Possible large-scale nature reserve in the Eastern Ore Mountains –
on both sides of the border?

Large-scale open landscape between Fürstenau (D) and Habartice/Adolfov (CZ)

Large-scale nature conservation projects in the Eastern Ore Mountains (Saxony)

Large-scale nature conservation project
„Mountain meadows in the Eastern Ore Mountains“

Goals of sustainable nature conservation in the Eastern Ore Mountains

Nature conservation and **land use management** for the protection of typical plant and animal species, monitoring and protected area management

Protection of rare and endangered species

black grouse

fire lily

corn crake

mountain arnica

Goals of sustainable nature conservation in the Eastern Ore Mountains

Sustainable, conservation-oriented **agriculture** in vital structure with products suitable for the market, using also products generated from grassland, e.g. milk and meat products, mountain meadow hay, development of a brand „Eastern *Ore Mountains*“ for agricultural and touristic marketing

Goals of sustainable nature conservation in the Eastern Ore Mountains

Conservation-oriented, sustainable **forestry**, development of ecologically stable mountaineous forests with a diversity of functions, e.g. for nature conservation, recreation, climate and flood protection

Goals of sustainable nature conservation in the Eastern Ore Mountains

Model region for the development of sport, tourism and recreation according to a differentiated concept including winter sport, „wellness“, medicinical treatments and high-value agritourism, outdoor activities and nature experience

Reasons for cross-border cooperation in nature conservation in the Eastern Ore Mountains – common protected habitats and biotopes

Protected areas in cross-border area of the Eastern Ore Mountains

Aereal view over the Georgenfelder Hochmoor/Cinovecske raseliniste
Bogs, bog forest, heather, rocks, black grouse habitat

Common watershed of the bogs near Zinnwald/Cinovec (planned CIL-3 project)
Georgenfelder Hochmoor/ Cinovecske raseliniste
„Seeheide“
(120 ha)
U Jezera
Geologische Karte von Sachsen (Königreich), 1:25 000, Li...
Sektion 119 : Altenberg und Zinnwald. 1906
Beschreibung: Section Altenberg-Zinnwald / geolog. Aufnahme von K. Dalmer. - Dalmer, K., Geologe
1906

Aereal view over the nature reserves „Czerna louka“ and
„Grenzwiesen Fürstenau und Fürstenwalde (130+976 ha)
Bogs, wet meadows, creeks, stone walls, large-scale grassland as bird habitat

Aereal view over the nature reserves „Spicak“ (74 ha) and „Mittelgebirgs-landschaft um Oelsen“ (535 ha)

Basis of the feasibility study „Nature conservation in the Eastern Ore Mountains“

- Eastern Ore Mountains are a valuable cultural landscape with a long tradition of extensive agricultural land use
- the mountainous area causes disadvantages for land use (climate, soil etc.)
- conservation-oriented land use management offers chances to the advantage of the whole region (due to good experience with current nature conservation projects)

but

- the large-scale nature conservation project „Mountain meadows in the Eastern Ore mountains“ , which started in 2000, will end in 2018

Questions

- Which potential for the region lies in sustainable use of the cultural landscape?
- Which chances lie in a common strategy of nature conservation, agriculture, forestry and tourism in the Eastern Ore mountains?
- How can successful nature conservation management be secured for the future?

Answer

→ **Development** of a **concept** in the form of a feasibility study to secure **sustainable success** of the **large-scale nature conservation project** and evaluate possibilities for successful **long-lasting nature conservation**

Goals of the feasibility study „Nature conservation in the Eastern Ore Mountains“

- Development of strategies to continue the successful nature conservation work in the region and the good cooperation with stakeholders in agriculture, forestry and communities
- Creation of a broad acceptance for nature conservation
- Integration of the different interests of farmers, foresters, communities, tourist agencies and NGO‘s
- Proposals for an organizational frame work for the sustainable development of nature conservation in the Eastern Ore Mountains
- Definition of a common strategy for conservation and marketing the unique cultural and natural landscape values of the Eastern Ore Mountains

Process of the feasibility study
„Nature conservation in the Eastern Ore Mountains“

- *Natural potential*: summarized description of the natural history (flora, fauna, abiotic conditions) in the Eastern Ore mountains based on avaliable data, with descriptions, summarized tables and maps
- *Land use potential*: evaluation of conservation-oriented land use on the basis of available data and interviews with stake holders (especially farmers, foresters, municipalities and NGO‘s)
- *Development potential*: analysis of development alternatives for the study area (e.g. biosphere reserve, nature park, forms of cooperation with Czechia, nature conservation center, institutional framework, project proposals and options for funding)
- *Land use recommendations*: development of recommendations for conservation-oriented land use in the context of sustainable development in the region
- *Strategy*: Work programme with milestones and benchmarks to get acceptance and put the proposals into practice

Study area with included municipalities

Protected areas in the study area „Eastern Ore Mountains“

Type of protected area	Number	Area	Part of study area
Special protected area (SPA) – for bird protection	7	10.743 ha	20,9 %
Sites of community interest (SCI) – for habitat protection	23	5.832 ha	11,3 %
Nature reserves	17	2.750 ha	5,4 %
Nature monuments (small-scale)	82	111,2 ha	0,2 %
Landscape protected areas	4	45.724 ha	89 %

Protected areas in the study area „Eastern Ore Mountains“

Valuable habitats and biotopes in the Eastern Ore Mountains

Selected rare species and their habitats in the Eastern Ore Mountains

Land use analysis – soil fertility

Land use analysis – agriculture

Land use analysis - forestry

Land use analysis - tourism

Follow-up management for the nature conservation project „Mountain meadows in the Eastern Ore Mountains“

Alternatives for the Institutional framework for project management

- Integration in the county administration („Landkreisverwaltung“)
- Cooperation between county council, municipalities and NGO‘s
- Integration in a protected area administration by the state of Saxony (biosphere reserve) or the county administration with municipalities (nature park – difference to Czech „prirodni park“)

Possible tasks for a protected area administration

- Administration of land owned by the project
- Organisation and funding of nature conservation measures
- Management for protected areas and protected species
- Monitoring of habitats and species
- Public relation
- Environmental education and nature tourism
- Marketing of regional agricultural products generated from conservation-oriented land use
- Planning and administration of cross-border nature conservation projets (e.g. CIL-3)

Biosphere reserve or nature park – alternatives for the Eastern Ore Mountains?

Biosphere reserve

- suitable for natural and cultural landscapes
- sustainable land use is promoted for nature and landscape conservation
- research and education play an important role
- biosphere reserves serve as model regions for sustainable development
- zoning in core zone (3%), management zone (20%) and development zone
- acknowledgement by the UNESCO, evaluation by the MAB national commitee
- currently 16 (18) biosphere reserves in Germany, one of them in Saxony
- financed by the states, with their own administration

Nature park

- large-scale landscapes, suitable for recreation and tourism (and nature conservation)
- diverse and attractive landscapes are protected and developed with their typical species and habitat diversity
- sustainable land use is an important goal
- zoning in landscape protected area and nature reserves as core zones
- acknowledgment as national natural landscape
- currently 50 nature parks in Germany, 3 in Saxony
- financed by the county administration, with municipalities, with their own administraion
- partly supported by the state, in Saxony no institutional funding

Next steps in the feasiliby study for a large-scale protected area in the Eastern Ore Mountains

Analysis of agricultural use in the study area

- Land use types and their development (grassland: meadows and pastures; arable land: corn, cereals, energy plants, ecological agriculture, agri-environmental measures)
- Numbers of different farm animals held and their development
- Types of farms, with number of employees and their development (state-owned, individual farmers, cooperatives)

Analysis of tourism

- Number of visitors in different times of the year and their development
- Touristical offers regarding outdoor activities and recreation
- Interview of municipalities and their proposals for further development

Evaluation and further development of project ideas and concepts

- Concepts for conservation-oriented land use (e.g. large-scale grazing, hay marketing)
- Regional marketing under a common brand „Eastern Ore Mountains“
- Proposals for marketing of local products (especially milk and meat)
- Proposals for touristic offers (e.g. „mountain meadow trail“, tour guides)
- Proposals for energetic use of wood
- Proposals for habitat and species protection

Thank you for your attention!