



Czech Republic
Supreme Audit Office

FUNDS PROVIDED FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF NATURE AND THE LANDSCAPE



Title of the audit:

Funds provided for the improvement of nature and the landscape

- ✓ Type of audit: **Compliance**
- ✓ Year of publication: **2016**
- ✓ Audited period: **2013 - 2015**



The aim of the audit

- ✓ To scrutinise the provision, drawdown, and spending of funds earmarked for the nature and landscape protection.



Audited bodies:



Funds for the nature and landscape protection

- ✓ Provided:
 - from EU resources – operational programmes
 - from the state budget – national subsidy programmes
- ✓ MoE – managing authority and the administrator
- ✓ Funds utilised for nature and landscape protection at the MoE
2013 – 2016: CZK 9.4 billion



Environmental operational programmes

- ✓ EU support
- ✓ **OP Environment** supported improvement of the state of nature and the landscape
- ✓ Co-financing: max. of 85 % of total eligible expenditure



National subsidy programmes

- ✓ Support from the state budget
- ✓ Investment programme: **Landscape Natural Function Restoration Programme**
- ✓ Non-investment programme: **Landscape Management Programme**
- ✓ Subsidy of up to 100 % of total costs
- ✓ Tools for securing conservation objectives that cannot be guaranteed from EU sources



Landscape Natural Function Restoration Programme

- ✓ Purpose: to support investment and non-investment plans implementing adaptation measures mitigating the impact of climate change on:
 - aquatic,
 - forest, and
 - non-forest ecosystems.
- ✓ 2009 - 2018



Landscape Management Programme

- ✓ Objective: to implement measures to maintain and increase biodiversity and land use ensuring protection of the natural and cultural values of the landscape
- ✓ First announced in 1996

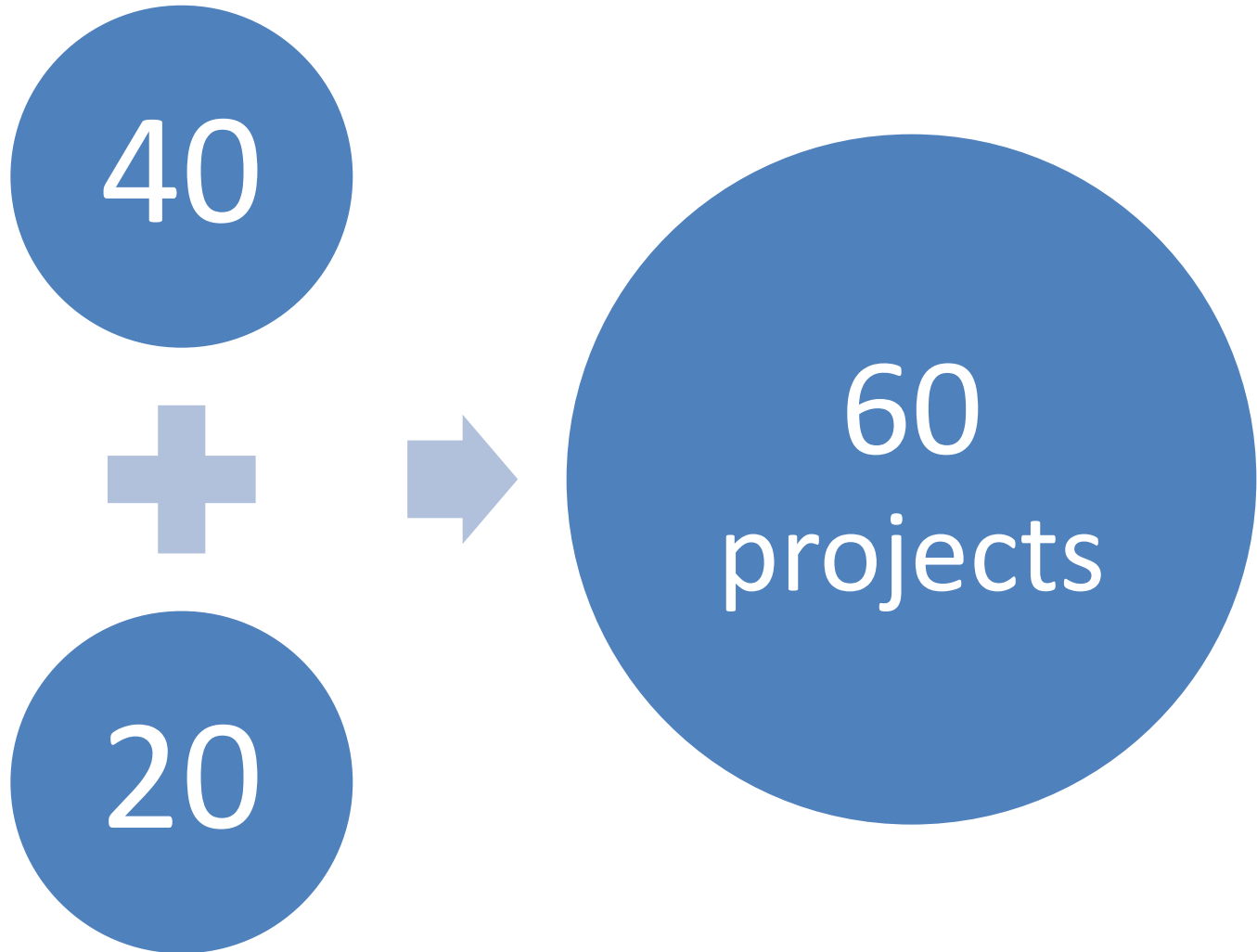


Focus of the audit

- ✓ Follows up the audit No. 10/12
- ✓ Did the funds for the nature and landscape protection bring the expected results?
- ✓ Did the MoE observe and assess the effectiveness of the programmes in relation to the desired change?



Focus of the audit



Findings

- ✔ Quantifiable and measurable **objectives** for the subsidy programmes **were not set**.
- ✔ **Achievement** of the subsidy programmes **indicators was not sufficiently assessed**.



Findings

- ✓ The **state of nature** and the landscape did **not show positive development**.
- ✓ The **usual conditions** on beneficiaries for awarding subsidy **were not imposed**.



Findings in relation to the subsidy beneficiaries

- ✓ 60 projects
- ✓ CZK 828 million
- ✓ Individual projects did not contain specifically quantified benefits in relation to the desired change of the state of nature and landscape



Final assessment and recommendations

✓ State Environmental Policy objectives:

- Stopping diminishing biodiversity
- Stopping decreasing ecological stability



✓ Recommendations:

- Setting quantified and measurable programme objectives
- Setting verifiable indicators
- Setting parameters that allow determination of benefit
- Monitoring and assessing continually the achievement
- Assessing the subsidy awarded under the programmes

Thank you for your attention

Sylva Müllerová | sylva.mullerova@nku.cz

