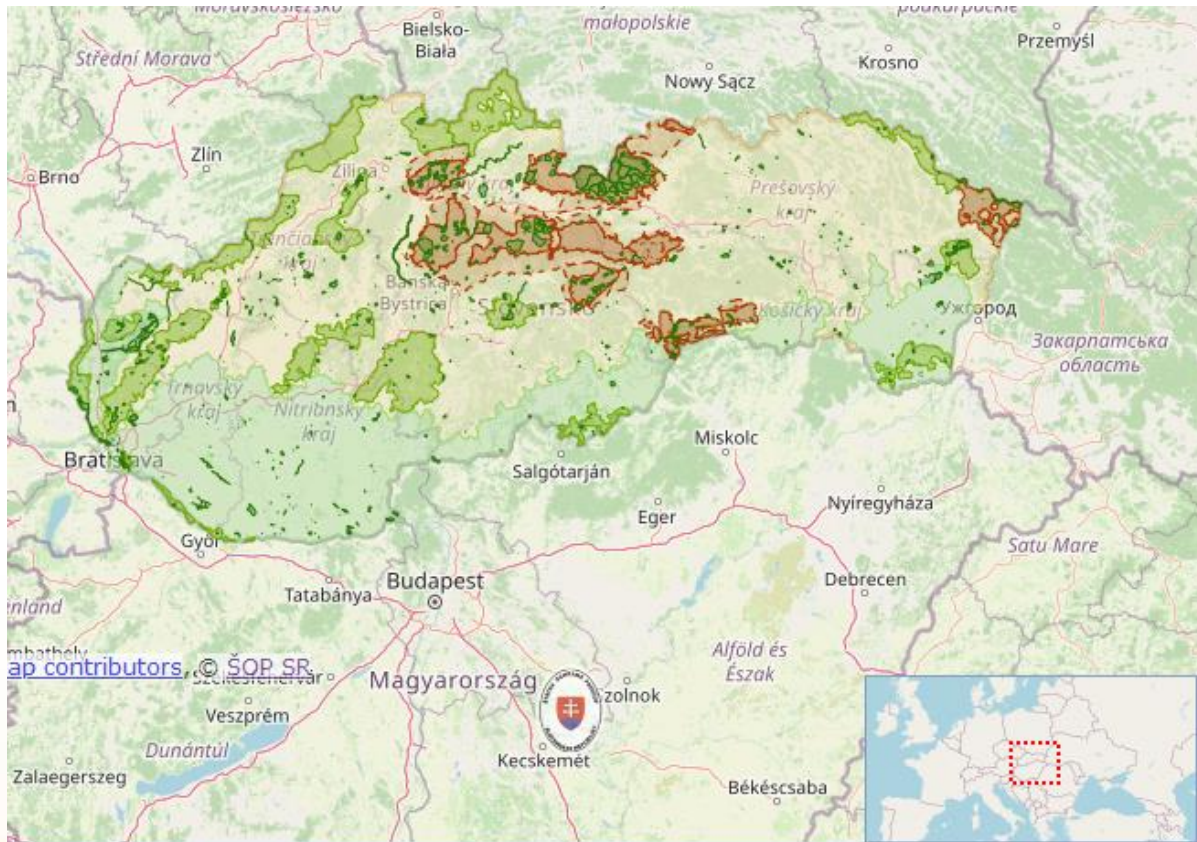


Carpathian protected areas in Slovakia

Ján Kadlečík

State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic

Protected areas and parts of nature in Slovakia



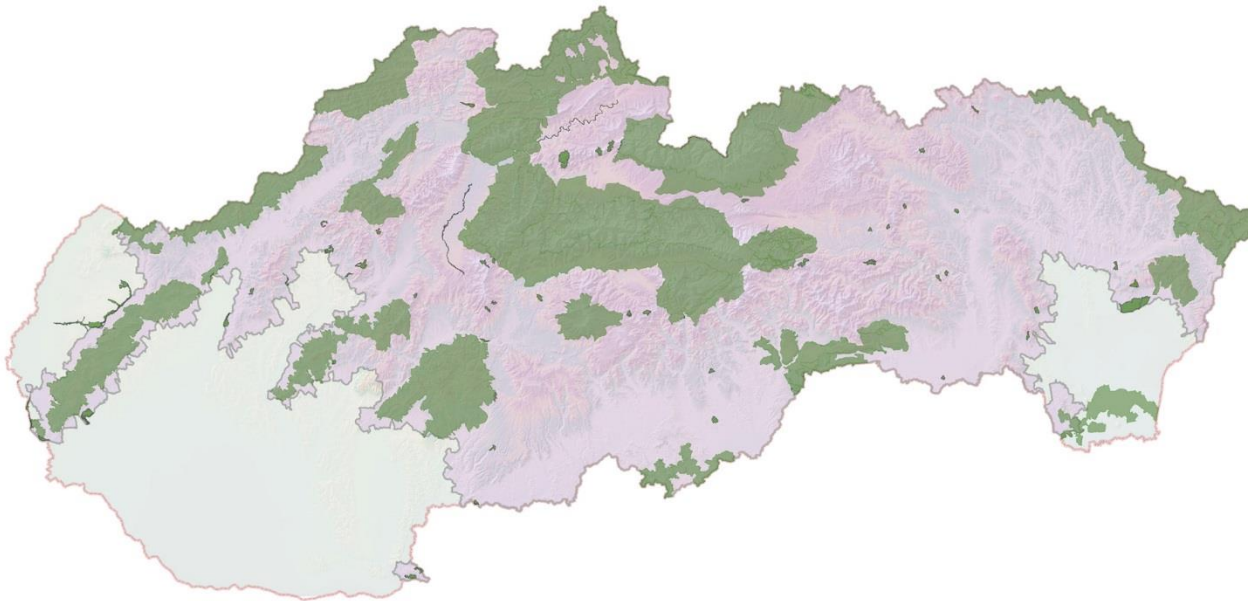
As of 31.12.2020:

- 9 National Parks (NPs)
- 14 Protected Landscape Areas (PLAs)
- 1089 small-scale PAs of different categories (including within NPs and PLAs)
- 585 outside NPs and PLAs
- dynamic process – designation of new / extension of existing / cancelation of incorporated PAs – Natura 2000 sites designated as PAs in national categories; zoning of NPs (PAs becoming parts of zones)
- 7 628 caves in the database (19 show caves)
- 443 protected trees, their groups, alleys (1251 individual trees, 65 taxa)

Protected Areas – Cornerstones of Ecological Connectivity in the Carpathians and Beyond

International Conference, Visegrád, Hungary, 28-30 September 2021 - Project co-funded by European Union Funds (ERDF, IPA)

Carpathian protected areas – CNPA members (PAs larger than 100 ha)



- 9 NPs – 317 541 ha (+ 262 591 ha buffer zones)
- 12 PLAs – 474 590 ha
- 45 small-scale PAs over 100 ha outside NPs and PLAs:
 - 25 National Nature Reserves (7 352 ha)
 - 13 Nature Reserves (2 348 ha)
 - 7 Protected Sites (2 152 ha)

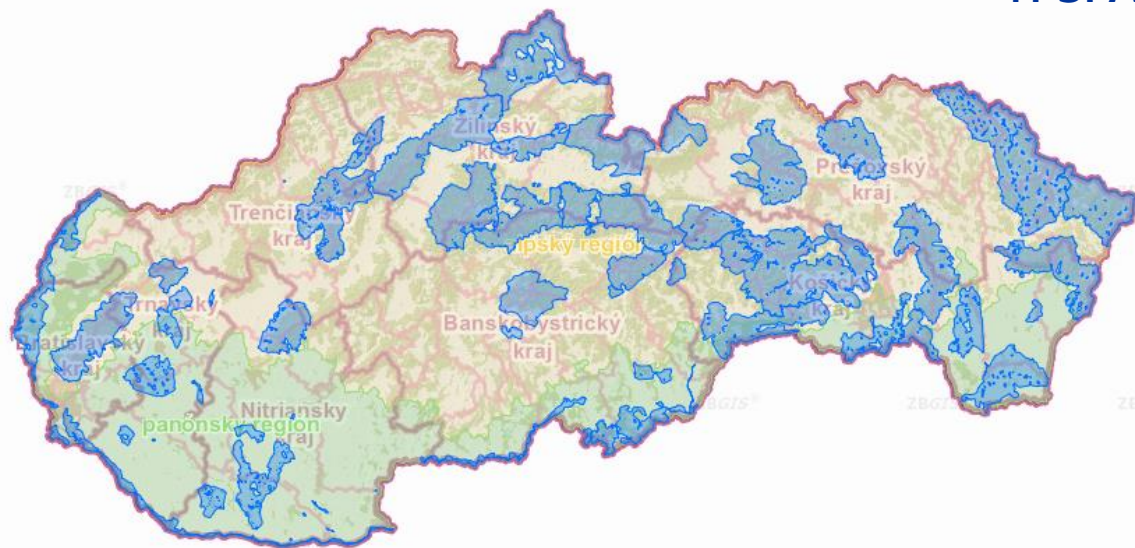
Natura 2000 in Slovakia



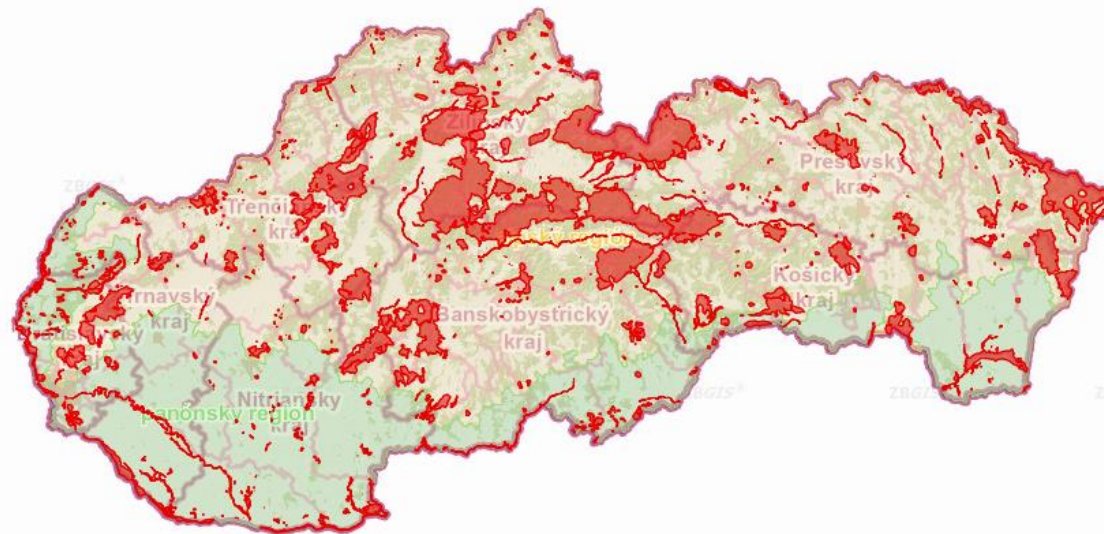
Biogeographical region	SACs km ²	SPAs km ²	Natura 2000 km ²	% share SK SACs	% share SK SPAs	% share SK Natura 2000
Alpine	5 532.34	10 478.84	11 852.51	15.95	30.21	34.17
Pannonian	616.96	2 435.44	2 778.17	4.30	16.98	19.37
Total SK	6 149.30	12 914.28	14 630.68	12.54	26.34	29.84

Natura 2000 in Slovakia

41 SPAs



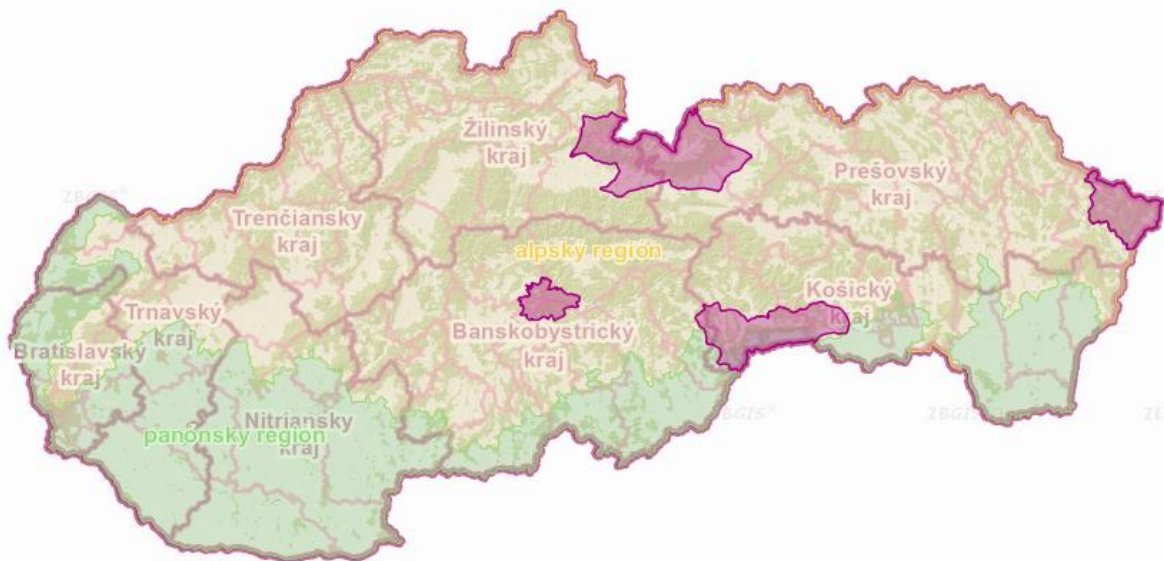
642 SCIs/SACs



Protected Areas – Cornerstones of Ecological Connectivity in the Carpathians and Beyond

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Other international designations



Biosphere Reserves - 4



Ramsar Sites – 14 / 8 in the Carpathian region

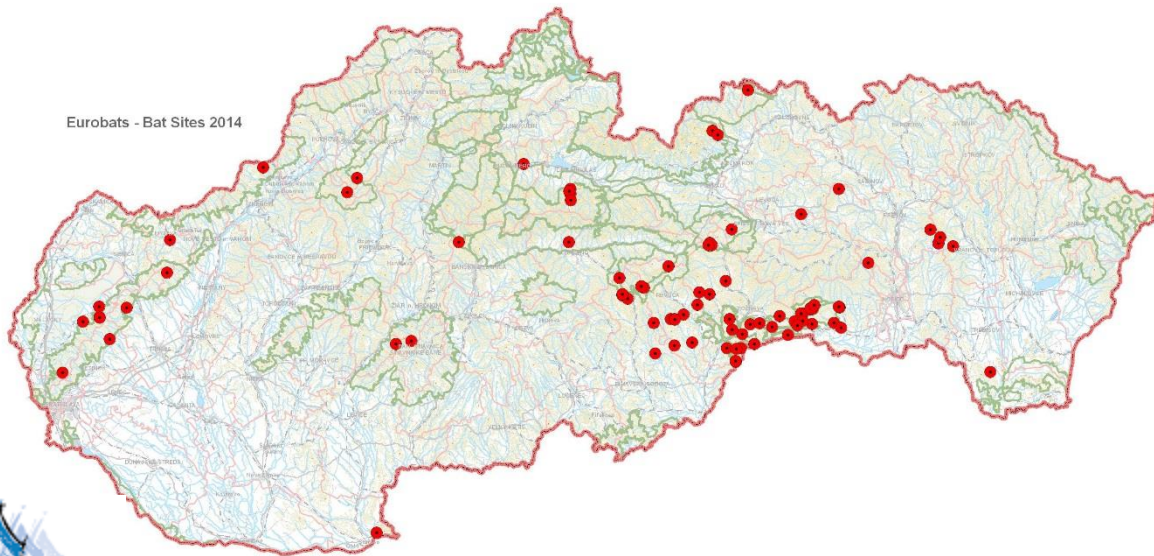
Other international designations



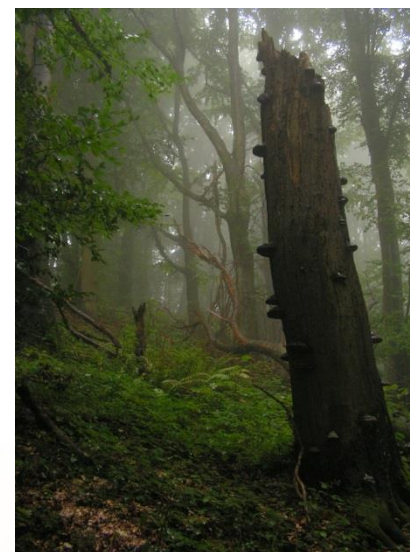
Geoparks - 4

World Natural Heritage Sites – 4 + 6 on Tentative List
(+ 6 Cultural Heritage Sites)

Other international designations

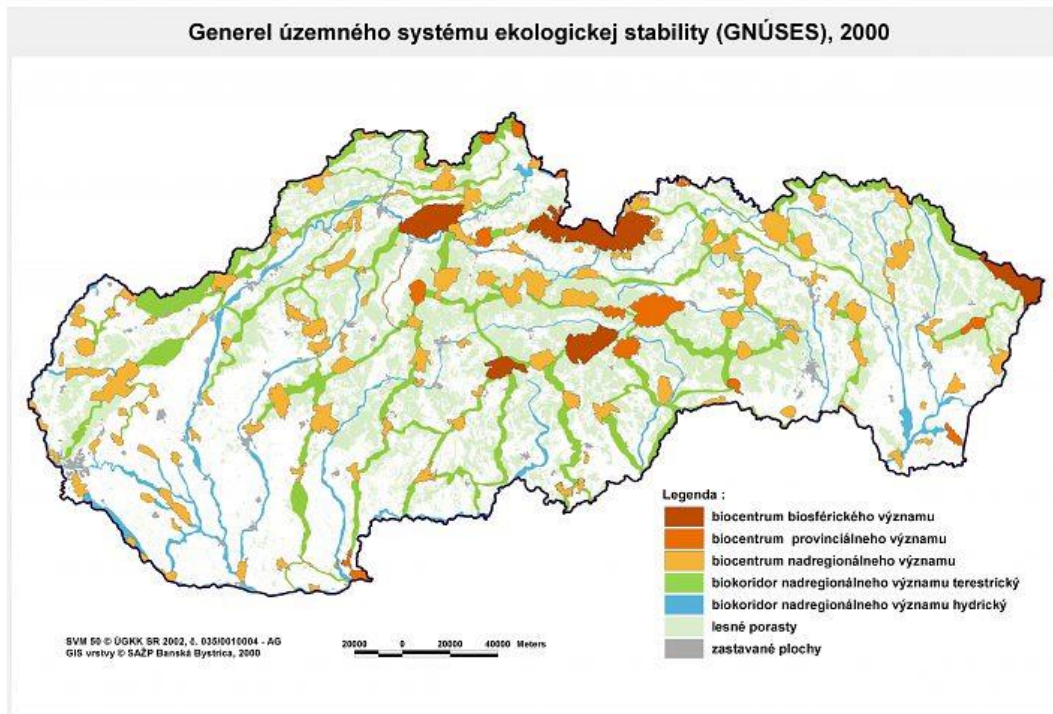


List of Internationally Important Underground Sites - 83



European Diploma – 2
Poloniny NP / Dobročský prales NNR

Synergies with the surrounding territories



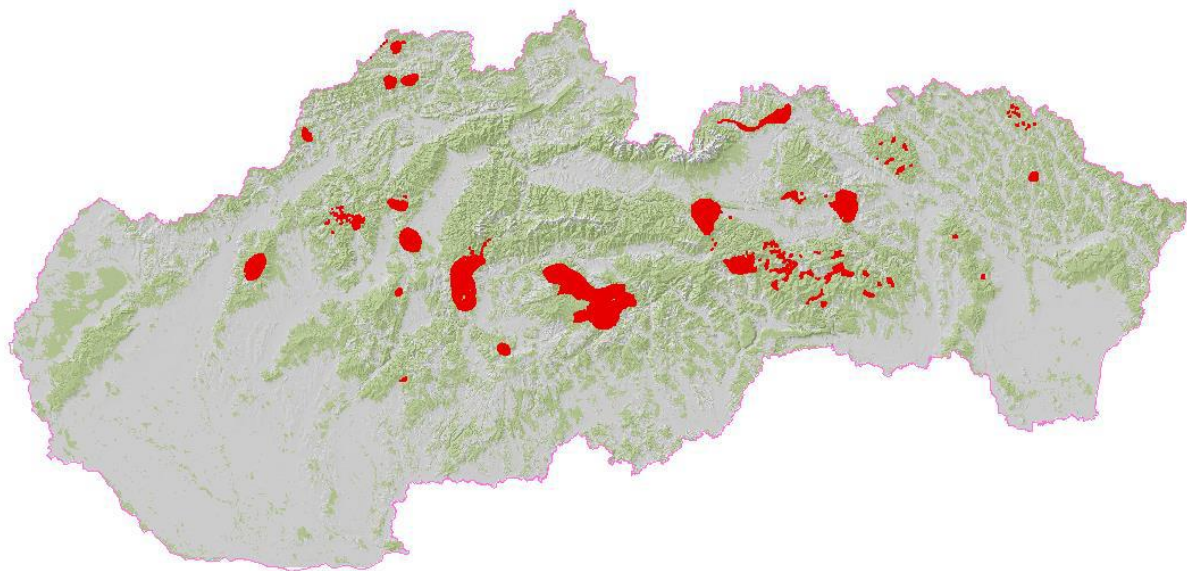
Territorial System of Ecological Stability (TSES) (legally established – public interest)

- National level
- Regional documents of TSES
- Local documents of TSES

Need to work on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECM)

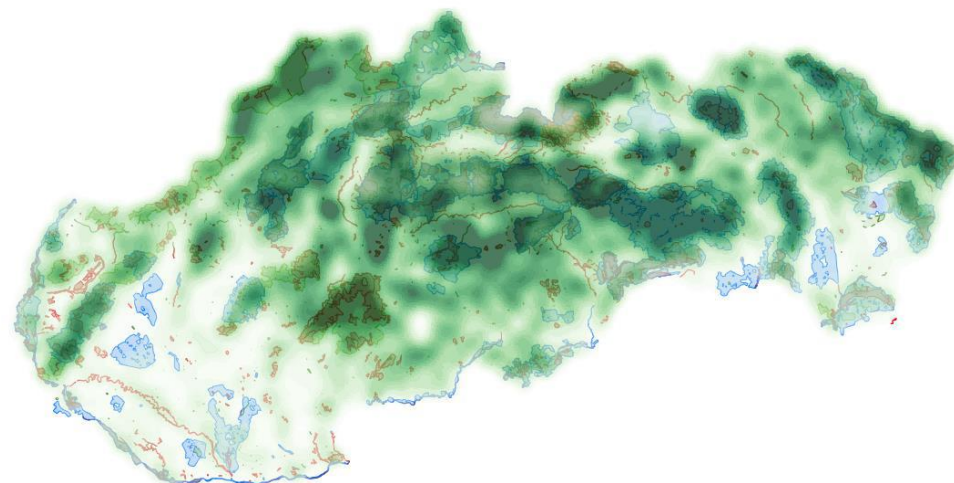
- delineation
- governance arrangements
- tenure – identifying statutory and customary ownership and use rights
- documentation of legal or other effective mechanisms
- Management required
- Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Synergies with the surrounding territories



Key areas without any category of protection crucial for ensuring migration passability for wildlife

Identification of migratory corridors / barriers and assessment of benefit of protected areas in possible migration of wild animals in Slovakia (Černecký et al. 2019)



Overview of PAs economic status with a view to the implementation of future strategies



Institutional framework in Slovakia

- National agency for nature conservation (State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic) – centralized organization established by the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, covering all activities in nature conservation in the country.
- Advisory and expert body for environmental offices and Ministry, international cooperation, education, information, database, strategies, guidelines, projects, documentation, management, monitoring, research, stakeholders involvement, etc.
- Allowance organization (from 1 January 2008) joint with the Slovak Caves Administration (annual budget in 2020 allocated by MoE - 11 415 722 €; other sources - 6 476 892 €).
- not a decision making body → regional environmental authorities (state authorities on administrative district and region level).

New national strategy for nature and landscape protection under development (projects outputs can be included)

Overview of PAs status with a view to the implementation of future strategies



SVM500 © Úrad geodézie, kartografie a katastra SR, 2008, č.005/001108-AG
 Tematické spracovanie Mgr. Zuzana Šantová © Štátna ochrana prírody SR, Banská Bystrica, 2021

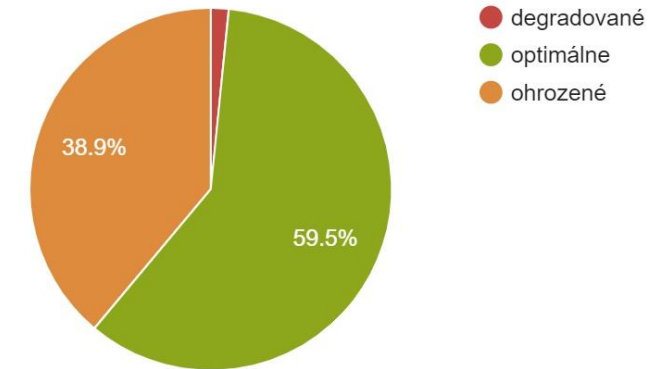
SNC SR - 505 staff members

- 97 – SNC Directorate
 - 83 – Slovak Caves Administration
 - 11 – Regional Centre for Nature Conservation in Prešov
 - 8 – 33 staff members in 23 administrations of NPs and PLAs (scope of responsibility of administration includes areas beyond borders of NP/PLA in administrative districts)
- (+ temporal project staff)

Major risks threatening PAs

- Development of infrastructure
- Unsustainable forest management
- Climate change
- Representativeness and coherence of PAs network
- Low level of protection (less than 2% coverage of PAs with strict protection – EU 2030 BD Strategy – 10%)
- Land in PAs mostly managed by other entities than nature conservancy
- Management planning, zoning, financial allocation for regular PAs management and investments
- Low use of other sectoral resources for relevant management (CAP, WFD...)
- Institutional inadequacies, low number and insufficient training of professional staff in PAs, lacking evidence based decision making
- Communication and involvement of private land owners and users
- Inadequate facilities for education and awareness

Ohrozenosť MCHÚ podľa ich počtu



Zdroj: ŠOP SR
Poznámka: Stav k roku 2019.

Dialogue between PAs and external communities

- Support for reform in nature conservation from President, MoE, scientific institutions, NGOs, (part of) public (e.g. more than 37 000 signatures in 3 months in petition for improved protection of nature and national parks)
- Insufficient communication with stakeholders - misunderstanding and manipulation of public from (part of) associations of landowners, state forestry, agricultural entities, hunting society – disagreement manifested, social media – disruption of process of preparation of NPs zoning, management planning, Natura 2000 designation
- Substantial improvement in communication with stakeholders is a must, professional systemic approach
- Knowledge and experience exchange within the CNPA and application of project results (e.g. Centralparks – Guidelines on communication between protected areas and local communities) important and required

Steps taken

Environmental Strategy 2030, amendments to the Act on nature and landscape protection, to the Decree to the Act, Prioritised Action Framework 2021-2027, projects

- No-intervention areas in NPs – 50% by 2025, 75% by 2030
- Proposed multi-site (76) Nature Reserve Primeval Forests of Slovakia (6462.42 ha) for protection of last remaining old-growth forests
- IUCN categories assignment in drafting PAs designation and/or management planning, and in the state register of protected parts of nature
- Ecological connectivity enhanced in documents of nature and landscape protection and in draft law on spatial planning
- Preparation for state land delimitation from the state forestry to nature conservancy
- Decentralisation of NP administrations (legal entities)
- Discussion on transformation of nature conservation authorities
- Work on management plans, zoning
- Work on sustainable tourism strategies and plans on national level and for some NPs
- Work on the Act on landscape protection
- Work on national Red List update
- Restoration projects...