Creation of sustainable public transport in the National Park Region Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland

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Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland: Protected Landscape Area (D): 287 km²
Protected Landscape Area (CZ): 245 km²
National Park (D): 93 km²
National Park (CZ): 80 km²
Situation analysis

- tourism is the most important economic sector in the region,
- but the large number of visitors causes risks for the protected areas,
- one problem area is the private vehicle traffic of visitors (although the region is very well connected by public transport).

keeping the situation in balance takes a lot of communication and cooperation between the different stakeholders.
Traffic calming - a never-ending story?

Traffic calming is a long-term task, don’t let any failures discourage you, after defeat get back on your feet again.
Experiences from 25 years involvement in traffic calming

Traffic regulation and public transport don’t fall within the jurisdiction of the National Park administration. Its possibilities are limited:
- to chair processes,
- to provide ideas,
- to support projects and plannings with (limited) finances.

Changes in the main points

1990 – 2000 the stakeholders gave a lukewarm reaction to the topic, the activities focused on the private vehicle traffic of the visitors.

since 2000 the topic has become more important in the public discussion, public transport for visitors gets more and more public attention, improvement of the connections and offers.

listen to the stakeholders, be patient, don’t tilt at windmills
Activities in public transport

• Public relations

1999 first folder for Saxon Switzerland since 2008 folders for Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland
• Advertising
• Advertising

National Park railway station

Bad Schandau (2012)
Děčín, Sebnitz (2017)

Naming a train “National Park Saxon Switzerland” (2017)
• Touristic infrastructure
• **Partner-Project** (since 2009(SSZ)/2016(BSZ) – also a pillar of the network for traffic calming
• **National contest „Fahrtziel Natur“** – impulse for an advanced network and further development of public transport, strengthen the team spirit in the network
• Public transport network plan (2013)
• National Park railway
• **Own activities of some stakeholders**

- Guest card allows you to use public transport for free (Bad Schandau),
- one ticket for different means of transport (steamboat/railway),
- ticket for the open air stage Rathen allows to use public transport for free,
- reduced entrance fee for the National Park Center with a ticket for public transport,
- events and excursions are connected to public transport (National Park Center)
Originally traffic calming is no task for a nature conservation agency and can’t supplant the skilled work with nature.

But it is closely connected with visitor management and can help to reduce risks in the protected areas.

The collaboration in a network for traffic calming is a chance for better integration the nature conservation agency in the region and to strengthen the acceptance of nature conservation.
There is still space on the boat for further developments.

Thanks for your attention!