NATURE CONSERVATION AGENCY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

is a governmental body providing nature conservation and landscape protection at the national level; it manages Protected Landscape Areas (PLA), National Nature Reserves (NNR) and National Nature Monuments (NNM) and deals with expertises and other expert/technical activities in nature conservation and landscape protection.
NCA CR manages:
- 25 Protected Landscape Areas
- Almost 800 small-size Specially Protected Areas, i.e. NNRs and NNMs

NCA CR surveys and monitors:
- Habitats and wildlife species on the Czech Republic’s territory
- State of and changes and trends in nature and the landscape

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

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

NCA CR presents:
- The beauty of nature to the general public and the target groups

The NCA issues:
- Ochrana přírody/Nature Conservation Journal, methodological handbooks, proceedings, etc.

NCA CR provides:
- Technical support to the public administration authorities
- Information and consultations

NCA CR runs:
- Nature Conservancy Central Register
- Species Occurrence Database
- Public library

NCA CR cooperates with:
- Public administration authorities
- Universities and research institutions
- Foreign technical/expert institutions
The Beskids Mountains

**Area:** 1,205 km²  
**Altitude:** 326 - 1,319 m a.s.l.

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

www.beskydy.nature.cz
The White Carpathians
Mountains

**Area:** 747 km²

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

The most beautiful and characteristic element of the White Carpathians are flower-rich meadows with orchids, solitary oaks and shrubs. The PLA is among the most species-rich areas at least in Central Europe. The north-eastern part (southern Valašsko/Wallachian region) maintains extensive beech forests.

www.bilekarpaty.nature.cz
The Blaník Hill

**Area:** 40 km²  
**Altitude:** 363 - 632 m a.s.l.

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

www.blanik.nature.cz
The Blánský les
The Blanský Forest Mountains

**Area:** 220 km²
**Altitude:** 418 – 1,081 m a.s.l.

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

[www.blanskyles.nature.cz](http://www.blanskyles.nature.cz)
The Brdy Highlands

**Area:** 345 km²  
**Altitude:** 406 – 865 m a.s.l.

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

www.brdy.nature.cz
The Broumovsko
The Broumov Region

**Area:** 432 km$^2$

**Altitude:** 352 – 878 m a.s.l.

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

www.broumovsko.nature.cz
The Bohemian Mittelgebirge Hills

**Area:** 1,068 km²  
**Altitude:** 124 – 824 m a.s.l.

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

www.ceskestrredohori.nature.cz
The Česky kras
The Bohemian Karst

**Area:** 132 km²  
**Altitude:** 202 – 496 m a.s.l.

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

[Image of a spider]  
[Map of the Bohemian Karst]

[Website: www.ceskykras.nature.cz]
The Česky les
The Český les Mountains

**Area:** 466 km²  
**Altitude:** 442 – 1,039 m a.s.l.

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

[www.ceskyles.nature.cz](http://www.ceskyles.nature.cz)
The Český ráj
The Bohemian Paradise

Area: 181 km²
Altitude: 234 - 744 m a.s.l.

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

www.ceskyraj.nature.cz
The Jeseníky Mountains

Area: 744 km²
Altitude: 318 – 1,491 m a.s.l.

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

www.jeseniky.nature.cz
The Jizerské hory
The Jizera Mountains

Area: 371 km²
Altitude: 319 – 1,123 m a.s.l.

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

www.jizerskehory.nature.cz
The Kokořínsko – Máchův kraj
The Kokořín Region – Mácha’s Country

Area: 410 km\(^2\)
Altitude: 176 – 611 m a.s.l.

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

www.kokorinsko.nature.cz
The Křivoklát Region

**Area:** 625 km²  
**Altitude:** 222 – 615 m a.s.l.

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

www.krivoklatsko.nature.cz
The Labské pískovce
The Elbe Sandstones

Area: 243 km²  
Altitude: 120 – 722 m a.s.l.

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

www.labskepiskovce.nature.cz
The Litovel Morava River Basin

Area: 93 km²
Altitude: 212 – 344 m a.s.l.

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

www.litovelskepomoravi.nature.cz
The Lužické hory
The Lužice Mountains

**Area:** 270 km²  
**Altitude:** 290 – 790 m a.s.l.

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

www.luzickehory.nature.cz
The Moravský kras
The Moravian Karst

Area: 91 km²
Altitude: 246 – 613 m a.s.l.

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

www.moravskykras.nature.cz
The Orlické hory
The Eagle Mountains

Area: 233 km$^2$
Altitude: 411 – 1,114 m as.l.

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

www.orlickehory.nature.cz
The Pavlov Hills

Area: 85 km²  
Altitude: 164 – 536 m a.s.l.

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

www.palava.nature.cz
The Odra River Basin

Area: 80 km²
Altitude: 212 – 309 m a.s.l.

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

www.poodri.nature.cz
The Slavkovský les
The Sandwort-leaved mouse-ear is endemic to the Czech Republic.

The Slavkov Forest Mountains

Area: 61.1 km²
Altitude: 367 – 982 m a.s.l.

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

www.slavkovskyles.nature.cz
The Třeboňsko
The Třeboň Basin

**Area:** 687 km²
**Altitude:** 408 – 540 m a.s.l.

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

www.trebonsko.nature.cz
The Žďářské vrchy
The Žďárské vrchy Hills

**Area:** 709 km$^2$

**Altitude:** 494 – 829 m a.s.l.

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

[www.zdarskevrchy.nature.cz](http://www.zdarskevrchy.nature.cz)
The Železné hory
The Eurasian eagle-owl has a wingspan reaching almost two meters in length.

The Iron Mountains

Area: 286 km²
Altitude: 262 – 667 m a.s.l.

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

www.zeleznehory.nature.cz
PROTECTED LANDSCAPE AREAS AND NATIONAL PARKS OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

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

- Five Protected Landscape Areas are the UNESCO Biosphere Reserves
  (the White Carpathians Mts, Křivoklát Region, Pavlov Hills, Bohemian Forest Mts., Třeboň Basin)

- Seven Protected Landscape Areas are in some parts protected by the Ramsar Convention
  (the Jizera Mts., Kokořín Region – Mácha’s Country, Litovel Morava River Basin, Odra River Basin,
  Pavlov Hills, Slavkov Forest Mts., Třeboň Basin)

- Three Protected Landscape Areas are members of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas
  under the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development
  of the Carpathians (the Beskids Mts., White Carpathians, Pavlov Hills)

- 25 PLAs are members of the EUROPARC Federation