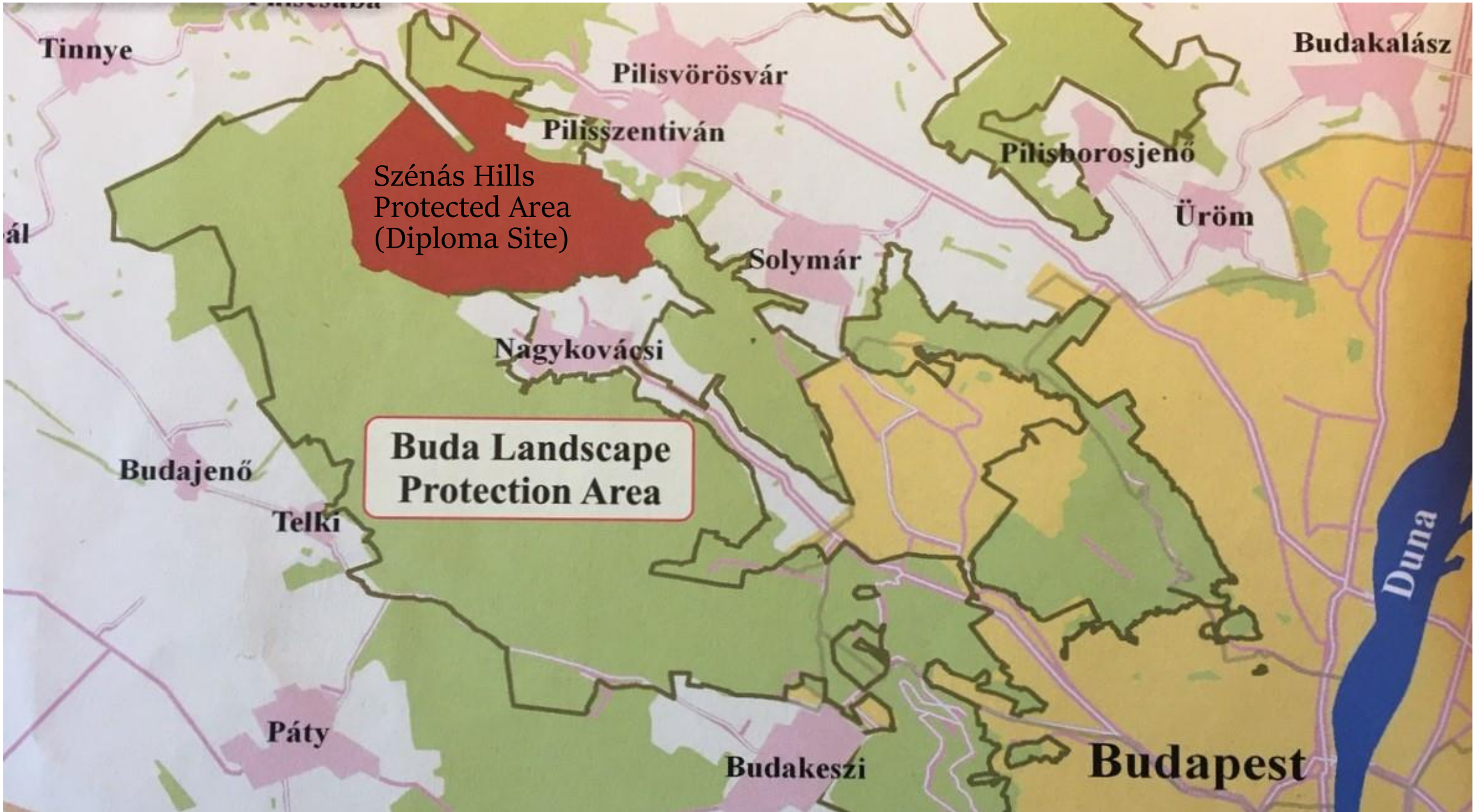


# European Diploma for Protected Areas Expert Appraisal

Szénás Hills Protected Area  
Hungary  
4-5 September 2019



Szénás Hills  
Protected Area  
(Diploma Site)

Buda Landscape  
Protection Area

Duna

Budapest

# Szénás Hills Protected Area

- ▶ Diploma site = 1182ha
- ▶ Awarded EDPA status 1995
- ▶ Sits within Buda Protected Landscape (10,528ha)
- ▶ Principal habitats:
  - ▶ Dolomitic grassland
  - ▶ Steppe grassland
  - ▶ Beech-hornbeam-oak woodland
  - ▶ Karst oak woodland
- ▶ Wholly owned by the Hungarian Government
- ▶ Ownership vested in state-owned Pilis Forest Company
- ▶ Managed in partnership with Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate



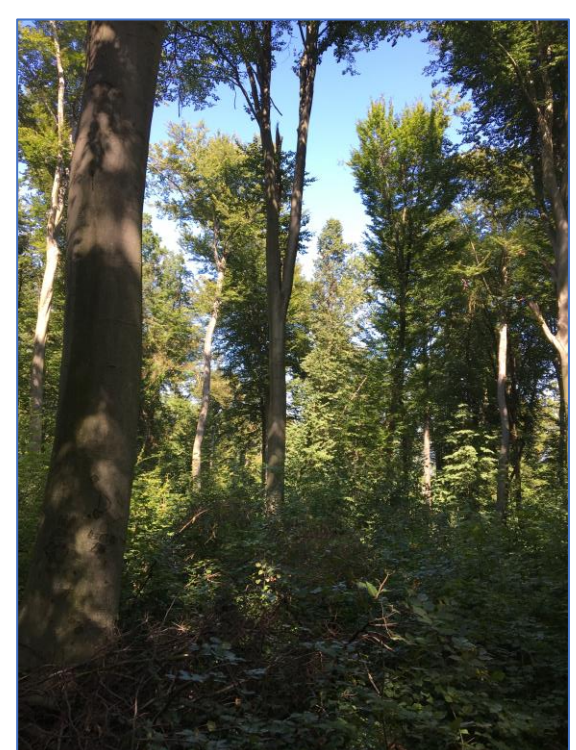
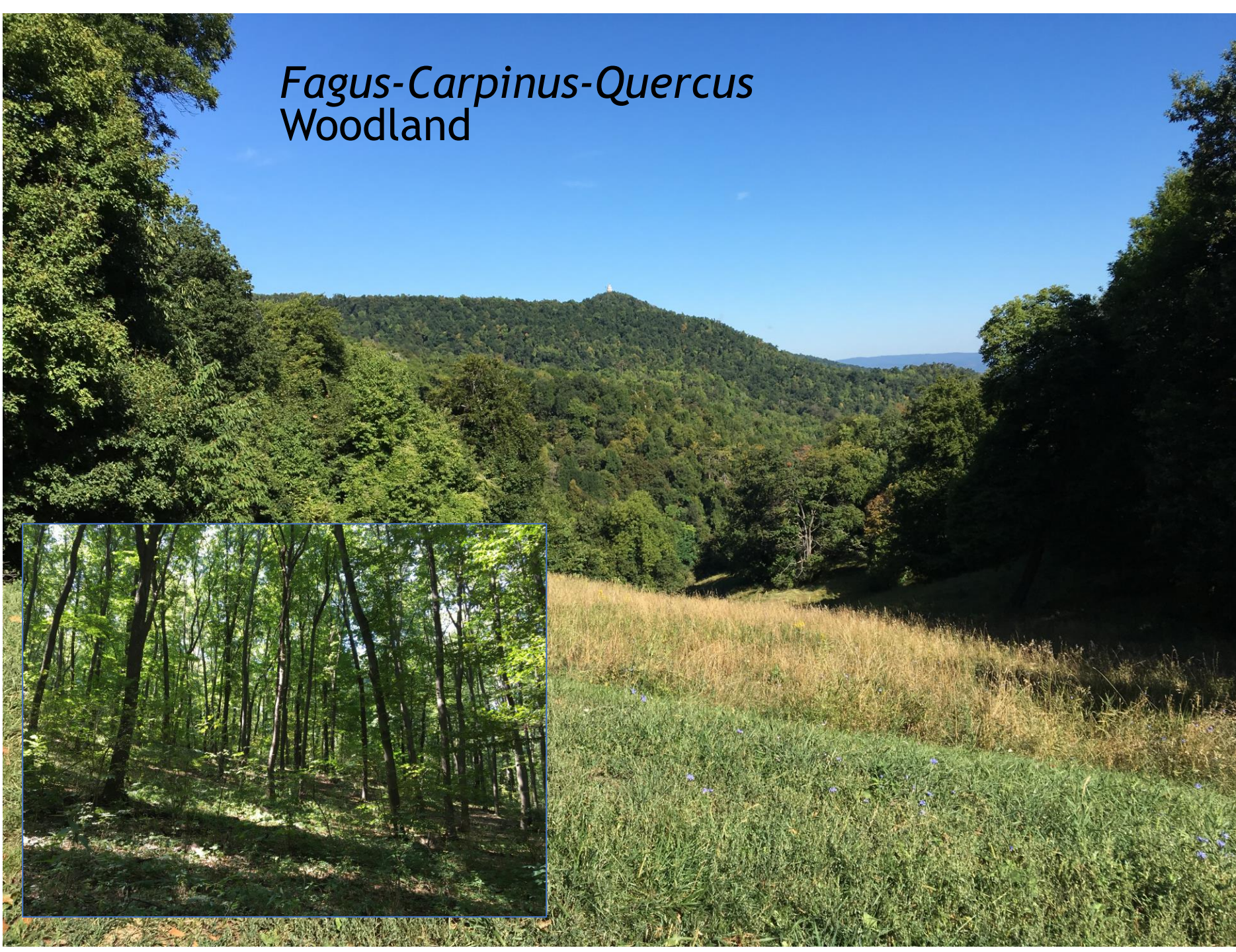
# Dolomitic grassland



# Steppe grassland

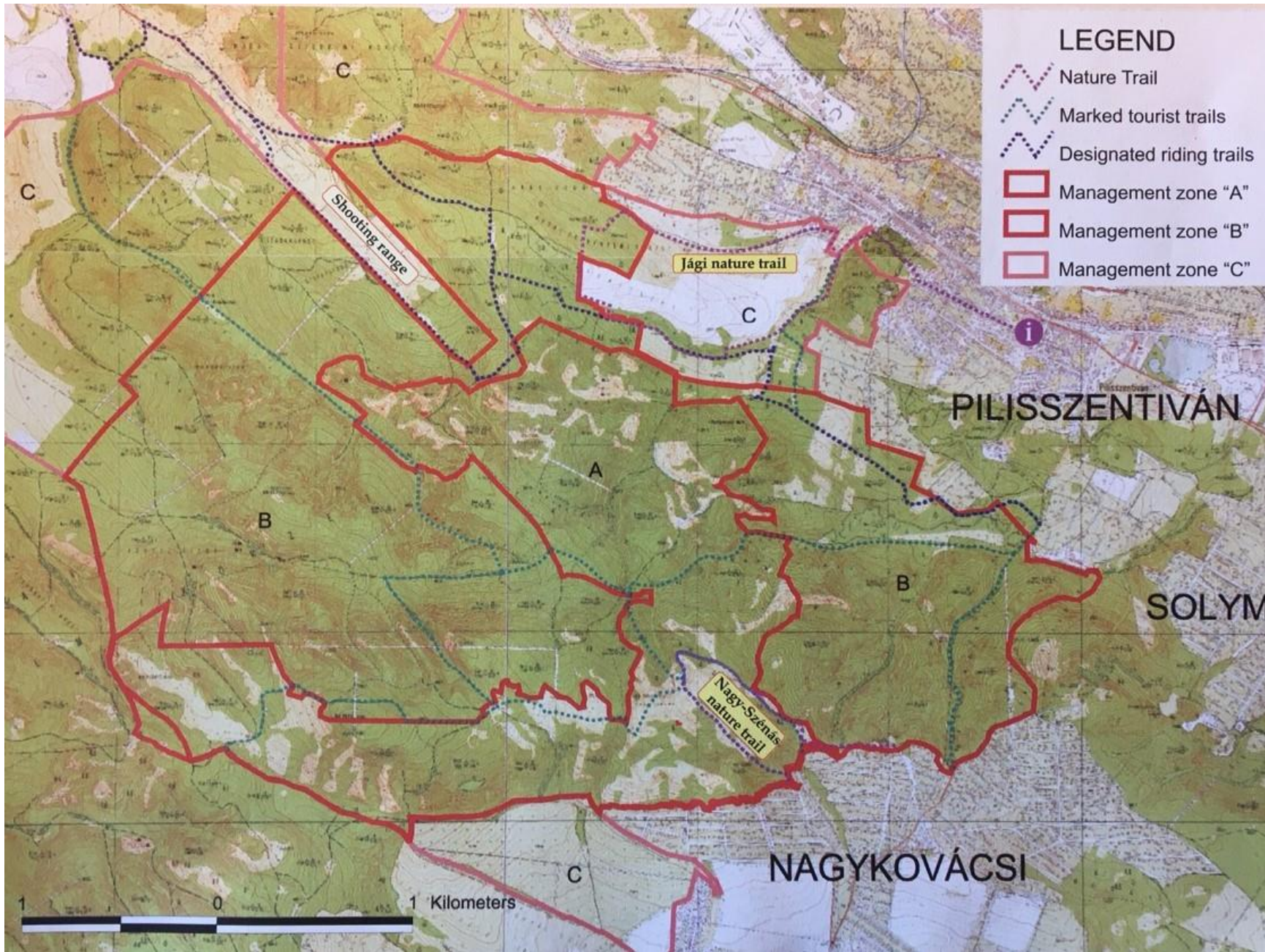


*Fagus-Carpinus-Quercus*  
Woodland



# Karst *Quercus* woodland





# Zoning

A - Nature Zone

B - Managed Zone

C - Interpretation Zone



# Large Mammal Control

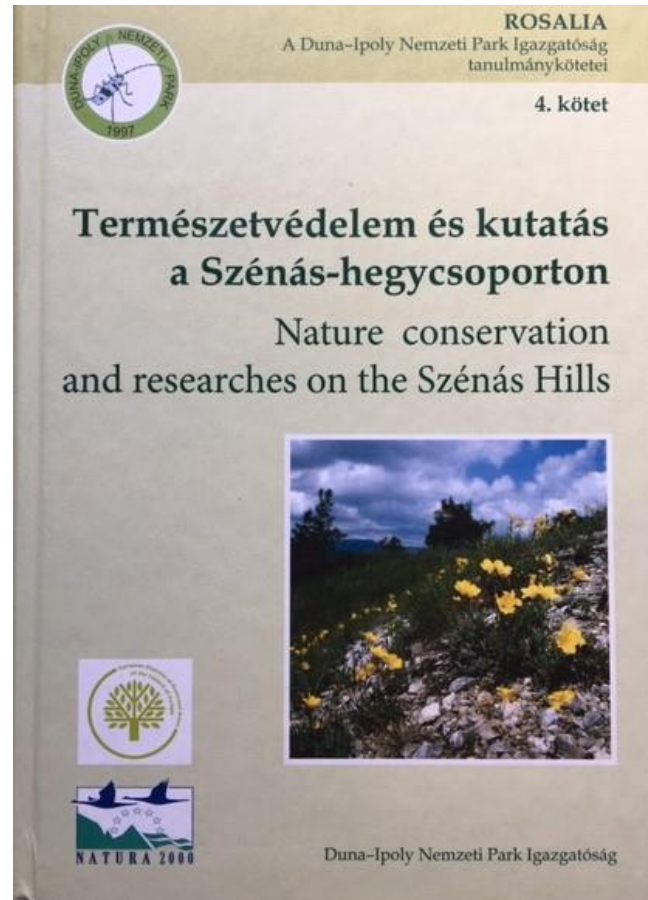


## Removal of *Pinus nigra*

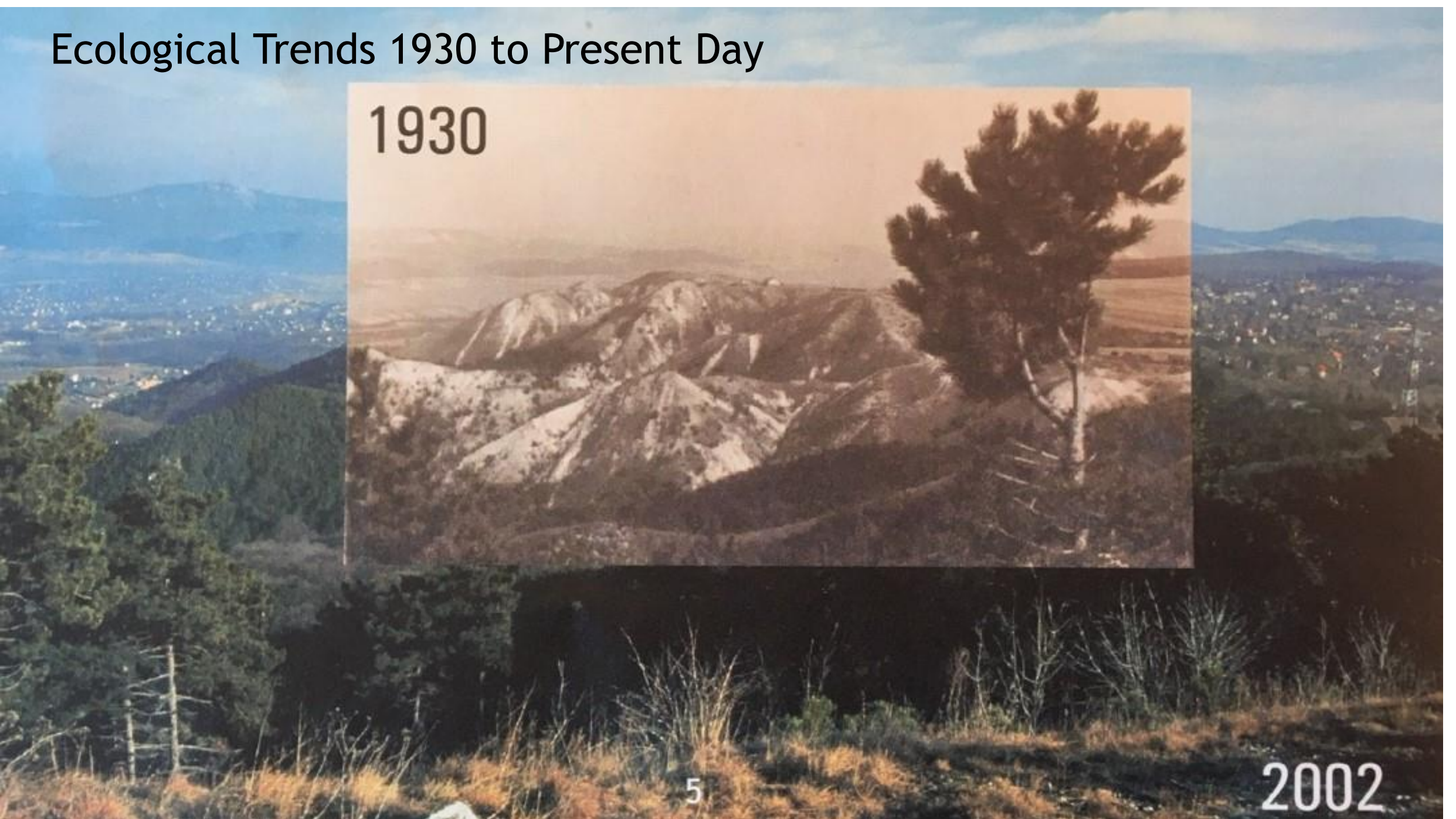


- 120ha in 1994
- Major mature stands – many now converted to native species
- Remaining recent stands < 20 years old

# Recreation and Education



# Ecological Trends 1930 to Present Day



# Habitat fragmentation



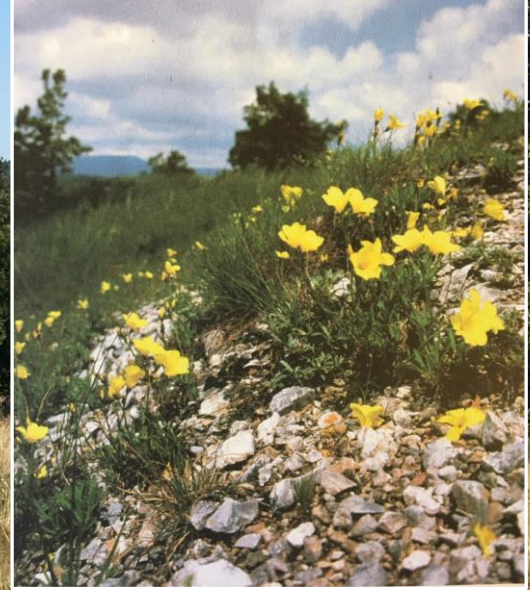
Dolomitic grassland

Steppe grassland



Since 1995, major achievements:

- Majority of *Pinus nigra* stands converted to native woodland
- Effective control of large non-native mammals
- Good management of recreation pressure
- Excellent engagement with local communities
- Ongoing research and monitoring programme



### Major challenges ahead:

- Restoring natural ecological processes
- Grasslands - species and structure
- Balance between open and wooded habitats
- Species trends, especially of climatic marginals
- Funding - both project and revenue
- Land use pressure



# Suggested recommendations for the renewal of the European Diploma for Szénás Hills Protected Area

1. Continue the close co-operation between the Danube-Ipoly National Park Directorate, the Pilis Forest Company and the municipality of Pilisszentiván; establishing similar agreements of co-operation with Nagykovácsi and Piliscsaba.
2. Continue to pursue EU funding to meet management objectives, and include project staff in bids.
3. Where short term EU funding is supporting longer term needs, secure an appropriate, predictable and sustainable budget to ensure stability of funding.
4. Continue effective game management in line with previous commitments, to reduce populations of non-native mouflon and fallow deer to zero (through fence and active control measures)
5. Continue the eradication of non-native tree species, especially black pine and black locust;
6. Enhance the effectiveness of the buffer areas by the inclusion of appropriate regulations in land use plans to limit inappropriate development.
7. Continue the effective management of visitor access for a range of user groups, including enhancing provision away from sensitive areas e.g. horse-riding trails, and mountain bike routes, where this can relieve pressure on the protected area.
8. By 2022 replace the current 5-year management plan (expired 2018) with a new approved 5 year plan.

# Suggested recommendations for the renewal of the European Diploma for Szénás Hills Protected Area

## 9. Develop a long-term 25-year management strategy by 2023, including:

- Objectives for the relative cover of grasslands and woodlands, the ecotones and connectivity between them, and the natural ecological processes and other management measures required to meet them; this should be based on sound evidence of the ecological value of these broad habitats and the ecological requirements of their characteristic species;
- Enhanced understanding of the ecological requirements for particularly rare and endangered species; with strategies for appropriate species recovery programmes where necessary;
- An assessment of the potential impacts of climate change on the priority habitats, species and related ecological processes, together with an adaptation plan where necessary;
- An assessment of future land use pressures, especially from recreation, tourism and urban development, and potential strategies for mitigating the negative impacts of these.
- Determine and implement the range of management options and nature-based solutions necessary to meet the long-term challenges of maintaining the ecological interest of the Szénás Hills Protected Area, especially with regard to long term ecological trends including climate change.





With thanks to the Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate, the Pilis Forest Company, and the municipality of Pilisszentiván

Especially:

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