

ENVIROMAGAZÍN

Summary 3/2004

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83 million people celebrated the International Danube Day

International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River has chosen 29 June as the Danube Day. This day should get in the programme of the Ministers of Environment and organisations focusing on water protection in the whole Danube basin. The Danube Day was celebrated for the first time this year – on the 10th anniversary of signing the International Convention for the Danube River Protection.

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We are the leader

Jozef Kramárik, MoE SR

At the evaluation of obligations that EU accessing countries had to meet in the field of biodiversity protection within NATURA 2000, Slovakia, in spite of all problems and worries became the leader, and not only for new EU members. Establishment of NATURA 2000 network in Slovakia is connected with the transposition of EU directives on biotopes and bird protection into legislation. This was done by the Act No. 543/2002 Coll. At the same time, mapping of biotopes and species for the creation of NATURA 2000 network started. Institutional strengthening, i.e. creation of bodies and financial sources for the fulfilment of the Act, is connected with this. It is especially the expert organisation of the Ministry of Environment – The State Nature Protection of the Slovak Republic – that was strengthened.

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Our European obligation in nature protection – NATURA 2000
Daniel Baláž, NATURA 2000 Centre

Slovak Republic, as the second one from accession countries, delivered the national list of candidate sites for NATURA 2000 network. The network consists of two types of protected areas – protected birds areas and areas of European importance. However, by the delivery of the national list of candidate areas the whole process does not end. Vice-versa, discussions with the European Commission will start now about the national list of candidate sites. The evaluation process may last up to three years. During this period of time we are obliged to ensure so called preliminary protection of candidate sites, which, according to our legislation, means classification of the site in one of the levels of protection.

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Marmot – ever rarer representative of the High Tatras fauna
Pavol Lenko, TANAP ranger

A marmot, a chamois, an eagle and other rare species of fauna and flora create unique and unrepeatable atmosphere of the Tatra National Park (TANAP). Visitors of the High Tatras often do not respect the visitors' rules and, at the same time, they do not realise the impact of their conduct. Repetitive disturbance of the marmot's colony is a very serious factor preventing marmots to create sufficient supplies of vital fat for the whole winter.

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Children for the High Tatras
Pavol Lenko, TANAP ranger

Employees of the Tatra National Park (TANAP) Administration have also this year prepared for children from the High Tatras region many activities focused on natural beauties of the Tatra National Park and its surroundings. Accompanied by professional rangers from the TANAP Administration, children participated in the instructional trip near Štrbské pleso lake, visited the well-known Skok waterfall in the Mlynská valley and learned what the task of professional rangers is.

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Will NATURA 2000 save our nature?
Tatiana Šustiaková, Rastislav Rybanič, Society for Birds Protection in Slovakia

NATURA 2000 includes two types of territories – habitats and birds. The authors of the article focus mainly on birds territories. The Slovak Government approved in July of the last year the list of 38 protected birds areas covering 25.22 % of the territory of Slovakia and sent all relevant information to the European Commission before 31 December 2003. As a reaction to political interventions in the professional preparation of the protected birds areas in Slovakia, the Society for Birds Protection in Slovakia prepared and published a new list of important birds territories. They identified 40 sites. Six of them – Čergov, Chočské hills, Miloslavov, Špacince – Nižná and Slovak Paradise – have not been included in the national list approved by the Slovak Government.

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Important Birds Areas

In June a publication prepared by the Society for Birds Protection in Slovakia was published. The book Important Birds Areas presents 40 most important sites for birds protection in Slovakia selected on the basis of BirdLife criteria.

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Nature protection with a support of the European Commission

The Slovak Republic was successfully drawing from EU pre-accession funds and it is expected to be equally successful also in absorbing structural funds. Community Initiative Programmes are less known to the public but they are not less important. The only financial instrument of this kind, focusing specifically on the environment, is the LIFE programme. The Slovak Republic participates in this programme since 2002. The article informs about this programme as well as about terms for submitting applications for the programming year 2005.

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Water for the Šúr National Nature Reserve – LIFE project to help the endangered Ramsar site **Lýdia Varčeková**

The LIFE project, which is implemented by the Association of Industry and Nature Protection, focuses on the restoration of water regime in the Šúr NNR and on the achievement of favourable state of rare wetland communities protection. The project will be implemented from January 2007. The support from the LIFE programme amounts to 300,000 EUR and the total budget is up to 400,000 EUR. The key task of the project is the reconstruction of existing (at present non-functional) objects and construction of new objects enabling water delivery to the reserve and to objects for water retention in the reserve or slowing its outflow from the territory of the Šúr reserve.

(page 8-9)

Endangered species **Lubor Čačko**

From the Red Book of endangered species we have chosen *Silvia nisoria*, *Cerambyx cerdo* and *Apatura ilia*.

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Support form the LIFE programme can help imperial eagle in Slovakia to survive **Slávka Siryová, Monika Kováčová and Jozef Chavko, Birds of Prey Protection in Slovakia**

The project of the non-governmental organisation Birds of Prey Protection in Slovakia „Imperial Eagle Protection in the Slovak Part of the Carpathians“ is one of 3 Slovak projects that succeeded in a strong competition of European countries and obtained financial support from the LIFE programme. Imperial eagle is globally endangered species. Just 38 ascertained nesting pairs form the total gene pool of the Slovak population. The second largest population in Europe lives in Slovakia (80 pairs nest in Hungary). The relation of nesting places in both countries is very important from the point of view of the project objectives. The project has been implemented in cooperation with the partner organisation MME in Hungary that has been working on a similar project from 2002.

(page 10 – 11)

Natural unique at the Danube river: Till when? **Lubica Trubíniová, BRCA project manager**

In September 2003 the Bratislava Regional Conservationist Association started to implement the project “Protection and Management of Danube Floodplain Forests” supported by the LIFE – Nature programme. Project, which shall be implemented till April 2007, covers the territory of the Dunajské luhy Protected Landscape Area and remnants of floodplain forests in Bratislava – Petržalka. Floodplain forests represent unique natural communities.

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Cooperation of foresters and conservationists **Martin Valentovič, BRCA**

The Bratislava Regional Conservationist Association has organised the excursion in the Donau-Auen National Park in Austria within the project Protection and Management of Danube Floodplain Forests. The objective of the excursion was to obtain practical experience from employees of the Donau-Auen NP and to lay the foundations of the best possible communication of individual organisational components of the state administration in the field of care of Slovak floodplain forests.
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The tree of the year 2004

An information about the competition declared by the Regional Environmental Centre in Bratislava. The objective of the competition is to draw attention to the significance of trees in our life and raise interest in our environment. The deadline of the competition is 31 August 2004.
(page 13)

Floodplain wilderness **Ján Dzúr**

The author of the article visited the micro world of ox-bows of the Latorica river, surrounded by vineyards, monasteries and mansions. Together with a ranger from the Latorica PLA he takes readers to Kamenná moľva, informs about indigenous turtles living mainly in the Tajba National Nature Reserve, about remnants of autochthonous floodplain forests, artificial dikes and pumping stations that in the 50-ties chained the Latorica river. Unfortunately, after artificial alignment of the river bed, ox-bows are gradually silted up and the micro world vanishes. Therefore 22 km long part of the river has been inscribed to internationally significant wetlands and belongs to so called Ramsar localities.
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Project „Significant Botanic Sites (SBS)“ raised interest of botanists **Tomáš Kušík, regional coordinator of SBS for Central and Eastern Europe**

The project for the identification of the most important sites for the protection of free growing plants – significant botanic sites (SBS) - is being successfully implemented for the third year already in seven countries of the Central and Eastern Europe. Sites protection will be ensured through efficient protective measures, including announcement of protected areas. The global strategy of plants protection was adopted by the decision of Conference of Contracting Parties to the Convention of Biological Diversity on 19 April 2002 in Hague. The strategy has 16 objectives that are to be met before 2010.
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Some examples of insect occurrence **Ján Kleinert, Slovak Entomological Society at the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Banská Bystrica**

The author compares previous and present monitoring of the occurrence of some insect species in certain sites. Results of comparison show the reduction or extinction of some species or, vice-versa their increase. He focuses also on progressive tendencies when populations of monitored species strengthen and they occur also in new localities including town residential areas. They include, for example, our largest wasps – hornets.
(page 16-17)

Project of a bison restitution in Poloniny **Michal Adamec, The State Nature Protection in the SR**

As there is no stable population of bison in Slovakia that would reproduce here and permanently live, The State Nature Protection of SR strives to bring this majestic species back to our territory. At present they have been implementing the project „Foundation of a Stable Wild Population of a Bison

in Slovak Carpathians (NP Poloniny)”. 5 animals from European breeds were chosen on the basis of genetic analyses. For 6 months they will be placed in an acclimatisation game preserve before they will be released in nature. The expected term is October 2004.
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Candidate sites of NATURA 2000 in Slovakia

The map of suggested protected bird territories and candidate sites of European importance in Slovakia.
(page 18-19)

Message of the Durban congress for national parks protection
Ivan Vološčuk the IUCN counsellor for the region of Eastern Europe, Central and Northern Asia

The author of the article writes about the establishment, history and activity of The World Conservation Union (IUCN), at present the biggest world organisation of nature protection. Its role is to influence, stimulate and help people all over the world to protect nature integrity and diversity and ensure that natural sources use was adequate and ecologically sustainable. IUCN pays special attention to the world concept of protected areas building and management. Since 1962, every ten years world conferences (since 1982 congresses) of national parks and territories are held. The 5th World Congress of National Parks took place in Durban (2003). A specific document for this congress was the Durban Accord on African Protected Areas for the New Millennium.
(page 20-22)

Trees, their significance and current protection
Milan Krištof, State Nature Protection of the SR (SNP SR)

In line with the title of the article, the author speaks about trees, their significance and protection. He underlines the fact that alongside the general protection of wood species, also protection of old, big or otherwise interesting trees has a long-lasting tradition in Slovakia. According to the valid Act on Nature and Landscape Protection they can be declared as specially protected parts of nature. At present, there are 483 protected trees or their groups, including alleys, in Slovakia.
(page 23)

Protection of biological diversity and safety in the centre of attention
Peter Urban, SNP SR, Igor Ferenčík, MoE SR

In February of this year the 7th regular meeting of the Conference of Contracting Parties (7 COP) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity took place in Kuala Lumpur. In the same city and the same premises of Putra World Trade Centre the meeting of the contracting parties to the Biosafety Protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Cartagena Protocol) took place. More than 2,300 experts representing 161 governments of member countries and observers participated in COP 7. Convention on Biological Diversity is one of key documents of international law in UN system. At present it has 188 parties and Slovakia is the party to the Convention since 1994.
(page 24-25 and 27)

Historical bases of environmental policy and environmental legislation (II)
Jozef Klinda

An essay full of facts from the history of Sumerians tells about the first ethic and legal standards (e.g. Sumerian Codex, 19th century B.C., Hammurapi's Codex, etc.) that influenced significantly the environmental situation in Mesopotamia. The author documents by concrete facts the development of civilisation and transformation of the environment in this part of the Earth. He states that in spite of

the fact that Sumer is still destroyed (including collections and archaeological findings) it waits for new discoveries and is the basis and the component part of our existence.
(page 28-29 and 34)

Basic principles of long-term development of forest management in Slovakia (I)
Ctibor Greguš, Forest Ecology Institute, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Zvolen

The most important activity in forest management is the sustainable, optimum, stable, ecological and efficient fulfilment of forest production function. The key factor in the application of the sustainable development principle in forest management is setting of the acceptable (tolerable) timber production corresponding to forest conditions.
(page 26-27)

Activities of European zoos for the rescue of endangered animal species and ecosystems
Silvia Pirošková, ZOO Bratislava and Peter Lupták, ZOO Bojnice

There exists a Pan-European network of zoological gardens and aquaria in Europe coordinated by the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria in Amsterdam (EAZA). This professional organisation, focused on conservation and breeding of animals kept in zoos and aquaria, was established in 1988. At present it has 270 members from 34 countries. Since 2000, EAZA launches every year campaigns for the conservation of endangered species and ecosystems. EAZA launched the first conservation campaign, the Bushmeat Campaign in 2000 in equator Africa against killing animals, mainly Great Apes and other species. The second one focused on the protection of Atlantic rain forests. At present, the campaign for tiger conservation takes place. It will last till September 2004 and 122 European zoos are involved in it.
(page 30-32)

Letters to Frodo
Living nature corners

Enviromagazín readers write in their letters about how they protect nature. This Enviromagazín brings letters about the friendship of children and nature, namely children from the SNP 1 Primary School in Humenné and Primary School at the Roosevelt Hospital in Banská Bystrica.
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Photo competition

Only in paradise - in the Slovak Paradise - bumble-bees can indulge in this way. This is the commentary to the photo showing a pair of bumble-bees sucking nectar.
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World Heritage

Japan - Itsukushima shrine, **Malawi** – Lake Malawi National Park, **New Zealand** – The Wahipounamu, **Argentina** – Iguazú National Park

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