



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

2019.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR SZÉNÁS HILLS PROTECTED AREA



DANUBE-IPOLY NATIONAL PARK DIRECTORATE

EUROPEAN DIPLOMA HOLDING SITE

1995

CATEGORY A

10. 12. 2019.



Resolution CM/Res Dip (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)¹*

Appendix 5: Model plan for annual reports

Annual report for the year 2019

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:

2010-2020

Central authority concerned:

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

Address: H-1121 Budapest, Költő u. 21.; Post address: H-1525 Budapest Pf. 86.

Tel: +36-1-391-4619; +36-30-663-4655

Fax: +36-1-200-1168

e-mail: kezdyp@dinpi.hu

www: www.dunaipoly.hu

Authority responsible for its management:

Name: Szénások Európa Diplomás Terület (Szénás Hills Protected Area)

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

Tel: +36-26-366-129; +36-30-511-1802

Fax: +36-26-366-129

e-mail: pilisilen@dinpi.hu; novak.adrian@dinpig.hu

www: www.dunaipoly.hu

¹As 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.

- **No conditions**

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. the management of the area should be carried out in close co-operation between the Danube-Ipoly National Park Directorate and the Pilis Forest Company; the activities of the finished LIFE Programme, such as the conversion of Black pineforests, 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 (2019) of cooperation between the Danube-Ipoly National Park Directorate, the Pilis Forest Company and the Local Government of Pilisszentiván (trilateral agreement since 2016)

- **Conservation of habitats: Black pine stand conversion**

- In December, we continue the reconstruction works (black pine cut) in the area. (0.3 ha)
- **Next to the 'Devil-rock', there is a valuable micro habitat of the *Linum dolomiticum*, too.** his area needs a special intervention, because of the morphological features. We will use the cut pine trunks for hurdles, which protect the area from the erosion and the unwished visitors. The dolomite grasslands are very sensitive to treading.

- **Monitoring of the regeneration of the vegetation in place of the logged or opened-up pine stands.**

- **Monitoring of fenced sample areas – areas keeping big game out**

We have 24 plots on the Szénások Hills, which help to define the possible impacts of the big game population. We research the differences between the fenced and the non-fenced areas. Research is currently paused.

- **Monitoring of the whole population of *Linum dolomiticum***

The population of *Linum dolomiticum* is decreasing from 2010, unfortunately. The decrease is presumably caused by microclimatic factors. In the open dolomite grassland spots, the substance decreases, 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*.

- From this year, **new opportunities** opened by a starter LIFE project for conservation and researching for Hungarian endemic species and valuable areas. The Szénás Hills EDPA could be one of the main area.

- **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)

- **Maintenance of fence**(see below)

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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 mouflon and reduction of the population 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 Danube-Ipoly National Park Directorate and the Pilis Forest Company**. The game shooting was held in 25th of January with 2 venues. Changes in numbers of big game population, resulting from fence building and the operation of game traps, are monitored also in the frame of the agreement.*
- *Our ranger colleague obtained a **gaming permission** to the area. He helps in the reduction of game population, too.*

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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.*

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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 **environmental educators hold nature conservation courses** for local school children, organize guided nature trail tours for children regularly.*

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- ***The Local Government supports** our work too, for example the **environmental education** work.*

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- *We joined a big local event, called '**Linum Festival**' in May.*

- *We organize many **outdoor programmes** and series of lectures for the local children (primary school, nursery school) continuously.*

- *We have a **partnership**, with a new alternative school in Pilisszentiván, again and we have a new one with a nursery school in Pilisvörösvár.*

- *This spring and summer, we held '**eco**' programmes for local children, financed by a tender, too.*

- *Our rangers and the environmental educator regularly guides groups in the field to interpret the natural assets. The most popular guided tours are the Linum dolomiticum hikes in May. In the last two years more **innovative programmes and thematic guided tours** were entered. We joined the International Arbor and Bird Day (10/05/2019) too. We organized bird banding programmes, 'Firebugs and Bats' night tours in June, 'Bug tours' (based on the biggest insect in Europe the bush-cricket (Saga pedo)).*

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- ***Large-scale events** were held on World Water Day (21, 22/03/2019) and International Bird Watching Day (05/10/2019). We organized the 'Treasures of the autumn forest' (18/10/2018), too.*

- *The following programmes were held at these events: hydrobiological tests for children, free guided tours on the nature trail, open-air market of nature publications, bird banding.*

- ***Field exercises** were held for university students (several weeks).*

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- *From the year 2016 new opportunities opened by a starter European project (VEKOP-4.2.1-15) in which we plan **renewal and expansion of our visitor centre**. The construction works of the visitor centre have started. The **renewal of the Jági nature** trail is in progress (new info boards and new footbridge). We combined the new local archaeological excavations (celtic settlements of Pilisszentiván) into the nature trail.*

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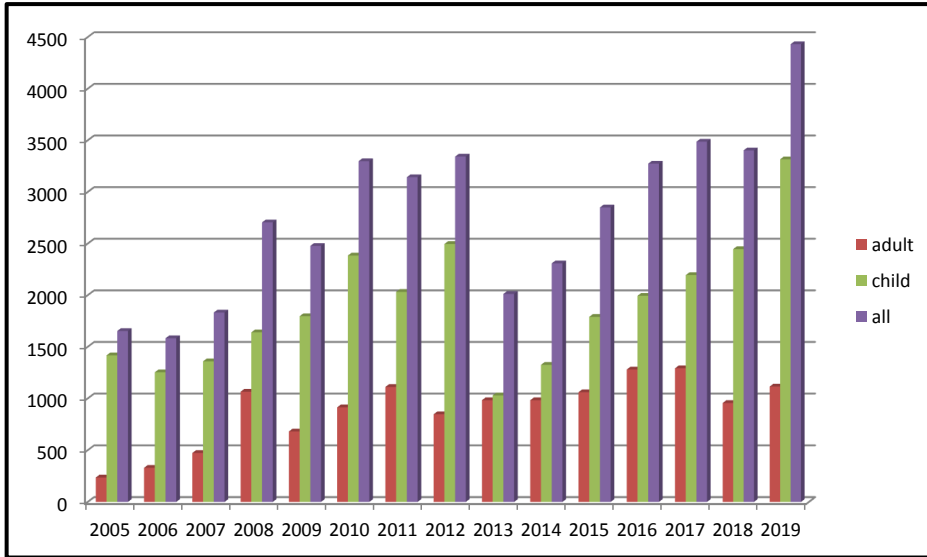
- *We have many tasks ahead of us. The Council of Pilisszentiván made the office available to us until the reconstruction works.*

- *We made the **renewal of the nesting boxes**, which helps the monitoring activity and the environmental education work, too. (Type A, B)*

- Number of participants of professionally guided tours, nature conservation courses and volunteer activities in 2019 number of visitors: **adult 1115, children 3316, all 4431**.

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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 fence^d and strictly protected area;

- *No changes*

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;

- ***This year in Nagykovácsi the Local Government changed the settlement's Regulation Plan, in the course of which we managed to achieve construction ban in the ED buffer zone.***

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

- **See. 6.**

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.

- *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 students did some conservation jobs (cutting of Black pine and invasive tree species, planting of deciduous tree plants) and guided tours were held for them to introduce the area and its natural assets.*
- *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 highschools. It's a good opportunity for them to learn, but at the same time, they help our work, too.*

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.

- *We started the new **comprehensive in-situ species conservation experiment** of *Linum dolomiticum*. We research microclimatic aptitudes of the area, because the population of *Linum dolomiticum* decreased. We have to research these effects.*

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*

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

- **In 4th and 5th of September, we had a review from the Council of Europe.**
- **The inspector was Mr. Bev Nichols.**
- **On 4th of September we visited the area** (Short trip on the Borbás-ridge and on the nature trails with the researchers and the main partners: Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate, Pilis Forest Company, Council of Pilisszentiván). **On 4th, we showed the base of the new visitor centre to Mr. Nichols, too.**
- **On 5th of September we organized a conference for the stakeholders, too.** (Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate, Pilis Forest Company, local governments, researchers, educational institutes, NGO-s, local entrepreneurs, local press.

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The following sections of the form **should only be filled in if your area is in the year before a renewal of its Euroean Diploma** for Protected Areas, i.e. year 4 after the award of the European Diploma or year 9 after its renewal.

6. Natural heritage (general abiotic description: geomorphology, geology and hydrogeology, habitats, flora, fauna, landscape) – State of conservation

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

- No changes detected

6.2. Flora and vegetation: changes in the plant population and in the vegetational cover; presumed causes

- *The population of Linum dolomiticum is decreasing from 2010, unfortunately. The decrease is presumably caused by microclimatic factors. Continuous research in this regard.(new LIFE project, too)*
- *The continuous modification of the Black pine will have favourable effects on the particularly valuable vegetation of the grasslands.*

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6.3. Fauna: changes in the sedentary or migratory populations; congregating, egg-laying and breeding grounds

- *No changes detected*

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7. Cultural heritage and socio-economic context

7.1. Cultural heritage

- *No changes*

7.1.1. Changes concerning cultural heritage

- *There is a local archaeological site in Pilisszentiván. (celtic settlements of the village)*
- *We combined it into the nature trail, too.*

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7.2. Socio-economic context

- *No changes*

7.2.1. Changes concerning the socio-economic context

- *No changes*

8. Education and scientific interest

8.1. Visitors – Information policy

- *The number of visitors increases year after year. We continue to improve the offers of the Visitor Centre.*
- *For the sake of protection, we do not increase the number of tours in the most vulnerable areas (Borbás-ridge).*
- *We are searching for possibilities for **long-term co-operation with different institutions**.*
- *The **new Visitor Centre** will be a great progress in the environmental education and ecotouristic work.*
- *The **construction works** of the visitor centre have started. The **renewal** of the **Jági nature trail** is in progress.*
- *See in 4.*

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8.1.1. Arrangements for receiving and informing the public (building, booklets, maps, cards, etc.)

- Information on: www.dunaipoly.hu (articles too)
- Facebook account: Linum Flax Visitor Centre: <https://www.facebook.com/pilisilenlatogatokozpont/>
- Articles (local, national)
- Online articles
- New nature trail booklet is in the planning stage. (Jági Nature Trail)

8.1.2. Frequentation by visitors and behavior (number, distribution in time and space)

- We guide visitor groups during the whole year. The largest number of visitors come from various educational institutions. The most preferred time is spring and autumn.
- Number of participants of professionally guided tours, nature conservation courses and volunteer activities in 2019 number of visitors: **adult 1115, children 3316, all 4431** (See in Annual Report 2019, Task 4.)

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8.1.3. Special visits (distinguished persons, groups, etc.)

- Mr. Bev Nichols

8.2. Scientific research

8.2.1. Current or completed research (observation, experimentation, etc.; identification or inventory of the species listed in the appendices to the Bern Convention, etc.)

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- **Monitoring of the whole population of *Linum dolomiticum*.** The population of *Linum dolomiticum* decreasing from 2010, unfortunately. The decrease is presumably caused by microclimatic factors. In the open dolomite grassland spots, the substance decreases, there's no regrowth, but in the closed dolomite grassland spots substance stagnates or seedlings can be found.
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8.2.2. Scientific publications

- Annual reports of the researchers

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

9.1. Changes in legislation or regulations

- No changes

9.2. Changes in ownership title (conversion to public property, rentals, etc.)

- No changes

9.3. Extension or transfer, new uses (for example, conversion into total reserve)

- No changes

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

10.1. Improvements made

10.1.1. Ecological action affecting the flora and biotopes; controls of fauna

- In the frame of the **agreement** between the Pilis Forest Company the opening-up of Black pine stands were carried out.
- Conservation work was organized for **volunteers** from several local primary schools, universities and civil organizations.
- **NGO members** help in the **habitat reconstruction work**, regularly.

10.1.2. Protection against the elements (fire, water regime)

- When Black pine stands are opened, the logs are skidded out from the area by human power and some of the logs are turned into erosion blocks.

10.1.3. Approaches and thoroughfares (paths, roads, car parks, signposting, fencing, etc.)

- No changes

10.1.4. Field equipment (hides and study facilities)

- New info boards and new footbridge on the Jági nature trail.
- The maintenance of the existing outdoor equipment.

10.1.5. Waste management

- Selective waste management in the visitor centre (in our temporary office, too).
- We do not place garbage collectors in the forest according to "take home what you brought" principle.

10.1.6. Use of renewable energy systems

- We plan the use of solar collectors in the new Visitor Centre.

10.2. Management

- 2 environmental educators since 2018.

10.2.1. Administrative department: changes made

- No changes

10.2.2. Wardens' department: changes made

- No changes

10.2.3. Internal policing measures

- No changes

10.2.4. Infringement of regulations and damage; legal action

- No changes

11. Influence of the award of the European Diploma for Protected Areas

- European Diploma helps the long term protection of the area. It is considered a high standard award. Every co-operating partner considers it his responsibility to observe it. The European Diploma is our collective pride in this area.