Quality Criteria and Standards for German National Parks

Evaluation procedures for reviewing management effectiveness

Version 2.0

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SAXONY-
ANHALT

NORTHRHINE-
WESTPHALIA

HESSE

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Foreword

Against the background of the alarming decline in global biodiversity, national parks are of outstanding importance for safeguarding species and habitat diversity. In response to the worrying state of nature, the **Convention on Biological Diversity** (CBD) was adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The establishment of a global network of terrestrial and marine protected areas, and the simultaneous establishment of their effective management, are the main goals of **the CBD's Programme of Work on Protected Areas**.

With the National Biodiversity Strategy (NBS), adopted by the Federal Cabinet in 2007, Germany is fulfilling a central requirement of the CBD. Among other things, the NBS formulates the goal that there should once again be large areas in Germany which allow natural processes to run as undisturbed as possible. National parks make a significant contribution to achieving this goal because they ensure protection of biodiversity via its own natural dynamism across the majority of their area. Another building block for fulfilling CBD obligations is the **Action Plan for Protected Areas**, which the Federal Environment Ministry is currently working on for the decade up to 2030, in cooperation with the federal states. In particular, it aims to raise the management quality of German protected areas and increase appreciation of them.

In May 2020, the European Commission adopted the **EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030**, with the aim of putting Europe's biodiversity on a "path to recovery". This is to be achieved, among others, through the legal protection of at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and marine areas in the EU.

Despite the designation of new protected areas, there has not yet been a reversal in the decline of species and habitats in Germany; this fact further highlights the importance of effective management of Germany's **National Natural Landscapes**, which today comprise 16 national parks, 18 biosphere reserves, and 104 nature parks.

As a basis for assessing the management quality of national parks, quality criteria and standards, as well as an evaluation procedure, were developed as early as 2008, with significant support from the federal government. Experience gained with the quality set has been used to optimize the quality criteria as well as the questionnaire as the basis for the evaluation – the focus being on further harmonization and stricter quality standards. In addition, new topics were also taken up, for example sustainable procurement, accessibility, and participation. The results of this two-year process are presented in this booklet.

With the next National Park Evaluation for 2021 – 2024, the optimization process will be established on a permanent basis. Federal and state governments, national park administrations and their umbrella organization Nationale Naturlandschaften e. V. (registered Association of National Natural Landscapes), hereby make a joint contribution to the constant improvement in the quality of national parks and thus to the preservation and development of biodiversity in Germany.

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Federal Agency for
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Chairman of the Board
Nationale Naturlandschaften e. V.

Background

Evaluation process for national parks in Germany

Supported and funded by the Federal Ministry for the Environment and the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, EUROPARC Deutschland e. V. initiated the development of a quality set for German national parks between 2005 and 2008, including a questionnaire (project 1), and then carried out an initial evaluation of German national parks from 2009 to 2012 (project 2). About five years after the first evaluation, an interim evaluation of the implementation status of the recommendations for action was carried out, between 2015 and 2018 (project 3). In preparation for the next evaluation, the quality set and the questionnaire were further developed from 2019 to 2021, based on the experience gained (project 4).

In essence, the evaluation pursues the following main objectives:

- Identification of strengths and weaknesses in the national parks and their reasons

- Long-term management and, where necessary, improvement of the quality of park management by the national park administrations

- Promotion of inter-state exchange between the national park administrations

- Contribute to fulfilling Germany's duties and obligations from agreements within the framework of the CBD, including implementation of the "Programme of Work on Protected Areas"

All German national park administrations have been intensively involved in the evaluation process from the start. Representatives of the state ministries, the scientific community, and non-governmental environmental and nature conservation organizations have also been involved.

The most important contents and results of the previous projects are briefly presented below.

Project 1: Development of quality criteria and standards to evaluate the management effectiveness of German national parks (2005–2008)[1, 2]

The aim of the project was, on the one hand, the initial development of a qualitative set of criteria, standards, and indicators as well as questions to determine the degree of compliance with these standards. On the other hand, it was a matter of defining the sequence of the evaluation process based on this. In order to ensure the broadest possible accep- tance of the entire process, political support, and the greatest possible practical benefit for the national parks, various actors took part. The results of the individual work steps were inten- sively discussed and analyzed in workshops. The quality set was approved by the Federal/State Working Group on Nature Conservation, Landscape Management and Recreation (LANA).

Project 2: First evaluation of German national parks (2009–2012)[3, 4, 5, 6, 7]

As part of the project, all German national parks (at that time 14) were evaluated on a voluntary basis by an external evaluation committee, the members of which were appointed by LANA. The dual-staffed committee included two represen- tatives from the federal government, four from LANA, four from science, three from nature conservation associations, two from the EUROPARC Deutschland e. V. working group on national parks, and one from EUROPARC Deutschland e. V. In effect, every national park was visited by eight committee members. EUROPARC Deutschland e. V. was responsible for managing and controlling the process. The central task of the committee was to determine the extent to which the current situation in national parks corresponds to the quality stan- dards defined as reference conditions. The basis for this were the self-assessments of the national park administrations based on a questionnaire, as well as a one-and-a-half-day on-site meeting of the evaluation committee to discuss and clarify open questions with the national park administration and external stakeholders (e.g. land users, NGOs, authorities). The park-specific evaluation reports reflected the strengths and weaknesses of the parks as well as the achievement of or deviations from the quality standards. For each national park, the committee formulated an average of 77 recom- mendations for action that were intended to safeguard and improve management quality and were addressed to the relevant stakeholders. After a written feedback session with the national park administrations and the responsible state ministries, the evaluation reports were finalized and made publicly available on the Internet. All national park adminis- trations as well as the respective responsible state ministries found the evaluation process to be valuable support for their work. An impartial view and constructive criticism from outside are important and helpful, both internally and in relation to external relations and the external image of a national park.

1   EUROPARC Deutschland e. V. (2008 a): Qualitätskriterien und -standards für deutsche Nationalparke. Berlin

2   EUROPARC Deutschland e. V. (2008 b): Quality criteria and standards for German national parks. Developing a procedure to evaluate management effectiveness. Berlin.

3   EUROPARC Deutschland e. V. (2012): Evaluation of German National Parks; Checking Management Efficiency. Berlin

4   EUROPARC Deutschland e. V. (2013 a): Managementqualität deutscher Nationalparks. Berlin

5   HEILAND, S. & HOFFMANN, A. (2013): Erste Evaluierung der deutschen Nationalparks: Erfahrungen und Ergebnisse. In: Natur und Landschaft Heft 7/2013, 88. Jahrgang, Verlag W. Kohlhammer, Stuttgart: 303–308

6   EUROPARC DEUTSCHLAND e. V. (2013 b): Abschlussbericht F+E Vorhaben „Anwendung von Qualitätskriterien und -standards zur Evaluierung der deutschen Nationalparke". Unveröffentlicht. Berlin

7   HEILAND, S. (2012 a): Evaluierung des Projekts: „Anwendung von Qualitätskriterien und -standards zur Evaluierung der deutschen Nationalparke". In: EUROPARC Deutschland (2013 b): Abschlussbericht zum F+E Vorhaben „Anwendung von Qualitätskriterien und -standards zur Evaluierung der deutschen Nationalparke", Anlage 7. Unveröffentlicht. Berlin

The evaluation results of all the national parks were compiled in an anonymous "cross-sectional analysis" in the form of a summarizing overview. For the first time, this gave a comprehensive overview of the strengths and weaknesses of all German national parks, without making a comparative assessment. This deliberate waiver of ranking, expressly requested by LANA, took into account the individual situation of the national parks, for example with regard to age, size, cultural and usage history, or still existing uses. In addition, the evaluation also increased the political perception and importance of the national parks, intensified self-reflection by park administrations, promoted communication and networking, and added value to public relations.

Project 3: Interim evaluation of German national parks (2015–2018)[8]

Around five years after the first evaluation, the implementation status of a total of 1,076 recommendations for action was ascertained and assessed. Self-assessment by the national park administrations again formed the basis. The survey showed that around two thirds of all recommendations had been implemented by the end of January 2016, and 23 % had already been implemented in full. The recommendations which have been partially implemented contain many measures that occur regularly and require ongoing efforts, which makes the current situation even more positive than is reflected in the basic figures. The interim evaluation confirmed that the first evaluation provided an important impetus for improving the management quality in all German national parks. It was confirmed that the review of management based on uniform quality criteria and standards is very much appreciated by national park administrations and is an important instrument for further improving management quality.

The project was taken as an opportunity to also carry out a basic survey of the underlying framework conditions in the two national parks founded in 2015 and 2016 (Black Forest and Hunsrück-Hochwald) in order to make recommendations at an early stage for action on the further direction of park management.

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8   EUROPARC Deutschland e. V. (2018): Abschlussbericht F+E Vorhaben „Zwischenevaluierung der deutschen Nationalparke inklusive Analyse zum Artenmanagement in den Kernzonen (insbesondere Neobiota)". Unveröffentlicht. Berlin

The need for optimization and further development of the quality set

Since the evaluation process was first carried out in 2009, it is not surprising that, despite overall positive progress, a number of weaknesses have emerged that need to be remedied. They are well documented for the first evaluation[9,10], as well as the interim evaluation[11] and baseline survey:

- The need for a general clarifying of standards with regard to the national parks' central objective of "let nature be nature" and related aspects of natural dynamics

- Unclear demarcation between activity areas due to double or incorrect allocation of individual criteria or parts of standards

- Redundancies between individual criteria and standards

- Difficulties in the operationalization of individual standards: in some cases, more qualitative or "soft" formulation of some standards, so that they cannot be operationalized and verified without considerable effort. This means that parts of the standards cannot be assessed in a valid way.

- A relationship is not always guaranteed between the activity area and the corresponding criteria, criterion and the corresponding standard, or standard and corresponding evaluation questions: in some cases, the standards and questions are not strictly derived from the corresponding criteria and standards, which leads to incomplete compatibility between them. This means that some contents from the standard are not covered by questions, while the related questions in other places go beyond the contents of the standard (but are of course important). This means that an exact check of the standards is not possible.

- New topics are not reflected: more than a decade has passed since the quality set was adopted. It therefore does not or only insufficiently reflect current developments and social demands, such as wilderness, reducing fragmentation, socio-economic monitoring, international cooperation, accessibility and inclusion, participation, or the role model function of national park administrations with regard to sustainable management.

- Missing definition of central terms: the previously missing definition of important terms (e.g. naturalness, protection of natural processes, and wildlife management) in the quality standards and criteria makes uniform understanding more difficult and can be a source of error in the assessment.

To remedy these weaknesses, a fourth project was carried out between 2019 and 2021, which is described below.

9   HEILAND, S. (2012 a): Evaluierung des Projekts: „Anwendung von Qualitätskriterien und -standards zur Evaluierung der deutschen Nationalparke". In: EUROPARC Deutschland (2013°b): Abschlussbericht zum F+E Vorhaben „Anwendung von Qualitätskriterien und -standards zur Evaluierung der deutschen Nationalparke", Anlage 7. Unveröffentlicht. Berlin

10 HEILAND, S. (2012 b): Schwächen der Evaluierung deutscher Nationalparks im Rahmen des F+E-Vorhabens „Anwendung von Qualitätskriterien und -standards zur Evaluierung der deutschen Nationalparke". In: EUROPARC Deutschland (2013 b): Abschlussbericht zum F+E Vorhaben „Anwendung von Qualitätskriterien und -standards zur Evaluierung der deutschen Nationalparke", Anlage 6. Unveröffentlicht. Berlin

11 EUROPARC Deutschland e. V. (2018): Abschlussbericht F+E Vorhaben „Zwischenevaluierung der deutschen Nationalparke inklusive Analyse zum Artenmanagement in den Kernzonen (insbesondere Neobiota)". Unveröffentlicht. Berlin

Project 4: Further development of quality criteria and standards for German national parks (2019 – 2021)

In this project, the vagueness and problems described above, as well as the suggestions for improvement made by those involved in the process, were taken up and the quality set was revised, including the questionnaire. The aim was to achieve better internal consistency at all levels (activity areas, criteria, standards, questions) by summarizing or rearranging individual activity areas, criteria or standards, clarifying the content and language of the standards and the associated questions, and – as far as possible – reducing of the scope of questions as well as streamlining the given possible answers in order to enable faster and clearer responses to the questions, thereby minimizing the time required for the national park administrations.

The enhanced quality set was approved by LANA in March 2021.

For those involved in the process, it was important that the newly developed quality set remains compatible with the one used for the first evaluation, as this is the only way to ensure that the results of future evaluations can be compared with those of the previous one. With the further development of the quality set, the federal and state governments, as well as the national parks, reflect the legal requirements of their own state as well as the international standards of the protected area category "national park".

Nationale Naturlandschaften e. V. believes it is vitally important to support the work of the individual national park administrations as part of National Natural Landscapes in such a way that both the quality of the individual national park is guaranteed and synergy effects across national parks for the protected area system as a whole are promoted. The umbrella organization acts as a neutral mediator between the interests of the federal and state governments, as well as a link between practice in the national park administrations and science.

The further developed quality set

Quality assurance and improvement require the formulation of a quality target, i.e. the ideal condition when compared with the current condition. The basis for the formulation of already quite specific quality goals is the agreement on a common, overarching vision:

Germany's national parks are natural landscapes largely unaffected by human activity; their protected areas allow nature to be undisturbed to a particularly large extent for present and future generations, so that we humans are aware of the beauty and the value of life on our Earth and preserve the diversity of nature.

Following this vision, eight **activity areas** have been determined for all topics and tasks that are relevant to achieve them and the goals of the national parks. The eight areas of activity are further differentiated by 42 **quality criteria** and described in more detail with regard to the aspects relevant to the area of activity.

For each quality criterion, a **quality standard** is defined that describes the respective ideal state, taking into account national and international requirements.

During a national park evaluation, all quality criteria are recorded to see whether the current status corresponds to the standard. On the basis of this target-actual comparison, an external evaluation committee carries out an assessment and provides information on how to ensure or improve the quality that has already been achieved. A detailed catalogue of questions with open and closed questions is available to record the status. The questionnaire answers from the national park administrations are a self-assessment which form the basis for the assessment by the evaluation committee.

Table 1: The eight activity areas and the associated criteria

Activity area	Quality criteria
1 Framework conditions	1.1 Legal foundations 1.2 Protection purposes 1.3 Overriding planning principles 1.4 Responsibilities 1.5 Ownership rights 1.6 Boundaries and delineation
2 Organization	2.1 Administrative function, tasks, and staffing of the national park administration 2.2 Personnel management 2.3 Ranger service 2.4 Volunteer management 2.5 Environmental management and sustainable procurement 2.6 Financing 2.7 Advisory boards and boards of trustees
3 Protection of natural biodiversity and dynamics	3.1 Space for natural dynamics 3.2 Zoning 3.3 Habitats of international importance 3.4 Ecosystem networking
4 Management	4.1 National park vision 4.2 National park plan 4.3 Restoration 4.4 Species and habitat management 4.5 Utilization regulations 4.6 Visitor management 4.7 Patrolling 4.8 Monitoring the success of measures
5 Cooperation and sustainable regional development	5.1 National and international cooperation 5.2 Regional cooperation 5.3 Integrating the national park into its region 5.4 Participation 5.5 Appreciation of the national park 5.6 Connecting national park and public transport 5.7 Impulses for the region
6 External communication	6.1 Communication structure 6.2 Corporate design
7 Education and nature experience	7.1 Education strategy 7.2 Education opportunities 7.3 Opportunities for nature experiences and recreation 7.4 Visitor infrastructure 7.5 Accessibility and inclusion
8 Research and monitoring	8.1 Research content and research coordination 8.2 Monitoring 8.3 Documentation

Table 2: Quality criteria and associated standards for German national parks

Quality criteria	Quality standards
Activity area 1: Framework conditions	
1.1 Legal foundations	The national park is legally secured by a national park act and/or a national park decree. State laws or decrees do not prevent the goals of the national park from being achieved. The national park is delimited in a legally correct manner.
1.2 Protection purposes	The primary protection purpose of the national park is to enable the undisturbed dynamics of natural processes in ecosystems, to restore them, and to ensure them in the long term. As far as the primary protection purpose allows, the national park also serves the protection and management of species and habitats, as well as the further purposes of scientific environmental monitoring, nature, and wilderness education, as well as giving people the experience of nature.
1.3 Overriding planning principles	The national park's demarcation and protection purposes are taken into account in the regional and state-wide spatial plans relevant to it, or the spatial plan for the exclusive economic zone (EEZ), in such a way that the entire national park area is defined as a "priority area for nature conservation".
1.4 Responsibilities	The national park administration has all the official authorization needed for implementation of the protection purposes, especially as a nature conservation, forestry, hunting, fishing, and water authority. Where other bodies have responsibilities in the national park, they respect the goals and interests of the national park in their decision-making and involve the national park administration.
1.5 Ownership rights	The area of the national park is completely owned by bodies and stakeholders (preferably the federal state) who permanently and lawfully support the goals of the national park, or who do not conflict with them. Where this is not the case, permanent provisions are in place to ensure that the national park goals are achieved.
1.6 Boundaries and delineation	The national park is designated as a compact and coherent area, taking into account ecosystem criteria. The national park is free of settlements and traffic infrastructure and therefore not fragmented. The national park covers at least 10,000 ha. Exceptionally, a smaller area of outstanding international importance can be designated as a national park. In such a case, the area is delimited in such a way that the fulfilment of the primary protection purpose is ensured.
Activity area 2: Organization	
2.1 Administrative function, tasks, and staffing of the national park administration	The national park administration is directly responsible to the highest nature conservation authority. It is an independent special authority. The national park administration performs all tasks necessary to safeguard and promote the protection purposes. In addition, within the meaning of the Federal Nature Conservation Act (BNatSchG) and the State Nature Conservation Act (LNatSchG), it carries out or coordinates tasks to achieve other national park purposes, in particular scientific environmental monitoring, nature and wilderness education, as well as giving people the experience of nature. Fulfilment of the tasks is ensured by sufficient staffing. This applies to both the number of permanent positions as well as to the qualifications and competencies of the staff in order to fulfil their tasks.

Quality criteria	Quality standards
2.2 Personnel management	There is a clear job and task description for all positions. This enables employees to act independently, be involved in decision-making processes and internal communication, and to receive opportunities for regular training that they can take advantage of. The national park administration is responsible for recruiting personnel.
2.3 Ranger service	Rangers are responsible in particular for patrolling (monitoring compliance with protection regulations), data collection (monitoring), visitor management, visitor care, and environmental education, as well as for technical jobs on site. To enable this, a sufficient number of suitably qualified full-time permanent staff is available in the national park administration. The national park authority enables a uniform appearance. People employed for the mandatory monitoring of the protection regulations have undergone training that meets contemporary requirements.
2.4 Volunteer management	The national park administration offers volunteers the opportunity to work in the national park, for example in educational and public relations work, patrolling, or in monitoring and research. The volunteers are recruited by the national park administration as part of coordinated volunteer management; they are qualified and looked after by full-time staff, and they have the opportunity to take part in further training. The capacity and competence required for qualified supervision of volunteers are taken into account in staffing levels and personnel development.
2.5 Environmental management and sustainable procurement	The national park administration acts as a role model for environmentally friendly action in all of its areas of responsibility. It ensures this by focusing on the lowest possible consumption and through environmental compatibility in property management, energy supply and consumption, as well as in procurement. Energy supply and consumption, resource management and emissions are recorded in an audit. The national park administration actively informs the general public about the experience they have gained and possibilities for taking action.
2.6 Financing	The individual federal state ensures sufficient funding for the national park administration. In addition to personnel costs, this includes sufficiently high operating and financial resources for the permanent and high-quality fulfilment of all national park administration tasks and measures. The budget items are reciprocally coverable. The national park administration can manage its budget independently. In addition, the national park administration can raise funding, as far as its staffing allows.
2.7 Advisory boards and boards of trustees	Advisory boards, boards of trustees, and other consultative bodies promote national park development and support the integration of the national park into the region.

Quality criteria	Quality standards
Activity area 3: Protection of natural biodiversity and dynamics	
3.1 Space for natural dynamics	The national park protects natural dynamics and the undisturbed course of natural processes in the ecosystems it represents. This is ensured within 30 years of the national park being designated and on at least 75 % of its area. If this is not possible, specific strategies and measures to achieve this goal as quickly as possible should be clearly visible. National parks with more than 40 % of their area not in publicly ownership, or in which Germany completely encompasses a habitat of global importance, can set longer time limits in their national park plan, or must at least protect large areas of representative habitats in their natural processes over most of its area. In the event of substantial expansions of the national park, a further transition period of 30 years will apply for new area. The areas to protect the natural dynamics (natural dynamic zone) are contiguous, unfragmented, and compact; the length of their outer borders in relation to their area should be as short as possible.
3.2 Zoning	The national park is clearly divided by zoning into areas in which natural dynamics are already taking place and areas in which management measures can be carried out temporarily or permanently. The zoning of the national park is part of the national park act and/or the national park decree, as well as the national park plan, and is publicly available.
3.3 Habitats of international importance	The national park contains habitats of international importance. These are appropriately recorded, including the necessary protection and conservation measures, and shown in the national park plan.
3.4 Ecosystem networking	Via ecologically effective areas and corridors, the national park is connected with areas outside its borders that are important for the protection of habitats and species. Such functional connections should, in particular, link to areas in the national park region or in the immediate vicinity, but extend spatially as far as possible. In particular, connections should be made to nature reserves, to sites and nationally important axes and corridors of the federal biotope network, as well as to sites in the Natura 2000 network. In order to achieve this, or to guarantee it permanently, the national park is included in regional, state, and national habitat networks and similar plans.

Quality criteria	Quality standards
Activity area 4: Management	
4.1 National park vision	The national park has a vision for its development. The vision is fundamental, long term, visionary, and compatible with the overarching vision for German national parks from EUROPARC Deutschland e. V. (2005). The vision is part of the national park plan.
4.2 National park plan	The national park plan is ready no later than five years after national park designation and is updated regularly, at least every ten years. It guides and determines the activities in the national park carried out by the national park administration and the other responsible administrative authorities. Regional stakeholders are given suitable opportunities to participate in the development and updating of the national park plan. The national park plan is based on the German "Leitfaden zur Erarbeitung von Nationalpark-Plänen" (EUROPARC Deutschland, 2000, in English "Guideline for the Preparation of National Park Plans" and the "Vorschläge zur Gliederung und zu Inhalten von Nationalpark-Plänen" (BfN-Skripten 425, 2015, in English "Suggestions for the Structure and Content of National Park Plans". It names clear goals as well as time horizons and measures, as well as indicators for their achievement to able evaluation of the achievement of goals.
4.3 Restoration	Restoration measures are limited to deconstruction of structures and initiating measures on areas outside the natural dynamic zone that have been altered by anthropogenic intervention before national park designation in such a way that natural self-regulation can hardly be expected, even in the long term, without restoration.
4.4 Species and habitat management	Species management measures are presented and justified in the national park plan. Active management of species in the national park is of secondary importance and only takes place outside or, exceptionally, in the natural dynamic zone. Habitats with permanent management are, without exception, outside the natural dynamic zone. Active control of invasive neo-biota, which could endanger the protective purposes of the national park, is only possible in the natural dynamic zone in exceptional cases, and must be specifically justified. The management of wild animals occurs exclusively within the framework of the requirements of the "Positionspapier Wildtierregulierung" (Nationale Naturlandschaften e. V./AG Nationalparke, 2020, in English "Position Paper on Wild Animal Control"). The wild animal control is limited as far as possible in terms of time and space, with the largest possible year-round non-hunting areas set up for this.
4.5 Utilization regulations	The national park administration is not intended for economically determined material use of natural resources. They are totally excluded in the natural dynamic zone. If any utilization takes place, it must not conflict with the protective purposes. If there is still legitimate third-party utilization that runs counter to the protective purposes, the national park administration will work to ensure that it stops as soon as possible.
4.6 Visitor guidance	Visitor guidance is based on a spatial concept that is part of the national park plan or the core paths plan, or was created in addition to it. In the national park, path restrictions and/or access prohibitions are legally binding. Routes and areas for visitors are selected and marked according to criteria based on nature conservation and nature experience in conformity with the primary protection purpose of the national park.

Quality criteria	Quality standards
4.7 Patrolling	The national park administration has field staff with mandatory authority to check compliance and conformity with nature protection in the national park, and punish where necessary. It has the staffing levels and personnel development to ensure this through regular and adequate presence on site. Where necessary, the national park administration is supported by other stakeholders.
4.8 Monitoring the success of measures	The implementation and effectiveness of the measures specified in the national park plan are evaluated through monitoring. The results are documented and usually made publicly available.

Activity area 5: Cooperation and sustainable regional development

Quality criteria	Quality standards
5.1 National and international cooperation	The national park administration cooperates with large-scale protected areas, both inside and outside Germany, in particular through reciprocal information and support.
5.2 Regional cooperation	The national park administration is supported in the fulfilment of its tasks by third parties (e.g., associations for the promotion of the national park, foundations). It uses cooperation and partnerships to attract as many relevant social groups as possible to support the national park goals. The national park administration is represented in relevant regional working groups and networks.
5.3 Integrating the national park into its region	The national park region is defined in the national park plan or another suitable document. The national park plan or another suitable document contains recommendations on developments in the national park region that are of particular importance for the achievement of the national park goals. The national park administration contributes its opinions to projects with spatial impact in the immediate vicinity of the national park. These are respected by the project management organizations, as well as the approval authorities, in accordance with the status of the national park as a "priority area for nature conservation".
5.4 Participation	The national park administration conducts regular, direct, and appreciative dialogue with the relevant target groups and the public. In the case of decisions by the national park administration that have an impact on the national park and/or the national park region, the stakeholders concerned are given an appropriate opportunity at an early stage to find out about the goals and content of the project and to submit proposals.
5.5 Appreciation of the national park	Both the national park itself and the national park administration are recognized and valued in the region. For this purpose, the national park administration communicates the national park goals, its decisions, positive effects, and any restrictions in a comprehensible and transparent manner. The national park administration uses appropriate methods to regularly evaluate the image of, appreciation of, and acceptance of the national park among visitors and residents in the area surrounding the national park. The national park administration uses the results to review its communication strategy and activities.
5.6 Connecting national park and public transport	The national park is easily accessible all year round by public transport. Regional public transport includes suitable areas of the national park in such a way that private motor vehicle traffic is reduced and the protective purposes are not impaired.

Quality criteria	Quality standards
5.7 Impulses for the region	The national park contributes to a positive regional image. The national park administration provides impulses for sustainable development of the national park region in accordance with the goals of the national park. It supports corresponding activities of other stakeholders in all areas of sustainability, especially in sustainable tourism. The socio-economic effects of the national park on the region are regularly recorded, analyzed, and publicly communicated. The results are used for measures to secure and, as far as possible, to strengthen positive effects.

Activity area 6: External communication

Quality criteria	Quality standards
6.1 Communication structure	The national park has a written communication strategy that includes the goals, content, and methods of external communication. The external communication explains the goals, tasks, and activities of the national park or the national park administration in a clear and understandable manner for specific target groups. The national park administration communicates with relevant target groups at regional and national level, using digital (homepage, newsletter, blog, social media, etc.) and non-digital means (telephone enquiries, public meetings, newspapers, annual reports, etc.). The stakeholders concerned, as well as the general public, are regularly and proactively kept up-to-date. Any further communication with the respective target groups is dialogue-oriented, direct, and appreciative. An ongoing, institutionalized communication structure has been created for partners such as higher authorities and regional committees, as well as special purpose, nature conservation, and tourism associations.
6.2 Corporate design	In all its communications, the national park administration presents the national park using the uniform corporate design of "Nationale Naturlandschaften" (in English: National Natural Landscapes).

Activity area 7: Education and nature experience

Quality criteria	Quality standards
7.1 Education strategy	The national park administration has an educational strategy, in particular for nature and wilderness education, which provides specific educational opportunities for all major target groups. The principles of education work in the national park are coordinated with education partners.
7.2 Education opportunities	Education opportunities in the national park serve to convey its protection purposes, the goals and measures necessary for its preservation, development, and other purposes, its natural history features, sentimental and emotional values, the concept of wilderness, and sustainable development goals. The education opportunities in the national park are coordinated with education partners. All education opportunities are controlled and evaluated by the national park administration. Where necessary, the education opportunities are multilingual. The national park has an information center and decentralized information facilities. The national park administration also provides education opportunities in areas in which natural dynamics are undisturbed. The national park administration has clear rules for education work that are accepted by everyone, thus ensuring respect for nature in the areas where education measures take place. The national park administration participates in the nationwide Junior Ranger Programme run by the organization Nationale Naturlandschaften e. V. (registered Association of National Natural Landscapes).

Quality criteria	Quality standards
7.3 Opportunities for nature experience and recreation	The range of nature experiences is varied, available all year, can be accompanied or done individually, and is aimed at all social groups. In all of this, it is ensured that the national park's protective purposes are not impaired. The national park administration coordinates and evaluates the opportunities for nature experience and recreation.
7.4 Visitor infrastructure	The existing visitor infrastructure in the national park is appropriate to the landscape and is visitor-oriented, without impairing the protection purposes. The marking is uniform and recognizable everywhere.
7.5 Accessibility and inclusion	The national park administration has a strategy for accessibility and inclusion. The national park administration provides barrier-free access, opportunities, information, and print media to an appropriate extent.

Activity area 8: Research and monitoring

Quality criteria	Quality standards
8.1 Research content and research coordination	The national park plan contains a research strategy. Research and monitoring in the national park goal in particular at improving management in the national park (and in other protected areas) and better understanding the natural dynamics, their processes, and the resulting opportunities for society. Research in the national park only takes place if it a) does not impair the protection purposes, b) clearly relates to specific national park research questions, and c) is dependent on the special situation of the national park and, therefore, cannot be carried out outside of it. In the case of planned third-party research projects, the national park administration decides whether requirements a) - c) apply and whether or not the project can be carried out.
8.2 Monitoring	The natural and social science monitoring in the national park is carried out to an appropriate extent with the help of recognized methods and parameters; it is oriented towards the goals and protection purposes of the national park. Among other things, it serves to monitor the success of measures defined in the national park plan. The national park participates in the integrative monitoring of large-scale protected areas.
8.3 Documentation	The methods used in the baseline survey, in monitoring, and in project research are documented. The data obtained is processed, analyzed, evaluated, and documented following scientific criteria. The results are made available to the public in an appropriate suitable manner.

Evaluation sheet for assessing the management effectiveness of a national park

Part A: National park profile – general information

A1 Background information

A1_1 NP name:

A1_2 Designated (year):

A1_3 Federal state(s):

A1_4 Size (in ha):

A1_5 Annual budget (in Euro):

A1_6 Name(s) and email address(es) of those responsible for completing the evaluation sheet:

A1_7 Description of the subject of protection

A1_7a Which natural area is it?

A1_7b Which main ecosystems and possible ecosystem-typical species communities occur in your NP?

A1_7c Which key species[12] characterize the individual ecosystem types?

A1_7d What signs of historical uses can be seen in NP?

---

12 Key species have an important function in a community. They play a key role in ecological processes or have a strong effect on other species. Eliminating them would change the system significantly. These can be top predators that are high up in the food chain or rare species that are typical for a special development phase of an ecosystem, e.g., forest xylobionts.

A2 Context: Where are we today?

A2_1 What nature conservation significance does the NP have?

	Yes	Rather yes	Rather no	No
The NP is characterized by undisturbed dynamics of natural processes.				
The NP contains a large number of rare, threatened, or endangered species.				
The NP has high biodiversity (habitat, species, genes).				
The NP has a high proportion of endemic species.				
The NP is important for migratory birds or migratory species (stepping stone biotope).				
The NP contains viable populations of key species.				
The NP contains ecosystems whose previous natural extent in Germany has shrunk considerably.				
The NP contains objects of particular geological importance.				

A2_1a If "objects of particular geological importance" was ticked, which are these?

_____

_____

_____

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_____

A2_2 Which impacts[13] from utilization or through external or environmental influences occur in NP?
Please describe the situation for a maximum of five significant impacts and their causes.
Start with the most significant impact first.

---

13 Examples of utilization and their potential hazards and impacts:
Forestry, agriculture (arable farming, grassland management, grazing): nitrogen and phosphate input, drainage, cultivation of monocultures, trampling, loss of species, too high hoofed game densities, etc.
Water management: channel straightening, drainage, species change, etc.
Fishing and angling: change in species composition, overfishing, introduction of alien species, damage to the seabed, etc.
Mining and extraction of raw materials, coastal protection, dam and dyke construction, trophy hunting, mass tourism and fun sports (mountain biking, climbing, kite surfing, etc.), traffic (roads, railways, air traffic), energy production (oil, gas, wind turbines, offshore), marine pollution (from dumping, discharge of untreated sewage, etc.), air pollution, acid rain, flooding, accidental introduction and invasion of alien species, etc.

A2_2_No.1 Impact and causes No. 1

_____

_____

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_____

_____

_____

A2_2_No.1a How has the impact changed since the last evaluation?

	greatly decreased or no longer occurred		slightly removed		unchanged		slightly increased		greatly increased

A2_2_No.1b Extent of impact

Affected area		Intensity		Expected duration	
	everywhere (>50%)		serious		permanent (>100 years)
	widespread (15–50%)		large		long term (20–100 years)
	scattered (5–15%)		moderate		medium term (5–20 years)
	localized		minor		short term (<5 years)

A2_2_No.1c What is the likelihood that the impact will increase in the future?

	very high		high		medium		low		very low

A2_2_No.1d What measures are being taken or are planned to minimize or stop the impact?

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A2_2_No.2 Impact and causes No. 2

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A2_2_No.2a How has the impact changed since the last evaluation?

	greatly decreased or no longer occurred		slightly removed		unchanged		slightly increased		greatly increased

A2_2_No.2b Extent of impact

Affected area		Intensity		Expected duration	
	everywhere (>50 %)		serious		permanent (>100 years)
	widespread (15–50 %)		large		long term (20–100 years)
	scattered (5–15 %)		moderate		medium term (5–20 years)
	localized		minor		short term (<5 years)

A2_2_No.2c What is the likelihood that the impact will increase in the future?

	very high		high		medium		low		very low

A2_2_No.2d What measures are being taken or are planned to minimize or stop the impact?

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A2_2_No.3 Impact and causes No. 3

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A2_2_No.3a How has the impact changed since the last evaluation?

	greatly decreased or no longer occurred		slightly removed		unchanged		slightly increased		greatly increased

A2_2_No.3b Extent of impact

Affected area		Intensity		Expected duration	
	everywhere (>50%)		serious		permanent (>100 years)
	widespread (15–50%)		large		long term (20–100 years)
	scattered (5–15%)		moderate		medium term (5–20 years)
	localized		minor		short term (<5 years)

A2_2_No.3c What is the likelihood that the impact will increase in the future?

	very high		high		medium		low		very low

A2_2_No.3d What measures are being taken or are planned to minimize or stop the impact?

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A2_2_No.4 Impact and causes No. 4

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A2_2_No.4a How has the impact changed since the last evaluation?

	greatly decreased or no longer occurred		slightly removed		unchanged		slightly increased		greatly increased

A2_2_No.4b Extent of impact

Affected area		Intensity		Expected duration	
	everywhere (>50%)		serious		permanent (>100 years)
	widespread (15–50%)		large		long term (20–100 years)
	scattered (5–15%)		moderate		medium term (5–20 years)
	localized		minor		short term (<5 years)

A2_2_No.4c What is the likelihood that the impact will increase in the future?

	very high		high		medium		low		very low

A2_2_No.4d What measures are being taken or are planned to minimize or stop the impact?

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A2_2_No.5 Impact and causes No. 5

A2_2_No.5a How has the impact changed since the last evaluation?

	greatly decreased or no longer occurred		slightly removed		unchanged		slightly increased		greatly increased

A2_2_No.5b Extent of impact

Affected area		Intensity		Expected duration	
	everywhere (>50%)		serious		permanent (>100 years)
	widespread (15–50%)		large		long term (20–100 years)
	scattered (5–15%)		moderate		medium term (5–20 years)
	localized		minor		short term (<5 years)

A2_2_No.5c What is the likelihood that the impact will increase in the future?

	very high		high		medium		low		very low

A2_2_No.5d What measures are being taken or are planned to minimize or stop the impact?

Part B: Evaluation questions on the eight activity areas

Activity area 1: Framework conditions

B1.1 Legal foundations

The national park is legally secured by a national park act and/or a national park decree. State laws or decrees do not prevent the goals of the national park from being achieved. The national park is delimited in a legally correct manner.

B1.1_1 Is the NP designation based on an act or a decree?

	yes		no

B1.1_2 Are there legal norms (acts, decrees, statutes) at the federal and/or state level that affect the NP administration in the fulfilment of the protection purposes?

	No, there are no conflicting legal bases.
	Yes there are some. However, this has no impact on the NP, because all this could be regulated in the legal basis of the NP.
	Yes there are some. This has an impact on the NP.
	Yes there are some. This has serious impacts on the NP.

B1.1_2a If you ticked 'yes', which legal norms are these and what are the impacts on the NP?

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_____

_____

_____

_____

B1.1_3 Are there any statements in the NP act or the NP decree that contradict the implementation of the NP goals, such as references to prior rights, special regulations for certain user groups?

	yes		no

B1.1_3a If you ticked 'yes', what is it regarding?

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_____

_____

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B1.1_4 Is there sufficient legal delineation?

	yes		no

B1.1_4a How is the delineation done?

_____

_____

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B1.2 Protection purposes

The primary protection purpose of the national park is to enable the undisturbed dynamics of natural processes in ecosystems, to restore them, and to ensure them in the long term. As far as the primary protection purpose allows, the national park also serves the protection and management of species and habitats, as well as the further purposes of scientific environmental monitoring, nature, and wilderness education, as well as giving people the experience of nature.

B1.2_1 Is it clear from the NP legal basis that in the NP the undisturbed dynamics of natural processes should be allowed, restored, and ensured in the long term?

	yes		no

B1.2_2 Which of the following three areas of responsibility are named in the legal basis as further goals that are subordinate to the protection of undisturbed dynamics?

	Ecological monitoring (research & monitoring)
	Nature and wilderness education
	Nature experience for the public

B1.2_3 Are other purposes mentioned in the legal basis?

	yes		no

B1.2_3a If you ticked 'yes', what are they?

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B1.3 Overriding planning principles

The national park's demarcation and protection purposes are taken into account in the regional and state-wide spatial plans relevant to it, or the spatial plan for the exclusive economic zone (EEZ), in such a way that the entire national park area is defined as a "priority area for nature conservation".

B1.3_1 Is the NP classified as a 'priority area for nature conservation'[14] in the federal, state, or regional spatial planning programme/state development concept or the spatial planning plan for the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)?

	yes		no

B1.3_1a If you ticked 'no', please describe which regulations effect the national park in these plans/programmes and whether these may conflict with the protection purposes:

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14 If the NP is classified as a "priority area for nature conservation" in the above-mentioned planning documents, the NP issues are thereby bindingly observed and no further weighing processes are possible.

B1.4 Responsibilities

The national park administration has all the official authorization needed for implementation of the protection purposes, especially as a nature conservation, forestry, hunting, fishing, and water authority. Where other bodies have responsibilities in the national park, they respect the goals and interests of the national park in their decision-making and involve the national park administration.

B1.4_1 What responsibilities have been given to the NP administration? (Please tick as appropriate below.)

Possible responsibilities	Decision making authority	Consulting authority	Representatives of public interests	Appearance outside the NP as a public interest body
Upper nature conservation authority				
Upper forest authority				
Upper hunting authority				
Upper water authority				
Upper fisheries authority				
Regulatory authority				
Lower nature conservation authority				
Lower forest authority				
Lower hunting authority				
Lower water authority				
Lower fisheries authority				

B1.4_2 Are there any other responsibilities that NP administration should exercise in the interest of effective management?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

B1.4_3 Are NP issues respected by other authorities operating in the NP?

	Yes, completely
	Yes, in essential points
	Partially in some areas, but nowhere near sufficiently
	No, NP issues are mostly ignored

B1.4_4 Which authorities acting in the NP do not or only partially pay attention to NP issues?

B1.5 Ownership rights

The area of the national park is completely owned by bodies and stakeholders (preferably the federal state) who permanently and lawfully support the goals of the national park, or who do not conflict with them. Where this is not the case, permanent provisions are in place to ensure that the national park goals are achieved.

B1.5_1 Please comment on the ownership situation in the NP:

	Natural dynamic zone Amount in (ha)	Amount in (%)	Management zone Amount in (ha)	Amount in (%)
Federal land				
State land				
Municipal land				
Foundation land*				
Association land				
Church land				
Other private land				

* Which foundation is it?

B1.5_2 What is the share of public ownership in the total area of the NP[15]?

	between 90 – 100 % of the land		between 89 – 70 % of the land		between 69 – 50 % of the land		less than 50 % of the land

B1.5_3 Is there an intention to increase the proportion of publicly owned land in terms of land purchase, land swap, or long-term renunciation of land use?

	yes		no

B1.5_4 Are there any problems with the implementation of the NP goals on federal land?

	No, never		In a few insignificant cases		Partially, when making important decisions		Yes, usually constantly

B1.5_4a If you ticked 'yes' or 'partially', please describe the problems:

B1.5_5 Are there any problems with the implementation of the NP goals on state land?

	No, never		In a few insignificant cases		Partially, when making important decisions		Yes, usually constantly

B1.5_5a If you ticked 'yes' or 'partially', please describe the problems:

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15 This includes federal and state areas, areas of public foundations – only if earmarked – municipalities and districts.

B1.5_6 Are there any problems with the implementation of the NP goals on municipal land?

	No, never		In a few insignificant cases		Partially, when making important decisions		Yes, usually constantly

B1.5_6a If you ticked 'yes' or 'partially', please describe the problems:

_____

_____

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_____

B1.5_7 Are there any problems with the implementation of the NP goals on foundation land?

	No, never		In a few insignificant cases		Partially, when making important decisions		Yes, usually constantly

B1.5_7a If you ticked 'yes' or 'partially', please describe the problems:

_____

_____

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_____

B1.5_8 Are there any problems with the implementation of the NP goals on association land?

	No, never		In a few insignificant cases		Partially, when making important decisions		Yes, usually constantly

B1.5_8a If you ticked 'yes' or 'partially', please describe the problems:

_____

_____

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B1.5_9 Are there any problems with the implementation of the NP goals on church land?

	No, never		In a few insignificant cases		Partially, when making important decisions		Yes, usually constantly

B1.5_9a If you ticked 'yes' or 'partially', please describe the problems:

_____

_____

_____

_____

B1.5_10 Are there any problems with the implementation of the NP goals on other private land?

	No, never		In a few insignificant cases		Partially, when making important decisions		Yes, usually constantly

B1.5_10a If you ticked 'yes' or 'partially', please describe the problems:

_____

_____

_____

_____

B1.5_11 Are there permanent regulations for NP areas that are not publicly owned?

	The NP borders do not (hardly) enclose any areas of non-public property.
	There are permanent regulations on a contractual basis for around 70 – 90 % of non-public property within the NP.
	There are permanent regulations for around 50 – 69 % of the non-public property within the NP.
	No, there are hardly any or no contractual regulations.

B1.6 Boundaries and delineation

The national park is designated as a compact and coherent area, taking into account eco-system criteria. The national park is free of settlements and traffic infrastructure and therefore not fragmented. The national park covers at least 10,000 ha. Exceptionally, a smaller area of outstanding international importance can be designated as a national park. In such a case, the area is delimited in such a way that the fulfilment of the primary protection purpose is ensured.

B1.6_1 Is the shape of the NP compact and coherent in order to enable the best possible protection?

	Yes, totally
	To a large extent
	Only partially
	No, the NP has an unfavourable edge-to-area ratio

B1.6_1a If 'no' or 'only partially' was ticked, why do you asses it so?

_____

_____

B1.6_2 Are there possibilities to optimize the external borders?

	This is not necessary as the external borders are already optimal.
	Possibilities are available, discussions about remedying delimitation issues are held with the prospect of success.
	Options exist, but are not being used.
	There are no options for eliminating delineation issues.

B1.6_3 Was the fragmentation of important habitats avoided during designation or expansion of the NP when defining the external borders? Have ecosystem criteria, ecologically effective corridors and connecting areas been taken into account, as well as the functional relationships?

	Yes, important habitats are not fragmented, ecosystem criteria, ecologically effective corridors and connecting areas were fully taken into account, as well as functional relationships.
	Rather yes.
	Rather no.
	No, important habitats are fragmented and/or ecosystem criteria, ecologically effective corridors and connecting areas as well as functional relationships were not taken into account when defining the external borders.

B1.6_4 How strongly is the NP effected by settlement?

Land use category	Natural dynamic zone Amount in (ha)	Management zone Amount in (ha)
Residential development area		
Industrial and commercial area		
Mixed use area		
Special function area		

B1.6_5 How much is the NP effected by traffic infrastructure?

Route category		Natural dynamic zone Amount in (m/ha)	Management zone Amount in (m/ha)
Land area	Federal road		
	State road		
	County/district road		
	Municipal road		
	Main service road/connecting road		
	Service road		
	Single track railway line		
	Double track railway line		
Water bodies	Maritime shipping route		
	Inland waterway		

B1.6_6 Are there other categories that have a fragmenting effect (e.g., power lines, tourist walking and cycling trails)?

	yes		no

B1.6_6a If you ticked 'yes', please describe, stating size (ha) or length:

_____

_____

B1.6_7 How big is the largest unfragmented part of the NP?

_____

_____

B1.6_8 Does the NP cover the minimum area of 10,000 ha?

	yes		no

B1.6_9 Are there short to medium-term options for expanding the NP?

	Yes, to more than 1,000 ha
	Yes, around 100 – 1,000 ha
	Yes, up to 100 ha
	No

B1.6_9a If you ticked 'yes', what does the extension contribute to?

	Reaching the minimum size of 10,000 ha
	Reduction of influences from outside the NP
	Creation of larger, unfragmented areas
	Enlarging the area of the natural dynamic zone

Other:

_____

_____

_____

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_____

Activity area 2: Organization

B2.1 Administrative function, tasks, and staffing of the national park administration

The national park administration is directly responsible to the highest nature conservation authority. It is an independent special authority. The national park administration performs all tasks necessary to safeguard and promote the protection purposes. In addition, within the meaning of the Federal Nature Conservation Act (BNatSchG) and the State Nature Conservation Act (LNatSchG), it carries out or coordinates tasks to achieve other national park purposes, in particular scientific environmental monitoring, nature and wilderness education, as well as giving people the experience of nature. Fulfilment of the tasks is ensured by sufficient staffing. This applies to both the number of permanent positions as well as to the qualifications and competencies of the staff in order to fulfil their tasks.

B2.1_1 Which ministry is responsible for supervision of the NP administration?

_____

_____

B2.1_1a s the ministry also the highest nature conservation authority?

	yes		no

B2.1_2 Which ministry is responsible for the technical supervision of the NP administration?

_____

_____

B2.1_2a Is the ministry also the highest nature conservation authority?

	yes		no

B2.1_3 Which ministry is the NP administration subordinate to?

_____

_____

B2.1_3a **Is the ministry also the highest nature conservation authority?**

	yes		no

B2.1_4 Is the NP administration an independent special authority?

	yes		no

B2.1_5 Which of the following areas of activity are mentioned in the business distribution plan or in the organizational structure of the NP administration and have employees assigned to them accordingly?

	Protection of the undisturbed dynamics of natural processes		Research & monitoring
	Patrolling		Cooperation
	Management		Planning
	Maintenance of recreation infrastructure		Regional development
	Communications/public relations		Senior management & administration
	Education		

B2.1_6 How many employees do you have?

Total:		
Of which part-time	Permanent positions:	Project posts:
Of which full-time	Permanent positions:	Project posts:

B2.1_6a **Please include a business distribution plan and organizational chart.**

B2.1_7 Is there a sufficient number of permanent positions (full-time, part-time) for the effective management of the NP and the implementation of the NP goals?

	Absolutely.
	There are staff shortages in one or two areas of responsibility due ta lack of permanent positions.
	There are staff shortages in several areas of responsibility due ta lack of permanent positions.
	The staffing level is completely inadequate.

B2.1_7a **If there are staff shortages, please state the areas of responsibility to which these apply.**

_____

_____

_____

B2.1_8 To what extent has the existing staffing plan for the NP been implemented, i.e. are the posts actually filled?

	All positions are filled.
	The staffing plan is largely complete (80 – 99 %).
	Only some of the positions are filled (60 – 79 %).
	The staffing plan has not been implemented (less than 50 % occupied).

B2.1_9 Is the focus of the employees of the NP administration interdisciplinary?

	Yes, the workforce consists of an interdisciplinary team with different qualifications, with expert specialists in the individual topics/projects.
	No, there are numerous employees with similar qualifications but different professional specializations.

B2.1_10 Do the employees have the necessary training for their area of responsibility or have they acquired the relevant qualifications elsewhere?

	The training and skills of the staff are suitable to cope with the current and expected NP management needs.
	The training and skills are adequate but can be further improved to fully meet management objectives.
	The training and skills of the employees are rather inadequate, measured against the needs and requirements that NP management entails.
	For effective NP management there is predominantly a lack of the appropriate training and employee skills.

B2.1_11 In which areas of responsibility are there major deficits? Please state them:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

B2.2 Personnel management

There is a clear job and task description for all positions. This enables employees to act independently, be involved in decision-making processes and internal communication, and to receive opportunities for regular training that they can take advantage of. The national park administration is responsible for recruiting personnel.

B2.2_1 Is there a clear job description for each employee?

	Yes, for everyone		For a small number of the posts
	For the majority of the posts		No
	For half of the posts		

B2.2_2 Does the NP administration have a personnel development concept?

	Yes		Is to be developed in the near future
	Is being developed		No

B2.2_3 Do employees have the opportunity to participate in management decisions as part of their work and job descriptions?

	The employees are directly involved in decisions by the NP at the management/executive level.
	The employees can contribute to some decisions in relation to the management/executive level.
	The employees are involved in discussions about management, but not directly involved in crucial discussions.
	Within the NP administration there are no mechanisms that enable employees to make contributions to NP management.

B2.2_4 Which of the following instruments does the NP administration use for internal flow of information?

	Circulation folder		Regular internal subject group or department meetings
	Intranet		Monthly meetings for all NP administration employees
	Regular subject group or department management meetings		Internal newsletter

Other:

B2.2_5 Does the flow of communication work between the employees of the various subject groups or departments and the NP management?

	Yes, totally.
	Mostly good communication with one another. A few frictional losses occur due to misinformation or a lack of information.
	Communication could be improved. There are frictional losses due to a lack of information flow.
	No, communication within the NP administration is disorderly. This leads to arguments, blockages, anger, and a lot of misinterpretation.

B2.2_6 Are there instruments to monitor the internal flow of communication?

	yes		no

B2.2_7 How much does the NP administration make available for annual further training?

Annual training budget: Euro

B2.2_8 How much time is available for continuing education and training for employees?

	over 4 days per year		between 2–4 days per year		between 1–2 days per year		less than 1 day per year

B2.2_9 Please state the annual total number of internal and external training days for employees in the NP administration, divided by the number of NP administration employees.

_____

_____

B2.2_10 How free is the NP administration when selecting and deciding on personnel?

	The NP administration can make personnel decisions completely independently.
	The NP administration cannot make personnel decisions completely independently, or only partially: the superior level decides.

Comment, if necessary:

_____

_____

_____

_____

B2.3 Ranger service

Rangers are responsible in particular for patrolling (monitoring compliance with protection regulations), data collection (monitoring), visitor management, visitor care, and environmental education, as well as for technical jobs on site. To enable this, a sufficient number of suitably qualified full-time permanent staff is available in the national park administration. The national park authority enables a uniform appearance. People employed for the mandatory monitoring of the protection regulations have undergone training that meets contemporary requirements.

B2.3_1 What are the tasks of the full-time rangers in the NP and what significance do they have? (Please tick.)
Please indicate the scope of the tasks (% of working time). Can the tasks be completed? (Please tick.)

Tasks of the full-time rangers	Importance of the tasks			Share of working time	Task completion		
	High importance	Important	Low importance	In (%)	Yes	Partially	No
Patrolling							
Educational work in school classes							
Work with children and young people							
Adult education							
Educational work in the form of guided tours, excursions							
Implementation of nature experience opportunities							
Supervision of research institutions and data collection							
Participation in species protection measures							
Operation of information facilities							
Forestry tasks							
Implementation of restoration measures							
Hazard prevention							
Technical work (path maintenance, constructing information boards, etc.)							
Other							

B2.3_1a If you ticked 'Other', please state which task(s) are involved:

_____

_____

_____

_____

B2.3_2 How many full-time, permanent rangers are employed in the NP? (Please indicate on the one hand the number of employees, and on the other hand the full time equivalent.)

_____

_____

_____

B2.3_3 Is the NP administration responsible for coordinating the full-time rangers in the NP?

	yes		no

B2.3_4 Does the NP administration ensure the uniform appearance of rangers, including with regard to uniform service clothing?

	yes		no

B2.3_5 What type of training have the full-time rangers completed? How many rangers does this apply to? (Please state the number and percentage.)

Type of training	Number	Share in (%)
Certified nature and landscape conservationist (GNL)		
Certified nature and landscape guide (ZNL)		
Certified nature and landscape guide (ZNL) with BANU[16] certificate		
Natural science studies		
Other		

B2.3_5a If you ticked 'Other', please state what type of training it is:

_____

_____

_____

16 Nationwide working group of state-sponsored environmental education institutions

B2.4 Volunteer management

The national park administration offers volunteers the opportunity to work in the national park, for example in educational and public relations work, patrolling, or in monitoring and research. The volunteers are recruited by the national park administration as part of coordinated volunteer management; they are qualified and looked after by full-time staff, and they have the opportunity to take part in further training. The capacity and competence required for qualified supervision of volunteers are taken into account in staffing levels and personnel development.

B2.4_1 Are volunteers used in the NP?

	Yes, by the NP administration
	Yes, through the associations operating in the NP
	No

B2.4_1a f you ticked 'yes', please answer questions B2.4_2 – B2.4_7.

B2.4_1b If you ticked 'no', continue with B2.5.

B2.4_2 In which departments do you deploy the volunteers working for you?

	Educational work
	Public relations (stands at fairs, interviews with visitors, etc.)
	Patrolling (presence on site, site monitoring, etc.)
	Research and monitoring tasks (bird surveys, etc.)
	Management and development (participation in restoration and management work, etc.)

Other:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

B2.4_3 Is there currently a full-time or part-time volunteer coordinator employed by the NP administration?

	yes		no

B2.4_4 Do the volunteers receive specific instruction and training before their working in the NP?

	yes		no

B2.4_5 Is there volunteer management (including involvement in the NP administration team) and support during volunteer work?

	yes		no

B2.4_6 Which volunteer programmes does the NP administration work with?

	Federal volunteer service (BFD)
	Voluntary ecological year (FÖJ)
	None

Other:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

B2.4_7 Is there training of volunteers by NP administration employees?

	Yes, intensive
	Partially, in those areas that concern the NP
	Very little
	The NP administration is hardly or not at all involved in training volunteers.

B2.5 Environmental management and sustainable procurement

The national park administration acts as a role model for environmentally friendly action in all of its areas of responsibility. It ensures this by focusing on the lowest possible consumption and through environmental compatibility in property management, energy supply and consumption, as well as in procurement. Energy supply and consumption, resource management and emissions are recorded in an audit. The national park administration actively informs the general public about the experience they have gained and possibilities for taking action.

B2.5_1 What data on direct and indirect environmental services are recorded by the NP administration?

	Energy supply and consumption
	Water consumption
	Waste
	Emissions
	Handling of hazardous substances
	Green procurement
	Cleaning
	Catering (NP administration, information and educational facilities, events, etc.)
	Souvenirs and information material
	Vehicle fleet

Other:

B2.5_2 What measures are taken with regard to the mentioned environmental services? Please state the most important:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

B2.5_3 Is an audit of the NP administration carried out at regular intervals and a corresponding audit report drawn up?

	yes		no

B2.5_3a If you ticked 'yes', what audit procedure is involved?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

B2.5_4 How does the NP administration involve employees in this process, and how does the NP administration communicate the results of their actions or the audit internally and externally? Please give examples:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

B2.6 Financing

The individual federal state ensures sufficient funding for the national park administration. In addition to personnel costs, this includes sufficiently high operating and financial resources for the permanent and high-quality fulfilment of all national park administration tasks and measures. The budget items are reciprocally coverable. The national park administration can manage its budget independently. In addition, the national park administration can raise funding, as far as its staffing allows.

B2.6_1 Does the NP administration have sufficient financial means to carry out its work?

	Yes, all tasks can be performed with high quality.
	76 – 100 % of its work can be performed with high quality.
	51 – 75 % of its work can be performed with high quality.
	26 – 50 % of its work can be performed with high quality.
	Up to 25 % of its work can be performed with high quality.

B2.6_2 Have the financial resources for the last five years been adequate to continuously achieve the protection goals and to carry out important management measures and tasks well?

	adequate		partially adequate		too little		totally inadequate

B2.6_3 Does the NP administration have funds available for external services that are necessary for the fulfilment of work?

	Yes, requirements are covered
	Funds are available, covering most of the requirements
	Funds are available, but very inadequate
	No funds available for the purchase of services, although urgently needed

B2.6_4 Are there sufficient funds available for the ongoing maintenance of infrastructure?

	All infrastructure in the NP can be maintained with the available funds.
	Most of the infrastructure (> 75 %) in the NP can be maintained with the available funds.
	The financing is insufficient, only part of the infrastructure (25 – 75 %) can be maintained with the available funds.
	The financing is insufficient, only a small part (< 25 %) or no infrastructure at all can be maintained with the available funds.

B2.6_5 What about the flexibility in the practice of financing?

Please tell us what the usual situation is for you.	Yes	Partially	No
Possibility of budgeting			
Possibility of shifting of funds internally			
Decoupling of income and expenditure			
Existence of budget items			
Free movement in the coverability of budget items			
Donations and additional income[17] (which are not generated through the use of natural resources) benefit the NP administration budget			

B2.6_6 Does the financing system help to address crucial management needs?

	The funding system is excellent and contributes to effective NP management.
	The funding system is adequate but could be improved.
	The funding system is poor and inhibits the effectiveness of NP management.
	The funding system is poor and undermines the effectiveness of NP management.

B2.6_7 Are there efforts by the NP administration to acquire third-party funding?

	yes		no

Percentage of third-party funds in the total budget: _____ %

B2.6_8 Which funding programmes for which projects have the NP administration used within the last three years?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

17 This also includes income from information centers that actually benefit the NP.

B2.7 Advisory boards and boards of trustees

Advisory boards, boards of trustees, and other consultative bodies promote national park development and support the integration of the national park into the region.

B2.7_1 **Which bodies defined in the legal basis support the work of the NP administration and what tasks do these bodies have? To what extent are the recommendations and resolutions of the bodies incorporated into the regular NP administrative activities and plans? Do the bodies act as a link to the region? (Please tick as appropriate below.)**

Body	Co-determination / Veto right		Right to say		Advisory function		Influence on administrative activity			Link to the region		
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	High	Medium	Little	Yes	Partially	No
Advisory board												
Board of trustees												
Local NP committee												
Other												

B2.7_1a **If you ticked 'Other': Please state which body/bodies are involved:**

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

B2.7_2 **Is the NP administration mainly advised by the bodies on political or technical issues? Please explain in key points:**

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Activity area 3: Protection of natural biodiversity and dynamics

B3.1 Space for natural dynamics

The national park protects natural dynamics and the undisturbed course of natural processes in the ecosystems it represents. This is ensured within 30 years of the national park being designated and on at least 75 % of its area. If this is not possible, specific strategies and measures to achieve this goal as quickly as possible should be clearly visible. National parks with more than 40 % of their area not in publicly ownership, or in which Germany completely encompasses a habitat of global importance, can set longer time limits in their national park plan, or must at least protect large areas of representative habitats in their natural processes over most of its area. In the event of substantial expansions of the national park, a further transition period of 30 years will apply for new area. The areas to protect the natural dynamics (natural dynamic zone) are contiguous, unfragmented, and compact; the length of their outer borders in relation to their area should be as short as possible.

B3.1_1 Are the natural and near-natural ecosystems[18] characteristic of the landscape fully integrated within the NP?

	Complete coverage by the NP of ecosystems characteristic of the landscape
	A representative section of ecosystems existing in the region is protected by the NP.
	Important ecosystems exist in the immediate vicinity[19] of the NP, but are not protected by it.
	The NP does not adequately represent the ecosystems characteristic of the landscape; important areas are not within its limits.

B3.1_2 Which important ecosystems/areas are located outside the NP and why is that?

18 This means habitats that are closely related to the main habitat of the national park and that are typical of the natural area.

19 The immediate vicinity of the NP is defined in the NLP plan. It includes the area lying between the outer boundary of the NP and the nearest municipal boundary.

B3.1_3 Does the NP act or the NP decree and the NP plan make binding statements on the proportion of the (planned) natural dynamic zone in relation to the total area of the NP?

	yes		no

B3.1_3a If you ticked 'yes', please state them:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

B3.1_3b If you ticked 'no', why not, and does this have negative effects on the priority protection purpose and achievement of the NP goals?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

B3.1_4 Does the NP act or the NP decree and the NP plan specify a specific deadline for transferring the remaining areas to the natural dynamic zone?

	yes		no

B3.1_4a f you ticked 'yes', please state them:

_____

_____

_____

B3.1_5 What is the proportion of land (in %) in the NP which is currently or actually subject to natural dynamics?

_____

B3.1_6 What is the degree of impairment of the natural dynamic zone(s) due to exceptional regulations (wild animal control, material use) in relation to the absolutely undisturbed area of the natural dynamic zone?

	0 % of the natural dynamic zone		1 % – 10 % of the natural dynamic zone		10 % – 20 % of the natural dynamic zone		Over 20 % of the natural dynamic zone

B3.1_7 What strategies does the NP administration pursue in order to achieve the set goal of 'at least 75 % as a natural dynamic zone'?

_____

_____

_____

_____

B3.1_8 When designating natural dynamic zone(s) how much attention was paid to compactness and ecological coherence?

	A compact area
	Two or three sub-areas
	Several sub-areas, none of which are less than 1,000 ha
	Several sub-areas, one or more under 1,000 ha

B3.1_8a Please state the smallest _____ **(ha) and largest sub-area** _____ **(ha).**

B3.1_9 Will the natural dynamic zone have a coherent, unfragmented, and compact form no later than 30 years after establishment of the NP?

	yes		largely		partially		no

If applicable, please comment:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

B3.1_10 How is the fragmentation of natural dynamic zone(s) assessed?

Linear elements with fragmentation effect	Degree of fragmentation			
	Serious	Serious to medium	Rather medium	Little
Railway tracks				
Roads				
Waterways				
Forest and unpaved roads				
High voltage lines, power lines				
Other				

B3.1_10a If you ticked 'Other', please state which linear element is involved:

_____

_____

_____

B3.1_10b If fragmentation elements for the (key) species of the protected ecosystems develop an insurmountable barrier effect within the NP, are there plans to minimize this barrier effect?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

B3.1_11 How is the overall fragmentation of the natural dynamic zone(s) to be assessed?

	low		rather medium to low		rather medium to high		high

B3.2 Zoning

The national park is clearly divided by zoning into areas in which natural dynamics are already taking place and areas in which management measures can be carried out temporarily or permanently. The zoning of the national park is part of the national park act and/or the national park decree, as well as the national park plan, and is publicly available.

B3.2_1 Is the NP clearly subdivided into zones?

	yes		no

B3.2_2 What are the names of the different zones in the NP? (Please tick as appropriate below.) What area do they currently cover? What are the current proportions of the zones compared to the total area of the NP? (Please enter values below.)

Names of the zones in the NP	Please tick the relevant box	Equivalent zone in integrative monitoring	Area (ha)	Proportion of total area (%)
Core zone		Core zone[20] 1a		
Natural dynamic zone		Core zone 1a		
Dynamic zone		Core zone 1a		
Natural process protection zone a		Core zone 1a		
Natural process protection zone b		Core zone 1b		
Natural process protection zone c		Core zone 1b		
Nature zone		Core zone 1a		
If applicable, subdivision into natural zone a		Core zone 1a		
If applicable, subdivision into natural zone b		Core zone 1b		
If applicable, subdivision into wilderness area		Core zone 1a		

---

20 All NP areas that are currently or should be free of measures in the future. This includes both the areas of the core zone (sometimes also called core zone 1a, dynamic zone, natural zone or similar) and the areas of the development zone (sometimes also called core zone 1b/c or similar).

Names of the zones in the NP	Please tick the relevant box	Equivalent zone in integrative monitoring	Area (ha)	Proportion of total area (%)
If applicable, subdivision into transition zone		Core zone 1b		
Protection zone I		Core zone 1a		
Protection zone II		Core zone 1b		
Development zone		Core zone 1b		
Protection zone III		Management zone		
Management zone		Management zone		
Recreation zone		Management zone		
Use zone		Management zone		
Buffer zone		Management zone		
Periphery		Management zone		

B3.2_3 Is zoning of the NP part of the legal basis??

	part of the NP act or the NP decree
	part of the NP plan

B3.2_4 Is the current zoning publicly available?

	yes		no

B3.3 Habitats of international importance

The national park contains habitats of international importance. These are appropriately recorded, including the necessary protection and conservation measures, and shown in the national park plan.

B3.3_1 Which habitats are of international importance in the NP and how is international importance assessed?[21]

_____

_____

_____

_____

B3.3_2 Have the species and habitats of international importance been adequately recorded (baseline survey)?

	Is completely done
	Consists by and large
	Only some of the species and habitats have been recorded
	Has not happened

B3.3_3 Are the species and habitats of international importance occurring in the NP, including their requirements, presented in the NP plan? Does this presentation contain statements about which management is to be carried out?

	Yes, the description is comprehensive, the management statements specific.
	Yes, there is a description, the management statements are vague.
	Description and management statements are rather unsatisfactory.
	No, nothing or hardly anything is mentioned in the NP plan.

---

21 Habitats with a special ecological, botanical, zoological, limnological and/or hydrological importance for international nature conservation that are protected under international conventions, e.g., Ramsar sites, Natura 2000 sites under the Habitats and Birds Directives. This also includes habitats that have been designated as UNESCO World Natural Heritage Sites.

B3.4 Ecosystem networking

Via ecologically effective areas and corridors, the national park is connected with areas outside its borders that are important for the protection of habitats and species. Such functional connections should, in particular, link to areas in the national park region or in the immediate vicinity, but extend spatially as far as possible. In particular, connections should be made to nature reserves, to sites and nationally important axes and corridors of the federal biotope network, as well as to sites in the Natura 2000 network. In order to achieve this, or to guarantee it permanently, the national park is included in regional, state, and national habitat networks and similar plans.

B3.4_1 Which other protected areas are directly adjacent to the NP or are in the immediate vicinity of the NP?

	Another national park:
	Biosphere reserve:
	Nature park:
	Protected landscape area:
	Nature reserve:
	Natura 2000 site:
	Area natural monument:
	Protected landscape component:
	Other:

B3.4_1a How do you define the immediate vicinity (distance to the NP border in km)?
Please explain in key points why you are using this distance as a basis:

_____

_____

B3.4_2 Are the actual protected zones increased by the immediately adjacent protected areas?

	yes		no

B3.4_3 Are there ecologically effective corridors between the NP and its immediate vicinity, but also to high-quality habitats further away?

	yes		no

B3.4_3a **If you ticked 'yes', please state the most important high-quality habitats further away:**

B3.4_4 Do third-party concepts exist for ecosystem networking between NP and high-quality habitats outside its boundaries?

	yes		widely		partially		no

B3.4_4a **If you ticked 'yes', please state them:**

B3.4_5 Is the NP administration actively involved in regional, state, and national biotope network concepts and similar plans for ecosystem networking?

	yes		no

B3.4_5a **If you ticked 'yes', in which?**

B3.4_5b **If you ticked 'no', would this be necessary, useful, or desirable?**

B3.4_6 How are these concepts for ecosystem networking implemented?

	consistently and quickly		widely		partially and slowly		not at all

B3.4_7 For which habitats or key species[22] are there deficits in planning/implementation? Please state most important.

---

22 Key species have an important function in a community. They play a key role in ecological processes or have a strong effect on other species. Eliminating them would change the system significantly. These can be top predators that are high in the food chain or rare species that are typical for a special development phase of an ecosystem, e.g., forest xylobionts.

Activity area 4: Management

B4.1 National park vision

The national park has a vision for its development. The vision is fundamental, long term, visionary, and compatible with the overarching vision for German national parks from EUROPARC Deutschland e. V. (2005). The vision is part of the national park plan.

B4.1_1 Is there a model for the development for the NP?

	yes		no

B4.1_2 Does the NP plan contain a clearly formulated future vision for the NP?

	The future vision is clearly described.
	The future vision is partially described.
	The future vision is not clearly described, but is included in the NP plan and can be derived from the plan goals.
	The NP plan is more based on the present state, needs and actions, and does not contain a future vision.

B4.1_3 Is the model compatible with the overarching model for German national parks (EUROPARC Deutschland, 2005)?

	yes		no

B4.1_4 Is the model enshrined in the NP plan?

	yes		no

B4.1_4a If you ticked 'no', is there any other document in which it is enshrined?

_____

_____

_____

B4.2 National park plan

The national park plan is ready no later than five years after national park designation and is updated regularly, at least every ten years. It guides and determines the activities in the national park carried out by the national park administration and the other responsible administrative authorities. Regional stakeholders are given suitable opportunities to participate in the development and updating of the national park plan. The national park plan is based on the German 'Leitfaden zur Erarbeitung von Nationalpark-Plänen'' (EUROPARC Deutschland, 2000, in English 'Guideline for the Preparation of National Park Plans") and the 'Vorschläge zur Gliederung und zu Inhalten von Nationalpark-Plänen' (BfN-Skripten 425, 2015, in English ''Suggestions for the Structure and Content of National Park Plans"). It names clear goals as well as time horizons and measures, as well as indicators for their achievement to able evaluation of the achievement of goals.

B4.2_1 Is there a requirement from the legislature in the NP act or the NP decree to draw up a NP plan?

	yes		no

B4.2_2 Is there a deadline for drawing up the NP plan after establishment in the legal basis?

	Yes, after up to 5 years
	Yes, after up to 10 years
	No, no deadline is given

B4.2_3 Is there a deadline for updating the NP plan in the legal basis?

	Yes, the following deadline is given:
	No, no deadline given

B4.2_4 Does the NP plan guide and determine the actions of the NP administration and, if applicable, other administrative authorities acting in the NP? (Please tick as appropriate.)

	Yes	Partially	No
The NP plan is a binding specification for NP administration decisions and actions.			
The NP plan is a binding specification for decisions and actions of other authorities, insofar as these affect the interests of the NP.			
The NP plan should be taken into account by other authorities in their decisions and actions that affect the interests of the NP, but it is not mandatory to follow it.			

B4.2_4a If other authorities are concerned, please state them:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

B4.2_4b If the NP plan is not sufficiently taken into account by other authorities in the decisions and actions relating to the NP: Does this impair the protection purposes or other conflicts?

	There are no or negligible impairments and only minor and quickly manageable other conflicts.
	Occasionally, larger, non-compensable impairments and/or significant other conflicts arise.
	There are often major, non-compensable impairments and/or significant other conflicts.

B4.2_4c If there are impairments, please state them:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

B4.2_4d If none of the points mentioned in the table above (B4.2_4) apply, please describe the situation in the NP:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Questions **B4.2_5 – B4.2_8** deal with the participation of affected or interested regional actors in the creation of the NP plan.

B4.2_5 Which regional actors were involved in drawing up the NP plan?

	Districts in the immediate vicinity of the NP
	Municipalities in the immediate vicinity of the NP
	Other municipalities
	Land user associations (agriculture/forestry)
	Environmental and nature conservation groups
	Tourism associations and/or providers
	Owners of areas within the NP
	Owners of areas bordering the NP
	Interested citizens
	Other:

B4.2_6 In what format and how often did the participation take place?

	Information and discussion events in individual municipalities	Number of events:
	Workshops with selected actors	Number of participants: Number of events:
	Meetings with representatives of the districts and municipalities	Number of events:
	Workshops	
	Surveys (interviews, online, etc.)	Face-to-face interviews, number:
	Site inspections	Number of participants: Number of inspections:
	Other:	

B4.2_7 How many of the comments and suggestions were or could be taken into account?

Give a percentage: %

B4.2_8 Did the actors involved receive feedback on whether and how their comments and suggestions were taken up and what the reasons were for not taking them into account

	Yes, all, collected and summarized
	Yes, all, individual feedback
	Yes, mostly, individual feedback
	Yes, partially, single feedback
	No

Questions **B4.2_9 – B4.2_13** deal with the content of the NP plan.

B4.2_9 Was the creation of the NP plan based on the German 'Leitfaden zur Erarbeitung von Nationalpark-Plänen' (EUROPARC Germany, 2000, in English 'Guideline for the Preparation of National Park Plans') and the 'Vorschläge zur Gliederung und zu Inhalten von Nationalpark-Plänen' (BfN-Skripten 425, 2015, in English 'Suggestions for the Structure and Content of National Park Plans")? (Please tick as appropriate below.)

Publication	Considered				
	Completely	Predominantly	Partially	Sporadically	No
EUROPARC Deutschland (2000)					
BfN-Skripten 425 (2015)					

B4.2_10 Has the ecological significance of the NP been identified, described in the NP plan (inventory analysis), and linked to management goals (project/action planning) and targeted results?

	The ecological importance of the NP is clearly identified and linked to well-defined management goals and targeted results.
	The ecological importance of the NP is appropriately identified and linked to management goals and targeted results.
	The ecological importance of the NP is not clearly identified or linked to management goals and targeted results.
	The ecological importance of the NP has not been identified.

B4.2_11 Does the NP plan form a technically sound basis from which targeted management measures can be derived, including the detailed work plans and programmes required for this?

	Yes, comprehensively
	Yes, mostly
	Yes, partially
	No, barely or not at all

B4.2_12 Are specific measures given in the NP plan for all the essential topics?

	Yes, the management measures presented in the NP plan include all areas of responsibility of the NP for which operational plans, work programmes, and budgets are to be drawn up.
	No, the management measures presented in the NP plan do not include all areas of responsibility of the NP for which operational plans, work programmes, and budgets are to be drawn up.

B4.2_12a If you ticked 'No', please specify:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

B4.2_13 Does the NP plan identify the priorities among the strategies and actions in a way that facilitates work programmes and resource allocation?

	Yes, comprehensively
	Yes, mostly
	Yes, partially
	No, barely or not at all

B4.3 Restoration

Restoration measures are limited to deconstruction of structures and initiating measures on areas outside the natural dynamic zone that have been altered by anthropogenic intervention before national park designation in such a way that natural self-regulation can hardly be expected, even in the long term, without restoration.

B4.3_1 Are restoration measures limited to one-off and short-term deconstruction or initiating measures?

	yes		no

B4.3_2 Are restoration measures limited to areas outside the natural dynamic zone?

	Yes, compact and concentrated in a few areas.
	Yes, spread over several areas.
	No, distributed over the entire area of the NP, but predominantly over a small area and at certain points.
	No, distributed over the entire area of the NP and over a large area.

B4.3_3 On which areas (including amount in ha) did or are restoration measures taking place?
Justify (in key points) which measures are involved and why the measures were or are necessary (e.g., restoration of natural water balance, near-natural vegetation, protection against environmental damage, etc.):

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

B4.4 Species and habitat management

Species management measures are presented and justified in the national park plan. Active management of species in the national park is of secondary importance and only takes place outside or, exceptionally, in the natural dynamic zone. Habitats with permanent management are, without exception, outside the natural dynamic zone. Active control of invasive neo-biota, which could endanger the protective purposes of the national park, is only possible in the natural dynamic zone in exceptional cases, and must be specifically justified. The management of wild animals occurs exclusively within the framework of the requirements of the 'Positionspapier Wildtierregulierung" (Nationale Naturlandschaften e. V./AG Nationalparke, 2020, in English 'Position Paper on Wild Animal Control"). The wild animal control is limited as far as possible in terms of time and space, with the largest possible year-round non-hunting areas set up for this.

B4.4_1 Are species and habitat management measures required?

	No, not required
	Yes, for the following species and/or habitats:

B4.4_2 Are the essential measures for the management of species and habitats, at least in their essential features, presented and justified in the NP plan?

	Yes, everyone
	Yes, a lot
	Yes, but insufficiently
	No

B.4.4_2a If 'insufficiently' or 'no' was ticked, are the measures justified and presented in another suitable document?

	Yes, all of them:
	Yes, mostly:
	Yes, but insufficiently, namely:
	No

B4.4_2b If you ticked 'yes', which document is it?

_____

B4.4_3 If measures for the management of species and habitats are carried out in the NP, what kind of measures are they? Are the measures limited in terms of space and time? (Please tick as appropriate below.)

Type of measure	Location		Duration of management	
	Outside the natural dynamic zone	Exceptionally in the natural dynamic zone	Temporary	Permanent
Direct species protection				
Species reintroduction				
Biotope management				
Restoration				
Other				

B4.4_3a If you ticked 'Other', please describe the key points of the measure:

_____

_____

_____

_____

B4.4_4 Is their management of neobiota[23] in the NP?

	No, not required
	Yes, for the following species:

---

23 Species that appeared in Europe north of the Alps after 1492 (i.e. the discovery of America by Columbus), and are therefore alien to the region, are called neobiota. Regarding plant species, they are called neophytes; regarding animal species, they are called neozoa. Approximately 10–15 % of alien species in the European Union are considered to be invasive (Invasive Alien Species: IAS), i.e. they have a significant negative impact on biological diversity, e.g., by displacing native species from their habitat..

B4.4_5 If there is management of neobiota in the NP, are the measures limited in terms of space and time?
(Please tick as appropriate below.)

Type of measure	Site for the measure		Duration of management	
(please list the key points)	Outside the natural dynamic zone	Exceptionally in the natural dynamic zone	Temporary	Permanent

B4.4_6 Is wild animal control necessary to fulfil the primary protection purpose?

	yes		no

B4.4_6a If you ticked 'yes', please state the reasons:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

B4.4_7 Is wild animal control based on the 'Positionspapier Wildtierregulierung' (Nationale Naturlandschaften e. V./AG Nationalparke, 2020; in English 'Position paper on wild animal control')?

	yes		no

B4.4_8 In which areas and in what time frame does wild animal control take place? (Please tick as appropriate below.) How large is the area in relation to the total size of the NP?

Type of measure (please list the key points)	Site for the measure		Duration of management		Area
	Outside the natural dynamic zone	Exceptionally in the natural dynamic zone	Temporary	Permanent	relative to total size (%)

B4.4_9 What characterizes wild animal control In the NP compared to traditional hunting (e.g., time and content restrictions)? (Please tick as appropriate below.)

	Yes	No
Is there a wild animal control plan		
Shortening of the hunting season		
Existence of year-round non-hunting areas		
Is game management carried out?		
Trophy hunting		
Guided individual hunting		
Natural dynamic zone is hunting-free		
Only the NP administration carries out wild animal control		
Are there any special regulations?		

B4.4_9a If there are special regulations, which ones?

_____

_____

B4.5 Utilization regulations

The national park administration is not intended for economically determined material use of natural resources. They are totally excluded in the natural dynamic zone. If any utilization takes place, it must not conflict with the protective purposes. If there is still legitimate third-party utilization that runs counter to the protective purposes, the national park administration will work to ensure that it stops as soon as possible.

B4.5_1 Is the material use of natural resources in the natural dynamic zone excluded by legal basis or contractual regulation?

	yes		no	

Please answer questions **B4.5_2 – B4.5_7** using the table below.

B4.5_2 Are there any exceptions for the use of natural resources that conflict with the protection purposes? (This arises from entering or not entering the area share for 'Natural dynamic zone' and 'Management zone(s)' in the table.)

B4.5_2a If 'Other' was ticked in the table below for the uses, please list them:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

B4.5_3 How large is the proportion of areas within the NP that are affected by the respective use, differentiated according to natural dynamic zone and management zone(s)?

B4.5_4 How has the scope of use changed since the last evaluation? (Please differentiate between natural dynamic zone and management zone(s). Please indicate the area share or the number of sites or rights.)

B4.5_5 What legally binding regulations or other specific efforts to abandon use or to transfer existing usage rights are there? (Please state these in the table.)

B4.5_6 Does the NP plan specify the transfer of the respective right of use? (Please use three levels in the table: yes, partially, no.)

B4.5_7 Are there any deadlines set in the legal basis or in the NP plan for the transfer of the rights of use and for the discontinuation of the use (please enter a year number or 'no' in the table.)

Usage	Natural dynamic zone		Management zone(s)
	Area (%)/number of sites or rights. As of: last evaluation	Area (%)/number of sites or rights. As of: current	Area (%)/number of sites or rights. As of: last evaluation
Drinking water extraction rights			
Water purchase rights			
Fishing rights			
Timber rights			
Hunting rights			
Rights to collect plants, mushrooms, and berries			
Prospecting and digging rights			
Navigable channel maintenance			
Rights of way (including for waterways), access rights			
Mountain huts			
Energy supply (including renewable energies)			
Other			

If necessary, further remarks to aid understanding:

_____

_____

Area (%)/number of sites or rights. As of: current	Efforts to abandon use/transfer of rights		Corresponding statements in the NP plan (yes/partially/no)	Deadline for discontinuing use (year number or 'no')
	Legally binding regulations / procedures to abandon use or transfer of rights	Other efforts/procedures for abandonment of use or transfer of rights		

B4.6 Visitor guidance

Visitor guidance is based on a spatial concept that is part of the national park plan or the core paths plan, or was created in addition to it. In the national park, path restrictions and/or access prohibitions are legally binding. Routes and areas for visitors are selected and marked according to criteria based on nature conservation and nature experience in conformity with the primary protection purpose of the national park.

B4.6_1 Is there a spatial visitor guidance concept?

	Yes, as part of the NP plan
	Yes, as part of the core paths plan
	Yes, as a separate concept
	No

B4.6_2 Visitor guidance measures in the NP are:

	A well signposted/marked network of paths
	Clear waymarking
	Legally designated paths
	Legal access prohibitions
	Information boards in central locations
	Attractive facilities in peripheral areas (e.g., information centers, nature trails, visitor magnets)
	Year-round access prohibition
	Seasonal access prohibition
	Dismantling of paths
	Patrolling
	Coordinated maps
	Digital visitor management

Other:

B4.6_3 Have the hiking routes, paths, and areas for the visitors been selected and marked in accordance with the protection objectives based on knowledge of nature conservation, or have they been taken into account when setting up attraction points?

	yes, completely		partially
	widely		only to a small extent

B4.6_3a If hiking routes, paths, and points of attraction are not completely outside of particularly valuable and sensitive areas of the NP: Which conflicts, to what intensity, and to what special extent do these arise? (Please tick as appropriate below.)

Type of conflict	Intensity of conflict								
	High			Medium			Low		
	Spatial extent of the conflict								
	High	Medium	Low	High	Medium	Low	High	Medium	Low
Trampling									
Species disturbance									
Littering									
Fragmentation									
Other									

B4.6_3b If 'Other' was ticked, please explain what type of conflict it is:

_____

_____

_____

B4.6_3c What measures are being taken to minimize the conflicts? Please describe with some examples:

_____

_____

_____

B4.6_4 Are hiking routes, paths, and attractions located in scenic areas that are particularly suitable for nature experience?

	yes, completely		partially
	widely		only to a small extent

B4.6_5 Is there a uniform orientation and guidance system in the NP?

	Uniform route marking with clear symbols
	Summary boards/maps in the area
	Targeted routes
	Circular routes
	No, there is no uniform orientation and guidance system

B4.6_5a What are the characteristics of the orientation and guidance system? Please explain:

_____

_____

B4.7 Patrolling

The national park administration has field staff with mandatory authority to check compliance and conformity with nature protection in the national park, and punish where necessary. It has the staffing levels and personnel development to ensure this through regular and adequate presence on site. Where necessary, the national park administration is supported by other stakeholders.

B4.7_1 Do the rangers have the sovereign powers to sanction violations of the protected area regulations?

	yes		no

B4.7_2 Can a presence in the protected area be guaranteed using the personnel available?

	Yes, comprehensively		Yes, but not to a sufficient extent
	Yes, to a sufficient extent		No

B4.7_3 Can the NP administration fall back on the support of others in order to improve presence in the protected area?

	Yes, to a sufficient extent
	Yes, but not to a sufficient extent
	No

B4.7_3a If you ticked 'yes', which actors/groups of people are they?

_____

_____

_____

_____

B4.7_4 What percentage of duty time is used for patrolling?

	< 25 %		25 – 50 %		50 – 75 %		> 75 %

B4.7_5 Does the NP administration have the authority to independently carry out all steps from monitoring in the area to drawing up and processing fines?

	Yes, full powers
	Yes, limited powers
	No, no powers

B4.7_5a If you have only limited powers, what are they?

_____

_____

B4.7_5b If you have no authority, is the NP administration supported by an external body (e.g., nature conservation authority) in handling administrative offences and administrative fines?

_____

_____

B4.7_5c Does the support mentioned in B4.7_5b function smoothly?

_____

_____

B4.8 Success monitoring[24]

The implementation and effectiveness of the measures specified in the national park plan are evaluated through monitoring. The results are documented and usually made publicly available.

B4.8_1 Can the NP administration carry out the necessary monitoring in the various areas of responsibility with its personnel and financial resources?

	Yes, comprehensively, through NP administration and is carried out in full
	Yes, widely, due to sufficient finances from external parties
	Yes, but only partially possible
	No, barely or not possible due to lack of staff and money

B4.8_2 For which areas of responsibility are the results of success monitoring available? (Please tick as appropriate below.)

Results of success monitoring in the areas of responsibility	Comprehensive	Largely	To some ex-tent	Does not exist
Visitor guidance				
Visitor care by rangers				
Success of the cooperation				
Volunteer management				
Education				
Biotope protection measures				
Species protection measures				
Restoration				
Research & monitoring				

---

24 This means the analysis and evaluation of the measures carried out with regard to the achievement of set goals.

B4.8_3 Are the management measures being adjusted on the basis of success monitoring and evaluations based on them?

	There is a good monitoring and evaluation system for management activities that is well implemented and used for adaptive management.
	There is an accepted and implemented monitoring and evaluation system for management activities, but the results from it are not systematically used for management.
	There is ad-hoc monitoring and an evaluation of management activities, but there is a lack of an overall strategy and/or regular surveys and a systematic analysis of the results.
	There is neither a monitoring nor an evaluation of the management activities in the NP.

B4.8_4 Are the results of the success monitoring communicated internally?

	Intensive and comprehensive communication of all results
	Intensive communication of selected partial results
	Little intensive communication of the results with very limited content
	No internal communication

B4.8_5 Are the results of success monitoring communicated externally?

	Intensive and comprehensive communication of all results
	Intensive communication of selected partial results
	Little intensive communication of the results with very limited content
	No external communication

B4.8_6 In what form are the results of success monitoring documented and made publicly available?

	Yes, in the NP annual report
	Yes, in the environmental report (as a result of the monitoring)
	Yes, on the homepage of the NP
	Yes, in magazine articles
	Yes, at public events
	Yes, other:
	No documentation of the results
	No accessibility of the results

Activity area 5: Cooperation and sustainable regional development

B5.1 National and international cooperation

The national park administration cooperates with large-scale protected areas, both inside and outside Germany, in particular through reciprocal information and support.

B5.1_1 Does the NP administration cooperate at the national level with other large protected areas and/or partners in the form of joint projects and/or an annual exchange of experience? (Please explain the five most important examples of cooperation in key points below and tick as appropriate.)

Cooperation partner	Written cooperation agreement (yes/no)	Focus of cooperation

B5.1_2 Does the NP administration cooperate at the international level with other large protected areas and/or partners in the form of joint projects and/or an annual exchange of experience? (Please explain the five most important examples of cooperation in note form below and tick as appropriate.)

Cooperation partner	Written cooperation agreement (yes/no)	Focus of cooperation

B5.2 Regional cooperation

The national park administration is supported in the fulfilment of its tasks by third parties (e.g., associations for the promotion of the national park, foundations). It uses cooperation and partnerships to attract as many relevant social groups as possible to support the national park goals. The national park administration is represented in relevant regional working groups and networks.

B5.2_1 Is there one or more association for the promotion of the NP and/or an NP foundation?

	association(s) for the promotion of the NP
	NP foundation

B5.2_2 How is the cooperation with the association(s) and/or the NP foundation?

	good and constructive
	widely good
	needs improvement

B5.2_3 Which organizations are also particularly important as cooperation partners? (Please state below.)
How good is the cooperation with these organizations? (Please tick as appropriate below.)

Organization	Cooperation			
	Good and constructive	Generally good	Needs improving	No cooperation

B5.2_4 In which areas does regional cooperation agreements exist?

	Patrolling		Research & monitoring
	Communication/public relations		Regional development
	Educational activities		Cooperation with municipalities
	Nature experience offers		

B5.2_5 Has the NP administration built up a network of partners (Partners of the National Natural Landscapes[25] initiative or other network) according to defined criteria?

	Yes, a very good network already exists		Yes, a network is currently under construction
	Yes, a good network, but still clearly expandable		No, not yet

B5.2_5a If you ticked 'yes', please state the number of partners involved and some examples:

_____

_____

B5.2_6 If there is a cooperation with the "Partners of National Natural Landscapes" initiative or another network, is there a contact person in the NP administration?

	yes		no

B5.2_7 Does the NP administration offer regular training formats for the partner companies?

	Yes, specialist lectures
	Yes, guided tours
	Yes, training material
	Yes, other:
	rather rarely
	no

---

25 In the initiative "Partner der Nationalen Naturlandschaften", partners of the National Natural Landscapes are committed to sustainable tourism development in their region. The partner companies are awarded according to nationwide uniform quality and environmental standards and are at the same time ambassadors of the National Natural Landscapes (positive multipliers).

B5.2_8 Which instruments does the NP administration use to reach as many relevant social groups as possible (e.g., to discuss common topics, to draw up position papers, and to exchange experiences)? What effect does this have on the national park?

Instrument	Used: yes Number/year	Used: no	Effect on the NP		
			High	Medium	Low
Participation in round tables					
Participation in regional discussion forums					
Participation in and convening of working groups					
Advice to third parties					
Media (press releases, interviews, articles in magazines, etc.)					
Other					

B5.2_8a If you ticked 'other', what instrument is it?

_____

_____

B5.2_9 In which topics and at which administrative levels is there regular cooperation in working groups and networks? Please state these working groups or networks:

Topic	Municipality	District	Region	Other
Nature and landscape				
Tourism and recreation				
Sustainable regional development				

Topic	Municipality	District	Region	Other
Education				
Other				

B5.2_9a **If you ticked 'other', please describe:**

_____

_____

B5.3   Integrating the national park into its region

The national park region is defined in the national park plan or another suitable document. The national park plan or another suitable document contains recommendations on developments in the national park region that are of particular importance for the achievement of the national park goals. The national park administration contributes its opinions to projects with spatial impact in the immediate vicinity of the national park. These are respected by the project management organizations, as well as the approval authorities, in accordance with the status of the national park as a "priority area for nature conservation".

B5.3_1 Is there a spatial definition for the NP region?

	Yes, clearly defined in the NP plan (possibly also shown cartographically)
	Yes, clearly defined in another suitable document (possibly also shown cartographically)
	No

B5.3_2 Does the NP plan or another suitable document contain recommendations on developments in the NP region that are of particular importance for achieving the NP goals?

	Yes, comprehensively
	Partially
	No

B5.3_3 Can the NP administration contribute to projects with spatial impact in the immediate vicinity of the NP?

	Yes, it can have a say in many areas and even has the right to veto.		Yes, it has an advisory role.
	Yes, it can have a say, but has no right of veto.		No, it cannot participate in any way.

B5.3_4 How do you rate the possibilities for the NP administration to have a say in the development of the NP vicinity overall? Are these sufficient with regard to the NP interests and implementation of the protection purposes? Are there differences between different policy areas (e.g., settlement development, transport, energy, agriculture and forestry, etc.)? Please list the key points:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

B5.3_5 Are the interests of the NP integrated into the plans and decisions by the project management organizations and the approval authorities?

	Yes, comprehensively		Yes, partially
	Yes, mostly		No, barely or not at all

B5.3_5a If not all project management organizations and approval authorities do so, please state them and their arguments in key points:

_____

_____

_____

_____

B5.4 Participation

The national park administration conducts regular, direct, and appreciative dialogue with the relevant target groups and the public. In the case of decisions by the national park administration that have an impact on the national park and/or the national park region, the stakeholders concerned are given an appropriate opportunity at an early stage to find out about the goals and content of the project and to submit proposals.

B5.4_1 How often does the NP administration involve NP region residents in important issues relating to NP development? (Please tick as appropriate in the table below.)

B5.4_1a If you ticked 'other' on the following table for the participation formats, please state these:

_____

_____

_____

_____

B5.4_2 Which stakeholder groups are targeted by the different participation formats? (Please tick as appropriate in the table below.)

B5.4_2a If you ticked 'other associations' among the target groups in the table below, please state them:

_____

_____

_____

_____

B5.4_2b If you ticked 'other' for target groups in the table below, please state this:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Participation format	Frequency of participation					Target group for participation				
	More than 2 × year	2 × year	1 × year	On a case-by-case basis as required	Never, because the format doesn't exist	Politicians	Nature conservation associations	Other associations	Inhabitants, private individuals	Other
Information events										
Online information										
Excursions, guided tours in the area										
Workshops										
Round table										
Planning workshop										
NP advisory board										
Citizen council										
Online participation										
Other										

B5.4_3 **How high is the level of participation or the degree of involvement of NP region residents and the positions and interests expressed by them? (Please tick as appropriate in the table below.)**

B5.4_4 **At the beginning of participation, are stakeholders informed about the degree of participation, i.e. about the potential influence of their comments on the decision and, once participation is complete, are they informed about the role their interests actually played in the decision? (Please tick as appropriate in the table below.)**

Participation format	Level of participation			Advance information		Information afterwards	
	Information[26]	Consultation[27]	Cooperation[28]	Yes	No	Yes	No
Information events							
Online information							
Excursions, guided tours in the area							
Workshops							
Round table							
Planning workshop							

26 Information exclusively comprises the conveyance of information by the NP administration and the absorption of information by those involved. There is no provision for consideration of any positions and interests that may be put forward.

27 Consultation means that all stakeholders can actively express their positions and interests and that these are always checked.

28 Cooperation means participation and co-determination. Decisions require the approval of the NP administration and stakeholders.

Participation format	Level of participation			Advance information		Information afterwards	
	Information[26]	Consultation[27]	Cooperation[28]	Yes	No	Yes	No
NP advisory board							
Citizen council							
Online participation							
Other							

B5.4_5 Are external moderators or mediators called in for particularly conflict-prone decisions?

	yes		no

B5.4_5a If you ticked 'yes', state the decisions or topics for which this has been the case since the last evaluation.

_____

_____

_____

_____

B5.4_6 Is selection of stakeholders already included in the planning of the participation processes (participation scoping)?

	yes		no

B5.4_6a If you ticked 'yes', please state the participation processes in which participation scoping has taken place since the last evaluation.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

B5.5 Appreciation of the national park

Both the national park itself and the national park administration are recognized and valued in the region. For this purpose, the national park administration communicates the national park goals, its decisions, positive effects, and any restrictions in a comprehensible and transparent manner. The national park administration uses appropriate methods to regularly evaluate the image of, appreciation of, and acceptance of the national park among visitors and residents in the area surrounding the national park. The national park administration uses the results to review its communication strategy and activities.

B5.5_1 Are resident surveys about the image of the NP carried out at periodic intervals?

	yes		no

B5.5_2 Are visitor surveys about the image of the NP carried out at periodic intervals?

	yes		no

B5.5_3 Are there articles about the NP in the press? What is the tenor of the reporting?

Number of press articles in the last two years:
of which positive reporting (in %):
of which neutral reporting (in %):
of which negative reporting about the NP (in %):

B5.5_4 Is the success of the communication measures for the target groups addressed by the NP administration evaluated or measured with analyses of acceptance?

	is carried out regularly and comprehensively		only takes place on a special occasion
	occurs irregularly, but at time intervals		not yet done

B5.5_4a If the third option was ticked, please describe what a "special occasion" is:

_____

_____

_____

_____

B5.5_5 How has residents' acceptance of the NP developed since the last evaluation?

Acceptance at the last evaluation	Significantly increased	Increased	No/hardly any change	Fallen	Current acceptance
Very high					
High					
Medium					
Low					

B5.5_5a Please state in key points what you consider to be the main reasons for this development:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

B5.5_6 On what basis did you make these statements about acceptance?

	Based on relatively current survey results of different target groups at the regional level (max. 5 years old).
	Based on older survey results of different target groups at the regional level (over 5 years).
	Based on a survey at the regional level without considering different target groups.
	Based on the experiences of NP administration employees, e.g., personal contact, events, press reports, etc.

Communication and communication strategy are asked about in **B6.1 Communications structure.**

B5.6 Connecting national park and public transport

The national park is easily accessible all year round by public transport. Regional public transport includes suitable areas of the national park in such a way that private motor vehicle traffic is reduced and the protective purposes are not impaired.

B5.6_1 How well is the NP accessible by public transport routes?

	NP areas are not accessible via public transport routes.
	NP areas are accessible to a limited extent by public transport routes.
	In some areas, NP areas are accessible through public roads/transport routes.
	Large areas of NP areas are accessible through public roads/transport routes.

B5.6_2 How good is the connection to the public transport system?

	Very good, with good connections and timings		Not so good
	Generally good		Poor

B5.6_3 Are there special NP-related public transport offers?

	All year-round public transport lines
	Seasonal public transport lines
	One-day/event-related public transport lines

B5.6_4 Does the public transport system in the NP and in immediate vicinity of the NP help to relieve traffic?

	definitely		is clearly expandable
	could be better used		not really

B5.6_5 Are there other active measures taken by the NP administration that reduce traffic congestion (e.g., reducing single visits) and safeguard the NP protection purposes? Please give examples:

_____

_____

_____

B5.6_6 What measures are the state and region taking, including the NP administration, to reduce traffic congestion? Please describe:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

B5.6_7 Does the NP region have a public transport system adapted to tourist needs and, if yes, what are its characteristics? (Please tick as appropriate below.)

The NP Region public transport system...	Yes	Widely	Partially	No
covers almost the whole area.				
is networked with other means of transport.				
is equipped with environmentally friendly vehicles.				
offers simple tariffs.				
has special offers for walkers, cyclists, and families.				
Other				

B5.6_7a If something was ticked under 'other', please state what makes the public transport system stand out.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

B5.7 Impulses for the region

The national park contributes to a positive regional image. The national park administration provides impulses for sustainable development of the national park region in accordance with the goals of the national park. It supports corresponding activities of other stakeholders in all areas of sustainability, especially in sustainable tourism. The socio-economic effects of the national park on the region are regularly recorded, analyzed, and publicly communicated. The results are used for measures to secure and, as far as possible, to strengthen positive effects.

B5.7_1 How does the NP administration provide impulses for sustainable regional development?

	Important employer in the region		Funding projects in the immediate NP vicinity
	Training organization for various professions		Funding projects to be implemented in the immediate NP vicinity
	Project participation		Procurement of materials in the region
	Awarding contracts for work and services		Regional products

Other:

B5.7_2 Are there any nationally significant NP administration facilities that have a positive effect on the region?

	yes		no

B5.7_2a If you ticked 'yes', which nationally significant facilities are you talking about?

	Information center		Certified hiking trails (premium hiking trail, quality trail "Wanderbares Deutschland", etc.)
	Wildlife enclosures		Services
	Treetop walk		Network building

Other:

B5.7_3 Are there any regionally significant NP administration facilities that have a positive effect on the region?

	yes		no

B5.7_3a If you ticked 'yes', which regionally important institutions are involved?

	Information center		Certified hiking trails (premium hiking trail, quality trail "Wanderbares Deutschland", etc.)
	Wildlife enclosures		Services
	Treetop walk		Network building

Other:

B5.7_4 Are there facilities of other stakeholders (sponsors and/or operators) in which the NP administration is involved?

	yes		no

B5.7_4a If you ticked 'yes', which facilities do you deal with?

B5.7_5 How does the NP administration help to convey nature experiences together with "culture and tradition" to the guests?

Type of event	Offered		Frequency		
	Yes	No	Regularly	Sometimes	Sporadically
Nature film festival					
Exhibitions on the subject of nature and art					
Concert					
Readings					
Land art					
Other					

B5.7_5a If something was ticked under 'other', please state the type of event:

B5.7_6 What is the level of cooperation between NP administration and tourism?

	intense		medium to low
	intense to medium		low

B5.7_7 With which of the measures and activities listed below does the NP administration support its NP partners in the manufacture, production, and sale of regional products in the immediate NP vicinity?

	Provision of tourist offers		Advice
	Targeted project funding		Public relations (leaflets, internet)
	Benefits in kind		

B5.7_8 What is the significance of the NP as an advertising medium for municipalities or associations?

	NP and its protected assets are the only main attraction		NP is one attraction among many
	NP is a major attraction among others		NP has no significance as an advertising medium

Questions **B5.7_9–B5.7_11** deal with the socio-economic effects of the NP on the region.

B5.7_9 Have the economic effects of the NP on the regional economy been measured, or is this planned in the foreseeable future (monitoring)?

	yes		no

B5.7_9a If you ticked 'yes', how are the regional economic effects measured?

	Using Job's method[29] or other comprehensive methods		Expenditure per person per day
	Number of overnight stays		Gross sales in thousands of Euros per year
	Number of visitor days		Number of visitors to the NP information centers
	Share of day visitors in %		

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29 Prof. Dr. Hubert Job's method for recording the regional economic effects of nature tourism in national parks

B5.7_9b **If you ticked 'yes', are these measurements carried out at periodic intervals?**

	Regular measurements.
	So far, one-off measurement.
	Measurements have not yet taken place, but will take place shortly. The funds have already been approved.
	Measurements have not yet taken place, but are planned for the next two years.

B5.7_10 Are the social effects of the NP measured (monitoring)?

	yes		no

B5.7_10a **If you ticked 'yes', how are the social effects measured? Please give examples (e.g., creating a sense of identity, networking of stakeholders and resident groups):**

B5.7_10b **If you ticked 'yes', are these measurements carried out at periodic intervals?**

	Regular measurements.
	So far, one-off measurement.
	Measurements have not yet taken place, but will take place shortly. The funds have already been approved.
	Measurements have not yet taken place, but are planned for the next two years.

B5.7_11 Are the results of these measurements communicated; if so, where?

	Yes, national newspapers
	Yes, regional newspapers
	Yes, specialized press
	Yes, other media:
	No, the results are not disseminated

Activity area 6:
External communication

B6.1 Communication structure

The national park has a written communication strategy that includes the goals, content, and methods of external communication. The external communication explains the goals, tasks, and activities of the national park or the national park administration in a clear and understandable manner for specific target groups. The national park administration communicates with relevant target groups at regional and national level, using digital (homepage, newsletter, blog, social media, etc.) and non-digital means (telephone enquiries, public meetings, newspapers, annual reports, etc.). The stakeholders concerned, as well as the general public, are regularly and proactively kept up-to-date. Any further communication with the respective target groups is dialogue-oriented, direct, and appreciative. An ongoing, institutionalized communication structure has been created for partners such as higher authorities and regional committees, as well as special purpose, nature conservation, and tourism associations.

B6.1_1 Is there a written communication strategy that includes the goals, content, and methods for external communication?

	yes		no

B6.1_1a If you ticked 'yes', is there an annual plan in terms of timing and content for the communication strategy?

	content-related annual planning with a time horizon		not really
	content-related annual planning without a time horizon		no

B6.1_2 Which primary target groups is external communication aimed at?

_____

_____

_____

_____

B6.1_3 Is there a systematic evaluation of whether the conveyed content is understood by the various target groups?

	yes		no

**B6.1_3a If you ticked 'no', can the reasons be identified?
(please limit it to certain target groups if necessary)**

	content not formulated specifically for target groups
	content is vague and/or unclearly formulated
	communication measures unsuitable

Other:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

B6.1_4 Are regional inhabitants aware of the NP goals?

	over 75 % of inhabitants
	between 50 – 75 % of inhabitants
	between 25 – 50 % of inhabitants
	less than 25 % of inhabitants
	there are no survey results

**B6.1_5 What communication measures are carried out by the NP administration?
(Please enter the number of measures per year and the number of visitors/participants below)**

Type of communication measure		Number/year	Number of visitors
	Campaigns, information events (several days)		
	Campaigns, information events (up to one day)		
	Exhibitions		
	Fairs, shows		
	Meetings		
	Regional forums		
	Other		

B6.1_5a If something was ticked under 'other', please state the type of communication measure:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

B6.1_6 What communication services are provided by the NP administration and to what extent?
   Please indicate the number in the last full calendar year.

Type of communication service	Number
Booklets/books, total circulation	
Booklets/books, distributed circulation[30]	
Contributions to publications by third parties	
Leaflets, total circulation	
Leaflets, distributed circulation	
Newsletter, total circulation	
Other information material, total circulation	
Press releases	
Radio reports	
Visits from TV teams	
Internet portal (number of visits)	
Information panels	
Social media.	
Video channels	
Other:	

---

30 Distributed or widespread circulation denotes the total of all copies of the issue of a printed product that have been distributed to end consumers for a fee or free of charge.

B6.1_7 Are the NP administration services documented in the annual report and are they accessible to the public?

	Annual report accessible to everyone and at any time, posted on the Internet (PDF file)
	Annual report sent on request
	Annual report for internal use only
	Annual reports are not produced

B6.1_8 Do you have institutionalized communication structures with key partners?

	Frequency of communication			
	Continually	Sporadic	Exclusively event-related	None
Higher authorities				
Regional committees				
Special purpose associations				
Nature conservation associations				
Tourism associations				
Other				

B6.1_8a If something was ticked under 'other', which partners are you talking about?

_____

_____

The dialogue with target groups and local citizens is asked about in **B5.4 Participation**.

B6.2 Corporate design

In all its communications, the national park administration presents the national park using the uniform corporate design of "Nationale Naturlandschaften" (in English: National Natural Landscapes).

B6.2_1 Is the National Natural Landscapes corporate design (CD) used?

	yes		no

B6.2_1a If you ticked 'no', please give reasons in key points:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

B6.2_1b If you ticked 'yes', in which of the following areas?

	Signage and information panels in the area		NP administration publications
	NP products		Advertising material
	NP administration website		

Other:

_____

_____

B6.2_1c 1c If you ticked 'yes', in which areas is the National Natural Landscapes CD already fully implemented?

_____

_____

_____

_____

B6.2_2 Do you combine your old NP logo with the National Natural Landscapes CD?

	The old logo is not used
	Limited for a transition period of up to 5 years
	Limited for a transition period of up to 10 years
	The new logo will not be used

B6.2_2a If you combine the old and new logos, in which cases do you do this?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Activity area 7: Education and nature experience

B7.1 Education strategy

The national park administration has an educational strategy, in particular for nature and wilderness education, which provides specific educational opportunities for all major target groups. The principles of education work in the national park are coordinated with education partners.

B7.1_1 Do you work with a clear education strategy to implement and coordinate your activities in the field of nature and wilderness education in the NP in a targeted manner?

	yes		no

B7.1_2 Do you work with a clear education strategy that also takes into account the educational offers of other organizations in the NP on nature and wilderness education and aligns the offers accordingly?

	yes		no

B7.1_3 Are the interests of different target groups taken into account in the education strategy

	yes		no

B7.1_3a If you ticked 'yes', what are the target groups?

	All visitors		Schools
	Mixed groups		Universities/colleges and technical schools
	Adults		People with disabilities (barrier-free and inclusive offers)
	Families		Multipliers
	Young people		Locals
	Children		Visitors and guests
	Children and young people		People who speak another language
	Day care centers/kindergartens		

Other:

B7.1_3b Are there special cooperation projects with educational institutions?

	NP day care centers
	NP schools
	Extracurricular environmental educational facilities (e.g., youth forest hostels, wilderness camps)
	Other:
	No

B7.1_3c In what form is the NP theme conveyed in the context of the cooperation projects mentioned in B7.1_3b? (Please tick as appropriate below.)

Type of educational offer	One-off offer	Regular offer
Excursions		
Block events		
Project days		
Training units		
Specialized lessons		
Mobile learning workshops		
Offers in information centers (e.g., school laboratory)		
Other		

B7.1_3d If you ticked 'other', what offers are these?

B7.1_4 Do the external sponsors/partners undertake to comply with certain criteria in the tendering and implementation of the events in order to adhere to the principles of educational work in the NP?

	yes		no

B7.2 Education opportunities

Education opportunities in the national park serve to convey its protection purposes, the goals and measures necessary for its preservation, development, and other purposes, its natural history features, sentimental and emotional values, the concept of wilderness, and sustainable development goals. The education opportunities in the national park are coordinated with education partners. All education opportunities are controlled and evaluated by the national park administration. Where necessary, the education opportunities are multilingual. The national park has an information center and decentralized information facilities. The national park administration also provides education opportunities in areas in which natural dynamics are undisturbed. The national park administration has clear rules for education work that are accepted by everyone, thus ensuring respect for nature in the areas where education measures take place. The national park administration participates in the nationwide Junior Ranger Programme run by the organization Nationale Naturlandschaften e. V. (registered Association of National Natural Landscapes).

B7.2_1 What content is conveyed through the educational offers in the NP?

	Protection purposes and goals of the NP
	NP management measures
	Natural history features
	Sensual nature experiences & nature adventures (sentimental and emotional values)
	Wilderness and its meaning
	Sustainable development goals
	Connection between the ecological, economic, social, and cultural aspects of nature conservation, protection of natural dynamics, and the idea of wilderness
	Global interdependencies

B7.2_2 State the number of NP visitors who take advantage of the nature experience and educational offers from the NP administration and its cooperation partners. State your share of the total number of visitors:

Number:
Proportion (%):

B7.2_3 Who plans and supervises the guided tours in the NP? (Please tick as appropriate below and indicate the approximate proportion of the total number of tours.)

	Planning	Proportion (%)	Supervision	Proportion (%)
NP administration employees				
Persons trained and authorized by the NP administration				
Personnel not trained by the NP administration				
Other				

B7.2_3a If something was ticked under 'other', please describe the measure in key points:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

B7.2_4 Are the visitors mainly looked after by trained staff?

	yes		no

B7.2_5 Is it possible to provide intensive supervision for the groups?

	Yes, at all events		Yes, partially
	Yes, mostly		No, barely or not at all possible

B7.2_6 How many supervised visitors take place per year? (Total of visitors to NP buildings and participants in your own and external tours.)

_____

_____

B7.2_7 Who is responsible for the coordination of the educational offers in the NP if this is implemented by several providers/partners?

	only the NP administration		both the NP administration and the external sponsors/partners
	mostly the NP administration		exclusively the external sponsors/partners

B7.2_8 How often do you evaluate the educational measures that take place in the NP (quality control)?

	evaluation every 2 years		evaluation every 5 – 6 years
	evaluation every 3 – 4 years		no evaluation

B7.2_9 Are there multilingual education and information offers?

	yes		no

B7.2_9a If you ticked 'yes', which multilingual offers do you deal with?

	Information and display panels at important access points to the NP
	Information and display panels at important points in the area
	Information material (leaflets, booklets, etc.)
	Permanent exhibitions
	Special exhibitions
	Lectures
	Guided walks
	Digital offers

Other:

B7.2_10 What educational and information facilities are there in the NP?

What educational and information facilities are there in the NP?		Number
	Information centers	
	Other information buildings, pavilions	
	Conference and training rooms	
	Rooms for specialist and temporary exhibitions	
	Special theme trails/nature trails	
	Other:	

B7.2_11 Are there educational opportunities in areas that are already subject to undisturbed natural dynamics?

	yes		no

B7.2_11a If you ticked 'yes', how many offers are there? In how many different areas are they carried out and how often?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

B7.2_11b If you ticked 'yes', do you ensure that the areas and species susceptible to disturbance are not affected by this?

	yes
	predominantly
	partially
	no

B7.2_11c If 'yes' or 'predominantly' was ticked, what measures are used to ensure this?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

B7.2_12 Does the NP administration participate in the Junior Ranger Programme?

	yes		no

B7.3 Opportunities for nature experience and recreation

The range of nature experiences is varied, available all year, can be accompanied or done individually, and is aimed at all social groups. In all of this, it is ensured that the national park's protective purposes are not impaired. The national park administration coordinates and evaluates the opportunities for nature experience and recreation.

B7.3_1 What infrastructures exist in the NP to enable special nature experiences?

	Treetop walk
	Animal viewing places
	Adventurous hiking trails (wilderness trail, nature adventure trails, etc.)
	Nature experience spaces
	Others

B7.3_1a If you ticked 'others', please describe it:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

B7.3_2 What nature experience activities does the NP administration offer?

	Information on adventure-oriented individual walks
	Regular guided adventure-oriented walks
	Seasonal guided adventure-oriented walks
	Wildlife viewing
	Permanent exhibitions
	Special exhibitions
	Events (migratory bird days, crane days, bat night, etc.)
	Wilderness or trekking camps
	Others

B7.3_2a If you ticked 'others', please describe it:

_____

_____

_____

_____

B7.3_3 Does the NP administration ensure that the nature experience offers do not impair the NP protection purposes?

	Fully guaranteed for the NP administration's own offers
	Fully guaranteed for NP partner offers
	Guaranteed for the majority of third party offers
	Guarantees about half of third party offers
	Guaranteed for a small part of third party offers
	No verification of third party offers

B7.3_3a If the nature experience offers do not serve the protection purposes of the NP, what are the impairments? Please describe them:

_____

_____

_____

_____

B7.3_4 Is the NP administration responsible for coordinating nature experience offers?

	yes		no

B7.3_5 How often are the nature experience offers that take place in the NP evaluated (quality control)?

	evaluation every 2 years		evaluation every 5 – 6 years
	evaluation every 3 – 4 years		no evaluation

B7.4 Visitor infrastructure

The existing visitor infrastructure in the national park is appropriate to the landscape and is visitor-oriented, without impairing the protection purposes. The marking is uniform and recognizable everywhere.

B7.4_1 How many people visited the NP in the last full calendar year?

B7.4_1a What is this number based on?

	measurements		an extrapolation
	a valid estimate		a rough estimate

B7.4_2 Is all visitor infrastructure located outside of areas that are of great importance for the protection of habitats and species?

	Yes, totally		Yes, partially
	Yes, largely		No

B7.4_2a If you ticked 'no', what infrastructure is involved? Does this have an adverse effect on species and habitats?

B7.4_3 Before building new infrastructural facilities for visitors in the NP, is it systematically checked and coordinated with other operators whether these are useful and necessary or whether infrastructures already exist in the immediate vicinity of the NP that already adequately serve the same or a similar purpose?

	Yes, totally		Yes, partially
	Yes, largely		No

B7.4_4 Are there any special tourist attractions in the NP (e.g., treetop walk) in places that are harmless from the point of view of nature conservation and which absorb a large amount of flow of visitors?

	yes		partially		no

B7.4_4a If you ticked 'yes', please explain:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

B7.4_4b How many people visit the attraction points mentioned?

Attraction point A:
Attraction point B:
Attraction point C:

B7.4_5 How well are these attractions linked to the infrastructure? (supra-regional and/or regional routes, parking lots, bus stops, public transport, NP buildings, etc.)

	very well		badly
	generally good		not at all
	not so good		

B7.4_6 Is there appropriate signage and marking in the NP? (Park-specific path markings and signs, setting up of rules of conduct in the NP at important tourist entry points, or reference to traffic safety obligations, if necessary.)

	totally		partially
	widely		barely

B7.5 Accessibility and inclusion

The national park administration has a strategy for accessibility and inclusion. The national park administration provides barrier-free access, opportunities, information, and print media to an appropriate extent.

B7.5_1 Does the NP have a strategy for accessibility and inclusion?

	yes		no

B7.5_2 What barrier-free offers does the NP have? (Please tick as appropriate below.)

Barrier-free opportunities	People with walking difficulties	Wheelchair users	People with impaired hearing	Deaf people	Visually impaired people	Blind people	People with cognitive impairments
Information center							
Other information buildings and pavilions							
Meeting and training rooms							
Treetop walks							
Marked hiking trails							
Other themed trails and nature trails							
Animal observation areas and viewpoints							
Information units							
Guided tours and ranger walks							
Environmental education offers							
Volunteer actions							

B7.5_3 Which partially barrier-free offers does the NP have? (Please tick as appropriate below.)

Barrier-free offers	People with walking difficulties	Wheelchair users	People with impaired hearing	Deaf people	Visually impaired people	Blind people	People with cognitive impairments
Information center							
Other information buildings and pavilions							
Meeting and training rooms							
Treetop walks							
Marked hiking trails							

Barrier-free offers	People with walking difficulties	Wheelchair users	People with impaired hearing	Deaf people	Visually impaired people	Blind people	People with cognitive impairments
Other themed trails and nature trails							
Animal observation areas and viewpoints							
Information units							
Guided tours and ranger walks							
Environmental education offers							
Volunteer actions							

B7.5_4 Are the barrier-free offers in the NP certified according to the nationwide "Tourism for All" system?

	totally		partially
	mostly		no

B7.5_5 Which barrier-free print media does the NP have?

Print medium	Number
publications in simple language	
publications for the visually impaired	
publications for the blind, number	

B7.5_6 Does the NP have a barrier-free website?

	yes		no

Activity area 8: Research and monitoring

B8.1 Research content and research coordination

The national park plan contains a research strategy. Research and monitoring in the national park goal in particular at improving management in the national park (and in other protected areas) and better understanding the natural dynamics, their processes, and the resulting opportunities for society. Research in the national park only takes place if it a) does not impair the protection purposes, b) clearly relates to specific national park research questions, and c) is dependent on the special situation of the national park and, therefore, cannot be carried out outside of it. In the case of planned third-party research projects, the national park administration decides whether requirements a)–c) apply and whether or not the project can be carried out.

B8.1_1 Does the NP have a comprehensive research strategy?

	Yes
	No, research in the NP only takes place on an ad hoc basis
	No, research does not take place in the NP

B8.1_1a If you ticked 'yes', is it part of the NP plan?

	yes		no

B8.1_1b If you ticked 'no', why is the research carried out only on an ad hoc basis and what are the consequences, or why is there no research? Please explain in key points:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

B8.1_2 To what extent do the following statements apply to research in the NP? (Please tick as appropriate below.)

	Completely	Predominantly	Partially	Not at all
Research is related to issues and management needs of the NP.				
Research is based on issues that are not only relevant for the NP, but also for other national parks or nature conservation as a whole.				
Research does not affect the protection purposes of the NP.				
Research in the NP is inevitably dependent on its particular situation.				

B8.1_3 Does the NP, in particular the natural dynamic zone, serve as a reference area for understanding natural dynamic processes?

	Yes, completely		Yes, to a small extent
	Yes, mostly		No
	Yes, partially		

B8.1_3a If you ticked 'yes', which essential findings could be derived from NP research for ecosystem processes, also in managed ecosystems? What particular benefits do these findings have or could they have? Please explain in key points:

B8.1_4 What research findings have been incorporated into NP management since the last evaluation? Please describe examples:

B8.1_5 Does the NP administration alone decide on the implementation of research projects?

	Yes, completely		Yes, to a small extent
	Yes, mostly		No
	Yes, partially		

B8.1_6 How many research projects with a budget of >15,000 Euro have been carried out in the NP since the last evaluation?

Research projects		Number
	Under the leadership/with significant involvement of the NP administration	
	By third parties, without the involvement of the NP administration	

B8.1_6a Who was involved in the research projects that were carried out under the leadership or with significant involvement of the NP administration? Please indicate the number of research projects in each case.

Actors involved		Number
	Other protected areas	
	Other public administrations (e.g., nature conservation or regional planning authorities)	
	Nature conservation associations	
	Private research institutions	
	Non-university research institutions (e.g., Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres, Leibniz Association, etc.)	
	Colleges, universities	
	Other	

B8.1_7 In what form do research collaborations take place? (Please tick as appropriate in the table below.)

Partners involved in the research project		Of which the NP administration is the lead
Max. 3 other partners		
4–10 other partners, regional/state-wide		
4–10 other partners, nationwide		
4–10 other partners, EU-wide		
>10 partners, regional/state-wide		
>10 partners, nationwide		
>10 partners, EU-wide		
Other		

B8.1_7a If something was ticked under 'other', which partners are involved:

B8.2 Monitoring

The natural and social science monitoring in the national park is carried out to an appropriate extent with the help of recognized methods and parameters; it is oriented towards the goals and protection purposes of the national park. Among other things, it serves to monitor the success of measures defined in the national park plan. The national park participates in the integrative monitoring of large-scale protected areas.

B8.2_1 Are the monitoring subjects clearly defined?

	Yes, comprehensively		Yes, for the most part		To some extent		No

B8.2_1a If you ticked 'yes', please state the monitoring subject in the following table. Which methods are used? Please state the main parameters:

Monitoring subject	Methods	Essential parameters

B8.2_2 What are the basic scientific principles? (Please tick as appropriate in the table below and, if necessary, enter the year of collection.)

Data		Comprehensive recording			If yes: data collection year
		Yes	No	Under way	
Biotope types/habitats					
Species	Invertebrates				
	Vertebrates				
	Plants				
	Mushrooms				
Plant communities/societies					
Geology					
Soil science					

Data	Comprehensive recording			If yes: data collection year
	Yes	No	Under way	
Hydrology, delimitation of the area according to water catchment areas				
Other				

B8.2_2a **If something was ticked under 'other', please specify which data is involved:**

_____

_____

_____

_____

B8.2_3 Are social science characteristics of the NP and the immediate vicinity of the NP recorded (e.g., number of visitors/ overnight stays in the immediate vicinity of the NP, population development?

	yes		no

B8.2_3a **If you ticked 'yes', how regularly is social science data collected?**

_____

B8.2_4 Is monitoring used to check the success of NP administration management measures?

	Yes		Rather yes		Rather no		No

B8.2_5 Are monitoring results taken into account in management measures?

	Yes, comprehensively		Yes, for the most part		To some extent		No

B8.2_5a **If you ticked 'yes', please describe max. 3 examples:**

_____

_____

_____

_____

B8.2_6 Does the NP take part in integrative monitoring for large protected areas?

	yes		no

B8.2_7 Is the NP also involved in other or alternative monitoring programmes?

Programmes	NP is involved	Does not apply to this area
Natura 2000		
European Water Framework Directive (WFD)		
Trilateral Wadden Sea Monitoring and Assessment Programme (TMAP)		
Forest environment monitoring (ICP Forests) under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution		
National forest inventory		
State measurement programme		
National measurement programme		
Long-term ecological research network (LTER)		
Monitoring for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)		
Others		

B8.2_7a If you ticked 'others', please state which programmes are involved:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

B8.3 Documentation

The methods used in the baseline survey, in monitoring, and in project research are documented. The data obtained is processed, analyzed, evaluated, and documented following scientific criteria. The results are made available to the public in an appropriate suitable manner.

B8.3_1 Are the collected data available for the NP administration in electronic databases?

	yes		no		there are hardly any or no electronic databases

B8.3_1a If you ticked 'yes', do you participate in larger database projects? If yes, which ones?

_____

_____

B8.3_2 Have the data obtained, the methods/procedures used, and the relevant results been prepared and documented according to scientific criteria?

	totally		partially
	widely		not really

B8.3_3 At which levels are the research results disseminated?

	Dissemination at an international scientific level		Dissemination at a popular science level
	Dissemination at a national scientific level		None of the levels mentioned

B8.3_4 How are the research and monitoring results made accessible by the NP administration?

	Regular information to NP administration employees		Organization of international/national specialist symposia/workshops
	Reports in English or similar specialized journals in other languages		Production of a separate series of publications
	Reports in German-language specialist journals		Documented in the annual report
	Knowledge transfer in public lecture series in the region		Internet (websites)

Glossary

Accessibility
Access for everyone in the usual manner, without any particular difficulty or preparation and, in principle, without outside help. Accessibility refers to all designed areas and visitor infrastructure, i.e. buildings and other facilities, means of transport, day-to-day technical equipment, information processing systems, acoustic and visual information sources and communication facilities, as well as other aspects of daily life. Accessibility enables equal participation in society (inclusion).

Biotope
see → *Habitat*

Commercial uses
The national park does not aim for any economically determined utilisation. This includes all forms of utilisation which, for primarily economic reasons, lead to the utilisation and change of resources, such as agriculture, forestry and water management, hunting, fishing, mining, and others. This does not include utilisation and activities for experiencing nature and recreation in the national park, provided they do not conflict with the protective purposes.

Conservation measure
Measure of a legal, administrative, or contractual nature which, in the broader sense, serves to maintain an ecologically-valuable condition of habitats in the national park. In the narrower sense, it relates to the achievement or maintenance of favorable conservation status of habitat types listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive and the species listed in Annex II of the Habitats Directive and occurring in the area concerned.
In addition, there are protective measures that ensure the permanent protection of habitats, e.g., through management contracts, land acquisition.

Development zone
see → *Zoning*

Ecologically effective corridors
Spatially or functionally coherent areas, usually linear, which, due to their characteristics, are suitable for connecting or networking two spatially separated larger core areas (especially protected areas, including national parks) in such a way that they can be used by animal species for (regular) migration and can enable plant species to spread. This creates a network of ecosystems. This serves to permanently secure the populations of wild animals and plants, including their communities and their habitat, as well as the preservation, restoration, and development of functional ecological interrelationships.

Ecosystem
Ecosystem is a term that can have very different meanings at different spatial levels. Here it is understood as a structure of relationships between communities and their abiotic environment (habitat). Depending on the level of observation, an ecosystem can comprise one or more habitats.

Ecosystem criteria
These are understood here as parameters which, when delimiting the national park, ensure that it can fully fulfil its purposes, in particular its primary protective purpose. These includes: size and delineation; prevention of fragmentation and disruptive influences; area and habitat requirements of key species; ecological connections and networks; spatial, structural and functional integrity of the ecosystems to be protected or developed; consideration of abiotic relationships in ecosystems; enabling resilience; and much more. The choice of criteria can differ between national parks.

Ecosystem networking
see → *Ecologically effective corridors*

Education concept
describes the national park administration's central goals for nature and wilderness education, as well as education for sustainable development (ESD), together with the intended methods and measures to achieve them.

Environmental education
These are collective educational measures with the primary aim of imparting facts about environmental risks and environmental protection, including nature conservation. This is intended to promote responsible use of the natural environment and natural resources.

Natural history/nature education: This conveys knowledge about the native flora and fauna, about general phenomena and the laws of life, in order to raise awareness about the protection of the natural livelihoods.

Wilderness education: This is an independent part of environmental education, which is based on educational approaches through nature experience and adventure. The aim is to convey the concept of process protection "let nature be nature", to promote appreciation of near-natural areas, and to enable an emotive experience of nature. Furthermore, elements of wilderness and forest education are incorporated.

Environmental management
In the national park, this serves to organize the processes, responsibilities, and resource requirements in the national park administration in such a way that environmentally friendly action is ensured, environmental opportunities and risks are recognized at an early stage, and legal requirements are met. Environmental aspects such as energy and material consumption, emissions, land use, waste or wastewater, as well as the qualities of products, the work paths of the employees, or the conduct of suppliers and contractors are recorded in an environmental management system. The two best-known environmental management systems are the environmental management standard ISO 14001 and the EU's Eco-Management and Audit Scheme – (EMAS).

Habitat

The term has a variety of meanings, for which different terms in German exist.

Firstly, it means a place where an animal or plant species lives (in German: *Habitat*).

Secondly, it is used to mean both the physical and environmental conditions that support a particular biological community, together with the community itself (in German: *Biotop*). Therefore, this meaning is referred to with the term 'Biotope' in this publication, although it's not used very often in English.

Thirdly, habitat is used as an umbrella term, including both meanings or referring to only one, depending on the context (in German: *Lebensraum*).

Habitats of international importance

These are habitats of particular importance for international nature conservation, which are designated and/or protected within the framework of international conventions. These includes the EU Habitats Directive and Birds Directive, UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBA), and Ramsar areas. In special cases, habitats within the national park that do not fall under the categories mentioned may also be included.

Inclusion
see → *Accessibility*

Initial measure
see → *Restoration measure*

Integrative monitoring for large-scale protected areas

A nationwide survey of the development of all German national parks and biosphere reserves (with the exception of the Wadden Sea areas), which records ecological, economic, and socio-cultural aspects. The condition of the protected assets and the quality/impact of management are assessed using various key parameters. The data collected are managed centrally.

Large-scale protected areas

These serve to protect large-scale landscapes. They include national parks, biosphere reserves, and nature parks. They play an important role in the implementation of the National Strategy on Biodiversity, including the 2 % wilderness target. Depending on the protected area category, the protection and/or management and development of valuable natural and cultural landscapes is pursued.

Management zone
see → *Zoning*

National park region

In the narrower sense, this includes all municipalities within whose boundaries the national park is located, or which are directly adjacent to it. In a broader sense, it also includes the area surrounding the national park, provided that it is closely interconnected with it in ecological, scenic, social, or economic terms.

Natural dynamic zone
see → *Zoning*

Natural dynamics

These are ecosystem processes that are (largely) undisturbed by direct human influence.

Natural history/Nature education
see → *Environmental education*

Opportunities for nature experience

opportunities in the national park through which nature can be experienced in a special way for visitors. The focus in the national park is on nature conservation and environmental education-oriented opportunities (e.g., guided walks, interactive exhibitions).

Patrolling

Verification of compliance with national park protection regulations on land and, if necessary, on water. Patrolling is provided by national park rangers, if necessary with the involvement of the volunteer park rangers. Patrolling usually takes place in combination with other tasks. Smaller technical jobs are done on site, contact is made with visitors, information is conveyed, and monitoring tasks are carried out.

Protection purpose

Under §24 para. 2 Federal Nature Conservation Act, the national park has to fulfil various functions and responsibilities. The primary protection purpose is to ensure undisturbed dynamics of natural processes in ecosystems across the majority of its area; this purpose is followed in the natural dynamic zones. Another (lower priority) protection purpose is the protection and management of species and habitats in the permanent management zone. In addition, the national park fulfils other functions that are not primarily for protection. These include, among other things, scientific environmental monitoring and research, environmental education, and nature experience for the general public.

Protective measure
see → *Conservation measure*

Rangers

They are responsible for patrolling, i.e. they should ensure compliance with protection regulations in the area of the national park. Patrolling includes handling violations, checking signage and visitor facilities, as well as first aid and small-scale rubbish collection. In addition, rangers perform a variety of other activities and tasks, such as setting up and maintaining visitor infrastructure, ensuring road safety, restructuring forests, carrying out environmental education, and representing the national

park to the outside world. Rangers employed full-time by the national park administration are supported by volunteers in many national parks.

Restoration measure

A management measure to convert an anthropogenically modified habitat into a more natural state. In this context, an initiating measure serves to accelerate development towards the desired end state at an early stage.

Socio-economic effects

Although the primary purpose of the national park is one of nature conservation, it also has socio-economic effects on the region. This is most clearly expressed in the often increased attractiveness of the region for tourism, which can be associated with considerable economic added value and the maintenance or creation of jobs. In addition, social effects can arise, such as increased identification with the region, promotion of social cohesion, and much more.

Visitor infrastructure

In the national park, this includes all structural facilities and features that enable or facilitate the experience of nature for visitors and, where necessary, guide them around. These include, for example, visitor centers, information and vantage points, treetop walks, observation points, information panels, waymarking, as well as cycling and hiking trails or canoeing trails that are uniformly marked for the park and can be connected to the national network.

Volunteers

People who work voluntarily and are unpaid (reimbursement of expenses is possible), as well as those who are committed to the common good and who work in a national park and are involved in its organizational structures.

Wild animal control

Specific management of species whose occurrence in the national park is not adequately regulated by natural processes and which can thereby endanger the achievement of essential goals of the national park (e.g., hoofed game, but also other species such as raccoon, raccoon dog, fox). Wild animal control thus serves to achieve defined protective purposes or goals (e.g., promotion of natural or near-natural forest stands or other habitats), direct hazard prevention (e.g., dyke protection, avalanche and erosion prevention, animal diseases), and the avoidance or reduction of unacceptably high negative effects on adjacent cultural landscapes and, in individual cases, the protection of endangered species typical of ecosystems. Since the goals of the national park differ fundamentally from those of conventional hunting, we are not referring to hunting here, but to wild animal control.

Wilderness

In the sense of the National Strategy on Biodiversity, sufficiently big, (largely) unfragmented, unused areas that serve to ensure that natural processes can occur over the long term, without being influenced by humans. Due to anthropogenic transformation of nature and the landscape in Germany over a long period of time, it is not so much about the preservation of original, primary wilderness, but above all about "wilderness development". In terms of development perspective, the time factor is of vital importance in the long-term.

Wilderness education

see → *Environmental education*

Zoning

refers to the division of the national park into sub-areas (zones), each of which fulfils a specific function and for which appropriate protection and development measures are taken.

In the majority of its area, natural processes are protected, thus enabling undisturbed development conditions for species and habitats. The motto is: "Let nature be nature" Management interventions are not permitted. There are different terms for this zone, such as natural dynamic zone, process protection zone, and core zone.

In the first 30 years of the national park's existence there is usually a temporary development zone in which supporting measures are carried out so that these areas can then be transferred to the natural dynamic zone.

Up to a quarter of the area of the national park remains a permanent management zone, also referred to as a use zone. Habitat and species protection measures are carried out in these areas. Most of the national park's infrastructure facilities are also located in this zone.

Acronyms and abbreviations

AA	activity area
BANU	nationwide working group of state-sponsored environmental education institutions
BFD	federal volunteer service
BfN	Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
BMU	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
BNatSchG	Federal Nature Conservation Act
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development
EU	European Union
e.V.	registered Association
FÖJ	voluntary ecological year
GNL	certified nature and landscape conservationist
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
ICP Forests	International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
LANA	Federal/State Working Group on Nature Conservation, Landscape Management and Recreation
LNatSchG	State Nature Conservation Act
LTER	Long Term Ecological Research Network
MSFD	Monitoring for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive
NBS	National Biodiversity Strategy
NP	national park
TMAP	Trilateral Wadden Sea Monitoring and Assessment Programme
TÖB	representatives of public interests (local authorities and departments, nature conservation and other associations)
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
WFD	European Water Framework Directive
ZNL	certified nature and landscape guide

Notes

Imprint

**Nationale
Naturlandschaften**

Nationale Naturlandschaften e. V. is the umbrella organization of Germany's national parks, bio-sphere reserves and wilderness areas. Together with the umbrella organization for nature parks – Verband Deutscher Naturparke e. V. – it is the bearer of the umbrella brand "National Natural Landscapes". The national parks, biosphere reserves, nature parks and wilderness areas united under this umbrella brand preserve fascinating nature on around one third of Germany's surface area. Together with the people in their region, they provide joy in experiencing nature and they confidently shape a sustainably future.