

STÁLA DELEGÁCIA SLOVENSKEJ REPUBLIKY PRI UNESCO
DÉLÉGATION PERMANENTE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE SLOVAQUE AUPRÈS DE L'UNESCO
PERMANENT DELEGATION OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC TO UNESCO

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Monsieur le Directeur,

J'ai le plaisir de vous transmettre sous ce pli le rapport sur l'état de conservation de la partie slovaque du bien «Forêt primaire de hêtres des Carpates et forêts anciennes de hêtres d'Allemagne ».

Je saisis cette occasion pour vous renouveler, Monsieur le Directeur, l'assurance de ma plus haute considération.

Klára Novotná
Ambassadeur, Déléguée permanente



annexes

Centre du patrimoine mondial
M. Kishore RAO
Directeur
Maison de l'UNESCO

Indicative Format – Report of the State Party of Slovakia on the State of Conservancy of the World Heritage Property

Name of the World Heritage property (State Party) (identification number)

Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (Slovakia) (N 1133bis)

The Slovak Republic appreciates that the property „Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany“ has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List; the State Party of Slovakia uses the competent government ministries and their competences to resolve the issues identified in Decision no. 38 COM 7B.75 of the World Heritage Committee, approved at its 38th session in Doha, and expresses its interest in keeping the aforementioned property inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

1. Response of the State Party to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee, paragraph by paragraph.

3. The Committee welcomes the progress achieved by the States Parties of Germany, Slovakia and Ukraine towards a closer trans-national cooperation, in particular the establishment of an integrated management system for the trilateral property, as well as research and monitoring plans and capacity building to share best practices, and encourages the States Parties to continue strengthening their technical cooperation, particular in the field of forest management.

The trilateral co-operation continued especially with interchange of information and experience at the Joint Management Committee session held on 14th May 2014 in Bonn, Germany. During this session, the representatives of the competent ministries of Slovakia, Ukraine and Germany signed the document attached hereto as Annex no. 1: the *Joint Declaration of Intent between the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic concerning the Cooperation on the Protection and Management of the Joint World Heritage property “Primeval Beech forests of the Carpathians (Slovak Republic and Ukraine) and the Ancient Beech forests of Germany (Germany)”*. In this document, the participants expressed their will to provide mutual support and cooperation concerning the protection, conservation, presentation and transmission of the Joint World Heritage property to future generations.



Stužica National Nature Reserve,
part of the component Stužica – Bukovské vrchy

The next session of the Joint Management Committee will be held in October 2015 in Slovakia; in accordance with the aforementioned document (Joint Declaration of Intent), it shall be convened and officially hosted by the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic.

In 2014, the Government Office of the Slovak Republic approved the project entitled *Nature Conservancy – a Regional Development Opportunity* (written and submitted by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic) aimed at cross-border cooperation with Ukraine, financed from Norwegian funds. This project is aimed at supporting alternative regional development, with the goal to overcome the region's unfavourable situation by means of cross-border cooperation and gaining local community support for nature conservancy and the development of soft tourism. Currently, the existence of the region's local communities greatly depends on exploiting natural resources (mainly forests); however, these do not provide sufficient employment possibilities, while the development of other alternatives of sustainable life is quite rare here. The project supports activities focus on the development of soft tourism by propagating mainly the values of the UNESCO World Heritage Property as well as other natural and cultural/historical values in the cross-border region (including traditional architecture, clerical and military cultural/historic monuments and sites), while the ones, who will benefit from the project will be the local inhabitants.

One of the project partners is the UkrainianUzhanskiy National Park, having the component Stužica – Užok in its territory, adjacent to the Slovak component Stužica – Bukovskévrchy. The representatives of the municipalities located in the region of the World Heritage Property and the area of the Poloniny National Park (the Association of Municipalities of the Ulič Valley Microregion, comprising the following 9 municipalities: NováSedlica, Zboj, UličskéKrivé, Ulič, Kolbasov, RuskýPotok, Topoľa, Runina and Príslop) participate in the project, too.

The main goals of the project are the following:

1. to support opportunities and conditions of alternative regional development, based on the cultural and natural values and soft tourism of the protected cross-border territories in Slovakia and Ukraine.
2. to build capacities of the participating entities and institutions for the development of eco-tourism and environmental education in the protected areas of both countries and perform networking at various levels.
3. to contribute to the protection and management of natural and cultural values of the region and to the sustainable exploitation of natural resources, in accordance with the international obligations and national priorities.

The project implementation has started in 2015 and is expected to last until April 2017. For an overview of the project activities see Annex 2 hereto.



*Rožok National Nature Reserve,
part of the component Rožok*

A further development project in the region, coordinated by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic is the project entitled *Development of Nature Conservancy and Protected Areas in the Slovakian Carpathians*, financed from Swiss funds (see <http://www.soprs.sk/web/?cl=10705>). This project supports the development of institutional, human and technical resources to support nature conservancy within the protected areas in Slovakia. In 2014, a study tour was organised to Switzerland to present the best cooperation practices and the positive impact of the UNESCO World Heritage Property. Among the participants of the study tour were also the representatives of the entities active in the area of the World Heritage property, along with the representatives of the affected municipalities of the region (the Silvicultural, Grazing and Compossessorate Company of Ruské; the Wooden Churches of the Carpathians NGO; the representatives of the municipalities Ulič, Zboj, NováSedlica, Runina, RuskýPotok and Ubľa; the Sobrance subsidiary of the Forest Management Enterprise of the Slovak Republic) and the representatives of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic – the Administration of the Poloniny National Park and the Administration of the Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area.<http://www.soprs.sk/web/?cl=10705>

As part of its Village Renovation Programme, the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic approved financing of minor infrastructure objects (information panels, planting and renewal of vegetation, finalization of construction works around historical monuments, etc.) in villages. Six villages from the World Heritage property region – specifically: the valley Uličská dolina – requested financial support. The presented projects are currently under evaluation, results shall be known and the implementation of the projects shall start in May 2015. The project implementation deadline is November 2015.

4. The State Party of Slovakia did not provide any information on the concerns raised in Decision 37 COM 7B.26. As the World Heritage Committee stated, concern remained about the integrity and management of the component sites in Slovakia, and particularly about Poloniny National Park (PNP).

The State Party of Slovakia provided information concerning the matters issuing from Decision **37 COM 7B.26**, included in the *Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value Concerning the Slovak Components of the „Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians (Slovakia, Ukraine) and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany“* World Heritage Property, issued on 30th January 2014 and delivered to the World Heritage Centre. The State Party of Slovakia also informed the Council of Europe at the meeting of the Group of Specialists of the European Diploma held on 24th March 2014 in Strasbourg, France and also provided information by means of the annual report for the European Diploma.

The State Party of Slovakia expends effort to invite a UNESCO and IUCN advisory mission, planned for 2015, concerning the resolution of the current state, the area and the management of the property. The recommendation to organise an advisory mission issued also from the final report of the reactive monitoring mission completed in 2014.

The representatives of the affected entities of the property will actively participate in the meetings held during the advisory mission, too. The State Party of Slovakia is ready to fully finance the visit of the invited expert. For further information on the prepared advisory mission see paragraph 5.

The integrity of the property was debated due to the discrepancies in the property area, the related inaccurate specification of the property boundaries and the management practices in the forests. We may state that conservancy is fully ensured in the small components with 4th and 5th level of protection. In the components with 2nd and 3rd level of protection, where the forest management follows the applicable forestry legislation, intensive negotiations are being conducted with the silvicultural entities and the forest owners to avoid activities posing potential threat (for more information on the levels of protection see Annex 3 hereto). To achieve optimal management of the property and to finally resolve the issues concerning the surface area and the precise specification of the property boundaries, negotiations with the competent ministries and forest management entities are being conducted. Based on the results of these negotiations the official agreement between the Ministry of Environment of SR and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of SR was signed, which guarantees the interest and active approach of competent ministries. One of the goals of the agreements is to build an Inter-ministerial Coordination Group. For further information on the cooperation of the competent ministries see section 6. Further negotiations with the Ministry of Defence of SR and its organizations are still ongoing with the aim to sign similar official agreement of the cooperation.

5. The State Party of Slovakia was requested to ensure that a comprehensive vision for development and effective protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the Slovak components of the property and in particular its integrity be included in the management plan of Poloniny National Park, requested by the Council of Europe in order to ensure that the requirements of the Convention for the co-ordinated management of the serial transnational property, and those of the Council of Europe can be met in one single management system.

The State Party of Slovakia, represented by the Ministry of Environment appointed the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic – as the organisation competent at the management of the World Heritage property – as far as nature and landscape protection is concerned – and at the fulfilment of the tasks resulting from the awarded European diploma of Protected Areas – to elaborate an Action Plan draft for the Poloniny National Park. This task issued from the requirements of the Council of Europe as one of the steps that the State Party of Slovakia had to take after the extraordinary expert mission of the Council of Europe was completed in the Poloniny National Park in 2012. The Action Plan, elaborated in 2014, is a non-legislative document used until the official Management Programme of the Poloniny National Park will be elaborated and approved – the latter document will be constructed in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations and approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic in 2016.



Rožok National Nature Reserve, part of the component Rožok

In 2015, the draft of the aforementioned action plan for the Poloniny National Park shall be negotiated at the session of the Slovak Joint Management Committee of the European Diploma and the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians World Heritage Property and all competent ministries and entities shall comment on it.

Due to the necessity resulting from the requirements stated in the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, pertaining to the coordinated management of the serial transnational property, the State Party of Slovakia shall initiate a UNESCO and IUCN advisory mission in 2015, during which it shall start the preparation process of the management program for the Slovak components of the World Heritage property. The representatives of the stakeholders residing in the region of the World Heritage property shall be involved in the preparation of the document during the workshop organized as part of the mission.



Havešová National Nature Reserve, part of the component Havešová

6. The State Party of Slovakia should intensify efforts to strengthen cooperation between different Ministries and Agencies relevant for the management of the property and to ensure that the World Heritage status of the property is recognized and supported in their strategies and plans, and to urgently halt unsustainable logging activities within component sites of the World Heritage property, particularly Poloniny National Park, as requested by the Committee in its Decision 37 COM 7B.26.

The State Party of Slovakia achieved significant progress in the field of cooperation between the competent ministries and ministerial organizations. The Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic worked intensely on improving communication with the affected ministries.

In the past, multiple inter-ministerial meetings took place with the participation of the representatives of the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Ministry of Defence, as well as other ministries – the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development – the participants discussed coordination of approaches concerning the World Heritage property component and searched for solutions to the conservancy issues of the Slovak components of the World Heritage property. There were also meetings held with the representatives of the respective municipalities from the region of the World Heritage Property and negotiations with the representatives of the private forest owners (for the minutes of some of these meetings see Annex 4 hereto). Progress (i.e. land owners consenting with conducting negotiations on the conditions of limiting economic activity in the territory and compensation for the losses caused by the restrictions) was achieved at these negotiations.

On 22nd September 2014, a meeting of all competent ministries was held at the level of state secretaries and their representatives, where the ministries presented their common interest to resolve the situation and cooperate in the accomplishment of their relevant tasks (for the minutes of the meeting and the list of attendees see Annex no. 5 hereto).

As the competent ministry, the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic set up the Slovak Joint Management Committee for the issues pertinent to the European Diploma awarded by the Council of Europe and the issues of the „Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians“ World Heritage Property. Two sessions of this management committee have been convened until now, while the third session is planned for the beginning of 2015, where the conclusions of the IUCN / UNESCO reactive monitoring mission shall be presented.

The ministries attended multiple meetings at the levels of section general directors, division directors as well as the general directors of the ministerial organisations, together with the representatives of the local stakeholders (land owners, managers and users), local government officials and the representatives of state-owned organisations (such as the Military Forest Management Enterprise of the Slovak Republic (VLM SR, š.p.), the UličSilvicultural Company [Lesopol'nohospodárskymajetokUlič, š.p.], the Forest Management Enterprise of the Slovak Republic [Lesy SR]etc.). The participants of these meetings also discussed the conservancy issues of the inscribed property.

The Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture are jointly preparing alternative forest management and near-natural silvicultural solutions. As one of these alternative solutions, the participants elaborated and submitted a conservancy project proposal aimed at creation of a new natural reserve – „Borsukovvrch“ – within the Poloniny National Park, with a surface area of 146.7928 hectares. This protected area shall be declared in a government decree, presumably at the end of 2015, thus strict protection of the World Heritage property component Stužica – Bukovské vrchy shall be ensured (see the map in Annex 10 hereto and the figure below).

The State Party of Slovakia also improved the legislation, in order to implement changes in the management of the protected areas. An amendment to the Nature and Landscape Protection Act, effective from 1st January 2014, solves the issue of compensation of private land owners' losses in the protected areas, pertinent to the restrictions of use imposed due to nature and landscape protection. The amendment allows the State Party to use new instruments to resolve the losses of private landowners, by concluding contracts on property management, exchange, tenancy, purchase from the private landowners or by financial compensation (as stated in Annex 3). Currently, multiple cooperation alternatives with the stakeholders of the region (state owned and private) are being prepared in accordance with the aforementioned amendment. Some of the private entities owning lands in the components of the property are interested in exchanging their lands for state-owned lands (such as the Silvicultural and Grazing Company Rovenky [LesopasienkováspoločnosťRovenky] from Stakčín or the Kredba&Mudroch Private Forest Enterprise, Ltd. [SúkromnéLesyKredba a Mudroch, spol. s r.o.]). Negotiations concerning long-term lease to the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic are being conducted with some of these entities.

All above steps were confirmed by the State Party by signing cooperation and collaboration framework agreement between the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic, which define the formation of a coordination task force, consisting of the representatives of the respective ministries and their professional organizations (see Annexes 6 hereto). The same procedure is ongoing with the Ministry of Defence of SR and its organizations with the aim to sign such Agreement.

As part of the implementation of multiple projects implemented or prepared by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic, further steps concerning the management issues of the property are being prepared with the aim to protect and conserve the outstanding universal value of the property by improving the co-operation efficiency of the affected entities and competent ministries by implementing mutually approved activities.

In an ongoing project entitled *Development of Nature Conservancy and Protected Areas in the Slovak Carpathians*, financed from Swiss funds, the State Nature Conservancy performs activities aimed at the improvement of forest management by working out alternative forest management plans respecting the outstanding universal value of the territory and the specific management measures approved for 2015 and 2016, the propagation of the World Heritage property (such as a mobile exposition, publication of propagation materials, making a film on the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians), environmental education (the educational

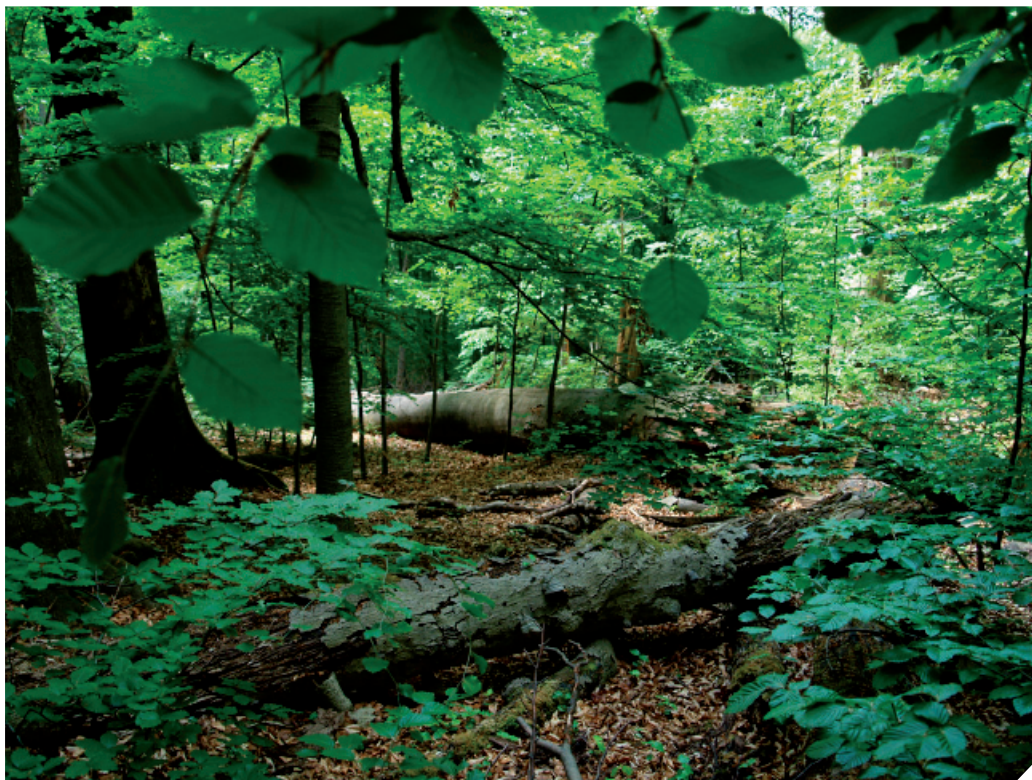


*Stužica National Nature Reserve,
part of the component Stužica – Bukovské vrchy*

program World of the Carpathians) and construction of educational trails (for details see: <http://www.sopsr.sk/web/?cl=10705>). In 2013, the activities *Poloniny for All* and *MayVihorlat Remain Vihorlat*, aimed at the provision of micro-grants for a broad spectrum of beneficiaries (entrepreneurs, municipalities, NGOs, etc.) received a lot of attention and generated positive feedback. For information on the finances provided as part of the microgrants, see the following site: <http://www.sopsr.sk/web/?cl=20062>

As part of the project, the National Forestry Centre of Zvolen mapped more than 7,000 hectares of forest habitats in the Poloniny National Park and the Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area, in accordance with the Methodical Procedure on Delimiting Natural Forests to Identify the State of Forests and to Identify Primeval Forests and Natural Forests within the World Heritage Property.

For an overview of the project activities see Annex 7 hereto.



Havešová National Nature Reserve, part of the component Havešová

7. In line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) should be conducted and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for all development projects within the property and its surroundings that could affect its OUV, in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment; the State Party of Slovakia should also immediately halt all infrastructure development that could affect the OUV of the property until such EIA is conducted and submitted.

Currently, no implementation plans of any development projects in the territory of the property exist, which could influence the World Heritage property.

An Environmental Impact Assessment was performed for the project aimed at the establishment of the Biele Kamene [*White Stones*] winter sports centre; this project was proposed in November 2004 in the cadastre of the municipalities ZemplínskeHámre, Snina, Stakčín, Kolonica and RemetskéHámre. As a result of the Environmental Impact Assessment process, the authorities issued a final opinion on 22nd May 2008, valid for a period of 3 years – in accordance with the legislation applicable at the time – with a prolongation possibility for the same period, i.e. until 22nd May 2011; however, the investor did not apply for prolongation. Thus, this plan is not valid anymore and without a new Environmental Impact Assessment process it is not possible to implement it.

Currently, no development projects requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment are planned in the region. During the last 20 years, there were no new buildings (roads, houses, ski centres, etc.) erected in the region of the World Heritage property, only maintenance of the existing infrastructure and the touristic trails was performed.

During the IUCN reactive monitoring mission conducted in October 2014, the position of the communication antenna near the National Nature Reserve Stužica was explained at the meeting held with the competent ministries – the antenna is beyond the core zone of the property and currently it serves the purposes of security and protection of the state and the Schengen border, therefore it is not an issue threatening the World Heritage property. The antenna was erected before the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List, i.e. before 2007. The Ministry of Interior, responsible for the protection of the Schengen border by means of the Border Police declared that in the Stužica – Bukovskévrchy component – as far as the relevant state border segment is concerned – there is no equipment requiring maintenance or intervention with the forest vegetation, i.e. with the World Heritage property as such.

If any new projects or plans concerning the World Heritage property were submitted in future, in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations of the Slovak Republic they would have to pass the environmental impact assessment procedure and in accordance with article 172 of the Operational Guidelines these would have to be submitted also to the World Heritage Centre.

8. The Committee requested the State Party of Slovakia to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the component sites of the property in Slovakia and in particular Poloniny National Park, to assess the threats to the property, in particular issues related to its integrity and management and the implementation of the specific recommendations of Decision 37 COM 7B.26.

The State Party of Slovakia has met this requirement by means of the invitation issued by the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic addressed to the Director of the World Heritage Centre in Paris. The reactive monitoring mission took place between 29th September 2014 and 3rd October 2014. The mission was led by the delegated expert, Mr. Pierre Galland, who represented both IUCN and UNESCO. As part of the mission, negotiations were conducted at the level of the competent ministries and meetings with the local stakeholders were held in the region of the World Heritage property. As part of the mission, field visits were performed in the Poloniny National Park (in components Havešová and Stužica – Bukovskévrchy) to assess the state and the management of the property.

Based on the recommendations stated in the final report of the UNESCO/IUCN reactive monitoring mission, the State Party of Slovakia shall initiate an advisory mission, to be held during 2015. The State Party of Slovakia shall also organise a conference with the participation of the experts of IUCN and UNESCO, the MaB Programme, the Council of Europe and other domestic and foreign experts. Experts and partners from Germany, Ukraine and Poland shall be invited, too. A solution proposal addressing the existing issues and a management plan shall be prepared, in accordance with the recommendations and conclusions of the reactive monitoring mission and the subsequent advisory mission.



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9. The State Party of Slovakia, in consultation with the States Parties of Germany and Ukraine, shall submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2015, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

Referring to the letter dated 16th January 2015 (attached hereto as Annex 8) from the World Heritage Centre, addressed to the Permanent Delegation of Slovakia to UNESCO, the State Party of Slovakia is hereby sending the Report on the State of Conservancy of the World Heritage Property by 1st March 2015, in accordance with the instructions received from the World Heritage Centre in the above letter.

The current version of the report on the state of the property was issued based on the information and documents available to the State Party of Slovakia at national level and the information received at the meeting held at the UNESCO Secretariat in Paris on 29th October 2014 in conjunction with the previous UNESCO/IUCN reactive monitoring mission conducted between 29th September and 3rd October 2014 in Slovakia and the final report of the UNESCO/IUCN reactive monitoring mission.

The report was consulted with the partners in Germany and Ukraine.

2. Other conservation issues identified by the State Party, currently affecting the property

There were no other serious issues identified in the territory of the Slovak components of the property, which could negatively impact its integrity and influence its outstanding universal value.

In response to WH Decision 35 COM 8B.13 (para 5), a Research and Development project “World Heritage Beech Forests” was commissioned by Germany to initiate and support a process on expert and governmental level aiming at a serial transnational nomination to extend the trilateral World Heritage Property to fully represent the history of post-glacial beech forest distribution and the high diversity of this forest ecosystem in terms of altitudinal range, climate and soil conditions as well as the resulting variety of beech forest communities.

For this purpose a screening process was conducted in cooperation with a large network of beech forest experts from all over Europe. The results of the project were presented at three meetings on Nature and Biodiversity directors’ level with participants from 15 countries to coordinate the process on the decision-making level and to ensure the continuation of the process after the project. The overall result of the project has been reached by presenting a final list of 46 candidate areas, which represent a proposal on expert level for the scope of an extension nomination to the existing World Heritage property. The representatives of Nature and Biodiversity directorates of 14 countries confirmed their interest in participation in the further extension nomination process, which will be led by Austria (the full report is attached as an Annex 9 hereto).

The State Party of Slovakia is participating in the process of negotiations aimed at the extension of the existing trilateral World Heritage property and – in cooperation with other countries – it initiated the inscription of further natural beech forest components as part of the European Beech Forests serial transnational property. Within this process, the State Party of Slovakia shall cooperate with the leader of the serial nomination process (Austria). The State Party of Slovakia shall cooperate and communicate with the partners and experts from Germany, Poland and Ukraine more closely, due to the fact that these countries are already members of the existing trilateral property and Poland and Germany are planning to propose the inclusion of further components into the World Heritage property, as part of the extension process. This communication and cooperation will contribute to the coordination of activities and interchange of information required to prepare a high-quality nomination project of the European Beech Forests property. This process will contribute to the resolution of issues pertinent to the area of the Slovak property components and their buffer zones, the imprecise specification of the component and buffer zone boundaries and the specification of adequate management of the property for the future. Within the process, the State Party of Slovakia plans to submit inscription proposals for further Slovakian components (e.g. the National Nature Reserve Kyjovskýprales[*Primeval forest of Kyjov*], which is currently not a property component).

For this reason, an IUCN advisory mission shall take place in 2015, which is going to be prepared and organised by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic as the specialised organisation appointed by the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic.

3. In accordance with par. 172 of the Operating Guidelines please explain any significant/larger reconstruction/renovation/refurbishment works and/or construction of new objects/facilities expected in the protected area and its buffer zone and/or in the corridors.

At its session held on 12th November 2014, the Government of the Slovak Republic issued its Decree no. 568/2014 (see Annex 10 hereto), in which the Government of the Slovak Republic supports the development of Eastern Slovakia, the development of activities focusing on the support of employment, not only in the industrial sectors but also in exploiting natural values of the region to develop soft tourism, including the renovation of the access road to the Poloniny National Park, part of which is also the 6 km long road segment „Ruské – Ruskésedlo“ of the historical road „Porta Rustica“ (see Annex 11 hereto).

The above steps represent a set of activities, which the State Party of Slovakia sees as feasible in near future.

Annexes:

1. Joint Declaration of Intent
2. Overview of the activities of the project entitled *Nature Conservancy – a Regional Development Opportunity*, implemented by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic
3. Excerpt from the amendment of the Slovak Nature and Landscape Conservation Act
4. Lists of meetings and minutes of meetings
5. Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September 2014
6. Cooperation Framework Agreement concluded between the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic
7. Overview of the activities of the project entitled *Development of Nature Conservancy and Protected Areas in the Slovakian Carpathians*, implemented by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic
8. Letter of the World Heritage Centre
9. Final Research and Development Project Report
10. Decree no. 568/2014 of the Government of the Slovak Republic
11. Maps of the World Heritage Property



Havešová National Nature Reserve, part of the component Havešová

**Joint Declaration of Intent
between
the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine,
the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building
and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany and
the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic
concerning
the Cooperation on the Protection and Management of the Joint World
Heritage property “Primeval Beech forests of the Carpathians (Slovak
Republic and Ukraine) and the Ancient Beech forests of Germany
(Germany)”**

The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter Participants),

consider the importance of natural beech forests with Outstanding Universal Value as a key element of forest ecosystems of Europe;

acknowledge the importance of the protection of the integrity of World Heritage property “Primeval Beech forests of the Carpathians (Slovak Republic and Ukraine) and the Ancient Beech forests of Germany (Germany)” and

note the significant role of natural beech forests, first of all those of the World Heritage property “Primeval Beech forests of the Carpathians (Slovak Republic and Ukraine) and the Ancient Beech forests of Germany (Germany)” in supporting biodiversity and mitigating effects of climate change.

The Participants recall the relevant objectives of :

- the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972),
- the Convention on the Conservation of European wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979),
- the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992),
- the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (2003),

- the Agreement between the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Government of Ukraine on Cooperation in Environmental Protection (1993),
- the Agreement between the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine on Cooperation in Environmental Protection (1994) and
- the Agreement between the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Government of the Slovak Republic on Cooperation in Environmental Protection (1997).

The Participants also recall the results of the trilateral meetings that took place between 2007 and 2012 on beech forests as World Natural Heritage;

note Decision 31 WHC 8B.16 and Decision 35 WHC 8B.13 of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee and

reaffirm their willingness to contribute to their implementation.

The Participants share the view that this Joint Declaration of Intent should serve as a basis for the trilateral cooperation on the protection and management of the joint World Heritage property “Primeval Beech forests of the Carpathians (Slovak Republic and Ukraine) and the Ancient Beech forests of Germany (Germany)”.

1. AIM OF THE COOPERATION

The Participants express their intention of mutual support and cooperation concerning the protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the Joint World Heritage property “Primeval Beech forests of the Carpathians (Slovak Republic and Ukraine) and the Ancient Beech forests of Germany (Germany)”.

2. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

2.1. The Participants have decided to establish the Integrated Management System for the Joint World Heritage property “Primeval Beech forests of the Carpathians (Slovak Republic and Ukraine) and the Ancient Beech forests of Germany (Germany)” to ensure its protection and effective management.

To coordinate the overall management of the Joint Property the Participants have decided to establish the Joint Management Committee.

The Participants share the opinion that each of them contributes to the cooperation under this Joint Declaration of Intent according to their capabilities, unless consented otherwise by the Participants.

Coordination of the national management rests with the National Steering Committees/National Steering Group.

2.2. The tasks of the Joint Management Committee should include:

- to promote, steer and manage the implementation of this Joint Declaration of Intent especially in the areas of cooperation as specified in Number 3;
- to jointly establish and to further develop a working programme and to oversee its implementation.

2.3. The Participants share the view that the Joint Management Committee may establish by mutual consent trilateral working groups to address, inter alia, topics of the different areas of cooperation as specified in Number 3. The protected areas authorities, responsible for the individual components, may establish further Working groups.

2.4. The permanent participants in the Joint Management Committee should be the representatives of the Ministries for Environment and/or Nature Conservation on national level, and in Germany on federal state level (*Bundesländer*), and/or representatives of the relevant protected areas and/or experts. Irrespective of the number of representatives, any Participant has only one vote when decisions or recommendations are made. By mutual consent of the Participants of this Joint Declaration of Intent, representatives of other institutions/organisations may be invited to the meetings.

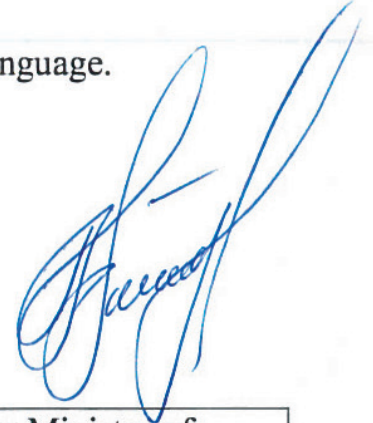
2.5. Meetings of the Joint Management Committee:

- Meeting frequency: One regular meeting per year (and additional extraordinary meetings if required and by prior consent of all Participants).
- Meeting venue: rotating in alphabetical order in one of the three Participants.
- Chair: Participant hosting the meeting.
- Language: Meetings should be held in English unless consented otherwise.

4. DURATION

The Participants share the view that the cooperation under this Joint Declaration of Intent should start when it is signed by each Participant. The Participants intend to cooperate on the basis of this Joint Declaration of Intent until it is unanimously decided to do otherwise.

Signed in Bonn on 14 May 2014 in three copies in English language.



For the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany	For the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic	For the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine
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**Overview of activities planned within the project
 „Nature Conservancy – a Regional Development Opportunity“
 financed from Norwegian funds, implemented within the Slovak components
 of the „Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians
 and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany“ World Heritage Property**

- Formulation of a financial strategy for the protected areas;
- formulation of a strategy to develop sustainable tourism;
- preparation of publicity materials – printed publications, such as brochures, leaflets, maps, memory games – for Slovakia and Ukraine;
- diaporama;
- meeting of the representatives of the Slovakian-Ukrainian cross-border region;
- construction of soft tourism objects in Slovakia;
- manufacturing and installation of educational boards;
- finalization of the educational trail in Ukraine;
- maintenance of bicycle trails and footpaths in Slovakia;
- workshop on the implementation of natural tourism strategies in Slovakia;
- international networking conference in Slovakia;
- workshop concerning the management of the Poloniny mountains and the natural forests in Ukraine;
- management of habitats in Slovakia and Ukraine.

Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection

§ 11

Territorial Nature and Landscape Protection and its Levels

(1) The territorial nature and landscape protection (hereinafter referred to as „territorial protection“) according to this Act involves the nature and landscape protection in the territory of the Slovak Republic or in its part.

(2) The territorial protection specifies five levels of protection. The extent of restrictions increases depending on the increase of the level of protection.

§ 12

First Level of Protection

In the territory of the Slovak Republic that is not provided with the territorial protection according to § 17 to 31 the first level of protection is valid according to which approval of the nature protection body is required for

a) conducting activity changing state of wetlands or river-beds, mainly for their regulation, back-filling, drainage, extraction of cane, peat, mud and river sediments except if these activities in river beds are conducted by their administrators in accordance with a special regulation, ⁴⁰⁾

b) dissemination of a non-native species of plants or animals outside the urban areas of municipalities with the exception of species specified by the Ministry upon agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture under a generally binding regulation, species specified in an approved forest management plan or species grown in agricultural plantations,

c) planting of the woods and their species composition outside the urban areas of municipalities off orchards, vineyards, hop-gardens and gardens, ⁴¹⁾

d) aerial application of chemical substances and fertilisers,

e) discharge of water reservoirs or ponds,

f) liquidation of geological works or geological objects, ⁴²⁾

g) influence of natural habitats of European interest or those of national interest which can result in their damage or destruction,

h) elimination of other water areas and their assignment to use for business purposes in a special regime. ⁴³⁾

§ 13

Second Level of Protection

(1) In the territory in which the second level of protection is valid following activities are prohibited

a) entering and parking motor vehicles ⁴⁴⁾ or teams mainly carts, carriages, sleighs on the lands outside the urban areas of municipalities off highways, roads and local roads, parking places, petrol stations, garages, factories, stations or air-port areas,

b) entering and parking bicycles on the lands outside the urban areas of municipalities off highways, roads, local roads, purpose roads ⁴⁵⁾ and marked bicycle paths.

(2) In the territory in which the second level of protection is valid, an approval of the nature protection body is required for

a) conducting activities specified in § 12,

b) liquidation of existing permanent grasslands ⁴⁶⁾ with the exception of activities permitted according to special regulations, ⁴⁷⁾

c) construction of forest roads and logging roads,

- d) fencing of lands outside the urban areas of municipalities with the exception of fencing forest nurseries, orchards and vineyards,
- e) grazing, watering, moving and staying overnight of herds of livestock ⁴⁸⁾ on lairs and also their stabling outside buildings and facilities in case of over thirty head of cattle, ⁴⁹⁾ placement of sheep yards, constructions and other facilities for their protection,
- f) conducting technical geological works, ⁵⁰⁾ mining and other activities using mining methods,
- g) installation of information, advertisement and other promotion boards ⁵¹⁾ outside the urban areas of municipalities,
- h) terrestrial application of chemicals and fertilisers especially pesticides, toxic substances, industrial fertilisers and ensilage in agriculture, forestry and other activities in an integral area larger than 2 ha,
- i) building and marking tourist paths, nature trails, running tracks, skiing tracks, bicycle trails or motor-roads,
- j) preparation, training and related activities by military corps and military forces outside the military areas and military districts; preparation, training and related activities in the area of civil protection, fire and rescue squads or by units of integrated rescue system ⁵²⁾ outside the urban areas of municipalities,
- k) organising of public sports and tourist events, ⁵³⁾ and other social events accessible to the public outside the urban areas of municipalities or outside sports and recreational areas designed for the above events,
- l) placement of a short-term mobile facility, for example a stall, pent roof, construction or facility serving festive decoration and illumination of buildings, a stage construction for film and television outside the urban areas of municipalities,
- m) placement of a facility on a water-stream or other water area that does not serve the needs of navigation or water-stream or waterworks administration,
- n) use of facilities causing light and noise effects, mainly pyrotechnics, laser facilities, reproduced music outside closed buildings. ⁵⁴⁾

(3) Prohibition according to Section (1) does not apply to entering and parking vehicles ⁵⁵⁾

- a) a) serving for cultivation of a land or that belongs to the owner (administrator, lessee) of the land for which this prohibition applies,
- b) b) in localities that the nature protection body reserves especially under a generally binding provision designating a protected area and its protective zone (§ 17), a national park and its protective zone visiting rules (§ 20) or by a list of these places published on an official board of this body and official board of a relevant municipality,
- c) c) if entering and parking vehicles have been permitted under a special regulation. ⁵⁶⁾

(4) Approval according to Section (2) e), k) and n) is not required in places reserved by the nature protection body in a manner specified in Section (3) b).

§ 14

Third Level of Protection

(1) In the territory in which the third level of protection is valid following activities are prohibited

- a) conducting activities specified in § 13 Section (1) a); § 13 Section (3) is valid equally,
- b) entering or parking bicycles on lands outside the urban areas of municipalities off highways, roads, local roads and marked bicycle paths; § 13 Section (3) is valid equally,
- c) movement off marked tourist paths or nature trails outside urban areas of municipalities,
- d) camping, bivouacking, horse riding, lighting a fire, rock climbing, skialpinism or other sports activities outside the urban areas of municipalities,
- e) organising public sports and tourist events or other social events accessible to the public,

- f) use of facilities causing light and noise effects, mainly pyrotechnics, laser facilities, reproduced music outside the closed buildings,
- g) dissemination of non-native species of plants and animals,
- h) collecting plants including their fruits,
- i) common hunting,
- j) mining and activities using mining methods.

(2) In the territory in which the third level of protection is valid an approval of the nature protection body is required for

- a) conducting activities specified in § 12 a), c) to h), § 13 Section (2) b) to e), i), j), l) and m),
- b) installation of information, advertisement or promotion facilities, ⁵¹⁾ or any other advertisement or promotion posters or boards,
- c) terrestrial application of chemicals and fertilisers, especially pesticides, herbicides, toxic substances, industrial fertilisers and ensilage in agriculture, forestry and other activities,
- d) flights by air-planes or by flying sports facilities, especially gliders, ⁵⁷⁾ height of flight of which is lower than 300 m over the highest obstacle situated in a circle of 600 m from the planes or flying sports facilities,
- e) illumination of running tracks, skiing tracks and sports areas outside closed buildings,
- f) conducting technical geological works.

(3) Prohibition according to Section (1) c) does not apply to movement

- a) related to land cultivation, execution of hunting or fishing rights and to movement of the owner (administrator, lessee) of the land to which this prohibition applies,
- b) in localities which the nature protection body reserved especially by a generally binding provision designating a protected area and its protective zone (§ 17), a national park and its protective zone visiting rules (§ 20) or by a list of these places published on an official board of this body and official board of a relevant municipality.

(4) Prohibition according to Section (1) d) to h) does not apply in localities reserved by the nature protection body in a manner specified in Section (3) b). The prohibition according to Section (1) h) does not apply to the owner (administrator, lessee) of the land on which this prohibition applies. Prohibition of lighting fire outside closed buildings does not apply if this is an activity related to ensuring health of the forest vegetation.

§ 15

Fourth Level of Protection

(1) In the territory in which the fourth level of protection is valid following activities are prohibited

- a) conducting activities specified in § 14 Section (1); § 13 Section (3) and § 14 Sections (3) and (4) are valid equally,
- b) clear-cutting, ⁵⁸⁾
- c) installing information, advertisement or promotion facilities and any other advertisement or promotion posters or boards,
- d) application of chemicals and fertilisers,
- e) ploughing existing permanent grasslands, cutting woods,
- f) collecting minerals or fossils,
- g) fencing lands except for fencing forest nurseries, orchards and vineyards,

- h) placement of livestock enclosures, buildings or other facilities for protection of livestock animals,
- i) conducting geological works,
- j) placement of facilities on water-streams or other water areas that do not serve navigation or administration of the water-streams or waterworks,
- k) uncontrolled roaming of dogs except for dogs used for fulfilling tasks according to special regulations ⁵⁹⁾ working dogs and hunting dogs.

(2) In the territory in which the fourth level of protection is valid, approval of the nature protection body is required for

- a) conducting activities specified in § 12 a), c), e) to h), § 13 Section (2) c), i), j) and l) and § 14 Section (2) d) to f),
- b) grazing, watering, moving and staying overnight of herds of livestock on lairs and also their stabling outside buildings and facilities in case of over thirty head of cattle; ⁴⁹⁾ an approval is not required in localities reserved by the nature protection body in a manner specified in § 13 Section (3) b),
- c) placement of a construction.

§ 16

Fifth Level of Protection

(1) In the territory in which the fifth level of protection is valid following activities are prohibited

- a) conducting activities specified in § 15 Section (1),
- b) influencing forest vegetation and damaging vegetation and topsoil,
- c) constructing forest roads or logging roads,
- d) establishing hunting facilities or fish farms,
- e) illuminating running tracks, skiing tracks or sports areas,
- f) disturbing peace and quiet,
- g) trapping, killing or hunting animals,
- h) changing a state of wetlands or river beds, especially by their cultivation, back-filling, drainage, extracting cane, peat, mud and river sediments except for conducting these activities in river beds by their administrators in accordance with a special regulation, ⁴⁰⁾
- i) placement of a construction.

(2) In the territory in which the fifth level of protection is valid approval of the nature protection body is required to conduct activities defined in § 12 c), e) to h), § 13 Section (2) i), j) and l), § 14 Section (2) d) and f) and § 15 Section (2) b).

§ 50

Declaring protection of Specially Protected Parts of Nature and Landscape

(1) Proposal to declare protection of protected area or its buffer zone (§ 54 para. 13) is submitted by the proposer to the nature protection authority competent to notify about intention. The nature protection authority sends intention to declare protected area or protection zone to organization for nature protection for review of ecological, economic and social impact. The nature protection authority sends its position to the proposal within 30 days. Former does not apply if proposal is submitted by organization for nature protection.

(2) Authority for nature protection is obliged to inform in written form the owner, keeper, tenant of the estate traceable in Cadaster of real estates, affected by proposed protection, the municipality and the state authority involved concerning the

intention to declare protected area, zones of protected areas or protected tree (further referred to as „intention“). Authority for nature protection competent to notify intention and competent for procedure according to paragraph 5 and 6 is District office seated in town of the concerned county; in the case of protected landscape element or protected tree the competent authority is district office. If greater number of land owners is affected by the proposal or their stay is unknown, notification of intention can be delivered by public notice; in the case if society of land owners is affected notification of intention will be accordingly delivered to its body.

(3) Notification of intention contains in particular

a) general characteristics of intention

b) specifics of protection, in particular, aims of proposed protection and measures for achieving these aims, scope of restrictions concerning normal management and economic valuation of applied restrictions on normal management,

c) possibility of discussing process for providing compensation and amount of compensation for restriction of normal management under section 61 subsection 1 paragraph a) to d).

(4) Municipality is obliged to inform the public in its area within 15 days of delivery of intention notification. For that matter, municipality shall make available documents for the public on accessible point, for example on official municipality notice board and for at least 15 days.

(5) Owner, tenant or keeper of the estate concerned, municipality, competent state authority have right to submit written suggestions to the nature protection authority within 30 days from delivery of notification of intent or within 30 days from publication of public notice. Owner of the estate concerned has a right to express his opinion about determining an amount of compensation and process for providing aforementioned compensation for restriction of normal management according to section 61 subsection 1 paragraph a) to d). Nature protection authority is obliged to discuss submitted suggestions with applicants within 30 days; nature protection authority is obliged to discuss option of determining an amount of compensation provided for restriction of normal management within 60 days, and in case owner accepts proposed procedure of providing compensation nature protection authority is obliged to ask Ministry of Environment or on behalf of Ministry of Environment commissioned organization for nature protection or the keeper of state assets affected by proposed procedure of compensation, to negotiate conditions of providing compensation and in case of reached agreement with the estate owner, to conclude future contract providing for compensation for restriction of normal management according to section 61a to 61d.

(6) Ownership, keeper, tenant of estate affected by conditions of protection stated in intention are obliged without delay from the date of notification and most until declaring part of nature as protected, to inform about planned activities which can be in collision with conditions of protection set in intention. If required by the interest of nature protection and landscape nature protection authority can determine conditions for performance of activities or ban those activities. Aforementioned conditions are effective at longest until declaring part of nature and landscape as protected. If conditions for performance of activities or their ban results in restriction of normal management, entitlement for financial compensation originates according to section 61e the first day after finality of nature protection authority decision.

(7) If authority for nature protection does not declare area or tree as protected in accordance with procedure set in this act within 2 years from notification of intention, obligations set in decision under paragraph 6 terminate.

(8) Subsections 6 and 7 are without effect on declaring of protected bird areas, zones of protected areas and protected areas under section 27 subsection 9 of this act.

(9) Protected areas and their zones with 4th and 5th level of protection can be declared on estate in non-state ownership only with permission of the estate owner. If estate owner is unknown, permission is given by Slovakian Estate Fund. If coherence of European Network of Protected Areas would be fully disrupted by not declaring protected area or its buffer zone with 4th level and 5th level of protection on estate in non-state ownership the permission of estate owner can be replaced with decision of authority for nature protection. Obligation to provide compensation for restriction of normal management according to section 61 is not affected by the previous sentence.

(10) Paragraphs 1 to 9 are without effect on declaring private protected area, its buffer zone (section 31) and municipal protected area (section 25a).

(11) Protected landscape element and municipal protected area cannot be declared in area of other protected areas and are not declared in their buffer zones.

Compensation for restriction of normal management

(1) Estate owner is entitled for compensation under conditions set out by this act if as a result of a ban or restrictive measures pursuing nature and landscape protection the estate owner is restricted in normal management of his estate. Compensation under this provision is:

- a) exchange of a private estate for an estate in a state ownership, if feasible (sec. 61a),
- b) rental of private estate by state,
- c) purchase of estates in private ownership by state,
- d) contractual estate diligence (sec. 61d),
- e) financial compensation (sec. 61e),

(2) normal management of estate under this act is:

- a) management of agricultural land in compliance with special act (Act no. 220/2004 Coll. on Protection and Use of Agricultural Land)
- b) normal forest management (Act no. 326/2005 Coll. on Forest) without restrictive conditions set out by authorities for nature protection in compliance with restrictions and other measures for nature protection set out by this act.
- c) management of other estate than set in previous paragraphs a) and b) which is in compliance with conditions set out in the permission under special acts [*various acts: Code of Construction Procedure, Mining Act, Fishing Act, Hunting Act*]

(3) Ministry or on behalf of Ministry organization authorized for nature protection will annually create within 30th June of the concerned calendar year a list of estates in selected protected areas adequate for exchange of private estates for estates in state ownership, rental of private estate by state, purchase of estates in private ownership and contract estate diligence.

(4) For an exchange of private estates are not adequate following estates in state ownership

- a) required for an exchange of estates as a compensation under special act (Act no. 330/1991 Coll. on Land Consolidation),
- b) forest estates with presence of natural habitats of European importance or forest estates with protected species; forests of special purpose, not including forests of special purpose in protected areas.

(5) Ministry of Environment in cooperation with Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Defense and Slovak Estate Fund prepares and updates calculation of amount of funds needed for financing compensation for 3 financial years in a line with subsection 1 of this section.

(6) Financial calculation value of estates and vegetation for the purpose of an exchange of estates, setting price of a rent, determining amount of remuneration for diligence based on estate diligence contract with the estate owner shall be based according to a special act. (Ministry of Agriculture Decree no. 38/2005 Coll. on evaluation of estates and vegetation for the purpose of land consolidation).

(7) Minimum price of rent must be at least 1 % of price of land determined according to special act (Ministry of Agriculture Decree no. 38/2005 Coll. on evaluation of estates and vegetation for the purpose of land consolidation). Price of a rent and amount of remuneration for contractual diligence based on contract with the owner the forest estate is determined, taking into account, income approach value of the estate and timber harvest approach value in the rotation period over the duration of the rent or duration of the contractual estate diligence. Maximum price of rent for the duration of the agreed rental must not exceed price of financial compensation for the duration of the agreed rental.

(8) Details on contents of application for financial compensation, method of determining price of rent and methods of determining remuneration for contractual estate diligence will be enacted by Government regulation. Conditions of exchange and purchase of estates will be designated by Ministry of Environment with Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Defense and Slovak Estate Fund in a generally binding legal regulation. Conditions of rental and contractual estate diligence will be designated by Ministry of Environment in a generally binding legal regulation.

Exchange of estates

(1) If estates adequate for exchange are located in the same cadaster area, keeper of the estates in the state ownership after accord with Ministry of Environment or on behalf of Ministry of Environment authorized organization for nature protection offers owner of the estate estate in state ownership; if estates adequate for exchange are not in the same cadaster area, owner of the estate will be offered other estates in directly surrounding municipalities or cadaster areas of districts. If lot split restrictions do not provide for exchange of estates, keeper of the estate in state ownership can detach ownership from part of the estate in state ownership under condition that state ownership will be in majority after the exchange of estates.

(2) Exchange contract can be concluded, if estates to be exchanged are in comparable condition. Comparability is evaluated according to type of estate, measurement and properties of estates compared or according to the value of estate under the special act (Ministry of Agriculture Decree no. 38/2005 Coll. on evaluation of estates and vegetation for the purpose of land consolidation).

(3) In the case of exchange of forest estates and their forest vegetation their value based on expert's report according to a special act (Ministry of Agriculture Decree no. 38/2005 Coll. on evaluation of estates and vegetation for the purpose of land consolidation) must not differ more than 10 per cent. If value of exchanged estates and forest vegetation is not equal, price and payment process shall be arranged in exchange contract; value difference must be reimbursed.

(4) Physical inspection, identification of borders of exchanged estates and comparison with management records shall be performed for the purpose of checking factual properties of exchanged estates. Parties to the exchange of estates shall participate in physical inspection of the estates. Process and results of physical inspections shall result in record which will form annex to the exchange contract.

(5) Person entitled to a negotiation on option to exchange estates is

- a) estate owner,
- b) representative designated by co-owners, if estate is in co-ownership,
- c) body of estate-owners' organization, if estate is a part of common estate.

(6) Exchange contract is in obligatory written form and must contain in particular identification of object of exchange, purpose of use, value of estates and vegetation to be exchanged based on expert's report; other requirements are designated by special act (Act no. 40/1964 Coll. Civil Code).

(7) Organization of nature protection reimburses costs of creating plot plan, costs for expert's opinion and administration fee for application for deposit to Cadastral of Estates.

Estate rental

(1) Ministry of Environment or on behalf of Ministry authorized organization for nature protection may conclude rental agreement concerning estate in protected area. In case estates in state ownership rental agreement is not concluded.

(2) Provisions concerning rental of agricultural land and rental of forest estate under special act (Act no. 543/2002 Coll. on rental of agricultural land, rental of forest estates and agriculture company) do not apply to a rental agreement concluded under this act.

(3) All rights and obligations under special acts (e.g. Act no. 274/2009 Coll. on hunting, Act no. 326/2005 Coll. on hunting) which are related to the enjoyment of estate for the purpose of estate rental are transferred to the tenant if agreement does not provide otherwise. Tenant is obliged to provide renter with documentation concerning methods of estate diligence, in particular specification of expected progress and anticipated condition of estate after end of the contract.

(4) Rental agreement can be concluded for at least

- a) 30 years, if object of rental is forest estate,
- b) 5 years, if object of rental is other estate than forest estate.

(5) Rental agreement is renewed after expiration of agreed term of rental under previously agreed conditions; former does not apply, if in the last year of effect of rental agreement one of the parties to an agreement notifies its intention to a second party to not renew the agreement or if conditions of nature and landscape protection are altered

(6) Rental agreement is in obligatory written form and must contain, in particular, object identification of rent, purpose of use, price of rent, term of rental, conditions of discount or discharge of rent price, conditions of purporting to terminate the agreement and other terms specified by a special act (Act no. 40/1964 Coll. Civil Code). Annex to the agreement is graphic identification of the object of nature protection on the map representing legal situation of the estates and the same graphic identification on the vegetation map and documentation under the subsection 3 of this section.

§ 61c

Purchase of estates in private ownership by the state

(1) Ministry of Environment or on behalf of Ministry authorized organization for nature protection, Slovak Estate Fund or keeper of the forest estates in the state ownership can purchase estates in the private ownership in protected areas and at maximum price designated by special act (Ministry of Justice Decree no. 492/2004 Coll. on estimation of usual value of property)

(2) Purchase agreement is in obligatory written form and must contain in particular object identification of purchase, purpose of use, price of the estate and estate vegetation estimated according to expert's report and other terms specified by a special act (Act no. 40/1964 Coll. Civil Code). Annex to the agreement is graphic identification of the object of nature and landscape protection on the map representing legal situation of the estates and the same graphic identification on the vegetation map.

(3) Proposer can purchase estates for the purpose of state ownership as a compensation measure under the section 28 of this act.

§ 61d

Contractual estate diligence

(1) Ministry of Environment or on behalf of Ministry authorized organization for nature protection concludes estate diligence contract with owner of the estate; contractual estate diligence does not apply to estates in state ownership.

(2) Estate owner is obliged to ensure diligence of the estate in a compliance with conditions set out in estate diligence contract even in the case estate owner does not provide management of the estate by himself. Organization for nature protection is obliged to collaborate accordingly with the owner or tenant of the estate for the purpose of fulfilling agreement.

(3) If owner is deceased or is declared dead by the court rights and obligations from contractual estate diligence are transferred to a person that concluded written agreement with entitled heirs to be bound by fulfilling the purpose of the agreement. Rights and obligations of contractual estate diligence are transferred to the successor of the estate, for the duration of term designated in the estate diligence contract.

(4) State represented by organization for nature protection can provide owner or the tenant ensuring estate diligence contract with financial contribution under section 60 of this act for actions induced by unpredictable circumstances beyond contracted estate diligence.

(5) Estate diligence contract is concluded for at least 5 years. Estate diligence contract is renewed after expiration of agreed term of estate diligence under previously agreed conditions including agreed term of diligence; former does not apply if in the last year of effect of estate diligence contract one of the parties to the agreement notifies in written form about intention to not renew agreement or alter estate diligence contract.

(6) Estate diligence contract is in obligatory written form and must contain in particular object identification of estate diligence, purpose of estate diligence and measures for fulfillment of the purpose, amount of remuneration for contractual estate diligence, term of estate diligence and conditions of purporting to terminate the agreement. Annex to the agreement is graphic identification of object of nature protection on the map representing legal and rights exercising situation of the estates and the same graphic identification on the vegetation map.

(7) Provisions of section 13 subsec. 1, section 14 subsec. 1, section 15 subsec. 1 and requirement of permission based on section 13, subsec. 2, section 14 subsec. 2, section 15 subsec. 2 do not apply for activities performed in connection to ensuring diligence of protected area and its buffer zone.

Financial compensation

(1) If estate exchange contract, estate rental agreement, purchase agreement or estate diligence contract was not concluded and due to restrictions and measures based on bans or other conditions for nature and landscape protection according or in compliance with this act restriction of normal management occurs, owner is entitled to financial compensation; former does not apply in cases under subsections 3, 5, 10 paragraph e) of this section.

(2) Amount of financial compensation shall be determined as difference between costs and earnings when exercising normal management and the difference between costs and earnings when exercising estate management under bans and other conditions for nature and landscape protection according or in compliance with this act. Financial compensation shall be reduced nature protection authority by amount equal to the financial support or financial contribution provided from public sources to compensate lowered earnings or elevated costs when performing estate management according to special acts (e.g. Council (EC) Regulation no. 1698/2005) and shall be reduced by amount equal to the duration of provided tax exemption on estates.

(3) Entitlement to financial compensation does not arise in case if

- a) the estate is in state ownership, in administration, or exercise of the keeper of the state assets,
- b) the estate is located on private protected area or in buffer zone or in municipal protected area,
- c) the compensation has been reimbursed to the previous owner of the estate,
- d) owner of the estate concluded estate exchange contract, estate rental agreement, estate purchase agreement or estate diligence contract (section 61a to section 61d),
- e) the estate is in disposition of Slovak Estate Fund.

(4) Person eligible to apply for financial compensation is

- a) estate owner
- b) representative designated by co-owners if estate is in co-ownership
- c) body of estate-owners'organisation if estate forms a part of common undetachable estate.

(5) If owner does not manage estate on his own, entitlement for financial compensation can be applied by estate tenant, if such option was agreed in estate rental agreement.

(6) Entitlement for financial compensation starts from the day of

- a) effect of generally binding legal regulation that declares area protected or alter the conditions of protection and which results in restriction of normal management,
- b) validity of decision on approval of forest management plan or its alteration, in which restrictive requirements of nature protection authority apply,
- c) finality of nature protection authority decision on refusing to grant permission for elimination of effects resulted in damage of the forests due to harmful elements, or
- d) finality of nature protection authority decision stating restrictive conditions on activities or ban of mentioned activities (section 50 subsec. 6)

(7) Application for entitlement for financial compensation can be applied in district office seated in town of county within three years from

- a) the day of originating of entitlement under subsection 6 in case of forest estates,
- b) first day of a calendar year following year in which entitlement for financial compensation is applied for in the case of estates other than forest estates.

(8) Financial compensation on forest estate is paid every year in a proportion to the duration of effect of forest diligence plan after end of the year of concern if person entitled did not apply for payment of financial compensation for more years. If person entitled applied for payment of financial compensation for more years the compensation shall be paid after the end of years for which financial compensation entitlement exists.

(9) District office seated in town of county for estates in its area decides on the entitlement to financial compensation and on termination of such entitlement under the subsection 6 paragraph b) to paragraph d). Appeal against decision of district office is decided by the court. State authority which has decided on the entitlement of payment of financial compensation is obliged to keep records of decisions on payment of financial compensations. Financial compensation is provided from the state budget and is due to 60 days from finality of decision that grants financial compensation.

(10) Entitlement to pay financial compensation terminates in the case the

a) term referred to in subsection 7 has expired,

b) reason for restriction of normal management no more exists,

c) person eligible did not comply with restrictions of normal management,

d) person eligible did not ensure compliance with restrictions, unless extraordinary circumstances have arisen, in particular, effects of nature which were not caused by entitled person and it is not adequate to except entitled person to divert those circumstances or divert or surpass consequences of extraordinary circumstances,

e) estate owner concluded estate exchange agreement, estate rental agreement, estate purchase agreement or estate diligence contract (section 61 to section 61d).

**List of meetings concerning the issue of
European Diploma of Protected Areas for National Park Poloniny
and the issue of Slovak part of UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site
Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany
from the last mission of an expert from Council of Europe in October 2012**

1. The meeting of State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and VLM SR, š.p. (Military Forests and Properties of the Slovak Republic, state-owned enterprise) concerning the UNESCO World Nature Heritage site Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany held in Banská Bystrica on 26 February 2013.
2. The meeting on state of protection and following procedure concerning the world natural heritage site Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany, Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava 13. May 2013.
3. The meeting with stakeholders from the region of National Park Poloniny held in the town of Zboj on 14 May 2013.
4. The meeting between State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and LPM Ulič, š.p. (Forestry and Agricultural Property Ulič, state-owned enterprise) held in Directorate of LPM Ulič, š.p. on 15 May 2013
5. Interdepartmental meeting on Diploma of Protected Areas from Council of Europe for National Park Poloniny and Slovak part of the world natural heritage site Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany held in Bratislava on 10 June 2013, at which State Nature Conservancy was present
6. The meeting with representatives of the region concerning Diploma from Council of Europe for NP Poloniny and Slovak part of world natural heritage site Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany held in Nová Sedlica on 16 October 2013.
7. Interdepartmental meeting concerning Slovak part of the world natural heritage site Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians on 16 October 2013 in Bratislava, Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic.
8. Interdepartmental meeting focused on execution of common steps towards fulfillment of international obligations (Eu. Diploma from Council of Europe for National Park Poloniny and for Slovak part of the world natural heritage site Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany) held in Bratislava on 11 November 2013.
9. Establishment of Common Steering Committee for Slovak part of the world natural heritage site:
 - 09.1 First session of Common Steering Committee concerning the European Diploma and the world natural heritage site Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians held in Banská Bystrica on 27 September 2013
 - 09.2 Second session of Common Steering Committee regarding the issue of European Diploma from Council of Europe and regarding the world natural heritage site Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians held in Stakčín on 19 December 2013.
10. Negotiations of Slovak Ministry of Environment, between Department of Nature and Landscape protection, the general director of Department of Water Protection, Mr. Ing. Dušan Čerešňák and the general director of Slovak Water-Management Enterprise Mr. Ing. Marian Supek held in Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava, 17 February 2014.
11. Meetings with representatives of individual associations of private owners who operate on the territory of the world natural heritage site that were focused on information about compensation options for limitation of ordinary operation in the terms of Amendment of Act No. 534/2002 on nature and landscape protection, Stakčín, 7 May 2014.
 - 11.01 LP Rovenky, Stakčín, 7.5.14
 - 11.02 LPM Ulič, 7.5.14
 - 11.03 LPUS Ruské, 7.5.14
 - 11.04 LPUS Smolník, 7.5.14
 - 11.05 LPUS Zvala, 7.5.14
 - 11.06 Súkromné lesy Kredba, 7.5.14
12. Consultation concerning the conclusions from the 38th session of the Committee – UNESCO World Heritage held in Doha, Qatar, 15. – 25 June 2014 that took place in Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic on 08 July 2014.
13. Meetings with representatives of individual private owners associations, town mayors and the director of LPM Ulič, š.p. for the purpose of discussion about the issue of Slovak part of the world natural heritage site held in Nová Sedlica and Stakčín on 31 July 2014 and 1 August 2014.
 - 13.01 LPM, Stakčín, 31.7.14
 - 13.02 By-law men, Nova Sedlica, 1.8.14
 - 13.03 Privat land-owners, Stakčín, 1.8.14

Minutes
of the work meeting related to the Slovak component of the
"Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of
Germany" UNESCO World Heritage property
held on 22nd September 2014
at the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic in Bratislava

Participants: see the list of participants

The meeting was convened concerning the Slovak components of the "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" UNESCO World Heritage property, with the participation of the representatives of the concerned government ministries. The aim of the meeting was to provide information about the Slovak components of the World Heritage property and prepare a joint political declaration of the Slovak Republic about the invitation of a UNESCO/IUCN monitoring mission taking place between 29th September and 3rd October 2014.

The meeting was opened by the state secretary II of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, Mr. doc. Ing. Ján Ilavský, CSc., who provided informed the attendees about the prepared monitoring mission and briefly told the history of the property, preceding its inscription on UNESCO World Heritage List. He also informed the attendees of the growing problems concerning the World Heritage property, as well as the Poloniny National Park, which was awarded the European Diploma of the Council of Europe in 2012, when the Council of Europe performed an evaluation mission at the Poloniny National Park. The result of the mission confirmed the problems pointed out by the NGO LOZ VLK [Wolf Forest Protection Movement], which requested the Centre of UNESCO in Paris to remove the property from UNESCO World Heritage List. He also provided information concerning the requirements of the World Heritage Committee stated in decisions 37COM7B.26 and 38COM 78.75, approved at the sessions of the Committee in 2013 and 2014, respectively, and the planned extension of the current trilateral property by components in further nine European countries in 2017. The Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic is fully aware of the complexity of the situation, complicated by, for example, combining nature protection efforts with solving the problems of the relocated former inhabitants of the Starinska dolina valley, as well as the fact that the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic is not the main decisive body in the process. The landowners are not satisfied with the relocation process and the way the restitution requests are being addressed. One of the main problem causes was the absence of joint planning during the preparation of the nomination project. Nonetheless, compensation is possible in the case of some owners, for example, by land exchange.

Speaking on behalf of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic he expressed his belief that the ministry would perform all steps necessary to keep the Slovak components of the property listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. He also pointed out that activities addressing the problems (i.e. social, financial, economic, developmental, etc.) of the region should be performed in a more comprehensive fashion, by means of a larger regional project.

Subsequently, he requested the representatives of the respective ministries to express their opinions on the topic.

Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic:

- The monitoring mission should be treated as a very important matter.
- The ministry has only indirect information concerning the UNESCO property.
- The Slovak Republic must prepare for the monitoring mission thoroughly.
- All interested parties must be prepared to respond to the questions of the expert, not only the Ministry of Environment.
- UNESCO has been urging to solve the unfavourable situation of the World Heritage property since 2012.
- The expert should receive information about the property (concerning the legislation and protection) in advance; the relevant documents should be prepared at least by the time of the meeting, if not beforehand. This applies to all relevant ministries.
- The ministry pointed out that the delegated expert is not competent to solve the property boundary issues. These have to be solved before the mission starts, by communicating with UNESCO. The Slovak Republic may invite an IUCN advisory mission, which will express its views concerning the property territory and boundaries.

Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic:

- Shall seek ways to support a larger regional project within the priority lines in the next programming period.
- Considering the possibilities of the state budget, the Ministry will prefer this solution to finding resources in the state budget.

Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic:

- The Ministry will support the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic in finding solutions to the problems.
- The Ministry urges the relevant parties to solve the situation of the World Heritage property, since an eventual significant threat to the property would jeopardize requests of the Slovak Republic to inscribe any further cultural or a natural heritage properties on the UNESCO World Heritage List in future.
- The representative of the Ministry agreed with the views expressed by the state secretary II of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic that a closer co-operation of both ministries in finding project resources is welcome.

Ministry of Defense of the Slovak Republic

- The Ministry declared its ongoing commitment to provide the lands situated in the core zone, as proposed in April 2014.
- The Ministry recalls its statement issued on 15th April 2014; the basic requirement is to coordinate the efforts with the country defense activities also within the core zone.

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic

- the Ministry declared that it has been supporting the World Heritage property, in spite of the fact that the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic is the one to solve the social and financial consequences.
- The largest problem to be solved is the area of the core zone.
- The core zone comprises intervention-free areas, areas with targeted interventions in a limited timeframe in protective forest areas as well as productive forests.
- A certain consensus concerning the area of the core zone has been reached in the Poloniny National Park; however, an agreement is still missing in the case of the

Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area (this problem relates to the Silvicultural Company of the Slovak Republic [Lesy SR]).

- The silvicultural company LPM Ulič is one of the few employers in the region. The decline of silvicultural and agricultural activities must be remedied by other activities. Preferring nature-friendly forest management practices in the buffer zone could be considered an advancement.
- The State Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic received an order from the Minister to examine the situation concerning logging at the territory managed by the company.

State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic:

- The agency provided information about the negotiations with the expert, based on the Terms of Reference document sent by UNESCO. This document contains the topics the expert shall focus on during his mission. The document contains also the decisions of the World Heritage Committee issued during its meetings in 2013 and 2014, which outline certain problems existing at the property.
- The agency pointed out the need of a constructive and open dialogue with the expert and the possibility to use this mission to clarify all circumstances of the property (such as logging and protection, legislation, competences and duties of the respective entities performing business in the area, the social and financial situation in the region, etc.).
- The agency suggests making use of the opportunities in creating alternative forest management plans by means of grant projects.

Conclusions:

1. The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic shall send the Terms of Reference to the representatives of all concerned ministries – this document contains the topics that are going to be discussed during the mission. This material also contains the decisions of the World Heritage Committee.

2. The concerned ministries should prepare their own documents for the meeting held on 30th September at the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic using these delivered documents; they shall also notify their respective expert organizations performing activities at the World Heritage property about the prepared mission and the need of attending the meeting that shall be held in Stakčín, Slovakia on 2nd October 2014, which shall continue with a field visit.

3. By the time of the meeting, the concerned ministries should prepare concise documents concerning the topics of the meeting for the expert in English.

List of attendees

of the work meeting convened in conjunction with the issues the UNESCO
 “Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians” World Heritage property,
 held on 22nd September 2014 at 10:00
 at the Ministry of environment of the Slovak Republic

No.	name, surname	position	organisation	signature
1.	Ján Ilavský	State Secretary	Ministry of Environment	<i>illegible signature</i>
2.	Rastislav Rybanič	General Director	Ministry of Environment	
3.	Ján Julény	Division Director	Ministry of Environment	<i>illegible signature</i>
4.	Alena Prokešová	Division of monument protection	Ministry of Culture	<i>illegible signature</i>
5.	Ľubomíra Šišková	advisor at the headquarters	Ministry of Defence SR, Department of Infrastructure Planning	lubomira.siskova@mil.sk <i>illegible signature</i>
6.	Ingrid Krejnosová	advisor at the headquarters	Ministry of Defence SR, Department of Infrastructure Planning	ingrid.krejnusova@mil.sk <i>illegible signature</i>
7.	Štefan Adamec	Adviser of the State Secretary	Ministry of Finance SR	<i>illegible signature</i>
8.	Jozef Spevár	State Secretary	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	jozef.spevar@lang.gov.sk <i>illegible signature</i>
9.	Klára Novotná	ambassador	Permanent Delegation of Slovakia to UNESCO,	<i>illegible signature</i>
10.	Milan Boroš	General Director	State Nature Conservancy SR	<i>illegible signature</i>
11.	Michaela Mrázová		State Nature Conservancy SR	<i>illegible signature</i>
12.	Aurélia Fule	Secretary General, Slovak Commission for UNESCO,	Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs SR	aurelia.fule@mzv.sk <i>illegible signature</i>
13.				

Handwritten text:

VLM SR, š.p. [Military Forest Enterprise of the Slovak Republic]: sekretariat@vlm.sk,
jurica@vlm.sk

Ministry of Defence, Special State Administration Division, daniel.kostrat@mod.gov.sk,
vladimir.kovac@mod.gov.sk

Cooperation and Collaboration Framework Agreement

concluded between

1. Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic

registered seat: Námetie Ľudovíta Štúra 1, 812 35 Bratislava, Slovakia

(hereinafter referred to as: First Participant)

represented by: State Secretary of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, Mr. Ján Ilavský

and

2. the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic;

registered seat: Dobrovičova 12, SK-812 66 Bratislava,

(hereinafter referred to as: Second Participant)

represented by: State Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic, Mr. Jozef Spevár.

The Participants – in accordance with art. 9 and 16 of Act No. 575/2001 Coll. on the organisation of the activities of the Government and the organisation structure of the central state administration, as amended by later legislation, art. 2, par. 1 point a), art.3 par. 1 point h) and par. 2 points a) and b) of the Statute of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic and art.2 par. 2 point a) and art. 3 point c) of the Statute of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic – i.e. the First Participant – being central governmental administration responsible for the fulfilment of tasks related to nature and landscape protection –and the Second Participant – being central governmental administration in matters of protection and use of agricultural and forest lands in the territory of the Poloniny National Park and the Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area – have concluded the present Cooperation and Collaboration Framework Agreement on supporting the development and efficient conservation of the outstanding universal value of the Slovak components of the UNESCO World Heritage Property „Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany“, with the aim to conserve its natural values, to respect the balanced development of the region in the fields of ecology, economy and social development and to fulfil the tasks of the ministries, resulting from the applicable act on competencies.

Both participants understand the significance of the conservation of the outstanding natural values of the Slovak components of the World Heritage Property „Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany“ for the future generations. In order to ensure the accomplishment of tasks resulting from the functional use of the Property as part of the Poloniny National Park and the Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area and the fulfilment of the international obligations related to the Slovak components of the World Heritage Property „Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany“, the Participants have agreed on the following wording of the present Cooperation and Collaboration Agreement.

Article I

Scope of the Agreement

1. The subject of the present Agreement is to define the Participants' cooperation and collaboration areas to ensure the implementation of the obligations of the Slovak Republic, in line with the sustainable management of the Slovak components of the UNESCO World Heritage Property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany" (hereinafter referred to as: Property) to achieve conformity with the principles of sustainable development and the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention.
2. The basic aim of the present Agreement is to provide effective cooperation of the executive bodies of both ministries without increasing the administrative and economic costs of direction and practical application of management measures, in line with the principles of sustainable development and the Property management plan.

Article II

Subject matter of the Agreement

1. The subject matter of the Agreement is the territory of the Slovak components of the Property, which is part of the Poloniny National Park (as announced by Decree no. 258/1997 Coll. of the Slovak Government issued on 23rd September 1997) and the Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area (in accordance with Decree no. 458/1986-32 of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic on the announcement of the Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area, issued on 31st January 1986).

2. The 2007 inscription of the Property – the Slovakian and Ukrainian natural forests of the Carpathians, having a high natural value – on the UNESCO World Heritage List and the extension of this Property by the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany in 2011 occurred in line with the World Heritage Committee guidelines and the Decree no. 790/2007 of the Government of Slovak Republic issued on 19th September 2007 and indicates the outstanding universal value of the Property.
3. The aim of the Participants is to support and improve sustainable forest management based on the adequate usage of the ecological, economic and social functions of the forests for the development of the region in the specified areas.
4. The Agreement provides conditions to improve inter-ministerial coordination, communication and cooperation in implementing the management measures in the territory inscribed on the World Heritage List, in developing and implementing forest management and near-natural forest exploitation strategies, and in building the resources required for their implementation.
5. The mutually approved World Heritage Property management plan shall ensure the requested spatial and management integrity of the area, including the natural reserves, which form the backbone of the aforementioned territory, by gradual approximation of the stipulated natural forest parts.
6. The present agreement is being concluded in accordance with Article 6 of Decision 38 COM 7B/75 of the World Heritage Committee, in order to meet the requirements concerning the conservancy and management of the Property, with the aim to ensure corporation of the aforementioned ministries during the implementation of the task specified as the subject of the Agreement.

Article III

Areas of cooperation

As the areas of cooperation, the Participants have mutually approved to perform the following:

- a) to collaborate in preparing the Property management plan and implementing the proposed measures;
- b) to collaborate in activities related to the economic valuation of the necessary ecosystem commodities and services and in creating the resources for their use,
- c) to create the conditions required for the coordinated management of the Property, in line with the maintenance of the UNESCO Property as an integral part of the World Heritage and European Heritage,
- d) to implement the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee,
- e) to present the results achieved in the management of the Property,
- f) to create a coordination task force consisting of the representatives of the ministries and their specialized organisations, pertinent to the scope of the present agreement. The state secretaries of the respective ministries shall set up the coordination task force until 31st March 2015.
- g) the coordination task force shall consist of the following: one representative of each Participant at the level of the respective ministry section general directors, the level of directors of the respective divisions of the ministries, the general directors of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic, the National Forestry Centre, the directors of the Administration of the Poloniny National Park, the Administration of the Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area, the Vranov nad Topľou and Sobrance subsidiaries of the Forest Management Enterprise of the Slovak Republic state enterprise [Lesy SR, š.p.], Ulič Silvicultural Enterprise [Lesopoľnohospodársky majetok Ulič] and the Dean of the Forestry Faculty of the Technical University in Zvolen.
- h) The coordination task force shall act as a joint coordination task force of the following ministries: the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic.

Article IV

Tasks of the Participants

- a) The staff appointed by the state secretaries of the respective ministries in accordance with art. III, point f) shall elaborate and ensure the approval of the statute and the rules of procedure of the coordination task force until 30th April 2015.
- b) The tasks of the participants implemented by the coordination task force in accordance with art. 3 point f) are:
 - to coordinate the corporation within the Property Management Committee;
 - to coordinate the preparation of the property management plan and its implementation;
 - to prepare the documents necessary for the elaboration of documents and reports in conjunction with the World Heritage Property;
 - to ensure interchange of information concerning the implementation of the approved measures, aimed at the conservancy of the Property;
 - to write an annual report on the activities of the previous calendar year, until the 31st January of each year and submit it for discussion to the Property Management Committee.

- c) In the periods between the sessions of the Property Management Committee, the coordination task force will co-ordinate the management measures of the executive organs of both ministries within the inscribed Property.

Article V

1. The present Agreement may be amended or extended only upon approval of both Participants in writing, by means of annexes.
2. The present Agreement may be terminated only with the consent of both Participants, in accordance with the competences of the respective ministries. The period of notice is 12 months, starting with the first day of the month following the month of the mutual consent of the Participants.

Article VI

1. The present Agreement shall enter into effect and become valid on the date of its signature by both Participants.
2. The present Agreement was prepared in four copies; each Participant shall receive two copies.

In Bratislava, Slovakia, on this day of 2015.

Representatives of the Participants:

.....
Ing. Jozef Spevár,
State Secretary

.....
doc. Ing. Ján Ilavský, CSc.
State Secretary

Rámcová dohoda o spolupráci a súčinnosti

medzi

1. Ministerstvom životného prostredia Slovenskej republiky (MŽP SR)
so sídlom Námestie Ľudovíta Štúra 1, 812 35 Bratislava
(ďalej len „prvý účastník dohody“)
zastúpené štátnym tajomníkom Jánom Ilavským

a

2. Ministerstvom pôdohospodárstva a rozvoja vidieka SR (MPRV SR)
so sídlom Dobrovičova 12, 812 66 Bratislava,
(ďalej len „druhý účastník dohody“)
zastúpené štátnym tajomníkom MPRV SR Jozefom Spevárom

Zmluvné strany v súlade s § 9 a 16 zákona č. 575/2001 Z.z. o organizácii činnosti vlády a organizácií ústrednej štátnej správy v znení neskorších predpisov, čl. 2 ods.1 písm. a) a čl. 3 ods. 1 písm. h) , ods. 2 písm. a) a b) Štatútu Ministerstva životného prostredia Slovenskej republiky a čl. 2 ods. 2 písm. a), čl. 3 písm. c) Štatútu Ministerstva pôdohospodárstva a rozvoja vidieka Slovenskej republiky prvý účastník dohody ako ústredný orgán štátnej správy, ktorý zabezpečuje úlohy na úseku ochrany prírody a krajiny a druhý účastník dohody ako ústredný orgán štátnej správy, ktorý vykonáva štátnu správu vo veciach ochrany a využívania poľnohospodárskej pôdy a lesných pozemkov na území NP Poloniny a Chránenej krajinskej oblasti Vihorlat s cieľom zachovania ich prírodných hodnôt pri rešpektovaní vyváženého ekologického, ekonomického a sociálneho rozvoja regiónu a plnení úloh vyplývajúcich pre rezorty z platného kompetenčného zákona, uzavreli túto Rámcovú dohodu o spolupráci a súčinnosti podporujúcu zabezpečovanie rozvoja a efektívnej ochrany jedinečnej svetovej hodnoty slovenskej časti lokality svetového prírodného dedičstva UNESCO Karpatské bukové pralesy a staré bukové lesy Nemecka.

Obe vyššie uvedené strany tejto dohody si uvedomujú význam zachovania výnimočných prírodných hodnôt slovenskej časti lokality svetového prírodného dedičstva Karpatských bukových pralesov a starých bukových lesov Nemecka pre budúce generácie. V záujme zabezpečenia úloh vyplývajúcich z funkčného využitia lokality v rámci Národného parku Poloniny a Chránenej krajinskej oblasti Vihorlat a zabezpečenia plnenia medzinárodných záväzkov týkajúcich sa slovenskej časti lokality svetového prírodného dedičstva Karpatských bukových pralesov a starých bukových lesov Nemecka sa dohodli na nasledovnom znení tejto dohody o spolupráci a súčinnosti.

Článok I. Predmet dohody

1. Predmetom tejto dohody je vymedzenie oblastí spolupráce a súčinnosti zmluvných strán pri zabezpečovaní implementácie záväzkov Slovenskej republiky v zmysle trvalo

udržateľného manažmentu lokality slovenskej časti svetového prírodného dedičstva UNESCO Karpatských bukových pralesov a starých bukových lesov Nemecka (ďalej len lokalita) s cieľom dosiahnuť súlad s princípmi trvalo udržateľného rozvoja a Operačnými smernicami na implementáciu Dohovoru o svetovom dedičstve.

2. Základným zámerom návrhu tejto dohody je zabezpečenie efektívnej spolupráce výkonných zložiek oboch rezortov bez zvyšovania administratívnej a ekonomickej náročnosti pri riadení a praktickej aplikácii manažmentových opatrení, ktoré sú v súlade s princípmi trvalo udržateľného rozvoja a manažmentovým plánom lokality.

Článok II.

Základný rámec dohody

1. Základným rámcom dohody je územie slovenskej časti lokality, ktorá je súčasťou Národného parku Poloniny (Národný park Poloniny bol vyhlásený nariadením vlády Slovenskej republiky č. 258/1997 Z.z. zo dňa 23. septembra 1997) a CHKO Vihorlat (Vyhlásenie CHKO Vihorlat MK SR č.458/1986-32 zo dňa 31.januára 1986).
2. Zapísanie prírodných lesov s vysokou prírodnou hodnotou na území slovenskej a ukrajinskej časti Karpát do Zoznamu svetového dedičstva UNESCO v roku 2007 a rozšírenie o Staré bukové lesy Nemecka v roku 2011 sa uskutočnilo v súlade so smernicou Výboru pre svetové dedičstvo a uznesením Vlády SR č. 790/2007 z 19. septembra 2007 poukazuje na osobitný celosvetový význam lokality.
3. Cieľom je podporovať a zlepšovať trvalo udržateľné hospodárenie v lesoch založené na primeranom využívaní ekologických, ekonomických a sociálnych funkcií lesov pre rozvoj regiónu v určených územiach.
4. Dohoda vytvára podmienky pre zlepšenie koordinácie, komunikácie a kooperácie pri uplatňovaní medzisektorového prístupu k plneniu opatrení pri spravovaní územia zapísaného do Svetového prírodného dedičstva UNESCO, vypracovaní a realizácii stratégií prírode blízkeho hospodárenia v lesoch a pri vytváraní zdrojov na ich realizáciu.
5. Vzájomne odsúhlasený manažmentový plán lokality UNESCO zabezpečí požadovanú priestorovú a manažmentovú integritu územia, vrátane prírodných rezervácií, ktoré sú kosťou uvedených lokalít, prostredníctvom postupnej aproximácie dohodnutých častí prírodného lesa.
6. Táto dohoda sa uzatvára v zmysle článku 6 uznesenia č.38 COM 7B/75 Výboru svetového dedičstva pre naplnenie požiadaviek na ochranu a manažment lokality s cieľom zabezpečiť súčinnosť vyššie uvedených rezortov pri realizácii zámeru uvedeného v predmete dohody.

Článok III. Oblasť spolupráce

Vzájomne dohodnuté okruhy spolupráce:

- a) súčinnosť pri vypracovaní manažmentového plánu lokality a implementácii navrhovaných opatrení,
- b) súčinnosť pri aktivitách spojených s ekonomickým zhodnotením potrebných ekosystémových tovarov a služieb a pri vytváraní zdrojov na ich využitie,
- c) vytvorenie podmienok pre koordinovanú správu územia v zmysle zachovania lokality UNESCO ako neoddeliteľnej časti svetového a európskeho dedičstva ,
- d) implementácia odporúčaní Výboru svetového dedičstva,
- e) prezentácia výsledkov dosiahnutých pri správe lokality,
- f) vytvorenie koordinačnej pracovnej skupiny zloženej so zástupcov ministerstiev a nimi riadených organizácií dotknutých predmetom tejto dohody. Koordinačnú pracovnú skupinu menujú štátni tajomníci rezortov do 31. marca 2015.
- g) koordinačná pracovná skupina bude zložená recipročne po jednom zástupcovi na úrovni príslušných generálnych riaditeľov sekcií ministerstiev, riaditeľov príslušných odborov ministerstiev, generálnych riaditeľov Štátnej ochrany prírody Slovenskej republiky a Národného lesníckeho centra, riaditeľov správy Národného parku Poloniny a Chránenej krajiny Vihorlat , riaditeľov Lesopoločného majetku Ulič , OZ Vranov nad Topľou a OZ Sobrance, dekan Lesníckej fakulty TU vo Zvolene.
- h) vymenovaná koordinačná pracovná skupina bude pracovať ako spoločná koordinačná pracovná skupina ministerstva životného prostredia, ministerstva obrany a ministerstva pôdohospodárstva a rozvoja vidieka.

Článok IV. Úlohy účastníkov dohody

- a) Pracovníci poverení štátnymi tajomníkmi rezortov v zmysle čl. III písm. f) vypracujú a zabezpečia schválenie štatútu a rokovacieho poriadku koordinačnej pracovnej skupiny v termíne do 30. apríla 2015
- b) Úlohy účastníkov dohody zabezpečované prostredníctvom koordinačnej pracovnej skupiny podľa článku III písm. f) :
 - koordinovať spoluprácu v rámci manažmentového výboru lokality,
 - koordinovať prípravu manažmentového plánu lokality a jeho implementáciu,
 - pripravovať podklady pre vypracovanie dokumentov a správ v súvislosti s lokalitou svetového dedičstva,
 - zabezpečiť výmenu informácií o plnení dohodnutých opatrení na zachovanie priaznivého stavu lokality,
 - každoročne do 31. januára vypracovať ročnú správu o činnosti za predchádzajúci kalendárny rok a predložiť ju na prerokovanie Manažmentovému výboru lokality,
- c) Koordinačná pracovná skupina bude koordinovať manažmentové opatrenia výkonných zložiek oboch rezortov na území lokality zapísanej do Zoznamu svetového dedičstva UNESCO v období medzi zasadnutiami Manažmentového výboru lokality.

Článok V.

1. Dohodu je možné upraviť a doplniť len so súhlasom oboch zmluvných strán a to písomne formou dodatkov.
2. Dohodu je možné vypovedať len so súhlasom oboch zmluvných strán v zmysle kompetencií rezortov. Výpovedná lehota je 12 mesiacov a začína plynúť prvým dňom mesiaca nasledujúceho po dosiahnutí súhlasu oboch zmluvných strán.


Článok VI.

1. Dohoda nadobúda platnosť a účinnosť dňom jej podpísania oboma zmluvnými stranami.
2. Dohoda je vyhotovená v štyroch exemplároch, každá zo zmluvných strán obdrží dva exempláre.

V Bratislave dňa: 11. 2. 2015

zástupcovia zmluvných strán:


.....
Ing. Jozef Spevár,
štátny tajomník


.....
doc. Ing. Ján Ilavský, CSc.
štátny tajomník

**Overview of the activities implemented within the project
„Development of Nature Conservancy and Protected Areas
in the Slovakian Carpathians“
financed from Swiss funds, implemented within the Slovak components
of the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians
and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany World Heritage Property**

1. Re-classification of protected areas in accordance with the IUCN methodology

The administrations of the Poloniny National Park and the Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area are currently performing the re-classification of their protected areas in accordance with the IUCN methodology.

2. „World of the Carpathians“ Educational Programme

- 46 pcs of the educational programme and 250 pcs of the publication „Abundance of Life in the Carpathians“ were handed over to the Administration of the Poloniny National Park.
- The Administration of the Poloniny National Park organised a meeting with primary and secondary school teachers on 22nd October 2013, where the above material was handed out.
- 33 pcs of the educational programme and 170 pcs of the publication „Abundance of Life in the Carpathians“ were handed over to the Administration of the Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area.

3. Propagation materials

- a) Mobile expositions
 - 3 banners (roll-ups) about the Poloniny National Park
 - 3 banners (roll-ups) about the Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area
- b) Printed materials
 - *Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians* folded leaflet
 - *Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians - a Part of the World Heritage* brochure
 - *Trilateral Biosphere Reserve* brochure
 - Information posters on the Poloniny National Park and the Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area
 - Information leaflets on the educational trails in the Poloniny National Park and the Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area
- c) DVD
 - A film is being produced on the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians

4. Educational trails

- 6 panels manufactured for the Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area
- 18 panels manufactured for the Poloniny National Park

5. Preparation of recovery plans

Recovery plans have been prepared for the following sites within the Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area:

- National Nature Reserve Motrogoň - peat bog Hypkania
- National Nature Reserve Postávka
- Nature Reserve Ďurova mláka
- Nature Reserve Pod Trstím

Recovery plans have been prepared for the following sites within the Poloniny National Park:

- Nature Reserve Stinská slatina
- Nature Reserve Bahno
- National Nature Reserve Pod Ruským (Sihla)

6. Purchase of management equipment

- A chainsaw and a scrub-cutter have been purchased for the Administration of the Poloniny National Park.

7. Performance of management measures by the employees of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic

Management measures have been executed within the territory of the Poloniny National Park at the following sites:

Site	Surface area (hectares)
Nature Reserve <i>Stinská slatina</i>	2,76
National Nature Reserve <i>Stinská</i>	3
Nature Reserve <i>Bahno</i>	0,5
National Nature Reserve <i>Pod Ruským (Sihla)</i>	8

Management measures have been executed within the territory of the Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area at the following sites:

Site	Surface area (hectares)
National Nature Reserve Motrogoň - peat bog <i>Hypkania</i>	1,20
National Nature Reserve <i>Postávka</i>	1,00
Nature Reserve <i>Ďurova mláka</i>	0,27
Nature Reserve <i>Pod Trstím</i>	0,40

8. Purchase of personal protective equipment

- Personal protective equipment has been purchased for the employees of the administrations of the Poloniny National Park and the Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area implementing management measures.

9. Monitoring activities

- Equipment and necessary tools have been purchased for the establishment of monitoring sites
- monitoring plans have been prepared for the respective sites

10. Identification of natural forests and proposal of a management pilot programme at sites having a potential of transformation into natural forests

- Preparation of a methodical procedure to identify natural forests
- Identification of natural forests and proposal of a management pilot programme at sites having a potential of transformation into natural forests

11. Amendment to the Forest Management Plan for the declaration of special purpose forests

12. Implementation of the management pilot programme in the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians

13. Preparation of a supportive study for the sustainable development plan of the Poloniny National Park

No.	Grant name
1.	Porta Rusica – a technical monument connecting nations
2.	Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians World Heritage Property, cadastre of Nová Sedlica
3.	Ubl'a – entry point of the Poloniny National Park and the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians World Heritage Property
4.	History of the Poloniny mountains revived in old wood
5.	Adaptation of the area of the stone monolith for cyclists
6.	Improvement of the conditions of rural tourism
7.	European day of the Poloniny National Park - 2014
8.	World Cultural and Natural Heritage in the Poloniny mountains
9.	Revival of the Osadné mineral water spring in the Poloniny National Park



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

The Culture Sector Division for Heritage

H. E. Mrs Klara Novotna
Ambassador
Permanent Delegate of Slovakia to
UNESCO
UNESCO House

Ref.: CLT/HER/WHC/7742/SK/AS/KR 16 January 2015

Subject : Report of the World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission to the World Heritage property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany"

Sir,

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of your letter dated 13 January last and would like to confirm the extension for one month of the date of submission for the state of conservation report of the property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany".

Please find enclosed the report of the World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission to the World Heritage property "Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany", Slovakia.

Moreover, the World Heritage Centre will transmit to you an electronic version of the enclosed report by IUCN in due course.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your cooperation and support in the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*.

Please accept, dear Ambassador, the assurances of my highest consideration.

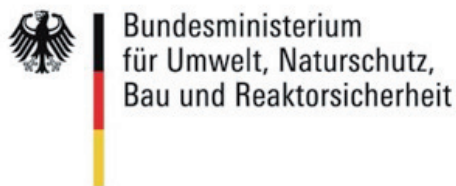
Kishore Rao
Director
World Heritage Centre

Encl.

cc: State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic
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Research and Development project

European World Heritage Beech Forests

FKZ 3512 82 1100

Final Project Report

28.11.2014

Auftragnehmer und Projektleitung
 Prof. Dr. Pierre Ibisch
 Centre for Econs and Ecosystem Management
 Fachbereich für Wald und Umwelt
 Hochschule für nachhaltige Entwicklung Eberswalde (FH)
 Eberswalde, November 2014

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1 Summary

The Research and Development project “World Heritage Beech Forests” was commissioned by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation with funds from the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) and implemented by the Centre for Economics and Ecosystem Management (CEEM) at the Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development. With this project Germany followed the recommendation by the World Heritage Committee in the context of the inscription of the “Ancient Beech Forests of Germany” to the World Heritage List as extension to the World Heritage property “Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians (Slovakia, Ukraine)” in 2011. The State Parties of the trilateral World Heritage property were advised to apply a comprehensive approach to secure the protection of the unique ecosystem of European beech forests by exploring the potential for a finite European serial World Heritage nomination of beech forest.

The overall goal of the project was the scientific, technical and organisational support of a process on expert and governmental level aiming at a serial transnational nomination to extend the trilateral World Heritage Property to fully represent the history of post-glacial beech forest distribution and the high diversity of this forest ecosystem in terms of altitudinal range, climate and soil conditions as well as the resulting variety of beech forest communities.

For this purpose a screening process was conducted in cooperation with a large network of beech forest experts from all over Europe. The screening process comprised a bottom-up and a top-down approach. It included the identification of suitable beech forest areas with the help of country experts and a spatial analysis of the European beech forests. More than 100 ancient beech forest areas were identified. Based on a jointly agreed methodology the areas were further analysed according to their potential to fulfil the requirements for an extension nomination of the existing property. These requirements include the contribution to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) – here criterion ix, integrity, and adequate protection and management. In a stepwise procedure of identification and analysis the results were discussed and revised at three international expert meetings with 58 participating experts from 20 countries and accompanied by additional research and communication activities.

Furthermore the (interim) results of the project were presented at three meetings on Nature and Biodiversity directors’ level with participants from 15 countries to coordinate the process on the decision-making level and to ensure the continuation of the process after the project.

The overall result of the project has been reached by presenting a final list of 46 candidate areas, which represent a proposal on expert level for the scope of an extension nomination to the existing World Heritage property. Furthermore, a draft statement for the OUV of a finite European property was developed and the roadmap for the nomination process was set. The representatives of Nature and Biodiversity directorates of 14 countries confirmed the participation in the further extension nomination process, which will be led by Austria. The jointly agreed roadmap is

aiming at the inscription of the suggested candidate areas to the World Heritage List as extension to the existing trilateral World Heritage property in 2017.

2 Zusammenfassung

Das Forschungs- und Entwicklungsvorhaben „Europäisches Welterbe Buchenwälder“ wurde aus Mitteln des Bundesministeriums für Umwelt, Naturschutz, Bau und Reaktorsicherheit finanziert und vom Bundesamt für Naturschutz (BfN) in Auftrag gegeben. Das Centre for Ecomics and Ecosystem Management (CEEM) an der Hochschule für nachhaltige Entwicklung in Eberswalde (HNEE) wurde mit der Durchführung des Projektes betraut.

Mit der Umsetzung dieses Vorhabens kommt Deutschland der Empfehlung nach, die das Welterbe Komitee im Jahr 2011 im Zusammenhang mit der Einschreibung der „Alten Buchenwälder Deutschlands“ als Erweiterung des Weltnaturerbes „Buchenurwälder der Karpaten (Slowakei, Ukraine) an die beteiligten Länder ausgesprochen hat. Es wurde empfohlen, mit Hilfe eines umfassenden Ansatzes das Potenzial für eine endgültige serielle Nominierung der europäischen Buchenwälder zu erforschen um den Schutz dieses einzigartigen Ökosystems zu gewährleisten.

Das Hauptziel des Vorhabens war die wissenschaftliche und organisatorische Unterstützung eines Prozesses auf Experten- und Regierungsebene, um eine serielle transnationale Erweiterungsnominierung zum bestehenden trilateralen Weltnaturerbe zu initiieren. Diese Erweiterungsnominierung soll die Geschichte des nacheiszeitlichen Ausbreitungsprozesses der Buchenwälder in Europa darstellen und die damit verbundene Vielfalt dieses Ökosystems im Hinblick auf das Vorkommen in unterschiedlichen Höhenstufen, unter verschiedenen klimatischen und standörtlichen Bedingungen und somit die daraus resultierende Vielfalt der unterschiedlichen Buchenwalgesellschaften in Europa abbilden.

Um dieses Ziel zu erreichen wurde in Zusammenarbeit mit einem umfangreichen Netzwerk von europäischen Experten ein Screening-Prozess geeigneter Buchenwaldgebiete durchgeführt. Dieser Prozess beinhaltete einen Bottom-up und einen Top-down Ansatz. Im Rahmen des Bottom-up Ansatzes meldeten die beteiligten Experten potenziell geeignete Buchenwaldgebiete, während durch den Top-down Ansatz die Buchenwälder Europas mittels einer räumlichen Analyse untersucht wurden. Mehr als 100 alte Buchenwaldgebiete wurden auf diese Weise identifiziert. Basierend auf einer gemeinsam abgestimmten Methode wurden diese Gebiete im Hinblick auf deren Potenzial, die Anforderungen für eine Erweiterungsnominierung zu erfüllen, analysiert. Diese Anforderungen beinhalten den Beitrag zum Außergewöhnlichen Universellen Wert (Outstanding Universal Value, OUV) nach Kriterium ix (andauernde ökologische Prozesse), die Integrität (Unversehrtheit) und den angemessenen Schutz sowie das geeignete Management der jeweiligen Flächen. Die Ergebnisse der Identifikation und Analyse der Buchenwaldgebiete wurden im Rahmen von drei internationalen Expertenworkshops schrittweise diskutiert und überarbeitet und durch weitere Forschungsarbeiten sowie intensive Kommunikation mit den Experten ergänzt. Insgesamt nahmen 58 Experten aus 20 Ländern an den Expertenworkshops teil.

Außerdem wurden die (Zwischen-) Ergebnisse des Vorhabens im Zusammenhang von drei Treffen auf Ebene der Abteilungsleiter für Natur(-schutz) und Biologische Vielfalt der jeweiligen Länderministerien vorgestellt, um den Prozess auf der

Entscheidungs-Ebene zu koordinieren und seine Fortführung nach dem Projekt zu sichern. Insgesamt beteiligten sich Vertreter aus 15 Ländern an diesen Treffen.

Das Gesamtergebnis des Vorhabens wurde durch eine finale Auswahl von 46 Kandidatenflächen für eine Erweiterungsnominierung zum bestehenden trilateralen Weltnaturerbe erreicht. Diese Auswahl stellt einen Vorschlag auf Expertenebene dar. Zudem wurde ein Entwurf für die Erklärung zum OUV für eine erweiterte, europäische Nominierung erarbeitet und ein Fahrplan für das weitere Vorgehen abgestimmt.

Die Vertreter der Abteilungen für Natur(schutz) und Biologische Vielfalt aus 14 Ländern bestätigten ihre Teilnahme an der Erweiterungsnominierung. Dieser Prozess wird von Österreich koordiniert. Der weitere Fahrplan zielt auf die Einschreibung der vorgeschlagenen Kandidatenflächen in die Welterbeliste als Erweiterung zum bestehenden trilateralen Weltnaturerbe im Jahr 2017 ab.

3 Background

In June 2011, the World Heritage Committee (WHC) approved the “Ancient Beech Forests of Germany” as extension to the “Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians, Slovakia and Ukraine” at the 35th session in Paris.

“The Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests of Germany” are a serial property comprising fifteen components. They represent an outstanding example of undisturbed, complex temperate forests and exhibit the most complete and comprehensive ecological patterns and processes of pure stands of European beech across a variety of environmental conditions. They contain an invaluable genetic reservoir of beech and many species associated and depend on these forest habitats” (WHC 2011).

In this context, the WHC commended the three State Parties to continue the process of and to assess the potential for a finite European nomination of primeval and ancient beech forests of Europe.

“[The WHC] commends the States Parties of Ukraine, Slovakia and Germany for their on-going commitment to ensure a comprehensive approach to conserving the primeval and ancient beech forests of Europe and for their exploration of the potential for the World Heritage Convention to further these efforts by cooperating with the support of IUCN and the World Heritage Centre, with other interested States Parties towards a finite serial transnational nomination in order to assure the protection of this unique forest ecosystem.” (WHC 2011).

Following this recommendation, the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) launched the Research and Development Project “European World Heritage Beech Forests” (05/2012-11/2014), (further hence “the project”), which was commissioned by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) and implemented by the Centre for Economics and Ecosystem Management (CEEM) at the Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development (HNEE).

The project built on the results of previous initiatives in Germany (three workshops “European beech forest initiative”, Isle of Vilm, starting in 2007; various publications on beech forests by BfN; three international workshops “Beech Forests – Joint Natural Heritage of Europe” Isle of Vilm, started in 2010) and therefore constituted the continuation as well as the consolidation of this process by providing an organisational and technical structure to achieve the goal of defining the scope of a possible finite European extension nomination to the existing trilateral World Heritage Property.

4 Project goals

The overall goal of the project was to facilitate and technically support the scientific, technical and organisational process of the preparation of a possible finite European extension nomination to the trilateral World Heritage property on expert and governmental level.

To achieve this goal, several activities were carried out:

- Definition of the scope of a potential finite serial World Heritage nomination of selected European beech forests as an extension of the existing trilateral property.
- Identification of potentially suitable candidate areas and comparative analysis of these in cooperation with a large (and steadily growing) network of experts from respective European countries. The analysis evaluated the selected areas regarding their potential to fulfil the criteria set out by the World Heritage Convention (OUV, integrity, protection and management).
- Organisation of a sequence of three expert meetings on European level to include experts on old-growth beech forests from respective European countries in the identification, evaluation and selection of suitable candidate areas.
- Organisation of three meetings of Ministerial representatives (Nature & Biodiversity Directors) from concerned European countries to ensure the coordination of the process on government level.
- Conduction of further preparatory activities aiming at the development of elements for possible a nomination dossier respectively a draft statement for the OUV of a possible finite European serial World Heritage property and further elements relevant for national Tentative Lists and a joint nomination dossier.

5 Methodology

The applied methodology consisted of a stepwise procedure comprising the identification and the analysis of ancient beech forest areas¹ with potential to be included as component parts in an extension nomination.

The screening for suitable beech forests was based on the combination of bottom-up and top-down approaches. Experts from relevant countries proposed and discussed potential areas in the context of expert workshops and through bilateral cooperation (bottom-up), (see 6.3). Additionally, European beech forests were analysed regarding their relative conservation value, which was based on available geodata (top-down). The identified ancient beech forest areas were further analysed according to certain criteria representing the requirements for inscription to the World Heritage List (OUV,

¹ Here, the term 'ancient beech forest areas' includes also primeval beech forest areas.

here: criterion ix, integrity and protection and management) and, (see 6.4). The results were also presented, discussed and jointly confirmed during the expert workshops. (Fig. 1)

In parallel the process was brought to the government level to assess the interest and willingness of the concerned State Parties to join a possible extension nomination with identified candidate areas on their territories.

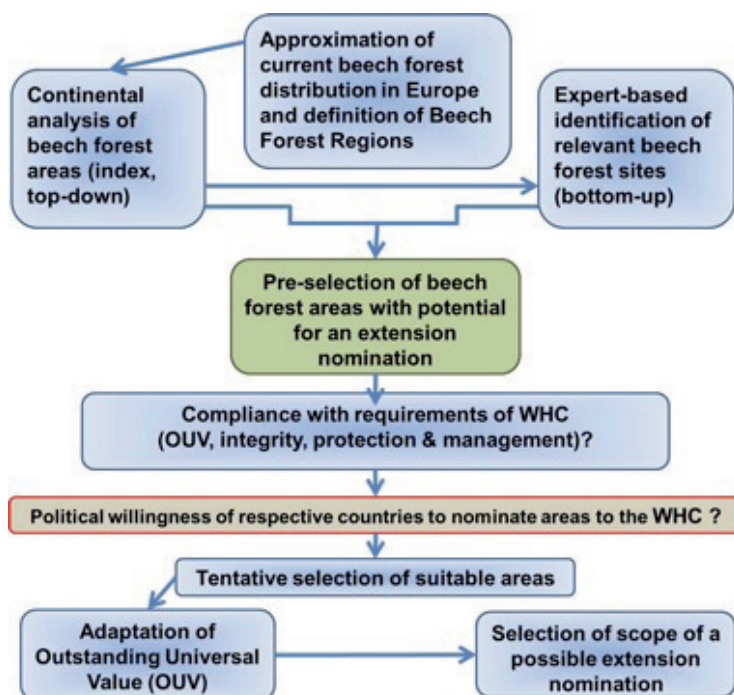


Figure 1: Methodology of the screening, evaluation and selection process

5.1 Current distribution of European beech forests

To assess the current beech forest distribution in Europe data were collected for all countries, which are currently containing beech forests according to the EU Tree Species Map² (Brus et al. 2011). Beech forests were mapped by identifying those broadleaved and mixed forests that are supposed to include a share of beech of at least 20% (according to Brus et al. 2011). The outcome was complemented by available data on beech forests of selected countries. A detailed description of the mapping methodology is provided in Appendix 9.

² Aland Islands, Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guernsey, Hungary, Ireland, Isle of Man, Italy, Jersey, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Vatican.

5.2 Definition of European Beech Forest Regions

The concept of dividing the European beech forest ecosystem in Beech Forest Regions (BFR) was achieved during the first expert workshop in the project (Beech Forests (4), Isle of Vilm, 2012) on the basis of the map of the Natural Vegetation of Europe, conducted by Bohn et al. (2004), the WWF Terrestrial Ecoregions (Olson et al. 2004), the species distribution of *Fagus sylvatica* (Welk 2008, Preston et al. 2003), the phytogeographical division of Europe (Jaeger et al. 2003) and several topographic maps. The aim of this approach was to regionalise the European beech forest distribution according to similar climate and soil characteristics as well as comparable ecosystem features (continental colonisation history and ecological homogeneity). The BFR concept served as structural framework for the further analysis of the identified ancient beech forest areas.

5.3 Identification of ancient beech forest areas and data collection

Based on the information matrix for potential beech forest sites, which was developed during a workshop on the Isle of Vilm in 2011, an information form was used to collect basic data on identified ancient beech forest areas in cooperation with the network of European experts. The information forms were sent to experts in the respective countries together with individual requests for geodata (Appendices 10 and 11).

In the framework of the three expert workshops organised within the project (Beech Forests, 4-6) the proposed sites were presented and discussed according to the requirements for the nomination to the World Heritage List. The expert workshop were held at different stages of the screening process and served as steps of selection of the most promising beech forest areas to be considered in the further extension nomination process. Additional activities contributed to the identification and evaluation of suitable sites: More detailed information was obtained through expert assessments, literature review (if available), and complementary desk studies and field research conducted by students.

Personal field observations from members of the project team in various BFRs were also taken into account – from regions where the respective team members are based: Alpic: Kirchmeir; Baltic: Ibsch, Knapp; and Atlantic: Hobson; and from several field trips: Albania: Hobson, Ibsch, Knapp (2009, 2013); Austria: Knapp (2013); Greece: Knapp (2014); Italy: Knapp, Waldherr (2012, 2014); Macedonia: Knapp (2013); Spain: Knapp (2014); Sweden: Knapp (2012); Slovakia and Ukraine: Hobson, Ibsch, Kirchmeir, Knapp (since 2003).

All in all more than 87 European beech forest experts contributed to the screening process by providing data and information and/or participating in the review process (Appendix 12).

5.4 Analysis of identified ancient beech forest areas

The identified ancient beech forest areas were comparatively analysed according to the requirements for the inscription to the World Heritage List. The key element for the inscription is the OUV, which is composed of three elements:

- Meeting the criteria (here: criterion ix³), additional value to the serial property
- Integrity (intactness, naturalness)
- Adequate protection and management

As the present World Heritage property is inscribed under criterion ix all possible additional components have to meet this criterion and further contribute an additional value to the OUV of the entire World Heritage property. Possible attributes, which could serve as additional values, were defined to justify the suggestion of candidate areas.

The integrity of the identified ancient beech forest areas was assessed according to the size of the proposed areas, their average stand age and the time without (forestry) use. The areas were then rated according to certain thresholds for the mentioned criteria.

A minimum average stand age of 150 years and the time out of forestry use longer than 99 years were rated with 1 point each. The thresholds for area size were adapted to the general situation of beech forests in the different BFRs. In BFRs, where only small old-growth beech forest areas remained (Pyrenaic-Iberian, Central Mediterranean, Illyric and Atlantic) a threshold of 99 ha was applied and for the other BFRs a threshold of 999 ha was used to rate the areas with 1 point. Areas, which did not fulfil the minimum area size requirement, could still be rated with 1 point, when the proposal included a very large buffer area size. A maximum of 3 points could be reached per beech forest area. However, as the necessary data and information for evaluation could not be obtained for all beech forest areas, the rating was not used as criteria for exclusion of areas but rather for identification and prioritisation of areas with high integrity values.

The prerequisite of adequate protection and management for the proposed areas is represented by the protection status according to IUCN category I/II (or equivalent) to guarantee a non-intervention regime as it is the case within the inscribed property.

Furthermore, the beech forest areas were assessed regarding their additional value, which they could potentially add to the serial property. Several elements for additional values were defined:

- The principal element of the OUV with regards to criterion ix is the representation of the on-going ecological process of the post-glacial beech forest expansion in Europe. In this context the additional value is given for

³ "... outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals" (WHC, 2013)

glacial refuge areas or areas, which represent stages of the post-glacial re-colonisation process.

- As this process has its origin in different refuge areas the representation of the genetic diversity of *Fagus sylvatica* – e.g. the intraspecific diversity and phylogenetic relations, which are indicated by isozyme groups according to Magri et al. (2006) – is also qualifying as additional value for possible candidate areas.
- Additional value can also be found concerning the spectrum of climatic adaptation of *Fagus sylvatica*, which is represented by beech forest areas in extreme climate regions or such areas, which occur along large altitudinal gradients.
- The inclusion of beech forests located at the geographical extremes of the European beech forest distribution is also considered an additional value, because these represent the entire spectrum of the ecosystems' occurrence in Europe.
- Furthermore, areas, which comprise a special diversity of site conditions and geo-morphological characteristics of beech forest communities (e.g. regarding bedrock material, soil conditions, outstanding landscape features) can bring an additional value to the serial World Heritage Property.
- Finally, superlatives of beech forests (e.g. oldest beech trees, largest areas, broadest altitudinal gradient, highest species diversity...) are also representing an additional value. However, this can only be used as an add-on.

For the assessment of the relative conservation value⁴ of the identified beech forest patches proxy indicators were combined as sub-indices to one overall index, based on the method presented by Freudenberger et al. (2012). Furthermore the Insensa-GIS software was applied to calculate the index and to conduct a statistical assessment of the results (Biber et al. 2011).

The parameters were organized in three sub-indices:

- Vegetation parameters (vegetation height and density) were used to assess the structural quality of the forest.
- The anthropogenic pressure was determined through the Human Footprint Index (e.g. roads, railroads and urban areas) and the population density to reflect the intensity of direct or indirect impact on beech forests.
- The connectivity of the beech forest patches was described by the ratio of patch area size and the (net) area of the surrounding Thiessen polygon, which represents the space that is closer to the forest patch in question than to any other patch. Additionally, an approximation of the size of the 'low-edge effect' forest patches, which do not suffer from direct matrix-related edge effects, was achieved by creating 100 m buffers within in the patches and calculating

⁴ The relative conservation value helps to describe the integrity of respective beech forests on the basis of the ecosystem functionality, which includes the vegetation height and density, the connectivity of an identified beech forest to the neighbouring beech forest (distance) and finally the degree of accessibility of a beech forest regarding human impact.

the area of the resulting polygon (if any remained). Through this approach the functionality and integrity of the beech forest patches could be assessed.

For the protection gap analysis the data from the World Database on Protected Areas (IUCN/UNEP 2013) were used to compare the coverage of the mapped beech forests to the different protected areas categories. All data were converted (re-projected) to the Geographic Coordinate System GCS_ETRS_1989, Projection: Lambert_Azimuthal_Equal_Area (LAEA), Datum: D_ETRS_1989. The detailed description of the sources and data processing are included in Appendix 13.

6 Project course and work flow

6.1 Project organisation

The project team consisted of a consortium, which included:

- The contracting entity (CEEM, HNEE):
 - Project lead: Prof. Dr. Pierre Ibisch (co-director CEEM)
 - Project coordination: M.Sc. Marcus Waldherr; replaced by Lena Strixner and Daniela Aschenbrenner during parental leave (07/08 2014)
 - GIS expert team: Prof. Dr. Jan-Peter Mund, M.Sc. Julia Sauermann, B.Sc. Monika Hoffmann
- The sub-contracting entity E.C.O. Institute for Ecology, Klagenfurt, Austria, represented by Dr. Hanns Kirchmeir.
- The scientific backstopping team, which included:
 - Prof. Dr. Ivan Vološćuk (Matej Bel University, Faculty of Nature Sciences, Institute of Landscape and Regional Research, Slovakia)
 - Manfred Grossmann (Director National park Hainich, Germany)
 - Prof. Dr. Fedir Hamor (Director Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, Ukraine)
 - Dr. Peter Hobson (co-director CEEM; Writtle College, United Kingdom)
- The project advisory group (PAG), represented by the project commissioning and financing entities:
 - Barbara Engels (BfN, contracting entity)
 - Nicola Breier (BMUB)
 - Prof. Dr. Hannes Knapp (BfN)

6.2 Project procedure

The project built on two international meetings on beech forests as a joint natural heritage of Europe, which had been held on the Isle of Vilm in 2010 and 2011 (Knapp & Fichtner 2011, Fichtner et al. 2011), before the project began.

The project started shortly before the third **international expert workshop** took place in **Soriano nel Cimino and Villavallelonga, Italy in June 2012**. In the framework of this workshop the project and its foreseen methodology and roadmap

(Figure 2) were presented to the network of beech forest experts, who were already involved in the process.

Time frame		Identification of potentially suitable areas	3 Workshops On expert level	3 Meetings on Nature & Biodiversity directors level
2012	May to September	Collection of data and information		
	October		I	
2013	2. Quarter	Data analysis, specific expert reports		
	September		II	
	November	Shortlist and description of candidate sites		I
2014	1. Quarter		III	II
	3. Quarter			III

Figure 2: Project procedure

From this point of time onwards the identification of suitable ancient beech forest areas and the collection of relevant data and information were coordinated by the project (in close cooperation with BfN). Together with the workshop documentation (see Appendix 1) an information form was sent to the participating experts with the request to provide the respective data and information on identified ancient beech forest areas to the project team. Additionally, further experts, who were not yet involved in the process, were addressed to include further regional expertise. For this purpose a project information document was developed and sent to respective experts to inform about the project and the foreseen roadmap of the process (see Appendix 2).

The first **expert workshop** organised by the project took place on the **Isle of Vilm in October 2012** (see Appendix 3). During this workshop the group of participating experts jointly agreed on the proposed methodology for the screening process. Furthermore the presentation of further proposals by experts from concerned countries was continued, existing information gaps could be partly closed and a first selection round of areas that should be included in the analysis was realised. Moreover, the European Beech Forest Regions (BFR) were defined and a first draft of the statement of OUV of a possible finite European nomination was discussed.

Following to this workshop an up-dated list of proposed ancient beech forest areas was sent to the network of beech forest experts together with the request for still missing data and information.

The next step of the identification process included further desk studies and intensive communication with involved experts to identify further ancient beech forest areas and to close information gaps.

In this context **synergies with further research activities** (HNEE/DAAD, HNEE/GOPA)⁵ benefited the project. Junior researchers from Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro, who accomplished internships at the CEEM/HNEE were involved in the desk studies and contributed with regional expertise to the collection of information on ancient beech forests in these countries. Another activity in the context of investigating the situation of beech forests in Albania included a group of students from the HNEE, who conducted field research at candidate sites for several months.

Additionally, several **expert assessments** on those BFRs where the largest information gaps existed (Atlantic, Illyric, Moesian-Balcanic and Polonic-Podolic-Moldovan) were sub-contracted to experts from the scientific backstopping team. Complementary to these activities, personal observations made by members of the scientific backstopping team during site visits completed the state of knowledge on identified beech forest areas.

The interim results of the screening process and the criteria for the analysis of identified ancient beech forests were presented to the group of experts and jointly revised and agreed upon during the second **expert workshop** (Appendix 4), which took place in **Rakhiv, Ukraine, in September 2013**. The main achievement of this workshop was a preliminary list ("*Rakhiv Short List*") of candidate areas to be included in an extension nomination. Moreover the draft statement of the OUV of a possible finite nomination was further developed, several information gaps were closed and draft descriptions for additional values of preselected candidate areas were defined. However, several information gaps still existed and corresponding requests for additional data and information were sent to the expert network following to the workshop.

The process was brought to government level in the framework of the **first meeting of Nature and Biodiversity directors in Bonn, in November 2013**. Representatives of the participating State Parties were highly interested in participating in the process, and in the case of Austria and Poland the participation in a possible extension nomination was confirmed (see Appendix 5).

The **third and final workshop on expert level** took place in **April 2014 in Vienna**. Within this workshop the participating experts jointly revised the "*Rakhiv Short List*" and a final list of candidate areas ("*Vienna Short List*") to be considered for the extension nomination process was agreed (see Appendix 6). This selection is a proposal on expert level, which was presented to the representatives of the

⁵ In the context of another project conducted by the CEEM/HNEE (funded by the German Academic Exchange Service, DAAD) with three universities in Montenegro, Albania and Kosovo three interns from the respective countries had the chance to be included in the project. Furthermore a group of five students from HNEE conducted field research in Albanian beech forests in the framework of their internships with GOPA Consulting Group.

respective Ministries of concerned State Parties in the framework of the **second and third meeting of Nature and Biodiversity directors in May 2014 and in October 2014 in Bonn** (see Appendices 7 and 8). After the final meeting the representatives of 14 State Parties had confirmed their high interest in participating in the further extension nomination process and agreed on the foreseen roadmap and Austria.

7 Results

7.1 Current distribution of European beech forests

The first result of the study comprises an up-dated map of the current beech forest distribution in Europe (Fig 2). This map revealed the potential scope of a finite European nomination. The remaining beech forests in Europe cover an area of slightly more than 217.000 km², which is less than one third of the potential beech forest cover of approximately 907.000 km² according to Bohn et al. (2003).

7.2 European Beech Forest Regions

The group of experts agreed on the final definition of 12 European Beech Forest Regions (BFR) during the first expert workshop in the project, which was the second principal outcome of the project and a prerequisite for the further analysis.

The beech forest distribution on the northern range of the Iberian Peninsula – mainly in the Pyrenees, and a few isolated beech forest islands on the Iberian plateau represent the **Pyrenaic-Iberian BFR**. The beech forests in this region are characterised by extreme climatic conditions (low precipitation rates, high temperatures). With regards to the history of post-glacial expansion the beech forest in the Pyrenaic-Iberian BFR originated on the one hand from glacial refuge areas in the Pyrenees and on the other hand via the continental colonisation route from the East. These beech forest communities comprise the South-westernmost limit of beech forest occurrence in Europe and are considered important reference areas in the context of climate change and increasing aridity. (Schwendtner 2012)

The **Central Mediterranean BFR** is mainly presented in Italy, including a small area in South-eastern France. It includes the southernmost beech forest occurrence of the European beech forest distribution range – in Sicily and contains glacial refuge areas that were the origin of the beech forest expansion on the Italian peninsula. Moreover the relict beech forests, which are located further in the North of this region, were involved in the beech forest colonisation of Central Europe.

The **Illyric BFR** covers Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. It includes the most important starting point for the beech forest colonisation of Central Europe from key relict beech forest areas (Willner et al. 2009, Magri et al. 2006).

The **Moesian-Balcanic BFR** comprises a great diversity of beech forest communities. It covers the countries Montenegro, Albania, Kosovo, southern Serbia, Macedonia and Bulgaria. The eastern beech forests are considered a transition zone to the Euxinic BFR and include an intermediate form between *Fagus sylvatica* and *Fagus orientalis*, which has been described as *Fagus moesiaca*. (Panek, 2012)

The **Sub-Atlantic-Hercynic BFR** represents the core area of beech distribution in Western Europe dominated by lowland plains and smaller mountain ranges. Due to rather favourable environmental conditions and relatively rich soils, in the course of history, most forests have been replaced by agro-ecosystems. The region with a relatively dense human population shows beech forest remnants mostly refined to mountain regions. The area was important for the spread of beech forests by presenting important corridors and stepping-stones towards the Atlantic and the Baltic regions.

The **Alpic BFR** is presented in most parts of Austria, Switzerland and Northern Italy. With respect to the history of post-glacial beech forest distribution it represents a main gateway for the colonisation of Central Europe and eastern and western Alps. It was probably the starting point of the colonisation of the Carpathians together with glacial relict areas in the Illyric BFR. This BFR includes the last remnants of old-growth mountain beech forests in Europe (Knapp 2012).

The **Pannonic** Plain was also defined as a BFR in its own right despite the fact that most of the region would be naturally beech-free representing beech forests just at island-like sites with special environmental conditions.

The **Carpathian BFR** includes the largest, well-connected and intact beech forest ecosystems in Europe. Romania contains the majority of this BFR, followed by Slovakia, Ukraine and Poland. The colonisation of the Carpathians by beech forests after the last glacial period originated most likely from Northwest (originating in the Illyric BFR) and from smaller refuge areas in the southern part of the region (Magri et al. 2006).

The **Atlantic BFR** is characterised by a temperate climate with mild winters and high precipitation throughout the year. The major parts of this region are presented in France and the United Kingdom, and with a smaller share in Belgium and the Netherlands and western Denmark (Hermy 2011). Here, the North-westernmost limit of beech forest distribution is found in the South of the United Kingdom (UK). In the context of climate change impacts this BFR is a very important reference area as a northwards range shift of beech forests is expected, as warmer and drier summers are predicted for the South of UK (Norris et al. 2011).

The **Baltic BFR** is presented in North-eastern Germany, southern Sweden, eastern Denmark and in northern Poland. It includes “younger” beech forests at the northern distribution limit and is important in the context of a northward extension of the beech forest distribution under changing climate conditions. *Fagus sylvatica* reached Denmark about 2,500 years BC (Heilmann-Clausen 2011) and started to form forest communities in southern Sweden about 1,500 years BC (Brunet & Fritz 2011).

The **Polonic-Podolic-Moldovan BFR** represents the eastern distribution limit of *Fagus sylvatica* and is ranging from northern Moldova along the eastern edges of the Carpathian mountain range through Ukraine and southern Poland. The region is characterised by a continental climate. The expansion of beech forests towards further East is limited by colder climate conditions including late frost events.

The **Euxinic BFR** is situated at the eastern edge of the distribution areal of *Fagus*. Crimea peninsula is characterised by the occurrence of a somewhat distinct form of beech, which originally had been suggested as a proper species *Fagus taurica*. In other parts of the region (Panek 2012), *Fagus orientalis* is recorded, which recently

proved to be genetically very close to *Fagus sylvatica* and possibly does not represent a distinct species. Definitely, the Euxinic BFR stretches out into Asia, and represents areas where beech occurred for a long time, being less disturbed by consequences of the Ice age cooling.

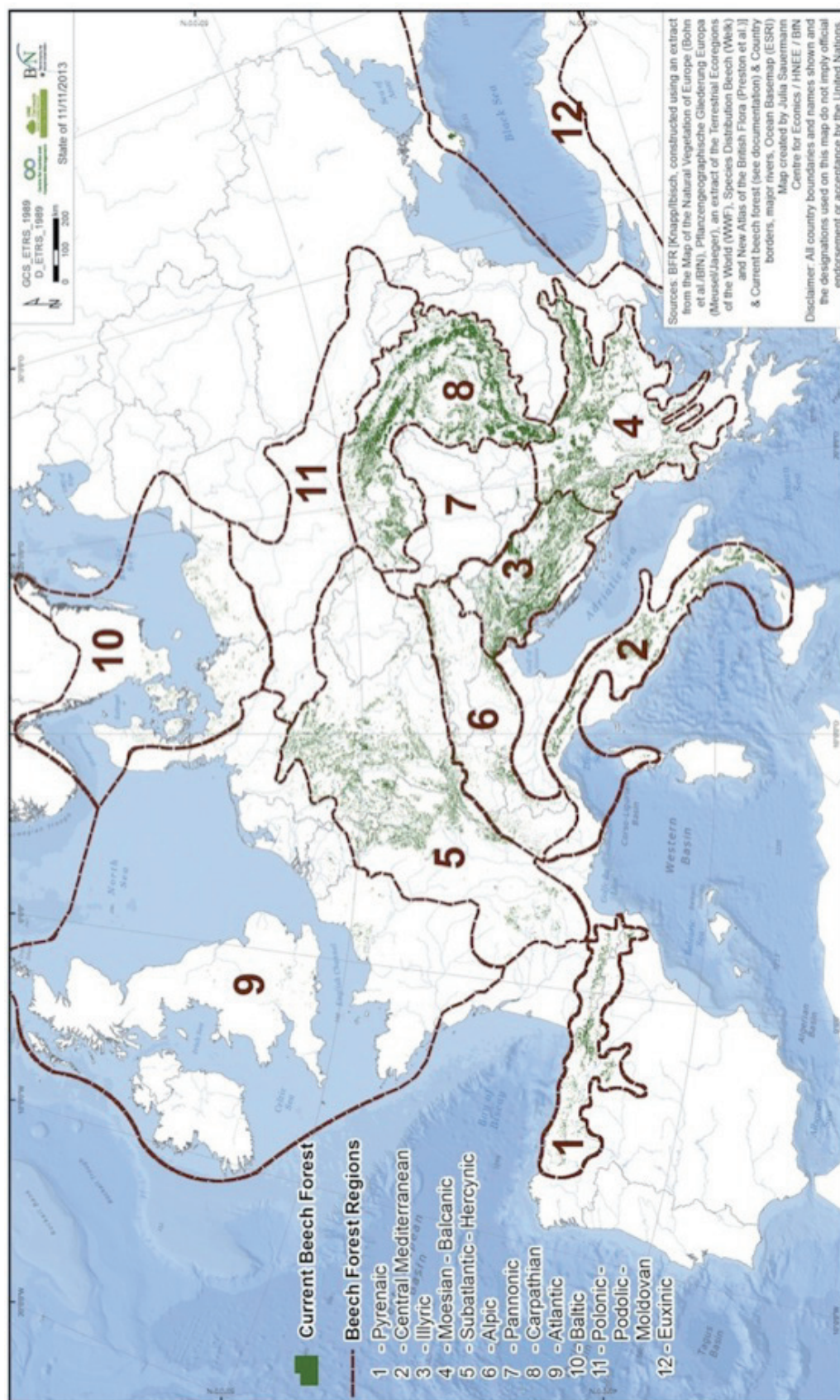


Figure 4: Current beech forest distribution in Europe and Beech Forest Regions

7.3 Identification and analysis of ancient beech forest areas

The screening process, which was on-going throughout the project lifetime resulted in a final selection of 100 identified ancient beech forest areas, which are distributed in 22 countries across all 12 BFRs (Initially a larger number of beech forests were proposed, but very small areas (< 20 ha) were not considered for the further evaluation.

The further analysis of the relative conservation value of the identified ancient beech forest areas revealed that current beech forests and also high-conservation value beech forests (with relatively dense and high vegetation, low anthropogenic pressures, and large, well-connected patches) are especially concentrated in four BFRs: Carpathian, Moesian-Balcanic, Sub-Atlantinc-Hercynic and Illyric – which accounts for 83% of the European beech forest distribution. The Carpathian BFR includes 32% of the European beech forest distribution. The total area of remnant beech forests in the Sub-Atlantinc-Hercynic region is also considerably large, but the forest patches are comparatively small and not well connected. The beech forests in the Atlantic and the Baltic BFRs are poorly developed (see Figure 5).

In addition to the spatial analysis the results of regional expert assessments findings from complementary research activities were taken into consideration for the analysis of the identified ancient beech forest areas. The corresponding reports are included in Appendices 20 and 21.

A stepwise selection process led to a final list “Vienna Short List” of 46 candidate areas, distributed across 12 BFR and 20 countries, which represent an expert suggestion for the scope of an extension nomination to the existing World Heritage property.

Appendix 14 provides the matrix of identified ancient beech forest areas including the evaluation per BFR and the Vienna Short List.

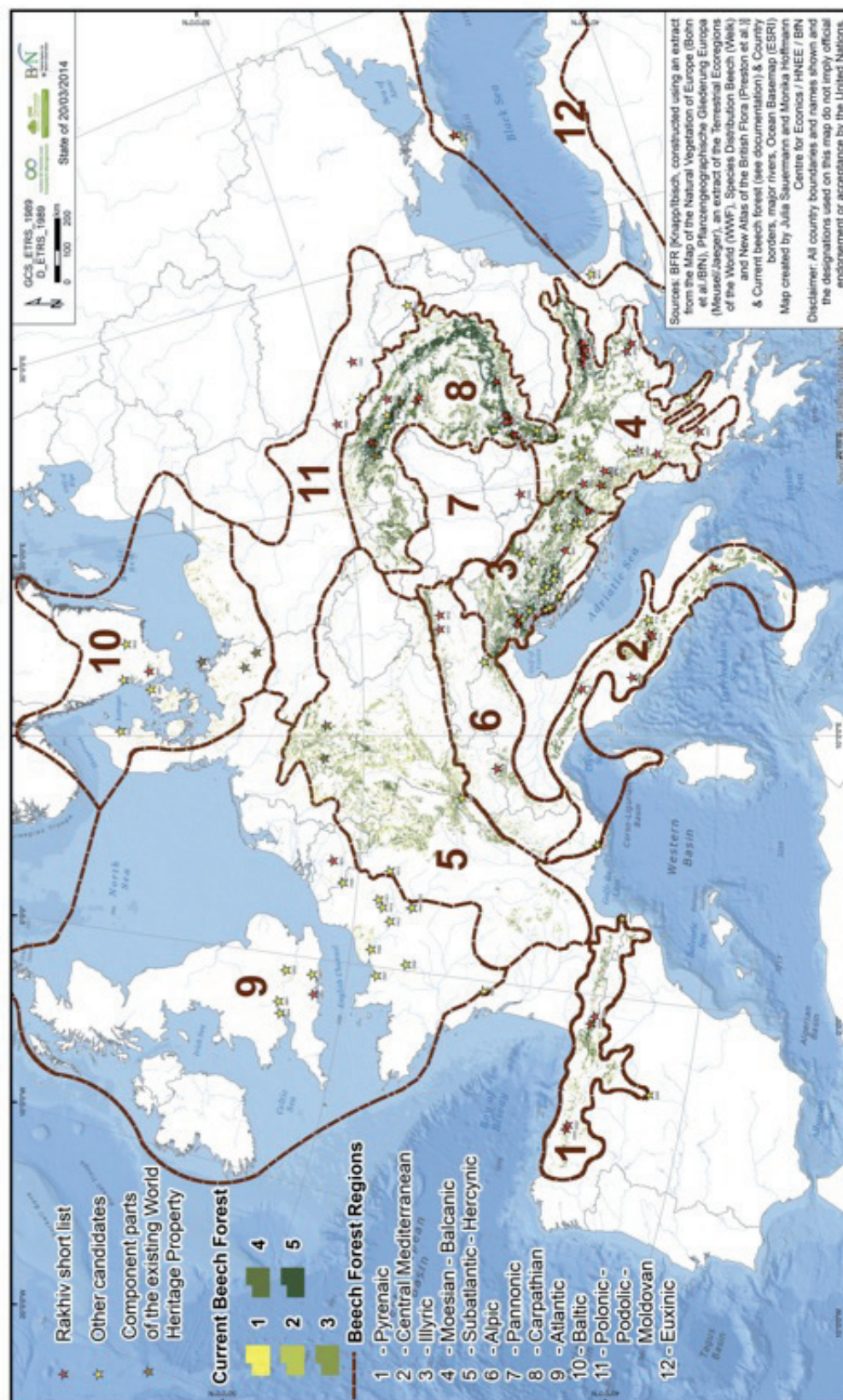


Figure 5: Current beech forest distribution (relative conservation value index), BFRs and identified ancient beech forest areas

7.4 Feedback from government level

The stages of the process on the level of Nature and Biodiversity directors (including the final statements of confirmation of participating in the further extension process) and information about the responsible contact persons for the further process in the respective countries is provided in Appendix 15.

In the 3rd meeting on 29th October in Bonn, representatives from Albania, Belgium, Croatia, Italy, Romania, Slovenia and Spain confirmed that they would participate in the further extension nomination process. Austria has already confirmed to participate and to lead the nomination process during the previous meeting in May 2014. Representatives from Macedonia, Montenegro and Poland already have confirmed their participation in the previous meetings. Furthermore, high interest in participating in the extension nomination was expressed by representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina (May 2014, Bonn) and Greece (during further communication). The willingness to participate in the process was also confirmed by representatives from Kosovo – however, the technical requirements with regards to the ratification of the World Heritage Convention have to be achieved before. The final decision about the participation of Bulgaria will be taken next year. The interest in participating in the extension nomination was stated by representatives from Switzerland (May 2014, Bonn) but necessary procedures on national level will not allow meeting the agreed roadmap.

There was no further feedback from Serbia (although the interest in participation was expressed during the meeting in November 2013 in Bonn), Sweden and United Kingdom.

The representatives of the State Parties who comprise the existing trilateral World Heritage Property agreed to the foreseen nomination process – it was stated that Ukraine will also nominate a number of candidate areas.

The next steps in the further process foresee the joint submission of national Tentative Lists (until the end of January 2015) by the participating State Parties. The Austrian Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management will commission the coordination of the preparation of the national Tentative Lists and the elaboration of the nomination dossier to the Environment Agency Austria and ECO.

7.5 Technical elements for the nomination process

Further results of the project comprise technical elements, which will support the nomination process. This includes a draft statement for the OUV of a finite European nomination, which is necessary to fill in the Tentative Lists and the nomination dossier (7.5.1). Moreover a template of the Tentative List with common text paragraphs to be used by all participating State Parties was agreed (7.5.2). Finally, candidate area fact sheets are included. These provide area specific information that

is necessary for the completion of the national Tentative Lists and respective chapters of the nomination dossier (7.5.3).

7.5.1 Draft Statement OUV

The present statement of the OUV of the trilateral World Heritage Property of beech forests was revised and further developed during the project. While the principle element of the OUV regarding criterion ix remained unchanged, several proposed additions were agreed on, which reflect the high diversity, the adaptive capacity and the complete representation of the post-glacial expansion process of the entire European beech forest ecosystem. Additions included the recognition of mixed beech forests, the inclusion of glacial refuge areas as well as ancient beech forests in regions, which were “recently” colonised.

The final version of the draft statement of the OUV is included in Appendix 16. As it is a working document and will be further developed in the nomination process it is additionally provided in Word-format.

7.5.2 Tentative List – common text parts

The next step of the foreseen process includes the joint submission of the national Tentative Lists to the World Heritage Commission by the participating State Parties. As it is a serial extension nomination, several paragraphs, which are addressing the entire World Heritage property, have to be identical in each national Tentative List.

The final version of the common text paragraphs that all State Parties who will participate in the foreseen nomination process have to include in their national Tentative List is provided in Appendix 17.

7.5.3 Candidate area fact sheets

For each of the selected candidate areas a fact sheet was compiled, which includes information about the areas that is necessary to fill in the national Tentative List and further serves as a basis for the nomination dossier. The information is structured according to the requirements of the Operational Guidelines for compiling the Tentative List and the nomination dossier.

The availability of resources, data and information revealed a high heterogeneity, with the result that the candidate area fact sheets in some cases do not contain all the information needed for completing the nomination dossier. For instance the availability of geodata reflecting the final zonation (nominated area and buffer) was not given in some cases. Zonation still has to be discussed and finally decided upon (and produced) in the further process for several candidate areas. The fact sheets are included in Appendix 18.

8 Recommendations for the further process

In the context of the continuation of the on-going extension nomination process (under the lead of Austria), the following recommendations are made:

- It is recommended to start as soon as possible to communicate with designated country experts regarding the collection of further information on the candidate areas – especially in those countries, where the data and information gaps could not be entirely closed. In many cases further literature is available in national languages, which should be included in the preparation of the nomination dossier.
- It has to be taken into account that the technical capacity for achieving the zonation in the form of corresponding geodata might not be sufficient in some countries – in this case technical assistance has to be provided.

Apart from the further process towards an extension nomination it is recommended to conduct a study of the management system of the present World Heritage Property with regards to expected challenges resulting from the planned extension. A finite European World Heritage Property could potentially include up to 15 countries and a maximum of 60 components, which would imply a further development of the present management system.

In addition to the achievement of a finite European World Heritage nomination of the best remaining beech forests in Europe the objective of implementing a European Beech Forest Network should be pursued by all means. The collection of identified ancient beech forest areas is considered very valuable and none of these areas should be lost. Although the majority of these beech forests do not meet the criteria of a World Heritage, their conservation could be significantly strengthened by the implementation of a European Beech Forest Network. In an ecological sense these areas are also representing important refuge islands and stepping stones for many European species.

It has been recognised throughout the entire process that a selection of the most suitable candidate areas for an extension nomination will include the “best” of the remaining ancient beech forests, which are able to fulfil the requirements for inscription to the World Heritage List. The majority of the identified beech forests cannot be part of this serial nomination.

However, it was agreed that in addition to the goal of achieving a finite European nomination of the best remaining examples of beech forests, a European beech forest network should be established. Such a network would comprise a large number of protected areas mainly dedicated to (old-growth) beech forest conservation. It would be more than a network of experts, but could represent a framework for communication and cooperation with regards to the exchange of scientists, practitioners, exchange of best practise examples, knowledge and experience, and for the implementation of joint activities. It would be a network that

could come up with a continental strategy for the conservation of old beech forests, guiding action of protected areas as well as silviculture and sustainable forestry.

On the basis of the Matrix of identified ancient beech forest areas (and such beech forests, which were not included in the evaluation) a corresponding list of suitable protected areas in Europe is provided in Appendix 19.

9 References

The scientific articles, further sources and data used (and produced) are also included in pdf-format in the complementary material (CD-ROM).

The results of the project regarding the distribution of beech forests in Europe the definition of Beech Forest Regions and the assessment of the conservation value are foreseen to be published in a scientific article. Before submission the corresponding draft will be provided to BfN for consultation.

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DECREE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

no. 568

Issued on 12th November 2014

to the Analysis of the Social and Financial Situation of the Districts of Prešov, Humenné, Medzilaborce, Snina and Stropkov and the Proposal for Social and Economic Improvement

Document no.: 40882/2014

Submitted by: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance

The Government

A. hereby acknowledges:

A.1. the Analysis of the Social and Financial Situation of the districts of Prešov, Humenné, Medzilaborce, Snina and Stropkov and the Proposal for Social and Economic Improvement

B. Orders

the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance

- B.1. to release € 2,200,000 from the chapter entitled General Treasury Management for Activities Improving the Social and Economic Situation of the Districts of Prešov, Humenné, Medzilaborce, Snina and Stropkov, as stated in the annex hereto, in accordance with art. 3 of Decree no. 26825/2005–441 of the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic.
until 28th November 2014;
- B.2. to present information concerning the fulfillment of tasks resulting from the decree approved at the external government meeting held on 12th November 2014, in cooperation with the Chief Officer of Prešov County
until 31st March 2016;

the Minister of Transport, Construction and Regional Development

- B.3. to provide financial coverage from EU resources and start the construction of the D1 motorway: sections Prešov west - Prešov south and Budimír - Bidovce
until 31st December 2015;
- B.4. to ensure a construction permit for the R4 motorway - the northern bypass of Prešov
until 31st October 2015;
- B.5. to start the public procurement procedure for the delivery of the documentation required for the EIA and the territorial development decision pertaining to motorway R4, in the segment Kapušany - Slovak/Polish border
until 31st March 2015;
- B.6. to include elaboration of the documentation required for the application for construction permit for road segment I/74 Brekov - Humenné in the Slovak Road Administration investment plan
until 30th June 2015;
- B.7. to include elaboration of the documentation required for the application for the translocation permit for road segment I/74 Snina - Kolonica in the Slovak Road Administration investment plan
until 30th June 2015;
- B.8. to ensure the start of the following construction works:
 - a) construction and security measures aimed at decreasing accident figures on European route E371, road segment I/73 Šarišský Štiavnik – Hunkovce;
 - b) reconstruction of road segment I/77 Smilno – Svidník;
 - c) construction and security measures on A-roads in Prešov county, on road segment I/73 Lipníky – Gíraltovce;

- d) Road segment I/18 Prešov, intersection Levočská - Obrancov mieru, bridge;
- e) Road segment I/68 Prešov Východná, intersection;
- f) Road segment I/18 Prešov, intersection Lubotice;
- g) Road segment I/68 Prešov, bypass intersection Solivarská;
- h) Road segment I/77 - Bardejov, south-western bypass
until 31st December 2015;

the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

- B.9. to improve the position of young people in the employment market - employment seekers in the competence of the District Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Prešov, Humenné and Stropkov - by means of the project entitled „By Experience to Employment“ and provide finances amounting to at least € 3.7 million for its implementation to cover the expenses of employers creating new positions in order to perform mentored employment and provide employment experience to young people up to 29 years of age in Prešov County
until 31st March 2015 and onwards;

the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs

the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior

the Minister of Economy

- B.10. to use the input of the representatives of the district of Snina concerning specific forms of corporation and joint projects with Ukraine in the region when preparing the sessions of the following: the Slovak-Ukrainian Intergovernmental Commission for Economic, Industrial, Scientific and Technical Cooperation, the Slovak-Ukrainian Intergovernmental Commission for Cross-Border Cooperation and the Slovak-Ukrainian Intergovernmental Commission for Ethnic Minorities, Education and Culture.
until 31st December 2015;

the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs

the Minister of Transport, Construction and Regional Development

the Minister of Economy

- B.11. to intensify the promotion of attractive touristic destinations of Prešov County and its investment potential in the field of economic diplomacy and promotion of the Slovak Republic abroad
until 31st December 2015

the Minister of Environment

- B.12. to cooperate in the field of providing the citizens with potable water and sewage treatment in the municipalities Prešov County, in accordance with the requirements of the respective municipalities, depending on the amount of finances available in this chapter and in accordance with the specified rules and regulations for the provision of support
until 31st December 2015;

the Minister of Economy

- B.13. to initiate seeking strategic investors by means of the Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency and seek support possibilities for the existing manufacturing plants located in the Prešov County districts.
until 31st December 2015
- B.14. to cooperate in creating conditions required for investments in the power distribution network of the Eastern-Slovakian Power Distribution Co., Inc. in Prešov County to increase the reliability and quality of power distribution and to provide sufficient power capacity for the development of small and mid-size enterprises and to sustain the civil engineering infrastructure.
until 31st December 2015

the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Interior

- B.15. to provide € 5 million to Prešov County as part of the project improving the intervention capacities of the Slovak Republic in cases of catastrophic situations and the refurbishment project of the Slovak Voluntary Firefighting Forces
until 31st December 2015;

the Minister of Health

- B.16. to support the exchange of windows on the main pavilion of the Prešov University Hospital to cut energy losses and refurbish the barrier-free entry at the main hospital building in accordance with the Annex to the present Decree
until 31st December 2015

the Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sportu

- B.17. to support the exploitation of scientific, development and educational potential of the University of Prešov in the region to implement social and economic improvement proposals in Prešov County
until 31st December 2015
- B.18. to cooperate with Prešov County, Prešov city and the University of Prešov in the erection of a sports and congress centre for the needs of the county, the city and the university
until 31st December 2015;

Minister of Culture

- B.19. to support the implementation of the project entitled „Refurbishment of the salt warehouse in the Prešov Solivar salt production facility“ in corporation with the Slovak Technical Museum in Košice
until 30th September 2015;

the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development

- B.20. to ensure the refurbishment of the forest road segments Starina water reservoir - Ruské (18 km) and Ruské - Ruské sedlo mountain pass (6 km)
until 31st December 2015;
- B.21. to perform the necessary steps to create conditions for employment rate increases in the field of agriculture in the region by supporting small farms, young farmers and family farms
until 30th September 2015;

the Head of the Government Office of the Slovak Republic

- B.22. to support organisations and municipalities of Prešov County financially in the field of conserving, expressing, protecting and developing identity and cultural values of ethnic minorities, ethnic minority rights education, promotion of inter-ethnic and inter-cultural dialogue and understanding between the majority and the ethnic minorities / groups, in accordance with amended Act no. 524 / 2010 Coll. on the provision of subventions in the competence of the Government Office of the Slovak Republic
onwards;

C. recommends**the Chief Officer of Prešov County**

- C.1. to co-operate with the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Finances in the preparation of the information stated in par. B.2 of the present Decree
until 31st March 2016;

the Rector of the Prešov University

- C.2. to cooperate with the Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sports in the fulfilment of tasks specified in paragraphs B.17 and B.18 of the present Decree
until 31st December 2015;

To be executed by: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs
Minister of Transport, Construction and Regional Development
Minister of Environment
Minister of Economy
Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family
Minister of Culture
Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport
Minister of Health
Head of the Government Office of the Slovak Republic

To be notified: Chairman of Prešov county
Rector of the Prešov University
Mayor of Prešov

Town/city/county/other recipient as the owner	Goal	€
Brekov	Exchange of the windows of the community centre	7 100
Gruzovce	Exchange of the windows, doors, floors and refurbish the outer walls of the community centre	6 400
Humenné	Construction of a barrier-free entry into the pedestrian underpass at the railway and coach station	14 000
Humenné	Exchange of the windows on the building of the nursery school in Lesná street	20 400
Košarovce	Erection of bus stops	2 300
Koškovce	Refurbishment of the car park in front of the health centre	10 500
Myslina	Refurbishment of the floor in the front part and in the kitchen of the community centre	9 500
Nižná Sitnica	Refurbishment of the fire station	10 000
Slovenská Volová	Desiccation of the community centre	6 700
Turcovce	Construction of an access road to the funeral home	7 900
Udavské	Erection of bus stops	6 500
Závada	Refurbishment of the municipal public address system	5 000
J.A. Reiman University Hospital and Health Care Center Hollého 14, 081 81 Prešov, Organisation ID: 00610577	Exchange of the windows and construction of a barrier-free entry in the main pavilion building	350 000
Prešov County	Erection of a training and sports hall with an ice skating rink for primary and secondary school students as well as the broad public, as a joint effort of the County and a private entity	200 000
Belá nad Cirochou	Erection of a street lighting system	5 000
Brezovec	Refurbishment of the outer walls and plastering of the community centre	7 500
Čukalovce	Refurbishment of the funeral home	3 000
Dlhé nad Cirochou	Renovation of the obsolete heating system in the community centre	8 000
Dúbrava, okres Snina, 067 73 Dúbrava č. 46, Organisation ID: 00322946	Refurbishment of the municipal public address system	5 500
Hrabová Roztoka	Refurbishment of the interior of the community centre	4 800
Kalná Roztoka	Final construction stage of the thermal insulation of the primary school building	9 400
Greco-catholic Church, parish of Klenová, Klenová č. 101, Organisation ID: 31994822	Refurbishment of a national monument - refurbishment of the roof, outer walls and fencing around the temple of St. John the Baptist in the village of Kalná Roztoka (the seat of the parish is in Klenová, the village of Kalná Roztoka belongs to the parish of Klenová)	14 550
Klenová	Exchange of the windows and entrance doors of the community centre	9 000
Kolbasov	Refurbishment of the community centre	7 000
Kolonica	Refurbishment of the municipal public address system	7 000
Michajlov	Refurbishment of the interior of the community centre	8 000
Nová Sedlica	Refurbishment of the historical primary school building	7 800
Osadné	Erection of a funeral home	8 500
Parihuzovce	Refurbishment of the access road to the cemetery	6 000
Pichne	Refurbishment of the nursery school building	8 500
Príslop	Maintenance and repair works of the community centre	7 000
Runina	Refurbishment of the municipal public address system	5 500

Ruská Volová	Thermal insulation, reparation of the outer walls and exchange of doors on the community centre	6 500
Ruský Potok	Exchange windows and doors of the community centre	8 000
Greco-catholic Church, parish Snina-mesto, Pčolinská 2714/42, 069 01 Snina Organisation ID: 31951210	Renovation and refurbishment of the fence of the greco-catholic parish at the greco-catholic temple of the Mother of Constant Help, the parish office building and the pastoralization premises - Snina-mesto	3 000
Professional in-college secondary school in Snina (Ul.Palárikova 1602/1, 069 01 Snina) Organisation ID: 00520624	Erection of a corridor	23 00
Orthodox congregation in Snina (Ul. Sládkovičová 366/70, 069 01 Snina) Organisation ID: 31987761	Erection of the fence around the orthodox temple of Ascension of Jesus Christ, construction of access walkways and pavement around the building	4 000
Snina	Refurbishment of the city sports hall, Vihorlatská č. 1426	443 000
Greco-catholic church, parish of Snina-Brehy, (Ul. Komenského 2658/8, 069 01 Snina) Organisation ID: 42076145	Finalization of the construction works on the temple consecrated to the martyr Vasil' Hopko in Snina-Brehy	5 000
Stakčín	Thermal insulation of the gym and corridor at the Joint Primary and Nursery School in Stakčín, (ul. SNP č.412, 067 61 Stakčín)	54 000
Stakčín	Renovation of the community centre kitchen	12 000
Stakčínska Roztoka	Erection of bus stops	7 000
Strihovce	Refurbishment of the outer walls and plastering of the community centre	4 000
Šmigovec	Erection of bus stops	6 000
Greco-catholic Church, parish of Ubľa (Ubľa 175) Organisation ID: 31994580	Refurbishment of the national monument greco-catholic church of St. Michael in Ubľa	10 000
Ubľa	Refurbishment of the Joint Primary School and Nursery School in Ubľa (č. 120, 067 73 Ubľa), pavilions SO01, SO03, SO04 and SO05, walkways and concrete surfaces	100 000
Ubľa	Refurbishment of the district health centre building (067 73 Ubľa č. 119)	60 000
Ubľa	Public active outdoor activity centre – erection of an easily accessible sports centre with training machines, in a public area, for pensioners and people of all ages. The erection shall take place at a publicly accessible venue, on lot no. CKN 429/12 (property of the municipality of Ubľa).	15 000
Ulič	Refurbishment and energy-efficiency improvement of the district health centre (067 67 Ulič č. 134)	40 000
Orthodox congregation, parish of Zboj (Zboj č. 260) Organisation ID: 31987869	Repair of the vaulted wooden double entry door, construction of the interlocking pavement around the temple of the Holy Ghost / Holy Trinity in Zboj	15 000
Association of Municipalities of Ulič Valley Microregion in Zboj (067 67 Zboj č. 98). Organisation ID: 36163015	Salvation of the monuments of Rusyns related to the cult of St. Cyril and St. Method in the district of Snina, refurbishment of precious 17th - 19th century episcopal books written in Old Church Slavonic language and orthodox icons located in wooden orthodox temples, creation of a replica of the Ostožnický sheepskin rolls.	50 000
Zboj	Flood protection works by the amendment of the basin of the Bigovský brook, flowing through the municipality of Zboj, construction stage I (existing landslide)	177 000
Zboj	Refurbishment of the power system in the community centre, in accordance with the applicable Slovak technical standards	14 000
Radvaň nad Laborcom	Refurbishment of the municipal health centre	5 150
Volica	Repair works of the local water pipeline system	350 000

**Degrees of protection by national Act for Nature Conservation Nr. 543/2002 Col.
and Slovak components of World Heritage site
Beech Primeval Forests of Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests of Germany
Boundaries by maps attached to nomination project**

