

Abstract

This bachelor's thesis focuses on the comparison of the use of biodiversity offsets in the Czech Republic and England, with an emphasis on their application in relation to new urban development, aiming to identify differences in policies and the level of biodiversity protection. Biodiversity offsets are a tool that allows for the compensation of negative impacts on biodiversity resulting from development projects, striving to achieve no net loss or net gain in biodiversity.

The thesis focuses on analysing the differences in approaches to the implementation of biodiversity offsets in the Czech Republic and England, including legal regulations, methodologies for measuring ecological losses, and methods of compensation. Through a comparative case study, it analyses policies in both countries. Legislative and expert documents and semi-structured interviews with officials are used as data, which are analysed using content analysis. The thesis uses the theory of democracy stock (Gallagher and Thacker, 2008) and examines whether the democracy stock influences the approach to biodiversity protection. This theory assumes that a country's long-term democratic experience has a positive effect on the level of environmental policies, and thus also on the level of biodiversity protection.

The results of the thesis show that in England, biodiversity offsets are based on the principle of biodiversity net gain, clear rules, and long-term developer responsibility, whereas in the Czech Republic, the use of offsets is less effective, short-term, and often does not achieve no net loss. In the Czech Republic, the loss of trees is mainly compensated by replanting, while in England, biodiversity is compensated in its full scope. These findings support the theory of democracy stock, as they suggest a link between long-term democratic experience and the quality of environmental policies. The findings of this thesis can contribute to a better understanding of the issue of biodiversity offsets and the strengths and weaknesses of practices in both countries.