

Implementation of the Complex Nature Conservation and Landscape Management Programme in the Zámoly Basin,

Public Foundation for Nature Conservation Pro Vértes



The Pro Vértes Foundation was founded in 1991 and became a public foundation in 1994. Originally its main aim was to resolve problems of heritage protection, natural as well as cultural, in the face of increased privatisation. Its main activities today are: landscape management, nature conservation, environmental education and awareness-raising, the protection of national monuments as well as ecotourism, which underpins the work. A major part of the nature conservation and landscape management programme is the preservation and maintenance of residual sites of natural or close-to-natural areas which have suffered from the effects of intensive agriculture, industry or transport. Measures undertaken include the re-establishment of water supplies to the moorlands around the Vértes that had been threatened by draining, and the introduction of a herd of Hungarian Grey cattle to manage the grasslands in a natural way. Landscape management also includes the protection of architectural monuments in the region, such as the Geszer House. Education and awareness-raising are an essential part of the programme. When a research programme was started to assess the effects of mowing in grasslands, the results were made available to the public through education, short courses and ecotourism.

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe congratulated the organisers of the project.

www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/landscape/prix/8-Hongrie_en.pdf