



Case Study

SUNDAY MUNICIPALITY AND AUSTRIAN ALPINE ASSOCIATION

Sunday
Vorarlberg
Austria

On behalf of the Austrian Alpine Association and with financial support from the Fund for the Rescue of the Vorarlberg.



In the UNESCO certified biosphere park in the Grosswalsertal, Vorarlberg, Austria, the mountain village of Sunday and Fontanella lie. Sunday has 1000 hectares of forest on very steep slopes and up to 1800m above sea level. 80% of the forest is protected.

On a former Alp slope which has not been actively managed for several years, in a project of re-forestation has been undertaken.

In co-operation with forest specialists and under the guidance of the trained project manager within one week, different measurements are established, forest counts, maintenance and preventive measures, erosion safety devices and much more work is completed. Teams work together in visible teams and become accustomed to the mountain forest. Only an intact mountain forest protects the village against floods and avalanches.

Under the direction of forest guard of the municipality and local farmer (who has been successfully using PLOCHER on the farm for many years), 12 members of the Austrian Alpine Association planted 2,000 individual saplings such as sycamore and spruce.

Trees were planted in groups of 5-7, 5-6m apart. Additional care of the trees was undertaken.

Application

Before planting 600 of the 2,000 saplings were treated with different PLOCHER products which improve root growth and reduce stress when planting.

PLOCHER-treated plant gel was placed in the planting holes of the 600 PLOCHER-treated saplings so water was retained around the roots. Afterwards, the PLOCHER-treated saplings were watered in with Plocher Soil Activator 1, 2 & 3 (AK 1750).

Aluminum foils were placed around the groups of trees as protection from mammals.

The PLOCHER-treated 600 trees were planted on 26 May 2003.

The control group of 1,400 trees for comparison, were planted on 27 May 2003.