



**FRANKFURT  
ZOOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY**  
GRZIMEK'S HELP FOR THREATENED WILDLIFE



# MAKING CONSERVATION COUNT

**One Goal with Different Approaches to Making Parks Work  
Frankfurt, 26th September 2008**

## Quality Standards of Protected Areas

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## Decision VII/28 (2004): Programme of work on Protected Areas:

- **target 1.4: all protected areas to have effective management in existence by 2012, using participatory and science-based site planning processes that incorporate clear biodiversity objectives, targets, management strategies and monitoring programmes**
- **target 3.4: by 2008, sufficient financial, technical and other resources to meet the costs to effectively implement and manage national and regional systems of protected areas are secured**



# Decisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity

- **target 4.1: by 2008, standards, criteria, and best practices for planning, selecting, establishment and governance of national and regional systems of protected areas are developed and adopted**
- **target 4.2: by 2010, frameworks for monitoring, evaluating and reporting protected areas management effectiveness at sites, national and regional systems, and transboundary protected area levels adopted and implemented by Parties**
- **target 4.3: by 2010, national and regional systems are established to enable effective monitoring of PA coverage, status and trends at national, regional and global scales**



# General demands on protected areas

## Protected areas (PA) should have:

- clear borders
- sufficient extent
- buffer zones or ecological corridors (as possible)
- management plans
- legal foundation according to environmental law (example: directive)
- Clearly defined protection purposes / objectives



# General demands on protected areas

- a high rate of ownership in public hand or in the hand of nature conservation societies
- enough money for nature conservation activities in the PAs like species-management or biotope-restoration
- enough staff for management (park administrations, rangers)
- administrations with competencies
- enough staff for area control and visitor guidance (rangers)
- enough funds for research and monitoring
- evaluation of measures and management
- acceptance within the local population



# Types of protected areas in Germany

protection

strict

less strict

## National Park

> 10.000 ha

## Nature Park

## Biosphere Reserve

> 20.000 ha

## Nature Conservation Area

### Protection

- in order to preserve, develop or restore biotopes or biocoenoses of certain species, wild flora and fauna,
- for scientific reasons, for reasons relating to natural history or national heritage, or
- because of their rarity, specifically characteristic features or outstanding beauty.

## Landscape Protection Area

### Protection

- in order to maintain, develop or restore the functionality of the ecosystem and its services, or the regeneration capacity and sustained usability of natural assets,
- in view of the diversity, characteristic features and beauty of their natural scenery
- because of the particular historical and cultural significance of the area concerned
- in view of the area's special significance for human recreation

## Natural Monument

< 5 ha

## „Protected Components of Landscapes“

< 5 ha

increasing size of sites



# Types of protected areas in Germany

<b>protected area type</b>	<b>number</b>	<b>% of Germanys land cover</b>
<b>national parks</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0,54 %</b>
<b>nature conservation areas</b>	<b>7866</b>	<b>3,3 %</b>
<b>sites of EU-habitat directive</b>	<b>4617</b>	<b>9,3%</b>
<b>sites of EU-bird directive</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>10,1 %</b>
<b>UNESCO-biosphere reserves</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3 %</b>
<b>landscape protection areas</b>	<b>7383</b>	<b>30 %</b>
<b>nature parks</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>25 %</b>









# Large scale protected areas in Germany

Stand: 31. 03. 2006



Bundesamt für Naturschutz

Quelle: Bundesamt für Naturschutz (BfN), 2006

- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  Nationalpark                        |  Naturpark   |
|  Biosphärenreservat                  |  Biosphärenreservat und Naturpark  |
|  Biosphärenreservat und Nationalpark |  Nationalpark und Naturpark (Harz/Sachsen-Anhalt, Eifel, Kellerwald, Bayerischer Wald) |



# German national parks



Bavarian forest National  
Park

Lower Odra valley  
National Park



# Quality criteria and standards for German national parks

- The German national parks system is relatively young, the first NLP (Bavarian forest) was established in 1970
- A set of criteria and standards for NLP was not established until 2007 (one reason: the federal system with main competences in nature conservation for the Bundesländer instead of the federal government)
- In the period 2005-2008 the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation financed EUROPARC-Germany within a research and development project to build up a set of quality criteria and standards for the German national parks and to develop an evaluation system, which is accepted by all national parks and all Bundesländer
- The evaluation has been established as a critical self-evaluation
- Purpose: to help the parks improve their (no ranking between the parks)



# Quality criteria and standards for German national parks

<b>fields of action</b>	<b>criteria (examples)</b>
<b>framework conditions</b>	legal foundations, boundaries and shape, defined protection purpose
<b>protection of natural biol. diversity / dynamics</b>	space for natural processes, extent of the park, ecosystem networking
<b>organisation</b>	staff levels, ranger system, financing
<b>management</b>	management plan, zoning
<b>cooperation / partners</b>	cooperation agreements
<b>communication</b>	communication design (CD) and structure
<b>education</b>	education courses, visitor guidance
<b>experiencing nature</b>	infrastructure for visitors
<b>monitoring / research</b>	basic research, monitoring, documentation
<b>regional development</b>	image, impulses for the region, sustainable regional development



# Quality criteria and standards for German national parks

## Results:

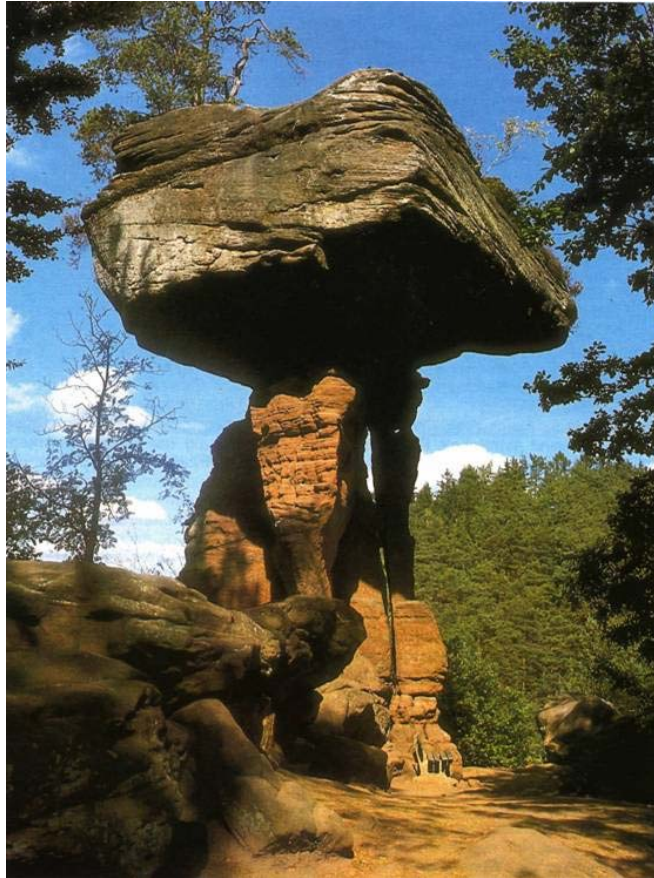
- A set of 44 quality criteria and standards for German national parks, belonging to ten fields of activity, was established
- In order to check the standards within a self-evaluation process, another 250 indicators were developed
- Within the project, four parks were evaluated on trial. Therefore a questionnaire was developed, which included questions about the 250 indicators.
- On the basis of the given answers to this questionnaire it was possible to elaborate a profile / analysis of strengths and weaknesses of the respective parks
- Further results of the project are published in a brochure

## Next steps:

- Until 2010, all German national parks should be evaluated by this method
- The evaluation should be assisted by an external committee of experts



# German biosphere reserves



BR Palatinate Forest

BR Berchtesgaden



- **For German UNESCO-biosphere reserves a criteria set was already established in 1996. This criteria set was revised in 2007**
- **The set of 40 criteria consists of structural and functional criteria**
- **and of criteria, which must be fulfilled before the UNESCO-admission and such criteria, which can be fulfilled later**



## Structural criteria:

- Representativeness
- Size area and demarcation
- Zoning
- Legislative protection
- Administration and organisation
- Management Plan

## Functional criteria:

- Sustainable use
- Nature and landscape management
- Biodiversity
- Research
- Monitoring
- Education for sustainable development
- Public awareness and communication
- Embedding into the world-wide net of biosphere reserves



# German nature parks



Nature Park Hohes Venn /  
Eifel



Nature Park  
Lüneburg Heath

# Quality criteria for German nature parks

- Nature parks in Germany exist since 1956, about 100 parks have been established already; but a set of criteria and standards for nature parks was not published until 2005
- During 2003-2006 the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation financed the Association of German Nature Parks in co-operation with EUROPARC-Germany to develop quality criteria for German nature parks; costs of this project: 160.000 €
- Evaluation is designed as a self-evaluation
- Purpose: Identifying strenghts and weaknesses, enhancing the quality of the management of the nature parks

## Results:

- a criteria catalogue was developed which takes into consideration the relevant activities in nature parks; it contains 41 questions within 5 fields of activity



# Quality criteria for German nature parks

<b>fields of action</b>	<b>examples</b>
<b>management and organisation</b>	<b>management plan, financing, cooperation, awards</b>
<b>nature and landscape</b>	<b>biotope connectivity, visitor management, support of NATURA 2000, percentage of organic farming and of forests with certification</b>
<b>tourism and recreation</b>	<b>cooperation with tourist information centres, offers for nature experience, accomodation with certification</b>
<b>communication and education</b>	<b>existence/quality of an information centre, guided walks, number of rangers, information material, internet presence</b>
<b>sustainable regional development</b>	<b>promotion of regional products, settling development, traditional building, availability of public transport</b>



# Quality criteria for German nature parks

- The criteria catalogue serves as a basis for the nature parks' quality campaign, conducted by the Association of German Nature Parks (VDN);
- The nature parks who have joined the initiative will be assessed by specially trained „quality scouts“
- Nature parks which obtain at least 250 out of maximal 500 marks will be awarded with the title „Quality Nature Park“ for the next three years
- It is voluntary to join the quality campaign (63 nature parks have participated up to now)
- The parks can use the results for their image campaigns

## Next step:

- The gathered experiences will be conducted in a review with aim to identify fields of action with remaining insufficiencies





## Overall aim of NATURA 2000 as a habitat and species protection regime:

- Creating a european coherent ecological network with SPA (Bird Directive) and SAC (Habitats Directive) as components
- Setting species and habitats of community importance in favourable conservation status

## Procedural requirements:

- The conservations objectives of all NATURA 2000 sites and conservation measures are defined

## Appropriate assessment (Art. 6.3 & 6.4) by

- - screening
- - checking alternatives
- - effective functional mitigation of the impact is required for each species/habitat affected



## Monitoring according to Art. 11 of Habitats Directive

- monitoring for natural habitats (Annex I) and species (Annex II, IV and V) of community interest
- monitoring activities must take place in and outside the NATURA 2000 sites
- the findings have to be integrated into the national report (Art. 17)

## Reporting on Conservation Status (Art. 17) provides for a kind of evaluation of management or efficiency control

- assessment with standardized methods and update data forms
- every 6 years
- including surface, range, area covered, habitats of species, population estimates, specific structures and functions, future prospects



- Protected areas should have a legal foundation, with clear conservation targets as a base for evaluation
- Evaluation criteria should comprise conservation as well as sustainability criteria
- The situation concerning financing and staff is often critical, especially for biosphere reserves, nature parks and NATURA 2000 sites
- National parks, biosphere reserves and nature parks have standards and are going to be evaluated periodically (NLP and BR every 10 years, nature parks every 3 years)
- In many protected areas monitoring is still underdeveloped
- The core zone area of national parks is often less than 75% according to IUCN-Cat. II, the core zone area of biosphere reserves often less than 3% according to the national standard

