



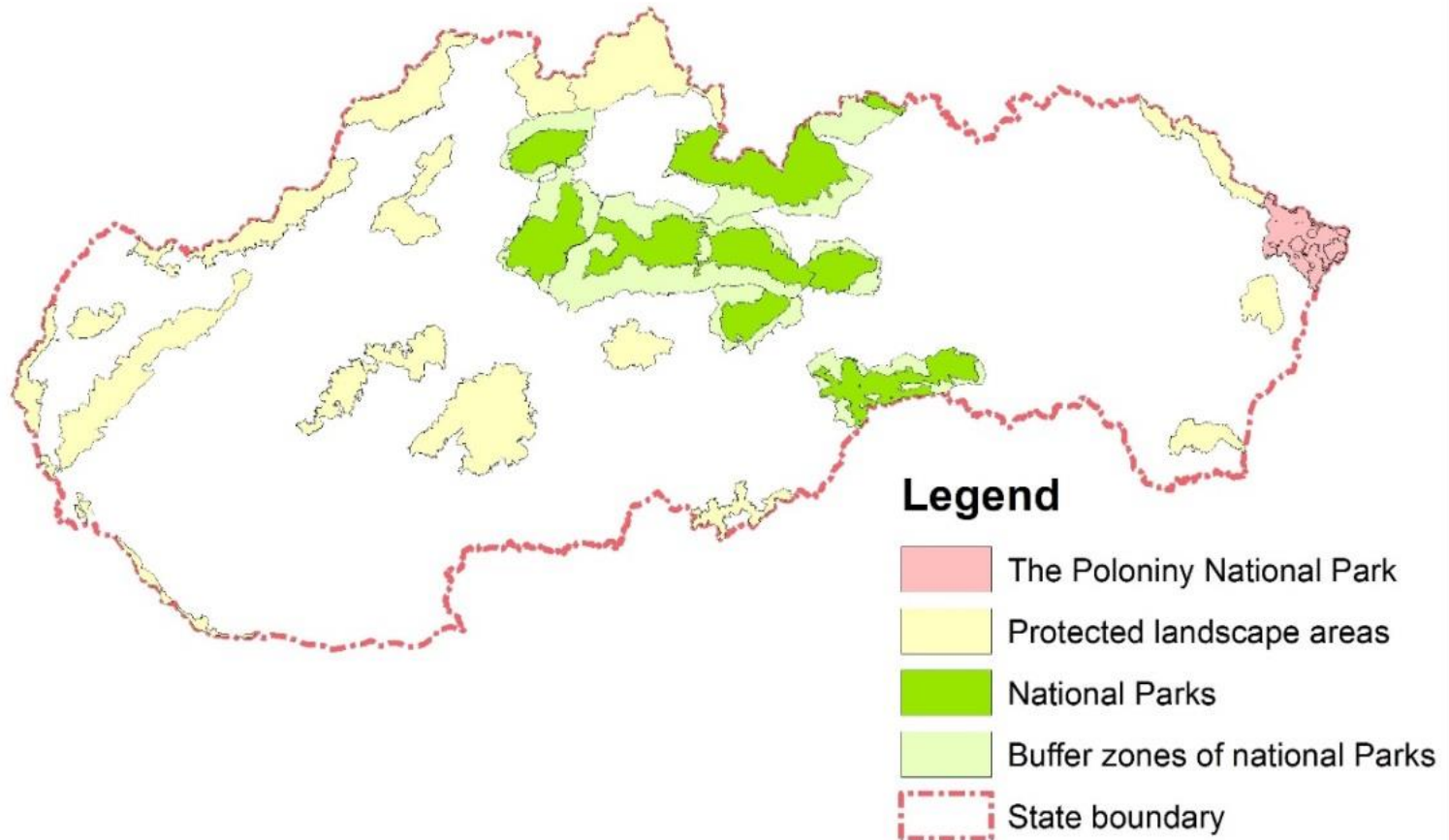
European Diploma in the Poloniny National Park

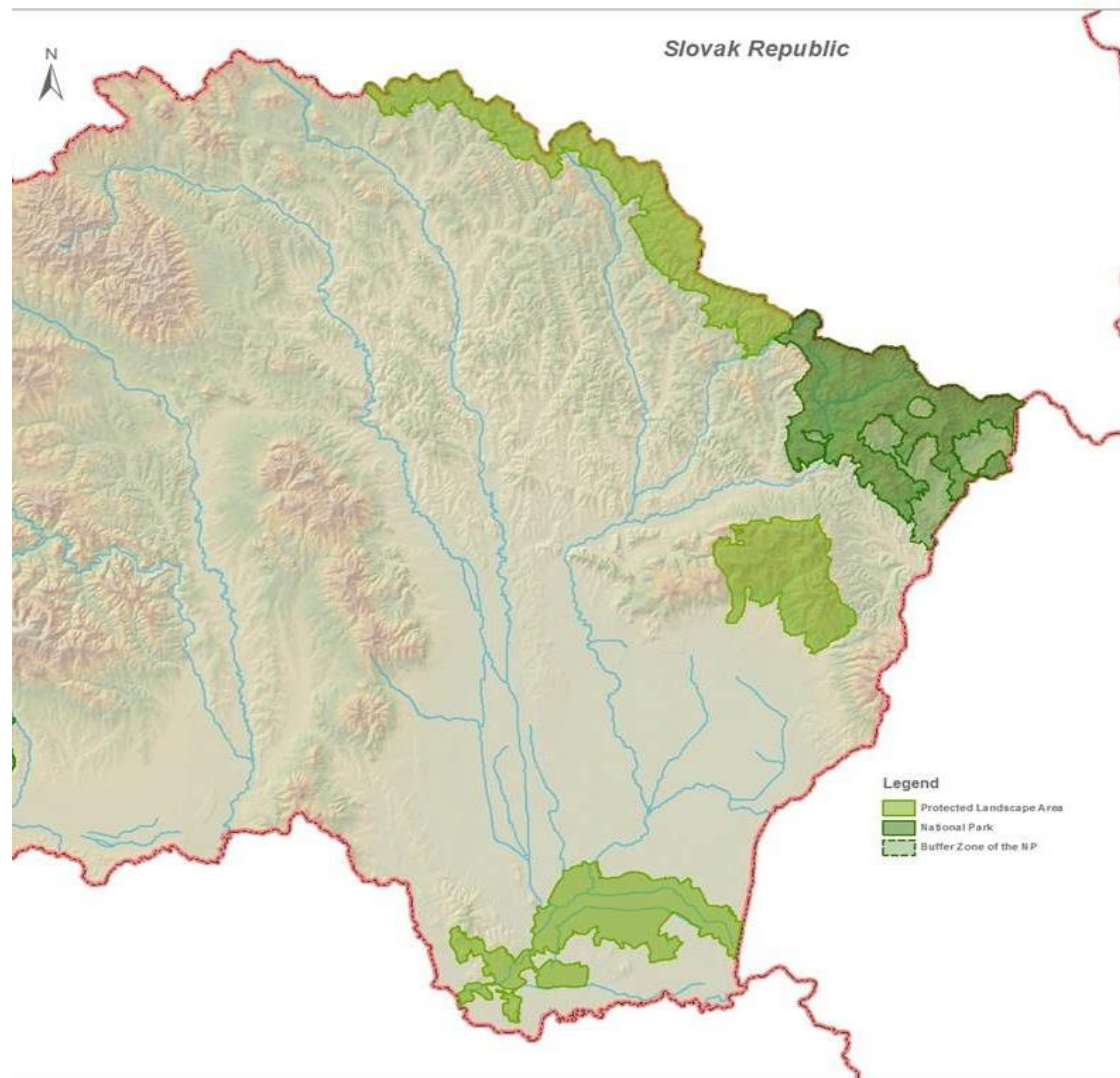
progress report

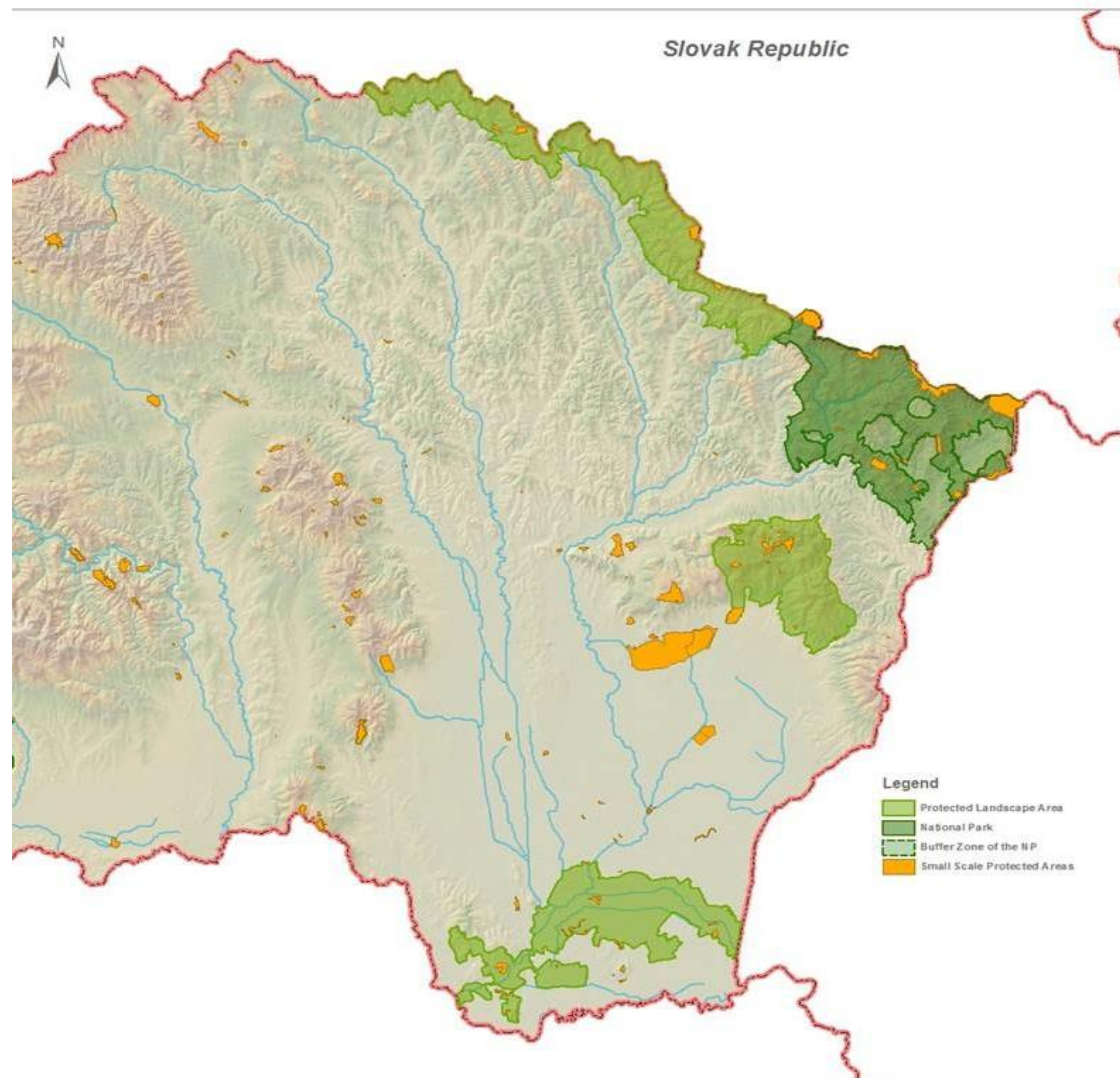
Ján Ilavský, state secretary
Ministry of Environment of the SR

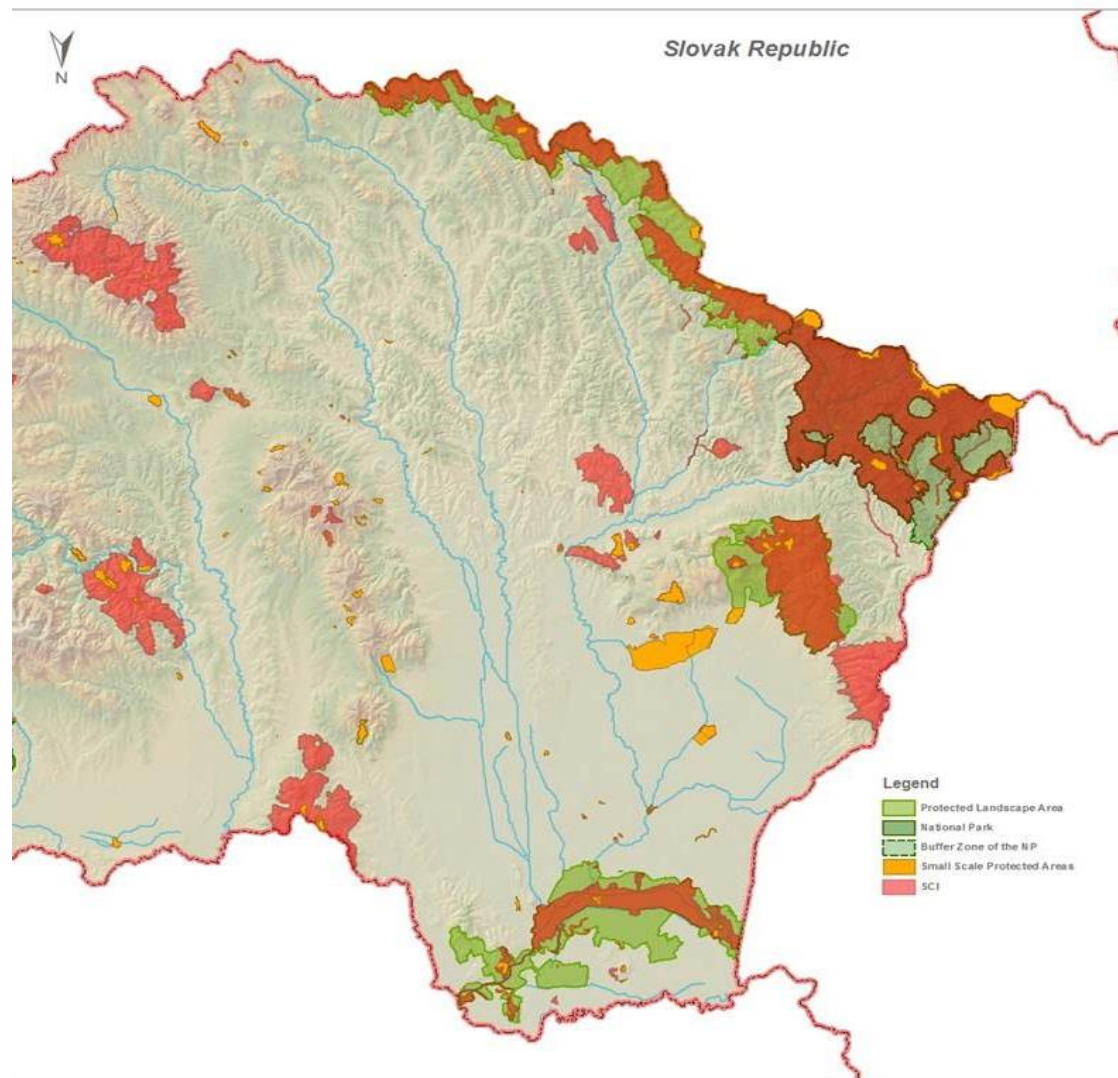
Bern Convention Standing Committee, 2. December 2015

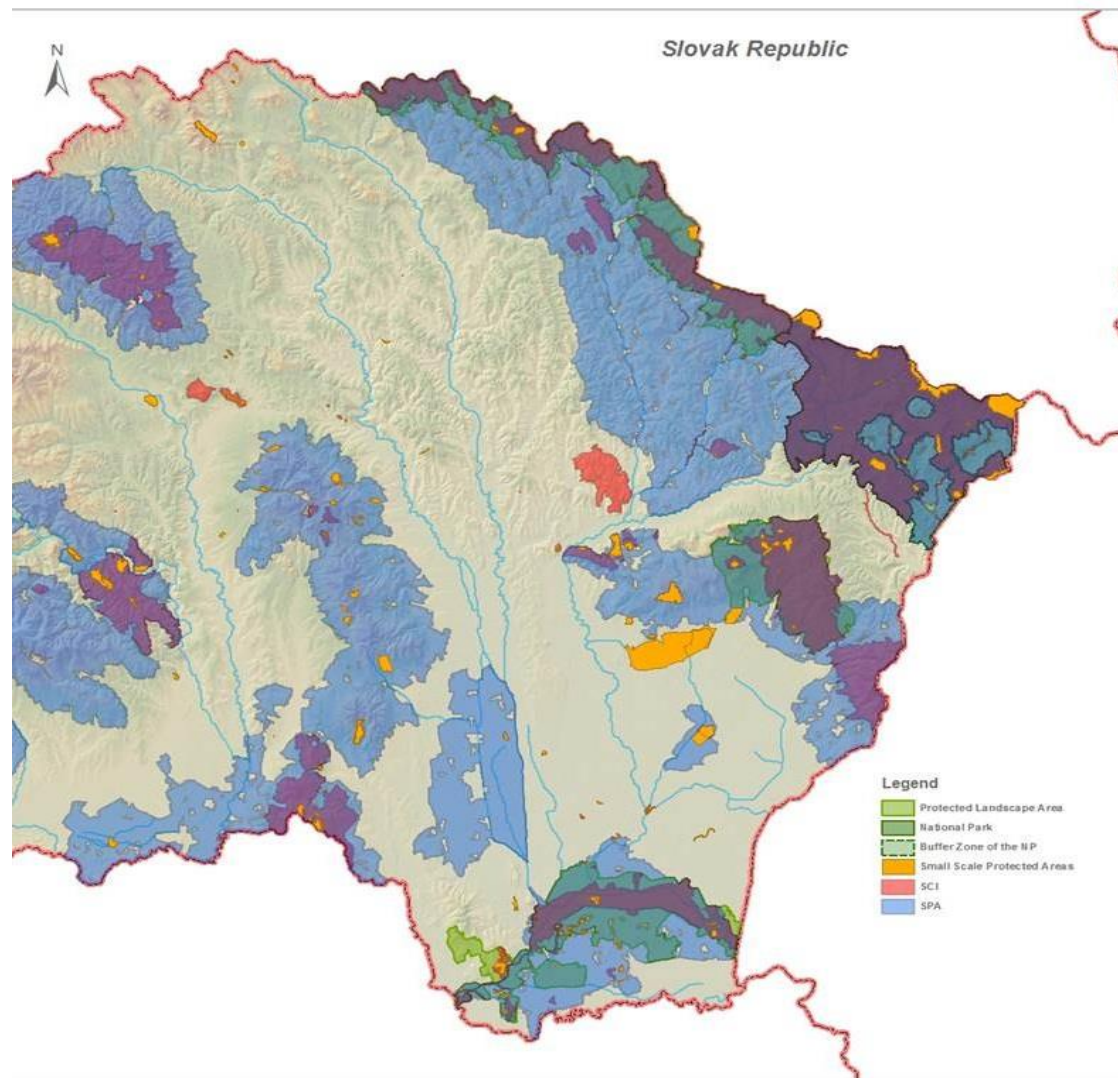
Protected Areas in Slovakia and Position of the Poloniny National Park

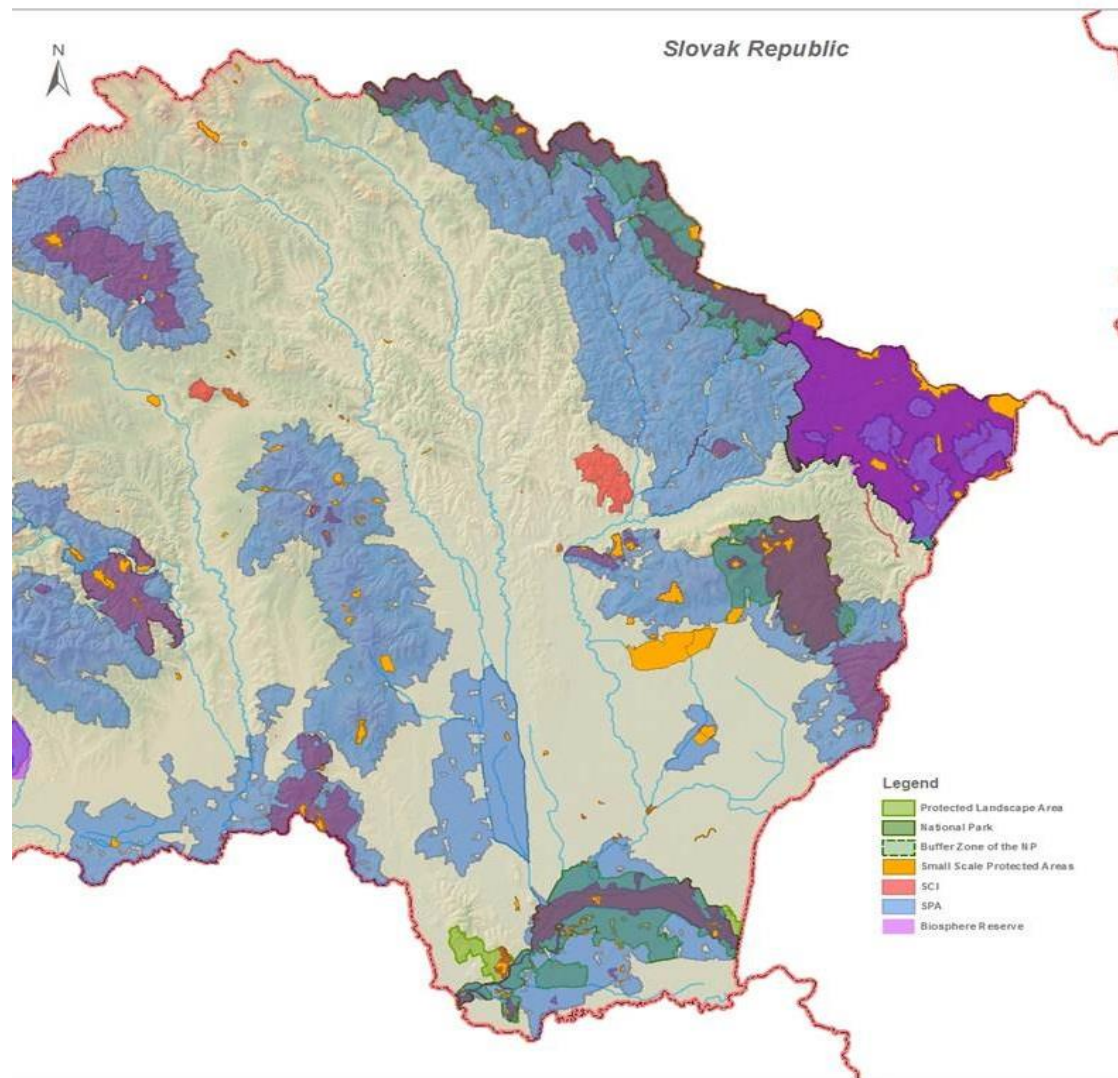


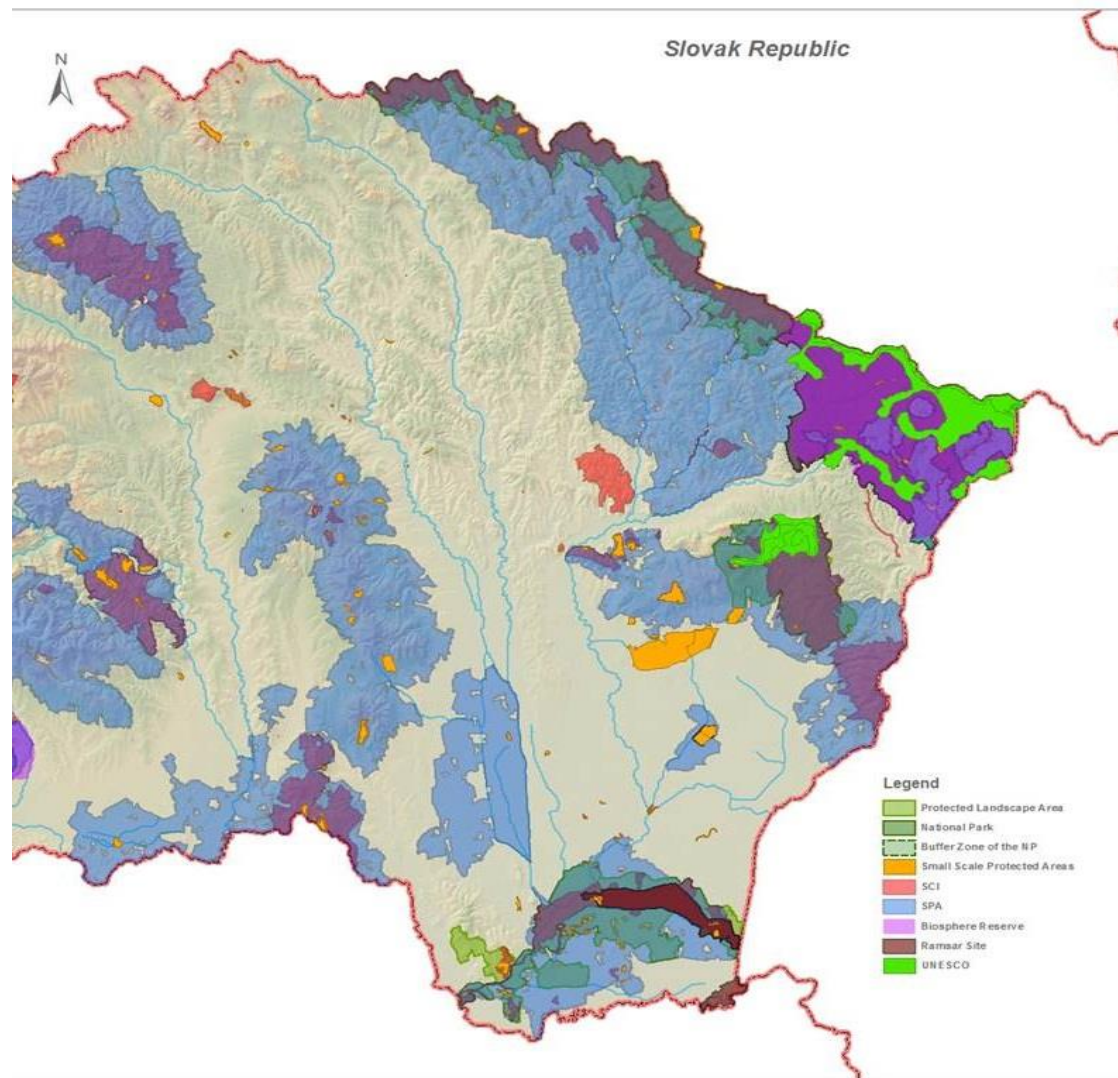
















NÁRODNÝ PARK POLONINY
NATIONAL PARK POLONINY



ORAVSKÁ TIESŇAVA 11 km
ČERVENÝ BALNICA
NÁRODNÝ PARK POLONINY

TABOŘISKO 0.11 km

33





European Diploma in NP Poloniny

- ▶ originally Awarded to the NP Poloniny by resolution No (1998)26
- ▶ recently Resolution (2012)19
- ▶ NP was designated in 1997 (by reclassification from PLA) – IUCN category „V“
- ▶ NP surface – 29, 805.0514 ha and its buffer zone 10,973.2893 ha
- ▶ ca 60% of land is state-owned, 40% private owned
- ▶ since 1992 trilateral biosphere reserve Eastern Carpathian (UA,PL,SK)
- ▶ since 2004 part of Natura 2000 sites
- ▶ since 2007 (resp. 2011) part of UNESCO WHS (trilateral UA, SK, DE)



Legislation and institutional background

- ▶ all NP administrations are part of State Nature Conservancy of the SR
- ▶ MoE is responsible for nature and landscape protection
- ▶ M of Land Use and Rural development responsible for forestry and agriculture



Condition 1: Management plan for NP

- ▶ Need for legislation change (Act on Nature Protection)
- ▶ since 1.1.2014 amendments of this Act and Decree took place:
 - Management plans for protected territories defined
 - Each management plan must be approved by the government
 - Ecological, economic and social impacts have to be analysed
 - Compensations of land owners and users calculated
 - Agreements with owners on compensations have to be signed
- ▶ MP for NP started to be prepared
- ▶ 1st – MP for NP Slovenský raj – in the process of approval by GOV in Dec 2015
- ▶ followed by the MP for NP Poloniny – draft under discussion



Condition 2: Start working on devising a blueprint for forestry and hunting management

- ▶ amendment of Act on Nature (by 1.1.2014):
 - stronger competencies of SNC SR
 - enlarged economic instruments to support and compensate stakeholders
 - optimization of the process of designation of PA – approved by the Government of SR!
- ▶ **inter-ministerial agreement between the MoE and the MoA signed in February 2015**
- ▶ proposal of alternative forest management plans drafted by SNC
- ▶ decision of interministerial group – forest management in NP Poloniny will be changed to ProSilva system (agreed on 6th October 2015)
- ▶ full protection of wolf in NP Poloniny since 2014



Condition 3: Create a functional network of protected areas meeting international standards

- ▶ enlarging the strictly protected areas:
 - nature reserve Borsukov vrch is in the process of approval by government – surface of 146,79 ha – primeval beech forests – approved by the Legislative council of the GOV 1st Dec 2015 – GOV discuss the draft 9th Dec 2015
- ▶ forest management and classification of forest will be changed in NR Borsukov vrch to special purpose for the nature conservancy
- ▶ NRs Pramen Cirochy and Cerniny in the process of negotiations
- ▶ Whole territory along borders with Poland covered by strict NRs



Poloniny – borders of national park, its protective zone and other "small scale protected areas" Degrees of protection



Legend

The present degree of protection by Act of NC SR No. 543/2002

- Small protected areas (reserves) with 5th degree of protection
- Small protected areas with 4th degree of protection
- The real area of the Poloniny NP with 3rd degree of protection
- Protected areas with 2nd degree of protection - Buffer zone of NP
- Proposed Natural Reserve Borsukov vrch with proposed 5th degree of protection



Condition 4: Pursue the steps taken to purchase private forests and draw up a future purchasing plan

- ▶ Amended Act on Nature Protection since 1 Jan 2014 – 5 alternatives of compensation for restrictions of normal management (§61):
 - Exchange of private estate for one in state ownership
 - Rental of private estate by state
 - Purchase of estates in private ownership by state
 - Contractual estate diligence
 - Financial compensation
- ▶ Land owners prefer rental agreements and financial compensation



Condition No. 5: Set up a scientific programme inventorying and monitoring the large carnivore populations

- ▶ SNC implements a project aimed at large carnivores from which are relevant scientific results on ecology, biology, population size of LC, mostly brown bear
- ▶ since 2014 hunting of wolf is banned in NP
- ▶ management plan for brown bear and wolf is under preparation in cooperation with MoA, Forest Research Institute and other relevant orgs, will be adopted soon
- ▶ scientific protocol was drafted, recently being finalized as a part of management plan for large carnivores



Recommendation No. 1: Give the management of the diploma-holding area greater responsibility

- ▶ competencies are divided among different authorities and organizations (similar to other countries of CoE)
- ▶ by amendment of Act on nature protection, competencies of SNC SR were strengthened
- ▶ as mentioned before – loan of land is planned and discussed with stakeholders, what will result that SNC will manage this land within PAs



Recommendation No. 2: Consider the signature of a simplified international agreement

- ▶ condition fulfilled
- ▶ a trilateral agreement was signed in November 2013, as part of the Eastern Carpathian Biosphere Reserve. The Steering Council of this biosphere reserve also includes the administrations of the relevant national parks and protected landscape areas; these jointly manage and coordinate cross-border activities within the scope of the Steering Council in the annual meetings.
- ▶ Joint Management Committee was established and joint declaration was signed by the representatives of the competent ministries of Slovakia, Ukraine and Germany due to UNESCO WH site



Recommendation No. 3: upgrade human resources and step up funding

- ▶ the number of basic staff increased (+1 employee), new persons hired to implement projects and establish cooperation with stakeholders (+1) and staff in headquarters of SNC SR increase to international agreements coordinators (+2)
- ▶ + beside basic staff also 7 voluntary rangers work within NP Poloniny
- ▶ budget increased due to project implementation (CH, NO, EU)



Recommendation No. 4: Give full protection to wolves and ban shooting

- ▶ fulfilled – wolf is strictly protected in the NP Poloniny since 2014

Recommendation No. 5: Consider the designation of a hunting district

- ▶ hunting management is in compliance with national legislation
- ▶ hunting area board established to coordinate activities – statute of area will be amended in April 2016



Recommendation No. 6: Pursue the efforts to restore buildings in the traditional regional style

- ▶ local community involvement in this issue supported by the SNC projects
- ▶ excursion to Switzerland for the local stakeholders was organized

Recommendation No. 7: Start experimenting with the selective felling of beech forest in a state-owned woodland unit

- ▶ SNC has commissioned the "Creation of a Proposal of Forest Management Measures for the Buffer Zone of the Carpathian Beech Forests" in the Poloniny NP
- ▶ The proposal of these forest management measures was prepared and forestry management plans will be updated in the newly designated NR Borsukov vrch



Road map

- ▶ designation of new PA inside of NP Poloniny – after the designation of Borsukov vrch, 2 more PA designation will follow
- ▶ adoption of management plan for NP Poloniny – legislative process will start after the adoption of MP for NP S.raj by government, with the plan to be adopted 04/2016
- ▶ forest management – support for non-state forest users by compensation and subsidising; state users adoption of ProSilva models
- ▶ continuation of interministerial group to control adoption of agreed processes
- ▶ coordination of management of the area together with the requirement of UNESCO



Summary

- ▶ The Slovak Republic considers the European Diploma as prestigious award and high priority;
- ▶ the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development undertook in 2014 – 2015 several steps to make a significant progress;
- ▶ Progress is based on the long-term measures
The improved cooperation and discussion with local stakeholders resulted in understanding of the nature values as well as local needs in the region and the willingness to cooperate on securing these values for future.



- ▶ UNESCO WH committee welcomed the results reached by Slovakia and is expecting report by December 2016 (11 new countries will extend the WH property)
- ▶ support for the community and NP through project from EU, Swiss, Norwegian funds





▶ Thank you for your attention!