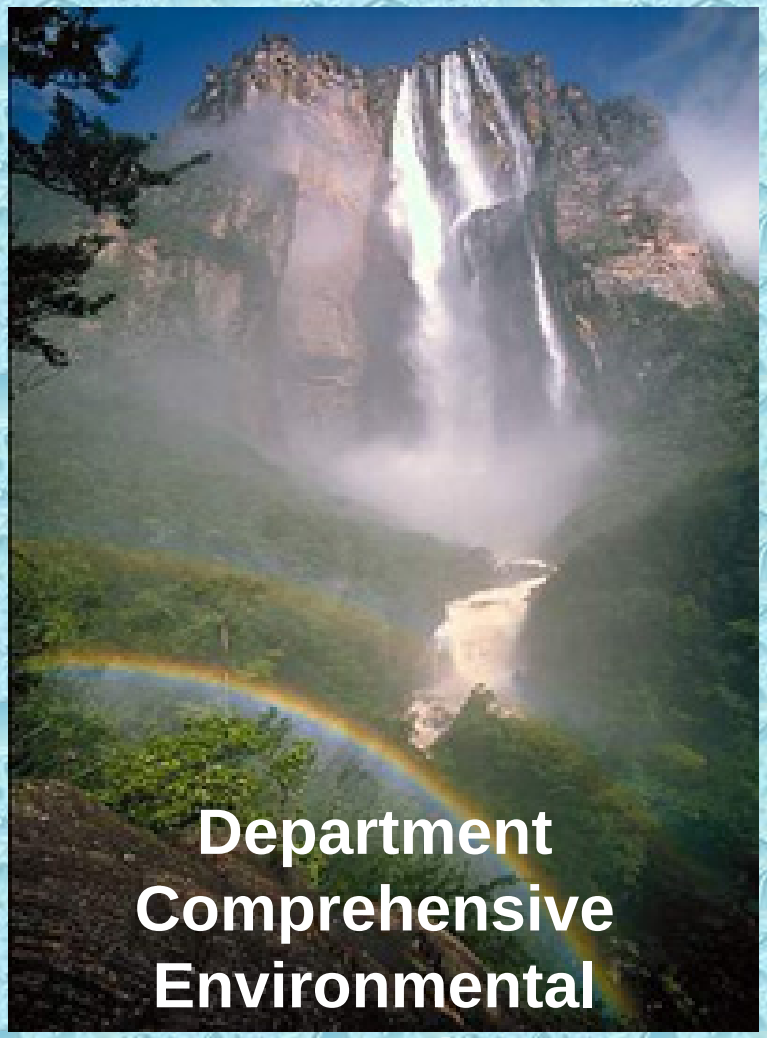
Der Rechnungshof



Biodiversity audits in Austria

Implementation of the Ramsar convention

- 9 audits and reports
- federal ministry and 8 states

Ramsar convention

Ramsar facts in Austria

11 Ramsar sites,1180 km^2

various types (lakes, moors, karst, rivers)

various quality of protection (from unprotected to national park IUCN kat. II)

Ramsar convention

Topics

- juridical issues: protection, differences and lacks in legal framework
- economic issues: costs, investments, management of sites
- ecological issues: biological trends at species and habitats (appendix)

Ramsar convention

Reporting

- report part 1: topics concerning the whole country
- report part 2: topics concerning the states
- report part 3: topics concerning the Ramsar sites

Der Rechnungshof

Ramsar convention

Findings, recommendations

- no national standards concerning protection
- protecting by contracting is better for acceptance but more expensive than using the legal possibilities
- amendment to constitution for enabling national standards is needed
- Ramsar sites should be at least nature protection zones

Ramsar convention

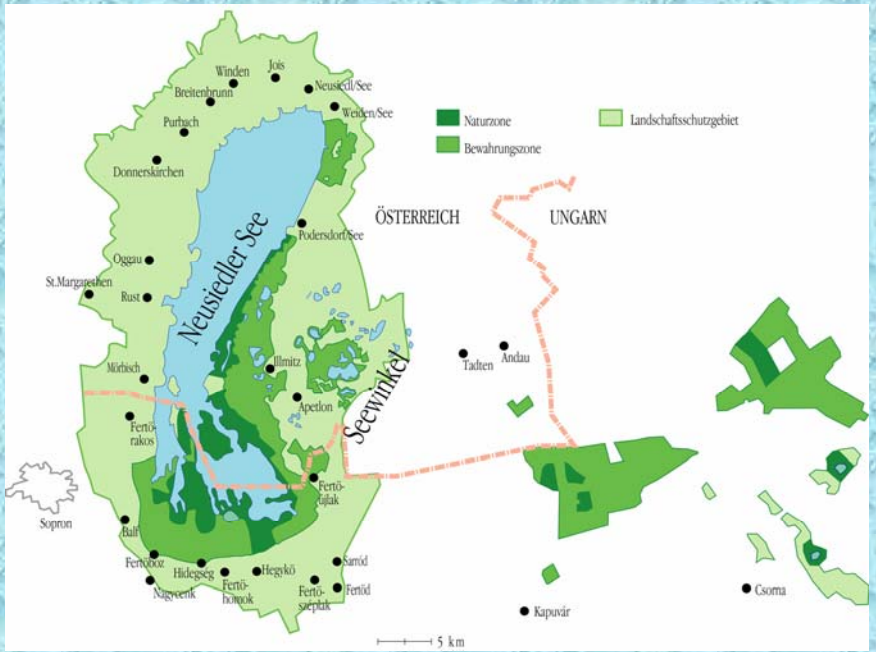
Main results

- 6 new sites projected, one already notified
- new nature protection zones implemented
- concepts for ”wise use” were implemented in many sites, restrictions on fishery and hunting were put into effect

Nature protection at lake Neusiedl

unique in the world for its landscape. flora and fauna

Austria and Hungary:
water area of 315 km²
national park 330 km²
total audited catchment area 1230 km²



Lake Neusiedl

Topics

- fulfilment of international conventions and national targets
- national and international co-operation
- economic and ecologic measures

Lake Neusiedl

Findings, recommendations

- conflicts of use with hunting and fishery
- endangering of habitats by economic use
- problems with reed and the disruption of characteristic landscape elements

Lake Neusiedl

Main results

- changes in fishery and restrictions in hunting
- no disturbances of the water management any more
- problem of illegal wells was solved
- waste water treatment facilities are adjusted

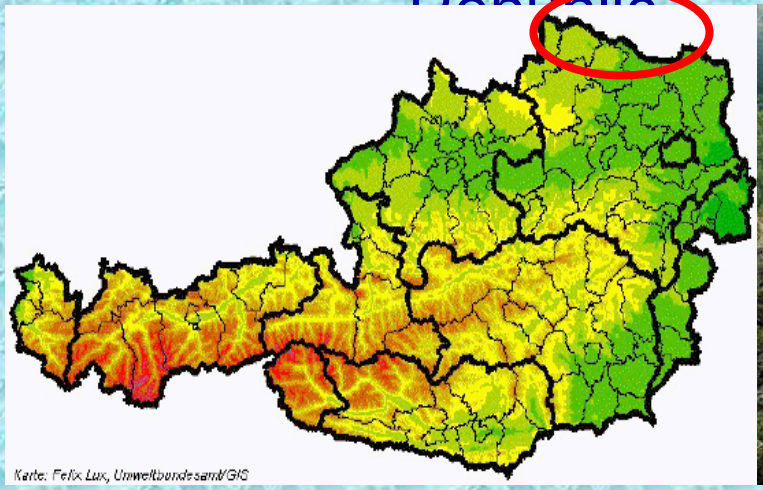
Lake Neusiedl

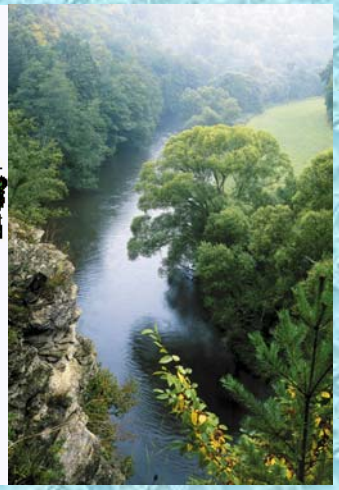
Reporting

- National reports forwarded to the legislative bodies
- Joint report in three languages (German, Hungarian, English)

Ecosystem river Thaya/Dye

cross-border region with the Czech Republic





water quality, energy plants, national parks, unique ecosystem (river and forest)

River Thaya

Audits

- 3 different audits: water quality, ecosystem and biodiversity, international co-operation
- federal ministry, state Lower Austria, National Park Thayatal
- co-operation with Nejvyssi kontrolni urad (Supreme Audit Office of the Czech Republic)

River Thaya

Findings, recommendations

- influence of power plants on the eco-system
- endangering of water quality by economic use of the rivers (industry, waste water)
- good co-operation of the national parks, tensions in the commission concerning border waterbodies

River Thaya

Reporting

- national reports forwarded to the legislative bodies
- joint statement of the presidents and national reports in English

National park River Danube

two states (Vienna and Lower Austria)

one of the last sections of a freely flowing river Danube

largest surviving alluvial forests in Middle-Europe

River Danube

Topics

- organisation of the management
- national co-operation
- economic and ecologic situation and measures

River Danube

Findings, recommendations

- all competencies should be put from the states to the national park administration
- endangering of habitats by touristic and economic use and/or projects
- no comprehensive management concept

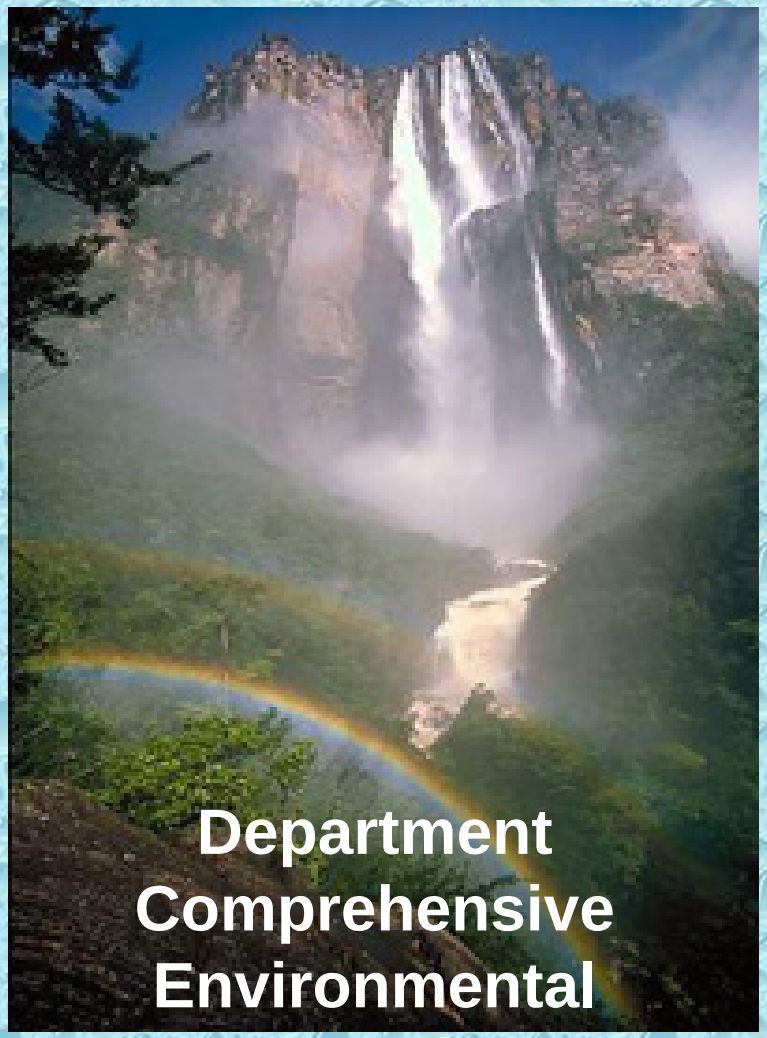
River Danube

Main results

- changes in organisation
- restrictions in touristic use
- redimensioning of projects endangering the national park

The Austrian Court of Audit

Der Rechnungshof



reports available

www.rechnungshof.gv.at

www.nik.gov.pl/intosai

www.environmental.auditing.org

Thank you for your attention