

## ABSTRACT

This thesis analyses the long-term land use changes in the study area located in the northern part of the Protected Landscape Area Moravský kras (hereafter referred to as “PLA”) and its immediate surroundings (54% of the study area is located inside the PLA, and 46% is located outside). The objectives of the thesis are i) to create maps of land use for each time frame (1826, 1953, 2003), ii) to assess the long-term land use changes between these time frames, iii) to assess the eventual impact of the creation of the PLA (1956) on the land use and iv) to provide suggestions for further land use within the PLA.

Rather significant changes in land use were registered in the entire study period. However, both the dynamics and the extent of the changes were more significant in the second phase (1953 – 2003). The most significant change was a 30% decrease in the size of arable land.

The impact of the existence of the PLA on land use was examined for the time frames 1953 and 2003 on the basis of different dynamics in land use changes both within and outside the PLA. The assessment did not confirm a higher dynamics in the decrease in arable land within the PLA as compared to the development outside its borders. However, despite the minimal differences in the dynamics of the changes for arable land, positive trends in two other land use categories were registered for the area belonging to the PLA (also in a country-wide comparison): an increase in the size of forestry land (their size outside the PLA is stagnating) and a significant increase - of 120% - in the size of permanent grasslands (the area outside the PLA registers only a 30% increase).

Finally, based on three criteria, and given the protected character of the study area in question, areas of arable land were identified for which a change in the use of land could be considered in the future.