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**BUREAU OF THE COMMITTEE
FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
IN THE FIELD OF BIOLOGICAL AND LANDSCAPE DIVERSITY**

BU-DBP

Group of specialists - European Diploma

**Východné Karpaty
Protected Landscape Area -
Biosphere Reserve
(Slovak Republic)**

APPLICATION

*Ministerstvo Životného Prostredia
(Slovak Republic)*

COUNTRY:	SLOVAK REPUBLIC
NAME OF THE AREA:	VÝCHODNÉ KARPATY PROTECTED LANDSCAPE AREA - BIOSPHERE RESERVE
MANAGING AUTHORITY:	Slovak Environmental Agency Regional Branch Prešov Administration of Východné Karpaty Protected Landscape Area - Biosphere Reserve Lipová 19 06601 Humenné SLOVAK REPUBLIC phone/fax: 0042-0933-753632

1. TYPE OF AREA

Východné Karpaty Protected Landscape Area - Biosphere Reserve (hereafter PLA-BR) is a woody mountain area (mid-highland with the character of lower highland up to a higher mountainous landscape) of the flysch zone of Carpathians, partly influenced by a traditional economical human activity. Forests consist predominantly of deciduous wood plants of mild belt (prevails the European beech - *Fagus silvatica* L.).

2. GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

Východné Karpaty PLA-BR is located in the most eastern part of Slovakia between 48° 56' and 49° 11' of the north latitude, and 22° 09' and 22° 34' east longitude (Appendix 1). Its area is 40 601 hectares (application for European Diploma), meanwhile the total area of Východné Karpaty PLA is in total 66 810 hectares. In addition, a protective zone of PLA is comprising the next 30 100 hectares. The area occupies the orographic entity Bukovské hills. On the West it adjoins the Nízke Beskydy Mountains, on the south the mountain chain Vihorlat. On the east (Ukraine) side it adjoins Vysoké Beskydy Mountains and on the north (Polish) side the Bieszczady Mountains. A parts of above listed mountains are together with Slovak part forming a trilateral Biosphere Reserve - Eastern Carpathians.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The territory of Východné Karpaty PLA -BR, represented by a mid-mountain entity of Bukovské hills, approaches the lowest point in the surroundings of Ubľa (260 m above sea level) and the highest point 1208 m above sea level on the hill Kremenec. The geological base is formed by sedimentary rocks of Carpathian flysch zone. The north boundary is formed by the main Carpathian ridge, from that go several mountain ridges, mainly in a south direction. The most important flows leading waters away from this territory are Cirocha, Ublianka, Ulička and Zbojský creek (the Danube basin).

The prevailing part of the area is occupied by forests (80%). The dominant forest community is the beech-grove. Significantly are successful in sustaining also other forest communities - oak-hornbeam groves, screes communities, communities of maple beech-groves of a restricted growth and the floodplain banks communities along water flows. The state of originality of the forest communities is various, while some part of them consists of very valuable natural forests.

The meadow communities are characteristic by a high biodiversity and are located presumably in surroundings of human settlements. But a special attention is desired by the

meadow communities over the upper boundary of forest, which are a typical phenomenon of the Východné Karpaty PLA-BR. Due to their extraordinary scientific importance, the most valuable and best preserved parts are protected in 20 nature reserves (of which 6 are national nature reserves) comprising the area of approximately 2 000 hectares. A prevailing part of these communities consists of natural (virgin) forest communities (Stužica, Riaba skala, Pľaša, Rožok, Havešová).

According to the newest knowledge, on this territory till now have been found more than 1 200 species of fungi (mushrooms), 200 species of lichens, 300 of Bryophyta and 1 000 of higher plant species, of which many are classified as very rare, endemic and endangered species. Similarly the zoocoenoses have a rich diversity of species, with up to now found 3 300 species of invertebrates and 293 species of vertebrates. The importance of this territory for zoogeographical protection and science is confirmed also by the ongoing research and, concerning the invertebrates, also the findings of new species in a world-wide scale. Many of them are cited just in this part of Slovakia (more than 400 species of dipterans). And at the same time one has to note that some groups are still just awaiting for a more detailed research. Concerning the vertebrates, there are known 20 species of fishes, 12 species of amphibians, 8 species of reptiles, 198 species of birds and 55 species of mammals. Also rare species of large carnivores, wolf, lynx, wild cat and otter are permanently living in this area.

The component part of the biosphere reserve is also the human, who settled this territory at the period of Walachian colonisation in 14th - 16th century. During centuries he was active first of all in shepherding and growing the agricultural plants. Presently here are 10 villages with total number of 3 500 inhabitants. The central community is the village Ulič with 1 100 inhabitants. In the west part of the biosphere reserve in the Cirocha valley is located the water reservoir Starina, built up in 80-ies of this century, which serves as the reservoir of drinking water for a considerable part of Slovakia. Building up the basin required to evacuate 7 communities with 5 000 inhabitants.

At the present time the land use within the biosphere reserve is focused on forestry and agriculture. In a less extent in the region is developed the tourism focused on getting to know the area's beauties in the Nová Sedlica region and the set of small wooden churches of 18th century. Various forms of values of the area are listed below:

Scientific value

- a high degree of preservation and biodiversity of communities (woodland, not woodland and water) of the Východné Karpaty Mountains,
- a wide species richness following from a biogeographical location.

Aesthetic value

- harmonisation of forest and agricultural country with many elements of traditional farming of the local people.
- characteristic nature of settlements in the landscape.

Cultural value

- the uniqueness of the ethnics and its culture following from mixing the two world cultures - west (Roman) and east (Byzantine),
 - preservation of traditional elements of folk architecture and art of the native inhabitants, which reach a world level,
 - preservation of landscape structure formed by a human during last centuries,
- many cultural and historical landmarks related to various historical periods and various nations of Europe and religions.

4. JUSTIFICATION OF THE EUROPEAN IMPORTANCE

Východné Karpaty PLA-BR is important from the European point of view:

- a) as a modern instance of vegetation evolution of Middle-European forest from the glacial period to the present time with a high degree of preservation of original ecosystems of early primeval forest in its most valuable parts.
- b) by its biogeographical location in the dividing area of East and West Carpathians, which enabled its high species richness, important for monitoring the development of vegetation, fauna and spreading the species in a massive Carpathian range.

5. LAND OWNERSHIP

The review of ownership forms in the Východné Karpaty PLA -BR territory to 1st January 1996 is as follows:

- state ownership	12.473 hectares
- private ownership	160 hectares
- copyholded ownership	3 hectares
- church ownership	3 hectares
- ownership of towns and communities	3 hectares
- unsettled ownership	27.959 hectares

Comment: The unsettled ownership include the lands, to which no ownership bill is yet issued, this should, however, be settled in the nearest years (till the year 2000) in the sense of the Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 180/95 of the Codes on certain measures in accordance with land ownership settlement.

6. SYSTEM OF PROTECTION

The protection of Východné Karpaty PLA-BR is at the present time ensured by the following legal regulations:

- The Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 287/1994 of the Codes on nature and landscape protection (Appendix 2, page 6, §13 - Protected Landscape Area and page 39, Protected Landscape Areas /CHKO/ in the Slovak Republic, No. 15 - CHKO Východné Karpaty),
- Order of the Culture Ministry of the SSR from 1st September 1977, which declares the Východné Karpaty Protected Landscape Area.

The prepared measures improving the system of protection:

- The proposal on establishing the National Park Poloniny in the most conserved parts of Východné Karpaty Protected Landscape Area - Biosphere Reserve

7. PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

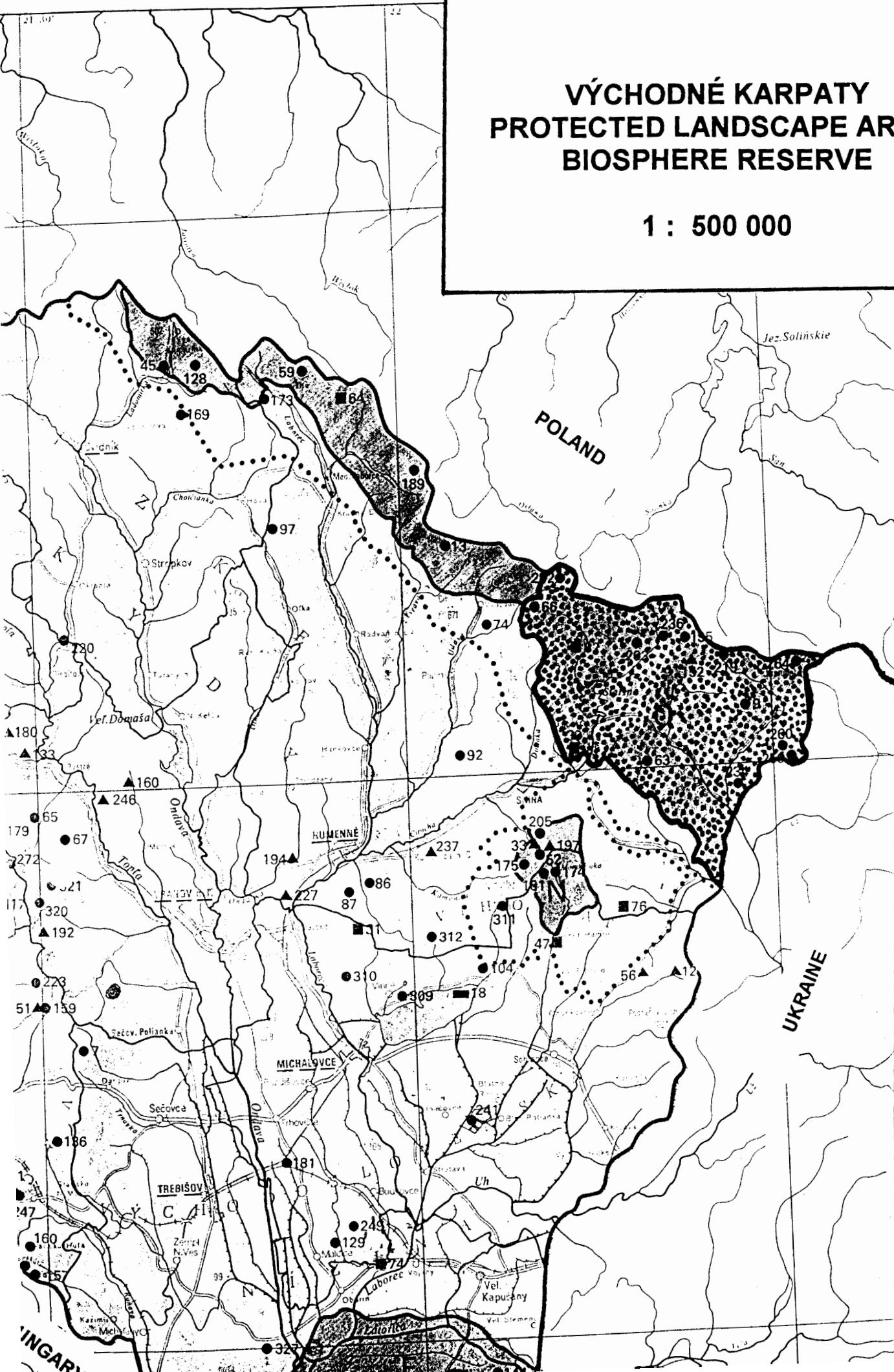
The planning in Východné Karpaty PLA-BR originates from the Action plan for Východné Karpaty Biosphere Reserve, which reflects to the annual plans of territory administrator and originates from the following long-term strategic goals according to the following spheres:

A. Biodiversity

- promote the knowledge on biodiversity of the protected area
- provide for the differentiated protection and a biodiversity maintenance

VÝCHODNÉ KARPATY PROTECTED LANDSCAPE AREA- BIOSPHERE RESERVE

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- monitoring the changes of the state of biodiversity.

B. Forestry

- preserve the present share of natural forests with an original structure, increase the area of forests with a natural structure. To employ them as the model objects for monitoring the natural processes;
- make use of the farming being close to the nature, emphasising the support to the natural restoration and elimination of non-origin species, and reaching a natural spatial structure.
- reconstruct the forest ecosystems, modified by people.

C. Agriculture

- optimise the structure of agriculture production in relation to the nature protection and to approaching the differentiated and balanced in space landscape structure,
- supporting the organic agriculture and alternative agricultural production,
- maintain the landscape structure with a scattered verdure and the entities with a traditional farming of local people,
- build up an effective system of management of the waste from agricultural production, linked to the monitoring of quality of environment components.

D. Recreation and tourism

- differentiate the development of tourism in the territory depending on levels of biosphere reserve protection,
- support the development to more gentle forms of tourism,
- increase the interest of local inhabitants in developing the alternative tourism.

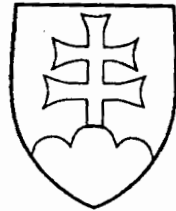
At the present time also the management plan for the National Park Poloniny is being prepared in connection with the proposal for its establishment. Consequently, according to the newly adopted Act on nature and landscape protection also management plan for PLA is under preparation.

8. LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

- Guziová Z. et Buraň M., 1994: Východné Karpaty (East Carpathians Biosphere Reserve). In Jeník et Price M.F. (eds.): Biosphere reserves on the cross-roads of Central Europe. p. 129-144, Czech National Committee for UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme, Empora Publishing House, Prague.
- Hadač E. et Terray J., 1991: Kvetena Bukovských vrchov (Flora of Bukovské hills), 183 pp., Příroda, Bratislava
- Roháček J., Starý J., Martinovský J., Vála M., 1995: Diptera/Diptera of the Bukovské hills, 232 pp., Colibiri, Prešov
- Vološčuk I., 1988: Východné Karpaty, chránená krajinná oblasť (East Carpathians, PCA), 333 pp., Příroda, Bratislava

9. PHOTODOCUMENTATION (Appendix 3)

Appendix 2



Act
of the National Council of the Slovak Republic

No.287/1994

on Nature and Landscape
Protection

This translation of the Act was supported by the **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** through a cooperative agreement with the **Harvard Institute for International Development (HIID) Bratislava**.

This English translation of the Act on Nature and Landscape Protection prepared for information purposes only. For legal purpose, please, refer to the Slovak version of the Act.

§ 13

Protected Landscape Area

(1) A larger area, usually more than 1,000 ha, with fragmented ecosystems which are significant for the conservation of biological diversity and ecological stability, with characteristic landscape features or with specific forms of historical settlements, may be designated by the Ministry under a generally binding regulation as a protected landscape area.

(2) In protected landscape areas, if not determined otherwise under this Act, the second level of protection is valid and approval of the nature

protection body is required for

- a) activities described in § 7 of this Act,
- b) planting of forest monocultures, forest vegetation of non-native origin and wood extraction by clear-cutting,
- c) land works that change the shape of relief and changes of land use,
- d) placing livestock enclosures, facilities for herds or for intensive breeding of livestock animal species,
- e) intensive breeding of animals and fish, introducing of breeding of animals for fur, planting of exotic plant species and raising exotic animal species outside of settlements,
- f) designation of hunting grounds,
- g) intentional dissemination of native species of plants and animals except planned forestry and agricultural activity,
- h) executing geological activities, mining and other activities using mining methods,
- i) an installation of billboards and other facilities for advertising, placarding outside of municipalities or other places determined by the nature protection body,
- j) use of chemicals mainly pesticides, toxic substances, fertilizers and ensilage in agriculture and forestry and other activities in an area larger than 2 ha,
- k) increasing the housing-capacity for recreation in localities determined by the nature protection body,
- l) establishing and posting of tourist paths, sport and recreation areas and tourist facilities,
- m) collecting plants, minerals and fossils and their parts in areas determined by the nature protection body,
- n) providing military training outside of areas determined for this purpose, and extraordinary building and maintenance of facilities for defense and state security,
- o) disposing of waste.

(3) The details of conditions of protected landscape area protection and its borders are established by the Ministry under a generally binding regulation.