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# Implementation of NATURA 2000 in the Czech Republic



EUROPEAID/114391/D/SV/CZ

## Final Report

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## **0 Executive summary**

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The EU Phare programme has supported the establishment of NATURA 2000 in the Czech Republic through the project "The Implementation of NATURA 2000 in the Czech Republic" (Publication ref. EUROPEAID/ 114391/D/SV/CZ, Desiree No: CZ2002/000-282.06.03).

The project was carried out during the period March 2004 – September 2005 with a total project period of 19 months by a team consisting of partners from Denmark (DDH Consulting), Czech Republic (DHV CR, Arnika and Palacky University), the Netherlands (Syzygy), Belgium (Ecosystems) and the United Kingdom (IEEP).

The project basically consisted of 4 tasks: 1) Overview of the present situation and implementation of NATURA 2000 sites in the EU Member States, 2) Guidelines for management of the selected NATURA 2000 sites, 3) Training for management of selected NATURA 2000 sites and 4) Raising awareness of local communities and visitors about nature conservation and the value of NATURA 2000 sites.

In addition international experience was brought into the project and project results were communicated to international organisations through international co-ordination.

The main aims of the project were to prepare management planning and capacity building guidelines, to train protected-areas staff in the skills that are necessary for managing NATURA 2000 sites (including communication and negotiation techniques) and to improve awareness of NATURA 2000 in the Czech Republic. In addition, experience of implementing NATURA 2000 in selected EU Member States has been reviewed and the project has been coordinated with relevant international developments.

Overview reports were completed by summarising the experiences in implementing NATURA 2000 in France, Germany, Spain, the UK and Denmark and by the conclusions for the Czech Republic on site selection, management planning, protection of sites, and the involvement of stakeholders in the NATURA 2000 process.

Missions to Germany, France, Spain, the United Kingdom and Denmark provided useful lessons for Czech experts on experience

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with implementing NATURA 2000 in practice. These missions included discussions not only with NATURA 2000/nature conservation representatives but also with local stakeholders. One of the missions to Grindenschwarzwald (Germany) and Navarra (Spain), held in May 2005, focused explicitly on forest management in NATURA 2000 sites. A workshop was held with representatives of the project's demonstration sites to discuss the contents of the Overview reports, to include Missions findings into them and to modify the Overview Reports according to Beneficiary demands.

Preparation of management planning guidelines have been carried out through work at 14 demonstration sites (4 National Parks and 10 Protected landscape areas); PLA Bílé Karpaty withdrew from the project due to lack of capacity. As two new sites were added to the list, a total of 16 management planning guidelines have been prepared. These guidelines have been developed for each site setting short-term and long-term (10-year) management objectives, formulating appropriate measures and specifying milestones. The guidelines take account of the European Commission's *Managing NATURA 2000 Sites* guidance document and the requirements of the *NATURA 2000 Standard Data Form*. In addition, the recommendations of the Habitats Committee have been taken into account as far as possible.

The management guidelines have been formulated on top of a developed management model which can be applied to all Sites of Community Importance in the Czech Republic. For all sites also capacity guidelines have been developed.

A series of workshops has been held to improve the skills of management planners. These included:

- Management planning of the NATURA 2000 sites (I, II, III)
- Interpretation of NATURA sites to public
- Monitoring of NATURA sites (I, II, III)
- Effective communication and negotiation (I, II, III)
- Impact assessment of NATURA sites (I, II)
- A series of 14 model meetings with local stakeholders.

The project website ([www.dhv.cz/projekt.NATURA](http://www.dhv.cz/projekt.NATURA)) has been regularly updated throughout the project. The website provides information on the project and NATURA 2000 in both Czech and English.

Other awareness-raising activities have included the preparation of 13 videos on implementing NATURA 2000 in the Czech Republic,

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mobile exhibitions (which have displayed information on NATURA 2000 at protected areas and at various national events, such as Earth Day) and a series of brochures, leaflets and field panels on NATURA 2000.

All project actors were informed continuously of relevant developments relating to NATURA 2000, such as new publications and NATURA 2000 events etc. Links have been established to the twinning project on implementing NATURA 2000 in Slovakia (e.g. both project representatives participated at some workshops in the other country). An inventory of the need for transboundary co-operation at each demonstration site has been prepared.

From the early beginning of the project implementation, it became clear that the new legislative situation in the Czech Republic regarding nature protection had to be reflected in the project. In order to ensure that all involved experts would be up-dated to the new situation, it was decided to include a new activity in the project on this topic. A detailed analysis on the new situation on nature legislation in the Czech Republic has therefore been elaborated.

To ensure optimal synergy to previously concluded nature protection projects in the Czech Republic it was decided at an early stage to include an analysis on the background of these projects and to establish contact to relevant and related projects that were running in parallel to this project.

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# **1 Introduction**

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## **1.1 Background**

Parts of the approximation strategy which was prepared by the Czech Republic for Membership of the European Union included the adaptation and enforcing of European legislation concerning nature conservation. One of these areas concerned the Member States' obligations to designate NATURA 2000 sites inside national borders. The NATURA 2000 network is a network of sites designated according to criteria outlined in the Birds and Habitats Directives. However, the Member States are not only responsible for the designation of the sites but also responsible for proper management of the areas.

The European Commission has elaborated interpretation manuals to the management of NATURA 2000 sites, but the directives behind the NATURA 2000 have to be implemented through national legislation. This gives the Member States a wide variety of possibilities to solve nature conservation issues in quite different ways. This also means that management plans in general are elaborated in a case-to-case fashion, taking local and national traditions into consideration.

Important issues are the availability of skilled and trained personnel to carry out the practical management of NATURA 2000 sites.

The present report is the Final Report of the PHARE Project No. EUROPEAID/114391/D/SV/CZ "Implementation of NATURA 2000; Czech Republic". The content of the report is based on the Terms of Reference (ToR), the Inception Report and on Progress Reports, and it outlines how the objectives included in ToR have been met.

The project was implemented between March 1<sup>st</sup> 2004 and September 30<sup>th</sup> 2005.

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## 1.2 Project organisation

The Project Main Beneficiary was the Ministry of Environment (MoE) of the Czech Republic (CR). Other Beneficiaries were: Administration of Landscape Protected Areas of the CR (APLA CR)<sup>1</sup>, the Administration of National Parks (NPs) and the Administration authorities of Protected Landscape Areas (PLAs) within the CR and the Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic (ANCLP CR). A special role was delegated to all four NPs and to eleven selected PLAs where the Project Demonstration sites (DS15) are located.

DDH Consulting (DK) was the contracting company in association with DHV CR (CZ), Palacký University Olomouc (CZ), Syzygy (NL), Ecosystems Ltd (B), IEEP (UK) and Arnika (CZ). In addition, more than 40 experts contributed to the finalisation of the project results.

The Project Steering Committee (SC) was responsible for monitoring the achievement of all project activities and deadlines during the project implementation. Steering Committee members were nominated by the Main Beneficiary from representatives of the target group (NPs and APLA CR representatives) and by observers from MoF – CFCU, and also initially from the EU Delegation in Prague. Meetings were held on at least a 3-month basis. The Steering Committee was responsible for approval of all main projects results as well as reports submitted.

A Project Advisory Group (PAG) was established and constituted by staff from the DS15 PLAs and NPs and by the Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape protection representatives. The PAG secured that all products were as tailor-made as possible to the needs of PLAs/NPs.

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<sup>1</sup> during the project course it was renamed to Nature Conservation Authority, however this Final reports has been using the former short APLA to enable comparison with ToR and former reports



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## 2 Contract Objectives

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According to Terms of Reference (ToR) the overall Project purposes are:

“The consultant shall provide services to enhance technical and practical capacities within NP and PLA administrations in the Czech Republic for managing NATURA 2000 sites as required under EC Directives 92/43/EEC (Habitats) and 79/409/EEC (Birds), and for fostering local support in neighbour localities to NATURA 2000 sites for their conservation and establishment”

“Implementation of the project shall end up in acquirement and or improvement of skills in management of specially protected areas as well as in improvement of communication and negotiation skills related to the same field of interest, and in practical use of these skills”

and the project results are expected to be:

- 1) Better knowledge of how NATURA 2000 works in certain Member States. This analysis shall include relevant information on National legislation, like for example the detailed mechanism of funding of the sites.
- 2) Development of Practical guidelines for the management of certain types of NATURA 2000 sites with particular focus on the needs of the Czech Republic, covering a range of specific management topics; it is expected that the Czech protected area administration staff will start to apply these guidelines in their own areas well before the end of the project.
- 3) Protected areas staff and management acquiring know-how and the skills to meet technical and practical management requirements of NATURA 2000 sites as a part of the obligations of the *acquis*, through appropriate training courses.
- 4) Awareness raising among local communities and visitors about nature conservation and the value of NATURA 2000 sites.
- 5) Greater harmony in management standards and practices across national borders, through, for

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example, appropriate transmission of the results of the project to the foreign administrations in charge of the management of the part of those sites, subject of the project, containing a border between two countries.

### **Meeting the overall Contract Objectives**

- Ad1) The overall objective was met by the preparation of 5 Overview Reports. Please consult chapter 3.2 for further details.
- Ad2) The overall objective was met by the preparation of 16 management guidelines for NATURA 2000 sites. Please consult chapter 3.3 for further details.
- Ad3) The overall objective was met by carrying out adequate training activities, model meetings and workshops. Please consult chapter 3.4 for further details.
- Ad4) The overall objective was met by carrying out by means of adequate mobile exhibitions, brochures/leaflets production, Project website preparation and maintenance, 13 video-films production and training sessions. Please consult chapter 3.5 for further details.
- Ad5) The overall objective was met by carrying out a wide range of communication and information-gathering activities, such as reporting on progress to the European Commission, communicating the project to international stakeholders and ensuring that the project team was informed of all relevant international developments. Please consult chapter 3.6 for further details.

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## 3 Project Results

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### 3.1 Analysis on legislation and related projects

In order to be able to fulfil EU demands regarding NATURA 2000 implementation, the national legislation had to be adjusted accordingly. This process was ongoing (and concluded) during the very beginning of the project implementation. It was decided during the Inception Phase to include two new activities in order to meet the legislative demands and to bring in results from related projects; "Identification of relevant projects and documents" and "Analysis of actual legislation concerning management planning and NATURA 2000 in the Czech Republic".

The strategic importance of this decision soon became evident as the findings from the legislative analysis have influenced almost all other tasks of the project. The findings influenced especially the preparation of the "Overview Reports" (Task 2) and workshops on monitoring of NATURA 2000 sites and impact assessment (Task 4). Influence on the Management Guidelines elaboration (Task 3) was also very high. Finally the legislative analysis influenced also activities related to "Awareness Raising" (Task 5).

#### 3.1.1 Objectives

The overall objective of the task was:

- ▣ to identify all relevant projects and documents, and
- ▣ to analyse national legislation relevant for NATURA 2000.

#### 3.1.2 Identification of relevant projects and documents

It was considered from the very beginning of the project to evaluate all existing reports and ongoing projects relevant to NATURA 2000. The aim of this activity was to eliminate doubling of activities and to share and exchange all relevant information.

Projects which were especially valuable were the "Research and Development" programme (RD) projects which were related to the

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mapping of NATURA 2000 sites as Terms of Reference did not describe the boundaries of the demonstration sites clearly.

Indirectly other "RD" projects concerning monitoring of habitats and species from the Annexes of the Habitats Directive played an important role in that they provided experts for workshops on Guidelines preparation. The expertise was explicit on knowledge on conflicts between different ways of conservation/management of species on the sites as well as the monitoring of the sites themselves.

Other "RD" projects which were dealing with the preparation of National Management Plans for selected animal species listed in the "Habitat" and "Bird" Directives also provided experts for the Management Guidelines preparation. These experts especially supported linkage of the National Management Plans to the Management Guidelines. The Project was also based on outcomes of the project "MATRA" (bilateral programme) which was to prepare two pilot Management Plans for pSCIs in PLA Třeboňsko and Litovelské Pomoraví.

An overview of all relevant projects identified is enclosed in Annex 1.

### *3.1.3 Analysis of current legislation related to management planning and NATURA 2000 in the Czech Republic*

As already mentioned the project was implemented at a time when large changes were taking place in the Czech nature protection legislation. New legislation was approved by the Parliament shortly after the project start. Obviously the project had to begin its implementation within an environment where the new legislation had not yet been adopted on a national level as well as on a local level. The project had to take these uncertainties into consideration and the communication between the project team and the beneficiaries therefore developed into a very close and intense co-operation throughout the project implementation.

The overall analysis was carried out inside 3 different fields:

- 1) Legal issues related to the implementation of NATURA 2000 in the Czech Republic.

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The study was focused on problematic aspects of the EU *acquis* implementation, and was specifically focused on the 1) legislative regime of the NATURA 2000 sites, 2) environmental assessment of the impact of plans and projects influencing the NATURA 2000 sites pursuant to Art. 6 of the Habitat Directive and 3) “miscellaneous issues” related to the site management.

The outputs from the studies were discussed closely at meetings with APLA and PLAs/NPs staff creating an interactive process. The final version of the study was approved by SC, and it was provided to the Department of International Conservation of Biodiversity of the MoE, as well as to the PLA/NP administrations.

## 2) Legal consultation for the Administrations of PLAs/NPs

This part of the project was based on a sort of Questions and Answers methodology where all information collection was based on e-mails and telephone interviews of people dealing with the practical fieldworks at NATURA 2000 sites.

The “hot topics” were especially: the environmental impact assessment, which proved to be more complicated than expected. For example a screening done by the administrations complicated the EIA and SEA proceeding as two different procedural regulations (Act on EIA and concurrently Act on Nature and Landscape Protection) has to be fulfilled at the same time.

Various problems occurred in relation to the Forest Act, Hunting and Game Management Act and the Building Act (influencing significantly the legal status of the NATURA sites) as well as to the Administrative Proceedings Act, then also the issue of financial compensations and incentives ensuring effective management of the NATURA 2000 sites and harmless management of the areas.

## 3) Consultation and comments to legislation implementation and methodical instructions<sup>2</sup> of the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic related to NATURA 2000.

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<sup>2</sup> The Methodical instruction is not legally binding for other subjects than those, which are subordinated, to the public authority (ministry), which has issued the instruction. Ministries use methodical instructions to unify interpretation of the law.

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They were e.g. questions concerning new Decrees related to the New Act on Nature and Landscape Protection, especially the Decree on remuneration of losses due to nature protection ( e.g. agricultural or forest management measures) and the Decree on contractual protection and methodical instruction on the EIA/SEA vs. NATURA 2000, etc. Legal consultations were provided for particular issues, which were raised during meetings and negotiations, e.g. regarding interpretation of the *acquis communautaire* in relation to the appropriate implementation of the Habitat and Birds Directive, the right on information and appropriate administrative proceedings, etc.

To summarise the most challenging legislative issues, it may be concluded that the public administration staff have to face complications resulting from the transposition of the specific system of the EU nature protection set up by the *acquis communautaire* into the domestic legal system which has already been regulating both relatively time-tested protection regime of the conservation areas and EIA/ SEA. This combination of the “old” and “new” legislation - specific requirements of the EU law and numerous requirements provided by the national law - rather complicated relations between particular Acts and also lack of the relevant legal awareness within the broad public causes certain obstacles requiring systematic legal aid.

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## 3.2 Overview

### 3.2.1. Introduction

In the "Overview" Task the Project Team focused on sources of information, where it was possible to combine managerial experience of international experts with personal experience of the Czech nature conservation staff. The task was organised as a closely connected process between the Overview reports preparation and the Training missions.

The "Country reports" were prepared at the first stage of the Task execution where the sites proposed for the visits during the Training missions were described. Participants of these missions could find relevant information concerning NATURA 2000 prior to the training mission started to be able to prepare questions focusing on details.

During all missions, immediately after the site visits, the workshops were organised. Participants evaluated each visit, discussed findings and expressed uncertainties and asked questions.

In December 2004 the workshop for Training missions participants was organised where the participants of different missions exchanged information and discussed the findings with experts that had elaborated the "Country reports". The interaction between the missions' participants and authors of the Overview reports helped to modify the reports to an understandable and applicable form.

Participants of the first three missions proposed to organise similar mission for the representatives of Forests of the Czech Republic as one of the key stakeholders at most Demonstration Sites.

On the basis of the Steering Committee approval made in March 2004 that mission was organised to the selected sites where the forest management is the key issue for conservation of habitats and species. The relevant findings, gathered mostly from the point of view of the foresters, were incorporated into the Overview reports as well.

The last contribution to the Overview reports was made on the basis of a Training mission to Denmark on September 11-17, 2005 to finalise the Overview reports also on the basis of the Danish experience with NATURA 2000.

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Results from the Task 2 were targeted to several other Tasks as well. Especially the personal experience and good knowledge of the management practices abroad helped to develop the Management Guidelines (Task 3) and participants of the missions were the key persons from PLA and NP administrations who had been involved in the process of the Management Guidelines preparation. One of the key outputs of the Missions and Overview reports were findings, which concern the necessity to improve communication skills.

Experience obtained was many times discussed at various seminars and workshops, the inspiration has supported some of the Task 5 (Awareness raising) activities as well.

### *3.2.2 Objectives*

The objective of Task 2 was to improve knowledge of how NATURA 2000 is implemented in the EU-Member States. This is to be achieved by evaluating the level of transposition and implementation of the Habitats and Birds Directives in these countries. The work focused on:

- Five EU Member States (France, Germany, Spain, the UK and Denmark) that are considered to provide lessons that are most relevant to the situation in the Czech Republic;
- Specific sites in EU-15 Member States, chosen to be comparable in terms of habitats and species to selected sites in the Czech Republic, but also reflecting relevant human influences such as agriculture and tourism;
- Particular aspects of implementation and management, in particular areas of conflict, means of designation and issues of financing and legal transposition.

### *3.2.3. Activities*

#### **Training Missions**

There were five Training missions organised during the project implementation. They were arranged especially for DS15, MoE, ANCLP, APLA, the Czech Environmental Inspection and Forest of the Czech Republic representatives. More than 80 participants from 10 PLAs and 4 NPs administrations as well as from the other Beneficiary bodies took part in them.



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NATURA 2000 sites in Germany, the UK, France, Spain and Denmark were visited. Workshops on management planning were organised within each of the missions, where issues regarding prioritisation and selection of the NATURA 2000 sites visited were discussed.

A meeting for all participants from the first three Training missions was organised in Srní (Šumava National Park) in December 2004. At this workshop the findings from the Training missions were discussed and the final conclusions were passed on to the team finalising the Overview Reports.

The last Training mission was organised for representatives of the Main Beneficiary in order to, in close co-operation, to finalise the Overview Report on NATURA 2000 management. This mission took place in September 2005 in Denmark.

**Overview of the Training Missions:**

TM. 1: Germany, England, Wales (September 10th – 19th 2004)  
(*Project team, DS15, MoE, ANCLP and APLA representatives*)

Two sites in England (New Forest, Salisbury Plains), one site in Wales (Corrs Caron) and one site in Germany (River Ems floodplains) were visited. Management planning of the peat bogs, moorlands and floodplains was the main target.

TM. 2: Germany, France, Spain (incl. participation on EUROPARC Federation meeting; September 23rd - October 3rd 2004)

(*Project team, DS15, MoE, ANCLP and APLA representatives*)

The training mission included a visit to Gindenschwarzwald, Germany, where management of mountain forests was focused on forest grazing. One of the issues was the calamity caused by storms and the follow-up measures to protect forests against bark beetle in coniferous vegetation. The second part included a visit to Grand Causses, France, where the main issue was the karst habitats management. The next visit to Navarra (Spain) concerned mountain beech forests, mountain pastures and wetlands in the western Pyrenees. The last part of Training mission 2 included joint activities together with the EUROPARC Federation. The participants on the Training mission took part at 5 workshops and 5 various field trips focused on the various habitats of NATURA 2000 sites.

TM. 3: Germany (October 14th – 17th 2004)

(*Project team, DS15, MoE, ANCLP and APLA representatives*)

The mission was focused on management of NATURA 2000 sites in Thuringen and Hessen in Germany. Various managerial techniques

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were studied, especially those focused on forest habitats and species management, traditional local environment-friendly agriculture and raising public awareness.

TM. 4: Germany, France, Spain (May 15th – May 22nd 2005)  
(*Project team, Czech Environmental Inspection, Czech State Forest*)

The Mission was focused on the management of forest sites of NATURA 2000. Sites in Grindenschwarzwald (Germany) and Navarra (Spain) were visited.

TM. 5: Denmark (September 11th – September 17th 2005)  
(*Project Team, MoE representatives*)

The last Mission was focused on the finalisation of the Overview reports on the basis of NATURA 2000 management and practice in Denmark.

Detailed agenda, lists of participants and minutes from the Training missions are attached as Training Missions reports in Annexes (in Czech).

### **Overview reports**

Based on the Training missions and evaluations of procedures in the “old” EU member states five Overview reports were elaborated:

Report 1: Overview of the most serious mistakes and problems in NATURA 2000 management;

Report 2: Overview of national sources of financing for NATURA 2000;

Report 3: Overview of conservation management in NATURA 2000;

Report 4: Overview of capacity building

Report 5: Description of the transposition of Article 4(4) versus 6(1) of the Habitats Directive.

For better understanding of the reports, one specific report was prepared: Introduction to the sites covered by the thematic reports.

Initially the reports were written as “Country Reports” in order to provide the participants of the Training Missions the necessary background information with respect to site-specific conditions.

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Shortly after finalisation of the third Training Mission the “Country Reports” were rewritten into the topic specific reports listed above. The reports were revised several times during the project implementation, especially after finalisation of the last Training missions but also after several workshops held on the topics. The full versions of the Overview reports are enclosed in Annex 2.

The outcomes of the Task 2 can be summarised as follows:

- ❖ Demonstration sites staff and other Beneficiary representatives received a lot of various recommendations on management approaches and procedures based both on the “training missions” experience and on conclusions of the Overview reports content which can be used, modified adequately, also in the Czech Republic.
- ❖ Demonstration sites staff and other Beneficiary representatives spent a lot of time together (Training Missions, relevant seminar) to get better acquainted and to exchange opinions in the mirror of the experience gathered.
- ❖ Training mission participants could comment the Overview reports drafts (e-mail communication, discussion during the seminar above). These remarks, opinions and comments based on the personal experience have brought a lot of new ideas to the team preparing the Overview Reports, with the aim to elaborate “tailored” reports according to the Czech situation.

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## 3.3 Guidelines

### 3.3.1 Introduction

There has been long tradition on site management in National Parks, Protected Landscape Areas and nature reservations in the Czech Republic. In the 1980s management was basically executed without regular plans, as all activities were based on personal decisions of nature conservation staff only. Later on since 1992 when the Act on Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection came into power, the first Guidelines for protected sites management were elaborated.

However, for NATURA 2000 sites management it was necessary to find a new way how to adapt the EU rules to the Czech condition. The analysis was carried out using the findings from Task 2 and from the international co-ordination work. Based on local experience with management planning and knowledge on the NATURA 2000 obligations the Guidelines for management of NATURA 2000 sites were prepared. The first step was to analyse the sites and capacity needed and to prepare the frame in which the Guidelines were to be developed.

### 3.3.2 Objectives

The overall objective of the Task was to prepare two sets of guidelines that describe a methodology of practical management of a selection of 15 NATURA 2000 sites in the Czech Republic. It is required by ToR that the two sets of guidelines are drafted in a way that ensures that the recommendations immediately can be implemented.

- Set 1: Guidelines for management of 15 selected NATURA 2000 Demonstration Sites listed in ToR (see below). The guidelines should be based on the particular habitat types and species (ref. to Annexes of the Habitats Directive) occurring at every Demonstration Site. It is required that different guidelines are prepared for every Demonstration Site. It was expected that the consultant should have arranged working groups at every site, composed of staff from the sites supported by temporary external expertise.

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- Set 2: This set of guidelines should focus on the capacity needs which should be available at a NATURA 2000 site, e.g. the numbers and profiles of staff at the site, administration arrangements and equipment required. Further, it was required that the consultant visited all Demonstration Sites and did a particular assessment to this extent.

Original list of demonstration sites:

1. Beskydy PLA (Javorník-Razula)
2. Bílé Karpaty PLA (Kazivec Valley)
3. Blanský les PLA (Vyšenské Hills)
4. České Středoohoří PLA (Milešovka Hill)
5. České Švýcarsko NP ( the whole NP)
6. Jeseníky PLA (Praděd Mountain)
7. Křivoklátsko PLA (Křivoklátsko)
8. Krkonoše NP (the whole NP)
9. Labské pískovce PLA (Labe River Canyon)
10. Lužické hory PLA (Chřibská)
11. Moravský Kras PLA (Macoča)
12. Pálava PLA (Pavlovské Hills)
13. Podýjí NP (Klaper 's brook)
14. Šumava NP (southern part)
15. Žďárské vrchy PLA (V. Dářko fishpond)

Further, the guidelines for the management of NATURA 2000 sites had to be prepared on the base of these wishes from the Ministry of Environment:

- To assist the Ministry of Environment to implement the Habitats Directive in the Czech Republic;
- To assist the central administration to collect information and data for reporting between the state and EC;
- To develop the Czech management planning approach using the traditional knowledge and experience in management planning learned during the last 25 years;
- To avoid the doubling of the management planning (avoiding preparation of extra management plans for NATURA 2000 sites and for protected areas under the Czech national law);
- To determine priorities, long-term goals and milestones and tools for their replenishment;
- To reduce the conflicts between the management of various habitats and species to each other (internal conflicts), e.g. to avoid the conflicts between the NATURA

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- 2000 features as well as other features protected by national law at the same site
  - \* To identify all stakeholders at sites and initiate and support sustainable dialogue between them and nature conservation administration.

The Ministry of Environment established and nominated the Project Advisory Group (PAG) and the Steering Committee (SC). Both the groups, especially the PAG, were sharing the active participation in the preparation of the two sets of Guidelines. The Ministry was continuously making comments and suggestions to the work, in order to ensure that the resulting Guidelines would match its specific needs.

The project team made use of the lessons learned during the implementation of the MATRA project in the Czech Republic, and experience gained from other EU countries (see Task 2 – Training Missions and Overview Reports). As the selected pilot sites vary considerably in habitat and species composition, size, administrative set up and, not the least, in specific local social, economical and political relations (i.e. reasons for designation), a site specific approach was used, based on experience of local site managers.

The Guidelines preparation was always carefully co-ordinated with other tasks including the workshops, Training Missions, and also the international co-ordination, providing valuable information that was included into the Guidelines. Thus, the final management guidelines were based upon EU requirements and recommendations and international experience – adapted to Czech conditions and the specific sites in question.

As required by the ToR the management guidelines were based on a common overall frame worked out early in the project, which can be used for management planning in other protected areas. The final version of the two sets of guidelines was delivered to the Beneficiary in the Czech language (see Annex 3).

However, the staff of PLA Bílé Karpaty due to other obligations was not able to participate in the process of guidelines preparation as well as in other project activities. Since this situation was accepted by the Steering Committee, the project team had to find a way to replenish the project content according to the Terms of Reference. It was decided to choose other NATURA 2000 site(s) in one of the demonstration sites, especially where the staff was deeply involved

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in the process. Finally two new NATURA 2000 sites were found and approved in Křivoklátsko PLA where the diversity of sites, different protection objectives (habitats as well as species) provided the opportunity to elaborate other sets of Guidelines.

### 3.3.3 *Activities*

All objectives required by the ToR under Task 3 Guidelines were fulfilled by the activities listed below.

#### 1) Management Guidelines

- Establishment of working groups for each site, composed of staff from the site, supported by temporary external experts of the project team. These working groups were created and involved early in the process, in order to secure high degree of “ownership” towards the Management Guidelines.
- Analyses of the actual situation on each of the demonstration sites, including gap analysis of the biological data available, identification and description of main stakeholders, identification of major management problems, interest conflicts and an overview of the significant documents relevant to the site. As part of this activity questionnaires were submitted to and answered by Demonstration Sites representatives, visits were made to all Demonstration Sites and findings were summarised in an internal overview working report.
- Preparation of an overall frame for Guidelines based on the EU criteria and international experience and adapted to both Czech and site-specific conditions. Continuous testing, improving and revision of guidelines throughout the project period, site visits, workshops, inputs from international co-ordination, training missions, expert consultations and proposals from the Steering Committee, Project Advisory Group and Ministry of Environment.
- Finalisation of 16 Management Guidelines as a practical output to be of immediate use for the practical management at the demonstration sites as well as for other appropriate NATURA 2000 sites within the Czech Republic:

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1. Beskydy PLA - pSCI Beskydy CZ0724089
  2. Blanský les PLA - pSCI Blanský les CZ0314124
  3. České Středoohoří PLA - pSCI Milešovka CZ0420416
  4. České Švýcarsko NP - pSCI České Švýcarsko CZ042031
  5. Jeseníky PLA - pSCI Praděd CZ0714077
  6. Křivoklátsko PLA - pSCI Lánská obora CZ0214008
  7. Křivoklátsko PLA - pSCI Týřov – Oupoř CZ0214011
  8. Křivoklátsko PLA - pSCI Vůznice CZ0214015
  9. Krkonoše NP - pSCI Krkonoše CZ 524044
  10. Labské pískovce PLA - pSCI Labské údolí CZ0424111
  11. Lužické hory PLA –suggested pSCI Spravedlnost Chřibská
  12. Moravský Kras PLA - pSCI Moravský kras CZ0624130
  13. Pálava PLA - pSCI Děvín CZ0624104
  14. Podyjí NP - pSCI Klaperův potok CZ0624096
  15. Šumava NP - pSCI Šumava CZ0314024
  16. Žďárské vrchy PLA - pSCI Dářská rašeliniště CZ0614053

To summarise the Task outputs, the Management Guidelines were prepared with reference to EU Standards and Guidance documents. Experience from other countries was taken into account and adapted according to Czech experience and site-specific conditions. A common management frame for future use in other protected areas was elaborated. The Guidelines were prepared involving as many stakeholders as possible, in close co-operation with experts and NGOs – and the people who were actually going to carry out the management of the sites.

As something quite new, the Guidelines reflected the Favourable Conservation Status concept and the Conservation Status of the species and habitats that the sites have been designated for, to form the basis of the management objectives of the sites.

Management Guidelines are enclosed in Annex 3.



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## 2) Capacity-building guidelines

The details on the Capacity Building Guidelines were agreed in close co-operation with the Steering Committee, the Project Advisory Group and the Ministry of Environment.

The objective of the sub-task – to focus on the capacities needed at a NATURA 2000 site, e.g. the numbers and profiles of staff at the sites, administration arrangements and equipment required – was fulfilled by the activities listed below:

- Preparation of questionnaires focusing on site specific needs of manpower, its profiles and equipment needs for management of NATURA 2000 sites.
- Collection of data, summarising and analysing of the capacity needs for the Demonstration Sites.
- Follow up, revisions and improvements of capacity-building guidelines through site visits, training missions, workshops and consultations with individual experts.

Capacity Guidelines are enclosed in Annex 3.

### 3.4 Training

#### 3.4.1. Introduction

The training activities under the project aimed at providing protected areas staff know-how and skills needed to meet the technical and practical requirements of NATURA 2000 sites management in the Czech Republic.

#### 3.4.2. Objectives

The following objectives were set by the ToR:

1. The staff from PLA should be adequately trained in the technical and practical managerial skills (especially improving communication and negotiation skills with local stakeholders);
2. To achieve greater awareness among the local communities of the importance of nature conservation and the purpose of the NATURA 2000 network;

#### 3.4.3. Activities

##### Workshops delivered during the project implementation

To meet the objectives the cycles of workshops and model meetings were prepared. A list of the executed workshops and model meetings is shown below.

Seminars Time Schedule				
Workshop	Location	Date	Target Groups	No. of Participants
Effective communication and negotiation I-III	Podlesi	Mar. 8-10	PLAA/NPA staff	27
	Křivoklát	Sept. 14-16	MoE staff	15
	Křivoklát	Sept. 21-23	MoE staff	15
Management planning I	Moravský Kras	Sept 2004	Karsts' PLA staff participants from training missions	50
	Mission I-III	Sept.-Oct. 2004		
Management planning II	Šumava- Srní	Dec. 7-9	Staff from PLAs' and NPs', participants from training missions	55
Forms of presentation to the public	Křtiny-Mor. Kras	Feb. 15-18	Staff from DS15	43

Monitoring of NATURA sites I, II	Podlesí-Vysočina	Feb. 22-24	Staff from 15 DS	52
	Deštné-Prim	Mar. 22-24		48
Monitoring III - Management	Podlesí	Apr. 5-7	Staff from 15 DS and other experts	30
Impact assessment NATURA sites I, II	Autoclub Prague	June 10	Staff from 15 DS	43
	Hotel Flóra, Olomouc	June 17		37
Finalisation of Guidelines	Prague, CENIA	Sep. 5	SC members, DS15, other PLA staff	31
Final conference	Křivoklát, Hotel Sýkora	Sep. 6	MoE representatives, PLAs and NPs staff, Project team members, Regional Authority Staff	50

### Model Meetings delivered during the project implementation

<b>Model Meeting Time Schedule</b>				
<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Target Groups</b>	<b>No. of Participants</b>
Moravian Karst, Macocha	June 21	Management plans in NATURA sites	PLA Staff, farmers, municipalities, hunters	32
Jeseniky, Barborka	July 19-20	Dwarf pine reduction	PLA staff, Foresters, Regional authorities	26
Beskydy	May 4	Completion of management guidelines	PLA/NP staff, local stakeholders	7
Ceské Svýcarsko	May 6	Completion of management guidelines	PLA/NP staff regional and local authorities	11
Podyji	May 10	Completion of management guidelines	PLA/NP staff, local stakeholders	7
Křivoklát – info. centre	Aug. 29	NATURA 2000 in Lany Park	PLA staff, foresters, River Authorities	16
Křivoklát, Hotel Sýkora	Aug. 30	Mink	PLA staff, hunters, foresters, municipalities	28
Podyji, Cizov – visitor centre	Sep. 13	NATURA 2000 and EIA	PLA staff, foresters, vintners, municipalities	20
Křivoklát, Hotel Sýkora	Sep. 20	Marketing of local products	PLA staff, municipalities, regional authorities	10
Pálava	Aug. 28	NATURA 2000 implementation	PLA staff, local stakeholders	178
Luzicke hory	Sep. 2	NATURA 2000 implementation	PLA staff, local stakeholders	12
Šumava, Hotel Pstruh, Stozec	Sep. 27	Management of NATURA 2000 sites	NP staff, stakeholders, foresters, farmers, municipalities	15

Workshop Reports which includes Invitation, List of Participants and Minutes are included in Annex 4.

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Effective communication and negotiation I-III: One workshop was held for new staff of PLAs and APLA (52 participants) on March 8-10, 2005, hotel Podlesí. A number of issues regarding communication and effective negotiation were trained. Video training was used as a tool as well. Participants have asked for repeating such workshop and recommended to invite particularly directors of PLAs and NPs for it. However, this second workshop initially planned for April was cancelled by decision-making of APLA headquarters due to lack of time of all PLAs employees. During September two more workshops were organised for the new staff of MoE in Křivoklát (see Workshop reports in Annex 4).

"Management Planning I": Workshops (50 participants in total) were organised during each Training Missions (TM) I-III. Two evenings during each TM were devoted to summarising findings on management, discussing them and proposing the best way for implementation under the Czech conditions. All the above workshops were facilitated by trainers and facilitators.

"Management Planning II": The workshop was held in Srní, Šumava, December 2004. (55 participants) Three groups of participants were working on the following topics;

- a) discussion and clarification of findings from TM,
- b) identification of recommended measures for NATURA 2000 implementation in the CR,
- c) proposition of tools and methods for NATURA 2000 implementation in the CR.

The workshop closed the first part of the Project and set progress for the next project period. Conclusions were used as an input to the Overview Reports (see Task 2).

"Management of NATURA 2000 karst areas": The workshop was organised in September 2004 in co-operation with PLA Moravský Kras and PLA Pálava. The specific character of NATURA 2000 objects in karst areas requires specific types of management. The results from the working groups were used for preparation of the Guidelines for the karst Demonstration sites (Moravský kras, Pálava) and similar habitats at other sites (Křivoklátsko, Podýjí).

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"Forms of presentation to public": The workshop was held in Křtiny, February 2005 (46 participants) in co-operation with Environmental Partnership. For initial discussion about the significance of interpretation, participants were shown video from several spots (e.g. NP Snowdonia in Wales, Adršpach in PLA Broumovsko). Preparation of brochures, leaflets and posters was also discussed. As a main output from the workshop the participants prepared their own "proposal of interpretation" for several places of tourism interest in the area of PLA Moravský kras (the case study).

"Monitoring of NATURA 2000 sites I": The workshop was held at Podlesí, February 2005 (52 participants). The workshop was focused on monitoring issues of botanical ecosystems. Evaluation of the Guidelines preparation process was also included. Each DS15 introduced their proposal to the Management Guidelines which was followed by a discussion of the proposal.

Specific recommendations from the workshop on management Guidelines elaboration were:

- to unify the procedure of Guidelines preparation;
- to exchange experience with management methods between PLAs, NPs and Regional Authorities in future;
- to exchange negotiation experience with stakeholders;
- to propose topics for interministerial meetings (MoE and MoA).

"Monitoring of NATURA 2000 sites II": The workshop was held at Deštné, March 2005 (48 participants). The workshop was divided into two parts: During the first part the participants were trained in monitoring methods on zoological and hydrobiological objects and discussions were held on monitoring of selected groups of animal species or species themselves (butterflies, amphibians, birds, invertebrates, River Otter and the European Beaver).

The subject of the workshop second part was the identification and solutions of the potential conflicts between management of NATURA 2000 sites (habitats) and species living on these sites.

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"Monitoring and Management": The workshop was held at Podlesí, April 2005 (37 participants). This workshop followed up the previous workshops focusing on monitoring as well as the meetings during the training missions and workshop in Srní and it has enabled co-ordination of Management Guidelines elaboration.

All participants received the draft Guidelines in advance being asked for preparation of discussion topics for plenary session during the workshop. The goal of the workshop was to set the way for completion Guidelines for all DS15.

Workshops on the topic above were all prepared in co-operation with experts from the "RD" project concerning monitoring of habitats and species of Community importance.

Recommendations: to exchange experience on negotiation with stakeholders; to prepare unified proposal of the form and scope of monitoring for Demonstration Sites (see workshops Monitoring I, II).

"Impact Assessment of NATURA 2000 sites I, II": The workshops were held in Prague, June 10 (43 participants) and Olomouc, June 17 (37 participants). All issues of the new assessment procedure were presented and discussed. The main topics were:

- relation between EIA/SEA and NATURA 2000 sites assessment;
- screening process of project/plan impact assessment in relation to NATURA 2000 sites ;
- exchange of practical experience with procedure according to §45 i) of the Act on Conservation and Landscape Protection;
- whether it is or it is not desirable to continue in providing of similar workshops for all stakeholders who were identified.

Additional 3 workshops were prepared on the base of SC acceptance:

"Management Planning of NATURA 2000 sites in Karst Areas in the CR": The International workshop (30 participants), took place in Palava PLA (Project Demonstration Site) on September 21-22, 2004. The main objective of the workshop was to coordinate planning and implementation of NATURA 2000 issues in all karst areas in the Czech Republic and to exchange the team experience with that one provided by participants from other karst areas in EU.

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As the management planning in the karst areas is one of the specific aims of the project, the workshops organised by PLA Moravský Kras and PLA Pálava was co-financed from the project sources. “Process of finalisation of Guidelines”: The seminar was held in Prague, September 5 (31 participants). Discussion was held on the procedure, achievements and problems encountered during the process of Guidelines preparation. Significant findings, recommendations and capacity needs were presented and discussed.

Final Conference: The Conference was held in Křivoklát on September 6, 2005 (50 participants). The Conference focused on the presentation of the project results to the nature conservation bodies, which did not participate in the project so far, other departments of MoE relevant to the project content, PLAs which were not involved in the project (by ToR), and representatives of regional authorities.

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## **Model Meetings delivered during the Project course**

Model Meeting 1: – Macocha, Moravian Karst, 21 June (32 participants). The goal of the MM was to explain procedures, which are necessary for NATURA 2000 implementation. The methods of care about NATURA sites were explained just on site. Discussion was held after that.

Model Meeting 2: – Mountain challet Barborka, Jeseníky, July 19-20 (26 participants). The main topic of the meeting was the reduction of dwarf pine in NATURA 2000 sites. After an open discussion the agreement on future progress was reached. The representatives of both main stakeholders (PLA Jeseníky and Forests of the CR) agreed on time schedule of future steps. Information on the "Study" and "Research Project" focusing on the dwarf pine reduction was given as a background for discussion.

Model Meeting 3: – Administration building of PLA Beskydy, 4 May (7 participants). Experts dealing with management planning in Beskydy PLA and the project team experts met to discuss the development of the actual management plans and their compliance with the Project Management Guidelines.

Model Meeting 4: – Administration building České Švýcarsko NP, 6 May (11 participants). The situation in North Bohemia is very specific because one National Park (České Švýcarsko) and 3 Protected Landscape Areas (Labské Pískovce, Lužické Hory, České Středohoří) share the boundaries. Therefore a meeting was organised to improve the co-operation of local management planners to achieve better regional management of all the above four NATURA 2000 sites in the given area.

Model Meeting 5: – Administration building Podyjí National Park, 10 May (7 participants). The xerotherm habitats of southern Moravia have specific attributes. The Team of the Task 3 decided to take part in the model meeting, where the experts - well oriented in issues relating to the xerotherm habitats - could exchange their experience and enrich the Guidelines preparation.

Model Meeting 6: - Křivoklát Info Centre, August 29, (14 participants). Discussion topic was "Lány Park - Management inside this pSCI". Participants have tried to found "sustainable water management, forest management and countryside management as well". They closed the meeting with an agreement for future co-operation.



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Model Meeting 7: - Křivoklát, Hotel Sýkora, August 30, (28 participants). Discussion topic was the American Mink and other invasive animal species - Management measures from the point of the pSCI. Participants tried to identify measures for management of key habitats and species. Future co-operation was agreed at the meeting.

Model Meeting 8: – Čížov, Visitor centre of the Podýjí National Park, September 13, 20 participants. Local stakeholders were invited to the meeting, which was focused on the proposed management goals and tools to be used at the site. The stakeholders were informed about the Management guidelines prepared within the project and its consequences at the site. During discussion comments were raised to the proposed management.

Model Meeting 9: - Křivoklát Hotel Sýkora, September 19 (10 participants). PLA Křivoklátsko and the township of Křivoklát are well known tourist areas. Tens of thousands of visitors are visiting the area every year. The meeting was focused on the local producers who can enrich the local gift – market and other kind of markets to promote the importance of NATURA 2000 in the area.

Model Meeting 10: – PLA Pálava, August 28 (178 participants). There are protected habitats and species (a cave and many bats) as protected features of the NATURA 2000 site. The international event “Bats’ Night” was good opportunity to explain the importance of the NATURA 2000 site “Pavlovské vrchy” to the wide public, as well as of the system NATURA 2000 itself, aimed at protection of the above endangered species.

Model Meeting 11: – PLA Lužické hory, September 2 (25 participants). Similar “Bats’ Night” was organized in Lužické hory and became, again, good opportunity to explain the importance of the NATURA 2000 covering the given site to the local people.

Model Meeting 12: – NP Šumava, hotel Pstruh, Stožec, September 27 (15 participants). Just from a very beginning of the National Park Šumava establishment there was a lot of complaints to its existence. There was necessary to explain to the local people, especially mayors and representatives of the local communities, how NATURA 2000 could promote the area and bring a lot of specific activities and jobs to local people. A lot of examples from the Training Missions were presented at the meeting.

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## Key findings, results and recommendations

- ☒ During the evaluation workshop of the Project first part (Srní, Šumava), December 8-9, 2004, the participants discussed the findings and experience from Missions I-III and proposed the best ways for implementing them under current Czech conditions. Proposals were also used for preparation of the workshop cycle;
- ☒ PLA staff, incl. their heads was really eager to be trained in the communication skills. Capacity of the first workshop emptied by that. The second training was refused by APLA (see above), therefore training was targeted to other beneficiaries (MoE and ANCLP), which was appreciated.
- ☒ During and also after workshops training results were assessed as a really useful basis for the day-to-day practice of participants;
- ☒ Participants proposed and asked for repeating some of the workshops, namely the "Effective communication and negotiation", "Interpretation of NATURA 2000 sites"; similar training courses would be appreciated also after the Project course is finished.
- ☒ Participants recommended to continue with such types of projects and appreciated particularly:
  - \* Interactive methods of training
  - \* Enthusiasm and professionalism of trainers
  - \* Pleasant and friendly atmosphere, sense of humour
- ☒ Practical results of the model meetings confirmed that the PLA/NP staff and also stakeholders involved in the project really improved their communication and negotiation skills (e.g. gentleman agreement concerning ongoing co-operation in the forest management solutions in the area was reached at the model meeting (see above) in PLA Jeseniky.
- ☒ Improvement of the co-operation within MoE sector (MoE - APLA - ANCLP) and PLAs/NPs administrations was identified as a key issue for better performance of nature conservation in the Czech Republic;
- ☒ Unfortunately the co-operation with APLA was complicated

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during the whole period of the project course. Three mutually approved workshops had to be cancelled/postponed (even one week before delivery) and, of course, organized on a different date, which was quite demanding for the Team;

- Resources for the NATURA 2000 sites management are one of the key tools for successful conservation of the habitats and sites. Unfortunately, the resources and conditions for their use are changing fast, that's why a system of continuous training in the above issues should be prepared.

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## 3.5 Raising Awareness

### 3.5.1 Introduction

The task on raising awareness was focused on raising awareness of local communities and visitors about nature conservation and the value of NATURA 2000 sites in general. Among other the activities under the task included making video-films, a project website, a mobile exhibition and production of brochures and leaflets and performing of training sessions and a number of ad-hoc awareness raising activities.

### 3.5.2 Objectives

The objectives were to create greater awareness among all stakeholders (including local communities, public authorities, landowners, businessmen, NGOs, visitors of NATURA 2000 sites, etc.) of the importance of nature conservation, purpose of the NATURA 2000 network and values of NATURA 2000 sites.

### 3.5.3 Activities

On the basis of Terms of Reference and their adaptation during the negotiation process in the Inception phase the scope of the Task has been set as follows (the hierarchy of description follows the priorities of the Steering Committee concerning the sub-tasks significance for the project objectives):

#### **Video films**

According to the ToR three 1-hour videos of total 180 minutes length should have been made. On the basis of discussions with DS15 representatives and the Beneficiary the structure was proposed to be changed to at least 8-12 films, each 13-26 minutes long (TV format). This approved new structure finally concluded into even 13 films, which exceed the demanded length significantly. Twelve of them cover demonstration sites individually and one involves two "sister" sites (NP České Švýcarsko and PLA Labské pískovce). Video for PLA Bílé Karpaty has not been produced for reasons mentioned in the former chapters.

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Procedure of all videos preparation included a.o. discussion on scenarios not only with the relevant PLAs/NPs representatives but also with other beneficiaries. Approved scenarios were used for demo-videos elaboration, a selection of which was presented to PAG/SC meetings in several rounds to enable discussion on their content and format prior to the final editing. A special sub-PAG group was created to ensure regular contact with the video-maker. Since the ToR did not include a technical specification, the Consultant decided to use the highest quality carrier – distribution of films on DVDs. 135 copies of the films, as required by the ToR for the original three 1-hour videos, were not sufficient for all the beneficiaries. The consultant therefore agreed to produce 320 DVDs for all PLAs/NPs involved, MoE and APLA.

### **Project Website**

The project website has been serving as an information platform for the team/ Beneficiary and the public during the whole project course. On the basis of the SC decision it was kept individually, not as a part of ANCLP NATURA 2000 website. It consisted of a 3-level system. First of them has been providing more general information on NATURA 2000 both in the EU Member States and in the CR, the second one has been presenting the project partial outputs approved by SC and the project development to make also promotion both of NATURA 2000 and the project itself. The third internal level, accessible only by a password, has been serving the project team (and SC, PAG and beneficiaries) to comment the working, not approved materials. Selected documents were distributed by the project e-mail list to make involvement of Beneficiary as simple as possible. It was decided during the last SC meeting that the project website has been restructured just at the end of the project to present only significant project outputs (e.g. Overview reports, Guidelines, etc.) and will be maintained by the Consultant for the next 2-3 years. It should also be linked with the official NATURA 2000 web page.

### **Mobile exhibition**

The use of a mobile exhibition was discussed by the PAG and the SC with doubts on possibilities of this tool to raise awareness of NATURA 2000 as demanded by ToR. However, it has appeared during the project that this tool was underestimated and, finally,

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the mobile exhibition was found as one of the most effective tools. It should have consisted of the only set to be presented at the Demonstration Sites. Raising demands has made the Consultant to produce another copy of it (slightly updated) to enable exhibit it at two sites at the same time. Moreover, since the former idea to present it at the Demonstration Sites only has been extended to support project activities (seminars, model meetings) and to make synergy of the project tasks by it, the specific panels have been added, e.g. for PLA Jeseníky, Žďárské vrchy, Pálava, etc. Mobile exhibition was also presented to wider public in places like tube station Karlovo nám. in Prague, local authorities buildings (Brno), environmental events (Ekologické dny Olomouc), the Earth Day, etc. It is estimated that several thousand visitors could see this exhibition in more than 10 places in the Czech Republic. It is expected that the mobile exhibition will be used - with the permission of the Beneficiary - also during the post-project period if requested.

### **Brochures/leaflets**

As for brochures/leaflets concerns it was recommended and approved by the SC to postpone detailed description of this sub-Task from the Inception phase to the more stabilized situation till the Act on Nature and Landscape Protection amendment was published and its influence was analysed. Discussion and potential decision on the brochures/leaflets content was held on the three-month basis as a part of regular agenda of each SC meeting. Finally, in the fifth and sixth project quarter, the SC approved applications of PLAs/NPs for brochures/leaflets expenses and, at the same time, extended their application (to support the mobile exhibition) as a more general tool to raise awareness of NATURA 2000 at the Demonstration Sites. In such a way the content and format of brochures/leaflets were the adapted to needs and demands identified by Demonstration Sites themselves.

Seven brochures, posters and leaflets have been produced: 2 posters for PLA Beskydy, brochures for PLAs Blanský les and Lužické hory, a leaflet for NP Šumava, a leaflet to support a panel (see below) for PLA Jeseníky and instructive sheets as result of co-operation of PLAs Moravský kras and Pálava with NGOs.

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### **Training sessions**

During the Inception Phase it was negotiated and then approved by the SC that training sessions to be held at the Demonstration Sites will be included into the system of trainings (see Inception Report). This SC decision was based on the similarity of training sessions and model meetings in demonstration areas and that's why they were combined together to avoid either isolated actions or duplication.

### **Ad-hoc raising awareness activities**

Press conferences, press releases and other awareness tools have been proposed by the Consultant during the Inception Phase to extend ToR demands and to raise awareness of NATURA 2000 by that. Similar three-month basis procedure was used to select and approve proposals of demonstration sites representatives. Finally two activities were selected: Panel on Praděd NATURA 2000 site in PLA Jeseníky and panel on V. Dářko site in PLA Žďárské vrchy, both of them to be installed in open space. Both panels have been produced; the installation itself will be decided according to the weather (probably only in spring to prolong their quality for the next season).

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## 3.6 International co-ordination

### 3.6.1 Introduction

Regular communication on international co-ordination took place throughout the project through periodic meetings with the project team, the Steering Committee and other experts, and through written and electronic means.

### 3.6.2 Objectives

The international co-ordination actions were designed to achieve two main objectives, as follows:

1. To communicate all relevant information and ideas in the international arena concerning the implementation of NATURA 2000 to the project team.
2. To communicate the results of the project and the progress in implementing NATURA 2000 in the Czech Republic to relevant foreign governmental and non-governmental organisations.

These objectives were met through two main kinds of actions:

1. Regular communication activities.
2. Specific actions.

### 3.6.3 Activities

International organisations which are actively involved in implementing NATURA 2000, such as Europarc, Eurosite and IUCN, were informed on the project. Relevant activities which could contribute to the success of the project were monitored, ensuring that the project team were informed on relevant developments relating to NATURA 2000. Examples included the circulation of information on:

- the publication of the Eurosite report *Management Planning for Protected Areas: a Guide for Practitioners*
- the work of the European Commission's Article 12 Working Group
- the publication of the report *Jewels in the Crown. Good Practices: NATURA 2000 and Leisure*
- the publication of the WWF report *NATURA 2000 in the New EU Member States*



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- the publication of the EC report *LIFE-Nature: Communicating with Stakeholders and the General Public. Best Practice Examples for NATURA 2000*.

All quarterly Progress Reports included information on the progress of the international co-ordination activities.

### Communicating with the European Commission

Communication with the European Commission on project progress has been undertaken on three occasions. The first meeting was held in September 2004 with DG Environment to provide information on the project, to report on progress and to note the comments and suggestions of the European Commission for consideration by the Steering Committee and the project team. A report of this meeting is included in this report as Annex 6.

A second meeting in June or July 2005 could not be arranged due to pressure of work in DG Environment. A written report was therefore submitted on 20 July 2005. The report summarised project progress on preparing the overview reports, the Preparation of Guidelines, the training programme, awareness-raising and international co-ordination. No comments had been received from the European Commission by the time this report was finalised. The progress report is included as Annex 6.

A third and final progress report was submitted to DG Environment in September 2005. This report confirmed that the project has been completed and that the final report would shortly be available (see as Annex 6).

### Communicating the Project

In February 2005 a presentation of the early results of the project was given to the international workshop "Training in Effective Communication and Financial Tools in Nature Protection" held in the Grasslands Research Institute, Banská Bystrica, Slovakia. The presentation (see Annex 6) focused on the possibilities for funding the implementation of NATURA 2000 using the findings of the Overview Reports.

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In July 2005 an article on the project was submitted to the editor of the European Commission's *NATURA 2000 Newsletter*. The article summarised the objectives of the project and the main results.

### Calendars of Events

At the end of every quarter a list of all upcoming events that are relevant to the implementation of NATURA 2000 in the Czech Republic was prepared and included in each Progress Report. These events included conferences, seminars and workshops, both international events/meetings and those organised in the Czech Republic. The calendars of events, each listing an average of over 20 meetings, were included in each Progress Report and circulated to the team and the Steering Committee.

### Transboundary Co-operation

The need for transboundary co-operation at the DS15 was assessed. The assessment showed that, of the 10 sites located on (or very close to) an international border, there is a need for international co-operation at 7 of the sites. This co-operation covers issues such as the risk for forests, such as pioneer trees, bush and invasive species expanding into Czech territory, tourism management and fishing along a transboundary river. The assessment is included as Annex 6.

The direct transboundary co-operation activities were found in the following National Parks and PLAs:

1. Beskydy PLA
2. České Svýcarsko NP
3. Krkonoše NP
4. Labské pískovce PLA
5. Lužické hory PLA
6. Podují NP
7. Šumava NP
- 8.

Greater harmony in management standards and practices across national borders has been promoted by distributing the main results of the Management Planning Guidelines to the administrations of the following protected areas in countries bordering the Czech Republic.

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## **4 Project evaluation - lessons learned**

### **4.1 Introduction**

Based upon the minutes of the SC meetings (see Annexes), the Project was managed in a professional manner. The involvement of the SC Chairman representing the Main Beneficiary (MoE) contributed to a close co-operation with the project team and provided a good co-operation between - and involvement of - PLAs, NPs - representatives and other stakeholders on a variety of tasks and sub-tasks. In the SC minutes of September 5 it is expressed that the SC-chairman is satisfied with achieved results.

Analyses of the actual ToRs, the Inception Report and the Progress Reports lead to the conclusion that all objectives defined in the Inception Report (chapter 1.2) have been achieved satisfactory. It is also concluded that the defined Main Tasks, as well as their subtasks, including the agreed new activities and modifications (Inception Report 1.4) are met in the agreed-upon time and according to the standard requested by the Main Beneficiary during the process (see Annexes). Some results of Subtask 3.2 (Capacity Building Guidelines) were impossible to produce, partly due to a lack of available - registered - information system by the State Organizations. However, the fundamental input was correct and the Capacity Building Guidelines have been produced and agreed upon.

This chapter summarises the lessons learned as well as the suggested follow up.

### **4.2 Lessons learned**

#### *4.2.1 Importance of national and international experts*

During the project it became clear that the involvement of more local experts was needed in order to ensure adequate input of local experience, culture, structure and ecological expertise. This resulted in the involvement of more Czech experts than anticipated during the Inception Phase. The positive result was a larger group of Czech experts with experience of capacity and knowledge building with regard to the implementation of NATURA 2000.

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The input of the international consultants proved to be of great added value to the project, especially their experience with project management and the implementation of NATURA 2000 in other EU member states.

*The lesson learned for the future is to ensure that local expertise is strengthened through appropriate capacity-building actions, including through making effective use of international experience.*

#### 4.2.2 Information as fundamental foundation

A crucial role in the process of project preparation was gathering the fundamental information as described in Task 2 (Overview of the present situation in the selected EU-Member States). Through the defined overview reports, the training missions, newly prepared Legislation analyses and relevant projects analyses and the International co-ordination, three objectives were achieved:

- Adapting practical international knowledge on the technical and practical level; improved implementation process
- Awareness Raising with regards to the international and national legal context
- A better understanding of the interdependency between the tasks defined in the ToR.

*The lesson learned for the future is that this preparation phase is crucial and influences the actual process of the project intensely.*

#### 4.2.3 Interdependency between tasks

On the basis of the information-input and analyses defined in Task 2, it was possible to build the Guidelines for management of NATURA 2000 (Task 3). The information collected was used as an input for training activities (Task 4) as well as the products defined in Task 5 (Awareness).

Another interdependent connection became clear between the Task 4 (Training) and Task 3 (Guidelines preparation). Well-trained staff of PLAs, NPs, MoE and APLA was able to contribute more effectively to the process of the Guidelines preparation. The workshops became an opportunity for exchange of information and collective preparation of Management Guidelines. The actual knowledge learned from Task 3 and Task 4 (and the experience found during

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the Guidelines preparation, Legislative analysis and Overview Reports) also provided enough information for PR in each site as well as for targeting videos, brochures as described in Task 5 (Awareness).

*The lesson learned: There were many interdependent links between the Tasks within the project. Hence: the project success was conditioned by the binding of the tasks and the co-operation between the task leaders.*

#### 4.2.4 Preparation of Management Guidelines

During the preparation of the Management Guidelines at the Demonstration Sites, it was secured that as many local stakeholders as possible were involved. The guidelines were prepared in close co-operation with NGOs and site managers. This "collective responsibility" approach proved to be an effective way to secure a feeling of "ownership" to the Guidelines by the people that will actually carry out the management at the DS15. Based upon the experience from other EU Member states this is known to be the most important success factor for site management.

*The lesson learned for the future is to continue this process of dialogue and involvement towards ownership. The project indicated how important is the co-operation of various stakeholders, among the nature conservation entities and exchange of information outside the state borders.*

By combining international experience on management planning (and knowledge of EU-requirements) with the technical skills and local site knowledge, two sets of guidelines were prepared in accordance with EU standards. Also the guidance documents based on international experience were adapted to the Czech experience and site-specific conditions. It was learned that the continuously testing, improving and revision of guidelines throughout the project period through site visits, workshops, inputs from international coordination, training missions, experts consultation and proposals for SC, PAG and MoE was an effective way to produce the guidelines. It showed to be time consuming, however.

*The lesson learned for the future is that the international input of knowledge and expertise is a major added value for an adequate and effective national implementation. Adapting international*

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*experience has a catalytic effect both on the learning curve as well as the effectiveness of applied and available local resources. A process structure for preparing the guidelines (on a large scale) could be developed to create a more optimal balance between positive effect and involved time.*

### **4.3 Follow up - management**

The final question is how to ensure that the stakeholders of the 863 pSCIs (later on SACs), spread across the Czech Republic will be able and motivated to define and implement the Management plans in the years to come and act in accordance with the law.

An important aspect for the follow up of this project is to consider future funding needs for NATURA 2000 (for more information see Annex 8).

#### *4.3.1 Management Plan Implementation for 863 pSCIs*

The EC has recommended that the management plan for every pSCI is be implemented within six years after its designation.

Of the 863 pSCIs only some 250 are under the control of the Administrations of PLAs and NPs, some of them have been designated as some kind of a conservation area under the Czech legislation valid before NATURA 2000.

In order to be able to meet the above requirements it is suggested that every year management plans for about 140 pSCIs are elaborated. This can only be achieved with the help of a network of consultancies and consultants, that will help the local stakeholders to understand, prepare and implement management plans through dialogue.

As applied in other EU Member States it is necessary and cost effective not only to split the above mentioned annual activities by certain number but also by area and the habitat types. The needed expertise involved with certain special management topics (such as of coniferous forest at Krkonoše, Šumava, Jeseníky, Beskydy) or special habitats should be scheduled in such a way that the experts will be able to work in a continuous flow for the coming years, meeting the requirements of the management plans.

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#### 4.3.2 *Integration of NATURA 2000 Management Plans into existing plans*

During the last 13 years, since the Act on Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection has been adopted, above thousand Management plans was elaborated for the Nature reserve in the Czech Republic. A feasibility study on how to implement the NATURA 2000 management plans into the newly developed Nature Management Plans is suggested for obvious reasons.

Informations concerning to possible Follow-up financing are included in Annex # 8.

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