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National Park Poloniny (SK)

**Advisory visit and stakeholders' seminar
16 and 17 September 2015**

National Park Poloniny and the European Diploma

1998 European Diploma awarded

2003 and 2008 Renewal after appraisals – conditions defined

2012 Renewal without appraisal – conditions repeated

2012 Extraordinary appraisal

2013 Group of specialists: deadline set inter alia for MP for the
34th Meeting of the Standing Committee (Nov. 2014)

2015 Group of Specialists recommended withdrawal of the ED

2015 IUCN category system adopted by SK – NP Poloniny in
Cat. V – protected landscape

National Park Poloniny – advisory visit 2015

Not a full appraisal (last appraisal 10/2012)

Progress report for Poloniny delivered

Draft management plan

Joint visit with UNESCO WH expert

Stakeholders' seminar with presentations and discussions

Condition 1 - Management plan:

Finalise and adopt a management plan within two years of the renewal

- Management plan is still a draft, under discussion, and subject to change*
- Rather general and generous time frame*
- + Contains criteria to measure the achievements*

Comment:

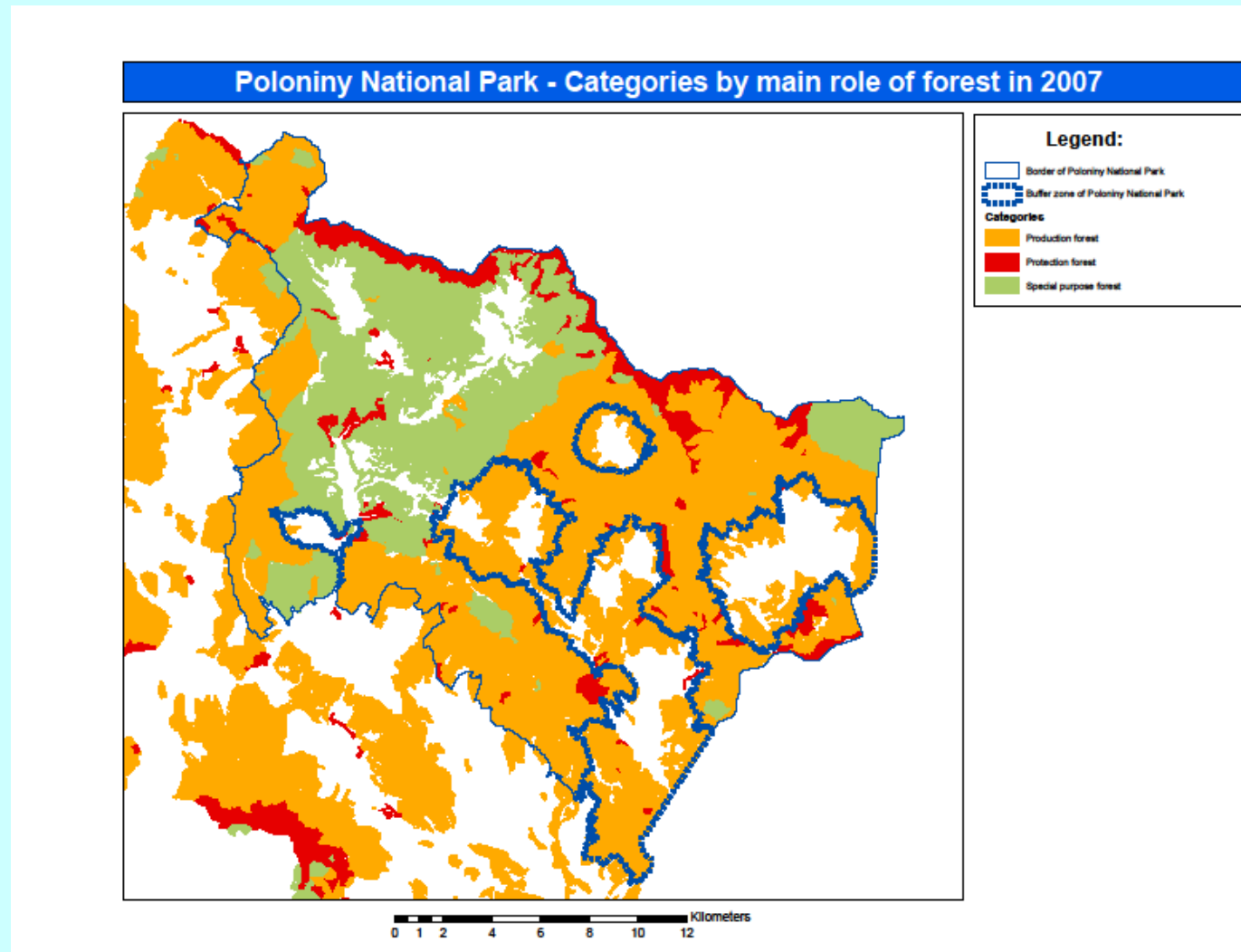
MP not delivered within given time

Still a draft, has to be evaluated after adoption with consideration of ED

Condition 2 – Forestry and hunting:

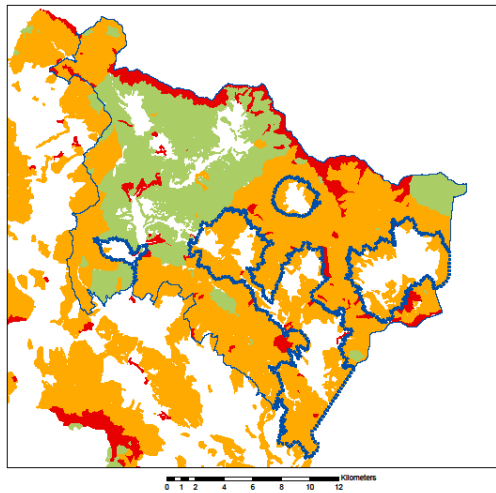
Start working on devising a blueprint for forestry and hunting management in the ED area

Designation of the NP Poloniny forests

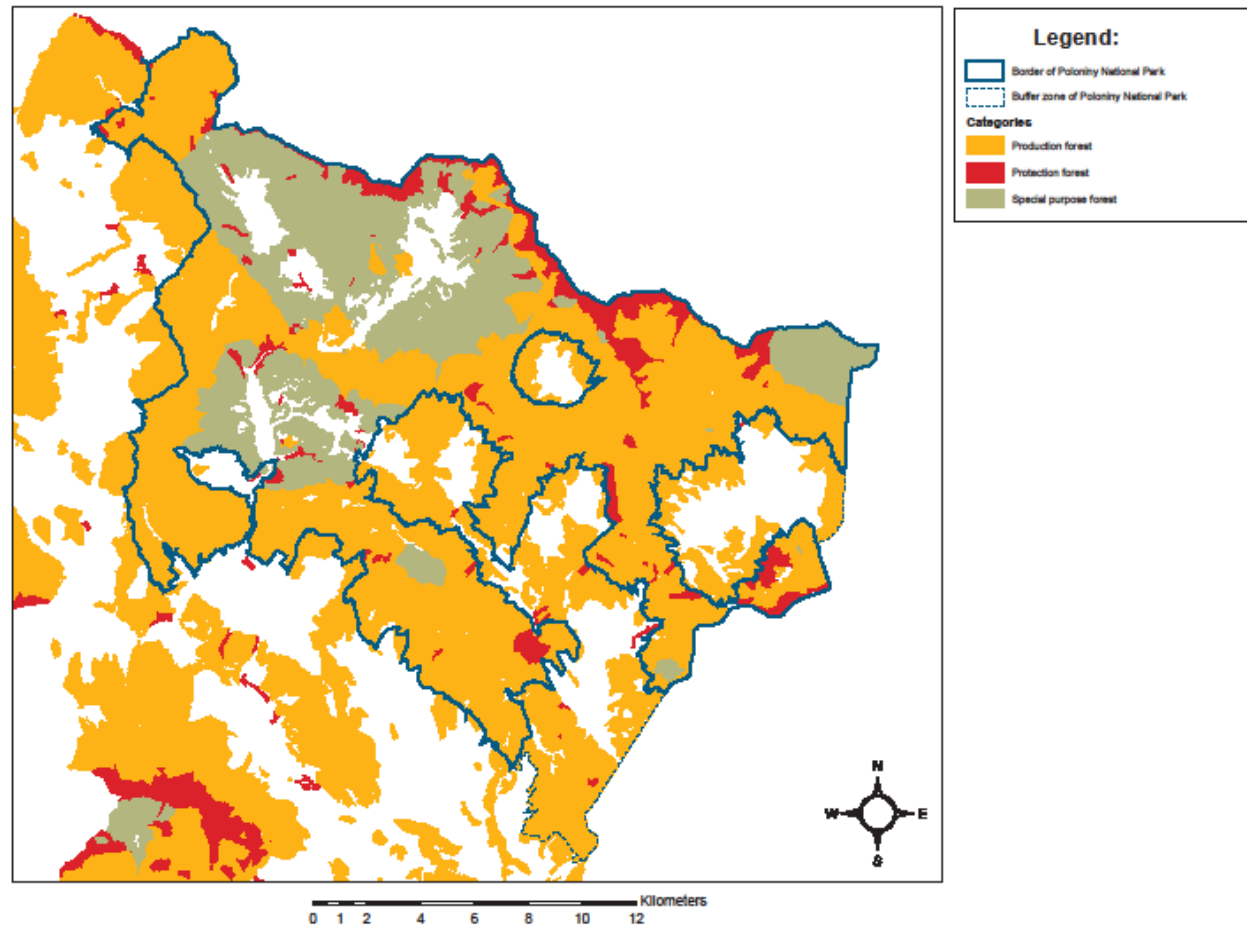


Designation of the NP Poloniny forests

Poloniny National Park - Categories by main role of for

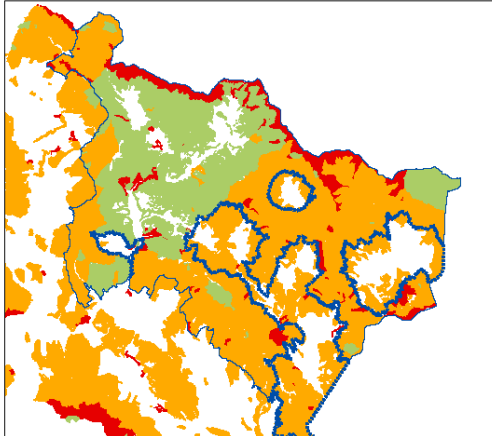


Poloniny National Park - Categories by main role of forest in 2012

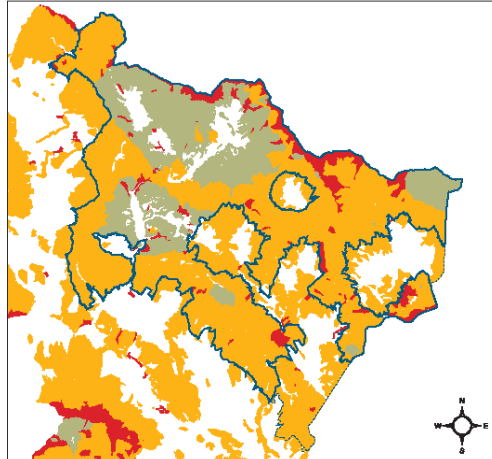


Designation of the NP Poloniny forests

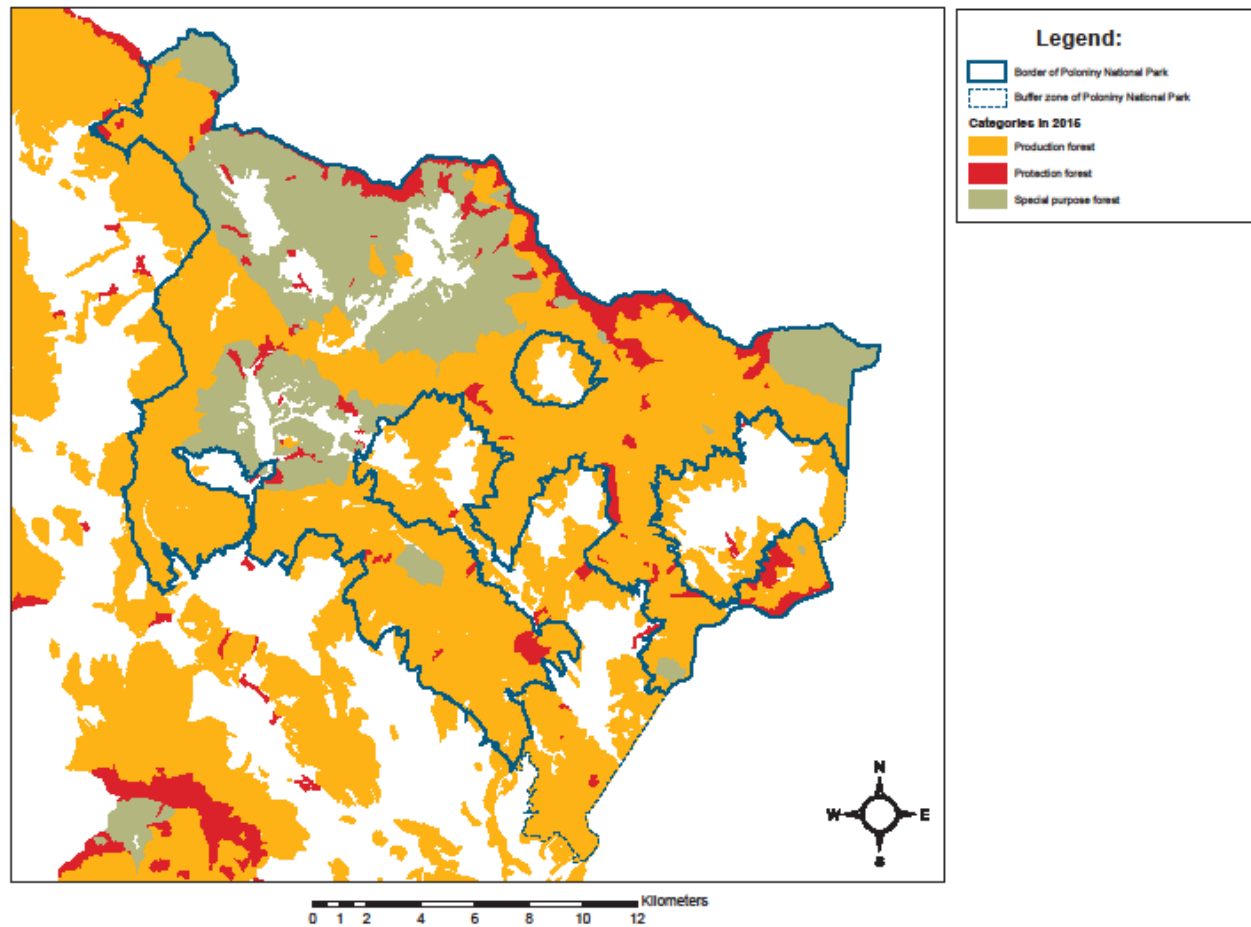
Poloniny National Park - Categories by main role of forest



Poloniny National Park - Categories by main role of forest



Poloniny National Park - Categories by main role of forest in 2015



Forest management



Forest management



Forest management



Forest management



Condition 2 – Forestry and hunting:

Start working on devising a blueprint for forestry and hunting management in the ED area

- Still intensive interventions, buffer around the protective zone not secured***
- +/- Selective felling methods confirmed, but only since July 2015***
- More sustainable and protective preservation of forests needed***
- Hunting administered separately from nature protection objectives***
- Some hunting methods to be reviewed***

Comment:

Some small progress made, but ED criteria not fully considered

Condition 3 – Network of protected areas:

Create a functional network of PAs during the next period of validity

+ Trilateral agreement on the trilateral BR

+ Establishing a new strict nature reserve

+ Joint Management Committee for the trilateral UNESCO WH

- Ineffective or missing buffer zones

- Progress made concerning organisation but more activities expected to improve the network physically

Comment:

Some progress made, still more activities needed

Condition 4 – Securing land for nature protection:

Pursue the steps taken to purchase private forests and draw up a purchase plan

+ Amendment to the law enables to purchase, lease or exchange land

Comment:

Fulfilled

Activities to make land available needed (negotiations with land owners)

Condition 5 – Research programme:

Set up a scientific programme on large carnivores

+ Very ambitious research programme in the draft MP

+ National MP for the wolf

+ Other research programmes on large carnivores completed

Comment:

Authorities should be urged to support the ongoing and proposed research work

Recommendations

- 1. Give the management more responsibility in forestry and hunting +/-**
- 2. Consider an agreement with the neighbouring states +**
- 3. Upgrade human resources and secure funding + (to continue)**
- 4. Full protection for wolves and ban shooting throughout the NP + (2014)**
- 5. Consider the designation of a hunting district a cynegetic reserve +/-**
- 6. Restore buildings in the traditional style (not proofed)**
- 7. Start experimenting with selective felling +/- - (2015)**

Conclusions

**The long delay in implementing the conditions set by the CoE in various documents,
the absence of a management plan (still only a draft) and
the resulting serious impacts on the ecosystem due to major human interventions
led to the recommendation
„to follow the recommendation made by the Group of Specialists and to continue with the withdrawal of the ED before the end of the period.“**