

Abstract

The thesis is based on a qualitative research realized in summer 2008 in several municipalities in Šumava. Focus groups organized within this research aimed at the relationship of different stakeholders to the Šumava National Park and more generally to nature and environmentalist thoughts and actors. The research design and the data gathered are presented in the introduction. Then the theory of general principles of consensus is described, which serves as the main theoretical framework for the study of focus groups participants' arguments. Using particular arguments, I show that against the protection of nature as it is realized by Šumava National Park Authority, critical citizens build their arguments on values that are considered legitimate and important in Czech society. The next part of the thesis studies the ecological principle of consensus as a new general principle of consensus: I discuss the conditions for existence of such a principle, its form in the controversy about the management of Šumava and the implications its form can have, supporting broader acceptance of the principle or, on the contrary, its rejection. An important point there is the relationship between expertise and participation, which are, together with the concept of nature, main elements of the ecological principle of consensus.