



A "Convention Check" in a freshwater National Park: a bottom-up approach for better implementation of conservation-related MEAs

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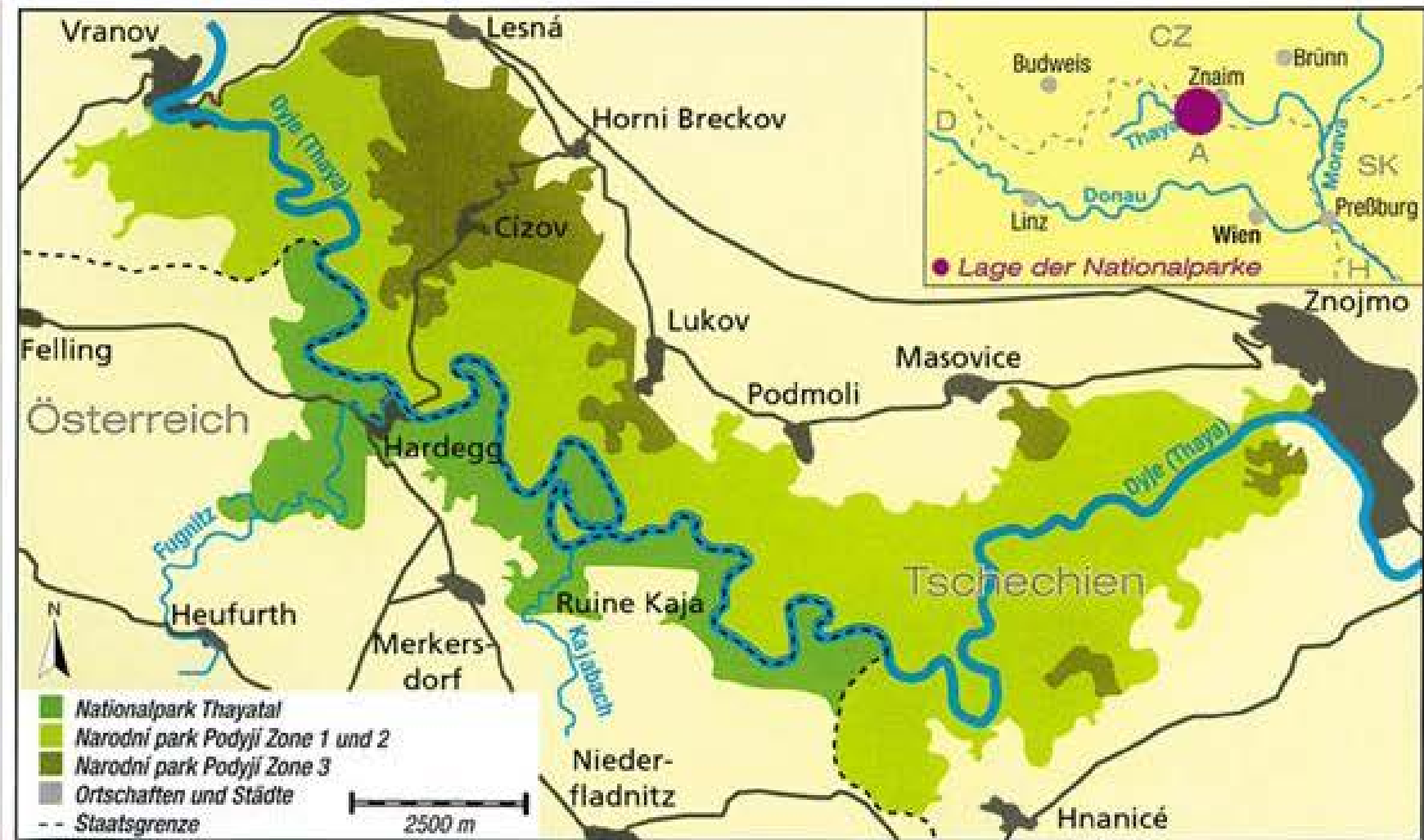
Overview

1. Introduction
2. Material and Methods
 - a. Natural and institutional background
 - b. Methodology
3. Results and Discussion
4. Conclusions
5. Acknowledgements

1. Introduction

1. Increasing number of Large Scale Conservation areas all around the world
2. Considered as strongholds for biodiversity
3. Already different approaches to evaluate the effectiveness of the area's management
4. Area's also connected with several Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA's)
5. What is the area's contribution to the implementation of MEA's and which recommendations for improved biodiversity governance can be derived therefrom?
6. In how far have the recommendations been followed after a certain time period?

Evaluation



• Situated in Central Europe at the borderline of Czech Republic and Austria

Map from: <http://www.np-thayatal.at/en/pages/key-data-132.aspx>



~ 80 Breeding
Bird Species

~ 950 Butterfly
Species

~ 19 Bat Species

2. Materials and Methodology:

a. Natural and institutional background

- Legally established: in 2000 on 1330 hectares
- Situated: at northern border of Austria (neighbouring to the larger Czech Podyjí National Park)
- Category II
- Council of Europe
- SCI, not designated yet



AEWA



2b. Methodology of the Evaluation of the 'Convention-Check' I

<p>Convention-Check</p> <p>Six steps incl. Table of Compliance, workshops in order to gain status quo + recommendations (see <i>Mauerhofer, 2009</i>)</p>	<p>Jan 2007</p> <p>-</p> <p>Sept 2007</p> <p>(155 norms of 5 MEA's assessed, for >50% activities set, 82 recommendations)</p>
<p>Evaluation of Convention-Check:</p> <p>4 steps in order to gain ex-post results on the rate of implementation of 82 recommendations.</p>	<p>Oct 2009</p> <p>-</p> <p>Dec 2009</p>

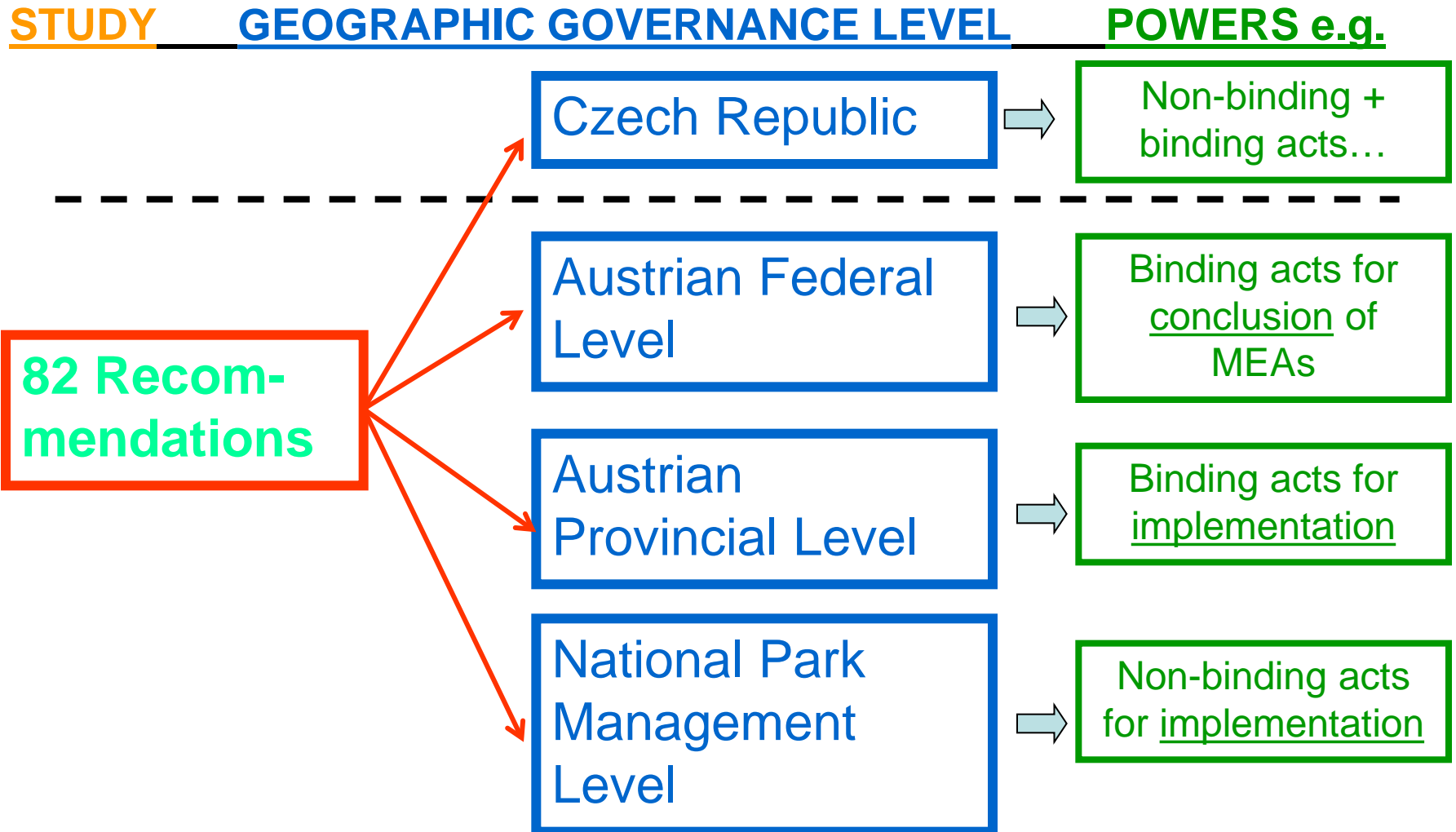
2b. Methodology of the Evaluation of the 'Convention-Check' I

Art 2 CBD: Begriffsbestimmungen			
Norm und Inhalt	Äquivalent im nÖ Recht (VER, G, VO)	Tatsächliche Umsetzungsaktivitäten	Empfehlungen
Art 2 CBD Begriffsbestimmungen zu „biologische Ressourcen“, „biologische Vielfalt“, „Biotechnologie“, „domestizierte oder gezüchtete Arten“, „Ex-situ-Erhaltung“, „genetische Ressourcen“, „genetische Ressourcen zur Verfügung stellendes Land“, „genetisches Material“, „In-situ-Bedingungen“, „In-situ-Erhaltung“, „Lebensraum“, „nachhaltige Nutzung“, „Ökosystem“, „Organisation der regionalen Wirtschaftsintegration“, „Schutzgebiet“, „Technologie“, „Ursprungsland der genetischen Ressourcen“	Kein Äquivalent ersichtlich	Das Thayatal ist ein biogenetisches Reservat im Sinne der Bestimmungen des Europarates. Biogenetische Reservate sind Teil der Umsetzungsstrategie der Berner Konvention.	Aufnahme von Begriffsbestimmungen in VER zumindest betreffend „Lebensraum“ sowie „ex-situ Erhaltung“. [So spricht etwa Art V Abs 1 Z 2 VER vom Schutz des <u>Lebensraumes</u> (vgl auch Art III Abs 1 Z 3 VER „Lebensräume“). Und die gesamte VER handelt ua von der <u>Erhaltung</u> des NP Thayatal.] Aufnahme von Begriffsbestimmungen in NPG zumindest betreffend „biologische Vielfalt“, „Ökosystem“, „Lebensraum“ sowie „ex-situ Erhaltung“. [So spricht etwa § 2 Abs 1 Z 2 NPG ua von <u>Artenvielfalt</u> der <u>Ökosysteme</u> (vgl auch § 2 Abs 1 Z 3 NPG) und § 2 Abs 4 NPG ua von der für dieses Gebiet repräsentativen Tier- und Pflanzenwelt einschließlich ihrer <u>Lebensräume</u> . § 6 Abs 3 NPG handelt zudem von Ausnahmen zur <u>Erhaltung</u> der Lebensgemeinschaften.]
<i>Anmerkungen:</i>	<i>Keine der Rechtsgrundlagen (VER, G, VO) enthält bislang Begriffsbestimmungen.</i>		
Art 3 CBD: Grundsatz			
Norm und Inhalt	Äquivalent im nÖ Recht (VER, G, VO)	Tatsächliche Umsetzungsaktivitäten	Empfehlungen
Art 3 CBD Grundsatz der souveränen	Nicht erforderlich	Nicht erforderlich	Nicht geprüft

2b. Methodology of the Evaluation of the 'Convention-Check' II

1. Identifying the different geographical and institutional level(s) of governance considered to be addressed by each recommendation respectively and quantifying them
2. Assessing and quantifying the changes on the management level, administrative level and legislative level respectively
 - a. Own assessments
 - b. Interviews

2b. Methodology of the Evaluation of the 'Convention-Check' III



2b. Methodology of the Evaluation of the 'Convention-Check' IV

3. Assessing the causality between the
Convention Check and the change
 - a. Own assessments
 - b. Interviews
4. Valuating the quantified causal
changes in a qualitative way

3. Results and Discussion I: relevant recommendations

	NP-M (A)	NP-M (Cz)	NP-Adm. Prov. (A)	NP-Leg. Prov. (A)	NP-Adm. Feder. (A)	NP-Leg. Feder. (A)
BK	3	1	10	10	5	5
CBD	18	3	13	13	8	8
CMS	4	1	4	4	4	4
AEWA	14	1	7	7	2	2
BAT	5	0	2	2	0	0
Total	44	6	36	36	19	19

Table 1: Numbers of recommendations considered relevant to the different management, administrative and legislative levels;

3.- 4.: Causality assessment and qualitative valuation

Grey marked fields: the recommendation was considered to address the specific level

- (f): recommendation fully implemented
- (p): recommendation partly implemented
- (n): recommendation not implemented

Table 1

Recommendations	NP-Governance level (institutional and geographical)					
	Management level		Prov. A		Fed., A	
	A	Cz	Ad	Lg	Ad	Lg
1. Enlargement of the National Park area towards the size of 1700 ha mentioned in Art II para. 1 VER [Art 1 para. 1 BC]			(n)	(n)		
2. Stronger Harmonisation of existing norms covering hunting and fishing norms with cross-border effects in order to conserve species and their habitats [Art 1 para. 1 BC]			(n)	(n)		
3. Additional surveys of animal species listed in the Annexes II und III BC (inter alia bat species) as well as potentially existing plant species of Annex I BC and the habitat requirements of these species within the National Park and in neighbouring areas [Art 1 para. 1, Art 4 para. 1, respectively BC]	(p)					
4. Insertion of a hind on the protection of endangered and vulnerable migratory species into the objective			(n)	(n)	(n)	(n)

3. Results and Discussion III

- ❖ No implementation on provincial and federal level (in both, administration and legislation) despite presentation (→ practical/political reasons)
- ❖ For Austrian NP-Management,
 - **more than 20%** of recommendations of Convention Check fully or partly implemented within 2 years
 - **for the CBD:** 15 of the 17 recommendations not implemented yet concern measures and activities with regard to a recommended 'National Park – Partnership'
 - **for the AEWA,** six of the twelve not yet implemented recommendations concern improved cooperation with the federal and the provincial level (→ simple inquiry)

4. Conclusions

The evaluation of the 'Convention Check'

- **provides** a reliable method in order to assess the impact of the Convention Check in a quantitative and qualitative manner
- **shows** that the Convention Check had a significant impact even within 2 years
- **asks** for a closer involvement of (at least) the cross-border Czech management and administration from the beginning
- **indicates** that a closer involvement of the Austrian legislative/administrative levels from the beginning should be considered



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A bottom-up 'Convention-Check' to improve top-down global protected area governance

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ABSTRACT

This paper introduces the so-called 'Convention-Check' as a new bottom-up approach of assessing the contribution of large-scale protected areas to the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) that are introduced from the top down. The assessment consists of three major sub-sequential parts: the current contribution of a protected area to the implementation of the MEAs, recommendations

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