

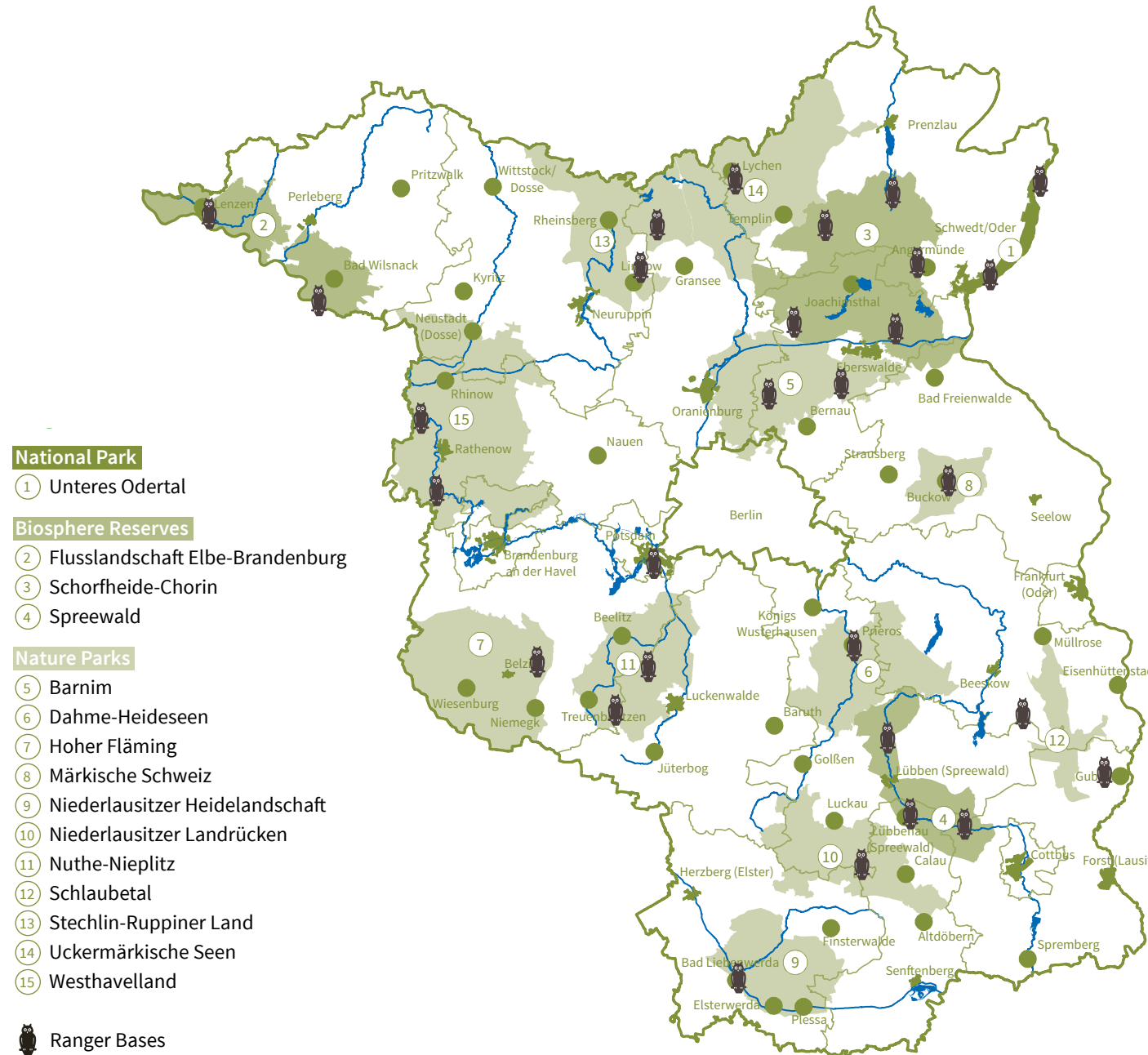
Brandenburg's ranger organization

In Germany each federal state is responsible for its nature reserves. The federal state of Brandenburg has plenty treasures of nature. Many heathlands, lakes and forest with their fascinating animals and plants allure thousands of visitors each year to Brandenburg. In Brandenburg there are 15 natural sites that are under the responsibility of Brandenburg's ranger organization. The sites include one national park, three biosphere reserves and eleven nature parks. Their expanse is close to one third of Brandenburg's whole area emphasizing the importance of nature protection.

The most important tasks of our rangers are:

- » Care of visitors and guided tours
- » Preservation of species-rich habitats
- » Protection of endangered animal and plant species
- » Monitoring and data collection
- » Control of protected areas
- » Education for Sustainable Development

The 15 natural sites of Brandenburg



Rangers of Brandenburg

Mediators between human and nature



In action for humans and nature

Since 1991 rangers are employed in the federal state of Brandenburg. As mediators between human and nature it is their task to protect natural resources and advocate a healthy environment.

Brandenburg's 93 rangers work in 15 national natural sites that cover an area of 9.000 km². They collect data about the animal and plant population, groundwater levels and the condition of water bodies.

Rangers implement numerous measures of environmental protection and control their success. Around 280 volunteers support the rangers' work. This flyer introduces the key activities of the ranger organization. For further information visit: www.naturwacht.de (in German)



Field monitoring

A very important mission of the natural sites in Brandenburg is the conservation of biodiversity. Many animal species are in need of special protection from disturbances such as roaming dogs or motorboats during their reproduction phase. Our rangers explain this issue to offenders during field monitoring. In case of legal offences they report to the responsible authorities, for instance the police, the forestry administration or the regulatory agencies. A significant decline of legal offences can be seen as a success of the rangers' awareness training.

Protection of species and habitats

Our rangers implement many individual measures to protect rare animal and plant species. They install nesting aids for the endangered black tern or the hoopoe, and they support and establish accommodations for bats. In addition, they control passageways for otters, maintain fish passes, take care of pollarded trees and meadow orchards. Furthermore, they plant hedge-rows and habitat trees. With these measures structural elements are preserved or created anew. Structural elements offer habitats for various animal species and upgrade the landscape for the local community

members. Furthermore, our rangers mediate in case of conflicts. They search together with land users for solutions, for example in case beavers built a dam in a difficult place. Rangers activate numerous volunteers for the installation and maintenance of amphibian fencing.

They cooperate with various partners such as land users, water boards and land communities, organizations for the preservation of the countryside and nature conservation organizations, hunters, fishermen and volunteers.

Guided tours and talks

Rangers are important contact persons for both residents and tourists at the natural sites. Each year they escort around 10.000 visitors on more than 600 guided ranger tours.

On their excursions our rangers communicate knowledge about species and habitats as well as protective measures and, therewith support tourism in the natural sites of Brandenburg. The highlights of the annual event calendar are the special ranger tours illuminating the arrival of migrating birds in the spring, a guided tour through a summer night in August, and the observation of migrating birds each autumn.

Monitoring

Our rangers regularly record endangered animal and plant species as well as their habitats. In addition, abiotic parameters such as water levels and quality are collected with standardized methodology. These basic sets of data are used to identify aberrations instantly and to take protective measures. The federal state of Brandenburg needs the data in order to meet its obligation within the framework of the European Union's Natura 2000-program and further international agreements.



Education for Sustainable Development

In its junior-ranger-program the rangers guide children and teenagers between 6 and 14 years over a longer term of several years. Young people discover the nature of their region, build friendships and implement their own small projects of sustainable development. An important part of the program is the exchange with other groups during junior-ranger-camps.

There are additional educational offers for day-care centers, schools and interested extracurricular groups for children and teenagers. In these cases rangers supervise short-term projects. Most activities take place outside in a natural environment, because authentic and personal experiences with nature are their focus.