



KEY MESSAGES

Nature conservation and landscape protection aim to protect and preserve cultural landscape that is aesthetically balanced, ecologically stable and productive in the long-term. In addition, they aim to preserve the natural state of sites that have not yet sustained significant harm from human activity.

In total, 16% of the Czech Republic falls within one of the categories of protected areas.

Specially Protected Areas include 4 National Parks, 25 Protected Landscape Areas, 112 National Nature Reserves, 780 Nature Reserves, 105 National Natural Monuments and nearly 1 200 Natural Monuments.

In addition to these Specially Protected Areas, there are also less strict methods of protecting areas – general territorial protection: Natural Parks, Notable Landscape Features and Territorial Systems of Ecological Stability.

The NATURA 2000 network in the Czech Republic includes 897 Sites of Community Importance and 39 Special Protection Areas.

Territorial protection is the basis for biodiversity protection. The special protection of species is also important. This consists mainly in practical measures for sustaining the populations of rare and endangered species and subspecies of wild plants and animals and the environments populated by them.



REFERENCES AND OTHER INFORMATION

- ♦ Ministry of the Environment – <http://www.mzp.cz>
- ♦ Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic (ANCLP CR) – <http://www.nature.cz>
- ♦ CENIA, the Czech Environmental Information Agency – <http://www.cenia.cz>
- ♦ Information about the Natura 2000 network – <http://www.natura2000.cz>
- ♦ The Nature Conservancy Central Register of the ANCLP CR – <http://dru-sop.nature.cz>
- ♦ The map server of the ANCLP CR – <http://mapy.nature.cz>
- ♦ The Ramsar Convention – <http://www.ramsar.org>
- ♦ Preservation programmes for endangered species – <http://www.zachranne-programy.cz>
- ♦ Biotope and species monitoring – <http://www.biomonitoring.cz>
- ♦ Cave Administration of the Czech Republic – <http://www.caves.cz>

National park administrations

- ♦ The České Švýcarsko National Park Administration – <http://www.npcs.cz>
- ♦ The Podyjí National Park Administration – <http://www.nppodyji.cz>
- ♦ The Krkonoše National Park Administration – <http://www.krnap.cz>
- ♦ The Šumava National Park and Protected Landscape Area Administration – <http://www.npsumava.cz>

The administrations of protected landscape areas

<http://www.beskydy.ochranaprirody.cz>, <http://www.bilekarpaty.ochranaprirody.cz>, <http://www.blank.ochranaprirody.cz>, <http://www.blanskyles.ochranaprirody.cz>, <http://www.broumovsko.ochranaprirody.cz>, <http://www.ceskestredohori.ochranaprirody.cz>, <http://www.ceskykras.ochranaprirody.cz>, <http://www.ceskykyles.ochranaprirody.cz>, <http://www.ceskyraj.ochranaprirody.cz>, <http://www.jeseniky.ochranaprirody.cz>, <http://www.jizerskeho.ochranaprirody.cz>, <http://www.kokorinsko.ochranaprirody.cz>, <http://www.krivoklatsko.ochranaprirody.cz>, <http://www.labskepiskovce.ochranaprirody.cz>, <http://www.litovelskepomoravi.ochranaprirody.cz>, <http://www.luzickeho.ochranaprirody.cz>, <http://www.moravskykras.ochranaprirody.cz>, <http://www.orlickeho.ochranaprirody.cz>, <http://www.palava.ochranaprirody.cz>, <http://www.poodri.ochranaprirody.cz>, <http://www.slavkovskyles.ochranaprirody.cz>, <http://www.npsumava.cz>, <http://www.trebonsko.ochranaprirody.cz>, <http://www.zdarskevrchy.ochranaprirody.cz>, <http://www.zeleznehory.ochranaprirody.cz>



THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

© 2008, CENIA, the Czech Environmental Information Agency

Translation: Lucie Krágllová

Graphic design: Daniela Řeháková

Print: Studio Press s.r.o.

Contact:

CENIA, the Czech Environmental Information Agency

Litevská 8, 100 05 Praha 10

www.cenia.cz, info@cenia.cz, tel: +420 267 225 340

This publication was made with the financial assistance of the State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic.

Printed on chlorine-free paper.



Nature Conservation



THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC



cenia



STATE ENVIRONMENTAL
FUND OF THE
CZECH REPUBLIC

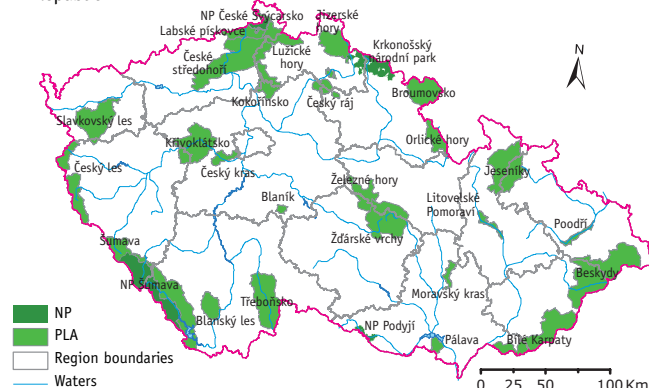


Efforts to conserve nature and its attractivities in the Czech lands can be traced back to the 18th century. At first, these consisted of activities by private individuals, which were later taken over by members of various societies. A fundamental change occurred after the creation of the independent republic, with approximately 100 objects and areas of exceptional natural characteristics receiving protection in connection with the 1933 land reform. These formed the basis of today's system of protected areas. The first laws concerning state nature conservation with implementing regulations date back to 1956. In 1992, the currently active Act No 114/1992 Sb., on nature conservation and landscape protection was published, into which the regulations of the European Community were later incorporated. The central state authority in nature conservation is the Ministry of the Environment; for regions it is municipal self government and in protected areas special nature conservation authorities.

The main instrument for nature conservation is establishing protected areas. These are areas with limited use and special rules based on the local conditions within these areas. There are several categories of protected areas in the Czech Republic, some of which receive a high degree of protection and are referred to by the Act on Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection as Specially Protected Areas. Presently, there are about 2 220 of them, representing nearly 16% of the Czech Republic's relatively small area.

The most valuable specially protected areas include 4 National Parks (NP), where protection is graduated into three zones according to the vulnerability of individual areas. All our national parks are bilateral in character: The Krkonoše National Park is connected, across the Polish borderline, with the Karkonoski park narodowy, the České Svycarsko NP with the Sächsische Schweiz NP, the Šumava NP is in close proximity to the Bayerischer Wald NP and the Podyjí NP is separated from Austria's ThayaTal NP by the banks of the Dyje River. In addition, there are graduated protection zones in 25 Protected Landscape Areas (PLA). These are mainly located in the lower portions of our border mountains (e.g. the Jizerské and Beskydy Mountains), typical inland hilly areas (Křivoklátsko), limestone hills as a significant geomorphological phenomenon of both the Czech and Moravian landscape (Pálava, Český kras) and other landscape segments that are well preserved. Their comprehensive overview, including their Internet addresses, is provided in this leaflet, in the list of references, links and other information sources.

Source: Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic



The category of small-scale Specially Protected Areas includes 112 National Nature Reserves (NNR), which represent the best preserved ecosystems within our country that are either characteristic or extremely rare. The Czech Republic is situated in the zone of the central European broadleaved deciduous forest, and it is therefore logical that the largest number of reserves is on forested land. So, it is not by coincidence that both in Europe and in our country, the first protected areas included primeval forests: these areas, which are still highly valuable, include areas in the Novohradské Mountains – the Žofín primeval forest and Hojná Voda, which were established by the owner of the manor, Count Buquoy in 1838. Some 20 years later, another primeval forest reserve was established by Prince Jan Schwarzenberg – the world-famous Boubínský prales. Ecosystems that have been preserved in fragments or that are moderately impaired yet valuable, especially from the regional or local perspectives, are established as Nature Reserves (NR) (there are 780 in total). Within the category of National Natural Monuments (NNM) (a total of 105), protection is provided to individual natural features or phenomena, i.e. their protection focuses on a specific phenomenon of nationwide or even international significance. To a large degree, these include geological and geomorphological formations such as cave systems, large rock outcrops, fossil sites and preserved formations resulting from volcanic activity. This also includes modified landscape areas with some historical features and sites where there are rare non-indigenous species (e.g. a forested area with an abundant population of European ground squirrel, i.e. a species of European significance). There is a similar instrument of protection at the regional and local levels, the Natural Monuments (NM) whose total number is nearly 1 200.

„National“ specially protected areas are established by the Ministry of the Environment and „non-national“ ones by relevant regional authorities. The care for Specially Protected areas is performed on the basis of technical documents, the Care Plans, which are renewed at ten-year intervals. Their implementation is ensured by a professional and consulting organisation established by the MoE – the Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic (with the exception of national parks, where this is the responsibility of national park administrations). The agency also holds state-ownership title to about 15 000 pieces of land in protected areas.

Source: Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic

	YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT	AREA (Km ²)
Krkonoše National Park	1963	363
Podyjí National Park	1991	63
Šumava National Park	1991	690
České Švýcarsko National Park	2000	79

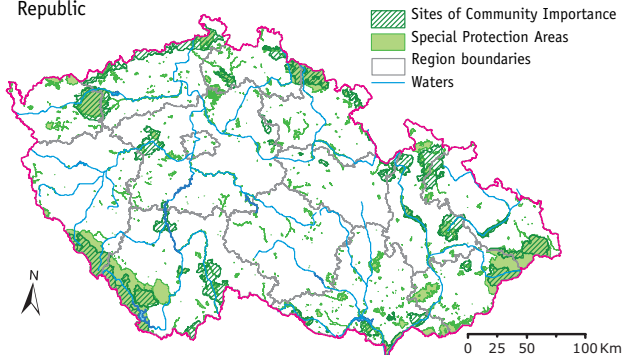
To date, there nearly 5 500 known caves in the Czech Republic. Most of them are of exceptional significance, as they not only represent notable geomorphological and mineralogical phenomena, but they also include the most valuable evidence documenting the emergence and development of both life and human culture. All caves in the Czech Republic are protected. Fourteen of them are open to tourists and are administered by the Cave Administration of the Czech Republic.

In addition to Specially Protected Areas, there are methods of territorial protection whose regime is less strict. For preserved landscape complexes with modified or culture ecosystems and preserved features of the original residential architecture, Natural Parks can be established. Their protection consists mainly in regulating

Territorial protection is the basis of biodiversity protection. However, special protection of species must not be overlooked. This consists mainly in practical measures for the populations of rare and endangered species and subspecies of wild plants and animals and the environments in which they live. These vulnerable and declining taxa are nominally listed in the implementing regulation to the Act on Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection as specially protected taxa, namely at three levels: critically endangered, severely endangered and endangered.

The carefully designed and maintained system of specially protected areas, along with regulations concerning the individual protection of rare species, aims to preserve the populations of wild fauna and flora throughout the entire country. Both these principles are jointly included in the EU's Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and Directive on the conservation of wild birds, which enumerate the criteria for establishing the NATURA 2000 network. The national list of the Sites of Community Importance (SCI) includes 879 areas. In the Czech Republic, 39 Special Protection Areas (SPA) have been defined as part of the Natura 2000 network.

Source: Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic



The Czech Republic has acceded to all fundamental international treaties and conventions concerning ecosystem, biodiversity and landscape protection. One of the first measures taken was the selection and inclusion of some Specially Protected Areas into the UNESCO's worldwide network of biosphere reserves based on the results of the Man and the Biosphere programme from 1974. These include the Třeboňsko, Bílé Karpaty, Pálava and Křivoklátsko PLAs, and the Podyjí and Krkonoše NPs. The Czech Republic's wetlands of international significance as defined by the Ramsar Convention include 12 wetlands (e.g. the bogs of Krušnohorská rašeliniště, the fens of Šumavské slatě, the ponds and wetlands of Třeboňské rybníky a mokřady, the area around Litovelské Pomoraví etc.). The Council of Europe's European Diploma has been awarded to the Karlštejn NNR, the Bílé Karpaty PLA and the Podyjí NP. In addition, the Council of Europe has included the Blanice NNR with its large and thriving population of the freshwater pearl mussel and the Břežná – Pecopala NNR in the network of biogenetic reserves. The most recent success was the inclusion of the Český ráj PLA in UNESCO's Geoparks.