Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland

Sächsisch-Böhmische Schweiz

Sasko-české Švýcarsko

Handrij Härtel
Historical background

First transboundary protected area: 1932 Pieniny nature reserve (today a national park) between Czechoslovakia (today Slovakia) and Poland
Background

Challenging time: 1990th of the 20th century

Political changes:
- end of the iron-curtain
- splitting to smaller countries (Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia).

- New bilateral PAs: e.g., Bílé Karpaty/Biele Karpaty PLAs
Challenging time: 1990th of the 20th century

Political changes enabled

1) New level of cooperation between existing transboundary PAs (Karkonosze 1959 / Krkonoše 1963)
Political changes enabled

2) New transboundary PAs
   a) Completely new PAs
   b) Or up-grade from Protected Landscape to National Park:
      ba) at one side: example:
          Bavarian Forest NP / Šumava PLA → NP
Political changes enabled

2) New transboundary PAs
   a) Completely new PAs
   b) Or up-grade from Protected Landscape to National Park:
      bb) **at both sides**: examples:
          LSG (PLA) Sächsische Schweiz → NP Sächs. Schweiz
          CHKO (PLA) České Švýcarsko → NP České Švýcarsko
Political changes in 1990th
Mutual support through establishment of new NP:
- 1990 Saxon Switzerland (Sächsische Schweiz) NP
- 2000 Bohemian Switzerland (Böhmische Schweiz) NP
Mutual support through establishment of new NP:
- 1991 Podyjí NP (CZ)
- 2000 Thayatal NP (A)
Several crucial documents

1994 Parks for Life – transportier protected areas: priority project 22
Several crucial documents

Brunner R. (1999):
Parks for Life: Transboundary Protected Areas in Europe. IUCN & EUROPARC
Several crucial documents

Čeřovský Jan (ed): Biodiversity conservation in Transboundary protected areas in Europe.
Chřibská, Czech Republic, 1996

1. Tranfrontier cooperation in nature conservation cannot be prescribed by decree „from above“, but should grow step by step „from below“

2. Transfrontier cooperation in nature conservation has to be wanted and supported politically.

3. Transfrontier cooperation is feasible only when equal partners are involved

4. Transfrontier cooperation requires mutual understanding in one language
5. Transfrontier cooperation should involve the **entire scope of the protected area objectives** and has to be oriented towards constructive results.

6. The acceptance of sustainable transfrontier development of tourism by the nature conservation authorities *should not necessarily lead to the opening of border-crossings in the core zone of the protected areas*.

7. Transfrontier protected areas should **unite not only nature, but also nations**.
L.S. Hamilton: Transborder Protected Area Cooperation (1996):
Not only benefits, but also problems:

• **Language barriers** may have to be overcome for effective communication

• The same **level of political commitment** may not exists on both sides of the border, and this will foster a „weaker partner-dominant partner“ situation

• The **structure and degree of professionalism** existing in the different agencies may make for difficulty in achieving a real twinning of equal partners

• When two countries are at **different stages of economic development** there can be some incompatibility of goals (e.g. Strict nature protection versus sustainable development)
EUROPARC’s 2nd TransParcNet Meeting
27 to 30 April, 2010 in Illmitz, Report by Sigrun Lange

• HOW TO OVERCOME BARRIERS (BARRIERS IN PEOPLE’S MINDS. LANGUAGE)?
• HOW TO INCREASE PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE?
HOW TO OVERCOME DIFFERENT LEGAL REGULATIONS IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A JOINT MANAGEMENT?

HOW TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE FINANCING?
What has changed **after 18 years?**, what is the progress in transboundary conservation in Europe since 1994 (launching Parks for Life)?

- External changes: EU enlargement,
What has changed, what is the progress in transboundary conservation in Europe since 1994 (launching Parks for Life)?

- External changes: Schengen area enlargement
What has changed, what is the progress in transboundary conservation in Europe since 1994 (launching Parks for Life)?

- New transboundary PAs have been established

- Some PAs became higher protection status thanks to the transboundary cooperation

- Transboundary cooperation became more sophisticated, formalized, intensive, etc.
• EUROPARC's 'Transboundary Parks - Following Nature's Design' initiative as a unique evaluation, verification and certification system that aims to promote and facilitate transboundary cooperation between European protected areas

• TransParcNet
Some challenges persist…
Incompatibility in law, zoning, management plan…

However, as was said already in 1996:
Tranfrontier cooperation has to grow step by step „from below“.

Important is to built a „joint identity“ accepted by general public, regional municipalities, etc.
Case study
Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland -
Introduction

synonym: Elbe Sandstones
erosion landscape
Cretaceous Age
largest sandstone rock area in Europe
Why „Switzerland“?
Anton Graf, Adrian Zingg
Caspar David Friedrich
(1774 Greifswald - 1840 Dresden)
Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland
one of the oldest touristic destinations in Central Europe
Natural heritage

Landscape born in the sea
Sandstone relief
Biodiversity

Montane and Alpine species in deep gorges at very low altitudes
Micro-climatic inversion
Long history of nature conservation and transboundary cooperation

1933-1938 – the first nature reserves

1956 - Sächsische Schweiz (Saxon Switzerland)
Protected Landscape Area

1972 – Labské pískovce (Elbe Sandstones)
Protected Landscape Area

1990 – Sächische Schweiz National Park: 9350 ha

2000 – České Švýcarsko (Bohemian Switzerland) National Park: 8000 ha
Long history of nature conservation and transboundary cooperation

3 essential basis of our co-operation

1. Joint nature and landscape
2. Formal basis
3. Personal basis
Formal basis

Legal basis:

28.08.1991: Agreement between the MoE of the Czech Republic and the MoE of Saxony about the cooperation in nature conservation between the Saxon Switzerland National Park Administration and Elbe Sandstone PLA (Bohemian Switzerland National Park in prep.)
Formal basis

Long-term basis:
2012 Joint Vision

Mid-term basis:

2004: Strategy of the transboundary cooperation in nature conservation in the Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland:

strategic goals: IUCN category II

research and monitoring activities

environmental education

coordination of management plans

practical management, e.g. control of invasive species
Working Groups

Short-term basis

Annual working plans for WG:
- nature conservation/monitoring
- forest management
- environment education
- visitor management
Transboundary research and monitoring
mapping of flora and fauna
Example: Flora of Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland 1991-2011
300 000 records
more than 1000 joint species distribution maps
No international project, just agreement on methodology and goals
Original laser scanning data

Relief model
Forest development in Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland – Ziel 3 Project

Raumbezogene historische Informationen als Grundlage für die Pflege- und Entwicklungsplanung naturnaher Wälder in der Sächsisch-Böhmischen Schweiz

Historický vývoj lesa
Historische Waldentwicklung
Natura 2000:
Saxon Switzerland (FFH Sächsische Schweiz)
&
Bohemian Switzerland (EVL České Švýcarsko)
Reintroduction projects: Peregrine Falcon

Still in 1950 the breeding population of the falcon was estimated at 25 pairs.

The uncontrolled use of pesticides like DDT caused the collapse of the population; in the 1970’s the species was considered to be extinct.

The reintroduction started 1990 and was financed by the Saxon Switzerland National Park Administration.
Reintroduction projects: Peregrine Falcon

within seven years 77 young falcons were released in the Saxon Switzerland
today the falcon population in Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland is stabilized and there are regularly about 25 pairs in the whole area
Reintroduction projects: Elbe-Salmon

1994 the Sächsische Landesanstalt für Landwirtschaft started with the implementation of the Elbe-Salmon 2000 Program (Elblachs 2000)

In 1994 the first salmon spawn (from Sweden) was incubated and in spring 1995 the first salmon fry was released into the Lachsbach in the Saxon Switzerland

this new salmon population is supported by the release of 200,000 to 250,000 salmon fry every year

On 26 October 1998 the first salmon was caught in the Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland
Českosaské Švýcarsko / Sächsisch-Böhmische Schweiz

Sandstone Landscapes

Die Tierwelt der Sächsischen Schweiz

www.npcs.cz
Management of forests
Management of forests
Přeshraniční územní členění národních parků dle managementu
Nationalparkübergreifende Bezeichnung der Flächeneinheiten in Bezug auf das Management

- **Území bez managementu (včetně zřízení se ochrany lesa)**
  Managementfreie Gebiete (inklusive Verzicht auf Waldschutzmaßnahmen)
  - NPČŠ: A
  - NLPSS: A1 ohne Waldschutz, A2 ohne Waldschutz

- **Území bez plánovaného managementu (přípustná pouze opatření k ochraně lesa a odebrání náletu geograficky nepůvodních druhů stromů)**
  Gebiete ohne planmäßiges Management (nur Waldschutzmaßnahmen und Entnahme Verjüngung gebietsfremder Arten zulässig)
  - NPČŠ: B1- (žádné plochy v této kategorii), B2-
  - NLPSS: A1 mit Waldschutz, A2 mit Waldschutz

- **Území s dočasním managementem - Managementová opatření v horizontu do 10 let**
  Gebiete mit zeitlich befristetem Management - Managementmaßnahmen mit einem Zeithorizont bis 10 Jahren
  - NPČŠ: B1+
  - NLPSS: B1

- **Území s dočasním managementem - Managementová opatření v horizontu nad 10 let**
  Gebiete mit zeitlich befristetem Management - Managementmaßnahmen mit einem Zeithorizont über 10 Jahren
  - NPČŠ: B2+
  - NLPSS: B2 (NZ B)

- **Území s trvalým managementem**
  Gebiete mit Dauermanagement
  - NPČŠ: C
  - NLPSS: B2 (Pflegezone)

- **hranice NP**
Visitor management
National Park Centre
Bad Schandau

Transborder concept of exhibition right from the beginning

1. Staff
2. Exhibition
3. Events
National Park Centre
Krásná Lípa

1. Bilingual exhibition
2. German speaking staff
3. Bilingual Events
Transborder public relation
Joint „metastart“ homepage of
three protected area administrations since 2005
Joint transborder bilingual corporate design
Transborder bilingual corporate design

A joint transborder project of nature conservation authorities and touristic organisations
Example from Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland:

**Joint corporate design**

**Joint logo:**

[Image of the joint logo with text in Czech and German]
Joint corporate design

Joint logo
Joint corporate design

Joint logo

2010:
20 years of Sächsische Schweiz NP & 10 years of České Švýcarsko NP
Regional products
International cooperation
Future of the TransParcNet

VISION

Transboundary protected area (TBPA) cooperation in Europe is an effective and widely recognized means to tackle common conservation and other TBPA challenges. The quality of the cooperation is based on EUROPARC’s criteria and indicators on well managed TBPA s. The network of certified TBPA s, TransParcNet, forms an innovative platform for further development of European TBPA management cooperation, for safeguarding cross border biodiversity ecosystem services, culture landscape and its heritage and also for inspiring and encouraging people for better understanding of the importance of the TB cooperation
Further expansion of TransParcNet:

Several dimensions

- **institutional** (more TBP, various IUCN cat.)
- **geographic** (review?, regional coverage)
- **financial** (projects…)
- **legal / formal**
- **internal**
Further considerations / challenges
Geographic expansion of certified parks network

Neusiedler See National Park (AT) and Fertő-Hanság National Park (HU) were the first two parks to be awarded by EUROPARC Federation in 2003. Meanwhile eight further trans-boundary protected areas have been characterised as best practice. They are the founding members of the TransParcNet. Its members meet annually in different trans-boundary areas to exchange best practice and look to the future development of trans-boundary cooperation.

1. Neusiedler See National Park (AT) and Fertő-Hanság National Park (HU)
2. Krkonoše National Park (CZ) and Karkonosze National Park (PL)
3. Oulanka National Park (FI) and Paanajärvi National Park (RU)
4. Maas-Schwalm-Nette Nature Park (DE/NL)
5. Thayatal National Park (AT) and Podyji National Park (CZ)
6. Inari-Vattaris Wilderness Area (FI), Øvre-Pasvik National Park (NO) and Pasvik Zapovednik (RU)
7. Prealpi Giulie Natural Park (IT) and Triglav National Park / Julian Alps Biosphere Reserve (SI)
8. Bavarian Forest National Park (DE) and Sumava National Park (CZ)
Further considerations / challenges

For further development of transboundary cooperation in Europe
• To encourage not only NPs, but also further IUCN categories (in particular V) to apply for certificate

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Personal basis
For profitable collaboration a formal agreement is necessary, but it alone is not sufficient. Enthusiastic, friendly relationships between the respective park directors, and at all levels, must exist or transboundary cooperation will founder.

L.S. Hamilton, 1996