



NATURE
CONSERVATION AGENCY
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Protected Landscape Areas of the Czech Republic

NATURE CONSERVATION AGENCY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

is a governmental body providing nature conservation and landscape protection at the national level; it manages Protected Landscape Areas (PLA), National Nature Reserves (NNR) and National Nature Monuments (NNM) and deals with expertises and other expert/technical activities in nature conservation and landscape protection.

NCA CR manages:

- 25 Protected Landscape Areas
- Almost 800 small-size Specially Protected Areas, i.e. NNRs and NNMs

NCA CR surveys and monitors:

- Habitats and wildlife species on the Czech Republic's territory
- State of and changes and trends in nature and the landscape

NCA CR develops:

- Specially Protected Areas Management Plans
- Action Plans/Recovery Programmes for specially protected species of wild fauna and flora

NCA CR helps to:

- Restore pools and other wetlands
- Plant trees and shrubs in the landscape
- Restore watercourses
- Generally protect the landscape including its scenery/character
- Restore natural forest tree composition and structure

NCA CR presents:

- The beauty of nature to the general public and the target groups

The NCA issues:

- Ochrana přírody/Nature Conservation Journal, methodological handbooks, proceedings, etc.

NCA CR provides:

- Technical support to the public administration authorities
- Information and consultations

NCA CR runs:

- Nature Conservancy Central Register
- Species Occurrence Database
- Public library

NCA CR cooperates with:

- Public administration authorities
- Universities and research institutions
- Foreign technical/expert institutions



The Beskydy



The Beskids Mountains

Area: 1,205 km²

Altitude: 326 – 1,319 m a.s.l.

Predominantly forested massif in the western part of the Carpathian range with remnants of primeval mixed forest stands. It is the only site in the Czech Republic where large carnivores, namely the Brown bear, the Grey wolf and the Eurasian lynx regularly occur, coming in from neighbouring Slovakia and Poland.



www.beskydy.nature.cz



The Eurasian Lynx is our largest felid predator.



The Bílé Karpaty



The White Carpathians Mountains

Area: 747 km²

Altitude: 170 - 967 m a.s.l.

The most beautiful and characteristic element of the White Carpathians are flower-rich meadows with orchids, solitary oaks and shrubs.

The PLA is among the most species-rich areas at least in Central Europe. The north-eastern part (southern Valašsko/Wallachian region) maintains extensive beech forests.



www.bilekarpaty.nature.cz



The Late spider-orchid is one of our rarest orchids.



The Blaník



The Blaník Hill

Area: 40 km²

Altitude: 363 - 632 m a.s.l.

Traditional farmland area with forests, meadows and fields under the dominant mythical Blaník Hill in Central Bohemia. In the broad depression of the Blanice River ravine, the river meanders are accompanied by valuable riparian vegetation.



www.blanik.nature.cz



The carnivorous Round-leaved sundew occurs on peat-moss growths.



The Blanský les



The Blanský Forest Mountains

Area: 220 km²

Altitude: 418 – 1,081 m a.s.l.

A large part of the area is covered with beech forests. Its species diversity and habitat heterogeneity are supplemented by small islands of relict pine woods on serpentine soils and thermophilous communities on crystalline limestones. Still numerous historical buildings and folk architecture can also be found within the PLA.



www.blanskyles.nature.cz



The Bohemian gentian is a very rare species.



The Brdy

The Brdy Highlands

Area: 345 km²

Altitude: 406 – 865 m a.s.l.

Forested highlands in Central Bohemia where a new PLA shall be established to replace the non-go military training area. Heathlands have developed on the former military training grounds, where valuable peatbogs, spring areas and wet meadows have also been preserved. The clear streams and pools harbour numerous newt and frog species and the largest Stone crayfish population in the Czech Republic.



www.brdy.nature.cz



Our largest population of the Stone Crayfish lives in the Brdy hills.



The Broumovsko



The Broumov Region

Area: 432 km²

Altitude: 352 –878 m a.s.l.

The main PLA's phenomenon is the Cretaceous sandstone relief with the extensive rock-pillar landscape (Adršpašsko-Teplické skály/Adersbach-Teplice Rocks, Broumovské stěny/Broumov Walls). In deep cold gorges, there are Norway spruce stands with alpine vegetation. On the rock plateau, relict pine woods can be found.



www.broumovsko.nature.cz



Peregrine falcons have recolonised the sandstone castellated rock formations.

An aerial photograph of a wide river valley in the Czech Republic. The river flows from the background towards the foreground, curving to the right. The banks are lined with lush green fields and dense forests showing vibrant autumn colors of yellow, orange, and red. In the distance, a large, rounded mountain rises against a clear sky. The overall scene is bright and scenic, capturing the beauty of the region.

The České středohoří



The Bohemian Mittelgebirge Hills

Area: 1,068 km²

Altitude: 124 – 824 m a.s.l.

The second largest PLA in the Czech Republic is characterised by the unique relief of an undulate plateau with volcanic knags, cones and domes. The area displays extraordinarily rich flora and fauna.



www.ceskestredohori.nature.cz



A large colony of European ground squirrel lives on steppe slopes of Mt. Raná.



The Český kras



The Bohemian Karst

Area: 132 km²

Altitude: 202 – 496 m a.s.l.

Calcareous area with numerous karst phenomena, unique from a point of view of the global stratigraphy and the palaeontology of the Upper Paleozoic. Rock steppe, forest steppe and broadleaved forest communities with a very rich flora and fauna have been protected there.



www.ceskykras.nature.cz



The Beautiful jumper lives on sunny sites in various rock crevices.



The Český les



The Český les Mountains

Area: 466 km²

Altitude: 442 – 1,039 m a.s.l.

The border highland and mountain landscape in western Bohemia has been a distinctive region for many centuries and it is covered by rich and previously impenetrable forests. Moreover, the predominantly forested landscape also includes a patch mosaic of pastures, meadows and overgrown wastelands.



www.ceskyles.nature.cz



The carnivorous Common butterwort grows on peatbogs.



The Český ráj



The Bohemian Paradise

Area: 181 km²

Altitude: 234 – 744 m a.s.l.

Romantic landscape of sandstone rocks supplemented by dominants of eruptive rocks with conspicuous shapes and with folk architecture sights. In addition, the diversified landscape scenery and biological diversity is supplemented by watercourse stretches with adjacent wetlands there.



www.ceskyraj.nature.cz



The Eurasian kestrel often inhabits sandstone rock formations.



The Jeseníky



The Jeseníky Mountains

Area: 744 km²

Altitude: 318 – 1,491 m a.s.l.

Large mountain range in northern Moravia. The highest elevations are covered by the Alpine zone above alpine timberline. The lower parts are afforested mostly with Norway spruce growths. The Velká Kotlina Cirque in the Praděd National Nature Reserve displays a specific mesoclimate and therefore, it is unique at the European scale.



www.jeseniky.nature.cz



The very rare Spring gentian grows by sprinets in the glacial cirques.



The Jizerské hory



The Jizera Mountains

Area: 371 km²

Altitude: 319 – 1,123 m a.s.l.

Mountain landscape where large areas of Norway spruce forests seriously damaged by air pollution, namely by acid rain (recently having been restored) and valuable mountain peatbog sites are found. On northern slopes a large old growth beech forest has been preserved.



www.jizerskehory.nature.cz



The Scarlet rosefinch inhabits shrubs on the river banks.



**The Kokořínsko –
Máchův kraj**



The Kokořín Region – Mácha's Country

Area: 410 km²

Altitude: 176 – 611 m a.s.l.

The romantic landscape situated to the north of the confluence of the Labe/Elbe and Vltava rivers. The typical valleys were deeply eroded into Cretaceous sandstones and consist of several layers. The rich patch mosaic of wetlands, stagnant waters/billabong, forests and rocks harbours many rare wild plants and animals, some of which do not occur anywhere else in the Czech Republic.



www.kokorinsko.nature.cz



The Marsh Clubmoss at the Provodín site.



The Křivoklátsko



The Křivokláts Region

Area: 625 km²

Altitude: 222 – 615 m a.s.l.

Area with sparsely populated hills in Central Bohemia covered mostly with broadleaved forests. The geological heterogeneity and the highly diversified landscape are reflected in the extraordinary wild plant and animal species richness there.



www.krivoklatsko.nature.cz



Small pasque flowers decorate the bald, rocky hilltops in springtime.



The Labské pískovce



The Elbe Sandstones

Area: 243 km²

Altitude: 120 – 722 m a.s.l.

The highly diversified area includes, together with the neighbouring Sächsische Schweiz National Park, the most extensive sandstone landscape in whole Europe. Deep, enclosed valleys with temperature inversion allow the occurrence of cryophilous plant and animal species, even at relatively low altitudes.



www.labskepiskovce.nature.cz



Black storks nest in the deep forests and on cliffs.



The Litovelské Pomoraví



The Litovel Morava River Basin

Area: 93 km²

Altitude: 212 – 344 m a.s.l.

Relatively narrow, almost 30 km long floodplain of the Morava River meandering naturally with numerous periodical and permanent branches alongside, as well as pools and oxbows or cut-off meanders with well-preserved floodplain forests and wetland communities.



www.litovelskepomoravi.nature.cz



Eurasian otters are often at home in preserved rivers and streams.



The Lužické hory



The Lužice Mountains

Area: 270 km²

Altitude: 290 – 790 m a.s.l.

Forested area with an interesting geological structure. In a tableau made predominantly of sandstones, domes and ridges of erupted rocks are breaking through at many sites. Particularly in the western part of the area traditional folk architecture buildings can still be found.



www.luzickehory.nature.cz



Growths of the Perennial Honesty give off an intoxicating aroma.



The Moravský Kras



The Moravian Karst

Area: 91 km²

Altitude: 246 – 613 m a.s.l.

The most beautiful karst area in the Czech Republic with extensive cave systems as well as with surface karst formations/phenomena. A part of the underground is accessible to the public as showcaves. In the caves, features of life occurring thousands of years and more ago and of the human society development have been preserved.



www.moravskykras.nature.cz



The Bechstein's Bat inhabits caves.



The Orlické hory



The Eagle Mountains

Area: 233 km²

Altitude: 411 – 1,114 m as.l.

Picturesque mountain range with deep, sheer stream and river valleys. Mainly artificially planted Norway spruce forests have by a large extent been damaged by air pollution, particularly by acid rain. Moreover, at several sites, island of natural/old growth forests with the prevailing beech have survived.



www.orlickehory.nature.cz



The Orange lily is a jewel in montane and submontane grasslands.



The Pálava



The Pavlov Hills

Area: 85 km²

Altitude: 164 – 536 m a.s.l.

Giant calcareous cliff with very rich steppe and forest-steppe flora and fauna. In the valley of the Dyje/Thaya River, floodplain forests with unique wetlands have been preserved. The area around the town of Mikulov is noticeably influenced by viniculture.



www.palava.nature.cz



Bee-eaters build nesting tunnels in clay slopes.



The Poodří



The Odra River Basin

Area: 80 km²

Altitude: 212 – 309 m a.s.l.

Area of the naturally meandering Odra River with number of tributaries, oxbows or cut-off meanders, temporary and periodical pools, fish ponds and other water bodies.



www.poodri.nature.cz



Kingfishers build nesting tunnels in clay riverbanks.



The Slavkovský les



The Slavkov Forest Mountains

Area: 611 km²

Altitude: 367 – 982 m a.s.l.


Forested area acting as the preserver of healing springs for famous western Bohemian spas. Only remnants of natural beech and fir-beech forests have survived there, the rest has been replaced by Norway spruce growths. An important part of the area is covered by extensive peatbogs.



www.slavkovskyles.nature.cz



The Sandwort-leaved mouse-ear is endemic to the Czech Republic.



The Třeboňsko



The Třebosko Basin

Area: 687 km²

Altitude: 408 – 540 m a.s.l.

Wetland basin sensitively transformed into a fish pond area with preserved peatbogs. It comprises an important nesting, stopover/resting and wintering site for bird populations at the European scale.



www.trebosko.nature.cz



In the Autumn Great White Egrets gather into colonies.



The Žďárské vrchy



The Žďárské vrchy Hills

Area: 709 km²

Altitude: 494 – 829 m a.s.l.

The harmonious landscape of forests, meadows, pastures and fish ponds with typical isolated gneiss rocks. The area is cut through by the main European watershed boundary between the North Sea and the Black Sea. Today almost half of the PLA is covered by Norway spruce forests.



www.zdarskevrchy.nature.cz



The Poplar admiral is one of the biggest butterfly species in the Czech Republic.

A scenic view of a lake in the Železné hory mountains. The lake is surrounded by dense evergreen forests and is framed by the branches of a pine tree in the foreground. The water is a deep blue, and the sky is a pale, hazy blue. The text "The Železné hory" is overlaid on the image in a large, white, sans-serif font.

The Železné hory



The Iron Mountains

Area: 286 km²

Altitude: 262 – 667 m a.s.l.

The PLA highland/mountain range and its eastern part are forested; the rest is a patch mosaic of meadows and fields with many solitary trees and shrubs. As for geological structure the area is among the most diverse ones in the Czech Republic.

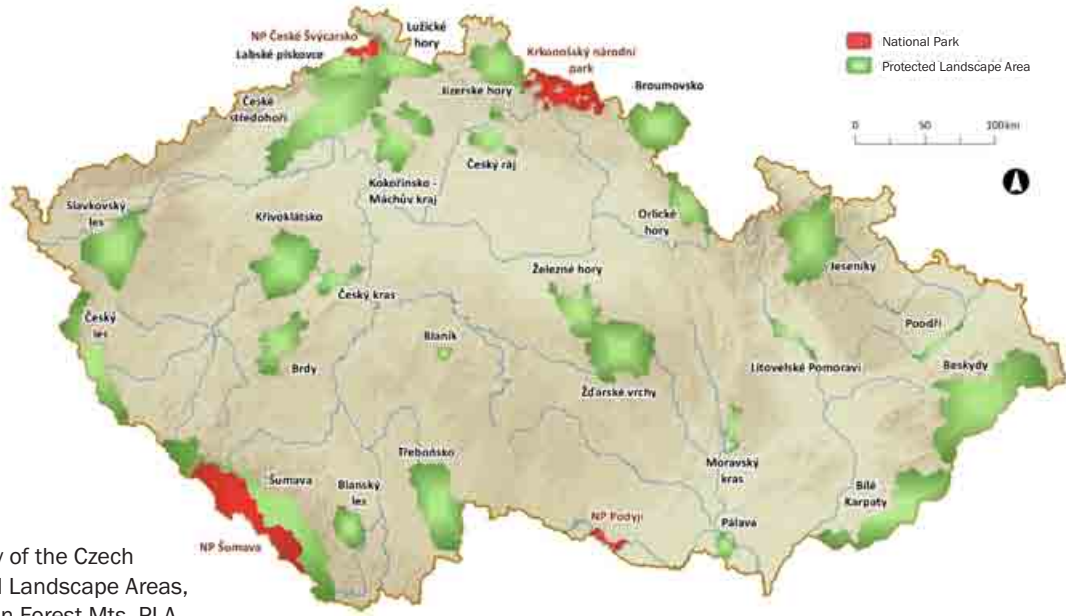


www.zeleznehory.nature.cz



The Eurasian eagle-owl has a wingspan reaching almost two meters in length.

PROTECTED LANDSCAPE AREAS AND NATIONAL PARKS OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC



The Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic manages the Protected Landscape Areas, except for the Šumava/Bohemian Forest Mts. PLA.



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International importance

- Five Protected Landscape Areas are the UNESCO Biosphere Reserves (the White Carpathians Mts, Křivoklátská Region, Pavlov Hills, Bohemian Forest Mts., Třeboň Basin)
- Seven Protected Landscape Areas are in some parts protected by the Ramsar Convention (the Jizera Mts., Kokořínská Region – Mácha's Country, Litovel Morava River Basin, Odra River Basin, Pavlov Hills, Slavkov Forest Mts., Třeboň Basin)
- Three Protected Landscape Areas are members of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas under the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (the Beskids Mts., White Carpathians, Pavlov Hills)
- 25 PLAs are members of the EUROPARC Federation