

„Tasks and Options in the Integration of Environmental Organizations in Germany as Part of Administrative Authorization Processes and Monitoring, Using the Example of Mining and Quarrying “

Justus Wulff, Advisor for Legal Recommendations for public planning and decisions at the BUND (NGO), department Saxony

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Structure of Presentation

- I. Principles of public participation
- II. Aims and function of public participation
- III. Tasks and options of environmental organizations in the field of mineral mining
 - a) Environmental education and upstream protection of natural resources
 - b) Demand planning and regional planning
 - c) Administrative authorization processes

I. Principles of public participation

- 3 principles/pillars of public participation established by the Aarhus Convention (UNECE-Convention, 1998)

1. Pillar

- Access to environmental information (Art. 4 AK)

2. Pillar

- Public participation in decision making (Art. 6 – 8 AK)

3. Pillar

- Access to justice/court (Art. 9 AK)

II. Aims and Function of Public Participation

1. Information
2. Transparency and control
3. Efficiency of administrative processes
4. Public acceptance
5. Preventive legal protection
6. Democratic participation

(compare also: Zschiesche, M., Öffentlichkeitsbeteiligung in umweltrelevanten Zulassungsverfahren [Participation of the Public in approval procedures related to the environment], 2015, S. 57 ff.)

III. Tasks and Options of Environmental Organizations in the Field of Mineral Mining

- a) **Environmental education and upstream protection of natural resources**
- The aim is to create an environmental awareness within the society to reduce the supply and demand on minerals
 - Integration of sufficiency strategies
 - Strengthening of the recycling management and cleaner production of minerals



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III. Tasks and Options of Environmental Organizations in the Field of Mineral Mining

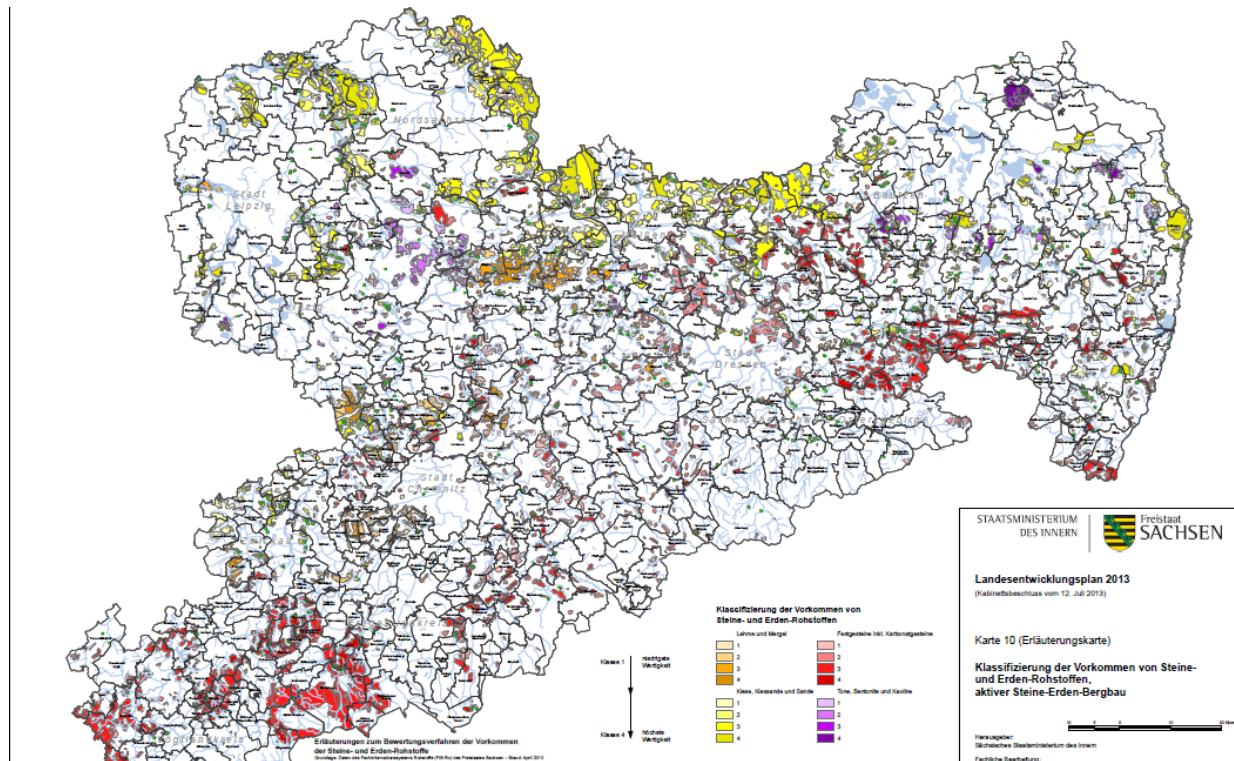
b) Demand- and regional planning

- Review of the demand forecast of minerals (sustainability)
- Review of the regional planning and arrangement of mineral mines regarding land use conflicts (balance between environmental and economic interests)
- Introduce information in the planning process to make the regional planning more effective
- Participation of the public and social institutions in the process of regional planning

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b) Regional planning of mineral mines

- Example: development plan of the federal state Saxony, 2013



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III. Tasks and Options of Environmental Organizations in the Field of Mineral Mining

- c) **Administrative authorization processes**
 - Review of environmental impact assessment of specific mining projects
 - Compliance of legal regulations on mining
 - Review of the suitability of the mining location and of the intended ecological compensation
 - Participation regarding questions of subsequent use of mineral mines

III. Tasks and Options of Environmental Organizations in the Field of Mineral Mining

Situation:

- Mining project in an area with specific environmental features
- Discovery of wild cat = environmental asset in nearby area (=circle)
- Impact of mining activities on the wild cat's development?
- BUND initiated legal consideration to protect the area with regard to biodiversity

Location of sandpit



Foto: Thomas Stephan für das Projekt "Wildkatzensprung"

Source: Google-Maps, Bund.net

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Thank you for your attention!

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