

ANNUAL REPORT
FOR
SZÉNÁS HILLS PROTECTED AREA

(EUROPEAN DIPLOMA HOLDING SITE – 1995
CATEGORY A)



2013

State:	Hungary
Name of the area:	Szénás Hills Protected Area
Central authority concerned:	
Name:	Duna-Ipoly Nemzeti Park Igazgatóság (Danube-Ipoly National Park Directorate)
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Authority responsible for its management:	
Name:	Szénások Európa Diplomás Terület (Szénás Hills Protected Area)
Address:	H-1525 Pilisszentiván, Bányász u. 17.
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I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Natural heritage – Conservation situation

1.1. Environment

No changes detected

1.2. Flora and vegetation

For Black pine conversions carried, see 5.1.1.

1.3. Fauna

No changes detected

2. Cultural heritage and socio-economic context

2.1. Cultural heritage

2.1.1 Changes concerning cultural heritage

No changes

2.2. Socio-economic context

2.2.1 Changes concerning the socio-economic context

No changes

3. Education and scientific interest

3.1. Visitors – Information policy

3.1.1 Arrangements for receiving and informing the public

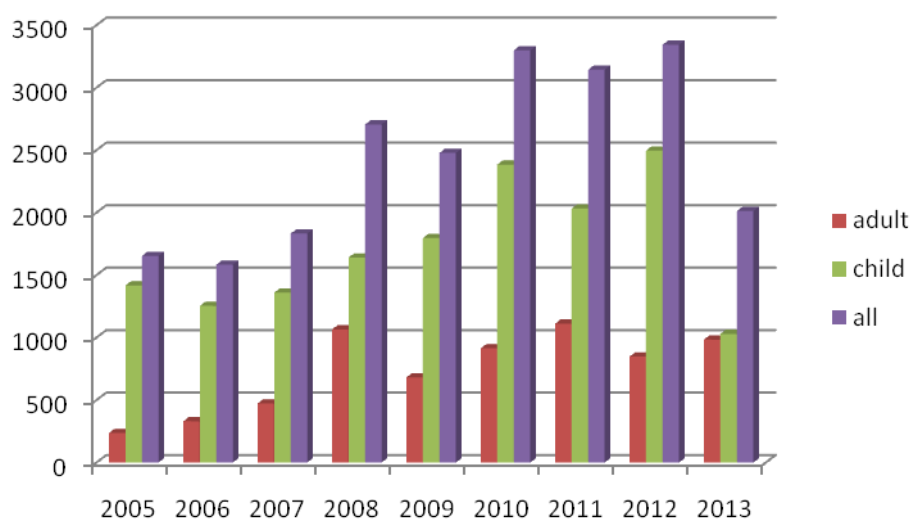
- The nature educator has a weekly nature conservation course for local school children.
- The nature educator regularly guides groups to the area and interprets the natural assets. The most frequently requested tours are to the “Jági” and “Nagy-Szénás” nature trails, in May to the Dolomitic Flax, as well as hydrobiological studies for children and study tours for students.
- Large-scale events were held on World Water Day (23/03/2013) and International Bird Watching Day (05/10/2013). The following programmes were held at these events: hydrobiological tests for children, pond cleaning, free guided tours on the nature trail, open-air market of nature publications, bird ringing.
- Field exercise were held for university students (one week).

- We have our own column in three local newspapers, whereby we have published articles about the conservation problems and the heritage of the project site. Publishing articles in the local newspapers seems to be a very effective way of making people understand our goals.
- New conception and building plans of reconstruction of the visitor centre were carried out in 2013, which aim is improving exhibition and increasing of reception capacity – with creating accomodation for guests (students, researchers or visitors).

3.1.2 Frequentation by visitors and behaviour

- Number of participants of professionally guided tours, nature conservation courses and volunteer activities in 2013:

Number of adults	Number of children	Total
983	1029	2012



3.1.3 Special visits

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3.2. Scientific research

3.2.1 Current or completed research

Four, yearly repeated research projects have been contracted out by the Danube-Ipoly National Park Directorate to study the site. The projects are the following:

- Estimation and long-term monitoring of big game damage (in 12 fenced sample areas and control areas (10x10m).
- Monitoring of the regeneration of the vegetation in place of the logged or opened-up pine stands.

3.2.2 Scientific publications:

No changes

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

4.1. Changes in legislation or regulations

No changes

4.2. Changes in ownership title (conversion to public property, rentings, etc.)

No changes

- 4.3. Extension or transfer, new uses (for example, conversion into total reserve)
No changes

5. Site management (management plans, budget and personnel)

5.1. Improvements made

5.1.1 Ecological action affecting the flora and biotopes; controls of fauna

- In the frame of the Agreement between the Pilis Forest Company and Danube-Ipoly National Park Directorate the opening-up of Black pine stands was kept on (200 m³).
- Conservation work was organized for volunteers from several local primary schools, universities and civil organizations.

5.1.2 Protection against the elements

- Some of the Black pine logs are turned into erosion blocks.

5.1.3 Approaches and thoroughfares

No changes

5.1.4 Field equipment

No changes

5.1.5. Waste management

Selective waste management in progress in the visitor centre.

5.1.6. Use of renewable energy systems

No changes

5.2. Management

5.2.1. Administrative department: changes made

No changes

5.2.2. Wardens' department: changes made

No changes

5.2.3. Internal policing measures

No changes

5.2.4. Infringement of regulations and damage; legal action

No changes

II. INFLUENCE OF THE AWARD OF THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA OF PROTECTED AREAS

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III. CONDITIONS AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AWARD OR RENEWAL

Progress with measures taken in order to meet the conditions and/or recommendations defined during the award or renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas:

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;

- We renewed the agreement of cooperation has been prepared by the Duna-Ipoly Nationalpark Directorate and the Pilis Forest Company in order to carry out conservation management within the area together.

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;

- The game population management is part of the agreement of cooperation between the Duna-Ipoly Nationalpark Directorate and the Pilis Forest Company. Changes in numbers of big game populations, resulting from fence building and the operation of game traps, are monitored also in the frame of the agreement.

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 in good condition is part of the Agreement of cooperation between the Duna-Ipoly Nationalpark Directorate and the Pilis Forest Company.

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;

- See 3.1.
- more renovations of the visitor centre at Pilisszentiván were carried out in 2013 (building of a new pavement)
- one of the information boards of Nagyszénás trail was changed
- conceptions and plans of reconstruction of the visitor centre were carried out in 2013, which aim at improving exhibition and increasing of reception capacity
- we plan to change the track of official trails in the area to regulate walking visitors more effectively

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;

- We've started negotiations with the local governments and horse riding organizations.

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 properly as buffer zones; construction in these areas should not be allowed;

- The enforcement of this recommendation lies with the new authority (the Közép-Dunavölgyi Environmental Protection, Nature Conservation and Water Management Authority).

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

- The enforcement of this recommendation lies with the new authority (the Közép-Dunavölgyi Environmental Protection, Nature Conservation and Water Management Authority).

8. co-operation with volunteers (schools, non-governmental organisations, local governments, scouts) must be continued, as well as with local residents, police and civil guards.

- See 3.1.