

Nature Conservation in the Czech Republic

Meeting with representatives of the Republic of Moldova's authorities

Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic

27 May 2024







Nature Conservation in CZ



Content:

- National Specially Protected Areas in the Czech Republic
- EU Natura 2000 network in the Czech Republic
- Territorial protection, conservation and management
- Nature Guards



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Nature conservation

A range of human activities aiming at maintaining the natural world in a favourable status, *i.e.* in good conditions, particularly healthy, for a long time





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Two key nature conservation goals:

- ❖ Maintaining native biological diversity
- ❖ Support to basic life-supporting processes/functions/ecosystem services in ecosystems
- ❖ Both the goals can mutually exclude each other



Three approaches to nature conservation:

- (i) Territorial
- (ii) Species
- (iii) Ecosystem or Ecosocial systems – combination of both the above





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Protected area is a clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values (IUCN 2008)



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Specially Protected Areas (I)

✓ Large-size SPAs (numbers, proportion of the Czech Republic's territory in %)

<input type="checkbox"/> National Parks	4	1.5
<input type="checkbox"/> Protected Landscape Areas	26	14.4

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Specially Protected Areas (II)

✓ Small-size SPAs (numbers, proportion of the Czech Republic's territory in %)

<input type="checkbox"/> National Nature Reserves	100	0.38
<input type="checkbox"/> National Nature Monuments	125	0.10

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Specially Protected Areas (III)

✓ Small-size SPAs (numbers, proportion of the Czech Republic's territory in %)

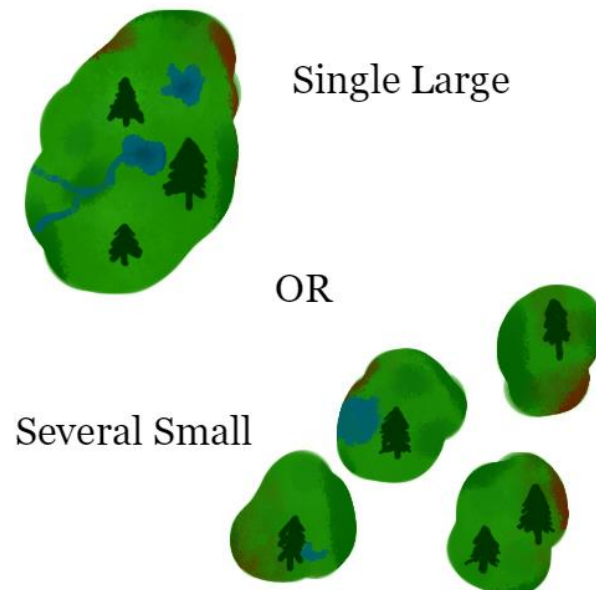
<input type="checkbox"/> Nature Reserves	819	0.55
<input type="checkbox"/> Nature Monuments	1 619	0.44

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SLOSS dilemma:

Whether a **single large** or **several small** (SLOSS) reserves were a superior means of conserving nature/biological diversity in a fragmented habitat/landscape





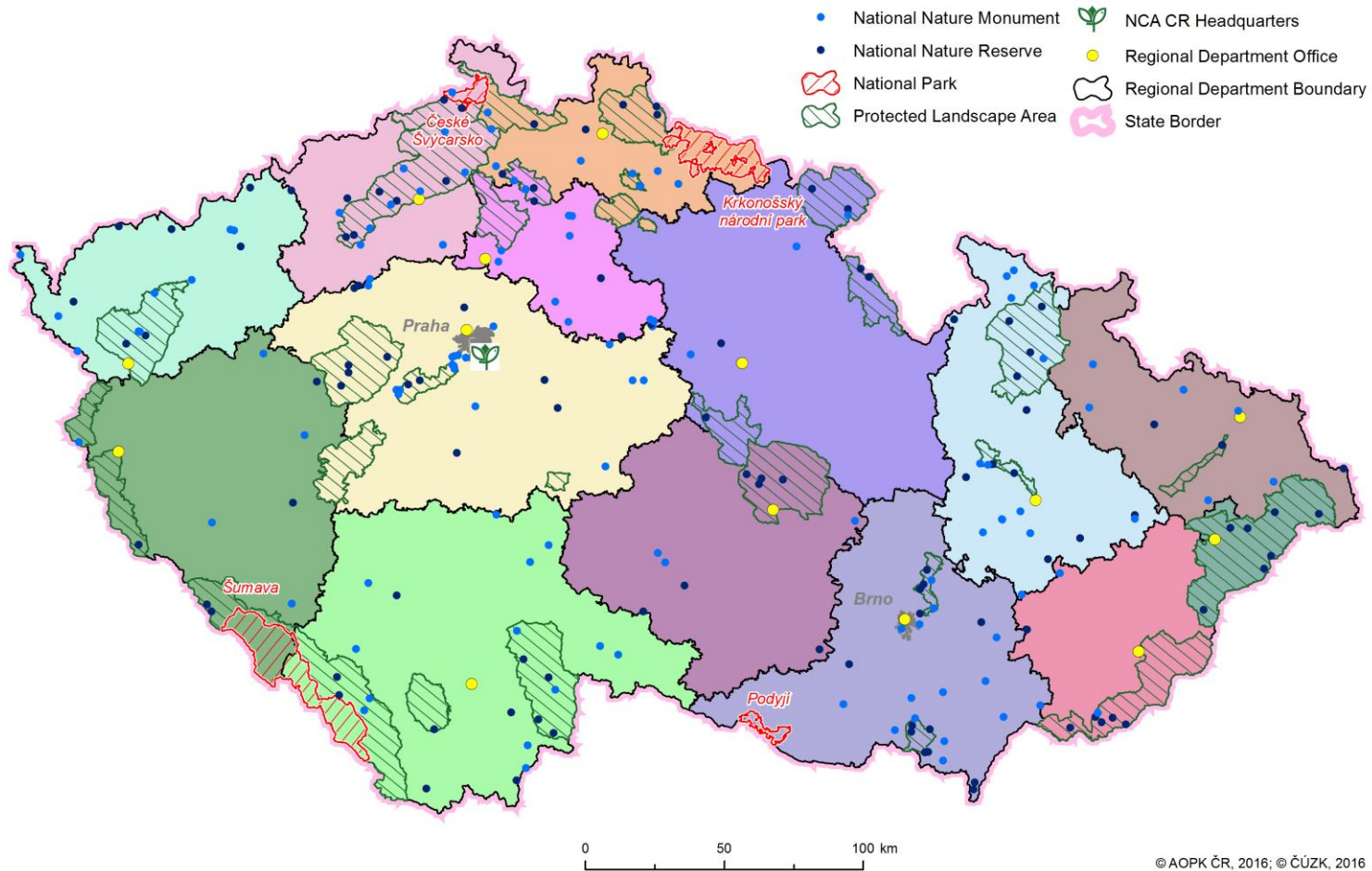
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Solutions applied in the Czech Republic

- (I) Zonation – Zones according to activities prohibited/allowed: strict protection → management
- (II) Buffer zones
- (III) Small-size SPAs in large-size SPAs (NPs, PLAs): 757

Some Specially Protected Areas



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- ✓ There are 2,703 Specially Protected Areas of six categories covering in total 16.79 % of the country's territory
- ✓ All SPAs should have Management Plan
- ✓ Effective SPAs protection, conservation and management needs appropriate State Nature Conservation structure
- ✓ SPAs should be funded directly from the State Budget

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At the beginning, the European Community legislation had aimed at technological protection of the environment through various standards



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- ✓ Moreover, the EU nature conservation legislation has been the most comprehensive in the world
- ✓ It has been pioneering in many aspects



Importance of the EU Natura 2000 network of protected areas (I)

- Target parts of nature are protected in situ, sites are declared so that the target parts of nature are maintained in favourable conservation status or the latter has been improving
- Biogeographical not geopolitical approach applied
- The sites to be selected purely on the scientific basis



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- ❑ For conservation of the wildlife species and habitats targeted both the respective Member States and the EU are responsible: the proportionality principle
- ❑ The Natura 2000 sites have not to be strictly protected and pristine, the status of the protected phenomenon is crucial, not excluding economic activities, but considering also drivers outside the sites

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By the number of sites, the Natura 2000 is the largest network of protected areas worldwide based on the same principle



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The Natura 2000 network generates recreational benefits worth between EUR 5 – 6 billion per year





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The provision of ecosystem services by the Natura 2000 has been estimated to in the order of EUR 200 – 300 billion/year



In the Czech Republic, Natura 2000 network consists of:

- ❖ Sites of European Importance (SCIs, SACs) 1,112 10.08
- ❖ Bird Areas (SPAs) 41 8.91
- ❑ Overlap between both the categories themselves and Specially Protected Areas
- ❑ Totally protected pursuant to national and EU law: 21.88 % of the country's territory



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- ❖ There are 54 sites under contractual protection across the country covering 0.60 % of the Czech Republic territory
- ❖ In the case of Sites of European importance, instead of proclamation of a small-size Specially Protected Areas including their buffer zones, it shall be possible to proclaim the area a protected area, if they are not already protected pursuant to the Act, on the basis of a written contract concluded between the owner of the concerned land and the State Nature Conservancy authority competent to their proclamation.



○ Nature Conservation in CZ

- Regional authorities and Administrations of large-size Specially Protected Areas (shall appoint the Nature Guard in particular from among voluntary workers.
- The mission of the nature guard shall be to check the observation of regulations on nature and landscape protection.
- The competences of Nature Guard are precisely set in Act No. 114/1992 Gazette on Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection

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Nature Conservation
Agency of the Czech
Republic's structure:

- ❖ Prague HQ
- ❖ 13 regional branches
at 36 locations a

Staff as of May 1, 2024

- ❖ 707 members
- ❖ 612 with university
degree and 53 with
Ph.D. degree





NCA CR activities

- Performing state/public administration in the particular areas as the Public Authority**
- Carrying out inventories, surveys, monitoring and research for nature conservation and landscape protection**
- Implementing management measures in the field**



- **Preparing Management Plans for Specially Protected Areas**
- **Regulating activities potentially damaging nature and the landscape**
- **Providing compensation payments for damages caused by nature conservation provisions in agricultural, forestry and fishpond management**



- Developing & implementing specially protected species action plans & recovery programmes including conflict species

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- Running and implementing nature conservation subvention programmes & subsidy schemes in the country





- **The Nature Conservancy Species Occurrence Database:**
 - More than 34 million records**
- **The data are used for analyses and decision-making by the State/Public Administration**
- **Citizen science**



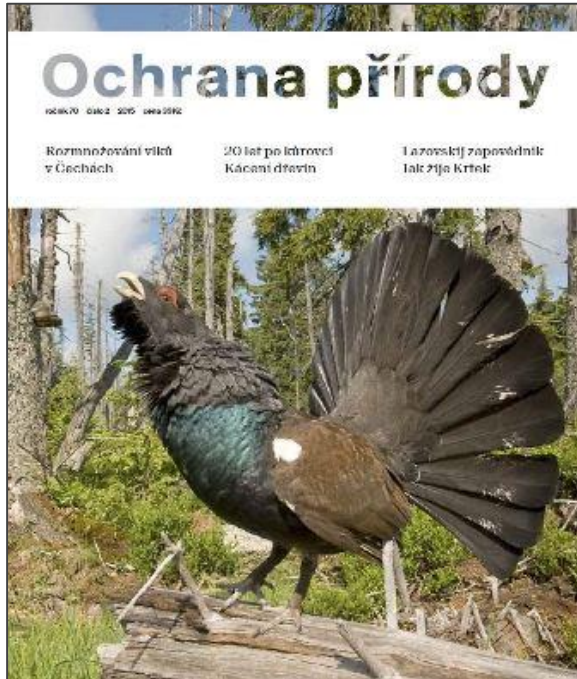


Facilities for visitors (paths, educational trails, visitor centres)

91 educational trails

**Workshops, seminars, roundtables, lectures,
exhibitions, guided tours in the field**

Ochrana přírody/Nature Conservation Journal





Motto NCA CR:

**Nature is our
heritage as well as
the future**

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Conclusions:

- ✓ Tasks pursuant to EU legislation require the adequate State Nature Conservancy authorities funded from the State Budget



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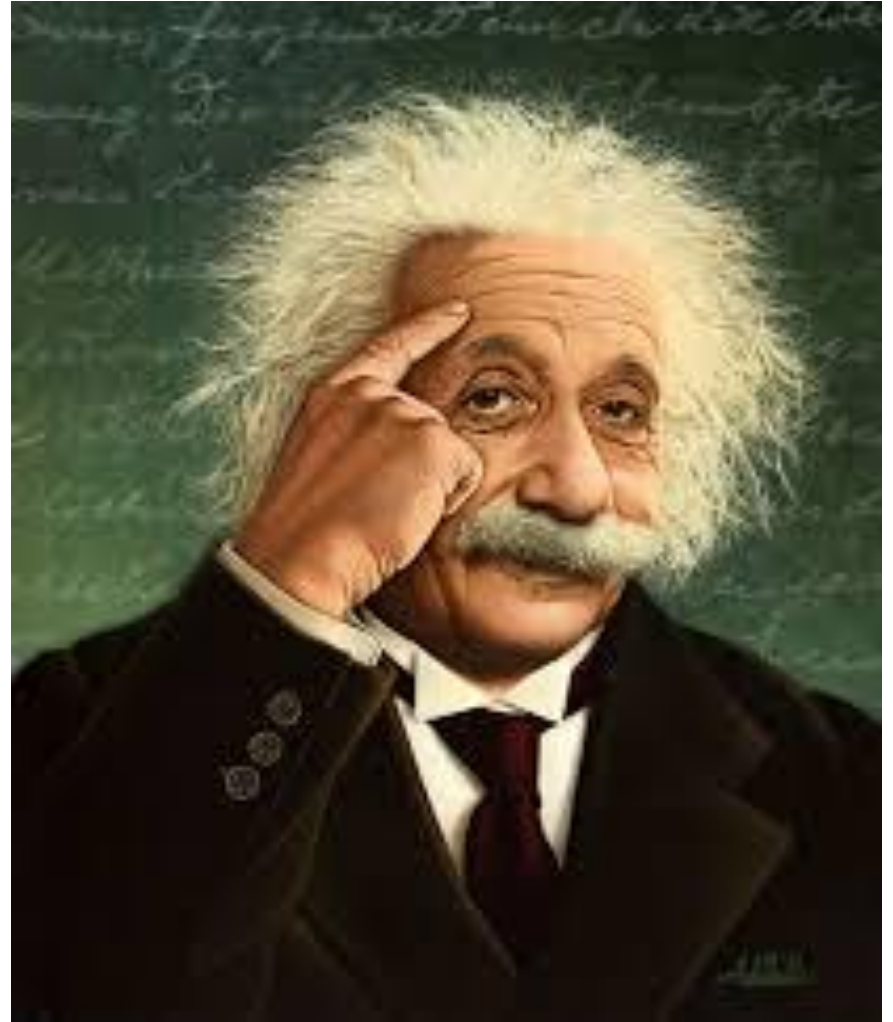
Nature conservation is based on five basic instruments:

- Legal regulation
- Economic tools (fees v. subventions)
- Science, research, monitoring, surveys/inventories and innovations
- CEPA (communication, education and public awareness)
- Management measures in the field
- ☐ Wise combination of all the above five instruments



**Look deep into
nature, and than
you will understand
everything better**

➤ *Albert Einstein*





Thank you for your attention



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