



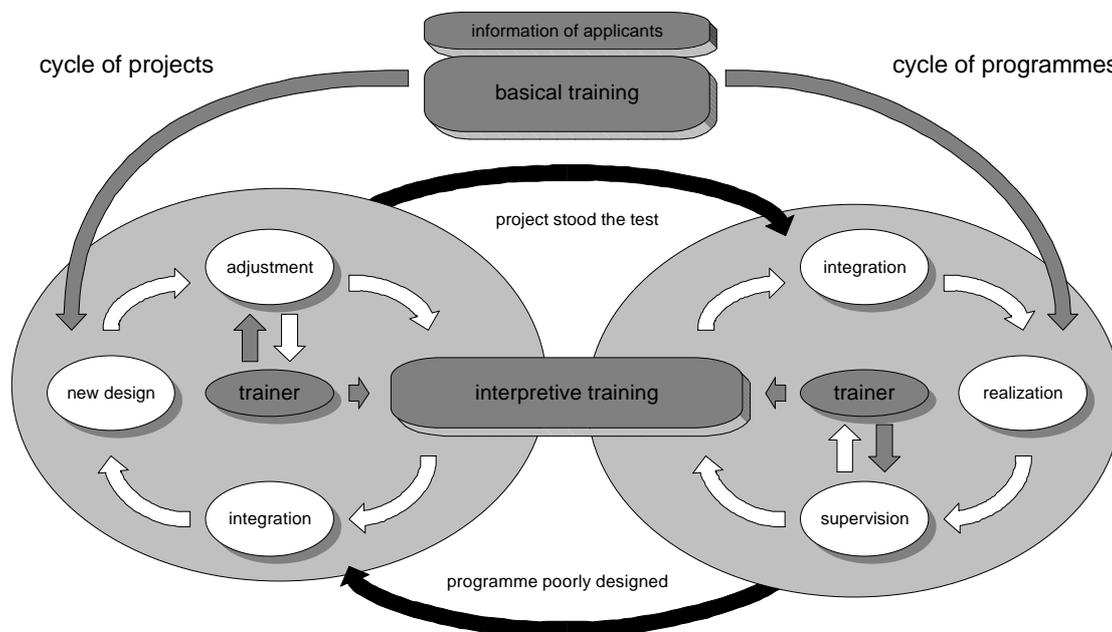
Seasonal staff are indispensable for the parks' personal interpretation

The most deeply felt events are those in which there is a personal dialogue between the interpreter and each single visitor. This limits the group size for such special activities to about 12 to 15 participants per event. To attend to 10000 participants during one main season, park staff would need at least 10 interpreters. Most of the parks are not able to afford this level of permanent staffing.

Seasonal staff work on the interface between theory and practice

For the German Sächsische Schweiz National Park, **Bildungswerk interpretation** developed a model to employ seasonal staff within two independent cycles. Within the programme-cycle less experienced employees put existing programmes into action. These programmes are the backbone of the park's environmental education activities.

To ensure quality is maintained, all programmes are subject to permanent supervision.



Within the project cycle experienced staff use their experiences to develop new programmes. Up to 50 seasonal staff are trained and coordinated by permanent staff members, who organize interpretive training to address problems arising within both cycles.

Seasonal staff are outstanding multipliers

As long as seasonal staff don't become "permanent seasonals", all persons involved benefit from their employment. Training enables university students gain practical experiences as part of their work in the national park. Their dialogue is not just a dialogue with the visitor. Introducing the park idea to the educational system also helps to raise the profile of interpretation as one of the most important tasks of the park management.