

Salvage, revival and operation of the forest railway in the landscape of Cierny Balog,

Ciernohronska zeleznica NGO

The project “Salvage, Revival and Operation of the Forest Railway in the Landscape of Cierny Balog” won the Landscape Award of the Slovak Republic 2012 for bringing the people back to their landscape through the revival of a technical monument, for restoring the identity of Cierny Balog Region and for retaining its cultural heritage. The project is an exemplary model of how people can really make a positive change to a decaying landscape through the bottom-up approach. A large number of enthusiasts and volunteers, local citizens, as well as invited experts, have renewed the original vision by combining their enthusiasm, wisdom, memory, efforts, time, expertise, money, planning abilities, and management skills. The objet was the purpose and the operation of the historic forest railway, which was facing destruction because of an arbitrary official decision that was taken last century. The people were able to persuade everybody that the forest railway adds value to their landscape as a main artery of their region. The forest railway, a symbol of sustainable wood-cutting practice of previous generations in the region, today represents the living historic form of the landscape, which has contributed significantly to the characteristic appearance, new life opportunities, prosperity and reputation of the Cierny Hron Valley in Slovakia.



The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe recognised the great value of the project. The salvage, revival and operation of the forest railway in the landscape of Cierny Balog project concerns the highlighting of a technical aspect of the heritage, the forest railway of Cierny Balog. The involvement of 1 500 volunteers was appreciated. The magnificent Carpathian landscape forms the backdrop.