

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023<sup>1</sup> “POLONINY NATIONAL PARK”

State: **The Slovak Republic**

Name of the area: **National Park POLONINY (hereafter the “Poloniny NP”)**

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas:

**The Resolution CM/ResDip(2018)11 on the renewal of the European Diploma of the Protected Areas awarded to the Poloniny NP (Slovakia)<sup>2</sup> /hereafter “Resolution No (2018)11”<sup>3</sup>**

### Central authority concerned:

Name: Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic (MoE), Directorate of Nature and Biodiversity Protection,  
Department of Nature Protection

Address: Nám. L. Štúra 1; 812 35 Bratislava 1, Slovak Republic

Tel: (+ 421 2) 5956 2211;

e-mail: [jana.durkosova@enviro.gov.sk](mailto:jana.durkosova@enviro.gov.sk) (contact person);

www: [www.enviro.gov.sk](http://www.enviro.gov.sk)

### Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Poloniny National Park Administration with Headquarters in Stakčín

Address: Mieru 193, 067 61 Stakčín, Slovak Republic

Tel: +421 577624424

e-mail: [poloniny@nppoloniny.sk](mailto:poloniny@nppoloniny.sk)

www: [www.nppoloniny.sk](http://www.nppoloniny.sk)

### 1. Conditions:

Resolution CM/ResDip(2018)11 contains 3 conditions

***Condition No. 1: By 31 December 2021, submit to the Secretariat of the Council of Europe a detailed report, covering the implementation of each of the 52 actions in the Poloniny National Park Action Plan (Appendix 6.6.17 of the Poloniny National Park Management Plan for 2017-2026)***

#### Condition completed:

The detailed report on the implementation of the Poloniny National Park Action Plan, adopted by the Government of the Slovak Republic on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2016 (its **Appendix 6.6.17 of the Poloniny National Park Management Plan for 2017-2026**), was sent in the separate document to the Bern Convention Secretariat on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022. The Group of Experts for European Diploma discussed the issue at the meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup>- 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022<sup>4</sup>.

***Condition No. 2: By 31 December 2023, initiate the revision of management and action plans for the Poloniny National Park so that they can be approved (by government resolution, if necessary) before they are due to be implemented on 1 January 2028;***

#### Condition completed:

In 2022 the relevant nature protection documentation was finalized to start the official process of both zoning and management plan for the Poloniny National Park (NP). According to the **Act No 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection as amended** (“Act No 543/2002 Coll”) these processes need to be parallel and before submission to the Government of SR there are several steps to be undertaken. After consultation with the MoE, on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022 the proposal of zoning of the Poloniny NP as well as the **draft management plan for the Poloniny NP for 2023-2032** were made available by the Prešov District Office<sup>5</sup>. The public announcement was sent to all concerned villages, land associations

<sup>1</sup> reported period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023

<sup>2</sup> adopted at the 1321<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Committee of Ministers on 4 July 2018, valid by 18 September 2028

<sup>3</sup> Originally resolution No (1998)26, resolution No (2003)2, No (2008)3 and resolution No (2012)19, respectively

<sup>4</sup> With reflection on pp 136-138 of the Document <https://rm.coe.int/de10e-2022-compilation-analysis-2021annual-reports/1680a59691>

<sup>5</sup>

and state bodies. During this official public consultation a large amount of comments was received that were subject to negotiation from April to June 2023. These negotiations were led by the Prešov District Office, while the Poloniny NP Administration and MoE actively participated. Responding to the petition of local stakeholders there was a meeting held at the MoE on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023 the meeting was held, where it was agreed to organize additional individual meetings with municipalities. The Poloniny NP Administration undertook 11 meetings from 21<sup>st</sup> July – 26<sup>th</sup> August 2023. By December 2024 there is a 2 year preliminary protection according to § 50 of the Act No 543/2002 Coll.).

***Condition No. 3: Deploy adequate resources, both financial and human, in order to achieve a satisfactory outcome of the actions detailed in the Poloniny National Park Action Plan;***

**Condition completed:**

As mentioned in the previous reports from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022, the Poloniny NP Administration (as well as other 8 NP in Slovakia) was separated from the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and **became the standalone legal entity directly under the MoE**. At the same time **all state land plots/parcels overlapping with protected areas in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> levels**, which to the date were managed by state forest enterprises, were **transferred under the management of Administration of the Poloniny NP** – concretely **8,378 hectares** (cca 28 % of the whole area of the Poloniny NP territory). The Poloniny NP Administration **also gained several buildings into tenure and the total amount of employees** in the Poloniny NP Administration gradually **increased from 12 (in 2021) to 33 persons (2022) to 36 employees (2023)**.

The **budget** of the Poloniny NP Administration is agreed by the MoE – in 2022 as **1 404 000 EUR** and in 2023 as **1 365 353 EUR**. In the reference period, the income was **more diversified**: 460 892 EUR was received from the state budget, the contribution from the Environmental Fund amounted to 644 908 EUR, the donation from the Vodohospodárska výstavba state enterprise was 154 100 EUR and the Poloniny NP Administration as the independent legal body also gained 105 453 EUR.

In addition, it is also necessary to add information that the Poloniny NP Administration also received funds through EU financial mechanisms.

First, within the framework of the **Operational Programme – Quality of Environment (OPQE)** by implementing 1 own project (ending 2023) and participating in 2 other projects, the NP Administration received 553 183,10 EUR. Through the **Integrated Regional Operational Programme** there were implemented 3 projects for which the Poloniny NP Administration received 95 179,95 EUR. Altogether, thanks to the projects the Poloniny NP Administration received totally **648 363,05 EUR**. It is possible that a part of these money will be paid to the NP Administration in 2024, but the majority has already flowed into the account of the Poloniny NP Administration.

Second, within the **Slovak Recovery and Resilience Plan** will be financed in the frame of “NextGenerationEU” – recovery plan for Europe, under its Component 5 "Adaptation to Climate Change" there are **2 beneficiary national parks (Poloniny NP and Muránska planina NP) selected with allocation of 16,8 million EUR mainly for soft tourism activities**. In April 2022 the MoE published a call for applicants to submit development projects for the **transformation of the Poloniny National Park region**. The applicants were primarily municipalities, civic associations, local development agencies, land share associations and the Poloniny NP Administration. From 36 submitted proposals MoE selected totally 13 projects (with total budget 8 696 207,77 EUR). Other 17 projects (13 782 654,11 EUR) were included in the list of reserve projects if any of the adopted projects could not be realised, while 6 projects were rejected. More details (in Slovak language) are on webpage <https://www.minzp.sk/poo/np-muranska-poloniny/>. The realisation of selected projects should bring also job opportunities, mainly in the field of soft tourism. The Poloniny NP Administration has one project for which it should receive 130 724,30 EUR next year, and it also has one project with a budget of 3 814 680 EUR in the list of reserve projects.

In the frame of the pre-emption right the **Poloniny NP Administration bought land with the area 189,56 ha** from a private owner, part (103,82 ha) belongs to the area of the Poloniny NP and part (85,74 ha) might be used in the future for exchanging of private land located inside of the Poloniny NP.

The state continues, via decisions of the district offices (environmental departments) to pay **compensations from the state budget<sup>6</sup>** with respect to (i) **financial compensations for restriction of the common land use** and (ii) **to the compensation for damages** caused by the selected protected animal species. In the reported period there were paid (i) **546 126,42 EUR** and (ii) **3 393,36 EUR**.

---

<https://www.minv.sk/?okresne-urady-klientske-centra&urad=52&sekcia=uradna-tabula#popis>

- projekt ochrany - zonácia NP Poloniny - <https://nppoloniny.sopsr.sk/projekt-ochrany/>

- návrh programu starostlivosti o NP Poloniny a jeho OP - <https://nppoloniny.sopsr.sk/program-starostlivosti/>

<sup>6</sup> § 61 and §§ 97-102 of the Act No 543/200 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection as amended

## 2. Recommendations

Resolution CM/ResDip(2018)11 contains 8 recommendations

***Recommendation No. 1: By 2020, develop a prioritised plan for all land in State ownership to be reclassified as levels 3, 4 or 5; and demonstrate significant progress in reclassifying the level-3 forest as either level 4 (with exploitation by a silvicultural selection methodology) or as level 5 (no exploitation)***

### **Recommendation completed:**

In the previous annual report an increase of number and of coverage of protected areas with stricter level of protection within the Poloniny NP was highlighted (in September 2020 - **21 protected areas** with total area 2 432,78 ha, while in September 2021 **23 protected areas with total area of 3 425 ha, e.g. increase to is from 8.16 to 11.49 %** of the NP territory). These are at the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> levels of protection and since April 2022 their part in the state hands (including parts of involved parcelas) were transferred to the Administration of the Poloniny NP.

As mentioned above, the Poloniny NP Administration elaborated documentation for the Poloniny NP zoning, according to which it was suggested:

Zone A with 5<sup>th</sup> level of protection: 14 095,6368 ha (what will be 46,14 % of the Poloniny NP area)

Zone B with 4<sup>th</sup> level of protection: 3 077,2400 ha (10,07 %)

Zone C with 3<sup>rd</sup> level of protection: 13 376,0634 ha (43,79 %).

Within **proposed zones A and B there are mainly forests in state ownership**, only very small percentage is covered by another land (most of the small meadows). As mentioned under the condition No. 2 the official process of the Poloniny NP zoning started in December 2022.

***Recommendation No. 2: Encourage church, association and private landowners to reclassify their land as level 3 or 4, utilising a single-tree or group-selection silvicultural system wherever appropriate;***

### **Recommendation in progress:**

As mentioned in the previous report, **the crucial change is legal obligation to apply in national parks only close to nature forestry<sup>7</sup>** - e.g. special purpose silvicultural system or selection system or shelterwood system of small felling areas, where the area of one felling plot must not exceed 0,2 ha; in terrain with slopes more than 40 %, in inaccessible terrain and on poor load bearing soil it must not exceed 1,5 ha with felling plot not wider than mean height of logged forest stand.

The area of the Poloniny NP belongs to **7 forest management plan units**. The new forestry management plan has to be approved by the regional government authority and comply with the Poloniny NP management plan as according to the national law<sup>8</sup> (there is an obligation to respect the Poloniny NP Management plan in decisions of state bodies including decision on the forestry management plans).

**In 2022 the process of renewal of the forest management plan for the Nižná Jablonka Forest Management Unit for decade 2022-2031 finilized** and in 2023 **the process of renewal of the forest management plan for the Topoľa, Ulič and Zboj Forest Management Units for decade 2024-2033 begun** (not adopted yet). In all these cases the SNC SR – Poloniny NP Administration, later an independent body - the Poloniny NP Administration - applied the same requirements as for the Forest Management Unit Starina (specified in the previous reports).

***Recommendation No. 3: Maintain the management of meadows outside the World Heritage Site, preferably by summer grazing by livestock or alternatively by cutting and removing the cut material from the site;***

### **Recommendation in progress:**

Maintaining of meadows by cattle grazing or maintaining the traditional livestock breeds are involved into the Poloniny NP Action Plan, implemented in the same extent as in the previous period – mainly within the **project "Realisation of selected activities from the Poloniny NP Management Plan"** - cutting of natural self-sowing young shrubs and trees on selected meadows and subsequently mowing on the area by 2 owners, in addition to the mowing of fens done by the **mowing of fens** as well as **cutting of mesophilic and humid meadows** financed from budget of the Poloniny NP Administration.

This project has been finished already and therefore the NP Administration elaborated a new project called "**Care for the territory in the administration of the Poloniny National Park**", which was approved and implemented within

<sup>7</sup> In accordance to § 18.4 of Act. No 326/2005 Coll. on Forests as amended

<sup>8</sup> § 54. 5 of the Act No 543/200 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection as amended

the OPQE (the sum which the NP Administration obtained was 525 855,68 EUR). As a part of this project, management (mowing or felling of invasive shrubs and trees) was carried out on meadows with a total area of **52,7 ha**. In the frame of this project the **Poloniny NP Administration also bought a agricultural tractor with trailer and two adapters for mowing and tedding of hay. The price was 183 600 EUR**. Thanks to this purchase, the NP Administration will be able to continue in meadow management in the future, the work will be carried out with its own resources to the maximum extent, what should be cheaper, and thus it will be possible to realize meadow management on a larger area. In the previous period, mowing and felling of shrubs was carried out by contractors (previously mowing and felling of shrubs was carried out by contractors). At the same time, there will be used the workers with lower qualification who were transferred to the NP Administration within delimitation mentioned under the condition No. 3.

At the large scale maintaining of grassland was supported in the frame of **Rural Development Programme 2014-2020**, the precise data (coverage) are not available. This programme is co-financed from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. In the reported period the **Strategic Plan of Common Agricultural Policy of Slovak Republic 2023 – 2027** was finalized and sent to the European Commission. If adopted, measures for meadows would continue to be supported.

These activities are eligible from the **Slovak Recovery and Resilience Plan, too**.

***Recommendation No. 4: Liaise with appropriate stakeholders, especially those involved with sustainable tourism, to prepare an inventory of objects of cultural significance within the national park and support a prioritised programme of restoration of these culturally significant objects;***

**Recommendation in progress:**

The inventory of 51 significant cultural sites/objects in the area of the Poloniny NP is available in the chapter 2.2.9 “Cultural Heritage and Religious Activities” of the Poloniny NP Management Plan. The **cooperation exists with the “Club of the Military History Beskydy”** which restored several military cemeteries in the area of the Poloniny NP as well as with a non-profit organization “**Carpathian wooden churches**” oriented at support of regional wooden churches maintenance. This cooperation continued also in the reported period.

These activities are eligible from the **Slovak Recovery and Resilience Plan, too**.

***Recommendation No. 5: Develop effective research and monitoring programmes which provide data helpful to the management of the national park’s resources;***

**Recommendation in progress:**

Many ongoing research activities are part of the research and monitoring programmes mentioned in the Poloniny NP Management plan or its Action Plan. They are **either carried out by the staff of the Poloniny NP** (monitoring of beaver, otter, amphibians, etc.) **or by external researchers** (who finance their activities by themselves). During the reported period the **following research and monitoring activities** in the Poloniny NP were undertaken:

- Geological survey in the frame of elaborating PhD. thesis “Features of sediment density flows, their influence on reservoir properties of Cergowa Beds (Oligocene of the Dukla Tectonic Unit, Polish Outer Carpathians)
- Long-term Air Quality Monitoring in the frame of The European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (EMEP) – station located in Starina
- Long-term Ecosystem Research carried out within LTER-Europe platform<sup>9</sup>
- Monitoring aimed on species of Community interest
- Monitoring of seminatural meadows species composition under the impact of different ways of management on permanent plots in the Poloniny NP
- Research of *Coleoptera*
- Research of soil arthropods
- Research of malacofauna
- Research of dragonflies (*Odonata*)
- Research of water invertebrates
- Research of arachnids
- Research of ticks (The University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice)
- Research on blood parasites (University of Žilina)
  - o Determination and prevalence of ectoparasites (feather mites, bird lice - *Mallophaga*) and blood parasites from genus *Haemorateus*, *Leucocvtzoon*, *Trvoanosoma* on vectors and host species *Prunella modularis* and also on another species of order Passeriformes living in subalpine zone.

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.lter-europe.net/projects/eLTER>

- Fyziological adaptation of midget soil mammals (*Chionomys nivalis*, *Mvodes olareolus*, *Microtus* sp., *Apodemus* sp.) to the mountainous environment, research of parasites and ekotoxicological research of fauna.
- Variability of ventral maculation and populational genetics of yellow-bellied toad (*Bombina variegata*)
- Research "Diversity and distribution of botanical species and associations in changing environment conditions"
- Research "Silvopastoral ecosystems of Slovakia"
- Speleology survey and research in Cadastral Area Ruske
- Hydrogeological survey in Villages of Nová Sedlica, Uličské Krivé, Brezovec, Jalová, Kalná Roztoka, Klenová, Kolbasov, Osadné, Parihuzovce, Pčoliné, Príslop, Ruská Volová, Ruský Potok, and Topoľa which cadastral areas are fully or partly included into the Poloniny NP
- Research of insects and wasps parasitizing on spiders
- Research of traditional regional cultivars of fruit trees
- Evaluation of bear abundance in the Poloniny NP based on the non-invasive collecting of fur samples.

In the reported period there was published the **following new scientific article**:

Špulerová, J.; Piscová, V.; Matušicová, N.: "The Contribution of Scientists to the Research in Biosphere Reserves in Slovakia", Land 2023, 12(3), 537 (see at <https://doi.org/10.3390/land12030537>)

***Recommendation No. 6: Devise and implement with local stakeholders a tourism development strategy and a prioritised action plan so that the infrastructure facilities can be developed for the benefit of both the national park and the economic well-being of the people who live in the area;***

**Recommendation in progress:**

Additional activities related to tourism development are being carried out by local NGOs first as a part of the project "**Concept of development of the Snina district**" which was elaborated by Aevis Foundation in 2018. This NGO gave to register a trademark "**Poloniny neskutočne skutočné**" (**Poloniny unreally real**) aimed to encourage local inhabitants to perform and provide any services for tourists like accommodation and related services, production and selling of local products (e. g. souvenirs), gastronomic services, and so on. This NGO offers to these providers of services (if they fulfil set conditions/rules and criteria for quality) they can promote their services using a trademark "Poloniny neskutočne skutočné" also webpage <https://regionpoloniny.sk/> where it is possible to find more information. Second, very similar activities are developed by NGO "**Take naše**" ("So ours"). Together in cooperation with the Poloniny NP Administration and with the Prešov Self-Governing Region they organized one event - Weekend of beautiful experiences called "**Objavte Poloniny**" ("**Discover Poloniny**") in our area. They also encouraged local producers and providers of services. This NGO promoted their products by web page. During that weekend "Objavte Poloniny" tourists could attend on many partial events like e. g. school of local dishes cooking, manufacture of wicker baskets, a course in forage and using of healing herbs, and many others. This event was very successful and interest of tourists was rather high. More information you can find on webpage <https://www.objavtepoloniny.sk/>. This NGO repeated the same event also this year. During the weekend from 17<sup>th</sup> till 20<sup>st</sup> August 2023 tourists could choose to take a part on 28 activities like observing of night sky with lectures of astronomers, course of traditional three-part folk singing, etc. The full list of activities you can find on web <https://www.objavtepoloniny.sk/preskumaj-vsetky-zazitky/>.

As mentioned in the previous reports, the Prešov Self-Governing Region (PSGR) was involved as a **pilot region from Slovakia into the "Catching-up Regions Initiative"** It is a co-operative programme of the EU and the World Bank for supporting of regions in the EU with lower level of development. The goal of this initiative in the PSGR is to support sufficient development and creation of working positions through the Action Plan for Development and Employment PSGR. Within this initiative the experts of the World Bank elaborated a study report "**Unlocking the Endogenous Tourism Potential of Poloniny National Park and the Snina District**" on which cooperated also the Poloniny NP Administration. This study analyses current situation in tourism development and it proposes measurements to stimulate tourism in this region. See <https://www.worldbank.org/en/region/eca/publication/slovakia-catching-up-regions>. The proposed activities should be supported in the frame of ENPI Cross Border Cooperation Programme in next years. The PSGR continued with realization of the **project of two cycle trails** (from Snina to Jalova's crossroads, from village Ulič to Uličské Krivé). Both cycle trails should be built outside of existing roads so tourists can enjoy the safety and serene biking. The PSGR also started to work on a new **project of 14,2 km long cycle trail** from Jalova's crossroad to crossroad called "Pod Hrabom" in the former Village of Ruské displaced during the construction of Water Reservoir Starina. In the referred period it **started with construction of all three mentioned cycle trails**, the section of the trail between the village of Stakčín and the Jalovská is shortly before its finalization.

The Poloniny NP belongs to the region called **Upper Zemplín**. In the reported period a deeper cooperation continued with The Regional Tourism Organization Upper Zemplín and Upper Šariš (neighbouring region). They are regional organizations based by local municipalities (towns, villages) and other subjects (e.g. some hotels) interested in

tourism aimed at the support and promotion of tourism in this region and on creation of better conditions for the development of tourism in the territory with the aim of sustainable development of tourism. The Poloniny NP participated in some events arranged by this organization.

It is necessary to emphasize the importance of local projects financed from the **Slovak Recovery and Resilience Plan**. Most of proposed projects were oriented to increase an attractiveness of this region for tourists.

The NP Administration cooperated on and organised many activities in the field of environmental education. The list of those events is in the Annex to this report.

***Recommendation No. 7: Maintain co-operation with the other nations which incorporate parts of the Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe World Heritage Site, as well as with Bieszczady National Park in Poland, the East Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the two neighbouring Landscape Protected Areas – Východné Karpaty and Vihorlat;***

**Recommendation in progress:**

The Poloniny NP Administration has good **contacts with neighbouring protected areas** in Slovakia (**Vihorlat Protected Landscape Area (PLA) and also with Východné Karpaty PLA**). There is an excellent cooperation in the frame of the **UNESCO WH Property** “.Representatives of the Poloniny NP Administration participated in videoconference meetings regarding the UNESCO WH Heritage site. They also personally took a part in the **Joint Management Committee meeting for the World Heritage Property which (23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023) organized by Italian partners Pescasseroli close to the component parts in National Park Abruzzo, Lazio & Molise.**

The Poloniny NP Administration has also contacts with **foreign partners**, for instance a long term cooperation with partners within the **East Carpathians Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (Slovakia/Poland/Ukraine)**. The **trilateral agreement** concluded on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2013 is being implemented. The Steering Council of this biosphere reserve consists of administrations of the relevant national parks and protected landscape areas from Slovakia, Poland and Ukraine. Its role is to jointly manage and coordinate cross-border activities. In **September 2023**, representatives of the NP Administration took part in a conference organized by Polish partners on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Bieszczady NP. There were organized also several mutual bilateral meetings with Polish or Ukrainian colleagues aimed at future cooperation and the preparation of new projects which should be implemented in the following years. One event in August is mentioned under Recommendation No 6.

***Recommendation No. 8: Continue the dialogue with local communities in order to build confidence and foster involvement in the diploma-holding area.***

**Recommendation in progress:**

A dialogue between the Administration of the Poloniny NP and local communities **runs permanently**. There is a good cooperation with some **local communities**, for example with municipalities **and local schools**. As mentioned under recommendation No. 6 we cooperated also with PSGR in the frame of **“Catching-Up Regions Initiative”** during the reported period.

During the reported period several meetings with stakeholders were organized regarding the future cooperation regarding the preparation and subsequent implementation of the Slovak Recovery and Resilience Plan as well as proposed zoning.

The above mentioned significant amendment of Act No. 543/2002 Coll. also anchored in our legislation that administrations of all national parks in Slovakia have an council (committee, panel, board) of national park, which should serve as advisory, consultative or expert body. The **Council of the Poloniny National Park was established** – its 15 members represent regional municipalities, NGO-s, land owners, scientific institutions, directors of neighbouring national park in Poland and Ukraine and other stakeholders (tourism associations). This council will be one of the tools which should improve relations between the Poloniny NP Administration and local communities. The number of council members has been increased to the current 19. The Council had three meetings in the reported period. The minutes (only in Slovak language) of those meetings are published on the websites: <https://www.nppoloniny.sk/1-zasadnutie-rady-np/>, <https://www.nppoloniny.sk/2-zasadnutie-rady-np/> and <https://www.nppoloniny.sk/3-zasadnutie-rady-np/>.

**Site Management:**

According to the amendment of the Act No 543/2002 Coll, valid since January 2020, sites of international importance were defined. The list and fundamental data on their list (including the European Diploma holders) is available at the <https://www.minzp.sk/ochrana-prirody/medzinarodne-dohovory/uzemia-medzinarodneho-vyznamu/>. Other changes are mentioned under individual conditions and recommendations.

**3. Boundaries:**

No change of the NP boundaries.

**4. Other information:**

Visibility of the newly established Poloniny NP Administration as a legal entity has been improved – see the official web site <https://www.nppoloniny.sk/> as well as the Facebook profile <https://www.facebook.com/NarodnyParkPoloniny>. Information from the Facebook profile are quite often used by the media as a source of information on activities realized by the Poloniny NP Administration. The logo of the European Diploma is promoted in all the relevant occasions. The Slovak Radio and Television broadcasted in July 2023 an episode from a TV programme „S úsmevom po Slovensku“ (With Smile around Slovakia) <https://www.rtvs.sk/televizia/archiv/20224/414078#875>. This programme is dedicated to travelling and visiting single regions of Slovakia, which are rich in nature, culture and historical values. The episode broadcasted in 20.7.2023 took place in the Poloniny NP and its surroundings. The aim of this programme is to increase awareness of a wide public about valuable areas in Slovakia and support tourist development.

December 2023, prepared by the Administration of the Poloniny National Park (Marián Gič), State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (Michaela Mrázová) and the Department of Nature Protection of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic (Jana Durkošová)

## Annex: overview of the environmental awareness activities

## September 2022:

- The Poloniny NP Administration participated in a long-distance stage hike along the ridge of the Poloninské Carpathians, which was organized by the Slovak Club of Tourists TK LOKO Humenné on 15.-18.9.2022. A photo gallery is available on: [https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=465458375617509&set=pcb.465462852283728&locale=sk\\_SK](https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=465458375617509&set=pcb.465462852283728&locale=sk_SK).

## October 2022:

- Open day in the Poloniny NP and Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Eastern Carpathians under the name "Wanderings in Poloniny" on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the creation of NP Poloniny organized on 9.10.2022. The event was organized for a wide public, teachers with pupils from primary schools (Primary schools Stakčín, Budovateľská, P.O. Hviezdoslava and Klenová) and inhabitants of the Village of Klenová. All of them were helpful in cleaning up of the tourist trail and the River of Ublianka (Ublianka Special Area of Conservation) in the cadastre of the Village of Klenová. Totally 85 people take part in the event, photo galleries are available on: [https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=472768461553167&set=pcb.472771478219532&locale=sk\\_SK](https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=472768461553167&set=pcb.472771478219532&locale=sk_SK) and [https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=472291721600841&set=pcb.472293134934033&locale=sk\\_SK](https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=472291721600841&set=pcb.472293134934033&locale=sk_SK).
- Excursion in the Gazdoraň Nature Reserve for members of NGO Detská železnica Košice (Košice Children's Railway) on 15.10.2022. Totally 45 people take part in the excursion. They had opportunity to visit the Museum of the Village of Stakčín and a wooden church in Jalová.

## December 2022:

- The Poloniny NP Administration organized an educational programme "Animals in winter" for pupils of Primary School Komenského Snina in cooperation with the Municipal Cultural and Educational Centre in Snina. The event take place in Malý kaštieľ in Snina on 8.12.2022 and 20 pupils and 2 teachers took part in it. Children were creating a pictures and their own book of tracks. A gallery is available on: [https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=515717307258282&set=pcb.515709610592385&locale=sk\\_SK](https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=515717307258282&set=pcb.515709610592385&locale=sk_SK)

## April 2023:

- Educational program and creative workshops "Sensational world of storks" held in the rooms of a Small Manor House in Snina on 3.4.2023. Totally 12 pupils from the Religious Primary school and kindergarten of St. Peter and Paul in the Village of Belá nad Cirochou. A gallery is available on: [https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=603739841789361&set=pcb.603734918456520&locale=sk\\_SK](https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=603739841789361&set=pcb.603734918456520&locale=sk_SK).
- The Poloniny NP Administration participated in the Earth Day in the cinema hall of the Cultural House Snina – cultural and educational programme in cooperation with the Municipal Cultural and Educational Centre in Snina, Art School in Snina and NGO Čemerica Stakčín on 20.-21.4.2023. A gallery is available on: [https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=606473128182699&set=pcb.606463274850351&locale=sk\\_SK](https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=606473128182699&set=pcb.606463274850351&locale=sk_SK).
- The Poloniny NP Administration participated also in the Earth Day on 24.4.2023. The event was organized for the smallest children in the courtyard of the Manor House in Snina in cooperation with the Municipal Cultural and Educational Centre in Snina, Approximately 220 children from kindergartens from Snina and its surroundings took part in it. Children were involved into educational activities (e.g. creation and recognition of track in sand). Mascot wolf called "Ňufáčik" living in Poloniny was an attraction of the event. A gallery is available on: [https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=608370607992951&set=pcb.608374837992528&locale=sk\\_SK](https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=608370607992951&set=pcb.608374837992528&locale=sk_SK).
- Evaluation of the "Seven Wonders of the Poloniny NP" literary and artistic competition organised for pupils from primary schools. The competition was announced by the Poloniny NP Administration. Totally 10 primary school from the District of Snina took part in it. 30 awards in 7 categories were given. More information and gallery is available on: <https://www.nppoloniny.sk/vyhodnotenie-sutaze-sedem-divov-polonin/> and <https://www.nppoloniny.sk/sedem-divov-polonin-literarna-vytvarna-a-fotograficka-sutaz-pre-deti-a-mladez-okresu-snina/>.

## May 2023:

- Excursion with an expert explanation to the territory of the Poloniny National Park (surroundings of the Village of Ulič and Havešová Nature Reserve) organized on 7.5.2023. Totally 17 persons take part in it.
- Excursion with expert explanation along the hiking trail Gazdoraň within the environmental programme "Where does the water travel" for pupils of Primary School Dlhé nad Cirochou organized on 11.5.2023. Totally 42 person took part in it. A gallery is available on: [https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=619229033573775&set=pcb.619230056907006&locale=sk\\_SK](https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=619229033573775&set=pcb.619230056907006&locale=sk_SK).
- Eco-educational programme "Biodiversity of the Poloniny in a cube" for pupils of Primary Schools in Košice organized on 16.5.2023 in a recreational area Rybníky in Snina. Totally 43 pupils from primary school from Košice took part in it.
- Eco-educational programme "Biodiversity of the Poloniny in a cube" for pupils of Kindergarten in Udavské organized on 19.5.2023. Totally 32 children and 2 teachers took part in it. A gallery is available on: [https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=626323236197688&set=pcb.626324292864249&locale=sk\\_SK](https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=626323236197688&set=pcb.626324292864249&locale=sk_SK).
- Excursion with expert explanation along the hiking trail Gazdoraň and realisation of activities in recreational and educational area "Doors to Poloniny" within the environmental programme "Biodiversity of the Poloniny in a cube" for pupils of Primary School Park Angelinum in Košice organized on 23.5.2023 for 45 persons. A gallery is available on: [https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=627565309406814&set=pcb.627568289406516&locale=sk\\_SK](https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=627565309406814&set=pcb.627568289406516&locale=sk_SK).



## June 2023:

- The Poloniny NP Administration organize and event “National Parks Day - Open Day in the NP Poloniny and Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Eastern Carpathians” for the general public and the opening of the summer tourist season with excursion the Rožok Natural Reserve and visit of the wooden church in Village of Uličské Krivé on 4.6.2023. Totally 45 persons from Snina and its surroundings and also members of the Slovak Club of Tourists in Humenné took part in it. A coverage broadcasted by the Slovak Radio and Television is available on: [https://reginavychod.rtv.s.sk/clanky/aktualne-na-vychode/329497/vyberte-sa-s-nami-na-vypravu-do-pralesa-rozok-v-poloninach?fbclid=IwAR18Zce9kHjKGmWghdDIAXRfyv9OxTglVut6qm\\_LpfaXU6lYeyl804FVVvs](https://reginavychod.rtv.s.sk/clanky/aktualne-na-vychode/329497/vyberte-sa-s-nami-na-vypravu-do-pralesa-rozok-v-poloninach?fbclid=IwAR18Zce9kHjKGmWghdDIAXRfyv9OxTglVut6qm_LpfaXU6lYeyl804FVVvs) and invitation and a gallery are available on: [https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=628286636001348&set=a.213989670764382&locale=sk\\_SK](https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=628286636001348&set=a.213989670764382&locale=sk_SK) [https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=635350845294927&set=pcb.635351478628197&locale=sk\\_SK](https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=635350845294927&set=pcb.635351478628197&locale=sk_SK) and
- Educational programme along the hiking trail Gazdoraň for pupils of Primary School Staničná in Košice on the occasion of World Environment Day organized in recreational and educational area “Doors to Poloniny” on 6.6.2023. Totally 29 pupils and 2 teachers took part in it.
- Eco-educational programme “Biodiversity of the Poloniny in a cube” in the Village of Ulič for pupils of Religious Primary school and kindergarten in Belá nad Cirochou aimed on recognition of plant and animal species in the Poloniny NP organized on 9.6.2023. An excursion to the view point above the water reservoir Starina and interesting places in the Village of Ulič were a part of the programme. Totally 60 pupils and 5 teachers took part in it.
- Event “Change blue Santorini for green Poloniny” - cycling in the territory of the Poloniny NP. The event was organized by the Horný Zemplín Regional Tourism Organization in cooperation with Aegis NGO and the Poloniny NP Administration on 11.6.2023. Totally 23 persons took part in it.

## July 2023:

- Cooperation on “Legendarium” – a project for summer education of children, see <https://www.legendarium.info/>.

## August 2023:

- Excursion with an accompanying program for participants of the summer camp organized by the Leisure Centre in Snina on 3.8.2023. Totally 20 pupils and 2 teachers took part in it. A gallery is available on: [https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=674458101384201&set=pcb.674458688050809&locale=sk\\_SK](https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=674458101384201&set=pcb.674458688050809&locale=sk_SK)
- An active participation in the event “Nature Olympics for parents” (sports and knowledge competitions) held on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Bieszczady National Park on 5.8.2023. The Poloniny NP Administration helped to Polish colleagues with the recruitment of participants from Slovakia. A gallery is available on: [https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=679605260869485&set=pcb.679605914202753&locale=sk\\_SK](https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=679605260869485&set=pcb.679605914202753&locale=sk_SK)
- Excursion with expert explanation to the territory of Poloniny NP (Water Reservoir Starina, surroundings of Village of Ulič and Wooden Church in the Village of Uličské Krivé) for seniors from the Czech Republic on 11.8.2023. Totally 30 persons took part in it.
- Cooperation on “Objavte Poloniny” (“Discover Poloniny”) – experiential festival for the wide public organized 17.-20.8.2023. More information is available on: <https://www.objavtepoloniny.sk/?fbclid=IwAR21JJNFuDAraqN63EUIZzje0myXYrHSxm6w0Xdfz9wSHCDnm3KXXSJ9e4> and in the first paragraph under this recommendation.

## September 2023:

- The “Day of St. Hubert” - an event for the wide public in the courtyard of the historic Manor House in Snina organized on 10.9.2023. More information and gallery are available on: [https://www.facebook.com/NarodnyParkPoloniny/posts/697308032432541?locale=sk\\_SK](https://www.facebook.com/NarodnyParkPoloniny/posts/697308032432541?locale=sk_SK).
- Event “Unes sa UNESCO-m” (“Let be snatched by UNESCO”) - an excursion and expert explanation along the Educational Hiking Trail Udava leading into property of World Heritage UNESCO “Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe”. The event was organized in cooperation with the Regional Organization for Tourism Horný Zemplín and NGO Aegis.
- More information and short video are available on: <https://hornyzemplin.sk/navstivte-horny-zemplin/udalosti-akcie/64f5ac088ceb58d710122c4e/detail> and [https://www.facebook.com/PoloninyNeskutocneSkutocne/videos/303174312346806?locale=sk\\_SK](https://www.facebook.com/PoloninyNeskutocneSkutocne/videos/303174312346806?locale=sk_SK).