Dynamic Park Models and Integrated Rural Development: A European Perspective

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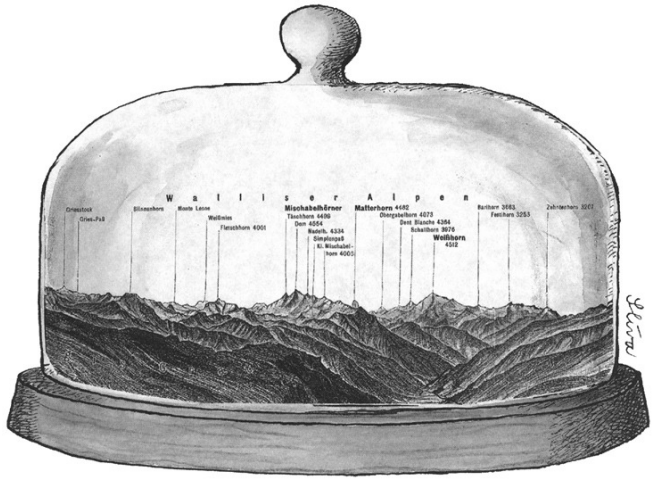
Dynamic Park Models and Integrated Rural Development



Dynamic Park Models and Integrated Rural Development

Thematic focus

- Rural areas and parks in Europe: a hopeful relation
- Dynamic park models: laboratories for sustainable development?
- Integrated rural development: theoretical elements and practical applications to parks
- Conclusion

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Rural areas and parks in Europe: a hopeful relation

- Rural areas in Europe often have been (and still are) perceived being residuals of spatial development
- Repeated campaigns to increase attention for specific problems of rural areas had have rather ambivalent effects
- Actual focus of spatial development in most Central European countries on „metropolitan regions“ being centers of political and economic power in the global competition of regions
- However, recent process of EU enlargement has opened up for a renaissance of rural areas

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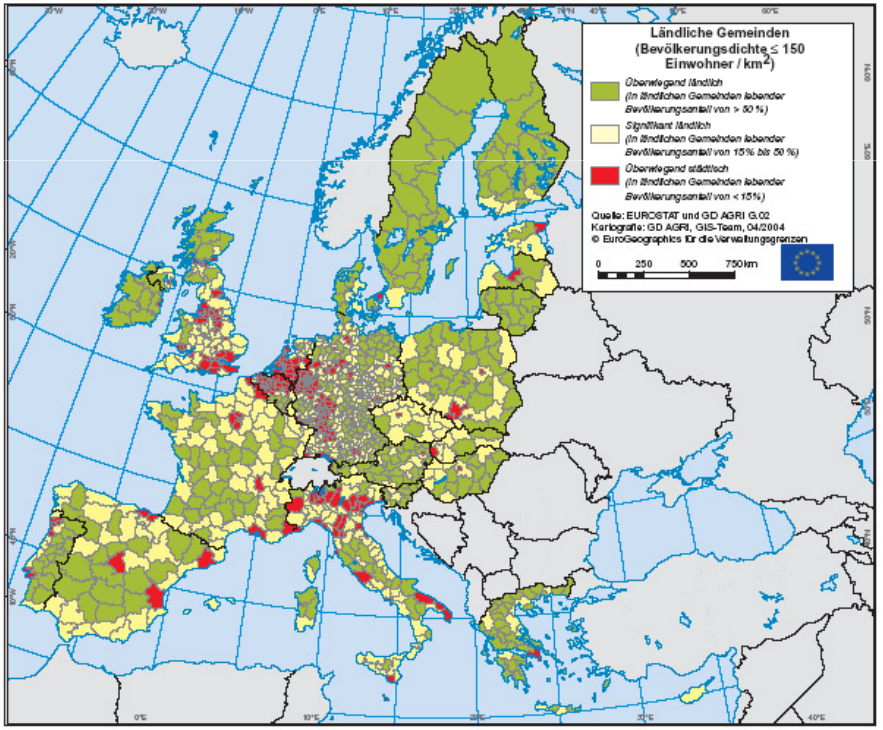
- Statistical figures provide proof that relevance of rural areas can hardly be ignored
- Rural areas cover 92% of EU-25 territory and 56% of population according to OECD
- Significant variations from the average
  - Germany: 81% of territory and 43% of population
  - Poland: 97% of territory and 60% of population



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- Rural areas are undergoing structural change throughout Europe
- Thereby, complex system of multiple functions replaces the traditional agrarian characteristics of rural areas
- Among other functions, protection of valuable natural and cultural landscapes is gaining more and more importance
- Growing number of parks reflects this perspective
- Hence, parks are not only territorial frames for the purpose of protection but rather for a multiplicity of functions: agriculture, tourism, education, research etc.

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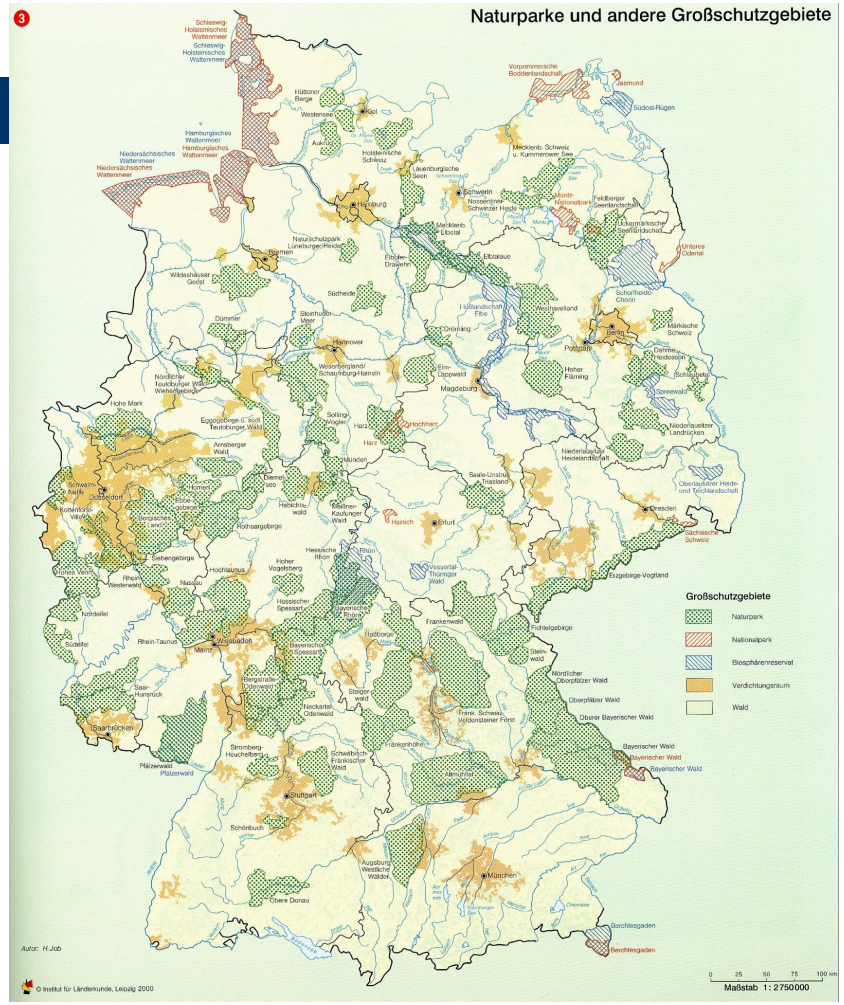
- Advancement of area protection in the countryside is eye-catching – in number and size
- Example of Germany illustrates dimension in an even highly urbanized country
- Question remains, what quality of protection has been achieved yet!



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- Two conceptual approaches require further exploration reg. potential relations between conservation and development goals:
  - Dynamic park models and
  - Integrated rural development

„… protected areas are increasingly being viewed in the context of regional development expressly for the sake of achieving conservation objectives. (…) It is (…) broadly accepted that coordinating conservation and the utilization of nature is advantageous for both conservation and regional development.“
(Hammer, 2007)

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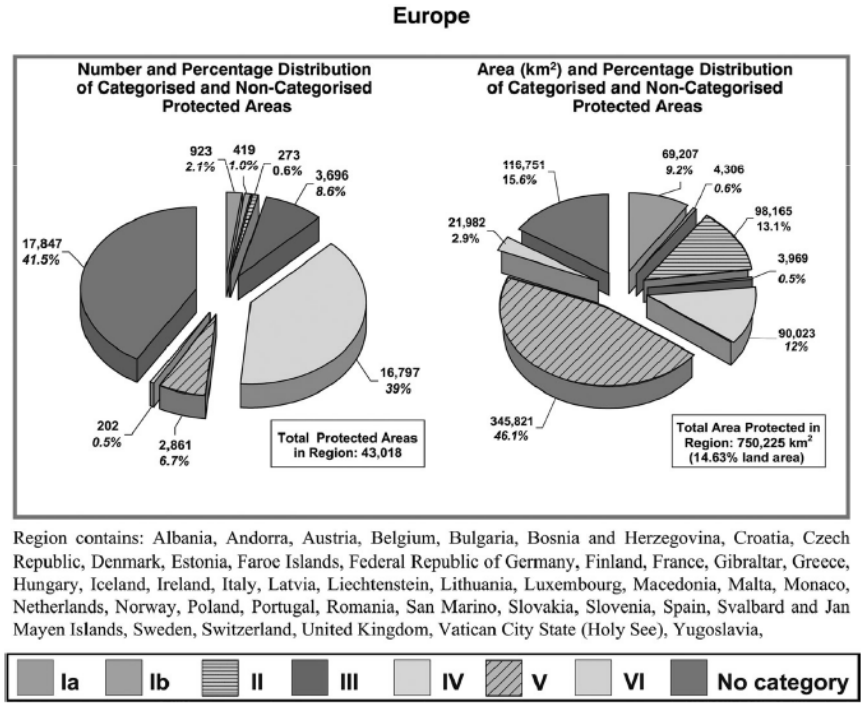
Dynamic park models: laboratories for sustainable development?

- Present state of area protection characterized by obvious advancement in number and territory
- Distribution of protected areas mirrors major role of IUCN category V: protected landscape/ seascape



Quelle: CHAPE et al. 2003, S. 40

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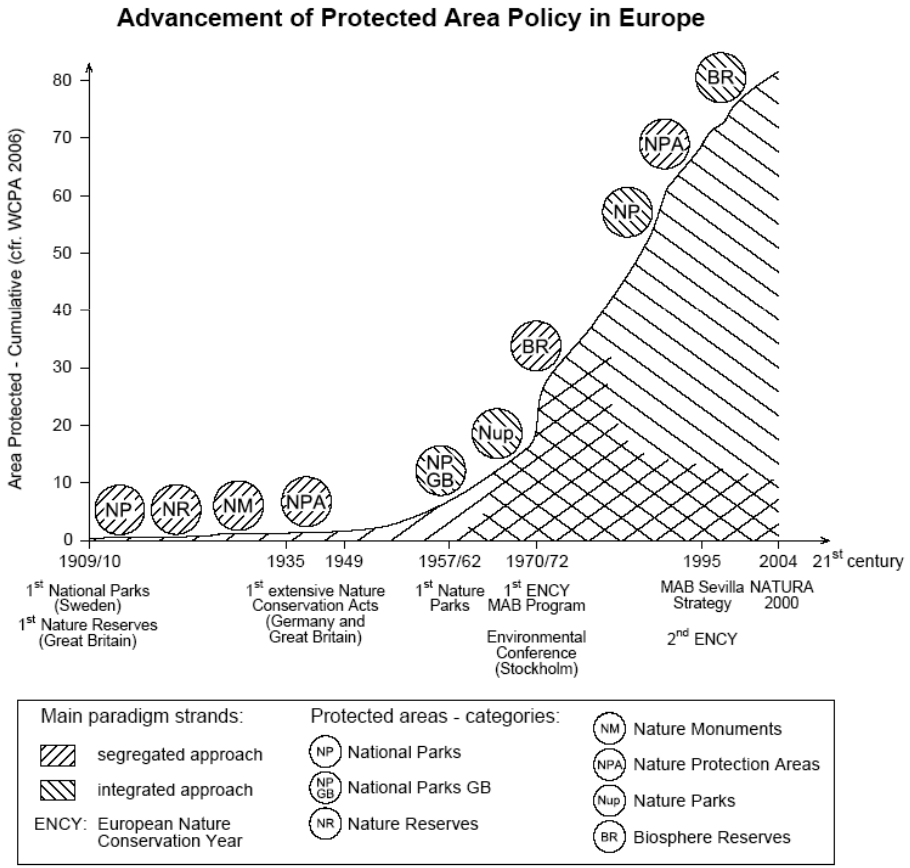
- Historical development: eye-catching increase of protected areas over last 100 years
- Further advancement highly predictable: e.g. Switzerland, Norway
- At the same time distinctive differentiation of types: Nature Reserves, National Parks, Nature Parks, Biosphere Reserves etc.



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- Recent development dominated by protected areas which are labelled „dynamic parks“
- Sometimes confusing complexity of terminology hinders easy orientation
- However, a number of dynamic park models clearly can be distinguished

Major types of dynamic parks in Europe:

- Nature Parks (Germany, Austria, South Tyrol)
- Regional Nature Parks (France, Italy, Spain, Switzerland)
- National Parks (England, Wales, Scotland)
- Biosphere Reserves (international)

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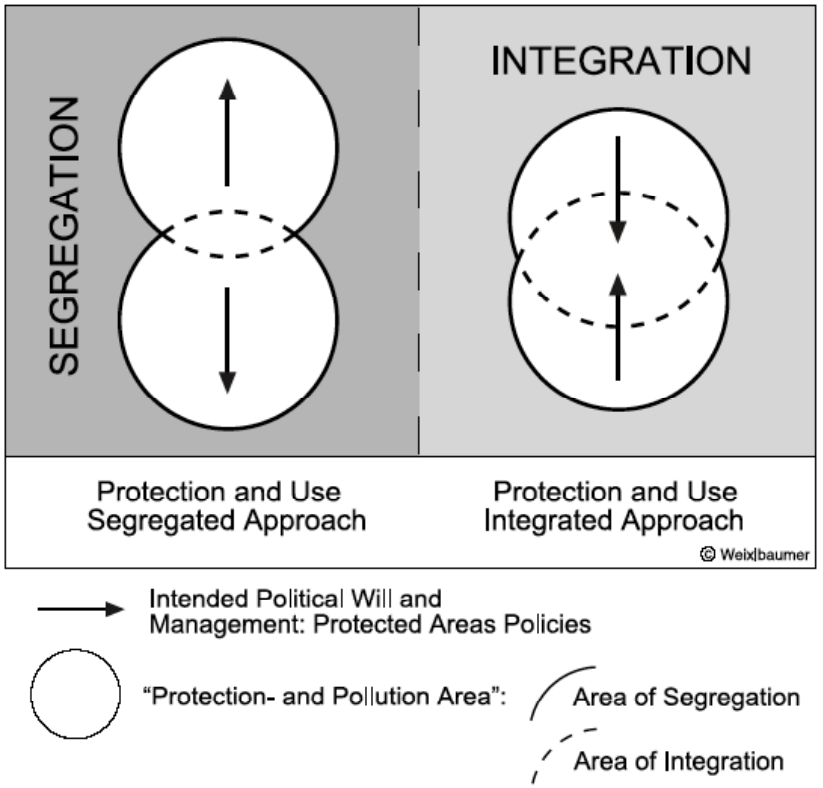
- Increasing implementation of dynamic parks reflects an obvious paradigm change (or paradigm extension) in conservation and protected areas policies
- According to Weixlbaumer (2005), two basic principles of area protection can be distinguished today:



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- What attributes are associated with the idea of dynamic parks?
- Generally speaking, dynamic parks should serve two major goals:
  - Integrate diverse functions in an equal sense (instead of only conservation)
  - Provide laboratories (or test beds) to create model landscapes for sustainable development

Several questions on academic and political level with regard to these demands:

- Are these multifunctional areas adequately protected?
- What kind of functions do they serve concretely and how can these become connected? Are they integrated at all?
- Do the new types of protected areas live up to their wide promises?

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- Multifunctionality of parks: challenge and risk at the same time
- Case study: different functions of Germany´s National Parks

Nutzungsformen in Nationalparks und ihre Belastungsintensität

	Forstwirtschaft	Jagd	Landwirtschaft	Küstenschutz/ Landwirtschaft	Rohstoffabbau	Fischerei	Militär	Siedlung	Verkehr	Versorgung	Entsorgung	Tourismus
Hamburgisches Wattenmeer		1	2	1	2		3	2	4	2	1	3
Niedersächsisches Wattenmeer		3	1-2	2	3	4	1-3	2	4	3	1	3
Schleswig-Holsteinisches Wattenmeer		1	1-2	2	3	4	2		4		1	3
Unteres Odertal	2	2	4	4	4		k.A.		4	1-3	2	1
Jasmund	4	4	3		2		1	2	3	1	3	3
Vorpommersche Boddenlandschaft	4	4	3	3	2		1	3	3	2	2	1-3
Müritz	4	4	2	2	2		1	1	2	1-2	1-2	1
Sächsische Schweiz	3	3	2	2	1		2	2	4		3	4
Hochharz	3	3	1			1	2	2	4	2	2	4
Harz	3	3		2			1	3	4	1	2	4
Bayerischer Wald	1	2	1	1				2	3	1-2	1	1-3

Ausmaß der Belastung: 1 = gering, 2 = mittel, 3 = gravierend, 4 = bedrohend

(Source: Revermann/Petermann 2003)

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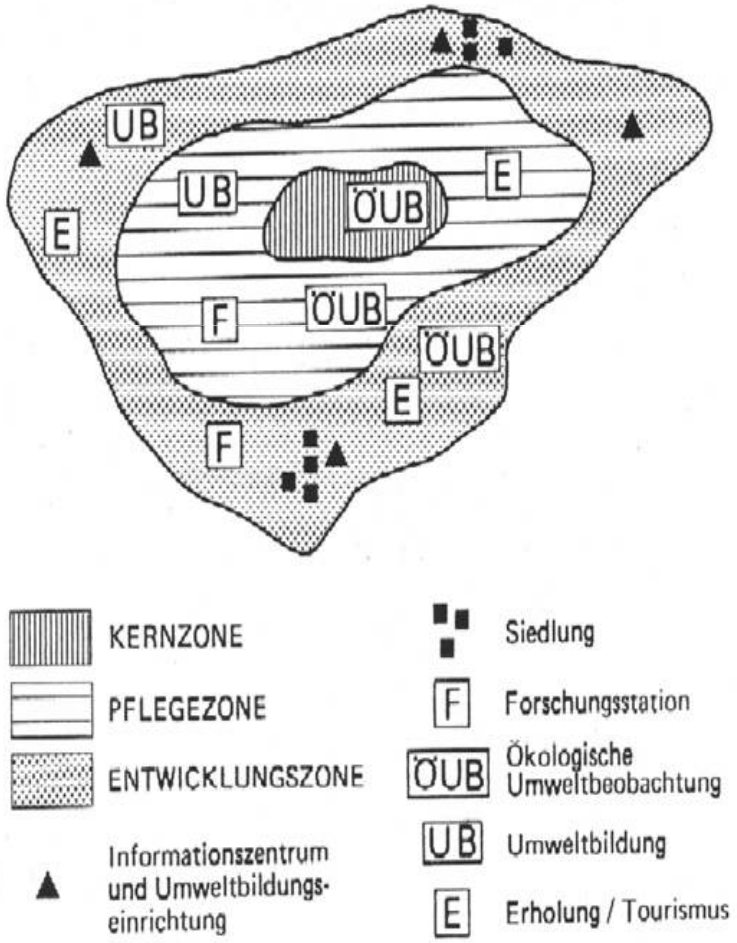
- Above all, Biosphere Reserves are regarded as *the* „model parks“ for sustainable spatial development
- Qualitative attributes:
  - Zoning concept
  - Professional management structures
  - Consequent use of development programmes (e.g. LEADER)
  - Monitoring



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Integrated rural development: theoretical elements and practical applications to parks

- Last three decades have seen controversial conceptual debate in rural policies
- Background: limitations and shortcomings of traditional development concepts
- Call for alternative approaches to rural development
- Actually, growing attention being paid to ideas of a so called integrated rural development (IRD)
- National as well as European dimension of recent discourse

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- Major influences on IRD by reform of EU agricultural and structural policies since early 1990s
- National approaches give additional support to idea of IRD
- Several roots though in earlier concepts of the 1970/80ies: self-reliance, endogenous development, community planning etc.

Corner stones of IRD-related political discourse:

- LEADER programme (since 1991): IRD in practice
- Further initiatives: e.g. PRODER in Spain, POMO in Finland, ILE in Germany
- Declaration of Cork (1996): General political call for IRD
- Agenda 2000: Second pillor of CAP
- Actual funding period: LEADER transferred into horizontal principle

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- Despite engaged debate on IRD no clear definition available yet
- Sometimes LEADER programme is regarded as a ersatz definition
- Alternatively, empirical observations of rural policy making can serve to define „key elements“:

Elements of integrated rural development

- Use of endogenous resources
- Cross-sectoral approach
- Decentralisation of powers
- Area-based approach
- Working in networks of public, private and civic actors
- Participative planning
- Animation and capacity-building

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„Typically IRD suggests a territorial or area-based approach through which sectoral policies and instruments may be integrated at the point of implementation.“
(Shucksmith 1999)

„…. (integrated) development is not simply a question of undertaking projects, nor of achieving objectives in narrow economic terms. Development is also a process, by which is meant the creation of social products ….“
(Kearney et.al. 1994)

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Territorial dimension:

- No riskful distribution of resources by watering-can principle
- Spatial concentration of efforts
- Better manageability
- Linkage with area-based programmes/ funding (e.g. LEADER)
- Allowing clearer visibility of outcomes

Social dimension:

- Serious consideration of human potentials
- Social competences as a motor of development: confidence, reliability, trust etc.
- Key qualification: cooperation
- Shared responsibility by building of networks and partnerships

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- Different responses to the debate of IRD across Europe
- As a result, practical applications in different countries (Sweden, Austria, Italy etc.) show significant variations (see Terluin 2001, Moseley 2003, Brodda 2007)
- However, studies proof clear evidence for „success factors“ of IRD-based policy approaches

„Leading regions tend to be characterized by a development process, which is organized and experienced in a (…) bottom-up process, involving a wide range of local actors. (…) This (…) mainly depends on the capacity of (…) networks in which they are involved (…) and is related to the degree of mobilization and organization of local actors, be they private or public.“
(Terluin 2001)

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- Concept of IRD consists of several elements clearly related to dynamic park models
- Without surprise, IRD increasingly being used as a tool also for park development
- Heterogeneous experiences thoughout Europe with IRD in different types of dynamic parks (and even beyond)

Application of IRD in park development:

- Nature Parks: slow response in Germany with few positive examples (e.g. marketing of tourism), partially broader adaption in Austria
- National Parks (UK): high correlation only in theory, practice rather vague
- Regional Nature Parks (e.g. France): in theory IRD-based development, but generally very weak practice
- Biosphere Reserves: strong correlation of concepts, many positive examples of succesful application

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Conclusion

- Continious advancement of area protection in Europe in number and size over last decades
- In comparison eye-catching increase of dynamic park models
- Dynamic park models provide necessary framework to integrate conservation and development function in practice
- Dynamic parks require appropriate tools for succesful development
- Concept of integrated rural development highly applicable – various examples illustrate „best practices“ Europewide
- However, a number of considerations need to be taken into account:

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- Goals and chances of protected areas have to be made visible in the park regions – and beyond
- Parks require extensive participation of population and stakeholders to achieve wide and lasting acceptance
- Parks have to be promoted as „innovation centers“ for sustainable spatial development
- Succesfull planning of parks is the work of at least one generation

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Thank you very much!

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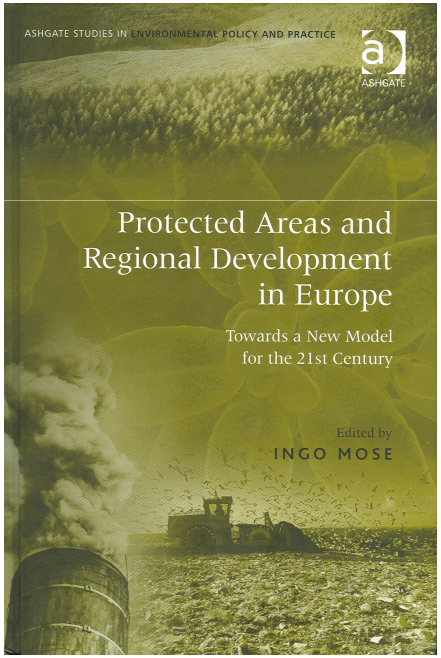

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