



MINISTRY OF  
AGRICULTURE

# National Landscape Strategy of Hungary 2017-2026

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of  
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION  
National Symposium on the implementation  
of the European Landscape Convention in Georgia

Interministerial Round-Table: Integration of the landscape into policies  
Tbilisi, Georgia  
9-10 March 2018



# Government Decision 1128/2017 (20 March) on the National Landscape Strategy for the period between 2017 and 2026

**The Hungarian Government approved the National Landscape Strategy for the period 2017-2026;**

By the Government Decision 1128/2017 (20 March), the Government:

- calls on the Minister of National Development to take the principles of the National Landscape Strategy into account for the planning of investments in **transport infrastructure** and **tourism**;
- calls on the ministers concerned to **support volunteers and civil organisations engaged in landscape protection**;
- calls on the Minister of the Prime Minister's Office to provide for the **gradual setting up of the chief landscape architect system**;
- calls on the Minister of Agriculture to make a **report every three years on the implementation of the strategy to the Government** (the first report is due 30 June 2020).

# Authorisations

**European Landscape Convention** (Act CXI of 2007 on the promulgation of the European Landscape Convention was signed in Florence on 20 October 2000).

The minister responsible for nature conservation shall provide for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in agreement with the minister responsible for cultural heritage protection in co-operation with the minister's responsible for territorial development and spatial planning.

European Landscape Convention National Co-ordination Working Group : **Work Programme for the Implementation of the European Landscape Convention (2013-2017)** set the development of the Hungarian landscape strategy as an “extremely important” task.

**4th National Environmental Programme** – Decision 27/2015 (17 June) of the National Assembly on the National Environmental Programme for the period between 2015 and 2020.

The development of the “*National Landscape Policy and Strategy Integrating the Protection, Management and Planning of Landscapes*” is stipulated in **Chapter 8.7. European Landscape Convention of the Nature Conservation Master Plan** annexed to the Programme.





# Work flow

**SWOT analysis** 2015 March;

**Workshop** (organised by Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights and the State Secretariat for Environmental Affairs):

- analysis and evaluation of the condition of the Hungarian landscape;
- the role and responsibility of public administration in landscape formation.

**Convocation of an intra-ministerial and inter-ministerial working group**  
**Strategic Environmental Assessment**

Technical fields participating in the preparatory work:

<b>FM</b>	landscape protection, nature conservation, environmental development, environmental protection, land affairs, agricultural development, agriculture, forestry ;
<b>EMMI</b>	higher education ;
<b>BM</b>	water management, National Water Strategy;
<b>NGM</b>	territorial development planning, territorial planning;
<b>ME</b>	heritage values, protection of archaeological heritage, World Heritage, spatial planning, settlement affairs;
<b>NFM</b>	energy management, mining;
<b>MFGI</b>	raw minerals, geological agents;
<b>OVF</b>	water management, National Water Strategy.



# The mission of the strategy

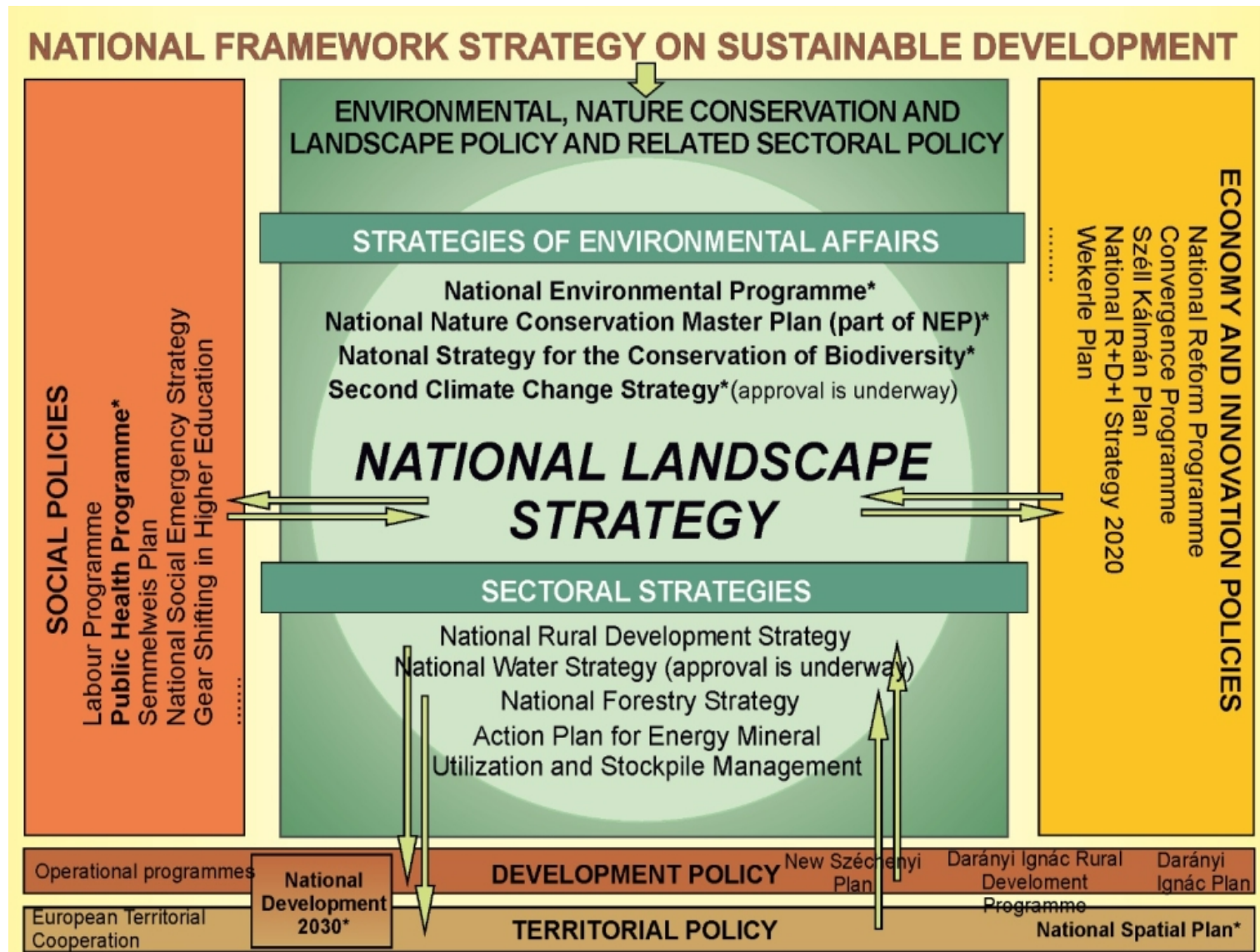
The mission of the first Hungarian National Landscape Strategy can be summarised as follows:

- development of a complex, holistic landscape approach, and having it acknowledged generally;
- the landscape generally must be made an underlying approach element of sectoral policy areas and functions, not only the areas and functions with outstanding values;
- the condition of the landscape and the triggering effects must be handled together, through revealing causal interrelationship and thereby demonstrating the need for taking responsibility for landscapes.

The National Landscape Strategy emphasises the change in land use and land cover on both protected and unprotected areas.



# The place and role of the National Landscape Strategy within the Hungarian planning scheme





# Structure, content

## Time frame:

Period: 2017-2026 (a medium-term strategy)

## Structure:

In compliance with the criteria of policy strategies according to Government Decree 38/2012 (12 March) on strategic management by the government:

- analysis and evaluation of the situation;
- measurable objectives;
- required actions and their preconditions;
- follow-up and evaluation.

## Content:

- how Hungary satisfies international expectations;
- the most dominant landscape formation processes;
- the condition of Hungarian landscapes, and;
- the drivers that determine their condition;
- 94 measures.

The strategy covers the whole territory of Hungary. The measures typically affect or may potentially cover the whole country.



# Comprehensive situation analysis

## Hungarian landscape in 19th and 20th centuries

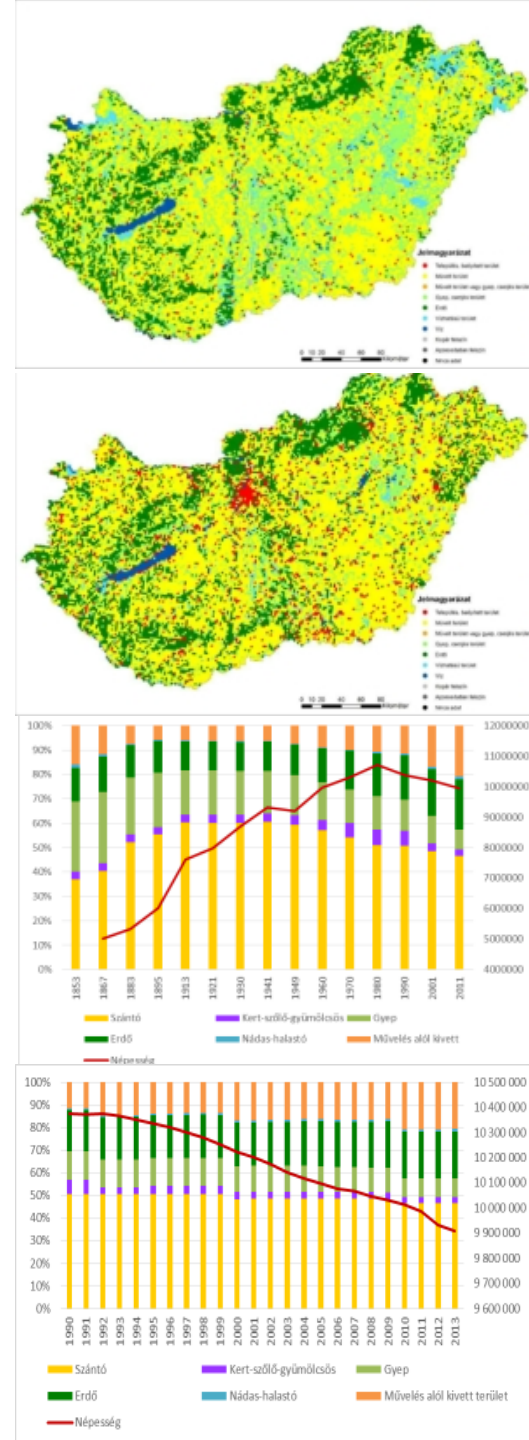
## The evolution of the Hungarian landscape policy

### Drivers determining the condition of Hungarian landscapes

- Quantitative and qualitative change in needs: expansion of the settlements, changes in settlement structure and land use  
The extremities of the changes in population size in the different regions of the country  
Expanding settlements and their impact on landscapes
- Environmental awareness, changes in landscape identity  
The approach of the digital society and the cyber generation to environment and their bond with landscapes  
Responsibility of individuals and communities for the landscape  
The role of awareness-raising in landscape formation
- Impacts of changes in ownership
- Landscape-related set of Hungarian regulatory and planning means
- Economic incentives and funding schemes defining the type and state of Hungarian landscapes

## The condition of Hungarian landscapes

## SWOT analysis





# Vision

## **Vision of Hungarian landscapes**

- Utilisation of the environmental elements typical of the landscape is sustainable and integrated.
- Valuable traditional land uses are sustained. Degraded sites are recovered.
- Semi-natural and developed areas, as well as land use associated with production, are characterised by diversity and richness.
- The proportion of built-up areas is low, does not increase or increases only to the extent of the actual demands; is linked to compact liveable settlements.
- The settlements and the heritage assets are harmoniously embedded in the landscape.

## **Vision of landscape policy**

- The government handles landscape policy in a holistic way.
- System-level management and monitoring of the processes that form the landscapes become routine.
- Planning results in sustainable and balanced area uses.
- A general and differentiated protection of all landscapes of the country is implemented.
- The economic incentives are designed to promote landscape changes in a positive direction.
- Landscape potential is exploited without threatening landscape character and its values.
- The population has developed a strong landscape identity, efficiently co-operates in issues connected to landscape

Summary of the dual vision:

**Land use relies on landscape configuration and assets.**

# Policy objectives

## The overall objective:

Responsible land use based on landscape configuration and assets.

## Horizontal principles:

- a) General protection of natural resources and cultural heritage;
- b) Wise and rational use of areas;
- c) The mitigation of the impacts of climate change and adaptation to it.

## Strategic objectives:

- I. Laying the foundations for land use based on landscape configuration and assets;
- II. Liveable landscape – liveable settlement – wise land use;
- III. Enhancing landscape identity.



## Strategic objectives and sub-objectives

### I. Laying the foundations for land use based on landscape configuration and assets

- I.1. Establishing the framework for land use based on landscape configuration and assets;
- I.2. Monitoring changes in land use;
- I.3. Integrating land use based on landscape configuration and assets into decision-making;
- I.4. Integrating a complex approach to landscape into research activities.

### II. Liveable landscape – liveable settlement – wise land use

- II.1. Compact, climate-friendly settlements that preserve values;
- II.2. Infrastructures fitted into the landscape;
- II.3. Production functions based on landscape configuration and assets;
- II.4. Recreational functions based on landscape configuration and assets;
- II.5. Better functioning regulatory and protective functions.

### III. Enhancing landscape identity

- III.1. Improving awareness and social responsibility;
- III.2. Improving social participation;
- III.3. Developing education and training related to landscape.





# Guarantees for the implementation

The **operational programmes** for 2014-2020 have been taken into account when defining objectives and intervention areas.

A major part of **actions** for the fulfilment of the objectives **is, or can be, linked to operational programmes** financed from EU funds. At the end of the EU budgetary period and the beginning of the period of **planning the following budgetary period, attention should be paid** that the **objectives specified in the strategy are involved among the planning criteria.**

Additionally, ensure that the **strategy contains actions that do not require allocated funds** in the budget but can be achieved as part of the existing tasks through **a change of approach or attitude.**

It is important that, according to the order of strategic management by the government, the **new strategies and existing strategies that are reviewed should integrate the requirement for *responsible land use, based on landscape configuration and assets***, and should incorporate the actions (94 measures) specified for the objectives into the sectoral policies.

The National Landscape Strategy  
**emphasises the change in land use and land cover**  
on both protected and unprotected areas.

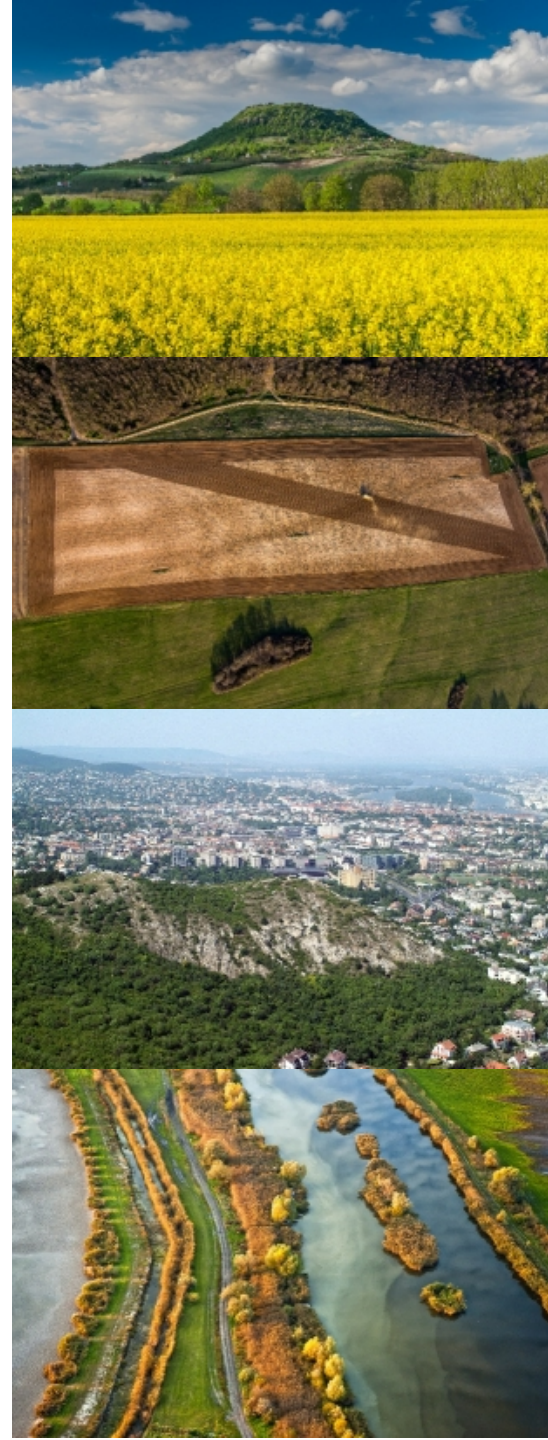


# Follow-up and evaluation

## Sub-objective I.1: Establishing the framework for land use based on landscape configuration and assets;

### MILESTONE/INDICATOR

- Setting up or developing databases containing spatial data of landscape configurations;
- The methodology for categorising the landscapes in Hungary based on landscape character;
- (2020) Digital database of national landscape character areas (evaluation of landscape character areas and the description of key characteristics);
- (2021) The methodology for the delineation of landscape character areas at regional and local development level;
- (2021) Specifying quality objectives and management principles for national landscape character areas;
- (2021) Specifying quality objectives and management principles for regional landscape character areas;
- The availability and implementation of a compact settlement model planning guide;
- The availability and implementation of a climate-friendly settlement model planning guide;
- Methodology for landscape-scale heritage protection.





# Achievements so far

Taking the list of objectives of the strategy into account, and the principles laid down in the European Landscape Convention, among others, two inter-ministerial working groups began their operation in 2017 on the following:

- monitoring the changes of landscapes, and
- establishment of a chief landscape architect system in public administration.





## Actual challenges

1. New work programme for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention for the period 2018-2022;
2. An action plan taking the date of the interim evaluation of the strategy into account;
3. A new law on the protocol amending the European Landscape Convention and depositing the instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
4. A national programme of state nature conservation with the title *“Strategic Assessments supporting the long-term conservation of natural values of community interest as well as the national implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020”*.



## KEHOP-4.3.0-15-2016-00001

**Strategic Assessments supporting the long-term conservation of natural values of community interest, as well as the national implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020**

**Beneficiary:** Ministry of Agriculture

**Partners:** Centre for Ecological Research of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Department of Geodesy, Remote Sensing and Land Offices under the Government Office of the Capital City Budapest, Hortobágy National Park Directorate, Kiskunság National Park Directorate

**Timeframe:** October 2016 – October 2017 (project preparation)  
November 2017 – December 2020 (implementation)

**Budget:** HUF 1,07 billion (EUR 3,45 million)

**Funding:** 85% ERDF + 15% national



## KEHOP-4.3.0-15-2016-00001

The four closely-related project elements will produce the following:

- thematic maps on the ecosystem status of natural and close-to-natural ecosystems;
- national priority list of ecosystem services;
- assessment of the contribution of ecosystem services to human well-being, socio-economic evaluation of ecosystem services;
- national methodology and model for the mapping and assessment of ecosystems and ecosystem services;
- range maps;
- habitat maps;
- national survey of bird species nesting in Hungary;
- refined methodology for monitoring and assessment of the conservation status of 45 habitat types;
- preparing species' management plans, updated Prioritised Action Framework;
- updated conflict map of power lines threatening birds;
- national GIS database of landscape character units;
- guidelines for the classification of landscape character types;
- methodology for the delimitation and protection of landscape character units at local level;
- national GIS database of the Green Infrastructure network;
- national restoration prioritisation framework;
- target areas of conservation.



colourful green  
my nature



natura  
values of nature



landscape  
character  
faces of nature




ecosystem  
services  
benefits of nature



green  
infrastructure  
networks of nature





Thank you for your attention!