potential to negatively impact important ecosystem services such as timber production, the protection against gravitational natural hazards, and the sequestration of carbon. Thus, disturbance management is an issue of increasing importance in silviculture. In this context, the Austrian Climate Change Action Plan includes improved disturbance management as one of the main climate change adaptation measures in forestry. Furthermore, the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe urged for an increasing focus on disturbances in order to ensure the sustainability of Europe's forests and their functions in their recently ratified Oslo declaration.

The objectives of this contribution were to improve the quantitative understanding of Austria's disturbance regime in the context of developing adaptation strategies in forest management. We analysed the spatio-temporal variation of wind, bark beetle, and snow damage at the level of forest districts (n=72) for the years 2002 to 2010. Particular aims of the study were to highlight factors that determine predisposition of Austria's forests to disturbances (i.e. the risk of damage determined by slow, long-term factors such as climate, vegetation and forest stewardship), and to identify spatial hotspots of predisposition, i.e. regions of high priority for adaptation. An additional aim was to identify short-term inciting factors for disturbance damage (e.g., weather conditions, spatio-temporal interactions with previous disturbance damage or other disturbance agents) and analyse them with regard to their potential to serve as early warning indicators in disturbance management.

We used data from the Documentation of Forest Damage Factors of Austria as well as from the Austrian Forest Inventory in combination with climate and weather data in our analysis. After an exploratory investigation by means of correlation, the main analyses was conducted in two sequential steps: first analysing the spatial variation in predisposing factors by means of principal component regression, then subsequently (i.e. after controlling for the effect of varying predisposition in space) analysing the role of inciting factors with regard to the temporal variation in disturbance damage by means of multiple linear regression.

The results indicate that a considerable portion of the spatial variation in disturbance damage in Austria can be explained by predisposing factors (wind: 34.4%, bark beetles: 44.0%, snow: 21.1%). Many of these factors can be influenced by forest management either directly (e.g., by changing the species composition) or indirectly (e.g., by reducing stem damage, alternative silvicultural systems), highlighting the role and potential of silviculture in adapted disturbance management. Indicators of species composition, namely the share of conifers as well as the proportion of pure Norway spruce stands, had the strongest influence on disturbance predisposition. Adapting forest management towards more diverse and less conifer-dominated stands can thus reduce disturbance predisposition considerably (simultaneously for wind, bark beetle, and snow damage). Further important factors of predisposition which can be influenced by adapted forest management are growing stock (wind and bark beetle disturbance), the deviation from the potential natural vegetation composition (bark beetle disturbance), as well as stem damage from bark peeling and harvest damage (snow disturbance). The most important climate-related predisposition indicators were the variability in water supply as well as temperature, which both were positively associated with bark beetle damage.

In order to support the setting of priorities in the development and implementation of adaptation, predisposition hotspots were identified based on the results of the principle component regression analysis (Fig. 3). This analysis showed that large parts of Upper and Lower Austria west of the river Traisen are at particular risk from wind and bark beetle disturbance. Adaptation measures focusing on improved disturbance management are thus of particular importance in these regions. The eastern, pannonic parts of Austria, on the other hand, were found to have relatively low predisposition to all three investigated disturbance agents.

In contrast to slowly changing predisposing factors, which can be strongly influenced by forest management, inciting factors of disturbance occurrence were most strongly associated with indicators of weather and disturbance interactions, i.e. factors on which only little control can be exerted via adaptation measures. The strong influence of temporal disturbance interactions found for bark beetle damage can, however, be of relevance as an early warning indicator for forest management. Our analysis showed that for every m³ of bark beetle damage in the current year, 0.56 m³ of damage can be expected in the following year, which underlines the importance of monitoring and pest control in outbreak areas. Generally, an additional 11.1% and 23.1% of the variation in wind and bark beetle damage respectively, could be explained by inciting factors. Our two step approach thus explains 45.5% (wind) and 67.1% (bark beetles) of the overall spatio-temporal variation in disturbance damage during 2002-2010.

With regard to the climate sensitivity of Austria's disturbance regime our analysis suggests that increasing temperatures are likely to lead to further increases in bark beetle damage in Austria. In addition, increasing variability in precipitation and probability of wet snow events could further contribute to elevated damage from bark beetles and snow in the future. In this regard the complementary stand- to landscape-scale case study StartClim 2011.A, highlights the importance of the local context (e.g., topography, elevation) for the climate sensitivity of disturbance regimes, which, in combination with the strong nonlinearities of the involved disturbance processes, might result in a diversity of local climate responses. Furthermore, climate change will not only shift long-term climate conditions, but will also affect short-term weather events. A decreasing number of days with temperatures that support frozen soil conditions will, for instance, decrease the anchorage of trees in winter and increase the risk towards winter windstorms. Moreover, dynamic interactions (e.g., between wind and bark beetle disturbance, or bark beetle disturbance of the current and previous year) might further intensify the climate sensitivity of disturbance regimes. The importance of such interactions is also underlined by the findings of StartClim 2011.A, which identified windthrow as a main inciting factor for bark beetle damage in montane forest ecosystems. Overall, the high climate sensitivity of disturbance regimes underlines the importance of adaptation measures targeting disturbance management, in order to ensure the sustainable provisioning of forest functions and services also under future environmental conditions. In this regard the current study highlights factors with strong leverage on disturbance damage as well as spatial hotspots in Austria, and documents the considerable potential of silvicultural measures in disturbance management (e.g., via promoting diverse, site-adapted stands), but also underlines the importance of considering the long lead times of adaptation in forest management.

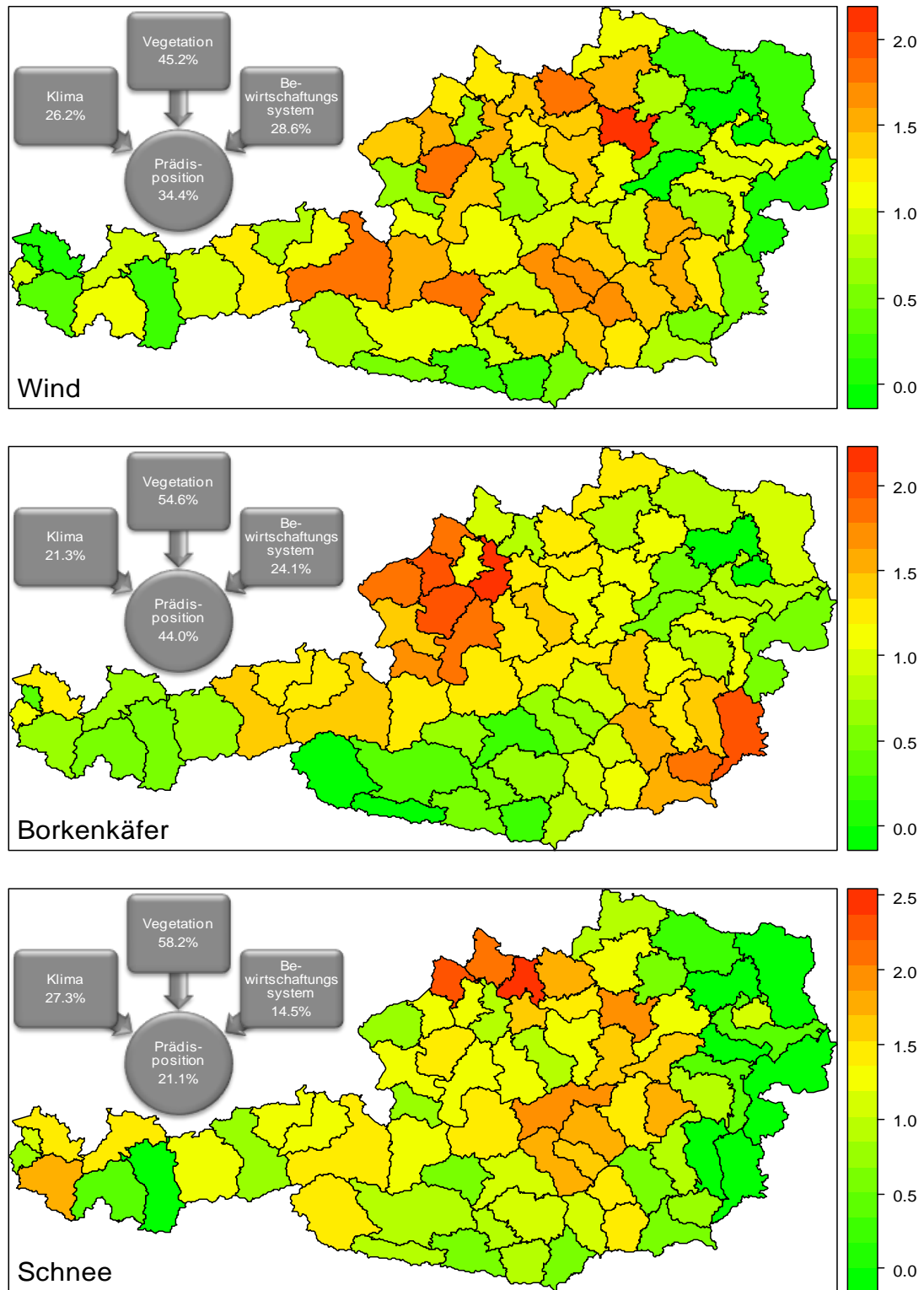


Fig. 3: Disturbance predisposition in Austria's forest districts relative to the country-level mean. A value of 1.5 indicates that a 50% higher damage level can be expected for a given district, compared to the country average. The inserts show the statistically-derived relative influence of factor groups on predisposition, and indicate the overall proportion of the variance explained in the analysis. Upper panel: wind, central panel: bark beetles, lower panel: snow.

4 StartClim2011.C: Effects of soil drying on the transpiration of Austrian tree species

Scenarios of climate change in the Greater Alpine region are still uncertain with regard to the magnitude of expected changes in precipitation, but tend to agree on a trend of increasing summer droughts shifting northwards from the Mediterranean region. Precipitation is likely to occur more often in form of heavy rainfalls with extended dry periods in between. In addition, higher temperatures are likely to cause a shift in winter precipitation from snow to rainfall and, in consequence, lead to changes in the amount and temporal dynamics of melt water. In Austria, more frequent, extended and/or more intensive drought periods have to be expected during the vegetation period.

How trees and plants in general react to soil drought depends, besides numerous environmental factors, on their hydraulic type: So-called "hydrostable" species follow a cautious strategy regarding water relations and react already at moderate decrease in leaf water potential (water availability in the leaf) with stomatal closure to avoid further water losses. In contrast, "hydrolabile" species risk higher water deficits before reducing stomatal aperture. The kind of stomata reactions and thus on the regulation of transpiration during soil drying have several consequences:

First, for trees stomatal closure prevents drought damage. In this context, a hydrostable strategy is advantageous. However, stomatal closure also leads to reduced carbon dioxide assimilation and, as a consequence, reduced growth. A hydrolabile strategy may thus be advantageous under moderate soil drought. These aspects are of relevance not only for timber yield, but, on a long term, also for changes in species composition and biodiversity. Increased or decreased biomass production is also likely to lead to enhanced or reduced carbon dioxide storage.

Second, there are effects on the energy balance of forests and on the near-surface climate. As the evaporation of water requires energy, transpiration causes cooling. A rapid decrease in transpiration during drought periods, which are frequently linked with high temperatures ("heat waves"), thus leads to an amplification of temperature increases. The cooling effect of the vegetation cover is reduced if hydrostable tree species dissipate energy in form of sensible instead of latent heat. Hydrostable tree species are thus not suitable for mitigating the urban heat island effect, e.g., with respect to anticipated climate change.

Third, differences in stomata regulation of hydrostable and hydrolabile species influence the water balance of forest ecosystems. In the frame work of a simplified water balance, precipitation is balance by either evaporation or run-off. In periods with low precipitation, the opening of stomata (i.e. high transpiration) by hydrolabile plant species contributes to a (further) decrease in run off. This affects downstream regions, as rivers there are fed by run off generated in higher regions in Austria (or the Alps), and thus adds a geopolitical dimension to this issue.

While tree specific differences were predominantly studied from an economic point of view, analysis of tree hydraulics enabling a quantification of the social and geopolitical implications mentioned above are missing up to now.

The overarching aim of the present study was to develop/improve datasets on the reaction of Austrian trees species upon soil drought and, in consequence, to improve the background for management decisions in forestry with respect to the selection of tree species compositions. In the project, species-specific differences in the reaction to soil drought and corresponding functional and structural traits were analysed. We hypothesised that there are inter-specific differences in reactions on soil drought, which are based on functional and structural properties of the studied tree species.

The project is based on a split strategy: A meta-analysis of relevant scientific literature was conducted. The aim of this project component was to extract appropriate data from existing

publications and data sets. The disadvantage of this strategy was the restricted comparability and availability of data due to different research methods, experimental setups and other factors influencing the results. Therefore, in addition 12 Austrian tree species as well as species expected to increase in abundance or have invasive potential, were analysed in a drought experiment. These tree species were exposed to increasing drought stress under controlled conditions and their stomatal response was studied.

The meta-analysis showed that a large number of studies on this topic has been undertaken and published (>1800 hits during literature search). However only a small fraction (<20%) of the data could be imported into the database. In all other cases, data were incomplete or not available in a usable form. It is concluded that on the level of research policy there is a need to guarantee the long-term availability of data that usually have been financed by public funds. As a consequence of the small number of usable studies, defensible and statistically significant results were difficult to obtain from the meta-analysis. The main reason for this was that a sufficient number of replicates (>30) was available only for a small number of tree species. In addition, few studies investigated the same parameters and in particular parameter combinations. These two limitations were responsible for factors such as study conditions, tree age, experimental methods and so forth interfering with the effects of species identity, which were the main target in this study. While this represents a sobering result, it confirms that the strategy of combining a meta-analysis with a drought experiment within which consistent methods were used under identical environmental conditions, was fully justified.

The drought experiment showed that transpiration of the investigated tree species responded differentially to soil drying (Fig. 4). The investigated coniferous tree species and some of the deciduous tree species such as sycamore maple and ash were characterised by a hydrostable strategy and reduced stomatal aperture already at slightly negative leaf water potentials (leaf water potentials represent an under-pressure and are thus reported in negative pressure units). The other deciduous tree species were characterised by a hydrolabile strategy and started down-regulating stomatal conductance at more strongly negative water potentials, which allowed these species to continue photosynthesis for extended time periods into the developing drought. The regulation of stomatal aperture thus represents a key aspect of plant water relations that has far-reaching consequences for plants and ecosystems.

Why are species forced to reduce transpiration at specific water potentials? For instance, in all species studied, stomatal conductance was near zero below a potential of -30bar (Fig. 4) as none of the species would risk opening stomata under these drought conditions. A decrease in leaf water content affects cellular structures and functions, but even more important are impairments in the plant water transport system. Embolism can block the water supply of plants and thus intensify drought stress, even when water availability in the soil increases again. Some plants are able to repair embolism by refilling conducting vessels, but this process is hardly understood and probably requires a lot of energy. For many species, especially conifers, which do not exhibit efficient repair processes, the avoidance of embolism is thus of major importance for these tree species.

The measurements conducted within this study investigated a central component of the plant water balance – transpiration and how it reacts to soil drying. In order to be able to transfer these results to real-world conditions, several additional aspects have to be considered: The extent and efficiency of the root system significantly affects plant water availability and thus the extent and intensity of drought stress during periods of low precipitation. One parameter that is of crucial importance in this regard is the ratio of transpiring leaf area to the extent of the root system. As observed in the drought stress experiment, plants may reduce drought stress also by shedding leaves (Fig. 5) and thus by reducing the amount of transpiring leaf area. The results of the drought stress experiments are likely not entirely transferable to adult trees because these differ in their hydraulic architecture from the saplings used in the experiment and because the potted saplings were likely limited by the available soil volume.

Last but not least, it should be noted that intra-specific variability (i.e. within the same species) in hydraulic parameters and adaptation strategies are still poorly understood.

Nevertheless, the data gathered within this project represent a great basis for additional research on this topic, in particular on the long-term effects of drought stress under real-world conditions in mixed species stands. Already now, the following recommendations may be derived from this study: Characterising the drought response of tree species (and ecotypes) is possible and represents a meaningful basis for the selection of tree species for re-forestation in drought-prone areas. For forest management our results imply that certain coniferous tree species will gain importance for re-forestation in the future. The results of this and necessary future studies will help to develop improved forestry management strategies (selection of tree species and varieties for re-forestation, management techniques, etc.) under changing climatic conditions.

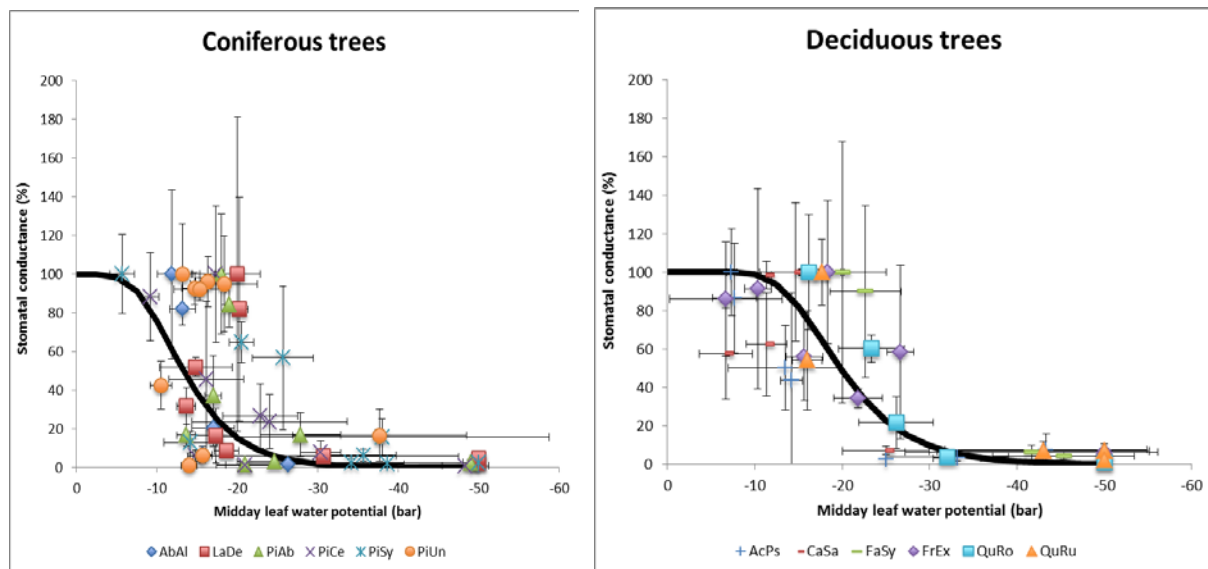


Fig. 4: Stomatal conductance versus midday leaf water potential (water stress increases as the leaf water potential becomes more negative) for coniferous (left) and deciduous (right) tree species. Data (average \pm standard deviation) have been collected within the frame of the drought experiment. The following abbreviations were used for the tree species names: fir (AbAl), larch (LaDc), spruce (PiAb), stone pine (PiCe), Scots pine (PiSy), mountain pine (PiUn), sycamore maple (AcPs), European chestnut (CaSa), beech (FaSy), ash (FrEx), English oak (QuRo) und read oak (QuRu).



Fig. 5: Effects of drought on the investigated tree species. English oak (*Quercus rubra*; left) and mountain pine (*Pinus uncinata*; right) are shown in an exemplary fashion. For each species the left picture shows an individual that underwent the drought treatment, while the right picture shows a well-watered individual.

5 StartClim2011.D: Adapting Austrian forestry to climate change: Assessing the drought tolerance of Austria's autochthonous tree species

Over the next century, it is expected that mean temperatures will increase in Central Europe. In the Alps, mean temperatures are projected to increase by 2°C-2.5°C by 2050, although no clear change in precipitation patterns is expected until after 2050. However what is perhaps most significant is the forecasted increase in the frequency of extreme weather events. While drastic changes in mean annual precipitation are not expected, summer precipitation is expected to be reduced, while an increase in within-year variability is likely to result in an increased frequency of heat and precipitation extremes (i.e. increase in days without precipitation and heat waves events). The subsequent decrease in water availability plus the increase in evaporative demand due to temperature increases is thus likely to induce an increased incidence in plant drought stress.

According to the dynamic concept of stress of Seley and Stocker (modified by Larcher), plants, including trees can build up a certain amount of resistance when a stress is applied (acclimation). Meanwhile due to site heterogeneity at higher spatial resolutions, selection pressures over several generations at rather dry sites may facilitate the adaptation of such populations (i.e. provenances) to drought conditions. Locations of such provenances may thus be very interesting to Silviculturists.

Irrespective of the potential change in future precipitation patterns, periods of drought are nevertheless normal meteorological phenomena. Consequently, through evolution, trees have developed a number of morphological and physiological adaptations to cope during periods of limited rainfall. Generally, the ability of a tree to postpone dehydration depends primarily on a tree's root structure, water storage capacity in the xylem, and how the tree controls transpiration rates (i.e. stomatal control or adjustment of the evaporative leaf area – leaf or even branch sacrifice: Fig. 6).



Fig. 6: Left: Crown dieback of Poplar due to drought; right: Vessel elements of the diffuse-porous Hybrid Poplar (40-fold magnification)

In line with the “Pipe Model Theory of Tree Form” of Shinozaki, phenotypic plasticity and of course reduced growth, causes trees to adjust the root and conducting tissue to the reduced crown demand for water caused by the leaf shed and branch sacrifice responses to continued drought. For example, at the vessel element/tracheid level, drought acclimation causes a reduction in the cross-sectional area of the conducting tissue, though vessel density is disproportionately increased.

Due to the wide amplitude of site moisture conditions occupied by the populations of Austrian tree species, it is likely that dry sites due to climatic and/or topographic factors have facilitated, over several generations, the selection of drought adapted ecotypes. The search for these potentially adapted provenances was thus the main focus of this study.

Currently, relatively few data sources exist which forest managers can consult when selecting the most appropriate reproductive material for a given site. Regarding performance in terms of timber production (i.e. yield potential), extensive data on yield and increment from several thousand plots in Austria, covering the main production forest species, is made available by the national forest inventory. However, this data only provides an indication of production potential, and importantly, production potential under current site conditions. This study demonstrates the potential of using the Austrian Vegetation Database (Willner) in identifying the provenances likely to be best adapted to future climate conditions. Like the Austrian forest inventory, this database is extensive in its spatial coverage with over 36,000 vegetation relevés taken from all over Austria. Using Ellenberg's system of deriving indices of site moisture based on the ecological indicator values of the herb species recorded in the respective relevés, the database can be used to obtain indirect estimates of the relative range in site moisture conditions over which Austrian tree species occur. By using the 10th percentile as a cut-off point, this study demonstrates the database's potential in locating the driest sites (the driest 10%), where the respective species occur, and thus the likely locations where the most drought resistant ecotypes exist. The database may thus possess great potential in helping Austrian forestry foster adaptation strategies to climate change.

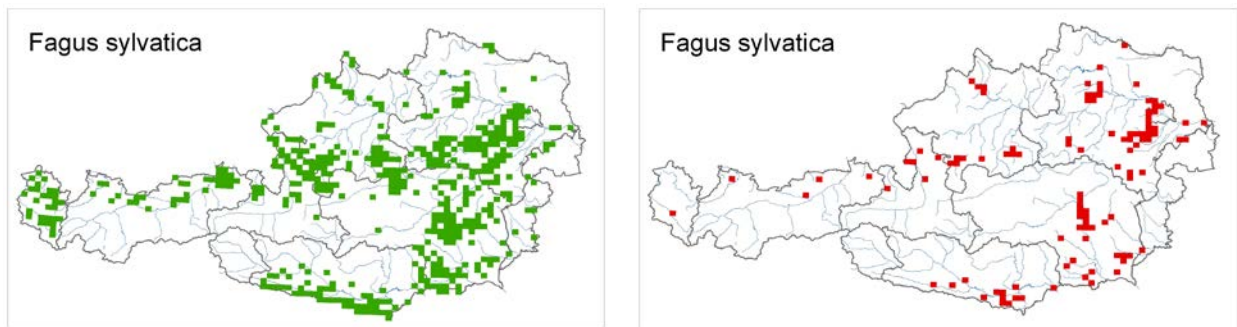


Fig. 7: Grid cells corresponding to the vegetation relevés of European Beech; Green: grids corresponding to all locatable relevés (91% of the total relevés were assigned grids), Red: grids corresponding to the locations of the relevés of the driest 10% (91% were assigned grids).

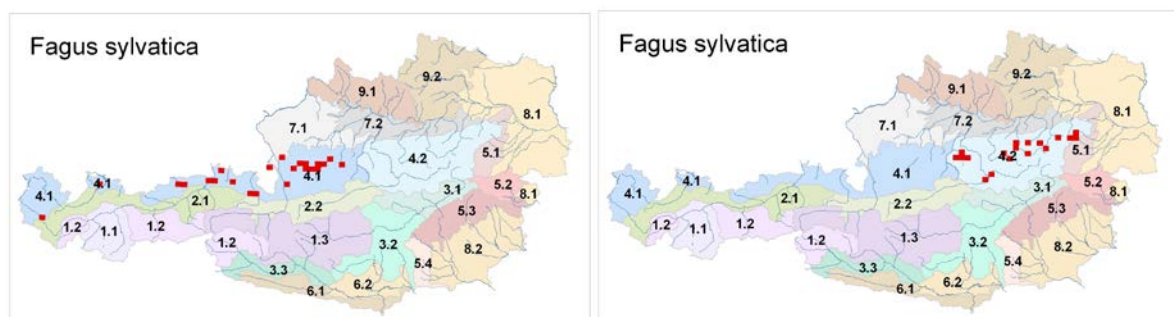


Fig. 8: Grid cells corresponding to the locations of the European Beech relevés of the driest 10% located within Forest Ecoregions 4.1 (left) and 4.2 (right).

In total, 22 Austrian tree species were analysed. Ecological indicator values of site moisture were calculated for those relevés of each species where the species occurrence at the site was either dominant or subdominant. The example of Beech illustrates the practical use of

the results of this dataset (Fig. 7) and other such studies (Fig. 8) showing the dry relevés separated between two forest ecoregions: the Northern Alpine Border – West (4.1) and the Northern Alpine Border East (4.2). The identification of potentially drought adapted provenances for the different forest ecoregions could help to identify useful sources of reproduction material to help Austrian forestry adapt to the project changes in climate. According to the Austrian Forest Reproductive Material Act provenances source from the same ecoregion represent the best sources of reproductive material to maintain the optimal performance of Austria's forests.

While the results here illustrate the potential of the Austrian Vegetation Database in facilitating the adaptation of Austrian forestry to climate change, there are nonetheless weaknesses in the database. Recordings from younger stands with a dense canopy and thus low light availability cannot be analysed due to the exclusive presence of shade tolerant herb species. Furthermore, similar correlations of plant optima with site nitrogen and moisture conditions can make fertilised sites in the eastern lowlands seem wetter than what they are. Additionally, planting of spruce outside of its natural range rendered some relevés from the warm lowlands rather useless. However in these cases, the projected changes in climate are likely to put extra pressure on the spruce populations outside their natural range. In such cases, a switch to species naturally found on such sites is thus recommended.

While more drought tolerant populations of each species exist, each species nevertheless exhibits some limit with regard to drought conditions. Thus in some cases, a change of species may nevertheless be advised if one is to adapt the given stand to future conditions. Ideally the degree of change should be kept as minimal as possible, e.g., the use of a more drought resistant species from the same genus. For instance, stands of pedunculate oak which are identified as vulnerable to climate change could be steadily adapted to climate change by introducing more drought tolerant *Quercus* species such as sessile oak. Such interventions are likely to reduce the risk of negative ecological side effects and the need for drastic changes within the forest sector itself.

While the pressure of climate change continues to force the case of foreign provenances or exotic species, their introduction, particularly exotic species, may have negative ecological effects. It is therefore important that in trying to adapt to the projected changes in climate, forestry does not ignore the autochthonous options available to it. This study illustrates that a potentially significant amount of inter- and intraspecific variation in drought tolerance is available within Austrian tree populations. Use of this data by forest managers and silviculturalists is thus strongly encouraged.

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Annex

All following reports can be found on the StartClim2010-CD-ROM and on the StartClim website (www.austroclim.at/startclim/)

Subprojects of StartClim2003

StartClim.1: Quality control and statistical characteristics of selected climate parameters on the basis of daily values in the face of extreme value analysis

Central Institute of Meteorology and Geodynamics
Wolfgang Schöner, Ingeborg Auer, Reinhard Böhm, Sabina Thaler

StartClim.2: Analysis of the representativeness of a data collected over a span of fifty years for the description of the variability of climatic extremes

Central Institute of Meteorology and Geodynamics
Ingeborg Auer, Reinhard Böhm, Eva Korus, Wolfgang Schöner

StartClim.3a: Extreme events: documentation of hazardous events in Austria such as rock avalanches, floods, debris flows, landslides, and avalanches

Institute of Forest and Mountain-Risk Engineering, BOKU
Dieter Rickenmann, Egon Ganahl

StartClim.3b: Documentation of the impact of extreme weather events on agricultural production ARC Seibersdorf research: Gerhard Soja, Anna-Maria Soja

StartClim.3c: Meteorological extreme event data information system for the eastern Alpine region - MEDEA

Federal Environment Agency, Martin König, Herbert Schentz, Johann Weigl
IIASA, Mathias Jonas, Tatiana Ermolieva

StartClim.4: Development of a method to predict the occurrence of extreme events from large-scale meteorological fields

Institute of Meteorology and Physics, BOKU Andreas Frank, Petra Seibert

StartClim.5: Testing statistical downscaling techniques for their applicability to extreme events in Austria

Institute of Meteorology and Physics, BOKU -
Herbert Formayer, Christoph Matulla, Patrick Haas
GKSS Forschungszentrum Geesthacht, Nikolaus Groll

StartClim.6: Adaptation strategies for economic sectors affected heavily by extreme weather events: economic evaluation and policy options

Austrian Humans Dimensions Programme (HDP-A)
Department of Economics, Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz
Karl Steininger, Christian Steinreiber, Constanze Binder, Erik Schaffer
Eva Tusini, Evelyne Wiesinger

StartClim.7: Changes in the social metabolism due to the 2002-flooding in Austria: case study of an affected community

Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies of Austrian Universities (IFF)
Willi Haas, Clemens Grünbühel, Brigitt Bodingbauer

StartClim.8: Risk-management and public prosperity in the face of extreme weather events: What is the optimal mix of private insurance, public risk pooling and alternative transfer mechanisms

Department of Economics, Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz
Walter Hyll, Nadja Vettors, Franz Pretenthaler

StartClim.9: Summer 2002 floods in Austria: damage account data pool

Centre of Natural Hazards and Risk Management (ZENAR),
BOKU - University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences
Helmut Habersack, Helmut Fuchs

StartClim.10: Economic aspects of the 2002 floodings: data analysis, asset accounts and macroeconomic effects

Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO)
Daniela Kletzian, Angela Köppl, Kurt Kratena

StartClim.11: Communication at the interface science - education

Institute of Meteorology and Physics,
BOKU - University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences
Ingeborg Schwarzl
Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies of Austrian Universities (IFF)
Willi Haas

StartClim.12: Developing an innovative approach for the analysis of the August 2002 flood event in comparison with similar extreme events in recent years

Department of Meteorology and Geophysics, University of Vienna
Simon Tschannett, Barbara Chimani, Reinhold Steinacker

StartClim.13: High-resolution precipitation analysis

Department of Meteorology and Geophysics, University of Vienna
Stefan Schneider, Bodo Ahrens, Reinhold Steinacker, Alexander Beck

StartClim.14: Performance of meteorological forecast models during the August 2002 floods Central Institute of Meteorology and Geodynamics

Thomas Haiden, Alexander Kann

StartClim.C: Design of a long term climate/climate-impact research programme for Austria Institute of Meteorology and Physics, BOKU:

Helga Kromp-Kolb, Andreas Türk

StartClim. Reference database:

Implementation of a comprehensive literature database on climate and climate impact research as a generally accessible basis for future climate research activities

Institute of Meteorology and Physics,
University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences
Patrick Haas

Subprojects of StartClim2004

StartClim2004.A: Analysis of heat and drought periods in Austria: extension of the daily StartClim data record by the element vapour pressure

Central Institute of Meteorology and Geodynamics
Ingeborg Auer, Eva Korus, Reinhard Böhm, Wolfgang Schöner

StartClim2004.B: Investigation of regional climate change scenarios with respect to heat waves and dry spells in Austria

Institute of Meteorology, BOKU: Herbert Formayer, Petra Seibert, Andreas Frank, Christoph Matulla, Patrick Haas

StartClim2004.C: Analysis of the impact of the drought in 2003 on agriculture in Austria – comparison of different methods

ARC Seibersdorf research: Gerhard Soja, Anna-Maria Soja
Institute of Meteorology, BOKU: Josef Eitzinger, Grzegorz Gruszczynski, Mirek Trnka, Gerhard Kubu, Herbert Formayer
Institute of Surveying, Remote Sensing and Land Information, BOKU
Werner Schneider, Franz Suppan, Tatjana Koukal

StartClim2004.F: Continuation and further development of the MEDEA event data base

Federal Environment Agency: Martin König, Herbert Schentz,
Katharina Schleidt
IIASA: Matthias Jonas, Tatiana Ermolieva

StartClim2004.G: “Is there a relation between heat and productivity?”

A project at the interface between science and education
Institute of Meteorology, BOKU
Ingeborg Schwarzl, Elisabeth Lang, Erich Mursch-Radlgruber

Subprojects of StartClim2005

StartClim2005.A1a: Impacts of temperature on mortality and morbidity in Vienna

Medical University of Vienna, Centre for Public Health, Institute of
Environmental Hygiene
Hanns Moshhammer, Hans-Peter Hutter
Institute of Meteorology, BOKU
Andreas Frank, Thomas Gerersdorfer
Austrian Federal Institute of Health Care
Anton Hlava, Günter Sprinzl
Statistics Austria, Barbara Leitner

StartClim2005.A1b: Nocturnal cooling under a changing climate

Institute of Meteorology, BOKU
Thomas Gerersdorfer, Andreas Frank, Herbert Formayer, Patrick Haas
Medical University of Vienna, Centre for Public Health, Institute of
Environmental Hygiene
Hanns Moshhammer
Statistics Austria, Barbara Leitner

StartClim2005.A4: Impacts of meteorological extreme events on safety of drinking water supply in Austria

Institute of Sanitary Engineering and Water Pollution Control, BOKU
Reinhard Perfler, Mario Unterwainig
Institute of Meteorology, BOKU
Herbert Formayer

StartClim2005.C2: Studies on the distribution of tularaemia under the aspect of climate change

Gesellschaft für Wildtier und Lebensraum – Greßmann & Deutz OEG
Armin Deutz
HBLFA Raumberg Gumpenstein, Agricultural Research and Education Centre
Thomas Guggenberger

StartClim2005.C3a: Impacts of climate change on agricultural pests and antagonists in organic farming in Eastern Austria

Bio Forschung Austria
Bernhard Kromp, Eva Maria Grünbacher, Patrick Hann
Institute of Meteorology, BOKU
Herbert Formayer,

StartClim2005.C3b: Risk analysis of the establishment of the western flower thrips (*Frankliniella occidentalis*) under outdoor conditions in Austria as a result of the climate change

The Austrian Agency für Health and Food Safety, AGES
Andreas Kahrer
Institute of Meteorology, BOKU
Herbert Formayer,

StartClim2005.C5: An allergenic neophyte and its potential spread in Austria – range dynamics of ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*) under influence of climate change

VINCA, Vienna Institute for Nature Conservation & Analysis
Ingrid Kleinbauer, Stefan Dullinger
Federal Environment Agency
Franz Essl, Johannes Peterseil

StartClim2005.F: GIS-sustained simulation of diminishing habitats of snow grouse, black grouse, chamois and capricorn under conditions of global warming and heightening forest limits

Joanneum Research
Heinz Gallaun, Jakob Schaumberger, Mathias Schardt
HBLFA Raumberg-Gumpenstein
Thomas Guggenberger, Andreas Schaumberger, Johann Gasteiner
Gesellschaft für Wildtier und Lebensraum - Greßmann & Deutz OEG
Armin Deutz, Gunter Greßmann

Subprojects of StartClim2006

StartClim2006.A: Particulate matter and climate change – are there connections between them in north-eastern Austria?

Institute of Meteorology, BOKU: Bernd C. Krüger, Irene Schicker, Herbert Formayer
Medical University of Vienna, Centre for Public Health, Institute of Environmental Hygiene: Hanns Moshhammer

StartClim2006.B: Risk Profile for the autochthonous occurrence of Leishmania infections in Austria

Medical University of Vienna: Horst Aspöck, Julia Walchnik
Institute of Meteorology, BOKU: Thomas Gerersdorfer, Herbert Formayer

StartClim2006.C: Effects of climate change on the dispersion of white grub damages in the Austrian grassland

Bio Forschung Austria
Eva Maria Grünbacher, Patrick Hann, Claus Trska, Bernhard Kromp
Institute of Meteorology, BOKU: Herbert Formayer

StartClim2006.D1: Sensitivity of Austrian summer tourism to climate change

Institut für touristische Raumplanung: Volker Fleischhacker
Institute of Meteorology, BOKU: Herbert Formayer

StartClim2006.D2: Effects of climate change on the climatic potential of tourism

Institute of Meteorology, University of Freiburg
Andreas Matzarakis, Christina Endler, Robert Neumcke
Central Institute of Meteorology and Geodynamics
Elisabeth Koch, Ernest Rudel

StartClim2006.D3: See-Vision: influence of climate change-induced fluctuation of water level in Lake Neusiedl on the perception and behaviour of visitors and locals

Institute of Landscape Development, Recreation and Conservation Planning, BOKU
Ulrike Pröbstl, Alexandra Jiricka, Thomas Schuppenlehner
Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, Canada
Wolfgang Haider

StartClim2006.F: Climate change impacts on energy use for space heating and cooling in Austria

Institute of Technology and Regional Policy, Joanneum Research (1);
Wegener Center for Climate and Global Change, University of Graz (2);
Institute for Geophysics, Astrophysics and Meteorology,
University of Graz (3);
Institute for Meteorology and Geophysics, University of Vienna (4);
Institute of Energy Research, Joanneum Research (5)
Franz Pretenthaler^{1,2}, Andreas Gobiet^{2,3},
Clemens Habsburg-Lothringen¹, Reinhold Steinacker⁴,
Christoph Töglhofer², Andreas Türk^{2,5}

Subprojects of StartClim2007

StartClim2007.A: Enlargement and completion of the StartClim dataset for the element daily snow depth. Update of the already existing StartClim datasets (air temperature, precipitation and vapour pressure) until April 2007

Central Institute of Meteorology and Geodynamics: Ingeborg Auer,
Anita Jurković, Reinhard Böhm, Wolfgang Schöner, Wolfgang Lipa

StartClim2007.B: Health risks for the Austrian population due to the depletion of stratospheric ozone

Institute of Meteorology, University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna: Stana Simic
Institute of Medical Physics and Biostatistics, University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna: Alois W. Schmalwieser
Medical University of Vienna, Centre for Public Health, Institute of Environmental Hygiene: Hanns Moshhammer

StartClim2007.C: Adaptations of insect pests to climate change in crop production of eastern Austria: conception of a long-term monitoring system

Bio Forschung Austria: Eva-Maria Grünbacher, Patrick Hann, Bernhard Kromp
Institute of Meteorology, University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna: Herbert Formayer

StartClim2007.D: Consequence of the climate-induced upwards shift of the timberline on the release of greenhouse gases - dynamics of soil organic matter

Federal Forest Office: Robert Jandl, Andreas Schindlbacher,
Sophie Zechmeister-Boltenstern, Michael Pfeffer
Department of Forest and Soil Sciences, University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna:
Klaus Katzensteiner
Federal Environment Agency: Sabine Göttlicher
University of Vienna: Hannah Katzensteiner
Tiroler Landesforstdirektion: Dieter Stöhr

StartClim2007.E: Global change and its effect on runoff behaviour of glacierised basins with regard to reservoir power stations

Institute of Meteorology and Geophysics, University Innsbruck:
Michael Kuhn, Marc Olefs, Andrea Fischer

StartClim2007.F: ALSO WIKI – Alpine summer tourism in Austria and the potential effects of climate change

Austrian Institute for Regional Studies and Spatial Planning: Cornelia Krajasits,
Gregori Stanzer, Adolf Anderl, Wolfgang Neugebauer, Iris Wach
Central Institute of Meteorology and Geodynamics
Christine Kroisleitner, Wolfgang Schöner

StartClim2007.G: Integrated modelling of the economy under climate change in application of the STERN report (STERN.AT)

Wegener Centre for Climate and Global Change, University of Graz:
Olivia Koland, Karl Steininger, Andreas Gobiet, Georg Heinrich, Claudia Kettner, Alexandra Pack, Matthias Themeßl, Christoph Töglhofer, Andreas Türk, Thomas Trink
Joanneum Research, Institut für Technologie- und Regionalpolitik:
Raimund Kurzmann
University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna: Erwin Schmid

Subprojects of StartClim2008

StartClim2008.A: Impacts of adaptation measures on the acute mortality risk due to extreme temperature in Vienna

Institute of Environmental Hygiene, Centre for Public Health, MUW: Hanns Moshhammer, Hans-Peter Hutter
Institute of Meteorology, BOKU: Thomas Gerersdorfer

StartClim2008.B: Which adaptations of soil erosion protection measures can be recommended for expected climate change impacts?

Institute of Hydraulics and Rural Water Management, BOKU: Andreas Klik
Institute of Meteorology, BOKU: Josef Eitzinger
Institute of Agronomy and Plant Breeding, BOKU: Peter Liebhard

StartClim2008.C: Practical testing of the monitoring concept “Adaptations of insect pests to climate change in crop production of eastern Austria” by investigating the distribution of current cutworm (*Agrotis segetum*, Schiff.; Fam. Noctuidae) damage as a function of site-related and climatic factors

Bio Forschung Austria: Patrick Hann, Claus Trska, Eva Maria Frauenschuh, Bernhard Kromp

StartClim2008.D: Organic agriculture in the mountains of Tyrol—contributions to mitigating climate change and adaptation strategies

Division of Organic Farming, BOKU: Michael Dorninger, Bernhard Freyer

StartClim2008.E: Development and economic valuation of landscape structures to decrease evapotranspiration on agricultural acres with account taken of climate change and biomass production

Institute of Landscape Development, Recreation and Conservation Planning, BOKU: Christiane Brandenburg, Bernhard Ferner, Sonja Völler, Brigitte Allex
Institute of Meteorology, BOKU: Josef Eitzinger, Thomas Gerersdorfer
Division of Organic Farming, BOKU: Bernhard Freyer, Andreas Surböck, Agnes Schweinzer, Markus Heinzinger
Institute of Agricultural and Forestry Economics, BOKU: Enno Bahrs

StartClim2008.F: Perception and evaluation of natural hazards as a consequence of glacier retreat and permafrost degradation in tourism destinations—a case study in the Tux Valley (Zillertaler Alps, Austria)

Institute of Landscape Development, Recreation and Conservation Planning, BOKU: Ulrike Pröbstl
University of Regensburg, University Eichstätt-Ingolstadt: Bodo Damm

StartClim2008.G: Adaptation of forest soils to a changing climate

Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape: Barbara Kitzler, Verena Stingl, Sophie Zechmeister-Boltenstern
Institute of Meteorology and Climate-Research – Atmospheric Environmental Research, Garmisch: Arjan De Bruijn, Ralf Kiese, Klaus Butterbach-Bahl

Subprojects of StartClim2009

StartClim2009.A: Vegetation change according to different climate and management conditions in Austrian mountain grassland – a case study on Styrian mountain grasslands

Institute of Botany, BOKU: Gabriele Bassler, Gerhard Karrer,
Institute of Meteorology, BOKU: Herbert Formayer
LFZ-Raumberg-Gumpenstein: Andreas Schaumberger, Andreas Bohner, Walter Starz
Bio Ernte Steiermark: Wolfgang Angeringer

StartClim2009.B: Climate-growth response of Norway spruce provenances in the Alpine region – an opportunity for adaption of the Austrian forestry

Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape: Silvio Schüller, Stefan Kapeller,
Central Institute of Meteorology and Geodynamics: Johann Hiebl

StartClim2009.C: Analysis of vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in the Wienerwald biosphere reserve

Institute of Silviculture, BOKU: Stefan Schörghuber, Werner Rammer, Rupert Seidl, Manfred J. Lexer

StartClim2009.D: Humus assays as a practical tool for farmers to support carbon sequestration in agriculture

Bio Forschung Austria: Wilfried Hartl, Eva Erhart

StartClim2009.E: Adapting office buildings to climate change: optimisation of thermal comfort

Danube University Krems: Tania Berger, Peter Pundy

StartClim2009.F: AlpinRiskGP - estimation of present and future risk potential for Alpine tourists and infrastructure caused by glacier retreat and permafrost changes in the Grossglockner-Pasterze glacier area (Hohe Tauern, Austria)

Geography and Regional Science, Karl-Franzens-University Graz: Gerhard Karl Lieb, Katharina Kern, Gernot Seier,
Andreas Kellerer-Pirkbauer-Eulenstein, Ulrich Strasser

Subprojects of StartClim2010

StartCim2010.A: Fields of action and responsible actors for climate change adaptation of public parks in cities

Institute of Landscape Development, Recreation and Conservation Planning (ILEN), BOKU: Stephanie Drlik, Andreas Muhar

StartClim2010.B: Recommendations for an adaptation of urban open and green spaces in Austrian cities and city regions

PlanSinn GmbH, Office for Planning and Communication: Erik Meinharter
Federal Environment Agency: Maria Balas

StartClim2010.C: The social costs of adaptation: approaches to an evaluation of adaptation options (SALDO)

Wegener Center for Climate and Global Change, University Graz:
Birgit Bednar-Friedl, Olivia Koland, Janine Raab
Federal Environment Agency: Martin König

StartClim2010.D: Integrated precautionary and adaptation measures for the Marchfeld region

Institute for Sustainable Economic Development, BOKU: Christine Heumesser, Mathias Kirchner, Erwin Schmid, Franziska Strauss

StartClim2010.E: Ecological and silvicultural characteristics of European larch (*Larix decidua* Mill.) – consequences for forest management in Austria in consideration of climate change

Institute of Silviculture, BOKU: Eduard Hochbichler, Gabriele Wolfslehner, Roland Koeck, F. Arbeiter,
Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape: Herfried Steiner, Georg Frank
Institute of Meteorology, BOKU: Herbert Formayer

Startclim2010.F: Hot town, summer in the city – effects of hot days on recreational and leisure behaviour and sightseeing programmes of city tourists as exemplified by the case of Vienna

Institute of Landscape Development, Recreation and Conservation Planning (ILEN), BOKU: Christiane Brandenburg, Brigitte Allex, Ursula Liebl, Christina Czachs
Institute of Meteorology, BOKU: Thomas Gerersdorfer

StartClim2010.G: Knowledge-based platform to optimise operations strategies in handling natural hazards

Austrian Red Cross: Jürgen Högl, Clemens Liehr, Gerry Foitik
Institute of Production and Logistics, BOKU: Manfred Gronalt, Magdalena Schweiger, Patrick Hirsch