

# Natura 2000 appropriate assessment in Hungary

EUROPARC webinar

14 February 2017

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# Setup of the presentation

- I. Transposition of HD Article 6 (3)-(4)
- II. Appropriate assessment in forest management planning
- III. Case study – car factory on a Natura 2000 site
- IV. Case study – motorway on a Natura 2000 site and national park



## Transposition of HD Article (3)-(4)

Government Decree No. 275/2004 on Natura 2000 sites, Articles 10 and 10/A

Appendix 14: requirements for the content of an appropriate assessment documentation (in line with EC guidance)

Appendix 15: what to take into account when assessing the impacts

Appendix 8: format of informing or requesting the opinion of the European Commission (through the ministry responsible for nature conservation).

The appropriate assessment documentation is prepared by the proponent. Experts may be involved (but not compulsory)



## Transposition of HD Article (3)-(4)

Diverse authorities may have to carry out AA, not only nature conservation authority

Separate legislation describes in which procedure and how the nature conservation authority has to be consulted (compulsory to include nature conservation opinion or not).

AA is part of the SEA, EIA or IPPC permitting procedure if the activity falls under any of these. Already in line with 2014/52/EU directive

If not part of SEA, EIA or IPPC, AA is carried out separately

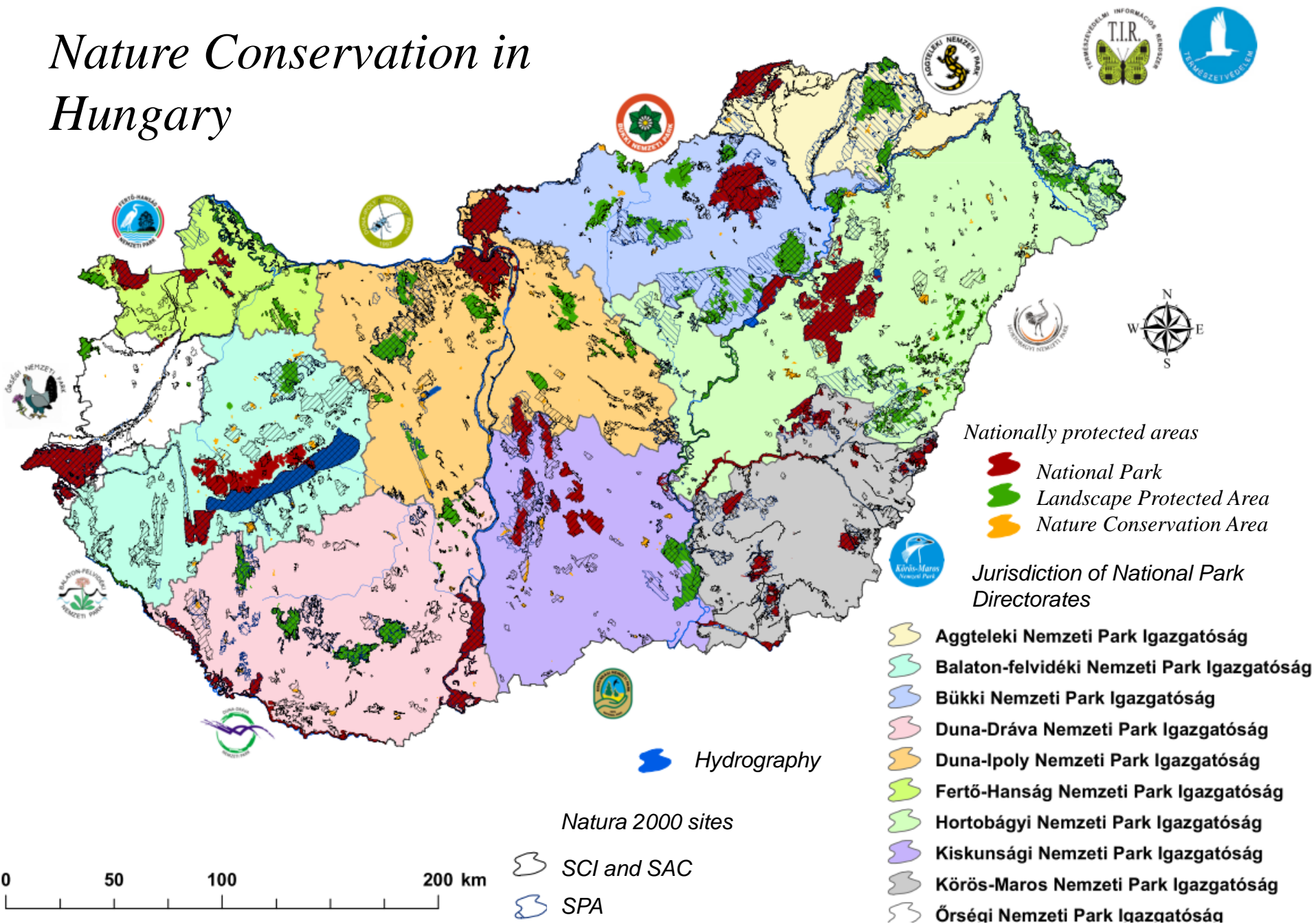
Authorities often consult the national park directorate



# First instance authorities are at county level in Hungary



# Nature Conservation in Hungary





## AA in forestry

- During the drafting of the district forest management plan, forest authority reviews all the possible effects of the plan (screening phase).
- For this procedure, forest authority uses a **methodological handbook jointly made by the ministerial departments responsible for nature protection and forestry**
- Each trigger habitat and species of all sites affected by the plan are considered
- **National park directorate is consulted** – mitigation measures
- If significant effect remains → full-scale AA, with **involvement of nature conservation authority**





## Examples for AA in forestry

### 2.3.1 List of Natura 2000 habitats, Nagykanizsa (SDF)

EU code	Name	Nature conservation status		Affected by forest management
91L0	<i>Illyric Hornbeam-oak woodland</i>	Cover (%)	20	affected
		Representativity	B	
		Conservation status	B	

### 2.3.2 List of Natura 2000 species, Zempléni-hegység a Szerencsi-dombsággal és a Hernád-völgyel

Hungarian name	Scientific name	Conservation status		Affected by forest management
<i>Imperial Eagle</i>	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	Population	A	affected
		Conservation	B	





## Example for Impact Assessment MATRIX (DFMP of Nagykanizsa)



<i><b>EU code</b></i>	<i><b>Habitat name</b></i>	<i><b>Forest activity affecting the habitat</b></i>	<i><b>Measures to prevent long-term effects</b></i>
<b>91L0</b>	<b>Illyric Hornbeam-oak woodland</b>	<b>Final cutting, Logging for forest health reasons, artificial regeneration</b>	<b>Raising of final cutting age (more old-growth forest). Conversion to selective felling in forest blocks. Creation and leaving out of microhabitats (dead wood, hollow trees, rare plants etc.) natural regeneration in some places</b>



## Example for Impact Assessment MATRIX

<b><i>Natura 2000 trigger species</i></b>	<b><i>Habitat for trigger species</i></b>	<b><i>Measure to avoid harmful effects</i></b>
<b>Imperial eagle (<i>Aquila heliaca</i>)</b>	<b>Strong, old trees, undisturbed old forest (nesting sites)</b>	<b>Ensuring the presence of old forests, old trees with large canopy to remain when forests are clearcut, no disturbance zones in breeding season and (smaller) no felling zone around nest.</b>



## Case study – car factory on a Natura 2000 site

200 hectares of priority habitat (Pannonic sand steppe) to be lost by a car factory extension

No alternative (car factory already existed next to the site)

Major development for Hungary (ten thousand new jobs) IROPI

EC opinion requested and received within 4 months

Green light if compensation ratio reaches 3.5 (around 700 hectares)



## Case study – car factory on a Natura 2000 site

Several new Natura 2000 sites, restoration of habitats and habitat maintenance measures planned and implemented in a six year-term, financed by the car factory

Conclusion: huge loss, but at least some compensation (without HD, probably nothing)

Enormous economic and political pressure speeded up the process despite the large number of organisations involved (about 40-50 meetings in 1,5 years of preparation)

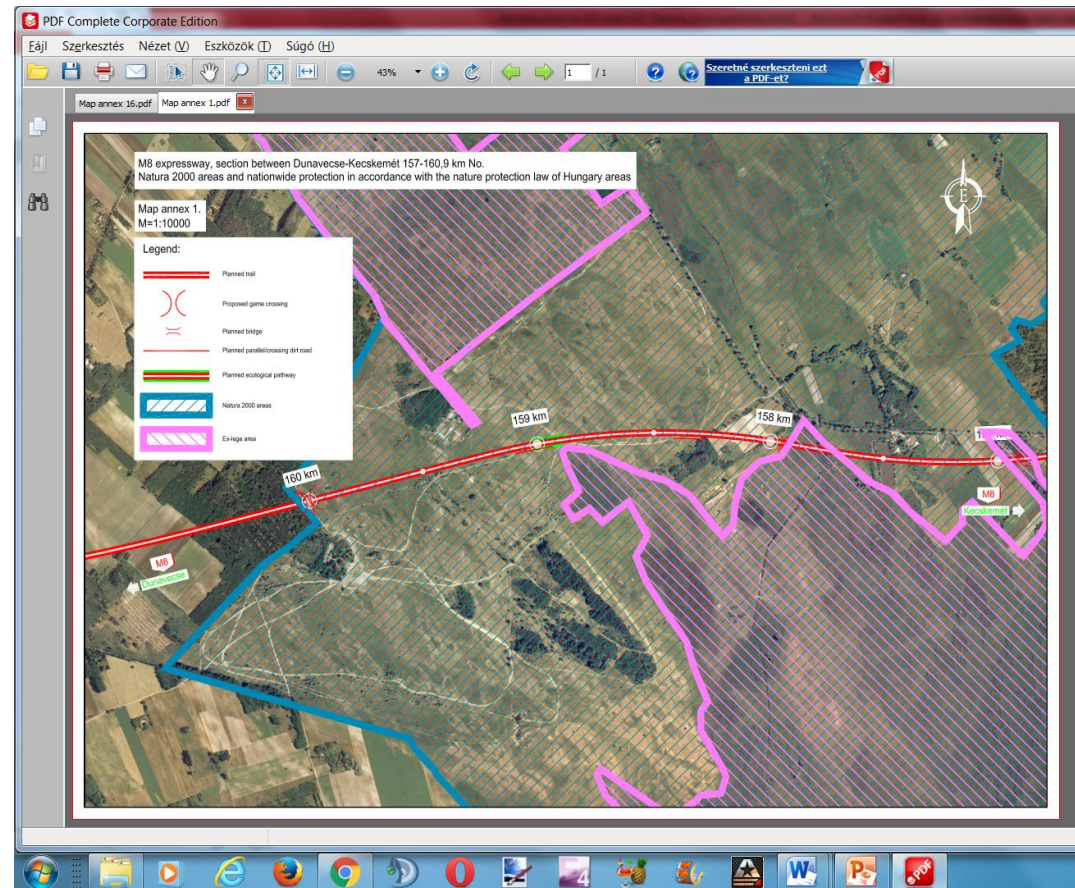


# Case study – motorway on a Natura 2000 site and national park

Natura 2000 site affected is about 50 km long north – south

Bridge already built on the Danube (no viable alternative to continue the motorway east)

TEN-T project





# Case study – motorway on a Natura 2000 site and national park

A national park, priority habitats and species (e.g. a critically endangered viper species) also affected

EC opinion: alternatives not properly assessed, 35-40 km detour suggested

Several rounds of correspondence, some compensation offered

No green light

Conclusion: the request for opinion was finally withdrawn and the plan is temporarily suspended (for about 6 years now)

Political lobbying relatively low, inter-sectoral communication started too late





# Overall conclusions

What is important for correct AA procedures?

Precise and detailed transposition

Good communication with other sectors, and also between levels  
(ministries, authorities and national park directorates)

National guidance documents (also translation of EC guidance)

HD made our life more complicated but has also contributed to saving  
nature (and ourselves)



**Thank you for your  
attention!**

