



# EUROPARC

DEUTSCHLAND



SAXON SWITZERLAND NATIONALPARK © Stephanie Schubert

Guido Puhmann, Germany, November 2014

# Interactive Evaluation of Germany's National Parks

Nationale  
Naturlandschaften



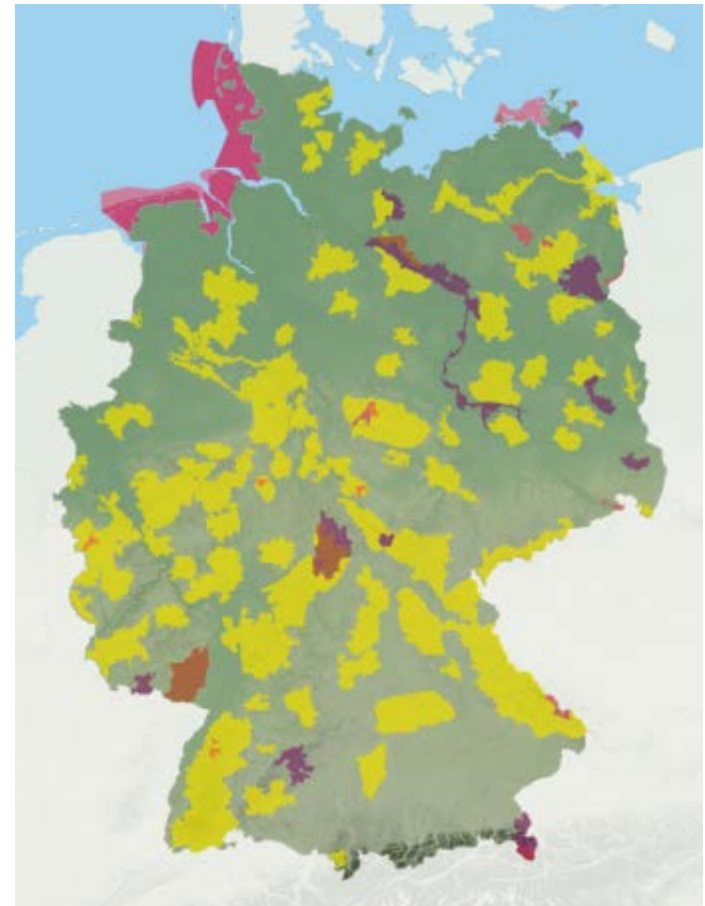


# Typs of Protected Areas

- Defined in Germany's Federal Nature Conservation Act (national legal framework)
- Classified by size, protection purpose and conservation objective, and by the resulting restrictions on land use
- Biosphere Reserves (16; 3.4%)
- Nature Parks (104; 27%)
- National Parks (15; 0.54%)

They are unified under the umbrella brand:

Nationale  
Naturlandschaften

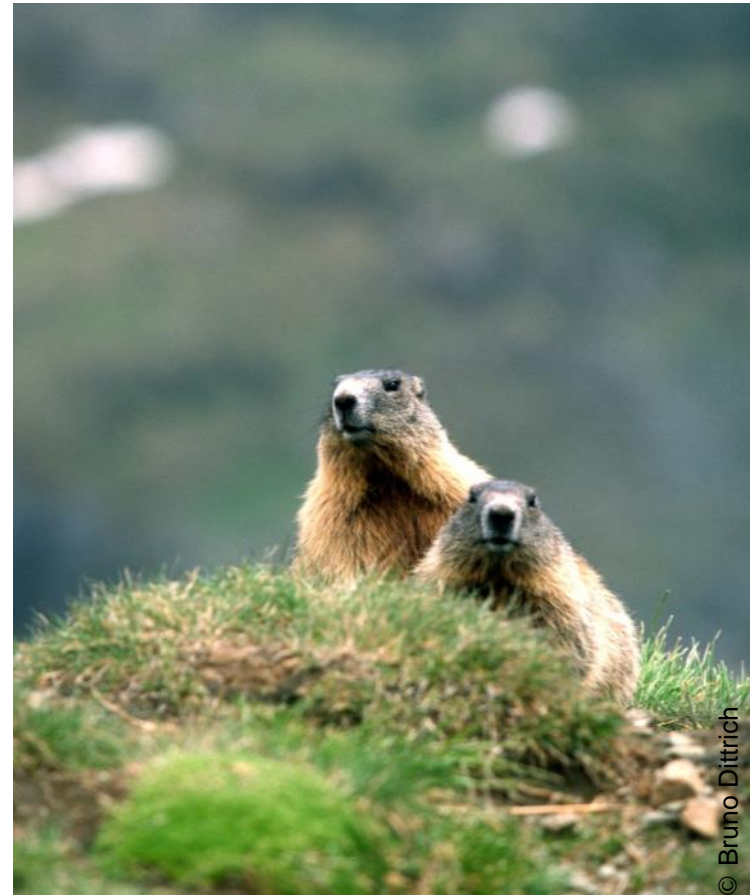




# EUROPARC Deutschland e.V.

**Is the umbrella organization for protected areas in Germany, and the National section of the European organization EUROPARC Federation.**

- founded 1991
- More than 70 members:
- Holds the Germany-wide umbrella brand "National Natural Landscapes"
- Areas of main focus: evaluation, public relations work, project development, education, networking, policy advice, fundraising



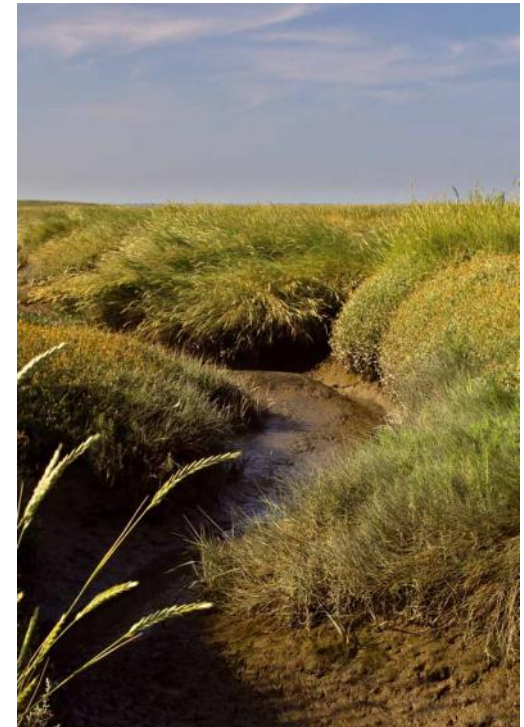
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# Measuring the quality of management

**EUROPARC was commissioned by the federal government to evaluate all German national parks. An expert group was formed. The development of criteria and standards took place over a 2 ½ year process (2005-2008).**

- Step 1: find a common vision
- Step 2: define central “fields of action“
- Step 3: formulate criteria and standards
- Step 4: produce a catalogue of indicator questions
- Step 5: pre-test, the questionnaire



Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea © EUROPARC



# Fields of Action

**The expert group decided to evaluate the qualities of the following fields:**

1. Framework conditions
2. Protection of natural biological diversity and dynamics
3. Organisation
4. Management
5. Cooperation and partners
6. Communication
7. Education
8. Experiencing nature and recreation
9. Monitoring and research
10. Regional development

Appropriate criteria (44) were defined for all fields of action (10) to describe the most relevant aspects of management for the national park administrations.



National Park Eifel © EUROPARC



## Example for Criteria Set:

Fields of action	Criteria set
Framework conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Legal foundations</li><li>- Protection purpose</li><li>- Overriding planning principles</li><li>- Competences</li><li>- Ownership rights</li><li>- Boundaries and shape</li></ul>
Protection of natural biological diversity and dynamics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Space for natural processes</li><li>- Extent</li><li>- Level of naturalness</li><li>- Habitats of international and national significance</li><li>- Species management</li><li>- Ecosystem networking</li></ul>



# Defining Standards

Each criteria is defined by a standard which describes the best possible achievable state of a national park.

Criteria	Standards
	<b>2. Field of action – Protection of natural biological diversity and dynamics</b>
Space for natural processes	<p>Over most of their area, national parks protect the natural dynamics of processes of nature with as little disturbance as possible. In general, this is ensured within a period of not longer than 30 years after an area has been designated a national park and for at least 75% of the national park area. The areas for the protection of natural dynamic processes should be contiguous or uninterrupted, with few outer boundaries.</p> <p>National parks with more than 30% of their area not in public ownership or which in Germany completely enclose a habitat which is of global importance can define a longer transition period in the national park plan or can protect large areas of representative types of habitat in their natural processes over most of its area.</p>
	<b>10. Field of action – Regional development</b>
Impulses for the Region	<p>The positive effects of the national park for the region are regularly measured, documented, communicated outwards, and developed further.</p>



# Evaluation of German National Parks

## Why are we doing this?

### Goals of the evaluation process are...

- to maintain and improve the quality of management in the national parks over the long term
- to make an important contribution towards the implementation of the programme of Work on Protected Areas (CBD VII/28)
- to provide an example for other countries
- to strengthen the worldwide system of protected areas

**Since 2009 all national parks participate in a voluntary evaluation process using the evaluation questionnaire. EUROPARC Germany is evaluating of the Austrian national parks at this moment.**





# Results

## Strengths of German national parks

- Legal certainty and planning framework is guaranteed
- Basic funding is ensured through the respective federal state
- Interdisciplinary team of staff members
- Most national parks do have the 75% process protection zone regulation fixed in their management plan/ ordinance
- The German national parks are mostly reaching the minimum size of 10.000 ha and present areas of high importance
- Nearly all national parks have a good infrastructure
- High acceptance of national parks within the region due to commitment and good communication of national park administrations and staff members
- Wide range of target-group-specific offers of educational events



# Results

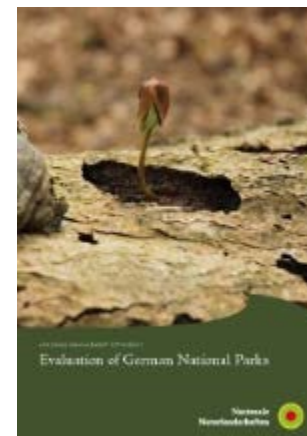
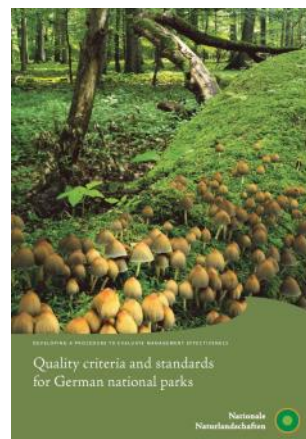
## Weaknesses of the National Parks in Germany

- Financial and personal resources are insufficient
- Administrations do not have all official authorization needed for the realization of the protection purpose
- Only a few national parks have reached 75% of process protection zone already
- Still some management and resource usage within the process protection zone
- Most national parks still have to manage high hoofed game populations
- More weaknesses than strengths in the field of research, monitoring and evaluation



# Transferability & Information

- The whole process with its several steps of evaluation can be transferred to every country easily
- The process is based on the international framework for evaluation of protected area management effectiveness by the World Commission of Protected Areas (WCPA)
- More information to be downloaded: <http://www.europarc-deutschland.de/service/veroeffentlichungen>





# Thankyou for Your Attention

Contact:

**Guido Puhmann**, director of the Middle Elbe Biosphere Reserve

[Guido.Puhmann@bioresme.mlu.sachsen-anhalt.de](mailto:Guido.Puhmann@bioresme.mlu.sachsen-anhalt.de)

**Biosphärenreservat  
Mittelelbe**



and chairman of the board, EUROPARC Germany

[info@europarc-deutschland.de](mailto:info@europarc-deutschland.de)



The project was financed by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) in duty of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)