

# EUROPARC FEDERATION

Verification report

For the **Dutch-German  
Naturpark / Grenspark  
Maas-Schwalm-Nette**



application for the EUROPARC certificate:

“Transboundary Parks – Following Nature’s Design”

Date of verification visit: 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2007

Names of Verifiers: Arnold Boer, Martin Schneider-Jacoby

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Martin Schneider-Jacoby".

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Lead Verifier Martin Schneider-Jacoby

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> August 2007

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Source: <http://www.grenspark-msn.nl/>

## **1 Part One**

### **1.1 Introduction**

In 2006, the **Naturpark / Grenspark Maas-Schwalm-Nette** (NP M-S-N) celebrated 30 years of transfrontier work in nature conservation and regional development.

Since 1978, the “euregio rhein-maas-nord – an area inhabited by 2 Mio. people - serves as a wider transboundary political region for a cooperation between the Netherlands and Germany .

Already in 1976, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and German Federal State North Rhine Westphalia had signed an agreement to foster the cooperation in the development and implementation of the Nature Park Maas-Schwalm-Nette. The NP M-S-N is a core zone for the “euregio rhein-maas-nord”, especially as it is a quite rural area and serves as natural recreation destination in the densely populated surrounding.

After more than 30 years of cooperation, the decision to apply to Europarc and to ask for an assessment of the done work is an interesting and challenging step. At the same time, an evaluation based on the best standards for transfrontier cooperation in protected area management is a good opportunity to set a milestone for the common work of the Dutch and German partners.

For the verifiers, it is a pleasure and an interesting task to assess such a long-term cooperation and the achievements from 30 years of joint work.

### **1.2 Results of the Desk Evaluation**

The first assessment of the application in April 2007 demonstrated the long-term transfrontier work at the Dutch - German border. The self-assessment of the NP M-S-N was critical and the materials proved the high standard of cooperation. It was decided by Arnold Boer and myself that the area is worth to be assessed by a joint mission.

Before the mission and after a second critical review of the materials, a number of questions and probably weak points, which needed clarification, were summarised and distributed to the NP M-S-N and Europarc. The handout for the mission is attached in Annex 6.2.

## **2 Part Two**

### **2.1 Results of the Mission**

#### **2.1.1 Context**

Beginning of 2007, the NP M-S-N applied to Europarc to be certified according the programme “Transboundary Parks – Following Nature’s Design”. In June, the Europarc expert team Arnold Boer (senior expert and founder of the Dutch National Park Programme) and Martin Schneider-Jacoby (lead verifier and author of the assessment) visited the site.

The joint unit and office of the NP M-S-N hosted the mission. Leo Reyrynk, director, accompanied Martin Schneider-Jacoby during the three day visit and was an excellent guide due to his 17 years work in the transboundary area. Arnold Boer and Silke Weich, project coordinator NP M-S-N, joint during the first and second day in the discussion of the application and gave important contributions to the assessment of the criteria.



Bi-lingual, from both countries and dynamic – the staff of the NP M-S-N  
Source: <http://www.grenspark-msn.nl/index/lang/de/top1/Kontakt>

## 2.1.2 Observations on the Strengths and Weaknesses of the Application

### 2.1.2.1 Strengths

1. Long-term political support and TB work based on the agreement from 1976 – already more than 30 years!
2. Vision precociously documented in the step by step development of the TB Park and following mile stones:
  - agreement between D and NL in 1976
  - frame concept in 1989
  - basic ecological plan in 1994 and
  - formation of the special purpose association 2002 and extension of the area of the cross border park by the participation of the communities of Venlo and Beesel
  - renewing the agreement in November 2006
3. Transboundary assessment of the values (1989) and the basic ecological plan including two joint detailed plans for transboundary management and habitat rehabilitation (1994)
4. On both sides of the border inclusion of (former) military areas in the protection scheme of rare animals and habitats including environmental education
5. The TB Park is based on a network of several protected areas and development zones, which are well organised with programmes for management and visitors.
6. The zonation fulfils the standards of an TB UNESCO Biosphere Reserves (see recommendations)
7. The TB Park has a joint unit with bilingual stuff and a joint website, logo and programme for both countries
8. Development and implementation of joint projects including fund raising e.g. InterReg projects.
9. Educational and tourism programme based on a network of info points (cultural and natural), information centres, museums as well as bicycle and walking trails
10. TB preservation measures of important flagship species (Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius*, Common Adder *Vipera berus*, Bog Myrtle *Myrica gale*) based on habitat (fens, heather, wetlands, forest,..) protection, management, restoration and visitor regulations
11. Implementation of joint zoning and habitat improvement directly at the border (wetland, heath, extensive grassland) based on the basic ecological plan and joint projects
12. Profits to local population in the TB Park by promotion of local offers (direct selling of farm products, tourism) and inclusion of farmers in the grazing projects
13. Voluntary work in monitoring and environmental education as well as the inclusion of a network of NGOs in the preservation work

14. The TB Park follows “nature’s design” as the large transfrontier forest, fen and heath complex is situated in the heart of the Nature Park and the network of running waters is linking the wetlands. The rivers serve as wet forested corridors throughout the park
15. The TB Park has its own internal auditing system (e.g. evaluation report 2002 – 2005)

### **2.1.2.2 Weaknesses**

The early vision to maintain the open landscape (1989) is endangered by

- a) wind energy
- b) traffic corridors and
- c) settlement development

There is a real threat that the transition zone / open landscape in the TB Park becomes smaller and that the core and buffer areas – including their recreation function! – are impacted. From the beautiful watchtower at the Krickenbecker Schloß, the view over the wide riverine forest and soft hilly landscape is still impressive, but the wind power stations are already coming closer and impact the quality of the view on the German side.

Two main traffic corridors, which are upgraded at the moment, are a threat:

- a) The highway corridor on the right bank of the Maas, which might trigger new building activities as already visible at the junction near Roermond. Already now, the blue belt of the Maas and the green cultural landscape and forest heart of the NP are in need of better connectivity and wider corridors. The decision to built a large bridge over the Swalm / Schwalm to improve the connectivity is a first positive signal, but more mitigation measures are needed to prevent further impact.
- b) The upgrading of the road connection between Roermond and Mönchengladbach leads to a growing disconnection of the forest corridor and in the Maas plain in a right angle to the new highway along the Maas and the river. In the lowland area, the new highway is higher than the plain impacting the wide landscape. The noise will be widely distributed or an additional wall for noise control will lead to further intersection of the valley. Next to this road a new corridor for the railway is possibly planned in this sensitive part of the valley. Improved and additional mitigation measures are needed.

### **3 Fulfilment of the basic standards criteria and verification of the key points**

#### **3.1 Review of the Criteria**

##### **Primary Criteria - 1.1 Vision:**

There is a clear long-term vision of the local, regional and national politicians to cooperate in the preservation of the Maas-Schwalm-Nette area.

Five key documents prove the development of the vision and are the basis for the common, transfrontier work for the TB Park.

1. Treaty or Agreement signed 30<sup>th</sup> March 1976 between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and North Rhine Westphalia including the vision to preserve the natural beauty of the landscape of the NP M-S-N by harmonizing the special development and management in accordance with the economic, cultural and social interests.
2. The Rahmenkonzept / Doelstellingenkader (Development Concept or Frame) states in its general goals as a vision to maintain the open landscape and to reduce impacts in the area. The development goals for each habitat are clearly defined.
3. The Transboundary Ecological Basis Plan (1994) is a vision for the joint preservation and management of the natural values and cultural landscape.
4. The regulation of the German-Dutch Nature Park M-S-N, organised as a special purpose association (Zweckverband), maintains also the beauty of the nature and cultural landscape as a key asset for the common work.
5. The renewal of the agreement from 1976 between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and North Rhine Westphalia in 2006.

Beside the habitat and landscape preservation and the importance for recreation, which is the key message of the first three documents, the benefits of the cooperation are clearly stated in the forth. Here, the joint project development, fundraising and use of the EU programmes is included as a special task of the joint Nature Park unit. The recent development proves that this common idea and goal has been reached by the development of joint EU InterReg projects and a transboundary visitor management system.

The “partner protected areas” are represented in the TB Park through the respective communities (NL) and the German Nature Park.

All five documents clearly refer to the state of the environment and the area’s natural and cultural resources including biodiversity.

The socio-economic benefits are taken into account in the development of rural tourism, which is important for communities and smaller settlements in the centre of the park and for the people from the cities at the fringe or nearer environment, which use TB Park for recreation.

##### **Primary Criteria - 1.2 Fields of Work:**

The mid-term work-plan of the joint unit (= office of the NP M-S-N) for the TB Park includes a lot of common activities such as the joint programme of guided tours, joint events and the

website. This is the normal day by day work, most important for the positive development of the area.

The activities are organised in direct contact with the different organisations and institutions in the TB Park that offer environmental education and tourism related activities.

The work plan and the common work of the NP unit are based on two board meetings per year.

Issues relating to conservation are covered by jointly developed and managed projects.

The work plan also covers issues relating to the fostering of the social and economic well-being of local communities in two ways. Firstly, the regional tourism and environmental education programme offers a good platform for visitors and secondly, a group of 50 farms offering local products and recreation is promoted through the TB Park.

The work is related to one Primary Field of Work (species and habitat conservation and upgrading) and two Secondary Fields of Work (environmental education and tourism). In addition, some project assisting local farmers and cultural heritage is included in many offers.

#### **Primary Criteria - 1.3 Official Agreement:**

The official agreement for cooperation shows how a joint unit stimulates transboundary work. Based on the agreement of 1976, actualised in 2006, the formation of the special purpose association of the communities to strengthen the NP M-S-N is an excellent example how transboundary work can be stimulated and secured.

#### **Primary Criteria - 1.4 Staff:**

The TB work is based on a joint unit established to facilitate the transfrontier cooperation. This is in my opinion a unique case and a good example for best practice.

In addition, staff members in the partner protected areas are involved in the joint activities. This network of involved people of staff could be strengthened.

The partner protected areas are represented by the respective regional politicians (NL) and the Nature Park on the German side.

The partner protected areas are directly involved in the preparation of projects and programmes.

Regular meetings of the board of TB M-S-N take place twice per year. In addition, the nature guides meet once per year.

An additional annual assembly of the people working in the park and the protected areas is recommended to strengthen the cooperation through personal contact.

#### **Secondary Criteria - 2.1 Guiding Rules for Cooperation:**

The NP M-S-N has established an environment for fair and balanced decision making between all partners. A permanent exchange of information is ensured and regular meetings of the board are held twice per year. The reports and minutes are distributed among all partners as all other documents in both languages.

### **Secondary Criteria - 2.2 Exchange of data:**

There is a set of general documents and results from the common work, which is available in both languages. Books as the M-S-N Pfad (trail) include results of the research related to natural, historical and cultural aspects of the TB Park. It was developed in the frame of the InterReg II-Programme to experience nature in the NP M-S-N.

The basic ecological plan 1994 is a good example for a joint product and distributed to all partners in both languages.

### **Secondary Criteria**

#### **2.3 Foreign Language Communication:**

German and Dutch is used. Materials are translated and available in both languages. The staff of the NP D-S-N office is bilingual.

#### **Secondary Criteria - 2.4 Ecological Monitoring:**

The joint unit of the NP M-S-N is not responsible for the ecological monitoring, which is done by the protected areas, NGOs and volunteers. There are excellent data for flagship species as the Common Adder including population size and habitat use (see 5. Specific Recommendations).

The NP M-S-N collects important data on visitor activities such as number of people participating in the organised tours.

Concerning the importance of the site, some recommendations are given for the collection and coordination of the monitoring results.

#### **Secondary Criteria - 2.5 Basis of Financing:**

The logistic unit of the TB Park is financed by the partners, both states and through projects. The funds are secured in the mid-term perspective to fulfil the transfrontier cooperation commitments. The funding is based on the special purpose association.

The "partner protected areas" cooperate in fundraising for joint transfrontier activities and projects. Excellent examples are the InterReg Projects.

### **Primary Field of Work - 3.1 Nature and Landscape Conservation:**

Based on the development concept from 1989 and the basic ecological plan (1994), the TB Park has a joint and complementary habitat map. The zonation system includes joint managed core areas at the border and fulfils nature and landscape conservation objectives.

An updating of maps is needed as well as a joint presentation of the actual protection status (= transformation of the basic ecological plan into active conservation map showing the status of each site in the transboundary context) .

In the last two decades on both sides of the border nature conservation was improved in several site by changing the land use from (intensive) agriculture or forestry to nature conservation, or by the conversion of military areas into protected areas. Also a significant

number of measures from the landscape and nature conservations plans on both sides were realised.

The management of nature and landscape conservation areas is done in accordance with IUCN Protected Area categories, but a consequent categorisation of each protected area is missing, as the protection is based on national law. The National Park in the Netherlands (NP De Meijweg) is an IUCN category IV area with excellent management.

Through habitat management, the migration of species and natural evolutionary processes across the border is improved and the activities can be used for demonstrating best practice projects.

Only in a small part, wild boar is prevented to migrate from Germany to the Netherlands. The planned highway east of Venlo needs green bridges to guarantee the north-south migration of larger mammals as red deer, but also smaller vertebrates and invertebrates along the border.

Common activities and programmes focus on wetland protection, management of habitats such as the heath and the introduction of red deer.

Cross-border hazards such as fires are managed jointly by the use of common airplanes (inter alia).

Flood protection is important, as the area has a high value as retention site. A connection between the flood risk planning and the management of the TB Park is needed.

#### **Secondary Fields of Work - 4.1 Education and Communication:**

The NP M-S-N publishes a complementary bilingual programme. Very impressive is the network of 21 information points, which has been created throughout the years. In the frame of common work for nature experience, a series of leaflets has been published.

#### **Secondary Fields of Work - 4.2 Recreation and Sustainable Tourism:**

Cross-border initiatives on the promotion of sustainable regional development are linked to visitor management, local farms and food producers as well as a joint trail system. The borders are open. This is why joint core areas are important to protect the transboundary key habitats from disturbance. In the National Park De Meinweg and in the nature conservation areas Krickenbecker Lakes, roads have been closed for private cars.

#### **Secondary Fields of Work - 4.3 Research and Monitoring:**

The ecological basic plan is an excellent example of common research. In the last 13 years, the plan has been used as a basis for joint projects. The most recent one is the establishment of a network of wet habitats, which generated the implementation of 6 restoration projects.

Concerning the monitoring, it is recommended that the results of the different species will be published jointly at least for some of the most important indicator and flagship species. The same would be interesting for the size of habitats such as wetlands, extensive used grassland and heath area and all other habitats where significant conservation successes have been achieved.

The work of the TB Park is based on common studies and research. Already the first documents from 1989 (frame concept) and 1994 (basic ecological plan) are exemplary documents for a joint approach to preserve the natural and sensitive habitats at the border.

The recent work on the European Viper or Common Adder (*Vipera berus*) as one of the flagship species is a good example (habitat management). The exhibition in the visitor centre of the NP De Meinweg on this animal transfers the results to a wide public and the visitors.

There are numerous additional studies in the area, which can be used for public awareness and to demonstrate the importance of the TB Park.

**Secondary Fields of Work - 4.4 Mutual Understanding and Peace:**

The formation of one joint unit to trigger the transboundary development with joint staff and common financing is an excellent example for transfrontier mutual understanding.

The promotion of peace is a part of the work done by transforming military areas into prime conservation areas and public areas for environmental education.

## 4 Conclusions

The NP M-S-N is an outstanding example of transfrontier cooperation in protected area management. Important improvements have been achieved in both countries in the recent years. Exemplary are the

- a) conversion of military areas in protected areas,
- b) transboundary habitat improvement e.g. for wetlands and heath areas,
- c) joint preservation programmes for flagship species such as European Viper and Bog Myrtle and
- d) the joint network of information points.

Based on the agreement dated 1976 and two joint management documents from 1989 and 1994, a joint management unit has been created in 2002: the Naturpark / Grenspark Maas-Schwalm-Nette. In 2006 the Treaty on the trans border cooperation between the Netherlands and the German Federal State of Nord Rhein-Westphalen has been actualised.

The Nature Park Maas-Schwalm-Nette fulfils all standards of a Transboundary Park (IUCN Cat V) and is an excellent example how larger areas with a partly lower protection level and a heterogeneous system of protected areas can be linked over the border. The creation of the multipurpose association of communities and other public authorities with the goal to preserve and develop the TB Park is a wise and long-term decision. It is a best practice example and shows the great readiness of the local communities, but also the regional and national organisations to support the protection and development of the border region between the Netherlands and Germany.

Based on my/our evaluation, all the 14 criteria connected to the EUROPARC Basic Standards System are fulfilled in this Transboundary Park. The Park Maas-Schwalm-Nette Nature Park with its partners and protected areas meets therefore the requirements for the EUROPARC Transboundary Cooperation Certificate.

## 5 Specific Recommendations to the Applicants

### Vision

The vision for the TB Park is visible in the five key documents. A positive formulation how the partners and the local populations see the future TB area would be important. For example, the willingness to preserve the open landscape can be transferred in a vision, that describes *the NP M-S-N as a large-scale forest and riverine landscape, which is surrounded by open cultural landscape, where people from the cities find good opportunity for recreation.*

### Monitoring and Management

The basic ecological plan from 1994 serves as the joint management plan. A review would be important. In addition, it would be great to include a few selected biological indicators (representing the key habitats and attractive flagship species) in the annual report. The data can be based on the existing activities and joint evaluations.

### Zonation

There is no joint actual map showing the protected areas and the management regime of the whole TB Park. The UNESCO zonation model for biosphere reserves could be used to develop such a joint map. It would be good to create a joint GIS and to collect the different layers at one or two partner organisations.

### Partner Protected Areas

The office of the NP M-S-N facilitates the TB work in an ideal way. Nevertheless, the “partner protected areas” do a lot of the work. It is important to make the joint network visible and give the credits to all partners. A joint annual assembly might be a possibility to bring all actors together.

### Military Areas

Several (former) military areas are included in the TB Park already. They host important habitats and core populations of endangered animals and plants.

The fences around the former military area Brüggener Wald allows a very specific habitat management by higher densities of large herbivores than outside. The result is a beautiful landscape, which offers a unique recreation to the visitors and tourists.

The airfield Elmpter Wald is the last big site, which is still in military use. It is important that it will be included in the protection scheme, when the military is leaving.

### Traffic Infrastructure and Settlement Development

The mitigations measures for the new highway Roermond to Mönchengladbach have to be reviewed. Referring to the experience in Switzerland and other countries, where green bridges are 140 – 200 m wide<sup>1</sup>, and the great diversity in the habitat system of the NP M-S-N, corridors for many species from different habitats have to be created including indicators for forest – wet and dry -, heath areas, cultural landscapes and wetlands habitats. I am afraid

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<sup>1</sup> Keller V and H P Pfister (1995): Wildlife passages as a means of mitigation effects of habitat fragmentation by roads and railway lines. In: Habitat Fragmentation & Infrastructure, Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management, The Netherlands (Kees Canters), page 70 – 80.

that the measures currently undertaken are not enough to avoid an impact on the connectivity between the different habitats and parts of the NP M-S-N.

Also, the connectivity between the Maas (the blue corridors) and rest of the TB Park as well as between the cities at the Maas (e.g. Roermond, Venlo) and the recreation sites are endangered. The current development of urban areas at the new highway is critical and leads to further impacts and the danger of losing open landscape.

A third green corridor is needed along the Maas at the Dutch-German border, where it becomes increasingly difficult for species to migrate.

### Flood Control

It is important to link the new approaches in flood control (e.g. the development of flood risk maps and the protection of retention areas) with the habitat protection. The riverine and lowland areas of the TB Park have additional values as they retain water (ecosystem services). This value can also play a role in the restoration projects.

## **6 Annexes**

### **6.1 Programme of the Verification Visit**

#### **20<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

Arrival in Möchengladbach at noon

First Meeting of the team in the Borner Mühle in the Park

Visit of the office of the NP M-S-N in Roermond

Here, discussion and detailed review of the “Details of the Partner Organisations”

Evening in Swalmen and Born

#### **21<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

Meeting in the office

Discussion of the primary and secondary criteria

Visit to the old city centre of Roermond at noon

Start of the field visit

Visit of the river Maas at the Belgium border and the town of Thorn

Walk through the extensively grazed floodplain

Travel through the south part of the NP M-S-N along the river Rur

Visit of restoration sites near Monfort Castle

Visit of the National Park visitor centre Meinweg

Walk through the TB heath habitats and in the National Park De Meinweg

Visit of the restoration areas in Germany and the Netherlands at the border

Walk to the observation point in the Elmpter Schwalm Bruch - Schwalmthal

Overnight stay in Borner Mühle

**22<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

Continuations of the field visit

Visit of the former military area Brügger Forst

Visit of the visitor centre Biological Station Krickenbecker Lakes , the castle and the trail at the lakes

Walk along the old Rhine – Maas canal (Grand Canal du Nord) and in the Nette valley

Lunch in a typical small local restaurant (early afternoon)

Departure from Mönchengladbach

## **6.2 Handout for the Verification Visit (Desk Evaluation)**

### **Naturpark / Greenspark Maas – Schwalm – Nette**

Here: Open Questions

Author: Martin Schneider-Jacoby

Date: 19th June 2007

Dear Mr. Reyrink,

During the weekend I studied the materials provide for the assessment again and prepared my visit. Please excuse that I did not find time earlier.

I will send you this few points in advance and I think we will have time enough to discuss them.

1. Vision: The Vision (Appendix 5.) was not included, as it was send directly to Europarc. It would be important for me to study it during my stay. Can you provide me with one copy for the first evening / night? Thank you.
2. When reading the Details of the Partner Organisation, point 15. Average number of staff members: full time 1, part time 1 (3/4) and project workers 1 (1/10<sup>th</sup>), I became aware that I do not understand who the protected areas involved in the transfrontier cooperation are. Only 3 people staff for 80.000 ha protected area?

In my opinion, your unit is the joint staff based on an excellent basis, but we also have to include the protected areas linked by your unit. If not, we have a lack of management capacity. In addition, the protected areas, which are linked should be a part of the assessment. Where is the National Park? Who is running the protected areas in Germany? We need a clear definition, who are the “partner-protected areas”, as they will be nominated as Transboundary Parks.

3. The unclear definition of protected area is also obvious in question 16 – total number of people living in the protected area (= NP / GP M-S-N ): less than 100. The answer in my opinion is ca. 400.000. In the core area – can you please define, what is the core area of the TB PA – 500 seems reasonable to me. In which part of the TB PA live the 100 people?
4. The Zonation is unclear to me. It seems to me that there is some overlap between the different categories of protection (Natura 2000, Landscape Protection, Conservation Areas). The topographic map is excellent and the outer border is clear, but inside the zoning is not clearly defined. Can you provide me with some additional information, please? I would like to discuss

this point with you.

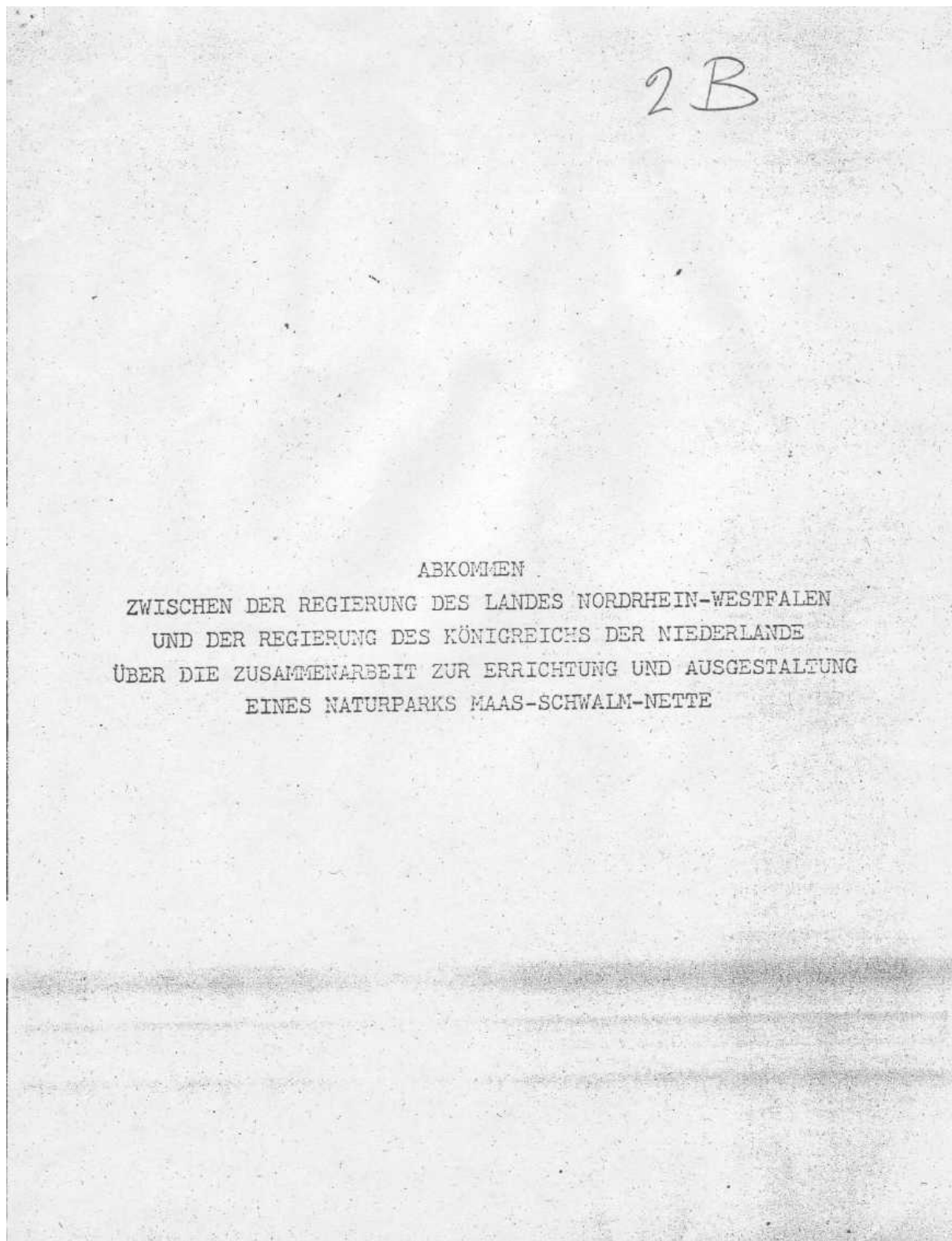
5. In the monitoring part (2.4), I have not found any data and information on ongoing monitoring, also I am sure that there is at least on both sides of the border a lot of monitoring going on. The information given refers in my opinion to studies and surveys, not to monitoring.
6. Can you explain to me the joint complementary zonation system, please (3.1.1 – 3.1.5.)
7. In 3.1.6 and 7: Cross-border hazards you answer with NO. In the case of your riverine park, I think floods are a major issue. Is there no TB flood control scheme in place? Is the area not an important retentions site especially for the urban areas?
8. 4.1.3. NO TB ranger or service guide system? Is this true, that always the work is done strict on national level?
9. 4.3.1 NO common agreed study or research?

Looking forward to meet you tomorrow and learn more about your work.

Kind regards

Martin Schneider-Jacoby

6.3 Agreement signed in 1976 (German version)



DIE REGIERUNG DES LANDES NORDRHEIN-WESTFALEN

und

DIE REGIERUNG DES KÖNIGREICHS DER NIEDERLANDE,

geleitet von dem Wunsche, in dem Naturpark Maas-Schwalm-Nette zu einer aufeinander abgestimmten räumlichen Entwicklung zu gelangen, wobei die natürlichen Schönheiten der Landschaft bewahrt werden sollen,

haben vereinbart, das folgende in Artikel 8 des Abkommens zwischen der Regierung der Bundesrepublik Deutschland und der Regierung des Königreichs der Niederlande über die Zusammenarbeit auf dem Gebiet der Raumordnung vorgesehene Abkommen zu schließen, und nachstehende Bestimmungen festgelegt:

Artikel 1

- (1) Die Vertragsparteien kommen überein, für die in Absatz 2 festgelegten Gebiete eine aufeinander abgestimmte räumliche Entwicklung anzustreben.
- (2) Für die Gebiete, auf die sich dieses Abkommen bezieht, gilt die folgende Grenzbeschreibung:

- Auf deutscher Seite:

Im Westen die deutsch-niederländische Grenze zwischen dem Grenzübergang der Bundesstraße 60 bei Herongen und den Grenzsteinen 360/361 bei Karken, weiter der südliche Rand der Rur-Niederung bei Heinsberg-Oberbruch, dann weitgehend die östliche Grenze der Stadt Wassenberg bis zur Ortslage Arsbeck und die Kreisstraße 14 bis zur Ortslage Schwanenberg;  
im Osten den größten Teil des Stadtgebietes Wegberg umfassend, eine Linie über Waldniel-Amern-Boisheim-Lobberich-Oedt bis Wachtendonk;  
im Norden die Bundesstraße 60 von Wachtendonk bis zum Grenzübergang bei Herongen.

- Auf niederländischer Seite:

Im Osten ist das Gebiet durch die Reichsgrenze von der Gemeinde Beesel bis einschließlich der Gemeinde Echt begrenzt; an der Süd- und Südwestseite durch die Südgrenze der Gemeinden Echt, Ohe und Laak und die Maas als Reichsgrenze mit Belgien und die Südgrenze der Gemeinde Thorn;

im Westen durch den westlichen Rand des Maastales bzw. durch die westliche Begrenzung des unmittelbar durch die Auskiesung im Anschluß an die Maas beeinflussten Gebietes;

im Norden durch die südliche Grenze der Gemeinde Beesel.

- (3) Die genaue Abgrenzung der in Absatz 2 festgelegten Gebiete ist aus einer Karte ersichtlich, die dem Abkommen beigelegt und ein wesentlicher Bestandteil des Abkommens ist.
- (4) Die Vertragsparteien geben der beratenden Kommission, deren Bildung in Artikel 3 dieses Abkommens vorgesehen ist, die Gebietsteile an, die unter Natur- und Landschaftsschutz stehen, sowie die Gebietsteile, in denen insbesondere die Erholung und der Fremdenverkehr zu fördern sind, und diejenigen, die davon auszunehmen sind.
- (5) Geringfügige Änderungen in der Abgrenzung (Absatz 2), der Unterschutzstellung und der Zweckbestimmung (Absatz 4) ihrer Gebietsteile kann jede Vertragspartei entsprechend ihrer innerstaatlichen Ordnung nach Anhörung der beratenden Kommission vornehmen.

## Artikel 2

- (1) Die Vertragsparteien verpflichten sich, im Rahmen ihrer jeweiligen Rechtsordnung in den in Artikel 1 Absatz 2 festgelegten Gebieten die Erhaltung der natürlichen Landschaft, ihrer Schönheit und Eigenarten sowie die Pflege und Gestaltung dieser Landschaft unter Berücksichtigung der wirtschaftlichen, kulturellen und sozialen Interessen zu gewährleisten.

- (2) Die Vertragsparteien werden zu diesem Zweck die erforderlichen Maßnahmen in der beratenden Kommission aufeinander abstimmen.

#### Artikel 3

- (1) Um das Ziel des Abkommens zu erreichen, wird eine beratende Kommission gebildet, in die zwölf Mitglieder entsandt werden, davon sechs von deutscher Seite und sechs von niederländischer Seite.
- (2) Der Vorsitz in der Kommission wechselt alle zwei Jahre zwischen der deutschen und der niederländischen Seite. Die Kommission wird mindestens zweimal im Jahr zusammentreten. Sie kann zu ihren Sitzungen Sachverständige hinzuziehen.

#### Artikel 4

- (1) Dieses Abkommen tritt in Kraft am ersten Tag des zweiten Monats, nachdem sich beide Parteien davon gegenseitig schriftlich in Kenntnis gesetzt haben, daß die in ihren Staaten geltenden verfassungsrechtlichen Voraussetzungen erfüllt sind.
- (2) Dieses Abkommen wird auf die Dauer von zehn Jahren geschlossen. Seine Geltungsdauer verlängert sich sodann stillschweigend jeweils um weitere fünf Jahre, wenn es nicht wenigstens ein Jahr vor Ablauf der ursprünglichen Zehnjahresfrist oder einer späteren Fünfjahresfrist schriftlich gekündigt wird.

Zu Urkund dessen haben die Unterzeichneten, dazu vorschriftsmäßig bevollmächtigt, dieses Abkommen unterzeichnet.

GESCHEHEN zu Düsseldorf am 30. März 1976

in zwei Urschriften, jede in deutscher und niederländischer Sprache, wobei jeder Wortlaut gleichermaßen verbindlich ist.

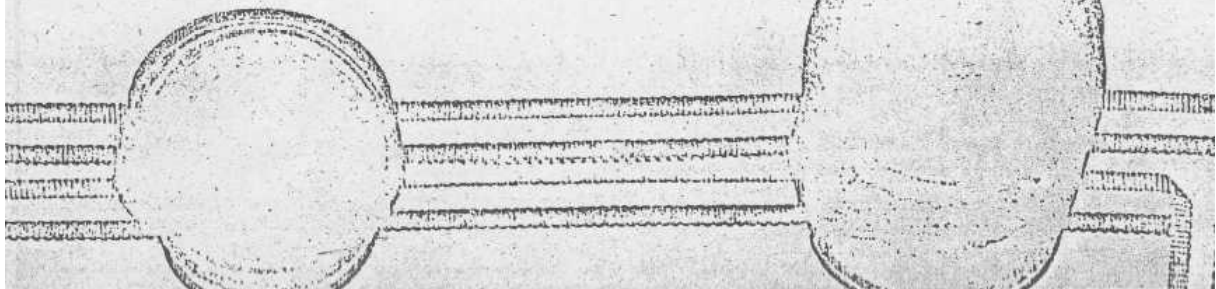
Für die  
Regierung des  
Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen

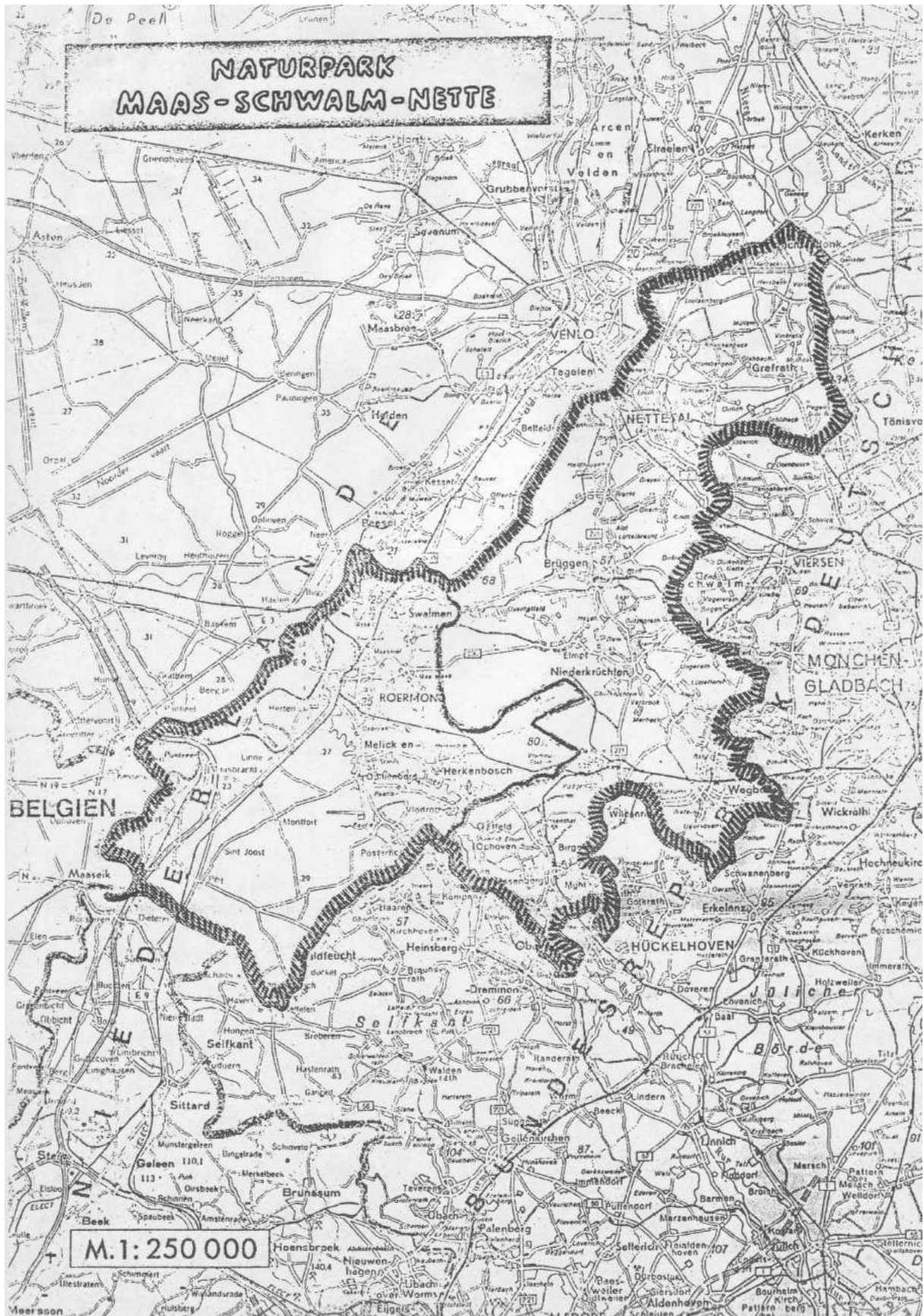
*[Handwritten signature]*

Für die  
Regierung des  
Königreichs der Niederlande

*[Handwritten signature]*

*[Handwritten mark]*






#### **6.4 Statutes of the special purpose association (Zweckverband)**

Please refer to:

[http://www.naturpark-msn.de/pdf/2003\\_06\\_10\\_10\\_40\\_13\\_de\\_1.pdf](http://www.naturpark-msn.de/pdf/2003_06_10_10_40_13_de_1.pdf)

## 6.5 Renewal of the Agreement signed in 2006

519 4 B G 3229

 **Gesetz- und Verordnungsblatt**  
FÜR DAS LAND NORDRHEIN-WESTFALEN

<b>60. Jahrgang</b>	Ausgegeben zu Düsseldorf am 24. November 2006		<b>Nummer 32</b>
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Glied-Nr.	Datum	Inhalt	Seite
203011	6. 11. 2006	Verordnung über die Ausbildung und Prüfung für die Laufbahn des Amtsanwaltsdienstes des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen (Ausbildungs- und Prüfungsordnung Amtsanwälte - APOAA) .....	520
203013	30. 10. 2006	Zweite Verordnung zur Änderung der Verordnung über die Ausbildung und Prüfung für die Laufbahn des höheren agrarwirtschaftlichen Dienstes und des Lehramtes für die Sekundarstufe II der agrarwirtschaftlichen Fachrichtung im Land Nordrhein-Westfalen (VAPhagrD) .....	526
2120	31. 10. 2006	Verordnung über die Aufhebung der Ausführungsverordnung zum Gesetz über den Öffentlichen Gesundheitsdienst (AV-ÖGDG) .....	527
7113	21. 11. 2006	Verordnung zur Durchführung des Gesetzes über die Regelung der Ladenöffnungszeiten (LadenöffnungsVO) .....	527
7831	18. 8. 2006	Verordnung zur Änderung der Verordnung über die Beiträge an die Tierseuchenkasse für das Jahr 2006 (TSK-BeitragsVO 2006) .....	532
791	3. 11. 2006	Bekanntmachung des Abkommens zwischen der Regierung des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen und der Regierung des Königreichs der Niederlande zur Änderung des am 30. März 1976 in Düsseldorf geschlossenen Abkommens zwischen der Regierung des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen und der Regierung des Königreichs der Niederlande über die Zusammenarbeit zur Errichtung und Ausgestaltung eines grenzüberschreitenden Naturparks Maas-Schwalm-Nette .....	529

Ab 1. Januar 2007 ist die **CD-ROM neu gestaltet und sie wird preisgünstiger**.  
Die CD-ROM wird jetzt als Doppel-CD „SGV. NRW. und SMBl. NRW.“ herausgegeben.  
Sie enthält somit stets das gesamte Landesrecht und alle Verwaltungsvorschriften (Erlasse) auf dem aktuellen Stand.  
Im Abonnement kostet diese neue Doppel-CD nicht mehr als früher eine Einzel-CD, nämlich nur 77 € pro Jahr.  
Das **neue Bestellformular** mit den neuen Preisen befindet sich **im GV-Blatt Nr. 29, S. 472**.

**Hinweis:**  
Die Gesetz- und Verordnungsblätter, die Ministerialblätter, die Sammlung aller Gesetze und Verordnungen des Landes NRW (SGV. NRW.) sowie die Sammlung der in Teil I des MBl. NRW. veröffentlichten Erlasse (SMBl. NRW.) stehen **im Intranet des Landes NRW** zur Verfügung.  
Dasselbe wird **auch im Internet angeboten**. Die Adresse ist: <http://sgv.im.nrw.de>. Hingewiesen wird auf den kostenlosen Service im Internet unter der genannten Adresse. Dort finden Sie Links zu vielen qualitativ hochwertigen Rechtsangeboten.  
Wollen Sie die Inhaltsangabe eines jeden neuen Gesetzblattes oder Ministerialblattes per Mail zugesandt erhalten? Dann können Sie sich in das **Newsletter-Angebot** der Redaktion eintragen.  
Adresse: <http://sgv.im.nrw.de>, dort: kostenloser Service.

**Regierungsbezirk Köln:**

in der Stadt Aachen die historische Altstadt innerhalb des Grabenrings sowie die Stadtteile Burtscheid und Kornelimünster

in der Gemeinde Aldenhoven der Ortsteil Aldenhoven

Stadt Bad Honnef

Stadt Bad Münstereifel

in der Gemeinde Blankenheim der Ortsteil Blankenheim (Ahr)

in der Bundesstadt Bonn im Stadtteil Mehlem die Austraße zwischen Rheinufer und Deichmanns Aue, Von-Sandt-Ufer zwischen Rheinallee (Fähre) und Rheinstraße, die Dahlmannstraße zwischen Stresemannufer und Görresstraße, die Görresstraße zwischen Dahlmannstraße und Heuss-Allee, die Kurt-Schumacher-Straße auf der Seite des Sportparks Gronau, die Charles-de-Gaulle-Straße, die Anlegestelle der Rheinschiffahrt Ecke Stresemannufer und Heimkehrerweg

in der Stadt Brühl das Gebiet des Schlosses Augustsburg und des Schlossparkgeländes, des Freizeitparks „Phantasialand“ und des Erholungsparks Ville

Stadt Burscheid

in der Gemeinde Dahlem der Ortsteil Kronenburg

in der Stadt Eschweiler das Erholungsgebiet Blausteinsee

in der Gemeinde Gangelt die Ortsteile Birgden, Breberen, Gangelt, Mindergangelt und Schierwaldenrath

in der Stadt Gummersbach die Stadtteile Bredenbruch, Deitenbach und Lantenbach

in der Stadt Heimbach die Stadtteile Heimbach und Hasenfeld

in der Gemeinde Hellenthal die Ortsteile Hollerath und Udenbreth

in der Stadt Hückeswagen die Ortsteile Wefelsen, Käferberger Halbinsel und Großbergerhausener Bucht

in der Gemeinde Kall im Ortsteil Steinfeld der Klosterbereich

in der Stadt Köln im Gebiet der Altstadt, äußere Begrenzung: linkes Rheinufer zwischen Hohenzollernbrücke und Severinsbrücke, Bahnhofsvorplatz, An den Dominkanern, Komödienstraße, Unter Fettenhennen, Hohe Straße, Hohe Pforte, Waidmarkt, Severinstraße bis Brückenrampe sowie im Gebiet des Zoologischen Gartens, begrenzt durch die Straßen Lennestraße, Riehlerstraße, Alter Stammheimer Weg, Stammheimer Straße und Pionierstraße

Stadt Königswinter

in der Gemeinde Kreuzau der Ortsteil Obermaubach

Gemeinde Kürten

in der Stadt Leichlingen die Ortsteile Diepental, Fähr, Junkersholz, Kradenpuhl, Krähwinkel, Leysiefen, Metzholz, Nesselrath, Sonne, Stöcken, Unterberg und Witzhelden

in der Gemeinde Marienheide die Ortsteile Eberg, Lambach, Linge, Stühlinghausen, Wernscheid, Marienheide und Gimborn

in der Stadt Mechernich der Ortsteil Kommern und die Burganlage Satzvey und die Kultur- und Erlebnisfabrik „Zikkurat“

in der Stadt Monschau die Stadtteile Monschau und Rohren

in der Gemeinde Nettersheim die Ortsteile Nettersheim und Marmagen

in der Stadt Nideggen die Stadtteile Nideggen und Schmidt

in der Gemeinde Nümbrecht der Ortsteil Nümbrecht

in der Gemeinde Odenthal der Ortsteil Altenberg

Stadt Overath

in der Gemeinde Reichshof der Ortsteil Eckenhagen

in der Stadt Schleiden die Stadtteile Schleiden und Gmünd

Gemeinde Selkant

in der Gemeinde Simmerath die Ortsteile Dedenborn, Rurberg, Woffelsbach, Hammer, Einruhr und Erkensruhr

in der Gemeinde Wachtberg der Ortsteil Adendorf

in der Gemeinde Waldfeucht die Ortsteile Waldfeucht, Brüggechen und Haaren

in der Stadt Wegberg die Ortsteile Schwaam und Tüschbroich

in der Stadt Wermelskirchen die Ortsteile Dabringhausen und Dhünn

in der Stadt Wiehl die Ortsteile Alperbrück, Pfaffenberg und Wiehl

**Regierungsbezirk Münster:**

Stadt Billerbeck

in der Stadt Bottrop die Freizeiteinrichtung „Schloß Beck“

in der Stadt Dorsten die Straße Schloß

Stadt Haltern

in der Gemeinde Legden der Ferien- und Freizeithof „Dorf Münsterland“

in der Gemeinde Nordkirchen der Ortsteil Nordkirchen

in der Stadt Oelde der Stadtteil Stromberg

in der Gemeinde Schöppingen der Ortsteil Eggerode

Stadt Tecklenburg mit Ausnahme der Stadtteile Ledde und Leeden

Stadt Teigelte ohne den Stadtteil Westbevern

in der Stadt Waltrop die Straße zum Neuen Hebewerk

- GV. NRW. 2006 S. 527

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**Bekanntmachung  
des Abkommens zwischen der Regierung des  
Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen  
und der Regierung des Königreichs  
der Niederlande  
zur Änderung des am 30. März 1976  
in Düsseldorf geschlossenen Abkommens  
zwischen der Regierung des Landes  
Nordrhein-Westfalen  
und der Regierung des Königreichs  
der Niederlande  
über die Zusammenarbeit zur Errichtung  
und Ausgestaltung eines  
grenzüberschreitenden Naturparks  
Maas-Schwalm-Nette  
Vom 3. November 2006**

Die Regierungen des Königreichs der Niederlande und des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen haben ein Abkommen zur Änderung des Abkommens vom 30. März 1976 geschlossen, das nachfolgend bekannt gemacht wird.

Der Minister  
für Umwelt und Naturschutz,  
Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz  
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen  
Eckhard U h l e n b e r g

**Abkommen zwischen  
der Regierung des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen  
und der Regierung des Königreichs der Niederlande  
zur Änderung des am 30. März 1976 in Düsseldorf  
geschlossenen Abkommens  
zwischen der Regierung des Landes  
Nordrhein-Westfalen  
und der Regierung des Königreichs der Niederlande  
über die Zusammenarbeit zur Errichtung  
und Ausgestaltung  
eines grenzüberschreitenden Naturparks  
Maas-Schwalm-Nette**

Die Regierung des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen  
und  
die Regierung des Königreichs der Niederlande  
vereinbaren:

im Hinblick darauf, dass mit dem Abkommen vom 30. März 1976 zwischen der Regierung des Königreichs der Niederlande und der Regierung des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen die Zusammenarbeit im grenzüberschreitenden Naturpark Maas-Schwalm-Nette vereinbart wurde;

ferner im Hinblick darauf dass die Vertragsparteien sich darin verpflichten im Rahmen ihrer jeweiligen Rechtsordnung die Erhaltung der natürlichen Landschaft, ihrer Schönheit und Eigenarten sowie die Pflege und Gestaltung dieser Landschaft unter Berücksichtigung der wirtschaftlichen, kulturellen und sozialen Interessen zu gewährleisten;

im Bewusstsein dass, um die vereinbarten Ziele zu erreichen, auf der Grundlage von Artikel 3 des 1976 geschlossenen Abkommens eine Beratende Kommission gebildet wurde;

im Bewusstsein dass die Aufgaben der Beratenden Kommission von dem am 1. Juni 2002 nach den Regelungen über die grenzüberschreitende Zusammenarbeit zwischen Gebietskörperschaften und anderen öffentlichen Stellen vom 23. Mai 1991 (Anholter Abkommen) gegründeten Zweckverband Deutsch-Niederländischer Naturpark Maas-Schwalm-Nette übernommen werden sollen;

in Erwägung dass aus diesem Grunde das Abkommen von 1976 bei der Aufgabenzuordnung und den Auflösungsmodalitäten angepasst werden muss;

in dem Bestreben gleichzeitig die Abgrenzung des Naturparks gemäß Artikel 1 Absatz 2 des Abkommens und die betreffende in Artikel 1 Absatz 3 genannte Karte zu aktualisieren, da das Gebiet auf niederländischer Seite um Teilflächen der Stadt Venlo erweitert wurde;

**Artikel I**

In Artikel 1 Absatz 2 werden die Worte „Gemeinde Beesel“ ausgetauscht durch die Worte „Stadt Venlo“ und

die Worte „die südliche Grenze der Gemeinde Beesel“ ersetzt durch die Worte „die nördlich von Venlo führende Autobahn A 67“.

Die in Artikel 1 Absatz 3 genannte Karte wird ausgetauscht durch die beigefügte Karte.

Karte

**Artikel II**

Artikel 3 wird wie folgt gefasst:

(1) Die Erreichung der Ziele des Abkommens wird durch den am 1. Juni 2002 gegründeten Zweckverband „Deutsch-Niederländischer Naturpark Maas-Schwalm-Nette“ sichergestellt.

(2) Im Falle einer Auflösung des Zweckverbandes werden die Ziele dieses Abkommens von einer Kommission überwacht, die auf Einladung einer Vertragspartei dieses Abkommens einberufen wird (Beratende Kommission). In diese Kommission entsendet jede Vertragspartei sechs Mitglieder. Den Vorsitz übernimmt zunächst die einladende Vertragspartei. Er wechselt danach alle zwei Jahre.

**Artikel III**

Artikel 4 Absatz 2 wird wie folgt geändert:

Jede Vertragspartei kann dieses Abkommen mit Frist von zwei Jahren zum Ablauf eines Kalenderjahres gegenüber der anderen Vertragspartei schriftlich kündigen.

**Artikel IV**

Dieses Abkommen tritt am 1. Tag des 2. Monats, nachdem sich die beiden Vertragsparteien gegenseitig über den Abschluss der in ihrem Land jeweils erforderlichen rechtlichen Schritte in Kenntnis gesetzt haben, in Kraft.

Zu Urkund dessen haben die hierzu befugten Bevollmächtigten dieses Abkommen unterschrieben.

Geschehen zu Roermond am 2. November 2006 in zwei Urschriften, jede in deutscher und niederländischer Sprache, wobei jeder Wortlaut gleichermaßen verbindlich ist.

Für die Regierung  
des Königreichs der Niederlande  
A. N. van der Zande

Für die Regierung  
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen  
Eckhard Uhlenberg

Anlage 1 zur Bek. vom 3. Nov. 2006

