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National Landscape Strategy of Hungary 2017-2026 Statement

In 2017 the Hungarian Government approved the National Landscape Strategy for the period 2017-2026 by the Government Decision 1128/2017 (20 March).

In Hungary, the European Landscape Convention took effect on 1 February 2008. 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 and
- in cooperation with the ministers responsible for territorial development and spatial planning.

The European Landscape Convention National Co-ordination Working Group organised an extended meeting in March 2015 to outline: strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

In December 2015, a workshop created the opportunity for research institutions, universities and civil organisations to make proposals for the strategy.

In 2015 the Ministry of Agriculture proposed the convocation of an intra-ministerial and an interministerial working group. The technical preparatory work relied on wide-ranging technical and interministerial co-operation.

Strategic Environmental Assessment was carried out also.

The structure of the strategy document follows the requirements of the government decree on strategic management.

The strategy emphasises the change in land use and land cover on both protected and unprotected areas.

The overall objective is: 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

The objectives of the strategy:

- 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.

Guarantees for the implementation:

According to the order of strategic management by the government, the new strategies and the 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 Hungarian National Landscape Strategy is available on the website of the Government in Hungarian and English:

www.kormany.hu/download/f/8f/11000/Hungarian%20National%20Landscape%20Strategy_2017-2026_webre.pdf