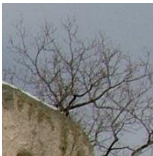


## The traditional stone culture of the Bükkalja landscape, Beehive Rock Nature Conservation and Cultural Association

The project in the Bükk National Park is designed to maintain and preserve the traditional stone culture of the Bükkalja landscape with its characteristic beehive rocks. A review of the landscape was conducted with the aim of producing a database of the valuable features of the landscape which will underpin the preparation of a legislative framework to protect the rocks. Through this, 72 beehive rocks have been identified and examined as well as marked with their exact GPS co-ordinates, thus preventing their locations from being lost in the future. Apart from the purely archival task of the project, an extensive effort has been made to rehabilitate the rocks.



The project included eliminating invasive species, such as the locust tree, and introducing indigenous species, such as oak, maple and fruit-bearing trees. The clearing of the rock formations has rendered them easily accessible and highly visible which, aided by nature trails with informative signs, has made the region an important tourist attraction. The local population is able to better appreciate their landscape for ecotourism. Moreover, the re-creation of this traditional landscape has inspired the local population to take good care of and value these remarkable rocks.

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe recognised the great value of the project: it constitutes an exemplary achievement based on the validation of geological heritage, which has enabled the re-creation of a traditional landscape supported by new socio-economic forces, benefiting the local population.

[www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/landscape/prix/2011-Hungary.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/landscape/prix/2011-Hungary.pdf)