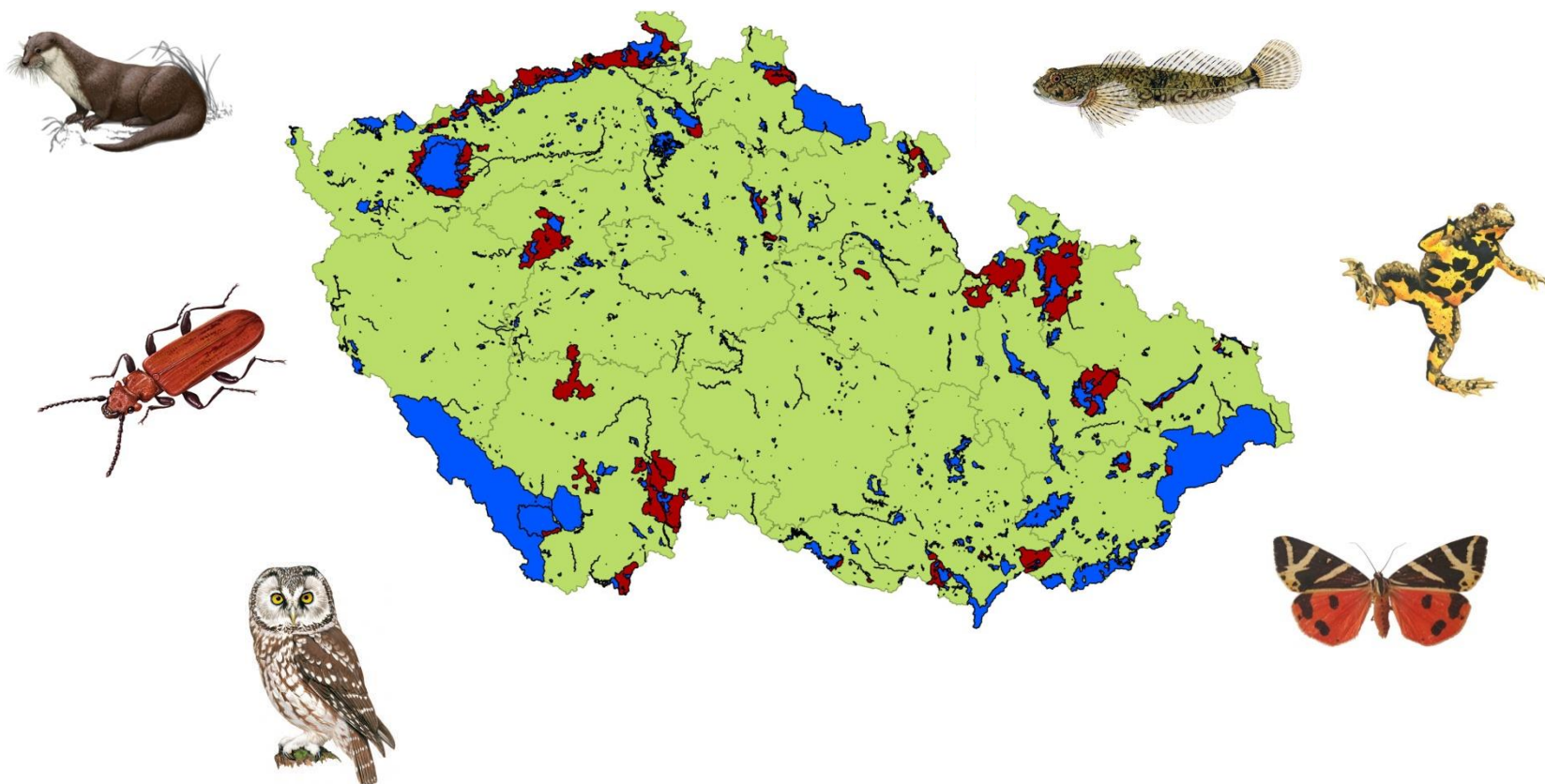


# Natura 2000 in Czech Republic



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Ministry of the Environment  
of the Czech Republic



# Story – Before the Accession to the EU

---

(1999–2004 – original term was January 2003, later postponed)

- significant willingness to join EU and comply with all the obligations
- problem with time (only 5 years for the preparation)

Two possible ways:

- to try to propose national network of PAs only (that time more than 2000 sites designated)
- to take advantage of the process and conduct real inventory of biodiversity (to be as good as old member states)

# Story – Before the Accession to the EU

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# Story – Before the Accession to the EU

---

(1999–2004)

- **first step:** habitat types classification developed at country level
- concordance with EUNIS necessary with respect to country conditions

# Story – Before the Accession to the EU

## Habitats - Interpretation Manual



**INTERPRETATION  
MANUAL  
OF  
EUROPEAN UNION  
HABITATS**

**EUR 28**

**April 2013**



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DG ENVIRONMENT  
Nature ENV B.3

# Story – Before the Accession to the EU

## Intepretation Manual – Czech Approach



## Katalog biotopů České republiky

Milan Chytrý, Tomáš Kučera, Martin Kočí, Vít Grulich, Pavel Lustyk  
(editoři)



AGENTURA OCHRANY PŘÍRODY  
A KRAJINY ČESKÉ REPUBLIKY

### S1.1 Štěrbinová vegetace vápňitých skal a drolin

Chasmophytic vegetation of calcareous cliffs  
and boulder screes

**Natura 2000.** 8210 Chasmophytic vegetation of calcareous rocky slopes

**Smaragd.** –

**CORINE.** 62.15 Alpine and sub-Mediterranean calcareous cliffs

**Pal. Hab.** 62.15 Alpine and sub-Mediterranean calcareous cliffs

**EUNIS.** H3.1/P-62.15 Alpine and sub-Mediterranean calcareous cliffs

**Fytocenologie.** Svaz *Potentillion caulescentis* Br.-Bl. in Br.-Bl. et Jenny 1926: *Asplenium trichomanes-rutaemurariae* Kuhn 1937. – Svaz *Cystopteridion* Richard 1972: *Asplenio-Cystopteridetum fragilis* Oberdorfer (1936) 1949, *Asplenio rutaemurariae-Gymnocarpietum robertianum* Kolbek et Sádlo 1994

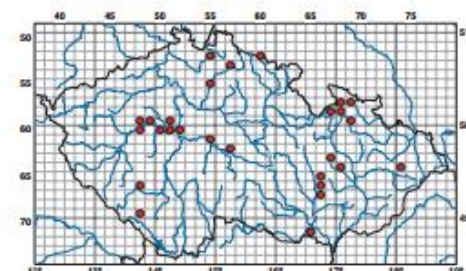
**Fyziotyp.** SP Společenstva skal, sutí, písčin a primitivních půd

**Struktura a druhové složení.** Vegetace skalních štěrbin s převahou chasmoofilních kapradin (*Asplenium ruta-muraria*, *A. trichomanes*, *A. viride*, *Cystopteris fragilis* a *Gymnocarpium robertianum*), dvou-  
délžných chamaeefytů (např. *Saxifraga paniculata*) a mechorostů (*Brachythecium glareosum*, *Encalypta streptocarpa*, *Preissia quadrata*, *Schistidium apocarpum*, *Tortella tortuosa* aj.). Hojně jsou i druhy hájů (např. *Carex digitata*), nitrofilních lemů (např. *Geranium robertianum*) a reliktní pěchava vápnomilná (*Sesleria albicans*). Někdy jsou přítomny i dřeviny



(např. *Cotoneaster integerrimus* a *Taxus baccata*). Porosty jsou často v mozaice s pěchavovými trávničky nebo obklopené lesem, bývají spíše maloplošné (do 30 m<sup>2</sup>), vysoké do 20 cm, na drolinách místy i souvisleji zapojené. Sekundární výskyty na zdech jsou přechodem k ruderální vegetaci, zato porosty v opuštěných lomech se druhovou skladbou blíží přirozeným.

**Ekologie.** Nezazemněné skály a droliny na vápenci, vzácněji i diabas, splitu, snad i na tvrdých slínovcích. K lokálnímu vývoji bazifilní vegetace ovšem stačí i vápnité horninové vložky či vápencové inkrustace mokřých zlomů v břidličnatých horninách. Na některých větších drolinách se uplatňuje efekt vnitřního mikroklimatu sutí a vegetace bývá soustředěna při jejich bázi u ventarol se studeným průvanem. Častý je sekundární výskyt na zdech a také v lomech, kde se však tyto porosty objevují nejdříve několik desetiletí po jejich opuštění.

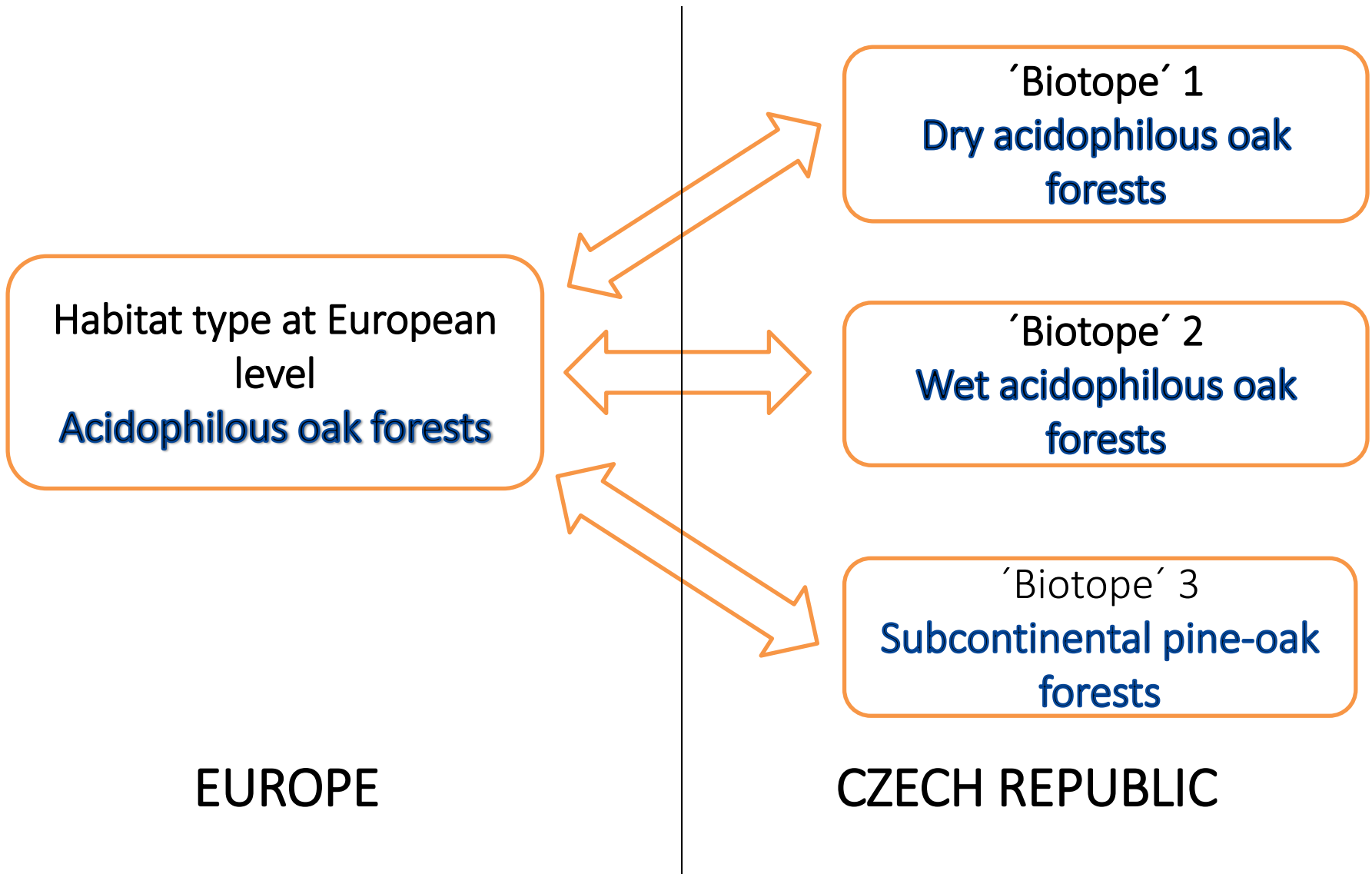


Rozšíření štěrbinové vegetace vápňitých skal a drolin.

**Rozšíření.** Roztroušené Český, Moravský a Javoříčský kras, okolí Štramberka, Pavlovské vrchy, vzácně jihočeské vápence, Křivoklátsko, Krkonoše, Hrubý Jeseník, snad i východočeské opuky a jinde. Lokální výskyty na vápencových vložkách dosahují až do supramontánního stupně (Obří důl v Krkonoších). Početné jsou sekundární výskyty na zdech.

**Poznámka k mapování.** Nemapují se výskyty

# Story – Before the Accession to the EU



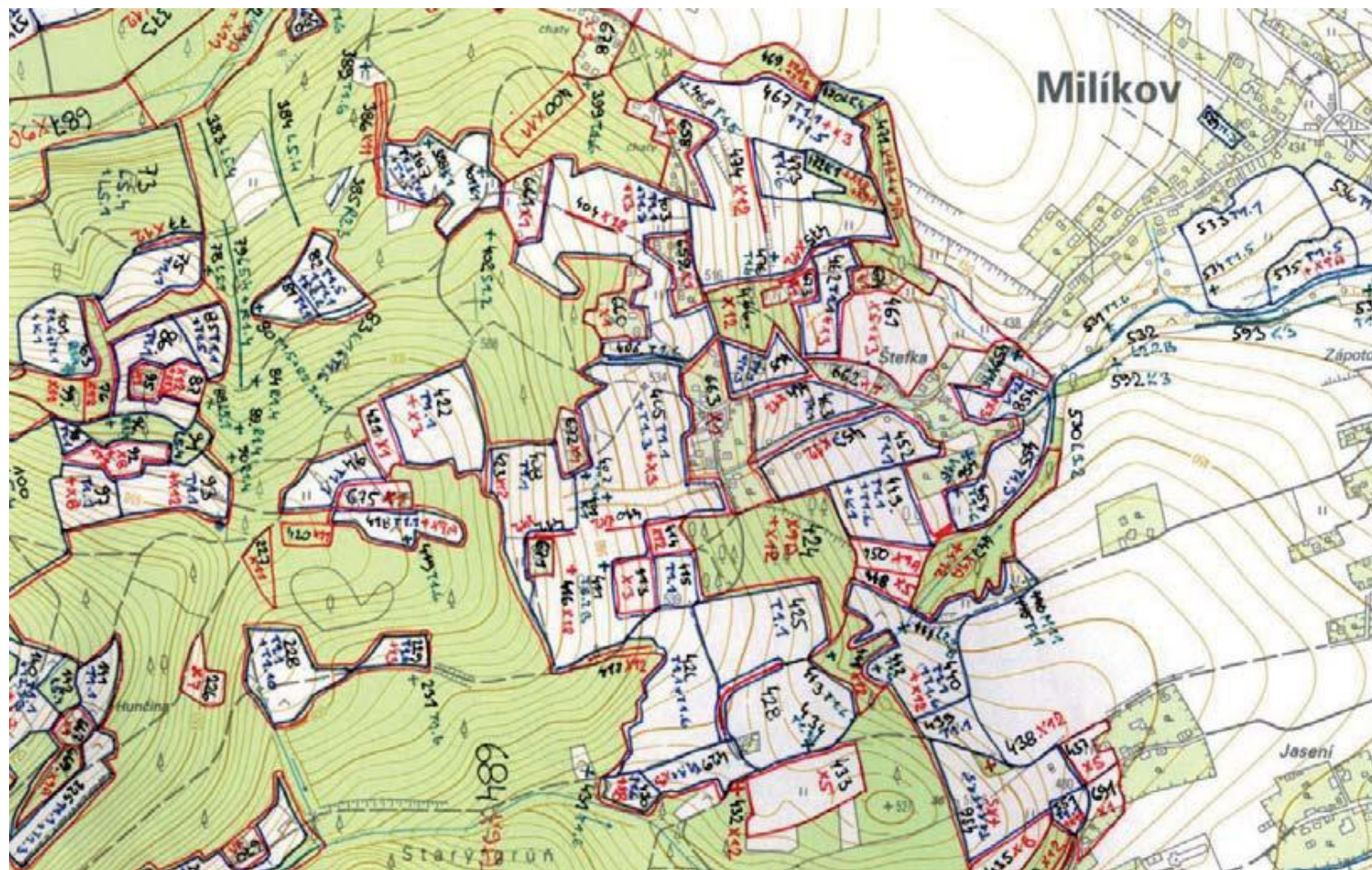
# Story – Before the Accession to the EU

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- the task centrally coordinated by the Czech Nature Conservation Agency – one project manager, one methodology, one budget
- first habitat mapping layer was created in 2001–2004 (data used for Natura 2000 sites delimitation)
- habitat mapping in field:
  - 750 mappers working five vegetation seasons
  - approx. 4 mio EURO spent



Segments plotting in the scale 1 : 10 000  
(4 572 maps, 1,2 million of segments)



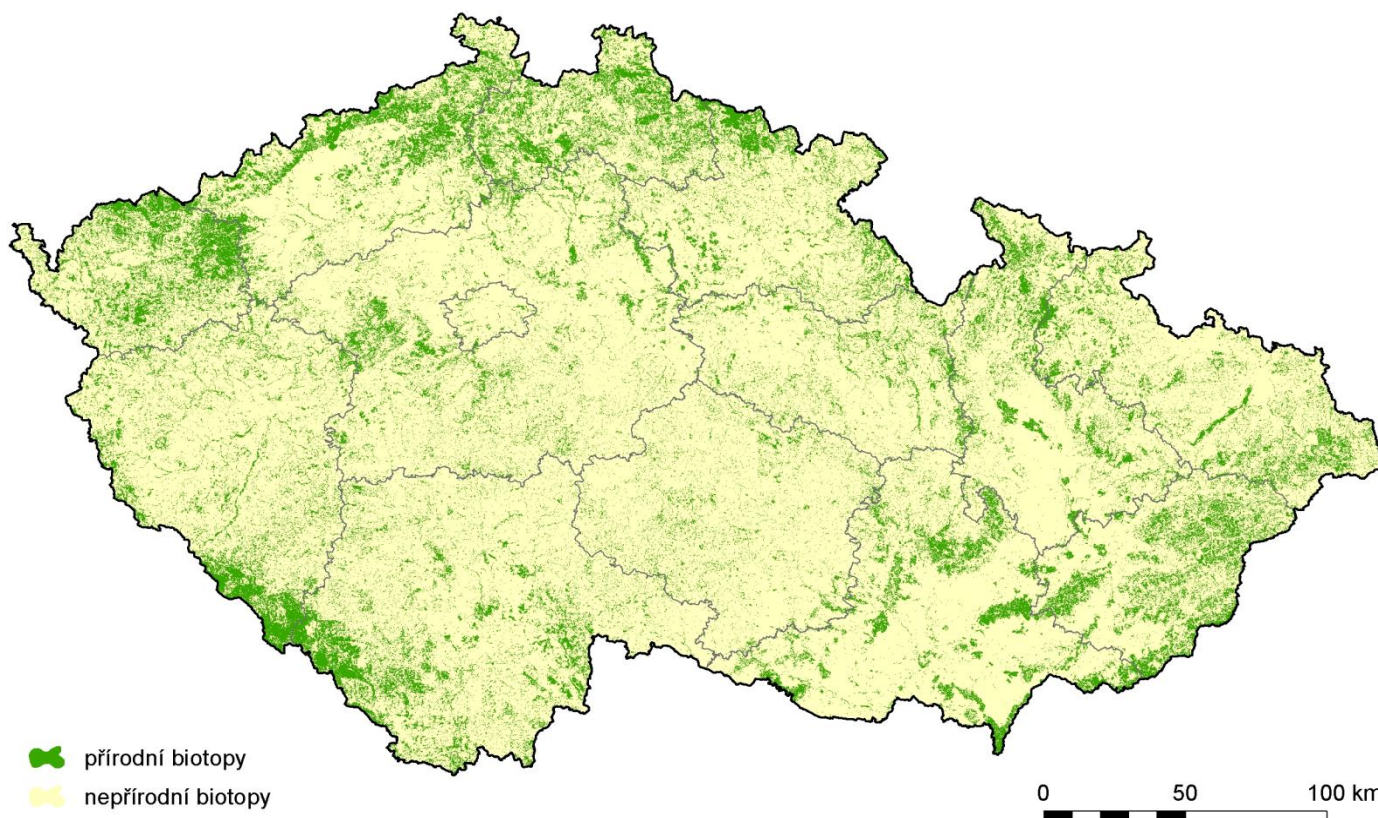
Digitization (ArcView) + corrections = united layer



# Result?

17% of the country are natural or semi-natural biotopes

The habitat layer contains all natural and semi-natural segments of biotopes in the country!



# Output (2001 – 2004)

---

- Habitat layer
- Records in the 'Species Occurrence Database' (more than 2 millions)
- **Final Report** (area description, biotope specification, important/interesting plant species, phytosociological relevees)
- **Photos**

# Output (2001 – 2004)

---

## Data on animal species?

- Inventory done by experts gathering current as well as historical data
- all data digitalized and recorder to the database, however significant gaps were found later during revision

# Result(s)



official proposal – (experts NCA and MinEnvi approval X  
opponent proposal – NGOs („shadow list“)

- 2005 - first national list of SCIs ...863 Sites (9.3% CZ)  
– After negotiation with important state administration bodies, municipalities and land owners/users
- 2005 evaluation for PAN / 2006 evaluation for CON
- 2007 BGS for PAN: changes: ...879 SCIs (9.19 %)
- 2009 BGS for CON: changes: ...1 082 SCIs (9.9%)

# Natura 2000 in the CZE

- **SPAs sufficient.**
  - 41, ~ 9 %
- **SCIs (SACs) insufficient.**
  - 1112, ~ 10 %
  - SCIs we know should be in Natura 2000
  - SCIs we know are not suitable to be a part of Natura 2000
  - Phenomena with SCIRES



# Natura 2000 in CZE



- a little over **14 %** of the area of the CZE
  - partially overlapping with PAs on the national level
- and***
- national PAs also designated in the SCIs
    - an important tool!
  - national PAs have six different categories; a system of nature protection in CZE is very logical (however...)





# A matter of sufficiency...



- national SCIs list significantly updated 2 times – 2009, 2016
- the aim of last update was to complete Czech Natura 2000
  - we did not fully succeed with that intention
  - infringement procedure (?)
- nature protection is not the only player on the field ☹
  - which is not understood *inter alia* by NGOs very well 😊
- Natura 2000 perception...

# A matter of sufficiency...



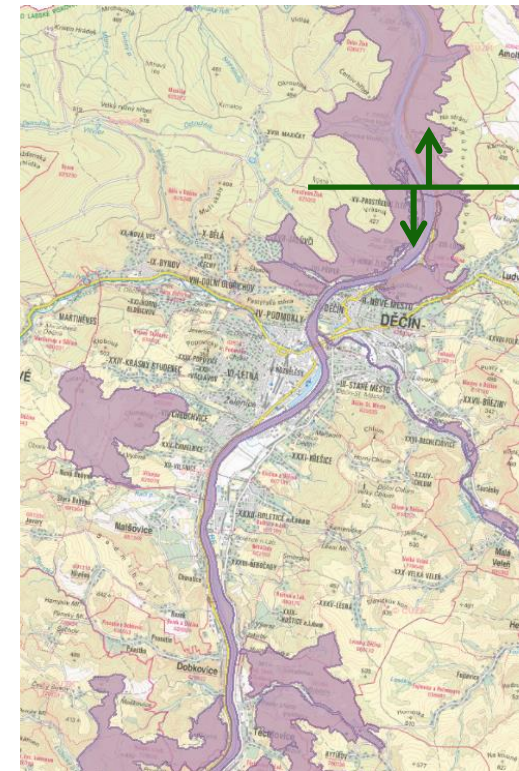
- very long and exhausting negotiations
- main challenge – water transportation
  - site Labské údolí / Porta Bohemica, site Slavíkovy ostrovy
- mining industry, but also power lines development etc.
- Infringement procedure initiated about a year ago
  
- Also some SCIRES...



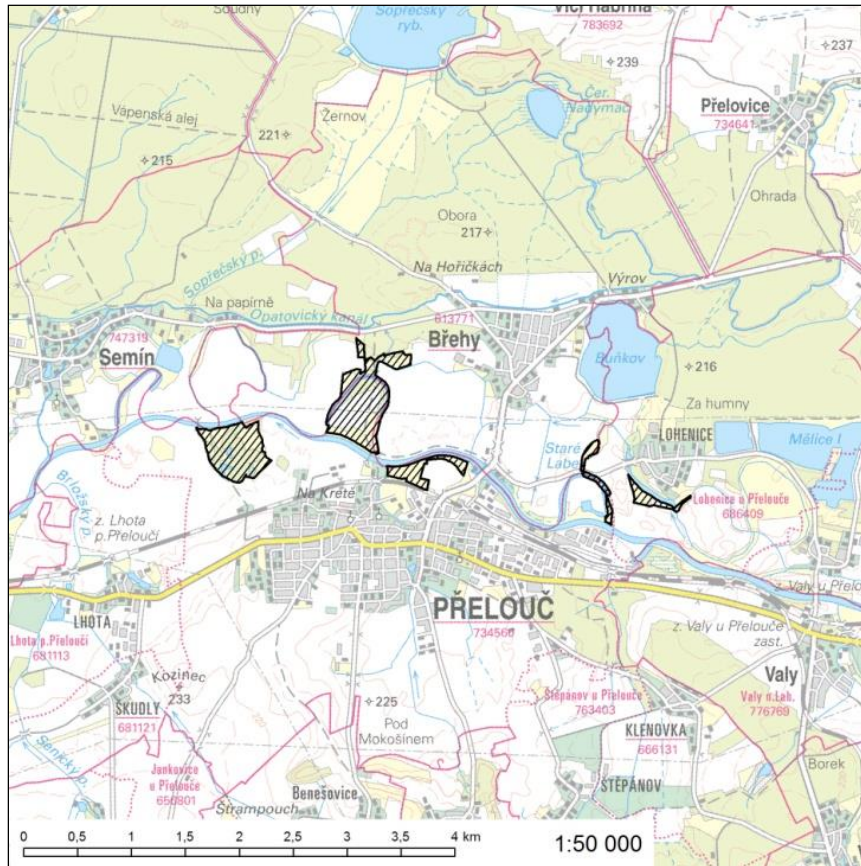
# A story of one site...



- Labské údolí / Porta Bohemica
  - 2004, 2009, 2016
- unique set of natural values of european importance
- inland waterway (TEN-T)...
- first proposal in 2016
- second proposal in 2016 after infringement initiation



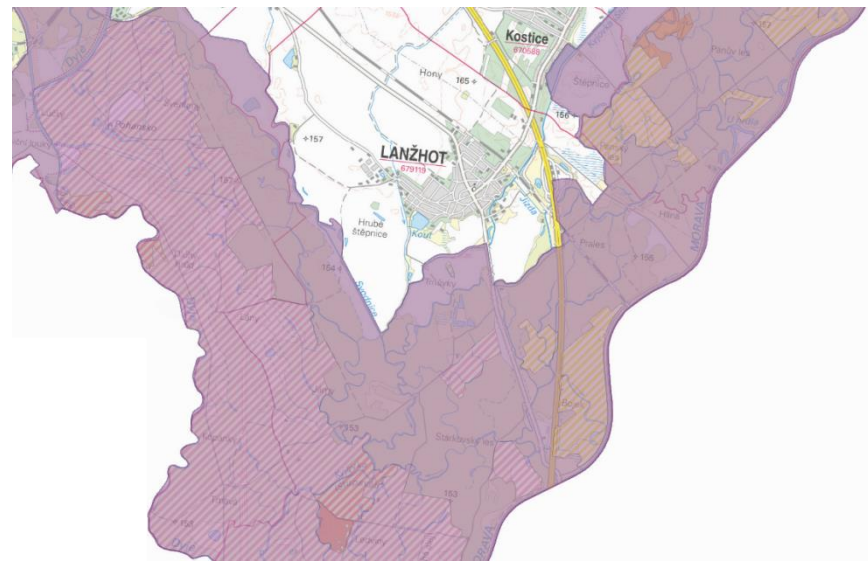
And one site did not make it  
at all...



# A matter of SACs designation...



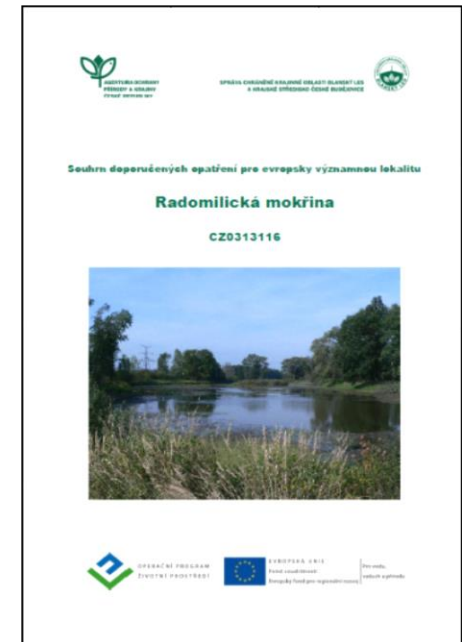
- using national PAs as a tool where necessary
- Sets of recommended (conservation) measures for all SCIs or a management plan for PA until SoRM adopted
- delays... (art. 4.4 HD) – EU Pilot procedure initiated in 2016
- PAs designation
- SoRM adoption



# Sets of recommended (conservation) measures



- elaborated for all the SCIs (compare to art. 6.1 HD)
- elaborated for SPAs where necessary
- conservation measures
- conservation objectives
- binding (...) for NPA
- an important groundwork for other documents
- Nature Conservation Agency / MoE role



# Other future challenges?



- we know conservation status of HD phenomena in the context of the Czech Republic, but we need this on a site level
- more detailed elaboration of site conservation objectives
- IP LIFE+ preparation
- monetary aspect of Natura 2000 (structural funds future, lack of funds from state budget)

## Popular Art. 6.3



- a licence from MoE is required for AA in CZE
- legal base for the authorization – Act on the Nature and Landscape Protection, required education, contents of the examination and reasons for withdrawal of the authorization – legal regulation
- Not granted forever...
- AA is conducted within the EIA / SEA
- problems / future challenges?



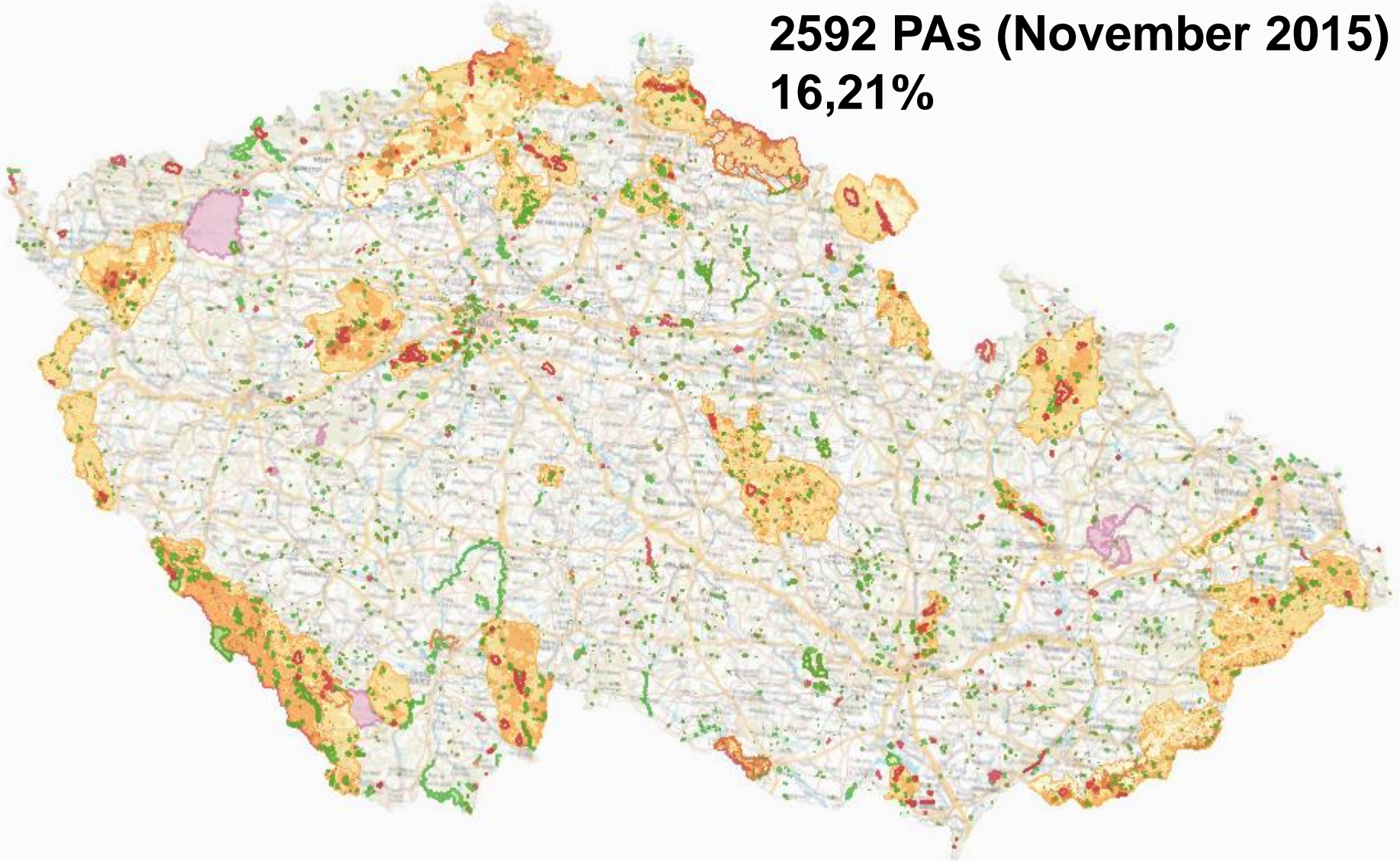
# Contemplation

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Have we reached  
what we wanted  
to achieve???

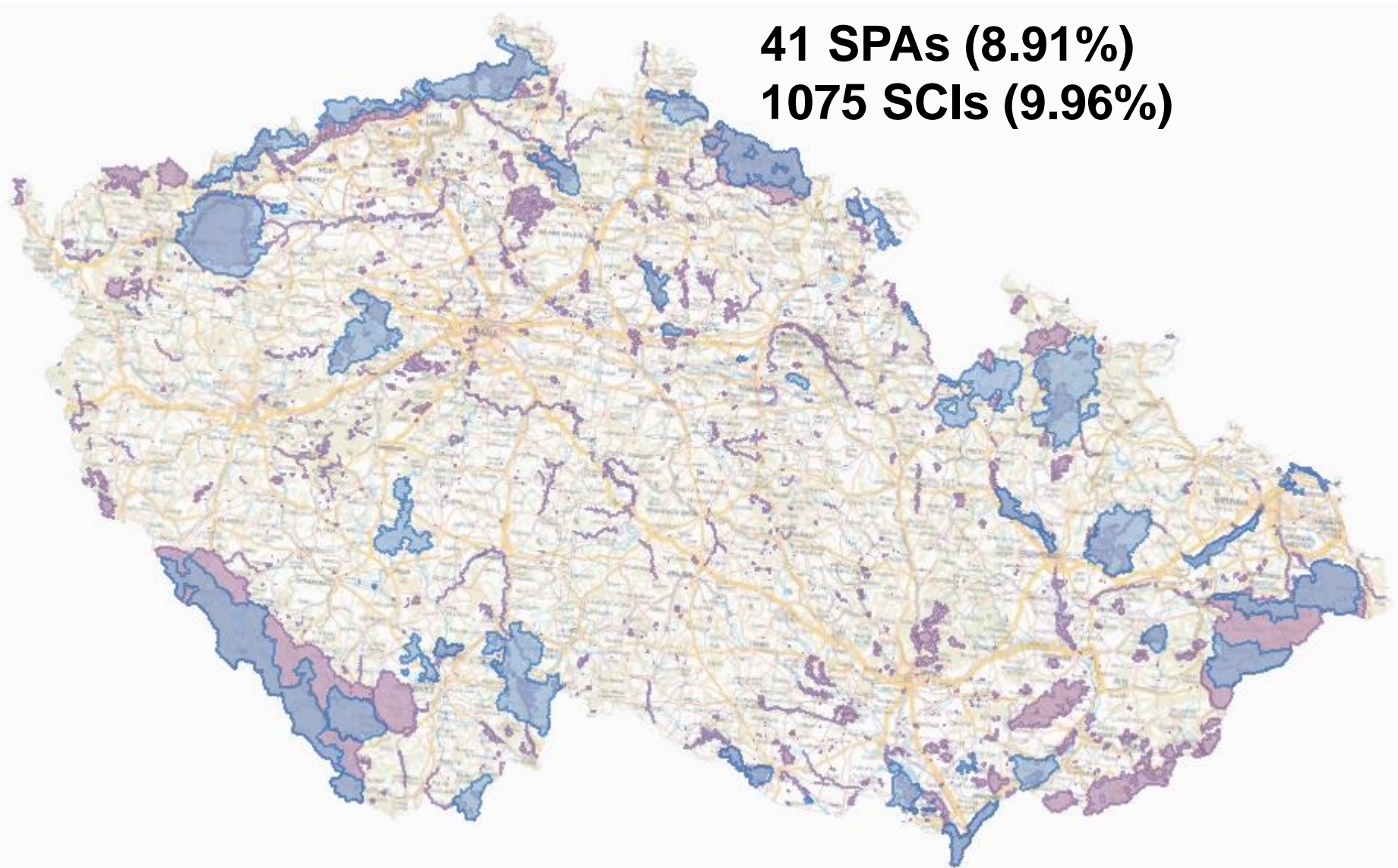
# Nationally Designated Areas in the Czech Republic

**2592 PAs (November 2015)**  
**16,21%**



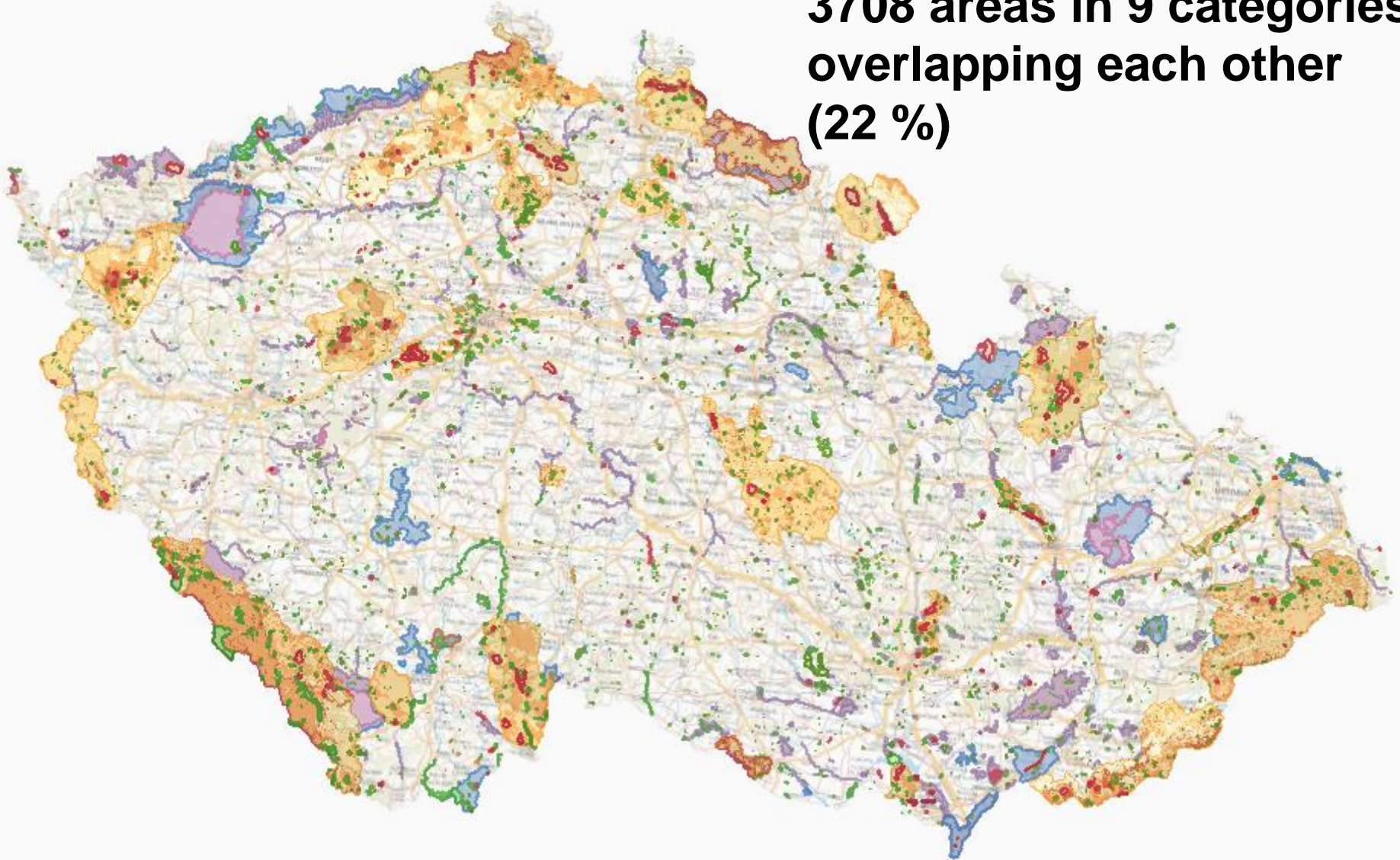
# Natura 2000

**41 SPAs (8.91%)**  
**1075 SCIs (9.96%)**



# Overlap

**3708 areas in 9 categories  
overlapping each other  
(22 %)**



# National PA Categories

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- National park
- Protected landscape area
- National nature reserve
- National nature monument
- Nature reserve
- Nature monument
  
- Area protected by a contract
  
- Special protection area
- Site of Community importance

# Preparation of Management Plans

National category	Number	Authority	MP Preparation	Approval
National park	4	NP administration	NP administration	MoE
Protected Landscape Area	25	PL administration	PL administration	MoE
National nature reserve	109	Nature Conservation Agency	Nature Conservation Agency	MoE
National nature monument	118	Nature Conservation Agency	Nature Conservation Agency	MoE
Nature reserve	814	Regional authority	Regional authority (contracted experts)	Regional authority
Nature monument	1522	Regional authority	Regional authority (contracted experts)	Regional authority
PA protected by contract	28	Relevant authority	No management plan	No management plan

# Challenge

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- Due to the overload, regional authorities contract external experts to prepare / update management plans for nature reserves and natural monuments
- Selection procedure: the lowest price wins
- Result: various quality

# Management Plans and Legal Obligations

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## National PAs (Nature Protection Law):

- **management plan** is a technical and conceptual document of nature conservation, proposing conservation objectives and measures to maintain or improve the status of the site
- **management plan** serves as a background document for other planning documents (spatial plans, etc.)
- **management plan** is binding only for the nature conservation authority (!)
  
- **each PA has a management plan to be updated in a ten-year-long period**



# Management Plans and Legal Obligations

---

## Natura 2000 (Nature Protection Law):

- **set of conservation measures** is prepared and approved by the Ministry of the Environment (Nature Conservation Agency) for each site
- **the aim:** maintain or improve the status of target habitat types and species
- harmonization with the management plan for the overlapping national PA should be done
- **updated only if needed**

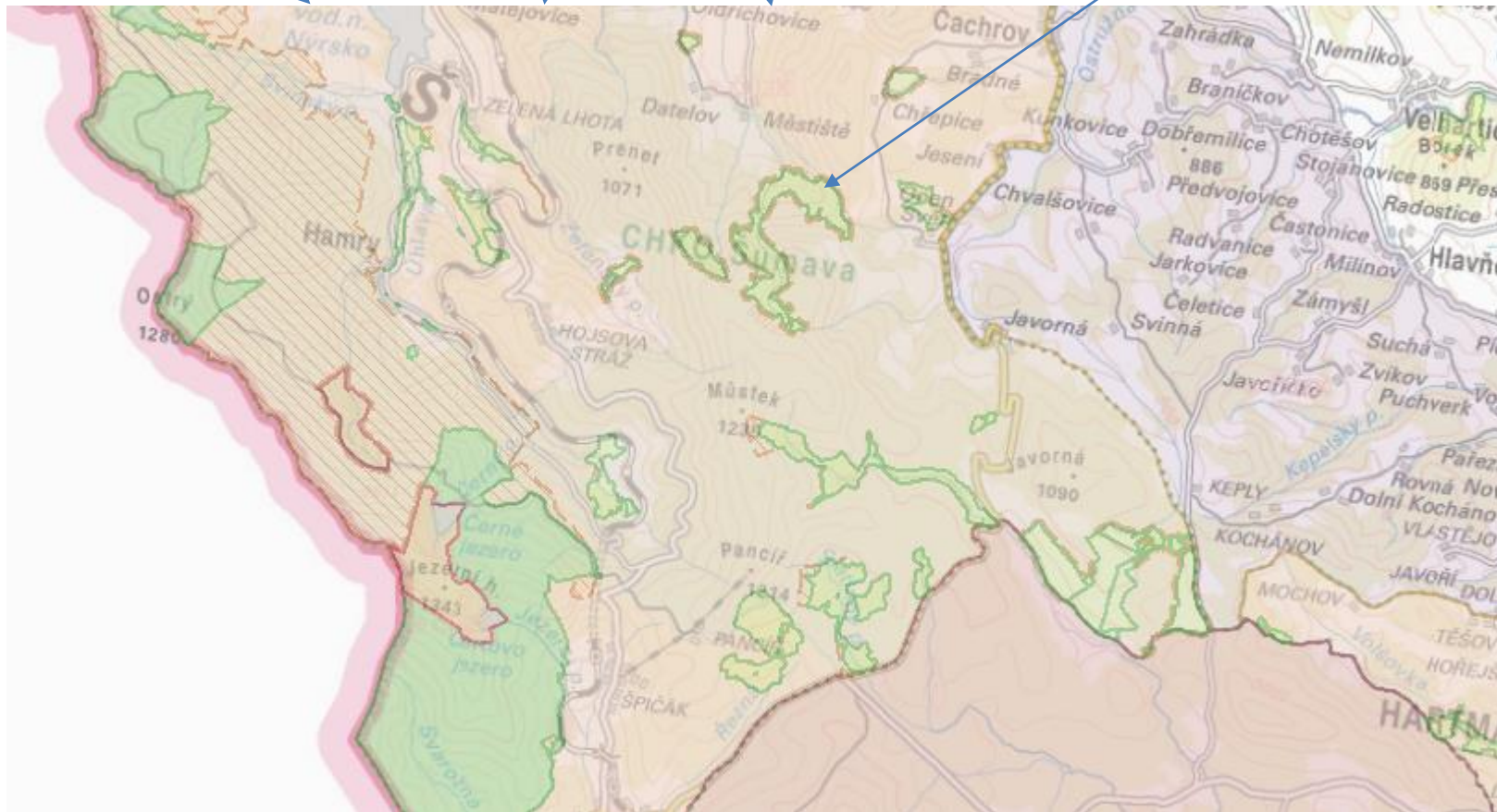
# How Many Management Plans /Sets Can You Have?

national park

SPA

SCI

nature reserve



# Financing of Management Measures

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## 1. Schemes of the Ministry of the Environment

- Landscape management scheme
- Administration of the state property
- Support of natural functions of landscape

**Yearly approx. € 15 million** spent mainly in national parks, protected landscape areas, national nature reserves and monuments

# Financing of Management Measures

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## 2. Budget of regional authorities (14)

- yearly approx. **€ 4 million** used for management of nature reserves and nature monuments
- **EUROPEAN FUNDS**
- Operational Programme of the Environment (Nature conservation chapter) – allocation for 2014-2020 is **351,735,069 €**
- **LIFE** projects? Only few, thanks to challenging administration and high co-financing rate

# Financing of Management Measures

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- **The most important (core) budget is from the Ministry and regional authorities (= national resources)**
  - long term, well focused on conservation measures implementation, and sustainable
  - usually open calls or tenders to select experienced contractors – majority of activities is provided by outsourced experts

# Lessons Learnt

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## **Strength: the legal and formal system of PA management well developed**

- each PA has an appointed management authority and valid management plan

## **Weakness: overcomplicated and demanding from administrative point of view**

- *‘sometimes it is more demanding to get a permit than to do what is needed’*

# Thank you for your attention

Michael Hošek

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Petr Havel



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Ministry of the Environment  
of the Czech Republic