





# Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic

# Wilderness in the Czech Republic - view of state administration

**WORKSHOP ON WILDERNESS, Prague – Průhonice, 28th February – 1th March 2017**

Ministry of the Environment  
of the Czech Republic

Ministry of the Environment  
Vrsovicke 65, 100 10 Prague 10  
Czech Republic

[www.mzp.cz/en](http://www.mzp.cz/en)



# Concept of wilderness in the Czech Republic

- term doesn't exist in the Czech legislation
- missing state idea and definition of this concept
- discussion of this topic on the different levels (across Czech nature conservation sector)
- running and open process - various solutions and not yet cleared and closed



# Country strategy on natural processes protection

- In 2016, the government of the Czech Republic adopted the new **National Biodiversity Strategy**, which represents a fundamental conceptual document defining the priorities in the field of conservation, and the sustainable use of biodiversity within the territory of the Czech Republic (<https://www.cbd.int/countries/default.shtml?country=cz>). The Strategy has 4 priority areas with 20 main goals, which are divided into particular objectives and specific measures.
- One particular goal is dedicated directly to the protection of natural processes and it contains two specific measures:
  - *Analysis of the issue defining visions of possible future definition and development of areas of spontaneous evolution of natural processes*
  - *Examination of feasible possibilities of the application of the concept of the development of significant areas that have been left to natural processes in the conditions of the Czech Republic through an expert inter-sectoral discussion*
- In line with these specific measures, the matter of possible development and expansion of areas that have been left to natural processes, is currently being discussed at the ministerial level.
- Despite of the absence of the term “wilderness” in the National Biodiversity Strategy, above mentioned measures are clearly linked to this issue.

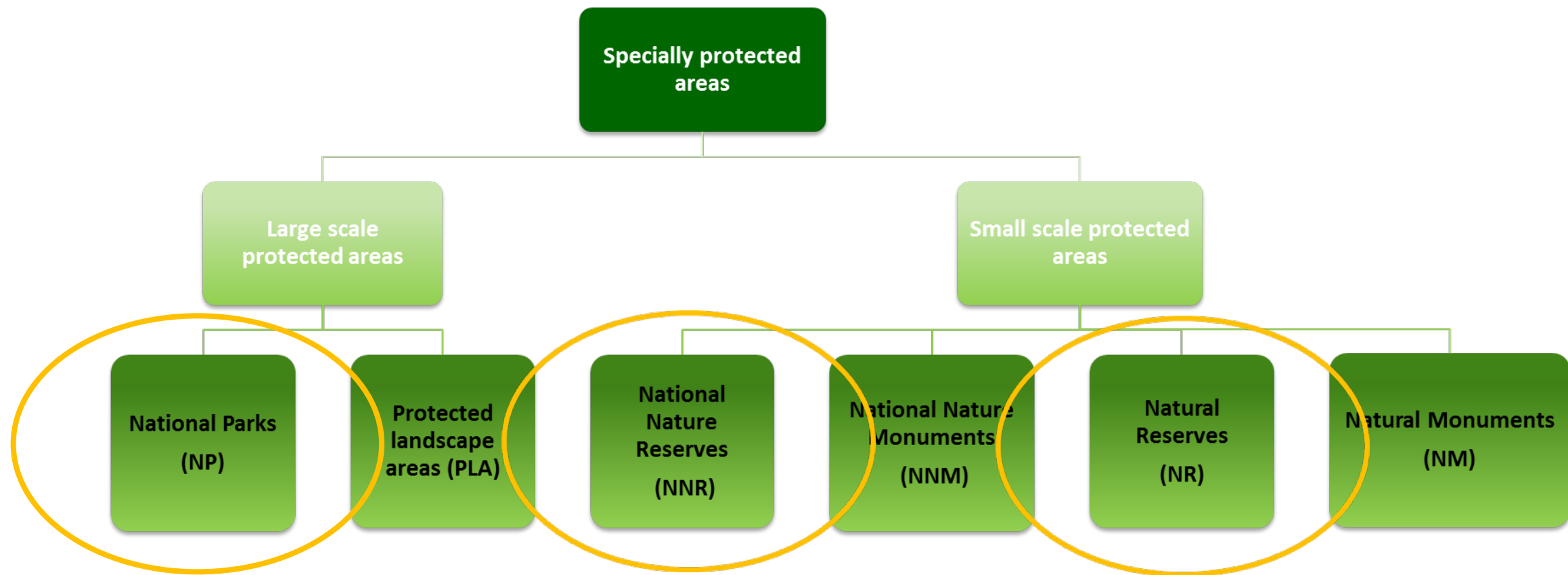


# Natural processes protection in the Czech Republic

- not exact definition too, but this concept is used
- relation to conservation goals of the few protected area categories (NP, NNR, NR) - **ecosystem approach**
- conservation goals of categories based on the Act and founding charters
- relation to the objectives of protection and management goals
- Spontaneous process („non-intervention regime”) – one of management ways for the objectives of protection (general the best way in ecosystem approach)



# Natural processes protection in the Czech Republic



Long-term conservation goal for NP, NNR and NR is enabling natural and spontaneous processes a biodiversity protections lined to these processes.



# Specially protected areas in numbers

| Category        | Nr.         | Area (km <sup>2</sup> ) | Share of CZ territory (%) |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| NP              | 4           | 1194,9                  | 1,51                      |
| PLA             | 26          | 11352,7                 | 14,4                      |
| NNR             | 119         | 59,6                    | 0,07                      |
| NNM             | 108         | 286,8                   | 0,36                      |
| NM              | 1528        | 375,5                   | 0,47                      |
| NR              | 815         | 427,1                   | 0,54                      |
| <b>Together</b> | <b>2600</b> | <b>13153,9</b>          | <b>16,6</b>               |





# Natural processes protection in the Czech Republic

## Spontaneous process

- defined in law regulation for the forest ecosystems (Ministry of Environment decree No. 64/2011 Coll.)
- excluding direct human intervention (but not 100%)
  - possible to make some (indirect) activities: elimination of alien species, game management, maintenance of road network, firefighting, ...
- not defined how many percent of the country must be covered
- ca. 26 300 ha – currently area with spontaneous process in the Czech Republic (**ca. 23 400 ha NP**, ca. 2200 ha NNR and ca. 700 ha NR)
  - = ca. 0,3 % of national territory
  - = ca. 1 % of forest area in the Czech Republic



# Natural processes protection in the Czech Republic

Amendment of Act. 114/1992 Coll., On Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection

- actually in the legislative process (on Wednesday, Parliament will vote)
- really significant for protection of natural processes in national parks
  - clearly defined the long-term conservation goal of national parks = Spontaneous processes on the predominant part of national park
  - zones of protection based on management (clear rules/activities for each zone)



# National Parks in the Czech Republic

- Administrations of National Parks
  - ensure the state administration in the field of nature conservation (some activities ensures Ministry)
  - manage forests owned the state
  - provide game management in the own hunting districts
- Management plan
  - conceptual expert document with proposals for betterment of the state of the SPA (based on the sum of knowledge and experience)
  - For NP - ecosystem management principles for attaining long-term objectives



# National Parks in the Czech Republic

| NP                 | area of NP *<br>(ha) | area of NP with spontaneous<br>process ** (ha) | share of NP territory<br>with spontaneous<br>process (%) | IUCN<br>categorization |
|--------------------|----------------------|--|--|------------------------|
| NP Šumava          | 68 342               | 15 767   | 23   | II                     |
| NP České Švýcarsko | 7 933                | 988  | 12   | II                     |
| KRNAP              | 36 327               | 3 882  | 11   | V                      |
| NP Podyjí          | 6 276                | 2 800  | 45   | II                     |

\* area of KRNAP and NP Podyjí without protective (buffer) zone

\*\* area to 16th January 2017

| Impact in NP           | No elimination | Case by case approach | Regular elimination |
|------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Wildfire               |                |                       |                     |
| Bark beetle            |                |                       |                     |
| Invasive alien species |                |                       |                     |
| Game management        |                |                       |                     |

IUCN categorization based on conservation goals of the protected area categories (categorization doesn't define conservation goals of SPA)





**Krkonoše NP** (1963, 363 km<sup>2</sup>): highest mountain range, unique geomorphology and climate conditions with wide array of endemic species and vegetation units esp. above the upper level of forest: tundra, peatbogs, diverse mountain meadows





**NP Podyjí** (1991, 63 km<sup>2</sup>): deeply cut river Dyje canyon, unique river phenomenon, well preserved forests, biodiversity linked to habitats



Ministry  
Vrsovice  
Czech R





**NP Šumava** (1991, 680 km<sup>2</sup>): large highlands with the largest forest complex in CZ, large peatbogs, glacial lakes, habitat endangered species incl. large carnivores (grouse, lynx)



Ministry of the Environment  
of the Czech Republic

the E  
visovicka 65, 106 to Prague to  
Czech Republic





**NP České Švýcarsko** (2000, 79 km<sup>2</sup>): landscape with unique geomorphology, sandstone „cities“ and other structures developed through Cretaceous sediments erosion, important bird habitat (falcon, stork)





# National Nature Reserves and Nature Reserves in the Czech Republic

Main authorities in charge of SPA conservation and management are Nature Conservation Agency (NNR) and regional authorities (NR)

- these authorities don't manage forests owned the state usually and don't provide game management
- "weaker" position than administrations of National parks

Management plan

- conceptual expert document with proposals for betterment of the state of the SPA (based on the sum of knowledge and experience)
- for NNR and NR = concrete measures
- in case of small-scale SPA not yet settled: mostly category III and IV



# Different approaches between countries in protection of nature processes

**In general is crossborder cooperation between administrations of national parks at high level!!!**

Two practical examples of different approaches of neighboring states

1) Invasive alien species

NP České Švýcarsko - regular elimination

NP Saské Švýcarsko - no elimination (in the core zone)

2) Game management

NP Šumava - regular elimination exclude "core" zone

NP Bavorský les - no elimination exclude wintering game enclosure

**same impact + different regimes + more countries + one crossborder protected area = sometimes really difficult puzzle**



# Thank you for your attention

Ministry of the Environment  
of the Czech Republic

Ministry of the Environment  
Vrsovicke 65, 100 10 Prague 10  
Czech Republic

[www.mzp.cz/en](http://www.mzp.cz/en)

