

**COUNCIL OF EUROPE
EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION**

**CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
CONVENTION EUROPEENNE DU PAYSAGE**

***22nd MEETING OF THE WORKSHOPS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE LANDSCAPE CONVENTION***

***21e REUNION DES ATELIERS POUR LA MISE EN ŒUVRE DE
LA CONVENTION EUROPEENNE DU PAYSAGE***

*“Water, landscape and citizenship
in the face of global change”*

*« Eau, paysage et citoyenneté
face aux changements mondiaux »*

*Seville, Spain
14-15 March 2019
Study visit, 16 March 2019 / Visite d'études, 16 mars 2019*

***WORKSHOP 3: Protection, management and planning instruments related to the presence of water
in the landscape***

**Water in Hungary's National Landscape Strategy and Landscape in the Hungarian Water
Strategy**

Mrs Krisztina KINCSES

*Vice-President of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention,
National Representative of the European Landscape Convention, Ministry of Agriculture, Hungary*

Mrs Ágnes TAHY

Deputy Head of Department, Directorate General of Water Management, Hungary

Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear colleagues,

The Hungarian Government approved the *National Landscape Strategy for the period 2017-2026* in 2017. The National Water Strategy (NWS) was approved in the same year which based on the 2nd River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) had already published in 2016. The entire administrative area of settlements, including the water bodies are considered to be part of the landscape in accordance with the Convention. It is important to emphasize that the landscape is an operating system, so not only the "visible" surface water bodies should be taken into account in planning and policy making, but the entire water regime also, including groundwater bodies. There is a close interaction between landscape and water. Hungary delineated the terrestrial and aquatic water dependent ecosystems

according to the Water Framework Directive. The next step could be mapping water dependent landscapes.

The overall objective of the National Landscape Strategy is: *Responsible land use based on landscape configuration and assets.*

Proper landscape management based on landscape configuration and assets contributes substantially to the reduction of the risk of flood and excess water, as well as drying which helps important environmental, economic and social interests to prevail.

To achieve the overall objective, adherence to the following horizontal principles must be ensured in the implementation of the National Landscape Strategy:

- a) general protection of natural resources and cultural heritage;
- b) wise and rational use of areas;
- c) the mitigation of the impacts of climate change and adaptation to it.

To achieve the overall objectives, three headline targets are set by the strategy.

- I. Laying the foundations for land use based on landscape configuration and assets;
- II. Liveable landscape – liveable settlement – wise land use;
- III. Enhancing landscape identity.

In Hungary the spatial and temporal distribution of precipitation is uneven and contribution to the runoff within the country borders is low, resulting in unequal geographic and temporal distribution of surface water resources. This is why groundwater is also an important source of water utilization in Hungary, for example to meet communal or bathing water needs and partly for irrigation. Nowadays there are many signs that aridification is a significant water management issue in Hungary:

- Nature conservation authorities reported that drying out is one of the main problems of the protected areas.
- According to hydrological reports some springs have dried out, the base flow of several streams has decreased, groundwater level has dropped, and areas of shallow lakes and wetlands have shrunk.
- The increasing severity of droughts is propagating losses in agriculture which has multiplied farmers' demand for irrigation.

Integrated studies on climate and land use have shown that both water abstraction and climate change have had an impact on water resources. NWS, as its first strategic task, defines water retention and more efficient water use and integrated management of water resources to support sustainable development.

The National Landscape Strategy, the NWS and RBMPs have important recognitions and commitments on rainwater management.

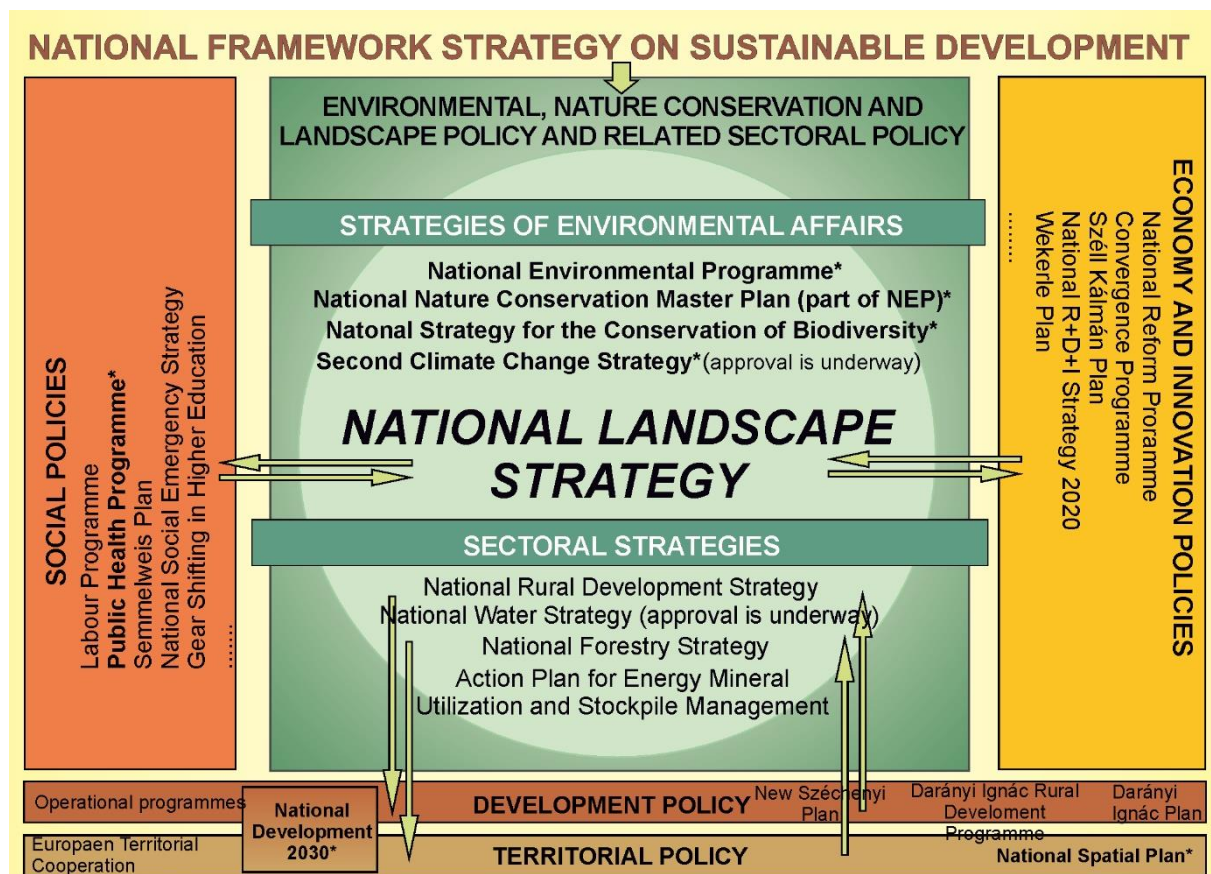
The “**city climate**” is **primarily the consequence of the lack of water balance** due the high ratio of paved surfaces, the changed emission conditions due to the higher heat conductivity and heat capacity of paved surfaces compared to natural surfaces and of the air flow that changed due to the buildings. The emissions (heat, vapour, pollutants, etc.) from intensive human activities (transport, heating,

industry) contribute to this. The negative effects of city climate, (temperature increase, lack of ventilation, difficulties in sizing drainage facilities), are most perceptible in densely built cities and mainly in paved city centres with only a few green surfaces and along main roads.

Keeping and using rainwater both in the settlements and on arable lands must be increased through increasing rainwater infiltration and, enhancing the replenishment of the soil water and groundwater. Keeping rainwater is also important for improving the urban climate through establishing rain gardens or urban lake systems. Using the natural water retention capability of landscape, just leaving excess water inundations on the land, could be cost effective climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in Hungary. By setting up rain water management systems that facilitate infiltration and the establishment of green **infrastructure the first 20 mm of rainfall must be locally kept and used for replenishing overexploited water resources and soil moisture.**

The National Landscape Strategy sets out 97 actions, of which the followings worth mentioning on this fora:

- **Setting quality objectives related to areas having a probability of 1-5% of being flooded (flood, excess water).**
- **Integrating the quality objectives related to brownfields, rust belt areas, abandoned buildings, green surfaces and areas exposed to the risk of flood/excess water into the regional and local development plans and land use plans and urban development plans.**



(*document approved by the General Assembly)

Figure 1 The place and role of the National Landscape Strategy within the Hungarian planning scheme (source: National Landscape Strategy)

The National Landscape Strategy, NWS and River Basin Management Plans will only play their role if **the currently missing horizontal aspects and key actions are integrated into other policies** on the basis of a holistic approach in their next review.
