

A summary overview of the institutional setup of nature conservation in CEE countries

EUROPARC CEE

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Purpose of the overview

What model is used in Central European countries for the administrative organisation of national parks and nature parks ?

Comparative analysis – institutional setup varies from country to country (and also from time to time, e.g. government re-structuring, new roles, such as Natura 2000)

Variation is even greater in the whole of Europe, but CEE region may be less heterogenic

7 countries addressed, replies received from four: CZ, SI, SK, HU

Any additional information is welcome especially from HR, RO and PL





Ministry and background institute

„Independent” Ministry of Environment: 2 (CZ, SK)

combined with other sector: 2 (spatial planning in SI and Agriculture in HU)

Background institute exists in all four countries (but joined with agriculture in HU)

typical competencies: co-ordination of wildlife monitoring, preparation of guidelines and protocols, nature education, awareness raising

also: co-operation with owners of protected areas, management of certain protected areas, national and international projects



Source: Zoltán Varga (2014):
A Pannon Régió élő öröksége
– a Natura 2000 hálózat



Co-ordination of national park administrations (NPAs)

Ministry co-ordinates: CZ, HU, SI

Background institute co-ordinates: SK (SNC is umbrella institution of NPAs)

(PLAs and other non-NP inside of the PLAs protected areas are co-ordinated by background institute in CZ, too), NPs in CZ are independent bodies





Character of national park administrations (NPAs)

NPAs are legal bodies in CZ, HU and SI (SNC is the legal body in SK)

NPA is a budgetary institution in CZ, HU and SI; SNC receives state funding in SK

3 out of 4 NPs plus 1 PLA in CZ and all NPAs in HU rely also on „business” activities

Application for grants: NPAs or umbrella organisations (SNC in SK, NCA CR for PLAs in CZ).

Annual budget: Ministry responsible for nature conservation in all four countries



Character of national park administrations (NPAs)

Appointment of head of NPA and supervision of work of NPA:

ministry responsible for nature conservation in HU, SI
and in CZ (also NP Council, NCA CR for PLAs)

SNC in SK



Kép forrása:
<http://forum.index.hu/Article/showArticle?t=9110379>



(Fotó: BMMI - Deli Tamás)



Management of other designations by NPAs

CZ: nature reserve, BR, Ramsar, Natura 2000, National Nature Reserve, Natural Monument, National Nature Monument (all but PLA, nature park or WH)

PLAs have a similar coverage outside NPs

HU: NPAs cover all designations

SK: SNC (incorporating NPAs) covers all designations

SI: BR, Natura 2000, nature reserves



Fotó: Ványi Róbert



Land ownership

CZ: NPAs are the managers of forest state-owned land in NPs

HU and SI: NPAs manage some of the state-owned land in protected areas

SK: minor ownership

Chief responsibilities of NPAs

- protection/guarding of natural resources (sites, species, geological heritage etc.)
- site management
- partly or fully economic activities, such as farming for site management purposes, forest management, reed management etc.
NOT in SK and SI
- monitoring
- interpretation to visitors
- management of tourism/ecotourism in the national park NOT in SK





Authorities

HU and SI: rangers can impose fines

CZ: NPAs are State Administration Authorities in nature conservation and landscape protection in their territories

Collaboration with authorities:

- planning procedures in the national park
- permitting procedures in the national park
- appropriate assessment procedures in Natura 2000 sites



The above are relevant in all four countries (with SNC operating in SK)



Nature parks

CZ: Nature parks do not have a status of protected areas and their own administrations (their objective is to protect „beauty of the landscape”)

HU: municipality with NGOs

SK: not a legal entity (but they have staff)

SI: some managed by state, some by municipality

Belonging to ministry responsible for nature conservation in HU and SI

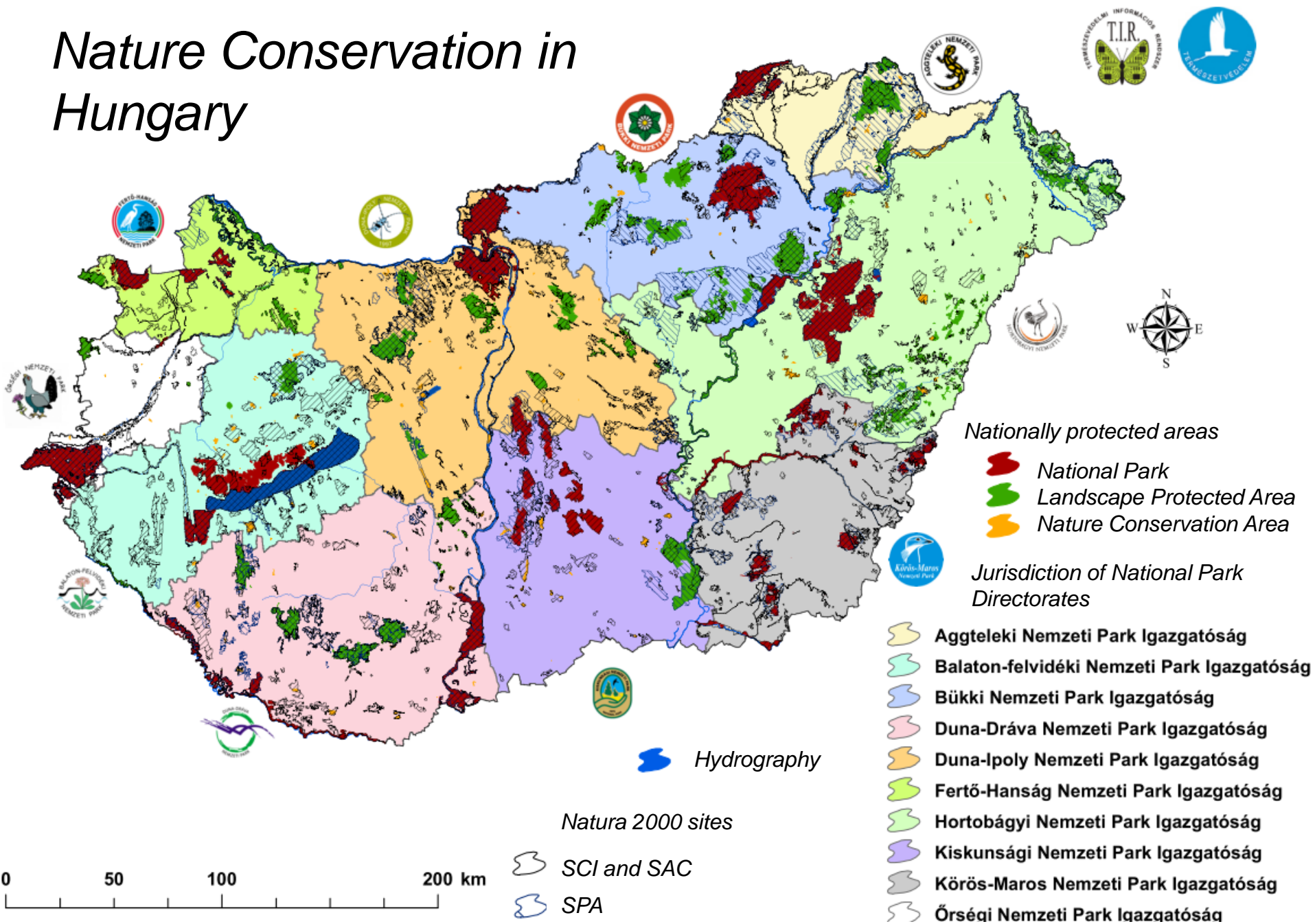
no reply in SK (does not belong to a ministry?)

Discussion

- Any „good practice”, advantages you would like to point out?
(from your own country's experience or from others)
- What makes nature conservation „strong” in your opinion?
- Any recommendations what to avoid?
- Shall we make the filled-in questionnaires available for EUROPARC CEE? Try to collect the missing ones?



Nature Conservation in Hungary





Strengths in Hungary

- Uniform structure covering the whole territory of the country (NPAs)
- NPAs are responsible for all nature conservation designations (NP, PLA, Nature reserve, BR, Ramsar, Natura 2000), except municipal reserves and nature parks
- 250 000 ha in state ownership and managed by NPAs
- Environment and energy efficiency OP available for nature conservation developments
- NPAs are strongly involved in authoritative decision-making (e.g. AA in Natura 2000)
- NPAs opinion must be incorporated into territorial planning of municipalities
- NPAs are strongly involved in subsidy schemes





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**Thank you for your
attention!**

