

**MEASURES AND PROGRAMMES CONCERNING NATURE PROTECTION  
AND BIODIVERSITY IN THE THAYA RIVER BASIN**

(Maßnahmen und Programme im Hinblick auf Naturschutz und Biodiversität im Raum  
Thayatal)

**Name of Supreme Audit Institution**

Österreichischer Rechnungshof (Austrian Court of Audit)

**Title of summary report on audit findings**

Report; Wahrnehmungsbericht des Rechnungshofes Reihe Niederösterreich 2005/6;  
published in August 2005

**Audit issues**

Nature protection, biodiversity, international commitments

**Audit type**

Combined audit

**Description of the Audit**

The aim of the audit was to investigate measures concerning the implementation of the  
EU–water directive in connection with ecologic topics, the protection of species and  
habitats.

The audit was conducted by the Austrian Court of Audit on its own initiative. It was  
conducted in April and May 2004.

**Scope of audit**

Implementation of the EU–directive into the national legal framework

Objectives and their achievement, especially concerning the ambition of protecting species and habitats in and outside the national park

Efficiency of the management systems in protected areas

### **Audited units**

Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, State (Land) of Lower Austria, national park Thayatal

### **Summary of the audit findings and evaluation of the audited activities**

The borders of the national park were fixed not only considering ecologic criteria, they were a compromise to forestry and hunting. Conflicts of use were the consequence.

There was no comprehensive bio-inventory outside the national park.

The Czech hydro power plant Vranov had negative influence on biodiversity of river Thaya, including the national parks in Austria and the Czech Republic.

The management of the national park was very effective and accorded with the Czech national park. On the other hand there were no management concepts for protected areas outside the national park.

International cooperation was very good, there were many cross border, EU-cofinanced projects.

### **Addressees of the summary report on audit findings**

The report was forwarded to the Landtag (legislative body of the State) of Lower Austria

### **Results of the audit**

The borders of the national park shall be reviewed.

There will be negotiations about the proceeding of the hydro power plant.

contact:

[www.rechnungshof.gv.at](http://www.rechnungshof.gv.at)

[wg.environment@rechnungshof.gv.at](mailto:wg.environment@rechnungshof.gv.at)

[lang@rechnungshof.gv.at](mailto:lang@rechnungshof.gv.at)