

Protected areas: model landscapes for sustainable development



International workshop:
„Protected areas as tools for regional
development“
Saint-Pierre-de-Chartreuse, France
13 October, 2011



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My academic working context

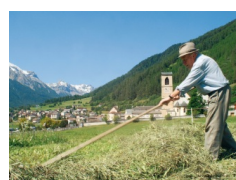
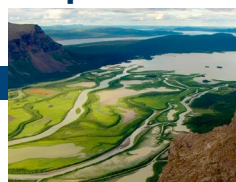
- ZENARiO - Centre for Sustainable Spatial Development at Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg
- German Association of Geographers – Rural Geographers Working Group
- NeReGro network: Hammer, Siegrist, Weixlbaumer



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Protected areas: the European experience

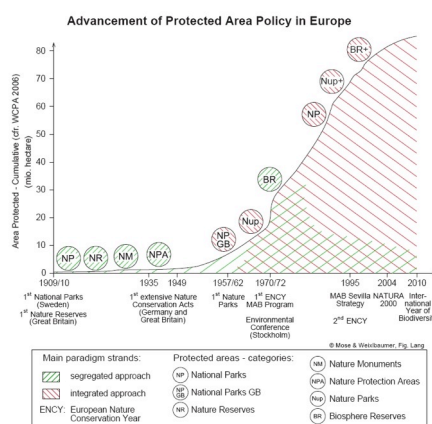
- Special role of protected areas (PAs) for nature conservation:
 - Easily identifiable landmarks
 - Significant impacts on the landscape
 - Highly visited
- Relevance of historical perspective: cultural vs. natural landscapes



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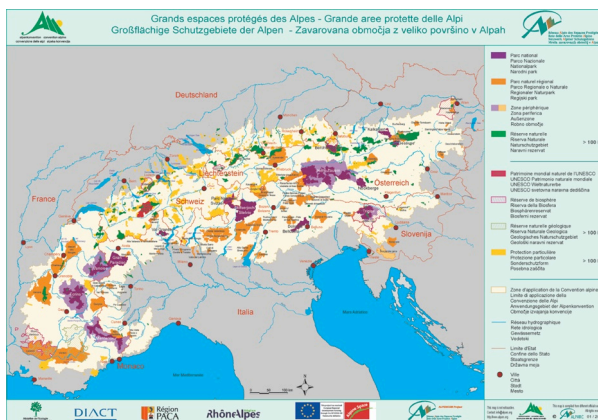
- Since first designation of PAs significant increase in number and area
- Controversies about targets and functions of PAs
- Consequently differentiation of several types
- Further advancement highly predictable (e.g. Switzerland, Norway)



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- Obvious advancement of area protection well reflected in territorial dimension of PAs in the Alps

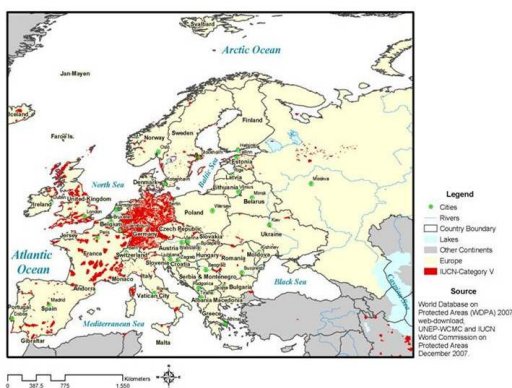


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Paradigm shift

- Dominant role of IUCN category V across Europe: „protected landscape/ seascape“
- Major focus on „interaction between people and nature“
- Examples: conservation and agriculture and tourism and and renewable energies



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- Confusing diversity of terminology across Europe
- However, several types of PAs can be identified as „dynamic PAs“

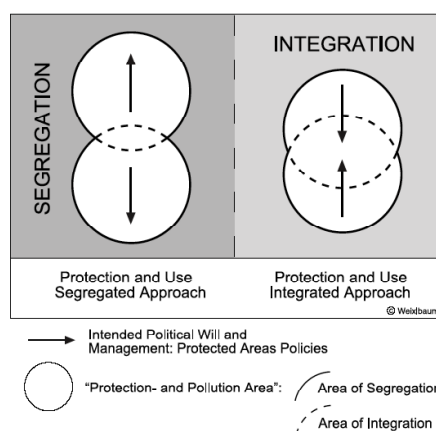
Major types of dynamic PAs in Europe:

- Naturparke (Germany, Austria, South Tyrol)
- Regionale Naturpärke (Switzerland)
- Parc Naturel Régionaux (France)
- Parchi Naturali Regionali (Italy)
- National Parks (UK)
- Regionalparker (Norway)
- Biosphere Reserves (international)

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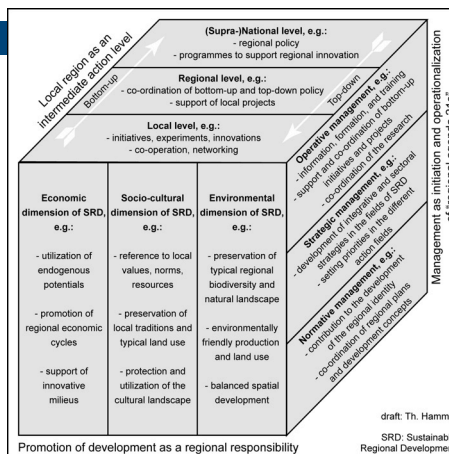
- Increasing role of dynamic PAs reflects obvious shift (or extension) of paradigm
- Weixlbaumer (2005): two basic principles of area protection



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- Hence, increasing relevance of PAs as „working landscapes“ and even model landscapes for sustainable development
- Complexity of challenges



The hexahedron of sustainable regional development

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- In summary, conceptual frame based on four major assumptions:
 - Address diverse functions in an equal sense (multifunctionality)
 - Involve stakeholders concerned (governance)
 - Create synergies between different forms of land-use
- Contribute to economic, ecological, and socio-cultural development (integrated approach)



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- So far heterogenous performance of PAs regarding conceptual demands (e.g. Mose 2007, Hammer 2003)

Performance of PAs as model landscapes

- Naturparke: slow response in Germany with few positive examples so far, partially broader adaptation in Austria
- National Parks (UK): high correlation only in theory, practice often rather vague
- Parchi Naturali Regionali (Italy): theoretically strong, but often rather weak in practice
- Biosphere Reserves: strong correlation of concepts, many positive examples of succesful application

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Designing future pathways

a. Stakeholder involvement and participation

- Understand dynamics of stakeholder involvement and governance
- Negotiate appropriate forms of participation
- Test and make use of suitable instruments: e.g. community appraisals, future workshops



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b. Future topics

- Address topics of future relevance, e.g. biodiversity, sustainable tourism, renewable energies, climate change
- Initiate projects for practical demonstration (test beds)
- Develop models of visionary quality for the future



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c. Communication of ideas and experiences

- Establish networks for cooperation, joint learning and innovation (learning regions)
- Connect with other national and international partners to exchange ideas and experiences (e.g. Alparc)



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d. Inter- and transdisciplinary research

- Support development of models by inter- and transdisciplinary research
- Thereby integrate real-world perspective
- Obtain better understanding and create more useful and accepted solutions in the region



LEBEN 2014
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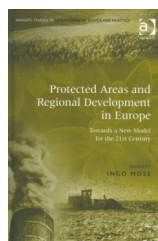
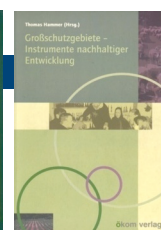


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Merci beaucoup!
Thank you very much!
Mille grazie!
Tussen tack!
Tack sa mycket!
Bedankt!
Vielen Dank!

Further information under:
www.raumentwicklung.uni-oldenburg.de



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