



COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE  
Committee of Ministers  
Comité des Ministres

2020.

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR SZÉNÁS HILLS PROTECTED AREA



**EUROPEAN DIPLOMA HOLDING SITE**

**1995**

**CATEGORY A**

**2020.**

**Resolution CM/ResDip (2008) 1  
on the revised regulations for the European Diploma for Protected Areas**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 February 2008  
at the 1018th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)<sup>1</sup>*



**Appendix 5: Model plan for annual reports**

**Annual report for the year 2020**

Annual reports should describe the changes that have taken place since the previous year in dynamic terms of management and function and not be limited to basic data. Any new text or map introducing a change in the situation of the area should be attached to the annual report.

State: **Hungary**

Name of the area: **Szénás Hills Protected Area**

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas: **2020-2030**

**Central authority concerned:**

Name: Duna–Ipoly Nemzeti Park Igazgatóság (Danube–Ipoly National Park Directorate)

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**Authority responsible for its management:**

Name: Szénás-hegycsoport Európa Diplomás Terület (Szénás Hills Protected Area)

in Pilis–Budapest környéki Tájegység (Pilis–Budapest and peripheral Unit of the Directorate)

Address: H-2084 Pilisszentiván, Bányász u. 17.

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<sup>1</sup> As amended by Resolution CM/ResDip (2014) 2 on 2 July 2014 at the 1204th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies.

**Conditions:** List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

N/A

**1. Recommendations:** List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

**1/1. The management of the area should be carried out in close co-operation by the Danube–Ipoly National Park Directorate and the Pilis Forest Company; the activities of the finished LIFE Programme, such as the conversion of black pine forests, reduction of game populations, visitor management, guarding and monitoring, should be continued jointly; the area should be provided with human and financial resources commensurate with the site’s national and European importance;**

**Results of the annual agreement (2020) of cooperation between the Danube–Ipoly National Park Directorate and the Pilis Forest Company:**

*(extended partnership between Pilis Forest Company, the Local Government of Pilisszentiván and the Danube–Ipoly National Park Directorate, since 2016)*

- **Conservation of habitats:** Black pine stand conversion. In 2020, we have continued the reconstruction works (black pine cut) in the area. (0.2 ha)
- The **game population management** is part of the agreement of cooperation between the Danube–Ipoly National Park Directorate and the Pilis Forest Company.
- **Monitoring of fenced sample areas – areas keeping big game out**  
In the new LIFE programme, we are planning to continue this type of researching work.
- **Monitoring of the whole population of *Linum dolomiticum*.** The substance is decreasing from 2010, unfortunately. The decrease presumably caused by microclimatic factors. In the open dolomite grassland spots, the substance decreases drastically, there’s no regrowth, but in the closed dolomite grassland spots substance stagnates or seedlings can be found.
- The researchers started a new comprehensive in-situ conservation experiment of *Linum dolomiticum* (from 2017). The seeding experiment proves, that open dolomite grassland spot’s microclimate has unfavourable effects for *Linum dolomiticum*. The researchers try to revive old former habitat of the *Linum dolomiticum* (in situ conservation) with sowing.
- From this year, new opportunities opened by a starter LIFE Programme for conservation and researching for Hungarian endemic species and valuable areas. The Szénás Hills EDPA could be one of the main areas.
- **Employing 2 environmental educators.**
- **Environmental education** is supported by the Local Government of Pilisszentiván, too (according to the extended partnership between Pilis Forest Company, the Local Government and the Danube–Ipoly National Park Directorate, since 2016)
- We are **plannig to expand the cooperation** with the other two settlements. (Nagykovácsi, Piliscsaba)
- **Maintenance of fence** (see below)

**1/2. Inside and near the area, permission should be given only for such game population management operations as are strictly consonant with the nature conservation objectives assigned to the area, particularly as regards eradication of the moufflon and reduction of the populations of large herbivores to a level compatible with the preservation of the dolomitic grasslands and natural woodlands; these population control operations should be planned on the basis of accurate population monitoring;**

- Due to the ASFP and COVID-19, all the the planned cooperate huntings were cancelled in the hunter season 2019-2020, unfortunately.

- Changes in numbers of big game population, resulting from fence building and the operation of game traps, are planned to monitor also in the frame of the agreement and the new financial resource, Endemic Life project.
- One of our ranger colleague regularly helped the game hunting in the fenced area also in this year. This helps the reduction of game population.

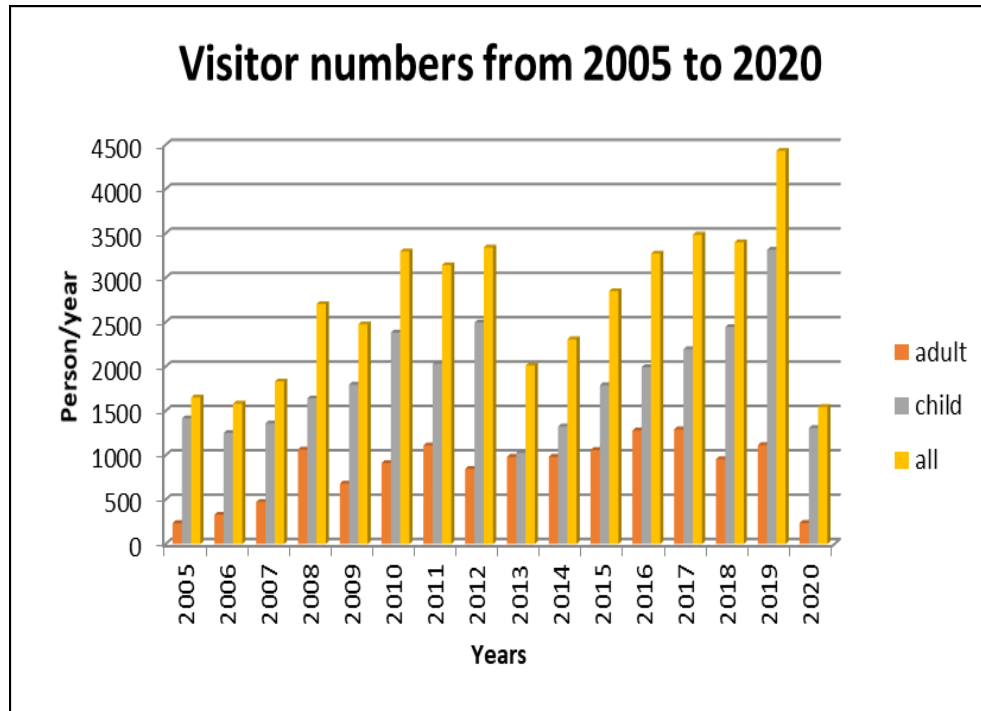
**1/3. The fence enclosing the protected area must be maintained in good condition to prevent technical sport activities from encroaching upon it and also to raise the effectiveness of game population regulation;**

- Maintaining of the fence is part of the agreement of cooperation between the Danube–Ipoly National Park Directorate and the Pilis Forest Company.
- There were 200 000 HUF for this purpose this year.

**1/4. Visitor reception capacity should be increased by organising guided tours outside the most sensitive zones, to make the public more aware of the importance of preserving the habitats in the area; measures should be taken to prevent motor vehicles from crossing the area; the visitor centre at Pilisszentiván has been restored and modernised;**

- The two thirds of our programmes (guided tours, nature trail walks, and big events) were cancelled due to COVID-19 this year.
- In the first half of the year we put a lot of emphasis on the online appearances. We made short videos, educational materials for teachers.
- We tried to organize outdoor programmes and series of lectures for the local children (primary school, nursery school) as soon as it was possible this year.
- The following programmes were held: hydrobiological tests for children, guided tours on the nature trail, bird banding.
- The Local Government supports our work too, for example the environmental education work.
- We renewed the partnership with the alternative school in Pilisszentiván. We have a new one with a nursery school in Pilisszentiván.
- In September 2 field exercises were held for university students.
- The Local Government supports our work too, for example the environmental education work.
- We had a very busy summer and autumn, because we handed over the new Dolomite Flax Visitor Centre and the Jági nature trail.
- We have a new interactive exhibition in the new modern building, which presents the unique values of the area. The exhibition focuses on Natura 2000 species, too.
- The handover ceremony was held on 30<sup>th</sup> of October in two parts.  
In the morning, the protocol event was attended by the Secretary of State for the Environment and the Secretary of State for Forests, as well as the leaders of the Pilis Forest Company, local mayors and directors from other national parks' directorates. The new building and the exhibition is our common pride.  
After the opening speech, we took a short tour in the exhibition. We closed the protocol event with a planting of a tree. In the afternoon we held a partnership meeting, too. (educational institutions, NGO-s) (*Figure:1, 2, 3, 4*)  
We announced a drawing competition for children for the 25th anniversary of the area's European Diploma. The prizes were given in the ceremony.
- A new APP for smartphones was made for the nature trail Jági.

- Number of visitors in 2020 (p/y): **adult 238, children 1308, all 1546**



1. Diagram: Visitor numbers from 2005 to 2020

**1/5. Regulations must be worked out for horse riding paths in the area; also a mountain bike trail should be designated so as to avoid the fenced and strictly protected area;**

- The Pilis Bike bike trail network (from 2016) is also a good opportunity to divert bike traffic from the highly protected area.
- A new initiative has also been launched in the Buda Hills, which will serve a similar purpose.
- Consultations with the project decision-makers are ongoing, accepting the National Park Directorate recommendations.

**1/6. The protected landscape status of the two areas adjoining the special protection area, which were also the subject of the diploma application, should be maintained to keep them functioning;**

- Where there is a buffer zone, no building permit can be issued in zone C. (Neither above the ground nor below)

**1/7. Urbanisation pressure must be handled properly; any new development plans of Nagykovácsi, Pilisszentiván and Piliscsaba should be examined carefully;**

- Consultations with the settlements on the development plans are ongoing.
- Negotiations are ahead.
- No building permit can be issued in zone C.
- These areas can only serve recreational purposes.

**1/8. Co-operation with volunteers (schools, non-governmental organizations, local governments, scouts) must be continued, as well as with local residents, police and civil guards.**

- Managing some **team building days** of different groups (mainly company groups) in the zone C. In these occasions cutting of Black pine, planting of deciduous tree plants or maintenance of wooden equipment of the nature trails was accomplished.
- Leading **field exercises for university students**.

- The local civil guards help our works (regular patrolling, habitat reconstruction works).
- Two guards were very busy this year, particularly the New Acropolis Association (NAA) and the Forest Guards Foundation (FGF) were the most active partners.
- The NNA members help in the habitat reconstruction work, regularly.
- The FGF placed nest-boxes and bird feeders into the forest (next to our nature trail).
- We have some **volunteers** helping us regularly in the environmental education works.
- Every year, we have “**trainees**” from **universities** and high schools. It’s a good opportunity for them to learn, but at the same time, they help our work, too.

**2. Site Management:** List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

- The visitor centre has been renovated. Our current task is to develop a new operating concept.
- Due to the organisation changes in DINPD the visitor centre has been interned in to the Pilis-Budapest and peripheral Unit of DINPD.

**3. Boundaries:** Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

**No changes**

**4. Other information:** List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

- We have promoted the area several times in public media and other local media.
- More ranger action during the *Linum dolomiticum* bloom to protect the habitat.



1. Figure: The new exhibition (Zalán Biros)



2. Figure: The new building (Réka Karlné Menráth)



3. Figure: The new garden of the visitor centre (Gyöngyi Berkó)



4. Figure: Visitors on our first day (Gyöngyi Berkó)