

Legal regulation of *ex situ* biodiversity conservation

Abstract

This thesis focuses on the legal regulation of biodiversity conservation at international, European and mainly national level, in relation to *ex situ* conservation. The aim of the thesis is to introduce and provide an overview of the legal regulation of biodiversity conservation with a focus on *ex situ* protection of species of animals and plants. The secondary objectives of the thesis are *de lege ferenda* considerations in response to the identified shortcomings of the legal regulation in the Czech Republic, together with a comparison of selected provisions of the Slovak and Czech legal system. Overall, the thesis is intended to encourage reflection on the importance of biodiversity conservation and to focus attention on programmes, facilities and other methods of addressing *ex situ* protection.

The thesis is divided into four parts. The first part deals with basic concepts such as biodiversity and its levels, or a more detailed definition of *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation. The global issue of species extinction and the overall loss of biodiversity is also discussed along with the importance of its conservation. The second part covers the sources of international and European law in the field of nature protection and care for biological diversity. It focuses on general legislation at the international and European level, listing the main pieces of legislation, together with those that deal more closely with *ex situ* protection. The third part of the thesis addresses the legal regulation in the Czech Republic, focusing on selected areas of *ex situ* biodiversity conservation, such as nature and landscape protection, zoological gardens, botanical gardens, regulation of trade with endangered species and protection of animals against cruelty. These areas are first introduced in general terms, followed by specific examples, programmes and facilities serving the protection of animals and plants, finally the relevant legislation is described in more detail, including its shortcomings and related proposals for possible changes and solutions. The final part compares Slovak and Czech legislation in selected areas of biodiversity protection.

Key words: biodiversity, *ex situ*, nature and landscape conservation, zoological gardens, botanical gardens, CITES, animal protection