Zonation of NP as the important tool of nature conservation

Consequences of fragmentation of zonation in the Šumava NP

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ABSTRACT

The Šumava NP zonation has been debated since the very National park establishing and reflects views and opinions on nature conservation principles among various groups of experts. The first zonation developed in 1991 fully respected the original intention of the National park goals, i.e. leaving space to spontaneous processes in nature. In 1995, the zonation was dramatically changed, because the NPs senior managers supported the opinion that a European Spruce Bark Beetle (Ips typographus) outbreak can be reduced only by forest management measures, i.e. by extensive felling. Thus, only 13 % of the NP's territory was within the Zone I and fragmented into 135 patches. The new zonation has been valid, although its original intention was almost completely lost, particularly after the hurricane Kyrill in 2007. A new proposal for delineating the Zone I is based on the botanical, forest management and zoological criteria, carefully assessing the NP s values. The proposed Zone I covers 39.2 % of the NP territory and is distributed in 10 units. Proposal was delivered as a background for a working group drafting a New Act on Šumava NP on behalf of the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic. Unfortunately, this proposal wasn't implemented to a New Act on Šumava NP, which has been already delivered to the Czech Parliament.

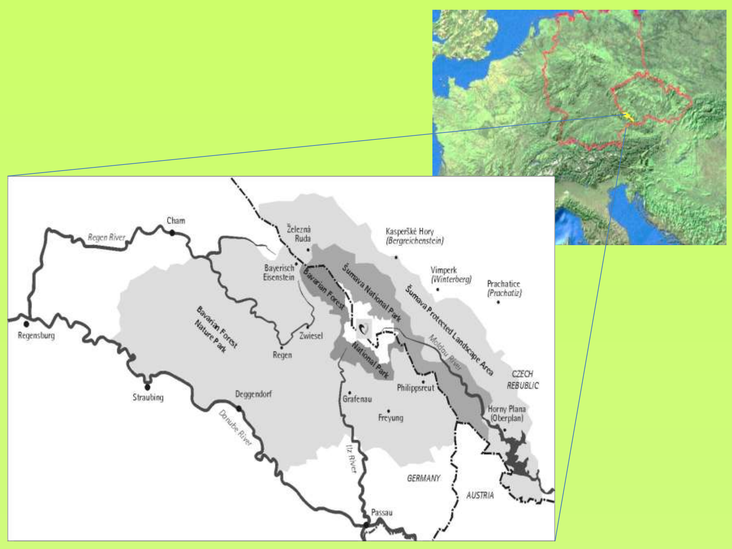

Fig 1. Nature is protected here in two national parks: the Bayerischer Wald NP (Germany; established 1969 and enlarged in 1997 to 24,250 ha) and the Šumava NP (Czech Republic; established 1991; 68,064 ha), Natura 2000 sites, Ramsar site, MAB.

Fig 2. The most important habitats & rare species.

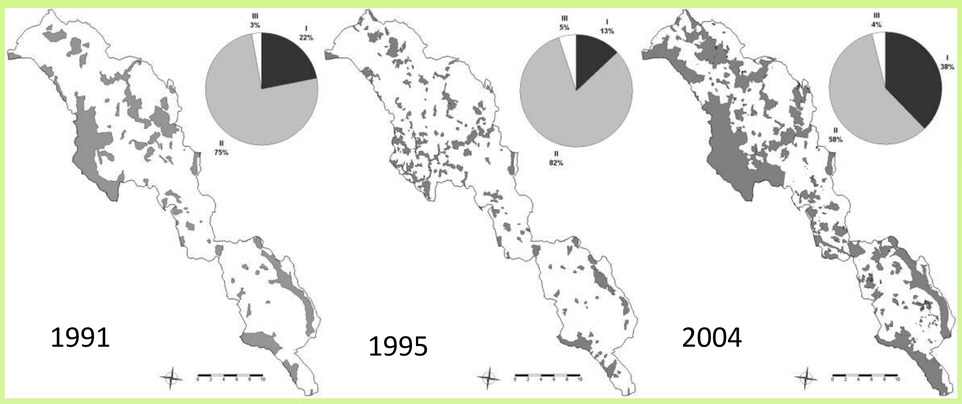

Fig 3. Changes in zonation of the Šumava NP.. A proposal from 2004 has not yet been officially approved. The main obstacles were the management of bark beetles,regulation of public access to the core zone and plans for various developments in different parts of the NP.

KYRILL MESSAGE

1995: changed zonation

cutting of BB trees = forest fragmentation

2007: large areas with uprooted trees

A new scientific proposal

is based on the botanical, forest management and zoological criteria.

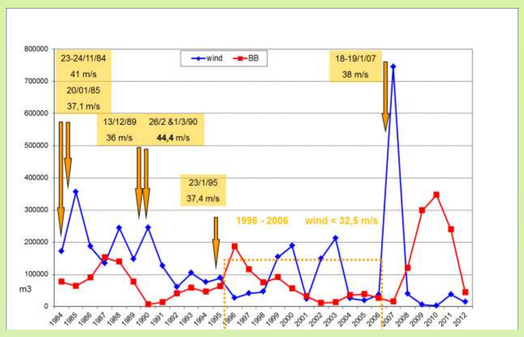

Fig 4. *Large areas of uprooted trees were mainly in montain spruce forests., which were fragmented because of BB management.*

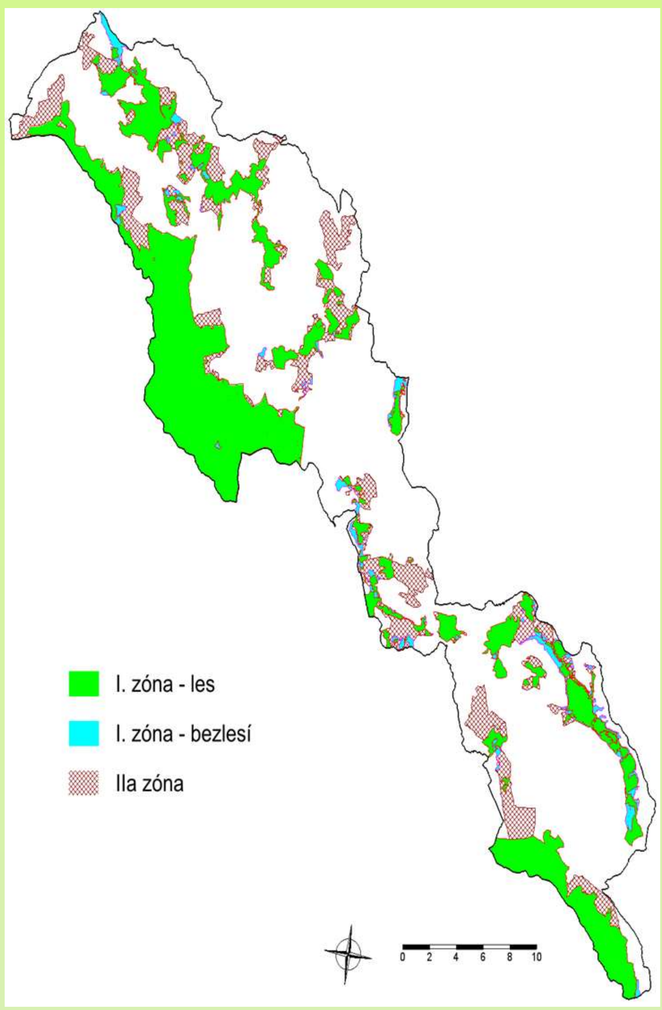

Fig 5. The Zone I (strictly protected; forest = 18,233 ha, grasslands = 1,202 ha) and Zone II a (forest = 321 ha), where different treatments are planned to prepare part of the territory for inclusion in Zone I in the medium or long term (up to a maximum of 30 years), are showed.

CONCLUSIONS

Good zonation of NPs is concluded to be the important tool of nature conservation but respect to legislation, international NP principles, and current scientific knowledge should be the main rule for responsible decision making in protected areas and biodiversity conservation.

For more details see:

- Křenová Z, Hruška J (2012) Proper zonation – an essential tool for the future conservation of the Šumava National Park. Eur J Environ Sci 2: 62-72. http://ejes.cz/index.php/ejes/article/view/81
- Křenová Z, Kiener H (2012) Europe's Wild Heart – still beating? Experiences from a new transboundary wilderness area in the middle of the old continent, Eur J Environ Sci 2: 115-124 . http://ejes.cz/index.php/ejes/article/view/102

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