

Preface

The idea to investigate the impacts of climate change on nature protection sites supported by a remote sensing-based monitoring tool – inspired by Lovejoy and Hannah’s book *Climate Change and Biodiversity* – was the starting point of the project “Adaptive Management of Climate-Induced Changes of Habitat Diversity in Protected Areas” (HABIT-CHANGE). This first idea was further developed and extended during several meetings with a growing number of interested partners. After two years of preparation, the project proposal was submitted to the European transnational funding programme INTERREG IV B Central Europe and later on approved for a three-year runtime. We chose this funding opportunity since climate change does not stop at national borders and the programme supports science-practice-policy cooperation and implementation, which is especially needed for this topic. Since the Central European area is expected to be especially affected by climate change impacts, it is an appropriate investigation region. Furthermore, by choosing European investigation areas it was possible to evaluate the concept and regulations of the EU Habitats Directive – the most important pillar of European wildlife and nature conservation that forms a network of protected sites across the European Union called Natura 2000.

In March 2010, a consortium of 17 great and well-respected partners from nature protection site administrations, scientific institutions, and nature conservation authorities started researching. However, several of the institutions interested in joining the partnership were unable due to financial or administrative reasons. Thus, we additionally had a large number of highly interested associated institutions.

During the project runtime, a lot of public recognition was gained: The HABIT-CHANGE project was selected as:

- One of 28 good practice examples worldwide for the UNESCO-MAB Conference “For life, for the future. Biosphere reserves and climate change” in 2011
- A project of strategic importance of the INTERREG Central Europe funding programme combined with additional funding for capitalisation activities

- A so-called lighthouse project of the German INTERREG/transnational cooperation office by the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development

The results achieved by the project are part of the book content. Extended and more detailed technical reports are available on the project's website.

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