COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 12 February 2020 **T-PVS/DE (2020) 9**
[de09e_2020.docx]

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

40th meeting
Strasbourg, 1-4 December 2020

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# REPORT

## ON THE SPOT EXPERT APPRAISAL OF THE

## BILE KARPATI LANDSCAPE RESERVE

## (CZECH REPUBLIC)

5-6 June 2019

*Document prepared*
*by Ms Ana Rainho (Portugal)*

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## 1. BACKGROUND

Bílé Karpati Protected Landscape Area (Bílé Karpati PLA) was awarded the EDPA by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 21st June 2000 (Resolution ResDip(2000)13) and renewed for two periods of five years on 15 June 2005 (Resolution ResDip(2005)7) and 16th March 2011 (Resolution CM/ResDip(2011)1). The latter Resolution renews the EDPA until 20 June 2020, attaching the set of conditions and recommendations to the renewal that are listed and discussed at the end of the respective chapter.

The aim of this report is to summarise the results of the on-the-spot appraisal visit to Bílé Karpati PLA. During the visit any changes in the reference situation were evaluated and the respect for the conditions and recommendations attached to the renewal of the award in 2010 were monitored, all with a view to the renewal of its EDPA in 2020. The appraisal visit was performed between the 3rd and the 7th June 2019 by Ana Rainho, as an independent expert. The Secretariat of the Council of Europe was not represented.

The visit followed roughly the original draft programme (see Annex I), with slight adjustments. This programme gave the expert the opportunity to informally meet and discuss diverse management issues with different stakeholders.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area (PLA) is an area of *ca.* 715 km$^2$ located in the south-eastern region of the Czech Republic, in the border with Slovakia (Figures 16 and 17).

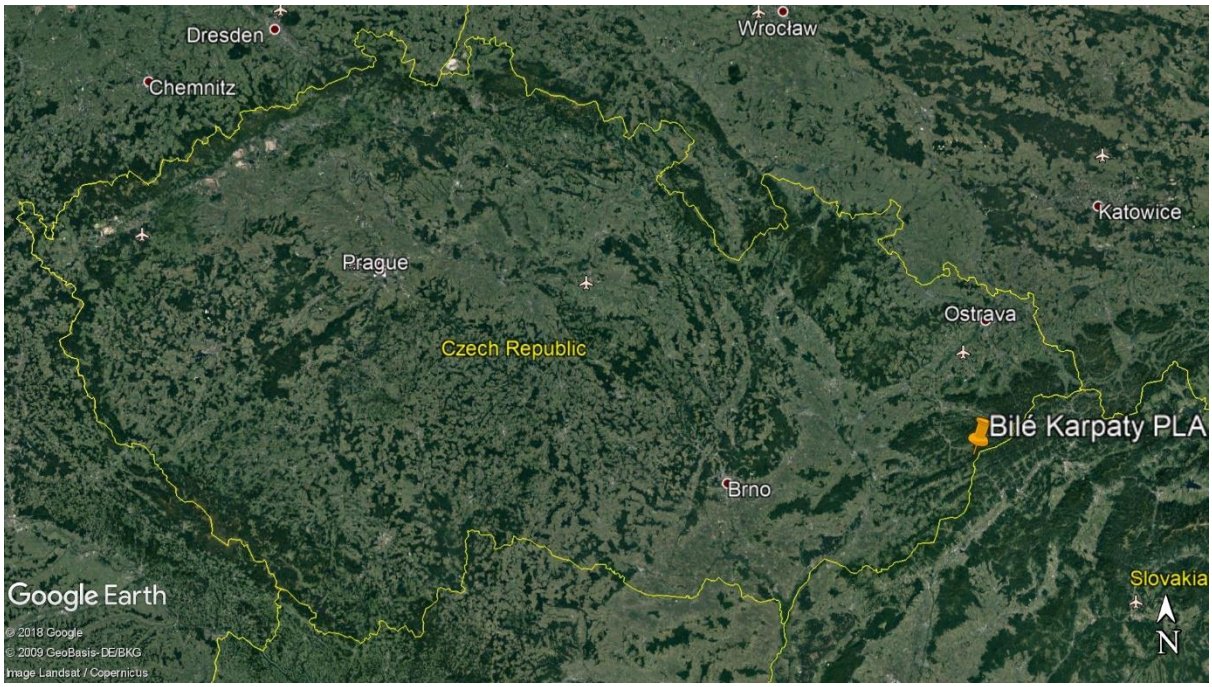


***Figure 16.*** *Location of the Bílé Karpaty PLA in the Czech Republic, in the border with Slovakia (Landsat/Copernicus ©2018 Google).*

Bílé Karpaty PLA was established by Decree of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic in 1980, and according with the last Annual Report:

"*The Bílé Karpaty PLA covers 715 km$^2$ and is located in the south-eastern part of the Czech Republic in the Moravian part of the mountain range as well as in the eastern part of the Vizovice Hills, neighbouring the Bílé Karpaty PLA on the Slovak side. Geographically, the area is a part of the Outer Western Carpathians and constitutes one of the westernmost parts of the entire mountain range. The highest peak of the area is Mt. Velká Javořina (970 m a.s.l.), the lowest point is situated at village of Sudoměřice (240 m a.s.l.).*"

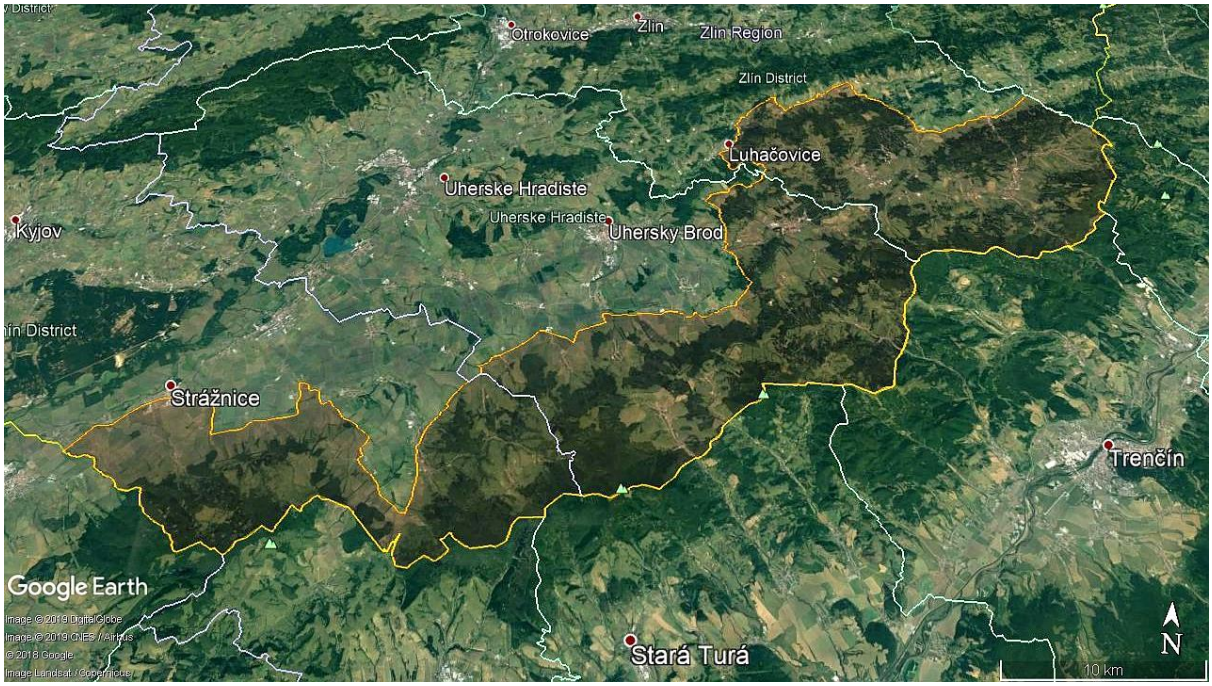


***Figure 17.*** *Current limits of the Bílé Karpaty LPA outlined in dark yellow (©ProtectedPlanet 2014-2019; Landsat/Copernicus ©2018 Google).*

## 3. APPRAISAL

### 3.1 European interest

***Landscape interest***

Extensive historical deforestation in Bílé Karpaty PLA has often resulted is thousands of hectares of unique flowery meadows with scattered trees in the gentle slopes, rounded ridges and broad shallow valleys, that represent the typical landscape character of the White Carpathians nowadays (Figure 18).

In fact, in the 2018 Annual Report, it is mentioned that "*Its scenery has been largely created and modified by humans: hardly anywhere else are man and nature so closely related. This is demonstrated by the diversity in (particularly vascular plant and insect) species and communities/assemblages/guilds on the one hand, and by the richness in fruit tree cultivars and traditional local livestock landraces as well as the variety in songs, folk costumes, ornaments, crafts, customs, and traditions on the other. From a point of view of nature conservation, the Bílé Karpaty PLA is particularly valuable because of the unusually wide range of habitats and species found on its territory. There are thermophilous oak forests, Carpathian and Pannonian oak–hornbeam forests, old-growth mountain beech forests displaying some primeval forests characters occurring in the north-eastern part and most of the meadow and forest wetland natural habitat types occurring in Europe.*"

The flowery meadows in Bílé Karpaty PLA are remarkable especially for the richness of plant communities and for the high proportion of critically endangered plant species. This makes them one of the most valuable meadow habitats in Europe some of which protected by the Habitats Directive, like the Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (6210*), a priority habitat due to its importance for orchids. Another equally valuable element is the extensive forest complex in the central and northern part of the mountain range.

***Figure 18.*** *Bilé Karpaty PLA landscape and scenery.*

## 3.2 Biological heritage

***Floristic interest***

The richness of flowering plants, particularly orchids, occurring in the area is truly impressive (Figure 19). During the appraisal visit it was possible to observe several flowering orchids, among which the globe orchid (*Traunsteinera globosa*), the early-purple orchid (*Orchis mascula*) and the lesser butterfly-orchid (*Platanthera bifolia*). According to the EDPA Annual Report "*more than 1,500 plant species occur in the Bílé Karpaty PLA, of which 101 are classified nationally as Specially Protected Species: 27 of them being Critically Endangered, 37 species are Highly Endangered, and 37 species are classified within the category Endangered. There are 40 orchid species growing in the PLA, which is most of the orchids found in the Czech Republic as a whole*." Some of these plant species are also protected under the Habitats Directive, like the lady's-slipper orchid (*Cypripedium calceolus*), the fen orchid (*Liparis loeselii*) or the Plumeless saw-wort (*Serratula lycopifolia*).

***Figure 19.*** *Some of the flowering species observed during the appraisal visit.*
*Starting at the top-left corner: Globe orchid (Traunsteinera globosa), bastard balm (Melittis melissophyllum), crested cow-wheat (Melampyrum cristatum), bee orchid (*Ophrys apifera*), Hungarian iris (Iris variegata), pyramidal orchid (Anacamptis pyramidalis), Siberian iris (Iris sibirica), early-purple orchid (Orchis mascula), lesser butterfly-orchid (Platanthera bifolia).*

### *Faunistic interest1*

A high diversity of arthropods is naturally associated to the high floristic richness of the, with particular relevance for insects and arachnids (Figure 20). The Annual Report (2018) refers that "*wild animal species richness is primarily influenced by the mix of Continental, Carpathian and Pannonian species. The insect fauna on the herb-rich meadows is exceptionally rich: among them, the praying mantis (*Mantis religiosa*), the purse-web spider (*Atypus piceus*), the rare harvestmen (Opiliones)* – Zacheus crista *and Egaenus convexus, the orb-web spider (*Argiope bruennichii*), the ground beetle (*Pterostichus incommodus*), the longhorn beetle (*Akimerus schaefferi*) and the eye-catching jewel beetle (*Anthaxia hungarica*) should be mentioned. Butterflies found there include the twin-spot fritillary (*Brenthis hecate*), alcon blue (*Maculinea alcon*), and the scarce large blue (*Maculinea telejus*) and in the northern section on sheep pasturelands, also large blue (*Maculinea nausithous*). Unfortunately, it seems that the Danube clouded yellow (*Colias

[1] For more detailed information of the species occurring in each landscape type (meadows, forest, water sites, etc.) please check the site: http://bilekarpaty.ochranaprirody.cz/charakteristika-oblasti/fauna/

myrmidone*) has been now extinct in the Bílé Karpaty PLA, probably due include the decline in traditional usage of pasturelands*."

Among the vertebrates, it is worth mentioning the high diversity of birds occurring in the area as well as highlight the presence of several large carnivores. As reported, the Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*) occasionally inhabits the PLA and the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) wanders over the border from Slovakia. The grey wolf (*Canis lupus*) was first recorded in the PLA´s northern part in 2006 and its occurrence has been increasing there. Camera traps have recently confirmed the occurrence of the European wild cat (*Felis silvestris*) in the PLA.

**Conclusion:** Bílé Karpaty PLA landscape has been largely created and modified by humans, but there is no doubt on its importance for the conservation of biological diversity and significant evidence of the Earth's history at the European level. The area includes several habitats protected by the Habitats Directive and it harbours several species protected under the Bird and Habitats Directive and under the Bern Convention.

## 3.3 Conservation measures

### *Legal protection status and zoning*

The Bílé Karpaty PLA includes 55 small scale nature reserves. The classification as PLA is determined by Decree of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic while the Reserves are classified by the Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic (NCA-CR).
The Bílé Karpaty PLA is divided in 4 zones – two of these zones, including the meadows, forests and other important features in the landscape, are more strictly protected due to their particular importance for conservation; in these areas some mechanical interventions are forbidden, just like the use of fertilizers and pesticides. The third zone includes common farmlands and the fourth zone includes urban areas and infrastructures.

***Figure 20**. The richness of insects in the area is very high, both in the meadows and in the forests.*

***State of conservation of the main species and their habitats***

It was not possible to compile detailed information on the state of conservation of the main species present in the area. It was already mentioned the extinction of the Danube clouded yellow (*C. myrmidone*) from the PLA, however this is, in fact, a species that has declined strongly over most of its range and it is reported extinct not only in the Bílé Karpaty PLA, but all over Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary and Slovenia[2]. The Annual Report mentions that monitoring outputs suggest that target wild species of plants are stable.

No direct species' conservation measures were observed during the visit, but several projects focusing specific taxa or overall biodiversity conservation at the habitat level have been implemented in the area in this last decade. Such is the case of the LIFE Project – Integrated Protection of rare butterfly species of non-forest habitats in the Czech Republic and Slovakia (LIFE09/NAT/CZ/000364) that ended in 2016. This project focused on the grasslands (meadows and pastures) of the Bílé Karpaty PLA and of the bordering Biele Karpaty PLA (in Slovakia). This project included measures like shrub removal and hedge pruning, mosaic mowing and grazing. Simultaneously, butterfly species were monitored, and a training programme was implemented focusing on pre- and school age children. More information on this project is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.showFile&rep=file&fil=LIFE09_NAT_CZ_000364_LAYMAN.pdf

Other LIFE Project - LIFE for insects - Conservation of selected Natura 2000 insect species in transboundary area (CZ-SK) of Western Carpathian Mts. (LIFE16/NAT/CZ/ 000731), is currently ongoing and aims at conserving "*selected target insect species and enhance their populations through the restoration of wet grasslands, pastures, coppiced and open-canopy forest habitats in the transboundary area of the Western Carpathians; and to interconnect the species' metapopulations in this area, thus contributing to the requirements of EU Nature Directives and Biodiversity Strategy to 2020*". Among the target species of this project is the recently extinct Danube clouded yellow (*C. myrmidone*) and other threatened species of insects like the stag-beetle (*Lucanus cervus*) and the Rosalia longicorn (*Rosalia alpina*). More information on this project is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=6288

[2] van Swaay, C., Wynhoff, I., Verovnik, R., Wiemers, M., López Munguira, M., Maes, D., Sasic, M., Verstrael, T., Warren, M. & Settele, J. 2010. Colias myrmidone. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2010: e.T174283A7042701. Downloaded on 28 August 2019.

## 4. MANAGEMENT

### *Management plan for the area*

There is one Management Plan for the whole Bílé Karpaty PLA and one specific for each National Nature Reserve within it. The Management Plans are renewed in 10-year cycles, with specific chapters reviewed and updated each year. The Management Plans are approved by the Ministry of Environment. Forestry is not involved in the approval of the documents but there is a priority of conservation management over forestry in all landscape area. Agri-environmental scheme funds are managed by the Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection inside the Protected Areas (that including PLAs).

### *Institutional arrangements*

The Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic (NCA-CR) is the responsible body for the management of the Bílé Karpaty PLA. Several agreements are settled with different stakeholders for maintenance management of the area, like grazing and mowing the grasslands.

The PLA's main office is located at Lohačovice (in border of the landscape area, see Figure 17). Other offices are located in Veselí nad Moravou, Zlín and Brumov-Bylnice. Also, there is a visitor/information point at Veseli nad Moravou. Each NNR has an information panel and other information points are located in strategic sites like museums, gardens and city centres.


***Figure 21.*** *Signposting in the Bílé Karpaty PLA.*
*In the left are two signposts indicating hiking trails near the Čertoryje NNR.*
*The signpost on the right is located at the Zahrady pod Hájem NNR, highlighting the meadows and orchards with regional fruits of the area.*

The NCA-CR office responsible by the Bílé Karpaty PLA has a staff of 29 employees, some of them with term contract only during the LIFE projects. The staff number is good, but there is still some need of some specialists (e.g. zoologists). There are also seven working in a voluntary system and many other volunteers working in the field. The equipment and infrastructure availability are good.

### *Financial management*

The current budget seems to be enough for all management and conservation measures in implementation. Funding with different sources, state budget, LIFE projects and Operational Programme Funds (EU). Some funds are provided from Agri-environmental climate schemes, but these are assigned directly to farmers.

The continuity of the good financial conditions in the future is being ensured, with future budgets being negotiated with the government. Additionally, new applications to LIFE Projects are being drafted.

***Relationship between the body responsible for the area and other stakeholders***

Good relations with the mayors (Figure 22), most of which seem to be aware of the importance of the PLA and to be pleased for having their municipalities within a PLA. Each year there is a meeting between the PLA staff and Mayors from the entire Landscape Area (for more than 20 years now) where several issues are discussed – included conservation and urbanism. Excursions are made in the area to create awareness.

***Figure 22.*** *Meeting with the city Mayors during the appraisal visit.*

Close contact and good communication with tenants, farmers and landowners, much in context of the LIFE projects. Some issues exist with specific landowners, but these are being tackled with care.

A close collaboration with local nature conservation NGOs, particularly in the NNRs, where the farmers are less active can be noted. The NGOs are quite active in educational activities but also in the management of the Nature Reserves. They have several guides and organise excursions for the general public and schools, a task shared with some of the employees of the NCA-CR.

There is also a good collaboration with the state forest agency, particularly in the preparation of the forest management plan (10-year cycle as well). Some funding is made available to foresters.

***Research and monitoring programmes***

A quick search in Google Scholar using the words “Bílé Karpaty” returns dozens of recent papers published in peer-reviewed scientific journals. Most of these papers focus on grasslands, their management and biodiversity. Below are just some selected examples:


- Bonari, G., Fajmon, K., Malenovský, I., Zelený, D., Holuša, J., Jongepierová, I., ... & Chytrý, M. (2017). Management of semi-natural grasslands benefiting both plant and insect diversity: the importance of heterogeneity and tradition. *Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment*, *246*, 243-252.
- Prach, K., Fajmon, K., Jongepierová, I., & Řehounková, K. (2015). Landscape context in colonization of restored dry grasslands by target species. *Applied Vegetation Science*, 18(2), 181-189.
- Mudrák, O., Fajmon, K., Jongepierová, I., & Prach, K. (2018). Mass effects, clonality, and phenology but not seed traits predict species success in colonizing restored grasslands. *Restoration Ecology*, *26*(3), 489-496.
- Mudrák, O., Fajmon, K., Jongepierová, I., & Doležal, J. (2017). Restoring species-rich meadow by means of turf transplantation: long-term colonization of ex-arable land. *Applied vegetation science*, *20*(1), 62-73.
- Albert, Á. J., Mudrák, O., Jongepierová, I., Fajmon, K., Frei, I., Ševčíková, M., ... & Doležal, J. (2019). Data on different seed harvesting methods used in grassland restoration on ex-arable land. *Data in brief*, *25*, 104011.

- Těšitel, J., Mládek, J., Fajmon, K., Blažek, P., & Mudrák, O. (2018). Reversing expansion of Calamagrostis epigejos in a grassland biodiversity hotspot: Hemiparasitic Rhinanthus major does a better job than increased mowing intensity. *Applied vegetation science*, *21*(1), 104-112.


As mentioned before, some target species of plants but also of amphibians, birds and large mammals are regularly monitored. Monitoring is performed essentially by the Bílé Karpaty staff but also by volunteers and local inhabitants.

***Use of renewable energy systems***

During the visit it was not possible to observe any common use of renewable energy. The Annual Report refers the use of biomass heater plant in some of the Municipalities, giving the village of Hostětín as an example.

**Conclusion:** The management of the Bílé Karpaty PLA is ensured by the Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic. The staff seems dynamic and passionate about the PLA and driven by the ongoing conservation projects. The efforts to maintain the good relations with the main stakeholders should be continued.

***Uses and socio-economic activities***

Most farming activities – grazing, mowing, fruit harvesting - seem to be managed according to the PLA priorities, either though contracts to the farmers or though agri-environmental schemes or other sources of funding. Sometimes it is hard to find qualified workers to perform some of the required land management farming activities.

Hunting is managed by land owners and although it is not currently a conservation priority in the Bílé Karpaty PLA it is recognised that sometimes game species reach very high densities causing impacts in the native fauna, damaging the vegetation, particularly in forest environment, and reduce forest and other vegetation ability to regenerate. Several game species are present in the area, namely high numbers of fallow deer (*Dama dama*) that was introduced in the area during the 2nd half of 20th century (Figure 23), other cervids and wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), a native species in the area. The fallow deer migrates from the neighbouring Slovakia where they are released for hunting. No measures are currently deemed necessary or being taken.

***Figure 23.*** *Fallow deer (Dama dama) an introduced game species in the Bílé Karpaty PLA, near the Nature Reserve Kútky.*

Some issues result from the enlargement of cities and villages in the PLA or at the border of this Protected Area and from some isolated building in the surrounding of villages. Some limitations are imposed

for buildings, but it is hard to integrate them in urban planning. Plans are prepared by Municipalities and are broadly defined. Additionally, not all urban areas have plans, only the larger ones.

As mentioned before, educational activities are common in the PLA in context of LIFE and other projects. There are also ecocenters that offer environmental education courses for primary and nursery schools. Such is the case of the Ekocentrum Kapaty in Nová Lhota (Figure 24). This centre includes an ecological garden with diverse structures where different activities take place. Additionally, some indoor games were also developed to increase children ecological awareness and knowledge of their region.

***Connectivity of the area***

*Ecological connectivity with other areas*

Ecological fragmentation does not seem to be a major problem in Bílé Karpaty PLA. The area is managed in terms of Landscape, integrating all NNRs within it. Furthermore, there is a close cooperation with the adjacent Biele Karpaty PLA, in Slovakia.

Additionally, integrated in urban planning there is a map with all green corridors that should be kept to ensure habitat connectivity and mammal movement.


***Figure 24***. *Ecological garden and some of the games used by the Ekocentrum Kapaty during their activities with kids.*

*Other forms of recognition awarded to the area of certification of protected areas*

At the National level, Bílé Karpaty was declared a PLA in 1980. Within its limits, it includes 55 small scale nature reserves - five National Wildlife Sanctuary, one National Nature Monument, 16 Nature Reserves and 30 Natural Monuments.
Internationally, Bílé Karpaty became UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1996 (Man and Biosphere Programme). Additionally, a significant part of the PLA is designated as Natura 2000 sites.

## 5. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONDITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 5.1 Conditions

***1. Keep at least the existing access to the Radejov hunting reserve for the visitors and decrease the population size of the non-indigenous game species, such as fallow deer, control the pressure exerted by game so that the forest may regenerate, draw up a hunting plan in conjunction with the administration of the protected area, and finally refrain from building any new facilities (e.g. hunting lodge);***

After some years of negotiation with the owner and managers of the Radejov hunting reserve, it was possible to reach some compromise. The hunting area was legally created but with some administrative issues and the court decided only concerning the access issues. Hunting activities are kept in the area and therefore public access is allowed only during non-hunting days and accompanied by a guide. The current number of fallow deer in the fenced area was reduced to a maximum of 250 (formerly they were around 500 animals). The number of animals is monitored by the managers of the hunting reserve and regulations are defined accordingly, in a pro-active hunting plan. Some additional issues result from fallow deer coming from the nearby border with Slovakia.

The hunting lodge was built over other previously existing building following the recommendations for construction in the area.

***2. Amend agri-environmental funding rules in accordance with the protected area's management plan in order to secure financing of management needed to attain objectives set.***

As mentioned elsewhere in this report, agri-environmental and climate scheme funds are frequently applied in the PLA and they are very suited for some of the conservation priorities and management strategies of the area.

### 5.2 Recommendations

***1. Reassess and guarantee the requisite financial and human resources to ensure implementation of the management plan;***

This recommendation has been fulfilled until now and negotiations are ongoing to ensure the necessary financial support in the future.

***2. Arrive at a concerted method of agricultural management that promotes the Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area through close co-operation between the Ministries of Agriculture and the Environment, the departments active in the field (agriculture, forestry and Bílé Karpaty departments) as well as the local authorities and other bodies involved;***

The cooperation between the PAL Administration and the mentioned stakeholders seems to be good and close, as it can be seen in the currently good application of agri-environmental climate schemes funds (see condition 2).

***3. Eliminate non-indigenous species, namely fallow deer, from the nature reserves and the other strictly protected areas and further develop consultation between the Ministries of Agriculture and the Environment in order to control big game populations;***

It seems impossible to reach this goal in such a vast area. According to the Annual Report invasive alien species, both plants and animals, are being eradicated or their numbers minimized using national and EU funds with special attention to invasive species of EU concern, following the respective legislation.

Game species are a particularly difficult part of this issue, as the lobby of hunters is very strong, but the discussion is ongoing.

***4. Continue the current forestry policy of conversion to hardwood stands and encourage the natural regeneration of existing hardwood forests;***

The management plan includes the replacement of spruce forest by deciduous trees as a priority. This is partly facilitated by natural processes, as the weather is becoming drier in the region.

***5. The European Diploma should be more visibly associated with the image of the Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area (for example, in the information centres, in publications and on the website).***

The EDPA award is mentioned in the website, namely by saying: "The importance of this area is also demonstrated by the award of the European Diploma for Protected Areas in 2000". A leaflet published in 2006 refers that "In 2000 Bílé Karpaty were awarded the Council of Europe's European Diploma of Protected Areas". No EDPA logo was included, but no UNESCO MAB logo was included as well. The signposts observed in the PLA do not include reference (or logos) of any of these international awards. According to the Bílé Karpaty Administration this is generally not included because the population is not aware of the importance of these awards, but the EDPA award is referred to in information centres and mentioned during public lectures and events. Reference to the EDPA should be implemented gradually, whenever new signposts, leaflets or other are produced.

## 6. CONCLUSIONS AND REMARKS

Taken into consideration all that was observed and discussed during the appraisal visit it is recommended to renew the European Diploma for Protected Areas to the Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area until 20 June 2030 with the following recommendations:

1. Ensure that the necessary budget and resources are available for the manifold functions and operational tasks of the Bílé Karpaty PLA's staff, including administration, research, surveillance and habitat management.
2. Take strong measures to control non-indigenous species from the nature reserves and the other strictly protected areas. Continue the necessary negotiations with relevant stakeholders aiming at controlling non-native big game populations in the PLA. Ensure that the monitoring of the population of fallow deer in the Radejov hunting reserve is continued and regularly validated by Bílé Karpaty PLA staff.
3. Continue to implement nature-based solutions and management in the face of climate change, ensuring the continuation of current forestry policy of conversion to hardwood stands and encourage the natural regeneration of native hardwood forests.
4. Evaluate the need of and take the necessary actions for having a stronger presence of the Bílé Karpaty PLA during the preparation or review of the urban plans of the major urban areas within or bordering the PLA. Additionally, identify any areas where urban development may become a risk in the near future and evaluate the necessity of drafting an urban plan for these areas (if they do not have it yet).
5. The EDPA logo and information about the European Diploma should be included in all promotion materials produced in the future as well as in any new signposts installed in the Bílé Karpaty PLA. The website of the PLA should also include the logo of the EDPA with a link to the website of the Council of Europe.

## 7. ANNEXE 1 - DRAFT AGENDA FOR VISIT TO ASSESS THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA FOR THE KARLŠTEJN NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE AND BÍLÉ KARPATY

**Sunday June 2 evening**

- pick-up at the Prague airport by Mr Pojer, head of Bohemian Karst office
- transfer to the hotel in Karlstejn

**Monday June 3**

- Morning
  - short meeting with the staff at Karlštejn office
  - field excursion to forest steppes and pastures near Srbsko
- Afternoon
  - visit of Svaty Jan pod Skalou village
  - hike to the Rock above former monastery
  - meeting with the Mayor, Mr Boucek
  - visit of former Sain John (Svaty Jan) monastery attic with summer colony of *Rhinolophus hipposideros*

**Tuesday June 4**

- Morning
  - visit of forest kindergarten in Bubovice
  - meeting with local NGO
  - visit of newly revitalized wetlands
  - meeting with Forest representatives of the Czech Republic
  - visit of Doutnac Hill non-intervention area
- Afternoon
  - meeting with local farmer Mr Rumler, example of dry grassland grazing
  - meeting with Mr Moucha, representative of local gamekeeper fellowship, founder of the protected landscape area
  - transfer to Prague by train

**Wednesday June 5**

- Morning
  - transfer on the train to Luhacovice in Bile Karpaty (5 hours)
- Afternoon
  - discussion about management of Bile Karpaty with the staff of the nature conservation office
  - trasfer to Mala Vrbka, meeting with the Mayors
  - accommodatin in Mala Vrbka

**Thursday June 6**

- Morning
  - visit of the environmental centre in Nova Lhota
  - presentation of educational and information activities
  - meeting with farmers
- Afternoon
  - visit of Zahrady pod Hajem or Certoryje Rezerve with dry grasslands and orchards

**Friday June 7**

- Morning
  - transfer to Prague (5 hours)
- Afternoon
  - flight to Lisbonne