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AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

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**Group of Specialists on the
European Diploma for Protected Areas**

8 March 2017
Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg, Room 6

**REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

*Document prepared
by the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic*

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Table of contents

1. Foreword	- 3 -
2. Process of preparation of the "Poloniny National Park Management Plan for 2017-2026"	- 3 -
3. Structure of the "Poloniny National Park Management Plan for 2017-2026"	- 3 -
4. Long-term objectives of the " <i>Poloniny National Park Management Plan for 2017-2026</i> " and concerned habitats and species	- 4 -
5. Operational objectives of the "Poloniny National Park Management Plan for 2017-2026"	- 10 -
6. Measures of the "Poloniny National Park Management Plan for 2017-2026"	- 13 -
7. Explanation of the expert's comments provided in the document T-PVS/DE (2017) 10	- 14 -
8. Progress since March 2016.....	- 15 -
9. Conclusions.....	- 17 -
Appendix 1	- 19 -
Appendix 2	- 31 -

1. Foreword

This report has been prepared to **further explain the process of preparation and adoption of the document “Poloniny National Park Management Plan for 2017-2026”**, which was approved by the Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic N°293 of July 7th, 2016¹ and to **inform about the progress**.

2. Process of preparation of the “Poloniny National Park Management Plan for 2017-2026”

Task to prepare such a document is justified by the European Diploma as well as by the EU and national legislation (Poloniny is a national park since 1997, since 1998 holder of the European Diploma and since 2004 a part of the Natura 2000). Therefore, both **international and national commitments and “rules”, needed to be taken into consideration** during its preparation.

The process included the collection and processing of various scientific and other technical data as well as the **involvement of the local stakeholder which is crucial**. Ca. 60 % of the Poloniny National Park (Poloniny NP) is state-owned, while 40 % is in private hands. There are 41 key stakeholders that needed to be not only consulted but also actively involved in the process with the purpose both to support it and to take part in defining objectives and activities. This was an extremely difficult task because of the previous experience (in the last century a confiscation of land by the state, development of the Starina Water Reservoirs that meant demolition of 7 villages, designation of the protected areas without properly informing the stakeholders). **The cooperation and regular communication significantly improved**, this will be presented at the meeting of the Group of specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas on 08.03.2017 in Strasbourg by the director of the Poloniny National Park (NP) Administration.

There is one extremely important issue that remains and needs to be stressed – **poor economic situation, unemployment and strong dependence of local people on forestry**. This social aspect must be taken into consideration, understood and tackled in all the strategies, including nature protection.

Therefore the process of preparation of the document was very long and required series of meetings and hearings (apart from the prescribed procedure for each material to be submitted to the government). The Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic considers **the adoption of the “Poloniny National Park Management Plan for 2017-2026 first at the “local level” and finally at the national level a big success**.

3. Structure of the “Poloniny National Park Management Plan for 2017-2026”

It is the **official documentation of nature and landscape protection according to the § 54 of the Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection as amended** (Act No. 543/2002 Coll.). The **precise structure is given in the Annex 18 of the Decree of the Ministry** of the Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 24/2003 Coll. implementing Act No. 543/2002 Coll. Taking into consideration the very detail and strict structure and richness of habitats and species in the Poloniny NP, the document is really lengthy. **Its English translation (without appendices) has 72 pages and there are 25 appendices** (both maps, tables and detail *measures and Poloniny NP Action Plan*):

- 6.1. Poloniny NP Subjects of Conservation Map
- 6.2. Identification of Ownership-Use Relationships (in Forest Stands) in the Poloniny NP Map
- 6.3. Poloniny NP Territory Use Map
- 6.4. Poloniny NP EFAs Map

¹ Available in Slovak at the [Materiál programu rokovania](http://www.rokovania.sk/Rokovanie.aspx/BodRokovaniaDetail?idMaterial=25732) (<http://www.rokovania.sk/Rokovanie.aspx/BodRokovaniaDetail?idMaterial=25732>), in English on http://www.sopsr.sk/program_star/28.zip

- 6.5. Proposed Management Measures by Territorial Division Map (FDU, RAPA)
 - 6.5.1 Basic Measures in the Poloniny NP Forest Stands Management Map
 - 6.5.2 Poloniny NP Areas Eligible for Support from the Rural Development Programme 2014–2020 Map
- 6.6 Other Documentation
 - 6.6.1 Current Poloniny NP Protection Levels Map
 - 6.6.2 Poloniny NP Overlap with the Sites of Community Importance (Natura 2000) Map
 - 6.6.3 Poloniny NP Overlap with the Special Protected Areas (Natura 2000) Map
 - 6.6.4 Poloniny NP Overlap with the Hunting Grounds Map
 - 6.6.5 Poloniny NP Hiking Trails Map
 - 6.6.6 Poloniny NP Cycling Trails Map
 - 6.6.7 Poloniny NP Forest Stands Age Structure Map
 - 6.6.8 Poloniny NP EFA2 Forest Stands Age Structure Map
 - 6.6.9 Poloniny NP Forest Stands Growth Phases Map
 - 6.6.10 Poloniny NP Forest Stands Age Types Map
 - 6.6.11 Poloniny NP Forest Stands Core Management Map
 - 6.6.12 Poloniny NP Research and Monitoring Overview
 - 6.6.13 Measures to Fulfil Poloniny National Park Management Goals
 - 6.6.14 FDU's Classification into the EFAs and Proposed Measures in the Poloniny NP
 - 6.6.15 Poloniny NP Forest Land Priority Habitats
 - 6.6.16 Forest Land Stand Area Recapitulation in Terms of EFAs and the Individual Subjects Active in the Poloniny NP Area
 - 6.6.17 Poloniny NP Action Plan
 - 6.6.18 Poloniny NP Primeval Forests and Remains of Primeval Forests, i. e. the Degree of Forest Stands Natural Character in EFA1
 - 6.6.19 International Commitments Stemming from the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded by the Council of Europe to Poloniny NP Protected Areas and from the Inscription of the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany Site in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Many of appendices have been elaborated on top of the legal requirements such as the Appendix No 6.6.19 explaining the international commitments connected with the European Diploma and UNESCO World Heritage site. This appendix is in the *Annex 1 of this report*.

4. Long-term objectives of the “Poloniny National Park Management Plan for 2017-2026” and concerned habitats and species

The long-term (strategic) conservation objectives in the Poloniny NP are as follows:

- *To improve knowledge of habitats and species of Community and national importance (species included in Sections 1.6.2 and 1.6.3), especially those subject to conservation in the Poloniny NP and to assess their condition by monitoring.*
- *To preserve and/or achieve the favourable status of habitats and species of Community and national importance (species included in sections 1.6.2 and 1.6.3) subject to conservation in the Poloniny NP.*
- *To prevent urbanization and other ways of destroying sites containing habitats of Community importance and species of Community and national importance.*
- *To preserve the NP functions, especially the potential for sustainable use of forest habitats, grass stands, wetlands and stagnant waters, flowing waters with bank vegetation, caves and*

underground habitats as well as suitable tourism and recreation forms via due adherence to the objectives and measures in the individual EFAs.²

- *To involve land owners and users, local population and local self-governing authorities in the NP conservation as well as in the activities preserving the natural assets and at the same time providing local population with economic advantages, such as sustainable tourism and the renewal of traditional economical activities. -2026”*

Objectives comply with requirement of the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC³ to maintain and/or improve so called **favourable conservation status of habitats and species of Community importance**. Definition of the “favourable conservation status” of habitats and species of Community interest is given in the Article 1 of the EU Habitats Directive and its measurable improvement is stated in the EU Biodiversity 2020 Strategy⁴.

Lists of habitats and species that are subject to protection of the Poloniny NP are in 2 tables (e.g. table 2 and table 3 of the “*Poloniny National Park Management Plan for 2017 – 2026*”):

Habitat Name	Habitat Code (Natura 2000)	Habitat Conservation Status
Natural eutrophic and mesotrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> -type vegetation	3150	B
Alpine rivers and the herbaceous vegetation along their banks	3220	C
Alpine rivers and their ligneous vegetation with <i>Salix elaeagnos</i>	3240	B
Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels (riverbank butterbur communities in particular)	6430	A
Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on silicious substrates in mountain and submountain areas	6230*	C
Lowland and submountain hay meadows	6510	B
Mountain hay meadows	6520	B
Molinia meadows	6410	B
Transition mires and quaking bogs	7140	C
Alkaline fens	7230	C
Petrifying springs with tufa formation	7220*	A
Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	8220	A
Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (submontane alluvial ash-alder forests in particular)	91E0*	B
Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (montane alluvial alder forests in particular)	91E0*	B
Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines	9180*	B
Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests	9130	B
Luzulo-Fagetum beech forests	9110	A
Medio-European subalpine beech woods with <i>Acer</i> and <i>Rumex arifolius</i>	9140	A

Habitat status: A-favourable, good, B-favourable average, C-unfavourable

² Ecological-functional area

³ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:31992L0043>

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/strategy/index_en.htm

Scientific Name	Common Name	Protected Species (§)	Red List Category	Quantity	Nature of Occurrence and Number of Sites	Species Conservation Status
Plants:						
<i>Buxbaumia viridis</i>	green shield moss	§	–	More-less stable, localized on several trunks only.	1 site	B
<i>Dicranum viride</i>	brittle broom moss	§	–	Occurrence recorded on several trees: stable population.	6 sites	A
<i>Campanula serrata</i>	Scheuchzer's bellflower	§	–	unknown	8 sites	B
<i>Eleocharis carniolica</i>	–	§	EN	unknown	2 sites	B
<i>Tozzia carpatica</i>	Carpathian Tozzia	§	LR: nt	unknown	4 sites	B
Animals:						
<i>Unio crassus</i>	thick-shelled river mussel	§	VU	unknown	1 site	N
<i>Pholidoptera transsylvanica</i>	Transylvanian bush-cricket	§	VU	unknown	2 sites	N
<i>Isophya stysi</i>	Stys's bush-cricket	§	DD	unknown	isolated occurrence	N
<i>Carabus variolosus</i>	rugged ground beetle	§	LR: cd	unknown	10 sites	N
<i>Carabus zawadzskii</i>	–	§	–	unknown	13 sites	N
<i>Rosalia alpina</i>	rosalia longicorn	§	VU	unknown	area-wide	N
<i>Maculinea arion</i>	large blue butterfly	§	VU	unknown	20 sites	B
<i>Maculinea teleius</i>	scarce large blue butterfly	§	EN	unknown	2 sites	C
<i>Parnassius mnemosyne</i>	clouded Apollo butterfly	§	VU	unknown	isolated occurrence	N
<i>Bombina variegata</i>	yellow-bellied toad	§	LR: cd	relatively abundant	insular	A
<i>Bombina bombina</i>	European fire-bellied toad	§	LR: cd	unknown	isolated occurrence	C
<i>Bufo viridis</i>	European green toad	§	LR: cd	unknown	isolated occurrence	C

<i>Hyla arborea</i>	European tree frog	§	LR: nt	unknown	isolated occurrence	C
<i>Rana arvalis</i>	moor frog	§	VU	unknown	isolated occurrence	N
<i>Rana dalmatina</i>	agile frog	§	LR: lc	unknown	isolated occurrence	C
<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	northern crested newt	§	EN	unknown	insular	C
<i>Triturus montandoni</i>	Carpathian newt	§	VU	unknown	insular	B
<i>Elaphe longissima</i>	Aesculapian snake	§	LR: cd	unknown	insular	B
<i>Lacerta agilis</i>	sand lizard	§	–	unknown	isolated	B
<i>Natrix tessellata</i>	dice snake	§	VU	unknown	1 figure	N
<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	boreal owl	§	NE	low	breeding bird - 5 sites	N
<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	common kingfisher	§	LR: nt	5 couples	breeding bird	B
<i>Anthus campestris</i>	tawny pipit	§	EN	isolated occurrence	migrant	–
<i>Aquila clanga</i>	greater spotted eagle	§	–	isolated occurrence	migrant	–
<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	eastern imperial eagle	§	EN	isolated occurrence	migrant	–
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	golden eagle	§	VU	1 couple	breeding bird	C
<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>	booted eagle	§	CR	isolated occurrence	migrant	–
<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	lesser spotted eagle	§	LR: nt	8 couples	breeding bird	B
<i>Egretta alba</i>	great egret	§	EN	isolated occurrence	migrant	–
<i>Bubo bubo</i>	Eurasian eagle-owl	§	NE	1 couple	breeding bird	N
<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	European nightjar	§	NE	50–100	breeding bird	B
<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	white stork	§	LR: Ic	3 couples	breeding bird	C
<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	black stork	§	LR: nt	9 couples	breeding bird	B
<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	short-toed snake eagle	§	EN	2 couples	probably a breeding bird	N
<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	western marsh harrier	§	LR	isolated occurrence	migrant	–
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	northern harrier	§	–	isolated occurrence	migrant	–
<i>Circus</i>	Montagu's	§	–	isolated	migrant	–

<i>pygargus</i>	harrier			occurrence		
<i>Crex crex</i>	corn crane	§	LR: cd	200	breeding bird	B
<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>	white-backed woodpecker	§	LR: nt	150	breeding bird	A
<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>	middle spotted woodpecker	§	–	unknown	breeding bird	N
<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>	Syrian woodpecker	§	–	unknown	breeding bird	N
<i>Dryocopus martius</i>	black woodpecker	§	–	100 couples	breeding bird	A
<i>Falco columbarius</i>	merlin	§	–	isolated occurrence	wintering bird	–
<i>Falco cherrug</i>	saker falcon	§	CR	isolated occurrence	migrant	–
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	peregrine falcon	§	EN	isolated occurrence	migrant	–
<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	red-footed falcon	§	EN	isolated occurrence	migrant	–
<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>	collared flycatcher	§	–	2600 couples	breeding bird	A
<i>Ficedula parva</i>	red-breasted flycatcher	§	NE	1000 couples	breeding bird	A
<i>Gavia arctica</i>	black-throated loon	§	–	isolated occurrence	wintering bird	–
<i>Gavia stellata</i>	red-throated loon	§	–	isolated occurrence	wintering bird	–
<i>Glaucidium passerinum</i>	Eurasian pygmy owl	§	NE	low	breeding bird – 3 sites	N
<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	white-tailed eagle	§	CR	isolated occurrence	migrant	–
<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	whiskered tern	§	EN	isolated occurrence	migrant	–
<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	black tern	§	VU	isolated occurrence	migrant	–
<i>Lanius collurio</i>	red-backed shrike	§	–	unknown	insular	N
<i>Lanius minor</i>	lesser grey shrike	§	VU	isolated occurrence	migrant	–
<i>Lullula arborea</i>	woodlark	§	–	unknown	breeding bird	N
<i>Milvus migrans</i>	black kite	§	VU	isolated occurrence	migrant, a breeding bird in the past	N
<i>Milvus milvus</i>	red kite	§	EN	isolated occurrence	migrant, a breeding bird in the past	N
<i>Pandion</i>	osprey	§	–	isolated	migrant	–

<i>haliaetus</i>				occurrence		
<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	European honey buzzard	§	LR: lc	10 couples	breeding bird	B
<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>	Eurasian three-toed woodpecker	§	–	unknown	breeding bird – 6 sites	N
<i>Picus canus</i>	grey-headed woodpecker	§	–	80 couples	breeding bird	A
<i>Strix uralensis</i>	Ural owl	§	LR: lc	50 couples	breeding bird	B
<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	barred warbler	§	–	200 couples	breeding bird	A
<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>	wood grouse	§	VU	isolated occurrence	migrant	N
<i>Bonasa bonasia</i>	hazel grouse	§	–	700 couples	breeding bird	B
<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	barbastelle	§	LR: cd	unknown	isolated occurrence, 4 sites	N
<i>Bison bonasus</i>	European bison	§	NE	30	Starina reservoir flood plain	A
<i>Canis lupus</i>	gray wolf	§	LR: nt	unknown	area-wide	A
<i>Castor fiber</i>	Eurasian beaver	§	LR: nt	unknown	8 families	A
<i>Eptesicus nilssoni</i>	northern bat	§	LR: lc	unknown	isolated occurrence, 8 sites	N
<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	serotine bat	§	DD	unknown	isolated occurrence, 10 sites	N
<i>Felis sylvestris</i>	wildcat	§	VU	unknown	area-wide	N
<i>Lutra lutra</i>	European otter	§	VU	22 spec.	area-wide: rivers and the Starina reservoir	A
<i>Lynx lynx</i>	Eurasian lynx	§	EN	12 spec.	area-wide	A
<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>	hazel dormouse	§	LR: lc	unknown	insular	N
<i>Myotis bechsteini</i>	Bechstein's bat	§	LR: lc	unknown	isolated occurrence, 1 site	N
<i>Myotis blythi</i>	lesser mouse-eared bat	§	LR: cd	unknown	isolated occurrence, 1 site	N
<i>Myotis brandti</i>	Brandt's bat	§	VU	unknown	isolated occurrence, 6 sites	N
<i>Myotis dasycneme</i>	pond bat	§	VU	unknown	isolated occurrence, 1 site	N

<i>Myotis daubentoni</i>	Daubenton's bat	§	LR: lc	unknown	isolated occurrence, 12 sites	N
<i>Myotis emarginatus</i>	Geoffroy's bat	§	VU	unknown	isolated occurrence, 4 sites	N
<i>Myotis myotis</i>	greater mouse-eared bat	§	LR: cd	unknown	isolated occurrence, 4 sites	N
<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	whiskered bat	§	VU	unknown	isolated occurrence, 11 sites	N
<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	Natterer's bat	§	LR: nt	unknown	isolated occurrence, 1 site	N
<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	lesser noctule	§	DD	unknown	isolated occurrence, 2 sites	N
<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	common noctule	§	LR: lc	unknown	isolated occurrence, 6 sites	N
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	common pipistrelle	§	LR: lc	unknown	isolated occurrence, 28 sites	N
<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	brown long-eared bat	§	LR: nt	unknown	isolated occurrence, 8 sites	N
<i>Plecotus austriacus</i>	grey long-eared bat	§	LR: nt	unknown	isolated occurrence, 2 sites	N
<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	greater horseshoe bat	§	CR	unknown	isolated occurrence, 1 site	N
<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	lesser horseshoe bat	§	LR: cd	unknown	isolated occurrence, 4 sites	N
<i>Sicista betulina</i>	northern birch mouse	§	VU	unknown	insular unknown	N
<i>Ursus arctos</i>	brown bear	§	LR: cd	30	area-wide	B
<i>Vespertilio murinus</i>	parti-coloured bat	§	DD	unknown	isolated occurrence, 2 sites	N

Species overview according to the Slovak Red List 2001:

CR – Critically Endangered, **EN** – Endangered, **VU** – Vulnerable, **LR** – Lower Risk, **cd** – Conservation Dependent, **nt** – Near Threatened, **lc** – Least Concern, **DD** – Data Deficient

Species Conservation Status: A - favourable, good, B - favourable, average, C - unfavourable, N - lack of data on occurrence to assess the condition; migrant or wintering species.

5. Operational objectives of the “Poloniny National Park Management Plan for 2017-2026”

Operational objectives are set within **17 so called ecological – functional areas (EFA)** that were delineated for areas with “common ecological and management needs”. These operational objectives are the following:

Ecological-functional areas	Objectives		
EFA1a Forest ecosystems with a Category V level of protection	<i>1.1: to ensure research and monitoring of the habitats and species of Community and national importance subject to conservation in the Poloniny NP.</i>	<i>1.2: to maintain or achieve the favourable status of 2 habitats and 4 species of Community and national importance subject to conservation as well as to improve the status of 1 habitat and 2 species.</i>	
EFA1b Forest ecosystems in the World Natural Heritage core area with a Category III level of protection	<i>1.3: to ensure research and monitoring of the habitats and species of Community and national importance subject to conservation in the Poloniny NP</i>	<i>1.4: to maintain or achieve the favourable status of 2 habitats and 4 species of Community and national importance subject to conservation as well as to improve the condition of 1 habitat and 2 species</i>	
EFA2 Forest ecosystems in the World Natural Heritage buffer zone	<i>2.1: to make the involved forest ecosystems ecologically stable and able to autoregulate by means of temporary active management</i>	<i>2.2: to ensure research and monitoring of 2 habitats and 4 species of Community and national importance subject to conservation</i>	<i>2.3: to maintain or achieve the favourable status of 2 habitats and 4 species of Community and national importance subject to conservation in the Poloniny NP</i>
EFA3 Forest ecosystems with a Category III and IV level of protection	<i>3.1: to ensure research and monitoring of habitats and species of Community and national importance subject to conservation in the Poloniny NP</i>	<i>3.2: to maintain or achieve the favourable status of 2 habitats and 3 species of Community and national importance subject to conservation</i>	
EFA4 Permanently managed forest ecosystems with a Category II level of protection	<i>4.1: to ensure research and monitoring of habitats and species of Community and national importance subject to conservation in the Poloniny NP</i>	<i>4.2: to maintain or achieve the favourable status of 2 habitats and 2 species of Community and national importance subject to conservation</i>	
EFA5	<i>5.1: to ensure research and</i>		

Ecological-functional areas	Objectives		
Bushes and groups of trees outside the forest	<i>monitoring of habitats and species of Community and national importance subject to conservation as well as dependent on the given EFA</i>		
EFA6 Mountain “poloniny” meadows above the timberline outside the RAPA	<i>6.1: to ensure research and monitoring of habitats and species of Community and national importance subject to conservation in the Poloniny NP</i>	<i>6.2: to maintain or achieve the favourable status of 1 habitat and 2 species of Community and national importance subject to conservation</i>	
EFA7 Mountain “poloniny” meadows above the timberline included in the RAPA production blocks	<i>7.1: to ensure research and monitoring of habitats and species of Community and national importance subject to conservation in the Poloniny NP</i>	<i>7.2: to maintain or achieve the favourable status of 1 habitat and 2 species of Community and national importance subject to conservation</i>	
EFA8 Meadows, pastureland and fields, tree farms outside the RAPA	<i>8.1: to ensure research and monitoring of habitats and species of Community and national importance subject to conservation in the Poloniny NP</i>	<i>8.2: to maintain or achieve the favourable condition of 3 habitats and species of Community and national importance that are subject to conservation</i>	
EFA9 Meadows, pastureland and fields, tree farms included in the RAPA production blocks	<i>9.1: to ensure research and monitoring of habitats and species of Community and national importance subject to conservation in the Poloniny NP</i>	<i>9.2: to maintain and/or achieve the current status of 3 habitats and species of Community and national importance subject to conservation</i>	
EFA 10 Maculinea butterflies sites	<i>10.1: to ensure research and monitoring of habitats and species of Community and national importance subject to conservation in the Poloniny NP</i>	<i>10.2: to maintain or achieve the current status of 3 habitats and species of Community and national importance subject to conservation</i>	
EFA11 Wetlands and moors included in the RAPA production blocks	<i>11.1: to ensure research and monitoring of habitats and species of Community and national importance subject to conservation in the Poloniny NP</i>	<i>11.2: to maintain and/or achieve the current status of habitats and species of Community and national importance subject to Poloniny NP conservation</i>	
EFA12 Alkaline fens	<i>12.1: to ensure research and monitoring of habitats and</i>	<i>12.2: to maintain or achieve the current status</i>	

Ecological-functional areas	Objectives		
outside the RAPA	<i>species of Community and national importance subject to Poloniny NP conservation</i>	<i>of habitats and species of Community and national importance subject to Poloniny NP conservation</i>	
EFA13 Wetlands outside the RAPA and stagnant water	<i>13.1: to ensure research and monitoring of habitats and species of Community and national importance subject to Poloniny NP conservation</i>	<i>13.2: to maintain and/or achieve the current status of habitats and species of Community and national importance subject to Poloniny NP conservation</i>	
EFA14 Flowing water with bank vegetation	<i>14.1: to ensure research and monitoring of habitats and species of Community and national importance subject to Poloniny NP conservation</i>	<i>14.2: to maintain or achieve the current status of habitats and species of Community and national importance subject to Poloniny NP conservation</i>	
EFA15 Former residential areas of relocated villages above the Starina reservoir	<i>15.1: to ensure research and monitoring of habitats and species of Community and national importance subject to Poloniny NP conservation</i>	<i>15.2: to maintain and/or achieve the current status of species of Community and national importance subject to Poloniny NP conservation</i>	<i>15.3: to ensure the pomological inventory of the fruit woody plants and subsequent care and gene pool reproduction</i>
EFA16 Urban and suburban habitats	<i>16.1: to ensure research and monitoring of species of Community and national importance that are subject to Poloniny NP conservation</i>	<i>16.2: to maintain and/or achieve the current status of species of Community and national importance subject to Poloniny NP conservation</i>	
EFA17 Caves and underground habitats	<i>17.1: to ensure research and monitoring of habitats and species of Community and national importance subject to Poloniny NP conservation</i>	<i>17.2: to maintain and/or achieve the current status of habitats and species of Community and national importance subject to Poloniny NP conservation</i>	
EFA 1-17 Common objective	<i>18.1: to increase ecological awareness of local population and national park visitors, to improve cooperation with land owners and users while protecting the subjects of conservation</i>		

6. Measures of the “Poloniny National Park Management Plan for 2017-2026”

Individual management measures within EFAs are aiming at nature and landscape protection, regional development, tourism development, preservation of cultural and traditional values and scientific activities. They are specified in:

- the “*Poloniny NP Action Plan*” (Appendix 6.6.17 of the “*Poloniny National park Management Plan for 2017-2026*”, totally 88 pages in the English translation). This was **developed along with stakeholders**.
- the “*Measures to fulfil the NP Poloniny objectives*” (Appendix 6.6.13 of the “*Poloniny National park Management Plan for 2017-2026*”, e. g. page 13 table) – in the Annex 2 of this report, respectively), these are (in summary) aimed to:
 - **maintain or improve conservation status of plant** species (7 measures for practical management of specific sites, elimination of no-native and invasive species);
 - **research and monitoring** (33 measures for specific species, habitats);
 - **increase ecological awareness and cooperation** with local stakeholders (4 measures);
 - **maintain or improve forest ecosystems** (8 measures);
 - **maintain or improve permanent grasslands** status (21 measures);
 - **preserve the natural water accumulation** (5 measures);
 - **improve the native fish species** populations (3 measures);
 - **improve the native game species** populations (1 measures);
 - **create conditions for ecotourism** (5 measures);
 - **regulate tourism** and improve infrastructure (12 measures) and
 - **increase general environmental awareness** (4 measures).

7. Explanation of the expert’s comments provided in the document T-PVS/DE (2017) 10

- The Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic did not consider **consulting** the “*Poloniny National Park Management Plan for 2017-2026*” with the Council of Europe or its experts in the phase of finalization. The reasons were purely practical ones: **language barrier** (to share such a lengthy document, more over several times updated) **and precise legal national procedures** that must be followed. The Ministry submitted due reports (annual and the progress reports) and neither after the presentation at the expert group in 2016 the demands for consultations were not raised.

- **The structure** of the “*Poloniny National Park Management Plan for 2017-2026*” **is legally binding** (and very detailed), the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic however took the opportunity to elaborate additional appendices (above mentioned “*Action Plan*” and “*Measures*”).

- **Vision** of the “*Poloniny National Park Management Plan for 2017-2026*” was **set according to the agreed negotiations with local stakeholders** - any other solutions would not be useful. Finding consensus and creating cooperative approach was crucial not only for preparation of the document but mainly for future activities. Vision will be further specified as the document will be subject of regular revision.

- **Specification of problems, challenges and ambitions** are given in details within the “*Poloniny NP Action Plan*” (e. g. current situation, needed measures, expected financial resources and sources, effects of measures, precise site).

- Issue of the **invasive alien species** is incorporated in all the relevant objectives and measures (it is part of activities to achieve “**favourable conservation status**” of protected habitats and species). Details on the “**favourable conservation status**” are provided above in the part 4.

- Aspects of the **climate change** are tackled for instance in the following measures of the “*Poloniny NP Action Plan*”:

- Ensuring the No-Intervention Mode in the World Heritage Areas (chapter 5.2.1 of the *Poloniny NP Action Plan*)
- Ensuring the Close-to-Nature Management in the World Heritage Sites Buffer Zone (chapter 5.2.2 of the *Poloniny NP Action Plan*)
- Revitalization of Roads that are No Longer Needed and Reconstruction of Roads Needed for Management of Habitats (chapter 5.5.1 of the *Poloniny NP Action Plan*)
- Anti-Flood Measures in River Basins (chapter 5.5.2 of the *Poloniny NP Action Plan*)
- Setting up Hay, Straw and Wood Pellets and Bricks Production Facility (chapter 5.9.2 of the *Poloniny NP Action Plan*)
- Opening of a Biogas Plant (chapter 5.9.2 of the *Poloniny NP Action Plan*)

- **The European Diploma** is mentioned in the introduction (page 1 of the “*Poloniny National Park Management Plan for 2017-2026*”) as well as in **chapters 1.2, 1.4 and 2.2.1 and in Appendix No. 6.6.19** - Requirements coming from the European Diploma as well as from the other international commitments have been transposed into the “*Poloniny National Park Management Plan for 2017-2026*” as much as possible. It is included in the *Annex 1 of this report*.

- **Forestry** is a very sensitive issue as this sector provides for majority of job opportunities. The “*Poloniny National Park Management Plan for 2017-2026*” is not to introduce a new legal frameworks, the same applies for the forestry plans that are specific documents prepared for the forestry units. “*Poloniny National Park Management Plan for 2017-2026*” however summarized the data on forests (also in the appendices) and stated the following base for forestry (approved by the Government). The following is an example of the document:

- *To manage the forest soil fund in a differentiated manner in order to grow healthy and stable forest stands with native woody plants composition and multi-layer structure and in order for the forest to fulfil all the required functions.*
- *To preserve, to a maximum possible extent, the integral portions of the native (natural) stands.*
- *To strongly prefer the small-scale shelterwood management with the use of natural regeneration.*
- *To gradually change the extraction and mining technical equipment in order to lessen the erosion threat in the area.*
- *(Given the young forest stands wide extent and the importance of tending forest management measures) To undertake forest tending measures in a timely manner and in compliance with the functional focus and needs of the stands, and in order to achieve stable and resilient stands as well as supported biodiversity.*
- *To not remove the preparatory (pioneer) woody plants everywhere in the same extent, but to reduce them in areas with a significant occurrence of basic species of the native woody plants structure.*
- *To implement artificial afforestation only exceptionally and to use native and genetically suitable young plants of high quality instead.*
- *To ensure the monitoring of forest ecosystems condition and the natural processes research.*

- **Financing** is in the chapter 4 of the “*Poloniny National Park Management Plan for 2017-2026*” only in the form of an overall table. In fact, this is not the obligatory part of the document but logically was included as well. The detailed calculation of financial, social, environmental and other impacts of measures are elaborated as part (so called “analysis of impacts”) of each material submitted to the Government. This was also the case for the “*Poloniny National Park Management Plan for 2017-2026*”.

This analysis is publically available⁵ (in Slovak only) with more detailed impacts according to 17 EFAs and also calculations for forest and non-forest habitats.

8. Progress since March 2016

Apart from the adoption of the “*Poloniny National Park Management Plan for 2017-2026*” (first by the stakeholders and later by the Government Resolution of the Slovak Republic N°293 of July 7th, 2016) there were several other initiatives and activities at the national level.

The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic completed, in close cooperation with all the relevant experts in Slovakia, 3 documents for large carnivores⁶:

- **Management Plan on wolf (*Canis lupus*) in Slovakia**, approved by stakeholders and by the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic on May 26th, 2016;
- **Management Plan on brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) in Slovakia**, approved by stakeholders and by the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic on February 2nd, 2017 and
- **Management Plan on lynx (*Lynx lynx*) in Slovakia** approved by stakeholders and by the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic on February 2nd, 2017.

These documents were elaborated according to the § 54 of the Act No. 543/2002 Coll. They set strategic objectives of a species and measures (law, public involvement, practical management) and modification/introduction of new forms of monitoring and mapping of large carnivores; unification of database on these populations; unification of database of damages caused by large carnivores, unification of preventive measures to eliminate current damages on crops, human health, etc.; change of system regulation culling of brown bear etc.

The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic also successfully completed project co-financed by Swiss – Slovak Cooperation Programme “**Development of Nature Conservation and protected areas in the Slovak Carpathians**”. Its main results are the following:

- Proposal of Forest Management Measures for the Buffer Zone of the UNESCO sites „Carpathian Beech Forests" in the Poloniny;
- Manual on nature-friendly management practices in Natura 2000 sites for non-state owners in the Poloniny NP development
- Recategorization of commercial forests to forests of special purpose in Borsukov vrch National Nature Reserve;
- Educational activities such as film on Carpathian beech forests production, educational paths renovation, Nová Sedlica Information centre renovation, publication of book Carpathians hidden treasures and other brochures, maps and leaflets on Poloniny NP;
- Management plans of degraded sites in Poloniny NP development and realization;
- Delineation and marking of protected areas in the field;
- Construction of gene pool for amphibians and other water depending animal species;
- Meetings with local stakeholders focussed on explanation of requirements of European diploma of PA, UNESCO site, management plan for Poloniny NP;

⁵ <http://www.rokovania.sk/File.aspx/ViewDocumentHtml/Mater-Dokum-201639?prefixFile=m> .

⁶ Available in Slovak language at <http://www.minzp.sk/sekcie/temy-oblasti/ochrana-prirody-krajiny/druhova-ochrana-prirody/programy-starostlivosti/>

- Building of infrastructure for soft tourism (information boards, benches and tables, wooden bridges);
- Activities focussed on preservation of cultural and natural landscape such as reparation of the Orthodox church in the Dara village, renovation of traditional folk architecture in Kadub, renovation of the mineral source in the Osadné village, information system for the unique charnel house in Dara, Porta Rusica – reconstruction of dewatering system, renovation of unique folk dress typical for the Poloniny region, Poloniny European Day organization.

The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic started a new project co-financed by Norway grants **“Nature Conservation as an Opportunity for Regional Development”**:

- The proposal of sustainable financial strategy of protected areas in transboundary Slovak-Ukrainian region;
- Educational training for the nature guards;
- Elaboration of the strategy for development of sustainable tourism in the Poloniny NP;
- Meetings of local communities of the transboundary region in the Poloniny NP and signature of the co-operation agreement between Slovak association of local communities and Velky Bereznyj region in Ukraine;
- Educational activities such as publication of brochures, leaflets, information boards installation;
- Activities focussed on sustainable tourism in the Poloniny NP such as restoration of bike paths and nature trails, construction of soft tourism infrastructure;
- Management measures focussed on improvement of favourable conservation status of habitats

The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic is finalizing a new project to be submitted within the EU funds – on the **implementation of Management plan of Poloniny NP and Východné Karpaty Biosphere reserve**. Potential activities are as follows:

- Nature-close management practices realised in the buffer zone of UNESCO site in the Poloniny NP (about 2,500 ha);
- Management measures implemented in order to improve favourable status of meadow habitats and species of the Community and national interests;
- Measures implemented for *Bison bonasus*;
- Improvements of the Východné Karpaty International Biosphere Reserve structure;
- Traditional farm animals of Poloniny region support;
- Beekeeping, traditional varieties of fruit trees support;
- Equipment of Information centre in Nová Sedlica purchase;
- Reconstruction of educational trails in the Poloniny NP;
- Increase the employment in the region by establishing new production of hay, straw and wooden pellets;
- Capacity building for Poloniny NP (new staff, material support and car).

9. Conclusions

The Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic would like to thank the Council of Europe, the Group of specialists on the European Diploma for Protected Areas as well as the independent experts for their strong involvement in the issue of the Poloniny NP and for their support.

As explained in this report as well as in the previous annual and progress reports there was a significant improvement in cooperation between stakeholders at the national and regional level that resulted in the approval of the “*Poloniny National Park Management Plan for 2017-2026*”. This was an important milestone that is followed by other activities – submitting project to further strengthen cooperation and implement activities in favour of nature, landscape and local people. In 2013 the Council of Europe received the petition against the European Diploma, in 2015 there was a letter signed by the local stakeholders to keep the European Diploma, if needed, after the appraisal mission in 2017.

The Ministry fully supports this proposal and asks, if possible, to undertake the mission in 2017 that might consider the situation and decide about options provided for in the Article 9.2 of the Resolution of the Council of Ministers (2008)¹⁷.

¹⁷ https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectID=09000016805d3d33

Appendix 1

					Appendix 6.6.13	
Measures to Fulfill the Poloniny National Park Management Goals						
<i>Operational Goal/Measure Number</i>	<i>Operational Goal/Measure Description</i>	<i>Expected Output/Measurable Fulfilment Indicator</i>	<i>Expected Implementation Deadline</i>	<i>Implemented by/Responsibility of</i>	<i>Expected Source of Funding</i>	<i>Ecologically-Functional Area (EFA)*</i>
Plant Protection – P						
<i>P.1.</i>	<i>Operational Goal: to maintain or improve the protected and endangered plant species status</i>					
	<i>Measurable Fulfilment Indicator: plants populations and the characteristic meadow habitats types presence</i>					
<i>P.1.1.</i>	<i>Managed care about sites with Eastern Carpathians plant species.</i>	<i>Number of sites with managed care and the condition of habitats</i>	<i>Once in 2 years</i>	<i>Owner, administrator, user, the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (SNC SR) - Poloniny NP Administration</i>	<i>Own resources - the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (SNC SR) budget</i>	<i>EFA1–EFA3 and EFA6–EFA13</i>
<i>P. 1.2.</i>	<i>Managed care about sites with rare and endangered plant species.</i>	<i>Number of sites with managed care and the condition of habitats</i>	<i>Once to twice a year</i>	<i>Owner, administrator, user</i>	<i>Own resources - the SNC SR budget</i>	<i>EFA1–EFA3 and EFA6–EFA13</i>
<i>P.1.3.</i>	<i>Elimination of non-native species expansion, removal of invasive plant species and the prevention of their spread.</i>	<i>Status of habitats</i>	<i>Once to twice a year</i>	<i>Owner, administrator, user</i>	<i>Own resources - the SNC SR budget</i>	<i>EFA8 and EFA9</i>
<i>P.1.4.</i>	<i>Managed care of Poloniny meadows.</i>	<i>Managed care area</i> <i>Condition of habitats</i>	<i>Once in 2 years</i>	<i>Owner, administrator, user</i>	<i>Own resources - the SNC SR budget</i>	<i>EFA6, EFA7</i>
<i>P.1.5.</i>	<i>Managed care of mire communities (sites: Stinská slatina and Bahno Nature Reserves).</i>	<i>Managed care area</i> <i>Condition of habitats</i>	<i>Yearly</i>	<i>Owner, administrator, user</i>	<i>Own resources - the SNC SR budget</i>	<i>EFA11, EFA12 and EFA13</i>
<i>P.1.6.</i>	<i>Managed care of non-forest communities rich in biodiversity (sites: Pod Ruským National Nature Reserve, Ruské Nature Reserve, Gazdoran Nature Reserve and Bzaná Nature Reserve).</i>	<i>Managed care area</i> <i>Condition of habitats</i>	<i>Yearly</i>	<i>Owner, administrator, user</i>	<i>Own resources - the SNC SR budget</i>	<i>EFA8–EFA13</i>
<i>P.1.7.</i>	<i>Monitoring of meadow communities condition in established permanent monitoring areas in the Poloniny NP).</i>	<i>Number of permanent monitoring areas (PMAs)</i>	<i>Once in 3 years</i>	<i>Institute of Landscape Ecology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Nitra</i>	<i>Own resources - the SNC SR budget</i>	<i>EFA6–13</i>

Operational Goal/Measure Number	Operational Goal/Measure Description	Expected Output/Measurable Fulfilment Indicator	Expected Implementation Deadline	Implemented by/Responsibility of	Expected Source of Funding	Ecologically-Functional Area (EFA)*
<i>Animal Protection - A</i>						
A.1.	Operational Goal: to ensure research and monitoring of invertebrate, bird and mammal species of Community and national interest, subject to conservation measures in forest ecosystems					
Measurable Fulfilment Indicator: presence of species and their favourable status.						
A.1.1.	Research and monitoring of Transylvanian bush-cricket (<i>Pholidoptera transylvanica</i>) and Stys's bush-cricket (<i>Isophya stysi</i>).	Material for assessing the status (favourable, unfavourable)	2017–2026	SNC SR, scientific institutions and universities focusing on natural sciences	Own resources - the SNC SR budget, other resources	EFA1–EFA4
A.1.2.	Research and monitoring of <i>Carabus variolosus</i> beetle, <i>Carabus zawadzki</i> beetle and <i>Rosalia longicorn</i> (<i>Rosalia alpina</i>).	Material for assessing the status (favourable, unfavourable)	2017–2026	SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration, scientific institutions, universities focusing on natural sciences	Own resources - the SNC SR budget, other resources	EFA1–EFA4
A.1.3.	Quantitative research of birds in <i>Stužica</i> , <i>Havešová</i> and <i>Grinik</i> Nature Reserves.	Material for assessing the status (favourable, unfavourable)	2017–2026	SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration	Own resources - the SNC SR budget	EFA1–EFA4
A.1.4.	Complementing critical sections of overhead electric lines with perch discouragers.	Lower electric line caused bird mortality	2017–2026	VSE a. s. (power distribution company in the East of Slovakia)	VSE a. s. budget	EFA1–EFA16
A.1.5.	Monitoring and ensuring the adherence to the Regulation 25/2008 Coll. of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic which declares the Special Protection Area <i>Bukovské vrchy</i> .	Improvement in current bird species condition	2017–2026	SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration	Own resources - the SNC SR budget, other resources	EFA1–EFA16
A.1.6.	Monitoring of birds of prey populations development and recording specific nesting sites.	Ascertaining number of birds	2017–2026	SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration	Own resources - the SNC SR budget, other resources	EFA1–EFA4
A.1.7.	Securing the surveillance of the Golden eagle nest.	Number of hatched chicks	2017–2026	SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration	Own resources - the SNC SR budget, other resources	EFA1–EFA4
A.1.8.	Maintaining and/or increasing the current large carnivores condition: grey wolf (<i>Canis lupus</i>), wildcat (<i>Felis sylvestrus</i>), Eurasian lynx (<i>Lynx lynx</i>) and brown bear (<i>Ursus arctos</i>).	Ascertaining number of animals	2015–2025	SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration	Own resources - the SNC SR budget, other resources	EFA1–EFA10
A.1.9.	Ensuring area-wide monitoring of large carnivores.	Ascertaining number of animals	2015–2025	SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration	Own resources - the SNC SR budget, other resources	EFA1–EFA10

<i>Operational Goal/Measure Number</i>	<i>Operational Goal/Measure Description</i>	<i>Expected Output/Measurable Fulfilment Indicator</i>	<i>Expected Implementation Deadline</i>	<i>Implemented by/Responsibility of</i>	<i>Expected Source of Funding</i>	<i>Ecologically-Functional Area (EFA)*</i>
A.1.10.	<i>Maintaining and/or increasing the current population of European bison (Bison bonasus).</i>	<i>Increasing number of animals in a herd</i>	2015–2025	<i>SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration</i>	<i>Own resources - the SNC SR budget, other resources</i>	<i>EFA1–EFA10</i>
A.1.11.	<i>Veterinary care for bison.</i>	<i>Good health</i>	2015–2025	<i>SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration</i>	<i>Own resources - the SNC SR budget, other resources</i>	<i>EFA1–EFA10</i>
A.1.12.	<i>Supplemental feeding of bison in winter.</i>	<i>Good health</i>	2017–2026	<i>SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration</i>	<i>Own resources - the SNC SR budget, other resources</i>	<i>EFA1–EFA9</i>
A.1.13.	<i>Telemetric monitoring of bison.</i>	<i>Knowledge of spatial distribution</i>	2017–2026	<i>SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration</i>	<i>Own resources - the SNC SR budget, other resources</i>	<i>EFA1–EFA10</i>
A.1.14.	<i>Establishing permanent bird monitoring areas in Havešová, Jarabá skala and Stučica Nature Reserves.</i>	<i>Established and marked PMA</i>	2017–2026	<i>SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration</i>	<i>Own resources - the SNC SR budget, other resources</i>	<i>EFA1</i>
A.2.	<i>Operational Goal: to ensure research and monitoring of reptile and bird species of Community and national interest, subject to conservation measures in shrubs and groups of trees outside forest</i>					
	<i>Measurable Fulfilment Indicator: presence of species and their favourable condition.</i>					
A.2.1.	<i>Research and monitoring of Aesculapian snake (Elaphe longissima) and sand lizard (Lacerta agilis).</i>			<i>SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration, scientific institutions, universities focusing on natural sciences</i>		
A.2.2.	<i>Quantitative research of birds in 2 sites (Nová Sedlica and Ruské).</i>	<i>Material for assessing the status (favourable, unfavourable)</i>	2017–2026	<i>SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration</i>	<i>Own resources - the SNC SR budget, other resources</i>	<i>EFA5</i>
A.2.3.	<i>To monitor mulching in the nesting period.</i>	<i>Favourable status of habitats</i>	2017–2026	<i>SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration</i>	<i>Own resources - the SNC SR budget</i>	<i>EFA5</i>
A.2.4.	<i>Establishing permanent bird monitoring area in Zboj.</i>	<i>Established and marked PMA</i>	2017–2026	<i>SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration</i>	<i>Own resources - the SNC SR budget, other resources</i>	<i>EFA5</i>
A.3.	<i>Operational Goal: to ensure research and monitoring of invertebrate, reptile, bird and mammal species of Community and national importance, subject to conservation measures in meadows, pasturelands and fields.</i>					
	<i>Measurable Fulfilment Indicator: presence of species and their favourable condition.</i>					
A.3.1.	<i>Research and monitoring of clouded Apollo (Parnassius mnemosyne).</i>			<i>SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration, scientific institutions, universities focusing on natural sciences</i>		

Operational Goal/Measure Number	Operational Goal/Measure Description	Expected Output/Measurable Fulfilment Indicator	Expected Implementation Deadline	Implemented by/Responsibility of	Expected Source of Funding	Ecologically-Functional Area (EFA)*
A.3.2.	Research and monitoring of bumblebees (genus <i>Bombus</i>).	Material for assessing the status (favourable, unfavourable)	2017–2026	SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration, scientific institutions, universities focusing on natural sciences	Own resources - the SNC SR budget, other resources	EFA6–EFA10
A.3.3.	Quantitative research of birds in 2 sites (Nová Sedlica and Ruské).	Material for assessing the status (favourable, unfavourable)	2017–2026	SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration, scientific institutions, universities focusing on natural sciences	Own resources - the SNC SR budget, other resources	EFA6–EFA9
A.3.4.	Maintaining the native meadow habitats while limiting use of chemicals.	Favourable status	2017–2026	SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration	Own resources - the SNC SR budget, other resources	EFA6–EFA10
A.4.	Operational Goal: to ensure research and monitoring of invertebrate, amphibians and bird species of Community and national interest, subject to conservation measures in wetlands and stagnant waters.					
	<i>Measurable Fulfilment Indicator: presence of species and their favourable condition.</i>					
A.4.1.	Research and monitoring of species European fire-bellied toad (<i>Bombina orientalis</i>), yellow-bellied toad (<i>Bombina orientalis</i>), European green toad (<i>Bufo viridis</i>), European tree frog (<i>Hyla arborea</i>), moor frog (<i>Rana arvalis</i>), agile frog (<i>Rana dalmatina</i>), northern crested newt (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>), Carpathian newt (<i>Triturus montandoni</i>).			SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration, scientific institutions, universities focusing on natural sciences		
A.4.2.	Research and monitoring of the odonata species: azure hawkler (<i>Aeschna caerulea</i>), emperor dragonfly (<i>Anax imperator</i>), northern damselfly (<i>Coenagrion hastulatum</i>), sombre goldenring (<i>Cordulogaster bidentata</i>), small pincertail (<i>Onychogomphus forcipatus</i>), keeled skimmer (<i>Orthetrum coerulescens</i>), genus <i>Somatochlora</i> , common winter damselfly (<i>Sympetma fusca</i>), banded darter (<i>Sympetrum pedemontanum</i>).			SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration, scientific institutions, universities focusing on natural sciences		
A.4.3.	Research and monitoring of birds at the Starina Reservoir.	Material for assessing the status (favourable, unfavourable)	2017–2026	SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration	Own resources - the SNC SR budget, other resources	EFA11, EFA12 and EFA13
A.4.4.	To monitor and preserve reproduction sites size and quality.	Favourable and functional sites status	2017–2026	SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration	Own resources - the SNC SR budget, other resources	EFA11, EFA12 and EFA13
A.4.5.	To create 3 new reproduction sites for amphibians and water-dependent invertebrates.	Improvement of living opportunities	2017–2026	SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration	Own resources - the SNC SR budget, other resources	EFA11, EFA12, EFA13 and EFA14

Operational Goal/Measure Number	Operational Goal/Measure Description	Expected Output/Measurable Fulfilment Indicator	Expected Implementation Deadline	Implemented by/Responsibility of	Expected Source of Funding	Ecologically-Functional Area (EFA)*
A.5.	<i>Operational Goal: to ensure research and monitoring of invertebrate, reptile, bird and mammal species of Community and national interest, subject to conservation measures in flowing waters with bank vegetation.</i>					
	<i>Measurable Fulfilment Indicator: presence of species and their favourable condition.</i>					
A.5.1.	Monitoring of European otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>).	Material for assessing the status (favourable, unfavourable)	2017–2026	SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration	Own resources - the SNC SR budget, other resources	EFA11, EFA12, EFA13 and EFA14
A.5.2.	Monitoring of Eurasian beaver (<i>Castor fiber</i>).	Material for assessing the status (favourable, unfavourable)	2017–2026	SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration	Own resources - the SNC SR budget, other resources	EFA11, EFA12, EFA13 and EFA14
A.5.3.	Research and monitoring of the Carpathian brook lamprey (<i>Eudontomyzon danfordi</i>).	Material for assessing the status (favourable, unfavourable)	2017–2026	SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration, scientific institutions, universities focusing on natural sciences	Own resources - the SNC SR budget, other resources	EFA14
A.5.4.	Establishing permanent bird monitoring area at the Ulička river near Kolbasov.	Established and marked PMA	2017–2026	SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration	The SNC SR budget	EFA14
A.5.5.	Establishing permanent fish monitoring area at the Ulička river by the state border.	Established and marked PMA	2017–2026	SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration, scientific institutions, universities focusing on natural sciences	Own resources - the SNC SR budget, other resources	EFA14
A.5.6.	To eliminate detrimental construction within water flow regulation.	Favourable condition of water flows	permanent	SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration	The SNC SR budget	EFA14
A.6.	<i>Operational Goal: to ensure research and monitoring of mammal species of Community and national interest, subject to conservation measures in urban and suburban habitats.</i>					
	<i>Measurable Fulfilment Indicator: presence of species and their favourable condition.</i>					
A.6.1.	Research and monitoring of the barbastelle (<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>), northern bat (<i>Eptesicus nilssoni</i>), serotine bat (<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>), Bechstein's bat (<i>Myotis bechsteini</i>), lesser mouse-eared bat (<i>Myotis blythii</i>), Brandt's bat (<i>Myotis brandti</i>), pond bat (<i>Myotis dasycneme</i>), Daubenton's bat (<i>Myotis daubentoni</i>), Geoffroy's bat (<i>Myotis emarginatus</i>), greater mouse-eared bat (<i>Myotis myotis</i>), whiskered bat (<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>), Natterer's bat (<i>Myotis nattereri</i>), lesser noctule (<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>), common noctule (<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>), common pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>), brown long-eared bat (<i>Plecotus auritus</i>), grey long-eared bat (<i>Plecotus austriacus</i>), greater horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>), lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) and parti-coloured bat (<i>Vespertilio murinus</i>).	Material for assessing the status (favourable, unfavourable)	2017–2026	SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration, experts on bats, SBČS – Slovak Bat Conservation Society (Spoločnosť pre ochranu netopierov), scientific institutions, universities focusing on natural sciences	Own resources - the SNC SR budget, other resources	EFA15

Operational Goal/Measure Number	Operational Goal/Measure Description	Expected Output/Measurable Fulfilment Indicator	Expected Implementation Deadline	Implemented by/Responsibility of	Expected Source of Funding	Ecologically-Functional Area (EFA)*
A.7.	<i>Operational Goal: to ensure research and monitoring of mammal species of Community and national interest, subject to conservation measures in caves and underground habitats.</i>					
	<i>Measurable Fulfilment Indicator: presence of species and their favourable condition.</i>					
A.7.1.	<i>Research and monitoring of the barbastelle (Barbastella barbastellus), northern bat (Eptesicus nilssonii), serotine bat (Eptesicus serotinus), Bechstein's bat (Myotis bechsteini), lesser mouse-eared bat (Myotis blythii), Brandt's bat (Myotis brandti), pond bat (Myotis dasycneme), Daubenton's bat (Myotis daubentoni), Geoffroy's bat (Myotis emarginatus), greater mouse-eared bat (Myotis myotis), whiskered bat (Myotis mystacinus), Natterer's bat (Myotis nattereri), lesser noctule (Nyctalus leisleri), common noctule (Nyctalus noctula), common pipistrelle (Pipistrellus pipistrellus), brown long-eared bat (Plecotus auritus), grey long-eared bat (Plecotus austriacus), greater horseshoe bat (Rhinolophus ferrumequinum), lesser horseshoe bat (Rhinolophus hipposideros) and parti-coloured bat</i>	<i>Material for assessing the status (favourable, unfavourable)</i>	2017–2026	<i>SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration, experts on bats, SBCS, scientific institutions, universities focusing on natural sciences</i>	<i>The SNC SR budget</i>	<i>EFA1–EFA14, EFA17</i>
A.8.	<i>Operational Goal: to increase ecological awareness of local population and national park visitors, to improve cooperation in animal species conservation with landowners.</i>					
	<i>Measurable Fulfilment Indicator: ecological awareness and cooperation.</i>					
A.8.1.	<i>To organize lectures and discussions, to publish promotional material on animal conservation.</i>	<i>Improved awareness</i>	2017–2026	<i>SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration</i>	<i>Own resources - the SNC SR budget, other resources</i>	
A.8.2.	<i>To develop the Poloniny NP Red List of Animals.</i>	<i>Improved awareness</i>	2017	<i>SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration</i>	<i>Own resources - the SNC SR budget, other resources</i>	
A.9.	<i>Operational Goal: to improve the Maculinea butterflies unfavourable condition by appropriate management of sites containing these species habitat.</i>					
	<i>Measurable Fulfilment Indicator: habitat size and quality, maintaining or increasing the size of appropriate habitats, maintaining or increasing the number of sites with Maculinea species presence.</i>					
A.9.1.	<i>To ensure appropriate management of the sites with the Maculinea presence per the needs of the individual species: regular mowing or grazing and removal of self-seeding woody plants and subsequently of biomass and invasive species.</i>	<i>Improved assessment of Maculinea genus populations status</i>	2017–2026	<i>Owner, administrator, user</i>	<i>Operational programme Quality of Environment 2014–2020 (OP QE)</i>	<i>EFA8, EFA9, EFA10, EFA11, EFA13</i>
A.9.2.	<i>Creation of the "stepping stones", i. e. the sites representing portions of habitats connecting the individual Maculinea genus populations.</i>	<i>Improved assessment of Maculinea genus populations status</i>	2017–2026	<i>Owner, administrator, user</i>	<i>OP QE</i>	<i>EFA8, EFA9, EFA10, EFA11, EFA13</i>

Operational Goal/Measure Number	Operational Goal/Measure Description	Expected Output/Measurable Fulfilment Indicator	Expected Implementation Deadline	Implemented by/Responsibility of	Expected Source of Funding	Ecologically-Functional Area (EFA)*
Forest Management–F						
F.1.	Operational Goal: to maintain or improve the forest ecosystems condition.					
	Measurable Fulfilment Indicator: habitats condition, representation of native, non-native and successional woody plants.					
F.1.1.	To increase the World Natural Heritage core area by 405 ha.	2391 ha intervention free area	continuous	Local environmental office	in compliance with §61 of the Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection as amended	EFA1
F.1.2.	To ensure selective management system in the UNESCO site buffer zone.	2110 ha area	continuous	manager	State Budget	EFA2
F.1.3.	To ensure the selective management system in the NP proper area.	22,769 ha area	continuous	manager	Rural Development Programme (RDP)	EFA3
F.1.4.	Intensifying of tending to young forest ecosystems.	2449 ha unregulated area.	continuous	manager	Regular management.	EFA4
F.1.5.	Improvement of beech forests condition in their natural area.	Improved condition in 4369 ha area.	continuous	manager	Regular management.	EFA4
F.1.6.	Reduction of pioneer woody plants ratio.	Reduction of successional woody plants in 655 ha area.	continuous	manager	Regular management.	EFA4
F.1.7.	Reduction of non-native woody plants in 557 ha area.	Percentage of non-native woody plants in stand compositions.	continuous	manager	Regular management.	EFA4
F.1.8.	Supporting the presence of valuable broad-leaved trees, the fir and the oak in 80 ha area.	Percentage of native woody plants in stand structures.	continuous	manager	OP QE, the Norwegian Financial Mechanism.	EFA4
F.1.9.	Optimization of unpaved roads and reconstruction of already eroded or unused unpaved roads.	10 km	continuous	manager	OP QE, the Norwegian Financial Mechanism.	EFA2–EFA9
Agriculture–Ag						
Ag.1.	Operational Goal: to maintain or improve the permanent grass stands status.					
	Measurable Fulfilment Indicator: condition of habitats, presence of typical meadow habitats types.					
Ag.1.1.	Regular care about Poloniny meadows (grass mowing with subsequent biomass removal, self-seeding vegetation removal by intermittent clearing).	50 ha	Once to twice a year	Owner, administrator, user	Regular management	EFA6, EFA7
Ag.1.2.	Regular mowing of meadows and pasturelands and subsequent biomass removal.	Status of habitats	Once to twice a year	Owner, administrator, user	Regular management	EFA8 and EFA9
Ag.1.3.	Intermittent clearing to maintain the agriculturally used areas structure.	500 ha	Once to twice a year	Owner, administrator, user	Regular management	EFA8 and EFA9
Ag.1.4.	Giving preference to the cultivation of multi-year fodder on arable land.	20 ha	Yearly	Owner, administrator, user	Own resources	EFA8 and EFA9

<i>Operational Goal/Measure Number</i>	<i>Operational Goal/Measure Description</i>	<i>Expected Output/Measurable Fulfilment Indicator</i>	<i>Expected Implementation Deadline</i>	<i>Implemented by/Responsibility of</i>	<i>Expected Source of Funding</i>	<i>Ecologically-Functional Area (EFA)*</i>
<i>Ag.1.5.</i>	<i>To divide larger blocks by bio-corridor belts of trees and shrubs in suitable places delimited by the Local Territorial System of Ecological Stability.</i>	<i>500 m</i>	<i>Yearly</i>	<i>Owner, administrator, user</i>	<i>Own resources</i>	<i>EFA8 and EFA9</i>
<i>Ag.1.6.</i>	<i>To maintain extensive grazing.</i>	<i>500 ha</i>	<i>Yearly</i>	<i>Owner, administrator, user</i>	<i>Payments to the areas facing natural or other specific constraints</i>	<i>EFA8 and EFA9</i>
<i>Ag.1.7.</i>	<i>To remove self-seeding vegetation.</i>	<i>369.6 ha</i>	<i>Yearly</i>	<i>Owner, administrator, user</i>	<i>Regular management</i>	<i>EFA8 and EFA9</i>
<i>Ag.1.8.</i>	<i>To exclude the use of chemical substances and fertilizers (pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, industrial fertilizers) and silage juices.</i>	<i>Apart from those approved for use.</i>	<i>Yearly</i>	<i>Owner, administrator, user</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>EFA8 and EFA9</i>
<i>Ag.1.9.</i>	<i>Liquidation of invasive plants.</i>	<i>1 ha</i>	<i>Yearly</i>	<i>Poloniny NP Administration</i>	<i>The SNC SR budget</i>	<i>EFA8 and EFA9</i>
<i>Ag.1.10.</i>	<i>To analyse ownership forms and develop a land purchase plan.</i>	<i>legal and other land ownership related documents</i>	<i>Once in 5 years</i>	<i>Poloniny NP Administration</i>	<i>The SNC SR budget</i>	<i>EFA8 and EFA9</i>
<i>Ag.1.11.</i>	<i>Ensuring Poloniny NP honey certification in compliance with the Decree of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic No. 41/2012 Coll. on Honey.</i>	<i>a finished building</i>	<i>Once in 5 years</i>	<i>Slovak Association of Beekeepers</i>	<i>OP QE</i>	<i>EFA5, EFA8, EFA9, EFA15 and EFA16</i>
<i>Ag.1.12.</i>	<i>Building a "regional honey house", a facility intended for honey extraction in the Poloniny NP.</i>	<i>a finished building</i>	<i>Once in 5 years</i>	<i>Slovak Association of Beekeepers</i>	<i>OP QE</i>	<i>EFA16</i>
<i>Ag.1.13.</i>	<i>Increasing the pollination subsidy for beekeepers.</i>	<i>The received support.</i>	<i>Yearly</i>	<i>Slovak Association of Beekeepers</i>	<i>OP QE</i>	<i>EFA5, EFA8, EFA9, EFA15 and EFA16</i>
<i>Ag.1.14.</i>	<i>Native fruit trees varieties preservation.</i>	<i>500 trees</i>	<i>Yearly</i>	<i>SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration</i>	<i>OP QE</i>	<i>EFA5, EFA8, EFA9, EFA15 and EFA16</i>
<i>Ag.1.15.</i>	<i>Maintaining fruit trees in national park, especially above the Starina Water Reservoir (under the terms of the Government Regulation No. 36/2015 Coll.).</i>	<i>500 trees</i>	<i>Yearly</i>	<i>Owner, administrator, user</i>	<i>Support within the coupled direct payments schemes, OP QE</i>	<i>EFA15</i>

Operational Goal/Measure Number	Operational Goal/Measure Description	Expected Output/Measurable Fulfilment Indicator	Expected Implementation Deadline	Implemented by/Responsibility of	Expected Source of Funding	Ecologically-Functional Area (EFA)*
Ag.1.16.	Creation of orchards of old local varieties.	9 orchards, 0.2 ha per orchard	Yearly	Owner, administrator, user	OP QE	EFA8, EFA9, EFA15 and EFA16
Ag.1.17.	Direct sale of fruit.	a finished building	Yearly	Owner, administrator, user	OP QE	EFA16
Ag.1.18.	Establishing a "regional distillery".	a finished building	Yearly	SOMUD: Spoločenstvo obcí mikroregiónu Uličskej doliny [Community of Uličská dolina valley micro-region villages]	OP QE	EFA16
Ag.1.19.	Picking of meadow grass seeds: use of high-quality meadow grass and herbs gene pool to sow non-productive areas.	50 ha	Yearly	Owner, administrator, user	OP QE	EFA6, EFA7, EFA8 and EFA9
Ag.1.20.	Establishing a facility for cleaning and storing seeds.	a finished building	Yearly	Owner, administrator, user	OP QE	EFA16
Ag.1.21.	Supporting cattle breeding and grazing to suppress succession on the existing permanent grass stands and to increase biodiversity (under the	30 sheep	Yearly	Owner, administrator, user	Support within the coupled direct payments schemes, OP QE	EFA8 and EFA9
Water Management – W						
W.1	Operational Goal: to preserve the natural water accumulation					
	Measurable Fulfilment Indicator: condition of habitats, presence of typical habitats types.					
W.1.1.	To not regulate the banks by flowing waters; they are to be left in their natural state.	Condition of habitats	permanent	Owner, administrator		EFA14
W.1.2.	Liquidation of invasive plants.	Condition of habitats	Yearly	Water flow administrator	Own resources	EFA14
W.1.3.	Waste removal.	Condition of habitats	permanent	Municipalities		EFA14
W.1.4.	Creation of fishpasses and spawning grounds in water flows.	Condition of habitats	permanent	Water flow administrator	OP QE	EFA14
W.1.5.	Anti-flood measures.	Condition of habitats	permanent	Water flow administrator	OP QE	EFA14
Fisheries – Fi						
Fi.1	Operational Goal: to improve the native fish species populations condition.					
	Measurable Fulfilment Indicator: condition of habitats; presence, numbers and age composition of typical native fish species.					
Fi. 1.1.	Supporting the small fish farming facilities.	finished fish-ponds	permanent	Owner, administrator	OP QE	EFA5 EFA8 and EFA9 EFA15 EFA16
Fi. 1.2.	Support of water flows and fish farming facilities fish stocking by native fish species.	Condition of habitats	Yearly	Water flow administrator	Own resources	EFA14

Operational Goal/Measure Number	Operational Goal/Measure Description	Expected Output/Measurable Fulfilment Indicator	Expected Implementation Deadline	Implemented by/Responsibility of	Expected Source of Funding	Ecologically-Functional Area (EFA)*
Hunting – H						
H.1	Operational Goal: to improve the native game species populations condition.					
	Measurable Fulfilment Indicator: presence, numbers and age composition of typical native game species.					
H.1.1.	Wild game observation experience.	Number of visits	permanent	Owner, administrator	OP QE	EFA5 EFA8 and EFA9 EFA15 EFA16
Territorial Development – TD						
TD.1.	Operational Goal: Creating conditions for the development of ecotourism					
	Measurable Fulfilment Indicator: Elimination of negative impact on species and habitats.					
TD.1.1.	Including nature and landscape protection requirements into land-use plan documentation.	Number of locations	As needed during the land-use plan documentation creation or amending	SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration	The SNC SR budget	
TD.1.2.	Updating the Territorial System of Ecological Stability (current gene pool areas, bio-corridors and biocentres).	The Territorial System of Ecological Stability (current gene pool areas, bio-corridors and biocentres)	2021	SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration and the Slovak Environment Agency	The SNC SR budget, other resources	
TD.1.3.	Removal of illegal objects in the given territory.	Number of removed illegal objects	2021	Relevant local building authority and government authorities	Other resources	EFA8 and EFA9
TD.1.4.	Mapping the significant landscape features (identification, mapping, monitoring and protection).	Number of sites	continuous	SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration	The SNC SR budget, other resources	
TD.1.5.	Monitoring of the urbanization impact on natural environment.	Condition of habitats	permanent	SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration	The SNC SR budget	
Hiking and Tourism – HT						
HT.1.	Operational Goal: Development of controlled tourism and improvement of infrastructure in the NP areas made accessible to tourists to increase the local population income.					
	Measurable Fulfilment Indicator: Open the selected areas in the Poloniny NP to the public engaging the local self-governing authorities and land owners/users.					
HT.1.1.	Sustainably expand the existing network of hiking and bike trails.	Infrastructure condition	permanent	Local building and government authorities		EFA1–EFA16
HT.1.2.	No public and sports events apart from hiking on marked trails.		permanent			EFA1, EFA2, EFA3

<i>Operational Goal/Measure Number</i>	<i>Operational Goal/Measure Description</i>	<i>Expected Output/Measurable Fulfilment Indicator</i>	<i>Expected Implementation Deadline</i>	<i>Implemented by/Responsibility of</i>	<i>Expected Source of Funding</i>	<i>Ecologically-Functional Area (EFA)*</i>
<i>HT.1.3.</i>	<i>Reconstruction and repair of educational sites as well as hiking and educational trails. Information equipment (such as panels) installation and maintenance.</i>	<i>Infrastructure condition</i>	<i>Yearly</i>	<i>The Club of Slovak Tourists, SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration</i>	<i>The SNC SR budget, the Club of Slovak Tourists, other resources</i>	<i>EFA1–EFA16</i>
<i>HT.1.4.</i>	<i>Camping areas reconstruction, maintenance and cleaning.</i>	<i>Infrastructure condition</i>	<i>continuous</i>	<i>SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration</i>	<i>The SNC SR budget, other resources</i>	
<i>HT.1.5.</i>	<i>Creation and improvement of tourism services (such as accommodation, food and beverage services, horseback riding, ski, bike and other rental services).</i>	<i>Infrastructure condition</i>	<i>permanent</i>	<i>Municipalities, businesses in tourism, tourism associations, SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration</i>	<i>Other resources</i>	
<i>HT.1.6.</i>	<i>Supervising the adherence to the Poloniny NP Visitors Code.</i>	<i>Number of fines and transgressions</i>	<i>permanent</i>	<i>SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration</i>	<i>The SNC SR budget</i>	
<i>HT.1.7.</i>	<i>Monitoring of hiking and sports impact on natural environment.</i>	<i>Infrastructure condition</i>	<i>permanent</i>	<i>SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration</i>	<i>The SNC SR budget</i>	
<i>HT.1.8.</i>	<i>Establishing small accommodation units for tourists in villages residential area.</i>	<i>Infrastructure condition</i>	<i>permanent</i>	<i>Municipalities</i>	<i>Cross Border Cooperation Programme Poland-Slovak Republic</i>	
<i>HT.1.9.</i>	<i>Equestrian tourism and equine-assisted therapy.</i>	<i>Infrastructure condition</i>	<i>permanent</i>	<i>Club of Slovak Tourists, municipalities, owners</i>	<i>Cross Border Cooperation Programme Poland-Slovak Republic</i>	<i>EFA3 EFA4 EFA5, EFA8 and EFA9 EFA15 EFA16</i>
<i>HT.1.10.</i>	<i>Establishing a bike rental.</i>	<i>Infrastructure condition</i>	<i>permanent</i>	<i>Municipalities</i>	<i>Cross Border Cooperation Programme Poland-Slovak Republic</i>	<i>EFA16</i>
<i>HT.1.11.</i>	<i>Establishing an observation post for tourists in the Dark-Sky Park.</i>	<i>Infrastructure condition</i>	<i>permanent</i>	<i>SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration</i>	<i>Cross Border Cooperation Programme Poland-Slovak Republic</i>	<i>EFA8 and EFA9</i>

<i>Operational Goal/Measure Number</i>	<i>Operational Goal/Measure Description</i>	<i>Expected Output/Measurable Fulfilment Indicator</i>	<i>Expected Implementation Deadline</i>	<i>Implemented by/Responsibility of</i>	<i>Expected Source of Funding</i>	<i>Ecologically-Functional Area (EFA)*</i>
<i>Environmental Education – EE</i>						
<i>EE.1.</i>	<i>Operational Goal: To increase environmental awareness while conserving the Poloniny NP significant plant and animal species.</i>					
	<i>Measurable Fulfilment Indicator: Promoting and publishing.</i>					
<i>EE.1.1.</i>	<i>Broaden the knowledge about the NP significance and about the conservation activities and subjects in selected target groups (primary schools pupils, secondary schools students, land owners and administrators, visitors etc.)</i>	<i>Lectures, publishing, exhibitions, cooperation with the media</i>	<i>permanent</i>	<i>SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration</i>	<i>The SNC SR budget, other resources</i>	
<i>EE.1.2.</i>	<i>International cooperation, mainly within the International Biosphere Reserve (IBR).</i>	<i>Workshops, symposia, exhibitions</i>	<i>permanent</i>	<i>SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration, IBR partners</i>	<i>The SNC SR budget, other resources</i>	
<i>EE.1.3.</i>	<i>Work of the Nová Sedlica Information Centre (renovation works needed as well).</i>	<i>Informing visitors, competitions for children</i>	<i>Yearly between 1 April and 31 October</i>	<i>SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration</i>	<i>The SNC SR budget, other resources</i>	
<i>EE.1.4.</i>	<i>Building more information centres.</i>	<i>Informing visitors, competitions for children</i>	<i>By 30 December 2017</i>	<i>SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration</i>	<i>The SNC SR budget, other resources</i>	<i>EFA16</i>

Appendix 2

Appendix 6.6.19.

International commitments stemming from
the renewal of European Diploma for Protected Areas awarded to the Poloniny National Park
and from the inscription of the property Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech
Forests of Germany on the UNESCO World Heritage List

Both international commitments are very closely related. Inscription of the property Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany on the UNESCO World Heritage List means that the Slovak Republic is to develop a proposal for sufficient core area and buffer zone delineation as well as implement the corrective measures under set criteria.

Details are given in the following official documents:

Text of the Resolution CM/ResDip(2012)19 on the renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Poloniny National Park (Slovakia) adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 June 2012 at the 1146th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.a of the Statute of the Council of Europe,
having regard to Resolution [Res\(65\)6](#) instituting the European Diploma for certain protected landscapes, reserves and natural features, as amended by Resolution [CM/ResDip\(2008\)1](#) on the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas;
having regard to Resolution [Res\(98\)26](#) awarding the European Diploma to the Poloniny National Park (Slovakia);
taking into consideration the expert's report presented at the meeting of the Group of Specialists on the European Diploma of Protected Areas on 17 and 18 March 2008;
having regard to the proposals of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention;

renews the European Diploma of Protected Areas awarded to the Poloniny National Park until 18 September 2018;

Renewal of the European Diploma is awarded under the following conditions:

1. *Finalise and adopt the management plan for the park within two years of the renewal.*
2. *Start work on devising a new blueprint for forestry and hunting management in the diploma-holding area, taking greater account of the biological imperatives dictated by its European significance, within one year of the renewal. The national authorities shall supply a strategic plan for the sustainable development of the woodland during the next period of validity of the diploma and inform the Group of Specialists on the Diploma each year of the progress made. This blueprint shall include*

revision of the current hunting allocation in the diploma-holding area, ensuring that the functional units each cover a surface area of 3 000 to 4 000 hectares, consistent with the biology of large herbivores.

3. *Create a functional network of protected areas during the next period of validity, meeting international standards in this area and complying with the national Law on Nature and Landscape Protection (notably sections 28 and 30).*
4. *Pursue the steps taken to purchase private forests and draw up a future purchasing plan with specific objectives, indicating the funding to be assigned to this purpose each year.*
5. *Set up a scientific programme inventorying and monitoring the large carnivore populations in the diploma-holding area; the national authorities shall submit the scientific protocol for that programme for opinion to the Group of Specialists on the Diploma within one year of the renewal.*

Renewal of the European Diploma is awarded with the following recommendations:

1. *Give the management of the diploma-holding area greater responsibility for forestry and hunting matters and involve it in the corresponding decision-making process.*
2. *Consider the signature of a simplified agreement between the bodies directly responsible for managing the protected areas on the borders of the three neighbouring countries (Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine), based on the programming of joint activities.*
3. *Pursue efforts to upgrade human resources, in particular by taking on more technical staff and wardens, and very substantially step-up funding, at least doubling the annual ratio per hectare for the period of validity of the diploma.*
4. *Give full protection to wolves and ban shooting them throughout the area of the national park.*
5. *Strongly consider the designation of a hunting district within the park as a strict cynegetic reserve.*
6. *Pursue the efforts to restore buildings in the traditional regional style; the park might devise a charter of architectural rules for local authorities.*
7. *Start experimenting with the selective felling of beech forest in a state-owned woodland unit; the national authorities shall inform the Group of Specialists on the Diploma each year of the progress made.*

Text of the 39/COM 78.19 Decision adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in regards to the Slovak part of the World Heritage property Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany

1. *Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 38 COM 78.75, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Commends the States Parties of Germany, Slovakia and Ukraine for their cooperation concerning the protection and management of the property and for signing the Joint Declaration of Intent and encourages the States Parties to continue their efforts;*
4. *Welcomes the progress achieved by the State Party of Slovakia towards enhancing cooperation between relevant Ministries responsible for the management of Slovak components of the property, but notes with concern that an integrated management framework for the Slovak components of the property is still lacking and that forest management plans providing for logging apply to some areas within the property boundaries;*
5. *Endorses the recommendations of the 2014 reactive monitoring mission and requests the State Party of Slovakia to implement them;*
6. *Also requests the State Party of Slovakia to ensure that no logging operations take place within the property's boundaries until this issue is resolved through the development, in consultation with the States Parties of Germany and Ukraine, of an integrated management framework for the Slovak components of the property, focused on nature conservation and taking into account all international designations, such as World Heritage property, Biosphere Reserve and European Diploma;*

7. *Notes that the current delineation of the Slovak components of the property does not provide for adequate protection of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and further requests the State Party of Slovakia to develop a proposal for boundary modification of its components, in close cooperation with the States Parties of Germany and Ukraine, as well as other States Parties who are currently preparing a proposal for an extension of the property;*
8. *Takes note of the State Party of Slovakia's intention to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Advisory mission to provide advice on the management of the Slovak components of the property and on the development of a proposal for boundary modification;*
9. *Requests furthermore the State Party of Slovakia to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2016, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.*

The Committee, at its 39th session in June 2015, adopted a decision in reaction to the report on the state of conservation of the property (sent upon Committee's request by Slovak Republic to the World Heritage Centre in Paris by March the 1st, 2015).

In the decision the Committee summarised the progress achieved by the Slovak Republic so far in resolving issues regarding delineation of the property's boundaries and its management. The Committee also called an attention to long lasting issues and shortcomings which have not been resolved yet and made recommendations which should be implemented by the Slovak Republic in order to remedy the situation and safeguard that the World Heritage property fulfils the criteria in accordance to the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World's Cultural and Natural Heritage.

Based on this decision, the Slovak Republic is to submit an updated report on the state of conservation of the property to the World Heritage Centre by December the 1st, 2016. This report should contain information on how and to what degree were the issues highlighted by the Committee addressed and resolved.

Reporting format on the state of conservation of the property by State Parties (Appendix 13 of the Operational Guidelines)

Name of World Heritage property (State(s) Party(ies)) (Identification number)

1. Executive Summary of the report

[Note: each of the sections described below should be summarized. The maximum length of the executive summary is 1 page.]

2. Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee

[Note: The State(s) Party(ies) is/are requested to address the most recent Decision of the World Heritage Committee for this property, paragraph by paragraph.]

If the property is inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, please also provide detailed information on the following:

- a) Progress achieved in implementing the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee

[Note: please address each corrective measure individually, providing factual information, including exact dates, figures, etc.]

If needed, please describe the success factors or difficulties in implementing each of the corrective measures identified.

- b) Is the timeframe for implementing the corrective measures suitable? If not, please propose an alternative timeframe and an explanation why this alternative timeframe is required.
- c) Progress achieved towards the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR).

3. Other current conservation issues identified by the State(s) Party(ies) which may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value. [Note: this includes conservation issues which are not mentioned in the Decision of the World Heritage Committee or in any information request from the World Heritage Centre].

4. In conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, describe any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property, the buffer zone(s) and/or corridors or other areas, where such developments may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including authenticity and integrity.

5. Public access to the state of conservation report

[Note: this report will be uploaded for public access on the World Heritage Centre's State of conservation Information System (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>). Should your State Party request that the full report should not be uploaded, only the 1-page executive summary provided in point (1.) above will be uploaded for public access].

6. Signature of the Authority