

Natura 2000 in Hungary

the site manager's perspective



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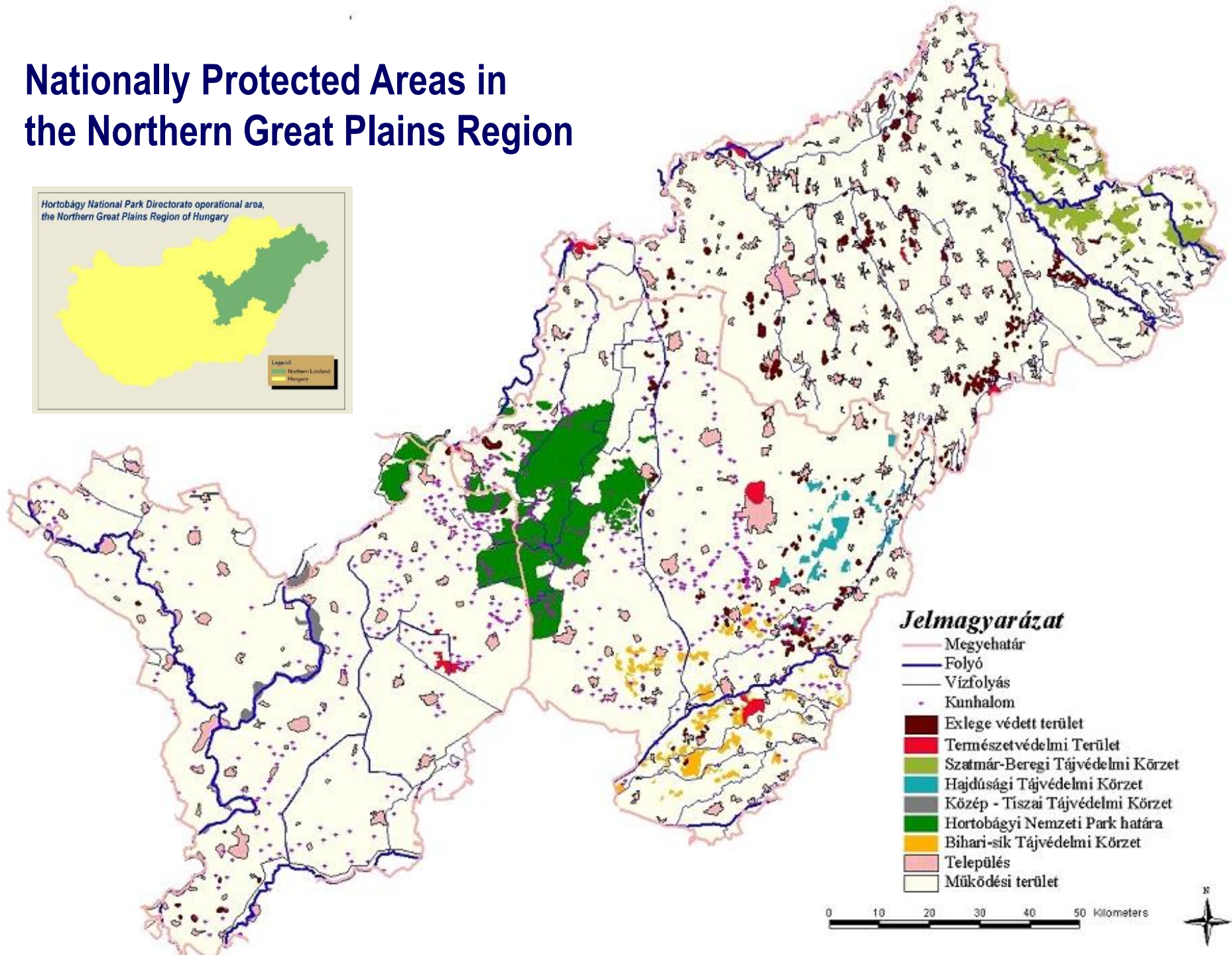


***Hortobágy National Park Directorate operational area,
the Northern Great Plains Region of Hungary***



Nationally Protected Areas in the Northern Great Plains Region

Hortobágy National Park Directorate operational area,
the Northern Great Plains Region of Hungary



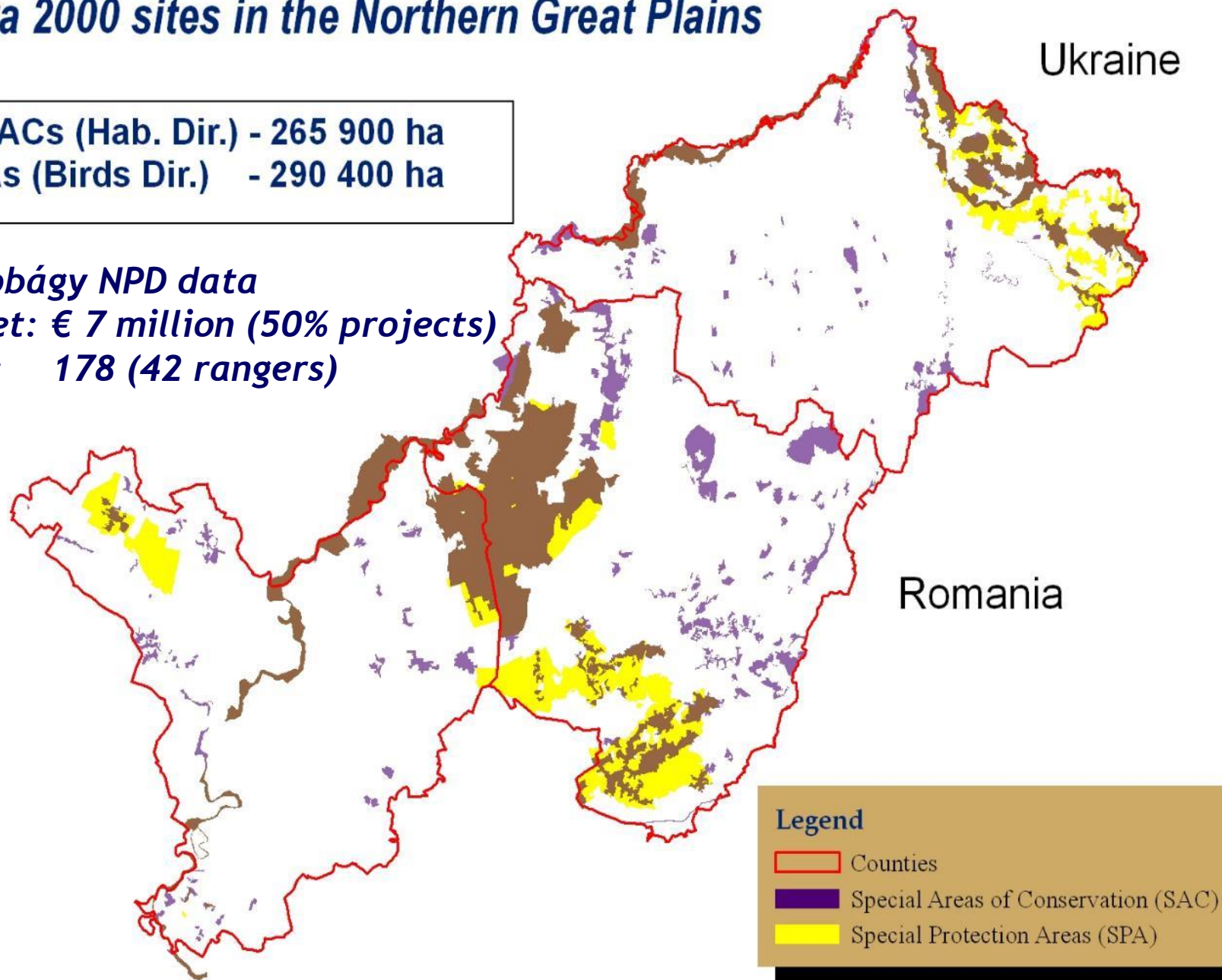
Natura 2000 sites in the Northern Great Plains

120 SACs (Hab. Dir.) - 265 900 ha
6 SPAs (Birds Dir.) - 290 400 ha

Hortobágy NPD data

Budget: € 7 million (50% projects)

Staff: 178 (42 rangers)



The big challenge ahead of us



development versus conservation

*Are we able to protect our natural heritage
until we have enough money
to properly manage it?*

Categories of management measures

1. **Administrative (law enforcement)**
2. **Contractual (rural development)**
3. **Management plan preparation**
4. **Management plan implementation**
 - *Habitat restoration, species protection*
 - *Raising public awareness*

1. Administrative measures

- **More traditional in EU10 countries**
- **Not easy to communicate**
- **Enforced by the regional environmental authorities**
- **National park directorates are clients in the legal procedures**
- **Mostly used to manage cases OTHER than agricultural use of land (e.g. building in)**
- **Article 6 of the Habitats Directive**
- **Lack of data (species, habitats), knowledge, human and financial resources at the decision making authorities**
- **The governmental order was modified 15 times since 2004**

2. Contractual measures

- Not contract-based, rather administrative
- Connected to rural development plans and programmes, implemented by the agricultural sector
- **Compensation** for the loss of income or profit (HU: 38 €/ha, private forests (40-200 €/ha))
- **„One size fits all” – general rules**
- Other volunteer agro-environmental measures, not necessarily related to the FCS of Natura 2000 sites
- Quite easy to communicate
- Problems with state owned forests
- Lack of knowledge at the contracting authorities
- **Limited role of the national park directorates**

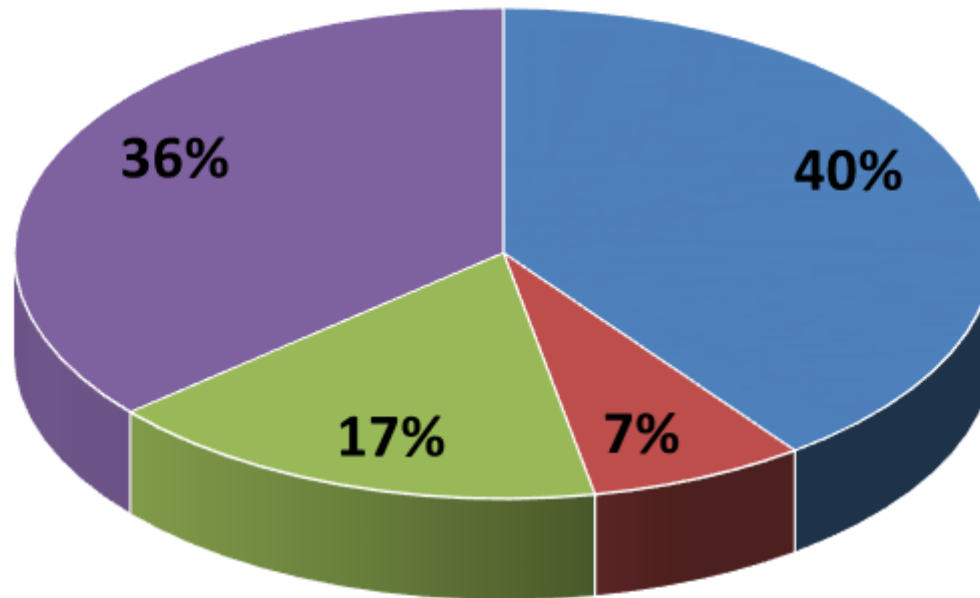
3. Management plan preparation

- **Anybody can prepare**
- **Approved by the Ministry of Agriculture**
- **Legally not binding documents, rather guidelines**
- **Basic involvement of stakeholders, mostly through the local municipalities**
- **Implementation to be financed by Structural Funds and LIFE+**

Idle-Bines: Management Planning for Protected Areas
- a guide for practitioners and their bosses -
enquiries@english-nature.org.uk

State of the play (Hortobágy NPD, 2017)

*N2k management plan completeness
according to the area covered*



■ Ready and approved ■ Second draft
■ First draft ■ Under preparation

4. Management plan implementation

A lot of money for investments, but...





Restoration of pannonic steppes, marshes of HNP

LIFE02NAT/H/8634

2002-2005

Continued from Structural Funds Projects 2006-

Habitat targeted:

Pannonic steppes and marshes (1530), a priority habitat type





Dikes and canals fragmented the natural grassland and wetland complexes and blocked the natural surface water movements

- fragmented grasslands - fragmented local catchments, natural hydrology has been significantly altered
- dynamic processes connected to the surface micro-topography and overland-flow maintaining the habitat diversity of alkaline grasslands became blocked
- disturbed habitat structure, deterioration in habitat quality and biological diversity of alkaline steppes, ephemeral waters, seasonal and permanent alkaline marshes
- destroyed traditional land use: unsuitable conditions for extensive grazing

**1600 km of channels and dykes in the HNP
built mostly in the communist times**





800 m³ concrete of water management structures removed



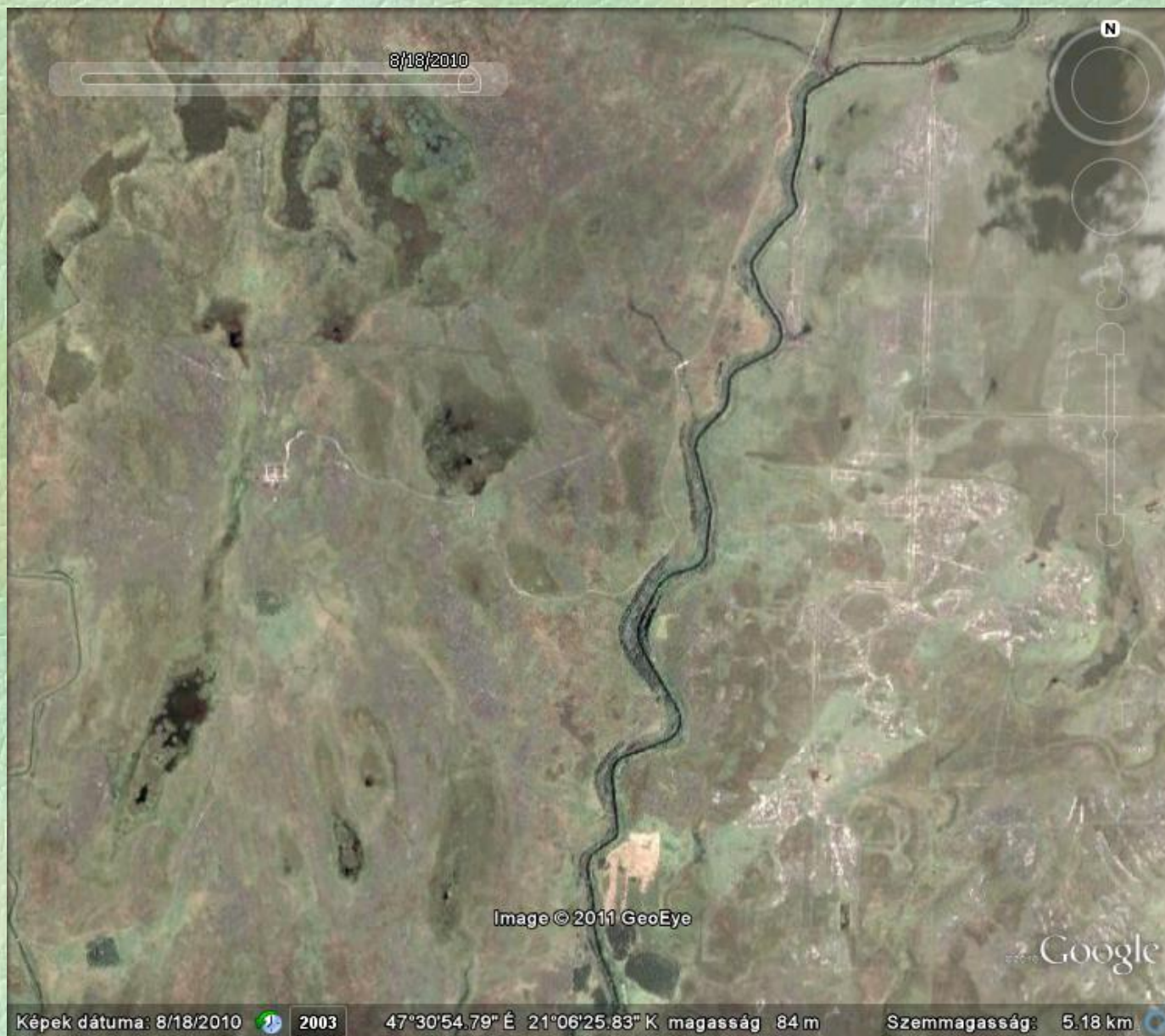
**New technology developed
resulted in an absolutely
smooth surface**



Restoration of backfilled canal tracks

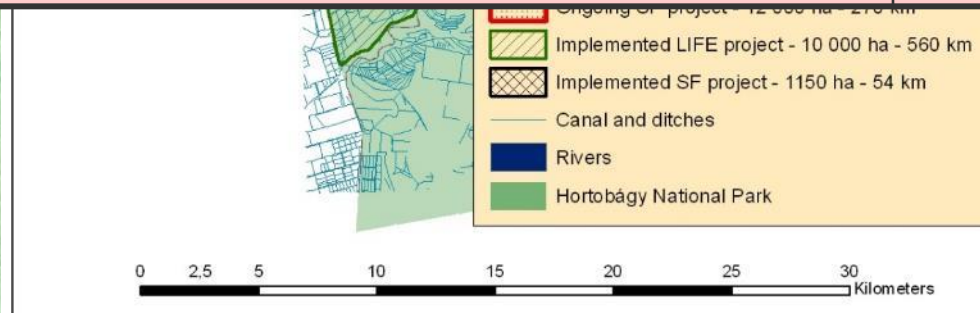


Seems it works well



Implemented and ongoing landscape scale restoration projects
in the Hortobágy National Park

Length of eliminated canals of abandoned rice fields and grassland irrigation systems	Area restored
LIFE (2002-2005): 560 km	10 000 ha
Structural Funds I. (2005-2007): 53.5 km	1150 ha
Structural Funds II.(2010-2013): 266 km	12 420 ha
Structural Funds III. (2011-2014): 177.5 km	5660 ha
Total:	29 230 ha



Putting 22 kV electric wirelines underground



125 km done in Hortobágy SPA/SAC













Maintenance and operation costs



Tourism infrastructure for 300 000 visitors/year

- ❑ Visitor Centre, nature trails
- ❑ Field School
- ❑ Narrow-gauge railway at the fishponds
- ❑ Wildlife Park
- ❑ Maintenance of tourism infrastructure



Field School



Narrow-gauge railway at the fishponds



Hortobágy Wildlife Park



Thank you!



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