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Dobročský Prales National Nature Reserve (SK)

On-the-spot appraisal, June 2017

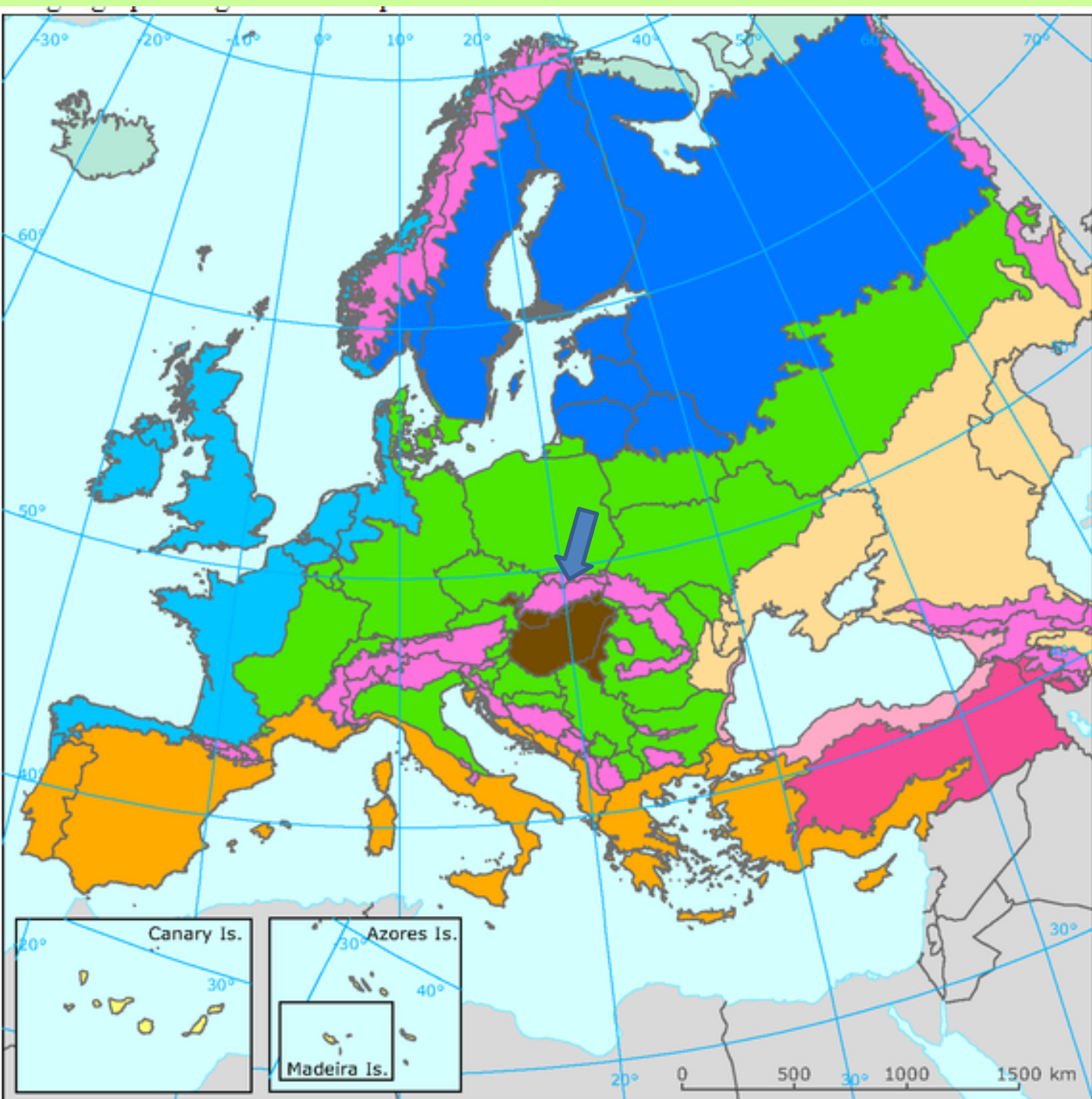


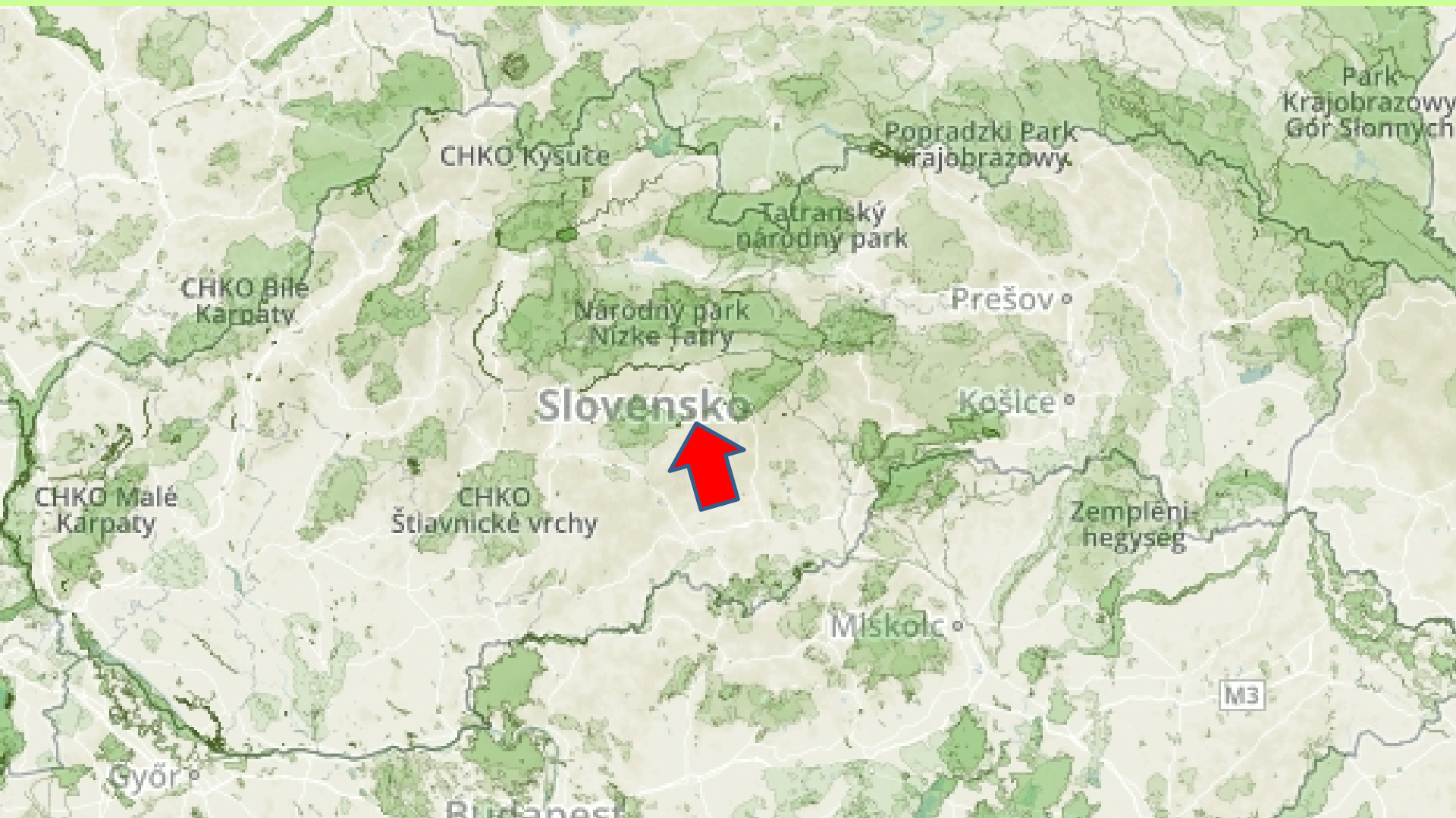
Photo: Pixabay (2); NP Kalkalpen/Kronsteiner



Biogeographic regions in Europe, 2011

- Alpine
- Anatolian
- Arctic
- Atlantic
- Black Sea
- Boreal
- Continental
- Macaronesia
- Mediterranean
- Pannonian
- Steppic
- Outside data coverage

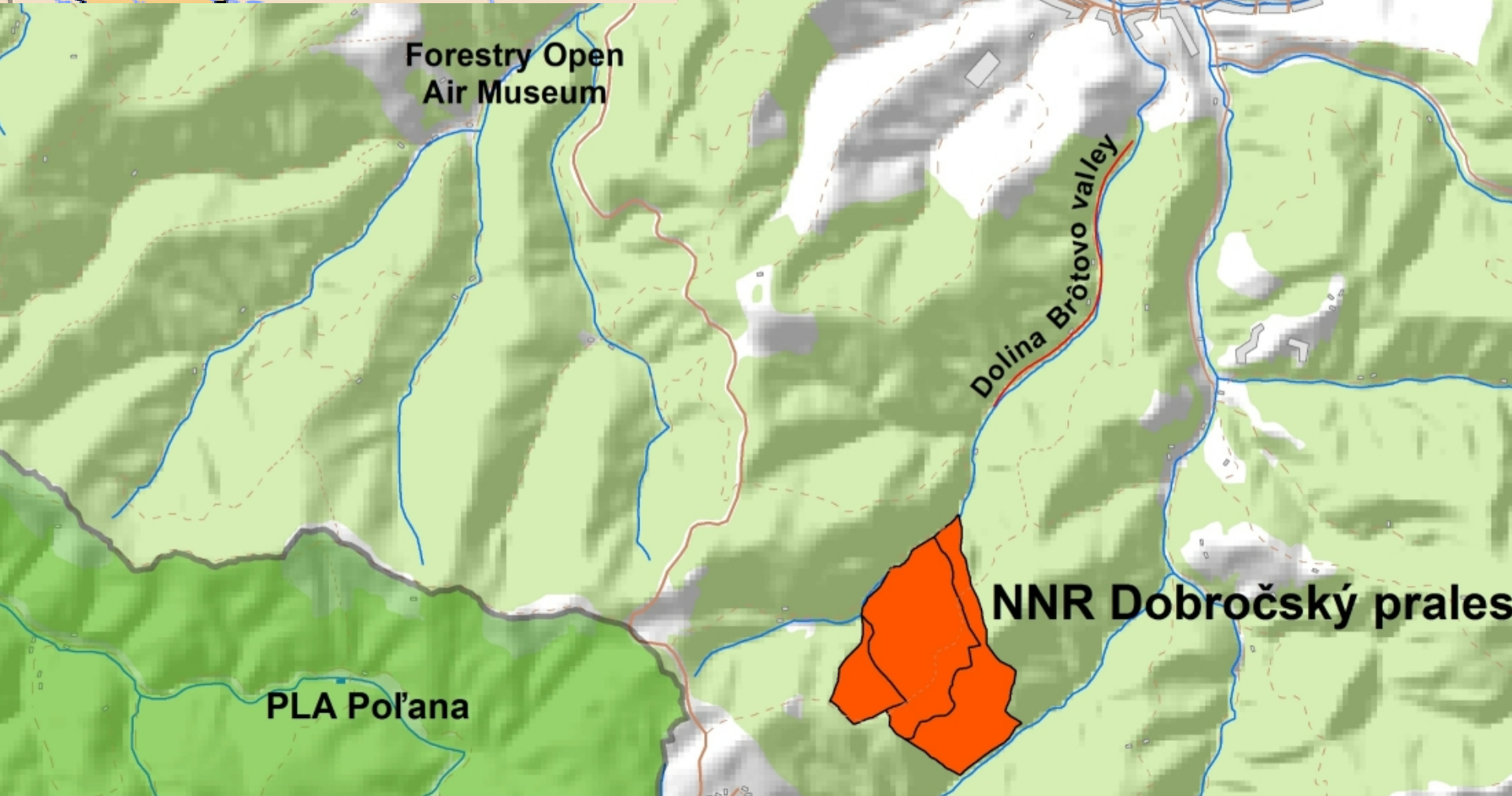


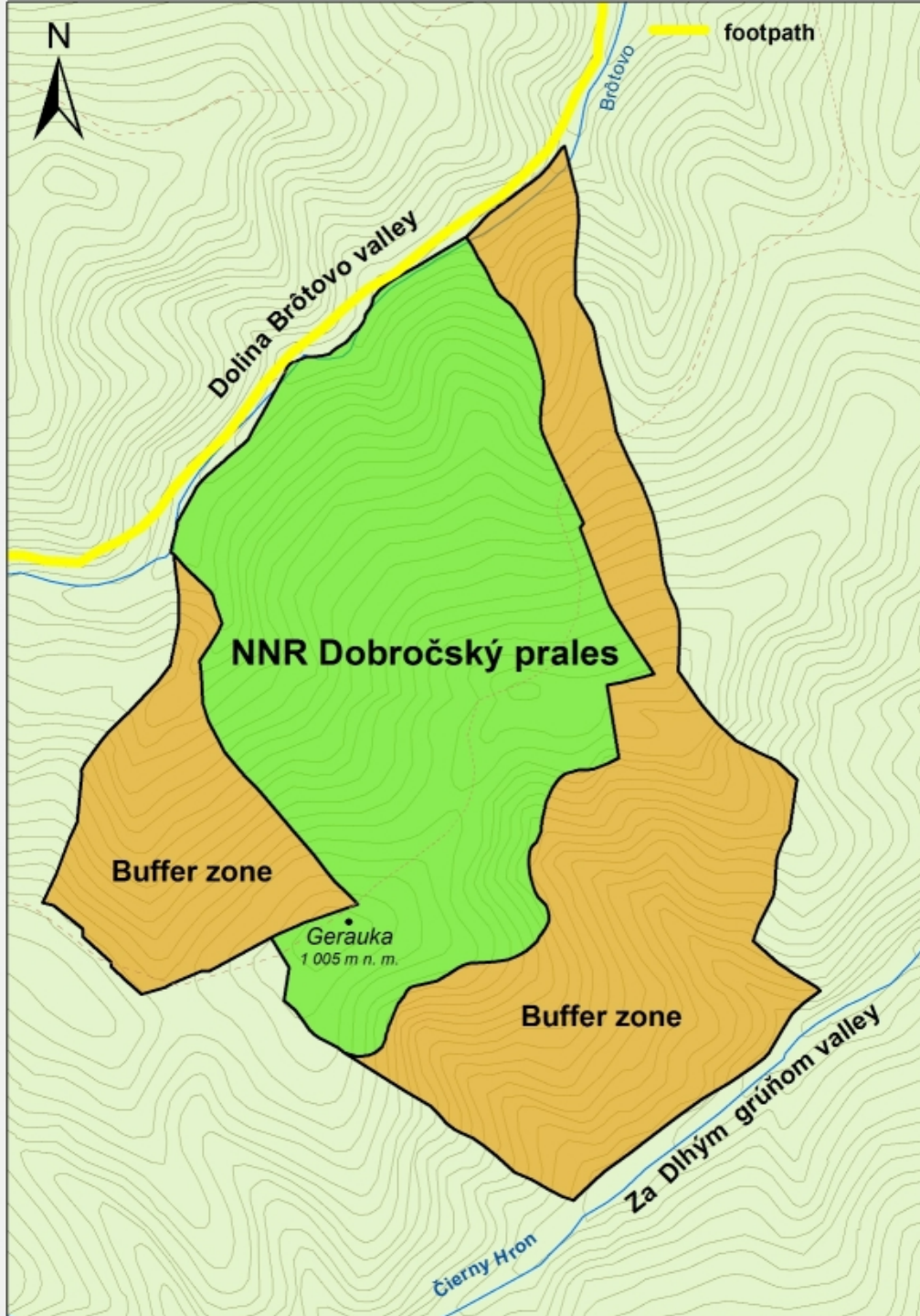


Protected Areas in Slovakia



Čierny Balog





Site 204 hectares

- 104 hectares core zone
- 100 hectares buffer zone

Elevation 700 to 1005 m

Annual temperature 5,8 °C

Protective status (SK)

- 5 (of 5) core zone
- 4 (of 5) buffer zone

First protected in 1913 (50 ha)

European Diploma since 1998

NATURA2000

IUCN Category Ia



Forest:

**Fir-beech-woods
(*Abieto fagetum*)**

**Beech-maple-woods
(*Fageto-aceretum*)**

Core zone: no management intervention

Buffer zone: slight modifications in favour of location-suitable trees



Calamities: Windfall and bark beetle



**Torso in the nature and a
copy of a silver fir
(Dobročská Jedl'a)
near the forestry museum**





**Above: Green shield-moss
(*Buxbaumia viridis*)**

© PLA Polana

**Below: Carpathian blue slug
(*Bielzia coerulans*), an endemic
species in the Carpathians**

© PLA Polana





Left: Skalickou cottage



Right: Signpost at the edge of the core zone

Condition 2012

- pursue the process of transforming anthropogenic forests into semi-natural forests, mainly in the buffer zone of the Dobročský National Nature Reserve, in compliance with the management plan;

The process continued over the last years as laid out in the annual reports, mainly processing wood after bark beetle or wind calamities. In the surrounding forest management measures according to the forestry management plan were implemented, especially sanitary measures in forest stands with bark beetle occurrence.

Recommendation 2012

1. promote awareness-raising activities, mainly:

- updating the exhibition on the Dobročský National Nature Reserve in the Pred Skalickou cottage;*
- in co-operation with the forestry authorities, installing an information point on the Dobročský National Nature Reserve in the Forestry Museum in the Vydrovská Valley, near Čierny Balog;*

The Skalickou cottage is not accessible at fixed hours. Although the exhibition was up-dated with information about the European Diploma, the information does not really reach visitors. Furthermore, the number of visitors is not adequate to justify regular opening times.

The Forestry Museum in the Vydrovská valley is the most important address in the area where people can get all information on forests, including primeval forests. A replica of the torso of the largest fir in the Dobročský Prales NNR is displayed in the open air.

Recommendation 2012 (cont.)

2. *implement other activities listed in the management plan, particularly research and monitoring.*

Monitoring is ongoing. But a clear scientific programme is missing. However, a significant number of studies are published every year.

Discussion point:

Construction of a forest road in the
buffer zone for management




Proposed conditions 2018

1. Carefully observe the revised regulations for the European Diploma of Protected Areas and place the logo of the European Diploma wherever useful e.g. on signposts, information panels, brochures and other publications including DVDs. Set up information panels on the European Diploma itself as well as on the reason for awarding it to the Dobročský Prales National Nature Reserve.
2. Elaborate an interdisciplinary concept, which verifies the necessity of a new forest road into the buffer zone and guarantees a least-intervention solution to minimise the impacts of the road, taking into consideration that the construction is not carried out during the vegetation period and in the breeding season, and that the felling itself does not include heavy machinery. A natural re-cultivation of the road should be foreseen once the forestry measures have been implemented. Report to the Council of Europe before starting the roadworks.

Proposed recommendations 2018

1. Add a chapter on scientific research to the management plan defining clearly the needs of the management of the nature reserve and including a timetable to avoid surveys that are not directly connected to the further development of the area.
2. Develop a precautionary concept on how to deal with invasive species to be prepared in case of their appearance.
3. Prepare a study on the effects of climate change and global warming both on the nature reserve itself and on the regional forests, including a strategy on how to manage the surrounding forest to avoid negative impacts in the nature reserve.
4. Examine possibilities either to extend the opening hours of the exhibition in Skalicou cottage or to relocate the exhibition to the Forestry Museum.



**It is recommended to renew the European Diploma
for the period 2018 - 2028**