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**COMMITTEE FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE IN
THE FIELD OF BIOLOGICAL AND LANDSCAPE DIVERSITY**

CO-DBP

Group of specialists – European Diploma

29-30 March 1999

**Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians
Protected Landscape Area**

(Czech Republic)

APPLICATION

Ministry of the Environment, Czech Republic

APPLICATION OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC FOR CONFERMENT OF
THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA ON THE FOLLOWING PROTECTED
AREA:

**BÍLÉ KARPATY/WHITE CARPATHIANS
PROTECTED LANDSCAPE AREA**

IUCN CATEGORY V

PRESENTED BY THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OF THE
CZECH REPUBLIC ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE CZECH REPUBLIC

European Diploma Application Form

Country: Czech Republic

Name of the area: **Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians Protected Landscape Area**

Body responsible for its management:

Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians Protected Landscape Area Administration

Masarykova 207

CZ -763 26 LUHAČOVICE

1. Type of area B

2. Description of geographical location and/or sketch or outline

The Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians Protected Landscape Area (hereinafter PLA) is a southwestern limit of the outer Carpathian range, situated in the districts of Zlín, Uherské Hradiště and Hodonín.

Boundaries of the PLA: see the map attached

Area: 71,500 hectares

3. Characteristics and scientific, aesthetic, cultural or recreation value justifying conservation

The Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians PLA is formed by the Carpathian flysch (flysch) which is characterized by alternation of more resistant sandstones and softer mudstone/claystone and marlite strata. Limy marles to limestones reach rather the Slovak side of the Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians Mts. The relief includes mostly one, in some parts two parallel ranges. The central part of the range has a mountain character which is interrupted by huge valleys at some sites. Some of them reach the depth of 500 m and divide the whole area in some individual mountain groups.

A landscape scenery of the Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians PLA has resulted from a long-term use of the landscape by humans. Almost a half of the PLA's territory is covered by forests which have surprisingly maintained their natural character. Nevertheless, primary beech/fire forests at higher elevations were replaced by open meadows and pastures. From a point of view natural history, culture and history, the typical White Carpathian flowering meadows with dispersed greenery of solitary oaks and beeches are the most valuable element of the area and have no analogy across Europe. Thus, the diverse mosaic of habitat has allowed development of remarkable plant communities. Moreover, the PLA is particularly well-known by the occurrence of orchids: of the orchids species found on the whole territory of the Czech Republic, a half occur in the Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians Mts.

With respect to fauna, the PLA is noted for highly diversified insect communities and assemblages. Butterflies particularly are a typical element of the biota in the Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathian ecosystems. The area also harbours a lot of critically threatened bird species. Some large carnivores (the Lynx, occasionally the Brown Bear and Wild Cat) occur there.

4. European interest justifying the application

The Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians PLA is a suitable example of remarkable combination of well-preserved natural habitats and of the environment which has been sensitively created by man. It also represents a model of coexistence of humans and nature which caused development of specific culture and folklore. In addition to the undoubtedly significant biodiversity there is a traditional historical and cultural diversity in the Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathian area. In the PLA, a lot of local sorts were cultivated, particularly those of fruit trees; traditional livestock races have also been bred there. The pan-European and in some respect even the global importance of the PLA was confirmed by the fact that the Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians PLA was declared a Biosphere Reserve in 1996, becoming a part of the global system of Biosphere Reserves within the UNESCO's *Man and Biosphere* Programme (At present there are only six Biosphere Reserves in the Czech Republic). In the supra-regional Territorial System of Ecological Stability (*i.e.*, in the National Ecological Network) the PLA is classified as an important supra-regional (national) biocentre. Its part was also included into the first draft of the European Ecological Network (EECONET) as a keystone area (core area, biocentre) of at least Central European importance.

5. Ownership title

Most of the PLA is owned by private persons. Particularly the above-mentioned unique grasslands in the first zone are owned by the State only in a small proportion (approx. 40 hectares). The same applies for forests. Therefore, co-operation with landowners has been one of the main activities of the PLA Administration and NGOs.

6. Protection scheme

The Czech National Council Act No. 114/1992 Gazette on Protection of Nature and the Landscape which allows proclamation of PLAs as large-size protected areas is the main legislation tool for the Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians PLA. Economic activities are graded according to zones of different protection scheme so that state of nature in the PLA is maintained or improved. Using the system, ecological functions should be supported on the territory of the PLA.

Current or proposed legislation and regulations

Regulation of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic No. 17.644/80 of 3 November, 1980

Czech National Council Act No. 114/1992 Gazette on Protection of Nature and the Landscape, giving basic conditions of protection in PLAs:

Article 25

Protected Landscape Areas

1) Extensive territories with a harmonically formed landscape, a characteristically developed relief, a significant share of natural ecosystems of forest and permanent grass growth (grassland), with abundant wood species, or with preserved monuments of historical settlement, may be proclaimed protected landscape areas.

2) The utilitarian use of such territories must be carried out according to the zones of graded protection so as to preserve and improve their natural conditions, and to preserve and create the optimum ecological function of these territories. Recreational use is admissible, provided it does not damage the natural values of the protected landscape area.

3) Protected landscape areas, their mission and detailed conditions are proclaimed by the Government of the Republic in a decree.

Article 26

The Basic Conditions for the Protection of Protected Landscape Areas

1) On the entire territory of a protected landscape area it is prohibited:

a) to neutralise waste elsewhere than at sites assigned for this purpose with the approval of the Nature Conservancy authorities;

b) to camp and light fires except at sites assigned for this purpose with the approval of the Nature conservation authorities;

c) to drive motor vehicles and caravans in the area except on roads, thoroughfares and places assigned to this purpose with the approval of the Nature Conservancy authorities. This does not apply to vehicles belonging to state administrative bodies, vehicles necessary for forestry and agriculture, the defence of the country and of the frontier, for fire protection, for medical and veterinary services, and to vehicles belonging to water management organisations;

d) to permit, or to carry out the intentional introduction of geographically not original plant and animal species;

e) to use poisoned bait in the execution of hunting rights;

f) to build new highways, settlement formations and navigation channels;

g) to organise car and motorcycle races;

h) to spread the thoroughfares with chemicals;

i) to alter the preserved natural environment contrary to the detailed conditions for the protection of protected landscape areas.

2) On the territory of the first zone of a protected landscape area, it is also prohibited:

a) to permit the placing and to place new buildings;

b) to permit a change and to change the utilisation of the territory;

c) to alter the present farm-planting schemes if this rotation does not ensue from the care plan for protected landscape areas;

d) to fertilise the land, use farm-sewage, silage juice and other liquid waste;

e) to extract minerals and hummollites.

3) On the territory of the first and second zones of a protected landscape area it is also prohibited:

a) to farm the land in a manner which requires the use of intensive technology, particularly means, measures and activities that can cause fundamental changes in the biodiversity, structure and function of ecosystems, or can irreversibly damage the soil surface, to use biocides, to alter the water conditions, or to carry out extensive adjustments in the field;

b) to introduce the intensive game breeding, e.g., in game parks, breeding farms and pheasantries;

c) to organise bicycle races, except on roads, local thoroughfares and sites assigned for this purpose with the approval of the Nature Conservancy authorities.

Article 27

Zones and Care Plans in Protected Landscape Areas

1) For the detailed specification of the manner of protecting protected landscape areas, usually four, but at least three zones of graded nature conservation are demarcated. The first zone has the strictest rules of protection. The zones are demarcated by the Nature Conservancy authorities after discussing them with the respective central state administrative bodies, district offices and communities (their municipalities). A detailed regime for the nature conservation zones in protected landscape areas is determined together with the proclamation or alteration of the detailed conditions of protection in protected landscape areas (Article 25, clause 3) in a generally binding regulation.

2) The Nature Conservancy authorities propose and approve plans for the care of protected landscape areas (hereinafter "care plans") for a period of ten to fifteen years, to regulate and influence human activities with regard to the mission of protected landscape areas, and to set medium-term and long-term nature conservation tasks in these areas, particularly for the care of plants and animals.

3) The care plans ensue from the conditions of protection in the nature conservation zones of protected landscape areas (paragraph 1), and are the initial sources for physical planning documentation, forestry plans, water resources development plans and other types of planning documentation.

7. Planning and management plan

A comprehensive management plan for the Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians PLA is at the present under preparation. In addition to wise use of forests, it also deals with management of extremely valuable flowering meadows which have to be annually mown by hands. Principles of environmentally sensitive tourism for the PLA have also been proposed. The Bílé Karpaty/White Carpathians PLA and BR is well-known by organic farming as well as by agrotourism. Some activities of local authorities and NGOs were supported by some

international conservation bodies (IUCN - The World Conservation Union from a grant of the Dutch Government, Environmental Partnership for Central Europe, etc.) and some other foundations or donors from abroad.

Basic function of the PLA Bílé Karpaty is protection of all merits of landscape, its feature and typical badges and nature resources. Into this belong formation of balanced living environment and sustainable development during preserving or enhancing of biodiversity and mainly ecological stability of the territory.

Main measures are:

- protection of state natural and aesthetic merits of landscape
- ecological optimisation of farming use of the territory in respect of ecological limits for sustainable development
- progressive regeneration of lay wasted and burdened territories
- support of development of villages and stabilisation of inhabitants in prize areas
- co-ordination and development in the field of special nature protection
- co-ordination of basic research, scientific and research projects and needs of practical territory protection
- fulfilling of ecological and scientific goals

Forests are divided into three zones of protection and here is necessary to accept measures to filling mission of this PLA like is creation of valuable growths nearing to nature condition. Non-forest land is planned to be farmed the way, which could refund special management. For nature protection is needed to continue with inventory research of flora and fauna, mapping of geological and mineralogical conditions.

Very important is to follow up with TSES (Territorial System of Ecological Stability), especially choosing of regional and extra-regional biocentres and biocorridors for presenting natural conditions. Recently in assertion of computer technique is used GIS (Geographical Information System) – organised connection of computer hardware, software, geographical data and persons, which is made up for effective actualisation, deposition, manipulation and getting of information and analysis and imaging of all casts of geographically located information. PLA Bílé Karpaty is optimal for use of this system. Basic strategy of agricultural management in PLA should be proceeded in sustainable use, enhancing of temporary state of landscape, support of organic farming, support of traditional forms of management and assuring of production and extra-production targets of the landscape.

8. Bibliography of some selected papers on the area

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JONGEPIER J.W., JONGEPIEROVÁ I. (1995): The orchid flora of the White Carpathians. *eurorchis* 7: 73 - 89

JONGEPIER J.W., JONGEPIEROVÁ I. (1996): Habitat management of orchid-rich meadows in the Czech Republic. *Planta Europa Proc. Plant Life London*: 151 - 156

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TLUSTÁK V., JONGEPIEROVÁ-HLOBILOVÁ I. (1990): Orchideje Bílých Karpat (*Orchids of the White Carpathians*). Krajské vlastivědné muzeum Olomouc, 127 pp.

WILSON P.(1995): The White Carpathians Protected Landscape Area. La Cañada 3:3

ANNEX I

**PHOTOGRAPHS FROM WHITE CARPATHIANS/BÍLÉ KARPATY PROTECTED
LANDSCAPE AREA**

1. PLA White Carpathians: Diffuse Verdure



2. PLA White Carpathians: Detail of Flowery Meadow with Appearance of Numerous Species of Orchids Characteristic for this PLA



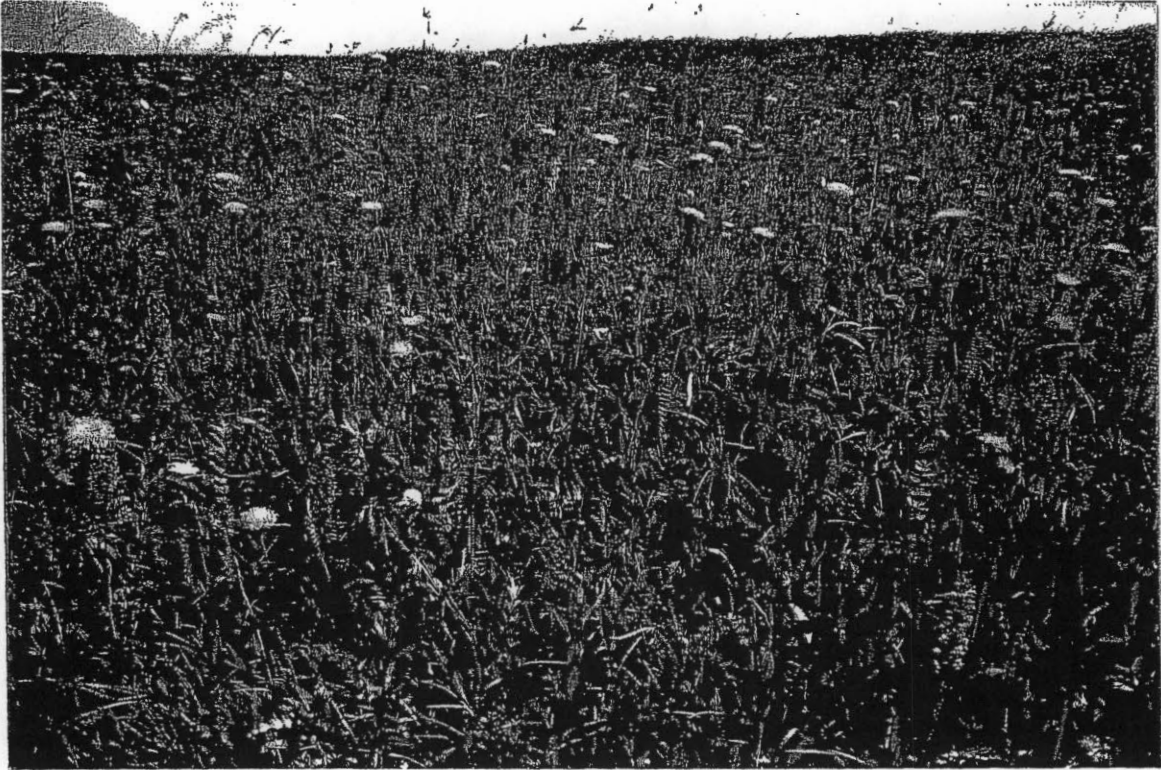
3. PLA White Carpathians: Insular Trees



4. PLA White Carpathians: *Cypripedium calceolus* – Critical Endangered Species



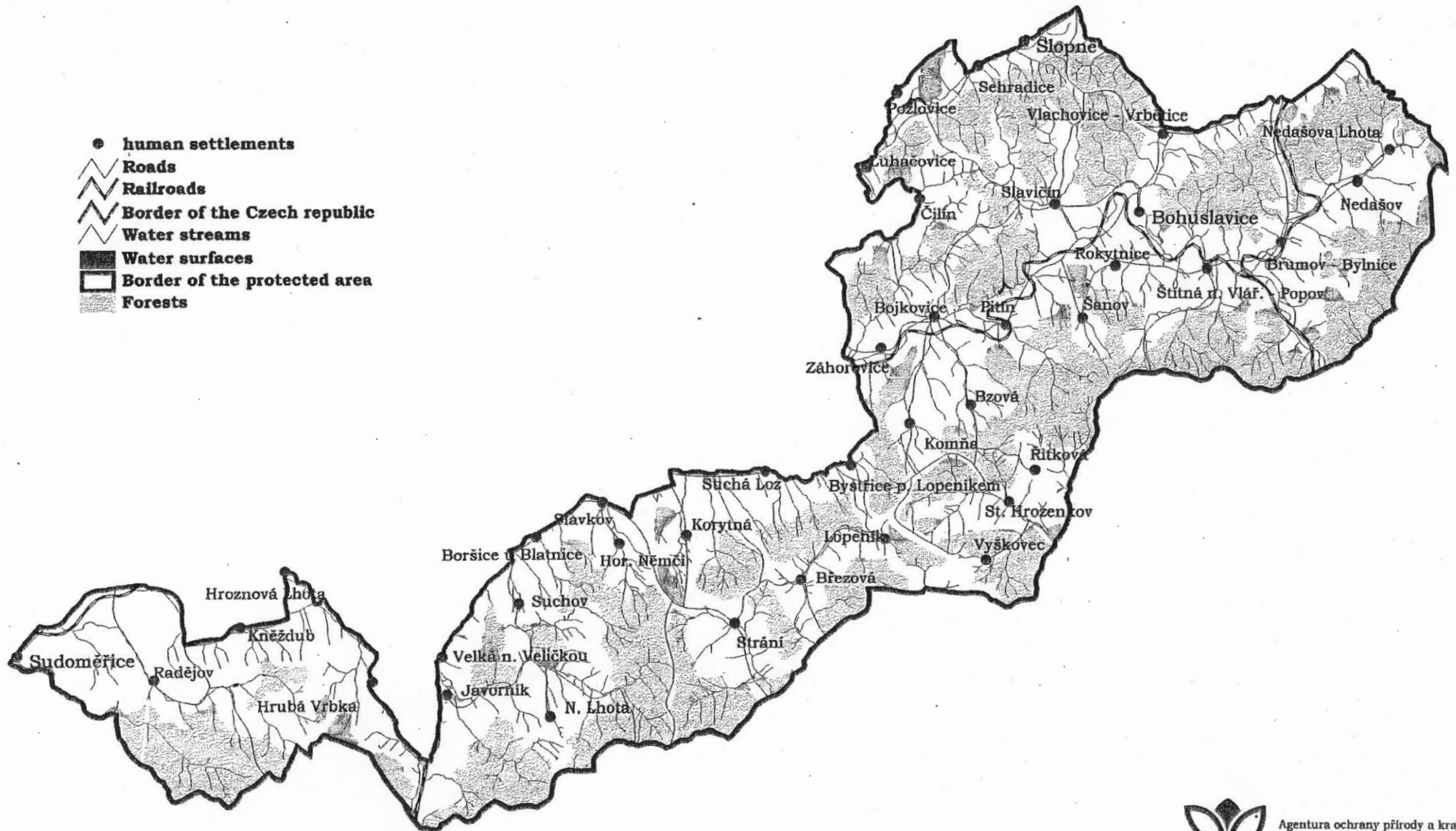
5. PLA White Carpathians: Detail of Flowery Meadow Characteristic for this PLA



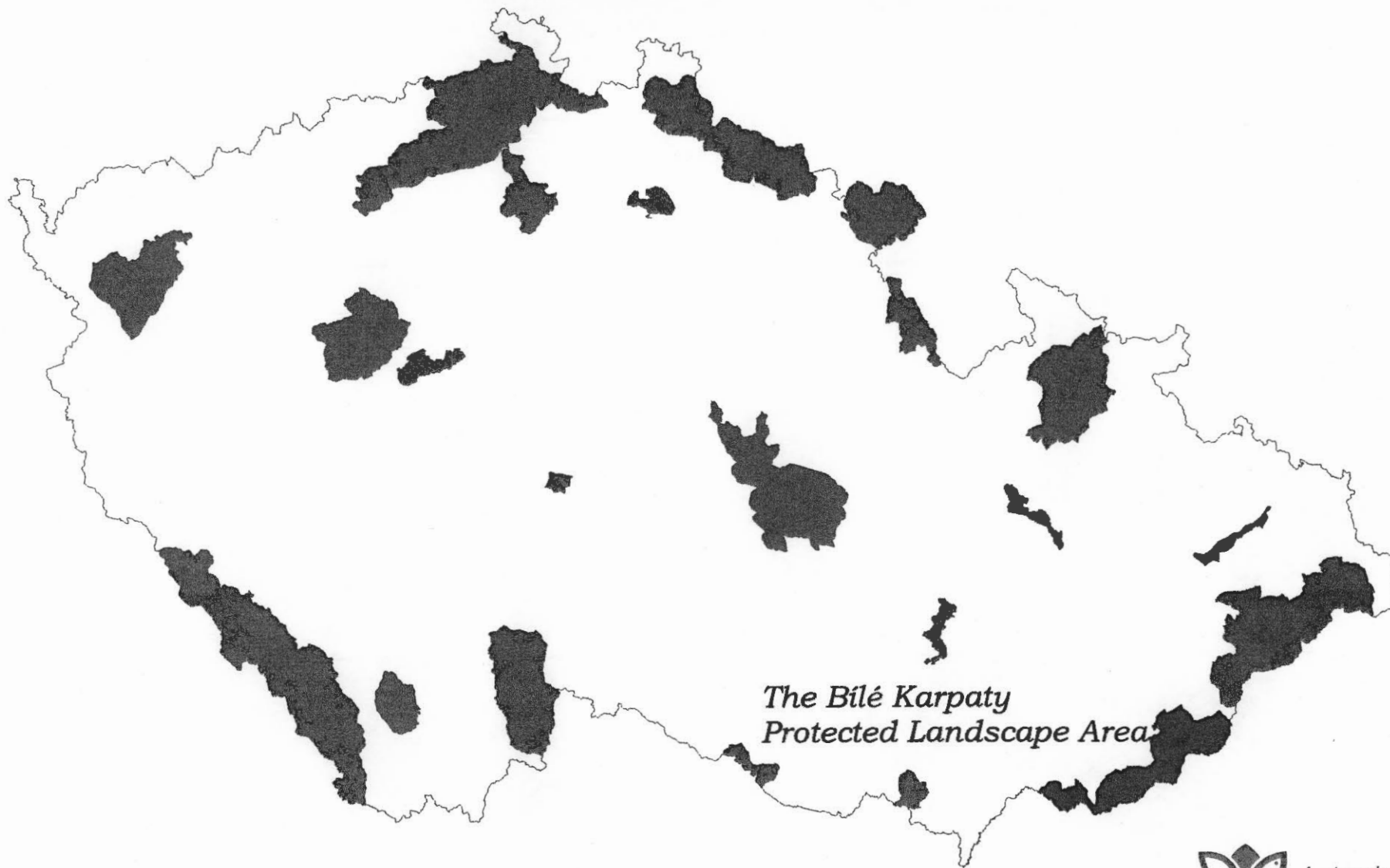
ANNEX II

MAPS

The Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area



Czech Republic - Protected Landscape Area and National Parks - The Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area



*The Bílé Karpaty
Protected Landscape Area*



Agentura ochrany přírody a krajiny ČR
Agency for Nature Conservation
and Landscape Protection
of the Czech Republic