

# ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019<sup>1</sup>

## “DOBROČSKÝ PRALES NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE”

State: **Slovak Republic**

Name of the area: **Dobročský prales National Nature Reserve (Dobročský prales NNR)**

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma of Protected Areas: ***The Resolution CM/ResDip(2018)12 on the renewal of the European Diploma for the Dobročský prales National Nature Reserve (Slovakia) adopted at the 1321<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Committee of Ministers on 4 July 2018, valid by 18 September 2028 /hereafter “Resolution No (2018)12”<sup>2</sup>***

### Central authority concerned:

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### Authority responsible for its management:

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## 1. Conditions

The following condition is determined by the Resolution No (2018)12:

***Conduct a study involving all stakeholders to verify necessity of a new forest road into the buffer zone and identify measures guaranteeing a least intervention solution to minimise the impact of the road, provided 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 work has been carried out; report to the Council of Europe before starting the road works.***

The forest manager and administrator of the area - the Forests of the Slovak Republic, state enterprise – branch Čierny Balog (hereafter “FE Čierny Balog”) did not plan the road construction during the reported period. The main reason was the priority of the sanitary logging. With regard to development of the sanitary logging in this region there is no condition for the road construction even during the next period.

<sup>1</sup> Reported period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 – 31<sup>th</sup> August 2019

<sup>2</sup> Originally resolution No (2003)6, resolution No (2008)19 and resolution No (2012)11, respectively

## 2. Recommendations

Four recommendations set up by the Resolution No (2018)12 are:

**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.**

During the reported period the research in the Dobročský prales NNR was realised in line with the Management Plan for the Dobročský prales National Nature Reserve (Special Area of Conservation SKUVE0047 Dobročský prales) for the period 2018–2047. In 2019 research focused on occurrence and determination of rare fungi species continued. It was led by Dr. Vladimír Kunca from the Department of Applied Ecology, Faculty of Ecology and Environmental Sciences, Technical University in Zvolen. Re-discovery of *Steccherinum gracile* species after many years was published by Vampola *et al.* (2018)<sup>3</sup>.

The long-term research results of staff members of the Department of Silviculture, Faculty of Forestry, Technical University in Zvolen headed by Prof. Milan Saniga, have been used to elaborate silviculture concept of permanent multilayered stands. This concept is used in practice as both economical and ecological silviculture strategy in accessible terrain. Respecting of ecological mechanism (e.g. self-regulation processes, effects of light on wood increment) and use of natural regeneration of the stand is the essence of this strategy. Managed regeneration is significantly small-scale with long total regeneration period.

The research on aquatic invertebrates will be realized during the next reporting period.

There is an effort to realize more complex research on the effects of climate change. More details are provided in recommendation No. 3.

**2. Develop, according the precautionary principle, a strategy on how to deal with invasive alien species, in case of their appearance.**

Current monitoring of plant invasive alien species (IAS) in the Dobročský prales NNR and adjacent areas has confirmed neither spreading of Canadian goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*) nor occurrence of another invasive plant species. The area of the Dobročský prales NNR itself is without the presence of IAS up to now. Monitoring and elimination of Canadian goldenrod from the known adjacent areas is realized in co-operation of the State Nature Conservancy SR - Poľana Protected Landscape Area/Biosphere Reserve (Poľana PLA-BR) and FE Čierny Balog. In case of increased occurrence of this IAS during the next growing season the methodology from the previous year will be used.

On 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019, the new Act No. 150/2019 Coll. on prevention and management of introduction and spreading of IAS came into force. Relevant EU legislation on IAS as well as the Bern Conventions documents have been transposed to this new law.

**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 the strategy on how to manage the surrounding forest to avoid negative impact in the nature reserve.**

<sup>3</sup> Vampola, P., Kunca, V., Vlasák, J., 2018: Příspěvek k poznání vzácné kornatcovité houby ostnatečku pralesního (*Steccherinum gracile*). Mykologické listy 140: 48-56.

On 8<sup>th</sup> January and 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019, two meetings were held with aim to discuss preparation of a climate study in the Dobročský prales NNR. The Poľana PLA-BR Administration asked for cooperation the research team of the Department of Natural Environment (Faculty of Forestry) of the Technical University in Zvolen. Prof. Jaroslav Škvarenina, head of the department, agreed with participation in this research and practical details were discussed. The topic of the climate change research in the Dobročský prales NNR had engaged also interest of researchers from other departments of the Faculty of Forestry (Department of Forest Management and Geodesy, Department of Silviculture, Department of Phytology). Their participation in the research would increase the value of results and completeness of the whole research. On 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019, a research group members visited the study site and discussed practical issues.

Collection of various environmental data as a basis of the climate change study is a very expensive process and thus the research funding has not been definitely solved yet. It is considered to finance these activities partly by the State Nature Conservancy SR and partly from the Slovak Research and Development Agency grant if the project is supported. Thanks to the Department of Natural Environment, some backup technical equipment will be used for preliminary measurements as a temporary solution. First measurements are scheduled for November 2019.

#### ***4. Explore the possibility of moving the exhibition from the Pred Skalickou cottage to the Forest Museum.***

Relocation of the exhibition from the Pred Skalickou cottage to the open-air museum was approved by the director of OZ Čierny Balog. This exhibition will be placed in a wooden summer house and technical documentation for that purpose was prepared. However, a successful application in an appropriate project call is necessary to obtain financial resources for wooden house construction. In case of the grant application failure, construction will be financed from the budget of FE Čierny Balog.

During the reported period, the exhibition was permanently open to public excursions in the Pred Skalickou cottage. The exhibition was continuously complemented with promotional leaflets, publications and DVDs about the Dobročský prales NNR. The exhibition building was subject to the regular technical maintenance in July 2019.

### **3. Local management**

The local management in the reserve was realized in accordance with the Management Plan for the Dobročský prales NNR (Special Area of Conservation SKUVE0047 Dobročský prales) for the period 2018–2047. The FE Čierny Balog has fully respected so-called “non-intervention” mode (i.e. management excluded) in the core zone during the reported period. Windbreak calamity in the volume of 150 m<sup>3</sup> and bark-beetle calamity in the volume of 300 m<sup>3</sup> were recorded in the area.

There was only sanitary logging carried out in the buffer zone (windbreak calamity – 110 m<sup>3</sup>, bark-beetle calamity – 2111 m<sup>3</sup>). Actual volume of bark-beetle calamity is 1120 m<sup>3</sup> with spreading to next 800 m<sup>3</sup>.

The long-term problem of bark-beetle infestation with increasing trend in the whole region, including the buffer zone is still relevant. Preferential sanitary logging blocks the interventions focused on modification of tree species composition in the buffer zone.

During the reported period, the Government of the SR as well as the parliament approved amendments of the Act No. 543/20023 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection and Act No. 326/2005 Coll. on Forests. The aim was to harmonize these two norms in among others issues

of sanitary logging and forest management plans. Both amended laws will come into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020.

#### 4. Borders

No changes.

#### 5. More details

On 20<sup>th</sup> October 2018, the 5<sup>th</sup> forest-tourist march on the J.D. Matejovie Trail was held. Circa 400 participants (tourists and foresters) attended the march. The trail of the march followed educational trail across the buffer zone of Dobročský prales NNR up to the open air museum in the Vydrovská dolina Valley. The commemorative plaque dedicated to the designation of the Dobročský prales NNR as the 50<sup>th</sup> Significant Forestry Site in Slovakia was ceremonially uncovered on the border of the primeval forest core zone. This event was promoted and reported on several internet websites, e.g.

<https://kstnizna.sk/2018/20-10-2018-5-rocnik-podujatia-chodnikom-j-dekreta-matejovie-cierny-balog-vydrovska-dolina/>

<https://www.dnesky.sk/za-50-vyznamne-lesnicke-miesto-vyhlasili-dobroccky-prales/>

<http://www.lesmedium.sk/aktualne/lesnickym-chodnikom-j-d-matejovie>

To improve a public awareness of the Dobročský prales NNR, more details about the area and the European diploma were provided on website of the Poľana PLA/BR:

<http://chkopolana.sopsr.sk/european-diploma/>

The idea of organizing the Open Day event in the Dobročský prales NNR was discussed during meetings of the Poľana PLA/BR, FE Cierny Balog and Cierny Balog municipality. This initiative arose from a wish of inhabitants of the Cierny Balog Village who were interested in the core zone of the primeval forest. It was agreed that limited number of visitors (max. 40) will be allowed to attend this excursion. Attendants will be educated about the uniqueness and vulnerability of this ecosystem. In case of satisfactory output and further interest from the local community, such Open Day event will be organized also in the future.

#### Annexes:

1. The 5<sup>th</sup> forest-tourist track on the J.D. Matejovie Trail – pictures
2. List of participants from the meeting on the climate change study

In Zvolen, 21 November 2019

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