



The importance of National Parks in Nature protection and Nature experience - main results of the evaluation of National Parks in Germany and Austria.

Nationale
Naturlandschaften



136 National Natural Landscapes

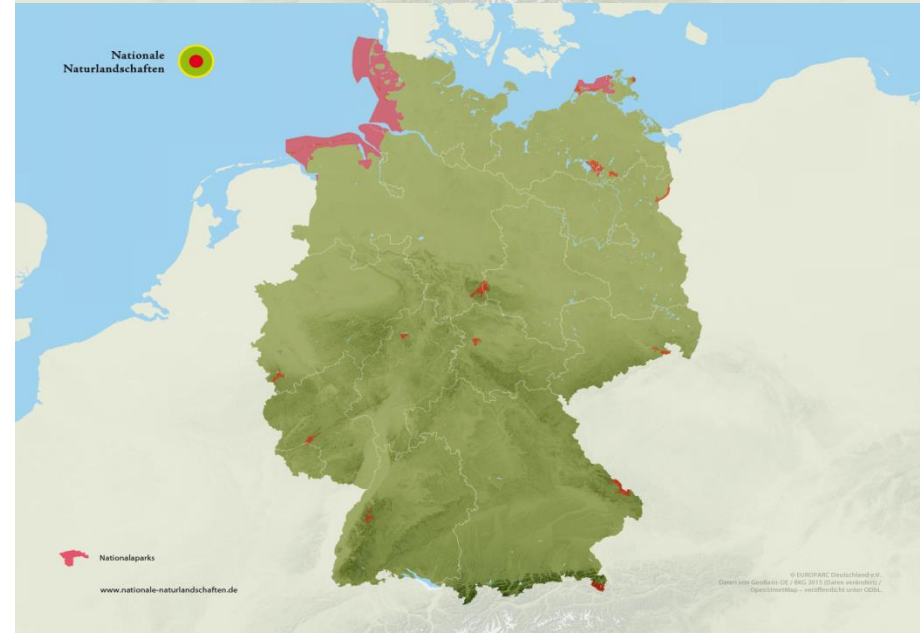
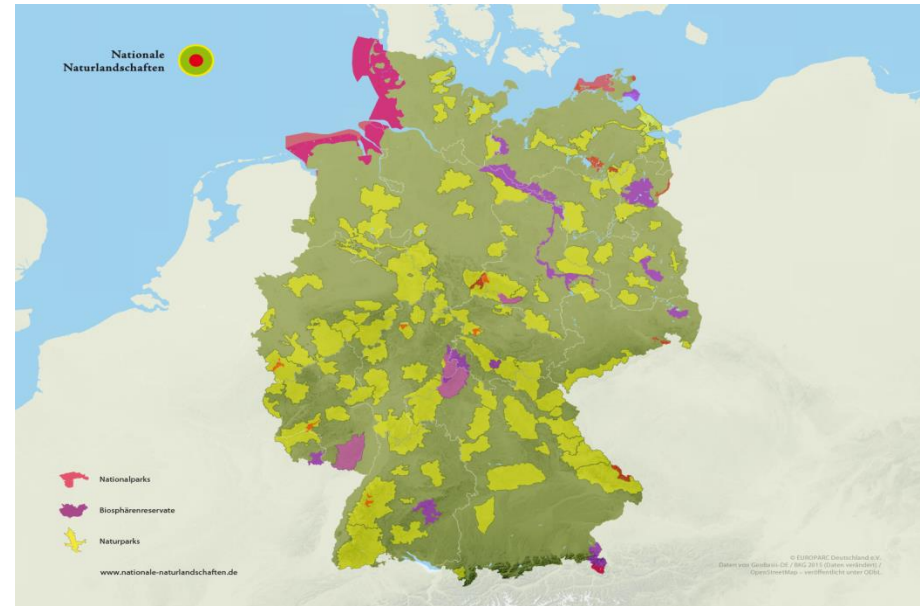
National parks

- ... protect natural landscapes
- ... are landscape areas in which nature is left to itself
- ... create reserves for wild plants and animals
- ... create a unique space for environmental education and research and to experience nature

number: 16

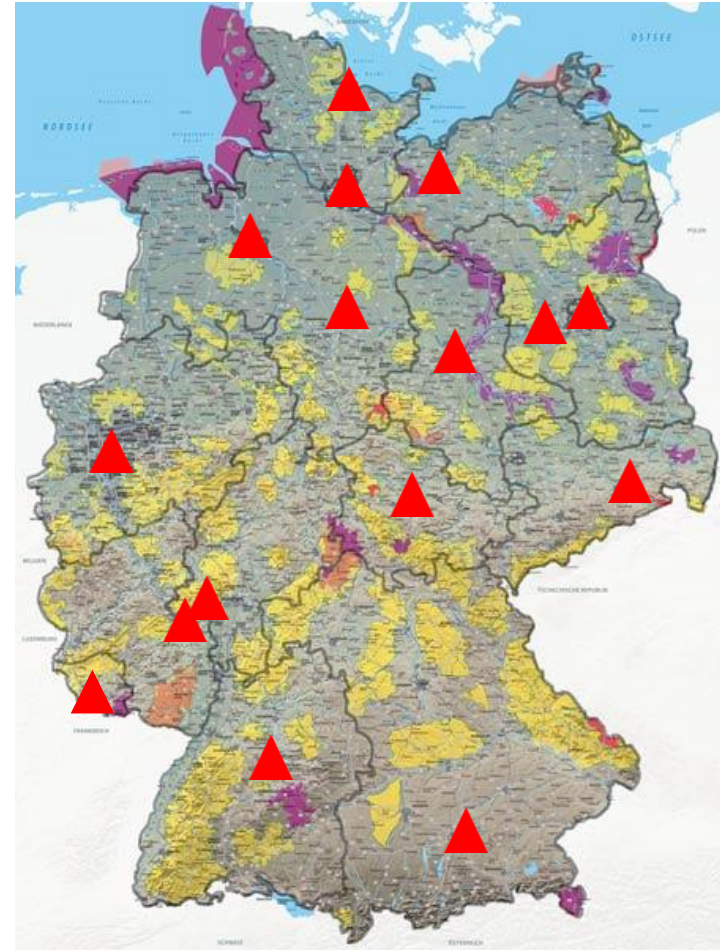
Total Area: 972,051 ha (terr. & mar.)

Proportion of state area: 0.7 % (terr.)



Political responsibilities for nature conservation in Germany

- Nature Conservation is in the responsibility of the 16 federal states according to the Federal Nature Conservation Act
- Protected areas within one federal state are regulated by the corresponding environmental state ministry
- National parks are designated by the federal states in consultation with the government
- The government can initiate projects for protected areas only with agreement of the federal states



Governmental Organisations for nature conservation

- Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)

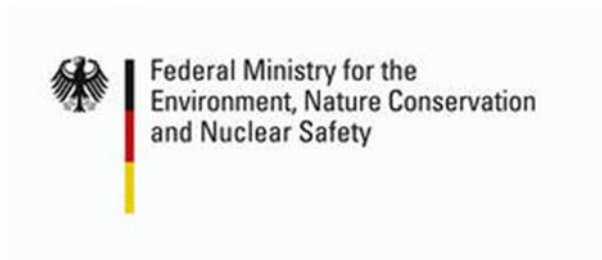
Ministry of the federal government

- Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)

Provides the German Environment Ministry with professional and scientific assistance in all nature conservation and landscape management issues and in international cooperation activities

- Regional Working Group on Nature Conservation (LANA)

Comittee to advise the representatives of states and the federal government on common issues relevant to nature conservation



Non-Governmental Organisation

EUROPARC Germany

- Umbrella organisation for protected areas, founded 1991
- National section of the european organisation EUROPARC Federation
- More than 60 members: national parks, biosphere reserves and nature parks, NGOs, foundations etc.
- Holds the Germany-wide umbrella brand "National Natural Landscapes"
- Areas of main focus: public relations work, project development, education, networking, policy advice, fundraising



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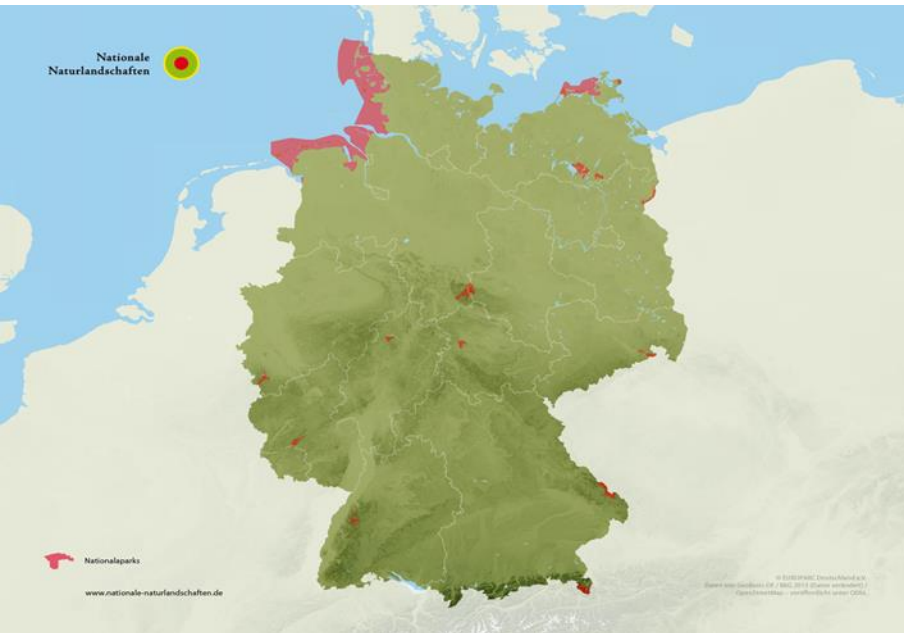
International commitments for German nature conservation

- Rio de Janeiro, UNCED or Earth Summit , 1992 (Kyoto Protocol)
- Caracas, IV World Park Congress, 1992 (To do Action Plans)
- IUCN, Parks for Life, 1994 (Action Plan for Europe)
- 5th World Parks Congress of IUCN in Durban, 2003
- ‘Programme of Work on Protected areas’ of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD VII/28) in 2004 in Kuala Lumpur
- Resolution 3047 ‘Durban Action Plan-CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas’ and 3048 ‘IUCN Guidelines of Protected Area Management Categories’ at the World Conservation Congress in November 2004

Response to international commitments

Quality Check for the German national parks

EUROPARC was commissioned by the federal government to evaluate all German national parks and by National Parks Austria to evaluate all Austrian National Parks



Measuring the quality of management...

Development of criteria and standards

Standards of measurement to evaluate the management of protected areas have been in existence...

- ... for biosphere reserves since 1996
- ... for nature parks since 2005
- ... and were developed for **national parks** as recently as 2008



Measuring the quality of management...

Development of criteria and standards

Over a 2 ½ year process (2005-2008) the **introduction** of a quality management system in the **national parks** was...

- ... developed by representatives from the national parks, the federal government, LANA, individual environment ministries of several German federal states, academic institutions, NGO's etc.
- ... approved by the highest German Inter-State Working Group for Nature Conservation, Landscape Management and Recreation (LANA)
- ... supported by the Federal Government:



 Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

 **BfN**
Federal Agency for Nature Conservation

Measuring the quality of management...

How to do it?

- criteria, standards and indicators were developed for measuring the quality of management in national parks
- a suitable method for the inspection of the national parks had to be found

Step 1: find a common vision

Step 2: define central “fields of action“

Step 3: formulate criteria and standards

Step 4: produce a catalogue of indicator questions

Step 5: pre-test the questionnaire

Fields of action, criteria & standards

Fields of action

1. Framework conditions
2. Protection of natural biological diversity and dynamics
3. Organisation
4. Management
5. Cooperation and partners
6. Communication
7. Education
8. Experiencing nature and recreation
9. Monitoring and research
10. Regional development

Fields of action, criteria & standards

Criteria

Appropriate **criteria** (44) were defined for all **fields of action** (10) to describe the most relevant aspects of management for the national park administrations.

Fields of action	Criteria set
Framework conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Legal foundations- Protection purpose- Overriding planning principles- Competences- Ownership rights- Boundaries and shape
Protection of natural biological diversity and dynamics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Space for natural processes- Extent- Level of naturalness- Habitats of international and national significance- Species management- Ecosystem networking

Fields of action, criteria & standards

Criteria

Fields of action	Criteria set
Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Organisational structure– Staff levels– Ranger system– Personnel management– Financing– Advisory boards and curatorship
Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Model for landscape development– Management plan– Zoning– Renaturation– Strategies for sustainable use– Visitor guidance and area control– Integration of the national park in the region– Evaluation of measures
Cooperation and partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Cooperation agreements– Integration in working groups and networks– Volunteer management

Fields of action, criteria & standards

Criteria

Fields of action	Criteria set
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Message- Corporate design (CD)- Communication structure
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Educational strategies- Education courses- Visitor guidance
Experiencing nature and recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Offers for experiencing nature- Infrastructure for visitors
Monitoring and research	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Research coordination- Basic research- Monitoring- Documentation
Regional development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Image- Impulses for the region- Sustainable regional development

Fields of action, criteria & standards

Standards

Each **criteria** is defined by a **standard** which describes the best possible achievable state of a national park.

Examples:

Criteria	Standards
	1. Field of action – Framework conditions
Protection purpose	<p>The protection purpose of national parks is primarily that natural processes should be undisturbed with their natural biodiversity in all ecosystems in the national park, for which Germany bears national and global responsibility.</p> <p>As far as the protection purpose allows, other goals such as education, PR work, contact with nature, research, and monitoring are also to be implemented.</p>
Competences	<p>The national park administration has all the official authorisation needed for the realisation of the protection purpose. Where other bodies have additional responsibilities in the national park, these take into account the goals and the concerns of the national park in their decision-making in agreement with the national park administration.</p>

Fields of action, criteria & standards

Standards

Criteria	Standards
	<p>2. Field of action – Protection of natural biological diversity and dynamics</p>
Space for natural processes	<p>Over most of their area, national parks protect the natural dynamics of processes of nature with as little disturbance as possible. In general, this is ensured within a period of not longer than 30 years after an area has been designated a national park and for at least 75% of the national park area. The areas for the protection of natural dynamic processes should be contiguous or uninterrupted, with few outer boundaries.</p> <p>National parks with more than 30% of their area not in public ownership or which in Germany completely enclose a habitat which is of global importance can define a longer transition period in the national park plan or can protect large areas of representative types of habitat in their natural processes over most of its area.</p>
	<p>10. Field of action – Regional development</p>
Impulses for the Region	<p>The positive effects of the national park for the region are regularly measured, documented, communicated outwards, and developed further.</p>

4. Implementation of the evaluation system

Participants

Since 2009 all national parks participate in a voluntary evaluation process using the evaluation questionnaire. This process takes place...

- ... with the financial support of the federal government
- ... with the approval of LANA
- ... with the involvement of a committee of experts, including representatives from:
 - BfN/BMU
 - LANA
 - universities
 - the national park administrations
 - non-governmental organisations (NGOs)
 - EUROPARC Germany
- ... and is coordinated by EUROPARC Germany.



Evaluation of German national parks

Why are we doing this?

Goals of the evaluation process are...

- to maintain and improve the quality of management in the national parks over the long term
- to make an important contribution towards the implementation of the Program of Work on Protected Areas (CBD VII/28)
- to provide an example for other countries
- to strengthen the worldwide system of protected areas



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

Evaluation of German national parks

The evaluation process – step by step

- **Step 1:** the national park fills in the online version of the questionnaire



Hilfe

- o Einführung
- o Vorgehensweise
- o Anleitung

- o A0 Hintergrundinformation
- ▶ A1 Wo stehen wir heute
- ▶ A2 Interessenvertreter und Partner
- ▶ B1 Rahmenbedingungen
- ▶ B2 Schutz der biologischen Vielfalt
- ▶ B3 Organisation
- ▶ B4 Management
- ▶ B5 Kooperation und Partner
- ▶ B6 Kommunikation
- ▶ B7 Bildung
- ▶ B8 Naturerlebnis und Erholung
- ▶ B9 Monitoring und Forschung
- ▶ B10 Regionalentwicklung

aktueller Stand (PDF)

wattenmeer_hh

- o Mein Konto
- o Abmelden

Startseite

Fragen

A0 Hintergrundinformation

ERLEDIGT

1. Name des Schutzgebietes

Nationalpark Hamburgis

2. Gründungsjahr

1990

3. Bundesland

Hamburg

4. Flächengröße (in ha)

13750

5. Jährliches reguläres Gesamtbudget

400000

6. Name der Verantwortlichen für das Ausfüllen des Fragebogens

Dr. Klaus Janke

Beschreibung des Schutzgegenstandes

Evaluation of German national parks

The evaluation process – step by step

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Evaluation of German national parks

The evaluation process – step by step

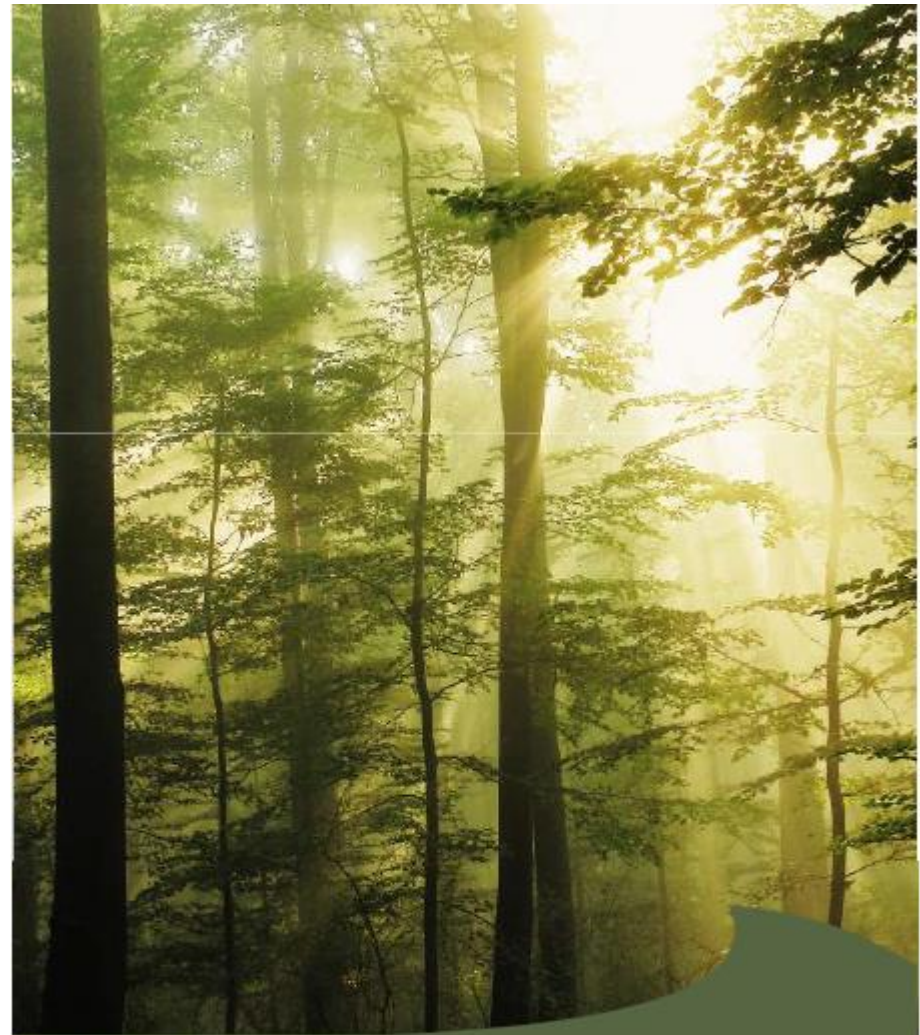
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- **Step 4:** two day visit to each park by the committee; members speak to the park administration and external stakeholders and go on a short excursion
- **Step 5:** committee members write a final report which compares the current situation to the desirable situation in accordance with the standards, gives an analysis of strengths and weaknesses and formulates recommendations



Berlin, April 2012

Komitee-Bericht zur Evaluierung des Nationalparks Schleswig-Holsteinisches Wattenmeer

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Berlin, September 2011

Komitee-Bericht zur Evaluierung des Nationalparks Kellerwald-Edersee

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The evaluation process – schematically...

Schematic diagram of the evaluation of the national parks

	2010												2011								
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September
Filling-in of questionnaire (National Park)	█	█				█	█														
Write report in coordination with National Park (Agency)			█					█													
Feedback to report to EUROPARC Germany (Committee)				█					█												
Travel arrangements (EUROPARC Germany)			█	█				█	█												
Site visits to Parks (Committee)					█					█											
Writing chapters of Committee report (Committee)						█					█										
Compilation and editing Committee report (EUROPARC Germany)							█					█									
Review of first version of Committee report (Committee)								█					█								
Editing Committee report (EUROPARC Germany)									█					█							
Review of second version of Committee report (Committee)										█					█						
Editing Committee report (EUROPARC Germany)											█					█					
Approval of third version of Committee report (Committee)												█					█				
Editing Committee report (EUROPARC Germany)													█					█			
Review of Committee report by National Park														█					█		
Final editing of Committee report (EUROPARC Germany)															█					█	
Dispatch Committee report to National Park, State and Federal Government																█					█

Results

Strengths of German national parks

- Legal certainty and planning framework is guaranteed
- Basic funding is ensured through the respective federal state
- Interdisciplinary team of staff members
- Most national parks do have the 75% process protection zone regulation fixed in their management plan/ ordinance
- The German national parks are mostly reaching the minimum size of 10.000 ha and present areas of high importance
- Nearly all national parks have a good infrastructure
- High acceptance of national parks within the region due to commitment and good communication of national park administrations and staff members
- Wide range of target-group-specific offers of educational events

Results

Weaknesses of German national parks

- Financial and personal resources are insufficient
- Administrations do not have all official authorization needed for the realization of the protection purpose
- Only a few national parks have reached 75% of process protection zone already
- Still some management and resource usage within the process protection zone
- Most national parks still have to manage high hoofed game populations
- More weaknesses than strengths in the field of research, monitoring and evaluation

Results

Austrian national parks

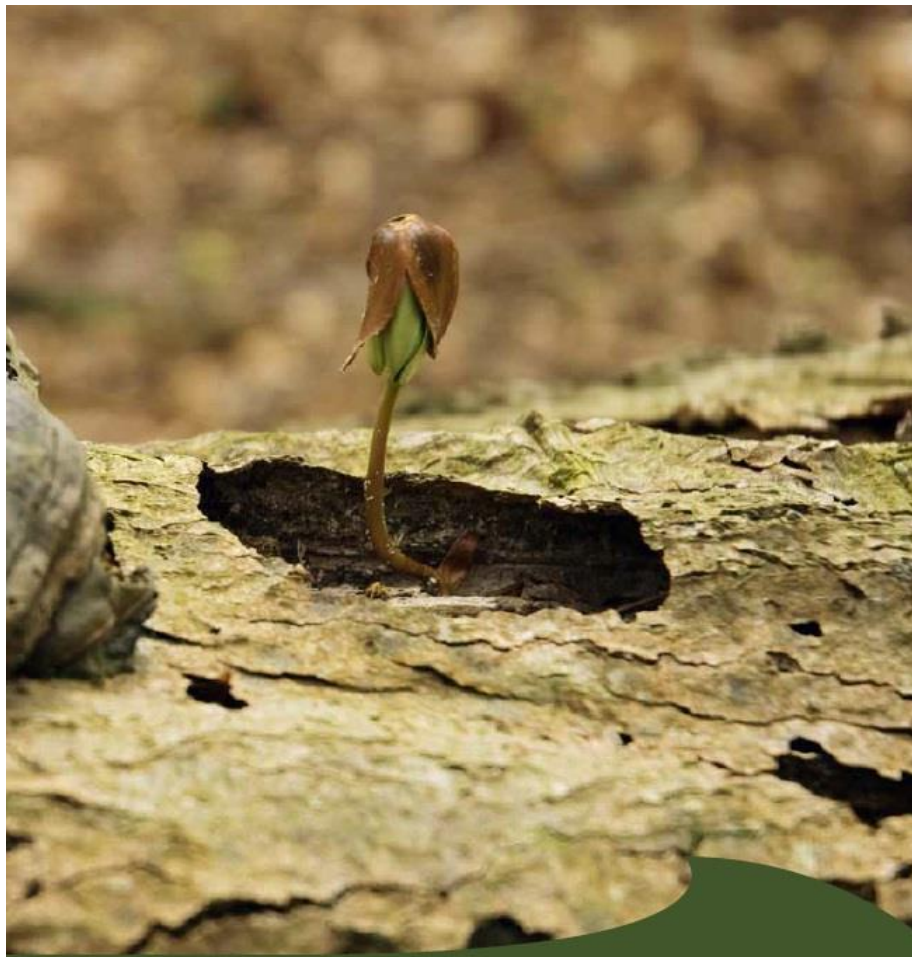
The results of the evaluation of Austrian NationalParks are very similar to the results of the German National Parks. With the National Park Strategy, a common work between Federal Republic , States ,the 6 Nationalparks and National Parks Austria exist a clear vision for the development of the National Parks

Results

Strengths and weaknesses of the Evaluation Procedure

Participants of the project say...

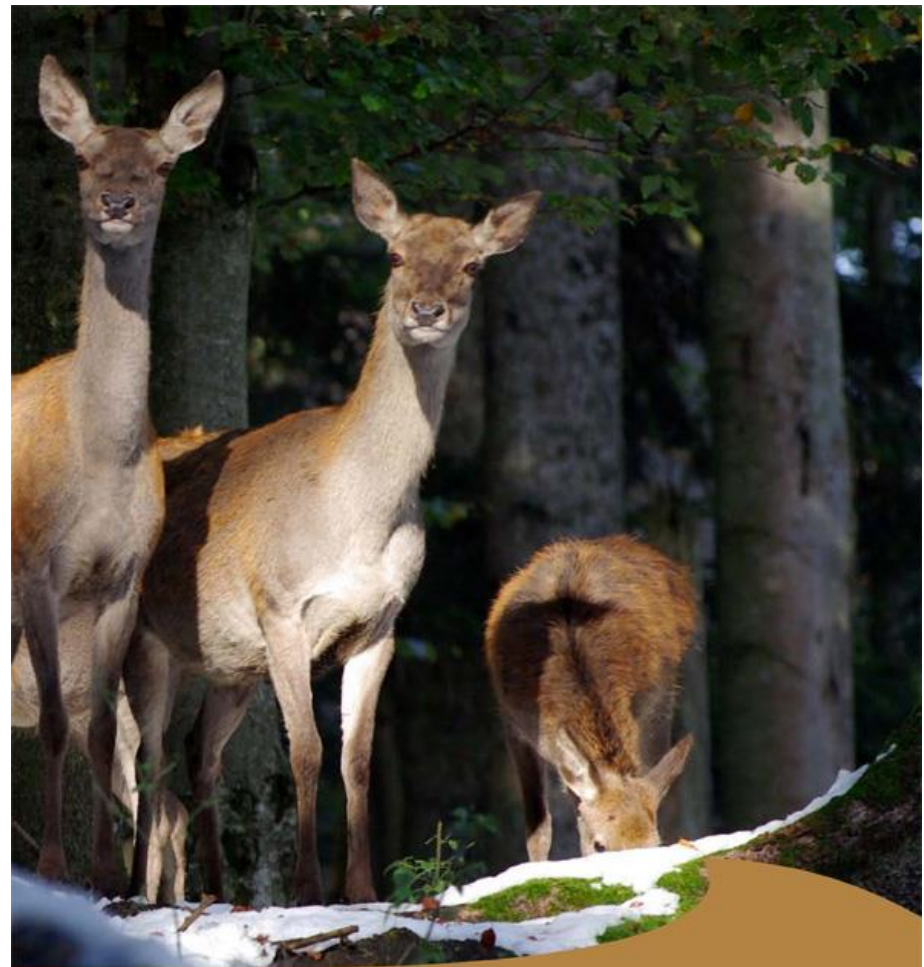
- The goals of the project were achieved through the procedure
- The standards for national parks were suitable for the evaluation, but there are some overlaps of topics in the different fields of action
- The several steps of the procedure were seen as very suitable and meaningful
- The responsibility of the committee for the committee reports is necessary, but they should have a lower workload
- The first report should be done by one office that is familiar with the topic of protected areas
- The reports differentiate in their quality: the last ones are better (more experiences)
- The political relevance is seen different. An improvement of the relevance may be caused by more public relations.
- A follow-up evaluation in 10 years is appreciated and 5 years after evaluation interviews to the recommendations



CHECKING MANAGEMENT EFFICIENCY

Evaluation of German National Parks

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ABSCHLUSSDOKUMENTATION DER TAGUNG

Wildbestandsregulierung in deutschen Nationalparks

BAD WILDUNGEN, 29. UND 30. MÄRZ 2011

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Transferability of the procedure at an international level

- Standards need to be adapted to the individual conservation regulations and initial situations of nature within the respective country
- European countries may be able to adapt the standards more quickly
- The questionnaire for national parks should be changed due to the modifications made at the standards
- The whole process with its several steps of evaluation can be transferred to every country easily
- Thereby the experiences made at the German evaluation should be taken into consideration to improve the whole process
- The whole process was based on the framework for evaluation of protected area management effectiveness by WCPA (Hocking et. Al, 2006)



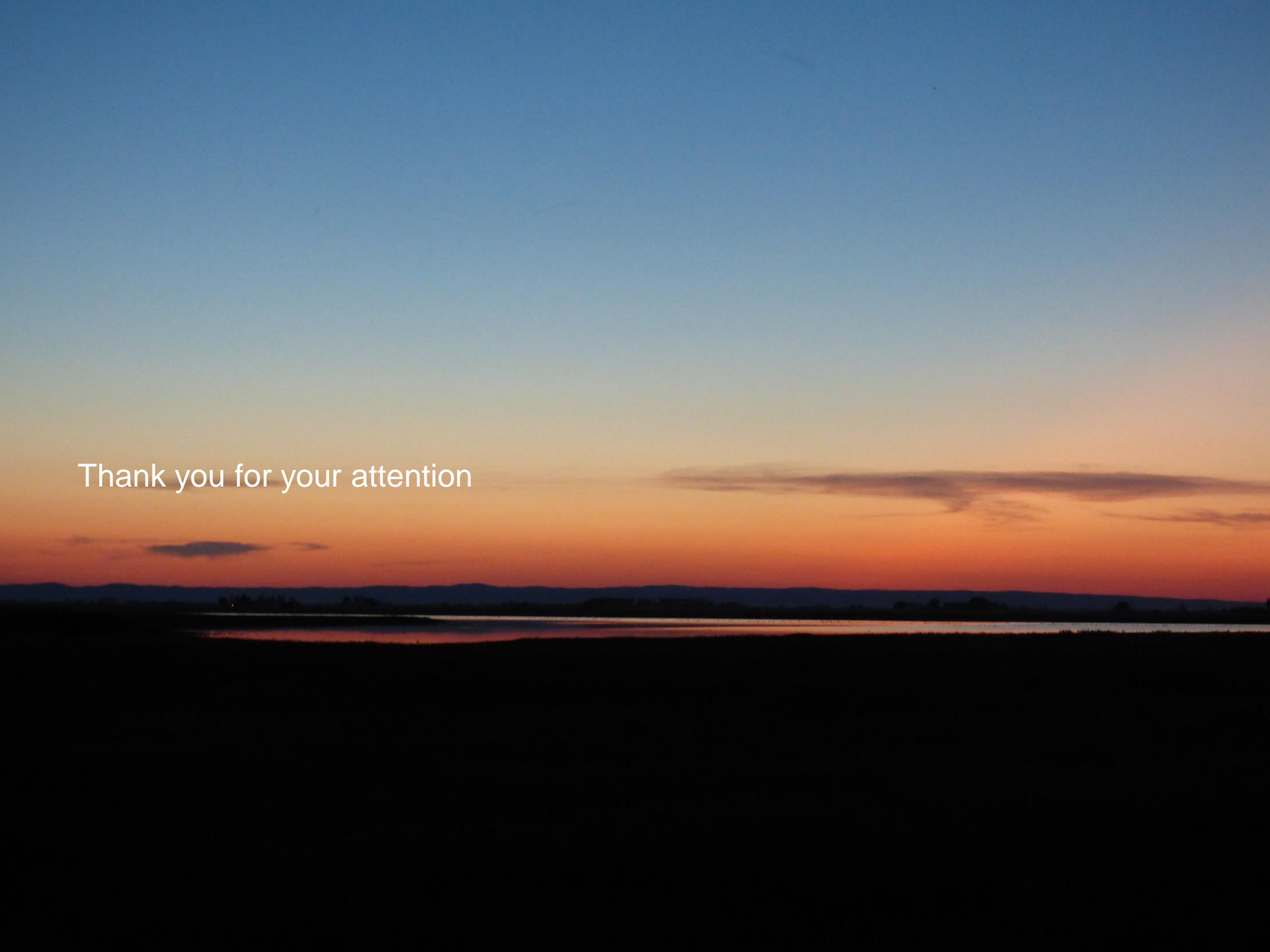








Thank you for your attention

A wide-angle landscape photograph capturing a sunset. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a vibrant orange and red near the horizon. A thin layer of clouds is visible just above the horizon line. In the foreground, a dark, silhouetted field or meadow stretches across the bottom. In the middle ground, a calm body of water, likely a lake or wide river, reflects the colors of the sky. The background features a range of low mountains or hills, also silhouetted against the bright horizon.