

Natura 2000

and ecological networks:

could and should ecological networks
support implementation of Art. 10?

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Natura 2000 - an ecological network?

Art. 3.1 of the Habitats Directive says:

„ A coherent European ecological network of SACs...called Natura 2000...shall be set up.

...It will include SPAs according to Directive 79/409/EEC.“

What does „network“ mean in English?

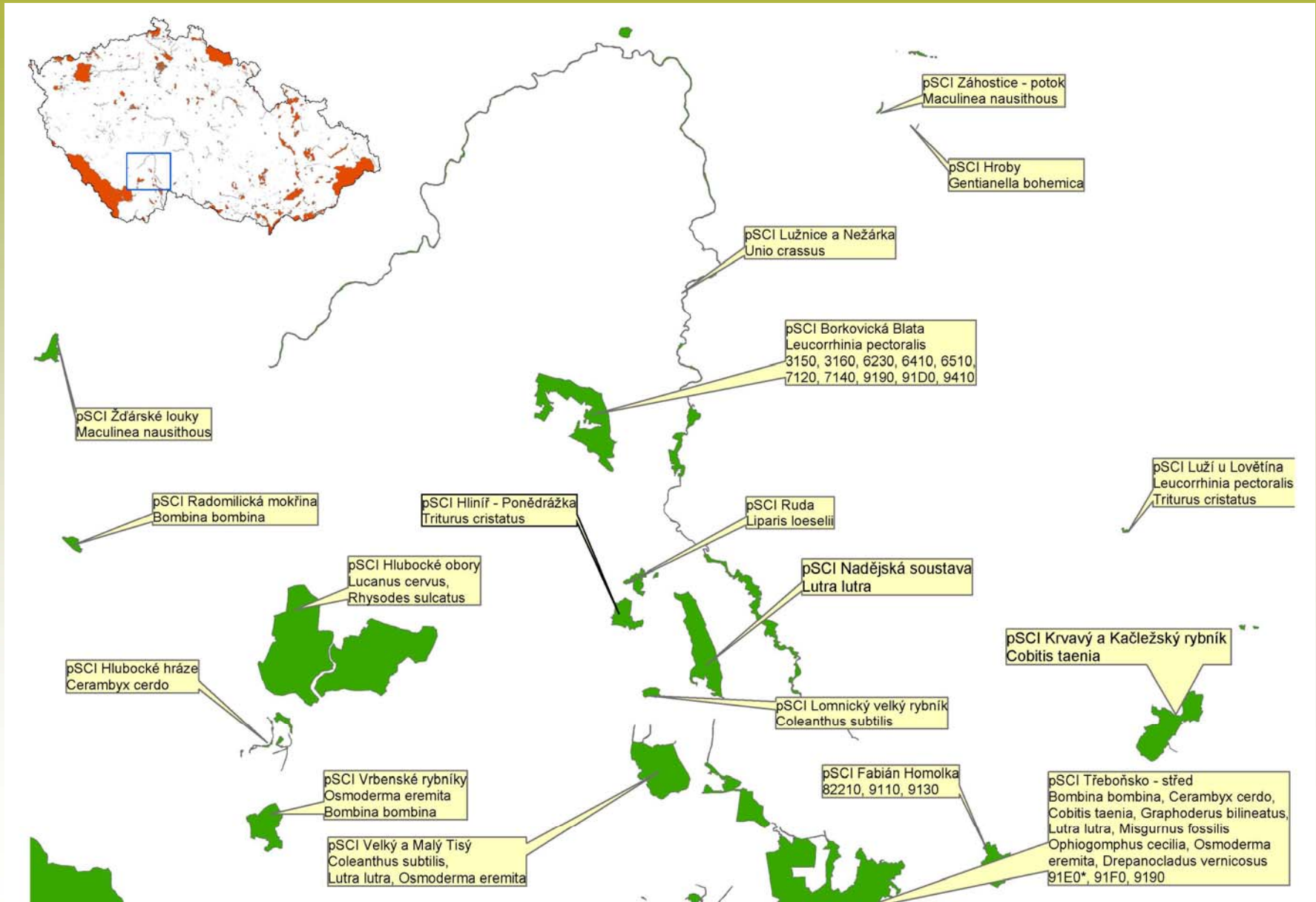
- network = set of interconnected nodes
- network = \pm hierarchical system of independent objects

Natura 2000 - connective network or disconnected system?

Although some of Natura 2000 sites are in fact connected by their nature (linear features as e.g. streams, rivers, etc.), the entire system is not a network and cannot serve as it, because:

1. the requirement of securing connectivity gives no sense in case of most sites
2. Natura 2000 by its description (despite the definition) in the Habitats Directive is not an ecological (connective) network.

1. Securing connectivity gives no sense in the case of most sites



2. Natura 2000 by its nature is not an ecological
(connective) network

Why not?

Because of Art. 3.1 and 10 of the Directive.

Article 3.1

„A coherent European ecological network of SAC shall be set up under the title Natura 2000. This network, composed of sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, shall enable the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.

The Natura 2000 network shall include the SPAs classified by the MS pursuant to Directive 79/409/EEC.“

I.e., major objectives of Natura 2000 are

- maintenance of habitat types/species
- restoration of their conservation status
- inclusion of SPA into the „network“

but

no obligation of connectivity neither of linking the sites

Again:

Is there any ecological reason to link a site for golden eagle with a site for crested newt or for 9130 *Asperulo-Fagetum* beech forests?

Article 10

„MS shall endeavour, where they consider it necessary, in their land-use planning and development policies and, in particular, with a view to improving the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network, to encourage the management of features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora.

Such features are those which, by virtue of their linear and continuous structure (such as rivers with their banks or the traditional systems for marking field boundaries) or their function as stepping stones (such as ponds or small woods), are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.“

What does Art. 10 say?

That MS may to endeavour to encourage the management of features also outside the Natura 2000 which can serve as connecting links between the particular sites.

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That MS may to endeavour to encourage the management of features also outside the Natura 2000 which can serve as connecting links between the particular sites.

If Natura 2000 was „ecological network“ by its nature, i.e., it was connective, why should Art. 10 ever exist?

Is Art. 10 meaningful?

Certainly is - in events where it is ecologically reasonable.

But what tools are available in the Czech nature protection for linking sites?

The only tool - TSES

TSES - Territorial System of Ecological Stability -
has to be a real ecological network.

It has been anchored in the Czech Nature and
Landscape Protection Act since 1992.

The concept is very similar to the German
„Biotopverbundsystem“ - fortunately without
obligatory percentage of the country's territory.

TSES

biocentres & biocorridors of given parameters

3 hierarchical levels:

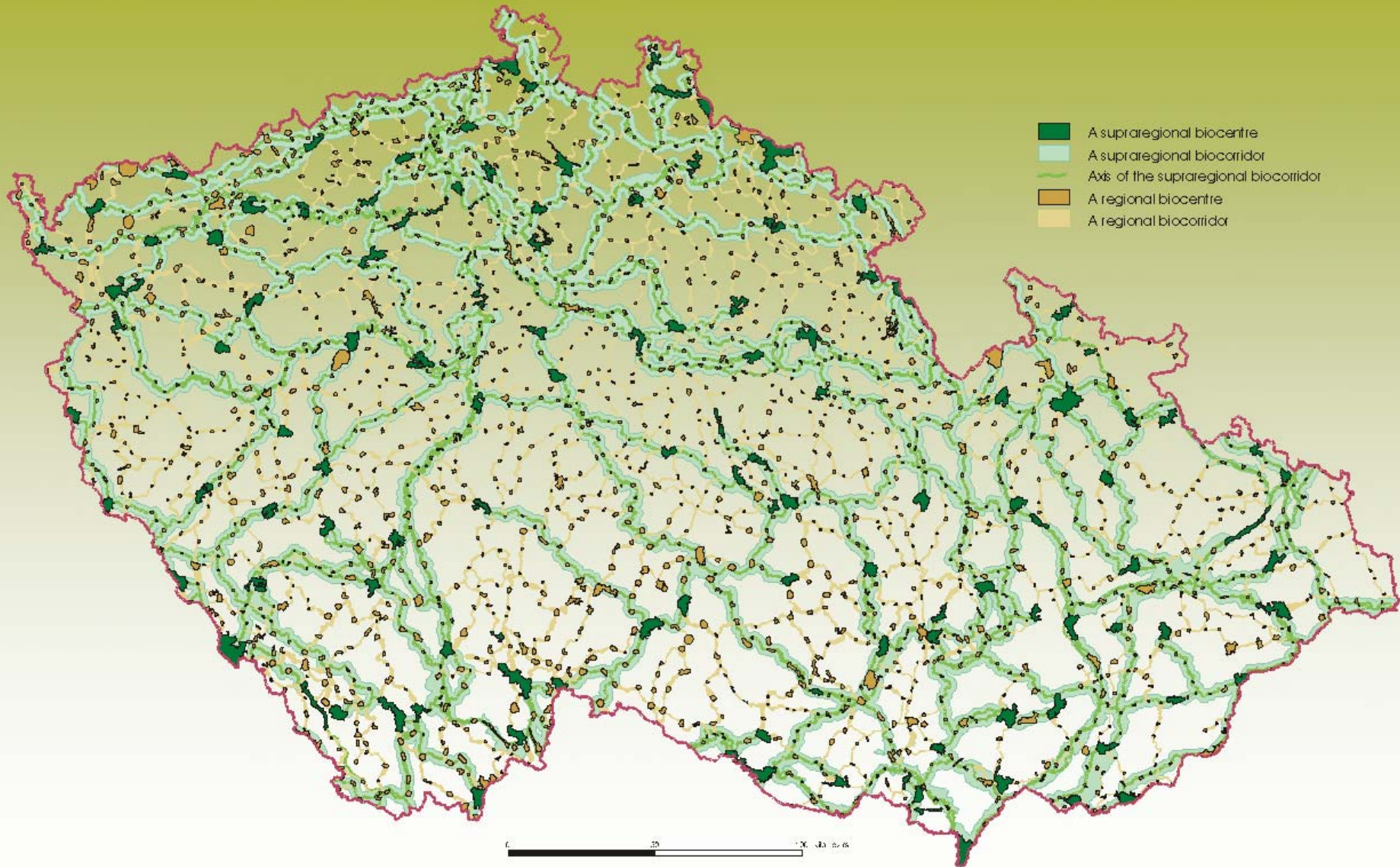
- supraregional
- regional
- local

obligatory component of all spatial plans from 1992

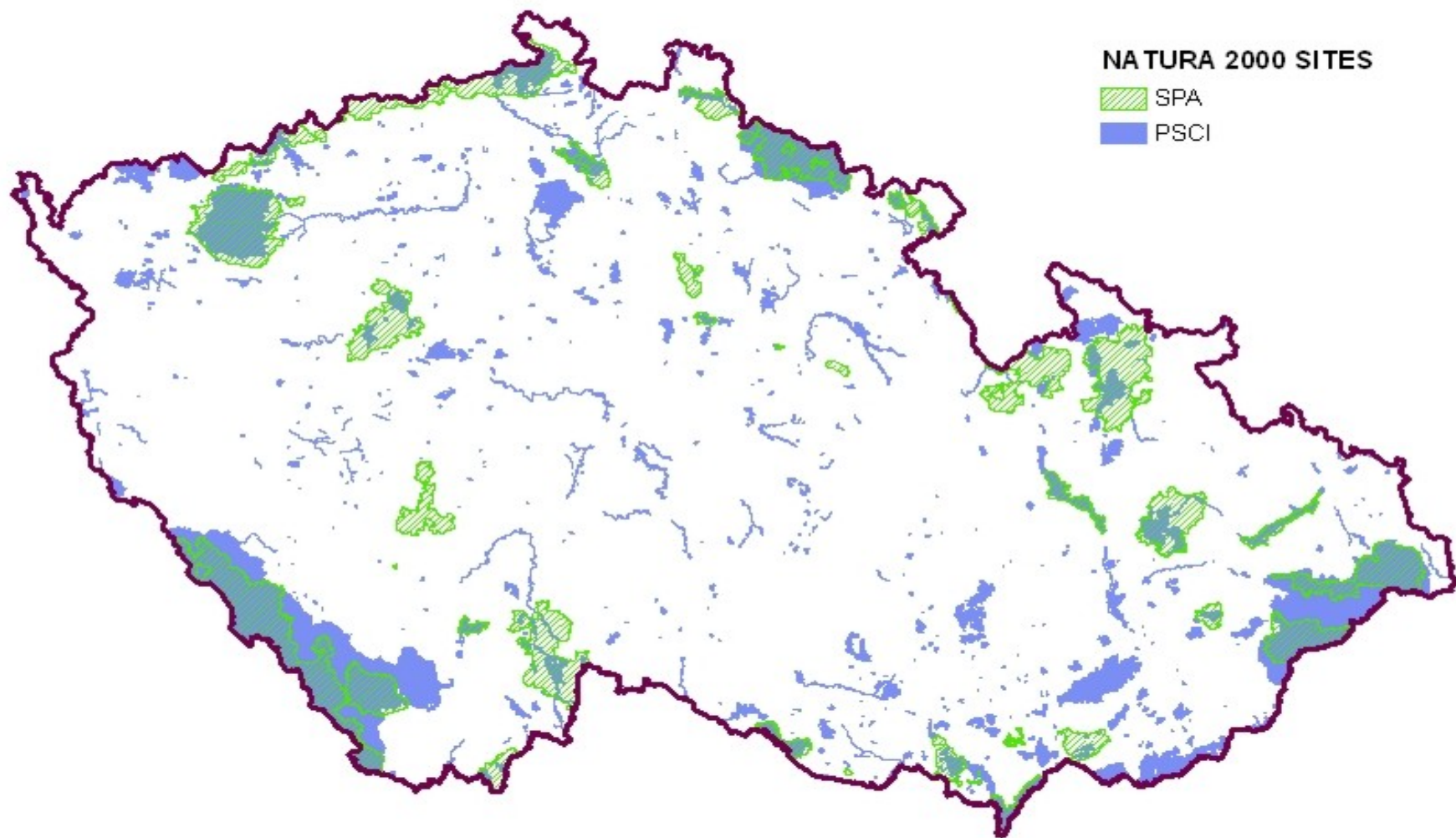
mostly a „paperwork“ only, but still obligatory

Interrelationships between TSES and Natura 2000

ECOLOGICAL NETWORK OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC - SUPRAREGIONAL AND REGIONAL BIOCENTRES AND BIOCORRIDORS



NATURA 2000 - THE CZECH REPUBLIC



0 50 100 km

Interrelationships?

- mostly none
- if any, mostly random
- in most cases a mere overlap, not intentional relationship

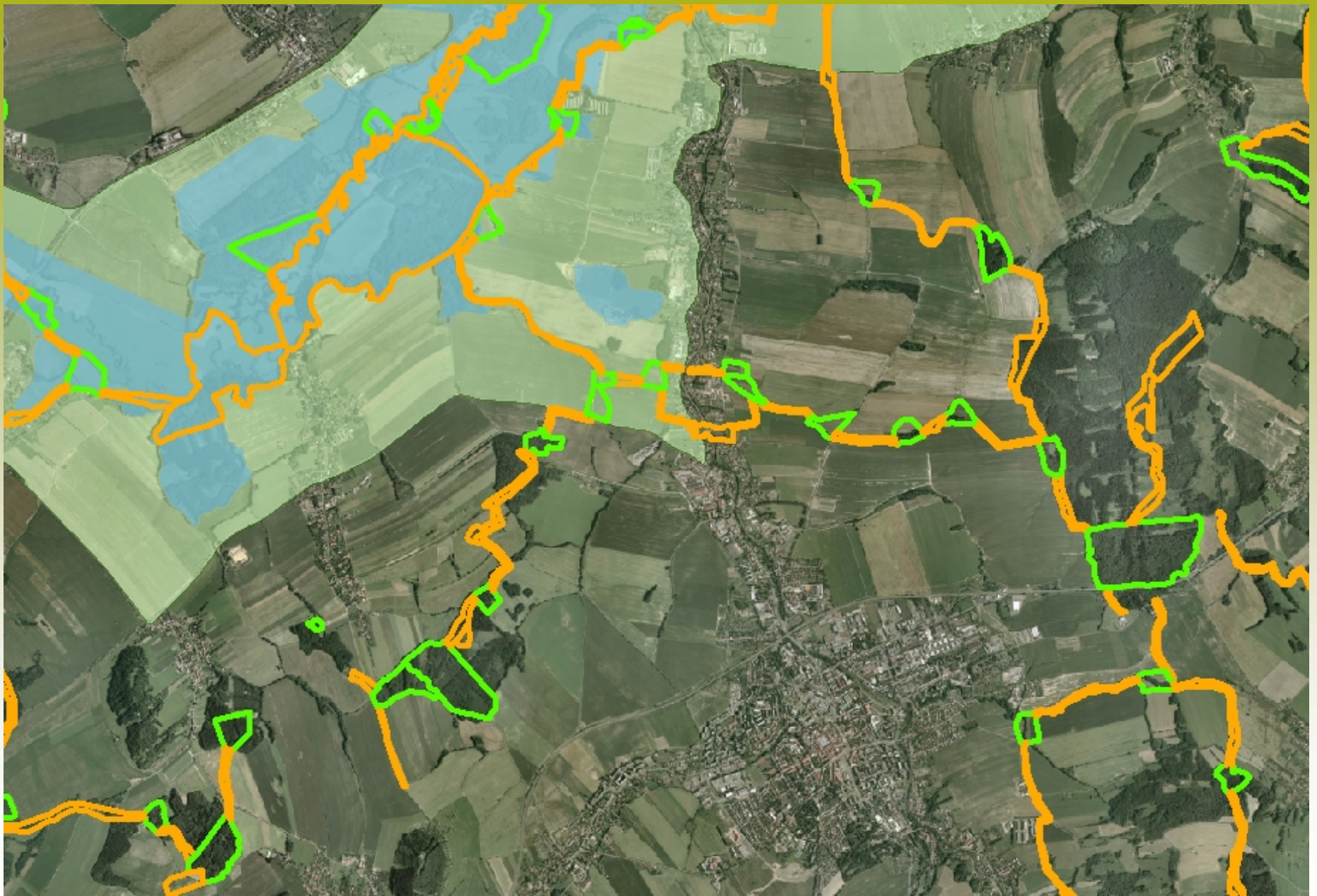
Example: part of Poodří Protected Landscape Area

NATURA 2000

- SPA - light green areas
- pSCI -light blue areas

TSES (all levels altogether)

- biocorridors - orange lines
- biocenters - green lines



Does it mean that Art. 10 cannot be implemented?

In no case.

However, it has to be ecologically useful: i.e., in cases where linking particular NATURA 2000 sites will bring benefit to particular species, TSES can be used as „connecting tool“

Czech national priorities I

- establish reasonable, sufficient, and well-managed Natura 2000 network
- maintain the status of target habitats/species within sites (Art. 6.2 requirement „to prevent worsening“)
- secure sufficient redress and extra costs reimbursement for owners/users

Czech national priorities II.

- whenever feasible, to implement Art. 10 by managing linear sites within Natura 2000 network and system of nationally protected areas
- whenever feasible and reasonable, to use TSES for improvement of connectivity of specific parts of Natura 2000 network

Everything about Czech
Natura 2000 you will find at

www.natura2000.cz

(however, in Czech only)

Thanks for your attention.

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This presentation was held at the International Workshop “Ecological networks and coherence according to article 10 of the Habitats Directive” 9-13 May 2005 at the Isle of Vilm.

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