

# ANNUAL REPORT FOR DOBROČSKÝ PRALES 2013<sup>1</sup>

State: Slovak Republic  
Name of the  
Protected area: Dobročský prales National Natural Reserve

## Central authority concerned:

Name: Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, Division of Nature Protection and  
Landscape Development  
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## Authority responsible for its management:

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## I. General information

### 1. Natural heritage (general description of inanimate nature: geomorphology, geology and hydrogeology, habitats, flora, fauna, landscape) – State of conservation

#### 1.1. Environment: changes or deterioration in the environment, of natural or anthropic origin, accidental or permanent, actual or anticipated

In the A zone (core zone) of the protected area, which represents a fragment of the original ecosystem of the Carpathian natural forest of the fir-beech forest vegetation belt, the nature processes still run without deliberate human interventions. They are typical for the forest climax stadium in this environment.

The Manager of this area (State Enterprise Forests of the Slovak Republic, branch Čierny Balog), did not record any calamity in the reported period. This phenomenon confirms the ongoing processes in the primeval communities. Zone A can be evaluated as highly stable with favorable conditions of habitats.

During the reported period no non-compliance with the Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on the Natural and Landscape Protection as amended, was recorded in the protected area.

In the B zone (buffer zone), the calamity timber was processed with a volume of 397 m<sup>3</sup> in the reported period (wind calamity - volume of 198 m<sup>3</sup>, infested by the bark beetle - volume of 199 m<sup>3</sup>).

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<sup>1</sup> Reported period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012 – 31<sup>th</sup> August 2013

### 3. Education and scientific interest

#### 3.1. Visitors – Information policy

##### 3.1.1. Arrangements for receiving and informing the public (building, brochures, maps, postcards, etc.)

In the reported period there were no major changes in number and equipment of public information sites in the territory the Dobročský prales NNR *except that* the wooden floor was replaced and insulation against soil moisture added in the exhibition of the Pred Skalickou exposition.

All the basic information data about the Dobročský prales NNR is available for visitors of the open air museum in the information centre at the beginning of „Path of Forest Time“, and also on the website of the interest organizations.

Distribution of information materials about the NNR Dobročský prales is carried out by the NGO VYDRA - Rural Development Activity, the Forests of the Slovak Republic, State Enterprise (branch Čierny Balog) and the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic.

Basic data about National Nature Reserve (NNR) Dobročský prales (primeval forest) states the civil association “Prales” on their website [www.pralesy.sk](http://www.pralesy.sk).

The year 2013 was particularly devoted to preparations for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the declaration and protection of the NNR Dobročský prales and the NNR Badínsky prales (protection of the both primeval forests was declared in 1913 by the one legal *act*). Preparations were based primarily on the implementation of the objectives of the project "Development of landscape protection and protected areas in the Slovak Carpathians" under the Swiss financial mechanism. The most important task was to prepare documents for sending copies torso "Dobročský fir tree" in the actual size (193 cm diameter in 1,30 m height and approx. 4 m height of the torso). During the reporting period it was made its construction and basic finishes of the surface (material used was from the category of exterior epoxy resins). On the site of the work of art (Forest Open Air Museum in the Vydrovská Valley) it was built a concrete base measuring approx 3x3 m. Static stability and load-bearing structural elements comes from a secure attachment of the torso artistically created to the substrate. The author of a work of art is Mgr. Art. Martin Hudáček from Banská Bystrica. At the same time a specific information panel dedicated to the Dobročský Fir Tree (authentic photographs, basic data, Slovak and English versions of the text) was placed next the torso. The second panel informs visitors about the importance of primeval forests, and there is also mentioned the NNR Dobročský prales there.

To promote the NNR Dobročský prales a set of two new portable banners (content - basic information, photographs) and a bookmark (it also informs about the NNR Badínsky prales) were made. Their design and construction was ensured by the Poľana Protected Landscape Area Administration.

In addition, information booklet was published "100<sup>th</sup> anniversary protection Badínsky prales and Dobročský prales" with aim to record celebrations on 3<sup>th</sup> October 2013. Materials for its publication were prepared in collaboration with the State Enterprise Lesy SR, OZ Čierny Balog and OZ Slovenská Lupča (selection of photos, basic information about the forests, speeches of the director of the OZ Čierny Balog, director of the OZ Slovenská Lupča and director of the Poľana Protected Landscape Area Administration, program of celebrations).

To the promotion of a significant anniversary of protection of the NNR Dobročský prales contributed also a logo commemorating 2013 as the year 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of protection of the Dobročský and Badínsky primeval forests. This anniversary symbol was used in an official written communication, promotional materials only during 2013.

In addition, in 2013, through radio and TV (RTVS, TA3 radio television stations) also the general public had opportunity to learn not only about the subject of protection, but also the reasons and processes that preceded the proclamation of protected areas in 1913.

### **3.1.2. Frequency of attendance and its nature, abundance and distribution in time and space**

Administration of Protected Landscape Area Poľana organized on 5<sup>th</sup> June (World Environment Day) the Slovak record attempt in category "Most young lovers of nature in protected areas ". The NNR Dobročský prales was this day (in cooperation with the State Enterprise Forests of the Slovak Republic, branch Čierny Balog) visited by 40 pupils of the Jánošovka primary school from the Village of Čierny Balog. 3.276 pupils from the whole of Slovakia (in over than 30 protected areas) take part in the activity. The record was officially registered in the Slovak Books of Records.

During the period 6 excursions with a total of 121 experts visited the Dobročský prales NNR officially. The State Enterprise Forests of the Slovak Republic, branch Čierny Balog organized visit for 4 groups with the number of 85 visitors and the Department of Silviculture of the Faculty of Forestry of the Technical University in Zvolen for other 2 groups with the number of 36 experts (French Forestry Association PRO SILVA and German Forestry Association PRO SILVA).

Into the buffer zone of the Dobročský prales NNR the local NGO Vydra accompanied 21 groups (340 visitors) which were mainly primary school pupils (129 pupils) and individual visitors (211 people), one of those groups was from the Netherlands.

The highest attendance was recorded from May till August 2013.

### **3.1.3. Special visits – celebrities, group excursions**

No special visits/extraordinary specialists visited the site in the reported period.

## **Scientific research**

### **3.2.1. Running or completed research, observation, experimentation, survey and inventory of species listed in the appendices to the Bern Convention**

The Phytology Department of Forestry Faculty of the Technical University in Zvolen in connection to the completion of the research projekt VEGA no. 1/0831/09 „Changes in diversity and vitality of plants in forest ecosystems“ (finished of the year 2011) published several results (chapter 3.2.2.).

In terms of the Management Plan of the NNR Dobročský prales in 2013 a zoological research (by dipl. Ing. Peter Potocký from the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic, Poľana Protected Landscape Area Administration) was carried out in the territory. It was oriented on invertebrate. The research will continue also in 2014.

### **3.2.2. Scientific studies and publications**

Scientific articles in international paper:

GÖMÖRYOVÁ E., UJHÁZY K., MARTINÁK M., GÖMÖRY D. 2013: Soil microbial community response to variation in vegetation and abiotic environment in a temperate old-growth forest. *Applied Soil Ecology* 68: 10–19.

Chapter in foreign monography:

UJHÁZY, K., KRIŽOVÁ, E., GLONČÁK, P., BENČAŤOVÁ, B. & NIČ, J. 2013: Tree Species and Management Effect on Herb Layer Species Composition in Mountain Fir-Beech Forests of the Western Carpathians. In: Kozak J., Ostapowicz K., Bytnerowicz A., Wyżga B. (eds.), *The Carpathians: Integrating Nature and Society Towards Sustainability*, Springer, p. 239–255.

#### 4. Site description (vulnerability, protection status, ownership, documentation)

##### 4.1. Changes in legislation, regulations

There were no legislative changes in the evaluated period relevant for the reported area.

### III. Conditions and recommendations concerning the award of the European Diploma

By the **resolution No. (2008)19** on the renewal of the European Diploma for the Dobročský prales NNR, adopted at the 1031<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Committee of Ministers on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2008, was renewed the European Diploma for the NNR Dobročský prales from 18<sup>th</sup> August 2008 to 18<sup>th</sup> September 2013. The resolution sets one condition and 2 recommendations:

#### 1. Condition

*Pursue the process of transforming anthropogenic forests into semi-natural forests, mainly in the buffer zone of the Dobročský prales NNR, in compliance with the management plan.*

Process of transforming anthropogenic forests into semi-natural forests in the buffer zone of the Dobročský prales NNR continued in the reported period, the calamity timber was processed in a volume of 397 m<sup>3</sup> (wind calamity – volume of 198 m<sup>3</sup>, infested by the bark beetle - volume of 199 m<sup>3</sup>).

In the surrounding forest stands, out of the protected area, prescribed interventions were carried out in accordance with the valid Forest Management Plan as well as the necessary sanitation measures under the current status of the forest stands with an occurrence of the bark beetle calamity and other types of calamity.

#### 2. Recommendations

##### 1. Promote awareness-raising activities, mainly:

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

In 2013 within the fulfilment of the task of the second paragraph of this recommendation in the forestry open-air museum it was installed a panel that informs visitors about the importance of primeval forests. There is also a mention about the NNR Dobročský prales there. At the same time an information panel about the largest fir in the primeval forest named "Dobročská jedľa" was prepared. It displays authentic photographs, basic information about the fir and NNR Dobročský prales in Slovak and English languages.

Year 2013 was particularly devoted to preparations of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of protection of the NNR Dobročský prales and the NNR Badínsky prales (protection of the both primeval forests was declared in 1913 by a one [legal act](#)). The most important task was to prepare documents for creation of a copy of the torso "Dobročský fir tree" in its actual size. During the reporting period it was made a construction and basic finishes of the surface (a material used was from the category of exterior epoxy resins). On the site of the work of art (Forest Open Air Museum in Vydrovská valley) it was built a concrete base measuring approx 3x3 m. The author of a work of art is Mgr. Art. Martin Hudáček from Banská Bystrica.

The [Poľana Protected Landscape Area](#) Administration staff took part in the event Deň stromu 2013 (17 000 visitors) in the Vydrovská Valley, organized every year by the Forests of the Slovak Republic, State Enterprise. Its representatives provided information about the Dobročský prales NNR according to visitors' interest.

Relevant information is also in the sections 3.1.1.

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

Monitoring of the status of the territory does not indicate any significant changes in comparison with the previous period. Monitoring of frequency visitors indicate a soft decrease.

The occurrence of invasive alien plant species has not been recorded. In terms of the Management Plan of the NNR Dobročský prales in 2013 a zoological research (by dipl. Ing. Peter Potocký from the [Poľana Protected Landscape Area](#) Administration) was carried out in the territory. It was oriented on invertebrate. The research will continue also in 2014.

The common maintenance of information objects was ensured by the [Poľana Protected Landscape Area](#) Administration and the area manager.

Relevant information is also in the sections 3.2.2.

In Zvolen, January 2014

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